

11-1-2017

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Recommended Citation

(2017) "Around Campus," *DePaul Magazine*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 412020 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/depaul-magazine/vol1/iss412020/1>

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Bright Beginnings

DePaul family celebrates 2017 commencement



Photo by DePaul University/Jamie Moncrief

A graduate of the College of Communication shares her joy with friends and family as she receives her degree from Dean Salma Ghanem (right).

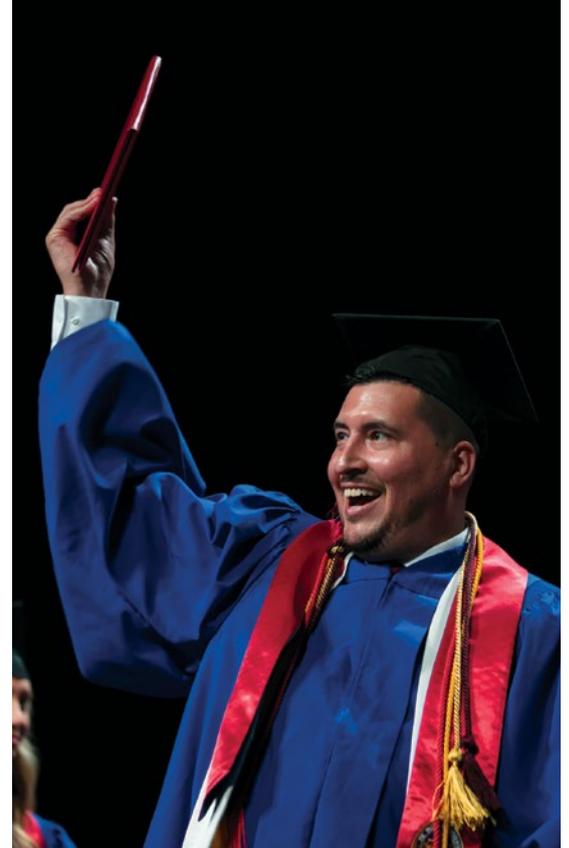


Photo by DePaul University/Jeff Carrion

A graduate of the School for New Learning celebrates the achievement of a life goal.

The ranks of DePaul alumni swelled by more than 6,000 during the weekend of June 10-11, when nine colleges and schools held commencement ceremonies. A few weeks earlier, the College of Law graduated 240 students during its ceremony on May 14.

Commencement speakers and honorary degree recipients included labor attorney and diversity advocate **Paulette Brown (DHL '17)**, composer **John Corigliano (DHL '17)**, educator and children's author **Sharon Draper (DHL '17)**, poet and fiction writer **Stuart Dybek (DHL '17)**, vice chairman of the consumer analytics firm Nielsen **Rick Kash (LAS '68, DHL '17)**, and broadcast executive **Marty Wilke (CMN '86, DHL '17)** of CBS 2 Chicago/WBBM-TV. **Sister Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick, S.C. (DHL '17)**, president of St. Thomas Aquinas College and a DePaul Trustee, also received an honorary degree from the College of Education.

Architect **Craig Hartman (DHL '17)** of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill was the keynote speaker for the combined commencement ceremonies for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the College of Science and Health. His renowned projects include the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, Calif., the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and the

international terminal of the San Francisco International Airport. In addition to his architectural work, Hartman is recognized as a world authority on how to design urban neighborhoods to address environmental degradation, climate change and social inequity.

Hartman drew laughter and applause when he told graduates that "the Cubs won the World Series in your senior year, and that is a good omen." On a more serious note, he told



Photo by DePaul University/Jamie Moncrief

Keynote speaker and architect Craig Hartman (DHL '17) encourages new graduates to travel and then bring their talents home to Chicago.

them that their DePaul experience uniquely prepared them to be civic activists.

"Cities are by far the most environmentally sustainable form of human settlement," Hartman said. More people now live in cities than in rural areas, a shift that correlates with declining poverty and malnutrition and increasing life expectancy and access to education. Yet cities still face challenges.

"Environmental degradation, climate change, social inequity and especially poverty seem intractable, but they are not laws of [science]. Political constructs, not the limits of science and our imaginations, are the biggest barriers to solving these challenges," he said.

Civic leaders are stepping up to address social and environmental issues while national governments lag behind, he asserted. "It is the leadership of global cities that is truly shaping the world's destiny," he said.

Having studied at a university that values human empathy, social justice and civic engagement, DePaul graduates are both prepared and motivated to shape the cities where they live.

"Cities work because we learn how to build powerful and important relationships," Hartman said. "You have the power to help change that world."

Webcasts of all the commencement ceremonies are available at depaul.origindeu.com.

Joan Hackett



Current and former state supreme court justices join other legal experts to explore the challenges created by dark-money contributions to election campaigns.

Shining a Light on Dark Money

Hidden contributions undermine confidence

Dark money—political contributions that cannot easily be traced back to their source—is surging into judicial elections, calling into question the legitimacy and fairness of the court system, argued experts at the 23rd annual Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy, held in April 2017. More than 130 people attended the two-day event and another 50 tuned in via webcast to listen to experts, researchers and judges whose campaigns were influenced by dark money.

“Embedded in this debate about power and money is a profound fear for the integrity of the judicial system,” said Stephan Landsman, professor emeritus of law at DePaul and the director of the conference.

People will no longer be willing to follow the rule of law if they believe the courts are slanted by political ideology, said Tom Tyler, professor of law and psychology at Yale Law School. “This idea that politicians and judges are the same . . . is an important problem in our society. We need to ask not just about dark money, but about all of the different ways in which people might be coming to have that impression.”

Wealthy special interest groups are having a disproportionate impact on who is elected to the courts and, ultimately, on the decisions those courts are making, argued Alicia Bannon, senior counsel of the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law.

Dark money tends to flow to candidates with strong partisan views, “because if you’re going to spend millions and millions of dollars, you want a bankable vote,” said James Sample, professor of law at Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University.

Dark money special interest groups usually disguise their true focus—corporate or controversial issues—by attacking candidates based on their handling of highly emotional criminal cases. This can affect future decisions, Bannon said. “Justices are going to be feeling pressure to decide cases not based on their understanding of the law, but because they’re afraid they’re going to be targeted for being soft on crime.”

Even dark money spent on a candidate’s behalf is dangerous, said the Hon. Louis Butler, former justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court, who believes he lost public support because of dark money ads attacking his opponent. “When you’re dealing with the question of dark money, if you are a candidate—whether you’re an incumbent or whether you’re an incoming candidate—you lose control over the messaging of a campaign,” he said.

The solution is not simply to ban dark money, argued the Hon. Alan Scheinkman, administrative judge, Ninth Judicial District, New York. “I think we all have to be very careful about efforts to drive money out, because if you drive it out, creative people will find a way to drive it under,” he said.

Neoliberalism’s Mixed Legacy

Conference explores the ideology of rational self-interest

“Given recent events in both the U.S. and Europe, together with the challenges faced by many people throughout the world . . . no dialogue is more pressing and urgent today than one that reflects upon our forms of government and our traditions of liberalism and social democracy, our history and provenance, our contemporary challenges and other possible future directions,” said Will McNeill, professor and chair of the philosophy department at DePaul. With this introduction, the two-day Neoliberalism and Social Democracy conference began. DePaul’s philosophy department and the Whitlam Institute at Western Sydney University collaborated to bring the conference to DePaul on April 7-8. Kingston University in London and the journal *Philosophy Today* co-sponsored the conference.

Several academics delivered scholarly papers during the conference. Edward Nik-Khah, associate professor at Roanoke College in Salem, Va., presented his paper “The Ascendancy of Chicago Neoliberalism.” Nik-Khah traced the historical connection between Chicago neoliberalism and corporations, specifically Compass Lexecon, an economic consulting firm. “Lexecon offered an opportunity for the relationship between Chicago and corporations to deepen. Over time, Lexecon’s activities moved beyond the scope of the antitrust and governmental control projects as it entered the fields of corporate finance and securities,” said Nik-Khah.

Philip Mirowski, professor and director of the Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values at the University of Notre Dame, and Cristina Lafont, professor at Northwestern University, presented keynote addresses.



DePaul's championship softball team members revel in their victory.

Seven Minutes, Six Titles, One Legendary Season

Two near-simultaneous triumphs May 13 propelled DePaul Athletics to its fifth and sixth BIG EAST titles of the year, a jaw-dropping record of success.

The Blue Demon softball team won the BIG EAST tournament at The Ballpark at Rosemont, Ill., with an 8-3 victory over St. John's. Seven minutes later at Villanova Stadium, the DePaul men's track and field team was officially crowned BIG EAST champion. Those victories gave DePaul six BIG EAST regular-season or conference-tournament titles in the 2016-17 season.

"It is stunning for one school ... to have this many wins in one year," said the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., then president of DePaul. "It must be one of our best athletic showings in DePaul history."

The women's soccer team launched the championship run last fall after claiming a BIG EAST regular-season title.

Leading the way were third-team All-American Alexa Ben and BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Year **Abby Reed (CSH '17)**.

Women's basketball followed with a regular-season conference title behind the outstanding play of honorable-mention All-Americans **Jessica January (CMN '17)** and **Brooke Schulte (CSH '17)**, who also was named BIG EAST Player of the Year. The Blue Demons competed in their 15th consecutive NCAA tournament—one of only five teams in the nation who can make that claim.

Jacqui Grant was voted Co-Defensive Player of the Year, and Tanita Allen won the Sixth Woman award. Schulte was voted Co-Most Improved Player of the Year and joined Grant on the All-BIG EAST First Team. Kelly Campbell was selected to the All-Freshman Team, and **Doug Bruno (LAS '73, LAS MA '88)** was named BIG EAST Coach of the Year.

Women's tennis won the BIG EAST tournament title as All-BIG EAST performers Yuliya Shupenia, Keisha Clousing and Patricia Lancranjan led DePaul to its fourth appearance in the NCAA tournament. Mark Ardizzone was honored as BIG EAST Coach of the Year for the third time.

Men's track and field had a breakout season, winning both the BIG EAST Indoor Championship and the Outdoor Championship for the first time. At the indoor conference meet Feb. 24-25 at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island, N.Y., DePaul outscored Marquette 146-135 to claim the title. Trevor Kintyhtt was named the Men's Most Outstanding Field Performer after winning the weight throw, and Kyle Hedge won the shot put.

Sebastian Feyersinger won the men's 400-meter race, and Kyle Decker came in first in the 60-meter race. Brian Mada re-

peated as triple jump champion. Honored as the BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year for Outdoor Track and Field were Coach **Dave Dopek (EDU '96)**, Brandon Murer, **Stephanie Townsend (CMN '09, MA '11)** and Derrick Peterson. Seventeen student-athletes were named to the BIG EAST Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field All-Conference Team.

Men's track and field doubled its tally on May 13 by winning the BIG EAST outdoor meet, outscoring runner-up Marquette 204-183. Feyersinger was named Co-Most Outstanding Track Performer and Kintyhtt was the unanimous choice for Most Outstanding Field Performer. BIG EAST track champions included Feyersinger (200 m, 400 m) and Decker (110-m hurdles), while the field champions included Hedge (shot put), Mada (triple jump) and Kintyhtt (discus, hammer). Kintyhtt qualified for the NCAA Championships in the discus.

Behind some clutch hitting, DePaul won its third BIG EAST softball tournament title and earned a berth to the NCAA tournament. With the Blue Demons trailing 2-1, Haydn Christensen delivered a two-out, two-run single to highlight a three-run fifth inning. After St. John's narrowed DePaul's lead to 4-3, Alysia Rodriguez's two-run triple in the sixth ignited a four-run outburst that clinched the game.

Jessica Cothorn was named BIG EAST Freshman of the Year and selected to the All-BIG EAST First Team along with teammates Micah Fitzgerald, **Nicole Pihl (CSH '17)** and Missy Zoch. Tournament MVP Dylan Christensen, Pihl, Haydn Christensen and Zoch were selected to the All-Tournament Team.

Stellar Athletes Recognized in Title-laden Year

A dynamic convergence of unprecedented success and heartfelt gratitude enlivened DePaul's annual Athletics banquet in June. The six BIG EAST titles in 2016-17 are the most in Blue Demon history, and a major factor in this run of champions was DePaul's former president, the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M.

"It's no wonder we had our greatest year with someone like Father Dennis championing the student-athletes. He went to great lengths to support our department through facility improvements, coaching upgrades and overall academic support," said Athletics Director **Jean Lenti Ponsetto (EDU '78)**.

"It was always Jeanne coming to me with bold new ideas," Fr. Holtschneider said. "Over and over again, her vision inspired me."

Whatever the source, there's no doubt

that DePaul Athletics had a stellar year. Women's soccer, women's basketball, softball, women's tennis and men's indoor and outdoor track and field brought home regular-season or tournament titles. Women's basketball, softball and women's tennis advanced to NCAA tournaments, and Trevor Kintyhtt qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

DePaul student-athletes posted a collective 3.5 grade-point average and won 17 major BIG EAST postseason awards. Four were All-Americans, and five were Academic All-Americans.

At the banquet, Athletics bid farewell to Betty Kaufman, who retired as golf coach after 19 years, and to Kathryn Statz, senior associate athletics director, after a 15-year career.

Award Winners

■ *Rev. John R. Cortelyou, C.M., Award:* **Peter Ryckbosch (CSH '17)**, men's basketball; **Paige Skorseth (CSH '17)**, women's cross country.

■ *Rev. Edward F. Riley, C.M., Memorial Award:* **Kevin Beyer (BUS '17)**, men's soccer; **Tim Corwin (CSH '17)**, men's tennis; Trevor Kintyhtt, men's track and field.

■ *Jean Nordberg Memorial Award:* **Meri Bennett-Swanson (LAS '17)**, women's basketball; Elizabeth Endy, women's soccer; **Shayna Nwokenkwo (CSH '17)**, women's track and field; **Nicole Pihl (CSH '17)**, softball.

■ *Michael Flynn Hie Memorial Award:* **Ann Gardiner (CMN '17)**, **James Gatzolis (BUS '17)**, Veronica Layng, **Mona Novikas (CMN '17)**.

■ *Sports Performance Award:* Joe Hanel, men's basketball; **Jessica January (CMN '17)**, women's basketball.

Most Outstanding Performer

Golf—Jonathan Hewett (BUS '17); Softball—Nicole Pihl (CSH '17); Volleyball—Brittany Maxwell; Men's Basketball—Billy Garrett Jr. (BUS '17); Women's Basketball—Jessica January (CMN '17) and Brooke Schulte (CSH '17); Men's Cross Country—Alex Campanella (BUS '17); Women's Cross Country—Courtney Tedeschi; Men's Indoor Track and Field—Sebastian Feyersinger; Men's Outdoor Track and Field—Trevor Kintyhtt; Women's Indoor Track and Field—Alexia Harvey; Women's Outdoor Track and Field—Gabrielle Howard (CSH '17); Men's Soccer—Simon Megally (CSH '17); Women's Soccer—Alexa Ben; Men's Tennis—Nathan de Veer (BUS '17); Women's Tennis—Ana Vladutu (BUS '17).



Athletes, students, alumni and friends give the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., former president of DePaul, a standing ovation.

Step Right Up!

Wintrust Arena Tickets Are Selling Fast

Blue Demon fans are getting excited about opening night, Nov. 11, when the men's basketball team takes on rival Notre Dame to inaugurate its new home in Wintrust Arena at McCormick Square. On Dec. 8, DePaul's women's basketball debuts at the Wintrust Arena, playing 11-time NCAA champion UConn in a showdown that will attract national attention.

"Every day, more season ticket holders are coming through, and seats are going fast," says Associate Athletic Director for

Ticket Sales & Operations **Marty Murphy (BUS '06)**. "You can feel the excitement as the Blue Demons return to the city."

Single-game tickets, mini-plans and group sales are now available, and Murphy predicts sales will be equally vigorous.

"There's a buzz about DePaul basketball being back in the city. Social media has been lighting up with fans posting their seat locations and their friends wanting to get in on the action," he says.

To get your seats, contact the DePaul ticket office at (773) 325-7526 or visit the online ticket center at depaulbluedemons.com/tickets.

Battling Fake News

Communications panel discusses misinformation in the media

DePaul journalism students, as well as other members of the university community, learned how to combat the “fake news” phenomenon at a seminar on April 4. A panel moderated by Jill Hopke, assistant professor of journalism at DePaul, discussed issues of trust in the government and media, credible information and civic responsibility.

Frank LoMonte, a lawyer at the Student Press Law Center and former investigative

journalist, argued that one of the reasons why the Hillary Clinton email controversy during the 2016 presidential election gained traction in the media was that the public is inherently suspicious of the government. “I do think that there needs to be a complete rethinking of the opaqueness of our government because that opaqueness directly breeds paranoia that foments conspiracy theories,” said LoMonte.

Ben Epstein, assistant professor of political science at DePaul, discussed the importance of differentiating between credible and non-credible sources. “So much of the complexity of political information and misinformation ultimately comes down to the consumer,” he said. Epstein added that tools should be developed for consumers so they can better recognize and counteract fake news.

Jessica Alverson, librarian and assistant coordinator for instruction for e-learning at DePaul, said that resources such as libraries always have played a key role in gatekeeping and curating reliable information. She claimed that the internet changed the way we obtain and assess information. “If you think about your results when you do a Google search, everything looks the same. There’s no imposed priority. I think part of the issue that allows fake news to exist in our information ecology today is the idea that information has lost its value,” Alverson said.

During a Q&A with the audience, Carol Marin, director of the Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence at DePaul, said, “One of the things we encounter in the teaching of journalism is that our students no longer know civics ... There has been an erosion on the educational level of what the government is. We’ve seen school districts across the country that don’t teach [civics] or are not trying to restore some of that teaching.”

In closing, Epstein said, “We have accomplished students who are learning about and producing journalism and are focused on getting facts right and spreading good information. That’s ultimately what is going to continue to improve trust, along with the fact that we’re speaking truth to power.”



Nature Tells the Truth

Award-winning author talks about using fiction to confront the future

“It may seem optimistic to think that better storytelling can have a noticeable impact,” said author Jeff VanderMeer in his lecture on environmental storytelling. VanderMeer was invited to speak by the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the College of Science and Health, the DePaul Humanities Center and the DePaul Institute for Nature and Culture during DePaul’s celebration of Earth Day on April 19.

VanderMeer is largely known for his “Southern Reach Trilogy.” The series explores environmental issues through the mysterious land of Area X, a wilderness separated from the rest of the world by an invisible border, and what happens when scientists attempt to infiltrate the region. During his lecture, VanderMeer spoke about his inspiration for the series and the importance of writing about the environment.

VanderMeer, who has lived in Florida for more than 25 years, says he conceived the concept of Area X—an area untouched by humans—after seeing the lands and wildlife affected by the 2010 Gulf Coast oil spill. The spill also prompted VanderMeer to consider how human-made disasters leave a lasting impact not only on the planet, but also on those concerned about the environment.

The author explained that while storytelling can be used to examine the physical state of the world, there are ways to make it more powerful. He encouraged writers to discuss issues of ecological devastation, diversify characters, push back against perceived ideas and show the importance of animal life. “Even as we must come to accept our condition to solve it, we also by our engagement express hope. Fiction, at its best, shows us how to accept and gives us hope,” he said.

The first novel in the trilogy, “Annihilation,” will be released next year as a film adaptation starring Natalie Portman and directed by Alex Garland (“Ex Machina”). VanderMeer also recently published a new novel, “Borne.”