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Some people would not have the patience to wait 25 years between fantasy football league championships. But for Bill Bike (LAS ’79), one of the original members of the DePaulia National Fantasy League (DNFL), winning was never the point. “I won the DNFL championship in 1981, and I didn’t win again until 2006,” Bike says. “This isn’t about winning money, it’s about the fun.”

Len Tomaszewski (LAS ’80) recruited seven fellow members of the DePaulia staff to launch the league in 1978 after reading about this new game for football fans. The DNFL grew to capacity with 12 players the following year. It is now one of the oldest continuously operating leagues in the nation.

Fantasy football has evolved over the decades, but the DNFL still plays by the original rules. Each fantasy team consists of six actual NFL players. When the pros score, so do their fantasy team owners. The league includes divisions named for Tomaszewski, former DePaulia faculty advisor Al Kipp (LAS ’62) and former DePaulia sports editor the Rev. Jim Johnston (CDM ’81). The winner of each division plus a wild card advance to the playoffs to determine an annual champion. The winner of Tomaszewski’s San Diego Fantasy League (SDFL), which he founded in 1994, then plays the DNFL winner to claim the Tomaszewski traveling trophy for the year. Unlike most current leagues, DNFL owners keep their players year to year and only draft rookies and available players.

Bike recalls that, until the advent of fantasy football websites in the 2000s, Tomaszewski painstakingly calculated each team’s points by hand every week. Since there was no internet, team owners had to call Tomaszewski to make roster changes. That could lead to mischief, like the time Tomaszewski’s brother, Jim, called Len and pretended to be another owner requesting a roster change. Len immediately saw through the ruse. According to Bike, “Jim tried, but he couldn’t conceal his own voice from his brother.”

While team owners may resign from their teams and leave the league, they always are welcome to watch the fun or get back into the game. “It was always about the friendship, the camaraderie,” Bike says. Those friendships are one key reason the league has stayed together, Bike says. The other was Len, who willed his commissioner status to Bike and another longtime owner just before dying in 2003. “Len was the guru of fantasy football,” Bike remarks. “He did a tremendous amount of work and we’re all very grateful, because he kept us all together.”
Democratizing Medicine

College of Law hosts symposium on the frontiers of medicine and the law

Last March, a distinguished group of attorneys, physicians, scholars and bioethicists presented a fascinating overview of the technology of health care and its legal ramifications at the 2019 Jaharis Symposium on Health Law and Intellectual Property, “‘Democratizing’ Medicine in a Data and Tech-Driven World.”

Setting the stage was Patrick McCarthy, executive director of the Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute and chief of cardiac surgery at Northwestern Medicine. In his talk about artificial intelligence (AI), he briefly explained how algorithms facilitate machine learning and then gave examples. One example, the smart stethoscope, uses a smartphone app programmed to record an echocardiogram when the phone is held to a patient’s chest.

Virtually anyone can be trained to do an echo in this way, thus democratizing health care by offering high-quality services in remote and rural areas where they are often unavailable. “A 40-year-old radiologist’s career is really going to change,” McCarthy said, as certified medical assistants can be trained to perform more tasks. Legal implications of AI are less clear, but involve FDA approval, liability and whether the numbers in an algorithm constitute intellectual property that can be protected.

In her presentation, Afia Asamoah, senior counsel, product, regulatory, and policy at Verify Life Sciences, cautioned that “regulations have not taken into account how quickly software can be developed and updated.” Postapproval market observance is needed, and software should be viewed as medical devices. From a legal and policy perspective, telehealth presents a real challenge. Lawyers, she said, will have to deal with “potentially 50 different sets of laws in the states, licensure requirements of consultation across state lines, handling data privacy and the corporate practice of law.”

During a panel discussion on law and the ethics of citizen science, participant-driven research and precision medicine, the lack of diversity and inclusion in genomic research was highlighted. Shawneequa Callier, an associate professor and professorial lecturer in law at George Washington University, said that more than 96 percent of genomic studies have been done on people of European ancestry. However, the H3Africa consortium of African researchers and scientists is having a major impact on equity and genomics research in Africa.

Barbara Evans, the Mary Ann and Lawrence E. Faust Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Biotechnology & Law at the University of Houston Law Center, said, “Access to one’s own data is crucial so we can see what kind of risks are associated with letting others have access to those data.” Of regulating citizen science, Evans said that the FDA is lenient on self-hurt, and protections from company harm will not be applicable.

Alessandro Delfanti, author of “Biohackers: The Politics of Open Science,” said biohackers want to break free from centralized control of medical knowledge and technology with open access to information and “garage” biology. Community labs such as La Paillasse in Paris and Genspace in New York City support citizen science and public access to biotechnology to produce and distribute medicines like insulin or perform gene editing cheaply.
Get Connected!

No matter where you live, you can connect with DePaul

The DePaul community continues to grow each year, with more than 186,000 alumni now living around the world. Alumni are able to maintain their relationship with their alma mater while connecting with fellow graduates through a variety of alumni-centered volunteer opportunities.

REGIONAL CHAPTERS
All alumni who live in one of our six regional chapter areas are automatically members of those chapters. With events throughout the year, regional chapters bring the DePaul spirit to you, connecting you with fellow alumni in your area and maintaining your bond with the university. Each chapter has a committee that helps plan and promote local events and fundraising initiatives. Our current chapter locations are

- Chicagoland
- Arizona (Phoenix/Scottsdale)
- New York City
- Southern California
- Washington, DC
- Bay Area (new!)

AFFINITY CHAPTERS/COMMITTEES
Alumni also have the opportunity to connect with fellow graduates and their alma mater through our Chicagoland affinity groups and chapters. Committee members have the opportunity to expand their alumni networks by connecting with DePaul through one of the following affinity groups:

- Young Alumni Committee, for alumni 30 years of age or younger
- Fifty Year Club, for alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more
- Black Alumni Chapter
- Latinx Alumni Chapter (new!)

REGIONAL CONTACT PROGRAM
No matter where you reside, there's an opportunity for you to get involved and connect with your local DePaul community. If there's not a current chapter or group in your area, we invite you to become part of our regional contact program. Regional contacts connect with alumni in the area by sharing university updates and helping to plan and staff local events.

For more information on how to get involved, visit our website, alumni.depaul.edu/community, or contact our office at dpalumni@depaul.edu.
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Milestones

CDM’s Got Game
The Princeton Review ranked the College of Computing and Digital Media’s undergraduate and graduate game design programs 34th and 20th, respectively, in its list of Top Game Design Schools of 2019. The animation program was ranked No. 18 nationally by Animation Career Review.

LAS Receives Mellon Foundation Grant
The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (LAS) has received a four-year grant of $750,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the Experiential Humanities Collaborative, an initiative to tackle significant issues through interdisciplinary research, teaching and collaboration in the humanities.

DePaul on Variety’s 2019 List of Best Film Schools
DePaul’s School of Cinematic Arts was named among the top film schools worldwide for 2019. The publication praised the school's live-action and animation storytelling, professional facilities and equipment, and its partnership with Second City for its comedy directing program.

New Scholarships for CPS, Catholic High Schools
Beginning with freshmen admitted to DePaul for the fall 2019 quarter, students with a grade point average of 3.7 or higher who graduate from a Chicago Public Schools high school or any Catholic high school in Illinois will receive $20,000 in scholarship support. The two scholarship funds, named the Chicago Promise Scholarship and the Catholic Heritage Scholarship, are renewable for four years.

Who was your favorite performer from any DePaul FEST? What year did you see them?

Musings

The Roots! It was a heavy downpour out in the quad in 2009 I believe. Common was amazing in 2008!! Mitch Haebeler (BUS ’09)

Tonic and Lucky Boys Confusion. 2004, I believe. Robert E. Fitzgerald (LAS ’05, CDM MS ’11)

Portugal. The Man, 2012 Ben Henke (MBA ’12) Blessid Union of Souls...was that 1997 or 1998? Jeanine M. Pilat (CSH ’99)

De La Soul, hands down. Jonathon Coe (BUS ’03)

Nas, 2005 I think. Stephen Lee (BUS ’09)

HelloGoodbye—2009? Jaimee Lieske (CMN ’12)

Lupe Fiasco, 2012! And then the next year, Diplo played the aftershow and I was like, who the...?? Val Schoonover (LAS ’15)

Wiz Khalifa Jorge L. Guerrero (BUS ’14)

Ben Folds Melissa Cahill (CMN ’05, JD ’09)

Material Issue in 1994! Scott Meskan (BUS ’94), Deana Evans Segreti (CMN ’95), Sarah Richmond D’Amico (BUS ’96, MBA ’05)

OK Go, 2003 Dan Osten (BUS ’03)

Jason Mraz, 2006! Kelli Langdon (CMN ’06)

Blessed Union of Souls... was that 1997 or 1998? Jeanine M. Pilat (CSH ’99)
Sound Design

Senior Gabby Henderson harmonizes her love of filmmaking and music

Music has been the soundtrack to Gabby Henderson's life. When she was growing up, her parents played music at their church, and two of her uncles are professional musicians. Then, at age 16, while a student at Downers Grove South High School in Chicago's western suburbs, she received the thrill of her young life: she won the national gold medal in the music composition section of the NAACP’s Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-So) for a vocal/jazz/choral piece that she had composed.

“That was pretty cool. It was actually my first time really fully composing a song, so I was very surprised about the reception that it received,” recalls Henderson, a senior who is majoring in film and television, with a concentration in sound design, in the College of Computing and Digital Media (CDM).

Although she chose filmmaking for her major, she considers herself a musician first and then a film sound designer and composer. She has taken classes on personal documentaries and has made some films of her own, including one that was screened at DePaul’s Inclusion in the Industry Student Short Film Fest, which promotes marginalized filmmakers and diverse narratives in CDM’s School of Cinematic Arts (SCA).

In addition, Henderson’s musical background continues to play a starring role in her filmmaking. “There are not that many students who are doing sound production, which has made me get even more into it. I’m learning more about the technical side of how to mix and do sound design,” she says.

Recently, Henderson had an internship at a recording studio. She also serves as one of the managers of the sound studio at SCA. There she assists and trains other students on how to mix music for their films, incorporate sound effects and, for the more ambitious, score their films.

On the side, she and a friend wrote, produced, recorded and mixed songs for a soon-to-be released video that she has entered into a few film festivals. “I’m very proud of this!” Henderson adds.

But her real dream is to work as a musician. “I’m really interested in performing my own music as a career, as well as jazz music, but I also enjoy doing sound design for film and working in studios to make music,” she says.
Many people believe that we can act ethically merely by adhering to a certain set of rules laid down by others. For them, there is something called ethical decision-making that works like an algorithm to get us to the “right” answer. The algorithm has the following steps:

1. Collect, analyze and interpret data;
2. State the dilemma;
3. Identify possible options for action;
4. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the various options; and
5. Act upon the preferred option.

I mistrust this approach and prefer to talk about choice and its relationship to virtues and vices. To see why the latter approach is more sound, consider the following case. Late one night, a stranger shows up on your doorstep. The decision-making approach would have you gather and analyze data, and identify any dilemmas from some supposedly objective point of view. But how someone perceives the situation is already a function of their character, past experiences and other factors. Some individuals would look out the window, decide by the stranger’s looks and the lateness of the hour that they are in danger and then get a weapon. Others may open the door or use the intercom to learn what the stranger needs and then respond in the way they deem best. There is no value-neutral way to gather data or choose options.

Furthermore, the ethical decision-making approach typically assumes that the decider faces some dilemma, but there frequently is no dilemma whatsoever involved in making a good choice. Consider the following case: A single mother working as an accountant is told by her boss to “cook the books.” She believes that if she does not do as she is told she will lose her job. She has no family to whom she can turn for assistance if she is fired, and she has a small child to support.

The algorithmic approach would describe her as facing a dilemma and have her tote up the pros and cons of cooking the books. Yet, we know from research that in this kind of case, individuals with integrity will not consider performing such an act. Instead, they ask questions such as, “What are the best options I have for doing the right thing? Should I contact the HR director? Do I know anyone else who might hire me so I can leave this job immediately?”

These questions show how problematic the fourth and fifth steps of so-called ethical decision-making are. Whose advantages are we supposed to consider when applying the algorithmic approach? Does the woman just evaluate her own interests or the long-run interests of her child, her company or even society? In whose eyes is an option “preferred”? There is no view from nowhere—no perspective that exists apart from our character-informed perceptions and our value commitments.

Good actions result from virtuous discernment, not from some mechanical adherence to a complicated cost-benefit, decision-making process. We need to practice confronting our fears, controlling our wants, behaving with good will toward others and acting in a just manner. What’s more, we should seek and listen to the advice of others before we act. We inevitably will make mistakes, but if we review our failures and try to learn from them, we can make better choices.

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