DePaul Digest

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DePaul’s Safety Guardian

Public safety officer Maureen Greene has been keeping DePaul safe for more than 25 years

At the safety workshops she hosts every summer for 2,000-plus new students and their parents, Maureen Greene distributes hand-packed goody bags brimming with everything from refrigerator magnets to portable alarms able to blast an ear-piercing sound at the push of a button. Each item clearly displays DePaul’s emergency numbers.

“The biggest thing is to make sure they start using the phone numbers,” says Greene. Currently a sergeant of crime prevention, she is part of a public safety team that serves the Lincoln Park and Loop campuses. Made up of more than 70 officers, sergeants and investigators, the team works in tandem with the Chicago Police Department. While public safety officers don’t carry weapons or write tickets, they are trained in the use of CPR and pepper spray, and they recently underwent training to recognize and respond to mental health crises.

During her tenure at DePaul, Greene has done everything from addressing parents’ concerns over missing children (more often than not, the “missing” student is just not answering their phone) to serving in DePaul’s free 6 p.m.–6 a.m. safety escort service.

“Over the past 26 years, I have taken care of and helped many students and their parents so that they feel safe. I want students to come to us for any reason, whether they’re overseas and their wallet is stolen or they become ill and need a hand to hold,” she says.

A Chicago native, Greene lives in the same Albany Park two-flat where she was raised and where she raised her own children. Hailing from a family of Chicago cops—her father, James Rey, was an officer for 40 years who, for a time, was detailed to DePaul—Greene originally chose work outside law enforcement. She worked in the accounts payable department for the Schwinn Bicycle Company for 12 years, but when the company dissolved, she came to DePaul.

What appealed to her about becoming a public safety officer was being able to work in the field without being in the line of fire. “Having grown up around cops, I did not want to carry a gun,” she says. What began as a part-time position soon turned into a full-time role.

She has seen changes over the years, particularly with regard to the digital technology that has exploded over the past decade. “One of the biggest changes is how people are able to know about a news event almost the moment it happens,” she says. DePaul has kept up with technology by posting real-time safety bulletins on the university website.

Despite a changing world, Greene’s message to students has remained constant. “Be aware. Look around, look up from your phones, know where you’re going,” she says. And to parents? “Trust that you’ve given your children the tools to make good decisions and be safe.”
In the second-floor performance space of the DePaul Art Museum (DPAM) stood six 12-foot-tall metal frames. Hanging from the top of each was a single rope supporting thin, randomly shaped metal plates suspended at various points along the rope. Alongside them, a baritone saxophone cradled in a tripod mingled with amplifiers, sound mixers and loopers, mallets, and an electronic drum.

Dressed entirely in black, musician and artist Elliot Bergman greeted the audience, some in chairs, but many sitting or lying on the floor. He encouraged them to move about the space during the performance to experience the sounds he and his similarly dressed bandmates, Erik Hall and Quin Kirchner, were about to make.

Bergman led off his 30-minute improvisational concert, “Polygongs,” by beating on the largest of the gongs, letting the vibrations move and dissipate through the space. Hall and Kirchner, at the opposite side of the room, countered his strokes with some of their own. The different pitches melded, overlapped and created sympathetic resonances in the gongs not being struck, in a soundscape of increasing complexity.

Large, handheld gongs were added to the performance. Their deep tones ran through one's body in concussive bursts. Then Bergman removed the saxophone from its stand and began to blow guttural noises and short, melodic runs to match and complement the sounds of the shieldlike gongs. He then transitioned to manipulating the sounds coming out of the instrument's bell electronically.

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The first-ever combined Alumni & Family Weekend was a huge hit! Alumni from the Class of 1969 celebrated their 50th anniversary of graduating from DePaul, hundreds of alumni joined us at the Winter Garden atop Harold Washington Library for the Alumni & Family Weekend Reception on Friday night, and the first annual Blue Demon Bash—a block party under the Fullerton ‘L’ stop—was a smash hit! Check out the photos on pages 14 and 15 to view all the fun we had at this new combined event.

The Estebans Visit Alumni in China

In early October 2019, A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, president of DePaul University, and his wife, Josephine, traveled to China to visit with alumni living in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen. This was the first time a sitting DePaul president has visited China in an official capacity, and Dr. Esteban was happy to share updates on the university with hundreds of alumni during his week abroad. University Trustees Jessica Sarowitz (LAS ’91) and George Ruff (LAS ’74) and Ruff’s wife, Tanya, accompanied the Estebans and helped to spread the DePaul cheer.

The Estebans began their trip by meeting with alumni at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beijing on Oct. 6. From there, it was a day of travel and then another alumni event with a packed house in Shanghai on Oct. 9. Finally, Dr. and Mrs. Esteban wrapped up their trip in Shenzhen on Oct. 12. The Estebans were able to bring a little DePaul spirit to alumni in China, traveling more than 1,600 miles along the way.
Malik Awarded Early Career NSF Grant
Tanu Malik, assistant professor and co-director of the Data Systems and Optimization Lab in the College of Computing and Digital Media, has been awarded a Faculty Early Career Development grant from the National Science Foundation to support her work in computational reproducibility, which allows scientists to verify complex scientific experiments.

SNL Gets New Name
The School for New Learning is now the School of Continuing and Professional Studies. The new name better reflects the specific goals and strengths of the school as identified in a large-scale study of the adult learner landscape.

New DePaul Secretary Named
José Padilla has been appointed as the next secretary of DePaul. He will continue to lead the Office of the General Counsel as vice president and general counsel in addition to assuming his new duties in the Office of the Secretary. He also was named to Crain's Chicago Business' inaugural list of Notable General Counsels.

First Presidential Fellows Named
Alyssa Westring, associate professor of management and entrepreneurship, and Christina Rivers, associate professor of political science, were named fellows in a new program created by DePaul President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, to examine important strategic issues at the university.

A Prince Among Universities

The Aletheia: A Sign of the Times
On May 20, 1967, the faded Edgewater Beach Hotel was the site of an epic fail.

At a banquet for the staffs of the DePaulia and the DePaulian yearbook, faculty advisor Marilyn Moats Kennedy announced that the paper’s next editor would not be current managing editor Mary Jeanne Klasen, but rather an inexperienced sophomore who had worked on the DePaulia for a mere five months. The paper’s furious student staff quit on the spot.

In the 1960s, activism on campuses was reshaping political and cultural landscapes, and the DePaulia staff had boldly covered controversial topics and criticized the university’s administration. Kennedy’s announcement was a shot across the bow to the upstart student journalists to mind their manners. Instead, a small group of them decided to fight fire with fire.

On Sept. 28, 1967, the newly formed cooperative, Dickens-Dayton Publishing Company, published Vol. 1, No. 1, of The Aletheia, with Klasen as editor. In reporting on the paper’s formation, news editor Larry Link wrote:

The Aletheia, a newly formed independent newspaper serving the students of DePaul University, is the product of four months of walk-outs, sit-ins, confrontations and deliberations by the former staff of The DePaulia, the University’s official student newspaper. The Aletheia is edited by 20 ex-members of The DePaulia.
Ghanem Appointed Interim Provost
As of July 1, Salma Ghanem, professor and dean of the College of Communication, is the interim provost of the university. She had been acting provost since October 2018. A nationwide search for a permanent provost will begin in summer or fall of 2021.

Law School Kudos
The Illinois State Bar Association presented its 2018-19 Legal Education Award to the College of Law’s Asylum and Immigration Clinic last July. Sioban Albiol, director of the clinic, received the 2019 Esther R. Rothstein Award for the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois in June. Both awards reflect the exemplary work of the clinic and its director in protecting the legal rights of immigrants and promoting equal access to justice.

Ortiz Receives HACU Fellowship
The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) has named Elizabeth Ortiz, DePaul’s vice president for institutional diversity and equity, a fellow to its newly instituted Presidential Leadership Academy, La Academia de Liderazgo. The program aims to increase Hispanic representation in presidential positions in higher education.

CDM Professor Awarded Fulbright
Professor Rosalee Wolfe of the College of Computing and Digital Media (CDM) received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award for the 2019-20 academic year. She will conduct research in computer science at the University of Hamburg, Germany, and the Institute for Speech and Language Processing in Athens, Greece, to improve communication between deaf and hearing people through a multilingual avatar.

Martin Lowery (LAS ’69), the Aletheia’s first managing editor and second editor-in-chief, calls the venture “the most formative activity I did as a junior and senior. While we all had experience in some level of journalism, publishing was a whole other matter.”

Influenced by Ramparts, a magazine associated with the New Left political movement, The Aletheia promoted a progressive agenda alongside its coverage of campus news. Without the constraints of university policy, The Aletheia was free to tackle any subject, and its popularity grew.

“People would be in line waiting for it to come off the truck, and it would go immediately. Then we started bringing it to Roosevelt University, and to Loyola and the University of Chicago. At that point, it was the most-read college newspaper on any area campus,” Lowery says.

“The adrenaline of the initial group kept things going for a while,” Lowery recalls, but the labor-intensiveness of putting out a paper while keeping up with schoolwork was difficult. Financial problems and a lack of students interested in keeping the paper going finally put The Aletheia out of business in 1971.

Lowery’s dedication to progressive causes led him to the cooperative movement, first with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and now as the U.S. elected representative to the International Cooperative Alliance. “It is interesting to reflect back that many of us did work in more of a social dimension,” he says. On a personal note, he says that The Aletheia “made a great difference for me in terms of self-confidence, writing skills and saying what’s on your mind and not being afraid to do that.”

14 East, DePaul’s student-run online magazine, has an expansive article on The Aletheia at bit.ly/14E_Aletheia. View digitized copies of The Aletheia at bit.ly/Aletheia_Archive.
We asked readers: What was your most memorable spring break? Here are some of their responses.

Working with Habitat for Humanity rebuilding homes after Katrina. I was the caulking wizard!
Theresa Campbell (BUS ’85, SCPS MA ’13)

I spent a spring break in D.C. with some fellow DePaul students and staff.
We stayed at a homeless shelter and volunteered at various nonprofits around D.C. It was very fulfilling! I met some great people and will never forget it!
Mark Lee Snell (LAS MA ’98)

My service trip through DePaul University Ministry in 1998. We were in the Appalachian Mountains repairing houses in Cranks Creek, Ky. An eye-opener and life-changing trip for me.
Diane Nowacki Meyers (EDU ’99)

I had the opportunity to go to Colonial Williamsburg with a small group of students and two professors for an American Studies class. It was a wonderful learning experience, and I look forward to returning with my kids!
Annie Miskewitch (LAS ’00, MA ’03)

St Bart’s with the boys.
Romeo Weems, freshman

Another DePaul student and I took the Amtrak Empire Builder Line from Chicago to Portland, Ore., one year. We detrained at Glacier National Park in Montana for some camping and hiking, then jumped back on another Amtrak to finish the trip to Oregon. The few days in Portland were memorable, as well. Another reason DePaul and Chicago are so incredible—they’re a perfectly situated starting point for incredible adventures!

Sarah Laggos (LAS ’17)

I drove with three DePaul friends to Toronto. Halfway home, brakes failed on the car. Not realizing it at the time, we continued on. God protects the idiots, apparently, but her family was not happy with the damage to the car!

Ricardo Lourenço (CDM MS ’16)
How to Manage Stress

By Gina Orlando (SCPS MA ’98)

When stress spirals out of control, we need quick ways to shift from this health-threatening state. The good news is that there are effective, easy and fun approaches to help us build resilience so that we can more easily surf the stress.

HARNESS THE POWER OF LAUGHTER
Don’t you just love to laugh? We can harness the power of laughter more often in our lives as an immediate way to reduce stress. Laughter releases endorphins, those “feel good” chemicals produced by the magnificent pharmacy we have in our bodies. Take a moment to give yourself a humor break at work and at home. Check out a funny online video clip, sketch or song. It beats the coffee, sugar and junk food habit.

TAP INTO HEART INTELLIGENCE
You can learn to self-regulate emotions through free online techniques available at sites like the HeartMath Institute (heartmath.org). Search for the Quick Coherence Technique, an easy-to-learn breathing and positive feeling technique that is an effective way to release stress and worry in only a few minutes. By helping your heart to beat in a calm, steady rhythm, you send the message to your brain that you are safe, ultimately shifting your nervous system into a parasympathetic mode—relax, repair, rest and digest.

REDUCE YOUR TECH USE
Always being “on,” with smartphones, tablets and laptops at the ready to respond instantly to any message, no matter the time of day, is a big stressor. This is why it’s important to take technology breaks, especially well before you go to bed at night.

MOVE YOUR BODY
Remember to move at work, getting up from your desk for a minute or two every hour to stretch, dance or take a walk. At home, check out quigong, a practice similar to yoga that is an effective self-healing technique. If you prefer more active stress reduction, try high-intensity interval training routines. They are fun, can be as short as three to eight minutes, and give you the same benefit as exercising four or five times that amount.

CHANGE YOUR MIND
Your thoughts can either create or ease stress. That is why it is so essential to choose thoughts that are positive, believable and helpful. Try any of these affirmations (choose just one at a time) to help yourself de-stress: “One thing at a time.” “Breathe.” “I can handle this.” “This will pass.” “Let it go.” “I am enough, and there is enough.” “All shall be well.”

Gina Orlando is a part-time faculty member in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, where she teaches two holistic health courses, including one on stress reduction. She does wellness coaching and consultation through her company, Naturally Wellthy (naturallywellthy.com).