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On Oct. 29, after a year of planning and data gathering, DePaul and Rush University officially launched the Center for Community Health Equity. Co-directors Fernando De Maio, associate professor of sociology, and Dr. Raj Shah, associate professor of family medicine with the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center at Rush University Medical Center, welcomed a large gathering of faculty and staff from their respective organizations, as well as members of the community, to the opening event at Rush. They discussed the impetus behind the partnership—research showing that one's life expectancy can often be determined by zip code. Feeling that unequal access to health care across Chicago could be mitigated with research, education and community engagement, De Maio, Shah and their colleagues laid the groundwork for what they hope will become a broad coalition of organizations to tackle the problem.

Dr. Thomas Deutsch, dean of Rush Medical College and provost of Rush University, and Dr. David Ansell, senior vice president of system integration, associate provost of Rush University and a professor of internal medicine at Rush University Medical Center, echoed those hopes. Deutsch said there needs to be consortial work to handle a diverse population, and he hopes to discuss health equity in Chicago. Magdalena Nava, acting director of the Greater Humboldt Park Community Diabetes Empowerment Center and a student in DePaul's Master of Public Health program, said that about 20 percent of those who use her organization's services have undiagnosed diabetes. She hopes to have the resources to keep the free services available to the entire community to help prevent chronic illnesses. Wrenetha Julion, professor of nursing at Rush University, hopes that the intersectional approach to data will attack health inequality on multiple levels simultaneously and push outcomes in a positive direction. Jaime Dircksen, managing deputy commissioner at the Chicago Department of Public Health, said public health policy examines where disparities exist, but aims to give some services to all constituents. Social justice, she said, is at the heart of the effort.

Following the presentation, attendees were invited to network, read informational posters and ask questions about the center's structure—a discovery core for research; a direction core made up of faculty, staff and students; a design core to evaluate and implement what is learned in the discovery core; and a dissemination core, part of which includes a new course at DePaul, Health Disparities in Chicago.

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The Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul University, said the project is at the heart of DePaul’s mission. He quoted a letter St. Vincent de Paul wrote to a colleague in Tunisia, where a plague outbreak had stricken the population: “A doctor who keeps a patient from becoming ill earns more merit than one who cures him.” Fr. Holtschneider said that “intuitively, health care seems like a human right, and I hope the work of the center will make that idea so clear that people will understand it and feel it in their hearts.” A short panel discussion brought together community, government and medical leaders to discuss health equity in Chicago. Magdalena Nava, acting director of the Greater Humboldt Park Community Diabetes Empowerment Center and a student in DePaul’s Master of Public Health program, said that about 20 percent of those who use her organization’s services have undiagnosed diabetes. She hopes to have the resources to keep the free services available to the entire community to help prevent chronic illnesses. Wrenetha Julion, professor of nursing at Rush University, hopes that the intersectional approach to data will attack health inequality on multiple levels simultaneously and push outcomes in a positive direction. Jaime Dircksen, managing deputy commissioner at the Chicago Department of Public Health, said public health policy examines where disparities exist, but aims to give some services to all constituents. Social justice, she said, is at the heart of the effort.

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Sustainability the Focus of the 2015 Vincent de Paul Lecture

With the June 2015 publication of the papal encyclical “Laudato Si’,” Pope Francis made our common home—the earth—a top priority for world Catholicism. To help lay individuals understand the meaning of the encyclical and further the pope’s mission to place climate change and sustainability at the forefront of Catholic teaching and secular action, DePaul’s Office of Mission & Values chose sustainability as the focus of the annual Vincent de Paul Lecture. Dan Misleh, executive director of the Catholic Climate Covenant, delivered the lecture this past October. The event also included presentations by professionals working for sustainability-related businesses.

Misleh emphasized that the pope’s name choice was inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, whose concern for the poor has been a hallmark of Pope Francis’s ministry. Climate change’s disproportionate effect on the poor was a driving force behind the pope’s decision to issue the encyclical. Pope Francis calls for an “ecological conversion,” observing that “the external deserts in the world are growing because the internal deserts have become so vast.”

Misleh emphasized that the pope has invited all nations and peoples to dialogue and then discussed his own organization’s work, exemplified by its motto, “Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.” The Catholic Climate Covenant, he said, is organizing “creation care teams” to enable committed Catholics to address climate change in their communities. Misleh then said the sheer number of Catholics in the world—approximately 2.2 billion, vastly outnumbering membership in all environmental protection groups combined—would make the church a major force for change.

Following Misleh’s talk, Kristen Fornes (BUS ’11), business development manager at SoCore Energy, a Chicago-based provider of solar energy solutions, discussed the developing market for solar technology and some of the projects with which she has been involved. SoCore provided the solar technology for the Walgreens store at 635 Chicago Ave. in Evanston, Ill., which is believed to be the first retail facility in the nation with “net zone” energy; that is, the store produces more energy than it consumes. Fornes mentioned that SoCore’s installations at IKEA stores grew out of the Swedish company’s commitment to sustainable energy practices but that the lack of incentives to help solar technology compete with traditional forms of energy generation has hampered its more widespread adoption. She said the next paradigm for solar energy consumers is to move completely off the grid with workable energy-storage solutions.

Zach Waltullah (BUS ’12, MS ’15), a garden roof associate for Chicago-based American Hydrotech Inc., shared his enthusiasm for the unique niche his employer occupies—green roofing. The Double Demon in finance and sustainable management explained how businesses complying with regulations for handling excess storm water are turning increasingly to green roof solutions. Green roofs also help with cooling, contribute to a healthy ecosystem and provide social spaces for community residents. He cited Chicago as a center for green roofing in the United States; green roofs can be found on City Hall, the Chicago Bulls’ practice facility, the Gary Comer Youth Center and Millennium Park/Maggie Daley Park, the latter being one of the most extensive green roofs in the world.

Finally, Jessica Rivas, social compliance and impact consultant with Chicago-based Piece & Co., discussed her company’s work to connect artisans in developing countries with global brands and retailers. She drew on her decade-long experience developing ethical sourcing strategies and supply-chain transparency to highlight the growing number of businesses that are interested in sustainable, ethical practices that meet consumer demand and their own mission and values statements.

ONLINE EXTRAS

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., of America Media, explains in clear, concise terms the major points Pope Francis makes in “Laudato Si’” at depaulmagazine.com.
The Women’s Center Celebrates 20 Years with Feminist Editor

On Oct. 5, The Women’s Center welcomed award-winning writer Cherríe Moraga to commemorate both the 20th anniversary of the center and the 35th anniversary of the publication of “This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color,” which Moraga co-edited. When it was released in 1981, the collection of essays was recognized as one of the first publications to explore feminism among women of color. Moraga spoke to the diverse crowd of women and men from the DePaul and Chicago communities who gathered at Cortelyou Commons to hear her reflect on putting together “Bridge,” as well as on her own experiences as a homosexual woman of color. DePaul students, faculty and staff were then asked to read select essays from the book, and some students shared original essays inspired by “Bridge.”

“How can ‘Bridge’ still be timely 35 years later?” Moraga asked. “When we were putting it together, we felt it defined a whole epic of movements in the late ’60s and early ’70s. I am grateful that I came of age during a time when we could imagine the future meant progress. When you’re looking at the institutional changes from then to now in the fabric of ideas and policy, then you see that, in fact, today we need ‘Bridge’ more than ever.”

The discussion with Moraga was the first in The Women’s Center’s yearlong anniversary series. For more information on future events, visit events.depaul.edu.

Craft of Composing Panel Addresses the Vocation of Writing

On Oct. 1, the School for New Learning (SNL) kicked off its fourth annual Month of Writing with a conversation among local authors who offered their thoughts on inspiration, editing, writer’s block, publishing and more. Moderated by Tracey Hulstein (LAS MA ’13), project coordinator at SNL, the Craft of Composing Panel gave aspiring writers an inside look at the industry.

Jennifer Finstrom (LAS ’10, MA ’12), writing tutor at the University Center for Writing-based Learning, stressed the importance of relinquishing the notion that writing is solely a solitary act. All four of the panelists regularly attend writers groups or pair up with fellow authors to discuss works in progress. “I was actually set up on a writers’ blind date,” recalled Nicholas Hayes, a student in the master’s in sociology program who has published a collection of poetry and a novella. “We read each other’s manuscripts before we met, which is such a matter of trust.”

The challenges of carving out time to write led to a discussion on the benefits and drawbacks of setting targets. Poet and playwright Harold Green (SNL ’15) made a New Year’s resolution to write a poem every single day in 2014. “When my schedule got hectic, I was basically writing poems in my sleep,” he said with a laugh. Comedian and science writer Lisa Burton has another foolproof way to get the creative juices flowing: “I’ll grab my notebook and go to a coffee shop or hop on the train because people are inherently interesting.”

None of the panelists are committed exclusively to one genre. “Take yourself out of your comfort zone by mixing it up,” suggested Finstrom, a poet who started a combined fashion and grammar blog last summer.

Final words of advice came from Green, whose first poetry collection, “From Englewood, With Love,” upholds the old adage “write what you know.” He asserted that no matter what form of creativity you pursue, it’s imperative to be true to yourself: “Remember what you’re passionate about, and don’t lose that in your writing.”

Clockwise from top left: Jennifer Finstrom, Lisa Burton, Harold Green and Nicholas Hayes
A skeleton greeted attendees as they walked into the Student Center for the DePaul Humanities Center’s third annual Horror of the Humanities on Oct. 29. An avant-garde haunted house kicked off the event, filled with exhibits unmasking the horrors of everyday life, as well as exposing the hidden history between horror and the humanities. An ominous soundtrack played as attendees perused posters with topics ranging from “The Searchable Raven,” a modern interpretation of the Edgar Allan Poe classic, to “The (Un)Invisible Man,” a look at the psychologically damaging panopticon (a prison in which inmates can be observed by a single watchman at all times), to the “Children of the Roundup Ready Corn,” an examination of Monsanto’s genetically modified produce. “Normal, everyday life is already horrific, but we have become blind to it,” said H. Peter Steeves, DePaul Humanities Center director and philosophy professor.

Pumpkins lined the wall based on England-based graffiti artist Banksy, and tarot card readings illustrated the relation between the persecution of witches and misogyny. A zombie makeup station drew attention, while Chicago-based Poems While You Wait delivered personalized horror-themed poetry. Activities that awaited visitors at the interactive haunted house were intended to educate and engage attendees to see beyond the world to which they have become accustomed. Later, Yes and Ghoul Who Are Friends presented a Halloween-themed improv performance. “It was intellectually enriching, as well as entertaining, for all of us to experience together the ways in which a theme that is traditionally thought to be frightening can, in the right context and with the right artists, also be funny,” explained Steeves.

The evening concluded with a screening of the 2012 film “Antiviral,” a satirical look at the cult of celebrity, and a Q&A with the film’s director, Brandon Cronenberg. “A celebrity isn’t entirely a human being,” said Cronenberg. “You have this disconnect between the physical human and the celebrity, and the celebrity is a media construct. The human being dies, but the celebrity lives on,” Steeves said the caricature of an industry that sells celebrity pathogens to consumers fit with the overarching theme of the event. “‘Antiviral’ is, like the other arts and humanities work we’ve featured, not a traditional work of horror,” said Steeves. “It’s complicated, smart and insidiously clever, getting us to rethink our conception of the media and celebrity, as well as what it means to be embodied in general.”

For more information on upcoming DePaul Humanities Center events, visit bit.ly/depaulhumanitiescenter.
DePaul Basketball enjoys game-changing, groundbreaking day

A new era of DePaul basketball commenced Nov. 16 with a groundbreaking ceremony for the McCormick Place Event Center, a 10,000-seat multipurpose venue and the Blue Demons’ home court beginning in 2017. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) Chairman Jack Greenberg (BUS ’64, JD ’68, DHL ’99), MPEA CEO Lori Healey, MPEA Vice Chair Robert Reiter, DePaul University President, the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., and 3rd Ward Alderman Pat Dowell attended the ceremony.

The event center will be located north of Cermak Road, between Indiana and Prairie avenues. The construction cost will be shared evenly between the MPEA, which will own the property, and DePaul, which will be its major tenant. DePaul is contributing a portion of the construction costs and will be the anchor tenant for the new facility and, among other benefits, will receive naming rights, premium seating and ticket revenues. DePaul will also have exclusive use of locker rooms and training facilities at the new venue.

“DePaul continues to be the university of choice for generations of immigrants who come to this city,” Emanuel said. “DePaul has been an anchor to those families, and therefore, an anchor to the city of Chicago.”

Holtschneider traced the shared history of DePaul and the city of Chicago from its beginnings in the 1870s. “Father Edward Smith bought land on Webster and Sheffield avenues believing that in order for the city to continue to grow north, the neighborhood needed a church and a school,” Holtschneider said. “A small college was added, and we’re proud to have become the anchor of the Lincoln Park neighborhood ever since.” Holtschneider also noted DePaul’s partnership with the city in 1998 to remake the shuttered Goldblatt’s department store as the DePaul Center, a multipurpose hub in the South Loop.

“We’re always proud to grow the university in ways that serve the city’s needs,” Holtschneider said. “Today, we are particularly proud to build in a way that might assist in the renaissance of the famed Motor Row and its South Loop neighborhood. We’re also glad to help the city with a new facility for conventions, concerts and many other events for its residents and visitors.”

Nobody has been more focused on bringing DePaul basketball back to the city than Athletics Director Jean Lenti Ponsetto (EDU ’78). “I know how excited our coaches are and a lot of student-athletes are really excited we’re breaking ground,” Ponsetto said. “This building will host a tremendous amount of events Chicagoans will be able to enjoy.”

Men’s Basketball Coach Dave Leitao pointed to the groundbreaking as a beacon toward a bright future. “Father Dennis hit the mark with his understanding of what we’re in the middle of and the history connecting DePaul and the city of Chicago,” Leitao said. “This is a game-changer, and we have a great opportunity to expand our potential.”

Longtime Blue Demon Women’s Basketball Coach Doug Bruno (LAS ’73, MA ’88) has grown with the university through the days of playing at Alumni Hall, as well as the move to what is now the Allstate Arena. “What hit me today is the reality,” Bruno said. “The 2017-18 season will be here in a nanosecond, and we’ll be playing games here in no time. It’s already having a great impact on our recruiting. We look forward to helping in the development of the South Loop.”
Bruno Marks 30th Season Coaching the Game He Loves

It has been quite a ride for Doug Bruno (LAS '73, MA '88) in his 30th season as the DePaul women's basketball coach. He began the season with an overall coaching record of 627-339, including 571-324 during the last 29 years at DePaul, with NCAA tournament Sweet 16 appearances in 2006, 2011 and 2014. DePaul is one of only seven programs to compete in the last 13 NCAA tournaments.

“I would be nothing at DePaul without Ray Meyer,” Bruno said about the legendary men’s basketball coach. “I have to thank Coach Ray for giving me a chance with a basketball scholarship. I was blessed to play for Coach Ray and also Frank McGrath (LAS ’26).

“I think of all the talented former women’s basketball players and assistant coaches that are such great people. Jean Lenti Ponsetto (EDU ’78), our athletics director, was the best captain I ever had.”

Bruno will always remember March 20, 2006, a day that began with the wake for Meyer and ended with his team rallying for a 71-67 win over Tulsa that sent DePaul to its first NCAA tournament game against Minnesota. Photo credit: DePaul University/Deb Carrion

“Right after DePaul upset No. 2 seed Duke 74-65 on Duke’s home court and advanced to the 2014 NCAA Sweet 16, Bruno revealed that was his 600th coaching victory. “All of this is because of the wonderful support from our administration led by DePaul President Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., and our athletic director, Jean Ponsetto,” Bruno said. “We have a great coaching staff and great players. I’m grateful Jean had the trust to hire me.”

“The reason for his endurance is Doug’s love for the game and his passion for teaching it at all levels,” Blankson said. “He is a really straightforward person and the reason I’ve learned a lot about life and basketball. I really see the kind of person he is off the court, how much he cares about people from all walks of life.”

Women’s Soccer Qualifies for Sixth BIG EAST Tournament

The Blue Demons finished the 2015 season with a record of 12-4-4 that included a 6-1-2 mark in the BIG EAST and a tie for second place. They qualified for their third consecutive BIG EAST Championship berth and sixth overall. Leading the way were All-BIG EAST First Team selections Elise Wyatt, Sarah Gorden (CMN ’15) and Alexa Ben, along with All-BIG EAST Second Team choices Alex Godinez, Brianna Ryce and Lucy Edwards. Franny Cerny was named BIG EAST Freshman of the Year, while teammate Madeline Frick made the BIG EAST All-Freshman Team along with Cerny, Gorden and Wyatt were NSCAA All-Region First Team and Ben was All-Region Second Team.

Wyatt Excels On and Off the Field

Senior forward Elise Wyatt set the all-time DePaul career record for goals with 35, surpassing the 32 scored by Julianne Sitch (EDU ’07) (2002-05). Wyatt also tied the season record for goals with 12. She recorded a pair of hat tricks with each three-goal outburst accompanied by NSCAA National Player of the Week honors. Wyatt was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America First Team as the finance major posted a 3.60 GPA.

Preseason Honors in the BIG EAST

Both men’s and women’s basketball received conference accolades prior to the season tipoff. Billy Garrett Jr. was named Preseason All-BIG EAST Second Team in men’s basketball by vote of the coaches, while Chanise Jenkins (CMN ’15) and Megan Podkowa were unanimous selections to the Preseason All-BIG EAST Team in women’s basketball. In addition, Jenkins, Podkowa and their teammates were the coaches’ choice to win the league title.

For full schedules, results and other news about DePaul Athletics, visit depaulbluedemons.com.
Polish Scholar Reflects on Solidarity Movement and Catholicism

On Sept. 24, during his historic address to a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress, Pope Francis said, “Today, I would like not only to address you, but through you, the entire people of the United States. They generate solidarity by their actions, and they create organizations which offer a helping hand to those most in need.” This simple message represents a shift in church teaching toward the language of solidarity, according to Professor Michał Łuczewski, deputy director of the Centre for the Thought of John Paul II in Warsaw, Poland, and assistant professor in the Institute of Sociology at the University of Warsaw.

On Sept. 23, DePaul’s Center for World Catholicism & Intercultural Theology welcomed Łuczewski to campus to speak about the church and the Solidarity (Solidarność) movement that arose in his country to oppose the communist government. The movement began in 1980 when the Solidarity trade union went on strike in a Gdansk shipyard, and grew to nearly 10 million members who contributed significantly to the nonviolent fall of communist domination in Eastern Europe.

Łuczewski contrasted the modern revolutionary concepts that underpinned the communist era in Europe with the counterrevolutionary ideas that gave strength to Solidarity. Revolutionary concepts first advanced by 19th-century French philosopher and political economist Pierre Leroux called for a break with the past, future orientation, abstraction of ideas, politicization of social frameworks and “TINA” (there is no alternative). By contrast, the agenda of Solidarity’s counterrevolutionary movement involved returning to the past, spiritualization, concreteness, antipoliticization (moral guidance) and freedom (there are alternatives).

Previously, the church had gained some stability under the communist dictatorship by promising to stay out of politics. Nonetheless, the movement became linked with the church when Pope John Paul II, the first Polish pope, made a pilgrimage to his homeland in 1979. He galvanized the populace with a famous sermon before 1 million Poles assembled in Warsaw’s Victory Square during which he told them to “Let your spirit descend and renew the face of the earth, the face of this land.” This sermon gave Poles new meaning by asserting the concreteness of their faith and its place at the foundation of Poland itself.

Łuczewski concluded with a 30-minute film, “The Father, the Son and the Friend: Forgiveness After Solidarity.” The film focuses on three people—an early Solidarity member, an informer who infiltrated Solidarity and the daughter of a worker who was killed during the strike—and their path toward healing.

The Sentencing Project Director Discusses Mass Incarceration

Author and advocate Marc Mauer spoke to a packed audience at Arts and Letters Hall on Oct. 2. The honors program invited the executive director of The Sentencing Project and author of “Race to Incarcerate” to present on mass incarceration trends.

“If you add local jails, we now have more than 2 million Americans behind bars,” Mauer said. “The U.S. is the world leader in its rate of incarceration among industrialized nations. Regardless of what you believe are the causes of this, it seems to me that there is something fundamentally wrong when the wealthiest society in the world also has the greatest rates and proportion of people behind bars.”

Mauer also spoke about the disproportionate number of incarcerated minorities and how the backgrounds of those who make up the prison population may shed some light on what led them to that end.

“Three-quarters of prisoners have a history of substance abuse,” he says. “About one in six has a history of mental illness. More than half of women in prison have a history of physical and/or sexual abuse, all contributing—not excusing—but contributing to the ways in which they ended up in prison.”

Mauer says that there are many opportunities to tackle the problem, such as taking advantage of the changing political climate and being active in the cause. “It seems to me that we need to engage in a political and personal dialogue and treat everyone as if they’re family. When we open our eyes and minds, we get a very different public and policy response and a much healthier society. That’s the challenge for all of us—in whatever ways you’re able to engage in this movement, that’s the meaning, I think, of justice for all.”

For more information about The Sentencing Project, visit sentencingproject.org.
Graduates Gather for Alumni Weekend 2015

As the new school year began, more than 500 graduates and friends gathered to reminisce about their student experience at Alumni Weekend 2015, held Oct. 16-18. Those who graduated 50 years ago or more convened at the Reunion Luncheon and reflected on the changes to DePaul’s campus over the years. In addition, special receptions were held for those celebrating their 25th reunion or their 50th reunion from the College of Law. The Fall Family Harvest, held in conjunction with the DePaul Activities Board and the Office of New Student and Family Engagement, provided games and activities for the whole family, while the entire DePaul community joined together to hear university updates at the Alumni Reception with DePaul President, the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M. The celebration concluded with the Alumni and Family Weekend Mass and the Alumni Weekend Brunch, wrapping up yet another successful event filled with old memories and new friends.