

# HIM

## Honorable Mentions

winter.2014

### Chiberia.

It was a Chicago winter to break the records, freeze us to the bone, and cover us in memorable feet of snow. Things were so extreme, in fact, that DePaul dared to have a snow day!

The weather did not stop the Honors Program from having a blast: we still conquered the ice rinks, enjoyed a meal with some of our favorite professors, and took advantage of guest lectures and an alumni panel. Lace up your skates and take a peek inside!



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*Thanks to everyone who contributed!*

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Cover photo provided by Lukasz Budolak.

# Campus Resources

## Visit the Career Center

You may think the Career Center is only a place to go to find an internship. Sure, they do that, but they also offer so much more! The Career Center can help you decide on a major, a career choice, help you polish your résumé, conduct mock interviews to hone your skills, and much more. The Career Center offers workshops ranging from job search strategies to interviewing skills to graduate school information sessions. To find out more about what the Career Center can do for you, visit their website: [www.careercenter.depaul.edu](http://www.careercenter.depaul.edu). You can also visit one of their offices at these convenient campus locations: in the Loop, they are located in Suite 9500 of the DePaul Center (1 East Jackson); on the Lincoln Park campus, they are in Room 192 of the Schmitt Academic Center (SAC) at 2320 N. Kenmore.

## Have a Big Paper Due Soon? The Writing Center Can Help You Make it the Best it Can Be!

The Writing Center provides help free of charge to all members of the DePaul University community—including students, faculty, and staff. The Writing Center tutors offer assistance in developing successful writing strategies, and their goal is to help visitors become more comfortable with writing tasks and more aware of composing processes that will allow them to complete these tasks well.

They work with writers on many kinds of projects from research papers and lab reports to Master's theses and personal projects. They offer techniques to help writers focus and develop ideas, evaluate and summarize sources, and edit and revise their drafts.

Visit the Writing Center's website to find out locations, hours, services, and much more!

<http://condor.depaul.edu/writing/>

## Learning Commons

Services are in full swing in the Learning Commons this winter quarter. Located in room 111 on the first floor of the John T. Richardson Library, the Learning Commons is a modern, collaborative learning studio, which provides a variety of peer tutoring services and career consulting.

### Schedule of services:

*Academic Success Center Tutoring - College of Education:*  
Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 1:30-5:30  
Tuesday 2:00 -7:00

*CDM Python Tutoring:*  
Tuesday 3:00-4:00 and 6:00-7:00  
Wednesday 4:30-7:30

*Resume Drive Thru - Career Center:*  
Wednesday 11:00-2:30 and 4:00-5:30

*Writing Center Outpost:*  
Sunday 3:00-7:00  
Tuesday and Wednesday 3:00-5:00

*Study Jam – Office of Multicultural Student Success:*  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 5:00-7:00

*Science and Math Learning Center*  
*Chemistry:* Wednesday 3:00-4:30;  
Thursday 4:30-6:30  
*Math:* Tuesday 3:00-6:00; Thursday and Sunday 3:00-7:00

*Psychology (Stats):* Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-5:00

# Honorable Announcements



## Save the Date!

The 2014 Honors Ball: *A Fairytale Cotillion* is just around the corner. This year's Ball will take place once again in beautiful Cortelyou Commons; beginning at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 26th. Join us in for a wonderful evening of delicious food, delectable snacks, entertaining music and dance, and an enchantingly good time! There will also be a costume contest this year, and the most handsome man and woman will each win a special prize. Watch your email for more details. We hope to see you there!

## Join the Honors Relay for Life Team!

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's biggest fundraiser. Funds go towards cancer research as well as cancer patient support. It is an all-night, 12 hour event in which participants form teams to walk or relay around the track at all hours of the night. There will be food,

games, music, and other entertainment to make it a fun and exciting event! This year's theme is "camping," so gather together your flashlights and sleeping bags to help fight back against cancer! The date is Friday-Saturday, April 11-12, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. at the Ray Meyer Fitness Center. To join the Honors team, or for any questions, contact [hsgservicecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:hsgservicecommittee@gmail.com).

DREAM BIG  
 HOPE BIG  
 RELAY BIG

# Honors Events

## Professor Allison McCracken Speaks At Honors Student Government Meeting *by Taylor Gillen*



The Honors Student Government officers occasionally invite professors to speak at their biweekly meetings. These lectures provide honors students with a taste of various fields of study they may not be acquainted with. Friday, January 24th's meeting featured Allison McCracken, Associate Professor and Director of the American Studies program.

"I've always wanted to study mass media," McCracken noted. "How people decipher text and gain meaning from it is a major interest of mine." McCracken studied as an undergrad on the East Coast. She later obtained her PhD in American Studies at the University of Iowa. She taught at the University of California--Berkeley for a year, but later decided to come to DePaul University.

Professor McCracken discussed fandom at the meeting. In particular, she talked about the increasingly prevalent role that fans have on the production of mass media. Not too long ago, writers, producers, and directors exercised immense creative freedom. In recent years, however, they have become more responsive to the requests of the public. This is new, and technology is largely responsible for the rapid dissemination of information that makes this possible.

Professor McCracken cites *Glee* as an example of the expanding role of fans. "People create websites to discuss recent episodes and predict future events," she claims. "They even write fan fiction, in which they re-create scenes or expand on relationships between two or more characters in the show." The show's crew can easily access this information by going online. In fact, when they introduced a gay couple (Kurt and Blaine, or "Klaine" as many fans refer to them), *Glee* followers responded positively. They even influenced the creators to introduce another relationship, this time between two young women.

This example is one of many that Professor McCracken used. She also spoke with honors students about the sociological side of pop culture, such as the fact that television continues to promote certain cultural norms and devalue others. Her lecture gave honors students a delectable taste of what the field of American Studies has to offer. In doing so, she also promoted the mission of the Honors Program: to encourage students to explore new paths, to gain expertise in a variety of areas, and have an unquenchable thirst for knowledge.

Honors student Michelle Grochocinski listens to Professor McCracken make a point.



# Honors Events



## Highlights from the *Honors On Ice* event (above) and the *Student Faculty Dinner* (below).

Millennium Park was the setting for Honors on Ice on Friday, Feb 21st. Students braved the cold to test out their skills at Chicago's premiere outdoor ice rink. The winter quarter Student Faculty dinner was at Duck Walk restaurant on Wednesday, Feb 12th. Faculty and students enjoyed conversation and delicious Thai food.

**Photo credits:** Lukasz Budolak and Alex Jewell



# Social

## Facebook: The Social (Support) Network *by Anna Hanson*

First, we lost our grocery store. Then, we went on to lose the ole reliable UPASS system to Ventra, rendering us with a whole host of new problems. If that weren't enough, we lost all feeling in our extremities due to the frigid temperatures. With this series of unfortunate events, one can conclude that this Winter Quarter is out to get us. So, as college students in the technological age, we do what we do best: pour out our frustrations on Facebook. In light of the multiple dilemmas facing students, however, there has been a shift in how we as students are utilizing the social network that devours the innocent, spare moments in our busy lives.

We complain, oh yes, we complain. But now, we also support.

It is as if there is so much to complain about that students are reverting to the ancient ways of behaving kindly on the Internet. The problems with Ventra have inspired many choice words throughout the social media realm, but read the comments and you will see words of validation, advice, and, of course, a humorous meme or two to lighten the mood. Cursing Dominick's for betraying the hungry students of DePaul? Expect comments with suggestions such as using Peapod, the popular online food delivery service. Post a picture of yourself in -15 degrees? You can bet the comments will tell you to stay safe and bundle up, not to mention prayers for a snow day.

This pattern appears throughout the posts concerning the Winter Quarter difficulties plaguing students. Students always use social media

to express frustrations, turning your average newsfeed into a treacherous graveyard of whiny posts. With this increase in positivity and supportive comments, Facebook may be the newest "social support destination".

So, the next time you need to vent, reach out to the newest support group for everyday concerns. Everyone likes to be heard, and if the weather isn't cooperating with your pleas for warmth, join the online choir debuting on Facebook: the social support network.



# Profile: Matthew Girson

## Don't Be Mediocre! *by Taylor Gillen*

“Students should study mediocrity so they do not embody it,” remarked Associate Professor Matthew Girson insightfully, an Honors professor here at DePaul whom I had the privilege of speaking with. Indeed, we study history so we do not repeat it. We study law so that we do not wrong. As honors students, perhaps we would benefit from studying mediocrity so that we may learn to break the walls of normality and definitively contribute something new.

From childhood, Girson had a passion for art. He studied at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia during his undergraduate years, and moved on to the University of Illinois at Chicago for graduate school. He taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago for five years before coming to DePaul to teach in the Art, Media, and Design department.

Professor Girson teaches a number of courses in this program, including painting and drawing studios and seminars on contemporary art. One class he finds particularly interesting is a seminar on irony. In addition, his honors courses are HON 205 (the interdisciplinary art requirement) and HON 350 (the capstone requirement). With regards to teaching the honors classes, Girson said, “I enjoy them because the students that sincerely care about the classes are the most honest and dedicated students I have met at DePaul. I also find a great diversity of students here.” However, his favorite class is one he no longer teaches. Called

“Rethinking Aesthetics: Mediocrity, Boredom, and Failure,” Girson stated that “I taught the class because no one else was qualified, and I stopped because I was not good enough.”

When asked about influences, Girson stated, “I am influenced by poets as much as visual artists. Though I do not write poetry myself, it does occasionally leak into the titles of my work.” As for artists that influence his visual work, he cited Joseph and Anni Albers. These two made a major impact on textiles and other mediums of two-dimensional design in the twentieth century. As for poets, Girson listed Paul Celan and Wislawa Szymborska as influencers.

Many LAS professors conduct substantial research outside of the classroom. For Girson, his studio practice is his research. “I am always working on something. The perspective I bring as an artist is

the value that I bring to the university,” Girson stated. In addition to teaching and painting, he has also had curatorial experience in various Chicago museums. He has also had numerous solo and group exhibitions. In fact, he is currently working on several pieces that will be featured at the Chicago Cultural Center this summer.

As I was leaving his office, Professor Girson bid me farewell by stating, “Have a nice day, and don't be mediocre.” I believe DePaul's student body and faculty alike strive to go above and beyond with their work. Though it may prove difficult, Matthew Girson tells us to not allow ourselves to fall into the cracks. Instead, we should continue to explore new paths and engage in meaningful discussions. If you are looking for a fascinating class, I recommend one of Professor Girson's.





# Honorably Involved

## Lincoln Laureate Award *by* Caelin Niehoff

This past October, I was named as a 2013-2014 Lincoln Laureate Award recipient. The award recognizes one graduating senior from each of Illinois' universities and colleges for their various academic, co-curricular, and community service involvements. Within a few weeks of receiving the award from DePaul, the Lincoln Academy asked me to speak on behalf of all of the student laureates at the capitol in Springfield.

Looking back and reflecting on the awards ceremony, I think it's easy to become fixated on its formalities. I chose, however, to acknowledge the less evident privileges that the experience offered. When I spoke to the assembly, I spoke of the uncertainty that college seniors face—their futures saturated with ambiguity. For as frightening as that uncertainty can be, it was reassuring to be in a room full of high achieving young adults who were all in the same boat. Speaking with other student laureates helped me understand our shared aspirations as well as concerns.

The weekend in the capitol was also humorous. This "road trip" with my parents was long overdue. We managed to get lost, despite the city's smaller size (at least in comparison to Chicago), and we circled the governor's mansion several times before we figured out how to get to the house from the front gate.

DePaul staff and faculty have supported my academic and co-curricular interests from day one (award or no award), and I think that's very telling of the university. I appreciate DePaul's commitment to both service and civic involvement. Its employees have played a pivotal role in my education and self-development. I hope honors students will continue to speak publically about their involvements in and outside the classroom, while remembering the importance of human relationships that exist within those systems.



**L to R:** Lincoln Academy and DePaul Trustees John Simon, William Bennett, Caelin, Cynthia Summers, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Ernest Wish, DePaul Advisory Council.

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## DePaul Documentary Project Internship *by* Summer Concepcion

Being in the presence of well-respected Chicago journalist Carol Marin never ceases to amaze me. Interning for her through the DePaul Documentary Project (DDP) is an aspiring journalist's dream come true, to say the least. I've never met anyone so fiercely passionate about holding onto journalistic integrity to the point where it's infectious, where I feel inspired every day to keep pursuing journalism. In short: journalism is alive and well, and Carol is living proof of that.

Carol is the political editor at NBC 5 Chicago, a political columnist at the Chicago Sun-Times, and a contributor to WTTW's Chicago Tonight. Not only do I work closely with Carol, but I also work with producer Don Moseley (or rather, Carol's "partner in crime") on conducting research for NBC 5 News' investigative unit stories and accompanying them on assignments. I've also had the opportunity to attend press conferences and court hearings for the recent David Koschman case.

The broadcast and investigative journalism world was uncharted territory for me prior to my interning at DDP in the fall. I've wanted to be a journalist since I was 13 and have had a lot of experience on school newspaper publications (including The DePaulia, where I currently serve as online editor) and experienced being an editorial intern and current freelance writer for the Chicago Reader. Two quarters later and thanks to DDP, I can now say that I have a better sense of what working for broadcast and investigative journalism entails.

Broadcast journalism is a lot more fast-paced compared to print journalism. But whether you're in print or broadcast, journalism is hard work □ a fact that Carol and Don remind me of each day at DDP. There have been times when journalism seems like one of the most unglamorous professions out there. Tasks such as going to the Daley Center to pull up public documents almost every week during fall quarter were intimidating at first and not always easy. Spending countless hours compiling data from databases such as the Illinois State Board of Elections is not always the most exciting task, either, since I'm not a math aficionado. Nonetheless, through these "unglamorous" experiences, I've realized how much I love journalism. The beauty of journalism is that it's a constant learning experience, and my experiences at DDP have allowed me to learn to stand my ground and face each obstacle head-on.

There are two pieces of advice I've received through DDP that I take to heart:

**1.** *When I was telling Carol about my fear of not attaining a journalism career post-college, she told me, "Never let fear paralyze you." This gives me more motivation to keep going. Despite the notion that the journalism job market is a difficult one to break into, Carol reminds me that nothing comes easy. Perseverance is key in pursuing passions in life.*

**2.** *Don told me that the greatest advice he heard in college is to "be resourceful" and adds that it's also important to "be bold." Acting like you're confident in what you're doing allows others to not walk all over you. Being resourceful means not giving up when things don't go your way and realizing that problem solving involves creativity.*

As I write this, my weeks left at DDP are dwindling. I'm sad thinking about how the internship will end soon, but I have more confidence in taking the next steps. The hands-on journalism experience I received by interning at DDP has taught me a lot more than any of my journalism classes could. I have had the privilege of learning the ins and outs of the news industry from two of the most respected figures in the field. If journalism does eventually work out as a career for me, I can honestly say that I will always attribute my success to the time I spent under Carol and Don's guidance at DDP.

Through my time at DDP, I am also inspired to someday be a journalist who pays it forward by mentoring young aspiring journalists. Although Carol and Don are two of the busiest people, they are two of the most generous people I've ever met and I'm forever grateful that they treat their interns as their teammates. There hasn't been a moment when I've felt underappreciated, and I bet that every DDP intern feels the same way.

Thank you DDP for reminding me that the spirit of journalism is far from fading away anytime soon.



# Honorably Involved

## It's All About the Smiles *by* Emily Creek

When I decided to write an article about the 2013 Global Water Brigade, I planned to write an article about what happens, how to get involved, and how to do your part here. But coming home from Honduras, for the second time in two years, this article changed its own course. This is not a “what is a brigade” guide, rather this is the story of smiles.

I have been to Honduras twice since starting here at DePaul. In 2012, I went on my first Water Brigade trip as a volunteer, and this past December I was the co-leader of the 2013 group. I had a bit of doubt in my soul that this brigade might not be as perfect as the first, where I met some of my closest friends and began to understand what path my life was taking. But of course, things have a way of working out, and this brigade was incredibly different.

This past December, I co-led a group of 18 DePaul students. We stayed at Hotel Club Morzan in San Lorenzo, a town in the south of Honduras. Our task was to break ground on a water system in the nearby small community of El Ojochal. We realized we had our work cut out for us as we began to work on the thick clay and huge boulders, with temperatures in the 90's. At the end of the first day, our trench diggers were left with low spirits and a lack of motivation. It was time to mix up the game plan!

My co-leader and I talked to the head of the staff about working closer with the community members, who were both far more skilled than we were and who we really wanted to get to know. So the next day, we were paired up with workers from the community. The workers were men, typically young fathers and some teenage boys. They spoke zero English and most of us spoke very little Spanish. Enter smile number one.

With nothing but a shovel (or pick axe) and our smiles, we got to work. With our smiles, we knew when to do our part and when they were doing theirs. We answered the questions we could and smiled and shook our heads when we couldn't. They laughed at our replies, or when we made fools out of ourselves and suddenly it was time to go. At the of the second day, we looked back to see over twice the amount accomplished as the first day, and new friends waving us goodbye.

The third day of work was pipe-laying day. On this day, our staff decided we should work hand in hand with the kids from the community. We each got paired up and sent off to work. The kids were mostly boys, though some girls came as well. They were ages 6-10 and worked harder and faster than us college kids. Now, it is a bit easier to speak Spanish to children, as they laugh and don't judge your grammar. Still, for many on our team, the task of communication proved difficult and daunting. Enter smile number two. Even if we didn't understand the question, the kids' smiles let us know if they wanted to try on our gloves or sunglasses, if they would like some Gatorade, or if it was time to move on.

A smile seems simple enough. But when there is a lack of language, the smile becomes the language. It helps you decode all sorts of things and communicate. My favorite smiles are the out-

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loud smiles, those smiles that turn into gut-hurting laughter. There were all sorts of smiles in El Ojochal. The hardest were the smiles that came with the waves goodbye, the smiles with the wet eyes. Happy because we came and became their friends, sad because we were going.

Yes, the DePaul Water Brigade went to install a water system and thus, change the lives of El Ojochal, and that we did. But El Ojochal changed us as well. The most miraculous part of the brigade was the community. It was the smiles. It was the openness. We DePaulians learned how to soak up the company of those around us, how to appreciate the simple things, and how to smile more freely. El Ojochal was thankful, very true. But, most of all, just like us, the people of El Ojochal wanted to make friends. And with the power of 22 (or so) muscles, futures changed.

When people ask why I spend time in Honduras working in heat and dirt, I know that the answer is for the children...because they smile, and I never want them to stop.

To find out how to experience smiles for yourself, contact: [depaulgwb@globalbrigades.org](mailto:depaulgwb@globalbrigades.org).



Photo credit: Emily Creek

# Alumni Panel

## A Glimpse Into our Futures? *by Michelle Grochocinski*

It sometimes feels like DePaul is beating socially responsible leadership theory over our heads. Yet at the Honors Alumni Networking event put on by the Honors Student Government, we met DePaul alumni who became just that—socially responsible leaders. And it was inspirational.

Of the four graduates, three held careers in social work and employment allocation services: working to establish concrete jobs and homes for others. The fourth graduate trained as an engineer, spending his workday developing sustainable energy practices for a large corporation. They all found their way to meaningful careers—but the path there, they emphasized, was twisting and unclear. In fact, each changed majors at least once. The alumni stressed searching for the occupation that fits you and your values. Moreover, only one worked directly in the field correlated to her major- providing reassurance that you are not stuck within the constraints of your degree. According to her, a large percentage of current employees are not in the field of their major. They advised that students should focus on career networking and skill development as well as picking a major that interests you.

Last quarter, the first of my second year at DePaul, I learned that I could graduate four quarters early. This induced rapid-fire scheduling of advising appointments, workshop attendance, and networking. Having taken advantage of most of DePaul's career resources at this point, I wish the value of career planning and development had been stressed to me from the start. Learning that employers expect you to have 2-3 internships upon graduation as a Junior is less than ideal. Students should reach out and begin their career, not just their education, at DePaul. We need to take advantage of our resources before these days turn into memories. We are Generation Y, and when it comes to choosing a career, we need all the help we can get!



**Honors Program alumni panel, L to R:** Betsy Hushek (CMN '10), Marketing and Communication Officer, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs; Garrett Napier (LAS '12), Housing Advocate, Ezra Multi-Service Center; Amy DeLorenzo (LAS '09), Program Coordinator at Chicago Cares; David Poli (CSH '09), Energy Manager, AT&T.

# Darndest Things

*While we don't advise listening to other peoples' private conversations, sometimes you can't help but overhear the very strange things they say around campus.*

This is a thesis. I'll get over my tears.

I love the Loop campus. It's just like the real world.

I'm glad I made her day because I ate my chapstick.

There's caffeine in Red Bull?

Too much of anything is a bad thing. Except for money. And ice cream.

I'm not scared to dance.

Have you ever hit the Spanish button at Jewel?

Being stupid is fun.

Why be mean in life?

Grad school is not about how smart you. It's about how hard you work.

I'd rather be a nerd than not be one.

iPhones are all like, "Me, me, me!" Where's the, "Us"?

Only celebrities listen to everything I say.

My kids will not know how old I am.

I don't ever plan on fully maturing.

Chipotle is the food of the gods.

I feel proud to be a terrible consumer.

Wearing my lucky underwear did not help.

You sound like an idiot when you say, "based off of!" It's based "ON," not, "OFF OF"! Look it up!

Do you juggle, though?

# Creative License

## The Art of Man, on Super Bowl Sunday

I hear the dryer anxiously tumble through my intimates;  
Trying to go undetected, I know,  
Because I offered.

In the curves of ruffled sheets  
Lies silhouetted lonely crescents,  
Like a clear sky on a quiet night  
When all your laundry is done;  
Moonlit, half-empty;  
Short lived.

I hear the termites go to work  
On your morning wood,  
A gift from your last beloved;  
She feared fulfillment,  
Loved to throw paper footballs,  
And danced in the end zone.

We clasped fingers at the waist  
To keep honest hips,  
In case of marriage;  
If the heart ever slipped;  
I do, I can't,  
I'm the whisper in a cockpit.

*with* Alex Jewell

“Peace is worth more than all worldly  
possessions.”

*St. Vincent DePaul*