The Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence honors Lester Holt and Ben Welsh (CMN ’04). Read more on page 4.
As we prepare for the start of a new academic term, I’d like to take a moment to reflect on the previous year. While the projects, innovations and accomplishments are many, the driving force behind all the activities is passion.

Passion for the role of journalism in a democratic society inspired the events sponsored by the Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence. From lectures and panel discussions on topics such as free speech and fake news to the first annual Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence Awards, the center has been busy spreading this message to DePaul students and the Chicago community.

Passion drove our students to achieve on the regional and national stage. Our students received numerous awards for case study analysis and breaking news to the first annual Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence Awards. The center has been busy spreading this message to DePaul students and the Chicago community.

Passion drives our plans for an upcoming milestone—the 10th anniversary of the college. Watch for ways that you can get involved in our 10-year celebrations in future correspondence.

Brad Balduf (CMN ’92) has never been afraid of change—or taking risks. A former member of DePaul’s golf team, Balduf started his career in sales at RAM Golf and business development at Ameritech Mobile before joining American Tower, a multibillion-dollar wireless and broadcast infrastructure company, in 1998. Balduf took on several roles with the company, eventually becoming vice president of strategic accounts. Despite his success, he left the company three years ago to run his own businesses.

“American Tower was in its early stages when I got there in 1998 … [Ten years later], a lot of the fast pace, fast growth and high energy had kind of dissipated into just standard operating procedure. For me, it lost a lot of its luster. I had the desire to start something new,” says Balduf. Balduf noticed that the father seemed upset when he learned that the child had been in therapy for weeks since the child had been in therapy. He could only eat one item of food at a time, and he would not allow anyone to watch him eat. In the 10 weeks since the child had been in therapy, Balduf will never forget the moment he realized the strength of BYS’s impact. Balduf and Julie Martin in 2009.

Craig and Julie Martin in late 2009. At the time, individuals diagnosed with autism did not have enough services available to them. “The reason I got into it initially was because of my entrepreneurial spirit. I knew how to start a business, and this was something great that we could do within the community,” says Balduf. “That’s when I realized that this was my calling.”

Since the first center opened in Burr Ridge, Ill., in 2009, the company has grown to include two more centers, one in Schaumburg, Ill., and another in Morton Grove, Ill. BYS also offers services in DeKalb, Ill., and Indianapolis.

Balduf will never forget the moment he realized the strength of BYS’s impact. When Balduf visited the Burr Ridge center opened, Balduf saw a father observing his son’s therapy session. When Balduf noticed that the father seemed distressed, he went to talk to the director of therapy. He introduced him to the son, who was nine years old, had never been able to sit while he ate. He always needed to stand. He could only eat one item of food at a time, and he would not allow anyone to watch him eat. In the 10 weeks since the child had been in therapy, Balduf learned to eat in front of two weeks since the child had been in therapy. We got more and more involved, I saw the strides we were making with kids. It really became a personal mission for me.”

Even though Balduf has made a living as an entrepreneur, he is glad he pursued a career in sales. “That’s when I realized that this was my calling.”

As we prepare for the start of a new academic term, I’d like to take a moment to reflect on the previous year. While the projects, innovations and accomplishments are many, the driving force behind all the activities is passion.

PASSION fuels alumni Marty Wilke (CMN ’86, DHL ’17) throughout her career to her current role as president and general manager of WBBM-TV/ CBS 2 Chicago. We were honored to have her deliver the college’s 2016-17 commencement address.

While we mourn the passing of two College of Communication Dean’s Advisory Council members, Al Golin (DHL ’12) and Albert Nader (LAS ’54), we will always remember their passion for their fields and DePaul. Both were unyieldingly generous with their time and expertise, and are gravely missed by family, friends, colleagues and the DePaul family.

Passion drives our plans for an upcoming milestone—the 10th anniversary of the college. Watch for ways that you can get involved in our 10-year celebrations in future correspondence.
HOLT, WELSH HONORED AT THE 2017 CENTER FOR JOURNALISM INTEGRITY AND EXCELLENCE AWARDS

“NBC Nightly News” and “Dateline NBC” anchor Lester Holt and Pulitzer Prize winner Ben Welsh (CMN ‘04) were honored at the Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence’s first annual awards ceremony, which took place on April 20 at the Union League Club of Chicago. The center’s directors, Carol Marin and Don Moseley, presented the awards.

“In June 1997, J.K. Rowling made one of the most significant impacts in pop culture history. “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone” was published in the United Kingdom (and was published in the United States in September 1998 as “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone”). Now, two decades later, fans have made what became a seven-book series into a global phenomenon, buying hundreds of millions of books, visiting theme parks and purchasing merchandise, and breaking box-office records attending the nine Warner Brothers films based on the books, including a spinoff series that launched last November with “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.” In honor of the 20th anniversary of the publication of “Philosopher’s Stone,” the College of Communication hosted Harry Potter and the Pop Culture Conference on May 6.

This is the fifth year of the popular conference, conceived and orchestrated by Associate Professor Paul Booth. Booth said he never imagined that the conference would grow to what it is today. In 2012, Booth was having a conversation with his then-student Spencer Flynn (CMN ’14), when Flynn asked him if he was planning on holding an event at DePaul to celebrate the 50th anniversary of “Doctor Who.” “I thought that was a pretty cool idea,” says Booth. “I could do a talk or invite some people to do a panel. It just kind of snowballed from there.”

Since the conference on “Doctor Who” in 2013, subsequent conference themes have centered on Joss Whedon (creator of the Buffy the Vampire Slayer” television series), “Supernatural” and “Star Trek.” An estimated 275 fans attended this year’s Harry Potter event, making it the first year that the conference series sold out of tickets. “Harry Potter got kids reading. It got grown-ups reading, too. It really did inspire people,” says Booth. “I’m not surprised that Harry Potter caused such popularity for the conference.”

Fans spent the day attending academic panels on a variety of topics in the Harry Potter universe, including religion, the occult, whitewashing, queer readings, education, activism and social change. Christopher Bell, associate professor of communication at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, delivered his keynote speech, “Defending Tom Riddle: The Failure of Albus Dumbledore.” Alanna Bennett, an entertainment writer for BuzzFeed, gave a second keynote address about race-bending Hermione Granger and the future of the Harry Potter franchise.

“As in previous years, the conference included a charity fundraiser. Nearly $1,900 was raised for the Harry Potter Alliance, an organization that engages fans to advance equality, human rights, social justice and literacy. “They promote things that DePaul very strongly believes in. They’re a very Vincentian organization,” says Booth.

When asked to which Hogwarts house St. Vincent de Paul would belong, Booth said, “Without a doubt, St. Vincent would be a Hufflepuff. Loyal, caring, honest. I think Hufflepuffs, almost more than any other house, represent the best of Hogwarts and the best of the world. We could all do a lot worse than try to be Hufflepuffs in our lives.”

“Without a doubt, St. Vincent would be a Hufflepuff. Loyal, caring, honest.” — PAUL BOOTH

Volunteers dressed in their Harry Potter gear help with registration. Photo credit: Katie Booth

CONVERSATIONS

Journalism Awards | CONVERSATIONS

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Volunteers dressed in their Harry Potter gear help with registration. Photo credit: Katie Booth

CONVERSATIONS
Mexico and continues to contemporary moments. how people have used the idea of revolution and the visual, "today's world by looking at various contexts across the globe and looking at its discursive formation. Revolution can be applied to environment," says Booth.

outside of fandom—it means understanding the larger media doing with the media, because that has important implications of our media culture. It's important to know what people are fandoms react to each other. "I think it's an interesting facet examined SuperWhoLock fan-created content online to see how fans interact with each other through digital technology and create crossover fandoms, specifically SuperWhoLock, in which characters from "Supernatural," "Doctor Who" and "Sherlock" all exist in the same universe. Booth interviewed fans at conventions and examined SuperWhoLock fan-created content online to see how fandoms react to each other. "I think it's an interesting facet of our media culture. It's important to know what people are doing with the media, because that has important implications outside of fandom—it means understanding the larger media environment," says Booth.

Imprints of Revolution: Visual Representations of Resistance

Assistant Professor Lisa Calvente co-edited "Imprints of Revolution: Visual Representations of Resistance" (Rowman & Littlefield International), a collection of essays that analyze individual and evangelical Christians. Carolyn Bronstein, associate dean and a Vincent de Paul distinguished professor, co-edited the book and contributed an essay. "Our society is quick to condemn pornography," says Bronstein. "Pornography is not just about sex, it's also about human connection. It is not always a simple text of titillation. I would love for readers to come away with the idea that pornography has nuance, and that it can serve an affirming and uplifting role for its users, especially those on the sexual margins."

Movie Comics: Page to Screen/Screen to Page

When people think of movies adapted from comic books, they tend to think of recent Marvel or DC films. Assistant Professor Blair Davis, author of "Movie Comics: Page to Screen/ Screen to Page" (Rutgers University Press), shows that movie and comic adaptations go back to the beginning of cinema. In his book, Davis looks at the origins of the "comic book movie," and traces media adaptations in the silent era of cinema through the classical Hollywood period. "We enjoy the process of adaptation because it feels like we're meeting a character again for the first time," says Davis. "That process is nothing new; we've just limited our examples."

Porno Chic and the Sex Wars: American Sexual Representation in the 1970s

"Porno Chic and the Sex Wars: American Sexual Representation in the 1970s" (University of Massachusetts Press) examines new and emerging genres of pornography during the decade and the audiences to whom those forms appealed, including women, gay men, transgender individuals and evangelical Christians. Carolyn Bronstein, associate dean and a Vincent de Paul distinguished professor, co-edited the book and contributed an essay. "Our society is quick to condemn pornography," says Bronstein. "Pornography is not just about sex, it's also about human connection. It is not always a simple text of titillation. I would love for readers to come away with the idea that pornography has nuance, and that it can serve an affirming and uplifting role for its users, especially those on the sexual margins."

The Public Relations and Advertising (PRAD) program and students continue to receive national recognition

PRAD students once again earned top honors at the 2017 Case Study Competition in Corporate Communications, a national competition sponsored by the Arthur W. Page Society in alliance with the Institute for Public Relations. Brooke Lichtman, Jaymie Polet (CMN MA ’17), Bria Smith (CMN ’16, MA ’17) and Rubai Soni won the competition’s grand prize for their entry “Walking the Encryption Tightrope: Getting to the Core of Apple’s Privacy and Security Battle with the FBI.” In addition, Eva Marnen (LAS MA ’11, CMN MA ’17) and Raleigh Stern (LAS MA ’16) were awarded the first-place prize in the communications category for their study of the Wells Fargo culture crisis.

The grand-prize-winning submission examined a case that occurred in the aftermath of the 2015 San Bernardino shooting in which the FBI demanded Apple unlock a suspected terrorist’s phone and the company refused on the grounds of protecting consumers’ privacy. “We liked the case because it started a dialogue about privacy versus security that set a precedent for other companies, and how they should handle this balancing act,” said Lichtman during an interview at the Page Society’s awards ceremony.

This is the third consecutive year that PRAD students have won the grand prize and the fourth year that teams have placed; teams have won a total of nine awards under the guidance of Associate Professor Matt Ragas. “It’s very rewarding to watch the professional growth and development of our students and alumni,” says Ragas. According to Ragas, for the past two years previous winning teams have offered tips and advice to submitting teams. “I think it’s true DePaul style, there’s an interest in paying it forward and helping each other. We have a great PRAD community. Students really want to help each other and there’s a lot of pride in it,” says Ragas.

In addition, the Public Relations Student Society of America announced that two DePaul undergraduate PRAD teams earned honorable mentions at the Bateman Case Study Competition. Brooke Beatty, Sydney Bickel (CMN ’17), Isaiah Merciez (CMN ’17), Alexi Shapiro and Andrew Williet were recognized for their submission “It’s Tough to Be Tough.” Mira Hinkelbin (CMN ’17), Katie Hohenstatt, Alina Olm (LAS ’17) and Meghan Thesing (CMN ’17) received an honorable mention for their entry “We Are DePaul Blue.” Both teams developed campaign strategies for Campaign to Change Direction, a mental health organization committed to changing the culture of mental health. The teams worked with DePaul’s Office of Health Promotion and Wellness to educate students about revolutionary health issues.

PRAD also received an honorable mention—the equivalent of second place—from PRWeek as Outstanding Education Program of the Year; the fourth consecutive year the program has been nominated as a finalist. Ron Culp, PRAD professional in residence, explained that judges were impressed with PRAD’s 100 percent placement rate of recent graduates, as well as the diversity of the student body. “I’ve been at DePaul for six years and I’ve noticed the quality of the caliber of students and the education they’re getting is going up,” said Culp. The outlook for the PRAD program is bright, according to Associate Professor Kelly Chu, chair of the PRAD program. “The program continues to garner national recognition, thanks to its talented and hardworking students and faculty,” says Chu.
In January, the Midtown Education Foundation (MEF) named PRAD faculty Volunteers of the Year for their work with the organization’s apprenticeship program. MEF offers special programming and opportunities for low-income youth in Chicago, including the apprenticeship program through DePaul focused on public relations and internal communications.

Associate Professor Leah Bryant was named Alumnus of the Year by Texas State’s communication studies department. She was presented with the award at an event during the department’s communication week, where she spoke about her research regarding communication challenges in relationships and the “dark side” of public relations.

Judith McCray, adjunct faculty member, received an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences’ Chicago Midwest Chapter for her documentary “Chicago’s True Nature: The Forest Preserves of Cook County.” The documentary takes an in-depth look at one of the largest and oldest forest preserve systems in the nation.

Radio DePaul was honored with four awards from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System, including Best College Radio Streaming Station (for a university with more than 10,000 students). The station won Best Podcast and two other awards at the College Media Association Pinnacle Awards.

IN MEMORIAM

DePaul mourns the loss of Al Golin (DHL ’12) and Albert Nader (LAS ’54), who were both members of the College of Communication Dean’s Advisory Council and deeply committed to DePaul’s mission and values.

Al Golin (June 19, 1929—April 8, 2017)

Golin founded one of the world’s largest public relations agencies, Golin/Harris Communications, also known simply as Golin. The Chicago-based company’s clients include McDonald’s, Walmart, Nintendo and many others. Golin received numerous awards from organizations, including the Public Relations Society of America and the Arthur W. Page Society. He also received an honorary degree from DePaul in 2012. “DePaul awarded Al an honorary degree because he authentically embodied the university’s ideals,” said the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., former president of DePaul. “The world is better because of Al Golin, and we were honored to have our students learn from him.”


Nader founded Questar in 1985, a Chicago-based company that produces, acquires and distributes video programming. Questar has a library of more than 5,200 titles on subjects ranging from nature and history to religion and travel. Nader played a key part in the company’s response to changing technologies, distributing VHS tapes, then DVDs and now digital recordings on streaming services. Nader was recognized by the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago and was inducted into the Chicago Area Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame. “I will miss Albert’s energetic presence on the Dean’s Advisory Council,” said Dean Salma Ghanem. “His contributions were insightful, and he had such a strong love for DePaul. His loss is felt by many including the media world, his family and his friends, of which I am proud to call myself one.”

Student media won 16 Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Regional Awards this year. 14 East Television received seven awards, placing first for Best Independent Online Student Publication, Best Digital-Only Student Publication and Best Online In-Depth Reporting (Ivana Rihter). The DePaulia received five awards, including first place for DePaul Investigation, Sports Writing: Large School and General News Reporting (Rachel Hinton, CMN ’17). Good Day DePaul received four awards, including first place for Television General News Reporting (Daniel Beidell, CMN MA ’17) and Television Breaking News Reporting (Lorraine Taylor, CMN MA ’17).

Academics | CONVERSATIONS
Carol Marin, director of the Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence, interviewed former President Barack Obama at the White House just days before his farewell address in January. Marin asked Obama about violence in Chicago, state politics and his legacy as president.

Assume Professor Dustin Goltz developed “Critical Performance Dialogue: Skeptics and Imaginaries,” a conference that examined the role of performance theory in communication studies. The conference, hosted by the College of Communication, featured a series of workshops that addressed current issues and opportunities in performance theory.

The latest data compiled by DePaul’s Career Center showed impressive career outcomes for College of Communication graduates: 94% of undergraduates and 90% of graduates were employed or continuing their education. The percentages reflect graduates’ statuses six months after graduation.

Last fall, the College of Communication hosted a reception and keynote address by Rishad Tobaccowala, chief strategist at Publicis Groupe. Tobaccowala, who was described by Ad Age as “the known 2m master of the agency world,” discussed disruption and how to stay ahead of the transforming communication landscape.

In February, the College of Communication hosted Spotlight, an event for students admitted for the 2017-18 academic year. Students and their families were given the chance to learn more about curricular and internship options, meet with current students and faculty, and sit in on communication classes. They also were able to learn more about housing, financial aid and academic advising.

Students in the DePaul chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) planned and organized PRpalooza, a PRSSA Midwest regional conference. The two-day event allowed PRSSA members to learn more about music and entertainment public relations in Chicago through agency visits, breakout sessions, panel discussions and networking.

In celebration of its 70th anniversary, the college will be hosting the Communication Alumni and Friends Awards on March 7, 2018. We welcome you to nominate alumni and friends in the following categories: Distinguished Alumn/Alumna Award, Outstanding Service to the Community Award, Outstanding Service to DePaul Award and Rising Star Award. The deadline for nominations is Sept. 22, 2017. To learn more, please visit communication.depaul.edu.

Brendan Pedersen and Ivana Rihter lived on the same floor of the Clifton-Fullerton residence hall their freshman year, but they hardly knew each other. “We were friends of friends of roommates,” explains Pedersen, “But I didn’t lend her a tie one time.” “Yes, you did,” says Rihter. The two eventually held major roles at 14 East Magazine, which launched in May 2016, during the online publication’s first full-year run in the 2016-17 academic term. Pedersen, a senior double majoring in journalism and peace, justice and conflict studies, was the editor-in-chief, and Rihter, a senior double majoring in performance theory, was the managing editor of the magazine and is now the editor-in-chief. Rihter, a senior double majoring in journalism and political science, was previously the managing editor of the magazine and is now the editor-in-chief. Rihter, a senior double majoring in journalism and peace, justice and conflict studies, was the editor-in-chief during last year’s run and is currently the chief community officer until she graduates after the autumn quarter. The team looks back at what made the run successful and what has made them successful at DePaul.

Pedersen and Rihter both agree that cultivating a culture and community for the small staff at the magazine was vital. “We have really pushed this idea of inclusivity, acceptance and just general support,” says Rihter. Pedersen recalls the first staff meeting held after the 2016 presidential election. “I felt like we could talk about what we all were feeling. It was cathartic in a way that I don’t think would have been possible with any other group that I’ve been a part of at DePaul,” he says.

Over the course of the year, Pedersen, Rihter and the staff quickly became used to working long nights to meet deadlines. Rihter particularly remembers working on a two-part series about mass incarceration. “We sat there and went through every word of my story to make sure it was correct. I had just gotten all of my interviews that night... It was just a wild evening of very cheap Domino’s pizza, rapid transcribing and terror publishing,” she says. Pedersen recalls a similar scenario when the team was working on a story about an informant case involving Occupy Cleveland activists and the FBI, which was written by Bea Aldrich (CMN ’17), a former associate editor of the magazine. The entire staff took over a study room in the Daley Building to get the piece out on the website. “It’s an incredible piece of student journalism, so seeing this group of people come together and make it a reality is something that I will not forget,” he says.

Both Pedersen and Rihter credit Amy Merrick, professional lecturer and the magazine’s faculty advisor, and the journalism program not only for the publication’s success, but also for their own achievements as journalists. “I think Amy has been one of the best professors at DePaul to engage with my writing in a really authentic way and help me grow as a writer,” says Pedersen. “Our journalism department is really something special,” says Rihter. “The professors have had such a huge impact on me and my career. They pushed me to not just tell stories, but to tell them well and fairly, and to tell them in a way that fosters who I am as a journalist.”
Learn More About DePaul’s Continuing and Professional Education (CPE)

CPE provides adult students with the latest knowledge and practical insights to enhance their professional skills and advance their careers.

The College of Communication is offering CPE certificate programs and courses on a variety of topics. To learn more, please visit learning.depaul.edu.