Take a look inside the new Holtschneider Performance Center, home of DePaul’s School of Music.
Moments

Christmas at DePaul brings the magic of the holiday season to campus each year.

Photo by DePaul University/Jamie Moncrief
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The performance and rehearsal spaces and a state-of-the-art sound technology suite that form part of the Holtschneider Performance Center at the Lincoln Park Campus offer an outstanding environment for learning, teaching and music appreciation. ©2018 balloggphoto.com

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As part of the university’s strategic plan, we launched the new Academic Growth and Innovation Fund, a $2 million fund, this past fall to encourage and support innovative academic ideas that will have a positive revenue impact within the next three years. Located on our loop campus, the DePaul Originals Game Studio is one of more than a dozen projects supported through the innovation fund.

In the DePaul Originals Game Studio, students learn in an interdisciplinary lab that produces high-quality games for commercial platforms. Led by Allen Turner, a professional lecturer in the School of Design, students gain the experience of working in a larger studio on a game that has multiple pieces. Projects can last a couple of years, which means students may focus on a single portion of the game at any given time—a typical workflow in a professional design studio. When the game is complete, students receive development credits on the final shipped product.

Through the innovation fund, the studio has premiered a physical space, purchased equipment and hired students to serve as studio workers and undergraduate assistants (two programmers, two designers and two artists) who are all currently working on a prototype.

Another project supported by the Academic Growth and Innovation Fund is the Urban Studies Cluster. Originally envisioned by Guillermo Vásquez de Velasco, dean of DePaul College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the Urban Studies Cluster is intended to foster collaboration among faculty across academic departments, as well as to provide students with enhanced course offerings. The cluster includes six graduate programs: public health, social work, refugee and forced migration studies, public service, sociology and sustainable urban development; four undergraduate programs: community service studies, criminology, public policy and sociology; and two centers: the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development and the Center for Community Health Equity.

Cities are more than buildings—they are cultural manifestations. Students who plan to pursue careers in public policy or community service, for example, need to understand the complexities that make up an urban environment. With support from the innovation fund, the Urban Studies Cluster will offer a new, multidisciplinary course co-taught by DePaul faculty and community experts that will address gun violence in Chicago. Students will also have access to paid research opportunities, as well as a conference and summits where they can present their findings.

At DePaul, we embrace a culture of creativity and discovery. The DePaul Originals Game Studio and Urban Studies Cluster are only two of many innovative projects happening right now at your university, and you can read about more initiatives in this issue of DePaul Magazine. I hope you share my enthusiasm for following their progress.

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### Campus Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>3 Lewis Center, 341 Lewis Lunch &amp; Learn: Implications of Technology and Social Media for Domestic Violence and Family Law Cases</td>
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<td>3 Student Center, Room 120 The Scholar's improv III: Revenge of the 5th Prof</td>
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<td>25 Richardson Library, Room 115 XI International Poetry Festival: Poesia en Abril</td>
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<td>26 LPC Student Center 15th Annual Student History Conference</td>
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<td>28 Gannon Concert Hall Making a Difference with Contemporary Dance</td>
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<td>29 Student Center, Room 120 Year of Fifth: Pure Being</td>
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<td>30 Dampess Corby Jazz Hall Jazz Orchestra May</td>
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<td>5-12 Watts Theatre &quot;Greaselive&quot;</td>
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<td>10 Daley Building Pop Culture Conference: Disney Celebration</td>
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<td>10 Allen Recital Hall New York DePaul</td>
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<td>11 Holtschneider Performance Center Community Music Division PERFORMANCE 2019</td>
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<td>15 Monroe Hall 115-116 Communicating Results Effectively</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17 Gannon Concert Hall DePaul Opera Theatre: &quot;Beggar's Opera &quot;</td>
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<td>24 Allen Recital Hall Baroque Ensemble June</td>
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<td>26 LPC Student Center, D0AB DePaul SWAP Rummage Sale</td>
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### Memoranda

**A Complicated Whole**

Emmy Award-winning actor Ann Dowd (THE MFA ’82) discusses her craft

On Oct. 10, the DePaul Humanities Center (DHLC) welcomed actor Ann Dowd (THE MFA ’82) back to campus as the latest guest in the "In Conversation with Great Minds" series. H. Peter Steeves, professor of philosophy and DHLC director, introduced Dowd, acclaimed for her work in the TV series "The Handmaid's Tale" and "The Leftovers," as well as the 2018 film "Hereditary."

Steeves said, "Dowd's work from television to film to Broadway has earned her a reputation as a master of her craft, someone who disappears into a role. What Ann does is make the people she plays obvious and complicated whole, and this is something that’s rare indeed. They’re immediately, a whole person, the difference between imagining and experiencing."

Citing her portrayal of Patti Levin in "The Leftovers," a series premised on the disappearance of 2 percent of the world’s population, Steeves said, "That which is absent is never really completely gone. Patti, I think, understands this. She knows that the world cannot pretend that a sudden departure never took place, that those who disappeared can be forgotten, erased, ignored."

Dowd originally wanted to be a surgeon. She said, "The approach in science is to study, study and study some more. And that which is absent is never really completely gone."

Dowd voiced her belief in the primacy of the script and her appreciation for the actors and directors who have helped her throughout her career.

She singled out Justin Theroux, who plays Kevin Garvey in "The Leftovers," as a brilliant scene partner. "In season three, I turned to him and said, ‘What’s the problem?’ And he said, ‘You have to give it a beat. Just give it a beat and then sing. Problem solved!’"

In response to Steeves’ question about the role of directors, Dowd recalled a guest appearance she made on the TV series "NYFD Blue.“’I was scared to death, she admits. ‘I understood [the character] emotionally, but that’s a trap because you’ve got to know what you are doing. What’s the verb there? Because that’s how we function. I couldn’t figure out what she was doing."

"This character's husband, a police officer, was found dead in his car with his mistress from [inhaled] exhaust. David Milch, the creator of the show, comes in and watches the rehearsal. He said, ‘Do you know what she wants?’ I said, ‘I don’t.’ And he said, ‘She wants to protect her husband’s honor.’ I tell you, we sailed through it! That’s what a good director does."

### All Aboard the Blue Demon Line

DePaul has launched our new alumni blog—the Blue Demon Line. The DePaul alumni family is many things: We’re big (more than 180,000 strong), dynamic (more than 120 different majors) and caring (8,700 alumni gave back to DePaul last year). Most of all, we’re stronger when we come together.

The Blue Demon Line is designed to bring our alumni family closer together, to rekindle our lifelong relationship with DePaul. Weekly posts with you in mind will feature in-depth profiles of alumni who are accomplishing amazing things, contests where you can win alumni swag, lists of benefits and services you receive as a graduate of DePaul, and more.

DePaul alumni have so much expertise, spirit and pride to share—from fun, seasonal activities to the tips and tricks of alumni experts working in fields from photography to fitness. The Blue Demon Line brings you the very best that the DePaul alumni family has to offer.

Connect to your community today at bluedemonline.com.

### Going on a Trip? Take Flat DIBS Along!

Ever heard of Flat Stanley? You know, the cardboard cutout guy who travels the world having adventures and spreading knowledge? Well, we’re putting our own spin on the Flat Stanley project with our all-new creation: Flat DIBS!

You can download your very own Flat DIBS from the Blue Demon Line alumni blog (bluedemonline.com) or the Alumni & Friends website (alumni.depau.edu). Pack DIBS with you the next time you go on vacation, and show your DePaul Pride by posting pictures of yourself with Flat DIBS using the hashtag #DIBS360. You can also send your pictures to alumni@depau.edu. Your photo could be featured in an upcoming issue of DePaul Magazine!
Escaping Your Comfort Zone

By Susan Neustrom

Ahh, your comfort zone. It’s a great place to reside. There are no worries, problems or hassles—just comfort. That is, until you are confronted with change.

Whether you are considering a career or life transition, any kind of personal or professional change requires you to step outside your comfort zone.

And leaving your comfort zone, your personal space where you know what to expect, can be frightening. In fact, fear can stifle growth, halt progress and negatively impact behavior, giving you the feeling of being stuck.

But the comfort zone as you know it is an illusion. Instead, what you believe to be your comfort zone is really habits that you’ve set up to protect yourself against any perceived danger associated with change. You do not want to lose control, and it’s easier to hold on to what you know instead of stepping into the unknown, regardless of how detrimentally you are to make a change. Therefore, developing new habits to keep yourself moving forward is well worth your time and effort. New behavior repeated over and over again helps you maintain control even when everything around you is changing.

Here are three strategies to help you step out of your comfort zone:

1. Create urgency “Without a sense of urgency, there is no reason to change. You create urgency by developing a story with a pressing problem and highlighting the benefits of the change outcome you are seeking. Therefore, taking action now instead of later becomes necessary.”

2. Move by inches, not feet “The view from where you are to where you want to be can be overwhelming. Taking small steps is a comfortable way to make change accessible. Design five-minute actions to inch yourself closer to your goal. Don’t forget to record your movements. By doing this you will see how much you can accomplish through consistent, steady actions.”

3. Amplify self-awareness “Deep self-awareness opens a window to your thoughts, feelings and actions. Look at yourself objectively by spending 30 minutes each day in reflection, and maintain a journal of your thoughts. In this way, you will reveal a new and hidden you.”

When you want to leave your comfort zone, developing movement habits to replace habits no longer serving you enables you to set the wheels in motion to discover a new approach to change.

Susan Neustrom, an adjunct professor in DePaul’s Master of Arts in Educating Adults program in the School for New Learning, has over 25 years of experience in corporate and nonprofit leadership positions. She is the author of “The Comfort Zone Illusion: Leaving Your Comfort Zone Is Not So Hard After All.”

Financial Services Center Established

Finance students will benefit from innovative academic and experiential programming, including a wealth management academy, at the newly named John L. Kewley Jr. Center for Financial Services. Kewley Scholars will have access to professional development workshops, mentors, internships and networking opportunities. The center and scholarships were established through a $3 million commitment from the family of the late finance executive John L. Kewley Jr. (BUS DII ‘13) and the Kewley Family Foundation.

Institute for Women Entrepreneurs Opens

The Women in Entrepreneurship Institute, the first comprehensive institute for women founders, launched in July. The institute integrates academic learning, research, incubation, funding and public policy to support the success and sustainability of women-owned businesses.

New Student Veterans Lounge Debuts

DePaul has more student veterans than any other university in Chicago, and these students have their own lounge in the DePaul Center. The dedicated space helps student veterans connect with each other and the DePaul Student Veterans Union and learn about benefits and opportunities.

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DePaul Moves Up a notch

The 2018 U.S. News & World Report lists DePaul as one of the “Best National Universities.” DePaul is 54th on the publication’s list of “Best Value Schools,” 80th among “Best Colleges for Veterans” and 87th among “High School Counselor Rankings.”

Mirza Gonzalez was a great professor and friend at DePaul.
Isabel Mesa-Collins
(EDU ’77, EdD ’11)

Jean Richine (SRL ’89) provided initial feedback on entering SNL after taking a workshop. She didn’t realize it at the time, but it was her support I needed to attend DePaul.
Ted Revel (SRL ’11)

Rocky Perkovich, collective bargaining in 1993 or 1994. Such a dynamic speaker.
Heather Ritter
(BUS ’94)

Bill Poppei, financial statement analysis. He’s the smartest person I’ve been fortunate enough to encounter.
David Snyder (BUS ’95, MBA ’02)

Michele Shade, public health professor.
Dianella Mazzulla Ramsey
(CSH ’14)

Margaret Storey in the history department. She is a woman who knows all about the American Civil War, and it was great to see a budding, young, female historian like me!
Ashley Nally-Reyes
(LAS ’08, MEd ’10)

Jim Block is a totally inspiring and engaging professor and one of the reasons I switched over to political science.
Brian Easley
(LAS ’10)

Khaled Keshk, religious studies; Patrick Murphy, management; Alexander Devience, business law; Robert Kallen, economics; Gabriella Bucci, economics. They challenged me and built my critical-thinking skills.
Omar Farooq
(BUS ’12)

Princeton Review Praises DePaul

The Princeton Review ranked DePaul as one of its 2019 “Best 384 Colleges.” It recognized DePaul as a “green college” and one of the best in the Midwest. The university’s graduate entrepreneurial program is ranked 20th, and its undergraduate entrepreneurial program 22nd in the nation. The undergraduate video game design program is ranked 28th.

Theatre, Film Programs

Catch Hollywood’s Eye

The Hollywood Reporter ranked DePaul 15th on its list of the Top 25 American Film Schools of 2018. The Theatre School ranked 26th on the publication’s list of Best Drama Schools for an Acting Degree.

DePaul Chosen for US-Japan Teaching Partnership

DePaul is one of six American colleges and universities selected by the American Council on Education to participate in the U.S.-Japan CDIL Initiative. Using online communication, faculty will share teaching materials and students will partner on learning goals, a process known as collaborative online international learning, or COIL.

Fullbright Scholars Production Triples

DePaul boasted 10 Fulbright Scholars in 2018, the most in its history, applied through the university’s Fulbright mentoring program. Since the program was established five years ago, the number of Fulbright applicants, semifinalists and winners from DePaul has more than tripled.

Read more responses at depaulmagazine.com.
Before there was DIBS, there was Billy Blue Demon, the first costumed mascot to regularly entertain fans at DePaul basketball games. Sporting enormous blue ears, a black goatee and fat, furry hands and feet, Billy was born in the wake of the famed San Diego Chicken, who captured the nation’s fancy in 1974 with his wild antics.

Eddy Formanski (LAS ’80) was the first to appear as Billy, and Evelyn Duff (BUS ’80) wore the costume once, making her the first woman to serve as DePaul’s mascot.

And then along came Terry Shields (LAS ’86). As soon as he donned the costume in 1980, he “tried to do the crazy, to see what I could get away with, like little skits and funny little moves, and it snowballed,” Shields says. Over the next three seasons, he developed a signature shtick. He created a jazzy, strutting walk, three steps forward and one step back. He mugged with fans. He accessorized the costume, adding giant hands or cowboy hats. He parodied popular culture as characters such as Billy “Blues Brother” Demon. He brandished signs, drawing roars from the crowd. Then he started messing with the Blue Demons’ opponents.

“I used to rib the other teams, not in a mean-spirited way, but as a joke. When we played Syracuse, the Orangemen, I used to come out and squeeze oranges or call their mascot the Banana-man,” he says. He routinely clobbered stuffed animals representing the opposing team, such as Old Dominion’s lion.

The costume was heavy, Shields recalls. “The inside suit was a fat suit that made the outside suit plump up a little, followed by a huge body vest. The giant head was on a construction helmet,” he remembers. “I’d be soaked with sweat by the time the game was over.” Despite the discomfort, Shields says being Billy Blue Demon was a blast. “It was fun to be there with that team, those five men of steel. It was a great time.”

Blue Demon Blues

The man behind the mask tells all about the birth of Billy Blue Demon.
When Eddie Perry was a child, sports were his passion. Raised in an athletic family, he started young, playing everything from soccer to basketball.

“When I was a kid, sports were my way of interacting with [hearing] kids,” says the DePaul sophomore from Delwood, Minn., who was discovered to be deaf at 18 months of age. “I know kids probably looked at me differently. But sports kind of blew by that. You just played,” he says.

A cochlear implant and hearing aid inserted when he was a toddler gave Perry most of his hearing back, and he attended a specialized preschool to learn how to talk and speak.

Perry was recruited by DePaul during his junior year at St. Thomas Academy in Minneapolis. “I was really proud last year when we beat Marquette,” says coach Mark Plotkin (BUS ’10), who was named to the Nancy Lieberman Point Guard Award Top 20 Watch List and to the Top 50 Watch List for the prestigious Citizen Naismith Trophy, which is given to the player of the year in women’s college basketball. Campbell’s teammate Mart’e Grays was named to the Cheryl Miller Small Forward Award Top 20 Watch List.

“You’ve got to work for it, and you’ve got to make the best of your situation.”

— Eddie Perry

Kelly Campbell/Mart’e Grays

Kelly Campbell was named to the 2018 Street & Smith’s Basketball Yearbook Preseason All-America Third Team. She was also selected to the Nancy Lieberman Point Guard Award Top 20 Watch List and to the Top 50 Watch List for the prestigious Citizen Naismith Trophy, which is given to the player of the year in women’s college basketball. Campbell’s teammate Mart’e Grays was named to the Cheryl Miller Small Forward Award Top 20 Watch List.

Women’s Basketball Garners National Acclaim

Experts on women’s basketball and prognosticators nationwide have a great deal of respect for coach Doug Bruno and his Blue Demons. The two leading national polls, the Associated Press and the USA Today/Coaches, both ranked DePaul at No. 15 early in the 2018-19 season. Lindy’s Sports Magazine had the Blue Demons at No. 13, ESPNW at No. 14, Street & Smith’s Basketball Yearbook at No. 16 and Athlon Sports magazine at No. 18.

DePaul Athletics Pays Tribute to Benefactor Jack Cummins

Emotions ran high last October during a special halftime tribute to former Blue Demon soccer player, longtime donor and former co-chair of the Athletic Advisory Council Jack Cummins, who passed away in the winter of 2018. The corporate lawyer who built the prestigious Cummins & Associates law firm often served as a mentor to student-athletes and helped them launch successful careers. He established the first endowed scholarship for men’s soccer and was instrumental in fundraising for the Sullivan-McGrath Campaign, which raised more than $3.9 million for DePaul’s athletic programs. Cummins once offered to contribute $25,000 to the university if 450 people would make a gift to DePaul in one day. On Jan. 28, 2016, 672 members of the DePaul community made donations, and Cummins was good to his word.
DePaul scientists work to unravel the mystery of chronic fatigue syndrome.

By Abigail Pickus

In 1980, a high school English teacher from Wisconsin named Pat Fero went on a trip to England. Healthy and in her 30s, she noticed something was very wrong toward the end of the trip.

“We were in this beautiful countryside, and we went to climb a hill to get a better view of a lake and I just couldn’t do it. I thought, I am really out of shape. I couldn’t get up that hill. My legs hurt, and I was dizzy and short of breath,” recalls Fero.

When she returned home the fever hit.

“I had a 104° fever for a week and a headache from hell. I had extreme pain in my neck and shoulders that lasted another week,” she says.

Over the next few years she got progressively sicker until she couldn’t climb the stairs at school without resting on the landing. Then she was unable to write on the chalkboard. “I would misspell things. I couldn’t form the letters correctly. I would miss words. Day-to-day communication became tough. That’s why I left the classroom. You can’t be in front of 20-some kids and seriously not know what you’re talking about,” she says.

In 1988, Fero went on medical leave—and never returned. That was the year she finally received a diagnosis for her suffering: chronic fatigue syndrome.

Mystery Disease

Tragically, Fero is not alone. Using research data developed at DePaul, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that there are currently more than 1 million people in the U.S. and more than 17 million worldwide with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME)—and these are just the ones who have been diagnosed. (See sidebar: What’s in a Name?)

Often triggered by a virus, this debilitating disease continues to plague people for years with symptoms that run the gamut from nerve pain and cognitive impairments to a fatigue better characterized as bone-crushing exhaustion.

"Don't use the word fatigue. It's an exhaustion so severe that you can't stand up because you feel like you're going to faint,” says Fero. Often lumped together with other so-called "mystery illnesses" such as Lyme disease and fibromyalgia, CFS/ME is historically misdiagnosed or underdiagnosed simply because one of its defining symptoms—fatigue—is both commonplace and seemingly benign. Adding insult to injury, CFS/ME is notoriously stigmatized because of its name “chronic fatigue,” suggesting that the patient is merely tired. But the medical community is baffled, from what causes it to what it really is: A brain disease? A virus? And with federal funding...
for research into CFS/ME improving but still lower than for other major diseases, the quality of life for millions of Americans is left hanging in the balance.

Enter Leonard Jason, a professor of psychology at DePaul, who with his team has been making serious inroads into cracking the code on this mystery illness. "DePaul has been trying to validate the experience of patients with CFS/ME, to find ways to lessen the burden of this illness by reporting on accurate prevalence numbers among adults and children, to find effective treatments and to understand its etiology," says Jason.

It’s a tall order, but with more than 800 professional publications and 25 books to his name (many on CFS/ME), plus more than $36 million in research grants, Jason and the DePaul Center for Community Research have emerged as leading figures in an area of medicine otherwise shrouded in darkness.

"It was evident to me that there was a lot of stigma against people who had what’s called chronic fatigue syndrome, which is not a very good term because it is trivializing," he says. Also trivializing were the treatments recommended to patients. “Here you have these exhausted and sick people, and you basically want them to do exercise and be more active because that’s what you thought would help them," he says.

Center for Community Research

Jason has been at DePaul since 1975. Boyish and slender with round wire-framed glasses and a friendly manner, he arrived at DePaul immediately after receiving his PhD from the University of Rochester, having been drawn initially to DePaul because of its values. In fact, he was drawn into the area of psychology—clinical community psychology—has distinctly Vincentian roots with its emphasis on understanding and addressing social problems, particularly for the underserved. It was in this vein that Jason founded the Center for Community Research in 2001.

Jason's initial interest in CFS/ME was personal. In 1989, he was hit with the disease after coming down with mononucleosis, which many researchers now feel could be one of the triggers for the illness. It took him a full year to feel better, and when he did, he started plowing through the meager literature on the disease. What he discovered was that he was in a unique position to make a difference. "It just seemed like there were so many interesting issues with this illness and that I, as a person who had experienced it myself who was also a psychologist with a background in strong research methods, could spend a lot of time making contributions," he says. He then pursued the matter from all angles, from correcting what he considered to be an inaccurate case definition to counteracting inappropriate CFS/ME myths from some in the medical community.

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Leonard Jason

"The prevalence rates were not very accurate back in the ‘90s when I first started doing research, and the methodology used by the CDC was flawed." It was Jason’s team who coined the term “staying within the energy envelope” as a counter to these popular treatments. In numerous papers, Jason showed that for patients with CFS/ME, pushing too hard leads to serious consequences known among ME sufferers as post-exertional malaise, where the body and brain shut down.

One of Jason’s most significant contributions to the field has been quantifying the number of adults in the U.S. with the disease. "The prevalence rates were not very accurate back in the ‘90s when I first started doing research, and the methodology used by the CDC was flawed. At the time, it was considered a rare ‘Yuppie flu’ disease primarily affecting white middle-class women. As a result of this myth, the federal government did not provide a lot of resources for those people who had this illness," he says. Throughout the 1990s, Jason and his team conducted a community-based epidemiology prevalence study and came to a staggering conclusion: Instead of 20,000 Americans with this illness, the number was probably closer to a million, and it was actually minorities, particularly Hispanics, who were disproportionately affected by the disease. The CDC has since updated its figures based on DePaul’s research and its own subsequent study. While serving on the CDC’s Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee in the mid-2000s, Jason was able to make recommendations to the Secretary of U.S. Health and Human Services about the research and service needs of this patient group.

Mapping Brainwaves

One sunny, summer afternoon, research scientists Marcie and Mark Zinn were hard at work in the laboratory they fashioned inside DePaul’s Center for Community Research to view images created by quantitative electroencephalography (qEEG) that maps the brain waves of people with CFS/ME. Pointing to two computer monitors displaying a 3D cross section of the brain alongside the EEG squiggles tracking the brain’s metabolic activity, Marcie shows how the technology uses low-resolution electromagnetic tomography (LORETA) software to estimate the sources in the brain causing its dysregulation. It does this all at the millisecond level, the time frame in which the brain actually operates—a vast improvement over the functional MRI, which has a 2- to 3-second delay.

"A normally functioning brain depends on the neurons functioning within a certain time frame. For patients with ME, the neurons are either damaged or dead, which causes cognitive impairments because of the slowed speed and the first part of the processing hasn't been resolved before they move on to the next," says Marcie.

qEEG was developed by Clinical Neuroscience Professor Robert Thatcher, who uses it to examine all types of brain injuries: it is also used to study the brains of those with autism and traumatic brain injury. DePaul is the only research center in the world using qEEG to link communication between neural networks and the cognitive dysregulation of patients with CFS/ME. This is something the Zinns hope will change.

"Right now it's very hard to measure ME, which makes it hard to diagnose. People either have to go to an infectious diseases doctor or [we] have to wait until they're dead for their brains to be autopsied.

"One of the things we’re trying to work on is for doctors to use our technology in their offices to help potential patients with ME," says Marcie, adding that the diagnostic procedures used currently are only accurate in about 50 percent of the cases.

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The Zinns began using qEEG in 2001 to study the brain patterns of concert pianists, a profession they both pursued before switching to music education. They have studied the brains of more than 200 patients with ME/CFS and have published many research articles on different aspects of the disease.

All these findings have given those suffering from the disease the kind of validation they have long sought. “To see your brain light up like a Christmas tree when you do a simple task really validates what I already knew,” says Fero, who came to DePaul to participate in the studies. “I didn’t think I wasn’t able to write on the chalkboard because there was some type of virus, we’re still trying to understand that—and then their functioning goes down considerably. Their parents and school officials often think, ‘Is this child just malinger ing?’ Unless there is an ally to help the child, the child could easily get stigmatized for this condition,” says Jason.

On the Brink of a Breakthrough

For Marcie, who also suffers from the disease, focusing on the brain is a significant step in the right direction particularly because blood tests cannot detect CFS/ME. “Just because a doctor doesn’t find any indicators of illness in a person’s blood doesn’t mean they aren’t sick. It just means they aren’t looking where the problem is,” says Marcie.

The Invisible Demographic

That’s why so many patients prefer the term ‘chronic fatigue syndrome’ with a prototypical person with this illness being a young woman who becomes ill after a viral illness or a prototypical person with this illness being a young woman who becomes ill after a viral illness. “When we gave medical interns the name ‘chronic fatigue syndrome’ with a prototypical person with this illness being a young woman who becomes ill after a viral illness, they’d say, ‘What do you mean?’ Everyone knew the answer, and that’s why we decided to study college kids. By enrolling people when they’re healthy, you can see if they get mono and why some recover and some don’t,” says Katz.

Data collection to estimate the prevalence of CFS/ME among youth will be completed in 2019, and soon after, papers will be submitted for publication, according to Jason. The results of the mono-CFS/ME study will also be released in 2019.

“What’s in a Name?”

In another prospective longitudinal study, Ben Katz, a professor of pediatrics at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine, is partnering with Jason to look at the link between mononucleosis, which is triggered by the Epstein-Barr virus, and CFS/ME in youth. The study looks at which percentage of those who develop mono will go on to develop CFS/ME and why. “About 5 percent of all kids who go to college will get mono before they graduate, and about 12 percent who get mono will meet criteria for CFS/ME six months later,” says Katz. “Why do most people recover? Nobody knows the answer, and that’s why we decided to study college kids. By enrolling people when they’re healthy, you can see if they get mono and why some recover and some don’t.”

On the Brink of a Breakthrough

Answers are exactly what people like Fero need. “I am almost 69, and I’ve had this for more than half my life,” she says. “She’s had CFS, however, by a changing tide of events, from an emboldened sense of advocacy among patients through the power of social media to the growing number of institutions working to find some answers. Stanford University, for example, has created both an initiative to study CFS/ME and a CFS research center under the direction of Ronald Davis, a partnership of biochemistry and genetics whose son has a severe case of the disease. “Are we getting closer to a breakthrough?” Jason asks. “I think so, yes.”
Computer games have a reputation for numbing teen minds, but in reality most games teach players persistence, how to form and test hypotheses, and the importance of practice. The challenge is showing teens how to transfer those skills to the real world, says Doris Rusch, an associate professor in the College of Computing and Digital Media and creative director of DePaul’s Deep Games Lab.

“Inborn capacity is only a small portion of success. What is much more important is that you find new challenges for yourself, which we call having a ‘growth mindset.’ You seek help when you need it, you stretch yourself, you fail, you learn from that, you come back to it,” she explains. “Theoretically, games are the perfect tool to teach growth mindset because they are all about trial and failure and forming a new hypothesis and trying again. The difficulty, though, is if games were the answer, everybody who’s a gamer would already have growth mindset. We know for sure that’s not true.”

So, Rusch and her students, in partnership with non-profit iThrive, developed “Quilko’s Song.” Quilko is the teenage son of a rock star—and, because it’s a game, he’s also a planet—who thinks he shouldn’t need to practice to be a musical prodigy. He decides to give up when he doesn’t have immediate success.

Games like “Quilko’s Song,” which is only available through iThrive, are used by staff in youth centers and high schools to spark conversations. Rusch stresses that a game alone can’t change thought patterns; teens need a support structure to convert their insights into daily habits. “But the game piece is incredibly good at allowing this first big ‘aha!’ moment,” Rusch says. “It sets the process in motion, and a workbook just can’t do that.”

Rusch and iThrive are now piloting programs in which teens design games around issues they care about. For example, one team of students designed a game to help other teens understand grief. Because games need characters and rules, the students dug deeply into roles and expectations, thereby exploring their own beliefs.

“We’re using the game design process to engage with adolescents, for us to understand them and for them to understand themselves,” says Susan Rivers, executive director and chief scientist at iThrive. “As they plotted the whole thing out, they more deeply understood what grieving is, what the rules are and how to disrupt the rules to get a better outcome.”

In a new app for mobile phones, teens tilt their screens to reroute negative trains of thought onto positive tracks by adding the word “yet,” underscoring the need to give oneself time to grow. “The negative sentences reinforce negative beliefs in the brain. By adding ‘yet,’ you build positive structures in your brain as you reroute the trains to new destinations,” Rusch explains. At the same time, not every sentence in the game can accept the ‘yet’ caboose, a factor that goes well beyond grammar. “If you have to debate whether ‘yet’ is an option, it sheds light on your beliefs.” —Doris Rusch, associate professor of game development
It’s called the “school-to-prison pipeline.” Students who are jailed, whether for community-based infractions or through “zero tolerance” school policies, are at high risk of never returning to the classroom. Failure to graduate dramatically increases the chances of them becoming more serious offenders.

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) administrators want to interrupt this cycle. However, despite programs and alternative schools dedicated to this population, thousands of formerly jailed students either don’t re-enroll or drop out. CPS reached out to Joby Gardner, an associate professor in the College of Education, for ideas on how to reverse the trend.

“Can we engage high school students in community-based research and have that be part of their science, social science and English classes?” Gardner wondered. Armed with a bag of doughnuts and assistance from CPS administrators and teachers, he went about recruiting students at several CPS alternative schools, including the Peace and Education Coalition High School in Chicago’s Back of the Yards neighborhood.

“I came for the doughnuts, but I stayed for the research,” says participant Rakeisha Harris. Unlike some of her high school assignments, Gardner’s project captured her interest.

“Reversing the prison pipeline is something I actually wanted to talk about. It showed that somebody was listening and paying attention to what was going on.”

—Rakeisha Harris, participant

Beginning in 2013, she and other students spent two years interviewing each other, friends who dropped out, police officers, probation officers, school administrators and parents to identify issues and possible solutions. The students then analyzed their findings and made recommendations. “It was really gratifying to see how fired up the young people became,” Gardner says.

The program was a success on two levels. First, the initiative demonstrated that students were much more successful in meeting learning objectives when they were working on a project that resonated deeply with their personal experiences. Even more importantly, all but one of the project student leaders finished high school, and many of them are either in college or have taken college courses.

“I know I was on the verge of not graduating” before joining the program, Harris recalls. “He showed us what we were capable of doing.” Today, Harris has completed a year of college at Alabama State University and is currently earning money for her sophomore year by working for Chicago’s Department of Streets and Sanitation—a job she would not have qualified for without a high school diploma.

This innovative program also attracted the attention of the American Educational Research Association, which chose Gardner and his students as one of 11 international groups invited to present at the organization’s annual conference in 2015. The students shared experiences with peers from around the world, an experience that Gardner terms “transformative.”

“That was something awesome,” Harris agrees. “That was my first time interacting with people other than people from Chicago. I loved it.”

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For example, she studied Latino youth participating in a mentoring program through a CPS school. “These youth were low-income, and the family members they named as mentors had a lower educational level. These mentors had less impact on the students’ educational outcomes compared to youth whose mentors were more knowledgeable about the education system,” she says. “However, the family mentors are probably helping them in other ways, like providing emotional support and being their cheerleaders. … We’re finding that high-quality relationships are the most impactful.”

Sanchez wished to explore these issues more deeply, but she wanted to make sure she was asking the right questions. So, she applied for and received a William T. Grant Foundation fellowship that enabled her to spend 2017 as a youth mentor and 2018 providing technical assistance and training to mentoring programs.
She gained experience with a traditional mentoring program through the Gads Hill Center, a social service agency in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood. She also began volunteering as a child advocate for unaccompanied teens through the Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights, an activity that she first thought was unrelated to her research. She soon changed her mind.

“The goal of being a child advocate is to build a relationship with the child and to learn their story so we can recommend to lawyers what would be in the child’s best interests. Building a relationship is also the goal in mentoring,” she says. The concepts were so well-aligned that Sanchez held a webinar for Young Center advocates on how to support immigrant youth in the community. She also helped the center create ethical guidelines for advocates that mirrored similar documents used by mentoring programs.

“As I’ve been working in these community settings, I’ve been thinking about trainings for volunteers and staff and trainings around social justice issues. Adults work in a variety of settings, whether it’s judges in criminal justice systems or teachers or mentors at after-school programs, and the policies are all different,” she says. “How can we better train adults in these different settings … and also be oriented to thinking about things such as race and social justice? What are the particular needs in these settings so that we can better serve these youth?”

To find out, Sanchez is working with MENTOR Illinois, an organization that provides technical assistance and training to mentoring organizations around the state. She’s providing training and technical assistance to staff at multiple organizations while making a preliminary assessment on whether such training works.

“Do they change the attitudes of adults and how they work with youth? Do they change their relationship with youth? Ultimately, does it change the outcomes for youth? Those are the different things we need to look at,” says Sanchez. She plans to seek additional funding to continue her research.

“I can use this fellowship to understand what the community needs and then go back to my peers, both in research and practice, and try to influence the mentoring field.”
A Society of Support

Growing up in the small village of Worth, Ill., John Ambrose (LAS ’94) was drawn to the bright lights of Chicago when it was time for him to go to college.

While he initially chose DePaul for the financial incentive it offered him through a Dean’s Scholarship to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, he had no way of knowing that this choice would shape the course of his life forever.

“Personally, DePaul changed my life because it’s where I met my wife,” recalls Ambrose. Amy Ambrose (LAS ’94), from Carlisle, Iowa, started college when he did and received the same scholarship at LAS, where John studied economics and Amy studied political science. The two started dating at the end of their freshman year and later married. They live in Mokena, Ill., with their children, Helen, 12, and Henry, 7.

Soon after they both graduated in 1994, John and Amy began working at Chubb, a global insurance provider. They have each risen to executive positions at the company—he as senior vice president of North America financial lines and she as senior vice president of North American operations.

John and Amy credit DePaul with giving them the tools and skills necessary to succeed in life.

“I really value my time at DePaul. I was an econ major through a liberal arts program, and I was given such exposure to so many different types of people and different types of thought,” John says. “Through this exposure I gained important critical-thinking and writing skills that have served me well in the business world and that I would not have received in a business-centric program.”

John and Amy Ambrose are paying it forward by making an inaugural gift to support The 1898 Society at DePaul. Annual gifts to The 1898 Society support scholarships, enabling DePaul to continue its commitment to keeping higher education accessible for students from all economic backgrounds.

“Supporting DePaul reflects our gratitude for our experiences and the scholarships we received,” says John. “It gives us a chance to impact someone else’s life the way others did for us.”

Launched in 2017, The 1898 Society recognizes individuals who make a gift of $1,898 or more during a single fiscal year are recognized as members of The 1898 Society and help ensure that DePaul continues to fulfill its mission.

Total dollars raised $3,505,219
Total members 525
DePaul has long excelled at providing learning environments and real-world experiences that help launch students into successful, fulfilling lives. This year, DePaul added innovative programs ranging from finance to the cinematic arts, courtesy of the foresight and vision of donors. Thanks to the generosity of the family of late finance executive John L. Keeley Jr. (BUS DHL ’11) and the Keeley Family Foundation, finance students will have access to academic and co-curricular programming at the John L. Keeley Jr. Center for Financial Services.

The new center will support academies with cutting-edge curricula in several finance specialties, including a Wealth Management Academy that will provide students with expertise in portfolio management and financial planning. The center will also select students from these specialty academies to become Keeley Scholars, with access to professional development workshops, mentorships, internships and networking opportunities with the center’s industry partners.

John L. Keeley III, Mr. Keeley’s oldest son and an adjunct professor of economics at DePaul, says, “The new center embodies our father’s belief that students learn best and ultimately succeed by doing. It will provide opportunities for students to apply their classroom knowledge to the real world of finance.”

COMING FULL CIRCLE
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT NOW LEADS THE ORGANIZATION WHERE HE INTERNSHED

Scholarships at DePaul gave Dan Hula (LAS ’08, MSW ’10) the resources to discover his path in college. Today Hula is the executive director of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter (LPCS) and helps hundreds of individuals each year find their way out of homelessness.

“I took classes on social problems at DePaul and was inspired by the idea of speaking for those who are marginalized,” says Hula, who declared a major in sociology as a junior. He calls his scholarships lifesaving because they made it possible for him to attend DePaul, where he found his calling while receiving the education he needed to pursue it.

As an intern at LPCS during the 2008–09 academic year, Hula found that the staff’s respect for the dignity of their clients and their mission to help those in their care permanently escape homelessness echoed the Vincentian values he learned at DePaul. After working at two other organizations after graduation, Hula returned to LPCS in 2014 as its executive director. He is leading an expansion that will increase the number of clients LPCS serves annually from about 400 to about 700 in 2019.

Hula’s experience of being able to intern in the heart of Chicago and build relationships just half a mile from the Lincoln Park Campus was invaluable. “The fact that I’m now the executive director where I interned says a lot. DePaul really helped me feel confident to jump into this role and to give back to this community,” he says.

CROWDFUNDING FOR GOOD
inspireDePaul

A few dozen gifts made a big difference for hundreds of students in Chicago Public Schools (CPS) last year. About 300 students and their teachers received tickets to the 2018 BIG EAST Women’s Basketball Tournament courtesy of DePaul Athletics and the BIG EAST. While the tickets are provided at no cost, schools are responsible for transporting students to and from the Wintrust Arena at McCormick Square. If a school doesn’t have the resources to provide buses, teachers and students end up taking long, complicated trips on public transportation.

In 2018, with the launch of Inspire DePaul, the university’s crowdfunding platform, CPS had a new option. Forty-four donors made gifts large and small so that schools could charter buses and transport their students simply and safely.

The General Scholarship Fund
EVERY GIFT MAKES A BIG IMPACT.

Seventy-eight percent of all DePaul students receive financial aid, so gifts to scholarship funds make a crucial difference. The General Scholarship Fund is available to students pursuing degrees at any one of DePaul’s 10 schools and colleges and can bridge the gap between the cost of tuition and what a student can afford. With scholarship support, students are able to take full advantage of the DePaul experience in the classroom, and it helps them to complete their degrees on time.

DePaul students and donors all have one thing in common: the ambition, grit and drive to make a difference. For donors to the General Scholarship Fund, that difference is most clearly seen in the success of DePaul graduates. In 2017, 92 percent of DePaul undergraduates were either employed or pursuing further education within six months of graduation. Eighty-three percent of them were working in jobs related to their degree. Among graduate students, 89 percent were employed in their field, and 3 percent chose to continue their education.

Scholarships are important to students and alumni alike. Last year, donors made nearly 6,000 gifts to the General Scholarship Fund, and 81 percent of those gifts came from alumni committed to paying their good fortune forward.

A gift to the General Scholarship Fund helps the next generation answer the question, “What must be done?”

The True Blue Society recognizes individuals who make a gift to DePaul for three or more consecutive years, although many donors give year after year. This unwavering support allows DePaul to help students reach their full potential.

“THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THE MEANS TO GROW AND LEARN, AND IN TURN, HELP OUR COMMUNITY THRIVE.”
—ABIGAIL, CDM

Students in DePaul’s School of Cinematic Arts receive the kind of hands-on learning and access to industry leaders that are an integral part of a DePaul education. DePaul’s occupancy of two Cinespace stages gives students the opportunity to learn filmmaking and production at an active studio where hit television shows such as “Empire,” “Chicago Fire” and “Chicago Med” are filmed.

These opportunities are made possible in part by a gift from Cinespace Chicago Film Studio President Alex Pissios. “You want to see these kids have an opportunity to create things and be creative,” Pissios says. “It’s our job as adults and businesspeople to support students and give them opportunities. Seeing your money do these things is great.”

“IT’S OUR JOB AS ADULTS AND BUSINESSPEOPLE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITIES. SEEING YOUR MONEY DO THESE THINGS IS GREAT.”
—ALEX PISSIOS
An elegant eastern gateway now welcomes visitors to DePaul’s Lincoln Park Campus. The Holtschneider Performance Center (HPC), the new home of DePaul’s renowned School of Music, opened last fall to fanfare from musicians and music lovers alike. As beautiful as it is acoustically brilliant, it deserves a spot on your must-visit list.

JAMES AND MARY SCHAEFER HALL

Your first stop is the grand three-story atrium. Tall windows capture the rising sun and fill the hallway with light until midafternoon, when the windows at the west end of the main concourse take over. Comfortable couches encourage students, concertgoers and neighbors to linger and chat in the 300-foot hallway that links the east entrance on Halsted Street with the west entrance leading to the Seminary Townhomes courtyard. The architects planned the long hallway to echo the main corridor of the John T. Richardson Library.

The concourse doubles as the lobby for the concert hall and two recital halls and even has a performance venue. At its center rises the main staircase, providing you with elevated views of the atrium, as well as access to the jazz hall and the balcony of the concert hall. You’ll find the box office and the HPC Café—a snack shop by day and a bar during evening performances—in a window-lined alcove just north of the staircase. Take a moment to admire the large stained-glass window of St. Cecilia, patron saint of music, at the far end of the café. Rescued from a church being demolished, the window will grace the future hallway between HPC and the future music administration building.

MARY PATRICIA GANNON CONCERT HALL

The 60-foot ceiling in the Gannon Concert Hall creates the same lush echoes as a cathedral, but you won’t see it. Instead, you’ll see the “walkable cloud,” a false ceiling designed for this building by Joseph Myers, president of acoustic design firm Kirkegaard Associates. Sound and lighting technicians can walk everywhere on the cloud’s surface to adjust the amount of acoustic absorption for each performance as well as desired stage lighting. Every surface in the 505-seat hall, whether wood, stone or fabric, is crafted with acoustics in mind. The voluptuously curved makore wood balconies on the sides and rear of the hall and the undulating, curtainlike paneling behind the stage were hand-milled to reflect sound at varying angles, eliminating the reverberation often found in a space filled with flat surfaces. By adjusting movable acoustic panels and curtains, the hall can be “tuned” to the optimal reverberation for each performance.

Invisible, but equally important, is the concert hall’s structural isolation as a freestanding building inside the greater structure. Thick concrete walls surround the perimeter, separated by a two-inch air gap from the equally dense walls of adjacent rooms, and the hall stands on its own foundation. This separation successfully prevents sound and vibration from encroaching upon the performance within.

JULIE MARIE DE ROCHIE, clarinetist and chair of music performance, was one of several faculty members who played in the concert hall so that contractors could tune it for live music. Asked what she thought of the new hall, she replied with a single word: “Magical.”

MURRAY AND MICHELE ALLEN RECITAL HALL

Notice how the latticework ceiling in this 140-seat hall positions lighting and recording equipment near the stage while allowing the music to rise and reverberate in the open space above. As in the main concert hall, curved surfaces reflect the sound. The versatile room can be adapted to the number and type of performers by adjusting the sound-absorbing curtains high on the walls and the acoustic panels hidden behind the decorative wooden grille, made of white oak, at the back of the stage.

“This is a once-in-200-years building. The special spaces have great finishes. When you go to areas where there aren’t those lavish materials, you’ll still find richness through fabrics and color. The sheer size and volume of the space creates an elegance,” says architect Joseph Antonovich, president of Antonovich Associates.
EDWARD AND LOIS BRENNAN FAMILY RECITAL HALL

Look carefully at the windows in this 80-seat recital hall and you’ll notice that some of the panes of glass are not entirely vertical. While the glass itself is flat, the panes are offset so that music reflects off the windows at varying angles, again simulating a cathedral-like resonance and preventing excess reverberation. You’ll find similar out-of-plumb windows and surfaces in all the rehearsal and performance spaces.

“With the size of these windows, I’m very impressed that you really can’t hear the street noise out on Halsted,” says Mike Sportiello (MUS ’12), technical director for the new building. He also appreciates being able to control the centralized audiovisual feeds for every performance space from his office. “I can even choose what performers in the dressing rooms hear so they are ready for their moment on stage.”

MARY A. DEMPESEY AND PHILIP H. CORBOY JAZZ HALL

Dressed in black and steel gray, the stylish 75-seat jazz hall exudes a clublike ambiance. Unlike many jazz venues, it features tall windows that can either be curtained or admit sunlight—or moonlight—as the performers desire. The gray pyramids on the walls diffuse and blend sound. The patterned panels behind the stage are made of sorghum straw, while the curved ceiling is gypsum. These surfaces minimize echoes, which are inappropriate for jazz, and enable the musicians to hear each other clearly. “Reverberation time is shorter, to emphasize clarity,” says Myers, and sound-absorbing surfaces are thicker, “because a big band can get loud.” The goal is to “control the sound as it dies away so that the overall effect is clear and exciting.”

PRACTICE AND TEACHING SPACES

Every recital space has hallways and doorways wide enough to admit a grand piano. Some rehearsal rooms are sized to match the dimensions of the performance spaces, while others are dedicated to the needs of particular groups, from small chamber ensembles to the largest percussion batteries. Every rehearsal room features large windows and sound-enhancing fabric surfaces. The building also includes more than 70 small, acoustically separated practice rooms where individual students can play in complete sound isolation. Student lockers are made of recycled plastic, eliminating the clang of metallic doors.

“You can have performances and practices going on in every single room of the building, and people in one room can’t hear [people in] the other rooms perform,” says Antunovich. But they can hear each other a bit from the hallways, which the architects designed so that visitors can hear the music being played.

THE NEXT ACT

HPC is the first phase of the School of Music remodeling project. In typical DePaul fashion, student and performance spaces were addressed first. Work is now underway on phase 2, the remodeling of the old church known as Concert Hall into a dedicated opera performance space. The building, to be renamed the Sasha and Eugene Jarvis Opera Hall, will include a new motorized orchestra pit that can be lowered to keep the orchestra out of sight of the audience or raised to provide extra space on stage if an orchestra is not needed, a raised stage, tiered seating, and enhanced acoustics.

Phase 3 is the renovation of the existing music building, which will have improved administrative and faculty offices, sound-isolated teaching studios and facilities for DePaul’s Community Music Division.

MURRAY AND MICHELE ALLEN SOUND RECORDING TECHNOLOGY SUITE

Behind the jazz hall lies a recording studio overlooking the towhourse gardens, an isolation booth so a single performer can be recorded separately, two control rooms and editing suites. Students in the sound recording technology program can tap into the sophisticated equipment built into every performance space to make high-quality recordings.

“This is an incredibly sophisticated, sustainable building,” says Antunovich, noting that it also meets guidelines for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED): DePaul is pursuing LEED Silver certification. Adds Sportiello, “It’s insane to have this much natural light in a recording space. That’s never the case. Recording studios are typically built deep inside a warehouse-like building because you want to be as isolated as possible from the outside.”
Messaging for Change

Students in the College of Communication traveled to Europe last summer to study international advertising and attend the Cannes Lions Festival, the largest global event in the advertising, creative communications and related fields.

By Jacob Sabolo (LAS ‘12)
Photos by PRAD student Libby Roth

Just do it. Think different. Got milk? A simple phrase, a bold advertisement or a catchy jingle can be powerful enough for a brand to become a household name and a product to sell millions.

Advertisements are everywhere: on the trains taking us to and from work, in stadiums where we watch our favorite sports teams compete; and in the print and online media we read. But what if those ads contained a deeper message and prompted consumers to make a difference?

A ticket to the exclusive event is highly coveted—and this year, DePaul students won a privileged place at the table.

Assistant Professor Juan Mundel explains, “Most of our students are already working in advertising or public relations,” Mundel explains, “so it was an opportunity to experience the festival. I thought the fit for the program was perfect to inspire them so that their work becomes better than what it already is.”

During their week at Cannes, students were able to connect with professionals from international agencies, junior transfer student Gillian Wood described the experience as surreal. “We were kind of on the outside looking in because everyone at the festival was there with their company promoting their brand and networking with other brands and agencies,” she recalls. “We were just kind of watching it happen.”

Despite feeling like doe-eyed observers, the students were quick to jump into festival activities. On opening night, they attended a kickoff party, and during the week they mingled with professionals at events hosted by international companies that included CNN, Spotify and Facebook. While recent graduate Rabia Riaz (CMN ‘17, MA ‘18) enjoyed the events, it was an eye-opening experience to see how companies were using experiential advertising (an experience where the audience is able to encounter or interact with a brand) to impress agencies and form partnerships.

“Looking back at my experience at Cannes, I remember the [events] because that’s where I was actually interacting with the brand, experiencing the brand. That was a lesson all on its own,” Riaz says.

Inspiring Conversations

Students spent most of their time, however, attending a wide range of presentations on topics such as health, technology, social issues and gender equality. Industry executives and international celebrities gave many of the presentations. Sean Dunderdale recalls watching “Fashion as Cultural Influence” featuring model Naomi Campbell.

“I love what she said about changing the fashion industry,” Dunderdale says. “When she first [started modeling], designers and brands would only use white models. It’s not like that anymore. There’s a lot more diversity. If a designer doesn’t use a black model, her organization asks them to reconsider their campaign and suggests adding models of color. . . . Her persistence with her work and trying to push the fashion industry to be more inclusive and diversify has been so vital. It’s just one of those things that can really inspire someone.”

It was also interesting to hear about [Campbell’s] experience as a model trying to be her own boss and making her own decisions,” Peter Bukowski adds. “It was awesome to hear from somebody who made it big while trying to do things the right way.”

Bukowski also recalls attending a presentation featuring survivors of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. “They shared their experiences and also what they’re planning to do moving forward. They have created their own nonprofits that promote against violence and legislation,” he says.

Cesar Camacho (CMN ‘17, MA ‘18) says that one of his favorite sessions featured Ukonna Ojo, senior vice president of Cover Girl, a female trying to be her own boss and making her own decisions,” Dun-}

A Perfect Fit

Conceived as a study abroad program, undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Communication traveled to the festival last summer with Juan Mundel, assistant professor of public relations and advertising, and Marshall Goldman, instructor of public relations and advertising. The students also went to Germany and the Netherlands to learn more about international advertising.

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Making a Difference

While the festival was the highlight of the trip, students also had memorable experiences in Munich and Amsterdam, though they didn’t have much time for sightseeing. In each city, students paired up to create complete advertising campaigns that required them to interact with locals.

“It was a really valuable experience and a great way to learn how to effectively manage time,” Dunderdale says. “In the real world, agencies give you a couple of months to create a whole campaign for a company. They have multiple people and departments working on it. We had to do all of that in a week.”

“The students realized that advertising campaigns don’t just happen out of thin air. They have to do their research, learn how to engage with audiences and be creative,” Mundel says. “They learned how to understand different cultures while also better understanding their own.”

“A lot of people think that advertising is just about selling products or a brand, but a lot of companies are becoming aware that they can make a difference,” Camacho explains. “It’s just about being able to create change by listening to people with creative ideas.”

“The study abroad trip taught me how to think outside of my own experiences,” Wood says. “Sometimes when you’re trying to come up with creative ideas, you’re limited to what you know will work. But everyone’s different. I want to look at the target market from every perspective—age groups, genders, ethnicities—and come up with something that will cater to everyone.”

“I think companies can focus on being more impactful and effective [in order] to change the world,” Bukowski says. “Rather than just making a good advertisement that’s funny or something that everyone’s going to talk about for a few months and then forget, they should create something that will inspire and stick with people.”

Mundel will continue to run the study abroad program for the next few years, with the Cannes Lions Festival being a key component of the program. “There are so many opportunities for students to go out and make a difference,” Mundel says. “I think this will help them do that.”
It could have been just another senseless murder in Chicago that made headline news, but this time, one creative writing professor at DePaul was unable to look away.

“Before Derrion Albert’s murder, I viewed youth violence as someone else’s problem, but now I wondered how such carnage could happen in my city and what I could do about it,” says Miles Harvey, associate professor of English, about the 2009 incident.

Maybe it was the way Albert—an honor student who happened upon a street fight—was brutally killed. Or maybe it was the fact that a whole crowd of bystanders did not intervene, including the person who shot the video of the assault that went viral and who was recorded laughing throughout like it was a “wrestling match,” says Harvey.

All Harvey knows for sure is that soon after the incident, at coffee with his good friend Halie Gordon, an artistic director at Steppenwolf Theatre, their conversation turned to the incident. Similarly traumatized, Gordon was thinking of producing a play for young adults featuring real stories of Chicagoans touched by violence. The only problem? She didn’t have the human power to go out and gather the stories. “That’s when the light bulb went on in my head,” says Harvey. “What if my students tried this?”

Big Shoulders Books
For two years beginning in 2011, Harvey’s students fanned out across the city’s South and West sides, interviewing everyone from a mother whose young son was murdered to a former gang member. Fine-tuned interviewing all the stories were crafted into the play “How Long Will I Cry? Voices of Youth Violence,” which premiered at Steppenwolf Theatre in 2013 and then toured across the city, fanning out across the city’s South and West sides.

“Go out and listen.” For Sabolo, that meant establishing a rapport with a woman whose 13-year-old son had been beaten to death on the streets. “I was so nervous wondering if the interview would be too invasive or too personal for her. Luckily, we built trust during our conversations. She was very open, and she had a lot of stories to tell.”

But what to do with the rest of the “amazing, heart-breaking, brutal, beautiful stories” that didn’t make it into the play, Harvey wondered. How could they turn them into something lasting that could be shared with an even larger audience? After he joined forces with two other DePaul English faculty, Michele Morano and Chris Green, the trio came up with an idea that would be the oral histories collected by Harvey’s students, titled “How Long Will I Cry?”

And just like that, Big Shoulders Books was born. “Michelle, Chris and I thought, ‘What if we try to do this thing, Big Shoulders Books?’ It was wildly ambitious right from the start, but why launch [a publishing house] all at once if we are not ambitious?” says Harvey.

The press, whose name is a nod to the Carl Sandburg poem “Chicago,” which dubbs Chicago the “city of big shoulders,” only publishes titles by or about Chicagoans whose voices might not otherwise be heard. Vincentian in its mission, the press focuses on issues of social justice, and its books are distributed free of charge. Lastly, while there are professionals at the helm, it is really students—undergraduates and graduates from DePaul’s Master of Arts in Writing and Publishing—who work intimately on every stage of the manuscripts, from editing and design to publicity.

Since its launch in 2011, Big Shoulders Books has published four books. In addition to “How Long Will I Cry?” there is a collection of teen narratives about relationships, an anthology of writing by students in partnership with a nonprofit called 826CHI and a poetic collection of memories by Chicago war veterans.

The press is Vincentian at its core because of its commitment to disseminating all books for free and its focus on social justice.

Big Shoulders Books co-founder Miles Harvey helped launch the press to do some good after yet another senseless murder in Chicago.

Go Out and Listen
Jacob Sabolo (LAS ’12) remembers one of his first creative writing classes with Harvey back in 2011.

“He greeted us with this big map of Chicago divided into neighborhoods, and he said to us, ‘Here’s Lincoln Park. Can anybody point out where Englewood is?’ No one could. I think that pretty much highlights what he was saying about seeing these awful crimes on the news but seeming so distant because we’re each in our own bubbles,” says Sabolo, who at the time was a junior majoring in English.

The concept of a source is a source of frustration for Harvey. “I think all of us Chicagoans—black, white, Hispanic and Asian—tend to live in bubbles. It is a fact that our city is one of those most diverse in the U.S. and also one of the most segregated, and it is hard for us to be shaken out of our bubbles,” he says.

Since DePaul, with its focus on community-based service learning, already had long-standing relationships with service organizations in underprivileged neighborhoods in Chicago through the Steans Center, the groundwork for establishing trust was already done. So Harvey sent his students out with the directive, “Go out and listen.” For Sabolo, that meant establishing a rapport with a woman whose 13-year-old son had been beaten to death on the streets. “I was so nervous wondering if the interview would be too invasive or too personal for her. Luckily, we built trust during our conversations. She was very open, and she had a lot of stories to tell.”

**”Bill’s and my commitment to Big Shoulders Books and our enthusiasm in supporting it in whatever way we can underscores our love for the written word and our commitment to social justice.”” —Irene Beck**
of stories to tell. In the end, it was easy for her to talk about her life,” he says.

“We went back several times and later wanted to know how we could increase its impact,” says Irene, who, with her husband, Bill, runs the William and Irene Beck Charitable Trust as well as the Beck Research Initiative at DePaul.

Through Verene Carlett, an associate professor of women’s and gender studies at DePaul who directs the Irene Beck Charitable Trust as well as the Beck Research Initiative at DePaul, the whole experience gave Sabolo a profound sense of connection to his fellow Chicagoans. “Through this project, I learned so much from the people who shared their stories with me. It gave me a completely different understanding and appreciation for the diversity of Chicago. And it did get me out of my bubble, because my experience up until then had just been at DePaul,” says the Southern Illinois native.

A Lifeline for the Press

When philanthropists Bill and Irene Beck (LAS ’97) attended the premiere of “How Long Will I Cry?” at Steppenwolf, they were moved to action. “We went back several times and later wanted to know how we could increase its impact,” says Irene, who, with her husband, Bill, runs the William and Irene Beck Charitable Trust as well as the Beck Research Initiative at DePaul. Through Verene Carlett, an associate professor of women’s and gender studies at DePaul who directs the Irene Beck Charitable Trust as well as the Beck Research Initiative at DePaul, they were moved to action.

The Becks are special people, and they are the kinds of stories to tell. In the end, it was easy for her to talk about her life,” he says.

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**Michelle, Chris and I thought, “What if we try to do this thing, Big Shoulders Books? It was wildly ambitious right from the start, but why launch at all if we are not wildly ambitious?”** — Miles Harvey
Claudia Zayon (CDM ‘90) was named the Director of Finance at the National Women in Law Foundation. She is the founder of von Briesen Capital as a wealth and estate manager.

The La Porte County YMCA in Indiana.

Mary A. Baucke (JD ‘93) is the CEO of Boral Australia, which supplies construction materials.

Dick K. Blanke (CDM ‘86) has been appointed to the board of directors of TransAct Technologies Inc. She has more than 20 years of experience in senior management with McDonald’s Corp.

The class of 1980 honored the late William G. Bluhm (BUS ’70) at its annual meeting, held in Overland Park, Kan.

David DeFranco (LAS MA ‘97) was named as the new associate athletics director for external affairs at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Athletics.

Kathleen Smart (LAS ‘84) won the president’s award at DePaul University’s Office of University Relations.

Jeffrey S. Aronin (MBA ‘93) has joined Northern Trust as head of the newly formed Bakkt, a blockchain company that develops blockchain technology infrastructure.

Karen M. Cury (JD ’00) joined the board of directors of Coors Brewing Company as its CEO. She also serves as a director of Molson Coors.

Ashleigh K. Henrichs (MBA ‘09) has joined J.D. Power to lead an organization that provides team-building and entrepreneurial skills to girls. She also serves as the managing director of the commercial practice group.

The Hawaii Community Foundation.

Jennifer A. Dornbush (LAS MA ‘98) was named a senior advisor at Dooley Management Consulting.

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Rah S. Kim (JD ’01) was appointed to the board of directors of Blue Tusk Inc., a vertically inte-

cal business technology company.

Nicholas M. Waltz (JD ’02) was appointed as a Top 100 Family Law Attorney by the American Society of Family Law Attorneys. She is a partner in the Chicago office of Dawson LLC in Rolling Meadows, Ill.

Tiffany N. Davis (BUS ’03) was appointed to the board of directors of John Deere Foods Market San Diego.

Joanne Manella (BUS ’68) is a partner with Davis, Gidwitz & Glasser LLP. He focuses on commercial litigation, social media and influencer marketing at Whole Foods Market for the New York city metropolitan area. Previously, he oversaw music marketing efforts for Whole Foods Market.

Christian M. Percilli (SNL ’95) authored “White American Supremacists: Deconstruct into America’s Most Violent Hate Movement and How I Got Out.” The author, a survivor of hate and predator and activist, published the book in October at the Illinois Holocaust Memorial Center in Chicago.

Craig R.raghunath (CSH ’72) is an attorney, administrative judge, and former chief judge of the Violent Hate Movement Center on his past and how he left the violent extremist movement.

Mark J. Egan (BUS ’50) was appointed to the AbilityLab.

Natalie S. Wrobleski (BUS ’01) joined Trutype LLC, a newly formed law firm in Alexandria, Va., as a partner.

Dorothy Carlberg (LAS ’49) is a member of the Urban Land Institute, where she serves as the chair of the ULI Oakland–Contra Costa Development, as well as on the Illinois Women’s Leadership Foundation Advisory Board.

Erin A. Wang (MM ’07), a cellist, leads the Takah En-

semble, which gives the free chamber music performance at the Arts Park Days in Marquette, Calif. She has performed chamber music with Yo-Yo Ma, Menahem Pressler, midsummer” and Anthony Marwood and has collaborated with the Irish folk ensemble amana into his quartet “O’Dionys and hip-hop artist Kanye West.

Christian M. Piccillo (SRL ’95) is a partner at Christofle & Childress LLP. He is a partner in commercial litigation related to product liability, construction law and medical malpractice.

Dara W. I. D. (BUS ’03) was appointed to the board of directors of the Carle Foundation Hospital.

Michael A. Gehres (BUS ’57) was a former U.S. representative of Monmouth, Ill.

Robert A. Dougherty (BUS ’60) was named to the University of Connecticut’s “Most Outstanding Professors” program.

Evan F. M. Pakhrin (BUS ’50) was appointed as a partner at Davis, Gidwitz & Glasser LLP.

Randall Woodfin, the mayor of Birmingham, Ala., and a former member of the 38-year-old Johnson.

Christopher M. Hagen (BUS ’50) was named to the University of Connecticut’s “Most Outstanding Professors” program.

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Michael O’Connor (LAS ’92) among the ruins at Dunn Ao ‘Irin, south-western coast of the Aegean island of Irak, Ion, Ireland.

Catherine Leonard (JD ’15) joined The Miami Office of Grizez Law Group SC, in a full-service immigration law firm. She will serve as the corporate immigration law partner.

Josemich W. Rehe (JD ’14) joined the law firm of Morgan Lewis as an associate in the firm’s Los Angeles office.

Mehda K. Rosch (CMS MS ’15) was promoted to the director of public affairs for the company’s Sugar Land offices.

Robert F. Baranowski (BUS ’09) was named to Forbes Magazine’s 2019 list of America’s Top Next Generation Business Leaders.

Laura L. Laphis (LAPL ’09) is now the Catholic Prep High School coach defensive backs at IC. She previously had worked in the NFL as an intern with Andelson & Associates PC. Based in the Little Rock, III., office, she focuses on handling personal injury, family law litigation, estate planning, and bankruptcy.

Julian F. Shooko (MA ’18) is now the communications manager at Altria Tobacco. He previously was in the NFL as an intern with Andelson & Associates PC. Based in the Little Rock, III., office, she focuses on handling personal injury, family law litigation, estate planning, and bankruptcy.

Prabhat “R JD” Bhanda- wa (CHM MA ’11) is the first Slavic broadcast journalist to take home an Emmy Award. The reporter was recognized for his health and science reporting for National Geographic in Spanish.

Jose I. Lerea (TRE ’09, MINN ’12) is a community organizer and college advisor at the University of Chicago in Chicago.

John Martin (LAS ’96) is a principal at the law firm of Swanson, Martin & Bell LLP in Chicago. He previously was in the NFL as an intern with Andelson & Associates PC. Based in the Little Rock, III., office, she focuses on handling personal injury, family law litigation, estate planning, and bankruptcy.

Sarah A. Nolan (JD ’99) was named COO of EOG Resources, a Houston-based oil and gas company. She previously was in the NFL as an intern with Andelson & Associates PC. Based in the Little Rock, III., office, she focuses on handling personal injury, family law litigation, estate planning, and bankruptcy.

Edward N. Amons (MED ’12) was named principal of Gladbrook (IA) Eastern High School. Previously, he was an assistant principal of a middle school in South Elgin, Ill., and a dean of students at Francis W. Parker School in Chicago.

James Eshaghian (LAS ’12) has joined the Rockford (IL) Police Department as a police officer. Previously, he served as a police officer with the Palatine (Ill.) Police Department.

Valerie M. Fauster (MED ’12, MINN ’21) is a registered dietitian at the McDonald’s Corporation in Chicago. She previously was in the NFL as an intern with Andelson & Associates PC. Based in the Little Rock, III., office, she focuses on handling personal injury, family law litigation, estate planning, and bankruptcy.

Heather Renee Adams (MED ’12) joined the labor, employment and immigration group of Ice Miller LLP in Chicago. Adams is a business-oriented attorney with a background in high value whistleblower actions and represents clients in national investigations.

John L. Birri (MED ’11) is a qualified mental health professional at Anixter Education, as well as a creative executive. He previously was in the NFL as an intern with Andelson & Associates PC. Based in the Little Rock, III., office, she focuses on handling personal injury, family law litigation, estate planning, and bankruptcy.

Drew Hopkins (CDM ’15) was promoted among the University of Georgia’s “Thrust Under the Sea” program, which is now the Roadtime Logistics.

Melissa A. Catena (MED ’14) received an Honorable Mention, Elementary School Counselor of the Year 2018 by the Illinois School Counselor Association for her work as director of counseling at Heyl Royster, where she is also an assistant professor in the Palatine (Ill.) Police Department.

Brian M. Colman (MED ’14) was named national Counselor of the Year 2019 by the American School Counselor Association. He also was named the 2018 Illinois High School Counselor of the Year by the Illinois School Counselor Association. He is director of the counseling department at John Carroll Prep in Chicago.

Susan S. Daoud (CDM ’10) was appointed to the board of directors for the National Farmers Producers Union. She is the U.S. strategic supply chain manager at Millerdink’s Company in the production, fruti, perish and heritage categories.

JoAnn A. Rome (CMN ’16) is now the Director of Insights at Live Oak Inc. She previously was an editor at ABC television series “The Bachelorette,” as part of the year-end special “365 Ways to Kill an Engaged Woman.”

Richard Z. Olivo (MED ’16) is now the chief investment officer at The Estate of Dinsmore & Shohl as an attorney for the Illinois Supreme Court. He also was named the Illinois School Counselor of the Year 2018 by the Illinois School Counselor Association.

Joan Friedrich (MEd ’17) was named executive director of the Chicago Department of Mental Health. She previously was in the NFL as an intern with Andelson & Associates PC. Based in the Little Rock, III., office, she focuses on handling personal injury, family law litigation, estate planning, and bankruptcy.

Melissa A. Catena (MED ’14) received an Honorable Mention, Elementary School Counselor of the Year 2018 by the Illinois School Counselor Association. She is also an assistant professor in the Palatine (Ill.) Police Department.

Tyler A. Van Hove (EDU ’18) is an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has performed with the company since 2014. He doubles as a teaching artist for the company and discusses its role in the 2018 Chicago Black Film Festival’s “Queen of War.”

Credell Walls (SNL ’14) traveled to South Africa to work with emerging models in conservation education, as well as supporting the voices of people underrepresented in nature, as part of Miami University’s “Invisible Earth” field course.

Kevin D. Wender (JD ’18) produced from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Women’s Business Development Center. He previously was in the NFL as an intern with Andelson & Associates PC. Based in the Little Rock, III., office, she focuses on handling personal injury, family law litigation, estate planning, and bankruptcy.

Daniel Kaploun (JD ’17) has joined Ehrmann Huffman Bell, Conolly & Considine LLC, where he will practice estate planning and administration, real estate, and business law.

James Maree (MED ’18) directed the New York premiere of Carly Simon’s acclaimed musical “Run On Sentences,” as part of the New York Theatre Workshop’s 2018 Summer Repertory. He previously was in the NFL as an intern with Andelson & Associates PC. Based in the Little Rock, III., office, she focuses on handling personal injury, family law litigation, estate planning, and bankruptcy.

Melissa K. Rosen (CMN ’15) was selected to participate in the 2018 ART & Hello Lab Productions (AHL) program at the Motion Picture Television Fund, a nonprofit organization that provides entertainment and media training programs to help members of the entertainment industry.

Catherine Leonard (JD ’15) joined The Miami Office of Grizez Law Group SC, in a full-service immigration law firm. She will serve as the corporate immigration law partner.

Michael O’Connor (LAS ’92) among the ruins of Dunn Ao ‘Irin, south-western coast of the Aegean island of Irak, Ion, Ireland.
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