Urban Studies

INTELLECTUALLY CURIOUS

EXPERIENCE

NETWORK

Collaborate

DePaul Commitment

Vincentian Values

Urban Education

Multidisciplinary ethos

ACTIVELY ENGAGED

Four undergraduate programs:

Community Service Studies

Criminology

Public Policy Studies

Sociology

Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

School of Public Service

Master of Public Health

Master of Social Work

Sociology

Sustainable Urban Development

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SPRING 2019

New Advisory Board

Urban Cluster

Immigration & Migration
DePaul’s new strategic plan, “Grounded in Mission,” recognizes six strategic priorities. The first priority in that list—to deepen our commitment to DePaul’s Catholic, Vincentian and urban mission—is at the heart of everything we do in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (LAS). We house a vibrant Department of Catholic Studies that contributes broadly to the Liberal Studies Program, as well as the Center for World Catholicism & Intercultural Theology. Our Department of Religious Studies—in alliance with our Center for Religion, Culture and Community—likewise embraces our Vincentian heritage through a commitment to religious pluralism and community-engaged teaching and service. Across the college, our many and diverse departments, programs, centers and institutes are at the vanguard of addressing the university’s core values.

I am thrilled to announce that, thanks to a generous endowment raised by DePaul’s Board of Trustees in honor of our former president, the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., we have a further opportunity to enhance our college’s commitment to DePaul’s Vincentian culture and mission. In the fall, we will welcome Matthieu Brejon de Lavergnée, a rising lay Vincentian culture and mission. In the fall, we will welcome Matthieu Brejon de Lavergnée, a rising lay

**Ray Sendejas**
- assistant director in the health care team at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, D.C., a legislative branch federal agency performing research and investigations for Congress.

“Providing input and guidance to support up-and-coming DePaul leaders is important. As a Double Demon, I believe in the mission of St. Vincent de Paul and I try to give back to the DePaul community and do what I can for those in need.”

- **Collin Sasser**, an information technology manager at Rush University Medical Center, has extensive experience in the financial, nonprofit, academic and health care sectors.

“I want to ensure that DePaul, and specifically LAS, has the resources, support and vision to continue its critical mission.”

- **Ryan Dunigan**, a litigation associate at Winston & Strawn in Chicago, has represented a number of Fortune 500 companies in the technology, insurance and banking industries in complex contractual disputes.

“DePaul and the LAS program were so important to me at a formative time in my life. LAS really opened my eyes to new ways of thinking, analyzing problems and engaging with a diverse and complex world. It was an honor to be asked to serve on the Advisory Board, helping to shape the future of this critical program.”

- **Kristi Lafleur**

The education and experiences I received at DePaul helped mold me to be the lawyer, civic leader and person that I am today. I want to ensure that DePaul, and specifically LAS, has the resources, support and vision to continue its critical mission.”

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- **Kristi Lafleur** (Political Science ’99)

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Connecting the Dots

LAS’s new Urban Studies cluster gives students the experiential, multidisciplinary foundation they need to succeed in a complex world.

Senior Matt D’Onofrio knew he wanted to study public policy at DePaul, but after taking some geography electives, he found a deeper understanding of how social problems could be viewed through a spatial and environmental lens.

“Social and economic justice are important, but seeing how the city operates as a system contributing to climate change also allows me to examine environmental justice and how that ties into the larger picture,” he says.

D’Onofrio is one of a growing number of LAS students who have at their disposal a new Urban Studies cluster at DePaul that 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 Studies and Sociology); and two centers (Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development and Center for Community Health Equity).

“For many, the city is made out of brick and mortar. From our perspective, the city is much more than a cluster of buildings. The city is made out of people who build with their cultural, social, political and economic identity. The city is an intelligent living organism that needs to be understood in its amazing complexity,” says Professor Guillermo Vasquez de Velasco, dean of DePaul’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

The cluster fosters multidisciplinary collaboration among faculty across academic lines, providing students the rich, complex course offerings that will prepare them for future success. “It is important to think about our urban space as a microcosm of a much larger global society.

I hope to use my urban studies education to promote positive change in Chicago and other cities around the world.”

–Matt D’Onofrio

Arts and Social Sciences as a whole is that we have a lot of people who actually study cities and what it’s like to live in them, “ says Euan Hague, a professor of geography and director of the School of Public Service.

“We have faculty that are globally connected, that are studying cities all over the world, that are taking students on study abroad trips to cities all over the world,” adds Hague. “Bringing those people together into this multidisciplinary cluster is hopefully going to increase recognition of urban studies beyond just a physical location.”

Sarah Vassileff, a senior majoring in English, has benefited from the new urban studies cluster. “Originally, I wanted to be a defense attorney, but in the end I decided I wanted to study how criminals’ minds work. My goal is to work for the counterterrorism unit in the FBI,” she says.

Vassileff will enter the field already a professional, having held internships locally for the Council on American-Islamic Relations and as a law clerk for the Child Protection Division of the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. After graduation, she plans to attend the Chicago School of Professional Psychology to become a licensed forensic psychologist.

“I love the way DePaul has blended all these disciplines together and how the professors are connected to each other so that everything we learn correlates and ties together,” she says.

D’Onofrio has also taken advantage of DePaul’s extensive network in Chicago. In addition to interning for Alderman Michele Smith of the 43rd Ward and for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), D’Onofrio has found that what began as an internship for a Chicago management consulting firm has turned into a job.

“My urban studies experience at DePaul has been key in terms of helping me develop an analytical framework to view the city and the phenomena that occur within the city. I hope to use my urban studies education to promote positive change in Chicago and other cities around the world,” he says.

Chicago Gun Violence Research Collaborative

Fighting the scourge of gun violence through collaborative research

Over 30,000 Chicagoans were shot or killed from gun violence between 2010 and 2018, according to Noam Ostrander, associate professor in the Department of Social Work at DePaul, who is chair of the Chicago Gun Violence Research Collaborative (CGVRC).

Calling the epidemic a “modern-day version of the plague,” Sinai Health System President Karen C. Teitelbaum in 2016 invited DePaul and other community activists to launch this collaborative to alter this grim trajectory. Convened by DePaul, Sinai Health System and the Illinois Public Health Institute, the CGVRC has brought together dozens of the city’s higher education and health care institutions to address the issue from multiple platforms. The CGVRC will be hosted by DePaul from 2018 to 2021.

The CGVRC leverages community-informed research to understand and change this “plague.” Faculty and graduate student fellows conduct critical research based on community “listening sessions” and share it with local leaders, scholars and community workers. Moving forward, the collaborative will expand its efforts as part of the Chicago HEAL Initiative, championed by Senator Richard J. Durbin, to collect and analyze gun violence data from leading hospitals around Chicago.

DePaul’s Urban Studies cluster is in a key position to bring the power of criminology, social work, public health and geography to bear on this complex issue. “The really exciting part of this urban cluster is that we can blend expertise from all of these fantastic disciplines to enable us to really give back to the city that hosts our institution in a positive way,” says Ostrander.
EMIGRATION AND MIGRATION

LAS’s multidimensional learning experience approaches the thorny questions raised by immigration and migration in new ways.

Early one fall morning, a group of DePaul students from Associate Professor Chris Tirres’s Latino Religious Experience in the United States (Religion 113) class went on an unusual field trip. After participating in an interfaith prayer vigil for detained immigrants and their families at the Immigration Detention Center in Broadview, Ill., they spent time at a house of hospitality run by the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants. There they encountered what they called the ‘other’ they became engaged in a whole new way. I think that conjures up a place like DePaul [with its] social justice ministry,” said the Rev. Craig Mousin, DePaul ombudsperson and instructor in Religion.

Tirres, who has been teaching Religion 113 for more than a decade, savors the recent incorporation of what he calls an “immersion experience” into the class.

“This is a quintessentially DePaul program, which prioritizes, realizes how little power these people have in their own futures. That’s part of our commitment to be a force for positive change in the world,” he says.

“This experience will make me better at whatever job I do.”

Tirres is exactly this kind of enthusiastic, motivated student. After studying international relations at American University in Washington, D.C., followed by a stint in Malaysia teaching English on a Fulbright scholarship, she returned to her hometown of Dayton, Ohio, where she worked for a local refugee resettlement organization. “I loved it,” she says about her work helping refugees acculturate and find housing.

When Fleitz decided to pursue higher education, she came across DePaul’s Refugee and Forced Migration Studies program. “I knew I wanted to work with refugees, and with so many resettlement organizations in Chicago, I knew I couldn’t find this level of services in another city,” she says. She joined the third cohort and will graduate in the spring.

“I am so glad I chose this program,” she says. “My cohort is full of amazing people with a range of experiences working with refugees and a lot of international experience. I have a passion for working with people from other countries, and I truly believe our country is better because refugees are here. This experience will make me better at whatever job I do.”

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When award-winning filmmaker Debra Gonsher Vinik addressed more than 100 students, faculty and community members at a screening of her new documentary, “Brightness of Noon: The Intersect of Faith, Immigration and Refugees (Part I),” she admitted that before she embarked on this journey she knew nothing about the reality facing immigrants and asylum seekers in the United States.

“[In this film] we saw so many people of different faiths, and once they encountered what they called the ‘other’ they became engaged in a whole new way. I think that conjures up a place like DePaul [with its] social justice ministry,” said the Rev. Craig Mousin, DePaul ombudsperson and instructor in the Refugee and Forced Migration Studies program.

Mousin was one of several panelists who discussed the film after its Oct. 17 screening at an event hosted by LAS.

Behind the Headlines: DePaul Offers New Service Learning Trip to Berlin

In December, 11 DePaul students spent two weeks in Berlin through a new service-learning opportunity that enabled them to learn firsthand about immigration and refugee history and policy.

“This is a special program that gives students a way to use German in a service-learning context and apply it toward service-learning abroad,” says Associate Professor of German Anna Souchuk. The genesis for the idea came in 2016 at a German Studies Association conference when a professor from East Carolina University shared a similar initiative.

Souchuk immediately presented the idea to Associate Professor of History Julia Woesthoff, who also chairs the LAS Study Abroad Committee, and together they developed a study abroad program focusing on Germany’s history of immigration.

They chose Berlin as the program’s location because it took in many of the 1 million refugees that arrived in Germany in 2015. This inaugural service-learning trip included refugee-led cooking classes and tours, a visit to a language cafe and a chance to learn about several Caritas International aid projects.

“Our students have read and talked a lot about the refugee crisis, but what does that even mean? What does that even look like? How are these organizations functioning on the ground? This service-learning trip gives students a chance to give shape to something that is otherwise just a headline,” says Souchuk.

The next trip will be in summer 2020. Students from all of DePaul’s colleges are welcome to apply.
This past September, DePaul marked the 50th anniversary of the Young Lords with three days of panel discussions, cultural programs and walking tours.

“It was a dream of mine to arrange this,” says Lazú, who has written a play and a forthcoming book on the Young Lords. “I knew that the 50th anniversary of the organization was upon us, and I wanted to make sure that we were able to honor the work that the Young Lords has done in Puerto Rican communities and the role that DePaul played.”

Highlights of the symposium included a historic dialogue between Young Lords founder Jose “Cha Cha” Jimenez and Oscar Lopez Rivera, a former political prisoner and leader of FALN, a Puerto Rican independence group.

“I can’t really overemphasize the historical importance of this dialogue, as these two figures have never come together in a public forum before,” says Lazú, who moderated the discussion.

Inspired by black self-empowerment groups like the Black Panthers, the Young Lords emerged during the counterculture revolution of the 1960s. Originally a street gang, the Young Lords were the first to give voice to the needs of the nearly 80,000 Puerto Ricans living in Chicago, the majority in Lincoln Park.

“Back when the Young Lords were organizing in the 1960s and the early 1970s, Lincoln Park was a very different type of community made up primarily of immigrants,” says Lazú. “The Young Lords were concerned about the impact that urban renewal efforts would have on the community and the neighborhood—justifiably so. The community changed dramatically, and those communities that were already underserved, which were primarily poor people of color, were in fact displaced from not just Lincoln Park, but other lakeside neighborhoods in Chicago.”

Among the Young Lords’ contributions were the creation of a free dental clinic and the establishment of a day care center. They also were part of a multiracial activist group founded in Chicago by Black Panther leader Fred Hampton called the Rainbow Coalition.

A distinctly Chicago group, the Young Lords soon grew into a grassroots movement with active branches in New York and across the East Coast.

“The Young Lords went on to become a really important entryway for many generations of young people coming into political consciousness. And even though it was a very short-lived movement, to this day, for U.S. Puerto Ricans, the Young Lords are a symbol. They’re the place that we have in civil rights history,” says Lazú.

Library Archives

The story of the Young Lords lives on in DePaul’s Special Collections and Archives. A small, but powerfully evocative collection of historic photographs, newspaper articles, oral histories, artifacts and ephemera was donated in the 1990s by original members of the Young Lords to the Richardson Library in partnership with DePaul’s Center for Latino Research.

“The Young Lords organization was founded in Lincoln Park. They are very important for understanding the neighborhood and DePaul’s history. We’re honored to be part of preserving and providing access to a glimpse of this often-overlooked history,” says Derek Potts, archives processing assistant for the Special Collections and Archives in Lincoln Park.

Photographs taken by Young Lords member Carlos Flores, who was an unofficial photographer for the organization, are included in the collection.

“Lincoln Park in the 1960s and 1970s was significantly different than it is now. If you didn’t have photographers like Carlos Flores taking photographs, it would be very easy to walk around the neighborhood today and not know that they were here,” asks Potts.

Newspapers covering the events as they unfolds are also integral to tracing the story. “Student newspapers were following these movements,” explains Jacqueline Lazú, an associate professor of Modern Languages and associate dean of LAS.

For more information, go to bit.ly/YoungLordsarchive.
OUTSTANDING GIS STUDENTS

Department of Geography alumni Sarah Arnold (Geography, Philosophy '18) and Brian Li (Geography '18) received the 2018 Illinois Geographic Information Systems Association (ILGISA) Outstanding Student Award. ILGISA is the only statewide organization of GIS/geospatial professionals in Illinois.

As an undergraduate, Sarah Arnold shared her GIS skills with community housing rights and advocacy organizations. She also worked as an assistant to the Cook County zoning administrator. In addition to receiving this outstanding student award, Sarah was nationally recognized with a prestigious National Science Foundation undergraduate summer research fellowship at the Center for Geographic Analysis at Harvard University.

Brian Li completed more GIS classes at DePaul than any other student. Among many other projects, he has explored CTA transit quality based on accessibility and transfer connectivity in relation to disadvantaged populations. He even created his own transit quality index for each CTA 'L' station and bus stop based on ADA accessibility. These techniques, integrated into the weighted buffer analysis he had previously devised, led Brian to generate a spatial interpolation map using the inverse distance weighting method to visually display and estimate the transit quality across Chicago as a continuous surface.

CRIMINALIZING BLACK CHILDREN

Chicago’s juvenile-justice reform movement at the end of the 19th century morphed into a system that continues to portray African-American children as dangerous budding criminals, explained Tera Agyepong, an assistant professor of history, in the fall faculty forum sponsored by the DePaul Women’s Network.

The juvenile justice system became the primary way to care for needy or abandoned African-American children who were rejected by the Whiten-only public institutions that would normally care for “wards of the state.” Such children thus ended up marked as “criminals,” rather than as innocent children in need of the state’s help. The resulting disproportionately numbers of African-American children in the reform and criminal systems fueled racist stereotypes that persist today. Agyepong’s research forms the basis of her book “Criminalization of Black Children: Race, Gender, and Deinstitutionalization in Chicago’s Juvenile Justice System, 1899-1945.”

NEW WAYS TO DISCOVER ‘THE URBAN’

Thanks to DePaul’s Chicago Quarter, first-year students are immersed in the city in a variety of unprecedented ways. Whether exploring Chicago’s urban agriculture or the politics of garbage, LAS faculty often students host a host of innovative and multidisciplinary options for learning about all things urban without even leaving the Second City. And if students have the itch to travel the globe, they can also delve into a myriad of urban issues through a new assortment of First Year Academy programs—from probing China’s environmental challenges in Beijing and uncovering the history of the Holy City in Jerusalem to learning about religious diversity in modern Paris.

APPLIED DIPLOMACY

The college has designed new BA and MA programs in applied diplomacy in response to a changing world and the broadening definition of diplomacy. This innovative curriculum is a collaborative effort by faculty from more than 20 of the college’s departments and programs. It is organized around the concept of transprofessional diplomacy, "which recognizes and builds upon the reality that diplomacy is practiced by more than official representatives of nation-states or nongovernmental organizations," says Associate Dean Warren Schultz, who directs the project with Associate Professor of Religious Studies David Welman.

TIBETAN MONKS OF DREPUNG GOMANG MONASTERY

DePaul’s Center for Religion, Culture and Community welcomed a group of Buddhist monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery from Mundgod, India. The Oct. 29-Nov. 1 visit included a hands-on presentation in which the monks practiced the delicate process of creating a traditional sand mandala, an ancient practice within Tibetan Buddhism. This culminated with a closing ceremony in which the mandala was destroyed. "After painstakingly creating the mandala, the monks destroyed it, which was perhaps the most symbolic ritual aspect of the week," says Associate Professor of Religious Studies Chris Timms. "The monks imagine that the beauty that is in front of us and to be open to change."
TUNED MASS
This solo exhibition by Professor of Art, Media and Design Jeff Carter was on display September 8, 2018–January 6, 2019 at the Chicago Cultural Center. Working from images of specific conflict zones sourced online, he developed a series of sculptures that explore the ‘architecture of the barricade.’ Carter’s interpretations rely on forms that express equal, but some more than others.” The result is a series of artworks in which she came to make that choice easier for students and open to students with majors or minors in LAS.

WE HAVE OVERCOME: AN IMMIGRANT’S LETTER TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Over 50 years since the Civil Rights Act enshrined equality under the law for all Americans, DePaul Professor and Director of Teaching Practicum Jason D. Hill corrects the narrative in this ethnographic field study, Ramya Ramanath, associate professor of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and chair of international public service in the School of Public Service at DePaul, examines the lives of women displaced by climate change and relocated to the largest slum resettlement site in Asia. (Routledge)

HÖLDERLIN’S HYMN “REMEMBRANCE
A new translation of philosopher Martin Heidegger’s 1941–1942 lecture course on Friedrich Hölderlin’s hymn, “Remembrance,” which lays out a detailed plan for the interpretation of Hölderlin’s poetry in which remembrance is a central concern. Translators are William McNeill, professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy at DePaul, and Isuul Aniela, associate professor of philosophy at Whitman College and a DePaul alumnus. (Philosophy MA ’94, PhD ’07). (Indiana University Press)

WHEN CHANNING TABB (Spanish “10), a graduating student in Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse at DePaul, interned as a grant writer at Curt’s Café in Evanston, she not only learned marketable skills, but also helped bring in funding for a café that employs at-risk young adults. And she received credit toward her degree. “For me this internship was valuable because I got to have some real-world work experience in something and see if I liked it while also helping others,” she says.

NEW TRANSLATION OF PHILOSOPHER MARTIN HEIDEGGER’S LECTURE COURSE ON FRIEDRICH HÖLDERLIN’S HYMN “REMEMBRANCE
In this anthropological analysis, Stefaan Vanderweydt examines representations of and attitudes towards the aircraft industry in Belgium. (SUNY Press)

WE WANT STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT THE POWER OF THEIR EDUCATION IN THE HUMANITIES, FINE ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES TO IMPACT THE WORLD.
—MARGARET STOREY

A PLACE TO CALL HOME: WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE IN MUMBAI
In this ethnographic field study, Ramya Ramanath, associate professor of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and chair of international public service in the School of Public Service at DePaul, examines the lives of women displaced by climate change and relocated to the largest slum resettlement site in Asia. (Routledge)

FRAGILE WORLD ECOLOGY AND THE CHURCH
In this book, scholars and activists from Christian communities as far-flung as Honduras, the Philippines, Colombia and Kenya present a global angle on the global ecological crisis and offer Catholic resources for responding to it. Edited by William T. Cavanaugh, Professor of Catholic Studies and Director of the Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology at DePaul, this volume explores the deep interconnections between the global North and the global South, and probes into the “integral ecology” described by Pope Francis in Laudato Si’. (Cascade Press)

A digital interactive map using GIS created by senior Rasa Whittaker for a Chicago-area organization as part of her CPBL final project.

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BY POPULAR DEMAND… LAS PILOTS PROJECT-AND COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS
LAS has also launched a linked program for faculty development: CPBL Co-teaching Fellowships. To be part of the program, LAS faculty apply for either a team-teaching or lead faculty CPBL fellowship, both of which are designed to support the development and delivery of co-taught multi-disciplinary courses in which our students work collaboratively with a community partner on a project of mutual interest and benefit. The first courses funded by the program launched in the spring quarter of 2019.

LAS PILOTS PROJECT-AND COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS
Scholarship for Internships | INSIGHTS

CTU Location
BT Location
LAS Location
SWOP Location
BT Clients 2017
UNI Clients 2017
CTU 2018-2019
Macao 3 Man 2016-2017
SWOP 2016-2017
Nothing 2016-2017
Chicago City Boundary

A digital interactive map using GIS created by senior Rasa Whitaker for a Chicago-area organization as part of her CPBL final project.
Alumna Feature | INSIGHTS

URBAN ADVENTURE

Sustainable Urban Development graduate Dana Yanocha helps transform the ways we get around town

Soon after graduating from college, Dana Yanocha (MA Sustainable Urban Development ’17) was able to put her degree into practice.

“I got really interested in the idea that the city level is where real gains on issues around the environment and climate are happening. That pushed me into thinking about going back to grad school to better understand how cities work,” says the Pennsylvania native and Penn State graduate.

She quickly settled on the Sustainable Urban Development MA Program at DePaul.

“I was really looking for a nontraditional urban planning program,” she says. “What drew me to DePaul’s program is its integration of sustainability and the way it looks at these issues through more of a social lens than the more traditional planning and design approach.”

“What drew me to DePaul’s program is its integration of sustainability and the way it looks at these issues through more of a social lens.”

—Dana Yanocha

Along with Professor Joseph Schwietzerman in the School for Public Service, which houses the Sustainable Urban Development program, she researched policy on metropolitan and transportation issues for the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development.

“This was a really transformative experience for me because it propelled me into my interest in transportation planning and how the ways that people get around really shapes cities and dictates how functional and livable they are,” she says.

These days Yanocha is the senior research associate at the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy in Washington, D.C. This position enables her to research sustainable transportation from a variety of angles, including how companies like Uber and Lyft are affecting mobility in cities.

“How are these new tech-enabled mobility modes impacting cities? Can they actually shift people out of cars? What sort of benefits could that generate in the long term?” asks Yanocha.

She credits DePaul with launching her on this meaningful career path.

“I definitely don’t think I would have gotten this job if it hadn’t been for the work that I did through the Chaddick Institute,” she says.

Looking forward, Yanocha hopes to leave her mark in the sustainable transportation field.

“I’m hoping to continue to focus on the more innovative, tech-enabled transportation options,” she says.

But what she’s come to realize is that issues of transportation are inextricably linked to social justice.

“The world that we live in is extremely inequitable,” she says. “I think the ultimate goal of sustainability is to ensure that everyone is benefiting from a world that’s free of pollution and harmful weather events. The gains that can be made using some of these innovative new offerings are only going to go so far as who is actually able to access and use them.”

My dream job is to work in the European Union or the United Nations or to represent the Polish people on the international stage,” says 21-year-old Izabela Kantor. Growing up in Addison, Ill., she was raised in a Polish-speaking home.

“Both of my parents were born in Poland, so I was immersed in Polish language and culture from the very beginning,” says Kantor, who also attended Polish school throughout her childhood, where she learned about Polish language, history and literature.

When the time came for her to look at colleges, DePaul stood out for its international studies program and its close proximity to home. Being chosen to receive the Arthur J. Schmitt Fellowship as an incoming freshman added a valuable financial incentive. She later was awarded the DePaul Presidential Grant Scholarship.

“Neither of my parents attended college, and we didn’t understand the costs involved. To be honest, I would not be able to attend college without these scholarships,” she says.

A highlight of her time at DePaul was her service project through the Schmitt Fellowship at a Ronald McDonald House. These houses, located near various hospitals, provide meals and housing for families with hospitalized children.

“This was such an amazing experience. These kids are in such pain, and just being able to bring them happiness and let them forget about everything they’re going through, even for a little bit, is a great feeling,” she says.

Kantor was also one of only three young people across the country chosen to be awarded the American Institute of Polish Culture’s Harriet Irsay Scholarship.

“My dream job is to work in the European Union or the United Nations or to represent the Polish people on the international stage.”

—Izabela Kantor

Despite juggling a host of volunteer activities with a full academic load, Kantor continues to excel in her studies. This past November, she was invited to present a paper at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s EU Studies Conference, thanks to encouragement from Political Science Instructor Catherine May.

“I am the only undergraduate on the panel selected to present my research. It’s such a great opportunity,” says Kantor. “DePaul has helped me achieve so much.”

SUPPORT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Support DePaul’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences facilities and resources, and scholarships for students in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

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