

SUMMER 2018

DEPAUL

MAGAZINE

SEVEN DAY FORECAST

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
0%		20%			0%
					
80	78	73	75	78	
Sunny Today		COOL	COOL		
58	58	55			

The Climate for Science

WGN-TV weathercaster **Paul Konrad** (**THE '87**) and others talk about science and discovery

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Marilyn Ferdinand

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS
Andrea Bainbridge
Kris Gallagher
Jacob Sabolo (LAS '12)
Bob Sakamoto
Kelsey Schagemann

DESIGN
Francis Paola Lea
Claire Keating

DePaul Magazine is published for DePaul alumni and friends by the Office of Advancement. Inquiries, comments and letters are welcome and should be addressed to **Marilyn Ferdinand, Editor-in-Chief, DePaul University, Office of Advancement, 1 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-5112** or depaulmag@depaul.edu.

ADDRESS CHANGES:
Log in to the DePaul Alumni Community at alumni.depaul.edu. Having trouble? Send an email to dpalumni@depaul.edu, or call (800) 437-1898 for assistance.

You can also visit alumni.depaul.edu to register for upcoming events, find volunteer opportunities, make a gift, and learn about alumni benefits and services.

SUMMER 2018

DEPAUL

MAGAZINE

FEATURES

7 **Unearthing the Truth About Dirt Soil**

Soil has a profound effect on human health, climate change, economic development and even whether your garden produces more leaves than vegetables. Do you know what's under your feet?

14 **Baylee Ritter: Oceans to Cross**

Last year, DePaul sophomore Baylee Ritter spoke at the United Nations about ocean conservation and advocacy. Ritter, a College of

Communication student and environmental advocate, has had a passion for conservation from a young age.

20 **A Wave From Einstein**

On Sept. 14, 2015, astrophysicists detected gravitational waves produced by the merger of two black holes, 100 years after Einstein first predicted that such waves should exist. The collaboration of scientists the world over to observe and study this phenomenon shows how science not only advances, but also provides us with a way of knowing our world.



ON THE COVER

Paul Konrad (THE '87) combines his theatre background and training as he entertains and

informs viewers with his weather forecasts on WGN-TV.
Cover photo: Tom Evans

24



24 **Sunshine State of Mind**

Paul Konrad (THE '87) never expected to spend 22 years as WGN-TV's weather forecaster. But he enjoys providing a valuable service, interacting with his fans on social media and spending as much time as he can with his family.

29 **Creativity in Action**

The Idea Realization Lab on the Loop Campus is a makerspace that has quickly become a favorite hangout for members of the DePaul community who want to use its state-of-the-art equipment to make everything from logos to shelving.

DEPARTMENTS

2 **Around Campus**

Reburying the Dead
Communicating Climate Change
The Great Mind of Michael Shannon

4 **Athletics**

6 **From the President**


33 **Class Notes**

40 **DePaul Pride/Event Recaps/ Upcoming Events**

41 **Donor Profile: Murray and Michele Allen**



READ THE MAGAZINE AND EXCLUSIVE ONLINE CONTENT AT DEPAULMAGAZINE.COM.

 Look for the **Online Extras** symbol throughout this issue to learn about extended, online-only content.



The Scoop on My Soil


Find out what a DePaul staff member discovered when she had her soil tested. Learn how to get yours tested.




Going for Gold


Ziggy Kozlowski (CMN '79) helps films win big during awards campaigns. Learn more about his role on the award-winning film "Call Me by Your Name."

JOIN THE DISCUSSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA:


 facebook.com/depaulalumni

 [@depaulalumni](https://twitter.com/depaulalumni)

 linkd.in/1uXj3a5

 [@depaulalumni](https://www.instagram.com/depaulalumni)

 flickr.com/depaulspirit

 youtube.com/user/depaulalumnifriends

Reburying the Dead

Returning control of ancient remains to Native American tribes

Over the past three decades, more than 1.5 million burial artifacts, 50,000 sets of human remains and 265,000 sacred objects have been returned by museums to Native American groups under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The act specifies that remains and objects must be returned to the descendants of the group to which they belonged. So, what should a museum do when a people has become extinct, as in the case of the Calusa Nation of southern Florida?

Chip Colwell, senior curator of anthropology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS), discussed how his team resolved such dilemmas at “Let Us Rebury Our Dead: Native America’s Imperfect and Necessary Law,” a winter colloquium sponsored by the College of Law’s Center for Art, Museum & Cultural Heritage Law and the Center for Intellectual Property Law & Information Technology.



Calusa Indian Mound

Curators resolved the Calusa conundrum by considering the issue from the perspective of informed consent, Colwell said. The Calusa revered their dead, even posting guards to protect the shell mounds where they were buried. The DMNS decided the right thing to do was to return the Calusa remains and objects to the Miccosukee tribe, which carries on the Calusa cultural heritage.

The process is thornier when it’s impossible to link remains and artifacts with a modern-day group. It is wrong to place an extinct tribe’s remains and objects with a group whose ancestors might have been their enemies, such as the Hopi and Navajo. In

addition, some curators argue that returning unidentifiable remains and objects eliminates the opportunity for scientific study, putting the Native Americans’ history at risk.

“It’s often overlooked that NAGPRA requires return of *control* to the Native American groups, not the actual return of objects. In many cases, native peoples have chosen to have scientists continue to study artifacts,” Colwell says.

Despite the controversies and imperfections in NAGPRA, Colwell believes that the act is vital to rebuilding trust between anthropologists and native peoples: “It’s hard to have a good future relationship when you literally have skeletons in your closets.”

Image courtesy of John Mitchell and Colette Dowell

Communicating Climate Change

DePaul professor discusses effective ways to connect with skeptical and disengaged audiences

In 2016, National Geographic circulated a distressing image of an extremely thin polar bear dying of starvation. For years, it has been increasingly difficult for the bears to find food, due to increasing temperatures in the Arctic that melt the sea ice through which they surprise and catch their prey. While the image was widely shared on social me-

dia, it is difficult to know if it motivated people to take climate change seriously.

“Polar bears give us the idea that climate change is distant, both in distance and time. It doesn’t impact our daily lives,” explained Jill Hopke, assistant professor of journalism, at “Communicating Climate Change” last fall. This event kicked off the new multidis-

ciplinary minor in climate change science and policy offered through the College of Science and Health and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Hopke asserted that individuals are more likely to be engaged with climate change when they see it happening in their own communities. Hopke shared an audio segment from Chicago Public Media/WBEZ radio that aired in 2016 in which a Chicago woman explained how urban flooding in the Chatham neighborhood was destroying her home.

The neighborhood has some of the highest levels of flooding in Chicago.

Such stories are not what the public generally hears about climate change, but according to Hopke, climate change affects everyone.

Hopke expressed how important it is for communicators to correct misinformation about climate change by relaying factual, accurate research. She also said that weathercasters, who are among the most trusted professional journalists, can help share information about climate change.

The Great Mind of Michael Shannon

In Jeff Nichols’ 2011 film “Take Shelter,” a blue-collar worker and family man is haunted by a series of terrifying visions—ominous rain clouds, violent lightning storms, swarms of black birds—that he believes are signs of impending doom. As he takes increasingly desperate actions to protect his family, the other characters in the film and the audience are left wondering whether the man is losing his mind or if he really is foreseeing the apocalypse.

“Take Shelter” and its star, Michael Shannon, took center stage on Jan. 29 as part of the DePaul Humanities Center’s public series “In Conversation with Great Minds.” H. Peter Steeves, the director of the center, who conducted a Q&A with Shannon following a screening of the film, introduced the actor: “His measured performances are cerebral and emotive, intellectual and moving, alive in such a deep way that they don’t ever amount to pretending to be alive.” As proof, Steeves pointed to some of Shannon’s most memorable film and television roles, including John Givings in “Revolutionary Road,” federal



H. Peter Steeves, director of the DePaul Humanities Center, with actor Michael Shannon, this year’s guest of the “In Conversation with Great Minds” series

agent Nelson Van Alden in “Boardwalk Empire,” Bobby Andes in “Nocturnal Animals” and, most recently, Richard Strickland in “The Shape of Water.”

Shannon and Steeves discussed the environmental implications conveyed in “Take Shelter” and how those issues are often ignored by the public. Shannon shared a story from his youth in which he canvassed door to door for the Illinois Public Interest Relations Group to talk about environmental policy and how most people slammed their doors in his face. “So many

people just didn’t seem to care at all or didn’t believe [in climate change],” said Shannon.

Shannon mentioned carrying forward this environmental theme in a play he directed this past winter at Chicago’s A Red Orchid Theatre, a company he co-founded in 1993. “Traitor,” which is based on Henrik Ibsen’s “An Enemy of the People,” tells the story of a community dealing with lead contamination at a local school.

Steeves also asked about Shannon’s complex portrayal of notorious contract killer Richard Kuklinski in Ariel Vromen’s “The Iceman.” According to Shannon, he did not see the film as a biopic—“I don’t think we need more biopics,” he said with a smirk—but rather as an examination of a complicated individual. “I was fascinated by the notion that somebody can want to love and have a family, but also be [the cause] of all of this destruction,” Shannon explained.

After the discussion, Shannon answered questions from the audience and took a number of selfies with students, most of whom probably were unaware of Shannon’s connection to DePaul: his father, Don Shannon, was a professor of accountancy in the Driehaus College of Business, and a memorial scholarship for undergraduates in accounting and management information systems was established in his name.

To watch a video of the Shannon and Steeves discussion, please visit bit.ly/MShannonDePaul.



Photos by Anna Vaughn Clissold



Special Olympics athlete and global ambassador Lauren Miller addresses the Blue Demons at a service initiative.

Heartfelt Connection

The Blue Demons team up with Special Olympics

As Blue Demons from every sport gathered last September in McGrath-Phillips Arena for the Wintrust Blankets Chicago service initiative for the children of the St. Vincent de Paul Center, they were greeted by a very special guest: Special Olympian and global ambassador Lauren Miller.

The 19-year-old Miller showed off her fingernails done up in DePaul's school colors. She talked about winning a gold medal in figure skating at her first competition, the Illinois Winter Games.

"I started skating when I was five years old," said Miller, who also competes in swimming and track and field. "My brother played on a hockey team in Evanston, and the coach used to pick me up and skate around with me. I fell in love with skating. When I skate, I feel free and I am proud of myself."

Miller expressed her sense of pride in representing so many other Special Olympians as a global ambassador. "I feel really committed about what I am doing," she said. "I could never see Special Olympics not being a part of

my life, and it has inspired me to help others.

"The most important thing of all is to help everyone else speak up and break down the stereotypes of people with disabilities. This is so important to me. It makes me feel like I am capable. I know I will do everything I can to get what I want."

DePaul student-athletes have been invited to become involved in various activities and events leading up to and including the Special Olympics 50th anniversary celebration taking place July 17–22. In addition, student-athletes will volunteer at various Special Olympics events throughout the year.

Highlights of the July games include the Unified (soccer) Cup July 17–20 at Toyota Park, the Eternal Flame of Hope ceremony on July 20 at Soldier Field, a signature music concert on July 21 at the United Center and the Global Day of Inclusion on July 21 at Soldier Field and the Museum Campus. The inclusion festivities will feature sports clinics, sports celebrities and current Special Olympians, along with athletes from the inaugural 1968 Special Olympics in Chicago.

A final word from Miller sums up the importance of the Special Olympics experience: "My message to DePaul's student-athletes is that becoming involved means a whole lot to me and everyone else—all the other Special Olympic athletes, the volunteers and the charities that work with us. I'd like to tell them that it will become a really big part of their lives. It will be one of the most rewarding things they have ever done."

of developing the total person is well-aligned with the DePaul athletics mission."

During his playing career (2006–09), Plotkin helped the Blue Demons to four consecutive appearances in the BIG EAST championship tournament, including semifinal appearances in 2007 and 2008. Plotkin was a driving force behind DePaul winning the BIG EAST Red Division title and earning the program its first appearance in the NCAA tournament in 2007. He finished his career tied for fifth all-time in games started, with 74.

Plotkin was thankful for being given the opportunity to coach at his alma mater. He said, "I'm looking forward to giving these student-athletes the best overall experience and putting this program in a position to compete for BIG EAST championships and NCAA tournament appearances on a consistent basis."

Former DePaul Star Plotkin Heads Men's Soccer

Mark Plotkin (BUS '10) has been named the new head coach of the DePaul men's soccer program. Plotkin played on the Blue Demons soccer team as an undergraduate and most recently was associate head coach at Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y. Plotkin also served DePaul as an assistant coach in 2012 and 2013.

Athletics Director **Jean Lenti Ponsetto (EDU '78)** said, "Mark's leadership was instrumental in fostering an environment that led Colgate to Patriot League championships and going deep into this year's NCAA men's soccer championship with its most recent Sweet 16 appearance. Mark's work ethic, positive energy and overall philosophy

Marie Zidek Tapped as Volleyball Head Coach

Former Blue Demon Assistant Coach Marie Zidek has been named head coach of the DePaul volleyball program. Zidek has been an assistant coach at the University of San Diego for the last four seasons and helped the

program to four consecutive NCAA tournament appearances.

"We're pleased to have Marie Zidek rejoin DePaul athletics as our head volleyball coach," said Athletics Director **Jean Lenti Ponsetto (EDU '78)**.



Marie Zidek

"She has had an amazing career as an assistant coach in the West Coast Conference, the Pac-12, the BIG EAST and the Mid-America Conference (MAC), capped off with four straight NCAA appearances and Top 25 rankings at San Diego. Hailing from the South Side, Marie understands DePaul's value to the city of Chicago."

Zidek was an assistant coach in Lincoln Park from 2010 to 2012 and was on the staff at Buffalo for one season before moving to San Diego in 2014.

Four-time NCAA tournament qualifier San Diego ranked as high as fifth in the nation during the 2016 campaign. As an assistant coach, Zidek tutored two West Coast Conference (WCC) Players of the Year, six

All-WCC team members and two All-WCC freshman team honorees. San Diego won the WCC title this past season, and senior setter Kristen Gengenbacher was named a third team All-American.

Zidek was named a 30 Under 30 Award winner by the American Volleyball Coaches Association and has served as a conference representative and publications director for assistant coaches in the BIG EAST, MAC and WCC.

She graduated from Northern Illinois in 2006 with a kinesiology degree and completed a master's degree in exercise and sports science at Oregon State University in 2010. Zidek is also a certified strength and conditioning coach.

■ **Lenti Racks Up 1,300th Win** On Feb. 17, 2018, the Blue Demons softball team defeated Presbyterian 1-0 at the Cougar Classic in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. The win represented Coach **Eugene Lenti's (EDU '80)** 1,300th career victory. He is now the fifth winningest coach in NCAA softball history and fourth among active coaches. "This is a great accomplishment that reflects on the efforts of our players and coaches over the years believing in themselves and playing hard day in and day out," Lenti said. ■ **Bruno Wins No. 700** **Doug Bruno (LAS '73, MA '88)** notched his 700th victory as the DePaul women's basketball coach. DePaul Athletics commemorated his 32-year Hall of Fame career with a special pregame presentation in late February. The memorable win came

in early February as the Blue Demons bested Butler 86-68 at the historic Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Bruno's team followed its coach's lead and went on to make a little history of its own two weeks later by winning a fifth consecutive BIG EAST regular-season title, a first in program history. ■ **In the Spotlight** Soccer standout Elizabeth Endy was named CoSIDA Academic All-American, while her teammates Alexa Ben and Franny Cerny were All-Region and All-BIG EAST First Team. Ben was selected by the Chicago Red Stars pro soccer team in the National Women's Soccer League Draft. Men's basketball players Eli Cain and Marin Maric and Amarah Coleman of women's basketball each reached the 1,000-point milestone in their careers. Women's basketball teammates Kelly Campbell and Mart'e



Eugene Lenti

Grays made the All-BIG EAST First Team, and Lauren Prochaska won the BIG EAST Sportsmanship Award. After pitching a no-hitter against Northern Colorado's softball team on Feb. 11, Missy Zoch was named Louisville/NFCA DI National Pitcher of the Week. That same week, Zoch was also named the BIG EAST Pitcher of the Week.



The Elements of Academic Success

Peter Stang (CSH '63, DHL '15) first discovered his passion for chemistry in high school. He built his own home laboratory and acquired chemicals for experiments from the corner drug store. It was the 1950s in Hungary, and basic acids and salts were easy for a teenager to acquire.

But in 1956, the Soviet Union invaded Hungary, and his family fled. They arrived in the United States and established a new home in Chicago. At the age of 15, having survived political turmoil, he was no longer an ordinary teenager. Science became his solace, and he was determined to prove he had a promising future.

When it came time for college, he chose to study chemistry at DePaul. He graduated in 1963 and completed his doctorate in chemistry at the University of California-Berkeley in 1966. Now, more than five decades later, Professor Stang is one of the world's leading scientists, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Today, Professor Stang is a distinguished professor of chemistry at the University of Utah, where he drives advances in organic chemistry.

A pioneer in the field of supramolecular chemistry, he has led a team of molecular architects to rearrange chemical building blocks and develop advanced products for the fields of medicine, information storage and energy. Someday his research will help deliver chemotherapy more effectively and efficiently.

In 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Professor Stang the National Medal of Science, the highest honor bestowed by the president upon a scientist, engineer or inventor. The following year, the American Chemical Society presented him with the Priestley Medal for lifetime achievement.

Professor Stang credits his DePaul chemistry professor and mentor, Robert C. Miller, with setting him on the path to success. Professor Miller gave him the opportunity to do two years of undergraduate research in phosphorus chemistry. He inspired many first-generation college graduates, including Professor Stang, to attend the best graduate schools. He even convinced Professor Stang's parents to allow him to go to Berkeley.

A few years ago, Professor Stang returned to DePaul to receive an honorary degree. (He

also has honorary degrees from Texas A&M, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and Moscow State University.) When he spoke at DePaul's commencement ceremony, he described how the university taught him the value of honesty, integrity and compassion. He encouraged DePaul's graduating students to uphold the Vincentian mission: seek honesty, not deceit; seek truth, not recognition; seek virtue, not evil.

Professor Stang is one of many DePaul alumni who make us proud.

This edition of DePaul Magazine highlights the university's recent contributions to science. Every day, DePaul faculty inspire students to acquire hands-on learning experience through research and internships. They do what Professor Miller did for student Stang many years ago.

We can't wait to see what the next generation of DePaul alumni will discover.

Gabriel Esteban

*A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD
President*

UNEARTHING THE TRUTH ABOUT



~~DIRT~~
SOIL

BY KRIS
GALLAGHER

The ground under your feet. As clear as mud. Down to earth. Dirt cheap. Feet of clay. The English language is peppered with references to what we stand on, yet most people know very little about it.

First, it's called *soil*, not dirt, says Jim Montgomery, associate professor of environmental science and studies in the College of Science and Health (CSH). *Dirt* implies a mess we need to clean up. *Soil* is the composite that nurtures every growing thing on land. It also affects human health and well-being in many ways.

SOIL IS POWERFUL

"Soils do a lot of very important things for us," says **Karis McFarlane (CSH '01)**, an earth scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, about 35 miles southeast of Oakland, Calif. At the top of the list? Most of the food we eat originates in soil.

Soil serves as a sponge, absorbing rain and thereby decreasing erosion and flooding. Then, it filters contaminants out of that water and captures—or "fixes"—nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus so that plants can use them. "That's important, because if we get too much nitrogen or

phosphorus running off into our streams, lakes and rivers, we can have algae blooms and other damaging outcomes," says McFarlane.

McFarlane studies how carbon and other elements are stored and cycle between the upper and lower layers of different soils. "Carbon is the currency of energy throughout the ecosystem," she says. "Plants fix the carbon that they get from the atmosphere and turn it into sugar, and that feeds everything else. Carbon powers the whole ecosystem."

Soil types with large particles, such as sand, capture less carbon than soils with small particles, such as clay. "The smaller the particle size, the higher the surface area, so more carbon and nutrients can stick to it," says McFarlane. That's why water drains quickly from sand and few plants grow in it. Conversely, plants love small-particle, loamy soil, which stores about three times as much carbon as does the atmosphere. Soils such as peat bogs and permafrost store even more.

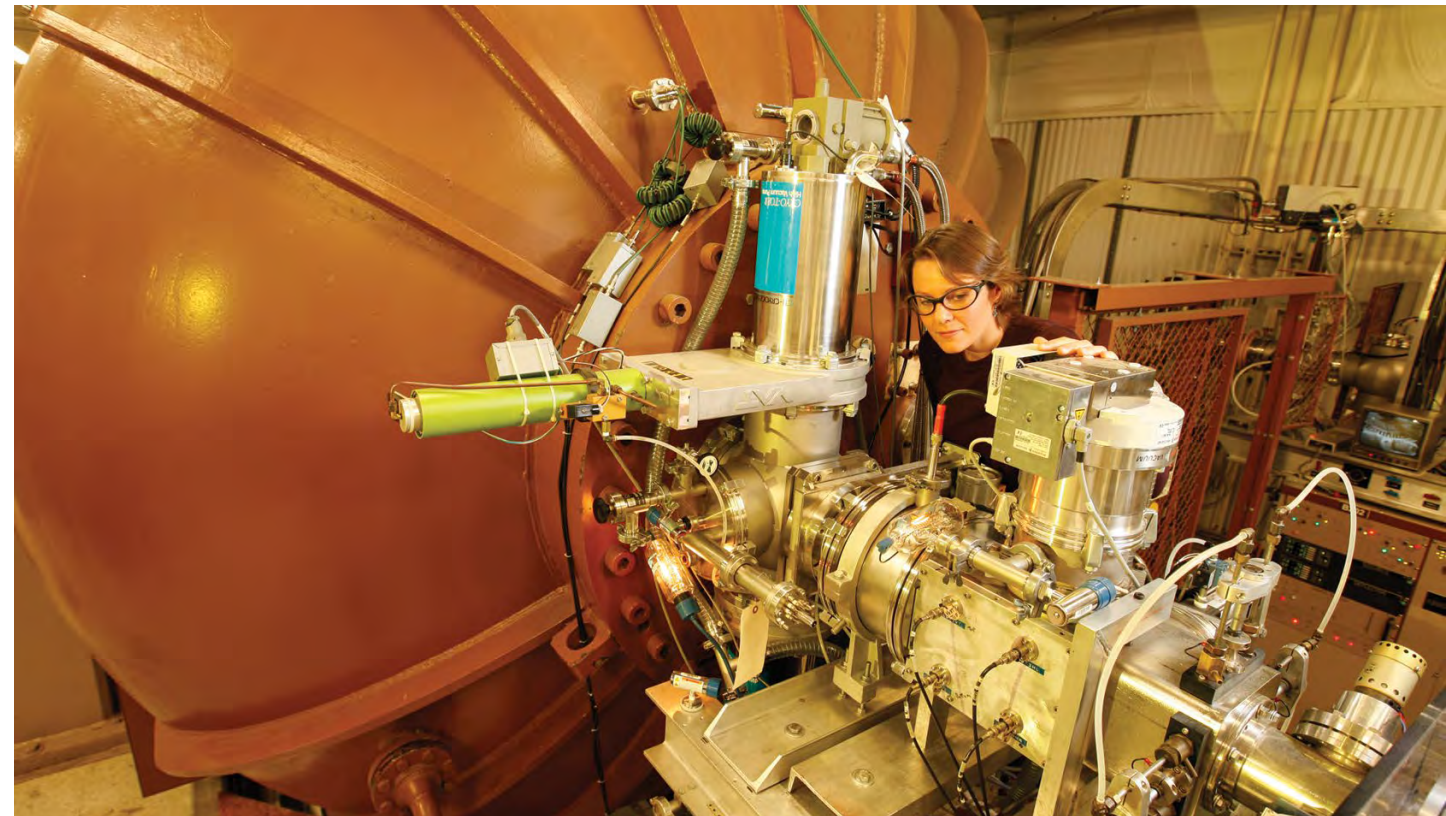
That makes soil a major player in climate change.



Jim Montgomery playfully blows on the barrel of a portable X-ray fluorescence detector after scanning about 30 neighborhood soil samples for lead.

"LEAD IS LIKE THE CABOOSE OF A TRAIN; IT HITCHES A RIDE ON SOIL PARTICLES."

Jim Montgomery, associate professor, environmental science and studies



Earth scientist **Karis McFarlane (CSH '01)** uses an accelerator mass spectrometer to measure radiocarbon in soil, water and air samples, enabling her to track carbon-related climate change.

McFarlane explains that as greenhouse gases increase, the planet gets warmer, which lengthens the growing season. The long season enables more carbon to be fixed in the soil, which offsets some of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

However, higher temperatures also release carbon that has been trapped in cold or wet soils such as permafrost or peatlands. "The carbon that's been sitting in that soil for thousands of years can be released back into the atmosphere, furthering the increase in greenhouse gases and making climate change worse," she says.

Through sustainable management, "we can make choices that impact these positive or negative feedback cycles between the soil

and the atmosphere, including protecting vulnerable places like peatlands or choosing forest and agricultural management practices that protect soil resources," McFarlane says. "As somebody who chose to go to DePaul, doing things that are relevant to society feels really good to me."

DIGGING INTO URBAN SOIL

Unlike the wilderness soils that McFarlane studies, urban soil is a hodgepodge of materials, says Montgomery. It includes native topsoil, additional soil that has been churned up or brought in during construction, and anthropogenic artifacts: human-created materials ranging from old

bricks to ice cream sticks.

The past economic use of an area largely determines what is in the soil, he says. The chemicals found in the soil of industrial cities such as Chicago and Detroit differ significantly from the soil contents in cities low in industrial development, as well as suburban subdivisions built on former farmland. Lead is common in areas with houses built before lead-based paint was taken off the market in 1978.

Montgomery began investigating Chicago soil about six years ago after a student suggested a class project evaluating land near the Lincoln Park Campus. After sampling 30 sites, the students found high lead content near North Avenue and the Chicago River, a former industrial area.

"That got me thinking about how do I continue this project in a way that integrates DePaul's mission?" Montgomery recalls. He's troubled about childhood exposure to lead, which can cause permanent neurological damage.



Julia Lippert saw the need to educate Chicago residents about the level of lead in their soil.



Photo by Tom Evans

By analyzing soil and water samples from low-income neighborhoods, DePaul faculty and students allay fears and empower residents to minimize actual risks.

Low-income communities often are situated on former industrial sites, yet their residents are least able to afford expensive soil analysis. “I decided I would offer free soil testing to whoever wants it and help educate them about what to do about the results.”

Via flyers and word of mouth, Montgomery began recruiting homeowners and renters to provide soil samples. Student lab employees analyzed some of the samples, while others were evaluated by students in Montgomery’s environmental soil science course. Students in that course created the report template

and present the results to the homeowner or renter.

If he can get the funding, Montgomery plans to evaluate soil from all 77 Chicago neighborhoods, as well as expand into the suburbs. More importantly, he wants to teach people how to work with the soil they have. “My mission is not to incite panic, because I don’t think there is anything to be panicked about, but to empower people by educating them about what’s in their soil,” he says.

With the aid of a grant from the Vincentian Endowment Fund, Montgomery partnered with Julia Lippert, a clinical

assistant professor for the Master of Public Health program in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, to begin educating residents in underserved communities about how they can protect their families. Last year, they piloted a soil and water health fair in Chicago’s Austin neighborhood, which has an industrial legacy.

Teens from a neighborhood organization, BUILD Chicago, recruited residents to attend the fair and bring soil and water samples from their homes for analysis. Students from DePaul’s Master of Public Health, environmental science and

environmental studies programs analyzed the samples and explained test results.

“For most of the people, water wasn’t an issue. But, among the soil samples, about 40 percent had elevated levels that we wanted to control,” Lippert says. Students taught community members about free or inexpensive methods to lessen exposure to lead and other chemicals (see page 12, “Easy Ways to Prevent Contamination”). The event was so successful that it is being expanded to six additional locations in 2018, underwritten by DePaul’s academic initiatives fund.



Photo by Tom Evans

Kelly Tzoumis, professor of public policy studies, is partnering with a colleague in Turin, Italy, on a study about how formerly industrial cities reclaim riverbanks along still-polluted rivers.

“WE LET BROWNFIELDS SIT FOR YEARS, DECADES, AND THEY MAY NOT EVEN BE CONTAMINATED.”

Kelly Tzoumis,
professor of public policy studies

THE PRICE OF IGNORANCE

Some project participants are eager to know if there is lead in their soil, but others ask not to be told. Although Illinois law does not require property owners to remediate lead or other contaminants, if they are aware of contamination, they must disclose this fact to prospective buyers. Thus, owners run the risk that buyers may demand a reduced price or simply walk away from the deal.

Kelly Tzoumis, professor of public policy studies in the

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, says there are other problems that stem from contaminated property. Tzoumis studies policy related to “brownfields,” land that is abandoned because of perceived or actual contamination. Rather than take a risk on a parcel of urban property, developers and the banks that fund them prefer to build on former agricultural land, contributing to urban sprawl, long commutes and the loss of farmland.

“It costs so much money to invest in an environmental assessment and to dig around [at urban locations] that it’s

EASY WAYS TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION

Think you might have lead or other chemicals in your soil? Formal remediation can be expensive, but there are a number of inexpensive tactics for protecting your family.

- **Take your shoes off.** By leaving shoes by the door, you don't track dust or soil throughout your home.
- **Wipe those paws.** Keep a towel by the door to wipe pets' feet. This prevents them from tracking potentially contaminated soil into your home as well as ingesting it by cleaning themselves.
- **Keep the dust down.** Lead is often inhaled via dust particles. Dust and damp-mop regularly.
- **Wash hands.** It's especially important for anyone who's been digging in the dirt.
- **Wash toys regularly.** Young children and pets put toys in their mouths.
- **Wash vegetables.** Be sure to wash vegetables, especially the ones that grow underground, very well before eating. You can make your own vegetable wash by adding vinegar to cold water.
- **Cover your nose and mouth.** Prevent dust inhalation by wearing a bandana or face mask if you are gardening or digging in the soil.
- **Put it under the bed.** Create a raised bed for gardening using potting soil or compost. Make a raised sandbox for children using clean sand from a store.
- **Bury it.** Cover high-traffic areas with potting soil or compost. You can make your own fresh dirt by composting leaves, branches and vegetable scraps.



Photo by DePaul University/Jeff Carrion

Chicago Public Schools students inspect vegetables in the DePaul Urban Garden.

just easier for developers to go out to these areas where there is no environmental risk," Tzoumis says. Yet brownfield redevelopment can pay off handsomely. Tzoumis points to Block 37, now a thriving retail complex in Chicago's Loop; Navy Pier, a booming entertainment destination; and her personal favorite, Millennium Park.

"As a child, I remember watching the freight trains there. That was a very ugly part of the city," Tzoumis says. Now the park is "a vibrant outdoor recreational area" that features a concert hall, ice rink, climbing wall, native-plant beds and the popular attraction "Cloud Gate," a.k.a. "The Bean."

A FOOD DESERT OASIS

According to the National Gardening Association, more than a third of all households in America grow food at home or in a community garden, up more than 17 percent since 2008, and community gardening has increased 200

percent. As long as people take measures to protect themselves from contaminated soil, the rising popularity of community gardens is a good trend, says Lippert.

"A lot of issues in Chicago stem from lack of access ... to healthy food," she says. "Community garden programs educate people about nutrition and the importance of good food as well as provide access to fruits and vegetables."

Implementing school garden programs, especially at Chicago Public Schools, is the mission of the nonprofit Gardeneers. "School administrators have told us that the garden at their school is the only fresh, local vegetable option available to them," says **Rosa Fitz (CSH '16)**, a development associate and former educator for Gardeneers.

Gardeneers staff members partner with teachers to introduce students to a variety of vegetables, many of which they may never have seen. Students help decide what will be planted and take home recipes along with the fresh produce. "Students go from not



Photo by Tom Evans

"Our school gardens provide one little piece of this larger puzzle" of providing fresh food in underserved communities, says **Rosa Fitz (CSH '16)** of Gardeneers, which creates raised-bed gardens at Chicago Public Schools.

knowing how a tomato grows to having a favorite type of tomato," she says.

Gardeneers staff work with principals to find a location for the school garden, which may be onsite or on a nearby lot. Parents and community members are recruited to help prepare the ground soil and construct anywhere from a couple to dozens of raised beds that will sit safely on top of it.

"Even after you decide where to put the garden, you can't really grow food in the ground due to high levels of heavy metals and other toxins in the soil, which is a huge issue on the South and West sides of Chicago," Fitz says.

So, the construction team first caps the ground with geotextile landscape fabric that prevents contaminants from seeping upward and roots from stretching downward into the contaminated soil. Then, they cover the ground with wood chips to discourage weeds from taking root and help with moisture retention.

Next, workers build simple box-frame beds and fill them with purchased topsoil. Bare areas between the beds are covered with mulch to prevent potentially contaminated soil from blowing into the beds and protect gardeners. Thorough hand- and vegetable-washing are musts.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Gardeners in urban areas should follow the example set by the Gardeneers, Lippert says. Lead-based paint that has peeled away from older buildings may have contaminated the ground, so gardens should be placed as far from the buildings as possible and planted in raised beds.

Fitz adds that sunflowers belong in urban gardens because they draw lead out of the soil and into their leaves, stems and flowers. She recommends trimming buds before they bloom to protect insects and birds, and disposing of the entire plants in the landfill at the end of the season. In six to

10 years, sunflowers will remove most of the contaminants.

"We want to be there as a resource for the community to educate people about what's in their environment, to alleviate some of the fears and to teach them what they can control," Lippert says.



Do you want to learn what's in your soil? To request a free soil analysis from DePaul's Department of Environmental Science and Studies, go to depaulmagazine.com.

Baylee Ritter:

OCEANS TO CROSS

Communication student from the rural Midwest applies her passion for advocacy to protect oceans and the environment

By Jacob Sabolo (LAS '12)

Photo by Tom Evans

Every year when Baylee Ritter was a kid, her father, a high school environmental teacher in Pontiac, Ill., would take a group of students to Chicago's Shedd Aquarium to participate in learning labs with Shedd's scientists. And every year, Ritter begged her dad to let her tag along. He always refused—until she was in the fourth grade. “He called my teacher and told her I was sick, and that I couldn't come into school that day. I totally played hooky,” she laughs. “I was super excited that I didn't have to go to school, but I was more excited to find out what we'd be doing at the Shedd.”

Much to Ritter's delight and her father's students' dismay, they were asked to dissect a squid. “All of these big high schoolers were like, ‘Ew, gross. There's no way I'm touching this squid, and there's no way I'm going to cut it open.’ Then there was me, a fourth grader, who was like, ‘YES! Not only do I get to skip school, I get to do this.’” The learning lab, called Exploring Pathology: Fish Dissection, allowed students to analyze microbiomes—bacteria, viruses and fungi—in controlled aquarium ecosystems.

Ritter, who admits that she might not have comprehended the entire purpose of the lab, was blown away by the aquarium's scientific efforts to conserve the world's oceans and animal life. She would later realize that the day at the Shedd was one of the most influential days of her life because she fully grasped the importance of ocean ecosystems and species, as well as the need to protect the ocean. It also made her recognize that women have a place in science and conservation. “As a young girl, it was one of those moments where I got to see women in [science, technology, engineering and math] fields. I got to meet women researchers and look up to people that I might never have known existed,” recalls Ritter.

After they left the aquarium, her father asked her what she thought of the experience. She replied, “I think I've decided on my career.”

“Oh, really? Please tell me,” her father said.

“As a young girl, it was one of those moments where I got to see women in [science, technology, engineering and math] fields. I got to meet women researchers and look up to people that I might never have known existed.”

“I'm going to be a microbiome researcher.”
“Do you know what that is?”
“No, but it sounds cool.”

Microbiome research was never really in the cards for Ritter, but throughout her youth, her passion and urgency to advocate for the environment and oceans never wavered. She worked with the United Nations (U.N.), SeaWorld and Busch Gardens, and eventually made her way to DePaul, where she is currently studying public relations (PR) and advertising, communication and media, and environmental communication. In fact, it was at DePaul where she came full circle and landed an internship at the Shedd Aquarium. But long before she built up her impressive resume and became an accomplished advocate, Ritter was already doing remarkable things for the world at age 11.

It all began when she and her father launched an environmental nonprofit in 2007. The Prescription, Pill and Drug Disposal Program (P2D2) aimed to create recycling boxes for expired or unwanted medications. They came up with the idea for P2D2 after Ritter's grandmother passed away. Ritter's parents, who had been her grandmother's primary caretakers, had no idea what to do with her medications. While most people simply flush them down the toilet, Ritter's father knew that when flushed, medications enter our water supply. “We started doing all of this research, and we found that people ingest painkillers, ibuprofen and any medicines that people flush down the toilet. We all ingest it and get the effects of it,” explains Ritter.

Discarding medications into the trash was no better than flushing them down the toilet. “Pontiac is home to one of the largest landfills in the United States because we get about 5,000 tons of trash from Chicago and surrounding areas every day. Once medication is thrown away, it goes to the landfill. When it's in the landfill, it will eventually break

down and go into our soil,” she says. “Either way, it’s going back into our earth, back into our homes.” After this discovery, Ritter felt more empowered to take action. “We knew we had to do something.”

They launched P2D2 with the help of local police stations and pharmacies. People could drop off their unwanted medications in a converted mailbox, and a local energy company would pick them up for incineration. The program quickly gained traction. Ritter remembers an instance when a woman dropped off a garbage bag full of medicine for Ritter to dispose of, and the woman broke down crying. “She said, ‘I’ve had four people break into my house since my husband died. I’ve been so afraid to live alone because I’ve had these painkillers in my house. I’ve never been more scared in my life. But now these things are gone, and I don’t have to worry anymore,’” recalls Ritter.

Since P2D2’s founding, the medicine-recycling program has grown not just in Illinois, but also throughout the country. Recycling boxes can be found in major stores with pharmacies. The program became so popular that the U.N.’s Environment Program named it the number one student-run sustainable environmental program in the United States. In 2012, the U.N. asked Ritter and four other students who helped with the program to represent the United States at the Volvo Adventure Competition in Sweden, where they contended for best environmental program in the world.

For Ritter, who was a freshman in high school, the experience was surreal. She met students from all over the world who were taking action to protect the environment in their communities. “I was in awe of these people who were my age. For the first time, I was so completely aware of how small the world actually is and the problems people I didn’t even know were facing.”

Ritter and her team met with several advisors who coached them on how to present her project and pitch it to representatives of the U.N. council.

“There’s always a story to tell. If you’re on the right side of telling that story, you’re going to make a difference no matter what.”

“They were teaching us how to sell our story, and honestly, that’s why I fell in love with PR. There’s always a story to tell. If you’re on the right side of telling that story, you’re going to make a difference no matter what,” says Ritter.

They ended up placing third for best program in the world.

Ritter’s experience with the U.N. fueled her desire to get people involved with the environment. Throughout high school, she worked with the U.N. and spoke to youth in Kenya and Turkey about large and small ways to get involved. Ritter gained inspiration from those students and continues to look to them for inspiration. “I have to remember that they’re out there somewhere,” she reflects. “I always think about that and try to realize that there’s someone else out there right now who’s charging forward, who still has that fire and has not lost hope. I shouldn’t either.”

While Ritter was working with the U.N., she still managed to stay engaged with her community by turning her attention to saving endangered species. When she was a sophomore, Ritter, her father and fellow students at Pontiac Township High School started the Operation Endangered Species program and decided to save the alligator snapping turtle. For many years, people had hunted the turtle nearly to extinction in Illinois.

Ritter and the team wanted to partner with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to bring some of the last remaining alligator snapping turtles into the classroom to breed and release the young back into the wild. But they needed funding. After writing a curriculum and guides for turtle care, they approached state legislators for funding, but their proposal was turned down.

Devastated, Ritter searched for other sources of funding and discovered that the State Farm Insurance Youth Advisory Council supported



1.



2.



4.

1. Young Ritter dissecting a squid at the Shedd Aquarium 2. Ritter and classmates releasing baby alligator snapping turtles into the wild 3. Ritter at the U.N. General Assembly in 2017 4. Ritter with musician Jack Johnson at a World Oceans Day event 5. Ritter filming the documentary “Sea Youth Rise Up” in New York City for World Oceans Day 2016



3.



5.



Photo by Tom Evans

school programs like Ritter's. The council awarded Operation Endangered Species \$100,000, and after running the program for three years, students at Ritter's school released 100 turtles back into the wild. She also joined State Farm's Youth Advisory Council as the environmental chair, representing the Midwest.

During her junior and senior years of high school, Ritter volunteered with Florida's SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Youth Advisory Council, where she delved into ocean conservation advocacy. She worked on a project to raise public awareness of the vaquita—a small and extremely endangered porpoise. She also collaborated with executives at the parks in the wake of "Blackfish," a documentary released in 2013 that exposed the harsh treatment of orcas in amusement parks, specifically at SeaWorld.

"I was basically advocating for the whales by saying, 'This is what we want to see as 17-year-olds from Illinois. When we come to your parks, this is

"People get so bogged down and feel like they can't really do things when they can. My message on the council was, 'We can do it. We can do tiny things to make a difference.'"

what we want now in this day and age, not what our parents wanted 30 years ago. This is how you need to change," she asserts.

In 2014, shortly before Ritter started her freshman year at DePaul, Bill Mott, director of the Ocean Project, approached her about applying to the World Oceans Day Youth Advisory Council. World Oceans Day, sponsored by the U.N., is an international celebration of the ocean when "people like you and me who live in Illinois ... take time to think about how we can make a difference for oceans that are many miles away," explains Ritter. "I fell in love with that idea."

She continues, "The problem we have facing the environment is that people don't think that they have any agency with certain issues. People living in landlocked states don't think that they have an impact on the Pacific Ocean, for example, which is

thousands of miles away. ... People get so bogged down and feel like they can't really do things when they can. My message on the council was, 'We can do it. We can do tiny things to make a difference, and everyone should be doing them.'"

In her first year on the World Oceans Day Youth Advisory Council, Ritter was able to share her message about ocean conservation at the U.N. headquarters in New York City. In 2016, the World Oceans Day Youth Advisory Council traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with the White House Environmental Council. "The big thing I wanted to talk about was how we need to encourage advocacy for ocean cleanup and promote the ocean in our rural communities in Illinois and Ohio, where our rivers are directly depositing tons of debris, tons of plastic, into the ocean," says Ritter. "How can we get more literacy out there to these communities on plastics solutions? How can we get communities recycling bins?"

"The World Oceans Day Youth Advisory Council commended them for what they were doing and what President Obama had done in his years in office, but we wanted to ask, 'How can we keep moving forward into whatever new era of diplomacy that would come with the [2016 presidential election]?'"

Ritter also spoke to thousands of people at last September's U.N. General Assembly in New York City. While there were several delegates and high-ranking officials in the room, there were also people from every walk of life. Sitting next to her was a fisherman from Washington state whose tuna farm was being severely damaged by polluted water, and a group from Palau, an island country in the Pacific Ocean, whose income and lives depend on the state of the ocean. Also in the room were owners and representatives from plastics corporations.

"I wanted to convey that people from anywhere and people my age have just as much agency as the people sitting on the stage at the U.N., the delegates and the people who are actually making

"One of the most fulfilling things in my life is knowing that I'm making a difference for people who are just like me. No matter if it's an environmental issue or something else, I want their voices to be heard."

critical decisions," says Ritter. "We have just as much agency as the people who are directly affected by the ocean, who live and breathe the ocean. Coming from the most obscure background, a farm girl who has only seen the ocean on vacation, who doesn't really know what it's like to depend on any body of water, who lives in a city, I wanted to say, 'Yes, I still have a choice to make every single day about how my actions are going to impact our oceans and environment.'"

She also wanted to empower people to start making decisions about protecting the environment. "I really wanted for them to realize that our words and actions are destroying places that we might never have seen." Ritter adamantly believes that if people take small steps to protect the environment, change will happen. "Just make simple changes to your lifestyle. Don't use plastic straws, because they don't degrade. Don't use plastic bags. Make sure you're recycling. I hope that people took that to heart and were able to go back home and make some positive changes."

According to Ritter, her experience with World Oceans Day and advocating for the environment and ocean has provided her with a sense of purpose and drive. She hopes to use her degree from DePaul to continue to tell stories that make a difference in the world. "It's all about being heard. Not in the sense that Baylee Ritter is being heard, but me representing people from all walks of life—not the people who are making the decisions, but the people who are being impacted by those decisions," she says.

"One of the most fulfilling things in my life is knowing that I'm making a difference for people who are just like me. No matter if it's an environmental issue or something else, I want their voices to be heard. To be the voice for so many people who aren't given the platform to do so will always be the most rewarding feeling, to know that I'm using it for someone and something greater than myself."

A WAVE FROM EINSTEIN

A new discovery in astrophysics opens a window into the way science advances

By Marilyn Ferdinand

On Sept. 14, 2015, a very exciting discovery in astrophysics was made. Scientists at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) in Livingston, La., and Hanford, Wash., detected gravitational waves—ripples in space-time—produced some 1.3 billion years ago by the merger of two black holes into one massive black hole. Fittingly, the discovery occurred on the 100th anniversary of the publication of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity, which predicted the existence of these waves.

Since that first discovery, the LIGO Scientific Collaboration and the Virgo Collaboration, which together represent international working groups of more than 1,300 scientists, have detected three more events that have produced these waves, including the collision of two neutron stars. Their success has launched the new field of gravitational wave astronomy. It also provides a unique window into the way science advances.

THE EVOLUTION OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

Although the results of scientific advances are all around us—the cars we drive, the cellphones we use, even the foods we eat—many of us left the pursuit of scientific knowledge behind us after we completed our schooling and may no longer know or care about how our modern world continues to evolve. The world of the scientist may seem mysterious, even suspect.

“I don't think people understand how self-critical scientists can be,” says Mark Potosnak, associate professor of environmental science and studies. “Scientists are very constrained by data and observations. When they jump ‘outside the box,’ they're hopping out just a little bit, maybe rebuilding the box a little bit further.”

Indeed, the sciences consist of bodies of knowledge that may extend back many hundreds of years and that have undergone repeated revision. “It's very easy for us to focus on one individual or one figure,” says Anuj Sarma, associate professor of physics, speaking about the popular image of a lone scientist achieving a “Eureka!” moment. “Very few people, in my experience, are inclined to focus on entire communities of scientists that are working together to advance a common goal.” The discovery of gravitational waves is an example of knowledge building on knowledge, how various pieces of a puzzle emerge and come together.

Through the centuries, what astronomers have known about the universe has come in the form of electromagnetic waves, primarily optically visible light. In the 20th century, technological innovations added other wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation to the astronomer's toolbox, including radio, infrared, ultraviolet and X-ray.

In his general relativity theory, Einstein introduced the idea that gravitational waves exist. He theorized that the presence of matter curves and distorts space-time. Very high-mass objects like black holes and neutron stars orbiting each other would produce such violent distortions that ripples in the fabric of space-time would spread outward much like waves radiating from a stone thrown into a lake. These waves would carry information not only about their violent origins, but also about the nature of gravity itself. The waves, however, are tiny and very difficult to detect. These gravitational waves predicted by Einstein represent an entirely new and independent window into the universe, and scientists and engineers worked decades to build an instrument capable of perceiving them.

Because black holes do not generate electromagnetic radiation, no traditional astronomical tool can

independently confirm and study black hole mergers. More exciting, therefore, was the additional discovery on Aug. 17, 2017, of gravitational waves coming from the merger of two neutron stars. Since such mergers of neutron stars are less massive than those of black holes, both gravitational waves and electromagnetic radiation across a spectrum of wavelengths should be produced when they merge. Observation proved this to be true.

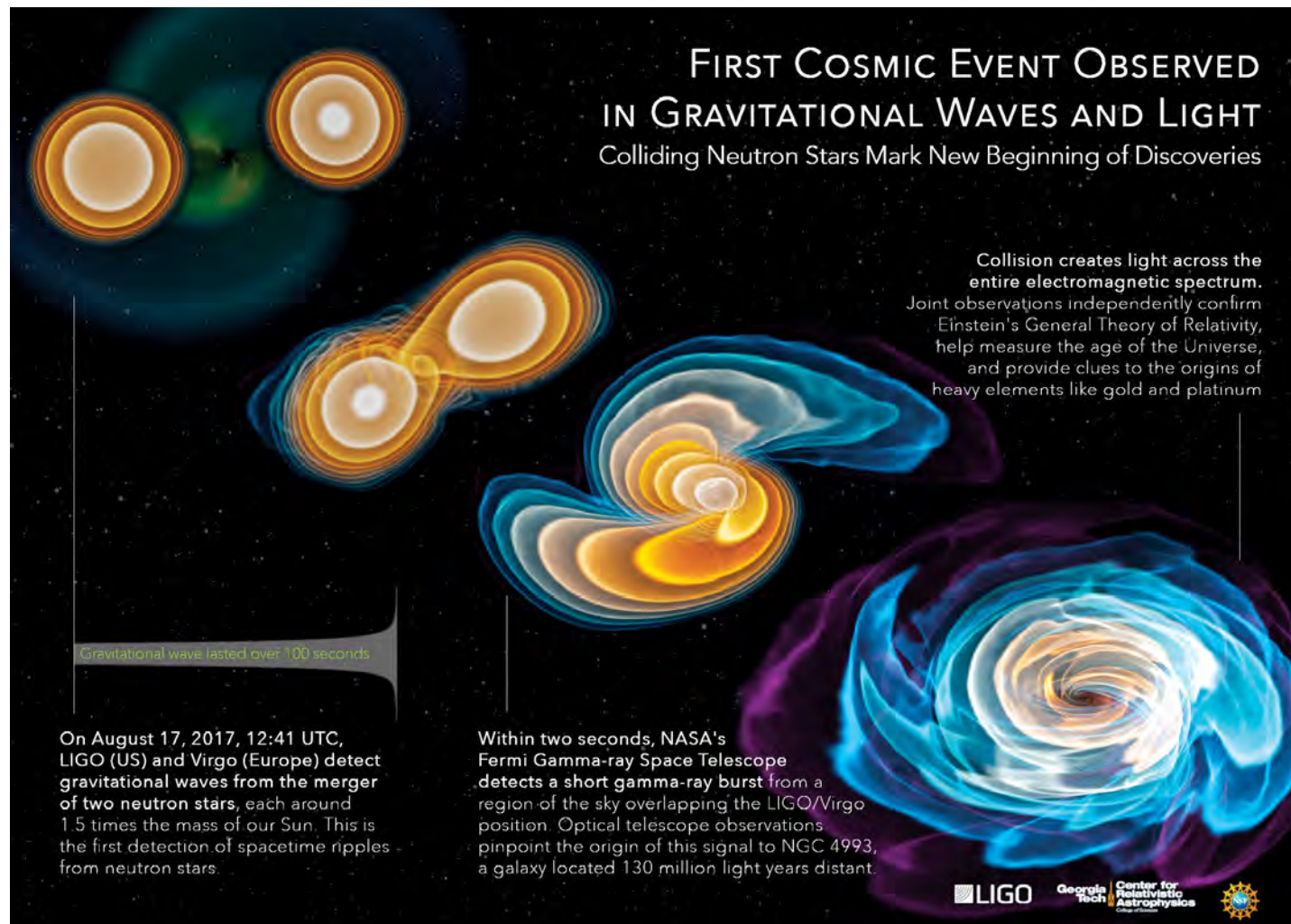
“There were three observatories that were able to pick up the gravitational wave detection, but also there was a so-called gamma-ray burst, a GRB, which is an electromagnetic wave,” says Sarma. “This is now the important part—there is a simultaneous observation, gravitational and electromagnetic.”

Several major observatories in the world—optical, X-ray, radio, gamma-ray—are part of a coordinated system designed to maximize the number of instruments focused on any unusual event in the sky, in particular, to determine the direction of the event and localize it to as narrow a segment of the sky as possible. “The system was in place to move really quickly. When they got the information about this neutron star detection and the fact that there was a GRB, everything zeroed in on this location, and they were able to get simultaneous detection. They have been studying it ever since,” Sarma enthuses.

“Understanding uncertainty doesn't mean that it's all false, just that very rarely are we 100 percent certain about something.”

Mark Potosnak, associate professor of environmental science and studies

Sarma looks at the observed proof of gravitational waves as a classic example of the collaborative nature of scientific discovery. “Einstein, of course, predicted them, but even he was not very confident that they would be able to be detected. It's a tribute to all the people who worked in that field that they had the confidence to build these observatories and actually search for gravitational waves.”



Karan Jani/Georgia Tech

SCIENCE AS A WAY OF KNOWING

This achievement in astrophysics is inspiring and offers the public a chance to understand how science really works. This understanding is particularly important as skepticism about the value of science and its conclusions has gained momentum in the past few decades. Thus, educators have begun to develop courses that teach science as a way of knowing (SWK).

Unlike specific problem-solving in fields such as biology, physics and chemistry, SWK is the study of science as an intellectual and social endeavor. The first SWK-designated courses in the liberal studies program that all DePaul undergraduate students are required to take debuted during the fall 2015 quarter. The SWK courses and labs cross disciplines, from physics and environmental science to education and digital cinema.

Sitting on the committee that oversees SWK learning outcomes is Maggie Workman, instructor/laboratorian in environmental science and studies and STEM studies.

She says, “You would think that doing a lab course would allow students to see how science is done and the nature of science, but it really doesn’t, especially because a lot of labs are what we call ‘cookbook labs’ where students follow instructions. A lot of research is showing that you need to teach explicitly the process of science. It’s not about ‘What’s the structure of a cell?’ It’s about ‘How do we know what the structure of a cell looks like? How do we know how the cell works?’”

What Potosnak, who chairs the committee that oversees SWK learning outcomes, and his colleagues hope to instill in students is the scientific worldview and the nature and process of science. “We start with the basics—predictions and theories and hypotheses. But it’s placed more in context so students will be able to evaluate the role of creativity.”

Sarma says, “In that sense, you’re almost like an artist. You play an instrument for the joy of playing

the instrument. Here the effort is to also highlight all the different ways in which these ideas come up.” For example, one scientist may talk to another about an idea that is not panning out, and that conversation could spark a new line of thought that leads them to a breakthrough.

Workman adds that putting scientific processes in context can help students understand that it can take many years for a theory to become accepted. She gives the example of German polar researcher, geophysicist and meteorologist Alfred Wegener’s theory of plate tectonics, which states that continents slowly drift around the face of the earth, and discusses how it took years and the accumulation of new data for the scientific community to accept the idea. She says students told her, “We missed that whole background of the process becoming accepted.” So I know they really appreciated that process a lot more.”

“Another big outcome would be that students can recognize uncertainty,” says Potosnak. “Some of the attack on science to me reflects the fact that we haven’t done a good job of teaching how science really works and what science can and cannot tell us about things. Understanding uncertainty doesn’t mean that it’s all false, just that very rarely are we 100 percent certain about something.”

Science also is influenced by the social environment in which it is done. Sarma plans to introduce the discovery of gravitational waves into his SWK course Einstein’s Peculiar Ideas. “The course now involves not just the facts about Einstein’s discoveries, but also thinking about all these different things that Einstein did and connecting them to personal events in his life. We learn not just the facts of science, but also the process and environment in which science is done,” Sarma says.

SCIENCE AS HUMAN ENDEAVOR

Potosnak sees SWK as particularly relevant in helping people excel on the job, no matter what field they are in. “From a plain old job skills point of view, I think this rich understanding of science is important. You can put business students into a science class because we want well-rounded people and have them learn about

Photo by DePaul University/Joel Dik



Environmental Science and Studies faculty Mark Potosnak and Maggie Workman teach science as a way of knowing (SWK) as a new component of DePaul’s liberal studies program.

atoms, electrons and molecules. They walk away with a little content.

“But in their job, someone’s asking about enzymes, and they think, ‘Oh, I know about electrons, but not enzymes,’ and are kind of at a loss,” he continues. “If you learn the process of science and really have a rich appreciation for the process, then you’re still not going to know what an enzyme is, but you might be able to better evaluate how to start, who to ask.”

“I think the story of science is a story of human endeavor. Sometimes you fail, sometimes you win,” Sarma says. “I hope that at the end [of my course], students are taking this with them, not just a grade. Hopefully, this will broaden their horizons. Hopefully, they will learn to see this as yet another human endeavor, where you go off in different directions. You will see many different things along the way.”

Sunshine State of Mind



WGN-TV weathercaster
Paul Konrad (THE '87)

By Kelsey Schagemann
Photos by Tom Evans

On the front porch of a house in Montgomery, Ala., a mother grieves. Her sobs carry across the yard, where police and paramedics stand around a sheet-covered figure prone on the ground. A man with a camera slung around his neck approaches the media liaison for the police department. They talk; the man takes notes. Gunshot victim. Sixteen years of age. Then he steps away.

"I got the interview," he says over his two-way radio. "I'm coming back to the office."

"Did you get the mother?"

"No, I didn't," he acknowledges. "She's really torn up."

"I just saw her on Channel 12," the voice on the other end responds. "So you need to get the interview."

The man protests, saying he doesn't feel comfortable peppering her with questions right now. His boss, the news director of the TV station, isn't interested in the woman's pain, much less his employee's take on the situation. "Fine then. You can just turn in your gear when you get back to the station."

Faced with this ultimatum, the rookie reporter acquiesces. He climbs the steps. He offers his condolences. He asks whether the mother saw anything that might help authorities find the person who took her son's life. In short, he does his job.

The job of a news photographer and reporter, it was becoming clear, was not the right career path for **Paul Konrad (THE '87)**. Too often, his assignments sent him to sites of

tragedy and destruction, freak accidents and fortuneless families. "I don't mean to diminish the nobility or necessity of the industry," he's quick to say. "It just wasn't for me."

The distraught mother in Montgomery shook him to his core. That very night, Konrad met up with his best friend from the TV station to talk about the experience. His friend happened to be a weathercaster; he not only was sympathetic to Konrad's plight but also correctly forecasted Konrad's next move. A simple question—"You ever think about getting into weather?"—changed Konrad's life.

For more than two decades now, Konrad has been the voice and face of morning weather on WGN-TV. A quip from Ralph Kiner, the late baseball announcer, sums up this challenge rather well: "You know what they say about Chicago. If you don't like the weather, wait 15 minutes."

Impending snowstorms, heat advisories, torrential downpours, record highs and lows—Konrad has reported on all of it. Regular viewers who tune in between 6 and 10 a.m. each weekday know they can expect Konrad's sonorous, booming voice and a rapid-fire, perfectly enunciated delivery that relays the forecast in five or 15 seconds flat: "Rain likely this afternoon, things begin to improve here for Thursday, we'll see some sunshine, we'll see a daytime high of 60, things will warm up as we move toward the weekend, temperatures will climb back into the mid to upper 60s. That's the forecast."

"I think people appreciate that we're willing to say, 'Look, people make mistakes; we make mistakes, too.'"

Paul Konrad (THE '87)

Even Konrad's longer weather segments of three or four minutes follow a similar auditory rhythm. Efficiency is key. By the time Konrad whips through his final monologue of the day, he's delivered roughly the same forecast 24 times already. "I'm like a bicycle messenger who knows where to go," he offers by way of comparison.

Konrad's natural ease in front of the camera stretches back farther than WGN, farther than Alabama, farther than his graduate degree in radio, television and film from Northwestern University and his theatre degree from DePaul. It goes all the way back to a little something called the Konrad Family Singers.

At age three, Konrad, bundled into lederhosen, made his performance debut in a scene reminiscent of the gaily singing von Trapp family from "The Sound of Music." Like the von Trapps, Konrad's grandfather hailed from Austria, and he passed down folk tunes of that country to his son, who taught them to his seven children and formed a band.

"It grew into a big thing," Konrad says a bit sheepishly. The Konrad Family Singers traveled throughout the Midwest performing at summer festivals, Oktoberfests and churches. They were booking 75–100 events annually. "When I look at what my parents did, there's a part of me that's stunned they were able to get all of us into the car wearing the same clothes," Konrad laughs. "But they were proud of our family, and this side business helped us make ends meet."

Whether playing the concertina, shaking the tambourine or chiming the triangle, Konrad quickly grew comfortable onstage. "If you stood in front of people wearing lederhosen as long as I did, you could stand in front of the cameras and do the weather, too," he says with a chuckle. Konrad appreciates the relationships he developed with his three brothers and three sisters during those years, and he's certainly grateful for the opportunities the extra income afforded, but there did come a point when he wanted to call it quits.

"I was a freshman at DePaul, and my dad said we had a gig at the Drake Hotel," Konrad remembers. His brothers had already declined to participate, so Konrad reluctantly agreed to perform. The costume went on, and he joined his parents and sisters to sing for the high-tea audience. "And there in the crowd

is Sharon Stone," Konrad says. "I felt like the biggest idiot on the planet!"

Though he retired that role, he picked up other jobs that were arguably worse. For three consecutive years, he was the "business end" of a reindeer for Breakfast with Santa events at Carson's State Street store. It wasn't exactly a plum role for someone enrolled at The Theatre School, but then again, those odd jobs, plus loans and internships, put him through college. "In my family, you were on your own at 18," he remembers. "When I got accepted to DePaul, it was such a big deal."



Konrad, nine years into his tenure as WGN-TV weathercaster

He suspects his father didn't always understand this decision. "I'm taking tap dancing, sword fighting—all this random stuff," Konrad laughs. "But those years were really important for me." After growing up in a full house in the Chicago suburb of Naperville, Konrad was eager to strike out on his own in the city. He lived in Wrigleyville "before it was a desirable area" and rode his bike to class every day. In short order, Konrad found that DePaul's work ethic matched his own values. "DePaul is a very salt-of-the-earth university," he says. "It's not a flaky place."

Through the acting program, Konrad gained formative skills in performance, which proved helpful while he was studying

television news during graduate school at Northwestern. Soon thereafter, he ended up at the station in Alabama where his friend asked that fateful question about weathercasting.

This friend gave Konrad a crash course in the art and science of forecasting the weather, and Konrad also enrolled in meteorology classes at Auburn and Mississippi State universities. When a weekend weathercaster position opened up at the station, Konrad was hired.

"It was the perfect opportunity," Konrad says, "and I was painfully bad." He couldn't control his breathing. He didn't know when to swallow. He felt like he might pass out—maybe because he wasn't taking in enough air. "People from rural Alabama were calling, saying, 'This Yankee sucks, send him back North,'" Konrad remembers. He jokes about it now, but it wasn't funny at the time. If you can't talk in a clear and steady manner while also conveying a great deal of information in a brief amount of time, weathercasting might not be in your future. On the other hand, Konrad is grateful that he made those mistakes in front of a relatively small audience.

Konrad was eventually promoted to chief forecaster at the station, but he wanted to return to the Midwest. In 1992, he accepted a position with newly launched CLTV, a 24-hour news channel in Chicago. "I was doing around 27 weather hits each morning," Konrad says. "So I wound up getting about five years of experience in one year." From there, Konrad went to Tampa, Fla., for two years to try out a different market. His dad's illness drew Konrad home again in August 1996. At that point, the WGN morning show was only a few years old and still in a bit of an experimental phase. "When I think about those early episodes, I honestly wonder if anyone was watching," Konrad says, noting that the ratings weren't great. "But the station stuck with the show and gave it time to grow as we figured out what worked."

Twenty-two years later, there's no doubt that people are watching. WGN Morning News consistently ranks in the top spot in terms of viewers, especially those ages 25–54, who have made it the No. 1 spot in the 6–9 a.m. time block for the past six years—no small feat in the country's third-largest market. WGN Morning News has been called "highly entertaining,"

"the most creative and engaging television news program in Chicago" and "the highest-rated morning show that nobody f#@king likes." That latter comment, which came from the show's own 2014 promo, crystallizes much of the show's appeal. The morning news team has no problem making fun of themselves on a daily, hourly and, sometimes, minute-by-minute basis. "It's hard enough to wake up in the morning and hear more bad news," Konrad muses. "When we have the opportunity to have some fun and make people smile, we seize it."

The three stooges of the show are Konrad and co-anchors Robin Baumgarten and Larry Potash. After so many years working together, their chemistry is electric. "Our onscreen relationships are authentic," Konrad explains. "They're these special relationships that probably aren't unique in and of themselves, but what *is* unique is that they play out live in front of people and they've been going on for as long as they have."

Konrad frequently joins Baumgarten and Potash at the anchor desk to riff on everything from baseball names of yore ("Cannonball Titcomb, Stubby Clapp") to roller-coaster loops ("the enema maneuver") to Konrad's ubiquitous bottles of water ("maybe it's not water in there"). The anchors are often reduced to tears of laughter; after a particularly hilarious moment, they sometimes struggle to read the teleprompter without collapsing again into giggles. Above all else, it's genuine.

An on-air mistake in 2010 underscores this point. The team was covering the planned destruction of an old bridge southwest of Joliet, Ill. "This is live TV, Larry," Baumgarten says in a voiceover of the still-standing bridge. "This could be exciting. I don't think we've ever had a live implosion on our show."

The anchors continue to chitchat over the image for five minutes before cutting to Konrad, who says, "While we're stalling, go ahead and show them the picture, but today as we get going, we're having temperatures in the 30s—" Suddenly, the live feed is back, and of course, the remains of the bridge are already in the water. All three anchors scream, "Are you kidding me?"

"[It's] another metaphor for our show, another crash and burn," Baumgarten says, still in shock. "We stay live for three minutes and

we cut away for five seconds and it happens."

"I did look pretty good in that shot, though, if I may say so," Konrad jokes.

Looking back on it now, Konrad says it's a prime example of how the team never takes themselves too seriously. "Yes, we screwed that up," he admits. "But I think people appreciate that we're willing to say, 'Look, people make mistakes; we make mistakes, too.'"

"We've kinda specialized in having things go wrong and just staying with it and forging ahead," he continues. "To me, those raw, unplanned moments are as interesting as anything else out there."

All that said, Konrad doesn't mess around when it comes to the weather forecast. "In this market, especially, you really have to respect and honor the weather," he notes. "People are depending on us to provide accurate information."

Konrad's day begins around 3:15 a.m. He spends some time at home looking at the weather reports before continuing the process at work, discussing each model with his producer, analyzing the models and making changes to the graphics. Since the station doesn't have windows in the studio or offices, Konrad also likes to poke his head outside at least once during the show to confirm his local forecast still looks accurate.

It's easy to malign the weathercaster, of course. "I think people in Chicago believe we're wrong 75 percent of the time—and

yet we still get paid," Konrad says. Konrad's forecasting average is far better than that, and it truly pains him when the weather doesn't turn out as he predicted. The reality is that while the technological models have vastly improved during his time as a weathercaster, there's still a great deal of human analysis involved.

He points to one model that indicates rain beginning at 3 p.m. Another model predicts rain starting around 11 a.m. the next day. A third shows the bulk of the rain hitting Chicago the next day but not until the afternoon. "I can flip through five or six different models, and they'll all show different things," Konrad explains. "I might look at 10 or 11 of them to figure out which one has been the most reliable lately."

Forecasting a high of 70 degrees when the high turns out to be 73 doesn't typically bother people. But if a weathercaster predicts 5 inches of snow and only half an inch arrives, people get angry. "Chicago residents have this unique relationship with snowstorms where we kinda want them, but after a while, we don't want them anymore," Konrad muses. "There's a lot of anticipation, especially around that first snow, and with that comes stress for me because I don't want to screw it up."

The reality is that it's impossible to be accurate 100 percent of the time. With complex weather systems, a wind shift of only five miles can make a huge difference in a weathercaster's accuracy. Still, Konrad knows he provides a valuable service, despite the

“Chicago residents have this unique relationship with snowstorms where we kinda want them, but after a while, we don’t want them anymore.”

Paul Konrad (THE '87)



proliferation of weather apps and radar data now available on cellphones. “At some point, you need a human to get more involved,” he says. “Maybe that’s only 20 to 30 percent of the time, but that still makes us relevant.”

Technological changes have affected Konrad’s career in other ways as well. He is very active on social media, often posting several times an hour on Facebook and Twitter. On a normal week, he reaches 5 million people through his social media presence. The station encourages this proliferation of content by disseminating a daily report containing each anchor’s social media score. Konrad is almost always in the top five for audience engagement.

“My goal is to score well every day,” he says. “But it can get complicated when I’m in a movie theatre or having lunch with my wife, and suddenly I need to start tweeting about a severe thunderstorm warning.” Konrad leaves the station around mid-morning, but that doesn’t mean his job is done for the day. Nor does he primarily post weather-related updates—his feeds are an amalgamation of quirky news, local interest, feel-good stories and humor. For example, he’s not above photoshopping his head onto the body of a man in a suit coat, dress shoes and very short shorts.

The authenticity that makes the show come alive each day translates to Konrad’s

social media presence as well. “People want to connect,” Konrad says. “Facebook, especially, is relationship-driven. You want to feel like you’re privy to something that no one else gets to see.”

If you want to see Konrad light up, ask him about his family. “My kids are a huge priority in my life,” he says. “One of the best parts about this job is that I could be home with them when they were little.” Now all four children are in school during the day, but Konrad still appreciates the flexibility of his schedule. He can help with homework, watch their athletic games and attend their events. “I feel like I get more hours out of the day since I start so early,” he explains. “It’s not lost on me what a privilege that is.”

The second half of his day begins around 11 a.m. and lasts until 10:30 p.m. With the children at school, he can spend time with his wife, Kirsten, a former WGN-TV producer Konrad met at the station. “It’s helpful because she understands the complexities of my work, and she also helps me be more respectful of the challenges producers face,” Konrad notes.

She also knows firsthand how draining it can be to start your day at 3 a.m. Konrad’s manic energy on set is sometimes a cover. “Even if you try to take a nap in the middle of the day, you’re physically exhausted all the time,” he says.

Nonetheless, he rallies the energy to become Coach Konrad in the evening hours. Three of his children play baseball, and he coaches all three of their teams. “We have over 100 games between April 15 and July 31,” he says. “So I’m definitely personally attuned to how weather impacts people’s lives.” It’s a bit of a joke now—when the other parents see Konrad start to pack up his gear, they know the threat of rain is real.

Konrad has won nine Chicago/Midwest Emmy Awards during his tenure on WGN-TV, but to his kids, he’s just Dad. “They keep me humble,” he says. “My son just texted me: ‘Can you please wash my cleats today? Have Mom bring them when she comes to school.’” He shakes his head, laughing. “My title in our house is Chief Cleats Cleaner. They couldn’t care less that I’m on TV.”

After all, their dad has been forecasting the weather, ribbing his co-workers and pulling stunts on air for as long as they can remember. Konrad, however, can’t always believe it. “When I showed up, I was thinking I’ll try to sign a two-year deal,” he says. “It’s so bizarre to me to think I’ve been on this job for 22 years; it wound up truly matching who I am.”

Follow Paul Konrad on Twitter @PaulKonrad, on Facebook @WGNpaulkonrad and on Instagram @wgnkonrad.

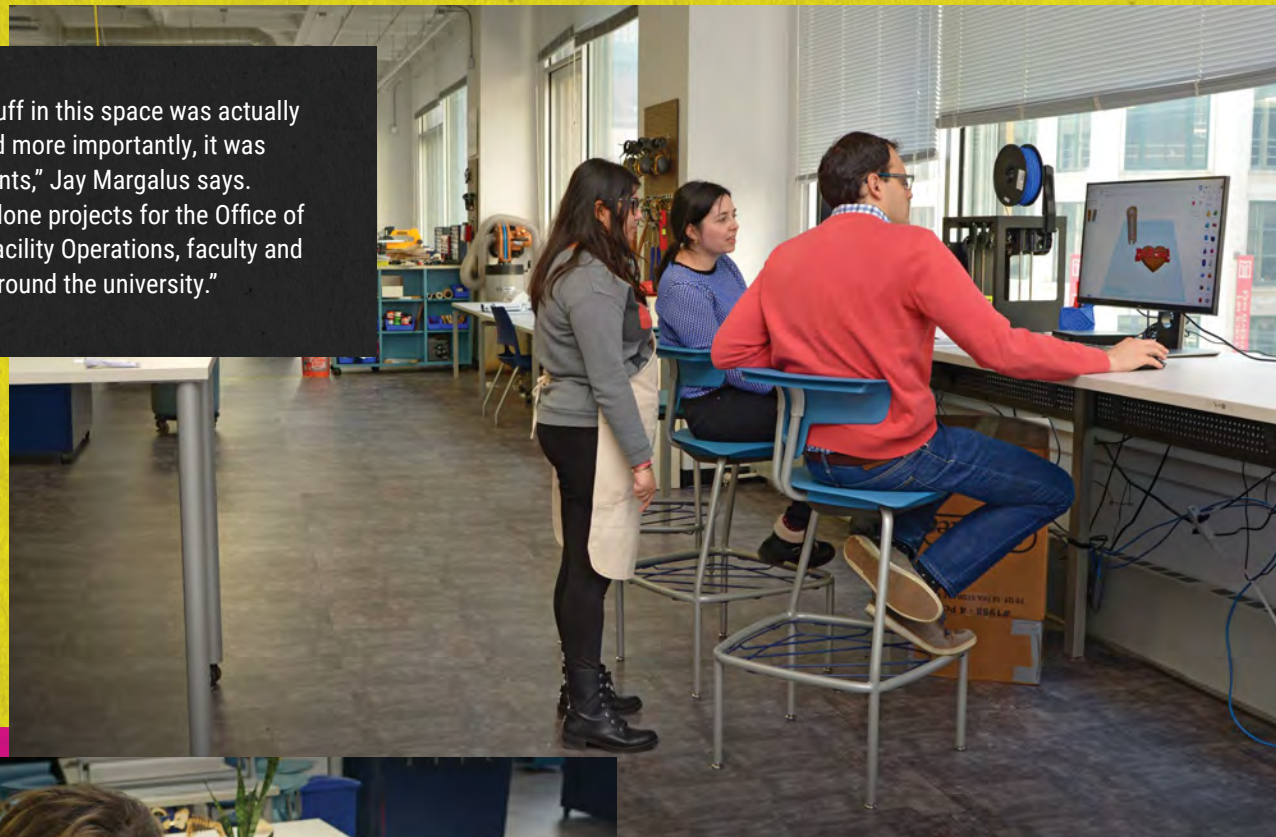
CREATIVITY IN ACTION

AT DEPAUL’S IDEA REALIZATION LAB

BY KELSEY SCHAGEMANN
PHOTOS BY TOM EVANS



"A lot of the stuff in this space was actually made here, and more importantly, it was made by students," Jay Margalus says. "They've also done projects for the Office of Admissions, Facility Operations, faculty and other groups around the university."



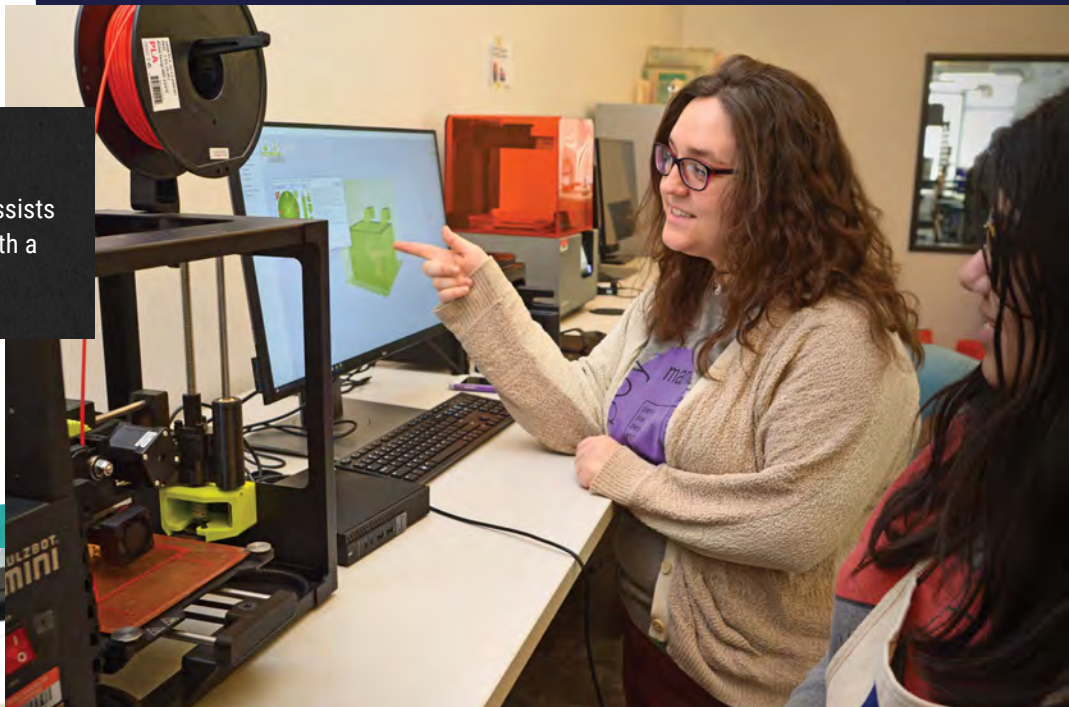
In the Digital Fabrication Studio, the women's rugby team used a vinyl cutter to create a logo, which they then silkscreened onto their jerseys. "It was such a great idea," Margalus says. "The team saved money, plus they got to do a hands-on project together."

Housed on the third floor of the Richard M. and Maggie C. Daley Building, the Idea Realization Lab (IRL) is a 4,500-square-foot makerspace where students, faculty and staff bring their creative ideas to life. The IRL opened last September and quickly became a favorite hangout for members of the DePaul community. In addition to lounge areas, the IRL features a digital fabrication studio, two stop-motion labs, a woodshop and an electronics corner. But it's the plethora of top-notch tools housed in each space that are the real showstoppers: laser cutters, high-resolution 3D printers, button makers, sewing machines and sergers, vinyl cutters, CNC routers, band saws, scroll saws, chop saws, micro miter saws, drills and more.

Of course, these tools would gather dust if not for the creative minds who operate them. "I think the most important aspect of the IRL

is the sense of agency students feel in this space," says Jay Margalus, director of the IRL and an instructor in the School of Design in the College of Computing and Digital Media. "There aren't a lot of places where students feel like they have the power to do whatever they want." Students named the IRL and serve on its advisory board, staff the space, lead educational workshops on the equipment and conduct tours for students from local schools. On Friday nights, it's not unusual for 70 or more students to gather at the IRL to work on personal projects and hang out. "Anyone can throw a 3D printer in a room and call it a makerspace, but not everyone can focus on the community like we do," Margalus says. "We tell the students, 'We trust you, you can do this,' and then they take it from there. You can't be a passive learner in a makerspace."

IRL Supervisor and Workshop Leader Sanjna Malik (right) assists student Sydney Saari (left) with a 3D printing project.

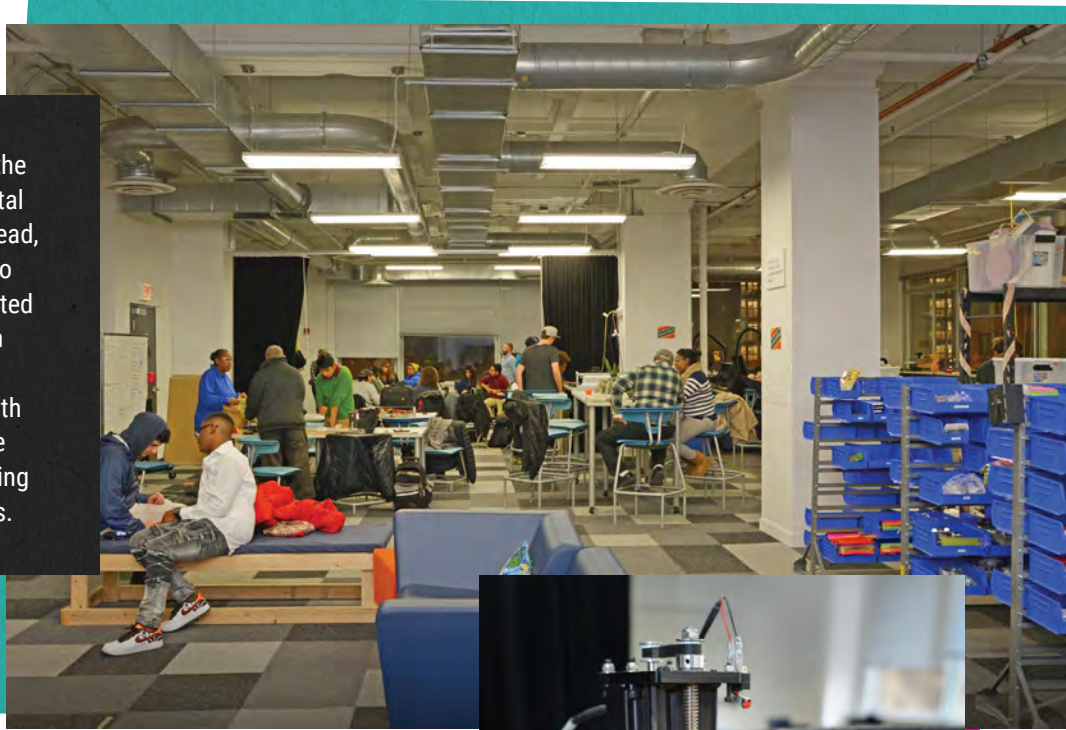


A graduate student built this material organizer on wheels. "I love to come in here and see what's new, see what students are coming up with," Margalus says.

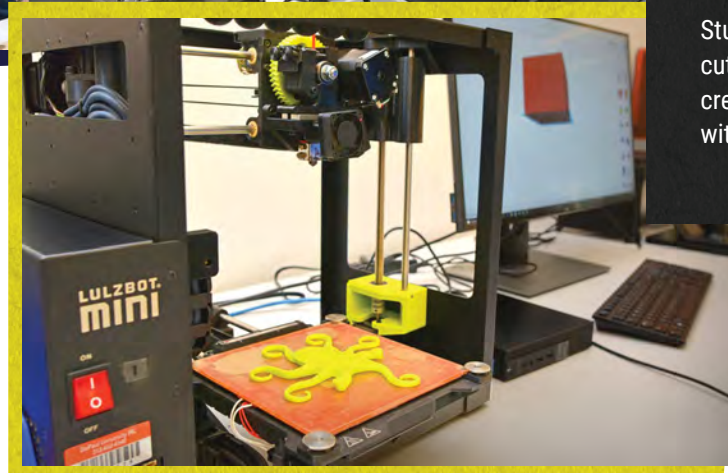


"We don't hide the tools away," Margalus says. "All the tools are hanging on walls or in clear bins where you can see them. Everything's out in the open so students can feel free to grab whatever materials they need."

Conversations tended to echo in the break room connected to the Digital Fabrication Studio, so Jenn Lawhead, the head lab moderator, decided to do something about it. She collected leftover cardboard and foam from equipment deliveries, cut the material into circles, covered it with cloth and hung it on the wall. "She found a way to do sound dampening basically for free," Margalus notes.



Students are able to make precision cuts with the lab's CNC router and create objects like octopus shapes with its 3D printer.



CLASS NOTES

Log in to alumni.depaul.edu to read additional class notes and to discover the many ways to connect with other alumni and the DePaul community.

1960s

▪ **The Hon. Wayne Rhine (JD '65)** was elected president of the Northern Illinois Civil War Roundtable.

▪ **Steve Zalinski (EDU '66)** was inducted into the South Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame on Dec. 9, 2017. Zalinski is in DePaul's Athletics Hall of Fame.

▪ **Jerry Faigen (BUS '69)** was honored by Northwestern Mutual in the company's 2017 Forum Group, which recognizes financial advisors who have eclipsed specific milestones in 2017. This is the eighth time that Faigen has received the honor.

1970s

▪ **The Rev. Ronald P. Stake (LAS '70, MA '73, JD '76)** was appointed associate vicar for canonical affairs by the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2017.

▪ Retired judge **Ray McKoski (JD '72)** recently published "Judges in Street Clothes: Acting Ethically Off-the-Bench" (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press). The book is available through Amazon and in the Barnes & Noble located in the DePaul Center on the Loop Campus.

▪ **Michael J. Hayes (JD '74)** joined the litigation department of the Chicago office of McDonald Hopkins LLC. Previously, he was general counsel for the City Club of Chicago. He is a member of the Fenwick Bar Association and a past multiterm president of the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Chicago.

▪ **William L. McMahon (BUS '74)** became interim CFO for Znergy Inc., a provider of energy-efficient lighting products, in January 2018.

▪ **Robert W. McGee (BUS '76)** won his fourth martial arts championship in January 2018. He won in the men's black belt 50+ category for sparring. He is an associate professor of accounting at Fayette State University in Fayette, N.C.

▪ **Barbara Brown (CSH '78)** was named interim chief nursing officer and vice president of nursing at Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital in New Lebanon, N.H.

▪ **The Hon. Linda E. Davenport (JD '78)** is an associate judge in the domestic relations division of the 18th Judicial Circuit Court in DuPage County, Ill., a position she has held for more than a decade.

▪ **Stephany S. Schlachter (CSH MS '78)** retired as provost of Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in June 2018. She served as provost for 17 years and was the first person to hold that position at the university. She has been with Lewis for nearly four decades and will continue as special assistant to the president until June 30, 2019.



» **Mark Ragan (LAS '79)** joined the board of advisors for Dynamic Signal, an employee communication and engagement platform. Ragan, a nationally recognized communication expert, is CEO and publisher of Ragan Communications, based in Chicago.

1980s

▪ **Bertram L. Scott (SNL '80, DHL '09)** was an honoree at the 2017 My Hero Gala, which recognizes contributions to the Charlotte, N.C., community. Scott is senior vice president for population health and value-based care for Novant Health.

▪ **Ruth W. Brinkley (CSH '81, MS '84)** was named president of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals of the Northwest, based in Portland, Ore. Previously, Brinkley was CEO of KentuckyOne Health, a division of Catholic Health Initiatives.



» **Sergio Acosta (LAS '82)**, partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, was named a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Acosta, who is the national leader of Hinshaw & Culbertson's government practice group, is one of only three Illinois lawyers to have been selected among 78 lawyers nationwide.

▪ **Muriel Anderson (MUS '82)** celebrated the prerelease of her new album, "Eclipse," with a concert in her hometown of Downers Grove, Ill., on Nov. 25, 2017.

▪ **James Crowley (JD '82)** joined Plunkett Cooney as a partner in the firm's

banking, bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice group. His practice also focuses on the construction industry, where he has successfully represented contractors and engineers in a variety of transactional matters and litigation.

▪ **Steven Shape (JD '82)** has joined the Chicago-based intellectual property law firm Denmeyer & Associates as a managing partner.

▪ **Respicio Vazquez (BUS '82, JD '85)** was elected in April 2017 to serve as a board trustee for the Village of River Forest, Ill. He also was named one of 2017's Most Influential Minority Lawyers in Chicago by Crain's Chicago Business.



» **Rose Doherty (BUS '83)**, a partner at Legacy Professionals LLP, was named one of Crain's Most Influential Women Accountants in Chicago. She also has received the Illinois CPA Society's distinguished service award for her contributions to its not-for-profit committee. Doherty currently serves on the American Medical Association board of directors and is an appointed member of the Illinois Attorney General's Charitable Advisory Council.

▪ **Ronald L. Jones (BUS '83)**, a retired U.S. Army colonel, received the Legion of Merit award for his significant, careerlong contributions to the U.S. Army Reserve.

▪ **Douglas G. Gustafson (BUS '84)** joined Available Light as managing director in November 2017. Previously, he was director of

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL abbreviation key

- » **BUS** Driehaus College of Business
- » **CDM** College of Computing and Digital Media
- » **CMN** College of Communication
- » **CSH** College of Science and Health
- » **EDU** College of Education
- » **GSD** Goodman School of Drama
- » **JD** College of Law
- » **LAS** College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- » **MUS** School of Music
- » **SNL** School for New Learning
- » **THE** The Theatre School

Share your news with the DePaul community! We want to hear about your promotion, career move, wedding, birth announcement and other accomplishments and milestones.

Please include your name (and maiden name if applicable), along with your email, mailing address, degree(s) and year(s) of graduation.

Mail to:
DePaul University Office of Alumni Relations
ATTN: Class Notes
1 E. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Email:
dpalumni@depaul.edu
Fax:
312.362.5112
Online submissions:
alumni.depaul.edu

Class notes will be posted on the Alumni & Friends website and will be considered for inclusion in DePaul Magazine. DePaul reserves the right to edit class notes.

finance and administration for the International Association of Lighting Designers, headquartered in Chicago.

▪ **Donald Ramsell (JD ’84)** established Behan Ramsell PLLC in Tucson, Ariz., with law partner Michelle Behan. The firm represents individuals charged with DUI and other criminal offenses.



» **Sammie Wayne IV (CDM ’84)** won Best Lead Male—99 Seat Theatre at the 27th Annual NAACP Theatre Awards in Los Angeles for his performance in the Robey Theatre Company’s production of “No Place to Be Somebody.”

▪ **James DiCiaula (BUS ’85, MBA ’91)** was named the next president and CEO of the St. Charles (Ill.) Chamber of Commerce. DiCiaula recently retired from BMO Harris Bank after almost three decades of service.

▪ **Thomas Frey (BUS ’85)** was promoted to executive vice president and CFO at Topco Associates LLC, based in Elk Grove Village, Ill. He previously was Topco’s senior vice president and CFO.

▪ **Mark Kaminsky (BUS ’85)**, chief operating officer at Koch Foods, is now serving as vice chairman of the National Chicken Council. He previously served as the council’s secretary-treasurer.

▪ **Jill Sorensen (JD ’85)** joined the South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) as its new director of entrepreneurial programs and executive director of South Carolina Launch. SCRA’s entrepreneurial programs provide investments, grant opportunities and support to early-stage technology companies in the life science, IT and advanced manufacturing/materials industries.

▪ **Timothy Anderson (BUS ’86)** was promoted to global fixed income CIO at RiverFront Investment Group, headquartered in Richmond, Va. He was previously a chief fixed income officer at the company.

▪ **Kenneth Bult (LAS ’86)** received a research fellowship from the Van Raalte Institute in Holland, Mich., to study Dutch migration west of the Mississippi River.

▪ **Steven Ashton (JD ’87)** recently joined Garan Lucow Miller. Ashton, a shareholder in the firm’s Detroit office, is an experienced litigator in the no-fault arena, focusing primarily on insurance defense.

▪ **Fred R. Ishler (JD ’87)**, an agency leasing specialist, was named a principal of Avison Young in October 2017. He focuses on leading the firm’s

suburban Chicago office leasing team. Previously, he was an executive vice president with Transwestern, a commercial real estate firm.

▪ **Jeffrey J. Kroll (BUS ’87, JD ’90)** was part of the team that won a record-breaking \$148 million verdict on behalf of a young woman who was paralyzed at O’Hare International Airport in 2015. The verdict represents a new Illinois personal injury record jury verdict. He is a partner in the law firm Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard.

▪ **Richard Mackey (BUS ’87)** was promoted to deputy president at Rosenthal Collins Group LLC (RCG), a leading independent futures brokerage and clearing firm. Originally a soybean trader at the MidAmerica Commodity Exchange, Mackey later became an interest rate broker at the Chicago Board of Trade, before he left the trading floor to join RCG.

▪ **Stephen B. Bowman (MBA ’88)** is executive vice president and CFO for the Northern Trust Corporation, headquartered in Chicago.

▪ **Lemone M. Lampley (CMN ’88)** is the founder of Men of Color Connected for Higher Achievement (MOC-CHA), a mentoring program for African-American men.

▪ **Adria East Mossing (JD ’88)** was named one of the Top 100 Super Lawyers and one of the Top 50 Women Super Lawyers in Illinois for 2018. She is a founding partner of Mossing & Navarre,

LLC, a personal injury law firm based in Chicago.

▪ **Marc Swerdlow (JD ’88)** was elected vice chairman and treasurer of the board of directors of the LUNGEvity Foundation. Swerdlow, principal and chief operating officer at Magellan Investment Partners LLC, has served as a member of LUNGEvity’s board since 2004.

▪ **Shanesia Davis (THE ’89)** played ballet teacher Mrs. Wilkinson in Chicago’s Porchlight Music Theatre production of “Billy Elliot the Musical” in November and December 2017.

▪ **Richard Dreshfield (MBA ’89)** joined KBA North America as senior vice president of sheetfed sales. He is based in the Dallas headquarters and oversees the North American sheetfed sales team.

▪ **Cheryl L. Kallianis (BUS ’89)** was hired as senior project controller by Grand Canyon Development Partners, a Las Vegas-based construction and real estate development and construction management company.

▪ **Peter R. Mohrmann (THE MFA ’89)**, co-founder of Capital Stage in Sacramento, Calif., directed the company’s December 2017 production of “Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley.”

▪ **Anne Pramaggiore (JD ’89)** was reappointed chair of the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago for 2018.

1990s



» **Gillian Anderson (THE ’90)**, Emmy-winning co-star of “The X-Files,” was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in January 2018.

▪ **Kate Gebo (BUS ’90)** was named executive vice president of human resources and labor relations at United Airlines.

▪ **Richard Lieberman (LLM ’90)** has joined Dykema’s taxation practice group as senior counsel in the firm’s Chicago office. Lieberman joined Dykema after spending more than eight years as a partner with Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella PC, where he served as chair of the firm’s tax and employee benefits practice.

▪ **Michael T. Weber (THE ’90)** is the artistic director for Chicago’s Porchlight Music Theatre and directed “Billy Elliot the Musical” there in late 2017.

▪ **Kathryn L. Harry (JD ’91)** is the principal partner of Kathryn L. Harry & Associates, which focuses on divorce, criminal defense, DUI defense and expungement. She has served as chair of the DuPage County Bar Association’s professional responsibility and bankruptcy committees.

▪ **Sandra T. Parga (LAS ’91)** is an associate judge in the 16th Judicial Circuit in Kane County. She presides over misdemeanor cases, traffic stops and bond calls.

▪ **John Sullivan (JD ’91)** is a partner in Plunkett Cooney’s banking, bankruptcy and creditors’ rights practice group. He represents financial institutions, developers, title insurers, real estate agents and other commercial clients in litigation.

▪ **Linda Szyper (MBA ’91)** was appointed global chief operating officer at McCann Health, a company providing strategic, creative and integrated marketing services for the health care and medical community. Szyper was previously the chief commercial officer and president of U.S. operations for Circassia Pharmaceuticals.

▪ **James P. Taylor (MBA ’91)** was named interim CFO for IBC Advanced Alloys Corp., a beryllium and copper advanced alloys

company. Previously, he was CFO of Hampson Equities Ltd.

▪ **Matthew Varchetto (BUS ’91, MBA ’02)** joined First Secure Bank and Trust of Palos Hills, Ill., as vice president, marketing director. He is responsible for building the organization’s brand recognition and value, as well as business development.

▪ **William J. Hunter (BUS ’92, MBA ’96)** was named to the board of directors of Oroplata Resources Inc., a lithium exploration and development company.

▪ **Deanna Laidler (JD ’92)** was named compliance and ethics officer at Standard Insurance Company (The Standard). Most recently, Laidler was senior assistant attorney general for the Oregon Department of Justice and provided guidance to various state agencies.

▪ **Kenneth Lockette (MEd ’92)** is the superintendent of the South Fayette Township School District in Pittsburgh. He was previously the assistant superintendent of the Avonworth School District.

▪ **Michael Mulligan (CDM ’92)** is now the North Central U.S. account director of OverOps, a software analytics company. Previously, he worked in field sales for Pentaho, a big data analytics company.

▪ **James Robinson (BUS ’92)**, president of Astellas Americas, assumed the role of board treasurer for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America on Feb. 7, 2018.

▪ **Laurie Badzek (LLM ’93, CSH MS ’93)** was named dean of Pennsylvania State University’s College of Nursing. She begins her new role on July 1, 2018. Previously, Badzek was a professor of nursing and the director of the School of Nursing in the College of Health and Human Services at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

▪ **Kari Franz (MBA ’93)** is the senior vice president of marketing at EQIS Capital Management in San Rafael, Calif. She previously led mutual fund and exchange traded fund marketing at Charles Schwab.

▪ **Theresa M. Glomb Miner (CSH ’93)** is the Toro Company-David M. Lilly Chair in the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.

▪ **Dennis Olis (MBA ’93)** was named CFO at Allscripts Healthcare Solutions Inc. Since May 2017, Olis has served as Allscripts’ interim CFO. He will oversee Allscripts’ finance functions, including controllership, tax, internal audit, financial planning and analysis, and treasury and investor relations.

▪ **Julie D. Ryan (LAS MA ’93)** was promoted to assistant administrator of King-Bruwaert House in Burr Ridge, Ill. Employed by the retirement community since 2004, Ryan most recently served as senior director of admissions and community development.

▪ **Michael L. Scudder (MBA ’93)** was elected chairman of the board for First Midwest Bancorp Inc. in November 2017. He also is president and CEO.

▪ **Lisa E. Hathy-Riles (MBA ’94)** was nominated as president of the Submersible Wastewater Pump Association for 2018–19. She is director of the residential and specialty business unit of Xylem Water Solutions and Water Technology, based in Morton Grove, Ill.

▪ **Matthew McGrew (BUS ’94)**, who is currently the CFO of the Danaher Group’s diagnostics and dental platforms, will serve as CFO of the Danaher Corporation, effective Jan. 1, 2019. McGrew has been with Danaher since 2004.

▪ **Daniel S. Michelson (MBA ’94)** is CEO of Strata Decision Technology, which creates software to help hospitals and health care systems track the effectiveness of treatments.

Spotlight

“I have to give a lot of credit to California condors for inspiring me to get into the field,” says **Alan Varsik (SNL MA ’95)**, director of zoological and environmental education at Metro Parks Tacoma in Washington state. “As I saw condors in the wild and realized there were only 22 of these birds left [in the world], I discovered how zoos were trying to work with conservationists to breed condors and get them back into the wild.” In his role, Varsik oversees the operations of both the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium and the Northwest Trek and Wildlife Park.

A native Californian, Varsik started his career at the Oakland Zoo in his home state and eventually made his way to Brookfield Zoo in Illinois to work with primates. During his time at Brookfield, Varsik decided he wanted to expand his role in the field, but he couldn’t find a program that focused on zoo management. “I came across the program at DePaul’s School for New Learning and discovered I could create a program that fit both my professional and career needs.”

Varsik has worked at Chicago’s Lincoln Park Zoo, Disney World’s Animal Kingdom, and zoos in Santa Barbara, Calif., and Oklahoma City. He is proud of Metro Parks’ environmental efforts, including Point Defiance’s work to breed red wolves and return them to the wild. “It’s one of the most endangered canids in the world and certainly one of the rarest in North America. The zoo has a colony that has established the growth of that population almost single-handedly,” he says.

Varsik is passionate about conservation. “Our challenge in the future is ensuring that audiences have an experience that will lead them toward actions that are more environmentally sound and reflect a greater stewardship of our planet.”



▪ **Catherine A. Bier (MBA ’95)** was the top broker for residential home sales in La Grange and La Grange Park, Ill., for the 10th consecutive year. She is part of Smothers Realty Group.

▪ **Christopher Bona (CMN ’95, LAS MA ’98)** was appointed partner at Finn Partners in the agency’s health practice. Bona, a veteran of Chicago-area pharma, medical device

and health/tech clients, brings more than 20 years of professional expertise to Finn Partners, whose Midwest health team serves clients regionally and nationally with comprehensive digital health communications.

▪ **Steve Donnelly (JD ’95)** was promoted to vice president of claims at Amerisure Insurance. In his new role, Donnelly is responsible for all aspects of Amerisure’s

claims department, including aligning its operations with Amerisure’s strategic goals.

▪ **Joy Falotico (MBA ’95)** is group vice president and chief marketing officer of Lincoln Motor Company, effective March 1. She is also chair of the Ford Motor Credit Company board of directors.

▪ **Kevin Fox (THE ’95)** directed the Block St. Theatre

Co.'s world premiere of "Flamingo & Decatur" at Chicago's Theater Wit in January and February 2018.

▪ **Daniel H. McCarthy (JD '95)** was named a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel in 2017. He is a partner in Wick Phillips Gould & Martin LLP in Fort Worth, Texas.

▪ **Tricia Rosado (LAS '95)**, a doctoral student at Illinois State University, received a fellowship from the board of directors of the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois. She is also a senior program manager with Chicago GEAR UP.

▪ **Angela Smith Jones (JD '95)** was named a 2017 Woman of Influence by the Indianapolis Business Journal. Smith Jones is the deputy mayor of economic development for the City of Indianapolis.

▪ **Marcia A. Ayala (BUS MS '96)** was named managing director of the Chicago market for the DLC Group, a finance and accounting consulting firm.



» **Molly Carter (CMN '96)**, chief marketing officer for Kobe Inc., is co-executive producer of "Dear Basketball," which won the 2018 Academy Award for best animated short film.

▪ **Frank J. Cesario (MBA '96)** joined CTI Industries Corporation, which creates flexible film technology and products, as CFO in November 2017.

▪ **John "Jack" Durburg (MBA '96)** was named group president at CBRE Group Inc. Durburg is currently the CEO of the Americas region, CBRE's largest business segment.

▪ **Chris Flynn (BUS '96)** was named CEO of both THL

Credit Inc. and its external manager, THL Credit Advisors LLC, on Nov. 30, 2017. Previously he was co-CEO of the companies.

▪ **Jason Howell (LAS '96)** was appointed associate circuit court judge for Cass County in Missouri. Previously, he served as the director of the child support division for the Cass County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

▪ **Marybeth E. O'Lear (MBA '96)** was named marketing manager of AMETEK Powervar, which supplies uninterruptible power management technology, in November 2017. Previously, she held marketing leadership positions in the engineering consulting, manufacturing, health care, technology and service industries.



» **Darin Sender (JD '96)** is the president and founder of Sender Associates, a zoning and land use law firm based in Tempe, Ariz. She was named the Legal Leader of the Year in the Phoenix Business Journal's Landmark Leaders awards, which feature some of Arizona's most successful and inspiring real estate leaders.

▪ **Andrew Bryant (JD '97)**, a former Cook County prosecutor, has joined Bryant Legal Group PC in Chicago. Bryant will represent individuals with disability insurance claims, as well as negotiate and litigate medical billing issues on behalf of health care provider groups.

▪ **Jonathan Carroll (CMN '97)** was sworn in as the Illinois 57th District State Representative on Oct. 4, 2017. Carroll replaced

outgoing representative Elaine Nekritz.

▪ **John Coskran (BUS MS '97)** is the senior vice president of finance at YA, which delivers high-impact, data-driven marketing promotions for various U.S. brands. He most recently was senior director of financial planning and analysis for Capella Education Company.

▪ **Vanessa D'Cunha (BUS '97)** joined CapX Partners in Chicago as the director of finance and controller. Prior to returning to CapX, where she worked from 2005 to 2008, she was the controller at Lantern Partners. She also served as CFO and treasurer at Commerz Futures.

▪ **Glenn M. Fish (MBA '97)** was promoted to chief operating officer of Tekni-Plex Inc., a global manufacturer of packaging materials, medical compounds and tubing. Previously, he was CFO and executive vice president.

▪ **Elizabeth Luckenbach Brown (JD '97)** joined Dickinson Wright PLLC, a law firm based in Detroit, as a member. She focuses her practice on estate planning and administration, with an emphasis on probate litigation, special-needs planning and elder law.

▪ **Melanie Margolin (JD '97)** was named a 2017 Woman of Influence by the Indianapolis Business Journal. Margolin is deputy general counsel for Cummins Inc.



» **Jennifer E. Mitchell (CSH '97)** was part of the team that took second place in the 2017 USA Taekwondo National Championships in Detroit. She also placed ninth in the individual poomsae first master's division.

▪ **Michael P. Alfano (MED '98)** was named dean of the Isabelle Farrington College of Education at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn. He was most recently dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies at Central Connecticut State University.

▪ **Gregory R. Gersack (MBA '98)** joined the board of directors of the Bank of Fincastle. He is the senior managing principal and co-head of investment banking for FIG Partners LLC. He also is on the boards of directors for FIG Partners, NorStates Bank and Northern States Financial Corporation.

▪ **Pamela L. Netzky (CMN '98)** founded Amplify Brands, maker of SkinnyPop Popcorn, which is being acquired by The Hershey Co. for \$1.2 billion in 2018.

▪ **Kristine A. Rastrelli (CSH '98)** was among 18 women named to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame's 2018 Silver Anniversary Team. She played for Fort Wayne Snider High School and was a member of the DePaul women's basketball team.

▪ **Tobin Richer (JD '98)** was named chief marketing officer for TradeRev, a subsidiary of his current employer, KAR Auction Services. Richer will assume his new role while continuing his current role as senior vice president of corporate communications for KAR.

▪ **Tammara R. Wagoner (JD '98)** was named assistant state's attorney for Piatt County, Ill. She has two decades of prosecution experience, including nearly a decade leading drug-case prosecutions in the state's attorney's office in Macon, Ill.

▪ **Suzanne Wirtz (LAS MA '98)** was recently appointed president and CEO of the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce. Wirtz served as interim executive director of the Chicagoland organization since March 2017. She was hired by the organization in August 2016 as director of marketing and events.

▪ **Joshua Anderson (BUS '99)** was named manager of business planning at Deere & Co. in Moline, Ill. He is responsible for acquisitions and SEC reporting.

▪ **Karen S. Carter (MBA '99)** is the first chief inclusion officer for The Dow Chemical Co. Based in Houston, she also is a member of the board of directors for Kids' Meals, a nonprofit organization that delivers free meals to children in need.

▪ **Frank Catalano (MUS '99)** was selected for induction into the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame in Aurora, Ill. His latest album was No. 1 on Billboard's jazz chart, and he recently won an Independent Music Award for best jazz composition for his song "Shakin'."

▪ **Greg T. Davis (MUS '99)** opened a record store, Autumn Records, in Winooski, Vt.

▪ **Erika Felix (CSH MA '99, PhD '02)**, assistant professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara's Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, was elected to the board of directors of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies.

▪ **Songju Ma Daemicke (CDM MS '99)** has published another children's book, "Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant." It tells the story of a famous child prodigy in China.

▪ **Paul Roche (MBA '99)** was named president of Luxor, a division of EBSCO Industries. Roche has more than 20 years of senior management experience leading distribution and technology organizations, most recently as chief operating officer for Network Services.

▪ **Naseem Wenzel (BUS MS '99)** was named a partner in the Chicago office of CohnReznick LLP, an accounting, tax and advisory firm, in February 2018. With more than 20 years of experience, she is part of the commercial real estate advisory practice.

2000s

▪ **Arelia I. Bradley (SNL '00)** was named vice chancellor for enrollment services and student success at Ivy Tech Community College in Michigan City, Ind. Previously she served as associate admissions director.

▪ **Timothy Dietlin (MBA '00)** was appointed co-leader of the global biopharmaceutical segment of Heidrick & Struggles' health care and life sciences practice. He is based in the executive search firm's Chicago office.

▪ **Shaun A. Passley (BUS '00, CDM MA '06)** is chairman and CEO of Epazz Inc., a provider of blockchain cryptocurrency mobile apps and cloud-based business software. Epazz launched a bitcoin payment system, ZenaPay, in 2018.

▪ **Ark Rusak (BUS '00)** recently celebrated 15 years as the founder and head of his own practice with Farmers Insurance. His team also was named a President's Council agency for the third year in a row, an honor granted to only about 100 of more than 15,000 agencies nationwide.

▪ **Tiffany Davis (BUS '02)** was appointed chief operating officer of Solis Tek Inc., a vertically integrated technology innovator, developer, manufacturer and distributor focused on bringing products and solutions to commercial cannabis growers in legal markets across the U.S.

▪ **Donald Holmberg (MBA '02)** joined the Chicago firm Birch Lake Holdings LP as a managing director and principal. Holmberg has more than 20 years of experience in the asset management industry. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1985 to 1987, and is active with the Chicago Marines Foundation and the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation.

▪ **Denise Matthews (MED '02, MED '09)** was named special education director for the River Forest (Ill.) District 90 schools.

Spotlight



There are museums dedicated to stained glass, surgical science and ice cream, so why not fraternal orders? When **Ken Moder (CSH '76)** formed the J.H. Rathbone Museum & Resource Center in 2000, he intended to focus on the Knights of Pythias, the fraternal order to which he belongs. But he soon began amassing documents and artifacts from fraternal orders around the world. "We probably have 600 to 700 fraternal orders represented," he says.

Fraternal groups have served various purposes over the years. Social in nature, many orders are community-focused, religious or civic-minded. "The history of fraternal orders is the history of the world," Moder asserts. "But you never hear about their societal impact in the history books."

The museum, located in Lafayette, Ind., provides that missing narrative. One of Moder's favorite documents is a letter from Gen. John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing thanking the uniform-rank Knights of Pythias for their service in World War I. Other favorite objects include a tea set from 1886 and a 10-foot-tall dressing cabinet that stood in the first Knights of Pythias lodge in Ohio.

Moder estimates that he has tens of thousands of artifacts, most of which he doesn't have room to display in the 2,500-square-foot museum. "There's a treasure trove of beautiful artwork in watch fobs, pins and jewels," he notes. "A lot of these are one-of-a-kind handmade pieces." The board hopes to eventually expand into a larger space.

The free museum currently has areas dedicated to women's orders, religious orders and youth orders, such as the Boy Scouts of America and Campfire Girls. "I adapt my tour to whatever visitors are interested in," Moder says. "At this point, I'm kind of a jack-of-all-trades for fraternal orders."

Learn more about the J.H. Rathbone Museum & Resource Center, named for the founder of the Knights of Pythias, at jhrathbonemuseum.org.

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

» **Nina Mohseni (LAS '06)** and **Matt Rodgers (BUS '07)** welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Neda Mohseni Rodgers, on Oct. 10, 2017.



» **Alyssa Loosa (BUS '11)** and Russell Marzullo welcomed a daughter, Lana Lisa, on July 13, 2017. The proud parents are very excited about their newest addition.



IN MEMORIAM

Lord, we commend to you the souls of our dearly departed. In your mercy and love, grant them eternal peace.

Alumni
Marian Donovan (LAS '43) » Thomas Fraser (BUS '43) » Loretta Barrett (BUS '46) » Dean Spencer (BUS '46, JD '48) » Sr. Andrea Lacoste (CSH '47) » Robert Ryan (JD '47) » The Hon. Leonard Levin (LLB '48) » William Woodrow (CSH '48, MED '51) » Sydney Bild (LAW '49) » Norbert Curtin (LAS '49, MA '51) » Sr. Adelaide Eiden (LAS MA '49) » John Laughlin (LAS '49) » Mary Spinuzza (LAS '49) » Patricia Costello (JD '50) » Edward Mickiewicz (LAS '50) » William Walker (BUS '50) » John Hollowed (BUS '51) » Thomas Keyahian (CSH '51) » Patricia McWilliams (LAS

'51) » John Remkus (CSH '51) » Raymond Staskewich (EDU '51) » Phillip Chiapetto (EDU '52, MA '59) » Francis Dyra (LAS '52) » Donald Ryan (LLB '52) » Joseph Arrigo (CSH '53) » Lucy Bullard (CSH '53) » Donald Howe (BUS '53, JD '55) » Peter McGrath (JD '53) » Thomas Votava (BUS '53) » Robert Moore (JD '55) » Francis Mullin (BUS '55) » Raymond Anderson (BUS '56) » Bette Meyer (LAS '56) » Thomas Monforti (LAS '56) » Joseph Tchon (BUS '56) » The Hon. Richard La Cien (BUS '57, LLB '62) » Elizabeth Meehan (LAS '57) » Louis Zorich (THE CER '58) » Lt. Carl Buchmann (LLB '59) » Carl Weber (JD '59) » James Arvia (CSH '60) » Walter Kobeski (BUS '60) » Michael Salemmme (CSH '60) » James Dluzak (BUS '61) » Ferdinand Runk (CSH '61) » Charles Turner (LLB '61) » Grace Honda (CSH '62) » Patricia

Lewkowicz (LAS MA '62) » John Nolan (LAS '62) » Robert O'Shaughnessy (BUS '63, MBA '70) » Joyce Quintas-Heit (EDU '63) » Edward Zalig Sr. (LAS '63) » Theodore Ansani (JD '64) » Sr. Shirley Mary Frandrup, O.S.B. (MED '64) » Jack Anderson (BUS '65) » John Cannon (CSH '65) » John Gallagher (CSH '65) » William Morris (BUS '65) » Marie Schaefer (LAS '65) » James Shanley (BUS '66, JD '74) » Catherine Goldschmidt (CSH MA '67) » William Ryan (BUS '67) » Jane Grisham (CSH '68, LAS MA '74) » George Lathrop (CSH '68) » Alan Schneider (BUS '68, MBA '76) » Fred Bruha (MBA '69) » Mildred Flynn (LAS '69) » John McCall Jr. (BUS '69) » Edward Mullins (LAS '69) » Rose-Marie Pycha (LAS '69) » Daniel Sosniak (LAS '69, MBA '76) » Martha Mills (CSH

Martin (BUS '85) » Andrij Kosacz (CDM '87) » Ruth Kretschmer (SNL '87) » John Cummins (LAS '88, JD '92) » Jerry Robinson (MBA '89) » Cynthia McConnell (CSH MS '91) » Carol Reimer (BUS MST '91) » Thomas Baylor (SNL '93) » Robert Bleeker (CSH '96) » Thomas Hey (LAS '96) » Michael Kummerer (MBA '97) » Margaret Davis (CSH MA '99, PhD '01) » Andrij Karasejczuk (BUS '99) » John Smith (LLM '99) » Kevin Kaiser (MBA '06) » Judson T. Allen (MBA '15) » Quincy Kelly (BUS '16)

Friends
Jan R. Gollins » Stanley C. Martens » Dorothy M. Pedtke » William A. Pelz » Mark Zinger

Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, this memorial list includes only those alumni and friends who our offices have confirmed have passed away since the previous issue was printed.

▪ **Brian Lindoerfer (MBA '03)** has been named assistant vice chancellor for facilities operations and services of the University of Colorado's Boulder campus. Lindoerfer has spent the past two years at Boulder County, where he oversaw facilities management efforts, development of a strategic facilities master plan and negotiation of a power purchase agreement. Prior to joining the county, he spent 20 years as an officer in the Navy, retiring with the rank of commander.



» **Cameron Petroff (BUS '03)** is marketing director for

Sikich, a professional services firm. He is responsible for the accounting, tax, audit, and advisory and managed services practice areas.

▪ **Rana Hutchinson Salzman (LAS MA '03)** was appointed director of education at the Society of American Archivists (SAA). She will be responsible for the design, development, marketing, implementation and evaluation of SAA's continuing education offerings and resources for archivists and other related professionals.

▪ **Christopher Bobek (MBA '04)**, who has been leading the business office at Grayslake (Ill.) Community Consolidated District 46 since 2013, was named the new associate superintendent of business services. He assumes the position July 1.



» **James A. Bradley (LAS '05)** joined Lavelle Law, based in Schaumburg, Ill., as an associate in February 2018. He works in the firm's newly established personal injury practice group and handles commercial litigation.

▪ **Benjamin A. Chappell (CDM '05)** was recently signed by production house Durable Goods. His directorial work includes ads for such brands as Whole Foods, Walmart, UPS, McDonald's, Sony, Foot Locker and Crystal Light, as well as music

videos for artists such as Miley Cyrus, Rick Ross, Nas, Miranda Lambert, Arctic Monkeys and The Beach Boys.

▪ **Chris Harding (CMN '05)** produced the film "Blindspotting," starring Daveed Digs ("Hamilton"), which was selected as the opening night attraction at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. Harding also produced the critically acclaimed films "The Guest" and "You're Next."

▪ **Jibran Ilyas (CDM '05)** was named one of Crain's Chicago Business's 2017 "40 Under 40." Ilyas is the managing director at Stroz Friedberg, Aon's cybersecurity business.

▪ **Paula Kim (JD '05)** is now associate general counsel of TCS Education System in Los Angeles.

▪ **Katarzyna "Kathy" Levecke (LAS '05, JD '08)** was elevated to partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richer & Hampton LLP. She has been with the firm for one



» **Chris Barbuto (BUS MST '06)** was promoted to principal at Drucker & Scaccetti, a strategic tax planning and consulting firm based in Philadelphia.

Barbuto joined the firm in 2007. He is a member of both the American and Pennsylvania (PICPA) Institutes of Certified Public Accountants. He serves on both the PICPA and Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce State Taxation committees and is a 2013 winner of the PICPA Young Leadership Award.

▪ **Nicholas Lopez (LAS MS '06)** was promoted to executive director of the Saint Joseph Hospital Foundation in Denver. He previously served as senior director of major gifts and has more than 14 years of experience in higher education and nonprofit philanthropy.

▪ **Robert Fortney (CSH MS '07)** is the new chief nursing officer at Illinois Valley Community Hospital in Peru, Ill. He was previously a vice president and service line executive for Northwest Community Healthcare.

▪ **Nate Heeren (BUS MS '07)** was promoted to managing director of the Denver office of Riveron Consulting, a business and financial advisory firm. Heeren, who joined the firm in 2014, previously served as interim market leader.

▪ **Brittney J. Payton (CMN '08)** became co-host of "Good Day Chicago" on WFLD-TV on Jan. 15, 2018. Previously she was co-host of "Chicago's Best" on WGN-TV.

▪ **Theresa Hattar (CMN '09)** was inducted into the 2018 Alumni Hall of Fame at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, Ill. She currently resides in Chicago and works as a senior account executive at a Chicago publishing and marketing company.

▪ **Kelli Heinz (CMN '09, MA '11)** was recently promoted to vice president of marketing at Bell Flavors & Fragrances. She began her career at Bell in 2006 as an

intern in Bell's marketing department.

▪ **Clark White (MBA '09)** was named CFO of Mohr Partners Inc. He previously served as the finance director and controller for DTZ Americas, now a part of Cushman & Wakefield.

2010s

▪ **Ryan Schermerhorn (JD '10)** was elected partner at his firm, Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

▪ **Heather Shearer (CSH '10)** is the new human resources director for Porter County, Ind.

▪ **Matthew J. Swanson (MBA '10)** is now vice president of asset management of Grover Corlew, a real estate investment group in Pompano Beach, Fla.

▪ **Daviree Velazquez Phillip (CSH '10)** is the director of multicultural student affairs at Northwestern University. She previously was the assistant director of diversity education at Georgetown University's Center for Multicultural Equity and Access and a diversity and inclusion specialist at its Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship.

▪ **Undra L. Ware (SNL '10)** recently published "The Purpose of Being," a book of poetry that is available on Amazon.com.

▪ **Kristen Aguirre (CMN MA '11)** joined the 9NEWS team of Denver's NBC-TV affiliate KUSA as an anchor/reporter in September 2017.

▪ **Becca Berkenstadt (BUS '11)** launched her second company, Chicago Visitors Guide, in September 2017. It is an online magazine for locals and visitors.

▪ **Jessica S. Biscamp (MED '11)** teaches English at The Academy for Technology and the Classics in Santa Fe, N.M.

▪ **Tyler P. Brimmer (JD '11)** was named a shareholder in the law firm of Fafinski Mark & Johnson, located in Eden Prairie, Minn.

▪ **James Brinkmann (MUS '11)** received third prize in the 2017 Donald Peck International Flute Competition, hosted by the Chicago Flute Club.

▪ **Anastasia Palivos (LAS '11, JD '14)** was appointed to a five-year term on the Illinois Commerce Commission on Jan. 23, 2018. She is the first Greek-American woman and the youngest person ever appointed to the commission.

▪ **Manisha Paudel (MS LAS '11)** is the first equity coordinator for the City of Des Moines, Iowa. She will help the city build relationships with underrepresented groups, develop programs and strategies to ensure social equity and serve as the contact point for immigrants and refugees facing barriers in accessing city services.

▪ **Kristen Perry (MED '11)** was named the 2018 School Counselor of the Year for her work at Lawndale Community Academy on Chicago's West Side.

▪ **Alex J. Rams (CDM MS '11)** recently earned GIAC Security Expert certification, a prestigious and demanding program that only about 200 top security professionals have completed. He also is an Offensive Security Certified Professional.

▪ **Amit Bindra (JD '12)** was recently named a partner at Prinz Law Firm PC. He has worked on several appeals in Illinois and Indiana courts and on numerous employment law matters across the United States. Illinois Super Lawyers Magazine has recognized Bindra as a Rising Star for the past three years.

▪ **Mary Pat (Rooney) Brennan (LAS MNM '13)** is now the director of development, gift planning at the University of Denver.

▪ **Sarah Price (THE '12)** performed in Sarah DeLappe's "The Wolves," which launched the Goodman Theatre's 2018 Owen Theatre season in Chicago.

▪ **Tina Estrada (CDM MS '13)** is an assistant coach of the women's soccer program at San Jose State University in San Jose, Calif. Previously, she was associate head coach and recruiting coordinator at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga. She also was an assistant coach for six seasons at DePaul.

▪ **Ingrid Larson (THE '13)** was the scene designer for "The Magician's Assistant," which ran at Under St. Mark's theatre in New York City Feb. 17–March 3, 2018, as part of the FRIGID New York theatre festival.

▪ **Joel Stults (MBA '14)** was promoted to investment analyst and member of Cal-omos Wealth Management's investment team. Stults is based in Naperville, Ill.

▪ **Theresa Boysen (SNL '14)** was named the new regional vice president of the Great Lakes region of the National Association of Concessionaires.

▪ **Eric Breese (CDM MS '15)** was promoted to associate chief information officer of Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

▪ **Katherine M. Bryja (CMN '15)** was hired as senior publicist by Heron Agency, a full-service public relations, social media, marketing and advertising firm in Chicago.

▪ **Jessi Donaldson (LAS MNM '15)** was hired into a new position created by the Evanston (Ill.) Community Foundation to direct its philanthropic engagement activities.



» **Jordan Ensign (MUS MM '15)** is part of the ensemble cast and

occasionally plays the lead female role in the traveling production of "Phantom of the Opera" produced by Networks Presentations LLC.

▪ **Lavina Jadhvani (THE MFA '15)** directed "Roe," a poignant new play about the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, at Asolo Rep Theatre in Sarasota, Fla. The production ran March 14 through April 15, 2018.

▪ **Connor Bland (CDM '16)** premiered his film "Immersion" at the 2017 NewFilmmakers Los Angeles film festival. Bland received his BFA in animation from DePaul and is currently a MFA student at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television.

▪ **Christopher J. Gideon (CSH '16)** earned a master's degree with distinction in molecular neuropharmacology from Nottingham Trent University in fall 2017. He is now attending Chicago Medical School.

▪ **Myke Henry (CMN '16)** was signed to the Memphis Grizzlies basketball team as a guard/forward. Henry formerly played for the Oklahoma City Thunder's NBA G League affiliate, the Oklahoma City Blue.

▪ **Jane Marshall (MUS MM '16)** was the musical director for the Cuckoo's Theater Project's production of Jonathan Larson's "Tick, Tick...Boom!" The show ran in late 2017 at Chicago's Prop Thtr.

▪ **Conlon Taaffe (CDM '16)** was a finalist at the 2017 Elgin (Ill.) Short Film Festival for his 2016 animated film "Too Evil."

▪ **Ben Gartland (CMN '17)** is now a communications specialist for the USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus.

▪ **Nacem Morris (MBA '17)** has been named truck sales vice president of LeasePlan USA.

Do you have a photo that shows your DePaul spirit? Send the image to dpalumni@depaul.edu with your name and the location where the photo was taken, and you may see yourself in a future issue of DePaul Magazine. High-resolution images only.



Participants in the nursing study abroad program in the Czech Republic



Elaine Feldman (MBA '81) and her husband, Norb Tatro, at a DePaul women's basketball game at Wintrust Arena at McCormick Square



Katie Fitzpatrick (BUS '05, MBA '09) and Robert Fincannon (CDM '04, MS '05) at Skogafoss, one of the largest waterfalls in Iceland



William Windisch (BUS '54) on the beach in Naples, Fla.

Event Recaps

Regional Presidential Receptions » This spring, DePaul President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, and his wife, Josephine, met with alumni and friends across the country to introduce themselves and share updates about the university. Dr. Esteban hosted receptions in Phoenix, Naples, Fla., New York City, Southern California and Washington, D.C., as well as closer to home in two Chicago suburbs. He shared the story of his family's journey to DePaul and answered questions from those in attendance.



Young Alumni Bowling Outing » The Young Alumni Committee proved that nothing brings people together like knocking down some pins at the local bowling alley. On March 20, the committee hosted a successful evening of bowling and socializing at Pinstripes, next to the Chicago River. Alumni enjoyed some friendly competition on the lanes while enjoying appetizers.

Alumni University » On April 14, alumni returned to campus for the sixth annual Alumni University, a day of learning and exploration with current faculty on topics geared to today's interests and challenges. Course offerings included "Strategies in Leading for your Career and Life," "Cybersecurity: It's All About Risk Assessment" and "Conflict Resolution: Contemplative Theatre as Radical Pedagogy." Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to continue their education, if only for a day, at their alma mater.



Upcoming Events

JULY	SEPTEMBER
21 Guided Walking Tour of The 606 » <i>Chicago</i>	4 Young Alumni Ping-Pong Outing at AceBounce » <i>Chicago</i>
26 Sunset Kayak Tour » <i>Chicago</i>	16 House of Blues Gospel Brunch » <i>Chicago</i>
AUGUST	29 Cantigny Gardens & First Division Museum Outing » <i>Wheaton, Ill.</i>
9 Rooftop Summer Appetizer-Making Class » <i>Chicago</i>	
18 Chicago Architecture Boat Cruise » <i>Chicago</i>	

Registration dates vary. Please visit alumni.depaul.edu/events to register and for more information.

Alumni Weekend 2018 • Oct. 12-14

For more information and to register, visit alumni.depaul.edu/alumniweekend

A Sound Achievement

When DePaul's School of Music opens the doors on its new, state-of-the-art home this fall, a long-time dream of the late **Murray Allen (MUS '51, MM '52)** and his late wife, Michele, will be fulfilled. The school will receive a seven-figure bequest from their estate to further music education at DePaul, where Allen helped found the school's sound recording technology program and taught core courses.

"A gift of this size enables us to grow the way the school has needed to grow for decades," says Dean Ron Caltabiano. "I'm thrilled that it came from someone who founded a program for us. The meaning is so deep."

During Allen's highly successful sound engineering career in Chicago and, later, in San Francisco, he maintained close ties with his alma mater. He served on the Dean's Advisory Board from 1990 until his passing and was a DePaul Trustee from 1989 to 1992. "Murray was very proud of his association with DePaul," said close friend Stephanie Campbell.

Tom Miller (MM '96), director of DePaul's sound recording technology program, got his first sound engineering job in 1978 from Allen, who was president of Chicago's renowned Universal Recording. Eventually, Allen asked him to teach a course at DePaul, and then another. From those beginnings, Miller found his niche in higher education.

"I owe my career to Murray," Miller says. "He not only hired me, he mentored me. He had a real need to give back by educating the next generations of engineers."

Murray and Michele's nephew, Dr. Jeffrey A. Cohen, remembers how his aunt and uncle lived life to the fullest. "Michele was a jazz singer. I remember being out to dinner at an upscale restaurant in Chicago, and she gave a wonderful rendition of an Edith Piaf song to the surprised delight of fellow diners."

The school intends to honor the pair by naming the large recital hall and the recording technology suite in their honor. "There could not be a more fitting tribute to those two people," says Campbell, "because music was their life."





1 East Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Looking Back Pre-med Students

These pre-med students make the most of their lab time by sharing what they learn and learning from each other.

DePaul University Photographs:
"Science Students, 1940s-1990s,"
DePaul University Special Collections
and Archives



1980