Welcome

I am pleased to present the first issue of our quarterly Student Affairs newsletter. Each quarter the newsletter will cover a variety of important topics, including key changes, special programs, higher education trends and timely news and information.

The Division of Student Affairs develops and offers co-curricular programs and services that are a direct extension of DePaul University’s mission to emphasize skills and attitudes that educate students to be lifelong, independent learners. We provide support services, such as counseling, advising and disability accommodations, along with other programs that inspire transformative learning, promote socially responsible leadership, build community, and support students’ intellectual, personal, spiritual, social and civic development.

We hope that you will take a minute to ‘discover’ Student Affairs and learn about some of the recent changes that have taken place in the division. We look forward to continuing to provide you with useful information through this newsletter that will help foster partnerships and collaborations that encourage our students’ learning and success.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Summers  
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
Premiere and Transition DePaul summer orientation programs wrap-up after another busy summer

Contributed by Katie Granholm, Associate Director, New Student and Family Engagement

For the Office of New Student and Family Engagement, the department charged with planning and coordinating university orientation programs at DePaul, summers are always full of energy and activity. This summer was no exception as over 10,000 new students and family members made their way to campus for Premiere DePaul and Transition DePaul.

These programs are specifically designed to assist new students and their families with their integration and transition into the DePaul community.

University partners play a large role in successful orientation programs

While New Student and Family Engagement spearheads the program, orientation is only made possible through collaboration with dozens of individuals and departments across the University.

With the help of academic partners, new students:

- Learn how to leverage academic and support resources and services available at DePaul.
- Learn how the liberal education requirements, their major curriculum and other opportunities can shape their degree program.
- Receive academic advising in order to begin developing a plan towards graduation and to register for fall quarter courses.

Student, faculty and staff partners:

- Connect parents and family members to university resources in order to help them support their student throughout their DePaul experience.
- Teach new students about the university’s mission and traditions, which are foundational to the DePaul community.
- Provide a welcoming and engaging experience that affords incoming students an opportunity to get to know their new classmates and become comfortable navigating campus.

Faculty and staff interested in getting involved in orientation programs are encouraged to contact the Office of New Student and Family Engagement at 773-325-7360.

Student Affairs News

Center for Students with Disabilities opens Loop office

In August, the Center for Students with Disabilities established a Loop office in addition to their Lincoln Park office. The Center has been quite busy since then providing support for students and faculty. The office space includes testing rooms as well as offices used by the Center’s clinicians, who work with students in one-on-one sessions in support of their academic studies. Located in Lewis 1420, the new Loop office is staffed by associate director Elisabeth Sullivan, department assistant Dorothy Griggs and graduate assistant Jason Gioviano. (continued on page 3)
Center for Students with Disabilities (continued from page 2)

Forty-four percent of DePaul’s students with disabilities attend classes in the Loop. According to Judith Kolar, Director of the Center for Students with Disabilities, the creation of this office was “crucial in order to offer convenient support and the opportunity to build closer working relationships with Loop students and faculty.”

The Center offers a variety of services to students with learning and physical disabilities and the faculty and staff that serve them. Kolar stated that “integrating the Productive Learning Strategies Program (PLuS) and the Office for Students with Disabilities in January 2012, and now opening the Loop office, streamlines access to and delivery of the comprehensive Center for Students with Disabilities’ services and supports to meet the varying needs of students and faculty University-wide.”

For more information about the Center for Students with Disabilities or its Loop office, email Judy Kolar, director, at jkolar@depaul.edu.

Diversity education programs now housed in the Center for Intercultural Programs

Expanded CIP portfolio allows for seamless offering of diversity programs and services

The Office of Diversity Education (ODE) has returned to the Center for Intercultural Programs as the "workshop & training branch" of the Center. All programs and services of the Office of Diversity Education are now delivered through the Center for Intercultural Programs. The move is designed to increase collaboration and efficiency, and improve the delivery of programs and training.

Associate vice president of Student Affairs, Rico Tyler stated that “the Center for Intercultural Programs at DePaul University has a rich and complex history. At its inception, the Center was charged with facilitating cultural awareness, knowledge and skill development experiences for students. As the Center grew, the human and financial resources could not keep pace with the growing need for skill-based diversity training for students. So, diversity education began to operate as a separate unit.”

Tyler went on to say that it was time to bring all aspects of the Center for Intercultural Program’s original charge back together, in part because Vision 2018 calls for it. “Vision 2018 calls for us to effectively prepare our students to be successful, innovative leaders in a diverse global society. We can do this better with a unified Center, and allow for an easier hand-off between what students have learned about identity, diversity and different perspectives, and ways they can continue their exploration further.”

Former associate director of the Office of Diversity Education and now interim director of the Center, Scott Tharp, will work to make sure that the education and exploration aspects of culture and diversity work together seamlessly. He and the Center’s staff professionals will also work to enhance and enrich existing programs while simultaneously pursuing additional collaborative opportunities.

Those interested in learning more about the changes or how to collaborate with the Center for Intercultural Programs on providing diversity or cultural training or workshops for students or staff can email Scott Tharp at dtharp1@depaul.edu.

New Office of Health Promotion and Wellness to open during fall quarter

Student health and wellness is an important topic that has been under discussion for several years at DePaul, and that discussion has culminated in the creation of the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness, reporting to the Dean of Students office, which will be officially launched during the fall quarter.

The Office of Health Promotion and Wellness follows the American College Health Association’s guidelines for college health promotion programs and will provide comprehensive and coordinated programs and services that address health related issues that students must learn to manage throughout their lives. The office will deliver educational programs and health services around substance use, sexual health, sexual violence, health care, nutrition and balanced lifestyle.

“Student health promotion and wellness is not something that one office can or does address by itself. The success of health promotion and wellness initiatives in improving student health is predicated on integral partnerships among offices throughout the university.

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A new book by Jane Fried and associates (2012), *Transformative Learning Through Engagement*, crystallizes the importance of helping students to connect their learning across their college experience. In the book the authors assert that our rapidly changing world requires individuals to not only have access to existing and new knowledge, but the skills to critique what they are learning and develop new ways of addressing major issues.

Most educators know that learning happens for students anywhere and everywhere on and off the college campus. A number of experts in recent years have underscored this understanding, and continue to assert that learning during the collegiate years is a complex activity that takes many forms and happens in many places, not just inside the classroom. Participation in internships, student organizations and the workplace, as well as learning in non-traditional locations like studios and residence halls, all contribute to students learning new ideas, skills and behaviors that will help them develop their potential and navigate their post-college lives.

It’s up to educators, then, to help students make the connection between the learning that occurs both inside and outside the classroom.

Fried and her colleagues urge faculty and student affairs staff to intentionally engage students to make these important connections across their college experience. The authors argue that faculty must help students connect their out-of-class experiences to what they are learning in class, and student affairs professionals need to link students’ learning in programs and other out-of-class experiences to what is going on in the classroom. It is through this partnership that the university becomes a unified learning community dedicated to seeing students become mature adults, thoughtful scholars, engaged citizens and committed leaders.

*Transformative Learning Through Engagement* describes what both faculty and student affairs professionals must do to accomplish transformative, integrated learning, and offers examples of innovative pedagogical practices on a number of college campuses to illustrate how transformative learning can truly take place. It is a powerful read for any educator on a college campus interested in the ultimate success of students.

New Office of Health Promotion and Wellness (continued from page 3)

We look forward to cultivating those relationships as the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness develops,” stated Art Munin, dean of students. Munin went on to say that collaborations with a number of Student Affairs, Academic Affairs and other offices such as Facility Operations, the Women’s Center, and Campus Recreation will be key to health promotion and wellness on campus.

The Office of Health Promotion and Wellness consists of Shannon Lengerich, director, Rebecca Aronson, substance abuse prevention coordinator, Rima Shah, sexual health and violence prevention coordinator, and a health promotion coordinator. A search for the health promotion coordinator is in progress, and the office will be fully staffed by mid-October.

For more information about the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness, call the Dean of Students Office at 773.325.7290.
Trends in Student Learning in Higher Education

There are a number of trends at the national level that have a significant impact on the university's and the division's work with students. In each issue, we will highlight one trend and explore how that trend has manifested itself at DePaul.

National Trends in Student Learning

- The Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC & U) continues to emphasize an increased focus on student learning, and how we can become better educators within and beyond the classroom.

- AAC & U has launched the Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) initiative, which includes the Value of Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (VALUE) project, which seeks to contribute to the national dialogue on assessment of college student learning (http://www.aacu.org/value/index.cfm).

- Arum and Roska, in “Academically Adrift” (2011), suggest that college students learn little during their undergraduate careers, and stress increased academic rigor as a meaningful way to increase student learning during college and job prospects and performance after college (Jaschik, 2011).

- Richard Keeling and Richard Hersh released the book We’re Losing our Minds in December 2011. The book explores how the goal of graduating students has displaced the goal of learning in higher education (Keeling and Hersh, 2011).

And at DePaul University...

- DePaul has renewed its commitment to student learning. The university considered and rewrote its 10 learning goals as part of the new strategic plan that will take the university to 2018.

- There has been a continued emphasis on student learning in Student Affairs, as evidenced by the divisional learning outcomes initiative completed during the 2011-12 academic year. This initiative has resulted in a complete set of learning outcomes for each department, linked to higher level learning outcomes that define co-curricular learning across the division.

- The Division of Student Affairs invited and hosted a January 2012 visit from Dr. George Kuh, author of Student Success in College. Dr. Kuh gave a talk about his Documenting Effective Educational Practice (DEEP) project, which focuses on the relationships among college student engagement, persistence, satisfaction, learning and personal development.

Fall Events Presented by the Division of Student Affairs

**Oscar Romero Prayer Breakfast**
Tuesday, October 9, 2012
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Lincoln Park Student Center, Room 120AB
2250 N. Sheffield Ave.

Brought to you by the Center for Intercultural Programs
Contact Stefanie Smith at SSMITH23@DEPAUL.EDU, or 773-325-7516 for more information

**Family Weekend**
October 12-14, 2012
Various Locations, Lincoln Park and Loop campuses

Brought to you by New Student and Family Engagement
Contact Sarah Doyle at SDOYLE7@DEPAUL.EDU, 773-325-4751 or visit this link for more information: http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/nsfe/familyweekend.html

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**President's Diversity Brunch**
Saturday, October 13, 2012
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Student Center, Room 120AB

Brought to you by the Office of Multicultural Student Success. Contact the Office at 773-325-7325 for more information.

**Family Weekend Mass**
Sunday, October 14, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Lincoln Park, St Vincent de Paul Church
1010 W. Webster

Brought to you by New Student & Family Engagement
Contact Rob Gilmore at RGILMOR2@DEPAUL.EDU or 773-325-7928 for more information.

**Family Weekend Brunch**
Sunday, October 14, 2012
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Lincoln Park Student Center, 2250 N. Sheffield, 2nd Floor

Brought to you by New Student & Family Engagement
Contact Sara Doyle at SDOYLE7@DEPAUL.EDU or 773-325-4751 for more information.

**Get Out the Vote**
Get Out the Vote (GOTV) is a campaign to raise awareness about voter responsibility. Throughout the campaign, there will be opportunities to register to vote, learn how to submit an absentee ballot and become familiar with political issues through a variety of strategically planned events.
Events are scheduled throughout October and November

Brought to you by the Office of Student Involvement
Visit vote.depaul.edu for more information.

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**Get to Know Our Team**

Each issue of *Co-Curricular Connections* will contain a profile of two or three departments in the division and will include a list of staff and their roles, as well as any changes or additions to staff, programs or services. In this issue, please take a moment to get to know our leadership team.

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Please visit [http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/vicepresident.html](http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/vicepresident.html) for biographies of all our leadership team members.