



## Student Affairs

# Co-Curricular Connections

Fall 2014

### Welcome to the Fall 2014 edition of Co-Curricular Connections!

Welcome to the first edition of the division of Student Affairs' third year of Co-Curricular Connections, our quarterly newsletter for faculty and staff.

I've been at DePaul for 3 months now as the vice president for Student Affairs, and I have truly enjoyed getting to know DePaul and the division. I've been out and about meeting with faculty, staff and students, and everyone has been so welcoming, as well as clearly committed to the institution, its mission and its students. I look forward to learning more about the institution as I continue my work here, and hope to nurture existing relationships that we have with colleges and their faculty, as well as identify opportunities to cultivate new collaborations that help to further DePaul's strategic objectives.

I know that all faculty, staff and administrators share my goal of furthering the university's strategic plan, and that many recognize that strategic collaborations are one way of doing that. I hope that you have a moment to read this edition of Co-Curricular Connections, because I believe it outlines current ways that exist for us to collaborate, and may also inspire thinking about new ways of working together.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of Co-Curricular Connections, and look forward to reading the next.

Sincerely,

Eugene L. Zdziarski, II, PhD,  
Vice President for Student Affairs



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# New 'Compass Groups' address adult student transition to college

Transitioning into college can be tough for the typical high school graduate, so imagine what it's like for an adult learner who may not have been in school for 5 or even 20 years. Understanding this challenge, Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs (AVCSA) introduced Compass Groups this fall--topic-based groups designed to ease the transition back into school for adult learners. AVCSA knew that the busy schedules and multiple life roles of many adult students creates a gap that student organizations or clubs often can't fill in building community outside of class with other students. In addition, a new program aligned with topics of known interest to adult students could provide extracurricular learning opportunities.

Larry Durham, an adult undergraduate student who returned to school after a 12-year hiatus, signed up for the Five Choices group during the fall quarter. "As a new student to the School for New Learning, I am excited to have the opportunity to acquire new skills as it relates to time management, priorities and goal setting, but also to interact with other students in an environment that is conducive to the special concerns of the adult population of the university," Durham stated in an email.

"We have groups of [undergraduate adult students] that come in and want an experience where they can repeatedly engage with other adult students and build community outside of the classroom," said James Stewart, assistant director of Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs. "But they also want something meaty that would include more learning and skill-building versus a typical undergraduate club." Students can sign up for one or more of the different topic groups. Each group then meets every other week for one hour during the academic quarter. For

the fall quarter, four groups have been formed: Writing and You, The Way of the Wise Leader, Five Choices (which covers productivity and goal setting) and Spirituality for Success. All students can expect to be awarded with new, tangible skills, and meaningful connections by participating in a group.

Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs first got the idea for the groups when they heard about similar successful programs at other institutions at the NASPA National Conference in March 2014. The idea really came together when Tom Judge, an Office of Religious Diversity chaplain based in the Loop, approached Stewart about an adult spirituality group. AVCSA recognized the value of such a group in supporting this population during a critical transition, so they not only established the spirituality group, but expanded on the idea by also collaborating with the University Center for Writing-based Learning and the Hay Project.

Registration for fall groups is closed; however, registration for winter quarter groups will open at the end of October. At that time, students can register on the [Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs website](#). For more information about Compass Groups, contact [James Stewart](#) in Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student affairs at (312) 362-5998.

## Summer Orientation: Data Points

Premiere and Transition DePaul orientation programs took place between June and September and kept the campuses humming with activity all summer.

Here are some interesting facts about orientation:

- 2611 students attended
- 2775 parents and guests accompanied their students
- Total attendance was 5386
- 13 separate, 2-day orientation sessions were held
- Over 900 family members of new students joined the [parents@depaul](#) Facebook group during the summer

# With an eye on healthier campus community, Take Care DePaul is launched

Take Care DePaul, a new effort to affect student health on campus, encourages students to say something if they see something and to be safe when they choose to engage in inherently risky behaviors, such as drinking alcohol, and aims to support student persistence and success. As a result of this new campaign from the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness, over two thousand students at Premiere and Transition DePaul orientation programs heard messages this summer about taking care of themselves and the ones around them in order to create a healthier and safer campus community. Other efforts are planned for the coming year.

“This really is a call for the entire DePaul community to create a healthy and safe campus, with a focus on students, initially,” stated Shannon Suffoletto, director of Health Promotion and Wellness.

“Throughout orientation and Welcome Week, we have asked students to consider and make choices that positively impact their well-being and the well-being of the people around them, and that align with DePaul’s Vincentian mission.”

Take Care DePaul is an extension of Healthy Campus 2020, an American College Health Association initiative that lines up with Healthy People 2020, a program developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy Campus 2020 has established 54 objectives for students in 11 different topic areas, from health impediments to academic performance, to injury and violence prevention, to mental health and mental health disorders, among others.

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## *In the Heights* selections to be featured at Dolores Huerta Breakfast

This year, DePaul’s Center for Intercultural Program’s annual Dolores Huerta Breakfast will feature a performance by the DePaul Theatre School of selections from the Tony award-winning musical, *In the Heights*.

The breakfast was established to honor the legacy of Dolores Huerta, a labor leader and civil rights activist advocating for workers’, immigrants’ and women’s rights. “Honoring her can be done in a number of ways. I think that a big theme of the breakfast this year is identity and interceptions of identity,” said Charee Holloway, coordinator of diversity

education. “That’s a lot of what *In the Heights* is about, and I think theater and music can be really powerful mediums for sharing experiences, dialogue, history and stories.”

Holloway noted that *In the Heights* touches on the experiences of being a Latino American in the Washington Heights community of New York City during a time of growth and challenge, and is filled with inspiring energy. “A big part of Huerta’s political identity had to do with being Latina, and standing up for Latino rights during a time of great change, so this performance is a good fit for the breakfast,” Holloway said.

The Center for Intercultural Programs has worked very closely with The Theatre School (TTS) in the past. Holloway works with Dexter Zollicoffer,

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### *In the Heights* selections to be featured at Dolores Huerta Breakfast (cont.)

diversity advisor at The Theatre School, to put on the DePaul Educational Theatre Company every summer. *In the Heights* is the major musical production of TTS this year, and the run of the show just so happened to coincide with the breakfast.

“We thought this would be perfect if we could maybe have a couple of songs from the show. Everyone in TTS was on board right away and really excited,” said Holloway. “We have such a great working relationship that it was really easy to make something like this happen.”

The Theatre School is also offering discounted tickets to see the full performance for those who attend the breakfast.

Favianna Rodriguez, an American artist with Afro-Peruvian roots who has provoked social change through what critics label her bold and provocative art,



will be the keynote speaker at the breakfast. The event takes place on Wednesday, October 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Park Student Center, room 120A. If you plan to attend, please RSVP for the event. For more information contact [Charee Holloway](mailto:Charee.Holloway@depaul.edu) at 773.325.4802.

### With an eye on healthier campus community, Take Care DePaul is launched (cont.)

Recent survey data from the American College Health Association’s (ACHA) National College Health Assessment (NCHA) indicated that many DePaul students, and college students across the nation, are struggling with certain mental and physical health issues that can get in the way of academic success. These issues are some that are addressed by Healthy Campus 2020 and Take Care DePaul, and the programs formalize and organize the effort around specific objectives, as well as introduce a streamlined communications campaign around the objectives.

“I think this is a concept that really speaks to the family environment that exists at the university,” said Gene Zdziarski, vice president for Student Affairs. “It’s telling us that, like a family, we need to come together and care for each other, particularly in regards to safety and looking out for each other.”

Suffoletto and Zdziarski both hope that the Take Care DePaul message is something students will internalize and live by, shaping their lives both personally and academically. “We want students, during their time here and beyond, to understand that taking care of ourselves and each other is what it means to be a Blue Demon here, in Chicago and in the communities that our students ultimately live in as alumni,” Zdziarski said.

Suffoletto hopes to engage other departments at the university in the near future and get them on board with the program. A poster campaign is also being developed that underscores the initial objectives of the early stages of the initiative. For more information about Take Care DePaul, contact [Shannon Suffoletto](mailto:Shannon.Suffoletto@depaul.edu) at 773.325.5653.

## Center for Intercultural Programs expands reach into the classroom with LSP200 partnership

The Center for Intercultural Programs (CIP) and the Liberal Studies Program (LSP) are embarking on their second year of the LSP 200 pilot program, an integrative partnership for holistic student learning within the four-year experience. And, after initial success, they are looking to expand the pilot to more DePaul instructors and courses.

The pilot integrates the second-year course of the Liberal Studies Common Core, LSP 200: *Seminar on Multiculturalism in the U.S.*, with CIP's external programming series. The course addresses multiculturalism in the context of the United States, and encompasses various dimensions of identity, including issues of race

*This is a great example of DePaul resources being directly applied to curricular goals.*

and ethnicity, class, gender, language, religion, sexual orientation, disability as well as nationality.

Stefanie Smith,  
Program  
Coordinator  
in the Center

for Intercultural Programs, said they found the goals of the department's external programming series, Vision 2018 and LSP 200 mirrored each other. Smith said the center then asked 'how can we make an intentional and integrative connection...with Liberal Studies?'

The Center for Intercultural Programs worked collaboratively with Liberal Studies Program Director Mark Pohlada, PhD and faculty member Francesca Royster, PhD to develop the pilot and reach out to the LSP 200 advisory committee for support. Pohlada said, "This is a great example of DePaul resources being directly applied to curricular goals."

Participating instructors are asked to incorporate one

of the Center's external programming events into their course. This can be done in one of three ways: instructors choose to integrate at least one program from CIP's quarterly calendar into the course syllabus, they include a course requirement for students to attend one or more events during the current term or the course implements a common, credit-bearing assignment connecting content from an external programming series event with course material, outside resources and experiences. This fall, for example, instructors can choose to incorporate the events "I Refuse to be a Pawn for Whiteness," by Professor Nicholas Daniel Hartlep or "Migration is Beautiful," by Faviana Rodriguez, among other events.

Instructors are also invited to quarterly feedback sessions with the Center for Intercultural Programs to share their experience and suggestions to improve the pilot's comprehensiveness and effectiveness. Initial feedback from instructors has been overwhelmingly positive, and has already guided process improvements. Through this continuous feedback loop, the pilot hopes to develop and expand in collaboration with instructors of the course.

"I was pleasantly surprised how the hands-on, interactive workshop really helped engage my students on a whole new level," said pilot participant Laura Kina, PhD, Professor of Art, Media & Design.

The LSP 200 pilot began in winter quarter 2014 and will continue throughout this academic year in hopes of establishing a longer-term partnership. So far, 18 courses and 400 students have participated in the pilot with another six courses joining this fall term. Pilot participation is currently open to all instructors teaching LSP 200.

For more information about the LSP 200 Pilot Program, contact [Stefanie Smith](#), program coordinator in the Center for Intercultural Programs at 773.325.7516.

# Spotlight on sexual assault and sexual assault education and prevention on college campuses

## Nationally

- The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act, which was enacted in March 2013, compelled colleges and universities to provide programming that addresses issues of domestic and relationship violence, sexual assault and stalking by March 2014. Campuses across the country have struggled to interpret and apply the new rules, particularly around definitions of consent (Vendituoli, 2014; Vendituoli, 2013).
- The U.S. senate has turned its attention toward sexual assault on college campuses. A survey commissioned by Senator Claire McCaskill in early 2014 found that more than 40 percent of colleges had not conducted even one sexual assault investigation in the previous five years. (Vendituoli, 2014).
- The Education Department is currently investigating over 60 colleges for potentially mishandling sexual assault cases on their campuses, with complaints being made under the gender equity law, Title IX (Vendituoli, 2014).
- More than 3,900 reports of forcible sex offenses on college campuses were logged nationwide in 2012, which is a 50 percent increase over three years. The increase is due, in part, to greater media attention and university efforts to increase education about sexual assault on their campuses (Anderson, 2014).

## At DePaul

- In the summer of 2013 and 2014, all incoming freshmen participated in a new orientation session which included a multi-faceted approach to sexual assault education highlighting consent, harm reduction strategies and reporting. This messaging is being built upon and expanded during the Health and Wellness Common Hour lesson in the fall of 2014.
- Students at DePaul engaged in increased activism around sexual and relationship violence during the 2013-14 academic year: students held silent protests and hung up banners on campus about the issues. Health Promotion and Wellness also engaged in a number of forums with students, along with the interim vice president for Student Affairs and other colleagues, to gather information and feedback on the subject.
- The number of judicial cases brought to the Dean of Students Office for sexual offense has increased from 1 in 2010-11 to 4 in 2013-14. In addition, the Dean of Students Office managed 58 student advocacy cases for sexual offense in 2013-14, up from 33 in 2012-13, a 43 percent increase.
- The health promotion coordinator in the office of Health Promotion and Wellness will have 30 percent of their role committed to sexual assault awareness and prevention activities beginning in the fall of 2014.

## Get to Know Our Team

### Student Affairs realigns organizational structure

In an effort to streamline operations and provide the highest quality student services and programs, Student Affairs recently reviewed its structure and conducted a realignment.

The Dean of Students will now sit on the division's leadership team, and the departments of Health Promotion and Wellness, the Center for Students with Disabilities and University Counseling Services will report up to the Dean.

Departments or large programs that serve special populations of students are now grouped together and will report to the same associate vice president.

The division will continue to periodically review its structure and make any appropriate changes, in an effort to operate efficiently and provide high quality and high value services to students.

## Important Dates

### **Dolores Huerta Breakfast**

Wednesday, October 8, 2014  
10:00 am to noon  
Lincoln Park Student Center, Room 120AB

*Join the Center for Intercultural Programs for a celebration of the life and legacy of Dolores Huerta at their community breakfast event in recognition of Latinola heritage. Please RSVP if you plan to attend. For more information email Charee Holloway, or call her at 773-325-4802.*

**Family Weekend**, brought to you by New Student and Family Engagement  
October 17-19, 2014  
Various Locations, Lincoln Park and Loop campuses

### *DePaul Family Luncheon*

Friday, October 17  
11:30 am to 1 pm

### *Family Weekend Kick-off BBQ*

Friday, October 17  
Lincoln Park Student Center 120AB or The Quad  
6 pm

### *President's Diversity Brunch*

Saturday, October 18  
Lincoln Park Student Center 120AB  
9:00 to 11:30 am

### *Fall Harvest*

Saturday, October 18  
Lincoln Park Student Center 120AB  
2 to 5 pm

### *Family Weekend Brunch*

Sunday, October 19  
Lincoln Park Student Center, Floor 2  
10:30 am to 12:30 pm

### *Family Weekend Mass*

Sunday, October 19  
St. Vincent DePaul Parish, 1010 W. Webster  
10:00 to 11:00 am

### **3rd Annual Division of Student Affairs Assessment Symposium**

Thursday, October 23  
Lincoln Park Student Center 120AB  
9:30 am to noon

*The annual Assessment Symposium offers an opportunity to celebrate the people who have contributed to assessment in the division, as well as all that has been accomplished through assessment. The symposium also offers departments in the division a chance to share with others inside and outside of the university what they have learned through their annual assessment project and the assessment process. All are invited to attend!*

### **Winter Leadership Conference**

Friday, January 16-18  
Application deadline: Friday, October 24th  
Students should visit [orgsync.com](http://orgsync.com) to apply

*The Winter Leadership Conference provides approximately 150 students the opportunity to unleash their leadership potential and learn how to become an agent of positive change at an off-campus weekend experience.*



**DEPAUL UNIVERSITY**  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

*Co-Curricular Connections is a publication of the Division of Student Affairs at DePaul University. Inquiries and comments are welcome. Please contact us at 25 E. Jackson Blvd, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60604 or via e-mail at [depaulsaneews@depaul.edu](mailto:depaulsaneews@depaul.edu).*

*Please take a moment to tell us how we are doing.*