

Co-Curricular Connections

Division of Student Affairs

Fall 2015

Inside this Issue

Timely Tips	2
Traditions: Family Weekend	4
Sankofa: Signature retention program for African-American students supports community, unity	6
Meet our Student Leaders Rachel Batshon	8
Kamelotte Gregory	10
Did You Know?	11
Get to Know Our Team	12
Welcome to DePaul	14
Important Dates	16



“ Many staff and departments in Student Affairs are here to support you, and would love to collaborate with you. ”



“ Students who are engaged in their college experience are more likely to persist and graduate. ”

Timely Tips

The beginning of the academic year is an exciting time. New students and new faculty are on board, and everybody is adjusting to new schedules, new people and new experiences. The Dean of Students, Ashley Knight, EdD, shares a few helpful tips on how to make the transition a little easier for you and our students.

yourself and your health, and encourage your students to do the same.

- Remember ‘Take Care DePaul.’ We’ve embraced this framework, which encourages us to take care of ourselves, take care of each other and ‘Take Care DePaul,’ across the university. In part, taking care of each other involves intervening when we notice someone needs help. Also, remember to take time for

- Physical and mental health issues can interfere with student academic progress and learning. Keep your eyes open for these issues early in the quarter so they can be addressed sooner rather than later. Visit the [Dean of Students](#) web page and familiarize yourself with the information there. Flag students in BlueStar, if appropriate. This could reduce student withdrawals and dropouts.
- Sometimes, students get so excited about the new freedoms that college offers, that

they forget why they came to college in the first place: to get an education. Make sure you are reminding students of this primary purpose.

- Students who are engaged in their college experience are more likely to persist and graduate. Encourage your students to get involved in some way. Point them to [OrgSync](#), where they can find 1000’s of opportunities on campus.
- Many staff and departments in Student Affairs are here to support you, and would love to collaborate with you.
 - The [Dean of Students Office](#) can provide resources and support that will help you manage your classroom. They can make referrals to other departments, like the [Center for Students with Disabilities](#),

University Counseling Services and many others, too.

- The [Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change](#) collaborates with 100’s of classes to deliver identity and social justice training: they could do this for your class, too.
- The [Vincentian Community Service Office](#) offers many opportunities for you and your students to engage in service in the Chicago community.
- Visit the [Student Affairs website](#) to learn about us and how we can collaborate with and support you. Together, we can make sure that students have the best experience possible at DePaul! Have a great fall quarter!



Traditions

Family Weekend

If You Go

What: Family Weekend (and Alumni Weekend)

When: October 16-18, with events on Friday evening, most of the day Saturday and Sunday morning

Where: Many locations across both campuses. The Family Weekend Headquarters will be located in the atrium of the Student Center all weekend.

Information: <http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/parents-and-family/family-weekend/Pages/default.aspx>

Contact: Ziena Miller, 773.325.4571.

It's six weeks into the quarter, and your DePaul student isn't calling or texting as much as you'd hoped. You loved the campus, and want to come back, but you fear your kid will think you're being nosy if you show up uninvited. Cue Family Weekend.

Family Weekend was established because parents and families wanted to continue to be engaged with DePaul once orientation ended and classes began. Although Family Weekend, or Parent Weekend, first took place in 1993, it didn't really take off until about 11 years ago, when Rico Tyler, then the director of the Office of Academic Enhancement, was asked to take it on.

"The university was at a crossroads then: the student residential community had grown significantly, and we had more families from outside of Chicago. For them, DePaul was a destination that they wanted to come back to," Tyler, now associate vice president in Student Affairs, said.

Family Weekend was lined up with Alumni



Weekend at that time, too. "Parents saw alumni coming back, and everyone saw a campus buzzing with activity—there's a real sense of energy and community during this time, and it's an affirming experience—DePaul was the right decision," Tyler continued.

And it's no mistake that Family Weekend takes place during a critical developmental time for new college students. They've just taken their first mid-terms, which is a stressful experience, the new-ness of the college experience is beginning to wear off and they are getting a little homesick.

"We thought it would be a good idea to bring the families to the students at a time when they are feeling a little vulnerable, to help keep them on track and on campus," Tyler said.

Family Weekend will continue to change over time—there are plans to add an undergraduate research symposium and other activities that appeal to students and families beyond their first year on campus—but it is a long-standing,



university tradition that isn't going anywhere soon.

If you would like to propose or collaborate on a program during Family Weekend, contact Ziena Miller at 773.325.4571.

Interesting Facts

- Family Weekend was first held in 1993 and was called Parents Weekend
- The Disney movie "Aladdin," featuring the voice of Robin Williams, was screened by the DePaul Activities Board during Family Weekend 1993.
- The first one was held during the first weekend in November. It's now held during the sixth week of classes, which typically falls in mid-October.
- The Family Weekend brunch with the President has endured through all the years that Family Weekend has existed.

Sankofa

Signature retention program for African-American students supports community, unity

In 2011, African-American student leaders were concerned about a lack of unity among African-American students. In addition, African-American students remained at the bottom among all student populations in retention and completion rates at DePaul, even with a host of excellent programs in place to support these students over the past 25 years. This left student leaders and the staff members that they had sought out asking, “what (more) must be done” to support these students? Through the work of students and staff in the Division of Student Affairs, Sankofa was born.

“[African American students] don’t see themselves reflected in the community, and they don’t see others like them doing well and thriving at DePaul, and that can be discouraging,” Rev. Keith Baltimore, Protestant minister in the Office of Religious Diversity and one of the coordinators of the program,

said. In addition “they are told that they have all these opportunities at DePaul, but they don’t think those opportunities are for them,” said Baltimore.

According to Baltimore that discouragement can cause students to stop pursuing their education. Sankofa was designed to change that.

Started in earnest in 2013, the program was created in response to what staff in the Division of Student Affairs saw as a gap in programs focused on the development of African-American students’ leadership skills. So, a weekend retreat focused on giving these students some tools to be academically successful in a predominantly white institution was offered.

Leadership development remains a focus of this signature retention program, but it is also about cultural and spiritual affirmation of African-

American students, as well as unity among these students. Less than 12 percent of the student population at DePaul is African-American, or about 2100 students total. A student can go almost their entire career at DePaul without having a class with another African-American student.

“African-American students are looking for people that look like them and that share a heritage,” Marquece Jones-Holifield of the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change, another coordinator of the Sankofa program, said.

Jones-Holifield believes that part of why this is true is that students fear being judged by faculty, staff and other students who are not black.

“Sankofa brings African-American students together on a regular basis, which creates unity, but also provides multiple sources of knowledge and opportunity for these students,” she added.

Baltimore adds that African-American students also want others at the university to affirm their heritage and culture. He suggested that if you can affirm these other aspects of their lives,

particularly their spirituality, they are then able to open themselves up to other options, and their tools for coping have increased.

“For many, they want their lives outside of the academics and finances of college to be recognized and accepted by other cultural groups at the university,” Baltimore said.

Sankofa started as a single leadership retreat that occurred in the spring. During 2014-15, the program was expanded, and now consists of five events during the year: the leadership retreat, a welcome event and Dynamism retreat in the fall; a spring Sankofa reunion; and Watch Night, a sacred celebration of African American achievement, cultural values and spirituality.

The program has been a collaboration among many departments in the Division of Student Affairs since the beginning, and Residential Education, leadership programs, Student Involvement, the Office of Multicultural Student Success, the Office of Religious Diversity, the Dean of Students Office and the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change all continue to contribute to the program.

For more information about Sankofa, contact [Keith Baltimore](#) or [Marquece Jones-Holifield](#).



Meet Our Student Leaders

Rachel Batshon



Meet student leader, Rachel Batshon. She is a junior majoring in accounting, and is originally from Livonia, Michigan. Read on to learn more about how Rachel is involved, and why being a leader is important to her.

What leadership roles do you hold, and what student organizations are you involved in?

I'm a Chicago Quarter Mentor (CQM) as well as a resident advisor in Clifton-Fullerton Hall.

Why do you choose to be involved as a student leader?

I was involved in high school—I was a member of our student council and helped with my high school's freshmen orientation. I really enjoyed those experiences and wanted to continue with those kinds of activities in college. Once I was at DePaul, I loved my

Chicago Quarter experience, and learned that I could apply to be a Chicago Quarter Mentor. Doing that work seemed like it would be a rewarding and fun experience, so I applied. Of course, as a Chicago Quarter Mentor, I met a lot of other students who were involved, not only as CQMs, but in other ways. So, I learned about being a resident advisor and decided to apply to be an RA.

Overall, I love to see people learning and be able to help in that process. Watching freshmen grow and change, and being a part of that, is very exciting to me.

What have you learned about leadership through your work with others on campus?

I didn't know this was going to be the case, but I've learned more from my peers, other students and residents than probably anyone else—and certainly more than I ever thought I would. I learned that I'm not all knowing, and that I have to have an open mind. And I've learned to appreciate the fresh perspective and energy that freshmen bring to campus—they're smart and capable and excited, and I can step back and not worry so much.

What is your most memorable experience at DePaul?

Definitely the spring break service immersion trip I went on during my freshmen year. I went to Okalona, Mississippi, which is a low-income, low privilege community. I learned about a community that I knew nothing

about, that is so different from Chicago. I interacted with people that I might not ever have interacted with if I hadn't gone on this trip. And I learned so much from that experience. I still think back on it today, and even if I never go back there, I'm thinking about how I can help people here in the same way.

What is your favorite DePaul tradition?

It is definitely the Blue Demon Community Meeting, which is essentially a pep rally that involves all of the residential students from all of the halls. It takes place the night before the first day of classes, and is all about having fun and getting energized for the school year. My hall, Clifton-Fullerton Hall, has won two years in row! I love that everyone's dressed up and together—it's just such a fun night. It's the beginning of community building—it brings everyone into community, and connects them to the university's values and mission, which is so important in ensuring the best college experience.

What advice would you give to a student thinking about getting involved?

Try it! It certainly can't hurt—you have nothing to lose. There are so many ways to get involved, from academic to social to service organizations—and if you can't find something, you can start a new organization. Getting involved really connects you to the community. There are so many people that I've met through my work on campus that have become my friends and support system,

too.

How does getting involved complement your studies?

The work has caused me to think a bit about my chosen profession—it might steer me in a different direction. I mean, I will stay with accounting, but I know I will get into teaching down the road, because these experiences (as a student leader) have shown me that I know that I really want to see students learn.

What are your future plans?

I definitely want to have a family—that's important to me, although I have no idea when!

I want to live a free and open life. For a while, when I'm first out of college, I want to be able to explore and travel. Some of my cousins backpacked through Europe after college, and I definitely want to do that! And, someday, I will get a PhD and come back and teach college.

Tell us 3 fun facts about yourself.

- I'm always watching Bravo TV. I never change the channel. I love the Real Housewives—all of them!
- I love the Zumba classes at the Ray, and that's all I do at the Ray.
- Su Casa (down town) is my favorite restaurant—they have the best taco salad.

Thanks, Rachel! We're gonna have to try that taco salad soon!

In each edition of Co-Curricular Connections, we will profile one or more of DePaul's student leaders. These are students who are not only actively engaged on campus, but who have taken on significant leadership roles in Student Affairs programs or student organizations.

Meet Our Student Leaders (cont.)

Kamelotte Gregory



Now meet student leader, Kamelotte Gregory. She is a sophomore majoring in secondary education, and is originally from Plainfield, Illinois. Read on to learn more about how Kamelotte is involved, and why being a leader is important to her.

What leadership roles do you hold, and what student organizations are you involved in?

I was an orientation leader this past summer, and I'm currently a teaching assistant (TA) for the Quantitative Reasoning Center at DePaul.

Why do you choose to be involved as a student leader?

I love making strong connections. Being a mentor turned peer has been an amazing

process and being a student leader allows me to set a good example while doing the things I love.

What have you learned about leadership through your work with others on campus?

I learned how big of a difference one person can make. You may not remember the names of every person you meet, but I think you always take away the experience and it can affect a person for a very long time. Making a positive difference in someone's life has been the most rewarding.

What is your most memorable experience at DePaul?

My CQ Explore class with Professor Kahn freshman year. I learned how to ride the el, learned the subject matter in a completely different way, met friends I am so lucky to still have and flourished in the city that I love.

What is your favorite DePaul tradition?

I love Vincentian Service Day. Vincentian Service Day really put into perspective what being a Vincentian Catholic means. There were so many of us scattered around the city helping people, and it was a great experience that I think everyone should take part in.

What advice would you give to a student thinking about getting involved?

Get involved! That's what you're here for. Meet new people, discover your passion and explore new things. You never know what kind of change you can make.

How does getting involved complement your studies?

I think it just furthers my drive to help people. I like to get involved in a lot of service type organizations because it's essentially what I want to do for the rest of my life.

What are your future plans?

My end goal is to work in student affairs at a university. I want to be able to help students in every way that I can. And change things for the better.

Tell us 3 fun facts about yourself.

- I love movies and have an extensive collection.
- I love to write, and have a journal for every year since about 6th grade.
- I love birthdays. Everyone's birthday. I think it's so exciting.

Thanks, Kamie. If you want to add another birthday to your list, mine is August 7!

Did You Know?

Did You Know offers quick bits of information about key programs or services that you may not be familiar with, but should be!

Study Jams

Study Jams are collaborative study sessions which are designed to create a sense of community among academically-focused students of color, first generation students, participants in cultural student organizations and participants involved the Office of Multicultural Student Success programs.

- Study Jams serve as a communal study space and feature math and writing tutors.
- Each quarter, Study Jams collaborates with The Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change as well as cultural student organizations to serve as co-sponsors during the Study Jam sessions.
- An average of 45 students per week participated in Study Jams during 2014-15.
- The program is part of The Learning Commons, located in the Information Commons in room 111 of the John T. Richardson library in Lincoln Park.
- The group meets every week on Mondays and Tuesday from 5 to 7:00 pm.

Sankofa

Sankofa is a leadership, unity and cultural and spiritual affirmation program for African-American students at DePaul. It is a collaboration of a number of departments in the Division of Student Affairs.

- Sankofa started in 2013 as a single leadership retreat that occurred in the spring.
- The program now consists of five events during the year: the leadership retreat, a welcome event and Dynamism retreat in the fall; a spring Sankofa reunion; and Watch Night, a sacred celebration of African American achievement, cultural values and spirituality.
- Residential Education, leadership programs, Student Involvement, the Office of Multicultural Student Success, the Office of Religious Diversity, the Dean of Students Office and the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change all contribute to the program.



Get to Know our Team

Eugene Zdziarski, PhD, vice president for Student Affairs, has been with the division for over a year now. We spent some time catching up with him and chatted about one thing he is most excited about this coming academic year.

So, you've been here a little over a year. There were a lot of changes in Student Affairs during 2014-15, but the division is now entering a more stable time, and is focusing on new strategic goals that align with Vision 2018. There are lots of things to be excited about, but let's talk about the one thing you are most excited about for 2015-16.

That's a tough one, because there is a lot to be excited about, but I would have to say that developing co-curricular/curricular partnerships is something that I'm not only excited about, but working actively on. Our new provost, Marten denBoer, almost immediately brought up his interest in this area during our first meeting in July, it's a topic that came up again during the Joint Council retreat in August, and it's one of the activities of objective 1A of Vision 2018 (the university's strategic plan), so it appears to be the perfect time to focus in on this. And, this kind of collaboration is just something that I like to do.

Why are curricular/co-curricular collaborations so important?

Learning that happens in the classroom is good, but experiential learning, or the learning that happens outside of the classroom, is what really internalizes the learning. On the academic side, experiential learning is usually thought of as study abroad, internships

and coops, research and service learning, but also includes many of the programs and services that are delivered by Student Affairs. To increase the kinds and the amount of opportunities that students have for experiential learning, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs have to collaborate, and these collaborations could have the effect of greater progress, learning and success among our students.

What contributes to an effective collaboration?

Understanding each other's work is important, so we can see the natural locations for collaboration. To that end, I will be attending Academic Council meetings with Provost denBoer. Some of the best collaborations are not new initiatives, but those that have been expanded on or built from existing opportunities on one side of the house or the other.

Where do you think some of those 'natural locations' are?

Student Affairs holds Family Weekend during the 6th week of the fall quarter each year (this year it is Oct. 16-18). Bringing faculty and staff from other areas of the university in to talk to families about the experiential learning opportunities that they offer is a good start. This year, staff in New Student and Family Engagement worked with partners in Career Services, the College of Computing and Digital Media, the College of Science and Health, the Honors Program, Steans Center and Study Abroad to develop a 5-hour program with a variety of sessions

that families and students can attend. This kind of collaboration allows families to understand the value of these programs, and how their student can take advantage of one or more of these opportunities. Students can also hear from their peers about the experiences, which can have a greater impact than if they just heard about the program from staff members. And we will build from there.

Why Family Weekend?

New students and their families hear about experiential learning opportunities during Premiere DePaul (student orientation), and while it is important to introduce them to the idea, at that time experiential learning is not a priority. Making the transition to college and affirming that they can be successful both academically and socially is what they are initially focused on. After a

student has been here for a few weeks and has taken a couple of exams or completed midterms – that's when they are ready to start seriously considering experiential learning opportunities. Family Weekend is scheduled at exactly that time of the year. If we talk about experiential learning at Family Weekend, students and their families can begin to seriously consider the different learning opportunities and begin to make plans.

For more information on Student Affairs programs and services, visit our website at offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs

“ Learning that happens in the classroom is good, but experiential learning, or the learning that happens outside of the classroom, is what really internalizes the learning. ”

Welcome to DePaul

Please help us welcome new staff to the Division of Student Affairs

Megan Burda, Assistant Director, Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs

Megan has been with DePaul since 2009. In her current role as assistant director in Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs she focuses primarily on veteran students by assisting not only with their veterans' benefits but also with transitioning, advocacy and community building for the students.

Prior to her role as assistant director, Megan worked as the VA coordinator in the financial aid office focusing strictly on veterans benefits. Before she came to DePaul in 2009, she worked for the Chicago Bulls selling season ticket.

Megan earned her MS in public administration and BS in marketing at DePaul University.

Dan Fotoples, Residence Director, Residential Education

Dan has been with DePaul since August 2015. In his role as residence director of Munroe and Belden-Racine Halls, he supervises the resident advisor staff, coordinates educational initiatives in the residence halls, hears student conduct cases and manages both halls' budgets. Dan also provides support for residential students, referring them to campus partners as needed. Dan is interested in student conduct, Title IX issues and procedures and student health and wellness. Originally from Ohio, Dan enjoys being outside, being active, watching soccer and cheering on the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Dan received his BA in history and philosophy from John Carroll University in Cleveland, his JD

from the University of Notre Dame Law School and his MA in student affairs administration from Michigan State University.

Lauren Hussar, Urgent Care Specialist/Staff Psychologist, University Counseling Services

Lauren Hussar joined University Counseling Services (UCS) in August 2015 as an urgent care specialist and staff psychologist. She is responsible for coordinating the urgent care needs of DePaul students within the UCS office, as well as providing individual therapy, outreach programming and consultation for DePaul students and the university community.

Prior to this position, Lauren worked in the counseling services offices at both The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago. She also has experience working with children and adolescents at an inpatient psychiatric hospital and community mental health center on the west side of Chicago. Areas of clinical interest include identity development, multiculturalism and social justice and self-compassion.

Lauren earned her MA and PsyD in clinical psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Chicago, and her BA in psychology and sociology from Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts.

Courtney James, Assistant Director, Student Involvement

Courtney has served as the assistant director of Student Involvement since August 2015. In her

role, she works as part of the Student Involvement team to foster learning, create community and contribute to student success through a variety of campus activities, student organizations and advising student leaders. Directly, she oversees marketing and communications for Student Involvement and supervises the program coordinators for DePaul Activities Board and Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Prior to her role at DePaul, Courtney spent five years working in campus activities at the University of Central Oklahoma. She is actively involved in the National Association for Campus Activities, where she currently serves as the NACA Central Regional Conference Chair.

She earned her BA in english, sociology, and gender studies from Augustana College and MS in college student personnel from Western Illinois University.

Michael Riley, Coordinator, Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change

Michael Riley has served as the workshop coordinator in the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change since August 2015. In his role Michael works with a dedicated staff to create social-justice driven workshops and curriculum for students, faculty and staff at DePaul.

Michael previously worked at Syracuse University as an assistant residence director, as well as the associate director of the LGBT Resource Center at Syracuse University.

Michael earned his MEd from Syracuse University. There, he honed a framework rooted in black feminist theory, intersectionality and intergroup dialogue as means to create transformative classroom spaces.

In his spare time Michael loves book clubs, brunches and thrift shopping.

Amanda Thompson, Director, Catholic Campus Ministry

Amanda Thompson has served as the director of Catholic Campus Ministry since August 2015. She has been working in ministry with the Catholic Church for over 20 years. She will be working with the wonderful Catholic Campus Ministry staff to provide students, faculty and staff with opportunities to explore and deepen their faith. Some of those ways will be through one on one conversation, small group experiences, retreats and liturgy.

Prior to working at DePaul, Amanda worked for the Archdiocese of Chicago in Marriage and Family Ministries and the Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry. She also worked as the Adult Faith Formation Coordinator at St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

Amanda has a master's of pastoral studies and will complete her master's of divinity in 2018. She is the wife of Deacon Chuck Thompson and they have 3 children.

Rod Waters, Director, Residential Education

The Department of Residential Education is responsible for responding to student crises, building a sense of community, managing the student conduct process and providing students with high-quality opportunities for engagement. The department programs and services build a relational, residential community where students are encouraged to explore, learn and develop holistically.

Rod Waters has served as the director for the Department of Residential Education since August 2015. Prior to coming to DePaul, Rod served as the director of Residence Life & Housing at Suffolk University. Additional experiences include work at the University of California, Santa Cruz, University of Washington, Seattle, Curry College and Bay State College.

Rod earned his MSW in clinical social work and a BA in sociology both from Boston College.

Important Dates

- Oct. 7** **Dolores Huerta Breakfast**
Wednesday, October 7, 2015
10:00 am to noon
Lincoln Park Student Center,
Room 120AB
Join the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change 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 Sara Furr, or call her at 773-325-2855.
- Oct. 16-18** **Family Weekend**
October 16-18, 2015
Various locations, Lincoln Park and Loop campuses
Brought to you by New Student and Family Engagement
- Oct. 16** **Family Weekend Signature events: Family Weekend Welcome Reception**
Friday, October 16
Lincoln Park Student Center 120AB
4:30 pm
- Oct. 17** **President's Diversity Brunch**
Saturday, October 17
Lincoln Park Student Center 120AB
9 to 11:00 am
- Oct. 17** **Fall Harvest**
Saturday, October 17
Lincoln Park Student Center 120AB
2:00 to 5:00 pm
- Oct. 18** **Family Weekend Brunch**
Sunday, October 18
Lincoln Park Student Center, Floor 2
10:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Oct. 18** **Family Weekend Mass**
Sunday, October 18
St. Vincent DePaul Parish
10:00 am
- Oct. 21** **4th Annual Division of Student Affairs Assessment Symposium**
Wednesday, October 21
Lincoln Park Student Center 120AB
9:30 am to 12:00
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!

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

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