

# Co-Curricular Connections

Division of Student Affairs

Winter 2016

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# Timely Tips

## Monetary Award Program (MAP): Time for students to complete the FAFSA!

DePaul enrolls nearly 5,000 students who receive annual MAP grants of more than \$4,000 each. The Monetary Award Program (MAP) is a financial aid program administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. It provides taxpayer-funded grants to Illinois students who attend college in Illinois. Low- and middle-income students who attend community college, public or private universities in Illinois, including DePaul, may qualify for MAP awards. Each year, approximately 130,000 students receive more than \$370 million in MAP grants.

Financial need is based on the information provided on the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\)](#). Colleges use the MAP formula to determine eligibility. The formula distributes the appropriated funds so that the neediest students receive grant assistance first. Several components are used to determine eligibility, including: information provided on the FAFSA, the cost of attendance at the college and the amount of other financial aid a student is receiving.

To receive funds, students should apply as soon as possible after January 1, 2016. Awards are made until funds are depleted,



and if students wait too long to apply, the MAP money could be gone.

With the budget stalemate in Illinois, MAP grants have been left unfunded. DePaul honored all MAP commitments made to its students during the fall quarter, even though those funds weren't paid out. This allowed many of the 5,000 students at DePaul who receive MAP grants to stay in school when they otherwise might not have been able to. If the stalemate continues into the winter and spring quarters, DePaul will work with students on an individual basis to find alternative solutions for funding.

If you want to support our students who receive MAP funds, write your [state representative](#) or [Governor Rauner](#) today, and tell them to fund MAP!

Information for this article was taken from [DePaul's Office of Financial Aid](#) and the [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#).

# 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!

## Celebrating the Academic Achievements of our Residential Students

In January 2009, the Department of Residential Education (ResEd) hosted its 1st annual Academic Recognition Reception to honor residential students who achieved a fall quarter GPA of 3.75 and above. Now in its 8th year, the reception is still going strong.

- Approximately 2,700 students reside in the Lincoln Park residence halls.
- Each of the last 8 years, close to 700 residential students have earned a fall GPA of 3.75 and above.
- About 100 residential students attend the reception each year.
- Students receive a certificate of recognition, and have the opportunity to mingle with young alumni, courtesy of Alumni Relations.
- A student from the School of Music performs at the event.
- The keynote is delivered by a distinguished young alum. The speaker usually talks about how academic perseverance and on-campus involvement can translate into success after graduation.

The 8th annual Academic Recognition Reception will take place on January 19, 2016. For questions about the event please contact [Nadia Alfadel](#) in Residential Education.

“ Each year, approximately 700 of 2700 residential students achieve a 3.75 GPA during the fall quarter. ”

# Traditions

## Blue Demon Week: DePaul's Homecoming Tradition

By Kevin O'Brien

Now that students and staff have returned from the holiday break, the campuses will be alive with Blue Demon pride, as faculty, staff and students begin to celebrate Blue Demon Week. Blue Demon Week, originally called Homecoming, has been a DePaul tradition for 92 years, and this January will mark its 93rd year.

Homecoming was born on November 17, 1923 as a part of DePaul's 25th Anniversary. The day was filled with activities for students and alumni, and ranged from the dedication of the new Liberal Arts building (now the Levan Center), to a football game against Notre Dame reserves, to an informal dinner and dance in the evening.

Homecoming has evolved over the years, expanding to an entire week of activities. However, in recent years the event didn't seem to generate the same excitement as it used to. "The word 'homecoming' didn't seem to resonate with students and alumni based on feedback," explained Tanya Vandermoon, coordinator for campus activities.

In light of this, homecoming was rebranded as Blue Demon Week (BDW) in 2014. The week lines up with Alumni Relations' Blue Demon Day, a day in which alumni are encouraged to show their DePaul pride and attend basketball game viewing parties hosted across the country.

So, students celebrate Blue Demon Week, and then as alumni, they will celebrate Blue Demon Day. According to Vandermoon, "It was a way to build and improve homecoming week while being able to expand on an existing program."

With Blue Demon Week approaching its third year, the Blue Demon Week committee and Student Affairs are working to make BDW a university-wide effort, and have brought in key partners including Advancement, Alumni Relations, Athletics and student representatives from a variety of student organizations. Each partner plans and hosts at least one event during the week.

Blue Demon Week will continue to grow and change. And even though the name changed, the focus of the week remains celebrating what it means to be a Blue Demon.

If you would like to volunteer during Blue Demon Week, contact [Tanya Vandermoon](#) in the Office of Student Involvement at 773.325.7361. For more information about events, visit the [Blue Demon Week website](#).

### Events for faculty/ staff during Blue Demon Week hosted by Alumni Relations:

Tuesday, January 26  
Loop North Café  
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Coffee will be served

Wednesday, January 27  
Lincoln Park Student Center 314 AB  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Lunch will be served



Photos courtesy of Jeff Carrion, Maria Toscano, and Jamie Moncrief, DePaul University

# Supporting Student Success through On-Campus Employment

By Nadia Alfadel

George Kuh, the founding director of the National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE), has said that student employment is the biggest contributing factor to college student success and persistence. So what are faculty and staff at DePaul doing to ensure that the students working in our offices are receiving a high-impact employment experience? According to DePaul's Office of Student Employment, approximately 4000 students are employed at DePaul, and Student Affairs is the 4th largest student employer, with 470 students employed during the 14-15 academic year.

“Managers of student employees are educators outside of the classroom,” said Erik Friedman, director of the Office of Student Employment. “They help students make connections between work and what they’re learning in class, as well as identify transferable skills, which will prepare them to be successful when they leave DePaul,” Friedman continued.

Students can be employed in a number of different ways, and Student Affairs employs interns, graduate assistants, office assistants and student leaders who are trained to help mentor students and facilitate programs.

Unlike the traditional student employee, whose role is more administrative in nature, student leaders take part in weeks-long extensive training that arms them with deep knowledge

of university resources that they can use to support their peers. In addition, this training strongly ties them to their supervisors, who become important mentors to the students during their time here, as well as after college in their careers.

According to the Office of Student Employment, Residential Education (Res Ed) is one of the largest employers of student staff in Student Affairs, with 10 office assistants and 57 resident advisors (RAs) who build community and serve as peer mentors in the residence halls.

To prepare RAs for their work as leaders in the residence halls, Res Ed uses a competency-based coaching tool called PILLAR. There are 5 competencies in the PILLAR model: professionalism, inclusion and diversity, leadership, learning and development, advising and mentoring and readiness. RAs receive intensive training throughout the year on the five competencies, as well as one-on-one support from residence directors, who help them make connections between their personal and professional growth. Moreover, Res Ed requires RAs to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or above in order to remain in the

position, which holds them accountable to academic performance.

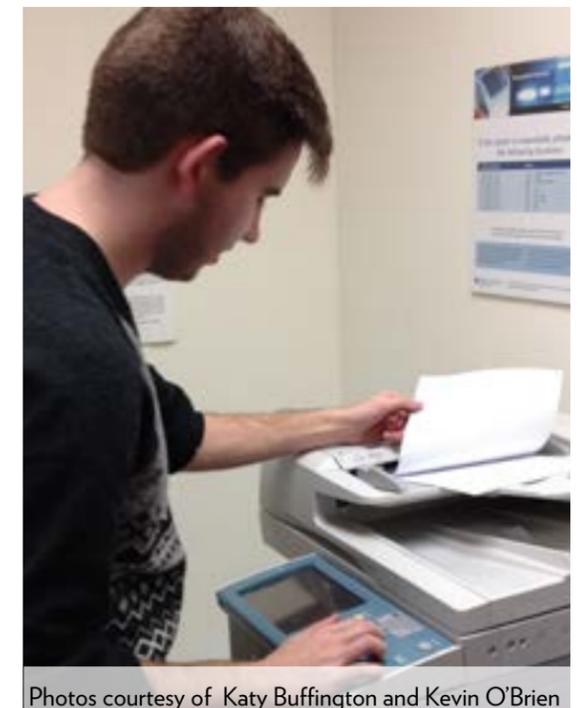
Resident advisors, and many other student employees on campus, receive extensive training and guidance that is not always a part of off-campus employment. In addition, on-campus jobs provide flexible work environments and can connect work projects to majors. Many Student Affairs staff give performance reviews, and actively encourage student employees to attend professional development workshops. These are a few more ways that student employment becomes a high-impact experience for the students at DePaul.

Student employment on campus isn't just a pay check, but a highly engaging learning experience that connects students to their campus, supports their academic progress,

and can sometimes inspire their career paths. Students are capable of skillfully doing many kinds of work in our offices, so it is up to the faculty and staff who manage them to offer the right kind of training and support that will contribute to their success.

To learn more about student employment, training and support, contact [Erik Friedman](#) in the Office of Student Employment. To learn more about RA training, selection and PILLAR, contact [Quiana Stone](#) in Residential Education.

Student Affairs is currently recruiting students for a number of leadership positions. [Visit our website](#) to learn more.



Photos courtesy of Katy Buffington and Kevin O'Brien

# Meet Our Student Leaders

These students are not only actively engaged on campus, but have also taken on significant leadership roles in Student Affairs programs or student organizations.



Meet McKenna Shier, a peer health educator with the Health Education Action Team (HEAT) in the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness. HEAT is a team of peer health educators that provide peer-to-peer health and wellness education for students. Shier is a senior majoring in organizational communication and minoring in women and gender studies, and is originally from Spring Lake, Michigan.

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

I am a peer health educator for HEAT, the co-president of Triota Women and Gender Honors Society, and the chair for community service for SHRM, DePaul Society for Human Resource Management. I also work as a student employee for Student Centers in Lincoln Park.

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

I became a HEAT peer health mentor because I felt it was important to educate other students on preventative health practices. These practices are the key to keeping students happy and healthy. I also know that I have an interest in going into healthcare communications, so this

was a good fit for me to gain some applicable experience.

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

Sometimes the best plan is where it's all hands on deck. Everyone brings a unique perspective and quality to a project. Sometimes they will think of things you wouldn't.

**What is your most memorable experience at DePaul?**

I would have to say it was when Father Holtschneider gave a speech at the New Student Service Day during Discover Chicago's Immersion Week. He talked about how you should write your goals down every day and how it was important to think about how you can give back to your community and improve yourself. It was an inspirational speech and it was at that moment I knew DePaul was the right fit for me.

**What is your favorite DePaul tradition?**

The Involvement Fairs are my favorite. It makes it fun for students to want to get involved on campus. Even though it's required for first year students, it's good to get involved early on.

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

Don't be discouraged if the first group or organization you join doesn't fully fit. Go into it without setting any kind of expectation and just see what things have to offer. I think that's the best way to get involved.

**Tell us 3 fun facts about yourself.**

- I have a pet hamster named Fetty.
- I am adopted from China.
- I love to cook, and pasta dishes are my favorite!



Now meet Marisa Castillo, a Students Together Are Reaching Success (STARS) peer mentor. STARS peer mentors assist first-year students of color with their transition into the DePaul community. Students are offered various services that encourage their academic, cultural, transitional and leadership development. Castillo is double majoring in women and gender studies and Latin American and Latino studies and is originally from Blue Island, Illinois.

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

I am a STARS Peer Mentor and the co-president of Triota Women and Gender Honors Society. I also volunteer with READS, which is an organization that works with 3rd and 4th graders at the Erie House in Little Village. I also sit on the board for Building Communities Ending Violence, which is based out of the Women and Gender Studies department.

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

My first year at DePaul, I didn't feel involved, and as a woman of color in a predominantly white institution it was difficult to connect

with other students. My STARS mentor encouraged me to apply for the position and now that I am a student leader, it has allowed me to feel like a part of the community here at DePaul.

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

I've learned that patience and time management is very important when trying to work with students and faculty. You have to work around everyone's schedules and it can be challenging. I've also learned that it's important to make sure your mentees are being taken care of and the best way to do that is to take care of yourself first. You can't help others before you help yourself.

**What is your most memorable experience at DePaul?**

There was one day after volunteering that I sat and talked to other women of color from DePaul and they understood where I was coming from and there were these interconnections of identity. It felt like a community.

**What is your favorite DePaul tradition?**

The Involvement Fairs because it's the one opportunity to see all the student organizations in a space that feels like a 'real' college campus. DePaul is small and sometimes doesn't always have that college feel but that feeling seems to change during the Involvement Fairs.

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

Step outside your comfort zone. Being a leader is scary but stepping outside of where you feel comfortable will open doors.

**Tell us 3 fun facts about yourself.**

- I can lick my nose.
- I shaved my head for St. Baldrick's
- I am bilingual

# Get to Know our Team



**Charee Holloway**

Charee Holloway is an assistant director in the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change, and has been with DePaul for six years. In her current role, she oversees the training and development area of the Center, which includes social justice education initiatives. Read on to learn more about Charee and her work.

Thanks for taking the time to speak to Co-Curricular Connections today. You're an assistant director in the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change, but what exactly do you do?

I'm primarily responsible for social justice education initiatives, which consists of

four activities: curricular workshops; student leader and student employee trainings; supervision of our student leaders, the Social Justice Advocates (SoJAs) and DePaul Educational Theatre Company (DePaul ETC); and faculty and staff workshops.

Can you tell us a little bit about those four activities?

Sure! The curricular workshops are tied to academic courses, and include the diversity and social justice common hour of the Chicago Quarter and ad hoc workshops requested by faculty. The SoJAs are peer educators who we train to facilitate workshops, including the diversity and social justice common hour. DePaul ETC is a student theatre troupe that writes and performs a show during Premiere DePaul. And the faculty and staff workshops are typically done in conjunction with our institutional partners, like the Office of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity and Human Resources.

The workshops are tailored to each audience and their needs, but they're always about creating and maintaining an inclusive and diverse community at DePaul, and how we can accomplish this.

DePaul ETC sounds interesting. Can you expand on what it is?

DePaul ETC is done in collaboration with New Student and Family Engagement, which is responsible for the overall orientation experience. ETC is one part

of new student orientation, and that piece (ETC) is the Center's and the Theatre School's responsibility.

DePaul ETC performs on the first night of all 13 Premiere DePaul sessions. The cast and story they tell is different every year, but always reflects DePaul's vibrant, diverse community, and reflects institutional values regarding identity development, social justice and responsibility. After the show, the student audience is split into small groups, and the cast members facilitate dialogue. The small groups give everyone space to talk about the themes and issues raised in the show, and to ask questions. I work with Dexter Zollicoffer in the Theatre school on supporting the students who write, produce and stage the show.

Let's switch gears a bit: Why is what you do important?

First of all, I want to say we are all so lucky to work at DePaul. Talking about social justice and diversity is crucial here, and central to our mission, and that's not common. Our mission sets a high standard for us: it calls us to be active in dismantling systems of power, privilege and oppression in order to support student persistence and retention. The Center's work is important

because it directly supports the university's mission, and through our work, we play an active role in fostering a just, inclusive community at DePaul.

You have many university partners. Why is partnering important?

It's everything. We exist because of the collaborative spirit of the institution and community, and because of this, we can offer many programs and support the academic work on campus. Every

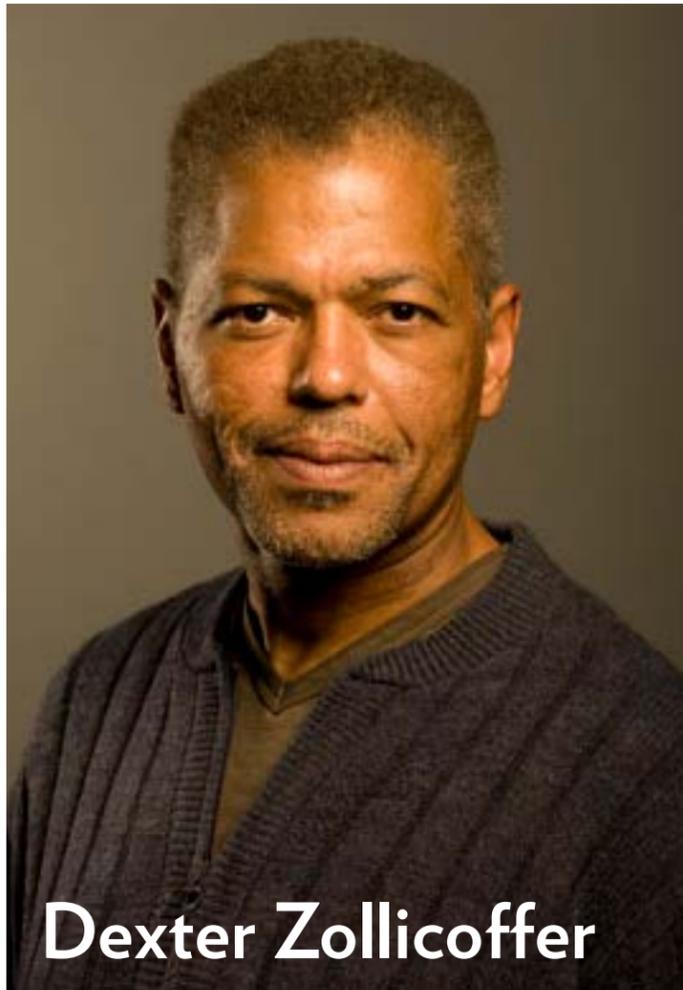
workshop we do is a partnership with a faculty member or a department.

How would you encourage others to collaborate with your office? Why should they? Well, they should partner with us because we are a great resource for social justice education. Diversity and social justice can be hard to talk about, and many are not comfortable

with the language and issues. We have the language, the knowledge and the resources to come in and help departments and colleges build dialogue skills around diversity and respect.

To learn more, or to request a workshop, contact [Charee Holloway](#) at 773.325.4802

“ [DePaul's mission] calls us to be active in dismantling systems of power, privilege and oppression in order to support student persistence and retention. ”



**Dexter Zollicoffer**

told us you're a key partner in the DePaul Educational Theatre Company (ETC) program. Can you talk about that program a bit?

DePaul ETC is a student theatre troupe that writes, produces and stages a show regarding diversity and inclusiveness during Premiere DePaul. The show is designed to give incoming students the language to talk about diversity and inclusion--to help students feel more comfortable talking about these issues.

Charee and I try to be invisible in the process of creating and staging the production because we want the show to reflect the student voice as much as it can. During the development of the script, we use improvisation to capture how [the students] talk about diversity. We're not trying to capture how university faculty and staff talk. We feel strongly that the content has to come from (student) peers, not administrators.

**How did you come to be involved in it?**

I had recently started my job here at DePaul, about 11 years ago, and was just getting to know others working under the diversity banner. At that time, a staff member in the Cultural Center had responsibility for the program, and she was looking for someone with a theatrical background to help her stage the show.\* Initially, she wrote and cast the show and I directed it. After 3 years of doing it this way, that staff member left DePaul and I took a more active role in the program. I jumped at this wonderful opportunity to use theatre to tell important stories.

*\*The program was originally established*

Dexter Zollicoffer is the diversity advisor in the Theatre School at DePaul, and has been with the university for 12 years. In his current role, he acts as the Theatre School representative for other offices at the university that have responsibility for diversity and inclusive community. He works closely with the Division of Student Affairs' Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change to write and produce the DePaul Educational Theatre Company's (ETC) performance during Premiere DePaul (new student orientation). Read on to learn more about Dexter and his work.

Thanks for taking the time to talk to us today. Charee Holloway in the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change

as the "Milewalkers" by Student Affairs staff member, Fleurette King, in the mid 1990's.

**What's your favorite thing about the DePaul ETC program?**

I love that, each year, it's a new show based on who DePaul ETC is that year. We simply talk to the cast members and ask them about what they are questioning. In 2015, the national media and students were talking a lot about transgender issues. We had a transgendered male performer who was a good performer, and who was comfortable talking about his transition, so the troupe decided to go with his story as one of the story lines. That's what we try to do each year. And in this way, we can address the whole spectrum of diversity with the show.

**Why is DePaul ETC (and other programs like it) important, in your opinion?**

I think the main thing is that it's a peer to peer mentoring and discussion—students are more likely to hear and understand this message if it comes from other students, rather than an administrator. Also, because it's theatrical, we can deliver the message in

a way that a Power Point presentation cannot. The audience gets lost in the characters, and there's a collective moment of understanding and emotion.

**What has it been like to collaborate with Student Affairs? Would you encourage others to collaborate with Student Affairs?**

Personally, in order to do my job, it was vital for me to collaborate with Student Affairs. They have their pulse on the students, and Student Affairs is key to learning outside of the classroom, which is exactly what a show like this is.

I think we all need to be conscious of what learning happens outside of classroom, and understand that's where Student Affairs kicks in. Because of that, we need to know everything that Student Affairs encompasses, and how we can work with them to help support students in their college success.

“Because it's theatrical, we can deliver the message in a way that a Power Point presentation cannot.”

For more information about DePaul ETC or to learn about ways to partner with the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change, contact [Charee Holloway](#) at 773.325.4802.

# Welcome to DePaul

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

**Ashley Kachlik**, Residence Director, Residential Education

Ashley Kachlik has been with DePaul since November 2015 and serves as the residence director for Seton Hall where she supervises resident advisors (RAs) to provide campus programs, resources, and support to our residents. She is also on the Training and Selection Committee.

Prior to her role at DePaul, she worked as a residence hall coordinator for two years at Illinois State University. She also has experience as a wedding cake consultant.

Ashley received her Master of Public Health (MPH) with a concentration in health behavior and promotion, as well as her BS in community health-education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Natalie Stone**, Coordinator, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Student Involvement

Natalie Stone has served as the coordinator for fraternity and sorority life in the Office of Student Involvement since September 2015. In her role, she leads the shared vision for the advancement of values-based fraternities and sororities on campus. In addition, she serves as the primary advisor to the Multicultural Greek Council and Panhellenic Council and supervises the fraternity and sorority life graduate assistant.

Prior to joining DePaul University, Natalie served as the assistant director for Greek Life at the University of Dayton. Additional experiences include work in orientation, first-year programs and leadership at Saint Louis University.

Natalie earned an MA in student personnel administration from Saint

Louis University and a BBA in business management with a focus in leadership and development at the University of Iowa.

**Johnny LaSalle**, Program Coordinator, Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change

Johnny LaSalle has been with DePaul since April 2007, and with Student Affairs since November 2015. In his current role as program coordinator in the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change, he oversees cultural programming, which promotes artistic expression and intellectual inquiry that challenges students, faculty and staff to explore all aspects of their identity as part of the Center's Artist Uprising Series, Emergent Speakers Series and Creative Self Studio Series.

Past DePaul experience includes

working with the Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning as a receptionist, community internship coordinator and academic & community development coordinator. He is also adjunct faculty for the community service studies minor.

Johnny received a self-designed MA in interdisciplinary studies with a focus on college student development in the performing arts from DePaul University, and his BA in cultural interdisciplinary studies concentrating in film/video communications from Antioch College.

# Important Dates

## January

- 19** **The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast**  
*Tuesday, January 19*  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Lincoln Park Student Center, 120AB  
*RSVP required. Call the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change for more information, 773.325.7759*
- 19** **Loop Involvement Fair**  
*Tuesday, January 19*  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., DePaul Center Concourse  
*Did you know there are over 350 student organizations at DePaul? There are so many different ways you can get involved! Join us for the Winter Involvement Fairs, where you can meet new people and learn about different ways you can get involved.*
- 21** **Lincoln Park Involvement Fair**  
*Thursday, January 21*  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Lincoln Park Student Center  
*Join the Office of Student Involvement for the Winter Involvement Fairs, where you can meet new people and learn about different ways you can get involved.*
- 25-31** **Blue Demon Week**  
*January 25-31, 2016*  
*Help celebrate what it means to be a Blue Demon!*
- 30** **National Blue Demon Day**  
*Saturday, January 30*  
*Alumni all over the nation will show their pride by wearing DePaul gear. Show your pride and join them by wearing DePaul blue!*
- 30-31** **Senior Day Men's and Women's Basketball games**  
**Men's game vs. Xavier,**  
*Saturday, January 30*  
1:00 p.m., Allstate Arena

**Women's game vs. St. John's**  
*Sunday, January 31*  
12:00 p.m., McGrath-Phillips Arena

- 28** **DePaul After Dark**  
*Thursday, January 28*  
8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., The Lincoln Park Student Center, various locations  
*Students can create game day signs, play Bingo and more during this special Blue Demon Week DePaul After Dark!*

## February

- 2** **BIG EAST All-Academic Team Annual Half-Time Ceremony**  
*Wednesday, February 2*  
Pregame reception at 6:30 p.m., game at 8:00 p.m., Allstate Arena, Rosemont  
*Faculty and staff will receive 2 complimentary tickets and 2 admissions to the pre-game dinner. Additional tickets for the game or dinner may be purchased for \$15 and \$20 per person, respectively. The first 100 faculty and staff to sign up to participate in the half-time ceremony will receive a free, royal blue, Drifit, long-sleeve t-shirt. [RSVP today!](#)*
- 6** **Graduate Thesis and Dissertation Conference**  
*Saturday, February 6*  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Lincoln Park Student Center  
*Graduate students, are you starting or working on your large, final projects? Come get useful information, resources and network with other graduate students at this conference event. Workshop topics include Getting Started, Panels, sessions on Qualitative and Quantitative Data, Library Resources, Editing, and more!*

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 [depaulsanews@depaul.edu](mailto:depaulsanews@depaul.edu). Please take a moment to tell us how we are doing.

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