

# Co-Curricular Connections

Division of Student Affairs

Summer 2015

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DEPAUL UNIVERSITY  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

## New veteran career program establishes pipeline for civilian transition

What's one thing that consulting firms Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and Ernst & Young, and media conglomerate Viacom, Inc. have in common? Each of them has come to DePaul in search of student veterans for hire.

Big companies coming to DePaul to recruit student veterans is nothing new, says director of Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs (AVCSA), Haydee Nunez. "DePaul student veterans are making a name for themselves out in the world; they're establishing a brand," and employers are noticing.

To make student veterans even more noticeable, AVCSA recently applied for and received a \$25,000 grant from Bank of America, and piloted the Veteran Transition to Careers program in the fall of 2014.

With the program, Nunez wanted to make sure that these students were prepared to transition into civilian employment and to make decisions that impact long term financial stability. "The university has all of the resources on campus to provide support, so it was only a matter of packaging them all together and saying, 'veterans, this is for you.'" The grant allowed AVCSA to do that.

The program is a partnership between six DePaul departments that have pulled together to deliver a series of workshops, on-going individual services and opportunities for career networking. Partners include Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK), the Career Center, Student Legal Services, the University Center for Writing Based Learning and Financial Fitness.

"It is incredibly encouraging to see the desire for a university collaboration. Our office didn't have to do this on our own," says Nunez. "It is a campus-wide effort to recognize our student veterans and to show them that these services are not just for first-time freshman, but that career development resources are relevant to their lives, too."

Two career peer mentors were hired as part of the program, and are available to assist students and encourage career exploration. These mentors, Marine and Navy veterans studying economics, business and commerce, are

able to speak from experience about their success with available career resources. Marcus Streeter, a career peer mentor and 2015 DePaul graduate, said that the program fosters community and confidence in the resources available.

"What we were able to do as a program was show the veteran community that yes, this is a mass DePaul resource, but there are people in our offices that are able to speak to you and address issues specific to veterans," said Streeter. "[Veterans] always feel like we're unique in an aspect and people won't understand our problems, but we're not unique to the point that no one knows what to do with us. There's probably three hundred other veterans that have the same exact problem, and DePaul is finding a way to address that."

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Photos courtesy of Jeff Carrion, DePaul University

## Veteran Transition to Career program (*continued from page 2*)

Forty-five student veterans participated in the pilot this year.

"Our networking events have inspired students; they are so encouraged by seeing other DePaul alumni veterans in roles they want to be in, and the resource networks they have developed within their own corporations," says Nunez. "They want to build that pipeline and make a statement: 'there is a space for us and we can do well.'" Streeter says that these resource groups are also encouraging to veteran students who feel as though they are not employable. "How do you translate moving a military tank to handling merchandise? These networks show them how their skills are transferrable and helps make the transition less tenacious."

"The number one thing I think this program lets [veterans] know is that you don't have to go outside of DePaul for resources," says Streeter. "You don't need to travel far and wide to other parts of the city. It's only a matter of stepping right outside your classroom."

Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs offers a host of additional support options. Students can meet with Veteran Liaisons (DePaul students with prior military experience that support academic success), participate in community building events such as Veterans Quarterly Connect, and become involved with the Student Veterans Union.

For more information about the Veteran Transition to Career Program and Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs, contact [Haydee Nunez](#) at 312.362.5961.

## Data Points

### Adult Students at DePaul

Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs is celebrating its 25th anniversary during 2015. One event held in honor of this milestone was an Adult Student Summit on May 15, 2015. Institutional Research and Market Analytics (IRMA) participated in the event, and shared some interesting numbers about DePaul's adult student population.

- In the Fall 2014, there were 3,621 adult undergraduates over 24 years of age and 5,963 graduate students over 24.
- Also in Fall 2014, 61 percent of adult undergraduates were in colleges other than the School for New Learning (a college dedicated to adult learners). Many of our adult students are pursuing their degrees through more traditional programs.
- The School for New Learning has the largest adult student population with over 1,400 students. Next largest is the Driehaus College of Business with 676 adult students, and then the College of Computing and Digital Media with 447 adult students (as of Fall 2014).
- Over 25 percent of adult undergraduates take classes in Lincoln Park, contrary to popular notions that all adult students take their classes in the Loop.

- Adult students and traditional age students score very similar on most items on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

- \* For example, on the 2013-14 NSSE item, "Quality of interaction with student services staff," traditional students' average score was 4.95, and for adult students, the average score was 4.83 (on a 7 point scale).
- \* "Attending campus events" was 2.66 for traditional students and 2.57 for adult students



James Stewart, Assistant Director, Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Affairs

## Big changes in store for many offices in Student Center

A number of offices that house departments in the division of Student Affairs in the Lincoln Park Student Center will be undergoing significant renovation this summer. Construction began in suites 306, 307 and 302 on June 15. Additional renovations to the 1st floor Copy Center and the Romero Room in the Center for Intercultural Programs, and the 2nd floor Office of Student Involvement will begin in July. All construction is scheduled to be completed by August 21. The renovations will make certain student services and programs more accessible, as well as reflect a divisional reorganization that has taken place this year.

Leadership programs will move from Suite 302 and now be housed in the Office of Student Involvement on both campuses, and Health Promotion and Wellness, which is currently in suite 319, will move into suite 302. Suites 306 and 307 will be connected via an internal hallway,

and New Student and Family Engagement (NSFE) and the central office for Student Affairs will swap spaces: the central office for Student Affairs will move to suite 307, and NSFE will move to suite 306.

A divisional restructuring moved LGBTQA Student Services under the Center for Intercultural Programs (CIP), and now this office will be moved to reflect that change. Two new offices are being built in CIP, one of which will house the coordinator for LGBTQA Student Services and the other will become the LGBTQA Student Services resource room. Since these offices will be constructed in the current CIP conference room, the Copy Center will be converted into a new conference room space for CIP.

If you have any questions about the construction or timeline, please contact [Mark Laboe](#) at 773.325.4004.

## Catholic Campus Ministry creates a culture of connectedness

What makes a home? Love, acceptance and connectedness. At least this is what director of Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM), Sr. Catherine Norris, used to build a home for students on the first floor of the Lincoln Park Student Center, where Catholic Campus Ministry is housed.

After dedicating four years to DePaul, Sr. Catherine Norris, more affectionately known as Sister Katie, Daughter of Charity, will be starting a new chapter of pastoral service this summer. Norris will head to Macon, Georgia and will serve as the director of Daybreak Center, a day/resource center that provides Macon's homeless population with critical services that allows individuals to move towards housing stability and lives of greater dignity.

During her time as director of CCM, Sr. Katie continuously asked a number of questions that would help shape a tightly-knit community within CCM and DePaul. Are we lining up to meet students' needs as best as we can? Are we connecting with the right departments? The latter component, says Norris, is essential.

One important departmental connection Norris made was with University Counseling Services (UCS). Norris was a part of the creation of Food for Thought, a discussion group that explores issues of Catholic faith and college life. This year she invited members of UCS to facilitate a conversation about attempted suicide and what caregivers can do in these situations. The idea grew out of a dialogue

Norris was having with several students who came to her looking for ways to provide support for their friends.

"There is still this stigma attached to counseling and I wanted to help demystify that. It is important for students to have these conversations in an open forum so that they know they're not the only ones who feel this way and they have someone to talk to," says Norris. "Having University Counseling Services come to CCM allowed for the conversation to happen in their space and on their terms. My hope is that they may become more familiar and confident about using these resources in the future."

Sr. Katie says that most of the connections in the office happen organically; they are not planned or orchestrated, but occur as people become more comfortable with the environment.

"Not too long ago a distraught student came in because he was struggling in class. I assured him that we would take it one step at a time and get through it together." Norris happened to have a conversation with another student two weeks before who had said that she loved math so much, sometimes she does her homework twice. She was able to pair the two students up for a tutoring session.

"I came back later and they had their heads together, just

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## FEST & Vincentian Service Day

Fest and Vincentian Service Day are two of the Division of Student Affairs' largest events during the academic year. They are well-attended traditions at DePaul, and serve as significant affinity-builders.



# Partnership bolsters DePaul's relief efforts

It was in November of the year 2013 that one of the strongest storms recorded on the planet plowed its way through the Philippines. Immediately following the news of Super Typhoon Haiyan, associate vice president of University Ministry, Mark Laboe, was flooded with calls and emails. As individual can and clothing drives sprung up around campus, Laboe was continuously presented with the same question: what is DePaul doing to help and how can we be more effective? And so the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Global Campus partnership was formed.

"When a global crisis occurs we want to make it easy for people to help, whether that be through advocacy or philanthropically," says Laboe. "Our partnership with CRS allows us to be more effective in rapid response as an institution and we can direct people to an organization that has proven to be effective, instead of reinventing the wheel and coming up with solutions on our own."

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States, and has more than 70 years of experience in delivering humanitarian assistance throughout the world. Their background in emergency preparedness and response has allowed them to serve in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, North Africa and Asia.

When a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal in April, CRS was on the ground providing emergency housing, setting up water filtration systems and assisting with hygiene needs.

DePaul's partnership focuses specifically on emergency response which includes immediate needs such as food,

healthcare and shelter. When searching for potential partnerships, Laboe and his team zeroed in on organizations that had a proven track record in terms of how funds were utilized, making sure they went directly to the people in need.

Moving forward, Laboe hopes to continue to cultivate DePaul's disaster response protocol and form additional partnerships in locations that CRS may not be serving.

"I think it's very reflective of DePaul's mission that individuals in our community are so eager to help. Generally the people who are impacted or displaced by such disasters are those who are marginalized," says Laboe. "Having some sort of response when these major disasters occur is a part of responding compassionately to people in need throughout the world. Reaching out that helping hand only does more to enrich the education we provide here."

The partnership with CRS is part of a new protocol that calls for a small institutional committee, chaired and led by Laboe, to discern an effective response plan and communicate it to the university within 24 hours of a significant global, natural disaster. The plan will include some form of institution-wide communication, action and/or education. A decision tree is used to pre-plan thoughtful decisions, guiding determination of the significance of the event for DePaul.

The protocol was first reviewed and approved by the president's cabinet in March 2015, and then was presented to the Joint Council in April 2015 for final approval. For more information about the emergency response protocol or CRS, contact [Mark Laboe](#) at 773.325.4004.

## Catholic Campus Ministry *(continued from page 4)*

going to town. So, I think one of the best parts of what we do in the office is that we can help students make connections, not just with other areas in the university, but with one another." Either way, these connections can be an important piece to a student's success at DePaul.

Mark Laboe, associate vice president of University Ministry, said that Sr. Katie was in a position to set the tone for how the Catholic religious life on campus is reflected. "The mission of DePaul is something that's caught, not taught. You learn the mission by being a part of a community that lives and breathes it," said Laboe. "Sr. Katie created a culture in CCM that perpetuates the mission because she lives and breathes it, and makes the Catholic dimension easier to embrace and understand."

Although Sr. Katie finished up her last academic year with DePaul, it's not a goodbye just yet. She will host a group of students at Daybreak during the Winter 2015 service immersion trips.

"My time at DePaul has given me such hope for the future; the future of our church and the future of our world. When we see students who are in the process of discovering themselves and are committed and passionate I think, 'We're gonna be just fine,'" says Norris. "It's a great place for a daughter of charity and CCM is a wonderful ministry."

The search for Sr. Katie's replacement is almost complete, and a new era will begin in CCM, but one that will certainly reflect Sr. Katie's philosophy and impact. For more information about Catholic Campus Ministry, contact the office at 773.325.4852.

# Get to Know Our Team

Please help us welcome new staff members who joined us during the Spring Quarter.



**Ryan Putzstuck** has served as the administrative assistant in the Center for Students with Disabilities since March 2015.

Prior to joining the DePaul community, Ryan served as the administrative program assistant for the Office of the Registrar at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon.

He earned his associates degree from Kishwaukee College and is currently completing his BS in history from Portland State University.

Ryan Putzstuck

## Important Dates

### Transition and Premiere DePaul new student orientation sessions

1-day and 2-day, overnight sessions throughout the summer from May 29 to September 8, 2015.

**Premiere DePaul** is the orientation program for freshmen and **Transition DePaul** is the orientation program for new transfer students. Premiere DePaul is 2 days and Transition DePaul is 1 day.

### Welcome Week

Presented by New Student and Family Engagement  
**Wednesday, August 26 to Wednesday, September 16, 2015.**

**Welcome Week** is a series of free events that welcome new and returning students back to campus. The events are open to all new, returning and transfer students.

Some events to be aware of:

#### New Student Service Day

**Tuesday, September 8, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**  
Various locations

**Involvement Fairs** allow students to meet members of DePaul's active student organizations, join student organizations and get more information about upcoming campus events.

#### Real Life Recess/Involvement Fair at Lincoln Park

**Location:** Lincoln Park Quad  
**Date:** Friday, September 11  
**Time:** 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

#### Involvement Fair at the Loop

**Location:** Loop, DePaul Center Concourse  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17  
**Time:** 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



*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 depaulsane@depaul.edu. Please take a moment to tell us how we are doing.*