As another year comes and goes so quickly, I can’t help but reflect on St. Vincent’s words of how incredible it is that a community can work together to do great things. From collaborations to sponsorships on university events, I couldn’t be more proud of the great work done by not only SGA members but members across the DePaul community this year. Working tirelessly, it is my great pleasure to present to you the DePaul University Student Government Association’s 2014-2015 end of year newsletter.

At the beginning of my term as SGA president, Cristina and I sat down to draft a one-year strategic plan of ten initiatives we felt would best serve the DePaul student body. We are thrilled with the accomplishments stemming from SGA’s strategic plan and excited to see what is next for the organization. This year, SGA has successfully strengthened DePaul affinity and tradition by seeing the SGA proposed Blue Demon Den come to fruition, creating the first ever university Blue Demon Week committee, launching the On Thursdays We Wear Blue campaign, proposing several successful renovation projects to enhance DePaul imagery around campus, sponsoring athletic events as well as collaborating with other student organizations on university events, and painting the campus blue for another outstanding Blue Demon Week in its second year.

Supporting student well-being at DePaul has been a top priority and a popular topic of concern in this last year. In efforts to build a vibrant and supportive campus, SGA did a number of partnerships with the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness including, but not limited to hosting a kick-off event in Lincoln Park and the Loop to launch the Take Care DePaul campaign, joining Student Leaders Advocating Together for Empowerment, sponsoring and coordinating the Consent Tagline Competition which resulted in a new educational consent tagline for DePaul sexual violence prevention programming, taking part in the Haven online sexual violence prevention training module which will now be rolled out to all incoming students in fall 2015, updating the JTR library 24 hour schedule to span both the week before and during final exams, providing thousands of students with safe rides home from the library during exam weeks, and partnering with Whole Foods Market DePaul to provide students with value tours on buying healthy groceries on a college budget.
Most notably, SGA has maintained a keen focus on initiatives of educational affordability which have taken many forms. Our Keep Calm and Do the FAFSA campaign resulted in a 10 percent increase of DePaul students filing their financial aid in time to receive the MAP grant for the upcoming school year. We also launched a statewide MAP Matters campaign to portray to state legislators the importance of the Monetary Award Program for Illinois students. This year, we received more than 2,400 postcards from members of the DePaul community which we hand delivered to nearly every member of the General Assembly during our April MAP lobby Day in Springfield. We could not be happier with the results of this campaign. The forthcoming Illinois budget has maintained MAP funding and we are confident that the importance of MAP grants are on the mind of legislators across the state.

Among these accomplishments, SGA has been busier than ever on more than 40 university committees, boards, task forces and working groups. As an integral part of the university governance structure, SGA has been a vital part in every university decision and initiative. It has been an incredible year, and I expect SGA’s work to continue to grow each year in efforts to make DePaul the premier institution of Chicago. I encourage you to read on to see all of the other amazing accomplishments by members of SGA from this past school year.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. von Nida

President, Student Government Association
VICE PRESIDENT
Cristina Vera

SGA kicked off the school year by premiering a new program. Beginning in the fall, SGA members began visiting student organizations in order to learn more of what students would like to see done on campus. Nearly every member of SGA visited one or more organizations and received student feedback. SGA continues to advance the ways in which we communicate with the DePaul community to promote student voice and enhance student well-being.

Over the last several years, SGA has made strides in advocating for student accessible course evaluations. Students in The Theatre School, School for New Learning, College of Science and Health and the Driehaus College of Business will have access to quantitative course evaluation data by the 2015-2016 school year. SGA will continue to push for quantitative student accessible course evaluations to become a university-wide practice.

In the winter quarter, the new mobile course evaluation application launched for students to fill out their course evaluations via mobile devices. This new feature would allow students to complete course evaluations at any time, including in the classroom. SGA and the university continue to work on encouraging students to fill out course evaluations to provide stronger feedback on the DePaul academic experience.

One of SGA’s top initiatives this year has been educational affordability. With over 5,000 DePaul students dependent on the Monetary Award Program (MAP) to fund their education, SGA makes it a priority to advocate on their behalf. Students saw the earliest deadline to apply for MAP grant financial aid in Illinois history and SGA pushed the “Keep Calm and Do the FAFSA by February 1st” campaign to encourage students to file their financial aid in time. 70 percent of MAP recipients filed the FAFSA by this year’s deadline, a 10 percent increase over the last year.

This year, SGA created the “MAP Matters.” campaign calling on state legislatures to support the longevity of the largest need based fund in the state. SGA passed a resolution calling on the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Bruce Rauner to commit to future efforts to increase MAP funding. A formal letter was also addressed to Governor Bruce Rauner asking for his support of MAP grant funding. SGA designed postcards with the “MAP Matters.” message that were signed by members of the DePaul community including students, staff, faculty, and administration. SGA hosted three MAP Awareness Days in both the Lincoln Park and Loop campuses and distributed postcards to 128 academic departments and offices across the university. SGA received nearly 2,500 postcards that were hand delivered to nearly every member of the General Assembly in Springfield for MAP Lobby Day.

On Wednesday, April 22, SGA brought students down to Springfield for SGA’s MAP Lobby Day to meet with Illinois state legislatures and discuss the importance of MAP. In Springfield, students met with members of the General Assembly and Representative Jaime Andrade and Senator John Mulroe recognized DePaul University and SGA on the House and Senate hearing floors. Overall, SGA’s MAP Lobby Day was highly successful and SGA looks forward to continuing to work with state leaders and garner support for MAP grants.
The Academic Affairs committee was able to accomplish a great deal over the course of the year. Town hall meetings were held in nearly every college for students to meet their dean and discuss goals for the future of the college. These town hall meetings offered an opportunity for students to voice ideas, thoughts, and concerns towards their academic experience. SGA and the DePaul Academic Advising Network (DAAN) held a successful student-led panel through which students were able to address college-specific advising concerns and learn more about the services offered on campus. Additionally, the committee worked to create Academic Advisory Boards within colleges for students to offer recommendations for improving the quality of academic advising at DePaul.

This year, the Academic Affairs committee served as the Student Records Advisory Group. In this capacity, the committee met with Student Records and Financial Aid to review changes to Campus Connect and discuss ways to improve university financial resources. This year, the university rolled out a new online system to better connect students with advisors and instructors called BlueStar. The executive vice president for academic affairs represented SGA on the BlueStar Advisory Board to discuss its introduction. This board is working to consider alternative methods of ensuring both current and continuing students are aware of this resource available through Campus Connect.

The committee worked on an apparel benchmarking report looking into ways to make students aware of Alta Gracia’s apparel as an available option when ordering items for student organizations. Alta Gracia is the first factory to pay a living wage with full respect for workers’ right in the U.S. The committee is continuing to benchmark other universities and hopes to get more students involved in the coming year.

With the price of textbooks continually on the rise, SGA worked with Faculty Council on providing faculty with a Textbook Best Practices list every year. This year, SGA updated the Textbook Best Practices list and this was distributed amongst faculty to adopt better practices aimed at reducing the textbook financial burden for students.

Ric Popp served as the graphics coordinator before taking on the role of executive vice president for academic affairs. In the role as graphics coordinator, SGA produced over 150 graphics throughout the course of the 2014-2015 academic year promoting SGA events, sponsorships, game watches and resources for students. Over the last several years, SGA’s brand identity has immensely grown, and the graphics coordinator has played a large role in maintaining this brand.

Ric Popp
This year, the Operations Committee continued efforts to promote sustainability and student well-being on campus. The Vinnie Van off-campus shuttle service provided more than 1,000 students with a safe ride home during midterms and finals this year. The committee looked into ways to increase branding and promotion and included informational tri-folds in the library of the Vinnie Van service. The committee worked with the library to offer 24-hour library dates starting the week before midterms and finals for students to be able to prepare and study for exams.

This year, the Operations Committee expanded its role to serve as the Career Center Advisory Board. In this capacity, the committee meets quarterly with Karen McCoy to offer ideas for events and future programming that would be beneficial to students. SGA was able to see the creation of a mailroom email alert system for students living on campus come to fruition. Now students will be alerted when they receive mail via mobile devices instead of having to check the mailroom every day.

To further SGA’s commitment to student well-being, the Operations Committee hosted quarterly Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meetings with representatives from the CTA, CPD, Public Safety and the Office of Public Relations and Communications. These meetings provided students with resources and information about navigating public transportation, staying safe in Chicago, effective communication strategies and substance abuse.

SGA continued to work with Chartwells and Facility Operations to expand sustainability practices on campus. The committee worked with Chartwells to launch a reusable dishware system in Dining Services. This program has been highly successful and we hope to be able to expand the number of reusable dishware in the coming year. The committee also conducted a survey to gauge student interest in extending the hours of certain food stations. As a result, weekend hours at Scramble were extended. SGA worked with Facility Operations to allocate the sustainability fund to include the installation of motion sensor lighting in residence halls as well as increase the number of water bottle refill stations in residence halls.

The executive vice president for operations sat on the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working Group which was charged with considering issues of sexual and relationship violence more broadly, and implementing a new policy. Several students brought forth having trigger warnings on syllabi. SGA worked with members of the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working Group, Faculty Council and Health Promotion and Wellness to have trigger warnings on D2L available in the upcoming school year.
This year has been a successful one for the Student Affairs Committee. Student life at DePaul is multifaceted and we focused our attention on campus affinity, student advocacy and inclusivity among the various student populations on campus. The Student Affairs Committee organized quarterly Mix N’ Mingles and held a Student Leader Roundtable to further collaborate with student organizations on campus and discuss topics such as campus affinity, educational affordability and student well-being. The committee played a key role in supporting DePaul athletics and student athletes through game watches and event co-sponsorships. We sponsored various athletic events throughout the year including, but not limited to the Blue Madness, Men’s Basketball game watch at State, Blue Demon Day Men’s Basketball game at Allstate Arena, and the Blue Demon Week Women’s Basketball game at McGrath-Phillips Arena.

The committee worked closely with the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness to support sexual violence prevention and bystander intervention on campus. SGA tested the Haven module, an interactive online sexual and relationship violence prevention education module that will now be required for all incoming students in the upcoming academic year. SGA also hosted two Take Care DePaul kick-off events to introduce students to the university-wide Take Care DePaul campaigns. To further enhance the accessibility of information on the Public Safety website, the committee researched thirty-one institutions and formulated a Public Safety Benchmarking report. While this work is never done, the Student Affairs committee has made steps towards helping to foster a safer and more inclusive environment.

The Student Affairs Committee worked closely with the Office of Mission and Values to promote the Vincentian mission. This year, SGA worked with the Office of Mission and Values to hold the first ever St. Vincent’s birthday party, a celebration for the contributions of St. Vincent de Paul. This event was a large success and hopes to be a growing tradition. Furthermore, SGA worked with DePaul Preparatory school on Vincentian Service Day. The Student Affairs Committee made great strides in participating in a wider assortment of students and departments this year.

You can read more about what each of the senators within the Student Affairs Committee accomplished in their respective reports.

V|2018: 1a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b
The goal of the Student Activity Fee Board (SAF-B) is to provide students with opportunities to shape the DePaul experience. In doing so, the Student Activity Fee provides a source of income to support the cultural, spiritual, recreational, artistic, and experiential learning events, programming and organizations for students to be involved in.

Throughout the 2014-2015 academic year, the Student Activity Board held over 137 hearings with organizations requesting over $700,000 for events and conferences. This was a 10 percent increase from requested funding in the previous year. In order to simplify the application process, SAF-B made necessary revisions to the constitution. This brought more transparency to hearing requests and procedures for students to be able to receive funding for their student organization.

The budget was presented at two meetings and provided a breakdown of the usage of funds, most of which went to efforts advocating for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) and co-sponsorship events with student organizations and departments on campus. Due to the “MAP Matters campaign,” SGA saw a record number of students fill out their FAFSA before the anticipated deadline and a possible increase in the amount of MAP funding for the coming year. We also had the opportunity to sponsor and host many events including athletic events, Take Care DePaul kick-off events, Consent Tagline Competition, DemonTHON and Blue Demon Week events.
1. MAP ADVOCACY  SGA traveled to Springfield for a MAP lobby day. SGA collected 2,400 postcards and delivered them to Illinois State legislators to support the continued funding of the largest need based program in the state.

2. Vinnie Van Off-Campus shuttle service provided nearly 1,000 students with a safe ride home this year.

3. SGA AS A LEADER IN CHICAGO For Vincentian Service Day, SGA worked with DePaul College Prep to clean up the campus and garden.

4. STUDENT WELL-BEING SGA Collaborated with Whole Foods to create monthly Student Value Tours to help students shop healthy options on a tight budget.

5. ON THURSDAYS WE WEAR BLUE Created a university wide tradition that encourage all members of the DePaul community to support their blue gear every Thursday in support of our affinity efforts.
As the number of followers and engagements continue to grow, SGA has garnered:

- 1,606 Facebook followers, a nine percent increase from the past year
- 3,142 Twitter followers and over 348,142 impressions, a five percent increase from the past year
- 2,392 Instagram followers and an average of 3,500 engagements

Social media presence and engagement rose with the MAP advocacy efforts including the “Keep Calm and Do the FAFSA” campaign, Blue Demon Week events and Consent Tagline Competition. SGA worked with the Office of Public Relations and Communications to create a video for On Thursdays We Wear Blue, promoting blue demon pride and affinity. Since its launch, the video has reached over 10,000 views on social media. SGA also continued #MeetSGA for students to become familiar with their student representatives.

The SGA website was also expanded to include an Announcements section for students to stay up to date on SGA events and initiatives. We hope to expand the SGA website for students to be able to learn more about everything going on with SGA. SGA’s social media presence has grown and we hope more students continue to stay updated.
Senator for First Year Students
Adriana Kemper

» Surveyed first year students asking about academic quality and experience at DePaul
» Began reaching out to student organizations on campus to learn more about concerns students would like addressed and enhance connections to SGA
» Worked with James Lee from Chartwells to extend hours at certain high-demand food stations in the Lincoln Park Student Center
» Conducted a survey to gauge student interest in having specific food stations open longer in the Student Center
» Successfully extended weekend hours at Scramble dining station in the Student Center

V|2018: 1a, 4b

Senator for Second Year Students
Natalie Cushman

» Met with the director of Housing Services about student housing and improving second year housing options
» Began working on helping intermural and club sports teams obtain consistent training space
» Began reaching out to student organizations on campus to enhance connections to SGA
» Attended the LAS student advisory board meeting and raised concerns from second year LAS students
» Began conversations with Brandon Hopkins to find ways to make color printing more available on campus
» Served as a student liaison to the Campus Recreation Advisory Committee and provided student concerns and feedback on programming and operations of the Ray Meyer Fitness Center

V|2018: 1a, 2c, 4b

Senator for Fourth/Fifth Year Students
Jorge Dominguez

» Held a Blue Demon Week Student Planning Committee meeting that will focus on student events during Blue Demon Week
» Participated in the interviewing process for the OSI director position
» Researched university career websites to find ways to increase opportunities for graduating seniors
» Co-chaired the student event planning Blue Demon Week committee
» Worked with DePaul Activities Board and student organizations to plan and organize events held throughout Blue Demon Week
Senator for the College of Communication
Robert Hauselt

» Regularly updated the SGA website and built an announcements section
V|2018: 1a, 2c, 4a, 4b

» Began conversations about improving connections among current students with alumni across the nation
» Met with Dean Ghanem to discuss student vision and goals for the future of the college
» Began conversations to create a student advisory board to give students the opportunity to provide feedback and offer recommendations on improving academic advising
» Sat on the Grade Review Board
V|2018: 1a, 2b, 4b

Senators for the Driehaus College of Business
Michael Papanicholas and Frankie Favela

» Worked to enhance the visibility of Driehaus senators and expanded student outreach
» Met with the assistant dean for Academic Advising to discuss ways of improving the quality of academic advising in the college
» Held a successful town hall where students were able to converse with Dean Whittington and discuss ideas for the college
» Began working on creating a student advisory board to focus on improving academic advising
V|2018: 1a, 4b

Senator for the College of Education
Nicole Been

» Held a successful town hall meeting for students to meet Dean Zionts and discuss the future of the college
» Began working on establishing a student advisory board within the college
V|2018: 1a, 4b
Senators for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Nick Albano and Luke Kula

» Held a town hall meeting for LAS students to meet and converse with Dean Suchar
» Sat on the LAS Student Advisory Board to discuss issues, concerns, and ideas in order to improve the overall academic advising experience
» Worked to enhance the visibility of LAS Senators and expanded student outreach
» Met with several student organizations on campus to discuss student concerns and challenges to long distance commuters
» Sat on the LAS/CSH Career Center advisory board meetings
» Worked to establish the LAS career center student advisory board geared towards improving student interaction with the Career Center
» Started working to create a student advisory board to improve the academic advising process
» Met with interim Dean Rinehart to discuss the future of the college

V|2018: 1a, 1c, 4b

Senators for the College of Science and Health

Jaclyn Shea and Lara Hilapad

» Held a successful town hall with Dean Koocher that was highly attended by CSH students and resulted in a productive conversation about the vision and goals for the college
» Surveyed students regarding academic and career resources in CSH
» Enhanced CSH senator visibility in efforts to expand student outreach
» Sat on the LAS/CSH Career Center advisory board meetings
» Met with administrators and advisors to discuss students concerns and improvements to best serve the CSH students’ needs
» Worked with faculty and administrators in the CSH Strategic Planning Meeting
» Sat on the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working Group charged with implementing a new policy and considering issues of sexual and relationship violence more broadly
» Created a survey to gauge student interest in global health studies becoming a minor or major
» Began planning a town hall to further discuss a global health minor or major with students and administration
» Participated in the LAS/CSH Career Center advisory board meetings

» Began working on a student advisory board for students to have the opportunity to offer suggestions and feedback on ways to improve academic advising within the college

» Continued conversations with study abroad, the office of academic advising, and faculty interested in global health

» Began looking into a study abroad program for College of Science and Health students

» Held an advising panel for students to chat with academic advisors

» Hosted a study abroad fair for students to learn more about study abroad options with a focus on College of Science and Health majors

» Sat on the student survey committee for faculty promotion and tenure

V|2018: 1a, 1c, 2a, 4a, 4b

Senator for the School of Music
Ben Karon

» Began planning a town hall meeting for students to converse with the new interim dean for the School of Music

» Sat down with the interim dean and director of Jazz Studies to discuss student vision and goals for the future of the college

» Began working with the Music Students’ Association to promote performances to the entire university

» Continued to look into ways to update the online room reservation system and making them accessible at the front desk of the School of Music

» Organized and implemented Doughnuts with the Dean

» Planned an SGA outing to Chicago Symphony Orchestra

» Created more outreach for School of Music students to get involved with on campus events

V|2018: 1a, 1d

Senator for The Theatre School
JD Garrastegui

» Continued to work with The Theatre School Student Government Association (TTSSGA) to enhance connections to SGA

» Organized an SGA Theatre School outing to Metamorphosis

V|2018: 4b
Senator for Community and Government Relations
Michelle An
» Served as DePaul’s representative on the Illinois Board of Higher Education–Student Advisory Committee Meetings
» Participated in the interview process for a new Office of Health Promotion and Wellness coordinator
» Helped students register to vote and apply for absentee voting
» Visited a student organization to enhance connections with SGA
» Attended IBHE-SAC meetings and discussed state-wide improvement of academic advising, teaching evaluations, and MAP advocacy with Illinois colleges and universities
V|2018: 1a, 2b

Senator for Commuter Students
Omar Ortiz
» Began working to establish a DePaul Commuter’s Council that is set to replace the Commuter Advisory Board
» Initiated conversations to provide students a DePaul specific online platform to find potential roommates
» Assisted in drafting a letter to Metra regarding possible discounted student fares
» Set up an information session for DePaul Commuter Demons, the commuter organization set to replace the Commuter Advisory Board in the upcoming school year
» Worked alongside Zellencia Harris to increase commuter resources on campus
V|2018: 1a, 2b

Senator for Mission and Values
Maura Estes
» Began conversations to organize Mission and Values-based events with the Vincentians, and service days
» Organized the selection process for the commencement student speaker as the SGA Commencement Student Speaker Chair
» Regularly met with Joyana Dvorak to discuss events highlighting the Vincentian mission and values
» Assisted in planning and coordinating the first annual birthday celebration for St. Vincent de Paul
V|2018: 3a, 5b
SGA 2014-2015 EVENTS

EVENTS SGA HOSTED, SPONSORED, ATTENDED

Admitted Students Day
Almost Alumni Fair
Athletic Student Leaders Luncheons
Blue Demon Dance
Blue Demon Day Men’s Basketball Game
Blue Demon Week ‘Baile Afrika’
Blue Demon Week Athletics Pep Rally
Blue Demon Week Bumper Cars
Blue Demon Week DePaul After Dark: Retro Sports Night
Blue Demon Week Kick-Off
Blue Demon Week Spirit Check
Blue Demon Weekly Radio DePaul Live Broadcast
Christmas at DePaul
DePaul After Dark: Rock Stars of DePaul
DePaul After Dark: Treat Yo’SelF
DePaul Mardi Gras
Facility Operations Christmas Open House
Four Open Campus Provost Search Interviews
Illinois Board of Higher Education Committee
Illinois Business Immigration Coalition’s Moving Forward Sensible Immigration Solutions 2015
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Prayer Breakfast
Men’s Basketball Game Watch at State Metamorphosis at the Theatre School Whole Foods Market DePaul Grand Opening
Why Do You <3 Being a Blue Demon
Fall Quarter Mix ‘N Mingle
Winter Quarter Student Affairs Leadership Round Table
Spring Quarter Ice Cream Social
SGA Sponsored Women’s Volleyball
SGA Sponsored Men’s Soccer Game
SGA Sponsored Women’s Soccer Game
Blue Madness
Dinner with the Vincentians
Feast of St. Vincent de Paul
Hug a Veteran
2 Take Care DePaul Kick-offs
SGA Sponsored Men’s Basketball Game Watch at State
Blue Demon Week Kickoff
SGA Sponsored Men’s and Women’s Blue Demon Week Games
SGA Sponsored Women’s Softball Game Strike Out for Cancer
Track & Field Senior Day
DemonTHON Pie in the Face Vincentian Service Day at DePaul College Prep Bystander Intervention Training Two Whole Foods Market Student Value Tours Hunting Ground Screening and Panel Discussion
Meet & Greet with Men’s Basketball Head Coach, Dave Leitao
DePaul Central Scholarship Fair Three Informal Meet & Greets with Interim President, Dr. Patricia O’Donoghue Quarterly Informal Meet & Greets with Father Holtschneider Board of Trustees Student Luncheon MAP Lobby Day LGBTQA Month Opening Breakfast Making Miracles Reception DePaul Scholarship Luncheon Arthur J. Schmitt Leadership Luncheon Consent Tagline Competition Kick-Off Let’s Talk Consent Panel St. Vincent de Paul’s Birthday SGA Elections Meet the Candidates SGA Elections Information Sessions Three Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) College of Science and Health Advising Panel College of Science and Health Study Abroad Fest Six College Town Halls
6. VINCENTIAN IDENTITY  The Office of Mission and Values teamed up with SGA to promote the first birthday celebration of St. Vincent de Paul.

7. COLLEGE TOWN HALL  We successfully executed six college town halls which provided as an opportunity for students to meet and converse with the dean of their college.

8. CONSENT TAGLINE COMPETITION  Came together with the Office of Health Promotion (HPW) and Wellness and Student Leaders Advocating Together for Empowerment (SLATE) to launch a school-wide Consent tagline Competition.
EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY

In efforts to confront issues of the rising costs of higher education, SGA:

» Advocated for students on the undergraduate, graduate and fees subcommittees of the university Tuition Pricing Committee (TPC)

» Benchmarked 11 reference institutions to create a proposal for the Tuition Pricing Committee to consider a guaranteed pricing option for DePaul students

» Worked with Academic Affairs to send out SGA’s Textbook Best Practices list to all faculty members and feature the list on the teaching commons website as well

» Launched the “Keep Calm and Do the FAFSA by February 1st” campaign to encourage MAP eligible students to file their FAFSA before the anticipated deadline
  - Featured the “Keep Calm and Do the FAFSA” promotional graphic on the background of 1,750, or 89 percent, of all campus computers
  - Worked with Radio DePaul to air a public service announcement reminding MAP-eligible students to file their FAFSA by the deadline
  - Placed FAFSA reminders on Campus Connect
  - 70 percent of MAP students filed their FAFSA by the deadline, a 10 percent increase over last year, which means almost every continuing DePaul students that requires the MAP grant will receive the grant next academic year

» Designed the #MAPmatters campaign to encourage state leaders to support the Monetary Award Program (MAP)
  - Printed over 5,000 postcards calling on legislators to support state financial aid in efforts to support the revitalization of the Illinois economy
  - Distributed more than 2,000 MAP postcards to 128 academic departments and offices throughout the university
  - Hosted three successful MAP Advocacy days in Lincoln Park and the Loop for students to sign postcards asking state legislators to support MAP grants
  - Received over 2,400 signed postcards from members of the DePaul community, more than any previous year

» Successfully hosted the DePaul Academic Advising Network student panel

STUDENT VOICE

In efforts to elevate SGA’s role as well-informed liaisons between students and administration and act as an outlet to voice student concerns, SGA:

» Met with more than 300 members of the university community over the summer

» Coordinated the SGA Cabinet retreat in preparation to implement SGA’s strategic plan for the year

» Attended over 500 meetings, events, and activities with members of the university’s faculty, staff, administration and students from the start of the school year to finish

» Presented SGA initiatives to 31 key stakeholders of DePaul’s administration at the Joint Council retreat

» Presented SGA initiatives to incoming faculty at the New Faculty Orientation

» Met with every college Dean to discuss and advance SGA’s ten initiatives

» Coordinated SGA’s fall elections adding five new representatives

» Coordinated the SGA General Body retreat to orient new members to SGA’s ten initiatives for the year

SGA SPRING QUARTER 2014-15 NEWSLETTER
» Successfully organized three informal 
meet and greets with interim president, 
Patricia O’Donoghue
» Began the new tradition of a quarterly 
informal meet and greet with Father 
Holtschneider and students
  - Successfully hosted a winter and spring 
quarter meet and greet at the 
University House
» Continued the new SGA tradition of having 
lunch with the chairman of the Board of 
Trustees, Bill Bennett
» Represented students on the Dean of 
Students search committee
» Represented students on the Director for 
the Office of Student Involvement 
search committee
» Increased student representation to 43 
university boards, committees, task forces 
and working groups
» Successfully hosted town halls in six 
colleges giving students an opportunity to 
learn more about their respective college, 
express student opinions and meet 
their Dean
» Expanded the Student Records Advisory 
Group to include both Student Records 
and DePaul Central
» Represented students in the Health 
Promotion and Wellness Alcohol 
Prevention Specialist interview process
» Presented Blue Demon Week, 
#MAPmatters and On Thursdays We 
Wear Blue to the Associate Dean’s Council, 
Student Affairs Divisional meeting, Facility 
Operations, Staff Council and 
Joint Council.
» Hosted four provost search student lunch 
interview sessions with students
» Unanimously supported the Registration 
and Reporting Requirements for Programs 
Involving Minor Children Policy as a 
recommendation to the Policy 
Review Group

» Effectively revised the student referenda 
process in the SGA Constitution to 
enhance the meaning of a 
referendum vote
» Established a Career Center Advisory 
Board with SGA’s Operations Committee
» Organized and oversaw student 
commencement speaker selection process 
and sent out a communication to all 
graduating students about applying
» Expanded SGA representation to be 
included in Student Affairs 
Divisional meetings
» Increased social media presence
» Represented students on the Dean of 
Students search committee
» Represented students on the Director for 
the Office of Student Involvement 
search committee
» Increased student representation to 43 
university boards, committees, task forces 
and working groups
  - Facebook following has increased 9% 
over the last year with 1,616 likes
  - Twitter following has increased 5% 
with 3,147 followers and has had 348,142 
impressions since January 2015
  - Instagram following has increased 
to 2,390 followers and averaging 3,500 
engagements per every 2 months 
  - Klout score has reached its all-time high 
of 61
» Worked with the Social Media Working 
Group to promote major SGA events and 
initiatives via social media in efforts to 
reach as many students as possible
» Emailed student body during 
SGA elections
» Maintained SGA Hours throughout the 
year in which SGA members spent an 
hour a week in various locations in our 
Lincoln Park and Loop campuses to talk 
with students, answer questions, and come 
back with any concerns
DEPAUL AFFINITY AND TRADITION

In efforts to advance a vibrant university community that strengthens institutional pride among students, faculty, administrators, alumni, and community members, SGA:

» Saw the SGA proposed renovation to the Student Center second floor game room successfully transformed in the Blue Demon Den

» Sponsored and promoted the highly attended Blue Madness event

» Proposed and successfully brought together the first ever Blue Demon Week committee to further institutionalize the DePaul tradition

» Collaborated with more than 24 organizations and departments across the university to successfully organize Blue Demon Week 2015
  - Collaborated with DePaul Activities Board to create a student led Blue Demon Week subcommittee to head event planning and sponsorships
  - Featured the iconic “Blue Demon Week Is Here” graphic on the background of 1,750, or 89 percent, of all campus computers including CDM labs
  - Featured an article about Blue Demon Week 2015 in DePaul Newsline
  - Worked with Facility Operations to paint the campus blue with 10 large scale banners, 18 window banners, eight street pole banners on Sheffield Ave, and 40 sidewalk BDW logos
  - Saw the #BDW2015 used more than 450 times on Twitter, and 100 times on Facebook and Instagram each between February 23 and March 1
  - Collaborated with DePaul Activities Board to create a student led Blue Demon Week subcommittee to head event planning and sponsorships

» Launched the “On Thursdays We Wear Blue” campaign university wide
  - Secured a 15 percent discount on all DePaul gear every Thursday during the school year for members of the university community
  - Created and promoted the social media hashtag, #OTWWB
  - Showcased On Thursdays We Wear Blue in a DePaul Newsline article
  - Filmed the first “Dibs at the Door” promotional video with the help of the Office of Public Relations and Communications (OPRC) which has achieved more than 10,000 views since its release
  - Started the On Thursdays We Wear Blue monthly Newsline photo competition in collaboration with OPRC

» Expanded SGA archives with the university archives

» Successfully proposed DePaul imagery to update areas of the Lincoln Park Student Center including the inner dining room and photos outside of the Blue Demon Den

» Continued SGA’s Blue Demon Week tradition of taking a student photo with Father Holtschneider in Arts and Letters Hall
ACCESSIBLE COURSE EVALUATIONS

In efforts to further current pursuits to make quantitative data from course evaluations accessible to students, SGA:

» Surveyed students in the College of Communication regarding online teaching evaluations yielding a strong response rate

» Encouraged students to fill out their online teaching evaluations each quarter through social media, poster and email promotion

» Presented SGA’s proposed student accessible course evaluations to several college departments

» Collaborated with Academic Affairs on the roll out of the online teaching evaluations mobile application

» Redrafted SGA’s student accessible course evaluations proposal

» Compiled an updated benchmarking report of student accessible course evaluation efforts at 19 reference institutions

» Hosted quarterly SGA Mix N’ Mingles in the Student Center atrium to talk to students about questions, comments and concerns they may have

» Held a Student Affairs Round Table to discuss student well-being, campus affinity, and educational affordability with student leaders

» Drafted a unanimously passed Resolution “Sending Our Condolences to the University of Notre Dame Student Government” after the passing of Father Hesburgh

» Created #MissionMonday and #TriviaTuesday Twitter campaigns to promote Vincentian values and history on social media

» Oversaw over 137 hearings with student organizations requesting more than $700,000 for events and conferences, a 10 percent increase over requested funding from last year

» Hosted Archbishop Blase Cupich visit to the Office of Student Involvement

» Continued SGA’s tradition of supporting DemonTHON with our “Stay Fresh FTK” toiletries for the big event and SGA Pie in the Face fundraiser that raised $145 FTK

» Hosted a fall Dinner with the Vincentians to promote the Vincentian mission

» Increased number of SGA liaisons

» Enhanced visibility and accessibility of SGA liaisons by featuring representatives on the SGA website

» Took part in a presentation on DePaul enrollment trends with senior vice president for Enrollment Management, David Kalsbeek, for SGA leaders to better understand the student population we serve

» Hosted DePaul’s sister school, Niagara University Student Government, for a lunch and tour of DePaul’s campus

» Tabled at Lincoln Park and Loop Involvement Fairs to promote SGA as an advocate

» Hosted a fall Dinner with the Vincentians to promote the Vincentian mission

» Introduced a new SGA program to visit student organizations across campus to expand SGA’s accessibility and presence on campus

» Compiled an updated benchmarking report of student accessible course evaluation efforts at 19 reference institutions

INCLUSIVITY AND OPPORTUNITY

In efforts to advance a vibrant university community that strengthens institutional pride among students, faculty, administrators, alumni, and community members, SGA:

» Sponsored a Whole Foods Market meeting with students and members of the DePaul community in preparation for the new store to open near DePaul

» Present SGA's ten initiatives at the annual athletic orientation dinner

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» Hosted Archbishop Blase Cupich visit to the Office of Student Involvement
In efforts to expand SGA’s existing connection with student governments across Chicago and Illinois to encourage state leaders to take a focus on student concerns, SGA:

» Worked with 22 universities and colleges across the city of Chicago to create the Coalition of Chicago Colleges and Universities (CCCU)
» Hosted two CCCU meetings on DePaul’s Loop and Lincoln Park campuses
» Worked with student governments across the state to adopt the #MAPmatters campaign, which was introduced at more than twenty schools
» Drafted and instituted educational affordability talking points for the Illinois Board of Education – Student Advisory Committee (IBHE-SAC) lobby day in Springfield
» Wrote a formal request to Metra chairman, Martin Oberman, to create a student discount for commuter students in Chicago

» unanimously passed an SGA Resolution “Calling on the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Bruce Rauner to Ensure the Longevity of the Monetary Award Program”
» Wrote and sent a formal letter to Governor Bruce Rauner asking for his support of the MAP grant
» Signed onto the “It’s On Us” campaign to in efforts to continue working with the DePaul community and state leaders on initiatives of sexual and relationship violence prevention
» Co-sponsored a Resolution in the Illinois Board of Higher Education – Student Advisory Committee (IBHE-SAC) to request a student discount for Metra commuter students
» Participated in Vincentian Service Day by working with Vincentian Service Day by working with DePaul College Prep to clean up their campus and garden

SUSTAINABILITY
In efforts to further the Vincentian mission by working to decrease the human global footprint, SGA:

» Proposed a sustainable capital improvements budget to Facility Operations including:
  - Water bottle refill stations in all residence halls
  - Motion sensor lighting in residence hall common areas
  - LED lighting in Lincoln Park parking garages
  - Solar powered charging stations for tables in the quad and DePaul Center
  - Retro-commissioning projects in various buildings on both LPC and Loop campuses
  - New energy saving lighting in the Ray Meyer Fitness and Recreation Center
  - New low flow toilets in the Ray Meyer Fitness and Recreation Center
» Saw the SGA proposed reusable dishware program successful launch in the winter quarter
» Oversaw the planning of university Earth Week events

SGA AS A LEADER IN CHICAGO AND ILLINOIS
In efforts to expand SGA’s existing connection with student governments across Chicago and Illinois to encourage state leaders to take a focus on student concerns, SGA:

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

In efforts to engage with municipal, state and federal government officials and organizations to further DePaul’s position as the premier institution of Chicago, SGA:

» Promoted early voting and get out the vote efforts through a #DePaulVotes social media campaign during 2014 midterm elections
» Hosted a “Walk to the Polls” event promoting early voting and civic engagement among DePaul students
» Held an election night watch party for the 2014 midterm elections
» Organized and hosted a candidate meet and greet in the DePaul Theatre School bringing 16 Aldermanic and Mayoral candidates to campus to speak with students and members of the DePaul community
» Promoted early voting and get out the vote efforts through a #DePaulVotes social media campaign during Chicago’s municipal elections in February and April
» Hand-delivered more than 2,400 signed postcards to nearly every member of the Illinois General Assembly on April 22
- Met with various state representatives and senators to discuss the importance of MAP funding and its effects on DePaul students
- Introduced to the House of Representatives and Senate floor recognizing DePaul’s MAP advocacy efforts
» Attended Governor Quinn’s press conference announcing the ICCAP grants which helped DePaul build the new Theatre School and Arts and Letters Hall
» Attended the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition’s event Moving Forward Sensible Immigration Solutions 2015

TRANSPARENCY

In efforts to work with Administration to provide transparent information about budget processes, university projects, and leadership transitions, SGA:

» Organized and hosted a university tuition and budgeting process panel with expert DePaul administrators to discuss tuition, financial aid, the budget, and the overall economic climate of higher education, open to all students
» Invited administrators of Joint Council and other university staff to SGA’s weekly General Body meetings presenting students an opportunity to learn about university decisions, ask questions, and directly convey their opinions to administration
» Visited Radio DePaul throughout the school year to discuss SGA initiatives and student resources
» Interviewed with Good Day DePaul on topics ranging from SGA’s ten initiatives, the #MAPmatters campaign, sexual violence prevention efforts and more
» Saw the SGA proposed mail alert system for residence hall students come to fruition
» Promoted a #MeetSGA campaign throughout the year for students to get to know their student representatives
» Updated the SGA website to include an announcements section for students to stay up to date with SGA
STUDENT WELL-BEING

In efforts to foster an environment of healthy living for students on and off campus, SGA:

» Hosted a Take Care DePaul panel with the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness during a fall General Body meeting

» Coordinated the Vinnie Van off-campus shuttle service providing nearly 1,000 students with a safe ride home this year during midterms and finals

» Worked with Chartwells to increase healthy food options in the Student Center

» Designed and hosted three quarterly Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meetings with Public Safety and CPD on topics from CTA safety and crisis management to treating substance abuse

» Held two Take Care DePaul kick-off events in Lincoln Park and the Loop campuses in collaboration with Health Promotion and Wellness to educate students and promote the new campaign for university members to take care of each other

» Participated in risk assessment with the DePaul Internal Audit Department

» Organized a “Let’s Talk Consent” panel with the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness to discuss sexual health, consent and sexual violence prevention with students

» Collaborated with Whole Foods Market DePaul to create a monthly student value tour for students to tour the new grocery store and learn how to find healthy options on a tight budget

» Surveyed students about dining options and worked with Chartwells to open the Scramble dining station on the weekend upon student request

» Updated JTR library’s 24-hour schedule during finals to span dates the week before and the week during finals

» Benchmarked Public Safety website accessibility at reference institutions around the country

» Joined the new organization Student Leaders Advocating Together for Empowerment (SLATE) as a liaison to SGA

» Expanded student representation to the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working Group

» Came together with HPW and SLATE to launch a Consent Tagline Competition
  · Sponsored the Consent Tagline Competition kick-off event
  · Created all Consent tagline competition poster and social media graphics
  · Coordinated the marketing of the consent tagline competition school-wide

» Contributed to the creation of a mission statement for the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working Group

» Piloted Haven, an online sexual violence prevention and bystander training module, which will be rolled out to all incoming students in fall 2015

» Worked with members of Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working Group, Faculty Council, and HPW to introduce resource options and trigger warnings on D2L

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