St. Vincent de Paul once said, “Let us do our duty well: let us work to become very humble, very patient, very mortified, and very charitable.” SGA strives to keep these Vincentian values alive in all of the work we do. The winter quarter was busier than ever in our work advocating for students, and it is with great honor that I present the Student Government Association’s 2014-2015 winter quarter newsletter.

This winter, SGA has partnered with Health Promotion and Wellness and the S.A.V.E. Working Group to continue enhancing initiatives around sexual violence prevention by sponsoring two Take Care DePaul kick-off events, hosting a “Let’s Talk Consent” panel open to all students, helping institute an online bystander intervention training module called “Haven” for nearly 300 student leaders, and joining the Student Leaders Advocating Together for Empowerment (SLATE) on sexual violence prevention educational programming on campus. SGA worked closely with Facility Operations to enhance DePaul affinity by bringing more DePaul imagery to the Student Center and blanketing the campus in blue with banners and posters during Blue Demon Week. Blue Demon Week 2015 was a smashing success in its second year thanks to the work of more than 25 departments and student organizations that came together through SGA’s proposed Blue Demon Week planning committee. SGA also launched the On Thursdays We Wear Blue (OTWWB) campaign university wide in efforts to promote institutional pride among students, faculty, staff, and alumni. SGA promoted our “Keep Calm and Do the FAFSA” campaign through substantial social media presence and displaying informational graphics on 1,750 campus computer screens, resulting in a ten percent increase of MAP students filing their FAFSA by the state financial aid deadline compared to last year.

We also hosted four provost search student interview sessions, held three major MAP Advocacy Days calling on state legislators to support financial aid, facilitated a Meet the Candidates forum with fourteen Aldermanic candidates and two Mayoral candidates, began a new tradition for students to attend a quarterly informal meet and greet with Father Holtschneider, and much more. I am very proud of the work SGA members have devoted to the betterment of our university.

Matthew C. von Nida
President, Student Government Association
EXECUTIVE BRANCH REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT

Cristina Vera

SGA continues to play a pivotal role in advocating for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) within the state of Illinois. This year, we launched the MAP Matters campaign to encourage state leaders to support this state financial aid and an increase in state funding. To do this, we distributed MAP postcards to 128 academic departments and offices across the university, hosted three MAP Awareness Days at our Lincoln Park and Loop campuses, drafted a formal letter to Governor Rauner asking for his support of MAP grants, and passed an SGA Resolution calling on state leaders to support financial aid for our students.

To date, students, faculty and staff have signed more than 2,400 postcards which we will hand deliver to legislators during SGA’s MAP lobby day in Springfield this April. To further our initiative of SGA as a leader in Chicago and Illinois, we have presented the MAP Matters campaign to the Coalition of Chicago Colleges and Universities (CCCU), the Illinois Board of Higher Education – Student Advisory Committee (IBHE-SAC), and other student leaders across the state. As of now, more than 25 student governments throughout Illinois are utilizing DePaul SGA’s MAP Matters campaign; this includes a motion from the IBHE-SAC calling on state leaders to increase MAP funds by $50 million in the state budget in order to support our state’s high demand for financial aid.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Khalil Pillai

This quarter the Academic Affairs Committee organized a student advising panel with the DePaul Academic Advising Network (DAAN) and provided students the opportunity to voice ideas, thoughts and concerns towards academic advising at DePaul. Students received valuable information and learned more about the opportunities provided through the career center. Work is being done to establish a student advisory board within each college for students to discuss ideas for the future of advising. The Academic Affairs Committee also met with the Student Records and DePaul Central Advisory Board to offer recommendations on ways to improve and centralize DePaul resources on Campus Connect. We have worked closely with the Blue Star Advisory Board to roll out the new advising resource to DePaul students with our #BlueStarSundays social media campaign. SGA also re-crafted a Textbook Best Practices list which was unanimously supported by Faculty Council officers to encourage faculty to offer the most affordable textbook options to their students.

V]2018: 1a, 2b, 4a, 4b, 5a
This winter the Operations Committee has been hard at work pursuing initiatives of sustainability and DePaul affinity. We have SGA’s proposed sustainability projects come to fruition in the residence halls with new water bottle refill stations and motion-sensor LED lighting systems. The Operations Committee also worked with Chartwells to launch a reusable dishware program encouraging students to reduce waste and reuse dishware while dining on campus. The Vinnie Van off-campus shuttles have continued to be very successful providing thousands of students safe rides home during midterm and final exams. This winter we have expanded our Vinnie Van marketing throughout the library and on social media.

In efforts to strengthen student well-being on campus, the Operations Committee hosted our quarterly CAPS, Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy, meeting with Bob Wachowski from Public Safety and a representative from the Chicago Police Department. Our guest speaker, Cindy Lawson is the vice president for Public Relations and Communications came in to discuss crisis communication as well as tips for students to act in the case of an emergency.

The Student Affairs Committee has continued efforts to help students learn more about resources available on campus. SGA hosted two Take Care DePaul kick-off events in collaboration with the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness on both Lincoln Park and Loop campuses. These events introduced students to the university-wide Take Care DePaul campaign as well as connected students with information on bystander intervention and ways to combat the winter blues. SGA tested the Haven module, an interactive online sexual and relationship violence prevention education module that will now be accessible to all students and required of all incoming students in the upcoming academic year.

A Student Leadership Roundtable was held to further collaborate with student organizations on campus and discuss topics regarding campus affinity, educational affordability and student well-being. Several student organizations participated in a well-rounded discussion on how to better engage the entire student body on these matters. We also sponsored various athletic events throughout the quarter including the 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.
SGA and the Student Activity Fee Board (SAF-B) continued this winter quarter to allocate the student activity fee fund to support student organizations and campus activities. This year funding has been granted to more than 50 organizations allowing them to host events and activities for students on and off campus. This is a dramatic increase from previous years and allows more events to take place, benefiting the entire community.

TREASURER
Sophia Lammers

SGA and the Student Activity Fee Board (SAF-B) continued this winter quarter to allocate the student activity fee fund to support student organizations and campus activities. This year funding has been granted to more than 50 organizations allowing them to host events and activities for students on and off campus. This is a dramatic increase from previous years and allows more events to take place, benefiting the entire community.

V|2018: 4b

SGA STAFF

Parliamentarian
Karina Alvarez

Public Relations Coordinator
Ryan Wenzel

Graphics Coordinator
Richard Popp

Graphics Coordinator
Kellie Schipper

LIAISONS

Black Student Union:
Darartu Mohamed

Blue Crew:
Sarah Drexelius

Captain’s Council:
Jacqueline Kasal

Center for Students with Disabilities:
Mark Tomera

DemonTHON:
India Mayer

DePaul Activities Board:
Rachel Driussi

DePaul Residence Hall Council:
Megan Thall

Honors Student Government:
Kristina Pouliot

LGBTQA and Student Services Office:
Patrick Pioli

Office of Veterans Affairs:
Tyna Korcz
1. **ON THURSDAYS WE WEAR BLUE** SGA launched the On Thursdays We Wear Blue campaign across the university to build school pride and affinity.

2. **MAP ADVOCACY** SGA plays a strong role in advocating for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) in the state of Illinois. This year, SGA created the MAP Matters campaign calling on state legislatures to support continued funding of the largest need based program in the state.

3. **ONCE A BLUE DEMON, ALWAYS A BLUE DEMON** SGA cheers on the Men’s Basketball team during the Blue Demon Week Men’s Basketball game, one of many events during Blue Demon Week bringing together students, staff, faculty and alumni.

4. **ST. VINCENT’S CIRCLE** DePaul University was founded on the mission and values of St. Vincent de Paul. St. Vincent de Paul is a reminder to all that no matter the weather, the DePaul community’s work is never done.

5. **CHICAGO IS OUR CAMPUS** Chicago can be home to extreme weather, but DePaul’s campus exemplifies the beauty of each new season.
Senator for First Year Students
Adriana Kemper

» 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: 4b

Senator for Second Year Students
Natalie Cushman

» 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

V|2018: 1a, 4b

Senator for Fourth/Fifth Year Students
Jorge Dominguez

» 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

V| 2018: 4a, 4b

Senator for Sustainability
Joseph Arcus

» Successfully launched a reusable dishware program allowing students to reduce waste
» Began planning DePaul’s annual Earth Week celebrations by reaching out to student organizations

V|2018: 2b

Senator for the College of Communication
Robert Hauselt

» 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

V|2018: 1a, 2b, 4b
Senators for the Driehaus College of Business

Michael Papanicholas and Frankie Favela

» 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

Senators for the College of Computing and Digital Media

Patrick Meehan and Sana Fatima

» Sat on the Information Services Advisory Committee that reviews project proposals aimed at improving areas within Information Systems
» Began conversations with Student Records to enhance Campus Connect
» Hosted a highly successful town hall in which students were able to converse with Dean Miller and offer new ideas for the future of the college
» Surveyed CDM students regarding suggestions for improving academic experience

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
» 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
V|2018: 1a, 4b

Senators for the College of Science and Health
Jaclyn Shea and Lara Hilapad
» 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
» Sat on the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working Group to continue conversations with issues of sexual and relationship violence and implementing the new continued proactive measures
V|2018: 1a, 1c, 2a, 4a, 4b

Senator for the School of Music
Ben Karon
» 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
V|2018: 1a
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
» Attended IBHE-SAC meetings and discussed statewide improvement of academic advising, teaching evaluations, and MAP advocacy with Illinois colleges and universities
V|2018: 1a, 2b

Senator for Commuter Students
Omar Ortiz
» Assisted in drafting a letter to Metra regarding possible discounted student fares
V|2018: 1a, 2b

Senator for Mission and Values
Maura Estes
» 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
V|2018: 3a

Senator for Transfer Students
Jonathan Touhy
» Worked closely with Transfer Student Union to continue efforts in reaching out to transfer students
V|2018: 1a, 4a, 4b
REPRESENTATION ON UNIVERSITY ADVISORY BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COUNCILS AND TASK FORCES

- Advising Managers Board
- Athletic Board
- Athletics Student Leadership
  - Meetings (Blue Crew Cabinet)
- Blue Demon Week Committee
- Blue Demon Week Student Committee
- Blue Star Advisory Committee
- Board of Trustees
- Bookstore Innovation Group
- Campus Recreation Advisory Committee
- Campus Violence Prevention Taskforce
- Coalition of Chicago Colleges & Universities
- Commencement Coordinator Group
- DePaul Academic Advising Network
- DePaul Central Advisory Board
- DePaul Engage
- DePaul Sustainability Network
- DREAM Task Force
- Driehaus College of Business
  - Student Advisory Committee
- Facility Operations
- Fair Business Practices Committee
- Grade Challenge Review Board
- Illinois Board of Higher Education - Student Advisory Committee
- Information Services Advisory Committee
- Joint Council
- Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Career Center Advisory Board
- MAP Touch Point Group
- Policy Review Group
- President’s Diversity Council
- Public Relations and Communication Sub-Committee, Retention Sub-Committee
- Provost Search Committee
- Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working Group
- Social Media Working Group
- Strategic Facilities Committee
- Strategic Resource Allocation Committee
- Student Activity Fee Board
- Student Affairs Divisional Meetings
- Student Leaders Advocating Together for Empowerment
- Student Records Advisory Board
- Supervisor of the Year Award Committee
- Tuition Pricing Committee
- Undergraduate, graduate, and fees sub-committees
- University Conduct Board

6. DEPAUL AFFINITY Blue Demon Week is a full week of events celebrating Blue Demon pride and affinity. SGA hosted the Blue Demon Week Kick-off event kicking off the full week of Blue Demon festivities.
EVENTS SGA ATTENDED

Admitted Students Day
Almost Alumni Fair
Athletic Student Leaders Luncheon
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 Week Trivia Night
Blue Demons Weekly Radio DePaul Live Broadcast
Christmas at DePaul
DePaul After Dark: Rock Stars of DePaul
DePaul After Dark: Treat Yo’Self
DePaul Mardis Gras
Facility Operations Christmas
Open House
Four Open Campus Provost Search Interviews
Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee at Illinois State University and University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
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
Orgsync webinar “Streamline Voting and Increase Turnout: Using OrgSync for Elections”
Whole Foods Grand Opening Ceremony
Why Do You <3 Being A Blue Demon

7. DEPAUL TRADITION Blue Demon Week is a tradition at DePaul University and SGA continues the tradition of taking a photo with Father Holtschneider every Blue Demon Week.
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

» Collaborated with Academic Affairs on the roll out of Online Teaching Evaluations mobile application
» Successfully hosted four provost search student lunch interview sessions with an average of 15 students per session
» Engaged students in an informal meet and greet with Father Holtschneider at the University House
» Successfully hosted two Take Care DePaul Kick-off events in Lincoln Park and the Loop in collaboration with Health Promotion and Wellness to educate students of the university campaign
» Contributed to the Health Prevention & Wellness Alcohol Prevention Specialist interview process
» Participated in (Student Leaders Advocating Together for Empowerment) SLATE meetings
» Sat on the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working (SAVE) Group
» 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
» Created a benchmarking report evaluating Public Safety website accessibility at institutions around the country
» Hosted the SGA Meet the Candidates event in the DePaul Theatre School bringing 16 Aldermanic and Mayoral candidates to campus to speak with students and members of the DePaul community
» Encouraged students to vote in the Chicago municipal elections with the #DePaulVotes social media promotion
» Wrote a formal request to Metra Chairman, Martin Oberman, to create a student discount for commuter students
» Initiated proactive conversations about student concerns around Ventra
» Launched On Thursdays We Wear Blue across the university with participation from students, faculty, staff and alumni
  - Created and promoted the social media hashtag #OTWWB
  - Showcased On Thursdays We Wear Blue in a DePaul Newsline article

2018
» Began filming promotional videos with the Office of Public Relations and Communications for the On Thursdays We Wear Blue campaign

» Launched the On Thursdays We Wear Blue monthly Newsline photo competition in collaboration with OPRC

» Presented Blue Demon Week and On Thursdays We Wear Blue to Associate Dean’s Council, Student Affairs Divisional meeting, Facility Operations, Staff Council and Joint Council

» Saw SGA proposed DePaul imagery added throughout the Lincoln Park Student Center

» Launched the “Keep Calm and Do the FAFSA by February 1st” campaign to encourage MAP-eligible students to file their FAFSA before the anticipated MAP deadline
  - Featured the “Keep Calm and Do the FAFSA” graphic on the background of all campus computer backgrounds
  - Worked with Radio DePaul to air a public service announcement reminding MAP-eligible students to file their FAFSA in time
  - Placed FAFSA reminders on Campus Connect

» Created the “MAP Matters” campaign to urge state leaders to support the Monetary Award Program (MAP)
  - Passed a Resolution “Calling on the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Bruce Rauner to Ensure the Longevity of the Monetary Award Program”
  - Brought the MAP Matters slogan to schools across the state
  - Successfully hosted three MAP Awareness Days for students to sign postcards
  - Distributed more than 2,000 MAP postcards to 128 academic departments and offices throughout the university
  - Received over 2,400 signed MAP postcards from the DePaul community, more than any previous year
  - Sent a formal letter to Governor Bruce Rauner asking for his support of the MAP program

» Successfully hosted three MAP Advocacy days between Lincoln Park and the Loop to encourage students to ask state legislators to support the Monetary Award Program

» Interviewed with Good Day DePaul on topics such as SGA initiatives, SGA’s MAP Matters campaign, and the changing national university rating system
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

» Received unanimous support of an updated Textbook Best Practices from Faculty Council officers

» Promoted the #TaxBreaks4Students campaign to encourage students and families to see if they are eligible for higher education tax breaks

» Hosted a Coalition of Chicago Colleges and Universities meeting on our Lincoln Park campus

» Compiled a more recent benchmarking report of student accessible course evaluations at 19 institutions

» Began faculty presentations on student accessible course evaluations

» Collaborated with more than 24 organizations and departments across the university to organize Blue Demon Week 2015
  - Co-chaired the Blue Demon Week student planning committee to finalize student events for the week
  - Featured the iconic “Blue Demon Week is Here!” graphic on the background of all campus computer screens including in CDM labs
  - Featured the purpose of Blue Demon Week 2015 in DePaul Newsline

» Hosted the Blue Demon Week Kick-off in the Lincoln Park Student Center engaging the community and promoting the week

» Decorated the Lincoln Park and Loop Student Center dining areas with red and blue to celebrate Blue Demon Week

» Sponsored Blue Demon Day Men’s Basketball game at Allstate Arena and the Blue Demon Week Women’s Basketball game at McGrath-Phillips Arena

» Continued SGA’s Blue Demon Week tradition of taking a student photo with Father Holtschneider

» Passed the Registration and Reporting Requirements for Programs Involving Minor Children Policy as a recommendation to the Policy Review Group
» Participated in a risk assessment of the university with the DePaul Internal Audit Department
» Collaborated with the Whole Foods marketing team to continue developing student budget friendly shopping
» Worked with Chartwells to see the SGA proposed reusable dishware program come to fruition
» Co-sponsored Mardis Gras DePaul event with the Catholic Student Union
» Effectively revised the student referenda process in the SGA Constitution.
» Held a Student Affairs Round Table to discuss student well-being, campus affinity and educational affordability with student leaders
» Hosted our Winter Quarter CAPS meeting focused on crisis communication strategies
» Began conversations with Residential Education and Housing Services to launch an artwork in the residential halls effort to enhance affinity
» Hosted several town halls for students to hear from their Deans and ask questions
» Began the process of establishing student advisory boards in several colleges
» Established a Career Center Advisory board with SGA’s Operations Committee
» Successfully hosted the DePaul Academic Advising Network student panel
» Met with commencement coordinators and organized the commencement student speaker process
» Continued to have members of Joint Council and departments from around the university present to students at weekly SGA meetings.
» Continued providing students a safe ride home during midterms and finals with Vinnie Van off-campus shuttles
EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY Confront issues of the rising costs of higher education. Voice student concerns about rising tuition, advocate to enhance the scholarship opportunities on DePaul’s Academic Works scholarship portal, and advance efforts to expand affordable textbook options for students. A major focus will be put on continuing efforts to advocate for the restoration of the Monetary Award Program (MAP) as well as other forms of financial aid.

DePAUL AFFINITY AND TRADITION Advance a vibrant university community that strengthens institutional pride among students, faculty, administrators, alumni and community members. Efforts should be made to further institutionalize DePaul traditions such as Blue Demon Week, and better recognize other existing Blue Demon traditions. Enhanced affinity should also be promoted by continuing to make facilities across our campuses more encompassing of the DePaul identity through imagery. Blue Demon pride should be fostered through the connectivity of different offices throughout our campus, from academic departments to athletics.

SUSTAINABILITY Further the Vincentian mission by working to decrease the human global footprint. Efforts of sustainability should consider a multifaceted model by implementing environmental, social and economic practices across the university. SGA will continue to work with Facility Operations in the allocation of the annual sustainable capital improvements fund as well as the sustainable projects enabled by Chartwells. Special attention will be given to academic programming such as Common Hour education and educational events such as Earth Week. Sustainable efforts should continue to be pursued in collaboration with departments and student organizations across the university.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT Engage with municipal, state and federal government officials and organizations to further DePaul’s position as the premier institution of Chicago. In a school year of municipal and midterm elections, SGA will encourage students to become civically engaged by voting. Civic engagement tells our state leaders that student concerns should be at the forefront of public policy. MAP grants should continue to be central in our efforts to work with local and state leaders.

STUDENT VOICE Elevate SGA’s role as well-informed liaison between students and administration through representation on university boards, task forces and committees. SGA members will become experts in their respective fields of representation in order to enhance interactive conversations made possible through physical meetings, social media, emails and an accessible SGA website. SGA is an outlet to voice student concerns.

INCLUSIVITY AND OPPORTUNITY Uphold and celebrate the University’s distinctive Catholic, Vincentian and urban identity. Recognize that the Vincentian mission fosters a diverse population of first generation, low income students as well as students from all walks of life at DePaul University. SGA will work to strengthen new opportunities to enhance higher education as a means to encourage service to deprived members of society in Chicago and beyond.

ACCESSIBLE COURSE EVALUATIONS Further current pursuits to make quantitative data from course evaluations accessible to DePaul students. This institutional effort will work to increase the quality of education overall.

SGA AS A LEADER IN CHICAGO AND ILLINOIS Expand DePaul SGA’s existing connection with student governments across Chicago and Illinois as well as connect with state leaders regarding issues of rising education costs, financial aid, textbook affordability and other statewide student concerns. Student pressure should be put on state leaders to restore MAP grant funding and increase efforts to reduce student debt.

TRANSPARENCY Work with administration to provide transparent information about budget processes, university projects and leadership transitions. Transparency of information should consider accessibility of language and be present through various outlets from social media and websites to emails.

STUDENT WELL-BEING Foster an environment of healthy living for students on and off campus. SGA will collaborate with various university departments to offer opportunities and resources to DePaul’s diverse student population. Efforts will be made to promote and improve upon existing health services. All DePaul students have the right to feel safe on campus, and SGA will work to further a mission of inclusivity and safety.