St. Vincent de Paul once advised a hesitant man named Claude DuFour in his work to lead a new seminary: “There is no lot in life where there is nothing to be endured.” The Student Government Association understands the challenges our students face, and we are committed to promoting and advocating their voice and opinion. It is our deep connection to the university’s Vincentian mission that we advance our ten major initiatives for the year. The fall quarter has flown by, and I am exceptionally proud of SGA’s accomplishments thus far. I am thrilled to present the Student Government Association’s 2014-2015 fall quarter newsletter.

This quarter, we have enhanced DePaul affinity with the renovation of the Demon Den in our Lincoln Park Student Center, promoted civic engagement through voter registration drives and early voting efforts, hosted an election night watch party, expanded SGA’s role as a leader in Chicago and the state by working with 22 Chicago institutions to create the Coalition of Chicago Colleges and Universities (CCCU), hosted a student forum on Take Care DePaul, further increased transparency of the university tuition pricing and budget processes by hosting an expert administration panel, established the university’s first ever Blue Demon Week committee, collected informative student data on course evaluations, launched an SGA initiative to visit student organizations across our campuses, worked with the Tuition Pricing Committee to see a policy which eliminated more than 300 course and class fees pass through the Policy Review Group, and much more.

Our senators and members of cabinet continue to be a strong voice within the university governance structure with student representation on 42 university advisory boards, committees, councils and task forces. This newsletter provides further insight into the great work being accomplished by all of the members of this organization.

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

VICE PRESIDENT
Cristina Vera

This quarter SGA saw an opportunity to enhance DePaul affinity by creating stronger connections with students and student organizations. Starting in September, SGA premiered a new program to visit student organizations in efforts to work closer together and discuss ways to confront pressing student concerns. All of our cabinet and senate members have reached out to numerous organizations within their respective constituencies. Through this program we are continuing to enhance and develop new channels of communication for student voice among the DePaul community.

SGA is continuing pursuits to make quantitative data from course evaluations accessible to students across all colleges. Within the last two years, we have seen the SGA proposed initiative passed by faculty members in several colleges including The Theatre School, School for New Learning, College of Science and Health, and most recently, the Driehaus College of Business. Students in these colleges will have access to quantitative course evaluation data as early as spring quarter registration—in conjunction with the roll out of a new mobile course evaluation application. SGA will maintain this momentum and continue pursuing this initiative to become a university-wide practice.

With around 5,000 DePaul students dependent on funding from the state of Illinois through the Monetary Award Program (MAP), SGA has begun to organize continued efforts to advocate for the restoration of MAP funds in the state of Illinois.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Khalil Pillai

This quarter the Academic Affairs committee expanded its role to serve as the Student Records Advisory Group, formerly the Campus Connect Advisory Board, and offered recommendations to enhance changes within Student Records and DePaul Central. SGA met with the DePaul Academic Advising Network (DAAN) to discuss ways in which the quality of academic advising could be improved at DePaul. These conversations led to the potential of building a student-led panel to provide students the opportunity to voice ideas, thoughts and concerns towards advising. Work is also being done to create a course skill catalog aimed at providing students another resource to help select courses that match individual skillsets. The BlueStar Advisory Board met to discuss the introduction of BlueStar. This board is working to consider alternative methods of ensuring both current and continuing students are aware of this additional resource geared towards student success. Additionally, SGA met with the Career Center to talk about current resources available to students.
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS
Jake Boria

Fall has been a busy quarter for SGA’s Operations committee. The Vinnie Van off-campus shuttle service provided nearly 150 students with a safe ride during midterms, a program continuing to expand the accessibility of a safe ride home during exam weeks. The committee has also worked with Chartwells to discuss more eco-friendly options on campus including the installation of reusable dishware used in Dining Services. SGA has continued to work with Facility Operations to allocate a sustainability fund which will be used to install motion sensor lighting around campus and increase available water bottle refill stations. SGA has continued sustainability efforts on campus expanding into the residence halls.

SGA hosted the quarterly Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meeting where representatives from the CTA, CPD and Public Safety gave students tips about navigating public transportation and staying safe in Chicago. We also have seen the SGA proposed email alert system begin its pilot program with the mailroom for students living on campus.

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

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS
Vanessa Cadavillo

This quarter, SGA’s Student Affairs committee has expanded efforts to better connect with the DePaul student body. We hosted a quarterly Mix n’ Mingle in the Student Center atrium as an opportunity for students to ask questions, meet their SGA representatives, as well as raise student concerns. We also sponsored various university events to enhance affinity among our community. Events we sponsored include: Women’s Soccer, Men’s Soccer, Women’s Volleyball, Blue Madness, Dinner with the Vincentians, Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, Hug a Veteran and much more. We also met with administrators and other offices within Student Affairs including the new vice president for Student Affairs to discuss the vision and goals for Student Affairs this coming year.

V|2018: 1a, 3a, 4a, 4b

TREASURER
Sophia Lammers

The treasurer of SGA serves as the Chair of the Student Activity Fee Board (SAF-B). SAF-B has been working to allocate the student activity fee fund to support student organizations and campus activities. SAF-B has seen an increase in the number of organizations submitting requests for funding early on prior to previous years. This fall funding was granted to over 50 organizations allowing them to host events and activities for students.

V|2018: 4a
SGA STAFF

Parliamentarian
Karina Alvarez

Graphics Coordinator
Ric Popp

Graphics Coordinator
Kellie Schipper

1. GET OUT THE VOTE
SGA teamed up with departments and organizations across the university to get students involved in this year’s midterm elections. The election watch party was one of many efforts to celebrate DePaul civic engagement.

2. STUDENT WELLBEING
During Midterms and Finals, SGA works with Public Safety to provide students a safe ride home from the library. Last year alone, Vinnie Van provided more than 1,000 safe rides.

3. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
SGA is present at most university events as an effort to be accessible and transparent. The Involvement Fair is one of many ways we connect with students.

4. TRANSPARENCY
SGA teamed up with an expert administration panel to discuss tuition processes, the university budget, and the changing climate of higher education.
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
V|2018:1a

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 intramural and club sports teams obtain consistent training space
» Began reaching out to student organizations on campus to enhance connections to SGA
V|2018:1a, 2c

Senator for Third Year Students
Jamian Griggs
» No report

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
V| 2018:1a, 2c, 4b
Senator for Sustainability
Joseph Arcus

» Worked with the Operations Committee to allocate their sustainability fund toward the installation of water bottle refill stations in residence halls
» Began conversations with Student Centers and Chartwells on promoting more healthy food options and usage of reusable dishware
» Began reaching out to multiple sustainability focused student organizations on campus to create a sustainability forum
V|2018:2c

Senator for the College of Communication
Robert Hauselt

» Began conversations about improving connections among current students with alumni across the nation
V|2018:1a, 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
V|2018:1a, 1a

Governor Pat Quinn held a Press Conference at the DePaul Center to announce the ICCAP grants. SGA president introduced interim President Pat O’Donoghue and the Governor.
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 town hall meeting for the College of Education students to meet Dean Zionts
V|2018:1a

Senators for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Jacqueline Martinez and Luke Kula
» Held a successful 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
» Began conversations with LAS administration to better promote and enhance the DePaul Liberal Arts page
» 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
V|2018:1a, 1c, 4a
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 student 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

V|2018:1a, 1c, 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

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

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
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
V|2018:1a, 4a

Senator for Intercultural Awareness
Joseph Kerins

» Met with the Office of Student Legal Services to discuss student resources for DREAM eligible students
» Began working with students and LGBTQA Student Services to initiate a QTPOC focused career panel
» Attended numerous cultural, ethnic and religious student organizations on campus to learn of concerns students would like addressed
» Attended monthly CIP meetings
V|2018:1a, 4a, 4b

6. VINCENTIAN IDENTITY
SGA upholds a strong commitment to DePaul’s distinctive Catholic, Vincentian and urban identity by serving one of the most diverse student bodies in the country.
Senator for Mission and Values

Maura Estes

» Began conversations to organize Mission and Values based events with the Vincentians and service days

V|2018:5b, 3

Senator for Transfer Students

Jonathan Touhy

» Began working with Transition DePaul staff to see where improvements could be made for the upcoming summer orientation
» Met with the Transfer Student Union President and discussed ways to further promote the organization to Transfer students
» Created a survey that will be distributed to students about transitioning to DePaul
» Reached out to the Office of Veteran Affairs to discuss ways to collaborate during the upcoming quarters

V|2018:5a

LIAISONS

Blue Crew:
Sarah Drexelius
Black Student Union:
Darartu Mohamed
Office of Veterans Affairs:
Tyna Korcz
LGBTQA and Student Services Office:
Patrick Pfohl
Captain’s Council:
Jacqueline Kasal

DePaul Activities Board:
Rachel Driussi
DemonTHON:
India Mayer
Honors Student Government:
Sydney Beaumaster
DePaul Residence Hall Council:
Megan Thall
Center for Students with Disabilities:
Mark Tomera
REPRESENTATION ON UNIVERSITY ADVISORY BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COUNCILS AND TASK FORCES

Advising Managers Board
Athletic Board
Athletics Student Leadership Meetings (Blue Crew Cabinet)
Board of Trustees
Bookstore Innovation Group
Blue Demon Day Committee
Blue Demon Week Committee
Blue Demon Week Student Committee
Blue Star Advisory Committee
Campus Recreation Advisory Committee
Campus Violence Prevention Taskforce
Career Center Advisory Board Coalition of Chicago Colleges and Universities College of Science and Health Student Committee
Computer Science Society 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 Earth Week Planning Committee Facility Operations Fair Business Practices Committee Grade Challenge Review Board Joint Council Illinois Board of Higher Education- Student Advisory Committee Information Services Advisory Committee 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 Records Advisory Board Tuition Pricing Committee- Undergraduate, graduate and fees sub-committees University Conduct Board

7. CAMPUS PRIDE The Theatre School has some of the top ranking theatre programs in the nation as well as one of the most modern facilities. From black box theatres to LEED certifications, this building has it all.
» Worked with 22 universities and colleges across the city of Chicago to create the Coalition of Chicago Colleges and Universities (CCCU)

» Saw the SGA proposed Blue Demon Den in the Student Center successfully created by the beginning of the school year

» Hosted a Whole Foods Advisory meeting to meet with Whole Foods regional director and discuss student concerns to ensure a smooth transition of Whole Foods near our Lincoln Park campus

» Met with more than 300 members of the university’s faculty, staff, administration and community members to move our initiatives forward

» Created the first ever Blue Demon Week Committee to further institutionalize the DePaul tradition

» Created a student led Blue Demon Week subcommittee to head events, co-chaired by SGA and DAB

» Coordinated the SGA Cabinet Retreat

» Presented SGA initiatives at Joint Council Retreat

» Met with SGA members for one on one meetings before the school year began

» Presented SGA initiatives to Faculty at New Faculty Orientation

» Met and discussed SGA initiatives with the Dean from each of the 10 colleges

» Consulted with Athletic Department to help come up with the Athletic T-shirt design for the year

» Worked with the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness on moving the #TakeCareDePaul campaign forward

» Attended the Athletic orientation dinner and presented SGA initiatives

» Coordinated SGA fall elections and added five new members

» Coordinated the SGA General Body Retreat

» Kicked off an SGA program to visit student organizations across our campuses to expand SGA’s presence

» Sat on DePaul Discover panels

» Saw the proposed course and class fees elimination policy passed through the Policy Review Group and signed by the president into effect, eliminating more than 300 course and class fees

» Coordinated and tabled at the Lincoln Park and Loop Involvement Fairs

» Increased transparency of the university tuition and budgeting process by hosting a panel of DePaul administrators to discuss tuition, financial aid, budget and overall economic climate of DePaul, open to all students

» Hosted Dinner with the Vincentians
» Wrote a DePaul Newsline article discussing SGA’s vision for the year ahead

» Secured an “On Thursdays We Wear Blue!” campaign to begin in November, corresponding to a 15% off student discount on DePaul gear

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

» Sat on the undergraduate, graduate and fees subcommittees on the university Tuition Pricing Committee (TPC) advocating for educational affordability

» Increased number of liaisons to SGA

» Enhanced visibility of liaisons to SGA by featuring liaisons on the SGA website

» Took part in an executive enrollment presentation with senior vice president for Enrollment Management, David Kalsbeek, on enrollment processes at DePaul University

» Sponsored LGBTQA Safe Zone Training with LGBTQA Student Services

» Successfully organized 3 informal meet and greets with interim president, Patricia O’Donoghue

» Provided SGA and students the opportunity to interact with administrators by having many visit General Body meetings

» Continued a new SGA tradition of having lunch with the Board of Trustees Chair, Bill Bennett

» Collaborated with colleges in the state of Illinois to enhance cross college and university communication, pitching our MAP campaign to be a further statewide lobbying effort.

» Featured on Radio DePaul to talk about SGA’s initiatives and student resources

» Expanded SGA archives

» Created a benchmarking report and proposal for the Tuition Pricing Committee (TPC) to consider a Guaranteed Pricing model

» Hosted DePaul’s sister school, Niagara University, on campus and sat down with their Student Government Association

» Hosted a #TakeCareDePaul panel with the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness

» Attained SGA representation on the dean of students search

» Attained SGA representation on the director for the Office of Student Involvement search

» Furthered SGA’s social media presence and featured on @iamdepaul

» Began a #MeetSGA campaign for students to meet the new SGA members

» Sponsored Veteran’s Day Interfaith Service Luncheon

» Promoted early voting and GOTV efforts through a social media campaign
» Hosted an Election Night Watch party during the announcement of midterm election results to get students more civically engaged

» Hosted “Walk to the Polls” to promote early voting and civic engagement

» Increased representation on university boards, task forces and committees to 42

» Vinnie Van off-campus shuttle service provided nearly 150 students with a safe ride home during midterms

» Healthier food options were made available in the Student Center

» Worked with Facility Operations to install water bottle refill stations in all residence halls

» Hosted the quarterly CAPS meeting with Public Safety and representatives from the CTA and CPD

» Worked with Academic Affairs to send out SGA’s Textbook Best Practices list to all faculty members promoting textbook affordability

» Hosted the quarterly SGA Mix n’ Mingle to interact and connect with students

» Sponsored several athletic games including Women’s Soccer, Men’s Soccer, Women’s Volleyball

» Hosted town halls in several colleges for students to interact with their Dean

» Worked with Chartwells to allocate the sustainability fund

» Expanded the Student Records Advisory Group to include both Student Records and DePaul Central

» Sponsored and Promoted Blue Madness

8. CHICAGO IS OUR CLASSROOM  DePaul students have some of the greatest views of our famous Chicago skyline from all over our Lincoln Park campus.
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 liaisons 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.

9. SGA AS AN ADVOCATE
SGA is committed to promoting and advocating for the student voice. As your representatives, we are excited for the year ahead and to continue working for student interests.