

# PSC CHRONICLE



Department of Political Science, DePaul University

Spring 2018

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## The life of a Madrileña

*Sophie Stoepker*

Whether it is the amazing food, the passionate people, or the culture in general, after going to Madrid, Spain, it is impossible to find something you wouldn't love. I had the privilege of living in this amazing city for three months during the fall quarter of 2017. During my time there, I experienced the life of a Madrileña, met incredible people, and learned a lot about myself as an individual. I, like many others who have studied abroad, recognize the cliché that having this experience, is truly life changing.

Besides living in a city that puts New York to shame as the city that never sleeps, I had an incredible time learning more about myself and the things I truly enjoy. I was able to walk the neighborhoods of Malasaña and Chueca, try tapas in La Latina, and even enjoy the beautiful, natural landscapes of Casa de Campo and Buen Retiro Park. Madrid has it all, and being able to go pretty much by myself and come out with amazing relationships I probably never would have formed, is another reason why I would recommend that students study abroad. Being abroad with fellow classmates gives you a type of relationship that you may not have formed from being at DePaul. That is not to say those relationships aren't as special, they are just different. You experience things you would not normally see while walking down Sheffield Ave. They help in times when you're missing home, as well as when you want to go see a new museum or neighborhood. You come to realize that the people in your program can really offer comfort if you need it.

Studying abroad is scary. It's thrilling, courageous, nerve-wracking, and frankly, expensive. But I would not have changed my experience for the world. Being in Madrid was one of the greatest college experiences I could have asked for. Knowing what I do now, I would absolutely do it over again. If you are looking to step outside of your comfort zone, meet amazing people, and experience a world that is completely different than your own, I would absolutely look into studying abroad. It offers these things and so much more that you would have ever expected.

# Student Profile



## Benjamin Bui

Benjamin Bui is a senior majoring in political science with a double minor in philosophy and global asian studies. Bui is interested in working in the legal or governmental field after college, with the hopes of running for office one day. He graduated from a two-year intensive career development program for first-generation and low-income college students called America Needs You. Bui has had some experience with working in government as he interned for the NYC Mayors Office of Contract Service and Public Hearing, the Committee on Finance for the Chicago City Council, and the Chicago Mayor's Office of Legislative Counsel and Governmental Affairs. At DePaul, he served as the treasurer for the Student Government Association, a Student Ambassador, and he worked as a research assistant. Bui loves to explore different cultures through their cuisine, watch crime shows, and read.



## Kekoa Erber

Kekoa Erber is a senior with a double major in political science and psychology minoring in global asian studies. Erber is from Chicago, Illinois. He has an interest in international relations and hopes to work for government or for a multinational corporation. Erber is the President of Psi Chi (Psychology honor society) as well as a member of Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science honor society). He is also part of the Honors Program. Erber is a legal assistant at a law firm in Chicago and works part time at a soccer club for children. Erber worked on the campaign to elect Brad Schneider. He has family from Stuttgart, Germany; Tianjing, China; as well as Yomitan, Okinawa. A lot of Erber's family lives in Hawaii. Erber enjoys traveling, likes to play soccer, watch Netflix, cook, and play video games.

# Model United Nations

Our Model UN students participated at the WUMUNC in February and won three awards



Rebecca Ansorge—Best Delegate

Bradley Lass—Honorable Mention

Cameron Rodriguez—Verbal Commendation

Congratulations to our 2017-2018 team!!



# Parting Thoughts

## Professor Zachary Cook

I first began teaching political science at DePaul in the autumn of 2006. Last December, I regretfully told the department that this year would be my last one at DePaul. I have loved teaching here, but in academe, as with many careers, changing jobs is just part of the game. The department asked me to share some of what I have learned from teaching politics to DePaul undergraduates. Above all, what I have learned is that here in Chicago you have an extraordinary opportunity not just to study politics in the classroom, but to experience it directly at the local, state, and national levels (though your studies come first!)



I first began to appreciate how uniquely situated DePaul was during my second year here, when I led an autumn Explore Chicago course called Representatives and Representation. The topic was local and state politics. I thought it might be interesting if a few elected officials would be willing to directly address my first-year students about their jobs and constituents. So, I put together a mass mailing to City Council, Cook County, and Illinois House and Senate officials. I thought if I were lucky, I might get five or so takers. The replies from politicians and their staffers flooded in within days. Every year I taught the class, I was in the odd position of writing distinguished elected officials that I greatly appreciated their interest in DePaul undergraduates, but that due to the number of interested speakers and time constraints, I could not offer them all a speaking slot.

But Chicago politicos will always be interested in DePaul, because DePaul is truly Chicago's university. Unlike say students at Northwestern or at the University of Chicago, who may be in Illinois only for a four-year flyover, DePaul students are much more likely to be from the greater Chicagoland area. Many have plans to remain here after they graduate. DePaul students are highly interested in the city of Chicago, its neighborhoods and its history (I can attest to this personally, after spending many years as a graduate student teaching and observing Northwestern undergraduates). I am constantly impressed with the initiative that DePaul students show at getting involved in all forms of local community and civic service, especially political internships at aldermanic offices and other political organizations and electoral campaigns.

A disproportionate number of Chicago's and Illinois' future civic and political leaders will come from DePaul. With twelve years under my belt, I am proud to see where some of my students have wound up. One student I taught that first autumn 2006 quarter went on to become one of the first volunteers on then-Senator Barack Obama's Internet operation in 2007-2008 (her job primarily involved posting and responding to a then-rather-obscure social media platform called Facebook). I've seen former students working on Mayor Rahm Emanuel's campaign, and others trying to unseat Emanuel, and others now serving as aldermanic chiefs of staff. I had students currently working for all candidates in the 2018 Democratic primary. Yes, it is DePaul, so most of my students are working on the Democratic or progressive side of the aisle, but I had one student who ran the volunteer / internship program for Bruce Rauner for Governor in 2014. I am proud to see one of my current students running for office in DuPage County, while a recent graduate is running for Lake County Board.

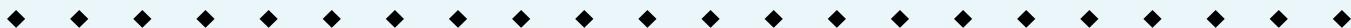
As a DePaul student interested in politics, you have a kind of "potential glow" around you. The local world is interested in you precisely because they know great things have come out of DePaul. They are always on the lookout for hard workers. You should not be afraid to play up that sense of potential.

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On the other hand, I have also seen a couple of DePaul students “run away to join the circus,” as I sometimes think of it, who have reported back to me negative or self-defeating experiences. Politics can be exploitative. You have to be careful to make sure to put yourself first – and that means, above all, remembering that you are a student and your classwork takes top priority. There will always be players out there who encourage you to sideline your academic work in order to help them achieve their own aspirations. Don’t allow yourself to be exploited. One of the things I most like about the DePaul Political Science Department is it is here to try and help you balance everything in a smart fashion (so take advantage of Dr. Cathy May, in other words!) Because ultimately, the truth is, most students who get involved in politics during their college years do not end up making a career of it. There just are not that many paying positions that command a high enough salary to make it a fruitful career for most when you are out of your twenties.

But taking the time while you are here at DePaul to pursue a “real-world” political internship, while you are within one of the most amazing political cities (for good and ill) in the world, is worth your while. First, through the participant-observer process, you make invaluable connections between classroom knowledge and practical applications. We try and teach here how we might make the world a little better place, but also all of the challenges that make it hard to effect political change. It is one thing to study that, another to live it. But second, for the time they put in, I have seen my students make personal and professional connections and friendships that may last for a lifetime. These networks are important. People willing to work behind the scenes in politics are, generally speaking, interesting and good to know. Even if you do not stay in a public-sector job, your network of contacts will be of great value in steering your path towards wherever you head in the future. Third, if you transition in the short run to the public sector after DePaul, there are few career tracks that teach you so many valuable skills and convey so many initial responsibilities upon you (if, again, often not for very much pay) as the public sector during your twenties. There are all kinds of ways to transition back into the private sector later on, but now with an expanded perspective, network and skill set.

I will miss being in the middle of all this potential energy at DePaul. It has been a privilege to be an instructor here. I hope to be reading up more about some of your civic and political achievements in the future.



## Mock Trial Team

The Mock Trial team competed at an Invitational hosted by Central College in Pella, Iowa. DePaul University placed in 2nd with a record of 7 wins and 1 loss! Cole Craghan and Juliana Arruda both won a Best Attorney awards.

The team also competed at an invitational hosted by the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. DePaul University placed in 6th! Cole Craghan won a Best Attorney award and Hannah Hyman and Joe Marasco won Best Witness awards.



Juliana Arruda  
&  
Cole Craghan

Current  
Mock-Trial  
members



## Important Dates:

- ◆ March 24, 2018  
Spring Quarter begins
- ◆ April 1, 2018  
Last day to add classes to SQ schedule
- ◆ April 6, 2018  
Last day to drop classes with no penalty and last day to select P/F status
- ◆ April 7, 2018  
Grades of "W" assigned to SQ classes dropped on or after this day
- ◆ April 13, 2018  
Last day to select auditor status
- ◆ April 26, 2018  
Registration for AQ opens
- ◆ May 11, 2018  
Last day to withdraw from SQ classes
- ◆ May 28, 2018  
Memorial Day—**University Closed**
- ◆ June 1, 2018  
**Senior Party**  
McGee's 5pm!
- ◆ June 2, 2018  
**Final Exam week**

# Senior Reflection

Gabriele Litkauskaita



The last four years have been a wild ride. It seems that with one blink a year had gone by. Choosing DePaul University has really made the city of Chicago and the world my entire classroom. Many students have a tendency to overlook that the university experience is not just a stepping stone to the next point of life but truly is the foundation of our journey to understanding ourselves, our interests, and passions – to charter our own paths for the future. Over the last four years, I've had incredible opportunities to participate in study abroad programs in Madrid, Spain and in Buenos Aires and Mendoza, Argentina. Some of my greatest courses have been taken while abroad or while in preparation for a program abroad. The diverse background and caliber of professors and advisors at DePaul University have encouraged me to create my own path after graduation. Being a student in the Liberal Arts and Social Sciences has taught me to think and construe my own path as we are not students who are siphoned into one specialty but rather finding jobs and causes that we are dedicated to. I feel pride in my work ethic and that I continued to follow my interests and passions into becoming a double major in political science and Spanish, with a minor in Latin American and Latino Studies. I think I have become a lifelong learner as I've also been admitted into the 5 year combined degree BA/MA program and will be staying at DePaul for another year to finish my Master's degree in journalism.

For me, it was important to be a worldly student as I've always been enthusiastic to learn about political relations, diplomacy, culture, history, economics, and the arts of other countries. Some of my best memories and friendships were made during my time in Spain and Argentina, and I hope that by being a Study Abroad Ambassador, I have encouraged others to participate in either DePaul or non-DePaul programs and to find their own wanderlust in the world. Another experience that I have been quite animated about this year has been my virtual internship with the State Department. As a native speaker of Lithuanian, I've had the opportunity to facilitate weekly cultural diplomacy sessions with Foreign Service Officers before their missions abroad. It's been an unforgettable experience in which I've been able to share my culture and language with others and also learn from their familiarities working as FSOs as that is something that I am interested to pursue in the future.



## Alumni Spotlight

### Marty Castro, JD

Marty Castro is the president and CEO of Castro Synergies, LLC, which provides strategic consulting services to corporations, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organization seeking to have a positive social impact on diverse communities. Utilizing his multifaceted experience in community service, government, politics, social service, philanthropy, business and law, coupled with his broad and deep local, national, and global network of relationships, Marty assists his clients in building and implementing projects that will benefit the community.

Marty was recently selected as one of the “50 Most Influential Latinos In Chicago” by Negocios Now Magazine, and was also selected by *Hispanic Business* magazine as one of the “100 Most Influential Hispanics in the U.S.” in October, 2011. Marty was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Roosevelt University in December 2011 for his work in advancing social justice. In May of 2016, Marty was presented with the Ohtli Award, by the Mexican government, its highest honor awarded to individuals of Mexican or Latino descent outside of Mexico. The Ohtli Award honors persons who have had a profound, positive impact on the Mexican community outside of Mexico. In June of 2016, DePaul University, presented him with an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters for his community activism and work in the area of civil and human rights. Marty is a former corporate board member of Bankmont Financial, Inc., where he served on the audit committee and, Harris Bankcorp, Inc., where he served on the Community Reinvestment Act Committee. Marty is also on the board of directors of Somercor 504, Inc., which is certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration (“SBA”) to originate SBA 504 loans in Illinois. Marty serves on Somercor's audit committee. Born and raised on the southeast side of Chicago, Marty is the son and grandson of Mexican immigrants. Marty's paternal grandparents came to South Chicago in the 1920s and worked in the steel mills and helped build the community and parish that made up the first Mexican settlement in Chicago.

Marty's late father, Ray Castro was a prominent community, veterans, and political activist. In 1980, he was elected the first Latino in Illinois history to be a Democratic Ward Committeeman, when he was elected to that post in the 7th Ward.

In 2007, the Castro family was honored for their many contributions to the community and to Hispanic life in Chicago by an exhibition at the Chicago History Museum entitled, “From Colonia to Community.” Marty was the first in his family to graduate from high school and the first to obtain a higher education. He graduated from St. Francis De Sales High School, in the shadow of the Chicago Skyway. He received his B.A. in political science in 1985 from DePaul University and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1988.

Marty's greatest personal and professional passion is to be a social change agent, make a positive social impact, and help shape his two teenage sons into good citizens.

**We'd love to spotlight your accomplishments in the next issue of PSC Chronicle or on our website. Please send a brief update and photo to [PSCAdvising@depaul.edu](mailto:PSCAdvising@depaul.edu)**



## A Note from the Department Chair

Valerie C. Johnson PhD

The Political Science Department (PSC) at DePaul is the place to be!! PSC is one of the top ten most popular destinations of new freshman at DePaul University, and the largest major in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. As the Department celebrates its 50th year anniversary, we remain committed to offering our students a comprehensive study of the discipline of Political Science, including concentrations in American Politics, International Politics, and Law and Theory. Students majoring in Political Science study the world-- Africa, China, Eastern and Western Europe, Japan, Latin America, the Middle East, and the U.S.

Courses focusing on social movements and campaigning offer our students a pragmatic understanding of the formal and informal processes of government and politics. The Inside-Out program engages issues related to mass incarceration and the criminal justice system and provides our students unique opportunities to take courses alongside prisoners at Stateville Prison and Cook County Jail. Whether it's through engagement with our award winning Mock Trial team, Model UN, Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society, or internships with law firms, elected officials, or governmental agencies, our goals are to assist students to become socially-responsible and engaged citizens who are prepared to think critically about the problems and challenges of the 21st century and to develop leadership for the common good!!

For many of our students the spring quarter represents an end to their matriculation in the Department and new and exciting opportunities to study at top law and graduate school programs or to continue their education in graduate or law school programs at DePaul. Others, will join our esteemed alumni in careers in government, the private sector, and in non-profit and public-sector organizations. Wherever our students venture, we are tremendously proud of them and ask that they stay connected to the Department by writing to us and letting us know where they are and how they are meeting the goals and standards that we have set before them. How are you changing the world?

## Academic Advising Corner

Estela Barragan

I want to wish you a wonderful and safe summer break! As a reminder, I am available for all of your academic advising needs. Please remember to use Bluestar when scheduling an academic advising appointment.

Graduating seniors, the last day to order a cap & gown is **April 6th!** Please note that ordering your cap and gown serves as your RSVP for the graduation ceremony. If you have questions about the ceremony, please contact LASGraduation@depaul.edu. Please note that this year's ceremony will be held at the Wintrust Arena on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 8am!! I look forward to seeing you at the commencement ceremony bright and early :)! For students not graduating this spring and summer, see you in the fall!

**Seniors: Our annual graduation party will take place June 1st at McGees! In a few weeks you will receive an email with more information. Food will be provided!**

## DePaul Resources

### Career Center

2320 N. Kenmore Avenue, Suite 192  
Phone: 773-325-7431  
Website: [Careercenter.depaul.edu](http://Careercenter.depaul.edu)

### University Counseling Center

2250 N. Sheffield Avenue, Suite 350  
Phone: 773-325-7779  
Website: [offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/department/Pages/ucs.aspx](http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/department/Pages/ucs.aspx)

### DePaul Central/ Financial Aid

2323 N. Kenmore Avenue, Suite 101  
Phone: 312-362-8610  
Website: [offices.depaul.edu/depaul-central/Pages/default.aspx](http://offices.depaul.edu/depaul-central/Pages/default.aspx)

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