

Biologists' work may lead to prevention, genetic screening of birth defects

The many hours that Elizabeth LeClair, an associate professor of biological sciences, and Paulina Pawluczuk, a junior majoring in biology, spent in a lab at Children's Memorial Research Center may contribute to reducing birth defects. Their contributions to research into the cellular basis of craniofacial development, or how the face is formed, could one day lead to preventive treatments or genetic screenings for defects such as cleft lip and cleft palate.

LeClair, whose expertise includes developmental biology, contacted Jacek Topczewski, an assistant professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, a few years ago when she wanted training in the rapidly growing field of zebrafish research. The Topczewski Lab uses the fish as a model to study how cartilage cells develop in the embryo. The meeting of the two researchers led to LeClair's 15-month study on craniofacial development in mutant zebrafish, supported by DePaul's paid leave program.

"This was a way to improve my own training and then take that training back to my teaching and research at DePaul," says LeClair, who has since built a small zebrafish facility on campus for student research.

Because zebrafish and humans share many embryonic processes, what researchers discover about how zebrafish cells behave can help explain what happens in human development. Craniofacial abnormalities are among the most common birth defects in humans, and cleft lip and cleft palate are the most widespread, Topczewski says.

Topczewski's research is funded by the National Institutes of Health through the National Institute of Craniofacial and Dental Research. Last year, he received a competitive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act supplemental grant to fund a summer internship for an undergraduate student from a university whose primary mission is not research. "I wrote an application to fund students from DePaul specifically," Topczewski says.

During her 10-week internship, Pawluczuk helped create genetically modified zebrafish that the lab now uses. The fish have a red fluorescent signal that labels living cartilage cells. LeClair says this tool helps researchers track how the cells change position and shape over time in normal and mutant fish.

Pawluczuk says participating in research was exciting and intense. "This was one-on-one teaching," she says. "I understood things more and had a broader view of science."

"Within one week here, she got more hands-on experience doing science than she did in one quarter at DePaul," says LeClair. After her internship, Pawluczuk, who is considering entering an M.D./Ph.D. program, joined LeClair's lab at DePaul and is conducting her own research project. Pawluczuk will present her findings at the Ninth International Meeting on Zebrafish Development and Genetics in July at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

LeClair says working with zebrafish is very popular in the research world and is a vital skill. "If you're studying blood, the immune system, cartilage, bones or even cancer, the use of zebrafish is encouraged across the National Institutes of Health," LeClair says. "The zebrafish has a genome sequencing project that is complete. The scientific community has put a lot of resources into the zebrafish. I think it is a very important skill for future physicians and scientists to know this system, and Paulina already has a lot of knowledge in this area."



Biological sciences Associate Professor Elizabeth LeClair (left) and student Paulina Pawluczuk have contributed to Jacek Topczewski's research into craniofacial development at Children's Memorial Research Center.



Meeting ever-changing needs

It is always a pleasure for me to announce new learning opportunities for our students—especially when the opportunities have to do with the implementation of new degree programs or major additions to existing programs that provide new directions and dimensions for our students' development.

In many cases, our programs reflect new ways of implementing the university's mission by responding to major societal and community needs, new career opportunities for our students, and new cutting-edge areas of study brought about by the advancements in knowledge in particular disciplinary or interdisciplinary fields of study. Let me mention just a few examples of our exciting new offerings:

- *Peace, justice and conflict studies.* This new major is designed to offer students courses and experiences that introduce them to the complex relationships between social and political realities influencing peacemaking, as well as the sources of structural violence and intra- and inter-group conflict. The program also considers issues of interpersonal violence and conflict and how such conflicts can be resolved. Students explore the growing interdisciplinary literature on justice and injustice and the implications of these meanings for peacemaking. Courses, workshops and internship opportunities combine theoretical and practical knowledge with real-world problem-solving skills. This new major is highly consonant with DePaul's Vincentian mission and its focus on issues of social justice, human rights and the conflict of interests between groups.
- *Science and math education.* One of our society's most significant and pressing needs is the improvement in science and math education that focuses on the preparatory stages of a student's education in our community middle schools and high schools. To make effective gains in this national effort, the improved training and education of middle school and high school teachers in content-based subject matter is vitally needed. Two new M.S. degree programs—one in middle school mathematics education and another in environmental science teaching—will help to provide such training and education in areas of continuing need and in new areas of science education that reflect major societal and global issues.
- *Neuroscience.* Among the areas of science education that have seen considerable advancement in recent years are studies related to the neurosciences. Our nationally known psychology department has added a concentration in cognitive neuroscience that will enable students to take courses that focus on the connections between the nervous system and the behavior of organisms. In part, this concentration is linked to another new concentration in our undergraduate biology department. Neuroscience is among four new concentrations that expand the set of student opportunity areas for that program. The others are pre-health, cellular and molecular biology, and ecology/evolution. The neurosciences concentrations mark a particular trend in science programs as well as in programs across the college of collaborating on programs in cross-departmental areas of study that are at the boundaries or borderlands between disciplines.

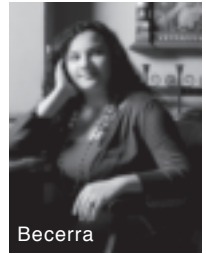
These are just a few of our recent programmatic and curricular developments. It is my hope to be able to announce additional areas of opportunity for our students in the near future. These programs reflect our continuing effort to provide the best curricula and academic choices to meet the needs of a diverse student population.

DePaul's \$250 million campaign includes LA&S scholarships

At a campuswide celebration May 20, DePaul University announced the Many Dreams, One Mission Campaign, the largest fundraising initiative in the university's history. The \$250 million campaign will strengthen DePaul's resources for scholarships and invest in programs, faculty and facilities for academic excellence across the campuses.

The cornerstone of the campaign is \$100 million dedicated to scholarships, more than \$12 million of which will be directed to endowed scholarships in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LA&S). According to Dean Charles Suchar, the growing need for scholarships was a key consideration in deciding the college's \$36 million campaign goal. "We are committed to significantly increasing the amount of scholarship dollars because we must maintain the college's historical role as a place of opportunity for students who come from families without the financial means to keep up with the rising cost of education," says Suchar.

In the current economic climate, student success depends much more on access to financial assistance, says Marisol Becerra, a public policy major in her junior year. "Without the generous scholarship support I received, I never would have been financially able to attend DePaul," explains Becerra, who says her DePaul education has deepened her commitment to social and environmental justice.



Becerra

The college will invest \$17 million of the funds raised in new facilities, including a new home for the DePaul Art Museum and more classrooms. The Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Environmental Science and Chemistry Building, which officially opened in January 2009, was constructed during the quiet phase of the campaign. Also, the LA&S campaign goal will help extend the academic excellence of the college by expanding nationally recognized programs and supporting the highest-quality teaching and scholarship.

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Word of mouth puts mental health services within reach of Chicago residents in need

Working with a population that is often skeptical about mental health services, Sheila Ribordy, director of DePaul Family and Community Services (FCS), and her staff rely on a variety of nontraditional interventions to engage community residents. This may mean making home visits or meeting clients at school, a day care center or a local fast-food restaurant. These are just some of the practical approaches she and her staff employ in delivering a range of services to residents of Cabrini-Green and Lathrop Homes, the two public housing communities that DePaul FCS primarily serves.

"Up until last summer we had outreach workers who were actually residents of the community, and they would go to the apartment, and that door would open to them, whereas it would not open so easily to one of my clinical staff, someone they didn't know," explains Ribordy, sitting in a room furnished with child-size tables and chairs and bins filled with toys.



Sheila Ribordy (left), director of DePaul Family and Community Services, with graduate student Kristen Zychinski (seated) and case manager Jackie Brown.

Since the 1970s, Ribordy's workplace had been called the DePaul Community Mental Health Center. But, because for most of the people using its services, "going to a formal mental health center is probably not at the top

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\$250 million campaign

Over the next few years, the DePaul community will be focused on realizing the goals of the campaign. “This historic undertaking will keep alive St. Vincent’s dream to improve the lives of others and ensure that it endures in our students, faculty and alumni well into the future,” says the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., DePaul’s president.

The LA&S campaign is being led by a committee co-chaired by James A. Barnash (B.A. ’77) and Connie R. Curran (M.S. ’72). Other members of the committee are Margaret E. Burke (B.A. ’83, M.A. ’85), John J. McNicholas (B.A. ’80), Richard J. Meister, Thomas J. Murphy, John S. Nicholson (B.A. ’05), William E. O’Connor (B.A. ’74, MBA ’79), Lawrence R. Stack (B.A. ’63, M.A. ’65), John B. Ward, and Lynn Winikates (B.S. ’63).

To participate in the campaign, visit campaign.depaul.edu or contact Sara Miller Acosta, senior development director for LA&S, at 312.362.5383.



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Word of mouth

of their lists, we changed the name to get the ‘mental health’ out of our title,” she says. “The new name reflects what we do more accurately because we’re doing a lot more than mental health.”

DePaul FCS, Ribordy says, provides many community-based services, which she calls case management. The services range from helping families resolve housing issues to helping them enroll in the state health insurance program for children and connecting them with other services.

Advocacy related to the schools in the community is also a big part of their work. Ribordy and her staff help support school personnel, many of whom are overtaxed from a lack of resources. “They need resources that we can provide, so we’ve had a partnership with Cabrini-Green and Lathrop schools for 30 years.” When those schools see students struggling and suspect family issues or inadequacies, the school contacts DePaul FCS, which then follows up, Ribordy says.

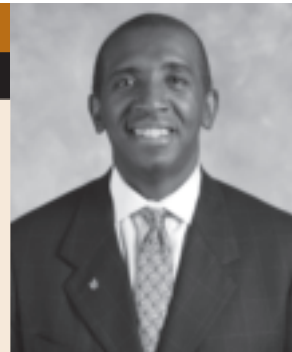
Her staff of 16 includes a child psychiatrist, psychologists, social workers and graduate-level trainees. Their budget is primarily funded by the state, coming from the Illinois Division of Mental Health.

Ribordy, a clinical psychologist and a member of the DePaul psychology department, came to the university shortly after graduate school at the University of Kansas, where she earned her Ph.D. After considering a variety of positions, she chose DePaul because she liked that it had a clinic, which would allow her to be involved in training and keep her clinical skills up-to-date. For about 10 years, she headed the clinical training program, building her leadership and administrative skills. In 1996, when the mental health center’s director retired, she took over.

Since then, the facility has grown, adding a staff that’s three times larger. Due to the State of Illinois’ severe budget problems, however, the center lost its state funding in summer 2009 that had supported two satellite offices (in addition to the main center in Byrne Hall on the Lincoln Park Campus). These storefront operations, in the Cabrini-Green and Lathrop communities, were the home base for the resident outreach workers. The clientele and center staff are feeling the loss of not having the resident outreach workers working alongside the professional staff. Current staff are trying to extend themselves to do the case management activities that these families need, and graduate and undergraduate students who are doing their training in the center are assisting. The center’s work with families on Medicaid and those who are not noninsured or under-insured, Ribordy says, has become even more critical as many previous providers have closed down due to lack of funding.

She is proud of her staff’s work in helping families navigate social institutions and bureaucracies, from the Department of Children and Family Services to the police department. The doctoral program in clinical psychology has received two national awards from the American Psychological Association, for diversity training, not only in the classroom, Ribordy says, but for its clinical training program. The center also won a national award in 2005 for its innovative community outreach, she says.

Ribordy, who enjoys greeting children who come in for services and talking with their parents, admires the families with which the center works. “Their survival and resiliency is just incredible,” she says. “Most of us would have withered under the stress they deal with every day.”



Walgreens executive's DePaul years were “everything college should be”

Residence:

Chicago

Occupation:

Wattley is divisional vice president for human resources business strategy and solutions for Walgreens. He is responsible for human resources business partners across the Walgreens enterprise. His team partners with each of the Walgreens business units and divisions to provide strategic HR consulting and support.

Education:

After graduating from Paul Harding High School in Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1984, Wattley enrolled in DePaul, where he earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1988. He went on to Notre Dame Law School in Notre Dame, Ind., where he earned a juris doctorate in 1991.

Vital stats:

Wattley began his career in 1991 as a labor associate with Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz in Chicago. He served as regional attorney with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and later as a labor and employment litigation attorney for the Chicago Board of Education. After joining Walgreens as a senior attorney in 1998, he was promoted in 2003 to the post of director and legal counsel, human resources, for Walgreens Health Services. In 2008, he was promoted to divisional VP for human resources for Walgreens Health Services. A year later, he was promoted yet again to his current position as divisional VP, business strategy and solutions, human resources.

What I like most about my job is:

“Every day I have the opportunity to positively impact the quality of the employment experience for the great people who work for Walgreens. They, in turn, are committed to making a difference to the customers and patients Walgreens serves every day. There is never a dull moment.”

The biggest challenge I face in my job is:

“Walgreens has transformed into an important health care provider in our country. This transformation provides me a lot of opportunities to help ensure our team members are positioned and prepared to support these changes and continue to have meaningful and rewarding careers.”

My DePaul College of Liberal Arts and Sciences experience helped me by:

“Being everything college should be—amazing education, great extracurricular opportunities, the beginning of lifelong friendships—a true springboard. I graduated from DePaul confident that I had been prepared for further educational and professional opportunities. It also exposed me to Chicago as the best city to grow and learn and live.”

The words I live by are:

“Treat people right—what goes around, comes around.”



Bringing Catholic leaders to campus: As part of a four-day conference marking World Catholicism Week, the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., DePaul University president, welcomed to campus (from left) Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson of Ghana, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace; Archbishop Celestino Migliore, permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations; and Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., archbishop of Chicago and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Proving the existence of giant marine life: Research co-authored by Kenshu Shimada, associate professor of biology and environmental science, that documented the existence of giant prehistoric plankton-eating fish was reported in the journal *Science* on Feb. 19. The discovery also was covered by the *Chicago Sun-Times*, National Public Radio, BBC News and the *Kansas City Star*, among other media outlets. Fossil evidence shows for the first time that giant plankton-eating fish lurked in prehistoric seas for more than 100 million years before they became extinct at the same time as the dinosaurs. Shimada and an international research team describe how fossils from Asia, Europe and the United States reveal a previously unknown dynasty of giant plankton-eating bony fish that filled the seas of the dinosaur era 66 million to 172 million years ago. The study is expected to rewrite the history of ocean ecosystems in the world's geology and marine ecology textbooks. A second paper by Shimada on a giant prehistoric shark, published in *Cretaceous Research*, received national media attention from Fox News and other media.

Probing issues of national security: Tom Mockaitis, a history professor and noted terrorism expert, appeared on WTTW-Channel 11's "Chicago Tonight" program on Feb. 24 to discuss airport body scanners and other current security issues. Mockaitis is the author of a new book about Osama bin Laden. Without the personal wealth bin Laden brought to his cause, it is unlikely he ever would have become the leader and face of al-Qaeda, according to the book, titled, "Osama bin Laden: A Biography." The book notes, "His alleged charisma is suspect. Prior to his emergence on the world stage, no one seems to have described bin Laden as charismatic." The book, published by Greenwood Press, offers a concise and accessible history of the life and philosophy of bin Laden and examines the historical context in which the man and his movement emerged.



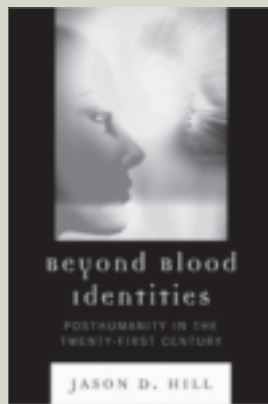
Robinson

Building bridges: The university sponsored a town hall meeting March 31 on how Muslims and Catholics can have productive dialogue about U.S. decisions concerning foreign aid, building relationships with nations and tackling multinational challenges. Panelists discussed how promoting the First Amendment right of religious freedom can influence negotiations with other countries, as well as how the religious communities of Catholicism and Islam are affected by globalism and its attendant multicultural values. How these shared cultural and value propositions play out politically today and in the years to come was the focus of the panel discussion, which was moderated by the Rev. Christopher Robinson, C.M., associate director of DePaul's University Ministry, and Scott Alexander, director of Catholic and Muslim studies at the Catholic Theological Union. Panelists included Peter Casarella, professor of Catholic studies at DePaul; Frederick Al-Deen, former supervising chaplain for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons; John Borelli, special assistant for interreligious initiatives at Georgetown University; and Laith Al-Saud, instructor of Islamic world and religious studies at DePaul.

Letting go of a crutch: Clinging to a strong racial, ethnic or national identity is a psychological crutch that many assume bolsters self-esteem, but actually causes damage to a person's moral character, according to "Beyond Blood Identities: Posthumanity in the Twenty-First Century" (Lexington Books 2009) by Jason D. Hill, associate professor of philosophy. In the provocative new book, Hill draws on real-world experiences and philosophical arguments to construct an assault on tribalism in its multitude of forms and the ills he contends it provokes around the world. The book examines the genesis and value of tribal identification in primitive society, but postulates its core function of preserving human life has been superseded by modern institutions, such as the rule of law, while its barriers prevent meaningful cross-cultural interaction.



Hill



Emerging Paradigms: "Emerging Paradigms in Critical Mixed Race Studies," the inaugural critical mixed race studies (CMRS) conference, will be held Nov. 5 and 6 at the Lincoln Park Campus Student Center, 2250 N. Sheffield Ave. CMRS is the transracial, transdisciplinary, and transnational analysis of the institutionalization of social, cultural and political orders based on dominant conceptions of race. The conference is being organized by DePaul faculty members Camilla Fojas and Laura Kina Aronson, as well as Wei Ming Dariotis of San Francisco State University, and is sponsored by DePaul's Asian American studies and Latin American and Latino studies programs and co-sponsored by the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University and the MAVIN Foundation. For more information, contact Laura Kina Aronson, director of the Asian American studies program, by telephone at 773.325.4048 or e-mail at lkinaaro@depaul.edu, or visit las.depaul.edu/cmrs.

Taking a hard look at breast

cancer: The Center for Latino Research hosted a screening March 11 of a popular documentary that examines the disparate impact of breast cancer on women of color. "Territories of the Breast" was shown at the Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan



Báez-Hernández

Environmental Science and Chemistry Building, and artist Sonia Báez-Hernández, co-director of the film, was on hand for the post-screening discussion. "Breast cancer has a devastatingly disproportionate impact on Latina and African-American women," says Lourdes Torres, interim director of the center. The film, which was made in 2006 and has been featured in a number of film festivals around the world, explores various underlying issues that intersect to cause significantly higher mortality rates for Latina and African-American women battling breast cancer.

Tackling Chicago's health challenges: Three DePaul Department of Nursing students were selected April 12 for Schweitzer Fellowship awards: Sarah Cordes, Courtney Driscoll and Sara Rosenthal. Each of the fellows will spend a year designing and implementing a project to improve health and access to care. Cordes will work with the Healthy Aging program at Fourth Presbyterian Church. She will perform blood pressure screenings and initiate a mind fitness program to enhance memory and cognitive skills. Driscoll and Rosenthal will work together to provide a yearlong health education program aimed at empowering Chicago youth to make healthy lifestyle choices to prevent adolescent obesity. One in eight Americans must rely on food stamps, three-quarters of a million Chicagoans are uninsured, and nearly 20 percent of the city's residents' incomes are below the poverty line. "There has never been a more important need for altruism in our nation's life," notes Dr. Quentin Young, chair of the Chicago Schweitzer Program. "The Schweitzer Fellowship—each and every year—gives rich expression to this impulse to competitively selected health students in our community, the future leaders of our society." Cordes, Driscoll and Rosenthal were among 31 students from 18 different university programs, including medicine, nursing, psychology, public health, social work, art therapy and law, who were selected.

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



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Going beyond the grape in World of Wine

Wine, geography and language all come together in a popular course that modern languages Professor Clara Orban teaches every fall. In the geography department course World of Wine, students get to “uncork in class,” as they sample and taste vintages from many of the world’s best-known grape-growing regions.

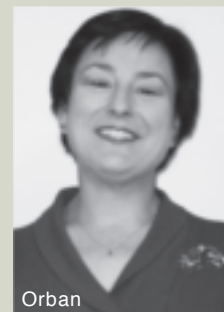
But the class goes beyond tasting. The first two sessions address the technicalities of wine making, looking at the fermentation process, climate and soil. The course also examines wines’ cultural construction and how each country has developed specific details on bringing its vintages to the consumer. “For example, in many European countries, there are specific designations that must appear on the [wine] label,” says Orban, explaining how language and geography shape the global wine industry. “Part of the frustration in wine-growing areas like France and Italy is that their tradition has involved not being too specific about grape varieties on labels.”

Orban, a professor of French and Italian, says California wineries usually are credited with introducing

the practice of putting the grape’s name (cabernet sauvignon, for instance) on the label rather than the growing region, as was common among European vintners. “This became worldwide a very popular marketing strategy. The English language has had a tremendous influence because Californians changed how wine was labeled in a way that has been very attractive for consumers.”

Students must be 21 to enroll in World of Wine, and DePaul’s legal department requires them to sign a waiver saying they will “spit,” says Orban, to ensure they don’t consume too much alcohol in a class. Each evening is dedicated to a different wine-growing region of the world with discussions about the region followed by a tasting of selected wines from each area.

Since taking over the course in 2002, Orban has become a certified sommelier, the first-level designation conferred by the Court of Master Sommeliers based in London.



Orban