

# HONORABLE MENTIONS



**Autumn 2020**

A collaboration by  
DePaul University's Honors Program

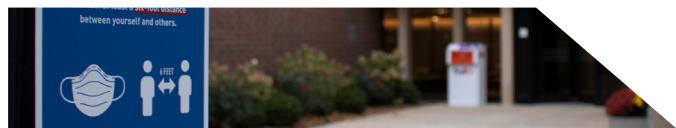
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*On the cover: A masked Msgr. John J. Egan statue in front of the DePaul Student Center.*

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# HONORABLE UPDATES

## Words from the HSG President

*By Kurt Edlund*

**G**reetings Honors Community! I'm Kurt Edlund, and I am the President of Honors Student Government for the 2020-2021 school year. I am a fourth year student studying Physics, Math & Computer Science with a minor in Commercial Spanish. As I write these words, I am reflecting on my last fall quarter at DePaul. Autumn quarter has always been my favorite quarter at DePaul because the excitement and energy that a new school year brings—along with nice, cool weather—is so enjoyable. Although most of the usual traditions that I look forward to every fall quarter did not happen this year, I have found that something different, something perhaps even better happened.

Our world looks nothing like what we all imagined it would look like for fall 2020. However, my experiences these past weeks have shown that adapting and taking a positive outlook—even when everything may look bleak and dismal—brings about opportunities that I never even thought of before. Taking care of ourselves is always a difficult task, but that onus of self-care proved to be the hardest homework assignment we as college-aged students have probably ever faced in our lives so far. I thought I knew exactly what my senior year was going to look like, but then life happens and everything changes.

For me, I worked hard to filter the constant barrage of news and emails that our screens give us in the 21st century and focus my energy on what I could control in my world: my studies, goals and aspirations.

Thinking about life after DePaul has always been one of those giant steps and milestones we all have as college students, and now, for me, it was getting frighteningly close. At the beginning of fall quarter when all of the usual events could not happen, I found different events occurring virtually that would aide me in my journey to find my path after DePaul. Recently, I partook in the now virtual SACNAS 2020 conference, which is the largest STEM conference in the USA and thus allowed for copious amounts of networking. Earlier in the quarter, I participated in the Duke Pre-Med Boot Camp, which I would've normally never been able to do, as it

required traveling to Duke University in the middle of a school week. This event provides me with a lot of strength to go forward because it shows that even as the world closes many doors for us all during 2020, there are still new doors to find and open.

Speaking of opening doors, our Honors Student Government Executive Board has been an absolute force of nature adapting to our new normal while still engaging the student body. To welcome this fall's incoming freshmen, the HSG E-Board hosted two virtual Zoom Honors Welcomes where we greeted students with an informative presentation about life at DePaul, shared a fun Tik-Tok video, had breakout rooms to meet all of the officers, and held a lively Q&A Session.

Our HSG E-Board this year has become another source of strength for me as the community we share



**My experiences these past weeks have shown that adapting and taking a positive outlook—even when everything may look bleak and dismal—brings about opportunities that I never even thought of before.**



to create ideas and events is so meaningful, intentional, and fun. I am so grateful for our E-Board. Our Vice President Elizabeth Whitcomb has stepped up in so many ways to be a true go-to person when something needs to get done. Lauren Berry has become our in-house Zoom Wizard as the Communications Director who has learned the tricks to Zoom. Don't forget to follow HSG on Instagram (@hsgdpu)! Our all-important Academic Representatives—Ali and Zach—always bring the energy when discussing the reason we're all here: classes. They just recently released a survey to collect feedback from the student body about honors classes, so I hope you

all filled it out! Our Ambassador Chairs serve important roles of making prospective students see themselves succeeding at DePaul, so we thank Natalia and Bhavi for their efforts. Our service experts leading the Service Committee—Gia and Bethany—are always having fun even when we're masked up putting in the work to find service opportunities. Uh oh...it's time for something truly entertaining. David and Ben—aka the PARTY BOYS are in the house—have been the powerhouse of remote social events. From Halloween costume contests to Fast Friends Zooms, these two will turn your frown upside down any day! And most importantly to our readers, we have

Julia and Ben as Newsletter Editors tasked with bringing you all of the great content you will enjoy in this issue of Honorable Mentions.

I have had a blast (virtually) welcoming you all and starting off our strangest year of school ever. From our HSG meetings to the Speaker Series with David Wasserman giving a talk entitled "Roadmap to the 2020 Election," we have had great attendance at events. However, I want to see even more new faces next quarter. I encourage everyone to attend our HSG meetings every other week and get involved. The E-Board of HSG is here for us to create the community and engagement we all want, so make sure and join us!

## New Honors Program

## Office Location

We have exciting news! In late summer, the Honors Program office moved out of the 990 West Fullerton building to spacious and beautiful new quarters on the second floor of Arts & Letters Hall. Besides new office space for Honors Program advisors and administration, there is a lounge area for students, and rooms for group projects and student meetings. We look forward to welcoming students to Arts & Letters when it is safe to be back on campus.



*New lounge space for Honors in Arts & Letters Hall.*

## New Honors Program Blog

Have you checked out the new Honors Program Blog? Go to: [dpuhonors.com](http://dpuhonors.com) to see the latest news and updates. Created in the summer by Honors Program student assistants Anissa Patterson and Hannah Reid, the new Blog features pieces by students on a variety of topics. Student Editor Gillian Hadding has been busy updating the Blog to create an exciting new space for Honors students to express themselves. You can also find information about the Honors curriculum, including details about all topics courses. We would love to have your words on the Blog! What do you want to read about? What is happening in your world? Do you have opinions or thoughts on surviving and thriving in a global pandemic? We want to hear from you. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Jennifer (Kosco) Reichle at [jkosco@depaul.edu](mailto:jkosco@depaul.edu)

# HONORABLE EVENTS

## Pet Photo Contest Winners

### Cutest



Winner  
Hana Bayssa's Blue  
Mini Rex Bunny  
named Archie



Runner-Up  
Caroline Lucas' dog  
named Chaka

### Funniest



Winner  
Lauren Watson's  
Chihuahua-  
Dachshund named Loki



Runner-Up  
Hannah Hyman's  
Schnauzer-  
Bulldog named Lucky

### Most Unusual



Winner  
Kierstin Cole's horse  
named Phoenix



Runner-Up  
Jade Ryerson's cat  
named Frosty

# Honors Fall Speaker: Roadmap to the 2020 Election

By: Jade Ryerson

Disclaimer: This piece was written prior to Election Day 2020

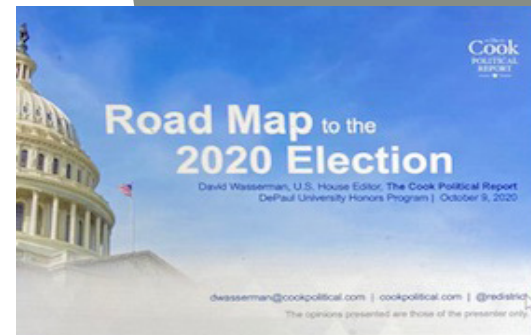
**O**n October 9, David Wasserman joined students for the Honors Program Fall Speaker Series. Wasserman is a U.S. House Editor and Senior Election Analyst for The Cook Political Report. He is also a contributor at NBC News. With just 25 days until the 2020 election, Wasserman offered students several things to keep in mind that may influence the result.

As a data-driven political analyst, Wasserman started with the numbers. He identified many of the pressing issues that are currently top-of-mind for voters. These issues included the COVID-19 pandemic, racial unrest, the economy, the recent death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and the controversial nomination of her potential replacement, Judge Amy Coney Barrett. Wasserman then explained how public opinion about the President's handling of these issues hold enormous sway among voters.

With tensions high leading up to the election, Wasserman addressed the country's extreme partisan divide. He maintained that self-sorting within the electorate encourages polarization. Social media and its algorithms curate content based on user preferences. These preferences often relate to local trends and isolate users from outside content, thereby reinforcing existing points of view. Wasserman offered an example from the last election, explaining

that the leading indicator for counties where Democrats were gaining strength was the opening of a Whole Foods store. Conversely, the indicator for Republicans was a new Cracker Barrel. This year, the precinct-level indicators for Democrats and Republicans, respectively, are Lululemon and Tractor Supply Co. outlets.

Within this polarized environment, Wasserman addressed concerns about how the election would even work during the pandemic. If there are hiccups, he predicts they will be caused by polling place closures and high turnover among poll workers. Citing an Election Administration and Voting Survey from 2018, Wasserman stated that 58% of poll workers were over the age of 60 and at greater risk of contracting the coronavirus. Despite the skepticism some politicians have promoted about the security of mail-in voting, any issues that arise will likely be caused by postal delays, administrative overload, and voter error—especially with arbitrary requirements, like Pennsylvania's secrecy envelope. The higher rates of mail-in voting may also present challenges because states all have their own requirements and deadlines. This creates the potential for lengthy legal challenges. Additionally, because states cannot start counting ballots until election day, confusion may arise while we wait for the result. Long



delays create a breeding ground for premature claims of election fraud.

Wasserman explained that because so much is at stake in this election, we can expect record turnout and close races. Although disproportionate attention is paid to the presidential election, Wasserman reminded students that even if former Vice President Joe Biden wins the presidential election, it is unlikely that any major changes will occur unless the Democrats regain a majority in both houses of Congress. Democrats are likely to maintain their majority in the House and even achieve modest gains. Competitive races in the suburbs, enormous war chests, and the retirement of many Republican politicians present an advantage for Democrats especially in metro areas like St. Louis, Phoenix, San Antonio, and Indianapolis.

The current 53-47 Republican majority in the Senate presents much more uncertainty. Democrats would need to win four seats to even achieve a 50-50 tie, because Republicans are likely to regain Democrat Doug Jones' seat in Alabama. Democrats stand the best chance to win in Arizona and Colorado, and potentially even Maine and North Carolina. Despite Amy McGrath's effort to oust Mitch McConnell from the Senate, it is more likely that the Majority Leader will lose his job because the Democrats have regained a majority. Even if the Democrats do win the White House and at least a 50-50 tie in the Senate, moderate Joe Manchin of West Virginia would become the most powerful Democrat in the Senate. To make any real change, the Democrats would need to abolish the filibuster, which Manchin is unlikely to support.

Lastly, Wasserman turned to the presidential race. He predicted that Biden could make the greatest

inroads with white suburban women. On the other hand, Trump has increasingly pursued Latinx voters. Wasserman also identified multiple opportunities where Trump could curry voters' support. The first would be a perceived breakthrough on the pandemic. Despite the record number of cases across the U.S., this why the President has touted the rapid development of a vaccine and claimed that the country is rounding a corner with the virus. Trump's second opportunity lies in attempting to destroy Biden's image through attacks on the 1994 Crime Bill, his mental acuity, and his son Hunter's business affairs in Ukraine. Trump could also stoke moderate voters' fears by painting Biden as a Trojan Horse for the radical left and with dog whistles about rioting and defunding the police.

Despite Biden's enormous war chest, Trump's campaign also has a superior ground game. Because Democrats have made a greater effort to stop the spread of COVID-19—by wearing masks and hosting virtual campaign events—the Trump campaign had the opportunity to establish more in-person contacts. Wasserman noted that door knocking remains the best means mobilizing voters. Additionally, voter registration is down across the board and disproportionately among Democrats. Without in-person contacts, it will be increasingly difficult for the Democrats to reach new registrants like college students and non-whites, groups that are more likely to vote for Biden.

The geographic distribution of Democrats also poses a challenge. With concentrations in big cities instead of across regions like the Great Lake states, there is less opportunity for Democrats to pick up additional states in the Electoral College. While Biden is leading by slightly less than his national margin in the six core battleground states—Arizona, Florida, Michigan,

North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin—there is still skepticism about the state of the race. Because the polls were skewed in 2016 and disproportionately represented college graduates, many voters remain concerned about the accuracy and legitimacy of polling in this election. Although Wasserman maintained that analysts are taking that error into account this year, it is impossible for voters to truly know what the results of the election will be. For students who are particularly concerned about the result, the best thing you can do is vote.





# Honors Student Government Trivia Night

By: Julia Matuszek

The Honors Student Government Exec Board held a trivia night immediately following the HSG meeting on September 25th. Utilizing the Kahoot platform, over 30 students battled it out to see who possessed the most random knowledge. Covering a wide variety of topics, including the makeup of the current HSG board, a large portion of the questions focused on pop culture. Topics included Harry Potter, Victorious, as well as Vine and Tik Tok knowledge. My personal favorite was “What is Elon Musk’s youngest son’s name?”

There were also questions that centered less on pop culture and more on general knowledge, such as which presidents are on Mount Rushmore, where the postponed 2020 Olympics are going to be, and what the tip of a shoelace is called (hint: it’s called an aglet!).

And of course, since DePaul is in the great city of Chicago, there had to be some Chicago-themed trivia. One of the questions was about films that take place in Chicago - all of which are worth a watch. All in all, the event was a great success, with a close race throughout the entire night!



# Halloween Costume Contest Winners

Best Group



Winner  
Rachel Hannigan,  
Matthew Koss, Harrison  
Hanneman, and Julia  
Matuszek as Rachel, Joey,  
Ross, and Monica from  
*Friends*

Scariest



Winner  
Claire  
Kaczanowski  
as Darth Maul

Most Creative



Winner  
Ana Fiz as an  
Anglerfish

Funniest



Winner  
John Knecht as Michael  
Myers Drinking Coffee

# HONORABLE REFLECTIONS

## You Live and You Learn

### A Reflection of Dr. Kalchman's HON 207

By *Deyana Atanasova*

The Honors Program has given me so many enriching experiences in the classroom throughout my time at DePaul, but there's one class in particular that has helped me redefine my experience here and likely beyond—yes, even through Zoom.

That class is Dr. Mindy Kalchman's HON 207: "How People Learn." To be fully transparent, I was initially planning on taking a linguistics course for the HON 207 requirement this autumn quarter, but because of the switch to online remote learning, and scheduling conflicts, the course wasn't offered.

Despite the uncertainties and the general havoc in everyone's life right now, the 3 hours a week spent in Dr. Kalchman's class are extremely worthwhile, engaging, and applicable.

I'm by no means a cognitive science person (or any type of science, really), but this class has redefined metacognition for me in an accessible way. Even within the first few weeks, I felt like I had learned several threshold concepts with regards to learning. Like, for example, did you know that learning styles aren't really a thing? Or that atoms are made up of...cells? Who knew?!

The class, however, isn't overflowing with theory; it's a perfect blend of key concepts from constructivism in a constructivist classroom setting--how's that for being meta? For an Honors class, the rigor isn't nestled between the usual lengthy essays or niche and siloed scholarly readings but rather within introspective reflection papers and

succinct, applicable texts. These are supplemented with guest speakers, class activities (like doing origami or mini math exercises which, I swear, are actually fun), TedTalks, and in-depth, multi-faceted discussions.

I feel that in this class, I'm not only learning for me but also learning how others learn, learning how to learn, and also honoring interdisciplinary conversations about economics, policy, athletics, music, graphic design, writing, and pretty much anything else you can think of. Each class period is unique, each reflection is different, and I am incredibly grateful for Dr. Kalchman's consistent feedback and course adjustments in the midst of everything going on.

This is a class where you get to actually be mindful about where you are--something that has been quite kind to me as I reach the end of my undergraduate experience in the middle of quarantine. It has allowed me to look back reflectively, to be present in the discussion and current circumstances, and also look to the future. I'd say that I wish I took this class earlier so I had these foundational concepts in mind, or that I could take it later when I had more experience and maybe witness it in person, but that couldn't be further from the truth. This is a class that meets you where you are--literally wherever you are (one of my classmates even calls in from Greece)--and allows you to build momentum, each class and each reflection serving as a stepping stone for constructing your own meaning of learning and your own conceptions of how to learn.

“

**I feel that in this class, I'm not only learning for me but also learning how others learn, learning how to learn...**

”

Ben Stumpe in *Couch the Musical*.

# It's a Hard-Knock Life: Theatre in a Pandemic

By Ben Stumpe

Let's be honest and admit it. It sucks. It sucks to be in quarantine and not be able to enjoy social gatherings and interaction. Whether it be sports, performing arts, movie theaters, concerts, restaurants, or worship services, we need an outlet. We crave a way to escape our current reality whether we are in a pandemic or not. It has been even more difficult for those who are responsible for providing us that outlet in Chicago. In general, it's a hard-knock life for art forms that rely heavily on audience presence, participation, and reactions.

The Cubs, White Sox, Bears, and Bulls have not allowed fans to pack their seats. Concerts are either postponed or cancelled. And for theatres across the world, it is increasingly difficult to sustain themselves without in-person productions. The Mercury Theater in Lakeview is permanently closed due to the financial strain of the pandemic. The Second City and iO Theater, both world famous comedy venues and training centers, are currently up for sale. Broadway in Chicago has postponed shows until March 30, 2021 with the first being *The Simon and Garfunkel Story* at the CIBC Theatre.

Although rare, some theatre companies have been able to adapt their performances to outdoor venues. The Goodman Theatre offered nine free performances of the play *Fannie Lou Hamer, Speak on It!* at Chicago parks and

outdoor community centers. This one-woman show was produced on a completely mobile stage that could open up at any desired location. Throughout the summer and early autumn, some theatres successfully hosted drive-in performances or theatre in the round shows where the cars circled around the actors and turned on their low beam headlights in lieu of stage lighting. Other performance venues like The Comedy Bar in downtown Chicago built a stage on their patio space to host outdoor shows with chairs social distanced.

More commonly, theatres and performing arts companies have adapted their productions to online platforms like Zoom, Facebook Live, YouTube, or their own websites. The Theatre School at DePaul presented the solo theatrical production *Otto Frank* by Roger Guenveur Smith via Zoom. The Theatre School also released its online platform, The Festival of Online Remote Theatre (FORTs), this autumn. FORTs include guest speakers, workshops, competitions, and performances. If you are looking for local online theatre productions, then I recommend subscribing to the Neo Futurists' show *The Infinite Wrench*. With just a \$3 subscription per week, you receive access to 30 plays performed in 60 minutes, the perfect show for those of us with short attention spans.

If you are looking for something to listen to while you are driving,

walking outside, or doing the dishes, then I recommend exploring audio plays that can be found on Spotify, Apple Music, or Audible. My favorite audio play so far is *The Way She Spoke* by TTS professor Isaac Gomez. However, if you want to go back to the good old days when theatres were at full capacity, you can search musicals, plays, or theatre on a multitude of streaming services. I recommend watching *Shrek the Musical* on Netflix, *Pass Over* on Amazon Prime Video, and *Falsettos* on BroadwayHD.

If you are interested in getting involved with theatre at DePaul, no matter what your major is, I suggest joining Blue Demon Theatre. I am a co-founding member of this new student-run organization on campus. We want to produce theatre that is creative, inclusive, and inspiring. We will be producing online events such as ten-minute plays, monologue contests, cabarets, guest speakers, and more. Become a member of BDT on DeHub and follow us on Instagram @bluedemontheatre for more updates.

Although unorthodox, theatre at DePaul and in Chicago has found effective and innovative ways to deliver performances to its audiences. It is up to us to seek out these opportunities for the benefit of our health and need for entertainment.

# The Best Quarantine Streams

By Rachel Hannigan

During quarantine, there isn't much to do. So, to fill time, why not turn to streaming? Between all of the streaming services available such as Netflix, Hulu, and HBO Max, there are plenty of options. Here are some of my recommendations!

1

## *The Umbrella Academy*

Based on the graphic novels by Gerard Way, this show focuses on a family of superheroes trying to save the world from impending doom. If you like superhero dramas, you'll love this show! It's got action, humor, and, most importantly, a great cast!

[Found on Netflix](#)

2

## *Hunters*

Based on a true story, *Hunters* follows a group of Nazi hunters in the US during the 1970s. This 10 part series is a great choice if you're looking for an action-packed series with some comedy thrown in! There's a plot twist that no one sees coming which will make you will binge this series in a day! Plus, who doesn't love anything with Al Pacino in it?

[Found on Amazon Prime](#)

3

## *Game of Thrones*

I'm sure we're all familiar with this 8 season long hit series. Since this popular show ended in 2019, you won't be left waiting and guessing to know how the show ends. Plus the show has drama, disputes and dragons in it, what else could you want?

[Found on HBO Max](#)

4

## *Emily in Paris*

This short series was just released this past October, and the Internet is already obsessed with it. Emily goes from Chicago to Paris to promote help with social media marketing for a partner company. Made by the same creator as *Sex and the City*, you KNOW the fashion is good. Plus, the French cuisine shown is to die for, and who doesn't love a little bit of French culture thrown in their shows? After quarantine is over, I'm sure you'll be booking your flight to Paris because of this show.

[Found on Netflix](#)

5

## *Julie and the Phantoms*

This newly released musical series is all anyone has been talking about these days. Julie, a high school student, tries to start her music career after accidentally summoning three phantoms who just so happen to be in a band of their own. The music is great, and so are the characters. Kenny Ortega, known for the *High School Musical* movies, executive produces this series, so the dancing and music are on point.

[Found on Netflix](#)

Disclaimer: These shows are on these streaming platforms at the time of publication.

# OPINION

## An Open Letter to the DePaul Administration: Self-Defense Products Must Be Allowed on Campus

By: Eiman Navaid

“These products are not ‘weapons,’ rather mere objects that have been deemed by society as necessary and essential to our safety as women.”

After posting a picture of my pepper spray that came in the mail a few weeks ago, urging fellow women to buy their own, a student at DePaul messaged me on Instagram, informing me that pepper spray was not allowed on the DePaul campus. This didn't sit well with me, so I checked the website for myself. Sure enough, DePaul classified pepper spray, along with many other self-defense products such as tasers and pocket knives, under 'weapons,' prohibiting anyone on campus from owning them. The fellow student recommended to me to invest in safety alarms, which are yet another self-defense product but on the more expensive side.

As a woman in college with a level of independence, self-defense products are necessary every time I go out, whether it's with friends or alone. The investment in self-defense products is a crucial aspect of our safety. To find out that these products are not allowed on college campuses, which have extremely high assault rates, did not make any sense. Self-defense products make women feel safe and secure, or at

least prepared, in a world where they can be attacked without reason. Whether that's in a parking garage near campus, in the dorms, or even in broad daylight, women hang on to their 'weapons' when they are out, usually fearing the worst. These 'weapons' are our preparation for worst-case scenarios.

These products are not 'weapons,' rather mere objects that have been deemed by society as necessary and essential to our safety as women. While a personal alarm may be an alternative as a self-defense product that is allowed on campus, it brings up the question of how much a woman must invest in her safety. Since DePaul doesn't allow these objects on campus -- objects that guarantee a sense of security -- I wonder what measure the administration has taken to ensure the safety of their students at all times. Despite how 'safe' an area might be classified, in times like these, anything could happen, which is why women keep themselves prepared.

I discussed this topic with a lot of other female students at DePaul

who simply said they would still bring the 'weapons' to school no matter the rules, citing that if they're in trouble for trying to be safe and secure, then so be it. "I would be willing to get in trouble for having peace of mind," a student said. This is exhausting. Women should not have to risk disciplinary action just so they can carry around an object deemed essential to their safety.

The weapons are not the products. Rather, it's the abusers that cause us to buy these products. If women weren't harassed, raped, and attacked daily, we wouldn't need objects to feel safe. This also makes me wonder what DePaul is doing to ensure safety for victims of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment. Prohibiting our self-defense products by calling them weapons only forces the administration to enforce disciplinary action and confiscate the products that give us peace of mind when it comes to our safety. I urge the DePaul administration to reconsider this rule, along with taking further steps to ensure the safety of women on campus.

Taking a nap

“So you think this is Dr. Pepper?”

Making a cocktail

Video-bombing by pet

## Weirdest Things Seen on Zoom

Altering Zoom backgrounds

Student had a suit on, got up, and had no pants on

A classmate did their meetings while working at CVS and helping customers

Day drinking in Physics

Picked nose...and ate it

Professor's kids saying hello

Someone dressed up in a wolf costume with a suit and changed his Zoom name to 'The Wolf of Wall Street'

Student wore a fish costume...it wasn't Halloween

# CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

## You're Thinking Too Hard

### By George P. Slad

You're thinking too hard, she said, comfortingly. Oh, so very comfortingly. In that voice that seems to only reveal itself in acquaintances you've recently met. A moment, the moment, that makes you ask yourself ... earnestly, actually... whether you're a genius or just insane.

To those who feel there is no benefit in the reality of either answer, I wish you peace. I know, maybe that is a word I should have avoided.

You're thinking too hard.

You can't fool me, at least regarding that...

You know you wanted me to use that word; but if so or not, you would have heard it anyway. Back to the merry conversation!

These dishes speak of so much privilege, and the ambiance!!! The ambiance. Oh, so very new to me, but yet so well known to me...

That's it, you've been craving this ambiance... Never mind that!

Have you not actually been learning a thing or two from the new acquaintance?

No. Maybe... Probably. The thing I've learned I more owe to the more familiar acquaintance here, but the importance of the new acquaintance's contribution to that thing is,

perhaps, immeasurable instead of nonexistent.

Listen in. Listen in. Hmm... yes... I'm listening.

Listen in... Listen in....Hmm... Well, I'm not really knowledgeable enough to say that...

Listen in... Listen in...These stories are really entertaining!... Ah, but actually saying that... I would certainly feel offended if I were on the receiving end, and would certainly go on to hide that... How could I actually say that?

Listen in... Listen in...Gosh... I make them laugh so easily.

Do not again be that fool. You spread mirth so easily because the moment is right. If it were not, you would just be being weird. Yes. Well, I'm composed.

What? They canceled school for three weeks.

Three weeks!? They canceled school for three weeks.

Three weeks? Three weeks.

Three weeks? Three weeks.

Why are they laughing? I mean, yeah, I look funny, but,... well... come on.

You're thinking too hard. No, I am not! I am not!

HOW COULD I BE THINKING "TOO HARD" NOW! HOW!

You're thinking too hard.

I mean... Yay!!!! Wahoo! But... just...disorganization and...

The world...

You're thinking too hard.

Yep. Easy to say that about me when I'm in the minority: not having drunken wine...

And you know what? I do envy them. Their cheerfulness.

Your calculus homework... well, no need to worry about that anymore...

As if this stops the exams from taking place. You're thinking too hard.

And if they really don't... well, that's worse...

That's it.

Yeah... this is my last chance. The era in which thinking too hard is thinking, has begun. I will prosper in it, I know it.

I know how the game works. I know how like the back of my hands. I know. I've known...

I've got this in the bag!

Maybe you're not thinking too hard, I now readily state that. I do! And you know what? I think that your greatest flaws are far from unsophisticated. The possibility of things being bright in the future is considerable.

Okay... That's generous...

Oh, lighten up! You've earned permission to do so... Surely you have.



# Inner Monologue

By: Anonymous

My Dear Art,

Will you take me back?

My hurried scratches were a result of my frantic, innate state. I just want to write. Allow me to write. It shocks me that a few words can rearrange the sentences I show, alter my declaration. A few keystrokes can change the course of my life.

How was I supposed to know that I was an artist?

The ever moving, ever changing, and ever pressing nature of my internal dialogue wells up within me until it spills out from my eyes. I care too much. I do too little. A delicate balance I have struck. Be careful with my soul. It cracks open just long enough for you to glimpse into the tenderness of it all. I didn't want them to know, but I am passionate about the things I am not pursuing.

How was I supposed to know that I was an artist?

I am not a scientist; that much is clear. I do not think the way that I am supposed to think. I am not what they told me to be. Who am I to present demand characteristics? If the test comes back negative, I will leave them and come back to you.

My muse is my medicine. Words are my wand. Who am I to crumble underneath a stereotype threat? Who am I to conform to a theory? I am not a scientist. When I pretend to be, I am a miserable magician. I thought I could trick you with a simple sleight of hand, a written formula which allowed me to pretend to be someone I am not. My major mistake set me off in a direction which I was not meant to commit to. I am miserable. I want to run far, far away from this discipline and come back to you.

Only upon leaving you did I realize that I was never meant to be here. Is it too late to come back? Have I compiled too many credits against your name? I made an egregious error. Is it too late to rewrite my dialogue?

Sincerely,

Someone pretending to be someone who they are not.

# Reminiscence

## By: Anonymous

Reminiscence  
By: Anonymous

A flower, so nascent,  
Begins its journey through life,  
Flowing green roots toil through strife.  
Mother Earth, meager in her touch,

Unfavorable.

She allows a macabre series of events to take place,  
The climax of which become a tempest of horror.  
The flower battered, bruised, and dying -- yet resurgent,  
Must assuage its thirst for energy.  
Sustaining itself,  
It expands, only to be disregarded by the world,  
Proving to Mother Earth that it deserves existence.

Here, we transcend.

The flower blooms, opening its intrinsic beauty into a world of philistines.  
A world of people who notice, but do not admire.  
A people who acknowledge, but do not appreciate.  
Yet those perspicacious enough to see the struggle,  
The inveterate will and might  
Of this masterpiece of a being,  
Fall in love.

# “Colors of Scales”

By: Tessyi Dewhurst



“Changes can and must occur. If they are not accepted, we shall never enjoy the peace of soul that is essential.”  
— St. Louise de Marillac



WELCOME BACK  
**BLUE**  
**DEMONS**

**Jennifer Conary**  
Director

**Nancy Grossman**  
Associate Director

**Jennifer (Kosco) Reichle**  
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**Elizabeth Woodruff**  
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