

Important Dates for Spring Quarter!

- **Monday March 30th:** Spring classes begin
- **Sunday April 5th:** Last day to add classes for spring quarter
- **April 10th–12th:** Easter Holiday, DePaul University closed
- **Monday April 13th:** Last day to drop classes with no penalty
- **Tuesday April 14th:** Grades of “W” assigned for classes dropped on or after this day
- **Friday June 12th:** Spring Quarter Ends

Spring Graduation Deadlines:

- **Feb 1st:** Apply for degree conferral. Get Academic Committee signatures on Advanced Project and Externship proposals.
- **May 1st:** Submit all Independent Learning Pursuits, Transfer Courses to Faculty mentor. Submit transcripts for new Transfer courses. Submit complete drafts of Advanced Project and Externship Project to Academic Committee.
- **May 18th–June 7th:** Online Summit Seminar. Registration information here: <http://snl.depaul.edu/StudentResources/Registration/index.asp>
- **June 13th:** Breakfast for out-of-town SNL Online graduates, 10:00–12:00, 11th floor, Gallery Lounge DePaul Center, 1 E. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604.
- **June 13th:** SNL 2009 Commencement Ceremony, 2:30 PM, Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr. Students must arrive by 1:30 PM. No tickets necessary. http://oaa.depaul.edu/what/commencement_schedule.jsp



Connect with SNL Faculty; Ezzat Goushegir

What is your current job title, and what are your primary responsibilities at SNL? How does your work affect students?

I’m a visiting faculty member at SNL at DePaul since 2003. I teach a variety of courses related to writing, film, cultural and women studies. These range from play writing and creative writing to thematic courses on such subjects as single mothers, single fathers, women and sexuality in Islam, or international film and literature. Having an Iranian/international background helps me a great deal to communicate to students on different levels and bring to them other perspectives that might not otherwise be available to them as American students.

How long have you been at DePaul? At SNL?

Six years. Since 2003.

Where did you work previously? How did your past experience help in what you do now?

I have had a large range of different work experiences, from being a co-editor of a women’s magazine, to a film critic, journalist and playwright etc...All these helped me to approach my teaching challenges from different dimensions. I should add that I learned a great deal from a job where I always had to be in the public eye. Despite my solitary activities as a writer and playwright, I learned that a classroom is a stage, and students are the characters of a play, and I have to listen to each one of them carefully. I found the whole notion of teaching to be a dialectical process. It’s as though we are all writing a play right there following the structure of thesis, anti-thesis and concluding synthesis.

What do you like most about working at DePaul, and SNL?

I feel I’m in my real community with diverse, multi-racial, multi-cultural tendencies. It’s a friendly, respectful and harmonious environment with the superb opportunities for knowledge and experience.

What advice would you give to a student who is new to the program?



Ezzat Goushegir

Take a course that appeals to you just out of curiosity, not just something that will be useful to you. Try a course that teaches something you always dreamed of learning but were afraid you didn’t have the “talent” for. The world is richer than you think, and the courses offered here are your entrée into beauty and fascinations!

Ezzat Goushegir has published four books in Farsi, including two collections of short stories, a collection of two plays, and a book of poetry. Two of her plays “Medea Was Born in Fallujah” and “Now Smile” were anthologized in Witness and Crawdad in 2006. She began her play writing career in 1976, when her first play “Beginning of Bloom” was produced for Iranian National Television. Immigrating to the U.S. she wrote both in English and Farsi, where her plays have been produced by a variety of theater companies, and her writing has appeared in publications in Iran, France, Sweden, Germany, and Canada. She has also been a co-director and dramaturge of a reading series at New Federal Theatre in New York. Her new play “My Name is Inanna” was first performed at the 28th Annual Women and Theatre Program conference in Colorado, and at KGB Bar in New York in November 2008. www.ezzatgoushegir.com

Thinking of Graduate School at SNL? Hybrid Seminars Are Now Online!

Spring Graduation Breakfast

Graduating this spring? Out-of-town students who travel to Chicago for June graduation ceremonies will be invited to SNL Online's first Graduation breakfast. Please join us before the ceremony, and meet the people who make SNL Online work. You can put a face to some of your classmates, faculty, and the names you see on the many emails you get from us. We'd love to meet you and share your success stories! Stay tuned for more details.

DePaul Summer Graduation Deadlines:

- **April 15th:** Get Academic Committee signatures on Advanced Project and Externship Proposals
- **May 15th:** Submit all Independent Learning Pursuits, Transfer Courses to Faculty mentor. Submit transcripts for new Transfer courses. Submit complete drafts of Advanced Project and Externship Project to Academic Committee.
- **July 11th:** Apply for degree conferral.
- **July 18th:** Host Final Committee Meeting. Get final approval of Advanced Project and Externship Project.
- **July 6th–July 25th:** Online Summit Seminar.

For more information on graduation requirements, please visit: http://snl.depaul.edu/StudentResources/Graduation/Undergraduate_Graduation.asp



SNL Graduate Liberal Learning Seminars Fuse Online with the Classroom

Starting in the Spring Quarter (2009), the SNL Graduate Programs will be offering 'hybrid' sections of the Liberal Learning Seminar series that serves students in all three graduate programs: the M.A. in Applied Professional Studies (MAAPS), the M.A. in Educating Adults (MAEA), and the M.S. in Applied Technology (MSAT, a joint degree with the College of Computing and Digital Media). The hybrid format for all of the seminars joins the features that make 'online' a medium-of-choice for some forms of learning and in-class interactions a preferred medium for others.

All of the seminars will be designed with the initial two weeks of the seminar engaging in online assignments and interactions with colleagues, followed by an all-day 'on ground,' face-to-face event on either a Saturday or Sunday (9 a.m. – 4 p.m. with an hour for lunch), followed, in turn, by the closing two weeks online again. While the seminars are based on the 6-session (or 3

weekend, all-day) format that characterizes the current in-classroom versions of the seminars, the online portions will allow for a continuous dialogue with the content and practice of the liberal learning skills throughout the week. It will also provide greater convenience for those students with travel and other commitments. The online portions of the hybrid seminars will use the Blackboard platform along with various communications tools under the emerging heading of "Web 2.0."

From the spring forward, 1-2 hybrid sections of the seminars will be rolled out each quarter. The quarterly Graduate Program Registration letter will provide the schedule, instructor, registration, and other details.

For more information regarding the SNL Graduate Program, Please contact Morry Fiddler at mfiddler@depaul.edu

New Class Offering In Spring

IN 307 Advanced Elective Seminar *The Art of Collecting: Personal and Corporate Identity Reflected*



Betta LoSardo

The Advanced Elective Seminar is a course designed to familiarize students with some of the purposes and methods of comparative analysis. Topics discussed include contrasting types of evidence, differentiating information sources, examining related content, and communicating learning experiences. In this particular Seminar, *The Art of Collecting: Personal*

and *Corporate Identity Reflected*, students will consider the larger role of corporate collectors with respect to community, especially as providers, preservers, and procurators of the visual arts. Throughout history, large corporate entities have led the way in the commissioning, procurement, and dissemination of works of art. Money, power, spirituality and aesthetics have been important elements in the preservation of art in various cultures.

As community members, as workers, and as enlightened consumers, we are continually faced with aesthetic images. While most of these images are foisted upon us by history and preserved for us by museums, others are currently in the making. Nations can be defined by their aesthetic output. Historical eras are assessed through their visual imagery. Emerging societies project new ideas through pictures. Corporations use advertising and art sponsorship to bolster their public images. In the contemporary world, visual images are disseminated through adver-

tising, through photography, and through television. However, these resources have as their purpose a commercial, not an aesthetic goal. Artists create visual representations of ideas to discover and formulate questions of their own, but also questions related to our societies. Their goals are more focused on aesthetics than on commercial development.

The focus of this course is this dilemma. Who creates visual images? Who preserves them? How does the public come to know of them and appreciate them? Where does the corporation fit in this puzzle? How has this question been handled in history? Must commerce and aesthetics be opposed? Do powerful organizations such as banks have a responsibility to develop and protect our visual heritage? Is there a middle ground where beauty and profit can coexist?

The course will be team taught by Betta LoSardo and Susan McGury. *(Photo of Susan McCury not available at press time)*

Writing Center News

The DePaul University Writing Centers have many services available for online students! The Writing Center staff work with students on any writing or writing related project, at any stage in the process. You can schedule 25 or 50 minute appointments for face-to-face or virtual meetings; they use Instant Message and webcam to conduct remote sessions. In-person appointments are available Monday–Saturday in Lincoln Park, and Monday–Friday at the Loop.

- To schedule an appointment, use the online scheduler: <http://condor.depaul.edu/~writing/html/sched/index.html>
- You can check out a laptop and webcam for IM/Webcam sessions at the Oak Forest, Naperville and O'Hare campuses: <http://condor.depaul.edu/~writing/html/sched/im.html>
- Alternatively, you can receive feedback on a paper via email! For more information, go to <http://condor.depaul.edu/~writing/html/sched/email.html>

If you have any questions, please call the Writing Center at 773/325-4272; email them at wcenter@depaul.edu; or ask a "Quick Question" via the Writing Center website <http://www.depaul.edu/writing>

Tangaza College Graduation

Members of SNL attended the 2008 Commencement ceremonies (mass and graduation) for the first cohort of SNL students in the Tangaza College-DePaul University BA Degree Programme in Nairobi, Kenya. These included DePaul President Dennis Holtschneider, SNL Dean Marisa Alicea, Program Director Dr. Derise Tolliver, Dr. Ludovic Comeau and Dr. Ray Masha. Prior to the graduation ceremony, Dean Alicea and Dr. Comeau participated in final committee meetings and Summit Seminar with the soon-to-be graduates. Our students were particularly warmed by the President's support, genuine concern with and recognition of their achievements, accomplishments, missions and well-being.

The commencement activities embraced and reflected a combination of characteristics from DePaul University, Tangaza College and indigenous Kenya. Mass embraced the various cultures and languages represented by the student body,



SNL Dean Marisa Alicea, Sr. Beatrice Shisali Ataku & Sr. Regina Stanislaus

e.g. Kikuyu, Luo, Maasai, Swahili, English and French. The graduating students included a ritual that honored their relationship with and responsibility to the cohort of students immediately following them.

SNL Launches 3-D Visual Lab to Enhance Online Science Learning

In an effort to improve student achievement in science at a time when more and more students are taking science classes online, two SNL professors have found a way to generate three-dimensional images to better illustrate complex scientific concepts.

Professors Jennifer Holtz and Kevin Downing have equipped a lab to make 3-D images to enhance online science learning. The interactive images can be manipulated, measured and layered with additional content to help inquiry-based learning. They expect to begin using the new technology in online classes in fall 2009.

“We can custom design 3-D images, such as a pliable sickle cell from a model or an osteoporotic bone, to meet our needs,” says Holtz. “These images can be used in a variety of ways depending on the student’s ability or the class.”

At a time when many observers note that American students are falling behind in science and math, the need to enhance online science learning with 3-D images is even more pronounced, Holtz and Downing say. Downing came up with the idea after seeing a 3-D image of a trilobite on the London Natural History Museum’s Web site. “There has been a rapid expansion in the number of students taking science classes online as the teaching format has become popular at DePaul and nationally,” Downing says. “This is happening at the same time there’s been a downward trend in student achievement in science and the proportion of American students pursuing science professions. We’re not keeping up with other countries, and our students aren’t learning what they need to learn to compete in a global marketplace.” To address both issues, Downing says science needs to be taught more effectively online, a concept that some science educators are skeptical can be done.

“The primary obstacle is that experiential learning is more difficult to achieve online. They don’t see how quality learning can happen online like it can in the lab. “You have a paradox: the trend and need are going one way, while science educators are going the other way or at least are content with the status quo,” he says.



SNL professor Kevin Downing

Holtz, Downing and SNL colleague Beth Rubin, assistant professor and director of SNL Online, obtained a grant to buy a microscope, digital camera system and 3-D color scanner to generate interactive science laboratory resources for adult learners in SNL Online classes. The Virtual Inquiry in Science for Undergraduate Adult Learners, or VISUAL project, sponsored by DePaul’s Quality of Instruction Council, investigates how to improve online science learning by incorporating 3-D and other interactive objects into online laboratory activities. Using advanced color 3-D scanning, microimaging and image analysis software, the VISUAL lab creates virtual objects from two observational scales.

These digital representations of biology and earth science specimens can then be incorporated into science courses to better teach undergraduate science concepts. Downing and Holtz set out to look at emerging trends in online science learning and, to their surprise, found a dearth of material. So they wrote a book on the

subject, “Online Science Learning: Best Practices and Technologies” (Information Science Publishing, 2008), which explores how best to teach science online. The book explores trends and improvements in Web-based science instruction and evaluates contemporary philosophies and pedagogies of online science instruction. It also demonstrates how to enrich the academic character and quality of online science education.

From Common Knowledge: SNL Launches Lab to create 3-D visuals to enhance online science learning