

Features 5: The Man Behind the Mystery – Edwin Darrell

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By Laurice Shelven

Every place has its surprises. Here at DePaul, there are many hidden treasures, yet there is one in which you must discover for yourself before you leave this great institution.

Edwin Darrell is currently the Assistant Director of Outreach & Student Success for the Department of Residential Education. If you have ever known anyone that has lived on campus and violated policy, you might be familiar with him. He is responsible for meeting with students who live on campus and deciding what the consequences are for their respective violations. He also supervises Resident Directors like last month's staff feature, Sara J. Doyle.

Edwin began his secondary education at Grand Valley State University, not far from where he grew up in Detroit, Michigan. There he received a Bachelor of Business Management and Spanish, as well as a Master of Education in Student Affairs Leadership.

During his undergraduate career at Grand Valley, Darrell describes his experiences as many students at DePaul might – enhanced by “taking advantage of all the different opportunities.” He was fortunate to study abroad in Mexico where his passion grew for rich cultures and foreign affairs.

Along with his extracurricular activities, including track and field, Darrell served as a Resident Advisor at Grand Valley, which he describes as being more of a “job” than any of his other undergraduate experiences.

After several years at Grand Valley State University, Darrell moved to Florida where he began a career in human resources. From there he received his first job in higher education at the University of Tampa.

However, Darrell's journey at DePaul began four years ago when he was drawn to the university's mission. Here at DePaul, Darrell received a Master of Arts in Organizational Multicultural Communication. As a man of faith, a university rooted in a mission that seeks to serve mankind was extremely appealing for Darrell, and after working at four different institutions of higher learning, finding one which actually acted out its mission was a breath of fresh air to him.

Though, Darrell enjoys his time here at DePaul, he has identified areas he would love to see the university improve upon. He would like to see more unity between the Loop and

Lincoln Park communities. While he believes the university is overall welcoming for students, he does acknowledge the difficulty commuter students face in experiencing the exceptional student life on campus. Likewise, Darrell finds it shocking that there are not more staff and faculty of color working for the university seeing as though the institution's mission is based on diversity.

Yet despite the few changes Darrell admits needs to be acknowledged on campus, he has an overall good demeanor toward the institution, and especially the Black community. He has had many opportunities to interact with the Black community at DePaul, and is currently a member of the DePaul University Black Leadership Coalition (DPUBLIC). He believes the Black community had made great progress at DePaul with the help of organizations like DPUBLIC since he arrived here in 2006. Darrell states, "When I first arrived at DePaul I noticed a variety of 'pockets' among Black students; separation between Black students and African students, Black students in the Loop versus students on the Lincoln Park Campus." However, initially, he noticed a lack of connection between Black greek organizations and other organizations on campus.

Darrell generously offers himself to the Black Community as an available resource. He want students, families and friends to remember him as a man of his word; following through even on the "little things," which falls in line with the dedication he wishes to portray on his job and in his life journey.

Edwin may describe himself as a calm man of mystery, but his passion for his faith, his family, and his work burns through even in the simplest conversation.

Do not leave DePaul University without taking advantage of every resource you can, making great connections, and discovering its hidden treasures. You never know what mysteries you will uncover.