

## Editor's Note 3: What's Next?

November 2010

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.”

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

As young adults we are programmed to live our lives wondering, “What's next?” I'm not sure about the rest of you, but I have a difficult time planning a week in advance much less 30 years. And honestly for people between the ages of 18 and 35 I think that is acceptable. We have the rest of our lives to follow a structured plan and set of events, so why should we start so soon? The reality of the climate we are currently in is that there is no way to predict the job market or what skills or additional education we will need for the rest of our lives.

The majority of us have the innate ability to simply go with the flow, if we so choose. By no means am I saying we should not set goals for ourselves, because most of the time aspirations have the ability to carry us through trying seasons. Yet, do not become too stuck in your plans for life that you allow other opportunities to pass you by. It is amazing how the older you are, the more your parents words seem to make sense. When I came to DePaul in 2006 my mother told me, “Christa don't be too eager to make plans, because things change, life happens.” Looking back, I know I completely disregarded this statement, but in hindsight I never could have planned to experience or achieve the majority of things I have in the past four years. However, because I was flexible and open to new opportunities, I was able to allow God to bless my life, without having to do much more than agree.

Regardless of whether or not you believe in a higher power, there are times in life when you need to set aside plans and simply step out on faith. This faith could be in God or an institution or simply yourself, yet whatever the guiding force, faith is honestly the only way I have found that human beings can grow and succeed. I strongly believe we are all destined for certain things in life, and in order for us to reach our full potential, we have to stray away from what may appear to be the right road at times and follow our hearts up an “unforeseen staircase.”

Therefore, I leave you with this: there are times in life when hard work and planning are greatly necessary. However, there are also moments in life when the only plan one needs

to have is enjoyment. Enjoy success, enjoy family, enjoy love, and most of all enjoy the life you are blessed to wake up every morning and live, because the reality is everyone does not always get another day.