

Dear First-Year Students,

Greetings! My name is Martin J. Hughes and I am going to be your first-year mentor for the 2008-2009 year! I'm from Chicago, IL (Northwest side; just south of Skokie & Niles). I am going to be a sophomore in the School of Music, as a vocalist in the Music Education program here at DePauw. Here on campus, you'll see me around at various rehearsals for DePauw Theater and various music ensembles.

Before you know it, you'll be here in August, bags in hand, ready to move in to your living unit and ready to start your career here at DePauw. Believe me, things will seem like they're going a million miles a minute, so here's an important piece of advice: **breathe**. It's really easy to get caught up in everything that's going to happen; just remember to enjoy yourself and take in this new experience as much as you can.

And that's what I'm here for! During your first few days here on campus, I'm going to help guide you through orientation, introducing you to the many opportunities that await you here and allowing you to get to know your fellow first-year students in our mentor group. I found the first few days of orientation to be a great experience, since I was able to get to know a group of first-year students like myself before classes even started! Orientation can be a great chance to build strong relationships that you will carry with you throughout your time here at DePauw. After orientation is over, we'll meet at various times throughout the year for dinner and to hang out so we can catch up with each other.

Besides the great academics here at DePauw, there's so many opportunities for fun outside the classroom. One of my favorite activities is to play campus golf, which involves using a golf club and a tennis ball and aiming for various targets on campus (in fact, myself and two friends from my mentor group like to go out and shoot a round of 18 when we get the chance!) Other activities include going to Marvin's for lunch (all you hear about is the GCB- Garlic Cheeseburger, but I'm more of a Beta Suite fan- grilled chicken, cheese, bacon, lettuce and tomato, yum!), the Monon Bell football game (which is a football game with our rival college, Wabash; our own Tigers took home the Monon Bell with a last second field goal kick and we rushed the field! Check it out here: <http://www.depauw.edu/av/mononbell/2007-end.mov>) and Dance Marathon, which is a 12 hour event to raise money to finance research for pediatric AIDS. There's also much more, and I'm sure that, soon enough, you'll find what fits you best.

I hope this gives you a little better idea what to expect as you come here to DePauw in August. Enjoy your summer- hang out with friends, get lots of sleep and look forward to what I hope to be a great first year here at DePauw! If you have any questions, you can e-mail me at martinhughes_2011@depauw.edu; you can also feel free to Facebook me. I'm looking forward to meeting you!!!

All the best,
Martin