

# DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

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Department of English  
2315 North Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614-3210  
773/325-7485  
FAX: 773/325-7328

March 1, 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As professors at DePaul University, we are delighted to offer your child the opportunity to become a published author.

DePaul University's English department is home to an innovative publishing project – **Big Shoulders Books** –that produces and distributes, free of charge, books featuring the voices of Chicagoans whose stories might not otherwise be told. Past volumes have focused on powerful accounts of youth violence, short fiction by elementary and middle-school students, and the stirring memories of war veterans.

Our next volume, which we are co-editing, will feature the work of teenagers whose nonfiction narratives explore dating relationships. We are particularly interested in teenaged views on what constitutes healthy and unhealthy romantic relationships, and our goal is to put together a book that illustrates a full range of teenaged perspectives.

We wish to collect as many narratives as possible over the next several months. While there is no guarantee that a submitted narrative will be published, we can assure you that we, along with a class of graduate students in DePaul's Master of Arts in Writing and Publishing program, will read each submission with care.

Attached are an information sheet on Big Shoulders Books and a "Participant Authorization, Release & Waiver" that must be signed by the parent or legal guardian of any student whose work we consider for publication. As the waiver indicates, the two book editors will know the identity of students who submit narratives, but your child can choose to have their narrative appear anonymously in the book.

Please understand that Big Shoulders Books is a nonprofit entity that generates no income, and so there will be no payment for publication. However, there will be publicity for the book, including launch events where contributors will be publically recognized if they choose to participate. This

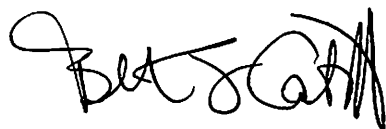
is such a wonderful opportunity for young people who are interesting in becoming leaders in their own communities!

If your child is interested in this opportunity to submit a nonfiction narrative for potential publication, please sign the waiver and return it to:

Dr. Michele Morano  
English Department  
DePaul University  
2315 N. Kenmore, suite 312  
Chicago, IL 60614

Should you have any questions about this project, please contact either of us by telephone or email.

Sincerely,



Dr. Beth Catlett  
Women's & Gender Studies Dept.  
DePaul University  
773-325-4758  
[bcatlett@depaul.edu](mailto:bcatlett@depaul.edu)



Dr. Michele Morano  
English Dept.  
DePaul University  
773-325-4087  
[mmorano@depaul.edu](mailto:mmorano@depaul.edu)

Encl: BSB Info Sheet  
Participant Authorization, Release & Waiver



# MA in Writing and Publishing Program Department of English DePaul University bigshouldersbooks.com

## Fact Sheet

Big Shoulders Books (BSB) is an innovative publishing project at DePaul University. The goal of BSB is to disseminate, free of charge, quality anthologies of writing by and about Chicagoans whose voices might not otherwise be shared. BSB aims to regularly produce books that engage intimately with the Chicago community and, in the process, provide creative-writing students at DePaul with hands-on, practical experience in book publishing.

Since its founding in 2013, Big Shoulders Books has produced three publications:

- *How Long Will I Cry?: Voices of Youth Violence*, a collection of oral histories edited by Associate Professor of English Miles Harvey. Released in the fall of 2013 to significant critical acclaim, the book is now in its fourth printing with more than 25,000 copies in circulation worldwide. Many copies have gone to nontraditional readers, including at-risk youth in inner-city schools and prison inmates, but university libraries across the country, including Yale, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Washington, have also ordered copies to place in circulation. Steppenwolf Theatre produced a play based on the material.
- For its second publication, Big Shoulders Books partnered with 826CHI, a non-profit organization cofounded by noted writer Dave Eggers (*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*) and dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills. In October of 2014, BSB released *The Compendium, Vol. 4*, a "best of" collection of student writing from the previous 18 months of 826CHI programming.
- Released in November of 2015, *I Remember: Chicago Veterans of War* weaves together the memories of fifty veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. These vets were asked to submit any number of "I remember" statements recalling the small and large of their war experiences. Edited by edited by Chris Green of the DePaul English Department, the book lists veterans' memories one after the next with numbers instead of names in the margin to signal each new voice. Readers can, when and if they choose, check the Biography section in the back of the book to match a number and its associated memories with the name of a veteran and his or her background.

Through these various efforts, we've been able to reach thousands of people. We look forward to telling you more in person about this extraordinary project.

For more information:  
David Welch  
Managing Editor, Big Shoulders Books  
[dwelch3@depaul.edu](mailto:dwelch3@depaul.edu)  
(773) 325-1775

**PARTICIPANT AUTHORIZATION, RELEASE & WAIVER**

**DePaul University  
Big Shoulders Books**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/legal guardian's name), am the parent/legal guardian of the minor child, \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name) (hereafter referred to as "my child").

I agree to allow my child to participate as an aspiring author/artist for the 2016-17 volume of Big Shoulders Books, an annual publication sponsored by DePaul University, which is which is ultimately distributed for free to libraries, schools, community groups, etc. (the "Project").

*Please initial each paragraph below:*

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to transfer to DePaul University all right, title and interest, including copyrights, in and to any work of authorship and/or artwork my child creates and submits to DePaul in connection with the Project (collectively the "Work"). DePaul will have the right to edit the Work in its sole discretion and to reproduce, publish, and publicly perform or display the Work, electronically or in print, for academic or other non-commercial purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am providing DePaul University with the above rights in perpetuity, worldwide and royalty-free. I understand that Big Shoulders Books is a not-for-profit endeavor, and I do not expect compensation for my child's participation in the Project or for any future uses of the Work. DePaul University may assign these rights to any other person or entity without permission from me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge and appreciate that, although my child wishes to participate in the Project, there is no guarantee that my child's Work will be selected for publication by DePaul.

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge and agree that my child may not participate in the Project anonymously (all Work must be submitted with an author's name attached). However, the authors/artists of Works that are selected for publication will be given an opportunity to request that DePaul publish their Works anonymously.

\_\_\_\_\_ I HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE AND HOLD HARMLESS DEPAUL UNIVERSITY, ITS AFFILIATES, PREDECESSORS, SUCCESSORS, TRUSTEES, OFFICERS, MEMBERS, FACULTY, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES, PAST OR PRESENT (THE "RELEASED PARTIES") FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, SUITS, LOSSES, LIABILITIES, JUDGMENTS, COSTS, FEES (INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES) AND EXPENSES ("CLAIMS") FOR ANY PERSONAL INJURY OR ILLNESS, EPIDEMICS AND DISEASE, DEATH, PROPERTY DAMAGE, LOSS AND/OR THEFT OR ANY OTHER OCCURRENCE RELATED TO MY CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT.

I enter into this Release & Waiver for myself, my child, my heirs, my assigns and my legal representatives.

**By signing below, I certify that I have read and fully understand this AUTHORIZATION, RELEASE & WAIVER.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to child

**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email**

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