The DePaul Emeritus Society (DES) conducted a survey of its membership in the late spring and early summer of 2012. As of mid-July, a total of 111 DES members, approximately 46% of DES membership, returned the survey – a wonderful participation effort by DES members. Thank You!

Of survey respondents, 66% percent live in or near the Chicago area with the remaining 34% residing in 16 other states. Fifty-seven respondents retired from DePaul ten or less years ago while 43% are retired for more than ten years with 19 of that cohort being retired more than 20 years.

The format of the survey included five sections. Three of the first five sections required DES members to select from among a list of fixed choices. In the remaining two sections, respondents were asked for their brief, open-ended replies and for their comments.

Section I. The objective of this section was to identify the degree to which DES members use or participate in specific university programs. DES members were asked to rate the degree of their use or participation in ten university programs. Two university programs/services yielded significantly high frequency-of-use scores: The DePaul Magazine and DePaul’s E-mail system. Next in order of frequency-of-use were the DePaul ID card and Campus Connect. Earning the lowest frequency-of-use scores were Demon Discounts and the St. Vincent Health Faire.

Section II. The objective of this section was to identify the degree of importance which DES members place on specific DES-sponsored programs. Respondents were asked to rate the degree of importance for ten DES programs. Three programs yielded significantly high degrees of importance: The DES Newsletter, the DES Endowed Scholarship, and the Oral History Project. Next, in order of importance, were DES Fall & Spring Luncheons, Retiree Benefits Talks/Forums, and the Memorabilia Project. Earning the lowest degree of importance in the views of DES members were the DES Blog and DES Facebook.

Section III. Here, the objective was to ascertain the degree of satisfaction that DES members placed in DES – in other words “How satisfied are you with the DES? The results – and member comments -- were impressive: all respondents were “Satisfied” to “Very Satisfied” with 51% of DES members being “Very Satisfied”. Their comments reflected their good to very high degrees of satisfaction.

Section IV. “What Would You Like DES To Do?” read the caption of this section. The objective here was to identify what DES members might want done this year by DES’ four standing committees. The results are summarized on the following page, including specific action plans from the chairs of each committee, who formed their plans based on survey replies from DES members.

Section V. “Tell Us How DES Can Better Serve You.” Thirty replies were received, and they are as varied and diverse as our DES membership is.

We encourage you to review and comment on this summary, as well as the full survey report, accessible on the Mission and Values website (mission.depaul.edu). Questions or comments may be directed to Alice Farrell in the Office of Mission and Values at afarrell@depaul.edu or Dennis Shea, DES member, at dennisshea@comcast.net.

Once again, thank you for your wonderful support!
Communications & Membership Committee
Nancy Rospenda, Committee Chair
nrospend@depaul.edu

- Include reports from Retiree Benefits and Philanthropy committees in each newsletter;
- Promote “DES News Updates” – the ‘blog’ – so DES members can get the latest news immediately instead of waiting for the next newsletter; and
- In every newsletter, include retiree benefits contacts, website links and other important information for use and reference by retirees.

Retiree Benefits Committee
Jerry Goldman, Committee Chair
jgoldman@depaul.edu

- Develop more creative ways to inform retirees about health care and all other benefits offered by the university;
- Follow up on Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois claim payout details for services from non-network providers and Medicare opt-out providers and publicize details;
- Work with DePaul’s HR department in creating a list of outside contacts with phone numbers, in addition to current DePaul HR personnel, for use by retirees who need help with benefit-related issues; and
- Explore the possibility of identifying a BCBSIL ombudsman for DePaul retirees.

Special Events & Projects Committee
Phil Kemp, Committee Chair
pkemp@depaul.edu

- Develop two outings – one to the Chicago History Museum and one to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. Arrange for sign-up at luncheon;
- Initiate a DES Volunteer project in conjunction with DePaul’s Vincentian Service Day in May; and
- Promote participation in the Oral History Project, especially at luncheons.

Philanthropy Committee
Doris Brown, Co-Chair
dbrown@depaul.edu
Dick Meister, Co-Chair
rmeister@depaul.edu

- Meet the Office of Mission & Values matching gift challenge of $15,000 for the 2013 Endowed Scholarship Fund;
- Eliminate DES members from receiving duplicate giving requests from the Office of Advancement; and
- Include a brief philanthropy update/report in each newsletter.