Looks like Santa has joined the ranks of the retired, too. Too bad he didn’t attend the DES luncheon in October. It was another enjoyable occasion, with an Oktoberfest luncheon of beer and cheese soup, Wienerschnitzel with spaetzel and red cabbage, and cheese strudel for dessert. This was followed Jerry Goldman reporting on HR changes affecting retirees, Denny Shea giving an update on the DES Scholarship, Phil Kemp inviting members to join his newly created “virtual” Special Events and Projects Committee, and Elaine Beaudoin explaining the changes in the nomination process for the DES Steering Committee. Dick Meister presented background on the development of the art collection and art space at DePaul and introduced Greg Harris, Assistant Curator at the museum. The DePaul Art Museum is located next to the El stop on Fullerton in a beautiful new three-story building. Anyone who desired could then tour the museum after the luncheon. Greg served as both speaker and tour guide. The Art Museum has both a permanent collection, which ranges from the seventh century BC to the present, and a changing exhibit which features both faculty and selected traveling shows from museums here and abroad. For more information on the museum, visit www.depaul.edu/museum. Preceding the luncheon, Father Shelby said a memorial mass, remembering DES members and their friends and relatives who passed away this past year. Pictures from the luncheon can be found on the DES blog (DESretirees.blogspot.com).

For those of you into long-term planning, our next luncheon will be held on Friday, May 18, 2012. As anyone who has attended these luncheons can attest, it is really fun to see old friends and catch up. For those who really plan ahead, the next fall luncheon will be held on October 19, 2012, also a Friday.

The St. Vincent Health Faire in October was an overwhelming success. It attracted over 1400 participants during its two-day schedule, and many retirees attended. Gretchen Osbourne presented two sessions specifically for retirees addressing the health care benefits changes starting January 1. The changes can be found on the DES blog. Of note, under the 2012 prescription plan change, your cost of mail-order prescriptions will be significantly reduced. (Yes, reduced.) Additional clarification on using out-of-network providers for retirees 65 and over and for those under 65 years of age will be forthcoming. We hope you took advantage of the health services provided. We would also like to thank Rosa Perez, Gretchen Osbourne and Diana Chin for their support of the DePaul retirees.

Ah, retirement! Time to slow down, enjoy life, and enjoy new hobbies. Five new members were added in July: GARY ANDRUS (CDM), JACQUELINE HARA (Modern Languages), LINDA MORRISSETT (University Library), CATHERINE PINES (Mental Health Center) and FRANK WUKITSCH (Theatre School). Welcome to the wonderful world of retirement.
Did you know that there are volunteer opportunities listed on our spiffy new DES website at http://mission.depaul.edu/PROGRAMS/DES? Click on DePaul Emeritus Society, then on Programs and Projects, then on Volunteer Opportunities. And as a reminder don’t forget to visit the DES blog (DESretirees.blogspot.com) for any and all information about the DES, including upcoming events and an In Memoriam page. No registration necessary – just log in. Facebook is also another venue to check out for information. This site requires a very short registration and can be found at facebook.com.

If you are cleaning/moving/sorting and you discover a DePaul item, please consider donating it to our Memorabilia Project. Kathryn DeGraff in the library is amassing DePaul articles, including such mundane things as dance programs, pins, basketball freebies given out at games, and sorority/fraternity items. Don’t throw anything away until you check with Kathryn.

It’s that end-of-the-year reminder. I’m sure you have received a request for funds for the DES Scholarship. If you haven’t, or if you would like to contribute more, now is the perfect time – right before the end of the year and income tax time. Our funds have assisted a number of students complete their education and we would like to continue helping – and possibly assisting even more students.

ATTENTION: As an added incentive, Mission and Values will match any contributions made before March 15 up to a total of $15,000, so your contribution will be DOUBLED. Please consider a contribution.

Nominations are now being accepted for two openings on the DES board, one opening for a faculty retiree and one opening for a staff retiree. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate a colleague please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Jerry Goldman (jgoldman@depaul.edu), Phil Kemp (pkemp@depaul.edu), Nancy Rospenda (nrospend@depaul.edu) or Elaine Beaudoin (ewatson@depaul.edu). You can also contact Alice Farrell at either 312-362-8822 or afarrell@depaul.edu. Please consider only those faculty or staff retirees who live in the area and are willing to serve, since attendance at board meetings is required. An election ballot will be sent in early 2012.

Members can expect to receive a new DES survey early next year. We will be asking members what the Society can do for you and what you would like to receive from the society. Please return the survey as soon as possible after you receive it. Your input is very important to us and will help our organization move in the direction the members desire.

Sadly, the DES lost some members and spouses over the past six months. PAT WAGNER passed away on June 19 at the age of 82. Pat worked at DePaul from 1962 until her retirement from the Nursing Department in 1993. She continued her service to DePaul by volunteering her time in University Archives. She is survived by her sister and will be greatly missed.
by her many friends and colleagues at DePaul. **JOHN PRICE** passed away on November 2 at the Hospice of South Central Indiana Inpatient Facility. He joined the English Department faculty in 1968 and in 1999 he received the Via Sapientia award. Upon retirement he moved to Columbus, IN where he enjoyed hiking, boating, bicycling, writing and community involvement. He is survived by his wife, Mary McGooohan Price and children James and Alison. Memorial contributions may be made to the McDowell Adult Literacy Program, Hospice of South Central Indiana, or the scholarship fund of a favorite college or university. We received word of the passing of **TOM WEST**’s wife Emily on November 14. If any retirees would like to contact him, his address and phone number are 1002 George Drive, Marshfield, WI, 54449, (715) 384-3765. **ED ZOLIK** informed the membership of the passing of his wife Margaret in the summer of 2010. Margaret played an important role in writing the grant which eventually resulted in the founding of the Mental Health Center. Her phrase “training in the context of service” was key in linking the provision of direct clinical services as a component of the educational mission of the university to providing students with an opportunity to develop their clinical skills. Besides Ed, she leaves behind a granddaughter, Linda, and two great-granddaughters, Jenny and Lisa. GrandMa Dolly is greatly missed.

**A final thought:** Life’s journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well-preserved body. But rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting...“What a ride!”

- Anonymous

Nancy Rospenda
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The Self-Transformation Chronicles

David Edward Sims

Episode 3: I’m Turning On the Microphone Now; Who Inside Me Is Going to Talk?

Introduction: Some time ago, DES Newsletter editor Nancy Rospenda asked me to write a story on my adventures as a current non-degree student in communications at DePaul. This is the final article in the series.

May I take this opportunity to invite you to listen to my show on Radio DePaul? My show is called Cabochon Jazz Radio, broadcast live every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Radio DePaul (www.radio.depaul.edu).

When someone knocks at the door, or someone calls on the phone, you know how you will answer. But when you turn the microphone on, who inside you is going to come forward to talk? In communications, the persona is the cultivated personality you present to the public. You may have only one, you may have many; your persona may be carefully calculated, or you may fly by the seat of your pants; but chances are you will be a different person when the “on the air” light goes on.

I believe I can now confidently say I am a performer, but I am not an actor. An actor is always a performer, but a performer is not always an actor. An actor is someone who essentially becomes, takes on the identity of, someone other than him or herself. The performer remains the same person, but a person who has access to the techniques of performance. One of those techniques is the persona.

In my DePaul radio broadcasting class, Scott Vyverman, teacher of all things radio, and faculty manager at Radio DePaul told us, “When you speak on the radio, be yourself, but be your higher self.” Now by this time, I had already taken performance classes. Anyone would probably find this an intriguing question, but to someone studying performance, this is a question that could become a preoccupation. Who IS my higher self? Do I HAVE a higher self to present? If so, where in the world will I find him?

The persona I have cultivated began earlier, I believe, with my name. I was born David Edward Sims, but like most people, I thought of my middle name as a bit of a formality for most of my life. It does have a story, though. My father’s name was Edward Anthony Sims. He and my mother, Paulette Nitra Sims, had four sons, and because my father did not want to name any of us Edward Anthony Sims, Jr., we were each given his first name as a middle name. I was close to both my parents, but it surprised me when, after my father passed away, I began to feel connected to him in a remarkable, spiritual way. One way that connection was manifested was my decision to use my full name professionally, whatever that profession might ultimately turn out to be.

There was a second reason to take on my full name. In a world where social media rule, I needed a name that was unique, to aid in Internet searches. I found to my surprise and delight that were a whole lot of guys named David Sims, but only one had Edward in between, and that guy was me.

So the name was set, and like all words, there were connotations to be explored. How do we feel about a man who presents himself through three names? And the individual names, individually and collectively, whom do they suggest? The consonants in my name are all rather gentle, with more than a touch of repetition. Excellent! One element particularly captivated me, and I chose to see it as a good omen: “David” and “Sims” both begin and end with the same letter; “Edward” almost does, and heck, it’s just a little vowel leading into that first “D.” I can overlook that, can’t you? So this David Edward Sims was formal, hopefully dignified, but gentle, with perhaps a bit of a mystery. Fine! From what else can my persona be derived?
If David Edward Sims’ medium was the radio, then the doorway to the person was his voice. I want to quickly say that when I listen to myself recorded, I never think of the voice I hear as being mine. It is “the voice,” and I’m glad I have always thought of it that way, because it gives me the opportunity to analyze the sound without getting hung up on identity. I can listen and say, “That voice needs to speed up” or “That voice needs to modulate more to avoid monotony.” I am always grateful to people who listen to me and tell me what they think. A number of classmates told me “Your voice sounds soothing on my iPod.” One fellow student in a performance class got up and said “David’s voice would be the one I’d want to hear before going to sleep.” At first, I thought this was somewhat insulting — was my voice so unstimulating, so unexciting? But I’ve come to realize for today’s media consumer, relentlessly bombarded with image, sound, and whatever else on a daily basis, to be relaxing was a good and rare thing, and my classmates intended a high compliment. So the voice matched the name. What was left?

We are judged, of course, by our word choices, our sentiments, our responses. Over time I have learned there is an art to saying what must be stated, but in doing so saying as little as possible. We want to spare our listeners all those unnecessary words, but we also want to avoid bringing up things that may lessen our listeners’ connection to us. There is an art to speaking just enough. I continue to study that art every time the microphone goes on.

I pursue an on-air persona that projects curiosity, a bit of worldly experience, but with a certain good-hearted innocence, and a relentlessly positive outlook. Wit and humor at unexpected times must also figure into the mix. I am not afraid of my age, and hope that my maturity may actually help me find a place in the media universe.

There are many elements of radio I love, but one in particular fascinates me: because the medium is based on sound alone, the on-air personality begins with a pretty clean slate. The voice floating in the air has no age, no race, no ethnicity, no sexual orientation, no family situation, no life history, until that voice reveals that information to the listener. Perhaps only gender is expressed automatically. For anyone bold enough to open this door, this is an astounding opportunity to erase all that baggage you wish no longer to carry, and to create the person you would have become — could have become — had things been different in your life. Because, surprise! They ARE different now.