Ah, Spring! The Student Center was the site of the DES spring luncheon. After a ‘wine’ hour, a delicious meal of spring salad with fruit, a generous slice of poached salmon on a bed of couscous with asparagus spears and a red velvet brownie, the attendees unanimously voted in Dick Meister and Doris Brown to the DES Steering Committee. Dick and Doris will both be serving three-year terms. Jerry Goldman gave a short explanation of the complexities of coverage by providers who have opted out of Medicare, and Denny Shea introduced one of the seven (yes, seven) new scholarship recipients. Guest Susan Solway, chair of the History of Art and Architecture department, brought slides of the new state-of-the-art Arts and Letters Hall. After the luncheon, a tour of the new building was provided. This is a beautiful and amazing place for students to further their learning in the arts and English. As a reminder, anyone needing transportation to the luncheons should contact Alice Farrell.

Denny Shea, our outgoing Steering Committee member, enabled the DES scholarship program to flourish under his leadership. Through his hard work, and in tandem with Dick Meister and Fr. Ed Udovic, C.M. of the Office of Mission and Values, he led the effort to raise scholarship funds for our DES Endowed Scholarship, the total of which now stands at $73,704 as of May 31. To date, ten scholarships have been awarded to undergraduate juniors and seniors in need of funds to complete their education. Denny has also spearheaded the effort to survey the DES membership to determine how the DES can be more effective. The work on our second survey will be completed this summer and the membership will get the results in October. Denny, DES can’t thank you enough for your service!

As mentioned before, with the matching grant from the Office of Mission and Values, DES awarded seven new scholarships. The recipients are Julianna Connena (LASS), Laura Lewis (LASS), Sean McDonough (LASS), Jillian Miskevics (COM), Kimberly Noschese (ED), Melissa Martinez (LASS) and Tiffany Powell (COM). A total of $15,268 was awarded to those students for the Spring Quarter 2012. Thanks must also be extended to the 38% of our membership who participated in the 2012 scholarship campaign, our highest participation to date.

Phil Kemp, the chair of the Events Committee, is working on an outing for DES members. This outing will not be connected to one of the luncheons and will involve breakfast, a trolley ride to the destination, and transportation back to the university. A few of the suggested locations were the Peggy Notebaert Museum and the Chicago Historical Society. Phil will have more information in the coming months. Please keep these possible trips in mind as a way to become more acquainted with the city and with other DES members.

Save the Date – the University Health Faire will take place on October 15 and 16. The final schedule of sessions on each campus has not yet been determined.
Important Library news!! DePaul retirees can save big $$$ by using the online services available through the DePaul University Library! Say you want to read the Wall Street Journal every day, but want to save the subscription cost. Go to library.depaul.edu and click on the left side A-Z Journal List and Journal Title Search; on the next screen go to the box under Journals and Newspapers and type in Wall Street Journal; click on the first choice under Eastern Edition for ABI/INFORM Complete; enter your Campus Connect name and password (same one you use for DePaul email and everything else online at DePaul) and hit Enter; under Publication Information click on View most recent issue and ….. you have today's complete Wall Street Journal at your fingertips! There are thousands of other journals and newspapers you can access through DePaul’s library services, as well as millions of books. If you need help, call a reference librarian at 773-325-7863 or go to AskALibrarian: http://vrlplus.cb.docutek.com/depaul/vrl_entry.asp

The following is a note from Dick Meister regarding Kristin Leitz, Gerry Leitz’s daughter and a DePaul graduate. He felt that the DES membership should be made aware of one of our graduates who is indeed living the mission of St. Vincent de Paul.

Following Dick Houk’s funeral mass at St. Athanasius in February, Nancy Rospenda, Joan and I were talking with Mary Lietz, Gerry’s widow. Mary, who serves as assistant principal of the parish school, and Nancy were sharing stories about their children who roomed together during a semester of foreign study in Hungary. I mentioned that I saw in the parish bulletin that the Lenten collection for April 1 would support the missionary work of Kristin Lietz in Mexico. Mary then shared with us the moving story of Kristin’s continuing commitment to doing the work of Vincent de Paul.

Kristin graduated from DePaul with a degree in psychology in 1989. While at DePaul she took courses in Spanish and spent a quarter-term in the DePaul program in Merida, Mexico. Following her graduation from DePaul, she received a master’s degree in counseling and guidance from Loyola University. Combining her commitment to assist others and her love of Spanish, she worked for a few years with Hispanic women in Cicero. Desiring to do more, Kristin then made a commitment in 2000 to spend a year working in an orphanage in Mexico. This led to a five-year commitment.

While working at the orphanage with young girls, she realized that little was being done to prepare them for life beyond menial labor and early marriage. As a result, she took up the challenge of Vincent, to do more. With little in terms of financial support, she founded a program to assist young women who desire to continue their education. The project is called Centro De Compartimiento. It is designed to assist young women from rural areas of southern Mexico to become leaders in their communities.

The program provides access to education, personal and spiritual development courses within the program, and service to the community. The program’s intent is to prepare Servant Leaders. Room and board is provided for young women between the ages of 12 to 23 who have to leave their rural homes if they wish to pursue their educational goals. Besides providing access to education, the program “hopes to give the students access to personal insight to be able to find their purpose in life and have a mission and vision for the future.”

Presently, the program supports two houses, each with seven young women. Kristin is in charge of one of the homes, Casa Isabel. The program is funded by private foundations and individual donors, mainly from the U.S. Casa Isabel is located in Espinal, an urban area of 100,000, in the midst of the largely rural state of Oaxaca, located on the southern coast of Mexico. For more information or to make a donation

Over the past five years Kristin has struggled not only to continue but also to expand her work, to walk in the footsteps of Vincent de Paul. In addition, she has two adopted daughters, 4 and 12. Gerry and Mary are very proud of Kristin, as are we.

Since our last newsletter, DES has lost seven members - DICK HOUK, ROSEMARY BANNAN, VIRGINIA RUTHERFORD, FRED BREITBEIL, SHIRLEY MARCH, STEPHEN VAGI and HERB NEWMAN. Together the five faculty members represented almost 200 years of service to the university.

Dick passed away in February at age 90. He was a professor emeritus in the Department of Geography and the longest serving faculty member in the history of DePaul, joining the university in 1946. Dick founded the Geography Department and the DePaul Geographical Society. In 1963 he was awarded the Caballero del Orden de Merito Civil by the Spanish government in recognition of years of unique efforts to increase and improve good relations between the U.S. and Spain. Dick was also awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and in 1967 and 1968 he lived in Portugal and studied its agricultural industry. Over his lifetime he visited over 100 countries on six continents.

Rosemary died in May at age 85. She was a member of the Sociology Department from 1964 until her retirement in 2008. She was the recipient of the Via Sapientiae Award. She and her husband John moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina in 2009. Rosemary will be remembered for a life of passion for justice, civil rights and the dignity of humankind. Her interest in human rights spanned the globe. She balanced her vocational endeavors with a love for dancing, the arts and travel. Rosemary was the Author of Close Call and co-author with her husband of Law, Morality and Vietnam. Memorial contributions to Doctors Without Borders (doctorswithoutborders.org) can be made in her name.

Virginia left us in March. She received her masters and Ph.D. from Northwestern University. Virginia was a professor of speech at DePaul for many years. During World War II she served as director of the Red Cross, mostly in the European Theatre. She was also a member of the ACLU. Virginia died in San Diego at the age of 95.

Fred passed away at the end of December. He graduated from Xavier University, was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran serving as a 1st Lieutenant, received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Cincinnati and was a professor at DePaul for 35 years. He continued research and publishing at the University of Central Florida after retirement. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Barbara, his four children and four grandchildren.

Shirley died on December 17 at the age of 82. She worked in the Cashier's Office from 1978 until her retirement in 1991. Shirley is survived by three children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions to the Alzheimer's Association are appreciated.

Stephen taught in the Mathematics Department from 1962 until his retirement in 2001. He passed away on June 8 at the age of 81 in Rockport, Massachusetts. He is survived by his wife, daughter, and two grandchildren. Stephen was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship in 1958, to begin his Ph.D. studies at MIT, and finished his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. Upon his retirement after nearly 40
years of service, DePaul and the National Science Foundation sponsored a conference in his honor, ‘Harmonic Analysis: Calderon-Zygmund and Beyond.’

Don't forget that you can access information about the deceased, the university and the DES itself. The DES blog is a wonderful source of information and can be accessed at DESretirees.blogspot.com. You can also visit Facebook.com and register or log in. Visits to the blog increase in number week to week.

Several new retirees have been welcomed into the DES since the last newsletter. They include WILLIAM CANNON (Public Safety), MARY DIX (SNL), KAY LYNCH (Facility Operations), TERRENCE KIELY (Law), JIM DOYLE (Student Affairs), FRAN CUNNINGHAM (Info Services), GERRY FOSKETT (Controller's), and RAY COYE (Management). KATHRYN DEGRAFF has announced that her retirement date is August 17 after 40 years at DePaul. Welcome to the wonderful world of retirement and the welcoming world of the DES!

Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be. Enjoy the day.

Nancy Rospenda, Editor
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Jerry Goldman has spent more time in Italy than some Italians and has discovered some very interesting and not well-known tourist sites. Here is the story of one of his travels.

WHAT WE DID IN “HIDDEN” ITALY THIS SPRING
Jerry Goldman

My wife and I have no particular claim to expertise about Italy, apart from multiple visits over nearly 45 years, a great deal of reading, and a deep affection for the country and its culture. Thus when Nancy asked me to write about our last trip there, I hesitated a few moments before agreeing. I’d remarked to her that we had gone to some more obscure towns and visited some unusual sites even in well-known cities. This piece for the newsletter is the product of her kind interest in places that are off the standard tourist routes with the hope that it may interest and be helpful to other DePaul retiree travelers.

After picking up a rental car at the Rome airport, we drove about 100 km. north to our first stop. It was a terrific B&B just outside the town of Pitigliano, a tufa (volcanic limestone) town originally colonized by Etruscans. The town itself is a well-preserved medieval hill town located on a mountainous spur in the Marremma region of southwest Tuscany. The view of the town on the upward approach is imposing and beautiful. From the town itself, there is a tremendous vista of gently rolling Tuscan hills and verdant valleys. The claim to fame for the town is a renovated synagogue built in 1598 under the protection of the ruling Orsini counts during a time when welcoming or sheltering Jews in Italy was unusual. So many Jewish people settled and took part in the commercial life of Pitigliano that it became known as “little Jerusalem.” The town has a 16th century Duomo (cathedral) with an 18th century Baroque facade, and a large 14th century palace/fort owned by the Orsini family that today serves as an archeological museum. Several towns are within easy drives, including the lovely medieval town of Sovana, which, itself, has an impressive 11th century Duomo and is the birthplace of Hildebrand, who ruled as Pope Gregory VII.
Our B&B, run by a charming couple, was a serene agritourismo with lovely whimsical décor and scenic location and with food that was produced from its estate.

We drove several hours to our next hill town, a relatively undiscovered jewel named Massa Marittima. Its main square, Piazza Garibaldi, bounded on one extremity by three Romanesque buildings is stunningly beautiful. The gorgeous 13th century Duomo named for St. Cerbone is done primarily in Pisan-Romanesque style. Its main treasure, a Maesta by the Sienese master Ambrogio Lorenzetti is now in the art museum. This is one of the most satisfying small town visits we’ve ever had in terms of people, buildings, streets, esthetic appeal, and food. I can’t resist mentioning a wonderful experience we had here. After visiting the art museum on a Sunday morning we walked over to a nearby Augustinian church and entered in the middle of a mass—a first Communion occasion for town children. Following the receipt of the host by the children, the congregation turned toward the choir at the sound of a guitar strum, and together, everyone began singing “Sounds of Silence”—Sweet! You can imagine our reaction if someone had told us we’d be hearing Simon and Garfunkle at this Italian event. I’ll add that within 30 km. from Massa, in the direction of Siena, is the unfinished (roofless) abbey of San Galgano, whose construction in the French Gothic style began in 1218, and was ended in 1288. These ruins, maintained by an order of nuns, have an incredibly ethereal beauty.

Leaving the more or less untouristed towns we visited, we headed for Florence. There is nothing I can add to what has been already written about the marvels of this city. The medieval streets and buildings in the historic center with their arresting architecture, the alluring wares, the excellent food, and even the world-class gelato are people magnets. Tourists pack this place for a reason. In addition to some shops we just had to favor with our custom, we revisited a couple of lesser known places. The first, after dumping luggage at the hotel and ditching the car, was the Ognissanti Church. Both the frescos in the church interior and the Ghirlandaio “Last Supper” in the refectory next door offer good reasons for a visit. I'll note one other favorite: the Sassetti Chapel in San Trinita. It contains several marvelous Ghirlandaio works. The one I like most shows Pope Honorius III sanctioning the formation of the Franciscan order by St. Francis in Florence (rather than in St. John Lateran in Rome), witnessed by Lorenzo the Magnificent (Sassetti's Boss) and Sassetti. It was good to be a Medici banker! Also shown are representations of Poliziano, the Medici kids’ tutor, and among the children in particular, the youngest child, the future Leo X. I always find it hard to leave Florence, but we had scheduled the next four days in Rome and it was time to go.

The express train to Rome takes only an hour and a half and the taxi ride to the hotel wasn’t even mildly terrifying—on this trip. There is so much to see in Rome that finding things less visited by tourists doing the big sights is easy. We started the afternoon of our arrival with a leisurely walk to take-in some “biggies.” Namely, we walked down the Spanish Steps to the Trevi Fountain, then to the Pantheon, and finally, to Piazza Navona. All these places were “lousy with tourists”, now including us. But we couldn’t bring ourselves to skip all quintessential Roman sights. After all, we had already decided to skip visiting St. Peter’s Basilica, among other things.

Our first stop on the list of Roman places we were unable to see in the past was the Great Synagogue, on the site of the old ghetto near the bank of the Tiber across from Trastevere. They were finally running interior tours and the main sanctuary is sumptuously and intricately decorated. The cupola (dome) of the building structure is unique in Rome since it is the intersection surface of a cube and orthogonal right circular cylinders. (Non-mathematicians can view a picture on the web.) It was a thrill to finally see it, but frustrating not to be able to take photographs inside. The visit of Pope John Paul II in 1986 is recorded as a historic event in the museum on the premises. The next day we went to the renovated Palazzo Barberini, now a classical art museum, on land purchased from the Sforza family in the 17th century by Maffeo
Barberini, later Pope Urban VIII (of Galileo trial fame). The building structure with staircases by Bernini and Borromini is amazing even without the paintings. I’ll note two spectacular works: Carravagio’s “Judith Beheading Holofernes” and Holbein’s “Portrait of Henry VIII.” Having heard that a portion of the Colosseum had been recently renovated, we returned to ancient Roman Rome and found nothing new for us in this great site. Then we wore ourselves out by trudging to the top of Palatine Hill to see the ruins of Domitian’s Palace. It was a tiring, but satisfying day.

On a Saturday, we visited the Palazzo Colonna, still occupied by family members after 800 years, to see how the other one-hundredth of one percent lived. This was the family residence of Pope Martin V (about 1417), who often lived here during his papacy since no substitute edifice would quite do. We first toured the paintings gallery, beginning in a magnificent ornate grand salon. Later we took an English language tour through those private apartments accessible to the public. That afternoon, we went to Saint John Lateran, the Archbasilica of Rome—apparently ranking higher than St. Peters on the theological hierarchy. The building was given to the Bishop of Rome by Constantine in 313 CE and was built on the site of a Roman fort constructed in 193 CE under Septimus Severus. This fort was demolished and a palace occupied by the “laterani,” administrators to some of the emperors, was erected on the site. The structure was enlarged and renovated over the centuries by several Popes. To say the church was imposing upon entry is an understatement, considering that the distance from entry door to apse is almost the length of two football fields. The nave is lined on both sides with sculptures of the apostles and the interior is particularly magnificent at the transcept. It was fitting that we had visited the Colonna Palace that morning, since the tomb of Martin V was in front of the high altar. Apparently the Popes had been buried here until the construction of the current St. Peters was completed. There is also a charming cloister lined with interesting artifacts to view. It has a “feel” that is different from that of St. Peters and a comparison would be inapt—apples and oranges. That evening we ate at a Roman Hostaria and agreed with each other that it had been a great trip.
DES SPRING LUNCHEON
May 18, 2012

Harvette Grey, Denny Shea, and Jeanne Lopez-Valadez

Rosa Perez, Jackie Price, and Jane Gerard, C.S.J.

Leigh Maginniss, Fr. Richardson, C.M., and Tony Behof

Scholarship Recipient Jill Miskevics with Denny Shea

Virginia Martin and Fran Ryan, D.C.

Irwin Peters and Jeanne Maloney