Another December, another newsletter. Neither rain nor sleet nor snow keeps this editor from her appointed duties.

Were you fortunate enough to attend the October DES luncheon? Halloween-themed decorations brightened the tables and old news clips of the 1992 flood and short segments of the Oral History Project interviewees made us smile. In keeping with the season, squash ravioli was the delicious entrée. The luncheon was preceded by voluntary interviews to obtain and preserve memories of the flood. These audio recordings will be given to archives and may be presented at a later date at a DES luncheon. FR. TOM CROAK said the annual All Souls’ Mass for the members of the DES who passed away this past year – MANFRED FRINGS (Philosophy); LAVON RASCO (English), VIRGINIA MERTENS (Library), NICHOLAS AMICO (Religious Studies), PAULIS ANSTRATS (Modern Language), and MARGARET GURNIG (Music School). Please remember them in your prayers.

Bob Kozoman, Executive Vice President, presented the facilities Master Plan for DePaul for the next ten years. A state of the art academic building is being planned for the area next to the El where physical plant has a number of small buildings. The townhouses would be torn down and more practical dorms would replace them. The current music building would be gutted and renovated to better serve the Music School. A new music building would replace the old McGaw and the chapel would have a second life as a new opera hall. To fulfill a promise to the local residents, Corcoran would get a facelift and the walkway between Corcoran and the Seminary townhouses would be replaced by landscaping. The ‘baby factory’ would no longer make babies and would be renovated as a theater complex, with both a box and a studio theater. Big plans for a growing school – DePaul is experiencing its largest enrollment in history and is the largest Catholic university in the United States.

DES sponsored a Q&A session with Human Resources on October 21 with regard to benefits, including changes in health care. Retirees attending this informal session found it very informative. More of these informal sessions will be held in the future as the need arises. For those unaware, Brad Price, the main contact for many benefit questions, has left his position in HR to pursue other opportunities. HR has kindly summarized the Q&As from the meeting.
Q&A from the October 21st 2009 Benefits Session

Q: Is there a particular person to call in the Benefits Department regarding Retiree benefits questions?
A: Call the Benefits Department main line at 312-362-8232, or the Human Resources main line at 312-362-8500, and a member of the department will assist you or direct you to the appropriate party.

Q: What about for specific questions on accumulations, or limit questions?
A: BlueCross/BlueShield (BCBS) has all of the info on participants’ claims and accumulations towards any of the medical plan limits. If you call the customer service number on the back of your medical plan ID card, a Member Services representative will be able to assist you. If you have specific questions about the date you switched to a different medical plan option, please contact Benefits at 312-362-8232.

Q: For members enrolled in HMO Illinois, how does a retiree ensure coverage when traveling out-of-area for an extended period of time (i.e. visiting kids out-of-state, spending winter in a warmer climate)?
A: For a temporary relocation, contact HMO Illinois for information about a “guest membership” in the state you’re visiting, to ensure you have coverage while you’re there. If you are moving out-of-state, you must elect a new medical plan, as HMO Illinois coverage does not apply to out-of-area residents. If you travel often and are Medicare eligible, you may elect the Carve-out plan, which is not restrictive on the service area. The Carve-out Plan is very flexible, and is basically a supplement to Medicare. However, please be aware that if you are travelling out of the country, Medicare does not cover any medical care or related services. If you are traveling and need medical care, it is important to keep all of your receipts so you can file your claim with BCBS. In foreign countries, you will most likely have to pay up-front for medical services, but if you are enrolled in the PPO or the Carve-out, you can submit your claims to BCBS upon return to the US.

Q: What are concierge services?
A: Concierge services have been around for a long time and providers of this service typically do not work directly with BCBS. BCBS reimburses providers on a “fee for service” basis, whereas concierge service providers charge a premium for holistic diagnostic services. The patient must obtain the diagnosis code and file a claim with BCBS for reimbursement.

Q: Are travel vaccinations covered?
A: Travel vaccinations are typically not covered. Please contact BCBS for questions about a specific vaccine and whether it is included in the wellness coverage.

Q: What is the difference between ‘diagnostic’ and ‘routine’ for purposes of wellness coverage?
A: If services are billed as routine, wellness coverage kicks in. If the routine diagnostic test results in a diagnosis, sometimes it becomes a coding issue where the provider submits the claim to BCBS under the diagnosis code
rather than as wellness. If you see a claim that should be covered under wellness but is not being covered as such, check with your medical provider to see if they submitted the claim to BCBS as wellness.

**Q:** Where can I find a definition of terms relating to the medical plans?
**A:** Definitions can be found in the Retiree Medical Summary Plan Description (SPD), located on the Human Resources site (hr.depaul.edu). The SPD is updated regularly and posted on-line. If you do not have on-line access, contact Benefits to obtain a copy.

**Q:** What about when Medicare doesn’t cover a procedure? Is it typically true that BCBS won’t cover it either?
**A:** In most instances, if Medicare does not cover a procedure, BCBS becomes the primary insurer. If the procedure is covered under the SPD, BCBS will cover it, even if Medicare does not.

**Q:** Is there still a possibility of Dental & Vision coverage for Retirees?
**A:** DePaul has been pursuing group coverage for retirees for dental and vision, but a viable option has not yet materialized. In the meantime, the HMO does provide vision benefits, and the PPO does also for underlying medical conditions.

**Q:** What options do retirees have for Long Term Care (LTC) insurance?
**A:** If you enrolled in LTC through CNA while actively employed at DePaul, you can port your LTC coverage when you retire. As a retiree, if you are interested in purchasing an individual policy, you may do so through CNA or MetLife. The contact numbers are: CNA (800)528-4582, MetLife (630)875-1394.

Did you know that the DES now has a Facebook site? This medium is the perfect forum to share experiences, post pictures and videos, contact other members, join in discussions, and just have fun. It is a very simple process to join – just log into the Facebook home page at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and follow the simple directions to join. Then, go to [http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=117870507250](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=117870507250) and click on the hyperlink “Request to Join Group” located just under the DES logo. There are a couple of ways of getting back into the DES Facebook Group once you are a member. On your personal Facebook page, you can click on “Profile” in the blue bar at the top of your page. Then, click on “Info” on the tab below your name. Scroll down to the section labeled “Groups” and you will see a hyperlink to the “DePaul Emeritus Society.” Click on this and it will take you to the DES Facebook homepage. Once there, save the page in your “favorites” file for future access. In addition, you can go directly to the DES Facebook Group by using this URL: [http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=117870507250](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=117870507250). Pictures from the luncheons are posted on this site as well as various discussion topics of interest to retirees. Show up your children and grandchildren and join Facebook before they do!
SAVE THE DATE
Please circle May 18, 2010 on your calendar for the next DES luncheon. We are still working on the program. More information regarding the date and program will be sent after the first of the year.

Elections will be held in May to fill the positions that Al Erlebacher and Nancy Rospenda now hold. Nomination requests will be mailed to members and those nominated will be contacted to see if they agree to run. Both positions will be for a three-year term.

DES fundraising in FY2009 proved to be much more profitable than selling apples. The collective membership donated over $120,000 to the University, $7,685 of which was designated as going to the DES Scholarship Fund. A notable 30% participation rate was realized. As you may know, the DES awarded its first scholarship to Elliot Pence at the last May luncheon. Elliot, a graphic arts major, was present and expressed his gratitude to the DES for its assistance. Do you need a last-minute tax deduction? If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, you can send a donation to the University (attn: Alice Farrell) with the direction that it be used for the DES Scholarship Fund.

New members Carol Wren (Education), M. Cherif Bassiouni (Law), Janie Isackson (Bridge Program), Kristine Garrigan (English), Jose Vincens (Security) and Peter Pereira (Education) joined the DES since the last newsletter. Welcome to retirement and to DES. You will find both very enjoyable!

On a much sadder note, the DES recently learned of the passing of JULIAN LEVITON (Music) who died in March of 2008. MARIANNE MURPHY (Assistant Dean, School of Education) died this past September. Please remember them in your prayers. Also please keep in your prayers Edward Croak, FR. TOM CROAK’S brother, who passed away in November and DELLA CORIROSSI, former director of the DePaul Community Mental Health Center, who passed away in June. Della was not a member of the DES but was a long-time employee of DePaul, beginning in 1974 as a social worker in the MHC. She left the University in 1996 to pursue private practice.

Remember, a newsletter is only as good as its contributors. Information can be shared with me by snail mail (Nancy Rospenda, 196 Fairview, Elmhurst, IL, 60126) or e-mail (nrospend@depaul.edu). Have a great holiday!
Photos from the DES Luncheon, October 30, 2009

Al Erlebacher and Phil Kemp discuss soggy memories of the flood.

Jackie Price, Nancy Rospenda, and Stan and Kay Dabrowski

Ken Kirkland, Margaret Brown, Dick Houk, and Dorothy Mark

Bill Jefferson, and Carol and Don Van Ostenburg

Paul Hettich and Elaine Beaudoin

Marjorie Piechowski and Nancy Williams