The DES spring luncheon was another blooming success. Flowers on the tables, delicious buffet luncheon, and a beautiful day. Our speaker for the day was Father Dennis Holtschneider, who presented us with a DePaul update. Largest enrollment ever, largest Catholic university in the United States, purchase of the Lytton Building downtown, and the addition of the College of Communications were just some of the highlights of his talk. I guess we’re no longer the “little university under the El!”

Another highlight of the event was presentation of the first DES scholarship awardee, Elliot Pence, a student majoring in Art, who was present and thanked the membership for his scholarship. To qualify for this scholarship, a student has to be a junior or senior and be in financial need. Recipients will be rotated between colleges each year. Elaine Beaudoin gave a brief update on the ‘workings’ of the DES, including an update on the website and the announcement that Father Tom Croak has been replaced by Al Erlebacher on the DES steering committee. Tom’s other commitments have increased to such an extent that he no longer considers himself retired. Kathryn DeGraff reintroduced the memorabilia project by bringing examples of memorabilia, a very interesting and heartwarming trip into DePaul’s past. She had buttons, a St. Vincent’s College pennant, Billy Blue Demon articles, pictures and other odds and ends that comprise DePaul’s past. The pictures were the best! If anyone has ANY DePaul ‘stuff’ that they want to donate, please contact Kathryn. What you might not think is a big deal might be very important to her. For example, old dance programs were a big hit. Pictures are especially appreciated. If you have something you would want to donate, please contact Kathryn at 773-325-2167 or kdegraff@depaul.edu.

Before the actual luncheon, Doug Davis of Fidelity and Brett Hammond from TIAA/CREF presented a short program on questions and concerns about today’s economy. It was very enlightening. If anyone who was there, or anyone who missed the program, would like to make an appointment for a one-on-one session with either TIAA/CREF or Fidelity, please see the contact information included in the article below. Three important points raised were: (1) know your asset allocation; (2) make sure you are diversified; and (3)
stay the course. Another information session is being planned for October before benefits renewal time.

Weathering the Volatile Market Presentation

On the morning of the Spring Luncheon, representatives from TIAA-CREF and Fidelity Investments presented an overview of the current economic situation and its potential impact on retirement savings. Brett Hammond of TIAA-CREF and Douglas Davis of Fidelity Investments offered insight about how the housing market and credit crisis have affected our financial markets. The scope and rapidity of the market losses experienced recently have caused investors to question how they can manage their long-term investments. Those nearing or new to retirement have a great deal of concern about whether they will be able to realize their goals and weather the storm.

The message from TIAA-CREF and Fidelity was clear:

- Investors should work with a trusted financial advisor, someone who understands the financial markets and can help you evaluate your portfolio.
- Asset allocation is critical. Diversifying your portfolio is the most important thing you can do. Take a hard look at your allocation between riskier and less risky investments.
- Stay invested to take full advantage of future market upturns.
- Continue to take the long view and avoid market timing. It is difficult to know when the market is topping out, and even more difficult to know when it’s bottoming out.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to schedule an individual counseling session with a financial advisor, contact TIAA-CREF at 800-842-2005 or www.tiaa-cref.org/moc, or Fidelity Investments at 800-642-7131 or www.fidelity.com/atwork/reservations.

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Our next DES luncheon will be held on Friday, October 30, beginning with a remembrance Mass. Bob Kozoman is expected to speak on DePaul’s master plan. Please plan on attending!
Annual Benefits Enrollment and Benefit Plan Information

Look for more details in September regarding a special Annual Benefits Enrollment session for retirees eligible for benefits through DePaul University. Beginning in 2009, the Prescription Drug Program for participants enrolled DePaul’s BlueCross/BlueShield medical plans changed slightly. If there is a generic version available for your prescription, the pharmacist will dispense the generic. If you choose the brand drug, you will pay the difference between the generic and the brand. If there is no generic equivalent available for your prescription, or if the physician specifies “May not substitute” or “Dispense as written,” you are not required to pay the difference.

If you have questions, you may contact the Benefits Department at 312-362-8500.

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Alumni get-togethers will be held in various states, beginning this year. A meeting has already been held in February in Arizona, where a number of our retirees reside. All retirees residing in the state in which the reunion will be held will receive invitations to the event. Please feel free to come and meet and greet old friends and faculty members. Also please keep in mind that DePaul’s reunion weekend will be held October 16-18 this year. Save the date now and plan on attending!

As an added note, to receive the alumni news e-mail, you have to subscribe on their website: https://alumni.depaul.edu/login/system_login.asp.

New retirees this year include Kristine Garrigan (English Department), Carol Wren (School of Education), Peter Pereira (School of Education), and M. Cherif Bassiouni (College of Law).

On a much sadder note, the DES lost a number of members this year. FATHER NICHOLAS AMICO, PAULIS ANSTRATS, DONALD DEWEY, MANFRED FRINGS, MARGARET GURNIG, DAVID JUSTICE, GERRY KREYCHE, VIRGINIA MERTENS, and LAVON RASCO all passed away recently. Father Amico was a professor emeritus in the Department of Religious Studies. He retired in 1995 after 25 years of service and moved to Oak Park, MI. He founded the Overseas and Continental Independent Missionary Association and worked in Ecuador and Guatemala for many years in various clinics and service agencies that he had established. Those who would like to remember Father Amico might send a contribution to OCIMA at P.O. Box 952, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 48303-0952. Paulis Anstrats was an...
emeritus professor who taught German language and literature, comparative literature, and history of civilization at DePaul from 1964 until his retirement in 1990. He passed away at the age of 84. Gerry Kreyche, former chair of the philosophy department, served the university for 39 years. He spent his retirement years living out his childhood dreams and life’s passion for the American West by living in southwestern Colorado. He cherished every day of living out West – from rodeos to cattle auctions to participating in cattle drives. Virginia Mertens passed away at the age of 78. She was a staff retiree who worked at the university from 1952 until her retirement in 1990. During her long tenure at DePaul she worked both in the Treasurer’s Office and the Library. Lavon Rasco, an emeritus professor in the Department of English, taught at DePaul from 1961 to 1990. He resided in Ohio after his retirement. May they rest in peace.

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Following is a featured article by our own Al Kipp. This article was written at the request of the editor. Thanks, Al!

A DAY IN PARADISE

My wife and I moved to Hilton Head Island three years ago. She is an elementary school teacher and a native of South Carolina, and I run my own tutoring and editing business, which is nearly zero since the economy imploded. Life here is as expensive as Chicago, my home town except for three years in the army which I spent in tropical climates; so I am used to heat and humidity, which is no worse than Chicago summer days. The climate is mild in winter and nobody misses the ice and snow, but there is an urbanity that is lacking, with about 35,000 residents, and the population swells to more than 60,000 during holidays and summers when the snowbirds arrive.

Now and then I talk with one of my neighbors, also retired, who is from Boston, and he misses the city and the Red Sox as much as I miss Chicago and the Cubs. We fantasize about a Cubs–Red Sox World Series. Summer sun or thunderstorm, he says whimsically, “Another day in paradise.” We keep an eye out during the long hurricane season, ready to evacuate on two days’ notice.

You’ve got to have a car for public transportation is nearly nonexistent, and I fantasize about the rattle and screech of the El and the subway. Many wealthy people live here and they drive their Mercedes Benzes dangerously out of old eyes. The tourists don’t know where they’re going, and the locals don’t believe in traffic rules. A large Latino population does the menial jobs, replacing the dwindling African–American population. Those that are left are Gullahs, a patois of African languages and English, most of whom were fleeced out of their land long ago, but who maintain a vibrant culture.

I continue to write poetry when the spirit moves me, and I am occasionally published, as I was recently in an area magazine. I read about DePaul, and remember my 30 years there (not counting my student days) fondly. I hope with all the growth it hasn’t lost its charm. It seems now that almost everybody is a vice president.

So, wide golden beaches here (which I do not fancy that much), but I pool walk every day and do my exercises and watch my diet. I’ve had several surgeries, but I am in good health and don’t feel 70 or a
“senior citizen.” There are many festivals, the arts flourish, the library is quite good and I keep busy. The economy has cut into our lifestyle, but we see the Latinos working in the heat and often riding beat-up bicycles to work.

Another day in paradise? It isn't a sense of place, but Paradise is beyond this world, but often paradise is in my own head. I am not retired! And I refuse to ignore the passage of time on the many golf courses which dot the island. My life is mine to think and feel, no matter where I am.

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Please remember to keep in touch. I appreciate any and all updates. I can be reached at 196 Fairview, Elmhurst, IL, 60126; by phone at 630-279-7025; or e-mail at nrospend@depaul.edu.

Nancy Rospenda
Editor
DES Spring Luncheon
May 14, 2009

Tom Kewley, Bro. Leo Ryan, Jeanne Maloney, Pat Kemp, and Karen Stark

Fran Ryan, D.C. and Regina Waters

Tom and Maureen Fuechtmann with Nancy Rospenda

Scholarship recipient Elliot Pence and Denny Shea

Ellin Kelly, Charles Schulz, and Mary Hie

Joan Meister, Doris Brown, Alice Kopan, and Kathryn DeGraff