

# DEPAUL EMERITUS SOCIETY

## Newsletter ☼ September 2019



The Spring DES luncheon was held on May 1 in the Student Center. Our group has now become so large that we get the big room on the first floor! About 100 retirees feasted on a pear, almond, goat cheese, cranberry mixed green salad, chicken aspic, mashed potatoes and ta-da – cheese cake. Yum.

The three board members whose terms were up this June (Jerry Goldman, Marty Kalin, and Nancy Rospenda) all agreed to run again, and a unanimous voice vote secured their upcoming three-year term. Surprisingly, no one in the audience volunteered to run! ☺

Susan Kosinski announced that five scholarships have been awarded to needy students (\$2000 to \$2500 each) due to the generosity of our members. We exceeded our donation total from last year of more than \$21,000 which enables us to help even more students. This is especially awesome since the new tax laws that went into effect do not benefit taxpayers with regard to charitable donations unless you are a BIG donor.

An attempt by Nancy Rospenda to pry news from retirees was made when she announced that she was going to run for President (of the U.S.) on the MNGA platform – Make the Newsletter Great Again. Any donations of news would be greatly appreciated to further her campaign ([nrospend@depaul.edu](mailto:nrospend@depaul.edu)).

A video collection of photos from the luncheon is available for viewing at <https://youtu.be/ThhhUYpA76s> and on the DES news blog at <http://desretirees.blogspot.com/>

The DES is continuing to sponsor the Oral History Project. The latest interviewee was Rosemary Skoczylas and her interview is posted on the Mission and Ministry website at <https://offices.depaul.edu/mission-ministry/programming-and-services/des/Pages/default.aspx>. We'd love to hear your stories too! If you'd like to participate in this project, please reply to Alice Farrell ([afarrell@depaul.edu](mailto:afarrell@depaul.edu)) or our interviewer Jean Bryan ([jbryan@depaul.edu](mailto:jbryan@depaul.edu)) to get the ball rolling.

Our guest speaker was DePaul's President, Dr. A. Gabriel Esteban. He began his talk with a number of accomplishments and awards that DePaul has accumulated in the past year. Some of the highlights of his talk included the fact that DePaul's gaming program was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> nationally and number one in the Midwest; its film program was 13<sup>th</sup> in the country, thanks in large part to its affiliation with CineSpace. DePaul's entrepreneurship program is in the top 20 in the country, as is its intellectual property program. In the country, DePaul's accounting program has attained the status of number one. Dr. Esteban also mentioned quite a number of new initiatives and the strategic plan to retain 84% to 85% of freshmen. A discussion of whether DePaul should return to the semester system is also in the works.

*Hmmm...yet another day has passed and I did not use algebra once...very interesting!*

The DES Book Club is zipping along. We have been reading a wide variety of books, alternating between fiction and non-fiction. August's book was *Born a Crime* by TV host Trevor Noah, dealing with his life under apartheid. He details a very personal account of being "half-white, half-black" in a country where his birth "violated any number of laws, statutes and regulations." Our April read was *the Third Coast: When Chicago Built the American Dream* by Tomas Dyja. This



book covered many aspects of the cultural, social, and political aspects of Chicago during the period after WWII through 1960. The product of comprehensive and expansive research was combined with authorial conjectures about habits and personalities of prominent figures. A rewarding and interesting read.

Our February book, *The Things They Carried*, generated a heated discussion on whether or not it was fiction or fact. Tim O'Brien's fictionalized story of his time in Vietnam during the '60s caused some readers to discount it as just his fantasy of his experiences, while others argued strongly that sometimes what is made up can provide more insight in the humanity of the men and their situation than any factual account. A book truly demonstrated the power of language and the ability to evoke emotion in characters.

The book club welcomes new members. Our meetings are held bi-monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will take place on October 2 in the Richardson Library. For more information, you can contact [kdegraff@depaul.edu](mailto:kdegraff@depaul.edu).

Heads up – the next DES luncheon will take place on campus on Thursday, October 24.  
The luncheon will be preceded by the annual All Souls Mass in the chapel.  
Watch for your invitation by email!

*Stop killing buffalo for their wings!*



A suggestion was made at our last committee meeting that if you have a Medicare Advantage OTC card that you don't need for that specific month, it would be a great idea if you used it to purchase things like toothbrushes, toothpaste, bandages, or other non-medical items and donate them to your local food pantry. This would put those OTC cards to good use and not waste your monthly benefit.

*You drop something when you're younger and you just pick it up.  
You drop something when you are older, you stare at it for a bit,  
deciding if you actually need it anymore.*

Remember that DES has a blog ([desretirees.blogspot.com](http://desretirees.blogspot.com)) and a Facebook group (enter DePaul Emeritus Society in the search box). To be fully involved and connected with your fellow retirees, check them out!

## MAKING YOUR MARK

Rich Goode

Back in May, I presented a seminar on will, trusts and estate planning after the DES luncheon. Thankfully, everything seemed to go well. The evaluation forms I got back were very complimentary. I am pleased that the information we shared was helpful to those who were there. If you missed, I'd be happy to meet up to help you with your questions about estate planning.



I am still in the process of following up with folks from the seminar who requested more information. A week or so after the seminar, I had coffee with a husband and wife who attended and had questions about their particular situation. This service is available to all DES members. I truly enjoy meeting with DePaul retirees and help them navigate the sometimes complicated subjects of wills, estate taxes, etc.

This couple I met with is typical of many DES members I have gotten to know. Their primary estate planning objective is making sure family needs are met. We talked about the ways to structure their plan to make this happen. They also want to give back to DePaul to ensure that the good work they devoted their career to will continue to thrive. Because we are more interconnected than ever, they want to make an impact in international business studies so our graduates are ready for the world. I am lucky to be working on this with them.

This is the great joy and privilege of my work. After taking care of family, good and generous people want to help others in gratitude for all they have received. I am blessed to help them accomplish this worthy goal. I always say, there are a lot of ways to change the world for the better. Helping young people get educations that will equip them to make a positive difference is a pretty good way to make your mark.

*Ban pre-shredded cheese. Make America grate again!*

### DID YOU KNOW THAT...



For the second year in a row, the Peace Corps named DePaul to its list of top volunteer-producing colleges and universities. Currently, 19 DePaul alumni volunteer in 15 countries around the world, including China, Mongolia, Madagascar, Senegal, Botswana and Ukraine. According to the Peace Corps, since the agency's founding in 1961, nearly 400 alumni from DePaul have served abroad.

The film *St. Frances*, directed by Alex Thompson, a 2017 graduate of the College of Computing and Digital Media and produced by James Choi and Raphael Nash, School of Cinematic Arts faculty, was among the winners at the 2019 South by Southwest Conference and Festivals held in March. It received the Special Jury Recognition for Breakthrough Voice "for its realness and diverse vision. This film tackled complex issues about family, politics, religion, and women's lives with a light touch that never felt preachy." The movie was also named a 2019 SXSW Film Festival Audience Award winner.

The new musical *Miracle* follows the Cubs' 2016 season through the eyes of one hard-working Chicago family. Alumnus Bill Marovitz is the show's creator and producer and he's joined by director Damon Kiely, current chair of the Performance, Directing, and Acting Department at DePaul. The show premiered at the Royal George in May.

Lori Lightfoot, new mayor of Chicago, drafted a number of DePaul leaders to work on her transition team. They included Jeff Bethke (DePaul EVP and CFO); Suzanne Carlberg-Racich (assistant prof in the Master of Public Health Program); Jose Padilla (VP and General Counsel); Geoff Smith (executive director of the Institute for Housing Studies); and Sonia Soltero (associate professor and chair of the Department of Leadership, Language and Curriculum). They all served as unpaid advisors for a number of teams and committees. Impressive!

Check out <https://resources.depaul.edu/demon-discounts/pages/default.aspx> and <https://alumni.depaul.edu/Benefits/AlumniDiscounts> for deals available to alumni and retirees  
Save a few dollars here, a few dollars there...

DePaul's new music building, the Holtschneider Performance Center, was named one of the top ten Best of the Arts Buildings in Chicago in 2018. It is a musical nexus that will benefit not only DePaul students but the city at large. Its spaciousness, beauty and versatility are amazing.

More than 300 faculty are listed in the DePaul Experts Guide, a searchable online database for journalists that is updated annually. Journalists can access the database directly, and the DePaul Newsroom team references the guide to quickly find faculty who are willing to be quoted in the news.

The new CBS drama *The Red Line* is being filmed in Chicago and originated from two Chicago theater veterans, playwright Caitlin Parrish and director Erica Weiss. They have worked as a team since meeting at DePaul University and are credited as creators and showrunners on the CBS series.

To memorialize DePaul's Vincentian heritage, Brother Mark Elder, C.M., and his art students developed a project to paint murals on the pillars beneath the Fullerton "L" platform. Designed to celebrate 120 years of achievement and diversity at the university, the murals beautify a much-used but barren part of the campus. The pillars have been divided into groups of four, where each group represents a 20-year span of history at DePaul. Learn more and view a photo gallery at [https://www.wescover.com/p/murals-by-mark-elder-cm-at-depaul-university-belden-and-sheffield-chicago-il--Pr1FB3G\\_nDf](https://www.wescover.com/p/murals-by-mark-elder-cm-at-depaul-university-belden-and-sheffield-chicago-il--Pr1FB3G_nDf). As an aside, did you know the impressive mural in the student lounge on the second floor of the science building was painted by none other than Mark Rospenda?

Edward Anderson coached the DePaul football team (yes, football!) from 1925-31. He was the captain of the football team while at Notre Dame, where he played under Knute Rockne.

*I still have a landline – or as I like to call it, a cell phone finder.*

**CURTIS VERSCHOOR** passed away in January at the age of 87. He was the Ledger and Quill professor of accountancy since 1974 and Emeritus since 1994. He authored 12 books and more than 250 journal articles in addition to a monthly column on business ethics. Curt is survived by his wife Marie Emilie, four children, twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at the Barrington United Methodist Church.



**DIANE DOHERTY** passed away on January 25, 2018. No further information is available.

**NICK KOSTOPOULOS**, who served in Public Safety until he retired in 1998, passed away last December at the age of 92. He is the father of Nicholas Kostopoulos, Jr., who currently serves in Public safety. Nick is survived by three children and three grandchildren.

**DRUSILLA DILLARD** passed away in February at the age of 59. She served in the Law Library from 1993 until her retirement in 2015. A loving sister and doting aunt, Drusilla was kind and friendly, never failing to offer a smile and welcoming "hello" to everyone she met.

**JACK LEAHY**, retired professor in Religious Studies, passed away in January at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife, Elayne Morrey, three step daughters, 11 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren. Jack joined the faculty in 1971 and retired in 2006. Best known for his long commitment to student-centered learning, he pioneered the teaching of business ethics for undergraduates. Jack served as director of the foreign study program, where he established numerous study abroad programs and oversaw faculty study trips. He also developed the Irish Studies Program and taught a course on the "troubles" in Northern Ireland. In all these efforts, Jack treated others with humanity and grace. He was active in the Illinois chapter of the AAUP and served as its president from 1999-2000. Upon his retirement from DePaul, he received the Via Sapientiae award.



**JEAN BRYAN's** son was married the weekend before the luncheon. The wedding was held in a vineyard near Sacramento. Jean and Thom also took the opportunity to tour the area for two weeks, a tour which included some wineries. **SISTER JANE GERARD** is working in Archives of her community two days a week and plays the piano for hymns at Mass at the Nazareth senior living. She is also an occasional lector or cantor or planner there where she resides. Sister Jane also does a bit of Spiritual Direction. She belongs to two book clubs. She is definitely involved and enjoying life. **FRANK DINELLO** played in a golf tournament on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! All 8 of his grandchildren visited him for his birthday. He states that his wife Ann and all his kids and grandkids are all healthy and doing well. Good genes in that family! **ROSEMARY SKOCZYLAS** is joining the celebration of the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her graduation from Immaculata High School by attending a reception at the Chateau Ritz in Niles. Concurrently she is commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her graduation with a B.A. from DePaul. Time flies when you're having fun! **CHRIS KEYS** writes that his final doctoral advisee, Crystal Steltenpohl, started playing video games at 5. When he asked her what she wanted to study for her dissertation research, she said "the community psychology

of gaming.” Over the last four years they conducted several studies and learned how central computer games are to the next generations. Today hundreds of millions worldwide play games for enjoyment. **JOEL SCHAFFER** and his wife recently returned from Ecuador (Cuenca) and are going on an Alaskan cruise in September. Joel’s wife Marilyn retired from the Lincoln Park Zoo in June. Looks like they are taking full advantage of retirement! **ELLEN KELLY’S** family has expanded by two. Ellen welcomed two great-grandchildren recently – Ashling James and Nuala Derrig. Congratulations! **PAUL CAMENISCH** and his wife Bonnie have moved into senior living at Westminster Place in Evanston. They also continue to spend several months of the year in Albuquerque, NM where their daughter and her family live. Something tells me that those might just be winter months! Last year the DePaul chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars awarded **FRANK TAVANO** an Honorary Membership at the national level. In April, **MARY LU LINNANE** visited Peru. From there she flew and bused to the Amazon for a three-day boat trip, where she kayaked and swam and enjoyed wildlife and Pisco Sours. Back on a plane to the Sacred Valley and Machu Pichu and on to Cusco. **MIKE MEZEY** writes that he was recently elected to the Village Council of Friendship Heights, a small village just outside Washington, DC. He told his colleagues that in his years at DePaul he chaired more meetings than he cared to remember and wasn’t sure he wanted to do that anymore, but they prevailed on him to accept the position. **OWAIS SUCCARI** just returned from a delightful visit to Changdu, China, the home of the panda! In 2019 **EFFAT MOUSSA** traveled to Chile, Argentina, and Brazil after having back surgery in 2018. Effat also visited her children and three grandchildren in CA. Two book clubs are also keeping Effat busy. **NANCY WILLIAMS** traveled to Stratford, Canada to attend the Shakespeare plays. Her botanical painting of tulips and bulbs was juried selected for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Botanical Art Exhibition at Filoli, a prominent botanical art exhibition held at the Filoli Gardens in Woodside, CA. Her art website is [www.susiewilliamsbotanicalart.com](http://www.susiewilliamsbotanicalart.com) under her nickname Susie. From art to the art of teaching. **RORY FOSTER’S** book, *Ballet Pedagogy: The Art of Teaching* was recently translated in Korean and published by Sungkyunkwan University Press in Seoul, SK. **TOM DOLAN** proudly announces the birth of his first great-grandchild on December 13, 2018 – a little girl named Rivka (Rebecca). Congratulations! Speaking of grandchildren, **JERRY ROPKA** and wife Barb visited their daughter’s family in Alaska and they see Steven and the boys often. Jerry and Barb say they are doing well. **NANCY ROSPENDA** and husband Bob escaped the polar vortex this winter by spending six weeks away – four in FL and two in SC. The Theatre School is renaming the Fullerton Stage in recognition of **JOHN RANSFORD WATTS** for a generous gift to the School. The 250-seat theatre will now be known as the Dr. John R. and Joyce L. Watts Theatre. **ANDREW SUOZZO JR.** has been busy! He recently was in Palm Springs and multiple locations in CA, Paris for an entire month, Rome, Berlin, Chicago, and Princeton. Upon returning home he began a four-part lecture series entitled “100 Years of LGBT History” at the San Diego LGBT Center. He also recently ran a 15k, a 4-miler, and a 5k and placed first in his age division in all races. Andrew revealed, however, that his times were another story. But still – 3 races!? **ED MEYER** recently celebrated his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. He and Vicki are living in Sarasota, FL. He adds that he appreciates all that the DePaul Community has done for him for so many years.

*Age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying you.*

## BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST: BUDBURST!

Jean Bryan

Jean Bryan has been observed staring at flowers and counting pollinators. Why? Because for the past two years Jean’s been working at the Chicago Botanic Garden with the citizen science project, Budburst. Although she re-retired -- leaving the CBG at the end of March -- she plans to continue observing plants and reporting her observations to the Budburst website. All to help scientists better understand the effects of climate change on our natural world. And YOU can help!

Tracking the timing of these plant life-cycle phenomena (a science called ‘phenology’) helps scientists track how plants respond to climate change. Compare Budburst’s 11 years of leafing, flowering, fruiting, and leaf-drop data, to data collected by Henry David Thoreau at Walden Pond (as R.B. Primack did in his book, *Walden Warming*)! The changes are significant.



Taking an additional step, Budburst recently initiated a focused, three-year research project. The research question? Do pollinators prefer cultivated varieties of native plants (nativars) OR the original native? Waukegan public school students are helping gather the data for the Nativars Research Project (<http://budburst.org/projects/nativars>). Having completed her primary task at the Chicago Botanic Garden – the redesign of the Budburst website – Jean has left the day-to-day running of Budburst to others. Retired... again!

However, you can find her this summer staring at the *Rudbeckia fulgida* (Black-eyed Susans) in her garden and counting the pollinators coming to visit each plant! See the Budburst website at [budburst.org](http://budburst.org) to learn how you can submit your plant phenology and pollinator observations to help tell the story of climate change and how it affects the timing of plant life events. Climate change is real!



Have news items or topics you'd like to see in the newsletter? Send them to [nrospend@depaul.edu](mailto:nrospend@depaul.edu)