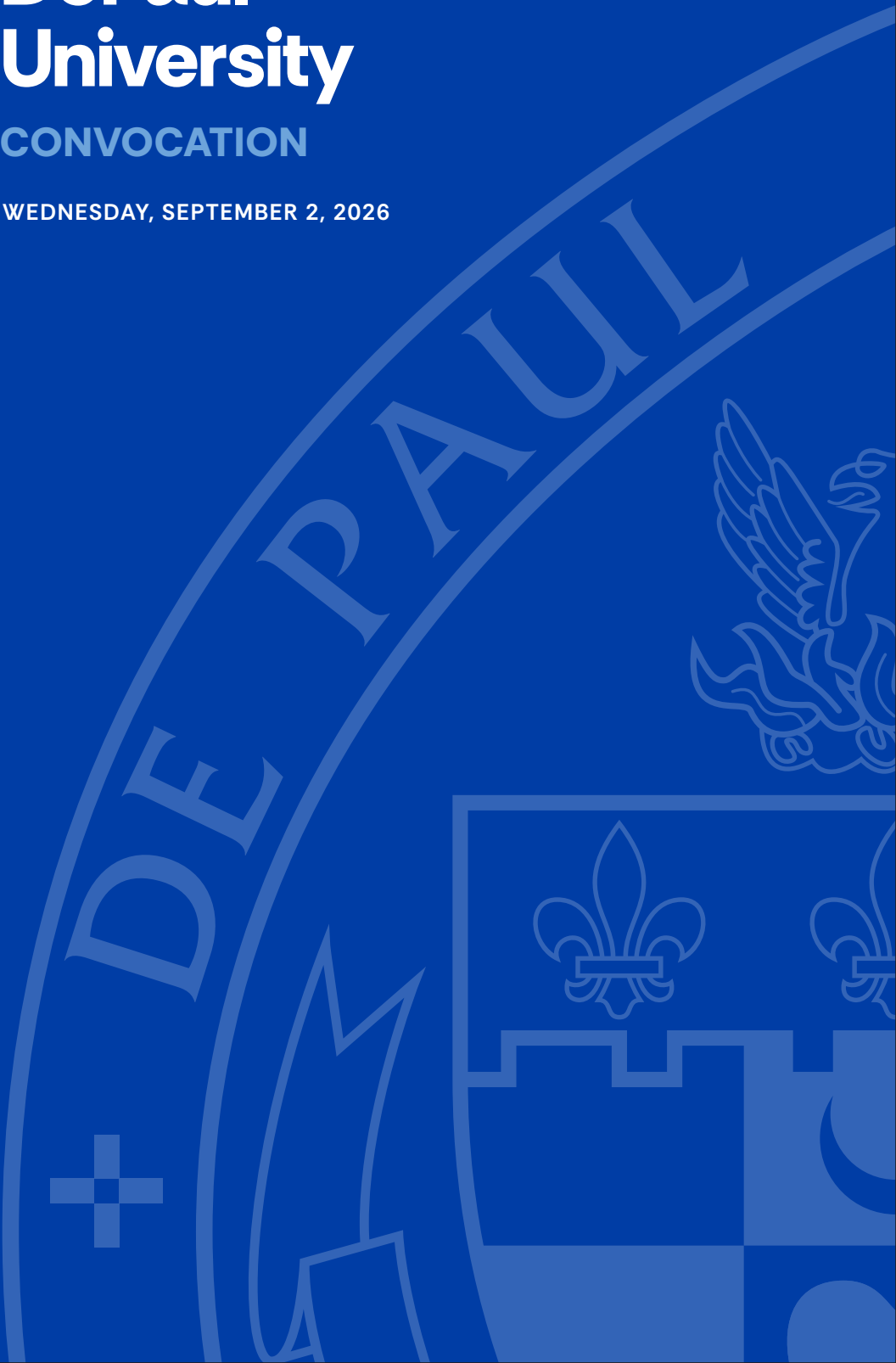


DePaul University

CONVOCATION

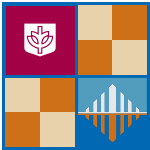
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026



The Banners of DePaul University



COLLEGE OF
COMMUNICATION



DRIEHAUS COLLEGE
OF BUSINESS



COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION



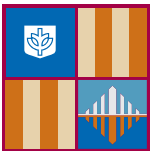
JARVIS COLLEGE OF
COMPUTING AND
DIGITAL MEDIA



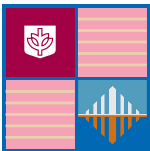
COLLEGE OF
LAW



SCHOOL OF
CONTINUING AND
PROFESSIONAL
STUDIES



COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES



SCHOOL OF
MUSIC



COLLEGE OF
SCIENCE AND
HEALTH



THE THEATRE
SCHOOL

Convocation Program

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Robert Beatty, Director of Music and Community Development, St. Vincent de Paul Parish

UNIVERSITY MARSHAL

Sonia Soltero, Professor, Department of Leadership, Language and Curriculum (COE), and President, Faculty Council

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Russell Ivy, Provost

INVOCATION

Mark Laboe, Interim Vice President, Mission and Ministry

VIA SAPIENTIAE AWARD

Dania Matos, Senior Vice President for Belonging, Engagement and Mission

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

SPIRIT OF INQUIRY AWARD

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Daniela Raicu, Professor, School of Computing (CDM), and Associate Provost for Research

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT FACULTY AWARD

GianMario Besana, Professor, School of Computing (CDM), and Associate Provost for Global Engagement and Online Learning

PROVOST AWARD FOR INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT

Valerie Johnson, Professor, Department of Political Science (LAS), and Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

REMARKS FROM THE PROVOST

Russell Ivy, Provost

PROMOTION AND TENURE RECOGNITION

Russell Ivy, Provost

SPIRIT OF DEPAUL AWARD

Mark Laboe, Interim Vice President, Mission and Ministry

STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD

STAFF COUNCIL ASPASIA LECOMPTE AWARD

Scott Ozarowski, Associate Director, Study Abroad, and President, Staff Council

GERALD PAETSCH ACADEMIC ADVISING AWARD

John Shanahan, Professor, Department of English (LAS), and Associate Provost for Student Success and Accreditation

REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Robert L. Manuel, President

RECESSIONAL

Robert Beatty, Director of Music and Community Development, St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Land Acknowledgment

At DePaul University, we acknowledge that we live and work on traditional Native lands and we appreciate that Chicago is home to one of the largest urban Native populations in the United States.

We extend our respect to all of them, including the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Odawa nations, who signed the Treaty of Chicago in 1821 and 1833.

We also recognize the Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Menominee, Illinois Confederacy, and Peoria people who also maintained relationships with this land.

In the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, we reaffirm our commitment, both as an institution and as individuals, to making our community and our society a more equitable, welcoming, and just place for all.



Recognitions

Via Sapientiae Award

Established in 1961, the Via Sapientiae Award is the highest honor DePaul University has to acknowledge the contributions of those individuals who have devotedly served the purposes and ideals of the university.

Jane Baxter

PROFESSOR

Department of Anthropology (LAS)

Thomas Berry

PROFESSOR

Department of Finance (BUS)

Pascale-Anne Brault

PROFESSOR

Department of Modern Languages (LAS)

Petr Chadraba

PROFESSOR

Department of Marketing (BUS)

Dean Corrin

ASSOCIATE DEAN AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

The Theatre School

Douglas Long

DIRECTOR

First Year Program

Thomas O'Brien

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Department of Religious Studies (LAS)

Warren Schultz

PROFESSOR

Department of History (LAS)

Rose Spalding

PROFESSOR

Department of Political Science (LAS)

Daniel Ursini

LIBRARY ASSISTANT 2

Law Library (LAW)

Peter Vandenberg

EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE DEAN AND PROFESSOR

Department of Writing, Rhetoric and
Discourse (LAS)

Recognitions

Excellence in Teaching Award

In support of the university's core mission, which places the highest priority on programs of instruction and learning, the Quality of Instruction Council selects annual DePaul University Excellence in Teaching Awards. The awards recognize significant achievement in teaching as well as a commitment to the university's teaching mission.

Luisela Alvaray

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
College of Communication

Edward Barnes

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR
Department of Writing, Rhetoric and
Discourse (LAS)

Kyle Barrowman

ADJUNCT FACULTY
College of Communication

Margaret Bell

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Department of Biological Sciences and
Health Sciences (CSH)

William Butterworth

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS
Department of Mathematical Sciences (CSH)

Geoffrey Durso

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Department of Marketing (BUS)

Bright (Yue) Hong

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
School of Accountancy and MIS (BUS)

Kristin Idaszak

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR
The Theatre School

Kavita Khara

ADJUNCT FACULTY
Department of Counseling and
Teacher Education (COE)

Matthew Maguire

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
HISTORY AND CATHOLIC STUDIES
Department of Political Science (LAS)

Lisa Mahoney

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Department of History of Art and
Architecture (LAS)

Gregory Mark

PROFESSOR
College of Law

Molly Mercer

PROFESSOR
School of Accountancy and MIS (BUS)

Jeff Mills

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
The Theatre School

Sanjukta Mukherjee

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Department of Women's and
Gender Studies (LAS)

Barbara Raidl

LECTURER
School of Design (CDM)

Nazli Siasi

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
School of Computing (CDM)

Allen Turner

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
School of Design (CDM)

Javid Validashti

TEACHING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Department of Mathematical Sciences (CSH)

Vince Walsh-Rock

CLINICAL PROFESSOR
Department of Counseling and
Special Education (COE)

Recognitions

Spirit of Inquiry Award

The Spirit of Inquiry Award was established in 2000 in support of the university's belief that the quest for knowledge is the foundation upon which the idea of a university rests, and the purpose that unites both teacher and student. This award honors specific research and scholarly or creative achievements that exhibit commitment to that spirit of creative inquiry, which we endeavor to inspire in our students.

Paul Booth

PROFESSOR

College of Communication

Brad Riddell

PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

School of Cinematic Arts (CDM)

Joseph Mikels

PROFESSOR

Department of Psychology (CSH)

David Wang

KPMG/NEIL F. CASSON ENDOWED PROFESSOR

School of Accountancy and MIS (BUS)

Thiru Ramaraj

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

School of Computing (CDM)

Anuradha Rana

VINCENT DE PAUL PROFESSOR OF CINEMATIC ARTS

AND DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS

School of Cinematic Arts (CDM)

Excellence in Public Service Award

DePaul's specific commitment to service is a distinctive characteristic of the university. Our mission affirms that the university encourages faculty to apply specialized expertise in ways that contribute to the social, economic, cultural, and ethical quality of life in our global community. The purpose of the Excellence in Public Service Award is to honor the significant contributions our faculty have made to the communities in which they are involved.

Yosef Mendelsohn

SENIOR PROFESSIONAL LECTURER

School of Computing (CDM)

James (Jim) Alvarez Mourey

ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MARKETING

Driehaus College of Business

Recognitions

Global Engagement Faculty Award

Global engagement is a cornerstone of DePaul University's mission and reflects our deep commitment to preparing students for leadership in an interconnected world. This year marks the inaugural presentation of the Global Engagement Faculty Award, which honors faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to advancing international education, cross-cultural understanding, and DePaul's global presence. The award celebrates impactful contributions through teaching, research, service, and institutional partnerships that foster meaningful global engagement and enrich the academic and cultural life of the university.

Warren Schultz

PROFESSOR
Department of History (LAS)

Provost Award for Inclusive Engagement

Diversity and inclusion are core values of DePaul University's mission and have been since our founding. Established in 2020, the Provost's Award recognizes individual or groups of faculty members who demonstrate excellence in the pursuit of diversity, equity, and inclusion through scholarship, curricula, programming and outreach, community building, and advocacy.

Group Award

Coya Paz Brownrigg

ASSOCIATE DEAN,
HEAD OF THEATRE ARTS
The Theatre School

Elissa Foster

PROFESSOR
College of Communication

Dustin Goltz

VINCENT DE PAUL PROFESSOR
OF COMMUNICATION
College of Communication

Mary Hansen

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS
University Communications

Mark Laboe

INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT
Division of Mission
and Ministry

Lexa Murphy

DEAN
College of Communication

**Georgianna
Torres Reyes**

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT
Division of Mission
and Ministry

**Guillermo Vasquez
de Velasco**

DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF ART,
MEDIA, AND DESIGN
The Art School (LAS)

David Wellman

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
AND DIRECTOR
The Grace School of Applied
Diplomacy (LAS)

Individual Award

Xavier Perez

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Department of
Criminology (LAS)

Recognitions

Promotion and Tenure

DePaul honors and rewards faculty members for their professional achievements through promotion and tenure, based on the evaluation of their faculty peers.

Olayele Adelakun

School of Computing (CDM)

FULL PROFESSOR

Andreea (Smaranda) Aldea

Department of Philosophy (LAS)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Khadija Ali Vakeel

Department of Management and Entrepreneurship (BUS)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Vahid Alizadeh

School of Computing (CDM)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Sina Ansari

Department of Management and Entrepreneurship (BUS)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Deanna Burgess

Department of Counseling and Special Education (COE)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

James Choi

School of Cinematic Arts (CDM)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Tao (Tony) Deng

College of Communication

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Yi (Allan) Ding

Department of Religious Studies (LAS)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Lori Felker

School of Cinematic Arts (CDM)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Rocio Ferreira

Department of Modern Languages (LAS)

FULL PROFESSOR

Gabriela Gonzalez Aviles

Department of Physics and Astrophysics (CSH)

FULL PROFESSOR

Yuanying (Michelle) Guan

Department of Mathematical Sciences (CSH)

TENURE

Desale Habtezgi

Department of Mathematical Sciences (CSH)

FULL PROFESSOR

Ansuk Jeong

Department of Psychology (CSH)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Jessica Jerome

Department of Health Sciences (CSH)

FULL PROFESSOR

Caitlin Karver

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry (CSH)

FULL PROFESSOR

Wael Kessentini

School of Computing (CDM)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Wei Li

Department of Mathematical Sciences (CSH)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Karl Lockhart

College of Law

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Susana Martinez

Department of Modern Languages (LAS)

FULL PROFESSOR

Ali-Reza Mirsajadi

The Theatre School

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Michelle Neuman

School of Nursing (CSH)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Recognitions

Promotion and Tenure (cont.)

Alexandra (Sasha) Novakovic

Department of Counseling and
Special Education (COE)

FULL PROFESSOR

Rachel (Shelly) Rauvola

Department of Psychology (CSH)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Monica Reyes

Department of Writing, Rhetoric
and Discourse (LAS)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Michelle Stuhlmacher

Department of Geography and GIS (LAS)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Joe Tafoya

Department of Political Science (LAS)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Rafael Vizcaino

Department of Philosophy (LAS)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Jessica Westbrook

School of Design (CDM)

FULL PROFESSOR

Spirit of DePaul Award

The purpose of the Spirit of DePaul Award is to highlight institutional Vincentian values and their relation to the achievement of DePaul's mission, and to personally honor and recognize members of the DePaul community for their leadership and service in the spirit of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Curt Hansman

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Department of History of Art and
Architecture (LAS)

Judy Melgarejo

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT

AND COMMUNICATIONS

Office of the Provost

Ellen Herion Fingado

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT WELLBEING

Belonging, Engagement and Mission

Amy J. Moncher

DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS

Advancement and External Relations

Leonard Jason

PROFESSOR

Department of Psychology (CSH)

Kathy Kelly Hillegonds

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DEAN

Office of the Dean (BUS)

Recognitions

Staff Excellence Award

The Staff Excellence Award is designed to recognize staff members whose work and job-related accomplishments set the standard for service at the university.

Molly Bailey

BUSINESS MANAGER

Office of the Dean (LAS)

Sherry Cwirko

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

EM-Financial Aid Office (BUS)

Cathy Gill

ASSISTANT DEAN OF ACADEMIC ADVISING

Driehaus College of Business

Kelly Hallisy

SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS AND

SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARIAN

University Library

Jonathan Kochan

DIRECTOR, ACADEMIC ANALYTICS AND SCHEDULING

Academic Affairs

Staff Council Aspasia LeCompte Award

The Aspasia LeCompte Award honors the memory of freedom fighter Aspasia LeCompte, who was held in bondage by Vincentian priests, and after having filed multiple freedom suits over a period of twelve years, won liberty for herself and her family in 1839. This award was established to recognize an individual who has demonstrated, over the past year, outstanding achievements, initiatives, and sustained commitment to equity and inclusion as fundamental elements of DePaul's mission.

Laura-Caroline de Lara

DIRECTOR

DePaul Art Museum

Gerald Paetsch Academic Advising Award

Academic advising has long been recognized as a critical contributor to student success and, here at DePaul, as a natural extension of our commitment to Vincentian personalism. As a reflection of our commitment, the university established the Gerald Paetsch Academic Advising Award in 2006 to recognize the university community members who demonstrate excellence in advising undergraduate and graduate students.

Euan Hague

PROFESSOR

Department of Geography and GIS,
School of Public Service (LAS)

Lori Neblung

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

School of Continuing and
Professional Education

Diane Hu

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ADVISING

Driehaus College of Business

David Ramsay

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

School of Computing (CDM)

**Congratulations to
all award recipients!**

**Our thanks to the
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
and our faculty and
staff volunteers.**

