Third Year in Review 2014-2015

Now at its midpoint, DePaul’s strategic plan is producing strong positive results that support student success. Retention and graduation rates have reached record highs, a greater proportion of DePaul students participate in high-impact educational opportunities such as internships, study abroad and service learning than their Carnegie peers; online credit hours are growing, students are increasingly satisfied with how their classes prepare them for their careers, and faculty are pleased with how the university supports their research and creative work. When it comes to our mission, the majority of faculty and staff understand it deeply, can explain it and report that DePaul has an appropriate commitment to it.

INDICATORS ON THE RISE

Six of the eight indicators U.S. News & World Report used to create rankings in “America’s Best Colleges 2015” were at their highest point in a decade at DePaul. The university’s highest rating was for graduation rate performance, followed by retention, student selectivity, faculty resources, financial resources and alumni giving. DePaul ranked 121 of 281 national universities.

LAUNCHING CAREERS

Career preparation is one of the important outcomes students seek from their education, and DePaul is delivering. DePaul students who graduated in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree are employed at a rate that is 16 percent higher than the national average. For students working in full-time jobs, coursework and internships have helped them launch the careers of their choice as evidenced by the 85 percent who are working in jobs related to their degrees. At DePaul and nationally, entrepreneurship and self-employment are increasingly popular career paths for graduates.

RECORD RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

Overall first-year retention as well as four-year and six-year graduation rates are the highest in DePaul’s history. Highlights for first-time full-time degree-seeking freshmen include a first-year retention rate of 87 percent, a six-year graduation rate of 71 percent and a four-year graduation rate of 59 percent. DePaul outperformed the median values of 25 peer institutions in each category in 2013, the most recent data available.
MIXING ONLINE AND ON-CAMPUS CLASSES

Online learning continues to gain popularity among students at all levels of the university. Digital courses grew to 12 percent of total credit hours in academic year 2014-15. Nearly 5,000 students took at least one course online in the 2014 fall quarter, including about 22 percent of undergraduates and 21 percent of graduate students. DePaul is responding to students who need flexibility and is helping them graduate faster. Online courses also expand DePaul’s national reach by providing access to students living outside the Chicago metro area.

FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East is a hub of entrepreneurial activity, and DePaul is delivering its expertise in the region. DePaul already has more than 500 MBA graduates in Bahrain, and recently, it launched the Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al-Thani Center for Entrepreneurship in the Middle East at the Driehaus College of Business. The new center promotes entrepreneurship in Qatar and connects entrepreneurs in Doha and Chicago. A group of DePaul MBA students spent a week in Qatar in late 2014, gaining an insider’s perspective on Qatar’s growing economy.

CHICAGO UNIVERSITIES ARE AN ECONOMIC FORCE

Led by DePaul and the University of Chicago, a group of 17 Chicago colleges and universities formed America’s Urban Campus to study and highlight higher education’s contributions to Chicago. The study revealed that Chicago universities are a vital economic and educational force in the city and support its social and cultural well-being in important and measurable ways. Participating institutions enroll more than 216,000 students, contribute $10.8 billion to Chicago’s economy, have created 46,000 jobs and have educated one of every four degree Chicago residents.

OUT FRONT ON DIVERSITY

DePaul’s commitment to diversity starts at the top and was recognized in 2015 by Diversity MBA magazine, which named DePaul to its Ten Best in Class for Accountability and Board Diversity. The university also was ranked 20th in the 2015 50 Out Front Best Places for Women & Diverse Managers to Work. This recognition honors the value DePaul places on making the university an open and welcome place that supports advancement for professional women and people of color.

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN COMBINE TO FORM NEW SCHOOL

The depth of expertise DePaul offers in the field of design and a growing need for technology designers prompted DePaul to launch a new School of Design in the College of Computing and Digital Media. The school caters to students seeking to collaborate on game design, graphic design, new technologies and social practices. The school integrates a range of tools that connect students with expert communities, audiences, and colleges inside and beyond the university. Several specialty labs support students studying design, including the Gameplay Lab, Animation Lab and Graphic Design Studio.
QUALITY MATTERS TO FACULTY,
TEACHING ONLINE

Thirty-two faculty members from seven colleges who completed DePaul’s Online Teaching Series (DOTS) achieved a perfect score in the DePaul internal Quality Matters (QM) course review in the 2014-15 fiscal year, bringing the total number of perfect scores by DePaul faculty to 128. QM is a nationally recognized rubric that DePaul uses to review online and hybrid courses developed through the DOTS program. Faculty Instructional Technology Services is now elevating the award to QM+ by adding pedagogically distinctive features of DePaul online courses to the rubric so courses not only meet national standards, but fulfill criteria that ensure DePaul courses deliver an exceptional educational experience.

TRANSFER STUDENTS GRADUATE

Transfer students do very well at DePaul. Cooperative agreements like the DePaul Admission Partnership Program help students make a smooth transition from 18 local community colleges without losing time or credits, and a tailored orientation enables them to navigate the university quickly. Nearly half of all DePaul graduates in recent years are transfer students. Indeed, about 47 percent of students who earned their diplomas in June 2015 came to the university as transfer students.

FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

Fulbright grants are among the most prestigious in the world, and a record-setting six DePaul students won them in the past year. Cultural exchange is at the heart of the Fulbright program. One DePaul student will study in Lithuania to work on cross-European Union migrant support projects for the International Organization for Migration in Vilnius. Collaborating with scholars in Wuppertal, Germany, another awardee will critique the anti-Semitism of Martin Heidegger. A third will visit Turkey and facilitate conversations and friendship between American and Turkish students.

INNOVATION IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

DePaul has developed an award-winning first-year study abroad program. “Only a few institutions are doing anything like this,” says Director Nobi Hayashi. Freshmen enroll in a focal point seminar, such as the literature of Dublin, where they learn a new way of thinking about the meaning of place and personal identity by reading about and visiting it. This program received the Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education and capitalizes on two of DePaul’s strengths—faculty-driven programming and a robust first-year liberal studies curriculum. Student participants of the program have higher GPAs and graduation rates than their peers, study abroad again in higher percentages and are twice as likely to learn a foreign language.

STUDENT SUCCESS @ DEPAUL

Making support resources as convenient for students as possible, the Office for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment gathered all tutoring offerings across campus and consolidated information about them on a single website. The StudentSuccess@DePaul website provides students with details about DePaul’s academic support services and other resources, such as mentoring and wellness programs. So far the site has logged more than 11,000 visits.
DePaul experts are sharing successful strategies on the university’s retention initiatives to enable more students across the country to attain their educational goals. “Reframing Retention Strategy for Institutional Improvement” is a book targeted to higher education professionals that was written by staff in Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management and Marketing, along with other experts. It outlines how the profile of admitted students, the ways universities facilitate student progress toward graduation and the support they give students leads to the promise of a college diploma. DePaul’s use of this strategy has enabled it to continually improve graduation rates in recent years, exceeding the rate predicted by the composition of the student body.

The Institute of Global Homelessness hosted an international conference to launch a movement to end homelessness worldwide. With researchers, practitioners and policymakers representing nearly 30 countries across six continents, those gathered committed to restoring urgency to the public health crisis that homelessness has become and, working collaboratively, eradicate it. The institute is based at DePaul University and is a joint effort with London-based Depaul International, which successfully houses about 13,000 homeless people in six countries each year.

Religions instill a moral code, often in childhood. But in combat, military personnel may have to act contrary to their moral values and can, therefore, suffer long-term psychological injury. The Steans Center Egan Office of Urban Education and Community Partnership is collaborating with the Veteran’s Administration on the Multi-Faith Veteran Support Project to reconnect returned vets and their families with their faith communities and behavioral health resources. So far, religious organizations on Chicago’s West Side, Mid-South Side and Far South Side are receiving education on how to support vets who suffer from moral injury or post-traumatic stress disorder or who may be suicidal. The program’s goal is to enable military families to become assets to their communities. Partner sites are the Apostolic Church of God, Trinity United Church of Christ, Arthur Lockhart Resource Institute and DePaul University. The McCormick Foundation funded the project.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching renewed DePaul’s Community Engagement classification for 10 years, making DePaul one of just 11 universities in Illinois to receive the 2015 designation. The title recognizes the deeper, more sophisticated engagement of named universities with their communities and is an honor only 361 campuses across the country hold from the premier national higher education research and advocacy organization.

From entrepreneurship to video game design to theatre, publications in the know are giving DePaul high marks. For example, The Hollywood Reporter praises The Theatre School as one of the top 25 drama schools in the world at which to earn a master’s of fine arts degree, and ranks the School of Cinema and Interactive Media in the nation’s Top 25. Both our graduate and undergraduate entrepreneurship programs as well as the game design program are ranked in the top 25 nationally by The Princeton Review. Meanwhile, U.S. corporate tax hiring authorities say DePaul’s tax LL.M. program is one of the top 20 in the country.
CAREER SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Ensuring students with disabilities successfully transition into the workplace is the focus of DePaul’s new Springboard to Success career placement initiative. The project also educates employers on how they can assist these employees in realizing their career goals. Employers attending the Career Center’s Just in Time job fair received important information identifying characteristics of various disabilities and how to work with employees who have them. This is vital for students who have “invisible” disabilities such as autism, learning disabilities and mental health disorders. As part of the initiative, a career club has been established that offers workshops on job search skills. Chicagoland employers serve as volunteers to counsel students.

HEALTH LAW AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ENDOwed

DePaul’s health law and intellectual property programs were ranked among the nation’s top 25 in 2016 by U.S. News & World Report. Now, a new $5 million endowment from the Jaharis Family Foundation at the College of Law is expanding and strengthening these programs. The Health Law Institute gained an endowed directorship, and a new faculty fellowship program will enable faculty to create scholarship and curricula at the intersection of intellectual property and health law. The gift also allows the college to offer a new competitive internship program for up to 20 students committed to practicing intellectual property and health law.

ST. VINCENT’S HANDWRITTEN LETTERS GO DIGITAL

Eight letters penned by Vincent de Paul are the latest addition to DePaul’s burgeoning collection of Vincentiana. The university is already recognized as the premier international site for Vincentian historical research, and this addition delivers one more resource to the research community. Scholars around the world can now access high-resolution images of the handwritten letters online and read them in their original French or in English translation. Digital versions of the originals enable scholars to interpret Vincent’s revisions and emphases in ways that cannot be gleaned from a printed book of his writings and offer insight into the socioeconomic, political and cultural context of 17th-century France.

MANAGING STUDENT LEARNING

The Desire2Learn (D2L) learning management system at DePaul facilitates a high quality learning experience for students who live in a digital world. Courses using D2L increased from 3,019 in fall 2013 to 3,274 in fall 2014, an 8 percent rise that now includes usage in 56 percent of all DePaul courses, the highest usage rate since the university introduced learning management systems in the late 1990s. D2L supplements the physical classroom by fostering a sense of community via discussion boards, enables faculty to deliver just-in-time teaching and provides easier access to course materials, among other features.
**ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO USAGE EXPANDS**

Electronic portfolios enable students to integrate and reflect on their learning from professional, curricular and co-curricular experiences. Since integrating e-portfolios in 2010, DePaul students, faculty and staff have created more than 40,000 digital portfolios. In the 2014-15 academic year, e-portfolios were used in over 1,800 courses. Through e-portfolios, students can digitally represent their ideas, thoughts, processes and work to others. The curation of content in this new genre contributes to students' career preparation and allows students to represent themselves more fully to potential employers and graduate schools.

**DRIEHAUS GRADUATES ARE CAREER READY**

In response to a self-study and consultation with industry, all academic departments in the Driehaus College of Business now offer required coursework in career preparedness or embed career preparedness into existing coursework. Both efforts help ensure students are ready for the world of work upon graduation. For example, the Career Management for Accountants course is now a requirement for all accounting undergraduates. In it, students learn to write a polished business email, enhance interview skills, create a strong resume and work effectively in small groups, meeting employers’ expectations that graduates are well equipped with self-management and career-building skills. Departments also implemented industry-specific co-curricular programs to enhance career readiness.

**HURDLING THE BAR**

DePaul law students who took the Illinois Bar Examination in July 2014 passed at a higher rate than the state average on their first attempt. The same is true for DePaul’s repeat takers, who passed at an even higher margin than others in Illinois. Much of the credit for this accomplishment is due to DePaul’s ability to attract talented students, the quality of the academic program offered, and the effectiveness of the college’s bar preparation program.

**INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION**

DePaul has about 40 degree programs that consist of courses from at least two departments. That number is increasing with support from the Provost’s Collaborative Research Fellowship Program, Collaborative Research Grants and Collaborative Instruction Fellow Stipends, three new programs that offer financial incentives and resources to spur collaboration that produces new insights. DePaul is sparking innovation through collaboration by accelerating faculty interaction across colleges and disciplines with the goal of developing new interdisciplinary research, scholarship, creative activities and curricula.

**THE FUNERAL ORATION FOR VINCENT DE PAUL**

The first translation of Vincent de Paul’s eulogy from its original 17th century French has been published and provides modern scholars with a new resource detailing the strategic arguments for Vincent’s canonization. Delivered by Bishop Henri de Maupas du Tour in 1660, it is the first public reflection on Vincent’s life following his death and sets the stage for his eventual sainthood. This translation of Vincent’s eulogy into contemporary English offers detailed annotation and historical context by the Rev. Edward Udovic, C.M., which is a goldmine for Vincentian scholars.
NEW INSTITUTE EXPLORES JAPANESE EDUCATION STYLE

The College of Education established the Institute for Daisaku Ikeda Studies in Education, the first such university-affiliated institute in North America. It was created to research and promote value-creating pedagogy drawn from the philosophy and practice of renowned Japanese educators Daisaku Ikeda, Josei Toda and Tsunesaburo Makiguchi. Value-creating pedagogy has a broad international following in part because it speaks to newer teachers, equipping them to meet many of education’s most challenging circumstances.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH

Chicago residents who live in the lowest-income neighborhoods die about 20 years earlier than people who live in the city’s wealthiest neighborhoods. Leaders of the new Center for Community Health Equity—a joint project between DePaul and Rush University Medical Center—believe that gap is caused by an unjust social structure. Social science and health science researchers are working together to make community health assessment data more meaningful. They will develop action plans to improve community health and eliminate inequities that mirror class, race and gender demographics.

ADVANCING CAREERS FOR WORKING ADULTS

The School for New Learning launched a new course-based bachelor’s curriculum that defines a new direction for SNL as a school that offers interdisciplinary and professional studies degrees that help working adults advance their careers. This new transfer-friendly curriculum has pre-defined majors, offers prior learning assessment and integrates best practices in adult learning. It meets the needs of younger adult students not yet established in their careers and offers a structured curriculum with a clear path to completion and opportunities for acceleration.

STUDENT CULTURAL COMPETENCE IMPROVES

The Center for Intercultural Programs provided cultural competence workshops for 90 academic courses, supporting students’ development of culturally competent knowledge, attitudes and skills that enhance campus climate. A positive environment fosters retention and graduation. The center also launched online cultural competence education modules for curricular and co-curricular programs that were integrated into 127 training sessions.

CONNECTING WITH INDUSTRY

The College of Communication is showcasing student talent to industry professionals through strategies that foster quality connections. Public relations and advertising industry leaders visited campus to meet graduating students, view student work presented in e-portfolios, serve as keynote speakers and discuss careers in related fields. Agencies from across the city open their doors to our students, from large companies such as FCB to up-and-coming businesses like Trisect, and across all marketing communication disciplines. These firms offer everything from career advice to internships to in-class lectures, providing students with first-hand knowledge of what the industry is about and what segment best suits their skills.
Advancing Music Theory

Aiming to improve the educational experience of its students, the School of Music introduced a new online music theory course to ensure incoming freshmen have the necessary understanding to thrive in classes when they arrive on campus. Completed in the summer prior to starting their first full quarter, students learn music fundamentals such as notation, scales, intervals and key signatures that lay the foundation for more advanced study in music theory. Students can now accelerate their learning of music theory during their undergraduate years in ways that had not been possible previously.

Express to Health Care Careers

The College of Science and Health’s partnership with Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (RFUMS) is expanding. In 2014-15 after a successful pilot the Pathways Honor Program now offers high-ability students focused on a graduate professional health degree an RFUMS mentor and summer research prospects, among other benefits. The Early Opportunity Program enables these students to apply to study medicine, physician’s assistant, physical therapy, pathology assistant, pharmacy or podiatry and secure a guaranteed seat in the master’s program. This accelerates their studies, eliminating a year and reducing the cost of the degree. Meanwhile, a new program launched for registered nurses to earn a bachelor’s, master’s and a certificate of Health Professions Education or Health Administration completely online.

Socially Responsible Investing

DePaul conducts its business in a socially and fiscally responsible manner. Consequently, the Board of Trustees Investment Committee asked university-contracted fund managers to adopt the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)—an international initiative backed by the United Nations—to ensure their work is consistent with these values. The principles recognize the significance of environmental, social, and governance factors for investors and the health of the marketplace. In the last four years, DePaul fund managers supporting PRI increased nearly 20 percent, growing from 56 percent of the total university investments in 2012 to 74 percent in 2015.

Black Students Form Vibrant Community

The Sankofa Black Student Leadership program, led by the Office of Religious Diversity in collaboration with several student affairs departments and student organizations, creates community for black students and tackles the issue of blackness on personal and spiritual terms. In 2014-15 this leadership and retention initiative offered two retreats, a vigil, a fellowship outing, several campus and city protests to support BlackLivesMatter, and an end-of-year reunion. These events engaged 550 students who formed a vibrant community connected by culture, spirituality, personal needs and community values.

DePaul’s Diversity Hits High Marks

DePaul ranks second among the nation’s 12 largest private universities in the percent of freshmen who are eligible for Pell grants and third among the country’s largest Catholic universities in the percent of underrepresented students of color. In fall 2014, 36 percent of the freshman class were students of color. Over the past six years, the percent of freshmen from outside Illinois rose from 31 percent to 37 percent.

DePaul University
The Digital Youth Network (DYN) in the College of Computing and Digital Media is leading the innovative design and support of an out-of-school learning ecosystem in Chicago, which has resulted in a groundbreaking partnership with Chicago Public Schools. In 2015, DYN, with support from CPS and Best Buy, challenged and recruited over 50,000 CPS students to participate in the DYN-led Chicago City of Learning initiative. These students now have the tools to make visible and communicate to future employers and schools, and their teachers, friends, and families, the valuable skills and experiences they gain at parks, libraries, museums and other community organizations throughout the city.

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine honored DePaul with its Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award for 2014 and 2015, making the university one of just 83 colleges or universities in the United States to earn this recognition. The award measures the level of achievement and the intensity of commitment DePaul has to fostering diversity and inclusion. DePaul was selected based on exemplary performance on a range of efforts, such as embracing a broad definition of diversity, including gender, race, ethnicity, military status, people with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ community.

The sixth and final volume of “The Vincentians: A General History of the Congregation of the Mission” is now complete. It contains information about the Superiors General who served during the 20th century, details major issues and new initiatives, and outlines the impact the Second Vatican Council had on the congregation. Subtitled “Internationalization and Aggiornamento, 1919–1980,” it is a 950-page, two-part volume written by the Rev. John E. Rybolt, C.M. It also shares the history of about 50 provinces in about 40 countries and nearly 100 missions during this 60-year period and completes a 13-year effort to compile the organization’s development from its founding. A pictorial summary of the history is due out in 2016.

DePaul’s STEM Center, with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is partnering with the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Department of Math and Science to form a Virtual Community of Practice for roughly 1,800 middle school CPS math teachers. The STEM Center also partners with The Chicago Community Trust to build and expand the capacity of CPS teachers to provide high-quality math and science instruction aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and the Next Generation Science Standards.

DePaul was recognized as a Top School by Military Advanced Education in its 2015 Guide to Colleges & Universities, which measures best practices in military and veteran education. The publication highlighted DePaul’s veteran support services, flexibility, financial aid, and military educational programs in which the university participates. DePaul was designated a military-friendly school by Victory Media in 2015 as well. DePaul currently serves about 500 students who have served in the military.
NEW THEATRE BECOMES COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE

Manifesting itself as a community resource, the new Theatre School building is maximizing engagement in Lincoln Park and surrounding neighborhoods through programming and event hosting. In the last academic year, it hosted the One Theatre World conference presented by Theatre for Young Audiences/USA, the Carnaval of New Latina/o Plays in collaboration with the Latina/o Theatre Commons and HowlRound, and a session of “Know Your Chicago” that brought 300 Chicagoans to the facility for a behind-the-scenes tour. The Theatre School also opened its doors to many DePaul classes, more than 2,300 alumni rehearsal hours, and over 30 community groups and organizations.

IMPROVING DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Enabling village boards and commissioners to better serve their citizens was the goal of a new effort by DePaul’s Chaddick Institute for Urban Development, which partnered with the American Planning Association and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. By expanding its program reach, Chaddick and its partners trained 16 units of government over the past 18 months. Chaddick also worked with the Regional Transportation Authority on a competition to recognize excellence in transit-oriented development that encourages use of public transportation. Separately, the institute issued several studies about the resurgence of intercity bus usage.

JOURNAL OF VIDEO ETHNOGRAPHY

DePaul’s new Journal of Video Ethnography is the first peer reviewed ethnographic video journal to promote the use of video and film as a valid social scientific method for exploring society, systems and cultures. A venture of the Social Science Research Center, this widely-accessible, web-based journal accepts any film with social science ideas at its core for external review by filmmakers and academics. In its first year, the journal has attracted nearly 1,000 subscribers from around the world.

FLEXIBLE ROUTING OF TELEPHONE CALLS

Making the move from traditional telephone circuits, Information Systems is now routing all outbound telephone calls across DePaul’s data network, reducing phone outages and phone bill costs while enhancing features. Call centers like DePaul Central can now record calls to evaluate customer service and use analytics, such as time-on-hold data, to improve performance. IS has been working for a decade to replace the university’s 7,500 analog telephones and reap the benefits of voiceover Internet protocol, or VoIP.
REDUCE, RECYCLE, REUSE AND EDUCATE

Bulk composting and better educational signage above recycling cans are among the improvements leading to a 40 percent reduction in DePaul’s solid waste stream. New energy-saving projects, such as retro-commissioning the Richardson Library, installing LED lights in parking decks and replacing HVAC equipment with higher energy efficiency, have reduced the university’s carbon footprint even further. Meanwhile, the Princeton Review again included DePaul in its Guide to 353 Green Colleges in 2015. Schools on the list were selected for being environmentally aware and sustainable, in addition to how well the university is preparing students for employment in the clean-energy economy.

EASY ACCESS TO FEDERAL DOCUMENTS

The U.S. Government Publishing Office has designated DePaul a digital-only member of its Federal Depository Library Program. That means the DePaul Library provides free public access to published information from all three branches of the federal government. DePaul now makes available an online collection of thousands of government documents that can be used by faculty, students and the public. Documents available include Congressional membership guides, the Code of Federal Regulations and a daily compilation of presidential documents.