First Year in Review

The inaugural academic year of our new strategic plan, Vision 2018: Dedication to Excellence, Commitment to Community, was an exciting one. From the ribbon-cutting for our new Theatre School building to a top ranking touting the high return on investment a DePaul education produces, the university community focused its energy on student learning and success. Enjoy selected highlights of the accomplishments our faculty, staff and students achieved in 2012-13.

NEW INFORMATION COMMONS DELIVERS STUDENT SERVICES IN ONE LOCATION

The new Information Commons in the Richardson Library, a technology-enhanced space with more than 100 workstations, provides students access to digital library collections and software used in classes. Additional spaces provide areas for collaborative learning and individualized academic assistance. The Scholar's Lab is designed to support emergent areas of e-scholarship, while the Learning Commons clusters resources in a single location, allowing students to obtain academic assistance from the Writing Center, the Science and Math Learning Center, the Career Center and the Office of Multicultural Student Success. The Commons also houses collaborative areas that can accommodate study teams working on academic projects. http://bit.ly/14be9g5

UNIVERSITY LEARNING GOALS REVISED

To prepare students to engage in the world of the 21st century, DePaul reviewed its learning goals and restated them in six categories that honor the university’s distinctive qualities. They are: mastery of content, intellectual and creative skills, personal and social responsibility, intercultural and global understanding, integration of learning, and preparation for career and beyond. Achievement of these goals is measured through the university’s annual assessment processes.

UNIVERSITY ENHANCES SUPPORT FOR FACULTY RESEARCH

DePaul retooled its Office of Research Services to better facilitate faculty scholarship and to identify opportunities for external funding. The staff is reaching out proactively to faculty and is inviting outside specialists to share best practices in applying for research dollars and to help identify potential funding sources for their research. The result is an increase in the number of proposals submitted for external funding.

MINTING MORE PADS OF COLOR

For nearly 15 years, DePaul has earned competitive federal funds for the McNair Scholars program that prepares underrepresented students for doctoral studies through research experience, faculty mentoring and other activities. But there are not enough federally funded slots to accommodate the volume of promising students. To address that, in 2012 DePaul created the Mitchem Fellows, named for Arnold Mitchem, founding president of the Washington, D.C.-based Council for Opportunity in Education. Mitchem Fellows are sophomores who now have a pathway into the prestigious McNair program and receive similar opportunities funded by DePaul, essentially doubling the number of students participating.
DePaul's long-time outreach and support to veterans was recognized recently when the university was designated a military-friendly school by Victory Media, a veteran-owned business that focuses on military personnel transitioning into civilian life. Its 2014 list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that best support military service members and veterans to ensure their success on campus. With their number and impact growing in recent years, DePaul established an Office of Veterans Affairs in 2009 to centralize and expand its outreach. Last fall, about 500 student veterans were enrolled. DePaul participates in the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program, which covers almost all tuition expenses for veterans who qualify for the Post 9/11 GI Bill at 100 percent of the benefit.

Expansions in online program and course offerings now deliver DePaul academic offerings to 28 states. Online enrollments generated nearly 10 percent of the university’s total credit hours in the 2012-13 academic year. DePaul broke ground with its first-ever online music courses. It also launched four new undergraduate degree-completion programs in communication, psychology and information technology. The College of Education delivered online courses that enabled teachers in Township High School District 214 in the Northwest suburbs to earn a special education certification, while the Driehaus College of Business launched an online master’s of science degree in accounting.

In December 2012, eight DePaul faculty met with their counterparts at Symbiosis International University in Pune, India to create mutually beneficial learning opportunities for students. Since then several DePaul professors have been working collaboratively with professors and students at Symbiosis, including guest lecturing, creating joint assignments, developing case studies, creating student exchanges, hosting Indian students virtually in a DePaul classroom and welcoming scholars-in-residence. This newest relationship is just one of a myriad ways in which DePaul’s curriculum is being internationalized by our faculty.
ASSESSMENT PROCESS STRENGTHENS TEACHING AND LEARNING IN BUSINESS

Over the course of the 2012-13 academic year, the Driehaus College of Business examined student performance across nine graduate master’s degree programs and the MBA. This process resulted in modifications to program curriculum related to every outcome in which at least 80 percent of students did not reach an outstanding or acceptable level. Six existing courses were completely updated; and five newly designed courses were created. The resulting MBA core is highly relevant to the current business world, has a much stronger focus on global issues and develops essential skills for all managers.

STUDYING THE BENEFITS OF ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIOS

The School for New Learning, College of Education and the First-Year Writing Program are representing DePaul as one of 10 institutions selected by the Inter/National Coalition for Electronic Portfolio Research for a three-year cohort studying the impact of e-portfolios on student learning and educational outcomes. DePaul is undertaking a study to determine the extent to which students articulate what they know about their own learning in their electronic portfolios as part of the cohort’s investigation of assessment as supported by the distinctive capabilities of e-portfolios.

SUPPORT COURT JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG VISITS DEPAUL

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg celebrated the 100th anniversaries of DePaul’s law, business, and music schools at a historic event featuring live opera and lively discussion. Ginsburg, who has studied the intersection of opera and the law, provided commentary. “They got a witty, laid-back opera aficionado who humorously linked those divergent fields together in deft commentary,” according to the Chicago Sun-Times. About 500 guests joined Ginsburg to commemorate the schools’ centennials.

ALLIANCE WITH ROSALIND FRANKLIN EXPANDS HEALTH AND SCIENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

To address the expanding need for healthcare professionals, in October 2012 DePaul and Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science created a partnership to strengthen both institutions’ health offerings. The Alliance for Health Sciences has established curricular pathways for undergraduates to pursue graduate degrees at Rosalind-Franklin upon graduation from DePaul; expanded and strengthened academic programs at both schools; organized collaboration between faculties of the two institutions; and created additional research opportunities for students. DePaul’s master’s entry into nursing program launched at the Rosalind Franklin site in fall 2013.

COMBINED BACHELOR’S AND MASTER’S DEGREE IN WRITING AND PUBLISHING

A new combined bachelor’s and master’s degree program allows undergraduates to take coursework that fulfills both undergraduate and master’s degree requirements, enabling students to earn their graduate degrees in an expedited, less costly way. The program combines creative writing workshops; courses in language, style and publishing; and internships that prepare students to work in their chosen fields. In addition, established writers and editors interact with students on campus as invited guests and help connect students with the larger literary and publishing community.
NEW INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS ADVANCE GLOBAL GOALS

The School of Music formed a new partnership with the Osaka College of Music in Japan, expanded an existing one with the Royal Irish Academy of Music, and is now working with the prestigious music school at the Universidad Javeriana in Colombia. These collaborations are emblematic of DePaul's efforts to infuse international and comparative perspectives through the university's teaching, research and service missions.

DePaul forged many new agreements in the past year to enlarge our network of strategic partners across different regions of the world. They include Australian Catholic University, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (Chile), Huazhao University (China), Koç University (Istanbul), and Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico). The Digital Cinema program also inked a new opportunity with the Whistling Woods International Institute for Film, Fashion and Media in Mumbai. Meanwhile, a new agreement with the Brazilian Council for Scientific and Technological Development for the Science without Borders program is bringing Brazilian students to DePaul.

LAS UNDERTAKES HISTORIC PLANNING EFFORT

In the largest planning effort in the history of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, 135 faculty, staff, alumni, students and advisory board members synchronized the college's strategic plan with the university’s Vision 2018 plan. Their efforts will guide the work of more than 50 units encompassing all undergraduate programs, graduate programs, centers and institutes in the college to deliver on DePaul’s strategic initiatives. Details: http://bit.ly/15BEy4C

BIG RECOGNITION FOR BIG DATA PROGRAM

The College of Computer Science and Digital Media’s master’s of science in predictive analytics earned a spot among Information Week’s top 20 big-data analytics programs in North America. Citing the big-data analytics talent gap nationwide, these are the programs that are well positioned to provide students with the critical skills the industry is seeking. The ranking noted that students interested in applying the discipline to marketing should investigate DePaul. Students also have access to courses at DePaul’s Kellstadt Graduate School of Business.

NEW ADVISING MODEL AIDS ADULT STUDENTS

The School for New Learning (SNL) expanded its undergraduate assigned advising model. It now pairs SNL students with an academic advisor and faculty mentor team who collaborate to support students throughout their entire program, providing targeted and consistent guidance to encourage students to complete their degrees. Advisors are primarily responsible for all things connected to academic progress, particularly records and enrollment, while faculty mentors monitor the academic development of their students, especially in regard to their writing ability, professional goal development and integrative thinking.
SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP’S REVENUE MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE IDENTIFIES BEST PRACTICES

Working in partnership with Smith Travel Research—the leader in lodging benchmarking and research—the School of Hospitality Leadership’s new Revenue Management Alliance is poised to foster best practices in the industry. This alliance of hospitality professionals and educators is providing data and analysis to improve such strategies as pricing and marketing via podcasts, research symposiums, webinars and scholarly publications.

INTERNSHIPS ARE A MAJOR CAREER ADVANTAGE

Nearly 2,000 DePaul students gained a competitive edge in today’s market by completing an academic internship last year. Increasingly, employers are looking to interns as a significant resource for recruiting full-time employees. The University Internship Program (UIP) is one resource students can tap to prepare for and locate internships. The National Association of Colleges and Employers reports that 51.3 percent of students who completed internships got job offers last year compared to 39.6 percent who did not. UIP courses require at least 10 hours of employment per week coupled with class sessions that introduce students to important aspects of the professional world, such as ethical decision-making, leadership and creative innovation.

FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES

The College of Education is preparing current and future teachers to combat racism, anti-Semitism, intolerance and bullying through an innovative professional development program made possible by a first-of-its-kind multi-year collaboration between DePaul and the international nonprofit organization Facing History and Ourselves. By design, every teacher-preparation candidate at DePaul will receive instruction in the Facing History methodology and will gain access to the Facing History website and online toolbox for use throughout their teaching careers. A generous gift from DePaul Trustee Jack Greenberg and his wife, Donna, funded this program.

CINESPACE DELIVERS PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A new alliance with Cinespace Chicago, the city’s premier movie studio, has created a learning environment that gives DePaul film students real-world film and television production experience in a working studio. Students now have an exclusive cinema production stage and design space on an active studio lot, just a few doors away from where the TV show “Chicago Fire” and several other productions and movies are being filmed. The 20,000-square-foot space includes a 10,000-square-foot soundproof stage and instructional support space, plus a prop shop, offices and set storage.
STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROVIDE AWARD-WINNING COVERAGE OF CITY NEIGHBORHOODS

The Red Line Project—a city news and entertainment website produced by DePaul journalism students—received critical acclaim for its stories of Chicago’s diverse communities. The website won three prestigious Peter Lisagor Awards for Exemplary Journalism, which are rarely given to students or student-run news outlets. The site also won first-place awards from the Online News Association, Society of Professional Journalists and the Associated Collegiate Press.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION GAINS NEW HOME

As the College of Education completed its 52nd year of shaping educators, it opened a new chapter in its rich history by moving into its new 51,000-square-foot home. This new facility will allow the college to continue to offer the innovative programs that prepare counselors, teachers, principals and education policymakers to serve society by making a difference in the lives of children and their families. A 40 percent increase in the college’s overall space enabled the Education and Counseling Center to increase its size by one-third, enhancing its mission to provide comprehensive literacy and counseling support to children who have difficulties reading and learning. The new facility also houses the Abello Family Academic Center and Center for Educational Technology. Classroom space also was expanded with eight additional classrooms on the lower level of the new building.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IMMURE THEMSELVES IN SERVICE

University Ministry launched a new First-Year Winter Break Service Immersion program, piloting two new locations in December 2012. Students traveled to East St. Louis, Illinois, where they made the Christmas holidays more festive for residents of a temporary homeless shelter run by the Daughters of Charity. Other students served locally, focusing their aid in Chicago working with youth at an after-school program, volunteering at the St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store and staffing a soup kitchen, among others. The program introduces new students to the Vincentian family and mission in a meaningful way.

NEW THEATRE BUILDING DEBUTS

The Theatre School at DePaul University has a new 165,000-square-foot home on the Lincoln Park Campus that opened in the fall of 2013. Designed by internationally renowned architect César Pelli and his firm, the cutting-edge facility fully supports the teaching and performance needs of one of the top university theatre training conservatories in the country. Extraordinary care was taken to put behind-the-scenes activity on display to both theatergoers and passersby, thus engaging the campus and Lincoln Park community. This new home for The Theatre School is part of the university’s Fullerton Arts Corridor, which includes the DePaul Art Museum, classes and studios for visual arts, and facilities and performance spaces for the School of Music.

NURSING STUDENTS PRACTICE IN HOSPITAL ROOM REPLICAS

DePaul’s new Interprofessional Simulation Lab offers new approaches to nursing education through clinical simulation, bridging theory and practice in a safe environment. The lab includes four oversized patient rooms that replicate the medical-surgical, emergency, pediatrics, and labor and delivery rooms in hospitals. The rooms are equipped with high-fidelity computerized mannequins and two-way mirrors that enable faculty to demonstrate, observe, and test students’ mastery of patient-care and healthcare team communication. Simulation pedagogy supports higher standards in beginning clinical care in all disciplines through interprofessional education designed to improve patient-care outcomes.
Gordon Tech College Prep High School (GT) and DePaul have forged an academic partnership to provide a high-quality Catholic high school on the North Side. Official candidacy to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program has been achieved. Academic divisions across the university are currently working to strengthen GT’s academic offerings and encourage more of GT’s students to pursue four-year college degrees.

Expansion Strong College-Prep Catholic High School Opportunities in the City

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Building Diversity Skills

Complementing DePaul’s annual stature as one of the nation’s largest providers of graduate degrees to professionals of color, DePaul earned recent accolades for being the nation’s No. 1 producer of minority graduates in undergraduate accounting, 13th for finance, and 19th for marketing. DePaul also received the top prize for diversity from the Law School Admission Council; was named among the “Top 60 Schools Jews Choose,” and was recognized as one of Diversity MBA Magazine’s “Top Ten Best in Class Companies for Board Diversity.”

To further support our faculty and staff’s work on behalf of all our students, the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity created a professional development diversity certificate. The voluntary educational sessions have proven popular as faculty and staff realize that the practical skills developed can be put to immediate use in the workplace.

Student Research On Chicago Violence Debuts On Steppenwolf Stage

Engaged over the course of two years in an extensive community-based research project, about 60 DePaul students conducted dozens of interviews with Chicagoans affected by youth violence. Miles Harvey, a playwright and assistant professor of English who supervised the effort, transformed 4,000 pages of transcripts into the powerful play, “How Long Will I Cry?: Voices of Youth Violence,” which debuted at the nation’s premiere ensemble theater, Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre. The production also toured seven Chicago Public Libraries and was performed at the Gary Comer Youth Center, a facility dedicated to serving high school youth from traditionally underserved communities in Chicago and preparing them for college and careers.

14 Volumes of Vincentian Texts and Holy Card Collection Now Online

The complete 14-volume set of all of St. Vincent de Paul’s existing writings is now available online in the university library’s ever-expanding Vincentian Studies Collection. A set of holy cards featuring Vincent, as well as early examples of religious trading and collectable cards, have been digitized and made available online as well. The 220 devotional cards have proven popular, with about 30,000 hits in their first six months online. The new foundational texts received a respectable 4,000 hits in their first few months on the Web. Check out both collections: http://digicol.lib.depaul.edu/cdm/
PASOS AL FUTURO TEACHES MEDIA LITERACY

More than 250 Latino students have received training through the College of Communication that enhanced their news media literacy skills. In June 2013, 26 students from 18 Chicago Public High Schools created multi-media stories for print, broadcast and social media via the Pasos al Futuro program, funded by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation to foster more civic engagement among Latinos, and ultimately a stronger democracy. This two-year program includes symposia, summer workshops and ongoing training for high school students and teachers focused on determining the credibility and reliability of news in today’s digitally connected society.

NEW DATABASE SPREADS THE WISDOM OF LOUISE DE MARILLAC

The Vincentian Studies Institute launched a searchable interactive Internet database to provide worldwide access to the wisdom of St. Louise de Marillac, co-founder of the Vincentian family. Cataloging nearly 400 of Louise’s quotations, users can search by word or phrase to identify relevant material on a particular topic. The site has proven popular, with about 1,300 users from all over the globe.

SUPPORTING THE DREAM ACT AND IMMIGRANT STUDENTS

DePaul hosted U.S. Senator Dick Durbin in June 2013 as part of its continuing support for the DREAM Act. On behalf of undocumented students, DePaul argued that giving them access to education is smart policy that will yield significant benefits for the university, city, state and nation. To support our own undocumented students, the university created a new resource guide providing information on financial aid, admission, and offices that offer advice and assistance, including referrals to legal aid and regional resources.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEARS THE FINISH LINE

The “Many Dreams. One Mission.” campaign has broken fundraising records for DePaul. Launched in 2010, and having reached its original $250 million target nearly two years in advance of the campaign’s end, the university is on target to meet the revised goal of $300 million by 2014. More than $88 million has been secured in the quest to raise $100 million exclusively for student scholarships. More than 34,000 donors have supported the campaign.

DEPAUL DISCOVERIES

Training in the processes of scientific research and writing is a critical piece of the College of Science and Health’s educational mission. The inaugural issue of DePaul Discoveries, an undergraduate research journal in the sciences, showcases the work of the 48 talented students whose papers were reviewed and accepted for publication, a number of which had been first presented at research conferences. Students gained valuable experience working with both a faculty and student editorial board to present the findings of their original research, contributing to current knowledge in their areas. Learning about the academic research process is an important step as these students apply for graduate study or employment.

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HOLLYWOOD REPORTER RANKS DEPAUL AMONG TOP 25 FILM SCHOOLS

Just five years after DePaul elevated its film program into the School of Cinema and Interactive Media, the school has earned prestigious recognition by one of the entertainment industry’s major publications. The Hollywood Reporter surveyed professionals in the trade and factored in more than 600 online ballots cast by members of the Writers Guild of America West, American Cinema Editors and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences to determine the rating for the 25 best film schools in the country, which included DePaul.

DEPAUL ACQUIRES NEW HIGH RETURN ON INVESTMENT RANKING

Ranked No. 4 in the state for return on investment by Affordable College Online’s Highest Return on Investment Colleges, a DePaul degree was identified for its “pay-off” in the marketplace. Students who graduate from the colleges cited earn more over their lifetimes, on average, than graduates from other Illinois institutions. DePaul’s average return on investment was pegged at $770,800.

EMPLOYEES GIVE DEPAUL HIGH MARKS FOR WORK-LIFE BALANCE

DePaul employees report high levels of engagement and satisfaction with their jobs, according to the 2012 Work-Life Study. Faculty and staff reported that they feel rewarded with high-caliber colleagues, meaningful work and a generous benefits package. About 80 percent of faculty and staff said they are satisfied with their position, and nine out of 10 would choose to work at DePaul again. The 2012 results showed improvements over the 2007 survey in most areas, indicating that the actions taken in the last five years addressed employee concerns. They include implementing a voluntary reduced work-time policy, expanding the flexible work arrangements policy, launching a wellness program, and offering back-up child care and elder care.

FIRST FRESHMEN ENTER DEPAUL UNDER TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSION

Five percent of the fall 2012 freshman class enrolled through DePaul’s new test-optional admission process, creating access to students who may not have applied or been accepted using the traditional application method. Students who chose not to submit test scores to supplement their high school transcripts answered several essay questions crafted to elicit evidence of their experience and other characteristics that have been shown to be better predictors of success in college than standardized test scores, such as performance in a rigorous college preparatory program in high school. Sometimes standardized test scores skew admission toward good test-takers, while eliminating those who are not.

NEW ONLINE ORIENTATION DEVELOPED TO BETTER INTEGRATE ADJUNCT FACULTY

Adjunct faculty now have access to DePaul’s comprehensive online new employee orientation, complementing the departmental introduction they receive. This university-level orientation introduces part-time, contingent faculty to the history, mission and values of DePaul; student and faculty profiles; and university facts and figures. The orientation better integrates and connects them to the university and campus community, widening their view of DePaul beyond the unit in which they were hired. They also receive specialized information, such as teaching support resources, academic policies and procedures, and benefits for part-time faculty. Other universities have looked to DePaul and consulted with our human resources personnel to create similar orientations for their employees. Take a look: http://tinyurl.com/rizscek
100 PERCENT OF CLASSROOMS ARE WIRELESS AS WI-FI NETWORK EXPANDS

Each one of DePaul’s 470 classrooms now has wireless access, placing DePaul among the leaders in campus wireless installation. This was accomplished by nearly tripling the number of wireless access points across campus to about 2,000 residence hall rooms, gathering spaces, and the Lincoln Park quadrangle. Since 2008, DePaul has been installing wireless technology in all new buildings while retrofitting older facilities.

UNIVERSITY’S BOND RATING UPGRADED

In January 2013, Moody’s Investors Service upgraded DePaul’s bond rating to A2 from A3. It cited the university’s consistently positive operating performance and cash flow, as well as its well-established student market position, as key strengths. More good financial news came in April, when Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services upgraded DePaul’s rating to A from A-. These votes of confidence came at the same time that Moody’s downgraded higher education as a sector, citing apprehension about household income, philanthropic support, investment returns, and state and federal funding for financial aid and research, among other concerns.

BOND REFUNDING SAVES $4.5 MILLION

A university move to refund general obligation bonds issued to finance residential, athletic and parking facilities has produced about $4.5 million in savings for the university over the life of the bonds. Favorable market conditions, recent upgrades in DePaul’s bond ratings by two major rating agencies and good timing combined to present an excellent opportunity for the university to refund the bonds.

DEPAUL MOBILE APP ATTRACTS MORE THAN 11,000 DOWNLOADS

This new application for smart phones, available to the DePaul community and the public, launched in October 2012. Students can log into special areas with their Campus Connect ID and password to access their class schedules, get notifications of tuition deadlines, access library resources and much more. Campus maps, university news and events are available to everyone. So far, the app has received 11,000 downloads, about 75 percent of which were onto iPhones, and more than 64,000 visits. Check it out: http://www.depaul.edu/depaul/Pages/default.aspx.

DEPAUL PREPARED TO RESTORE TECH OUTAGE QUICKLY

Redundancy in technology helps risk managers and university leadership sleep at night. DePaul is duplicating its key technological resources at a world-class off-campus facility, and is one of the few American universities to employ this model used by major corporations throughout the world. This effort will enable critical technology necessary for DePaul to conduct business to be back in operation quickly so DePaul can return to normal business operations in the event of a major emergency.