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Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

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Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

As we move into our second year as DePaul’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS), I proudly reflect upon what we have accomplished together this past year, amid so many extraordinary challenges.

We admitted our first students to the new BA in health care administration. We launched the first fully online cohort of students pursuing the MA in applied professional studies. We added on-site cohorts at Harper College University Center and the Chicago Police Academy. We won approval for a new BA in nonprofit management. We added new corporate trainings and certificate programs, for example, in labor leadership. And we celebrated the successes of so many SCPS students and alumni throughout the year.

To highlight a few of their accolades: Senior [Caprice Morales](#) was named Adult Student of the Year by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning. [Bevon Joseph](#) (SCPS ’19), co-founder of the Greenwood Project, was recruited by Marcus Lemonis, host of CNBC’s “The Profit,” to help manage investing \$1 million in Black communities in Chicago. Charles Twichell (SCPS ’14), executive director of Prince Charitable Trusts, was conferred the 2020 David O. Justice Award recognizing his embodiment of the former SCPS dean’s dedication to lifelong learning, social justice and community engagement.

Each of these successes highlights only a sampling of what so many of our alumni are accomplishing around the world. And, on that global note, I am grateful for having had the opportunity to spend time with DePaul alumni during a reunion hosted by The Leaders Guild in Nairobi, Kenya, last December, a continuation of a relationship we have enjoyed with Tangaza University College for more than 15 years.



Former Interim Dean and Associate Professor Don Opitz (CSH '91) welcomes new SCPS Dean Tatum Thomas (right) who assumed her role at DePaul in July.

We often highlight our degree earners, but we are equally proud of our alumni who earned certificates or took courses in pursuit of personal enrichment and upskilling. As we enter a new era of economic uncertainty, we emphasize the value of stackable credentials for “reinventing yourself”—the very title of a free workshop we offered to the broader community this summer.

Hence the relevance of this issue’s theme, “Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow,” which conveys a sense of continuity and progression. As we respond to changes wrought by a global pandemic and violent social injustice, we remain tenacious in our pursuit of our mission of transformative education and social justice. Indeed, we can find hope through lifelong learning for a better tomorrow.

In a nod to the future, I am very pleased to welcome our new dean, [Tatum Thomas](#), who most recently served as senior associate dean of student affairs at Columbia University’s School of Professional Studies in New York City. With deep experience as a leader in continuing education and professional studies, and as a former first-generation, nontraditional student herself, Dean Thomas is joining our SCPS community with enthusiasm and a vision that both honors our past and positions us for new opportunities.

I am extremely honored and privileged to have served the school as Former Interim Dean during a period of intense and rapid change. I remain committed to our mission and the work of social justice it embodies—work that is critically needed now more than ever.

Don Opitz (CSH '91)
Former Interim Dean

Office of Alumni Relations
alumni.depaul.edu

School of Continuing and Professional Studies
scps.depaul.edu
reimaginings@scps.depaul.edu

Editor
Abigail Pickus

Designer
Courtney Berliant

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