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Student-Alumni Communities Formed for Master of Science Programs

FACULTY DIRECTORS OF KELLSTADT GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMS ARE LAUNCHING social media groups online and hosting industry-related events on campus to create new communities of students and alumni associated with these specialized master’s degrees.

“We are forming these communities because we recognize that our master’s students have an affinity for their programs,” says Christa Hinton (MBA ’98, EdD ’12), assistant dean and director of the graduate business program. “We want to create ways for students, alumni and faculty in these programs to connect with each other, share what’s going on in their industries, and network. For alumni it’s a great way to give back by sharing advice with students, who also represent a pipeline of talent for them.”

One such effort, called the Marketing Leaders Community (MLC), is bringing together students and alumni from the Master of Science in Marketing (MSM) program. “We want to differentiate our MSM program from other universities’ programs by enhancing the student experience both inside and outside the classroom,” says Clinical Professor and MSM Program Director Roger Lall. MLC hosts two events focusing on industry trends annually for members.

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Raleigh Meier (BUS MS ’19), who served as MLC’s first president, says the group is seeking to broaden alumni connections and promote student engagement. “We hope to get MSM students involved while they are current students [to] make the most of their time at DePaul and then be willing to return [as alumni] in the future to provide advice to incoming students.”

Associate Professor Jaclyn Jensen, faculty director of the Master of Science in Human Resources (MSHR) program, formed a LinkedIn group, DePaul MSHR Program, where 141 MSHR students and alumni share job postings and HR industry-related news. She and the DePaul student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management also host panel discussions. One recent event focused on innovations in human resources and featured four alumni speakers who are senior HR leaders. “The MSHR LinkedIn community helps to showcase the career events we hold and alumni who are giving back,” says Jensen, “all while helping link current students with industry professionals.”

To find out more about Kellstadt’s student-alumni MS communities, go to go.depaul.edu/MS-Communities.

Marketing Clinical Professor Roger Lall (middle) with students and alumni (left to right) involved in the new Marketing Leaders Community: Nick Schmitt, Kennedy Conn, Margaret Wolfe, Jenna Rummelhart, Raleigh Meier and Abay Sarsenov.
LAST SPRING, WHEN CHICAGO MAYOR-ELECT LORI LIGHTFOOT outlined her agenda for her first 100 days in office, her priorities included increasing affordable housing to stem population loss in the city. Lightfoot named a 44-member Housing Transition Committee to help her team shape strategies for achieving this goal. Geoff Smith, executive director of the Institute for Housing Studies (IHS) at DePaul, was among the experts tapped to serve on the committee.

Smith participated in two meetings with the mayor-elect’s transition team and the committee to discuss policy ideas and provided a memo with recommendations for preserving affordable housing in the city. “In general, we suggested that the new administration use data to be proactive about targeting strategies for affordable housing, especially in neighborhoods near large, planned city investment projects,” Smith says.

The institute, a research center in the college’s Department of Real Estate, analyzes complex housing data for trends that affect affordable housing in the Chicago area. Its 2016 study of the city’s 606 linear park project, for example, found that one of the unintended consequences of the city turning a defunct elevated rail line into a park was an increase in property values that reduced the availability of affordable housing in some adjacent Northwest Side neighborhoods.

“These data indicate that the city needs to align planning for future large projects, such as the Obama Presidential Center and new trails [similar to the 606], with affordable housing strategies,” says Smith. “Otherwise the market will respond accordingly, and the city will lose affordable housing.”

In his memo to the transition team, Smith wrote that “a data lens can help stakeholders understand local conditions and potential vulnerability; convene diverse audiences around solutions; help develop, prioritize and implement strategies; and track outcomes.”

Although Smith’s work on the transition team has concluded, he says the IHS has strong relationships with local and national policymakers that inform housing policy decisions on an ongoing basis. The institute produces annual reports on the state of rental housing and a quarterly home price index for Cook County, among other research, and posts this information on its website, housingstudies.org.
The Driehaus College of Business held a reception in the spring to honor 14 long-serving professors and two staff members who retired from DePaul June 30.

Retirees celebrated at the event were Associate Professor John Ahern, Ezerski Chair Mark Frigo, Assistant Professor Mark McCarthy, EY Distinguished Professor Bel Needles and Associate Professor David J. Roberts from the School of Accountancy; Professors Bala Batavia and William Sander from the Department of Economics; Associate Professor Carl Luft and Professor Werner F.M. De Bondt from the Department of Finance; Professors Dan Koys, Kenneth Thompson and Harold Welsch, Associate Professor Margaret Posig and Program Administrator Ilya Meiertal from the Department of Management & Entrepreneurship; Associate Professor Roger Baran from the Department of Marketing; and Admissions Associate Petrina Tignino from the Kellstadt Graduate School of Business.

Dean Misty Johanson thanked the honorees for collectively contributing more than 500 years of service to DePaul. “You have transformed the lives of thousands of students through your teaching, advising and program administration,” she said. “You have advanced business thought and practice through your research and industry outreach. You have been our faithful friends, mentors and champions. You embody the Vincentian values we hold dear.”

Two faculty members who accepted deanships at other institutions also were recognized at the reception. Marketing Professor and Associate Provost Lawrence Hamer has been appointed dean of Purdue University Northwest’s College of Business, and Department of Management & Entrepreneurship Chair Dan Heiser has been named dean of the Schneider School of Business & Economics at St. Norbert College.

Management Chair Dan Heiser celebrates his appointment as St. Norbert College business dean with DePaul Business Dean Misty Johanson.

Finance Chair Eli Brewer (right) congratulates retiree Finance Associate Professor Carl Luft.

Economics Professor Bala Batavia, Marketing Associate Professor Roger Baran and Accountancy Associate Professor John Ahern were among the longtime faculty members honored.

Management Professor Harold Welsch, founder of the college’s entrepreneur program, was among faculty feted at the college celebration.

Staff member Ilya Meiertal retired after a 26-year career at DePaul.