Class Notes/DePaul Pride

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1950s

- David J. Danelski (JD ’53) is the Boone Centennial Professor Emeritus in the Department of Political Science at Stanford University. He is the author of many publications on the U.S. Supreme Court, constitutional law and judicial behavior, and is working on a biography of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

1960s

- James O’Neil (LAS ’64, MA ’66) recently published his 200th post on his blog at memoriosofatime.blog. He writes about growing up in Chicago and other personal topics.
- Ralph P. Pechanio (BUS ’64) is among 200 veterans statewide chosen by the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs as a Bicentennial HONOR 200 recipient.
- Frank S. Ptak (BUS ’65, DHL ’13) was named senior managing director of Madison Industries in January 2019. He retired as chairman and CEO of Marmon Holdings at the end of 2018.
- Sr. Therese (Thomas Francis) Decanio, OP (LAS ’67) was named a 2018 Jubilarian for 70 years of service to the Adrian Dominican Sisters.

1970s

- Thomas P. Wilczak (CSH ’68) is among 200 veterans statewide chosen by the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs as a Bicentennial HONOR 200 recipient.
- Raymond F. McCaskey (CSH MS ’71) and his wife, Judith, were named 2019 Legendary Landmarks by Landmarks Illinois, a nonprofit organization advocating for the preservation and reuse of historic and architecturally significant properties in the state.

ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES

- Leola Westbrook (BUS ’04) and John Preston Lawrence were married Dec. 2, 2018, in Santa Monica, Calif. She is an executive producer and showrunner for various TV shows and networks.
- Sharon Olzapplication (BUS ’05) and David Yu (BUS ’05) were married on Sept. 2, 2018. The couple met in an undergraduate algebra class at DePaul and became engaged in front of the DePaul Center on the Loop campus. She is currently in sales at Heritage Wine Cellars, while he is a controller at Raymond’s Food Group.
- Phaidra A. Wills (CSH ’09) and Adam Bumpers (SNL ’19) were engaged Dec. 14, 2018, among family and friends. Wills is an licensed clinical professional counselor in Chicago, and Bumpers is a sports compliance manager with Chicago Public Schools.
- Belinda L. Daniels (BUS ’12) and Daniel S. Davis were married on April 18, 2018. She is a financial advisor with On Track Financial, based in Murfreesboro, Tenn.
- Vincent Aneter (CDM ’10) and Lisa Wyczesany (CMN ’10) were married on Sept. 2, 2018, at St. Benedict’s Church in Chicago. They both lived in Corcoran Hall as students. On the day of their wedding, Lisa surprised Vince with a quick photo shoot in the hallway where they met. The couple lives in Los Angeles.
- Sam C. Finnell (BUS MS ’13) married Morgan Bunting on Sept. 22, 2018, in Nantucket, Mass. He is an associate director at Bentall Kennedy, a real estate investment management firm.
- Felicia Tate (SNL ’13) married Keith W. Flowers Sr. on Sept. 15, 2017, at First Reformed Church of South Holland, Ind. She is a teller manager at Bank Financial in Orland Park, Ill. An engagement notice in the Winter 2019 DePaul Magazine misidentified the groom. Below is the correct announcement. We regret the error.
- Jordan L. McDonald (EDU ’15) and Kevin Howe (CMN ’14) are engaged and planning a wedding in July 2019.

Robert W. McGee (MST ’76) won his fifth martial arts world championship in January 2019. He has been a world champion in karate three times and once each in taekwondo and kung fu, as well as a silver medalist in tai chi. He is an associate professor of accounting at Fayetteville (N.C.) State University.
BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

» Mark Miskewitch (CMN ’97, MA ’10) and his wife, Anne Miskewitch (LAS ’00, MA ’03), welcomed their second daughter, Alyna Eva Marie, on Nov. 3, 2018. Alyna joins big brother, Marie, on Nov. 3, 2018. Second daughter, Alyna Eva (BUS MS ’03) was welcomed by Anne Miskewitch (LAS ’00, MBA ’03).

» Narda Alcorn (THE ’92) has been appointed chair of the stage management department of the Yale School of Drama and stage management advisor of the Yale Repertory Theatre. Her five-year appointment begins July 1, 2019.

» Deborah L. Borman (JD ’89), law professor at the University of Arkansas Little Rock Bowen School of Law, published her first book, “A Short & Happy Guide to Legal Writing” (West Academic). This inaugural edition in the Short & Happy series provides practice tips for legal memos and briefs, along with a short history of legal writing in the United States.

» Suzanne (Martello) Stanish (BUS ’90) was re-elected as executive trustee of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund in January 2019. She has been the director of finance for the Naperville (Ill.) Park District for the past five years.

» Depaul College of Law student, Ruben A. Jimenez (TH 22), was welcomed by his mother, Melinda Jimenez, on Oct. 23, 2018. Ruben joins big brother, Robert, on Nov. 29, 2015. Big sister, Marisol, was born on Nov. 19, 2017.

» Lorna Rivera (EDU ’92) is director of the University of Massachusetts’ Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy. Recently, she was appointed to serve on the Boston School Committee.

» Michael Jankiewicz (LAS ’77, EDU MA ’81) retired from his career as a teacher and school administrator in 2015. He currently works part time in Elmhurst (Ill.) College’s Education Department as a licensure officer.

» Dennis A. Carr (BUS ’78, MST ’79) retired after 27 years in the tax department of the Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, rising to the position of executive director. He worked for more than 42 years as an accountant.

» Albert Fontenot Jr. (SNL ’79, MBA ’85) is associate director of the U.S. Census Bureau and in charge of the 2020 U.S. census.

» Gregory A. Padovani (BUS MS ’79) is among 200 veterans statewide chosen by the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs as a Bicentennial HONOR 200 recipient.

» Richard S. Schiffin (JD ’79) was appointed chair of the leadership council of the Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

1980s

» Robert V. Scalise (JD ’81) was hired as director of human resources for the city of Meriden, Conn. For the past 12 years, he operated his own private practice, Scalise Law, representing employees as a labor and employment attorney.

» Christine A. Scheuneman (JD ’81) was elected to the board of directors of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Long Beach, Calif. She recently retired as a partner in the law firm Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.

» Patrick J. Moore (BUS ’82) was elected chairman of the board of directors of Energizer Holdings Inc. He is president and CEO of IJM Advisors LLC, a private equity investment and advisory firm.

» Scot J. Schaeffer (BUS ’83) was named vice president for enrollment management at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio.

» Gustavo Siller Jr. (JD ’83) was honored as one of “Chicago’s 2018 Notable Minority Lawyers,” a list compiled by Crain’s Chicago Business. He is a shareholder and president of Brinks Gilson & Lione.

» Ann Gillespie (JD ’84) was elected Illinois state senator representing the 27th District.

» Sylvia A. Wulf (MBA ’84) was named president and CEO of AquaBounty Technologies Inc. Previously, she was a senior vice president of US Foods Inc.

» Ariste Reno (LAS ’85) joined global consulting firm Protiviti as a managing director based in Chicago.

» Dominic Calabrese (CSH ’86) was awarded the 5-Sigma Physicist Award for outstanding advocacy by the American Physical Society in May 2018. He has worked in the physics department of Sierra College near Sacramento, Calif., for the past 20 years.

» Joseph L. Fogel (JD ’86) was elected co-managing partner of Chicago-based law firm Freeborn & Peters LLP.

» Tom C. Aronson (MBA ’87) is managing director and a partner of Monroe Capital LLC and SNH Capital Partners.

» Daniel Goldsmith (BUS ’87, MBA ’90) was named chief operating officer and CFO for PCF Insurance Services. He also was named to the firm’s board of directors.

» J. James O’Malley (BUS ’87) was named managing director of the Chicago office of global executive search firm Stanton Chase.

» Kwane Raoul (LAS ’87) was elected Illinois Attorney General and took office in January 2019.

» Joseph P. Greskoviaik (LAS ’88) was elected president and CEO of Press Ganey. Formerly, he was president and chief operating officer.

» Christopher A. Jablo (JD ’88) joined Little MDentzel PC as a shareholder. His specialty is labor law.

» Daniel J. Ugaste (JD ’88) was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives serving the 65th District.

» W. Earl Brown (THE MFA ’89) will join most of the principal cast of “Deadwood” for a movie set about 10 years after the events in the final season of the show.

» Alexander J. Croke (BUS ’89, JD ’93) is president and CEO of Local Marketing Solutions Group, based in Rolling Meadows, Ill.

» Gregory M. Gilmore (BUS ’89, JD ’90) was named chief of the criminal division for the 46-county Central District of Illinois, which includes Springfield.

» Raju M. Patel (MBA ’89) was appointed market president for the Denver region of Bank of America. He also was named Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Commercial banking market executive for Colorado.

» Daniel Goldsmith (BUS ’89, JD ’90) was named chief of the Denver region of Bank of America. He also was named Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Commercial banking market executive for Colorado.

1990s

» William R. Beiersdorf (BUS ’90) is among 200 veterans statewide chosen by the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs as a Bicentennial HONOR 200 recipient.

» Jane E. Hilk (MBA ’90) joined the board of directors of Innnophos Holdings Inc. in November 2018. She has more than three decades of executive experience in the food and beverage industry.

» Timothy P. Knight (JD ’90) was appointed CEO of Tribune Publishing Company in January 2019. He also joined the company’s board of directors.

» Paul W. Eisenmenger (MBA ’92) joined Knox College in Galesburg, Tenn., as vice president of finance.

» Paul J. Krusger (CDM MS ’90) was named vice president of information technology and chief information officer at J.B. Poindexter, located in Houston. Prior to that, he was the CIO for Stewart & Stevenson.

» Victor H. Reyes (JD ’90) was honored as one of “Chicago’s 2018 Notable Minority Lawyers,” a list compiled by Crain’s Chicago Business. He is a founding partner of Reyes Kurson.

» Scott J. Schaeffer (BUS ’88) was named to the firm’s board of directors.

» Stanton Chase.

» Gustavo Siller Jr. (JD ’83) was named to the firm’s board of directors.

» Susan (Gilson) Miskewitch (LAS ’79, MBA ’85) is president and CEO of Monroe Capital LLC and SNH Capital Partners.

» David Stanish (BUS ’87) was named president of the Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

» William H. Stanish (BUS ’89) was named president and CEO of PJM Energy. He is a founding director of the board of directors of the Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania.
IN MEMORIAM

Lord, we commend to you the souls of our dearly departed. In your mercy and love, grant them eternal peace.

Alumni

Ann M. Colleary (BUS ’50) 
Jean M. Fischer (CSH ’46) 
Georgene Carlini (LAS ’47) 
Louis C. Rudd (LAS ’48) 
Robert L. Anderson (BUS ’50) 
Msgr. John W. Dalton (BUS ’50) 
Vincent P. Janks (BUS ’50)

(Robert) Schissler (LAS ’63) 
Sr. Antonita Soppe, O.S.F (MBA ’64) 
Frank A. Maish (MEd ’65) 
Irwin G. Jann (JD ’66) 
St. Mary Blaise 
W. Francis (CSH MA ’60) 
Rameau C. Carlini (LAS ’59) 
Raymond W. (Francis) (CSH MA ’60) 
John P. Coleman (JD ’62) 
George T. Collera (BUS ’62) 
Sr. Margaret M. Hofstetter (LAS MA ’62) 
Nyra A. Wise (EDU ’62, MED ’65) 
Bruce S. Palmer (LAS ’63) 
Barbara Elverson (BUS ’79) 
Robert A. Crecch (MBA ’80) 
Paul J. Czernia (BUS ’81) 
Ceres A. Locher (CSH MS ’81) 
Thomas J. Lee (LAS ’85) 
James C. Backstrom (CDM MS ’86) 
Joan M. Husak (MEd ’90) 
Henry C. Bergman Jr. (MBA ’91) 
Nancy L. Rick-Janis (MBA ’93) 
Judith A. Jensen (MBA ’96) 
Michael C. Craney (MBA ’99) 
Mark W. Shellady (MBA ’99) 
John Halm Jr. (MBA ’02) 
Angela C. Schmidt (MST ’04) 
Eboni S. Rebb (CMN ’08) 
Zachary R. Nunnery (MUS ’18)

Friends

Barry J. Carroll 
David E. Drehmer 
Dr. John T. Leahy 
Gregory MacVarish 
Dr. Curtis C. Verschoor 
Ken Warzynski

Editor’s Note: Due to space limitations, this memorial list includes only those alumni and friends whose offices have confirmed they have passed away since the previous issue was printed.

- Juliana W. Stratton (JD ’92) was sworn in as lieutenant governor of Illinois on Jan. 14, 2019.
- Jeffrey S. Aronin (MBA ’93), chairman and CEO of Paragon Biosciences, was named 2018’s Innovator of the Year by Best in Biz Awards for his lifelong commitment to developing medicines for severe diseases.
- Gary Bushue (MST ’94) has joined CliftonLarsonAllen LLP’s Oak Brook, Ill., office as a principal charged with providing tax services.
- Michael D. Episcope (BUS ’94, MS ’08) is co-founder of the private equity real estate firm Origin Investments.
- Soprano Mary F. Petro (MUS ’94) performed a tribute to Leonard Bernstein at the New Canaan (Conn.) Library.
- Diana Vines (EDU ’94) is a member of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association 2019 Hall of Fame class.
- Marek Ciszewski (BUS ’95) was named senior director of the California office of Edison Group, an investor relations, research and consulting firm.
- Tony W. Hunter (MBA ’95) was appointed to the board of directors for Revolution Enterprises, a national leader in the cannabis industry. He is chairman of Nucleus Marketing Solutions.
- David S. Kalt (CDM MS ’95) won an 1871 Momentum Award, given by technology incubator 1871 and the Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center, on Nov. 15, 2018.
- Scott Olechowski (BUS ’95) is co-founder and chief product officer for Plex, a media software maker.
- Terra A. Costa Howard (JD ’96) was elected to serve as the Illinois state representative for the 48th District.
- Robert L. Fernandez (LAS ’96) was honored as one of “Chicago’s 2008 Notable Minority Lawyers,” a list compiled by Crain’s Chicago Business. He is a partner with Dentons and chairs the firm’s real estate practice.
- Ramzi Hermiz (MBA ’06), president and CEO, Shiloh Industries, Inc., was elected as chairman of the board of the Original Equipment Suppliers Association.
- Jeffrey Burish (MUS ’97) was a soloist in the Morgan Park Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir’s annual concert presentation of Handel’s “Messiah” on Dec. 2, 2018.
- Kinga W. Kosek (CMN ’97) owns Kingsroos Children’s Shoes in Gateway Square in Hinsdale, Ill.
- Jeffrey A. Levick (JD ’97) is CEO of The Player’s Tribune, an athlete-led content platform that provides athletes with tools and services to create their own content, increase engagement with fans and inspire others through their stories.
- Michelle Gonzalez (CSH MS ’98) is creating a new nurse anesthesia education program for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.
- Rudresh K. Mahanthappa (MM ’98), an alto saxophonist, composer and educator, launched a jazz festival at Princeton University, where he is the director of jazz in the Department of Music.
- Kurt P. Miscinski (MBA ’98) is CEO and president of wealth management firm Certify Partners.
- John W. Hoogenakker (THE ’99) started as Ebenezer Scrooge in “Q Brothers Christmas Carol” at The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier.

2000s

- Gunnery Sgt. Joseph DeLuccio (MM ’01) played the oboe as a member of “The President’s Own” United States Marine Chamber Orchestra for President George H.W. Bush’s funeral service at the Washington National Cathedral. He has been a member of the orchestra since 2005.
- Brian A. Perkovich (MBA ’01) was named executive director of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. He has worked for the district for more than 25 years.
- Vishal Thakkar (CDM ’01, MBA ’08) was promoted to senior vice president and head of enterprise risk management of OCC, an equity derivatives clearing organization.
- Margo Giannoulis (MEd ’02) is the new principal of North Elementary School in Des Plaines, Ill.
- Annette M. Messitt (JD ’02) was appointed to the King County (Washington) Superior Court.
- Peter R. Tyksinski (JD ’02) represented his firm, Mono-o, Matsuo & Namba, Tokyo, Japan, as a delegate to Interlaw’s 2018 Annual Global Meeting in Paris, France. Mono-o, Matsuo & Namba is the sole Japanese member of Interlaw.
- Mina M. Zikri (MUS ’02, MM ’05, CER ’16) was named conductor of the Northbrook (Ill.) Symphony. He previously was founder and conductor of the Oistrakh Symphony

- Andrea E. (Forsyth) Telling (EDU ’98) is a shareholder at the Grand Rapids, Mich., office of law firm Plunkett Cooney, where she focuses on transportation law.
John P. Kelly (LAS ’68), the avuncular proprietor of Kelly’s Pub, was beloved by generations of DePaul alumni, faculty and staff. Kelly took over the family business, which was founded in 1933, while he was still in college and ensured that it remained an iconic watering hole for Blue Demons fans and Lincoln Park locals.

“A bar is made for people to talk,” Kelly told the Chicago Tribune shortly before his death. “They come in, they look for the conversations. They’re looking for community.”

Kelly and his wife, Polly, broadened that community in 1969 when they helped found the annual Sheffield Garden Walk. A longtime fan of Blue Demon men’s and women’s basketball, Kelly also was known for founding the imaginary Maguire University, composed of NCAA basketball fans who attend the Final Four each year.

Kelly’s was the site of many DePaul events over the years, most recently an after-party for attendees to the 2018 Alumni Weekend who were celebrating 50+ years as DePaul alumni as part of the Fifty Year Club. Kelly had just joined the club that year.

Kelly attended DePaul Academy, the Vincentian high school housed in what is now Byrne Hall. In addition to running Kelly’s, he became a firefighter. He served on Engine 78 near Wrigley Field before becoming captain of Engine 91 in Logan Square. He retired in 1997.

“John had the ability to be comfortable in the presence of Chicago’s political, financial, artistic and sports elite while always remaining true to his blue-collar Lincoln Park roots,” says Doug Bruno (LAS ’73, MA ’88), DePaul’s women’s basketball coach and Kelly’s close friend. “John Kelly’s legacy will live through Polly, his family, the many Chicagoans he touched and, last but not least, Kelly’s Pub.”
Campus News

- Jennifer Weggeman (SNL MA '07) is a workshop/outreach facilitator with the career services team of the DuPage County Workforce Development Division in Lisle, Ill. For the past 11 years, she also has been an adjunct instructor with DePaul’s School for New Learning and College of Computing & Digital Media.

- Alejandro T. Aciero (MUS ’08) joined the faculty of Vanderbilt University as the Andrew W. Mellon Assistant Professor of Digital Art and New Media.

- Gaylon Alcaraz (SNL ‘08, MA ’11) is now the new LGBTQ program specialist with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

- Daniel E. Conley (SNL ’08) joined Chicago-based Skender Construction Company as director of manufacturing operations.

- Daniel Morris (JD ’08) was honored as one of “Chicago’s 2018 Notable Minority Lawyers,” a list compiled by Crain’s Chicago Business. He is a partner in Hinshaw & Culbertson, with the law firm’s downtown Chicago office. The firm will assist clients with their litigation, mediation and parenting needs.

- Alexandria (Allie) Quigley (EDU ’08) re-signed with the Chicago Sky and will begin her 11th season in the WNBA in the fall. She was a WNBA All-Star in 2017 and 2018.

- Erin Wilson (JD ’08) is launching The Law Office of Erin M. Wilson LLC, in downtown Chicago. The family law firm will assist clients with their litigation, mediation and parenting coordination needs.

- Lance C. Ziebell (JD ’08) has been elevated to shareholder status at Schaumburg, Ill.-based Lavelle Law. He has been with the firm for 11 years.

- Justin M. Hansen (JD ’09) was appointed a circuit judge in the 22nd Judicial Circuit, McHenry County, Ill. Previously, he was an attorney in the Libertyville, Ill., office of Swanson, Martin & Bell.

- Anita Lewis (SNL ’09) was elected to the Kane County (Ill.) Board, representing District 3.

- Tina (Mazzulla) Wills (JD ’09) was promoted to income partner with Freeborn & Peters LLP. She is a member of the Chicago firm’s litigation practice group.

2010s

- Suzanne M. Alton (LAS MS ’10) is an associate in the litigation practice group in the Chicago office of Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP.

- Aaron D. Boeder (JD ’10) was named a partner in the Chicago office of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard PC.


- Tracy L. Schovain (JD ’10) was promoted to partner in the corporate practice group in the Chicago office of law firm Duane Morris LLP.

- McKenzie E. Chinn (THE MFA ’11) stars in “Olympia,” an independent film that received rave reviews at the Chicago International Film Festival in 2018. The film is directed by her husband, Gregory Dixon, whom she met while they were both at The Theatre School.

- Chris Comella (LAS ’11) was recognized as a 2018 National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. He is principal of Pilgrim Lutheran School in Chicago.

- Fazyan Mehbub Keshwani (BUS MS ’11) operates two Sylvan Learning franchise locations in the Dallas-Fort Worth market.

- Geeta M. Shah (JD ’11) is of counsel in the labor, employment and immigration practice of Ice Miller LLP.


- Derrick Winding (SNL ’12, MA ’18) is among 200 veterans statewide chosen by the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs as a Bicentennial Honor 200 recipient.

- Ashley M. Bowcott (LAS ’13) joined Berman Fink Van Horn P.C. as an associate attorney in its business, labor and employment, and real estate litigation practice areas.

- Kelly Shefferly (LAS MA ’10) is an associate with the law firm Plunkett Cooney, based in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. He is part of the banking, bankruptcy, creditors’ rights and transactional law practice groups.

- Samuel B. Chae (JD ’13) is an associate with the Chicago law office of Cunningham, Meyer & Vedrine.

- Drew R. Edwards (LAS ’13) is co-founder and CEO of Pangea Educational Development, a nonprofit that educates school-age children in Uganda.

- Erin J. Knackstedt (LAS MA ’13) was named administrator of Henry County, Ill. Previously she was administrator of Aledo, Ill.

- Kevin B. Morrison (LAS ’13) was elected to the Cook County Board Nov. 6, 2018, becoming both the youngest and the first LGBTQ board member.

- Leonard T. Musielak (SNL ’13) joined Inspirant Group Inc., a digital transformation consulting startup, as head of marketing.

- Brian M. Coleman (MEd ’14), a school counselor and counseling department chair at Jones College Prep in Chicago, Ill., has been named the 2019 School Counselor of the Year by the American School Counselor Association.

- Andrew J. Erickson (CMN ’14, JD ’18) joined the Chicago office of law firm Barnes & Thornburg as a staff attorney.

- Alex M. Fisher (CMN MA ’14) joined Charles Ryan Associates as a digital media strategist.

- Kiandra “KiKi” A. Layne (THE ’14) plays Tish, one of two lead characters in the 2018 movie directed by Barry Jenkins, “If Beale Street Could Talk.” She is also working on a new screen adaptation of Richard Wright’s novel “Native Son.”

- Madeline K. Mitchell (CMN ’14, MEd ’18) was named the 2019 Chicago St. Patrick’s Day queen.

- Germain Castellanos (SNL ’15) has been named executive director of Beacon Place, a community center in Waukegan, Ill.

- Emily R. Fightmaster (LAS ’15) was chosen as one of 21 participants for the 2019 CBS Diversity Sketch Comedy Showcase, performing in six shows in 2019 at the El Portal Theatre in Los Angeles.

- Michael A. Gold (MBA ’15) was promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer of Pine Tree, LLC. Gold previously served as a senior vice president in asset management.

- Redar Ismail (CDM MS ’15) and Badar al Lawati (CDM MS ’11) won a Google Cloud Platform Scholarship to build out their refugee hiring platform, BridgeLink. They are both enrolled in the doctoral program at DePaul’s College of Computing and Digital Media.

- Brittni W. King (JD ’15) is an associate with Detroit-based Miller Canfield, where she works in the banking and finance group. Previously she was a litigator with Andrew & Casson in Chicago.

- Kathleen W. Moss (JD ’15) is a litigation associate in the Chicago office of Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP.

- Shaina Wolfe (JD ’16) is serving as a law clerk.
Roland Hudson (MM ’59) fell in love with the organ as a child: “I was intrigued that I could make so many different sounds. I could almost sound like an orchestra on it.” Despite being blind since birth, he earned a bachelor’s degree in music from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio—and then hit a roadblock.

“When I went to school years ago, blind students were not around. There were very few of us,” Hudson recalls. Universities were reluctant to admit him at the graduate level, except for DePaul. Arthur Becker, founding dean of the School of Music and an organist himself, persuaded his faculty members that they could indeed teach a student who could not see.

As a graduate, Hudson continued that tradition. He’d tell sighted teachers who asked him to instruct their visually impaired students, “I’d rather you keep them, and I will give you pointers on how to assist a blind student.”

Similarly, he had to teach employers about how to work with blind staff. After detecting how uncomfortable recruiters were during his first few interviews, he took the bull by the horns and taught the next recruiter what he should be asking a blind candidate. The result was a 30-year career as a concert artist and teacher trainer for the Yamaha Corporation.

Hudson also moonlighted as a substitute organist for the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago White Sox, where he taught longtime Sox organist Nancy Faust how to use her new Yamaha. Now retired and living in Scottsdale, Ariz., Hudson is the organist for St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Church. He recently was named to the advisory board of the Xavier Society for the Blind, helping to select new material and explore new technology.

“I’ve been using their magazines for five decades at least. Now I receive from them [audio files of] the Propers of the Mass, which change every Sunday. If I had to learn that in Braille, it would take me quite a while, so to have audio done for me is really remarkable,” Hudson says. “It’s a wonderful group.”

Do you have a photo that shows your DePaul spirit? Send the image to dpalumni@depaul.edu with your name and the location where the photo was taken, and you may see yourself in a future issue of DePaul Magazine. High-resolution images only.