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Around Campus

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The University Library’s Special Collections and Archives recently received a unique gift to its permanent collection—the first diploma issued in 1899. “This gift is of incalculable historical value,” said DePaul President, the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M. “In its 116-year history, DePaul has graduated hundreds of thousands of students. Now, with this most generous gift, the university possesses the very first diploma it awarded, 115 years ago.”

Mark Sheridan Barg presented the university with his granduncle Mark Sheridan’s degree, which he and his family have cherished for more than a century. “When I was growing up, I was enthralled by the beauty of this document,” Barg said. “I have treasured it for a long time because of the family connection and the beauty and significance of it. I thought about it for several years, but I felt it belonged at the university.” Sheridan and the Most Rev. William D. O’Brien, former archbishop and auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, were the first two students to enroll at what was then called St. Vincent’s College in 1898, and they were the first to graduate in 1899—Sheridan with highest honors.

The elegant sheepskin document features an illustration of St. Vincent de Paul Parish and a refined calligraphic inscription in Latin. In addition, the diploma includes a handwritten addendum signed by the Rev. Jacob M. Murray, C.M., secretary of the university at the time, naming Sheridan the *primum graduatum* (first graduate). “In July 1899, DePaul’s first president, the Rev. Peter V. Byrne, C.M., had the great joy of conferring this first degree upon Mark Sheridan,” Holtschneider said. “As the 10th president, I gratefully accept this degree in return from his descendants. The university will now treasure and preserve this in perpetuity in our archives.”

According to Sheridan’s great-nephew, it’s only fitting that the diploma be housed at his beloved alma mater, where he once served as president of the Alumni Association. “If he knew it was returned to the place he loved and where he spent so much time, he would be very pleased,” Barg asserted. “My family is extremely happy that his most cherished treasure is now a part of DePaul’s permanent archive.”
A Fond Farewell for Retiring Deans Donald Casey and Charles Suchar

DePaul said goodbye to two of its longstanding leaders as Deans Donald Casey and Charles “Chuck” Suchar (LAS ’67) retired on Dec. 31, 2014. The impact these two outstanding educators and administrators have had on the university reflects their commitment to excellence.

Casey had a sense of mission when he became dean of the School of Music 20 years ago. “I decided I would do what the school needed,” he said. “Even if that meant I was going to be dean for just a few months, I was not going to have any regrets.” Casey’s take-charge attitude proved more than effective as he transformed the school into the world-class program it is today.

During his tenure, Casey strengthened the university’s connection with Chicago, more than tripled endowed scholarship support, recruited outstanding faculty and revised undergraduate and graduate curricula. He served on the DePaul Art Museum (DPAM) board and the university’s Strategic Plan Steering Committee. He also sponsors the Donald and Christine Casey Purchase Prize, which provides $500 to add one piece of student artwork from a juried exhibition to DPAM’s permanent collection. In 2014, the university presented him with its highest honor, the Via Sapientiae Award.

“I’m not interested in a personal legacy,” he said. “The legacy is the students who come through the school and the work they do when they go out into the broader world. That’s not me. That’s all of us, and I’m glad that I was a part of it.”

Retiring Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (LAS) Suchar spent most of his adulthood at DePaul. “DePaul has been extremely good to me and my family. I hope that I have returned the quality of service that is commensurate with the opportunity DePaul has provided to me,” he said, reflecting on his 43 years with the university.

Suchar began his career as an instructor in 1971 and was promoted to assistant professor in 1972. He received a National Science Foundation/NATO Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Sociological Institute at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands in 1976 and returned to DePaul as an associate professor with tenure in 1977. He attained the rank of full professor in 1992. During that time, Suchar served as director of the University Honors Program (1976-81), division head of Behavioral and Social Sciences (1981-84) and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (1985-93). He was associate dean for LAS for 13 years—six years for undergraduate studies and seven years for graduate studies—before assuming the role of dean in 2005.

Suchar received many awards, including the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award, the Sears-Roebuck Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award (all in 1996), the Public Service Award (1997), the Spirit of DePaul Award (1999), the St. Vincent de Paul Professorship (2004), and the Cortelyou-Lowery Award and the Via Sapientiae Award (both in 2014). He created the experiential learning program Discover Chicago in 1994 (see page 16) and the Focal Point Seminar in 1996-97. Outside his work at DePaul, Suchar, an accomplished photographer, was president of the International Visual Sociology Association (1990-94) and is currently associate editor of its journal Visual Studies.

The DePaul community wishes Casey and Suchar all the best and thanks them heartily for their years of dedicated service.
In Memoriam:
Connie Curran (1946-2014)

On Nov. 10, 2014, DePaul lost a great champion and benefactor. Connie Curran (CSH MS ’72), a trustee and a member of the corporation, succumbed to cancer at the age of 67. Grateful to the institution where she earned her master’s degree in nursing, Curran was an active member of the Mission Committee and the Philanthropy Committee and volunteered for DePaul’s historic Many Dreams, One Mission Campaign. She personally contributed generously to help fund the construction of the Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Science Building.

Jack Staley, life trustee and former chairman of the Board of Trustees, remembers Curran for her devotion to service. “Connie was an extraordinary person. Helping people and serving others was not only her passion, it was just who she was, all the time,” he said. “Service to others was the way she lived her life.”

A business and civic leader, Curran was board chair of DeVry Education Group and served on the boards of several health-care-related companies, including Hospira Inc., Volcano Corp., Pyxis, Allegiance, CardioDynamics and IDX. Curran was also a board member of the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and the University of Wisconsin Foundation. She was the founder and CEO of Best on Board LLC, a national organization focused on educating and certifying health care trustees, and was the first executive director of C-Change, a national organization formed to eradicate cancer.

Curran was inspired to become a nurse in 1956 after a tornado wreaked havoc on her hometown of Berlin, Wisc. Red Cross nurses drove trucks into the devastated community to aid the tornado victims, impressing the 9-year-old Curran with their uniforms and can-do attitude. After earning her RN, she went to work at Chicago’s Mount Sinai Medical Center and Mile Square Health Clinic. She served on the boards of MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn, Ill., and Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet, Ill., eventually becoming board chair of the latter.

In 1985, Curran became vice president for health care management and patient care services at the American Hospital Association. While there, she drew attention to the looming nursing shortage and spearheaded two of the largest studies of nurse labor market participation ever conducted. She advocated tirelessly for nurses to have a seat on governing boards of hospitals and health care organizations.

To further her vision for health care, she joined APM Inc., a health care management consulting firm, where she rose to the level of vice chairman, a position she held for 23 years. After APM was acquired by Computer Sciences Corp., she cofounded CurranCare, a national health care consulting and management company. CurranCare was acquired in 2000 by Cardinal Health.

Curran, who earned her doctorate in educational psychology from Northern Illinois University, maintained her keen interest in education as the dean of the Medical College of Wisconsin and as a faculty member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Estes Park Institute. She was a prolific guest lecturer and had more than 200 publications and research programs to her credit. Her most recent book, “Claiming the Corner Office: Executive Leadership Lessons for Nurses,” was written with her colleague and fellow nurse, Therese Fitzpatrick (CSH ’75, MS ’84), a member of the advisory board for the College of Science and Health. She served as the editor of the journal Nursing Economics for 19 years. Curran worked for the next generation of nurses as a board member of the National Student Nurses’ Association.

Proud of her vocation, she offered nurses the following advice: “Challenge self-limiting beliefs about what you can accomplish. Nurses have unlimited potential.”
Graduates Renew Connections at Reunion Weekend 2014

Returning alumni took full advantage of the myriad events that comprised Reunion Weekend 2014, held Oct. 17-19, to reconnect, reminisce and review where life has taken them since graduation. More than 500 alumni and friends participated in six featured events, including the Reunion Celebration and the College of Law Reunion at the Palmer House Hilton, the Reunion Luncheon for the Fifty Year Club and the Young Alumni Reunion at Theory. The new Family Fall Harvest event, which featured pumpkin decorating, carnival rides and refreshments, was well received by the next generation of Blue Demons and their families. Coffee Hour, held after Sunday Mass at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish, was another new event that brought graduates together for informal conversation and relaxation in the Alumni Center.

Vincent Lynn Jr. (LAS ’64), pictured with his guest Judi Lynn, takes a break from exploring the University Archives collection to display his Fifty Year Club Certificate.

World War II veterans Dr. John Jaros Jr. (LAS ’53, MA ’62) and Donald Kaplan (BUS ’49) sport matching hats during the Reunion Luncheon.

Student Alumni Ambassadors Elvira Botello (far left) and Kyla Patterson (far right) share the latest university news, updates and developments with William Kuhlman and Emily Raimondo (EDU ’64), a member of the Class of 1964 Reunion Committee.

Former classmates Marut Shah (BUS ’11), Christopher Tataris (BUS ’11), Ilir Hormova (BUS ’11) and Raj Sheth (BUS ’11) converse during the Young Alumni Reunion, held at Theory, a popular sports bar in River North.

Susan McGowan, Alumni Chaplain the Rev. William Piletic, C.M., and Fifty Year Club Committee Co-Chair Daniel McGowan (CSH ’56) join alumni and friends for the final event of Reunion Weekend, a coffee hour in the Alumni Center following Sunday Mass.

Former classmates Clara Daniels (BUS ’81, MBA ’89), Angela Bell (BUS ’99), Madina Neely (SNL ’10) and Vicky Butler (SNL ’99) catch up during the Reunion Celebration at the Palmer House Hilton.

College of Law graduates Christina Pannos (JD ’04), Stacy Freeman (JD ’04) and Gina DiBella (JD ’04) are all smiles as they celebrate their 10-year reunion.

Diane Lotko-Baker and Donald Baker (JD ’74) head into the College of Law Reunion.

Valerie Ruiz (CMN ’09), co-chair of the Class of 2009 Reunion Committee and member of the Alumni Board, gets ready to welcome guests to the Young Alumni Reunion with Class of 2009 Reunion Committee Member James Murphy (BUS ’09).
ATHLETICS

DePaul Women’s Soccer Celebrates a Dream Season

Imagine having the greatest season in the history of women’s soccer at DePaul, going undefeated for a program-record 20 games and never experiencing the bitter taste of defeat. That is precisely what the Blue Demons did in 2014 while captivating the DePaul community and Chicago media privileged to ride along on this exhilarating journey.

Ranked as high as No. 7 in the nation alongside traditional soccer powerhouses UCLA, North Carolina and Florida State, Coach Erin Chastain’s team soared to unprecedented heights. With only a single loss all season, to Wisconsin in the NCAA tournament, DePaul finished with an incredible 16-1-4 record.

Leading the way was a trio of dangerous attackers—junior Elise Wyatt, sophomore Abby Reed and irrepressible 5-foot-tall freshman Alexa Ben—who together accounted for 32 goals and 22 assists. At one point in the season, Reed led the nation in game-winning goals, and her total of 12 goals tied the school’s single-season record set by Julianne Sitch in 2003. Ben’s 11 assists broke the school record of 10 set by Erin Walter in 2004. Wyatt’s 11 goals is the second-highest season mark.

This was a gritty group that connected on almost every level on the way to winning their first BIG EAST Conference regular-season and tournament titles. A never-say-die attitude and a steadfast confidence in each other sustained them during moments of doubt.

The Blue Demons trailed Milwaukee 2–0 in an early September road match until Ana Greik, Ben and Reed scored unanswered goals in a 3–2 victory. DePaul was down 2–1 at Butler with just 3 minutes left when Reed came through with a huge score that ultimately resulted in a double-overtime tie.

The nation took notice as Rachel Pitman and Wyatt were named Capital One Academic All-Americans. Sarah Gorden, Pitman, Wyatt, Ben and Reed were chosen for the coaches’ association All-Northeast Region team. For the second year in a row, Chastain was honored as Northeast Region Coach of the Year. Pitman and Wyatt were selected for the coaches’ association Scholar All-America Team.

“It feels so great because we knew what it felt like to be on the bottom,” Gorden said. “We were familiar with the feelings of defeat, disappointment and not being good enough. It really is an indescribable feeling going through each game win after win.

“We discovered that only through togetherness could we achieve greatness,” she continued. “Only after coming together as one, that’s when the magic started happening. And best of all, our fate was in our own hands. We held the key to unlocking our own dreams.”

“Best of all, our fate was in our own hands. We held the key to unlocking our own dreams.”

- Sarah Gorden, senior, defender
Men's Basketball Charges to Unprecedented BIG EAST Start

Billy Garrett Jr.

It came out of nowhere, much to the delight of a loyal, partisan Blue Demon fan base anxiously awaiting a reversal of fortune for the men's basketball program. Coach Oliver Purnell’s team opened the 2014-15 regular season winning six of seven games before plunging into a six-game losing streak. But the Blue Demons came charging back by winning the first three games of their BIG EAST season—the first time that has happened since DePaul joined the elite basketball conference in 2005. Suddenly, the team picked to finish last in a preseason coaches’ poll was all alone in first place.

On New Year’s Eve, down by 13 to Marquette with less than 12 minutes to play, Billy Garrett Jr. led DePaul on a 25–9 run for a 61–58 victory at Allstate Arena. Garrett scored nine points in that final surge and finished with a game-high 19 points. It was the first successful BIG EAST opener since 2008.

Three days later, DePaul followed up with a 71–68 win over Xavier at Allstate in a tight matchup that featured 10 lead changes and seven ties. Jamee Crockett’s three-pointer provided a 53–45 lead, but Xavier rallied to tie it 66–66 with 42 seconds left. That’s when Garrett, Aaron Simpson and Tommy Hamilton IV combined to hit six free throws to stave off the Musketeers. Forrest Robinson led DePaul with a career-high 17 points, while Garrett had 15 points, 10 assists and five rebounds.

Robinson continued his torrid shooting four days later, opening the game with five consecutive three-pointers in leading the Blue Demons to a 70–60 triumph at Creighton. Creighton never got any closer than six points off the lead. After two losses, to Villanova and Georgetown, the Blue Demons came charging back. They beat St. John’s 71–67 in overtime BIG EAST play, and avenged a loss to Seton Hall on the road by besting their New Jersey rival 75–62 in a BIG EAST game at home.

Awarding Groups Recognize Women's Basketball Star Brittany Hrynko

DePaul senior guard Brittany Hrynko has been piling up accolades this season. She was named to the Naismith Trophy Watch by the Atlanta Tipoff Club. Hrynko, who was a unanimous preseason All-BIG EAST Conference selection, is DePaul’s first three-time, first-team BIG EAST selection.

The senior guard is also one of the 30 players on the John R. Wooden Award Watch List. Players on this list are the front-runners for women’s college basketball’s most prestigious award, created in 1976 to honor the outstanding college basketball player in the United States. A candidate’s performance in the regular season, conference tournaments and postseason are taken into account by voters, as is the player’s character.

The Women’s Basketball Coaches Association also chose Hrynko for its “Wade Watch.” Hrynko represents not only the Blue Demons, but also the entire BIG EAST Conference. The Wade Trophy is named in honor of the late Lily Margaret Wade, a talented player (1930-32) and legendary coach at Delta State University (1973-77) in Cleveland, Miss.

Wustling, Robinson Highlight Men's Soccer Season

A young and developing DePaul men’s soccer team shows an abundance of promise, as the performances of four rookie players can attest. Freshman midfielder Hers Wustling, the standout from Hamburg, Germany, led the team in assists and was tied for eighth in the BIG EAST in assists. Other first-year players who made significant contributions include defender Caleb Pothast, German midfielder Philipp Koenigstein and forward Alessandro Thomas from Sigonella, Italy.

In his first season after transferring from Ohio Dominican, junior goalkeeper Mack Robinson kept his team competitive all season. Robinson finished second in the BIG EAST in both saves and saves per game. He was No. 37 in the nation in saves.

WINTER 2015

SPRINT BRIEFS

Blue Demon Softball Looking to Repeat as Dual Champion

DePaul has opened BIG EAST Conference play this spring aiming to defend its 2014 regular-season and conference tournament titles. Coach Eugene Lentis (EDU ‘80) team will face 20 teams with winning records in the 2015 season, including nine talented programs that competed in the NCAA tournament last year. The Blue Demons advanced to the Lexington, Ky., NCAA Regional Final last season and are striving to capture an NCAA regional crown this year.

Senior Mary Connolly is the reigning BIG EAST Player of the Year after leading the conference in batting average, RBIs, runs scored, slugging percentage and on-base percentage last season. It was the first time a Blue Demon had won that award. Connolly is backed up by sophomore Dylan Christensen, who was the 2014 BIG EAST Rookie of the Year and was also named All-BIG EAST First Team. Senior Staci Bonezek was an All-BIG EAST Second Team selection last season.

Gallop Earns Volleyball Distinction

DePaul junior outside hitter Saige Gallop was named to the 2014 Capital One Academic All-District Second Team, as voted on by members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Gallop became the first player in program history to receive the award.

Gallop got it done both on and off the court. In her first season in Lincoln Park, Gallop led the Blue Demons in kills, kills per set and points, and was third in digs—all while maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade-point average. She was named to the DePaul Invitational All-Tournament Team; the Evansville Invitational All-Tournament Team and the Windy City All-Tournament Team.

For full schedules, results and other news about DePaul Athletics, visit depaulbluedemons.com.

Mary Connolly

Saige Gallop
Around Campus

Current Issues in Latino America Forum Welcomes Author Alfredo Corchado

On Oct. 7, 2014, author Alfredo Corchado visited DePaul to discuss his book, “Midnight in Mexico,” as part of the university’s forum Current Issues in Latino America, presented by DePaul’s Center for Latino Research. Corchado is a Mexican-American journalist who serves as the Mexico City bureau chief for The Dallas Morning News and focuses his coverage on the U.S.-Mexico border and drug wars. Corchado’s book provides a nonfiction account of his investigation into a tip from a trusted source that he might be targeted for assassination by a Gulf cartel paramilitary spin-off group called the Zetas.

Corchado shared why he continues to do his work despite the inherent dangers. “In the worst of moments, I have also witnessed the best of Mexicans, especially the best of my colleagues. Whether you’re an American or a Mexican journalist, many still believe in the power of a story, that stories can move and inspire others, that stories can make a difference … I still believe in what Mexico can be.”

Corchado also discussed Mexican politics, the rise of the cartels and his experiences living in Mexico and the United States. The audience consisted largely of DePaul students who had read the book and were eager to ask the author questions after his presentation. Many wanted updates on people mentioned in the book, including Angela Kocherga, news border bureau chief for Belo Television, Corchado’s longtime girlfriend and a major figure in the book, who joined him for the question-and-answer session.

Professor speaks at national forum on diversity in STEM fields

Nell Cobb (CSH MA ’87), associate professor of elementary mathematics education and associate chair of teacher education in DePaul’s College of Education, addressed the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation during its annual legislative conference on Sept. 26, 2014. The conference panel focused on education and employment for African-Americans in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

“When you think about those who are underrepresented in STEM areas, they are typically low income and/or people of color,” said Cobb. “In order to fill the pipeline, we need to figure out what to do when students are at an early age to prepare them to start thinking about STEM-related careers.” Panelists discussed both socioeconomic issues that contribute to the lack of African-Americans in STEM fields and possible solutions to address this disparity.

Of the five presenters, Cobb was the only one with a background in teacher education. “What we’ve learned over time is that if, after high school, students are calculus-ready—which means they’ve got the numbers, operations and algebraic thinking skills—then it’s easier for them to transition into STEM preparation programs,” she said. Cobb discussed how the College of Education launched a STEM summer camp for sixth-grade girls, which was funded by the Motorola Solutions Foundation. The participants focused on problem-solving skills that were centered on building solar-powered cars to compete in a race during the final day of camp. Participants also built various alarm clocks and created other models. These activities were designed to show students how rewarding and enjoyable work in STEM fields can be.

Cobb suggested that programs like this are integral to increasing diversity. “If we are going to move forward in the 21st century and have the type of individuals we need to do vital STEM work, this focus needs to continue. Hopefully, we’ll continue to receive funding to provide opportunities for students,” she said.