14 Under 40: DePaul Recognizes Excellence

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DePaul’s Outstanding Alumni for 2015

Geography: A Career without Borders
Marten denBoer, DePaul’s New Provost
Features

10 14 Under 40 Outstanding Alumni for 2015
This 10th edition of DePaul Magazine’s 14 Under 40 is a celebration of alumni making a significant mark in the world. Meet a globe-trotting business consultant, the chief operating officer of the Chicago Transit Authority, an award-winning jazz musician and other fascinating individuals who are proud to be DePaul alumni.

18 Geography: A Career Without Borders
Most people outside the discipline think geography encompasses nothing more than putting borders and place names on maps; in fact, those basics barely scratch the surface. Geography is a mode of looking at the world to understand how place is constructed through history, culture and location. Alumni geographers tell how their training informs their work in such areas as pest control, education policy and fair trade commerce.

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New provost Marten L. denBoer comes to DePaul eager to enhance a learning community that transforms lives and serves an increasingly diverse student population.
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Photo credit: Matthew G. Hollis

A DePaul professor explores common motivations behind fraudulent acts in an entertaining video and accompanying reader quiz.

Mary Williamson (THE ’08) shares behind-the-scenes secrets and insight into the gory effects used in theatre productions.
A woman ahead of her time, Ida B. Wells-Barnett crusaded for civil rights and women’s suffrage through her investigative journalism and social activism until her death in 1931. Her work has inspired countless generations of scholars and activists and remains as poignant today as it was more than 100 years ago. On May 15, the Center for Black Diaspora and the African and black diaspora studies program hosted “Ida B. Wells-Barnett’s Legacy: Black Women’s Activism,” a colloquium and panel discussion that explored various aspects of Wells-Barnett’s work and its implications in modern society.

The colloquium, held at the John T. Richardson Library, was hosted by Sandra Jackson, director of the Center for Black Diaspora and professor of women’s and gender studies, and Julie Moody-Freeman, chair and associate professor of African and black diaspora studies. They introduced Michelle Duster, author and Wells-Barnett’s great-granddaughter, who kicked off the event with her examination of her great-grandmother’s use of journalism. “Growing up, I thought she was a superhero who could fly through the air with her pen and take on the government,” Duster laughs. “How powerful can writing be that you can take on a country?”

Barbara Ransby, professor of gender and women’s studies, African-American studies and history at the University of Illinois at Chicago, used Wells-Barnett’s activism as a lens to consider the spectacle of violence in her presentation, “From Emmett Till to Walter Scott: The Fight for Black Life and the Collective Pain of Racial Violence.” Wendy Smooth, professor of political science and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies at The Ohio State University in Columbus, delved into the politics of gender and race in “Good Ol’ Boys Meet the New Black Woman: Electoral Politics in the 21st Century,” while Naomi Davis, president and founder of Blacks in Green, encouraged the audience to develop sustainable living practices and to question what it means to be a woman in “I Ain’t a Woman: Call of the Wild.”

The colloquium concluded with a keynote address by Beverly Guy-Sheftall, founding director of the Women’s Research and Resource Center and the Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women’s Studies at Spelman College in Atlanta. Guy-Sheftall shared stories of lesser-known female activists in “Legacies: Black Feminist Foremothers,” including Jo Ann Robinson, who became involved in the civil rights movement after facing discrimination on public transport in 1949, and Willa Player, the first female and African-American president of Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C., who supported her students by administering exams in jail during the civil rights movement.

Guy-Sheftall called upon the audience to “rewrite the history books” to include more narratives like these that illustrate the history of black women’s activism in American society.
On June 11, Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe (DHL ’13) spoke to the university community and the public at the DePaul Student Center about her experiences as a Ugandan educator and an advocate for female victims of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and the LRA leader Joseph Kony. The event preceded her commencement address for the School for New Learning.

Nyirumbe founded the St. Monica Girls’ Tailoring Centre in Gulu, Uganda, which strives to rehabilitate the women and girls who were trained as child soldiers and used as sex slaves for the LRA. Since its founding in 2001, the center has helped thousands of girls, women and their children.

“Why do we focus our attention on Kony, anyway?” Nyirumbe asked the audience. “Let us focus our attention on these women who are ready to forgive after suffering for so long. Let us give them a future.”

Nyirumbe is also co-founder of Sisters United for Africa LLC, which sells purses and accessories made by the women of St. Monica’s. The women are paid for their work, and all proceeds benefit Sisters United, St. Monica’s and Pros for Africa, a nonprofit in Oklahoma City that helps distribute the goods in the United States. The purses and accessories were for sale at the event.

“We call St. Monica’s a school, but it is more than a school,” Nyirumbe said. “It is more of a family because in a family you can accept any child. With love, the doors can be opened. With love, these girls can be rehabilitated. With love, they can fit again into society, and with that acceptance, they will know their life has not been robbed from them.”

Nyirumbe was named to the Time Magazine 2014 list of 100 Most Influential People and is the subject of the book and documentary “Sewing Hope.” To learn more about Nyirumbe, St. Monica’s and Sisters United, visit sewinghope.com.

In May, the Driehaus College of Business offered inspiration and cutting-edge research to alumni, students and friends at two special events. The department of finance invited Harry Kraemer, former Baxter chairman and CEO and current educator, author and executive partner with Madison Dearborn Partners, to discuss values-based leadership. Kraemer outlined the four principles of values-based leadership he practices to maximize his effectiveness: self-reflection, balance, true self-confidence and genuine humility. He cautioned not to confuse activity with productivity and emphasized that by “turning off the noise,” leaders have a chance to determine what they stand for, what matters and what example they want to set. Leaders, he said, have an openness to new ideas and feel comfortable saying “I don’t know” and “I was wrong.” He stressed that we all have the opportunity to be our best self if we remember where we came from and rethink work-life balance as simply life balance.

The Center for Financial Services hosted an all-day conference on economics and finance, welcoming researchers from a number of U.S. universities to present their recent findings. Among the presenters was Abdullah Kumas from the University of Richmond (Va.), whose findings in “Insider Trading Activity around Auto Recalls” show how insider selling is more pronounced before rather than when an automobile recall is announced. In “Informed Institutional Trading Before Takeover Announcements: Evidence From Target Firms’ Pre-takeover Conference Presentations,” Musa Subasi of the University of Maryland presented his findings that access to firm executives at investor conferences enables institutional investors to identify future takeover targets and that investors increase their stock ownership more when targets attend more conferences, larger conferences and conferences hosted by more experienced brokers.

Eugene F. Fama, 2013 Nobel Laureate in Economics, participated in a question-and-answer session in which he discounted the effectiveness of active stock managers on a purely chance basis; he also identified income inequality as a huge social problem. Other researchers presented on topics such as subprime mortgage lending, predicting future profitability, and share repurchasing and takeover bids.
The DePaul community congratulates the Class of 2015 on their graduation this past spring. At the 117th commencement ceremonies, DePaul University President, the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., conferred degrees upon more than 6,500 students in recognition of their years of hard work and dedication. The new graduates now join more than 171,000 alumni living around the world.

Matthew von Nida (LAS '15), president of the Student Government Association, holds a DePaul banner in the Student Center before the annual baccalaureate mass that signifies the beginning of commencement weekend activities.

Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media and Interim Provost David Miller, Executive Director of the Greater Chicago Food Depository Kate Maehr (DHL '15) and the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., applaud the new graduates at the Driehaus College of Business commencement ceremony, where Maehr received an honorary doctorate.

Edelman President and CEO Richard Edelman (DHL '15) proudly receives an honorary doctorate from the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., at the College of Communication and College of Computing and Digital Media commencement ceremony. Edelman spoke to graduates about the big ideas and campaigns the company has executed over the years and encouraged them to lead with their own big ideas and use their careers as vehicles to change the world.

In her commencement address for the College of Education, sociologist Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot (DHL '15) called upon her fellow alumni to make their future classrooms truly diverse and to ensure every child feels visible, acknowledged and worthy.

Director of Jazz Studies Dana Hall presented composer, arranger and pianist Muhal Richard Abrams (DHL '15), first president of the Chicago-based Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, with an honorary degree. During his address, Abrams spoke about the importance of character and recalled the path he took that led to his current success.
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Interim Dean Lucy Rinehart hooded renowned chemist and honorary degree recipient Peter J. Stang (CSH ‘63, DHL ‘15).

Mariah Mullins (CSH ‘15) and Samantha Mordawski (CSH ‘15) wait backstage before the ceremonies for the College of Science and Health and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

At the College of Law commencement ceremony, DePaul Emeritus Distinguished Research Professor of Law and President Emeritus of the International Human Rights Law Institute M. Cherif Bassiouni (DHL ‘15) urged graduates to thoughtfully consider how they will meet the unique demands placed on new lawyers today and to decide how they will make a difference in the world.

Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe (DHL ‘13), an educator, advocate and humanitarian activist in Uganda, encouraged graduates of the School for New Learning (SNL) to take past and future failures and use them as a basis to set goals and find their way to success. Read more on page 3.

Current student Richard Palya, Scott Williams (MUS ’08, MUS ’15) and current student William Cousins performed “Tricotism” by Oscar Pettiford as students from the School of Music and The Theatre School participated in the commencement ceremonies.

During the SNL commencement ceremony, Sister Alice Anzoyo C. Dralu, S.H.S. (left), and Sister Agnes Njeri, S.H.S., read the names of the 2015 SNL graduates who studied at Tangaza University College in Nairobi, Kenya, which has collaborated with SNL since 2006.
Soccer Player Jake Douglas Reflects on Saving the Life of a Cancer Patient

Times of crisis often bring out the best in people, and that is exactly what former DePaul soccer player Jake Douglas (BUS ’15) demonstrated when he was asked to undergo a demanding medical procedure to help save a life.

His journey began at the Student Center on DePaul’s Lincoln Park Campus in May 2014, when Douglas stopped by the booth of Be The Match, operated by the National Marrow Donor Program. He, rather matter-of-factly, registered as a bone marrow donor and gave a saliva sample. Then, in January, the bone marrow registry contacted him about being a match and asked him to undergo a blood test. According to the organization, only one out of every 540 donors is ever notified that they are a potential match. Still, only one week after having the blood test, Douglas got the amazing news that he was the best match for a dying leukemia patient.

“I had this opportunity to do something for someone else,” Douglas said. “You play the scenarios in your mind about what if they call and ask you to do it. I thought, ‘I can do this—I want to do this.’ If I needed it or someone in my family needed this, I would want the person in my position to go through with it. I talked to my parents first, and they were very supportive. My roommates and soccer teammates said, ‘If you need anything from us while you’re going for it, we’ve got your back.’”

The 22-year-old athlete received a series of shots over five days that induced his body to overproduce bone marrow cells, causing increasing pain as the cells packed tightly into his bones. Douglas went to a clinic in suburban Rosemont, Ill., to make the donation; his father, Melvin, flew up from their home in Carrollton, Texas, to be by his son’s side during the lengthy donation process.

Douglas sat with a thick needle in his right arm and a catheter inserted into his left hand as machines circulated his blood five times to extract enough cells to donate. He couldn’t move for four hours. “It was pretty weird,” Douglas said. “You see your blood going through all the machines, into a bag, back up and into your hand. I was lucky they had a TV there, and I watched ‘SportsCenter’ four times in a row. I got pretty tired of watching TV after that.

“The first 20 minutes is like, ‘wow, I’m actually doing this. This is cool,’” Douglas continued. “After an hour, I was tired of just sitting there, and I couldn’t feel my legs anymore. After 2½ hours my arm started to cramp up, so they put an ice pack on it. Finally, the last 30 minutes were a breeze. Blink your eyes, and you’re done.

“I don’t know the person I donated to,” he said. “All I know is she’s a 59-year-old woman with terminal leukemia, and this was her last shot. They completely wiped out her immune system and put her on life support until they got my cells.”

Douglas received an email on July 9 that the cells he donated had grafted successfully, and the recipient was released from the hospital in good condition. After a year, both donor and patient can sign a waiver if they want to meet one another.

“I will definitely sign the waiver,” Davis said. “I think it would be really neat to meet her and understand what she has gone through over the years. I’m sure the little bit of pain I had to endure to give her my cells is nothing compared to all the pain she has gone through as a leukemia survivor.”

Douglas was one of 163 student-athletes named to the BIG EAST All-Academic Team for the 2014-15 academic year, but the achievement in his final year of college that will surely remain with him the longest is helping a desperately ill woman get a second chance. Learn more about Be The Match at bethematch.org.

“For information on season ticket packages, please call (773) 325-SLAM (7526) or visit depaulbluedemons.com/tickets.”

“I had this opportunity to do something for someone else. I thought, ‘I can do this—I want to do this.’”

-Jake Douglas

- Athletes
Trip to France Builds Camaraderie among Men's Basketball Teammates

In mid-August, the DePaul men's basketball team spent 11 days in France, where they took in the sights, played four games and learned about the university's namesake from Vincentian lecturer and guide the Rev. Edward R. Udovic, C.M. (LAS '76). The trip was funded through the In the Footsteps of St. Vincent France Tour Endowment.

Sightseeing highlights included a Seine River cruise and visits to the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The team visited Avignon, the capital of Christendom during the Middle Ages; Omaha Beach and other historic D-Day sites; and Nice and Monaco on the beautiful French Riviera. They also went to Mont-Saint-Michel, a famous island community off the coast of Normandy that is on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

Udovic led the team on tours of Vincentian sites in Folleville and Amiens, as well as the Vincentian Museum in Paris, as part of the second half of a unique educational experience about St. Vincent de Paul that began on the Lincoln Park Campus. According to incoming freshman Eli Cain, the overseas tour formed the perfect entrée into the Blue Demon program.

"The team became closer on the trip," Cain said. "I think it was because we really only had about four fans for each game, so we had to support each other even more than usual. One of my biggest highlights of the trip was going out shopping and walking around with the team and the coaches. We have some very funny people on our staff. The best part was just having fun with my teammates. Those guys are like my brothers. Nice was the best place we visited."

On the court, the Blue Demons went 3-1 against local French teams in Paris, Caen, Avignon and Nice. The Blue Demons lost the opener 96-62 to Caen Calvados despite 17 points and nine rebounds from Myke Henry. They bounced back with a 92-51 triumph over Paris AMW All-Stars, as Darrick Wood scored 17 points. It was DePaul over SAP Vaucluse 93-63 in game three, behind Henry's 15 points. Billy Garrett Jr. led DePaul to a 75-51 victory over U.S. Cagnes Basket with 16 points in the finale.

"Two really important things we learned on this trip were coming together as a group and learning a lot more about our team," said Coach Dave Leitao. "Most importantly for me was understanding how far we can grow, what the positives are and what things we need to work on. I thought it was a tremendous trip, and I look forward to making progress on the court."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fargas Nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year Award

Former DePaul tennis player Patricia Fargas (BUS '15) was one of 57 Division I student-athletes nominated for the prestigious NCAA Woman of the Year Award. Fargas led the Blue Demons to back-to-back BIG EAST championships the last two years. This past season, the All-BIG EAST performer helped DePaul advance to the second round of the NCAA National Championship for the first time in school history.

Women's Basketball No. 3 in the Nation in Team GPA

The DePaul women's basketball program was No. 3 in the nation after once again being named to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Academic Top 25. The Blue Demons, who advanced to the second round of the NCAA National Tournament, had a cumulative 3.622 GPA. DePaul was one of just seven programs in the Academic Top 25 to compete in last season's NCAA tournament.

DePaul Leads BIG EAST in Team Academic Excellence

A record-tying eight programs from DePaul earned the BIG EAST Team Academic Excellence Award and were recognized for having the highest collective GPAs in each conference sport. Recognized were men's golf, along with women's basketball, cross country, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, soccer, softball and tennis. Women's basketball, soccer and tennis teams also were 2014-15 BIG EAST Championship winners.

Jenkins Strikes Gold in South Korea

DePaul point guard Chanise Jenkins (CMN '15) played an integral role in the gold-medal-winning performance of USA Basketball Women's World University Games Team this past July in Gwangju, South Korea. The team's 82-63 triumph over Canada brought Jenkins her first gold medal. It was Team USA's sixth consecutive and 10th overall title in World University Games history.

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

One Theatre World 2015 Conference Spurs Creativity

Earlier this year, The Theatre School hosted the TYA/USA One Theatre World 2015 conference. More than 200 artistic professionals who produce theatre for young audiences participated in workshops and master classes, attended performances, and discussed the joys and challenges of the industry. “The work of TYA/USA is so closely aligned with the programming goals in our own Chicago Playworks—to share the best of our great theatre city with young people and to bring international voices and stories to life in highly imaginative productions,” said John Culbert, dean of The Theatre School.

The keynote address by Pete Higgin, enrichment director of Punchdrunk, a London-based theatre company that specializes in interactive productions, underscored the “dare, dream, do the unexpected” theme of the conference. Higgin described the process of creating a magical world in several elementary schools. For one production, his team built a bric-a-brac shop, filling it with items the students had read about in books, personalized letters for each child and a secret exit hidden behind a bookshelf. “Whatever the specs, the goal is the same: to put the audience first,” he asserted. “We strive to make them the most important part of our work, to impact them emotionally, physically and viscerally, and to give them an experience that will stay with them forever.”

In a breakout session focused on strengthening connections between communities and productions, Carlos Murillo, head of playwriting at The Theatre School, shared how families in Chicago’s West Town neighborhood shaped his play “Augusta and Noble,” performed at Adventure Stage in 2013. Through casual pizza parties and one-on-one conversations, Murillo absorbed the neighborhood’s challenges, fears, hopes and dreams. Ultimately, his play tackled such serious subjects as gentrification, undocumented immigrants and education inequality.

On May 7, scholars, students and the public were taken back in time when cuneiform tablets from DePaul’s Special Collections and Archives were displayed and discussed by K. Lawson Younger, a renowned expert on Semitic languages and ancient Near East history. The Sumerian and Babylonian clay tablets date from between about 3,000 B.C. to about 1,000 B.C. and are among the oldest written records to have survived to the present.

Younger remarked that a person would need to know 400-500 individual cuneiform signs to be literate, and many tablets contain inventories, loan documents and other administrative memoranda. One such tablet includes an allotment of 109 slaves for the harvesting of a field. Among the small number of royal documents in the collection is one of numerous cone-shaped tablets placed in the foundation of the palace of Uruk King Sin-Kasid and half of a tablet containing ancient propaganda—a hymn to the deity Nusku.

Attendees viewed and handled tablets after Younger’s lecture. Younger said the tablets likely hardened after being exposed to an ancient fire resulting from some catastrophe or conflict, thus ensuring their survival over several millennia. Archaeological excavators now routinely fire clay objects to preserve them.

The 94 tablets in the collection were part of a larger collection of the late Vincentian priest and biblical languages scholar Charles-Léon Souvay, C.M., which was housed at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis. They were donated to DePaul in 2014 by the Western Province of the Congregation of the Mission. The tablets may be viewed online at the Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative (cdli.ucla.edu, Collection # Souvay) or by visiting Special Collections at the John T. Richardson Library, which is free and open to the public.

Expert Decodes Cuneiform Tablets Donated to DePaul

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A Sense of Achievement

Our students begin their academic journey eager to learn and have the transformative experiences college brings. As they look to the future, these students have tangible examples among alumni that their dreams can come true.

This 10th edition of DePaul Magazine’s 14 Under 40 showcases alumni who have found the success and sense of accomplishment a DePaul education provides. In every field, our diverse array of 14 Under 40 honorees are variously helping to find a cure for cancer, extending corporate charitable giving to worthy causes, advising the media about drug enforcement initiatives, improving the CTA and much more.

This issue also looks at the multifaceted world of geography through the eyes of several alumni. The range of fields that require the ability of trained geographers to mine big data and map pattern and process is much wider than most of us imagine. Our alumni geographers relish the high level of creativity and innovation their work demands. The geography program offers just one example of why DePaul was recently ranked among the most innovative U.S. universities by U.S. News and World Report.

Finally, we are proud to introduce DePaul’s new provost, Marten denBoer, and share his ideas for enhancing the quality of our academic programs. I hope you will enjoy meeting all the accomplished, service-minded individuals DePaul is blessed to count among its own.

Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M.
Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M.
This 10th edition of DePaul Magazine’s 14 Under 40, a celebration of alumni making significant marks in the world, features some of our best and brightest in finance, law, music, medicine, government and other fields. Meet a film and television costume designer, a theatre marketing director, the CEO of an airport retailer, and an assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction and technology, among other fascinating individuals who are proud to be DePaul alumni.

Editorial contributors: Marilyn Ferdinand, Kelsey Schagemann, Melissa Smith, Jamie Sokolik
Sylvia Garcia (LAS MS ’06) never planned to be a chief financial officer. She never thought she’d leave Chicago, either. But when she was named a Presidential Management Fellow, a program that allows participants to learn and work in the federal government, the opportunity was too good to pass up. Garcia left for Washington, D.C., planning to return to Chicago upon completing the two-year program, but when the fellowship ended, doors opened. She worked with the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and eventually as chief financial officer and assistant secretary for budget for the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

“I loved math, but careerwise I was focused on public policy,” she says. “When I participated in the fellowship, my boss said, ‘If you don’t know how the money works, there’s no way to make great ideas happen.’ That stuck with me and put me on a new path.”

Garcia was 31 when she became CFO of the DOT in 2012. Among her responsibilities was managing the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program, which, under Garcia’s leadership, provided 25 loans amounting to $11.5 billion for projects such as the Chicago Riverwalk. TIFIA covers up to 33 percent of each project total and resulted in $37 billion of infrastructure investment nationwide during Garcia’s tenure.

“It was a great accomplishment,” she says. “Getting to know the projects, seeing their direct impact and being a small part of it was amazing.”

After 2½ years as CFO, more than four years with the DOT and nearly 10 in D.C., Garcia was ready to return to Chicago. The timing was right; the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) needed a chief operating officer, and she was very qualified for the job. She started work on June 15.

“With the CTA, I get to see the impact of my work every day,” she says. “If we don’t do our jobs, people don’t make it to work or to school or home to their kids at night. It’s exciting to be back in Chicago and part of something that’s integral to the city. It’s meaningful work.”

“The opportunity to learn about the infrastructure side of public service was very interesting to me. I wanted to be a part of getting people where they need to be. For so many Chicagoans, it’s on public transportation.”

Dr. Michael Kharas (CSH ’01) likes to take things one step at a time. As a cancer biologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, he understands the value of chipping away at complicated problems bit by bit. “It’s exciting because no one has ever tested these ideas before,” he says. “We’re trying to grab hold of a little piece and make sense of it. Every day is an enormous challenge but also very rewarding.”

Under Kharas’ leadership, the researchers in his lab focus on cancers of the blood. “We study the pathways and genes that are important in regulating both normal stem cells and those that become altered in leukemia,” he explains. “The lab was one of the first to identify a specific RNA binding protein that is important in the function of leukemia stem cells. “Our studies have uncovered a novel mechanism for how cancer stem cells maintain themselves, and our laboratory is searching for drugs to target this pathway,” Kharas notes.

With up to a dozen projects underway at any given moment, Kharas spends much of his time brainstorming with his lab members, analyzing data, and writing manuscripts and grant applications. Individual experiments may be completed in a few hours, but the projects themselves can take years, and tackling such complex problems requires a monumental collaborative effort. “That’s why you see 20 authors from many different universities and countries listed on any publication,” Kharas says.

His lab team has accomplished a great deal in only four years, but Kharas isn’t slowing down. “I feel fortunate to work for such an amazing research institution where some of the smartest people in the world are trying to find cures for cancer,” he says. “We work hard because we have the potential to make a difference in people’s lives.”

“When the people who train under me go on to do other things and are successful, I feel like I’ve contributed something. It’s really nice that I can help provide an environment that gives researchers room to learn and grow.”
When Michael Cassel (JD ’06) accepted a position at Boeing’s global headquarters in Chicago as director of global corporate citizenship, he knew he would face a steep learning curve. “I had never been a funder before,” he explains. “It was my first time in a role focused on investing charitable funds.” While the position was new to him, the company was not; Cassel’s prior experience in Boeing’s Washington, D.C., office as chief of staff for state and local government affairs, as well as director of strategy, laid the groundwork for a successful transition.

Boeing’s charitable giving areas include education, health and human services, environment, arts and culture, and civic engagement, and Cassel’s team develops locally tailored strategies for those focus areas in Chicago and the Great Lakes region. “We’ve developed a plan that takes into consideration the unique nature of Boeing’s presence in Chicago and the specific needs of this community,” he says. “We help our employees find volunteer opportunities, administer employee giving, and engage senior executives and other employees to serve on nonprofit boards of key partners that align with Boeing’s community engagement strategy.”

Cassel also oversees budgets for grant-making and sponsorship. “Nonprofits are doing great work around the city,” Cassel asserts. “The hardest part of this job is saying ‘no,’ especially when you know the organization is committed to doing great work for the people that need it most. We just don’t have the bandwidth to invest in every worthy organization that approaches us, so we work strategically to invest in causes that most align with our priorities for the region.”

Despite those challenges, Cassel promotes Boeing’s role in the region as comprehensively as possible. “As a company, we believe it’s important to give back to the communities where we live and work,” he says. “On a personal level, it’s very fulfilling and rewarding to be part of that process.” He says that returning to Chicago after five years away felt like a homecoming. “I’m really thrilled to be working for the company that I love in the city that I love.”

“I always try to understand where someone is coming from. I think if we all put a little more effort into understanding why some people have different beliefs, we could end up achieving a lot more as a society.”

For Corinne Heggie (JD ’01), practicing law is more than a passion; it is in her DNA. Heggie’s grandmother was a student in DePaul’s College of Law in the 1940s when it was uncommon for a woman to work outside of the home, much less aspire to a career in a male-dominated field. Although she did not graduate, she did inspire Heggie, a dedicated, hard-working and equally driven lawyer, to pursue her own education and thrive as an attorney.

“She was one of three women in her class,” Heggie says. “She ended up getting married and took on the different challenge of having eight children, but on a very human, personal level, it’s a meaningful connection for me.”

Heggie is now a partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP in Chicago. Within her commercial litigation practice, she’s worked on cases big and small that involve debt buyers, debt collectors, background investigation companies, lawyers, mortgage servicers and lenders. Regardless of the size or scope, Heggie takes on each case with a powerful devotion to her job and her client.

“It takes a lot of work to be a lawyer,” she says. “It means something. Whomever your clients are, you know they’re trusting you while in very vulnerable situations. It’s truly an honor.”

Heggie credits her own mentors, in part, for the development of this philosophy. She makes a conscious effort to be available as a mentor for new lawyers through her work as a director and member of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. The organization gives her an opportunity to reach lawyers she might not otherwise meet.

“To me, being a partner means you’ve got to reach back and help others establish great careers so they can help people, too,” Heggie says. “You want to be an example. You want to make sure people get the opportunities and training they need. You want to be more accessible. A good firm partner is generally a good firm citizen.”

“My grandmother once said to me, ‘Corinne, darling, remember to be kind to women.’ I didn’t think much of it at the time. But now, I think, how brilliant and true. Be kind to women, but be kind to everyone. Everyone in this world matters.”
Mere ambition and even enormously hard work have amazingly short shelf lives. True art comes from those who can face the pleasure and pain of being alive and project them honestly. It is apparent in the music he writes and the sounds he makes that trumpeter/composer/educator Marquis Hill (MM ’12) is a true artist.

Hill’s first job at age 12 was with the South Shore Youth Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of saxophonist and educator Professor Ronald Carter. “He ingrained in me the importance of being serious about the art form and seemingly little things, like being on time, being professional and prepared,” says Hill. “I learned the importance of being able to read music, the importance of being versatile.”

Listening to Hill repeat certain words suggests the urgent, repetitive licks he plays in unison with saxophonist Christopher McBride atop the driving rhythms of “White Shadow,” a collaboration with spoken-word artist Tumelo Khoza from the 2014 Marquis Hill Blacktet recording “Modern Flows EP Vol. 1.” This and his other compositions reflect his emotionalism and connection with language.

“Chicago artists have a broadness, a grit in their sound,” Hill says. “You can hear the free jazz influence, that very spiritual and moving music.” Free jazz, an experimental style, is a hallmark of Chicago’s Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), a renowned musicians’ collective. “I was brought up going to places like the Velvet Lounge, a kind of home base for AACM members,” Hill remembers, “and I was fortunate to work with Ernest Dawkins and Fred Anderson.” In turn, Hill has shared his knowledge with students at Harold Washington College, Mayo Elementary and other schools. “My passion for teaching is always there,” he says.

In 2014, Hill won the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition. His prize included a recording contract with Concord Music Group. He is working on a new album, possibly of jazz standards, and splits his time between Chicago and New York.

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Many people have enjoyed being in the audience at a Broadway show—the flash, the splash, the fun of watching incredible actors bring amazing stories to life. Cody Lassen (SNL ’06), Broadway investor and producer and marketing director at Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles, is well-versed in the process. He was a producer for a one-man adaptation of “Macbeth,” starring Alan Cumming, and an investor in the mega-hit “Kinky Boots,” for which singer Cyndi Lauper composed the score.

“It’s like creating a small business, but rather than building a team, framework and clients over years, you have months,” Lassen says. “It’s the stress and fun of a small business in a shorter time frame with pressure to get it right immediately.”

Lassen emphasizes the importance of mentors early in his career. He reached out to people he respected for guidance and advice, and the connections he made have served him well over time. Lassen gives back through his volunteer work with DePaul’s mentorship program, Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK).

“I have rarely been told ‘no’ when I’ve asked for mentoring or told someone ‘no’ when they’ve asked me,” he says. “It’s really a huge part of most career fields, in my opinion, and ASK is a great tool.”

Now with the experience and connections needed for success, Lassen is motivated by the satisfaction that comes from spreading an important message or idea. He is currently working on a revival of “Spring Awakening” with Deaf West Theatre, based in L.A., which provides a platform for deaf actors. In this production, which moved from L.A. to Broadway, each part is double cast; the deaf actor performs using sign language while the hearing actor sings and speaks. The show, with co-producer Hunter Arnold (SNL ’10) and general manager Ryan Conway (MUS ’11), officially opened Sept. 27.

“I love falling in love with a show, but I love it more when I share something I love with a wide audience,” he says. “You can think a show is great, but until you have 2,000 people laughing or crying or clapping, you don’t really know with any certainty. It’s amazing.”

“If I’m going to put a lot of my time, money and effort into a project, I want it to be something that excites me. Not everyone cares about that. Sometimes it’s easy to go for the sure bets, but I try to pick something that inspires me.”
The phrase “Run at the problem, not away” is ingrained in Karen Bartuch (CMN MA ’10), and it’s a mantra that has served her well over the years. At the Chicago Police Department (CPD), she ran toward the problems. Today, at Motorola Solutions, she runs toward the technological answers that help the police stay safe while protecting the public. “I’m not someone who sees a problem and sits around and gripes about it,” she says. “I’d rather go out and make some change that will positively affect it.”

Bartuch leads the communications, portfolio management and project management teams by overseeing internal messaging, business unit investments and new solutions development. “There’s a lot of data out there, and it’s just a matter of making sense of that data and getting it to the officers when they need it,” Bartuch explains. “That’s what the whole solutions and services unit is trying to tackle. We may not be on the front lines, but we’re helping the people who are on the front lines be safer, and our jobs are important because of that. I love it. It’s exciting, fun and hard.”

No stranger to public safety, Bartuch spent 10 years with the CPD, during which she began the Women’s Tactical Association to provide a venue for women to receive specialized training. She was serving as policy advisor to then-CPD Superintendent Jody Weis when she enrolled at DePaul to gain formalized training to supplement her passion for communication. “No matter what you do, being a good writer and communicator who is good at strategic-level thinking and strategic planning is really important,” she says. Never satisfied, Bartuch recently enrolled in DePaul’s new executive doctorate in business administration program. “I have a drive to be constantly innovating, creating and challenging the status quo,” she says. “I always worry about becoming complacent. I like feeling pushed and challenged in ways that I’ve never felt before. I’m comfortable being uncomfortable.”

“Stop worrying about what people think of you. Once you can do that, it’s very liberating. If you know you’re doing the right things for the right reasons, you’re going to face scrutiny. Good or bad, you have to be able to accept it.”

On the first day of Recardo Gibson’s (LAS ’02) first post-college internship, he walked into the White House with an official press pass—not a bad start.

“I worked for an online news agency, and at the time, the Internet was still coming into its own,” says Gibson, now public affairs officer for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). “It was a small shop, and I held more responsibility than a lot of interns. At 23, I was at the White House every day.”

Gibson didn’t stay an intern for long. He went on to become the online manager for then-Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and for current presidential hopeful Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was serving as a U.S. senator at the time. In each position, Gibson learned about journalism and working with reporters. He caught glimpses of life as a public servant and became increasingly convinced it was his calling.

He enrolled at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., where he received a Master of Arts in Government. While still in school, he repeatedly applied to the State Department, but each attempt was met with rejection. After three years, Gibson’s persistence was finally rewarded. “Sometimes I felt like I would never get to the State Department, but I always tried one more time,” he says. “When it did happen, it felt even better because I’d worked that hard for it.”

His current role combines his earlier experiences. Gibson acts as a liaison between the INL and the media on all issues concerning the bureau’s efforts to combat international drug use, production and smuggling. In the long term, Gibson hopes to one day act as a U.S. ambassador. For now, he volunteers on the African Affairs Committee of the United Nations Association, and he’s a member of DePaul’s Washington, D.C., Alumni Chapter. He enjoys helping new alumni navigate D.C.’s demanding lifestyle.

“College was the first time I was fully enveloped in service and volunteerism,” he says. “It helped foster that passion, and that has served me well.”

“When you’re watching the news or reading the paper and they say, ‘According to a government official...’ that’s usually me. I give the U.S. government’s perspective on relevant situations that the press reports on.”
“I am the epitome of the ‘Oregon Trail’ Generation,” says Sanjay Gidwani (CDM ’03), senior director at Salesforce.com. He’s proudly referencing a descriptor for a subset of people who were born at the tail end of the ’70s and into the early ’80s. They came of age as technology was taking hold in everyday life. Personal computers were just beginning to gain popularity, and educational computer games like “Oregon Trail” were becoming classroom staples. For many, Gidwani included, the game itself serves as a major milestone, marking the beginning of a lifelong fascination with technology that translated into a successful career.

“When I was in eighth grade, we interacted with NASA astronauts online,” he says. “We were among the first to use computers to learn. It happened at the right time to spark my interest in technology.”

After spending several years in the technology industry honing his programming skills, Gidwani accepted a position with Model Metrics, a cloud solutions company that eventually moved him to San Francisco. Three years later, Model Metrics was acquired by Salesforce, a company that focuses on cloud computing and customer relationship management solutions.

“Salesforce is an incredibly innovative company,” Gidwani says. “When they acquired Model Metrics, I thought to myself, ‘We’re obviously doing something right.’”

Gidwani and his wife, Karla, moved back to Chicago in 2012. He now oversees Salesforce’s Platform Success Practice within professional services. Gidwani’s team is responsible for consulting engagements that ensure Salesforce customers experience maximum value from the platform. Gidwani often travels to help customers implement Salesforce-based applications. He’s been to Argentina, Colombia and London, where he worked with Burberry and met former CEO Angela Ahrendts.

“I think in life the most important thing is to trust yourself,” Gidwani says. “DePaul gave me a great foundation, and I felt confident taking the risks needed to be truly innovative from the start. I feel super fortunate to be where I am.”

“It’s important to me that people understand that DePaul, and college in general, is foundational for success. It can be directly or indirectly related, but it’s important.”

Ezequiel Flores (BUS ’00) approached the late Sue Gin (DHL ’09), a DePaul trustee, at a women’s event for the Economic Club of Chicago that had fewer than 10 men in the audience. “I didn’t care,” he remembers. “I just knew I had to meet her.” From that day on, Gin became a mentor to Flores, and in 2010, they became business partners in airport concessions.

As CEO of Flying Retail, Flores operates one of the largest specialty retail portfolios at Chicago O’Hare International Airport, which includes Brighton, Brooks Brothers and Brookstone, as well as Green Market and America’s Dog as part of his food and beverage portfolio. He also oversees operations of all existing concessions at the airport and is looking to expand into additional airports. “It’s a journey,” he says. “I really enjoy it, but besides that, there is a deep sense of responsibility that pushes me to excel.”

Growing up on the Southwest Side of Chicago, Flores was a first-generation college student. The Spanish bilingual professional preparation program at DePaul led him to an internship with EY in Mérida, Mexico. After graduation, Flores joined Arthur Andersen and, later, Sara Lee Corp., where he oversaw projects in 14 countries before leaving to pursue personal ventures. “I was done doing deals for somebody else. I was going to give entrepreneurship a shot. I wanted to try to do something for myself,” explains Flores, who to date has been involved with more than $5 billion in real estate-related and corporate-business transactions.

Flores was co-chair of Gov. Bruce Rauner’s Economic Development Transition Committee and currently serves on the Illinois State Board of Investment, the Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council Inc., and the government relations committee of the International Council of Shopping Centers. Flores is passionate about immigration reform, inspired by his father’s efforts to support his family. “There are a lot of people in the shadows who need people to speak up for them because they can’t speak up for themselves,” asserts Flores, who acts as their voice through his work on the steering committee of the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition. “The best way I could serve our community is by being successful in business, because there aren’t enough minority businesses that scale. My goal is to lead by example.”

“I’m getting a master’s in ministry from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. The people I study with probably find little value in what I do in business. To them, it’s about higher meaning in life. That ethic is what keeps me centered in business.”
J.R. Hawbaker (THE '05) can pinpoint the exact moment her life changed. Heading into her second year at DePaul, Hawbaker intended to study English literature, history and photography, but she wasn't passionate about her academic path. Then, as she browsed classes, the course book fell open to the costume design program in The Theatre School. “I saw classes in playwriting, design, the history of costume and Shakespeare,” Hawbaker says. Suddenly, she realized the connective thread among her areas of interest. “I liked those subjects because they were expressions of character, and that’s what costume design is all about.”

Now, as an assistant costume designer based in Los Angeles, Hawbaker’s credits include “Mad Men,” “True Blood,” “Argo” and the upcoming “Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice.” She also worked on “American Hustle” with costume designer Michael Wilkinson, spending three months conceptualizing the sumptuous fur coats, slinky dresses and plunging necklines that earned the film an Academy Award nomination in costume design. “It was truly a dream script. Nothing about those characters was clichéd,” Hawbaker says. Consequently, she avoided stereotypical ’70s references in favor of aspirational and fresh pieces perfectly suited to the film’s themes of projection, reinvention and the long con.

According to Hawbaker, the process of bringing characters to life through costume occurs in phases. “Typically, you start with a script and a conversation with the director, their take on the characters, what they’re trying to evoke, their vision,” she says. “Next up is the research period where you gather images and items that will help you refine those ideas with the director.” Illustrations, full-size renderings and on-set adjustments follow.

That said, the process differs by director; when Hawbaker collaborates with Terrence Malick, as she did on “The Tree of Life” and “Knight of Cups,” standard operating procedure goes out the window. “There’s no research, there’s no script,” Hawbaker explains, noting that she has learned to trust her instincts in developing designs that assist the actors in creating their characters. “Costume design comes from a much deeper place than most people realize. At some level, it’s a gut understanding of how people project themselves.”

“In essence, costume design is about studying the kaleidoscope of human emotion and experience. I help tell stories through what the characters wear and how they carry themselves in those pieces.”

On a typical Monday morning, Carina Hira (CDM ’02, MS ’04) boards a plane at 6:30 a.m. to commute to a client site where she will start her work day. Depending on the assignment, Hira, director at Chicago-based consulting firm PwC, could be spending the next two days or the next two years working on the given project. “It’s not a lifestyle for everyone, but for those who embrace it, it’s extremely rewarding,” she says.

As part of the financial services practice, Hira consults with multinational banks to optimize their financial technologies and operations. She draws on nearly 12 years of experience to help her clients with anything from developing more efficient month-end processes to rolling out entirely new financial systems. “Nine times out of 10, the answer is sitting in the minds of the people who brought us on board to help,” she asserts. “What I help to do is articulate that answer, put some structure around it and execute it.”

Hira had no idea what she was getting into when she first took a job at Accenture in 2004. “I didn’t even know what consulting was,” she laughs. Hira quickly learned the job, applying basic principles from her information systems and human-computer interaction studies. “I’m the person who sits between the business guy and the tech guy and helps them both figure out how to get to common ground,” she says. “I use what I learned at DePaul all the time, just not in the ways I imagined I would when I graduated.”

In recognition of her contributions to the field, Hira was named a 2015 Rising Star of the Profession by Consulting Magazine, an honor that took her completely by surprise. “I’ve gathered all this knowledge and expertise and applied it in different ways. The problems might be different, but I still have the right skills to support the clients,” she explains. “Consultants aren’t necessarily always specialists. They are generalists, but they bring a suite of standards and best practices to the table. Leveraging those, as well as our networks, is what makes us good at what we do.”

“Before you send an email or run over to somebody’s office to have a quick conversation, stop and think. If you just hold on for a few minutes, you may change your mind. It’s a small thing but can have massive impact.”
Managing global investments with the constant fluctuation of the currency market may seem daunting, but for Marisa Kurk (BUS MS ’08), it’s just another day at the office. As chief operating officer at Mesirow Financial Currency Management, she provides operational infrastructure and strategic risk management insights to institutions worldwide, including pension, insurance and other funds. Working with the investment team, Kurk meets with clients to determine the best strategies to manage their international currency risks and exposures.

“We're really focused on client customization,” she explains. “Rather than pushing out products and saying the client needs to fit our model, we really listen to our clients’ needs and have a customized solution that works for them.” Kurk has fine-tuned her currency risk management approach over the course of 11 years at Mesirow, where she climbed the ranks from entry level to senior management. “I know it sounds clichéd, but the most important thing for me is to really focus and work hard,” she says. When she gets mired down in the details of day-to-day operations, Kurk takes a breath to recenter herself. “As long as I’m focused on doing quality work and serving the clients, I find that really good things do flow from that.”

Kurk is driven to see the immediate impact in all that she does. In her free time, Kurk serves as a gala committee member with the Children’s Place Association, an organization that helps support children with illnesses or living in extreme poverty. “It’s a great cause,” enthuses Kurk. “It really supports not just the children, but the family as a whole, and you can actually see the impact it’s having on their lives.”

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She credits her success to a number of factors, including her tailor-made education at DePaul, the on-the-job training in the currency sector, and her highly developed organizational skills and flexibility that allow her to manage clients across time zones. Thanks in part to Kurk’s efforts over the years, the currency group at Mesirow has grown from managing $1.5 billion in assets to nearly $70 billion. “There hasn’t been one year that’s particularly successful,” she says. “It’s just been that year-after-year growth. When you put it all together, it’s impressive.”

“One perk of my job is visiting clients in their regions. One of my favorite places to visit is Australia. They have the opposite summer and winter as we do, so when it’s the middle of winter and very gloomy here, it’s summer there.”
GEOGRAPHY: A Career Without Borders

By Marilyn Ferdinand
What do mosquito abatement, education policy, retail site location and public transportation have in common? Although it might not seem obvious, these disparate pursuits all involve the work of geographers.

Most people outside the discipline think geography encompasses nothing more than putting borders and place names on maps; in fact, those basics barely scratch the surface. The Association of American Geographers (AAG) has 60 specialty groups, including communication geography, cyberinfrastructure, economic geography, the geography of religions and belief systems, and health and medical geography. Among the research presented at AAG’s 2015 Annual Meeting (see sidebar) were “Change in Access to Parks in Seattle, 1990-2010: Implications for Gentrification,” “Diverse Suburbs and Nativism in Public School Education,” “Tracking Transnational Hazardous Waste Trading: Methodological Problems and Partial Solutions” and “Changing Recruiting Patterns of the Southeastern Conference: The Impact of Missouri and Texas A&M since 2012.”

It can be difficult to grasp that the spatial intelligence at the heart of geography affects almost everything, and therefore geography can encompass virtually any topic. Nonetheless, the sheer variety of the work geographers do and their own enthusiasm for the discipline’s multifaceted nature provide persuasive evidence that what Patrick McHaffie, associate professor of geography at DePaul, says is true: “In geography, we wake up interdisciplinary and go to bed interdisciplinary.”

Big data

“Big data” is a term usually associated with immense databases from which businesses gather intelligence on human behavior and transactions. The really big data, however, are visual data captured via remote sensing and analyzed using geographic information systems (GIS) to understand relationships, patterns and trends for a wide variety of natural and manufactured phenomena.

“Remote sensing is the imaging and measurement of reflected radiation—light—and emitted electromagnetic radiation—heat,” says McHaffie. “There are literally hundreds of satellites in orbit that are sensing the earth 24/7. Our department works with images from the U.S. Geological Survey’s Landsat program, which images the entire planet every 16 days.” Landsat, the longest-running satellite imaging program in existence, began in 1972, and its vast, free, public-domain archive of images is available to researchers in agriculture, cartography, geology, forestry, regional planning and other disciplines all over the world. “With anywhere from six to 11 channels [wavelengths] for each digital image, we can code more than 281 trillion possible colors or values for each 30-meter square of image,” he says. Google Earth images are a product of remote sensing.

Mike Jersha (LAS ’13) works with big data as a data specialist and support analyst at Forum Analytics LLC, a predictive analytics consulting firm founded by an urban geographer. Jersha says, “A lot of what I do is working with different geospatial data for use in mapping systems. I handle certain files of millions and millions of records to create maps that integrate predictive models developed by our team of statisticians.” The combined data help the firm’s clients plan business strategies.

One of Jersha’s recent projects involved building a mapping system for a furniture retailer. After gathering the addresses and geographic coordinates of the retailer’s various locations and those of their known competitors in digital form, Jersha put them on a digital map that uses Google Maps as a base. “Then the statisticians ran different analyses to see how important it is to be near their competitors, how much effect it has on their business and whether an area has a high furniture-buying potential and isn’t saturated yet,” Jersha explains. “Based on client feedback, we either looked deeper into that area to find new concentrations of relevant factors or moved on to the next area.”

GIS

Every time you check a map on your global positioning system, consult a real-time transportation timetable on your smartphone or share your location using Foursquare, you are tapping into the power of GIS. Personal applications like these abound, but government agencies, businesses and nonprofits rely on GIS as well. The U.S. Department of Labor regards the geospatial technology sector as one of the three technology areas that will create the greatest number of new jobs over the next decade.

Crystalyn DelaCruz (LAS ’07), GIS coordinator for the Village of Lisle, Ill., says, “I support all the departments of the village government, from making street and zoning maps to utility atlases. The village needs spatial data and maps to help make decisions.” Lisle established the GIS division in 1999, and its mature, robust system keeps DelaCruz busy managing its server and desktop software, web and mobile platforms, online maps and mobile apps for the village’s field crew. “Whenever a property is annexed, I change the map boundaries, and I maintain information on underground utilities, sewers and storm water basins,” she explains.

In addition, DelaCruz has taken on special projects. When the emerald ash borer moved into Lisle, DelaCruz drove and walked every street in town to locate all its ash trees. She now maintains a map of trees that have been treated for the pest and those that have been removed or are scheduled for removal. Eventually, the village arborist will use her maps to assist with replanting.

Pest control is the primary concern of Elizabeth Baer (LAS ’08), senior GIS specialist for Clarke, a global company offering mosquito and aquatic weed control. Baer makes maps for all of Clarke’s U.S. operations: “On a daily basis, I can make anywhere from one to 50 maps. The summer months get especially crazy, as mosquitoes and aquatic weeds are in full force.”
Using a combination of ground surveys and aerial photography, Baer maps areas where mosquitoes are likely to breed or where outbreaks of mosquito-borne diseases have occurred. “We support our crews on the ground in finding locations where they can set traps,” says Baer. “We create pre- and post-treatment maps. Mapping increases efficiency and helps us tread lighter on the environment by understanding our surroundings.”

Sustainability

Geography is at the forefront of sustainability, but again, that concept takes on many meanings for geographers. Sustainability for a geographer might involve environmentally friendly practices, or it might encompass social structures and relationships. Michael Niedzielski (LAS ’03), an assistant professor of geography at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, considers himself an urban and transportation geographer.

“I am interested in the relationships between people and transportation infrastructure,” says Niedzielski. “U.S. cities have dispersed, decentralized or sprawled quite significantly. While some people have benefited, others have not.” Citing a 2011 Brookings Institution report, “Transit Access and Zero-Vehicle Households,” which found that only about 33 percent of jobs are accessible by public transit in 90 minutes or less, Niedzielski remarks that “many people are unemployed or underemployed because the jobs are too far away, and they can’t get to them either because they can’t afford a car or the public transit system can’t get them there.” Exacerbating this problem is the inability of people to move closer to their jobs because of affordability or discrimination. Niedzielski focuses his research on understanding differences in commuting and life-work patterns between different socioeconomic groups. “I want to understand how changes in urban structure—where to add new homes and jobs—can improve people’s access to work,” he says.

For Alyssa Hernandez (LAS ’13), “Geography is finding its place in people like me.” Hernandez, a doctoral student in education leadership and policy studies at Florida State University in Tallahassee, is passionate about student-centered education. She was an outspoken advocate for preventive intervention for students with disciplinary problems after she won a seat on the Rich Township High School District 227 school board in south suburban Chicago at age 18. “Where you live actually has an effect on life expectancy, and applying that to education is very revealing. Far too often, it’s your zip code that determines where you go to school, who your classmates are and how much funding you receive,” she says.

Among the challenges Hernandez’s district faced was the changing nature of the population. “The city used to be for the poor, but the wealthy are reclaiming the city,” she explains. “I watched our inner-ring suburban communities change. Now our next-door neighbors come straight from demolished housing projects. It was a scary thing for my neighbors, but not for me. Had I been studying anything other than geography and policy, I would have thought differently; it was unfortunate for the tax base of my school district, but for me as a budding researcher, it was fascinating.”

Elise Hawley (LAS ’13) has pursued her interest in globalization to Chiang Mai, Thailand, where she serves as sustainability coordinator for the Asian branch of the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO). Her role is to educate new and renewing companies and organizations.

ONLINE EXTRAS

See geography alumnus Ian Hall’s [LAS ’04] proposal for revamping CTA’s status signage at depaulmagazine.com.
about the WFTO’s guarantee system for verifying that they are meeting the standards to be named a Guaranteed Fair Trade Organization. She also reviews and analyzes the documentation they submit to receive the designation: “I apply geography in my job by using its critical mindset to analyze how a concept like fair trade can transcend borders while being culturally sensitive, especially for marginalized producers.”

Maureen Sioh, associate professor in the Department of Geography, piqued Hawley’s interest in geography. “I took a freshman globalization class with Professor Sioh and was intrigued by the critical mindset that included all of my interests—environmental studies, history and anthropology,” says Hawley. “I did not want to specialize in one part of academia but rather analyze the overlaps of different majors. Geography was the answer.”

Why geography?

“Geography has been a long time coming, even before I realized I was a geographer,” says Jersha. “I took a class as an elective in my freshman year called Earth’s Cultural Landscape. It really opened my eyes. The way the ideas were presented, the mode of looking at the world through a geographical perspective, understanding how place is constructed through history, culture and geography. The multiplicity of understanding inspired me.”

Hernandez says she was interested in policy from a very young age but discovered geography almost by accident. “My visit to DePaul as a senior in high school put me in a pull-out session that included geography and policy. I remember listening to Winifred Curran, associate professor in the department of geography, give an eloquent speech about how geographers see the world. I was captivated! I thought, ‘That’s how I see the world!’ Ten years ago, I might not have said I was a geographer, but now I know what I’m doing is geography.”

Hawley believes geography holds answers for many pressing problems of the day: “I see it becoming a more sought-after major, especially as people start turning toward a more holistic approach to some of the environmental and social critiques that are making headlines.”

Niedzielski says, “Geography is about pattern and process. As geographers, we try to understand what is where and why. I have my cartography students use GIS to make maps for various community groups in Grand Forks. A recent class created maps for refugee communities to help them find basic services in town.” Further, he believes geography has the untapped potential to help communities help themselves: “There is no limit to the kinds of topics you can study with this spatial approach.”

Elizabeth Baer (LAS ’08) keeps very busy during the warmer months mapping mosquito breeding sites for treatment.

DePaul Co-Hosts AAG Annual Meeting

During the third week of April, Chicago was an epicenter for geographers, scholars and others interested in the expansive field of geography. The Association of American Geographers (AAG) 2015 Annual Meeting played host to 8,950 registrants who attended 1,704 panel, poster and paper sessions covering nearly 6,700 geographical research projects, making this the largest AAG conference in the history of the 111-year-old organization. Professor Euan Hague, chair of DePaul’s department of geography, led the Local Arrangements Committee in organizing and running this mammoth meeting. Michael Niedzielski (LAS ’03) presented his paper “Validating Synthetic Commuting Data,” and 16 DePaul faculty members from various departments contributed to the meeting website, sat on panels or presented research, including Associate Professor Alec Brownlow (“Tourism and Violence: A Critical Perspective”), Associate Professor Joanna Gardner-Huggett (“Mapping Feminist Art Collectives: ARC Gallery and Artemisia Gallery, Chicago [1980-1985]”) and Assistant Professor Sanjukta Mukherjee (“Middle-Class Trajectories in the Global South: A Comparative and Intersectional Approach”). For more information about the department of geography, visit las.depaul.edu/geography.
From his high-rise office on the Loop Campus, Marten denBoer can see a large swath of Chicago. On a clear July day, the city glimmers in the sun.

“This university has such a deep connection to its city,” says denBoer, DePaul University’s new provost as of July 1. “The way in which the university has expressed its values in the city has been key to its success. It’s what DePaul is known for and one of the things that attracted me to this position.”

In announcing denBoer’s appointment, the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul University, cited his record of leadership at previous institutions, most recently as provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, where he oversaw more than 150 academic programs for 22,000 students. “His past work with faculty to support scholarly initiatives and his attention to the development of degree programs that adapt to market needs are exemplars of a tested leader,” Holtschneider says.

Yet denBoer says he didn’t originally aspire to work in administration, preferring the quiet life of a teacher and research scientist. A life-threatening accident that occurred when he was on the faculty of Hunter College in New York changed his perspective: he was training for the New York City Marathon when he was hit by a car.

“When they brought me to the ER, I was unconscious,” he says. “I had no identification on me—you know, I was just going out for a run. One of the people in the emergency room happened to have been a student of mine and recognized me. She contacted the university.” He spent three months in the hospital (interestingly, St. Vincent’s) and was told he might not walk again.

“I survived and recovered because of people—friends, colleagues and family who kept me going,” denBoer says. “It changed my life. It made me realize that what really matters is the community we create, what we do for each other and for our students, how we transform lives.”

Thus, denBoer got involved in initiatives to revise degree requirements and programs at Hunter and became chair of the physics department. Not long after, he was asked to serve as associate provost at Queens College in New York. “I needed to overcome my introspective tendencies a bit,” he says, “and it turned out that I had some talent for this kind of work.”

The provost is responsible for collaborating to develop and sustain educational programs that respond to the needs of students and society. Among the challenges faced by higher education and DePaul today, denBoer says, are dramatic changes in the legal profession that have led to decreased law school enrollments nationwide, dynamic shifts in many fields, funding cuts for research and financial aid, and a national decline in the number of traditional-age college students.

DenBoer believes that DePaul is well-positioned to address the challenges. “DePaul’s mission lines up with these demographic challenges,” he says. “For instance, the greatest growth in college-age students is occurring in communities of color, and DePaul has always been committed to serving the educational needs of those communities.” DePaul’s commitment to expanding global perspectives and actively encouraging diversity also plays in its favor, he says. “DePaul’s strengths and proven ability to respond to change make me optimistic that it will continue to thrive.”

DenBoer earned his doctoral and master’s degrees in physics from the University of Maryland in College Park and a bachelor’s degree in physics and mathematics from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. His research focused on the use of X-ray absorption spectroscopy to investigate materials for energy storage and conversion, such as batteries and fuel cells. He has published more than 70 peer-reviewed articles and is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physical Society.

Of Dutch background, born in France and raised in Toronto, denBoer has a love of languages and is taken with his new city. “Chicago has an incredible vitality. Its density and vibrancy stimulate interaction and creativity.”
Professor Emeritus Alexander Davis Celebrates 100th Birthday

Alexander V. Davis, a former professor in DePaul’s modern languages department, celebrated his 100th birthday on Sept. 15. Davis, who specialized in teaching Spanish, began his career at DePaul in 1952; he retired in 1981 as a full professor. Davis is a member of the DePaul Emeritus Society, an organization open to long-term faculty and staff members who have retired.

Davis recalls his beginnings and his immigration to the United States in 1932. “I was born in the small German town of Bad Nauheim, near Frankfurt. When I was 16, my family immigrated to the United States. I attended DePaul Academy and got interested in studying Spanish.” He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Chicago but remembers that the Depression made it difficult to continue his education. “Things were very inexpensive in Mexico, so I decided to go there to finish my studies,” he remembers. Davis received his master’s and doctoral degrees from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He went on to teach at The Ohio State University, at the University of Maine and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, before coming to DePaul.

In 1956, when the Delta Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, was established at DePaul, Davis was named an honorary member. In 1964, he was elected to the presidency of the Pan American Board of Education, Chicago Chapter, an organization dedicated to developing an understanding of Latin America in the United States. The organization has ceased operations.

Nancy Koga (LAS ’65) keeps in touch with her former professor and remembers Davis’ influence. “He helped me get a scholarship to study in Spain and inspired me to see the world.” She notes that Davis has stayed active and interested in travel. “He taught on a naval ship after retirement,” says Koga. “He was traveling on his own until a few years ago. In his early 90s, he went to Paris.”

Davis enjoys reflecting on his 30 plus years in Chicago. “Life has changed so much in the last few generations. Things used to be more parochial. In Chicago, you still had your ethnic neighborhoods, and listening to music in different communities was like going around the world. Now things are more cosmopolitan, and I think we are more understanding. Things are better as a whole now.”

Davis says fondly, “I think of DePaul every day. For me, DePaul was something very special. I was very much impressed with the Vincentian fathers. Today we live in a very competitive world, and at DePaul there are people who give to others—you still have that personal touch and so many people who still care.”

1950s

The Hon. William J. Bauer (JD ’52, LLD ’93, LLD ’05) was recognized by the city of Wheaton, Ill., with an exhibit at the William J. Bauer Judicial Office Facility Annex. The exhibit tells the story of his career through newspaper clippings, photographs and other artifacts.

1960s

Nicholas J. Valenziano (MUS ’58) was inducted into the 2015 Bands of America Hall of Fame by Music for All Inc., a national music organization. Valenziano served as the first director of education for the Bands of America program in 1975 and later filled the role of executive director.

Alan M. Hoffberg (BUS ’62) was presented with the inaugural Dr. Norris Award, established by the Dr. Norris Family Foundation to recognize those who serve the country, and presented by Angel Flight Southeast Inc., which organizes volunteer private pilots to fly to medical facilities in Florida, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Bahamas. Hoffberg, who has flown missions for the organization since 1994, was recognized at the Dr. Norris Pilot Awards Gala in West Palm Beach, Fla., on April 10.

Robert J. Craig (CSH ’63, CSH MA ’66), published his 11th book, “State of Mind: Life and Work in a Mental Hospital,” which chronicles his personal observations and experiences as a clinical psychologist working with and treating psychiatric patients.

Correction

In the Summer 2015 DePaul Magazine article “Hidden Treasure: Special Collections and Archives,” an illustration from an 1817 book by William Mudford is incorrectly described as “British and Russian forces following the Battle of Waterloo.” The caption should have read “British and Prussian forces.” We regret the error.
Robert A. Cantone (COSH ’74) was reappointed by Gov. Bruce Rauner as commissioner of the Illinois Human Rights Commission, which he has served on since 2011. Cantone is a personal injury claims attorney in Orland Park, Ill.

Richard A. Hanson (MST ’74) is a principal at Avison Young, a commercial real estate services firm headquartered in Toronto that acquired Mesa Development LLC in Chicago, where Hanson led the conceptualization, entitlements and construction of projects valued in excess of $1 billion.

Rocca A. Petruzelli (LAS ’75) was inducted into the VIP Woman of the Year Circle by the National Association of Professional Women. Petruzelli is human resource administrator at The Rescom Group, headquartered in Romeoville, Ill.

Robert W. McGee (MST ’76) won three silver medals at the American Taekwondo Association World Championships, held in Little Rock, Ark., on July 9. McGee is author of the novel “Justifiable Homicide: A Political Thriller.”

Chaz Hammel-Smith Ebert (JD ’77) is producing a feature film that will tell the story of Mamie Till-Mobley, mother of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old black boy who was murdered while visiting relatives in Mississippi in 1955. The film will be released in 2016. Previously, Ebert practiced litigation in environmental and equal opportunity law. She is president of Ebert Productions and vice president of The Ebert Co., a position she has held since the passing of her husband, film critic and journalist Roger Ebert, in April 2013.

Curtis J. Crawford (MBL ’78, DHL ’99) was selected to serve on the board of directors at The Chemours Co., following the company’s spinoff from E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. in July. Crawford is founder, president and CEO of XCEO Inc., a consulting firm that specializes in leadership and corporate governance.

Scott Ellis (GSD ’78) was nominated for a 2015 Tony Award in the Best Direction of a Play category for his production of “You Can’t Take It With You” by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. The play ran on Broadway at the Longacre Theatre from Sept. 28, 2014, to Feb. 22, 2015.

Grazina R. Vizinas (COSH ’78) was honored by America’s Registry of Outstanding Professionals and by Strathmore’s Who’s Who for her outstanding work in medical administration. She is office manager at the medical practice of her husband, Edmund Vizinas.

Michael R. Callahan (JD ’79) was appointed chair of the medical staff for the credentials and peer review practice group of the American Health Lawyers Association. Additionally, he was selected as one of the top eight health care attorneys in Illinois by Chambers USA, was appointed to the board of directors for the National Association Medical Staff Services and was selected for Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America. He is a partner at the Chicago office of Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP.

Robert J. Musur (MBA ’79) is managing director for international investment bank Houlihan Lokey in the firm’s tax and financial reporting valuation practice. Musur is based in Chicago and leads the Chicago-area market. He previously served as director of valuation and financial risk management at Navigant Consulting Inc.

Ernest J. Sampias (MST ’79) was appointed as a class I director for the Dot Hill Systems Corp. board of directors, Sampias is CEO of Sampias Holdings LLC.

Robert A. Dobski (BUS ’69) was appointed to the Illinois State University board of trustees by Gov. Bruce Rauner. Dobski owns franchises in central Illinois.

Michael J. Raleigh (LAS ’69) published his ninth book, “Peerless Detective.” He is an instructor in DePaul’s writing, rhetoric and discourse honors program.

1970s

Edward G. Willer (LAS ’70, JD ’73) was named partner at Corboy & Demetrio in Chicago, where he focuses his practice on personal injury and wrongful death cases in the areas of product liability, construction negligence, premises liability and vehicular negligence.

Gail Silver (GSD ’71) guest-starred as Ruth in the season one finale of Amazon’s original series “Transparent.” Silver also had a role in HBO Films’ “Phil Spector,” written and directed by David Mamet and starring Al Pacino and Helen Mirren.

Robert A. Clifford (BUS ’73, JD ’76, LLB ’03) moderated the program “Where Would You Try a Case? A Live Action Primer on Trial Skills in the U.S. and U.K.,” part of the American Bar Association’s Magna Carta program in London, which marked the 800th anniversary of the document’s sealing. Clifford is senior partner at Clifford Law Offices in Chicago.

Sherwin R. Rubinstein (JD ’73) joined Roetzel & Andersen LPA as partner. He represents health care providers and institutions in retirement and benefits planning, joint ventures, mergers, acquisitions, valuations and sale of professional practices, and more.

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Ernest J. Sampias (MST ’79) was appointed as a class I director for the Dot Hill Systems Corp. board of directors, Sampias is CEO of Sampias Holdings LLC.

1980s

Roger L. Degraff (MBL ’80) is vice president of residential and consumer lending for Providence Bank and Trust in the Schererville, Ind., office. He is responsible for expanding awareness of the bank’s mortgage services, personal lending, construction loans, home equity loans and lines, auto loans, and other consumer lending products and services throughout Northwest Indiana and the Chicagoland area.

Mark S. Lange (MST ’81) joined Holland & Knight LLP as a partner in the firm’s Atlanta office, where he counsels clients on domestic and international corporate mergers and acquisitions, partnerships, joint ventures, alliances, limited liability companies, and other pass-through venture capital and hedge fund transactions.

Peter A. Monahan (JD ’81) was selected as Volunteer of the Year for the Children and Family Services Group at the Legal Assistance Foundation, where he serves as pro bono counsel.

George A. Mueller (JD ’81) is an associate attorney with Botto Gilbert Lancaster PC in Crystal Lake, Ill. Mueller has been practicing law since 1981 and has trial experience in family law, criminal law, personal injury, and general civil litigation, in addition to his experience with estate planning and real estate matters.

James P. Murray (BUS ’81) joined the Piper Jaffray Cos. financial institution group in New York as a managing director. The group is dedicated to depository, diversified financials, financial technology and insurance clients. Murray previously served as managing director at Stein Agee Group Inc.

Michael E. Nieskes (JD ’81) was promoted from prosecutor to deputy district attorney for St. Croix County, Wis. Nieskes came to St. Croix after having served as district attorney and circuit court judge for Racine County, Wis.

William J. Rewolinski (MST ’81) joined the tax planning and compliance team at Chortek LLP, a certified public accounting and business advisory firm in Waukesha, Wis. He previously served as a shareholder in the tax and real estate group at Barrett, Johnson, Appel & Co. SC.

Delstene Atkinson (CMN ’82) is assistant vice president of development at Olivet College in Olivet, Mich. She previously served as foundation specialist at Northern Arizona Healthcare.

Patricia A. Breen (MBL ’82) is the 10th president of Pacific Oaks College & Children’s School in Pasadena, Calif. She previously served as provost for the college.

Michael D. Foltzer (MM ’82) is a percussionist with the Chicago Philharmonic, a musician-governed nonprofit organization.

Patricia J. Folz (JD ’82) was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, which promotes equality and fairness in the administration of justice in Illinois courts. Folz is a retired lawyer who most recently worked as partner at Anderson Raser & Partners LLP in Chicago, where she focused her practice on regulatory and patient care issues.

James E. Michalik (LAS ’82) is the first executive director of the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions in Tallahassee, Fla., a statewide nonprofit group that provides affordable quality health care and related services for new mothers in need.
Catherine L. Steege (JD ’82) was named to the National Law Journal’s List of Outstanding Women Lawyers, which honors 75 accomplished female attorneys who show excellence in private practice, corporate counsel work, public interest law, legal education and the judiciary. Steege is a partner at Jenner & Block, where she is a bankruptcy lawyer and co-chair of the bankruptcy litigation practice.


Robert P. Everson Jr. (MUS ’83, MM ’85) was named vice chairman of the Chicago Philharmonic Society. He is a principal percussionist with the orchestra.

James S. Hauert (BUS ’83) is senior vice president of commercialization and strategy for ADMA Biologics Inc., in Ramsey, N.J., where he is building a commercialization infrastructure to ensure market use and adoption of product candidates and oversees the growth of the company.

Robert F. Lussier (MBA ’83) was appointed CEO and president of Trans Pacific National Bank in the San Francisco Bay area. Lussier previously served as president and board director of Parkway Bancorp Inc., headquartered in Chicago.

Susan A. McConnell (BUS ’83, MBA ’87) founded the nonprofit Let It Be Us, which raises awareness of adoption through the foster system, educates and recruits foster parents, assists children in the system and helps those aging out to make the transition. The organization hosted a 5K race on May 9 at Citizens Park in Barrington, Ill.

William D. Waters (BUS ’83, MAC ’83) was named vice president of finance for the Chicago White Sox. In this role, he is responsible for all accounting and finance for the organization. Waters is also an adjunct professor for the sports administration graduate program at Northwestern University.

Deborah K. Bothun (BUS ’84) was named leader of the global entertainment and media practice at PwC in New York, where she has worked for 20 years. Bothun maintains her current position as leader of PwC’s U.S. entertainment, media and communications practice.

Paul W. Hoeft (MBA ’84) joined First Midwest Bank in Chicago as senior vice president and head of private banking. In this role, he oversees an area serving the personal needs of high net worth clients. Previously, Hoeft served as chief administrative officer for the wealth management division of Northern Trust Corp., where he managed client services.

Anthony G. Smanioto (MBA ’84) was appointed treasurer for the leadership board for CoreNet Global Chicago. He is an executive vice president for Colliers International.

Steven M. Bielat (BUS ’85, MAC ’86, MBA ’05) was appointed director of finance for Greenwood Associates Inc. in Niles, Ill., where he is responsible for cash flow and capital budgeting, outside third-party reporting, outside consultants, and more. He previously served as senior manager for John R. Waters and Co. in Chicago.

Kenneth W. Bult (LAS ’86) published his book, “The Dutch in the Calumet Region,” which chronicles the Dutch immigration to the area. Bult is a visiting instructor in the department of computer information technology and graphics at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond, Ind.

Ronald J. de Lange (CDM MS ’86) was appointed to the Radleys Corp. board of directors. Previously, de Lange served as senior vice president at Oracle and as president and CEO at Teklele.

Andrew B. Lowenthal (BUS ’86, MBA ’93) was promoted from vice president to senior vice president of business development at the Chicago Board Options Exchange Inc. (CBOE). His expanded responsibilities include business development functions of the CBOE Futures Exchange and overseeing business development for Livevol, a provider of equity and index options technology and market data services.

Diane M. Pearse (MBA ’86) is chief operating officer and executive vice president of finance at Garrett Brands LLC. She previously served as senior vice president of operations and merchandising for Redbox Automated Retail LLC.

Kevin T. Stevens (MST ’86) was appointed dean of the Quinlan School of Business at Loyola University Chicago.

Giles Sutton (LAS ’86) is a tax partner at Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP in Memphis, Tenn., where he focuses his practice on issues pertaining to state and local tax. Giles has more than 25 years of experience as a lawyer and CPA.

John C. Sciaccotta (JD ’87) joined Aronberg Goldgehn Davis & Garmsra as a member in the firm’s commercial litigation practice group, where he focuses on litigation, arbitration and business counseling matters with an emphasis on complex civil trial and appellate cases brought in federal and state courts throughout the country.

The Hon. Paul E. Stutesman (JD ’87) was appointed to the Michigan Criminal Justice Policy Commission by Gov. Rick Snyder. He will serve a three-year term representing the state’s circuit court judges.

Event Recaps

▼ Young Alumni Tour and Tasting at CH Distillery
Have you ever wondered how vats of grain transform into potent spirits? In September, recent graduates learned the science behind vodka and gin production during a “spirited” tour of CH Distillery in Chicago’s vibrant West Loop neighborhood. Because a behind-the-scenes experience wouldn’t be complete without a taste test, participants were delighted to try a traditional pairing of chilled vodka with rye bread and pickles and then continue socializing after the tour.

▼ County Line Orchard Outing
As autumn’s crisp air descended on the Midwest region and leaves turned red and orange, alumni welcomed the season with a “Sunday Funday” at County Line Orchard. Forty acres of juicy pick-your-own apples awaited participants after lunch and a highlights tour of the grounds, which included a corn maze and barnyard animals. Several lucky attendees won DePaul swag during a raffle, and everyone went home with a mini pumpkin souvenir and happy memories.

Summer Walking Tours
Alumni across the country donned their walking shoes and hit the pavement in August. On the first day of the month, graduates explored President Lincoln’s Cottage at the Soldiers’ Home in Washington, D.C., where Lincoln conceptualized the Emancipation Proclamation. The following weekend, New York City alumni nibbled their way through a food tour of the Lower East Side while their Chicagoland counterparts sampled cupcakes, doughnuts and bagels in Lincoln Park.
Rebecca R. Haller (JD ’89) joined Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP as a partner in the firm’s Chicago office.

Peter J. Kowalski (LAS ’89) has had a 45-year career, primarily in public relations, and currently works for the Cook County assessor. He was admitted to the Chicago Bar Association as an associate working as an independent legal researcher and has coordinated political campaigns at all levels of government.

James H. Kallianis (JD ’90) joined Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP as a partner in the firm’s Chicago office. During his career, he has represented corporations and individuals in employment disputes, consumer fraud class actions and more.

Richard L. Rampage (SNL ’90, JD ’95) was appointed administrative judge with the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board.

Eugene A. Salganik (JD ‘90) is senior mortgage consultant for the mortgage division of Home State Bank NA in Crystal Lake, Ill. He previously served as co-founder of FunderHut, a crowdfunding platform.

Martin T. Tully (JD ’90) was re-elected to a second term as mayor of the Village of Downers Grove, Ill. Tully is co-chair at Akerman LLP in Chicago, which launched in June and focuses on assisting clients with data security, information governance and electronic discovery matters.


Frederick S. Cromer (MBA ’91) is president of Bombardier, an aviation products provider in Montreal. Cromer has more than 23 years of experience in aviation, including his most recent position as president of International Lease Finance Corp.

Kenneth T. Lumb (JD ’91) was named partner at Corby & Demetrio in Chicago, where he represents plaintiffs in medical malpractice and personal injury cases. Lumb previously served in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

William H. Reynolds (JD ’91) is city administrator for Shakerpee, Minn. He is a Marine Corps veteran and has served in upper-level municipal administration since 2007 in Florida, Michigan and Wisconsin.

David G. Roeder (MBA ’91) is managing director on Sterling National Bank’s sales team, which focuses on helping the bank establish relationships with municipal and government clients.

Stephen C. Howard (BUS ’92) is a college basketball analyst for ESPN, a studio analyst for the NBA New Orleans Pelicans and a motivational speaker.

Patrick D. Hughes (JD ’92) joined Faegre Baker Daniels LLP as a partner in the insurance group in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office. He previously served as a senior regulator with the State of Illinois.

Gary T. Langbo (MBA ’92, JD ’92) was named president of sales and marketing for Franke Kitchen Systems at the company’s headquarters in Nashville, Tenn.

Kenneth F. Lockette (MED ’92) was promoted to assistant superintendent of the Avonworth School District in Pittsburgh. He previously served as principal at Avonworth High School.

David L. Newman (JD ’92) joined Gould & Ratner LLP as chair of the intellectual property group and partner in the firm’s litigation and business counseling and transactional practices.

William B. Sullivan (JD ’92) is a Cook County circuit judge in the 11th Judicial Subcircuit.

Scott A. Amieson (MBA ’94) was named president of the board of directors of the National Association of Landscape Professionals. He is vice president of the E.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. and leads the company’s national recruiting and corporate partnership efforts.

James E. Romano (MBA ’94) is vice president of global sales and business development at VanDeMark Chemical Inc., in Lockport, N.Y., where he supervises the sales staffs of VanDeMark and Framochem Kft. in Kazincbarcika, Hungary.

Dr. Kaveh T. Safavi (JD ’94) participated on a panel at the America’s Health Insurance Plans annual meeting to discuss strategies for improving the U.S. health care system. Safavi is managing director of global health business for Accenture.

Mary E. Pettinato (SNL ’93) is CEO and co-founder of Honor Flight Chicago, which brings veterans to Washington, D.C., for a day of honor and remembrance at no cost to them.

Timothy J. Scott (MBA ’93) is community development director for the Village of West Dundee, Ill. In this role, Scott helps execute the city’s redevelopment plan for the downtown area.

Jackie Zlatanovski (CMN ’93) joined Key Realty Las Vegas as a real estate agent specializing in investment properties and commercial and residential transactions.

Michelle Albaugh (MUS ’94) completed her PhD in human development and social policy at Northwestern University in December 2014.

Lawrence W. Falbe (JD ’94) joined Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone PLC in the firm’s energy, environmental and regulatory group in Chicago. Falbe has more than 20 years of experience in environmental transactional support of real estate and corporate deals, environmental defense and litigation, brownfields issues, environmental compliance, and energy development/facility siting.

Jeffrey J. Newman (BUS ’93) was selected as the Glenview, Ill., Citizen of the Year for her service to the community. She is treasurer for the Optimist Club of Glenview and for Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook.

John C. Robak Jr. (BUS ’89) was appointed to the Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee of the International Trade Administration by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker. Robak will represent the consulting and engineering segment of the U.S. environmental technology sector. His appointment is effective through August 2016. Robak is president and chief operating officer of Greeley and Hansen LLC, a global civil and environmental consulting, engineering and architectural firm.

1990s

The Hon. Rosemarie S. Andolino (BUS ’90) was appointed to the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority Board by Gov. Bruce Rauner. Andolino is president and CEO of the North American business division of Manchester Airport Group PLC, where she works with airports to develop and operate terminal and retail solutions, passenger lounges and parking facilities.

Dino Bordignon (BUS ’90) manages vocational sales for the Midwest region at Advantage Funding, a transportation finance firm. He previously served as district sales manager for Hino Motor Sales U.S.A. Inc.

Brian W. Caputo (BUS MS ’90) became a member of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board on July 1. Caputo is chief financial officer and treasurer for the City of Aurora, Ill.

David L. Newman (JD ’92) joined Gould & Ratner LLP as a partner in the insurance group in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office. He previously served as a senior regulator with the State of Illinois.

Gary T. Langbo (MBA ’92, JD ’92) was named president of sales and marketing for Franke Kitchen Systems at the company’s headquarters in Nashville, Tenn.

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Michelle Albaugh (MUS ’94) completed her PhD in human development and social policy at Northwestern University in December 2014.
Kathryn A. Adams Kronquist (JD ’95) joined Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC as a shareholder in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office, where she focuses her practice on commercial finance, commercial real estate finance and bank regulatory matters. She was formerly a partner at Quarles and Brady LLP.

Stephen M. Davis (THE ’95) taught stage makeup application and stage combat for the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey’s Summer Reading Club. Davis is an assistant professor of theatre arts at Centenary College in Edison, N.J.

Gary E. Hayden (MBA ’95) is vice president of human resources at Fenix Parts Inc., an automobile recycling startup based in Westchester, Ill.

Valerie A. Leitzen (MST ’95) was promoted to partner at McGladrey LLP’s Madison, Wis., office. She joined the company in 2004 and previously worked out of the firm’s Rockford, Ill., location. Leitzen has more than 20 years of corporate tax experience, specializing in the manufacturing and distribution industries.

Ericka L. Adler (JD ’96, LLM ’97) joined Rootzel & Andress LPA as a partner based at the firm’s Chicago office. She concentrates her practice in regulatory and transactional matters that win national attention. Atoll is a managing director and operating partner. In this role, she assists with managing portfolio company initiatives, including the manufacturing, distribution and services industries.

Robert W. Hernquist (BUS ’96) was named to the 2015 Mountain States Super Lawyers list. He practices at Howard & Howard in Las Vegas, where he concentrates on all aspects of commercial and complex civil litigation.

Craig P. Mannarino (JD ’96) was part of a team of lawyers that won a $2.4 billion settlement against Japanese pharmaceutical company Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. for the Illinois Department of Health care law. Mannarino is an attorney with Kralovec, Jambois & Schwartz.

Patricia Marsh (CSH ’96) is an associate professor of psychology at Park University in Parkville, Mo., where she was recently honored with the J.L. Zwingle Award, presented to outstanding faculty members as chosen by the student body.

Sadzi M. Oliva (LAS ’96) is chief administrative law judge for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

CorliSS V. Garner (BUS ’96) was named to Chicago Defender’s 2015 Women of Excellence list, which recognizes women who inspire others through their vision, leadership, achievements and community service. Garner is vice president and senior manager of diverse markets with the community affairs group at BMO Harris Bank NA. In this role, she is responsible for outreach initiatives with diverse communities.

Paul B. Porvaznik (JD ’96) joined Davis McGrath LLC, where he focuses on general civic litigation, mechanic’s liens, landlord-tenant law, collections and post-judgment enforcement.

Jason R. Schulze (JD ’96) joined Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP as a partner in the firm’s Chicago office, where he focuses primarily on the representation and counseling of insurance companies in litigation and dispute.

Yana Turner (BUS ’96) is managing director at Manulife Asset Management, the global asset management arm of Canada-based The Manufacturers Life Insurance Co., which operates as John Hancock in the United States. Turner is based in the Chicago office, where she is responsible for developing and executing a consultant relations plan. She previously served as executive director and head of defined contribution for MSCI Inc. in Chicago.

Jeffrey P. Werner (MBA ’96) joined Z Capital Partners LLC as a managing director and operating partner. In this role, he assists with managing portfolio company initiatives, including the manufacturing, distribution and services industries.

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

Alumni
Yvonne E. Pen (GSD)
Felicia B. McClelland (LAS’88, ’41)
Gloria E. Bruno (BUS’47)
Arthur J. Chesser (BUS’48)
Louis Frasca (MUS’48, MM’49)
Frances Kost (LAS’48)
Phil Varchetta (BUS’49)
Sr. Mary E. Collins (MUS’50, MM’59)
Kathleen M. Osborne (LAS’50)
John P. Wirtz (LAS’50)
Charles B. Byrne (BUS’51)
John C. Michala (BUS’51)
Therese M. Solowetz (CSH’51)
Peter B. Harrison (BUS’53)
Thomas J. Meehan (LAS’53, MA’57)
Beaverly L. Daniels (BUS’54)
John P. Galante (BUS’54)
Robert F. Hlavon (LAS’54, MED’57, MA’62)
Julian L. Golllay (BUS’55)
Richard F. Kueck (MBA’55)
Kenneth B. Jakay (LAS’56)
Edward J. Kohnke (BUS’56)
Allan W. Dornseif (CSH’57, LMA’68)
John B. Connolly (BUS’59)
Robert S. Crossen (MED’59)
Rear Admiral Frances Shea Buckley, USN (CSH-MS’60)
Roy W. Tafi (CSH MS’60)
Timothy F. Sullivan (LAS’62, MA’69)
William T. Lucy Sr. (MED’63)
John R. Myers (BUS’63)
Charles E. Pace (MED’63)
Paul J. Haywood (LAS’65)
Joanne M. Huff (CSH’65, MS’69)
Robert E. Coleman (BUS’66, JD’69)
Michael Yedinak (LAS’67, LMA’67)
Allen L. Ginsberg (JD’67)
Paul M. Matura (LAS’67)
Sr. Pauline A. Furlin, O.S.F. (MM’68)
Loretta K. Kalina (EDU’69)
Robert F. Werner (BUS’96)
Sally J. Kopke (JD’86)
Barbara A. Lehman (BUS’86)
Christos J. Lenz (CSH’MA’88)
Sharon L. Stickney (CSH’88)
Ernest Neokos (MED’76)
Maurice G. Klings (MBA’98)
James C. Rice (CDM’98)
Lisa A. Maryniw (LAS’02)
Lori L. Antone (SNL’94)
John L. Keeley Jr. (DHL’11)
Margaret V. Fowler Munoz (SNL’11)
Sara R. Wadhwa (CSH’MA’11)

Friends
Juan Aguirre
H. Woods Bowman
Edward A. Bray
Alphonse Bucino
Bro. Roger Goodman
Rexford Gregory
Devin W. Kaputska
Kenneth P. Mahoney
Peter J. Paparelli
Helen T. Parisi
Curt M. White

Editor’s Note: Due to space limitations, this memorial list includes only those alumni and friends who our offices have confirmed have passed away.

FALL 2015
DEPAUL MAGAZINE 27
Class Notes

Robert Chatwani (BUS '97) is chief revenue and marketing officer for Teespring Inc., a startup that allows clients to design and sell T-shirts without upfront costs. In this role, Chatwani helps Teespring Inc. expand internationally and brand new product lines while increasing the number of buyers and sellers. He joins the company from eBay Inc., where he worked for 12 years, most recently as chief marketing officer for North America.

Derek L. Jacobs (CDM ’07) was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors for the Union League Club of Chicago, a civic, cultural and philanthropic organization. Doloughty, who has been active with the organization since 2008, will chair the admissions committee.

Cynthia L. Doloughty (SNL '97) was married to Victoria Eve Ewelina (Marczewska) ’06, CDM MS '08, in Chicago on May 20, 2013 at an intimate ceremony downtown Chicago in May. Her husband serves as executive director of the organization. Doloughty, who has been active with the organization since 2008, will chair the admissions committee.

Engagements & Marriages

Jason F. Angone (LAS '98) married Victoria Eve Caciopoli on Aug. 29, 2014, on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, where they also spent their honeymoon. Angone is a claims adjuster with State Farm in Chicago. The couple lives in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.

Heidi (Wigdahl) Mayer is an attorney at Faruki & Associates in Columbus, Ohio. Mayer is a founding partner in the firm's Milwaukee office. Walsh previously served as partner in the life sciences, strategy and transformation practice at IBM.

Jeffrey J. Antonelli (JD '00) announced the launch of Drone Democracy, a lower-fee Section 333 service intended to help potential operators of unmanned commercial aircraft systems obtain legal clearance from the Federal Aviation Administration. He is owner of Antonelli Law Ltd.

Jeffrey S. Bankowski (MBA ’00) was one of five professionals selected by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to join a finance review team for Wayne County. Bankowski is chief internal auditor for the state budget office of the Michigan department of technology, management and budget.

Timothy Dietlin (MBA ’00) is a partner at Heidrick & Struggles Chicago office in the health care and life sciences practice. He previously served as partner in the life sciences, strategy and transformation practice at IBM.

Tyrone R. Johnson (MBA ’00) is president of North America for Euramax Holdings Inc., an international metals manufacturing company. Johnson previously served as vice president and general manager of consumer productions.

Rosalyn R. La Pier (LAS MA ’00) is a research associate at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. La Pier is an assistant professor of environmental studies at the University of Montana in Missoula.

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Evelina (Marczewska) ’06, CDM MS '08, of Minneapolis, Minn. is a reporter for KARE 11 TV in downtown Chicago in May 2013 at an intimate ceremony with their immediate family. Derek is chief technology officer for a technology company on the central coast of California.

Nathan G. Linneman (BUS '07) married Kelli Nabar in a ceremony at Laketown Golf and Conference Center in Saugatuck, Mich., on Sept. 19. Linneman is a senior credit analyst at SomerCor 504 Inc., in Chicago.

Brian J. Easley (LAS ’10) married Catherine Gatewood in Louisville, Ky., on Sept. 12. The couple lives in Washington, D.C., where Easley sings with the indie-rock band Exit Vehicles.

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Sebastien Corbeil (MBA '01) is CEO of CelluForce, a commercial developer of NanoCrystalline Cellulose, based in Montreal. He previously served as vice president of site assessment and remediation for EnGlobe Corp.

Adam F. Marshall (MUS '01) was promoted to senior managing director in the Chicago office of Grubb Knight Frank (NGKF), a commercial real estate advisory firm. Marshall joined NGKF as a managing director in 2014 after serving as a vice president at NAI Hiffman.

Dana Hall (MM '02), a drummer and composer, performed “The Hypocrisy of Justice: Sights and Sounds From the Black Metropolis—Riffin’ and Signifying(g) on Richard Wright’s Native Son” with the Dana Hall Quintet at the Symphony Center on June 19. Hall is director of jazz studies at DePaul.

Carina Hira (CDM '02, MS CDM '04) and Randy M. Armknecht (CDM MS '11) were named to Consulting Magazine's 2015 list of Rising Stars of the Profession, which recognizes consultants younger than 35. Hira is an advisory director with PwC, and Armknecht is an associate director in the IT consulting practice at Protiviti Inc.

Todd A. Krueceberg (JD '02) was sworn in as director of the Miami County Board of Elections in Ohio. Krueceberg previously worked on a variety of political campaigns and most recently served as a freelance research and communications agent.

Sarah D. Mendez (EDU '02) is principal at William Hatch Elementary School in Oak Park, Ill. She previously served as principal at Nichols Middle School in Evanston, Ill.

Daniel M. Mourning (BUS MS '02) hosted the 2nd Annual Run For Veterans 5K on July 26, in Burr Ridge, Ill., along with Pauline Ozols (BUS '10), Hal Conick (CMN '08) and Emily Abrahamson (CMN '10). The race helped increase awareness of common mental health issues endured by veterans and raised funds to support the Lone Survivor Foundation, which provides educational, rehabilitation, recovery and wellness opportunities for members of the U.S. armed forces and their families.

Amanda Randall (LAS '02) completed a Ph.D. in Germanic studies at The University of Texas at Austin in spring 2015. She is an assistant professor of German at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn.

James M. Schamber (CSH '02, MED '06) was one of 10 Chicago-area teachers to receive the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Golden Apple Foundation. Award recipients receive a tuition-free spring quarter sabbatical to study at Northwestern University, receive a $3,000 cash award and become fellows of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators. Schamber teaches second grade at Orrington Elementary School in Evanston, Ill.

Cecilia T. Abundis (JD '03) was the recipient of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Excellence in Legal Service Award. She is assistant attorney general for the state of Illinois.

Rashon Burno (CMN '03) is assistant men’s basketball coach for the University of Nebraska. He previously served as the assistant men’s basketball coach at the University of Florida, where he helped the team earn back-to-back southeastern conference championships.

Jeremy A. Damilto (JD '03) joined Titan International Inc. in Quincy, Ill., as a corporate attorney. He was previously vice president of litigation counsel for Fidelity National Financial.

William R. Gloff (CMN MS '03) is senior software engineer for the NBCUniversal Media LLC team at Informz, a digital marketing solutions firm.

Daniel D. Kerr-Hobert (THE '09) directed and starred in the play “Trust Us/Scrub You,” which ran at The Neo-Futurarium in Chicago through June 13. He is a member of the ensemble The Neo-Futurists.

Tarsis G. Lopez (CMN MA '03) is the associate director of external and digital communications for Astellas Pharma US Inc., a global pharmaceutical company with U.S. headquarters in Northbrook, Ill. As part of the company’s corporate affairs department, he manages media relations and digital channel communications for the U.S. and Latin America.

Anne Malac (LAS MA '03) published “Marriage in Modern Life: Why It Works, When It Works,” a book that provides lessons on how to maintain or regain a healthy relationship. She is founder and managing partner of Symmetry Counseling in Chicago.

Tarell A. McCraney (THE '03) wrote the play “Choir Boy,” which had an extended showing at the Marin Theatre Company in Mill Valley, Calif.

Domenica G. Pappas (BUS '03) was elected as president of the Midwest section of the Society of Research Administrators International.

Sean S. Parsons (MM '03) presented a jazz master music class and benefit concert for North Central Illinois ARTWorks and Music Suite at First Congregational Church of Peru in Illinois on July 16. Parsons is an assistant professor of music theory and jazz at Ohio University in Athens.

Judah J. Viola (CSH MA '03, CSH PHD '06) is dean of the College of Professional Studies and Advancement (CPSA) at National Louis University in Chicago, where he is responsible for academic, personnel, financial and administrative affairs. Viola is a tenured faculty member at the university and most recently served as director of the CPSA School of Health and Behavioral Sciences.

Kristin N. Barnette (JD '04) was recently sworn in as second vice president of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. Barnette is a trial attorney with Kralovec, Jambois & Schwartz in Chicago.

Ian Hall (LAS '04) recently assumed the position of user experience designer at ZS Associates, a sales and marketing consulting and technology firm based in Evanston, Ill.

Sajjad A. Husain (LAS '04) and Shaun Husain (CMN '09) were featured in the May/June issue of The Forester Park Times. They formed jointly own Intellectual Tech, which provides web development and custom technology services for individuals and companies.

Alisa L. Maule (MBA '04) was promoted to head of U.S. sales for WisdomTree Investments Inc. Maule started with the company in 2008 as regional director covering the registered investment advisor channel in the Midwest and most recently served as regional director in the company's national full-service broker/dealer channel.

Ernest A. Nolan (THE MFA '04) directed a production of Brad Fraser’s “Love and Human Remains,” which played at Chicago’s Cor Theatre between June 4-July 11.

Shannon M. Smith (BUS '04) joined MB Real Estate Services LLC Healthcare Group as a portfolio manager. She is based in Chicago and oversees the company’s Midwest properties. Smith previously served as property manager for Northwestern Memorial HealthCare.

Melanie A. White (CDM MS '04) is senior vice president of discovery solutions at Inventus, a discovery management practice, where she oversees all services delivered by the project management and hosting teams and provides consultation on data processing, review workflows, data analytics and document production services. She also works with the sales and engineering teams to develop technology solutions to better manage e-discovery projects.

Julie D. Bombacino (MBA '05) is founder and CEO of Real Food Blends. When Bombacino couldn’t find a nutritional food blend made of real foods for her son, who eats through a feeding tube, she began making the blends herself and then launched the company. The product is distributed by mail to all 50 states.

Joseph F. Emmerth (JD '05) is certified with Wevorce Inc., which helps families go through the divorce process in a less disruptive way. Emmerth is a partner at Sullivan Taylor & Gumina PC in Wheaton, Ill., where he focuses his practice on divorce, parental, child custody, child support and prenuptial agreements.

Andrew Grabau (LAS MS '05) is executive director of Heart of Missouri United Way Inc. in Columbia, Mo., where he is responsible for overseeing daily operations, annual fundraising, community initiatives and more. He previously served as senior director of development for the Mizou Advantage at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Michael Quirk (MBA '05) is director of business development at Pepper Construction in Chicago, where he helps support the company’s public markets including health care, higher education, retail, hospitality and corporate. Quirk previously served as business development manager for M.A. Mortenson Co. in Minneapolis.

Patrick C. Vyncke (BUS '05) is director of acquisitions and development for HRI Lodging, a property management company in New Orleans. He previously served as director of acquisitions and development for CSM Corp. in Minneapolis.

Gregory Ziesemer (MBA '05) is senior vice president in commercial banking at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Chicago. His team partners with mid-sized companies in Illinois and Indiana to provide better financial solutions.

Christy Bennett (MUS '06) performed at the Merriams’ Playhouse in South Bend, Ind., with her Chicago-based band Fumée Gypsy Project. The group performs gypsy jazz with Bennett on vocals.

Kristin Marano (BUS '06) was promoted to vice president of finance for the Chicago-based United Service Cos., which provides cleaning, staffing and security services for conventions, hotels, hospitals, aviation and more. She is the point of contact for the company's operational and financial information and manages the cash reporting, budget compilation and regional financial performance. Marano previously served as controller and assistant controller for the company.

Matthew A. Passen (JD '06) is chair of the Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section for 2015-16. Additionally, he secured a $10.9 million jury verdict on behalf of a client. He is a partner with the Passen Law Group in Chicago.

Chantelle A. Porter (JD '06) was elected to the board of directors of the Illinois Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Illinois State Bar Association. She is an associate attorney at A. Traub and Associates.

Kelsey A. Snell (LAS '08) joined the national staff at The Washington Post, where she covers budget and taxes and assists the Congress team. Previously, Snell covered tax and fiscal policy for Politico.
Class Notes

Sara Lawhead (BUS ’07) is product manager for Jezboil, a division of Johnson Outdoors Inc., which manufactures outdoor cooking systems. She previously served as global product line manager for baseball and business manager for fastpitch at Wilson.

Stacy L. Nadeau (CSh ’07) presented to a group of fraternity and sorority members on positive body image at Dennison University in Granville, Ohio. Nadeau was one of six featured models in Dave’s Campaign for Real Beauty in 2005 and now travels the country speaking, coaching and consulting on body image.

John R. Terpstra III (JD ’07) made partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, where he is based at the Schererville, Ind., office. Terpstra focuses most of his practice on business transactions and commercial litigation and counsels and advises individual and commercial clients on business planning, project development, commercial transactions and other matters.

Bergen Baker (MUS ’08) was a featured guest artist in Mankato Symphony Orchestra’s production of “Kiss Me, Kate.” He is a featured artist with a variety of organizations, including the Minnesota Opera, the Minnesota Orchestra and Skylark Opera.

Sandra G. Berkhia (BUS ’08) and Riana R. Lynn (MPH ‘11) were named to the Crain’s Chicago Business 2015 list of 20 in Their 20s making a mark in Chicago’s business community. Berkhia is manager of operations at Intercontinental Exchange Inc., which provides end-to-end risk management solutions, and Lynn is CEO of FoodTrace, a B2B software and mobile application platform that provides tools for sourcing food.

Matthew J. Campbell (JD ’08) was promoted to director of specialty practices at Covenant HealthCare, the sixth largest medical facility in Michigan.

Jacob B. Eisen (SNL ’08) is managing director of the regional and community banking group at Maxim Group LLC, a full-service investment banking, securities and wealth management firm. He is responsible for expanding the suite of specialized capital markets, investment banking and fixed-income services to the markets, investment banking and wealth management firm.

Meaghan L. Kawaller (MM ’08, MUS ‘10) and Parker R. Gains (MUS ‘11) performed with “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band on “Late Show With David Letterman” on April 30. Prior to joining the band, Kawaller was an adjunct professor at DePaul and Elmhurst College in Illinois and taught at the Chicago Academy for the Arts and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras. Gains was a graduate assistant at Northwestern University, a bass clarinet teaching assistant at the Brevard Music Center in Brevard, N.C., and performed with the Chicago Chamber Musicians.

Daniel P. Klimek (LAS ’08) made his first profession of religious vows as a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Third Order Regular, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The ceremony took place during Holy Mass at the Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University in Loretto, Penn.

Lauren A. Lapkus (LAs ’08) plays Vivian in the 2015 film “Jurassic World.” Lapkus has appeared in a variety of TV shows and movies, including “Orange Is the New Black” and “Are You There, Chelsea?”

Daniel Morriss (JD ’08) made partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP. He is based in the Chicago office and represents corporations and financial institutions in commercial litigation claims involving tort, contract and statutory violations. He is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, Chicago Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leaders and Chicago Inn of Court, and serves on a variety of nonprofit boards.

Michael M. Reed (JD ’08) is an associate in the banking, finance and major projects practice group at the Chicago office of Baker & McKenzie, where he focuses on project finance, development and other transactional matters in the environment, infrastructure and mining industries.

Melissa C. Rubio (BUS ’08) is account manager of online services in the online division at Focus Pointe Global, where she works on new online client development, as well as engaging and supporting current client relationships. Rubio previously served as associate director at watchLAB LLC.

Monica (Brooke) Anderson (CMM MA ’09) joined Uber as the communications lead for the downtown Chicago Berlitz Learning Center, where she helps companies and students with global initiatives.

Margaret L. Pelka (LAS ’09) is manager of the downtown Chicago Berlitz Learning Center, where she helps companies and students with global initiatives.

Charlene D. Rhinehart (BUS ’09) was crowned Ms. Corporate America 2015 on March 7 at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld. During her year of service, she will travel the country conducting professional workshops, making radio and TV appearances, attending seminars and speaking on her platform of diversity in business. She is a CPA and associate controller with JP Morgan Chase in Chicago.

Kory J. Stoehr (MST ’09) is a tax partner at BDO USA LLP in their Madison, Wis., office. In this role, he oversees tax relationships for privately held and publicly traded companies. Stoehr most recently served as lead tax partner of Wisconsin for McGladrey LLP.

Christopher Trifillo (MBA ’09) joined HAS Capital LLC, a real estate investment and advisory firm in Chicago, as managing director of investment management. In this role, he is responsible for portfolio analysis and raising capital to support the company’s initiative to provide financing in the manufactured housing space.

Michael G. Waiz (BUS ’09) was named to Oly/Chicago’s Double Chai in the Chi: 36 Under 36 list of young Jewish professionals. Waiz is the North American director for Shorasham, a Birthright Israel trip provider based in Chicago.

Sarah J. Birkhimer (LAS ’10) is a singer, harpist and lyricist living in Oklahoma City, Okla. In 2015, she released the album “Firefly Night Light” under the name Sun Riah.

McKenzie E. Chinn (THE MFA ’11) was a recipient of the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund for the Performing and Visual Arts, which awards $50,000 a year for up to two years to up-and-coming artists who have demonstrated talent. Chinn is an actor, writer and filmmaker in Chicago. She plans to use the fellowship to write, co-produce and star in an original feature-length movie currently titled “Instruction Manual for How Things Work.” Chinn was nominated for the fellowship by The Theatre School.

Natalie D. Hengstebeck (CSh ’11) was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant in sociology and will travel to the Netherlands for the 2015-16 academic year. She is a PhD candidate at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro in the department of human development and family studies, from which she holds a master’s degree.

Daniel Morriss (JD ’08) is a vice president and general manager of KidCo Inc., in Libertyville, Ill., where he has worked for 10 years assisting in a variety of roles, including daily sales operations, new product development, finance, administration and hands-on factory operations.

Brian P. Murray (JD ’11) is an associate in the Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP Chicago intellectual property practice group, where he focuses on pharmaceutical and life sciences litigation. He previously served as an associate with Rakoczy Molino Mazzochi Siwik LLP.

Prabjot Randhawa (CMM MA ’11) is an investigative reporter for NBC affiliate KSDK-TV in St. Louis. She previously served as an investigative reporter for NBC affiliate WIS-TV in Columbia, S.C.

David Rodriguez (MBA ’11) is vice president of market research for MD Buyline. He’s a member of the editorial board for the International Journal of Healthcare Management and is a certified treasury professional.

John T. Donovan (JD ’12) was nominated for the Edgar Fellows Program, a University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs initiative that develops leadership and governing capacity in Illinois. Donovan is assistant counsel to Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Michael J. Madigan. He previously served as the lead legislative attorney on seven House committees, including revenue and finance, mass transit, transportation: vehicles & safety, and transportation: regulation, roads and bridges.

Keith M. Hanlon (MED ’12) is a teacher at Waterloo Elementary School in Monroe, Mich., for the 2015-16 school year.

Alexa K. Jarvis (MUS ’12) is a soprano opera singer who performed with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra in “Distant Worlds: Music From ‘Final Fantasy,’” a compilation of music from the video game “Final Fantasy.” She has performed several times with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra and on various video game soundtracks.

Jennifer A. Lawlor (CSh ’12) is a PhD student studying ecological-community psychology at Michigan State University.
Alisa M. Rosales (LAS MS ’12) joined Equal Justice Wyoming (EJW) as a staff attorney and information technology project manager. EJW is a judicial-branch entity dedicated to increasing civil access to justice across the state through developing resources for self-represented litigants and pro bono attorneys.

Sandra L. Weicher (SNL ’12) is vice president of customer care for the western New England region of Comcast Cable, where she has worked for more than 10 years, most recently as senior director of customer care.

Ryan D. Burrow (CMN MA ’13) is a news anchor and reporter at Cumulus Media WLS-AM (890) and a multimedia journalist at Tribune Media WGN-AM (720). He has worked at WLS since December 2012 as a midday news anchor.

Phillip C. Denofrio (LAS MA ’13) is marketing assistant and poet in residence at the Raue Center for the Arts in Crystal Lake, Ill.

Hontas Farmer (CSH MS ’13) is an adjunct physics and astronomy professor at the City Colleges of Chicago. Hontas has published four papers and three conference proceedings since defending in June 2013.

Kathleen E. Mullins (CDM MS ’13) served as script supervisor for the film “Supermodels with Tasers,” which won best comedy at the Down East Flick Fest in Greenville, N.C., in April. Also involved in the film’s production were Christopher Deir (CDM MS ’14), writer, director and co-producer; Colin Heffernan (CDM ’14), key grip; Alexander Mallory (CDM ’14), producer; Peilin Tan (CDM ’14), colorist; and Eddie Avinashi (CDM ’15), cinematographer. The film was also screened at the Phoenix Comicon Film Festival in May and at the Chicago Laugh or Die Comedy Fest in June.

Berkeley Y. Cobb (JD ’14) is associate counsel in the area of mortgage foreclosure in the Illinois office of Anselmo Lindberg Oliver LLC.

Brett D. Elliott (THE MFA ’14) was appointed executive director of the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center in Old Saybrook, Conn.

Ryan W. Gardner (JD ’14) is an associate at Lavelle Law Ltd. in Palatine, Ill., where he contributes to the estate planning and business law practice groups. Additionally, he works on Medicaid benefits planning and business succession needs.

Bradley R. Kaye (JD ’14) joined Anderson & Associates PC in Schaumburg, Ill., as an associate attorney.

Kelsey E. Landis (LAS MA ’14) is a reporter for The Telegraph, an Alton, Ill., newspaper, where she covers various beats, including government, business and education.

Andrew J. Lutze (LAS ’14) is dean of students and student advisor director at Wisconsin International Academy (WIA) in Wauwatosa, Wis. The school provides housing, food, English language learning classes, cultural exchange and volunteer opportunities to more than 150 Chinese high school students in the Milwaukee area. Lutze started at WIA in 2014 as a student advisor.

David P. Rossi (SNL ’14) is senior vice president of marketing and retail sales at Dollamur Sports Surfaces, a manufacturer of sports flooring based in Fort Worth, Texas. Rossi’s responsibilities include branding, product strategy, public relations and website development. He previously served as chief operating officer of Pivot5 LLC in Chicago.

Kate A. Vollrath (CSH ’14) was the summer intern at Alaska Marine Conservation Council in Anchorage. In this role, Vollrath organized local seafood and fisheries conservation outreach events and helped with Catch of the Season, the community-supported fishery.


Blake J. Baldi (MED ’15) is head boxing coach for the Air Force Academy, located north of Colorado Springs, Colo. Baldi earned his undergraduate degree at the academy in 2005. He previously worked with USA Boxing as the national teams manager.

Ann Zadina Hines (SNL ’00) at the Ayutthaya Elephant Palace and Krall outside Bangkok, Thailand

Alexis Gordon (BUS ’14) and current DePaul student Spencer Gordon in Pisa, Italy

Jim Patterson (BUS ’78) and his daughter Mary Patterson (LAS ’10) at the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in northern Wisconsin

Hilary Eichie (CSH MS ’12) in Lagos, Nigeria

Kenneth Bator (BUS ’91, MBA ’97) in Ketchikan, Alaska

Jason Wagner, the son of Katherine Stone (CSH ’00), beating the heat in his backyard

Mary Pembroke (BUS ’81), Marilyn McGuire (LAS ’48) and Karen Hrzenjak (BUS ’79) on the big screen at a men’s basketball game

DePaul Pride

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.
UPCOMING EVENTS

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TRUE BLUE SOCIETY

December

5 Arizona Alumni Chapter Holiday Brunch | Phoenix
5 Southern California Alumni Chapter Holiday Lunch | Huntington Beach, Calif.
5 New York City Alumni Chapter Holiday Lunch | New York City

January

9 Alumni Self-Defense Class at The Ray | Chicago
9 Pregame Reception & Men’s Basketball vs. Georgetown | Washington, D.C.
10 Pregame Reception & Women’s Basketball vs. Villanova | Chicago
17 Pregame Reception & Men’s Basketball vs. Creighton | Rosemont, Ill.
18 Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast | Chicago
20 Pregame Reception & Men’s Basketball vs. Marquette | Milwaukee
24 Pregame Reception & Women’s Basketball vs. Providence | Chicago
30 Blue Demon Day | Nationwide
31 Pregame Reception & Women’s Basketball vs. St. John’s | Chicago
TBD Faculty Speaking Engagement | Hoffman Estates, Ill.

February

6 Two Brothers Brewing Company Tour & Tasting | Warrenville, Ill.
7 Family Theatre Performance | Chicago
9 Chicago Blackhawks Outing | Chicago
14 Pregame Reception & Women’s Basketball vs. Butler | Chicago
21 Alumni Mass with the Rev. William Piletic, C.M. | Chicago
27 Garfield Park Conservatory Volunteer Project | Chicago
29 Sparkling Wine and Chocolate Tasting | Chicago

Registration dates vary. Please visit alumni.depaul.edu/events for more information.
rish Brown Cordes’ (LAS MS ’83) gift to DePaul reflects a major concern she felt during her 43-year career in health care helping patients and families navigate illness and cultural barriers. The Trish Brown Cordes Endowed Scholarship will provide recognition and financial assistance to students in the School of Nursing, dedicated to those who have demonstrated a commitment to work with the Hispanic community.

Brown Cordes, who has an undergraduate degree in Spanish from Mundelein College and would go on to earn an MSW from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a master’s degree in public service from DePaul, spent the first half of her professional journey in a variety of social work and health care management settings. It wasn’t until she completed her BS in nursing at Creighton University in Omaha that she found her true niche working across multiple specialties as a nurse. It was her work with hospice patients that ultimately gave Brown Cordes her greatest professional and personal satisfaction.

Prior to returning to her Chicago home, she provided services for a growing population of Hispanic patients and families as the lone Spanish-speaking hospice nurse in a 17-county area in Central Indiana. “Preparing a person and their family for dying with grace, dignity and minimal discomfort is the mission of all hospice nurses,” Brown Cordes says. “Because of my fluency in Spanish, I have had the blessing of working with this very special population.”

Trish and her husband, Sam Cordes, professor emeritus of agricultural economics at Purdue University, marveled during a recent visit to the nursing school at the simulation labs, where computerized mannequins are used to help educate nursing students. “I have always admired the core values of DePaul, especially its commitment to social justice and community service,” she adds. “Those values, along with the revolutionary educational approach Sam and I witnessed in the simulation labs, show how DePaul remains true to its mission and drives innovation in health care education.”

Her work—and DePaul’s—inspired Brown Cordes to make her generous and thoughtful gift. She is helping to pave a path to achievement for future generations. “Sam and I feel blessed that we are now in a position to support nursing students, especially those committed to serving our rapidly growing Hispanic population. It’s something that is very close to my heart.”
Looking Back  “Rad Tech” Majors

*These student technicians* may actually be “rad tech” majors hard at work. When this photo was taken, DePaul offered degrees in both radiologic and medical technology, as well as preprofessional training for students pursuing medicine and dentistry.