FALL 2018

DePaul President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, and his wife, Josephine, reflect on their life together and their first year at DePaul.

MEET THE ESTEBANS

DePaul President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, and his wife, Josephine, reflect on their life together and their first year at DePaul.
DePaul students celebrate at the end of a 24-hour dance marathon.

Photo by DePaul University/Deanna Williams
FALL 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

14 The Road to DePaul
DePaul President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, and his wife, Josephine, discuss their formative years, their family life and the road that led them to Chicago and DePaul.

20 Best Practice
The Third Year in Practice Program helps DePaul’s law students to jumpstart their careers by placing them with law firms during their last year of school.

24 From the Top
Six student government presidents from the 1950s to the present reminisce about the times during which they served DePaul and how the experience shaped their lives.

30 From Unicorn to University Professor
DePaul’s McNair Scholars and Mitchem programs assist college students from underrepresented backgrounds attain advanced degrees and pursue careers in academia.

ON THE COVER
DePaul President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, and his wife, Josephine, enjoy a late summer day on the quad at the Lincoln Park Campus. Photo by DePaul University/Jeff Carrion.

DEPARTMENTS

4 From the President
DePaul Digest
1 Moments: Dance marathon
5 Marquee: Bushra Amiwala
6 Memoranda: Campus/alumni events
8 Memories: Bob Skaleski and McDonald’s
9 Master Class: Negotiation
9 Milestones
10 Musings: College hangouts
11 In Memoriam: Bill Hay
12 Athletics
35 Class Notes
40 DePaul Pride
41 Donor Profile: Curtis Crawford

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DEPAUL MAGAZINE
FALL 2018

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As I enter the second year of my presidency at DePaul, I continue to reflect on all the things that make me joyful and blessed to be a member of this outstanding university community.

Our Catholic, Vincentian and urban mission is near and dear to me, as it is to our alumni, faculty, staff and students. I see you carry on DePaul’s mission every day as I meet you at events across the country and around the world. You make your university proud.

I’m also proud of DePaul’s new strategic plan, “Grounded in Mission: The Plan for DePaul 2024.” This plan serves as our guide on a path forward as an institution to a destination where DePaul will be unequalled among U.S. urban universities.

“Grounded in Mission” focuses our collective effort on the success of a diverse community of learners, and a number of major initiatives are already underway. We redesigned the fall quarter welcome experience to ensure all students receive a comprehensive introduction to DePaul. We launched a new initiative, partly funded by a generous gift from a DePaul alumnus, to expand support and peer mentorship for freshmen and transfer students as we seek to improve undergraduate student retention. We have re-envisioned the delivery of support services for students to improve academic outcomes and the student experience from freshman to sophomore year. We have reimagined the delivery of support services for students to improve academic outcomes and the student experience from freshman to sophomore year. We have re-envisioned the delivery of support services for students to improve academic outcomes and the student experience.

It is also important for our students to share a sense of community around co- and extracurricular activities. A new group, the DePaul Experience Task Force, will develop new strategies to help create a greater sense of engagement among students and enhance school spirit on campus.

Finally, while our new strategic plan focuses on the next six years, we also must begin to imagine what DePaul will look like in 2048, when the university celebrates its sesquicentennial. We are convening a task force to help us paint that picture. Through collective engagement and innovation, the DePaul Tomorrow Task Force will consider how a myriad of topics will affect DePaul so we can prepare to meet the challenges facing higher education in the future.

These initiatives are only the beginning of our answer to the Vincentian call: What must be done? I have the utmost faith that DePaul University will continue to deliver on our promise to a new generation of diverse, engaged and active learners. In fact, these students are already here.

This year, DePaul received a record number of applications, leading to one of the largest, most diverse and academically prepared freshman classes in our history.

Looking ahead, Amiwala, who is now a junior majoring in management information systems and double-minoring in community service and policy studies, hopes that minorities are better represented and supported.

“I hope that no child or young person thinks they can’t do something because they don’t see someone like them in whatever field—politics, media, music, technology, anything,” she asserts. “I want to break people’s predisposed beliefs.”

As we embark on this new strategic plan, we have much work ahead of us. I am confident we will forge ahead with our ambitions into reality. Together, we will stay grounded in mission.
Breaking the Bars

Panel discussions and a personal story address Latinos and mass incarceration in the United States

An estimated 2.3 million people are currently imprisoned in the United States, making it the world’s leader in incarceration. According to the NAACP, African Americans and Latinos make up approximately 52 percent of the U.S. population and, in 2015, comprised 56 percent of all incarcerated people. As immigration laws become stricter, the number of imprisoned Latinos is expected to massively increase.

These issues were discussed in May at the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences’ Department of Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) and the Futuro Media Group’s event “Latinos and Mass Incarceration.” The three-part program was recorded by Futuro’s “In the Thick,” a podcast that discusses issues of race, identity and politics.

DePaul students are dreamers and doers turning their goals into accomplishments, innovators and creators giving the world new perspectives and, above all, leaders making a difference in their communities. Every year, alumni come together to build and strengthen their bonds not only with one another, but with DePaul. By attending hundreds of events nationwide, offering countless hours of community service and supporting students by making gifts, alumni lay the building blocks for a vibrant, respectful and engaging community.

The annual Alumni Impact Report measures and highlights the many ways alumni are sustaining their communities and impacting DePaul. In this year’s report (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018), you’ll learn how alumni gave back to the university, upheld the university’s mission of providing education for all, engaged with DePaul’s new president, developed connections with fellow alumni and shared the Vincentian mission with the world. Visit DePaul.edu/impactreport to read it now.

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When Flipping Burgers Was an Art

Before Big Macs and the Golden Arches, there was the Skaleski Staggered System

As a high school student, Bob Skaleski (BUS ’64) was an employee at McDonald’s No. 1, the first location established by Ray Kroc, who grew the chain into a global enterprise. Kroc’s idea was to produce fast food fast. Skaleski made it faster.

“We used to produce 30 burgers every five minutes if we were busy,” recalls Skaleski, who began working at the walk-up restaurant in Des Plaines, Ill., in 1958. “We had extra grill space. It was a big, big grill.

“I would turn [the heat] down, and then I put 30 [patties] on, and then I put on 30 more,” he says. “I had to work a little faster, I put 30 [patties] on, and then I put on 30 more. It was a big, big grill.

We used to produce 30 burgers every five minutes if we were busy,” recalls Skaleski, who began working at the walk-up restaurant in Des Plaines, Ill., in 1958. “We had extra grill space. It was a big, big grill.

No matter the pecking order, everyone teamed up shortly before closing time at 11 p.m. Employees got to take home any leftover food, “so about 10 or 15 minutes before closing, we would be making fries and shakes and burgers like heck,” says Skaleski, chuckling.

There were no uniforms, but employees wore “Silly little hats” precariously perched on their heads. “We had two guys behind the grill, one fanning the burgers and [one] was the bun preparer.”

When he started, Skaleski was making 60 cents an hour, saving about $17 per week toward his future tuition of about $400 a semester at DePaul. By the time he enrolled in the accounting program in 1960, he’d worked his way up to night manager and $1.25 an hour.

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I’m always partial to the @DPUIHospitatl lounge in Daley 340. Comfortable couches, fast WiFi, great views and, of course, the hospitality spirit!  
Nicholas P. Thomas

Demon Dogs! Pat Fredericksen (CMN ’88)

We used to write our Friday night @radiopeual show at Kelly’s Pub. Great source for creativity. mjaltier

On the plaza in front of the DePaul Center on a nice spring/summer day. Patrick James Murphy

Kelly’s!!! Eric Dziubyk (BUS ’77)

McGees’ Wings and waffle fries! Elizabeth (Libby) Linares-Herrera (BUS ’00)

Always on the hills in the quad or the computer lab in the SAC. Astoria Rydin (CSH ’14)

Thursday nights at Kelly’s Pub! Delta Zeta sisterhood! Rose Kopf Shirley (LAS ’82)

Local Option before it was a metal bar. Allende for late-night tacos. Jenna O’Brien (CMN ’06, MA ’09)

Chicagoans endow chair in Albanian studies
Established through a generous bequest, the new Hidai Bregu Endowed Visiting Chair in Albanian Studies will teach the language, culture and contributions of people of Albanian descent.

DePaul wins best PR education program
The public relations and advertising graduate program in the College of Communication won the PRWeek 2018 Outstanding Education Program of the Year after winning honorable mentions in 2016 and 2017.

Franciscans honor DePaul
Franciscan Outreach, one of the oldest and largest service providers to people who are homeless in Chicago, presented DePaul with its Community Outreach Impact Award in May 2018. The nonprofit recognized DePaul for its public service work through the Institute of Global Homelessness and the Steans Center for Community-Based Service Learning.

Number of Fulbright scholars from DePaul triples
Nine DePaul students and alumni received Fulbright grants to study, conduct research or teach English abroad, an award rate of 29 percent. The number of applicants, semifinalists and winners from DePaul has more than tripled in the past five years thanks to a systemwide focus on student success.

DePaul Digest

| Milestones |

DePaul mourns the loss of Bill Hay (1943–2018)

Committed innovator and educator, William E. Hay, passed away in April 2018. While on the Board, he served variously as a member of the Executive Committee, the Investment Committee, the Compensation Sub-Committee, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Trusteeship Committee, where he also served as chair.

Leveraging his expertise in business design and management theory, continuous curious and eager to learn,” said Beth Smoots, his business partner at Hay & Company. “His communication skills were unmatched, and he could make anyone feel comfortable. He was a bigger-than-life guy, and he dearly loved DePaul.”

Throughout his career, Hay remained active with DePaul, serving on the Board of Trustees from 2001 through 2016. While on the Board, he

IN MEMORIAM: Bill Hay (1943–2018)

D

A Year to Celebrate
Annual banquet honors athletic milestones

Coach Doug Bruno (LAS ’73, MA ’88) presents a Blue Demons jersey to the Rev. John T. Richardson, C.M., former DePaul president, as well-wishers look on.

DePaul women's basketball and softball teams were among those highlighted for a remarkable 2017-18 season at the annual athletics banquet in June.

Women's basketball, under Head Coach Doug Bruno (LAS ’73, MA ’88), made its 16th consecutive appearance in the NCAA tournament and reached the second round for the fifth straight year. The women led the nation in three-point field goals per game and were No. 2 in the country in all three-point field goals and attempts. They set a program record by converting 422 from behind the arc.

Retiring Women's Softball Head Coach Eugene Lentil (EDU ’80) named the 1968 class of his career after the Blue Demons topped Presbyterian 1–0 on Feb. 17. The softball coaches were honored as the BIG EAST Softball Coaching Staff of the Year after guiding their team to a 1–3 conference record and regular-season title.

Women’s track and field scored second place at the BIG EAST Outdoor Track & Field Championships, with special mention of Alexis Brooks (100-meter hurdles); Jade Gates (hammer throw); Caroline Muller (high jump); Emily Eller (shot put) and the 400- and 1,600-meter relay teams. Men’s track-and-field Brian Mada qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the triple jump, while Mada, Gates (awards) and Brooks competed in the NCAA West Prelims.

“T’m really proud of what our student athletes and coaches have accomplished this year. We had four conference titles plus significant improvement in so many teams,” said DePaul Athletics Director Jean Lentil Ponetto (EDU ’78). “Women’s track and field made a big leap, the golf team performed well, men’s tennis earned the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament for the second year in a row and women’s tennis battled through some injuries in advancing to its fourth BIG EAST title match in the last five years.”

The 2017–18 season also marked the unveiling of DePaul’s state-of-the-art basketball facility in Chicago’s South Loop. Wintrust Arena at McCormick Square opened to rave reviews when men’s basketball welcomed longtime rival Notre Dame last November.

DePaul’s graduating senior class had a terrific four-year run filled with championships. "You can’t say enough about the legacy of success left behind by the senior class,” Ponetto said. “Over their four years, they won 20 BIG EAST regular-season and tournament titles and earned 47 BIG EAST awards.”

The evening featured tributes to former DePaul President the Rev. John T. Richardson, C.M., Community Outreach Coordinator Dave Corzine (LAS ’78) and Associate Vice President of Student Development Peggy Burke (EDU ’83, LAS MA ’95).

ATHLETICS BANQUET AWARD WINNERS

• Rev. John R. Cortelyou, C.M., Award: Elizabeth Endy (BUS ’18), Women’s Soccer; Aaron St. John (BUS ’16), Men’s Soccer; Jesse Parisi (BUS ’16), Men’s Golf
• Rev. Edward F. Riley, C.M., Memorial Award: Alex Galazuk, Men’s Tennis; Austin Harrell (BUS ’18), Men’s Soccer; Alexincre King (BUS ’16), Women’s Soccer; Jean Nordberg Memorial Award: Claire Anderson, Volleyball; Lauren Prochaska, Women’s Basketball
• Jean Nordberg Memorial Award: Claire Anderson, Volleyball; Lauren Prochaska, Women’s Basketball
• BIG EAST Institutional Scholar-Athlete Award: Alexa Man (CMN ’18), Women’s Soccer; Jake Pecorin (CHS ’18), Men’s Cross Country/Track and Field
• Michael Hie Memorial Award: Varsha Badurde, Maya Bradshaw

DePaul celebrates the 50th Special Olympics

The Special Olympics went all in its 50th anniversary game this past July 17–21 in the place where it all began—Chicago.

DePaul men’s and women’s basketball players, golf team student-athletes, coaches, staff members and administrators joined Special Olympics from 25 countries, celebrities and thousands of Chicagoans in celebrating the final day of competition with a Global Day of Inclusion at Chicago’s Soldier Field.

Golf coach Marty Schiame brought along senior Patricia Griggs to work the golf station. Blue Demons Softball Director Sharon Leren (LAS ’04) picked up her award-winning Special Olympics championship team put on a demonstration.

“I have such emotions going on right now,” said Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke (RNL ’76), who organized the first Special Olympics in 1968 as a 24-year-old Chicago Park District instructor. “I’m just the happiest person in the whole world.”

See a video of the Special Olympics All Sport Days at bit.ly/50kisp.

DePaul Briefs

• Women’s basketball best in the BIG EAST. The Blue Demons went 15–3 to claim their fifth consecutive conference title and shot down Marquette 98–63 last March to claim their third BIG EAST tournament crown in the last five years. Marty Moore, Polly Campbell were named All-BIG EAST First Team and Lauren Prochaska (LAS ’14) was named Big East Sportsmanship Award. Grays was also named to the I-AAA Athletic Directors Association Scholar-Athlete Team.

• Clean sweep for Blue Demons softball. Retired Coach Eugene Lentil (EDU ’80) and the BIG EAST Coaching Staff of the Year guided the program to the BIG EAST regular-season and tournament titles last spring. Pat Moore was honored as the BIG EAST Pitcher of the Year and Kate Polucha was named the league’s Freshman of the Year. Moore, Polucha, Mike Turoski and Megan Uyeya (CHS ’18) and Morgan Greenwood were All-BIG EAST First Team, while

Apheresis: Failing and Perserving

Jessica Cothern and Maranda Gutierrez were named to the second team. In addition, Greenwood was named Google Cloud Academic All-America.

Amarah Coleman

Coleman selected in the WNBA draft. Blue Demons guard Amarah Coleman (EDU ’18) had quite a finish to her memorable senior year. Her career-high 27 points helped her team triumph in 2018 BIG EAST tournament, where she was named Most Outstanding Player. Five players later, Coleman was selected in the third round of the WNBA draft by the Chicago Sky.

Adis—Zins named new softball coach. On July 5, Tracie Adis-Zins (CMN ’07) was named the new head coach for softball, replacing retired Coach Eugene Lentil (EDU ’80). The former softball pitcher has served as an assistant coach at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she helped the Badgers achieve a 144-75 record, their first Big Ten tournament title and their first NCAA Regional appearance since 2005. She also coached at Oklahoma State and, most recently, at North Carolina State.

Kyle Decker

Decker receives national academic honor. Junior hurler Kyle Decker was named to the Google Cloud Men’s Track and Field Academic All-America Team for the second consecutive year after his three-peat as the BIG EAST outdoor champion in the 100-meter hurdles and the BIG EAST indoor champion in the 60-meter hurdles. Decker, who is majoring in biological sciences and minoring in chemistry, carries a 3.93 grade-point average.
DePaul's president and his wife mark their first year at the university.

By Marilyn Ferdinand

If you find yourself along the stretch of Lake Michigan that borders Lincoln Park, you may spot a couple walking briskly along the lakefront path. A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, DePaul’s 12th president, and his wife, Josephine, are avid walkers. Since moving to Lincoln Park in 2017, when Dr. Esteban assumed his duties as DePaul's first lay president, the Estebans take every opportunity to get some exercise and explore their neighborhood.

The road to DePaul has been long and interesting for the Estebans. It all started in their native country—the Philippines.

The Early Years

Mrs. Esteban grew up in Manila with her parents, five other siblings and a house full of dogs. Dr. Esteban, the eldest of three, was raised in a suburb of Manila, although it's not the type of suburb you'd find in the United States. “Where I grew up, it was such a remote place,” Dr. Esteban explains. “We used to go hiking. We used to fish in the creek close to where we lived. We had fruit trees. I used to plant vegetables in our backyard, and I had neighbors who raised hogs and chickens.”

“I remember our lives were fairly structured growing up,” he continues. “Always on Sundays, we were expected to go to church with family. Meals were supposed to be with family. You were supposed to sit down at dinner.”

Like most of the Filipinos population, they also attended May festivals centered on the Blessed Virgin Mary, an important figure in the matriarchal society, as well as flowers and the harvest. “You have the image of the Virgin Mary as the lead in the procession,” Mrs. Esteban recalls, “and there are beauty queens representing each town.”

The Philippines is a lush country with beautiful, white-sand beaches and a rich cultural heritage the Estebans cherish, but neither of their families were affluent.

“We were considered, I guess, middle income, but being middle income in a poor country doesn’t mean a whole lot. Looking back on our lives when we were younger, we really didn’t have a lot,” Dr. Esteban says. “But it was not an issue because it was all about the relationships we had.”

College Days

The Esteban romance began 39 years ago in the math club at the University of the Philippines (UP), where she was studying economics and he was studying math. His sociable nature often made him the life of the party. He remembers his undergraduate years fondly: “I really enjoyed college. I knew how to have fun.”

“He partied way too much!” Mrs. Esteban teases.

Those days weren’t all carefree, however. At the time, the Philippines was ruled by Ferdinand Marcos, a dictator who held power for 21 years. As a freshman in college, Dr. Esteban and his close friends joined the anti-Marcos movement while at UP. “We used to rally against the policies of Marcos as well as on other national issues. There was also a national movement for free elections in the Philippines, so we were involved in that as poll watchers, even though we couldn’t vote yet.”

Eventually, Marcos was forced from power in 1986 and fled the country to escape a serious reckoning. “I developed very strong feelings about freedom of speech and expression, having lived under a dictatorship,” Dr. Esteban says. “People rail against either end of the political spectrum. You know what? It’s better to have that than to not have the ability to have that discussion or have the discussion controlled by the government.”

The Working World

Once out of college, the pair found themselves working at businesses across the street from each other. “Our paychecks came once a month. They used to pay us in cash, which is kind of scary in a way,” says Dr. Esteban. “There was one restaurant we used to go to, a fried chicken place. We’d go there every month, once a month, and that’s where we would celebrate getting our paychecks.”

“We’d blow out all our paychecks. No saving for any of us,” Mrs. Esteban adds with a laugh.

Dr. Esteban, who earned his MBA at UP and obtained another master’s degree in Japanese business studies from Chaminade University in Honolulu and a doctorate in business administration from the University of California, Irvine, was well-prepared for the business career he pursued for a number of years. But it is perhaps ironic that he ended up following in his father’s footsteps by going into teaching, though his father might not have seen it that way.

“I learned about this long after the fact, but he thought I should be an MD,” Dr. Esteban says. “I think he wanted me to be a doctor because he never did practice medicine full time except for one year.”

Graduate students Josephine King and Gabriel Esteban in 1983
“He taught gross anatomy and histology at UP’s College of Medicine. The only time he would practice was in charity clinics he ran on the weekends.”

“When I was eight or nine years old, he’d invite me to his office and take me up to the gross anatomy lab. I think part of it was just for me to be exposed. So growing up, I used to see cadavers galore. I blame that for my interest in zombie movies,” Dr. Esteban jokes.

**Coming to the United States**

Education brought the Estebans to the United States, and they stayed to pursue the American Dream. Dr. Esteban held teaching and administrative positions at the University of Houston–Victoria, Arkansas Tech University in Russellville and the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. Mrs. Esteban, who holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in economics from UP, earned an MBA from the University of California, Riverside, while her husband was working on his doctorate and held senior marketing analytics positions at companies in the Little Rock area. It was in Conway where the couple raised their only child, Ysabella.

“The Estebans are proud of their Filipino and Catholic identity and wanted to ensure that their daughter embraced her heritage as much as they did. These values formed their bedrock as they negotiated the culture of the mostly white, Protestant town in which they lived.

“She’s a wonderful kid,” Mrs. Esteban says. “But it was challenging to raise her as an Asian-American in Arkansas because there weren’t a lot of Asians in Arkansas.”

Of course, they wanted Ysabella to have the best education possible. “She went to public school from kindergarten through high school,” Mrs. Esteban continues. “One reason we sent her to public school was to expose her to different people, different income levels, and public schools in the South where we lived seemed to be more equipped in terms of technology and facilities than the Catholic schools. There were not that many Catholics in the South; the senior class of the Catholic school in Conway had maybe 30 students.”

To instill their Catholic values in Ysabella, the Estebans engaged her in fundraising activities for the local church and school, and they performed perpetual adoration as a family. “We made sure that she meditated in front of the altar—no phones, nothing. Just pure meditation and prayer,” Mrs. Esteban says about their weekly prayers in front of the enshrined Eucharist in church.

“We also exposed her to other civic organizations, like the local women’s shelter,” she continues. “The three of us participated in building a house for Habitat for Humanity. And during Christmas time, we donated presents to needy families because we wanted her to see that even if the United States is a rich country, not everyone is well-off.”

“**We made sure that she meditated in front of the altar—no phones, nothing. Just pure meditation and prayer.**”

Josephine Esteban
"Mayor" Esteban

In 2007, Dr. Esteban became provost and chief academic officer at Seton Hall University, the largest Catholic university in New Jersey, situated 14 miles from New York City. Ysabella enrolled as an undergraduate at the university, and Mrs. Esteban continued her career in marketing analytics for a marketing and advertising agency. When Seton Hall’s president of 15 years, Monsignor Robert Sheenan, S.T.D., stepped down in 2010, the university had a difficult time finding a priest to fill the position as required by its bylaws. The board created an exception, and Dr. Esteban, who had impressed the university community with his academic leadership, business acumen and strong Catholic faith, became the interim president. Six months later, he was named president, the first nonordained person to hold that position since the bylaws were changed in the ’80s.

At Seton Hall, Dr. Esteban learned just what it takes to run a large university. He recalls how the former president of Stanford University described the role, likening it to serving as “mayor of a city because you have all these different constituencies you have to serve.” Dr. Esteban explains, “At the same time, he commented that you are running a professional sports team or two. Then, you are running a hospitality business because of the residence halls, and you have dining. And, in some instances, you are running your own police force. At the same time you are trying to raise money. These are [all in addition to] the main reason why you exist, which is education.” When Dr. Esteban became the first lay president of DePaul, he added two sizeable campuses to that mix.

Dr. Esteban says that the mission he advanced at his previous institutions is even more central to DePaul’s identity. “The focus on students, helping the underserved and first-generation students succeed—that’s very, very clear at DePaul.”

Mrs. Esteban agrees. “My observation is that DePaul is very intense with their mission. We walk the walk.”

Their Kind of Town

The DePaul community has greeted the Estebans with enthusiasm. “Chicago has been very welcoming, very warm. It’s been an easier adjustment than I thought,” Dr. Esteban says.

Their lives have been a whirlwind of work-related events, from hosting the Vincentians, Daughters of Charity and supporters of the university at their home to attending volleyball matches, men’s and women’s basketball games, and an occasional School of Music concert. The Estebans also enjoy volunteering at their new parish, St. Vincent de Paul Church, and sold hot dogs at the church’s booth at the Sheffield Music Festival and Garden Walk.

When they’re not involved with DePaul activities, the Estebans continue to explore their new hometown. Despite being regular visitors to Chicago over the years, the city still manages to surprise them. “The biggest surprise was how beautiful it is during the summertime, because we’ve always only come here in early spring,” says Mrs. Esteban. They enjoy strolling to the Green City Market to shop and taking their 13-year-old rescue dog, Maximus, for walks in Lincoln Park and around the neighborhood. “Lincoln Park is stunning and interesting, and it’s very walkable. But Chicago as a whole is very walkable,” Dr. Esteban says.

DePaul is very intense with their mission. We walk the walk.”

Josephine Esteban

Although they dine out frequently, the seasoned home chefs tend to avoid Filipino restaurants. Mrs. Esteban says, “Both of us cook, and we know how a dish is supposed to taste.” She enjoys preparing common Filipino dishes, like those made with lechon (roasted pork). “Gabriel makes a mean oxtail stew,” Mrs. Esteban brags. “It’s really delicious!”

Blessings Aplenty

The Estebans took up golf as a family at the urging of their daughter. “Golf can be very relaxing. I like to walk the course if I can. The problem is I only get to play maybe once or twice a year,” Dr. Esteban says. Mrs. Esteban appreciates being close to nature on the golf course, “and you kind of just compete with yourself.” They also began traveling with Ysabella. “To be able to see places which we only read about was really big. Growing up, only wealthy individuals got to travel overseas or play golf, for that matter,” Dr. Esteban says. “I remember the first time we went to Paris, just seeing the paintings which I remember they would put on those overhead projectors in our Western civ and humanities classes in college.”

Mrs. Esteban considers seeing the Swiss Alps a peak experience, even though she is afraid of heights. Judging the cable cars to be too scary, Mrs. Esteban decided they should take the train. “I just made sure that Ysabella was by the window, then Gabriel, and then I was right by the aisle where I could just peak a little bit out the window and see how beautiful it is,” she recalls. “It was early spring, so the mountaintops were still snow-capped. It was postcard beautiful!”

“To be able to see places which we only read about was really big.”

Dr. A. Gabriel Esteban

The Estebans love that they now live in the same city as Ysabella, a pediatrician, and her husband, Matthew Sugimoto, an internist. “It is so refreshing to have them for dinner and then just chat a little bit and not be so stressed out,” Mrs. Esteban remarks. “When we were living in New Jersey, we had to fly to Chicago just to see them.”

As the Estebans settle into their new roles, they reflect on the journey that led them to DePaul. “You live trying to plan for the future knowing that the future is unknowable,” Dr. Esteban reflects. “When we were younger, we used to pray for specific things, pray for what we wanted. Then we realized what you really have to do is do the work that needs to be done, pray for what’s best and take it as God’s will.”

The Estebans have lived in many places and worked hard to achieve better lives for themselves and others. There have been bumps along the way, but those only serve to make the satisfactions that much better. In the end, Dr. Esteban says, “Higher education and the largesse of others through scholarships have allowed us to take advantage of the numerous opportunities in the United States. We have been blessed in countless ways.”
In fall 2016, DePaul’s College of Law launched the Third Year in Practice Program, a progressive approach to experiential learning that further prepares students for their first year practicing law. The following spring, the inaugural cohort of 11 students all graduated, passed the bar exam and have found employment—largely because they were ready to jump right into their careers.

By Jacob Sabolo (LAS ‘12)

When David Rodriguez graduated from law school in 2000, he was ready to practice the profession—or so he thought. Employed in Sidley Austin’s general litigation group, Rodriguez found that his first year working as a lawyer wasn’t exactly easy.

“When I started practicing at Sidley, I was behind the eight ball. It was a rousing year,” Rodriguez recalls. “I ended up doing fine, but it was a lot of late nights, stress and anxiety, and it was primarily because I didn’t know how to do depositions or conduct myself properly and persuasively in court.”

Rodriguez’s first year working as a lawyer wasn’t exactly easy. In the United States, the American Bar Association only requires students to take six credit hours of experiential coursework. More and more law firms and organizations, however, expect new hires to be well-prepared and experienced with little supervision or training. According to Rodriguez, it’s common for most law students to struggle during their first year practicing law.

“Attorneys expect you to have a firm grasp of fundamental concepts of litigation. If they ask you to write a motion for summary judgment or a motion to dismiss, you should know how to do it. If they ask you to engage in due diligence or negotiate a contract, they expect you to have a reference point or have experience doing it,” Rodriguez explains.

After Rodriguez began teaching in the college’s Poverty Law Clinic (now the Civil Litigation Clinic), he became more involved in various experiential learning programs. Rodriguez and other faculty members soon felt the need to create a program that allowed students to put theory into practice, a program that truly prepared them for the early years of their careers.

Launched in fall 2016, the Third Year in Practice program (3YP) aimed to do exactly that. “We followed the medical school model by having students primarily do doctrinal work their first two years and then spend their third year actually practicing law, which would make their transition from student to lawyer a lot smoother,” Rodriguez says.

Based on similar programs in law schools at Washington University in St. Louis and Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn., 3YP students take experiential learning courses that include professional skills, legal drafting or classes in any of the college’s clinics. A large component of 3YP is the intensive externships students participate in during a semester of their third year. Each externship is tailored to the student’s legal interests. Students interested in externships students participate in during a semester of their third year. Each externship is tailored to the student’s legal interests. Students interested in the program apply during the first semester of their second year to ensure they meet the credit requirements and find an approved field placement.

Eleven students participated in 3YP’s inaugural year. All of them—now DePaul law alumni—are thriving in their careers.

“I can tell you that all of them are going places,” Rodriguez professes. “They had already been going in that direction, but Ed say 3YP is like a booster rocket getting them to space.”

3YP alumni, it turns out, have already landed on the moon.

Becoming a Lawyer

Corinne Cundiff (JD ’17) didn’t take a direct route to law school. “It’s something I’ve always wanted to do, but I got married and had five kids. I didn’t think [law school] was really in the cards for me,” Cundiff reflects.

But Cundiff always pictured herself in a courtroom, so she chased her dream. When she thought about law schools, the first one that came to mind was DePaul. Cundiff liked the college’s Loop location, but it was 3YP that was especially appealing.

As a mom with a mortgage, Cundiff wanted to be the best candidate when she applied for jobs after law school. She thought 3YP would give her a leg up on the competition. “A big deciding factor for me was 3YP. I realized it would give me the best opportunity to be as practice-ready as I possibly could be,” she says.

In 3YP, Cundiff took several experiential courses, including negotiations and a litigation lab, in which she was able to train with professionals, and did her externship with the United States Attorney’s Office. According to Cundiff, the skills she learned...
in her externship directly translate to her current role at Pfaff, Gill andPorts. As an associate attorney, Cundiff focuses her practice on personal injury for medical malpractice and products liability, a position she was offered during her 3YP year.

“The most important thing that translated for me was my experience working on a misdemeanor case. My practice is now mostly based in state court, so being able to get a case ready for discovery and trial is the most important skill I learned,” she says.

Cundiff adds that while most law schools limit credit hours for externships and experiential courses, 3YP allowed her to be at her externship every day during the week and take more experiential classes than the average law student.

“The most rewarding thing about 3YP was definitely being able to focus on truly becoming a lawyer in my last year, not just being a student,” Cundiff says. “The market is competitive and if you want a job, just having the grades isn’t going to be good enough. You’re going to need real experience that makes you ready to practice the day that you’ve sworn in.”

Real World, Real People

During her second year of law school, Sara Dankowski (JD ’17) clerked at Rathbun, Cservenyak and Kozol. Thanks to 3YP, Dankowski was able to do her externship with the firm.

“I figured if I could continue working there with the end goal of being hired on as an attorney, it would be perfect,” she recalls. Dankowski was sworn into the Illinois Bar Association on a Thursday. She was ready to go to court the following Monday.

Although Dankowski now works for the Will County (III) Public Defender’s Office, the preparation and skills she received from her 3YP externship still apply to the work she does today. “I was able to do a lot of brief writing. I was good enough. You’re going to need real experience that makes you ready to practice the day that you’ve sworn in.”

The Right Path

When Clint Pierce (JD ’17) was looking at law schools, he discovered that 3YP would launch at the start of his third year, making him eligible to enroll in the program. Pierce wanted to learn more, so he called Rodriguez out of the blue and asked him for more information. When Pierce got off the phone, he had no hesitations about 3YP.

“I wanted to get as much practical experience as possible,” Pierce says. “In 3YP, I could devote my focus to a semester of working. If I had almost a year of real law experience under my belt, not just interning for a couple of hours a week, I knew that would be a differentiator in the really competitive job market in Chicago.”

Like Cundiff, Pierce was placed with the United States Attorney’s Office, where he worked five days a week. Through his externship, Pierce provided legal research to attorneys and was able to observe interviews with witnesses. The most rewarding aspect of his externship, however, was trying federal misdemeanor cases, an experience that directly prepared him for prosecuting cases in his current role at the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office.

“In my current assignment as a state’s attorney, I’m dealing with people in the courtroom every single day. 3YP gave me the ability to interact with witnesses, defendants and law enforcement officials on a regular basis,” Pierce explains. “I was proud to feel like an actual lawyer. I got to go through the first two years of law school, and then I threw the textbooks aside, put on a suit and got into the courtroom.”

Pierce admits that he would not have been able to attend DePaul had it not been for 3YP and Rodriguez’s directorship. “Without 3YP, I would have been terrified to talk to a judge for the first time in open court. I would have been terrified to walk into a courtroom and see all those people staring at me.

“3YP just allows you to fully focus on your field placement to gain the most complete and accurate understanding of your potential career,” Pierce adds. “You could either solidify your interest in that area or set that path aside and search for what you really love. Without that immersive experience, you might go down the wrong path without even knowing it.”

An Open Door

Last May, 14 students—3YP’s second cohort—graduated from DePaul. Although admission is currently capped at 20 students, Rodriguez hopes that as the program continues to gain traction and popularity, more resources will become available to students.

“Another goal we have is to expand the number of field placements, especially in private firms, corporate work and intellectual property and information technology,” Rodriguez says. “A lot of alumni have expressed interest in knowing more about the program and working with it. The best way for alumni to get involved is hosting a student who wants to extern where they work.”

One of the most important aspects of 3YP is the guidance and mentorship students receive, a component that Rodriguez wants to grow. “I really take a hands-on approach with my students from the moment that they’re accepted,” he says. “I’ve heard from them that a huge benefit to being in the program is that they can develop a strong mentorship with a professor who has a long history of practical experience. Fortunately for them, I have experience working in the private sector from my time at Sidley Austin and in the public interest sector from my work with the Legal Aid Foundation.”

“David [Rodriguez] was very important to the success of that first year because he made sure that all of us were getting support and guidance,” Cundiff adds. “His door was always open.”

“What keeps me coming back is really working closely with the students,” Rodriguez says. “It’s important to me, and it’s important to the students.”
Six student government presidents from the 1950s to the present reflect on their experiences representing DePaul students on campus.

By Marilyn Ferdinand
Service to war veterans. Stolen art. Controversial campus speakers. Student debt. One thing is certain: DePaul students know how to keep things interesting. One particular group—the presidents of student governments—have a unique perspective on life at DePaul. Six presidents share their fascinating stories about serving students during changing times.

‘JUST LUCKY TO GO TO SCHOOL’

“I understand what DePaul calls ‘the mission,’” says Joe (Cacioppo), 1956–57 president of the Student Activity Council (SAC) and a retired communications professional and educator at DePaul’s College of Communication. Like the thousands of students who have exemplified DePaul’s mission, DePaul’s College of Communication. Like the thousands of students who have exemplified DePaul’s mission, Cappo was the first person in his family to attend and graduate from college.

Cappo and his classmates lived through hard times. Many came of age during the Great Depression of the 1930s and experienced World War II and the Korean War in battle or on the home front. “Those were tough, tough years.” Cappo ran for SAC president as a way to meet people and make contacts.

“There was none of the student government type of thing that they have today,” says Cappo. “That was the social aspect of getting to be with other groups from different parts of the city, different ethnic backgrounds. That was the ‘big mix’.” In that mix were reminders of the previous years of trauma. “We had a strong veterans program here. A couple of people I went to school with had injuries from the Korean War,” Cappo recalls. “We didn’t have all the benefits of the [Americans with] Disabilities Act then that have since been passed.”

Student activism wouldn’t really come to DePaul until the 1960s, when “society was up in arms for a lot of different reasons,” says Cappo. “I always looked at my generation, the Silent Generation, as being not very demanding. Minimum pay, health care, women’s services are all very important to students today. They may or may not be more so than when we went to school, but we were not so concerned in that particular fashion. There was not a way to communicate outside of your own circle. People were just lucky to go to school—at least I was.”

‘EVERY ISSUE WAS AN 11’

The 1960s represented a crucible moment in U.S. history, as the war in Vietnam and civil rights movements ignited widespread protests, particularly on university campuses. DePaul was no exception, and the SAC moved beyond coordinating social activities. “We were a product of the ‘60s,” says Steve Lustig (BUS ’67, JD ’71), 1967–68 SAC president and a financial, tax and transaction law consultant. “We tried to get a larger student voice, [but] the best advocate for it was not the students but Father Coretyaux, who was then president of the university.”

Lustig considered the Rev. John R. Coretyaux, C.M. (CCH MS ’43), a friend and mentor, appreciating his sense of balance and interest in measured progress. “On a scale of one to 10, we felt every issue was an 11,” Lustig remembers. “He was willing to listen, and if it made sense, work with us. He allowed us to move forward with things [that involved] only students. DePaul offered students a chance to get a terrific education not going page to page, chapter to chapter or book to book, but to get involved in what was going on if they wanted to.”

The SAC’s major accomplishment during Lustig’s presidency was to institute student evaluations of professors. “That was met with incredible resistance from top to bottom in the administration and in the faculty, with the exception of one person—Father Coretyaux,” Lustig says. “He sent the word out that you let these students in and let them do their evaluation even if it’s class time.” Every student in a class was given an evaluation form, and a small group of students reviewed the evaluations and submitted the results to Coretyaux and the department heads. In some cases, the evaluations resulted in substantive changes.

In keeping with the rebellious times, students also resorted to some questionable tactics to get action. “We weren’t getting the administration’s attention about safety on the Fullerton Campus,” Lustig recalls. “We finally had to hijack a piece of art that belonged to the university.” The artwork was returned only after a meeting was held to discuss the issue. “Quite frankly, I’m surprised we got away with it!”

‘I STILL TO THIS DAY, FEEL THAT I WAS LUCKY TO BE able to go to school here.”

Joe Cappo (LAS ’57)

‘I HAD TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME’

The 1970s marked the popular rise of business education. The 1978–79 Student Government Association (SGA) presidential election would be swayed by the influence of its Loop Campus business students, as Jerry Haderlein (BUS ’79, JD ’82) defeated Dave Lloyd (LAS ’79, JD ’82). The 1977–78 SGA president, Lon Bruno (LAS ’78, JD ’81) was quoted in The DePaulia as saying, “This is the first time the downtown campus has shown to be any kind of political force.”

The victory Haderlein, an attorney and real estate broker, scored is an object lesson in campaign strategy. “I wanted to get involved at school before I graduated,” he says. “I was a junior. I had to make up for lost time.” His candidacy was a long shot. He had never been an elected member of SGA, and Lloyd was a political science major who had served in student government for three years.

“My strategy was to work my base, which was the downtown school,” Haderlein says. “I did all my campaigning down there. I got there very early in the morning the week before and both days of the election and handed out flyers. I had friends who were working the Lincoln Park Campus.”

Haderlein was suddenly thrust into the myriad responsibilities that accompanied his office. “I found myself as an ex officio member of the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. I found myself as an ex officio member of the Athletics Board,” he says. The men’s basketball program was a force, and the year Haderlein served as SGA president, the blue Demons made it to the NCAA Final Four. “It was really an exciting time to be there,” Haderlein recalls.

As president, Haderlein faced one big issue: the administration’s plan to raise the honor graduation GPA standards immediately. “We argued as students that to do that after we began was sort of like moving the goal line in the middle of a football game,” he says. Despite strong opposition by members of the administration, his motion to grandfather in current full-time students under the old standard passed.

Haderlein also established a leadership council to try to bring the two campuses and the numerous student organizations together. “To the degree that it just got people to talk to each other and identify who was who in the organizations, I thought it had value.”

‘WE ALL HAVE A VOICE’

The activism of the ’60s and ’70s gave way to the culture wars of the ’80s and ’90s. Diverse representation was starting to make headway in every aspect of campus life. In that spirit, bringing student-athletes to the table as a part of the decision-making process was no doubt important.

“Steve Lustig (BUS ’67, JD ’71)

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into leadership roles was important to Maureen Amos (BUS ’90, SNL MA ’01), 1988–89 SGA president and executive director of financial aid at Northeastern Illinois University.

Amos, an avid supporter of the DePaul women’s basketball team, also was a member of the Student Athletics Board and wanted to build a bridge between student-athletes and student organization leaders for meaningful participation on campus. She says, “I wanted to make sure that all of us—in those athletics and those in campus organizations—were considered student leaders because we all represent DePaul. We all have a voice.”

Amos’ interest in student government was an outgrowth of her interest in politics. “That was my way of understanding the framework of how organizations are structured and how decisions are made.” She was involved with SGA during her freshman and sophomore years and was asked to run for president in her junior year. Amos, who is African-American, paraphrases what then-SGA president Diane McWilliams (LAS ’89), the first African-American woman to serve in that role, told her: “It’s important that black students, whether they’re engaged or not, see people like you and me engaged and know that their voice can be heard.”

A controversy arose during Amos’ tenure. “We had one of the student organizations invite Eleanor Smeal to speak at its club meeting,” Amos recalls. Smeal, a former president of the National Organization for Women and current president of Feminist Majority Foundation, was outspokenly pro-choice. For religious reasons, DePaul’s then-president, the Rev. John T. Richardson, C.M., would not allow her to speak on campus.

As a compromise, “we ended up putting her in a concert hall,” says Amos. “Police were on hand, media, all the major networks. One side of a [nearby] residential street had tables for pro-choice people, the other side of the street had pro-life tables, and we had to cut the street off.”

Amos and Richardson, who have kept in touch over the years, ended up kidding each other about the incident: “Remember when you did that to me? I was like, ‘Well, Father Richardson, all you had to do was change your mind.’”

“I WAS GENUINE IN MY APPROACH”

Diversity and inclusion had not picked up steam in society by 2008, which saw the U.S. elect its first African-American president. That same year, Charles Snelling (BUS ’09) became SGA president in a contentious election.

“I did not have the support of the previous SGA president,” says Snelling, an equal employment opportunity professional. “However, I had been involved in SGA for two years, and my opponent had only been in SGA for one year. I do believe that I won my election because my platform was very inclusive to giving a voice to all students. I believe the students who knew me knew that I was genuine in my approach.”

Snelling remembers environmental sustainability, public safety and library hours as important issues for students. With what seems like a recurring concern at DePaul, students commented on a fragmented campus environment. “At the time, the campus climate seemed a bit separated in terms of groups of students who would talk to each other. I would notice that the black students on campus typically stuck to themselves and other racial groups of students would do the same,” Snelling recalls. “There were pockets of groups, intersectional groups across campus, but there wasn’t a lot of cross-collaboration with the student organizations or even the student population based on their demographics at the time.”

Snelling recalls with pride that “I was the first student government president to be appointed to the President’s Diversity Council.” Snelling worked with the council to create the first student diversity forum, which gave students a platform to express their concerns as well as their successes with regard to diversity. Snelling also put a lot of effort into improving SGA, including expanding internal documentation from president to president to help guide the transition process. “I was very proactive in trying to help guide and mentor the students in student government to think proactively and strategically about how we were going to make SGA a more effective student organization.”

Snelling says, “I was my high school days above average prior to coming to DePaul, so I knew that student leaders were very integral to the success of their peers and colleagues across campus.”

“I’M IMPORTANT TO GIVING THAT INTRODUCTION”

Student government wasn’t in the game when Matthew von Nida (LAS ’12) first sat down for freshman orientation before the start of the 2011–12 academic year. Then, SGA President Anthony Alfano (LAS ’12) got up to welcome the new class and talk a bit about SGA, its focus and how it planned to serve the student body.

“I immediately told myself I wanted to be giving that introduction speech,” von Nida says. “I thought SGA could be more strategic about giving students a voice in university decision making.”

Although von Nida ran unopposed in the 2014–15 election, he had no intention of coasting through his term. A large collaborative effort by von Nida and the other members of student government led to a 10-point plan for the year; addressing the rising cost of higher education topped the list. The two-year budget stalemate in the Illinois General Assembly that began in 2015 unneeded the Monetary Award Program (MAP) that thousands of students count on to help with their tuition costs. SGA lobbied in Springfield for the state to continue to fund the program.

“I was very proud of our Keep Calm and Do the FAFSA campaign,” von Nida says, of the online and Radio DePaul ad campaign SGA created to ensure students eligible for MAP assistance applied through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by an accelerated February 1 deadline. “We increased the number of students who filed their FAFSA by the deadline by 10 percent.”

“But it wasn’t just about the MAP grants and [Federal] Pell Grants,” von Nida says. “It was making sure we were working with DePaul Operations to talk about opportunities to partner with Barnes & Noble and the bookstore on textbook affordability, as well as with different college departments and professors on how they presented articles, textbooks and resources that were needed for the classroom that would be the most accessible for students.”

Student well-being on campus was also a major focus that elicited actions from having more vegan options for on-campus dining to working with DePaul’s Office of Student Affairs to create a committee with representatives from numerous student groups focused on sexual violence prevention. Von Nida explained his approach: “As student leaders, what is our responsibility on sexual violence prevention? But also, what is the university’s responsibility in making sure that we’re reflecting back and being that voice to the university? How are we talking about consent and how we can bring that conversation into our orientations?”

Von Nida, who currently works as a political fundraiser, hoped to bring his unique perspective as a gay Asian-American to serve other students in the community: “Student advocacy is based on student experience. The experience is different than it was 10 years ago, 20 years ago. A place like DePaul University can’t do its best without considering the student perspective in every decision it makes.”
DePaul’s McNair and Mitchem programs break down barriers for underrepresented students

By Kris Gallagher

It’s an academic Catch-22: without mentors and role models with backgrounds similar to theirs to guide them, students who are immigrants, people of color, or the first in their families to attend college are far less likely to pursue advanced degrees

Without advanced degrees, these students can’t go on to fill underrepresented backgrounds, pressing need for diverse faculty to inspire future students.

“Once you get to graduate school you realize that the work that you put into McNair is really valuable for your time as a PhD student.”

Kevin Quin (CMN ’16)

“The landscape of doctoral programs across the nation is formed of people who are not first-generation and who are not from underrepresented backgrounds,” says Kevin Quin (CMN ’16), a PhD candidate in Africana studies at Cornell University. “You feel like an imposter sometimes because you don’t speak their language.”

“IT was very draining to realize I was in the middle of my doctoral program and I was one of two students of color in a cohort of 14,” says Vanessa Cruz Nichols (LAS ’09), who received a PhD in political science from the University of Michigan in 2017.

“The landscape is changing because of Quin, Cruz Nichols and other DePaul alumni and students in the university’s McNair Scholars program. Through this federally funded TRIO program, juniors and seniors from low-income, first-generation or underrepresented backgrounds are guided along the path to PhDs and academic careers. DePaul’s program is one of the best among the 150 universities that receive the grant; over the past five years, an average of 72 percent of its participants go on to graduate school.

Taking the initiative a step further, DePaul created the Arnold Mitchem Fellows program to prepare sophomores for research-based careers and the McNair program. Mitchem also serves juniors and seniors who fall outside of the McNair program’s narrow parameters, such as students pursuing a combined MD/PhD or an MFA.

“The story behind these programs is DePaul’s commitment to making the group of people who create knowledge more representative of our country,” says Luciano Berardi (CSH MA ’10, PhD ’12), director of DePaul’s TRIO programs.

Invisible Barriers

As employers seek to diversify their workforces, demand has never been greater for well-educated employees from underrepresented backgrounds. Higher education is no different, says Terry Vaughan III (LAS ’12), an assistant director in the Center for Access and Attainment who oversees the Mitchem program. “Colleges, particularly graduate schools, know the benefit of having a diverse student body. “People’s social backgrounds, either directly or indirectly, influence innovation and creativity. Diversity is a resource and a great producer of knowledge,” says Vaughan.

“If we actually want to embrace diversity, because it is these students’ backgrounds that are going to lead to new ideas … and make a better society.”

Yet, students from marginalized backgrounds can face invisible barriers. They may come from environments where there is little understanding of what it takes to earn advanced degrees, while faculty in the upper echelons of research-based universities typically have not faced these types of hurdles and are often unaccustomed to multicultural perspectives.

“Whether it’s politics, gender, race or class, these social categories are going to affect students’ success in academia,” says Vaughan, who is African-American and experienced these pressures while earning his PhD in educational policy studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2017. In addition to biases—whether conscious or unconscious—among their peers and professors, students from underrepresented backgrounds must battle their own insecurities. Vaughan suspects this is why they often don’t complete graduate degrees.

“They say graduate school is not about being the smartest but about who persists.”
Ema Mujić says, "Every once in a while, we're always looking to do things that are new and different, and being that we come from a low-income household, we're always finding ways to help others cope with fears about death."

Ema Mujić 

Ema Mujić is a senior majoring in health sciences and planning to earn a PhD in epidemiology.

Juan Cuecha 

Juan Cuecha is a junior double majoring in health sciences and philosophy.
A Lifelong Network

The McNair program makes a big world more connected. DePaul’s staff supports participants long after they graduate. Alumni seek out McNair offices or similar programs at universities throughout the country. This is because McNair is a big world more connected. Alumni seek out McNair offices or similar programs at universities throughout the country.

Vanessa Cruz Nichols (LAS ’09)

earned a PhD in political science from the University of Michigan. Currently, she is a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society and a visiting assistant professor at Indiana University.

“Those that one is the biggest benefits of the program, just being able to understand the unwritten curriculum of graduate school.”

Vanessa Cruz Nichols (LAS ’09)

One of the biggest benefits of the program, just being able to understand the unwritten curriculum of graduate school. This army of mentors helped me counteract the times in graduate school.

Gabrielle M. Buckley (JD ’90) was named director of Loyola University’s Center for Women and Leadership. Buckley is an assistant professor of law at the John Marshall Law School and a partner at Vonder Price P.C., where she specializes in mediation and litigation.

That’s one of the biggest benefits of the McNair network. The McNair network has matched me with people I knew in my network she could talk to. She ended up getting into that program. She started this fall.

I definitely think the cycle continues.

The McNair network is just fantastic. I meet McNair alumni all the time at conferences,” says Quinn, who describes an instant bond with other participants. Between the McNair network and DePaul, the McNair network keeps participants plugging through the hard work in graduate school.

This army of mentors helped me counteract the times that I felt that the end of the program was too far away,” says Cruz Nichols. “You want to cross the finish line because you have all these fans and all these people rooting for you.” Once they do earn their doctorates, Mitchell and McNair participants are powerfully motivated to give back. Cruz Nichols created “mini-McNair” programs for students and research assistants she’s worked with at the University of Michigan and Indiana University and plans to continue doing so when she becomes a tenure-track faculty member. “I love being able to mentor students who are coming from an underrepresented background,” she says. “It’s especially heartwarming and fulfilling because I can see that they are really looking for some guidance. ’Their parents can’t necessarily do that for them.’”

After he graduated, Quinn mentored a DePaul senior in McNair as she was applying to graduate schools. “I helped her with her statement for Columbia (University) and matched her with people I knew in my network she could talk to. She ended up getting into that program. She started this fall.”

SEGMENTS & MARRIAGES

ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES

Erica Davis-Holfer (BFA ’05) and May-Jeffrey Johnson (BFA ’05) were married on June 26, 2015, during a sunset ceremony on the Lakefront. They reside in Chicago.

Lissette Flores (LAS ’86) and Aquilas Gudhe were married June 24 at Morrison Hill Park in Washington, D.C. Flores is a supervisory community development specialist at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Erin David-Holfer (BFA ’05) and May-Jeffrey Johnson (BFA ’05) were married on June 26, 2015, during a sunset ceremony on the Lakefront. They reside in Chicago.

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In the director of data and evaluation at Casa de Maryland, Hyattsville.

Gardner K. O’Keeffe Dodson (BUS ’72) and Arthur Bryan Hedell II (BFA ’73) were married Jan. 14 in Chicago. She is employed in insurance at Kellogg’s in Chicago. He is a regular on Harlem. Management.

Log in to alumni.depaul.edu to read additional class notes and to discover the many ways to connect with other alumni and the DePaul community.

CLASS NOTICES

FALL 2018

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330 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60601
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significant advocacy for sound public policies in the community.

• Ann Putman (CMN ’90) was the recipient of the 2018 Democratic Alumna Award from DePaul’s Center for Urban Justice, Enhancing the Common Good, Excellence. Putman is the investor of The Putman Companies, a full service audit and tax consultancy based in Easton, Ariz.

• James Robison (BUS ’93) was named president and chief operating officer of pharmaceutical film company Allotech, based in Westmont, Ill.

• Jana M. (Telecky) Ellingerhusen (BUS ’84) joined Square, a San Francisco-based venture capital firm focusing on finance and accounting, as its chief operating officer of its Indianapolis-based PTS Financial Diagnostics, a global provider of predictive analytics and big data.

• Laurie M. (Telecky) Ellingerhusen (BUS ’84) joined Square, a San Francisco-based venture capital firm focusing on finance and accounting, as its chief operating officer of its Indianapolis-based PTS Financial Diagnostics, a global provider of predictive analytics and big data.

• Daniel B. Eagan III (MBA ’95) rejoined Bernstein Global Wealth Management as senior vice president and chief operating officer of Bernstein’s Private Wealth Management division.

• Eleanor and Emmett were married on March 15, 2018.

• Daniel B. Eagan III (MBA ’95) rejoined Bernstein Global Wealth Management as senior vice president and chief operating officer of Bernstein’s Private Wealth Management division.

• Kristin Perteet (CSH ’06) was appointed executive director of the Indiana Science Education Foundation of Premium Grass-Fed Beef Products, representing the all-natural, organic, natural meats produced by the company.

• Nicole M. Schumacher (CMN ’98) was named chief content officer for Pristine, a provider of premium quality football cards.

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• Nicole M. Schumacher (CMN ’98) was named chief content officer for Pristine, a provider of premium quality football cards.

• Melissa J. Eagan (CMN ’95) was named head coach for the Johns Hopkins women’s basketball team.

• Linh H. Kong (BUS ’77, CMDS ’99) is the CEO of S & S Publishing and publisher for Original Waves for women for online music.

• Erica McDonald (MBA ’14) is the chief marketing officer and general counsel of Wabash National Corporation, a diversified industrial manufacturer and a leading producer of semi-trailers and liquid tank products.

• Kristen Perrot (CSH ’94) and Hannah M. B. Daniels (MBA ’91) were honored with a resolution of the General Assembly nominating them and their nonprofit, the McRae Foundation, for the human rights work they do for children in Chicago, and the scholars and mentoring programs.

• Edward J. Vaughn (CMN ’96) is the director of the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University.

• Elizabeth A. Smith (CMN ’15) is a senior associate at J.D. Power and a member of the firm’s auto division team.

• Broadway Star Emily Eades was honored with a resolution of the General Assembly nominating them and their nonprofit, the McRae Foundation, for the human rights work they do for children in Chicago, and the scholars and mentoring programs.

• Daniel A. Tirozzi (MBA ’95) was appointed as an author of the report for the Cook County, Ill. 2000s

• Sandra F. Arrogers (BUS ’08, MEd ’03) is the new associate director of community health and diversity affairs for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

• Andrew Joseph Bokhi (BUS ’99) is a law clerk at the Office of the Public Defender of Cook County, Ill.

• Debra Jordan (BUS ’99) was promoted to financial officer for the University of Michigan Health Plan of New Jersey. He is a member of the board of directors for the University of Michigan Health Plan.

• Dwayne J. Gwynn (SND ’90) is a registered agent with the firm of Droop &商标, a national insurance firm.

• Darby L. (Telecky) Ellingerhusen (BUS ’84) joined Square, a San Francisco-based venture capital firm focusing on finance and accounting, as its chief operating officer of its Indianapolis-based PTS Financial Diagnostics, a global provider of predictive analytics and big data.

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weekly newsletter content
"Joachim Stępniski (MM '13) and his father played Mozart’s “Concerto for Two Violins and Orchestra in C Major” with the Grossé Partie (Mich.) Symphony Orchestra on March 4, 2018.

Nicole D. Colan (CMN MA '14) joined the Chattanooga Theatre Centre as a box office operations assistant. She serves as a stand-in patrolman for the Cultural Connections Grant panel and program coordinator for the Martin Luther King Birthday Parade Celebration, sponsored by the Unity Group of Chattanooga. She won a NaNoN-Muktah Regional Essay Award while co-hosting KidTalk for WCIT-AM.

Emily M. Durung (LAS ’14) and her husband, Mark, opened the Stamped Relics store and travel lounge in downtown Kalamazoo, Mich. She also is the development manager at the YWCA of Kalamazoo.

Tawanda Lawrens (KD ’14) was appointed senior director of curriculum of the Oak Park (Ill.) Elementary Schools District 97.

Tara Poyer-Ballerine (CSH ’14), MPA ’17, was hired as a policy analyst for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Office of the Inspector General in Madison.

Tejonie L. Vinson (JD ’16) was hired as a broker assistant by Kiser Group, a Chicago mid-market brokerage firm.

Diana Gutierrez (CMN '17) is now a client experience associate by improve it! LLC, a company that conducts professional development workshops that employ improvisation techniques to improve employees’ soft skills in corporate settings.

Brendon Means (CMN ’17) has assumed the position of multimedia reporter for The Jane Journal-Regime in Springfield, Ill.

Joachim Stepniewski

STUDENT SERVICES

Austin Hengapir (BUS ’10), Danielle Ritaro (CMN ’17), Nicole Pitaro (CMN ’13), Chris Ritaro (BUS ’11) and Jake Douglas (BUS ’13) at the Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy.

Christine Lestab Kern (BUS ’97) and her husband, Matt Caruso, opened the Champions Theatre Centre as a box office operation, while working at a store at age 9.

The students are all alumni at their reunion in Tokyo, Japan. Some of the more than 25 Japanese Studies alumni at their reunion in Tokyo, Japan.

Curtis Crawford (MBA ’78, DHLM ’99) is a strong believer in lifelong learning—and he credits DePaul with instilling that belief in him. “One of the experiences that was reinvigorated while I was at DePaul was the need for continuing personal development,” Crawford says. “In order for my career to evolve the way that it has, in addition to being exceptionally blessed, I had to be highly qualified. Continued learning is something that has no exception.”

As the founder, president and CEO of XCEO Inc., based in Santa Clara, Calif., Crawford works with boards of directors and individual executives and directors to help them learn how to better create work environments that foster high levels of performance. As part of his own development and his dedication to promoting access to education for all, Crawford serves on DePaul’s Board of Trustees for more than 15 years.

“What DePaul is providing is access and delivering quality education to all who attend the university, and that’s one of the most important ways of living by Vincentian values,” Crawford says. “I had just a tremendous experience while I was doing my studies at DePaul, and I have been highly impressed with the leadership of the university and how it has been able to transform DePaul into a very powerful institution.”

Crawford recalls the first time he saw the renovated business school facilities. “It was a different kind of environment from when I attended graduate school, and the investment the Trustees supported and the university raised had been applied in a way that made me feel exceptionally proud of what the university has accomplished through the years.”

By donating to multiple scholarships at DePaul, Crawford and his wife, Gina, demonstrate their commitment to education. “Having the opportunity to contribute to a scholarship fund and being able to have a positive impact on the minds of students is something that I connect with strongly. By giving, it reminds me how fortunate I am to be in the position to actually give.”

As a proud DePaul alumna, Crawford would like to see his two grandchildren follow in his footsteps someday. “Who knows?” says Crawford. “Maybe one day they may end up being Blue Demons themselves. Not only would I encourage it, I will try everything I can to influence it.”
Inspire DePaul is the university’s crowdfunding platform, where alumni and friends can support student, faculty and staff projects. Crowdfunding campaigns are added often, so check in from time to time and see what inspires YOU.

Visit inspire.depaul.edu to learn more.