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Full Issue: Summer 2021

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SUMMER 2021

DEPAUL

MAGAZINE



A Home for Everyone

Alumnus George Ruff and Tanya Ruff commit to ending street homelessness



Moments

DePaul nursing student Alyssa Kondratiuk receives COVID-19 vaccine doses from Yolanda Ewing, RN, to help inoculate Chicago residents.

Photo by DePaul University/Randall Spriggs



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DEPAUL

MAGAZINE

FEATURES

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DePaul Life Trustee **George Ruff (BUS '74)** and his wife, Tanya, have made generous contributions to student scholarships and now hope to help eradicate street homelessness with a substantial gift to the newly renamed George and Tanya Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness.

18 Design for Living

With health care increasingly moving online, DePaul has emerged as a leader in

cutting-edge digital technology used for the greater good, from harnessing design as a vehicle for social change to creating an app to help close racial inequity gaps in care.

23 An Uncommon Good

Civil rights attorney **Karyn Bass Ehler (JD '05)** is using her law degree and extensive experience to help ensure that access to health care is available to all Illinois residents as general counsel of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

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ON THE COVER

Business alumnus George Ruff and his wife, Tanya, are dedicated to helping students and those experiencing homelessness with their philanthropy to DePaul. Photo by Tom Evans



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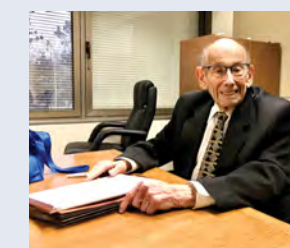


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AT DEPAULMAGAZINE.COM.



Fireside Mosh

Alumni share their memories of attending the punk rock concerts at the Fireside Bowl.



The Long Life of the Law

Meet 95-year-old **Norman Rosen (JD '50)** as he shares stories from 72 years as an active lawyer.

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AT THE INTERSECTION OF MISSION AND SERVICE



Last fall, DePaul and Sinai Chicago announced the creation of a community-driven, applied research institute to address health inequities in Chicago. For years, DePaul has partnered with Sinai Chicago to train the next generation of health care providers. This latest extension of our collaboration comes at an especially critical time, as the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the magnitude of health inequities that have existed for many years in the United States.

Through this joint research institute, DePaul faculty and Sinai researchers are working together to develop and implement clinical and community programs. From pursuing joint grants to co-authoring books, the collaboration is fostering numerous opportunities for our institutions to share expertise. Ultimately, the institute will engage community members, leaders and organizations to determine the most effective solutions to address social and health equity challenges.

In addition to the research institute, DePaul and Sinai launched a new fellowship program in April 2020. The program enables faculty to better understand health disparities and improve health equity by translating research into action. Fellows have the opportunity to experience Sinai Urban Health Institute's unique, community-focused research center, which uses a transdisciplinary approach. The first cohort, consisting of four DePaul faculty, researched disparities in diabetes, stroke, influenza and pneumonia deaths, as well as premature mortality.

Looking ahead to this fall, we're very excited for the publication of "Unequal Cities: Structural Racism and the Death Gap in America's Largest Cities," a book co-edited by DePaul Professor of Sociology Fernando De Maio and Maureen Benjamins, senior research fellow at Sinai Urban Health Institute.

DePaul's partnership with Sinai Chicago is truly at the intersection of mission and service. We are two distinctly Chicago institutions, and our work together is closely tied to DePaul's Catholic, Vincentian and urban roots. I'm grateful to Sinai for our partnership and the dedication of our faculty to address equity and social justice.

This issue of DePaul Magazine brings additional examples of how our community members are contributing to public health and service. From eradicating street homelessness to closing racial inequity gaps in health care with digital technology, I invite you to read about the many ways DePaul is making a difference in Chicago and beyond.

Collaborating with organizations and institutions across Chicago and around the globe to help those in need has indeed been one of the many blessings of serving as DePaul's president these past four years. By the time you receive this publication, I will have announced my decision to step down as DePaul's president effective June 30, 2022.

After much prayer and reflection, I discerned now is the time for me to shift my focus and energy to my personal and familial journey. I shared this decision with the university community on June 14, and I would like to emphasize here, again, what an honor it has been to work with our many alumni and friends to bring our Catholic, Vincentian and urban mission to life every day. Thank you for all that you do for DePaul.

A. Gabriel Esteban

A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD
President



Marquee

Gene Genie

Jingjing Kipp is unlocking the molecular mysteries of reproductive disease

One afternoon this past winter, an undergraduate student and a graduate student in DePaul's Kipp Laboratory, Lena DiBenedetto and Zlata Bogin, prepped mouse blood samples for hormone measurements and prepared mouse ovary tissues with an ethanol wash for morphological studies. They wore personal protective equipment and followed the lab's social distancing protocols while Jingjing Kipp, associate professor of reproductive biology and the lab's director, supervised their careful work. The goal: to better understand ovarian hormone signaling and gene regulation in hopes of finding the root causes of reproductive diseases and infertility.

Kipp set up the lab when she came to DePaul in 2009 after earning her PhD in physiology

at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for work focused on the nongenomic effects of estrogen and working as a postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern University studying the molecular mechanisms of ovary development.

At DePaul, Kipp identified a gene that is most significantly inhibited by the peptide hormone activin in ovarian cells, and discovered the expression and function of this gene in the mouse ovary. This gene encodes a protein that regulates degradation of retinoic acid, an active derivative of vitamin A. Researchers have known activin is important in ovary development, but Kipp is the first to study the influential role played by this novel pathway.

"We have provided evidence showing retinoic acid regulates

ovarian follicle development and interacts with activin and calcium signaling. Aberrant levels of retinoic acid may play a role in the etiology of premature ovarian failure, ovarian cancer and infertility," says Kipp. "Retinoic acid can inhibit or increase cancer or normal cell growth, depending on the cell type."

Kipp and collaborating faculty at Northwestern, Rosalind Franklin University and the University of Illinois at Chicago have studied mice that have had genes related to or involved in Kipp's discovered pathway modified to see if they remain fertile, develop ovaries normally or acquire reproductive diseases. Kipp also has observed increased ovarian pathologies in mice fed a vitamin A-deficient diet. Mice

Jingjing Kipp uses advanced tools for molecular studies in her lab to research ovarian hormone signaling and gene regulation.

are a good model because they share with humans a similar internal-organ physiology and hormone production. All animals used in the studies are treated in accordance with local and national guidelines on the ethical care and use of laboratory animals.

Undergraduate and graduate students have learned cutting-edge molecular endocrinology and reproductive biology techniques while assisting with the research. "We have tools for molecular studies," says Kipp. These tools include a luminescence/fluorescence microplate reader that helps measure gene activities, a transfection machine that delivers exogenous genes into target cells, a sequencer that reads DNA sequences, a real-time polymerase chain reaction machine that quantifies gene-expression levels, and other complex equipment tailored to the tasks.

"What we've been doing has been very much on the front line," she explains.

Kipp, committee chair for the College of Science and Health's William J. Degutis Women in Science and Health Lecture Series, which organizes talks by nationally and internationally recognized female scientists and entrepreneurs, also connects students to professionals in these fields. "We want students to see these successful career paths and be inspired to do more, instead of just taking courses and graduating," says Kipp.



NOW WE MUST.

The Campaign for DePaul's Students



Memoranda

Inspirational Help for Students

The DePaul community has demonstrated its commitment to students during the pandemic through the *Now We Must* campaign

When the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic surfaced and created great personal and educational difficulties for our students, the DePaul community stood strong in support. *Now We Must: The Campaign for DePaul's Students* has provided a framework for contributions that helped address our students' most immediate needs as they continued to pursue their education.

Thanks to the generosity of the DePaul community, the campaign has helped the university make great strides in ensuring that students have the resources they need to stay on track to complete their degrees. Alumni and friends have helped students with immediate assistance in emergency situations, including paying rent, buying food and medicine, and replacing fire-damaged belongings. They have helped students connect to technology, no matter where in the world they were sheltering, so they could continue their studies.

As the COVID-19 pandemic begins to ease locally, DePaul students are eager to tackle the road ahead and come back stronger, but they still need our help. Access to mental health care remains a critical need. Shannon Suffoletto, director of health promotion and wellness and interim director of university counseling services, says, "It is not surprising that students' stress, anxiety, sadness and depression have all reportedly increased since the start of the pandemic."

Suffoletto's team has worked hard all year to connect students with resources that can strengthen their resilience. *Now We Must* continues to support that work. "Students are resilient," she says, "and now is

the time to build upon their strengths."

As students continue to pursue their education and career objectives, the DePaul community can help them by supporting career-readiness initiatives and mentorships. **Tom Kleinschmidt (CMN '95)**, a former All-American and Blue Demons men's basketball player who is now head basketball coach of DePaul College Prep, says, "I know I needed that as a young man. The stress of school, athletics, jobs is hard enough. But when you add the pandemic on top of that, kids' minds may be racing. So, if you have the opportunity and the time, please give back to our students."

Always needed, but especially critical at this time, are scholarships. Ilse Arciniega, a junior studying peace, justice and conflict studies, had always dreamed of attending DePaul. "But when it came down to my financial aid," she says, "I realized that I could not afford to. Thankfully, I was awarded the Egan Hope Scholarship, and that just changed everything for me. Not only would I be able to attend the university of my dreams, but I would be able to do it debt-free."

She continues, "If I had just one thing to say to scholarship donors, it would be 'thank you, because you are giving us the opportunity to receive an amazing education.' I'm grateful from the bottom of my heart."

To make a gift to the *Now We Must* campaign, visit give.depaul.edu/NowWeMust.

Alumni & Family WEEKEND 2021

OCTOBER 14-17



Alumni & Family Weekend Is Back! Oct. 14-17, 2021

Mark your calendar for the universitywide celebration of our DePaul family!

For the third year in a row, DePaul is planning special activities for alumni, current students and their families.

We'll be hosting the second annual #All4DePaul Virtual Fun Run the week of Oct. 10. The weekend's events will include an update from DePaul President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, a celebration of the 50th reunion of the Class of 1971, a special event to welcome the Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 into the alumni community, and much more!

Check alumni.depaul.edu for updated information throughout the summer.

Making Discoveries in Our Virtual Event Library

Since April 2020, the Office of Alumni Relations has hosted more than 120 virtual events for alumni and friends. A selection of the most popular, engaging and informative events is available to view whenever you want in the library of virtual events housed at bit.ly/DPUvirtuallibrary.

Events are arranged under four categories:

- Perspectives on racial justice
- Health and wellness
- Crafts and demos
- Educational

Featured events include a wine tasting with **Vince Anter (CDM '10)**, the host of "V is for Vino," the top-rated wine show on Amazon Prime; presentations on the root causes of racial and health disparities with Associate Professor of Political Science Valerie C. Johnson and Associate Professor



of Nursing **Elizabeth Aquino (CSH '06)**; a demonstration on how to arrange the perfect charcuterie board with Brix Catering; and a creative writing class on the basics of storytelling with Department of English Chair Michele Morano.

Madeline Puckette, co-founder of Wine Folly, and Vince Anter



Milestones

Dean Honored as an “Inspiring Black Scientist”
Cell Press has named **Stephanie Dance-Barnes**, dean of the College of Science and Health, to its list of “1,000 Inspiring Black Scientists in America.” Her current research uses genomics, genetics, cell culture and animal models to decipher the underlying biology of the molecular subtypes of breast cancer in order to develop targeted therapies.

New Provost Named
Professor Salma Ghanem has been appointed as the university’s provost. She was appointed as acting provost in October 2018 and became interim provost in July 2019. Ghanem joined DePaul in 2014 as dean of the College of Communication. As acting and interim provost, she elevated research and innovation efforts, as well as diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

New Executive VP Named
Sherri Sidler (BUS MS ’21) was named as DePaul’s executive vice president in May, after serving as interim executive vice president for five months. She has partnered throughout the university to enhance financial reporting tools, training, and cross-functional processes and systems.

Brian Sullivan Named as Treasurer
DePaul University has named Brian Sullivan as its new treasurer. Sullivan joins DePaul from Veolia North America, a water, waste, and energy infrastructure and services company.

| DePaul Digest |



Animal Chin, Slapstick and The Broadways performing at the Fireside Bowl in the late 1990s



Memories

The Fireside Bowl: Punk Rock King Pin

From 1994 to 2004, DePaul students who wanted to vent pre-exam stress while slam-dancing to sonic blasts of anti-establishment invective didn’t have far to go. The Fireside Bowl, a hotbed of underground punk rock music during those years, is a two-mile bus ride west on Fullerton Avenue from the Lincoln Park Campus.

Now spruced up and favoring bowling leagues over bands, the 80-year-old mainstay in Chicago’s Logan Square neighborhood is fondly recalled by alumni for its brief, illustrious run as a proudly disheveled concert venue open to all ages.

“You walked in, and you’re like, ‘We’re playing on that stage?’” says **Cesar Pena (SCPS ’11)**, who drummed in a band, Bug Hunt, that performed there in the ’90s. “It was so dingy and modest, but so many great bands graced that stage. It became an iconic punk scene.”

It was also a bargain for cash-strapped teens and twentysomethings.

“The Fireside had two or three shows every night of the week for a \$5 cover,” says **Scott Krischke (LAS ’05)**. “You could see a lesser-known band with a crowd of 40 or a popular draw like Oblivion or Apocalypse Hoboken that packed people onto the bowling lanes.”

Krischke, who first went to shows as a teen with an older cousin who attended DePaul, says the diversity of people and perspectives at the Fireside and on campus was a major factor in his own choice of university. He also appreciated the camaraderie amid the mayhem.

“If you got pushed down, everybody around

you would pick you back up,” he says, although airborne debris from the dropped ceiling was another matter. “Sometimes people would crowd surf, punch the ceiling and shatter the tiles.”

Guitarists occasionally did likewise, recalls **Craig Zomchek (BUS ’02, MBA ’05)**. The bands on Sinister, the indie punk record label he ran during his high school and undergraduate years, all gigged at the Fireside. They had impressive company. Seminal punk groups Los Crudos, 88 Fingers Louie and Slapstick, and nascent stars like the Smoking Popes, Alkaline Trio and Blink-182 all shook the pins at the Fireside.

“Most of us weren’t normal kids. We had colored hair, piercings, wore funny T-shirts and had different ideas,” says Zomchek. “The place wasn’t the model of hygiene, but it was perfect for those like-minded people and bands. If you broke something, it didn’t matter.”

Zomchek also found parallels between punk rock’s nonconformist ethos and DePaul’s embrace of diversity and debate.

“There was a migration of knowledge and mutual support, and that’s actually the essence of punk rock,” he says. “We should be open-minded toward each other, question the answers we’re told, have discussions about them, learn from each other and not burn the place down.”

Have a favorite Fireside Bowl memory? Share it with us at depaulmagazine.com.

Photos courtesy of @_nostalgiajcore_ on Instagram

| DePaul Digest |



Master Class

How to Boost Your Time Management Game

By James Stewart

We all struggle with time management once in a while. Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, everyone’s routine has been disrupted. Issues emerged for everyone from parents trying to work from home while tending to their children’s virtual schoolwork to essential workers taking time-consuming precautions to keep themselves and their loved ones at home safe.

Whatever you do or wherever you are, these tips can help you make the best use of your precious time:

Audit your time. A big pitfall for time management is not setting boundaries with others who impose on our time. Keep a journal for a week to track tasks that are important to you versus those that are important to someone else. While you can’t always say no to your boss, you can speak to your spouse if they continuously interrupt you during work hours.

Determine what is important in the near future. Think of the next six months. What are your most pertinent responsibilities? By limiting the time frame, you are giving yourself reasonable goals. While job, family and other static roles must be included, be sure to include hobbies or opportunities that you want to explore soon.

Prioritize. Consider the analogy of the big rocks. Important roles and responsibilities

become the “big rocks” in your schedule—unmovable. Think of the less urgent things in your life as the gravel that fills in the space around the big rocks.

Schedule everything you can. It’s easy for tasks to pile up. Thus, it is crucial to create a schedule, which forces you to think of the amount of time a task will take and find time to complete it. Keeping a schedule also will help you free up time for activities you enjoy.

Be disciplined. Time can be unforgiving. Even the best-planned day can go off-track if you let it. What are your procrastination techniques? Checking the news? Going down the Google rabbit hole? Being aware of these time sucks can keep you on track.

Celebrate successes. Remember to celebrate the successes. If you start a task on schedule, that is a victory. Like weight-loss achievements and performance bonuses, many “adulting” tasks need incentivizing at first. Build in rewards for yourself for good days.

James Stewart is director of adult, veteran and commuter student affairs in DePaul’s Division of Student Affairs. He is a certified trainer in the FranklinCovey 5 Choices to Extraordinary Productivity.

Milestones



First Endowed Chair in Applied Diplomacy
Geoffrey Wiseman, a professor, career foreign service officer, and expert on diplomatic theory and practice, joined the Grace School of Applied Diplomacy as its inaugural endowed chair in applied diplomacy. He holds both doctoral and master’s degrees in international relations from Oxford University.

Criminology Professor Wins Debro Award
The American Society of Criminology honored Xavier Perez, co-founder of and faculty member in the criminology program in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, with its 2020 Julius Debro Award. The award recognizes a member of the society’s Division on People of Color and Crime who has made outstanding contributions toward the advancement of criminal justice.

NSF Grant of \$1 Million for DePaul STEM Project
The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$1 million grant to DePaul’s Engage and Persist in STEM Project for scholarships to talented, low-income, first-year students majoring in a STEM field. Two cohorts of eight STEM students will receive \$10,000 a year for four years to complete their education.



Senior Nik Gatmaytan recorded the best round by a DePaul men's golfer in nearly 15 years.

Flush Shot

Nik Gatmaytan's Blue Demon career is a hole in one

Nik Gatmaytan remembers a distinctly Vincentian moment during his freshman year at DePaul.

The men's golf player had only recently arrived in Chicago from his hometown in the Philippines when he spotted an elderly man struggling with heavy luggage on the 'L' platform.

"I offered to help the man carry his luggage onto the train, which he gladly accepted," recalls Gatmaytan, now a senior.

Once they were both comfortably on the train, Gatmaytan smiled at the man and put in his earphones to listen to music. "A couple minutes went by, and I felt a tap on my shoulder. I pulled out one earphone and turned

around, only to see the man I had just helped put his hands together, bow and say, 'xie xie,' which is 'thank you' in Chinese. I smiled and said, 'I'm not Chinese, but you're welcome,' then put back my earphones," says Gatmaytan.

A few minutes later the man tried again with "arigato." "I laughed and said, 'I'm not Japanese, but you're welcome,'" Gatmaytan told him.

The takeaway? "DePaul students are encouraged to do the right thing, whether it is helping an old man with his heavy bags or fighting for equality," says Gatmaytan.

Growing up in Quezon City to an academic family, Gatmaytan was late to athletics.

"I didn't grow up thinking I'd be an athlete. My dad is a stockbroker and my mom is a law-

yer, so they taught me to be very academically inclined. I grew up with science and math books, not basketballs or baseballs," he says.

Gatmaytan started golfing on a whim at age 7 when his dad took him on one of their regular father-son outings to a driving range. "I got bored watching, so I wanted to try it out," he says.

He played golf for fun at first, but then at age 13, he got serious. "I decided I wanted to play Division 1 golf in the U.S.," he says.

Through an organization called Added-Sports Asia, Gatmaytan met the former men's golf coach, Betty Kaufmann. "She liked what she saw in my resume, I liked Chicago and so by my senior year of high school, I signed with DePaul," he says.

"DePaul students are encouraged to do the right thing, whether it is helping an old man with his heavy bags or fighting for equality."

His sports career has been stellar. With a career scoring average of 74.98 over 45 career rounds, he recorded the best round by a DePaul golfer in nearly 15 years with a 6-under 66 in the third round of the Crusader Collegiate in 2019.

Being a competitive student-athlete is not easy. Between the constant travel for tournaments, keeping his grades up (he's a two-time member of the BIG EAST All-Academic Team) and participating in activities, he says it all comes down to time management.

But golf, a mind-body sport, remains his true love. "The longer I played, the more I realized how this isn't a sport dictated purely by athleticism, but more by skill and preparation. The things I do outside the golf course, like how I'm doing in school or how I'm doing emotionally or mentally, can easily affect my golf game the next day," he says.

A marketing major, Gatmaytan plans on pursuing an MS in marketing. Due to COVID-19, all NCAA athletes received an additional year of eligibility, but he is also weighing playing professionally in the United States or Asia.

Whatever his path, Gatmaytan will remember the lessons he learned at DePaul.

"We'll hit some bumps on the road, but regardless of how hard it gets, DePaul students keep moving forward," he says.

Briefs

■ Tony Stubblefield Named Men's Basketball Head Coach

Tony Stubblefield has been named head coach of the Blue Demons men's basketball program. He comes to DePaul after spending the last 11 seasons at the University of Oregon. Stubblefield has more than two decades of experience in college basketball and is regarded as one of the nation's top recruiters. He helped the Ducks to 10 postseason appearances that included eight NCAA Tournament berths, including reaching the Final Four once and Elite Eight once, along with three other Sweet 16 appearances.

■ Blue Demons Knock Off Nationally Ranked Team

DePaul women's basketball made some history last December at Wintrust Arena after a captivating 86-82 victory over No. 9-ranked Kentucky. It was the first win over a Top 10 opponent since the 73-72 upset of No. 8 Louisville on the Cardinals' home court in the second round of the 2016 NCAA tournament. Sonya Morris led the way for the Blue Demons with 23 points, and Deja Church added 18. DePaul Athletics Director DeWayne Peevy enjoyed the moment as Kentucky's former deputy athletics director.



Sonya Morris



Tony Stubblefield

Steve Woltmann/DePaul Athletics

■ Held Named Scholar-Athlete of the Year

In only her third season with DePaul women's basketball, Lexi Held was honored as the BIG EAST Scholar-Athlete of the Year for women's basketball. The junior from Burlington, Ky., a marketing major who carries a 3.615 grade-point average, will receive a \$2,000 scholarship that may be applied to graduate or professional studies. Held entered the postseason averaging 16.9 points per game to rank eighth in the BIG EAST. It is the eighth time in 16 seasons as a member of the BIG EAST Conference that DePaul has had a student-athlete capture this top honor.

■ Sonya Morris Top 10 Finalist for Prestigious Award

Sonya Morris was selected as one of the 10 finalists for the prestigious Ann Meyers Drysdale Shooting Guard of the Year Award after being singled out as a national candidate earlier this season. The award is co-sponsored by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. When

the announcement was made in February, the junior guard from St. Louis led DePaul in scoring and was among the leading scorers in the BIG EAST Conference, averaging more than 18 points a game. She scored 20 or more points seven times during each of her first 13 games.

■ Taylor Stapleton Named Senior Associate Athletics Director

Taylor Stapleton has joined the Athletics Department as senior associate athletics director for revenue generation and strategic initiatives. Stapleton also oversees ticket operations and the sales and communications departments, as well as serving as administrator for the softball and men's tennis programs. He comes to DePaul after excelling as senior director of provider relationships and education for Healthcare Business Media Inc. Prior to that position, he worked at the University of Kentucky Athletics Department for nearly eight years, most recently as associate director of ticketing strategy and analytics. He was the driving force of Kentucky's revenue-generation leadership team.

RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS

(1942–2021)

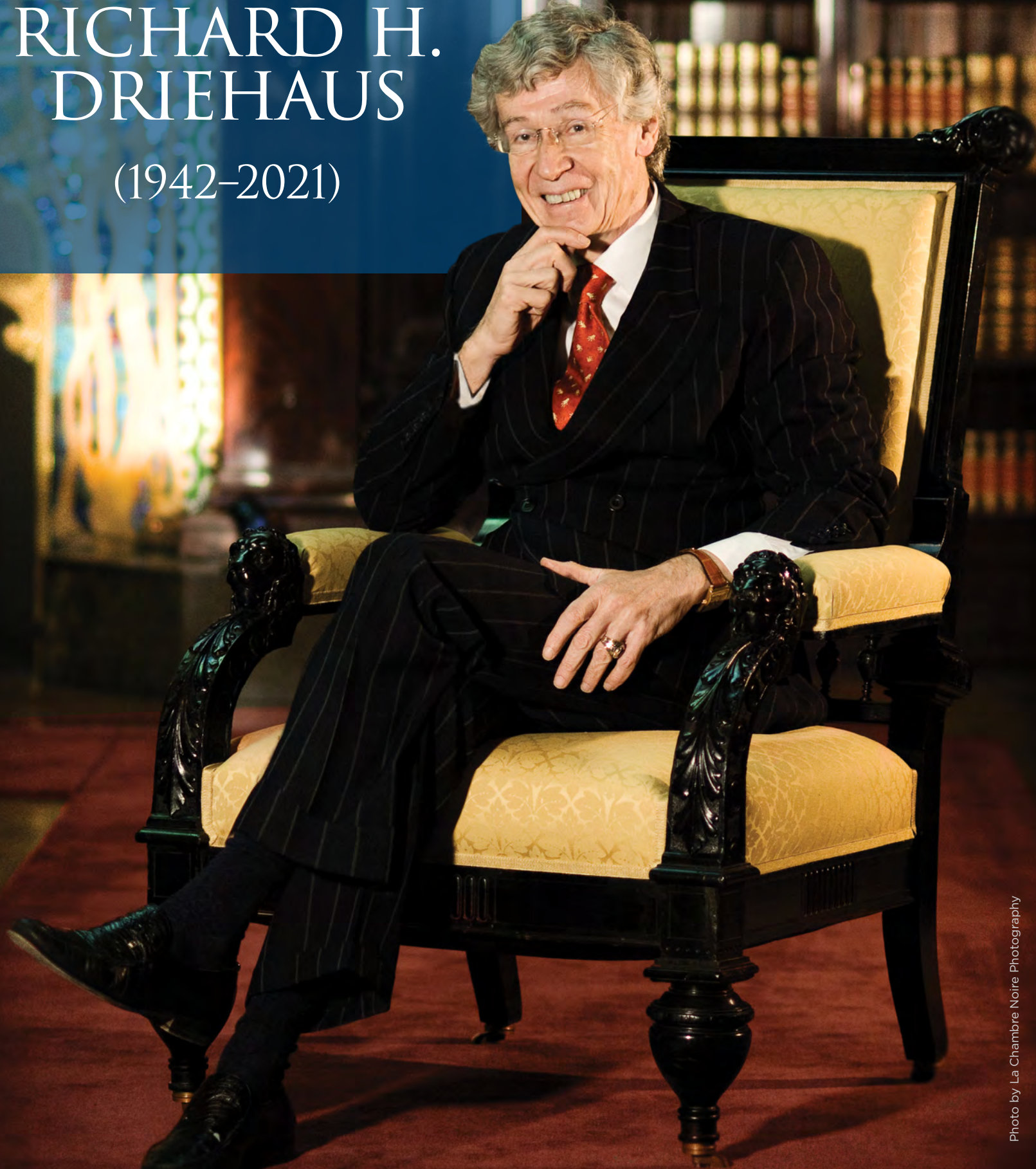


Photo by La Chambre Noire Photography

DePaul University mourns the loss of **Richard H. Driehaus** (BUS '65, MBA '70, DHL '02). Mr. Driehaus, a highly successful investment advisor, philanthropist and DePaul Life Trustee, died March 9, 2021, at the age of 78.

"Richard was an inspirational member of the DePaul community who devoted so much of his life's focus to the university and our students," said A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, president of DePaul University. "His inquisitive mind, relentless determination and unquenchable desire to learn led him to unparalleled levels of success in the investment management industry, which, in turn, spurred his outsized effect on countless individuals and organizations as a philanthropist."

Mr. Driehaus founded Driehaus Capital Management LLC in 1982 and, until his passing, was the firm's chief investment officer and chairman. He founded Driehaus Mutual Funds in 1996, and he is frequently cited as the father of momentum investing for popularizing an investment strategy that relies on spotting stocks on prolonged upward trends.

As an investor, Mr. Driehaus believed in doing one's homework. He said, "You must fully understand, strongly believe in and be totally committed to your trading philosophy. In order to achieve that mental state, you have to do a great deal of independent research."

His first public philanthropic gesture, the establishment of The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation in 1983, reflected a similar belief. "I recognize ... that the measure of one's personal holdings is of less importance than the impact of our collective aspirations made real," he said. "I have further come to understand that maximizing the impact of donated dollars can be considerably more challenging than earning those dollars in the first place."

In the following decade, the Driehaus Foundation provided \$6 million in grants to a variety of causes, many of them within the Chicago community. The foundation currently provides about \$5 million annually in grants for the built environment, arts and culture organizations, investigative journalism for government accountability and economic opportunity for the working poor.

In 1992, Mr. Driehaus made a generous gift to DePaul when he endowed the Driehaus Center for International Business, which oversees the college's international business degrees and study abroad seminars. In 2002, extending his commitment to his alma mater, Mr. Driehaus established the innovative Driehaus Center for Behavioral Finance and endowed the Driehaus Chair in Behavioral Finance. In that same year, DePaul University awarded him an honorary doctoral degree.

The most significant investment Mr. Driehaus made in the future of his alma mater came in 2012 during the university's *Many Dreams, One Mission* fundraising campaign. He gave \$30 million to the College of Commerce to fund the recruitment and retention of business faculty, then a pressing need. Such a gift was characteristic of his desire to see long-lasting, pinpointed results from his philanthropy. In recognition of his generosity, the College of Commerce was renamed the Richard H. Driehaus College of Business.

Mr. Driehaus also enjoyed making a difference in students' lives by funding scholarships for MBA students, as well as a simulated stock portfolio competition for finance majors. He relished sharing his knowledge about the market and finance with students both at Driehaus Capital Management's headquarters on Chicago's Gold Coast and as a guest lecturer at the Driehaus College of Business. He told one MBA class on practical investing, "There's all this talk



Mr. Driehaus presenting a seminar on practical investing to a class of MBA students

of risk, but the other side of risk is lost opportunity. The biggest risk is not taking one."

In addition, Mr. Driehaus regularly supported annual university galas hosted by The Theatre School and the School of Music. In 2018, he contributed to the establishment of the Dennis H. Holtschneider Chair in Vincentian Studies.

Mr. Driehaus was born in 1942 and raised on the South Side of Chicago, where his father, Herman Driehaus, worked for a manufacturer of coal-mining equipment. In a 2012 interview, he said of his father, "He wanted me to be an engineer, but I couldn't do it. I was more like my mother, right-brained, more facile than specific."

Nonetheless, Mr. Driehaus interacted frequently with the engineering world as he pursued his passion for architectural preservation and restoration. In 2003, he purchased the 19th-century Samuel M. Nickerson House designed and built by prominent Chicago architect Edward J. Burling and restored it, paying particular attention to cleaning the sandstone exterior with lasers—another pioneering effort by Mr. Driehaus. The mansion, which now serves as the home of the Richard H. Driehaus Museum, was recognized with a Chicago Landmark Award for Preservation Excellence in 2008.

Mr. Driehaus also purchased and completely restored a Georgian-style lakefront estate in Lake Geneva, Wis., that he dubbed Glanworth Gardens. It was originally constructed in 1906 for Norman W. Harris of the Harris Trust and Savings Bank, with landscaping by the Olmsted Brothers, famous for designing New York City's Central Park. Mr. Driehaus was heralded for his civic-mindedness by the Lake Geneva community in saving this architectural treasure, which became a cherished getaway from his busy life in Chicago.

Family was the foundation on which Mr. Driehaus' character was built, most notably the influence of his father. Reflecting on how his father inspired him, he said, "One of the greatest gifts of time and aging is the perspective it gives on life. Danish philosopher Kierkegaard said this: 'Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.' With that in mind, tonight I want to acknowledge my father, Herman, and his influence on my life. ... Dad wanted the best for us and he gave me a priceless gift—the power of aspiration," he said.

A celebration of Mr. Driehaus' life is being planned.

Photo by DePaul University/Jeff Carrion

A Gift to Unlock Human Potential

DePaul alumnus George Ruff and his wife, Tanya, make compassionate contributions to help eradicate homelessness and amplify student potential. *By Craig Keller*

All human beings are born with potential—to create, to educate, to invigorate the intellectual, emotional, economic and physical dimensions of the societies in which they live. The barriers to fulfilling one's potential, however, can be daunting. Lack of financial resources has kept too many from pursuing higher education. For many others, that lack has forced them to make their home in the streets, where survival must take precedence over personal striving.

Fortunately, two steadfast DePaul supporters are opening the doors of dignity and opportunity to those who need a place to live, study and grow. DePaul University Life Trustee **George Ruff (BUS '74)** and his wife, Tanya, have made a generous commitment totaling \$21 million to support scholarships and DePaul's Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH). The couple's George L. and Tanya S. Ruff Endowed Scholarship follows their George L. Ruff Endowed Scholarship in Hospitality Leadership, deepening their commitment to students. Moreover, in recognition of their contribution to the institute, it will now be known as the George and Tanya Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness.

A senior principal of Trinity Hotel Investors LLC and member of DePaul's School of Hospitality Leadership Advisory Board and Board of Trustees Philanthropy, Finance, and Physical Plant and Property committees. Mr. Ruff has been a longtime supporter of the university. He helped establish the Real Estate Center in the Richard H. Driehaus College of Business, and the Ruffs contribute to the college through the hospitality program scholarship, the Coleman Entrepreneurship Center Endowment and George L. Ruff Endowed Chair in Real Estate.

"George Ruff has played an important role in expanding education programs, career opportunities and industry connections for DePaul students," says DePaul President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD. "With this gift, George and Tanya Ruff are taking their student support and commitment to DePaul's global Vincentian mission to another level that will lift up all communities and inspire humanitarian initiatives for years to come."

A Boost for Inclusive Education

The Ruff scholarship is designed to benefit low-income students, students of color, first-generation college students and current members or veterans of the U.S. armed services. Part of these funds immediately support *Now We Must: The Campaign for DePaul's Students*, an ambitious fundraising initiative that aims to help students through the hardships they are facing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Ruff serves on the *Now We Must* Campaign Committee.

To encourage others to help students, the Ruffs also have issued the "Double Your Impact" Ruff Scholarship Challenge, which runs through Dec. 31, 2021. During this time, any gift of \$50,000 or more to create a new endowed scholarship for low-income students, students of color, first-generation students or active military/veteran students will be matched by the Ruffs with a \$50,000 gift to the Ruff Endowed Scholarship, up to \$750,000.

Mr. Ruff relates to aspiring students for whom a college education seems unattainable.

"Nobody went to college where I grew up," says Mr. Ruff, a native of Chicago's South Side who now resides in Hawaii. Instead, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Vietnam. Returning to Chicago in 1969, he worked for a few months in a steel mill while deciding what to do with his life. Soon, he was pursuing an associate degree at a community college while working part time at an accounting firm. An instructor encouraged Mr. Ruff to complete his bachelor's degree at DePaul, where he studied accounting before finding success in the international hospitality industry. Mr. Ruff and his brother were the first in their family to go to college.

Helping fellow veterans attend college resonates powerfully with him.

"A lot of vets who served in Afghanistan and Iraq end up homeless," he says. "The lucky few who get trained in electronics and such do have a future, but many servicemen and women struggle after they're discharged."

Photo by Tom Evans



Photo courtesy of George Ruff



The Rev. Vitaliy Novak, C.M., chair of trustees, Depaul Ukraine, and subsidiary-perspective trustee, Depaul International, George Ruff and Mark McGreevy, OBE, group chief executive, Depaul International, in Kharkiv, Ukraine, in 2018

“Through [IGH’s and Depaul International’s] efforts, you start to really understand there can be global solutions to homelessness.”

—GEORGE RUFF (BUS ’74)

A Place to Call Home

Compassion for marginalized populations also inspired the Ruffs’ support for the research, global cooperation and direct action that form the mission of IGH. That mission is to promote efforts to alleviate the suffering of those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, with the goal of ending street homelessness.

“I think of the institute’s vision, ‘a world where everyone has a home that offers security, safety, autonomy and opportunity,’ and reflect on what Jesus believed to be the second of the two greatest commandments: ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,’” says Mrs. Ruff. “I’m thankful that we can give back.”

Founded at DePaul in 2014 as part of a partnership with London-based Depaul International, IGH focuses on homelessness as a global phenomenon, with an emphasis on those who are living on the street or in emergency shelters. So far, IGH provides direct services to people experiencing homelessness in the UK, Ireland, Ukraine, Slovakia, Croatia, the United States and France.

“George and Tanya have been generous donors to IGH for a number of years. The issue of homelessness is very close to their hearts,” says IGH Director Lydia Stazen. “This new gift will help IGH better focus on the work we’re doing now with the confidence and security to know we can continue to have a positive impact on decreasing homelessness.”

IGH summarizes its core priorities as “see it, solve it, share it,” Stazen adds. The work includes shaping standardized language to define homelessness across its myriad manifestations and contexts; facilitating training and capacity-building resources for “vanguard cities” across six continents that have set goals to reduce or end street homelessness; and spreading information on what works and what doesn’t among change-makers, service providers, policymakers, scholars and educators.

“There’s so much we can learn from each other,” says Stazen. “Making those connections and sharing how to do the work better, smarter and more efficiently to make sure fewer people are experiencing homelessness is precisely IGH’s mission.”

A Life-Changing Experience

The Ruffs’ support for IGH’s mission was sparked after a memorable dinner Mr. Ruff had with Depaul International Group Chief Executive Mark McGreevy, OBE, who played a central role in founding IGH and has worked in the field of housing insecurity for more than three decades.

“Many people are sympathetic to the homeless as long as they’re not next door. They become invisible to a certain extent. IGH sounded like a worthwhile idea, a way to give to an organization that has a defined program,” says Mr. Ruff.

In 2018, McGreevy invited Mr. Ruff to Ukraine to see how Depaul International approaches homelessness. The group visited Kharkiv, a city located near the Donbass region in eastern Ukraine and southwestern Russia. An armed conflict between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed

anti-government separatists that began in 2014 had displaced 1.8 million people by the time Mr. Ruff arrived in the country.

In Kharkiv, they met the Rev. Vitaliy Novak, C.M., a Vincentian priest who launched the Depaul International efforts in Ukraine in 2007, when the country was in a political crisis and experiencing a punishing inflation rate of 16.59%. Fr. Novak, who delivered meals in a minivan to people in need, now oversees shelters, health care facilities, food trucks and homes for single mothers with children that cumulatively serve about 5,000 people in four cities.

“Hundreds of children in Kharkiv live on the street,” says McGreevy. “Actually, *under* the street in the sewer systems and central heating ducts where they put their sleeping bags on hot water pipes to keep warm. They live in gangs and survive by begging, petty theft, prostitution and an occasional job in the market.”

Fr. Vitaliy showed Mr. Ruff a fleet of food trucks and a hospital where he’d secured half a floor and volunteer physicians to provide medical care. He explained how the charity helps secure IDs for individuals.

“If you don’t have an ID, you have no rights to any kind of benefits. You’re basically persona non grata,” says Mr. Ruff. “Vitaliy does the best he can with what he has, and through his efforts, you start to really understand there can be global solutions to homelessness.”

McGreevy agrees and believes a nexus like IGH holds the key to international problem-solving.

“There are hundreds of Vitaliys around the world,” says McGreevy. “All of them want the same thing. They want somebody to recognize them. They want someone to dream with them, to encourage them. They need the training to get the right skills together, the resources to begin to do things, the networks to help them know what is good and bad practice. Most of all, they want a long-term commitment to work alongside them to make a difference.”

The visit solidified Mr. Ruff’s resolve to try to address the problem on a global level. The Ruffs’ commitment will support IGH’s most ambitious initiative, A Place to Call Home, which aims to end street homelessness in 150 cities by 2030. The foundation for this effort is the pioneering work of 13 vanguard cities, which IGH plans to increase to 25 by 2025 and to 150 by 2030.

“No one organization can end homelessness alone. It takes a whole-of-community response,” says Stazen. “Our work needs to be informed by what’s happening on the ground.”

Belief in DePaul

Mr. Ruff thinks DePaul’s enduring dedication to social service, from its Vincentian roots to local community-building partnerships in Chicago, makes it the ideal institution to fuel IGH’s expansive goals and award the scholarships he and Tanya enable.

“I can’t think of any other university that’s so actively involved with the community,” he says. “DePaul has a strong social mission that goes side by side with its world-class education. That atmosphere the university creates generates the kind of activity that makes a difference far beyond the campus. We’re glad to help that continue for years to come.”



Photo by Jamie Moncrief

“No one organization can end homelessness alone. It takes a whole-of-community response.”

—LYDIA STAZEN



Photo courtesy of George Ruff

George Ruff visits a Depaul International shelter in Odessa for women and children experiencing homelessness.

Design for Living

By Abigail Pickus

With health care increasingly moving online, DePaul has emerged as a leader in cutting-edge digital technology leveraged for the greater good. From harnessing design as a vehicle for social change to creating an app to help close racial inequity gaps in care, 21st-century advances with an eye toward Vincentian values are unfolding every day at DePaul thanks to the inventiveness and ingenuity of its faculty, staff and students.

Health Equity

In the spring of 2020, as COVID-19 began to extend its grip, Fernando De Maio received a call from the Chicago Department of Public Health.

“They were seeing the first wave of COVID deaths come in for Chicago, and they saw very clearly that race and ethnicity were missing in about half of the records,” says De Maio, professor of sociology and an expert in the field of health equity research.

The missing data were a clear indication of an underlying structural problem. Although thousands of people were tested for COVID-19 each day, key data documenting race and ethnicity were not being recorded—an error intensified by the fact that the virus was hitting minoritized and marginalized communities the hardest. While Black people make up only 30% of Chicago’s population, they accounted for nearly 70% of deaths from the virus at the beginning of the pandemic, according to De Maio.

“These initial death and testing records indicated significant health inequity, an injustice that fell along racial and ethnic grounds,” says De Maio, a founding co-director of the joint DePaul and Rush University Center for Community Health Equity. But to fully understand the problem, and to better evaluate efforts to address the burden of COVID-19 among Chicago residents, the missing data problem had to be solved.

The city requested help developing a statistical model to predict race and ethnicity in COVID-19 testing data. Since this particular technique was not only specialized but uncharted territory, De Maio put out a call for help.

Daniela Stan Raicu answered the call.

A professor in the College of Computing and Digital Media (CDM), for the past two decades she has been researching biomedical

informatics via machine learning, artificial intelligence and computer vision algorithms to solve problems in the areas of biology and medicine.

But she had never worked in public health before. Working closely with graduate students Hao Wu and Ian Wang from DePaul’s Center for Data Science, which she directs, as well as Ilyas Ustun, a professional lecturer at CDM, they developed a probabilistic algorithm to predict patients’ unreported racial information based on their surname and place of residence. They brought together information from the city’s COVID-19 test dataset with data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s surname dataset, which can be used to predict the probability of an individual being in a given racial/ethnic group by surname, and the American Community Survey, which can be used to study the racial/ethnic composition of any given neighborhood. The team’s algorithm leverages these probabilities.

The team vetted the model with the Chicago Department of Public Health and presented the work to the commissioner. The model was also discussed at the data workgroup of the Chicago Racial Equity Rapid Response Team, which brings together researchers from all of the major research institutions in the city. Raicu’s team also worked closely with researcher C. Scott Smith of DePaul’s Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development, who, along with De Maio and other members of the Center for Community Health Equity, has been an active member of the Chicago Racial Equity Rapid Response Team data workgroup.


“To be sure, the model isn’t perfect. There were certain names we were not able to predict. Since we do not want to contribute to the further marginalization of any group, particularly those who have been rendered invisible in other venues and data systems, it was especially important that we vet this with the Chicago Racial Equity Rapid Response Team,” says De Maio.



Fernando De Maio



Daniela Stan Raicu



DePaul's statistical model successfully reduced the rate of missing data in Chicago's COVID-19 tests from 47% to just 11%. This enables a much stronger evaluation of the racial/ethnic patterning of the pandemic's impact on Chicago communities.

In the end, the team's statistical model successfully reduced the rate of missing data in Chicago's COVID-19 tests from 47% to just 11%. This significantly improves the evidence-based research informing the city's efforts, and it also enables a much stronger evaluation of the racial/ethnic patterning of the pandemic's impact on Chicago communities. The team developed an application that makes it easy for public health officials to use the model as new data come into the system—a practical tool with real-world benefits for Chicago residents.

Yet much remains to be done.

"I'm immensely proud that DePaul stepped into this role because we knew that it was the right thing to do," says De Maio. "But this should have been something that the government ought to have been able to do in-house. The reason they turned to us is because we, as a society, haven't invested in the public health infrastructure in the way we should."

"Our efforts should be geared towards fixing the system in the first place," continues De Maio. "We need to do a better job of funding critical public health infrastructure. We also need to do more to explain to everyone, inside and outside of the health care system, why measuring racial/ethnic inequities is important. And we need to do more to make sure that equity-focused data analysis is always a priority or we will misdiagnose the problems and render injustice invisible. COVID-19 is a clear reminder that public health and social justice are inextricably intertwined."

Social Change

Christina Harrington teaches her students that design can be a force for good.

"We consider design as a catalyst for social change," says the assistant professor in CDM's School of Design. "Design could be

a way of thinking. It can be a process. It can also be a tool that you can put in someone's hands to actually change social conditions within particular communities, neighborhoods or environments."

Trained in electrical engineering and industrial design, including working as an engineer and UX designer for Apple before turning to academia, Harrington founded and directs DePaul's Equity and Health Innovations Design Research Lab (EHI Lab).

Launched in 2019, the lab evaluates and designs technologies in the areas of health and racial equity. Harrington directs a team of undergraduate and graduate students who carry out the research. "Today, many major design companies have accessibility divisions or departments within their design or development teams. So inclusivity kind of becomes this other thing that's more about the human resources or corporate logistics outside of the company," says Harrington.

What Harrington is working toward is not only a more holistic integration of inclusion and accessibility in design, but also a commitment to equity within the movement itself. "Today's definition does not consider social class, different backgrounds of races and ethnicities and its implications for design," she says.

Which is precisely why she launched the EHI Lab. "I started the EHI Lab to say that all of these things are part of the ways that we think about tools and systems and infrastructure and environment," she says. "We can't go in and say I designed this for a person with differing abilities, but [in reality, it will only impact] those who live in an affluent neighborhood, have access to resources and have money for sustaining certain solutions."

Ultimately, the EHI Lab is putting technology not only to good use—but to use for the greater good. "Our lab is working to use technology to better the lives of marginalized groups, which means really focusing on their needs and wants rather than [making assumptions] and saying, 'Let us fix that for you,'" says Harrington.

For one of the lab's major studies, "Health Information Seeking Practices Among Black Elders," older Black participants from the South Side of Chicago and in the greater Detroit area were studied to help uncover the barriers to in-home information communication technologies. "What is the best way to engage with this population to keep them safe, meet their needs and not take advantage of them in terms of research harm?" says Harrington.

Through triangulation, which involves engaging in data collection in three different ways, Harrington and her team assessed needs and taught hands-on digital tools, from Google to Zoom. "You can use your phone to program your medication reminders or to program different numbers that might serve as emergency contacts. This is also an opportunity for our team to engage with the community and not just collect data from them. This is a way to actually educate people in digital health literacy to hopefully, somewhere down the line, improve outcomes," says Harrington.

What makes this study so crucial is how it works to bridge the widening digital divide between those with access to technology and those without. "Part of the problem in terms of health disparities is you'll start to see folks who have access to technology as an intervention for chronic illnesses and diseases and how their health outcomes look versus those who don't have access and how their health outcomes look."

In this way, the EHI Lab is fostering health equity. "Equity literally means giving things to folks to be where the 'majority status' already is. We already know the folks who don't have access to Google devices tend to be poor or Black and brown folks who are already disproportionately impacted by many of these health disparities. Unlike those with access to resources, the folks without access to money also don't have access to resources [and] as a result have a shorter life expectancy," says Harrington.

Harrington credits much of the lab's success to its student workers. Representing a range of majors, these undergraduates and graduate students are integral researchers on all of the projects.

"The EHI lab spoke to what I wanted to do with my career and with my desire to research," says junior Julianne Sorek, a research assistant who is majoring in psychology with a concentration in cognitive neuroscience and a minor in designing for physical technologies. "Being able to help people through technology is what motivated it. I definitely see it as an incredible opportunity, and I think it has taught me some very valuable skills that will carry on into the future."

Harrington is counting on students like Sorek to make the world more equitable. "We want more designers in industry or researchers in academia to start off approaching projects from a way of true inclusion. Students working in my lab start off with this mentality. They'll go into the workspace approaching design with equity being the standard. I think that in itself will help lift the industry," she says.


Automation

When Enid Montague was in graduate school pursuing MS and PhD degrees in industrial and systems engineering, she came across a report that changed the direction of her research.

"The report revealed the alarming rate of medical errors in the health care system," says Montague, associate professor in CDM.

The report attributed 250,000 deaths per year in the United States due to medical errors—a staggering figure that surpasses the 150,000 deaths per year from respiratory disease (pre-COVID-19), which was ranked as the third leading cause of death by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report called for more engineers and computer scientists to devote their research to health care. "When I read this report,



"Our lab is working to use technology to better the lives of marginalized groups, which means really focusing on their needs and wants rather than [making assumptions] and saying, 'Let us fix that for you.'"

—Christina Harrington

Christina Harrington

“I understand that not everything can be automated. Robot doctors aren’t going to work for everyone and everything. People are still really important, but if it is done right, automation can be used as a way to improve human efficiency.”

—Enid Montague

I felt really inspired,” says Montague. “Here was something that I could do to be of service. It was something that felt really meaningful, like it was my calling.”

She soon accepted a research fellowship on improving human health and well-being. “Most people don’t talk about their graduate fellowships once they are [advanced in their career], but I am really proud of the fact that I was able to use my engineering expertise to improve human health and well-being,” says Montague.

Since joining DePaul in 2015, she has continued her quest to improve health care through the tools of her trade: engineering. “My goal is to make health care safer, more efficient and more effective,” she says.

Montague, director of the Wellness and Health Enhancement Engineering Lab (WHEEL Lab) at DePaul, and her team of students conduct exploratory, experimental and field research involving human interaction with computers, technologies and systems. Projects run the gamut from developing tools for people suffering from chronic pain to making mental health care more accessible through automation. A survivor of the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting, Montague has made mental health accessibility a particular calling. (Watch her TEDxDePaulUniversity talk, “How to Improve a Community’s Well-Being After Tragedy.”)

While the foundation for her work rests on engineering—thinking about design solutions by building prototypes, evaluating them and working closely with patients, practitioners and other collaborators with the goal of ultimately developing an application or website—Montague never loses sight of the human beings who stand to gain from these new technologies.

“How do we build systems that leverage technology in the right way while relying on humans for the parts that they really need to be a part of? That is what I’ve been doing at DePaul for some time in the areas of health care and medicine,” she says. “I understand that not everything can be automated. Robot doctors aren’t going to work for everyone and everything. People are still really important, but if it is done right, automation can be used as a way to improve human efficiency.”

A case in point is Montague’s research into ways to enhance primary care providers’ capabilities. “Primary care [research] is becoming a lot more relevant now,” she says, citing a shortage in primary care providers, a growing number of people without access to primary care, and other factors such as an aging population with chronic conditions and a young generation suffering from an increase in chronic conditions.



Enid Montague

“Primary care is where a lot of important health care work occurs. Your primary care doctor is supposed to be the first person who notices signs of everything from cancer to diabetes and who is there to help you manage all your medication and your transition to different phases in your life,” says Montague.

When utilized smartly, automation can help mitigate the primary care crisis. But like everything else when it comes to science, improvements often move at a snail’s pace.

“I’ve been working on primary care [automation] for the past 10 years,” says Montague. “I would love to solve it, but it’s a mixture of understanding the current system, envisioning what a new system could look like and then also being given support.”

By further incorporating digital technologies, our health care system will enable more people to access the care they need, which could be the difference between life and death.

“What we want is a functional health care system. What we don’t want are people who aren’t getting diagnosed for chronic conditions at the right time, because that makes it harder to treat them. We don’t want people to suffer because they’re not taking the right medications, which can also lead to other problems down the line. A functional health care system will benefit everyone, and by weaving in automation when appropriate, it will also increase access to health care and make it more affordable,” says Montague.

Photos by Tom Evans



An Uncommon Good

Law school alumna finds fulfillment in working to heal the world

By Marilyn Ferdinand

The light that guides the life and work of civil rights attorney **Karyn L. Bass Ehler (JD ’05)** is doing the most good for the most people. Thus, it should come as no surprise that when an opportunity arose to leave her secure job at a national law firm—during a pandemic, no less—to go to work for the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), she jumped at the chance.

Bass Ehler has a full resume of work and activities that fit with her mission to make as great a positive impact on society as possible. In the summer of 2020, when she was more than a year into her job with Grant & Eisenhofer as senior counsel leading the firm’s new civil rights practice, she learned that the IDPH was looking to hire someone as their general counsel.

“I am a strong believer that access to health care is a human right and a civil right. I saw very quickly that this was an opportunity to make an impact at a critical moment,” she says. “Instead of waiting for the exact right time or place [to advance] my private practice career, the times were calling me. I felt compelled to answer the call.”

A tradition of service

Answering the call to service is something Bass Ehler learned from her family, who she says supported social justice, an integral component of their Jewish faith. A practicing Jew, Bass Ehler says, “There’s a value in Judaism called *tikkun olam*—to repair the world. That value that it is our obligation to try our best to repair the world very much drives me.”

As a teenager, Bass Ehler thoroughly enjoyed attending Wheeling High School, which she says “was unique among many suburbs at the time for being so diverse.” As a white person, Bass Ehler was aware that her skin color imbued her with certain privileges. “Yet being Jewish in a space that was mostly not Jewish made me aware from an early age of being ‘othered’ and of other people who were ‘othered,’” she reflects.

Finding her path

Bass Ehler began her career journey earning an undergraduate degree in political science at Northwestern University in 2000 and going to work immediately as the communications director and press secretary for Jeff Clark, who was the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate in Tennessee that year. “It was a very exciting opportunity,” says Bass Ehler, “but I also saw that to make a difference, I wanted more time than seven-second sound bites. To do some of the deep work that’s necessary, you really have to dig into the issues. Politics does not always allow for that.”

Law school seemed the inevitable goal. Bass Ehler worked as a paralegal for H. Candace Gorman, the principal of a Chicago-based human rights law firm, to see if civil rights law was a good fit for her. “I learned at her right hand about how one can use impact litigation to make the sweeping change that we sometimes need in the world,” she says.

Now set on her path, Bass Ehler began investigating law schools. DePaul stood out, she says, because “it really lived and breathed the social justice beliefs that aligned very much with my values. I felt that it was a place where one could really engage with some of the top thinkers in the country who were open to discussions in ways that I didn’t experience at some of the other schools I visited.”

A scholarship package eased her financial burden and allowed her to focus on her studies. A hard worker, Bass Ehler was able to carve out the time needed to serve as editor-in-chief of the DePaul Law Review. Upon graduation she served as a judicial law clerk to the **Hon. William J. Bauer (JD ’72, LLD ’93, LLD ’05)** in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the Hon. Matthew F. Kennelly of the Northern District of Illinois.

“I am a strong believer that access to health care is a human right and a civil right. I saw very quickly that this was an opportunity to make an impact at a critical moment.”

Holding government accountable

Bass Ehler spent seven years as a partner with the Chicago law firm Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, where civil rights and constitutional law were a central part of her practice. Then in 2015, she got her first chance to work as an attorney in the public sector when she became civil rights bureau chief within the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. During her four years in that position, she oversaw the team that investigates and litigates civil rights cases that involve patterns and practices of discrimination that may violate state and federal law.

As with her move into the IDPH, Bass Ehler spent her first year in the Attorney General’s Office in the middle of a crisis—the video of the police shooting of Laquan McDonald was about to be made public 10 months into her new job. “Our team very quickly jumped into place and tried to figure out what our state could do in the wake of this injustice,” she says.

The team worked with then-Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan to craft a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice requesting an investigation into allegations of discriminatory policing practices within the Chicago Police Department. The result was the binding federal consent decree that provides the critical roadmap needed to hold the City of Chicago accountable for implementing police reforms.



“It’s not subject to the political winds of who’s holding office, and it’s not subject to budget constraints. It is a binding document that a federal judge is overseeing,” Bass Ehler says.

Safeguarding the public’s health

Bass Ehler’s tenure in the Illinois Attorney General’s Office left her feeling confident about the positive impact she could make working in the public sector. The opportunity to work for IDPH Director Ngozi Ezike, by now a familiar face to Illinoisans who are keenly following news about COVID-19, clinched the deal for her. “Her vision for the agency and her help in guiding the state through this pandemic is nothing short of remarkable,” Bass Ehler remarks.

As general counsel, Bass Ehler guides her colleagues on a wide range of issues that have legal implications, from regulatory questions and procurement contracts to litigation.

Of course, stepping into the middle of pandemic mitigation efforts is not for the faint of heart. Bass Ehler found herself dealing with the challenges posed by emergency mitigation rules

and regulations, and working to enforce those requirements with local law enforcement, local health departments and other state agencies and offices, such as the Illinois State Police and the Illinois Attorney General’s Office.

“Setting up different community testing sites across the state also touches on our work because that involves procurement contracts. We also have to work through some of the testing questions that employers are facing that may touch on requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act or privacy concerns. We are mindful that we represent the people at large, but not X, Y and Z company as they try to figure out how to get their employees back to work,” she explains.

Among the non-COVID-related work in which Bass Ehler and her team engage is a steady stream of litigation and consultation with divisions within the agency, “everything from the Office of Planning and Statistics to the Office of Women’s Health to environmental health,” she says. “When they have legal questions, we’re their lawyers. We help to field those questions and do the research. What I often say is that we take a ‘yes, and’ approach. Yes, we will handle that, and we will look into related issues.”



“We’re constantly working toward learning from challenges that we faced in the past at different iterations of this pandemic to improve our responses as we face that next chapter.”

Service to DePaul and the legal profession

Bass Ehler has remained active with her alma mater by serving on the College of Law’s advisory council. Her contribution to the college, however, goes back to her law school days.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the almost simultaneous dot-com economic bust, DePaul administrators, faculty and students were concerned about what an economic downturn might mean for new graduates. They held discussions about what could be done to help DePaul alumni distinguish themselves in a competitive job market.

The College of Law already offered certificate programs in intellectual property and health law. Bass Ehler reviewed her public interest law program and said, “Wouldn’t it be great if we could have a public interest law certificate, just like we had for the intellectual property program or the health law program? All these pieces are already in place. Can’t we bundle them together?” Thus, the Certificate in Public Interest Law was born and, from that program, DePaul’s Center for Public Interest Law, which expanded opportunities for would-be public interest lawyers in terms of networking, program support and experiential learning.

Although the legal profession remains competitive and continues to struggle with a lack of diversity in decision-making spaces, Bass Ehler is enthusiastic about where the profession is going. “One thing that is great about the practice of law now is that there are many ways to be a lawyer. And that has opened up space for more diverse voices to have a seat at the decision-making table. Beyond

being in-house counsel or working at a law firm, I feel some of the innovations of the startup world have trickled into the legal space as well. Alternative fee arrangements and smaller firms that are offering really high-impact, high-level legal work at a fraction of the price of huge law firms exemplify some innovative steps forward,” she says.

Bass Ehler also sees potential in the partnerships between nonprofits and large law firms that have developed over the years. “Whether working with undocumented students or on issues related to transgender health care access, I have seen really amazing partnerships that have shown what’s possible in terms of innovative advocacy and positive results when the public interest and private bars work together,” she says.

The work at hand

As the pandemic continues as a multifaceted threat and challenge, Bass Ehler remains focused on the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of the people of Illinois. “It is very hard to quantify some of the day-to-day work that we do because it’s just drinking from a fire hose—frenetic,” she says. “But when we look at the broad picture of all the different pieces that have been put in place, we can see very clearly the almost constellation-like efforts that have framed our COVID response. We’re constantly working toward learning from challenges that we faced in the past at different iterations of this pandemic, and we just keep working hard to learn and improve our responses as we face that next chapter.”

CLASS NOTES

New address? New email? New name?

DePaul alumni are on the move, and we want to ensure we can keep up with you. Please send an email to dpalumni@depaul.edu and update your information so we can keep you updated with alumni benefits, events and other news you can use!

1970s

■ **Terrence J. Benshoof (JD ’71, LLM ’80)** was elected vice president of the board of directors of the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. He practices of counsel with Calabrese Associates PC in Warrenville, Ill.

■ **Thomas Kersten (EDU ’71, LAS MA ’74)** received the 2020 Ted Creighton Research Publication Award from the International Council of Professors of Educational Leadership.

■ **Joey Meyer (CSH ’71)** was named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame Class of 2021. He was head coach of the Blue Demons for 13 years, during which time the team made eight NCAA tournament appearances.

■ **The Hon. Eugene P. Daugherty (JD ’73)** has been appointed as an appellate court justice in the Third District of Illinois.

■ **The Hon. Milton S. Wharton (JD ’74)** has been reappointed as a justice in the Illinois Fifth District Appellate Court.

■ **Jim Bocinsky (EDU ’75)** was named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame Class of 2021. He played on the Blue Demon men’s basketball team under Coach Ray Meyer.

■ **Terrance Gainer (LAS MS ’76, JD ’80)** served on the security review committee that presented its findings about the Jan. 6, 2021, breach of the U.S. Capitol

building to Congress. He is a former chief of the U.S. Capitol Police.



» **Robert W. McGee (MST ’76)** won world championships in taekwondo, kung fu, tai chi (both Yang style and Sun style) and qigong in 2020 at the age of 73.

■ **Peter Stazzone (MBA ’76)** has assumed the position of CFO of Beyond Commerce Inc., a provider of B2B internet marketing analytics, technologies and services based in Las Vegas.

■ **James Simon (JD ’77)** is the new corporation counsel of the City of Danville, Ill.

■ **Charlayne Woodard (THE ’77, DHL ’06)** had her play “NEAT” performed by Renaissance Theaterworks in Milwaukee. The play streamed on demand March 19–April 11, 2021.

■ **Joseph Ponsetto (EDU ’78, JD ’82)** has joined Chicago’s office of the city treasurer as assistant city treasurer and head of the intergovernmental and legal affairs division.

■ **Anthony Erbacci (LAS ’79)** retired as an arbitrator with the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission. He previously served as a staff attorney with the commission.

■ **Pat Willenbrock (MBA ’79)** retired as head of marketing for Syngenta Professional Pest Management.

1980s

■ **Pier Alsup (CSH ’80)** is now chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer of Together Credit Union, headquartered in St. Louis.



» **The Hon. Mary Ellen Coghlan (JD ’81)** received the Hon. Mary Heftel Hooton Award from the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois for her exceptional leadership, professionalism and efforts to advance women in the law. She is a commissioner on the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism and is a justice in the First District Appellate Court of Illinois.

■ **Ruth Williams-Brinkley (CSH ’81, MS ’84)** has joined the system board of

PeaceHealth, a nonprofit health care system operating in the Western United States.

■ **The Hon. Scott D. Drazewski (JD ’82)** retired from the 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Illinois at the end of 2020. Drazewski had served as a judge in the 11th Circuit since 1997.

■ **Michael Gregory (MBA ’82)** has published his 12th book, “The Collaboration Effect” (Bubliish), which aims to help people be more productive, collaborate better and overcome conflicts with others. He is the founder and owner of Michael Gregory Consulting LLC.

■ **Nicholas Hahn Jr. (BUS ’82)** is the new CFO of Gateway First Bank, headquartered in Jenks, Okla.

■ **Garry Zage (LAS MS ’82)** has been named to the advisory board of Harvard MedTech. He serves as senior vice president of Bongiovi Acoustic Labs.

■ **Bonnie Peterson (MBA ’83)**, a textile artist whose work is in the collection of the Museum of Arts and Design in New York and in many private collections, conducted a virtual tour of her studio this past February for members of the Fresno (Calif.) Art Museum.

■ **Steve Vaccaro (BUS ’83)** retired from the Mokena (Ill.) Police Department after serving as chief for more than six years.

■ **Lynda Alling (CSH MS ’84)** has joined Botanix Pharmaceuticals as head of commercial. She is based in the global company’s office in King of Prussia, Pa.

■ **Michael Maloney (LAS ’84)** is now part of the small cap opportunities team of Teton Advisors Inc.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL abbreviation key

» **BUS** Driehaus College of Business
» **CDM** College of Computing and Digital Media
» **CMN** College of Communication
» **CSH** College of Science and Health
» **EDU** College of Education
» **JD** College of Law
» **LAS** College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
» **MUS** School of Music
» **SCPS** School of Continuing and Professional Studies
» **THE** The Theatre School

Share your news with the DePaul community! We want to hear about your promotion, career move, wedding, birth announcement and other accomplishments and milestones.

Please include your name (and maiden name if applicable), along with your email, mailing address, degree(s) and year(s) of graduation.

Mail to:
DePaul University Office of Alumni Relations
ATTN: Class Notes
1 E. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Email:
dpalumni@depaul.edu

Online submissions:
alumni.depaul.edu

Class notes submitted by email and through the Alumni & Friends website will be considered for inclusion in DePaul Magazine. DePaul reserves the right to edit class notes.

▪ **Sandra Weiss (JD '84)** is now chief IP counsel at NuMat Technologies Inc., a programmable chemistries company based in Skokie, Ill.

▪ **Isiaah Crawford (CSH MA '85, PhD '87)**, president of the University of Puget Sound, has been elected chair of the board of directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

▪ **Patrick Gallagher (BUS '85)** is now the executive director of the American Academy of Audiology.

▪ **Steve Lalla (MBA '86)** is now the executive vice president of commercial services for Verra Mobility, a global small transportation company headquartered in Phoenix.

▪ **Anna Richo (JD '86)**, in-house counsel for Cargill Inc., received a lifetime achievement award from Minnesota Lawyer Magazine.

▪ **Kevin Stevens (MST '86)** has stepped down as dean of the Quinlan School of Business at Loyola University

Chicago to assume a faculty position. He intends to retire following the 2021–22 academic year.

▪ **George Vukotich (MBA '86)** is the founding director of the Center for Research in Innovation and Smart Cities at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

▪ **Ralph Zarumba (LAS MA '86)** has been named managing director of the strategic advisory practice of Chicago-based Black & Veatch Management Consulting.

▪ **The Hon. Paul E. Stutesman (JD '87)** is now chair of the judicial section of the State Bar of Michigan.

▪ **Louis Sandoval (CSH '88)** was inducted into the 2021 Lake Michigan Sailing Hall of Fame. He is commodore of the Chicago Yacht Club and founder of Karma Yacht Sales.

▪ **Ben Martorano (CMN '89)** is now vice president of operations of Ansafone Contact Center, headquartered in Santa Ana, Calif.

1990s

▪ **Gillian Anderson (THE '90)** won a 2021 Golden Globe Award for her performance as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the Netflix series “The Crown.”

▪ **Martin T. Tully (JD '90)** was appointed to a two-year term as steering committee chair of the Sedona Conference Working Group 1 on Electronic Document Retention and Production. He is a founding partner of Actuate Law LLC in Chicago.

▪ **Darryl Arrington (LAS '91, MS '07)** has been appointed to serve on the strategic planning advisory committee of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. He is assistant vice president of the Center for Access and Attainment at DePaul University.



» **Laura Ashmore (THE '91, JD '94)** has been promoted to managing partner of Chicago-based Davis Friedman LLP. She is the first woman to serve as managing partner of the 75-year-old firm.

▪ **Philip J. Martin (BUS '91)** is now CFO of Real Estate Service Solutions Co., headquartered in Southfield, Mich.



» **Stephen Powell (MM '91, MUS CER '93)** received two 2020 Grammy Award nominations: Best Opera Recording for “Dello Joio: The Trial at Rouen” and Best Classical Solo Vocal Album for “American Composers at Play: William Bolcom, Ricky Ian Gordon, Lori Laitman, John Musto.”

▪ **Kristofer “Kris” Swanson (BUS MS '91)** has been chosen as part of the 2021 cohort of the Daniel Burnham Fellowship, an accelerated civic onboarding experience for Chicago-based executives. He is vice president and practice leader of Charles River Associates.



Anna Wermuth (LAS '91) was elected as a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. She also was named to the 2020 Notable Women in Law list of Crain's Chicago Business. She is vice chair of Cozen O'Connor's national labor and employment department.

▪ **Dale Beatty (CSH MS '92)** has joined the strategic advisory committee of Laudio, a Boston-based performance management and engagement platform for health systems.

▪ **William Hunter (BUS '92, MBA '96)** has joined Advent Technologies Inc. as president, CFO and director.

▪ **Charles H. Koretko (BUS '92, MBA '95)** has been named managing executive of the division of examinations for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

▪ **Peter Mierzwa (JD '92)** was named president of Chicago-based Law Bulletin Media, which publishes the Daily Law Bulletin.

▪ **Hugh O'Dowd (MBA '92)** has been named director and independent nonexecutive chairman of the board of ONK Therapeutics Ltd., headquartered in Barna, County Galway, Ireland.

▪ **Juliana Stratton (JD '92)**, Illinois' lieutenant governor, was one of 14 prominent women celebrated in March for their achievements during a monthlong, multiplatform tribute for Women's History Month by iHeartMedia Chicago and YWCA Metropolitan Chicago.

▪ **Justin Dearborn (JD '94)** has been named CEO of PatientBond, a provider of patient engagement tools headquartered in Elmhurst, Ill.

▪ **Regina Hafele-Kirkendall (MBA '94)** has assumed the position of director of global key accounts for BioNeutra North America Inc. She works out of the company's Chicago office.

▪ **Jeffrey Smith (BUS MS '94)** is now vice chairman and U.S. real estate leader for Chicago-based Deloitte LLP.

▪ **Kathryn Castle (CSH MA '95, PhD '98)** joined Georgetown University's Division of Student Affairs as assistant vice president of student health.

▪ **Carlos Claudio (LAS '95, JD '02)** has been appointed as deputy general counsel for the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

▪ **Marina Claudio (LAS '95)** is now a medical director at Molina Healthcare of Illinois and Wisconsin.

▪ **Leo J. Kulmaczewski Jr. (MBA '95)** is now senior vice president of operations for Indiana-based Hillenbrand Inc.'s Center of Excellence and Hillenbrand Operating Model.

▪ **Amy Schoeny (CSH MA '95, PhD '97)** has been named chief human resources officer of Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

▪ **Irene Dumanis (BUS '96)** is now the CEO of Chicago's Weiss Memorial Hospital. She previously served as the hospital's CFO.

▪ **Robert Fernandez (LAS '96)** is now the chairman of the board of the Downers Grove (Ill.) Economic Development Corporation. He is a partner based in the Chicago office of Latham & Watkins LLP.

▪ **Thomas Neises (JD '96)** is now the chief development officer of The Nature Conservancy.

▪ **Avery Buffa (LAS '97, JD '10)** recently joined Chicago-based Latimer LeVay Fyock LLC as an associate. His practice is concentrated in the areas of real estate, commercial transactions, tax matters and employment law.

▪ **Leslie Darling (JD '97)** was confirmed as chair of the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority.



» **Larry Pickens (JD '97)** is the new executive director of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, based in Harrisburg.



» **Derek Griffith (CSH MA '98, PhD '02)** was named to Cell Press' “1,000 Inspiring Black Scientists in America” list. He is a professor at Vanderbilt University, as well as founding director of the university's Center for Research on Men's Health. A paper he co-authored, “Men and COVID-19,” was ranked the most popular article to appear in the journal Preventing Chronic Disease in 2020.



» **Dave Kim (JD '98, MBA '98)** has joined Frazier & Deeter as national leader of the firm's international tax practice.



» **Andrew Lyke (SCPS '98)** had a column on white fragility, antiracism and the Catholic Church published in America: The Jesuit Review. He is co-founder and co-executive director of Arusi Network Inc., based in Matteson, Ill.

▪ **Tonya Wilkes Moore (LAS '98)** is now senior vice president of human resources with Island Hospitality Management in West Palm Beach, Fla.

▪ **Brian Deck (MBA '99)** has assumed the positions of president and CEO of JBT Corporation, headquartered in Chicago. He has also been elected to JBT's board of directors.

▪ **Gina Durham (JD '99)** has assumed the role of vice chair of the intellectual property and technology practice of DLA Piper LLP. Durham, who joined the firm in 1999, is also chair of the trademark, copyright and media practice.

▪ **Timothy O'Malley (JD '99)** is now the CEO of iMedrix Inc., a medical device

manufacturing company based in Milpitas, Calif.

▪ **Lee Schor (MBA '99)** is now the chief revenue officer for 6Connex, a provider of virtual environments based in San Antonio.

▪ **Susanne Zabloudil (JD '99)** has joined DLA Piper's real estate practice as a partner. She is based in the Miami and Los Angeles offices.

2000s

▪ **Angela Balanag (MED '00)** now sits on the board of Libertyville (Ill.) Elementary School District 70.

▪ **Nancy Bitzer (MBA '00)** is the new director of human resources of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board.

▪ **Mary DaSilva (BUS '00)** is now chief talent officer of The Vistria Group, a Chicago-based investment firm.

▪ **Patrick Flavin (JD '00)** is now a business development executive at Closerlook Inc., a Chicago-based digital marketing agency.

▪ **Sarah C. Johnson (JD '00)** has assumed the role of senior vice president of philanthropy for the Vail Valley Foundation in Colorado. She had been senior vice president of education and the arts for the foundation.

▪ **James Rowe (LAS '00, JD '03)** was appointed to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority by Gov. JB Pritzker. He serves as the state's attorney for the Kankakee County State's Attorney's Office.

▪ **Steven Soechtig (CDM MS '00)** has been appointed global CEO of Ogilvy's Experience business.

▪ **Jeff Spencer (MBA '01)** has been named president of Bird-X, a humane animal control company based in Elmhurst, Ill.

▪ **James Capparelli (JD '02)** has been hired as the city manager of Joliet, Ill.

▪ **Debra Keating (SCPS '02)** is the new director of human resources of Chicago-based Wavicle Data Solutions.

▪ **Brad G. Smith (THE '02)** had his directorial film debut, “Our Father,” accepted by the 2021 South by Southwest Festival.



» **Jennifer Anton (MBA '03)** published her first novel, “Under the Light of the Italian Moon” (Amsterdam Publishers). The book focuses on challenges faced by several women living in Italy during Mussolini's rule.

▪ **Oleg Boyko (CDM MS '03)** is now the chief technology officer of Exadel, a global provider of software engineering solutions based in Walnut Creek, Calif.

▪ **Rashon Burno (CMN '03)** is now head coach of Northern Illinois University's men's basketball.

▪ **Damian deGoa (MBA '03)** has been appointed as CEO and a director of Liquidia Corporation, a North Carolina-based clinical biopharmaceutical company.

▪ **Ron Eisenstein (CDM MS '03)**, co-founder of the fundraising analytics company Solas Group, presented a fundraising case study at the Tableau Software Higher Education Summit in December 2020.

▪ **Rafi Jafri (JD '03)** has been appointed finance director of the 2021 reelection campaign of New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy.

ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES

» **Ewelina Danel (CSH '11)** is engaged to Matthew Medinger. She is a cardiac sonographer with NorthShore University HealthSystem, and he is vice president of mortgage lending for Guaranteed Rate. The couple resides in Willowbrook, Ill.

» **Krystina Andreoli (MUS '13, MM '18)** and Joseph Nierzwicki were married May 8, 2021, in Lake Geneva, Wis. She works as a music educator at Wilmette (Ill.) Junior High School and as an adjunct professor at DePaul University. He works at Grand Dental in Franklin Park, Ill. The couple resides in Chicago.

» **Carly Carynski (BUS '14)** and **Michael Deutschmann (BUS '13, MS '14)** are engaged. She is a senior coordinator with LOLA Event Productions, and he is audit supervisor with Miller Cooper & Co. Ltd. The couple resides in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood.

» **Nicholas Scholz (MUS '17)** and **Debra Standley** were married on Dec. 26, 2020, in Quincy, Ill. He is an associate at HeplerBroom LLC in Edwardsville, Ill., and she is a graphic designer at 2e, based in St. Louis.

NEW ARRIVALS

» **Katie Erickson (LAS '11)** and her husband, **Philip Erickson (LAS '10)**, welcomed their first child, son Neil, in August 2020.



» **Courtney Berliant (LAS MA '14)** and her husband, Danny, welcomed Camden James on Feb. 17, 2021. He joins big brother Hudson.

▪ **Juan Morado Jr. (LAS '03)**, a partner with Chicago-based Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP, has been appointed to the board of the Metropolitan Exposition Pier Authority by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

▪ **Kasia Naugle (LAS '03)** has been made a partner of Weiss-Kunz & Oliver LLC, a law firm based in Elmhurst, Ill. She focuses her practice in family law matters.

▪ **Monique Nelson (MBA '03)** spoke during the National Association of Television Program Executives' "Segregation, Segmentation and Story-telling," an event honoring Black History Month. She is chair and CEO of UniWorld Group and a board member of Entercom.

▪ **Shatoia Robinson (BUS '03)** has launched Budzy Box, a monthly subscription box offering a variety of CBD products.



» **Omar Robles (MBA '03)** has joined Emerging Health LLC as managing partner. He also was honored as a Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at Harvard University.

▪ **Izabella Tyszler (BUS '03)** is now vice president of marketing and field execution of Chicago-based Orphazyme US Inc.

▪ **Sonia Antolec (LAS '04)** was chosen to serve on the Illinois Court of Claims by Gov. JB Pritzker.



» **Jon Fanning (LAS MA '04)** has been named CEO of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). He leads staff at the AANP corporate office in Austin and government affairs office in Arlington, Va.

▪ **Mark Gallegos (MST '04)** has been made a partner of Porte Brown LLC, a Chicago-area accounting firm. He works in the firm's Elgin, Ill., office.

▪ **Suzanne Hammer (SCPS '04, MA '12)** accepted a board position with the Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital Auxiliary in Downers Grove, Ill. She is the co-chair of the hospital's blood drives.

▪ **Kevin Holl (CDM '04)** recently became a partner at Evanston Capital Management in Evanston, Ill.

▪ **Sarah Kustok (CMN '04, MA '10)** was named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame Class of 2021. She was an outstanding player for Blue Demons women's basketball as an undergraduate and was an assistant coach for one season following graduation.

▪ **Julietta LaMalfa (BUS '04)** has joined the board of Teatro Vista, Chicago's only Equity-affiliated Latino theatre company. She is director of disputes, compliance and investigations in the Chicago office of Stout, a global advisory firm.

▪ **Marvet Sweis (CSH '04)** was installed as the new president of the Arab American Bar Association in January 2021.

Spotlight



It's fair to say that **George Rohde (CMN '16, MA '17, MED '20)** is a Blue Demon through and through. A Double Demon in journalism, Rohde spent two years in broadcast news in Tennessee, but knew that his future lay back in Chicago—and back at DePaul. After accepting a teaching position in the College of Communication, Rohde changed focus and earned a second master's degree from DePaul's College of Education. "I felt like it was really important for me to know how to teach well," he comments.

Rohde is now pursuing his fourth degree from DePaul, a PhD in higher education administration, with research centered on how to shepherd and empower foster children and children who are experiencing homelessness through to attaining a college degree. Add to this his work in the university's Multi-Faith Veterans Initiative, and Rohde often turns to another passion to help him decompress—dogs.

From the age of 10, Rohde has been involved in breeding and showing collies. "I remember finding a few pictures of my mother growing up with her collie puppies and thinking that I wanted to be a collie breeder someday," he says. Rohde competed in Junior Showmanship of the American Kennel Club and has a slew of best junior handler awards. All of this work culminated in 2020, when Rohde's collie GCH Country Cove Hay and Honey (above) won Best of Opposite Sex at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club dog show.

"It truly is an honor. It validates your entire breeding program and why we do this: for the love of the collie," he says. Honey is now retired from the show ring. She enjoys her days barking, sleeping, eating and romping with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

▪ **Sally Washlow (MBA '04)** is now board chair for Costar Technologies Inc., which manufactures video surveillance and machine vision products.

▪ **Merry Wirth (MBA '04)** has been hired as director of preconstruction for Chicago-based Ventana.

▪ **Brandon Breaux (LAS '05)** kicked off his Everyday Black Heroes series this month at Chicago's Stony Island Arts Bank. He collaborated with the Rebuild Foundation to create digital portraits of Black artists, activists and educators from around the country.

▪ **Allyson Esposito (JD '05)** is executive director of the Creative Arkansas Community Hub & Exchange, a new arts service and capacity-building organization based in Springdale, Ark.

▪ **Todd Glassman (JD '05)**, a partner with Chicago-based chartered family law firm Allen & Glassman, has been approved as a guardian ad litem and child representative.

▪ **Lisa Hahm (MST '05)** has been promoted to partner with Weiss & Company LLP, an accounting firm based in Glenview, Ill.

▪ **Sanja Licina (CSH MA '05, PhD '08)** has joined QuestionPro as president of its Workforce Experience division.

▪ **Sarah Pollock (JD '05)** now serves as the director of procurement at NASA's Ames Research Center, located at Moffett Field, Calif.

▪ **Blake Wilkinson (LAS '05)** runs the YouTube channel "Colibri Travel," which chronicles his experiences as an expatriate in Mexico. So far, he has produced 75 videos about Mexico and its culture.

▪ **Elizabeth Aquino (CSH MS '06)** is part of the 2021 class of leading women in higher education recognized in the Jan. 21, 2021, edition of Diverse: Issues in Higher Education. She is an associate professor in DePaul's School of Nursing.

▪ **Martise Cooks (LAS '06, MEd '10)** was recently promoted to manager of product marketing for Naviance, a college- and career-readiness software provider based in Arlington, Va.

▪ **Sylvia Garcia (LAS MA '06)** has been named as economic development chief

of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

▪ **Steven Hamilton (JD '06)** is now a partner with Reed Smith LLP. He is part of the managed care team in the global commercial disputes group and works out of the firm's Chicago office.

▪ **Kim Groshek (CDM MS '07)** has received the distinguished fellow award from the International Women's Engineering Society. She is the chief global practitioner of Groshek Consulting LLC.

▪ **Raechel Anne Jolie (CMN '07, MA '09)** published a memoir, "Rust Belt Femme," in March 2020 that made National Public Radio's best biography and memoir list for 2020.

▪ **Ron Pachura (BUS MS '07)** is now the chief audit executive for Conduent, a business process services company based in Florham Park, N.J.

▪ **Ka-Yee (Judy) Sin (LAS MS '07)** launched her website, HowMuchIsThisHome.com, which provides accurate values for homes in California's Bay Area.



» **Beau Bump (JD '08)** has been made a partner of Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather LLP, based in Fort Collins, Colo. He counsels clients in complex commercial disputes.

▪ **Jennifer M. Cassell (JD '08)** was invested as an administrative judge in the Central Regional Office of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board.

▪ **Chris Chmelik (THE '08)** has joined Chicago's Steep Theatre as an ensemble member. He appeared in several Steep productions in previous years.

▪ **Stacey David (BUS '08)** has been promoted to CEO of Belle Aire Creations, a fragrance, flavor and malodor abatement company based

in Mundelein, Ill. She has been with the company for 10 years.

▪ **Samantha Flint (THE '08)** participated in "Healing Voices: Caregiver Stories 2020," a program of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance. The program was developed by the George Street Playhouse from creative input by patients and professional and family caregivers.

▪ **Dario Napoli (MBA '08)** recently released the jazz CD "Bella Vita" on Blue Night Records, a company founded and run by Steven Briggs, a DePaul business professor emeritus.

▪ **Linsey Schoemehl Payne (JD '08)** has been promoted to managing partner of Marquette Associates. She is vice chair of the firm's sustainable investing group.

▪ **Kelly Razzouk (JD '08)** has been appointed as deputy chief of staff to the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

▪ **Luke Ruse (JD '08)** is now general counsel of legal service provider InCloud-Counsel. He is based in the firm's Chicago office.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Alumni

Sister Paschala Noonan (LAS '43) » Kenneth C. Barr (LLB '49, LAS '56) » Emma J. Samson (LAS '49) » Mary F. Ferbrache (LAS '50) » John J. Barbino (CMN '51) » Rev. Andrew Kolzow, O.P. (LAS '51) » Lucian A. Lincoln (JD '51) » Edwin M. Glab (BUS '53) » Dolores L. Klimkowski (LAS '54) » Alex J. Roberts (BUS '54) » Gerald J. Ryan (BUS '54) » Lois A. Malcak (LAS '55) » Ralph A. Cobitz (BUS '56) » Norman C. May (BUS '56) » Michael J. Mulroy (BUS '56) » Frank H. Blackmore (BUS '57) » Rocco C. Blasi (LAS '57, MA '65) » Jeanette A. Lauer (LAS '57) » Kenneth W. Allen (BUS '58) » Rosemary Dougherty (BUS '58) » Thomas E. Schlehuber (JD '58) » Carolyn O. Smith (MEd '58) » Robert G. Royko (BUS '59) » Thomas P. Stepanich (JD '59) » Ruth D. Gilbert (LAS

'60) » Rosemary L. Cwik (LAS '61) » James W. Boyle (LAS '62, MBA '76) » Thomas M. Flavin (MBA '62) » James S. Veldman (JD '62) » Alan O. Amos (JD '63) » John L. Pampel (CSH '63) » Thomas R. Rizzo (LAS '63) » Susan N. Wittmer (BUS '63) » Robert E. Schell (BUS '64) » Kenneth R. Cramer (CSH '65) » Barbara A. Coyle (CSH '66) » Stanley R. Smart (MEd '66) » Richard J. Krakowski (LAS '69, MBA '79) » Russell L. Abraham (BUS '70) » Joan Lawson (CSH '70) » Howard B. Pittrack (LAS '70, JD '73) » Joseph V. Rizzi (BUS '71) » Rev. Karl P. Ganss (LAS MA '72) » Mary Frances Hegarty (LAS '72, JD '75) » Frederick L. Skram (BUS '73) » Jeffrey S. Lyon (JD '75) » Luther F. Spence (JD '75) » John P. Kenneavy (MBA '76) » Glenn J. Kwiatkowski (BUS '76) » Leonard Carl Moore (MUS '76) » Brenda S. Doby (CSH '77) » Marianne S. Liauba (LAS '77) » John M. Seleb (BUS '78, MS '06) » Jean Pratt Kixmiller (EDU MA '80) » Bruce B. Marr (JD '81) » Patricia R. Johnsonbaugh (MEd '82) » Rita Milcarek (LAS '82, MA '89) » Keith H. Miller (MEd '82) » Douglas G. Shreffler (JD '82) » The Hon. Francis A. Gembala (LLM '83) » Philippa O'Neal

(MBA '83) » Paul P. Caswell (LLM '84) » Lorraine "Lori" Holland (BUS '84) » Elizabeth A. Fodor (MBA '85) » Roland W. Swintek (MBA '85) » Michael M. Mooney (LAS '89) » Kathleen M. Riley (CSH '90) » William Koza (BUS '92) » Jeffery A. Mintz (JD '92) » Richard A. Fleming (MBA '93) » Tracy A. Kamba (BUS '95) » Allison K. Hurley (LAS '07, MEd '13) » Benjamin A. Hsieh (MEd '08) » Evan M. Metcalf-Putnam (CDM MS '11) » Michael E. McElvain (MUS MM '12) » Michael P. Holmes (BUS '20)

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Virginia C. Anderson » Willie Black » Frances Comer » Mary J. Duffy » Richard A. Guinn » Magdalene Iglar » Renate G. Jacobs » Dr. John J. Kozak » Sister Merici Maher » Dr. Robert C. Miller » Christel B. Owens » Lucinda J. Shair » Edward S. Weil Jr. » Christopher Woitel » Frank E. Wukitsch » Robert W. Zeller

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

■ **Lisa Duarte (JD '09)** has joined Chicago-based Croke Fairchild Morgan & Beres as an attorney and equity partner. She leads the firm's government affairs and public law practice.

■ **Danielle Eiseman (LAS MS '09)** is a co-author of "Our Changing Menu: Climate Change and the Foods We Love and Need" (Cornell University Press), which was published in April.

■ **Christopher Johansson (MBA '09)** has been named managing director of operations, marketing and digital strategy of ENGSC Commercial Financing.

■ **Elaine L. Little (JD '09)** has been appointed inspector general in the Chicago Park District's Office of the Inspector General.

■ **Sharone Mitchell (JD '09)** has been selected to serve as the next Cook County (Ill.) public defender. He

previously worked at the Illinois Justice Project and was a trial attorney in the public defender's office.

■ **Ryan T. Moore (LAS MS '09)** was recently elevated to partner at the Los Angeles-based law firm Berkes Crane Robinson & Seal LLP.

■ **Angela Rogensues (SCPS MA '09)** was appointed to the Michigan Municipal Services Authority Board.

■ **Charles D.R. Snelling (BUS '09, MBA '18)** is now employee relations manager of TransUnion, a global information and technology services company. He works in the Chicago office.

2010s

■ **Vincent Anter (CDM '10)** is the founder and host of the podcast "V is for Vino," the No. 1 rated wine show on Amazon Prime.

■ **Aaron Schwartz (BUS '10)** is the new director of hockey operations for the Carolina Hurricanes, a National Hockey League team based in Raleigh, N.C.

■ **Rachel White-Domain (JD '10)** has launched the Women and Survivors Project, a legal practice that focuses on cases in which the offender has experienced a history of gender-based violence, such as physical abuse, or other treatment that disproportionately affects female victims.

■ **Ewelina Danel (CSH '11)** is now a cardiac sonographer with NorthShore University HealthSystem in north suburban Chicago.

■ **Kristen Lampert (MBA '11)** has been promoted to managing director of TalentRise's talent consulting and coaching practice. She is based in the firm's Chicago office.



» **Peter Matsoukas (CDM MS '11)** co-wrote, produced, directed and edited the film "No Place," a revenge neo-noir set in Indianapolis. The film is available on multiple streaming services.

■ **Amanda Murphy (LAS MA '11)** is the founder and director of Lemons 2 Empires, a virtual provider of marketing management and internal communication services. She recently published an article, "Nurture a Love for the Outdoors," in TulsaKids.



» **Kendra Spearman (LAS MPA '11)**, founder of Chicago-based Spearman Law LLC, launched the Justice Renewal Initiative in January 2021 to provide support services for Chicago-area residents ages 18 to 32 who are transitioning out of the criminal justice system, as well as to lobby for reforms that would create a more supportive and restorative justice system.

■ **Taylor Bonacorsi (JD '12)** has been promoted to partner with the Indianapolis-based law firm Katz Korin Cunningham.

■ **Jean Butler (LAS '12, JD '15)** is now an attorney with Prime Law Group, a full-service law firm based in Woodstock, Ill. She concentrates her practice in family law.

■ **Emily Casey (JD '12)** was promoted to partner with Tobin, Carberry, O'Malley, Riley & Selinger PC, headquartered in New London, Conn.



» **Adrienne Mitchell (MBA '12)** has been named vice president and chief people officer for the Medical College of Wisconsin.



» **Eric Palanck (CMN '12)**, a third-grade teacher at Henry Winkelman Elementary School in Northbrook, Ill., was named a Bears Champion Teacher by the Chicago Bears for going above and beyond for his students.

■ **Carleigh Rinefierd (CMN '12)**, a senior account manager at Mekky Media Relations, was named to PR

News' "2020 PR People of the Year" list.

■ **Nicole Wynn (CSH MS '12)** has been named to the 2021 American Organization for Nursing Leadership Young Professionals Class. She is manager of nursing excellence and magnet program director at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill.

■ **Azeema Akram (JD '13)** received the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Missouri-Columbia's College of Arts & Science. She is an administrative law judge with the Illinois Commerce Commission.

■ **Ethan Holmes (LAS '13)** was appointed by the Biden administration as a special assistant in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

■ **Grant P. O'Brien (MBA '13)** has been appointed advance specialist in the Office of the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



» **Angelica Pickens (CMN MA '13)** is the new public information officer for the community development division of the City of Fort Wayne, Ind.

■ **Daniel Sylvester (JD '13)** has been made a partner of Holland & Knight LLP. He is a member of the firm's financial services team and its veterans group, and works out of its Chicago office.

■ **Azusa Tashiro (MUS MM '13)** performed virtually

in March in the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's Reimagined first solo-performance concert season. She is the orchestra's concertmaster.

■ **Casey Clemmons (LAS '14)** was appointed to serve as a special assistant in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

■ **Kristina Lyn Elstner (MUS '14)** is a fill-in host and production assistant at WFMT-FM in Chicago.

■ **Anthony Sangiacomo (BUS '14, MBA '18)** has joined Wintrust Commercial Banking as an assistant vice president.

■ **LaRob Payton (MUS '15)** is a fill-in host at WFMT-FM in Chicago. He also founded Hearing in Color, a Chicago organization dedicated to performing overlooked and underrepresented music. Additionally, he works at Lyric Unlimited, which engages with communities not traditionally represented in opera.

■ **Rachel Werner (JD '15)** has joined the litigation, health care and insurance groups of Gust Rosenfeld PLC. She works in the firm's Phoenix office.

■ **Sally Delgado (MED '16)** has joined the emerging leaders auxiliary board of Casa Central, a Hispanic social service agency located in Chicago. She is director of development and alumni relations at Morton College in Cicero, Ill.

■ **Carla DeMello (SCPS '16)** has been promoted to president of employee benefits of GCG Financial in Deerfield, Ill.

■ **Christian Finley (BUS '16)** has been named to the Pacesetters Club, a recognition program of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. He is a financial advisor in the firm's Chicago office.

■ **Diana Gutierrez (CMN '16)** now works as weekday morning news anchor at WISN-TV, the ABC affiliate in Milwaukee.

■ **Tanner Krause (MBA '16)** has assumed the position of CEO of Des Moines-based Kum & Go LC, a gas station and convenience store chain.

■ **Alexandra Perraud (JD '16)** has joined the Chicago-based family law firm of Davis Friedman LLP as an associate.

■ **Samuel Rose (BUS '16)** launched RoseBud Ice Cream, a CBD-infused frozen dessert brand based in Denver.

■ **Lise Valentine (BUS MS '16)** has been appointed by the board of the Financial Accounting Foundation as vice chair of its governmental accounting standards advisory council. She is the deputy inspector general for audit and program review for the City of Chicago.

■ **Michael Caryl (CMN '17)** is now a supply chain associate at PepsiCo.



» **Eric DeChant (SCPS '17)** is now a legal engineer with xMentium, a technology startup based in Lincoln, Mass. He also became registered as a patent agent with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at the end of 2020.

■ **Dena Giacometti (MED '17)** has joined the City Colleges of Chicago as dean of adult education at Richard J. Daley College.

■ **Zanah Thirus (CDM MS '17)** appeared on a panel of film industry professionals in February sponsored by the year-round Midwest Film Festival to talk about how to negotiate the festival circuit.

■ **Maria Marek (JD '18)** has joined the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office as a prosecutor in the criminal division.

■ **Max Strus (BUS '18)** has been signed by the Miami Heat basketball team. He plays guard and forward positions.



» **Emily Lane (LAS '19)** is now a special education teacher at Victoria Soto High School in Chicago. She was a corps member with Teach for America before assuming this position.

2020s

■ **Bushra Amiwala (BUS '20)** received the coveted Asian American Coalition of Chicago award for exemplary community service and youth excellence on Feb. 20, 2021.

■ **Charlotte Coats (JD '20)** now works as a staff attorney for the North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic, based in Highland Park, Ill.

■ **Emma Durbin (THE '20)** was the final playwright in the Mirrorbox Theatre's virtual season, premiering her play, "landscape," on Nov. 20, 2020. The theatre is based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

■ **Ryan Henderson (BUS MS '20)** has joined Conexus Indiana as the director of innovation and digital transformation.

Spotlight



Pidgeon Pagonis (LAS '10, MA '14) was taking Professor Jessica Choplin's Women and Psychology class at DePaul when they first learned about something called androgen insensitivity syndrome, a condition in which an individual's genetic sex differs from their observable secondary sex characteristics.

"I'm sitting in class thinking 'that kind of sounds like me.' That's how it all hit me," says Pagonis, who identifies as gender nonbinary although they were raised female.

Beginning in infancy, Pagonis underwent numerous surgeries at Lurie Children's Hospital in Lincoln Park. "I could see DePaul from the car window every time we went to Lurie," recalls Pagonis.

Informed the surgeries were to correct cancer of the ovaries and other conditions, Pagonis credits this course at DePaul as helping them uncover their true identity.

"I had no clue I was intersex until that class," says Pagonis, using the umbrella term for people who do not fit typical binary notions of male and female bodies.

Choplin introduced Pagonis to intersex activist Lynnell Stephani Long, who encouraged them to access their medical records to uncover their true diagnosis.

Pagonis wrote a thesis about intersex activism before becoming an activist, first as an employee for the only legal organization advocating for intersex rights and later as a co-founder of the Intersex Justice Project, whose campaign was successful in getting Lurie Children's Hospital to become the first medical institution in the United States to commit to ending genital surgeries on intersex children. Lurie also issued a public apology to any intersex people harmed by their treatments.

"It's bittersweet," says Pagonis. "As a survivor of the cruel and medically unnecessary procedures done to me, [helping to get Lurie] to change those practices makes me feel good, but also sad because I wish that this had not all happened to me. But there's also joy because it has allowed me to effect positive change at that institution so that other kids don't have to experience what I went through."

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OCTOBER 14-17

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