Greenbergs create Lessons in Courage Initiative through $1 million gift

DePaul University Trustee Jack M. Greenberg (COM ’64, JD ’68, DHL ’99) and his wife, Donna Greenberg, recently gave $1 million to DePaul University’s School of Education to create an innovative program promoting tolerance, social justice and social responsibility.

The Jack M. and Donna Greenberg Lessons in Courage Initiative seeks to develop curricula and teacher training programs that will empower students to acknowledge and stand up to prejudice, violence and discrimination in their schools, communities and society at large.

“Even good teachers are often poorly equipped to deal with issues of tolerance and diversity in their classrooms,” says Jack Greenberg. “It seemed to us that DePaul, with its Catholic Vincentian tradition that stands so clearly for diversity and tolerance, its excellent School of Education and its size, might be the perfect place to address this need.”

The 10-year Lessons in Courage Initiative will develop foundational approaches to tolerance, social justice and social responsibility issues; integrate those approaches into education programs; and develop professional development modules for working teachers.

“I am deeply grateful to the Greenbergs for their remarkable gift, one of many vital contributions they have made to the university,” says the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul. “Because of Jack and Donna’s generous support, the Lessons in Courage Initiative will enable DePaul to take a leadership role in promoting values, principles and skills that shape humane and tolerant behavior.”

For more information about the School of Education, contact Sally Julian, associate dean of development, at (773) 325-4522.

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Learn more at education.depaul.edu
Scholarship donors and students recognized at annual luncheon

More than 350 scholarship donors and recipients were honored at DePaul University’s annual Scholarship Luncheon, held this year on April 21 at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago.

Addressing the attendees, Mary A. Dempsey (JD ’82), chair of the DePaul Board of Trustees and a scholarship recipient when she attended DePaul, stressed the importance of supporting scholarships.

“Scholarship support is critically important to DePaul today and has been throughout the university’s history,” as it helps students who might not otherwise be able to attend college, she says.

According to Dempsey, DePaul awarded nearly $93 million in financial aid to almost 70 percent of undergraduate students and plans to increase support next year to help additional students finance their education.

Scholarship recipient Charlene Rhinehart, an accounting and finance double major, described how scholarships enabled her to be the first in her family to attend college and to serve in leadership positions in student and community groups.

“Because of scholarships, I’m now able to focus on my future and think about how I can develop myself and my community,” says Rhinehart. “DePaul University not only grants you a degree but ignites a passion in you to go beyond what you think you can accomplish and live a life of purpose for others.”

She added, “To all the donors who have supported DePaul University students I say thank you. Thank you for supporting us in our journey toward success. “

For more information about supporting or creating a scholarship at DePaul, contact Jennifer Keller, senior director of development, at (312) 362-7517.

DePaul awarded $93 million in financial aid to 70% of undergraduates

Learn more at giving.depaul.edu
Partnership supports student achievement and workforce readiness

The AT&T Foundation awarded DePaul University’s School of Education a four-year, $400,000 grant as part of the $100 million AT&T Aspire initiative, which seeks to increase student success at high school and college and improve workforce readiness.

“The AT&T Foundation Aspire initiative allows DePaul to build on its already strong relationship with Nicholas Senn High School in Chicago and to expand and make even more prominent in the school the already successful AVID program,” says Christopher Worthman, associate dean for curriculum and academic programs for DePaul’s School of Education.

The national student achievement program Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) provides underperforming students with the social, emotional and academic support needed to succeed in high school and postsecondary education.

Senn plans to increase the number of AVID-certified teachers on staff and expand the AVID program from the current 100 students to 300 students within five years. To help enable this growth, DePaul faculty and students will partner with the high school to develop ongoing professional development activities for teachers and counselors, and extracurricular and college-preparatory activities for AVID students and their parents.

AT&T Aspire is the corporation’s most significant education initiative to date and one of the largest corporate commitments ever to address high school success and workforce readiness.

For more information about the School of Education, contact Sally Julian, associate dean of development, at (773) 325-4522.

Requests for emergency scholarships increase

Student requests for one-time emergency funds have more than tripled during the first half of 2009 as compared to last year during the same period, according to Scholarship Director Margaret M. Glick of DePaul’s financial aid office.

"The jump in appeals reflects the country’s economic condition," she says. "Every day we hear stories from parents who have lost jobs and whose child needs a few thousand dollars to make it through to graduation."

Job loss is not the only reason for the increased need, she says. Formerly, families weathering rough times had access to a number of funding options — home equity lines, private loans, even credit cards. Credit is now hard to find, and state and federal money for grants and scholarships has dwindled.

"It’s really unprecedented," Glick says. "Even in the best of times, people piece together whatever they can. When just one or two of these options disappears, it can get extremely tough."

Emergency funds are administered through DePaul’s general scholarship fund, which is supported in part by donors, according to Glick. Awards can range from just a few hundred dollars to several thousand, depending on the individual’s circumstance, and usually address acute needs such as tuition shortfalls or living expenses.

For more information about the emergency fund, contact Sydney Plant, director of annual and special giving, at (312) 362-6387.
Alumni create case competition to improve financial communication

Strong written and oral communication, as well as effective teamwork, can distinguish finance professionals from their colleagues.

Senior finance students at DePaul have additional motivation to work on these skills, as they take part in the new Thomas J. & Diane K. Allison Case Competition. Thomas Allison (COM ’73, MBA ’79) and Diane Allison (COM ’74, MBA ’82) created the competition through a five-year, $25,000 pledge.

The case competition challenges teams of students in the finance program’s capstone course, Corporate Financial Management, to prepare a written report analyzing a business case and defend their analysis before a panel of professionals and faculty. The top three teams receive cash prizes of $2,500, $1,500 and $1,000, respectively.

“We are excited to be plowing new ground with this competition,” said Thomas Allison, executive vice president and senior managing director of Mesirow Financial Consulting LLC. “This competition gives students an idea of what they will face in the business world. So many new professionals know the textbook solution for financial analysis but can’t interact with other professionals or defend their analysis.”

Allison also hopes that the competition will help students expand their professional networks through interaction with the panel members and potentially connect with employers.

Some 400 finance students are expected to participate in the case competition during the 2009-2010 academic year.

For more information about the Department of Finance, contact Elizabeth Hollendoner, assistant director of development, at (312) 362-7163.

Learn more at finance.depaul.edu

Gala celebrates new science facility

More than 150 DePaul donors and friends attended an April 17 gala to celebrate the newly constructed Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Science Building on the Lincoln Park Campus. The facility was the centerpiece of the recently completed Campaign for Excellence in Science. Fredrick Fraterrigo (LAS ’62, JD ’69) and Louise Fraterrigo (LAS ’63) are pictured in front of the new building’s Department of Chemistry Faculty Office, which they named through their gift to the campaign.

Alumni mingle in Naperville

In April, more than 125 DePaul alumni and friends celebrated the launch of the Chicagoland Chapter of the DePaul Alumni Association with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at the Naperville Country Club in Naperville, Ill. The Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul, mingled with guests and provided the keynote remarks. Pictured are John Murray (COM ’81) and Debbie Lasch Crane (LAS ’99, CDM MS ’02).
Luncheon celebrates planned givers

Members of DePaul University’s planned giving society, the Cortelyou Heritage Society, and friends gathered for the annual May luncheon celebrating their support of the university and its students. Pictured from left are new members Don Casey, dean of the School of Music, and his wife, Christine, with the Rev. Charles F. Shelby (LAS MS ’72). For information about making a planned gift to DePaul, contact Joel Schaffer, assistant vice president of planned giving, at (312) 362-5319.

Harpsichord recital marks nine years

In April, the DePaul School of Music presented the ninth annual McGuckin Harpsichord Recital, which was established by Marie Culjak-McGuckin (MM ’64) in honor of her late husband, Charles (LAS ’55, MED ’56). Culjak-McGuckin also has established an endowed scholarship at DePaul and is a member of the Music Advisory Board and the Class of 1964 Reunion Committee. To support the School of Music, contact Stephanie Trautwein, director of development, at (312) 362-6331.

Fortis Investments, a global asset management firm with U.S. offices in Chicago, Boston and New York, gave $500,000 to DePaul University for scholarships in the College of Commerce.

The first Fortis Investments Scholarships were awarded to five students in early 2009. The need-based scholarships support juniors and seniors at DePaul, with a preference for students majoring in finance, economics, entrepreneurship or business management.

“Fortis Investments wanted to make a gift that would help dedicated, talented students who need financial support, as well as support academic excellence at a university in our community,” says Laura L. Manley, Fortis Investments’ regional head of marketing in the Americas.

According to Manley, Fortis Investments selected DePaul because of the university’s nationally recognized academic quality, strong connection to the community and diverse student population. DePaul’s international initiatives, including study abroad programs and support services for international students, also make the university a good fit with Fortis Investments.

“We’re a global organization that believes in supporting global citizens and global education,” says Manley. “We look forward to continuing to partner with a global institution like DePaul and its students.”

For more information about the College of Commerce, contact Denny Moller, senior director of development, at (312) 362-6307.

Fortis Investments gives $500,000 for Commerce scholarships

Learn more at commerce.depaul.edu
Janet Thies Volkenant

The first in her family to attend college, Janet Thies Volkenant still fondly remembers her three years at DePaul University and credits the university for giving her a solid foundation for her careers as a math and science teacher and pharmacist. Before graduating, Volkenant joined a religious order and later earned degrees at the College of St. Mary and Creighton University, both of which are in Omaha, Neb. In 2007, Volkenant created a charitable gift annuity to support DePaul’s Campaign for Excellence in Science.

What do you remember about your time at DePaul?

Volkenant: I lived with a roommate in an apartment in the shadow of the El, where the DePaul student center was built in the 1960s. I remember taking courses with Mary Alice McWhinnie, who chaired DePaul’s biology department, and the Rev. John Cortelyou, C.M., whom I had in biology and who later became DePaul’s president. They were great teachers.

Why do you support DePaul today?

Volkenant: My family and I were so grateful for my full-tuition scholarship to DePaul. The scholarship was awarded based on a competitive exam, but it could have been needs based given my family’s situation. For the first 20 years after I left DePaul, I wasn’t in a position to donate, but I deeply appreciate the start in life DePaul gave me and so I give back now.

For more information on planned giving, visit giving.depaul.edu or call (312) 362-5319.

English Language Academy receives $25,000

David Kronfeld, chairman of venture capital firm JK&B Capital, and his daughter, Beth, gave $25,000 to DePaul University’s English Language Academy (ELA) to provide continuing professional education for instructors and to purchase technology and educational materials.

The largest program of its kind in the Chicago area, the ELA provides intensive language and academic preparation to non-native speakers of English and helps them prepare for graduate and undergraduate studies at DePaul and other institutions.

A record 238 students — the most in ELA’s 13-year history — enrolled in fall 2008. Students come from some 60 countries each year, with around half from Asia.

“Through our gift, we wanted to help the ELA continue to make a dramatic difference in students’ lives,” says Beth Kronfeld. “Time and again, we’ve seen the ELA produce great English speakers through its highly structured and supportive educational environment.”

The Kronfelds understand the challenges of learning English in a foreign land, as David had to learn English on his own after emigrating to the United States from Israel. Both David and Beth now support students who come to the United States to learn English and advance professionally here or in their homelands.

For more information about the ELA or other programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, contact Sara Miller-Acosta, senior development director, at (312) 362-5383.

Learn more at international.depaul.edu
Theatre School’s annual awards ceremony raises $376,000 for scholarships

The Theatre School at DePaul University honored artists, stars and visionaries and raised approximately $376,000 for The Theatre School Scholarship Fund during its 21st Annual Awards for Excellence in the Arts in April.

“The Theatre School Scholarship Fund not only provides financial support to many aspiring artists to pursue their passion and obtain a quality education, it also allows the city the opportunity to experience the diverse talent and alternative voices the school produces,” says David W. Dunning, chair of The Theatre School board and principal at investment management firm Legg Mason & Co. LLC. “Chicago would not have its rich and varied theatre community if not for the incredible talent The Theatre School at DePaul has produced.”

At the awards ceremony, the 2009 Award for Excellence in the Arts was given to actress Angela Bassett (television show “ER”), actor Michael Shannon (films “Revolutionary Road” and “Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead”), and actor and director Dennis Dugan (THE ’69) (films “I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry,” “Big Daddy” and “Happy Gilmore”).

Bill Kurtis and Donna La Pietra of Kurtis Productions Ltd. received the Leadership Award for Excellence in the Arts, and David B. Speer, chairman and CEO of Illinois Tool Works Inc. accepted the Corporate Award for Excellence in the Arts. Alumnus and actor P.J. Byrne (MFA ’99) emceed the evening.

The Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, Exelon, Illinois Tool Works Inc., National City Bank and Turtle Wax were among the many foundation and corporate sponsors. Major supporters of the event included American Airlines and Wedgwood USA.

For more information about The Theatre School, contact Tessa Craib-Cox, director of development, at (773) 325-7929.

Learn more at theatreschool.depaul.edu

FAST FACT

Since July 2008, more than 450 DePaul donors have contributed $175,100 through our online giving form at giving.depaul.edu. It’s a safe and convenient way to support the university and its students.
Events at DePaul

June

25  The Fourth Annual Ledger & Quill Reception on the Lake

16  Reunion Luncheon for the Class of 1959 and beyond, Lincoln Park Campus

October

16-18  Reunion Weekend
Reconnect with classmates and friends, share memories, and revisit your alma mater during an event-filled weekend.

17  Reunion Dinner and Celebration for all Reunion Classes, The Drake Hotel, Chicago

18  Reunion and Family Weekend
Mass, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Chicago

Reunion Weekend Brunch for all Reunion Classes, Lincoln Park Campus

For more information, contact the Office of Advancement at (312) 362-8666.