DePaul University Trustee Doug Crocker and his wife Cindy Crocker have made the largest single gift in university history to fund scholarships at DePaul.

The Crockers’ $2 million gift will create an endowment to fund undergraduate scholarships for students across the university based on individual student financial need. Doug Crocker says that he hopes the gift will fuel the dreams of students who come to DePaul.

“DePaul is deeply committed to and has a great track record of serving talented students from all economic circumstances, those who may be the first in their families to go to college, those who may not otherwise be able to afford it,” states Crocker, who has more than 30 years of experience in real estate and was the CEO of Equity Residential Properties Inc.

Cindy Crocker adds, “Anyone who has a dream should have the opportunity to pursue that dream. At DePaul, that’s what happens.”

“We make this gift to assure that DePaul can continue to be that kind of place,” says Doug Crocker. The Crockers previously established the Doug and Cynthia Crocker Endowed Directorship of the Real Estate Center.

“All of us at DePaul are deeply grateful for this generous gift from Doug and Cindy Crocker,” says the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul. “This gift will make a huge difference for many students for years and years to come.”

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

Learn more at giving.depaul.edu
Barbara Laughlin (COM ’66, MBA ’71) challenged convention when she decided to study business at DePaul in the early ’60s. At the time, most college-educated women were expected to follow the traditional paths of teaching or nursing. But Laughlin had other ideas.

“I knew I wanted to go to school in a co-educational Catholic environment,” she says, “but beyond that, I didn’t want to follow a traditional career path for women.”

Recently, the retired CIO of the nation’s then sixth largest bank, First Union Corporation, established a $1 million charitable remainder unitrust to fund scholarships for women studying business at DePaul. The reason, she says, is to help provide students time enough for study and also for the many extracurricular activities — social, religious and professional — available at DePaul, all of which she believes are critical to a well-rounded education.

Laughlin, who in her student days carried 18 hours per quarter and worked half time as an assistant for a theatrical agent, notes that real knowledge is found as much outside the classroom as in it.

“I encourage the young people I talk with to get involved in something bigger than themselves,” she says. “Getting involved with a service organization or a professional sorority provides a wider perspective.”

“As a nation,” she continues, “we need young people who are prepared to step into the corporate world with more than book smarts. We need people who have a well-developed sense of responsibility, who serve as stewards of their communities and are willing to undertake leadership roles. I believe DePaul, with all of the learning opportunities it provides, is uniquely equipped to help prepare that kind of person."

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

Learn more at commerce.depaul.edu
Shure’s gift underscores its support of the School of Music

Shure, a leading manufacturer of microphones and audio electronics, recently pledged $50,000 of its professional audio products to the DePaul University School of Music.

“One of Shure’s core values is that we are a good corporate citizen and neighbor,” says Sandy LaMantia, president and CEO of the Niles, Ill.-based company. “The generosity of Mrs. Shure is well known, and she has made sure our company sets aside a portion of our profits each year in support of the arts and many other worthy causes, including local higher educational institutions with excellent music-related programs.”

The Shure equipment will be installed in a new musical performance and teaching facility to be situated on the site of the present McGaw Hall on DePaul’s Lincoln Park Campus. The facility will feature the William Hay and Mary Pat Gannon Hay Concert Hall, a large recital hall, and a small recital hall, as well as state-of-the-art rehearsal studios and practice rooms.

In honor of the gift, the control booth in the Hay Concert Hall will be named after Shure’s founder, S.N. Shure.

“I hope that Shure’s products will inspire more students to some form of performance and that the future stars at DePaul will start their careers using Shure products and will grow with Shure,” says LaMantia.

For more information on the School of Music, contact Stephanie T. Oberhausen, director of development, at (312) 362-6331.

Bischof Memorial Foundation gives $10,000 to Women’s and Gender Studies

The Cynthia L. Bischof Memorial Foundation gave $10,000 to the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at DePaul University to support Take Back the Halls: Ending Violence in Relationships and Schools.

“The foundation supports DePaul University and its work to educate high-school students about domestic violence, as Cindy thoroughly valued her experience at DePaul,” says Barbara Bischof, Cynthia Bischof’s mother. “In fact, while finishing her degree as an adult student, Cindy aspired to become a mentor for young women embarking on careers in the real estate industry.”

The Cynthia L. Bischof Memorial Foundation was created to honor Bischof, a DePaul alumna who was a victim of domestic violence, and to be a catalyst for legislative and societal change around domestic violence.

Since 2002, DePaul faculty and students have partnered with the community-based organization Taking Back Our Lives and domestic violence professionals to deliver a violence prevention curriculum at three Chicago public high schools, Nicholas Senn High School, Roberto Clemente High School and North Lawndale College Prep.

Taking Back Our Lives, which seeks to empower teens to become community leaders and active participants in the movement to end violence, culminates in a community event promoting nonviolence.

For more information on the Women’s and Gender Studies program, contact Sara Miller Acosta, senior director of development, at (312) 362-5383.

Learn more at las.depaul.edu/wms/programs
Father and son create College of Law scholarship

Jim O’Hagan (COM ’58, JD ’62) and his son Kevin O’Hagan (JD ’92) recently pledged $50,000 to create a scholarship for DePaul College of Law students who need financial assistance.

The idea of creating a scholarship began to germinate nearly 50 years ago when Jim O’Hagan realized that he did not have the money to pay for his last semester at the College of Law. He had worked throughout his DePaul undergraduate and law education, but it simply wasn’t enough.

“I was so grateful when one of my law professors used his connections to obtain a loan for me to finish school,” says O’Hagan, who practices law with his son Kevin in the Chicago office of O’Hagan Spencer LLC, a firm specializing in defending corporations and professionals. “That experience made me realize that I wouldn’t want to see anyone else in that kind of position.

“My tuition was maybe $500 per year, but the cost for education has gone up to the point where students today are deep in debt when they graduate,” he continues. “There’s such a need out there to help students and support legal education. DePaul’s generous scholarship program is remarkable, and I am glad to be a part of it.”

For more information on the College of Law, contact Antigone Blackwell, associate director of development, at (312) 362-7364.
Writing workshops show CPS students how the pros do it

Achy Obejas — a critically acclaimed novelist, prize-winning journalist and the Sor Juana Visiting Writer at DePaul University — recently wrapped up a series of weekly creative writing workshops with students from Chicago’s Nicholas Senn High School.

Obejas’ workshops — and similar ones now being led by performance poet Javon Johnson — are just one of the School of Education initiatives undertaken as part of a four-year, $400,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation to support Senn’s Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program.

The Tuesday afternoon sessions have not only helped the students learn about what goes into good writing but also given them a boost of self-confidence.

“I was blown away by these kids’ creativity,” the Havana-born Obejas says. “Their stories ranged from wild science fiction to tales about the lives of child-soldiers in Africa. It is always amazing to me how thoughtful such young people are in their writing.”

Being exposed to a sustained, long-term writing project in a university setting is very valuable to these students who are at-risk of dropping out of high school, according to School of Education Associate Dean Christopher Worthman. “Many of these kids are the first in their families to even consider going to college,” he says. “The opportunity to participate in a program like this with a professional writer, who, like Achy or Javon, may share a similar background, is significant to their academic development.”

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

Learn more at education.depaul.edu

DePaul hosts largest-ever Reunion Weekend

More than 700 DePaul alumni and their guests reunited with one another and the university during Reunion Weekend 2009.

At the Reunion Luncheon, University Trustee James T. Ryan III (MBA ’87) and Michelle Ryan surprised his parents, James T. Ryan (COM ’53) and Patricia (Beaudoin) Ryan (COM ’53) (pictured), by announcing that they had endowed a scholarship in his parents’ names. Learn more about Reunion Weekend at alumni.depaul.edu/reunion.

DePaul alumni who graduated less than five years ago and less than 10 years ago are invited to join the President’s Club, DePaul’s annual giving society, at special introductory giving levels of $250 and $500, respectively. President’s Club members support DePaul’s mission and receive special recognition and invitations to exclusive events. For more information, visit alumni.depaul.edu/PresidentsClub or contact Lisa Riley, President’s Club liaison, at (312) 362-7108.
Maria Vuolo

Maria Vuolo, a DePaul senior who is double majoring in history and political science, started working in the university’s student telefund center during her freshman year. The first in her family to attend college, Vuolo is associate director of Blue Crew, DePaul’s student spirit organization, and a legal assistant for a Chicago law firm. She plans to attend law school to focus on labor law.

Why do you work for DePaul’s telefund?

Vuolo: Helping raise money for student programs and scholarships is very important to me, because without scholarships I wouldn’t be here at DePaul. I see working in the call center as a way to pay back what the school has given me. During my three years at the telefund, I have raised almost as much as the school has given me.

What do you tell alumni who you reach through the telefund?

Vuolo: No gift is too small! Your gift can help students afford their tuition, enhance the programs on campus, and support any and all of our academic departments. I’m already giving back to the university through my work at the telefund and through my own donations. There are also volunteer opportunities, if you want to give back in ways other than financial and help create a strong DePaul community.

Chicago Gray Line president creates scholarships

Francis “Fran” Ferrone (COM ’53), president of Chicago Gray Line and executive vice president of Chicago Sightseeing Company, recently created a $100,000 bequest to endow scholarships for DePaul student-athletes and commerce students.

“I support DePaul because it’s a great school,” says Ferrone. “I loved my business education, which provided me with all the basic information I needed as a businessman in an environment of great camaraderie between faculty and students.”

The bequest continues Ferrone’s longtime support of DePaul. He has been a member of the President’s Club, DePaul’s annual giving society, since 1985 and served on the club’s board of directors for eight years.

While a DePaul student, Ferrone played basketball for legendary DePaul coach Ray Meyer. Meyer recruited Ferrone as a sophomore from a small Iowa college and provided him with a partial athletics scholarship.

Following graduation, Ferrone served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War before returning to Chicago to manage the family business, Chicago Sightseeing Company, with his brother, Donald Ferrone. The company operates the Gray Line Tours and American Sightseeing franchises in Chicago and a fleet of trolleys, charter buses and yellow upper-decker buses.

Chicago Sightseeing Company recently became a DePaul Partner, which is a unique campus-wide partnership between the university and corporate supporters.

For more information on making a planned gift to DePaul, contact Joel Schaffer, assistant vice president of planned giving, at (312) 362-5319.

Learn more at giving.depaul.edu
The Jumpstart program at DePaul University’s Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning received a $115,575 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Through Jumpstart, DePaul students work with preschool children from low-income families to enhance the children’s ability to succeed socially and intellectually when they start their elementary education. An initiative of Americorps, the Jumpstart program also encourages students to examine the challenges low-income people face.

“In Jumpstart, I have finally found a program that has inspired me, challenged me and encouraged me,” says DePaul student Amanda Gryzkewicz, a Jumpstart volunteer from 2006 to 2009. “I am confident in my abilities to be a leader and teacher, and I am extremely proud of the three years that I have dedicated to the program.”

Marisol Morales, Steans Center associate director and a recent appointee on the state of Illinois’ Latino Family Commission, is administering the grant. “The grant boosts our efforts to enhance children’s access to education and their ability to succeed and compete academically,” says Morales. “We are blessed to have Jumpstart among the Steans Center programs that directly benefit our students and community partners.”

The Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning provides DePaul students with educational opportunities that are grounded in Vincentian values. The center works with organizations to provide students with community-based academic projects, internships and employment.

For more information on the Steans Center, contact Sara Miller-Acosta, senior director of development, at (312) 362-5383.

Learn more at steans.depaul.edu
Events at DePaul

April

19 The Theatre School’s 2010 Awards for Excellence in the Arts
27 Scholarship Luncheon, honoring scholarship recipients and their generous donors

May

4 Cortelyou Heritage Society Annual Luncheon, honoring members of the planned giving society
18 DePaul Faculty and Staff Donor Appreciation Reception
25 School of Music Spring Gala
27 Financial Advisor Luncheon, featuring Larry Katzenstein, a nationally known authority on estate planning and planned giving

June

24 Ledger and Quill Summer Reception

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