DePaul University was awarded a $1 million challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation to support construction of the Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Science Building on the university’s Lincoln Park Campus. The facility is the centerpiece of DePaul’s $20 million Campaign for Excellence in Science.

Internationally renowned for its strict standards and commitment to building institutional capacity, the Troy, Mich.-based foundation approves only 25 percent of the grant proposals it reviews annually.

According to Rip Rapson, president of The Kresge Foundation, DePaul presented a compelling strategy to use the grant to help leverage support from new donors and solicit higher levels of giving from past contributors. The foundation also was favorably impressed with DePaul’s mission to provide opportunities to disadvantaged students and its commitment to environmental sustainability.

“We are extremely pleased that The Kresge Foundation has given DePaul a vote of confidence in recognizing our mission and our contribution to our community,” says the Rev. Dennis Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul. “We now invite our alumni and friends to help secure the future of science education in Illinois and the nation by supporting the timely completion of the campaign.”

To receive the Kresge challenge grant, DePaul must raise the balance of the campaign goal — $2 million — by Dec. 31, 2008.

To contribute to the campaign, visit giving.depaul.edu/science or call Jennifer Keller, senior director of development, campaign fundraising, at (312) 362-7517.
Scholarship donors and students recognized at annual luncheon

Scholarship donors and recipients were recognized at DePaul University’s annual Scholarship Luncheon, held this year on April 29 at the University Club of Chicago.

According to Helmut Epp, provost of DePaul University, the university provides some form of financial aid, including scholarships, to almost 70 percent of its 23,400 students.

Addressing the scholarship donors at the luncheon, Epp said, “Your support creates opportunities for students to receive an education — an education that is perhaps more important today than it has been at any other time — and your support comes at a time when funding from public sources is uncertain.”

Two DePaul scholarship recipients also reflected on the value of scholarship support.

Gerald A. Beeson (COM ’94), DePaul trustee and COO of Chicago-based Citadel Investment Group, recounted receiving a scholarship from the DePaul accounting alumni organization Ledger & Quill.

“I still remember the tears streaming down my dad’s face when he heard the news. It was unfathomable to him and mom that programs like this one existed,” said Beeson. “We were extremely grateful because this scholarship would provide me with access to DePaul that I would not have otherwise had.”

Beeson continued, “Scholarship is about opening doors that were once opened for you, enabling common experiences between generations and sharing the blessings of one’s life with others.”

Beeson and his wife, Jennifer, established The Gerald & Jennifer Beeson Success Through Scholarship Endowment in 2006.

Juan Gabriel Ruiz, recipient of the Kenneth Goodman Sawyer Merit Scholarship and a fourth-year theatre student, thanked his family and the scholarship donors who supported his education.

“On the chance that those who give these gifts never find out what they achieve, let me tell you that I will graduate this summer with a BFA in ‘What I’ve Always Dreamed of Doing With My Life,’” said Ruiz. “I will enter the professional world with a mission fueled by the understanding that those who had hope in my potential and faith in my success did their part and that I must now do mine.”

To support or create a scholarship at DePaul, contact Sarah Schneider, director of stewardship and donor relations, at (312) 362-6387.

Learn more at giving.depaul.edu
The William and Irene Beck Foundation pledged $100,000 to the Women and Gender Research Initiative (WGRI) at DePaul University. The initiative promotes community-based programs and research that help prevent and intervene in gender-related oppressions.

Irene Beck retired in 2007 from the faculty of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, a program she founded with current program director Beth Catlett.

“DePaul has always been very supportive of me and the Women’s and Gender Studies Program,” says Irene. “Bill and I in turn wanted to create opportunities for students and enable them to research and be activists for social justice.”

The grant will help fund assistantships, internships and stipends for graduate and undergraduate students in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program. At least one student project annually will include research in the John T. Richardson Library’s Special Collections and Archives.

The Becks have made several gifts to DePaul, including donating books, manuscripts and letters by notable Illinois writers to the Richardson Library.

To support the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, call Sara Miller-Acosta, senior director of development for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at (312) 362-5383.

Exelon Foundation gives $400,000 to DePaul science campaign

The Exelon Foundation has contributed $400,000 to DePaul University in support of its $20 million Campaign for Excellence in Science.

The gift supports the construction of the Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Science Building on DePaul’s Lincoln Park Campus. The building, which incorporates several “green” features, is scheduled to open for classes in January 2009.

“One of the priorities of the Exelon Foundation is to support science education. Another foundation focus is to promote the use of energy-efficient technology. The new science building at DePaul University combines both of these concerns,” says Steve Solomon, Exelon Foundation president.

“We are proud to facilitate construction of DePaul’s first major ‘green’ building, and support the university’s integrated approach to teaching science.”

A 100-seat, tiered auditorium on the building’s first floor and a second story skyway connecting the new building to an existing building will be named in recognition of the Exelon Foundation’s support. Frank M. Clark (COM ’72, JD ’76), DePaul trustee and chairman and CEO of ComEd, an Exelon operating company, co-chairs the university’s Campaign for Excellence in Science.

To support the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, call Sara Miller-Acosta, senior director of development for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at (312) 362-5383.

Learn more at giving.depaul.edu/science

Family foundation pledges $100,000 to Women and Gender Studies

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To support the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, call Sara Miller-Acosta, senior director of development for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at (312) 362-5383.

Learn more at giving.depaul.edu/science
Gift of Warhol photographs offers a peek into artist’s working methods

The DePaul University Museum received 150 photographs from the Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts.

The gift is part of the foundation’s Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program, which has distributed 28,500 of the artist’s original photographs — valued in excess of $28 million — to more than 180 college and university museums across the country.

According to Joel Wachs, the foundation’s president, the aim of the program is to give people in communities across the United States access to an important but relatively unknown body of Warhol’s work.

The DePaul gift — black-and-white and Polaroid portraits of celebrities, models and of Warhol himself — complements the museum’s growing collection of mid-20th-century photography and provides a window into the Pop Art master’s working process, according to DePaul Museum Director Louise Lincoln.

“Much of the work in the collection from that period is what is sometimes called ‘straight’ photography,” she explains. “Straight photographs can look deceptively like snap shots, but in fact, many of them are actually very carefully composed and planned. “

In a sense, she says, Warhol continues that tradition in his portrait photography. Shot in series, the photos are ever-so-slightly different, each capturing a small change in the subject’s expression or attitude. “He didn’t just point and shoot,” Lincoln says.

This group of photographs suggests instead that Warhol was very deliberate in creating and selecting his images, an insight that contributes to a better understanding of his famous screen-printed multiples of socialites and celebrities such as Marilyn Monroe and Jacqueline Kennedy.

Coleman Center campaign reaches goal

Through the support of more than 200 donors, the Coleman Entrepreneurship Center raised $1.5 million to meet the Coleman Foundation’s challenge grant. The foundation, which matched all campaign gifts dollar for dollar, issued the challenge in 2004 to encourage support for the center’s consulting services and educational programming. Michael Hennessey, Coleman Foundation president and CEO, is pictured presenting the foundation’s check to the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., DePaul’s president. For more information, visit cec.depaul.edu.

Philanthropy Week celebrates giving

During DePaul’s inaugural Philanthropy Week in May, the university community celebrated the generous support of faculty, staff and students for DePaul’s mission. These groups contributed nearly $480,000 to the university during fiscal year 2008. Faculty and Staff Campaign Co-Chairs Cindy Summers, associate vice president for student advocacy, and Geoff Hirt, professor of finance, are pictured at State Restaurant in Chicago at a special appreciation event honoring faculty and staff donors.
Survey says: President’s Club members find group valuable

Sixty-five percent of members of the President’s Club, DePaul’s annual giving society for donors of $1,000 or more, said their membership is important or extremely important to them, according to a recent online survey. They value updates about the university and exclusive events with other members and the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., DePaul’s president. For more survey results, visit giving.depaul.edu/presidentsclubsurvey or contact Lisa Riley, assistant director of annual and special giving, at (312) 362-7108.

Dolores McCahill’s (LAS ’50) career as a religion reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times took her around the world, but she always remained grateful for her DePaul University education.

When she passed away in 2007, McCahill left DePaul more than $450,000 through her estate. Her bequest, which was added to DePaul’s endowment, will help fund university priorities, including scholarships, academic programs and capital improvements.

McCahill worked for the Chicago Sun-Times for 34 years — from her graduation until her retirement in 1984, according to Ron Campbell, McCahill’s cousin. As a religion reporter, she spent several months in Italy reporting on the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, or Vatican II, and also traveled to India and Brazil. Later, McCahill reported from the State of Illinois Building in Chicago and covered the Illinois governor’s press conferences.

Campbell remembers his cousin as a humble person whose life revolved around the newspaper and her family.

“When Dolores was at DePaul, it was unusual for women to enter journalism,” says Campbell. “In that sense, she was groundbreaking. She also simply enjoyed reporting on events wherever they happened and could depend on her amazing memory and writing skills.”

Born on Chicago’s South Side, McCahill was among the first tenants of the iconic Marina City in downtown Chicago and lived there until late in her life.

To learn more about planned giving, call Joel Schaffer, assistant vice president, planned giving, at (312) 362-5319.

Learn more at giving.depaul.edu

Journalist bequeaths $450,000 to DePaul

Trustee creates scholarship for future business leaders

Curtis J. Crawford, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of XCEO and a DePaul University trustee, gave $100,000 to create a scholarship for students with a proven interest in personal leadership in business. “At XCEO Inc., we advocate extreme personal leadership as the foundation for competing effectively by inspiring creativity and leveraging intellectual capacity,” says Crawford. The scholarship will help promising students develop into the leaders of corporate America. For more information, visit management.depaul.edu.
Raven Cox

A native of Chicago’s South Side, Raven Cox (COM ’05) transferred to DePaul University on a scholarship after earning an associate’s degree in business administration. Following her DePaul graduation, she worked for several years for Deloitte before joining Crowe Chizek, a public accounting and consulting firm, as a risk consultant. In 2007, Cox became a member of the President’s Club, DePaul’s premier annual giving society, with a gift in support of scholarships.

What did the scholarship support mean to you?

Cox: I would not have been able to afford higher education, especially the top education that DePaul offers, without a scholarship. I was caught in the middle: My mom made too much for me to qualify for full financial aid, but she didn’t make enough to pay my tuition.

What motivates you to give back to DePaul?

Cox: I give back because so much was given to me. I know that completing my bachelor’s degree at DePaul led to my career success thus far. I hope my gifts will help students who have the desire to complete a higher education but whose funds fall short, especially those caught in the middle like I was.

What does it mean to be a President’s Club member?

Cox: Being a President’s Club member at such an early stage of my career is an honor for me. I still feel connected to DePaul and that’s important to me.

Recent graduates can join the President’s Club at a special rate. Learn more at giving.depaul.edu/about/president_club.aspx.

Scholarship will enable students to explore real estate field

Involvement in professional associations can help students learn about the business world, provide them with professional contacts and expose them to career options.

“But often students don’t know about professional associations or can’t afford to attend their meetings,” says Charles H. Wurtzebach (COM ’71), managing director, North America, at the Chicago office of Henderson Global Investors and a founding sponsor of The Real Estate Center at DePaul University.

To address this need, he recently created the Charles H. Wurtzebach, Ph.D., Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will help offset travel and conference expenses for DePaul students attending non-profit real estate association meetings.

“I hope that by helping defray the costs, the scholarship will encourage students to explore the off-campus world,” Wurtzebach says. “With a broader education and broader experience, students will be better employees and hopefully better business leaders.”

The author or co-author of several real estate textbooks, Wurtzebach has held a number of academic and corporate positions in the real estate field. While head of the University of Texas real estate area, he taught doctoral student Susanne E. Cannon, who is now the Douglas and Cynthia Crocker Endowed Director of The Real Estate Center.

Founded in 2002, The Real Estate Center provides the most comprehensive array of real estate courses available in the Midwest. To support the center, call David Lively, associate vice president of development, at (312) 362-6940.

Learn more at realestate.depaul.edu
Legal clinic expands work with immigrant community

The Polk Bros. Foundation recently awarded a two-year, $113,000 grant to DePaul University’s Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic to expand the clinic’s partnerships with Chicago-area community-based organizations.

“With this funding, we will be able to increase community-based organizations’ capacity to provide quality legal services to their constituents,” says Sioban Albiol, clinic coordinator. “We’re extremely grateful that the Polk Bros. Foundation has supported our efforts since 1999.”

Through its Legal Resource Project, the clinic provides legal resources and professional development services to 24 community-based organizations that work with immigrants and refugees. The grant will enable the clinic to partner with additional organizations and develop a network of attorneys and College of Law students to provide pro bono legal services to immigrants and refugees.

“We view our support of the clinic as a very cost-effective way of improving the services provided by many Chicago-area organizations for immigrants from around the world,” says Nikki Will Stein, Polk Bros. Foundation executive director. “Without these services, many who are eligible for citizenship do not pursue it and those who are not often have their basic human rights ignored or worse.”

The foundation supports organizations that provide direct services, including social services, education, cultural programs and health care, to Chicago communities of need.

To make a gift to the College of Law or the Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic, contact Kevin Fortwendel, assistant dean, alumni relations and development, at (312) 362-5232.

Leading female jurist memorialized through public service award

Regarded as one of the leading female jurists in Illinois, the late Helen Cirese (JD ’20) broke gender barriers by holding a number of prominent offices in the legal community and working for women’s legal rights.

To memorialize Cirese’s legacy, her niece, Helen Del Missier Hachem, recently pledged $50,000 to the DePaul University College of Law to create the Helen M. Cirese Endowed Award. The award will be given annually to a law student demonstrating a commitment to public interest work.

“Thanks to DePaul’s willingness to admit women when many colleges would not, my aunt fulfilled her dream to be a lawyer and contribute to the advancement of women,” says Del Missier Hachem. “Through my gift, I hope to ensure that her legacy continues.”

A first-generation Italian-American, Cirese became the youngest woman to pass the Illinois bar exam — 10 months before her 21st birthday — in February 1921.

Over the course of her career, Cirese served as president of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois and the National Association of Women Lawyers. She also was the first female president of the West Suburban Bar Association. Her work on the status and legal rights of women helped lead to an Illinois state constitution amendment granting women the right to serve on juries.

To support the College of Law, contact Kevin Fortwendel, assistant dean, alumni relations and development, at (312) 362-5232.
September

9  “14 Notable Alumni Under 40” Reception
23  Chicagoland Alumni Chapter Launch
24  “Advice to the New President on Science Education” presented by Leon Lederman, a Nobel laureate in physics. A President’s Club Reception will follow.
25  President’s Club Reception honoring Fr. Corcoran Circle members

October

1  President’s Club Reception honoring Fr. Levan Circle members
2  President’s Club Reception honoring Fr. Corcoran Circle members
15  Reception honoring Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation Scholars and Leaders
21  President’s Club Reception honoring Fr. McCabe Circle members
28  President’s Club Reception honoring Fr. Corcoran Circle members

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