DePaul announces the College of Computing and Digital Media

DePaul University recently launched the College of Computing and Digital Media (CDM) to respond to the rapidly evolving digital media landscape and the phenomenal growth in the digital filmmaking and computer gaming fields.

The new college replaces the former School of Computer Science, Telecommunications and Information Systems (CTI).

CDM will be organized into the School of Computing, which will incorporate traditional information technology curricula, and the School of Cinema and Interactive Media, which will feature digital arts curricula.

Through the streamlined structure, the new college will be able to develop new courses and degree programs more quickly, continuing CTI’s responsiveness to technology and media market trends.

“The new structure provides a platform for the digital arts majors, while complementing our existing, outstanding computing programs to maintain the robust experience our students have come to expect,” says CDM Dean David Miller.

In the past year, the four-year-old Digital Cinema program grew nearly 30 percent and the number of computer games development majors rose nearly 15 percent.

The increases mirror national employment trends. A recent U.S. Department of Labor report predicts that by 2016, jobs for multimedia artists and animators will grow by more than 47 percent and for computer specialists in entertainment and arts fields by nearly 23 percent.

With more than 3,000 students enrolled in its undergraduate and graduate programs, CDM is one of the largest colleges of its kind in the nation.

i cdm.depaul.edu
From the desk of the president

DePaul’s civic engagement grows

We are celebrating two milestones of civic engagement at DePaul — the inaugural year of our newest college, the College of Communication, and the acquisition of the historic Lytton Building at 14 E. Jackson Blvd.

The College of Communication continues DePaul’s tradition of innovative programming that is both entrepreneurial and responsive to the needs of the students we serve. Integrating the theoretical and the applied, the college prepares students for a profession or graduate studies.

Through the Communication Advisory Council, we have engaged a distinguished group of communication leaders to assist us in the delivery of education. We also are thrilled with the talent we are able to offer the Chicago business community through our vibrant and highly successful communication internship program.

Our acquisition of the 14 E. Jackson Building enhances our presence in downtown Chicago and expands on a commitment first made in 1913 when DePaul began offering classes in the Loop. DePaul leaders established the colleges of commerce and law downtown and scheduled classes in the evenings to enable working students to earn a professional degree. Today, our largest campus is in the Loop. Nearly 13,000 DePaul students attend day and evening classes in our College of Law, College of Commerce, College of Communication, School for New Learning, and College of Computing and Digital Media.

DePaul continues to commit and recommit to our civic environment. Our engagement with the city of Chicago is strong and growing.

Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M.
President

Understanding of job affects performance, says DePaul expert

In fall 2007, the journal Personnel Psychology published a study by Erich Dierdorff, assistant professor of management at DePaul University, and fellow professor Robert Rubin showing that employees vary greatly with how accurately they understand the critical functions of their jobs.

Q What are the implications of employees not understanding their jobs?

Dierdorff: When employees fail to grasp the most important aspects of their jobs, it substantially inhibits their ability to make effective work decisions. This ambiguity leads to lower performance, less commitment to the organization and greater turnover.

Q How does this lack of understanding affect business practices?

Dierdorff: Human resource professionals should base recruiting, hiring, training and compensation practices on what workers believe is important for performing their jobs. If these practices are based on inaccurate information, the business suffers. Research consistently shows that solid human resource practices are linked to better functioning organizations, effective individual performance and increased profits.

Q How can management help employees better understand their roles?

Dierdorff: Focused training helps, as does better management practices such as scheduling time to discuss employees’ major job responsibilities. Put simply, managers must ensure that everyone understands how their work contributes to the organization and its mission.

Findings were based on data from 203 employees from 73 different occupations. For the text of the full study, which was published in the Autumn 2007 issue of Personnel Psychology, visit blackwellpublishing.com.
DePaul awarded a Kresge Foundation challenge grant for science campaign

DePaul University was awarded a $1 million challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation to support construction of the Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Science Building.

The new environmentally friendly facility is the centerpiece of DePaul’s $20 million Campaign for Excellence in Science.

Nationally renowned for its strict standards and commitment to building institutional capacity, the Troy, Mich.-based foundation approves less than 30 percent of the grant proposals it reviews annually.

According to Rip Rapson, Kresge Foundation president, 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 the community,” says the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul. “The grant adds momentum and a sense of urgency to the Campaign for Excellence in Science. We invite our alumni and friends to help secure the future of science education in Illinois by supporting the campaign.”

In order to meet the challenge, DePaul must raise the balance of the campaign goal — $2.1 million — in new private gifts, pledges and grants by Dec. 31, 2008.

giving.depaul.edu/science

DePaul publication documents human rights violations in Iraq

A series of eye-witness accounts of torture from Iraq during the regime of Saddam Hussein has been collected in “Testimonies,” a new publication in Arabic, English and Kurdish from DePaul’s International Human Rights Law Institute (IHRLI).

This work is part of the Iraq History Project (IHP), an IHRLI initiative that documents human rights violations. The project is designed to facilitate reconciliation and support Iraqi government policies to assist victims of past and present violations.

The project is one of the largest human rights documentation programs anywhere and the most extensive effort of this type in Iraq. IHRLI staff and consultants gathered more than 7,000 personal narratives from victims, their families, witnesses and perpetrators regarding human rights violations during Hussein’s regime.

“The project trains Iraqis to interview other Iraqis,” says Daniel Rothenberg, project director. “While all Iraqis know the past regime was oppressive, few are aware of the specifics of what occurred, and many now view these atrocities through the lens of sectarian ideology, failing to see how the Iraqi people as a whole were victimized.”

The project builds on ideas of transitional justice implemented in Argentina, South Africa, Guatemala and many other countries around the world, and seeks to define the current understanding of politics in direct relation to a violent and repressive past.

iqhp.org
One of the college’s most visible efforts is the creation of a dean’s advisory council. The group will advise Jacqueline Taylor, dean of the College of Communication, and faculty on a broad range of issues from communication and media trends to funding opportunities.

“DePaul’s College of Communication is collaborating as never before with leaders in the Chicago community to build opportunities and support cutting-edge programs for our students,” says Taylor. “We are located in the heart of the great city of Chicago, a major media market with a vast network of communication professionals.”

Warner Saunders, news anchor for NBC5 WMAQ-TV in Chicago and winner of 19 Emmy awards, joined the council in fall 2007.

“When Dean Taylor first told me about the new college, I was intrigued by her vision for the future of communication education,” says Saunders. “I believe DePaul is providing students and the industry with the educational resources needed to succeed in today’s global, constantly changing market.”

Established in spring 2007, the College of Communication is DePaul’s ninth and newest college, serving 965 undergraduate students and 131 graduate students in fall 2007. Among Illinois colleges and universities, DePaul confers the second most bachelor’s degrees in communication and the fourth most master’s degrees in communication.

communication.depaul.edu
DePaul University is sponsoring the Chicago History Museum’s newest exhibition, “Catholic Chicago.” Running through Jan. 4, 2009, “Catholic Chicago” is the first in a series of exhibitions examining faith communities that have contributed to Chicago’s traditions and its evolution as a major urban center.

In addition to sponsoring the exhibition, DePaul loaned several items from its archives, including vestments and photographs.

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Business and law climb in U.S. News rankings

In the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings, DePaul’s part-time MBA program and the College of Law were ranked among the best. The part-time MBA program advanced three places to No. 6.

“The fact that our program has appeared 13 times in the country’s top 10 reflects our consistent dedication to offering working professionals a high-quality degree that helps them advance in their careers,” says Ray Whittington, dean of DePaul’s Kellstadt Graduate School of Business.

U.S. News ranked the College of Law among the top 100 law schools, placing it 88th, up three places from its previous ranking. DePaul’s intellectual property (IP) and health law programs also ranked among the best, and the College of Law was included among the most diverse.

“The latest U.S. News recognition reflects the law school’s exceptional faculty and programs, which are among the best in the country,” says Glen Weissenberger, dean of the College of Law. “The College of Law at DePaul has a sustained commitment to provide its students with a challenging and rigorous course of study that prepares them to make major contributions to the legal community and the world.