When I took the job as DePaul University’s president a year ago, I knew that I was joining a world-class institution in a world-class city.

I knew DePaul—as most of you do—for its excellent academic and professional education programs; talented and diverse students (more than 23,000 enrolled this fall); winning Blue Demons; and more than 80,000 alumni who live, shop, raise families and pursue a diverse range of careers in the Chicago metropolitan area. You may also know DePaul as the largest Catholic university in the nation and the largest private educational institution in Chicago. This, in short, is the proverbial “big picture.”

What sometimes gets lost in the big picture, however, is the intimate, rich, humanistic and pragmatic connection between Chicago and DePaul University that makes our endeavor truly singular. My conversations with business and civic leaders such as you have confirmed my belief that people wish to know more about what DePaul does for their communities and how it affects their lives.

With this in mind, we have created this newsletter, The DePaul Difference, for leaders such as you. Each issue will share DePaul’s accomplishments on living its mission. I will describe DePaul’s many contributions to Chicago’s diverse neighborhoods, thriving commercial industries, vibrant cultural spheres, and the many other areas where our students, alumni and faculty make a specific and measurable difference every day.

I hope that this will start a dialogue, where we can collaborate on continuing to make DePaul University and Chicago truly connected. This is a partnership that I value. I would like to invite your own stories or thoughts about crossing paths with DePaul. Together, we can create a future of shared purpose.

Sincerely,

» Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M.
PRESIDENT
Bassiouni sees the world through the lens of the International Human Rights Law Institute, which he founded at DePaul in 1990. The institute promotes international human rights law and criminal justice—an extension of the work Bassiouni has done throughout his 40 years as a professor in DePaul’s College of Law.

“Cherif is a man of uncompromising principles,” says College of Law Dean Glen Weissenberger. “He’s touched millions of lives around the world by holding true to those principles even in the face of intense opposition and life-threatening danger.”

Sometimes called the father of the International Criminal Court, Bassiouni is widely considered to be the world’s leading authority on international criminal law. He has consulted with presidents on peace in the Middle East, led a number of United Nations initiatives and spearheaded legal reforms in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 1999, he was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his role in creating the International Criminal Court.

DePaul’s International Human Rights Law Institute continues to support the court. Its other programs include humanitarian law education, counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, historical memory, Middle East peace, establishing the rule of law, human rights in the Americas, and the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking.

All of the institute’s programs are built on the fundamental values Bassiouni learned in his youth and shares with the DePaul community: “Duty, honor, service.”
The Real Estate Center at DePaul

When it comes to real estate, DePaul practices what it teaches.

From the transformation of the historic Blackstone Theatre into the home of its schools of theatre and music to its role as anchor of the Lincoln Park neighborhood, DePaul has a history of development that benefits the community as well as the university. DePaul also has a long tradition of real estate education.

DePaul offered its first real estate course in 1913 and, today, provides the most comprehensive real estate education available in Chicago. Through its Real Estate Center, the university offers an undergraduate major and an MBA concentration in real estate, as well as a new master of science in real estate.

In the three years since its founding, the Real Estate Center has become a resource not only for students in Chicago, but also for real estate professionals in the city. It offers conferences and research tailored to the interests of the real estate community, as well as customized training programs for real estate organizations.

More than 40 real estate executives and institutions have sponsored the center, which has been directed by DePaul professor Susanne Cannon since its inception. In July, Douglas Crocker II and his wife, Cynthia Crocker, donated $2 million to fund the directorship of the center. Douglas Crocker II, retired president and chief executive officer of Equity Residential Properties, is one of the founding sponsors of the center and an executive-in-residence in the university’s finance department.

“As a nationally recognized leader in the real estate investment trust and multi-housing industries, he has been a remarkable asset for us,” Cannon said. “We are extremely grateful for the time, expertise and resources he has devoted to the center.”
Going the distance

An avid runner, James M. Jenness (COM '69, MBA '71) has competed in countless marathons, but that doesn’t compare to the distance he has traveled from his modest roots on Chicago’s South Side.

In February 2005, Jenness was named chairman and chief executive officer of cereal giant Kellogg Company, succeeding Carlos M. Gutierrez, who moved on to serve as U.S. Commerce Secretary.

Jenness had spent 25 years in advertising—including as vice chairman and chief operating officer of Leo Burnett—but he began to cultivate the skills necessary to run a $9 billion company long before that, as a student at DePaul.

DePaul provided “the right values, right perspective and the right education,” Jenness says. “DePaul really opened up all the opportunities I’ve been lucky enough to get a hold of professionally.”

Jenness shows his appreciation for the opportunities DePaul gave him by staying involved with the school. He’s a member of the Board of Trustees and chairs the College of Commerce Advisory Council. In 1995, he received the College of Commerce’s Alumni Award of Merit.

In Kellogg, Jenness has found a company that embodies the ethical and responsible leadership taught at DePaul. He has pledged to sustain the revival started by his predecessor, Gutierrez, by giving consumers products they really like and plenty of choices.

» James M. Jenness
CHAIRMAN AND CEO, KELLOGG COMPANY

U.S. News ranks DePaul MBA program No. 8

For the 11th straight year, U.S. News & World Report has ranked DePaul University’s part-time Master of Business Administration program among the 10 best in the nation in its annual ranking of graduate programs. DePaul’s program ranked eighth—up one spot from last year.

The Kellstadt Graduate School of Business recently completed a curriculum review and soon will implement enhancements to make the program even more customized and career-focused. The business school has also increased its online course offering this year.

Winning entrepreneurial spirit

DePaul’s entrepreneurship program has been ranked among the best 13 in the nation in Entrepreneur magazine’s annual evaluation of the “Top 100 Entrepreneurial Colleges.” DePaul outranked Harvard, Northwestern, University of Chicago and Stanford. The magazine noted that experiential learning, one of the hallmarks of DePaul’s program, is the key to a strong academic program on entrepreneurship. Through the Coleman Entrepreneurship Center, more than 250 Chicago-area businesses and organizations have been aided by DePaul student-consultants in the past two years.

Blue Demons go east

DePaul student-athletes will take the field against the likes of Cincinnati, Georgetown and Notre Dame this year. The Blue Demons joined the BIG EAST Conference of the National Collegiate Athletic Association at the beginning of the 2005–2006 season. The women’s basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, tennis, track and volleyball teams and the men’s basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, tennis and track teams will compete against schools who share DePaul’s tradition of strong athletics and academics.
Legal heart of Chicago

DePaul’s College of Law is featured in the 2006 edition of The Princeton Review’s “Best 159 Law Schools,” a rating based exclusively on student opinion. DePaul law students cited the school’s innovative and flexible curriculum, along with the challenging and engaging professors and location in the heart of Chicago all as strengths of the college. Studying and working in downtown Chicago gives students the opportunity to pursue a quality legal education with access to all the resources of a big city. The law school’s research centers and institutes allow them to directly contribute to Chicago’s legal community.

“It is enlightening when students’ opinions and feelings drive the core research for a guide designed to aid in the selection of a law school,” remarked Glen Weissenberger, dean of the College of Law. The Princeton Review study results from a three-year survey of more than 15,000 students attending ABA-accredited law schools.

Computational finance added to graduate offerings

Just as electronic trading has changed the paradigm of many financial institutions, banks and hedge funds, it is also changing the desired skill set for those working in the financial industry. However, many traditional MBA and finance degrees do not provide the technical coursework to bridge this gap. In response, DePaul University has introduced a master of science degree in computational finance, a joint degree offered by the university’s Kellstadt Graduate School of Business and the School of Computer Science, Telecommunications and Information Systems. The program is designed for students interested in focusing their careers on portfolio management, risk management or financial engineering.

Happy U.

DePaul students have twice been dubbed the “happiest” in the nation by The Princeton Review, and Chicago magazine highlighted the designation in its September 2005 article “Happy U.” The article documents the university’s ambitious early-’90s plan to transform itself from a “low-profile commuter school” to the largest Catholic university in the country. Today, after several years of bold recruiting and building, DePaul has more than doubled its enrollment and become a presence in Lincoln Park and downtown. In the process, it has upped its happy quotient among students who appreciate the hip urban campuses and the strong academic and service-focused programs.

Drum roll, please

The DePaul School of Music rocks, says no less an authority than Rolling Stone. The magazine’s new college guidebook, Schools That Rock, ranks DePaul among the best music schools in the country and rates Chicago among the top 10 music scenes. DePaul is singled out for “taking advantage of its location and the city’s resources.” Students in the music school perform with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s training orchestra, Lyric Opera choruses, jazz luminaries at Jazz Showcase, and other Chicago institutions. Students, faculty and guest musicians also contribute to the city’s vibrant music scene with more than 300 public performances each year at DePaul Concert Hall and Merle Reskin Theatre.

“This guide acknowledges the School of Music’s strong connection to Chicago’s vibrant music scene,” said Donald Casey, School of Music dean. “The school has gained a reputation as one of the best in the country because of its knowledgeable, experienced faculty and high-caliber learning environment in a music scene that offers ample opportunities to gain practical, real-world experience.”
ON THE DEPAUL CALENDAR

DePaul University Theatre School
DePaul’s Merle Reskin Theatre, 60 E. Balbo Drive, Chicago; 312.922.1999 or www.ticketweb.com

> The Last Night of Ballyhoo
by Alfred Uhry
February 10–19

> How I Learned to Drive
by Paula Vogel
February 24–March 5
Athenaeum Studio Three, 2936 N. Southport, Chicago

> Pentecost
by David Edgar
April 14–23

> Two Trains Running
by August Wilson
May 12–21

Ryan Center for Creativity and Innovation
(College of Commerce)
DePaul Center, 1 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago; 312.362.8395 or www.creativity.depaul.edu

> Where Do Entrepreneurial Opportunities Come From?
Facilitated by Patrick Murphy, Ph.D.
February 15, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

> Unlocking Creativity in Your Organization: Innovative Strategies for Business Success
Facilitated by Laurel Ofstein, MBA
Friday, March 3, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

> Creativity, Humor and Getting Things Done
Facilitated by Doug Stevenson, humor and creativity expert
April 22, 2:00–4:00 p.m. • DePaul Center
April 29, 2:00–4:00 p.m. • O’Hare Campus

Schiller DuCanto and Fleck Family Law Center
(College of Law)
DePaul Center, 1 E. Jackson Blvd., 8th Floor, Chicago; 312.362.8117

> 3rd Annual Distinguished Lecture on Family Violence
with Lester Munson, attorney and senior editor of Sports Illustrated
February 15, 2:30–5:00 p.m.

> The Biology of Family Relationships:
A National Symposium
March 3, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

DePaul University Museum
North Gallery, 2350 N. Kenmore, Chicago; 773.325.7506

> Theoni Aldredge: Broadway and Beyond
A retrospective look at this award-winning costume designer’s career in Broadway musicals, film, television, ballet and opera
March 27–May 17
North Gallery

> Needle Art: A Postmodern Sewing Circle
Fifty-four contemporary artists shatter every assumption about the domestic craft of needlework.
April 6–May 25
Main Gallery