DEPAUL UNIVERSITY’S 120TH COMMENCEMENT
DePaul University’s 120th Commencement

COLLEGE OF LAW
Saturday, May 18, 2019
3:00 p.m.
The Chicago Theatre
Chicago, Illinois
DEAR GRADUATE,

Today, we celebrate your hard work, perseverance and commitment to lifelong learning. Commencement is a time to applaud your accomplishments thus far and look ahead to new beginnings. As a DePaul graduate, you are prepared to serve a changing world, and I know you will continue to make your university proud. On behalf of the entire DePaul community, congratulations on your graduation.

Sincerely,

A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD
President
DePaul is the largest Catholic university and the largest private, not-for-profit institution of higher learning in the country. The university enrolls about 22,400 students in 10 colleges and schools and offers a wide range of academic and professional programs on two Chicago-area campuses. DePaul’s reach extends internationally from degree programs offered in Bahrain to study-abroad opportunities around the globe. With Chicago, the metropolitan area and the world as its classroom, DePaul has a reputation for innovative courses and personalized instruction. The university is the hub of an innovative and diverse community that enables students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends to advance personally, professionally and intellectually. Founded by Vincentian Fathers in 1861 to teach the children of immigrants, DePaul remains committed to students from a broad range of cultural backgrounds, especially first-generation and non-traditional students. Named for and inspired by the life of St. Vincent de Paul, the university has a distinct mission to foster through higher education a deep respect for the God-given dignity of all persons, especially the materially, culturally and spiritually deprived; and to instill in its students a dedication to the service of others.

DePaul launched a new strategic plan in 2018, Circumscribed in Mission: The Plan for DePaul 2024. “It has six goals that commit the university to deepening the commitment to its Catholic, Vincentian, and urban mission; ensuring a welcoming and inclusive campus environment; preparing students for global citizenship and success; expanding access to high-quality, affordable academic programs; elevating academic excellence and embracing a culture of creativity and discovery; and, employing bold approaches to ensure fiscal strength for future generations.”

DePaul’s distinguished colleges and schools are known for the excellence of their academic programs and the achievement of their students.

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences encompasses more than 50 degree programs and 11 centers and institutes. Students take courses across the humanities, social sciences, and studio art, with special emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches and experiential learning through community and project-based learning, internships and study abroad. Established in the 20th–21st century, the College of Science and Health offers its students classroom, laboratory, clinical, research, and field experiences with multiple programs in science, allied health, and technology. The college also houses the Family and Community Services Center, the Institute for Nature and Culture, the Center for Community Research, and the STEM Center.

DePaul’s College of Law has been a highly respected name in the Chicago legal community for more than 120 years and is known for its intellectual property and information technology, health law, and public interest law programs. In addition to the Juris Doctor, the College offers several dual-degree programs and four graduate programs.

DePaul University’s College of Law has helped set the standard for legal education in the United States since its establishment in 1912. Its rich history of quality education, access and diversity has long set it apart.

DePaul was among the first law schools in Illinois to admit women in 1871 and has historically excluded groups, such as female and Jewish students. It also was among the first to introduce such educational innovations as the study of negotiation techniques and courses in international criminal law and pretrial skills. Since 1952, the school has been a member of the Order of the Coif, a prestigious national law school honor society.

Learning through experience is a defining characteristic of the college. The law school offers students an array of experiential learning opportunities including the Third Year in Practice program, the Externship program, trial advocacy and dispute resolution coursework, and eight legal clinics. DePaul law students also gain a global perspective by participating in programs that take them to countries such as Argentina, Austria, Costa Rica, Cuba, Germany and Spain to study other legal systems and gain real-life legal experience.

The College of Law provides students with a range of full-time and part-time educational opportunities. In addition to the traditional Juris Doctor (JD) program, it offers seven dual-degree programs, including a BA/JD 3+3 program with the College of Communication and College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, a JD MBA with the Kellstadt Graduate School of Business, a JD/MS in public service management, a JD/MA in international studies and a JD/MS in computer science technology. Students interested in concentrated professional study may choose from five JD certificate programs in areas that include public interest law, criminal law, international and comparative law, family law, business law, tax law, health law and intellectual property. JD students and law graduates also can earn specialized Master of Laws (LLM) degrees in health law, tax law, international law and intellectual property, and foreign law graduates can pursue a general LLM in U.S. legal studies. Professionals looking to enhance their legal knowledge, but not seeking to practice law, can earn a Master of Jurisprudence (MJ). The law school consists of 55 full-time educators who are leading scholars, devoted teachers, as well as accomplished corporate, civil and public interest lawyers. They tackle the complex social and policy implications inherent in the law and probe the law from its theoretical to its most realistic aspects. They also take great pride in their ability to challenge and enlighten students through a collaborative learning process. As a result, students gain a broad and deep perspective on legal issues, learning how to problem-solve and impact the future of individuals, organizations and communities.

The College of Law has more than 15,000 living alumni who are highly skilled, committed and vigorous leaders of the bar, bench and business. They include managing partners of dozens of major law firms, state and federal judges, many municipal, county and state leaders, and three Chicago mayors.
Judge Ann Claire Williams holds an important place in history as the first woman of color to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit and to be appointed by Chief Justices of the United States Supreme Court to three significant leadership positions in the federal judiciary. Throughout her distinguished career, Williams has been a devoted public servant, effectively promoting justice and the rule of law in the United States and around the world, particularly in Africa.

Williams began her career teaching music and third grade at inner-city schools in her hometown of Detroit, Michigan. She obtained her master’s degree from the University of Michigan and then decided to pursue her law degree at the University of Notre Dame.

After graduation, Williams clerked for Judge Robert A. Sprecher of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, the same court to which she would ultimately be appointed. Following her clerkship, Williams became an Assistant United States Attorney (ALUSA) and the first woman of color to serve as a Deputy Chief and Chief of a Criminal Division in the Chicago office.

In 1985, after serving as the Midwest chief of a new nationwide narcotics initiative, she was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, making her the first woman of color to serve on a district court in the 7th Circuit. In 1993, President Bill Clinton’s nomination made her the first and only judge of color to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit and the third woman of color to serve on any federal circuit court.

In the midst of her professional success, Williams has led a number of local and national initiatives to expand access to legal education and resources for women and minorities. These efforts include being the founder of Just the Beginning—A Pipeline Organization, which creates scholarship opportunities for middle school through law school to equip them with the tools to pursue legal and judicial careers. She also co-founded the Black Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater Chicago and Minority Legal Education Resources, Inc., whose classes are now housed at the DePaul College of Law.

Williams, a lifelong educator, never forgot the importance of teaching the next generation of lawyers. While working as an ALUSA, she taught trial advocacy as an adjunct professor and lecturer at Northwestern University School of Law and John Marshall Law School. Later, as a judge, she continued teaching trial advocacy at Chicago-area law schools and Harvard Law School.

In her free time, Williams serves on the Board of Directors of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the University of Notre Dame, Equal Justice Works, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, G Wise, the Weinstein International Foundation, and Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry.

Williams’ numerous accolades and awards are a testament to her contributions to the legal profession and the administration of justice. She received the American Judicature Society’s 28th Annual Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, which honors U.S. federal judges “whose careers have been exemplary, measured by their significant contributions to the administration of justice, the advancement of the rule of law, and the improvement of society as a whole.” She also received the American Bar Association’s Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession’s Spirit of Excellence Award, and the National Bar Association’s Gertrude E. Rush Award, to name a few. Williams also has been recognized locally as the Chicago Lawyer Person of the Year, was listed as one of Chicago’s 100 Most Influential and Powerful Women by both Crain’s magazine and the Chicago Sun-Times, and was inducted into the Cook County Bar Association Hall of Fame.

Internationally, Williams has devoted herself to training judges and lawyers worldwide. Over the last two decades, she has partnered with judiciaries, attorneys, NGOs, and the U.S. Department of Justice and Department of State to lead training programs in Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda on topics such as domestic and gender violence, human and wildlife trafficking, judicial ethics and opinion writing, civil and criminal case management, alternative dispute resolution, and trial and appellate advocacy. Today, Williams continues her international work leading the law firm Jones Day’s efforts in advancing the rule of law in Africa.

DePaul University Commencement 2019
JURIS DOCTOR

Karina Abdyeva
Yusul Abusharif
Chidinma O. Ahukanna
Omoyele C. Ajayi
Michael P. Alexandrou
Paras R. Anjeja
Patricia A. Antvorakos
Cecel E. Arina
Matthew R. Barnes
Mariana Barba
Corey C. Bartkus
Annjivava Baskaranathan
Mackenzie F. Beideman
Anyjanaa Baskaranathan
Mackenzie F. Beideman
Tanya Bhatia
Miles Andrew Bishop
Shamis M. Boyd
Daniel Broduck
Eren G. Brown
Aleksandra Bursac
Brittany A. Butler
Tanya Bhatia
Miles Andrew Bishop
Shamis M. Boyd
Daniel Broduck
Eren G. Brown
Aleksandra Bursac
Brittany A. Butler
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Saint Vincent de Paul (1581–1660), for whom the university is named, lived in seventeenth-century France. He was a compassionate and deeply spiritual priest who dedicated his life to serving the poor. He founded the Congregation of the Mission, commonly known as the Vincentians. This is the Roman Catholic religious community that established and continues to sponsor DePaul University.

Vincent brought together and inspired groups of like-minded women and men to join him in addressing the needs of the poor, especially the materially, culturally and spiritually deprived, and to instill in educated persons a dedication to the service of others. The women and men of DePaul have retained the spirit as a highly valued heritage and a vital influence in every succeeding generation of the university’s development.

ACADEMIC DRESS

The tradition of academic dress dates back to the Middle Ages, when gowns were a common form of attire in early European universities. Since those universities were founded by the church, students were required to wear the prescribed gowns at all times. They represent an adaptation of the cape or mantle worn by religious dignitaries in processions.

The traditional color of academic gowns has been black, but over the years, other colors and styles were adopted. In 1856, the colleges and universities of the United States adopted a uniform code governing academic dress. The style of gown varies according to the academic degree awarded. The color of the lining of the hood indicates the college or university of the wearer’s degree.

For graduates of DePaul University, sky blue with a red chevron is used. The border of the hood is trimmed in a color indicating the field of study. Below is a list of the most common academic colors.

- White: Arts and Letters
- Scarlet: Theology
- Purple: Law
- Green: Medicine
- Dark Blue: Philosophy
- Yellow: Science
- Brown: Architecture and the Fine Arts
- Pink: Music
- Lilac: Dentistry
- Orange: Engineering
- Olive: Pharmacy
- Light Brown: Business
- Lemon Yellow: Library Science
- Light Blue: Education
- Peacock Blue: International Affairs
- Citron Yellow: Social Work
- Cardinal: Journalism

THE DEPAUL UNIVERSITY BANNERS

DePaul University and each of its 10 colleges and schools has a distinctive heraldic banner. These banners play a prominent ceremonial role in the university’s commencement ceremonies.

The university banner features DePaul’s colors, red and blue. The interrelationship between the university and the city is illustrated by the duality motif.

THE DEPAUL UNIVERSITY MACE

DePaul University has created, as part of its permanent institutional academic regalia, a university mace. The mace was commissioned by the Office of Mission and Values.

Originally used as a weapon in medieval warfare, the mace has been used ceremonially since the 12th century. Traditionally bearing coats of arms or other heraldic images, the mace was borne in procession—all on the right shoulder—as a symbol of civil, ecclesiastical and academic authority and jurisdiction.

Designed by the renowned liturgical artist Joseph Luis Ramirez of Aria Mundi Studios in Chicago, the DePaul University mace has been hand-crafted utilizing the finest materials and the talents of crafts-persons on two continents. The silversmith for the work was Husayn Baykal, a distinguished Turkish artist. The silver work of the mace is called repoussage. It is a process of beating sheets of silver on dense beds of tar. The silversmith taps the silver thousands of times with steel punches to bring forth the intricacies of the envisioned design.

Measuring approximately 9 inches long, the mace is made of hand-turned yew wood. Covering the pew wood are silver rose stems and buds symbolizing the passage of time and the renewal of life. Surrounding the mace is a phoenix from the university’s coat of arms. The phoenix rising from the flames is both a symbol of the Resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of the city of Chicago after the Great Fire of 1871. Also at the top of the mace are enamelled pendants of hearts and the crescent moon. These symbols are also taken from the coat of arms. The heart represents Saint Vincent de Paul. The crescent symbolizes Mary, the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States.

THE COAT OF ARMS

The main section of the shield consists of nine panes forming a heraldic cross, the symbol of the Christian faith. The center pane holds a heart, which represents Saint Vincent de Paul, for whom the university is named. Because he spent his life in the service of God and people, especially the poor, Saint Vincent is considered to be the Apostle of Charity. The pane above the heart holds a crescent symbolizing Mary, the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States.

The upper section contains a fleur-de-lis, symbol of France, Vincent’s homeland. These are shown, representing the Trinity. This section also carries two symbols of Chicago: A line suggestive of the wall of a fort represents Fort Dearborn. The phoenix rising from the flames atop the shield is both a symbol of the Resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of the City of Chicago after the Great Fire of 1871.

The inscription 1898 refers to the year DePaul was first chartered by the State of Illinois as St. Vincent’s College. In 1907 a new charter was granted in the name of DePaul University.

THE TREE OF WISDOM

The symbol expresses the university’s integration of education and religion by combining the forms of a tree and a cross. Central to the symbol is a modified cruciform, suggestive of the Catholic roots of the university. This cruciform is also expressive of the human form, with arms uplifted and outstretched to give spirit and life to the environment. The figure stands erect and balanced suggesting a strength of knowledge and values.

Viewing the symbol as a single unit, one sees our “Tree of Wisdom” resting firmly on the ground, with its square base and swirled limbs in symmetry. It has age and fullness in its trunk and limbs, suggesting tradition; and youth and simplicity in its internal negative spaces, representing leaf forms suggestive of sapling growth.

Typographically, the symbol incorporates and combines the lower case letterforms d, p and u. The “u” form extending upward from the trunk is a true arc, a section of a perfect circle. Its position relative to the “d” and “p” tap the silver thousands of times with steel punches to bring forth the intricacies of the envisioned design. The “u” form extending upward from the trunk is a true arc, a section of a perfect circle. Its position relative to the “d” and “p” tap the silver thousands of times with steel punches to bring forth the intricacies of the envisioned design.
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