



NOTES FROM THE DEAN

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INSIGHTS

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On Oct. 20-21, 2016, a cross section of more than 60 faculty, staff, students, alumni and administrators participated in a visioning retreat seeking to inform the future of our College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (LAS) through an active review of our history, current context, strengths, challenges and opportunities. As a result of that process, we have drafted a new vision that attempts to recast our narrative on the extraordinary value of the liberal arts in the 21st century.

Our resulting narrative finds as its point of departure the Vincentian question “What must be done?” and translates that question into a call for leadership for the common good. LAS is the core college of DePaul University, and as such, we proudly embrace the responsibility to provide leadership in the education of the 21st century’s leaders.

In the next few months, we will be undertaking the task of making our vision palpable not only through our curricula, but also through the distinctive profile of our students and alumni. At the end of the day, our graduates are our brand, and we look forward to celebrating their leadership in our communities, Chicago, our nation and the world.

This issue of INSIGHTS is a celebration of the leadership that makes our brand distinctive and real. In addition to the main feature on “The Liberating Arts” and how our college promotes a brand of leadership empowered by the liberal arts, I would like to bring your attention to interviews with Associate Professor Valerie Johnson, modern languages student Citlali Ochoa and history alumnus Leroy K. Martin Jr., now presiding judge of the Cook County Circuit Court’s Criminal Division, on their leadership for the common good. Their vocation to serve others not only is inspirational, but also sets an example for all to follow.

It is also a pleasure to share the testimony of political science major Wuilber Diaz on the life-changing power of philanthropy, and to celebrate the granting of the inaugural LeRoy D. Sanders and Mary Clare McHugh Sanders Endowed Professorship to Tera Agyepong, assistant professor in our Department of History.

These are exciting times to be at DePaul. As we welcome Dr. Gabriel Estaban as our new university president, we look forward to his inspiring leadership and a bright future for LAS.