The Coaches & Staff

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The Blue Demons
nation with an ERA of 0.83.

mark in the NCAA rankings, finishing third in the
was the national ERA individual champion. The
staff led the nation registering a school record
are no stranger to the NCAA rankings as his 1998
36th best ERA (1.29) while Tracie Adix was 28th
was led by Megan Huitink, who finished with
the nation with a .320 batting average and
throw strikes. The Blue Demons are known
revolves around the pitcher’s ability to
with a love for hit and runs, steals and taking
softball coach, and the 16th winningest all-
Totals 852-427-6 .664 221-28 .878
... .465 slugging percentage.

many of Lenti’s seasons have been highlighted with
big wins, conference titles and individual
player honors. In 1999 Lenti and his staff were
honored as the NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year, while Lenti was named the Mideast Coach of the Year. Lenti’s coaching staff was again honored by the NFCA in 2005 as they were named Mideast Coaching Staff of the Year. Lenti was named the Conference USA Female Coach of the Decade in 2005 after amassing a 105-21 record during the six seasons the Blue Demons competed in C-USA. Lenti was also named the C-USA Softball Coach of the Decade. Over the years, Lenti has been honored eight times as the Conference Coach of the Year.

Eugene is a master of not only teaching women
the game of softball but also the “game of life.” He
challenges his players to become better people while in his program. He teaches
them responsibility and accountability; he
demands that both on the field and in the
classroom. During his 24 year coaching stint at
DePaul, the 17 Academic All-Americans are the
second most, behind Nebraska, for any Division
I team. Kandace Nied was Eugene’s and the
University’s first Academic All-American in 1987. Since that time he has coached four first-
team selections, seven second-team selections and six third-team selections.

The Blue Demons swept Northwestern in the Chicago Super Regional to advance to their third Women’s College World Series before falling to eventual national champion Michigan and Alabama in the double-elimination tournament. DePaul punched its ticket to its eleventh NCAA Tournament appearance by winning its fourth Conference USA Tournament crown, while sophomore Megan Huittink became the fourth pitcher to be named Tournament MVP. Individually, Saskia Roberson became the just the third
DePaul player to earn All-American honors three times, while sophomore Tracie Adix and Freshman Sandy Vojik were named to the NFCA All-Region team. The Blue Demons also had five players named to the All-Conference roster while two others were named to the All-Freshman team.

The Blue Demons finished out the 2004 season strong, clinching the 2004 C-USA Tournament title in Louisville, Kentucky, securing DePaul’s tenth NCAA Regional appearance in eleven years. Individually, senior Sarah Martz and junior Saskia Roberson were named All-Americans and for the third straight year, Martz was named a CoSIDA Academic All-American. Martz was also named Louisville Slugger/NFCA Player of the Week (April 11-18), the MVP of the C-USA Tournament and was the NCAA Woman of the Year from the state of Illinois. Five players were honored with C-USA post-season honors while four others were named to the C-USA All-Tournament team.

Head coach Eugene Lenti has built the DePaul softball program from its infancy into a
national powerhouse. Lenti has been at the
helm of the program for 25 years; over that
time he has amassed three Women’s College World Series berths, 11 NCAA Regional
appearances, eight years of ending the season in the USA Today/NFCA Top 25 poll (six times in the top 10), 19 All-Americans, 17 Academic
All-Americans, eight first place conference
finishes, four Conference USA Tournament titles and has propelled the Blue Demon softball program to one of the nation’s elite.

With 852 wins under his belt, Lenti continues
his legacy as one of the winningest coaches in NCAA softball. His unprecedented record of 852-427-6 gives Lenti the title of DePaul’s
all-time winningest coach in any sport. He is
currently listed as the 12th winningest all-time softball coach in NCAA history.

Lenti describes his style of play as “aggressive”
with a love for hit and runs, steals and taking
the extra base when appropriate. He also places
an emphasis on strong pitching that
revolves around the pitcher’s ability to
throw strikes. The Blue Demons are known
as offensive powers as they have finished the 2003 and 2004 seasons ranked as one of Division I’s best hitters. 2004 saw the Blue
Demons finished with the 18th best team
batting average, hitting .294 at the plate. In 2003, DePaul finished ranked fourth in
the nation with a .320 batting average and
seventh with a .465 slugging percentage.

The 2005 DePaul pitching staff led the Blue
Demons to their third WCWS and finished with
the 26th best ERA (1.26) in the country. The staff was led by Megan Huittink, who finished
with 36th best ERA (1.29) while Tracie Adix was 28th
in the country with 24 wins. Lenti’s pitching staffs
are no stranger to the NCAA rankings as his 1998 staff led the nation registering a school record
0.60 ERA. That same season, junior Lisa Brown
was the national ERA individual champion. The
2003 pitching staff, which included second year assistant coach Lindsay Chouinard, also left their
mark in the NCAA rankings, finishing third in the
nation with an ERA of 0.83.

The Lenti Record...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Overall W-L-T</th>
<th>Conf. W-L-T</th>
<th>Conf. W-L</th>
<th>Conf. W-L-T</th>
<th>Finish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>61-13-0</td>
<td>.516</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>First win season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>18-16-1</td>
<td>.529</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Program’s first 20 win season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>20-14-0</td>
<td>.568</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Third straight winning season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>17-13-0</td>
<td>.567</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Program’s first .650 winning percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>19-14-0</td>
<td>.576</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Fifth Star North Star Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>33-18-0</td>
<td>.647</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>First Star North Star Conference of the Year and Champions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>29-14-0</td>
<td>.667</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Star First Star of the Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>32-18-1</td>
<td>.627</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Third Committed as a DI team for the first time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>32-23-1</td>
<td>.571</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Third Star North Star Conference of the Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>39-28-0</td>
<td>.562</td>
<td>2-2 .857</td>
<td>Third Star North Star Conference of the Year</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>32-22-0</td>
<td>.600</td>
<td>13-1 .929</td>
<td>First Program’s first post season appearance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>38-28-0</td>
<td>.576</td>
<td>13-3 .813</td>
<td>Second Second post season appearance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>42-17-0</td>
<td>.672</td>
<td>14-2 .875</td>
<td>Second Second post season appearance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>38-25-0</td>
<td>.576</td>
<td>10-2 .833</td>
<td>First NCAA Tournament appearance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>44-17-0</td>
<td>.721</td>
<td>10-2 .833</td>
<td>Second First NCAA Tournament appearance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>48-13-0</td>
<td>.771</td>
<td>12-0 1.000</td>
<td>First First in program’s history to win 44 games</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>47-8-0</td>
<td>.835</td>
<td>10-0 1.000</td>
<td>First NCAA Tournament Regional Finals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>54-14-0</td>
<td>.794</td>
<td>22-0 1.000</td>
<td>First WCWS Appearance/NFCA National Coach of the Year</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>40-22-0</td>
<td>.612</td>
<td>14-1 .933</td>
<td>First WCWS Appearance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>51-16-1</td>
<td>.785</td>
<td>17-3 .850</td>
<td>First C-USA Coach of the Year/ NCAA Tournament</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>50-11-0</td>
<td>.833</td>
<td>20-1 .952</td>
<td>First NCAA Tournament Regional Finals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>47-12-0</td>
<td>.781</td>
<td>22-2 .907</td>
<td>First C-USA Regular Season &amp; Tournament Champions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>39-22-0</td>
<td>.600</td>
<td>13-9 .941</td>
<td>Fourth C-USA Tournament Champions/ NCAA Tournament</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>45-21-0</td>
<td>.661</td>
<td>19-5 .795</td>
<td>Second WCWS Appearance, C-USA Tournament Champions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 2003 season was highlighted with three wins over top ten teams. The Blue Demons defeated No. 1 UCLA on March 9th by the score of 1-0; No. 3 Nebraska on March 13th, by the score of 7-2; and No. 7 LSU on February 8th, 4-0. DePaul posted a record of 48-7-1, returned to the NCAA tournament and won both the Conference USA regular season and tournament titles. DePaul finished the year ranked No. 9 in the NFCA/USA Today Poll. Individually the team registered three All-Americans and two Academic All-Americans. Current Assistant Coach Lindsay Chouinard was named as the NFCA National Player of the Week (March 10-16), as well as Conference USA Player and Pitcher of the Year.

2002 proved to be another landmark year for Lenti and DePaul softball. The Blue Demons entered the season ranked 19th only to achieve a higher standing of 11th at the season’s end. After winning the C-USA regular season and tournament championships, the Blue Demons finished second at the NCAA Region II tournament, coming just one game short of advancing to the College World Series. Lenti’s deep pitching staff led the team with Lindsay Chouinard being named C-USA Pitcher of the year, and MVP of the C-USA Tournament and NCAA Regional. Current Assistant Liz Bouck was named C-USA Player of the Year.

The 2001 softball team ascended to 8th in the NFCA/USA Today Top 25 poll. A Conference USA regular season title and another trip to the NCAA Tournament where Lenti’s squad won its opening round game for the fourth consecutive season highlighted the 51-win campaign. Lenti was named the C-USA Coach of the Year, while freshman Sarah Martz was a second team All-American after earning the conference’s Player and Freshman of the Year awards.

The 2000 season saw the Blue Demons return to the College World Series for a second consecutive year after sweeping through the NCAA Regional without allowing a single run. DePaul did not allow a run in five regional contests and boasted a scoreless inning streak of 37 straight frames.

The 1999 edition of DePaul softball will remain etched in school history for not only reaching the Final Four; but for finishing third in the NFCA/USA Today final top 25 poll, winning the NCAA Regional after reaching the title game in the previous two seasons, posting a school record 54 victories, winning a third consecutive Mid-Continent Conference title, having three All-Americans and having two Academic All-Americans. For his efforts, Lenti and his staff were named the 1999 NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year.

In 1998, the Blue Demons went 47-8, and finished 10th in the final NFCA/USA Today Top 25 poll. DePaul won the Mid-Continent Conference regular season and tournament title. They opened the NCAA tournament with a victory over Illinois-Chicago, then fell to Michigan, beat UIC again before being eliminated by the Wolverines in the regional final. The DePaul pitching staff led the nation in earned run average. Individually, two Blue Demons, Yvette Healy and Liza Brown, were named All-Americans.

DePaul finished the 1997 season ranked 21st in the final NFCA/USA Today Top 25 poll. The Blue Demons roared to a 42-15 record, including a perfect 12-0 ledger in the Mid-Continent Conference leading them to the regular season and tournament title. DePaul came within one win of the College World Series.

In 1995 DePaul won the Mid-Continent Conference title and earned with it the program’s second berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The 1994 season was a season of firsts; the Blue Demons made their first NCAA Tournament appearance and saw their name appear in the NFCA/USA Today. DePaul finished 42-17 record, marking the first time a Lenti-coached team had recorded 40 victories.

Lenti took a break from coaching after the 1987 season but returned in 1990. The 1991 and 1992 season saw the Blue Demons win 39 games; win the North Star Conference Title and Lenti was named the Conference Coach of the year.

Before coming to DePaul, Lenti was an English teacher and Chairman of the English Department at St. Francis DeSales High School.

A 1979 graduate of DePaul with an English Education degree, Lenti and his wife Kandace reside on Chicago’s North Side. The couple has three daughters, Ali (13), Gena (11) and Cate (9).
A Conversation with Coach Lenti

What is DePaul Softball?
We are a team that is first and foremost extremely competitive. From out one to out 21, we play an aggressive, fundamentally sound game that is fun to watch. We have a strong desire to win and never give up even when we are down. We come into each game determined to dominate and play our game.

What is your coaching philosophy?
I want to develop young athletes into not only good softball players but exceptional human beings. I want every player to leave DePaul as a better person than when she started. My coaching staff and I not only teach the game of softball but we also stress the fundamentals of life, which include critical thinking and appropriate behavior.

What makes your coaching staff one of the premiere staffs in the nation?
We keep things in perspective. We are all competitive, hard working and we want the same from our players. However, we want our players to have a “typical college experience” and I think that sets us apart from other programs.

What do you look for in a recruit?
I want to see how they interact with their teammates. I look for leadership within their current team as well as exceptional softball skills. I want to find players who come from strong families, have high self-esteem and a strong work ethic.

What did it mean for the team to reach the Women’s College World Series last season?
It validated the system we have here at DePaul. It was our third trip to Oklahoma City and each time we did it with a totally different pitching staffs. Many teams get to the WCWS on the strength of one great pitcher, we got there on three great teams! Last season the team peaked when we wanted them too. They were dominate throughout the entire season as it tells us if we have played beyond our potential and capabilities on the field during that season. More often than not we end up higher in the Final Poll then we started in the preseason which a good indicator that we exceeded most peoples expectations. Going above and beyond people’s expectations has become a rally cry for the program as we always seem to do what people say we can’t or should not be doing. We really enjoy peoples reactions when we get to Oklahoma City… “DePaul? How did they get here again?”

Looking at your schedule there are 13 games against ranked opponents and reigning National Champion Michigan. Competing against the Nations Elite makes what statement about the DePaul Softball Program?
A schedule like ours prepares us for two things, conference play and the post season. Playing the likes of a Michigan or a Fresno State or a Washington we feel we are up to any challenges we might face in our BIG EAST schedule. Secondly, the schedule prepare us for anything we might see in the post-season. I really believe that playing a tough schedule has been one of the keys behind our three Women’s College World Series appearances. Playing a difficult schedule prepares us for the NCAA Tournament as we are prepared for anything and are confident against anyone.

Talk about the challenges of starting the season ranked 14th and 16th in the Preseason Polls.
The preseason polls are never a focus of ours and neither are the regular season polls. The only Poll that matters is the one at the end of the season as it tells us where we finished; as it tells us if we have played beyond our potential and capabilities on the field during that season. More often than not we end up higher in the Final Poll then we started in the preseason which a good indicator that we exceeded most peoples expectations. Going above and beyond people’s expectations has become a rally cry for the program as we always seem to do what people say we can’t or should not be doing. We really enjoy peoples reactions when we get to Oklahoma City… “DePaul? How did they get here again?”

Winningest Active Coaches
Coach Team Yrs. W L T Pct.
1. Margie Wright, Fresno St. 26 1,169 409 3 .740
2. JoAnne Graf, Florida St. 22 1,092 342 6 .760
3. Gayle Blevins, Iowa 26 1,060 486 5 .685
4. Mike Candrea, Arizona 19 1,027 203 0 .835
5. Yvette Girouard, LSU 25 1,012 325 0 .757
6. Joyce Compton, S. Carolina 23 947 417 2 .694
7. Linda Wells, Arizona St. 31 914 679 1 .574
10. Pete Manarino, LB St. 22 812 486 2 .625
11. Kathy Veroni, Western Ill. 33 869 598 2 .592
13. Sue Enquist, UCLA 17 837 166 1 .834
14. Jay Miller, Mississippi St. 23 817 502 0 .619
15. Pete Manarino, LB St. 22 812 486 2 .625

Minimum five years as a Division I head coach; includes spring varsity fast-pitch record at four-year colleges only.
Liz Bouck, a former All-American, joined the Blue Demon staff as an assistant coach in August of 2004.

“Liz is a great addition to the staff,” Eugene Lenti said. “She has a great passion and enthusiasm for the game which should carry over to our current players.”

Bouck made an immediate coaching impact as she helped to guide the 2005 squad back to Women’s College World Series. The coaching staff was also named the Mideast Region Coaching Staff of the Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

Bouck plays a major role in recruiting and developing the Blue Demon offense and defense.

As a player (2000-2003) Bouck helped the 2000 team to a Women’s College World Series appearance and an overall record of 189-56-2.

“Liz has proven herself to be a solid student of the game. She’s a great teacher of the slap and has learned a lot about hitting,” Lenti added.

Bouck finished her career at DePaul holding the school record for most singles (248). She is also listed in the Blue Demon record book for amassing 101 stolen bases, 165 runs scored and 255 hits.

As a junior Bouck was named an All-American and was the Conference USA Player of the Year. She was also named to the NCAA Regional All-Tournament team four times.

Following her collegiate career, Bouck was chosen in the first round of the National Pro Fastpitch League by the Arizona Heat. She was traded to the Texas Thunder and led their offense with a .299 batting average. Her second year in the League landed her in Chicago, playing for the Chicago Bandits, a team coached by Eugene Lenti.

Bouck graduated in 2003 with a degree in graphic design. She resides in the Mokena, Illinois.

Lindsay Chouinard, a former All-American Pitcher and finalist for the Amateur Softball Association Player of the Year award in 2003, joined the Blue Demon staff as an assistant coach in August of 2004.

“Lindsay helped lead the 2000 team to the College World Series and is known in the softball community as one of its premier athletes,” Eugene Lenti said. “She brings a winning attitude and degree of mental toughness that is hard to find. She will work with our pitching staff developing them both physically and mentally.”

Chouinard’s pitching expertise was felt immediately as the Blue Demon pitching staff finished with the 35th best ERA (1.69) in the country in 2005. The coaching staff was also named the Mideast Region Coaching Staff of the Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

After finishing a decorated college career, Chouinard was the second overall pick in the National Pro Fastpitch Softball League 2003 draft. She spent her first season with the Texas Thunder before being picked up by the Chicago Bandits in 2005. Chouinard was named to the league’s All-Star team in 2005 after notching a 9-1 record.

As a freshman, Chouinard led the Blue Demons to the College World Series. She picked up All-American honors while being named the NCAA Regional MVP, Conference USA Freshman of the Year and was named to the Conference USA All-Tournament Team.

Chouinard continued her success on and off the field during the next three years, recording her name nationally on two additional All-American teams (2002, 2003) and two Academic All-American (2002, 2003) rosters. In C-USA she was named Player of the Year (2003), twice the Pitcher of the Year (2002, 2003) and was named to the C-USA All-Tournament team her final three years.

Chouinard holds 10 of the 13 DePaul pitching records, including wins with 108 and strikeouts with 858.

Chouinard graduated in 2003 with a degree in finance and is currently pursuing her MBA. She resides in the city of Chicago.
Tim Lang
Strength & Conditioning
WIU ’73/ Tennessee ’77

Nationally renowned strength and conditioning coach Tim Lang is in his sixth season as a member of the DePaul Athletic staff.

Lang’s duties at DePaul include directing and managing all aspects of the strength and conditioning programs within the Athletic Department. This includes designing and implementing sport-specific strength, conditioning, speed, agility and quickness programs for each of the Blue Demons’ 15 sports throughout the competitive and non-competitive seasons. Adding to the day-to-day conditioning aspects of his job, Tim administers fitness evaluations and sport-specific testing along with being actively involved with the rehabilitation programs administered by the DePaul sports medicine staff.

Lang joined the Blue Demon staff in November, 1999 after a five-year stint with the Texas Rangers, where he served as the major league and organizational conditioning coach. Prior to joining the Rangers, Tim spent three seasons on Chicago’s South Side as the White Sox’s Minor League Conditioning Coach. Working at an educational institution is nothing new to Lang, who was a health and physical education teacher at Downers Grove North High School from 1973-95.

Tim earned his certification from the National Strength and Conditioning Association (CSCS) in 1988 and USA Weightlifting in 1998.

A 1973 graduate of Western Illinois with a BS in Physical Education/Health Education, Lang earned his Master’s Degree in School Health/Community Health from Tennessee in 1977. Tim and his wife Monica reside in Arlington Heights, Ill.

Kate O’Brien
Athletic Academic Advising
Purdue ’94/ DePaul ’98

Kate O’Brien is in her fourth year as the Director of Athletic Academic Advising and her fifth in the DePaul Athletic Department.

In her current position, O’Brien is responsible for the daily operations of DePaul’s office of Athletic Academic Advising, which includes overseeing the athletic academic advising program, monitoring tutoring sessions, study tables and implementing DePaul’s NCAA Life Skills program. Specifically, O’Brien is in charge of the academic support and monitoring of women’s softball, volleyball and soccer programs, meeting daily with both student-athletes and the coaching staff to develop an academic strategy for each individual student-athlete.

Prior to taking her current position in July of 2001, O’Brien spent a year as the Athletic Academic Advisor/Career Coordinator in DePaul’s Office of Athletic Academic Advising. Before joining the athletic department, O’Brien spent three years as an academic advisor for DePaul’s College of Commerce. Kate also coordinated all aspects of the Premiere DePaul program within the College of Commerce including faculty advisor recruitment, selection, evaluation, training and supervision.

O’Brien also served as an adjunct faculty member at DePaul working in the University Internship Program and the Marketing Department. She currently serves as a Staff Professional in the Bridge Discover Chicago program and is team teaching an Effective Business Communication class offered through the Marketing Department.

A member of the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A), Kate also spent time as a member of DePaul’s Staff Council and is currently a member of the DePaul Alumni Association.

O’Brien earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Movement and Sports Science from Purdue University in 1994 and her MBA in Marketing and Human Resource Management from DePaul’s Kellstadt Graduate School of Business in 1998. She resides in Palatine, IL.
Rev. Dennis Holtschneider
DePaul University President

Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., was elected DePaul University’s 11th president by the Board of Trustees May 20, 2004, and assumed his new duties on July 1, 2004.

A Detroit native, Father Holtschneider studied at Harvard University and received his doctorate in administration, planning and social policy in 1997 after writing a dissertation on the early history of financial aid in the United States. He has been a case researcher and writer for Harvard’s schools of Education, Medicine and Public Health and was a faculty member in The Harvard Macy Scholars Institute for Physician Educators.

Father Holtschneider joined DePaul at an exciting time in its history. Steady enrollment growth has earned DePaul distinction as the largest Catholic university in America and the seventh largest private university in the country, fulfilling DePaul’s academic mission to expand access to quality educational programs to a diverse student body.

Students choose from more than 150 programs of study, including a part-time MBA that has ranked in the nation’s top 10 for the past decade. Students have benefited greatly from more than $300 million investment in state-of-the-art campus facilities since 1990, and they have voted themselves the happiest students in the nation twice in recent years.

DePaul is bringing a close to its current strategic plan, Vision 2006, after achieving many of its goals two years early. Father Holtschneider will share his expertise in strategic planning to help shape the university’s future initiatives, which are currently under development.

Father Holtschneider has led two national studies of American Catholic colleges and universities, examining trends in governance and leadership, and he consults on these matters with university boards of trustees and sponsoring religious congregations. He is the author and co-author of numerous articles and one book on Catholic higher education and U.S. higher education, as well as a frequent speaker on these topics.

Since 2000, he has served as executive vice president and chief operating officer at Niagara University in Niagara, N.Y., where he directed the university’s strategic planning efforts and daily operations of the campus. He was responsible for the financial strength of the institution, business operations, facilities, athletics, student life, human resources, enrollment management (admissions, financial aid and retention), union relations, campus ministry and university mission. By university statute, he served in the president’s stead during his absence.

Prior to his role at Niagara, Father Holtschneider was assigned to St. John’s University, where he served as an assistant professor of higher education in the Graduate School of Education and as the associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Father Holtschneider pursued his undergraduate education at Niagara, where he received a bachelor’s degree in mathematics in 1985. He studied for the priesthood at Mary Immaculate Seminary in Northampton, Pa., and was ordained in 1989.

After ordination, he served as director and then rector of the Vincentian Community’s college seminary program at Ozone Park in New York City and taught theology at St. John’s.

While in New York, Father Holtschneider was a clinical associate professor of higher education at the State University of New York at Buffalo, teaching one doctoral seminar each fall, and a faculty member and board member of the Boston College Institute for Administrators in Catholic Higher Education. He chairs the board of Rivershore, Inc., an organization serving developmentally disabled people in western New York.
Jean Lenti Ponsetto
Director of Athletics

One of the nation's most widely respected leaders in intercollegiate athletics and a driving force behind the continuing expansion and development of DePaul's athletic program, Jean Lenti Ponsetto is now in her fourth year as DePaul's Director of Athletics and her 31st as a member of the Blue Demon athletic family.

Jeanne moved into her current position on July 1, 2002 and the Blue Demons have experienced tremendous success both on and off the playing field ever since.

Ponsetto also guided the DePaul efforts in 2003 when the school announced it will join the BIG EAST Conference which begins this academic year.

An advocate for student-athlete welfare, Ponsetto initiated and provided the leadership for the Sullivan-McGrath Athletics Capital Campaign which has yielded the funding resources for the renovation of Walsh Soccer Field, Cacciatore Softball Stadium and the Cherry Family Indoor Track at the Ray Meyer Center.

Last year six DePaul sports (men's basketball, women's basketball, women's softball, men's and women's cross country and men's track and field) participated in postseason championships and a total of 12 Blue Demon programs have been to NCAA championships in her four seasons at the helm.

Success has also come in the classroom during Ponsetto's tenure as the Athletic Director. Nearly 341 Blue Demon student-athletes have been named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll including 54 who earned the league's Academic Medal for having a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or better.

Ponsetto's efforts haven't gone unnoticed by her colleagues, for the second time in her career; Ponsetto was presented NACWAA's Administrator of the Year Award in 2003.

A former four-sport standout for DePaul, Ponsetto boasts a wealth of experience in three areas of DePaul athletics: as a student-athlete, coach and administrator. She had spent seven years as the senior associate director of athletics after serving 12 years as the associate director and two as an assistant director before assuming her current job in 2002.

Aside from her duties at DePaul, has served on numerous NCAA Committees including a joint NCAA/USOC Task Force.

Ponsetto currently serves the NCAA as a member of the Division I Men's Basketball Issues Committee and, also, is an NCAA Champion, a program highlighting key NCAA Administrators to act as spokesperson from the membership on NCAA issues. Ponsetto also serves on the Honda Awards Board of Directors, chair the Wade Trophy Selection Committee, is the President-Elect of NACWAA and the NCAA Division I-AAA Board of Directors.

Ponsetto spent a five-year term as Chair of the 49-member NCAA Division I Championships/Competition Cabinet, a position she assumed in 1998 after one year as a member of the Cabinet. She was the first woman to chair a Cabinet and had the longest tenure as a Cabinet chair. Under Ponsetto’s leadership, the Championships/Competition Cabinet had several accomplishments, most notably the expansion of championship opportunities, an improved awards program, review of the Association’s bylaws with regard to playing and practice seasons, authorized a pro forma for the brackets and formats for all championships, and had the longest tenure as a Cabinet chair. Under Ponsetto’s leadership, the Championships/Competition Cabinet had several accomplishments, most notably the expansion of championship opportunities, an improved awards program, review of the Association’s bylaws with regard to playing and practice seasons, authorized a pro forma for the brackets and formats for all championships established comprehensive certification process for the 1-A Football Bowl Games and certified events. During her tenure she was a member of the NCAA Division I Budget Committee and served as an adviser to the NCAA President during the NCAA negotiations with ESPN which yielded additional championship appearances and revenue for the Association.

In 1999 Jeanne was one of only eight women appointed to the 29-person NCAA Division I Working Group to Study Men’s and Women’s Basketball Issues. This committee was formed to review matters important to the Division I membership including freshman eligibility, graduation rates, summer recruiting, student-athlete welfare, gambling, agents and outside influences to name a few.

Ponsetto was also appointed to the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball Marketing Committee which developed a plan for the potential growth in attendance and television viewer ship for both men’s and women’s basketball.

From 1992-98 Jeanne served on the NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Committee and was Chairperson her final two years. In this position Ponsetto was in charge of all aspects of the NCAA Tournament including the selection of the 64 teams that compete in the championship as well as the administration of the tournament. Additionally, she was selected to serve on the NCAA Basketball Officiating Committee, which oversees the officials’ clinics and tournament officiating.

Ponsetto has received several awards for her outstanding work at DePaul and for her leadership serving the NCAA members and student-athletes. At the 1998 Final Four the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association named her Administrator of the Year. In addition, the National Association of College Women’s Athletic Administrators (NACWAA) named her Administrator of the Year. Subsequently, Ponsetto was appointed to the NACWAA Board of Directors.

In September of 1999 Jeanne was honored by DePaul with a Spirit of DePaul Award that was given to five members of the DePaul community for their university leadership and service in the spirit of St. Vincent dePaul.

A gifted public speaker, Ponsetto was the Master of Ceremonies at the 2002 Honda Collegiate Woman Athlete of the Year Awards Program and has been a presenter at NCAA Regional Compliance seminars and NCAA Student Leadership Conferences. She is also a frequent guest on radio and television programs regarding issues that face intercollegiate athletics today and has served as a color analyst for Fox Sports Net during telecasts for college basketball, volleyball and softball contests. In 2000 she served as a studio analyst for ESPN during the NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament.

Since moving into an administrative position over 20 years ago at DePaul, Ponsetto has had a significant impact on the status of the DePaul intercollegiate sports scene. She introduced four women’s sports - indoor and outdoor track, cross country and women’s soccer to varsity status at DePaul. Under her direction DePaul has built several athletic facilities including the state-of-the-art DePaul Athletic Center that opened in 2000, along with the Ray Meyer Fitness Recreation Center that opened in 1999.

Ponsetto was one of 16 administrators selected nationally to serve on the NCAA’s Life Skills Task Force in 1993 which is a project sponsored by the NCAA Foundation to assist institutions in the preparation of student-athletes for the out-of-the-classroom learning experiences they encounter. The program components include Academics, Athletics, Personal Development, Community Service and Career Development.

Ponsetto, who is a member of the DePaul Athletic Hall of Fame, began her association with Blue Demon athletics as a member of the tennis, volleyball and women’s basketball teams in 1974-75. In turn, she participated in softball when it was added as a varsity sport two years later.

Following graduation in 1978 she was named the school’s first assistant women’s basketball coach by then head coach Doug Bruno. Ironically, she then hired him as head women’s coach when he returned to that position in 1988.

Jeanne’s work within the Chicago sports scene was been duly noted. In 2004 Ponsetto was named one of the top 100 most influential women in Chicago by the Chicago Sun-Times and second in sports behind Chicago Bears owner Virginia McCaskey. In the Spring of 2003 she was awarded the Leonardo Da Vinci Outstanding Achievement in Education Award by the Sons of Italy and in September was inducted into the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame, whose membership includes Ray Meyer, Mike Ditka, Walter Payton and Michael Jordan, to name a few.

Married to former Blue Demon basketball star Joe Ponsetto, now Chief of Special Prosecution’s Bureau in the Illinois Attorney General’s office; she comes from a family intertwined in education and athletics. One brother, Frank Lenti, is head football coach at Mt. Carmel High School in Chicago. In the fall of 1999, the Chicago Tribune named Frank as the high school football coach of the century in Illinois. Another brother, David, is an assistant under Frank with the Caravan. Two other brothers work for the DePaul athletic department as Michael is the Director of Auxiliary Services and Eugene is the school’s all-time winningest coach as the head softball coach. Her sister Marilyn, an elementary school teacher in south suburban Dolton, is a DePaul graduate as are Eugene and David.