



Educational program meets a variety of needs

Not everyone studying at Divine Word College is here for a degree. In fact, some students are already ordained priests or in vows as Brothers. While the mission is primarily to educate men who are considering vocations with the Society of the Divine Word, the program can meet the needs of students with other goals as well.

In seeking to maximize the use of its educational resources, the college serves students in programs beyond the traditional degree tracks.



Rev. Emanuel Ruroin Tanu, SVD

Language learning

When Rev. Emanuel Ruroin Tanu, SVD, was ordained in 2004, he hoped that his first assignment as a priest would be in the United States. He is from Indonesia and completed all of his formation in his home country. “I wanted to be a missionary in the U.S. because I have heard of other Indonesian priests who had good experiences here,” Tanu said.

Tanu’s wish came true and he has been assigned to a parish in the Society’s U.S. Southern Province. But before he can begin his new ministry, Tanu must improve his English language skills so he can communicate better with his parishioners.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program is perfect for SVDs who need to learn English for ministry in an English speaking country. Tanu will study at DWC for two semesters to fine tune his speaking and writing skills. “I learned some basic English grammar in high school. The first time I came here I didn’t feel comfortable. I was very poor in vocabulary. It was difficult.”

With help and instruction from ESL faculty, Tanu is almost ready to begin his new assignment this summer. “Day by day I feel more comfortable. I feel confident after studying for two semesters. I think I am ready to go to the Southern Province.”

French connection

Six years ago, the college entered into a partnership with the Institut Catholique d’ Études Supérieures (ICES) located in France. Each year, a group of political science students enrolls in DWC for a 10-week program to learn about American government and culture. Students live with host families in the area and take classes at the college. Aurélie Deletang is a member of this year’s class.

Aurélie is a minority at DWC being one of only two women in her classes. But the situation doesn’t really bother her. “It is the same in France and it is not a problem,” she says.

What is different between DWC and her school in France is the amount of homework that is assigned. “In France we have a lot of classes and a lot of exams but not much homework. Here there are not many classes but lots of homework.”

School work is keeping Aurélie busy, but there is time for fun too. The French students go on several field trips to state and local government sites and even fit in a ski outing. That was great for Aurélie since one of her favorite things about DWC and Iowa is the snow!



Aurélie Deletang

Associate program

DWC associate student Joel Peterson heard and answered God’s call after serving for five years in the U.S. Navy, working for two years in the emergency room of a West Coast hospital and earning a degree in social work. “The first time I felt that I might have a vocation I ignored it. But the notion was always floating in the back of my mind.”

The associate program at Divine Word College is designed to give those who have already completed a college degree the opportunity to begin their formation and to experience ministry first

A Word from the President



**Rev. Ken Anich, SVD
Acting President**

Divine Word College exists primarily for the education of men seriously considering a vocation as a priest or Brother with the Society of the Divine Word. However, our educational mission goes beyond providing classes and formation to our seminary students.

We provide English as a Second Language instruction to current SVD priests and Brothers who need English speaking and writing skills for an assignment in an English speaking country.

Associate students come to us with a college degree, but may need additional philosophy or theology courses before proceeding in their formation with the Society.

Our relationship with the Institut Catholique d' Études Supérieures (ICES) allows political science students from France – both men and women – the opportunity to learn about American government and culture while interacting in a global community.

Regular college classes are also open to area residents interested in enrolling in a course in a multi-cultural learning environment.

Divine Word College has a wealth of educational and cultural resources to share. Opening our doors to additional student groups helps us be more efficient with those resources. It also enriches the college educational experience of our seminarians through their interactions with individuals from a range of cultures and world views, backgrounds and experiences. We are able to do this without losing sight of our primary mission, to educate future Divine Word Missionaries.

Of course, programs at Divine Word College are possible only through the generosity of friends and benefactors. Though your gifts and prayers we are able to continue offering a high quality education not only for our seminary students, but others as well.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Educational program *continued*

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hand. Typically, men participating in this program have had jobs and thoughts that life would lead them in other directions.

Peterson says that as he looked at other paths for his life, God seemed to close those doors. "The idea (of religious life) would come to the surface occasionally, and for me it was a matter of acting on it."

So he went in search of information on religious life and filled out a form on a vocations website that works with many religious orders of priests and Brothers. "Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD, called me out of the blue and invited me to visit the college." Peterson accepted the invitation and was admitted to the college last fall.

Peterson will spend one year in the associate program in Epworth and has applied to the Society of the Divine Word's novitiate program in Techny, Ill. He hopes to continue with the Society's Brother program. "I've always wanted to travel and help people," he said. Being a part of the SVD will give him the opportunity to "help people throughout the world."



Joel Peterson

Mission remains the same

Divine Word College is able to serve a diverse student population with different educational needs. By expanding the student base, the college is not only efficiently using its resources while providing an education for seminary students, but it also enhances their education with the diverse experiences of the non-traditional students.

While college continues to look for innovative ways to use its valuable resources and deliver a quality educational program, the mission of educating future missionaries for service in the Church remains foremost priority.

Portrait photography is a special skill that a missionary in Ethiopia uses to connect with people.

The Hannon-Dodds Gallery at Divine Word College is hosting an exhibit of photography, by the Rev. Pedro Pablo Hernandez, a Comboni missionary priest in Ethiopia.

"I want to capture the precise moment that their faces communicate what they are truly living and experiencing," he said in a press release. "I freeze this communication with my lens, leaving the imprinted relationship between us that is not based on words but on facial expressions."

The exhibit of his work opened with a reception on January 18 and continues through May 31. It is free and open to the public.

Hernandez has said he uses photography to share the beauty of the people, their lives and the depth of their emotions.

"I recognize that many of the emotions are like my own," he said, "happiness, peace, need or sadness." He said the people he works with are like his brothers, friends and companions.

The exhibit is organized by Maria Maza, of Northbrook, Ill., who attended the opening.

In a phone interview, she explained that she has known the priest for 20 years. Their friendship began when he baptized her daughter at Assumption Catholic Church in Chicago.

Maza, convinced that his photographs are both remarkable and marketable, organized a small exhibit at Divine Word in Techy, Ill., near her home. There, the Rev. Michael Hutchins, president of Divine Word College, Epworth, saw the photos and asked to bring the exhibit to Iowa.



Hernandez tries to share the beauty of the Ethiopian people, their lives and the depth of their emotions in his photography

culture and everyday life of the people and also is writing a book.

"He's so gifted. I tell him he should finish it," Maza said. He has produced three video documentaries.

"People have a misconception of Ethiopia. (The people) are not hopeless. They live a true life - maybe better than we do." Their concerns are immediate - food on the table for that day, water and religion, she said.

Hernandez works with the Guyi people in southern Ethiopia. After his first six year term, he returned to Mexico to work as a vocational promoter to youth, sharing his experiences as a missionary priest.

He also took a yearlong course on spiritual missionary and human formation in South Africa, where he learned about Comboni missions in Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia.

There are about 60 photos in the exhibit.



The Rev. Pedro Pablo Hernandez is a missionary in Ethiopia. His photos are on exhibit at Divine Word College.

Priestly photos

Spiritually inspired exhibit on display

SANDYE VOIGHT

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Dubuque *Telegraph Herald*

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Hernandez

Maza said prints of the photos can be ordered and after the exhibit, the displayed photos also will be available for sale.

One of 12 siblings, Hernandez wanted as a child first to become a pilot and then a doctor, before the priest and nuns in his home parish in Mexico inspired him to a religious vocation.

Learning about the life of St. Daniel Comboni transformed his dreams of travel and helping the needy to one that focused on sharing the Gospel.

He began seminary and did his philosophical work in Mexico City and his theology work in Chicago. He was made a deacon in south Baja California and was ordained in 1989.

"I feel like he's an artist all the way around," Maza said.

To capture images, he uses a 35mm Nikon camera as well as a digital camera.

The priest keeps a daily journal about the

DWC student members of Seminarians for Life participated in the Walk for Life sponsored by the Dubuque County Right to Life on Saturday, January 21, in Dubuque, Iowa. The event began with a rally and then a march to the county courthouse.

Student Senate President Giang Nguyen was interviewed by a local television station covering the event. Nguyen shared his personal reason for participating in the Right to Life activities: “My vision is to speak up and be a voice for life at all stages whether it’s the unborn or whether it’s the prisoner.”

This local march was a prelude to the annual March for Life in Washington D. C. scheduled later that week.

A generous benefactor made it possible for four DWC students to join the Dubuque County contingent of over 400 people making the trip to Washington, D.C. While in the nation’s capital, they attended a special Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, kicking off the three-day pilgrimage. Young and old participated in the rally on the Washington Mall and the march to the Capitol and the Supreme Court. The Dubuque County group was honored by being chosen to lead the March.

DWC student Lam Tran participated in the March and was encouraged by the peaceful tone of the demonstration. “I was touched by the pious actions of the fellow participants including those from the Dubuque County Right to Life, the local college students and other fellow Iowans. I saw a number of people constantly saying prayers to end abortion in a peaceful manner. That was powerful and beautiful.”

Dubuque County Right to Life group members gathered with DWC’s Seminarians for Life in late February to reflect on their experiences and join in a Holy Hour of prayer.

The Seminarians for Life Club organized in the spring of 2004 with Rev. Bill Shea, SVD, serving as the faculty sponsor. The purpose of the club is to promote the Gospel of Life by prayer and action.



DWC student Thomas Do carries a banner during the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January. Behind him, French marchers display a banner that reads, “The right to be born.”

Memorial and tribute gifts offer an opportunity to honor a relative, a friend or a business associate for any special occasion – birthday, anniversary, promotion or some particular accomplishment. The memorial gift also provides a thoughtful and appropriate way to express sympathy at the moment and remembrance in the future. You may send memorial gifts to Divine Word College, P.O. Box 380, Epworth, Iowa, 52045-0380.

Memorials have recently been received in honor of:

Nick & Veronica Averkamp	Eileen Burds Clarence Dirksen, Jr.	Dennis Kean Adele Klocke	Robert Meyer William Miller	Pat Rodgers Florence Scherbring
Irene Bardon	Elaine Goedken	Donna Lyons	Louise Milzarek	Katherine Shea
Edward Beecher	Albert P. Herrig	Michael Mangin	James Nie	John Sweeney
Eldon Boffeli	Elaine Herring	Robert Mangin	Leo & Marie Rahe	Kennith Ternes
Ray Brimeyer	Kenneth Hoefler	Marie McMahon	Ralph Recker	Donald Welter
Nicholas Bugner	Rev. Matthew Jacoby, SVD	Florence Meyer	Mercedes Ries	Marie Wuschke

Memorials



Mr. Mark Singsank
VP for Development

You truly do make a difference in the lives of our seminarians, priests and Brothers! Thanks to many of you, Divine Word College is experiencing another successful year in receiving financial support for our seminarians and their educational program.

Our Annual Appeal has once again reached beyond the \$100,000 mark and is currently at \$103,000. This year's Annual Appeal will help us continue to remodel classrooms that have been the same since the 1960s. The rooms are receiving new carpet or tile, more efficient lighting, desks, white boards and audio-visual equipment. We are also updating a lecture hall to make it handicap accessible and usable for more college and community functions.

All of these additions are important to provide our seminarians with a positive learning experience. If you have helped with the Annual Appeal, we are grateful for your generosity. If you are still interested in participating, gifts will be accepted until June 30.

Spring Brunch

On Sunday, March 26, Divine Word College will hold our annual Spring Brunch. Hundreds of generous businesses and individuals support this event by contributing items for our silent and live auction. The day begins with mass at 9:30 am followed by a delicious brunch and lively bidding at the silent auction tables and during the live auction.

Tickets are \$30 per person with all proceeds going to the Divine Word College Cultural Arts Program. If you are interested in attending the Spring Brunch or donating an auction item, please to contact the Development Office at 563-876-3057 ext. 296.

Divine Word College to Host European Trip

Father Mike Hutchins, SVD, Divine Word College president, will lead a once-in-a-lifetime tour to many of the significant Society of the Divine Word sites in Europe. The tour will depart October 9 and return October 20, 2006.

A tentative itinerary includes:

- * Sight-seeing and overnight in Amsterdam
- * Goch, Germany, and the home of Saint Arnold Janssen, founder of the Society
- * Steyl, The Netherlands, where the Society was formed
- * St. Augustin Seminary near Bonn, Germany
- * Three nights in southern Germany with trips to Neuschwanstein Castle, Oberammergau and Salzburg
- * Oies, Italy, home of Saint Joseph Freinademetz, first missionary to China
- * A gondola ride in Venice
- * Padua and Florence
- * Sienna and Assisi
- * Three nights in Rome - Experience Vatican City, the Catacombs, the SVD World Headquarters and possibly see Pope Benedict XVI at a general papal audience

This exciting journey will place you in the footsteps of the founder and early missionaries of the Society of the Divine Word. As an alumnus, former student or friend of the Society, you will enjoy this trip and learn more about the Society. Cost of this unforgettable experience will be approximately \$2500-\$3000, which includes air and land travel, overnight accommodations, entrance fees and at least one meal a day.

For more information contact me at Divine Word College by phone at 563-876-3057 ext. 208 or by email at singsank@dwci.edu

Naming opportunities

Msgr. Raymond Wahl, retired pastor from the Rockford, Ill., diocese and long-time supporter of Divine Word College recently donated \$15,000 and became the first participant in the "Sharing Our Vision" program.

The program assists friends and benefactors who may be interested in honoring a loved one or memorializing their family through naming opportunities at the college. Opportunities include a variety of awards, programs, scholarships and facilities.

Anyone interested in supporting DWC through the "Sharing Our Vision" program may contact the development office for an informational booklet.



Msgr. Wahl is shown outside the seminar room at DWC that bears his name.



Divine Word College

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On October 17 - 19, 2005, a team from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA) visited the college to confirm that DWC meets the NCA's accreditation criteria. Representatives of the entire college community participated in interviews with team members. The team's final report states categorically that DWC meets all the criteria for accreditation and recommends continuation of DWC's status for another ten years. The report now goes before a final review panel for official approval.

On January 3 DWC staff members took the opportunity to say thank you to 31 local friends who regularly attend daily Mass and other events at the college. Guests were invited to attend Mass and a special luncheon. At the conclusion of the event, staff presented attendees with goodie bags filled with homemade treats. Organizing the event were *Connie Simon, Karen Young, Marlene Koopman and Marilyn Taft*.

Fifteen students from the Institut Catholique d' Études Supérieures (ICES) arrived in January for a ten-week cultural immersion and program of study at DWC. This is the sixth annual visit by ICES students. While enrolled at the college, ICES students live with families in Dubuque County. In addition to studying English, the students learn about American government and culture.

"Happy New Year" wishes rang through the college on January 28 during the annual Lunar New Year celebration. Approximately 300 people joined the DWC community to welcome the Year of the Dog. The *Vietnamese Student Association* coordinated the event, which included a multilingual Mass, banquet and entertainment.

The Divine Word College Lion Dance team performed at the Multicultural Family Center in Dubuque on February 4. Students danced and shared information on Lunar New Year celebrations in Vietnam. Participating team members were *Nathaniel Nguyen, Phat Vu, John Pham, Phat Tran, Khoi Nguyen and Thomas Hoang*.

Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for May 12 - 13, 2006. The class of 2006 includes nine students.

Around the Campus

