

"Let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven."

- Matthew 5:16

the DWWC

World

Educating Tomorrow's Missionaries

Spring 2017



Did You Know?

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD, has been appointed the ninth president of Divine Word College and effectively took office on June 1. For the last six years, Fr. Tom has led the Chicago Province of the Society of the Divine Word as provincial. Look for an expanded article on our new president this fall.

Fr. Tom succeeds Fr. Tim Lenchak, SVD, who, after completing his second term as president, is beginning a new assignment as the Novice Director at Techny.

Reflect on the Past, Prepare for the Future

A minute into his commencement address, Dr. James Porter, a physician from Madison, Wis. and member of the DWC Board of Trustees, asked the Class of '17 to think about their lives.

"Let us take a few moments to reflect on the experiences that have brought each of you graduates here today," he said. "And let's ponder the great things God surely has in store for your futures."

Acknowledging the pride they rightly felt for the hard work required to earn their diplomas, he called to mind family, friends and members of the college community who supported them on their journeys. Then he asked that they think back further, to that time when they traveled from across the country and around the world to study at a small college in rural Iowa.

"Most of you arrived without more than rudimentary English language skills," he said, "yet you had the audacity to expect to be able to study subjects at a college level in a second language you were about to learn." Recalling a lesson from medical school, Dr. Porter said he found it wise to accept when someone asked,

"Would you like to..." because it was an opportunity that often led to a new experience or skill.

"Your opportunity for education is a gift that not everyone is given," he said. "Remain grateful and share your knowledge to help others less fortunate." Speaking from experience in a medical career that spans more than three decades, he has had the opportunity and privilege to share his knowledge of healing with patients more than 70,000 times.



Dr. James Porter

"I have come more and more to realize physical healing is but one factor in creating true health or wholeness," he said. "Each of you through your planned vocations in religious life will be vitally supporting the healing and wholeness of others through the goodness of Christ."

Encouraging them to watch for the opportunities their education will present while being mindful of the responsibility that knowledge brings, he called upon them to be open and aware of God's presence in their lives. Serve God and serve others each day, he advised, and see how life is not so much about the destination, as the journey.

A Word from the President:



Fr. Tim
Lenchak, SVD

I always enjoy walking around campus in the spring to delight in all the flowers and trees. In fact, I have planted about a dozen small trees here. This spring will see my last inspection tour of our campus finery as president of Divine Word College. I wonder what my young trees will look like in ten or twenty years. After all, the trees planted when I was a student here from 1967 to 1971 now tower over the building.

Similarly, I often wonder what our students will be like in ten or twenty years. During their time with us they have grown a great deal in knowledge, self-confidence, vocation discernment, and religious formation. They show great promise as future missionaries and leaders of the Church.

Before completing my presidency, I would like to thank the faculty, staff, administration, and formators for all that they have done to facilitate their growth. I also want to thank all of you for your generous support of our mission to educate future missionary priests, brothers, sisters, and lay ministers. My prayers will be with you with my hope that you will continue your generous support of Divine Word College.

Fr. Tim

Congratulations Class of '17



Sr. Hien Bui, LHC

Thanh Hoa, Vietnam

- BA- Intercultural Studies
- Future Plan: Return to Vietnam



Sr. Suong Dang, LHC

Binh Thuan, Vietnam

- BA- Theology & Religious Studies
- Future Plan: Return to Vietnam



Sr. Thuan Doan, LHC

Tra Vinh, Vietnam

- BA- Theology & Religious Studies
- Future Plan: Return to Vietnam



Stephanie Gado

Lome, Togo

- BA- Intercultural Studies
- Future Plan: Attend graduate school



Martin Hererra

Chicago, Ill.

- BA- Philosophy
- Future Plan: Attend the SVD Novitiate at Techny



Sr. Que Lam, LHC

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

- BA- Theology & Religious Studies
- Future Plan: Attend graduate school



Giovanni Lopez-Huerta

Riverside, California

- BA- Philosophy
- Future Plan: Pursue employment



Sr. Sang Pham, LHC

Thanh Hoa, Vietnam

- BA- Theology & Religious Studies
- Future Plan: Return to Vietnam



Sr. Xuan Tran, LHC

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

- BA- Intercultural Studies
- Future Plan: Attend graduate school

Awards and Scholarships for 2016 - 2017

Divine Word College honored a number of students, faculty and staff at the Recognition and Awards Luncheon on Thursday, May 4.

Donna Puccio Distinguished Service Award



Bro. Vinh Trinh, SVD

Bro. Vinh Trinh, SVD, director of maintenance at Divine Word College, received the Donna Puccio Distinguished Service Award. Fr. Ken Anich, SVD, made the nomination.

“Brother Vinh brings an incredible range of skills to the maintenance department and I would say has saved the college significant dollars,” Fr. Ken stated. “He appears to do so without complaining and, importantly, takes satisfaction in his work as living out his Brotherhood vocation.”



Donna Puccio

The DWC Board of Administration created the Distinguished Service Award in 2013 to recognize members of the staff who have provided outstanding service to the college. This year, the board renamed the award in honor of long-time president’s secretary, **Donna Puccio**, who will soon serve her eighth president when Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD, takes office on June 1.

Excellence in Teaching Award



Sharon Sinton

The college awarded **Sharon Sinton**, a member of the ESL faculty, the Rev. Charles Malin Excellence in Teaching Award.

“I was so surprised, but I appreciate this so much because it comes from the students,” Sharon said. “We really have wonderful students to work with.”

Following a selection process, the recipient is nominated by the students and selected by the college administration. The award is named to honor Fr. Charles Malin, SVD, the first Dean of Academic Affairs at Divine Word College.

Scholarships



Cruz Colunga

Liberty, Texas

- Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD, Scholarship
- Fr. Francis Kamp, SVD, Scholarship



Brian Junkes

West Palm Beach, Fla.

- Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD, Scholarship
- Fr. Robert Flinn, SVD, Scholarship



Hoang Duy Do

Alameda, Calif.

- Presidential Scholarship
- Fr. Chester Nowicki, SVD, Scholarship



Tomerot Lambert

Manitowoc, Wis.

- Mr. Al Hughes Scholarship
- Fr. Francis Kamp, SVD, Scholarship



Dung Tri Nguyen

Santa Ana, Calif.

- Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD, Scholarship



Thong Dinh Tran

Forest Park, Ga.

- Fr. Francis Kamp, SVD, Scholarship



Aquilino Perez

Giddings, Texas

- Fr. Chester Nowicki, SVD, Scholarship

A Day with Cardinal Timothy Dolan

With an Irish wit as quick as his smile and a comfort zone as big as the crowded rooms through which he strolled, greeting everyone as if they were family, His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan touched the hearts of all he met during his visit Thursday night through Friday, April 20-21.

“It was fun,” said Sandy Wilgenbusch, director of Public Relations, smiling through the memory of all the work by so many in the three-year effort to organize the cardinal’s visit to DWC. It resulted in a morning Mass followed by a social and visit with students, topped off by an evening fundraising dinner to support student scholarships, which drew nearly 600 people to the Grand River Center, in Dubuque.



“You must know how much I love and admire the Divine Word community,” Cardinal Dolan said of the SVD during the Mass he presided over on Friday morning. At one time, he thought about becoming a missionary before deciding on diocesan priesthood. Over time, he has stayed at Nemi, the scenic SVD retreat center near Rome. But it was the three years he spent living in the SVD house in Washington, D.C. while attending Catholic University that solidified his connection.

“Throughout my 41 years as priest and a bishop, I’ve gotten to know you even better and my admiration, my appreciation and my affection for you has even deepened,” he said. “So to be with you today is a real joy and an honor.”

After Mass, he graciously posed for photos with students, formation groups and SVDs—including Fr. Sonny DeClass, SVD, whom he ordained in 2005.



After Mass, Cardinal Dolan met with members of the Divine Word community, where he talked with students, where he talked with students. During the session, he talked with students before him.

“You look at the different colors, the countries of the world, one,” he said. “You have a different color because at the deepest





Dolan sat and enjoyed a cup of coffee and a... of the DWC community. Then he met with our... asked about his life and fielded questions. He noted the cultural diversity of those who sat

...rence in this room, the languages, the skin... origin, religious backgrounds, yet we are... ve more in common than you do in difference... core of your being is Jesus Christ.”

Prior to the fundraising dinner, Cardinal Dolan met and chatted with many who came to hear him speak. Greeting them with a witty remark, a handshake or a gentle arm around the neck, he offered everyone a kind word and, for some, a quiet blessing.

During the dinner, ably hosted by KWWL Channel 7 news anchor Amanda Goodman, His Eminence roamed the room, going from table to table, meeting as many of the attendees as possible.



Taking the stage, among his remarks, he recounted the morning Gospel reading, where Christ appeared to the Apostles as they fished in shallow waters, discouraged because they weren't catching any fish. Directing them to "cast out into the deep," their boat was soon filled with a massive catch. Cardinal Dolan compared the Apostles with the Church today, which is often discouraged by setbacks and difficulties. He called upon everyone to reclaim a sense of "mission" by "casting out to the deep." Then he called on our students to stand.

"They... show us a church...not at ease but ever on the march, a church on permanent mission, we are all missionaries, we are all 'casting out to the deep,'" he said. "I thank God that we have the Divine Word Missionaries and Divine Word College to help do that, and I thank God that they have you to help them do that better."

For DWC, it was a historic milestone, the day it spent with Cardinal Timothy Dolan.

DWC Photo Gallery

For the better part of four days in mid-March, with patience and skill (l to r) Sr. Tuyen Tran, FMI; Sr. Duong Nguyen, LHC; Sr. Dieu Nguyen, LHC; and Sr. Thanh Nguyen, LHC, created more than 52 stoles for the SVDs at Divine Word. The stoles were made from cloth in the four colors of the liturgical seasons—purple, green, white, and red—which was donated by a friend of the college.



A parishioner (l) of Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Louisville, Ky. works with Thong Tran (center standing), Christian Castro (center holding rail) and Jason Oller, as they install an access ramp at the home of a parishioner. The three students were part of a group of more than a dozen DWC students who traveled to four SVD parishes in four states to do service work during Spring break, March 11-18.



On Friday, March 31, Divine Word College welcomed Chicago-based storyteller, Shanta, who shared rich folktales from Africa. Such stories traditionally contained a civilization's history, culture and values when written records didn't exist. Coupled with her enlightening and entertaining recitations, Shanta blended her considerable talents on an eclectic mix of instruments such as the mbira, sitar, guitar and African drums.



On Good Friday, April 14, members of the Divine Word College community followed as freshman Xavier Campbell led the way carrying the symbol of Christ's crucifixion, flanked by Joubert Felix and Christian Castro, through a segment of the Stations of the Cross. The procession moved along a route, with each station affixed to a tree, between Megan Hall and the courtyard north of the main building.



Members of the African-Caribbean Student Association (ACSA) perform a traditional dance from Togo during the third annual Celebrate Africa! event at the University of Dubuque, on April 24. A collaboration between student and community organizations and area institutions of higher learning, the event celebrates African culture through its food, music and traditional fashion along with exhibits, educational presentations, and a panel discussion.



Nan Peck Retires



Nan Peck

Nan Peck became the college counselor at Divine Word College in 1991. After 25 years performing a host of duties and seldom—if ever—saying “no” to any reasonable request, she is retiring.

Beyond her work as counselor to students, she helped them develop academic skills as well as adjust to college life, which was especially important for international students. Many come with few belongings and often stay for many years before returning home. She has been on a host of committees—including more than 20 years on the Board of Trustees Formation Committee. She has been deeply involved with the FAN Club and a reliable volunteer and supporter of the college. In return for wearing so many hats, there has been the gratification of seeing good things happen.

“It’s been a blessing to watch students grow and mature as they gain knowledge academically and faith wise through formation, then watching them go on,” she said. “When you see those successes, wow, nothing’s better than that.”

“To leave the world a bit better . . .

. . . whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived—that is to have succeeded.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



Terry Sykora,
VP for Development

A college president I knew used to say, “Fundraising is like sausage. Everybody likes it, but nobody wants to see how it’s made.” I’ve been asked countless times, “Do you like asking people for money?” Well, not always, but I like the results—seeing an organization improve, supporting its mission, helping the people it serves.

Less obvious is the effect giving has on donors and volunteers. Asking people to give to a worthy cause brings out the best in them. It lets them know that they “have succeeded,” as Emerson put it.

Divine Word College has that effect on people in a wonderful way. Through your support, you help our missionaries succeed in preaching the Gospel while serving the poor around the world. I hope that, because of your support, your life has been improved and enriched, as well.

I am retiring at the end of this month. It has been a privilege to serve Divine Word College and to work with such an exceptional group of priests, sisters and brothers, as well as faculty, staff and students. Thank you for your generosity these past seven years, and please continue to support Divine Word College in the years ahead. May God bless you always.

Divine Word College
Third Annual
Benefit Golf Outing!
Friday, July 21
Timberline Golf Course, Peosta, Iowa
Help raise dollars to support our students!

- 18 hole, Four-Person Best Shot
- 1pm Shotgun Start
- Silent Auction and Raffles
- \$80 per person, includes golf, cart and steak dinner

*All proceeds go to the
DWC Student Scholarship Fund.*

Sign up to play or sponsor, contact Mark Singsank
at 563-876-0097 or singsank@dwci.edu

Join us!

For more information about Divine Word College, call 563-876-3353, email info@dwci.edu, or visit: www.dwci.edu

Matthew 25 Awarded to Three Deacons/Prison Ministry

Hope is a powerful thing. Even a little bit can turn a person's life around. Ask three area deacons who offer hope to those who lost it after bad decisions put them behind bars.

"That's what we provide, a little glimmer of hope," said Deacon Bill Hickson, coordinator of Jail & Prison Ministry for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. "We plant the seeds of compassion and provide a little bit of vision, leadership and guidance, and the Holy Spirit fills in the gaps." For their dedication to this ministry, Divine Word College honored Hickson and his brother deacons, Bill Biver and Tom Lang, with the Matthew 25 Award for 2017 at a prayer service and banquet on Wednesday, March 22.

Besides their work with inmates, the three have developed successful programs to help former prisoners avoid trouble and lead productive lives when they return to their communities. Nationally, 76 percent of former prisoners return within five years. In Iowa, it's approximately 32 percent. Among those who participate in the archdiocesan jail and prison ministry programs, it is less than 18 percent. "These men embody the

spirit of Chapter 25 of Matthew's Gospel," said Len Uhal, vice president for Vocations/Admissions at DWC, who nominated them for the award. "All three have been effective in their ministries by helping others make changes in their lives."

For more than 15 years, their work through Catholic Charities has increasingly supported and strengthened jail and prison ministries in the archdiocese. "These three men feel a passion to bring a sense of hope and the light of Christ to those who have experienced the judicial system," Uhal said. "It is appropriate to recognize them, honor them and thank them for their service to some of the least among us."

Divine Word established the Matthew 25 Award in 2001 to honor those in, or connected to, the area who minister in the spirit of Matthew 25:35-36.



Deacons Bill Biver, Bill Hickson and Tom Lang