



Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD

Every year when summer comes, I have mixed feelings. I'm relieved because the meetings and appointments are finished, but sad because I have to say goodbye to a lot of people. As the rector of the community and the director of the Divine Word Alumni Association, every year I write numerous cards to either say farewell to SVDs and students or to welcome new alumni members into the association.

Indeed, life is full of hellos and goodbyes. And every year I have to move the names of those who left DWC into the back of my mind in order to make room for the new ones who will come in August. Many times, I feel so tired and sad that I do not want to go through this process again. But what keeps me going is the fact that most – if not all – DWC students, SVDs, faculty and staff who leave here continue to keep in touch with the DWC community in various ways. And that also makes my job as the alumni director exciting! I have been given the opportunity to reach out to the alumni, to encourage them to keep the fire for the mission alive in their hearts. It's personally fulfilling to hear stories and witness the alumni using what they have learned at DWC to engage in missionary activities and make the world a better place. Although alumni are many times half a world away from me and they may be speaking a different language or working in different fields, I still feel their presence and cherish their memories. It's God's mission that brought us together once and that mission is what continues to keep us in communion with one another.



Bitter
&
Sweet

May our communion be a source of encouragement and strength for each one of us!

FAREWELL TO LONG-TIME EMPLOYEES

In addition to the students departing from DWC, the College community also said goodbye to some beloved and long-time members of the faculty and staff.



Jill Heitzman

Jill Heitzman was an assistant professor of music for 30 years from 1992 to 2022. She was passionate about world music and shared that love through her teaching and writing. Her efforts to nurture excellent liturgical music at DWC were commended. Dr. Ron Condon, Chair of the Department of Theology & Philosophy, said Jill was a great colleague because she was always ready to pitch in and do her part and was enthusiastic about her work. "Jill always had a love and concern for her students – she was very committed to them," he said.



Laura Bergfeld

Laura Bergfeld served on the DWC staff for 35 years as housekeeper, working from 1986 to 2021. She gave good example to students and other workers in the pride she took in making sure DWC was a clean and welcoming place. "I shall always remember Laura for her many acts of kindness toward me, but I especially appreciate her sewing skills and how she repaired and restored my tattered USA blanket, saving it from being discarded," said Fr. Joe McDermott, SVD.

For their many years of dedicated service to the College, the DWC community is grateful and wishes Jill and Laura all the best!