

Building Bonds That Last

“Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together.”

— President Woodrow T. Wilson



Fr. Thang
Hoang, SVD

One of the primary objectives of the Divine Word Alumni Association is to provide space and opportunities for the members to build friendships. As president Wilson insightfully said, that’s the only way we can build the world. And we all know that it’s friendship that makes life joyful and meaningful.

Despite the pandemic restrictions, the Alumni Association has tried to connect members together through a few virtual and in-person events.

Scholarship celebration

The first notable event was the celebration of the Rev. William Shea, SVD Scholarship. After watching the livestream, one alumni member commented that it was almost as if the whole world came together to witness the occasion. Viewers logged on from Brazil, Paraguay, Mozambique, California, Vietnam, the Philippines and more. The event and the scholarship honor a great role model who, through his gentle kindness and dedicated service, has united them all in a beautiful friendship. Furthermore, this scholarship foundation will serve as a way to continue Fr. Shea’s legacy and extend that friendship to all who receive the benefits of this endowed fund for generations to come.

Staying connected

In another effort to provide mutual connections, the Alumni Association created a monthly e-newsletter in 2019. This fall, we plan to start a quarterly paper newsletter to reach those who do not use email. We’re also excited to share the inauguration of the new Divine Word Alumni Association website, in which members can easily search for fellow alumni, connect with friends, and plan for reunions and gatherings.

As the pandemic restrictions ease, regional alumni groups will soon resume in-person gatherings in the United States and hopefully other countries will follow soon. We also plan to organize regional virtual gatherings to help alumni

reacquaint and reconnect with one another, especially with those who are in other countries, and prepare for the excitement of in-person reunions.

New members

The Alumni Association welcomes its newest members, DWC’s 18 graduates and 16 other students who finished their ESL studies this year or decided to take a different route in life. Let us pray that we will each have the strength and courage to reach out and build friendships with others, especially those who are different than us, because the kingdom of God can only be fully realized when all are connected in genuine friendships.

Check out the new
Divine Word Alumni Association website at
www.svdalumni.org



Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD and Fr. Bill Shea, SVD cut the cake at a celebration for a new scholarship named after Fr. Bill.