God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

- Corinthians 10:13

**Missionary Points to Ponder at the 100th Commencement**

Dr. Judy Miranti, chair of the Department of Education at Xavier University in New Orleans and member of the DWC Board of Trustees, verbally painted a sweeping landscape as she delivered the keynote address at the 100th Commencement of Divine Word College, on Friday, May 13.

“For the last four-or-five-or-six years, you have been hard at work getting ready to become the missionaries of tomorrow,” she told the Class of ’16. “You’re coming to an end today, just as you start a new beginning.”

The ceremony was well placed, between the feasts of Christ’s Ascension and Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles.

“When Jesus was taken up to heaven, he had to depend on those he had trained,” Dr. Miranti said. “He knew that the Holy Spirit would help them remember all that he taught them.”

The missionary nature of the church can be traced from that time, as was revealed in the Vatican II document, “Ad Gentes,” which stated that all Christians are called to witness to their faith and be missionary.

“What does it mean to be missionary in the 21st century?” she asked. “We’re experiencing hate crimes, legislation that is counter-culture, institutionalized racism. It’s a challenge that will be yours.” To help face the challenge, the Good Lord offers some comfort. First, she said, God loves us and knowing that, we can answer His call to help those who do not understand what it means to be Christ-like. The second is each person’s ability to accept the Gospel and to apply it in their lives.

Dr. Miranti then touched on some valuable missionary traits culled from the Acts of the Apostles. **Faith**—as we have faith in God, He has faith in us. **Teachability**—always seek mentors and be open to new learning. **Humility**—go where others refuse to go while never seeking credit for faithful acts. **Availability**—be accessible and willing to help. **Weakness**—to be an effective missionary, one needs to know ones limitations.

Concluding her comments during the historic 100th Commencement, Dr. Miranti turned her thoughts to the founder of the SVD, Saint Arnold Janssen. “He had a dream of how to spread the Word to the ends of the earth, so he founded this missionary society,” she said. “Through each one of you, his dream lives on.”

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**Did You Know?**

DWC is hosting another pilgrimage to sacred lands. “In the Footsteps of St. Paul,” will retrace the sainted missionary’s journey in Greece and islands of the Aegean, May 21-30, 2017.

Like the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land trip in 2015, this tour will be guided by Fr. vanThanh Nguyen, SVD, New Testament scholar and faculty member at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and Fr. Tim Lenchak, SVD, Old Testament scholar and president of DWC.

For more information, contact Mark Singsank at 563-876-0097 or email at: singsank@dwci.edu.
So, Exactly What Did You Learn in School?

Graduates of Divine Word College are challenged to show how they can apply what they have learned in the classroom to the “real” world.

Over the last two years, DWC has expanded an academic concept that demands senior students synthesize their knowledge into one, culminating effort called a “capstone project.”

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD, chair of the Theology and Philosophy Department, said capstones reveal a great deal about the student and the college. They not only show how well a student can apply what he or she has learned, but evaluations of each capstone project will, over time, indicate how effectively each department is educating students.

“We have to give proper credit to Dr. Peter Zografos for bringing this idea to Divine Word College,” Fr. John said, referring to the former chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Department. “The capstones began in Theology and Religious Studies and then expanded to Intercultural Studies and Philosophy majors.”

Working closely with an instructor in their major, each senior student reviews what they studied, and then applies that knowledge in addressing a current issue or problem in a major paper. They also must do a ten-to-twenty-minute presentation about their work for students, faculty and staff, followed by a question-and-answer period.

Fr. Pio Estepa, SVD, chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Department, said an important component of each project is that it relates to the student’s major, and that they do research to support their findings. “They need to show they are capable of inductive, empirical research and then reflect on what they have discovered,” Fr. Pio said. “In the end, they have to have an action plan.”

Sr. Arnolda Kavanamur, SSpS, made a study of the intercultural and intergenerational similarities found among various groups at Divine Word College. As part of her research, she designed and conducted a survey.

“I hadn’t taken any courses in research, so I learned a lot from that whole process,” Sr. Arnolda said. “I came out with a topic that helped me, in terms of evangelizing, how to bring the message of God to a culture that is different from mine.” Her experience indicates yet another value in the capstone projects—students draw upon what they learned from their formation groups and ministry outreach, as well as the classroom.

“The mission of Divine Word College is to prepare young men and women for missionary service,” Fr. John said. “So aspects of formation and ministry can and do enter into these projects.”
Awards and Scholarships for 2015-2016

Divine Word College presented a number of awards and scholarships at the Recognition and Awards Luncheon, on Thursday, April 30.

Distinguished Service Award

Marlene Decker, DWC Business Office manager and an employee of the college for more than 40 years, has been honored with the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes a staff member for outstanding service to the college community. Two members of the DWC community nominated her for the award: Fr. Jim Bergin, SVD, and Nan Peck, assistant counselor.

“It is clearly not just a job to her,” Fr. Jim stated in his nomination papers. “She genuinely cares about us and is eager to help in any way she can. She is always welcoming, no matter how busy she may be.”

Marlene said she was totally surprised by the award.

“I am very honored. This is my extended family and I truly enjoy working here,” she said. “Every day, my focus is on Divine Word College, the SVDs, employees and the students.”

In 1989, then-seminarian John Szukalski was president of the DWC Student Senate and helped establish The Rev. Charles Malin Excellence in Teaching Award. This year, now Fr. John Szukalski, SVD—chair of the Theology & Philosophy Department and assistant professor of Theology—was honored with the award.

“This award carries a little extra meaning for me because, as a student 27 years ago, I wanted a way for students to honor teachers who were particularly good at what they do,” he said. “It’s probably the most valuable award that one could receive as a teacher; recognition from students that they are appreciative and inspired by your teaching.”

The annual award was created as a memorial to Fr. Charles Malin, SVD, the first Dean of Academic Affairs at Divine Word College in Epworth. The recipient is nominated directly by the students and approved by the college administration.

Scholarships

Thong Tran received the Al Hughes scholarship, named for the longtime member of the Divine Word College Board of Trustees and former college attorney. The Hughes scholarship is renewable each year that a recipient meets the guidelines.

Thinh Nguyen received the Al Hughes scholarship, named for the longtime member of the Divine Word College Board of Trustees and former college attorney. He also received the Fr. Robert J. Flinn, SVD, scholarship, named for the accomplished educator, author, canon lawyer, medical ethicist, and former Divine Word College trustee. Both the Hughes and Flinn scholarships are renewable each year that recipients meet the guidelines.

Khiet Tran received the Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD, Scholarship, named for the 1968 graduate of Divine Word College, now Bishop of the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas. He also received the Fr. Chester Nowicki, SVD, Scholarship, named for the long-time educator and administrator, whose wise and disciplined, yet kind and generous service as treasurer, greatly benefited the Society of the Divine Word. Both the Guillory and the Nowicki scholarships are renewable each year that recipients meet the guidelines.
many people from different countries and language."

Arthur Bautista
Mount Prospect, Illinois
• BA Philosophy
• Join the Archdiocese of Chicago
  “DWC was great. I really had a good time at the college. The formation program here is awesome because our formators empower us to be involved in our own formation. And the community is very welcoming.”

Quynh Cao
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
• BA Philosophy
• Attend SVD Novitiate
  “At DWC, I have learned a lot about who I am, what I stand for, and who I want to be. I have also met some wonderful people along the way and I hope to continue learning and growing.”

Thimote Cherelus
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
• BA Philosophy
• Attend SVD Novitiate
  “My stay here at DWC has been very fruitful. I have learned many things and I think DWC fulfills one of its missions, which is to educate future missionaries.”

Bro. Ha Manh Do, O’Cist
Thai Binh, Vietnam
• BA Philosophy
• Continue education
  “DWC is a good college. We meet many people from different countries and cultures in this school.”

Pascal Jean Gilles
Port-de-Paix, Haiti
• BA Intercultural Studies
• Continue education
  “Divine Word College is a great place for anyone to learn many skills about life, for example, living with different cultures and developing talents. I also think the intercultural life at DWC helped me to know the world better and to discover that we are all connected.”

Jose Gonzalez
Riverside, California
• BA Philosophy
• Attend SVD Novitiate
  “At DWC, I have learned a lot about who I am, what I stand for, and who I want to be. I have also met some wonderful people along the way and I hope to continue learning and growing.”

Oliha Grichang
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
• BA Philosophy
• Complete graduate studies
  “Before coming to DWC I never thought about multiculturalism. While at the college, I learned how to get to know people no matter what culture. Now in a job where working with other cultures is a priority, I see that multiculturalism is important everywhere.”

Sr. Arnolda Kavanamur, SSpS
Rabaul, Papua New Guinea
• BA Intercultural Studies
• Go on mission to Antigua, in the Carribean
  “The Intercultural Studies classes helped me to gain an understanding of how to build a harmonious relationship in love as a witness to God’s beauty in the diversity of creation. For me, God’s beauty shines out in the differences of race, culture, religion and language.”

Sr. Lien Nguyen, LHC
Binh Dinh, Vietnam
• BA Intercultural Studies
• Complete graduate studies and return to Vietnam
  “It was a great time. I had an opportunity to study and improve my knowledge, but also spiritual life. Moreover, I had a chance to live and study in an intercultural community.”

Sr. Na Nguyen, LHC
Nam Dinh, Vietnam
• BA Intercultural Studies
• Complete graduate studies and return to Vietnam
  “DWC is truly a family to me. Being away from my family and religious community, I felt lost when I first came to the U.S. However, this feeling did not last long because I felt a sense of love and a sense of belonging to the DWC community.”

Quang Pham
Denver, Colorado
• BA Intercultural Studies
• Attend SVD Novitiate
  “It has been a great experience, not only academically but also religiously. I have found and confirmed my interest in becoming a missionary priest.”

Wildenslo Osias
Hinche, Haiti
• BA Philosophy/Theology & Religious Studies
• Continue education
  “Living in a multicultural setting with people who have experienced injustice has helped me understand that the world is far from being what it should be. This motivates me to stop wanting changes, but start helping to make the changes I want to see in the world.”

Sr. Oanh Ung, LHC
Qui Nhon, Vietnam
• BA Theology & Religious Studies
• Complete graduate studies and return to Vietnam
  “Whenever I think of DWC I think of a sweet home.”

Sr. Thoa Celine Y, IMM
Kontum, Vietnam
• BA Intercultural Studies
• Complete graduate studies and return to Vietnam
  “I learned so many things from DWC such as composing songs, painting and drawing. I also had a chance to know many students from other countries and make many new friends. I love the teachers at DWC because they give of themselves totally to the students.”
Mother Mary, portrayed by Sr. Hien Nguyen, LHC, goes to her son Jesus, portrayed by Christian Castro in this scene from the Living Stations of the Cross, on Good Friday, March 25. Roman soldiers (from left) An Nguyen, Samuel Cherilus, Wilken Fevrier and Manuel Murillo, look on. Approximately 20 students were involved in the production, which began in the front of DWC and processed around the building to the courtyard area, then into the building to finish in the Main Chapel. The annual performance is a moving and integral part of the Easter Triduum observance at DWC.

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Francis Makau Wambua digs into his work at Sacred Heart parish in Memphis, Tenn., as part of DWC’s Spring Ministry Project, March 5 – 12. Six groups of students fanned out to work in SVD parishes from Perry, Iowa and Chicago, Ill., to Fort Wayne, Ind., Cincinnati, Ohio and St. Louis, Mo., as well as Memphis. Their work ranged from landscaping projects like this one to maintenance work, cleaning and even teaching catechism classes. The Spring Ministry trips have been a popular break from classes each year, offering students a chance to get off campus and enjoy each other’s company while getting a missionary experience working with SVDs in their parishes.

One of the country’s premier early-music groups, The Rose Ensemble, performed “Land of Three Faiths: Voices of Ancient Mediterranean Jews, Christians, and Muslims,” in the Main Chapel, on Friday, April 22. The product of years of intensive research and training, the performance brought to life centuries-old music that was at once sacred, secular, folk, and classical. By combining the unique timbre of traditional instruments with its rich blend of voices, the Rose Ensemble brought to life Arabic and European music that has been steeped in the Abrahamic faiths.

It was a bit chilly but Vien Nguyen (l), Sr. Tho Trinh, ICM, (r) and Pascal Jean Gilles (c) found smiles easy to come by as they joined more than 40 students, SVDs and staff for the Spring Roadside Clean Up project, on Saturday, April 9. Three groups walked the two-mile stretch of Highway 20 east of DWC while another group combed the campus, picking up debris left behind after a long winter. Eight large bags of trash were taken from the roadside as DWC held up its end of the bargain with the Iowa DOT and its Adopt-A-Highway program.
So, Exactly What Did You Learn in School?

People Like You…

Our joy in the graduation of the Divine Word College Class of 2016 is matched only by our gratitude to our many donors from around the country, who have helped our graduates reach this significant milestone in their lives.

Your charitable gifts have supported them each step along the way. Your prayers have sustained them through the challenges of their studies and their spiritual formation. Whatever you are, we feel your presence here in Epworth, as do our SVD priests and brothers on mission around the world.

Divine Word College is distinctive, in part, by its sheer improbability. Who could have imagined that priests from Germany, migrating to New Jersey, would establish a seminary in rural Iowa? And that this seminary would, year in and year out, bring together students from more than 20 countries, with diverse cultural backgrounds yet a deeply shared faith in God and commitment to serving the poor around the world?

The answer is…people like you, who looked past the improbability to see the very clear necessity and value of a college to prepare young men and women for religious life and missionary service. Your commitment to the future of the college is essential, and has made it possible for Divine Word to conduct its 100th commencement this year.

Thank you for your financial support and your prayers. Have a wonderful summer!

**Memorial Gift of Language**

Margo Duffy loved helping her students learn to speak English and adapt to life in the United States.

“She really found herself in teaching ESL,” said Jim Duffy of his late wife, who taught for many years at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay. “She was delighted to see one of her students—young, middle aged or older—evolve in English usage and was energized by their progress.”

In Margo’s memory, Jim—a long-time friend of Fr. Ken Anich, SVD, psychology professor at DWC—has donated $5500 to the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Divine Word College. “We are honored to receive this money and we want to spend it wisely,” said Emily Embree, assistant professor of ESL and director of the Intensive English Language Institute at DWC. “The fact that he didn’t put any conditions on use of the funds makes us even more vigilant about how the money is spent.”

To date, the program has invested in new equipment, such as headphones for the listening lab and voice recorders to help students practice and listen to themselves. It has also purchased integrated ESL learning sets, which include books, teaching materials, DVDs and CDs and are investigating software programs. “I will continue to support the program,” Jim said. “I could donate to any number of causes, they’re out there, but I want to keep honoring the joy that Margo found in her teaching career by supporting the ESL program at Divine Word.”

**Divine Word College**

**Second Annual Benefit Golf Outing!**

Friday, July 22

at Timberline Golf Course, Peosta, Iowa

and 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
Accreditation Visit by Higher Learning Commission

If comments from students and other members of the Divine Word College community carry any weight, DWC will be in good shape to earn continued accreditation for providing a quality education. An assessment team representing the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) arrived at the college on Monday, April 4, for a two-day, on-site visit; the pinnacle event in an assessment process that institutions of higher learning must undergo every ten years to achieve and maintain accreditation.

During their on-site visit, Dr. Ivor Newsham of Olivet Nazarene University; Mr. Eric Schwarze, formerly of Aurora University; and Dr. William J. Flanagan of Beloit College took a hard look at DWC and met with members of the college community.

“Everyone interacts with one another,” said Sr. Thanh Nguyen, LHC. “We consider each other as a family member.”

For the better part of the last three years, members of the college administration, faculty and staff prepared for the rigorous evaluation. Six months before the assessment team arrived, a series of formal documents were presented to the HLC that laid out the college’s argument for accreditation. They included information that showed the college adheres to a set of basic standards while fulfilling a lengthy list of additional criteria that the commission views as critical for a quality education. There was also information that detailed an initiative on intercultural competence that the college is undertaking in its effort to constantly improve. The HLC will prepare and provide a final report based on their findings within the next two months.