



Campus Ministry Notes

“Building the Dominican Spirit”

Dominican University of California, San Rafael, CA 94901

Vol. 5, No. 2

May, 2010

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY:

NEW BRANCHES FROM SOLID ROOTS

As you walk around the campus, you immediately notice the beauty of the grounds, all the while realizing that many of the beautiful plants got their start from the hands of Dominican sisters 20, 30, 40, 50 or more years ago. These sisters planted, not only for their own pleasure, but for generations to come. Today, we cherish the beauty that was left to us from those beginnings.

So too, the Dominican charism is planted deeply in the soil of this institution. Although there are fewer Dominican sisters on campus, there are more “Dominicans” than ever at Dominican. The *Dominican Ideals*--study, reflection, service, community--continue to permeate the life of the campus. This past year, the Board of Trustees approved a new mission statement for the University which prominently include the Dominican Ideals as a key component of our mission.

From these roots, departments such as Campus Ministry continue to nurture and sustain our student body, along with faculty and staff. The methods may change and develop, yet the Dominican charism remains as strong and vital as the campus vegetation.

Campus Ministry is on the edge of some new and exciting changes in the coming year. With the completion of the Catherine Benincasa Chapel in the Dominican Heritage and Alumni House, “old Edgehill” will become our new “home,” providing us with space for worship and programming. It will allow for additional expansion of our programs to provide for the spiritual needs of all our students, especially as the University becomes more a global institution.

One way we will be reflecting this growth and change will be in the look and content of future newsletters. Watch for our new look!



The year began with a “Leadership Training Program.” Returning students learn to work together in a game called “Life Boat.”



“Get-Away” days were held for first year students to help them build community amongst themselves. Students listen to Marion Sarte, a Peer Minister, at Paradise Cove.



The Mass of the Holy Spirit was held during Spirit Day, in the backyard of the newly acquired Magnolia House. The blessing of the Edgehill project followed the Mass.



The Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer Service and Dinner continues to be a cherished tradition. Sr. Carla lights the thanksgiving candle, which is passed to all participants who then pray for what they are most thankful.



This year’s Spring Break saw three simultaneous “Immersion Trips” to Tijuana, Mexico, New Orleans, LA, and Caritas Creek, CA. Work included Habitat for Humanity, the Franciscan Sisters’ Casa de los Pobres, St. Dominics’ Mission, and work with environmental education for students. Above, Alexandra Tamayo works with a young girl in Tijuana.



The annual Baccalaureate Mass was held at St. Raphael’s Church on May 14th, which preceded the Graduate and Undergraduate Commencements. The community gathered in prayer for our new graduates and their success.

LIANNI CASTRO '04--ALUMNA JOINS CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF



Lianni Castro directing the Choir for the Mass of the Holy Spirit

“COMING FULL CIRCLE”

Lianni Castro

Ed. Note: Lianni Castro, '04, was hired as an additional Campus Minister beginning with the 2009-10 academic year.

Little did I know that when I left for the East Coast more than two years ago to attend Grad school and work for Campus Ministry at Villanova University, that I would have the opportunity to return to my beloved Alma Mater as a Campus Minister. After trying my hand at music directing and youth ministry, working briefly at an outdoor environmental camp for junior high students and traveling across the nation, I find myself once again in a familiar place. I feel like I have come home.

The desire to return to Dominican was deeply rooted in my appreciation for the

experience that I received when I was a student. Campus Ministry provided me with support and opportunities of leadership, community and faith building. My own days as a student were filled with activities with my peers, Dominican Sisters, and with friends that I still hold very dear. These activities allowed me not only to meet others and to be a role model, but to sharpen my own vocation of service.

Dominican University is very much the same place, give or take a science center and a renovated Cafeteria. There is still the excitement of students, the beauty of the campus and an atmosphere of community. Sr. Carla and Fr. Bob continue to touch the lives of students they come in contact with – offering a listening ear, words of encour-

“Campus Ministry provided me with support and opportunities of leadership, community and faith building.”

agement and a strong relationship that simultaneously challenges growth yet allows students to be themselves.

Coming back has allowed me to bring new ideas to fruition that have been beneficial and meaningful to students – meeting them where they are and responding to their needs as individuals in aspects of

spirituality, faith, leadership, community and personal growth. I know the value of a strong Campus Ministry program focused on development of mind, body and spirit as well as a strong emphasis and awareness of social justice and service because of my own experiences at Dominican and Villanova. I'm excited to be able to bring my gift of music for weekly liturgies as well as anticipation for newly created events such as Inter-faith programs, alternative spring break trips, a developed weekly service program, along with retreats, scripture reflection, student get away days, and the opportunity to become more familiar with the students I work with.

There is definitely something to be said about coming full circle, especially if it means being able to come home.



The Campus Ministry staff: Fr. Bob Haberman, Sr. Carla Kovack, OP, Lianni Castro

DOMINICAN PREACHING CONFERENCE

Dominican students Jamie Fernandez, Eleno Nuñez, and Aminata Diagne joined Sr. Carla Kovack, OP, and Lianni Castro in traveling to New York for this summer's Conference.

Dominican University of CA has been sending representatives to the Dominican Preaching Conference for the last seven summers. The Preaching Conference brings together representatives of the seventeen Dominican sponsored colleges and universities throughout the United States. This year's conference was held at Dominican College in Blauvelt, New York. The purpose of the conference is to help students learn of the charisma of the Dominican Order through the four Dominican Ideals: Study, Reflection/Prayer, Community, and Service. In order to achieve this understanding, students and their mentors are given opportunities to actually participate in various activities which reflect the ideals in action. Dominicans from throughout the country spoke to the stu-



dents, led students in activities such as art, music, and dance. The students spent one day at the United Nations with four NGO representatives, one being Dominican Sister Margaret Mace, OP.

“This conference has been very influential for our ability to keep the Dominican spirit alive,” according to Fr. Bob Haberman. “Our students realize that there are other Dominican institutions that are similar to us, and that there is a ‘Spirit of Dominic’ that is evident in a Dominican education.”

Students are then able to return to campus and share their experience with others, as well as having an opportunity to grow in their leadership abilities. Donations from various sources make this trip possible.

L to R: Jamie Fernandez, Aminata Diagne, Lianni Castro, Eleno Nuñez, Sr. Carla Kovack, OP.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Student groups work on group project during the Leadership Workshop.

Campus Ministry spearheaded a joint effort to develop our student leadership on campus for the 2009-2010 academic year. Prior to the beginning of the new school year, forty student leaders representing Campus Ministry, Associated Students of Dominican University (ASDU), Student Ambassadors, Residence Assistants and student athletes gathered for three days prior to the arrival of the new students for their orientation.

The primary objective of the three days was to build a working relationship between the various groups of leaders, which would allow for better communication, cooperation and coordination of the activities which occur during the year. Students also looked at their own particular leadership skills and how they use these skills for the common good.

The workshop took place on campus and at the Dominican Sisters' house in Bolinas.

The beauty of Bolinas allowed the students to think "beyond" the walls of the campus and to stretch their ideas of what might be possible in the coming academic year.

At the end of the workshop, each participant was presented a certificate of appreciation from Dr. Joseph Fink, University President, and Dr. Luis Calingo, the Executive Vice-President and Academic Dean of the University. Each congratulated the students for their service and commitment, and pledged their continued support of their efforts.

Following the workshop, the students then assisted with the Orientation program for the new entering students. This marked the beginning of a series of successful events where student leaders were able to cooperate and coordinate their efforts. Members of this group will help to lead the next workshop for new leaders in August.



Students meet in the living room of the Dominican Sisters' house in Bolinas.

SPDI--STUDENTS PROMOTING DOMINICAN IDEALS



Dean Ed Kajawa receives check from Peer Minister Marion Sarte for SPDI's fund raising efforts

After participating in the Dominican Preaching in Action Conference, Summer '09, Marion Sarte, a Campus Ministry Peer Minister, chose to revitalize and reenergize the existing SPDI program on campus. Through her efforts, the group made strides in connecting students with Dominican

values while belonging to the organization, which included activities to highlight the four Ideals: study, reflection, service, and community.

One of the projects the group adopted this year was the Education Department's South African LEAP Program. SPDI students held bake sales and early morning coffee and bagel sales to raise money for students in South Africa.

At the end of the academic year, the students were able to present Dr. Ed Kajawa, Dean of the School of Education, with a check to help with the project.

SPDI has been sponsored through the Campus Ministry program for ten years, and continues to provide students with a relaxed community to become involved with the University and new friends.

CAMPUS MINISTRY: CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS?

Like all small, private educational institutions, Dominican is feeling the effects of the current economic crisis. Not only does this affect the programming of co-curricular programs, but it also has a profound effect on the ability of students to continue to remain at the University. Campus Ministry is not immune to this situation; we are very aware of the need to be conservative with our funding during this period. However, we also realize that we need to do what we can to remain a viable program, and to be of assistance to our students in any way we can.

Campus Ministry has been offering scholarships to students who then work as "peer ministers" with other students. Many times, the \$2,000 scholarship can make the difference between staying at Dominican or transferring to a state institution. We are hopeful that in the coming year we will be able to offer more scholarships than in the past. Below, you will see some additional needs. Any assistance you can provide will be extremely appreciated.

•**Scholarship** for a student "Peer Minister" (annual cost \$2,000)

•**Scholarship** for student to attend a national conference (average cost \$750)

•**Scholarship** to cover the cost of off-campus service trips, retreats and leadership programs. (average cost per student \$100 to \$500)

•**Purchase** Bibles, spiritual reading, supplies, food for "starving students". (any amount will be appreciated)

Any and all gifts are appreciated. Please send gifts to:

*Campus Ministry Restricted Fund
Office of Advancement
50 Acacia Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901*

(Please Note: We are **required** to have a specific Campus Ministry project/program noted on the donation for it to be used as you specify. Contact us if you have any questions.)



EDGEHILL RESTORATION & CAMPUS CHAPEL

WORK WELL UNDER WAY

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.dominican.edu/ministry



October, 2009

The Dominican Heritage and Alumni House will restore the much-loved mansion into a welcoming home for Dominican alumni and a unique space to celebrate the University's rich history and Dominican heritage. Located within the mansion, the St. Catherine Benincasa Chapel will provide alumni, students, and friends with a Catholic place of worship. The adjacent Veritas Hall will be an interfaith worship space, and the Student Life and Campus Ministry Center upstairs will support our thriving campus life, spiritual, and community service programs.

Under the oversight of Dominican Trustee Tony Castellucci, the mansion is coming back to life. To



May, 2010

date, \$7 of the \$8 million needed for the project has been raised, thanks to the generosity of the Board of Trustees and alumni. With continued donations, we can bring this project to successful conclusion in October of this year!



Sr. Carla Kovack, OP, Chris Souza '09, and Fr. Bob Haberman at the blessing of the construction during "Spirit Day" last fall.

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