



The Angel



(an'jel: *angele*, fr. L. *angelus*, fr. Gr. *angelos*: messenger)

Dominican University of California Honors Program Newsletter

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Community and Service at Dominican



Two of the ideals Dominican University of California cherishes are community and service. Everyday, Dominican students find opportunities to practice these values both on and off-campus.

Reaching out to the community can begin right in our very backyard with the sisters of Lourdes Infirmary. **Nancy Morales** and **Heather Gant-Bradley** are among the coordinators of a club called Community Connections. One of Nancy's favorite memories was at a birthday party Community Connections organized for the nuns. She recalls, "I was picked out of the crowd to help a magician with a trick. I was very nervous, but he made it tons of fun and the nuns loved every minute of it. Being able to make their faces glow with a smile made me feel great."

Meanwhile, for Heather, the fondest memory was when she knocked on one of the nuns' doors and saw the nun gazing at a television that was turned off. On top of the television was a pear. The nun asked her, "Have you ever seen a pear that beautiful in shape and color?" Heather admitted that she hadn't, and in retrospect said, "I was just glad to have someone who could point out the rare beauties of life

that are easily forgotten." Heather believes that the club is beneficial for all involved. "Yes, you come to visit the nuns, to help them, but in many ways they help you too."

By sharing her talents and time, **Desaree Williams** promotes both community and service on campus. She tutors students who need extra assistance in mathematics and natural science classes. (Contd. next page.)

Honors Trip to India

The last two weeks of winter break were exciting for twenty-two students and faculty members from Dominican – they were busy exploring India. The tour of Northern and Western India was aimed to give students from Dominican University of California a global perspective beyond the books. "With all the economic (Contd. next page)



The students and faculty from Dominican University at the Mahatma Gandhi cremation site in India. Photo by Jayati Ghosh



Honors Program online at:

http://www.dominican.edu/Academics/Honors_Program.cfm

Dominican Ideal Continued

“I feel most gratified when I know that I have taught someone a technique and they can do it by themselves without any help from me,” Desaree said. “It makes me feel like I am actually making a difference.” This pastime has allowed her to know more people on campus and make new friends she might not have otherwise met.

Diana Hallare has also found a way to establish Dominican ideals on-campus by promoting public speaking—she is starting a Dominican chapter for the internationally recognized Toastmasters club, which she says has short-term and long-term goals. “For now, the main plan is to get chartered with Toastmasters International,” she said. “The long-term goal is to sponsor a Youth Leadership Program for middle and high school students in the area.” Indeed, Dominican University of California looks forward to seeing Dominican Toastmasters grow and become a real influence in the community.

The Service Learning program at Dominican encourages students like **John Rivers** to go beyond the university and do service. John interned at Next Generation, a Marin-based organization. He worked on registering voters and educating the students at Dominican about the issues up for vote in November 2004. John describes his experience as being “a positive influence for change in the community.” This program, he explains, “is a great way to bridge the gap between education and practical use in the real world.”

“Actions speak louder than words.” **Amy Stasch** is a firm believer of this old saying. She has participated in many protests throughout the years, her most current one being the protest of the School of the Americas, attended by over 16,000 people. Amy said she gained a lot of knowledge about what was occurring around the world. “The most important part of activism is awareness, so I feel my greatest contribution is simply being aware of daily events and news and being able to have intelligent conversations with others,” she said. After spending three days at the SOA protest, she walked away with “tremendous inspiration [and] faith in humanity.”

Written by Adrianna Bayer and Richard Maher

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Students Inducted into Honors Societies

Congratulations to the following honors students inducted to the California Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society on January 28, 2005:

Ofek Bar-Ilan	Kern T. Lee
Rolando F. Crisostomo, Jr.	Andrea Rae Triolo
Marisa Di Menna	Sr. John Mary Vianney
Roger N. Forte	Aeroshikha-Rose Wolf
Amanda LeDoux	

India Trip Continued

changes and socio-cultural richness [of India], it would be a good experience for them,” said **Dr. Jayati Ghosh**, who teaches the honors course.

The program, called “Discovering India,” was organized by **Dr. LeeAnn Bartolini**. Besides getting a cultural feel of the country, one of the purposes of the field trip was to make it “a shared experience between faculty and students.” Among the many places they visited were Mahatma Gandhi’s cremation site (Raj Ghat), the Red Fort, and the Taj Mahal. They also saw many temples and shrines, so they got exposed to different religions: Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism.

For most participants, the most moving experience was seeing the town of Varanasi, where they watched the Hindu ceremony called Arti being performed on the banks of the sacred Ganges River. “Being there simplified [Hinduism] for me,” said Dr. Bartolini.

The group learned about the economic aspect of India as well. Tourism is one of the booming industries. “Some Indians in Khajuraho spoke Spanish beautifully,” said **Karla Marroquin**, who pursues a Master’s degree in Business Administration. “They didn’t know how to read, but they practice whenever people come from Spain.”

According to Dr. Ghosh, who was born in India herself, the effects of globalization are more evident today in this country which has existed over 5000 years.

Graduating psychology major, **Julia Rough** will not forget the scene of a camel loaded with firewood. Its passenger was a “traditional” Indian man talking on a cellphone. “I wish I took a picture of it,” she laughs. Both she and Marroquin appreciated the friendliness of the citizens, even those who were in poverty.

“It [the trip] made one feel how fortunate we are in the US, and how much we take it for granted,” said **Brian Becker**, an MBA student. “Even if they had so little, they seemed so happy.”

Written by Diana Paula Hallare

All human beings are born with unique gifts.

The healthy functioning of our community depends on its capacity to develop each gift. ~Peter Senge~