

A Publication for CDU Donors & Friends

Winter 2018

Reaching the Ends of the Earth

As I reflect on our beautiful mission to communicate the mind and heart of the Church in a digital world, the start of a new year is a special moment to thank God for the amazing journey of 2017 and share with you some of our plans for 2018 that give us great hope for the future.

CDU is thrilled to welcome more students. While many public and private colleges missed enrollment targets in 2017, CDU grew enrollments by 11.5%. Despite rising expenses, our Board has resisted raising tuition. Very affordable tuition rates are important to our graduates because 9 out of 10 serve the Church. Continuing adult education and webinar attendance have also grown, but our prison ministry, a gift to the incarcerated Church, has increased enrollments by 46%! I am inspired by a growing number of donors who support CDU's education of our incarcerated brothers and sisters. The Order of Malta recently awarded a \$25,000 grant to CDU to load our course content on a new tablet approved for use in prisons.

Some of our recent enhancements include Federal Financial Aid, new courses and faculty, and a growing theological library. Our staff now includes our dynamic theological librarian, Sister Rebecca, and Professor Kathy Vestermark who, in addition to teaching in the BA program, is director of student life and retention to help support students who fall behind in classes.

Our strategic vision reflects a commitment to regional and programmatic accreditation, in addition to maintaining our current accreditation with the Distance Education Accrediting Commission. Fulfilling CDU's Strategic Plan will enhance the value of a CDU credential for our graduates and demonstrate the effectiveness of our educational model through enhanced accreditation and the "joy from the truth" that comes from the encounter with the living word of God through our fidelity to the Church.

A new and inviting website (cdu.edu) was a perfect start to the new year! The new website is optimized for mobile devices and offers fresh and streamlined content with easy navigation. We welcome the world through this beautiful gateway into the intellectual richness and warmth of the CDU community.

You will hear a great deal in 2018 about the launch of a Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign to ensure that "joy from the truth" reaches the ends of the Earth through CDU, whose educational model fulfills Christ's command to "Teach all nations," especially the underserved. This beautiful path forward inspires all of us as the new year begins.

Free CDU Webinars Offered in 2018

Free CDU webinars are hot. Webinar participation grew 54% in 2017, and interest continues to escalate. CDU is honored to offer the free opportunity to learn more about the Faith and interact with university experts on topics of interest to the faithful. If you wish to participate, join our email list by contacting ahager@cdu.edu. If you missed a previous webinar, you can find them posted on our new mobile website.

Several thousand people listen to the webinars on our website or on You Tube. The two most popular are What Luther Got Right and Wrong In the Reformation and The Church's Best Kept Secret: Catholic Social Teaching. If you have a long commute or an hour of quiet time, listen in!

Look for Webinars on Thomas Aguinas and The Passion in March.

New Summer Seminar

"Why Would a Loving God Allow Evil, Pain and Suffering?"

July 23 - August 13

Watch for details at www.cdu.edu.

New Courses Excite Students and Meet New Needs

HUM 328. Introduction to Comparative Religions: Judaism and Islam

Like Christianity, Judaism and Islam share a common origin in the Middle East and are considered Abrahamic religions. Despite their shared beginnings, the two religions diverge in how they answer the great questions, and relations between adherents of the two religions have been tense for centuries. HUM 328 will introduce the key moral framework and concepts of Judaism and Islam and how they relate to Catholicism. By reading foundational texts, students will come to understand these religions as they understand themselves and gain a greater appreciation of their contributions to the world in which we live.



Humanities 253. A Global Civilization

A Global Civilization, taught by esteemed faculty member Dr. Charles Rieper, is the third of three undergraduate survey courses covering the totality of Western history. The course traces the development of Western Civilization from the Enlightenment to the era of the war on terror and globalization in the 21st century. Dr. Rieper will guide students through significant periods of western history including the emergence of the Enlightenment and Age of Absolutism, the French Revolution, the birth of the United States, the Industrial



Revolution, the Great Depression and World Wars, the Cold War, and the modern era, which has brought momentous change.

English 110. Introduction to Literature for Theology

Introduction to Literature for Theology is an exciting new course that teaches the basics of reading, interpreting, and classifying stories and understanding what gives good literature its enduring power. The course is also designed to rekindle the lost art of literary imagination and to teach Catholics how to harness the power of stories to understand and share the Faith in meaningful and effective ways with a world that, despite its best efforts, cannot escape from suffering, doubt, and longing for meaning and beauty. Learn to express yourself and literary ideas from a Catholic perspective.



Philosophy 315. Metaphysics

Enroll Now in This Winter II Course! This course will introduce students to the philosophy of being by means of a thematic and historical approach. Topics include the following: the nature of metaphysical inquiry; Plato's theory of forms; the basic categories of being; properties common to all beings; the analogy of being; substance, accident, essence, and existence; the problem of the one and the many; individuation; knowing God; and the nature of evil.

Coming Soon: Mathematics for Liberal Studies

Everything Is Growing at CDU ... **Except Tuition!**

According to the College Board's most recent trend analysis, tuition and fees at private, nonprofit four-year institutions rose by 3.6% to \$34,740 on average from 2017 to 2018. In contrast, CDU continues to freeze tuition to serve and support future leaders of the Church. While costs continue to rise, generous supporters help make it possible to hold down tuition rates for our students. Unlike traditional brick and mortar colleges, all donations directly impact our students' education rather than underwriting real estate, maintenance, or campus costs.

Perhaps CDU's focus on delivering a faithful, convenient, comprehensive and affordable Catholic education online, any time, anywhere, and on any device is why enrollment continues to boom in every category.

In the 2017 academic year, graduate enrollments grew 12% and undergraduate enrollments grew 11% over the previous year. Likewise, continuing education course enrollments were up 16%, webinar participation increased 54%, and prison course enrollments exploded 47%. Thanks to God's blessing and your help, CDU continues to reach more Catholics and "Teach all nations."

Your Amazon Purchases Can Help Support CDU!

While you are making your purchases on Amazon, remember that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible smile.amazon.com purchases. Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their smile.amazon.com product detail pages. Important! Only purchases made at smile.amazon.com, (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app), generate Amazon Smile donations.

Holy Land Pilgrimage Offered for Academic Credit

The Spring Holy Land Pilgrimage will be held April 16-26, 2018. Led by renowned faculty member Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, participants will travel to the land of the Bible and visit Jerselum, Bethlehem, The Via Dolorosa, Jericho, Cana, Galilee, and more! To learn more about the pilgrimage and to register for the trip, email info@crossroadsinitiative.com.

Students who wish to participate in the pilgrimage and earn academic credit should register for course THEO 598 in the Winter II 2018 term. Classes begin on March 5. Email registrar@cdu.edu to enroll in the course today!

There is no better place to study the four canonical gospels than where the drama of salvation took place. The holy places in the land where the Savior walked speak so powerfully of the work of redemption that the land is rightly called "the fifth gospel." Students will gain insights into the Bible that can only be captured by being in the land and learn about the Fathers of the Church, including Origen, Eusebius, Justin, Jerome, and Cyril of Jerusalem, who lived and wrote in the Holy Land.





Kathy Vestermark, MA graduate, now serves as Director of Student Life and Retention at Catholic Distance University. She is also an undergraduate professor teaching The Four Constitutions of Vatican II and The Catechism of the Catholic Church I & II.



Cecile Kasberg, a recent MA graduate, is teaching Theology to freshmen and sophomores at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. She loves sharing our Faith with teenagers. She says, "I would never have the confidence to evangelize and catechize if I hadn't gone to CDU." In addition to teaching, she is a core team member for RCIA at her parish, St. Simon the Apostle.



Joe Wetterling, a graduate of the Catechetical Diploma program, is in his second year as the President of the Catholic Writers Guild, an interology class for Holy Apostles College and is part of the Catholic Scholar program at the Dominican Institute.

Gayle DiNicola, who received a BA in Theology from CDU, shares her faithful knowledge with others. She became a certified Catechist in the Archdiocese of New York and served as a sixth grade Catechist, eventually accepting the RCIA national non-profit organization that Coordinator position. While caring for her aging parents, she supports Catholic writers, illustrators, transitioned to an Adult Confirmation Instructor role for the and editors. He created a natural The-northern counties of the Archdiocese of New York.

> Adele Huculak, an MA graduate, is studying for an MS in Mental Health Clinical Counseling at Divine Mercy University.



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Gala 2017

CDU's Largest Gala in Five Years Was an Inspiration for All!

Catholic Distance University's friends, supporters, trustees, faculty members, and recent graduates gathered for the annual gala on November 4, 2017, at the Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel in Arlington, VA. Father Robert J. Spitzer, SJ, PhD, was awarded the Founders Award, CDU's greatest honor, "for his great heart and zeal as a scientist and for helping all of God's children find their path to God through science."

In today's increasingly secular world, Father Spitzer explained, many young people are leaving religion behind. Many cannot reconcile faith with fact-based science, which is increasingly—though wrongly—seen as contradicting religion. Father Spitzer spoke about misperceptions of the dichotomy between faith and science. "Faith and science are in no way contradictory," he explained.

The Bishop Thomas J. Welsh Award was awarded to two parishes for the continuing support of their pastors and the enrichment of the parish community through CDU: St James the Greater Church of Charles Town, WV, and St. Veronica's Church of Chantilly, VA.

Most Rev. Paul S. Loverde, Bishop Emeritus of Arlington and a member of the CDU Board of Trustees, hosted the event. Catherine Szeltner, host of EWTN Pro-Life Weekly, served as Master of Ceremonies, and Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, delivered welcome remarks. The evening began with an Academic Convocation Mass recognizing CDU's 2017 undergraduate and graduate degree recipients, a number of whom travelled from across the country to attend the event. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for Military Services, USA, Chancellor of the university, served as principal celebrant and homilist. Bishop Paul S. Loverde served as principal concelebrant, and Rev. Msgr. Dennis Kuruppaserry, First Counselor of the Apostolic Nunciature, delivered the Invocation.

Save November 3 on your calendar so that you do not miss CDU's 2018 Gala!







Bishop Welsh's Coat of Arms

This coat of arms combines (left) the arms of the Diocese of Arlington and that of Bishop Thom as J. Welsh. The large star circled by ten smaller stars signifies Virginia's entry as the tenth state of the Union. It also represents Mary as "Star of the Sea" and "Star of the Morning." The horizontal band with scallops is adapted from the shield of Saint Thomas More, a patron saint of the Cathedral. The crescent at the bottom of the shield symbolizes the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, patroness of the United States. On the right, the arrowheads are adapted from the Welsh family coat of arms. The chevron with an arrowhead signifies the Bishop's patron saint St. Thomas the Apostle. The crowned "humilitas' is taken from the coat of arms of St. Charles Borromeo, the Philadelphia seminary where Bishop Welsh served as rector. The cross and the threetiered, tassled green hat are symbolic of the office of Bishop. The motto, "With Mary as Model, Make All Things New,' reflects the past service given the Church by the Blessed Virgin and Saint Charles Borromeo and the present challenge for dynamic renewal.



Continuing Education

Part of a Life-long Faithful Journey

CDU's Continuing adults learn the Truth through on-demand, independent study. Stu dents enroll for a variety of reasons, including to earn certificates and credits required for thei employment in diocese parishes, or Catholic schools. CDU offers 12 basic and advanced certificate programs and more than 60 courses to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

Student Karen Greiber was raised Catholic, but her religious education classes did not teach her much about the Faith. Hungry to spent the next 10 years of her life studying. "I was so afraid to believe the wrong thing, that I would believe nothing unless it could be proven," she says. Today, Karen continues her faithful journey by taking CDU continuing education courses.

Members of CDU's partner dioceses can take courses for as low as \$30. If your diocese is not a continuing edu cation partner, encourage a diocesan contact to join today.

CDU Welcomes New Distinguished Trustees

CDU welcomes three new members to our Board of Trustees. These reputable leaders will bring new talent and ideas to guide CDU, the first and only fully online Catholic university, boldly into the future to communicate the mind and heart of the Catholic Church across the globe.

The Most Reverend Michael Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington

Bishop Burbidge holds a B.A. in Philosophy and an M.A. in Theology from St. Charles Borromeo, an M.A. in Education Administration from Villanova University, and a doctorate in Education from Immaculata College. After serving as a parish priest, faculty member and dean of students at St. Charles Borromeo, he was named Honorary Prelate to His Holiness Pope John Paul II, with the title of Monsignor, and later appointed Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.



In 2002, he was ordained as an Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia. Pope Benedict XVI then named Bishop Burbidge the fifth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh in 2006. Ten years later, Pope Francis announced him as the fourth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.

Bishop Burbidge courageously advocates for human dignity and rights issues. He serves as the Chair of the USCCB's Committee for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, and is a member of the Administrative and Communications Committees. He has been an advisor for the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors. Bishop Burbidge is a current member of the Board of Trustees for Catholic University and previously served on the Board of Trustees for St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. The Bishop recently fulfilled his role of Co-Chair of the Pontifical Council's International Catholic Pentecostal Dialogue and managed the development of a new Cathedral dedicated in 2017.

Theodore Musco

Secretary of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, Ted serves as both the Executive Director of the School for Evangelization and Director of the Office of Faith Formation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn. Ted is a proven innovator in Catholic education. With experience managing a range of Catholic educational programs from Youth and Spanish Language to RCIA and online leadership, Ted's

administrative knowledge and entrepreneurial execution are assets to CDU. Previously, he was the Associate Superintendent of Schools and Vicariate Representative in New York. Ted is a graduate of Fairfield University.

Stephen Prvor

Before his appointment in 2008 as president of ExxonMobil Chemical Company, Stephen was president of ExxonMobil Refining and Supply Company and president of ExxonMobil Lubricants and Specialties Company. He also served as Vice President of Exxon Mobil Corporation from 2004 until his retirement. Before the 1999 merger, Mr. Pryor was Executive Vice President of Mobil International Marketing and Refining and president of Mobil Asia Pacific. He joined Mobil Corporation in 1971 in the U.S. Marketing Division and went on to lead marketing/refining and chemical business units in Cyprus, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.



He was a member of the Executive Committee of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) and a Director of the International Council of Chemical Associations. He received ACC's Distinguished Leadership Award in 2014, SCI's 2015 Chemical Industry Medal and the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers 2016 Petrochemical Heritage Award. He chaired the Downstream Committee of the American Petroleum Institute and the Energy Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers.

He is a Trustee of Lafayette College and former Vice Chair of the Board, and a Trustee of the Immokalee Foundation. He and his wife Kathy are active in Catholic charities. He earned a BA in biology from Lafayette College in 1971 and an MBA from Harvard University in 1975.

Catholic Distance University Launches New Website

Catholic Distance University has launched a new, mobile-friendly website that features fresh and original content and is easy to navigate. The site has a new look and is optimized for viewing on any platform or screen size.

We have simplified our content and made it easier to access information about our academic programs. This exciting new communications tool will enable students and prospects alike to find the information they need quickly and efficiently, helping CDU to further its mission to communicate the mind and heart of the Church in a digital world.

Visit our new website today at cdu.edu.

Public Notice: CDU Seeking Recognition from the

Higher Learning Commission

Catholic Distance University (CDU) has been nationally accredited continuously since 1986 by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission, an accrediting agency recognized by the US Dept. of Education as the premier accreditor for distance education. With CDU's growth and expansion of academic programs, its strategic goals include the pursuit of full regional and programmatic accreditation, in addition to DEAC accreditation. As a result, the Board of Trustees has initiated the process of seeking candidate status with the Higher Learning We hope that you will take advantage of CDU resources Commission (HLC), based in Chicago, which has oversight of regional accreditation in West Virginia.

HLC will conduct a comprehensive evaluation for candidacy on April 23-24, 2018 to determine whether CDU should be awarded candidacy. The team's recommendation is subject to additional levels of HLC review and decision-making. Therefore, through Digital Continent. Take advantage of free weno further information will be provided until HLC's Board of Trustees makes a final decision on the award of candidacy. The award of candidacy does not assure the eventual award of accred

mit comments regarding CDU to the following address: Public Comment on Catholic Distance University Higher Learning Commission 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500 Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on HLC's website at www.hlcommission.org/comment. Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution and/ or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing. All comments must be received by March 19, 2018.

Alumni Corner

By Dr. Angelo Giardino, MD, PhD, CDU Trustee, Alumni Chairberson

Let me be the first to welcome all graduates of Catholic Distance University's academic and continuing education certificate programs to our Alumni Association. As a graduate, CDU considers you family. We want to stay connected to encourage and walk side-by-side with you on your journey. The



newly formed Alumni Association is dedicated to strengthening and working in partnership with the University to connect, support, and coordinate the global network of graduates in promoting the mission of the University and the Church Community for the glory of God.

The Alumni Association Committee plans to provide educational and spiritual support to alumni through CDU resources. Fostering a global communication network that develops camaraderie among its members and promotes full support and cooperation with CDU's programs is a priority as we create goal-directed and structured activities that build personal, social, and spiritual transformation as Christian-Catholics within the University, the Church, and the Community.

like the new mobile-friendly website. The Alumni page is growing and ever-changing as we listen to you and respond to your needs. Enjoy continued access privileges to our online campus, library resources and faculty, network support, community boards and graduate thesis research binars and discounted alumni courses. Contact Annie Hager at ahager@cdu.edu for assistance.

We invite you to join us in our timely mission. CDU, the As part of the accreditation process, the public is invited to sub- world's first fully online Catholic university, is embarking on a bold plan to fulfill God's command to "Teach all nations." We are asking for your testimonials, ideas, and community to strengthen CDU and pave the way for others. Please cheer us on, pray boldly, refer your friends and local church to CDU. Share your triumphs and help each other live as an example of your faithful education. Our vision is to bring you value while directly influencing the growth and effectiveness of the University. We are proud of our alumni and hope to connect with you soon.

Enjoy Theological Analysis by CDU Graduate Students

Digital Continent is a quarterly, web-based journal dedicated to CDU's graduate students pursuing Master's degrees and their noteworthy efforts at theological scholarship. The Master's theses published are a culmination of years of careful study of The Word of God and the sources of Sacred Tradition.

We are eager to share this one-of-a-kind publication and hope you enjoy in-depth research on interesting theological topics like *The Examination of Genesis 4:1-6 (Cain & Abel) and its use in the New Testament* by Martin Timoney.



Recent issues have covered the following MA theses:

- The Mystery of Human suffering as revealed to Sister Maria Faustina Kowalski, O.L.M by Araceli V. Lardizabal-Carnazzo, MD
- Philosophical Inconsistency in the Popular Understanding of Gender: A Defense of the Sexed Body and its Significance to the Gender by Colten P. Maertens
- From Heresy to Orthodoxy: The Fourth Lutheran Council, the Trinity and the Church Today by Clarissa Hutcheson
- Geborgenheit and the Tabor Vision Beheld and Treasured in the Heart of Woman. (What Modern Personalists Reveal about Women) by Iulianne Stokes

Digital Continent is always available at www. cdu.edu/digital-continent/. Sign up on our website for new issues to be emailed to you or contact ahager@cdu.edu to be added to the mailing list.

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The online library has joined the Odilo Consortia, a network of 13 theological libraries that developed a marketplace

for sharing eBooks among members. The ten Protestant and three Catholic libraries in the partnership currently share more than 1,000 religious titles, a number that rapidly continues to grow. This new resource augments CDU's on-demand library services and content, supporting students across the world.

Many of our students without local library resources are able to access eBooks immediately on their digital and mobile devices through CDU's online library. CDU's librarian efficiently acquires the eBooks and resources faculty and students want and need.

Save the date!
CDU GALA 2018
November 3, 2018

Digital libraries are the future, and CDU is leading the way to provide materials and education to communicate the mind and heart of the Church in a digital world. If you would like to sponsor new ebooks for our library, please contact Annie at ahager@cdu.edu.

Thank You!

Sharing your knowledge with others, introducing CDU to your friends, and supporting us with generous donations enables us to "Teach all Nations" and communicate the mind and heart of the Church online across the globe. We are grateful because we cannot fulfill His Plan without you!

Get Social



"Like" Catholic Distance University on Facebook

Reconnect!!!

Catholic Distance University & Alumni Chairman Dr. Angelo Giardino invite you to reconnect in fellowship today.

"... So that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."

Romans 1:12

Email Annie at ahager@cdu.edu with your home contact information and preferred email address.