

OCCASIONAL CAMPUS COMMUNIQUE

December 18, 2012

The President's Perspective – A Brief Celebration

I'm writing these words on Tuesday, a few days following the winter commencement convocation and seven days before Christmas. This is a quiet day on campus—especially in our classrooms and residence halls.

Each December—in this season of light—I'm reminded in a special way of a verse used often in the early days of North Park to describe our educational mission. The verse is drawn from Psalm 36:

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

Drawing from these words the founders of North Park affirmed that at this school students should discover God and be guided by God.

Where do students find this light of God's guidance at North Park? In many places, to be sure, but most particularly in one place: through God's light reflected in the lives of faculty and staff.

This is God's gift through us—the light of God, light from the fountain of life, revealed through the lives of those dedicated to walking alongside students at North Park.

This is why we gathered a week ago for lunch in Hamming Hall: to celebrate with and recognize those who have revealed God's light of life to our students for 5 years, and 10 years, and much longer, up to 45 consecutive years for one of God's dedicated servants among us.

Such gift-giving—the gift of God's light revealed through our daily walk with students—is to be celebrated. We called each name at last week's lunch, and we recognize our colleagues once again by naming them here.

5 Years of Service

- Deb Auger, dean of students and seminary community life
- Leslie Bertholdt, assistant director of admissions
- Siri Buurma, staff accountant
- Christa Diefenbach, associate director of the Axelson Center
- Dan Gooris, director of campus security and facility services
- Ivan Hadzhiminov, custodian
- Whipp Johnson, assistant professor of education
- Joe Jones, provost
- Stephen Kelly, worship coordinator

- Sonia Lizardo, student enrichment services counselor
- Tim Lowly, assistant professor of art
- Patty McCanna, academic advisor for the School of Adult Learning
- Tim McGinnis, senior technology coordinator
- Jennifer Morrissey, assistant professor of French
- Thom Nelson, chief engineer
- Kathy O'Donoghue, instructional design specialist
- Scott Orians, online systems manager
- Judy Peterson, campus pastor
- Kelly Potteiger, assistant professor athletic training and clinical coordinator
- Jonathan Rienstra-Kiracofe, professor of chemistry
- Pier Rogers, director of the Axelson Center
- Rebecca Ryan, director of operations for the School of Music
- Julia Styles, global partnership coordinator

10 Years of Service

- David Bennett, professor of psychology
- Jim Dekker, associate professor of youth ministry studies
- Crendalyn Fitzgerald, associate professor of business
- Reyna Garmendia, custodian
- Karlton Gilton, assistant certification officer
- Elizabeth Gray, professor of psychology
- Ann Hicks, associate professor of accounting
- Al Kamienski, associate professor of finance
- Jennifer Kon, development services assistant
- Ida Maduram, professor of education
- Lida Nedilsky, professor of sociology
- Israel Pablo, director of custodial services
- Viveca Poinsette, certification officer for the School of Education
- Anita Ross, associate professor of information technology
- Peter VerHage, system architect
- Ching-Eng Wang, associate professor of nursing

15 Years of Service

- Linda Craft, professor of Spanish
- Lorenzo Florian, professor of Spanish
- Sue Gost, director of university events
- Sue Griffith, operations manager in information technology
- David Krieman, head groundskeeper
- Shari Nordstrom, director of admissions services and financial planning
- Lucy Shaker, director of financial aid
- Rupe Simms, professor of Africana studies
- Susan Zimmer, associate athletic director

20 Years of Service

- Dennis Bricault, professor of Spanish and director of ESL
- Marshall Shultz, security officer

25 Years of Service

- Steve Clark, director of information technology
- Julie Damrose, assistant director of information technology

30 Years of Service

- Kevin Anderson, security supervisor
- Alan Iliff, professor of computer science
- Linda Nyquist, facilities and conference services assistant

45 Years of Service

- Lee Sundholm, professor of economics

We extend our deep appreciation to each person named above, and our thankfulness for their dedicated services to students at North Park.

And may each member of the North Park community be blessed in special ways this Christmas season as our hearts are gladdened in the yearly festival of the birth of the Christ-child.