

# UIW Mission News

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## Dr. Robert J. Connelly Receives 2005 CCVI Spirit Award

The CCVI Spirit Award Committee unanimously chose Bob Connelly, Pro-



fessor of Philosophy, to receive the 2005 Award. Characterized as a perfect example of an incarnational “Yes,” serving where he was most needed, Bob has held a variety of positions at UIW. In addition to being Professor of Philosophy, he was Chair of the Faculty Association, initiator of core curriculum revisions, Chair of the SACS Accreditation Committee, Dean of Math, Science and Engineering, and most recently, dedicated leader of the Headwaters Project that is designed to honor the sacredness of the land on which the campus sits.

Connelly received his award on March 23rd at the Incarnate Word Day liturgy.

## Jesuit Father Currie Dialogues with Board of Trustees on “Faith Doing Justice”

Father Charles Currie, President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, spoke to the UIW Board of Trustees at their annual March in-service sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

On Thursday evening, Currie introduced the concept and history of social justice from the Catholic Church’s point of view. He outlined the main sources that document the Church’s call for integrating social justice into every sphere of life and especially into university education.

One of his most stirring practical examples was that of martyred Fr. Ella-curia, SJ, President of UCA, who felt that to be authentic, he had to reflect the reality of his country’s

injustices in the curriculum and scholarship of the University of Central America.

Currie noted that there needs to be a university consensus about this commitment to justice and offered several points to mark that commitment:

- Active support for global citizenship
- Support for diversity as enriching identity
- Balancing commitment to excellence with commitment to the economically disadvantaged.

- Socially responsible investment
- Insuring just wages.
- Helping students to take the leap from service to having a real impact on systems and structures.

For in-depth discussions of how to put social justice principles into action, see, e.g., [www.osjspm.org](http://www.osjspm.org).



Fully Clingman, Board Chair; S. Helena Monahan, Congregational Coordinator; Dr. Lou Agnese, President; with Father Charles Currie, SJ, guest speaker at Board in-service held at the Argyle.

## Incarnate Word Day Highlights...



L. to R. Dr. Denise Doyle introduces Dr. Patrick McCormick, Distinguished Speaker from Gonzaga University. S. Margaret Patrice Slattery recounts history of CCVI Spirit Award. Adela Gott, Leonard Leos and students present information about their Juarez experience. Dr. Connelly joins former CCVI Spirit Awardees as they are recognized by the community.

## Mission in Action: Students, Faculty Spend Spring Break Among Needy in Juarez and El Paso

Instead of the usual spring break haunts, a group of UIW faculty and students headed for El Paso and Juarez to spend their free time working with the Tarahumara Indians, ecological toilet projects, sewing cooperatives, and the Border Awareness Program in Juarez and El Paso.

Alternative Spring Break is “the opportunity to spend a week giving to others,” explains S. Martha Ann Kirk, one of the group’s leaders. Its purpose is “to educate student volunteers about specific social issues by immersing them in diverse cultures and environments” and to “encourage lifelong social action.”

At their presentation on Incarnate Word Day,

the group members presented pictures, samples of crafts and even medicine which they helped to make from natural herbs. They described the work of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate who, through their support at Centro Tonantzin Mujeres, encourage women in Ciudad Juarez to be self-supporting through sewing cooperatives and other projects.

The group lived with families and saw firsthand the limited resources available to most of the children and their parents. Many of the women work assembly line jobs in the maquiladoras, earning an average of 26 Mexican pesos a day. In relation to the cost of living, this is a meager wage. Statistics vary but general

estimates suggest that it takes four hours of work to buy two pounds of beans, one hour to buy two pounds of rice, and forty minutes for the corn tortillas. To buy beef, chicken, eggs, diapers, shampoo or aspirin, the number of hours of work required skyrockets so that there is very little leisure time to be with families.

In spite of these hardships, the students found welcoming smiles and unbounded generosity from the people of Juarez. In return, Campus Ministry hopes to fundraise for scholarship money to help pay the high school fees for the children of the host families.

## UIW Community Commissions Two Volunteer Teams for Work in Mongu, Zambia and Bukoba, Tanzania

On March 9th, UIW blessed and prayed for twelve faculty and doctoral students as they prepare to offer workshops to teachers and care-givers in Zambia and Tanzania.

In her welcome to the assembled community, Sr. Ettlting thanked the volunteers for their passion and absolute generosity in caring for all



of God’s children. Representatives of the group read from the Old Testament call to Abram to leave his country, from Bishop Dubuis’ letter seeking relief for the poor

at the hands of volunteers, and from the UIW Mission which aims to promote the same spirit of Christian service and to educate “concerned and enlightened citizens” who are willing to help change unjust systems.

Among the faculty traveling are Drs. Sarah Williams, Eula Pines, Michael Mulnix and Dot Ettlting. For detailed information on

## UIW Vocabulary....

**Preferential Option for the Poor:** In its 1984 General Chapter, the Congregation formally proclaimed a preferential option for the poor and asked that it be incarnated in all aspects of personal and institutional life.

From that time onwards, it has asked its sponsored institutions to find “viable ways” of implementing

this option by “**using their power on behalf of the poor.**” These institutions, such as UIW, are called to “review their mission, use of resources, insertion into their local reality, employee and personnel practices, and overall commitment to the principles of social justice in light of this option.”

## Don Ewers Leads Heritage Walk Through Campus

