



DCP alum Gabriela Rico (center) working with Summerbridge students.



DCP Alumni Stay Connected

DCP alums Jennifer Madison '04, Tharry Thoeun '05 and Gabriela Rico '06 spent a portion of their summer helping to ensure that incoming DCP freshmen will be successful college prep students during the school year. As leaders in the Summerbridge program they led 130 students through a five-week acculturation program. Designed to give new 9th graders the chance to learn about the academic community they are about to enter, Summerbridge guides students toward a better understanding of the mission, culture and expectations of DCP. This program is crucial in determining whether or not a student will succeed at DCP and the first-hand experience and insight alums bring to the program is critical to its success.

“I feel so grateful for everything DCP has done for me ... I just want to give back. My goal is to be a math teacher at DCP.”

— Gabriela Rico, '06

Leadership



As we begin the DCP school year I am filled with anticipation and excitement. The first day of school brought a new group of freshmen, already part of the DCP culture after their Summerbridge experience, but new to the ways of daily life as DCP students. Our sophomores and juniors returned to school one step closer to the realization of their goals. The senior class arrived with new privileges and the responsibilities that go hand-in-hand with that honor. And in 2008, we will celebrate our first college graduates; the ultimate embodiment of our mission to prepare underachieving students who will be the first in their families to go to college to thrive at four-year universities.

This year is also exciting for me because I begin my term as Board President. The first time I walked into DCP when it was located in St. Paul's Church, I knew I wanted to be part of the hope and dream of sending our students to college. Six years later I am still here and the work continues to feed my soul.

Following the wonderful example set by Bob Grimm, our recent board president, and his quiet, yet strong leadership, I hope to help DCP continue to be a beacon of hope in our community. I am honored to serve on DCP's Board of Directors and look forward to continued success for our students and the organization.

Stephanie Puentes
Stephanie Puentes
President

Inspiration

Over the last seven years Bob Grimm has been an inspiration to everyone at DCP. From the beginning of his association with DCP as a volunteer, Bob has quietly led DCP through many opportunities and challenges. He has been a dedicated partner continually working toward realizing the dream of sending underachieving, first generation students to college. Bob's leadership as President of the Board of Directors was invaluable to DCP's mission.

“The teachers at DCP are the most dedicated group I have ever met.”

- Bob Grimm



Photograph by Joe Hu, Los Altos Town Crier

In a ceremony honoring his dedicated leadership to DCP Bob Grimm expresses his gratitude to the teachers and staff for “letting me work with them the past seven years.”

Letter from the Principal

Dear DCP community,

From the moment a student begins at Downtown College Prep they learn the “DCP handshake”—a handshake that is firm, confident and earnest. The handshake symbolizes the high expectations that DCP has of its students and represents the promise that we make to support students on their path towards college.

At June's graduation of the Class of 2007, the students were poised and professional and their handshake as they received their diplomas reflected dignity and orgullo in themselves and their accomplishments. It was very evident that they could feel that they were one step closer to the fulfillment of the promise. One hundred percent of the senior class was accepted to college and the graduates received over \$50,000 in scholarships and financial aid towards college—clearly the family and community support is already playing an important role in the college path of the DCP Class of 2007.

In the spring we will see our first alumni graduating from college—the handshake that they will receive from the college president or from a professor is one that will bring the promise full circle. It is with pride and anticipation that we look forward to DCP graduates becoming college graduates. This is a year of inspiration and a year of promise—I look forward to the handshakes of the present and of the future and am enthusiastic about expanding and deepening our connections to our students, families and the community.

Sincerely,

Alicia Gallegos

Alicia Gallegos
Principal



Andrew Becerra receives the first annual Bob Grimm Community Service Scholarship Award

In honor of Bob's exemplary commitment to DCP an annual scholarship was created in order to recognize a graduating senior who best represents the quiet involvement and calm leadership Bob demonstrates. The inaugural scholarship was awarded to Andrew Becerra for his dedication to helping others, high personal standards, inquisitiveness and love of learning. In June, Bob stepped down from his role as President of DCP's Board of Directors. While he will no longer play such a visible role at DCP, his friendship and guidance will continue to be appreciated.

Thanks, for everything, Bob!