

Davis & Elkins College's Inauguration Week celebrates Rev. Chris Wood as school's 15th president

Davis & Elkins College was alive with activity March 26-30. Every day celebrated a different aspect of the College's ministry and mission. The theme for the week built on a wise word from President Wood's father that "the journey continues" throughout our lives.

On Sunday, March 26, Service and Worship kicked off the week with a bustling Rise Against Hunger event. Students, faculty, staff, and community members came together to pack 15,000 nutritious meals in just under an hour. Those meals will be sent around the world to alleviate hunger.

Worship followed, led by the D&E 1001 New Worshipping Community Worship Team, with Rev. Sue Wonderland from the Synod of the Trinity preaching. Her message, based on Ecclesiastes 3:1, focused on where life and ministry happen along our journeys."

On Monday, D&E Athletics were celebrated. Hank Steinbrecher, a 1971 D&E graduate and member of D&E's 1970 NAIA national championship soccer team, shared his "Lessons Learned from My Journey" with athletes and others gathered from the community. Inventor of the "Gatorade dunk," Mr. Steinbrecher had seven points to share, including knowing the difference between heaven and hell and "getting the kid right, so the world will be right."

Tuesday focused on D&E Arts with a showcase of musical, theatrical and artistic talents, as well as studio tours and artwork demonstrations.

Wheeling's Marc Harshman, West Virginia's seventh poet laureate (appointed by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin) graced Wednesday evening with readings of his works.

Thursday began in Robbins Memorial Chapel with David Morrison, Class of 1979, presenting his lecture, "American Dreamin'," in which he addressed the prevailing anger in America and the deterioration of the American dream. In quoting, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he encouraged the group to have optimism and hope to counteract despair.

Following the lecture, the College dedicated the Morrison-Novakovic Center for Faith and Public Policy. This new residential center opened in fall 2016 and provides an open space where students, faculty, visiting scholars and others can explore issues of faith and social and public policy beyond what they learn in the classroom. The College acquired the property through the generosity of Board of Trustees Chair June Myles. It was named for alumnus and trustee David Morrison and his wife, Phebe Novakovic, who agreed to underwrite the structure's rehabilitation and provided scholarships and a vision.

The week culminated in the Inauguration Ceremony, in which President Wood called for collaboration in D&E's journey to the future. You can read his full inauguration address [here](#) or see the week in video [here](#).