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Student Spotlight: Daniel M. Parlow

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texts, even when -- or especially when -- such texts are hegemonic works implicated in systems of oppression.

Each response takes Father Kolvenbach's challenge seriously. Seriously enough to question its feasibility within existing institutional, disciplinary, and social structures. Seriously enough to ask how such a shift in viewpoint and values might require one to change as a scholar, a teacher, and a person. Seriously enough to wonder whether it is even desirable for us to orient our teaching and scholarship in such a direction. We hope these responses prompt you to think and talk about your own response to Father Kolvenbach's call. We invite you to take his words seriously: to question them, to resist them, and, perhaps, to perceive them as risky, hopeful, and transformative. Not to do so is, in the end, to dismiss a hard saying as nice words. When researching and teaching, where and with whom is your heart?

Student Spotlight



Photo Courtesy of Marquette University

"Our vision [at Marquette University] is to provide a Catholic, Jesuit education that is genuinely transformational."

As Daniel M. Parlow, a native of West Bend, Wisconsin, proceeded through his four years at

Marquette, he went through many personal transformations, such as deciding to leave the ROTC program, experiencing the death of his father, and changing career aspirations from hard sciences to law. But the transformational element of his education is not just marked by these changes: it is the more subtle elements of his growth and development that are the most noteworthy. These include his development as a leader, academically, spiritually and interpersonally. Dan's transformations, like those of many other Marquette students, came through a powerful set of experiences, interpersonal connections and strong role models.

"so that our students graduate not simply better educated"

Starting college, Dan was as certain as any 18-year old that he would end up working in the field of medicine, either as a doctor or in a laboratory. Graduating with honors with majors in biochemistry and psychology, he certainly was prepared to do so -- and working as a teaching assistant for both the chemistry and biology departments didn't hurt, either!

"but better people."

As Dan says, "my overall Marquette experience has taught me not just about numbers and facts, but has given me an understanding of compassion, values, and morals."

Through work in the Office of Residence Life, serving as Chair to a Student Conduct Review Board, an internship in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office and a service trip to Jamaica, Dan came to see that his understanding of success moved from a hierarchy, based on recognition, to a more interdependent, more ambiguous, more humanist definition -- making a difference in the lives of others. As he starts law school at Pepperdine University in August, he brings the academic foundation he received at Marquette as well as the desire to use his knowledge and skills -- to transform the world into a better place.