



## DWC Academic Affairs Newsletter

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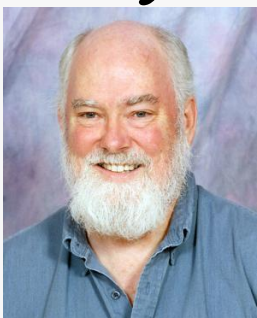
### *A Word from the VP for Academic Affairs*

*Fr. John Szukalski SVD, Acting VP for Academic Affairs*



From 1 – 4 April 2017, several members of Divine Word College faculty and administration participated in the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Annual Conference in Chicago, IL: Dr. Ken Anich, SVD (Professor, Counseling Psychology); Dr. Cathleen Cleary (Assistant Professor, Biology); Dr. Anton Jacobs (Chair, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies), and; me, Dr. John Szukalski, SVD (Acting VP for Academic Affairs). I arrived one day early for the entire day Pre-Conference on Standard Pathway. Having several members of the faculty and administration participating in HLC on an annual basis will help cultivate a certain „depth of leadership” and will facilitate more broad-based efforts toward shared governance. Drs. Ken, Cathleen, and Anton will share some of their learnings with the Faculty Senate next month and over the next academic year. Beyond the input on Standard Pathway and plenary session topics, I selected workshops on topics that will help DWC address issues of Shared Governance and Strategic Planning – issues of special focus over the next academic year. In this issue, you will find some updates on academic news, reports from faculty who have attended professional development conferences, and a photo gallery of the proud graduating class of 2017!

### *Faculty Senate President & Secretary*



On March 21, 2017 the faculty senate elected Dr. Ron Condon as the new Faculty Senate President. He will begin his term in August 2017 and will continue for two academic years. Dr. Condon is very excited to be elected and considers this a great honor. He looks forward to serving the Divine Word College faculty in the best way he can during his Presidential term.

We would also like to give a big thanks to our current Faculty Senate President; Jeremy Rudd. Jeremy did an amazing job as the President the past two academic years. He was professional and organized and kept everything running smoothly. We thank Jeremy for his time and dedication to that position as we appreciated his work very much.

On April 11, 2017 Sr. Theresa Marie Tran, SCC was elected to the position of Secretary for the Faculty Senate. She will serve for one Academic term replacing Larry Udry who did a wonderful job in his term as Faculty Senate Secretary this past year. We want to thank Larry for all of his hard work and welcome

Sr. Theresa into her new role.

# IELI Corner

## *At the Inception of IELI's Change Initiative*

By: *Dr. Seo Hyun Park; Director, Intensive English Language Institute (IELI)*

It was a pleasure and a privilege to attend the 9th Annual Professional Development Conference of English USA, which was held at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, CA, from January 19 to 20, 2017. As reflected in its slogan, "We're all about IEPs (Intensive English Programs)," English USA, or the American Association of Intensive English Programs, is the largest professional association of intensive English programs in the United States. More than 470 accredited institutes are enjoying its membership to promote quality standards for their programs and foster their professional development and networking through interactive conferences. If the IELI joins them, which we are aiming at in June 2017, we will be the second Iowan IEP on the English USA's membership list, following the Iowa Intensive English Program at University of Iowa.



With the IELI's transition to the eight-week term-based program fast approaching (Fall 2018), one thing I focused on during the conference was to learn how other IEPs have reviewed and revamped their curricula, taking into consideration of all the aspects that would influence their questions and decisions. In brief, they have gathered and are still gathering information that will help them move into the design process using the following four instruments: comparator analysis (e.g. website research, phone interviews, English USA workload document), student needs analysis, faculty needs analysis, and research on other external drivers (e.g. visa regulations, marketing).

Not all these tools may be equally adopted or weighted to our curriculum designing and instructional planning; or the IELI might have to develop additional approaches to meet the peculiar needs of our students and College. That being said, a wave of change is certainly upon us. The IELI's program revision will be thoroughly consulted at least by two accrediting bodies, English USA and UCIEP (University and College Intensive English Programs), 67 percent of whose members are running their program term for ten weeks or less. In addition to attending their conferences and participating in their active email listserv, the IELI is planning to invite two UCIEP site reviewers in Fall 2017, not only to pursue its accreditation but also to be advised face-to-face for our major program change. Planning this very first step of the "eight-week program adventure" would not have been possible without the College's generous support for the IELI faculty's professional engagement in regional, national, and international conferences this year. I look forward to sharing further updates and details on the IELI's new shape with the DWC community. One or two years later, we may also contribute to the English USA conference by organizing a session like "A year-long project on restructuring the IEP in a five-term-a-year format."

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Faculty Institute

When: Monday 7 August 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Topic: Shared Governance

Presenter: Dr. David Wendel, Emeritus VP for Academic Affairs at Luther College, Decorah, IA



## *Interdisciplinary Studies Corner*

*Dr. Anton Jacobs; Chair, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies*



### NEW COURSES.

Two special topics courses in intercultural studies are going to be offered for the fall. They are

ICS 275-1 Nutrition and World Foods (3 credit hours), taught by Dr. Cathi Cleary

ICS 275-2 The Immigrant Story (3 credit hours), taught by Dr. Marilyn Taylor

Both courses would count as elective credit towards the B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as general electives for students majoring in philosophy or theology.

Here are the course descriptions:

### **ICS 295 - 1 Special Topics in Intercultural Studies: Nutrition and World Foods. (3 Credit Hours)**

Surveys the basic principles of human nutrition and considers the nutritional value of various cultural foods/cuisines. Topics will include types of nutrients (proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, minerals, and water), the process of digestion of food, absorption of nutrients, and the functions of specific nutrients as well as their dietary sources. Students learn the recommended daily allowances (RDAs) for nutrients, and energy metabolism and balance in consideration of proper weight management. The course will also consider food intake of people from various cultural or regional backgrounds around



the world, including food availability and impacts of nutritional deficiencies in those regions. Nutritional content and health of the cultural foods/cultural cuisines will be considered in this element of the course. (May include some sampling!)

### ICS 275 – 2 The Immigrant Story (3 Credit Hours)



Explores stories of the immigrant experience worldwide in fiction, graphic fiction, film, drama, autobiography, some poetry. Emphasis on recent works. Students will read and discuss these works, then “talk back” in a sequence of related writing assignments connected to their own experience. Prerequisites: ENG 110 and ENG 111 or permission of instructor.

### WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSES

On another front, we are looking at the possibility of establishing writing-intensive courses across the curriculum and have them offered on a yearly basis. We anticipate in the next couple of years adding a requirement that all students take at least one writing-intensive course each year of their four years at DWC. They could take more, of course. As of now, the idea is that in these courses students would be required to do some different kinds of writing, as well as some formal and research writing; that they would have to produce some as-yet-undetermined amount of pages; and that they would receive feedback requiring them to correct and rewrite. The hope, of course, is that we can raise the level of communication skills in our students’ writing. We do not anticipate adding any new courses to the curriculum for this purpose, but rather designating already existing courses as writing-intensive. But, please remember, all this is still in the early planning phase. Who knows what we’ll end up with?! 😊



## Adjunct Instructors



**Ms. Angela Jones:** Angela Jones is teaching in the ESL program as a substitute. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Minnesota State University—Moorhead and an MA in British Literature from Marquette University. Having taught Composition/Rhetoric since 2000 (as an adjunct instructor at a few universities), she welcomes the opportunity to work with ESL students to prepare their English-speaking skills for their vocations.

Originally from a suburb of Milwaukee, WI, Angela has lived in six other states: Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Washington, Oregon, and California. (One of her favorite locations is Bellingham, WA.) These locations play major roles in her creative writing. Also interested in research, she presented papers at conferences on Composition/Rhetoric pedagogy, creative writing, and literary criticism, and hopes to add ESL research to the list.

Angela lives in Dubuque with her husband, Andrew, a new creative writing professor at the University of Dubuque; her daughter, Aili, an exuberant eight year old; and their cat, Zuzu. She is impressed by the students in her classes, and she hopes to do well by the person for whom she’s covering. Please welcome Angela to the DWC community when you see her in the halls.

## Teachers’ Corner

### Philosophizing In Kansas City

By: *Dr. Ronald Condon, Assistant Professor, Philosophy*

In early March, I travelled from Epworth to Kansas City to attend the annual conference of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association. I was looking very forward to the conference. Papers would be read and discussed on a wide variety of philosophers and philosophical topics. Most papers to be presented were written by philosophers teaching in American universities and colleges, but the conference is open to philosophers from all over the world. Many philosophical associations and societies, devoted to the study of particular philosophers, or particular subject areas in philosophy, host sessions at the APA conference as well. For a person interested in philosophy, such a conference can be a profoundly stimulating intellectual experience.

I was also looking forward to spending some time with my new colleague and friend, Dr. Anton Jacobs, and his wife Jean. Anton and Jean make their home in Kansas City, and were planning on attending the conference.

As I drove to Kansas City on a late winter day which had begun with light snow in Eastern Iowa, I listened to the string quartets of the twentieth century Russian composer, Dimitri Shostakovich. As a cello player, I had long known of the 15 string quartets of Shostakovich; but I had never really carefully listened to them before. I reasoned that the 7 plus hour car trip to Kansas City would be an ideal time to listen to all 15 quartets in chronological order. So, in the gray snowy gloom of an early March morning, driving past empty but whitening fields, I started my trip, listening to the relatively optimistic early quartets, written before the catastrophe of World War Two, and the full horrors of Stalinism, overwhelmed Shostakovich's homeland.

I made good time on my drive. A little over seven hours after I had departed Epworth, and seven string quartets of Shostakovich later, I found myself walking through the lobby of the Sheraton Crown Center hotel in Kansas City, having just checked into my room. To my surprise, I heard my name being called, softly and from an indeterminate distance. I looked around quickly, seeing no one that I knew. Again, "Ron" faintly and from somewhere above where I stood. This time, when I looked up I saw Anton and Jean on the raised terrace level that ran around the lobby of the hotel. Within minutes, I had joined them, and their friends, in the hotel bar. Anton's friends were Mr. Richard Epstein, and his lady companion. Mr. Epstein, introduced to me as "Art", was an independent scholar from Socorro, New Mexico, who specialized in writing and publishing books on logic and critical reasoning. Unfortunately, I was unable to visit with my friends for long. I was tired, and needed a good night's sleep to prepare for the next several days of heavy duty philosophizing.

The first session that I attended the next morning was sponsored by a professional association that I am a member of: The Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy. The topic was: Interpretation and the Analytic Tradition. Distinguished philosophers from such institutions as the University of Southern California, and the University of Chicago, read papers on philosophers, and issues, in the analytic tradition of twentieth century philosophy. Among other philosophers considered, particular emphasis was given to the philosophies of G.E. Moore, Gilbert Ryle, and Willard Van Orman Quine. These talks were useful to me both because of my research interest in the history of analytical philosophy, and because I teach a component on analytical philosophy in my course on contemporary philosophy.

After a quick lunch with Anton, in the early afternoon I heard two interesting papers on the theme of practical reason in Kant's moral philosophy. The speakers were from the University of Pittsburg, and the University of Southampton, in England. Dr. Sasha Mudd, from Southampton, argued convincingly against the idea that in Kant's theory logical priority must be given either to the concept of the good will as the highest of all possible goods, or to the universal form of the categorical imperative. Despite the abstract nature of the issues involved, this discussion has a direct relevance to my teaching at Divine Word College, as the subject of Kant's ethical theory forms an indispensable part of our introductory course in ethics.

Throughout the rest of the afternoon and evening, I heard lectures on an astonishing variety of philosophical topics, among them: Kant on the role of grace in moral development, the concepts of intention and agency, and philosophical themes in the films of Lars Von Trier. That night I fell into bed physically exhausted, but my mind whirling with the excitement of philosophical engagement.

The next morning, the philosophizing began again in earnest. From nine until noon I listened to papers on the topic of Wittgenstein and Rule-Following. The speakers were from the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Otago, in Dunedin, New Zealand. This is an extremely interesting topic to me, but unfortunately, the philosopher from New Zealand spoke with such a thick Scottish accent that his ideas were largely lost on me. Luckily, both philosophers passed out detailed handouts outlining their talks, so I went away feeling that at least I'd learned something.

As the day progressed, my mind was alternately preoccupied with issues in the philosophy of mathematics, considered historically through an investigation of Johann Lambert's 18<sup>th</sup> century proof of the irrationality of Pi, Leibniz's moral problem of free will, and the epistemological position known as skeptical theism. I can assure you, it was all rather mind-boggling!

Traditionally, at the annual APA Central Division conference the in-coming president of the division will offer a presidential address. This year, the new president is a philosopher from the University of Minnesota named Valerie Tiberius. Dr. Tiberius' presidential address was entitled "The Well Being of Philosophy". Rather in the manner of a social scientist, Dr. Tiberius made a sociological study of how well, or poorly, professional philosophy in America is doing in terms of several core values widely accepted by philosophers in the profession, such as diversity, relevance, and interdisciplinarity. The good news, according to Dr. Tiberius, is that professional philosophy in the United States is doing reasonably well; but, perhaps unsurprisingly, more work needs to be done to achieve the identified core values.

I had the pleasure of sitting with Anton and Jean during the presidential address, and after it was over we spent a pleasant hour together in the hotel bar conversing about the conference, philosophy, Divine Word College, and much else. We had a fine time. Relaxing with Anton and Jean provided a wonderful coda to the conference.

The next day, I faced the long drive home, and the task of completing listening to the string quartet cycle by Shostakovich. As I was leaving the hotel, quite by chance, I ran into Anton's friend, the critical reasoning expert, Mr. Richard Epstein. When I addressed him as "Art", to my chagrin, he corrected me. I had evidently misheard his name when I had been introduced to him by Anton the first night of the conference. What he wished to be called was, in fact, "Arf"! As he explained, this was due to his great affection for canines, and his theory of their quasi-divinity, which he went on to expound enthusiastically to me, making much use of Biblical imagery!

The day was warm as I drove. Spring was in the air. I succeeded in listening to the remaining Shostakovich string quartets, in sequence, as I travelled along the interstate. And although the composer became increasingly despondent and preoccupied with death as he grew older, and this melancholy obsession was expressed more and more in his late quartets, I couldn't help but be in a cheerful mood. The conference had been a success. I had thought much, and learned much. As the last bleak notes of Shostakovich's final string quartet vanished into nothingness, I thought of "Arf", and I smiled.

## **TESOL 2017**

*By: Mr. Larry Udry; Assistant Professor, ESL*



From March 21st- 25th, I attended TESOL in Seattle, an international convention for ESL/EFL instructors. Books, computers, apps and a lot of sessions spread over three hotels and a six floor convention center. (I spent my time mostly on the top floor of the convention center.) Sadly, I missed the keynote speaker- Sherman Alexie. There were approximately 9000 English teachers there (and not a misplaced modifier to be found) . I attended many sessions on IEP programming, as the IELI gets ready to shift the curriculum to an 8 week program and pursue accreditation in CEA. As part of the CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) - IS, I attended meetings for the Interest Section and Newsletter Editor's workshop and busied myself with finding writers for the newsletter. During this conference I was able to webcast sessions on youtube through an interface called OBS ( One Button Studio). This was the first year for having the ability to do this. These webcasts enabled those unable to attend the conference to participate virtually. I am also a member of the CALL-IS Steering Committee which plans a three day event within the TESOL conference itself called the Electronic Village. The Electronic Village offers hands-on learning opportunities for those attending the conference. In addition it hosts lectures from other IS's. Basically, the conference within a conference is a conference itself and I see very little outside the Electronic Village events. Most importantly, I found a great dive restaurant, where I stopped almost every morning, with an Ivory Coast staff and spicy sandwiches. A very good and productive conference.

The CALL-IS newsletter is one that I edit for TESOL, an international community of ESL teachers. The newsletter goes out to about 1500 people in our IS (Interest Section) - the Interest section is named CALL( Computer Assisted Language Learning). The people in this IS are people who use a great deal of tech in classes, in pedagogy and in materials writing (books but also websites, apps, etc) . Here is the link to the most recent issue of the newsletter.

<http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/tesolcallis/issues/2017-02-22/email.html>

## **New Course Offerings**

### **PHI 375: Media Communication Ethics**

*By: Dr. Roman Ciapalo; Adjunct Professor, Philosophy*



In the fall of 2017 the Philosophy department will offer a new course entitled Media Communication Ethics. This course will study the basic moral principles and theories as they apply in the evaluation of the moral issues (e.g. truth, privacy, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, antisocial behavior, morally offensive content, responsibility to juveniles, social justice, stereotypes) that arise in the media (e.g. newspapers, television, internet, social media, advertising, journalism.)

## **C's**

*By: Dr. Yasmin Rioux; Assistant Professor, English*

The Conference on College Composition and Communication, or C's, is one of the nation's largest and oldest gatherings of its kind. At this annual convention, writing, literature, and communication professionals from around the country gather to share and explore all that is current and upcoming in the fields of college communication and composition.

This year, the Conference on College Composition and Communication was held in Portland, OR, and took place during our spring break from March 15 – March 18. I was invited to present some research, I had done in the field of ecocomposition. My

study aimed at gaining a better understanding of how students place themselves into their natural surroundings following a semester-long environmental literature and writing course. Specifically, I wanted to see how writing students place themselves rhetorically into their natural surroundings, express agency, and perhaps exemplify environmental awareness and responsibility for their environmental places after having taken the mentioned class.

While there, I was also able to attend workshops, engage in discussions with others in the fields, and examine current research dealing with best practices, pedagogies, emerging theories, and other exciting topics that I can implement or rely on here at Divine Word. Some presentations and interactions I encountered reinforced the idea that the awareness of multimodal and multigenre writing is crucial and vital for fostering 21st century literacy skills and practices. These approaches to writing will also be beneficial to our students here at Divine Word College as we aim at making writing engaging, interesting, interactive, generative, as well as reflective and transferable to lives beyond the college years.

I also explored current research on the importance and role of the students' existing and prior knowledge in writing tutoring conferences and sessions. This, of course, was very informative as I'm trying to expand our Student Resource Center's role within our Divine Word College community. Another engaging topic I encountered was a research piece on faculty responses to cross-disciplinary WI (writing intensive) courses at a university in Arkansas. Again, this might become relevant for our context here. At last, my ongoing research and interest in Ecomposition led me to attend some sessions on this topic. Aside of learning more about the newest publications in the field, I gained more information on the use of technology, digital modes, and video games in the ecomposition classroom.

## *Graduating Class of 2017*

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Below is the Divine Word College graduating class of 2017. We wish them well in their future endeavors and are confident that their years of academic and spiritual formation at Divine Word College have prepared them well for missionary service in the Church and a lifelong commitment to serving God's people. Our prayers go with you! Congratulations to all of you!



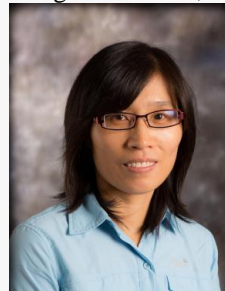
Sr. Sang Pham, LHC: B.A. Theology & Religious Studies, Minor: Intercultural Studies



Sr. Que Lam, LHC: B.A. Theology & Religious Studies, Minor: Intercultural Studies



Sr. Thuan Doan, LHC: B.A. Theology & Religious Studies, Minor: Intercultural Studies



Sr. Jingxin Li, IHM: B.A. Theology & Religious Studies, Minor: Intercultural Studies



Sr. Suong Dang, LHC: B.A. Theology & Religious Studies, Minor: Philosophy



Mr. Giovanni Lopez-Huerta: B.A. Philosophy, Minor: Intercultural Studies



Sr. Xuan Tran, LHC: B.A.  
Intercultural Studies, Minor: Theology & Religious Studies



Ms. Stephanie Gado: B.A.  
Intercultural Studies, Minor: Theology & Religious Studies



Sr. Hien Bui, LHC: B.A. Intercultural  
Studies, Minor: Theology & Religious Studies



Mr. Martin Herrera: B.A. Philosophy