

THE LOG

Divine Word College

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A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

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THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascherman, SVD*

How NOT to be a Missionary

Divine Word College strives to prepare men and women for missionary service. The Core Competencies spell out some essential areas of growth. They are:

- Critical Thinking Acuity
- Communication Effectiveness
- Intercultural Competence
- Social & Global Responsibility
- Missionary Discipleship

The academic program, the formation and student life activities, and living together in intercultural community are all meant to help us take on the attitudes and habits required for a life of missionary dialogue.

Two attitudes that are fairly common in US culture can easily undermine progress in deepening these missionary skills. One is **exaggerated individualism** and the other is **exaggerated self-reliance**. "Self-reliant individuals" seem to be the stated outcome for much American higher education. It seems to me my home culture leans too far in the direction of: *Leave me alone, I can do it by myself*.

Individual initiative while admirable, can shade into neglect of community life. When I was a student at DWC from 1972-1976, I was much too focused on individual academic excellence. I studied hard and got very good grades. However, as I look back, I wish I had spent more effort cultivating friendships with fellow students, with staff and with people in the surrounding area.

Self-reliance begins to develop very early in life. Think of the times you have heard a toddler say, "I want to do it myself." That makes us smile! But a child's self-assertion is very different from the feeling one gets from an adult saying: "I don't need anyone's help." When I am in the garden, I am continually reminded to avoid exaggerated self-reliance. Often enough, when someone offers a



compliment, I say,
 “I’m only watering and pulling weeds, God does the flowers.” The truth is, God also made the dirt, the seed, the water, and me. God also made the many students who contribute their efforts to care for the gardens and the trees.

“It takes a village to raise a child” is a contemporary proverb rightly emphasizing the limits of individual self-reliance. Missionary service is always a community activity that leans on God’s grace and the aid of our brothers and sisters. Jesus sent his disciples out two-by-two to announce that the Reign of God is at hand.



Members of the Arnoldus family bind ourselves to God and to one another through our vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience. The purpose of our religious-missionary community is to make “Divine Love” and the “goodness and kindness of God visible in our life and service” (Constitutions of SSps and SVD). Our recent celebration of Family Feast gave an opportunity to take a snapshot of the Arnoldus family that together is announcing the Reign of God.

We know we can’t do it alone.

Constitution and Citizenship Day

Each year the United States commemorates the signing of the US Constitution on the 17th day of September in 1787 in Philadelphia, PA. The Constitution begins with a majestic introduction:

“We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”



The Constitution was the product of a great political compromise including such issues as slavery and proportional representation. The compromise did hold the union of States together, but it left slavery protected in law. Seventy-eight years later, after four years of civil war, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude.

In 1868 the 14th Amendment was adopted. It has been the focus of extensive litigation in the Supreme Court over the years. Three main clauses of the amendment are still very much in the news:

Citizenship Clause. The Amendment establishes that all persons born or naturalized in the US are citizens. Naturalized citizens are those who acquire citizenship according to established procedures. The clause was adopted to guarantee the rights of citizenship to newly freed slaves of African descent after the Civil War. Recently, some have sought to eliminate automatic citizenship for those born in the US to parents who were not citizens.

Due Process and Equal Protection Clause. No State may “deprive any person life, liberty, or property, without the process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” This amendment is one of the most litigated elements of the Constitution; Brown v. Board of Education (1954) regarding racial segregation, Roe v. Wade (1973) regarding abortion, Bush v. Gore (2000) regarding the outcome of the 2000 election, and Obergefell v. Hodges (2015) regarding same-sex marriage.

Insurrection or Rebellion Clause. No person who has engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States may serve as an officer of the United States. This clause was fashioned to exclude officials of the Civil War’s Confederate States to hold office in the US or in the individual states. Though the clause was rarely enforced in the South, it has become a focus of litigation once again after the events of Jan 6, 2021. Several States are currently deciding whether former president Donald Trump is disqualified as a candidate for the 2024 election, based on his activities before and after the attack on the US Capitol!

You can review a copy of the US Constitution at <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

Undergraduate Fall 2023 Intensive O-Term

Students who successfully complete all eight levels of the ESL curriculum at the end of the current ESL Fall 2023 Term A in mid-October are eligible to transition immediately into the undergraduate program. Students who receive final approval from the IELI Director and the VP for Academic Affairs will be permitted to enroll in an intensive 8-week undergraduate O-Term consisting of six (6) credit hours in designated courses taught by undergraduate faculty. The two three-credit courses indicated below will begin on Monday, October 16 and meet each weekday from Monday – Friday for 60 minutes each class period.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • MAT 121 College Mathematics (3 credit hours) | Fr. Akizou Kamina, SVD |
| • ENS 212 Intro to Environmental Science (3 credit hours) | Dr. Cathleen Cleary |

Enrollment in the intensive UG Fall 2023 Intensive O-Term allows international students on F-1 visas to maintain full-time status as required by the United States government. At this time, the undergraduate O-Term is open only to students approved for transition from the ESL program into the undergraduate program.

Checking the Rear-View Mirror: Five Promising Practices from the HLC Assessment Academy

Back when I was 15 years old, my driving instructor warned me: “You cannot drive a car safely without checking the rear-view mirror from time to time.” Looking back to the first event of our Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Assessment Academy in October 2020, I recall Five Promising Practices that guided our efforts in building up our project at the very beginning. I thought it helpful to “check the rear-view mirror” and review these practices as we begin our third and final year of the Academy.

1/ Focus on Learning – Student learning is the focus of assessment; not everything needs to be measured and not all of the time; instead, a helpful mantra for encouraging strategic assessment practices is “measure what you value, not value what you measure.”

2/ Develop Leaders – Assessment is a shared responsibility across the institution, all have a responsibility to participate and contribute in meaningful ways; the leadership team should engage a cross-functional team of faculty, staff, and administration.

3/ Build Infrastructure – Create an institutional culture of assessment; publish organizational structures and standardized policies and procedures; perform curriculum mapping; eliminate meaningless exercises and tools.

4/ Engage Constituents – Seek input from faculty, staff, and administration; provide clear instructions, ask meaningful questions, have reasonable expectations.

5/ Address Opposition – Expect the possibility that not everyone will get onboard; some 15% may resist any change, another 15% may resist the specific project itself, but some 70% will support the Academy Project and assessment initiatives; admit past mistakes and failed endeavors, but keep future oriented and positive!

Faculty Professional Development

Ms. Elizabeth Winter—Library Director & Archivist—has been pre-approved for professional development funding to attend the Iowa Library Association Annual Conference in Dubuque, Iowa held October 11-13 2023.



September is National Suicide Prevention Month 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

If you or someone you know needs help, free and confidential support is available 24 hours/day and 7 days/week. Resources are available at the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline website (www.988lifeline.org) or you may contact a mental health professional directly by calling, texting, or chatting using the three-digit 988 code active everywhere in the United States.



Interviews & surveys:

Interviews: A conversation between an interviewee and interviewer with the aim of gaining a better understanding of a specified topic. An interview commonly follows an **interview protocol**: “A script and set of instructions for conducting interviews” (Allen, 2004, p. 169).

Surveys “A questionnaire that collects information about beliefs, experiences, or attitudes” (Allen, 2004, p. 172)

Both items are valuable to gather data, and can be used to answer or address different sets of questions. The helpful thing about interviews is that the interviewer has time and opportunity to meet directly with the interviewee and raise follow-up questions for clarification, further insights, or advancement of the overall interview.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Student Conference – Eucharistic Revival

A friendly reminder that there will be a Student Conference this Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Chapel. As mentioned in last week’s Log, the theme of this conference will focus on the Eucharistic Revival, a way for us to deepen our faith by encountering Jesus Christ through the Eucharist, and being sent out on mission. Fr. Michael Tarigopula from the Diocese of Madison will be our guest presenter for the conference. The student conference will begin the kickoff of the National Eucharistic Revival at Divine Word College. All students are required to attend. Please be there on time. For more information about the National Eucharistic Revival, please visit www.eucharisticrevival.com



Cemetery of the Innocents

The Students for Life at Divine Word College work every year to raise awareness of the right to life and to end abortion. As part of our annual efforts, Students for Life organizes three events to promote this cause—the display of the Cemetery of the Innocents, a monthly Holy Hour in praying for life, and participation in the March for Life in Washington D.C. every January. This **Saturday, September 23, 2023**, we will join Tony and Jeanita Grebner as well as students from Catholic High Schools to build a display of crosses in front of the college. Fr.

Stephen Nguyen, SVD posted a sign-up sheet on the student bulletin board for those who want to join. The work will begin at 9:00 am. Please join us to show your support.



Mission Sunday Preparations

World Mission Sunday is coming up on Sunday, October 22, 2023. This is one of the main celebrations sponsored by Divine Word College and we anticipate many friends, benefactors, and guests to be present. As usual, after the Eucharistic celebration, the college will host the "Taste of DWC" featuring different cultural dishes for our guests and the entire community to enjoy. There will also be music and cultural performances at this event. Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS has posted a sign-up sheet on the Student Board. We invite you to add your name if you'd like to share one or more cultural dishes from your home country or any cultural cuisine you wish to contribute to the community. To help with any increased costs due to inflation, we're offering up to \$40 per dish to cover expenses for special ingredients. Please sign up as soon as you can so that we can accurately plan for ingredient purchases. If you have any questions, please contact Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS.



Mission Sunday 2022

Vocation Mass

The community of St. Teresa of Avila, consisting of all religious sisters in perpetual vows, is organizing a Vocational Mass to pray for an increase of vocations. It will take place on Wednesday, September 27th, at 8:00 A.M in the main chapel. Sr. Thao Tran, LHC will graciously share her vocation story during the Mass. Please come to support and pray for an increase of vocation, especially for the chaplain, Fr. Simon Thoi Hoang SVD, and members of the St. Teresa of Avila community.



Grit & Resilience

Many of us are familiar with the word '**Resilience**'. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, resilience means

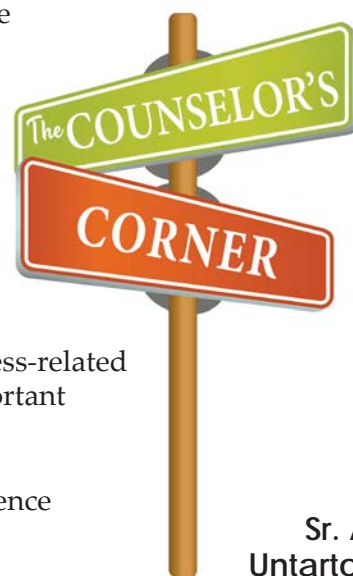
1. The capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress
2. An ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change

In mental health, resilience is emotional strength, the ability to bounce back from challenges and struggles to overcome crises in life. The more resilient we are, the less vulnerable we become to stress-related problems like depression and anxiety. Resilience also plays an important part in becoming more self-confident.

We might not be familiar with the word '**Grit**', at least in my experience with English as my second language. As a noun, grit means

1. small loose particles of stone or sand
2. courage and resolve; strength of character

In psychology, grit describes our mindset to persevere through crises, challenges, and failure. Based on her book "Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance," the term grit was made popular by a psychologist, Angela Duckworth. According to her, there are four key elements of grit.



by
Sr. Aprilia
Untarto, SSpS



Duckworth, A. (2016). *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*. New York, NY: Scribner.

1. Grit means that we feel **passionate** about our journey, personal and professional, that we are on.
2. Grit also takes **practice**. It means we are responding to our failings by learning from them. Practice is what helps us figure out what mistakes to avoid and what to do better next time.
3. The deeper currents of passion contain our sense of **purpose** in them.
4. We strive to maintain the **positive outlook** we need to protect our mental and emotional health.

Sometimes, our life hits us to the ground, knocking us down. We need the emotional strength to go back to our lives as strong as before. With resilience, we can bounce back to normal relatively quickly. Grit is what makes us get back up. In other words, **resilience is the emotional capacity to get back to our feet when crises hit us; grit is the decision to do so.**

The Counseling Center is open five days a week, with appointments on weekends and holidays. Please reach out to us at auntarto@dwci.edu | Room 202 | Ext. 377 for more information.

"Grit is that 'extra something' that separates the most successful people from the rest. It's the passion, perseverance, and stamina that we must channel in order to stick with our dreams until they become a reality." – Travis Bradberry



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Mr. Steve Winger

Pour House Update

The Pour House renovation project is moving forward. Randy and John are doing a great job getting this space ready for students and employees. Fr. Akizou is working on decorations and furniture. If all goes well we hope to have the Pour House open by October 6. We are excited to see what it looks like. See page 10 for a few progress photos.

SafeColleges/Vector Solutions Training

You should be receiving a SafeColleges/Vector Solution email invitation in the coming days. This is mandatory online training for employees and students. You will have two classes to complete by the end of December. If you have difficulty logging in or creating an account please contact Steven Winger, Vice President for Operations and Finance.



Matthew Jacoby Library



opac.dwci.edu

Resource Demonstration Days

Are you interested in trying the library's research databases, eBook/audiobook app **Libby**, and/or watching movies on **Kanopy**, but aren't sure how to use these resources?

During the Fall Semester, the library will be holding demonstration days to highlight different subscription resources like **JSTOR**, **EBSCOhost**, **Libby**, **Kanopy**, and our **online catalog (Koha)**.

The library's first demonstration day will be on Thursday, September 28th.

Come by the library anytime between 9-4 PM for a demonstration of how to use the library's online catalog: <https://opac.dwci.edu/>

I will cover topics like How to...

- do basic and advanced searches
- log into your account
- place holds
- renew books
- find the library's online resources

Interested in learning more on your own? Check out the Matthew Jacoby Library Help Center: <https://matthewjacobylibrary.tawk.help/>

Other Upcoming Events

Epworth Library Visit

To celebrate and learn more about our new partnership with the Dubuque County Library District, we will be walking to the Epworth Library on Saturday September 30th at 12:10 PM. If you would like to drive, please meet at the Epworth Library at 12:30 PM. Learn more about the partnership here: <https://dwcesl.my.canva.site/dclld-dwc>

Campus Read Discussion 1

Join us for lunch and dialogue with fellow DWC community members at the first Campus Read event. It is recommended that you read or listen to the first 37 pages of the book, but it is not required! We will meet for lunch in Room 107 on October 5th.

Divine Word College Archives

Did you know that DWC has an archives? The mission of the DWC archives is to identify, arrange, preserve, and make available the College's information of enduring value.

Are your records appropriate for the Archives?

Possibly! The archives accepts records that illuminate the history of the College, such as committee meeting minutes, program brochures, and departmental correspondence. Contact Liz Winter to see if your records may be appropriate for long-term preservation.

Who can access the records stored in the Archives?

Records housed in the Archives are available for internal administrative, educational, and historical research. There are access restrictions for most records. See the [Archives Handbook](#) to learn more.

Where is the Archives located?

The Archives is located on the ground floor of the building across from the crypt. The archives is always locked. Visitors must schedule an appointment to access archival materials.

Where are other Society of the Divine Word records held?

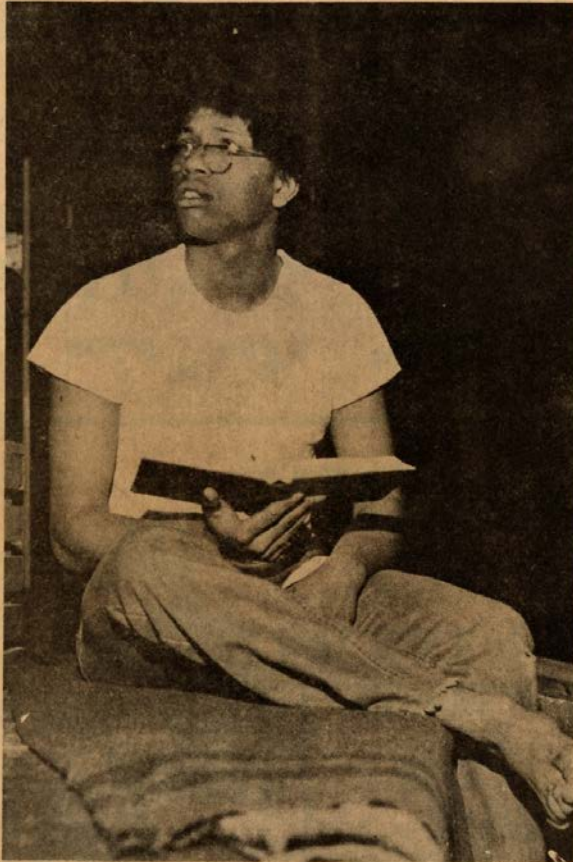
The Chicago Province records are preserved in the Robert M. Myers Archives in Techny, Illinois. To learn more about the archives, visit their website: <https://www.divineword.org/archives/>

Way Back When...

Along with mundane meeting minutes, there are historical gems in the archives. The current Campus Read event triggered a memory I had of processing posters from a student production of *Of Mice and Men*. DWC students regularly performed plays and musicals in the 1970s and 80s. In March 1974, DWC students Jim Kelly and Drew Sweeney played the two main characters in Steinbeck's classic novel. See the newspaper clipping, poster, and playbill below. Do you recognize any names?

Dyersville Commercial Thursday, March 21, 1974, A8

Full rehearsals for DWC's 'Mice and Men' March 29-30-31



Casting is completed and full rehearsals under way for the Divine Word College production "Of Mice and Men", set for March 29, 30, and 31, 8:00 p.m.

Director Brother Ron Berger has named Mark Hoffman, Toledo, Ohio, junior to one of the two lead rolls, that of "George", an older man buffeted by the tragic circumstances of the migrant workers forced off their lands by Depression conditions. The other lead, "Lennie", is played by Bernard Spitzley, Lansing, Michigan sophomore, who portrays the younger man as a muscular giant, but incapable of coping with the many pressures around him.

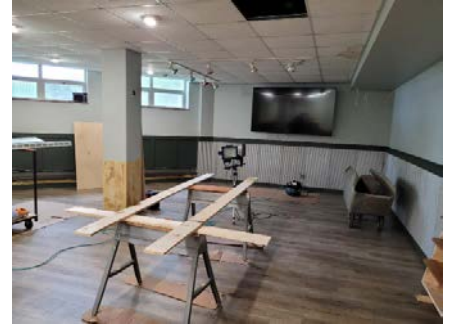
Jim Kelly, Oak Park, Illinois junior, is the middle aged "Boss", who embodies the cruelties which dehumanize the farm workers. Drew Sweeney, Wyondotte, Michigan senior, appears as "Curly", arrogant son of the Boss. The female lead part, that of Curly's wife, a seductive flirt, is filled by Mary Kay Limage, Clarke College junior, Hanover, Illinois.

"Of Mice and Men", by John Steinbeck, is an American classic, telling of loneliness and dispossession in a manner which makes it fitting to all times and places. The Divine Word College actors are finding the play one which reinforces their own commitment to bettering social conditions in missionary fields. Reserved seats are available without charge by calling the college business office, 876-3362.

Maurice Mayo, as "Crooks", one of the migrants caught in the Depression conditions shown in "Of Mice and Men", Divine Word College production, March 29, 30, 31, at 8 p.m.

To learn more about the archives, go to the Archives SharePoint site: <https://dwci.sharepoint.com/sites/Archives>.

Progress in the Pour House



Making Peace in our Polarized Society

Reflection by Fr. Simon Thoi Hoang, SVD

Vesper Service

Sunday, September 24

7:30 pm

Main Chapel



International Day of Peace - September 21



Erin LaBelle • Staff Photo

The Rev. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD, throws out the first disc on the new DWC nine-hole disc golf course during the ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 1. As a partnership with the City of Epworth, the course is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk.

City, seminary partnership brings disc golf to Epworth

Divine Word's nine hole course invites the community to campus

BY ERIN LABELLE

erin.labelle@wcinet.com

When the City of Epworth was searching for space to create a public disc golf course, Mayor Sandra Gassman approached Divine Word College (DWC) President the Rev. Tom Ascherman, SVD. Although Ascherman had no experience with the sport, he saw it as an opportunity to further the mission of building bridges between the campus and larger community, an effort launched in 2022 by taking down the fences separating the school and the city.

DWC, the only Roman Catholic undergraduate seminary in the United States focused on educating men and women for missionary service, is located on a designated "Tree Campus."

In 2022, Dr. David Koch, associate

professor of environmental science, and Aaron Gross, of the University of Dubuque, identified 516 trees on the 25 acre property, 65% being native to Iowa. In April 2023, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Arbor Day Foundation named DWC a "Tree Campus."

DWC embraced the invitation to partner with Epworth in offering a unique, fun way to enjoy the outdoors with friends and family. According to the Professional Disc Golf Association's website, the sport "is the perfect solution for anyone who wants to teach, share and enjoy a lifetime sport. It's a healthy, inexpensive, recreational activity that provides upper and lower body conditioning, aerobic exercise and mental stimulation."

Over the past year, Silker's Grocery Store and the City of Epworth supported the cause, together raising \$2,700 and covering over half the cost of the nine-hole course. Steve Winger, DWC vice president of operations and finance, had designed a disc golf course for the City of Lancaster in his previous job. Jeffrey Puccio, DWC business office sec-

retary and avid disc golfer, was essential to the success of the project, according to Winger, who also expressed gratitude for students and maintenance staff who provided hands-on labor.

Construction began on July 1 and culminated in an official ribbon cutting ceremony at Hole No. 1 on Seminary Drive. Since Ascherman was attending a family event, the Rev. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD, stepped in to lead a group gathered under the shade of several trees. Being master of ceremonies also required Nguyen to throw the inaugural disc following Gassman. "It felt wonderful. It's a good experience," said Nguyen, who is new to the sport. "I've never done this before. Was it embarrassing? Yes. Was I nervous? Yes."

A tutorial was recently emailed to DWC students and staff. A set of discs for staff members will be kept at the front desk, and students can access another set from the student sports coordinator. The course is open to the public from dawn to dusk each day. Experienced disc golfers who came out to initiate the course were already planting seeds for expansion after experiencing the course.