



# THE LOG

## Divine Word College

February 5  
2019

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

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### Birthday Corner

#### February

- 9 Fr. Shadrach Ketiga, SVD
- 10 Friday Onoja

## THE PRESIDENT

### Happy New Year

Today, Tuesday Feb 5, marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year. Last Saturday we celebrated with a Mass to pray for peace and blessings, a rich banquet, and home grown entertainment.

Red envelopes containing **lucky** money, and blossoming trees bedecked with **blessings** helped stir up our joy and enthusiasm for the days ahead.



The philosopher in me wonders about the difference between luck and blessing. Until further investigation, I have concluded that, a blessing is something that God gives; luck is something that God gives anonymously.

Lunar New Year is a time to give thanks for family, friends and a thousand more blessings we have received. We were also reminded to look forward in hope and prayer. In his homily, Fr. Bang Tran SVD shared a helpful parable for this year of the PIG:

A cow, a chicken and a pig were walking by the local parish when they saw that a big community breakfast was underway. They all agreed they should contribute something for the celebration. The cow decided to give some milk for the cereal. The chicken suggested that eggs and ham would be a wonderful contribution. The pig was a bit startled by the idea and said, "For you, eggs and milk are contributions. For me, ham is a commitment!"



May we commit ourselves to work for peace, justice and a better world in the Year of the Pig.

## A Culture of Assessment

In 2016, the Higher Learning Commission reaffirmed the accreditation of Divine Word College, and they challenged us to keep improving in several areas. At the beginning of January 2019, the HLC endorsed our efforts to improve our practice of shared governance and our collaborative approach to strategic planning. Congratulations, once again, to everyone!

There is also one challenge the HLC highlights for their next visit scheduled for November 2019. We could improve our *“strategies for use of data in college planning and efforts to improve persistence and completion statistics for student success.”*

In the 2016 estimation of the HLC, DWC “is not positioned to use the data it collects effectively. Use of data is still immature and is primarily a simple response to compliance rather than a mature organizational data design to drive wise decisions.”

I have spent more than a little time trying to unravel the specific concerns wrapped up in that tight knot of language. It pushes me to look at the college in a new light; I start to think about whether we see assessment as more of a threat or as a chance to improve.

In my musings, I have recalled some major data driven decisions that I believe move well beyond mere compliance. Here are some that come to mind.



### Academic Affairs:

- 2016-2018 - Reorganization of the IELI Program, featuring a skills-based assessment for placement and advancement to the next level.
- 2018 - Hiring of a Director for Institutional Effectiveness and reorganization of the Assessment Committee
- 2018 - Faculty Institute on critical thinking and Faculty In-Service on assessment.
- 2018 to present - Articulation of Core Competencies, Core SLOs and the associated curriculum mapping.
- 2019 - Current efforts to clarify our IPEDS reporting (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System of the National Center for Educational Statistics – quite a mouthful!)

### Operations:

- 2017-2019 - Rework of the budget process, chart of accounts and timeline.
- 2019 - Ongoing preparation of a five year Capital Investment Program, including surveys (for building improvements and information services).
- 2019 - Prioritizing the installation of LED lighting for major cost savings.

### Admissions:

- 2018 to present - Review of student loans leading to a decision about wrapping up the Perkins loan program.
- 2016 to present - Regular reports on new student enrollment and on sources of SVD candidate referrals to the Board of Administration and the Board of Trustees.
- 2014 to present - Annual reports on the results of the student exit interviews to the Board of Administration and to the Academic and Formation Advisory Council.

### Formation and Student Life:

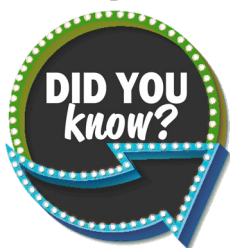
- Long-standing annual personal and peer evaluation process for all students.
- Subsequent annual review of the instrument of evaluation and the formation program in light of the evaluations.

### President and Trustees:

- 2016-17 - Reorganization of the College administration at the VP level based on trustee assessment of needs in Admissions and Operations.
- 2018 - Report of President to DWC trustees and to Society of the Divine Word on SVD Enrollment, Subsidy and Personnel
- Ongoing review of former students (graduates and others) to determine their later studies and/or missionary commitment.
- Biannual trustee review of progress on the strategic plan.

Each of these examples helps paint a picture of recent DWC efforts to gather data leading to wiser decision-making. The list is far from exhaustive. What would you want to add? An even bigger question is; how can we improve data gathering and use at DWC? Please let me know if you have some ideas.

Two data points really encourage me about our college. Over the past four academic years:



**78% of the students enrolled in DWC college classes completed their studies!**  
**66% of DWC graduates went on to enroll in graduate studies!**

We can be proud of the college we have built together here at Epworth, and we can still look for ways to improve! A positive culture of assessment, with good data use, can lead to a better future for Divine Word College.

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### TRS External Program Review – 12-13 February 2019

Divine Word College, with the support and approval of the Board of Trustees' Academic Affairs Committee, initiated the practice of regular academic program reviews in 2008. The stated purpose of these reviews is to provide for the systematic evaluation, quality assurance, and ongoing improvement in curriculum, instruction, and assessment of student learning. The review process is driven by the Department Chair / Institute Director in collaboration with the relevant faculty, and in consultation with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, according to the following timeline:

- Internal Self-Study Report in mid Fall semester
- External Program Review in early Spring semester
- Action Plan in late Spring semester

This Academic Program Review regimen is compliant with the Higher Learning Commission's criteria for accreditation Core Component 4.A: "The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs." Core Component 4.A further stipulates: "The institution maintains a practice of regular program reviews." Academic program reviews are exercises in shared governance whereby faculty and administration collaborate in shared responsibility for curricular matters in the service of the College's Mission.

The Intensive English Language Institute held its review of the ESL Program during the 2017-2018 Academic Year. During the current 2018-2019 Academic Year, the Department of Theology & Philosophy is holding its review of the Theology & Religious Studies Degree Program. Fr. Pablito Tagura, SVD, Ph.D. completed the Internal Self-Study Report of TRS during Fall 2018 Semester.

The campus visit of the external program reviewer for the DWC Theology & Religious Studies has been set for 12-13 February 2019. Our external program reviewer is Fr. Linh N. Hoang, OFM, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Department Chair and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Siena College in Loudonville, NY. He holds a Ph.D. in Theology from Fordham University in New York, and is the author of a number of articles on Asian Theology and the Theology of Migration. There will be scheduled opportunities for TRS faculty and TRS students to meet with Fr. Hoang to share their experiences and suggestions for improvement.

### Proposals to Remove All Tenure and Tenure-Specific Policies from Official Divine Word College Handbooks and Manuals

(Confirming the existing practice of multi-year renewable faculty contracts)

The text, rationale, and timeline for the proposals to remove all tenure and tenure-specific policies from official DWC handbooks and manuals were previously published in the LOG, in a VPAA memo, and explained during the recent Faculty Senate meeting. Faculty are reminded and encouraged to provide written comments or questions regarding these proposals during the indicated 30-day comment period, addressed to Dr. Cunningham as Interim Faculty Senate President, to Dr. Szukalski as VPAA, or to Dr. Ascheman as President. The 30-day faculty comment period extends through 25 February 2019.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

**Faculty In-Service** – Monday, 11 February 2019 @ 9:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Donuts & coffee available in the dining room at 8:30 a.m.

IELI Faculty – Room 109

Topic: Discuss Versant English Speaking Test, Linguatorium, Pronunciation Power;  
Preliminary SLO & Textbook review

Undergraduate Faculty – Room 101

Topic: Core Competency Student Learning Outcomes (CC-SLOs) Curriculum Mapping –  
Status & Updating

**Department Meetings [DTP & DIS]** – Tuesday, 12 February 2019 @ 12:45 -1:45 p.m.

**TRS External Program Review** – Tuesday 12 February – Wednesday 13 February 2019

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

- Sincere thanks to all the members of the VSA, the liturgy committee and all those who have contributed significantly to make such a delightful and enjoyable celebration of the Lunar New Year. Your hard work and creativity were much appreciated. Let's offer our prayer to God as we begin Lunar New Year 2019, the Year of the Pig:  
*“Lord, you make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again.  
Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us a mighty flame  
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise your glorious name. Amen”*
- As Justin Ballengee said, “I could finally see green grass.” Thankfully, the weather looks a lot better now and so **all ministries** will resume as normal. Early dinner will be served from 5:00 P.M.
- Sports Department organizes a formation volleyball tournament, beginning Wednesday February 06, at 5:00 P.M in the gym. Please come out to support your formation team and have fun.
- Saturday, February 09, **ESL ministry** to visit the sisters of the Presentation will begin at 9:30 AM. Please check the student board for more information.
- Monday, February 11 is a day of **Faculty in-service**. There will be no classes and language masses. Enjoy your day off.
- Instead of Formation Meetings, a **Dean's Forum** is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, at 7:30 P.M, in room 107. All are required to all.

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

### New Students

All new students must see Ms. Carolyn Waechter in the Admissions Office! If you are a student living in the USA (citizen or lawful permanent resident) you must talk with Carolyn about financial aid matters. If you are an international student and in the USA with a visa, you must talk with Carolyn about your documents. She will assist you in getting your I-94 card and making sure all your documents are in order.

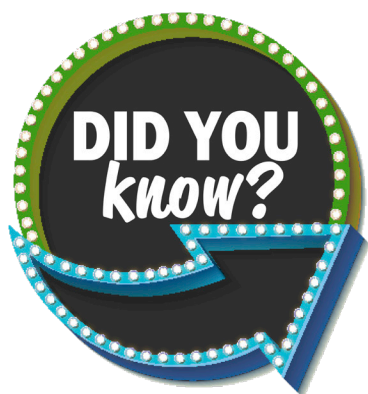
New students...if you have not met with Carolyn yet this semester, please do so immediately!

### Mass for Vocations

Thank you for praying for religious vocations and for the Vocation Office Team last week during our monthly Mass for Vocations. Kudos to the Ephesians Formation Group who helped lead us in prayer, especially to Wisno Elie for sharing his vocation story with the community.

### Where are they now?

Fr. Emilio and Fr. Adam returned to campus from World Youth Day in Panama last week. While Fr. Emilio already returned to California and will visit St. George Parish in Ontario, Canada this weekend, Fr. Adam was here to host our Come and See visitor. Fr. Adam will leave campus this week to head to Texas A & M University for a retreat. Fr. Francis is leaving Texas this week to head to New Mexico where he will visit St. Edward Parish in Carlsbad. Fr. Anthony will spend some time in New Orleans, LA, visiting candidates and preaching at St. Joseph Parish. Bro. Duylinh and Len are on campus this week, but Len will be gone to New York next week to visit the Maryknoll Missionaries.



Answer questions about Divine Word College confidently! Watch for more questions and answers soon!

Do you have a question?  
Send them to wilgenbu@dwci.edu

**Q. Where do the students come from?**

**A. 23 Countries of Birth**

- 44 Vietnam
- 23 USA
- 9 African nations
- 7 nations of the Americas
- 6 Asian nations
- 1 European nation

**Q. How many SVD are at DWC?**

(Assigned to community - not including students)

**A. 34**

**Q. What does SVD stand for?**

**A.** Latin for *Societas Verbi Divini*  
Translated into English, it means  
Society of the Divine Word

**Q. What is the difference between a priest and a brother?**

**A. Priests** perform sacramental ministry such as celebrating Mass and administering the sacraments. **Brothers** are "lay religious" (not ordained) and take the same vows of chastity, poverty and obedience as religious priests. They witness to God's Kingdom on earth and serve the Church in many ways but do not perform sacramental ministry.