

# Taylor, Hartel Retire After Decades of Teaching at DWC

*Combined, Dr. Marilyn Taylor and Dr. Joe Hartel have educated students at Divine Word College for nearly 60 years. Honored at the Awards and Recognition Luncheon on May 2, they retired at the end of the academic year.*

## Dr. Marilyn Taylor



*Dr. Marilyn Taylor, associate professor of writing and literature, is retiring after 30 years at DWC.*

Dr. Marilyn Taylor is a focused listener. In her classes, when a student presents an idea, the idea is heard. Her gaze intense, she processes their words, then asks questions to clarify the message and help refine its meaning. "I have an obsession with listening, so when students talk or when they write something, I'm paying attention," she said. "I'm expecting them to mean something."

Over her three decades at DWC requiring her literature and writing students to explore their own ideas, she was awarded the Rev. Malin Excellence in Teaching Award four times — more than any other DWC educator. She believes in empowering students to think critically, to have faith in the value of their questions. "Curiosity and questioning is pretty darned important for our students," she said. "When they go into the world, they have to negotiate differences, face conflict, solve unfamiliar problems. They have to figure it out."

Born and raised in Indiana, Taylor earned her undergrad and master's degrees at Ball State University. After marrying her husband Jack, she earned a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Denver in 1980 and landed a teaching job in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. In 1986, she came to Dubuque to teach at Loras College. In 1989, a job opened at DWC. "There was such a gentle quality about the students. They were so hospitable and respectful," she said. "It's been so much better here because I could know these students and have long-term relationships with them."

Nearly a dozen SVDs on the faculty and staff currently at DWC were her students. One of her newest students, freshman seminarian Justin Ballengee put a fine point to his thoughts on Facebook. "Dr. Taylor you are the very best teacher I ever had," he said. "You never give up on any one and you are very caring and loving in your teaching. May God bless you in your retirement."

## Dr. Joe Hartel



*Dr. Joe Hartel, associate professor of philosophy, is retiring after 28 years at DWC.*

In the life of Dr. Joe Hartel, his first love was card magic. Its subtle techniques captivated him from his younger years into college. Not a fan of school, he was trudging toward a liberal arts degree at Lewis University in Chicago when one day he walked into the wrong classroom.

"I thought it was a political science class, but it was one in philosophy," he said. "It turned out to be the right class because I fell in love with philosophy." After earning a master's degree from Marquette University, he was awarded a PhD from the Gregorian University in Rome. In 1991, he accepted a job at DWC.

"I didn't go into philosophy to get work, I went into it because I loved it," Hartel said. "Here, I tried to get people to love philosophy, too." Growing up in New Orleans, he didn't like school. In truth, the reason for attending Lewis University was so he could also take card-magic classes in Chicago. Then he walked into that "wrong" classroom and everything changed. A few years after coming to DWC, he married the love his life, Jean, and together they welcomed three daughters into the world. Then in 2003, he discovered his next great love—yoga—and soon realized its value in the classroom.

"I try to emphasize philosophies that are practical for life, and yoga does that," he said. "Yoga integrates philosophy with life. It's a spiritual practice." For more than a decade, Hartel has offered yoga classes to the college community, but it is in the classroom where he uses it to foster love of philosophy among his students. For junior seminarian Wisvel Joseph, he has succeeded.

"Dr. Hartel is an excellent, fun, awesome, competent, and knowledgeable professor," Joseph said. "He has helped me along my journey to become an authentic missionary for the service of the world."