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- 18 Sr. Xuyen Thi Nguyen, OP
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See a full list of
summer birthdays
on page 7

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Graduation AND Commencement

This week at Divine Word College, we are of two minds.

As we finish the last exam, the last term paper, the last meeting, the last report, (and the final DWC LOG article) for the school year, we find ourselves **looking back**. It has been a strange year, and a wonderful year, all at the same time. In the middle of the successes and failures, we find we have grown as a community, as individuals, and as friends.



We are also **looking forward**. In a few days, some will be leaving to spend time with family, others for a work assignment at another SVD house, and quite a few will stay here on campus for the summer. It will be August when we gather all together once again. Still others will be leaving DWC for new challenges. The graduates will be moving on to novitiate, graduate schools, and to new ministries. For a few, their vocation stories will take a turn along new paths as they hear God calling them forward.

We celebrate GRADUATION when we look back over the past years. We celebrate COMMENCEMENT when we look forward to something new.

When Jesus celebrated a Last Supper, he seemed to be looking back over the years he had spent with his disciples (Jn 13-17). He spoke about love, and unity, and peace. He hoped his words would give them courage during the approaching tragedy. Jesus also shared an

Easter Breakfast with the disciples on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias (Jn 21). He called Peter aside and asked three times, "Do you love me?" Jesus hoped to prepare Peter, and all the rest of the disciples, for the challenges that lay ahead.



continued next page

This week feels just like Eastertime; we are suspended between looking back and looking forward, between graduation and commencement. This is how it feels whenever we look to the coming of the Reign of God – it is a case of already-here, but-not-quite-yet.

Retirement

Mr. Paul Stamm, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Instructional Technology, will be retiring from Divine Word College at the end of the current academic year in May 2020. This is actually Paul's second retirement, given that he previously worked at DWC from 2011-2016 as the Registrar and Instructor for such courses as Eastern Catholicism and Public Speaking. As part of DWC's response to the 2016 Higher Learning Commission visit, Paul was willing to come out of retirement in 2018 to serve as DWC's first Director of Institutional Effectiveness. In this new role, Paul valiantly tackled such challenging projects as updating Populi data for current and past students, streamlining data collection and processes for IPEDS reporting, improving policy and practice on Assessment, and even an Instructor of Art. Paul also played important roles in helping to craft the 2016 and 2019 HLC Assurance Arguments and on the HLC Steering Committees. Best wishes for a well-deserved second retirement, Paul!



COVID19 Guidance

Plans for Summer and for the Fall Semester are described in the most recent DWC COVID19 Guidance which is attached.

It's almost like being there!

Log in to the DWC Facebook page to watch all graduation festivities!

You do not need to have a Facebook account to see the live stream.

<https://www.facebook.com/DWCseminaryEpworthIowa/>

8:00 AM Mass of Thanksgiving
10:30 AM Commencement

Friday, May 15, 2020

Graduation Celebration

For safety purposes, all activities are private

 **Join in the celebration online! Mass of Thanksgiving and Commencement will stream live on Facebook.**



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!

Listed below are the expected graduating students of the 2019-2020 Academic Year with corresponding degree major and minor, pending successful completion of any remaining coursework and the attainment of cumulative grade point average (C-GPA) requirements. This list was approved by the Board of Trustees at its executive committee meeting on Friday, May 1, 2020. Congratulations on your hard work, perseverance, and academic success!

Prefix	First Name	Middle	Last Name	Suffix	Degree	Graduation Date
Mr.	Joubert		Felix		BA: ICS (Minor PHI)	May 15 2020
Mr.	Wisvel		Joseph		BA: ICS (Minor PHI)	May 15 2020
Mr.	Tomerot		Lambert		BA: PHI (Minor ICS)	May 15 2020
Sr.	Kim Tuyen	Thi	Nguyen	LHC	BA: TRS (Minor ICS)	May 15 2020
Sr.	Thu Thanh	Thi	Nguyen	LHC	BA: TRS (Minor PHI)	May 15 2020
Mr.	Tu	Dinh Anh	Nguyen		BA: PHI (Minor ICS)	May 15 2020
Sr.	Van	Ngoc	Nguyen	OP	BA: TRS (Minor PHI)	May 15 2020
Mr.	Mark	Julio	Varghese		BA: PHI (Minor ICS)	May 15 2020
Mr.	Michelet		Boncoeur		AA: ICS	May 15 2020
Mr.	Pierre		Solivert		AA: ICS	May 15 2020
Ms.	Ngan	Tran Ngoc	Vu		AA: ICS	May 15 2020
Frt.	Tin	Trung	Vu	SVD	AA: IDS	May 15 2020
Fr.	Antonius		Waget	SVD	AA: ICS	May 15 2020
Mr.	Baruch	Zinthe Maoudjlo	Zinsou		AA: ICS	December 13 2019

BA Theology & Religious Studies [TRS]	3	AA Theology & Religious Studies [TRS]	0
BA Philosophy [PHI]	3	AA Intercultural Studies [ICS]	5
BA Intercultural Studies [ICS]	2	AA Interdisciplinary Studies [IDS]	1

Total Number of AY 2018-2019 Graduates: 14

Scholarly Article Publication Award

The Interim Faculty Promotion & Awards Committee reviewed applications for the Scholarly Article Publication Award submitted earlier this academic year. Based on the Committee's recommendation, and in accord with Divine Word College Policy Handbook 9.07.03, Dr. Yasmin Rioux was awarded the Divine Word College Scholarly Article Publication Award for the following two articles with the corresponding \$500 stipend in recognition of scholarly achievement.

- Rioux, Y. (April 2019). "Writing Makes It Easier to Relate to the Environment" – The Valuable Role of the Composition Classroom in our Threatened Environment. *Journal of Sustainability Education*, 1-19.
- Rioux, Y. (Spring 2019). "Write on, Mama! The Unique Position of Undergraduate Student Mothers in Composition Classrooms. *Inspiring Pedagogical Connections*, 28-42.

Congratulations, Dr. Rioux, for your dedication to ongoing professional development and scholarship which enhances your teaching and benefits our students! Best wishes and prayers as you move to Germany.

Distance Learning Ready Course Requirement for Fall 2020

Looking ahead to the beginning of next academic year, it is still not clear whether Divine Word College will be able to resume face-to-face classes or whether distance learning must continue. That firm decision might best be taken in mid-July based on the then-current public health emergency situation.

In order to plan for this contingency—and having consulted with the Department Chairs, the IELI Director, and the Board of Administration—I announce the following:

All undergraduate courses and all ESL courses for Fall 2020 will be required to be "distance learning ready" regardless of whether DWC resumes face-to-face classes or not.

Taking this decision now will allow all faculty sufficient time to prepare their course content within Populi before the beginning of the Fall Semester / Terms A & B in August 2020.

Distance learning ready courses should be built within Populi as asynchronous, but may be delivered in an asynchronous or synchronous manner depending upon circumstances.

A DRAFT Course Development Guide is being assembled to assist faculty in this process. Courses will need to meet certain guidelines, for example: specified number of lessons depending upon course credit/contact hours; lessons with structured content such as learning objective, reading, homework, other learning activities, and quiz; opportunities for faculty to interact with students either individually or as a group by Zoom; and, required faculty availability for scheduled virtual office hours. Kindly check your DWC email accounts regularly during the summer for updates.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Bang Tran, SVD

Summer Break

Due to COVID-19, this summer will be a very different one so please pay attention to the following:

- For those who will leave DWC for good, please clean and pack all of your belongings and take them with you.
- For those who will come back to DWC in August, clean and pack all of your belongings and bring them to the student storage room with your name on them. When you store your belongings in the storage room, please be considerate of others.
- For those who are currently living in the Janssen Hall (rooms 11A–20), clean and pack all of your belongings and be ready to move to another room. Construction will be going on in this hall during the summer.
- For those who will remain at DWC and currently not living in Janssen Hall, you don't have to do anything. The same with those who live at the Arkfeld House and Megan Hall.

Room Inspection

The Deans of Students, Fr. Bang Tran and Fr. Long Phi, will do room inspections on Thursday night May 14 at 8:30 PM for those who will leave DWC immediately after commencement on Friday. We will do another room inspection on Friday, May 15 at 3:00 PM. In order to get your \$25 deposit back, your room needs to be clean, clear of trash, no damage and nothing is missing. You will get your \$10 key deposit back when you return your key to the Dean of Students.

Students Away for the Summer

For those students who will be away from DWC during the summer, please send Fr. Long Phi Nguyen your contact information and location where you might be reached during the summer. Wishing all of you a wonderful and enjoyable summer vacation. Stay safe!

Final Week

Please check the Student Board for all the activities of the final week.

Farewell

Since this will be the last time I write to you as the VP for Formation/Dean of Students, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all students that I have a chance to accompany and journey with during my nine years. My thanks also goes to each and every member of the Formation and Student Life Committee, past and present, for giving me a chance to minister, to collaborate and to share with you this very important mission of the SVD. I am also grateful for the members of the Board of Administration, the instructional faculty and the dedicated staff for a chance to work side by side with you. And last but not least, to the SVD community at Epworth for trusting me with this indispensable ministry of our province.

I humbly ask all of you to overlook and to forgive my shortcomings and failures during these years, and once in a while, please remember me in your prayers as I venture in a new ministry. Thank you so much.

Fr. Cong Bang Tran, SVD

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Mr. Len Uhal

Online Presence

Join the Vocation Offices for the SVD and the SSps in praying for an end to the pandemic.

Please pray with us on Facebook on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 11:00 AM.



Development Office

College Blessed With Generous Bequests

Mary Ann Heles was born, raised and lived all of her life in Dubuque. She never married, but worked hard all of her life so she could give back to others. She always put the needs of others before her own.

Mary Ann came to know Divine Word College students when she went to the First Congregational Church for Thursday night meals. Because of that connection with our students, Mary Ann generously left a gift of nearly \$7000 to Divine Word College in her will.



Mary Ann is not the only person to remember the College. So far this year, twelve generous benefactors have left DWC more than \$1.8 million in total bequest gifts specified in their wills. The gifts have come from Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas and throughout Iowa. They were given to the college by men and women who believed strongly in the need to prepare our students for life as Catholic missionaries.

The gifts received this year will help pay for several much-needed projects. First, the roof on the main college building will be replaced this summer. We are able to complete this project because the \$1,000,000 cost is covered by bequest gifts. Second, the re-siding of Megan Hall, at a cost of more than \$100,000, will also be paid for with bequest gifts.

The remainder of our bequest gifts will go to the college endowment fund. For more than 30 years, the endowment fund has provided necessary income for the college to help with various expenses, especially for student scholarships.

As you can see, many people throughout the United States want to help share God's Word through the ministry of our students. Our benefactors generously remember the college with their kind gifts. Let us remember all of our benefactors, deceased and living, in our daily prayers.

2020 Class of



Joubert Felix

BA Intercultural Studies, Minor Philosophy

Home city and country: Les Cayes, Haiti.

The greatest lesson you learned at DWC: I have learned a lot at Divine Word College but I want to underline a few things that helped me become a different person. During my time here, I have grown from different facets that I had in my goal setting for every academic year, such as human formation, spiritual formation, cross-cultural community formation, intellectual formation, and ministry formation. Each academic year, my formator encouraged me to do self-evaluations, which helped me see what I needed to improve more.

What it's been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic: Completing my senior year during this global pandemic has been a challenging situation but God helped me to cope with it.

What are you most looking forward to after graduation: Now I am looking forward to Novitiate, where I will continue to discern my vocation.

How has your experience at DWC changed you: My experience at DWC helps me to become more mature and ready to serve in the world.



Wisvel Joseph

BA Intercultural Studies, Minor Philosophy

Home city and country: Anse d'Hainault, Grand'Anse, Haiti.

The greatest lesson you learned at DWC: During my four years at DWC, I learned more about the Prophetic Dialogue in action by raising my awareness about the diversity, interpersonal interactions, and cultural differences. I also learned more about other cultures through DWC's various activities, celebrations, and the FAN Club family.

What it's been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic: It has been a challenging time for me to remain focused on studying because not only was I worried about getting the coronavirus or not achieving my plan, but I was also concerned about my family and my friends in Haiti who might be severely affected by this pandemic due to the unsafe conditions of Haiti. **What are your plans after graduation:** After graduation, if God is permitting, I will go on vacation.

How has your experience at DWC changed you: I would like to say thank you to all the DWC community, especially to my ESL teachers, my college professors, my tutors, my Fan Club family, the staff, and my formators, for their accompaniment and prayers during my four years at DWC. These four years with you all have enriched my life and my vocation by helping me to become a more loving person and a better minister for the future.



Tomerot Tadesse Lambert

BA Philosophy, Minor Intercultural Studies

Home city and country: Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Greatest lesson you learned at DWC: “Humility is not the same as the fact of self-humiliation: it is not a quality, but a mode of being which includes the recognition of the nothingness of creature and the affirmation of the sacred.”- The Mystery or Being by Gabriel Marcel

What it’s been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic: Tough but the words of St. Edith Stein come to mind, “No human mind can penetrate the unfathomable mystery of the dereliction of the dying Christ. But Jesus can give chosen souls some taste of his utmost bitterness; it is the ultimate proof of their love for him.”

What are you most looking forward to after graduation: To begin a new chapter in my life. To turn away from the past and turn towards the future, a future filled with an unimaginable truth, goodness, and beauty.

What are your plans after graduation: I plan on entering postulancy with the religious order known as the Orders of Friars Minor in Silver Spring, Maryland of August 2020 (God willing).

How has your experience at DWC changed you: The intellectual life is a process in which the mind and heart try to ascent to a contemplation of the Divine in all its modes. In the words of Newman, “To be perfect is to have changed often.”



Kim Tuyen Thi Nguyen

BA Theology & Religious Studies, Minor Intercultural Studies

Home city and country: I come from Binh Duong Province, Vietnam. I belong to the Congregation of the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Thu Duc, Saigon City.

Greatest lesson you learned at DWC: The greatest lesson I have learned at DWC is the examples of the humble service of the SVD Brothers.

What it’s been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic: Completing my senior year, using online learning during a global pandemic has somehow brought my spirit down a little bit because of the many changes. On the other hand, it is a lesson that helps me to be able to adapt to unexpected things. Additionally, it is a chance to be familiar with a new way of learning.

What are you most looking forward to after graduation: After graduation, I am looking forward to experiencing a good beginning of my further study at Saint John’s School of Theology and Seminary for a MA degree in Liturgy.

How has your experience at DWC changed you: Living at DWC for six years, I have experienced a big change in my life. When I first arrived, I was like a child and just kept asking and asking questions. Besides, the school has prepared me with different skills, including human formation, spiritual formation, intellectual formation, intercultural community formation, and missionary ministry formation. All of these help to enrich my religious life and support my future journey.



Thanh Thu Thi Nguyen

BA Theology & Religious Studies, Minor Philosophy

Home city and country: Vietnam

Greatest lesson you learned at DWC: I have learned how to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds and appreciate more about their cultures.

What it's been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic: I adapted and enjoyed virtual online classes, which are not so much different from the classroom. I am grateful for those who created Zoom and other technological means so that I can still having classes during this difficult time.

What are you most looking forward to after graduation: I will continue with my graduate work.

How has your experience at DWC changed you: I have been enriched intellectually, culturally, and spiritually. I have become more open, self-aware, and appreciative of God's creations.



Tu Dinh Anh Nguyen

BA Philosophy, Minor Intercultural Studies

Home city and country: Vietnam

Greatest lesson you learned at DWC: I learned how to live and work in harmony in a culturally diverse environment. That is the greatest lesson besides the many lessons I learned from my classes.

What it's been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic: I feel ok with using online learning. That also helped me to have a new way of learning. That really helps me to think about being flexible in every circumstance and situation.

What are your plans after graduation: I will join the novices house in Techny.

How has your experience at DWC changed you: My experience helped me to have a bigger picture about the world. My mind and my heart seem open to have compassion and sympathy toward the needs of others, especially, the poor and the marginalized.



Van Ngoc Nguyen

BA Theology & Religious Studies, Minor Philosophy

Greatest lesson you learned at DWC: I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Divine Word College and Community for giving me an opportunity to study and live in an intercultural environment. I have gone through many beautiful and precious experiences, which are worthy lessons for me to live out my future life.

What are your plans after graduation: There are many unknown challenges and changes waiting for me, so I humbly ask for your prayers and support. Wherever I go and whoever I am to be, I will always remember you, DWC.



Mark Julio Varghese

BA Philosophy, Minor Intercultural Studies

Home City: Mississauga, Ontario Country Canada

Greatest Lesson that I learned at DWC: I still remember when I first came to DWC, the struggle I went through since I was a timid person lacking confidence in myself. Life at DWC taught me the lesson that struggles and situations change if you are determined to follow the rules and advice of your teachers and formators. With gratitude I can say that I am not the same person who was four years ago.

What is it's been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic?

It was not an easy transition for me as I had to learn and do the assigned work independently without one-on-one interaction, missing the classroom discussion and engagement with my colleagues. But as days went by it became my routine and I got used to it, which increased my self-confidence and gave me the courage to adapt to unprecedented situations.

What are your plans after graduation? After graduation, my plan is to attend The Novitiate program at Techny Illinois, to continue in discernment and thereby to be a religious priest for the Society of the Divine Word.

How has your experience at DWC changed you? At DWC, I had the chance to interact with an intercultural community, including students and teachers, giving me the opportunity to share and enjoy cultures during each multicultural celebration. Formation, both spiritual and academic, helped me to practice the virtue of obedience for the good of myself and others. This has changed me to practice good virtues like charity and obedience.



Michelet Boncoeur

AA Intercultural Studies

Home city and country: Petit-Goave, Haiti

Greatest lesson you learned at DWC: Being able to live with people from different backgrounds, that is intercultural living.

What it's been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic: It was a great, new experience because I could stay in my room or other quiet places to attend class. However, it was sometimes challenging due to the lack of network connection. I am grateful because I can finish with my studies despite the global pandemic.

What are you most looking forward to after graduation: My main purpose is to join the Novitiate and continue with my seminary studies according to God's will.

How has your experience at DWC changed you: I have learned how to live with people from other cultures. I have also learned how to be patient to myself and others.



Pierre Solivert

AA Intercultural Studies

Home city and country: Saint Louis du Nord, Haiti

Greatest lesson you learned at DWC: I have learned to be more open-minded and to adapt myself to other cultures.

What it's been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic: It was more relaxing. Honestly, I felt better than sitting in a classroom, but at the same time, I missed being with my classmates in classroom.

What are your plans after graduation? I am open to what God wants for me.

How has your experience at DWC changed you? I would say that DWC has helped me to listen more and talk less. For me, that's wisdom!



Ngan Ngoc Tran Vu

AA Intercultural Studies

Home city and country: Saigon, Vietnam

Greatest lesson you learned at DWC: Learning to love, forgive and trust in God.

What it's been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic: It's an extremely new experience which requires a lot of work, attention for lessons and assignments.

What are your plans for after graduation: I'm looking for a job to apply what I studied and to allow me to practice my English.

How has your experience at DWC changed you: The experiences at DWC have changed my thinking, changed my behavior to be more mature and helped me become a better person.



Martin Tin Vu

AA Interdisciplinary Studies

Home city and country: Bien Hoa City - Dong Nai Province - Viet Nam

Greatest lesson learned at DWC: Being part of an international community, I learned that being open is the most valuable lesson and it will help me be a missionary in the future. I learned to be open to self-acknowledge and open to help others acknowledge ourselves.

What it's been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic: Learning things online is kind of new for me. However, being familiar and interested in the technique, I was able to adapt myself quickly. By studying online, I had more time to finish my other projects while still having a chance to finish my courses.

What are you most looking forward to after graduation: I will move to the Theologate after graduation, so I'm looking forward to come back to DWC to join interesting activities.

How has your experience at DWC changed you: Living and studying in DWC, I feel that I have matured as the time went by. As a student and an SVD, I improved my English and intercultural adaptability, which I think can help me a lot during my missions in the future.



Antonius Waget

AA Intercultural Studies

Home city and country: Flores, Indonesia

The greatest lesson you learned at DWC: DWC is a melting pot of tens of nations and cultures. Professors, staff and students do their jobs with dedication and seriousness.

What it's been like completing your senior year using online learning during a global pandemic: Everybody here supports each other wholeheartedly. By doing so, they can get through this hard situation with the coronavirus.

What are you most looking forward to after graduation: Going back to Seminary Mataloko (High School) to teach English and serve as a member of the formation staff at the seminary.

How has your experience at DWC changed you: I plan to keep being a responsible formator and teacher by preparing young men to be the future missionaries, just as the staff at DWC does.



Baruch Zinthe Zinsou

AA Intercultural Studies

What are your plans after graduation: I'm hoping and planning to continue with my formation to become an SVD Missionary by going to the Novitiate in Techny, Illinois.



Samuel Lollar

What are your plans after graduation: I'm hoping and planning to continue with my formation to become an SVD Missionary by going to the Novitiate in Techny, Illinois.

Summer Birthdays!



May

- 15 Sr. Angela Omola, SON
- 15 Sr. Thi Dien Vu, LHC
- 16 Sr. Thu Thanh Thi Nguyen, LHC
- 16 Bro. Vinh Trinh, SVD
- 18 Sr. Xuyen Thi Nguyen, OP
- 18 Fr. John Szukalski, SVD
- 20 Frt. Pedro Francisco Manuel Saveia, SVD
- 20 Sr. Tram Thi Thu Tran, IHM
- 21 Berson Bien-Aime
- 24 Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD
- 25 Binh Huynh
- 25 Phuc Hong Truong
- 26 Sr. Thuy Thi Tran, LHC

June

- 1 Wisvel Joseph
- 1 Sr. Hong Thuy Pham, LHC
- 3 Sr. Theresa Marie Tran, SC
- 4 Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD
- 5 Connie Simon
- 6 Sr. Nguyet Minh Thi Cao, LHC
- 8 Steve Winger
- 15 Alhanouf Ahmed Alkhrayaf
- 15 Sr. Thom Thi Mai, FMV
- 15 Pierre Solivert
- 21 Fr. Roberto Carlos Alvarenga-Henriquez
- 24 Sr. Norelly Rodriguez Manosalva, RCS
- 26 Sr. An Thi Linh Hoang, LHC
- 30 Bro. DuyLinh Tran, SVD

July

- 1 Brenda Williams
- 2 Sr. Thanh Thi Nguyen, LHC
- 7 Do Kim Tuang
- 12 Cederick Morando
- 15 Jason Reed
- 17 Sr. Tuyen Thi Thanh Tran, FMI
- 18 Micheline Witter
- 20 Sr. Scovia Apiyo, LSMIG
- 23 Ms. Xinying (Chloe) Chen
- 24 Cathleen Cleary
- 24 Mary Kay Lueck
- 26 Emily Shedek
- 27 Richard Garrett
- 28 Fr. Frantz Augustin
- 29 Laura Bergfeld
- 29 Gwyneth Gates

August

- 7 Thiet Van Hoang
- 8 Sr. Thuy Tram Thi Nguyen, MSC
- 12 Fr. Joaquin Yongxin Li, SVD
- 13 Joubert Felix
- 18 Quoc Dinh Nguyen
- 20 Fr. Sam Cunningham
- 21 Hoang Duy Khanh Do
- 22 Amy Hartman
- 25 Fr. Cheng Yen Liu, SVD
- 26 Jacqueline Hunter
- 26 Bro. Tony Kreinus, SVD
- 28 Fr. Bang Tran, SVD
- 28 Omar Picon Gonzalez



- May 11-14** UG Spring 2020 Semester – Final Exam Week
- May 13** ESL Spring 2020 Term D – Classes End
- May 13** Commencement Rehearsal at 5:30 p.m. in Main Chapel
- May 14** ESL Spring 2020 Term D – End-of-Term Testing
- May 15** Commencement (Private, No Guests)
- May 15** ESL Summer 2020 Term E – Registration, returning students
- May 16** Summer Break begins
- May 29** ESL Summer 2020 Term E – Placement Testing & Registration, new students
- June 1** ESL Summer 2020 Term E – Classes Begin
- June 15 – 17** Dubuque Archdiocesan Priest Convocation
- July 9** ESL Summer 2020 Term E – Classes End
- July 10** ESL Summer 2020 Term E – End-of-Term Testing



Divine Word College

COVID19 Guidance (#13)

April 29, 2020

Divine Word College, in coordination with state and local public health experts, is closely monitoring reports and recommendations from national and regional health departments regarding coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Updates will be provided through email, the LOG and on the bulletin boards.

SOCIAL DISTANCE – 6 feet, 2 meters

It feels strange to keep a distance of about six feet from the person you are talking to, but doctors are strongly recommending that we do so when possible. It helps keep the COVID19 virus from spreading.

Different cultures have different expectations about how close you should be to another person. In the United States, the usual distance between intimate couples is between 0 and 20 inches (51cm). Family and friends usually leave between 1½ and 3feet (0.9 to 1.8 meters). For casual acquaintances and coworkers, more than 3 feet is expected.

Leaving six feet between us here at DWC feels strange! We live as a family at DWC, so as long as everyone is healthy, there is really no problem. However....

...in case we do have someone with a COVID19 infection on campus, then we will be more careful with keeping our distance. Besides, when we are finally free to leave the campus, people will still be expected, in public, to keep 6 feet from other persons. Until then, **we can practice keeping a greater social distance** from one another in two situations. *In the dining room*, we should try to keep 6ft between us in the food line. *In the chapel*, we can try to keep 6ft between us in the line to communion. There will be some marks on the floor to indicate 6ft. Can you keep your distance?

DUBUQUE COUNTY CONTINUES TO STAY AT HOME

On Monday, the Governor of Iowa allowed for restaurants, stores and other places of business to open in 77 of the 99 counties of Iowa. However, **DUBUQUE County is still restricted until at least May 15!** The peak number of new COVID19 infections in Iowa is expected between now and the end of next week.

As a result, the Board of Administration has decided to extend the "Stay on Campus" policy, and to extend the arrangements with employees for flextime and for working from remote locations. In a further effort to "practice" for the possibility that a COVID19 infection affects someone on campus or in the families of our employees, we ask that:

- For **employees who visit the College** for a work matter, please wear a facemask in the hallways where you may encounter members of the community.
- For **kitchen employees**, please wear a facemask when coming into the dining room where many of us are present.
- For **workers in the business office**, do not open the window at the front desk. Members of the community should send an email, telephone, or leave a note in the business office box to receive service.

Despite the Governor's decision to allow spiritual meetings to take place everywhere in the State, the four Catholic bishops of Iowa have decided to **wait before allowing public Masses**.

Fr. Tom Ascherman SVD
President



Divine Word College

COVID19 Guidance (#14)

May 11, 2020

Divine Word College, in coordination with state and local public health experts, is closely monitoring reports and recommendations from national and regional health departments regarding coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Updates will be provided through email, the LOG and on the bulletin boards.

As we look to the end of this *unusual* semester, I am grateful for the adaptability and flexibility of the entire community. We are continuing to adapt as we look to a very *unusual* summer at DWC.

REMOTE and FLEX-TIME WORK

Employees working at home and/or on flex-time may extend their agreements until May 31st. Please contact your supervisor. Employees who come to the College are asked to wear a facemask when in contact with students and SVDs.

SUMMER PLANS

Stay-On-Campus. The "stay on campus" policy remains in effect for those remaining at the College for the summer months. This policy will continue until further instructions are issued by public health authorities.

Two-Plus-Two Policy. In general, all students on campus for the summer are expected to follow a 2 + 2 rule: two hours/day for community service, two hours/day for study. A number of non-credit learning activities will be offered for students who wish to participate in workshops, book clubs, film festivals, etc. Students taking ESL classes will also do community service. Students employed by the college should look to participate in organized learning activities as possible and through reading.

For New Novices. Following the directions of the Provincial and his council, the DWC students who have been accepted to the Novitiate will remain at DWC for the summer until they go to Techny on July 21, 2020. They will follow the same guidance as other students on campus.

For SVDs. In general, SVDs will not be able to take vacations while the stay-on-campus policy is in effect. Please see Fr. Thang for further consultation.

For Those Leaving Campus for Vacation or Work, they are not to return to the college campus until August 11.

FALL SEMESTER

The fall semester will begin on August 11.

- Before you arrive back at DWC you will be interviewed by telephone/email/texting to determine whether you are showing any symptoms of an infection.
- When students and SVD faculty arrive, they will be asked to respect a 14-day *college quarantine*, as we did after spring break. You will be asked to remain on campus to assure that we are free of COVID infections. The college picnic and all other events will be held on-campus.
- All classes are to be ready for distance learning in the fall. A final decision regarding face-to-face or distance-learning will be made sometime in July. In preparation, faculty are requested to develop all courses for a possible distance-learning mode.

DWC EPIDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN

The Board of Administration recently updated the *DWC Epidemic Response Plan* based on the 2007 DWC Influenza Response Plan. The revised plan will be posted on the DWC website.

Fr. Tom Ascherman SVD
President