Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move (Where Is the Food?)

At DWC, World Mission Sunday is the biggest celebration of the year. It is something like homecoming for a high school or college: guests return for a visit, enjoying splendid music, processions and parades, and food! The only thing we don’t have is a Friday night football game.

For this year’s world-wide celebration of Mission Sunday, Pope Francis proposed the theme *Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move*. It calls the Church to reflect on the experience of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Their hearts were on fire, and their feet were on the move.

Mr. Len Uhal helped set our hearts on fire as he told how his grandmother found ways to help make the lives of those around her better, even as she herself was wheelchair bound by polio. She raised a daughter mostly by herself, she sewed for neighbors who had something needing repair, she volunteered for years as a school cook. And, she helped raise, Len. Her example helped set his heart on fire. He came to understand that mission is for everyone, everywhere, and it is not complicated. Though her feet were not moving, she was definitely a missionary grandmother who helped form a missionary grandfather! Len, in his role as National Vocation Director for the SVD, is making up for his grandmother’s limited mileage.

There is one addition I would make to the Holy Father’s theme for this year: *where is the food?* The Emmaus disciples invited Jesus to eat with them. That is a major part of our celebration. We gather people from all over the world for Mass and fellowship. And then comes the FOOD! Our
Taste of DWC food fest was a smashing success this year. More than 70 dishes, plenty to feed the crowd of 400+ hungry missionaries.

I am reminded of a favorite definition of mission. In 1951, Rev. Daniel Niles, a Methodist pastor in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), wrote that “mission is one beggar telling another beggar where to get food.” At DWC, we are beggars. But we know where there is food—for the heart, for the spirit, and for the belly. We are delighted we can share good news for the whole person.

We Give Thanks.

In these first days after our big Mission Sunday feast, we are still digesting. We think back and give thanks. Special thanks for:

- **Music** – fabulous sounds from all over the world. Singers, musicians, technicians, all contributed.
- **Liturgy** – presided by Fr. Tuan Hoang SVD. Processions of the flags and of the gifts. Dance, decorations, readings – so splendid and so “colorful”.
- **Food** – prepared by students, staff and faculty AND guests. Delicious. We truly could taste the whole world.
- **Environment** – our house thoroughly cleaned before, during and after the feast. Decorations in the gym, an exhibition of the 34 congregations and dioceses represented at DWC. Parking attendants.
- **Entertainment** – the “traditional dress,” the picture taking, a raffle and the boisterous songs and dances during the meal all helped to give joy.
- **Coordination** – special thanks to Fr. Long Phi Nguyen SVD for overall planning; Sr. Aprilia Untarto SSpS for coordinating the food fest; Ms. Evelyn Dias for liturgical music; Fr. Sonny de Class SVD for overall liturgical arrangements; and to Sandy Wilgenbusch and Emily Shedek for live streaming and photos of the events.
- **Guests** – arriving from far and near, dressed for the party, bearing food, bringing back delightful memories of earlier visits and of years that some spent as members of the DWC community.

We will be digesting for a good while! And we will be smiling.
Pool Closure & Sale of Properties

The Board of Administration, after consultation with the Board of Trustees, the Provincial Superior and his Council, and with the DWC community, has decided to permanently close the DWC Pool. After nearly sixty years of use, extensive repairs, estimated to cost approximately $2 million, would be necessary. Additionally, the annual operational costs for the pool (heat, water, chemicals, etc.) were approximately $70,000. In recent years, the use of the pool was very limited. In the future, when possible, we hope to covert the space into an additional gym.

Consultations with the Trustees, Provincial, and DWC community have also led the Board of Administration to decide to sell two properties; the open lot beside the SSpS house and the Br. Leonard House (where Fr. Ky Dinh and Br. Vinh Trinh were living). The costs of maintenance and street assessments have grown larger than the value of the properties.

Click the YouTube icon to watch the livestream of the Mission Sunday Mass.
Strategic Planning:
Looking Backwards (2021-2024) and Projecting Forward (2024-2027)

At the October 10, 2023 Presidential Forum, Fr. Tom Ascheman SVD presented the process and timeline for drafting the new strategic plan by the DWC community in four phases:

- Phase 1—Setting Goals (October-December 2023)
- Phase 2—Creating Objectives and Action Steps (January-February 2024)
- Phase 3—Reviewing the Draft (March 2024)
- Phase 4—Approving the Final Draft (April-May 2024)

As part of Phase 1, I now invite all members of the DWC community (students, faculty, administrators, and staff) to send me any recommendations regarding the establishment of a new Academic Goal for the next three years. Email me at jszukalski@dwci.edu no later than November 10, 2023. Any ideas for improving the academic programs at DWC—about the ESL program or the Undergraduate program—are welcome. When submitting your ideas, keep in mind that the eventual new Academic Goal will need to be SMART, that is, Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound.
As we project forward to 2024-2027, it is helpful to look backwards. I can confidently and proudly state that we have successfully accomplished our Academic Goal for 2021-2024, namely: "Create and implement a coherent assessment protocol to measure student learning and program effectiveness.” The achievement of this Academic Goal was a truly collaborative effort among both faculty and administration. Collaboration works! Persistence wins!

The three Academic Objectives have all been accomplished successfully in support of the Academic Goal:

**Objective 1: Participate in the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Assessment Academy.**
Members of the faculty, administration, and formation personnel comprised the Academy Team. Through this mentor-facilitated program, DWC piloted a new two-year assessment plan for DWC’s undergraduate program. Learning from our mistakes and making improvements along the way, we now have a more sustainable and effective five-year assessment plan and infrastructure that facilitates the collection and analysis of data for continuous improvements. In our last project update in September 2023, the scope of our project was widened to include assessment in the Religious Formation Program—for both men and women in initial formation—as our major co-curricular program. Indeed, DWC has been publicly commended by the HLC Assessment Academy for our success. WOW! The Academy will conclude with a final impact report due in December 2024.

**Objective 2: Create and implement a coherent and integrated assessment protocol across the undergraduate program.** In 2019, the Higher Learning Commission required DWC to submit an Interim Monitoring Report based on concerns about assessment. Specifically, HLC was concerned about assessment of student learning in the Core Competencies and in Learning Outcomes in the major programs. Addressing this concern required a lot of hard work, including the working on program learning outcomes, curriculum mapping, creation of signature assignments and rubrics, and faculty evaluators’ review of signature assignments with tremendous time and effort. The pilot program yielded data that could be analyzed and provided for program improvements. In October 2022, our report as accepted by the HLC and we were released from Interim Monitoring. YAY! A new, more sustainable and effective, five-year assessment protocol is now implemented.

**Objective 3: Secure Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) specialized accreditation for the English as a Second Language (ESL) program.** Another ambitious objective! DWC sought to further professionalize the ESL program through adherence to external accreditation standards and improvements in program curricula and assessments. This multi-year effort necessitated close collaboration between ESL faculty and the administration, and among all ESL faculty. The new ESL format was implemented with an eye on possible application for CEA accreditation. In August 2022, the ESL program was granted specialized accreditation through the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) for the maximum initial period of five years! For reference, only 35% of applicant programs receive this initial five-year CEA accreditation. The majority 65% of applicant programs receive only one-year accreditation. These numbers do not include all the applicant programs who were not granted accreditation. CEA specialized accreditation is certification and public acknowledgement that DWC’s ESL program meets the highest professional standards in the field. SHAZAM! In Iowa, there are only three CEA accredited ESL programs: the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, and now Divine Word College!

Thanks to all who have contributed to the successful accomplishment of our Academic Strategic Goal and Objectives in 2021-2024! Success breeds success. Let’s again collaborate and envision a new Academic Goal and Objectives as we stride toward 2024-2027.
Catholic Theological Union (CTU) – Admissions Officer Campus Visit

On Thursday October 26, 2023, an admissions officer from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago will visit Divine Word College. Mr. Jay Nawrocki will be available from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. to meet with students interested in applying for graduate studies at CTU after graduation from DWC. Students may meet with Mr. Nawrocki in the Art Gallery.

Student Resource Center – Workshop on APA Style

On Thursday October 26, 2023 from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. in Room 107, the Student Resource Center will hold a literary / academic writing workshop presented by Dr. Richard Garrett—Assistant Professor of English Language & Literature. This workshop will introduce students to the basic rules of APA (American Psychological Association) documentation style. APA Style is required for many courses at DWC, including English, Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, Communication, and History classes. All students are strongly encouraged to attend this event!

The Letter: A Message for Our Earth

On Tuesday October 31 at 2:00 pm, join us in Room 107 for a showing of the film The Letter: A Message for Our Earth. The Letter is the story of five individuals from around the world, whose lives have been impacted by climate change and who receive a mysterious letter from Pope Francis, inviting them on a journey to Rome. The film is a visually stunning call to action against climate change, especially for people of faith, inspired by Pope Francis’s encyclical Laudato Si’. This event is sponsored by Dr. Matthew Shadle’s THM 353 Catholic Social Teaching class and is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Assessment Bites from Dr. Yasmin Rioux

In her Assessment book, Allen (2004) lists “Some Friendly Suggestions” (p. 163) to move forward with assessment! Here are just a few:

- Keep in mind the six steps of assessment and don’t skip them!
- Keep things clear and simple: “Keep your assessment plan simple and focused, so it is meaningful, manageable, and sustainable” (p.163)
- Focus on the learners: “[...] we do assessment to improve students learning, and to do this well, we have to systematically focus on what our students actually learn” (p. 164)
- Get assistance when needed and collaborate: “Colleges and universities have an important mission, and this mission is best accomplished when campus professionals share a vision and coordinate their efforts to help realize it” (p. 164)
Appreciation

I extend my heartfelt thanks to each one of you for the immense hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm that you contributed to making our Mission Sunday Celebration not just a success, but an event that was truly memorable, meaningful, and filled with joy. Your dedication and tireless efforts in preparing food, decorations, music, dance, and everything in between helped create an atmosphere of celebration and significance that touched the hearts of everyone present.

The way you showed as a team, supporting one another and working hand in hand, showcased the true spirit of our DWC community. I have received numerous positive comments from our friends and visitors, and they too express their thanks and appreciation for your hard work.

Please allow me to take a moment to acknowledge a few members who played a pivotal role in helping me organize this special event:

- Ms. Kalinda Swim, our kitchen manager, and her dedicated staff
- Sr. Aprilia Untaro, SSps, (Taste of DWC coordinator)
- Fr. Sonny De Class, SVD (chaplain) and Dr. Evelyn Dias
- Ms. Sandy Wilgenbusch & Emily Shedek (PR and social media)
- Mr. Vuong Vu (student senate)

...and all those who worked diligently behind the scenes to make this event possible. Once again, thank you, Gracias, Merci, cảm ơn! Your contributions have made a significant impact, and I am grateful for your commitment and hard work.

Vocation Mass

This Friday, October 27, 2023, the community of St. John Vianney will be organizing our monthly vocation Mass. During this Mass, we will have the privilege of hearing from Fr. Julenord Clervil, ST who will share his own vocation story and journey with us. Vocation Masses hold a special place in our hearts as the stories shared are powerful sources of inspirations, helping us to strengthen our own vocational call. Let us come together to join in prayer for an increase of vocation to religious life, and in particular for Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD, and all members of the community of St. John Vianney, asking for strength and guidance as they live out faithfully their vocations. As St. Vianney said, “The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Annual Retreat

This weekend, members of St. Arnold Janssen formation group will be having their annual retreat, beginning on Friday, October 27, 2023, through Sunday, October 29, 2023. Retreat is a time to put everything aside, and to focus on prayers and deepening one’s relations with the Lord. With this in mind, we kindly request your prayers for the members of St. Arnold Janssen formation group as they seek to encounter the Lord and renew their spiritual lives during this retreat.
Retirement Party - You are invited!
Students are invited to join a party in honor of Marlene Decker’s retirement.

Date:  Saturday, October 28
Time:  4 PM - 8 PM
Place:  Locals Bar and Coffee Shop in Epworth

Dear DWC Community,

Thanks so much to all who shared in the delightful celebration of the Verbum Award I received on October 7. I am truthfully humbled and grateful to receive this award from the Society of the Divine Word, Chicago Province.

A special thanks to Chris Jackson, Sr. Anna Mai, Karen Young, Peggy Kass and all who helped in any way with the meticulous celebration.

The Decker family grew up with Divine Word College in their lives. They felt very welcome and were so impressed by the entire response of everyone that made Saturday so special.

I also want to thank the SVDs, staff, faculty, and students for your love and continued support over the last 48 years.

Marlene Decker
Grief and Anticipatory Grief

Grief is a pain that accompanies a loss. We need to remember that grief is not only limited to the loss of people. It happens when we miss an important event in our family, our best friend moves to another country, etc. Grief is a natural process. It is a reaction to the loss and is not linear. Grief is not a problem to be solved but a process to be lived. We are often overwhelmed by the intensity and duration of grief. Here are some natural responses we may experience.

- Disbelief – feeling as though it is not real
- Helplessness – difficulty in performing activities of daily living
- Hopelessness
- Forgetfulness
- Restlessness
- Anger
- Guilt over something said or not said/something we did or did not do
- Changes in sleep or appetite – eating or sleeping more or less than before
- Emptiness – felt physically in the chest or stomach or other physical symptoms
- A sense of the person’s presence; expecting the person to walk through the door at a usual time or hearing their voice or seeing their face
- Tears at unexpected times
- Inability to express how we feel because of our cultural expectations.

Rabbi Earl A. Grollman, a grief expert, said, “Grief is not a disorder, a disease or sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical, and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure for grief is to grieve.”

When my father was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer in September 2020, my siblings called me to go home. Three of us knew that the time for him was coming. Before he passed away in May 2021, the three of us spent time with him daily, knowing that this was our last chance to say goodbye. There was so much pain inside us, but we did not express it openly.

The story above is an example of anticipatory grief. Anticipatory grief is a time of deep sorrow when we expect the loss of someone we love, either because of death or something else. It is different from grief. We are experiencing anticipatory grief to prepare for the grief after the loss. It “is the “beginning of the end” in our minds” (Kübler-Ross & Kessler, 2005, p. 1). This grief is often very personal.

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 220 | Ext. 377 for more information.

“Grief opens a place in our hearts that we never knew could hurt so profoundly, but it also opens this same place to a love we never imagined possible” – Unknown.
Strategic Planning – Coffee with Len

As we begin planning for the next Strategic Plan for Divine Word College, I am inviting everyone in the DWC community to come visit with me to discuss SVD vocations and all admission to Divine Word College. I’m calling it “Coffee with Len.” I will host six, 90-minute informal conversational meetings with all faculty, staff, students and SVDs who want to come (this is not required). All are invited! Please bring your ideas for inviting new students to Divine Word College and feel welcome to ask any and all questions. This is a time to chat and have some conversation that hopefully will lead to some great ideas to incorporate in the next DWC strategic plan in the area of Admission Goals, Objectives and Action Plans. All meetings are in Room 143. Stop by the dining room, get your coffee or favorite beverage and I'll have some snacks in Room 143! Here are the dates and times for Coffee with Len:

- Tuesday, October 31st – 2:00-3:30
- Wednesday, November 1st – 3:00-4:30
- Thursday, November 2nd – 3:30-5:00
- Tuesday, November 7th – 2:00-3:30
- Wednesday, November 8th – 9:30-11:00
- Friday, November 10th – 9:30-11:00

All New Students

All new students need to visit the Admissions Office to see both Ms. Carolyn Waechter and Ms. Patti McDermott if you have not already done so. Carolyn will assist all new international students with visa information. She needs to make sure all your immigration documents are in order and make copies for our records. Patti will work with all new students to make sure we have original copies of your educational documents. ALL NEW STUDENTS, PLEASE VISIT THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK!

Come and See Visitors

Thank you to the entire DWC Community for helping our six guests this weekend to feel welcomed in our community. The reports I received were very positive and it sounds like our Come and See visitors had a meaningful visit as they continue to discern their vocations.

Polo Shirts Available

The Admissions Office has polo shirts available for purchase! The cost is $13 per shirt. We have an assortment of colors and sizes. Please visit Patti in the Admissions Office and she can assist you.
New Food Service Director

Divine Word College welcomes Cory Nadermann as Aladdin’s new Food Service Director. Cory is a familiar face as he worked in the kitchen at DWC last year. He comes back to us from the University of Dubuque. Cory’s first day as Food Service Director was yesterday. Cory is excited to serve the Divine Word community and looks forward to engaging with students, staff and SVD community.

Cory is replacing Kalinda Swim who recently became engaged and will be moving to Minnesota. We wish Kalinda and her family the very best as she makes her transition to a new state and job. Kalinda will be around for a few more days as she hands off duties to Cory.

Youth Volleyball Team to practice in DWC gym

A girls club volleyball team will practice in the gym on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7 - 9 PM beginning on Wednesday, October 25.

The gym is closed to students while the team is practicing. Please do not enter the gym while the team is present.
Don’t Forget Your Library Card
Your DWC ID card is also your library card. Please remember to bring it with you to the library.

Upcoming Events

Campus Read Discussion 2 This Week!
The 2nd Campus Read discussion has been rescheduled. It is now on October 26th. Please join us in Room 107 at 11:45 AM. You do not need to have attended the 1st discussion to attend the 2nd. Discussion 2 will cover pages 1-83 Of Mice and Men. Try listening to the audiobook version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Car_We66TME. Mr. Larry Udry also put together a handout that talks about the vocabulary, grammar, and phrasing in the book. You can pick up a printout in the library or email ludry@dwci.edu for a digital copy.
JSTOR 15-Minute Session

The library acquired journal and eBook subscriptions to JSTOR in July 2023. JSTOR has 2,600 top scholarly journals in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences and 120,000 ebooks from 300 renowned scholarly publishers. If you haven’t tried using JSTOR yet or if you have questions about how to use it, please come to this 15-minute session.

Thursday, November 2, 12:30-12:45 in Room 107.