

# THE LOG

## Divine Word College

May 4  
2021

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

Vol. 40 No. 32

### In This Issue:

COVID Dashboard	2
Capstone Presentation Schedule	4
Finals Week Schedule	5
Megan Hall Project	7
Class of 2021	9
President's Report addendum	
Strategic Plan addendum	
Spiritual Wellness event addendum	

### Birthday Corner

#### May

- 8 Sr. Thao Thi Pham, OP
- 12 Dr. Roman Ciapalo
- 15 Sr. Angela Omalo, SON
- 15 Sr. Dien Vu, LHC
- 16 Bro. Vinh Trinh, SVD
- 16 Dr. Ben Winter
- 18 Sr. Xuyen Nguyen, OP
- 18 Fr. John Szukalski, SVD
- 20 Frt. Pedro Saveia, SVD
- 20 Sr. Tram Tran, IHM
- 21 Berson Bien-Aime
- 24 Fr. Tom Ascheman
- 25 Phuc Truong
- 26 Thuy Thi Tran, LHC
- 27 Fr. Jean d'Amour
- Dusengumuremyi
- 30 Jessica Snyder



See page 13 for  
Summer birthdays

### THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

#### *Thanks, Merci, Gracias, Obrigado, Cảm O'n*

As we come to the end of the academic year, a word that will often be on our lips and in our hearts is *Thanks*.



Each year as we look to the summer for a change of pace, and as we greet the graduates with both congratulations and appreciation for their time with us at DWC, we feel thankful.

The Eucharist prepares us well for giving thanks. At the end of every Mass, we hear the final phrase: The Mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. We respond: Thanks be to God. Those will be our sentiments in the coming two weeks. We will be "going out" with "thanks" as our song.

During the meetings of the Board of Trustees this past weekend, thanks was a word on everyone's lips. The trustees meet every semester to review the plans and the functioning of Divine Word



#### Decisions of Board of Trustees

1. Reelected Fr. Tom Ascheman as College President and Fr. John Szukalski as DWC Corp. Vice President for 2021-2024.
2. Gave initial approval of Proposed Budget FY 2021-2022.
3. Approved the graduates for 2020-2021.
4. Endorsed the new Program Learning Outcomes.
5. Approved the new Strategic Plan for 2021-2024.
6. Endorsed the Capital Improvement Plan for 2021-2026.
7. Received a report on exterior renovations to Megan Hall.

*continued next page*

College. Usually they meet at the College, but for the last three semesters the meetings have been held by ZOOM. On Saturday morning May 1 they met to consider a very full agenda. Their principal decisions are listed in the text box.

A first item on the agenda was to reelect me and Fr. John Szukalski for three-year terms to serve as President and Vice-President. We are grateful for the vote of confidence from the Trustees and will do our best to keep their trust by serving the DWC community as best we can.

My report to the trustees is attached. It reviews many of the things for which I am most thankful from the past four years. However, as I review the report one more time, I notice that I should have expressed one more thing that provides the foundation for all of my other expressions of thanks.

Here it is: *I am grateful, beyond words, for the entire DWC community.* The students, faculty, staff, benefactors, trustees, friends, alumni, and SVD and SSpS who support the College. It is an amazing network of generous people. The Holy Spirit has quietly gathered them together and helped them to commit to God's mission of gathering all peoples together to witness to the liberating and unifying power of Divine Love.

Through my vows as an SVD, I have committed myself together with my brothers, to make the goodness and kindness of God visible in my life and service. Divine Word College is a splendid community to live out that promise.

## DWC COVID-19 Dashboard

	Number of Tests	Tested Positive	Number Self-Isolated	Number Quarantined	Number Recovered	Vaccination Completed
Before Sept. 15	~200	9	9	~15	9	
Sept. 15 - Dec. 31	220	8	8	~80	8	
Jan. 1 - March 1	354	33	33	~80	33	16
Mar 2 - Apr 5	108	0	0	1	0	22
Apr 6 - 12	3	0	0	0	0	15
Apr 13 - 19	6	0	0	0	0	13
Apr 20 - 26	0	0	0	0	0	15
Apr 27 - May 3	0	0	0	0	0	51



Dubuque County is now 41% fully vaccinated! (Remember, children under 16 are not currently eligible for the vaccine, so of all adults 16 and older 54% of the population is fully vaccinated.) People at DWC are helping to boost that vaccination rate.

Last week, a large number of students and employees received their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Before graduation on May 14, another 35 students and employees will be vaccinated. The SVD community at Epworth is already fully vaccinated!

By the end of the semester, 166 members of the current 174 DWC community members will have received their second vaccine. Several are planning to receive the vaccine over summer, and a few are reluctant to receive the vaccination. Altogether, **95% will be vaccinated by May 14.** Congratulations! And Thank you!

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS *Fr. John Szukalski, SVD*

### Congratulations Class Of 2021!

Listed below are the expected graduating students of the 2020-2021 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. The Board of Trustees approved this list of expected graduates at its meeting on Saturday 1 May 2021. Congratulations on your hard work, perseverance, and academic success!

Prefix	First Name	Middle	Last Name	Suffix	Degree	Graduation Date
Mr.	Wisno		Elie		BA: ICS (Minor PHI)	December 15, 2020
Sr.	Kim Cuc	Thi	Tran	LHC	BA: PHI (Minor TRS)	December 15, 2020
Sr.	Hien	Thi	Nguyen	LHC	BA: TRS (Minor PHI)	December 15, 2020
Sr.	Hong	Thuy	Pham	LHC	BA: TRS (Minor ICS)	December 15, 2020
Sr.	Tran Huyen	Chau	Phan	OCist	BA: TRS (Minor ICS)	December 15, 2020
Sr.	Xuyen	Thi	Nguyen	OP	BA: TRS (Minor ICS)	May 14, 2021
Sr.	Tuyen	Thi Thanh	Tran	FMI	BA: ICS (Minor TRS)	May 14, 2021
Mr.	Duc	Minh	Vuong		BA: ICS (Minor PHI)	May 14, 2021
Mr.	Friday		Onoja		BA: PHI (Minor TRS)	May 14, 2021
Mr.	Tuan	Hoang-Minh	Nguyen		BA: PHI (Minor ICS)	May 14, 2021
Mr.	Nam	Nhat	Nguyen		BA: PHI (Minor ICS)	May 14, 2021
Mr.	Truong An	Duc	Nguyen		BA: PHI (Minor ICS)	May 14, 2021
Mr.	Phuc	Hong	Truong		BA: PHI (Minor ICS)	May 14, 2021
Mr.	Hoang	Duy Khanh	Do		BA: PHI & ICS	May 14, 2021
Frt.	Joao Manuel	Domingus Pinda	Neto	SVD	AA: ICS	May 14, 2021
Frt.	Pedro	Francisco	Saveia	SVD	AA: ICS	May 14, 2021
Frt.	Thinh	Quoc	Cao	SVD	AA: IDS	May 14, 2021
Mr.	Tung	Cao	Vu		AA: IDS	May 14, 2021

BA Theology & Religious Studies [TRS] 4  
 BA Philosophy [PHI] 6  
 BA Intercultural Studies [ICS] 3  
 BA PHI & ICS (double major) 1

AA Theology & Religious Studies [TRS] 0  
 AA Intercultural Studies [ICS] 2  
 AA Interdisciplinary Studies [IDS] 2

Total Number of AY 2020-2021 Graduates: 18

## Senior Synthesis Capstone Presentations

The second and third set of seniors will be presenting their synthesis capstone projects this week on May 4 and May 6 in partial fulfillment of the requirements for earning their respective Bachelor of Arts degrees. Each presentation will last about twenty minutes with five minutes for follow-up questions and discussion by students.

Tuesday May 4, 2021                      7:30 p.m.                      Main Chapel

**Mr. Hoang Duy Khanh Do** - "Heidegger on Dasein and Cartesian Skepticism"

A Philosophy Capstone Presentation

PHI Capstone Instructor: Dr. Ron Condon - Assistant Professor of Philosophy

**Mr. Tuan Hoang-Minh Nguyen** - "St. Thomas Aquinas's Concept of the Soul"

A Philosophy Capstone Presentation

PHI Capstone Instructor: Dr. Ron Condon - Assistant Professor of Philosophy

**Mr. Nam Nhat Nguyen** - "Heidegger and Sartre on Authenticity"

A Philosophy Capstone Presentation

PHI Capstone Instructor: Dr. Ron Condon- Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Thursday May 6, 2021                      7:30 p.m.                      Main Chapel

**Mr. Phuc Hong Truong** - "Aristotle on Happiness"

A Philosophy Capstone Presentation

PHI Capstone Instructor: Dr. Ron Condon- Assistant Professor of Philosophy

**Mr. Friday Onoja** - "The Mind is not a Tabula Rasa: Leibniz and Locke on Innate Ideas/Knowledge"

A Philosophy Capstone Presentation

PHI Capstone Instructor: Dr. Ron Condon- Assistant Professor of Philosophy

**Mr. Truong An Duc Nguyen** - "Wittgenstein on the Nature and Meaning of Language"


A Philosophy Capstone Presentation

PHI Capstone Instructor: Dr. Ron Condon- Assistant Professor of Philosophy

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## Spiritual Wellness Panel Discussion

Looking to learn more about Spiritual Wellness? Login to Zoom from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5 for a panel discussion on this topic. The event is sponsored by the Dubuque Franciscans' Canticle of Creation Center.



One of the five featured presenters will be DWC's own Spiritual Director **Sr. Anna Trang Mai, IHM**. See the attached flyer for details and the Zoom link!

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

*Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD*

### Storage Room

At the end of the school year, all students living in the main building and Arkfeld House are asked to clean and pack all your belongings and bring them to the storage room in the basement. When you store your belongings with your names in the storage room in the basement, please be considerate of others.

### Room Inspection

The deans of students, Fr. Long Phi Nguyen and Fr. Raymond Akumbilim, will do room inspection on Thursday night, May 16, at 8:30 PM for those who will leave DWC immediately after commencement on Friday. We will do another room inspection on Friday, May 14 at 3:00 PM. In order to get your room 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 Business Office and \$25 for the room deposit if your room is in order.

### Contact Information

Stay calm, and summer vacation is finally here. All students, please send Fr. Long Phi Nguyen your contact information and location where you might be reached during the summer. I wish you all a wonderful and enjoyable summer vacation. Have fun and stay safe!

### Renewal of Vows

Fr. Rector, Thang Hoang, SVD, invites the community to the Eucharistic celebration with the renewal of vows of four SVDs in temporary vows (Frt. Thinh Cao, Frt. Joao Pinda Neto, Frt. Pedro Saveia, and Frt. Engelbertus Salmon) on Saturday, May 15, at 4:00 PM in the main chapel.

### Final week schedule

During the final week there will be two Masses at 8:00 AM and 8:30 PM in the main chapel. The Student Senate also sponsors free Donuts and Coffee served in the Pour House. Come and enjoy! Please check the Student Board for all the activities of the final week.

#### Thursday May 13

5:00 PM	Evening prayer
5:15 PM	Picnic/Cookout (in the Courtyard)
8:30 PM	Room Inspection

#### Friday May 14

8:00 AM	Eucharistic Celebration (Chapel) Followed by coffee & donut (Dining Room)
9:30 AM	Graduates robe in caps & gowns (Room 107)
10:00 AM	Graduates group photo (Chapel)
10:15 AM	Graduates, faculty, marshals, trustees line up for procession (Corridor)
10:30 AM	Commencement Exercises (Chapel) Followed by lunch (Dining Room)



3:00 PM	Room Inspection
3:30 PM	Get your room and key deposits back (Business Office)
5:30 PM	Dinner

## Saturday May 15

8:00 AM	Eucharistic Celebration
8:30 AM	Breakfast
Noon	Lunch
4:00 PM	Eucharist with Renewal of Vows & Farewell (Chapel)
5:30 PM	Dinner

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FINAL EXAMS

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

*Mr. Len Uhal*

### Students, we need your help

#### Spread the word about the SVD and Divine Word College!

Fr. Tom reminded me yesterday of an old saying: We never vacation from our vocation. One aspect of our vocation by the virtue of our baptism is that we are called to invite others to be Jesus' disciples. Indeed, some may be considering a religious vocation. Here are three things you can do to help spread the word and help the Vocations/Admissions Office:

- Take some literature with you this summer and give to those who are interested or put it on a back table at a church (after getting permission!).
- If given the chance, talk about your vocation to small groups (youth groups) and let them know that you're studying at Divine Word College.
- Personally invite someone to consider a religious vocation with the SVD or consider attending Divine Word College. Give their names to the vocation office. Remember, there is a \$200 stipend for SVD candidate referrals who eventually enter formation.

### Faculty and Staff...We need your help too!

Please take note of the Good Neighbor Scholarship. Divine Word College is offering a scholarship to people *of any age* in the greater Epworth area (within daily driving distance) who are interested in earning a two-year AA Degree. Do you know of a young person who graduated from high school and would like to earn an AA Degree? What about someone who is older and always wanted to go to college, but wasn't able? This might be a perfect opportunity for them to consider the Good Neighbor Scholarship that allows for an AA Degree in Intercultural Studies, Theology and Mission or Interdisciplinary Studies. Please contact Len Uhal for more information and to get brochures you can share with others.



Also, as an employee benefit, faculty and full-time staff and their spouses and children can take classes at Divine Word College free of charge. If you've always wanted to learn more about a topic in theology, like world religions, or take an art course, like drawing, or study Spanish, maybe now is the time. Consider registering for a class at DWC next semester.

## Enrollment for August

Several people in the last few weeks have asked me about new students for next semester—What will the enrollment be like in August?

Currently, we have 98 students at Divine Word College. At present, I am aware that 17 students will not return in August, which includes graduates and a few other students. That means there will be about 81 returning students. As of May 4, 2021, the Admissions Committee has accepted 18 new students who plan to come to Divine Word College in August, including three SVD candidates. In addition, the Admissions Office is working with 24 more people who are looking to apply for August, including seven SVD candidates. That's a total 42 *possible* new students. *Realistically*, I suspect 20-25 may actually arrive. Add the two together (returning and new students) and God willing, we should have just over 100 students to start the next academic year. Thank you for your continued prayers for new students.

## Have a good summer!

On behalf of the vocation directors and the entire Admissions Office staff, congratulations to all the graduates! We wish everyone a fun and restful summer. While we may be a bit freer this summer than last, be sure to stay safe and healthy as you travel. Be sure to find time to both recreate and re-create during the next three months. We look forward to students returning and to welcoming new students to Divine Word College in August. Blessings...

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS *Mr. Steve Winger*

### Megan Hall Project - 2021



Renovations to Megan Hall are scheduled to begin on May 17, 2021. Substantial completion of the project is scheduled for August of 2021. The goal of this project is to improve and preserve Megan Hall so that it will continue to serve as a residence hall far into the future.

**Improvements include the following...**

**Renew stucco on the older north building.** The proposal is to repair the stucco where needed and to apply new wire lathe attached to the underlying stone and cover all with several coats of stucco with color already incorporated.

**Siding for the “newer southern two thirds” addition.** The current stucco will be removed, the building will be wrapped in Tyvek wrap, then a layer of insulation board attached, and finally the vinyl siding installed.

**Installation of tiling and gutters.** Downspouts will be connected to drainage tiling that will discharge to the “drainage gulch” on the west side of Megan and to the lower area northeast of Megan. Perimeter “weeping” tile will be installed around the building to gather and discharge water, including from the window wells.

**Installation of new backup generator.** A natural gas emergency generator will be installed on the northeast side of the building. As with the other buildings on campus, a wintertime power loss could result in frozen plumbing with consequent expense and disruption to repair it. The generator (about the size of an AC condenser) will be located on northeast corner of the building.

**Total cost estimate.** The project has an estimated cost of \$395,000.

**Requesting support from benefactors.** Funds for the project come from a bequest from last year of \$114,000. In addition, a generous alum and benefactor contributed \$100,000 for the project. The Development department continues working on several campaigns to seek further donations.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

And the winners are.....

**Student:** Sr. Trang Le, FMV

**Faculty/Staff:** Fr. Paul Aquino, SVD



Divine Word  
College Seminary  
Epworth, Iowa

on



and



Winners will receive a delicious homemade treat just for liking Divine Word College Seminary on Facebook! You could be our next winner. Just login to your Facebook account and search for Divine Word College Seminary. Hit the “Like” button and you will be entered for our next contest!.





# 2021

CONGRATS  
GRADUATES!



**Mr. Hoang Duy Khanh Do**

*B.A. Philosophy and Intercultural Studies*

**Home:** Originally from Vietnam, currently residing in California

**Plans after graduation?** I applied to the Society of Divine Word Novitiate. I will spend my summer at an SVD community in Riverside, California.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** Besides all of the daily liturgical activities, I always love the theological lessons, which have helped me to grow in my spiritual life.



**Mr. Wisno Elie**

*B.A. Intercultural Studies, Minor in Philosophy*

**Home:** Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Plans after graduation?** After graduation, I will continue my formation with the Divine Word Missionaries as a novice in Techny.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** When I first came to DWC, I was impressed by the way the SVD Priests and Brothers live. Coming from a high-context culture, it was a shock for me to see the SVDs collaborating with students during activities and eating with them in the same dining room. The formation program also helped me with personal development and prepared me to serve society in any aspect that might come my way.



**Sr. Hien Thi Nguyen, LHC**

*B.A. Theology & Religious Studies, Minor in Philosophy*

**Home:** Ba Ria - Vung Tau Province, Vietnam

**Plans after graduation?** Since graduation, I have been continuing my graduate work at Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary in Minnesota.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** Living at DWC for six years, I have been enriched intellectually, culturally, personally and spiritually. All of these helped me become more mature, enrich my religious life, and support my future ministry.



**Mr. Nam Nhat Nguyen**

*B.A. Philosophy, Minor in Intercultural Studies*

**Home:** Sioux City, Iowa

**Plans after graduation?** I will go home to spend some time with my family and continue discerning my vocation.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** My experiences here at DWC have taught me to trust in God and God alone, not in man.



**Mr. Truong An Duc Nguyen**

*B.A. Philosophy, Minor in Intercultural Studies*

**Home:** Originally from Vietnam, currently residing in Seattle, Washington

**Plans after graduation?** I plan to go to novitiate.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** I learned more about the church and her sacraments as essentially nourishment for my faith journey.



**Mr. Tuan Hoang-Minh Nguyen**

*B.A. Philosophy, Minor in Intercultural Studies*

**Home:** Originally from Vietnam, currently residing in Dallas, Texas

**Plans after graduation?** My plan is to spend time with my family during the summer before going to Techny for the novitiate.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** I have felt closer to God than ever while living here and my vocation is growing day by day.



**Sr. Xuyen Thi Nguyen, OP**

*B.A. Theology & Religious Studies, Minor in Intercultural Studies*

**Home:** Hai Phong, Vietnam

**Plans after graduation?** I am pursuing a Master of Arts degree in ministry at Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary in Minnesota.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** Studying at DWC has deepened my understanding of God and the Church's mission by exploring new aspects of the Bible, the Church's history, the Church's teaching, psychology, and pastoral care. Through that, my faith is nourished and strengthened.



**Mr. Friday Onoja**

*B.A. Philosophy, Minor in Theology & Religious Studies*

**Home:** Nigeria

**Plans after graduation?** After graduation, I look forward to beginning my novitiate year in August.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** Being here in Divine Word College Seminary has helped me understand and grow in self-awareness. It also helped me understand the church, my faith, and spirituality, and be a disciple of God through serving and loving regardless of who, what, or where one comes from.



**Sr. Hong Thuy Pham, LHC**

*B.A. Theology & Religious Studies, Minor in Intercultural Studies*

**Home:** Can Tho City, Vietnam

**Plans after graduation?** I will continue to study for a master's degree at Boston College.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** My experience helped me to have a bigger picture about the world. I need to open my mind and my heart to care about my brothers and sisters around the world. Also, living with the students in a diverse environment helps me to see the Church is a universal Church

including everyone, every culture, and every race.



**Sr. Tran Huyen Chau Phan, OCist**

*B.A. Theology & Religious Studies, Minor in Intercultural Studies*

**Home:** Dong Nai, Vietnam

**Plans after graduation?** I will come back to California for my ministry to help some Vietnamese communities in San Francisco and study more about Spiritual Direction at Mercy Center Burlingame in Burlingame, California.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** I think the DWC community is like drawing a picture of how heaven looks. Indeed, the atmosphere of people from different ethnicities, backgrounds, cultures and nations at DWC opened my mind to have a bigger picture of the kingdom of God with acceptance

and respect for other people who are different from us. The program provides a basic understanding of our Catholic theology that prepares us for our faith and ministry in the future.



**Sr. Kim Cuc Thi Tran, LHC**

*B.A. Philosophy, Minor in Theology & Religious Studies*

**Home:** Vietnam

**Plans after graduation?** Since graduating from Divine Word College in December, I have been studying at St. John's University in Minnesota.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** For me, Divine Word College was a good environment to live and study. Not only did I get a good education in the field that I need, but my religious life was also cultivated by the strong faith life of each member of the Divine Word College community.



**Sr. Tuyen Thi Thanh Tran, FMI**

*B.A. Intercultural Studies, Minor in Theology & Religious Studies*

**Home:** Ban Me Thuot, Vietnam

**Plans after graduation?** I have applied to a few master's programs and I am waiting for results. I hope to receive good news and continue my studies. If not, I will work in my community for a year before going back to Vietnam.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** Living at DWC, my faith was strengthened by good examples from priests, sisters, and brothers by their holiness and deeds. Besides, I was inspired by some other cultural faith celebrations.



**Mr. Phuc Hong Truong**

*B.A. Philosophy, Minor in Intercultural Studies*

**Home:** Morrow, Georgia

**Plans after graduation?**

After graduation, I plan to continue my studies in a different field.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?**

It has helped me to know more about my faith.



**Mr. Duc Minh Vuong**

*B.A. Intercultural Studies, Minor in Philosophy*

**Home:** Vinh Long, Vietnam

**Plans after graduation?** I plan to be a part of SVD in the future.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** I appreciated all formators who accompanied me on the road of my faith, and other experiences. I could see exemplary lives by prayers and services from our older SVDs.



**Frt. Thinh Quoc Cao, SVD**

*A.A. Interdisciplinary Studies*

**Home:** Ha Tinh, Vietnam

**Plans after graduation?** I will continue to pursue my SVD vocation by studying theology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago in the spirit of listening to God's call.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** Living in a diverse community could be challenging, however, the experience strongly strengthened my faith as the community gave me a sense of belonging, which raised my awareness that we are all brothers and sisters, all created in the same image of God.



**Frt. Joao Manuel Domingus Pinda Neto, SVD**

*A.A. Intercultural Studies*

**Home:** Nzeto, Zaire, Angola

**Plans after graduation?** After graduation, I will move on to theological studies at Catholic Theological Union, which is the next step of my formation.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** Liturgy, regular spiritual direction and the community assistance at DWC impacted my faith. In liturgy I learned the beautiful diversity of liturgy celebrated in different cultures.





### **Frt. Pedro Francisco Saveia, SVD**

*A.A. Intercultural Studies*

**Home:** Cazengo, Angola

**Plans after graduation?** After graduation, I will go to Chicago to continue my formation at the Catholic Theological Union.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** Divine Word College is an intercultural community. This fact is reflected in various celebrations, like Lunar New Year, Saint Bakhita, and Our Lady of Guadalupe. All of these celebrations helped me to have a good experience in this place. Besides, I gained a new perspective on a mission in my life that will be helpful for me in ministry.



### **Mr. Tung Cao Vu**

*A.A. Interdisciplinary Studies*

**Home:** Kien Giang, Vietnam

**Plans after graduation?** I plan to go to the SVD Novitiate in Chicago.

**How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?** I think serving the poor is the aspect that impacts me the most.

## **Summer Birthdays!**



### **June**

- 4 Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD
- 8 Steve Winger
- 15 Sr. Thom Thi Mai, FMV
- 24 Sr. Norelly Rodriguez Manosalva, RCS
- 26 Sr. An Thi Linh Hoang, LHC

### **July**

- 1 Brenda Williams
- 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
- 22 Mackenzie Hackert
- 24 Cathleen Cleary
- 24 Mary Kay Lueck
- 26 Emily Shedek
- 27 Richard Garrett
- 29 Laura Bergfeld
- 29 Gwyneth Gates
- 31 Fr. Polycarp Thawng

### **August**

- 17 Elizabeth Winter
- 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



**President's Report to the  
DWC Board of Trustees**  
Thomas J. Ascheman SVD  
April 15, 2021

As I prepare my seventh president's report to the Board of Trustees, I cannot help but look back over the past four years and give thanks for so many blessings. Following are a series of "milestones," most of which were documented in previous meetings of the Board of Trustees.

**1. Academic Affairs** - Fr. John Szukalski SVD, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, has been an enormous source of energy, curiosity, creativity and dedication. Even more, he has been a great brother to me. Three achievements stand out for me on the academic side of things.

- **Assessment.** The Higher Learning Commission made their usual mid-term visit to Divine Word College in November 2019. It was well prepared, and the results were positive. As expected, we are asked to concentrate on improving our ability to assess the effectiveness of our courses in promoting student learning. That is now the major undertaking of the College as can be seen in the new Strategic Plan. I believe we are beginning to develop a culture of assessment, where previously there was little interest in the matter.
- **Shared Governance.** When I started in 2017, the new faculty senate was barely functioning. Concerns were raised by the HLC regarding the state of shared governance at Divine Word College. Fr. John has been very effective at encouraging greater participation by the faculty in questions that are of concern to them. He is especially clear about the process of decision-making, so that faculty members have a clear view of the participation of Department Chairs, the Board of Administration and the Board of Trustees. A further revision of the by-laws of the Faculty Senate has recently been proposed to help facilitate the functioning of the senate.
- **Core Competencies.** Better assessment begins with knowing what we want to measure. In 2019, we began to articulate five core competencies to describe the skills that students at DWC should be able to develop. They are: Critical Thinking Acuity, Communication Effectiveness, Intercultural Competence, Social and Global Responsibility, and Missionary Discipleship. I am especially happy that grow directly out of the Mission Statement of the College, and that they spell out skills that every missionary should be keen to develop. If Divine Word College is to be the Alma Mater (Mother of a Soul) for anyone, these competencies are the DNA of that motherhood. These competencies inspire me because I know by experience that SVD missionaries must rely on them in their real life missionary service.

**2. Admissions and Vocations** – Mr. Len Uhal, the Vice President for Admissions, leads a team of remarkable vocations ministers and a support staff to help new students find their way to Divine Word College.

- **Impressive young men and women.** Fundamentally, the College is built on the enthusiasm, the eagerness to serve, and the energy of the student body. They come from amazingly diverse backgrounds, often representing twenty nations and more. They learn a lot from the faculty and staff, and even more from the world-embracing friendships they form while here. They become colleagues to one another.

- **125, 50 and 28.** At one point, just before the COVID-19 outbreak, the admissions department achieved its strategic goal of 125 students enrolled, 50 of whom were SVD candidates. Now, the rebuilding starts over again. There is one more critical number to keep in focus – 28 students from DWC have applied for the SVD novitiate (in Techny and in Mindoro) in the past four years.
- **Loans.** In the past two years, the admissions department has made a strong, sustained effort to reduce the backlog of non-performing loans to former students. Many of these alumni have begun regular payments, or have become regular donors to the college after the forgiveness of "ancient" loans.

**3. Formation and Student Life** – Fr. Long Phi Nguyen SVD, the Vice President for Formation, manages a large and diverse team of support personnel who are dedicated to help the students grow personally and spiritually as they embrace a life of missionary service.

- **Transition of personnel.** Many new members have joined the team, as others who served for many years moved on to other ministries. The team includes formation directors, counselors, spiritual directors, the chaplain, the counselor, and coordinators for liturgy, ministries, sports, and health services! Many people wear more than one hat. The transition from Fr. Bang Tran SVD to Fr. Long Phi in the role of VP has been amazingly smooth.
- **Core Competencies and Facets of the Religious Formation Program (RFP).** The formation team is making good progress in integrating the core competencies of the College with the five facets of formation, i.e., Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, Intercultural Community, and Missionary Ministry. The skills outlined in the core competencies are not only academic concerns; they mature more completely in the other facets of life outlined in the Formation Program.
- **Promoting an Intercultural Outlook.** The student body has been highly "intercultural" over these past four years. However, the formation team was less so, and it was the team itself that continually raised this concern. The team is now more intercultural, and continues to move in that direction, including members whose personal heritage is Vietnamese, Indonesian, Filipino, Ghanaian, Indian, Togolese, US, and mixtures of the above. They strongly encourage the students to take risks and reach out to people beyond their own cultural group.

**4. Operations and Planning** – Mr. Steve Winger, the Vice President for Operations, has proven to be an effective planner and manager of the physical plant and the human resources of Divine Word College. Over the first four years of his work at DWC, his skills as a city manager have translated very well to our needs.

- **Useful Strategic Planning.** The 2018-2021 Strategic Plan was the fruit of widespread consultation with different College constituencies, and resulted in a series of action steps that did move the College forward. The final "scorecard" is attached. One of the visitors from the Higher Learning Commission commented that our regular review of the Strategic Plan was a real strength of the college. So many other places, he said, put their "three volume" plans on the shelf and dusted them off only when it was time for a new plan.
- **Capital Improvements.** Significant capital improvements have been carried out, including a new roof for the main building, LED lighting throughout the campus, a new sign at the entrance to the college, and improvements of the asphalt drive and parking areas. Smaller projects included the rebuilding of steps in the courtyard, remodeling of some classrooms and seminar rooms, the organization of college archives, installation of some A/C split units, and remodeling of some showers and

bathrooms in the main building. Two major projects are planned for the summer of 2021- improvements to the exterior of Megan Hall and the installation of emergency backup generators.

- **Human Resources.** Mr. Winger has kept the college administration up to date (and out of conflict) on a number of issues with the help of Cottingham and Butler, our HR consultants. Recent investigations have led us to join a health insurance coalition put together by the Freidman Insurance Group that allows for excellent coverage at a significant reduction in cost.

**5. External Affairs** – Three years ago I established the external affairs council to gather together three departments that are focused on our outreach to the public. The Development Offices, the Public Relations Department, and the Alumni Association work very closely with one another in numerous projects to encourage support for the college and to animate friends and benefactors to live out their own missionary calling. The Vocations Office is also a regular participant in the External Affairs Council.

- **Benefactors.** The efforts of the development department, both in general outreach and Vietnamese outreach, have been spectacular over the past several years. The average income over the past three years is close to \$2.8 million, helped out considerably by the exceptional number of large bequests last year. This year will likely also pass \$2 million since donations at the end of the third quarter totaled \$1.77m. Our benefactors have been generous, even in this COVID year, and not only because of unusual bequests. At the end of the third quarter of this year, bequests amounted to only 3.9% of this fiscal year's development income. What is most amazing is that our donor retention rate is 72%, very far above national averages.
- **College News in the Province Bulletins.** The Public Relations Office, the Alumni Office and the Vocations Department have been very good at supplying a steady stream of stories and photos that chronicle our life at DWC. I am very grateful to see those stories picked up in the Province Bulletin so that SVD's around the country can get a taste of what is happening here.
- **Collaboration with Sisters in DBQ.** Three Congregations of Women Religious in Dubuque have long been collaborators with DWC. The leadership teams of the BVMs, Presentations, and Franciscans were together at the same table during the fundraiser with Cardinal Dolan in 2017. Since then, the relationship with the College has grown ever stronger. The three congregations now host sixteen young women religious who attend DWC at their convents in Dubuque. Sr. Kate of the BVMs has joined the Board of Trustees. SVDs are always blessed with the presence of our Holy Spirit Mission and Adoration Sisters nearby. We are also blessed with other women religious who help the Arnoldus family to prepare another generation of women leaders for missionary service.

**6. Administrative Matters** – Office work is my "bread and butter" at DWC. Though I have fantasized about teaching a course at the College, it just does not seem a realistic possibility given the need for attention to so many other pressing matters. Oftentimes I smile thinking of a witticism of my grandfather: "It's hard to think about draining the swamp when you are up to your 'waist?' in alligators."

- **Policy Handbook.** Aided by the persistent dedication of Ms. Donna Puccio, we have been revising and updating the DWC Policy Handbook. I hope the project can be completed this summer. The current version is already a considerable improvement.
- **Budgeting and Financial Reporting.** The DWC Business Office has made steady improvements in both budgeting and financial reporting. With the help of the DWC Financial Affairs Committee, a revised chart of accounts was developed that allows for better decision-making at the College. The oversight of the Board of Trustees Finance Committee, the Budget and the Finance Committees of

the Province, and our Auditors have helped to improve the financial position of the College. Since FY2017, province subsidies have been relatively stable to declining at under \$3m/year; a large extraordinary capital investment in the roof of the College; and the endowment and investments have grown by roughly \$8 million. The recent addition of an outside controller to help with financial statements and a review of internal controls is a big plus.

- **COVID-19 Response.** For the past fifteen months, COVID response has been the dominant daily concern. Meetings of the DWC emergency committees early on, and later meetings of the Board of Administration (with the occasional attendance of the Rector and the Health Services Coordinator) helped to chart a fairly safe course through the crisis. In the first six weeks of Jan-Feb 2021, there were a total of 33 confirmed positives in the DWC community. A rapid, temporary shift to distance learning and off-site working allowed for a containment of the outbreak by the third week of February. Vaccines have now become widely available; more than 95% will be vaccinated before the end of the current academic year.

# Divine Word College: Strategic Plan for 2021-2024

May 1, 2021 – Approved by Board of Trustees

**Mission Statement.** Divine Word College, a Roman Catholic seminary in the tradition of the Society of the Divine Word, educates men and women for missionary service as priests, brothers, sisters and laypersons. For this purpose, we offer an education that combines spiritual formation, a liberal arts curriculum, language learning and mission preparation within an environment that teaches and honors the rich cultural diversity of the world. This spiritual, academic, and experiential preparation serves the particular learning needs of our students, promotes their development as whole and responsible persons, and fosters a lifelong commitment to serving God's people (2009).

## GOAL A: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Create and implement a coherent assessment protocol to measure student learning and program effectiveness.**

*[Rationale: DWC is committed to creating and implementing a professional protocol and institutional culture of assessment in the undergraduate and ESL programs to enhance student learning and program effectiveness.]*

**Objective 1: Participate in the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Assessment Academy.**

*[Rationale: DWC joined the HLC Assessment Academy as a member of the 2020-2024 cohort. This specialized academy provides a structured, mentor-facilitated program aimed at advancing and accelerating an institution's efforts to assess student learning and program effectiveness.]*

**Action Step 1.1:** Implement Project Update #2 (September 2021) and Project Update #3 (March 2022) during the 2021-2022 academic year.

**Responsible:** VP for Academic Affairs & Assessment Academy Team.

**Target completion:** April 2022

**Budget:** \$7,000 annual fee

**Action Step 1.2:** Implement Project Update #4 (September 2022) and Project Update #5 (December 2022) during the 2022-2023 academic year

**Responsible:** VP for Academic Affairs & Assessment Academy Team

**Target completion:** April 2023

**Budget:** \$ 7,000 annual fee; Midpoint Roundtable/Consultation \$ 2,500



**Action Step 1.3:** Implement Project Update #6 (September 2023) and Project Update #7 (March 2024) during the 2023-2024 academic year.

**Responsible:** VP for Academic Affairs & Assessment Academy Team

**Target completion:** April 2024

**Budget:** \$ 7,000 annual fee

**Action Step 1.4:** Evaluate Assessment Academy implementation in final Impact Report #1 (September 2024) and final Impact Report #2 (December 2024).

**Responsible:** VP for Academic Affairs & Assessment Academy Team

**Target completion:** December 2024

**Budget:** Results Forum \$ 2,500

**Objective 2: Create and implement a coherent and integrated assessment protocol across the undergraduate program.**

*[Rationale: DWC will create a new assessment protocol that represents a more coherent and integrated approach and that provides more efficient infrastructure for the collection, analysis, and reporting of assessment data across the undergraduate program.]*

**Action Step 2.1:** Review degree descriptions and develop Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), Signature Assignments, and Rubrics for all undergraduate programs.

**Responsible:** VP for Academic Affairs, Assessment Coordinator,  
Departmental Faculty

**Target completion:** August 2021

**Budget:** \$ 1,000 expenses

**Action Step 2.2:** Implement AQUA / Watermark assessment software for the collection, reporting, and analysis of assessment data.

**Responsible:** VP for Academic Affairs, Assessment Coordinator,  
Assessment Committee

**Target completion:** August 2021

**Budget:** Initial contract year \$10,000; thereafter \$9,000 annually

**Action Step 2.3:** Realign PLOs and curricula during annual program reviews to identify mapping deficiencies, improve degree program coherence, and facilitate student achievement.

**Responsible:** Assessment Coordinator, Department Chairs, Departmental Faculty

**Target completion:** April 2022, April 2023, April 2024

**Budget:** \$ 1,000 annually

**Action Step 2.4:** Submit an Interim Monitoring Report on Assessment to the Higher Learning Commission.

**Responsible:** VP for Academic Affairs & Interim Monitoring Report Committee

**Target completion:** November 2022

**Budget:** \$ 500 expenses

**Objective 3: Secure Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) specialized accreditation for the English as a Second Language (ESL) program**

*[Rationale: DWC will further professionalize the ESL program through adherence to external accreditation standards and improvements in program curricula and assessments. Attainment of specialized accreditation through CEA will provide for and document improvements in student learning and program effectiveness.]*

**Action Step 3.1:** Submit the ESL Self-Study Document for initial CEA specialized accreditation.

**Responsible:** IELI Director & CEA Accreditation Coordinator

**Target completion:** November 2021

**Budget:** \$ 2,500 fees; \$ 2,500 expenses

**Action Step 3.2:** Host the CEA visitation team for the DWC campus site visit.

**Responsible:** VP for Academic Affairs, IELI Director & CEA Accreditation Coordinator

**Target completion:** April 2022

**Budget:** \$ 7,500 fees; \$ 1,500 expenses

**Action Step 3.3:** Implement CEA specialized accreditation report recommendations and action plans during the 2022-2023 academic year.

**Responsible:** IELI Director & CEA Accreditation Coordinator

**Target completion:** 2022-2023 academic year

**Budget:** TBD

## GOAL B: ADMISSIONS

**Achieve and maintain a total enrollment of 125 students, including 50 SVD candidates.**

*[Rationale: These numbers represent a sufficient number of students for effective learning in the classroom and sufficient numbers of SVD candidates entering the SVD novitiate.]*

**Objective 4: While maintaining outreach to all potential students, make a concerted effort to admit underrepresented populations.**

*(Rationale: Increase enrollment by recruiting certain populations and promoting specific programs, such as the IELI and Good Neighbor Scholarship).*

**Action Step 4.1:** Admit five Hispanic SVD candidates.

**Responsible:** VP for Admissions

**Target Completion:** May 2024

**Budget:** \$5,000

**Action Step 4.2:** Admit five non-SVD candidates into the Pre-Theology Certificate Program.

**Responsible:** VP for Admissions

**Target Completion:** May 2024

**Budget:** \$5,000

**Action Step 4.3:** Admit two lay students each year (ESL and undergraduate programs).

**Responsible:** VP for Admissions

**Target Completion:** May 2024

**Budget:** \$5,000

**Objective 5: Increase SVD referrals to ten (10) per year.**

*[Rationale: SVD referrals have dropped sharply the last three years and are one of the best referral sources.]*

**Action Step 5.1:** Invite SVD provincial councils and other select SVD members to Divine Word College for a visit.

**Responsible:** VP for Admissions  
**Target Completion:** May 2023  
**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 5.2:** Include monthly vocation information in all three province newsletters.

**Responsible:** VP for Admissions  
**Target Completion:** May 2022  
**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 5.3:** Vocation Directors to visit 20 SVD parishes each year and attend district meetings within three years.

**Responsible:** VP for Admissions  
**Target Completion:** May 2024  
**Budget:** \$7,000

**Action Step 5.4:** Send regular mailings to SVD members to keep vocation ministry a priority for them.

**Responsible:** VP for Admissions  
**Target Completion:** May 2023  
**Budget:** \$2,000

**Action Step 5.5:** Provide a program for SVD members on how to assist youth and young adults with discernment.

**Responsible:** VP for Admissions  
**Target Completion:** May 2022  
**Budget:** \$2,000

**Objective 6: Identify future personnel needs for the Admissions Office.**

*[Rationale: Some team members may leave the team and we need to plan for replacements.]*

**Action Step 6.1:** Identify a timeline for those who plan to leave the admissions team.

**Responsible:** VP for Admissions  
**Target Completion:** May 2021/May 2022  
**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 6.2:** Work with DWC administration and province leadership to identify new personnel.

**Responsible:** VP for Admissions

**Target Completion:** May 2021/May 2022

**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 6.3:** Invite new people to consider joining the admissions team.

**Responsible:** VP for Admissions

**Target Completion:** May 2022

**Budget:** negligible



## GOAL C: FORMATION AND STUDENT LIFE

### **Revise and implement the Religious Formation Curriculum.**

*[Rationale: As a Catholic institution dedicated to the formation of men and women for the missionary service in the Church and in the world, Divine Word College Seminary adheres to the Program of Priestly Formation as developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops while honoring and preserving the missionary charism of the Society of the Divine Word.*

The Religious Formation Program at Divine Word College therefore reflects both the ecclesiastical as well as the missionary characteristics required of a seminary college for missionary service. The updated Religious Formation Program of 2015 outlines the important foundations for implementing a program of formation that meets the needs of the Church, the SVDs, and the individual candidates.

The 2021-2024 Strategic Plan under review seeks to provide clear descriptions and continuity across all formational areas of candidates in line with the goal of meeting their individual formation needs. The goals and objectives of this Strategic Plan are articulated in the context of the DWC core competences (Critical Thinking Acuity, Communication Effectiveness, Intercultural Competence, Social & Global Responsibility, and Missionary Discipleship) and the five facets of the Religious Formation Program (Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, Intercultural Community, and Missionary Ministry). In achieving the above-mentioned goal, the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan aims at the following:]

**Objective 7: Develop a descriptive structure for the DWC Religious Formation Curriculum to ensure the clarity of purpose, the articulation of candidate learning outcomes, as well as the relevance of areas of competence and required skills for candidates being prepared for SVD missionary service in the Church and in the world.**

*[Rationale: The five facets of the religious formation program at DWC must be truly grounded in the Catholic identity and the SVD missionary charism.]*

**Action Step 7.1:** Form five subcommittees of three members to work on each formation facet. Suggested changes to the religious formation curriculum are subject to further reviews, evaluations, and ultimate approval by the Formation and Student Life Committee.

**Responsible:** VP for Formation and subcommittee coordinators

**Target Completion:** Spring 2021

**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 7.2:** Formation conferences aimed at addressing specific skills and areas of competence of the candidates for all levels of formation are to be held with specific goals and outcomes being clearly spelled out.

**Responsible:** VP for Formation

**Target Completion:** Fall 2021

**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 7.3:** Map core formation topics to formation program outcomes consistent with the college institutional outcomes and the SVD characteristics.

**Responsible:** VP for Formation

**Target Completion:** Fall 2021

**Budget:** negligible

**Objective 8: Improve the current assessment instrument in order to provide a more coherent and measurable assessment of the effectiveness of the Religious Formation Program.**

*[Rationale: The progress of candidates toward achieving the goals and objectives of the religious formation program is concretely evaluated for the purpose of realizing the effectiveness of the formation curriculum.]*

**Action Step 8.1:** Review, critique, and modify the assessment instrument employed in measuring the growth and development of candidates throughout all stages of formation at Divine Word College.

**Responsible:** VP for Formation

**Target completion:** Spring 2022

**Budget:** \$500 (materials and consultation)

**Action Step 8.2:** Collect and update the data required for continually evaluating the effectiveness of the Formation Curriculum in achieving its goals and objectives.

**Responsible:** VP for Formation

**Target completion:** Spring 2022

**Budget:** negligible

**Objective 9: Provide continuing appraisals of how the assessment process is being implemented at all levels/stages of formation.**

*[Rationale: Commitment to dialogue, collaboration, and common missionary service is fostered and encouraged among formation staff members at Divine Word College.]*

**Action Step 9.1:** A workshop for all formation staff members at the beginning of each semester provides a venue for orienting different formation directors responsible for different stages of the DWC formation program toward common goals and implementation strategies.

**Responsible:** VP for Formation

**Target completion:** Fall 2022

**Budget:** \$2,000 for workshops and conferences if necessary

**Action Step 9.2:** A review session for all formation directors at the end of each semester offers the opportunity for reviewing and evaluating the results of the assessment outcomes to strategize for future plans and implementation.

**Responsible:** VP for Formation

**Target completion:** Fall 2022, at the end of each semester

**Budget:** negligible

## GOAL D: OPERATIONS

**Advance and protect the physical, operational and financial well-being of Divine Word College through long-term planning and continuous improvement.**

*[Rationale: Divine Word College is committed to creating the best possible physical environment for higher education. We do this by establishing and committing to inclusive long-term planning and operational efficiency. ]*

**Objective 10: Increase financial communication and reporting between departments, Finance Committee, and Business Office and satisfy any issues or requirements outlined in the annual financial audit.**

*[Rationale: Communication and information sharing between departments and other key stakeholders is key to building a sound financial plan and audit.]*

**Action Step 10.1:** Organize bi-monthly meetings between Business Office Director and various departments to report and review purchases.

**Responsible:** VP for Operations, Business Office Director

**Target Completion:** Annual/Ongoing

**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 10.2:** Create a monthly report of projects that will exceed \$5,000 and submit to the Business Office Director as recommended by the auditor.

**Responsible:** VP for Operations, Business Office Director

**Target Completion:** Annual/Ongoing

**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 10.3:** Coordinate with Third Road Management and provide necessary documents as outlined in the contract with TRM.

**Responsible:** VP for Operations, Business Office Director

**Target Completion:** Annual/Ongoing

**Budget:** TBD

**Action Step 10.4:** Review and report progress toward resolving audit deficiencies with the Finance Committee throughout the year and at the bi-annual Board of Trustees meeting.

**Responsible:** VP for Operations, Business Office Director  
**Target Completion:** Annual/Ongoing  
**Budget:** negligible

**Objective 11: Develop Five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to guide facility improvements and budgeting requests.**

*[Rationale: Planning for major purchases and improvements is critically important to ensure Divine Word College is systematically constructing, maintaining, and upgrading the community's physical plant while effectively budgeting in a fiscally prudent manner.]*

**Action Step 11.1:** Coordinate with DWC President, Planning Committee and Maintenance Supervisor to determine major projects and prioritize by importance.

**Responsible:** VP for Operations  
**Target completion:** CIP will be updated annually prior to annual budget sessions.  
**Budget:** negligible

**Actions Step 11.2:** Create rationale narrative for each Capital Improvement project.

**Responsible:** VP for Operations  
**Target completion:** CIP will be updated annually prior to annual budget sessions.  
**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 11.3:** Determine probable cost for all projects utilizing professional proposals for work and list costs on worksheet.

**Responsible:** VP for Operations  
**Target completion:** CIP will be updated annually prior to annual budget sessions.  
**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 11.4:** Add and update projects to the Capital Improvement Plan annually or as necessary. Share project updates and consult with the Planning Committee throughout the year.

**Responsible:** VP for Operations

**Target completion:** CIP will be updated annually prior to annual budget sessions.

**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 11.5:** Share CIP with the Financial Affairs Committee annually and incorporate project costs into the annual budget.

**Responsible:** VP for Operations

**Target completion:** CIP will be updated annually prior to annual budget sessions.

**Budget:** negligible

## **GOAL E: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT, PR, ALUMNI)**

**Reaching out, we encourage our friends to support and participate in missionary service.**

*[Rationale: As Divine Word College prepares students for missionary outreach, it also embodies a missionary presence in our neighborhood and around the world.]*

### **Objective 12: Strengthen the *Divine Word Alumni Association*.**

*[Rationale: Between 1964 and 2020, more than 1670 students have studied at DWC in the ESL and undergraduate programs; 718 have earned undergraduate degrees. Many thousands more Divine Word alumni have studied at other SVD schools since the first SVD formation program (a postulancy for brothers) was opened at Techny on September 8, 1901. We have contact with only a fraction of alumni. The three SVD provinces of North America ask that DWC serve as the organizational center of a reorganized alumni association.]*

**Action Step 12.1:** Mail a quarterly newsletter to reach out to those who do not have access to email or electronic devices.

**Responsible:** Alumni Director

**Target completion:** Spring 2022

**Budget:** \$3500

**Action Step 12.2:** Add at least 200 contacts to the database.

**Responsible:** Alumni Director

**Target completion:** Spring 2024

**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 12.3:** Complete the selection and appointment of animators for each of the six regions in the U. S and Canada.

**Responsible:** Alumni Director

**Target completion:** Fall 2022

**Budget:** negligible



**Action Step 12.4:** Launch the new website for the Divine Word Alumni Association including updated directory and missionary stories of lay and religious alumni.

**Responsible:** Alumni Director, Public Relations Director

**Target completion:** Fall 2021

**Budget:** \$5250

**Action Step 12.5:** Provide opportunities for alumni to gather virtually.

**Responsible:** Alumni Director

**Target completion:** Fall 2021

**Budget:** negligible

**Objective 13: Further organize, strengthen and grow our local *DWC Friends*.**

*[Rationale: Many "local" people have shown their friendship over the years. It is time to cultivate those friendships by more systematically addressing them and recognizing their collaboration. DWC Friends would include trustees, former trustees, people who have been awarded the Donaghey and Matthew 25 awards, FAN Club participants, volunteers, and local benefactors.]*

**Action Step 13.1:** Name a coordinator for inviting and recognizing DWC Friends.

**Responsible:** College President

**Target completion:** Fall 2022

**Budget:** \$10,000 in pt salary

**Action Step 13.2:** Establish and maintain a contact list of DWC Friends for use when promoting activities at the college.

**Responsible:** Public Relations Director and DWC Friends Coordinator

**Target completion:** Fall 2021

**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 13.3:** Enlist the help of SVD confreres from Epworth to invite people to participate in the mission of DWC (e.g., provide a script for presiders to read at the conclusion of Mass that includes brief information on ways for people to be involved and who to call for more information.)

**Responsible:** DWC Friends Coordinator, Public Relations Director

**Target completion:** Spring 2023

**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 13.4:** Prepare a printed booklet of frequently asked questions about DWC to help faculty and staff to invite others to be DWC Friends (Answers are brief and easy to understand. Booklets updated and distributed to all members of the DWC Community on an annual basis.)

**Responsible:** Public Relations Director and DWC Friends Coordinator,

**Target completion:** Spring 2022

**Budget:** \$500

**Objective 14: Energize our outreach with new and existing *benefactors*.**

*[Rationale: Our benefactors have been very generous. In the last several years, they have provided nearly one third of the income to DWC through direct contributions and through return on investments of their gifts.]*

**Action Step 14.1:** Develop and implement a plan for personal visits to long time benefactors and major donors to strengthen our relationships with them. (Seek collaboration with Executive Dir. of the Chicago Province Development Committee.)

**Responsible:** Development Director, Associate Development Director

**Target completion:** Spring 2022

**Budget:** Approx. \$12,000 already regularly budgeted

**Action Step 14.2:** Develop a website for Vietnamese language donors to be linked to the DWC website.

**Responsible:** Development Director

**Target completion:** Fall 2022

**Budget:** \$5000

**Action Step 14.3:** Seek increased collaboration from SVD members and alumni throughout the North American provinces in order to promote SVD missionary outreach and fundraising efforts by attending regional alumni gatherings.

**Responsible:** Development Director

**Target completion:** Spring 2023

**Budget:** Approx. \$2000 already regularly budgeted

**Objective 15: Help DWC students to acquire and develop skills for local outreach.**

*[Rationale: In the future, our students will often be called upon to reach out for local support for their missionary projects. We want to help them develop their skills at meeting the public and cultivating the relationship. Learning to say "hello" and "thank you."]*

**Action Step 15.1:** Prepare DWC students (and local SVDs) to take part in outreach events (All Souls Day, Matthew 25, Meet and Greet, Epworth Country Christmas...).

**Responsible:** Public Relations Director

**Target completion:** Fall 2021

**Budget:** negligible

**Action Step 15.2:** Encourage students to send personal notes or cards to DWC Friends and benefactors for birthdays (if known), holidays, or just to thank them for supporting DWC.

**Responsible:** Public Relations Director

**Target completion:** Spring 2022

**Budget:** \$1500



# SPIRITUAL WELLNESS PANEL DISCUSSION

Panelists discuss how spiritual wellness acknowledges our search for deeper meaning in life

*Wednesday, May 5*  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

## Presenters:

**Rabbi Benjamin Altshuler** – Mt. Sinai Congregation in Wausau, WI

**Jane Heiar** – Former teacher and Sisters of St. Francis Associate

**Sr. Anna Trang Mai, IHM** - Spiritual Director/Formation at Divine Word College

**Rabbi Natalie Louise Shribman** – Temple Beth El, Dubuque

**Julie Tebbe** – Sisters of St. Francis Inviting and Discerning Ministry

This session is presented via  
Zoom and can be accessed at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/34aprwkr>

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Dubuque, Iowa

*This presentation is part of a seven-session, virtual wellness series. For more information, visit [www.osfdbq.org](http://www.osfdbq.org)*

