

THE LOG

Divine Word College

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A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

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In This Issue:

Canticle of the Creatures	3
ESL Field Trip	5
Counselor's Corner	7
Library News	8
Employee Spotlight	10
Pilot Assessment Report	addendum

Birthday Corner

February

- 9 Fr. Fanuel Jean
- 10 Frt. Son Van Nguyen, SVD

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Laudato Si – Praise to you Mother Earth

*Praise be to you, my Lord,
through our Sister, Mother Earth,*

With these words, St. Francis Assisi's Canticle of the Creatures, celebrates the Earth, the common home of humanity, through which our lives have been fashioned. Pope Francis cited this canticle at the beginning of his encyclical, *Laudato Si, Praise to You*. The challenge of building a common home on this planet is enormous. Please read the following words of Pope Francis slowly:



This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail" (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters (§¶ 2).

Francis called for a massive, shared and sustained response:

The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Here I want to recognize, encourage and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share (§¶ 13).



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In the past several decades, Divine Word College has been working to renew our Epworth home and protect our planet. Reduce, reuse, recycle has become a familiar mantra for us and inspires many small-scale efforts. There have also been some important larger projects, including:

- **“Inside” Windows:** In the 1980’s, we installed a second layer of windows on the northern facing parts of the building. They reduce the energy needed to keep the building warm.
- **Megan Windows and Roof.** In the 1990’s, new windows and a new roof were installed at Megan Hall. Once again, ongoing energy savings are significant.
- **Windbreak.** In 2007, a windbreak was planted on the northwest side of the property. Since there are very few windows and doors on that side of the building, the plantings are minimally significant as a windbreak. However, the effort did result in a lovely grove of trees and shrubs, and the birds love it.
- **Butterfly garden.** In 2018, efforts were made to establish a natural “garden” in the area under the bridge. The hope was to attract butterflies and other pollinators. The plantings did not really prosper, but the area has been left to return to its natural cattails.
- **Campus-wide Lighting.** In 2019, all the light bulbs were replaced with LED lights. LEDs consume only 10% as much energy as incandescent bulbs. Our electric consumption has been reduced significantly.
- **College Roof.** In 2020, we needed to replace the leaking roof on the main building. It was a huge job. The new roof has significantly more insulation than previous coverings.
- **Megan Hall Siding.** Beginning in 2021, Megan got an upgrade of new insulation, siding and drainage. All helped to reduce the energy needed to keep the building warm.
- **Emergency Generators.** In 2022, generators were installed at Megan Hall, at Arkfeld Hall and for the main building. The changing climate makes loss of power a significant concern, both for DWC residents and for the townspeople.

Another project is just getting underway. It is called *Tree Campus*. More information will be provided in future issues of *The Log*.

As a college dedicated to the education of missionaries, we seek out opportunities to grow in the core competencies of Social and Global Responsibility and Missionary Discipleship. The great project of our time is to build a common home with all of humanity. We are all sons and daughters of the same Mother Earth. To quote an unsophisticated saying, we all have skin in this game.



Canticle of the Creatures

by St. Francis of Assisi

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing,
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.
Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

Awards for Scholarly & Creative Accomplishments Application Deadline – Monday, April 3, 2023

Awards for Scholarly and Creative Accomplishments. Divine Word College encourages and supports faculty engagement in scholarly/creative activities that result in publications, presentations, or other creative accomplishments. In recognition of such accomplishments, the College offers a monetary award to those who have merited it.

Full-time faculty members may submit a written letter to the Faculty Promotions and Awards Committee to apply for one or more of the following Awards: the Monograph Publication Award; the Scholarly Article Publication; the Creative Achievement Award; or the Professional Presentation Award. The written application letter must be received by the Faculty Promotions and Awards Committee Chair no later than Monday, April 3, 2023, after which time said Committee will ascertain the applicant's eligibility. Members of the Committee may not vote on their own eligibility. The Committee will select a proxy for this purpose. The Vice President for Academic Affairs makes the final decision regarding Awards for Scholarly and Creative Accomplishments. Awards for Scholarly and Creative Accomplishments are conferred at an annual faculty recognition event. (see DWC Policy Handbook 9.07.01)

Monograph Publication Award. A \$1,000 Monograph Publication Award is conferred upon full-time faculty members for each new monograph published while under contract at Divine Word College. (see 9.07.02)

Scholarly Article Publication. A \$250 Scholarly Article Publication Award is conferred upon full-time faculty members for each new scholarly article published while under contract at Divine Word College. (see 9.07.03)

Creative Achievement Award. A \$250 Creative Achievement Award is conferred upon full-time faculty members for each new creative achievement while under contract at Divine Word College. (see 9.07.04)

Professional Presentation Award. A \$150 Professional Presentation Award is conferred upon full-time faculty members for each new professional presentation executed while under contract at Divine Word College. (see 9.07.05)

Faculty Professional Development

Three colleagues will attend the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois from March 25-28, 2023: **Fr. John A. Szukalski, SVD** (VP for Academic Affairs), **Dr. Yasmin Rioux** (Director for Institutional Effectiveness), and **Dr. Joshua Young** (Assistant Professor of Communication & English). The General Program offers information on latest developments, issues,



Szukalski



Rioux



Young

and good practices in higher education as well as updates on HLC policies, procedures, and initiatives. Of particular interest for DWC are sessions dealing with assessment, student learning, and program effectiveness as we conclude our pilot assessment project and launch our new sustainable five-year protocol in the Fall 2024 Semester. HLC has been the accreditation authority for Divine Word College since 1970.

Dr. Ashley Heiberger—Assistant Professor of ESL—has been granted professional development funding to attend (virtually) the TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo held in Portland, Oregon from March 21-24, 2023.



ESL Field Trips – Emmaus Bible College

ESL 086 students will participate in two field trips to Emmaus Bible College (EBC) in Dubuque: Taste of Emmaus on February 16, and a Musical Event on February 26, 2023. Students will interact with EBC students, faculty, and other guests in experiential language learning while enjoying food, conversation, and music.



Assessment Bites

from Dr. Yasmin Rioux

During our January Faculty Senate meeting, the faculty unanimously voted to end the pilot with the current Fall Project and to move on with the new 5-year assessment plan this fall. This means: WE HAVE CONCLUDED OUR ASSESSMENT PILOT!! Thank you to all faculty evaluators for your intense dedication during this pilot! Please note that your work is greatly appreciated across the College! Also note that the upcoming plan will be less intense, more manageable, and less time-consuming in regard to faculty evaluations of signature assignments. In addition, I'd like to point out that moving to Google Chrome seems to have been key to a successful Fall '22 Project! We had one single hiccup, which is excellent compared to previous projects. So, please keep using Chrome when working on assessment items!

At last, in response to our Faculty Senate vote on January 31, I would like to share the Assessment Pilot Report. This document outlines various items that we have learned from our past semesters of "pilot work"! I've divided the piece into three sections for greater clarity:

- General: provides an overview of the pilot
- Operational: deals with items pertaining to the OAP system, rubrics, language (clarity), etc.
- Assessment: things we've learned regarding our assessment approaches at DWC

Please see the appendix for the full report. Let me know if you have any input, please! I always welcome feedback!



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita

February is Black History Month. It was created to focus our attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today.

In coincidence with Black History Month, our DWC community also honor and celebrate the life of St. Josephine Bakhita. Even though the feast of St. Bakhita is **Wednesday, February 8**, the DWC community is moving this feast to the weekend of February 25. On the actual feast day, let us join in praying against human trafficking and for all victims of human trafficking. We especially pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti who are facing high levels of insecurity and kidnappings. May St. Bakhita intercede for the countries of Haiti, Nigeria, and all places experiencing insecurity.

Liturgy Prep

As part of our preparation for the celebration of St. Bakhita on Saturday, February 25, there will be Liturgy Prep on Thursday, February 9th at 1:00 pm in the Main Chapel. All students are required to attend.

LVII Super Bowl Sunday

Sports are an important part of the American culture. The most popular sport in the USA is football. NFL Super Bowl LVI is the annual playoff championship game of the National Football League (NFL). This year **Kanas City Chiefs** and **Philadelphia Eagles** are set to meet in the LVI Super Bowl championship game on Sunday, February 12, at 5:00 PM. The game will be played at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, while we follow watching the game live in the Pour House, beginning at 5:00PM. All students are highly encouraged to join the game and the community life. Free beverages, pizzas, fried chicken, among other special dishes, will be served. The Student Senate sponsors and organizes the event. Further information will be posted on the Student Board. Sunday Vespers will be canceled. Have fun!

Spring Break Project

Spring Break is around the corner. It is about time to take a break from school, explore exciting places with friends and learn more about the SVD ministries. The College will provide students an opportunity to spend their Spring Break in SVD parishes. If you are interested, please sign up on the Student Board. For any further questions, contact Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS.

Being Compassionate

Compassion is derived from the Latin word 'com,' which means 'with,' and 'pati (passion),' which means 'to suffer.' So compassion means to suffer together with others who are suffering. According to Psychology Today, "Compassion is an empathic understanding of a person's feelings, accompanied by a desire to act on that person's behalf." In other words, compassion is the ability to relate to someone's situation and have a strong desire to help them.

Being compassionate does not mean we abandon our well-being in order to help others. We need to be self-compassionate, too, knowing that we might be unable to change the situation. I used to think that being compassionate meant giving others what they wanted. This was because I wanted to please them. Some people also believe that being compassionate means that you are a passive, non-violent demeanor and express only positive responses with love and tenderness. Although compassion can undoubtedly have those values, however, at a certain level, we need to be firm and strict.

We are being compassionate means accepting others unconditionally. We focus on what is good and the potential for growth in others. We do not judge how others act or react to certain situations. We keep trying to encourage and reach out to those in pain, especially those we interact with daily. The people for whom we think and care may reject us. It is normal because they may experience despair and hopelessness. Being compassionate means detaching ourselves from their adverse reactions and to keep loving them.

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.

"Compassion is the radicalism of our time." ~ Dalai Lama



Let's Chat!

The ESL program is in need of conversation partners for students. No formal training is needed, just commit to speaking weekly with an student weekly. Program will begin in March.

Email Mark Garton to sign up!



MATTHEW JACOBY LIBRARY

Library OPAC and Research Guides

You may have noticed some changes to the library's eCatalog, also known as an OPAC (Open Public Access Catalog). If not, check it out: <https://opac.dwci.edu/>. I am regularly posting new content in the "news" section of the homepage. Right now, there are news articles about the library's trial resources *Index Islamicus Online* and *African Studies eBook Collection*.

The major changes are on the left-hand side of the homepage. The newly added and/or edited headings are: **New Trial Resources, Library Services, eBooks and Audiobooks, Reference, Research, Library Research Guides, Language Study, Newspapers, and State and Local Library Resources.**

New Trial Resources: This section will change frequently. It will include any new electronic resources the library is trialing.

Library Services: This section highlights the three main services that the library offers: **Research Consultations, Interlibrary Loan, and Information Literacy Sessions.**

eBooks and Audiobooks: **Overdrive** is the library's primary eBook and Audiobook vendor. Due to lack of use, physical audiobooks have been deaccessioned from the library collection. Please use **Ovedrive** for eBook and audiobooks going forward. Check out the "Using Ovedrive Guide" if you need help with this resource.

Reference: This section includes links to the library's three main online reference sources: **Britannica Online, Credo Reference, and The Reference Shelf.**

Research: This section contains links to the library's paid online research databases: **EBSCOHost** (Academic Search Premier, Philosopher's Index Full Text, Business Source Elite, ERIC, Health Source, MasterFile Premier etc.) **ProQuest Linguistics Collection**, and **JSTOR** (limited subscription). It also includes links to free online research databases like the **Internet Archive** and **Google Scholar**.

Library Research Guides: This section is NEW. It contains links to research guides prepared specifically for DWC students.

- [General Research Guide](#)
- [Theology Majors Research Guide](#)
- [Philosophy Majors Research Guide](#)
- [SVD Library Materials Guide](#)

Language Study: The library subscribes to one language database called Mango. The Library's subscription to Mango will end in March 2023.

Newspapers: The Library subscribes to the New York Times and the Haitian Times. [Le Nouvelliste - Haiti](#), [Người Việt - USA](#), and [Lao Động - Viet Nam](#) are freely available online and have been removed from the library homepage.

State and Local Library Resources: This section highlights the resources and services that can be found at nearby public, academic, and government libraries. Residents of Dubuque County are able to get library cards at the Dubuque County Library. Residents of the City of Dubuque are able to get library cards at the Carnegie Stout Library. Students and faculty are able to get library cards at Clarke University, Loras College, Emmaus Bible College, University of Dubuque, Northeast Iowa Community College, and Wartburg Seminary. Check their library website pages to learn more. Many libraries in Iowa have Open Access policies that allow some borrowing privileges. Check online or call to see if a library you'd like to use is an Open Access library.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Mr. Steve Winger

Budget update

The Business Office and the Financial Affairs Committee are working on the FY 2024 budget. Department heads have been consulted with and now Marlene is putting the numbers together for review by the Financial Affairs Committee. We should have the preliminary budget completed within the next couple of weeks. Once the preliminary budget is completed it is sent off to the SVD Province Budget Committee.

KnowBe4 Training

Please remember to complete your KnowBe4 Training for Quarter 1 by March 15, 2023. If you need assistance please contact Brad Florence at bflorence@dwci.edu. The Information Systems Department reminds all employees and students to stay vigilant against phishing emails. If an email does not seem right do not click on any links within the email. Please report any suspicious emails to Brad Florence.

Exterior Doors

We have been experiencing some problems with the exterior door near the gym. If you notice a door not closing properly, please report the issue to the Vice President for Operations or maintenance staff. It is important that doors close properly for safety and comfort.

Maintenance Request Forms can be found online at www.DWC.edu. Search for "Maintenance Request" or you can fill out a paper copy. Paper copies are located in the main floor copier room. If you notice an issue with the building, please take a moment to fill out the Maintenance Request Form. One of our friendly maintenance staff will be happy to make the necessary repairs.

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COUNCIL

Wednesday, February 8 is the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. On this day we remember all victims of enslavement and exploitation. Here is a prayer you can say for the victims of human trafficking:

Loving Father, we seek your divine protection for all who are exploited and enslaved.
For those forced into labor, trafficked into sexual slavery,
and denied freedom.

We beseech you to release them from their chains.

Grant them protection, safety, and empowerment.

Restore their dignity and provide them a new beginning.

Show us how we might end exploitation by addressing its causes.

Help us reach out in support of victims and survivors
of human trafficking.

Make us instruments of your spirit for their liberation.

For this we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

(From USCCB handout for World Day of Peace 2015)

LIZ WINTER

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN/ARCHIVIST

VACATION SPOT

Moab, Utah

COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT

My full sus mountain bike
(and my kids)

FARTHEST I'VE BEEN FROM HOME

Muscat, Oman



Divine Word College
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



WHAT TAKES UP TOO MUCH OF YOUR TIME

Driving and being indoors

ABILITY YOU WISH YOU HAD

Super strength

FAVORITE TV SHOW

Malcolm in the Middle

FAVORITE MOVIE DIRECTORS

Wes Anderson,
Coen Brothers, and
Richard Linklater

Assessment Pilot Report

General:

- Two cycles of data for ALL SLO's and CCs
- Several rounds of internal and external feedback, recommendations
- Input, reviews, and training via faculty in-service, Aqua trainings, HLC Assessment Academy Roundtable, HLC Assessment Academy Committee (DWC), Academic Assessment Committee, departments

Operational:

- Entering "Evaluators" one by one
- Using Chrome works best for OAP
- Can add demographic information via Excel
- Can't manually change rubrics; only OAP can
- Hierarchy changes and updates will NOT be sent to admins if not requested
- Maybe switch to "by objective" rather than "by course"?
- System is limited:
 - o organization on interface difficult;
 - o evaluators see all assignments at once despite input of "rounds";
 - o cannot change certain toggle setting that once set;
 - o reporting ability: only two visual reports;
 - o "Student Score Distribution Reports" cannot be downloaded, must be screenshotted;
- Wording on final reports had to be changed several times for increased clarity. The current "final report" language is based on three rounds of language feedback .
- Naming convention for each project: Year Project

Assessment:

- Need for more **sustainable** approach to assessment at Divine Word College
 - o New 5-year model/plan
- **Benchmarking:** progress and changes have been monitored and examined, which has led to new insights into how we should approach benchmarking for the new assessment plan
 - o "(Document) Tracking Student Progress": collection of all student averages since Spring '21
- **Rubrics:** based on all collected comments, most individuals have been concerned with rubrics, particularly wording, clarity, conciseness (Documents: "All Core Comments", "All Non-Core Comments" Populi).
 - o **Opportunities for revision:** email sent out November '22, next email February '23
 - o **Improved rubrics:** must be submitted to YR before April '23 in order to be ready for fall implementation
 - o **Continued conversations** between evaluators and assigning faculty members must continue to occur; perhaps during DIS and DTP meetings
- **CCs:** need for upper and lower level assessment levels
- **Feedback process:** Should departmental recommendations be gathered after each cycle?
- DWC Comprehensive Communication Plan

- Assessment Guide for UG Faculty
- New communication efforts to distribute reports, data, information:
 - o Webpage
 - o Populi Groups
 - o “Assessment Bites”
 - o FS updates
 - o Departmental updates
 - o Email
- Created a framework for assessment
- New creation of indirect measures
 - o Revised Exit Surveys
 - o (in progress) Ministry Site Supervisor questionnaire (reflect CCs)
- Need to correlate student demographics with assessment data: in progress

Overall, our assessment efforts have been deemed “commendable” by our HLC Assessment Academy scholar! Also, our HLC Assessment Academy mentor is impressed and pleased with our efforts, and we were viewed as being ahead of all other institutions with whom we entered the Assessment Academy! At last, I presented our progress, approaches, and procedures at the Annual Drexel Assessment conference last fall. The feedback was unanimously positive!