

THE LOG

Divine Word College

February 27
2024

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

Vol. 43 No. 21

In This Issue:

Living Lent Series	2
Bro. Anthony Kreinus Award	3
Bakhita Celebration	5
New Tractor!	9
Library News	10
Free Yoga Class	addendum
Donna Puccio Award	
Nomination Form	addendum

Birthday Corner

February

27 Sr. Comfort Nguyongu SON

March

- 1 Seo Huynh Park
- 2 Fr. Sonny DeClass, SVD
- 3 Bro. Brian McLauchlin, SVD
- 5 Yasmin Rioux
- 8 Sr. Maurine Okpara, SST
- 8 Masahiro Iwasaki
- 9 Patti McDermott
- 11 Sr. Agathe Bramkamp, SSps
- 13 Bro Long Hong Nguyen
- 17 Frt. Rafael Yescas Olmedo, SVD
- 17 Bro. Hien Van Nguyen, OCist

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Letting go

The Transfiguration of the Lord as recounted in Mark's Gospel focuses our attention for the second week of Lent. It reminds me of an important moment of *Letting Go*.

When I was 25 years old, I was living with Otomi indigenous people in an SVD parish in the desert in central Mexico. It was my CTP (Cross-Cultural Training Program) placement. I LOVED it. Though we lived poorly, I felt strong support from the parish staff and amazing welcome from the people who lived in the 24 small towns and villages of the parish.

My mother, father and youngest sister came to visit at Christmas time. They saw how happy I was in the desert. **My mom gave me a huge gift that Christmas, she let me go.**

Mothers are constantly called to let go of their sons and daughters. At birth, they let us go out of their bodies; they let us go when we stop breast feeding and eat solid food; they let us go when we start to walk, when we learn to talk (and even talk back); when we start school, when we graduate; when we leave home, and when we find our own path in life. My mother worried about my desire to live as a missionary – perhaps far from family, with people very different from me, with sickness and danger much on her mind. After spending a Christmas in the desert with me, she once again let me go – down the path it seemed that the Spirit was calling.

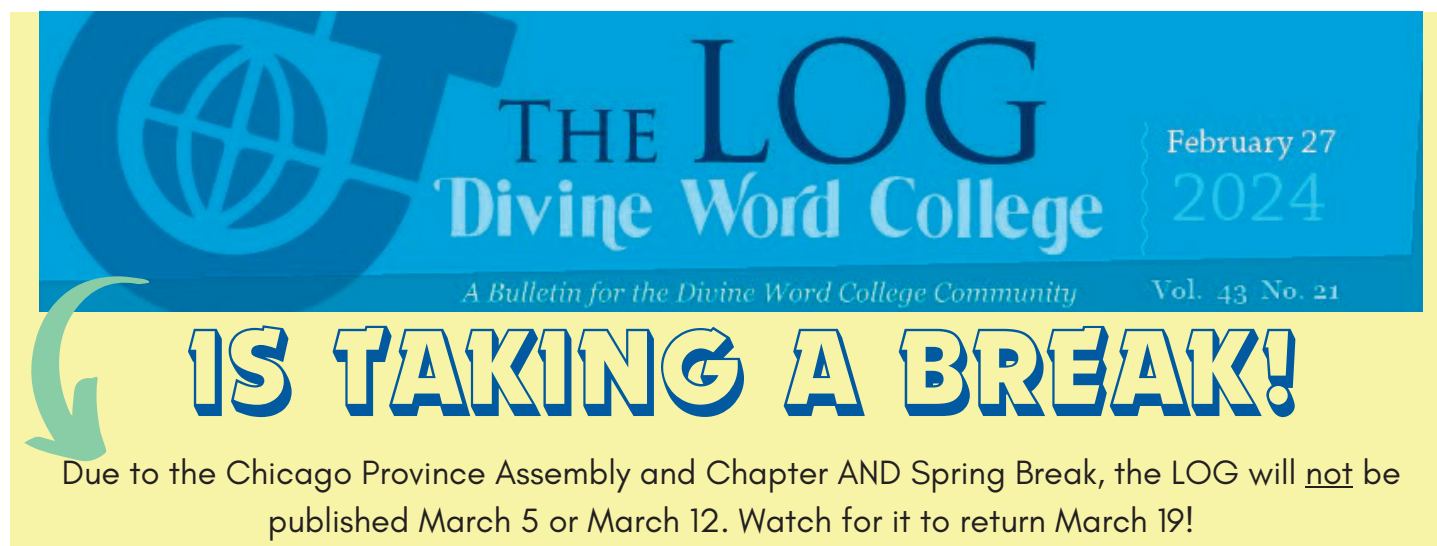


What does this have to do with the Transfiguration? Jesus had spoken to all the disciples about his coming persecution, suffering and death. Then he went up

the mountain with Peter, James and John. When they saw him transfigured in glory they were overcome with both fear and amazement. Peter blurted out that they should make tents for Moses, Elijah and Jesus. Maybe he wanted to stay there on the mountaintop, not really wanting to accept Jesus' words about the suffering and death that would lead to resurrection. All of the disciples had to let go of hopes for an easy road and a painless share in glory.

As we follow Jesus, we also need to let go of so many things. We look to the past and need to let go of successes, failures, sins and shame. When we look to the future, our plans, our desire for constant health and terror of death need significant change. We look to the present, wishing to manage schedules, situations, time and tasks, but they all seem to slip out of our grasp. If we are to be disciples of Jesus, past regrets, future wants, and present craving for control have to be let go. In place of these, as St. Paul writes, we have faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love.

When we let go of things that do not last, we find abundant space for giving thanks. We won't need tents on mountain tops; we ourselves are remade as tabernacles of Christ's resurrected presence in our communion with the transfigured body and blood of the Lord's Eucharist.



THE LOG

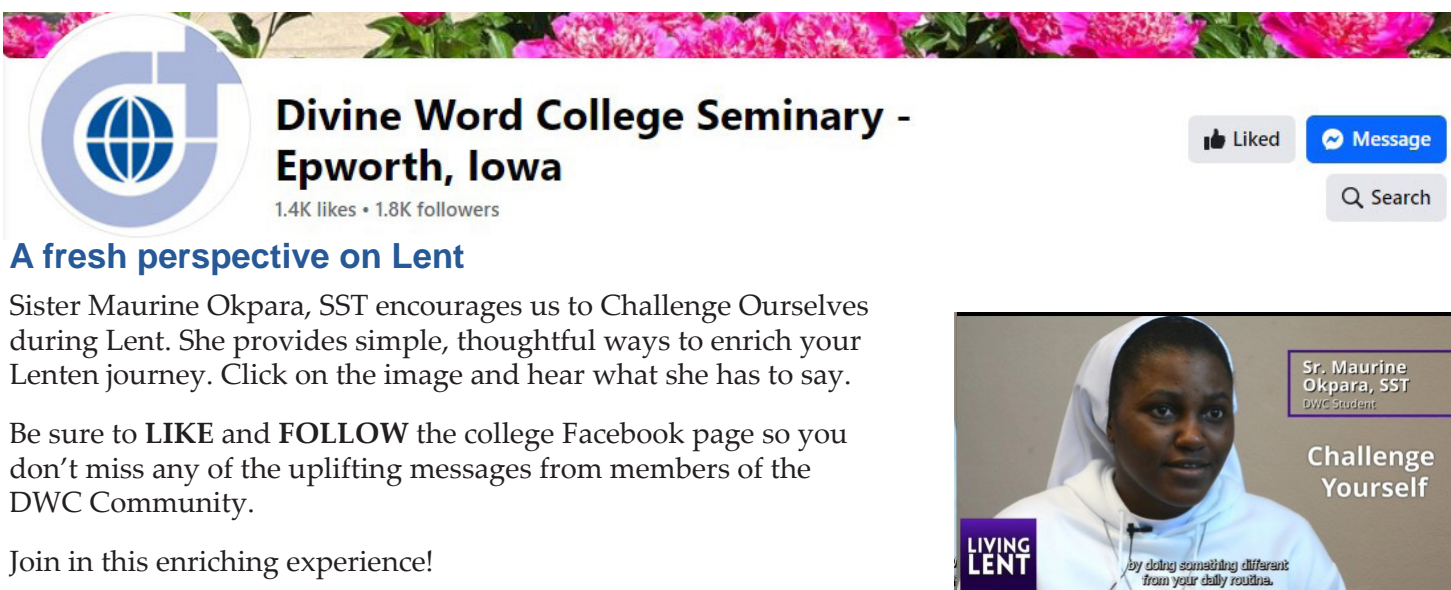
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IS TAKING A BREAK!

Due to the Chicago Province Assembly and Chapter AND Spring Break, the LOG will not be published March 5 or March 12. Watch for it to return March 19!



Divine Word College Seminary - Epworth, Iowa

1.4K likes • 1.8K followers

A fresh perspective on Lent

Sister Maurine Okpara, SST encourages us to Challenge Ourselves during Lent. She provides simple, thoughtful ways to enrich your Lenten journey. Click on the image and hear what she has to say.

Be sure to **LIKE** and **FOLLOW** the college Facebook page so you don't miss any of the uplifting messages from members of the DWC Community.

Join in this enriching experience!

LIVING LENT

Sr. Maurine Okpara, SST
DWC Student

Challenge Yourself

by doing something different from your daily routines.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

Undergraduate Spring 2024 Intensive M-Term: Calendar & Courses

Students who successfully complete all eight levels of the ESL curriculum at the end of the current ESL Spring 2024 Term C in mid-March are eligible to transition immediately into the undergraduate program. Students who receive final approval from the IELI Director and the VP for Academic Affairs will be permitted to enroll in an intensive 8-week undergraduate M-Term consisting of six (6) credit hours in designated courses taught by undergraduate faculty. The two three-credit courses indicated below will begin on Monday, March 18, and meet each weekday from Monday – Friday for 60 minutes each class period.*

- THM 121 Catholic Theology (3 credit hours) Fr. Stephen-Kha Nguyen, SVD
- ART 377 Contemporary & World Art (3 credit hours) Ms. Jennifer Wintress

Enrollment in the intensive UG Spring 2024 Intensive M-Term allows international students on F-1 visas to maintain full-time status as required by the United States government. At this time, the undergraduate M-Term is open only to students approved for transition from the ESL program into the undergraduate program.

DWC Brother Anthony Kreinus SVD Distinguished Service Award: Nomination Criteria, Procedure, and Form

Divine Word College established the Distinguished Service Award to honor Brother Anthony Kreinus SVD who has served the College with great generosity, selflessness, and dedication for 30+ years. The award is given to faculty members in recognition of his or her outstanding service to the College and the Community. The award is presented during the Recognition & Awards Luncheon held in the spring of each academic year. The recipient's name and award year are added to the plaque permanently displayed at the College. (DWC Policy Handbook 5.03.07)

Eligibility: All full-time faculty members employed by the College for a minimum of three consecutive years are eligible. The President and members of the Board of Administration are not eligible. Previous recipients of the award are not eligible.

Nomination: Nominations for the award may be made by any member of the College community (students, faculty, staff, and administrators) using the nomination form distributed by VPAA memo on February 26, 2024. This is not necessarily an annual award. Nomination forms must be submitted to the Chair of the Faculty Promotions & Awards committee (Dr. Cathleen Cleary) no later than Monday, April 1, 2024.

Inaugural Award Recipient: Dr. Seo Hyun Park—IELI Director, Associate Professor of ESL (2022)

Faculty Professional Development

Dr. Joshua Young—Assistant Professor of Communication—will attend the Central States Communication Association (CSCA) Annual Conference held in Grand Rapids, Michigan from April 2-7, 2024. Dr. Young will present his paper entitled *Remembering the Forgotten: Reweaving & Redressing Toward Equitable, Inclusive Assessment Practice in the Foundational Communication Course*. His paper will be recognized with the CSCA Inclusive Scholarship Award. This CSCA award recognizes work to drive the discipline to be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive and is the association's highest honor for this type of work. Dr. Young will also be a presenter on the Melissa Beall Top Panel in the Basic Communication Course Interest Group of CSCA. The panel, *With Diverse Vision and Unified Voice: Actionable Advocacy for the Foundational Communication Course and its Constituents*, brings together leaders in the discipline to create action plans to advocate for the foundational communication course in general education curricula and for support of instructors teaching the course.



Dr. Josh Young

Dr. Young will be joined at the CSCA conference by undergraduate students Sr. Hilda Alonyo LSMIG and Sr. Comfort Nguyongu SON. They will present their own paper entitled *The Word Digitized for the Modern Church: Exploring the Empowering Potential of Podcasting*. Their paper explores how missionaries can benefit from learning to use communication technology to fulfill Church mission. The CSCA President's Undergraduates Honors Conference showcases the most promising research in communication studies completed by undergraduate scholars. In preparation for their CSCA conference presentation, Sr. Hilda and Sr. Comfort will soon present their paper to the DWC community for feedback and celebration. Congratulations, Sr. Hilda, Sr. Comfort, and Dr. Young!



Sr. Hilda



Sr. Comfort



from Dr. Yasmin Rioux

Brief Definitions: Interviews & surveys

Interviews: A conversation between an interviewee and interviewer with the aim of gaining a better understanding of a specified topic. An interview commonly follows an interview protocol: "A script and set of instructions for conducting interviews" (Allen, 2004, p. 169).

Surveys "A questionnaire that collects information about beliefs, experiences, or attitudes" (Allen, 2004, p. 172)

Both items are valuable to gather data, and can be used to answer or address different sets of questions. The helpful thing about interviews is that the interviewer has time and opportunity to meet directly with the interviewee and raise follow-up questions for clarification, further insights, or advancement of the overall interview.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

St. Josephine Bakhita Celebration

On this Saturday, March 2, 2024, the African Caribbean Student Association (ACSA) will organize the celebration of St. Josephine Bakhita. St. Josephine Bakhita, a religious sister with the Canossian Daughters of Charity and Servant of the Poor, devoted 45 years of her life to service in Italy. Prior to joining in a religious convent, she endured slavery in Sudan. We honor and celebrate her because of her life and unwavering faith in God and her historical significance as the first black woman to be canonized in this era. The celebration will begin with a solemn Eucharist at 3:00 PM in the main chapel, followed by a banquet and performance in the dining room. All students are required to attend this significant cultural event. Please come dressed in formal or traditional attire.

In order to prepare for this special celebration, there will be a **Liturgy Preparation** scheduled for Thursday, February 29, 2023, at its usual time of 1:00 PM in the main chapel to rehearse some of the songs that will be sung during the Mass. Attendance is mandatory for all students.

Spring Break

We are just two weeks away from spring break, which marks the halfway point of the Spring Semester. As mentioned in the Dean's Forum, students are free to travel anywhere for Spring Break, which begins on Saturday, March 9, 2024 and ends on Sunday, March 17, 2024. Those who opt to stay back at Divine Word College during this period are required to do community service as outlined in the Student Handbook.

For those participating in the Spring Break Project, there will be an Orientation Session with Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS, scheduled for this Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 1:00 PM in the Board Room (Crypt). This session will cover the Spring Break Project's guidelines and expectations. Attendance is mandatory for all project participants.

Chicago Province Assembly and Chapter

The Chicago Province Assembly and Chapter will take place in Chicago, starting on March 4th and concluding on Wednesday, March 6th. Many members of the Chicago province, including myself and several others from our own community will participate in both the assembly and chapter meetings. We kindly ask for your prayers for all participants and delegates during this period. May the Holy Spirit enlighten our minds and hearts, guiding us in sharing wisdom with one another. This gathering is a pivotal time for us as a province to discern the signs of the times and advance our mission of bearing witness to the dawning of God's Reign. Thank you!

Formation Strategic Plan 2021-2024: Accomplishments Report

This document summarizes the significant accomplishments of the Formation Strategic Plan from 2021 to 2024. We extend our gratitude to the formation team and strategic plan subcommittee members for their dedicated efforts in successfully accomplishing these milestones.

FORMATION STRATEGIC GOAL: Revise and implement the Religious Formation Curriculum

continued on next page

OBJECTIVE I: *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.*

- **Spring 2022:** Five subcommittees, each comprising three members, were established to address the four facets of the religious formation program for candidates. In March 2022, we successfully completed the first draft of the religious formation curriculum, integrating the DWC core competencies (Critical Thinking Acuity, Communication Effectiveness, Intercultural Competence, Social & Global Responsibility, and Missionary Discipleship) with the five facets of the Religious Formation Program (Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, Intercultural Community, and Missionary Ministry). This draft outlined formation conference topics with specific goals and outcomes aimed at addressing specific skills and competencies of candidates at all formation levels. Following review and approval by the Tri-provincial Formation Commission on April 18, 2022, the curriculum draft was further endorsed by the Formation Committee in May 2022.
- **Fall 2022:** We completed a final draft of Objective I with additional reference to the SVD constitutions. The publication of the US Bishop's Program of Priestly Formation, sixth edition (PPF-6) on April 20, 2022, prompted a further review and adjustment of the revised formation curriculum to align with the PPF-6's standards. The Formation Team collaborated closely with the Tri-Province Formation Commission to ensure Divine Word College's religious formation program adhere to these new structures and expectations. This draft was presented for review and approval at the Tri-province Formation Commission's meeting on March 27, 2023, and was endorsed and approved as submitted. Given ongoing developments with the PPF-6, we remain open to future adjustments to meet its expectations, while staying faithful to our SVD charism. The Formation Committee received and approved the final draft in May 2023.

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

- **In Spring 2023,** we continue working on the Objective II. In collaboration with Dr. Yasmin Rioux, Director for Institutional Effectiveness, we developed a comprehensive assessment instrument. This tool was designed to be both cohesive and measurable to assess the growth of our candidates as well as the effectiveness of the Religious Formation Program. The Formation Committee reviewed and approved the final draft in May 2023.

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

- **In Fall 2023,** following approval from the Tri-province Formation Commission (Sept. 28, 2023) and the Formation Committee (Oct. 7, 2023), the finalized Religious Formation Curriculum is now being implemented. To ensure an its effective implementation, formation directors are expected to customize lesson plans according to the specific needs of their respective formation groups. The program's progress and outcomes will be evaluated by the conclusion of the formation year, Spring 2024.

The Formation Strategic Plan 2021-2024 has laid a strong foundation for the continued evolution of the Religious Formation and student life Program at DWC. The accomplishments achieved clearly highlight DWC's commitment to excellence in religious formation program for candidates, aligned with ecclesiastical standards, SVD charism, and institutional values. As we transition to the next three-year strategic plan (2024-2027), the focus will be on building upon these achievements, responding to emerging needs, and fostering a vibrant spiritual community at DWC.

Self-Esteem – What is Self-Esteem (by Nan Peck)

I found an article on self-esteem written by Nan Peck, a former DWC Counselor. Even though it was written many years ago, this article is still appropriate for us to ponder. I divided it into three sections since it is a long article. Enjoy the first section, which is What is Self-Esteem.

Self-esteem means truly loving and valuing yourself. Good self-esteem means you have accepted yourself as you are. It means you are still working to improve yourself, and while that process is taking place, you have a healthy appreciation for yourself, your best qualities, and your finest achievements.

To determine if your-self-esteem is healthy and in good working order, ask yourself the following questions:

1. **Do I accept myself for what I am?** That includes your looks and feelings, your strengths and weaknesses. Listen to how you talk about yourself. Are you constantly putting yourself down? Start focusing on your strengths while you try to correct your weaknesses.
2. **Do I give myself credit for what I do?** Or do you feel apologetic and defensive, murmuring, "Oh, I'm just a student/sister/brother/priest?" Stop and think for a moment about all you do in a day. It can help to make a list. I read, write, study, help friends, teach, say Mass, clean dishes, belong to clubs or groups, etc. That is a lot of things to be proud of - so give yourself credit for your accomplishments.
3. **Do I take time out to recognize my hard work?** Or do you feel you don't quite measure up? Have you developed or incorporated your parents' values: that every daughter should be married with three children and every son should be a priest or brother? Or have you accepted society's stereotypes: that women should be polite and submissive, putting other peoples' needs before your own; that men should be aggressive breadwinners, suppressing their feelings? It is important to know what is right for you and you alone. If you live only to meet other's expectations, you will never meet your own.
4. **Can I turn setbacks into victories?** Successful people see problems as opportunities, and unsuccessful people see opportunities as problems. Remember, we often learn more about ourselves through failure than with success.



by
Sr. Aprilia
Untarto, SSps

Self-esteem is the sum of self-confidence and self-respect you have for yourself. If you have high self-esteem, you feel competent and worthy. Arrogance, boastfulness, and the overestimation of your abilities reflect inadequate self-esteem, as does an attempt to put others down to elevate yourself.

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.

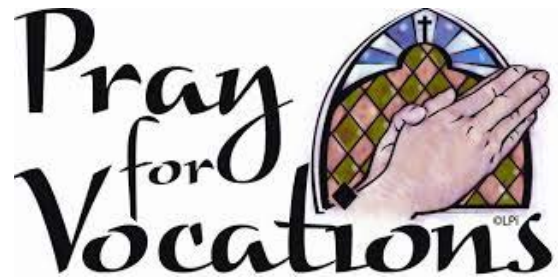


VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Mr. Len Uhal

DAVA 6th Grade Vocation Day

The Dubuque Area Vocation Association (DAVA) will sponsor its annual 6th Grade Vocation Day at Divine Word College tomorrow, Wednesday, February 28. About 110 area 6th grades will be here from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The students will participate in a variety of activities to help them learn more about the priesthood and religious life and allow them to consider the idea that God may be calling them to this vocation. Feel welcome to attend the program's keynote presentation at 9:30 AM and the vocation panel discussion at Noon. Both activities are in the main chapel.



Proposed new goal, objectives and action plans for Admissions Office for new strategic plan

As Divine Word College continues its planning for the new strategic plan, which goes from 2024-2027, the Vocations and Admissions Team along with others who support admission efforts have been working to create an updated goal along with objectives and action plans. What you will read below is draft #7. Even this draft is not "written in stone" and is likely to evolve further as we continue discussions and planning. Please feel welcome to contact me with any suggestions at luhal@dwci.edu or stop by my office on the 3rd floor. Thank you.

Strategic Plan 2024-2027 Admissions

Goal: Achieve and maintain a total enrollment of 125 students (75 in the undergraduate program and 50 in the IELI). Include at least 40 students in formation for the SVD and SSpS, along with Arnoldus Family members in perpetual vows.

Objective 1: Admit 8 SVD candidates per year from the three USA SVD Provinces.

- Action Step 1: Vocation Directors to visit 50 parishes a year for vocation promotion.
- Action Step 2: Participate in 20 promotion programs around the country each year.
- Action Step 3: To increase candidate referrals, host campus visits at DWC for SVDs from the three USA provinces each semester.
- Action Step 4: Host two Andrew Dinners each year at SVD Parishes – one each semester.
- Action Step 5: Host an annual online program for SVDs in parishes focused on ways to promote Arnoldus Family vocations.
- Action Step 6: Collaborate with the SSpS to host in-person or online retreat experiences focused on discernment.

Action Step 7: Invite current men in formation to help in vocation promotion activities once a semester – allowing potential candidates to meet current men in formation.

Objective 2: Collaborate with other SVD provinces to admit 5 SVDs in temporary vows and/or pre-novitiate candidates per year.

Action Step 1: With the help of the USC provincial superior, identify possible collaborative provinces.

Action Step 2: Contact provincials with an offer to collaborate and facilitate the admission process.

Objective 3: Strengthen our collaboration with our College partners to grow current enrollment by 15 students.

Action Step 1: Collaborate with SVD and SSpS provinces around the world to refer SVD and SSpS students to DWC for ESL and undergraduate studies.

Action Step 2: Leverage the College's scholarship programs to increase enrollment of religious sister, male religious, other seminarians and lay students in both the ESL and undergraduate programs.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Mr. Steve Winger

TRACTOR!

Divine Word College received some equipment today. The equipment was purchased as part of the closing of the Miramar facility near Boston. In all, we will save the college approximately \$57,000 that would have gone to purchasing similar equipment. DWC will be receiving a pickup truck in addition to what you see here. This equipment will be put to use immediately and we are very grateful to have it.

Many thanks to Fr. John for identifying this equipment and advocating for the use of it here at Divine Word College.





Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

Project Muse Database Trial Starts Next Monday

Project MUSE offers complete, full-text versions of scholarly journals and books from many of the world's leading university presses and scholarly societies. The library is trialing the Premium journal collection, which is MUSE's foremost collection of high quality, peer reviewed, interdisciplinary journals. **Current issues** are available from most of the journals on Muse.



Trial Start Date: March 04, 2024

Trial End Date: April 02, 2024

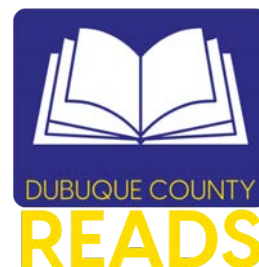
You can access Project Muse content on all campus computers and while connected to the campus Wi-Fi.

Try Muse for your next research project: <https://muse.jhu.edu/>

Dubuque County Reads

Don't forget to pick up a book for the Dubuque County Reads Event! This year's title is "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. It is a historical fiction novel that tells the remarkable true story of J.P. Morgan's personal librarian Belle da Costa Green.

If you would like to participate, the Matthew Jacoby Library has 10 print copies available in the display case at the entrance to the library. The library also has an [eBook](#) and [audiobook](#) copy available through Overdrive/Libby. If you start reading soon, you will have a little over a month to finish the book before the discussion events begin. The Matthew Jacoby Library is hosting a discussion on April 9th at 12 PM, but if that time doesn't work for you, you can attend a discussion at a different library.



Complete details are available online at <https://libguides.dbq.edu/dubuquecountyreads>. If you are unsure about how to participate in a book discussion check out these "[Tips for Participants](#)."

This event is being organized by the LiveHealthy Iowa participants, but everyone is welcome to attend!
Sign up is required by Friday, March 1



Instructor
Laci Hoffmann

- No experience needed
- Mats provided
- Beginner class, so don't worry about getting sweaty in the middle of the day!

Yoga Class

FREE!

Monday, March 4

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Gymnasium





Divine Word College

Dr. Donna Puccio Distinguished Service Award

The College established the Distinguished Service Award to honor Dr. Donna Puccio who has served the college with great generosity, grace and dedication for over 50 years. The award is given to a staff member for his or her outstanding service to the College community.

Eligibility

A nominee must be a full-time staff member employed by the College for a minimum of three consecutive years. The President and members of the Board of Administration are not eligible. Previous recipients of the award are not eligible for nomination.

Nomination

Nominations for the award may be made by any member of the College community (students, faculty, staff, and administrators) using the attached nomination form. It is not necessarily an annual award.

Criteria

- Employed by the College for a minimum of three consecutive years as full-time staff.
- Provides outstanding service to all or some part of the College community (colleagues, students, faculty, SVDs) and the public.
- Strives to continually improve the quality of work and delivery of service.
- Develops creative solutions to recurring problems to improve operational efficiencies in significant ways.
- Demonstrates a willingness to go beyond the call of duty to serve the needs of all colleagues.

Procedure

1. Complete the nomination form attached.
2. Address how the nominee meets the criteria and cite specific examples of accomplishments (three pages maximum)
3. Submit your nomination to the Vice President for Operations and Finance. The deadline for nominations is **April 1**.

Selection

The Board of Administration will select the recipient. The President will present the award during the Spring Recognition ceremony. The College will inscribe the recipient's name on a plaque displayed on the College Honors Board.

Dr. Donna Puccio Distinguished Service Award

Nomination Form

Deadline for submittal is **Monday, April 1, 2024**

Please submit to: Vice President for Operations and Finance

Mr. Steven Winger, Box 142

I nominate: _____

Please provide information about your nominee and how he or she meets the criteria for the award. If you need more space, please attach additional pages.

- Has been employed by the College full-time since: _____
- Provides outstanding service to all or some part of the College community (colleagues, students, faculty, SVDs) and the public.
- Strives to continually improve the quality of work and delivery of service.
- Develops creative solutions to recurring problems to improve operational efficiencies in significant ways.
- Demonstrates a willingness to go beyond the call of duty to serve the needs of all colleagues.

Name of person nominating: _____