

In This Issue:

Global Interactions	2
Study Tips for Finals	4
Assessment Bites	5
Student News	6
Summer Vacation	7
Vocation Materials to Share	8
Library News	9
Student Guitar Recital	addendum
2025 Finals Week Schedule	addendum

Birthday Corner:

MAY

9	Sr. Yvette Shey, SST
10	Sr. Mo Nguyen, LHC
12	Roman Ciapalo



THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Global Interactions in Epworth

Epworth, IA is a small community in Eastern Iowa with a growing population of about 2,100 inhabitants. A Main Street mural proclaims the town motto: Small Town: Big Heart. Divine Word College has been a part of this community since the early 1930's. (A part of the College campus was previously my great-grandfathers farm.)



Mural in Epworth.

Ms. Elizabeth Winter, the DWC Librarian and Archivist, prepared a great story about the international flavor the College has brought to Epworth. It was published in this month's town newsletter, *The Voice of Progress*. I'm delighted to share it with all of the readers of DWC LOG.

Global Interactions in Epworth: Small Town, Big Culture

by Elizabeth Winter, DWC Library Director and Archivist

If you perused the last issue of the VOP, you would have read that the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) (also commonly known as Divine Word Missionaries) is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Divine Word College (DWC) has been operating, in some form, in Epworth for nearly 100 years. The College currently hosts 112 students from 21 nations. How did a small town like Epworth become a globally recognized center for intercultural studies and missionary formation? It is in large part due to the charisma of the Society of the Divine Word, which is to live in intercultural harmony both at home and abroad.

Epworth residents have been a part of DWC's history since the very beginning, helping refurbish the campus grounds and buildings after the SVD's purchased the property in 1931. Initially, DWC was called St. Paul's Mission House (1931-1955) and was largely comprised of young men from the Midwest. In fact, in 1970, there were more students from





Iowa than any other state. The makeup of the student body started to shift after 1975 when the first Vietnamese refugees came to Dubuque County. Then DWC President Fr. Louis Lutzbetak, SVD, and Linguistics Professor Br. Patrick Hogan, SVD, quickly realized that DWC could support these refugees by providing English language instruction.

The English language program, now called the Intensive English Language Institute, has facilitated men and women from all over the world to come to Epworth, Iowa, learn English, and then either continue their education in DWC's undergraduate liberal arts program, or apply their new English language skills in various capacities around the world. DWC's mission expanded again in 2009 when the College started to formally allow religious sisters, seminarians from other orders or dioceses, and laypersons to enroll.

The relationship between the DWC students and the local community has evolved over the years, but it has always existed. Epworth residents have hosted students through the Friends Across Nations (FAN) club, volunteered to be language partners for students learning English, participated in the College's drama productions, exhibited art in the Weyland Art Gallery, and invited the DWC community to join in local celebrations and events – such as Epworth Country Christmas and Town & Country Days -- and welcomed students in local establishments.

“Walking around and greeting people in the summer really does capture the essence of a friendly and close-knit community. It makes Epworth feel very welcoming and connected.” -DWC Student

DWC also has welcomed the Epworth community in through events and outreach. Culturally-centered liturgical celebrations such as Lunar New Year, Mission Sunday, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and St. Josephine Bakhita have been extremely popular. DWC has also served as a daily respite for those who attend mass or visit the library.

While DWC students come from all over the world, they largely share the same view of living in Epworth. Students describe Epworth as safe, open, peaceful, and serene. The most unique experience for many students is the winter weather, especially snow.

“...my first real snow was when I came to Epworth because I stepped in it daily. It felt like stepping into a white blanket that transformed the landscape... Watching students marvel at the soft, quiet flakes drifting down reminds me of how winter can spark awe and unite people.” -DWC Student

Other highlights for students include walking through town, visiting local establishments, and attending annual celebrations—especially Epworth Country Christmas.

“What makes Epworth special is its close-knit, warm, and supportive community... the people here are remarkably open and curious about different cultures, which has made my experience even more enriching. This openness is beautifully reflected in the community events.” -DWC Student

DWC students would like to get to know their neighbors better. In a recent survey about their experience living in Epworth, they suggested having community events on campus such as outdoor games during the summer, cultural programs, and intercultural dialogue events.

“These events would help build stronger relationships and promote deeper understanding, further strengthening the unity between local residents and students from around the world.” -DWC Student

Remarkably, students from 78 countries have taken courses at DWC since 1964. That means, in some sense, Epworth has hosted 40% of the world over the last 60 years. Epworth not only is “A small town with a big heart”; it is a “A small town with a big culture.”

References: DWC Archives, SVD Publications, News Articles, and a DWC Student Survey



We were pleased to welcome the Divine Word College Board of Trustees to campus May 2–3 for their spring meeting, where they shared insights and helped guide the college’s mission and future.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

Study Tips for Finals Week

Everyone is getting ready for end of semester testing. Students are hoping to pass their ESL exams or to finish their undergraduate research papers; professors are excited to see how students have grown over the semester. The end of the academic year can also be stressful. We are all trying to plan our summer vacations, trying to finish with high marks, and saying goodbye to our mates for the summer or for a longer time, as some graduate and move into ministry. Here are a few tips for students, as you prepare for exams.

1. **Create a Realistic and Detailed Study Schedule:** Plan out specific times for studying each subject, taking into account the difficulty of the material and the format of the exam. Break down study sessions into manageable chunks with short breaks in between to avoid burnout. Prioritize subjects based on exam dates and how challenging you find them.
2. **Practice Active Recall and Self-Testing:** Instead of passively rereading notes or textbooks, actively test your knowledge. Use flashcards, practice questions, and try explaining concepts in your own words. This helps identify areas you need to focus on and improves retention. Consider quizzing yourself or having a study partner quiz you.
3. **Strategize with Study Groups (Wisely):** Collaborating with classmates can be beneficial for reviewing material, comparing notes, and clarifying concepts. However, ensure study sessions remain focused and productive. If group studying isn't your strength, prioritize individual study time.
4. **Prioritize Sleep and Self-Care:** Adequate rest is crucial for memory consolidation and cognitive function. Aim for 7-9 hours of sleep each night. Don't neglect your physical health; eat nutritious meals, stay hydrated, and incorporate short breaks for physical activity to reduce stress and maintain focus.
5. **Utilize Available Resources:** Take advantage of campus resources such as professor office hours, tutoring centers, and library support. Professors can offer valuable insights into the exam format and key topics. Tutors can help with challenging subjects, and librarians can assist with research if needed for final papers or projects.

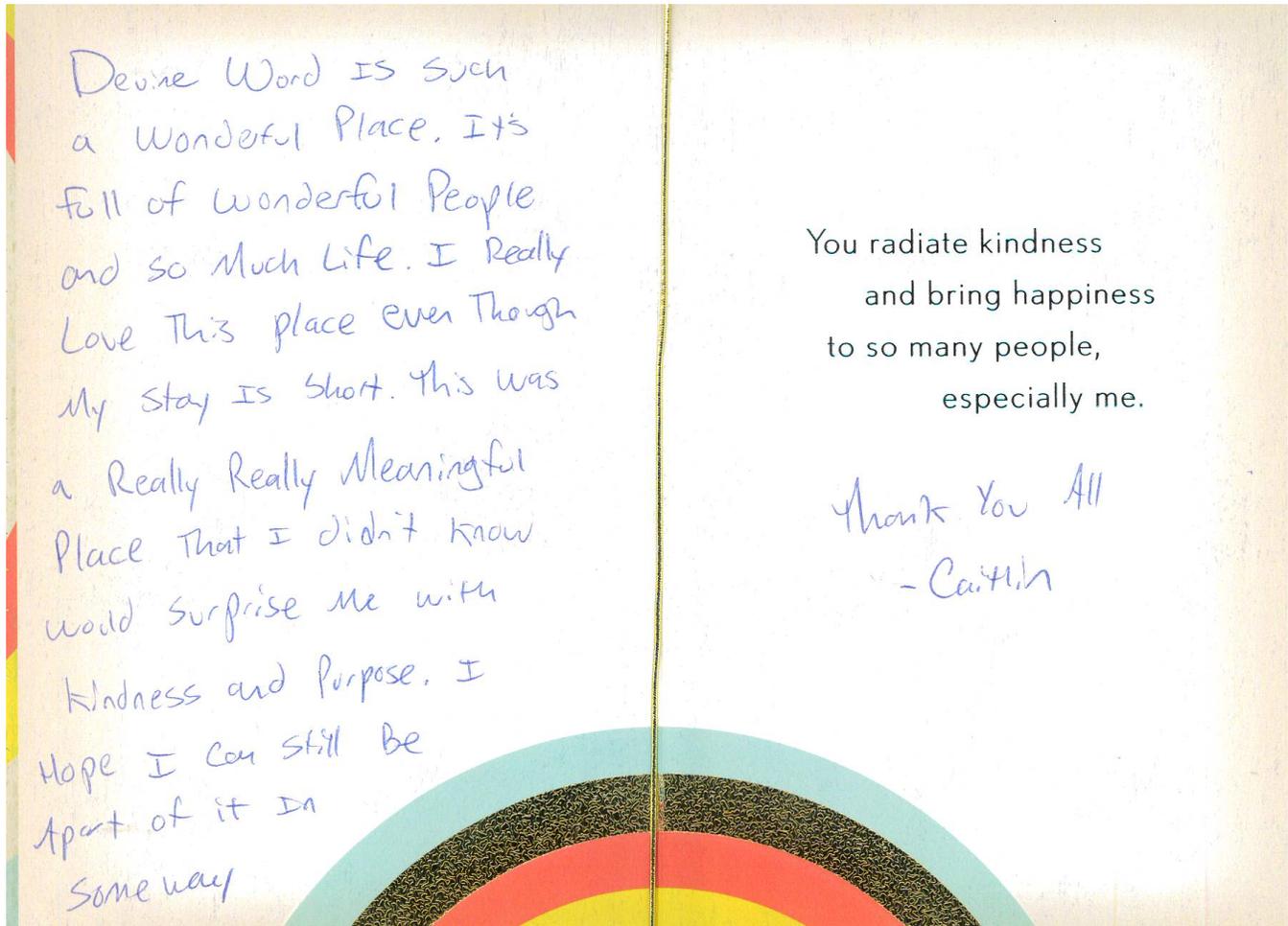
Faculty Promotions and News from Board of Trustees

At the Board of Trustees meeting, Dr. Jason Reed was promoted to Associate Professor upon recommendation from the Faculty Promotions and Awards Committee, the VPAA, and the College President. Dr. Reed joins a number of DWC faculty that have sought out opportunities to earn promotion. Promotions can be a way of recruiting and retaining high quality faculty, as it provides incentive for growth and provides greater job security. While no changes to promotion, including the conferral of emeritus status, were made, the Board of Trustees noted the dedication of the DWC faculty and have encouraged all faculty members to seek out opportunities for promotion. To learn more about faculty ranks and promotions, information can be found in Section 9 of the DWC Policy Handbook.

Thanks to and from Adjunct Faculty

DWC is grateful for our adjunct faculty members that have served the College this year. These faculty members are often employed full-time somewhere else or are retired and have important knowledge and skills in their areas of expertise that benefits our students. Thank you to all of you that have served as adjuncts this year. As a missionary institution, we also strive to be mission oriented towards all who enter our doors. Ms. Caitlin Donald,

Adjunct Instructor of Art, sent the College a very nice note that expresses how DWC students welcome adjunct instructors. Thank you for your note, Ms. Caitlin, and know that we pray for you and your family.



Dr. Yasmin Rioux

Assessment Bites



Dear DWC...

Dear DWC Community, it has been a pleasure serving as your Director for Institutional Effectiveness. I appreciate the opportunities, joys, collaborations, achievements, challenges, and many interactions across varying departments and offices this role has allowed me to explore and engage in. I will miss this College greatly and wish you all continued success and the great love that has made me enjoy my time at DWC as much as I have. God bless.

-Dr. Yasmin Rioux



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS
Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

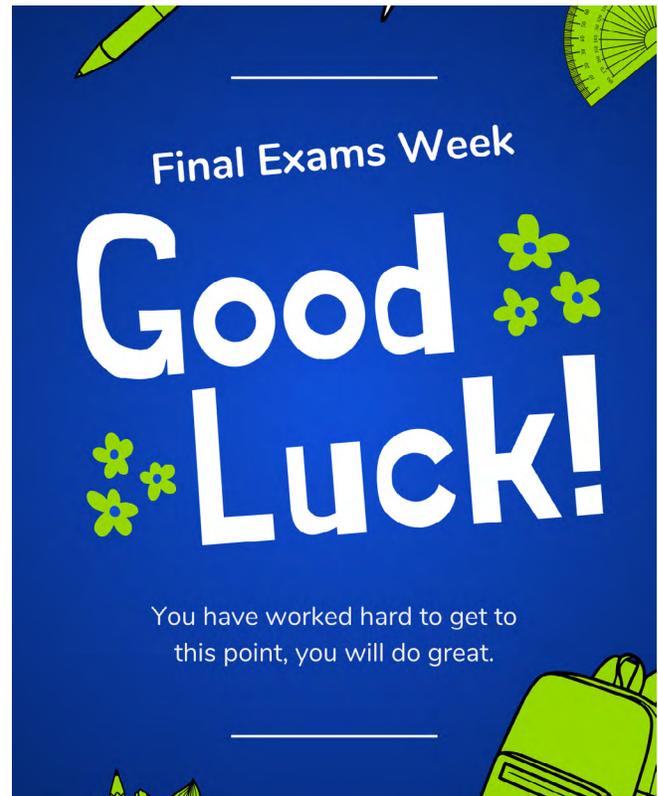
Finals Week

Finals will be next week and we will not follow the regular schedule. I will post the schedule for finals week on the bulletin board.

We will have two masses each day from Monday, May 12, 2025 through Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 8:00 am and 8:00 pm. On Thursday, May 15, 2025, there will be mass at 8:00 am, and mass with SVD renewal of vows at 7:30 pm.

Also, during finals week, the Student Senate will sponsor free donuts and juice in the dining room beginning at 9:00 am. Please come to the dining room during your break to enjoy.

The 2025 finals week schedule will also be posted in the addendum of this issue of the LOG.



Students with Guitars (Queen of Americas 2024).

Guitar Recital

This Thursday, May 8, 2025, all are invited to the guitar recital performed by our students. Mr. Marcus De Jesus has been working with the students all semester for this day. The recital will be at 1:00 pm in the gym. Please come to show your support to the students who are performing.

For more information about the recital, please reach out to Prof. Marcus DeJesus at mdjesus@dwci.edu.



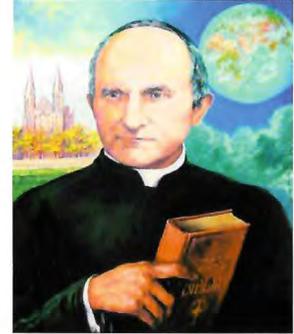
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Len Uhal

Summer Vacation

The staff of the Admissions Office wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable summer break! In your travels, please consider telling others about the Divine Word Missionaries and Divine Word College. We are always looking for new SVD candidates to enter formation for the SVD and new students at Divine Word College are always welcomed.

Please stop by the Vocations/Admissions Office and get some literature to take with you. Give someone a prayer card or a brochure and encourage them to consider a religious vocation and visit our websites to learn more about DWC and the SVD.



A Prayer for My Vocation

Loving God, you call all people to walk in the footsteps of Jesus in order to make your presence felt in our world.

I have heard your call and want to respond with all my heart: "Here I am, Lord. I come to do your will."

Help me to know myself and recognize the gifts and talents with which you've blessed me.

Help me to seek the path in life that will best honor the person I am and make use of my gifts and talents to build your Kingdom here on Earth.

This I ask in the name of the Father who gave me life, in the name of Jesus who lives in me and in the name of the Spirit who impels me to live for others. Amen



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

Main Road to College Closed

Due to a significant washout beneath the pavement, the main entrance to Divine Word College is currently closed. Repairs to the driveway are scheduled to begin later this week, with the goal of completion before graduation.

In the meantime, please use the Seminary Avenue entrance and exit located on the north side of the college. For your safety, we ask that you avoid the damaged area of the driveway.



external affairs

Jack Becker

By Erin LaBelle

The many afternoons I spent washing Jack Becker’s wood carvings after moving them to campus from the family’s Dyersville farm became a meditation and the perfect ending to days full of movement and conversation. Sitting in a chair with the lights off, I got to know each piece by cleansing them with a bit of Murphy’s Oil Soap and warm water. Occasionally a toothbrush or Q-tip was needed to free the dust in smaller places, accumulated over the past five years since the Becker Woodcarving Museum shut down during Covid.

Natural light poured through the windows, illuminating the space in a gentle way that made everything feel sacred. I prayed during this time, but also chose to sit in silence and listen to what was rising from within. There was a moment, perhaps more profound than others, when it was time to wash Jesus’ feet. I contemplated what that would feel like and imagined myself to be at the feet of Christ with my soapy bucket and rag. Immense gratitude for being offered the opportunity to curate Jack’s creative expression over twenty years after his death flooded over me, and as I washed each foot, it felt like I was being cleansed too.



A short time later, I witnessed Fr. Tuan washing the feet of students during Triduum, which built upon my gallery experience. When you see something through the viewfinder of a camera, it’s often amplified because all of one’s attention is on the moment before them. I heard the call to humility and service as if someone was shouting through a megaphone. And I can not think of a better way to do this than by listening with a camera. Hopefully, you will all be able to make space in your final days of the semester to find inspiration from Jack Becker.



Justice and Peace Committee

Prayer for the Conclave Tonight

As our Church continues to mourn the passing of Pope Francis and prepares for the sacred time of the conclave, the Franciscan Federation is sponsoring a virtual prayer service on Tuesday, May 7, at 7:00 PM (Central Time). This gathering will be a time of prayer and reflection on the eve of the conclave, as we unite our hearts to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for the needs of our Church, and for our next pope.

[Register here.](#)



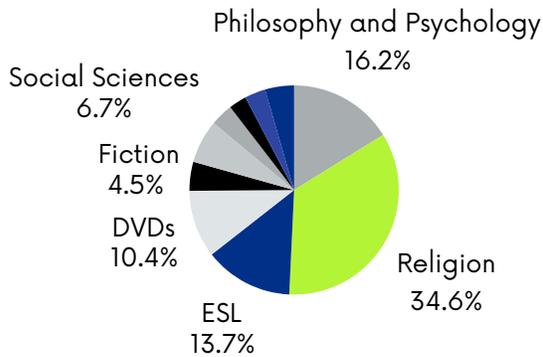


MATTHEW JACOBY LIBRARY

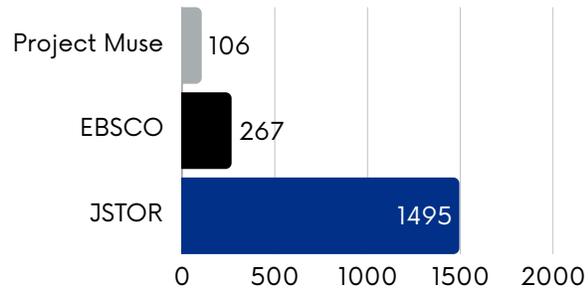
BY THE NUMBERS – SPRING 2025

LIBRARY USE

411 total on-site checkouts



1868 total full text article and book downloads



44 people entered the library on a daily basis (on average)

51 audiobooks listened to on Libby



156 videos watched on Kanopy

34 items delivered to DWC patrons via Interlibrary Loan



TOP JOURNALS

- The Furrow
- Journal of Vietnamese Studies
- Studies in Family Planning
- The Monist
- Language in Society

TOP EBOOKS

- Ubuntu
- Family Tightrope
- African Philosophy and Thought Systems
- St. Anselm's Proslogion
- Exploring Theology

A stylized illustration of a guitar on the left side of the page, with its headstock at the top and body extending downwards. The guitar is light brown with a black sound hole and bridge. Above the guitar, there are several musical notes and a staff line, rendered in a light grey color, curving across the top of the page. The background is a light beige color.

STUDIO GUITAR RECITAL

1PM

05.08.2025

Gym Auditorium

For more info, please reach out to
Prof. Marcus DeJesus at:
mdjesus@dwci.edu

**DIVINE WORD COLLEGE
2025 FINAL WEEK SCHEDULE**

Monday, May 12 – Wednesday, May 14

6:30 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	Eucharist
9:00 AM	Free Donuts and Coffee (Dining room)
6:00 PM	Evening prayer
6:15 PM	Supper
8:00 PM	Eucharist

Thursday, May 15

6:30 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	Eucharist
9:00 AM	Free Donuts and Coffee (Pour House)
5:00 PM	Cook out in the courtyard (w/ graduates, families & friends)
7:30 PM	Eucharist with SVD Renewal of Vows – follow by Happy Hour
8:30 PM	First Room Inspection

Friday May 16

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	Second Room Inspection —get your room and key deposits back from the Business Office when your room is inspected.
5:30 PM	Supper

Saturday May 17 *(summer schedule begins)*

8:00 AM	Eucharistic Celebration
8:30 AM	Breakfast
Noon	Lunch
5:30 PM	Supper

*Congratulations Class of 2025!
Have a Blessed Summer & Stay Safe!*