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## Birthday Corner:

### AUGUST

19	Sr. Tuyen Nguyen, LHC
20	Jerry McGrane
20	Sr. Thuy Pham, LHC
20	Frt. Cong Nguyen, SVD
20	Fr. Sam Cunningham, SVD
21	Truong Nguyen
22	Amy Hartman
22	Sr. Ngan Mai, OP
25	Ryan Alfred
26	Bro. Tony Kreinus, SVD



## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

### Setting the World on Fire

“Do you think that I have come to establish peace on earth? No I tell you, but rather division.” Those words must have been a surprise for Jesus’ first-century listeners! We are still surprised today!

The Church often prays for unity, but maybe sometimes we should pray for holy division. Not all peace is a holy peace. There can be unity in sin: a unity *of stubborn ignorance* born of a refusal to search out the truth; unity *in fear* of newcomers or of people who are not part of our group; unity in *cultural and racial prejudice*; and unity in *disregard of injustice*.

Jesus specifically challenged his hearers about being closed to people who were not part of their immediate families, extended families, or clans. Though family solidarity is a good thing, it can become an enemy to the wider solidarity and open welcome of the Reign of God that Jesus called for. We could be tempted to something similar here at DWC. We could break up into smaller closed groups, looking only after our own interests.

Before talking about peace and division, Jesus said: “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!” There is some important cultural context here. Jesus spoke in Aramaic, which was translated into Greek, and comes to us in English more than twenty centuries later. Experts tell us that the word Jesus used for earth is the same as an earth-oven, the way that people of his time baked bread and other food. He was giving his life as kindling for the oven, he was offering himself as saving bread for his followers, and for us still today.



In these first days of the semester at DWC, we have had the word, “Welcome!” on our lips and in our hearts. But before welcome comes “Call.” Jesus came to set the world on fire, and he calls all of his disciples to follow along to help set the world on fire. All of us at DWC, students, faculty, staff, and SVDs are included in this call.



If DWC is to be an earth-oven, what is it that we should bake here? Jesus calls us to bake the daily bread of the Kingdom, to feed ourselves and the whole world with genuine unity and a wide welcome.

The key ingredients are the missionary skills that DWC promotes. We are called to **critical thinking** rather than wallowing in stubborn ignorance. We are called to **communication effectiveness** rather than staying fenced in by fear of talking with someone new or different. We are called to greater **intercultural competence** rather than being intimidated by racism or cultural prejudice. We are called to **social and global responsibility** rather than cowering in the face of injustice.

Jesus calls us to be his **missionary disciples**, to be with him in setting the world on fire! Then we can be an offering of bread, baked with truth, courage, openness and justice, for our little town of Epworth and for the wide world.



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Dr. Joshua Young**

## DWC Awarded NetVUE Faculty Professional Development Grant

The academic year kicked off for the Faculty on August 11 with joyful news during the Faculty Institute. DWC was awarded a Faculty Professional Development Grant from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) to focus on developing a deeper understanding of vocation and the mission of the College. The theme for the grant program is “Vocation is our Vocation” and focuses on three areas:

1. Defining vocation within the mission of the College and the Arnoldus Family tradition;
2. Understanding the vocation of Faculty members and their contribution to student discernment of their vocation; and
3. Identify the needs of missionaries and how the College can help meet them.

As part of the grant project, Faculty will read *Called Beyond Ourselves: Vocation and the Common Good*, edited by Dr. Erin VanLanningham of Loras College. The book features commentaries on the purpose of higher education, the dialectic between neoliberalism and the liberal arts, and how higher education should always be in service of the common good. The Campus Reads Program will also feature the book, and community members are encouraged to read along with the Faculty. This grant is provided through the Council of Independent Colleges and funded by the Lilly Foundation.

## New Faculty and Changes

DWC has welcomed several new faculty members and had some shifts in duties. Please welcome our new Faculty:



Mr. Joseph  
Cherny



Mr. Michael  
Mason



Fr. Betenora  
Bako Liba



Fr. Alex  
Roedlach



Dr. Ann  
Lundberg

There have been some additional shifts in duties, due to the departure of Dr. Yasmin Rioux, who emailed over the summer and continues to pray for the DWC community.

- Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth has taken on the duties of Director of Institutional Effectiveness. She will be assisted with Registrar duties by Ms. Erin LaBelle and Dr. Monica Meissen.
- Dr. Cathleen Cleary will return as Department Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies.

### Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Visit

The College is preparing for final submission of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Assurance Argument and for the Accreditation Team visit. Members of the DWC community will have an opportunity to visit with the Accreditation team during their visit at the end of September. The HLC Accreditation Team consists of faculty and administrators at other colleges and universities that volunteer their time and expertise to help HLC members maintain accreditation standards. Details about the upcoming accreditation visit will be shared soon.

# ASSESSMENT LOOP

Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth

## Faculty Evaluators for Spring 2025 - Administered Fall 2025

Instructor	Assignment/Class	Faculty Evaluator	Assessed PLOs
Fr. Stephen Nguyen	THM 277 Catholic Social Teaching	Round 1 - Dr. Joshua Young Round 2 - Fr. Simon Hoang Round 3 - Dr. Jason Reed Round 4 - Dr. Ben Wintress	CORE #4
Dr. Ron Condon/Dr. Jason Reed	PHI 499 Philosophy Capstone Paper	Round 1 - Sr. Aprilia Untarto Round 2 - Mr. Mike Mason Round 3 - Fr. Stephen Nguyen Round 4 - Fr. Simon Hoang	PHI/BA/1 PHI/BA/2 PHI/BA/3

**Evaluation Periods: Will be available from Monday 8:00 A.M. to the following Monday 8:00 A.M.**  
Please allow a few minutes in between rounds.

- **Round 1:** August 25th, 8:00 A.M. to September 1st, 8:00 A.M.
- **Round 2:** September 1st, 8:00 A.M. to September 8th, 8:00 A.M.
- **Round 3:** September 8th, 8:00 A.M. to September 15th, 8:00 A.M.
- **Round 4:** September 15th, 8:00 A.M. to September 22nd, 8:00 A.M.



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD



### Welcome and Welcome Back!

On behalf of the formation staff, I would like to welcome back our returning students, and a special welcome to our new students joining us for this school year. This year, Divine Word College is blessed to have 25 new students from eight countries around the world. The college is getting to be more diverse each year! If you need help with anything, please feel free to come by my office, or ask any of the formation staff. I hope that all of you will use this time to experience and enjoy our multicultural community.

This year, I am assisted by Fr. Betenora Bako Liba, SVD and Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS as Associate Deans of Students. If I am not around, you can reach out to them.

Our prayers are with you all as you begin the new school year 2025-2026.

### Student Recollection Day

A reminder that this Saturday, August 23, 2025, we will have a day of recollection from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We will begin the recollection with morning prayer and end it with the Eucharist. This year, Sr.

Evelyn Lobo, SSpS, one of the spiritual directors, will be leading us in the recollection with the theme *Call to Abundant Life*. During the recollection, we will have group sharing, adoration, and confessions.

All students are required to come to student recollection.

### Mass for Vocations

On Tuesday, August 26, 2025, we will have our monthly vocation mass in the main chapel. The Pre-Novitiate formation group and St. Arnold Janssen, SVDs in temporary vows will be in charge of the mass. Tan Duy Nguyen will share his life and vocation story during mass. Please be there to show your support to the SVD juniors and candidates, to pray for an increase of vocations, and be inspired by Tan's vocation journey.

### Ministry Practicum

Giving a heads up that Thursday, August 28, 2025, students who are in the undergraduate level are required to be at the orientation for ministry practicum. Fr. Sonny De Class, SVD, the assistant ministry practicum coordinator, will explain the ministry practicum program and what is involved. The meeting will be in room 107.

Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS will send a Survey Monkey link to those required to do ministry practicum for this year. In this link, you are to choose three ministry sites, and Sr. Aprilia will choose the site for you to do ministry. Please know that some students may not be placed in the sites that they choose.

### Meeting with Student Drivers

On Tuesday, August 25, 2025, I would like to meet with all students (on campus) who have a valid driver's license at 7:15 PM in room 107. I would like to go over and clarify with you about the rules and regulations for using the school vehicles. From there, I will choose a couple of students to be student drivers for the year.





## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Len Uhal

# WELCOME

### Welcome Students

While being excited to see all our returning students back at on campus, we warmly welcome our new students to our Divine Word College community. We have 25 new students this semester:

#### SVD Candidates

Thinh Duc Ngo (Peter)	Vietnam
Hung Ly Mai (Peter)	Vietnam
Nhat Minh Pham	Vietnam (via Canada)
Quang Khang Tran (Vincent)	St. Louis, MO
Nhat Duc Minh Nguyen	Garden Grove, CA
Leonardus Rianto De Class	Indonesia
Thang Dinh Nguyen	Vietnam (via NY)

#### Diocesan Seminarians

Johnson Hal	Papua New Guinea
Macoy Kabansok	Papua New Guinea
Hoan Sy Tran	Vietnam

#### Divine Word Missionaries

Fr. Agustinus Susanto Naba, SVD	Indonesia
Fr. Antonio Iyemangebe, SVD	DR Congo

#### SSpS Sister Candidate

Marie Raymonde Petit-Meme	Haiti
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#### Religious Sisters

Sr. Brigitte Nikuze	Rwanda
Sr. Tram Thuy Thanh Tran, LHC	Vietnam
Sr. Xiaoyan Yang	China
Sr. Hue Thi Tran, LHC-PT	Vietnam
Sr. Phuong Nguyen, (Anna), CUM	Vietnam
Sr. Yicong Lou (Helen)	China

#### Male Religious

Fr. Ronald Saint Juste, SPSJ	Haiti
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#### Diocesan Priests

Fr. Laurent Narcisse	Haiti
Fr. Paulo Bronzato Silva	Brazil
Fr. Wilfin Tervilius	Haiti
Fr. Thoa Pham (Dominic)	Vietnam

#### Lay Student

Jessica Ramos Ferreira	Brazil (via Dubuque)
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### All New Students

All new students need to visit the Admissions Office to see both Ms. Carolyn Waechter and Ms. Patti McDermott if you have not already done so. Carolyn will assist all new international students with visa information. She needs to make sure all your immigration documents are in order and make copies for our records. Patti will work with all new students to make sure we have original copies of your educational documents and baptismal and confirmation certificates (for SVD candidates). **ALL NEW STUDENTS, PLEASE VISIT THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE BEFORE FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025.**

### Domestic Students

All students who are U.S. citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents in the USA (green card holders), please visit the Admissions Office to meet with Ms. Carolyn Waechter. She will assist you with updating your financial aid information. Please visit the office this week!

### Divine Word College Presidential Scholarship

Divine Word College first awarded the Presidential Scholarship in 1979. This scholarship is a recognition of and an honor for students who show promise of superior academic achievement.



The Presidential Scholarship includes an annual award of up to \$3,000 renewable each year the recipient continues to meet the established guidelines. The award may result in a further discount of tuition. A maximum of two students may receive this scholarship in a single year.

Criteria for Selection: Students in the Undergraduate Program at Divine Word College are eligible to apply for the Presidential Scholarship provided they meet the following criteria:

- Applicants entering from high school must have a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above.
- College transfer applicants must have a cumulative college GPA of 3.50 or above.
- Applicants who have completed secondary school or college/university studies abroad must have an acceptable equivalent cumulative GPA.
- Students in the undergraduate program may apply at any time during their studies at Divine Word College provided they have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

**If you believe you qualify for the DWC Presidential Scholarship, please complete the application form by September 5, 2025, which you can obtain from Ms. Carolyn Waechter, the Financial Aid Coordinator. Carolyn can also answer any of your questions.**



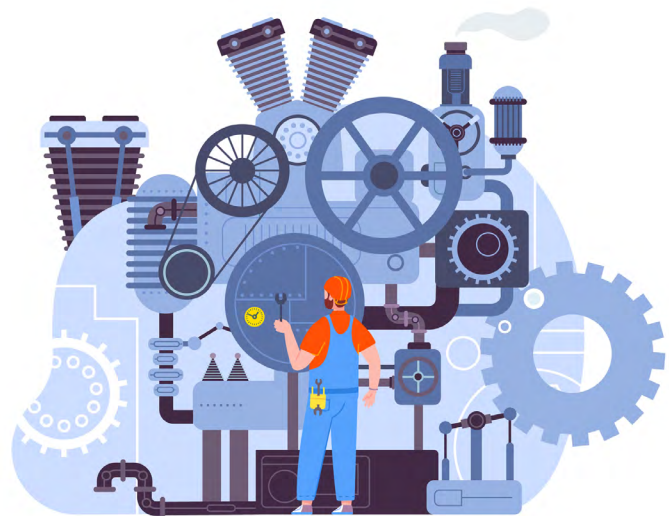

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS**  
Steve Winger

## Summer Projects from the Maintenance Department

This summer, the Maintenance team completed a wide range of campus improvements. Projects included tree removal, grass cutting, and repairs to address water runoff damage. Megan Hall saw extensive upgrades: dryer venting, six toilet replacements, A/C repairs, and new kitchen and bathroom faucets. Additional work included faucet and toilet seal replacements in dorms, light placement at Arkfeld House, and a major lounge remodel with electrical upgrades. Martha's Kitchen received plumbing improvements, and the state boiler inspection was successfully completed. Electrical repairs were also made to the street front entrance.

Looking ahead, we're excited to begin upgrades to the men's dorm restrooms. This project will include the installation of new urinals and shower fixtures, as well as ceiling repairs to improve ventilation and overall comfort. These enhancements aim to provide a cleaner, more functional space for our students.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Maintenance Department, Student Workers, and Housekeeping for their dedication and hard work in keeping our campus safe, functional, and welcoming.



# external affairs

## All Alumni Reunion Just Around the Corner!

The excitement is building as Divine Word College prepares to welcome alumni, their families, and friends back to campus for the **All Alumni Reunion on August 29–31, 2025**. Nearly **70 alumni have already registered**, and with family members included, over **100 people are expected** to gather for this joyful weekend of faith, friendship, and celebration.

All members of the DWC Community are invited and encouraged to participate in liturgies, activities and meals.



Here's a look at the schedule for the weekend:

### Friday, August 29

- **6:00 – 10:00 p.m.** | Welcome Reception at the Grand River Center, Dubuque, Iowa

### Saturday, August 30 (all events on campus)

- **8:00 a.m.** | Community Mass
- **9:30 – 11:30 a.m.** | Family Feast Games
- **11:30 a.m.** | Picnic Meal
- **1:00 – 4:30 p.m.** | Campus Tours & Activities
- **4:30 p.m.** | President's Welcome & Mission Talk
- **6:00 p.m.** | Banquet with Entertainment
- **Dusk** | Bonfire in the Courtyard

### Sunday, August 31 (all events on campus)

- **10:00 a.m.** | Liturgy with **Fr. Adam Oleszczuk, SVD, Provincial Superior – Chicago Province, Presider**  
**Fr. Ed Peklo, SVD, Homilist**
- **11:00 a.m.** | Brunch

The planning committee has been working hard to prepare, but the success of the reunion depends on the support of the entire DWC community. **Help is needed throughout the weekend**—from welcoming guests and assisting with events to lending a hand at liturgies and activities. Your participation will make alumni and their families feel warmly welcomed.

We encourage everyone—students, faculty, staff, and friends—to take part. Whether you're helping behind the scenes or joining in the celebrations, your involvement ensures that this reunion will be a joyful and memorable event. Faculty and staff: please contact Sandy Wilgenbusch if you plan to attend any of the events.

Want to see who's coming? Check out the most recent registration list here:

[View Registrations as of August 19, 2025.](#)

Let's make this All Alumni Reunion a weekend to remember!

## Seeking English Conversation Partners for ESL Students

Do you know someone who enjoys engaging with others and would be interested in volunteering as a weekly English conversation partner? The Intensive English Language Institute is looking for friendly, patient individuals to help our students practice conversational English in a relaxed and supportive setting. Volunteers can choose to meet one-on-one with students in person at either 11:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. on any weekday that fits their schedule.

If you have a colleague, friend, or family member who might be a great fit, we'd love for you to refer them! No teaching experience is necessary—just a willingness to connect and converse. For more information or to make a referral, please contact Seo Hyun ([spark@dwci.edu](mailto:spark@dwci.edu); 563-876-3353 x394).

# Matthew Jacoby Library

[opac.dwci.edu](https://opac.dwci.edu)

## Library Orientation Guide

### Library Hours & Access

- The library is open **24/7** for students, faculty, and staff.
- You need your **DWC ID** to borrow items.

### Borrowing Materials

- You can borrow **books, DVDs, and other items** using a **self-check machine**.
- Items have a **loan period** (e.g., 4 weeks) and can often be **renewed** online.
- **There are no late fees.**

### Online Resources

- The library offers access to **databases** (like JSTOR, Project Muse, and the Digital Theological Library) for research articles and eBooks.
- You can watch movies and shows on Kanopy.
- You can listen to audiobooks on Libby.
- We have a new subscription to the Digital Theological Library (DTL 2)!
- Check out DTL2:  
<https://dtl2.libguides.com/home>
- Ask for help if you're unsure how to use these tools.

### Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

- If the library doesn't have a book or article, **you can request it from another library.**
- Books take **1–2 weeks**, articles take **1–4 days.**

### Getting Help

- **Librarians are here to help**—you can ask questions in person or by email.
- The library offers **research help sessions** or **one-on-one support.**

### Public Library Access

- You are able to use your college library card at the **local public library.**
- Public libraries offer **free internet, books, and community programs.**

Visit the library's website to learn more:

<https://opac.dwci.edu/>





Divine Word College

# Upcoming Events

Fall

2025

AUG <b>21</b>	<b>Gallery Opening - Legacy Exhibit</b> Reception from 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM
AUG <b>23</b>	<b>Student Recollection</b> with Sr. Evelyn Lobo, SSpS
AUG <b>29</b>	<b>Alumni Reunion &amp; Family Feast</b> From Aug. 29 - Sep. 1
SEP <b>2</b>	<b>Labor Day - No Classes</b> 5K Run/Walk sponsored by Student Senate
SEP <b>8</b>	<b>SVD Foundation Day</b> 150th Anniversary
SEP <b>20</b>	<b>SVD Perpetual Vows</b> In Chicago, Illinois
SEP <b>29</b>	<b>HLC Accreditation Visit</b> Monday and Tuesday