

THE LOG

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community | Vol. 45 No. 3 - September 2, 2025

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Birthday Corner:

SEPTEMBER

4	Fr. Ha Hoang
4	Sr. Diem Nguyen, CMP
4	Sr. Xuyen Trinh, FMSR
6	Sr. Nhu Quynh Phan, CDM

Neep an eye out for additional photos and video clips from the All-Alumni Reunion coming soon!





THE PRESIDENT Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

A Grand Reunion

This past weekend we celebrated a grand reunion of alumni and their family members at DWC. As with every school reunion, there is a deep joy in reconnecting with people from earlier stages of life. It is especially moving to hear how peoples' lives have been influenced by the emphasis on missionary service, the core purpose of SVD education at DWC and other schools over the years. I was inspired by the SVD and SSpS missionaries who were present, and by other priests and religious, and especially by lay folk who have found ways to reach out to those in need. Truly, we were a gathering of missionaries from around the world and from across the years!

I have asked Fr. Thang Hoang SVD, the Director of the Alumni Association, to share some of his experience of the reunion.

Three Things Stand Out

This past weekend, we welcomed more than 100 alumni from various parts of the world to Divine Word College for our All-Alumni Reunion. It was a blessed time of prayer, fellowship, and renewed commitment to our shared mission. As I reflect on the gathering, three things especially stand out:

1. Once an SVD, Always an SVD.

During one of our conversations, someone remarked, "We can't call the alumni ex-SVD." And it is true. Though they may no longer live in the seminary, their missionary spirit remains alive. This was clear in the questions, ideas, and suggestions they offered to help strengthen vocations and support the growth of the Society. Our alumni are not outsiders—they are truly our brothers, sisters and partners in mission.

2. An Intercultural Community: A Beautiful Atmosphere.

One alumnus said with joy, "I have never seen Divine Word College have such a beautiful atmosphere like now. It is truly a gift from God." He was speaking of the way our community brings together people of









many cultures and traditions. Rather than clashing, these differences complement and enrich one another. And the presence of the sisters and lay women is the significant addition to this beautiful atmosphere. Together, they create a beautiful mosaic — a reflection of God's face for the world.

3. A True Sense of Belonging.

Again and again, we heard alumni say, "I feel so at home here among you." They experienced genuine hospitality—talking, mingling, and even playing games with faculty, staff, and especially students. They did not feel like visitors but like family members, fully included in the life of the community. This sense of belonging was evident in their active participation, heartfelt fraternal sharing, and enthusiasm to carry this

spirit back into their own lives and ministries. Indeed, the mission lives and continues!

This reunion has reminded us that we, religious or laity, Brothers or Sisters, priests, single or in married life, all are one family, bound not just by memories, but united by a living missionary spirit. Indeed, as our Divine Word Alumni Association slogan is, "United in Mission" For this, let us give thanks.

An African quote, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD Director of Divine Word Alumni Association







VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

Faculty Survey on Vocation

Faculty were recently sent a survey on vocation as part of the NetVUE Professional Development grant project. The survey asks faculty how familiar they are with the idea of vocation, vocation within the Arnoldus Family tradition, and supporting student discernment. Results will identify areas where professional development is needed and reinforce the vocational knowledge already gained by the faculty. Results of the survey will be shared shortly after the survey closes and data is analyzed. Please make sure to complete the survey! https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RT9HH5K

Course Evaluation Revisions Coming

In efforts to review DWC's course evaluation process, Dr. Joshua Young, VPAA, announced the creation of a committee to review and revise the course evaluation questions. The committee will be chaired by Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth, Director of Institutional Effectiveness. Department representatives include Ms. Heather Taylor and Mr. Udry of the Intensive English Language Institute, Ms. Elizabeth Winter

of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, and Fr. Betanora Bako Liba, SVD, of the Department of Theology and Philosophy.

Student course evaluations are a valuable way for the College to measure student learning and to make adjustments to the curriculum to meet student needs. Emphasis has been put on addressing course evaluation completion rates, with over an 80% completion rate at the end of last semester. Course evaluations are also an important element of faculty evaluation of their teaching and their courses, making faculty participation in the development of the evaluation questions vital. Revisions should be completed by the end of this semester.



ASSESSMENT LCOP

Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth

Faculty Evaluations of Spring 2025 Collection (Assessed Fall 2025)

1. Dates for Assessment Rounds:

Round 1: August 25 to September 1

Round 2: September 1 to September 8

Round 3: September 8 to September 15

Round 4: September 15 to September 22

2. Evaluation Periods:

Open from Monday 8:00 A.M. to the following Monday 8:00 A.M.

3. The login link for OAP is as follows:

https://www.watermarkinsights.com/client-resources/signon/

You might have to click "log in" twice.

4. Watermark Support Contacts:

support@watermarkinsights.com

Customer Service Hotline: 1-800-311-5656







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



Ministry Practicum and Ministry Commissioning

For those who are in the undergraduate program at Divine Word College, you have been oriented to the ministry practicum program last Thursday. Your ministry will begin on Monday, September 8, 2025. I will soon post the list of which ministry site we assigned you to. All the ministry assignments are finalized, and you cannot ask for a change of ministry.

Ministry commissioning will be this Sunday, September 7, 2025 at the 10:00 am mass. After the commission, you will be sent off to do your ministry for the year. All students who are doing ministry are required to be there. Please dress in semi-formal or religious attire for the commissioning.



Formation Group Charter

This Sunday, September 7, 2025, each formation group will present their charter during Sunday Vespers. Formation charter is used to indicate goals, commitment, and concrete actions of each formation group as a way to grow as a community. The Divine Word College community is looking forward to hearing what each group will offer for the community for this year.

Pour House Promotion

The Pour House is offering a promotion from Tuesday, September 2, 2025 through Friday, September 12, 2025 for those who want to deposit money into the Pour House account with an additional 10%. For anyone who opens an account with the Pour House, a money card will be given to them. A money card can be purchased for \$1.00. However, for those who deposit \$20.00 or more, the Pour House will give the card at no charge. Use this opportunity to support the Pour House.





International Day of Peace

This year's International Day of Peace event will take place on September 22 in the Alumni Campus Center at Loras College, beginning at 7:00 PM. Marie Dennis, an international teacher of peace, will speak on the theme "Persistence: A Pathway to Peace." I highly encourage you to attend this event.

Students: First Aid Class

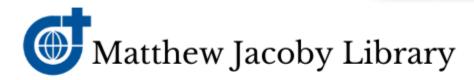
For students, there will be a "First Aid Class" offered on Saturday, September 13, 2025. Please meet Br. Mike Decker at the front entrance at 9:15 am.

We will walk to the Epworth Fire Station and the class will go from 9:30 am until 11:00 am. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, September 10.









opac.dwci.edu

Student Workers Making a Difference

This summer, our library and archives have benefited greatly from the dedication of our student workers: Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Nhi in the library, and Sr. Yolette in the archives.

In the library, Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Nhi assisted with a major weeding project in the literature section. Approximately 4,000 books were removed due to lack of circulation (not checked out in over 25 years), irrelevance to the current curriculum, or poor physical condition—including water damage. This effort has resulted in a more focused and mission-aligned collection that better supports the academic and spiritual goals of DWC.

In addition to weeding, the students helped update catalog records to meet current metadata standards, improving both discovery and access for our users.

Meanwhile, in the archives, Sr. Yolette contributed to archival processing tasks, including scanning and digitizing newspaper clippings, helping preserve and make accessible the rich history of our community.



Self-Checkout Station Now Operational

We're excited to announce that the self-checkout station in the library is now fully operational! While the design has been refreshed, the functionality remains the same—making it easy and convenient for students, faculty, and staff to check out materials independently.



Campus Reads Program 2025-2026: Called Beyond Ourselves

This year's Campus Reads Program features *Called Beyond Ourselves* by Erin VanLaningham, a compelling exploration of vocation in higher education. The book invites readers to reimagine success through the lens of mutual flourishing and the common good, emphasizing compassion, dialogue, and action as essential responses to personal and societal challenges.

The program is open to everyone on campus, and free copies of the book are available in the library. An interactive bulletin board invites students, staff, and faculty to reflect on their own vocation by writing it down and pinning it to the display—creating a shared tapestry of purpose and calling.

Participants are invited to read the introduction and Chapter 1 by October 6 so that they can engage with Fr. Tom's Presidential Forum presentation on October 7, 2025.







Campus Reads 2025-2026

WHAT IS YOUR VOCATION?

Join the community in reading, contemplating, and discussing "Called Beyond Ourselves" by Erin VanLaningham



Called Beyond Our Selves Themes

- 1. Finding Purpose Discovering what makes life meaningful.
- 2. **Helping Others** Connecting personal goals with caring for people.
- 3. Working Together Understanding how our lives are linked.
- 4. Fairness and Kindness Acting with justice and compassion.
- 5. **Rethinking Success** Seeing success as shared well-being.
- 6. **Listening and Acting** Talking with others and making positive change.

VOCATION

Called Beyond Our Selves

Vocation and the Common Good

Erin VanLaningham

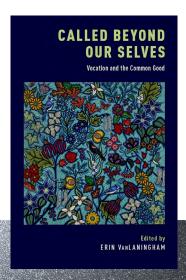
Called Beyond Ourselves explores vocation in higher education as a communal and justice-oriented pursuit, urging students and educators to reframe success around mutual flourishing and the common good. Through interdisciplinary insights and practical models, it emphasizes compassion, dialogue, and action as essential responses to personal and societal challenges.



Date	Discussion Leader	Reading	Place & Time
Oct 10, 2025	Dr. Joshua Young	Chapter 3	ARC, 12:00- 12:45
Nov 7, 2025	Mr. Larry Udry	Chapter 9	ARC, 12:00- 12:45
Dec 5, 2025	Dr. Joshua Young	Chapter 4	ARC, 12:00- 12:45

Campus Reads Program 2025-2026: Called Beyond Ourselves

Participants are invited to read the introduction and Chapter 1 by October 6 so that they can engage with Fr. Tom's Presidential Forum presentation on October 7, 2025.





pick up a copy of the book today!





Full Campus Reads Schedule

Date	Presenter	Reading/Topic
Oct. 7, 2025	Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD	Introduction: Whose Good Life? and Chapter 1: Our Call as Response
Oct. 10, 2025	Dr. Joshua Young	Chapter 3: Overturning for the Common Good
Nov. 7, 2025	Mr. Larry Udry	Chapter 9: Reading with Strangers
Dec. 5, 2025	Dr. Joshua Young	Chapter 4: DEI: Institutional Mission as the Call of the Common Good
Feb. 3, 2025	Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD	Chapter 13: What We Are Up Against
Feb. 6, 2025	Br. Brian McLauchlin, SVD	Chapter 2: Beyond Deep Gladness
Mar. 6, 2025	Ms. Erin LaBelle	Chapter 12: The Yarn in the Tapestry
Apr. 10, 2025	Ms. Elizabeth Winter	Chapter 11: The University as the (Common) Good Place
May 1, 2025	Fr. Sam Cunningham, SVD	Chapter 6: Queer Vocation and the Uncommon Good