

In This Issue:

Faculty Institute	3
Faculty Advancements	4
Student News	5
Welcome Students	6
Renovation Complete	7
New Faces at DWC	8
On View: Weyland Gallery	9
Library News	10
Upcoming Events	11
AFTER DARK: addendum Art and Music	

Birthday Corner:

AUGUST

Bro. Tony Kreinus, SVD 26

SEPTEMBER

Bro. Larry Kieffer, SVD 2



THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Mission is “*Whispering the Gospel*”

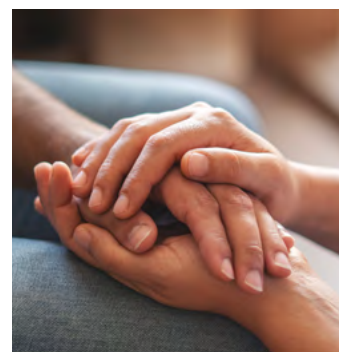
Mission Begins Today. The Divine Word College (DWC) motto at the front door reads: “Educating tomorrow’s missionaries.” But mission does not begin tomorrow. It begins today. All of us here at DWC are becoming better missionaries by offering missionary service *today*. We learn by doing.

A Creative Approach in Asia. One practical approach to missionary service is highly influential in Asia: “*whispering the gospel*.” Archbishop Budi Kleden SVD, of the Archdiocese of Ende, Indonesia, used the phrase in his remarks to fellow Asian bishops at a recent assembly in Jakarta.

“Being a minority is not a reason to lose hope and to give up... (Rather, it is) an opportunity to give witness, to be creative in finding humble and small ways to live out the Gospel’s values... In Asia we talk about whispering the Gospel, to realize anew that the way of the Gospel is the way of humility.”

The Power of Gentleness. The phrase was originally coined by Salesian Archbishop Thomas Menampampil, SDB, who served as Archbishop of Guwahati, India, until his retirement. Archbishop Thomas spoke at the Asian Synod of 1998. His phrase, “*whispering the Gospel to the soul of Asia*,” caught the attention of many participants. He later wrote about the origin and impact of the expression:

People saw in the phrase something deeper than I was able to imagine when I used it for the first time. It was not a thought-out phrase, carefully crafted after much reflection. It came to me spontaneously... “Whispering,” as I use the word in (speaking about mission), is not intended to be an expression of fear,



timidity, caution, or prudence. It is a sign of closeness, intimacy, trust, relationship, profundity. It also evoke(s) a sense of the sacred. In India, *mantras* are pronounced gently; they are sacred words.



Biblical Connections. This idea seems to echo the biblical story of Elijah on Mount Horeb, waiting for the presence of the Lord. On that occasion, the Lord did not appear in the crushing wind, the earthquake, or the fire. Elijah sensed the Lord was near in a tiny whispering sound (1 Kgs 19:12). Archbishop Thomas especially noted Jesus’ practice of whispering the Gospel.

Jesus frequently withdrew from the crowds to instruct his disciples or deepen their understanding of what he had taught to the crowds at an earlier moment. One could compare the conversations of Jesus with Nicodemus, with the Samaritan woman, and with many others in his discussions over meals to the “Whispering of the Gospel.” In such intimate moments of sharing, serious things can be said; deeper things can be explained; and what really counts can be accepted freely, happily, and with lasting consequence.

Most of all, “Whispering the Gospel” is found in the conversation of Jesus with his disciples in the Upper Room. In those moments, Jesus “whispered the Gospel” to the soul of the young Church. Everything speaks of closeness, seriousness, and intimacy. There is warmth, and there is loving kindness. Here we find Jesus pouring out his heart.

There are times and contexts when we do announce the message loud and clear, without fear; from the housetops as John Paul II

would say. But there are other occasions when we deepen the reflections in intimate circles. Often, we probe our way forward at a deeper level through conversations. Jesus’ intimate sharing with his disciples had a close relationship with his preaching to the crowds.

Opportunities to Whisper. At DWC, there are abundant opportunities to whisper the Gospel in quiet, humble service. Even without speaking, we can wash dishes, sweep floors, and clean bathrooms! And we can speak too, in conversation with friends in the dining room, in open participation in Bible sharing, in honest self-expression in spiritual direction and in formation groups. Everyone here goes to meetings! Patient listening and thoughtful speaking in our many meetings can also be a way of “whispering the Gospel.”

Our missionary whispering is not only interpersonal. The presence of the College community in Epworth, whispers to and with our town and to the surrounding communities. In the United States, and in much of the world, there is a lot of shouting, disappointment, conflict, and division. As missionaries, we continue to whisper – with all peoples – that the Kingdom of God is near.





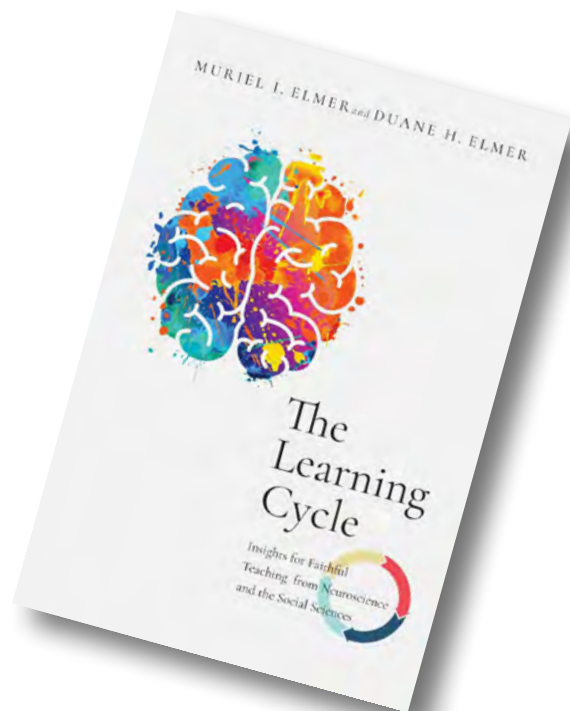
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

Faculty Institute 2026: Stories Behind the Data

Faculty kicked off the year on August 10, 2026 with the Faculty Institute. This year's institute invited Dr. Erin VanLaningham, Director of Special Projects for the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) and Professor of English at Loras College, for a special workshop focused on storytelling and narrative sharing. Though higher education is dominated by demands for assessment, the numbers rarely tell the stories that give meaning to experiences in and out of the classroom. Dr. VanLaningham helped faculty think about their stories about their teaching and ways to share stories in the classroom.

The workshop with Dr. VanLaningham will scaffold into the Fall Faculty In-Service, to be held on October 20, 2026. Faculty will discuss the book *The Learning Cycle* by Muriel and Duane Elmer and share their teaching stories.



Draft of CEA Accreditation Assurance Argument Under Review

The Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) has submitted an initial draft of their Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) Assurance Argument to the Board of Administration. Drafted under the direction of Dr. Mark Garton and Dr. Seo Hyun Park, the CEA Assurance Argument documents all the ways that the IELI meets or exceeds the accreditation standards of CEA.



Accreditation is an important way of showing that the College is following the highest standards and most effective practices at teaching English as a second language. While in draft form, administrators and IELI faculty will continue to make improvements before final submission to CEA later this Fall. The on-site CEA accreditation visit will take place sometime this Spring.

New Faculty Senate President

Please congratulate Dr. Ann Lundberg who is the new Faculty Senate President. Dr. Lundberg graciously agreed to run for the position during an emergency meeting of the Faculty Senate after the resignation of Dr. Benjamin Wintress in May 2026. The Faculty Senate is an important venue for faculty to exercise their responsibilities of shared governance of the College, especially as it relates to oversight of the academic programs and regulations.



Dr. Ann Lundberg

The Faculty Senate President serves as a representative of the faculty and works closely with the Vice President for Academic Affairs to address faculty needs and concerns.



Dr. Joseph
Cherny



Dr. Joshua
Young

Faculty Rank Advancements

Congratulations to Dr. Joseph Cherny and to Dr. Joshua Young for faculty rank advancements over the summer. Dr. Cherny, having defended his dissertation and completing his Doctorate of Philosophy automatically ranked up to Assistant Professor of Theology. Dr. Joshua Young was recommended for rank advancement by the Faculty Promotions and Awards Committee to the Board of Trustees and was granted the rank of Associate Professor of Communication and Writing for teaching, scholarship, and service. Faculty are encouraged to review rank

advancement requirements ([DWC Handbook Chapter 9](#)) and to apply before the February 1, 2027 deadline.

For questions, please consult the Vice President for Academic Affairs or the Chair of the Faculty Promotions and Awards Committee, Dr. Cathleen Cleary.

Faculty Professional Development

Full-time faculty are reminded to make plans for their professional development for this academic year. Many opportunities exist within each faculty member's respected discipline, but there are also many opportunities linked to effective teaching. Faculty should consider AAC&U's [webinar](#) and [conference](#) on teaching with AI or CAST's [Introduction to Universal Design for Learning](#). Faculty receive \$1,500 each year to fund individual professional development efforts. Faculty should include professional development activities in their annual self-evaluations and must report professional activities in *Dialogos*.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

Ministry Begins

For those participating in the Ministry Practicum this year, you have been commissioned and sent forth to share the Gospel through your ministry placements. Ministry begins this week.

The ministry assignments have been emailed and posted on the ministry bulletin board outside Sr. Aprilia Untarto's office. Your faculty ministry supervisor will also contact you with details regarding your ministry assignment, including dates, times, meeting locations, and other important information.

Please arrive on time and make every effort to make your ministry experience meaningful and fruitful this year.

As we begin our ministry, let us keep in mind the words of Jesus:

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."
(Matthew 25:40).



Flu and COVID Vaccinations

Although we are still experiencing the heat and humidity of summer, it is important to prepare for the fall and winter seasons. One way we can care for ourselves and our community is by protecting against illnesses such as influenza and COVID-19.

On Thursday, September 17, 2026, Walmart pharmacists will be on campus to provide flu and COVID-19 vaccinations for members of the DWC community.

Last week, Ms. Sara Goedken, DWC's Health Coordinator, posted a sign-up sheet for those interested in receiving these vaccinations. If you would like to be vaccinated, please add your name to the list as soon as possible, before Friday, September 4, 2026 so that we can estimate the number of participants and make the necessary arrangements.



Pour House Promotion

The Pour House is offering a special promotion from Tuesday, August 25, 2026, through Friday, September 4, 2026. During this period, anyone who deposits money into a Pour House account will receive an additional 10% bonus on their deposit.

Individuals opening a new Pour House account will receive a money card. Normally, the card costs \$1.00; however, customers who deposit \$20.00 or more when opening their account will receive the card free of charge.

Please take advantage of this opportunity and support the Pour House.



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 the Divine Word College community. We have 16 new students this semester (including two auditors):

SVD Candidates

Emmanuel Mayani	Rwanda
Linh Duc Ngo, (John)	Vietnam

Diocesan Seminarians

Richard Humberto Escalante Silva	Venezuela
Philip Porowe	Papua New Guinea
Frank Paraka	Papua New Guinea

SSpS Sister

Sr. Hope Tapoona Albersia, SSpS	Indonesia
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Religious Sisters

Sr. Anh Phuong Thi Tran, LHC-GV	Vietnam
Sr. Chaoying Cheng (Teresina)	China
Sr. Tho Thi Nguyen, LHC-TV	Vietnam

Male Religious

Fr. Roberto Alvarado Lopez, CR	Mexico
Bro. Jia Liu (Mark)	China
Bro. Shenqi Chen (John Baptist)	China
Fr. Wangxing Dong (John)	China

Diocesan Priest

Fr. Tri Tran (Peter)	Vietnam
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Lay Students (Auditors)

Dr. Ron Condon	Dubuque
Ms. Kirsten Lillegard	Dubuque

Presidential Scholarships

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 11, 2025, which you can obtain from Ms. Carolyn Waechter, the Financial Aid Coordinator. Carolyn can also answer any of your questions.

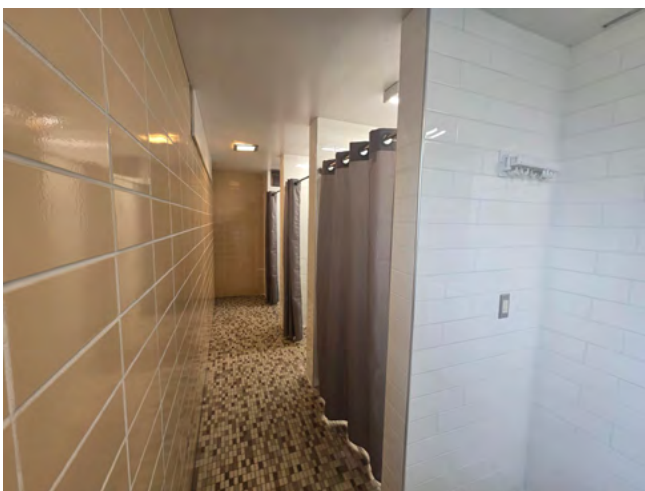


VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

Second-Floor Dorm Shower Renovation Complete!

We are excited to share the completion of one of Divine Word College's major capital improvement projects: the renovation of the second-floor dorm showers. This significant investment enhances student life while preserving an important part of our campus for future generations.



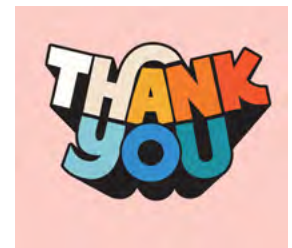
The project transformed a space that had faithfully served students since the college was built in 1963. After more than six decades of use, it was time for a comprehensive upgrade. During the renovation, the

original marble and lead shower pans were removed, and the entire area was rebuilt with new plumbing, modern shower stalls, attractive tile, and updated finishes. The result is a bright, welcoming, and highly functional space that students can enjoy for years to come.

In addition to the new showers, laundry machines were installed on the second floor, giving students convenient access to laundry facilities right where they live. This thoughtful improvement eliminates trips to the basement and makes everyday campus life easier and more comfortable.

As one of the college's largest facilities projects completed this year, the renovation reflects Divine Word College's ongoing commitment to investing in student housing, maintaining campus facilities, and creating an exceptional residential experience. The updated space is not only more attractive and efficient, but also better meets the needs of today's students.

A special thank you goes to our Maintenance staff and student workers for their outstanding work throughout the summer. Their dedication, craftsmanship, and attention to detail brought this project to life. Thanks to their efforts, students are returning to a beautifully updated facility that will serve the campus community well for many years to come.



Thank You to Our Student Workers

As we begin a new academic year, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the many student workers who dedicated their time, energy, and talents to Divine Word College this summer.

Across campus, student workers made a meaningful difference every day. Whether mowing lawns, caring for the courtyard, assisting in the Business Office, cleaning floors and restrooms, helping with

maintenance projects, or supporting special campus initiatives, their efforts helped ensure that DWC was welcoming, attractive, and ready for the arrival of students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Their contributions went far beyond routine tasks. Student workers played an important role in maintaining the beauty of our campus, supporting daily operations, and assisting with projects that improve the student experience. Their strong work ethic, positive attitudes, and willingness to help wherever needed were greatly appreciated.

Campus employment also provides valuable opportunities for students to develop professional skills, gain practical experience, and build lasting connections within the DWC community. These experiences help prepare students for future success while strengthening the college they call home.

To all of our student workers, thank you for your dedication, commitment, and outstanding service. Your hard work helped make our campus shine this summer, and we are grateful for the difference you make at Divine Word College every day.



external affairs

New Faces at DWC!

Please welcome some of the new employees that have joined us here at Divine Word College.



Kenny Retzl

Controller (Business Office)

Kenny has a PhD in Political Science, but accounting keeps bringing him back to numbers. Kenny enjoys college life, meeting students, golfing, knitting, and

spending time with his daughter. Did you know during the pandemic, Kenny Retzl taught himself how to knit and made a 365-row temperature blanket!



Dr. Michael Carlin

Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology

Teaches theology and helps prepare students for future ministry and service in the Church. Michael loves learning about different cultures,

languages, and places, especially Spain, where he studied for two years. He enjoys traveling, theology, history, and meeting people from different cultures, so he has many interesting stories to share. Did you know Michael loves cooking, and makes a Hungarian dish called chicken paprikash for his family? He also collects old records, enjoys old rock-and-roll music, and hopes one day to visit Ethiopia.

On View in the Gallery

Looking Back: Imagine Peace Exhibit

Thank you to all of those who attended the *Imagine Peace* Exhibit by Xene Abraham and Project Create Peace! It was a pleasure seeing so many people there. The exhibit reception was August 20th and had a great turnout. The exhibit will remain in Weyland Art Gallery until September 25, 2026.



AFTER DARK: A Night of Music and Art at DWC

Do you love music and art? Have you heard our very own Dr. Evelyn Dias perform on the piano? Attend the upcoming **AFTER DARK Reception on September 10th, 2026, at 7:00 PM on the first floor of DWC!**

Join us at 7:00 PM for free refreshments and a new art exhibit by Erin LaBelle and Jenna Gibson. **The highlight of the night will be at 7:30 PM when Dr. Evelyn Dias performs her piano concert in the Main Chapel.**

Admission is free and the dress code is formal. Join us for a relaxing night! See the back of the LOG for the invite.



 Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

Your Library: Resources and Services at Your Fingertips

As we begin the 2026-2027 academic year, the Matthew Jacoby Library is here to support your studies, research, and ministry formation.

Start with the Online Catalog

The OPAC (online public access catalog) is your gateway to the library's collections. Visit <https://opac.dwci.edu> to search for books, journals, and other materials and manage your library account. If you are not sure where to begin, the OPAC is the best first stop.

Research Databases

JSTOR

For scholarly articles and academic research, [JSTOR](https://www.jstor.org) provides access to a rich archive of journals covering theology, philosophy, history, the social sciences, and many other disciplines. It is an excellent resource for locating peer-reviewed sources for coursework and research projects.

Digital Theological Library (DTL)

The library provides access to [the DTL](https://www.dtl.org), a cooperative network of theological libraries that offers ebooks, journals, databases, and other scholarly resources. While particularly strong in theology, biblical studies, religious studies, and mission studies, the DTL also includes resources in history, philosophy, education, intercultural studies, language learning, and many other disciplines.

Libby for Ebooks and Audiobooks

Looking for something to read or listen to while traveling, exercising, or relaxing? Through the **Libby** app, you can borrow ebooks and audiobooks directly to your phone, tablet, or computer. It is a convenient way to enjoy books wherever you are.



New Self-Checkout Option

Checking out materials has become even easier. The library's new self-checkout system, **meeScan**, is now available and functions similarly to the existing **Bibliotheca** self-checkout station. The **Bibliotheca** machine will remain in service until it reaches the end of its usable life, so you are welcome to use whichever option you prefer.

Library Services

In addition to its collections, the library offers research and reference assistance. I am available to help you develop a research topic, refine a research question, identify appropriate sources, and navigate library resources.

Interlibrary Loans

If the library does not own a book, article, or other item you need, I can obtain it through **Interlibrary Loan (ILL)** from another library. The ILL form is available on the right-hand side of the OPAC (<https://opac.dwci.edu>).

Here to Help

If you have questions or need assistance, please stop by the library or contact me at ewinter@dwci.edu. I look forward to helping you make the most of the library's resources throughout the academic year.

Library Director and Archivist: Liz Winter | ewinter@dwci.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS:

8/26/2026.....	7:30 PM.....	Formation Group Meeting
8/27/2026.....	12:45 PM.....	IAC Meeting
8/28/2026.....	8:00 AM.....	St. Augustine - LC
8/30/2026.....	10:00 AM.....	22nd Sunday in Ord. Time
8/30/2026.....	7:30 PM.....	Vespers
8/31/2026.....	7:30 PM.....	Holy Hour
9/1/2026.....	8:00 AM.....	Day of Prayer for Care of Creation
9/1/2026.....	12:45 PM.....	Liturgy Committee Meeting
9/2/2026.....	7:30 PM.....	Formation Group Meeting
9/3/2026.....	9:30 AM.....	Board of Administration Meeting
9/3/2026.....	12:45 PM.....	IELI Meeting
9/3/2026.....	12:45 PM.....	FSLC Meeting
9/3/2026.....	5:00 PM.....	Formation Group Meeting-Srs
9/4/2026.....	8:00 AM.....	First Friday - LC
9/5/2026.....	FAMILY FEAST	
9/5/2026.....	8:00 AM.....	Morning Prayer - LC
9/5/2026.....	9:30 AM.....	Activities/Games
9/5/2026.....	4:00 PM.....	Community Mass
9/5/2026.....	5:30 PM.....	Banquet
9/6/2026.....	10:00 AM.....	23rd Sunday in Ord. Time
9/6/2026.....	7:30 PM.....	Vespers
9/7/2026.....	Offices Closed LABOR DAY No Classes (UG and ESL)	
9/7/2026.....	No Holy Hour	
9/8/2026.....	SVD Foundation Day	
9/8/2026.....	8:00 AM.....	Nativity of the BVM - LC

You are formally invited to

After

DARK

✦ An Evening of Music and Art ✦

September
10, 2026

DIVINE WORD COLLEGE
102 Jacoby Dr, Epworth, IA 52045

7:00 PM - Reception

7:30 PM - Piano Concert
by Dr. Evelyn Dias

ART FEATURED TONIGHT:

'AFTER DARK' Collection by Erin LaBelle and
Jenna Gibson

'IMAGINE PEACE' Collection by Xene Abraham

- Free Admission, Food, Drinks
- Formal Dress Code