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**Daylight Saving
Time ends this
Sunday, Nov. 1.**

Birthday Corner:

OCTOBER

Tan Duy Nguyen	30
Fr. James Bergin, SVD	31

NOVEMBER

Sr. Hiep Nguyen, AMML	2
Macoy Kabansok	3



THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascherman, SVD

Mission is "Making All Things New"

There are five more Sundays left in the liturgical year. Soon we will be thinking of advent themes. But before then, the readings invite us to reflect once again on the future toward which we are journeying.

As Jesus went from town to town, his central message was the coming of the Reign of God. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke present Jesus announcing God's Reign through beatitudes, parables, signs, miracles, healings, and ultimately through his own death and resurrection.



In John's gospel, the same idea is expressed through extended dialogues. For instance, when Jesus met the Samaritan woman, he assured her that "the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth..." (Jn 4:23). In Jesus' way of seeing things, there is room for Jews and Samaritans to worship together, not only in some far away future, but even here and now. He presents himself as the beginning of a long-awaited new age.

The last book of the New Testament, the Book of Revelation, presents God's Reign as a new creation. It's author, John of Patmos, was a visionary who wrote at a time when the Churches were suffering persecution. He himself was living in exile because of his Christian faith. Yet his vision of things to come was not dominated by darkness and gloom. Instead, he looked confidently to a dazzling future when all peoples would be gathered together into a holy city, the new Jerusalem. Drawing on images from the Hebrew Scriptures, especially the Book of Ezekiel, he envisioned a time when God will make all things new:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See I am making all things new." (Rev 21:1-5)

This radiant vision of God's Reign inspires our enthusiasm for missionary service. St. Arnold Janssen frequently quoted part of this passage. He reminded people that God's dwelling among us is not only a promise for our future; it is also a reality we are called to experience here and now: "the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them" (Rev 21:3). St. Arnold's desire to live in God's presence animated his missionary service.

The first provision of the Society of the Divine Word's Constitution on our missionary service expresses this same vision and stirs my own heart:

Since God wills that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (see 1 Tm 2:4-5), he sent his Son as redeemer to form the one people of God from all nations through the power of the Spirit. Our missionary service helps gather the scattered children of the Lord (see Jn 11:52) and hasten the hour when all will worship the Father in spirit and truth (see Jn 4:23). In this way we promote true human progress, go to meet the Lord as he comes and prepare for his glorious second coming and the final fulfillment of all creation in Christ (Const. 101).

In recent times, popes have used other expressions to communicate aspects of this vision of God's Reign to different audiences. Two phrases have become especially prominent. Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI, Francis and Leo XIV have all spoken of a "Civilization of Love." John Paul II, in particular, made the "Culture of Life" a prominent theme of his teaching, a theme that Francis also addressed.

These many images – whether from Scripture, SVD reflections, or papal teaching – all point to the same vision that guided Jesus' ministry. Whether we speak of the Kingdom of Heaven, a new heaven and a new earth, the hour when all will worship the Father, a civilization of love or a culture of life, the fundamental purpose of mission is to bear witness to God's Reign.

Every time we pray the phrase "thy Kingdom come," we open ourselves anew to the divine call to dwell with God and with all people in the new creation.

Objection to New Government Rule for Optional Practical Training

With the encouragement and help of Mr. Len Uhal, the VP for Admissions and Vocations, I have posted a letter of comment on proposed immigration rule changes affecting graduates of DWC. A number of recent graduates have taken advantage of "Optional Practical Training" (OPT) after completing their studies here at the College. Through participation in OPT, they can gain valuable experience in ministry, community outreach, intercultural communication, leadership, and service to others. Such preparation can be essential to their religious vocations and future contributions to communities around the world.

The Department of Homeland Security has proposed a new rule imposing a \$70,000 fee for initial Optional Practical Training recommendations and \$30,000 for subsequent recommendations. This is a massive and prohibitive change in the current practice. These fees would be charged to the College, not to the student involved. Currently the application fees are approximately \$500. Effectively, the College would no longer be able to recommend a student for Optional Practical Training.

I have attached to this issue of the LOG a copy of my letter of comment and protest. It is publicly posted to www.Regulations.gov in the comments section for Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau. I encourage you to post a letter of comment yourself. Submissions are due before November 9.

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/10/08/2026-20660/optional-practical-training-fees?utm_

Transition of Executive Secretary to the President

Ms. Chris Jackson, who has served as Executive Secretary to the President for the past five years, has submitted her resignation, effective Friday, November 6. She has accepted a position with a local construction company. We are grateful for Chris's generous service to DWC and wish her success in her new role.

I have asked Ms. Monica Meissen to fill in as Executive Secretary until at least the end of the current semester. A job search is now underway. Mr.

Steve Winger has posted the job description, and I am appointing a search committee: Fr. Tuan Hoang, Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth, and Dr. Seo Hyun Park.

Thanks, as well, to Monica for her willingness (and courage) to take on new tasks at short notice.



On left: Chris Jackson



On right: Monica Meissen



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

Faculty Evaluations Upcoming

In accordance with the Divine Word College Policy Handbook (09.01), all undergraduate and ESL faculty are reminded that self-evaluations and annual planning goals are due to the respective Chair/Director by Monday, December 2, 2026.

Chairs should submit their self-evaluations and professional development goals to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

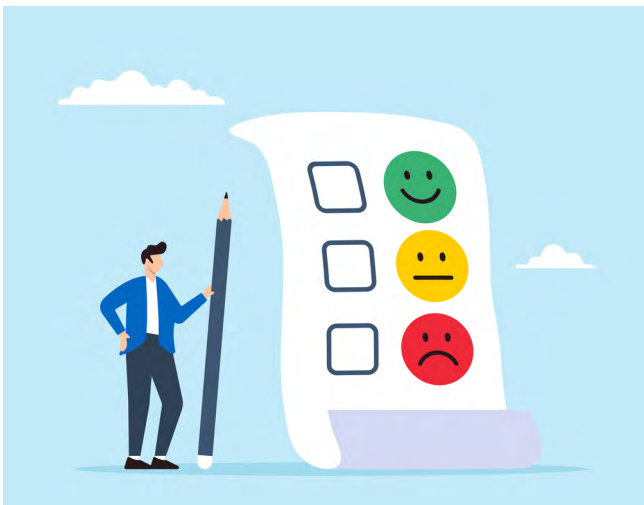
The annual faculty evaluation/planning requirement does not apply to adjunct faculty; however, it is

required for SVD & SSsP faculty members who taught any course in the Spring 2026 or Fall 2026 semesters. The goals of the Annual Faculty Evaluations are to:

- Ensure that the College cultivates a faculty of outstanding quality, dedicated to excellence in teaching, professional engagement, and service;
- Foster a collegial environment among undergraduate and ESL faculty members and the administration to further the Mission of the College;
- Recognize faculty members' accomplishments;
- Encourage faculty members to continue professional development in the areas of effective teaching, scholarly and creative activities, and generous service;
- Assure equitable salary increases based on performance and provide opportunities for eventual promotions in rank, and;
- Provide a just and positive approach for accountability and planning.

Faculty performance evaluations are standard practice within institutions of higher education, and as such, is a practice affirmed by DWC.

Further, the College affirms its compliance with accreditation standards in place by the Higher Learning



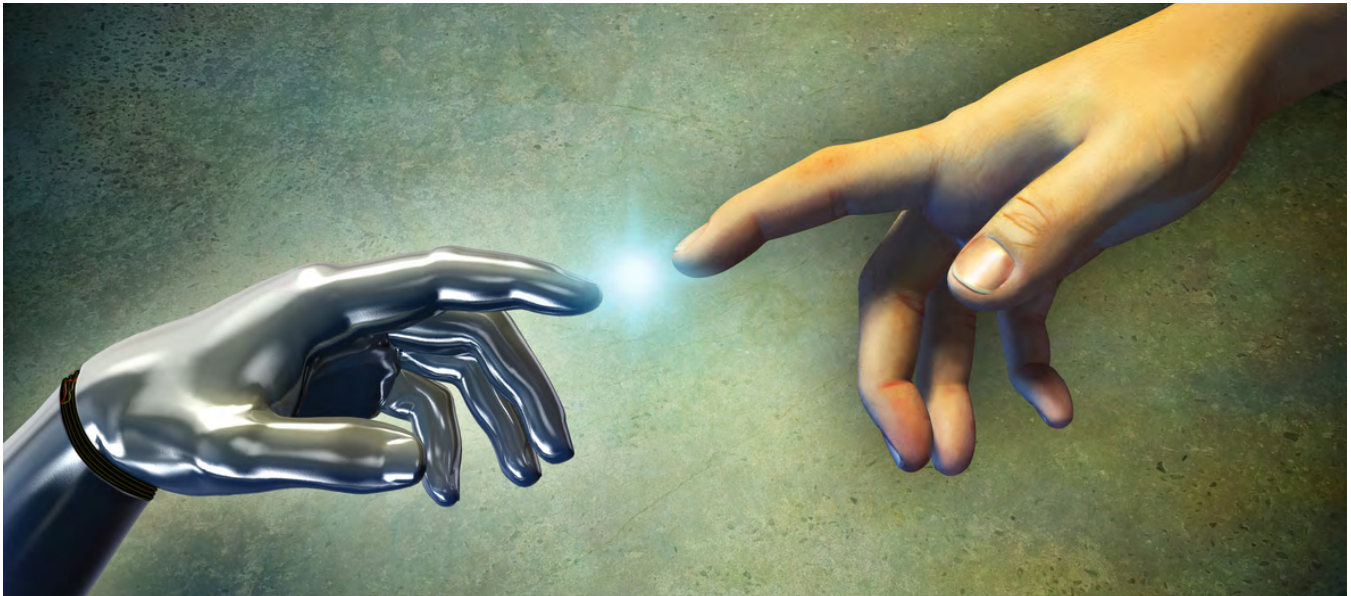
Commission (HLC) and the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation to periodically evaluate faculty performance.

Faculty Professional Development Opportunity

Faculty are encouraged to attend the online workshop on Friday, October 30 at 9:00 AM being hosted by the Province's Office for Ongoing Education and

Immigration Services titled, *Artificial Intelligence in SVD Ministry: Opportunities, Challenges, and Pastoral Implications*.

The workshop is free and participants can attend all or part of the workshop as they can. Faculty were sent an email with the access information. You can also reach out to the VPAA if you need the link again.



REGISTRAR & DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth

Assessment Updates

We are happy to share some successes in our institutional assessment process with the recent pilot of a custom assessment app designed by Ms. Liz Winter!

Three faculty members put the new application to the test, offering invaluable feedback on their experience. The faculty found the tool intuitive and easy to use, while their insights helped us identify key technical and workflow tweaks to implement.

This successful pilot ensures a smoother, more streamlined experience for all faculty as we prepare for the full rollout in the next round! Stay tuned!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

10/27/2026.....	5:30 PM.....	Formation Staff Meeting
10/28/2026.....	7:30 PM.....	Formation Group Meeting
10/29/2026.....	12:45 PM.....	IAC Meeting
10/29/2026.....	5:00 PM.....	Formation Group Meeting - Sisters
10/30 - 11/01/2026.....Retreat Weekend		
10/30/2026.....	8:00 AM.....	Mass for Vocations
10/31/2026.....	Halloween	
11/1 - 11/7/2026.....National Vocation Awareness Week		
11/1/2026.....	10:00 AM.....	All Saints Day
11/1/2026.....	5:00 PM.....	Dinner with the President
11/1/2026.....	7:30 PM.....	Vespers
11/2/2026.....	8:00 AM.....	All Souls Day - Mass and Reception
11/2/2026.....	7:30 PM.....	Holy Hour
11/3/2026.....	Election Day	
11/3/2026.....	12:45 PM.....	Liturgy Committee Meeting
11/3/2026.....	12:45 PM.....	Employee Insurance Meeting
11/4 - 11/6/2026.....UG Registration for Spring Semester		
11/5/2026.....	9:30 AM.....	Board of Administration Meeting
11/5/2026.....	12:45 PM.....	IELI Meeting
11/5/2026.....	1:00 PM.....	Dean's Forum
11/5/2026.....	5:00 PM.....	Formation Group Meeting - Sisters
11/6/2026.....	8:00 AM.....	Arnoldus Family Memorial Mass - LC
11/6/2026.....	UG Term O Mid-Term	



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

Mass for Vocations – St. Joseph Freinademetz Formation Group

This Friday, October 30, 2026, we will celebrate our monthly Vocations Mass, organized by the St. Joseph Freinademetz Formation Group. During the Mass, Nguyen Vo will share his vocation story. We invite everyone to gather as a community to hear the inspiring story of how God has called Nguyen to discern his vocation with the Society of the Divine Word.

As always, we offer this Mass in thanksgiving to God for calling each of us to our vocation. We also continue to pray that God will bless the Church with more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Halloween and Pumpkin Carving Contest

This Saturday, October 31, 2026, we will celebrate Halloween. Popular Halloween traditions include pumpkin carving, trick-or-treating, and wearing creative or spooky costumes. To mark the occasion, the Student Senate will host a pumpkin carving contest for the DWC community. Each formation group will have an opportunity to showcase its artistic creativity. Please place your carved pumpkin in the dining room before lunch on Thursday, October 29, 2026. During lunch, all pumpkins will be displayed, and judges will determine the winning entries. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. May the best pumpkin win!

Join the Fun! Wear a Costume

In addition, if you would like to wear a costume on Friday, October 30, 2026, but do not have one, Ms. Emily Shedek has costumes available to lend. Beginning Wednesday, you may stop by her office



in Room 224 to browse the available selections. Prizes will also be awarded to students and DWC community members with the best Halloween costumes.

Retreat Weekend

Several formation groups and communities will be making their annual retreats this weekend, from Friday, October 30, through Sunday, November 1, 2026.

The St. Francis of Assisi Formation Group will be making their retreat at one of our SVD communities in East Troy, Wisconsin. The retreat will be led by Fr. Simon Thoi Hoang, SVD.

Members of the St. Joseph Freinademetz, St. Arnold Janssen, and St. John Paul II Formation Groups will participate in a contemplative retreat at New Melleray Abbey in Peosta, Iowa, together with several sisters. Sr. Carol Welp, SSps, will serve as the retreat director. We ask for your prayers as all retreatants use this time for spiritual renewal and growth.

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)

On Monday, November 2, 2026, we join the Universal Church in commemorating All Souls Day as we remember our deceased relatives, friends, benefactors, and loved ones.

On this day, our friends and benefactors will join us for Mass as we pray for their departed loved ones, as well as for the benefactors who have passed away during the past year. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 AM, followed by a reception. Attendance is required for all students. We ask everyone to join the community in welcoming our benefactors and participating in the reception afterward. Please wear semi-formal or your religious attire.

Because we will be welcoming many visitors for the Mass and reception, the Development Office is asking for your assistance. If you have signed up to help with any aspect of the liturgy or reception, please take responsibility for fulfilling your assigned task. Thank you for your cooperation and your support in making this event a welcoming and prayerful experience for our guests.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Len Uhal

Come and See Visitor

Later this afternoon, a Come and See visitor will arrive on campus. His name is Arel Julian Cetin and he currently resides in Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada. He will visit with his mom for the next few days. The Vocation Office thanks the entire community for helping Julian and his mom feel welcomed on campus. Please keep him in your prayers as he discerns a religious vocation.



Proposed New Rule for OPT

As noted by Fr. Tom, the Federal Government is proposing new rules related to Optional Practical Training (OPT), which include an initial fee of \$70,000 and \$30,000 for additional OPT requests.

While the government seems to be targeting students in the STEM field, all international students, regardless of their majors, are able to utilize OPT. About 23% of our international student graduates from Divine Word College applied for OPT in the last ten years, including many SVD candidates who attended the SVD Novitiate at Techny while on OPT status.

On behalf of Divine Word College, Fr. Tom submitted a Public Comment on the proposed rule change. I am personally opposed to this proposed rule change; thus, I also made a comment on the National Register as an individual.

If you have an opinion about the proposed rule change, please let your voice be heard. All faculty, staff, SVDs and students are encouraged to write and express your opinion.

Here is a link to a page that has some background resources: <https://www.nafsa.org/resources-for-proposed-opt-fees-comments>

To post a comment on the Federal Register, visit: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/10/08/2026-20660/optional-practical-training-fees?utm_source=Iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_20392838_nl_Latitudes_date_20261014

Click on the green rectangle that says "SUBMIT A PUBLIC COMMENT."

Please do not think that your voice does not count. In another recently proposed rule change to the "Duration of Status" for international students, over 22,000 comments were made on the National Register (including several from Divine Word College).

It was because of all those comments the judge ordered a "stay" on the proposed change that was to take effect September 15. The judge noted that the government failed to respond to all of the comments and concerns raised by over 22,000 people.

Things can change when people express their opinions. Please post your comment by November 9.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

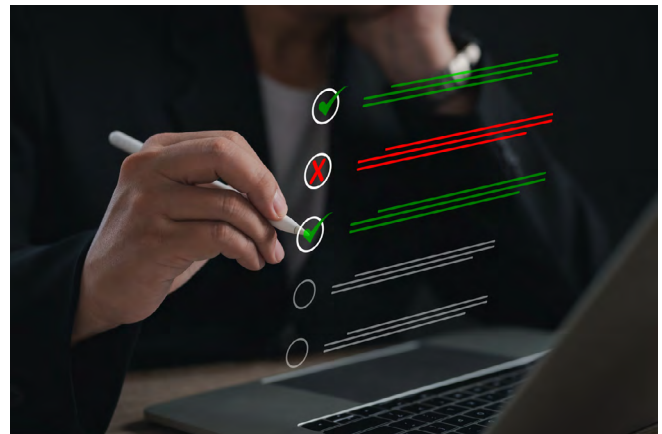
Steve Winger

Strategic Planning Survey

Strategic planning works best when it reflects the experience and insight of the DWC community. We invite employees, students, and other community members to complete the Strategic Planning Survey.

Your feedback will help identify what DWC should preserve, where we can improve, and which challenges and opportunities should guide our attention. Survey responses will become part of the information used to assess where the College stands today and to develop priorities for the next Strategic Plan. We would value broader participation and perspectives.

Please take a few minutes to share your input through the [Strategic Planning Survey](#). Every thoughtful response strengthens the process.



All Souls Day - Your Presence Makes a Difference

All Souls Day is a meaningful time at Divine Word College, when our entire community gathers in prayer and remembrance. On Monday, November 2, at 8:00 AM, we will celebrate a special Mass honoring those who have passed away in the past year. Friends and benefactors are invited to join us as we lift up their loved ones in prayer.

Following the Mass, our guests are invited to join the community for a reception. It will offer a chance to connect, share memories, and provide comfort to those who are grieving. We encourage all students and members of the SVD community to attend—your presence and conversation will reflect the care, solidarity, and unity that define our mission.

Together, let us honor the memory of the departed and offer compassion to those who mourn, living out the spirit of community that is at the heart of Divine Word College.

In addition, you are invited to submit a photo of a loved one who has passed away in the past year. These images will be included in a special slideshow during the All Souls Day Mass on November 2, honoring and remembering those who have gone before us.

Please email your photo, along with the name of your loved one as you would like it displayed, to mmeissen@dwci.edu by Thursday, October 29.

Let us come together in prayer and remembrance, keeping the memory of our dear ones alive in our hearts.

external affairs

Dinner with the President

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD, will welcome four couples to Divine Word College on **Sunday, November 1**, for Dinner with the President. Held in the Weyland Art Gallery, the gathering will offer guests an opportunity to share a meal, enjoy conversation and learn more about the college and its mission.

Guests are also invited to join the DWC community for Vespers at **7:30 PM**.



October 22, 2026

Re: Opposition to Proposed DHS Rule on Optional Practical Training (OPT) Fees

To Whom It May Concern:

As president of Divine Word College, a small Catholic college seminary, I write to express my strong opposition to the Department of Homeland Security's proposed rule imposing a \$70,000 fee for initial Optional Practical Training (OPT) recommendations and \$30,000 for subsequent recommendations. These excessive fees will create significant barriers for international students and raise serious concerns regarding religious freedom and the ability to pursue religious vocations.

For some international students, OPT is more than an opportunity to gain professional experience and make money for a year or two. It is a means of developing practical ministry skills that support their calling as Catholic missionaries. When students from Divine Word College participate in OPT, they gain valuable experience in ministry, community outreach, intercultural communication, leadership, and service to others. Such preparation can be essential to their religious vocations and future contributions to communities around the world. In fact, nearly 23% of our international graduates benefited from this program in the last ten years.

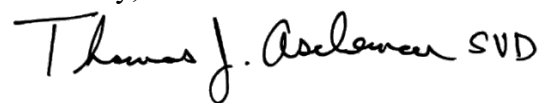
The proposed fees will make it financially impractical for schools to recommend eligible students for OPT, particularly at institutions with limited resources. Divine Word College and our students do not have the resources to pay this fee; thus eliminating the possibility of our international students participating in the OPT experience, which helps them develop their ministry skills.

When a government policy places extraordinary financial obstacles in the path of individuals seeking to develop skills for their religious vocations, it raises important religious liberty concerns. Although the proposal may apply broadly, its consequences will disproportionately burden students whose vocational preparation involves ministry and missionary service.

I respectfully urge DHS to withdraw or substantially revise this proposed rule. Any policy governing OPT should preserve meaningful access to practical training, avoid prohibitive financial barriers, and carefully consider the religious liberty implications for international students and faith-based educational institutions.

Thank you for considering this comment and for protecting opportunities for students to pursue their education and religious vocation.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Ascheman SVD
President

DWC AI Survey Results

47 responses: 19 students, 12 faculty, 16 staff

74%

concerned about AI or very concerned about AI

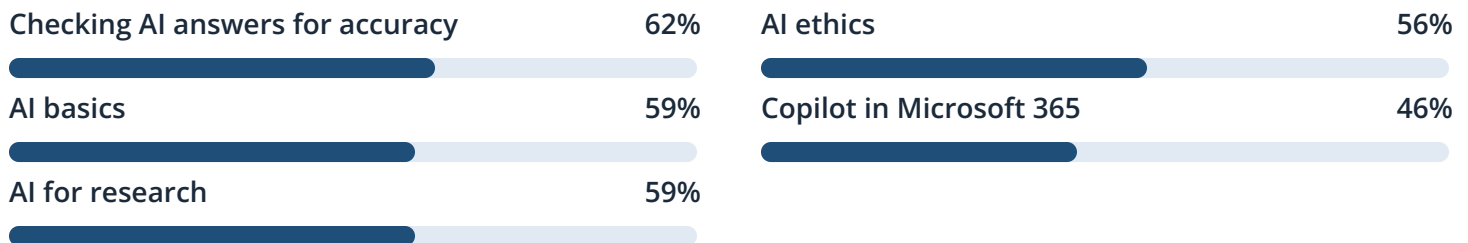
85%

said yes or maybe to AI training

28%

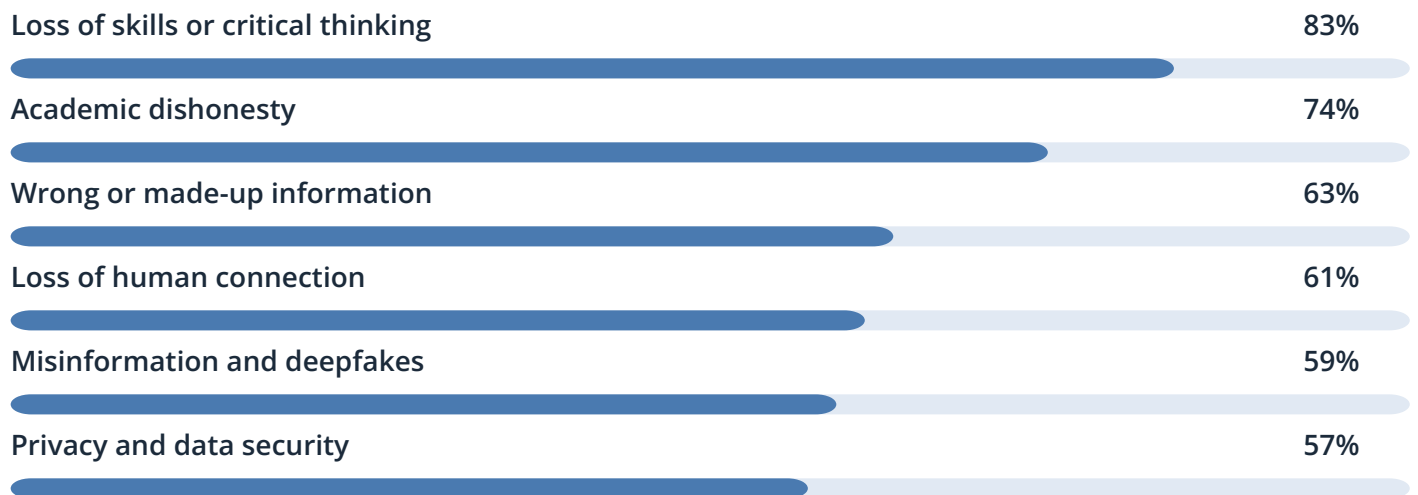
feel confident using AI

What the campus community wants to learn



In-person workshops were the top choice (77%).

Top concerns



Where guidance can be strengthened

- Courses have AI policies, but they are not always connected to specific assignments or talked through in class.
- Most staff report no guidance on using AI at work.

Thank you to everyone who responded.



Delta Epsilon Sigma

Fitzgerald Undergraduate Writing Competition Contest

The Epsilon Theta Chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigma welcomes entries for the DES Fitzgerald Undergraduate Writing Competition Contest. The contest is open to any undergraduate student at Divine Word College. Students may submit one submission per category. Entries are evaluated locally with each local winner being forwarded to the national contest.

Entries are due via email to Dr. Joshua E. Young by November 1, 2026.

Contest Categories and Requirements

1. Poetry

- Writing in this category should show original poetry, either in verse or prose form.
- A long poem should be submitted singly.
- Shorter lyrics may be submitted in groups of two or three.

2. Short Fiction

- Writing in this category should be original fiction, such as short stories or stand-alone sections of longer pieces.
- Fiction should total 1500-5000 words, either in a single work or, in cases of very short pieces, in groups of two or three.

3. Creative Non-Fiction/Personal Essay

- Writing in this category should communicate some dimension of the worldview or feelings of the writer.
- Writing should be true—as affirmed by the writer—but may be creative in structure or form and may make use of character development, dialogue, or other techniques of creative writing.
- Creative nonfiction pieces or personal essays should total 1500-5000 words, either in a single work or, in cases of very brief pieces, in groups of two or three.

4. Critical/Analytical Essay

- Writing in this category should investigate a text, or a social or scholarly issue, through a critical lens.
- Examples of this type of writing may include textual interpretation or expository or argumentative essays in which original research is not the primary aim.
- Essays in this category should total 1500-5000 words.
- Provide appropriate in-text citations for all direct or indirect (paraphrased) quotations.
- Integrate brief quotations properly with correct punctuation.

5. Scholarly Research – *There are Two Categories*

- Non-Empirical Humanities** - Writing in this category should present primary or secondary research that provides and elucidates some original insight on a social, ethical, cultural, or humanistic question.
 - Empirical Sciences and the Social Sciences** – Writing in this category demands precision (the precise use of words and phrases), clarity and economy because the writer is communicating highly technical information to others who might, or might not, be as knowledgeable.
- Judging criteria include the presentation, quality, and depth of the piece and the manifestation of correctly performed research.
 - Documentation should follow one of the established scholarly style-sheets (MLA or APA).
 - An abstract (named "Abstract") must be placed at the head of the text, below the paper's title.
 - The length of the paper should total 1500-5000 (maximum) words.
 - Provide appropriate **in-text citations** (correlated to a "Works Cited" page at the rear of the paper) for all direct and indirect (paraphrased) quotations.
 - Integrate brief quotations properly with correct punctuation; avoid long, block quotations.
 - **Other references (such as comments or informational notes) must appear as endnotes, not footnotes.**