

Faculty Staff Awards 2018

Emily Embree walked up to the podium wearing a smile that didn't leave her face for a long time. At the Recognition and Awards Luncheon on April 26, college president Fr. Tom Ascheman presented her with the first **DWC Career in Excellence Award**. Embree is leaving DWC after 20 years as an assistant professor of ESL. Besides teaching at all levels of the ESL program, she has done research and, for a year, was the interim director of the Intensive English Language Institute (IELI), which coordinates the ESL program at Divine Word. Fr. Tom read from the plaque that she received marking her contributions.

"Your caring attitude and patient demeanor toward colleagues and students," he read, "have all earned you the respect and gratitude of the entire Divine Word College Community."



Dr. Cathi Cleary

Dr. Cathi Cleary, assistant professor of math and science, was awarded the **Charles Malin Award for Excellence in Teaching**, nominated by the students and approved by the college board of administration. Among the comments from students who nominated her, one said she could not only explain scientific concepts, but made her classes enjoyable.



Peggy Kass

Peggy Kass, member of the DWC kitchen staff, received the **Donna Puccio Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Service**. Co-workers Sandra Mueller and Marlene Koopmann nominated her for the honor, which goes to an employee who provides outstanding service, strives for improvements, is a problem solver and demonstrates a willingness to go beyond the call of duty.

"She is friendly and easy to talk to outside of class," the student wrote. "She truly cares about her students' success."

"Peggy is always the first to ask anyone in the college if they need help," Koopmann wrote in her nomination. "She is compassionate and willing to serve."

A Young Man's Search for Answers

When my family and friends found out that I was attending a seminary college, they bombarded me with tough questions. "Why do you want to be a priest?" "Do you know you can be a missionary without having to be a priest?" "What about marriage?" These were good questions, but I didn't have any good answers.

Then one day in the high school library, I came across a book by Joseph Ratzinger, "Jesus of Nazareth." I finished it in two days. I fell in love with its coherent and rational account of Jesus, who he was and who he is. It led me to another book, "Mere Christianity," by C.S. Lewis. Now I could give a rational account for my faith. But my search wasn't over. After I entered Divine Word College,

I became acquainted with several other authors—Brant Pitre, Scott Hahn, Ravi Zacharias, and Stephen B. Clark. They led me to believe that Christianity, specifically Catholicism, held the highest truth.

How could people not have faith when you have guys like this writing so powerfully yet so beautifully? I wanted to go out and show people why my faith is the right faith. I even thought about becoming a theologian. But that changed after my first year of studies.

My coursework in philosophy, psychology, and sociology broadened my perspective. They caused me to take a more objective view of my beliefs. I started to realize why people

sometimes struggled with Christianity, especially after the way humanity has abused it throughout its history.

At this point—and yes, I am young and prone to change—I have come to a conclusion about religion. That is, if you genuinely seek to love and be loved, you are capable of healing others. If you have an open mind and an open heart, you are capable of changing the world.

With these things in common, we can also accept each other and strive for peace.



Tomerot Lambert