

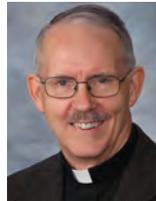
In This Issue:

Students at Conference	3
Round 2 of Assessments	4
Family Feast	5
Presidential Scholarship	6
Fire Procedures	7
DWC Archives	8
Assurance Argument Preparation	
Teams	addendum
Family Feast Schedule	addendum

Birthday Corner:

SEPTEMBER

10 Fr. Daniel Manek, SVD



THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Was Jesus a Trash-Talker?

American Football season is now underway! High school, college, and professional teams are filling up stadiums with fans who cheer for their favorites. They also do a lot of trash-talking, a mix of boasting and insults meant to intimidate and/or entertain other players and the fans. Some classic “insults” I remember from childhood include:

I could beat you with one hand tied behind my back!
 I could beat you with a broken leg!
 I could beat you with my crutches!

The culture in which Jesus was raised really emphasized public honor, so insults and disputes were expected and very common. In the gospels, there are quite a few insults that Jesus used during his ministry, including:

To the Canaanite woman: You do not give the children’s bread to the dogs! Her clever response: Even dogs get to eat the scraps the children won’t eat! (Mt 15).

To the Pharisees: You are like whitewashed tombs – beautiful on the outside, filthy on the inside (Mt 23).

To the rich young man: It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. (Mt 19).

The gospel from this past Sunday’s told about Jesus’ encounter with some critics of the disciples: “they don’t wash their hands like our customs tell us!” Jesus called them “hypocrites,” that is, “actors in a play.” Jesus is saying, you are just play-acting; you do not really do God’s will, you just cling to human customs (Mk 7).



Jesus’ trash-talk was meant to prod his hearers to a deeper understanding of and faithfulness to God’s word. Jesus wants us to be more than actors on a stage, he wants us to do much more than mouth the correct words.

It makes me consider a two-part thought experiment. First, what practices of Catholic Christianity could be left aside as less essential? Incense, elaborate vestments, ecclesiastical titles and honors? There is nothing wrong with these things, but they are not the most important.

The second part of the thought experiment is: what Catholic practices are most essential? Two things come to mind for me: Baptism (because it celebrates my call to follow the Lord – defines my purpose in life); and Communion (because I need food for the journey – and it impels me to greater love of God and neighbor).

St. Paul gave his answer to the experiment in his first letter to the Corinthians, ““So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (13:13).

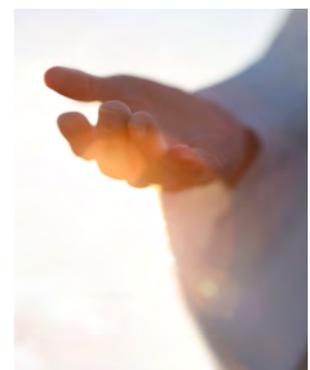
Jesus truly was an amazing communicator; his trash-talk never goes out of season.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Dr. Joshua Young

The DWC Mission - The First Step in Accreditation

As Divine Word College prepares for the accreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in September 2025, institutional leaders are beginning to reflect on the first criterion for accreditation: Institutional Mission. HLC claims, “mission is foundational to an institution’s curriculum, instructional activities and the success of its students... An institution’s distinctive mission is the cornerstone around which the institution’s effectiveness, integrity and commitment to continuous improvement are evaluated.” Thankfully, the mission of Divine Word College is consistently on all of our minds, to educate tomorrow’s missionaries, which is a foundational aspect of the mission given to us by Christ to go and make disciples.



Within DWC’s argument for accreditation, the college must show how our actions align with our stated mission, how our mission serves the public good, and how our mission advances diversity and engagement across communities beyond DWC. This is an opportunity for each of us to reflect. How do we, individually, commit ourselves to the mission of the college and of Christ? Are our actions contributing to the public good, based on our mission? Do we engage in dialogue that reflects a multicultural society and globally connected world as Jesus commands? With your individual contributions to our community, DWC will have no problem showing how we meet criterion one of the HLC accreditation process. We only have to look for evidence around this unique corner of our world.

DWC Students to Present at Iowa Communication Association Conference

Congratulations to Srs. Jesca Alitubeera, Cecilia Egho, Monica Karibu, Leah Kinyua, Yvette Shey, and Comfort Ngyungo for being selected to present at the 2024 Iowa Communication Association conference. These students will be present on cultural conflicts and struggles in various African communities and propose ways that intercultural communication skills can bring healing and solutions. Topics include clean water shortages, storytelling as a way of maintaining cultural identity, resisting female genital mutilation, identity oppression and liberation through language, and reconciliation for survivors of violence. A practice presentation will be held for the community at a later date; watch The LOG for dates! Further congratulations are offered to Sr. Comfort Ngyungo, who was third runner up in the Westphal top student paper competition for her paper, co-authored with DWC alumna Sr. Hilda Alonyo, on the potential of podcasting for missionary education. The Iowa Communication Association conference will be held September 27 & 28 at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) in Ankeny, IA.



Sr. Jesca Alitubeera



Sr. Cecilia Egho



Sr. Monica Karibu



Sr. Leah Kinyua



Sr. Yvette Shey



Sr. Comfort Ngyungo



Assessment Bites

from Dr. Yasmin Rioux

Round 2 of Faculty Evaluations of Signature Assignments

I wanted to (re-)share a few important assessment numbers and dates as we begin our Round 2 of Faculty Evaluations of Signature Assignments for the Spring 2024 artifacts.

1. Dates for Assessment Rounds:

Round 1: August 26 to September 2

Round 2: September 2 to September 9

Round 3: September 9 to September 16

Round 4: September 16 to September 23

All rounds end and begin at 8 am on the given Mondays.

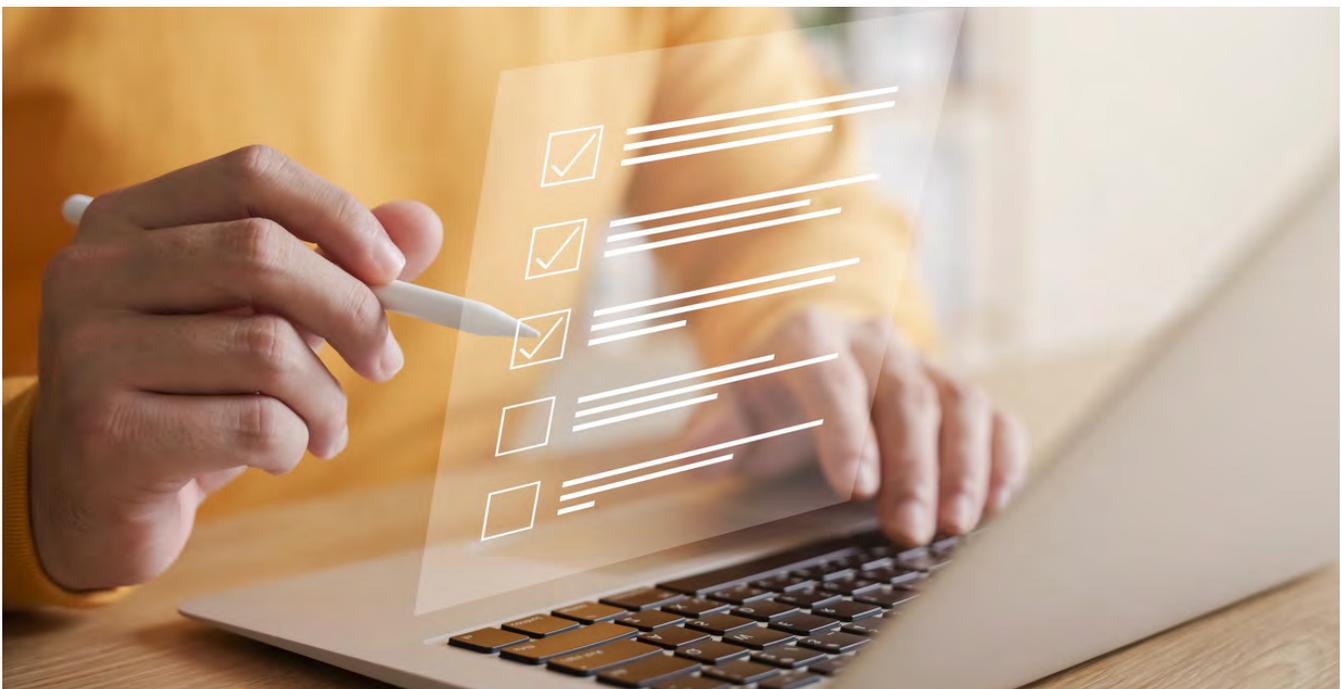
2. The login link for OAP is as follows: <https://www.watermarkinsights.com/client-resources/signon/>

You might have to click “log in” twice.

3. Please reach out to Watermark if you encounter any issues. Their email is: support@watermarkinsights.com, and their customer service hotline is: 800-311-5656

Please don't hesitate to email or call me if you have any questions or concerns!

Good luck to you all! Thank you so much for your continued efforts!





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

Family Feast

This Saturday, September 7, 2024, we join the Divine Word College community to celebrate Family Feast. As you may know, the Arnoldus Family consists of three religious congregation that St. Arnold Janssen, SVD established - The Society of the Divine Word, Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit, and Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters. The three congregations will join together to celebrate Family Feast to honor the foundation of the Society of the Divine Word September 8, 1875.

This year, our community will honor and congratulate four members in the Arnoldus family celebrating their jubilee: Fr. Jim Bergin, SVD (60 years in religious vows), Sr Agathe Bramkamp, SSpS (60 years in religious vows), Fr. Sam Cunningham, SVD (50 years in religious vows), and Br. Mike Decker, SVD (40 years in religious vows). We give praise and thanks to God for their life and vocation serving God wholeheartedly to bring the gospel to others.

To prepare ourselves for this event, please be aware:

- Please follow the schedule for Family Feast posted on the bulletin board later this week. Do not make any plans this Saturday as it is required for all students to be on campus and attend the celebration and banquet. For the liturgy and banquet, please come to the celebration with your religious or formal attire.



Fr. Jim Bergin, SVD



Sr. Agathe Bramkamp, SSpS



Fr. Sam Cunningham, SVD



Br. Mike Decker, SVD



Thanks and Gratitude

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Student Senate and members of the student associations for organizing the DWC 5k Run & Walk and the Labor Day cookout yesterday. The Divine Word College community appreciate your hard work planning for this annual event as well as preparing the food for us to enjoy. All of you did a wonderful job. Keep up the good work!

I also want to congratulate all of those who participated in our annual DWC 5k Run & Walk, especially to the winners of this event. We are looking forward to next year!

Dean's Forum

A simple reminder that Dean's Forum will be next Thursday, September 12, 2024 in room 107 at 1:00 pm. Dean's Forum is held twice a semester where the deans will meet with the entire student body to inform about concerns and matters of student life and formation, as well as discussing upcoming events and activities at the college. All students are required to be present at the Dean's Forum. Please come on time.



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 13, 2024, which you can obtain from Ms. Carolyn Waechter, the Financial Aid Coordinator. Carolyn can also answer any of your questions.

Presidential
Scholarship



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

Fire Procedure

Divine Word College is committed to keeping our community safe. Annual fire and tornado drills are conducted so we know what to do in the case of a real emergency.

Do you know what to do if there is a fire on campus?

Below is the procedure you should follow if there is a fire.

- Pull the nearest fire alarm if you see a fire/smoke.
- When the fire alarm goes off leave the building immediately through the nearest exit! Walk fast, do not run!
- Proceed to the soccer field and gather by your formation groups.
- Stay on the field until the fire department gives the “all clear” signal. If you are unable to return to the main building, proceed to Megan Hall. If you reside at Megan Hall and are unable to return to the building, proceed to the main building.
- Contact persons are assigned to each formation group. They are to inform the fire department if someone is missing in their group. No one but the Fire Department is to go back into the building to look for someone who is missing.
- Stay clear of emergency vehicles and personnel that come on campus.



Together we can keep our campus safe!!!





Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

Divine Word College Archives

The mission of the DWC-Epworth Archives is to identify, arrange, preserve, and make available the College's information of enduring value.

Here are some examples of the types of things the archives collects:

- Addresses, speeches, dedications, photographs, and artifacts relating to special celebrations and events
- Committee minutes
- Newsletters, brochures, reports, and handbooks
- Departmental publications
- Blueprints
- Yearbooks

Students, faculty, staff, and SVDs may donate or transfer records to the archives.

Do you have records of enduring value? Contact Elizabeth Winter, Library Director and Archivist for a records appraisal (ewinter@dwci.edu). If you would like to learn more about the archives, visit the Archives SharePoint Site: <https://dwci.sharepoint.com/sites/Archives>.



**Higher Learning Commission Assurance Argument
Preparation Teams**

(Appointed by the College President)

Steering Committee

Chair- Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal (Faculty and ALO)
Dr. Yasmin Rioux (Faculty, Dept. Chair, and Director for Institutional Effectiveness)
Dr. Joshua Young (Interim VPAA)

Criterion 1

Chair- Dr. Tom Ascherman, SVD, (DWC President)
Dr. Joshua Young, (Interim VPAA)
Dr. Evelyn Dias, (Faculty)

Criterion 2

Chair- Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal (Faculty)
Dr. Anna Trang Mai, IHM (Faculty & Formator)
Dr. Akizou Kamina, SVD (Faculty & Formator)
Dr. Jason Reed (Faculty & Dept. Chair)

Criterion 3

Chair- Dr. Richard Garrett, (Faculty)
Dr. Joshua Young, (Interim VPAA)
Br. Brian McLauchlin, SVD (Faculty)
Ms. Elizabeth Winter (Library Director & Archivist)

Criterion 4

Chair- Mr. Steven Winger (VP Operations and Finance)
Dr. Cathleen Cleary (Faculty)
Mr. Len Uhal, (VP Admissions)
Dr. Yasmin Rioux (Faculty, Dept. Chair, Director for Institutional Effectiveness)

Assumed Practices

Chair- Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth (Registrar)
Dr. Benjamin Wintress (Faculty)

Federal Compliance

Chair- Ms. Christine Jackson (Exec. Sec. to the President)
Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth (Registrar)

FAMILY FEAST DAY

Saturday 07 September 2024

&

Jubilee Celebration

Fr. Jim Bergin, SVD - 60th of Religious Vows

Sr. Agathe Bramkamp, SSpS - 60th of Religious Vows

Fr. Sam Cunningham, SVD - 50th of Religious Vows

Br. Mike Decker, SVD - 40th of Religious Vows

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| 7:00 AM | Breakfast |
| 8:30 AM | Morning Prayer (main chapel) |
| 9:30 AM | Activities & Games (soccer field) |
| 12 noon | Lunch |
| 4:00 p.m. | Eucharist (Main chapel) <i>(formal attire)</i> |
| 5:30 p.m. | Banquet (main dining room)— <i>(formal attire)</i> |

HAPPY FAMILY FEAST DAY!!!!