

## In This Issue:

DWC Scholars	3
Assessment Bites	4
Student News	5
Mission Trip to Mexico	6
Green Initiatives	7
External Affairs	8
Library News	9

## Birthday Corner:

### FEBRUARY

16	Leonard Uhal
16	Sr. Duyen Duong, LH C



## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

### MAGA – What is Greatness?

One of the Super Bowl commercials caught my attention. It poses the question: [What is Greatness?](#) Without a doubt, it is intended as a commentary on the slogan of President Trump’s administration: Make America Great Again.

The background music features Johnny Cash singing a song from 1990 – [Depeche Mode’s “Personal Jesus.”](#) The still images of the commercial show people reaching out to folks who are in need.

The closing screen of the commercial states simply: **Jesus showed us what greatness really is.** How do you think Jesus showed true greatness?

For me, a missionary, I especially see greatness in the ways that Jesus reached out in friendship to those who were not from his home town, or even from his own people. I think of four of the most remarkable moments: the amazed Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, the faith-filled Roman centurion in Capernaum, the Samaritan leper returning to give thanks, and the pagan Syrophoenician woman insistently begging for her daughter to be healed. Jesus also taught others to reach out beyond the boundaries of family and nation. In response to a question, “who is my neighbor?” he told the amazing story of the Good Samaritan who went out of his way to help a victim of assault and robbery.

Recently, Vice President J.D. Vance spoke about how Christian love should be expressed. Citing his understanding of St. Augustine’s idea of *ordo amoris*, or “rightly ordered love,” he said: “You love your family and then you love your neighbor, and then you love your community, and then you love your fellow citizens in your own country, and then after that, you can focus [on] and prioritize the rest of the world. A lot of the far left has completely inverted that.” He further commented: “They seem to hate the citizens of their own country and care more about people outside their own borders.... Your compassion belongs first to your fellow citizens.”



Putting aside Vance’s rhetorical flourish about hating one’s fellow citizens, does it seem to you that Vance may be trying to limit charity rather than to organize it? A contemporary proverb says, “*Charity starts at home.*” But, as a nation, we might be in danger of turning that wisdom into, “*Charity stays at home.*” St. Thomas Aquinas commented on whether our care for others should be limited to one’s own family and people. He wrote:



“[W]e ought in preference to bestow on each one such benefits as pertain to the matter in which, speaking simply, he is most closely connected with us, and yet this may vary according to the various requirements of time, place, or matter in hand: Because *in certain cases one ought, for instance, to succor a stranger, in extreme necessity, rather than one’s own father, if he is not in such urgent need.*” (Summa, Part II-II, q. 31.3)

All people are called to share in the greatness of God. I am wondering about how those of us who live in the United States can share in divine greatness? To put it another way, how can we help ***Make America Great Again?*** Perhaps we can concentrate on some alternative slogans – Make America ***Grateful*** Again! Make America ***Generous*** again! Make America ***Gracious*** again! Surely, they lead to greatness.

Augustine himself added: “You are all looking forward to greeting Christ seated in heaven. Attend to him lying under the arches, attend to him hungry, attend to him shivering with cold, attend to him needy, attend to him a foreigner.” (Sermon 25,8)

Divine Word College is committed to promoting Social and Global Responsibility as a core competency. For more ideas on how to be great, [check out the “He Gets Us” website.](#)

### **Sr. Aprilia Untarto SSpS Appointed Associate Dean of Students**

Sr. Aprilia Untarto SSpS has been living and working in Epworth and with Divine Word College since 2016. She first served as a vocations minister for the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters. Over the years she has worked for the College as College Counselor, as an instructor in Psychology, and as Ministries Coordinator. Most recently, she has been serving as a formator and member of the Formation and Student Life Committee.



Sr. Aprilia Untarto  
SSpS

After consultation with members of the Board of Trustees, with the Board of Administration, with the Provincial Leader of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, and of course, with Fr. Tuan Hoang SVD, the VP for Formation and Student Life and the Dean of students....

I am appointing Sr. Aprilia as an associate dean of students. Her commitment to the mission of DWC and to the students is greatly evident in her service in many roles and projects of the Formation and Student Life Committee. Her ongoing work on Program Assessment and as Ministries Coordinator is particularly commendable.

I am fairly certain that Sr. Aprilia is the first woman ever to be appointed as an Associate Dean of Students in the College’s 60 years at Epworth. We have reason to CELEBRATE!

## Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth Appointed Director of Institutional Assessment

Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth has been serving as Registrar for Divine Word College since 2019. Her calm, courteous and helpful manner with students, staff and administrators has been especially welcome in moments when conflicts over scheduling and registration for classes can seem like near-chaos.

Kimberly, along with other DWC administrators, participated in the four-year Institutional Assessment Academy offered by the Higher Learning Commission. She has made significant contributions to the new program for Academic Assessment.

In consultation with Dr. Joshua Young, VP for Academic Affairs, and Fr. Tuan Hoang SVD, VP for Formation and Student Life, I appoint Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth as Director of Institutional Assessment. This appointment is effective immediately. Thanks to Kimberly for her willingness and flexibility in taking on these additional responsibilities as she will also continue in her role as Registrar.

Dr. Yasmin Rioux, who has been serving very admirably as the first DWC Director of Institutional Assessment, will be resigning from Divine Word College at the end of this academic year. Family commitments will take her to other responsibilities. Yasmin is continuing to serve as co-Director for Institutional Assessment until the end of the semester, and she is committed to helping Kimberly take on the full duties of the Director. I am so grateful to Dr. Rioux for all she has done to help establish the office for Institutional Assessment.



Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth



Dr. Yasmin Rioux



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Dr. Joshua Young**



## Congratulations to DWC Scholars!

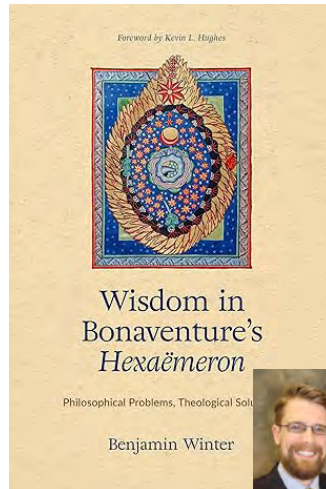
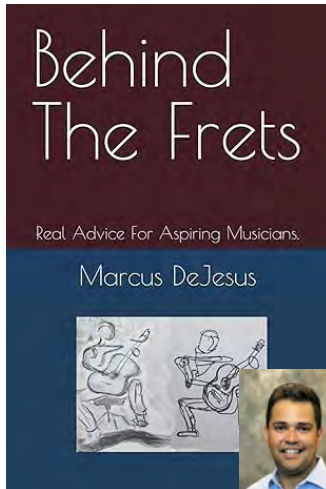
I'd like to congratulate a few community members for recent academic achievements and hope that everyone in the community will share in their joy and celebration. First, congratulations to Sr. Monica Kabiru and Sr. Comfort Nguyongu on being accepted to present their research at the Central States Communication Association Undergraduate Honors Research Conference. Monica's presentation is entitled, "Giving Youth Voice: Youth Empowerment through Communication Skill Training," while Sr. Comfort will present a piece entitled, "The Calling of Communication: The Communication Education Curricula at Catholic Colleges and Universities." This will be the second conference the two have presented at this academic year.



Sr. Monica Kabiru



Sr. Comfort Nguyongu



Further congratulations go to Mr. Marcus DeJesus and Dr. Benjamin Wintress on releases of book projects. Mr. DeJesus recently released [\*Behind the Frets: Real Advice for Aspiring Musicians\*](#), available on Amazon. As part of the release of the book, he will be doing a series of lectures in the Dubuque/Tri-state area. Dr. Benjamin Wintress has authored [\*Wisdom in Bonaventure's Hexaëmeron: Philosophical Problems, Theological Solutions\*](#) published by the Catholic University of America Press and available for purchase at the end of February on Amazon. Please join us in celebrating these DWC scholars!

 Dr. Yasmin Rioux

# Assessment Bites



## Last Week of Faculty Evaluations

With Round 4, we are entering the last week of faculty evaluations of signature assignments! Following the collection of relevant data, I will compile the reports and upload these to the "Assessment at DWC" Populi page. This ensures the DWC community has access to all assessment projects and that assessment transparency is maintained.

If you have any questions concerning the new data review and recommendation process, feel free to reach out to me.



## **VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS**

**Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD**

### **New Appointment – Associate Dean of Students**

Good news for the formation team at Divine Word College! I have been informed that Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS, has been appointed by Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD, as an associate dean of students. Along with Fr. Benjamin Boro Nama, SVD, she will assist me with matters of formation and student life. This year, she has been the formator for St. Teresa of Calcutta (off-campus sisters in temporary vows) and the St. Joseph Freinademetz (SVD Candidates – ESL and freshmen), and doing a variety of work at the college outside of formation.

Sr. Aprilia is proven to be an excellent addition to the formation team. On behalf of the students and the formation team, I would like to express my gratitude and congratulate her on her new role.



### **Tranquility Weekend**

This weekend will be a tranquility weekend. With all the studies and activities that have been happening since the beginning of the spring semester, please use this weekend for rest and relaxation, as well as to catch up on studies. Formation groups and student associations are encouraged not to have plans and/or activities this weekend.

### **Formation Conference – Attitude of “Openness”**

This Wednesday, February 12, 2025, Fr. Benjamin Boro Nama, SVD, the Associate Dean of Students and Theology instructor, will be giving a conference for the men and women religious in temporary vows. The conference will be on Attitude of “Openness.” This conference is important because being able to open ourselves to others is an important tool for our ministries now and in the future. It is required for men and women religious in temporary vows to be at this conference. It is also open to everyone who wants to come and learn. The conference will begin at 5:15 pm in Room 107.



### **DWC Volleyball Tournament**

Beginning this Tuesday, February 11, 2025, we will have our volleyball tournament. Teams are divided according to formation groups. All games will begin at 5:00 pm. The volleyball schedule is posted on the bulletin board. We ask students who are playing that day to arrive in the gym before 5:00 pm so that we can begin the game on time. Please come and support your teams.



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Len Uhal

### Campus Visitor



Fr. Stephen Than from the Diocese of Owensboro (Kentucky) will arrive later this afternoon and remain with us on campus until Thursday. He is originally from Myanmar and referred two future students to Divine Word College from Myanmar who will serve in the Owensboro Diocese. Fr. Stephen is visiting to learn more about the educational programs and formation program at Divine Word College. Thank you in advance for welcoming him to our campus.



### Mission Trip to Mexico

The vocation office is sponsoring its annual mission experience trip—this year to MEXICO! Fr. Anthony Nguyen, SVD, will host this trip from May 20 to June 2, 2025. This trip is open to Divine Word College students, faculty and staff who would like to learn more about the missionary work of the Church and work alongside SVD and SSps in Mexico City.

To learn more, [click here](#). There is also a promotional flier posted on the bulletin board. If you have questions, please contact Len Uhal at [luhal@dwci.edu](mailto:luhal@dwci.edu). He can assist you in applying if you are interested in participating. Please note that this is not a free trip—there is a cost to participate. Again, please see Len with your questions.



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

### Divine Word College Green Initiatives Update

Divine Word has made significant progress with our Green Initiatives in recent years, and I am pleased to report on our progress and future plans.

#### Past Initiatives:

We have successfully implemented several key initiatives that have positively impacted our environmental footprint. These include:

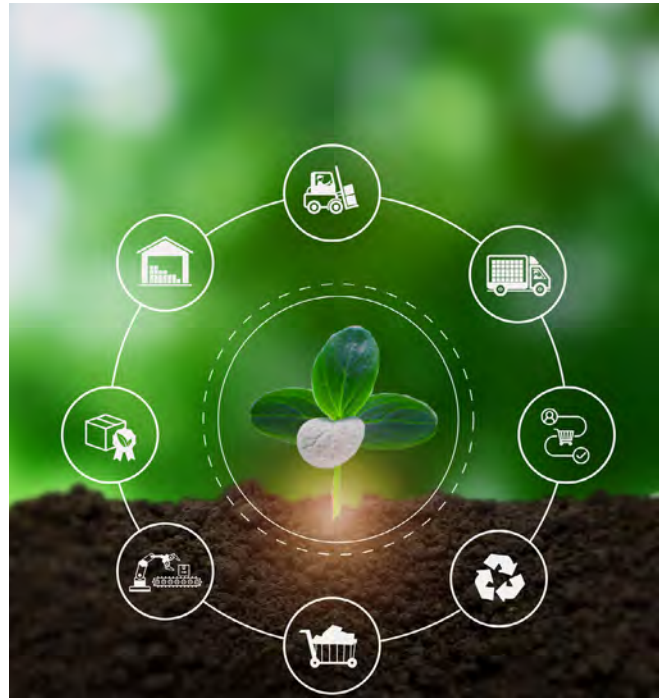
- Conversion of all lighting fixtures to energy-efficient LED technology.
- Replacement of the roof with a more energy-efficient material.
- Installation of A/C split units, allowing for more localized and efficient temperature control.

- Purchase of hybrid vehicles for college use.
- Implementation of food waste reduction programs. (encore dishes and recycling oils)
- Consistent recycling of cans and bottles.
- Recycling of used batteries.
- Robust recycling programs for aluminum, paper and cardboard.

### Present and Future Initiatives:

Building on these successes, we are currently focused on the following initiatives:

- **Boiler Efficiency:** We are exploring options to improve the efficiency of our boiler system to reduce both energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Air Economizers:** We are investigating the feasibility of installing air economizers to optimize our HVAC systems and further reduce energy usage while improving air quality.
- **Two-Cycle Motor Reduction:** We are actively working to replace two-cycle motors with electric alternatives, reducing air pollution and noise.
- **Hybrid Vehicle Fleet Expansion:** We plan to continue our transition to a more fuel-efficient fleet by purchasing new hybrid vehicles as replacements become necessary.



Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding our green initiatives with the following focus areas:

- **Air Travel Alternatives:** We will explore and promote alternatives to air travel for college-related business, leveraging video conferencing and other technologies to minimize our carbon footprint. These may include car-pooling and travel by rail.
- **Wood Chipping vs. Burning:** We are transitioning from burning wood to chipping it for mulch and other uses, reducing air pollution and creating valuable resources.
- **Enhanced Electronic Recycling:** We will expand our electronic recycling program to encompass a wider range of devices and materials, ensuring responsible disposal and resource recovery.
- **Plant-Based Food Consumption:** We will encourage and increase the amount of plant-based foods offered in the dining facility. Consuming a plant-based diet is a healthier, more cost-effective choice, and reduces the environmental impact associated with meat production.

I am confident that these ongoing and future initiatives will further solidify Divine Word College’s commitment to environmental stewardship and contribute to a more sustainable future. I welcome your feedback and support as we continue to advance our Green Initiatives.

# external affairs



## Introducing the DWC Welcome Packet!

Visitors to Divine Word College now have a colorful and engaging way to learn more about our community! The new DWC Welcome Packet is designed to introduce guests to the college, whether they're here for a visit, attending an event, or simply interested in knowing more about us.

Each packet includes key information about DWC, including our history, current community statistics, and other interesting details. Plus, it's customizable—you can add brochures, prayer cards, or any specific materials you'd like to share. If you'd like to pick up a Welcome Packet, they are available from External Affairs. We hope this resource helps make every visitor's experience at DWC even more meaningful!



## Need a Flyer, Invitation, Card or Slide? Give PR 48 Hours!

The PR team loves helping you create eye-catching flyers, posters, and dining room slides to spread the word about your events. To ensure we have enough time to do our best work, we now ask for at least 48 hours' notice for all design requests. This gives us time to put together a great design, make any needed tweaks, and ensure everything looks just right. Last-minute requests might not be possible, so please plan ahead! Got a project in mind? Reach out to the PR team—we're happy to help!

*Sandy Wilgenbusch, Emily Shedek and Jenna Gibson*


# Justice and Peace Committee



## Franciscan Voice Podcast: Honoring Black Catholic History

February is Black History Month, a time to especially recognize and honor the contributions of Black Christians to the Church all year long. In the latest episode of the Franciscan Voice Podcast, Friar Douglas McMillan, OFM Conv., shares insights into the lives of significant figures in Black Catholic history. The JPIC Council encourages you to take the time to engage with this important conversation. [Click here to listen.](#)



 Matthew Jacoby Library

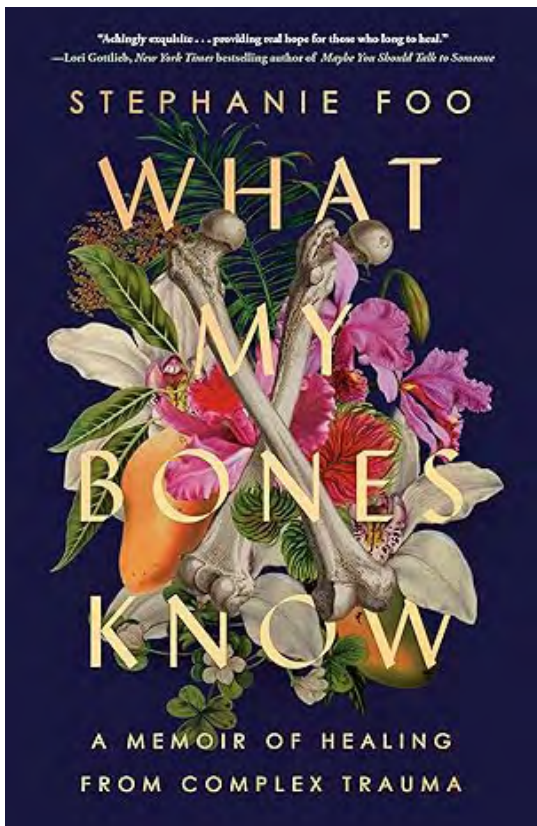
[opac.dwci.edu](http://opac.dwci.edu)



## Black History Month Library Display

In the United States, February is Black History Month (BHM). On February 10, 1976, President Gerald R. Ford issued a proclamation recognizing BHM for the first time. [Every year since then](#), the sitting President has officially recognized February as Black History Month. The origin of BHM stems from the work of historian, author, and activist Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who introduced “Negro History Week” in 1926. He chose the month of February to honor the birthdays of two prominent abolitionists: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. To learn more, visit the [National Archives website](#).

To commemorate the month, there is a display in the library with books by and about black Americans. Stop by and check out a book today!



## Join the Dubuque County Reads – More Books Arriving Tomorrow

DWC is part of the Dubuque County Reads program for the second year in a row. The purpose of the program is to facilitate events that encourage productive conversation around a common book. This year’s title is *What My Bones Know: A Memoir of Healing from Complex Trauma* by Stephanie Foo. Published in 2022, the book details Foo’s investigation of generational trauma and methods for treating Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. [Learn more here](#).

### How to Join?

1. Grab a free copy of the book from the library. Audiobook and eBook versions are also available.
2. Read at your own pace.
3. Whether you have finished the book or not, attend the Dubuque County Reads events:
  - Mental Health Panel at UD on March 27th
  - On-Campus Book Discussion on April 1st
  - Author Talk at Loras College on April 10th