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Birthday Corner:

APRIL

10	Sr. Xuan Nguyen, MQP
10	Bro. Nga Le, OCist
10	Frt. Engelbertus Salmon, SVD
14	Sr. Van Hong Nguyen, MQP
15	Carolyn Waechter



THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Watching the Trees Grow

In April, many of us at Divine Word College become avid tree watchers. We note the buds starting to grow large on the tree branches in the courtyard and around the campus. The willows have already started to make the appearance of their yellowish new leaves. The red maples are also showing off with their early spring flowers, adding a red haze to the tree line. In the coming two to three weeks, bare branches on many other trees will blossom to life; pear, crabapple and locust. Then, by late May, the catalpa trees and the lone sycamore that stands as a sentinel over the courtyard will FINALLY leaf out. Every year I get the opportunity to urge patience for students and some faculty members that wonder whether the big sycamore has died.



DWC is a “Tree Campus;” a designation from the Arbor Day Foundation to encourage colleges and universities maintain healthy, vibrant trees on campus, and to help educate students about the importance of caring for trees throughout their lives. DWC is one of eight colleges and universities in Iowa that are so designated. We are committed to care for the more than 500 trees on our 25 acre campus.

In the past several years, we have had to remove more than 30 ash trees due to the killing invasion of green ash borers. The storms of spring and summer also take down some of the older trees. To more than keep pace, we have planted more than 40 trees in the same time period. This year, like the last three years, we will begin planting new trees on Arbor Day, April 25.





The trees we currently have are a treasure. Both a treasure from the past and a promise for the future. Some 25 years ago Bro. Kevin Diederich, SVD planted many of the trees on campus, including the beautiful grove of oaks on the eastern edge of the property. The crabapple trees, that bloom so beautifully in the spring, are now more than 50 years old, dating back to shortly after the opening of our “new building” in 1964. The trees are an invitation to thank previous generations who took care to plant the trees, including many that are more than 100 years old!

I also see in the trees a promise for the future. As leaves unfurl from their buds during spring, I think of the thousands of students who have studied at the College, and I think of the thousands more that will follow them in missionary outreach. The trunk of the tree reminds me of the faculty and staff members who stand strongly, laboring year after year to enliven, feed and support the students.

However, we may overlook something if we think only of the tree growing up from the ground. Below the grassline, there is an intricate root system that makes up about half the total tree. The roots make me think of the enormous number of benefactors that contribute to the life of the College. It is their prayers, contributions and service that sustain us from year to year.

This past Sunday we took the opportunity to thank our many benefactors at the Spring Luncheon. In particular we expressed our gratitude to the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Sisters of St. Francis, and the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary who work in close collaboration with the College as they offer hospitality and community to nearly 30 Sisters from Vietnam who study at the College. Their kindness, faithfulness, generosity, and sisterliness are surely as precious to their Sister-guests as the educational experiences offered at DWC.

Sunday’s celebration gave us abundant evidence that Divine Word College is deeply rooted here in Epworth.



150th – Early Benefactors Kept the SVD Alive and Growing

Throughout the past 150 years, the Society of the Divine Word and the Arnoldus Family has been blessed with many generous benefactors. They are an integral part of our missionary outreach. The stories and reminiscences of the generosity of early benefactors are many and rather eye-opening. Br. Juniper Janssen OFMCap, St. Arnold’s younger brother, remembered helping to beg for food in the earliest days of the foundation at Steyl:

In a seminary food is always an important concern. People who poked fun at Rector Janssen and his mission seminary often said: “The poor man dreams of founding a great institution but only a few people have joined him. And after they have been in Steyl for three months they will all run away because they are starved. Rector Janssen will soon find himself alone again.”



Fr. Arnold with his brothers...

“But once I had done some begging around Kempen the food problem was settled for a while. I returned to the seminary with plenty of supplies. A few days later the good and pious Joseph Funken came from Kempen with three wagons, each one loaded with potatoes, capons, carrots and straw. Now we were well-provisioned for the winter. We would have enough to live on. The good God had come to our aid. With grateful hearts we prayed for our benefactors.”

After all these years we can still be grateful to Br. Juniper Janssen OFM Cap, to the people of Kempen, and especially to Herr Joseph Funken! *Vielen Dank!*



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

Higher Learning Commission

Student Feedback requested for HLC

An email was sent earlier this week asking students to participate in the survey from the Higher Learning Commission. The survey is a part of the upcoming HLC accreditation visit, occurring in the Fall 2025. The Higher Learning Commission is the institutional accrediting association that comprehensively evaluates our school. Divine Word College is going through the process this year. Student comments about their experiences are very important. A summary of their input will be provided to the team of representatives from the Higher Learning Commission who will be visiting our school. The answers students give on this survey are anonymous. Unless students include identifying information in their comments, the Higher Learning Commission and the institution will not have access to student identities. Student participation is completely voluntary.

Thank you for taking five minutes to complete this short survey. The survey will be open through April 16, 2025. Click on the link to begin the survey: https://hlcommission.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_es2Ma0nvcc4sbc2



Sr. Monica Kabiru and Sr. Comfort Ngyuonngu receive certificates from Kathy Denker, CSCA president, for presenting as part of the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference at the annual Central States Communication Association Conference.



Dr. Joshua E. Young, Interim VPAA, receives the Top Paper Award in Undergraduate Education & Administration at the Central States Communication Association Conference.

 **Dr. Yasmin Rioux**
Assessment Bites

HLC Annual Conference 2025

Our incoming Director for Institutional Effectiveness, Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth, will be attending the HLC Annual Conference 2025 from April 5-8 in Chicago this week. Per conference website “The HLC Annual Conference, now branded Higher Learning, brings the higher ed community together in Chicago to share ideas and insights on the latest in the field. Learn from HLC staff and leading thinkers, researchers and advocates during this multi-day event to inspire your work on campus. Network with attendees from institutions of every classification and size from across the country.”



To learn more about the opportunities, events, and engagement this annual conference has to offer, please visit their website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/learning-center/annual-conference/>



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



Holy Week

Holy Week will begin this Sunday with Palm Sunday, leading up to the Easter Triduum. It will be a busy week for all of us as we prepare ourselves to experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I want to remind you of several important things for the Holy Week:

- This Thursday, April 10, 2025, we will have liturgy prep at 1:00 pm to go over the songs for the Holy Week. All students are required to attend liturgy prep.
- On Wednesday, April 16, 2025, we will have Lenten Reconciliation service at 7:30 pm in the main chapel. We will have several priests to assist us with confessions.
- Due to Holy Week and preparations for the Easter Triduum, there will be no formation meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

I will post the schedule and information for the Holy Week on the bulletin board this week.



Summer Travels

We are only a few weeks away from graduation, and after that many of us will depart from the college for summer ministries, back to our countries, or somewhere else for our summer vacation. For those who are leaving the college for the summer, this would be a good time to think about purchasing your airfare for your travels. If you wait until the last minute, the prices will be expensive.

If you have plans for the summer, please see Fr. Akizou Kamina, SVD, the college’s travel coordinator, as soon as you can to purchase your ticket so that we can set up arrangements to get to the airport. If you are planning to buy the ticket yourself, please consult with Fr. Akizou first before purchasing it. The deadline to send your flight information to Fr. Akizou is on April 25, 2025.

Summer Placement Program

Thanks to all of those who submitted their application for the Summer Placement Program. I received all of the requests for those who are interested in the Summer Placement Program, and I am working on the placement for those who applied. Please be mindful that not all of those who submitted their application will be part of the program. For those who are accepted, I am working on a day and time with the supervisors to see when we can meet with you to orient you into the program.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Len Uhal

Come and See Visitors

Please join the Vocation Office in welcoming three Come and See visitors to campus this coming weekend. Fr. Anthony will be here to host these men as they spend time in our community learning more about the Divine Word Missionaries and Divine Word College. We welcome Botao Ding from Santa Clara, California; Nicholas Marip from High Point, North Carolina; and Phung Phil Nguyen from San Diego, California. Botao and Nicholas arrive on April 12 and Phung will arrive on April 14. In addition, Fr. Toan will arrive next week and host seven additional visitors during Holy Week (more about them next week!). We are excited to have such a large group of visitors interested in religious life.



Thank You!

The recent Donor Appreciation and Donaghey Award event was a beautiful example of the spirit and generosity that define the Divine Word College community. Thank you to everyone who helped make this special day such a success.

A special thank you goes out to those who worked behind the scenes to ensure every detail was thoughtfully prepared, from the setup, the clean-up, the liturgy, the delicious meal, and the welcoming atmosphere throughout the day.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the celebration was the opportunity for our students to sit at tables with our donors and friends. These moments of connection are powerful—they give our guests a personal glimpse into the lives they are helping to shape, and allow our students to share their journeys and express their gratitude. It is through these personal encounters that the mission of Divine Word College truly comes to life.

Together, we celebrated not only the generosity of our donors, the gift of our Donaghey Award recipients, but also the vibrant, faith-filled community that makes Divine Word College so special. Thank you to each and every one of you for your participation, your hospitality, and your ongoing dedication to our shared mission.

With appreciation,

The External Affairs Department



Donaghey Award Photos and Videos

Photos from the Donaghey Award presentation: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/BtLE2eq3vynkaBdd7>

Liturgy: <https://youtu.be/-qYvFvSFHJg?si=gQP2cyo0ZXDDj8s>

A video of the speakers: <https://youtu.be/4aoaoZN4BiU?si=1n5mBv911RvBc9ba>

 Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

National Library Week

It's National Library week! Take some time to discover (or rediscover) the library.

- **Visit a local public or academic library:** [Dubuque County Library](#), [James Kennedy Public Library](#), or the [Carnegie-Stout Public Library](#) are the closest public libraries to the College. In addition, the [Loras College](#), [University of Dubuque](#), and [Clarke University](#) libraries allow guests to use the library and check out materials.
- **Get a library card:** DWC students are Dubuque County Library District patrons and can use their DWC library card at any of DCLD's five library branches. Faculty and staff: Use this [library finder](#) to find libraries near you.
- **See what libraries in the area have to offer:** Browse the shelves, join a book club, attend an author event, or find free-to-you online resources such as language learning and movie streaming apps, audiobooks and eBooks, and research databases.



Learn more about National Library Week events:

<https://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>

Paid Subscription	FREE @ The Library
audible	Libby
NETFLIX	kanopy
duolingo	MANGO
ancestry.com	ancestry library edition

Dubuque County Library Resources

Cut down on your subscription bills by switching to free-to-you library apps. DWC has Libby for eBooks and audiobooks and Kanopy for movie streaming. Check out the offerings at the local public libraries as well.

Dubuque County Reads Author Event

Stephanie Foo is coming to Dubuque this Thursday (4/10) to speak about her NYT bestselling book *What My Bones Know*. The event starts at 6:30 PM at Loras College at the Miller Academic Resource Center (Library). Bring your books with you—Foo will sign books after the talk!

Directions: Park in the lot of Alta Vista Street (15a) or and walk down to the library (building 1) ([Loras College Map](#)).

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2025

Divine Word College Seminary

PALM SUNDAY, April 13

- 8:00 AM Breakfast
10:00 AM Eucharist (*Gather first in the gym for blessing the palms*)
7:30 PM Vespers—All students

MONDAY, April 14

- 6:30 AM Breakfast
8:00 AM **Eucharist**
6:00 PM Evening Prayer—All Students
7:30 PM Holy Hour

TUESDAY, April 15

- 6:30 AM Breakfast
8:00 AM **Eucharist**
6:00 PM Evening Prayer—All Students

WEDNESDAY, April 16

- 6:30 AM Breakfast
8:00 AM **Eucharist**
6:00 PM Evening Prayer –All Students
7:30 PM **Lenten Reconciliation Service** (Main Chapel)—All Students.

HOLY THURSDAY, April 17

- 8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Morning Prayer (*Main Chapel*)
9:30 AM General Spring Cleaning (*Check the assignments on separate sheet*)
11:15 AM Practice for the Lord's Supper - Servers and Assistants (Main Chapel)
12 NOON Lunch
1:00 PM Liturgical Music Rehearsal (*see separate sheet*)
5:30 PM Supper
7:30 PM Celebration of the Lord's Supper – (*formal attire required*).
8:45 PM Adoration in the Mother of Asia Chapel until midnight.
(Adoration schedule will be posted on the student bulletin board)

GOOD FRIDAY, April 18

PLEASE KEEP GENERAL SILENT THROUGHOUT GOOD FRIDAY.

8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer (main Chapel)
10:00 AM	The Stations of the Cross –(<i>gather in the gym</i>)
11:30 AM	Practice for the Lord’s Passion - Servers and Assistants (Main Chapel)
12 NOON	Lunch
12:45 PM	Readers Practice (Main Chapel)
1:45 PM	Presider, cantors & musicians Rehearsal (Main Chapel)
3:00 PM	The Lord’s Passion in the main Chapel—(<i>formal attire required</i>)
5:30 PM	Supper
7:30 PM	Stabat Mater —Prayer of the Sorrowful Mother (Main Chapel)

HOLY SATURDAY, April 19

8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer (Main Chapel)
10:00 AM	Readers Practice
12 NOON	Lunch
1:00 PM	Practice for Easter Vigil – Presider, Servers and Assistants
4:30 PM	Cantors and Musicians rehearsal (see separate sheet)
5:30 PM	Dinner
8:00 PM	Easter Vigil –(<i>formal attire required</i>)

Gather in the back courtyard if weather permitting
Social in the dining room after the Vigil.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20

8:00 AM	Breakfast
10:00 AM	Easter Sunday Mass –(<i>formal attire required</i>)
	Easter Egg Hunt after Mass (Student Senate)
11:00 AM	Brunch
5:30 PM	Dinner
	Sunday Vespers private

MONDAY, April 1 (No Class)

8:00 AM	Eucharist (large community Mass only)
7:30 PM	Holy Hour (Monday)