



THE LOG

Divine Word College

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A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

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THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

“It could be just a little bit better!”

When I was a boy, about six years old, my dad was in charge of supper at our house. In those days my mom was a nurse who worked an afternoon shift while my dad was studying for a doctorate in agronomy at Ohio State University. There were six of us around the table, my dad, my two sisters and my two brothers and me. The kids ranged in age from 8 to 3. At the end of the meal, we always begged my dad to tell us a “good old story about the good old days.” Many, many times, he told us stories about his own youth. His best story ever was about an apple pie.

Dad was the eldest of the siblings in his family. He had three younger sisters and they looked up to my dad, their big brother. One of his young sisters was learning to bake pies. She made an apple pie and proudly presented it to my dad when he came in from his farming chores. She asked him, “How was the pie?” He replied, “It was a really great pie...” and her face lit up with pleasure at his praise. Then my dad added, “...but it could be just a little bit better.” Dad’s sister, my Aunt Lucy, was a bit disappointed, but she was also encouraged to make pie after pie. That made my dad really happy, and there is no doubt that each one was “just a little bit better.”



Back in November, we received visitors from the Higher Learning Commission. They came to see how we are doing here at Divine Word College. The criteria they used to evaluate our operations are “best practices” that are followed in most other institutions of higher learning around the country. They asked about our mission, about institutional integrity, about quality education, about ongoing assessment of our programs, and about effective management at DWC. Their final report was very positive about our efforts. Of the 21 expectations they evaluated,



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19 were judged to be fully met. The other two were judged to be met, but with concerns.

The conclusion of the Visitors report noted:

“The Divine Word College is a mission driven institution that exists to educate and train persons to become missionaries.... They have provided a diverse educational community that enhances the learning process to be missionaries. The visiting team found DWC to be a college that is governed with integrity while following its well-developed and communicated policies. Their curricular and co-curricular activities suit their mission. The College has a unique student body, with a very high percentage of international students, who face special challenges in a new country. DWC provides excellent support -- academic and personal -- for these students. DWC has an enviable financial position....

“While the College has many strengths, the visiting team found two areas of concern. First, the different degree levels lacked distinct sets of learning outcomes. Second, while the College has made significant strides in assessment, it needs to demonstrate implementation of its current plans for assessing student learning.”

The Higher Learning Commission has now sent their final conclusions, asking us to develop our assessment program further, and to articulate more clearly the different learning objectives for Associate of Arts degrees and Bachelor of Arts degrees. The HLC letter is attached.

We will continue to improve our assessment program and the learning objectives; and we look forward to sending a report on our progress two years from now. As I consider the results of the HLC visit, I cannot help but think of my dad’s words from years ago: we are doing a great job here at DWC, but it could be just a little bit better.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS *Fr. John Szukalski, SVD*

HLC ASSESSMENT ACADEMY: 2020-2024

Divine Word College has applied and has been selected to participate in the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Assessment Academy for the Spring 2020 Cohort. The Assessment Academy is a four-year structured program aimed at advancing and accelerating an institution’s efforts to assess student learning in a more effective manner. The Academy consists of in-person workshops, on-campus activities, online project updates, and virtual consultations according to the following structure:

Year 1: Launch – Prepare to create an effective project using promising practices for assessment (\$8,500)

Year 2: Pilot – Implement improvement strategies and navigate challenges (\$7,000)

Year 3: Refine & Evaluate – Calibrate the project to ensure that it meets the institution’s goals (\$7,000)

Year 4: Expand & Sustain – Reflect on project outcomes and create a plan to sustain improvements (\$7,000)

The Academy is a shared responsibility of DWC administration, faculty, and staff that will require the participation of a designated Academy Team of five or six colleagues for the duration of the four-year project. The first event for this Academy Team is a multi-day roundtable scheduled for 3 -5 June 2020 near Chicago. Colleagues interested in becoming a member of the Academy Team are encouraged to contact the VP for Academic Affairs, Fr. John Szukalski, SVD (jszukalski@dwci.edu) for more information. Appointment of the Academy Team will take place sometime after the Orientation Workshop on 18 March 2020 in Chicago.

Assessment was raised as an area for attention during the 2016 HLC Comprehensive Visit and again in the 2019 HLC Mid-Cycle Visit. DWC is required to submit an Interim Report in the area of Assessment by November 2021 (more details to follow). Participation in the HLC Assessment Academy will guide our collaborative efforts as a College in crafting a robust assessment regimen that is both compliant with HLC criteria and more effective for student learning. This important exercise of shared governance will require the dedication of significant human and financial resources.

Ms. Elizabeth Winter

New Full-Time Assistant Librarian & Records Management Coordinator

Ms. Elizabeth Winter has been hired as the new full-time Assistant Librarian & Records Management Coordinator, with the academic rank of Instructor. She will begin working at Divine Word College on Monday 10 February 2020. In addition to working as an Assistant Librarian, Ms. Winter will be coordinating the ambitious project of consolidating older DWC records of various kinds into one centralized location. Currently, these older DWC records are scattered across the campus. Ms. Winter will provide consultation on the creation of the physical records management space and facilities, as well as on the articulation of professional records management policies and procedures. Active DWC records, of course, will remain with their respective departments.

Ms. Winter holds a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree from the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO and a Bachelor of Science (BS) in History from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. Her previous experience includes working as an archivist for the State Historical Society of Missouri in St. Louis, archival internships with Visitation Monastery and the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and Library Assistantships in various locations. She is a member of the American Library Association. Ms. Winter is married to our newly-hired Assistant Professor of Theology, Dr. Benjamin Winter. Welcome to DWC!

St John's University - Collegeville, Minnesota

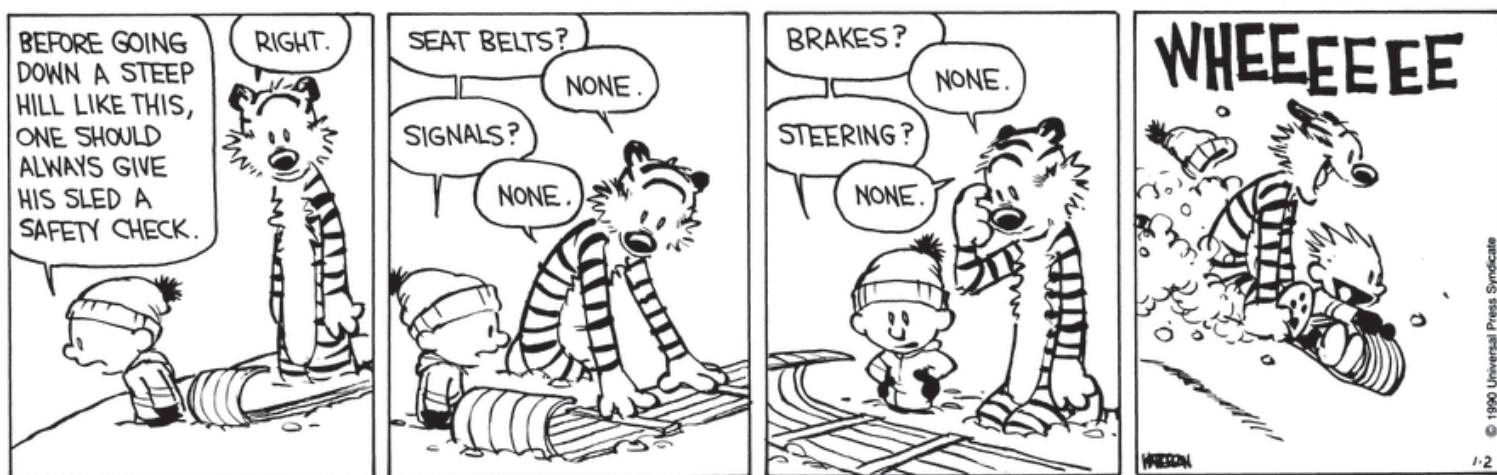
Fr. Mike Patella, OSB and Ms. Donelle Poling (Director of Admissions) from St. John's University in Collegeville, MN will visit Divine Word College on 17 February 2020. Fr. Patella and Ms. Poling will be introduced at lunch and will be available throughout the afternoon to speak with any students interested in possibly attending St. John's University for graduate studies. They can help address any questions about degree programs, the application process, accommodations, and scholarship opportunities at St. John's.



Faculty Professional Development

Dr. Ronald Condon, Assistant Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Theology & Philosophy [DTP], has been granted professional development funding to attend the Central Division Conference of the American Philosophical Association held 26-29 February 2020 in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Yasmin Rioux, Assistant Professor of Communication in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies [DIS], has been granted professional development funding to attend and present at the 2020 Conference on College Composition and Communication on 27 March 2020 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The title of her presentation is: "Building Commonplaces through Interdisciplinary Practice: Creating an Inclusive and Shared Place through Narrative Writing in a Distinctively Diverse Intercultural Communication Class."



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Bang Tran, SVD

Super Bowl

Many thanks to the Student Senate for organizing the NFL Super Bowl LIV party. Congrats to all the fans of Chiefs!

St. Josephine Bakhita

The celebration is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2020. It is a special occasion to celebrate our interculturality, and all students are highly encouraged to take an active part in this celebration. As usual, we will begin with a solemn Eucharist at 3:00 P.M., and the banquet will immediately follow in the dining room. Formal attire and attendance are mandatory.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS *Mr. Len Uhal*

Enrollment Numbers - Spring 2020 (Term C)

An updated listing of enrollment numbers is included as an addendum.

New Office Hours

Ms. Carolyn Waechter is both the International Student Advisor and the Financial Aid Coordinator. In an effort to give her an adequate amount of uninterrupted time to get her work completed, the Admissions Office implemented new "office hours" last week. Students can meet with Carolyn at any time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday. No appointment is needed, just drop by the office and she will help you any way she can. However, on Mondays and Fridays, the office will be closed to walk-in student services. In an emergency, students may visit with Carolyn on Mondays and Fridays, but ordinarily, these days will be reserved for paper work that must be completed in a timely manner. Thank you for observing these new office hours. They will continue for the remainder of this academic school and year and will be re-evaluated over the summer.

Mission Experience in Jamaica

The Vocation Office is sponsoring its annual mission experience trip to Jamaica. Anyone interested in more information about the trip can [click here](#) and contact Len Uhal. This trip is open to all members of the DWC community and the general public. The Vocation Office will soon send advertising to all SVD parishes in the USA and Canada to recruit participants. Space is limited; therefore, if you are interested, please contact Len soon for more information. Please note that this trip is not free, but partial scholarships are available for those who qualify.



Mass for Vocations

Thank you to the SVD Junior and other Religious Junior formation group for planning our monthly Mass for vocations last Friday. We give special gratitude to Fr. Tin Vu, SVD, for sharing his vocation story. Our team appreciates your continued prayers for our ministry and be assured of our prayers for you as you continue to discern and live out your individual vocation.

Where are they now?

Frs. Anthony and Francis are both in California this week promoting vocations. While Fr. Anthony will be leading a retreat at the SVD Riverside Retreat Center this coming weekend, Fr. Francis will visit St. Brigid Parish in Hanford, CA. Bro. Duylinh will return to campus this week after having visited candidates in Texas. Fr. Adam is on campus for a few days this week and may cross paths with Bro. Duylinh as he drives to Texas for a Busy Student Retreat at Texas A & M University in College Station. Len is on campus this week as well.



February 7 Student Resource Center Workshop

“Academic Writing II: The Foundations” – This workshop explores the basics of citation styles (APA, Chicago, MLA), formatting, genres, quoting and paraphrasing.

February 8 St. Josephine Bakhita Celebration Mass 3:00 pm followed by Banquet

February 17 Visit by Admissions Personnel from St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN

February 24 Faculty In-Service – No classes for UG and ESL

8:00 – 10:30 a.m. – “Learning How to Think: Teaching Reasoning, Problem Solving, and Critical Thinking Skills,” with Dr. Mark Taylor, M.S.W., Ed.D.

11:00 a.m. – Noon – “Academic Advising with Populi,” with Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth

February 29- March 1 World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend

March 18 HLC Assessment Academy Orientation, Chicago, IL

March 21 Student Lenten Reflection 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

March 22 Donaghey Award & Donor Appreciation Mass and Brunch 10:00 am Mass

March 28 Loras College Antioch Retreat Service 6 - 9 pm Held in Main Chapel

April 9-11 Holy Week Triduum

April 24 Employee Retirement & End-of-Year Party

5:00 – 7:30 p.m. at “The Barn House,” 13527 Gun Club Road, Epworth, IA

April 30 Recognition and Awards Luncheon 11:50 am – 1:30 pm

June 3-5 HLC Assessment Academy Roundtable, Chicago, IL

June June 15-17 Dubuque Archdiocesan Priest Convocation



230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411
312.263.0456 | 800.621.7440
Fax: 312.263.7462 | hlcommission.org

January 31, 2020

Rev. Thomas Ascheman
President
Divine Word College
102 Jacoby Drive SW
Epworth, IA 52045-0380

Dear President Ascheman:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Divine Word College by the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission at its meeting on January 27, 2020. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with HLC.

Action with Interim Monitoring. IAC accepted the team report for Divine Word College. In conjunction with this action, IAC required the following interim monitoring.

Interim Report. An Interim Report due 11/1/2021 that demonstrates:

1.) that different degree levels (associate vs bachelors) have distinct sets of learning outcomes (3.A), and 2.) assessment of student learning with regard to the Core Competencies and the major program SLOs. For components, the institution should report what data has been collected, how it has been analyzed, and how data has been used to prompt changes to the curriculum (4.B).

In taking this action, the IAC considered materials from the most recent evaluation and the institutional response (if applicable) to the evaluation findings.

In two weeks, this action will be added to the *Institutional Status and Requirements (ISR) Report*, a resource for Accreditation Liaison Officers to review and manage information regarding the institution's accreditation relationship. Accreditation Liaison Officers may request the ISR Report on HLC's website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/isr-request>.

Within the next 30 days, HLC will also publish information about this action on its website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/Student-Resources/recent-actions.html>.

Please note: Revisions to HLC's Criteria for Accreditation will go into effect on September 1, 2020. Institutions will be evaluated against the revised Criteria for all reviews conducted after that date, including reviews related to previously assigned monitoring. Institutional reports submitted after September 1, 2020, that reference the Criteria should be written to the revised version. More information about the revised Criteria, including a crosswalk between the current and revised versions, is available on HLC's website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/criteria>.

If you have any questions about these documents after viewing them, please contact the institution's staff liaison John Marr. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

CC: ALO

Divine Word College Enrollment – Spring 2020 Semester (Term C)
(as of January 24, 2020)

	Aug. 2019	Exits	New Students Term B	Oct. 2019	Exits	Jan. 2020 New Students	Jan. 2020	Exits	March 2020 New Students	Mar. 2020	Unduplicated 2019-20 Total Enrollment
SVD Candidates	46			46	2	6	50				52
Diocesan Seminarians	2			2	1	1	2				3
Religious Seminarians/Candidates	1			1			1				1
SVD Members Final Vows	5		1	6	1	1	6				7
SVD Members Temp Vows	6			6	2	1	5				7
Holy Spirit Sisters (SSpS)	2			2	1		1				2
Religious Sisters	39		1	40		5	45				45
Diocesan Priests	6		1	7	3	2	6				9
Male Religious	1			1			1				1
Lay Students (on campus)	2			2	1		1				2
Lay Students (off campus)	0		1	1	1	1	1				2
Total Fulltime Students	110*	0		114*	12	17	119^				131
Part-time Students	2			2	1	1	2				3
Audit Students	5			5	3	2	4				7
Total	117		4	121	16	20	125				141

Term A – August 2019

- 2 diocesan seminarians live off campus
- 12 religious sisters live off-campus in Dubuque
- Religious sisters: 35 sisters from Vietnam, 1 each from Colombia, Togo, Cameroon and Nigeria
- Diocesan Priests: 4 from Vietnam, 1 each from El Salvador and Haiti
- Male Religious: 1 priest from Vietnam

*Includes 14 students who live off campus in Dubuque.

Term C – January 2020

- 1 diocesan seminarian lives off campus
- 12 religious sisters live off-campus in Dubuque
- Religious sisters: 37 sisters from Vietnam, 2 each from Cameroon, Nigeria and Uganda and 1 each from Colombia and Togo
- Diocesan Priests: 4 from Vietnam, 2 from Haiti
- Male Religious: 1 priest from Vietnam

^Includes 13 students who live off campus in Dubuque.

Term B – October 2019

- 2 diocesan seminarians live off campus
- 12 religious sisters live off-campus in Dubuque
- Religious sisters: 35 sisters from Vietnam, 2 from Cameroon, and 1 each from Colombia, Togo and Nigeria
- Diocesan Priests: 4 from Vietnam, 2 from Haiti, and one from El Salvador
- Male Religious: 1 priest from Vietnam

*Includes 14 students who live off campus in Dubuque.