



Caritas Veritas Symposium

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

PROGRAM

9:00 a.m. Opening Plenary

10:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions I

A. Trustees Reflect on Unprecedented Times

Thomas Dee '83, MBA '93, Yonhee Gordon '86, Steven Holli MBA '98, MSA '08, Sara Quinn

The strength of Dominican University's own community shone through brightly over the tumult of the past 18 months. There is a lot to celebrate in what we accomplished and how we came together. What might it all mean for our next chapter? University Trustees reflect on how our foundational Dominican values of love and truth will guide their discernment and decision-making at this pivotal moment.

B. Post Pandemic Pedagogy

Kimberly A. Garrett

Participants will consider the shared pandemic experiences of faculty and students and emerge with innovative ways to adapt curricula based on the lessons learned during this unprecedented historical event.

and

Gaming the Course: Compassionate Pedagogy and Game Design in Course Design and Management

CarrieLynn Reinhard

This paper would involve a description with evidence and relevant literature to support course redesign since the pandemic with a more compassionate pedagogy approach. Thought and

application of concepts such as contract grading, gamification, and more to disrupt traditional teaching and learning approaches will be discussed. Overall, the session will explore more alignment to game design principles from role-playing games and virtual world games to provide more control to the student that allows the student to complete the work at their time and at the level they wish while maintaining academic rigor in the application of course-specific learning goals and outcomes.

C. Transforming the Future of Social Work with Critically Conscious Global Citizens: A Title V Curriculum Redesign Project for Leadership, Social Justice, and Community

Sister Peggy Ryan, OP, Suhad Tabahi, Leticia Villarreal Sosa, Sheila Yousuf-Abramson

The faculty at the School of Social Work share their experience with the development of inclusive and critically conscious curriculum as a part of the Title V learning community. Through a variety of learning modules focused on critical reflection, praxis, and global leadership development, we provide a curriculum that not only provides a culturally responsive classroom, but also develops future social workers ready to ground their work in an anti-racist and justice-oriented approach. Participants will be provided examples on how to apply critical theories and approaches to strengthen curriculum and global leadership.

D. Disability as Diversity: Implications for Social Justice and the Importance of Universal Design for Learning

Danielle Bank, Christina Curran, Richard Walstra

Many benefits and opportunities arise when disability is included as an element of diversity. This approach helps to move society away from a restrictive medical model of disability to a social model and, more broadly, a social justice model. A more enlightened approach recognizes that individuals have impairments and the disability arises from society's failure to accommodate all persons. This carries numerous implications in areas such as health, wellness, and medicine, which will be explored in a new Health Sciences course. From a broader perspective, the framework of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) identifies ways to improve the educational process to better serve all learners.

E. Not Your Asian Woman! Racist Misogyny and Anti-Asian Racism

Ada Cheng, Jane Hseu, Cecilia Salvatore, Joyce Shim

The murder of six Asian women in Atlanta on March 16, 2021 brought attention to the historical fetishization of Asian women and its connection to racist misogyny and anti-Asian racism. In this storytelling/dialogue panel, three storytellers will explore, through personal narratives, how racist misogyny and sexual fetishization manifest themselves through micro-aggressions in daily lives as well as institutional practices in higher ed. The first half of the panel will be storytelling and the second half will be a facilitated dialogue.

F. The Future of Business in the Post COVID 19 Economy

Mohamed Askar, Anne Drougas

COVID-19 pandemic has brought several challenges to global business. Since the early months of 2020, global business had to endure the effects of the shelter in place and lock down, surge in

online activities and global supply chain disruptions. In this session we will examine the impact of such events on global businesses and how did they cope with them. We will further try to predict how will the future of the global business environment change as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and what everlasting changes business should anticipate in conducting future business. In doing this, we will also explore some of the potential benefits that business can utilize from the available online technologies that were introduced and utilized during the pandemic.

G. Revolutionizing the Future One Initiative at a Time: The Green Dorm Project

Matthew Desmond, Joann Dickinson, Mary Sadofsky, Tara Segal

Project Green Dorm proposes retrofitting a current DU dormitory, making it environmentally sustainable. The panel will explore DU's historical commitment to sustainability and how Project Green Dorm aligns with DU's future sustainability goals.

H. RNA in the Spotlight: The Miracle Molecule of 2020

Irina Calin-Jageman

A year ago, very few people outside of scientific circles used 'RNA' in their everyday vocabulary. This has dramatically changed with the arrival of the Moderna and Pfizer RNA vaccines. The pandemic crisis has accelerated research and demonstrated that major scientific progress can happen in the blink of an eye. While it may seem fast, the fruits of progress are the result of many years of painstaking basic research. In this talk I will explore the history and promise of RNA technology and discuss the importance of RNA not only for vaccine development but also for many therapeutic applications.

and

Neurodiversity and Adult Autism

Chester (Chet) Taranowski

Neurodiversity refers to differences in brain function which are manifested in conditions like ADHD and autism. This program will briefly examine current perspectives on neurodiversity, primarily autism, particularly as these relate to the late identification of the conditions in adults. Recent research suggests that the spectrum of autism is quite broad, and that these traits are more common than was previously believed. In all, neuro diversity, including the autism spectrum, may be another aspect of human variation. Nevertheless, these traits may cause problems for some, and are misunderstood by our society at large. There is currently a movement among those who may possess these characteristics for greater acceptance and accommodation for their condition.

I. Self-Reflection on Student Learning: Lessons from Observing Our Own Study Habits and Learning During Spring 2021

Nina Blaise, Lindsay Bruce, Tony Espinosa, Lizz Leon

Tony, Nina and Lizz spent Spring 2021 recording their daily study habits and activities. They then worked to translate that data collection and their reflections into a tool for new students. Tony, Nina and Lizz hope that their work will help other students think through their own

learning methods. Please join a panel discussion with Tony, Nina and Lizz to explore what they learned during their process, what they are going to take forward in their academic career and what lessons they would like to share to with students and faculty.

J. Promoting Cultural Competency in Digital Environments

This session will offered in an online format. Attendance is limited.

Beronica Avila, William Waites

Cultural competency requires a great deal of humility, patience, and most importantly, communication. Over the last few decades, we have largely moved these conversations into a digital space in which practicing these critical skills becomes more difficult. In using digital media, we would like to highlight the overlap of skills that both cultivate cultural competency and a responsible digital presence such as mindfulness and cognitive flexibility. In doing so, we would also like to present strategies for practicing and promoting cultural competency in digital environments. Namely in teaching ethical digital citizenship and scholarship in tandem with cultural competency practices. These skill sets can and should be seamlessly integrated into pedagogical practice. While there are significant drawbacks to a digital town square, we hope to create opportunities for growth.

11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions II

A. Lunch Seating #1

B. Creating a Culture of Radical Healing: Addressing Racial and Gender-Violence and How to Heal Together

Kathleen Janosky, Joyce Mojica, Veronica Flores Zapata

It takes courage and strength to identify and address violence and trauma in our communities. Dysfunction thrives when there is silence and a lack of transparency. We must look at the truth regarding the impact of racial trauma and gender-based violence in our community. This workshop will explore how we can begin to have a trauma-informed campus wide approach and how we can support each other on our campus. We will talk about how gender-based and racial violence impacts us all and how we can work towards a culture of radical healing. We will learn ways to address trauma through an interactive exercise.

C. A Research Rapid Relay. . . “in times like these. . .”

Michael Abrokwah, Dave Aron, Molly Burke, Dan Condon, Yuanqing Li

Please join several Brennan faculty members as they sprint for five minutes before passing the baton to a colleague in a fast paced format. Each professor will share an aspect of their recent research that supports innovation and transformation to build a future that engenders love and truth. Time will be made available for audience questions and comments and general discussion.

D. An Inclusive Approach to Information Literacies

Beronica Avila, Molly Mansfield

In this session, Beronica Avila and Molly Mansfield will explain in detail the ways in which critical information literacy, digital media literacy, and technology literacy intertwine in our students lives. They will provide resources and tangible ways in which you can integrate these concepts into your teaching.

E. Student Scholarship in Community Health and Well-being

Rachel Huser, Alyssa Lendy, Jacqueline Ramirez

Three undergraduate students share their research in the areas of communications, chronic disease, and cultural diversity awareness—embodiments of their pursuit of truth and participation in the creation of a more just and humane world. They will share their work, their findings, and their visions for innovation and transformation in the student experience, and their disciplines and communities beyond Dominican.

F. Let's Talk about Climate Change – If Not Now, When?

Anjali Chaudhry, Ellen McManus

Climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe has said that the most important thing anyone can do to help mitigate climate change is to talk about it, frequently, widely, and empathetically, meeting people where they are. This session will explore how the Dominican community can begin talking seriously, widely, and regularly about climate change in a way that spreads both truth and love. Through a variety of engaging activities, the panelists and the audience will discuss how we can integrate knowledge, understanding, and action about climate change and sustainability throughout the curriculum, student activities, and strategic planning in a way that will help prepare our students to create a just, sustainable, and resilient future for themselves, their communities, and the Earth as whole.

G. If You Let Me Tell You a Story: Introducing the Latest Issue of Dominican's Literary Magazine

Maggie Andersen, Prayer Childress, Linda Nevarez, Sofia Olvera-Sandoval, Monika Zawislak

Editors and contributors will introduce the double pandemic issue of *Stella Veritatis*, our undergraduate literary magazine. The content has been written, selected, and edited by undergraduate students spanning many disciplines. Come and listen to live poems and stories, and help us to celebrate and center the creativity of Dominican students.

H. Exploring Play as Contemplative Practice

Debra Vinci-Minogue

Play might be considered the first form of contemplative practice we learn in life. Participants in this session will investigate the connections between contemplative practice and play and will engage in various forms of play led by the facilitator.

I. Leveraging Diverse Models of Instructional Peer-Leaders to Enhance Learning & Motivation Across Disciplines

Tracy L. Caldwell, Persis Driver, Lance Grunert, Aliyah White

Peer-leaders when trained in providing supplemental instructional support can improve academic success, facilitate deep learning, and help students sustain high levels of motivation and persistence even in the most rigorous gateway courses. In this presentation, the research team will demonstrate the effectiveness of two such models instituted at DU, the Undergraduate Teaching Assistantship (UTA in Psychology) and Peer Led Team Learning (PLTL in STEM) in improving students' academic and motivational outcomes, normalizing help-seeking behaviors, and leveraging a sense of belonging and community within multiple disciplines.

J. Proclaiming Truth – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

This session will be offered in an online format. Attendance is limited.

Sister Marcella Hermesdorf, OP, Sister Diane Kennedy, OP, Sister Melissa Waters, OP, Sister Janet Welsh, OP

Explore how the Dominican sisters shaped the identity and purpose of Dominican University and examine how the Sinsinawa story flourishes today. As we move into our next 100 years, we ask: Who will tell the Sinsinawa story? Who will uphold the University's mission and cultivate our Dominican and Catholic identity? Who will ensure that the spirit of Caritas and Veritas endures?

12:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions III

A. Lunch Seating #2

B. “Our Blood is Not Cheap”: A Photovoice Project on being Latinx and Arab in a Racialized U.S. Times of COVID-19

Ruby Calvario, Stephanie Scilingo, Leticia Villarreal Sosa, Suhad Tabahi

What does it mean to be a member of the Latinx or Arab community in a highly racialized U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic? This presentation and art walk shares the lived experiences of members of both communities and presents their photos as a visual narrative of the challenges they face. Their narratives also represent their individual and collective resilience in the face of major challenges such as xenophobia and a lack of access to services and health care. By using photovoice, a qualitative methodology rooted in social justice and advocacy, we highlight how community members have responded to the pandemic and highly politicized and racialized 2016 and 2020 elections and their aftermath. This session will display their photos with written narratives to describe major themes, capture their experiences, and promote change and social justice in their respective communities. Participants will be provided with possibilities for action and allyship.

C. Faith in the Vaccine and Communities of Strength: Transforming the Future Through Relationship and an Asset-Based Framework

Atzel Albino, Daria Kochanek, Brenda Rodriguez, Tara Segal, Nathaly Valdivia

In collaboration with the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), Dominican students participated in a summer initiative called “Faith in the Vaccine”. Students were placed in community partner sites and, using an asset-based framework, found innovative ways of addressing issues of vaccine accessibility and hesitancy within communities hardest hit by the pandemic. Panelists will discuss their experience in the program, the role of communication and relationship in their work, how an asset-based framework impacted their success, and how such a framework might work to transform relationships with love and truth.

D. Affordable Research Materials and the Future of Student Learning

Stephanie Fletcher, Molly Mansfield

Librarians Stephanie Fletcher and Molly Mansfield present on open educational resources (OERs) and other affordable or freely available resources. The presenters discuss how OERs improve the undergraduate learning experience through affordability, equity, and enhanced student success.

E. Mapping the COVID-19 Pandemic Using System Dynamics

Mohamed Askar, Anne Drougas

System Dynamics is a business discipline that applies system engineering concepts to map and simulate strategic business decisions. In this session, we will attempt to map the COVID-19 pandemic using System Dynamics to develop a conceptual model that will aide in understanding how the disease spreads and how to develop strategies to curb the spread of the disease. The model is based on the SIR model (Susceptible Infected Recovered) and how to define the factors that affect the infection of the disease. Starting with the base model, we will examine the impact of the shelter-in-place policy and the impact of vaccination on financial and logistic decisions. Further, we will draw on similarities between the spread of the disease and other business concepts that corporations use to manage their product life cycles.

F. The Irrational Rationality of Love in Troubling Times

This session will offered in an online format. Attendance is limited.

David Latimore

In his recent work, *Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future*, Pope Francis suggests the Christian community re-envision what is possible and attainable for the human community through what he posits as the call to dream. However, over the last year, we have witnessed the many ways in which the capacity to dream of a better future or has been frustrated by the unyielding confrontation with the many disparities (politically, economically, racially defined) whose existence had been uncomfortably exposed. We have also become witnesses to the painful existence of the poor and vulnerable in new and profound ways. This paper, grounding itself in the text of John 11, suggests that what Pope Francis posits as the act of dreaming is the call to embrace the irrational rationality of God’s work through the Christian community for the benefit of the human community.

and

Caritas Veritas: Our Source, Destination, and Way of Being in Between

This session will offered in an online format. Attendance is limited.

Peter Alonzi

To remind ourselves “This is Caritas Veritas,” this session draws on the presentations of Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, OP and Sister Clemente Davlin, OP to break open anew and once again for us the significance and power of Caritas Veritas. How Caritas Veritas grounds, directs, and is the goal of the Dominican University learning community of scholars is summarized in a poem by Peter Alonzi titled “Congruence”.

G. A New Way Forward: Insights from Mentors and Leaders

Hilda Alvarez-Rodriguez, Jacqueline Candelas, Victoria Drozd, Litzi Duran, Bridget Kikos, Paola Lopez, Stephania Lopez, Melissa Muth Martinez, Alicia Mena, Keidy Mora, Montserrat Pantoja, Brisa Ruiz

How do educational mentorship and leadership programs on campus give students’ opportunities to cultivate their personal and professional skill sets and work towards social mobility? Please join us as our Estrellas mentors explore their pasts, presents, and futures as a means for demonstrating the power of these opportunities within the scope of students' respective life journeys.

H. Building Your Career Roadmap with Your Uniqueness

Brooke Schantz Fosco

Attendees will participate in an interactive workshop that will walk them through identifying their unique skills and experiences. Attendees will learn how they can use these attributes to build their resume, cover letter, and LinkedIn profile to step into the next chapter of their career journey.

I. Cultivating Love and Truth in the DU Greenhouse

Emily Sabo, Mary Sadofsky, Allyson West

Join us to learn about the origins of the campus greenhouse, its transition to hydroponic growing systems, how hydroponic farming works, and the greenhouse’s current use as an experiential learning and extracurricular space. We reap what we sow. This session will end with a discussion about what the greenhouse garden can teach us about creating a more just and humane world.

J. Facing Founders: Looking at the Dominican Past for the Future

Christopher Allison, Kate Kuchler

This presentation will focus on several preeminent figures from Dominican history, such as Fr. Mazzuchelli, St. Dominic, St. Rose of Lima, and St. Catherine of Siena, as a preview of the McGreal Center's 2021-2022 exhibition. We will look at the ways we, as modern students, staff, and faculty can learn from these "founders" of Dominican life.

K. COVID and Our Community: Partnering with Oak-Leyden During the Pandemic and Beyond

This session will be offered in an online format. Attendance is limited.

Christina Curran, Cassandra Lewis, Alantrice Magee, Caroline Shorb

This panel discussion will include Dominican students/recent alumni, their sponsoring faculty member, and Oak Leyden staff in a discussion about the impacts of COVID 19 for Oak Leyden services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. We will share information and perspectives gathered from families, participants, and staff; identify current and future needs for the agency resulting from the pandemic; and highlight a community-based learning activity pilot developed by DU students in the Spring 2021 semester to provide virtual activities to participants during the pandemic to address rethinking service access for participants. Student insights about the role of the community in supporting agencies and the services for adults with developmental disabilities will be featured. Sustainability considerations to draw upon the strengths of the DU community and Oak-Leyden in supporting continued partnership with Oak Leyden to re-engage and support services and inclusive community engagement for adults with developmental disabilities are discussed.

1:45 p.m. Concurrent Session IV

A. OneGoal: Graduation. Period.

Melissa Connelly, Jeff Nelson, Barrington Price

Join leaders of the 2021 Bradford O'Neill Medallion for Social Justice winning organization, OneGoal, for a conversation about the degree divide and their scalable, impactful movement to close it. As many Dominican students know from their own life experience, students from low- and high-income communities aspire to complete their postsecondary education at similar rates. But those from low-income communities, the majority of whom are students of color, face enormous systemic barriers to earn their degrees, an injustice made worse by COVID-19. OneGoal and Dominican University know that students succeed with the right support.

B. Life in the Natural World: Works in Progress

Colette Davion, W. Clarke Douglas, Joe Heininger, Ellen McManus, Tom Puhr, Mary Scott Simpson

Teachers of the new LAS Seminar, Life in the Natural World, will report to the Dominican community on introducing this seminar to our students beginning in the fall of 2019, before tumbling into the pandemic abyss. With the help of Pope Francis's seminal *Laudato Si* (our common text), we have captured students' interest in the state of our planet as well as their commitment to join the global community devoted to the "care of our common home".

C. Loss, Healing and Change: Understanding and Responding to the Losses of an Unprecedented Year

Samantha Acosta, Daphne Venerable, Sheila Yousuf-Abramson

This proposal will discuss how losses experienced via the pandemic, police use of force and racism have impacted the Dominican University community. We will create a more comprehensive understanding of and approach to losses outside the traditional scope of death related losses and present ideas for providing continued support of the grief process in relation to change and advocacy.

D. Interfaith at DU

Iyleah Hernandez, Patrick Homan, Precious Porras, Tara Segal, Alyssa Wright

This roundtable will explore the many efforts around Interfaith at Dominican University and how our campus can better continue these endeavors into the future. Faculty, staff, and students will present and discuss previous initiatives as well as ideas for how to continue to grow Interfaith amongst our community. In particular, the roundtable will highlight the Interfaith Studies minor, the Interfaith Interns and work from the University Ministry Office, work we have done with the Interfaith Youth Core, as well as how DU can expand our connections to local partners as part of Civic Learning.

E. Takes One to Know One: The Value of Undergraduate Teaching Assistants in Challenging Courses

Josslyn Baron, Tracy L. Caldwell, Persis Driver, Mariana Flores, Jaquelin Gutierrez

The Psychology Department capitalizes on student talent by embedding Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UTAs) in its Behavioral Research and Statistics courses. In this panel, UTAs past and present will discuss their experiences mentoring students and will share advice for students considering similar mentorship roles and for faculty considering embedding UTAs in their own courses.

F. An Exercise Exploring Career and Calling

Lisa Amoroso, Molly Burke, Lisa Malvin

After 18 months of instability, social isolation, and introspection, we come back together to explore ways of constructing our current and future working lives – where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going – based on our recent experiences. This session uses an activity which is centered on understanding each participant's strengths and how such strengths can inform the relationship between calling and career.

G. Resilient Learning Communities: Interventions and Teaching Strategies in a COVID19 World

Melissa Murphy Thompson

The implications of the COVID-19 global pandemic for higher education are complex & cannot be ignored. This presentation analyzes the application of three strategies used in online courses during the global pandemic. These strategies include crisis intervention, trauma informed teaching practices, and differentiated instructional approaches. Additionally, this session offering will focus on lessons learned, specifically how innovative approaches to pedagogy, accompaniment, and love and truth can transform not only the experiences of students, but of faculty as well.

and

Truth is ...

Mike Harvey

Our life's journey continues with many 'day-to-day' challenges: hurdling obstacles / selecting options / seizing opportunities. How do we use / distill Truth (Veritas) in making optimal decisions? We begin by understanding what Truth is, what it does and what it may do – so, listen and engage.

H. Financial Literacy, The Means Through Which DU Students Can Realize Their Goals

Ramiro J. Atristain, Verónica Gutierrez

The Financial Literacy Program at Dominican University provides students with an understanding of financial concepts, teaches self-awareness as it relates to personal finances, and helps students develop the confidence to apply financial literacy in their lives. This panel will explain the importance of Financial Literacy at this stage in life and showcase sample applicable learning of participant students.

I. The Impact of COVID 19 on Older Adults Living in Community Settings: The Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters

Sister Georgia Acker, OP, Julie Bach, Sister Peggy Ryan, OP

Older adults are highly vulnerable to COVID 19 which resulted in extreme policies in residential settings. The Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters live in residential settings at the Mound, Siena Center and St. Dominic Villa. A panel of sisters will share their reflections on how COVID 19 impacted the sisters in all three settings. The panel will include administrators and sisters living at the Mound. Those audience members will also be asked to share their own personal stories of how COVID 19 impact their own family and their ability to spend time with their elders.

J. Finding Fragments of a Vision: The Restoration of the Secret Garden

Joseph Thuma, Gaby McCoy, Mary Sadofsky

In this session, we will provide research into the secret garden and how that research is shaping our restoration of the garden. This session will explore the concept of how we as humans can experience the past and present through details that we leave behind, intentional or not. We will explore the future of the garden and describe how it is being shaped by the details we have found and seen.

K. Geographic Information Systems for Seniors at Public Libraries

This session will be offered in an online format. Attendance is limited.

Yijun Gao, Amanda Herrmann

This presentation first reviews popular Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications based on public datasets in the Great Chicago Area. Then, it explores the strategies for local libraries to launch innovative GIS services for senior patrons in their communities. Our study helps public libraries improve the accessibility of their services in the coming days.

3:15 p.m. Academic Convocation

The Dominican University community will gather together to reaffirm its shared commitment to academic excellence, social justice, caritas and veritas. We will honor a colleague with the Sr. Mary Clemente Davlin Diversity Leadership Award. In addition, we will present OneGoal with the Bradford-O'Neill Medallion for Social Justice.