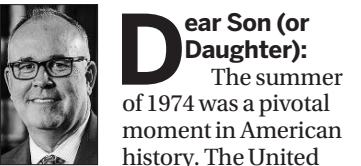


other views

Reap rewards of making learning your adventure

BY JEFFREY BULLOCK
University of Dubuque



Dear Son (or Daughter):
The summer of 1974 was a pivotal moment in American history. The United States was one year away from exiting Vietnam. Watergate was coming to a close. For the first time in American history, a sitting president resigned from office.
But another story unfolded in August that caught the nation’s attention. A 24-year-old French high-wire artist, Philippe Petit, captivated New York City when he spent 45 minutes walking nearly a quarter of a mile above ground between the Twin Towers of the old World Trade Center. Thousands of people watched from below in complete astonishment.
Fifty years earlier, when a re-

porter asked George Mallory why he wanted to climb Mount Everest, he replied, “Because it is there.” Like Mallory, Petit did what he did because the Twin Towers were there. Unlike Mallory, he lived to talk about his adventure.
Adventure is a great word originating from the Latin *adventurus*, which means “about to happen.” It is a word that I remember hearing used twice over the past several years. Adventure is no longer part of our common lexicon. Hopefully it is just on a sabbatical.
In a couple of days, we will be welcoming new students to the University of Dubuque. In our case, 620 students from 42 states and 28 countries will be sitting beside their parents or guardians.
The students among them will be doing their best to look at ease, though their insides will be full of turmoil. Parents will be shell-shocked, hardly able to believe that this moment has come. Yes, it has

come too quickly.
But there’s another way to look at this moment in your life. It is *adventurus* — a new beginning about to come. If you choose to embrace this adventure as a mountain to be climbed or buildings to be crossed, you will make discoveries that you can’t possibly imagine.
Professor Benson will nurture a love of Shakespeare; Professor Supple Bartels will help you to overcome your fear of public speaking. If you’re lucky, Professor Mudalige-Jayawickrama will share her fascinating research into orchids and Professor Garfield, and his best “seconds,” Professor Barland and Coach Elsbernd, will invite you to several trips abroad in exciting places like Spain, Turkey, Greece and Ireland.
And, though I don’t know how, Professor Munshower will keep you engaged in the subject of economics.
If I could reset the undergrad-

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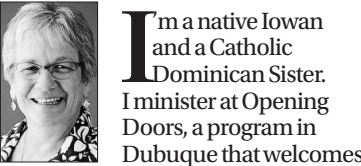
uate educational experience in America today, I would begin by asking you one question at the end of your first year of study.
That question is this: “How have you learned to love learning?”
Understand that there is no correct answer in responding to my question, but the type of response gives me a clue as to whether learning is a task or an adventure.
Learning as a task is pretty much joyless, bordering on drudgery. If that’s where you are, you should think about taking some time away from school.

Learning as adventure, as if one can’t wait to experience what is about to happen, is special. This kind of learning is infectious. It opens new worlds and it broadens horizons. This kind of learning is a gift, because it will set the tone for how you live the rest of your life. It will put you on a course to identify the intersection between your passion and the world’s need. We call that your vocation.
Identify that destination, and two things will happen:
• You’ll never “work” a day in your life, and
• You will begin to embrace your life as the adventure it is intended to be.

Love, Dad
Bullock has been president of the University of Dubuque since 1998. He shares his thoughts on contemporary topics through his blog www.jeffbullock.com. His email address is jbullock@dbq.edu.

Don’t assume the poor and hungry aren’t working

BY SISTER KATHY FLYNN, OP
Opening Doors



Im a native Iowan and a Catholic Dominican Sister. I minister at Opening Doors, a program in Dubuque that welcomes women who experience homelessness and who seek our help as they rebuild their lives.
We work with them to find employment, pursue educational goals, and develop other life skills.
The women I work with can’t become self-sufficient if access to food is taken away from them and their children. That is why I am urging U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst to reject the House version of the Farm Bill, which cuts access to nutritional food.
In September 2018, the Farm Bill, which funds Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), expires and will need to be

reauthorized. Both the House and Senate have created new versions of the Farm Bill, and now they have to reconcile them.
While the partisan House bill hurts families by cutting SNAP, the bipartisan Senate bill keeps SNAP safe and ensures that the women I work with will be able to eat and feed their children.
Sen. Ernst was appointed as one of a small number of Senate conferees on the bill, and she has the power and responsibility to make sure the Senate provisions in the nutrition title are upheld.
I see the “on-the-ground” ramifications of our food policies every day. I see women who desperately want to provide nourishing, healthy meals to their children but often can’t, due to limited resources or other barriers.
I see women without transportation or child care walking a mile to a grocery store and back, or taking

Most SNAP recipients who can work, already do work. In Iowa, 84 percent of SNAP families have at least one working member. If the 2018 Farm Bill makes it harder for people to eat, it certainly isn’t providing opportunities.

an hour-long bus trip with children in tow. Being poor and without resources is simply exhausting!
It is a myth that people in poverty do not work. The vast majority of women who move through transitional housing live at or below the federal poverty threshold and are working — sometimes at two jobs while raising children — consistently trying to overcome barriers that are invisible to many of us.
Low unemployment rates mask the reality that most of the jobs available are low-wage and unpredictable. More than two in five Iowa households receiving SNAP include

children. Options for child care and transportation are limited at best. Healing from trauma takes a lot of energy.
Sen. Ernst said the Senate Farm Bill lacked harsh work requirements and “missed an opportunity to help able-bodied SNAP recipients rise up out of poverty.”
Senator, you are wrong.
Most SNAP recipients who can work, already do work. In Iowa, 84 percent of SNAP families have at least one working member. If the 2018 Farm Bill makes it harder for people to eat, it certainly isn’t providing opportunities.

Expanding work requirements and adding unnecessary burdens to access nutrition assistance means more discouraging red tape for millions of Americans already struggling to get by. Insecurity and hardship takes a toll.
These are some of the most resilient people I have been blessed to know, but they deserve help to not go hungry.
The Dominicans are a mendicant order, meaning that for over 800 years we’ve begged — particularly when a just cause is at stake. And so I’m begging Sen. Ernst for a Farm Bill that does not make hunger and poverty worse in this country. Please look to the Senate’s version of the Farm Bill as the right path forward.
The author is a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa, Wis., who is an education/employment case manager at Opening Doors in Dubuque, which ministers to women experiencing homelessness.

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