

DONNELLY COLLEGE

DIGEST

SPRING
2009

A publication for Donnelly alumni and friends



Ribbon-Cutting and Dedication Ceremony
Held to Re-Open Marian Hall, page 14

Donnelly Unveils New Logo Suite, page 5

Scholarship Dinner Save-the-Date, page 16

DC Receives \$223,000 Grant to Support
Lansing Prison Program, page 6

Leader's Message



George Breidenthal
President, Board of Trustees

Alumni and Friends,

The spring season is in full swing as we begin to notice the remarkable transformations occurring all around us. Spring is seen as a time of growth, renewal and new life. Trees begin to bloom and flashes of green appear more frequently each day. While these transformations are clearly visible in the natural world, they are also unmistakably present in the academic world as many students are preparing to begin a new life – the life of a college graduate.

I see students preparing for graduation and feel a tremendous sense of pride knowing that they made the decision to be educated and have succeeded because of Donnelly's support and their own perseverance. Seventy-eight percent of the students attending DC are first-generation – meaning they are the first in their family to attend college. This makes our graduation a truly momentous and emotional occasion.

In addition to this transformation, Donnelly itself is growing as its overall brand image is changing.

I'd like to take this opportunity to announce a significant milestone for the College: Donnelly's Board of Trustees has approved the College's new logo suite (see page 5 for details). This logo suite is a magnificent representation of both Donnelly's past and its future. The new look gives us an opportunity to show the community who we really are – a Catholic, academic institution that serves an essential role within the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Although the overall look of the College has changed, one thing remains the same: a mission and spirit that continues to stand strong after nearly sixty years. This mission, paired with the dedication of the faculty and staff, sets Donnelly apart from competing colleges. To Donnelly's faculty and staff, 608 North 18th Street is more than a place to come to work every day – it is a passion.

There is just something in the air at Donnelly – you can't see it, but you can feel it. Students can feel it. People who are unfamiliar with Donnelly may not realize what a gem the College truly is, sitting quietly and patiently in the heart of America. They don't experience the Donnelly spirit until they walk through the front doors and take the time to appreciate its soul.

I encourage you to take a minute and think back on the time you've spent at Donnelly – whether it be thirty minutes or thirty years. Although the logos may have changed, the unwavering mission and spirit remain, bringing us into the sixtieth year with a strong sense of College pride.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, as well as Donnelly's faculty and staff, we extend our warmest wishes and blessings to each graduating Donnelly student and every one of you for this upcoming spring season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Breidenthal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

FEATURES

- 6 Donnelly Receives \$223,000 Grant to Support Lansing Prison Program
- 10 Somali Refugee Considers Donnelly His Home
- 14 Ribbon-Cutting and Dedication Ceremony Held to Re-Open Marian Hall

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 2 **Leader's Message:**
Growth and Transformations of Donnelly and its Students
- 4 **Around Donnelly:**
Donnelly Joins Facebook and Twitter, *page 4*
Donnelly Unveils New Logo Suite, *page 5*
- 8 **Alumni Spotlight:**
Donnelly Plays Important Role in Alumnus' Life Journey, *page 8*
Alumni Hall of Fame Announcement, *page 9*
- 12 **Faculty Focus:**
Staff Member Completes Doctoral Program, *page 12*
Faculty Making a Difference, *page 13*
- 14 **Advancing Donnelly:**
Reconnect With Donnelly - Become a Volunteer, *page 15*
Calendar of Events, *page 15*
- 16 **Scholarship Dinner Save-the-Date**

ON THE COVER

From left to right: Cheryl Ray (current LPN student), President Steve LaNasa, Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Commissioner John Mendez (Class of '74), Commissioner Tom Cooley and Ada Williams (Director of Nursing) take part in cutting the ribbon to officially re-open Marian Hall.

Donnelly College Board of Directors

CHAIRPERSONS

George Breidenthal, '69, Chairperson
Gary D. Grable, '64, Past-Chairperson

MEMBERS

Robert Bartunek
Rita Burnett, DDS
E. Leon Dagget
William (Bill) Dunn, Jr.
Richard J. Flanigan, Jr.
Daniel Haake
Reverend Michael Hermes
Joan Horan
Sister Rita Killackey, OSB
Wendell E. Maddox
John Mendez, Jr., '74
Bill Miller
LaVert Murray
Most Rev. Joseph F. Naumann, STD
Lonnie Scott, '85
Sister Anne Shepard, OSB
Helen Skradski
Paula Willett

MEMBERS EMERITUS

Most Rev. James P. Keleher, STD

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR

Jennifer Price
Marketing Coordinator
jprice@donnelly.edu

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Sarah Giesecke-Green
Creative Coordinator
sgreen@donnelly.edu

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Emily Buckley
Director of Development
ebuckley@donnelly.edu

Roger Berg
Alumni Relations Coordinator
rberg@donnelly.edu



Cyrus Shadfar, Dean of International Students, plays an instrument from Brazil during Donnelly's Multicultural Fair.



1



2



3



4

1 | Legendary speaker presents "The Life of Frederick Douglass"

In honor of Black History Month, Donnelly's Student Support Services Department brought legendary speaker Cedric Saunders to campus on February 2 to tell the story of Frederick Douglass. Faculty, staff and students were entertained as he reenacted Douglass' life in full costume. Saunders is known for his unique, one-man, dramatic interpretations of different historical characters such as Frederick Douglass and George Washington Carver.

2 | Healthy Student Task Force (HSTF) sponsors Latin Dance and Salsa Day
HSTF organized a Latin Dance and Salsa Day for faculty, staff and students on February 20. Attendees had the chance to learn Latin dances, enjoy healthy refreshments and get some exercise!

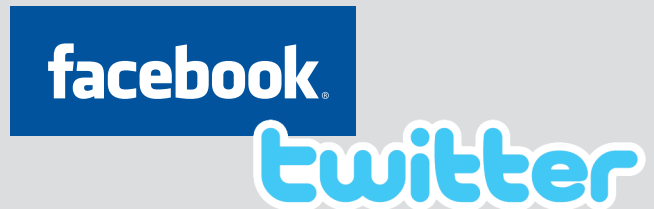
3 | Community gathers at Donnelly to watch PBS documentary

"A Class Apart," a documentary about the Mexican American struggle against repression, was shown on February 8 in the College's meeting room. PBS featured this documentary as part of its "American Experience" series. Before the event, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), of which Donnelly is a member, distributed discussion questions. Faculty members John Mendez (also a Donnelly Board member and Class of '74) and Jaime Fuentes facilitated a discussion after the viewing.

4 | Donnelly hosts Multicultural Fair representing more than 30 countries and regions
Many of Donnelly's students organized a Multicultural Fair on April 23 and 24 to celebrate the different cultures represented at the College. With 86 percent of its student population from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, Donnelly provided the perfect setting for this event.



4



DC JOINS FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Realizing the importance of online accessibility, Donnelly College has created profiles on two of the most popular social networking sites – Facebook and Twitter. The College plans to use these sites as additional means of communication to better connect their students, faculty, staff and community.

"With more than 30,000 Donnelly alumni living throughout the world, Facebook and Twitter will help break down communication barriers between our Alumni Association and alumni," said Roger Berg, Donnelly's Alumni Relations Coordinator. "These sites provide an easy way for alums to keep in touch with former classmates and stay up-to-date with campus news and events."

The Facebook group, Donnelly College Alumni Association, currently has 65 members. In addition to this group, the College also created a "fan page." Unlike the typical Facebook page, fan pages are visible to unregistered people and are indexed.

In addition to the efforts on Facebook, Donnelly has recognized Twitter as another useful tool to facilitate communications.

"Twitter will give Donnelly a new communication platform, allowing us to strengthen our network," said Jennifer Price, Marketing Coordinator for Donnelly. "These sites will allow the College to become more visible to those wanting to learn more about Donnelly at a glance."

Become a Donnelly Facebook fan! Create your account at facebook.com, type Donnelly College in the search bar and join our groups!

Donnelly College Unveils New Logo Suite

In late November of 2008, Donnelly's new logo suite was approved by the College's Board of Trustees. Although the official logos of the College have changed, the mission and vision remain the same and are stronger than ever.

The new suite consists of two different logos that will be used to represent Donnelly when reaching out to different audiences.

The first and more formal of the two logos is an updated recreation of the official college seal, which contains elements from the crest of Bishop George J. Donnelly for whom the College was named. The second logo is the abbreviation of Donnelly's name, "DC," connected by a Benedictine cross.

The long-awaited logos took more than a year to complete as the College's Development Committee worked meticulously to find a look that encompasses Donnelly's mission, values and professionalism.



Members of Donnelly's women's soccer club proudly display t-shirts showcasing the new informal logo.

"The Delta logo served the school well and its grounding in the Trinity and outreach to community was inspirational, but we felt the in-depth meaning behind the Delta did not readily come across or identify us as an institution of higher education," said Emily Buckley, Donnelly's Director of Development. "With so many new initiatives in recent years – our first BA degree, a residence hall, and our growth in campus enrollment – the time was right to update our look as well, especially as we begin to celebrate our 60 years of service this coming school year."

Donnelly was fortunate to have the support from professionals at Summit Marketing in Overland Park to help guide this process.

"The guidance from both Michelle Noyes, Executive Vice President, and Michele Hall, graphic designer, were invaluable," said Buckley.

The logo change is also part of an effort to increase Donnelly's recognition throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area.

"The Development Committee has been focused on increasing awareness about Donnelly and communicating the high quality of instruction, values and students here," said Dick Flanigan, chair of the Development Committee of the Board of Trustees. "The Board felt going back to the College's roots with the seal, as well as adding a new informal logo that more clearly reflects our Catholic values, was the right move to demonstrate both the College's legacy and future."

Faculty and staff are eager to begin using the two images on their academic materials and are pleased that the logos honor the College's past and celebrate its bright future.

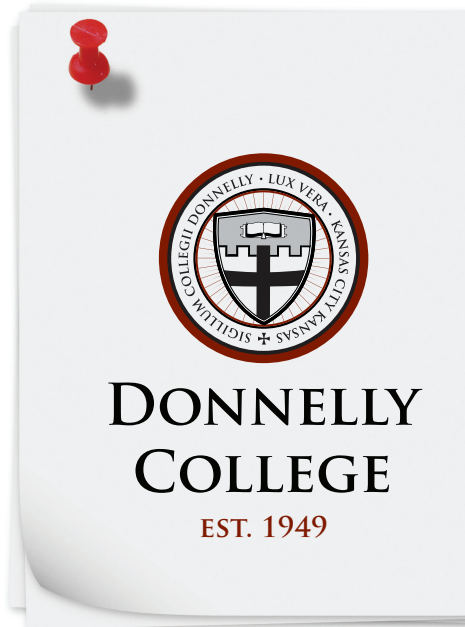
"I'm very pleased with the new logo suite for a number of reasons," said Steve LaNasa, Donnelly's President. "In addition to being explicit about our Catholic and Benedictine foundations, I feel that the new images also capture our historic liberal arts emphasis. In particular, the phrase 'Lux Vera' on the seal, meaning 'True Light,' communicates Donnelly's liberal arts values of both reason and faith."

The informal logo, DC, has already been placed on lanyards and t-shirts, including the new DC Soccer Club t-shirts, and will soon be emblazoned on other Donnelly merchandise.

"The new t-shirts and logos make us look more like a college team when we are playing," said Paola Zapata, captain of the women's Soccer Club. "It makes us look more professional among the other teams in our league."

The Development Committee will be updating the merchandise page as new items become available. Visit donnelly.edu frequently to check for these updates. 📢

For more information about our new look, contact Jennifer Price, Donnelly's Marketing Coordinator, at (913) 621-8707.



Above: The official seal of Donnelly College redesigned as the new formal logo. Below: The new informal logo reflects Donnelly's Catholic and Benedictine roots.





Donnelly Receives \$223,000 Grant to Support Lansing Prison Program

ALTHOUGH DONNELLY IS A SMALL COLLEGE, IT HAS a big impact on those who need it most. As a College dedicated to helping those who are underserved, Donnelly proudly announces it has received a \$223,000 grant from the Department of Justice to support its associate degree satellite program at Lansing Correctional Facility. The program educates more than 50 inmates each year with college classes in efforts to reduce national recidivism rates. Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas, who helped to secure these funds, visited Donnelly College on Friday, February 27, 2009, for a press conference to discuss the grant and the Lansing program. The grant will help support program operations for the next three years.

“Donnelly’s program at Lansing is simply an extension of our original mission to serve those who might otherwise go unserved,” said Donnelly’s president, Dr. Steve LaNasa. “We know that education exerts a powerful effect on the lives of those that pursue it. The Lansing program recognizes that education can help to transform the lives of these students, and that those who make the commitment deserve the chance to pursue a college education.”

Dr. Ken Gibson, President Emeritus and coordinator of the Lansing program, spoke about how the program began under his tenure as president, noting in part the program’s philosophical basis in numerous national studies that indicate education is the single most effective tool to prevent incarcerated individuals from committing crimes after their release from prison – reducing recidivism.

Since 2001, when Donnelly first began offering college courses at Lansing Correctional Facility, the program has clearly demonstrated the positive effects of education on prisoners. **Of the more than 325 inmates that have taken classes, 14 have earned associate degrees and 155 (or 48 percent of former students) have been released from prison. Of those 155, only three – just two percent – have been reconvicted of a crime and are back in prison.** Comparatively, 25 percent of inmates



Top: President Steve LaNasa speaks to the crowd as Master of Ceremonies for the press conference. Above: Dr. Ken Gibson, President Emeritus and Lansing Program Coordinator, gives an overview of the program and discusses the significant success rates obtained in just eight years. Opposite from left to right: Senator Brownback is interviewed by the media following the completion of the press conference; Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann speaks to a member of the media about Donnelly’s role in the Lansing Prison Program; Senator Brownback speaks to David McKune, Lansing Correctional Facility Warden.

nationally are resentenced to prison for a new crime within three years of release, according to a 2002 Bureau of Justice Statistics Report.

Senator Brownback announced Congress' efforts to try to cut the national recidivism rate in half within five years, and noted the accomplishment of the recent passing of the Second Chance Act as a step in that direction.

"Donnelly's Lansing program can serve as a model for other prisons," said Senator Brownback. "People in prison need to do time for their crime, but they are not without redemption. We have a problem when we start looking at people as problems."

Donnelly's program is one of less than a dozen of its nature that exist in the U.S. (one of two in the state of Kansas), and the College hopes its program will serve as a cost-efficient, effective model to help lower recidivism across the country. Federal analyses have indicated higher education in prisons yields at least \$2 in public savings for every dollar spent. The successful recidivism rates of Donnelly's prison education program prove itself as a model to not only save taxpayers a significant amount of dollars in the criminal justice system, but also to improve communities.

"I am very proud and grateful for the extraordinary efforts of Donnelly College to provide higher educational opportunities to those at the Lansing prison," said Archbishop Joseph Naumann of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. "For Jesus and His Church, there are no 'throw away' lives. In the Gospel, Jesus specifically speaks about the importance of visiting those in prison. The Donnelly College prison program provides the inmates an opportunity to improve their abilities, expand their knowledge and prepare themselves to lead productive lives after release from prison."

Lansing Correctional Facility's warden, Dave McKune, noted the importance of this chance for inmates to continue their education. "Being able to take college classes increases their self-worth. For many it's the first time someone has believed in them."

"Being able to take college classes increases their self-worth. For many it's the first time someone has believed in them."

Former students also feel the value of their education experience with the program. "If a person has any type of past criminal record, a college degree is essential," one student said. "It is the only thing that gives us a chance to 'balance the scale' in the eyes of potential employers."

The Department of Justice grant provides much-needed support for the program, which has ongoing needs for scholarships and program operation. Inmates pay one-third of the hourly tuition to demonstrate commitment and personal investment, but additional funding must support the remaining tuition and program costs, which are kept minimal in part due to the partnership and in-kind contributions provided by the administration of Lansing Correctional Facility.

"We are truly indebted to the Department of Justice and the support of Sen. Brownback," said LaNasa. "Each have made it possible to continue this ministry for several more years, ensuring additional students will benefit from our work."

To find out more about assisting or volunteering in this program, please contact Roger Berg, Donnelly's Alumni Relations and Volunteer Coordinator, at rberg@donnelly.edu or (913) 621-8744. Visit donnelly.edu for more information about the program and its impact on inmates at Lansing Correctional Facility. 📞

Notable facts about Lansing Prison Program inmates:

- 50 Educated each year
- 325 Have taken classes in the program
- 14 Earned their associate degree
- 155 Released from prison
- 3 Reconvicted of a crime and back in prison

Three (or two percent) of the 325 inmates have returned to prison – a significant success in comparison to the national rate of 25 percent.





Right: Moayed (Tom) Manzari, Class of '74. Above: A collection of photos throughout Manzari's time at Donnelly.



Donnelly Plays Important Role in Alumnus' Life Journey

BEFORE ATTENDING DONNELLY, MOAYED (Tom) Manzari anticipated his time at the College to be a somewhat transitory experience – a place where he would take a few courses and then transfer. He never expected Donnelly to have such a profound impact on his life.

Born in a small village in the mountainous regions of Eastern Iran, Manzari's father served in the Iranian military and worked as a border patrolman on the Iranian border with Afghanistan. Throughout high school, Manzari dreamed of coming to the United States for his college education. After hearing about Donnelly from a friend, he decided to prepare his documentation and apply.

To save money, Manzari flew to Washington D.C. on a cargo plane with no seats. A weary Manzari then stepped aboard a Greyhound bus headed for Kansas City.

"The bus ride was an uneasy journey," said Manzari. "I remember it was raining heavily and getting dark." As the bus pulled into the station in Kansas City, he noticed two sisters waiting for him outside on the platform: Sister Virginia (Minton) and Sister Mary Luca (Lager).

"To me, this was unbelievable," said Manzari. "The fact that two people took the time to wait for me, someone they had never met, was something I never expected. It was an enormously moving moment in my life."

The sisters gave Manzari a place to live for a few nights while he found a room to rent. "They cooked for me and asked me about my dreams and future plans," he said. "Donnelly no longer looked like just a college; it quickly became my home."

Within his classes, Manzari found the same compassionate environment. "When one of my instructors found out that I was a Muslim, she asked me if I was willing to give a speech about Islam in the local high school. She had no idea how deeply she had touched my life and impacted my views."

Although Manzari spent less than two years at Donnelly, the lessons he learned have followed him throughout his life.

After finishing up his general education requirements in 1975, Manzari transferred to Kansas State University and was married. In 1978, he graduated from K-State with a degree

in civil engineering. That same year, his wife finished dental school in Iran and moved to the U.S.

The newlyweds relocated to Washington D.C. and Manzari began a master's program at George Washington University. Their first son, Johnnie, was born in 1979. After his birth, the couple decided to move back to Iran for a few years to help fight for a democratic government. While living in Iran, the family continued to grow with the addition of their son Joe in 1983. Unfortunately, Iran's political system took a turn for the worse in 1985 and the Manzari's felt there was nothing more they could do to help their country.

The family moved back to the U.S., this time to Orange County, Calif., to be close to family.

After obtaining his real estate license, Manzari began to work for Prudential California Realty, focusing his efforts in Southern California, mainly Orange County. He currently lists and sells homes at prices ranging from \$200,000 to \$10 million. Manzari's wife received her dentistry license and opened her own private practice in the city of Tustin, Calif.

Their sons have both graduated from college – Johnnie from Stanford in 2000 and Joe from University of California – San Diego in 2004.

"As I sat at both my sons' graduations, I began to think about everyone who helped me get here," said Manzari. "I began thinking about Sister Virginia and Sister Mary Luca. It was the contributions of the people at Donnelly College that got me where I am today."

Although he came to Donnelly with little expectation, he left with a significant appreciation for its mission.

"Donnelly changed my life," he said. "When I look back, I don't remember it as a place where I took a few courses. I remember the relationships I had with my instructors and fellow students. At Donnelly, college is not just about academics – the faculty and staff recognize that their students have lives. They understand that each student has a unique past, a present need and a promising future."

Donnelly Announces

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Do you know a Donnelly alumnus who is truly inspiring or has helped transform their community? Chances are great you do! The more than 30,000 former students of Donnelly College have gone on to impact their communities in incredible ways.

In appreciation of our alumni's broad success, Donnelly's Alumni Association has recently taken steps towards the creation of an Alumni Hall of Fame for the College. The aim is to recognize those alumni, living or deceased, who have demonstrated actions expressing both the spirit and mission of Donnelly.

To celebrate Donnelly College's 60th Anniversary, an Alumni Association selection committee will be inducting six members into the hall of fame next spring. Roger Berg, Alumni Relations Coordinator, anticipates future years to also involve multiple inductees. The committee will choose inductees based solely on the nominations submitted. Anyone can nominate an alumnus for a position in the hall of fame.

"The Alumni Association Board is very excited about this opportunity to recognize the various contributions our alumni have made to the community throughout the years," said Berg. "We are hoping to receive nominations describing contributions which best exemplify the spirit and mission of the College."

While the official location of the hall of fame is still under development, there will be a virtual hall of fame on Donnelly's recently re-designed website, donnelly.edu.

The addition of the Alumni Hall of Fame is just one of the many exciting developments that will occur during our historic 60th year. Check the College's website for upcoming 60th Anniversary events and other important information.

Know someone who would be a good candidate for the new Alumni Hall of Fame? Fill out the form below and mail it to us by October 1, 2009. This form will also be available for download at donnelly.edu/halloffame.

The Alumni Association is currently seeking volunteers who want to be a part of the Alumni Hall of Fame Selection Committee. Contact Roger Berg at (913) 621-8744 or rberg@donnelly.edu for more information or to volunteer your time.



Alumni Hall of Fame Nomination Form

I would like to nominate _____ for induction into the Donnelly College Alumni Hall of Fame.

To officially nominate someone, we ask you to provide us with the following information:

Your name: _____

Your preferred phone #: _____

Your address: _____

Your e-mail: _____

**You may submit nominations anonymously by contacting Roger Berg at (913) 621-8744.*

Please tell us a little bit about your nominee in the space provided:

**If more space is needed, separate sheets may be attached.*

MAIL TO:
Attn: Roger Berg
Donnelly College
608 N. 18th Street
Kansas City, KS 66102

Somali Refugee Considers Donnelly His Home



Photo by Stefano Sivieri

ABDINOOR ABDILLE IS NOT YOUR TYPICAL college student. In fact, he is not your typical person in general. Ask anyone in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program to comment on Abdille and you can expect their response to begin with a smile.

Abdille's story begins in Somalia – a place where there is no national government and civil warfare flares up with little warning. In the early 1990s, fighting among rival leaders resulted in the killing and starvation of thousands of Somalis, including Abdille's father.

Despite their loss, Abdille's family of eight persevered and found refuge in Kenya. Abdille did not make Kenya his home for long, deciding to better himself by moving to the United States in September of 2005.

"I came to the U.S. to save my life," said Abdille. "I plan to stay here forever."

His first stop was in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he lived for two years. "I moved to Kansas City to find more opportunities. Donnelly College is close to where I live, so I decided to take classes and learn English. For the first time in my life I was offered an education."

Abdille enrolled in the ESL program in 2007 without knowing a word of English. Less than two years later, he has moved on to the Advanced ESL program and plans to continue his education and earn his Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification.

"Donnelly has become my home, helping me realize my passion for helping others," said Abdille. "Here I can have dreams and set goals for myself. My goal now is to work in a hospital setting and take care of sick people."

In order to achieve his dream, he doesn't have the luxury of focusing on school alone. Abdille spends a large majority of his time working to fulfill his financial obligations. He works at the BP gas station just a few blocks away from Donnelly.

"I go to class from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., then I go to work at BP," said Abdille. "I work my 12 hour shift until 1 a.m., go home and try to get some sleep so I can be on time for class in the morning."

Not only is he on time, he makes sure some of his fellow classmates are too. On his way to Donnelly each morning, Abdille makes five stops to pick up friends. After classes end, he then drives them all home.

"I wake up early to pick them up," said Abdille. "I have my driver's license and they don't. I do it to help them out."

"Not just anyone would take their time off to help others," said Betsy Gran, instructor and International Admissions representative at Donnelly. "I've seen him do it time and time again. He's an outstanding person and truly stands out."

"I came to the U.S. to save my life..."

Abdille speaks highly of Donnelly, specifically of the faculty members who have helped him advance within the ESL program.

"Michelle Bridges, one of my instructors, has helped me a lot," said Abdille. "When I came to Donnelly I didn't know how to write or organize myself. She taught me how to be a good student."

Bridges has been one of Abdille's ESL instructors for nearly two years and considers him an antidote to apathy.

"Abdinoor has been through tough times that would cause most people to become cynical and afraid," said Bridges. "He responds to these trying situations by becoming more generous, more hard-working, and more dedicated. I consider him a real treasure to the ESL program and to Donnelly."



Abdinoor Abdille, second-year English as a Second Language (ESL) student at Donnelly, escapes a life of violence and finds his home at Donnelly



Dr. Teresa Kriley,
Associate Dean of
Preparatory Programs

Staff member

AS A CHILD, DR. TERESA KRILEY did not know if she would ever go to college. She grew up near Springfield, Mo., and is the oldest of three girls in her family. After graduating from high school, Kriley married and had two children. A few years later, as her youngest sister Glinda was preparing to graduate from college, Kriley had a thought that changed her life: “I can do that.”

Kriley knew that if her sister could graduate from college, she could do it as well. She decided to go to what is now Missouri State University, formerly Southwest Missouri State (SMSU), to pursue her degree. She left SMSU with a bachelor’s degree in education, her emphasis in special education. After obtaining a degree, she taught elementary school for six years while pursuing a master’s degree.

Upon receiving her master’s degree, Kriley made a career jump into the corporate world. Within a few years, she realized her true passion was education. “I remember thinking, ‘what am I doing?’” said Kriley. “All I ever wanted to do was work in education.”

The next phase of her life brought her to Kansas City in search of better career opportunities. Her quest led her to Donnelly when she stumbled across a listing for a Director of Early Childhood Education at the College.

“I had always dreamed of working at the college level,” said Kriley. “Donnelly helped me remember why I love working in education.”

In 2005, she made the decision to continue her education and pursue a doctorate degree at the University of Kansas. As she worked towards this degree, her role at Donnelly began to expand, first to the Coordinator of

Implementing a national model

Because more than 75 percent of incoming Donnelly students require one or more classes in remedial English, math, writing or reading — a rate higher than the national average — the College in 2007 began a thorough review and restructure of our Preparatory (formerly known as Developmental) Education program. The restructure was designed to improve student success and retention, and required an entirely new approach. In fact, only a few such models exist in the U.S. Unique qualities of the program include its intensive format, restrictions on enrolling in other classes, multiple opportunities for students to “test-out” and begin college-level coursework mid-semester, and weekly individual advising sessions with each student.

The program piloted in Fall 2008, and early results have been remarkable compared to national data. Semester-to-semester retention rates doubled, and were 52 percent higher than the national average for these students. Further, retention of students jumped to 91 percent throughout the semester. Donnelly and Dr. Kriley will continue to assess the restructured program and look for additional program enhancements that foster student success.

... completes doctoral program

Developmental Education and then to Director of Preparatory Education.

On March 23, Teresa Kriley became Dr. Kriley when she received word that she had successfully defended her dissertation, titled “Developmental Education: A Case Study of a Restructured Program,” thus becoming a Doctor of Philosophy with a major in curriculum and instruction.

Within her dissertation, she analyzed the evolution of Donnelly’s Developmental Education program, looking specifically at the changes made in the new, restructured program. “This was something that proved useful to me in my position as the Director of Preparatory Education,” said Kriley. “After looking at the information gathered I was able to use it to improve our practice here at Donnelly.”

“Donnelly students remind me daily of why I do what I do.”

Dr. Kevin Kelley, Donnelly’s Vice President and Dean of Instruction, served as a peer reviewer for Kriley’s dissertation and provided her with encouragement throughout the program.

“As Dr. Kriley’s dissertation developed, it became apparent that the significance of her work was being reflected in pedagogical practices here at Donnelly,” said Kelley. “The short and long term implications of her dissertation help place Donnelly on track to be a national model for serving under-prepared high school graduates for the rigors of college studies.”

Today, Dr. Kriley is continuing to spearhead the restructuring of Donnelly’s Developmental Education program. Her role at Donnelly will continue to grow as she transitions into her new role as the Associate Dean of Preparatory Programs. The faculty and staff that work with her are grateful to have her on their team.

“In education, it is important to find a positive personal reference – someone who can guide you when you need guidance, listen to you when you need to be heard, and stand up for you when you cannot do it yourself,” said Betsy Gran, instructor and International Admissions representative at Donnelly. “I admire Dr. Kriley’s structured communication with her students. She keeps a watchful eye on them, encouraging organization and good study skills, and that, on top of her many other gifts, makes her an asset to the department.”

Throughout her six years at the College, Kriley’s focus has always remained on the betterment of students. “Donnelly students remind me daily of why I do what I do,” said Kriley. “I am humbled by their perseverance and heart and am grateful to have the opportunity to work with them.”

To celebrate this significant professional milestone, Kriley and her husband are taking their entire family to Disneyland this coming July.

Great job, Dr. Kriley! We’re lucky to have you as part of the Donnelly family.

FACULTY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

“Sister Marie Kathleen wrote my recommendation for the Sister Thea Bowman Scholarship I received three years ago. I’m in Donnelly’s bachelor’s degree program now and talk to her nearly every day. She helps me find answers to all my questions and really cares about my well-being, not just school work. I’m taking Spirituality and Ethical Dimensions of Leadership from her now and love her class.”

– Matthia Dukes, Class of '09

“I can remember Mr. Bill Finn telling his stories. One in particular was about Mr. Universe and, now, Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger. Mr. Finn had to call him to collect on a debt and advise him of the correct way to fill out a balance sheet. I also remember Dr. Amber’s (Reagan-Kendrick) and Dr. Allen’s (David-Michael) motivational quotes of the day. All my instructors and all the staff at Donnelly have been an inspiration to me. I enjoyed and felt honored to be their student and a student at Donnelly College.”

– Cheryl Ortiz, Class of '07

“Sister Mary Faith - a wisp of a woman - had a gentle but passionate spirit and convinced each of us that we could write. I’ve always tried to pass this spirit on to my high school students. Also, I remember Sister Jerome Keeler. It was only after I had graduated that I realized what a nationally recognized educator she was. We were doubly blessed to have Sister Jerome both in the classroom and at the helm of Donnelly.”

– Marcia Delich Braun, Class of '63

Tell us about an instructor who made a difference in your life! This will be a recurring column - send submissions to Jennifer Price, Donnelly’s Marketing Coordinator, at jprice@donnelly.edu.

Ribbon-Cutting and Dedication Ceremony Held to Re-Open Marian Hall



Many of Donnelly's faculty, staff, alumni and friends gathered to celebrate the completion of Phase I renovations to the College's second academic building, Marian Hall, on Wednesday, April 29. Cindy Cash, President and CEO of the Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce, served as the master of ceremonies for the event.

The program began with opening words from Donnelly's president, Dr. Steve LaNasa. LaNasa discussed the vision of Donnelly, as well as the current and future uses of Marian Hall. Following his comments, John Mendez, recently appointed Unified Government Commissioner At-Large – District 2 and Class of '74, addressed Donnelly's role in the community and the national and local need for the types of programming Donnelly provides.

"We came from one room with four beds and moved into a beautiful, functional space..."

Archbishop Joseph Naumann then spoke to the role of Marian Hall in the community over the decades as well as the vision of the Archdiocese in donating the property, concluding with a blessing and dedication of the building. Following the blessing, Archbishop Naumann and Commissioner Mendez cut the ribbon and officially re-opened Marian Hall.

Donnelly's Student Ambassadors gave tours of the renovations to attendees, and refreshments were served in one of the large lecture halls on the building's first floor.

LPN students Cheryl Ray and Rebecca Thiga, along with Anne Briginshaw, clinical instructor, demonstrated the new patient simulators to those taking tours. "The new human simulators give students a chance to refine and apply their clinical skills," said Briginshaw. "These simulators also allow students to participate in different learning experiences tailored to their educational needs."



In January 2009, the LPN program moved from the third floor in Donnelly's main building and into the first floor of Marian Hall.

"We came from one room with four beds and moved into a beautiful, functional space complete with new laboratory and audio-visual equipment," said Ada Williams, Donnelly's Director of Nursing. "The Title V grant, under the direction of Frances Sanders (Dean and Title V Director) and Dr. Kevin Kelley (Vice President and Dean of Instruction), allows Donnelly students the opportunity to successfully study and pursue careers in healthcare. The instructors, students and staff feel so blessed to be here during this extraordinary time."

Top left: Cheryl Ray, current LPN student, Steve LaNasa, Donnelly's president, and Archbishop Joseph Naumann cut the ceremonial ribbon; Middle left: Amy Smith and John Southard, architects with Hollis-Miller; Bottom left: Rebecca Thiga, current LPN student, demonstrates one of the patient simulators; Top right: Jennifer Price, Donnelly's Marketing Coordinator, and Jaime Arreola, current Donnelly student, interact with the simulators.

Reconnect with Donnelly - BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

Calling all alumni and friends! The Development Department is looking to expand the College's volunteer base.

There are numerous ways you can assist Donnelly students by volunteering your time and talent. Whether you mentor a student interested in your professional field or become a guest lecturer or tutor within a classroom, volunteering at Donnelly is a fantastic way to significantly impact the lives of our students.

We welcome volunteers in various capacities, and have opportunities to suit those looking for a longer-term commitment as well as those looking to donate just a few hours a semester.

Specifically, Donnelly is currently looking for volunteers to serve as classroom assistants, tutors, speakers and mentors.

Volunteer speakers simply choose a topic ranging from current events

to college, travel or career experiences. Classroom assignments are then developed from these volunteer presentations, allowing students to reflect on the subject matter.

Don Wolf, Class of '56, volunteered to speak to students in the Preparatory Education classes. "The students were attentive and asked a lot of questions," said Wolf. "I felt that there was a strong similarity between my early life and where they are now. It was a very worthwhile experience."

"Students often try to find a connection between what they learn in the classroom and their future," said Andres Dominguez, Class of '79 and volunteer speaker. "I advised them to absorb all the information that is given to them, as every little piece of knowledge makes us who we are."

Donnelly is also looking for volunteers to practice English skills with English as a Second Language (ESL)

students. As an English practice partner, you will have the chance to help students advance more rapidly within their preparatory classes.

In addition, the College is seeking volunteers to help instructors teaching at Lansing Correctional Facility.

Regardless of the role you choose, the most valuable thing you can give to Donnelly is your time. Volunteers have a truly remarkable impact on students and can help bring both their education and career plans into focus.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about Donnelly's volunteer program, contact Roger Berg, Alumni Relations and Volunteer Coordinator, at (913) 621-8744 or rberg@donnelly.edu.

For a more detailed description of these opportunities or to view additional volunteer positions available, visit donnelly.edu/volunteer. 🍷



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JUNE 1: Summer classes begin
- JUNE 8: Transportation, Math, and Science Academy (TMaSA)
- JUNE 17: Hispanic Economic Development Council (HEDC) small business workshop
- JULY: Donnelly's first LPN class graduates
- AUG 24: Fall classes begin
- AUG 26: Back-to-School Event
- SEPT 23: Convocation/Founder's Day Mass
- SEPT 26: Third Annual Scholarship Dinner
- NOV 19: Gratia

Friends, alumni & neighbors are invited to join us at any of these events.

For more information on Donnelly's upcoming events, visit our website:
donnelly.edu



DONNELLY COLLEGE

608 North 18th Street
Kansas City, KS 66102
(913) 621-8700
donnelly.edu

Address Service Requested

*Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 228
Kansas City, KS*

Find Donnelly on Twitter at
[twitter.com/DonnellyCollege!](https://twitter.com/DonnellyCollege)



Celebrating 60 Years
of the road less traveled

Honoring the Archbishops of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

save the date for
donnelly college's third annual
Scholarship Dinner

SEPTEMBER 26, 2009
6:00 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Dinner

Jack Reardon
Civic Center

Chaired by Bob Bartunek, Donnelly Trustee
Honorary Chair, Monsignor Thomas Tank

Proceeds from the dinner will create an Archbishops Endowed Scholarship.

Please plan to join the Archbishop, the Benedictine Sisters, former teachers and staff, alumni and friends to celebrate 60 years of "The Road Less Traveled" at Donnelly College.

Watch the mail for your invitation coming soon!

For more information or to register, visit
donnelly.edu/dinner or contact Emily Buckley
at (913) 621-8731.