

DONNELLY COLLEGE DIGEST

A publication for alumni & friends

WINTER 2015

Volume 9, Issue 2



Faces of Donnelly

LEADER'S MESSAGE



Phil Doherty '62

As I first learned more than 50 years ago, Donnelly College is a special, life-changing place. From the first time I set foot in the College as a veteran given a chance at higher education by the grace of the Benedictine Sisters, I felt supported and encouraged by Donnelly faculty and staff.

After graduating from Donnelly, I went on to receive my bachelor's and master's degrees. Donnelly College truly set the foundation that created many career opportunities for me. I retired after starting and building a successful manufacturing business that I ran for 20 years.

Five decades later, so many of the stories coming out of Donnelly remain the same. Donnelly makes college affordable to everyone with very limited income and to those of us who are often the first in our families to graduate from college. The faculty and staff are still the caring, hardworking people who continue the work of those Benedictine Sisters who taught me.

In this issue of the Donnelly Digest, you will get to know some of the many faces of the College: from students to alumni and friends. Your continued support makes these stories possible.

On behalf of Donnelly President Monsignor Stuart Swetland; the faculty and staff; the students; the Board of Trustees; my wife, Mary Jo, and myself, thank you for your commitment to this life-changing institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Doherty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P" at the beginning.

Phil Doherty '62



COVER STORY

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Learn about the students who make up Donnelly College

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www.donnelly.edu/digest

ENDOWED FUND CHAIR NAMED

First in College's history



Sister Marie Kathleen Daugherty, SCL

Sister Marie Kathleen Daugherty, SCL, was named the first Donnelly College Endowed Chair in the Humanities.

Through grants and other gifts, the College has been preparing for this position for several years. In 2008, Donnelly was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant of \$485,000, to be doubly matched by donors within six years.

Having successfully completed fundraising within the challenge time frame, the College was able to move forward with the biggest and most integral component of this request: establishing an Endowed Professor of Humanities, the College's first fully endowed position.

"Awarding the endowed humanities position is the last component of the grant to be executed and will ensure high-quality, integrated humanities instruction in keeping with our institutional mission," said President Monsignor Stuart Swetland.

As she holds this position, Daugherty will continue teaching courses while overseeing the Sister Jerome Keeler Lecture Series, in addition to conducting research and curriculum development for the College.

"We are very pleased Sister Marie Kathleen has accepted this honor," Swetland said. "We are also very grateful for her years of service to our mission and community."



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ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES TAKE ROOT AT DONNELLY

Caring for the common good by protecting the environment



Rabbi Moti Rieber and Monsignor Stuart Swetland at Donnelly Talks

In light of Pope Francis' recent encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Donnelly College has a renewed focus on the environment and sustainability. The second installment of Donnelly Talks, held on September 30, was entitled "Answering Pope Francis' Call on the Environment."

A crowd of more than 100 students, staff, faculty and community members joined Donnelly President Monsignor Stuart Swetland and Kansas Interfaith Power & Light Coordinator Rabbi Moti Rieber for a discussion on the changing climate and how students and community members can make a difference.

This Donnelly Talks event was sponsored in part by the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica and a grant from the Mount Wangari Committee, honoring Wangari Maathai, a 1964 graduate of Mount St. Scholastica College.

Additionally, Swetland signed a Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the College with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7.

"With this agreement as our framework, EPA Region 7 looks forward to building



Mark Hague and Monsignor Swetland sign the Memorandum of Agreement at Sept. 29 ceremony

an effective and cooperative working relationship with Donnelly," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator Mark Hague. "The school has noted teaching and research programs. Combining our efforts will create a wealth of new knowledge and practices that will benefit both our communities and the people we serve here in the heartland."

Areas of cooperation between the EPA and the College include grant opportunities, joint research projects, faculty research participation, environmental student initiatives and more.

THE LETTERS

Pre-screening event with director draws a sold-out crowd



Mother Teresa (Juliet Stevenson) holds a young girl's hands in a production still from the movie

In partnership with Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas and the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, Donnelly co-presented a special pre-release screening of "The Letters," a drama about the life of Mother Teresa as seen through letters written to and from her longtime friend and spiritual advisor over a 40-year period.

In addition to showing before the film opened nationwide, this screening featured a Q&A with the film's director, William Riead. Some guests also chose to enjoy a benefactor reception prior to the screening, featuring an intimate cocktail hour with Riead.

Riead spoke to his inspiration for writing and directing the film, noting that he felt called to bring this story to life after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

"I was trying to think: What would represent the polar opposite of 9/11 evil?" he said. "What would represent good? And I thought: Mother Teresa. She was the beacon of good."

"The Letters" opened in theaters nationally on December 4. For more information on the film, see www.thelettersmovie.com.

DONNELLY DRAGONS

Official mascot chosen for College

After an extensive search and an institution-wide vote, Donnelly College now has a formal mascot. The Donnelly College Dragons won out, and the mascot was approved by the College's Board of Trustees.

The Dragon ties in with Donnelly's co-founder, Bishop George Donnelly, whose patron saint, St. George, usually is portrayed with a dragon. With its historical connection and strong presence, the Dragon is a great fit for Donnelly.

Check back in the coming months to see how the Donnelly Dragon will look as the College's mascot.

GRATIA

A gathering of gratitude

Each fall, Gratia honors standout individuals and organizations who made significant contributions of time, talent and treasure over the past year to the College.

This year's celebration recognized the following:

- Volunteer of the Year:
Dr. Kenneth R. Gibson
- Donor of the Year:
Mark and Dr. Meghan Murphy
- Partner of the Year:
University of Kansas TRIO
Talent Search
- Staff Member of the Year:
Elora Thomas
- Faculty Member of the Year:
Sister Marie Kathleen Daugherty, SCL

Gratia also serves as a time for the Donnelly family to come together and thank each other for their efforts. This year's event was the first to formally name a Staff Member and Faculty Member of the Year. The decisions were made based upon faculty and staff nominations to the Kansas Independent College Association (KICA).

"Receiving this award truly is an honor," said Interim Director of Admissions and Staff Member of the Year Elora Thomas. "I thank God for bringing me to Donnelly College and allowing me to be a part of the mission and the students we serve. I also would like to thank those who nominated me for this award, because I know they care and work just as hard as I do."

Faculty Member of the Year and Associate Dean for Liberal Arts & Sciences Sister Marie Kathleen Daugherty echoed Thomas' gratitude:

"Thank you, Lord, for allowing me to serve the students, faculty and staff at Donnelly College," she said. "This has been a real privilege and gift from our good God!"

COVER STORY

Faces of Donnelly

Donnelly College has evolved greatly since its 1949 founding. It has seen seven presidents, two campuses, thousands of students, program additions and more – yet the common bond tying the College together over all these years is the students served. They, too, have changed along with the institution itself, but their stories remain remarkable to faculty, staff and the broad community alike.

In these pages, get to know just a few of the College's greatest assets: its students. They are the true faces of Donnelly.



Berly Alvarez

Y

Berly Alvarez did not like Kansas City when she first moved here from her native Guatemala. She struggled with communication and longed for home. Three years later, after quickly moving through Donnelly College’s English as a Second Language program, she can’t imagine living anywhere else.

When the rest of her family moved to Kansas City eight years prior to her arrival here, Alvarez was unable to join them due to her immigration status. Instead she stayed behind with her grandmother. She knew she wanted to go to college, and thanks to a generous scholarship and five years of hard work, she completed her business administration degree.

As soon as she legally could, her father urged her to join the rest of the family in the States. Reluctantly, Alvarez agreed, knowing she could use her degree to a greater capacity here. The catch? She spoke very little English.

After hearing about Donnelly’s beginner Community English as a Second Language (CESL) and more advanced English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses, Alvarez enrolled. She quickly passed through CESL, ready for the challenge of EAP. What she found surprised her.

“[EAP] is totally different: more homework, more responsibilities,” she says. “And my family played an important role in that,

because they were pushing me. Like, ‘You can do it. Go for it.’”

Amongst the demands of schoolwork, Alvarez was homesick and mourning her stillborn child. She attributes the loss with her decision to stay in the US, where she later gave birth to a healthy daughter, Camila (now 3), whom Alvarez says is “everything” to her.

“The first reason I decided to learn English was because it was so frustrating for me to not be able to understand what other people say or communicate,” she explains. “I felt stupid.”

Yet her instructors see her as a motivated, hard-working student who raises the bar for her classmates.

“Berly came to us as a near absolute beginner, but as we have learned about her and her personality, she is determined to achieve her goals for herself and her family,” says Assistant Professor Eric Kolkmeier. “I have been so impressed with her persistence in all aspects of life.”

“Her confidence gives others confidence, and her graciousness is a calming influence,” adds Associate Professor and EAP/CESL Director Michelle Overholt.

Since moving to Kansas City and studying English at Donnelly, Alvarez has accomplished a lot. During her third level of ESL classes, she became a US citizen;

her husband is a legal resident who plans to pursue ESL courses himself. After translating at an immigration law firm this summer, Alvarez now juggles an entry-level accounting role at a real estate firm with her course load en route to furthering her career in the US.

“It is a challenge, because everybody there speaks English,” she says. “And the things I already know in Spanish, like accounting, I have to learn in English.”

No matter how much she may struggle to complete courses while balancing a job and raising Camila with her husband, Alvarez said she stays strong with the support of her family.

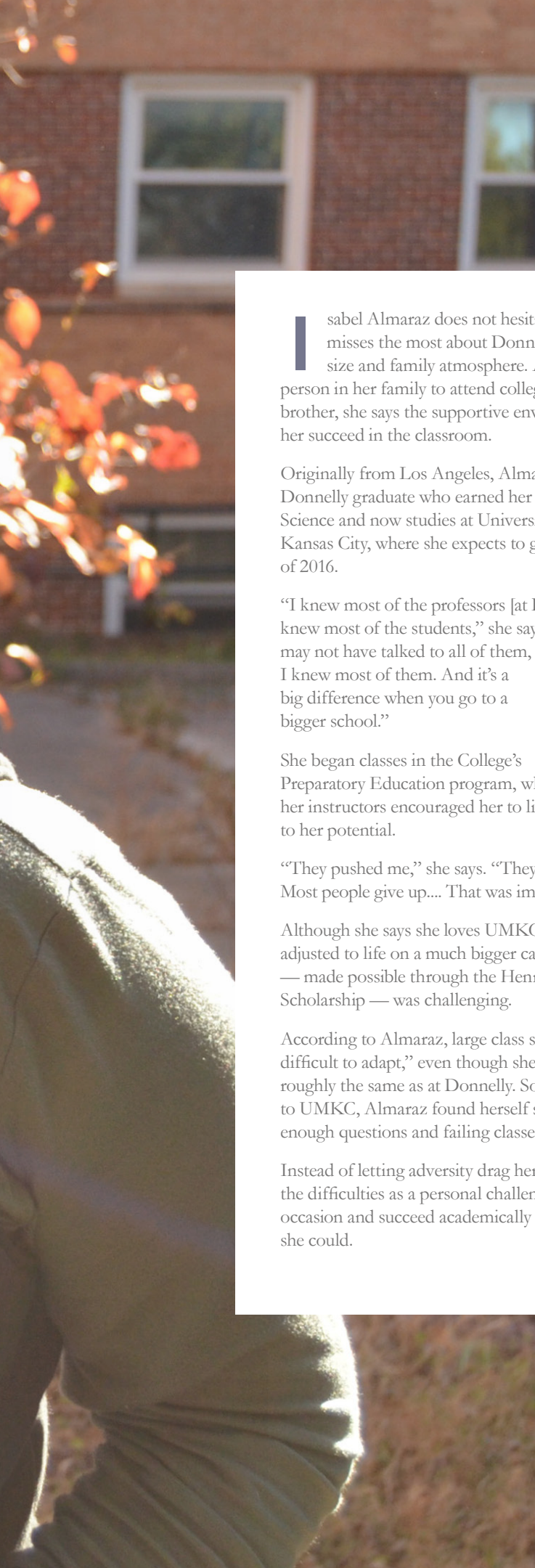
“The most important thing is my family: my daughter, my husband,” she notes. “I want in the future that she can see what I did — how I fight for things that I really want.”

There is no question Alvarez has fought for years to better not only her life, but also those of her husband and daughter. And she credits Donnelly faculty and staff for welcoming her to the College and encouraging her along her journey.

“Donnelly has really nice people,” she says. “I feel like family here. When [faculty] see something strange in you, they ask you. They notice that you are different. That’s why I like Donnelly: because you feel like they care about you.”



Isabel Almaraz '12



Isabel Almaraz does not hesitate to name what she misses the most about Donnelly College: its small size and family atmosphere. As only the second person in her family to attend college behind her older brother, she says the supportive environment helped her succeed in the classroom.

Originally from Los Angeles, Almaraz is a 2012 Donnelly graduate who earned her Associate in Applied Science and now studies at University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she expects to graduate in May of 2016.

“I knew most of the professors [at Donnelly], and I knew most of the students,” she says. “I may not have talked to all of them, but I knew most of them. And it’s a big difference when you go to a bigger school.”

She began classes in the College’s Preparatory Education program, where her instructors encouraged her to live up to her potential.

“They pushed me,” she says. “They wouldn’t give up. Most people give up.... That was impressive.”

Although she says she loves UMKC now that she has adjusted to life on a much bigger campus, her transition — made possible through the Henry W. Bloch Scholarship — was challenging.

According to Almaraz, large class sizes “made it difficult to adapt,” even though she says her workload is roughly the same as at Donnelly. Soon after transferring to UMKC, Almaraz found herself struggling to ask enough questions and failing classes.

Instead of letting adversity drag her down, she used the difficulties as a personal challenge to rise to the occasion and succeed academically like she knew she could.

“I know I can’t afford to fail,” she says. “I was given a scholarship to do better, to strive, to do more. And it kind of hit me: I can’t just sit here and keep taking the same classes over and over.

“I’m going to do what I can to pass these classes. I’m going to ask for all the help I need.”

Help is a common theme in Almaraz’s life. She studies health science at UMKC and plans to attend nursing school after graduating.

“I’m going to combine both, because with the knowledge that I have from health science combined with the knowledge from nursing, I will be able to help more of the community,” she explains.

Since her family moved to Kansas City when she was 10, Almaraz says she has seen how much the metro has to offer and is eager to contribute her time and talents.

Almaraz, whose parents originally hail from Mexico, says her frequent visits to Mexico City and a service learning trip to Guatemala during her time at Donnelly spurred a desire to give back to the community.

“Any nonprofit volunteering that I can do, I want to do,” she says.

“Upon graduating in May, Almaraz plans to take the summer and fall to volunteer in neighborhoods struggling with childhood obesity and walkability while applying to nursing school — which she hopes to begin in January 2017. While her goals have developed over the years, Almaraz says the foundation of her beliefs and ambitions comes from Donnelly.

“I think Donnelly just made everything kind of smooth for me,” she notes. “Classes were hard when I came here, but it helped me want to keep going. I think it all started here. It made me who I am.”

When Paing Kwee and his family arrived in Kansas City from their native Burma, he knew he needed to improve his English.

“I had really bad speaking and understanding skills,” he says.

So when the pastor at his church recommended Donnelly’s English as a Second Language programs in 2013, Kwee enrolled. Starting at the Community English as a Second Language level, he has progressed greatly in his time so far at the College.

He describes his coursework as “really challenging, but I’m really happy because I have better English than before.”

Outside of classes, Kwee stays busy taking care of his 3- and 4-year old children while his wife works in packaging and production. According to Kwee, his children are quickly learning English; he plans to continue growing his English skills so he can give back.

“My goal is to help my family and my community,” he explains.

Ultimately, Kwee hopes to own his own business and employ others from his community. With the work he already has done at Donnelly, his upbeat attitude and optimism, Kwee’s future looks bright.



Paing Kwee

Among the faces of Donnelly are Diego Payan, Josh-Lynn Bruce and Daniel Tygart, three of the student panelists from SHINE 2015.



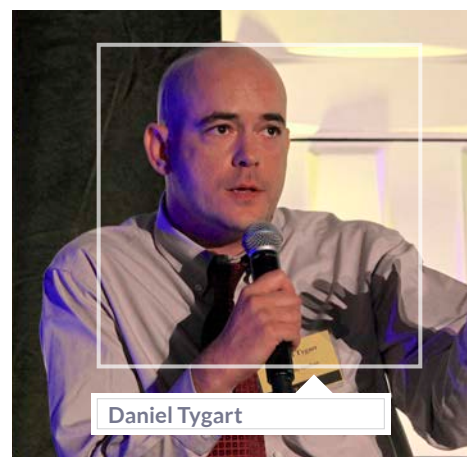
Diego Payan

“Donnelly was one of the only doors that was open for me after I was knocking on a lot of doors around the area. Donnelly College just showed me that there’s always someone who’s willing to open the door for education for you. And it was affordable for me, too.”



Josh-Lynn Bruce

“Donnelly has not only made it possible for me to go to school financially, but I’m the first one in my family to ever really consider school. Where I come from, they really don’t talk about anything past high school. Most of the people in my area don’t even graduate high school.”



Daniel Tygart

“I can’t very well preach to [my kids] about going to higher education unless I pave the way and show them how it’s done.”

“I wanted higher education; I just didn’t really know where to turn.... None of the [other schools] gave me what Donnelly gave me.”



WATCH THE FULL STUDENT PANEL VIDEO
at www.donnelly.edu/shine



HOME FAMILY HOPE

On October 10, 2015 at **SHINE**, Donnelly's annual scholarship celebration, our student panelists were asked to share the one word that describes how they feel about Donnelly.

They responded with **"home," "family" and "hope."**

Please consider investing in our students by providing a gift to Donnelly College this holiday season. During this sacred time when so many of our students and staff will celebrate, we at Donnelly College pray this will be a season of joy, peace, hope and faith for you and your loved ones.

Fill out the enclosed envelope or give online at www.donnelly.edu/give



EVENT FOCUS

SHINE

DONNELLY COLLEGE'S PREMIERE SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION

On October 10, 2015, the largest crowd yet enjoyed SHINE, Donnelly College's annual scholarship event, and raised \$225,000 to support student scholarships.

A student panel was the highlight of the evening, with students sharing their personal journeys to Donnelly and what motivates them.

This year's **SHINE** also included a special presentation honoring Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann and celebrating his 10 years as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and 40 years as a priest. A photographic slideshow featured memories from his tenure at the Archdiocese. He spoke about his connection to Donnelly and urged the crowd to continue supporting this unique institution.

"Donnelly College is a great jewel in the Archdiocese," he said. "It helps individuals; it creates opportunity for them to develop the gifts and the talents that God has entrusted to them so that they in turn can use those gifts in a way to provide for themselves or their families to become great citizens, great members of church communities, great leaders in our metropolitan area."



SHINE BY THE NUMBERS

225K number of dollars raised for student scholarships

600 approximate number of guests in attendance

40 number of years honoree Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann has been a priest

9 number of years Donnelly College has hosted SHINE

SAVE THE DATE FOR SHINE 2016

Join us on Saturday, October 8, 2016 at 6 p.m. at Arrowhead Stadium for an all-new SHINE event. Please visit www.donnelly.edu/shine for more information.



SPONSORS

(Presenting sponsors, leaders and patrons)

In Thanksgiving to Blessed Seelos

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H&R Block Foundation

Rich & Sheila Henry

Joan Horan

Kansas City University of Medicine & Biosciences

Metropolitan Community College

Northeast Optimist Club

Security Bank

Serra International

St. Francis Health

Trinity Travel



1 Archbishop Naumann addresses the crowd **2** Student panelists describe their experiences at Donnelly **3** Yenni Alvarez, Luis Ramos and Alejandra Sandoval pose for a picture before heading in to dinner **4** Phil Doherty '62 humors the crowd with his stories of the days of old at Donnelly **5** L to R: Guests Kelsey Malotte; Sister Anne Shepard, Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica; Donnelly President Monsignor Stuart Swetland and Laura Flanigan



VIEW MORE PHOTOS, VIDEOS AND SPONSORS ONLINE
at www.donnelly.edu/shine

DONNELLY FAMILY

IN MEMORIAM

In remembrance of alumni and friends who have recently passed away.

George Breidenthal, Jr. '69
Jorge Calderon
Timothy J. Dold '70
Joseph Macek '67
Carolyn S. Mitchell '53
Frank Zager, Jr. '66

CLASS NOTES

Lucy Saunders '68 and Andres Dominguez '79 were both inducted into the 2015 Kansas City Public Schools Reasons to Believe Alumni Honor Roll on November 18, 2015.

Anthony Torretti, OAR '69 celebrated his 50th Jubilee of Consecrated life on April 22, 2015.

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

The **Advancement team** and **Monsignor Stuart Swetland**, President, put together a lively and engaging conversation about climate change for the second Donnelly Talks event.

Diana Luna Camden, Counseling Center Director, organized a screening of "Brave Miss World," a documentary about a beauty queen who was raped. The evening included a panel discussion of the powerful film.

Craig Doty, Annual Fund Manager, collaborated with Downtown Shareholders of Kansas City Kansas to organize DashKCK, a family friendly 5K.

Eric Kolkmeier, Assistant Professor, presented his research on using non-cognitive strategies for academic success at the MIDTESOL Conference in Iowa City, IA.

Dr. Melissa Lenos, Assistant Professor, participated in a round table discussion about the television show "UnREAL." The resulting

publication, entitled "UnREAL: Anti-Heroes, Genre and Legitimation," was featured on Antenna.

Gretchen Meinhardt, Assistant Professor, brought Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt to campus to speak on justice — the College's core value focus for the year.

Dr. R.M. Stangler, Assistant Professor, took four students from his Comp. II class to a private conversation with National Book Award-winning author Jonathan Franzen. The students asked Franzen about working as a professional writer, Franzen's writing process and how to write compelling narratives, even in academic essays.

Lisa Stoothoff, Director of Preparatory Education, presented her research entitled "Using Culturally Responsive Literature in Developmental Reading" at the Michael Tilford Conference at Pittsburg State University.

JORGE CALDERON

1994-2015

Former student remembered for exuberance and love for soccer

Earlier this fall, a recent Donnelly student, Jorge Calderon, was fatally shot alongside a friend as they fueled their vehicle. Calderon, who had recently celebrated his 21st birthday, is remembered around Donnelly for his exuberant and dedicated personality in the classroom, in the hallways and on the soccer field.

Students, faculty, staff and members of Calderon's family came together for a mass of remembrance in mid-November, where loving words were shared by friends and members of the Donnelly College Soccer Club (DCSC) — a group that continued impacting Calderon's life even after he left the College.

One of Calderon's friends and a fellow Soccer Club member described Donnelly as a "home away from home" for Calderon and herself.

In honor of Calderon, his DCSC jersey has been retired; it will be hung on campus as a tribute to this fallen member of the Donnelly family.



Calderon breaks into a smile after a play during a flag football game last spring



Calderon (in checkered shirt) and friends enjoy a picnic after the 2014 Convocation Mass

"Jorge for the Club was more than a player; he was an essential part of our organization," says Jaime Fuentes, Information Systems and Pre-Engineering Instructor, as well as DCSC Advisor. "His joy at the games or in training illuminated all of us who surrounded him.

He will be deeply missed at the Soccer Club, and we will remember him forever. We — his coaches, his teammates, his friends and his family — will carry him in our hearts."



1948-2015

GEORGE BREIDENTHAL, JR. '69

Alumnus and education activist



Donnelly alumnus and Board member George Breidenthal, Jr. '69 passed away in June at age 67, leaving the Donnelly and Kansas City, Kansas communities saddened.

Breidenthal began his higher educational experience at Kansas State University, then came to Donnelly to earn his associate degree. He then earned a bachelor's degree from Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia.

Former Donnelly President Dr. John Murry (1987-98) offered a reflection on Breidenthal's time at the College.

"He began his freshman year at a state university and things just didn't work out academically for him," Murry says. "Then he came to Donnelly and visited with Sister Faith, who agreed to give him 'a second chance.' He was always so appreciative for that opportunity.

"During my tenure at Donnelly, I often heard Donnelly referred to as 'Second Chance U,' frequently in a derisive manner. Personally, I thought of it as a badge of honor since that second chance was given to people like George Breidenthal, who

certainly made the best of it and contributed so much to his community."

Serving his alma mater well, Breidenthal was a member of the Board beginning in 1991 and later held the Chairman of the Board of Trustees position. Additionally, he served as President of Kansas City Women's Professional Basketball, Inc. and was an at-large representative on the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools Board of Education.

"I met with George early in my Donnelly College journey and was always impressed with his passion for Donnelly and its students, faculty and staff," says Board Chair Dick Flanigan. "We will seek to honor George's legacy in our work going forward."

In 2012, Breidenthal was honored at SHINE, Donnelly's annual scholarship celebration, for his longstanding support of the College. In addition to leading initial

campus transformation efforts, Breidenthal cheered on intramural sports teams, participated in College events, knew many students personally and gave generously to the institution. The Breidenthal Family

Endowed Scholarship was created after SHINE 2012 to commemorate his many years of service to Donnelly.

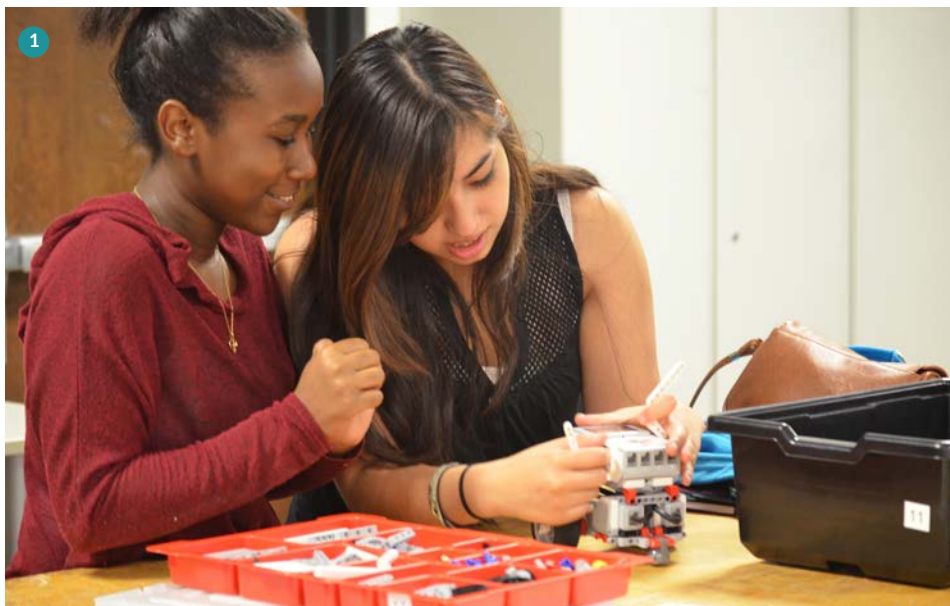
"He helped make sure scholarship, operational and endowment resources were in place to secure the present and future of Donnelly's mission. He was a tireless advocate, and Donnelly will be forever grateful for his friendship, guidance and support."

"George's legacy at Donnelly will be infinite," says Vice President of Advancement Emily Buckley. "As an alumnus, he overcame obstacles to create a new future and went on to impact countless lives. As a Donnelly Board member, he worked to make sure Donnelly's programs

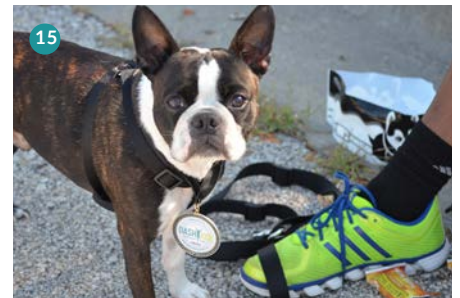
excelled to support our current students.

"As a Donnelly investor, he helped make sure scholarship, operational and endowment resources were in place to secure the present and future of Donnelly's mission. He was a tireless advocate, and Donnelly will be forever grateful for his friendship, guidance and support."

AS SEEN ON CAMPUS



1 Transportation, Technology, Math and Science Academy (TTMaSA) summer camp students build a small robot at KC Engineering Zone 2 Treyvon Ward, Daniel Garrett and Alex Taylor show off their team spirit after the intramural basketball finals 3 Austin Garrett asks Rabbi Rieber a question after Donnelly Talks 4 A student enjoys the annual Thanks & Giving banquet 5 Ross Szabo speaks about the importance of mental health in everyone's life 6 Program Support Specialist DeAndrea Jones dances at Welcome Week with fellow AmeriCorps VISTA members 7 Final intramural basketball game of the season 8 Tyrell Sullivan talks with students at Resurrection Catholic School about the importance of reading



9 Members of the Latino Writers Collective recite original poetry at Donnelly's Day of the Dead celebration **10** Nursing students Batrice Upton, Audra Spitzer and Brianna Norwood with the Chair of the Associate Degree of Nursing, Patty Palmietto after DashKCK **11** Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt speaks on campus **12** Dama Rios, Fatima Ramirez, Yenni Alvarez, Instructor Joseph Multhauf and Pamela Martinez assist in the Convocation Day Mass **13** Gary Jones provides some team spirit during an intramural basketball game **14** Josh-Lynn Bruce asks questions of a teacher at McKinley Elementary school for her Urban Elementary Education class **15** Marlon and Wassan Goff's furry friend receives a medal after completing DashKCK **16** Poet Al Ortolani reads original poetry to Preparatory Education students

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

[2014-2015]



[This report contains data from the 2014-2015 school year unless otherwise noted]

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A look back at the 2014-15 academic year



Monsignor Stuart Swetland
President

After my first year at Donnelly College, I think I understand more profoundly the challenges we face each day.

Like any nonprofit, higher education institution, resources are very limited. Yet I continue to be impressed by the wonderful faculty and staff of Donnelly who so selflessly serve our students, who are equally impressive in their commitment to overcoming obstacles to continue their education.

In spite of the many barriers we must overcome, Donnelly College ranks first in classroom experience out of 670 colleges, based on data drawn from the annual Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). This points to something anyone associated with Donnelly knows to be true — we provide a top-notch, first-rate education to the students who attend.

The mission of Donnelly College is much needed, perhaps more than ever before. Pope Francis has challenged those who serve in the apostolate of Catholic higher education to be particularly focused on those who are underserved or on the margins of our society. He told the people of Rio de Janeiro in July of 2013:

“Our generation will show that it can rise to the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space. This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be; to pass on to them lasting values that make life worth living; to give them a transcendent horizon for their thirst for authentic happiness and their creativity for the good; to give them the legacy of a world worthy of human life; and to awaken in them their greatest potential as builders of their own destiny, sharing responsibility for the future of everyone. If we can do all this, we anticipate today the future that enters the world through the window of the young.”

As I often say, if we are listening closely to Pope Francis, if Donnelly College did not exist, we would need to build it. The good news is that it DOES exist, and has for 66 years, serving thousands of students over the decades.

This President’s Report aims to show gratitude for the support we receive to make it possible to carry out this critical mission, as well as to communicate outcomes of our work from the 2014-15 academic year. We have come a long way in our history but have much work yet to do.

As you read this report, please know how much we appreciate and need you and your continued investment in our mission, our students and our collective future “that enters the world through the window of the young.”

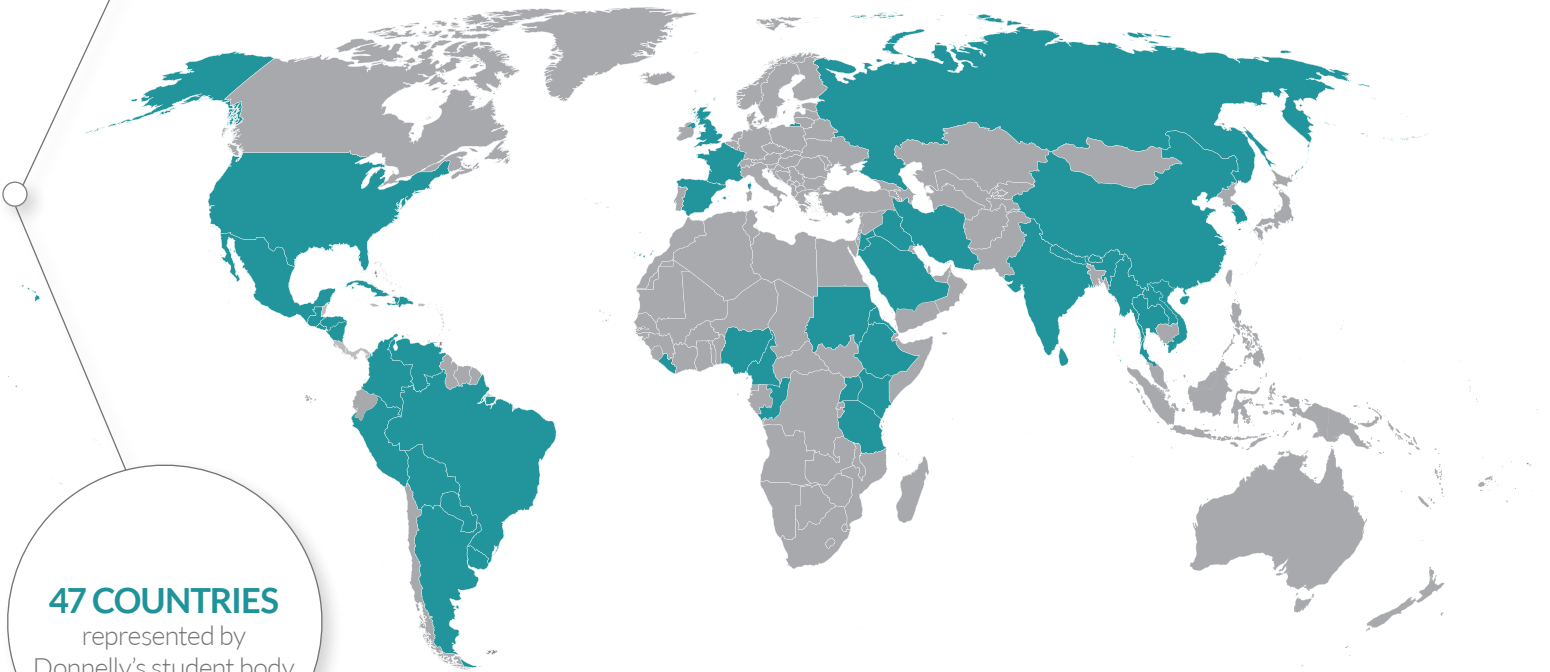
Pax,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Msgr. Stuart W. Swetland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Monsignor Stuart Swetland, President

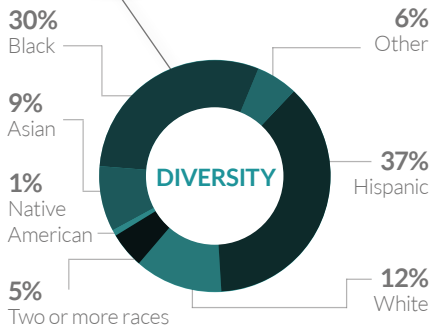


DONNELLY SERVED 1,377 STUDENTS IN THE 2014-15 ACADEMIC YEAR



47 COUNTRIES
represented by
Donnelly's student body

Most represented countries: United States • Mexico • Myanmar (Burma) • Kenya • Guatemala • Nepal • Honduras • El Salvador • Venezuela



93 PERCENT are first-generation college students – twice as high as other four-year institutions nationally

68 PERCENT come from families with income levels less than \$18,000 per year



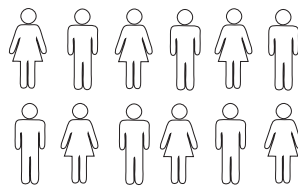
36% male



64% female

STUDENTS FROM METRO COUNTIES

- 64%** Wyandotte County (KS)
- 16%** Jackson County (MO)
- 13%** Johnson County (KS)
- 3%** Leavenworth County (KS)
- 2%** Clay County (MO)
- 2%** Platte County (MO)



On average, Donnelly's classes have **12 STUDENTS**

MOST REPRESENTED METRO HIGH SCHOOLS

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Wyandotte High | Northeast High |
| JC Harmon High | Alta Vista School |
| FL Schlagle High | Fairfax Learning Center |
| Washington High | Turner High |

38 total metro high schools are represented by Donnelly's student body



Out of 670 institutions included in WalletHub's recent Best & Worst Community Colleges ranking, Donnelly places No. 1 in classroom experience



Donnelly ranks 76th on the US Department of Education's affordability list for private, nonprofit, 4-year colleges

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Organizational Leadership
 Urban Elementary Education
 Information Systems

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

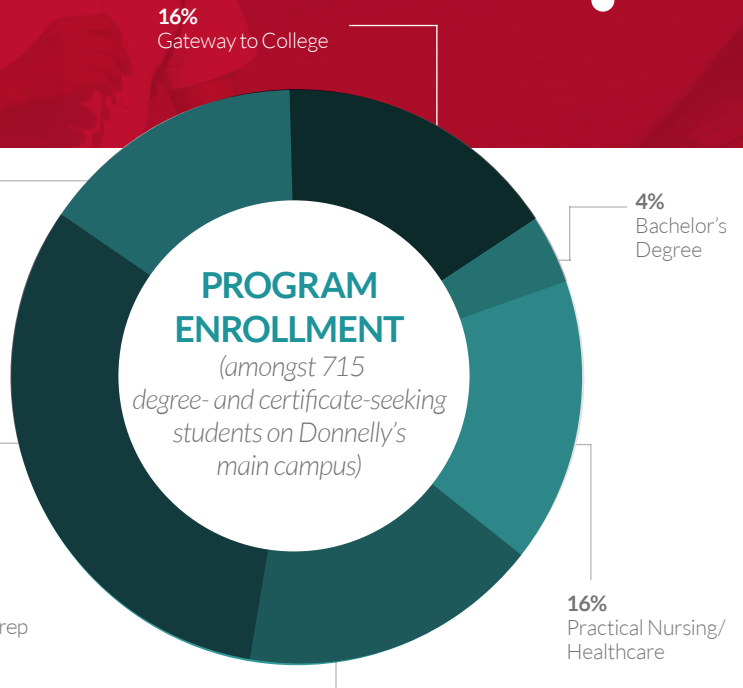
Associate of Arts
 Associate of Science
 Associate of Applied Science

PROGRAMS

English as a Second Language

- English for Academic Purposes
- Community English as a Second Language

Practical Nursing
 Gateway to College



of Donnelly's associate degree graduates go on to pursue four-year degrees

43%

Catholic

57%

Non-Catholic



of Donnelly's students receive Pell Grant assistance

\$700,275

in institutional aid was awarded in 2014-15

LANSING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY PROGRAM

420 number of inmates who have taken courses since 2001

20 number of Lansing students who have earned associate degrees

202 number of former students who have been released from prison

2 percentage of Lansing associate graduates who have been reconvicted of a crime and are back in prison

68 percentage of inmates nationally who are resentenced for a new crime within 3 years*

*National Institute of Justice

WHY THIS PROGRAM MATTERS:

This program is a direct outreach of Donnelly's Catholic values and its mission to provide education to "those who might not otherwise be served."

Data show that earning a college degree is the single most effective tool to lower recidivism.

Donnelly began the program to fill a need after Pell Grants were made unavailable to prisoners in 1994; subsequently, most prison-based higher education programs ended.

"If it could be summed up in one word, it's just giving us opportunity. It's a bad situation, but having that opportunity to not lose those years – to be able to walk out and do something and...have that choice to be something better – that appreciation can't be said."

– Carl Hughes, 2009 Lansing program graduate (Hughes subsequently earned his bachelor's from K-State and now runs several businesses)



Donnelly was named one of the National Catholic Register's 39 top Catholic colleges & universities listed in its 2015 Catholic Identity College Guide



Donnelly scored in the top 10 percent nationally in all areas of student engagement on the Community College Survey of Student Engagement

INVESTORS & SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU!

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN 7/1/14 - 6/30/15

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\$50,000+

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Thomas R. Bettencourt Living Trust
Gateway to College National Network
In Thanksgiving to Blessed Seelos Fund
J.E. Dunn Construction Co.
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Champions Circle is a group of remarkable leaders that have chosen to invest in Donnelly College. These investments ensure that the mission of Donnelly is able to be put into action, empowering and changing the lives of our students, through an affordable, private higher education at a faith-based college.



HOW DO I JOIN?

Invest annually in the mission and the people of Donnelly College at one of the following levels: \$50,000 • \$25,000 • \$10,000 • \$5,000 • \$2,500 • \$1,000

These levels can be reached in a given fiscal year through one or multiple annual fund gifts, event sponsorship or scholarship contributions.

WHAT WILL I RECEIVE?

In recognition of your support, you will receive an invitation to the President's State of the College gathering, special communication and acknowledgment annually in the Donnelly Digest publication. Specific investments such as event sponsorship may have additional acknowledgment.

For more information contact: Craig Doty at cdoty@donnelly.edu or call (913) 621-8752.



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The Legacy Society recognizes all donors who have included Donnelly College in their estate plans.

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Please let us know so we can add your name to our growing Legacy Society.

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Phil ('62) and Mary Jo Doherty at SHINE 2015

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The Lifetime Society honors donors who have generously contributed more than \$250,000 over their history of giving to Donnelly College.

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in memory of Sister Jerome Keeler, OSB
 Mr. Kenneth Zimmerman '61
in memory of Art and Helen Beers

We apologize for any errors or omissions in this donor report.

LAST WORD

*Thank you for your continuous and unfailing support of Donnelly's mission!
 May you and your families be blessed during this Christmas season.*

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DONNELLY COLLEGE

DIGEST

The Donnelly Digest is a publication for the alumni and friends of Donnelly, published twice each year. The mission of The Digest is to engage readers in the life of the College and celebrate Donnelly's diverse learning environment.

Donnelly is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. The College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association, 230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411; (800) 621-7440; www.ncahlc.org. Donnelly College maintains an open and welcoming environment, and does not discriminate on the basis of a person's sex, race, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, ancestry or disability.



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ON YOUR FAVORITE NETWORK

THANKS & GIVING

Thanks & Giving is a Donnelly tradition that's existed for nearly 30 years. On this day faculty and staff give back to students by preparing food for a community-wide Thanksgiving feast.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep your eyes open for more information about these upcoming 2016 events. See all events at www.donnelly.edu/events.

- 01.19.16** Spring semester begins
- 04.14.16** Donor/Scholar Connection and Scholarship Reception
- 05.07.16** Commitment Day
- 05.14.16** Commencement
- 06.06.16** Summer semester begins
- 10.08.16** SHINE 2016