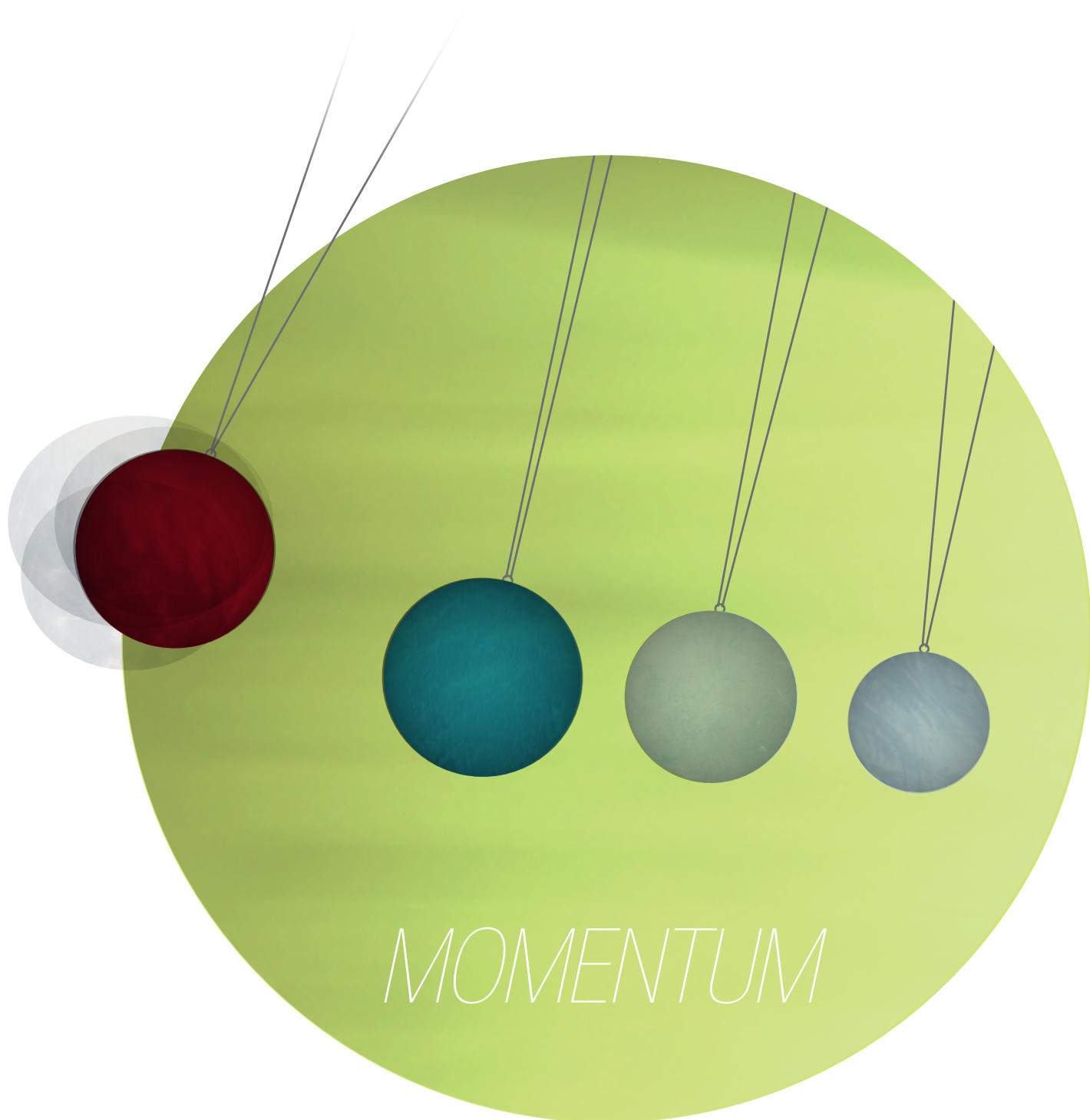


DONNELLY COLLEGE  
*DIGEST*

*A publication for alumni & friends*

WINTER 2013

*Volume 7, Issue 2*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Steven M. LaNasa,**  
*President, Donnelly College*  
2008-2013

As the year winds down and the holidays gear up; it is an especially natural time for recounting accomplishments and blessings. In Donnelly's hallways, our students, faculty and staff are marking the half-way point of the school year – celebrating successes of papers submitted, tests completed, classes passed, lessons learned and friends made.

I too have been especially reflective this season. Perhaps you have already heard that my family and I will be leaving Donnelly College and Kansas City before the end of the year. While I am extremely proud to support my wife in her exciting new career opportunity that will take our family on to an adventure in Singapore, I regret that my time at Donnelly will come to an end.

Donnelly College has represented a profound blend of my faith-life and my varied experience in higher education. I still believe, with the same degree of conviction that I held six years ago, that Donnelly's work is among the most important work taking place in higher education for both our community and our country.

I am truly honored to have served in this role at Donnelly for the last five years alongside an assembly of the most competent, committed and generous individuals I have experienced in my career - something I will truly miss in the years to come. I am comforted in knowing that the College's future is assured by an amazing and dedicated group of leaders, faculty, staff and benefactors of our great college.

Among many things I have learned from my time at Donnelly, I have come to understand the power of gratitude and faith in others in a profound way. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of Donnelly College, and I am especially grateful for each individual who makes the Donnelly College mission a reality. Thank you for being one of them, and I humbly ask you to continue to get even more involved in that future. There are so many more students to serve, and Donnelly's vision on how to achieve that is more clear and ambitious than ever!

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven M. LaNasa". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Steven M. LaNasa

## FAREWELL STEVE



*"We were very fortunate to find Steve LaNasa at a point when the College was making its transition to more four-year programs and when the College was poised for growth. He built on the legacies of Ken Gibson and John Murry and left his own mark on Donnelly. He has taken the College to the next level – Donnelly is stronger financially, academically, physically, and in our student success measures. We are going to miss Steve, absolutely, and we are so grateful for his leadership. But we're delighted for him and Rebecca and the incredible opportunity for their family, and we wish them the best."*

**Dick Flanigan**

*Donnelly Chair-Elect and Senior VP at Cerner*



*"I am very grateful to Dr. Steve LaNasa for his distinguished service as the President of Donnelly College. Steve was definitely the right man at this particular time to lead Donnelly College. His passion for the mission of Donnelly in assisting young men and women realize the goal of a college education is precisely what Donnelly College has been about throughout its distinguished 60+ year history. Steve has helped to expand Donnelly College's presence in the community and through his leadership we have added many new opportunities at the college. Donnelly College is stronger today at every level because of his hard work and dedication."*

**Most Reverend Joseph Naumann, D.D.**

*Archbishop, Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas*



*"Dr. Steve LaNasa is a transformative educational leader. His vision that every individual deserves access to high quality education has been evident in the strong partnership developed between Donnelly College and Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS). We are grateful for Dr. LaNasa's leadership and look forward to continuing our partnership, building on his legacy of service to first generation college students."*

**Dr. Cindy Lane**

*Superintendent of Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools*



SEE MORE PHOTOS OF STEVE'S PRESIDENCY  
on the Digest's official site [donnelly.edu/digest](http://donnelly.edu/digest).

## PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

# INTERIM PRESIDENT NAMED

*Donnelly College Board appoints one of their own, search continues for the seventh President of Donnelly College*

The Board of Trustees invites nominations and applications for the seventh President of Donnelly College in our 64-year history. A comprehensive search led by Donnelly



**Bob Bartunek**  
Interim President

Board Chair Dan Haake and a committee made up of trustees, faculty and administrators is currently reviewing applications.

The Board also is pleased to announce Robert R. Bartunek as Interim President.

“Bob has demonstrated exceptional insight into the challenges and opportunities facing Donnelly,” said Donnelly’s outgoing president, Steve LaNasa. “He has exercised sound leadership, generated engagement from new constituencies, and has been a voice of appreciation for the work of our faculty and staff and the contributions of our volunteers and benefactors.”

Bartunek has been a member of Donnelly’s Board of Trustees since 2005, and served as Board Chair from 2010-2012.

“As a Board, we were unanimously pleased with Bob’s commitment and willingness to take on these responsibilities while maintaining his involvement in his law practice.”

Bartunek, a shareholder at the law firm of Seigfreid Bingham, has more than 35 years of legal experience, primarily representing a variety of closely-held businesses and their owners, trade associations and other tax-exempt organizations.

“I’m honored to serve Donnelly in this way,” Bartunek said. “I have a long history with the college and believe it’s important to continue the progress that Steve initiated while the Board carries out its search for the next president. I am looking forward to working more closely with the fantastic faculty and staff in carrying out the important mission of Donnelly, and to getting to know some of the friends of the college better.”

This semester, nearly 85% of Donnelly students are first generation college students. Our commitment to keep tuition affordable and to provide financial assistance to students who show promise has opened the doors to higher education to thousands of area students.

“We are blessed to have someone of his tenure on the board to step up in this way,” said Donnelly Trustee Dan Braum, ’71. “What touched me the most was his motivation to continue our recent unprecedented growth. He cares so much about this college, and will ensure not only a smooth presidential transition, but also continued progress towards Donnelly’s strategic plan.”

### *Strategic Agenda for the Next President:*

- 1** Complete the \$25 million capital campaign and renovation project.
- 2** Expand enrollment and academic programs.
- 3** Expand student services to promote continued educational success.
- 4** Raise awareness of the mission and tremendous success of the College.

### *Know a Candidate?*

The full position description and qualifications for this role, as well as the application guidelines, strategic goals of the college, members of the Presidential Search Committee, the search timeline, and other materials related to the search are available for review on Donnelly’s web site at [donnelly.edu/presidentialsearch](http://donnelly.edu/presidentialsearch).

Nominations and applications can be submitted electronically in confidence to [lisa@mshirleyassociates.com](mailto:lisa@mshirleyassociates.com), referencing project 13-899. All candidate referrals will be held in the strictest confidence.



## COVER STORY

**06** Donnelly is gaining new ground in the quest to enhance the entire campus. Learn more about new and exciting partnerships.

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Donnelly's annual event to say "thank you" to our donors and alumni honors special DC community members.

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# ABOUT THE COVER



## **MO·MEN·TUM** **[MOH-MEN-TUHM],** **NOUN**

- 1. the strength or force that allows something to continue or to grow stronger or faster as time passes*
- 2. force or speed of movement; impetus, as of a physical object or course of events*

## **MOMENTUM BUILDS**

### *New Possibilities Unfold for Current, Future Students after College Receives Largest Gifts in 64-Year History*

With unprecedented support from public and private funders - \$12 million during the past three years – Donnelly College is breaking through barriers and gaining new ground in an ambitious quest to enhance the campus, expand programs and increase support for student success.

The generosity and confidence of funders is the impetus for the remarkable transformation that's underway. Yesterday's hopes are becoming today's reality. Through gifts and grants, visions of renewal are turning into bricks and mortar, and dreams for the future are turning into new degree programs.

Among the largest gifts that have brought Donnelly to the half-way mark of a \$25 million improvements campaign are four significant commitments: \$4 million from the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas; \$1 million from George G. Breidenthal, Jr., '69 & the Willard J. & Mary G. Breidenthal Foundation; \$2 million from the In Thanksgiving to Blessed Seelos Fund; and \$1.5 million from a Title V Department of Education grant.

"Donnelly College is very much at the heart of the church's mission, and we're so delighted that this college has been such an instrument of good for so many years in this community," said Archbishop Joseph Naumann, who is also a Donnelly Trustee. "Pope Francis said sometimes he thinks Jesus is knocking on our hearts and saying, 'Let me out. Let me out into the community.' That's what I believe Donnelly does in its own beautiful and humble way. The Archdiocese is honored to provide a leadership gift to help the college realize the goals of its Transformations capital campaign. It will help so many more students not only grow in knowledge, but in faith too."

Under President Steve LaNasa's tenure, the Board of Trustees initiated a \$25 million, multi-year, comprehensive campus

development and renovation plan. College leadership is focused on continuing its recent growth throughout the presidential transition.

"Due in large part to Steve's visionary leadership and passion for the College's mission, we are carrying out an ambitious campus master plan that will strengthen Donnelly's capacity to meet the diverse needs of current and future students," said Dan Haake, Donnelly Board Chair. "The Board is committed to executing that vision."

The first phase of the plan was completed earlier this year with the opening of a new \$1.6 million Community Event Center, the first new construction at Donnelly in 50 years. Major gift commitments from several donors are fueling the plan's second phase, which is expected to break ground within the next year. George Breidenthal Jr. and William H. Dunn, Jr. are co-chairs of the College's capital campaign; Henry Bloch and William H. Dunn, Sr. are honorary co-chairs.

The next phase of development will focus on renovations to the main tower including construction of a new entrance, a campus chapel, a state-of-the-art academic resource center and library, and additional improvements that enhance the overall learning environment.

"As an institution with a 60-plus year legacy in the community, I think we've demonstrated through thick and thin that we are great stewards for investment," said Dick Flanigan, Donnelly Chair-Elect and Senior Vice President at Cerner Corp. "Steve has given us a great legacy of stability and competency. We as a board and staff are prepared to execute on that legacy. We've identified our needs and the campaign is addressing them. The time to invest is now – and the need is great."

## NEW GRANT OPENS DOORS

*\$600,000 in Matching Funds Available as part of \$3.2 million Title V Grant*

This fall, Donnelly, a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution, was awarded its third consecutive Title V grant from the Dept. of Education. Donnelly will use this five-year, \$3.2 million grant, to boost students' academic success, further develop in-demand academic programs, and boost the college's endowment by offering nearly \$600,000 in a dollar for dollar match for endowed fund gifts.

"With this grant, there's potential to add nearly \$1.2 million to the college's endowment," said Emily Buckley, Vice President for Advancement. "It's a wonderful opportunity for donors to double their gift and to build a fund's corpus – the amount that remains permanently invested. Annually, only the interest earned is used to support either scholarships or programs, as designated by the donor."

To create a new endowed scholarship or program fund with naming rights and restrictions, the minimum donation is \$10,000. Donors can also contribute to an existing scholarship or program endowment fund. The funds are available on a first-come first-serve basis.

The Title V grant will also strengthen the College's newly-accredited, four-year bachelor's degree in Information Systems (IS), and add a degree program in nursing. A significant portion of the grant, \$900,000, will be used to renovate 7,640 square feet of campus space to establish an Academic Resource Center (ARC). In addition to providing centralized academic and student support as well as library resources, the space will include a tutoring center and flexible instructional space.

To find out more about the endowment matching funds available, contact Donnelly's Advancement Office or email: [advancement@donnelly.edu](mailto:advancement@donnelly.edu).

## GATEWAY TO COLLEGE PROGRAM

*GTC Opens Doors of Opportunity for Area Students*



Every year, an estimated 1.3 million students drop out of high school. If not for Gateway to College at Donnelly, Selena Quiroz could have easily been one of them. As a student at an area high school, she struggled and was eventually suspended. In spite of the challenges she faced, Quiroz knew she couldn't give up.

"I want to be the first one in my family to attend college," she said. "I want to make something of my life."

Quiroz is one of 50 students who are getting a second chance at earning a high school diploma and beginning the journey of earning a college degree.

Kendal Edwards has sickle cell anemia and missed long periods of high school and fell behind in class work due to extended hospital stays. Just a year ago, graduation seemed like an impossible dream.

"When I heard about the Gateway program, it was something I definitely wanted to do," said Kendal. "Without education, you won't succeed in life."

The program at Donnelly, one of 43 across the nation, welcomed its first cohort of students in August 2013.

"Traditional high school doesn't work for everyone," said Juan Rangel, Gateway to College at Donnelly director. "There are many reasons why students fall behind. Frequent absences due to illness and

family responsibilities, pregnancy and language challenges are among the many challenges our students have faced.

"Gateway to College gives students a second chance. They can earn a high school diploma and begin working on their associate degree or certificate. Best of all, it's free," Rangel said.

Donnelly is the first private institution in the nation and the first in the Greater Kansas City region to become part of the Gateway to College National Network. The College was awarded a \$342,500 grant to implement the initiative. During a three-year period, 300 youth, ages 16 to 20, are expected to enroll.

To be admitted, students must demonstrate their readiness through a multi-step interview, evaluation and selection process. Donnelly's second cohort of Gateway to College students will begin classes in January 2014.

"The Gateway instructors are serious about your education and care about your success," said Quiroz. "Here, it's easier to focus, and for me, that's what it takes."

Former students in Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools are eligible to apply for Gateway to College at Donnelly. For more information, contact Rangel at [jrangel@donnelly.edu](mailto:jrangel@donnelly.edu) or call 913.621.8715.

# SHINE SCHOLARSHIP EVENT

## MORE THAN \$300,000 RAISED



The Young Jazz Masters played swingin' jazz for the evening entertainment.

### PRESENTING SPONSORS

The McDonnell Foundation  
In Thanksgiving to Blessed Seelos Fund

### BENEFACTORS

Burns and McDonnell  
Mike and Melanie Fenske  
Ted and Leticia Garcia  
Steven and Rebecca LaNasa  
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Bob and Louise Tritt

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Jeff and Linda Peakes  
Dr.'s Tom and Janet Pierce  
Anthony and Lisa Stoothoff  
Treanor Architects  
Rick Weller  
David and Nancy Yeamans

Spirits were soaring high at the National Airline History Museum, the venue for SHINE, the Donnelly College Annual Scholarship Event, on Friday, Sept. 27. More than 450 friends, alumni, students and guests gathered to raise funds for scholarships and to put the spotlight on donors' generosity and students' successes.

A large majority – nearly 85% - of Donnelly students are the first in their families to attend college, a rate that's more than twice as high as in institutions nationally. The availability of scholarship dollars make it possible for young people – many who come from low-income families – to pursue the dream of higher education.

Proceeds from the event totaled \$309,000. Funds raised are earmarked for the John and Florence Horan Memorial Scholarship Fund and Donnelly's annual scholarship fund. Philanthropist and community advocate Joan Horan was honored at the event. Through the years, Horan has been a champion for the mission of the College.

"Joan's wisdom and leadership has been invaluable to Donnelly. As a board member for nearly a decade, she was always connecting, problem solving, and working hard to sustain our mission and help set our vision for the future," said Dr. Steve LaNasa, Donnelly president.

Horan, formerly a member of the Ursuline Sisters of Paola, Kan., served as the first director of personnel for DST Systems. She continued to work for DST for 39 years, and ultimately served



Brian and Susan Finucane—event co-chairs enjoy cocktail hour with their guests.

as vice president of human resources. Through her career, Horan has served on numerous boards, supporting the mission of a wide range of community organizations and institutions.

"It has been my pleasure to watch Donnelly blossom and grow and broaden its connections not only in the KCK community but the Leavenworth community, the greater KC community, and the international community," said Horan.

The evening included a cocktail hour, live music dinner, tours of the museum aircraft, and a short program. Mike and Melanie Fenske along with Brian and Susan Finucane served as chairs of the event. Phil Kirk, Jr. and Tom McGee, Jr. served as honorary chairs.



SHINE honoree, Joan Horan enjoying the event program.



# DONNELLY DASH 5K

ANNUAL RUN RAISES MONEY FOR  
HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIPS



Abigail Faimon finishes one of her first 5k races! Donnelly students follow closely behind.



Participants get a good laugh at the starting line before beginning the race.



Runners round the corner by Mark Twain Elementary school during the first leg of the race.

**M**ore than 200 runners, walkers, volunteers and supporters showed their support at the 8th Annual Donnelly Dash on November 9th. The money raised – more than \$10,000 – will be earmarked for the College’s health care programs and scholarships. The 5K Dash looped through neighborhoods to the west and east of campus. More than 100 students participate in Donnelly’s Practical Nursing and Allied Health Certificate programs (Community Health Worker, Pharmacy Tech, Nurse Aide and Practical Nursing) that the Dash supports.

“The Dash is so much fun that we’ve made it a family event - with kids and grandkids participating,” said Jerry Lonergan. “The best part is the chance to engage with great Donnelly students who are present throughout the race, along the course, enthusiastically cheering each runner. It’s a

great way to spend a Saturday morning!”

Unified Government Commissioner Brian McKiernan, ’76, cheered on runners and led the award ceremony as the event’s emcee. He was supported by an array of Donnelly student and staff volunteers who helped organize the race.

Cerner Corporation, a long-standing Dash sponsor, and Wyandot Inc were presenting sponsors for the 2013 Dash. Other sponsors included Providence Medical Center, the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities, and the Prime Health Foundation. In-kind sponsors – including Panera Bread, Broadway Roasting Company, Treat America and foremost, Donnelly’s own food service provider, Bistro Kids – provided a delicious breakfast.

Dash promotional partners included Community Housing of Wyandotte

County, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools, Latino Health for All Coalition, and Donnelly’s student-led, Healthy Student Organization.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR’S DASH

on November 8, 2014 which will feature a new route. We’ll be dashing to KCK’s historic Strawberry Hill.

Visit [donnelly.edu/dash](http://donnelly.edu/dash) throughout the year for updates and sponsorship information - plus photos and race results from this year.

Interested in joining the planning committee? Contact Emily Buckley at [ebuckley@donnelly.edu](mailto:ebuckley@donnelly.edu) or 913.621.8731.

# GRATIA THANKING OUR SUPPORTERS



Dick and Laura Flanigan



Dr. Mary Viveros of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools



LaNasa. “Since joining our Board, he has chaired our Annual Scholarship Event with Laura, he leads our Board’s Development Committee, and he supports numerous college activities and initiatives. The Flanigans are also among the College’s most generous donors and we are deeply grateful for their support of Donnelly’s capital campaign.”

The evening also included the unveiling of a permanent tribute to Community Event Center benefactors as well as a special tribute to President Steve LaNasa, who left his post at Donnelly on December 6.

“While we wish you could be with us longer, what remains foremost is a sense of gratitude and appreciation for all you have done for Donnelly College in your five-and-a-half years here,” said Bob Bartunek, emcee and newly-named interim president. “All of us who have worked with you have enjoyed the fun yet professional attitude you brought to every endeavor. We are forever grateful for your commitment to furthering the College’s mission.

“You challenged us all to raise our expectations, to improve our facilities, to increase our services, to boost our engagement, to collaborate broadly, to increase our investment, and frankly, to think very big - \$25 million big – while still thinking very practical. Perhaps most importantly, you helped us recognize the national significance of Donnelly’s mission and our daily work. And you wouldn’t let us forget it!

“The accomplishments Donnelly has made under your leadership are staggering – the largest gifts in our history, a complete campus master plan, a record-smashing capital campaign that is nearly half-way complete, more than \$9 million in federal grant investment, more full-time faculty and more academic programming. This list could go on and on. But perhaps most importantly, student retention, graduation and transfer rates have all increased under your leadership. And that’s what this is all about.”

More than 100 guests gathered in the Community Event Center on November 14<sup>th</sup> for Gratia – a day designated for thankfulness on the Donnelly campus. The tradition of Gratia gives us an opportunity to express gratitude to donors, volunteers, faculty and staff who bring Donnelly’s mission to life throughout the year.

“Gratia expresses our sincere gratitude for sharing your many gifts to help our students develop theirs,” said Donnelly Trustee and Interim President Bob Bartunek, as he welcomed the crowd.

Several individuals received special recognition at this year’s Gratia event. Dr. Tom Pierce was named Volunteer of the Year. Since 2010, Dr. Pierce has been playing a part in enhancing campus

services and programs including the fitness center, the library, the Donnelly Dash as well as nursing and community health worker certificate programs.

The Kansas City Kansas Public School District was named Partner of the Year in recognition of the ambitious collaboration that has occurred during the past 18 months that led to the launch of the Donnelly’s Gateway to College initiative. (See more about Gateway to College on page 7.)

Donnelly Trustee (and Chair-elect) Dick Flanigan and his wife Laura were named Donors of the Year. “In addition to the demands of his role as Senior Vice President at Cerner, Dick has made it a priority to become actively engaged in Donnelly initiatives,” said President Steve



SEE WHAT IS GOING ON RIGHT NOW!  
at [twitter.com/donnellycollege](https://twitter.com/donnellycollege).

*33* AREAS OF STUDY  
+ *44* CLASSROOMS  
+ *700* STUDENTS A SEMESTER  
+ *45* FULL TIME FACULTY & STAFF  
+ *50* VOLUNTEERS  
+ DONORS LIKE YOU

---

*=* **STUDENT SUCCESS!**

*YOU'RE PART OF THE EQUATION WHEN IT COMES TO SUCCESS AT DONNELLY COLLEGE!*

*YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR ORDINARY NEEDS HELPS OUR STUDENTS BECOME EXTRAORDINARY.*

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*Questions? Call (913) 621-8752 or email [advancement@donnelly.edu](mailto:advancement@donnelly.edu) or more information.*

**IRA  
TAX-FREE  
GIVING LAW**  
Helps donors & Donnelly

Find out more on pg. 27

## AS SEEN ON CAMPUS



1 Convocation Day at St. Peter's Cathedral 2 A new student, Rochelle Gladney and her son at New Student Orientation in August 3 Students enjoy a home cooked Thanksgiving meal prepared by the faculty and staff at "Thanks and Giving" 4 Elisabeth pulls weeds at the Catholic Charities during the Bloch Service Project 5 Jenny Gonzalez, Jacob Rocha, and Sindy Monzon became new donors at DC's annual Blood Drive 6 Rosa Favala and Jesus Casares were inducted into Phi Theta Honorary society 7 Mike and Melanie Fenske present at SHINE 8 At New Student Orientation six groups completed service projects around the city.



9 Deron Thomas reads to students at M.E. Pearson Elementary as part of a service-learning project. 10 The "Sons of Donnelly" showed up at DC's Halloween Party! 11 Andrea Kolkemeier jumps for joy as she nears the Donnelly Dash finish line 12 Students enjoy the beautiful weather at the Convocation Day Picnic 13 New life springs from the newly planted community garden in DC's back courtyard. 14 Students reading at M.E. Pearson are escorted by elementary students to their classrooms 15 All Saints Day Mass 16 Archbishop Naumann speaks during Convocation Mass.



MAY 8, 2014

## CALL *for* NOMINATIONS

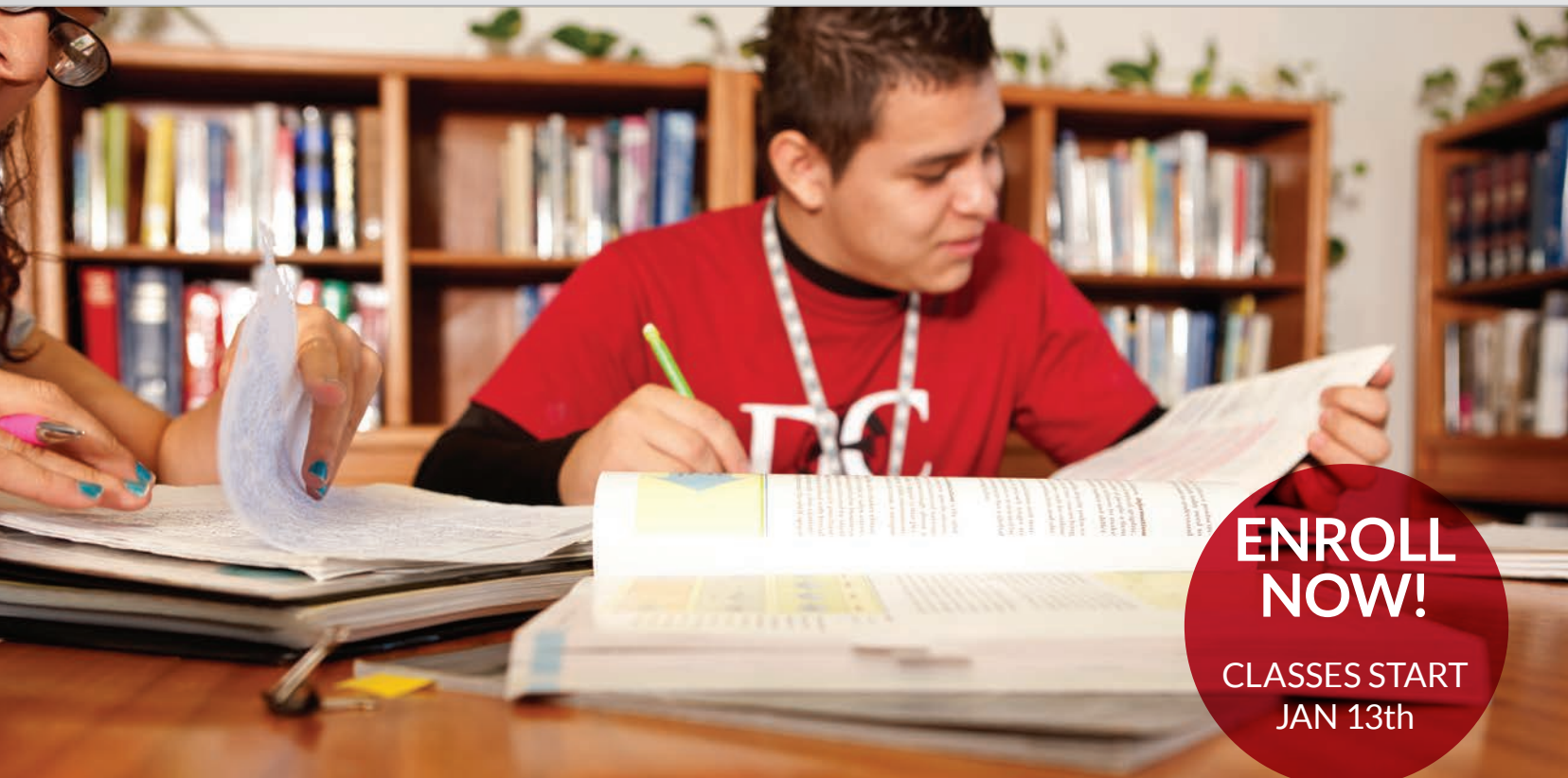
*Questions? Contact Roger Berg at [alumni@donnelly.edu](mailto:alumni@donnelly.edu) or 913.621.8744.*

### KNOW SOMEONE YOU'D LIKE TO NOMINATE AS A CANDIDATE FOR OUR ALUMNI HALL OF FAME?

Our more than 40,000 alumni have gone on to touch lives and communities in amazing ways. We want to recognize their contributions. Please nominate an alum, living or deceased, who embodies the values, spirit and mission of Donnelly by February 1, 2014.

### THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO NOMINATE AN ALUMNUS:

1. Visit [donnelly.edu/halloffame](http://donnelly.edu/halloffame) to submit an online nomination.
2. Visit the above website page, download a nomination form, print and complete it, then mail it to DC's Alumni Office at 608. N. 18th Street, Kansas City, KS 66102
3. Call the Alumni Office at 913.621.8744 to request that a form be mailed to you.



**ENROLL  
NOW!**

**CLASSES START  
JAN 13th**

# You have goals.

**Donnelly College can help you reach them.  
Wherever you are in life.**

Experience the advantages of a supportive learning environment. Tuition is affordable and we care about your success.

Call 913.621.8700 or visit [donnelly.edu](http://donnelly.edu) for more information.

## DONNELLY FAMILY



If you really want to know what's happening at Donnelly, there's only one (well, actually five) sure source(s)! DC's student ambassadors have their fingers on the pulse of everything happening on campus. They know the people and places that make Donnelly tick. And they're eager to share their insight and experiences with visitors.

If you haven't visited lately and you'd like to see what's new on campus, call 913.621.8752 to set up a tour. We'd love to roll out the proverbial red carpet and show you around!



**JANAY CUNNINGHAM**  
Sophomore  
Associate of Arts



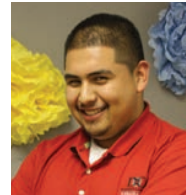
**SINDY MONZON**  
Sophomore  
Associate of Science



**ISAMARA CORTES**  
Sophomore  
Associate of Science



**CLARA DE LA TORRE**  
Junior  
Urban Education



**ROBERTO LUNA**  
Sophomore  
Associate of Science

## inMEMORIAM

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

**HENRY DAHLIN '56**, died June 19, 2013 at the age of 82

**MARIE DINGES '64**, died August 20, 2013 at the age of 90

**EVALYN FLOYD '97** died June 25, 2013 at the age of 71

**ROBERT PERSIN '66**, died Aug 7, 2013 at the age of 66

**JESSE REZABEK-LAIRD** died August 25, 2013 at the age of 32

*Former Faculty:*  
**JEAN MORAN**, former math instructor died Aug 28, 2013 age of 87

**SISTER HILARIA PHIPPS, S.C.L.**, former faculty member, died Nov 2, 2013 age of 87

## CLASS NOTES

Have you recently earned a degree, started a new job or celebrated an addition to your family?

If you have news to share, *WE WANT TO KNOW!* Send info about graduations, marriages, births, promotions and achievements to [alumni@donnelly.edu](mailto:alumni@donnelly.edu).

Share your milestones with 5,000 Donnelly Digest readers worldwide!

## WELCOME NEW DC FACULTY & STAFF

DC is pleased to welcome new talent to our team. We're grateful for the service of the following individuals who joined the college in 2013.

**Jennifer Bales**  
Registrar

**Birdell McCall**  
IT Support specialist

**Maria Del Cielo Fernandez-Ortega**  
Adjunct

**Patricia Folk**  
CNA Instructor

**LaVetra Ray**  
Program Support Specialist

**Bridget Locke**  
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**Michael Vershelden**  
Instructor



## ALUMNIFOCUS

# TED GARCIA JR., '93

injustices experienced by immigrants. Since I was a child, I felt compelled to help others in one capacity or another. As I grew older I realized that the practice of law would make the biggest impact on the Latino immigrant community.”

Inspired by the encouragement of Wyandotte High School teachers and counselors, Teodoro (Ted) Garcia, Jr. chose Donnelly College as the first stop on a bold journey into uncharted territory.

“Like many students, I was not academically prepared to pursue the challenge of higher learning,” said Garcia. “DC helped me prepare for the rigorous professional path I chose to pursue – in a very nurturing and welcoming way.”

As an immigrant, first generation high school graduate and college student, he set his sights on becoming an attorney. Donnelly proved to be the right start for Ted. His confidence grew through his experiences at Donnelly.

“My advice to first generation college students is to dream big and you will achieve big,” Garcia said. “A college education is the key to success no matter the career choice. Your hard work and determination will not be in vain. And don't be afraid to fail; failure is good if you learn from it. Finally, don't be the exception, be exceptional!”

Upon graduation, Garcia transferred to Rockhurst College and completed a B.A. with a double major in Sociology and Spanish. The next leg of his journey took him to the KU School of Law. He graduated in 1998 and today he practices immigration law in Wyandotte County.

“I am an immigrant from Mexico,” Garcia said. “I grew up seeing many of the

Garcia is proud of his Wyandotte County roots and his connection to Donnelly College. Recognizing the valuable role Donnelly has played in helping him reach his goals, Ted served on the Board of Directors of Donnelly College from 1996 to 2004. Most recently, Garcia established a scholarship fund under the auspices of the Greater Kansas City Hispanic Scholarship Fund to benefit Donnelly College students in memory of his cousin Guadalupe Valdovino, whose life was tragically ended while a student at Donnelly.

Leading by example, Garcia urges Donnelly graduates to stay connected to the College and to participate in initiatives that promote Donnelly's mission. In September, he and his wife Leticia invited a group of alumni to SHINE, the Annual Scholarship Event.

“As a DC graduate, you have the responsibility to give back to the College in whatever way you can,” Garcia said. “We must be committed to insuring that DC will continue to be the beacon of hope for future generations of students that would not otherwise be served.”

Ted has been practicing law for over 11 years and opened his private law office, Garcia Immigration Law Firm, LLC, in 2009 in Wyandotte County. Ted is a member of both the Kansas and Missouri Bar and the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Ted is frequently sought out to speak publicly at community forums, high schools and colleges regarding immigration legal issues. Members of Our Lady of Unity parish, Leticia and Ted are the parents of four children. His law firm employs several Donnelly alumni.



Ted (far right) with his wife, Leticia (far left) and fellow alumni at this year's SHINE event.



Ted Garcia with fellow alumna, Delia Hernandez at the Alumni Hall of Fame event.



Ted receiving his Alumni Hall of Fame award in 2012.

**D** HAVE A STORY TO BE TOLD?  
Email the editor at [marketing@donnelly.edu](mailto:marketing@donnelly.edu).



# LISA STOOHOFF



On average, a runner will take 55,334 steps during a marathon to cross the finish line. Each step signifies the constant training and discipline a runner must have to achieve an honor most never will experience – crossing the finish line. On November 3, 2013, Lisa Stoothoff, assistant professor of preparatory education, successfully completed the 26.2 mile ING New York Marathon.

Lisa began running just over five years ago, “It was my time,” said Stoothoff, “It really was a stress relief in the beginning. I’d run, I’d cry, I’d laugh...I went through every range of emotion.” What started as a simple hobby soon turned into a desire to train for longer races. “I kept signing up for races so I’d have a reason to go out and run...in the last five years I’ve done 10 half marathons - it’s the distance I love.” However, as a New Jersey native, Lisa always wanted to complete a race back home on the east coast; therefore, the world-renowned ING New York Marathon was a natural choice.

Running in the marathon not only takes months of training but also a good stroke

of luck. In order to gain entry into the race, runners must be picked from a lottery. Many people aren’t picked for years, including Stoothoff, “Three years I was rejected, and every year I was rejected I kept saying I’ll try again next year and stay prepared in case I’m picked.”

Once a runner is turned away three times they automatically get to run the fourth year. “Last year [2012] was my fourth entry year and I trained extremely hard,” said Stoothoff. However, she didn’t get to run the race even after she had trained for months. “They cancelled [the race] once I had already flown to New York because of hurricane Sandy.”

“I was disappointed, but I understood why – the people were devastated.”

This year marked Lisa’s fifth entry into the race. Finally, she got to make use of her years of training. “Really the training is the hard part. The marathon is the celebration of your training,” said Stoothoff, “It’s a time to enjoy yourself because you’ve done the hard work.”

On race day that’s exactly what she did. Joining with husband and wife team, Brian and Karen Cole, Stoothoff ran through Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and crossed the finish line in Manhattan with her family cheering her on.

Now that Lisa has completed the race of her dreams she has plans to return again. “It was an unbelievable experience. I would do it again in a heartbeat.”

In addition to teaching at Donnelly, Lisa is the mother of four children and a parishioner at St. Michael the Archangel in Leewood. There she serves as a Eucharistic minister and teaches religious education to sixth graders as well as special needs students. She is also a Catholic Charities Hospice volunteer. In her spare time, she loves to read, cook, and of course, run!



Lisa with Brian and Karen Cole as they completed the NYC marathon.



Archbishop Naumann with Lisa after the "Running with the Cows" race last May.



Over the last few years Lisa has run more than 50 races and keeps every bib in her garage.



Lisa taking a breather on the Queensboro bridge during her last leg of the 26.2 mile race through NYC.

## STAFFOCUS

# ANDREW JULO

This bright spot on the third floor of the Donnelly tower is the office of Service Learning where Andy Julo connects students and faculty with meaningful experiences serving others in the community. Andy's office is a place that beckons dreamers and doers alike.

Andy attended Rockhurst University before transferring to College of St. Benedict | St. John's University in Minnesota, graduating with a BA in Studio Art. Then, he went on to volunteer (see below) in Subiaco, Italy. When Andy isn't connecting the dots for others, at work, he can be found reflecting on the writings of his favorite contemporary theologian, Fr. Richard Rohr, OSF. He works on the side as a curator at the Farm to Market Bread Co. gallery, as a frame-maker at Ward & Ward Custom Picture Framing Inc. and he and his brother manage an antique booth at the River Market Antique Mall - Booth #900 to be exact.

Andy's talents and boundless energy, which he shares generously, touch the lives of our community in countless ways. Whether he is coordinating the Bloch Service Project, planning New Student Orientation, arranging campus blood drives and health fairs, he continually works to enrich campus life. Though he juggles multiple projects and initiatives, Andy is a master at making things happen for others. And regardless of where his day is headed, you can always count on Andy for a delicious cup of coffee served humbly with a healthy dose of lighthearted wit and humor.



### 1 ST. BENEDICT MEDALLION

Before starting at Donnelly in 2011, I served in the Saint John's Benedictine Volunteer Corps – an opportunity for alumni of Saint John's University (Collegeville, MN) to serve one year participating in the communal life of a Benedictine monastery. I was stationed at Il Monastero di San Benedetto in Subiaco, Italy, providing English speaking guests guided visits of the medieval monastery known for its collection of frescoes that represent over a millennium of Italian art. During the 5th Century, a young St. Benedict left the city of Rome and fled to Subiaco and is said to have lived in a cave for roughly three years before founding 12 monasteries in the region. This medallion portraying St. Benedict in the cave, was one of the very special gifts I received at the end of my time with the monastic community.

### 2 CYANOTYPE

The cyanotype photo process dates back to the early 1840s. Developed as a relatively inexpensive means to reproduce diagrams and floral specimens, the cyanotype was used well into the 20th century in the field of construction for architectural 'blue prints.' As an artist, I make cyanotypes that record both natural and human-made objects such as this small weed that was growing behind my apartment.

### 3 CANDY BOWL

In the original 1971 version of Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, Willy Wonka (Gene Wilder) tells those taking an exclusive tour of his factory, "Candy is dandy but liquor is quicker." Wonka is actually quoting a poem by Ogden Nash, entitled: "Reflections on Ice-Breaking." Since I was a child, I've been a big fan of candy – hence the candy bowl. I try to keep some around at all times for those visiting the Office of Service Learning.



#### 4 STACK OF BOOKS

Who doesn't like books? I'm interested in books that vary in subject matter from medieval Christian ritual to contemporary indigenous artists. Most of the titles I've collected since high school were either gifts or were purchased at used bookstores, thrift shops and garage sales. In addition to the information that's contained between the covers, I'm also very interested in how books are designed, their layout and the varied ways modern society makes use of the printed word.



#### 5 SERVICE LEARNING

My primary role here at Donnelly is to connect students with meaningful service opportunities. So whether it's helping to build a home with Habitat for Humanity or reading to kids at a local elementary school, our students are taking the learning they're receiving in the classroom and using it to address needs present in our community. Here, Tiffany Dixon ('13) is assisting a student at the Kansas State School for the Blind work on a collaborative art project as part of a service learning assignment in her Drawing I course.



#### 6 MUG

I collect antiques – mainly items from the 1950s and 1960s. I really enjoy objects from the American Southwest like this Frankoma mug. I'm fascinated by things that reference people and places that have had an influence on American identity – particularly as it's perceived in popular imagination.



WANT TO BE A PART OF SERVICE LEARNING AT DC?  
email Andy at [ajulo@donnelly.edu](mailto:ajulo@donnelly.edu).

STUDENTFOCUS

# JHONATAN VALLEJO

*Donnelly is a melting pot of stories and who better to tell those stories than one of our own students?*

By: Sindy Monzon  
Current Student

*Even though we've been friends for a while, I had never had a chance to sit down and talk to Jhonatan - now I see him differently. I admire him for the issues he had to deal with at a young age because I've been in similar circumstances. All the Donnelly students I know work hard to be here. There are so many stories, and although you don't get to hear all of them, it's clear that Donnelly makes a difference in our lives.*

Jhonatan Vallejo is in his second year at Donnelly pursuing his associate degree as well as working at a full time job. "I believe that education is very important, and I want to better myself," said Vallejo. "My dream is to become a mechanical engineer and if it were not for Donnelly, I would probably be a college drop-out."

Vallejo has a lot on his plate with a hectic work, school and home life; however, he has a drive to work hard to help provide for his family. Vallejo has been financially supporting his parents in Mexico and looking after his older brother, Cristian, for almost a year. It hasn't been easy. One after another he and his family were struck with financial crises.

Vallejo found himself not only shouldering these new costs, but also the costs associated with continuing his education. "Things got so bad that we couldn't budget for the things we needed, so eventually our electricity was shut off. People from our church let us stay in a small living area in their basement; that was when I met God."



VIDEO EXTRA! THREE STUDENT STORIES  
available online at [donnelly.edu/digest](http://donnelly.edu/digest).



After a few hard months passed Jhonatan and Cristian were able to move back into their home early this year. Inspired by the grace they were shown from their church community, they decided to open their home to others in need.

Soon, an older woman, her daughter and local children who had been thrown out with no place to say, found refuge in Jhonatan's house. He supported the entire household even though it was almost too much to handle financially.

"I was a full time student and things got pretty stressful so I had to drop two classes, but I had a scholarship, so I kept coming part time. That is what Donnelly did for me. The people here kept me coming back to pursue my education."

*"With the help of God I have been able to face my struggles and I plan to keep going,"*

Now, Jhonatan's housemates are back on their feet and have moved into their own homes. He is grateful that he got to give back to others the way that others gave to him.

Like most Donnelly students, Jhonatan overcame his past hardships to persist with his education. "With the help of God I have been able to face my struggles and I plan to keep going. I am now taking two classes and I am still working full time. I'm not in a rush; I plan to slowly get to where I want."

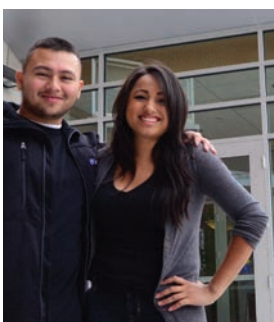
Jhonatan hopes to attend the University of Kansas or Missouri University of Science and Technology to pursue his degree in mechanical engineering. Vallejo continues to credit Donnelly for his current success in school, "I would not have been able to do it if it was not for Donnelly."



- 5:00AM If my truck is malfunctioning, wake up and take the bus for two hours.
- 7:00AM Wake up and get ready for the day.
- 8:00AM Arrive at Donnelly and get some studying done before class.
- 9:00AM Class.
- 10-1PM This is really the only free time I have during the day so I take advantage of it and run errands or do some homework.
- 1:00PM Class.
- 2:15PM After my class, I go to the tutoring center to study what I've just learned.
- 3:00PM I go home and get ready for work.
- 4:00PM Go to work.
- 12:00AM I work at a restaurant. The time that I get off varies, but it's usually between 11 p.m. and midnight.
- 12:05AM Go home, shower, and do some homework if I have some left.
- 2:00AM This is when I usually go to bed; I try not to stay up too late, but most of the time this is the time I get done with everything.

**Then I do it all over again.**

Sundays and Mondays are my days off, but on Mondays I usually pick up odd jobs with my brother like painting. During the summer my brother and I mow lawns; just little things so that we can make some extra money. So I usually have Sundays to myself, which is when I go to church. I am very thankful to God for providing for my family, so I try to attend church at least once a week so I can reconnect with Him.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR: SINDY MONZON**

When Sindy isn't busy with full time courses at Donnelly, she is helping the Advancement Office and the Marketing Department as a work study student. She is also president of DC's Healthy Student Organization (HSO) this year. Her goal is for HSO to become engaged in the Kansas City community so students truly know what KC has to offer and what they can give back to their community.

## DONOR ROLL



"...We owe so much of our success to Donnelly and our faith compels us to help sustain this mission. We couldn't have been more excited to create an Endowed Scholarship to support Donnelly students."



PHIL ('62) &  
MARY JO DOHERTY  
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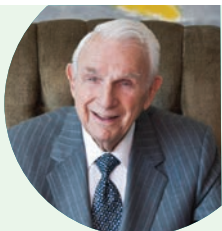
"I am the first person in my family to attend college - and graduate with honors! I am thankful for my scholarship, God has truly blessed me with the gift of education from Donnelly College! I feel compelled to give to DC to help others."



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"What makes Donnelly College a unique shining star in the galaxy of education is not only its founding, core mission of bringing educational opportunities to those who might not otherwise be served but also the way in which it has evolved and expanded that mission to meet a variety of educational needs of diverse groups of individuals."



JOAN HORAN  
2013 SHINE Honoree

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I am very thankful to be at DC. Coming to college had not been an option for me until I received a scholarship from Donnelly College!



VICTOR PEROJ  
Current Student

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"I give because Donnelly has and continues to give so much to my family. I am a graduate, a parent of a current student and proud to be an alumna."



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*Thank you for your continuous and  
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during this Christmas season.*

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## DONNELLY COLLEGE DIGEST

The Donnelly Digest is a publication for 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.

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### SHHH...IT'S A QUIET COMPUTER LAB

Dr. Mary Pflanz talks to a student  
about an upcoming project in DC's  
brand new quiet computer lab.

## COMING YOUR WAY

Keep your eyes open for more information about these upcoming summer and fall events. You'll find updates and details at donnelly.edu, Facebook and Twitter.

- 1.13.14 Spring Semester Begins
- 1.22.14 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service -  
contact [ajulo@donnelly.edu](mailto:ajulo@donnelly.edu) to participate
- 3.06.14 Donor/Scholar Connection (3-5 p.m.)
- 3.17.14 Spring Break (until 3.23.14)
- 4.18.14 Easter Break weekend
- 4.26.14 Multicultural Festival (4-10 p.m.)
- 5.08.14 Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony (5:30 p.m.)
- 5.09.14 Graduation Prayer Service
- 5.10.14 Commencement