



DONNELLY COLLEGE
DIGEST

A publication for alumni & friends

WINTER 2016

Volume 10, Issue 2

Faith
in
ACTION

What it means for Donnelly College
to be a Catholic institution



Lisa Stoothoff
Director of Preparatory Education

As a life-long Catholic and educator, I always hoped to blend my love of teaching with my Catholic faith. When I opened *The Leaven* six years ago, the want ad for an Instructor at Donnelly College tugged at my heart strings. You know God listens to the silent needs in your heart and answers them, don't you?

As the Faculty Senate President and Director of the Preparatory Education Department here at Donnelly, I am witness to the fidelity of the gospel every single day. I am blessed to teach in an environment where I can open class with a prayer and embed scripture into my lessons. Students are hungry for the Word of God and are surprised to hear how Jesus sought out the sinners and those in need to teach us about redemption and glory.

Catholic social justice teaching is evident in my courses as well, as my students reach out to the elementary students in the urban core of Kansas City, Kansas and read their original works of poetry. Our students see the value of service learning and the impact that their lives have on others in their community.

I was asked whether my faith has impacted my work or my work has impacted my faith. The answer is simply, YES! My students are faced with incredible struggles every day, yet they show up for class and strive to succeed. What better witness can I be to the power of God in their lives?

I envy my students not only for the caliber of the academics that my esteemed colleagues provide every day, but for the values that surround them in all of our student and academic affairs here at Donnelly College.

Six years ago I was looking to make an impact on others; instead, the students at Donnelly have had a profound impact on me.

“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.” *Matthew 20:28*

Lisa Stoothoff



Freshman Kayana Johnson checks out the interactive encouragement board on the 5th floor that was created by Assistant Professor Gretchen Meinhardt. The board displays notes with inspirational sayings and scriptures.

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STATE OF THE COLLEGE

Monsignor Stuart Swetland, president of Donnelly College, presented the 2016 State of the College address to friends, family, alumni, supporters and students on August 24 in the Event Center.

WATCH FULL PRESENTATION AT www.youtube.com/donnellycollege



TWO DAYS OF INSPIRATION

Two scholars from the University of Kansas visited campus November 3-4 for a series of presentations on ethnic minorities and literature.



Marwa Ghazali, anthropology doctoral student at KU, presented “African Refugee Stories—and Silence—in Kansas.” This presentation explored the struggles of the Somali Bantu population in Wyandotte County.



Stanley Lombardo, former Classics professor at KU, offered a dramatic reading of literature and a lecture on the importance of reading the classics today.

CONVOCATION CELEBRATED AT CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER

Classes were cancelled and offices closed for the annual tradition of Convocation Mass on September 1. Donnelly College students, faculty and staff joined community members and priests from the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas for the Mass celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Peter.

Prior to a community procession to Mass four blocks from campus, Donnelly College President Monsignor Stuart Swetland welcomed new students and encouraged hard work and the pursuit of excellence for all students in the new academic year.

Mass featured a formal matriculation ceremony that welcomes all new students to Donnelly. During the homily, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann shared with students that, “The purpose of Donnelly College is not to proselytize students, striving to convert them to Catholicism. It is, rather, to assist students to pursue the true, the good and the beautiful. The existence of Donnelly College is a concrete manifestation of our Catholic conviction of the innate, God-given dignity of each and every human being.”

Following Mass, attendees were welcomed on campus for a picnic lunch hosted by Student Senate.



(L-R) Monsignor Stuart Swetland, Father John Melnick, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann officiate at Convocation Mass on Sept. 1.

DONNELLY HONORS DAY OF THE DEAD AND ALL SOULS' DAY

Day of the Dead was celebrated in various ways throughout our campus community starting with a Day of the Dead Altar displayed in the Welcome Center during the month of November. Donnelly Library Activities Committee (DLAC) hosted a

daytime celebration for Dia de los Muertos with Mexican bread and hot chocolate on November 2 before an evening event kicked off with dancing, Mexican food and colorful sugar skulls. For several weeks leading up to the celebrations, Donnelly

students, alumni, friends and family had the opportunity to submit names of beloved faithful departed relatives and friends. All the names on the list were read during All Souls' Day mass on November 3.



DONNELLY IN THE NEWS

Donnelly College was recently featured in *The Leaven* newspaper and the *National Catholic Reporter* for two unique stories.

The Leaven newspaper published a photo story on September 23, following Donnelly freshmen Angelica Perez on a typical day. From meeting with mentors who encourage goal setting and walking through campus seeing familiar faces, the story shows how first-generation college students like Perez find hope and help at Donnelly College.

In an article published by the *National Catholic Reporter* on November 12, Donnelly College was praised for its continued efforts to remain an accessible, affordable Catholic college. The story highlights the history of the institution and the leadership efforts of Donnelly's President, Monsignor Stuart Swetland.

According to Swetland, from 1949 through the mid-to-late 1960s, “the vast majority coming here were kids from the Irish parish, the Croatian parish, the German parish, whose parents never went to college.” Today, the demographics of Donnelly College continue to represent a population of local and many immigrant students who are motivated to work for a better future.

With its core values of truth, excellence, community, diversity, inclusiveness, justice and service, the mission of Donnelly College continues to shine brightly today.



TO SEE THE FULL STORIES, VISIT www.donnelly.edu/news



1) Gateway to College students pose with Deb Robinson, Administrative Assistant for Gateway to College, during Welcome Week. 2) Donnelly nursing students pose before the start of the DashKCK 5K Walk/Race on Sept. 17. 3) Students from the Gateway to College program and Jobs for America's Graduates – Kansas, enjoy a breakfast celebration for the third annual initiation and installation of officers for JAG-K. 4) Students pose for a group photo during summer orientation. 5) Kickboxing instructors teach students how to kick fall semester into full gear during Welcome Week. 6) Students talking with representatives from various colleges during the Donnelly College Transfer and Internship Fair on Nov. 17. 7) From a soccer game to Student Senate's fall festival BBQ, the Donnelly College Soccer Club hosted a variety of events during Soccer Week, Nov. 7-11.



8) Marika Diyali uses tape to finish building her structure for the STEM Club's egg-drop contest. 9) A Pets for Life volunteer brings his therapy dog to campus to help students reduce stress. 10) Donnelly students compete in the intramural basketball finals at the JFK Community Center. 11) Celebrating the start of the academic year at the Convocation Day Mass on Sept. 1. 12) Student Senate members dressing up as holiday characters for their student Christmas Party for Tots on Dec. 9. 13) Students in the Gateway to College program practicing their interviewing skills during a mock interviews activity on Oct. 27. 14) Students make bracelets and color motivational signs for Suicide Prevention Day on Sept. 7. 15) Donnelly alumnus Miro Heyink ('11) talks with current students about his journey from Germany to the U.S. and the opportunity Donnelly College gave him to continue his education.



Faith in ACTION



WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR DONNELLY COLLEGE TO BE A CATHOLIC COLLEGE?

During the late 1940s, in a neighborhood just west of historic Strawberry Hill in Kansas City, Kansas, a mission was quietly being crafted that would change the community forever. This mission would seek to educate and inspire generations through an accessible and affordable Catholic higher education for all, including the many low-income, first-generation students and immigrant families living in area. Led by Sister Jerome Keeler of the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica and Bishop George Donnelly of the Diocese of Kansas City in Kansas, Donnelly Community College launched in 1949. In the nearly 70 years since, Donnelly College has remained an integral part of the community and continues to be devoted to the promise of a quality, accessible and affordable Catholic higher education for anyone who wishes to pursue it.

At the heart of the Donnelly College experience for our students is a foundational liberal arts curriculum that allows them to explore life's greater purpose, to discuss controversial issues facing society today and to develop a broad knowledge of the world. This curriculum, along with our supportive

and inclusive environment, prepares students to become independent thinkers, ethical leaders in any field and to live up to their fullest potential – becoming the best version of themselves.

At our nation's 260 institutions of Catholic higher education, students are encouraged to consider their faith and purpose in life, both in and out of the classroom. This type of environment provides challenging academics that encourage students to think critically and explore their own faith traditions, whatever those might be. While each institution exists independently of the Church and has distinct program offerings and operational models, they all share core values that guide the education they provide.

These values include (1) Scholarship: high-quality academics, (2) Fidelity to the Gospel: a person-centered approach, (3) Witness: a values-based environment and (4) Service: social justice and service learning.

At Donnelly, these values – and the resulting transformation of our students – can be witnessed daily on campus and in our surrounding community. Here are a few examples.

SCHOLARSHIP: HIGH-QUALITY ACADEMICS

LECTURES TO LAST A LIFETIME

High-quality academics are not only about a rigorous curriculum. They can also be about helping a student to understand the world around them on a very practical level, and helping them develop into an ethical leader prepared to encounter the world after college.

Carol Marinovich, one of the many skilled educators guiding Donnelly students on their educational journey, excels at this approach. Marinovich has been teaching American Government and Political Science at Donnelly

College for nearly six years.

“It is important for students to connect what they are learning in the class to the events of today,” Marinovich said.

As a former educator with Kansas City Kansas Public Schools for 23 years and the former Mayor and CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and

Kansas City, Kansas, Marinovich, like many Donnelly instructors, uses life experiences to guide classroom lectures.

“Each class begins with a discussion of current events – linking it to what we are learning about government,” she said.

With the recent presidential election, Marinovich said she noticed an increase in political interest from her students.

“We discussed at length the development of their own political philosophies,” she said. “Many of them are interested in immigration reform – but not limited to that.”

While courses are only four months-long, the goal is for classroom lectures to last a lifetime.

“Civic responsibility and engagement of students in this subject matter is important,” Marinovich said.

But it's not just the students who are learning. Marinovich says her students teach her the millennial perspective. “As a baby boomer, I believe it's important to develop an understanding of our future leaders' perspectives,” Marinovich said.



Carol Marinovich, Adjunct Professor, uses life experiences to guide classroom lectures.

FIDELITY TO THE GOSPEL: PERSON-CENTERED APPROACH

CREATING AN ENCOURAGING AND MOTIVATING ENVIRONMENT

You will hear it said on campus that Donnelly College is an institution that takes students from *where they are* to *where they want to be*. Each department, faculty and staff member attempts to focus on the whole person, addressing their social, academic and spiritual needs. Students often find comfort in the classroom in unexpected ways, fulfilling a need they did not know existed.

Take, for example, Niesha King. As a child, King only attended school through the third grade. King's mother did not believe in women having a formal education. But by the time she was 17 years old, armed with a desire for an education but lacking the preparation that her peers received in middle school and high school, King set out to get a GED. Today, King is a successful Donnelly student on track to graduate in May, 2017.

"The way that I look at it is, the time is going to pass anyway, so what am I doing with the time?" King said. "I just want my life to have meaning. I don't want to be



King (right) was one of the four featured student panelists sharing their stories at SHINE 2016.

another number or statistic, or just kind of blend in with the masses."

Through intensive tutoring and support services offered at Workforce Partnership in Kansas City, Kansas, King prepared for six months and then passed her GED exam.

After receiving her GED, King attended a local community college, but found a large and impersonal institution not suited for her. Through a friend, she found her way to Donnelly in 2016, and even applied for and received a Bloch Scholarship (the Bloch Scholarship, named for co-founder of H&R Block and Donnelly College benefactor Henry Bloch, provides two years of free tuition and books at Donnelly College plus two additional years at UMKC).

King says it's the atmosphere at Donnelly that she finds encouraging and motivating. "I'm not a very religious person, but the first thing that was super impactful was that Sister Marie Kathleen Daugherty opened her class with prayer. We're in the heart of Wyandotte, and there's just so much stuff going on, trying to pull me away from going to school. Being able to sit in a classroom feels safe. Prayer is being said. It just really makes me feel at home.

One of Donnelly's mottos is 'become the best version of yourself' and that is so valuable and magnificent to me. It's just a really great platform for me to actually express myself and be the best version that I can become," King said.

SERVICE: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SERVICE-LEARNING MORE THAN AN ASSIGNMENT

With a desire to merge Catholic social justice teaching with literacy education, Lisa Stoothoff, Director of Preparatory Education, received a grant from Target in 2012 that has evolved into an annual service learning project.

Better known as Project L.O.U.D., Literacy Outreach in Urban Districts, the project benefits both Donnelly's Preparatory Education students and students from the urban core of Kansas City, Kansas.

"It was a way for our students, who are working to increase their proficiency in reading and writing, to practice their public speaking skills, to be more proficient in reading and writing and to give back to the community in a way that shows the students that reading and writing is a lifelong skill," Stoothoff said.

After six-weeks of intensive reading and writing preparation with Assistant Professors Lisa Stoothoff and Gretchen Meinhardt, a class of 28 Donnelly students attended Our Lady of Unity School on October 5 to read their own original poems to kindergarten through fifth grade students.

Donnelly freshman Marlene Torres

was one of the students who read to the young students.

"We wanted to encourage a lot of children, starting at a young age, to read and encourage them to practice creative writing skills by reading them these poems and being an inspiration to them," Torres said. "They can really start to spark their imaginations and be able to be more creative and start to pick up on some writing skills, which they usually start to learn around first or second grade. It's really good to expose them to this – especially because there are a lot of bilingual students."

The students that attend Our Lady of Unity School and those that attend Donnelly are not that different. Many are of a similar demographic group.

"Our population at Donnelly mimics the population at Our Lady of Unity and I think that connection was important for both to see," Stoothoff said. Because of this, the students are receiving much more than simply a special guest reader in class.



Donnelly College Preparatory Education students read original poetry to students at Our Lady of Unity School on Oct. 5.

It's a win-win situation because the elementary school students see role models: 'Hey, he looks just like me, he speaks like me, maybe he went to school here and look what he's done with his life – he's going to college now,'" Stoothoff said. "It shows them this is a step. Not, it could happen – it will happen. You will go to college someday."

Donnelly College Preparatory Education classes have read to students at both public and private schools within the urban core of Kansas City, including M.E. Pearson Elementary, McKinley Elementary and Resurrection Catholic School.

WITNESS: VALUES-BASED ENVIRONMENT

A MEAL THAT MATTERS



Deb Robinson with the Gateway to College program serves students during the annual Thanks & Giving celebration.

Thanksgiving was upon us as the smell of turkey, ham, sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie filled the campus halls on November 22, as it does each year around that time.

For more than 30 years, a unique Donnelly tradition has provided an opportunity for our students to experience community, conversation and service on campus – at a time of year that holds special meaning for so many of us.

Thanks & Giving, initiated in the mid-1980s by long-time English faculty and Humanities Department Chair Dolores Podrebarac, began as a prayer service, an

offering of thanks, and offering of canned goods for local food pantries. In the mid-1990s, a shared meal was added that brought the campus community together. The tradition continues today with a prayer service and Thanksgiving banquet for our students prepared and served by staff and faculty. This year, three separate meals were served: day students, evening students and nursing students.

This approach to serving provides an opportunity for Donnelly to place the institutional values of community and inclusiveness into action, alongside the broader Catholic and Benedictine

values of hospitality and solidarity. Donnelly students come together for a family-like feast in a peaceful environment that invites and celebrates all cultures. During this year's event, three students shared prayers from their Muslim, Christian and Brazilian traditions.

While the event provided students with a hot meal in an inclusive space, the aim was to provide much more. During the meal, a video message of

encouragement and hope showcased ten faculty and staff members who shared messages of what they appreciated about Donnelly students.

"Every day, I get up and come to work and I'm excited to come to work, because I get to meet with our students," said Megan Jordan, Academic Adviser. "They're inspiring, they're hard working, they're dedicated, they're brave – they're everything I aspire to be."



WATCH THE THANKS & GIVING VIDEO ONLINE
www.youtube.com/donnellycollege

CAMPUS MINISTRY

At Donnelly, we provide the tools students need to explore various ways of thinking, regardless of their own faith tradition. The diversity in religious backgrounds provides engaging conversations and opportunities to explore other traditions.

- Daily Mass, celebratory Masses and annual Convocation Mass
- Sacramental reconciliation, devotions and bible studies
- Spiritual direction and counseling
- Ecumenical prayer service and activities
- R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
- Icath: An informal discussion session on Catholic belief

DONNELLY COLLEGE'S 10TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

SHINE



Student and Alumni panelists share their stories at SHINE. From left; Brennan Crawford ('12), Executive Director, Community Housing of Wyandotte County; Yvonne Martinez ('18), current Gateway to College student; Ruben Bueno ('13), current student at University of Kansas School of Medicine; Niesha King ('17), current associate degree student.

HEAR THEIR STORIES AT
www.donnelly.edu/shine

Donnelly College's 10th annual SHINE took place on October 8, 2016 at Arrowhead Stadium. We would like to say a special thank you to Co-Chairs Jack and Jean Ann Ovel, and our presenting sponsors: In Thanksgiving to Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. and JE Dunn.

Thank you to everyone who supported SHINE, Donnelly College's annual celebration benefiting our students and mission. We raised more than \$295,000 toward our \$300,000 goal. SHINE assists with Donnelly's annual need

of \$1.7 million for scholarships and operational support. Through your generous support, Donnelly's mission of affordable, Catholic higher education is made possible.

The highlight of the evening was the annual student and alumni panel. We met an aspiring medical doctor, a young mother who wants to change the future of her family, a community-housing advocate, and a young woman who has found her true north.

During the panel discussion, Donnelly College President, Monsignor Stuart Swetland said, "These four individuals represent our students' desire to serve their communities and to improve their own lives and the lives of those around them. They represent a bright future, a better Kansas City, and a better world for all of us."

It is not too late! If you missed SHINE and want to help Donnelly students, please consider giving a gift of support today. Visit www.donnelly.edu/give



PRESENTING SPONSORS

In Thanksgiving to
Blessed Francis Xavier
Seelos, C.Ss.R.



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Trey Bowen

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SHINE

BY THE NUMBERS

October 8, 2016

\$295,000 2016 total \$

10th anniversary | **350** guests



#dcshine16

SPOTLIGHT

FOSTERING DIALOGUE ON CAMPUS

Donnelly College is an institution of higher education deeply rooted in the fabric of the community. With students living on campus, combined with a diverse staff, faculty and student body – all of whom are perceptive about social and political issues – it is no surprise that Donnelly has become known as a meeting place, a home for dialogue, and a leader in bringing the community together.



Beginning last summer, Donnelly was pleased to partner with Mayor Mark Holland of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County to host a series of meetings on campus, one of which was specifically designed for millennials. In light of the continuing tension between law enforcement and minority communities across the U.S., the meetings focused on ideas of how we can move forward as a community.



In addition, this December, Donnelly was proud to host American Public Square, 89.3 KCUR and the Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce in an open community meeting entitled, “Who’s Our Neighbor? A Conversation on Neighborhoods, Poverty and Race.” More than 180 individuals from around the metro met to examine the interaction and relation between poverty, race and place.



“Donnelly is the lighthouse in this community. Without this school, many of us would not achieve our dreams.”

– Denise Suarez Gomez, Class of 2016

Denise’s story, like so many of our students’ stories, is one of perseverance and willingness to work hard to achieve her dreams.

Denise and her family fled Peru in 2001, under threat due to her parents’ missionary work. Landing in Kansas,

the family relied on the kindness of relatives, the generosity of strangers, and personal sacrifice as

both parents worked two jobs while also attending ESL classes.

Eventually, Denise and her family received asylum and became U.S. citizens.

Although successful in high school, after graduating from JCCC, Denise struggled to find a connection with the right school to complete her teaching degree. Following a friend’s advice, Denise found Donnelly and she said it gave her a sense of hope: “Donnelly brought light to my life during the storm.” Today, Denise is an elementary school teacher in the Denver Public School System.

In her graduation address, Denise stated, **“Donnelly is bringing light to this community by empowering individuals to be the light for others.** Through every degree and profession, we can carry out acts of service for our community.”

You too can **BE THE LIGHT** for Donnelly students like Denise. We need your help to sustain our mission as an accessible and affordable Catholic college. Please consider a gift to help us keep our beacon of hope bright for all.

Learn more and give online at www.donnelly.edu/give



SEE DENISE’S FULL GRADUATION SPEECH AT www.youtube.com/donnellycollege

DONNELLY COLLEGE GEAR IS NOW AVAILABLE!

STOP BY THE CAMPUS BOOKSTORE OR CALL (913) 621-8768 TO PURCHASE MERCHANDISE. PRICES RANGE FROM \$10 TO \$32.



Modeled by Donnelly students

KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH DONNELLY FOR NEW KC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Donnelly College is a proud partner of the new Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation's KC Scholars program. KC Scholars is a scholarship and college savings program that aims to help low and modest income students, as well as adult learners, complete college without the financial burden.

KC Scholars offers three scholarship opportunities – traditional, adult learners and college savings match. Donnelly College is one of 17 colleges and universities that partner with KC Scholars to accept recipients of these scholarships.

KC Scholars is the third college scholarship program the Kauffman Foundation has invested in, according to a Kansas City Star

article. The Kauffman Foundation is investing \$79 million through KC Scholars.

By the year 2020, two out of three jobs will require more than a high school diploma, according to the KC Scholars website. This program has been created to help close that gap and assist local students in achieving their academic goals by awarding 500 scholarships annually.

Available to low and modest income students living in Cass, Clay, Jackson and Platte counties in Missouri, and Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas, applications can be submitted online beginning Jan. 2 - March 3, 2017. For more information about KC Scholars, visit kcscholars.org.



DID YOU KNOW?

Just as with Donnelly's scholarship programs, the success of KC Scholars will require the financial commitment of individuals and organizations that wish to establish scholarships. **If you choose to create a KC Scholars scholarship, please consider designating that scholarship specifically for use at Donnelly College.**

For more information, please contact Emily Buckley at ebuckley@donnelly.edu or (913) 621-8731.

KC DEGREES NAMES DONNELLY A PARTNER INSTITUTION



KC Degrees, an initiative of Mid-America Regional Council and member of the national Graduate! Network asks the question: What if every person who didn't finish college had the resources to return and earn a degree?

There are more than 300,000 adults in the Kansas City area who could find better jobs, career satisfaction and financial opportunity by completing their postsecondary education. KC Degrees supports postsecondary access, attainment, and workforce development efforts across the bi-state Kansas City metropolitan area. The program provides free guidance and support to help adults age 24 and older without an associate's degree or higher return to college and complete a postsecondary education.

Donnelly is excited to be named as one of 17 regional postsecondary partner institutions working to make college accessible and affordable for all.

Helping adults go back to and complete college requires the engagement and investment of many in the community. KC Scholars and the Lumina Foundation are also active supporters of the program.

Help us spread the word about KC Degrees. If you know someone who would like to complete college, refer him or her to www.kcdegrees.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering those who have recently passed away

ALUMNI

[John H. Derrell \('63\)](#) died August 5, 2016 at the age of 73.

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI

[Brennan Crawford \('02\)](#) has been appointed Executive Director of Community Housing of Wyandotte County, Inc.

[Ruben Bueno \('13\)](#) has been accepted into the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

[Dr. Susan Keim](#) was honored on Oct. 15 at the Alumni Honors Luncheon during Homecoming Weekend at the Notre Dame de Sion School in Kansas City, Missouri for her professional accomplishments and commitment to the community.

[Carol Marinovich](#) was recently selected as a 2016 Civility Award Winner by the nonprofit organization, Consensus. Carol was honored for her lifetime achievement award at a breakfast on Nov. 8 at Rockhurst University.

[Leesa Pohl](#), Assistant Professor, is the new president-elect of the Kansas Associate of Mathematics at Two-Year Colleges (KAMTYC) beginning January 2017.

Congratulations to [Kisha Stevenson](#), Director of Admissions, who recently completed all her requirements and has successfully presented her final thesis for a Master's in Education from the University of Saint Mary.

[Lisa Stoothoff](#), Director of Preparatory Education, presented two topics in two states, within two months.

Stoothoff presented the topic of Catholic Social Justice Teaching on Sept. 30 at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

The Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies (IPR) at the

Catholic University of America and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities sponsored the conference for faculty of all disciplines to share how they integrate Catholic Social Teaching in their classrooms.

Stoothoff also represented Donnelly College at a Diversity and Multiculturalism conference in Pittsburg, KS on Oct. 24-25.

She conducted a presentation on, "Student Growth from Service Learning: Increasing Persistence in First-Generation College Students."

The Michael Tilford Conference at Pittsburg State University hosted nine different workshops to provide faculty, staff and administrators at surrounding Kansas institutions to discuss diversity in higher education.

[Ana Valdez](#), Advancement Officer, was recognized on Thursday, Nov. 17 by the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS), by being inducted into the Reasons to Believe Alumni Honor Roll. Reasons to Believe annually inducts honorees from graduates of each of the KCKPS high schools. Ana graduated from J.C. Harmon High School in 1983. Her advice to young people: "Don't let your difficulties bring you down, because if you do, then you've lost. You have to say, 'Okay, this happened.' But don't give yourself over to it. Okay, you got a bad grade. What are you going to do about it? How are you going to fix it?"

ATTENTION ALUMNI

While your student days are behind you, we hope you choose to stay involved with Donnelly.

WWW.DONNELLY.EDU/ALUMNI

STAY CONNECTED



- Update your information
- Tell us about your life events
- Follow us on social media

GIVE BACK



- Give a gift
- Join the Champions Circle
- Attend SHINE or other special events

SERVE



- Volunteer on campus
- Share your story
- Serve on a board or committee



For more information, contact Roger Berg, Alumni and Constituent Relations, at (913) 621-8744 or rberg@donnelly.edu.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

[2015-2016]

This report contains data from the 2015-2016 school year



Monsignor Stuart Swetland

Every year Donnelly College holds a Thanks and Giving celebration on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. This year the celebration was held three times to serve our diverse community. The first celebration was at lunch time where, after an ecumenical prayer service, hundreds of students were afforded a traditional Thanksgiving meal prepared and served by our wonderful faculty and staff. The celebration was repeated in the late afternoon for our nursing students and again in the evening for our students who attend night classes. These gatherings allowed me to see, in one day, about all of our students and to celebrate with them. It was, as always, a beautiful and poignant reminder of the importance of the mission of Donnelly College.

The overwhelming attitude that struck me during this year's Thanks and Giving was the gratitude of our students for the opportunities that Donnelly College provides for them. They know that numerous people- most of whom they do not know – make possible the wonderful education and formation they receive.

Our students indeed are grateful for the opportunity that they have, but they also amaze me by their hard work and efforts. Balancing home life, work and college can be daunting for anyone, but it is particularly challenging for first generation college students like ours. Our incredibly dedicated staff and faculty at Donnelly College work tirelessly to serve our students as they try to become "the best version of themselves." Your support makes possible this wonderful encounter of a well-formed, focused staff with eager, hardworking students.

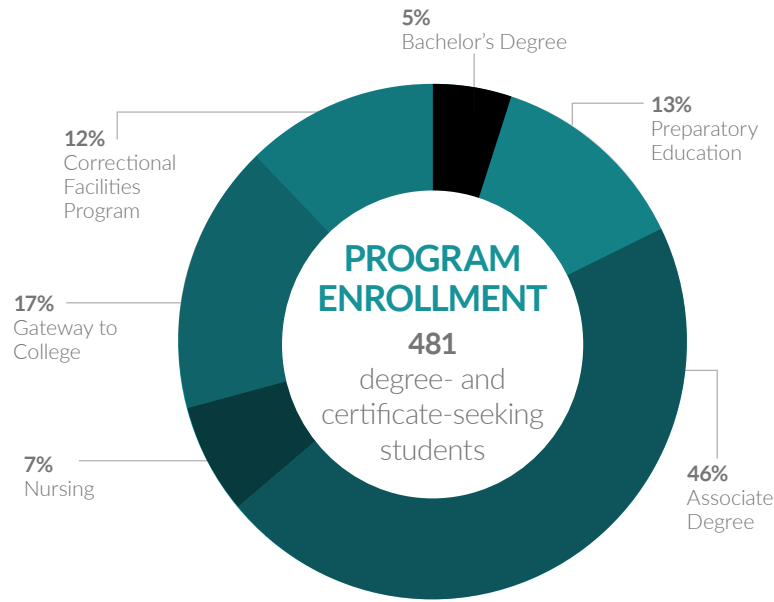
As you read this report, please know how much we appreciate and need you and your continued investment in our mission, and our students. The work that was begun so faithfully by Bishop Donnelly and Sr. Jerome and their co-workers 67 years ago continues in a new era where it is more needed than ever.

Pax,

Msr. Stuart W. Swetland

Monsignor Stuart Swetland
President

ABOUT DONNELLY



29%
increase in enrollment from Fall 2015 - Fall 2016



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

WHO OUR STUDENTS ARE

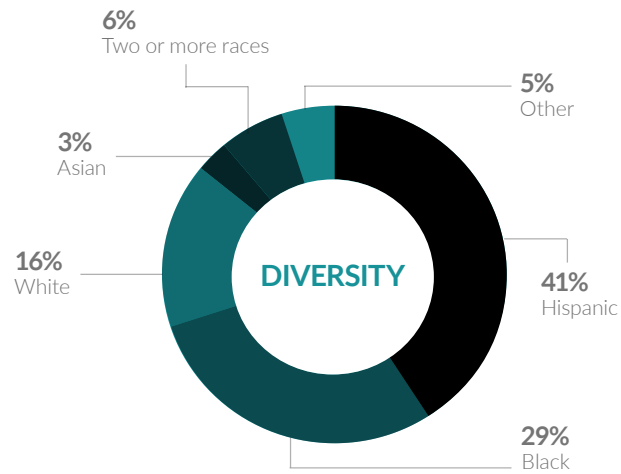


39% male 61% female

64% full-time
36% part-time

81
PERCENT

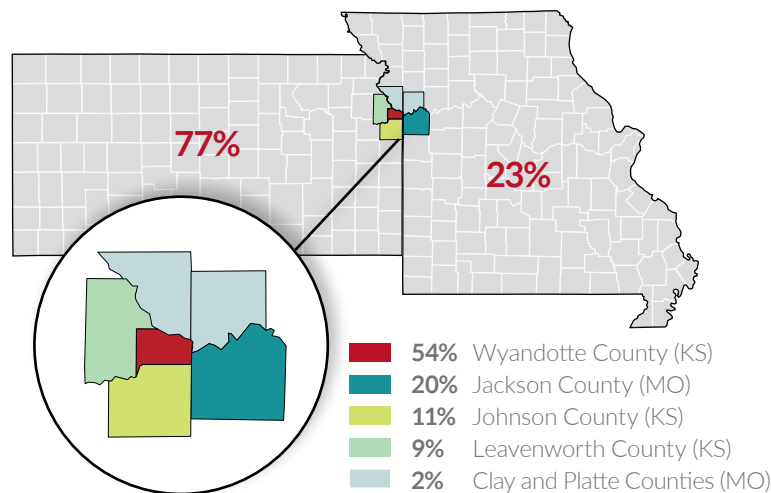
first-generation college students
- almost twice as high as other four-year institutions nationally



WHERE OUR STUDENTS COME FROM

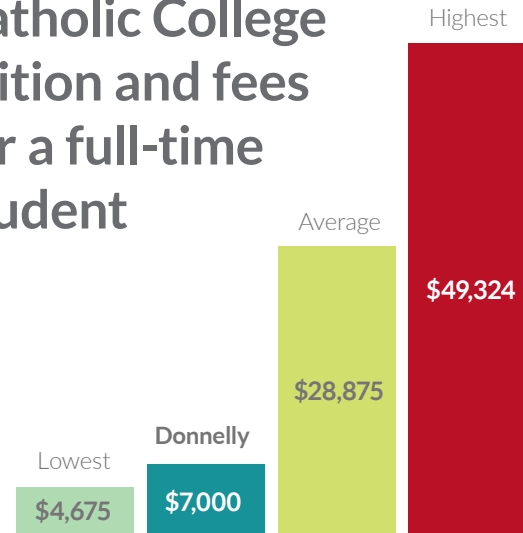
31 total metro high schools represented by Donnelly's student body

An additional **440** current high school students received credit through College Credit Now



WE ♥ SCHOLARSHIPS

U.S. average Catholic College tuition and fees for a full-time student

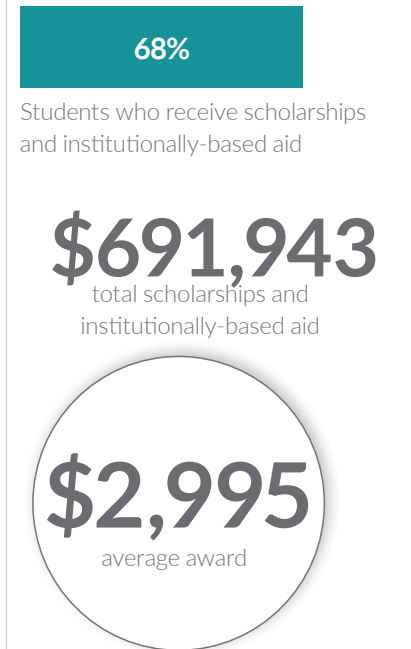


Source: Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

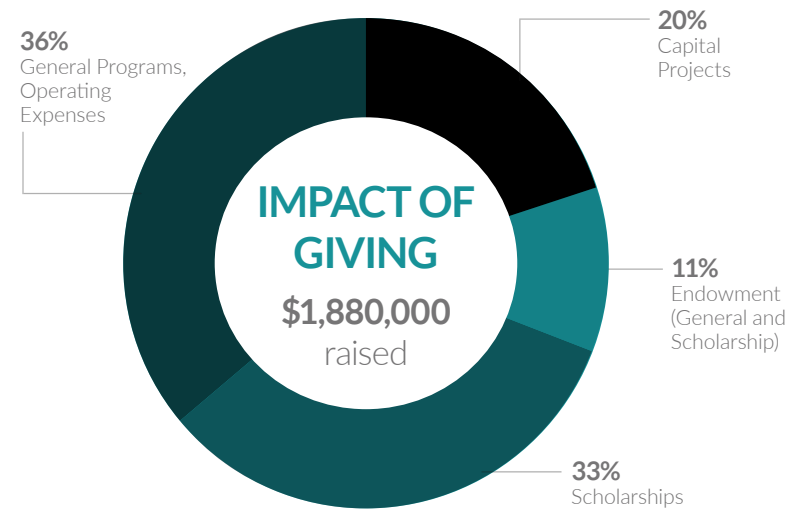
PELL GRANTS



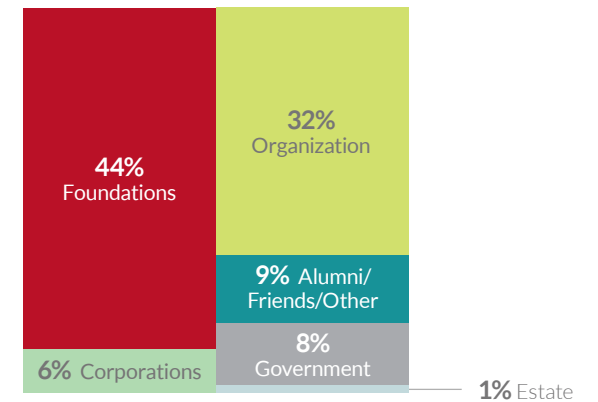
SCHOLARSHIPS & institutionally-based aid



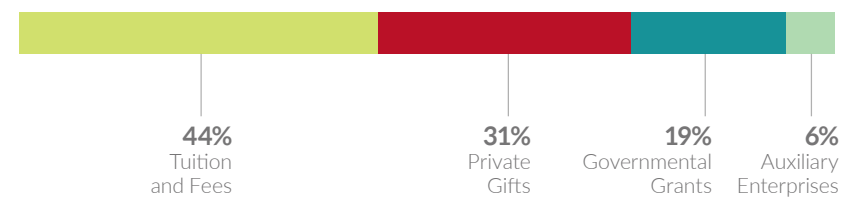
FINANCIAL INFORMATION



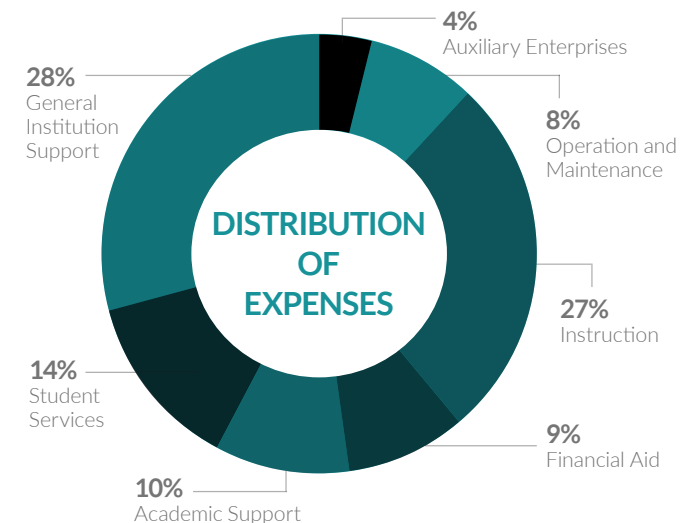
SOURCES OF GIFTS



SOURCES OF OPERATING REVENUE



DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES



INVESTORS & SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU!

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN 7/1/15 - 6/30/16

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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.



Jack and Jean Ann Ovel at SHINE 2016

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 Ana Valdez at avaldez@donnelly.edu or (913) 621-8717.



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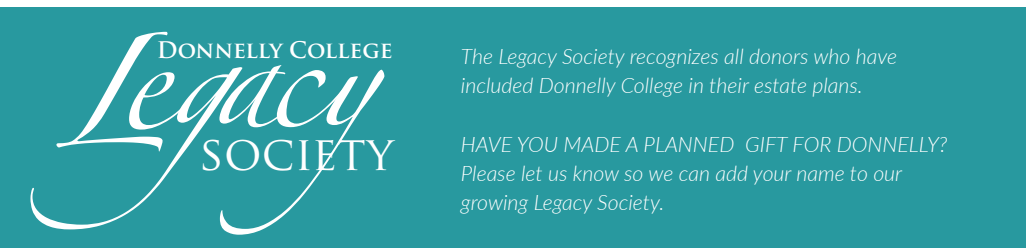
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Dr. John Romito's ('66) induction into the 2016 Alumni Hall of Fame

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

CHOOSE DONNELLY

We believe in you.

ENJOY A SMALL CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

Don't get lost in the crowd of a large campus. Donnelly feels like a family, so when life presents challenges, you won't be alone.

Donnelly is one of the most diverse colleges in the country – and it's in the heart of KCK.

SPEND LESS

More than 90% of our students receive financial assistance, and many leave Donnelly with little or no student loan debt.

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

At Donnelly, you are empowered to go from where you are to where you want to be. Complete your degree at Donnelly, or we'll help you transfer to another college.

CONSIDER THE BIGGER PICTURE

Explore big questions and learn to solve big problems by taking courses in a variety of subjects.

Speak your mind and live your faith in a Catholic college that encourages you to express your own beliefs.

DO YOU KNOW ANY POTENTIAL STUDENTS?
 Encourage them to enroll for spring classes by January 10.
www.donnelly.edu/spring

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Thank you for your continuous and unfailing support of Donnelly's mission! May you and your families be blessed during this 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, 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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STUDENT SENATE



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- 1.17.17** Spring classes begin
- 2.23.17** Photojournalist Scott Langley Visit
- 3.24.17** Poet Laureate of Kansas Eric McHenry Visit

- 5.12.17** Graduation Prayer Service
- 5.13.17** Commencement
- 8.21.17** Fall Classes Begin