

DONNELLY COLLEGE DIGEST

A publication for alumni & friends

WINTER 2014

Volume 8, Issue 2



TAKING LEARNING TO A HIGHER DEGREE

*Donnelly now offers three
bachelor's programs*

LEADER'S MESSAGE



Monsignor Stuart Swetland
President

After beginning my time as Donnelly College's seventh president just five months ago, I have faced a steep learning curve. It has been an honor getting to know the wonderful people who have chosen to serve at Donnelly, and an even bigger honor serving the incredible students who walk through our doors.

I am so impressed with the reputation that Donnelly College has with those who know us — but not enough people know us well yet. As many people around the College frequently say, Donnelly truly is the best-kept secret in Kansas City, and we are on a mission to inform the broader public about the remarkable accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and the College as a community of learners.

With our educational and formational mission, I like to say that Donnelly College is an embodiment of Pope Francis's challenge to embark on the New Evangelization by beginning with those who might not otherwise be served. In other words, if Donnelly College did not exist, we would have to create it! But happily, it does exist because of the faithful service and stewardship of so many over these past 65 years. Our Catholic identity still guides our every effort and keeps us faithful to our Catholic Benedictine values, which have remained firm since the College first opened its doors.

In this edition of the Digest, we highlight our three bachelor's degree programs: Information Systems, Organizational Leadership and Urban Teacher Education. We still offer many associate degrees and are proud to expand our programming so that all types of learners can start their journey with Donnelly College — the only institution in Wyandotte County offering four-year degrees. With hard-working students, talented faculty members, driven staff members and a phenomenal community supporting us, Donnelly is starting to take flight. We hope you will continue supporting us on our journey.

Pax,

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

Monsignor Stuart W. Swetland

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAMPUS CONNECTION

Meet Monsignor over light refreshments, network with other attendees and hear a short presentation about the work of the College. Enjoy an optional campus tour afterward.

Monday,
February 9, 2015
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday,
April 9, 2015
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

DONNELLY TALKS

Join Monsignor and faculty member Dr. Melissa Lenos for an evening of thought-provoking conversation and reflection on campus. The topic will be *From Harry Potter to the Hunger Games: Theological Perspectives on Popular Young Adult Literature*.

Wednesday,
March 11, 2015
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Space is limited and reservations are required. Please RSVP to Craig Doty at cdoty@donnelly.edu or (913) 621-8752.

ABOUT THE COVER

TAKING LEARNING TO A HIGHER DEGREE

THE INSTITUTION THAT IS THE BEST-KEPT SECRET OF KANSAS CITY, KANSAS HAS A SECRET OF ITS OWN THAT IT IS READY TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE.

For 65 years, Donnelly College has provided quality education at affordable rates, embracing every student who enters its doors. Those students now can stay longer since the College started offering bachelor's degree programs.

In addition to associate degrees and health care certificates, learners can earn a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership, a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education or a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems.

As the only college or university that has bachelor's programs in Wyandotte County, Donnelly is uniquely positioned to push students even further on their path to success while studying in a convenient location that is close to home.

The College is proud to share information about these programs with its alumni and friends. Read on to learn more about these groundbreaking programs.



INFORMATION SYSTEMS

In its transition from a two-year college to one that also offers multiple bachelor's degrees, Donnelly College added a program that allows students to become equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in one of today's most in-demand fields: information systems.

Starting in the 2013-14 school year, interested Donnelly students began working toward a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems. Led by Director of Information Systems Dr. Stacy Yeager-Huddleston, the program is great for people who want to learn about the inner-workings of computers and their functionalities in modern society.

With generous job opportunities in markets worldwide, the information systems industry is bustling and has a constant need for workers. Donnelly's program teaches students to apply the knowledge and theories they learn to various work environments centered on information systems. Students also have the opportunity to intern or work in a chosen field of study, further preparing them for their future careers.

According to Dr. Yeager-Huddleston, "The bachelor's degree program in information systems prepares students for middle and supervisory positions by providing practical, hands-on experience; skills that can be applied to multiple computer systems and tools to prepare

students for leadership roles."

The Information Systems program is open to everyone who meets the prerequisite requirements; as such, Dr. Yeager-Huddleston works with administrators at Kansas City Kansas Community College, Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley and Johnson County Community College to maintain and cultivate new articulation agreements in order to better serve potential students looking for a seamless transition between schools.

"As leader of the department, my short-term goal is to have articulation agreements with all schools in Kansas and Missouri by the end of 2015," Dr. Yeager-Huddleston notes.

She says she expects the program to continue growing. The first freshmen cohort for this track began in August, with the goal that each student earns an associate and a bachelor's degree through Donnelly.

"The Information Systems program — along with Organizational Leadership and Urban Teacher Education — provides an opportunity that has not existed before: It allows people in the community to earn a competitive, four-year bachelor's degree close to home," Dr. Yeager-Huddleston emphasizes.

TAKING LEARNING TO A HIGHER DEGREE



ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP



Organizational Leadership students helped unload food and stock shelves for Catholic Charities during a service learning project



Sean McEvoy '14 is now a chef at Dean & DeLuca

Most people are familiar with business degrees, yet not as many understand the distinction from an organizational leadership track. Learners interested in going into corporate environments, nonprofit organizations and government agencies can all get their start at Donnelly College.

With solid curriculum featuring business, marketing plus leadership and real world experience built into the program requirements, Donnelly's Organizational Leadership students become natural leaders in their field.

"The beauty of the OL degree is that students can enter into almost any field they're interested in," says Organizational Leadership Program Director Dr. Susan Keim. "The challenge can be narrowing down that sphere of interest. The sky is the limit with this degree."

In addition to the knowledge OL students gain in an array of topics like communications, human relations and economics, they also all complete a two-semester capstone project during their senior year.

"It's an excellent way for the students to put together everything they've learned and either have an internship or create a project so they use all the skills they've acquired," Dr. Keim shares. "When they leave Donnelly, they really have experienced the ups and downs of an

organization firsthand."

Program completion prepares students for myriad positions. Donnelly's OL grads are accountants, government employees, store managers, chefs, business owners and more; they work in public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Dr. Keim further notes the "absolutely phenomenal" transformations she's seen between when students enter the program and when they graduate. One such student, Dania Phillips, struggled with writing, self-confidence and trust when she first met Keim.

"As I began to work with her on writing, she began to develop trust and self-confidence," says Dr. Keim. "At the end of her time at Donnelly, she had grown into a very confident woman with exceptional leadership skills who I think will be a lifelong learner."

Another former student, Sean McEvoy, '14, attended various institutions of higher education before sticking with Donnelly. His capstone project involved experimenting with positive reinforcement (in the form of money) to try to improve students' grades — and it worked. Now McEvoy is a chef at Dean & DeLuca.

"I imagine we'll be going to his own restaurant one of these days," Dr. Keim says. "His parents were the proudest parents I saw at graduation last spring."



URBAN TEACHER EDUCATION

Amongst the new programs recently added to Donnelly's repertoire, one in particular prepares students to give back to communities just like the heart of Kansas City, Kansas — which the College has proudly served for 65 years.

Donnelly's Urban Teacher Education Program (UTEP) guides students through both classroom and field work en route to earning their Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Furthermore, UTEP students graduate with the English for Speakers of Other Languages endorsement. UTEP Director Dr. Brenda Harris says she is quite pleased with this component, as it typically must be completed separately from education degree requirements.

"Today, schools are much more diverse and have an increased population of English language learners; this makes our candidates extremely employable," Dr. Harris emphasizes.

Not only does Donnelly aim to make the program easier to begin and complete, but the structure also ensures that those who enroll will succeed in their efforts. Each teacher candidate works closely with a College-to-Career Mentor — a seasoned educator who offers coaching and support from junior year through the first year of teaching.

Additionally, beginning freshmen year, UTEP students gain direct exposure to the field, starting by observing and working their way up to student teaching during senior year.

"I believe the early exposure to the urban classroom better prepares the aspiring teacher to understand the work, the commitment and the challenges that are involved in working in an urban school district," she notes.

One distinctive feature of Donnelly's education program is its emphasis on preparation for urban environments.

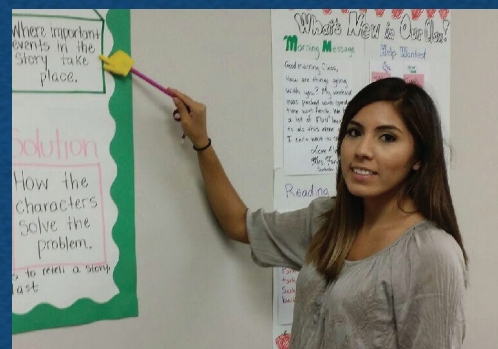
"The program has embedded diversity and multicultural issues throughout all of the coursework," Dr. Harris says. "The candidate will have the opportunity to engage in rich discussions around race, social justice, diversity and the challenge that urban learners experience, as well as work in urban classrooms early in their programs."

And while UTEP graduates will be equipped to succeed teaching in an urban setting, employment options are numerous for those who complete Donnelly's program.

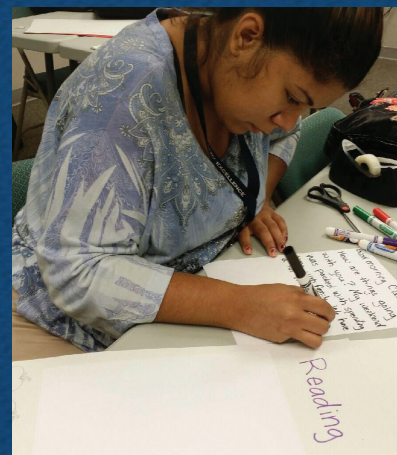
"Although this program has an urban focus, candidates have the option to work in rural and suburban school districts," shares Dr. Harris. "What we provide for our candidates is best teaching practices that will support student learning in urban, suburban or rural school districts."

Going forward, Dr. Harris has big dreams for the program that launched in the fall of 2013.

"In the next few years, I hope to see our student enrollment flourish," she says. "My aim is to be a distinguished teacher education program that is known nationally for its outstanding teachers."



Denise Suarez-Gomez teaching a reading lesson



Serena Browne preparing a lesson in the Teacher Resource Lab

BUILDING A LOVE FOR READING

Literacy starts young



Sometimes the smallest efforts go the longest way. Several Donnelly College students recently read aloud to McKinley Elementary School students as part of a service learning project and walked away with newfound appreciation for fostering literacy amongst Kansas City's youth.

Students from both schools were buzzing with excitement throughout the event. Although some Donnelly students reported nerves before presenting stories to students from kindergarten through sixth grade, everyone was pleased with the results. "It was scary at the beginning, but once you sat down and saw how they're so focused on you and you saw their little faces — you felt like, 'Ok, I can do this,'" shared Donnelly student Sandra Castillo. "I was practicing on my daughter every day, and she had a lot of tips for me, but it didn't prepare me for how amazing the feeling is. It was awesome." Many McKinley students said that while they enjoy reading, they often don't have anyone to whom they can read aloud.

"They want to tell us so bad how much they like reading," Donnelly student Manny Estevez reported. "I tell them the same thing: Stand on the table and scream to read. You can see how they really want to read. They just need somebody to read to." Although finding a captive audience can be difficult at times for young readers, Castillo maintained that it's possible — and well worth the efforts. "Sometimes as parents we forget what we have to go through to learn," she noted. "When I was reading, I [could] totally see that it was making a difference."

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROVIDES KEY COLLEGE & CAREER RESOURCES



Dr. Cynthia Lane, Christal Watson, Matthew Fearing, Evelyn Hudson, and Juan Rangel cut the ribbon

A four-way community partnership aiming to equip local high school students with skills and resources needed to succeed in college and their careers officially launched this fall.

Donnelly College hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for a collaboration between the College, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS), Gateway to College and Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). Since Gateway to College helps students prepare for college in a nontraditional setting and JAG works to make students career ready, a group effort involving the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools and Donnelly College was a natural fit.

The culmination of this partnership is an on-the-ground JAG and Gateway to College Resource Specialist, Jenee Workman, stationed at Donnelly's Gateway to College program. Workman cooperates daily with students in an advising and mentoring role. She takes students on field trips, connects them to local businesses in hopes of later

securing jobs, helps them with coursework and provides general career guidance.

"Our job in the holistic approach is to support students," said Juan Rangel, Director of Donnelly's Gateway to College program. "It's about how much we prepare them for the workforce. They're meeting people who they aspire to be themselves some day."

Several community members were on hand to launch the partnership. Organization representatives included Matthew Fearing, JAG Kansas President/CEO; Bill Hurrelbrink, Communications Director for Mark Holland; Dr. Cynthia Lane, KCKPS Superintendent and Dr. Mary Viveros, District Implementation Coach for KCKPS.

"The exciting thing about doing what we do is that each year we find new connections that make sense, and this makes sense," Dr. Viveros said. "We're so thankful for all the partners in the room, because it takes all of us to get the job done."

NEW WEBSITE COMING IN EARLY 2015



In the era of ever-evolving technology when Millennials and Baby Boomers alike succumb to the mobile frenzy of cell phones, tablets and more, an institution's website can be one of its most important assets.

In February, the new www.donnelly.edu will be mobile friendly, searchable and will feature a translate button. All changes will better serve the entire Donnelly community and external audiences.

FEELING GOOD INSIDE AND OUT

Practical Nursing students get real world experience



Nursing students ready to go in their uniforms for the Feel Good Fair

More than 100 community members, faculty, staff and students attended Donnelly College's fourth annual Feel Good Fair. Practical Nursing students administered 50 free flu shots, held a bone marrow drive, and informed attendees about high blood pressure, diabetes and other conditions.

The fair, which also featured mental health tips, healthy snacks, information from area health services and more, brought in many area residents.

For many PN students, this event was the first opportunity to practice some of these crucial skills on patients, and their excitement was tangible.

"It's a pretty good turnout," said PN student Addie Linebaugh. "Plus it's just interesting meeting new people. It's really nice that it's opening eyes to people to see that we have these programs."

Although people go into the nursing field for various reasons, a noticeable theme for why Donnelly students work toward health care certificates is the ability to give back to the community.



A nursing student administers a flu shot during the clinic

"I'm a disabled veteran, and I want to help disabled veterans — I want to work for the VA," said PN student Ronald Johnson.

Several of Donnelly's PN students cited the College's program as the right fit for them while they balance full-time jobs along with coursework. Because classes are offered at night, they can further their educations and improve their careers while still supporting themselves and often their families.

"I've heard people say that it's KC's best-kept secret," said PN student Steven Meyer. "It fits a full-time working student's schedule. Plus, since it's a Catholic school, you can still express your views, and that's different."

WELLNESS FOR LIFE



Diana Camden, MS, LPC

Two years into a three-year suicide prevention grant, Donnelly College's Counseling Center is making major strides. Thanks to the Garrett Lee Smith grant awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA),

Counseling Center Director Diana Camden, MS, LPC, provides many opportunities for students, faculty and staff to be involved in the prevention process.

Camden works to ensure resources like QPR (question, persuade, refer) training are available to as many people in the Donnelly community as possible. By serving as "gatekeepers," those who have taken the free QPR course are prepared to identify risks and to proceed in a helpful, safe manner.

"It's kind of like CPR where you learn the skills, and you see someone who's in need who is exhibiting behaviors that could be leading to suicide," Camden says. "You learn how to get them help."

In addition to providing suicide prevention resources, Camden also serves as a counselor available to students, faculty and staff free of charge. While much of her time is spent talking to students one-on-one, she also makes classroom visits to help students understand her work and the services she provides.

"I like going to the classroom visits because I can explain to students that you don't have to have a mental illness to come see me," she emphasizes. "Being in college is stressful — you're meeting new people, you're probably living away from home for the first time, [you have] lots of classes... It's a good way to talk to someone who's nonjudgmental who can talk you through those problems."

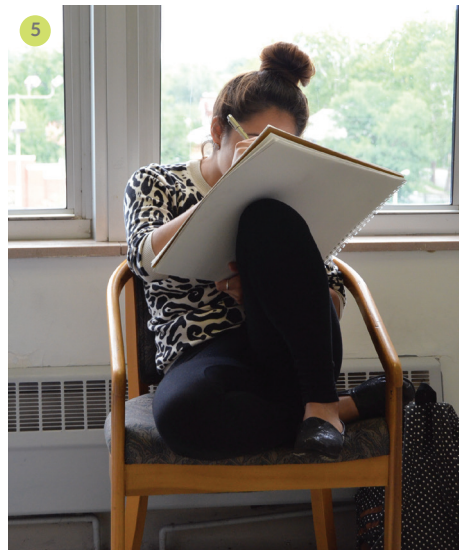
Going forward, Camden says she hopes to grow the Counseling Center, creating sustainable programming, bringing more people on campus to be involved in the efforts and finding an intern to serve as her counterpart for this spring.

"When I first started, many were not aware of where I was or what I did," she notes. And since she is a proponent of the concept that wellness encompasses the body and the mind, she will work to break down the stigma associated with mental health practices while providing a much-needed resource to the Donnelly campus.



FOR CURRENT NEWS UPDATES
visit Donnelly's Newsroom at donnelly.edu/news

AS SEEN ON CAMPUS



1 Archbishop Naumann leads the Donnelly community in Convocation Day Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter 2 Roberto Luna steals away the football during Soccer Club's Soccer Week flag football competition 3 The newly reorganized Donnelly choir serenades the crowd gathered for All Saints, All Souls Mass 4 Gateway to College students pose while digging up old landscaping at Sanctuary of Hope during New Student Orientation 5 Selena Ortega studies the fourth floor hallway for her Drawing I class 6 Family members help out on move in day 7 Leonardo Avila examines onion cells under a microscope in biology class 8 Cherry Sui Yung and Darrel Thomas read to students at McKinley Elementary School



9 Students walk through the neighborhood surrounding Donnelly during the fall Community Walk **10** Dhuha Shareef smiles and shows off her new master's regalia during the procession to Convocation Day Mass **11** Bishop Lucius Hre Kung from the Diocese of Burma grins as he visits with Donnelly students and faculty **12** Taleah Burger, Michael Reeves, Megan Espinosa and a visiting student strike a pose on their walk to Convocation Day Mass **13** Graduating practical nursing students pray before beginning the the Pinning Ceremony in August **14** De'Aric Watson lets out a big laugh during the small group time at New Student Orientation **15** Msgr. Swetland welcomes Congressman Kevin Yoder to Donnelly in August **16** An interviewer from Providence Medical Center gives a student advice during Mock Interview Day.

SHINE SCHOLARSHIP EVENT



Guests enjoyed an evening of music, socializing and celebrating student success at SHINE, Donnelly College's eighth annual scholarship event. The September 26 event raised more than \$230,000 to support the College's 700 students this fall. More than 300 guests attended SHINE, which was held at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown.

SHINE Chairs Drs. Ken Gibson (President Emeritus, Donnelly College) and Jackie Snyder (Chancellor Emeritus, Metropolitan Community College) kicked off the formal portion of the event by thanking Honorary Chairs Terry Dunn (President and CEO, JE Dunn Construction Group) and Peggy Dunn (Mayor, Leawood, Kansas).

The evening's festivities honored the Sunderland family, whose family foundation has given invaluable support to local organizations like Donnelly. Since the 1970s, the Sunderland family has impacted almost every campaign the College has undertaken.

Kent Sunderland, President of the Sunderland Foundation, was on hand to accept the recognition on behalf of his family. He spoke positively about Donnelly and his own pathway to success, sharing how personally touched he is by the College and its service to students.

The highlight of the evening was a panel discussion, featuring three current and one former Donnelly students: Jennifer Alvarez, Tyler Hagstrom and Alejandra Sandoval, along with Miro Heyink '11.

Hagstrom, a St. James Academy graduate, said that while college was always a plan for him, he found the process of getting started very intimidating. "Donnelly made a lot of my fears about going and checking out colleges just shatter," he said.

After completing her Certified Nurse Aide certificate at Donnelly, Sandoval stayed at the College to pursue her associate degree. She said her success at Donnelly has been particularly important to her mom. "She knows I'm capable of anything. I'm proving to her that I'm capable," she said.



(L to R) Terry Dunn, Peggy Dunn, Kent Sunderland, Dr. Jackie Snyder and Dr. Ken Gibson



Jesuit Volunteers (L to R): Molly Moore, Kelsey Gibbs, Gavin Reidy, Tricia Kersten and Maggie Buff

JOIN US FOR SHINE 2015!

Saturday, October 10, 2015

More details to come. To stay up to date, please visit donnelly.edu/shine.



FOR MORE PHOTOS FROM SHINE
visit donnelly.edu/shine

GRATIA THANKING OUR SUPPORTERS



(L to R): Daniel J. Haake, Volunteer of the Year; Teri and Bill Kriege accepting on behalf of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Partner of the Year; and Mayra Aguirre accepting on behalf of the Frank & Margaret G. McGee Fund, Donor of the Year

About 75 people gathered on November 20 for Gratia, a celebration for supporters of Donnelly College. Each year, three individuals or organizations are recognized at the event for their outstanding commitment to Donnelly.

“Today, because of your compassion, because of your sharing, we are able to give thanks together,” said President Monsignor Stuart Swetland. “This event is for you — our donors, faculty, staff, volunteers and students. We could not fulfill our mission without you.”

The Frank & Margaret G. McGee Fund received the honor for Donor of the Year. Accepting on behalf of the fund was Mayra Aguirre of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

“Frank and Margaret McGee were passionate about education; passionate about a Catholic education as well, and we know that Donnelly is one of those institutions that has been a good steward of the funds that we have given to them over the past three years,” Aguirre said.

Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees Daniel J. Haake was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. He made note of the challenges that faced him when the College began searching for its current President. Haake credited the students, faculty and staff as they aided him in the process.

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) took home the honor for Partner of the Year, recognizing the commitment dedicated young women and men have given to Donnelly for the past four years in a row. Former Kansas City Jesuit Volunteers Teri and Bill Kriege accepted the award for the JVC.

“Partnership is fundamental to the way JVC works across the country and around the world,” Teri said. “It is through our partner agencies like Donnelly College and the experience they afford our Jesuit Volunteers and their own communities that we together are building the kingdom of God.”

Past Jesuit Volunteers who served at Donnelly include David Miller in 2011-12, Christopher Kennedy in 2012-13 and Aimee Miller in 2013-14; Molly Moore is Donnelly’s current Jesuit Volunteer. (Read about Moore on page 22.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DONOR/SCHOLAR CONNECTION



March 12, 2015
Donnelly College Community Event Center
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Special supporters of Donnelly College like you are invited to Donnelly’s Donor Scholar Connection this spring. Please attend if you can to meet the students you have supported this year.

RSVP ONLINE: donnelly.edu/donorscholar

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME



May 7, 2015
Donnelly College Community Event Center
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Donnelly’s more than 40,000 alumni have gone on to touch lives and communities in amazing ways. In recognition of their contributions, please nominate an alum, living or deceased, who embodies the values, spirit and mission of Donnelly by February 1, 2015.

SUBMIT A NOMINATION: donnelly.edu/alumnihalloffame

YOU are RESPONSIBLE

FEATURE STORY

NEW BEGINNINGS

Out of a population of about 2,400 people, one of Donnelly College's most important programs serves only about 25-50 people per semester on average — many of whom typically are known by a number instead of a name.

While there are many logistical challenges associated with teaching college classes inside a prison, Dr. Steve Jansen, Lansing Prison Program Director, emphasizes the significance of providing a positive educational experience for those who are incarcerated.

“On our main campus, we're about optimism, we're about opportunity, we're about 'Let's find a way to make this happen,’” says Dr. Jansen. “In prison, it's not the same way. It's more tracking, verification, control. And that's understandable.”

Founded in 2001 by then-Donnelly President Dr. Ken Gibson, the Lansing Prison Program continues to serve inmates who want to work toward an associate degree. Credits are fully transferrable, and Dr. Jansen notes that regardless of whether an inmate finishes his or her degree through Donnelly's program, everyone at Lansing can benefit from participating.

“What happens is these guys get thrown into the system, and they tend to age, and by the time they are 22 or 23, they have 'X' amount of time

left before they see the review board, and they begin to realize, 'What am I going to do with the rest of my life?’” Dr. Jansen explains. “And I believe that rehabilitation is possible, and I believe that education is a critical component of that rehabilitative process.”

In addition to providing on-site classes for Lansing inmates, Donnelly also funds the majority of the cost for each course. The student must only pay one-third of the cost per class, or \$214 for a three-credit course, which includes the cost of books. The rest of the funding comes from fundraising, employers at Lansing, grants and donations by groups and corporations.

Yet acquiring funding to continue the program is not the only challenge Dr. Jansen faces in this role; he must also find qualified instructors who are willing to volunteer their skills and time to help inmates accomplish something remarkable while they're incarcerated. The fact that the prison is located about 45 minutes from Donnelly's main campus in Kansas City, Kansas only further complicates the search process.

All volunteers must also adhere to strict guidelines and restrictions every time they visit the prison. And in a world where most



Dr. Steve Jansen and a graduate from the Lansing class of 2010

instructors are dependent upon technology to facilitate classroom learning, Lansing volunteers cannot use the Internet, and very few have access to computers at all.

“I always say if I can get the teacher there and have them meet the students, they will find the students to be generally receptive and interested,” Dr. Jansen says. “And then the teachers see the value of what they're doing. But getting them there is not an easy process because they have to go through several hoops before you can have teacher in front of students and have that positive energy start to happen.”

Due to timing conflicts, Donnelly's Lansing

Correctional Facility program is only offered to medium- and minimum-security inmates. Security levels are determined based upon disciplinary infractions, so inmates frequently move between levels — another difficulty facing Dr. Jansen and his team, as they try to serve the most people possible notwithstanding the different physical locations of each unit.

Despite these roadblocks, Dr. Jansen continues to be dedicated to his students both at Donnelly's Kansas City, Kansas location and in Lansing. Part of the reason Dr. Jansen so passionately believes in the Lansing program is that there is a

strong correlation between those who struggle with schooling in K-12 and those who wind up in institutions like Lansing Prison. For Dr. Jansen, a personalized approach ensures that he treats all of his students with the respect and integrity that they deserve so that they can enact positive change in their lives.

“Our function is to treat them as much as possible as students, even though they're inmates,” he says. “They're surrounded by people who often don't even know their name, who often know only their number. So by referring to them as people and treating them as people,

I make it a point as much as possible to use first names and last names and 'sir,' and if you will, bend over backwards to be respectful.”

At the end of the day, whether or not Lansing students earn their AA degrees through Donnelly, Dr. Jansen says the program provides a way to “get something accomplished while they're incarcerated,” instead of wasting their time while they're in prison. Looking to the future and seeking new beginnings is the primary component of the Lansing Prison Program — an admirable goal for everyone.

DID YOU KNOW? THE MEANING BEHIND DONNELLY'S SEAL

The Donnelly College seal was adapted from the College's original coat of arms in 2008. As the official emblem for the College, the seal holds several symbolic icons that represent the core of what Donnelly College strives to embody.

BIBLE/BOOK

The book represents The Bible, just above the motto, signifying that Jesus is the truth and the Word of God is the true light. (Donnelly College says that Jesus is the Word become flesh.) The book can also symbolize open minds.

CROSS

The Cross stands for St. George, the Roman soldier and dragon slayer who is known as the Patron Saint of England. Donnelly College's founder, Bishop George Donnelly, was named after him. Hence, the shield shows the “Cross of St. George.”

SHIELD

The shield references St. George, who uses his shield as he battles against dragons. In a sense, the dragon symbolizes evil and ignorance; education is the “rampart and shield” against these things.

LUX VERA

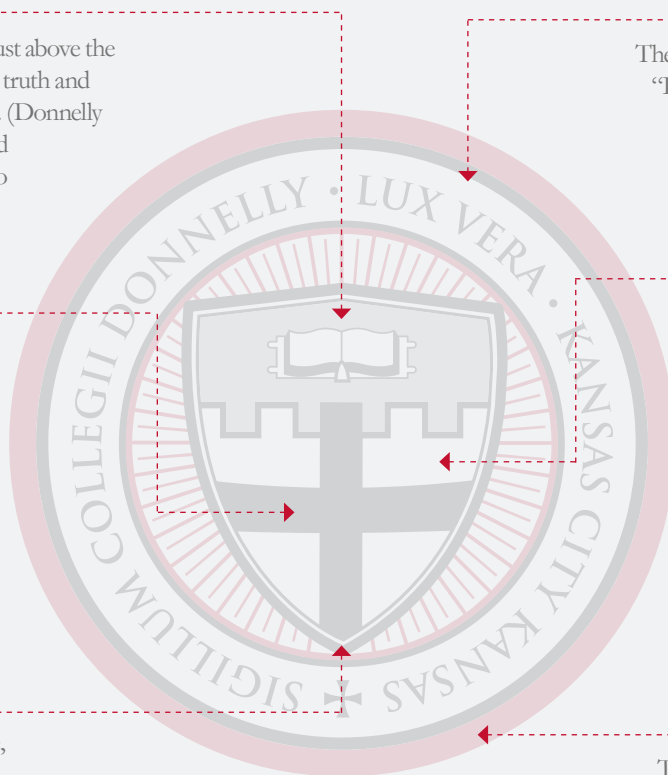
The formal motto of the College, “Lux Vera” means “True light” (from John 1:9) — Jesus is the true light.

WALL

Also known as a “rampart,” this is the symbol of monasticism, i.e. a fortress of learning and holiness. This signifies the presence of the Benedictine Sisters, who worked at the College from its foundation.

COLORS

The red signifies the traditional Bishop's color; the black/deep grey represents the habits of the Benedictine Sisters.



DONNELLY FAMILY

in MEMORIAM

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

ROSE (BRENNER) BYRNES '55.
died November 9, 2014 at the age of 79.

SISTER LILLIAN HARRINGTON, O.S.B.,
former Donnelly faculty member, died
April 1, 2014.

PEGGY PHALEN,
former Donnelly employee, died September
16, 2014 at the age of 77.

DR. LEO PORTER '53,
died February 7, 2014 at the age of 78.



Class of 1965

TURN YOURSELF IN!

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.

WELCOME NEW DONNELLY FACULTY & STAFF

Bestoun Barawi
Security and
Maintenance Manager

Sydney Beeler
VP for Enrollment
Management and
Student Affairs

Ann Carmack
Director of Health
Occupations

Craig Doty
Annual Fund Manager

Becky Haworth
Marketing Manager

Megan Hinkle
Health Care Recruiter

Susan Hodges
Gateway to College
Instructor

Susan Laymon
Accounting
Manager/Financial Analyst

Andrea Vertz
Admissions Counselor

CLASSNOTES

RONALD E. HARDIN, JR. '87
received a Master of
Science in Information
Management from the W.P.
Carey School of Business
at Arizona State University
in May of 2013.

DELORES JONES '91
is "The Comeback Coach"
on "Better Kansas City"
(KCTV-5) and author of
Stop the D.U.M.B. Stuff.

GINA (LOYA) SANCHEZ '08
a member of Donnelly's
first Bachelor degree
graduating class, works as a
Truancy Secretary for KCK
Public Schools. She had
her first child, Olivia Marie
Sanchez, on April 2, 2014.

ISAAC FALCON '10
is a master's student at
Kansas State University,
working as a graduate
teaching assistant and
preparing to apply for a
Ph.D. program.

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At Donnelly College, our students strive daily to seek wisdom and fulfill their potential. Their journey is made possible with your support.

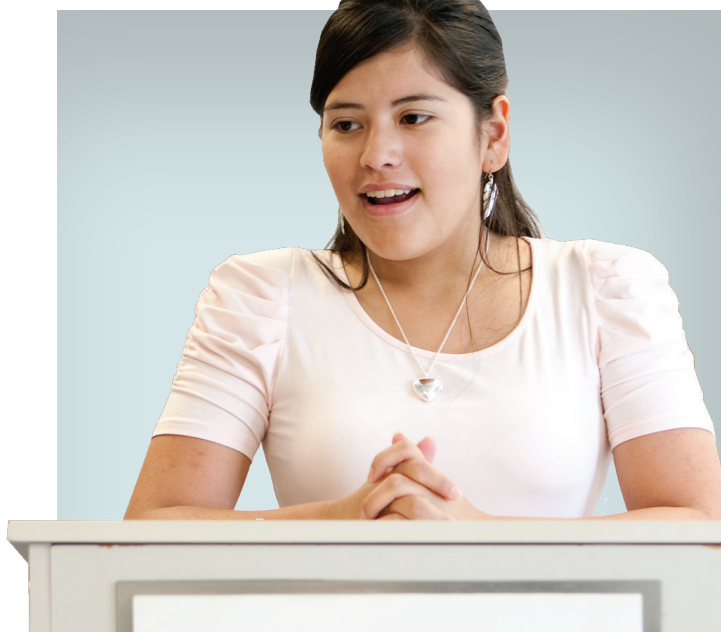
During this sacred time when so many of our students and staff will celebrate, we at Donnelly College pray this will be a season of joy, peace, hope and faith for you and your loved ones.

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CARMELITA BAHAMONDE



Interview by: Dr. Melissa Lenos

After earning her Associate of Arts from Donnelly College in May 2013, Carmelita Bahamonde chose to continue her Catholic education at Rockhurst University, where she is a senior majoring in history and minoring in French. Although going to college was always the plan for her, Bahamonde credits Donnelly, a Nicholas Cage movie and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art for her current aspiration to earn a master's degree and become a museum curator. Read more about her path:

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR TRANSFER

SCHOOL? I wanted to keep going to a Catholic school, and Rockhurst was just what I was looking for in terms of size — and it is located near the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, which is where I volunteer.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR MAJOR? WHAT HELPED YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND?

I was watching “National Treasure,” and I thought it was cool what the main character did. She was a curator, and since I had always loved history, I thought perhaps it was what I should do. When I visited the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in the sixth grade, I knew I should do something with history; however, it was not until I was in high school that I officially decided I wanted to be a curator. What ultimately made up my mind was when I visited the MET in New York, and I was just in awe of what I saw. When I was

a sophomore in college, I met with one of the curators at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (NAMA), and everything she was telling me about the job sounded like fun, so I decided that for the time being I would major in history and minor in French, and once I was done I would go to either California or New York to get my master's in art history and a minor in German.

HOW IS SCHOOL GOING? I can't complain. RU is definitely the school for me! Everyone was so welcoming, and there is always something happening on campus. It's never boring. The classes are fun, and the teachers are so passionate about what they teach.

THINKING BACK TO YOUR TIME AT DONNELLY — WHAT WOULD YOUR FRIENDS AND PROFESSORS HERE BE SURPRISED TO HEAR ABOUT YOU NOW?

I think they would be surprised to hear that I have spent six-plus hours at the library studying continuously. It's not the studying part that would surprise them but the fact that I studied at the library for more than one hour. At Donnelly I never used the library other than to check out books and never studied for six-plus hours straight. In fact, my entire studying method has changed now that I am at Rockhurst.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR FIVE YEARS FROM NOW?

I hope to be either in California, New York or Washington DC working on my master's while working on curatorial programs.

IS THERE ANYTHING ADDITIONAL THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOURSELF?

Ever since I can remember, I have always been a go-getter type of person. If I want to do something, I go for it — even if everyone says it's impossible. My parents raised me to believe that if I really wanted something, then I would have to work hard to achieve it. Although the odds were against me four years ago, I didn't let certain issues get in the way of me going to college or much less let my dream of being a curator go down the drain. I prayed about it, and so far God has pointed me in the direction I have always wanted to go. Never let other people's discouraging words get in the way of what you want. Ever. And always pray for God's guidance in what you should do; it's what has helped me thus far.

I am also very thankful for my time at DC. Don't be afraid to share your goals with your professors, because believe me, they will help you out. If I hadn't, then I might not be at NAMA.

FACULTY FOCUS

KAREN JUDY



Natural Sciences and Math Instructor Karen Judy has more to celebrate than her 25 years of service to Donnelly College. She recently was recognized by the Kansas Independent College Association (KICA) with a Faculty of Distinction award.

The KICA Faculty of Distinction program celebrates excellence and achievement among faculty at the accredited private colleges and universities in Kansas.

According to the KICA, the 18 chosen instructors for this inaugural award exemplify broader institutional goals like devoting personal attention to all

students and committing to “character, values and learning through every facet of their graduates’ lives.” Therefore, the organization says, these instructors are excellent role models for all educators.

“It’s inspiring to know these faculty and see how they live the mission of our independent colleges,” said KICA President Matt Lindsey. “A common thread we saw among them is their gift for balancing a commitment to hold each student accountable for real, meaningful learning and a strong sense of empathy for the value of each student as an individual.”

Students of Judy’s — both past and present — certainly agree that she is well-deserving of this award.

“During my time at Donnelly, I don’t think I had a better relationship with any other instructor than her,” says Ruben Bueno ’11. “Students often peg professors as distant or unapproachable because of their high achievements in academia, and it’s often intimidating speaking to them. Such barrier didn’t exist with Karen Judy, and I’ll be forever fond of that.”

1 Judy instructs Victor Armstrong in proper dissecting techniques 2 A beginning biology student and Judy look at examples of mitosis and meiosis under a microscope 3 Judy leads a frog dissection in her 2011 biology class 4 Judy accepts the Faculty of Distinction award from the Kansas Independent College Association (KICA)



WORDS FROM ALUMNI

"Ms. Karen Judy is by far my favorite instructor of all time. She is a combination of intelligence, personality and a 'little crazy' — the perfect concoction for an amazing learning experience."

— Ramica Westbrook '12

"What I remember most about [Judy] is that she made her classes fun, and that she was always so cheerful and upbeat. She always challenged us."

— Josephine Heinzman '07

"I remember Ms. Judy's biology class to be extremely fun and engaging, because I remember her always being very cheerful, patient and helpful. I am not a big fan of biology personally, but her class made biology into something that I could understand."

— Gerika Berry '09

"In retrospect, I wish I would have taken more classes with her. I learned a lot from her, both in the classroom and outside of it. She is a person I consider to have been a mentor, an advisor, a guide and a friend of mine. Although the time I spent at Donnelly College was relatively short, the impression Ms. Judy left on me will last a lifetime."

— Ruben Bueno '11

"Karen always had a way of making the subject matter interesting, which facilitated the learning process."

— Maria Martinez '06

"I had [Judy] for only one class and interacted with her only minimally, yet I remember that class as if I took it yesterday. She always had such high energy, which really helps in the learning process. She was able to make learning fun — something that very few other instructors are capable of doing."

— Ivan Medrano AS '10, BS '13

"Karen Judy is a very friendly instructor. Her classes were always taught in a kind environment that promoted learning. She valued all her students and encouraged them to learn, providing tutoring and guidance to find the right studying strategy."

— Laura Castro de Santiago '13

"I love her energy and teaching style because it made us want to learn even more. If I could go back and take more classes, I would most definitely take her classes."

— Yar Riak '11

STUDENT FOCUS

THE PAYAN BROTHERS

MARINO
PAYAN

DIEGO
PAYAN

The road to Donnelly College was not smooth for Diego Payan. After graduating from high school, he began studying engineering at a university in his native Juarez City, Mexico. His parents owned their own jewelry stores, and his two younger brothers were in school. Little did Diego know, all of their lives were about to drastically change.

“When all this chaotic situation in Mexico started going on, the drug lords...started asking for money from my parents, but it was money that we didn’t even have, and we were not willing to work for them,” he says. “It would be like supporting them – and the way they put it, it was for ‘protection.’ But protection from what? Protection from themselves.”

When drug lords began to seriously threaten the family's security, they relocated to the United States. They settled down in Kansas City, Kansas, where Diego's uncles and aunt offered their support.

"We didn't anticipate it at all," Diego says of the quick move from Mexico to the US. "There were some cloudy days, certainly. We had a lot of support from our family, but yeah, the change was very drastic."

Although he credits his family in Kansas City for providing invaluable support, Diego says the transition was tough for more reasons than just missing family and friends he'd left behind.

"When I moved here, I knew that higher education was way more expensive than in Mexico, so my dreams of obtaining a degree were fading away slowly," he says.

After hearing about Donnelly through his aunt, Diego enrolled at the College in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. Five years later, he hasn't left.

"I was attracted to the College and how people treat students here," he says.

According to Diego, Donnelly has been a great fit — so much that he now is working toward his Bachelor's Degree in Information Systems with a minor in Organizational Leadership.

"It's the way people treat each other here; it's the way I feel welcome when here, and I feel everybody is welcome here," he stresses. "Since it's a small college, I like the fact that teachers are more in contact with individual students and they are able to keep track of each of them. That gives a great impact on the level of education to each student."

After switching tracks from his original path toward engineering to computer technology, Diego says he enjoys studying

information systems and working in the IT department on campus.

When asked how he feels about going to the same college as his older brother, Marino's answer comes without missing a beat: "It's fun," he says, smiling. "We're never alone because we always have each other."

"I don't know where would I be or what would have happened if I would have stayed [in Mexico], but I found out that I am very passionate about what I'm doing right now," he notes.

A large part of the sense of community he feels at Donnelly comes from his connection to the IT department, his instructors and the friends he has made. Yet perhaps an even larger part of the reason he loves Donnelly

is because his younger brother now also studies at the College. Marino Payan is following in his brother's footsteps as he too works toward a bachelor's degree in IS.

When asked how he feels about going to the same college as his older brother, Marino's answer comes without missing a beat: "It's fun," he says, smiling. "We're never alone because we always have each other."

Furthermore, Diego and Marino's younger brother, Daniel, plans to attend Donnelly in two years, so if the fates align, all three siblings could be under one collegiate roof simultaneously — a thought that makes both Diego and Marino quite happy.

While Marino's journey from Juarez City to Kansas City brought him challenges in school and adapting to a completely new culture and lifestyle, he emphasizes how much he feels at home at Donnelly.

"I'm really happy being here," he states. "I'm here almost all day. I don't even go back home when I have free time. All the teachers help you a lot, and working here is easy. The environment is really exciting here."

Although it seems challenging for Diego in particular to choose

one Donnelly instructor who's had a profound impact on him ("All of them are very unique, are very special, and I keep them very present," he explains), Diego and Marino each credit much of their success at the College to caring, talented, friendly instructors like Jaime Fuentes, who is an Information Systems and Technology Instructor and Soccer Club Advisor.

"I have learned from, of course, my Jedis, Jaime Fuentes and Sergey Solovev," Diego says. "Those have been very, very important teachers that make a big impact on my career — especially Mr. Solovev, who keeps encouraging me and helping me through my journey."

Marino, who says he spends most of his free time in Fuentes' office, agrees: "He teaches me about life too."

Diego further credits Neita Collins, his first ever instructor at Donnelly; Dr. David Michael Allen, whose composition course proved challenging and rewarding and Information Technology Manager Birdell McCall, who guides Diego through his work as a Technician Assistant. And when posed with the question of how he hopes Donnelly can help him achieve his goals, Diego gives the College credit for his unquestionable success.

"The question will be: I will actually reverse the question — how can I help Donnelly?" he says. "How can I help this institution give back to the community?"



STAFF FOCUS

MOLLY MOORE

MAKING THE “GAP YEAR” COUNT

Fear of the unknown is a common, shared experience for many college seniors. While some people toil over their futures, others take action to transform the lives of others — and, in the process, their own lives too.

Donnelly Academic Support Specialist Molly Moore falls into the latter category. Moore — who originally hails from Denver, Colorado, and attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington — says she felt drawn to make her first year out of college matter. After researching different service opportunities, she chose Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC).

“I was really involved in our Social Justice and Service Learning department [at Gonzaga], so that’s what really got me interested in JVC,” she explains. “I was deciding between JVC and Teach for America. Ultimately I chose JVC because of the support that they provide for their volunteers. I’m supported financially through [JVC] and through my community, since I live with four other JVs.”

Founded in 1956, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps helps organizations that serve underprivileged or marginalized populations. Jesuit Volunteers (JVs) are stationed at more than 40 sites nationally, in addition to a few international appointments. Each domestic JVC commitment lasts for one year, from August through the following July. After many years without this type of aid at Donnelly, the College has hosted JVs the past four years. Since then, one volunteer per year has held the Academic Support Specialist role, lending a hand in the tutoring center and testing center.

The Academic Support Specialist role in particular is well-suited for a Jesuit Volunteer, shares Associate Director of Academic Support Yvonne Telep, because each JV in the role can have a very multi-faceted experience.

“Molly is somebody who’s looking for a diverse experience,” Telep emphasizes. “She brings so much thought and so many ideas to what she’s doing in a way that if you just had a person who’s just part-time clerical work, it wouldn’t be as beneficial, so it’s great to have a JV in there. Molly in particular is great because...she’ll jump into anything.”

Above all, Moore says her greatest joy thus far has been forming bonds with Donnelly students.

“I have learned to not judge people before I get to know them... So many students have, first of all, different backgrounds than me, but everyone has a story behind them,” she notes. “And [I try] not to jump to conclusions or make assumptions based off of the little piece the story that I may know about a student or not know at all.”

According to Moore, her role as a Jesuit Volunteer provides her with opportunities not only to learn about and live in solidarity with a new community, but also to learn about herself and grow individually.

“Even though we might have different personalities or backgrounds, [I enjoy] making the connections with students that show them also that I’m a real person and they’re a real person and I’m not this evil tutoring center lady,” she says.

Only a couple months after starting at Donnelly, Moore says she hopes to go into admissions counseling after her time as a JV expires.

Telep says she is quite pleased with the efforts Moore already has put forth.

“She has been priceless,” Telep says. “With the change that went on right at the beginning of the school year, her help and her ability to jump into so many roles has been super, super helpful. I’m sure all the JVs are great, but she’s terrific. She’s just terrific.”



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Read about SHINE on page 8.

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“Although the odds were against me four years ago, I didn’t let certain issues get in the way of me going to college or much less let my dream of being a curator go down the drain.... I am very thankful for my time at Donnelly College.”

CARMELITA
BAHAMONDE, '13

Find out what alumna Bahamonde is doing now on page 17.

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“I think I’m going to miss the people who work at Donnelly the most, and the students. It has been such a warm and welcoming community here.”

MOLLY MOORE
Academic Support Specialist
and Jesuit Volunteer

Learn about Moore and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps on page 22.

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How can I help this
institution give back
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Read about Payan and how he chose Donnelly on page 20.

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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.

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PRACTICAL NURSING GRADUATION

In addition to the 29 PN graduates in May, Donnelly's PN program graduated 15 more students in August.

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.

- 01.12.15 Spring semester begins
- 02.09.15 Campus Connection (see pg. 2)
- 03.11.15 Donnelly Talks (see pg. 2)
- 03.12.15 Donor/Scholar Connection (see pg. 13)
- 04.09.15 Campus Connection (see pg. 2)
- 05.07.15 Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony (see pg. 13)
- 05.08.15 Graduation Prayer Service
- 05.09.15 Commencement
- 06.01.15 Summer semester begins
- 10.10.15 SHINE