

DONNELLY COLLEGE DIGEST

A publication for alumni & friends SUMMER 2016 Volume 10, Issue 1

A photograph of a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white short-sleeved top with lace detailing on the shoulders and blue jeans. She is smiling warmly at the camera while holding the hands of a young child. The child is wearing a yellow dress with a white chevron pattern and a floral border at the hem, and a white flower in her hair. They are in an indoor setting with a window and a tree in the background.

The
Beginning



Rachel Cruz
Board of Directors

Each day I begin with compiling my “Daily Goals” list — some of it is work-related; some of it is personal. I enjoy the sense of satisfaction that comes with ticking off items from the list.

At the end of each day, I review all I have completed and all that remains, and I step back and take a hard look at how much of this list improved the lives of others around me. Taking the time to reflect on the busyness of the day gives me the opportunity to become aware of the person I am and the person I want to be. Being a person who lives for others is always on my mind — to include Christ in my thoughts and actions, to love others and to help those who need help.

Our students amaze me. Their “Daily Goals” list in some ways may be similar to mine, but in other ways not. Many face immense challenges in their day-to-day lives, but they remain dedicated to themselves, their families, and their education as they seek to better their lives and communities.

Those students who were able to check “college degree” off their lists are now pursuing their dreams as esteemed alumni of Donnelly College. In this issue of the Donnelly Digest, I hope you will take the time to read the stories of a few of Donnelly’s younger alums.

Donnelly College as an institution also has a list of “Daily Goals” we work hard to accomplish. Among them are offering high-quality academic programs, increasing enrollment, providing a nurturing environment for all people seeking a higher education and preparing this community’s next generation of highly diverse leaders. But perhaps more importantly, our daily goals are centered around providing our students with personal attention, care, counsel, friendship and whatever else they need to persevere. This is the work we have been called to do: to be an institution that lives for others.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Cruz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'R' and 'C'.

Rachel Cruz



Monsignor Stuart Swetland presents Chuck Allen with the Delta Award. See more on page 12.

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D [VIEW THE DIGEST ONLINE:](http://www.donnelly.edu/digest)
www.donnelly.edu/digest

SENATOR JERRY MORAN

Kansas Senator Jerry Moran visited Donnelly College in January, hosting a town hall meeting for the public. The packed session included discussions of education, immigration, the economy, gun violence and more.

The audience consisted of Donnelly College students, faculty and staff, as well as various community leaders and area residents.

EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DR. RANDY WATSON

In February, Kansas Education Commissioner Dr. Randy Watson spoke about incorporating “soft skills” into students’ formal education.

As more employers cite critical thinking, creativity and communications skills as top desired traits for new hires, Dr. Watson argued K-12 education should help students acquire these skills.

“FIRST DEGREE” SCREENING

This spring, Donnelly received a special opportunity to screen “First Degree,” a yet-to-be-released documentary about the importance of providing higher education opportunities to prison inmates and the impact it can have on recidivism rates.

“First Degree,” which is scheduled to air on PBS sometime this year, examines a program at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York that is similar to Donnelly’s own Lansing Prison Program. Following the screening, Dr. Steve Jansen facilitated a discussion with questions from students, faculty, staff and friends about the future of prison education and its importance to society.



(L-R) Lanny Bachtle, Dr. Steve Jansen, Dr. Ken Gibson, Dr. Bernard Franklin and Dr. Joe Gallagher

SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

As one class of Donnelly College students prepared to graduate, another group began their journeys in higher education at a scholarship award celebration.

The College awarded 50 scholarships to incoming Donnelly students for the 2016-17 academic year, made possible due to generous support from individual donors, foundations and grants. Approximately 130 people gathered to support the awardees in attendance.



FOR CURRENT NEWS UPDATES
visit www.donnelly.edu/news

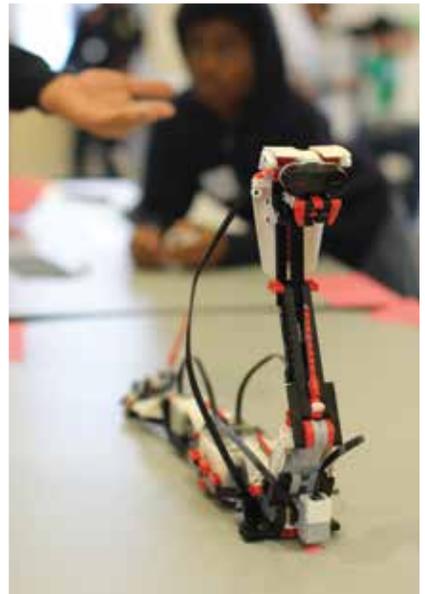
STEM CAMP

Young students learn about science, technology, engineering and math



After its debut in 2015, Donnelly's second Spring Break STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Camp was a success yet again. The camp brought area 7th through 12th graders to Donnelly's campus. Of 147 applicants, 42 were accepted into the program and learned about college readiness, STEM careers, DNA extraction, bacteria staining, epidemiology and robotics.

Donnelly also offers generous scholarships for college students interested in studying STEM fields. Learn more at www.donnelly.edu/s-stem.



Please join us for

SHINE

DONNELLY COLLEGE'S 10TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Saturday

10.8.16

6-10 p.m.

{ *ARROWHEAD STADIUM NORTH CLUB* }

www.donnelly.edu/shine

MEET 2016 SHINE CHAIRS, JACK AND JEAN ANN OVEL



Jean Ann and Jack Ovel

Jack and Jean Ann Ovel met in Dubuque, Iowa, where Jack was attending Loras College and Jean Ann was attending Clarke College.

They were married after graduation, and Jack's career took them from Dubuque to Chicago to Florida and eventually, in 1988, to Kansas City, where they learned about Donnelly College.

Both Jack and Jean Ann have been very involved in the community. As a member of Kansas City Young Matrons, Jean Ann has been engaged in specific projects benefitting organizations like Lakemary Center and Gillis. Jack has served on a number of boards, including Catholic Charities, Children's Mercy Hospital, Saint Luke's Hospital Foundation and Union Station. After serving on the Development Committee at Donnelly, Jack was invited to join the Donnelly College Board of Directors in 2015.

Jack and Jean Ann Ovel discuss why they are involved with SHINE and Donnelly College itself.

Donnelly College (DC): How and why did you become involved with Donnelly College?

Jack and Jean Ann (J&JA): We attended SHINE for several years and had the chance to meet the students. They were so appreciative of the opportunity that Donnelly provided them.

DC: In what ways does Donnelly College benefit the broader Kansas City community?

J&JA: By providing Donnelly students with access to a quality, affordable education, they have the chance not only to become productive members of our community, but also to serve as role models for the next generation.

DC: Jack, you've been involved through your personal endeavors and your work at Bank of America in advancing many nonprofits in Kansas City and beyond, including Children's Mercy and St. Luke's. What makes Donnelly College special in the vast array of organizations serving our region?

J: What impresses me is how much Donnelly has accomplished with its resources. A truly dedicated faculty and staff really make a difference. Raising awareness and support for Donnelly can have a real impact.

DC: Jean Ann, what have you and Jack gained through your experiences with Donnelly?

JA: We've both learned that there is a great story to tell about the difference Donnelly College makes in the lives of these students and their families.

DC: What are some ways people can help support Donnelly?

J&JA: First and foremost, spread the word. Create awareness. Support for scholarship funds is critical, so students can begin their careers without a huge burden of debt.

DC: Why did you both agree to serve as co-chairs of SHINE, the College's largest annual fundraising event?

J&JA: Many others have lent their support to Donnelly in the past. We are both pleased to have the opportunity to help make the connections that can find new supporters to join those who have been loyal friends of Donnelly. A contribution to Donnelly truly makes a difference.

DC: What can attendees expect from the October 8 SHINE celebration?

J&JA: Our 10th annual SHINE event will provide a great opportunity to meet the students. They are truly Donnelly's best ambassadors. You will also enjoy the chance to mingle throughout the evening with other guests and not be confined to a table. You will learn more about Donnelly and have some fun at the same time.



The *Beginning*

UPON GRADUATING FROM SHAWNEE MISSION WEST HIGH SCHOOL, ALEJANDRA SANDOVAL MARQUEZ HAD NO COLLEGE PLANS, EVEN THOUGH SHE WANTED TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION. SHE DID NOT KNOW WHERE TO START, NOR DID HER MOTHER, MARIA MARQUEZ (WHO HERSELF DID NOT ATTEND COLLEGE). THEN MARIA MARQUEZ RECEIVED AN ACCIDENTAL PHONE CALL THAT WOULD CHANGE HER DAUGHTER'S LIFE.

When an Admissions Counselor accidentally called the wrong household, Maria Marquez informed the counselor that she had the wrong home, but that that Marquez did have a daughter graduating from high school. One thing led to another, and soon Sandoval Marquez began courses at Donnelly College.

Sandoval Marquez flourished at Donnelly, where she was a Student Ambassador, member of the Drill Team and a math tutor. She graduated in May 2016 with an Associate of Science and will begin a bachelor's program in nursing this fall at the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas. Yet her path to graduation was not without hurdles.

"I was beginning to lose my faith," she said. "I was in a really dark place. Things were just adding up; I felt like I was depressed. So I started praying, and God started answering my prayers."

As many will recall, Sandoval Marquez spoke on a panel of students at SHINE 2014, where she shared her story of coming to Donnelly and how it impacted her life. What some may not know is that at the time, Sandoval Marquez was pregnant.

Although excited to start a family, Sandoval Marquez worried that she would have to drop out of school. When she voiced this concern to faculty and staff at Donnelly, they assured her, "you will be back." She took the spring 2015 semester off, still uncertain of her future in higher education.

"Education is something nobody can take away from you. People at Donnelly had confidence in me. In a way, they knew me better than I knew myself."

"Getting pregnant at a young age, people always say, 'You're not going to do anything with your life,'" Sandoval Marquez noted. "And those are harsh words. For a long time during my

pregnancy, I thought, 'Maybe they're right.'

"My advice to other girls would be: Don't stop trying. You have to keep going."

That spring, Sandoval Marquez gave birth to her daughter, Melanie. Through becoming a parent, she discovered her passion for the nursing field. As a mother, she rebuilt her relationship with her own mother and found

the motivation to finish what she started at Donnelly. Sandoval Marquez returned to Donnelly that fall and found the same small class sizes, helpful instructors and family atmosphere she had come to love.

"Education is something nobody can take away from you," she said. "People at Donnelly had confidence in me. In a way, they knew me better than I knew myself."

Channeling her own labor experience, Sandoval Marquez hopes to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at St. Mary and become a labor and delivery nurse so that she can care for women and their new babies.

"I just hope that when I finish nursing school, I will be someone other girls can look up to," she said. "They'll think, 'If she can do it, then I know I can do it.'"

In the meantime, Sandoval Marquez works at Lakeview Village in Lenexa as a CNA working with dementia and Alzheimer's patients — using both Melanie and her two younger brothers for encouragement when balancing school, work and parenting becomes challenging.

"When I'm tired or just want to give up, I look at her," Sandoval Marquez said of Melanie. "Just watching her, I know that I have to have a better future for her and for myself. She motivates me."

The support from staff and faculty at Donnelly helped Sandoval Marquez reach the first of many goals and put her on the path toward reaching her dream career.

"Little things at Donnelly really touched me," she said. "[Instructors and staff] knew I was going to come back before I did. I knew they were going to help me every step of the way."

Using strength and confidence from her experience at Donnelly, Sandoval Marquez is excited for the challenge of nursing classes this fall.

"This is just the beginning," she said. "I have so much to do."



Sandoval Marquez (far right) speaking at SHINE 2014



Sandoval Marquez receiving her diploma



Sandoval Marquez (far right) with Tyler Hagstrom ('16) and Yenni Alvarez ('16) at SHINE 2014

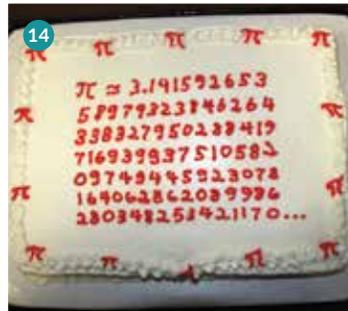


HEAR MORE OF SANDOVAL MARQUEZ'S STORY ONLINE: www.youtube.com/donnellycollege

AS SEEN ON CAMPUS



1 Graduate Adrian Morales receives congratulations after the Commencement ceremony. 2 Rosa Favela (left) helps STEM Camp students in the lab. 3 Students are inducted into Phi Theta Kappa honor society. 4 Proud families celebrate after the Scholarship Award Ceremony. 5 Brazilian students represent their home country during Multicultural Festival. 6 Kansas Education Commissioner Dr. Randy Watson visits campus. 7 Incoming student Marcela Medrano poses after receiving her BizFest scholarship at the Scholarship Award Ceremony.



8 Elizabeth Torres shows off her Sister Mary Faith Schuster Award-winning fiction piece in the new volume of Dime: the Arts & Literary Journal of Donnelly College. 9 Students participate in the ninth annual TTMaSA (Transportation, Technology, Math and Science Academy). 10 Ashish Diyali breaks ground on the College's community garden. 11 Faculty attend the Commencement Prayer Service. 12 Students move their tassels after officially graduating in May. 13 Melanie Quinones, Niesha King, Ta Gaw and Miriam Mendez welcome incoming students during Orientation. 14 A cake lists the first numbers of pi for Donnelly's annual Pi Day celebration. 15 Shalenda Gunnels proudly shows off her graduation cap.



CEREMONIES HONOR 'TOMORROW'S GREATEST GENERATION'

2016 GRADUATING CLASS

This May, 57 Donnelly College students — joined by many family members, friends, supporters and community members — walked across the stage to receive a certificate or diploma. Hard work and perseverance paid off as students formally completed studies for Practical Nursing, Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees or certificates. In addition, four students who completed Donnelly's Gateway to College program received their diplomas from Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Cynthia Lane.

"I never expected to be giving a graduation ceremony speech, especially for college, and that's why I consider Donnelly to be a land of opportunity," said graduation speaker Austin Garrett (AA).

Garrett also spoke to the support he received at Donnelly from caring faculty and staff members.

Bachelor of Science graduate Denise Suarez Gomez emphasized the importance of the community she found at the College.

"For me, Donnelly is the lighthouse. It is community. Without this school, many of us wouldn't be achieving our dreams."

"For me, Donnelly is the lighthouse," she said. "It is community. Without this school, many of us wouldn't be achieving our dreams."

"This school carried out its mission with me. They enlightened me. They gave me the opportunity to achieve my dreams."

This year's graduation ceremony also honored Delta Award winner Chuck Allen. This award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the ideals and philosophy of the College via service and leadership to Donnelly, the

community and/or higher education.

"Chuck is a great example for our young people here today of someone taking up that mantle of responsibility and serving the community," Board of Directors Chair Dick Flanigan said.

While Allen, Founder and Executive Director of the Urban Scholastic Center, could not attend commencement, he was formally recognized at the Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony in April.

Concluding the powerful event, Donnelly President Monsignor Stuart Swetland shared a few remarks with graduates.

"Your achievement today shows us that you have heard and headed our call," he said. "Thank you for saying yes to God's power to form and transform."

"Know that you have really made the faculty and staff of Donnelly, our Board of Directors and all who are with us today so proud."

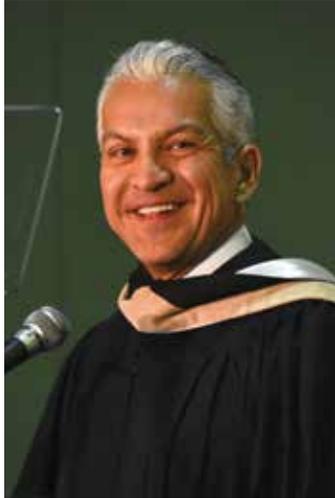


WATCH COMMENCEMENT ONLINE:
www.youtube.com/donnellycollege

PALOMAREZ TAKES THE STAGE

President and CEO of the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce speaks at graduation

Each year, commencement speakers address the world's future leaders as they receive their diplomas. When these remarks include a personal story that inspires and resonates with students, they can have a profound impact. This year, Donnelly College's commencement address from Javier Palomarez did just that.



working for Sprint, Inc., where he rose to become Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations.

With a humble beginning and hard work, Palomarez's journey to success provided a powerful example of what determination and education can do for Donnelly students. In his address, Palomarez spoke to the ambition students must have in order to earn degrees and create a brighter future for themselves and their community.

"You've all accomplished something remarkable, despite insurmountable odds," he said. "You are graduating with a spiritual compass, a refined character and the intellectual discipline to navigate through life's lowest valleys and highest peaks. So no matter what comes next, after today you will always be part of Donnelly College — and it will always be a part of you."



Prior to commencement, 13 Practical Nursing students participated in their pinning ceremony, which is a traditional rite of passage for nursing school graduates across the country. Graduates were pinned by a faculty member, family or friend in the nursing field who inspired them to pursue and finish the PN program. Donnelly's PN graduates lit lamps and recited the traditional Florence Nightingale pledge to close the ceremony.

COMMENCEMENT BY THE #s

2 PROFESSORS
EMERITI HONORED

2 student
commencement
speakers

4 GATEWAY TO COLLEGE
high school diplomas awarded by
Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools

7 BACHELOR'S
DEGREES AWARDED
(including the first BS in Information Systems
and first two BS in Education degrees)

PRACTICAL NURSING
CERTIFICATES AWARDED **13**

37 associate degrees awarded

TOTAL
STUDENTS
RECOGNIZED **61**

700 attendees

**Countless
lives changed**

ALUMNI REMEMBER FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

CHANDRA GREEN ('03)

When asked, “What does Donnelly mean to you?” alumni of the College have different responses. Many say the small class sizes helped them succeed; others focus on the dedicated instructors who motivated them. Yet nearly all current students and alums say that, above all, what resonates the most about Donnelly is the family atmosphere.

This view holds true for Chandra Green, who earned her Associate of Arts from Donnelly in 2003. Green graduated from Sumner Academy and worked in cosmetology before pursuing higher education. After graduating from Donnelly, Green earned a bachelor’s degree from University of Missouri – Kansas City and a master’s in business law from Friends University. She will begin coursework for a second master’s degree at Friends University this fall.

“The staff at Donnelly is very attentive and great at helping you figure out what those next steps are,” she said. “They follow you through.”

“A lot of my education and my desire to learn was cultivated at Donnelly. I really appreciate Donnelly for just giving me that springboard into life.”

Green now works full-time as a social worker for Friends of Yates, helping female victims of domestic violence. She also started her own nonprofit, Living Freedom Movement, to connect people from all walks of life who face similar struggles. The goal is to bring people together who can support one another and to empower them. Green has plans to grow the organization in the future.

“A lot of my education and my desire to learn was cultivated at Donnelly,” she said. “I really appreciate Donnelly for just giving me that springboard into life.”

Her advice for prospective Donnelly College students is simple: persevere.

“Don’t stop,” she said. “A lot of times we get scared for whatever reason, and life will overcome us. You have to remember what your goals, dreams and vision are. So don’t stop. Challenge your fears.”



SEAN CEPEDA ('16)

Interning at the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas as a Systems Analyst has given Sean Cepeda experience, knowledge and skills in his chosen field: information technology. Yet according to Cepeda, one particular institution has had a big impact on his life: Donnelly College.

“Donnelly helped me find myself,” Cepeda said. “I wouldn’t be who I am if it wasn’t for that school.”

Attending Donnelly on a BizFest scholarship — which covers tuition, fees and books — Cepeda often worked 50-60 hours per week while taking classes full-time, struggling particularly with math. He persevered and graduated in May 2016 with support from Donnelly faculty and staff, all of whom he said “wanted nothing more than to see me succeed.”



“I really like the small class sizes at Donnelly,” he said. “I like the environment. It feels homey. I didn’t feel like a number when I was at Donnelly.”

Although the road to graduation was not easy for him, Cepeda said his family and the Donnelly community was very proud of

him when he walked across the stage.

“I’m the first person in my family to graduate college,” he said. “Donnelly taught me a lot about myself as a person, the world

as a whole and how incredibly valuable knowledge is.

“It’s a big deal that I graduated because my parents sacrificed so much for me. And me graduating and getting my associate degree is letting them know

that their sacrifice is paying off.”

Working for the local government has taught Cepeda about the relationship between institutions of higher education and the community.

“It’s important that an institution like Donnelly exists so that we can continue to create people who not only come from this area but know what it needs and how it can grow,” he said. “Donnelly is kind of like an incubator: What you put into it, you get out of it.”

Cepeda’s advice for college students is to take higher education seriously. He plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in order to have more career opportunities and keep learning, since he says “knowledge is the one thing no one can take away from you.” He hopes to go into either system administration or network security — some of many possibilities in the ever-growing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields.

“Even though college can be fun, you’re there to learn,” he said. “It’s an investment, but the potential is endless.”

XIACHANG HER ('07)

When he was in high school, Xiachang Her had no dreams of attending college. One of 11 children, he knew his family could not afford to support his higher education, and he saw no opportunities in front of him. Then Donnelly College came into the picture.

Even though Her’s parents provided for their children as best they could, they were on food stamps and living in government housing, and neither of them had a college degree. Thankfully, Her joined a GEAR UP program (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) in middle school that eventually led him to pursue higher education. Yet once he graduated from high school, he had to forge the path on his own.

With excellent grades and connections from the GEAR UP community, Her was recruited by Donnelly and then awarded the Bloch Scholarship, which provided him a full ride to Donnelly College and then to University of Missouri – Kansas City to work toward a bachelor’s degree.

“For me, I was lucky, because there was a community of people at Donnelly who would help me,” he said.

After earning his Associate of Science in 2007 and his bachelor’s degree in 2010, Her earned a master’s from UMKC in astronomy in 2015. His goal of completing a PhD is on hold while he works at SelectQuote Senior as a Business Intelligence Developer in order to provide for his family members.

“The most important thing Donnelly did for me was provide the foundation,” Her said.



HEAR MORE OF THEIR STORIES ONLINE:
www.youtube.com/donnelycollege



WATCH THE CEREMONY ONLINE:
www.youtube.com/donnellycollege

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Every year, Donnelly College's Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony provides inspiration as remarkable alums who embody the College's values share their stories of post-graduation life. This year's ceremony included four inductees — one of whom blazed trails in special education and led multiple generations of her family to pursue their education at Donnelly.

This year's honorees included former Board member Janice Parker ('63), Dr. John Romito ('66), Lucy Saunders ('68) and Jonathon Westbrook ('07 & '13).

After graduating from Donnelly, Parker received her

bachelor's degree from UMKC, and, in 1973, she was named Director of the Taylor Business Institute, a private, career school in Chicago that was part of the ITT Educational Services chain. With this directorship, she became that system's first female and first minority career school Director, later becoming President.

While Parker was unable to attend the festivities, her daughter, current Board member Lisa Parker, accepted the honor on her mother's behalf. "Donnelly was such a warm, welcoming, encouraging, supportive environment," Lisa Parker said.

Romito spoke to the opportunities Donnelly gave him, and how his time at the College jump-started future success. After graduating from Donnelly, Romito went on to earn his bachelor's from University of Central Missouri and his MD from University of Kansas. He served for

more than 20 years as Chair of Orthopedics and Chief Medical Officer at Overland Park Regional Medical Center before retiring in January of this year.

"When I came to Donnelly College, I didn't come with the strongest academic background, but I had an aspiration: to go to medical school," Romito said. "The nurturing that you all give — as teachers, instructors, as parents — couldn't be more appreciated."

Saunders, a 1939 Sumner High School graduate and mother of 12, earned her associate degree from Donnelly in order to teach a son with mental disabilities, since at that time, students with disabilities were not being served in public education. At 61, she received her bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas, and she worked as a special education substitute teacher in the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools for 40 years, until she was 90.

Since her time at the College, five of her children and one of her grandchildren have also graduated from Donnelly.

"As I reflect over my life, I can truly say that God has been faithful to me," Saunders said. "I want to thank the leadership of Donnelly College for serving the Wyandotte County community. You could have moved to another community, but you stayed right here in the heart of Wyandotte County, Kansas."

The final inductee, Westbrook, President of the Kansas City Kansas Black Police Officer's Association, shared that same passion for both Donnelly and giving back to the community. "I am a very blessed man," he said. "The Donnelly College family also has become my family. I'm very thankful and grateful for the education you gave me."

To nominate someone for the Donnelly College Alumni Hall of Fame, visit www.donnelly.edu/halloffame.



Lisa Parker



Dr. John Romito



Lucy Saunders



Jonathon Westbrook



DONNELLY TO WELCOME NATIONALLY RENOWNED ACTIVIST

Sister Helen Prejean, author of Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty, is slated to visit Donnelly College this fall



Sister Helen Prejean, photo by Scott Langley

This October, the Donnelly Talks lecture series will feature nationally renowned Sister Helen Prejean. Prejean became a passionate opponent of the death penalty after her ministry led her to become pen pals with a death row inmate. She began visiting him in prison as his spiritual advisor, and eventually wrote *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty*, published in 1993.

Dead Man Walking remained on the New York Times No. 1 Best Seller List for 31 weeks and was made into a major motion picture and an opera. In the years since the book was published, Prejean has traveled the world advocating for the abolition of the death penalty.

Prejean's visit will allow the Donnelly community to continue a conversation about compassionate treatment of inmates and Donnelly's institutional value of justice. Attendees at an event this past May viewed a yet-to-be-released documentary

entitled "First Degree" that examines the impact of higher education on the inmates in Sing Sing Prison and then joined in a discussion led by Donnelly's prison education instructor, Dr. Steve Jansen.

For more on the "First Degree" screening, see pg. 4.

As Donnelly focuses on the institutional value of truth in the coming year, many new Donnelly students will read Prejean's second book, *The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions* in fall 2016 or spring 2017. This book examines the lives of two men who Prejean accompanied to their executions — both of whom she believes were innocent.

Donnelly will welcome Prejean to campus on Thursday, October 20, 2016. For updates about Prejean's visit, including details about her public presentations, check www.donnelly.edu in the coming months.

Donnelly Talks is sponsored in part by National Endowment for the Humanities.

SISTER HELEN PREJEAN has been instrumental in sparking national dialogue on the death penalty and helping to shape the Catholic Church's newly vigorous opposition to state executions. She travels around the world giving talks about her ministry. She considers herself a southern storyteller.

Sister Helen is a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph. She spent her first years with the Sisters teaching religion to junior high school students. Realizing that being on the side of poor people is an essential part of the Gospel, she moved into the St. Thomas Housing Project in New Orleans and began working at Hope House from 1981 – 1984.

During this time, she was asked to correspond with death row inmate Patrick Sonnier at Angola. She agreed and became his spiritual adviser. After witnessing his execution, she wrote a book about the experience. The result was *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*. It became a movie, an opera and a play for high schools and colleges.

Since 1984, Sister Helen has divided her time between educating citizens about the death penalty and counseling individual death row prisoners. She has accompanied six men to their deaths. In doing so, she began to suspect that some of those executed were not guilty. This realization inspired her second book, *The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions*, which was released by Random House in December of 2004.

Sister Helen is presently at work on another book, *River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey*.

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.

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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.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering those who have recently passed away

FACULTY & STAFF

Sister Mary Cecile Ihle, OSB, died May 6, 2016 at the age of 91. She taught Spanish at Donnelly from 1963-1971, and from 1984-1994 she was Assistant Director of Donnelly's ESL program.

Donnelly College lost a beloved staff member, **Dave Maxson**, in July 2016. Maxson, a member of the Maintenance Department, passed away from natural causes.



Dave Maxson

"It was a pleasure to work with Dave. His friendship, consistent presence on campus, joking personality and quality care of the College's facilities will be greatly missed," said Kyle King, Security and Facilities Manager.

Sister Ann Zager, OSB, died February 24, 2016 at the age of 100. In 1974, she began working in Donnelly's library and the English as a Second Language program. She also tutored in the GED program.

STUDENTS

In June 2016, a member of Donnelly College's Practical Nursing program, **Calleb Lugano**, was involved in a fatal car accident.

The single father was originally from Kenya and had recently become a naturalized US citizen.



Calleb Lugano

"Both the nursing faculty and his fellow nursing students are deeply saddened by the loss of Calleb," said Director of Nursing Patty Palmietto. "His sense of humor, dedication and love for God and his daughter will be cherished and remembered by all of us who knew him."

ALUMNI

Ruth Saucedo Campos ('72) died June 20, 2016 at the age of 84.

ALUMS JOIN BOARD

Donnelly's alums give back to the College in many ways. Some stay connected through event attendance, some are tireless advocates for Donnelly and others provide financial support. A small group gives back by sharing their time and talents on the Board of Directors.

Beginning with the 2016-17 academic year, two new Board members will serve Donnelly while also contributing to their alma mater: Andres Dominguez ('79) and Dr. John Romito ('66). Both are members of Donnelly College's Alumni Hall of Fame.

After Donnelly, Dominguez graduated from St. Mary's College (now University of St. Mary) in Leavenworth, Kansas. He then completed his Master of Arts in Education at Kansas

State University. A Program Officer with the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Dominguez has served on the boards of nonprofits and organizations focusing on youth and community development in the Kansas City area. His emphasis has been to promote Latino issues, programs that empower youth, and efforts that generate civic engagement and asset building.

Romito received his bachelor's degree from the University of Central Missouri and his MD from the University of Kansas. He has received numerous awards and recognition for his expertise as an orthopedic surgeon. He served for more than 20 years as Chair of Orthopedics and Chief Medical Officer at Overland

Park Regional Medical Center. Romito and his wife, who also is a physician, have volunteered their time providing medical services in rural areas of Kansas and on mission trips throughout the world.

Dominguez and Romito join a fellow alum already serving on the Board: Dan Braum ('71).

CLASS NOTES

Connie (Morrissey) and Thomas Heffern, members of the Donnelly class of 1965, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple was married on June 11, 1966 at Christ the King by Father Richard Etzel. Their children are Debra, Joanne and Jacob. They also have six grandchildren.



DONNELLY COLLEGE

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CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Graduates cheer after the commencement ceremony in May. Fifty-seven Donnelly students received diplomas and certificates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep your eyes open for more information about these upcoming fall events. See annual events at www.donnelly.edu/traditions.

08.20.16

Welcome Day

08.22.16-08.26.16

Welcome Week

08.22.16

Fall semester begins

09.01.16

Convocation Mass

09.17.16

DashKCK

10.08.16

SHINE 2016

10.20.16

Donnelly Talks: Sister Helen Prejean