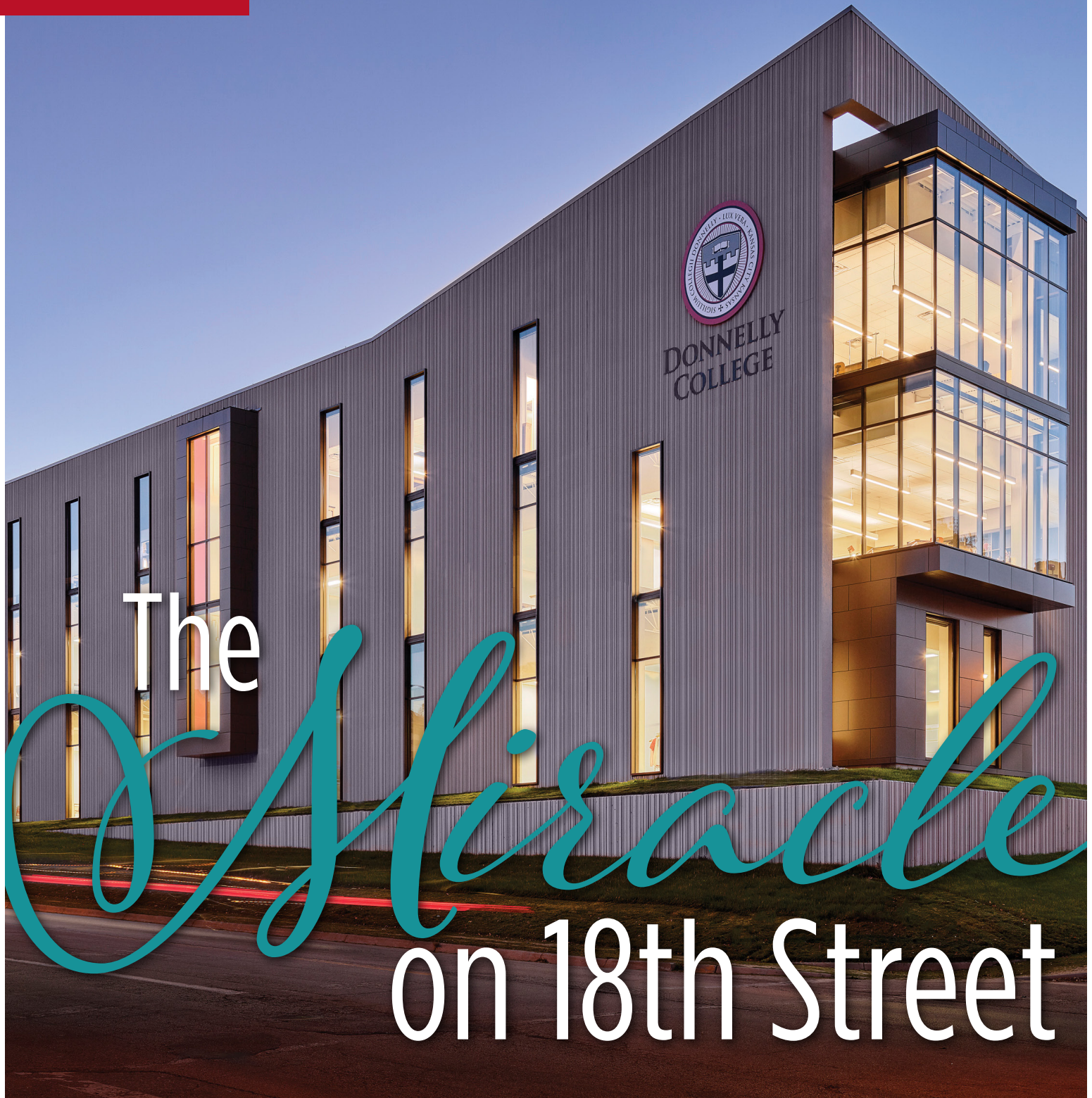


D



The

Miracle

on 18th Street





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Dragon's Den coffee shop opens on campus



Anakaren Corral pours a coffee at the grand opening of the Dragon's Den.

In January, the Dragon's Den coffee shop opened on campus for staff, faculty, students and guests to enjoy. Entirely student-run, the Dragon's Den offers several types of beverages for purchase and is also home to Donnelly's Spirit Store. This serene space is located on the first floor of the main academic building with tables and couches for customers to study or socialize.

What started as a class project has led to a fully operational business. The Dragon's Den concept was formed last year by students enrolled in a business internship course. This year's business students brought this idea to life. Not only are these students providing a service to the Donnelly community, but they are also gaining real-world experience by working with vendors, accounting for revenue and expenses, hiring employees, tracking inventory and sales and creating marketing strategies.

Donnelly students Anakaren Corral and Marco Delgado led the efforts to open the Dragon's Den with the assistance of Donnelly business professors, administrators and the marketing department.

"The main lesson I learned from this opportunity was how to work with various types of people," said Corral. "You really have to be flexible and learn to communicate in different ways."

Corral graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business leadership in 2022. She plans to apply for Master of Business Administration programs next year.

Delgado will graduate in 2023 with an Associate of Arts degree. "I'm really thankful for the opportunity. It has taught me a great deal of responsibility," he said. **D**

Donnelly covers student textbook costs

The U.S. Department of Education approved Donnelly's request to use some of its institutional Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) to cover student book fees for the spring semester. As a result, students ordered their books at no cost through Donnelly's online bookstore.

Congress allocated HEERF funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in March 2020 and subsequent coronavirus relief acts. According to the U.S. Department of Education website, nearly \$75 billion was allotted to provide monetary relief to institutions of higher education due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The funds provided are categorized as student aid or institutional funds. Student aid dollars must be given directly to students as emergency financial assistance, while institutional funds can be used for a wide variety of pandemic-related investments such as additional technology, training in online instruction and health and safety improvements.



Students in College Chemistry I perform a mystery powder experiment in the chemistry lab.

Dedicated to putting students' needs first, Donnelly's leadership decided to use over \$100,000 of the College's institutional funds to cover student book costs. **D**



Students, staff and President Monsignor Swetland share their support for the Kansas City World Cup bid on Donnelly's futsal field.

Kansas City selected as a 2026 World Cup host city

On June 16, 2022, FIFA, the international governing body of competitive soccer, announced the 16 cities chosen to host the 2026 World Cup games – including Kansas City. Games will be played at Arrowhead Stadium.

After FIFA approved a joint proposal from the U.S., Canada and Mexico in June 2018, individual cities started the process to bid on the opportunity to host a number of games. Forty-eight countries will qualify for the tournament with 80 total matches to be played, according to the official FIFA website.

A selection committee made up of FIFA representatives conducted site visits in potential host cities and reviewed extensive proposals. Of the 22 cities that received final consideration, only 16 were selected to host the games: two in Canada, three in Mexico and 11 in the U.S.

Throughout the bid process, Kansas City organizations and individuals showed support by getting involved in the KC2026 “We Want the World Cup” campaign. Prominent Kansas City figures such as Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes and former Sporting Kansas City captain Matt Belser led these efforts. According to the Wyandotte Economic Development Council, hosting the 2026 World Cup will generate approximately \$620 million in economic benefits to the region. It will also showcase Kansas City to the world.

Donnelly students, staff and leadership also showed their support. President Monsignor Swetland encouraged the Donnelly community to sign the campaign petition and spread the word.

“Donnelly College is committed to the holistic well-being of our students and our community,” he said. “Sports play an important role in health and human flourishing. This is one of many reasons we enthusiastically support the World Cup coming to Kansas City in 2026. As Pope Francis states, ‘Sport is not only a form of entertainment, but also – and above all I would say—a tool to communicate values that promote the good that is in humans and help build a more peaceful and fraternal society.’”

For more information on the KC2026 World Cup bid campaign, visit [KC2026.com](https://www.kc2026.com). **D**

New club sparks student and staff engagement

The Salsa Dancing Club made its debut this spring as a way to teach students about the history of Latin music and dancing. The club saw immediate success in reaching students and boosting engagement on campus. Director of Academic Support Dr. Isaac Falcon Campos had the idea of starting the club and making it beginner-friendly to encourage students to join.

“Dancing has opened the door for me to get to know and connect with people from different backgrounds,” he said. “I wanted to help students have that opportunity and allow them to get to know members of the Donnelly community.”

Students met once a week and learned different Latin dance styles such as Salsa, Casino Rueda, Bachata, Tango and Merengue. As the club gained members, several staff and faculty became intrigued by the inclusive and fun space, and they would often join in on the dancing. Salsa music could often be heard coming from open classrooms in the afternoons, sparking interest among those walking the halls. **D**



Students and staff learn dance moves with partners during the Multicultural Fest.

Class of 2022

On May 15, 2022, Donnelly staff, faculty, board members, students and families gathered at Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, KS to celebrate 98 new Donnelly College graduates. Thirteen students received their bachelor's degree, 41 earned their Associates of Arts and 44 received a nursing degree or certificate. Seventy-one graduates were first-generation college students and 22 were members of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

In accordance with Donnelly tradition, commencement weekend kicked off with an Invocation and Commendation ceremony on Friday, May 13. One custom of Catholic institutions of higher learning is to begin and end each academic year with prayer – starting with Convocation Mass in the fall and concluding with Invocation and Commendation each spring.

This year's Invocation and Commendation ceremony included prayers, student reflections and the presentation of an alumni pin to each graduate. "It is important to start and end the school year in prayer and benediction because God is the source of all the work we do at Donnelly College," said Campus Minister Aaron Williams, M.Div. "Everything we have is a gift from him: our capacity for knowledge, our desire to know, our ability to communicate and teach, our faith in Christ who unites all things in himself and makes the world a theatre of his beauty. We bookend our academic year by asking his blessing upon these many gifts he has given us."

The class of 2022 has officially made the transition from students to alumni. While commencement is mostly a time for celebration, it also feels bittersweet to many faculty who have watched these students grow and thrive throughout their time at Donnelly.

"Every year I look forward to this moment," said Director of Liberal Arts and Sciences Ana Maradiaga. "Their smiles, their tears, the messages on their caps and the pride showing in their families' faces is the best reward at the end of the academic year. As faculty members, we watch them depart knowing they are off to new adventures and that, soon, new faces will fill our classrooms with new memories to be made."

For additional photos of commencement activities, visit donnelly.edu/commencement. **D**



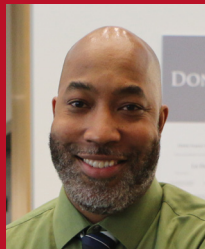


Meet three 2022 bachelor's degree graduates



Anna Gerkovich
Bachelor of Arts in Business Leadership

"My motivation to return to school and get my degree was seeing my sister graduate, who was 35 years old [at the time]. It encouraged me to start, and I did. I began at Donnelly at 37 years old, and it feels like a great accomplishment. It is never too late to go to school."



John Law
Bachelor of Science in Information Systems

"It is such an honor to be graduating. Before starting at Donnelly, I was out of school since 2002. I promised myself I would only go back if I could get a degree debt-free. Donnelly felt like the perfect place for me, and it has been a phenomenal experience."



Trey Barnett
Bachelor of Arts in Business Leadership

"The people that I have met at Donnelly will be lifelong connections. I met classmates whom I call friends. We helped each other study and they made the experience of completing my degree much easier. I've also had professors who have really helped me by going above and beyond what I ever expected."

Honoring Sister Sharon Hamsa, OSB

Sister Sharon Hamsa, OSB retires after 53 years of teaching

Sister Sharon Hamsa, OSB opens a dusty photo album filled with some of her favorite people to ever walk the halls of Donnelly College. As she flips through the worn pages, she points out former students and shares short anecdotes about quirky Donnelly instructors and the two former Donnelly academic buildings – the former Catholic High School at 12th and Sandusky streets, and the former Providence Hospital tower at 18th and Tauromee. She smiles the entire time.

After 53 years of teaching, Sister Sharon will be retiring to spend more time with her community of Benedictine Sisters at Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas. As the spring semester ended, Sister Sharon reflected on the 24 memorable years she spent teaching different mathematics courses at Donnelly. She is the only instructor to have taught in all three Donnelly buildings.

“That’s my one claim to glory,” she said with a laugh.

Sister Sharon found a curiosity and passion for mathematics at a young age. She shared a story about competing in speed math exercises as a third grader. “I remember it came down to a boy and me,” she said. “The equation was 8×5 . I was madly counting on my fingers, and I got it wrong – I skipped my thumb. I remember going home to tell my mom, and that was my first time wondering about the rules of math.”

When Sister Sharon first joined the Donnelly faculty in 1977, she soon realized that teaching at the college level was her calling. She had previously worked as a math teacher for a grade school and an all-girls high school. Over her many years at Donnelly, she

taught every math course offered, from arithmetic and algebra to statistics, trigonometry, differential equations and three levels of calculus. However, what she remembers most are not the courses, but the students she met along the way.

“It’s hard,” she said when asked how it feels to be retiring. “I love the students. I love to teach. I love the diversity of our school and our mission... to help all students and all people. That’s really who we are.”

“I always wondered what kind of an impact I’d make in the lives of students. All these years, I was where I was supposed to be.”

Sister Sharon Hamsa, OSB

In 1992, Sister Sharon’s ministry led her away from Donnelly, but she returned as an adjunct instructor and professional math tutor in 2013.

“When I came back to Donnelly, I felt a weight lifted off my shoulders,” she said. “I had never been surrounded by a diverse student body – all the other schools I taught at were primarily white... It was great to learn about the different cultures of my students and I knew this was my niche. My students taught me how to say ‘Hello’ in 12 languages.”

In recent years at Donnelly, Sister Sharon was often seen holding a sheet

cake she had baked and decorated for campus celebrations like baby showers and student ceremonies. She remembered doing the same thing decades ago for her former coworkers and students.

As she continues looking through her Donnelly photo album, several stories stand out to her. She remembers a grandparents’ celebration that several Donnelly students attended. A student from Turkey could not be with her grandparents, so Sister Sharon acted as her stand-in grandma. Another year, after discovering that one of her students had been arrested for traffic violations, she visited him in jail to make sure that he would be able to take a college algebra test to pass her class. Other favorite memories include hosting Easter and Halloween parties for the children of students and faculty. To this day, Sister Sharon receives letters from former students, many of whom have become math teachers themselves.

Ironically, one of the most impactful aspects of Sister Sharon’s time at Donnelly had nothing to do with mathematics. For the past five years, she has run Donnelly’s Campus Cupboard food pantry, providing free school supplies, shelf-stable food and hygiene products to students and staff in need.

“I always wondered what kind of an impact I’d make in the lives of students,” she said. “All these years, I was where I was supposed to be.”

Sister Sharon was nominated and selected as this year’s Delta Award recipient. The Delta Award is given to an individual whose contributions to the community embody the mission, spirit and values of Donnelly College. She was presented with the award at this year’s Commencement ceremony. **D**



ABOVE RIGHT Sister Sharon poses with a student at the Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony in May 2022.

BELOW RIGHT Sister Sharon works through a math problem on a chalkboard in 1979.

GIVING DAY



#1DAY4DONNELLY



Fundraising goal exceeded by \$20,000

Donnelly's third-annual giving event, #1Day4Donnelly, took place on March 9, 2022. The goal of the event is not only to raise donations for student scholarships, but to also inform students about the fundraising process and its role in making Donnelly the number one most affordable private college in Kansas City. With over 96 percent of associate and bachelor's degree students receiving scholarship and grant funds, #1Day4Donnelly helps students realize that scholarships and institutional aid are a direct results of donor gifts. Thanks to 130 total donors, Donnelly's fundraising goal was exceeded by over \$20,000 this year.

\$47,833
total raised

most common gift
\$100

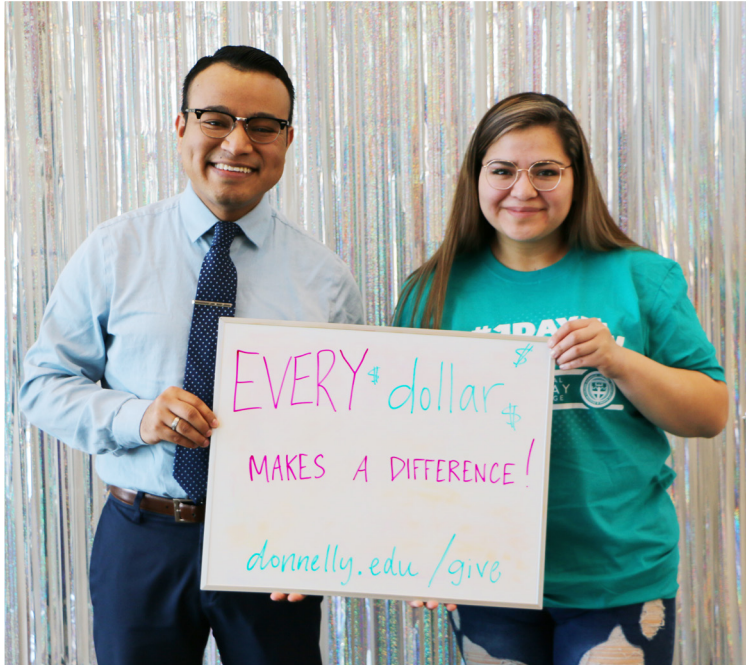
53
first-time
donors

130
total
donors

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Donnelly's fourth annual #1DAY4DONNELLY will be on **March 1, 2023**

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Students pose with Lux the Dragon to wrap up the day. Alumni Arturo Hernandez and Fatima Ramirez stopped by to support the event. Students write thank you notes to supporters of Donnelly. The day's activities included a photobooth, free snacks, yard games, writing thank you cards and reaching out to donors. A student signs a "thank you" banner that will be displayed on campus.





The

Miracle

on 18th Street

ABOVE (CLOCKWISE) Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann blesses the Academic Resource Center during the Campus Dedication ceremony. Joe Reardon, president/CEO of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, visits with guests before the ceremony. Guests enjoy the event program and speaker anecdotes. Representatives from Burns & McDonnell of Kansas City, MO pose for a photo with Donnelly leadership. From left: Clint Blew, senior design architect; Lauren Hess, senior interior designer; Msgr. Swetland; Kristine Sutherlin, project manager; Lisa Stoothoff, Chief Operating Officer and Dean of the College.



On April 22, over 200 guests gathered in Donnelly’s new academic building for the long-awaited Campus Dedication celebration that marked the official completion of Donnelly’s Transformations Master Plan. The Transformations capital campaign raised \$34 million over 10 years for three phases of campus renovation projects. Phase I, completed in 2013, was Donnelly’s first new construction project in 50 years: the Community Event Center. Phase II, completed in 2017, included renovations to Marian Hall, which houses Donnelly’s nursing programs. Phase III included the demolition of the former Providence Hospital Tower and construction of a new 72,000-square-foot academic building featuring state-of-the-art learning environments, 60-seat Blessed Seelos Chapel and Academic Resource Center. This final phase, completed in 2022, also included a new parking garage, quad green space and a futsal field.

Since its founding in 1949, Donnelly’s commitment to keeping a private Catholic college education affordable has led to a series of hand-me-down buildings to keep tuition low and offset increasing costs of higher education for students. However, in 2008, the College’s leadership made the decision to invest in first-rate infrastructure to make Donnelly’s learning environment top tier for students. The campus has come a long way since those initial discussions over a decade ago.

The Campus Dedication program featured blessings of the new chapel and academic building, as well as an open house reception and guided tours by Donnelly students and staff. Program speakers included Richard Flanigan, Jr., former board chair (2014-2018); Nestor Zuluaga, current board chair; Sister Esther Fangman, OSB, prioress at Mount St.

Scholastica and board member; Commissioner Harold Johnson, Jr. of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County; Joe Reardon, president/CEO of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and board member; Dr. John Romito, ‘66, Transformations Campaign chair and board member; Monsignor Stuart Swetland, president of Donnelly College; and Most Rev. Joseph F. Naumann, D.D., Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and board member.

The speakers marveled at the progress made in transforming the physical campus to sustain the unique mission and vision of the College.

“Sister Jerome [Keeler, OSB] is probably looking down beaming with pride to see the school she founded 73 years ago – continuing to serve those who would not otherwise be served,” said Sister Esther Fangman, OSB.

Often referring to Donnelly as “the Miracle on 18th Street,” Msgr. Swetland reflected on how grateful he is to see this campaign come to fruition. He gave special thanks to the Transformations Campaign committee, annual fund donors, campaign investors, community partners, renovation project vendors and architects as well as the staff and faculty that kept the College running through major renovations and construction.

“Just like we want to incarnate our values and incarnate diversity, we needed to incarnate first-class service to our students,” he said. “And this is what our building does for us. It’s an outward sign of an inward reality... And as we bless it today, it will be that sign and source of grace to all who come here.”

For more information about the Transformations Master Plan, visit campaignfordonnelly.com. **D**

Donnelly College wins Kansas City Business Journal Capstone Award

Donnelly’s main academic building won the 2022 Capstone Award for community impact from the Kansas City Business Journal. Each year, the Kansas City Business Journal hosts the Capstone Awards to honor top development and real estate projects in the local community. The features of the building that stood out to the panel of judges were the Blessed Seelos Chapel, futsal field, state-of-the-art classrooms and labs and the two-story Dean-Lozoya Family Academic Resource Center. Project architect Burns & McDonnell and general contractor Excel Constructors were also honored.



Don't Be Afraid of Financial Aid

Talking about finances and expenses is no easy task, especially for the 71 percent of Donnelly students who are first-generation college students. Many of these students navigate the enrollment process on their own and must also keep track of their educational expenses and bills throughout their time as a student. The Donnelly financial aid department is committed to maintaining an open and transparent environment for students and has adopted several strategies to accomplish that goal.

“If you go up to a student and ask, ‘how do you do your taxes?’, usually they give you a blank stare,” said Director of Financial Aid Stephani Berry. “For some reason, the financial aid process and doing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is just like that because it involves their income. The questions [on the FAFSA] are very intimidating because of the verbiage that’s used by Federal Student Aid. For us, one of the things we need to do is explain the questions to the students.”

One key strategy of the department is to meet with every single student at least once per semester to ensure that they understand the financial aid process. This includes how to apply for federal student aid, Donnelly merit-based scholarships, work-study positions and external scholarships. If a student has a balance on their account, the financial aid team works with the student to get it paid in a way that is doable and timely, typically including a payment plan.

“Whenever we meet with students individually, we always like to start off with the question, ‘Do you have any questions?’ We have a lot of first-generation students, so they don’t always know what questions to ask,” said Financial Aid Counselor and Donnelly alumna Anali Hernandez Cruz, ’19, ’21.

“Being a first-generation student myself, I didn’t understand everything as a student. Now, it’s great to be able to sit down with students and walk them through the process step-by-step.”

Anali Hernandez Cruz
Financial Aid Counselor

One of the most rewarding aspects of Hernandez Cruz’s job is seeing students’ reactions when a piece of the financial aid puzzle clicks into place.

“A lot of students don’t know what is out there,” she said. “Being a first-generation student myself, I didn’t understand everything as a student. Now, it’s great to be able to sit down

with students and walk them through the process step-by-step.”

For incoming and active Donnelly students, scholarships continue to be one of the most asked-about components of the enrollment process. The financial aid department works hard to make sure students are aware of different aid opportunities, including those for undocumented and non-citizen students who are not eligible for federal student aid. As of May 2022, 96.3 percent of associate and bachelor’s degree students receive grants and scholarships. (Nursing students do not qualify for Donnelly’s merit-based scholarships, but may receive Pell grant funds and can apply for external opportunities.)

“One thing that I appreciate is when the faculty direct students to the financial aid office if they hear students discussing financial burdens,” said Berry. “We’re trying to change the ‘don’t go to the dungeon of financial aid’ mindset. Our door is open. We want to make those connections. It’s always a celebration for us when a student answers our phone calls, emails or texts.”

Berry wants students to understand that the financial aid department is a resource that aligns with the school’s mission to keep a Donnelly College education affordable and accessible to all. “I tell students, ‘Don’t be afraid to talk to us. We are here to help you. That’s why we have our job. We are not just here to take your info and give you what amount we think you should get. We look at the whole package, the whole person.’” **D**

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Visit donnelly.edu/SHINE for sponsor benefits, tickets and event details.



For the Love of Reading

Meet Donnelly's Academic Librarian Elizabeth Strother

Elizabeth Strother joined Donnelly's staff in January 2022 with one goal in mind: to encourage the Donnelly community to find a love and appreciation for books. One of Strother's favorite activities is setting up book displays that reflect topical holidays and heritage months such as the season of Lent, Black History Month and Mental Health Awareness Month.

From quick surveys, Strother realized that many Donnelly staff and alumni were unaware that they could visit the library to check out books and other materials, use the computers, reserve study spaces and access different databases. Located on the first floor of Donnelly's main academic building, the library houses

over 3,000 physical books, a collection of newspapers and magazines, archived Donnelly materials such as class photos, public computers and copy machines. Donnelly also participates in interlibrary loan services, giving students and staff the ability to borrow reading materials through any library in Kansas.

To further encourage students to visit the library, Strother has several new student initiatives in the works for the 2022–2023 academic year. She is preparing to host a creative writing student club as well as implementing new technology to make library resources more accessible. She recently reflected on how she landed at Donnelly and how she found her love of reading.

“I want to get people more excited about reading.
There is so much magic inside books.”

Elizabeth Strother

Academic Librarian

What brought you to Donnelly?

When I worked at a Johnson County library, I met with a colleague who was a current Donnelly student. She mentioned how much I would love Donnelly College and that I would be a great fit as a librarian here. She was right!

When did you fall in love with books?

My dad was a ship captain, so we moved around a lot and were always by the ocean. One of the only constants I had was the characters in the books I read. I fell in love with books as soon as I could read!

What got you interested in librarianship?

I started school later in life. Before attending college, I was in the Air Force and then became a hairstylist and makeup artist. When I lived in Germany, I studied history with the hopes of becoming a professor one day. While doing original research for my capstone project, I realized how much I loved to research and enjoyed helping my classmates find information for their projects as well. When my husband and I moved to Kansas, I started looking into librarianship. I graduated from Emporia State University with a master's degree in library and information science in 2021.

If there is one thing you want students and alumni to know about Donnelly's library, what would it be?

We are partnered with the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library. If students or alumni are looking for a particular book, I can usually find it through the catalog and get it delivered to Donnelly within a day or two. I will even return books when they are finished. This



Students work on a group project at a library computer.

is a great perk for staff, faculty, students and alumni. Donnelly also participates in interlibrary loans, so we can get access to materials in all Kansas libraries. We are not just a research library – we have fiction and graphic novels for recreational reading as well.

What is your ultimate goal as Donnelly's librarian?

It's not only important for students to know about the resources available at the library, but also for staff, faculty and alumni as well. I want to get people more excited about reading. There is so much magic inside books. **D**

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering those who have recently passed away.

Alumni

Judith (Lienhard) Conrad '61
 David G. Dehaemers, Sr. '62
 Wanda Dodd '82
 Robert Engel '68
 Linus Goth '57
 Walter E. Harris '68
 Ronald T. McLean '71
 John P. Mitchell '65
 Mark Patino '09, '12
 James N. Ries '53
 Mary Ann Schopper '50
 Matthew Thomas '61
 Judith (Hook) VanRest '66 &
 2019 Alumni Hall of Fame inductee
 Thomas Wright '71

Former Faculty

Wood Dickinson
 L. Ashley Elbl, Jr.
 Irene McCorkindale

STAFF NOTES

Gretchen Moffet was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor. Gretchen was also named Director of Humanities.

Gretchen Moffet attended the Great Plains Acceleration Conference in February and completed a Canvas Foundational Frameworks course this spring.

Guy Sechrist, Assistant Professor of History, **Jean Janasz**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, **Cecilia Kroen**, Assistant Director of Nursing, and **Patty Palmietto**, Director of Nursing, were approved for research release projects for Fall 2022.

Lisa Stoothoff, Chief Operating Officer and Dean of the College, completed the post-graduate certificate program in restorative justice from the University of San Diego.

Lisa Stoothoff was a panelist for the Restorative Justice Network of Catholic Campuses (RJNCC) Spring Enrichments Series in May. The topic was “Navigating Complexity with Contemplation: RJ and Alignment to Catholic Institutional Mission.”

The following staff and faculty completed the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) course “Creating an Inclusive and Supportive Online Learning Environment”: **Nicholas Adongo, Amanda Crowe, Jean Janasz, Ana Maradiaga, Joe Multhauf, Patty Palmietto, Dr. Mary Pflanz, Russell Robinson, Kimberly Sadowski, Dhuha Shareef, Lisa Stoothoff, Lindsey Weishar** and **Crystal Willburn**.

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Students Sui Fam, Khin Tling and Sajeda Bee shared their first-hand experiences of being refugees from Southeast Asia during Donnelly’s Common Read student refugee panel.

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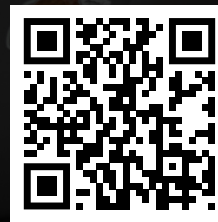
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