Donnelly College DIGEST

WINTER 2009

A publication for Donnelly alumni and friends

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60 YEARS 1949-2009

donnelly.edu

Leader's Message

Donette Alonzo
Dean of Student Affairs

Alumni and Friends,

Donnelly's 60th anniversary celebrations have kept the campus buzzing with some of our largest events to date! Students, faculty, staff and friends of the College have come together to celebrate the legacy of Donnelly through various events such as September's Convocation Day Mass and record-breaking Scholarship Dinner, the phenomenal guest speaker series in October, and November's Pep Rally, Donnelly Dash 5K and Gratia events.

Enrollment remains good, despite the tough economic times, and student spirits are high.

As Donnelly's new Dean of Student Affairs, my focus is on providing these students with a supportive, inclusive learning environment. I advocate for our students and am dedicated to ensuring that they have the best possible social and academic experience while studying at Donnelly College.

Right now, I watch as students are busy enrolling for next semester, preparing for tedious final exams, and, of course, looking forward to a period of relaxation over the holiday break. Many are also making plans for what's to come after graduation, whether it is to continue their education, join the working world, or embark on another adventure.

Each academic year, the faces of Donnelly students change, but the overall spirit does not. Our students have tremendous spirits – ambitious, strong and intelligent spirits that give them courage to step through our front doors, carry them through their rigorous studies at Donnelly, and pave their bright futures.

Throughout the past 60 years, much has changed but one thing remains the same: Donnelly's mission to offer programs, financial policies that challenge our students to become global citizens, and student support structures that increase college access and success for those underserved in higher education.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and assistance in helping Donnelly continue to carry out its incredible mission. Whether you support us by attending events, serving as a volunteer, or recognizing us with a monetary contribution, your generosity is greatly appreciated. Donnelly College is transforming higher education opportunities, and you have helped make this transformation possible.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our many upcoming events and getting to hear your Donnelly story.

Happy holidays to you all and God bless.

Sincerely,

Donette Alonzo

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ON THE COVER: Donnelly students Yar Riak (left) and Miro Heyink (right) sport their Donnelly gear and face-paint as they cheer on the men's and women's Soccer Clubs at the Pep Rally on Thursday, Nov. 5.

Deasiray Norris, current baccalaureate student at Donnelly, approaches the finish line at this year's Donnelly Dash 5K Run/Walk held Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009.

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR

Jennifer Price, *Marketing Coordinator*
jprice@donnelly.edu

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Sarah Green, *Creative Coordinator*
sgreen@donnelly.edu

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Emily Buckley, *Director of Development*
ebuckley@donnelly.edu

Roger Berg, *Alumni Relations Coordinator*
rberg@donnelly.edu

Laura Bryon, *Annual Fund Coordinator*
lbryon@donnelly.edu

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RECENT EVENTS

1 | Guest speaker discusses religion & African American theatre

On Thursday, Oct. 8, Dr. Craig Prentiss, Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Rockhurst University, gave a presentation discussing the significant work of early African American playwrights from a religious perspective—specifically from the 1850s through WWII. This event was part of Donnelly's 60th Anniversary Speaker Series.

2 | 60th Anniversary Speaker Series continues with community leader

As another part of the College's 60th Anniversary Speaker Series, KCK community leader Richard Mabion spoke on Thursday, Oct. 15. Mabion discussed the need to involve people of color in creating a sustainable local community. His passion for increasing the involvement of Kansas City's diverse ethnicities in reaching sustainability is something he has been working on throughout his career.

3 | Soccer Club raises money with "Monster Prom" photo fundraiser

The DC Soccer Club organized a unique fundraiser on Halloween by dressing up in costumes and taking mock photos with Donnelly students, faculty and staff. Money raised went toward the soccer club to purchase equipment for the team.

4 | Students plan first DC Spirit Week

Donnelly's Organization of Student Leaders (OSL) planned the first ever DC Spirit Week Oct. 26-29 to celebrate the soccer clubs' fall season. Monday marked "Pajama Day." Tuesday's "Represent Your Team Day" allowed students to show off their favorite sports team. On "Way Back Wednesday," students dressed in clothing from their favorite decade. On "Donnelly Thursday," everyone wore their cardinal red to support the men's and women's soccer teams.

5 | OSL organizes Pep Rally

Members of Donnelly's Organization of Student Leaders (OSL) planned a Pep Rally to celebrate the men's and women's soccer seasons. Students, faculty and staff gathered in the Meeting Room on Thursday, Nov. 5, for the fun-filled rally. Music, cheers and whistles filled the air as the soccer team ran through a large banner and onto the stage. Each player was introduced, along with head coach Jaime Fuentes. Many students painted their faces and wore cardinal red. Tasty hot-dogs, hamburgers and nachos were served as students danced and celebrated their Donnelly soccer teams.

6 | New Donnelly gear available!

Throughout the fall semester, Donnelly's bookstore has filled with new merchandise, including Donnelly t-shirts, hoodies, polos and mugs! These items can be purchased on campus at our bookstore or on the Web at donnelly.edu/bookstore!

6

FOURTH ANNUAL DONNELLY DASH 5K GARNERS 200+ PARTICIPANTS

Sister Jerome Keeler was undeniably looking down on the Donnelly campus Saturday, Nov. 7, blessing the Donnelly Dash participants and volunteers with cheerful sunshine and a warm breeze as they ventured off on a 5K journey throughout the neighborhoods surrounding the College.

The Fourth Annual Donnelly Dash 5K proved to be a huge success, bringing more than 200 participants to campus, including Donnelly students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and many new faces.

"It was a fantastic turnout," said Eliza Fitzpatrick, Dash Coordinator and Donnelly Admissions Representative. "Donnelly students, faculty and staff came out and showed their support, as well as people from throughout the Kansas City metro. There was a good mix of competitive runners and strolling families out there enjoying the beautiful day."

This was the first year the event had its own branded apparel and gear, made possible by a $2,800 grant from the 2010 U.S. Census.

"The 2010 Census gave us an opportunity to build our event by providing us with funds for t-shirts, drawstring bags and the Dash's start and finish banners," said Fitzpatrick. "The grant helped make this year's 5K the best ever because everyone was sporting their Dash gear, giving the event a real sense of camaraderie. It also helped the Census raise awareness of the importance of participating in the 2010 Census come April."

Along with t-shirts and bags, participants also enjoyed a hot, healthy breakfast provided by sponsors.

In addition to the 2010 Census, this year's sponsors included Sun Fresh, Costco, HyVee and Cater Time.

"We're really looking to expand our sponsorship opportunities next year," said Laura Bryon, Annual Fund Coordinator. "With more than 200 people attending this year's event, we hope to secure even more sponsors next year, providing more food and fun for our participants."

To view photos and top runner times from this year's Dash, visit donnelly.edu/dash. Additional photos can be found at seekcrun.com.

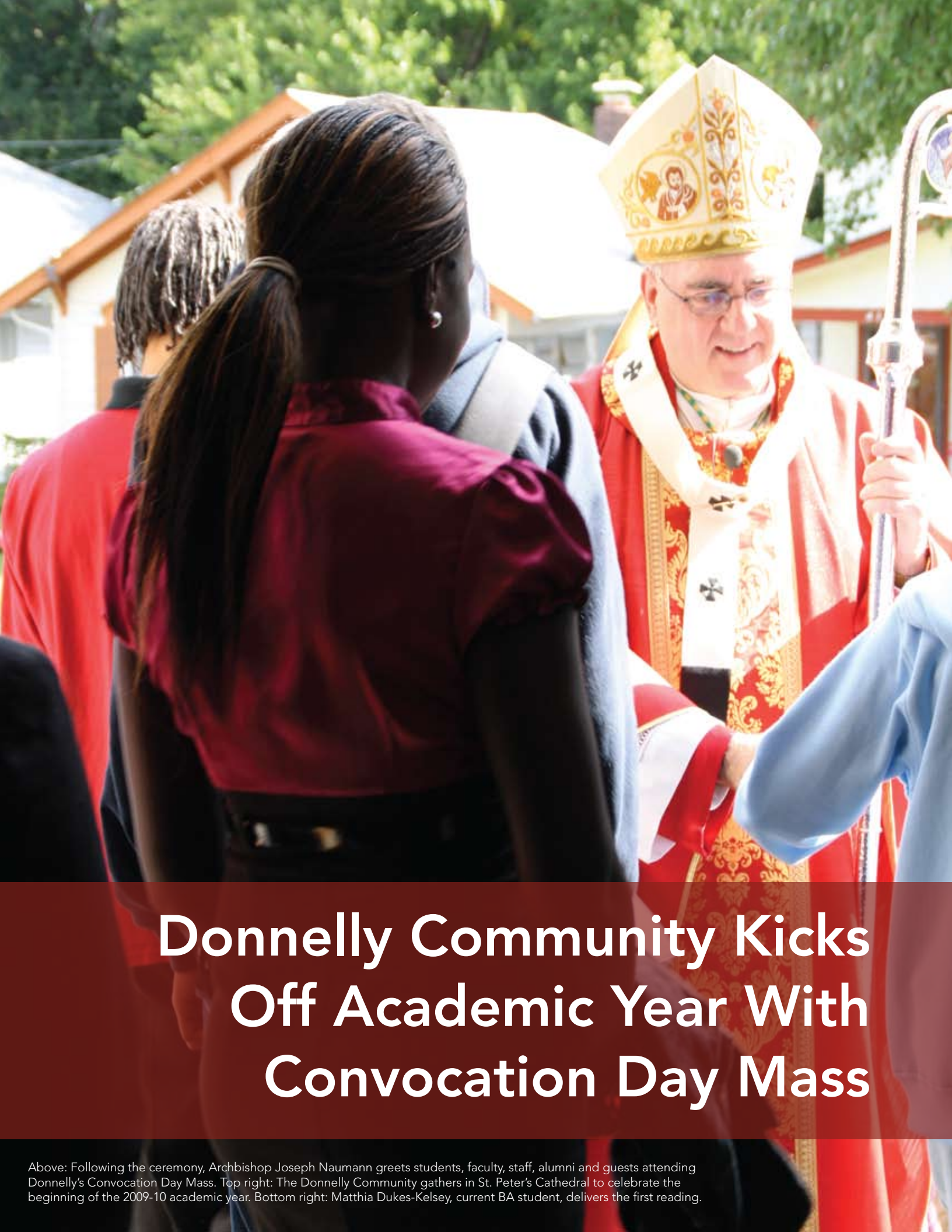
THE FIFTH ANNUAL DONNELLY DASH 5K

will be Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010! Visit our Web page at donnelly.edu/dash to stay up-to-date on this event.

HAVE A SPONSORSHIP SUGGESTION FOR NEXT YEAR'S DONNELLY DASH?

Send the vendor name and contact information to Laura Bryon at lbryon@donnelly.edu. Your suggestions are much appreciated!

Top: Participants begin their 5K excursion through the neighborhoods surrounding the College. Above: Donnelly students gather following the 5K to listen to music and enjoy a hot breakfast.



Donnelly Community Kicks Off Academic Year With Convocation Day Mass

Above: Following the ceremony, Archbishop Joseph Naumann greets students, faculty, staff, alumni and guests attending Donnelly's Convocation Day Mass. Top right: The Donnelly Community gathers in St. Peter's Cathedral to celebrate the beginning of the 2009-10 academic year. Bottom right: Matthia Dukes-Kelsey, current BA student, delivers the first reading.

On Thursday, Sept. 24, students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the College gathered at St. Peter's Cathedral in Kansas City, Kan., for a Convocation Day Mass of the Holy Spirit to kick off Donnelly's 60th anniversary.

It seemed only fitting to begin this historic year the same way Sister Jerome Keeler and Bishop George Donnelly did 60 years ago – with a Mass.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann served as our principal celebrant, and Father John Melnick, Donnelly's Director of Campus Ministry and religious studies instructor, was the official con-celebrant.

St. Peter's Cathedral came alive with the Donnelly spirit as the Archbishop entered, followed by Father Melnick, Father Peter Jaramillo (Class of 1975 and Pastor at St. Mary-St. Anthony parish), Father Ciro (current Donnelly student), Father Dennis Wait (Class of 1966 and Spiritual Director at KCK's Sanctuary of Hope) and Father Harry Schneider (Pastor at St. Peter's Cathedral).

Many Donnelly students and faculty members had a role in the Mass.

Matthia Dukes-Kelsey, current baccalaureate student, delivered the first reading and Sister Grace Malaney, OSB, Preparatory Education faculty member, gave the second. The Gospel was acclaimed by Father Melnick, with a beautiful homily given by the Archbishop.

"It was inspiring to be a part of the 60th anniversary Convocation Day Mass," said Dukes-Kelsey. "I came to Donnelly because I wanted a place where my faith was recognized, so it meant a lot to me to be able to give the first reading. I was proud to represent my fellow Donnelly students."

The petitions were read by students Paola Zapata, Roger Berg III and Miro Heyink.

"The Donnelly spirit was strong during the Mass," said Heyink. "Sister Jerome Keeler and Bishop Donnelly were definitely there in spirit and happy to see all of the support for and growth of the College.

"Donnelly students, although not all Catholic, celebrated the Catholic teachings that continue to have a strong presence on campus."

Sister Lucy Kramer, OSB, Sister Barbara Mayer, OSB, and current students Celiana Machado and Yar Riak, brought up the offertory gifts.

"As we celebrate the beginning of the academic year, we realize it is important to remember that we stand on the shoulders of many great leaders, instructors and alumni who have shaped Donnelly's past," said Sister Barbara Mayer, OSB. "The Mass also commemorated the 60th year and gave thanks to the many benefactors that believe in Donnelly's mission."

Following the Mass, attendees headed back to campus for a luncheon in the Meeting Room. Father Melnick offered a blessing over the meal and Dr. Steve LaNasa, President of Donnelly, gave a few words of thanks to all who helped plan and organize the event.

Mark your calendars for next year's Convocation Day Mass, scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010, at St. Peter's Cathedral in Kansas City, Kan., with a celebratory luncheon following the Mass.

"As we celebrate the beginning of the academic year, we realize it is important to remember that we stand on the shoulders of many great leaders, instructors and alumni who have shaped Donnelly's past..."

Donnelly Would Like To Give Special Thanks To...

...Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann and Father John Melnick for helping us celebrate this Mass and kick off our 60th anniversary year.

...to the volunteer planning committee, including Pat Antonopoulos, Susan Carroll, Martha LaVan, Sister Marie Kathleen Daugherty, SCL, and Sari Higgins.

...to Michael Podrebarac and David Sachen for providing their time and talents, making the Mass a memorable occasion for all.

College Hosts Third Annual Scholarship Dinner

Raising More Than $126,000

Donnelly hosted its Third Annual Scholarship Dinner honoring the Archbishops of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas on Saturday, Sept. 26. This year's dinner raised more than $126,000 in scholarships for Donnelly students, bringing in 21 percent more scholarship dollars than last year's event.

More than 340 guests attended the dinner, held at the Reardon Convention Center in downtown Kansas City, Kan., including nearly 50 Donnelly students.

The dinner celebrated Donnelly's 60 years of taking "The Road Less Traveled" and honored the Archbishops of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, including Bishop George J. Donnelly and Archbishops Edward J. Hunkeler, Ignatius J. Strecker, James P. Keleher and Joseph F. Naumann, for their consistent support in helping the College reach this milestone year.

Proceeds from the dinner created an Endowed Scholarship in the Archbishops' names, and provided support to Donnelly's annual scholarship fund.

"The five bishops of the Archdiocese have each contributed to the continued success of Donnelly," said Monsignor Thomas Tank, Honorary Chair of Donnelly's Scholarship Dinner and pastor at the Church of the Ascension in Overland Park, Kan.

"For 60 years, Donnelly, with the support of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, has made a private college education available in the urban core. It is through the scholarships raised at the annual dinner that many students are able to continue their education and achieve academic, professional and personal success."

Donnelly students benefit greatly from the high levels of scholarship and financial aid options available to them at the College.

Despite keeping our annual tuition low at just over $5,000 – the lowest of any private college in Kansas or Missouri – most Donnelly students still need financial aid to pay for some of their college expenses. Last year alone, Donnelly provided 401 scholarships totaling $334,118.

"For most students, cost is what stands between them and their college education," said Robert Bartunek, Scholarship Dinner Chairman, Donnelly Trustee and lawyer at Seigfreid Bingham Levy Selzer & Gee. "The Scholarship Dinner is the one time each year where everyone comes together to provide scholarship dollars directly to Donnelly students, changing their lives and the lives of future generations."

Co-emcees for the event were Donnelly alumna and community activist Delia Hernandez and FOX4-TV's Chief Meteorologist Mike Thompson.

Hernandez, Class of 1984, has remained strongly connected to Donnelly since her graduation, volunteering her time to serve on Donnelly's Board of Trustees and taking on an administrative role within the College for several years.

In addition to the dinner's emcee-duo, the night included a video presentation showcasing the important role scholarships play in the success of Donnelly students. The evening concluded with an exciting prize drawing.

Visit www.donnelly.edu/dinner to view photos from this year's dinner and to stay up-to-date on next year's event, scheduled for the evening of **Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010**.

WANT TO HELP PLAN NEXT YEAR'S DINNER? Contact Laura Bryon at (913) 621-8752 or lbryon@donnelly.edu to join our Scholarship Dinner Planning Committee!

The dinner was just one component of our 60th Anniversary Event Series! Visit donnelly.edu for information on upcoming events.

To request a copy of the video shown at this year's Scholarship Dinner, contact Emily Buckley at (913) 621-8731 or ebuckley@donnelly.edu.

Clockwise from left: Monsignor Thomas Tank, Honorary Chair of the Scholarship Dinner, stands with Bob Bartunek, Scholarship Dinner Chairman and Donnelly Trustee; Archbishop Joseph Naumann speaks to Jerry Meiners before dinner begins; Bill Dunn, Jr., and George Breidenthal converse during the cocktail hour; Emcees Mike Thompson and Delia Hernandez begin the prize drawing, which included jewelry, artwork, NASCAR tickets and more; Andres Dominguez, Program Officer for the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, and Amy Heithoff, President/CEO for Heithoff Health, Inc.; From left to right: Father John Melnick, students Arturo Mora and Fred Del Toro, Joyce Klingele (Class of 1967), student Josh Springfield, and Sister Agnes Cousins.

Honor Roll of Donors

The Donnelly community acknowledges with sincere gratitude the following gifts made from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009.

Your generosity makes it possible for Donnelly to continue its 60-year mission of serving those who might not otherwise be served in higher education.

Thank you for contributing your time, talents and treasure to Donnelly's growing legacy!

What your gifts made possible this year:

- Provided a high-quality education to more than 1,100 students
- Awarded $334,118 in scholarships to students
- Celebrated our first Licensed Practical Nursing program graduation
- Expanded campus with the addition of a second academic building, Marian Hall
- Opened our second residence hall facility
- Unveiled new logo suite, reflecting Donnelly's Catholic and Benedictine roots
- Received $223,000 grant to support Lansing Prison Program

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- 92% of students receive financial aid
- 94% of associate degree graduates go on to pursue a four-year degree
- Donnelly alumni total nearly 45,000 worldwide

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DC STUDENT BODY

Students on main campus: 650
Female: 66%
Male: 34%
Students of color: 76%
International students: 10%
In-state: 89%
Out-of-state: 11%
**Based on 2008 statistics*

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The Lifetime Society honors donors who have generously contributed more than $250,000 over their history of giving to Donnelly College. See the next page for specific information on planned giving.

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Honor & Memorial Gifts

Ms. Loretta A. Bates in memory of Sr. Virginia Minton
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Mr. Robert L. Briscoe in memory of Charlotte and Vernon Briscoe
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Couture in memory of Sr. Virginia Minton
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Ms. Rebecca Rodriguez in honor of Phyllis Rodriguez
Father Michael Santa, O.S.B., in honor of the Benedictine Sisters
Mrs. Lucy Saunders in memory of Sisters Faith and Scholastica Schuster
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in honor of the Benedictine Sisters
Mr. Dick Storm in memory of Patricia Storm
Ms. Rose Thomas in honor of Eva Kolich
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Keeler Society

The Keeler Society recognizes all donors who make monthly contributions to Donnelly College, and honors the legacy of Sister Jerome Keeler, who dedicated herself tirelessly to making Donnelly a reality and a transformational experience for students.

Tom Brown
Dan and Patricia Haake
Dr. Steven M. and Rebecca LaNasa

Legacy Society

The Legacy Society recognizes all donors who have included Donnelly College in their estate plans.

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Have you made a planned gift for Donnelly?
Please let us know so we can add your name to our growing Legacy Society.

We apologize for any errors or omissions in this report.

Join the Donnelly College Legacy Society

Include Donnelly In Your Estate Plans

Donnelly's Legacy Society recognizes individuals who have generously and strategically included Donnelly in their estate planning to benefit the College and future students. Such gifts have been so influential in Donnelly's past 60 years, and they will have even greater impact on Donnelly's future success.

Currently, Donnelly is undertaking an effort to increase awareness of this giving opportunity and to grow participation in our Legacy Society. The College is fortunate to have the assistance of The Catholic Foundation of Northeast Kansas in our Legacy Society efforts.

"We are so blessed to have such a loyal and generous circle of donors who have made it possible for Donnelly to continue to provide educational opportunities in the urban core," said Roger Berg, Donnelly Alumni Relations and Volunteer Coordinator. "Planned gifts allow our friends to continue to provide support beyond their lifetimes.

Including Donnelly in your estate plan can be as simple as providing in your will that a specific amount or percentage of your estate will go to Donnelly College. There are additional easy options, such as naming Donnelly as the beneficiary or co-beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan, making gifts of stock or investments, charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities. Donnelly is available to assist you in your planning.

"We have had numerous donors who are proud of their association with the college and believe in the life-changing effects of a Donnelly education," said Bob Bartunek, a member of Donnelly's Board of Trustees and its recently created Planned Giving committee. "When establishing a planned gift, you can specify the purpose for which the gift will be used, perhaps even establishing an endowed gift in your name."

Please consider including Donnelly College in your estate plans. We will be honored to discuss with you the various options for a planned gift to Donnelly. Or, if you have already included Donnelly in your estate plans, please let us know!

For more information about planned giving and the Donnelly Legacy Society, contact Roger Berg at (913) 621-8744 or rberg@donnelly.edu.

DONNELLY'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR ROLLS ON

Each of this year's Donnelly Digests will feature facts from one 15-year segment in the College's rich history. The previous issue looked at the first 15 years, 1949-64, and this issue focuses on the next 15 years, 1965-79.

The mid-sixties and seventies were a time of change in Kansas City, Kansas, with the inner city enduring much heartbreak caused by civil-rights rioting. However, it was also a time of urban renewal as the city prepared for the 1976 Republican National Convention, knocking down old buildings and replacing them with new ones or parking lots.

Donnelly also saw change, with new leadership, programs and the pioneering of our English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

1965-79 Timeline

1967	Sr. Mary Richard Pendergast becomes President-Dean
1968	Head Start and Black History programs begins
1969	North Central accreditation evaluation
1970	Donnelly joins the Kansas City Regional Council for Higher Education
1971	Sr. Virginia Minton named academic dean
1972	Fr. John Oldfield assumes presidency
1972	St. Margaret's discontinues nursing program
1974	2 + 2 program partnership with St. Mary College begins, allowing students to complete a bachelor's degree on Donnelly's campus
1975	Father Ray Davern named president
1976	Title III approved. Alternate degree (person-centered) started
1977	Sr. Virginia Minton appointed vice-president and academic dean
1978	English as a Second Language (ESL) program begins
1979	Board approves feasibility study looking at Providence Hospital as new site for the College

Alumnus Serves KCK Community as Police Officer

Alumnus Jonathan Westbrook, Class of 2006, represents Donnelly well and protects our surrounding neighborhoods as a police officer in Kansas City, Kansas.

Westbrook graduated from the Police Academy in March 2009. Today, you'll find him patrolling the East Division of KCK, which includes everything east of 29th to State Line.

"I became a police cadet right after graduating from Donnelly," Westbrook said in a recent interview. "During my apprenticeship I was exposed to different police departments such as narcotics, CSI and juveniles.

"I also took some online classes through Washburn University to broaden my education," he said. "After a year and a half, I was admitted to the Police Academy for nine months of intensive training, similar to military boot camp. It was very physically demanding."

Officer Pete Fogarty, cadet coordinator for the KCK Police Academy, said Westbrook was an ideal cadet. "He is well-mannered, intelligent and always considerate of others," said Fogarty. "He's the kind of employee every employer dreams of having. He is always on time and interacts well with others. If he decides to stay in this field, I can see him going far."

Westbrook said he became a police officer to help people and give back to his community.

"I learned that from Mr. John Mendez," he said. "I loved Donnelly. You walk down the hallway and you meet every ethnicity. You are always treated like an important person. I always tell people about it."

His parents supported his decision to become a police officer despite knowing it is dangerous work. They serve as spiritual guides in his life.

Westbrook's father is a retired Air Force officer and his mother is a nurse. He has three older siblings as well as a younger sister, Kimberly, who attends Donnelly, and a younger brother.

Another spiritual guide is Rev. Leroy Sullivan, pastor of Bread of Life, a non-denominational church in KCK.

Westbrook is a deacon and youth minister at Bread of Life, and also sings in the choir. He is involved in the Life Connections program at the church, a prisoner mentoring program which involves visiting a prisoner at Leavenworth Penitentiary a few times each month and talking with them about their struggles.

"I love my job, but soon I want to go back to Donnelly to earn a BA in Organizational Leadership and then look into possibilities in the FBI or Secret Service," he said.

Whatever path his career takes, we wish Jonathan the best and hope to see him back at Donnelly in the future!

Benedictine Sister, Alumna Remember Sister Phyllis Dye ('51)

As the holidays approach, we often think of those we've loved and lost. Donnelly alumna Sister Phyllis (Mary Prague) Dye, OSB, Class of 1951, is someone many are thinking of this holiday season.

Sister Phyllis, 78, passed away on October 8 at Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kan. As someone who loved learning, she was always looking to share her wisdom and knowledge with those around her. A proud member of one of Donnelly's first graduating classes, Sister Phyllis continued her education at Mount St. Scholastica College, earning a BS in education with minors in English and history.

She was a cat-lover who enjoyed reading, cooking, gardening and photography. As a teacher and librarian for 32 years, Sister Phyllis supervised and taught hundreds of students in the classroom. She also reviewed thousands of books and prepared countless meals in the monastery's refectory.

"Phyllis was a generous giver – generous with her time and talents," said Sister Bridget Dickason, OSB, at Sister Phyllis' vigil service held on October 11 in the monastery chapel. "She appreciated anything done for her. Food, family and friends made up her leisure. We will all remember her clear blue eyes and sparkling smile."

Fellow classmate Barbara Ann Stock, Class of 1951, remembers her as a quiet, eager student.

"On occasion, our class would all go out together," said Stock. "Phyllis would often go with us for a Coke or to visit a local store."

"In her resurrection, I see Phyllis enjoying a heavenly banquet that she did not have to prepare," said Sister Bridget. "I see her walking through weedless gardens and taking pictures that she will want to share with us when we join her."

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608 North 18th Street
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DONNELLY COLLEGE
60 YEARS
1949-2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 11: Spring semester begins

APR 1: "Arts in the Heart" begins
A month-long series of events celebrating arts and humanities

APR 6: Summer and Fall enrollment begins

APR 22-23: Multicultural Festival
Apr. 22: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Apr. 23: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MAY 15: Graduation

SEPT 30: Fourth Annual Scholarship Dinner

NOV 6: Donnelly Dash 5K Run/Walk
Friends, alumni and neighbors are invited to join us at any of these events.

For more information on Donnelly's upcoming events, visit our website: **donnelly.edu**