

# DONNELLY COLLEGE *DIGEST*

*A publication for alumni & friends*

**SUMMER 2013**

*Volume 7, Issue 1*



## MOVING FORWARD

There's a bright future ahead for Donnelly.  
Will you be a part of it?



**Mike and Melanie Fenske**  
SHINE Chairs

## LEADER'S MESSAGE

Fall is synonymous in so many minds with education and the beginning of a new school year. So, it seems only fitting that Donnelly College hosts its largest fund raiser – SHINE – in the fall.

SHINE is Donnelly College's Annual Scholarship Event. Dollars raised at this event make up an essential portion of the College's scholarship awards each year. These scholarship awards are especially important to Donnelly students. Many come from families living below the poverty line and a majority are the first in their family to go to college.

Donnelly College has an incredible mission to ensure that students from all backgrounds have access to high quality, affordable education. This is, in large part, why we have chosen to become involved with Donnelly. Mike first started working with the College through his position with Burns and McDonnell to help start a pre-engineering program. After two successful semesters, the company is offering valuable internship experiences to students. He is also proud to serve on the Board of Trustees. Melanie's involvement has been through serving on the planning committee for past scholarship events. We are both happy to be co-chairing this year's SHINE Event along with Brian and Susan Finucane and honorary chair, Phil Kirk, Jr.

It is important to us to play some small part in making sure that talented, motivated individuals do not "fall through the cracks." Cost shouldn't keep anyone from going to college.

If you would like to join us and play a part in this important mission, we encourage you to attend SHINE on September 27th. This year, the event will honor Joan Horan for her steadfast support and leadership on Donnelly's Board of Trustees as well as the role she played as a catalyst to make Donnelly's new Community Event Center a reality.

The event promises to offer some exciting changes this year including a new venue - The National Airline History Museum. We invite you to come "fly with us" as we shine a light on the people who make Donnelly such an amazing place.

For more information about the event, visit [donnelly.edu/shine](http://donnelly.edu/shine).

Sincerely,

Mike and Melanie Fenske



REGISTER FOR SHINE ONLINE  
at [donnelly.edu/shine](http://donnelly.edu/shine) & see page 15 for event details



## COVER STORY

**04** Donnelly's new Event Center opened in April, officially kicking off one of many improvements to happen on campus.

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# GRAND OPENING

April 5, 2013 was definitely a date to celebrate at Donnelly.

Seven months and three blizzards had passed since Donnelly friends and supporters had last gathered on the north side of campus for the ground breaking of an exciting new construction project. The wait was finally over. The time had come to cross the threshold of the new Community Event Center, the first new building on campus in 50 years.

Needless to say, it was a great day for a grand opening!

“The College has been working toward this day for several years,” said President Steve LaNasa. “It’s an outward sign of our commitment to the community. Donnelly is firmly rooted in the urban core.”

A series of speakers including Commissioner Brian McKiernan, '76, and campaign chairs Henry Bloch, George Breidenthal, '69, and William Dunn, Jr., offered remarks on the importance of education in today’s world and the vital role the College plays in helping students earn degrees and reach new goals. Before the ceremonial red ribbon fluttered to the ground, Archbishop Naumann offered a blessing and recognized Donnelly as “an instrument of good for so many” and an institution that’s “at the heart of the Church’s mission.”

The celebration continued as guests streamed into the new 3,196 square-foot facility that serves as a venue for campus and community meetings as well as special events.



Board members and guests mingle in the new 3,196 square-foot event space

GRAND OPENING CONTINUED



NEED SPACE FOR AN UPCOMING MEETING OR EVENT?

Consider booking the Donnelly Community Event Center. Contact Mary Carrington-Harris at mary@donnelly.edu or 913.621.8746. You can also go to Donnelly.edu/roomrental to see more information on booking an event at Donnelly.

COMING IN THE NEAR FUTURE

There's more to come! Phase II construction is currently scheduled to pick back up in 2014, thanks to campaign Leadership gifts from the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and other donors. Here's what's next in our landmark \$25 million Transformations Campaign focused on matching college resources to the value of our mission...

NEW FAÇADE FOR THE FRONT OF THE TOWER EXTERIOR

SYSTEMS RENOVATIONS IN THE MAIN TOWER

NEW TWO-LEVEL RESOURCE CENTER AND LIBRARY

NEW CAMPUS CHAPEL

NEW ENTRANCE AND COMMONS



For more photos and information about the Event Center, go to [Donnelly.edu/eventcenter](http://Donnelly.edu/eventcenter).

For information on ways to support Donnelly's Transformations Capital Campaign contact Emily Buckley, Director of Advancement at 913.621.8731.



SEE THE VISION & GET THE LATEST UPDATES at [donnelly.edu/transformations](http://donnelly.edu/transformations)



DONNELLY COLLEGE

est. **1949**

take the tradition **forward**

With the support of alumni and friends, we can take the Donnelly College tradition forward to benefit new generations of students.

We have a goal of engaging 1949 donors this year—we need YOU to be one of them!



TEXT DC1949 to 80100 to give \$10!



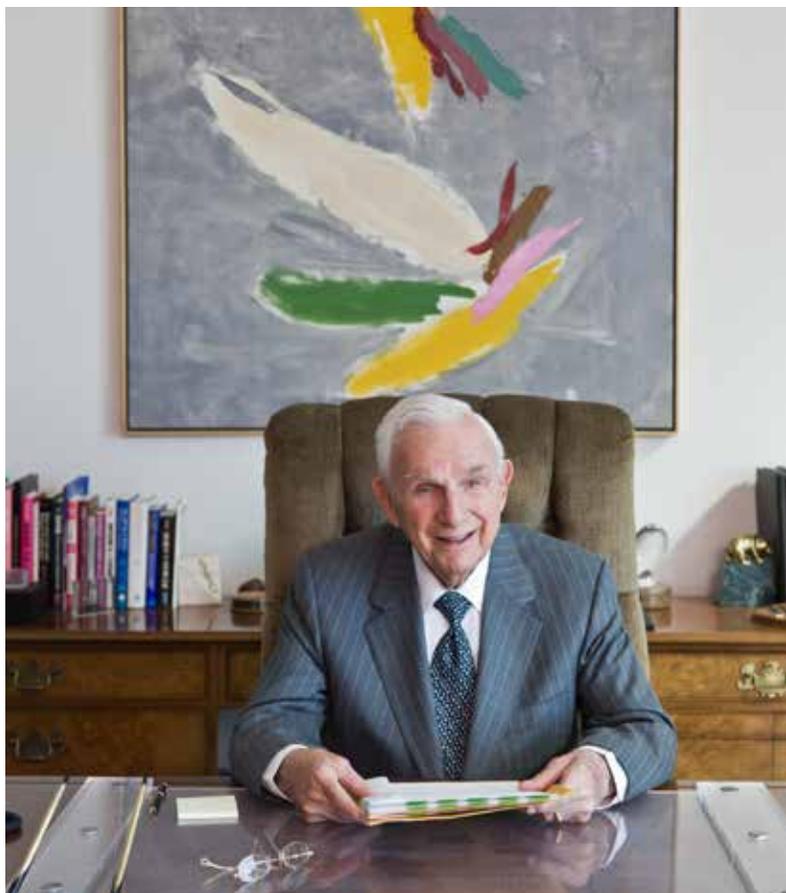
DONATE ONLINE at [donnelly.edu/give](http://donnelly.edu/give)

# ALWAYS REACH HIGHER

Henry Bloch shares  
message of hope with  
2013 DC grads

On Saturday, May 11, the Donnelly College community gathered to celebrate the graduation of 42 DC students. Associate degrees were awarded to 31 candidates and 11 individuals received bachelor's degrees. The pomp and circumstance of commencement exercises marked these students' passage to the ranks of Donnelly's distinguished alumni family.

Henry Bloch, co-founder and chairman emeritus of the board of H&R Block and benefactor of the Henry W. Bloch Scholars program, offered words of encouragement and sage advice to the graduating class.



The Bloch Scholars program helps Donnelly students pursue the dream of attending college. Funded by the H&R Block Foundation, scholarships ensure that limited financial resources never stand in the way of promising students' undergraduate college careers.

## EXCERPTS FROM HENRY'S SPEECH

First of all, you are taking away the ability to learn. Indeed, you have spent much of your life up to this day in the process of learning how to gain knowledge... at the same time, you know – probably better than I – that the frontiers of all knowledge have expanded so rapidly the information you now have can be obsolete or irrelevant in a very short time.

You will find that true success is not measured in what you take away... but in what you give... and paradoxically the more you give, the more you will take away.

*I envy you* – because your turn is now at hand. As the retired chairman of a New York Stock Exchange company, I can tell you the view from the top is pleasant and satisfying in many ways. But I can also assure you that the never-to-be-forgotten excitement, fun and challenge is the climb to the top... and you all have that ahead of you.

The world has its injustices, but it also offers you tremendous opportunities. I believe in you and in your abilities. You now have the privilege and I suggest the challenge to accomplish something.





# A SECOND CHANCE

Donnelly's new *Gateway to College* program responds to education needs in the KCK community

In February, Donnelly announced a partnership with Gateway to College National Network (GtCNN), a national, education nonprofit dedicated to increasing graduation rates and encouraging enrollment in college.

Set to launch in August, Gateway to College is on target to enroll 50 young people, ages 16-20, who have dropped out of school or are significantly behind in credits for graduation. Through the program, students will complete their high school diploma requirements right here at Donnelly while simultaneously earning college credit.

Donnelly is the first private institution in the nation and the first in the Greater Kansas City region to become part of the national network. GtCNN awarded a \$342,500 grant to DC for planning and implementation of the initiative. During a three-year period, 300 youth who are current or former students in Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) are expected to enroll. There's no cost to students. To be admitted, students must demonstrate their readiness through a multi-step interview, evaluation, and selection process.

"Donnelly is perfectly positioned to reengage students who have struggled

to meet graduation requirements," says Juan Rangel, director of the Donnelly program. "Our recruitment campaign is in full swing. We're excited about the opportunity to help students recommit to their educations and to provide assistance in navigating the path to college."

If you would like more information about Gateway to College at Donnelly or know a student from the KCKPS who may wish to apply, contact Rangel at [jrangel@donnelly.edu](mailto:jrangel@donnelly.edu) or call 913.621.8715. In the next issue, look forward to reading about the program's progress.

# LEARNING ENGLISH

Donnelly's English as a Second Language (ESL) program has been one of the region's leading English learning programs since 1970. Today, ESL students comprise 20 percent of the College's enrollment.

ESL students come to the College from diverse backgrounds, varying levels of language proficiency and with a wide range of goals. To ensure that Donnelly is able to respond to a broad range of language learning needs, the College's ESL team recently restructured the program.

Now, Donnelly offers two formats of ESL programming – English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and Community English as a Second Language (CESL). Both

formats include classes in grammar, composition, listening/speaking and reading/vocabulary and both are offered in morning or evening classes.

"These changes will make it possible to serve more students and are in alignment with shifts in federal funding regulations," says Michelle Bridges, ESL director. "Some of the benefits include the fact that we will now be able to offer college-level credit to students in the highest levels, offer more consistency between our morning and evening courses, and offer "community" classes to students who haven't yet finished high school. We're excited about the potential all of this has for our program and our students."

For more details about EAP and CESL, visit [www.donnelly.edu/htdocs/degree/esl.html](http://www.donnelly.edu/htdocs/degree/esl.html) or contact Bridges at [mbridges@donnelly.edu](mailto:mbridges@donnelly.edu) or 913.621.8757



# 24 CREDIT HOURS

Donnelly and Bishop Ward High School  
Launch College Credit Coalition



*Students Can Earn Up to  
24 College Credits through  
Exclusive Dual-Enrollment  
Agreement*



**BISHOP WARD**  
HIGH SCHOOL

This spring, Donnelly and Bishop Ward High School joined forces to launch an education initiative that gives Bishop Ward students an affordable jump-start on earning college credit.

Starting this fall, all Bishop Ward students will have the opportunity to earn up to 24 college credit hours from DC by taking designated courses. “The greatest part of this coalition will be that our students, depending on their ability and motivation, will be able to graduate from Bishop Ward in some cases with up to two semesters worth of college credit,” Bishop Ward President Fr. Michael Hermes said.

Unlike other dual-enrollment programs, Donnelly has substantially decreased the cost per credit hour so that Bishop Ward is able to extend this benefit to students with no additional cost to their families.

“We believe in the potential of Bishop Ward students and that’s one of the many reasons why Donnelly is committed to significantly reducing the per-credit-hour charge as part of this agreement,” Donnelly College President Dr. Steven LaNasa said. “The opportunity to get a head-start on college should be available for all students, not only students who are financially positioned to do so.”

Dr. LaNasa and Fr. Hermes spearheaded the College Credit Coalition to advance the mission of both institutions and to strengthen the community through education. The Coalition is the first and only partnership of this kind in the Archdiocese.

“Donnelly and Bishop Ward share much more than a next-door-neighbor relationship,” said LaNasa. “We share a common history and mission of empowering our community through quality, faith-based, educational opportunities. Through this agreement, we are continuing that tradition and positioning students to contribute to the growth and success of our community.”

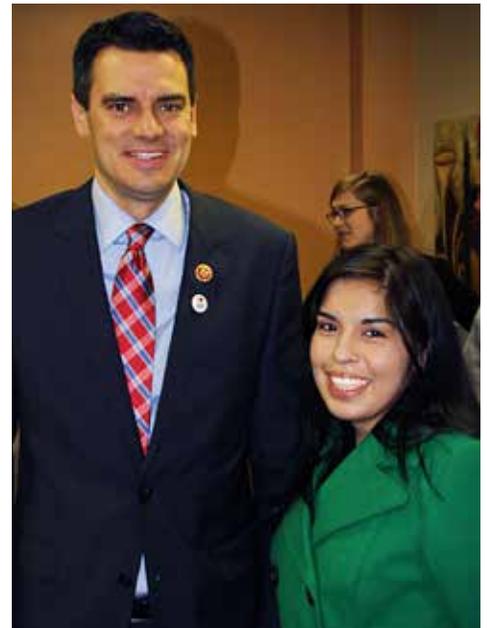
# AS SEEN ON CAMPUS



2013 baccalaureate candidates don caps, gowns and big smiles as they celebrate on the eve of commencement with Father John Melnick and Susan Keim, director of the Organizational Leadership program.



It's Sister Act – Donnelly style with Sr. Marie Kathleen Daugherty.



Congressman Kevin Yoder visited with DC students, including Karla Osegura at Coffee on Campus.



Lively conversations (en español!) echo through the halls during classes taught by Lourdes Olivares, professor of Spanish.



Student ambassadors Cecibel Bahamonde and Ruth Aguilera rolled out the red carpet for guests at the annual Multicultural Festival.



Occupational Health students put newly acquired skills into practice by offering blood pressure screenings.



2013 graduates and commencement speakers Ivan Medrano Velazquez, BAS, (pictured) and Jennifer M. Ryan, AS, reflected on experiences as DC students.



CHECK OUT WHAT IS GOING ON AT DONNELLY NOW  
visit our page at [facebook.com/donnellycollege](https://www.facebook.com/donnellycollege)



DC students (L to R): John Campbell, Cecibel Bahamonde, Ruben Bueno, Sindy Monzon.



Maureen Wiederholt, director of Occupational Health programs, shared a proud moment with PN graduate.



Proud new DC Practical Nursing program graduates receive their pins.



Students from Donnelly College and Avila University huddled together on a cold January day after working together on an outdoor project in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.



ESL student focuses during his exam.



2013 Phi Theta Kappa honor society inductees: Isamara Cortes Cruz, Veronica Duarte Rios, Ambrosia Gerber, Sindy Monzon, and Alicia Rodriguez.



Sisters Agatha and Paola shared music from their homeland, Brazil, with Multicultural Festival attendees.



Attorney Steve Aaron of Dentons US, LLP, offered advice and inspiration with Preparatory Education students.

AS SEEN ON CAMPUS CONTINUED...



Students from Donnelly's Preparatory Education Program read to students at M.E. Pearson Elementary in Kansas City, Kansas as a part of a service learning assignment that emphasized the importance of literacy among children.



Henry Bloch poses for a picture with the graduating Bloch scholars.



Celebrating Pi Day (an event organized by the Math faculty)...with pie, of course!

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY & STAFF

DC is pleased to welcome new talent to our team. We're grateful for the service of the following individuals who joined the College in 2013.



**PICTURED (L to R):** Andrea Tucker, Gateway Resource Specialist | Melissa Hadi, Accounting Assistant | Deborah Robinson, Gateway Assistant | Paul Mobiley, Gateway Resource Specialist | Christa Scott, Graphic Designer | Olessya Solovev, Staff Accountant | Juan Rangel, Director of Gateway to College | Elissa Muro, Accounting Assistant

**NOT PICTURED:** Laura Arensberg, ESL Tutor | Priscilla Agali, PN Instructor | Mary Benson, PN Instructor | Karen Dewberry, PN Instructor | Lynn Do, PN Instructor | Bridget Locke, Asst. Director of Enrollment Services | Catherine Maina, C.N.A. Instructor | Ndidi Obiefuna, PN Instructor | Mary Jaramillo, Adjunct Professor | Vanesa Salgado, Prep Ed Instructor | Nancy Schmidt, PN Instructor | Veronica Woodford, PN Instructor

# CLASSNOTES

**DON WOLF '56**, published *Croatian Love Story*, a narrative and photography collection that showcases family and community during the early 1900s in Kansas City's Strawberry Hill neighborhood.

**David Stanley '07 AA, '09 BA**, earned a Master of Divinity from Central Baptist Seminary in 2012. He serves as senior pastor at Morse Covenant Church in Overland Park and a chaplain at Covenant Place in Lenexa. David is also expanding the reach of a ministry program serving youth in Kansas City, Kan.

**XIA CHANG '07**, is completing requirements (final semester) for a Master's of Science degree from UMKC and is applying for admission to doctorate programs in astrophysics.

**MICHAEL DRESSLER '08**, married Kailey Mesler on June 8, 2013.

**ANNA JOVE '08**, is completing requirements for her bachelor's degree at UMKC and preparing to enter the UMKC School of Dentistry in Fall 2014.

**JOSEPH RAMIREZ '08**, completed his paramedic training at KCKCC in May 2013.

**CARL HUGHES '09**, graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's in Business. Carl began his college journey taking classes through Donnelly's Lansing Correctional Facility Program.

**STAN NOVIKOV '10**, Bloch Scholar, graduated from UMKC with a degree in Finance in May 2013.

**PAOLA ZAPATA '10**, completed her first year of study in international business at Vaasan Yliopisto (University of Vaasa) in Vaasa, Finland.

**YAR RAIK '11**, graduated from Newman University with her nursing degree in May 2013.

**CESAR LOPEZ '13**, will begin classes at the Kansas City Art Institute this fall.

**KARLA OSEGUERA '13**, began an internship at Burns and McDonnell Engineering. She plans to begin engineering studies at Kansas State University this fall.

## WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

Have you recently earned a degree, started a new job or celebrated an addition to your family? If you have news to share, WE WANT TO KNOW! Send info about graduations, marriages, births, promotions and achievements to [alumni@donnelly.edu](mailto:alumni@donnelly.edu). Share your milestones with 5,000 Donnelly Digest readers worldwide.

## inMEMORIAM

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

**LINCOLN HILL**, '89, died November 14, 2012 at the age of 49.

**JOSEPH MICEK**, '67, died April 5, 2013 at the age of 66.

## ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

### TWO MONTHLY EVENTS TO *discover* DONNELLY!

*Drop by Donnelly. Connect with our community. Meet amazing students.*



### COFFEE *on* CAMPUS

2ND THURSDAYS  
7:30 - 9:30 AM

### CAMPUS *after* HOURS

3RD THURSDAYS  
5:30 - 6:30 PM

**RSVPs ARE WELCOME  
BUT NOT REQUIRED.**

Contact Emily Buckley at 913.621.8731 or [ebuckley@donnelly.edu](mailto:ebuckley@donnelly.edu).



Photo by Don Wolf ('56)

### A CROATIAN LOVE STORY EXCLUSIVE BOOK SIGNING AT DONNELLY AUGUST 15 | 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Long before Don Wolf was born, the outline for *A Croatian Love Story* was formed in the 1900's. An ethnic neighborhood was the site where determined women and men struggled to build in their lives, to educate their families and to become citizens. As these Croatian immigrants learned to live in and love their new country, they sought out ways to preserve cherished traditions. Wolf's photographs depict Croatian life both in the United States and in Croatia. His writing preserves generations of memories. This book is a tribute to those who came before and a blessing to those who are yet to come.

# 2013 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME HONOREES

## REFLECTIONS ON A DC EDUCATION:



Photos by Don Wolf ('56)

“Donnelly taught me the importance of taking responsibility, of following through with no excuses. The Benedictine Sisters could smile with understanding if a term paper was late, but the grade stood—no excuses. They were our mentors, our professors, and our inspiration.”

**PAT ANTONOPOULOS**  
EDUCATOR/AUTHOR

“Donnelly was the ‘bridge’ – to keep me going in my education. I am convinced that “bridge” was responsible for my becoming a teacher – a choice of which I am very proud and one that I have never regretted.”

**MARCIA BRAUN**  
EDUCATOR



“Donnelly serves as an educational anchor for students that often times may be ignored by systems. As an institution of higher learning, it’s a venue for students to thrive, to explore their place in society and initiate change in their communities.”

**ANDRES DOMINGUEZ,**  
NONPROFIT LEADER

“The light of Donnelly College shines brightly giving opportunities to ordinary people, making it possible for them to excel in extraordinary ways.”

**FR. PETER JARAMILLO**

“We had the most dedicated, caring and interesting faculty one could ever hope for. Donnelly had a profound impact on my life.”

**LARRY WARD**  
ATTORNEY

**This special occasion is one of our favorite events each year because we get to reconnect with so many members of the extended DC family. The evening was extra exciting this year because it was held at Donnelly’s new Community Event Center. It’s always inspiring to hear how experiences at Donnelly have impacted the lives, careers and aspiration of alums.**

### 2013 HONOREES

- Pat Antonopoulos '58
- Marcia (Delich) Braun '63
- Andres Dominguez '79
- Fr. Peter Jaramillo '75
- Larry Ward '56

### ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2014

It’s not too early to nominate alumni for the 2014 Hall of Fame induction. Honorees come from many walks of life but they all share a common bond: as graduates of Donnelly College, they carry forth the mission, the spirit and values of their alma mater in their lives, their communities and their work. Email [alumni@donnelly.edu](mailto:alumni@donnelly.edu) or call 913.621.8744.



FOR MORE PHOTOS go to [donnelly.edu](http://donnelly.edu) and click on the Alumni and Friends tab. You’ll find a link to Hall of Fame.



# SHINE

DONNELLY COLLEGE'S  
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP EVENT  
9.27.13 HONORING JOAN HORAN

## **YOU ARE INVITED TO DONNELLY'S PREMIERE SCHOLARSHIP EVENT, *SHINE*.**

*COME FLY WITH US AS WE FLASH BACK TO DAYS GONE BY.*  
You'll get to step on board The Connie, the legendary mid-century aircraft. Slip back in time, don your vintage party apparel and get set to join us as we tip our hats to Joan Horan, SHINE honoree. We'll shine the spotlight on her generous contributions to our community and celebrate the achievements of Donnelly's bright and brilliant young scholars.

You're invited to mix and mingle with the DC family. Proceeds will support an endowed scholarship in Joan's name and the College's annual scholarship fund.

**NATIONAL AIRLINE HISTORY MUSEUM  
HANGER #9 | KANSAS CITY, MO**

**REGISTER ONLINE AT [DONNELLY.EDU/SHINE](http://DONNELLY.EDU/SHINE)**



# ALUMNI FOCUS CARL HUGHES

**You earned your associate degree from Donnelly through the Lansing Correctional Facility Program in 2009. How did you find out about the program and why did you choose to participate?** Once I came to realization that some of my poor decisions had cost me several years of my freedom, I was determined not to allow those years to be wasted. So when I heard about the Donnelly program from other inmates, it was a natural fit for me and my goals. Earning a college education was a big goal of mine, and so I chose to participate in the program.

**Numerous studies show that earning a college degree is the single most effective tool to lower recidivism and prevent individuals from returning to a life of crime after their release. How did Donnelly's Lansing Program impact your life?** Donnelly's program at Lansing helped change my life in several ways, but the biggest way in which I felt its influence was in knowing that there were still those in society that had not given up on me yet. In my experience, people in prison feel as though one mistake has cost them the rest of their lives and that society will never accept them again. I believe it is this mindset that leads to high recidivism as those people feel as though there is nothing to lose, or that they will never be able to obtain employment so they have no other choice. Donnelly's program is a great example of how our society reaches into these places to let people know that they do have a choice, and that they can persevere through hard work to become accepted members of society again. Donnelly was the first step in giving me that chance.

**Which professor(s) from Donnelly did you work with most closely? What did they do to help you reach your goal?**

I worked with several professors from Donnelly, but none more closely than our program director, Dr. Steve Jansen. Dr. Jansen worked very hard for us in the very difficult environment that is Lansing Correctional Institution. He advocated for us with the administration, as well as bending over backwards to make sure we were able to adhere to academic standards even when outside

sources made it very hard to do so. He poured his heart and soul into Donnelly's program there, and I can tell you that I am not the only one who appreciates his dedication and persistence in helping us achieve our academic, and life, goals!

**You recently graduated from Kansas State University. What is your degree in?** My degree from KSU is in General Business with an emphasis on Entrepreneurship from the College of Business Administration. I chose this field because it has always been a dream of mine to own my own business.

**Now that you've earned your bachelor's degree, what are you up to?**

I will continue to grow and expand my business that I began almost two years ago. Hughes Housing and Restoration buys and restores distressed properties, and owns several houses that we use as rentals. It has been very rewarding to see my dream of owning a successful business come true. I also make a point to spend as much time as I can with my two beautiful daughters and my amazing wife.

**Can you offer any words of wisdom or encouragement for those who face challenging circumstances?**

I would only like to share a quote that Dr. Jansen shared with me many years ago, and helped to inspire me to always continue moving forward. "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*



Carl and his family at a recent K-State game



VIEW STORIES LIKE THIS IN PAST DIGESTS ONLINE  
at [donnelly.edu/digest](http://donnelly.edu/digest)

# FACULTY FOCUS

## ERIC KOLKMEIER



**Where did you grow up?** I'm Kansas City born and raised. As a teenager I longed to see the world and get out of this "cow town." After traveling abroad and gaining some worldly wisdom, I realize what a wonderful place this is.

**How and when did you decide to teach?** I got into teaching and training while living in Budapest, Hungary. Initially, I intended to focus on cooking and learning more about the culinary trade, but the pay was very poor. As a native English speaker, I completed a course for Teaching English as a Foreign Language, TEFL, and got hired by a business training company almost immediately. It was a matter of making money at the time, but after some practice I discovered I was pretty good at it and decided to stick with it. Two years later and with the help of a partner, I had opened a small English language training business in Budapest.

**Do you still cook?** Oh yes. I don't have one dish which I think is my best, but I cook Mediterranean and Provencal quite well. I learned to cook from my mother and the chefs I worked with while I was coming up in the trade. Once a month, I cook for all my friends and each month there is a new menu with a new theme. Last month was antipasto, though my friend Peter says he's always been pro-pasta!

**How long have you taught at DC?** This fall will be my sixth year at Donnelly College. I have kept coming back for a number of reasons. The first is the mission and actually practicing what we preach. Here we walk the walk and take an interest in the lives of our students. I must also say the quality of our student population inspires and motivates me to model the best patterns of thinking and behavior for them. Another is the impact each of us can have on the college and our departments. At Donnelly, I can affect all aspects of the college and the administration empowers faculty to become involved.



**Your wife is a former DC professor.**

**Did you meet here?** My wife, Andrea, taught at DC from 2005 to 2007. We did not meet here though. In fact, we met at an English summer camp in a small town in the Hungarian countryside in 2002. We moved to the U.S. in 2003 and were married in 2004. We are trying to grow our family and have been in the adoption process for about two years now.

**Your work revolves around language – what are some of your favorite words in the English language?** I can't say I have a favorite word but some words are fun to say such as svelte, luscious, or wonky. My fascination with language is more about the processes and systems that make up a language and how meaning is transmitted.

**You're a traveler. What's your favorite destination?** By the stamps in my passport, one would think it is Hungary. I love visiting family friends there, but we also try to go somewhere new every year. Europe and Central America have been our destinations for the past few years.

**Why is Donnelly's ESL/EAP program the best?** The commitment of our instructors, both full-time and adjunct, is what makes this program great, and the students recognize it from day one. We focus on goals and set high expectations for our students. We all work together well and have a wide range of personalities and techniques. As faculty, we intentionally learn from each other and our students.

**What else do you do to stay out of trouble?** In the summer I pick up a couple shifts a week at River Market Cyclery. Riding a bike is joy for me. It is the right balance of exercise, fun, and challenge. I also play disc golf. Most people don't know that KC is a mecca for the sport and has hosted a number of world championships. KC boasts over thirty courses in the metro area.

# STUDENT FOCUS

## SISTER ALICIA RIOS-SOTO

**Where are you from?** I grew up in León, Guanajuato, México. I am blessed to have a large family; I am the tenth of 12 kids. There are two more religious sisters in my family besides me. I am allowed to visit my family in Mexico every three years.

**Tell us about Sisters Servants of Mary, your religious order.** My religious order's apostolate with the sick is what made me choose to study nursing. I believe that the more prepared I am spiritually and academically, the better care sick people will receive from me. In my community, here in Kansas City, we are 30 sisters in the convent from different nationalities. My community is my second family; I share with them everything I am and have. At the same time, I learn a lot from what they share with me.

**How and when did you decide to care for others and do so with a religious community?** I was nine-years-old when I thought about becoming a religious sister for the first time, but it was not until I became 16 that I was admitted to the Sister Servants of Mary's order. It was God's call that made me desire to give my life to Him and to the service of the sick. Before I joined the convent, I was looking for a religious order that offered its service to people free of charge. The only order of sisters that I knew with that charism was the Sisters Servants of Mary.

**How long have you been a student DC?** I have been studying at Donnelly College for one semester. My end goal is to become a nurse. I like Donnelly College; I feel content and at home here. The people who work here create a welcoming environment. I've had a very positive experience with all my teachers. They challenge students to give the best of themselves and, at the same time, they support and care for them. Since I

am Catholic, I also value the religious atmosphere that exists at Donnelly. I love seeing priests and other religious sisters from different congregations and I appreciate the religious freedom and respect that every person gives and receives.

**You've been studying English and are becoming quite proficient. Has it been difficult?** The most challenging thing about writing in English is to formulate a thesis statement in a research paper and spelling words correctly.

**How do you like to spend your free time?** I love being in touch with nature. I love parks, zoos, lakes, and the beach. I love to contemplate sunsets. I love standing under the rain and hanging out with friends.

**Who do you turn to for grace, compassion and love when caring for the sick?** Jesus is my number one guide and model of love and compassion. I talk to Him all the time, but I listen and talk to Him in a particular way during my prayer time.

**What does a typical day look like for you?** During the school year I get up at 4:45 a.m. I take some coffee and do a half-hour of spiritual reading in the chapel. At 5:30 a.m., I join all of the sisters for an hour of meditation. At 6:30 a.m., we do Divine Office prayers and then there's Holy Mass followed by breakfast. After that, I usually help wash dishes, wash my cloths, iron, clean my room, or do whatever I have time to do before leaving for school. I do my tutoring during my free time between classes. After school, I come back home and take lunch then I go to the chapel and say some prayers. At around 2:30 p.m., I study and do homework. We pray the Holy Rosary and do evening prayers



together at about 5:40 p.m. Then, at 7 p.m. is recreation time when I join with my sisters and have a good time as a community. We play, talk, laugh, iron, etc. Dinner is at 7:30 p.m. and night prayers are at 8 o'clock. The rest of the evening is spent finishing homework, studying, showering and sometimes exercising.

On some Saturdays I stay overnight taking care of our sick and elderly sisters at home; they need special care. When we have school breaks, I go out to take care of the sick in their homes until classes resume. My mission is to take care of them the way Jesus would do it. In order for them to experience Jesus' presence at their side, I constantly pray and ask Him to use me as an instrument through which He Himself can get close to the sick people I am taking care of.



**MORE STORIES OF SISTERS AT DONNELLY TO COME.**  
Learn more about our history & Benedictine heritage at [donnelly.edu](http://donnelly.edu)

# MAKING THEIR MARK

## DC Students learn through hands on experience

How do you take lessons learned from a lecture or lab beyond the classroom? It happens daily at DC as students move beyond the classroom and into the community – sharing their knowledge with the world!

### TELL ME!

On April 4, student artists, writers, poets and brilliant creators celebrated the release of DIME: The Arts & Literary Journal of Donnelly College. DIME (pronounced dee-may, not like the coin) is Spanish for Tell Me. The inaugural edition features the work of students and includes essays, short stories, photography and drawings of talented DC students.

*(Part of Arts in the Heart series, sponsored by the Sister Mary Francis Schuster Endowed Fund)*



### KEEPING THE FAITH... IN LEADERSHIP

On March 5, several students in the Organizational Leadership bachelor's degree program participated in a Leadership and Faith workshop sponsored by the Kansas Leadership Center. Together with five faith groups, students had a unique opportunity to step out of the classroom and explore ways in which faith and civic leadership intersect.



### THE NUTS AND BOLTS (AND MOUSE CLICKS) OF 21ST CENTURY BUILDING

On April 20th, five pre-engineering students enrolled in Computer Aided Drafting took their CAD designs from a computer screen straight to a real-life construction scene in the Quindaro neighborhood of Kansas City, KS. In the classroom, students worked with a home design utilized by Heartland Habitat for Humanity. Students explored elements of sustainability throughout the semester; then they rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to turn the plan into a brand-new house.



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## DONNELLY COLLEGE DIGEST

The Donnelly Digest is a publication for 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 and a member of the North Central Association, 230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411; (800) 621-7440; www.ncahlc.org. Donnelly College maintains an open and welcoming environment, and does not discriminate on the basis of a person's sex, race, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, ancestry or disability.



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### RECONNECTING

Michelle Bridges, ESL director  
visiting with Anna (Arendano) Jobe  
who learned English at DC and now  
studies at UMKC.

## COMING YOUR WAY

Keep your eyes open for more information about these upcoming summer and fall events. You'll find updates and details at donnelly.edu, Facebook and Twitter.

- 7.03.13 Then & Now: Photographs from the Donnelly Archives  
DC Community Arts Space (runs through 8.30.13)
- 8.17.13 Bloch Service Day/New Student Orientation
- 9.12.13 Convocation Day Mass
- 9.27.13 SHINE-Annual Scholarship Event (donnelly.edu/shine)
- 11.9.13 Donnelly Dash 5K (donnelly.edu/dash)
- 11.21.13 Gratia
- 11.26.13 Thanks and Giving