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CREATING A CULTURE OF

Philanthropy

# IN THIS ISSUE

## *cover story*

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### **12 CREATING A CULTURE OF PHILANTHROPY**

Making a connection between students and donors

## *spotlights*

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### **4 DR. DORA FONSECA: A LIFELONG LEARNER**

A teacher's passion for learning continues

### **6 ALUMNUS AND ADJUNCT FACULTY MEMBER SERVES IN WHITE HOUSE**

Gaining experience to make a difference

### **14 FROM PEDIATRICIAN TO ACTIVIST**

Donnelly's Common Read author inspires students and staff

### **16 FORMER DONNELLY COLLEGE PRESIDENT REMEMBERED**

A lifetime of dedication to academics and ministry





Students study and walk from class to class in Donnelly's new academic building.

## Dr. Dora Fonseca: A Lifelong Learner



After completing Donnelly's ESL program in 1990, Dr. Dora Fonseca went on to earn three degrees and now teaches Spanish at Van Horn High School in Independence, Mo. She just completed her 36th year of teaching!

**D**r. Dora Fonseca had the type of parents who told her to “look it up” when she needed to know how to spell a word. Her father was an accountant and her mother was a nurse in Honduras, where Fonseca was born and raised. Education and career planning were always at the forefront of Fonseca’s motivations – she wasn’t just told what to do, and she also saw the example set by her parents. She fondly recalls that her father was always reading a book and that the subject of those books was diverse and ever-changing. From an early age, Fonseca was set on a path of lifelong learning.

While architecture was her passion, with the encouragement of her parents, Fonseca pursued a more predictable career in elementary education. However, in 1989, after eight years of teaching first grade in Honduras, a life-changing opportunity presented itself to Fonseca and her then five-year-old son.

By chance, Fonseca was acquainted with an international student in the United States who learned of a family in Leawood, Kansas, looking for a live-in nanny. This family was interested in providing an international student with the opportunity to study in the United States should they be interested in combining the roles of student and childcare provider, now commonly known as an *au pair*. While childcare was not her career goal, Fonseca viewed this position as a valuable opportunity to study English and live in the United States.

International students like Fonseca must obtain a special F-1 visa and either show evidence of substantial personal resources or have a financial sponsor in the United States willing to attest that the student will have the funds needed to support their educational opportunities and living expenses. Fortunately, the Leawood family was willing to be that financial sponsor for Fonseca.

But the most difficult part about coming to the U.S. on a student visa, especially for Fonseca, was that the visa did not

allow the student's children to accompany them. For Fonseca to come to the United States to pursue a new life for herself and her son, she had to make the heart-wrenching decision to leave him in Honduras with her family. It would be three years before she would see her son again.

Upon arriving in the United States, Fonseca had a very limited English vocabulary. Her au pair family arranged for her to study at Donnelly College in the Intensive English program. Without transportation or the ability to drive, Fonseca was fortunate that her au pair family knew Donnelly faculty member Cyrus Shadfar, who was happy to give her a ride to Donnelly each morning.

Over the course of three semesters from 1989 to 1990, Fonseca studied in Donnelly's ESL program, learning all the language skills she would need to succeed in the United States, including grammar, reading, speech, composition, and more.

Today, Fonseca's memories of Donnelly are crystal clear; she can recall the faculty, students, and even the textbooks and the color of their covers, several of which she has kept. She remembers that the exact cost of her tuition was \$1,029 per semester. She remembers that her class schedule was Monday–Thursday, with courses releasing at 1 pm, except for a Wednesday evening course. To supplement her instruction, she recalls watching the nightly news to listen to people speak in a slow and grammatically correct way. For exposure to more conversational-style English speaking, she remembers watching *Magnum P.I.*

Not all of Fonseca's Donnelly memories are academic, however. She also remembers learning alongside classmates from Colombia, Argentina and the Middle East. She especially recalls her favorite instructor (and chauffeur) Cyrus Shadfar, who would use social opportunities to teach students about customs in the United States. She recounted a

particular memory of Professor Shadfar telling students they should put food on their plates during the College's annual potluck dinner (an event which is known as Donnelly's Thanks and Giving celebration).

Because of her background and the need for foreign language teachers in the Kansas City, Missouri, school district, Fonseca obtained a position teaching Spanish in the district immediately after completing the ESL program at Donnelly. During this time, the school district also helped her navigate the complicated and expensive process of switching from a student visa to a work visa and eventually to obtaining permanent residency in the United States.

In the late 1990s, Fonseca needed to update her teacher certification and had a formal evaluation to determine the equivalency of her education in Honduras compared to standards in the United States. The results were disappointing, and Fonseca learned she needed additional credentials despite two decades dedicated to teaching elementary students in two countries. At that time, Fonseca enrolled at UMKC to pursue a bachelor's degree in education. Paying out of pocket and taking classes one or two at a time, she graduated in 2005 – the same year she received her permanent residency and 26 years after first arriving in the United States. Fonseca saw no reason to stop at a bachelor's degree, and with her desire to eventually be a high school principal, she earned a master's degree in leadership from Baker University in 2015 and a doctorate in leadership from Saint Louis University in 2019.

Today, Fonseca is in her 36th year of teaching and remains true to her parents' legacy as a lifelong student. Although she hopes the role of principal is still on the horizon, Fonseca is also planning for retirement. After she retires from public education, she hopes to start a technology company. In preparation, she is currently enrolled in an Artificial Intelligence course – the epitome of a lifelong learner. **D**

# Alumnus and Adjunct Faculty Member Serves in White House

**J**onathon Westbrook '07, '13 can claim a lot of titles. Husband and father are certainly among the most important, but he is also a Donnelly College alumnus (for both bachelor's and associate degrees), a member of Donnelly College's Adjunct Faculty, a Kansas City Kansas Police Officer, and, most recently, a White House Fellow.

In August 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic and tense political environment, Westbrook moved to Washington DC with his wife and five children to begin work as a White House Fellow. While witnessing history, including a transition in presidential leadership, Westbrook took time out of his busy schedule to answer a few questions about his most recent experience.

**The White House Fellowship is very competitive and highly respected. Why did you want this job, what gave you the courage to apply, and what was the hiring process like?**

While completing my MPA at the University of Kansas, Reggie Robinson, who was a professor of mine, told stories of his experience as a White House Fellow working for Janet Reno. On my last day of class, he said it was something I should consider exploring. He gave me the advice to navigate the daunting application process and I gave it a shot! I wanted this position because it grants the individual access to the highest levels of governance. To observe how the federal government works and its effect on the lives of not only Americans but lives across the world is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The program is designed for exposure, learning and the opportunity to bring that back home to make a difference.

**What are your day-to-day duties?**

The fellowship program has been an amazing experience thus far. As a White House Fellow, you see the innermost workings of the federal government as well as educational opportunities. I've had the opportunity

to sit in on top-level meetings with executives across the federal government, advise on policies, meet and speak with elected officials, and work on projects that have a direct effect on people across the country.

**What has been the most interesting learning experience?**

The most interesting learning experience thus far has been the complexity of the federal government and how to address the needs of our nation. The founding fathers laid an amazing foundation, and witnessing the valiant efforts of individuals working towards building on that foundation has been encouraging and inspirational.

**What is most humbling about the experience?**

The most humbling experience is that I was even selected among others across the nation to be working at the White House. The individuals who have walked these halls and sat in these offices have made significant contributions to our society. Knowing that God has given me this short time to learn and contribute has been humbling, and I'm thankful for this opportunity.

**Is there anything that has surprised you about working for the executive branch or for the White House specifically?**

Having the opportunity to see the humanity and sincerity of those working in the government has been the biggest surprise for me. Many have dedicated their lives to working for the American people. Too often, messages become convoluted, and personal and special interests dominate social media and news. The individual people who have made it their mission to see that resources are available to states, municipalities, and individuals are amazing and are among the unsung heroes of America.

**What has the transition from the former administration to the current administration been like from your seat?**

Having the rare experience of witnessing the transition of power from one administration to the next has been





White House Fellow and Donnelly alumnus Jonathon Westbrook '07, '13

an amazing experience. The federal government is a large entity with many moving parts, and to see the transitioning of people and priorities while addressing the needs of a nation has been incredible. Overall, it has been a smooth process with many qualified individuals taking the lead.

**What would you say to Donnelly students interested in public service at the local level or the national level? What's the difference?**

Public service is a broad topic and something that more individuals should invest their time in. My recommendation to students at Donnelly would be this: if there is something that you see not working...fix it! History has shown that all it takes is one person to make a difference. It may not make the news or be recognized, but it is not about that. It is more important to make a difference where you are at by being a champion for

change where you are. Whether it be a local, state, or national issue, it is up to you to build interest, synergy, and awareness to address the issues that affect you and those around you. I'd add to take the risk, pursue your passions. It will be difficult; you will face adversity and it will appear that it's not worth it. But it is! Also, apply for the White House Fellowship!

**Your fellowship is a one-year appointment. What is your plan afterwards?**

The program is an investment in individuals who are expected to pay it forward. I intend to return to Kansas City, Kansas, and do just that. I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve our community in a variety of ways and plan to continue to do that with the lessons learned during my fellowship experience. I cannot say what that will look like moving forward, but I know that God will guide me. **D**



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Monsignor Swetland meets with Pope John Paul II, President Joe Biden (then-Vice President Biden) after Mass at a Camp David Retreat, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, and Donnelly College students during a discussion panel at SHINE in 2020.



“All I can say is ‘Deo gratias!’ and repeat the old inspirational exclamation, ‘God is good all the time; all the time, God is good!’”

**Monsignor Stuart Swetland**  
Donnelly President



# Monsignor Swetland celebrates 30 years in the priesthood

**A**s an adult convert to Catholicism, I had no experience of “growing up in the faith.” Most of my contemporaries in the seminary spoke of the formative experiences that led them towards the priesthood: first communions, confirmations, serving mass, Catholic schools and colleges.

I had none of that. My experience of the faith consisted mainly of overseas chaplaincy: my conversion at Oxford, my time in the Navy. My knowledge of parish life and the Church in the United States was very limited.

Thus, much of my priesthood, especially the early years, was deep immersion into the American Catholic experience. I think one could say it was like being thrown into the deep end of the swimming pool – sink or swim!

Fortunately, the incredible patience, faith and love of many people with whom I have had the privilege to serve has made these thirty years truly “golden” from my perspective. I have had a “front row seat” to see God’s glorious grace at work in so many people: parishioners and priests, students and staff, colleagues and communities.

All I can say is “Deo gratias!” and repeat the old inspirational exclamation, “God is good all the time; all the time, God is good!”



Beginning in July, Monsignor will be the pastor at Our Lady & St. Rose in Kansas City, Kansas, in addition to continuing to serve as Donnelly’s President.

This has been particularly true these last seven years at Donnelly College. God has done, and continues to do, miracles here in Kansas City. Every day, and particularly at our graduation and pinning ceremonies, I am amazed by what has been achieved by our students. This is due mainly to the invaluable service and generosity of the faculty, staff, benefactors, and Board of Directors of Donnelly College.

My prayer for Donnelly College (and myself) is taken from St. Paul (cf. Phil 1:6): “May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.” **D**



LIMITED  
AVAILABILITY!

## Don't miss your chance to DOUBLE your endowed gift!

**D**onnelly is thrilled to announce almost \$500,000 in dollar-for-dollar matching remains available for endowed fund donations. Whether you are interested in simply doubling your donation, contributing to an existing endowed fund at Donnelly, or creating a legacy by starting your own named fund, there is no better time to contribute to Donnelly's endowment!

Donnelly is honored to have received a very competitive U.S. Department of Education Title V grant, which is intended to strengthen Hispanic Serving Institutions (PR/ Award Number P031S190265). In addition to providing \$600,000 in 1:1 match to help strengthen Donnelly's financial sustainability with endowment growth, the five-year, \$3 million grant also supports academic program development in our nursing program, our two- and four-year Information Systems degrees and our bachelor's degree in Business Leadership.

"Growing Donnelly's endowment is one of the College's strategic priorities to ensure our mission remains sustainable and continues to thrive," said Emily Buckley, VP of Advancement. "Endowment contributions let donors establish a philanthropic legacy that impacts Donnelly's work long-term."

Endowed fund donations are invested long-term and annual earnings averaging 3.5-5% support college activities. Donnelly currently has endowed funds for general institutional scholarship support, named scholarship awards, faculty positions, library acquisitions, lecture series, student writing awards, and specific program support.

Donations of \$1,000 or more can be matched and added to existing endowed funds. To establish an endowed fund with donor-designated name and purpose, the minimum donation is \$10,000.

If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Roger Berg at [rberg@donnelly.edu](mailto:rberg@donnelly.edu) or 913.621.8744. **D**

## COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS AVAILABLE!

### Own a piece of Donnelly / Providence Hospital / KCK History

Mounted on a finished oak base, the brick includes a commemorative plaque on the front (the brick is exposed on the back) and measures 3.5 inches deep x 8.5 inches wide x 4.5 inches high.



For more information or to order,  
visit [Donnelly.edu/brick](http://Donnelly.edu/brick) or call 913-621-8744

SAVE THE DATE

# SHINE

FOR DONNELLY COLLEGE



THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 7, 2021

ATTEND IN PERSON  
(ON CAMPUS)  
OR ONLINE

SHINE 2021 CHAIRS

JIM BOLDT & KATHLEEN O'MALLEY-BOLDT

SISTER ANNE SHEPARD, BENEDICTINE SISTER OF MOUNT ST. SCHOLASTICA

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION.

[DONNELLY.EDU/SHINE](https://donnelly.edu/shine)

# CREATING A CULTURE OF



**E**ighty-four percent of Donnelly College students receive either scholarships, institutional aid, or grant awards, making it possible for them to access higher education while acquiring little debt or out-of-pocket expense. However, because the majority of Donnelly's students are the first in their family to attend college, everything is uncharted territory for them – including scholarships.

Although Donnelly students are grateful for any financial assistance they receive, not all realize that their scholarships are the direct result of charitable contributions from supporters, friends, foundations, and Donnelly alumni. Students do not understand that their scholarships start with a gift from a donor – someone who sees the impact Donnelly is making in lives of students and in the broader Kansas City community and wants to invest in that important work.

Donnelly's Advancement Team is on a mission to help all students better understand the role philanthropy plays in funding their affordable education. "Students are always shocked to learn that their tuition would have to drastically increase if weren't for Donnelly donors each year," said Emily Buckley, VP of Advancement. "But even more, we want every student to be lifted up and encouraged to know how many people – far and near – believe in our students' potential and genuinely want to see them succeed."



Students participate in SHINE and Donnelly's Second Annual #1Day4Donnelly event.

# Philanthropy

Each year during SHINE, the College's largest annual fundraising event, 25 to 30 student volunteers are given the opportunity to meet donors, network with alumni and board members, and hear event chairs and other speakers talk about why they give. Most students leave this event much more knowledgeable about how philanthropy impacts their education and Donnelly overall.

But whereas SHINE can only impact a limited number of students, our newest initiative, 1Day4Donnelly, is designed to engage the entire Donnelly community – students, alumni, faculty, staff, board members, donors and friends – in a 24-hour giving day. While donors can give online and get updates throughout the day, booths on campus allow students to learn facts about philanthropy's role in their education and provide opportunities for them to express their gratitude.

During our second annual 1Day event on March 3, 2021, Donnelly raised almost \$30,000 thanks to generous donations from donors like Jerome Society members Annie and Scott Powell.

The Powells noted with their gift, "We give to Donnelly because we believe immensely in its mission and leadership. We believe that Donnelly College is making a tremendous impact in the lives of the students and the communities in which they [serve]. Donnelly College

is helping young people realize and live out their potential."

During 1Day, students hear such comments directly from donors. In turn, students are invited to send personalized videos thanking donors or write thank you notes, expressing their gratitude for donations that have allowed them to realize their educational goals. You can read one of the thank you notes, from student Jaretsy C., below.

Creating a culture of philanthropy on campus is a community-wide endeavor that only works when donors and students are given opportunities to connect. When one of our

1Day donors sent his own video back to Donnelly after receiving a student's thank you video, the donor's touching and encouraging video was shared with all students, faculty, and staff. "We look forward to a post-pandemic environment for our next 1Day event, when hopefully we can come together in person to celebrate the circle of giving that philanthropy creates at Donnelly," Buckley said.

For all of you that participate in Donnelly's mission by giving of your time, resources, and counsel, we echo Jaretsy in saying, "thank you, a million times and more!" **D**

Since I was seven years old, education has been my end goal. I had to prove to not only myself but my family that the sacrifices they made for my brothers and me were worth it. When senior year rolled around, I felt defeated. From applying as an 'international student' while residing here in the states to scrolling straight to the requirement section of scholarships before I got my hopes up, my goal was floating away; at least that was before I heard of Donnelly. My friend had heard about Donnelly College through her mentor and suggested I apply. I did. The classes were small, and the College is located not too far from home, which is perfect. Being granted the opportunity of having a college experience without being hindered by my status or finances is beyond what words can describe. Now I can get my foot in the door and pursue my dream career in the medical field. There are not enough 'thank yous' to express how transforming and liberating these past years have been. Thank you, a million times and more.

Jaretsy C., Donnelly College student

An example of a student thank you note written for this year's 1Day event

# FROM PEDIATRICIAN TO ACTIVIST

## DONNELLY'S COMMON READ AUTHOR INSPIRES STUDENTS AND STAFF

In 2015, pediatrician Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha visited with a friend who showed her a report that indicated high levels of lead in the drinking water in Flint, Michigan, where they both lived. A mom with young children like those she would see in her office, Hanna-Attisha was awakened to the possibility that the all-too-frequent illnesses her young patients presented with might be due to toxic lead seeping from the pipes into the very same drinking water that she would tell them to drink more of to stay healthy.

That realization was the beginning of a new chapter of life for Hanna-Attisha. She would soon be consumed with her new mission to find out what was happening to Flint's children, how to stop it, and how it could be prevented from happening again. This five-year-long journey greatly expanded her role from physician and mother to founder and director of the Michigan State University and Hurley Children's Hospital Pediatric Public Health Initiative, an innovative and model public health program in Flint. She also added the roles of activist, author and frequent guest speaker to her resume. She testified three times before the United States Congress and was awarded the Freedom of Expression Courage Award by PEN America. She was also named one of *TIME Magazine's* 100 Most Influential People in the World and most recently recognized as one of *USA Today's* Women of the Century for her role in uncovering the Flint water crisis and leading recovery efforts.

On March 2, 2021, Hanna-Attisha joined the Donnelly College community for the Sister Jerome Keeler Lecture Series sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Her book, *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of*

*Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*, was chosen for our 2020-2021 Common Read program – a campus-wide initiative that allows all students, faculty and staff to read and discuss a common thought-provoking book throughout the year. As a benefit of membership in Donnelly's annual leadership giving circle, the Jerome Society, members were also sent a copy of the book and encouraged to join in the virtual presentation.

In addition to visiting with students, Hanna-Attisha participated in a panel discussion that was open to the public. In cooperation with Donnelly's community partner, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Hanna-Attisha was joined by Jeffery Robichaud, director of EPA Region Seven's Water Division. The panel discussion was moderated by Ana Maradiaga, assistant professor of chemistry at Donnelly and chair of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

In all of her presentations, Hanna-Attisha talked about the need for continued research and funding, not only for the Flint water issue, but also for public health issues in general. She encouraged students to have a healthy dose of mistrust for public officials, to not be afraid to ask questions, to vote if eligible, and to support local journalists who are exploring and shedding light on issues affecting public health.

Guest speakers like Hanna-Attisha are always an inspiration to Donnelly students, but sometimes their impact is hard to measure. However, during one of the day's sessions, Donnelly College team member Amy Lepp shared a student story with Hanna-Attisha that demonstrated the importance of author visits and programs such as the Common Read. Lepp wrote, "I started working at Donnelly this fall, and my first experiences with students were as a writing tutor. I distinctly remember working with a student on his journal assignment focused on

"[Dr. Hanna-Attisha's] book offered this student the context and curiosity to reflect upon his major life changes and to process those contrasts within his academic setting."

Amy Lepp

BELOW Jeffery Robichaud, director of EPA Region Seven's Water Division joins Dr. Hanna-Attisha and Ana Maradiaga, assistant professor and chair of liberal arts and sciences at Donnelly College, for a talk.

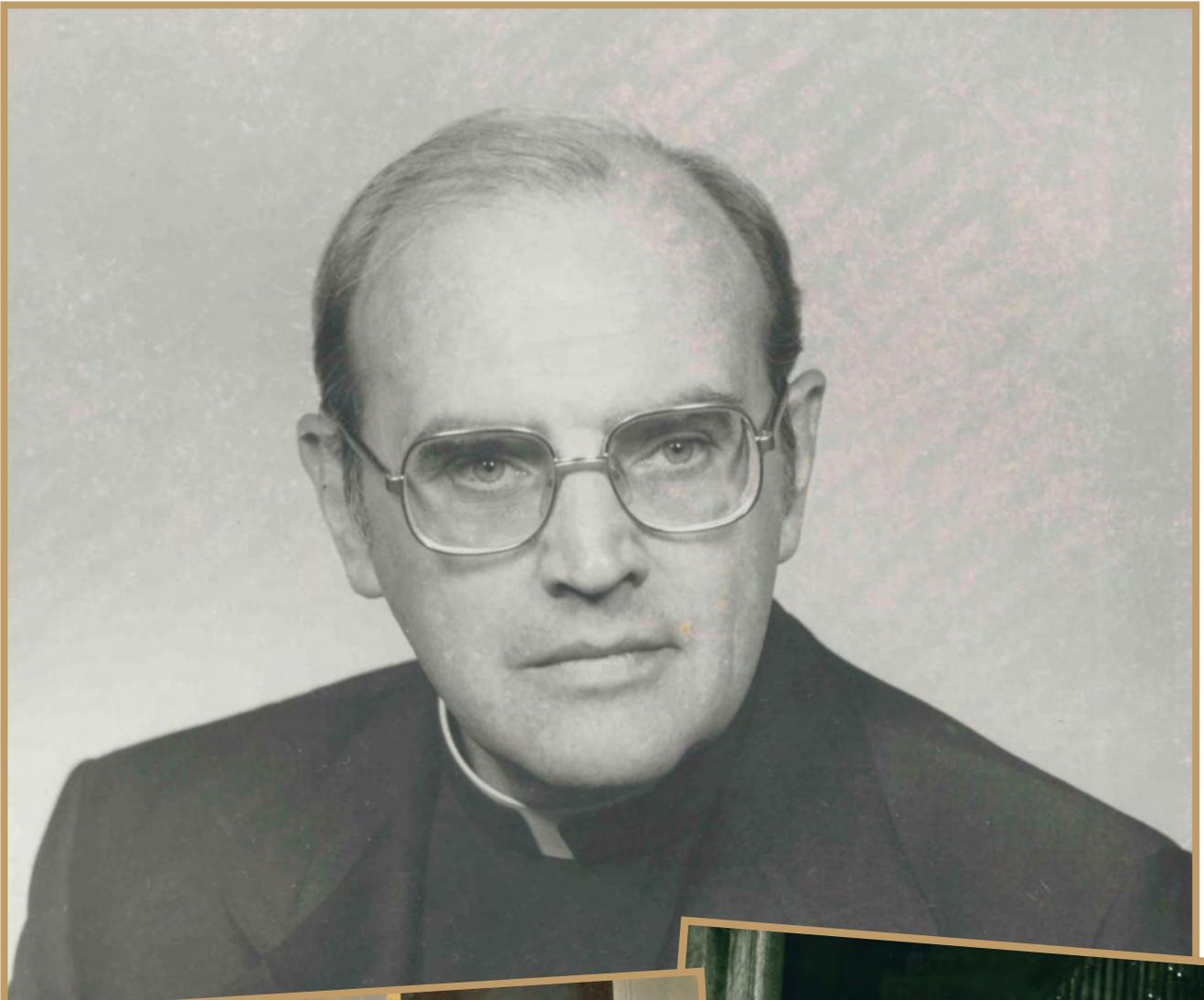
AT RIGHT In the opening session, a livestream of Dr. Hanna-Attisha's talk was broadcast in classrooms and public spaces on campus.



your book for his first-year English class. I want to share how helpful your text was in enabling the student to develop his own narrative voice and practice rhetorical analysis. This extremely shy student opened up as he wrote about growing up in Uganda and being raised to question the reliability of clean water. People from the West would come to his hometown to bring water sources, and he was surprised to read about Americans blindly trusting the quality of water in their taps. Your book offered this student the context and curiosity to reflect upon his major life changes and to process those contrasts within his academic setting. I don't have a question; I just wanted to share! Your book has served as an excellent Common Read for Donnelly students. Thanks so much!"

When asked, why she does what she does and how she uses her influence, Hanna-Attisha laughed and said, "Every morning I ask myself, why do I do what I do? Why did I go to medical school for so long? Why do I work long hours and write books? Why am I talking to you all? The answer is that it's for the kids. And because of that, I will leverage any power I have with my voice and influence and hold onto any celebrity status I can, for as long as I can, to help as many kids as possible. I do it for the kids." **D**





ABOVE LEFT Fr. Oldfield confers with Sister Virginia Minton, O.S.B., then-Dean of the College.

ABOVE RIGHT Fr. Oldfield accepts a donation from Mrs. Vita Goppert on behalf of the Goppert Foundation in 1975.

# Former Donnelly College President Remembered

**F**r. John (“Jack”) Oldfield, O.A.R., of Suffern, New York, died on January 20, 2021, after suffering complications from the COVID-19 virus.

Oldfield was born on March 25, 1933. Before entering the Order of Augustinian Recollects, he served in the U.S. Army and graduated with a B.S. from Fordham University. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 20, 1963, at Sacred Heart Church in Suffern.

As stated in his obituary, Oldfield “is especially remembered for his dedication to studies and to teaching; his love for writing, reflected in a number of books and numerous articles; his eloquent preaching style; his work in vocational promotion and the education of seminarians; his fluency in Spanish and work in Spanish-speaking ministry; his work in promoting Augustinian Studies, and his dedication to the Order, giving countless retreats and scholarly conferences around the world.” It was with that dedication to academics and ministry that at the age of 39 Oldfield became Donnelly’s fourth president.

Oldfield wasn’t new to Donnelly College. He had served on the faculty and even studied French with Sister Jerome Keeler of the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, the founding dean and the co-foundress of Donnelly College. As president, he spent a great deal of his tenure working to strengthen the administrative structure of the College. This work was instrumental in helping place his successor in a position to lead the College through a capital campaign that resulted in the acquisition of the former Providence Hospital building and moved the College from its original campus location on Sandusky to its current location on 18th Street. In a summary from his farewell address to the College in April of 1975, Oldfield cited the following successes:

- Established the Offices of Publicity and Development
- Hired a Full-Time Recruiter for Student Enrollment
- Initiated a 5-Year Fundraising Plan for Internal Improvements
- Reorganized Advisory Committees and the Board of Directors
- Strengthened partnerships with the local community including the Rotary Club, the United Way Campaign, and the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

Oldfield left the Donnelly presidency when the Augustinian Recollects withdrew from the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, but he never lost touch with the College. In a letter he wrote in 2014 welcoming current president Monsignor Swetland to office, Oldfield wrote about his community leaving Kansas City and his leaving Donnelly, “It saddened all of us to leave such a wonderful environment... Donnelly became a special apostolate full of challenges and opportunities to serve the College and the people of Kansas City, Kansas.”

In that same letter, Oldfield noted the special place of remembrance for the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, with whom he had worked closely while at Donnelly. “The Benedictine Sisters employed their wonderful teaching skills to a wider audience of students and the different social and professional requirements of the community. I am grateful for the years which I spent there [with the Sisters].”

In another letter, dated 2007, to then-president Dr. Kenneth Gibson, Oldfield recalls another cherished memory, “As I reorganize my affairs, I remind myself of my indebtedness to Donnelly for all that I learned and acquired personally during my association with the College. I am especially reminded of a dear friend in the person of Fr. Ray Davern.” Davern succeeded Oldfield as president of Donnelly College.

Later that same year, Oldfield also wrote to wish the College success in their 2nd annual scholarship dinner, now known as SHINE: “I wish you and Donnelly every success in this effort to enhance the financial stability of the College and to allow it to continue its very special and exemplary mission. Fr. Davern must certainly be cheering from the celestial sidelines.” As we bid a final farewell to Fr. Oldfield, we are reminded of his never-ceasing support of Donnelly College. We can now imagine him alongside Fr. Davern, continuing to cheer on Donnelly from the celestial sidelines as we enter the next chapter in the history of this important ministry and institution of higher education. **D**

## FREE SEMINAR

### Tax Reducing Strategies for Pre- and Post-Retirees

Did you know:

- you can sell highly appreciated assets and minimize Capital Gains taxes?
- you might be able to receive significant Tax Deductions today and possibly for another five years?
- you can protect your IRA from Double Taxation?

Bill Eckert of Strategic Financial Partners will present this seminar, which is co-sponsored by the Archdiocese' Office of Stewardship & Development and Donnelly.

**Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 11:00 am–12 pm**  
**at Donnelly College** (Mass available after)

Register via (913) 647-0365 or [plannedgiving@archkck.org](mailto:plannedgiving@archkck.org)

## IN MEMORIAM

*Remembering those who have recently passed away.*

Helena M. Conley '65

Harold Hugh Harrington '57

James (Jim) Elmer McCrary '53 and Joanne Skradski McCrary '53, met at Donnelly, were married for 61 years and passed away within two months of each other

## STAFF NOTES

**Lisa Stoothoff**, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs and Dean of the College, presented “Student Growth from Civic Engagement: Increasing Persistence in First-Generation Students” at the annual Higher Learning Commission Conference. The presentation offered research-based strategies for engaging first-generation students in civic engagement. Participants viewed components of civic engagement in both curricular and co-curricular programs and their effects on persistence and retention rates.

**Alex Johnson**, Academic Advisor, attended a virtual conference in February 2021 with the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) called “Inclusive Hiring Practices in College Admission and College Counseling” hosted by the Antiracist Education Institute.

**Tyler Johnson**, Academic Librarian, completed a Fundamentals of Cataloging course offered by the American Library Association (ALA) in Spring 2021.

**Michelle Lundy**, Assistant Professor, Success First, attended and presented at the MidTESOL Conference in October 2020.

**Katy Siebert**, Director of Admissions, **Monica Vega**, Sr. Admissions Counselor, **Erica Baker** and **Kyle Reisenauer**, Admissions Counselors, attended the Kansas Success Conference in January 2021. The sessions included “Meeting Students’ Basic Needs in a COVID-19 Era” and “Supporting Diversity and Inclusion in University Programming.”



A group of 2021 Donnelly College graduates celebrate their achievements after their commencement on May 15, 2021.



Visit the Transformations website to see the full list of investors, project partners and campaign leadership, as well as to learn how you can be part of this exciting project. [www.campaignfordonnelly.com](http://www.campaignfordonnelly.com)

Visit the Donnelly College blog for construction updates and photos. [www.donnelly.edu/blog](http://www.donnelly.edu/blog)



After the former academic tower was demolished, work began on the new grass quad, which should be completed by this fall.



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