

DONNELLY COLLEGE *DIGEST*

A publication for alumni & friends SUMMER 2018 Volume 12, Issue 1

Contagious LOVE

A Saint, a student and a shared journey



"We can't stop at dreaming. We must be conscious dreamers, practical idealists. A dream without action is a delusion."

LaCherish Thompson '18
Commencement Speaker
Donnelly College Program Support Specialist



Donnelly student Alexis Smith (center) was awarded a Bloch scholarship during her morning class on April 20 when Cicely Bledsoe, senior admissions counselor (left) and Megan Jordan, academic advisor (right) delivered the good news in person.



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Watch for more information about these upcoming fall events and more at donnelly.edu.

9.13.18 Convocation

9.28.18 SHINE 2018 & Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

ON STAGE



Students from Donnelly's Introduction to Theatre course performed scenes and monologues during their end-of-semester showcase on May 7.

The Donnelly College Meeting Room was transformed into a performing arts space by the Introduction to Theatre class on May 7 for their end-of-semester showcase. As the lights dimmed, students from the class processed to the stage where they performed a series of student-written monologues.

"I enjoyed watching the students open up emotionally and use their life experience as a gateway into their scenes and monologues," said Richard Esvang, adjunct theatre instructor. "The first part of the semester was about building a community through exercises and improv techniques. We did scenes from plays, Shakespeare Monologues, as well as monologues they wrote themselves.

Seeing them become comfortable and feeling secure enough to explore the emotions of their work was quite rewarding. I think in some ways they surprised themselves." Topics ranged from fitting in, to depression, to pregnancy, to gender stereotyping. The monologues performed were personal to each student.

"Many of the monologues came from an assignment where they had to write about their own experience...things, ideas, emotions that they have confronted recently or throughout their lives," he said. "The purpose of that assignment was to allow them to understand that a performer must be able to use their own heart, mind and soul to create a performance or character."



A RADICAL CONVERSION



Portrait of the case of the assassination of Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero.

More than 100 people joined together on campus on March 9 for a talk by El Salvadoran priest, professor and chaplain, Fr. Fredis Sandoval. Fr. Sandoval was visiting the United States to discuss pending canonization of former Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero.

Fr. Sandoval is a founding member of Concertacion Romero, an organization that promotes justice in the case of the assassination

of Oscar Romero of El Salvador, who was shot and killed in 1980 while celebrating Mass.

Fr. Sandoval's talk at Donnelly centered around the life of Romero, beginning with his earliest theological studies starting at age 14 in 1930. It was in 1977, however, that Romero's already liberal theology evolved into what Sandoval described as a radical conversion to advocating for the oppressed while denouncing the government and army for their policies. In a speech on March 23, 1980, Romero said, "In the name of God, and in the name of this suffering people whose cries rise to heaven more loudly each day, I beg you, I implore you, I order you...in the name of God, stop the repression." He was killed the following day.

Concertacion Romero is working to keep Romero's legacy alive. While the group acknowledges the 1992 investigation that found an ex-mayor had ordered Romero's killing, they seek

further information and justice, and are specifically looking for reparations, a memorial, a prohibition on the honoring of those that committed the murder, as well as several other items.

Romero is expected to be canonized alongside Pope Paul VI in October in the Synod of Bishops.

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

Oscar Romero

TOPEKA-BORN POET AND NOVELIST VISITS CAMPUS

Ben Lerner, poet, novelist, essayist, and critic, spoke to Donnelly students, faculty, staff and members of the public on April 27. The crowd was treated to a reading, by Lerner, from his critically acclaimed novel "10:04."

Lerner also shared his thoughts and fielded questions about the role of the writer in society today, describing how politics and social and cultural issues impact his and others' works. While it may be obvious that Lerner recognizes the power and importance of the pen, he pointed out how the use of language can build interconnection among people, and how writers must be willing to do more than write, they must "go into the streets" for what they believe in.

As a graduate of Brown University, a Fulbright Scholar and a MacArthur Fellow, Lerner follows a string of exceptional writers born in Topeka, Kansas, such as Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks.

Lerner is the author of three books of poetry, "The Lichtenberg Figures," "Angle of Yaw," and "Mean Free Path,"; two novels, "Leaving the Atocha Station" and "10:04"; as well as several collaborations with artists. His most recent book is the monograph, "The Hatred of Poetry."

Lerner currently serves as Distinguished Professor of English at Brooklyn College in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Ben Lerner



1 Student Senate hosted a Spring Mixer for students on April 19 in the Donnelly College Meeting Room. The free event included a live DJ, catered food, a photo booth and door prizes for attendees. 2 Congratulations to the 23 newest members of Donnelly's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society International, Alpha Omega Theta Chapter. The new group of members were inducted on May 4. 3 Donnelly staff welcomed new students to campus during the first summer orientation session on June 20. 4 Donnelly College Career Services hosted Mock Interviews for students on March 1. 5 The Donnelly community celebrated the annual pre-Pi Day on March 8, where students were engaged with or in all things Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM), and enjoyed pie, too! 6 Donnelly College was proud to be part of KCK Chamber's annual meeting on April 4. From left, Sly James, mayor of Kansas City, Mo., Douglas Girod, chancellor of the University of Kansas, and Msgr. Stuart Swetland, president of Donnelly College.



7 Donnelly College President Msgr. Stuart Swetland moderated a discussion for an American Public Square program, “Common Good: Interfaith Action in Response to Violence & Injustice,” on Thursday, Feb. 15, at Village Presbyterian Church. 8 Gretchen Meinhardt, associate professor, took several Success First students on a short civil rights tour of Topeka, Kan., on Feb. 19, with stops at the Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site & Museum and the State Capitol. 9 Art students in Donnelly’s spring Drawing I class work on still life drawing exercises. 10 Twenty-nine employers attended the Donnelly College Career Fair on April 5 in the Event Center. 11 Donnelly College’s Scholar Day was celebrated on May 3 as a way for students graduating from the Organizational Leadership and Information Systems program, to present their capstone presentations. 12 Donnelly alumna Majestye Ivory ’18 worked with a small group to develop a virtual exhibition concept and presented to staff and peers at the Nelson-Atkins Museum on May 25. 13 Donnelly’s annual Multicultural Festival on April 27 featured students from the following cultures: South African, Mexican, Guatemalan, Chinese, African-American, and Sudanese.

MARIAN HALL RE-OPENS AFTER RENOVATION

In celebration of completing extensive renovations of Marian Hall as part of Phase II of Donnelly's campus master plan, more than 100 community members, special guests, staff, faculty and students gathered on Jan. 25 to re-dedicate the building.

The event included a brief presentation by college leadership, a ribbon cutting ceremony, a prayer of dedication for the new space, open-house viewing of all floors, and the opportunity to learn more about the next phase of the campus master plan.

Marian Hall was used as a nursing student dormitory when the current Donnelly academic building was Providence Hospital. Today, the old dormitory is home to Donnelly's nursing programs, the Gateway to College program and several other academic and administrative spaces.

Renovations were completed as part of Donnelly's campus master plan designed to transform the entire campus. Marian Hall renovations added nine new classrooms, six faculty/staff offices, a computer lab and a collaborative study space for students. In addition, the elevator was modernized, sprinklers upgraded, and mechanical systems throughout the building improved. In total, academic space in Marian Hall doubled to 22,000 square feet.

"It really helps to see the 'before' pictures to be aware of just how much this building has transformed," said Donnelly College President Msgr. Stuart Swetland. "It's a sign, a symbol really, of the



Donnelly College President Msgr. Stuart Swetland and Chair of the Donnelly College Board of Directors, Rachel Cruz, cut the ribbon to celebrate the grand re-opening of Marian Hall on Jan. 25.

transformation we hope to bring to the hearts and minds of the students we serve."

The third and final phase of Donnelly's campus master plan will include the construction of a new 72,000 square foot academic and administrative building to replace the existing main tower on campus.

Donnelly will proceed with Phase III once sufficient funds are raised. In addition to a revitalized campus, the campaign will also grow our endowment, ensuring that our mission will go forward in a vibrant and sustainable way.



The newly renovated Marian Hall collaborative study space

Before



Rendering of the future academic building and quad, as seen from Tauromee Avenue looking northeast.

\$5 MILLION COMMITMENT FROM SUNDERLAND FOUNDATION IS LARGEST IN COLLEGE HISTORY

In June 2018, the Sunderland Foundation pledged \$5 million to support the third phase of Donnelly's campus master plan.

"We could not be more grateful for the Sunderland Foundation's extremely generous gift," exclaimed Monsignor Stuart Swetland, president. "It is the single largest gift in our 69-year history and an affirmation of our mission. We are honored that the Sunderland Foundation is supportive of our vision and so committed to help us serve our wonderful students."

The Sunderland Foundation has supported Donnelly's mission since 1976 and has been especially instrumental in advancing our current master plan projects. The foundation supported the first

two phases with gifts totaling \$700,000. Phase I was completed in 2013 and Phase II in 2017.

"We are pleased to be able to help Donnelly provide its students with this new learning environment," said Kent Sunderland, president and trustee of the foundation.

The Sunderland Foundation's pledge continues momentum generated by several previous donors. In 2010, an anonymous alumnus pledged Donnelly's first \$1 million gift. In 2013, our sponsor, the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, committed \$4 million and another friend of the college committed \$2 million. The Sunderland gift also came just a month after an anonymous new individual donor committed \$1 million.

"The College has a bold vision to become the most accessible and transformative Catholic college in the country, and these investors are helping us make significant strides towards meeting that goal," Monsignor Swetland added. "As a private college committed to quality and affordability, we depend on our philanthropic partners to help us achieve both our short-term campus improvements and our long-term vision. We are humbled by the faith these cornerstone contributors have placed in us to execute this mission and impact our students and community more fully."



The Sunderland Foundation, represented by Kent Sunderland, was honored at SHINE in 2014 for their nearly 40-year commitment to the college.



OUR CAMPUS MASTER PLAN AND DONNELLY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE was outlined in the Winter 2017 issue of the Donnelly Digest. Check out that article by visiting at www.donnelly.edu/digest

Contagious

A Saint, a student and a shared journey

LOVE



A hill, even in the Kansas prairie, can seem daunting after a two-day, 37-mile pilgrimage. After that distance, a hill is the last thing more than 50 travelers wanted to see. Tired, blistered and ready to be finished, they looked at the last part of their journey begrudgingly, but the Sisters of the Lamb began to sing, carrying the group forward to their destination. It was at the top of that very hill where the group learned that these religious sisters were not the only Sisters to traverse this terrain in hopes of keeping a tired people going.

Seven years before independence was declared for our thirteen colonies, Rose Philippine Duchesne was born to a politically active family in a small village in France and called by God to a life of religious service. She would eventually find her way to what we now know as Kansas, and she would eventually

become the only person who lived on Kansas soil to become a saint, canonized by the Catholic Church.

One hundred and sixty-six years after Philippine's death, a Donnelly College student embarked on a pilgrimage to remember and celebrate the life and legacy of Philippine.



Photo courtesy of the Little Sisters of the Lamb.

That student, Anette Amaya, was among the more than 50 people who traversed the Kansas landscape to eventually arrive at the shrine and park dedicated to St. Philippine. The best part of Amaya's journey may not have been the destination itself, but rather the journey and relationships formed along the way—perhaps the same as experienced by Philippine on her journey.

Philippine was educated by nuns and expected by her mother to dedicate herself to serving the poor. She entered the convent at age 18, but, by the time she was 20, the French Revolution had begun and her plans to enter a religious house were suppressed for 11 years. During that time, however, she attempted to live the rule of her order before she ever stepped foot in the convent.

After entering religious life in an official capacity in the early 1800s, Philippine expressed her desire to serve in the New World among Native Americans. Despite her desire, it was not until 1818 that Philippine was able to journey from France to New Orleans with Bishop DuBourg of Louisiana. After just six weeks in New Orleans, Philippine led a group up the Mississippi River where she was directed to open a school in the village of St. Charles, Mo. After serving 23 years in St. Charles, and after once again waiting for the right time, her longtime dream to serve among Native Americans would finally come true at the age of 72 when she was assigned to establish a school for Potawatomi girls near Sugar Creek, Kan.

By this time in her life, Philippine had become frail and was unable to help with the physical work that was commonly part of day-to-day life on the prairie. Instead, she spent much of her time in spiritual support and prayer for and among the Potawatomi people. After only one year, she was called back



Stained glass window depicting Philippine in prayer with Native Americans. Photo courtesy of Society of the Sacred Heart.

to St. Charles because of her health, but she nevertheless left an undeniable legacy of love and service among her newfound friends, in a newfound land.

Helen McLaughlin, former superior general of the Society of the Sacred Heart wrote, "What impresses me about Philippine is her ability to respond to difficult events and times; to accept and love a new and totally different country and way of life; to enter wholeheartedly into another culture, language, and system of values and to appreciate these."

"The Sisters' and Brothers' love for the experience, for each other and their love for God was contagious. You couldn't stay in your box, it was how I would imagine heaven would be—everyone as one big happy family."

Anette Amaya

The same could be said about many Donnelly College students, especially those, like Philippine, who are

courageous, determined travelers who had to wait for the right time to follow their dreams and callings.

For Amaya, her journey of faith and her own personal pilgrimage started after a long, difficult period in her life. After seemingly endless hardships, on an especially difficult night, she called out in her room, "Jesus you are my shepherd, I will follow you." This shocked even Amaya, who, as a freshman in high school, had never gone to church, never talked about God and never knew much about Jesus. She later had a religious sister, one of those Sisters who sang with her to the top of the hill, tell her to, "keep that moment in your heart, that was the Holy Spirit."

From that point forward, Amaya's journey was inextricably connected to her faith. She found Catholicism and transferred to Cristo Rey, a Roman Catholic high school founded by the Sisters of Charity in Leavenworth. After graduation, she was determined to go to college, even with the uncertainty that accompanied it.

"I'm a DACA student and I've always been so worried about how I am going to arrive at my goal of getting my degree," she said. "But I've said to people as they ask me what my plans are after college that I can't control everything, so I leave it up to God. It is in God's hands."

Attending a Catholic college was her goal, but even with scholarship assistance, only one Catholic higher education option was feasible - Donnelly College.

Amaya arrived at Donnelly a bit apprehensive. She was anxious because she had grown up in the area surrounding the campus in Kansas City, Kan., where she experienced some difficult circumstances. She wanted to leave the past behind and never look back, but she was also determined to



Anette Amaya hangs artwork in the hallway from Donnelly's spring Painting I class in 2017.

reach her goals, no matter what path she had to take to get there. While her circumstances were difficult at the time and it was hard to trust, Amaya acknowledged that "God was leading me here."

At Donnelly, Amaya found a community that welcomed her and loved her. She wishes "more people could come and experience the love and sense of community, and how people are encouraged to defy the odds."

In addition to classroom education at Donnelly, she also found unexpected opportunities on campus that would change her life. It was early in 2018 when posters began to appear on the bulletin boards that advertised in large, bold letters, "PILGRIMAGE." The word pilgrimage stood out to Amaya. She was drawn to it, and while it took her a couple months to convince herself to participate, she eventually did.

The pilgrimage was organized by the Community of the Lamb, both the Little Sisters of the Lamb and the Little Brothers of the Lamb, religious communities in Kansas City, Kan., focused on God, poverty and prayer. This fourth annual pilgrimage started with a group of more than 50 gathered at the home of the Little Sisters of the Lamb. A long drive the first evening took them to the home of a family who allowed the group to camp in their backyard before departing the next morning on foot. The first day led them to a parish in Mound City, Kan. after a 15-mile hike. The second day, after a 22-mile hike, the group finally arrived at the hill where the Sisters voices were raised in song.

When Amaya started the journey, she felt like she was embarking alone. But after only a brief time she realized she was anything but alone.

"It was impossible to seclude yourself," she said. "[The Sisters' and Brothers']

love for the experience, for each other and their love for God was contagious. You couldn't stay in your box, it was how I would imagine heaven would be—everyone as one big happy family."

Amaya is set to graduate in December 2018 from Donnelly College with an associate degree. After graduation, she plans to transfer to University of St. Mary where she will pursue a bachelor's degree in education with the plan of eventually teaching Spanish. Now Amaya has a new relationship, not just with God, or St. Philippine or Donnelly College, but with the Community of the Lamb where she now frequently visits and worships.

The pilgrimage was not a wakeup call for Amaya, but rather a gentle reminder that her life's plans will not always happen on her timetable. Now she trusts God's timing, as St. Philippine did.



More than 50 people gathered for a two-day, 37-mile pilgrimage across Kansas. Photo courtesy of the Little Sisters of the Lamb.



Donnelly graduates (from left) Br. Martin Navarro, Keith Boyd, Wasiba Hamad and Peilong Zhou, pose before the start of commencement on May 12.

GRADUATES CELEBRATED AT 69TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Donnelly College hosted its 69th Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 12 at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kan., honoring the graduating class of 2018.

Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer was in attendance, providing a charge to graduates during the ceremony. This was the first time a sitting Governor has attended a Donnelly College commencement ceremony.

“Today as you walk off the stage, you are at a crossroads,” Gov. Colyer said. “You aren’t just making decisions, you are making choices. And these choices only come by opening your heart, opening your mind and your soul to all the growth and discovery and possibilities that’s there.”

The 2018 Donnelly College graduating class consists of 96 students – 35 students who received a Practical Nursing certificate, 11 students who earned a bachelor’s degree

and 50 students who earned an associate degree. Of these graduates, 72 percent were first-generation college students.

During the commencement ceremony, two student speakers, LaCherish Thompson and

Todd Kinney, addressed their fellow graduates. Thompson spoke about how everyone has been talked out of dreams, dreams that have potential and are worth pursuing.

“Take back your dreams,” Thompson said. “So when I tell you the sky is the limit, tell me, ‘I’m ready to fly.’” And when I tell you to dream as big as the ocean, tell me, ‘The largest body of water cannot contain what I can do,’ and when I tell you that the possibilities are endless, as far as the East is from the West, tell me, ‘I can do all things through Christ (who) strengthens me,’ and when I tell you the world is yours, tell me, ‘I already have it in my hands,’ and when I say, you can be anything, absolutely anything you want to be, tell me, ‘I know I can and I will be.’”

During his student commencement speech, Kinney told the graduates that as long as they continue to fill their souls, they will be successful in life.

“You have filled your souls with knowledge and grace and it will never die ... Our souls (are) God’s everlasting gift to us.”

Todd Kinney '18
Commencement Speaker

"You have filled your souls with knowledge and grace and it will never die," he said. "We can fly people to the moon and back in one piece, but even with all that, no human being can or ever will be able to touch, take away, create or destroy a living soul - only God can do that. Our souls (are) God's everlasting gift to us. And that is why, as long as you continue to fill your soul with knowledge and grace, today is only the beginning. Only the first of your life victories."

Donnelly alumna Dr. Liza Rodriguez '01 provided the commencement address. Rodriguez challenged graduates to remain true to themselves, respect others and give back to the community. "I challenge you to one day stand on this podium and inspire future generations of college students to find their drive and fight for what they are passionate about," she said. "The hardest mathematical equation and the toughest challenges in life help you grow strong and realize your truest potential. And never forget to help others on the way."

Donnelly's Commencement Ceremony also celebrated seven graduates from the Gateway to College program, a high school completion program partnered with (USD 500) Kansas City Kansas Public Schools, where students earn their high school diploma and receive college credit from Donnelly.

Following the Commencement Ceremony, Donnelly College's Practical Nursing (PN) graduates were recognized in a pinning ceremony, which is a traditional rite of passage for nursing school graduates across the country.

The ceremony was led by Sandra Tapp, director of nursing, who congratulated the graduates for their many accomplishments during the 16-month program.

Graduates were pinned by a nursing faculty member or a nursing friend from the community who inspired them to pursue and finish the PN program. Donnelly's PN graduates lit lamps and recited the traditional Florence Nightingale pledge to close the ceremony.



1 Practical Nursing students pray during Donnelly's Practical Nursing Pinning Ceremony. 2 Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer addresses the graduates. 3 Janae Rodriguez '18, practical nursing graduate, is pinned by her sister during Donnelly College's Practical Nursing Pinning Ceremony on May 12. 4 Cynthia Arenas is all smiles as she receives her diploma at commencement.



PHOTOS AND VIDEOS AVAILABLE
at www.donnelly.edu/commencement

TRANSFORMING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

In the most recent Winter issue of the Donnelly Digest, we highlighted a professional development opportunity through the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) for Donnelly College faculty, which was made possible through a grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. This academic year, faculty participated in ACUE coursework, where they learned about new teaching techniques to improve student learning and engagement.

This piece was originally written for the ACUE blog by Melissa Lenos, Donnelly College associate professor and chairperson of liberal arts and sciences, and has been adapted for use in this publication.

I held up a paperback and met 13 pairs of uneasy eyes. It was hard to keep the excitement out of my voice as I explained, “We’re going to read *Bleak House* together and we’re going to read it as it was originally released—in serial form. We’ll do one installation a week over the course of the semester.” My excitement was two-sided: *Bleak House*, a 900-page novel, is one of my favorites, and I was nervous. I typically teach freshman writing courses, and it’s been a long time since I’ve had the opportunity to teach a hefty novel. I felt rusty, and also worried that the scale of the text might intimidate my students.

Reflecting back on my first semester of the ACUE course, I decided to build regular “Fishbowls” into the syllabus. In the ACUE course, Dr. Tara Lineweaver describes the Fishbowl activity as a “close-knit conversation among four students” seated in the center of their classmates, who form a circle around them. The students in Dr. Lineweaver’s class prepare a short paper based on the readings, and then during class, she pulls four names from a fishbowl, and those students discuss the assigned articles for 20 minutes. The rest of the students listen, take notes, and have an opportunity to comment after the discussion has ended.

In my Comp 2 course, every Friday the students came prepared to discuss one serial segment of the novel. We randomly selected



Donnelly students in English Composition II class gather for a Fishbowl discussion as part of a new teaching technique implemented by Melissa Lenos, associate professor and chairperson of liberal arts and sciences.

three or four students to discuss the novel for 15 to 20 minutes (depending on the length of that week’s segment) and then we regrouped for a whole-class discussion. I also created a large, adaptable concept map to help keep track of the novel’s 50-some characters and myriad intertwined themes.

By mid-semester, each student participated at least once in the Fishbowl. We’d spent time discussing contradictory perspectives on the text. Several of the students wrote term papers addressing some aspect of the representations of women in *Bleak House*. The students found sources that argue for Esther Summerson’s powerful agency and determination, while other sources dismiss her as weak and uninspiring.

During one Fishbowl, participants drew a previous conversation into their discussion, identifying moments that could be interpreted as supporting each point of view and considering how their perspectives of Esther had changed halfway through the novel.

They debated what Dickens intended the audience to think or feel about Esther based on how Esther, in her first-person chapters, describes herself and how other characters speak to and about her. The students then helped each other sort through one particularly confusing scene in the week’s reading and spent the rest of the Fishbowl debating developments in the overarching mysteries threaded through the novel.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

The following faculty earned a Certificate in Effective College Instruction by completing a series of courses through ACUE and The American Council on Education.

Andrea Kagay
Dave Cobb
Dhuha Shareef
Gayle Lee
Gretchen Meinhardt
Jennifer Hamilton

Kate Horvat
Lisa Stoothoff
Megan Jordan
Paula Console-Șoican
Richard Esvang

Sandra Tapp
Sarah Krumsick
Sister Marie Kathleen
Daugherty
Yvonne Telep

Based on Fishbowl participation, whole-class discussions and reading quizzes, I could tell that every student was current on the reading. In a typical section of Comp 2, 10% to 15% would be dangerously behind, consistently absent, or otherwise struggling at this point in the semester. More than that, when I came into class at 9 a.m., they were often already chatting about the week's developments: Lady Dedlock's shady behavior and Mr. Tulkinghorn's ominous looming. They were particularly outraged by Mr. Guppy, greeting me with "Esther has a stalker!" Another warmed my heart, grumbling, "I wish Esther wouldn't act so dumb when she's not." My students are pulling out interesting themes (Dickens's portrayals of marriage, philanthropy, the legal system), noticing narrative trends, and asking compelling, complex questions.

As we approached midterms, I had the students reflect on their Fishbowl experience in a 10-minute "Exit Ticket" for the class, essentially a prompt they must respond to before leaving. I asked them what they felt was working well with the Fishbowl exercise and what they might change or do differently through the end of the semester. They all agreed that we should continue with the exercise—that it keeps them accountable to themselves and their classmates. Several mentioned that keeping up on the reading and taking thorough reading notes feels more important if you know classmates "might be counting on you" to help lead a discussion. At such a small school, most of these students have multiple classes together and check in with each other during the week.

I found that every week's content in the ACUE course impacted my teaching, but nothing has disrupted my personal pedagogy as much as the Fishbowl. I realized that I too frequently underestimate my students, that I jump in to "help" them too quickly, and that given control of class discussion, students will generate smart, provocative conversations. In restructuring the rhythm of my classes, my students have been given additional space to approach ideas from multiple perspectives. Every time we had a Fishbowl this semester, my students surprised me.



A group of nine Donnelly students, staff and faculty stand in front of the Angel of Harmony sculpture at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis during their 3-day Black History Justice Journey in March.

STUDENTS EXPLORE BLACK HISTORY IN MISSOURI AND BEYOND

A group of Donnelly faculty, staff and students embarked on a three-day Black History Justice Journey in March to experience historic sites related to slavery, the Civil War and the African-American experience.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to see the recorded history of our country's past," said Jose Marquez, Donnelly student. "We were able to travel to different locations and see sites and how they tied together from a historical standpoint and an ethical standpoint."

Students visited the Lincoln Museum and home in Springfield, Ill.; the County Courthouse in St. Louis, Mo. where the Dred Scott case was tried; the town of Ferguson, Mo. which gained national attention in 2014 after the death of Michael Brown; and a home in Quincy, Ill. that belonged to Augustus Tolton, a Missouri man born into slavery, who escaped to freedom and became the first

black Catholic priest in the U.S.

"I have always been passionate about travel and learning about other cultures and I love to share these interests with others," said Gretchen Meinhardt, interim director of success first and trip leader. "College is a time of exploration for students, which makes it the perfect time to learn both in and out of the classroom. Learning about history in the classroom is great, but that learning is enhanced when we can get out of the classroom and see and experience history firsthand. One of our values at Donnelly is "truth," and learning about other cultures is an important way to help students develop their own views based in a true understanding of others."

Future educational travel opportunities through Donnelly may include both domestic and international destinations, including the possibility of a Latino Justice Journey to Chicago in 2019.

A NEW TRADITION



A group of 15 Donnelly students and faculty represented Donnelly College during the 45th annual March for Life in Washington D.C. on Jan. 19.

In the harsh winter weather of January, as most were staying inside and close to home, 14 Donnelly students and one brave faculty chaperone boarded a bus for a 26-hour ride to the nation's capital to march for the unborn.

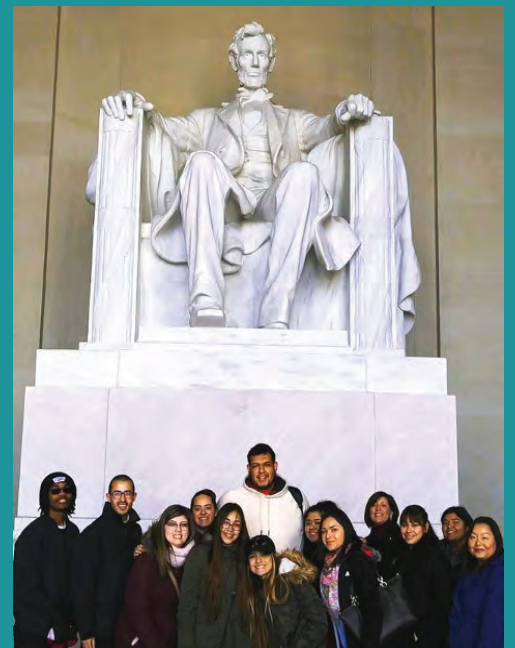
For the second year, in what they hope will become an annual tradition, Donnelly students participated in the 45th annual March for Life, a rally and march supporting the pro-life movement.

"I have always been pro-life, and had always wanted to attend the March for Life, but through high school it was not possible," said Angelica Perez, Donnelly student and trip organizer. "When I got to Donnelly I was determined to make it happen. This is my second year attending, and it was so great to see so many young people passionate about life."

On the morning of the march, students attended the Kansans for Life mass, as well as listened to Sr. Beth Madonna and President Donald Trump speak.

Gathering in the streets, and proudly marching behind the Donnelly College banner, students marched alongside St. John Paul II Seminary from Washington, D.C. while they sang in Latin. The march concluded as students rounded the corner at Constitution Avenue and First Street, in front of the Supreme Court.

Faculty chaperone and Acting Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Lisa Stoothoff said, "There is faith and then there is faith in action. Attending the March for Life and seeing it through young eyes was a powerful testament to God's merciful love for us."



The group visited the Lincoln Memorial during their trip to Washington D.C.



PUBLISHING STUDENT WORK

Originally published on the Donnelly College Blog, May 3, 2018

Many institutions of higher education provide opportunities for students to publish their creative and academic work. While student newspapers and research publications make up many of these opportunities, literary and art journals are also quite popular.

Literary and artistic pursuit within an educational setting are documented to be part of a well-rounded education, regardless of publication or not. So, why publish? Dr. Melissa Lenos, associate professor and chair of liberal arts and sciences, explains that Donnelly takes the time, energy and consideration to transform student work into a printed publication in part to show students that their work has value, and that there is a wider audience for it.

“Writing is not simply something a student does for a grade or for personal pleasure,” she said. “It can be for an extended audience who will read the writing and look at their visual work out of true interest and admiration.”

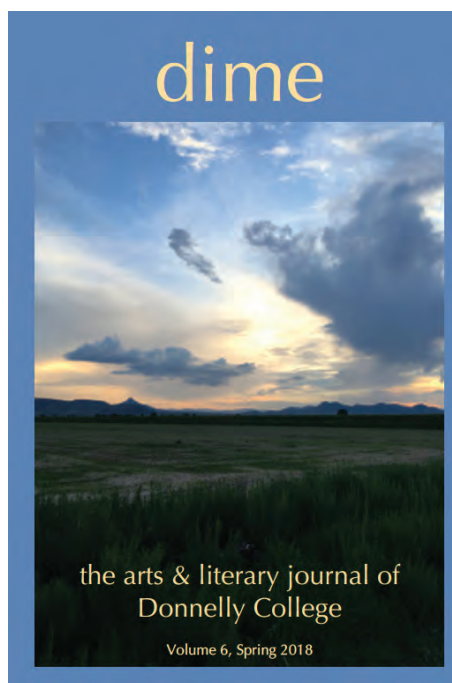
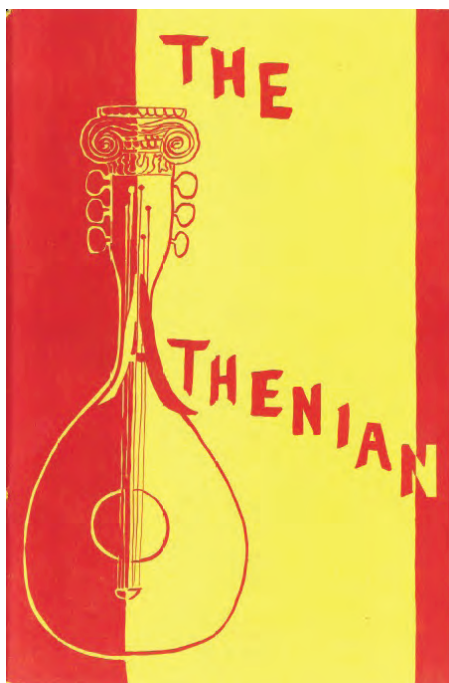
Throughout Donnelly’s history, publishing student works has been an important part of the academic experience. From students producing “Newsletter” in the 1950s, and a poetry magazine entitled “Well-Used Sidewalk” in the 1960s, to the publication of the literary journal “The Athenian” in the 1970s, opportunities have been readily available on campus.

While “The Athenian” ceased publication some time ago, since 2014 Lenos has led the effort to publish and edit “dime: the Arts

and Literary Journal of Donnelly College.” Each fall semester, all students have the opportunity to submit original works of fiction, poetry, essays, creative nonfiction and visual art. In the spring, “dime” is released, and selected students win the Sister Mary Faith Schuster Award for outstanding submissions.

In addition to “dime,” during the spring 2018 semester, Dr. Paula Console-Șoican, assistant professor of English, published a collection of student essays under the title “The Immigrant’s Song.” This collection represents essays submitted in a class by the same title where students had the opportunity to explore their own relationship to “immigrant fiction” discussed in the course. In the preface, Console-Șoican writes, “With this collection of student essays from my immigrant fiction class from the fall of 2017 at Donnelly College, I am merely extending the importance of reporting, of documenting the stories that people need to tell, and in this case the autoethnographic essays that my students have learned to write. I do so under the knowledge that each one of us has a way of writing or talking in this autoethnographic sense that is unmatched and crucial to listen to. In what follows I am attempting to give my students their own voice against and across the constraints imposed by our class, by the fact that this was a final exam in which the personal essay meets the literary response to one of the books we read for class.”

“dime” is supported by the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as the Sister Mary Faith Schuster Award donors, Larry and Joan Ward. “The Immigrant’s Song” was a special project supported by various departments within the College.



An Icon HERSELF



In the early 1940's on St. Benedict's Feast Day, the ladies of St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kan., were granted the opportunity to join the men of St. Benedict's College at their campus church, both colleges now merged to form Benedictine College, for the celebration of Vespers.

At the age of 18, sitting behind a pillar in St. Benedict's Church on St. Benedict's campus, something began to stir deep within the soul of Paula Howard. She doesn't recall exactly what—perhaps it was the rhythm of the Vespers, the solitude of the monks, or the knowledge that what she was experiencing at that moment had been celebrated in the same way since around the year 500 B.C., but she knew at that exact moment, that she wanted to be part of the permanence of God. As she described it, "I caught the Spirit."

Sister Paula joined the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica in 1943, and just recently celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, 75 years in religious life. Since taking her vows, Sr. Paula has lived throughout the world, working as a teacher, administrator, author and iconographer. While these vocations and ministries were varied and numerous, few were self-chosen. Instead, they were a function of the time, and of the Church, taking her where she was needed, including to Donnelly College.

After returning from teaching for several years in Bethlehem, Sr. Paula learned that Donnelly College needed a Dean of the College. Having been part of the Mount community since 1943, she remembers Donnelly's founding in 1949.

"The reason the College was established was because there were a lot of immigrants who did not have a chance for a good education, so [the founders] wanted to provide an opportunity for a higher education for those that would not otherwise have had a chance, both because of immigrant status, and because of financial reasons," she said. "It was inexpensive. It was, and still is, a place to overcome prejudices."

After Sr. Paula had already retired twice, the opportunity to serve as Interim Dean of the College at Donnelly presented itself.

She agreed to serve until the position was filled. Her "temporary" role lasted nearly 10 years, due to her love for the students and excellent working relationship with the faculty and staff.

Throughout her time at Donnelly, Sr. Paula had numerous administrative responsibilities and maintained teaching at least one class per term to stay in touch with the students and to hear their struggles. She left Donnelly in 1999, but not before making a permanent impact on the students and culture of the College. Sr. Pauls led the effort for Donnelly to become part of the national honor society Phi Theta Kappa, a society still active on campus today.

Recent graduate Ada Sanabria said her choice of Donnelly was due in part to the existence of an honor society, as it provided her a reason to excel, a goal to achieve, and an honor that would open doors to transfer and scholarship opportunities.

Retiring for the third time in 1999, Sr. Paula finally had the time to pursue her desire to paint. Having never painted before, Sr. Paula began experimenting with landscapes and still-life before enrolling in a workshop about painting icons. A new love was born.

While Sr. Paula sees her icons as bringing some of the greatest joy to her life, she also remembers her time at Donnelly quite fondly. And, she is remembered fondly as well. Former Donnelly College President John Murry who served from 1987 to 1998 remembers his friend this way, "At Donnelly she was a lady of all seasons and she could do anything. She is such a multi-talented, bright woman, and Donnelly was lucky to have her."

To this day, in the Admissions office, Sr. Paula's hand-painted portrait of Donnelly founder Sister Jerome Keeler in the icon style hangs prominently for all guests and students to see. While Sr. Paula is no longer on campus herself, her spirit and legacy remain.



Portrait of Sr. Jerome Keeler by Sr. Paula Howard in Icon tradition

What is an icon?

An icon is a work of art, often painted on wood, representing holy figures such as saints, Mary and Jesus in either portrait style or a scene. Icons differ by artist, but are influenced by some consistent traditions.

- Highly symbolic
- Not intended to look exactly like the person, influenced greatly by the artist's interpretation
- Eyes are large representing windows to the soul
- Neck is large representing the path the holy spirit travels from the heart to the mind
- Mouth is small indicating contemplation and thoughtfulness
- Hands are exaggerated
- No single light source
- Uses royal colors of red and purple

FORMER FACULTY REMEMBERED



John Couture, former Donnelly College business faculty of 29 years, passed away on Saturday, March 10, 2018. Couture graduated from Rockhurst High School, Rockhurst University and UMKC with an MA in Economics. He loved being with his family, playing banjo and guitar, fly-fishing and visiting his beloved cousins in Oklahoma. Former colleague Sister Barbara McCracken remembers that “John was a great colleague and a great sport, and he loved a good joke.” Couture was a resident of Kansas City, Mo. at the time of his passing.

CAMPUS LEADER ACADEMY APPOINTMENT

Lisa Stoothoff, Acting Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs/Dean of the College, was named to the Kansas Independent College Association (KICA) class of 2018 Aspiring Campus Leader Academy. The Academy is designed to provide academic leaders with a series of tactical trainings that include budgeting, governance, data trends, hiring, and faculty evaluation tools.

“At Kansas’ independent colleges, we know that our most important job by far is to provide a vibrant, relevant, high-quality education to each and every student that enters our doors,” said Matt Lindsey, president of KICA. “To invest in the future leadership of our member institutions is to invest in their students, and our communities as a whole.”

Located in Topeka and founded in 1976, KICA works to develop and enhance the competitive standing of its 19-member independent, non-profit, regionally accredited, degree-granting colleges and universities, and strives to assure opportunity and choice in higher education for all students.

MONSIGNOR’S COLUMN HONORED BY CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Catholic Digest, an American Catholic magazine published nine times a year, won two awards at this year’s Catholic Press Association’s annual Catholic Media Conference in Green Bay, Wis.

Donnelly College President Monsignor Stuart Swetland regularly contributes to the Catholic Digest’s Ask Your Father column, which placed third in the best regular column, spiritual life category.

Msgr. Swetland’s winning column was entitled, “Do I need to confess the abuse that I endured?” published on June 18, 2018.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AWARDS AND READ THE FULL COLUMN
at www.tinyurl.com/y9sc7q9o

GLOBAL STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

Donnelly faculty and students were honored to be presenters and panelists at the Global Studies Symposium hosted by the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan. on April 12, 2018.

Faculty:

Gretchen Meinhardt
Melissa Lenos
Msgr. Stuart Swetland
Paula Console-Şoican

Students:

Rocio Alonzo
Zulina Ramirez
Christian Vallejo
Majesty Ivory
Todd Kinney
Elizabeth Turner

DONNELLY BUZZ

Donnelly students Mariana Valles Meza and Jesus Valenzuela hosted the first several episodes of the Donnelly Buzz, a new web show launched in February 2018 as a way to capture and share student perspectives on a variety of topics ranging from what they love most about Donnelly to their March Madness predictions. The show is primarily student-driven with limited assistance from the Donnelly College staff.



WATCH PREVIOUS EPISODES
at www.donnelly.edu/buzz

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Lisa Stoothoff was named Acting Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs/Dean of the College. She was also awarded the rank of Associate Professor.

Dr. Melissa Lenos was awarded the rank of Associate Professor.

Pedro Leite was appointed Dean Emeritus and awarded the rank of Professor.

FACULTY OF THE YEAR AWARDS

We are so grateful for the hardworking full-time and adjunct faculty who contribute to Donnelly College.

Congratulations to Joseph Multhaupt, assistant professor, who was awarded the Faculty Member of the Year and to Richard Esvang, adjunct faculty, who was awarded Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year for 2017-2018.

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M. Jason Banks
Robert R. Bartunek
Dan Braum ('71)
Rita Burnett, DDS
Guadalupe Dean
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Joe Reardon
Sister Genevieve Robinson, OSB
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DONNELLY COLLEGE DIGEST

The Donnelly Digest is a publication for the alumni and friends of Donnelly College, published twice each year. The mission of The Digest is to engage readers in the life of the College and to celebrate Donnelly's diverse learning environment.

Donnelly College is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering those who have recently passed away.

Joanne Couture '56 died May 8, 2018

Charles J. Naudet '52 died January 1, 2018

CLASS NOTES

Isaac Falcon '10 graduated from Kansas State University with a Ph.D. in family studies and human services.

Bill Reardon '61 and Desmond Lamb '00 will be inducted into the Donnelly College Alumni Hall of Fame on September 28, 2018 at SHINE.



CHOOSE DONNELLY
and discover your potential.

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SUCCESS FIRST | GATEWAY TO COLLEGE

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Don't get lost in the crowd of a large campus. Donnelly feels like a family, so when life presents challenges, you won't be alone.

Donnelly is one of the most diverse colleges in the country – and it's in the heart of KCK.

SPEND LESS

More than 90% of our students receive financial assistance, and many can leave Donnelly with little or no student loan debt. Donnelly offers merit- and need-based scholarships for all programs including STEM.

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

At Donnelly, you are empowered to go from where you are to where you want to be. Complete your degree at Donnelly, or we'll help you transfer to another college.

CONSIDER THE BIGGER PICTURE

Explore big questions and solve big problems by taking courses in a variety of subjects.

Speak your mind and live your faith in a Catholic college that encourages you to express your own beliefs.



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FOR OUR STUDENTS AND MISSION

FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28, 2018
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SHERATON KANSAS CITY
AT CROWN CENTER

EVENT CHAIR: DAN BRAUM, '71

Information about sponsorships,
tables and tickets is available online at
www.donnelly.edu/shine
or call (913) 621-8717.