Breaking Ground
FOR THE NEXT 70 YEARS

CLASS OF 2019
Celebrating achievements and looking to the future

WE ARE THE DRAGONS
The College unveils a new mascot

IN MEMORIAM:
HENRY W. BLOCH
Remembering his legacy
A proud Donnelly student celebrates with her family after being awarded the Henry W. Bloch scholarship.
IN THIS ISSUE

cover story

8 BREAKING GROUND FOR THE NEXT 70 YEARS
Investing in our shared future

spotlights

4 CLASS OF 2019
Celebrating achievements and looking to the future

6 WE ARE THE DRAGONS
The College unveils a new mascot

7 AUTHOR TO VISIT CAMPUS
Ken Ilgunas to discuss his book and environmental ethics

18 IN MEMORIAM: HENRY W. BLOCH
Remembering his legacy
Celebrating the Class of 2019

At Donnelly we look forward to the different seasons of the academic year that bring new students to campus and celebrate the accomplishments of graduates who complete their degree and become part of our growing community of proud alumni.

Donnelly College’s graduating class of 2019 was honored on Saturday, May 11 at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas during the college’s Commencement ceremony.

“Commencement is a time of celebration,” said Lisa Stoothoff, vice president of academic and student affairs and dean of the college. “It is called Commencement for today marks your entry into a life well-lived – a life of ongoing education and formation.”

Each year at Commencement, the Delta Award is presented to an individual whose contributions to the community embody the mission, spirit and values of Donnelly College. Sr. Grace Malaney, OSB, of the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, was this year’s honoree.

Sr. Grace was recognized for her leadership in the field of education. With more than 55 years of teaching experience, Sr. Grace taught mathematics in primary, middle and secondary schools, and at Donnelly College from 1981-2011.

Following Commencement, Donnelly College’s nursing 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 Brianne Ford, Ph.D., director of nursing, who congratulated the 43 Practical Nursing graduates and the 15 Associate of Applied Science – Registered Nursing graduates, for their many accomplishments.

The college provided live streaming video for the commencement and pinning ceremonies. To view both in their entirety and to see photos from the weekend, visit www.donnelly.edu/commencement.

Graduates enjoy time together while awaiting the start of the ceremony.

Sr. Grace Malaney, OSB, accepts the Delta Award.
Ramón Murguía, owner of Murguía Law Office and chair of the Greater Kansas City Hispanic Development Fund, gave the commencement address where he issued a challenge to Donnelly’s most recent graduates. “I challenge you to take the next step in your career,” he said. “Work hard and keep an eye out for your passion. You will find it.”

Murguía, a native of Kansas City, Kansas, spoke about his family upbringing and the impact it continues to have on his life. “The lesson from my parents, just like those from a lot of your parents, is to stand up for what is right while also taking time to care for the people around you. Whatever you do professionally, I challenge you to live as proud, caring and hard-working people. Your community and your country depend on it.”

Ramón Murguía addresses graduates at Donnelly’s Commencement Ceremony on May 11 at the Savior Pastoral Center.
On January 24, 2019, the Donnelly College community welcomed the Dragon as the new mascot for the institution.

At the unveiling celebration, student Ian Suarez Chavez talked about the meaning of the dragon, “Dragons have been viewed as a symbol that stands for pride, heroism, boldness, self-confidence, power, excellence, perseverance, nobility, vitality and happiness. The same can be said about the Donnelly family. [Donnelly] has given us our wings, meaning that it has given us the tools we need to reach great heights. To be a Dragon means to think big, to do great things, and above all, to persevere with kindness, love, courage and faith.”

Each year in January the Donnelly community will celebrate Dragon Day.

“The Donnelly mascot is a unique member of our community which will unify our students and staff. The Donnelly Dragon is a way to show our pride in this great institution of faith and learning,” said Lisa Stoothoff, vice president of academic and student affairs and dean of the college.

Go Dragons! 🐉

Full Accreditation Reaffirmed

Donnelly College has been accredited since 1958 and, in February 2019, its accreditation was again reaffirmed by the Higher Learning Commission, an independent corporation that accredits postsecondary educational institutions in 19 states. Donnelly’s next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation will be in 2022-23. 🌟
Author to Visit Campus

Each academic year, one book is selected as a “common read” for the Donnelly community. The selection is integrated into every class during the academic year, and related activities and service-learning opportunities are scheduled. When possible, the author visits campus.

Ken Ilgunas, author of *Trespassing Across America*, this year’s common read selection, will discuss his book and present a talk about the Keystone XL Pipeline and environmental ethics as a cooperative presentation between Donnelly College and American Public Square.

According to Penguin Random House, the publisher of *Trespassing Across America*, the book is “both a travel memoir and a reflection on climate change, filled with colorful characters, harrowing physical trials, and strange encounters with the weather, terrain, and animals of America’s plains. A tribute to the Great Plains and the people who live there, Ilgunas’s memoir grapples with difficult questions about our place in the world: What is our personal responsibility as stewards of the land? As members of a rapidly warming planet? As mere individuals up against something as powerful as the fossil fuel industry? Ultimately, *Trespassing Across America* is a call to embrace the belief that a life lived not half wild is a life only half lived.”

Ilgunas has worked as an elementary school tutor, an Alaskan tour guide, and a backcountry ranger at Gates of the Arctic National Park. He has hitchhiked 10,000 miles across North America and paddled 1,000 miles across Ontario in a birch-bark canoe. Ilgunas has a B.A. from SUNY Buffalo in history and English, and an M.A. in liberal studies from Duke University.

Ilgunas will visit campus on Friday, September 20, 2019. The free public talk and book signing will begin at 2:00 p.m. in Donnelly’s Community Event Center.

Registration is required at [www.donnelly.edu/ken](http://www.donnelly.edu/ken)
Breaking Ground
FOR THE NEXT 70 YEARS
Ground
FOR THE NEXT 70 YEARS

From left: Monsignor Stuart Sweetland, president of Donnelly College, Jose Marquez ‘19, student representative, Most Rev. Joseph Naumann, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, Rachel Cruz, chair of the board of directors, Sr. Genevieve Robinson, OSB, member of the board of directors, Dr. John Romito ’69, chair of the Transformations Campaign and member of the board of directors, Gretchen Meinhardt, 2019-20 faculty senate president.
On May 2, 2019, nearly 200 Donnelly College students, faculty, staff, board members, partners and friends celebrated the groundbreaking for Donnelly’s new academic and administrative building, the cornerstone project of Phase III of the College’s $30 million campus master plan and Transformations Campaign. Slated for a fall 2020 opening, the new three-story, 72,000-sq.-ft. academic building will include state-of-the-art learning environments, updated technology, centralized student support services, an academic resource center and a 60-seat chapel.

The campus master plan, and the Transformations Campaign that makes it possible, are the largest and most comprehensive projects and investments in Donnelly’s history, and perhaps as ambitious as when the college was founded.

It was 70 years ago when Sr. Jerome Keeler of the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica and Bishop George Donnelly of the Diocese of Kansas City in Kansas opened the doors of Donnelly College at 12th and Sandusky. Both then and now, the College has been on a mission to provide exceptional higher education offerings to those who desire a college degree or certificate, regardless of economic circumstances or social background.

When Donnelly was founded, the Diocese and the Benedictine Sisters were motivated to provide educational opportunities out of both a moral imperative and practical...
consideration. The Benedictine Sisters and the Diocese knew that those living in the Kansas City, Kansas community would shape the future of not just Kansas City, Kansas, but the future of the greater metropolitan area. While their primary motivation was the belief that all people deserve the right to pursue education and become the best version of themselves, they also wanted their community to thrive and knew that educated residents would be the key.

Today at Donnelly, those dual motivations continue to inspire our work, and lead us to ask ourselves questions, such as “How can we provide an exceptional higher education to all those who desire one?”; “What kind of Kansas City do we want to live in now, and leave for the next generation?” and “What are our hopes for our shared future?”

For Donnelly, the answers to these questions are rooted in the word “transformation” – transformation of people, places and spirits. To lower barriers for all students including our many low-income and first-generation students, Donnelly has an open admissions policy and provides extensive academic supports and generous scholarship assistance. We also have embraced diversity as the cornerstone of our campus culture and college experience. Wyandotte County is one of the nation’s most diverse counties in the United States, so it is fitting that U.S. News & World Report recognized Donnelly as the Most Diverse College in the

The campus improvements and growth of the endowment will serve as the foundation for the next 70 years of service to our cherished community.
Midwest in both 2017 and 2018.

As one of only two bachelor’s-degree-granting institutions in Wyandotte County, Donnelly brings opportunity to the heart of the urban core and promotes positive change by helping to provide an educated workforce and a new generation of budding entrepreneurs.

At the end of their academic journey with us, the lives of our students and their families are forever changed as they walk across the commencement stage to receive a college diploma. But to take a student from the admissions office to the commencement stage takes more than a singular focus on academics. The Catholic tradition of higher education that is present at Donnelly College focuses on the whole person, serving students’ minds, bodies, hearts and spirits.

Donnelly is skilled at providing a safe space for students to consider their faith in and out of the classroom, to explore life’s greater purpose, to delve into controversial topics, issues facing society today and to think about issues of right and wrong. Tackling these challenges in a supportive and inclusive environment prepares students to become independent thinkers and leaders, able to succeed in any field.

As we look forward to our next 70 years and reflect on the thousands of Donnelly College alumni already working and serving in Kansas City and beyond, we consider how they were empowered through their educational opportunity at Donnelly, and how our shared work will lead to a future that is bright and prosperous for all.
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Visit the Transformations website to see campus master plan details, investor list, project partners and campaign leadership, as well as to learn how you can get involved.

www.campaignfordonnelly.com

Visit the Donnelly College blog for construction updates and photos.

www.donnelly.edu/blog

Phase I: Community Event Center, completed 2013

Phase III: Day 1 of Academic Building construction, May 6, 2019

Phase III: Exterior walls in place, view from 18th and Tauromee, August 2019

Phase III: Existing parking lot removal and retaining wall construction facing 18th and Tauromee, August 2019
Phase III: Framing of exterior walls being prepared for concrete.

Phase III: Parking garage, completed July 2019

Phase III: Existing parking lot removal and retaining wall construction facing 18th and Tauromee, August 2019

Phase II: Marian Hall Grand Re-opening, January 2018

Phase II: Marian Hall Collaborative Study Space, completed 2018

retaining wall construction facing 18th and Tauromee, August 2019
DONNELLY COLLEGE’S
SHINE
13TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION
FOR OUR STUDENTS
AND MISSION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019
5:30-9:00 P.M.
SHERATON KANSAS CITY
AT CROWN CENTER
DONNELLY.EDU/SHINE
From the Chairs

As longtime residents of Kansas City and parishioners in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas for over 20 years, we thought we were aware of all the outstanding private, Catholic higher educational opportunities available for students in our metropolitan area, but we were wrong! Through Donnelly College President Monsignor Stuart Swetland, we got to know Donnelly and the unparalleled opportunity that it provides for all students, including many low-income college students in our region.

We were surprised to learn that four of five Donnelly students are the first in their family to attend college. Without Donnelly, these students, most of whom lack sufficient resources and mentors, may be hard-pressed to find the kind of employment and educational opportunities that are readily available for many others in our community.

SHINE is a great opportunity for guests to learn about the good works of Donnelly College, meet students and alumni and support an organization that contributes so much to the community.

Please join us on October 10 for an inspirational evening while supporting Donnelly’s mission and students.

Sincere thanks for your consideration and support.

Paul and Karen Camarata
In Memoriam: Henry W. Bloch
Remembering His Legacy

Donnelly College warmly remembers longtime friend and generous supporter Henry W. Bloch. A Kansas City entrepreneur and philanthropist committed to providing higher education opportunities for underrepresented students, Bloch’s legacy helped to shape Donnelly College and our students through support from the H&R Block Foundation, the Marion and Henry Bloch Foundation and Bloch’s personal involvement as Honorary Co-Chair of our Transformations Capital Campaign.

“The generosity of Mr. Bloch as a philanthropist was unmatched in Kansas City, and specifically in the field of higher education,” said Monsignor Stuart Swetland, president of Donnelly College.

Perhaps the most transformative impact Bloch had on Donnelly students was his direct involvement with Henry W. Scholars and the wisdom he shared. Bloch always made time to attend the annual luncheon for Bloch Scholar graduates, and he attended student workshops throughout the school year whenever possible. The scholarship program was given as a gift to Bloch from the H&R Block Foundation in 2000 when he retired as chairman of H&R Block. The scholarship, which aligns with Donnelly’s mission of providing accessible education to those that need it the most, provides the opportunity to earn an associate degree from Donnelly College and then transfer to the University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) to earn a bachelor’s degree.

Donnelly was blessed to have Bloch as our 2013 commencement speaker. In that address, Bloch challenged the graduates to “Always reach higher,” and Donnelly presented Bloch with an honorary associate degree to recognize his commitment to our mission.

While his legacy will live on at Donnelly through the Henry W. Bloch Scholars program and many other gifts, initiatives and relationships, Bloch will be dearly missed and will forever hold a special place in the heart of the Donnelly College family.

“I was able to go to college when it seemed impossible for me. I will always be proud to be a Bloch Scholar and I am grateful to Henry W. Bloch for believing in all of us.”

Angelica Perez ’17
Henry W. Bloch Scholar

“I am beyond grateful to be part of the Bloch scholarship family. There are people holding you accountable for your own success. The Bloch Scholarship has given me opportunities that I wouldn’t have otherwise imagined for myself. I am able to dream without any financial barriers.”

Wasiba Hamad ’17
Henry W. Bloch Scholar

Henry W. Bloch Scholars: 2018-19 Snapshot

13 incoming freshman became new Bloch Scholars at Donnelly College
5 Bloch Scholars graduated from Donnelly with associate degrees
12 Donnelly alumni/ Bloch Scholars graduated with bachelor’s degrees from UMKC
FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Several Donnelly students and faculty attended the Global Opportunities Expo, an annual all-day event sponsored by the University of Kansas Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies on March 29 at KU. The Expo introduced students to academic and study abroad programs, careers and initiatives and ideas in the field of global studies.

Paula Console-Șoican, PhD, was invited to serve on the Advisory Board of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of Kansas. She was also selected as a Visiting Regional Humanities Faculty Fellow by the Hall Center for the Humanities at KU for 2019.

Console-Șoican also chaired the session “Film as a Site for Post-colonial Protest,” on July 25 as part of the 2019 MLA International Symposium, in Lisbon, Portugal.

Brianne Ford, PhD, attended the Kansas Partnership Faculty Summit at the University of Kansas School of Nursing on June 19. Dr. Ford also attended the Kansas Nurse Educator Conference at the Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex in Wichita, Kan. on May 30-31.

Melissa Lenos, PhD, is a finalist for Best Screenplay of 2019 through Kansas City Women in Film & Television, a chapter of Women in Film and Television International.

Lenos was also invited by KU’s Kansas African Studies Center to represent Donnelly College with nine members of an innovative humanities lab called CoLLAB: Bridging East Africa’s Health Divides. Lenos participated in a two-week field school in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from July 20-August 2, 2019.

Ana Maradiaga participated in the Kansas – NASA Partnership Event, a higher education workshop at the University of Kansas on August 14.

Gretchen Meinhardt attended the “On Course National Conference” in Orange County, California in April.

Mary Pflanz, PhD, and Yvonne Telep attended the training “Creating a Campus Wide Culture of Coaching” by LifeBound in Denver, Colorado on June 5.

IN MEMORIAM
Remembering those who have recently passed away.

Employees
Sister Mary Blaise Cillessen, OSB†, – former music instructor
Denise Lorraine (Runyan) Johnson – former English as a Second Language instructor

Alumni
Rev. Robert Noel Deming ’51
Carol Jean “Jeanne” Hopfinger ‘55
Mary L. Meeks ’58
Eugene Ashley ’60
Andrea Sue “Susi” Rice (Rucinski) ’71
Kathleen “Kay” Louella Grennan Byard ’83
Brenda Stark ’94
Janice S. Podrebarac (Mahoney)

ALUMNI NOTES
Alverne (Wilson) Bush ’67
celebrated her 49th wedding anniversary to Bennie Bush Jr. on June 13, 2019. Bush is retired, but keeps busy with various community activities including hosting the radio talk show “Jaws of Justice” on KKFI 90.1 FM.

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS WITH US!
Email marketing@donnelly.edu or visit www.donnelly.edu/alumni

DONNELLY COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CHAIRPERSON
Rachel Cruz, CPA

Richard J. Flanigan, Jr. (Former Chair)
M. Jason Banks
Robert R. Bartuneck
Dan Braun ’71
Rita Burnett, DDS
Guadalupe Dean
Andres Dominguez ’79
William H. Dunn, Jr.
Sister Esther Fangman, OSB

Mike Fenske, PE
Luis Garcia
Dan Haake, CPA, PFS
Judy Hemberger
Dr. Dean Hubbard
Karen Jones
Maureen Mahoney
Matt Miller
Sister Mary Teresa Morris, OSB ’74
David Mulvany
Most Rev. Joseph Naumann, DD

Dr. Kathy O’Hara
Lisa Parker
Father Gary Pennings
Joseph Privitera
Joe Reardon
Sister Genevieve Robinson, OSB
Dr. John Romito ’66
Paul Sinclair
Nestor Zuluaga

DONNELLY DIGEST EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor
Craig S. Doty
Director of Marketing & Communications
cdoty@donnelly.edu

Magazine Design
Kathryn Gauer
Graphic Designer
kathryn.gauer@gmail.com

Editorial Assistants
Emily Buckley
Vice President of Advancement
Laura McKnight
Grants Manager
Zayra Soto
Marketing and Digital Media Coordinator

DONNELLY DIGEST EDITORIAL STAFF

Erika Rothacher
Advancement Associate
R. McKay Stangler
Advancement Officer

Additional Assistance
Andrea Ocampo
Lauren Park (cover photo)
UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall semester classes begin
Monday, August 19

Convocation Mass
Thursday, August 22
10:00 a.m.
St. Peter’s Cathedral

Author Ken Ilgunas
Friday, September 20
2:00 p.m.
Donnelly College Event Center

SHINE
Thursday, October 10
5:30 p.m.
Sheraton Kansas City
at Crown Center

At Donnelly College, students experience a small, friendly, diverse and supportive environment. Students are encouraged to discover their passions and follow their dreams by pursuing the academic program that best suits their goals.

Bachelor’s & Associate Degrees
Nursing Programs
Success First

For the second year in a row, Donnelly College has been named the most diverse college in the Midwest by U.S. News & World Report.

For more information, visit donnelly.edu