

DONNELLY COLLEGE

DIGEST

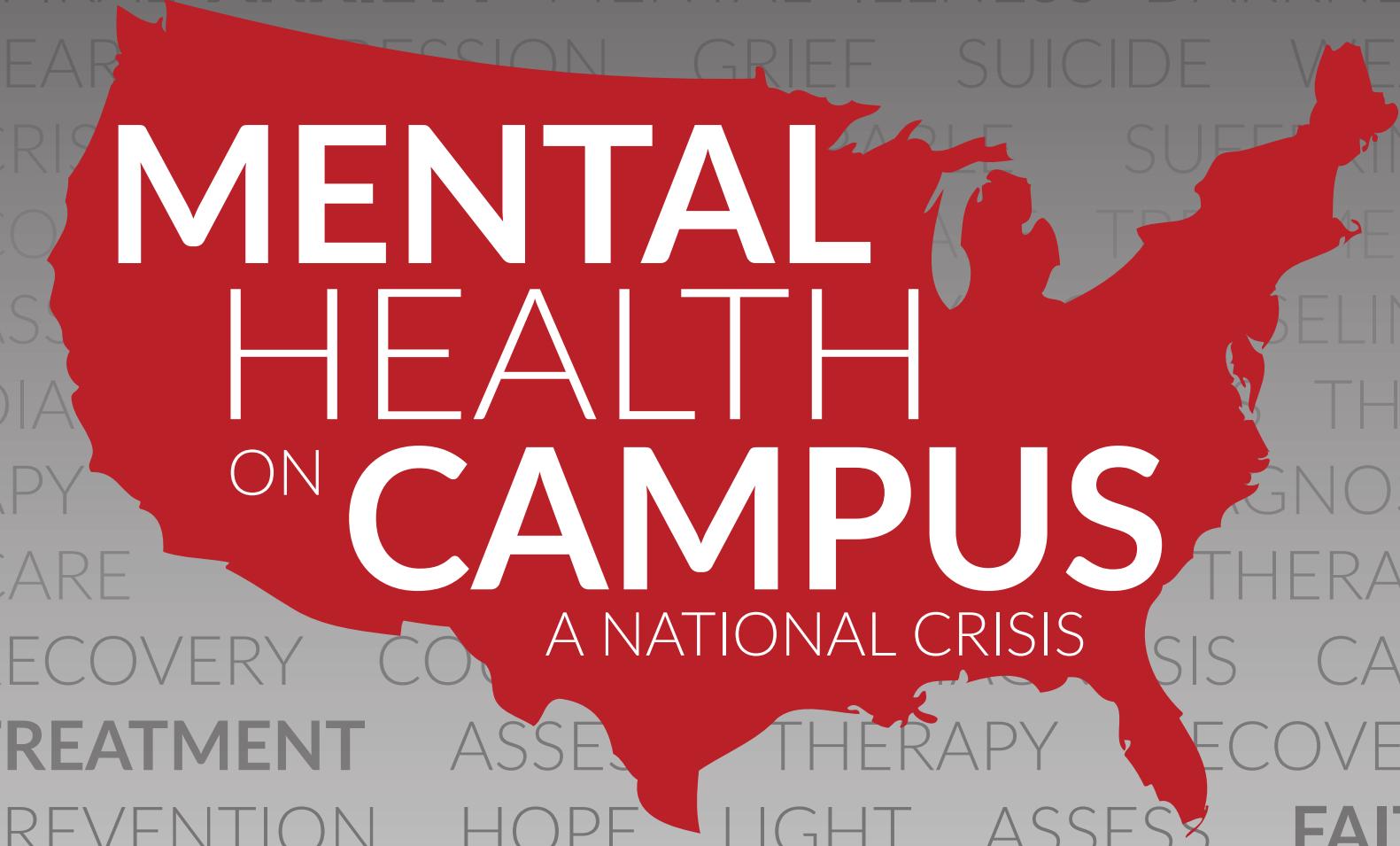
A publication for alumni & friends

SUMMER 2017

Volume 11, Issue 1

MENTAL HEALTH ON CAMPUS

A NATIONAL CRISIS



UNDERSTAND

WELLNESS

COPE HEALING STABILITY JOURNEY BALANCE

VERBALIZE MANAGE DESTIGMATIZE **THRIV**

REVENTION **HOPE** LIGHT ASSESS FAITH

URVIVE STRENGTH UNDERSTAND WELLNESS

COPE HEALING STABILITY JOURNEY BALANCE

LEADER'S MESSAGE



Pedro Leite
Dean of the College

I am honored to write about Donnelly College and our programs. With nearly twenty-five years of experience in higher education, I have had the opportunity to work in large and small institutions; from classroom instruction to leadership positions. However, nothing compares to my experiences at Donnelly College. Our faculty, staff, and students have touched my heart and continue to do so on a regular basis. I feel blessed for the calling to help shape the future of so many wonderful students.

These are exciting times to be at Donnelly College – building renovations, new classrooms, new labs, and the expansion of programs and co-curricular activities, just to name a few. Our programs offer a unique blend of Catholic higher education and rigorous broad-based learning in liberal arts, sciences, and humanities in fields relevant to today's economy and our changing world. Our talented faculty and staff work closely with each individual student and provide a supportive and caring academic environment with the ultimate goal of student success – from admissions to academic advising to academic support and both personal and spiritual counseling.

We are a dynamic and ethnically-diverse college. Our students come from different backgrounds and they possess unique needs, experiences, talents, goals, and aspirations. This diversity creates a rich learning environment in which each student becomes part of a community of learners who are being prepared to function effectively in a global society, improve their quality of life, and contribute to the economic advancement of their communities.

Student success is at the center of what we strive to accomplish on a daily basis. At Donnelly College we wholeheartedly believe that a college degree is much more than the development of a set of skills. Based on Catholic teaching, we provide an opportunity for students from all religious and educational backgrounds to develop as a “whole person” – strong academic background, ethical behavior, community responsibility, and an understanding of the world around them.

Thank you for taking the time to stay connected with Donnelly. Stay tuned in the coming year in future Digest issues or online to see how we continue to grow.

Blessings,

Pedro Leite

Pedro Leite, Dean of the College

From left to right, Donnelly students Mariika Diyali, Ada Sanabria, Isle Ruby Jimenez, Miriam Mendez, Andres Garcia-Lopez and Jesus Valenzuela, join students from Benedictine College for a road-trip to Washington, D.C. for the 2017 March for Life. Photo courtesy of Benedictine College.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COVER STORY

07

Mental Health
on Campus: A
National Crisis

SPOTLIGHTS

11

SHINE 2017

Meet this year's event chairs,
Craig and Karen Gaffney.

14

COMMENCEMENT

Donnelly faculty, staff, students and
families celebrate our 2017 graduates.

16

GATEWAY TO COLLEGE = SUCCESS

The Gateway to College program
provides students who have
dropped out or are at risk of
dropping out of high school with
a structured alternative route
to graduating from high school
while earning college credit.

REGULARS

02 Leader's Message

04 On Campus

18 Donnelly Family

20 Upcoming Events



VIEW THE DIGEST ONLINE:
www.donnelly.edu/digest



The 2017 Sister Mary Faith Schuster Award winners pose together during the *Dime* release party on Thursday, April 27. From left to right: President Monsignor Swetland, Ana Mojica, Brandon Harrison, Anett Amaya, LaCherish Thompson, and Joan and Lawrence ('56) Ward.

ARTS AND LITERARY JOURNAL RELEASE

The release of the fifth issue of *Dime*: the Arts and Literary Journal of Donnelly College, was celebrated by a crowd of more than 50 students and guests on Thursday, April 27.

Dime (pronounced dee-may in Spanish and meaning “tell me”) is comprised of student submissions in fiction, poetry, essays, creative nonfiction and visual art.

The winners of the 2017 Sister Mary Faith Schuster Awards were also announced:

- Nonfiction: “What Now Mr. President?” by Ana Mojica
- Poetry: “Black vs. White” by Brandon Harrison

- Visual Arts: “Brandon Boyd’s Lightning...” by Anett Amaya
- Fiction: Excerpt from “The Plan” by LaCherish Thompson

“This year’s winners are outstanding and my favorite part is that they’re a mix of advanced students and freshmen,” said Melissa Lenos, assistant professor and *Dime* editor. “The content of the issue as a whole is really diverse, too—we have bachelor and associate-level students represented, but also students from our Success First and Gateway programs.”

The Sister Mary Faith Schuster Awards are made possible by generous sponsors, alumnus Lawrence Ward ('56) and his wife Joan Ward.

MARCH FOR LIFE

In early 2017, a group of six Donnelly students traveled to Washington D.C. for the largest pro-life event in the world, March for Life.

The five-day trip began on January 25, as Donnelly students boarded a bus with Benedictine College students. They were all eager to attend the renowned march that promotes the value of human life.

“This trip allowed me to see the pro-life point of view, and the reason people believe

what they believe,” said Andres Garcia, class of 2017.

Participants attended the Mass for Life at the Nativity Catholic Church in Washington D.C., the Rally for Life, and had the opportunity to visit many historical sites in the capital including the White House, the Lincoln Memorial and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO CAREERS

During the spring semester each academic year, students are encouraged to participate in the Donnelly College Career Fair.

From meeting with potential employers to networking with local professionals, the Career Fair on April 6 served as an opportunity for students to enhance their professional presence.

Yvonne Telep, associate director of academic support, organized the Career Fair that connected nearly 70 students with representatives from more than 20 companies and agencies.

“The best thing for me is how generous the employers are with their time,” Telep said. “They will stand and talk with students, even if those students are not really candidates for employment at this time. They want to help students find their way and they are willing to answer questions and really guide students.”



Alyssa Smith, Donnelly student, poses during the annual Career Fair on April 6, 2017.

POET LAUREATE SHARES POETRY WITH STUDENTS

Just days after World Poetry Day, a crowd of more than 70 students, faculty, staff and community members were privileged to hear from Eric McHenry, the 2015-2017 Poet Laureate of Kansas.

As Poet Laureate, McHenry visits schools, libraries and community centers across the state to advocate for poetry and to share his passion with others. During his presentation on campus, McHenry read several original poems, as well as some of his favorites by other authors.

McHenry also acknowledged that poetry is not the most accepted of all art forms in our current society, but encouraged people not to dismiss it.

"People don't always give poetry a chance; however, just because you don't like one

genre of music does not mean you will reject music as a field altogether," he said.

Poetry is an important part of the curriculum at Donnelly, both as a literary art form to be examined and as a tool for self-expression.

"For some reason, it has been ingrained that poetry is for serious writers only," said Lisa Stoothoff, director of Donnelly's Success First program. "I hope that attendees gain an appreciation for the spoken word as an art form."

McHenry's work has been published in numerous books and journals, including the New York Times, Yale Review, Slate and Poetry International.



Eric McHenry, the 2015-2017 Poet Laureate of Kansas, visited campus on Friday, March 24 to talk about his work in poetry and service as Poet Laureate of Kansas.

ACTIVIST AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY VISITS CAMPUS

What started 18 years ago as a class project in college has turned into a lifelong passion for renowned photojournalist and activist Scott Langley, who presented a lecture and exhibit on campus in March.

In the late 1990s, Langley was asked by a professor to use art to explore the death penalty. He chose photography, and began to photograph what happens outside a prison at the very moment when someone is being executed inside.

"Watching the clock from outside the building, and watching those gathered outside, it hit me that I knew the exact moment that someone would die," Langley said during his lecture to students, staff, faculty and community members. "That was the moment I knew I was against the death penalty. No matter what someone does, we all deserve forgiveness."

However, Langley did not become an activist right away. As he learned more about the personal stories of those on death row, and the stories of those that would be

affected by the death of the prisoner, he decided to use his photography to educate others about the issue.

Langley's visit to Donnelly College was one of a series of events and initiatives on campus to help students learn more about the issue of the death penalty, as part of the faculty's year-long focus on exploring the theme of justice throughout the first-year curriculum. Activities also included the reading of "Dead Man Walking" by Helen Prejean and seeing the production of the same title staged by the Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

"It's one thing to read about a topic, but when the visual element is added, the impact is multiplied," said Gretchen Meinhardt, assistant professor. "We're honored to host someone of Scott's caliber at Donnelly, continuing our tradition of lectures by influential people in the United States."



[LEARN MORE AND VIEW LANGLEY'S PHOTOGRAPHS](http://www.deathpenalty.org) at www.deathpenalty.org

DONNELLY HOSTS COMMUNITY FORUM

Donnelly College hosted a community forum for youth on Thursday, Feb. 9 with the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and the Mayor's Task Force.

Nearly 70 students attended the session to get to know the officers and to openly speak their mind about the relationship between police officers and citizens.

"The Kansas City, Kansas Police Department are truly interested in opening dialogue with the community," said Elaine Moore, KCKPD officer. "We want the community to know that they can flag us down, call us, stop us - even if it's not to report a crime."

"Soon after launching the community forums with the broader public, I realized that an important voice was missing from the conversation: the voice of our youth," said Mark Holland, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County & Kansas City, Kansas.



1 Twenty-two students are inducted as new members of the Donnelly College Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Alpha Omega Theta Chapter, on Friday, April 21. This is the largest number of inductees since 2003. 2 Students from the Painting I class hang up their final painting projects in the first floor hall. 3 Jessica Diaz (left) and Christian Vallejo-Hernandez are crowned queen and king of the Donnelly Formal on Thursday, April 20. 4 Ten Donnelly students accompanied by Carol Marinovich, adjunct professor, attend the State of the Government Address by Mayor Mark Holland on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at the Jack Reardon Civic Center. 5 Attendees experience more than 10 different cultures during the Multicultural Festival on Thursday, April 27. 6 Brother Martin Navarro (left) and Jessica Diaz battle in a game of jousting during the Soccer Week spring barbecue on Thursday, April 27.



MENTAL HEALTH ON CAMPUS

A NATIONAL CRISIS

GARRETT LEE SMITH WAS THE SON OF FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR,
GORDON SMITH AND HIS WIFE SHARON. AS DEVOUT MORMONS, WELL

CONNECTED IN THE COMMUNITY, WITH ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE AND
RESOURCES, IT WAS A SHOCK FOR GARRETT'S PARENTS TO LEARN THAT THEIR
SON SAID HE HAD BEEN SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION SINCE THE AGE OF 10.
HAVING BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH DYSLEXIA AND OTHER LEARNING DISABILITIES
FROM A YOUNG AGE, GARRETT'S ROUTE TO ADULTHOOD WAS NOT EASY.

After high school graduation, Garrett embarked on a two-year mission to England where his family reported that his mental state was generally positive, but that it rapidly deteriorated when Garrett returned to the United States to attend college in Utah. During his time in college, Garrett began to see a psychiatrist and take antidepressants hoping to stabilize, but by September 2003, he had stopped answering the phone and interacting with friends and family. One evening, Garrett fed his dog, wrote a note to his parents, unlocked the door and swallowed a large dose of pills after placing a noose around his neck. A friend found his body the next afternoon.

Following Garrett's suicide, Gordon and Sharon Smith endured the unspeakable pain that no parent should experience, and through it, they were faced with a choice: would they retreat into their own grief or would they use their pain to help others and raise awareness?

"I didn't volunteer to become a champion of this issue, but it arose out of the personal experience of being a parent who lost a child to mental illness and suicide," said Gordon Smith, during the introduction of the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act on the Senate floor 13 years ago. The Act, which is now a federally-funded suicide prevention program, was signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 21, 2004.

Today, the act provides funding for mental health care, counseling services and suicide prevention programming on college campuses. Grants are distributed through Substance Abuse and Mental Health

"Many of us forget most of the situations [college students] will be facing are new to them; they are bombarded with situations and experiences they have never faced before and are not sure how to deal with them. All of this results in stress."

Susan Lechliter, director of counseling center

Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Donnelly College received one of these grants in 2013 to expand campus counseling services with the college's first full-time licensed professional counselor.

A NATIONAL CRISIS

Unfortunately, Garrett Smith's story is not uncommon. While most cases of mental illness do not result in suicide, his story highlights an issue that is prevalent on college campuses nationally. In a 2014

article published by Psychology Today, the author wrote, "it is neither an exaggeration nor is it alarmist to claim that there is a mental health care crisis facing America's college students." Donnelly College students are not exempt from this crisis; in fact many are more at-risk given their demographics.

Susan Lechliter, TLPC, director of counseling center at Donnelly College, says that college students have a tremendous amount of stress to juggle.

"They are not only attempting to get an education but at the same time they are learning about the world of work, relationships, and earning a living," she said. "Many of us forget most of the situations they will be facing are new to them; they are bombarded with situations and experiences they have never faced before and are not sure how to deal with them. All of this results in stress."

ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AT DONNELLY

College students on campuses across the country, including Donnelly, seek assistance and referrals for a variety of mental health issues, including depression, bipolar and mood disorders, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, developmental disabilities, domestic and family violence, obsessive compulsive disorder, generalized

MENTAL HEALTH ON CAMPUS NATIONWIDE

1 in 3
students reported prolonged periods of depression¹



1 in 4
students reported having suicidal thoughts or feelings²

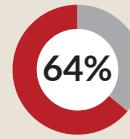


Yet, just **7%** of parents (approx. 1 in 14) reported their college student(s) as experiencing mental health issues³

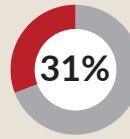
Suicide is the 2nd leading cause
of death for individuals age 15-34⁷



of all lifetime mental health conditions begin by age 24⁴

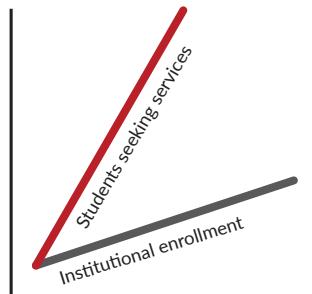


of young adults who are no longer in college stopped attending because of a mental health-related reason⁵



of college students have felt so depressed in the past year that they had difficulty functioning⁶

Nationally, on college campuses, the demand for counseling services has risen **five times faster** than enrollment growth⁸



anxiety disorder, substance-related and addictive disorders, trauma, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Garrett came from a family of financial means. His parents were well connected to resources and medical professionals. While some Donnelly students come from similar circumstances, most do not. Many Donnelly students come from very low-income and/or immigrant families where mental health issues are often exacerbated by housing and food insecurity, cultural challenges, childcare and transportation problems, relationship/family problems and issues of trauma, grief and loss. On top of that, many of our students have been exposed to substance abuse, domestic violence, divorce and other adverse childhood experiences. Some have family members that have been incarcerated and many have been victims of physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

To address our students' unique needs, Donnelly College's Counseling Center was established in 2010 with two-year funding from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. With those funds, Donnelly hired a part-time licensed professional counselor. Initial program goals included 1) assessing Donnelly student mental health needs, 2) improving campus-wide understanding of mental illnesses, symptoms and benefits of treatment, 3) increasing help-seeking behaviors for students with mental health needs and 4) improving coping skills for those living with mental illness.

In 2013, the three-year grant from SAMHSA allowed Donnelly to grow the LPC position to full-time and to support a part-time intern. Under

the SAMHSA grant, the Counseling Center implemented a general wellness and suicide prevention initiative called "Wellness for Life" designed to 1) create a climate of wellness for all students, 2) train "gatekeeper" faculty and staff, as well as peer helpers, to identify and refer students with mental health problems, and 3) strengthen and formalize the College's networking infrastructure with area treatment and recovery support services, as well as other agencies/institutions dealing with mental health issues.

In 2016, the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City provided funding to sustain our general wellness and suicide prevention services as well as to expand clinical mental health and social work referral services to better meet students' mental health and social service needs. With the help of two years of funding from the HCF, the counseling center has continued efforts to reduce stigma surrounding mental health issues as well as to expand general wellness programming and provide Donnelly students with crisis and drop-in counseling, social service referrals and ongoing clinical mental health treatment.

In addition to the services offered by the counseling center, as a faith-based institution with an active campus ministry, Donnelly also encourages students to seek assistance with their spiritual needs - which can play a role in their overall mental health. Regardless of what assistance Donnelly students choose to receive, our goal remains the same—to help each student on their journey to become the best version of themselves.

SUSAN LECHLITER, MS, TLPC
DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING CENTER

Tell us about your educational preparation.

I earned a Master's in Counseling Psychology from Avila University, a Master's in Human Resources and a Master's in Business Administration from Ottawa University.

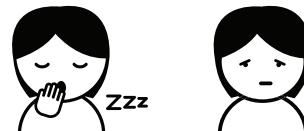
What is your professional background?

I have taught at Donnelly for several years and fell in love with the culture. Everyone here is passionate about providing the best education and support services possible to the students so I knew this was where I wanted to be. I also worked for the Missouri Division of Youth Services for 14 years.

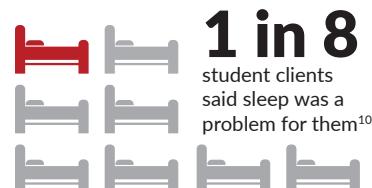
What are your goals as the new director?

Very simply I want to help Donnelly to be the best that it can be. Toward that end I hope to continue the work to reduce the stigma regarding mental health and to bring a healthy dose of positivity anywhere I can.

SLEEP DEPRIVATION



Sleep deprivation can mimic the symptoms of depression.⁹



Sources: 1-6 National Alliance on Mental Illness, 7 Centers for Disease Control, 8-10 Center for Collegiate Mental Health at Penn State University

Please join us for

SHINE

DONNELLY COLLEGE'S 11TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Thursday

9.28.17

5:30-9 p.m.

SHERATON KANSAS CITY
AT CROWN CENTER

www.donnelly.edu/shine

MEET 2017 SHINE CHAIRS, CRAIG AND KAREN GAFFNEY



Karen and Craig Gaffney

Craig and Karen just celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary. They met at their 10-year Bishop Ward High School class reunion in June 1982 and married in July 1983. Karen had two children from her first marriage, Bridget and Matt, and Craig had one child, Renee, from his first marriage. Today, Craig and Karen live near Bonner Springs and are the proud grandparents of eight beautiful grandchildren. Craig has been in the banking industry for more than 40 years and has been with Country Club Bank for more than 13 years, currently serving as Regional President for Wyandotte and Western Johnson County. Karen has been a homemaker since retiring from AT&T a number of years ago.

Craig and Karen Gaffney discuss why they are involved with SHINE and Donnelly College.

Donnelly College (DC): How did you get involved with Donnelly?

Craig and Karen (C&K): As natives of Wyandotte County, and proud "Original Dottes," we see Donnelly as part of the fabric of this community, and in particular, our Catholic faith. In addition, Craig's late brother Larry was a Donnelly College alum. Growing up, the Gaffney family lived next door to the Donnelly campus when it bordered Sandusky Avenue and Grandview Boulevard, and so Donnelly College is one that has literally in some way been a part of most of our lives. Additionally, Craig has known the last four presidents of Donnelly College through his civic and community involvement. Currently, Craig serves with Donnelly President Monsignor Swetland on the Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce Board and he serves on the Donnelly College Finance Committee.

DC: How does your faith lead you to want to be involved with Donnelly?

C&K: We have been lifelong Catholics with both of us attending Catholic school at Christ the King, St. Peter's Cathedral and Bishop Ward High School. Craig received his undergraduate and MBA from Rockhurst University, and two of our three children were educated in Catholic elementary and high schools. We feel like our Catholic education grounded us in our faith. When you walk through the halls at Donnelly College its Catholic identity is quite evident. Additionally, having Monsignor Swetland leading Donnelly as its President gives us a strong sense for how important the Catholic faith is in providing guidance and support to the students who attend Donnelly.

DC: What makes Donnelly College special?

C&K: With more than 30 countries represented, the Donnelly College student population is a microcosm of the global world we live in and that our businesses operate in. Additionally, as the first college graduate in his family, Craig related to the more than 80% of Donnelly's students who are first-generation college students. By working to educate first-generation college students in the urban core, Donnelly is helping students change the socio-economic possibilities for their families and their future, and making it possible for their students to take on key employment roles at companies and organizations across metropolitan Kansas City. Finally, when you consider that Donnelly's annual tuition of approx. \$7,000 is one of the lowest for Catholic colleges across the United States, and very competitively priced in comparison to local public higher education institutions, we believe that helping support a Donnelly College student pursue their degree provides a great return on investment.

DC: How can people attend or support SHINE?

C&K: We hope individuals and organizations will consider both donating a gift of support and attending SHINE by purchasing a table or tickets. You can learn more at donnelly.edu/shine or call the advancement office at 913-621-8744.

DC: What can attendees expect at SHINE?

C&K: Our 11th annual SHINE event will provide a great opportunity for guests to meet students and hear their inspiring stories. This year we are also pleased to induct three new members into our Alumni Hall of Fame during the SHINE program.



CHOOSE DONNELLY

and discover your potential.



BACHELOR'S & ASSOCIATE DEGREES | NURSING PROGRAMS



DONNELLY COLLEGE
608 N. 18th St., Kansas City, KS 66102 | donnelly.edu | (913) 621-8700

WHY CHOOSE DONNELLY?

Enjoy a small campus experience.

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.

Spend less.

Many of our students receive scholarships and financial assistance, and many can leave Donnelly with little or no student loan debt. Our scholarships can be need or merit-based, or for specific programs like 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.



SUCCESS FIRST | GATEWAY TO COLLEGE

DO YOU KNOW ANY POTENTIAL STUDENTS?

Contact Admissions today!

(913) 621-8700

DONNELLY'S 67TH COMMENCEMENT HONORS THE CLASS OF 2017

Donnelly's 2017 graduates were recognized on Saturday, May 13 during Donnelly College's 67th Commencement ceremony at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

"Since 1949, Donnelly has continued a proud tradition of providing outstanding higher education opportunities in the heart of Kansas City, Kansas, to outstanding students," said Pedro Leite, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs and Dean of Donnelly College.

This year, there were 65 Donnelly College students who successfully completed studies for Gateway to College, Practical Nursing, Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Science, Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees or certificates.

Of the 65 Donnelly graduates, 50 were first-generation college students.

"Being a first-generation college student means a lot for me and for my family as well," said Andres Garcia, student commencement speaker who earned an Associate of Arts degree. "For my family, it's a great honor to

have someone graduate from college. But it does not stop here. We must keep going and never give up." Garcia will attend Rockhurst University to pursue a bachelor's degree.

During his commencement speech, Donnelly graduate Diego Payan, said his journey at Donnelly College has been all about opportunity.

"It was here where I learned one of the most valuable lessons of my life, that, limitations are not limitations," he said. "Limitations are opportunities. These are opportunities to grow, opportunities to evolve, opportunities to keep moving—to keep pushing forward." Payan earned an a Bachelor of Arts in Information Systems in 2015 and a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership in 2016.

Antonio Soave, former Kansas Secretary of Commerce gave the commencement address. Soave talked about looking to God for guidance in life and relying on the Spirit to lead the way.

"I guarantee you, there are no coincidences in the world," he said. "God did not set it up that way. It is no mistake that you are

here today. Like you, most of you, I did not have the opportunity to have money handed down. I remember days and times that I could barely understand how I was going to pay for college. And like you, I endured a lot of suffering. But none of it is unnoticed by the good Lord."



Frida Torres, left, shakes hands with President Monsignor Stuart Swetland, right, during Commencement on Saturday, May 13 at the Savior Pastoral Center.



"Limitations are not limitations. Limitations are opportunities... opportunities to grow, opportunities to evolve, opportunities to keep moving—to keep pushing forward."

Diego Payan, 2017 student commencement speaker

Donnelly College Commencement Ceremony on May 13 at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

COMMENCEMENT AT LANSING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

The life circumstances of a student can greatly impact his or her ability to be successful in college. On May 22, Donnelly College hosted a special graduation ceremony for three students who completed the requirements for an associate degree, in what many would consider a challenging environment with less than ideal circumstances to pursue college.

Since 2001, Donnelly has offered courses toward an associate degree at a satellite campus located at the Lansing Correctional Facility in Lansing, Kansas. During these 16 years, nearly 500 inmate-students have taken courses and 23 have earned their associate degrees.

Graduate Sam H., who was transferred to another facility shortly before the ceremony, prepared a statement to be read during graduation by Donnelly College President, Monsignor Stuart Swetland: "I look back on my life and see who I used to be, the complete opposite of who I feel I have become. To see this change is only a recent realization for me. One that leaves me in awe of the capacity of humanity to grow out of the pain and suffering too many must endure to become something wonderful. Education for me has been a life-altering factor, the motivation to become something more than my past would lead you to think."

Sam H. also thanked Donnelly faculty for helping him to see education as the only path to the future he wants to experience. "As for the Donnelly faculty, they have served not only as teachers, but also as mentors for me and pillars of positive change at Lansing. The dedication and care they have shown stand among the greatest acts humans can aspire to do. To come into a prison to teach and feel the suffering that can occur in this place but still remain wholesome and passionate to help is a resolve I don't know I would possess. No words that I can bring to bear will truly do them justice for the service



Monsignor Stuart Swetland, president of Donnelly College, addresses three graduates during a special graduation ceremony on Monday, May 22 at Lansing Correctional Facility for having successfully completed the requirements for an associate degree.

and humanitarian works they have shown here. I thank them for all they have done and will continue to do. They are truly changing lives, not only for inmates, but for the families and communities that will one day accept them back into society."

"As for the Donnelly faculty, they have served not only as teachers, but also as mentors for me and pillars of positive change at Lansing. The dedication and care they have shown stand among the greatest acts humans can aspire to do."

Sam H. ('17), Lansing Graduate

Extending Donnelly's mission of serving those most under-served by providing an exceptional education in prison is just one goal of the program. Impacting recidivism through education is another. Research

shows that earning a college degree is an effective tool to lower recidivism and to prevent individuals from returning to a life of crime after their release. Lower recidivism produces safer and healthier communities, and saves countless taxpayer dollars.

Lansing Correctional Facility and the Kansas Department of Corrections support Donnelly's efforts because they also recognize the correlation between education and reduced recidivism.

Lansing Warden Sam Cline also attended the ceremony and shared some words with the graduates.

"We want to acknowledge the accomplishments you've made," he said. "You men are extraordinary in that you have probably seen a lot of the world already and you have traveled many miles to get to this point. But guess what? There are many miles to go, and you will be enriched because of what you have learned and by the hard work you have put into your studies. We are very proud of you."

GATEWAY TO COLLEGE = SUCCESS

The phrase “it takes a village” rings true when it comes to educating the young people in our communities. With the goal of graduation from a public high school in mind, not only does it take support from the schools, families and public tax dollars, sometimes it takes outside organizations to help students reach graduation.

While many students find success in traditional high schools in districts such as Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, there are students who struggle in those settings. Due to circumstances in the school, or more often, circumstances in their lives outside of school, occasionally students leave high school prior to graduation.

Many times the students that leave high school still desire to complete their education. This is where Donnelly College becomes part of “the village” by participating in a unique partnership that helps students graduate and hopefully enroll in college.

In 2000, the Gateway to College National Network was founded in Portland, Oregon

with a mission to provide opportunities for out-of-school youth to earn a high school diploma while simultaneously gaining college credits. Today, Gateway to College has programs operating at 40 colleges in 20 states across the U.S.

Many students who do not thrive in a traditional high school setting find Gateway to College on Donnelly's campus to be much more conducive to their needs.

In August 2013, Donnelly College joined the ranks of colleges hosting a Gateway to College program, and became the first private, faith-based institution to do so. The goal of Donnelly’s Gateway program is to find students that have either dropped out or are at risk of dropping out of high school in the Kansas City, Kansas Public School District and provide them with a structured alternative route to graduating from high

school, while at the same time earning college credit.

The program has undoubtedly been a success. In May 2017, Gateway to College at Donnelly College graduated eight students from the program – the largest graduating class to date. By May 2018, the program estimates there will be 15-20 additional graduates with that number growing each year. All of this year’s graduates had earned some college credit by the time they received their diplomas, but many of Donnelly’s Gateway to College students earn 20 or more college credits by the time they graduate the program.

Donnelly’s Gateway program partners with the Gateway to College National Network, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools, Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) and various community-based organizations to promote student success.

Success for Gateway students has only occurred because each partner has remained committed to the success of the program and the success of the students.

One such student is Morgan Thoel. During his time in the Gateway to College program, he evolved from a self-described “student who didn’t value education,” to a high school graduate with 20 college credits and a bright future ahead.

“I had no intentions of completing my high school education and had no thoughts of myself making it further than that,” he said.

This changed for Thoel when his sister Taylor, a Donnelly student at the time, told him about Gateway to College.

“My life before Gateway to College was not heading in the right path; I was almost never at school and I wasn’t passing,” Thoel said.

“I do not believe there’s one path for everybody,” said Juan Rangel, director of Gateway to College at Donnelly College. “What Gateway has been able to provide our students at Donnelly is an alternative – it’s an alternative that fits them. What we find is that these students have experienced pregnancy, or have been incarcerated, their parents, family (or) somebody has passed away, or maybe an illness has occurred to them or someone in their family, (causing them to) have to sit out of school for those reasons,” Rangel said.

The Gateway to College program is highly-structured with attentive staff, wraparound support services and a different level of expectations that come from being on a

college campus. Many students that do not thrive in a traditional high school setting find Gateway to College on Donnelly’s campus to be much more conducive to their needs.

Former Gateway student Yvonne Martinez said, “You’re around other adults which kind of makes you want to be an adult. And I feel like it’s really important because you see all these students here in college and you’re like, ‘Wow, one day I’m going to be like that too.’ I’m living the college life right now as a high school student.”

“What we are doing is preparing these students to be better constituents in their community – a base for what the future of this community is going to be,” Rangel said.

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

Local and national organizations work together to provide opportunities for out-of-school youth to earn a high school diploma while simultaneously gaining college credits.



LEAVING A LEGACY: FRANCES SANDERS



Frances Sanders retired from Donnelly College in late 2016 after a 23-year tenure that touched all areas of the college and the lives of thousands of students. Frances began her career with Donnelly in 1993 as the director of evening and weekend programs and assessment coordinator. In 1997, Frances was appointed Dean of Donnelly College, the first dean who was not a Benedictine nun.

a Benedictine nun. When outgoing Dean, Sister Paula Howard was asked about not being replaced by another nun, she noted that Frances "believes in and is dedicated to the mission of Donnelly, and that's the main thing."

Frances remained devoted to Donnelly's mission while holding several important leadership positions including academic dean, dean of transfer/liberal arts and sciences and vice president of institutional effectiveness. Frances was instrumental in helping Donnelly receive many private and governmental grants which totaled more than \$10 million. She also chaired multiple academic, administrative and assessment committees.

Frances left a legacy in many ways. In 2011 she also established the Steven J. Sanders Memorial Scholarship Fund, an endowed scholarship to support future students in honor of her late husband.

Former Donnelly College President Ken Gibson remembers Frances fondly. "I always thought of Frances as hardworking, and totally dedicated to Donnelly, but most of all what I remember, and what impressed me most, was her deep love for the students at Donnelly," he said. "She knew the students by name and cared about their lives. To me that is the heart and soul of Donnelly College and Frances lived that mission to the hilt."

During the 2017 commencement exercises, President Monsignor Swetland honored Frances with the title of Dean Emeritus for her service. Swetland later shared, "Among her many other positions and services, all vital to the mission of the College, Frances played an invaluable role at Donnelly College—that of 'institutional memory.' She knows our history and our mission. Frances was a key advisor to me who understood our values and cared deeply for the well-being of the College and each and every one of the students, faculty and staff. In this she embodied Donnelly's mission to make 'the love of God tangible in our world.'"

DONNELLY SIGNS TRANSFER AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

Donnelly College signed two unique transfer agreements with Emporia State University and Avila University in recent months.

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY'S TEACHERS COLLEGE

Signed Friday, Feb. 10, this transfer agreement enables a student to earn a Bachelor of Science in Education - Elementary Education degree through two years of full-time study at Donnelly College and two years of full-time study at Emporia State University at their Kansas City campus in Johnson County.

"It is an awesome calling to work with people who are interested in becoming teachers," said Dr. Ken Weaver, dean of Emporia State University's Teachers College. "The opportunity that we have to enter in this partnership is an opportunity that is really the best of both worlds. We have a 153-year commitment to preparing teachers and we work hard at it every day."



Monsignor Stuart Swetland (left), president of Donnelly College, signs transfer agreements with Dr. Ken Weaver (above right), dean of Emporia State University's Teachers College, and Dr. Ron Sleptiza (below right), president of Avila University.



AVILA UNIVERSITY

The transfer agreement, signed Tuesday, March 28, enables Donnelly students who have a 3.0 GPA to be guaranteed a \$13,000 annual scholarship at Avila University - covering nearly half the cost of tuition.

"You'll find that, like Donnelly, the classes (at Avila) are small, where faculty know you and know how you learn, and adapt the learning to be responsive to you," said Dr. Ron Sleptiza, president of Avila University. "We know it will be a place that will engage you, because we emphasize the right relationships and will engage you not just in your studies, but (also) in the community - to learn to make a difference in the world."

DONNELLY FAMILY

SISTERS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF MONASTIC PROFESSION

On June 18, 1967, four young women celebrated their first profession into religious order. On Sunday, July 30, the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica celebrated their Golden Jubilee with these sisters at the St. Scholastica Chapel at the Mount.

Congratulations to Sister Sharon Hamsa, Sister



Sister Sharon Hamsa



Sister Anne Shepard

Anne Shepard, Sister Rita Killackey and Sister Rose Marie Stallbaumer, on their commitment as Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas.

We are especially grateful for Sister Anne, Sister Rita and Sister Sharon who have worked with Donnelly College for many of those years.



Sister Rita Killackey



Sister Rose Marie Stallbaumer

DONNELLY COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

CHAIRPERSON

Richard J. Flanigan, Jr.

Dan Haake, CPA, PFS (*Former Chair*)
M. Jason Banks
Robert R. Bartunek
Dr. Kathleen Boyle Dalen
Dan Braun ('71)
Rita Burnett, DDS
Rachel Cruz, CPA
Andres Dominguez ('79)
William H. Dunn, Jr.
Sister Esther Fangman, OSB
Mike Fenske, PE
Dr. Bernard Franklin
Karen Jones
Beto Lopez
Matt Miller
Most Rev. Joseph Naumann, DD
Dr. Kathy O'Hara
Jack Oval
Lisa Parker
Father Gary Pennings
Maria Porta
Joseph Privitera
Joe Reardon
Sister Genevieve Robinson, OSB
Dr. John Romito ('66)
Alfonso Zarate
Nestor Zuluaga

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Co-Editor

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

Co-Editor

Andrea Lopez
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
alopez@donnelly.edu

Magazine Design

Kathryn Gauer
Graphic Designer
kathryn.gauer@gmail.com

Editorial Assistants

Roger Berg
Constituent Relations
rberg@donnelly.edu

Emily Buckley
Vice President of Advancement
ebuckley@donnelly.edu

Laura McKnight
Grants Manager
lmcknight@donnelly.edu

Ana Valdez
Chair, Business and Technology Depts.
avaldez@donnelly.edu

DONNELLY COLLEGE DIGEST

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

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

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering those who have recently passed away.

ALUMNI AND FORMER BOARD

Susan Vela Prucka ('87) died January 31, 2017 at the age of 64.

Ralph Layton Eddins ('74) died February 7, 2017 at the age of 82.

Judith Mulik ('66) died February 25, 2017 at the age of 71.

Ronald Hudson Pflumm ('56) died March 9, 2017 at the age of 80.

Gregory Novak ('78) died March 17, 2017 at the age of 69.

Gary Grable ('64 and former Board Chair) died May 17, 2017 at the age of 69.

Thomas "Bomber" Cigich, attended Donnelly in 1968, died June 10, 2017 at the age of 66.

Peter J. "Pete" Quiroga ('59) died July 3, 2017 at the age of 80.

Gerard Meiners (former Board member) died July 20, 2017 at the age of 78.

HONORING SISTER ANNE SHEPARD FOR HER SERVICE AT DONNELLY AND BEYOND

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.

Sister Anne Shepard, former Donnelly College board member and former prioress of Mount St. Scholastica, was the recipient of this year's Donnelly College Delta Award.

"The Benedictine Sisters are so proud to have founded this school and stay with you all of these years," Sister Anne said during the 2017 Donnelly College Commencement ceremony. "I promise you we will do two things in promoting the mission of Donnelly—we will do everything we can to get students here and we promise you, this generation, as sisters, that we will struggle and fight for fair immigration for everybody in the United States."

Sister Anne joined the Benedictine Sisters at Mount St. Scholastica in 1967. She holds degrees from Mount St. Scholastica College, Marygrove College and Teachers College, and Columbia University.



DONNELLY COLLEGE

608 North 18th Street
Kansas City, KS 66102
(913) 621-8700
www.donnelly.edu

CONNECT WITH DONNELLY



ON YOUR FAVORITE NETWORK



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Twenty-five Donnelly College Practical Nursing students recite the traditional Florence Nightingale pledge during their pinning ceremony on Saturday, May 13 at the Savior Pastoral Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

8.19.17	Welcome Day	9.14.17	Convocation Mass
8.21 - 8.25.17	Welcome Week	9.20.17	Community Flu Shot Clinic
8.21.17	Fall Semester Begins	9.28.17	Guest Speaker: Aaron Barnhart from the Kansas Humanities Council
8.24.17	Guest Speaker: Richie Contartesi	9.28.17	SHINE 2017 (Register at donnelly.edu/shine)