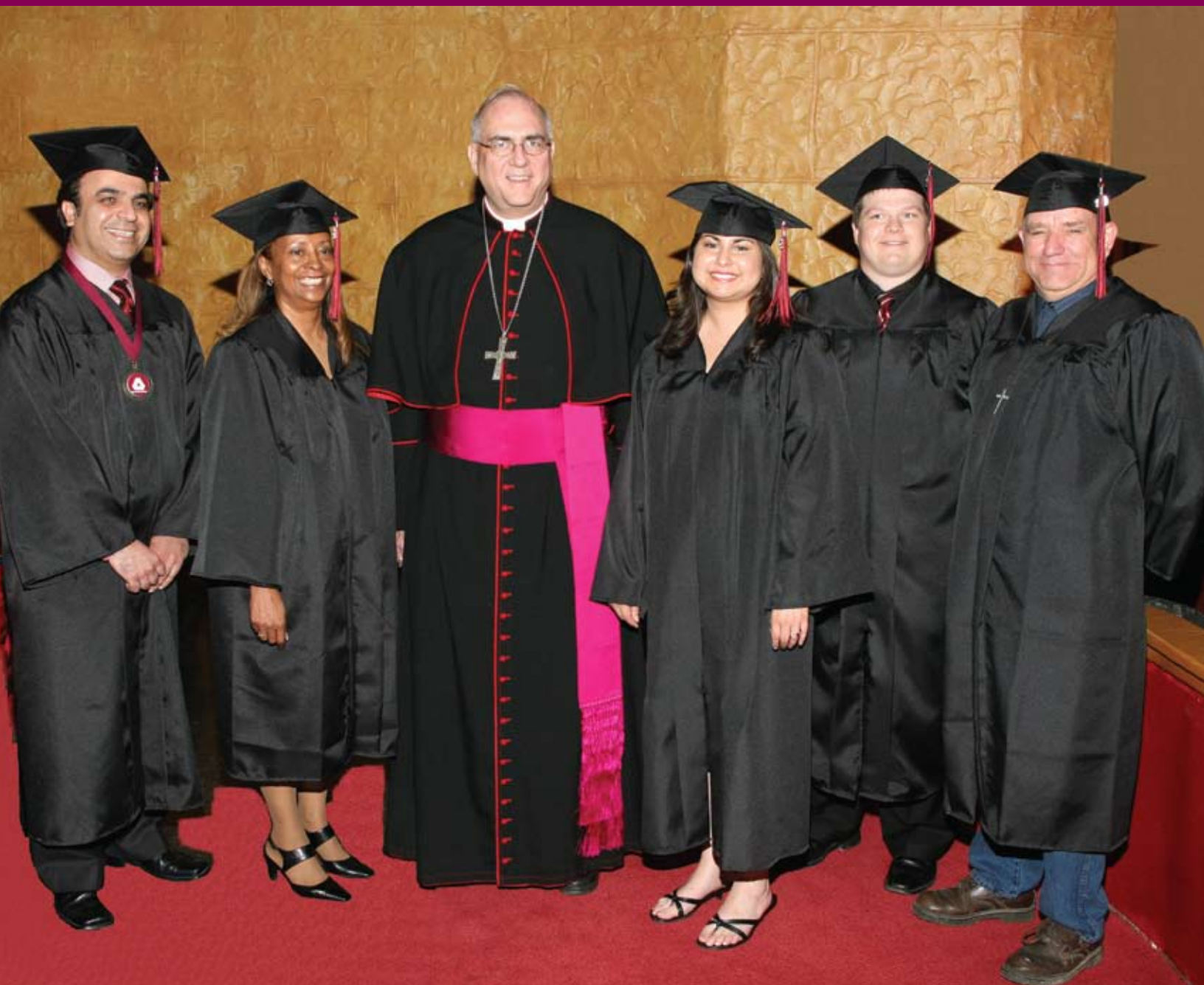


DONNELLY
COLLEGE

Digest

SUMMER
2008

a publication for Donnelly College alumni and friends



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Dr. John P. Murry
President Emeritus

Dr. Murry served as
president of Donnelly
College from 1987-1998.

*“During those
years some eighty
Benedictine Sisters
contributed more
than \$4,000,000
of services to
Donnelly.”*

The Road Less Traveled

“It poured rain in the morning during prayers and chores but we prayed that it would clear up before 8:00. Sure enough it did. After Mass I sent Sister Elaine over to see if it had rained in the school. She telephoned back that there was water in the library, girls’ lavatory and boys’ lavatory. We hurried over to wipe it up before the students arrived.”

These are the words Sister Jerome Keeler wrote in her diary the evening of September 12, 1949, describing opening day of the new Donnelly College, her dream that became a reality that morning. It was an improbable beginning for an improbable mission. Sister Jerome had convinced then Bishop George Donnelly that Kansas City, Kansas needed an urban community college to provide a higher education “especially for those that might not otherwise be served.” That unique mission of Donnelly remains the same today.

As a former president of Donnelly, I am personally aware of how much over almost 60 years the Benedictine Sisters influenced the lives of thousands of students who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to continue their education beyond high school. During those years some eighty Benedictine Sisters contributed more than \$4,000,000 of services to Donnelly. It is because of my deep personal admiration for the Benedictine Sisters and their extraordinary contribution to the education of young people that I feel privileged to serve as chairman of the Donnelly College Scholarship Dinner to be held on September 6 in the Sisters’ honor.

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to establish a scholarship fund for Donnelly students in the name of the Benedictine Sisters. As a long time good friend of the Sisters and of Donnelly, Bill Dunn Sr. has already pledged a lead matching gift of \$50,000 from J.E. Dunn Construction Company. We now need help to match that generous gift.

The theme for the dinner event is taken from the last two lines of the classic poem by Robert Frost. That stormy September morning long ago, Sister Jerome and a cohort of Benedictine Sisters started down a road “less traveled by.” And now we can all see “that has made all the difference” to the lives of thousands.

We expect as many as 40 Benedictine Sisters to be present at the Scholarship Dinner. Many will be there celebrating their own direct contribution to Donnelly as teachers and administrators. Others will be there representing the much loved and courageous Sisters who in earlier years so greatly enriched Donnelly’s history, such as Sisters Jerome, Mary Faith Schuster, Mary Richard Pendergast, Agnes Claire Schroll, Damien Boeding, Virginia Minton and many others. We hope the many friends of Donnelly and of the Sisters will come the evening of September 6 to celebrate with those present. Details about the event appear on page 10 in this issue of the Digest.

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Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann poses with the first five Donnelly baccalaureate graduates (left to right): Masoud Alipour, Marva Dace, Gina Loya, Michael Dressler, and Walter Staley. (See story on page 5).

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Celebrating diversity



Angel Talamantes and Evelia Siguenza, ESL students from Mexico, enjoy a dance during the Multi-cultural Fair last April. The event is held each year to learn about and celebrate the history and culture of more than 30 countries around the world represented in our English as a Second Language program. ESL students bring ethnic foods from their countries to share with other students and visitors.

2008 Graduates urged 'to make God's love visible'

"No matter what role you will fulfill in society or what career you will have, you will be richer and hopefully, more open to the world around us because you have had exposure to truth and beauty, to sociology, history and theology."

On May 15, 50 graduates received their degrees at Screenland Granada Theatre in Kansas City, Ks. Of the fifty, 45 achieved associate degrees and 5 earned bachelor's degrees.

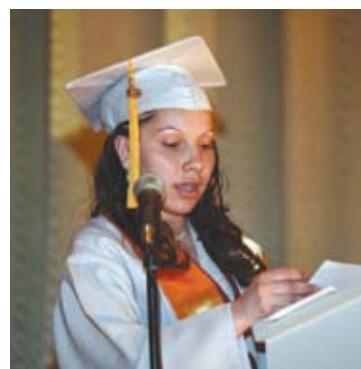
Dr. Kevin Kelley, interim president, presented the diplomas and George Breidenthal, Chair-elect of the Board of Trustees, introduced the Commencement speaker, Sr. Carol Ann Petersen. Sr. Anne Shepard, prioress of Mount St. Scholastica and Donnelly board member, delivered the opening prayer, and Archbishop Joseph Naumann gave the closing benediction.

Commencement speaker Sister Carol Ann Petersen urged the graduates to make a positive difference in their neighborhoods, cities and world. She reminded them that the purpose of a Catholic education is to "form your conscience, shape your heart, deepen your faith and set standards for your behavior." The speaker challenged them to make God's love visible in the world, and to be life-long learners.

"You have received a liberal arts education, an education that fosters wonder and awe and delight in the sheer joy of learning," Sr. Carol Ann said. "A liberal arts education brings us closer to God and to each other by inspiring us, and by fostering empathy and compassion. No matter what role you will fulfill in society or what career you will have, you will be richer and hopefully, more open to the world around us because you have had exposure to truth and beauty, to sociology, history and theology."

Sr. Carol Ann, a Benedictine of Mount St. Scholastica and director of Keeler Women's Center, also received the Donnelly Delta Award for her work of empowering women in the Kansas City area.

Student speakers, Wendy Menjivar and Michael Dressler, thanked all who supported and encouraged them to pursue higher education. "Donnelly has been like a second home to me," Menjivar said. "I've gone nights without much sleep, shared tears with instructors, and some of my happiest moments were defined at Donnelly."



Wendy Menjivar, student speaker

Menjivar told her classmates to remember that the pursuit of happiness must be part of their life's goals.

Dressler, representing the momentous first class of Donnelly BA graduates, stressed the importance of commitment. "Commit yourself to your education, for it is never ending and will help make your dreams come true," he said. "Commit yourself to your dreams ...use them to change the world."

At a graduation breakfast on May 15, three students received special awards. Masoud Alipour and Liliana Hernandez received the Student Delta Award for Academic Excellence, and Wendy Menjivar received the Student Delta Award for Leadership and Community Service.

Liliana Hernandez, a first generation college student, graduated from St. Mary's High School in Independence. She plans to study psychology at either Rockhurst University or Avila College. She chose Donnelly because it was a small Catholic college. "I liked the students, and the teachers helped me a lot," she said. She works as a teacher aide at Holy Cross Pre-School. Her sister, Rosa Maria Hernandez, also attends Donnelly.

Wendy Menjivar is also a first generation college student who is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and a Block Scholar. She was a member of the Organization of Student Leaders, helping with a blood drive, poetry festival, alumni phonathon, and Delta Planet student newspaper. She is enrolled at UMKC for the fall where she will study architecture. This summer she is teaching at the Freedom School located at the Rainbow Mennonite Church in Kansas City, Ks.



Sr. Carol Ann Petersen, commencement speaker, challenges graduates to become life-long learners and make a difference in their communities.

First Five Graduates Earn BA degrees at Donnelly

Five graduates in the May 2008 class carry the distinction of being the first to receive the BA degree in Organizational Leadership at Donnelly College. They are Masoud Alipour (cum laude), Marva Dace, Gina Loya, Michael Dressler, and Walter Staley (cum laude). Their diverse stories are reflective of Donnelly's student body.

Masoud Alipour is a native of Iran. He taught music and had a jewelry business in Iran, before coming to the U.S. to study music education and be closer to his wife's family in Kansas City. He learned English in Donnelly's ESL program and went on to earn his associate degree at Donnelly in 2004. After taking courses in music theory, music composition and piano at area colleges, he returned to Donnelly in 2006 to begin the baccalaureate program. He plans to start a music academy in Kansas City and also wants to pursue a master's degree in music or business. He and his wife and daughter live in Overland Park.

Marva Dace began taking college courses at Wichita State University in 1968. She discontinued when she got married and then took a few courses at Los Angeles' Harvard College in 1981-82. When her mother became ill she returned to Kansas. With strong encouragement from her mother, she began taking evening courses at Donnelly in 2001 and earned her associate's degree in 2004. Since she works as an office assistant to the president and dean at Donnelly, it was convenient for her to continue studying for her baccalaureate here. She plans to pursue her master's degree in psychology at Park University in the fall.

"At first I was a little intimidated going back to college at age 50, but I got over it," Marva said. "I got a lot of support from my teachers, the tutoring center and other older students."

Michael Dressler began working on his college degree in 2000 at Neosho County Community College with a golf scholarship. He later took some courses at the University of Kansas, but when he heard that Donnelly was beginning a baccalaureate program, he enrolled in January 2006. He grew up a few blocks from Donnelly and liked the smaller class sizes and personal attention from the teachers.

"Donnelly gave me an edge up in how to communicate and work with people," Michael

said. "The teachers really know their field. Steve Modrcin is a phenomenal teacher – he pushes students to excel and was a great source of inspiration."

Michael is currently in Oklahoma City studying to be an air traffic control specialist. He became interested in the field through his father and learning of the job security and benefits. He will undergo extensive training and testing before returning to Kansas City. He hopes to eventually pursue a master's degree and teach at Donnelly.

Gina Loya received her associate's degree from Donnelly in 2004 and then began the 2+2 program at KCK Community College with Emporia State University to become a teacher. She changed her mind about her career and decided to return to Donnelly for the BA in Organizational Leadership in 2006. During school, she worked as an administrative assistant at Kansas Kids at Gear Up, a college awareness program for K-12. She also does cake decorating for friends. "I'd like to open a small cake decorating business some day," Gina said.

Gina likes the one-on-one help and the diversity at Donnelly. Her parents, David and Vicki Loya, are both graduates of Donnelly.

Walter Staley, a software engineer and designer for 25 years, served in the Navy, worked in IT for 13 years and then as a private contractor for 12 years with such institutions as Peabody Coal, Glaxo Pharmaceutical, and Washington University. He took college courses off and on but had no degree until 1986 when he earned his associate's at KCKCC. Then in 2004 he applied to the State Department for a GS13 position and was told he needed a master's degree to qualify for the job. When he heard about the new BA program at Donnelly, he enrolled in January 2006.

"I enjoyed Donnelly, especially the conversations about ethics and religion in the workplace," Walter said. "The classes in management and leadership were excellent."

Walter is currently enrolled in the master's program at DeVry University. He works as a property manager at the Hollis Renewal Center in Bonner Springs.



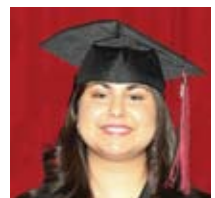
Masoud Alipour



Marva Dace



Michael Dressler



Gina Loya



Walter Staley

Alumni News

John Paul Jones ('53) passed away on May 11, 2008. He was a Korean War veteran and was self-employed. He is survived by two sisters, Margaret Long and Patricia Kelly and one brother Michael Tobin, all of Kansas City, Ks.

Alverne (Wilson) Bush ('67) reports that her daughter, Alexis, was promoted to Detective in Sept. 2007 by the Kansas City, MO Police Department. Alexis was presented with the Silver Award at the 2007 Awards for Valor ceremony presented by KMBC-TV 9 and the Metropolitan Chiefs and Sheriffs Association. Alexis is married to Kevin Bailey and they have a 19-month-old son, Evin.

Allen H. Goldblatt ('87) passed away on July 17, 2008. He was a Korean and Vietnam War veteran. He worked for GSA for 25 years and was a long-time Donnelly supporter. He is survived by his wife Eileen, three children, David, Sara Reagan, and Barry, and two grandsons.



Vernon Briscoe

Dedicated alum remembered as 'giving person'



Gene Burdolski

Gene Burdolski ('70) passed away on April 24, 2008. He completed his bachelor's degree in the 2+2 Program with Saint Mary College, Leavenworth in 1978. He was a loyal Donnelly College volunteer.

"Gene was a huge Donnelly supporter," said Roger Berg, alumni director. "He helped with the Alumni Phonathon every year and served on the marketing committee. He was always interested in what was going on at the college and eager to promote Donnelly in the community."

Gene also served on the Good Samaritan Project board and the AIDS Service Foundation board. He volunteered his time at various organizations including Hope Care Center and the Friends of Chamber Music. He was a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception where he served as lector, usher, choir member and Eucharistic minister. He is survived by his mother, Bernice, and brother, Donald, nieces and nephews.

According to his brother, Don, Gene was the kind of person who was always making friends. "He couldn't think bad thoughts about anyone. Gene would want to be remembered as a giving person. He always remembered who people were, something about them, and he was interested in them."

Alumni Association Board initiates Class Reps

The Donnelly College Alumni Association has instituted a new program using Class Representatives in an effort to better communicate with and among alumni. As the primary liaison between their classmates and the Alumni Association, Class Representatives enhance a sense of community among their classmates, and help to re-connect those classmates with each other and the college.

So far, the following have agreed to serve as Class Representatives: Rita Dwight '51, Barbara Page-Stocks '51 (representing '53), Charlotte Horvatic '57, Loretta Ross Downey '59, Susan Carroll '62, Marcia Braun '63, Diane Hentges '66, Alverne Bush '67, Marilyn Vranicar '68, Dan Braum '71, Anita Dixon '84, and Gay Crudup-Suber '86.

"We're very excited to be reaching out to alumni more personally," said Dan Braum, '71, Alumni Board President. This is just one of the many activities the Alumni Board is planning to better serve Donnelly alumni.

If your class is not represented yet and you would like to serve as the Class Representative for your graduating class, contact Roger Berg at (913) 621-8744 or rberg@donnelly.edu for more information.

Vernon Briscoe served country and community

Vernon L. Briscoe passed away on April 12, 2008. He was an Emeritus member of Donnelly's Board of Trustees, originally joining the board in 1975. He was a long-term executive with Milgram Food Stores, retiring after 47 years. He was a decorated World War II veteran, serving in the 9th Air Force of the Army Air Corps as a Bombardier-Navigator. He was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Seven Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart.

Briscoe served in leadership roles in many Wyandotte County civic and charitable organizations including the Optimist Club, Disabled American Veterans, Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Cancer Action Board, and the Serra Club. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Rehm-Briscoe, and daughters, Judith and Sharon, sons Richard, Robert and David, 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

High school students learn new skills in Donnelly program

Sixteen high school juniors and seniors learned new skills in science, math, language arts and technology in a summer program from June 9 to July 10 at Donnelly College. The Technology Math & Science Academy (TMaSA) Institute provided academic enrichment and awareness of the transportation industry. The students from Sumner Academy, Bishop Ward, Schlagle, and Wyandotte high schools were selected based on applications and personal essays about why they wanted to participate.

Funding for the program was provided by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and also the R.A. Long Foundation of Kansas City, Mo.

“The Kansas Department of Transportation is excited about the opportunity to be a part of the Donnelly Summer Institute sponsored by a grant from the Federal Highway Association,” said Doria Watson, spokesperson for KDOT. “This gives us an opportunity to share transportation initiatives and information with the upcoming potential state employees. Knowledge is power – and education is essential. We want to maximize the opportunity to increase their understanding of the transportation industry.”

The R.A. Long Foundation has funded various youth programs at Donnelly since 1993, and felt

the Technology, Math and Science Academy filled an important need in the community.

The program included field trips to several J.M. Fahey Construction job sites, the Kansas Department of Transportation office in Topeka, Zarco in Lawrence where they learned about alternative fuels, and the downtown Kansas City airport.

The grant provided student participants a stipend of \$20 per day.

“The students were excited about the group projects that they presented at the closing banquet,” said Teresa Kriley, coordinator of the program. “The groups had to figure out the best location to construct a highway based on a map and case overview.”

Donnelly faculty providing the instruction were Jane Ballagh de Tovar, Joe Multhauf, Jaime Fuentes and Ron Roland. Three Donnelly students, Tabitha Carter, Keyia Vaughnes and Gerika Berry served as teacher aides. Dr. Amber Reagan-Kendrick, Dean of Student and Community Services, was Director of the program.



J.M. Fahey Construction Division manager Kevin Connelly gave a tour to about 16 high school students from Wyandotte County at the Prescott Plaza construction project on June 16. The students took part in a summer institute at Donnelly aimed at connecting students with job opportunities in the transportation industry. (Kansan photo by Sam Hartle)

Student-led Delta Dash promotes healthy habits

On a cold, drizzly day in April, about 75 students and staff took part in the Donnelly Delta Dash. The run covered a two-mile area around the college. All the participants received special T-shirts and a number of prizes of Donnelly merchandise were awarded. There were also display tables for Keeler Women’s Center, the Bachelor’s Degree program and the new LPN program.

“It was a way to get the community involved and encourage healthy activities for the students,” said Roger Berg, associate director of development. The run was sponsored by the Healthy Student Task Force (HSTF) which also offers food demonstrations and “No Elevator” days throughout the year.

HSTF also sponsored a “Feel the Rhythm” dance to raise funds. “The students really enjoyed the dance fundraiser,” said Suzy Scott, staff advisor. “They learned ten different dances and were able to buy healthy snacks. They also like the food demos where they get to sample healthy recipes.”

The Healthy Student Task Force began in 2006 with a small community grant and now receives funds through the Planet Aid bins on the parking lot for collecting used clothing and shoes.



Participants bundled up for the 2nd annual Delta Dash.

Student Support Services gains two new staff

“Too many students are content with being average and I want them to realize they can do better. I hope to give them a leg-up on achieving their dreams.”

Robert Dobbertin



Nakesha Hyder

Nakesha Hyder is a native of Houston, Texas, where she earned her MA in counseling from Prairie View A&M University. She taught at Westport High School and was a social worker at Truman Medical Center before

coming to Donnelly in January.

“I liked the mission of Donnelly and the small community feeling,” Hyder said.

Hyder is inspired by the students at Donnelly. “Many are raising families, working and going to school,” she said. “Some have difficult issues to face, like homelessness, foster care backgrounds, and child care problems. I am amazed at their persistence.”

One of the most interesting experiences she had this year was teaching psychology at the Lansing Correctional Facility. She was impressed with the performance of the inmates. She taught in the medium facility, but the class was broadcast simultaneously into classrooms in both the minimum and maximum sections as well, with a total of 26 students.

“They are so motivated,” she said. “About 80 percent of the students passed. Some of them have been in prison since age 17 and have 20 or even 30 more years to serve.

Hyder is working on a curriculum for a new combined College Study Systems and student orientation class for the fall along with Robert Dobbertin.

Hyder recently attended the 100th birthday of her great-grandmother in Houston. “She’s an avid sports fan and got season passes from the Dallas Mavericks and Houston Rockets,” she said. “She still plants a big garden and enjoys passing on the family history to younger members. She is a great role model for me.”

Robert Dobbertin, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, holds a BS in psychology and a BA in education, and is finishing a master’s in education



Robert Dobbertin

at the University of Kansas. He was a high school and middle school teacher before coming to Donnelly. He likes working with first generation, low-income college students.

“I was in the same boat so I understand their challenges,” Dobbertin said. “I like the small size of Donnelly and the direction the college is going by expanding to BA and nursing degrees.”

Dobbertin is teaching College Study Systems and psychology at Donnelly this summer and will become program coordinator of Student Support Services this fall, focusing on tutoring and placement testing.

“My background is in testing and assessment and I want to get more students to use the tutoring center,” he said. “Too many students are content with being average and I want them to realize they can do better. I hope to give them a leg-up on achieving their dreams.”

Dobbertin is writing his thesis on “Education Inequity in Advanced Placement Programs in the Kansas City Area.”

He and his wife and daughter are residents of Kansas City, Kan. He enjoys reading science fiction, travel, computer games and family activities.

“Some (students) have difficult issues to face, like homelessness, foster care backgrounds, and child care problems. I am amazed at their persistence.”

-Nakesha Hyder

Donnelly English instructor retires after 33 years



Sister Madonna Gieselman

After 33 years and about 17,000 essays and 1,800 research papers, Sister Madonna Gieselman retired from the Donnelly College English department in May 2008. Sr. Madonna taught under three presidents, Father Ray Davern, Dr. John Murry, and Dr. Ken Gibson.

“Teaching here was like being involved in the United Nations,” Sr. Madonna said. “When students finished ESL (English as a Second Language), they took classes on the college level. Students from varied cultures added a richness to teaching. So did older students who worked full-time and had a family.”

When Sr. Madonna, a Franciscan sister, came to Donnelly in 1975, it was still located on 1236 Sandusky. A library and auditorium joined the old Bishop Ward High School and the Archbishop’s former residence. Margaret Balance served free hot lunches for the faculty in the kitchen of the archbishop’s house. She remembers the move to the former Providence Hospital in 1980 as being efficient and well-organized.

Sr. Madonna taught English Composition, Creative Writing, Interpersonal Communication, College Study Systems, Conventional English, Introduction to Literature, Literature for Children, Contemporary Literature, Poetry of the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament Biblical Literature during her long tenure at Donnelly

“When I asked an Iranian student living in Warrensburg, Mo, why he came 50 miles to my English Comp class on Tuesday nights, he told me it was a family tradition,” she said. “He said his

brothers had me as an instructor. Another student told me I taught his mother and father and now him in English classes.”

Sr. Madonna said she enjoys seeing former students assuming duties on the Donnelly faculty and staff. “It is a hopeful sign to see them making a return for opportunities they themselves received,” she said.

“The mission of Donnelly College to reach out to students ‘who might not otherwise be served’ was a way to fulfill my mission as a religious sister,” Sr. Madonna said. “Those who instruct ‘shall shine like stars for all eternity.’ Some shining has been done already.”

“I would like to thank all those who made these 33 years so fulfilling. My prayer is that Donnelly will continue providing education to those who would not otherwise have the opportunity for college.”

Sr. Madonna resides at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Eucharist in Independence, Mo.

“Teaching here was like being involved in the United Nations. Students from varied cultures added a richness to teaching.”



Sister Dorthie Ann Hall, Archbishop James Keleher and Sister Madonna Gieselman at graduation in the mid '90s.

Former public relations director notes 50th anniversary

Sr. Barbara Mayer, former public relations director at Donnelly, celebrated her 50th anniversary as a Benedictine sister on July 13 at Mount St. Scholastica monastery in Atchison, Ks. A native of St. Louis, Sr. Barbara earned her bachelor’s degree from Mount St. Scholastica College and her MA in English from the University of Kansas. She taught in elementary and high schools in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska before serving as associate editor of *The Leaven* diocesan paper from 1975-88. She worked at the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging as a writer/ editor for eight years before coming to Donnelly in 1998. She is currently a freelance writer and edits a monastic journal called *Benedictines*. She compiled a chaplet of her poetry called “Longing for God” during her sabbatical in New Hampshire last year.

“I have enjoyed my time at Donnelly, working with a very dedicated staff and encountering students from so many different countries and cultures,” Sr. Barbara said. “It has been a blessing to be a part of Donnelly’s rich history of education in the urban core of Kansas City, Ks.”

Second Scholarship Dinner to honor Benedictine Sisters



“I hope to see many alums at the Scholarship Dinner. It’s not the same building I attended, but it’s the same Donnelly, the same mission, the same sanctified space where modern miracles occur.”

*Steve Nicely
Class of ‘59*

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.”

-Robert Frost

Donnelly College’s 2nd Annual Scholarship Dinner will honor the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica. The dinner will be held on Sept. 6 at Reardon Civic Center in Kansas City, Ks. Dr. John Murry, President Emeritus of Donnelly (president 1987-98) is serving as event chair.

Proceeds from the dinner will be used to create an endowed scholarship in the name of the Benedictine sisters and to support the annual scholarship fund.

The theme of the dinner will be “The Road Less Traveled” based on the poem by Robert Frost. It honors the tradition of the road less traveled at Donnelly College – whether by the Benedictine sisters, the school’s alumni of first-generation college graduates, or the college’s alternative model for higher education.

“In 1949, Sister Jerome Keeler took the ‘road less traveled’ and founded Donnelly as a private college to serve young people of financially disadvantaged families in the urban area,” said Dr. Murry. “And ‘that has made all the difference’ for nearly 60 years to many thousands of students who otherwise would not have had an opportunity for a college education.”

Sr. Jerome was a visionary leader committed to the educational mission of the Benedictine sisters. More than 80 sisters have followed in her footsteps, contributing their time, talent, and services with minimal compensation.

“Sister Jerome was a brilliant woman who was way ahead of her time,” said Pat Antonopoulos, Class of ‘58. “She was dignified and reserved, yet very down-to-earth. We had many incredible teachers, Sr. Kathleen (Brazzel), Sr. Sylvester (Elizabeth Coffey), Sr. Leander (Cogan), Sr. Mary Faith (Schuster), and others.”

Pat Callaghan, Donnelly academic advisor who retired last year, also praised the sisters. “When I came to Donnelly, I felt inadequate and uncertain about my life’s direction,” she said “The Benedictine sisters welcomed me, accepted me unconditionally, and affirmed my self-worth. They left a lifetime impression on me.”

Don Wolf, Class of ‘56, a professional photographer, attributes his success to Donnelly. “Although I graduated from Donnelly over fifty years ago, I still feel the impact of that wonderful institution,” he said. “Sister Faith didn’t teach me photography, but she taught me something even more important. By having us write observations about what we saw, heard, and experienced throughout the day, she taught us to see shadows, textures, and shapes. She didn’t know (neither did I) that she was preparing me for my lifetime vocation. And Sister Liguori (Sullivan), who remained a lifelong friend, taught me that I had worth, that I was somebody.”

“Many of us were awakened to the possibilities of the future at Donnelly,” said Steve Nicely, Class of ‘59. “In my case, more than any other influence, I have the Benedictine sisters and lay faculty at Donnelly to thank for a career in journalism. I also have Donnelly to thank for the career in education of my son, Bill. Both of us floundered after high school until we found our footing at Donnelly. And I know an awful lot of stories just like ours.”

A homecoming and open house from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the college will precede the dinner which begins at 6 p.m. “We want alumni to come and get reacquainted with the Benedictine Sisters who will be here and get to know the Donnelly of the last 25 years,” said Martha La Van, Class of ‘59. “We hope to make this an annual event before each scholarship dinner.”

“I hope to see many alums at the Scholarship Dinner,” said Nicely. “It’s not the same building I attended, but it’s the same Donnelly, the same mission, the same sanctified space where modern miracles occur.”

Last year the dinner raised more than \$80,000 for an endowed scholarship honoring Dr. Ken Gibson, past Donnelly president, and his wife, Dr. Jackie Snyder.

Visit www.donnelly.edu/dinner for more event details and also pictures of the Benedictine sisters from Donnelly archives. Call Marva Dace at 913.621.8746 for more information or to purchase tickets. Interested parties, please RSVP by August 20.

Challenge grant matches new and increased gifts

Donnelly has long been blessed with many loyal supporters who believe in Donnelly's mission and actively gave of time, talent and treasure. Recently, one of those donors has anonymously stepped forward to help the school reach its ambitious goals to further expand student programs, services and scholarships so that even more students can have access to higher education. Donnelly has been awarded a \$100,000 challenge grant to help grow annual support for the school. The challenge for Donnelly is to first raise \$200,000 in new or increased donations over the next year, to which this grant will match 50 cents to each new dollar.

"Donnelly College and its board are committed to having the best teachers possible, the best learning environment for our students, and helping more students attend college at Donnelly," said Emily Buckley, Director of Development for Donnelly. "This grant is a tremendous gift to help advance our mission and make donor's contributions go even further. There are so many students that this grant will impact."

This is a golden opportunity to invest in youth and the future of Donnelly College. If you would like more information about this challenge match opportunity, contact Emily Buckley at ebuckley@donnelly.edu or call 913-621-8731.

Free open house to precede Scholarship Dinner

A free open house for Donnelly College alumni and friends will take place at the college on September 6 from 3:30 to 5:30 (immediately preceding the Scholarship Dinner.)

The open house is sponsored by the Donnelly College Alumni Association and provides a perfect opportunity to get re-acquainted with former classmates, staff and faculty (including some of the Benedictine Sisters), and to tour the campus and learn about some of Donnelly's new programs. A particular highlight of the tour will be the unveiling of the renovations in Marian Hall, which was given to Donnelly last year by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas to house Donnelly's new LPN and upcoming Elementary Teacher Education programs.

"When our alumni and friends visit the campus, they realize that while some things have changed, many of the things they remember best about Donnelly are still here," said Roger Berg Jr., Alumni Director. "We look forward to sharing our changes and celebrating our past."

Steve Nicely, Class of '59 hopes to see many alumni at the open house and dinner. "Don't come out of curiosity," he said. "Come to be blessed. Come to say thanks. Today's faculty will be waiting to receive you."

New Donnelly board chairman brings experience



George Breidenthal

Donnelly's new board chairman, George Breidenthal ('69), a retired banker, brings a wealth of experience to his role. He has served on the KCK board of education for 25 years and has been on the Donnelly board for 17 years. An alumnus, he credits Donnelly with giving him a chance.

"My first goal as chairman is to find a dedicated president for Donnelly," said Breidenthal. "I'd like to congratulate Dr. Kevin Kelley (interim president), Gary Grable (outgoing board chairman) and the staff for keeping Donnelly functioning smoothly during the search for a candidate."

"I want to make more people aware of the success of Donnelly. I also hope to connect more with the students."

Breidenthal wants to tell alums and friends of Donnelly: "Come visit us. We haven't changed, just the faces have changed."

The new chairman has two grown children, both attending college.



Creating a Legacy of Caring

Why?

There are many reasons for making a gift to Donnelly College:

- to support our mission/programs
- to invest in education to change the community
- to continue the Catholic tradition of education rooted in values
- to give back to the next generation
- to take advantage of charitable education tax credits.

Ways to Give Back:

- Checks, Cash, Credit Cards
- Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds
- Wills & Bequests
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Life Insurance
- Donate your time & talent - VOLUNTEER at Donnelly!

More Information:

If you would like more information about making gifts to Donnelly College, contact:

Emily Buckley
 Director of Development
 913-621-8731 or
ebuckley@donnelly.edu

Join others in Donnelly's Legacy Society.

Already made a planned gift for Donnelly? Please let us know so we can add your name to our growing Legacy Society.

Calendar of Events



AUGUST

- August 25 **Fall Semester begins**
- August 27 **Back to school picnic**
Student/Faculty soccer games

SEPTEMBER

- September 6 **2nd Annual Scholarship Dinner honoring Benedictine Sisters and Open House**
3:30-5:30pm – Open house on campus and tours of the college
6:00pm – Dinner at the Reardon Center
- September 24 **Panamanian Dancers**

OCTOBER

- October 22 **Career Center Fashion Show**
Meeting Room



Jesus Martinez receives diploma from Dr. Kevin Kelley, Donnelly interim president, at the graduation exercises on May 15



Marilu Reyna poses with her friend after the graduation ceremony
Top: Nyinguak Muoranyar with her parents after graduation



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