

# DONNELLY COLLEGE *DIGEST*

A publication for alumni & friends

SUMMER 2014

Volume 8, Issue 1

## MEET MONSIGNOR

Donnelly welcomes Monsignor Stuart Swetland  
as its 7th president



## LEADER'S MESSAGE



**Bob Bartunek**  
Interim President

It has been my honor to serve as the interim president of Donnelly College. As you've hopefully heard, Monsignor Stuart Swetland, S.T.D., became Donnelly's seventh president on July 1.

While we stand on the cusp of a new, exciting era in Donnelly's history—and as I transition out of the president's role to resume my post on Donnelly's Board of Trustees—I'd like to reflect on the last few months.

As a long-standing member of Donnelly's Board, I was already closely acquainted with our history, vision and purpose before stepping in. I understood the uniqueness of Donnelly's story and the community we serve, and felt that working in support of an institution with such an impactful mission is a privilege.

And now, after working even *more* deeply in the trenches, so to speak, my point of view has been forever changed.

I'm *more* inspired. I feel more privileged than ever.

I've witnessed the depth and breadth of the Donnelly College commitment from a front-row seat. Each and every day, in a variety of ways, both faculty and staff truly live out the charge to serve those who might not otherwise be served. The time, talent, expertise and energy that they consistently commit to the betterment of our institution and students—and to the greater community—is awe-inspiring.

I've also gotten to know many of Donnelly's students. Our scholars come from every imaginable walk of life. Some are first generation college students; others are not. Some enroll right out of high school; others seek degrees later in life. They hail from the Kansas City metro area and from halfway around the globe. They're all very different, but are bound by one common thread: all are reaching toward the promise of a more fulfilled life through education's transformative power.

And, through my interactions with the students, I'm continually reminded why we do what we do.

I want to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to our faculty, staff, students, Board and the broader Donnelly community for assisting me over the last seven months.

During my tenure, while we searched for a new leader, all of you were diligent about maintaining our standards for excellence in instruction and service, in operations and in learning. I sincerely thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Bartunek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "B" at the beginning.

Bob Bartunek





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at [donnelly.edu/digest](http://donnelly.edu/digest)

ABOUT THE COVER

# MEET MONSIGNOR

*Donnelly College Names Monsignor Stuart Swetland, S.T.D., New President*



Photos courtesy of Mount St. Mary's University



*In late May, Donnelly College's Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Monsignor Stuart Swetland, S.T.D., as our institution's seventh president, effective July 1.*

*Msgr. Swetland succeeds Steven M. LaNasa, Ph.D., who left the position in December 2013. Bob Bartunek, former Chairman of Donnelly College's Board, served as interim president during the presidential search and returned to the Board, effective July 1.*

*Before arriving at Donnelly, Msgr. Swetland served as the Vice President for Catholic Identity and Director of Pre-*

*Theology at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD, where he also held the Archbishop Flynn Chair of Christian Ethics.*

*In addition to his new role at Donnelly, Msgr. Swetland, a Knight Commander for the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus, serves as the Executive Director of the Center for the Advancement of Catholic Higher Education and is the Executive Secretary for the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars. Additionally, Msgr. Swetland hosts the weekly television show **Catholicism on Campus** on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) and co-hosts the daily show **Go Ask Your Father** on Relevant Radio.*

## Q&A: THE MAN BEHIND THE COLLAR

*Man of God. Accomplished scholar and educator. Radio show host. Pittsburgh Steelers fan. There's much more to Donnelly's new president, Monsignor Stuart Swetland, S.T.D., than meets the eye. Get to know him a little better:*

### WHAT'S YOUR PHILOSOPHY ABOUT EDUCATION?

The word "educate" is from the Latin *educere*, meaning "to be led out or drawn forth." To educate is to lead people out of ignorance into the truth. This is best done in a community of learners. Donnelly College is a community of learners. Some of the learners are further along the path of knowledge, understanding and wisdom. We call these learners professor or instructor. But we are all searching to know and understand and to attempt to share our insight and wisdom. As a Catholic college, we know that we exist to search for and share the truth and that the most important truth about ourselves and about God has been revealed to us by Jesus Christ who is "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

### WHAT WOULD PEOPLE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Many people are surprised to discover that I am an adult convert to Catholicism. Another thing that might be surprising (and maybe not too popular in KCK) is that I root for the Pittsburgh Pirates, Penguins and Steelers. Having been born in Pittsburgh, you are allowed to change your religion, but your teams are a different matter! I look forward to growing in my appreciation of the Royals and Chiefs.

### WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I really want people to know that I love them and that I love our Lord and that I believe He is calling me to serve them.

### WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL MANTRA?

"Study hard, pray harder."

### WHY A LIFE OF SERVICE?

All of us are called to serve because we are made in the image and likeness of a God who became one of us "not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). In my opinion, to live a life of service is the surest path to joy and peace.

### WHY CHRISTIANITY? WHY CATHOLICISM?

Ultimately, I am a Catholic Christian because I believe the claims of Christianity to be true. As an adult convert, I studied many religions and philosophies and nothing makes more sense of the way things really are than the teachings of the Church.

### WHY DONNELLY?

I believe that God has called me to serve as president of Donnelly College. DC is a wonderful example of the apostolate of Catholic higher education. It has a tremendous history of service and embodies so many of the values and virtues being emphasized by Pope Francis today. But also very important to me in my discernment were the outstanding men and women that I had the privilege to meet in the interview process. The *esprit de corps* of DC's staff and students is very impressive and I am honored to join such a fine team.

## BIOGRAPHY

Msgr. Swetland received his undergraduate degree in Physics from the United States Naval Academy, where he was first in his class academically. Elected a Rhodes Scholar in 1981, he entered the Catholic Church while studying at Oxford and was ordained a priest in 1991 for the Diocese of Peoria, IL. He has a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from Oxford University where he studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics; a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts from Mount St. Mary's Seminary; and earned his Sacred Theology Licentiate and Sacred Theology Doctorate from the Pontifical Lateran University.

Msgr. Swetland was named a Prelate of Honor in 2000 by St. John Paul II.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE MONSIGNOR

Monsignor Swetland began his tenure at Donnelly College on Tuesday, July 1. In the coming months, you'll get the chance to meet him at the following events:

### CONVOCATION MASS

Thursday, September 11 | 10 a.m.  
Cathedral of St. Peter

### SHINE: ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Friday, September 26 | 6 p.m.  
Kansas City Marriott Downtown

### DONNELLY DASH : 5K RUN/WALK

Saturday, November 8 | 9 a.m.  
Donnelly College

## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET MSGR. SWETLAND WILL BE POSTED ONLINE:



DONNELLY'S NEWSROOM  
[donnelly.edu/news](http://donnelly.edu/news)



DONNELLY'S WEBSITE  
[donnelly.edu](http://donnelly.edu)

## LSAMP PARTNERSHIP CREATES PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Earlier this year, a five-year, \$2.5 million grant was awarded to Donnelly College, along with Dodge City, Garden City and Seward County Community Colleges and Kansas State University, to help underserved students find success in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) educational programs and careers. Funding for the grant originates from the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program of the National Science Foundation.

Donnelly and the four other institutions, which were selected because of the large minority and first-generation-to-college populations they serve, joined together to form KS-LSAMP. KS-LSAMP has, in turn, established “Pathways to STEM,” a program used for expanding recruitment and retention strategies for underrepresented students, including African-American, Native American and Hispanic students. Specialized activities at critical college transitional periods (high school to college; two-year to four-year institutions; and freshman-to-sophomore transition at four-year institutions) are built into the programming.

Additionally, because a significant number of underrepresented military veterans are enrolled at the partnering institutions, there will be enhanced focus on recruitment and support of veterans in STEM fields. Pathways to STEM will work with veterans’ offices to provide the specific transitional support needed by veterans, such as peer advising and mentoring.

The goal of the program is to double the number of underrepresented students graduating with baccalaureate STEM degrees within the five years of the project. Pathways to STEM is also aligned with the goals of Donnelly’s Strategic Plan, as well as Foresight 2020, the Kansas Board of Regents’ goal to have 60 percent of the Kansas population achieve a postsecondary degree.

## BACHELOR’S IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS

*New Degree Delivers Innovative, Unique Experience for Students*



Earlier this year, Donnelly College launched the Bachelor of Science in Information Systems program.

And according to the Director of Information Systems, Dr. Stacy Yeager-Huddleston, this degree’s curriculum has been innovatively designed to give students the hands-on experiences and specialized knowledge they’ll need to compete in the workplace once they graduate.

“As a part of the program, each student will have an opportunity to intern and work directly in their field of study in Kansas City-area corporations,” Dr. Yeager explained.

State-of-the-art equipment, including Apple hardware; software programs specific to the students’ fields of study; and a custom practicum experience that provides the chance to design or enhance current technology are just some of the amenities that Donnelly’s Information Systems students receive.

“The curriculum ‘follows’ them, too. For example, what a student learned during junior year can still be accessed during his or her senior year. This is really a great benefit to the student; having access to the information, through an online interface, will allow our students to work in the industry while earning their degrees.”

### SMOOTH TRANSITIONS

Dr. Yeager-Huddleston has also worked directly with Kansas City Kansas Community College and MCC - Penn Valley through previously-established articulation agreements, and has been actively recruiting transfer students from

their institutions. Additionally, she has worked with Johnson County Community College to cultivate a new articulation agreement and has begun recruiting from their campus as well.

“We’ve been working in close partnership with KCKCC, Penn Valley, and Johnson County Community College, by comparing curricula and confirming that their courses will align with our program. I’m really enthusiastic about what the students will be equipped to do once they complete their Bachelor’s degree programs here—and, we have worked hard to ensure seamless transitions into our College.”

Dr. Yeager-Huddleston experienced a “smooth transition” of her own into Donnelly. Originally from Wyandotte County, Dr. Yeager-Huddleston spent three years at Ottawa University, teaching the institution’s Master of Science in Information Technology program, before deciding to return to the area.

“Family brought me back to the area, but I was moved by Donnelly’s mission and excited to join a school where I could share my knowledge, experience, and freely share my faith. In fact, it felt like a calling. I know for certain that this is where I am meant to serve.”

Now that she’s here, Dr. Yeager-Huddleston is eager to see the Information Systems program grow to its full potential.

“My primary goal is to enhance diversity and inclusion in the technology industry and to provide all students with the necessary tools to be successful in the field.”



## GRADUATION WEEK



### MAY 7: EAP/ESL GRADUATION

Students from Donnelly College's morning and evening Community English Second Language (CESL) and English for Academic Purposes (EAP) programs assembled in Donnelly's Community Event Center to celebrate their accomplishments at semester's end.

### MAY 9: PRAYER SERVICE

Faculty, staff, students and families joined in fellowship to sing, pray, celebrate and ask God's blessings for the graduating class of 2014. Officiated by Rev. John Melnick, S.S.A., Vice President for Mission, Campus Ministry and Theology Faculty, the Ecumenical Prayer Service ended with an outdoor reception.

### MAY 9: PRACTICAL NURSING PINNING CEREMONY

Donnelly College's Practical Nursing (PN) Class of 2014 enjoyed a spirited send-off from the packed house at Turner Recreation Center. PN student Polyns Mukunza gave a touching address to the class. Additionally, the students, who took photographs during their 16-month academic program, created a memory montage that was projected for all to

enjoy. After being pinned by a special person of their choice, Donnelly's 29 PN graduates lit their lamps and recited the traditional Florence Nightingale oath at the close of the ceremony.

### MAY 10: COMMENCEMENT

Twenty-five students received Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Applied Science, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Applied Science degrees at the Jack Reardon Center on Saturday, May 10.

"We made it to the finish line," proclaimed Araceli Zamora (AS), the first student speaker, to the excited graduate crowd.

"We are our own captains," said Elfonda Muhammad (BA), the second student speaker, in encouragement.

Brad and Dawn Grabs were recognized as Donnelly's 2014 Delta Award winners, for their work at the Learning Club of KCK. "All that we've done is try to follow our hearts and do what God has led us to do," Mr. Grabs said. Donnelly alumnus and Alumni Hall of Fame member Teodoro "Ted" Garcia, Jr. gave the commencement address. Garcia, immigration lawyer and activist with Wyandotte County roots, reminded the graduates that they must give back to the generation behind them. "It's not just about you," Garcia advised. "Carry the torch. Give back to your community. Give back to Donnelly. Go forth and be great."

## SECOND ISSUE OF DIME PUBLISHED



The second issue of *DIME: The Arts & Literary Journal of Donnelly College*, was published in late spring 2014. On Friday, April 25, faculty, staff, family and friends came out in support of this year's group of featured student artists. The 2014 Sister Mary Faith Schuster Award winners for writing and visual arts were also named from the submissions.

### THIS YEAR'S STUDENT WINNERS WERE:

**Marimar Gutierrez:**

*A Special Rabbit (fiction)*

**Isamara Cortes Cruz:**

*Waiting for Sunset (visual arts)*

**Natalia Legion:**

*Lola (nonfiction)*

**Christina Gallagos:**

*Aristotle's Request (poetry)*

### TO READ DIME ONLINE, VISIT:

[donnelly.edu/dime](http://donnelly.edu/dime)

*The National Endowment for Humanities Challenge Grant provided support for this event.*

## 2014 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS

On Thursday, May 8, Donnelly College inducted five new members into the Alumni Hall of Fame at its fifth annual induction ceremony. The inducted alumni included Steve Nicely, '59; Sister Diana Seago, '69; Dan Braum, '71; Steve Modrcin, '74; and Anita Dixon, '84.

The annual event, held the Thursday before graduation each year, attracted approximately 80 individuals to celebrate this year's inductees. Sr. Diana, Braum, Modrcin and Dixon were present to receive their awards and share reflections about Donnelly's lasting impact on their lives. Nicely, who was unable to attend, sent a recorded acceptance message. His son, Dr. Bill Nicely—also a Donnelly alumnus—was present to accept on his father's behalf.



(L to R): Steve Modrcin, Sr. Diana Seago, Dan Braum, Anita Dixon, and Bill Nicely

### ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2015

It's not too early to nominate alumni for the 2015 induction. Honorees are alumni who carry forth the mission, the spirit and values of Donnelly in their lives, their communities and their work. To nominate, please email [alumni@donnelly.edu](mailto:alumni@donnelly.edu) or call 913.621.8744.



FOR CURRENT NEWS UPDATES  
visit Donnelly's newroom at [donnelly.edu/news](http://donnelly.edu/news)

## SPRING SEMESTER SPEAKERS



McCarty

### CURTIS MCCARTY

Over 60 people came to Donnelly in early April to hear the story of Curtis McCarty, an Oklahoma death row exoneree and anti-death penalty activist, who spent 19 years on death row before his exoneration by DNA evidence in 2007. The audience was visibly moved as McCarty shared his account of being wrongfully accused of murder. He shared the realities of life—and death—in high-security prisons; the importance of faith and family in coping with incarceration; and the freeing power of seeing the humanity in everyone.

Bill Scholl, from the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas' Office for Social Justice, opened the evening in prayer and briefly provided background on the Catholic Church's teachings about capital punishment. Ben Jones and Mike Fonkert, from the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty, provided updates on capital punishment law at the state and national levels, and assisted McCarty with the question-and-answer-session.

"Participate in your community, and do so positively," McCarty reminded the audience. "Become a force not in your own lives, but in the lives of others, and make a difference."



Flowers

### TYRONE FLOWERS

Tyrone Flowers, founder and president of Higher M-Pact, a non-profit organization that seeks to transform high-risk urban youth into tomorrow's leaders through long-term mentoring, spoke to approximately 30 Donnelly students during an early-April Power Hour.

Flowers' personal experiences and his careful study of the juvenile justice system inspired him to create Higher M-Pact. As often as possible, Flowers tell his story as a testament to the power of value of strong mentors, self-reliance, strong leadership and forgiveness.

## PORTRAIT INSTALLATION



"The story of Donnelly College can't be told without talking about the tremendous contributions of the Benedictine Sisters of Atchison—specifically, Sister Jerome Keeler, OSB," says Andrew Julo, service learning and community arts space coordinator. "The shared vision on behalf of Sister Jerome Keeler, OSB, and Bishop George Donnelly to create an economically accessible Catholic college in Wyandotte County, is really the genesis of our institution."

And now, the visual representation of that partnership is on full display for students, staff, faculty and visitors of Donnelly to see.

A portrait of Sr. Jerome, commissioned last fall by former Donnelly president, Dr. Steven LaNasa, was permanently installed in the Community Arts Space in spring 2014. A portrait of Bishop Donnelly, previously located in the College's library, was re-installed alongside Sr. Jerome's portrait. "The presence of both portraits, together, pays tribute to the College's founders—a fitting way to honor our institution's rich history," Julo commented.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

The portrait of Sr. Jerome was created by Sister Paula Howard, OSB. Both a long-time educator and administrator, Sr. Paula has a long-standing relationship with Donnelly. Beginning in 1988, She served as the College's academic dean under former Donnelly president Dr. John Murry and later as the administrative assistant to former Donnelly president Dr. Ken Gibson.

Following her retirement from the College in 1999, Sr. Paula began writing icons in her studio at Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, KS. To view examples of her work online, visit: [www.mountosb.org](http://www.mountosb.org).

The College is also grateful to Kansas City's Ward & Ward Custom Picture Framing for their assistance in professionally framing both portraits.



{save the date}

# SHINE

Donnelly College's  
Annual Scholarship Event

Honorary Chairs | Terry & Peggy Dunn

Chairs | Drs. Ken Gibson & Jackie Snyder

9.26.14

**YOU ARE INVITED  
TO DONNELLY'S PREMIERE  
SCHOLARSHIP EVENT, SHINE.**

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 26, 2014  
KANSAS CITY MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN | 6:00 P.M.**

Honoring **THE SUNDERLAND FAMILY**  
Honorary Chairs **TERRY & PEGGY DUNN**  
Chairs **DRS. KEN GIBSON & JACKIE SNYDER**

Pop! Fizz! It's time to dust off your party clothes for Donnelly's annual scholarship event, SHINE! Come help us honor the Sunderland Family, meet our new president — Monsignor Stuart Swetland, and celebrate our fabulous students! All proceeds from the event will create an endowed scholarship in the Sunderland Family's name and support Donnelly's annual scholarship fund.

**TO SPONSOR OR REGISTER, VISIT: [DONNELLY.EDU/SHINE](http://DONNELLY.EDU/SHINE)**

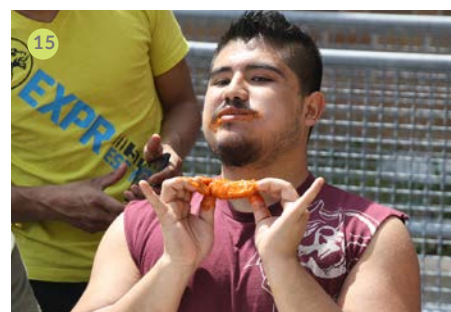
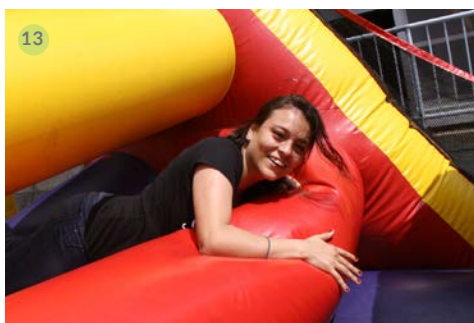
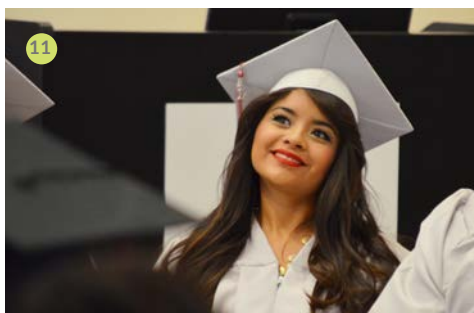


## AS SEEN ON CAMPUS



1 Students and their families representing Venezuela at this year's Multicultural Festival 2 Gateway staff members, Paul Mobley and Deb Robinson join KCKPS, Donnelly and the Gateway National Network in celebrating the one year anniversary of Donnelly's Gateway to College program 3 Organizational Leadership graduate, Dania Phillips hugs program director, Susan Keim 4 Rosa Favela and Jorge Calderon celebrate Mardi Gras in style 5 Marisa Ramirez signs her letter of intent to attend Donnelly in the fall 6 Daniel Carpenter samples the pie at the math department's Pi Day celebration 7 Donnelly College welcomed Mayor and CEO of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kan, Mark Holland as a guest lecturer in Donnelly's State and Local Government class 8 Karen Judy's biology class completes their final frog dissections during finals week.





**9** Students and staff work together to plant the community garden located behind Donnelly's main tower. **10** Scholarship receiptants take a picture with Steve Nicely, one of the donors who made their scholarships possible and 2014 Alumni Hall of Fame inductee. **11** Rosa Rodriguez smiles during Donnelly's annual graduate prayer service in May. **12** Veronica Moreno, Taela McCullough, Manny Hernandez, Tyler Hagstrom, Víctor Armstrong, and Kayla Palacios (not pictured) were inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honorary Society **13** Stephany Linares emerges from a bounce house at the Soccer Club Spring Festival. **14** The piñata gets revenge at the 2014 Multicultural Festival. **15** Juan Garcia practices good "hot wing etiquette" at the Soccer Club Spring Festival. **16** Practical Nursing program graduates make their traditional pledge at their pinning ceremony.



Dr. Mary Pflanz helps students pull weeds at Catholic Charities of NE Kansas during New Student Orientation.



# SERVICE LEARNING

*Students impacting the world, one project at a time*

**T**he concept of providing service to the community is intricately woven into Donnelly's history. Service Learning is also an important component of our educational model and aligns with our identity as a Catholic institution. We are proud of the engaged, enlightened and involved students who grace our halls. Here are just a few examples of the kinds of service initiatives they've participated in over the past academic year:

**AUGUST** The Bloch Service Project is an integral part of New Student Orientation, where incoming first-year and transfer students are challenged to make the connection between their academic pursuits and giving back to the local community. Donnelly provided over 150 hours of service to Catholic Charities of NE Kansas, El Centro, Inc.'s Academy for Children and Sisters Servants of Mary during this campus-wide day of service.

**SEPTEMBER** Along with medical professionals from the University of Kansas Medical Center, Donnelly's Practical Nursing students administered over 120 flu shots and provided health screenings for members of our community—free of charge at Donnelly's Fall 2013 Feel Good Fair. The event also

brought together health-related resources and medical providers from the local community to offer individuals and families information on physical, mental and spiritual wellness.

**OCTOBER** In an effort to encourage kids to keep reading, students in Donnelly's Preparatory Education Program worked with Communities in Schools of NE Kansas to conduct two Read-Ins at M.E. Pearson Elementary. With financial support from the Kansas Volunteer Commission and Target®, Donnelly students provided free book bags and books to over 500 students. Letters to parents, sharing practical ways to help ensure the academic success of their child(ren) through reading, were also included.



WANT TO SEE MORE PICTURES OF SERVICE PROJECTS?  
Visit [facebook.com/donnellycollege](https://facebook.com/donnellycollege)





Alejandra Sandoval helps lead an activity at the Boys and Girls Club of Wyandotte County during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

**NOVEMBER** After working with fourth graders from Resurrection Catholic School to learn about the history and celebration of All Saints Day and All Soul's Day, Donnelly's Library Club (DLAC) helped the students create objects to adorn the Día de Los Muertos community altar on campus in honor of deceased loved ones.

**DECEMBER** Donnelly students teamed up with Phoenix Family Housing and created over 160 holiday care packages for the senior residents of Nowlin Hall – a low-income, independent living community for elderly and disabled adults in Kansas City, MO.

**JANUARY** To commemorate America's National Day of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Donnelly students conducted an after-school activity focusing on the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington with middle school students from the Boys & Girls of Club of Wyandotte County.

**FEBRUARY** Donnelly students served breakfast to over 185 people at St. Paul's Episcopal Church located just down the street from Donnelly's campus.

**MARCH** Students enrolled in an upper level English for Academic Purposes course were asked to share an aspect of their home country/culture with the third grade classes at M.E. Pearson Elementary School. Donnelly students gave their initial presentations and returned a week later to share foods from their country of origin – emphasizing to local the third graders the wealth of diversity we have in our community.

**APRIL** Members of Donnelly's Healthy Student Organization led teens from Wyandotte High School to serve at Revolve KC – a bike shop located in downtown Kansas City, KS that



Donnelly's Guatemala delegates pose together at the Sangre de Cristo Health Care Project.

encourages healthy lifestyles and affordable, earth-friendly transportation by repairing and selling donated bikes.

**MAY** For a third year, Donnelly sent a delegation of students and staff members to the heart of Guatemala to serve at the Sangre de Cristo Health Care Project. Along with a partnering delegation from Newman University (Wichita, KS), students and staff worked with locals to construct a latrine, demonstrated healthy oral hygiene habits to kids, and learned about the contamination of local water resources due to invasive mining.

## MULTI-MONTH PROJECTS

**FALL 2013** Donnelly's Gateway to College students enrolled in College and Career Success, hosted The Learning Club of KCK – an enrichment program for local elementary and middle school students. Gateway students lead their younger pupils through activities that asked each child to identify a profession they hoped to become when they were older.

**SPRING 2014** As a part of the College's Earth Day activities, Donnelly's academic honor society - Phi Theta Kappa - rolled out a plan to provide recycling throughout DC's campus. Thanks to the students in the honor society and Donnelly's General Ethics course, receptacles for collecting recyclables are located in hallways, offices, residence halls, and in the College's Bistro.

## SERVICE CLASSES

The following Fall 2013/ Spring 2014 courses engaged in service learning:

### The Art & Practice of Community Leadership

*Instructors: Dr. Susan Keim, Carol Marinovich & Pat Brune*

### Chicano Experience

*Instructor: Donette Alonzo*

### College and Career Success

*Instructors: Paul Mobiley & Andrea Tucker*

### Elementary Art Methods

*Johnathan Loesch*

### English Composition I & II

*Dr. Melissa Lenos*

### Freshmen Seminar

*Lisa Stoothoff & Andrea Tucker*

### General Chemistry/ Chemistry I

*Joe Multhauf*

### General Ethics

*Sr. Marie Kathleen Daugherty*

### Introduction to Urban Education

*Dr. Brenda Harris*

### Leadership Fundamentals II

*Dr. Susan Keim*

### Listening & Speaking

*Eric Kolkmeier*

### Medical Surgical Nursing I

*Maureen Wiederholt*

### Reading & Writing Essentials

*Yvonne Telep & Lisa Stoothoff*

## DONNELLY FAMILY

### inMEMORIAM

*In remembrance of alumni and friends who have recently passed away.*

**JOSEPH COOK, '66**, died February 1, 2014 at the age of 68.

**FRANCES HAY**, former staff member, died April 24, 2014 at the age of 96.

**BERNARD RUYSSER**, former Board member, died June 10, 2014 at the age of 94.

**MADelyn SHINN**, former faculty member, died January 12, 2014 at the age of 84.



### TURN YOURSELF IN!

Have you recently earned a degree, started a new job or celebrated an addition to your family?

If you have news to share, *WE WANT TO KNOW!* Send info about graduations, marriages, births, promotions and achievements to [alumni@donnelly.edu](mailto:alumni@donnelly.edu).

Share your milestones with 5,000 Donnelly Digest readers worldwide!

## WELCOME NEW DONNELLY FACULTY & STAFF

**Erin Anderson**  
Assistant Director of  
Financial Aid

**Diana Camden**  
Director of Counseling  
Center

**Jessica Giseburt**  
Accounting Assistant

**Ozzie Greene**  
Associate Director of  
Academic Support

**Tara Lindahl**  
Academic Advisor

**Msgr. Swetland**  
President

**Megan Temchin**  
Administrative Assistant to  
the President

**LaTisha Wheeler**  
Accounting Specialist

**Dr. Stacy Yeager-Huddleston**  
Academic Director of  
Information Systems

## CLASSNOTES

**CELIANA MACHADO, '12**  
is majoring in Biology  
at Park University and  
recently became engaged  
to Karl Merritt.

**MIRO HEYINK, '11**  
is a Professional Services  
Consultant for Cerner  
Corporation.

**PAOLA ZAPATA, '10**  
is the Branch Director for  
Bolivia Trepack Ltd.

**DEASIRAY NORRIS, '07, '10**  
is a Program Coordinator  
at the Unified Government  
of Wyandotte County and  
Kansas City, Kansas

# It's all up to you.

We're very proud of the fact that Donnelly College has followed the mission stated by Bishop George Donnelly in 1949 to make it possible for members of our community, "to obtain a Catholic college education without needless expense."

Donnelly is often asked how we are able to offer such a high-quality, private college education at our tuition rate. The answer is simple – **YOU**.

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STAFFFOCUS

# ELORA THOMAS

DREAM WEAVER

Every day, college recruiters across the country work hard to convince others that, through tenacity, persistence and hard-won knowledge, the dream of a more gratifying life can come true.

And selling the dream isn't always easy. Recruiters must recognize the competing priorities that students face with work, family and school.

So, what motivates Donnelly's recruiters to continue doing this work, even when it's challenging?

"College affected my life in so many positive ways; I want to share how great college can be for others, too," said Elora Thomas, Admissions Recruiter and Marketing Liaison. "Helping people start a path towards a successful future is very fulfilling work."

## NEW TEAM, NEW TACTICS

As a part of the Admissions team, Thomas, who joined Donnelly in 2013, helped implement fresh strategies for bringing in students that build on our Benedictine values of hospitality and relationships.

The Admissions team also worked with Belinda Ogan, Director of Financial Aid, to create scholarship packages that recognize that hard work and persistence can look different for any given student.

And, the hard work is paying off.

Thanks to increased partnerships and outreach within school districts across the metro and within Catholic high schools on both sides of state lines, students from a wide variety of high schools are enrolling. In recent years, there's been an increase in students from St. Teresa's Academy, St. James Academy, Rockhurst High School, Wyandotte High School, as well as students from the North Kansas City School District.

"I believe we're appealing to new audiences and more people are taking notice of Donnelly's value," Thomas said, proudly.

## MISSION: MOTIVATION

When talking to prospective students, Thomas focuses on empowerment that comes with enhanced knowledge—but she knows there's more to the college than that. For some students, it can be hard to navigate the challenges.

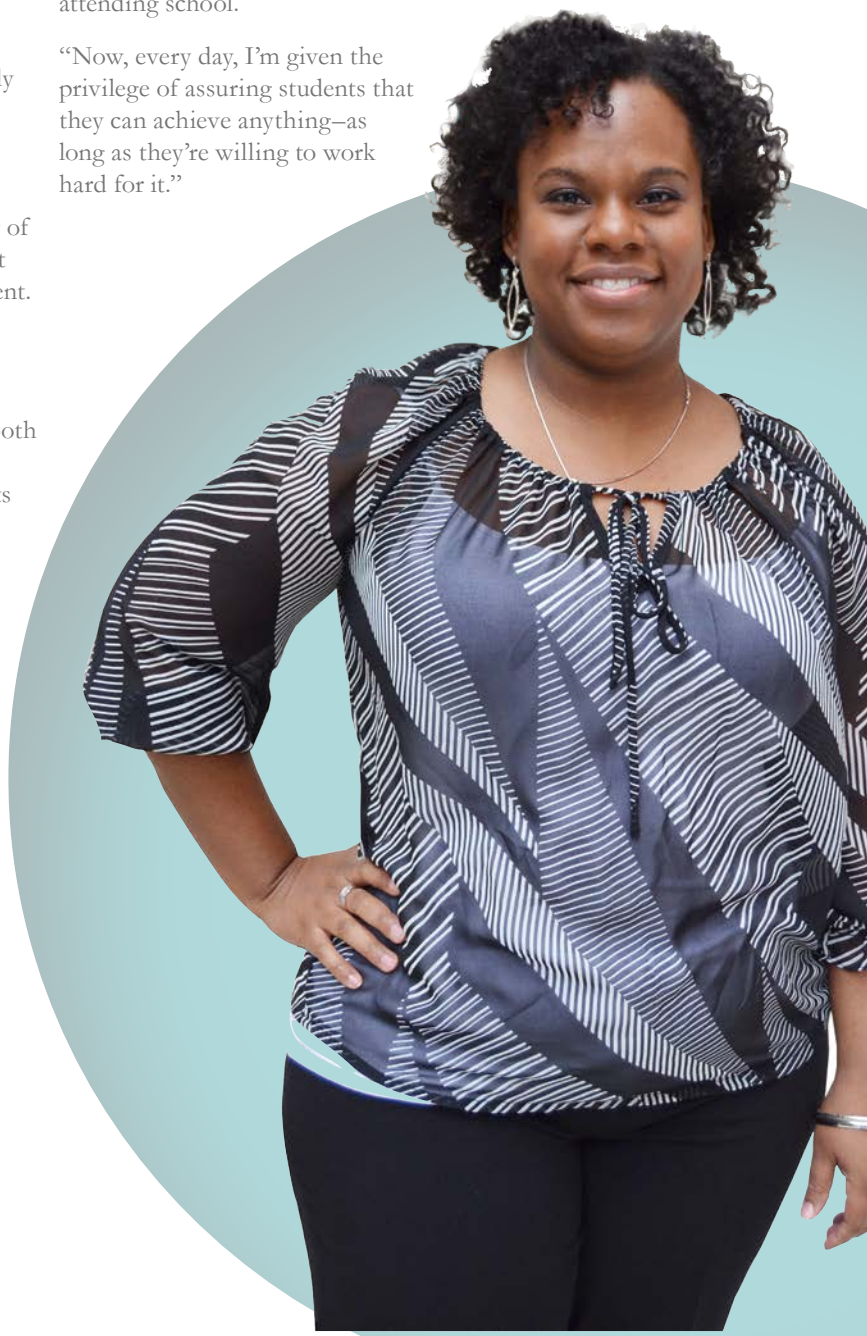
Thomas relates to the obstacles that sometimes accompany the college experience because she well-remembers her own struggles.

"I understand what some of our students are going through," admitted Thomas, a University of Kansas graduate. "I knew my

parents expected me to go to college but I didn't really understand the process. I was excited to be in college and got very involved. I became a Student Ambassador, a delegate for the Black Student Union, a member of the community dance team and was even 'Baby Jay,' the mascot, for a couple of semesters. I grew overwhelmed because I couldn't say 'no.' Then, I lost my father to cancer my freshman year and my grandfather my sophomore year and my grades really suffered. It was hard to focus. I graduated by the grace of God, and with support from family, faculty and staff members. They advocated for me because they wanted me to succeed."

Working in Admissions, Thomas believes, allows her the chance to offer the same encouragement she so desperately needed while attending school.

"Now, every day, I'm given the privilege of assuring students that they can achieve anything—as long as they're willing to work hard for it."





## ALUMNIFOCUS

# DAMARIS ROULETTE

## COMING HOME, GIVING BACK

**M**any of us, after leaving college, return to our alma mater to visit the faculty and staff who made profound differences in our lives. But, how many of us can say we've returned to our former schools to become one of those pivotal people for others? Damaris Roulette can. Here's her story.

Damaris Roulette was born and raised in the outskirts of Eldoret, Kenya, on a farm with her parents and four siblings. They owned livestock, sheep, chickens, and tended bean, corn, wheat and vegetable crops.

Although farming took up lots of time and effort, doing well in school and eventually going off to college was never optional. It was an expectation that began with her father—and was wholeheartedly adopted as her own ambition. Because of the expectation, Roulette performed well.

"I was a good student," says Roulette. "I studied hard—although, probably not hard enough," she laughed, "and was accepted into Moi Girls' High School, which was my first choice. The idea of college was ingrained in me since I was very little. I knew in third grade that I wanted to earn a PhD. The steps toward that were clear: good grades, hard work and discipline."

### JOURNEY TO GREATNESS

In 2003, Damaris enrolled at Central Missouri State University. "Tuition was higher than my family could comfortably afford. It was a struggle," said Roulette. "So, enter Donnelly College. Someone referred me to Donnelly and immediately, I loved it."

In addition to more affordable tuition,

Donnelly's smaller classes also held appeal for Roulette, who came from an environment where auditorium-filled classes were a common occurrence. "I got one-on-one attention in classes I found particularly difficult—can someone say college algebra?—and never felt lost. I remember how Sister Grace Malaney would stay behind with me to explain a concept I couldn't grasp. She was patient, supportive and would wait until she saw that light in my face that proved I got it."

In 2006, after earning her Associates in Science degree at Donnelly, Roulette transferred to Penn Valley Community College to await acceptance into their Registered Nursing (RN) program. She also applied to the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program, just in case the RN program was full.

And, much like that third grader who set her sights on earning a Ph.D., Roulette wouldn't stop until she got into the nursing program. Either one.

"I hadn't heard from Penn Valley, but knew I met all the requirements for both programs. I showed up at orientation before I received an acceptance letter. I had more than they needed for prerequisites and I exceeded the GPA requirement. I was so adamant about it; it was the running joke among the rest of the students. The acceptance letter came for the LPN program and my journey to nursing really began. I bridged to the RN program at Penn Valley, and soon after earning my RN certificate, went to MidAmerica Nazarene University to work on my Bachelor's degree."

Roulette took a nursing job at Saint Luke's South Hospital, and by working in the field, discovered what she already suspected: she genuinely enjoyed the nursing profession. After earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Roulette returned to MidAmerica Nazarene for a Master's of Science in Nursing, with an emphasis in Healthcare Administration

and Nursing Education.

### HELPING AT "HOME"

Once Roulette completed her master's program, Donnelly had an established Practical Nursing program in place—and came immediately to mind for Roulette, who was searching for a job. She inquired and was hired by Maureen Wiederholt, Associate Professor and Donnelly's Director of Health Occupations, to teach Medical Surgical I and assist wherever needed. She also helped with new instructor training before relocating to Austin, Texas, where she recently accepted a position at Career Point College in Austin as a Licensed Practical Nurse/Licensed Vocational Nurse instructor.

"It was always my dream to return to Donnelly in some capacity," says Roulette. "It was like coming back home when Maureen hired me as an adjunct faculty for the Practical Nursing program. She was my LPN instructor at Penn Valley! She expressed her pride in me and values my input. And that's how she treats every student. Above all, she cares for each and every one of them. They all matter to her."

When reflecting on her Donnelly education, Roulette holds Wiederholt, as well as a few other teachers, in very high esteem. "Karen Judy was an exceptional teacher. She radiated joy and absolutely loved her role as teacher. Joe Multhaupt made a mark in my life. His simple way of explaining concepts made me enjoy chemistry. My love for reading and writing was further increased by the style of teaching Sister Madonna used. And I can't say I love math, but Sister Grace actually helped me understand quadratic equations. She was awesome!"

And, in Roulette's case, the old adage is true: imitation is the biggest form of flattery.

"I want to be like all these teachers who were such great influences in my life and give back to others," she said. "What better way than to be a teacher myself in the profession I love?"





FACULTY FOCUS

# MAUREEN WIEDERHOLT

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL LEARN

**M**aureen Wiederholt, Associate Professor and Director of Healthcare Occupations, noticed a trend in her Geriatrics class.

“It seemed that, during our discussions about patient care, there was a disconnection. Some of our Practical Nursing students were separating themselves, emotionally, from the elderly patients. I wanted them to connect with their care from an emotional standpoint.”

Wiederholt deduced that some of the barrier might have stemmed from the manner in which the Geriatrics class was taught.

“Before, we used PowerPoints and lectures. The instructor talked, the students listened and took notes, and were expected to basically recite and retain the information we fed them.”

This setup was no longer working—so she changed the learning environment.

For the next Geriatrics session, Wiederholt “flipped the classroom.” Flipping the classroom is a teaching strategy in which the students are expected to do the reading and engage in interactive discussions and activities. As part of the new structure, she gave her students a project: to staff and maintain a long-term care facility.

As a starting point, Wiederholt “gave” the students a fictional building and a three million dollar budget. She then divided the class room into departments: maintenance,

dietary, security, human resources and nursing.

She also gave them one more nugget—an emotional motivator: “Remember,” she reminded them. “You’re doing this for your grandparents.”

## BUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP

The students decided, together, on the type of facility they wanted to run and what the rooms would require.

“We drew a picture of a nursing home and decided on the set up as a class. They determined, as a group, that our facility would support independent living,” Wiederholt said.

Figuring out the rest, like how to budget and run an effective department, was up to the individual groups. They were expected to research best practices and reported their findings in class.

The students used the Internet as a guide, but also talked to nurses and doctors in the field for insight into what it takes to run a successful, long-term care facility.

“It was fun to watch them stumble upon surprising moments. For example, everyone initially assumed that paying the nursing staff would take up the most financial resources. They were completely surprised by how much food costs. By the time the class finished the project, the budgets had to be completely reallocated.”



In the end, the students learned several valuable lessons.

“The students ran the facility properly, which made me really proud. In all the decisions they made, they were strong advocates for their patients. Along the way, they learned about the importance of making cost-effective decisions and most importantly, the true complexities that come along with taking good care of people.”

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*Maureen Wiederholt, ADN, BSN, MSTE, has spent over 30 years in nursing. Throughout her career, she has supported many institutions and facilities, such as Johnson County Community College, Penn Valley Community College, KU Medical Center, Providence Medical Center and others. Serving as the Donnelly's Director of Health Occupations since 2011, Wiederholt oversees the College's Practical Nursing, Pharmacy Technician, Certified Nurse Aide, Health Care Interpreter and Community Health Worker curricula. Over the years, she has also worked extensively with disadvantaged student populations and created educational programs to ensure their success.*



STUDENT FOCUS

# NATALIA LEGION

ROAD TO JOY



A decade ago, Natalia Legion, current Donnelly student, traveled from her native Russia with a few things in her possession: a letter from the American Embassy, granting permission to come to the States; the 25 English words she'd

learned from books and television; and perhaps, most importantly, an unyielding determination to make the most of the opportunity. After settling in the U.S., Legion decided to become a taxi driver—but first, had to learn enough English to pass the driver's test. She enrolled at Maple Woods Community College to begin the journey.

"The first book I ever translated was the one that taught the rules of the road," Legion recalled. Later, Legion transferred to Donnelly's ESL program at the recommendation of a friend because of smaller class sizes. Since arriving, Legion has completely immersed herself in the community, education and the opportunities that Donnelly provides.



“I have never studied as hard as I studied for Donnelly’s ESL classes,” Legion marveled. “We were required to submit stories every week—and that was hard! But I know that those exercises made me a better English speaker.”

Legion recognizes Michelle Bridges, Assistant Professor and EAP Director, and Dr. Melissa Lenos, Assistant Professor of English, as pivotal teachers on her road to learning the language. Their tactics and encouragement have obviously been effective: Legion, also a burgeoning writer, won Donnelly’s 2014 non-fiction Sister Mary Faith Schuster Award for *Lola*, her submission to *Dime: The Arts & Literary Journal of Donnelly College*.

## AVERTING A CRISIS

Easy-going and bubbly, yet gently assertive, Legion has a youthful exuberance—an adventurous joie de vivre that slightly belies her age. While many approaching the middle years find themselves in crisis mode when contemplating what’s next, Legion (who proudly proclaims that she’ll soon be 40) is excited about the future. She feels as if life has just begun.

“I didn’t feel like a grown up until age 35,” Legion said. “At that point, I started living independently and had to ask, ‘How am I going to handle myself?’ Nobody controlled me anymore or told me what to do or where to go. Living alone has built my confidence. And, it’s important to start a life in the cradle of my education.”

Natalia remains in close contact with her mom, who still resides in Russia, through regular phone calls, but doesn’t plan to return Russia after finishing her associate’s degree—at least, not immediately. Instead, she plans to transfer to the University of Missouri-Rolla, to pursue a degree in chemical engineering.

“I decided, a while ago, that I needed to change something in my life to improve it, so I decided to pursue chemical engineering. Becoming a chemical engineer will give me financial security. And, it will also allow me to make the environment better—especially around the world.”

## GET UP AND WALK

In keeping with everything else that Legion has put her mind to—taxi driving, which continues to be a thriving vocation for her; learning English; writing; and next, becoming a chemical engineer and making a difference in the environment—Legion is determined to approach everything with enthusiasm, optimism, self-reliance and joy.

“‘Be better than I was yesterday’ is the motto for my life, and I think it’s like a baby taking first steps,” Legion said. “Those first feelings of fear get replaced with curiosity. Then, once the baby gets stronger in walking, a whole new world opens up. It’s like that for all of us. You have to get up and walk to discover this life.”

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## DONNELLY COLLEGE DIGEST

The Donnelly Digest is a publication for 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. The College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association, 230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411; (800) 621-7440; www.ncahlc.org. Donnelly College maintains an open and welcoming environment, and does not discriminate on the basis of a person’s sex, race, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, ancestry or disability.

## LASTWORD DEGREES & PROGRAMS DONNELLY OFFERS MORE THAN EVER

### BACHELOR’S DEGREES

- Organizational Leadership
- Urban Teacher Education
- Information Systems

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

- Associate in Arts
- Associate in Applied Science
- Associate in Science

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CERTIFICATES

- Practical Nurse (PN)
- Community Health Worker
- Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)
- Pharmacy Technician
- Health Care Interpreter

### PREPARATORY EDUCATION

Offers introductory courses in math and English to provide an academic foundation to prepare students for the high expectations of college professors

### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

- English for Academic Purposes (EAP): College credit applicable; classes for those who plan on continuing with their college education.
- Community ESL (CESL): non-credit classes to help students improve English language skills (in preparation for college, to get a better job, or help their family).

### GATEWAY TO COLLEGE PROGRAM

In partnership with the Kansas City Kansas Public School district and the national Gateway to College Network; empowers youth who have dropped out of high school, or are not on track to graduate to earn a high school diploma and dual college credit.

### LANSING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY PROGRAM

One of few in the country offering programs to inmates, making education as accessible as possible to as many inmates as possible; students only required to pay one-third of the hourly tuition fee. (Donnelly College raises the remaining 2/3 of the tuition costs in scholarships from private patrons.)



## DONNELLY COLLEGE

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### POP CULTURE MEETS ACADEMIA

Dr. Melissa Lenos encourages students to look beyond the entertainment value of *Big Brother*, *Survivor*, and *The Bachelor* to the bigger "social impact" of pop culture in her *Introduction to Popular Culture* course.\*

## COMING YOUR WAY

Keep your eyes open for more information about these upcoming summer and fall events. You'll find updates and details at [donnelly.edu](http://donnelly.edu), Facebook and Twitter.

- 8.16.14 Bloch Service Day/New Student Orientation
- 8.18.14 Fall Semester begins
- 9.11.13 Convocation Day Mass
- 9.26.14 SHINE - Annual Scholarship Event ([donnelly.edu/shine](http://donnelly.edu/shine))
- 11.8.14 Donnelly Dash 5K ([donnelly.edu/dash](http://donnelly.edu/dash))
- 11.20.14 Gratia
- 11.25.14 Thanks and Giving

\*Introduction to Popular Culture  
will be offered in Fall 2014

Call 913.621.8700 or email  
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enrollment information.