

**DONNELLY
COLLEGE**

Digest

SPRING
2007

a publication for

Donnelly College alumni and friends



LEADERSHIP

LEADER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I make the following announcement with mixed feelings. After conversations, prayers, and a process of discernment, I have decided to retire from my job as president of Donnelly College as of June 30, 2007. I informed the chair of the board and the archbishop of this decision in December. I know that they have conferred about the process for selecting the next president of Donnelly College.

I have been a teacher and administrator in community colleges since 1969. I have had many interesting and satisfying experiences during my career in higher education, but none more satisfying than those at Donnelly College. I have served at rich colleges and poor colleges, big colleges and small colleges, rural colleges and urban colleges, private colleges and public colleges, and in all of them I found that, more than anything, it was not the characteristics of each type that made the difference, it was the people. While I served with many dedicated and caring people at all of those colleges, I found the passion, the sense of purpose, and the commitment to caring exemplified by the faculty and staff at Donnelly truly satisfying.

Above all, the students at Donnelly made it all worth while. I've helped a lot of students at four different community colleges over the years, but none with more courage and desire to make something of their lives, none with more "audacity to hope" in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles than the students at Donnelly. It's not about teaching students to expect great things from life; it's about teaching them to expect great things from themselves. And no place does it better than Donnelly College.

When I came to Donnelly, I made a promise to myself and to my God that Donnelly would be the end of my career. I committed to never leaving Donnelly for another position. And so it is. I will probably do volunteer work as do many other retirees, but I am not leaving to take another job.

Of course, my wife has much work, if not another job, in mind for me. We laugh when she says that, but she certainly has the right to expect any level of support I can provide her. If it were not for Jackie, I would never have survived these past nine years, and I definitely would not have made whatever contributions I may have made. It would almost be embarrassing for people to know how much of anything I may have accomplished in my tenure at Donnelly is due to her devoted support at all times and direct intervention some times. More amazing is that while she was doing so much to help Donnelly College, she was also moving up in her career and dealing with increasing challenges and responsibilities. The students at Donnelly College will never know how much they owe her, but I know.

I will admit that I have experienced some difficult times during my tenure at Donnelly. I have fought the nightmares, the sleepless nights, the necessary and unnecessary worrying, but through it all I remembered something one of my professors once said: "If there were no valleys, there could be no mountain tops." Over the years there have been a number of peak experiences for me at Donnelly, and that number has grown in recent years. From my perspective, Donnelly College is better positioned today than it has been at any time since I have been here to survive and endure for another hundred years. I choose to take my departure from the mountain top.



Mark your calendar now to attend a gala dinner on August 25 honoring Dr. Gibson and his wife, Jackie Snyder. In addition to recognizing their contributions, the banquet will also raise funds for scholarships. More information will be sent to our readers and posted at our website.

THANKS

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ON THE COVER

Class taught by Dr. Ken Gibson, Donnelly's president, who will be retiring at the end of this school year after 9 years at Donnelly.

volume 22, no. 1

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JOIN THE FUN FOR DONNELLY

Two special events are planned this spring to bring current Donnelly students, alumni and supporters, and the broader community together. Please call for more information and plan to show your support while having a good time.

THE DELTA DASH is a 3K walk/run through the Donnelly neighborhood. It is being held on Saturday, April 14, beginning at Donnelly at 8:45 a.m. to inaugurate a new heritage walking trail. This urban K.C. walk is one of several across the metro area that have been charted by the Kansas City Chronic Disease Coalition. Each route has its own map with points of interest marked for walkers. This will be the first designated walk in Kansas City, Kansas, and has been planned in cooperation with the Donnelly Healthy Student Task Force. Enjoy the neighborhood and show your commitment to healthy living. Contact Pat Callaghan, 913-621-8725. Free t-shirts and raffle prizes.

DONNELLY DAY AT THE LEGENDS THEATRE is a special celebration of family fun to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 26. Donnelly students will be selling tickets at the discount rate of only \$6 per ticket and the whole theater will become a private movie party for friends of Donnelly. All movies that are currently showing will be available, which will include the new "Pirates of the Caribbean 3" premiering that weekend, "Shrek 3," and others. See movies you were planning to see anyway for less than you were planning to pay, and part of your purchase price goes to benefit Donnelly's Organization of Student Leaders. Contact Sister Judith, 913-621-8707.

DON'T MISS IT!

ALUMNI NEWS

50's

Mary Anne (Weimar) Schweitzer '52 died January 28 after a long battle with illness.

Don Wolf, '56, who has led 15 trips to the native land of his ancestors, Croatia, would like to invite alumni to join him for a future trip. Anyone interested can contact Don at <Wolf1936@sbcglobal.net>.

60's

Ronald Davis '61 reports that he is still teaching history at California State University-Northridge. He has 2 granddaughters, Elodie Davis (18 months) and Lillian Grace Davis (8 months).

70's

Jesse Bustamante '72 passed away on Dec. 12, 2006.

90's

Maj. Charles P. Roe, USARet., works for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration as a cartographer. He is in the Technical Operations Aviation Systems Standards Office, National Aeronautical Charting Office, in Silver Spring, Maryland.

00's

Matthia Dukes is attending St. Mary's University in Omaha on a Sister Thea Bowman Scholarship. Her two children were recently baptized into the Catholic Church.

Brian Harrell '01 died on March 16.

Anita J. Dixon: Alumna With a Global Soul

Anita J. Dixon '84 is not where she originally set out to be, but she couldn't be happier. Once upon a time, she had a Fulbright scholarship and was headed to Lincoln University to major in journalism. Then, in 1992, the infant daughter who was also a part of that future plan was diagnosed with autism. Anita became a stay at home mother for her two daughters and began to adjust her thinking about her options.

"I had worked for Jerome Toson in the entrepreneurship program at Donnelly and began to think about my own business possibilities. I enrolled in the program and received so much help," Anita recalls. She formed a new dream, based on her interest in cultural heritage and the newly emerging field of cultural tourism. "There were only about 15 heritage tour companies and mine was the only one around Kansas City. Some people thought it was just a passing fad or novelty, but it hasn't slowed down at all in 15 years; it just grows." Today, cultural tourism is one of the biggest businesses in the travel world, generating \$800 billion in revenue.

Anita started her business modestly, offering local tours to black cultural sites such as churches and underground railroad sites, exploring connections between various ethnic minorities in Kansas City's history, and especially showing off the city's jazz heritage. She is most proud of being instrumental in implementing the design for the 12th & Vine jazz memorial.

She works primarily with reunion and school groups. "I love the children the most," she says. "I want them to get a sense of history; I tell them to pay attention any time they dig up something in the ground that isn't plastic!"

Her enthusiasm for her career grows too. "There are so many people today with mixed ethnic roots who want to get in touch with their heritage. There are small business people here who will never meet their customers in China. We are developing what I call a global soul, and the more we are exposed to different cultures, the more enriched we all become."

Her enthusiasm also caught the eye of the Black Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, which named her its 2005 Businesswoman of the Year. She is grateful for the pivotal role that Donnelly played in her life. "At the time I needed it most, it was a nurturing place, concerned about where every student is going. They helped me plant my feet and find my way."

Anita Dixon admires the tree in front of Donnelly given by her class when it was only "this big around."



Xiachang Her: Listening Makes a Leader



Xia leads by example on the monthly No Elevator Day. Students are rewarded with fruit and water if they make the stairs to seventh floor. Xia heads the Healthy Student Task Force, which is also planning the Delta Dash and other health related activities.

If you ask Xiachang Her about himself, he says “I’m just average, not a super high-achieving guy.” The facts, however, suggest otherwise.

A graduate of Schlagle High School in Kansas City, Kansas, his parents arrived by way of Thailand, Laos and Michigan. Growing up as a middle child with 3 brothers and 7 sisters, he says he has to work very hard sometimes just to find a place and time to study.

At Donnelly, he is active in the Organization of Student Leaders and TRiO Student Support Services and is currently leading the Healthy Student Task Force. In cooperation with the K.C. Chronic Disease Coalition, they organize activities to encourage the Donnelly community to practice healthy habits. “I don’t just want people to learn in class,” he urges. “I want to get the message out that it’s bad to be unhealthy.”

Always alert to opportunities, he responded to an e-mail to students regarding Kaufman Foundation programs. He now works for them as a tutor for junior high students and is also a bus monitor/chaperone for their field trips. He also enjoys volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. He doesn’t think any of this makes him extraordinary. “I guess I end up leading things because I listen to other people,” and he adds with a smile, “I’m easily persuaded to get involved.”

Graduating in May, he plans to go to UMKC and study for a career in astrophysics, pursuing his fascination with space theories. “I first wanted to be an astronaut, but NASA told me I was too short.” Judging from his enthusiasm and perseverance, this will probably be one of the few things he will be turned away from in life.

Dr. Lewis Cook, class of 2000, has one more achievement of which to be proud. He was featured in the Fall 2006 *Digest* after he earned his degree in dentistry from UMKC. As a result of his success, he was recently named the 2007 winner of the TRiO Achiever Award for the Missouri-Kansas-Nebraska region.

TRiO Student Support Services, a program of the U. S. Department of Education, provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements, and motivates students toward successful completion of their education. The goal is to increase graduation rates and help students make the transition from one level of higher education to the next. Dr. Cook truly embodies this goal.

WANTED: New president for Donnelly College. Board chairperson Gary Grable has announced the formation of a search committee to fill Dr. Gibson’s position. The job description and qualifications are posted at:

www.donnelly.edu/presidentsearch

A current project of the OSL is **Seeds of Hope Green Zones**. Seeds of Hope is a program begun in Bagdad to bring beauty and hope to the lives of those suffering from violence. It has now spread throughout the world as a symbolic gesture of peace, and brings attention to violence both locally and globally.

Small green signs outside offices or classrooms designate them as Green Zones, spaces that have been offered for starting flower seeds or cuttings for a Garden of Peace. The person in the room can bring in any kind of flowers or herbs and start them. Later, the plants will be moved outside to a beautiful, peaceful garden area, which will be dedicated in front of Donnelly later this spring.

It's a tropical theme for this year's poetry festival from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on April 4. Under the title "Poetry in Paradise," students, alumni and staff are invited to submit poems which express their thoughts about their personal idea of paradise.

In addition to the reading, with cash prizes for the best poems, there will be a poetry trivia contest to encourage all students to a new appreciation of poetry.

Organization Prepares Student Leaders

It's a group that is just what its name says: the Organization of Student Leaders. Members practice many skills that they will need for future success by learning to be leaders among their peers. They organize student activities, engage in service projects and act as ambassadors of the college. The college's TRiO Student Support Services and the office of the dean of students sponsor the group, but the day-to-day mentoring falls to their advisor, Janice Stouse.

She is enthusiastic about the group. "It is open to every student in good standing, but I look for students with outgoing personalities and a willingness to really pitch in. It's not Ms. Stouse's organization; I'm just here to keep them grounded," she says. She helps them organize events, examines the action plans they develop for activities, and advises them as they carry out their plans.

The activities involve the students in every aspect of college life: producing the school paper *The Delta Planet*, giving tours to high school seniors, and assisting at registration, and holding such diverse events as blood drives, activities for El Centro's day care children, poetry festival and food drive. They also organize task forces for campus betterment.

The current executive board includes Tina Gerber, Marvin Floyd, Luis Rodriguez, Josh Widener and Joe Ramirez. Floyd sees many ways in which the OSL is a benefit for students. **"It helps on your resume, you can do a lot of good for others, meet people and make friends, and really feel good about yourself."**

A new way of meeting people is a series of cultural exchanges which bring the students together with ESL and non-traditional students. No day goes by at Donnelly when there are not OSL students actively engaging in real leadership that will serve them well for their entire lives.

At a recent OSL meeting, (right) instructor Rocky Peltzman and members Paola Zapata and Phouva Khensisana listen to advisor Jan Stouse. Below, Joshua Widener, alumni director Roger Berg, Jr., Mark Patino, Anjelica Valdovino, Danila Rodriguez, Marvin Floyd and Tina Gerber plan for campus events.



Bachelor's Program Prepares Organizational Leaders

Donnelly is proud to have begun its first baccalaureate degree program and is looking forward to a future which will include many bachelor degree graduates. In its first semester of operation last spring, there were 18 enrollees, which nearly doubled to 32 in the fall semester. Donnelly offers the only on-site degree completion program in Wyandotte County and makes this opportunity available to local persons seeking further education and career advancement, as well as to Donnelly's current students who can now complete their four-year degree here.

According to Kevin Kelley, vice president of Donnelly, only 12 per cent of Wyandotte County residents have a bachelor's degree. A recent article in the *Wyandotte West* newspaper profiled Tina Carter and Walter Staley, two students who had transferred from Kansas City Kansas Community College to Donnelly to complete their four-year degree. **"It's given me an opportunity to stay closer to home rather than go to the Missouri side,"** said Staley.

This is exactly what is intended by the new program. Class schedules are designed to be accessible for the broadest range of student needs, with traditional semester courses, eight-week night sessions and weekend courses that meet on four Friday evenings and Saturdays. The first bachelor's degree is in organizational leadership, and its goal is to train students for management in a wide variety of professional fields.

Donnelly, however, makes this program reflect the college's own history and mission. Students can expect the usual classes in economics, organizational theory/behavior, and finances, but they will also find much more. Comparative religions and ethical and spiritual dimensions of leadership are among the courses that express Donnelly's unique focus and place its academics in perspective. At Donnelly, students learn about diversity and respect for different cultures. They learn about their own personal and ethical responsibilities. They are called not merely to be competent business people but to be moral leaders within their organizations.

An article in the *Kansas City Star* (January 14, 2007) highlighted the program and its students. A large picture of student Richard Mumford was accompanied by his statement, **"I want to be able to start my own business. The classes are helping me learn to manage people and be a good leader."**

Certainly this new initiative extends Donnelly's mission of bringing higher education to the underserved. The price remains reasonable and students can transfer up to 79 hours from another institution, 19 more hours than most colleges allow. As this degree option increases its enrollment and other degrees are added, more current Donnelly students, students from other area community colleges, and busy working people from around the area will be able to fulfill dreams of higher education that they thought unattainable.

FORMER STAFF

William Taylor, '89 graduate and long-time night clerk at the Donnelly College Library, died February 4 at Providence Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Janet, two daughters and his father.

CURRENT FACULTY/STAFF

Tom Brown, librarian, has been invited to serve on the United Way Allocations Committee this year, helping to evaluate the proposals in the Wyandotte County Health area for United Way money from American Red Cross, Duchesne Clinic and Special Olympics.

Sister Barbara Mayer, OSB, director of public relations, is on sabbatical this semester at the Berakah Renewal Center in New Hampshire. During her absence, Sister Judith Sutera, of the public relations office at Mount St. Scholastica, is assisting with her duties.

Dr. Amber Reagan-Kendrick received the 2007 Perseverance Through Adversity Award at Aldersgate Church in Kansas City, Kansas.

“Meet the Presidents” Program Fosters Women Leaders

“It was an eye opener!” is Brittany Oden’s evaluation of the second annual Meet the Presidents Program. In cooperation with the Keeler Women’s Center, a ministry of the Benedictine sisters which is housed at Donnelly, four Donnelly students had a chance to shadow local female executives. Sister Carol Ann Petersen, director of Keeler, uses her many contacts in the business community to pair professionals with a student who is interested in her particular field. The women participating in the program are given orientation, interview suggestions, and their own business cards to make their entry into the world of women executives.

Brittany, whose interest is community development, visited revitalization sites with Evelyn Hudson, vice president of operations for City Vision Ministries, a development corporation. Luz Ortiz, who aspires to a career in industrial engineering, met with Holly Shorney-Darby and other engineers at Black and Veach, where her mentor is a water projects engineer with international experience. She had an opportunity to observe meetings and find out about some of their projects.



(Above) Ondra Penn and Jenny Menjivar
(Right) Brittany Oden and Evelyn Hudson



Tina Gerber is attracted to public relations, especially for non-profit groups. In her time with Melissa Bynum, the director of resource development for the American Red Cross, there was more to learn than just the occupation. “I learned a lot about people in an office. It was a good way to see a model of how people interact in the workplace,” says Tina.

For Jenny Menjivar, who is considering a career in social work, there were many different

dimensions of the field to see at the Wilhelmina “Willa” Gill Center and Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation. Her mentor, Ondra O. Penn, is the case manager for the homeless and involved in many aspects of the services there. Ms. Penn called it a “delightful experience.” She was happy to participate when invited because, as she notes, **“It is so important to empower other women. I want to help them know that they can make it and that they can make a difference wherever they go in life.”** Melissa Bynum seconded that, saying, “It is high on my list to mentor another woman and to support education.

This is the second year that Donnelly has offered this opportunity. Last year, four other students observed four other professional women including the superintendent of schools and the former mayor. Sister Carol Ann hopes that more students will participate in the coming years. The program is open to any student recommended to her by the college.

Brittany’s “eye-opening” experience was everything she had hoped it would be and more. “I’m even more excited now because I know what I might be getting into and I’m looking forward to wherever I end up, even if I don’t know exactly where that might be yet.” Her mentor and the others look forward to future contacts and welcome such opportunities to use their leadership to make other women into leaders.

When Donnelly College was founded, it was a dream shared by Bishop Donnelly and by the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas. Because of the significant commitment of the sisters in the founding and in continued staffing, the leader of the monastery always serves on the board of Donnelly. Sister Anne Shepard, O.S.B. has been the prioress at the Mount since the sisters elected her in June of 2005. Before that, she had served for five years as the director of development and communications for the monastic community.

Raised in Washington, D.C., she met the Atchison sisters when she came to college there, and remained to become a member of the monastery. She later received a doctorate in education with an emphasis in peace education from Columbia University in New York. She has taught, been a high school principal, and served as the superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

With such a life-long concern for education, she is well able to appreciate the mission of Donnelly College and the importance of her involvement in its board of directors. About Donnelly, she says, **“The Benedictine sisters support Donnelly not only because we were involved in the founding of it, but because of the mission to serve the clientele that attend the school. While the demographics may have shifted over the years, the men and women who want an education to advance themselves and their careers has remained a constant.”**

The mission of the Benedictines of Mount St. Scholastica is built around both the spirituality of the monastic life and the concern of the sisters for just such a clientele. In one of the portions of the community’s vision statement, it says, “Our ministry will flow out of our monastic living and will focus on empowering women, particularly the young, the poor and those most in need through education and the sharing of our Benedictine culture and spirituality.” The Keeler Women’s Center, housed at Donnelly and sponsored by the Benedictines, gives special witness to this commitment.

Sister Anne serves on numerous boards in her role as prioress, and doing so is a time-consuming, and not always easy, task. She is energized, however, by what happens at Donnelly, and has even agreed to give the extra commitment of serving on the search committee for the new president. “Many of these students,” she notes, “are the first generation of

their family attending college. Most work their way through school. Many have English as their second language. **Of all the graduations that I attend, there is no more pride in the eyes of family, friends and graduates than what one sees at Donnelly College.”**

OSL members Marvin Floyd and Luis Rodriguez welcome Sumner Academy students coming to Donnelly for a recruitment visit. Many such tour groups from area high schools are hosted by OSL members each spring.



I REMEMBER . . .

Tom Hatch, former Donnelly student, and his wife Jackie recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Both Jackie and Tom speak with respect and appreciation when talking about their Catholic education years. Tom believes that the scope of his learning was a great preparation for K-State (one semester), Donnelly years, and finally Rockhurst. The moral compass derived from his Ward and Donnelly years taught him a love of life and a respect for others that he passed to his children.

Tom and Jackie are beautiful examples of a quality life, enriched by Catholic tradition, strengthened through change and time, and "walking the walk."

(from an article for Ward's alumni paper by Pat Slaughter Antonopoulos, Donnelly '58)



The Hatches when they were a young family in the 1970's.

Bequest of John Horan Continues Legacy of Giving

John Horan was certainly a self-made man, but he was also a selfless man. A long-time supporter of Donnelly and other charitable causes in Kansas City, he left \$15,000 to Donnelly College in his will and his children donated another \$22,000 from his estate to benefit Donnelly. More than half of this gift has been endowed to create the John and Florence Horan Scholarship, which will be funded by the interest earned each year.



John Horan and his wife Florence

"My father grew up in Kansas City, Kansas, during the Depression and never had a chance to go to college," his daughter, Joan, said. "In fact, as a teenager, he worked along with his dad to help insure that his three older sisters went to college. He would be very pleased that his gift would help needy students obtain a college degree. He would also be pleased to know that he had a lasting legacy at a long-standing institution such as Donnelly in the area where he spent his childhood."

As a teenager he ran telegrams to cattlemen in the stockyards. Later he became a stock boy in the George H. Weyer Co., a wholesale beauty and barber supply company serving a five-state region, and went on to become president of the company where he worked for 60 years. He also founded H & K Sales Company to market a number of his inventions.

According to daughter Joan, he was a savvy investor and managed his own money until he died at age 94 in 2005. "He watched the stock market every day until he died," she said.

"He was a man of many interests," Joan noted. "He kept up with politics, wrote to his congressional representatives, and would have loved to become a lawyer. He drew the blueprints for the family home where he and my mother raised four children. He traveled extensively with my mother, Florence, who passed away in 1995. He was very generous to the Catholic Church and many other organizations that helped the disadvantaged, the homeless and the elderly."

Joan Horan, vice-president of Human Resources at DST Systems, is a member of the Donnelly board of trustees. Her siblings, who also made a gift to Donnelly in honor of their parents, are Tom Horan, Kathy Komatz, and Anne Belinger, all residents of the Kansas City area.

Phoneathon: Invest in the Future

On Sunday, March 25, volunteer students, alumni, employees, and board members, reached out to Donnelly alumni across the country for our annual phonathon. This year's theme, "Continuing Traditions" emphasizes the fact that Donnelly remembers the past, celebrates the present, and invests in the future. According to Donnelly student Tina Gerber, **"This will be my third year as a volunteer caller and I really enjoy talking with the alumni because it gives me a chance to thank them for their support."**

Creating a Legacy of Caring

Why?

There are many reasons for making a gift to Donnelly College, whether it is:

- to support our unique mission and programs
- a desire to invest in education to change the community - and lives - one student at a time
- to continue the Catholic tradition of education rooted in values
- to give to the next generation, particularly those needing an extra hand
- to take advantage of charitable deduction tax credits.



Ways to Give Back:

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

There are many easy ways to contribute, several of which can also generate annual income for yourself. If you would like more information about making gifts to Donnelly College, contact **Emily Buckley**, Director of Development, at 913-621-6070, ext 231 or email her at ebuckley@donnell.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!

The phonathon is an opportunity for Donnelly alumni to share their stories, send a message to a former classmate or teacher, and learn what's happening at Donnelly. **"This is also a great opportunity for our alumni to give back and help someone else achieve their dream of a college education, and a way to honor the memory of those teachers, staff members and classmates who made an impact on their lives,"** said Roger Berg Jr., alumni director.

With the generous help of a \$10,000 challenge grant from DST, we hope to raise \$40,000 for our biggest need, student scholarships. All gifts will be doubled by funds provided by the challenge grant from DST and other alums who contributed another \$10,000 to secure the grant. Anyone who did not receive a call during the event and would still like to take advantage of these matching dollars may call Roger Berg Jr. at 913-621-8744.



Calendar of Events



MARCH 25

Alumni Phoneathon

Please Give Generously



APRIL

- 4 Poetry Festival
- 14 Donnelly Dash Heritage Walk
- 26-27 Multicultural Fair

MAY

- 17 Graduation
- 26 Family Day at Legends Theatre

JUNE

- 4 Summer Classes begin

AUGUST

- 25 Dr. Gibson Scholarship Banquet



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