

DONNELLY COLLEGE

DIGEST

SUMMER
2009

A publication for Donnelly alumni and friends



60
YEARS
1949-2009



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Scholarship Dinner to Kick Off 60th Anniversary, *page 10*

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donnelly.edu



Robert Bartunek
Donnelly Trustee

Leader's Message

Alumni and Friends,

When Donnelly College first opened, gasoline prices were 17¢ per gallon and the average wage was 70¢ an hour. Postwar prosperity was underway and Kansas City provided a home to many immigrant families from Ireland and Eastern Europe. Working in the city's meat-packing houses, the vast majority of those individuals never dreamed of earning a college degree. However, because of the bold vision of the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica and the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, this was about to change.

The sisters recognized the need to create a Catholic community college to serve the urban core of Kansas City and provide those immigrant workers with an opportunity to receive a college education. When the Archdiocese generously offered a building, their vision became a reality. This reality took form sixty years ago with the founding of Donnelly in 1949.

As a proud member of Donnelly's Board of Trustees, I would like to invite each of you to celebrate Donnelly's 60th anniversary, as well as the continued success of a college that is truly unmatched. A college that, despite opportunities to relocate, has consistently taken "The Road Less Traveled," determined to carry on its original mission of providing education in the heart of Kansas City.

Archbishops George J. Donnelly, Edward Hunkeler, Ignatius J. Strecker, James P. Keleher and Joseph Naumann — the leaders of Donnelly's sponsor, The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas — have each demonstrated significant commitments that enabled Donnelly to reach this 60th-year milestone. To support Donnelly students, the College will host its Third Annual Scholarship Dinner on September 26, 2009, at the Jack Reardon Civic Center in downtown KCK. We are excited this year to commemorate not only 60 years of "The Road Less Traveled" by Donnelly, but also our event honorees — the five bishops of the Archdiocese.

Our event goal is to raise \$160,000 to create an Endowed Scholarship in the Archbishops' names and to support our annual scholarship fund. For most Donnelly students, cost — not ability — is the single biggest hurdle of achieving a college education. The annual Scholarship Dinner provides necessary scholarship dollars directly to Donnelly students, allowing them access to a private education.

Now open your eyes to the present day, where gas has been as high as \$4.00 per gallon and the average hourly wage is not enough to cover a meal for a family. The community is still filled with immigrant families, now from all ends of the globe, and other families with limited financial resources who are utilizing Donnelly College to earn their degrees.

Please consider attending or sponsoring a table at this year's dinner. **You have an opportunity to give a young person the biggest gift you can give — an education.** Don't miss your chance to change someone's life, and the lives of future generations.

Sincere regards,

Robert Bartunek
Scholarship Dinner Chairman & Donnelly Trustee

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ON THE COVER: Donnelly's first graduating class (1950), stands outside the original campus site on Sandusky Avenue. From left to right: Eugene Hess, Robert Sullivan, Edward Schofield, Monsignor Alexander Harvey, Bishop George J. Donnelly, Mary Jane Bennett, Mary Ann Schopper and Sylvia Majeski.

David Stanley, 2009 graduate, speaks to the crowd at Donnelly's commencement ceremony on May 16.

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34 STUDENTS EARN THEIR ASSOCIATE AND BACHELOR'S DEGREES THIS YEAR

Matthia Dukes waits anxiously with fellow graduates as proud families filled the room at the Jack Reardon Civic Center on May 16 for this year's commencement ceremony. Senator Sam Brownback served as keynote speaker. Other speakers included George Breidenthal (Board of Trustees Chairman), Rachel Leonard and David Stanley (2009 graduates), Kevin Kelley (Vice President and Dean of Instruction), Steve LaNasa (President), and Archbishop Joseph Naumann. See page 7 for details.



FOX4-TV REPORTER INTERVIEWS DONNELLY ALUMS

FOX-4 television reporter Leslie Carto visited Donnelly on June 9 to interview a group of alumni about the College's 60th anniversary celebration this year. FOX4 is also celebrating its 60th anniversary year, and plans to air the interviews as part of an upcoming anniversary series featuring local organizations celebrating 60 years in business. Donnelly's feature is scheduled to air this coming October. Check donnelly.edu for updates about the specific time and date.



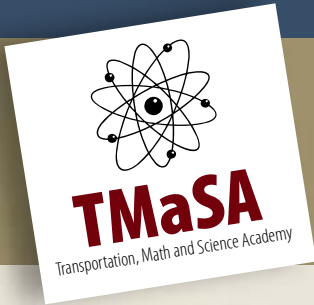
STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AIDS EDUCATION PROJECT

The Student Support Services department hosted the "Dramatic AIDS Education Project" on June 17. This unique presentation utilizes local medical students and professional actors from Kansas City's Coterie Theatre as trained AIDS peer educators. Using dramatic monologues, slides and music, the medical students and actors portray HIV-infected teenagers to educate teens about the transmission and prevention of AIDS.



PRESIDENT LANASA SIGNS ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH KCKCC

On August 24, President Steve LaNasa and Thomas Burke, Ph.D., President of Kansas City Kansas Community College (KCKCC), signed an articulation agreement designed to expand educational opportunities for students attending KCKCC. The agreement, called the Associates to Bachelor's Completion (ABC) program, will allow students to make a seamless transition from KCKCC to Donnelly's bachelor's degree program. Donnelly also has similar agreements with Johnson County Community College and Metropolitan Community Colleges.



Donnelly Partners With KDOT to Sponsor a Summer Math & Science Program

WHILE MANY HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS SPENT their hot summer days relaxing by the pool, 25 students from across the Kansas City area chose to wake up early to spend time learning about career opportunities in fields such as engineering, technology and law. Motivated by an interest in keeping their minds stimulated, these unique students decided to challenge themselves by participating in Donnelly's Transportation, Math and Science Academy (TMaSA).

Donnelly's TMaSA program was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). The program was one of many Summer Transportation Institutes (STIs) sponsored on college campuses throughout the U.S. aiming to increase diversity in and preparedness for transportation industry careers. Donnelly's program was the only STI offered in Kansas for the second year in a row.

"Our mission at KDOT is to address the need for a diverse workforce and to create an awareness of the career opportunities that exists in the transportation industry," said Debra Hepp, Program Consultant in KDOT's Office of Civil Rights. "We felt that Donnelly was an excellent choice due to its location and connection to a diverse community."

Donnelly wrote the proposed grant and received approval for the program in April. Nearly 90 students from around the Kansas City, Kansas, area applied for one of the 25 spots available. Participants were selected based on their extracurricular involvement, career and academic interests, as well as an essay submitted to Donnelly's selection committee. Students came from Sumner Academy, Bishop Ward, Wyandotte, Schlagle, Washington, and Harmon high schools.

In addition to educating students about career opportunities in the transportation industry and providing academic enrichment, this faculty-led program included four hands-on field trips.

The first of these was a visit to the General Motors Assembly Plant in KCK. Here, students were able to witness a vehicle being made and tested. Next, the group traveled to the Johnson County Executive Airport where they met the chief pilot of KMBC-TV's NewsChopper 9, Johnny Rowlands.

The group also visited the Airline History Museum located at the historic Downtown Airport in Kansas City, Mo. Finally, students paid a visit to the KDOT offices in Topeka, Kan., where they toured the building and viewed current construction maps and plans.

Students felt the program was a beneficial experience, specifically the field trips and final project.

"I would definitely recommend Donnelly's program to other high-school students," said Jermaine Rhone, a senior at Schlagle High School in KCK. "I plan to earn my bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, so TMaSA gave me a way to sharpen some of those skills. The best part of the program was our final project where we were asked to follow specific instructions on how to build a small, robotic car. We also designed a track out of recyclable materials and had to program the car to drive on the track – it was really interesting."

Donnelly faculty and staff were proud of the creativity shown and the progress made by each student throughout the month-long program.

"We wanted to create a program that high-school students would be interested in," said Donette Alonzo, Senior Academic Counselor and TMaSA Program Coordinator at Donnelly. "After speaking to the students and listening to their final group presentations, I think we accomplished that."

Hepp and Alonzo are hopeful the program will receive funding next year as well, and are aiming to double outreach by offering two four-week programs – one in June and one in July – each with 25 participant spots.

To learn more about Donnelly's 2009 TMaSA program, visit donnelly.edu/tmasa.



TMaSA participant Trinity Hall works on his group's final presentation.

ORIENTATION PREPARES STUDENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE EXPERIENCE



Silvia Herrera meets another freshman student at the "Welcome to Donnelly" student orientation on August 22.

Fifty excited students and their families gathered in Donnelly's first-floor Meeting Room on Saturday, Aug. 22, for the "Welcome to Donnelly" student orientation. The event targeted first-time and re-admitted students and was designed to ease the nervousness that comes with beginning college life.

President Steve LaNasa welcomed attendees, emphasizing the importance of utilizing this day to ask questions and become familiar with all of the support programs that make the Donnelly experience unique.

Father John Melnick highlighted Donnelly's Catholic identity and promoted

the Campus Ministry program (*learn more about Father John on page 15*).

In addition, students had the chance to learn about Donnelly traditions and explore student-life activities.

"We wanted students to leave orientation with an understanding of our high expectations from them, as well as what they can expect of us as faculty and staff," said Sari Higgins, Academic Counselor and leader of the orientation event. "Students were able to meet our current student leaders and create an immediate connection with other Donnelly students."

Watch the "Welcome to Donnelly" student orientation on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/DonnellyCollege!



Practical Nursing Program Holds its First Completion Ceremony

ON JULY 20, 2009, THE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM took another step forward as nursing faculty led the first completion ceremony for nursing student Cheryl Ray.

Dressed in crisp white pants and a fresh white shirt, Ray stood proudly in front of family members, Donnelly faculty, staff and fellow students as she prepared to accept her certificate of completion.

Ada Williams, R.N., M.S., Director of Nursing, welcomed those in attendance and gave thanks to the individuals who helped make the program a success.

Donnelly’s President, Steve LaNasa, spoke to Ray’s exceptional work ethic, admitting that, because she was on campus so often, he initially thought she was a faculty member.

Many family members were there to celebrate with Ray, including her son Jason and his family. “I am so proud of her,” he said. “She exudes courage and perseverance.”

Anne Briginshaw, R.N., M.A., Clinical Nursing Instructor, led the official pinning portion of the ceremony. “Cheryl’s work ethic is impeccable – she is such a goal-oriented individual,” said Briginshaw. “She devoted so much time to her coursework, making sure she understood the teachings before moving on to the next topic.”

Briginshaw added one final decoration to Ray’s ensemble – the traditional nursing cap.

“This program was a wonderful experience for me,” said Ray. “I felt at home the minute I walked in the door. The staff was wonderful, giving me the confidence I needed and helping me in any way they could.”

“We are so proud of Cheryl and her work in the nursing program,” said Williams. “She is an outstanding individual, hard worker, and promising professional – an asset to any nursing staff. All of the nursing instructors, myself included, look forward to seeing Cheryl succeed as we all know she will.”

Ray plans to go on to complete the nursing program at Neosho County Community College. “Eventually, I would love to work in a hospital or with the developmentally disabled,” said Ray. “I love school, so who knows – I may end up becoming a teacher. Maybe I’ll end up teaching at Donnelly!”

ATTEND THE DONNELLY DASH 5K RUN/WALK and support our nursing program! This year’s Dash is Saturday, Nov. 7, at 9 a.m., with proceeds going toward a health-care scholarship. Call (913) 621-8700 or visit donnelly.edu for more information or to register for this event. 📞

Community gathers to celebrate this year's graduates

Senator Brownback serves as keynote speaker

EXCITEMENT WAS IN THE AIR AT THE JACK Reardon Civic Center in Kansas City, Kan., on Saturday, May 16, 2009, as graduating students anxiously waited for commencement to begin. Proud friends and families packed the room, eager to see their graduate walk across the stage.

Faculty and staff lined the hallways, dressed in academic regalia. Even Senator Sam Brownback, keynote speaker for the ceremony, wore his scholarly garb.

Brownback has supported Donnelly through many endeavors, recently helping to secure a Department of Justice grant for the degree program at Lansing Correctional Facility.



“We were honored to have Senator Brownback share in this year’s celebration with our Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, families and friends of our graduates,” said Donnelly’s president, Steve LaNasa. “Graduation is always a momentous occasion, but Donnelly’s is especially moving.”

In addition to Senator Brownback, George Breidenthal, Donnelly alumnus, spoke as the current Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

“I was proud to speak to the Class of 2009 and, hopefully, gave them some words of inspiration,” said Breidenthal. “I was one of them earlier in my life, and have Donnelly to thank for many of the successes I’ve experienced.”

Rachel Leonard and David Stanley, two representatives from this year’s graduating class, also spoke.

Leonard graduated with her Associate of Arts degree and is currently enrolled in courses leading to a bachelor’s degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. From there, she plans to attend Harvard Law School and, eventually, hopes to become a judge.

“As a student who is determined to make an impact on my instructors and fellow classmates, I was truly honored to have been selected as one of this year’s commencement speakers,” said Leonard. “My mother, husband and four children are all so proud of me and were in attendance to provide encouragement and support.”

David Stanley graduated that day with his Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership. Stanley is already putting his degree to work as a founder of Joshua Tent, an urban ministry church that reaches out to underprivileged youth in KCK.

“I was proud to speak at this year’s graduation ceremony, not just because I’m the only one in my family to have received a college degree, but also because I received it from such a wonderful institution,” said Stanley. “My experiences at Donnelly were life-changing and I’m forever grateful to everyone who has compassionately invested so much in me and in all of my peers throughout the past four years.”

These speakers were joined in the graduation ceremony by Most Rev. Joseph Naumann, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, as well as the Board of Trustees and members of the Alumni Association.

Top: Graduates Denise White (far right) and Yvonne Harris wait anxiously with their fellow graduates for the commencement ceremony to begin. Bottom left: Senator Sam Brownback exits the graduation ceremony, followed by faculty member Jaime Fuentes and Senior Academic Counselor Donette Alonzo.



60 YEARS

1949-2009

"It affords me great pleasure to establish in Kansas City, Kansas, Donnelly Community College as part of the diocesan educational system. The lack of such an institution left a gap that needed bridging."

-Bishop George J. Donnelly, from the 1949 Founder's Day program



One Mission. 60 Years Later.

THE DONNELLY COLLEGE STORY has all of the elements of a good book –protagonists, antagonists, passion and transformations. Many good stories begin with one small spark of an idea – one that gradually grows into a bright flame. Donnelly's story is no exception.

In 1949, protagonists Sister Jerome Keeler and Bishop George J. Donnelly, saw a need to make Christian education available in the urban core of Kansas City, Kan. With the leadership and dedication of the Benedictine Sisters and the support of the Archdiocese, Donnelly Community College was established as part of the diocesan educational system.

Limited budgets and the challenges of serving an urban community acted and continue to act as this story's antagonists, but the mission of the founders allows the undying Donnelly spirit to continue on.

Donnelly's rich history is comprised of countless passionate individuals, each helping to bring the College where it is today. Undoubtedly, Sister Jerome Keeler and Bishop Donnelly demonstrated tremendous passion when they took "The Road Less

Traveled" and founded an institution unlike any other – an institution that bridged a dark gap in higher education by educating those who might not otherwise be served.

The intense passion of the faculty and staff is also a major component of this story, as well as the passion for learning illustrated by Donnelly students throughout the years.

The Donnelly spirit has successfully continued to transform the lives of students for six decades, bringing us into the College's 60th anniversary in 2009.

It seems only fitting to begin this historic year the same way they did 60 years ago – with a Mass.

Archbishop Joseph Naumann will be saying the 10:00 a.m. Convocation Day mass on Thursday, Sept. 24, at St. Peter's Cathedral located just a few blocks from Donnelly's campus. Immediately following the mass, all attendees are encouraged to come by campus for a luncheon celebration.

A full calendar of events surrounding Donnelly's 60th anniversary can be found on the back cover.

1949 -1964 Timeline

Each quarterly Digest will feature a 15-year timeline, the first from 1949-64, the next from 1964-79, then from 1979-94, and finally 1994-2009. Collect all four for a full snapshot of Donnelly's rich history!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1949 College is founded by Sr. Jerome Keeler and Bishop George Donnelly | 1958 Board of Advisors is formed Donnelly accredited by North Central Assoc. |
| 1950 Bishop Donnelly speaks at graduation Bishop Donnelly passes away | 1959 Board expands to 30 members |
| 1951 Sr. Jerome Keeler writes article for Catholic Educational Review | 1960 Fr. Faiola, chaplain, passes away |
| 1952 College is accredited by the State Department of Education | 1961 Funds for new wing are cleared |
| 1955 Student life grows with class trip to Cuba, dances and retreats offered | 1962 Construction on new wing begins |
| 1957 Bishop Donnelly's former home becomes sisters' residence | 1963 New wing is dedicated |
| | 1964 Sr. Mary Faith Schuster becomes Dean |

Remembering Kansas City in 1949

A proud member of Donnelly's first graduating class in 1950, Bob Sullivan remembers a time when Minnesota Avenue was alive with places like The Granada, The State, and The Electric theatres. Clark Gable and Cary Grant lit up the silver screen, and the music of Glenn Miller and Frank Sinatra shook radio waves.

"Downtown Kansas City was jumpin'," said Sullivan. "I remember Sister Jerome Keeler and hearing that the Benedictine Sisters were founding a new community college. I was off to St. Benedict's (Benedictine College) at that time, and ended up transferring to Donnelly after my freshman year. Sister Jerome was my Spanish instructor.

"Everyone knew Sister Jerome," said Sullivan. "She was a truly great lady – stern but fair. If you behaved, she recognized."

1949

President:
Harry S. Truman

First-class stamp:
\$0.03

Average car cost:
\$1,650

Gasoline:
\$0.17/gallon

Average annual salary:
\$3,600

Best Picture:
"All the Kings Men"

Other fun facts:
Cable television debuts
First Polaroid camera produced
First VW Beetle sold

Scholarship Dinner to honor the Archbishops and kick off Donnelly's 60th Anniversary

Individual tickets and sponsorship opportunities still available!



DONNELLY'S THIRD ANNUAL Scholarship Dinner will take place Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Jack Reardon Civic Center with a reception beginning at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

This annual event celebrates the history of the College with the theme of "The Road Less Traveled," focusing on the unique history and student stories that make Donnelly a one-of-a-kind institution.

This year's event also serves as the kick off to the College's 60th anniversary, and honors the five Bishops of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas (George J. Donnelly, Edward Hunkeler, Ignatius J. Strecker, James P. Keleher and Joseph F. Naumann) who have each contributed to Donnelly's success.

Each leader gave substantial time and leadership to the College, always serving on the Board of Trustees. Bishop George Donnelly worked directly with the Benedictine Sisters to open the College, and donated the Archdiocese buildings thus creating Donnelly's first home on Sandusky, just a few blocks from its current location on 18th Street.

As Donnelly's neighbor on Sandusky Avenue, Archbishop Hunkeler worked to emphasize the importance of providing the same level of superior Catholic education to all persons. Archbishop Strecker's passion for social justice and belief that people can only advance through education helped recommit Donnelly's mission to serve the urban core of KCK.

Most recently, Archbishop Keleher and Naumann committed significant time and resources to secure the College's future.

"As our only Archdiocesan-sponsored institution of higher education, Donnelly has remained a constant source of pride for the diocese," said Monsignor Thomas Tank, Honorary Chair of the dinner. "The five bishops have each had a hand in supporting Donnelly, witnessing the extent to which the College's community relentlessly pursues the valiant mission.

"In repeatedly choosing 'The Road Less Traveled,' Donnelly has made 'all the difference' in the lives of the more than 30,000 students

it has served throughout the past 60 years, as well as the students it serves today and those it will serve tomorrow."

To commemorate this historic year, proceeds from the dinner will create an Endowed Scholarship in the Archbishops' names and support Donnelly's annual scholarship fund.

Attendees can look forward to celebrating Donnelly's past while learning about its present and future by meeting many current students and recent alumni.

"Having students sitting throughout the room will be a valuable experience for both those students and the attendees they meet," said Roger Berg, Alumni Relations and Volunteer Coordinator.

"Alumni and friends will see the faces of the students they are helping, and students will have a chance to speak with some of the individuals who have contributed to the success of the College."

Donnelly's Annual Fund Coordinator, Laura Bryon, and the development team, hope to make this year's dinner bigger than ever.

"We hope to increase attendance and bolster our scholarship fund," said Bryon. "We need people to come out to show their support and help us celebrate Donnelly as a true gem in the heart of Kansas City. We want to share the Donnelly story with our alumni, friends and students and, hopefully, see some new faces in the crowd."

The event's co-emcees will be alumna and community activist Delia Hernandez and Fox4-TV's Chief Meteorologist Mike Thompson.

Hernandez, Class of 1984, has remained strongly connected to Donnelly since her graduation. She volunteered her time to serve on Donnelly's Board of Trustees and also took on an administrative role within the College for a few years.

"This year's dinner is a celebration of Donnelly's 60-year dedication to providing a quality education to those who might not otherwise be served," said Hernandez. "As an alumna, I'm truly blessed to have benefited from the scholarship opportunities given to me by the College. 'The Road Less Traveled' theme has special meaning, especially to those who are, and who were, first-generation college students.

"I invite other alumni, family, and friends to help support the continuation of the mission as we celebrate this milestone year, raise funds for scholarships and honor Archbishops Donnelly, Hunkeler, Strecker, Keleher and Naumann for their past and continued support."

In addition to the dinner's magnificent emcee-duo, the night will include a drawing, giving attendees a chance to win one of four fabulous prizes (*see sidebar on right*). **Drawing donations start at \$20 per ticket or \$100 for a booklet of seven.**

Please plan to join the Archbishop, Benedictine Sisters, faculty, staff, alumni and friends to celebrate 60 years of the "The Road Less Traveled" at this year's Scholarship Dinner.

Individual tickets for the dinner are just \$100. For more information and to register online for tickets, visit donnelly.edu/dinner. 🍷

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER Drawing Prizes

Kansas Speedway Racing Experience Weekend

This thrilling package will take you and three lucky friends on the ride of your lives the entire weekend of October 2-4. The Ultimate Kansas Speedway Racing Experience includes four Club seats, ARCA tickets, qualifying tickets, reserved parking, cold-pit credentials, fan-walk tickets and a spine-tingling 165 mph ride-along with a professional!

Kansas City Experience

Two of these fabulous packages are available! Winners will have the chance to experience a variety of Kansas City's hottest attractions by receiving gift certificates to various once each month for a full six months! These packages have it all, including tickets to the Kansas City Ballet, round of golf at Falcon Lakes Golf Course, dinner at Pierpoints in Union Station, a weekend stay at the downtown Marriott or Wyandotte's own Great Wolf Lodge.

Picture This

Master photographer and Donnelly alumnus, Don Wolf, specializes in capturing spectacular moments in Kansas City and has donated a panoramic view of Kansas City, Kansas, looking downtown at dusk. This gorgeous, canvas-wrapped 24"x 48" photographic image will add Kansas City heritage, color and chic design to your office or living space.

Vinca Jewelry

This featured prize includes an elegant freshwater pearl necklace with amethyst accents from Vinca Jewelry on the Country Club Plaza. Vinca Jewelry is truly a cut above the rest. Owned and operated by one of Missouri's most experienced jewelers, Vinca has produced some of the most jaw-dropping jewelry designs for more than 25 years.

ATTEND OUR CONVOCATION MASS

On Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009, Donnelly will host its Convocation Day mass. His Excellency Joseph Naumann, Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas, will serve as celebrant and homilist at the 10:00 a.m. mass at St. Peter's Cathedral in Kansas City, Kan. Following the mass, attendees are invited to have lunch on Donnelly's campus, just a quick walk from St. Peter's.



Clockwise from top: Alumna Pat Antonopoulos, Jo Ann Stanley, Shawna Samuel and Patti Dickinson – authors of “Four Ordinary Women.”

ALUMNA PUBLISHES BOOK, RECEIVES RAVE REVIEWS

“This book exemplifies the resilience of the human spirit. These essays are forged of grit and honesty and speak to all of us.”

Stephen R. Covey, author of "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People"

GROWING UP, ALUMNA PAT ANTONOPOULOS, CLASS OF 1958, of Parkville, never dreamed she would become an author. While she enjoyed writing essays or the occasional article in the local newspaper, writing a book wasn't something she's planned on doing.

Fate, however, had other plans. It all began in 2001 with an idea of forming a writing group. The group began with 12 women from across the metro, and eventually dwindled down to the final four devoted writers.

“Our aim was simply to create a book that would inspire women,” said Antonopoulos. “The writing group provided each of us with a support system – a place where we knew we could laugh and, at times, vent life's frustrations.”

The book, “Four Ordinary Women: A Gathering at the Cedar Roe Library,” was a collaborative effort from Antonopoulos and three other women who are anything but ordinary: Patti Dickinson, of Fairway, Shawna Samuel and Jo Ann Stanley, both of Westwood Hills.

Antonopoulos, mother of five and grandmother of four, and fellow author Patti Dickinson met when Dickinson's son was in Antonopoulos' first-grade class 18 years ago, sparking what began as an e-mail relationship and transformed into leading a writing group and co-authoring a book.

Unlike Antonopoulos, Dickinson imagined she would one day become an author. “I always thought I had a book in me,” said Dickinson, mother of eight and grandmother of four. “My major was in English, so it was a dream I had.”

Their writing group met weekly at the Cedar Roe Library in Shawnee Mission, Kan. Each group member wrote about the same topic at the same time. At the conclusion of each meeting, the group would come to a consensus on the subsequent topic, ranging from parenting, relationships, friendship and death. They would arrive the next week with what they had written in the form of an essay.

The group imposed no length guidelines or other requirements. Whatever they came with, they read aloud to the group.

“Sometimes, it was an eight-page thing and sometimes it was a haiku,” said Samuel.

Members of the group knew they were sharing their personal stories with women they could trust, and that the topics discussed remained confidential.

“I think the process of reading them out loud allowed others to enter your piece and feel the emotions with you,” Stanley said. “There was a tremendous connection.”

As essays began to stack up, Antonopoulos prepared them for the publishing phase by organizing them into chapters. They ended up with 23 themes, with four perspectives each. Some are lists or poems, others are lengthy anecdotes.

Although every essay is unique, the authors feel each story has a relatable component. “The essays strike a universal chord,” said Dickinson. “We've all been through personal struggles in life. Everyone knows what it is like to lay awake in bed worrying about something.”

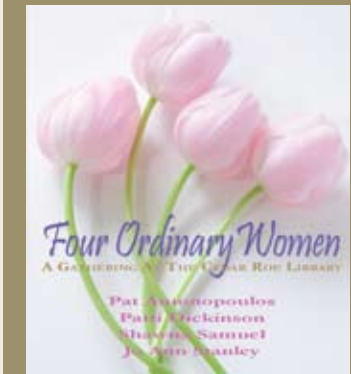
The four authors initially thought of calling the book, “Over the Back Fence” – a name that reflects back to a time when women used to talk to each other in their backyards each day while their children played.

“We now live in a society where fewer women stay at home,” said Antonopoulos. “In the past, those who stayed home had more time to meet other women with similar interests. Today, many women come home from work, drive into their garage and close the door behind them, losing the opportunity to meet other women. Our group gave us that chance to interact and form those bonds.”

Kansas City Star faith columnist Bill Tammeus reviewed the book, acknowledging that “just as there are no normal families, so there are no ordinary women, and, despite its engaging title, this book proves that. Readers will find countless points of intersection with their thoughts and experiences because we all share a common humanity.”

Patricia Schudy, a former youth columnist, had this to say about the book: “Four Ordinary Women is beautifully written, brutally honest, funny, powerful and comforting. It's impossible to read this book without relating the stories to one's own life—and being moved to treasure some things and to change others.”

“Four Ordinary Women” is available online at fourordinarywomen.com, as well as well as Amazon.com, Rainy Day Books at 2706 W. 53rd St., Fairway, Kan., and Border's at 9108 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, Kan.



Catch authors Pat Antonopoulos, Patti Dickinson, Shawna Samuel and Jo Ann Stanley at their next book signing at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at the Cedar Roe Library, located at 5120 Cedar St., Roeland Park, Kan. Call (913) 384-8590 for more information or for reservations.

IN MEMORIAM

Donnelly College pays tribute to the following alumni who passed away or notification was received from April 1 to August 31, 2009:

76-year-old John Edward Culp, '52, passed away at his home on July 31, 2009.

Derl S. Treff, '61, passed away on June 19, 2009, at his home in Overland Park, Kan. at the age of 67.

66-year-old **Edwin H. Doherty III**, '63, passed away April 9, 2009. He is survived by his wife Carol, four children and eight grandchildren.

As an athlete, artist and member of the Class of 1971, 58-year-old **Robert (Bob) McGurn** passed away on June 26, 2009.

John Phillip Lillig, '73, passed away at the age of 56 on May 5, 2009.

CNA graduate, **Shannon Washington Crockett**, '07, died May 6, 2009, at the young age of 30.

Student services continue to grow with addition of second residence hall

COLLEGE PARTICIPATES IN YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

Beginning this fall, Donnelly is participating in the national Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program, allowing veterans to enroll in courses at a reduced price.

One of more than 500 private colleges nationwide to adopt the program, DC reached the yellow-ribbon agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in early June. Only one-fifth of all private, non-profit institutions like Donnelly signed up for the program. The federal government will match any financial aid that participating colleges provide to veterans above the cost of the most expensive public college in their state.

Many colleges committed to limited contribution amounts, while Donnelly has promised to cover the entire cost of attendance for all veterans admitted. In addition, veterans are also eligible to receive stipends and living expenses.

The Yellow-Ribbon Program is designed specifically to benefit veterans who have had at least three years on active duty or 30 continuous days before being discharged for service-related injuries since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Visit www.gibill.va.gov to learn more about the program. 📄

DC’S CAMPUS AND STUDENT services continue to expand with the addition of a second residence hall facility on the third floor of Marian Hall, providing 19 additional rooms for students looking to live on campus. Donnelly is also expanding meal plan options for residents and adding a fitness center to the International Center residence hall, made possible with a grant from the Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

The \$30,000 renovation to Marian’s third floor allows male and female students to live in separate facilities. Beginning this semester, male students will live in Marian, with female students remaining in the International Center residence hall across campus.

“Both halls are within feet of the main building, making academic resources more accessible and increasing opportunities for student-life involvement,” said Cyrus Shadfar, Dean of International Students.

This male facility is equipped with keypads in all stairwell doors, as well as key-access in the elevator.

In addition to security, Marian Hall also boasts a long list of amenities for students, including free wireless Internet, laundry facilities and cable, as well as a student lounge complete with comfortable couches, a vending machine and television.

Much like tuition, room rates in Marian Hall are kept low, ranging from \$300 per

month for a small studio room to \$550 per month for a large, two-bedroom suite. Many rooms also include a private bathroom.

Beginning this year, housing contracts for the two residence halls will include a meal plan for all students living on campus to encourage healthy lifestyles that promote well-being and support learning.

Hy-Vee has expanded its lunchtime food service on campus to also provide dinner options Monday through Friday.

“The new meal plan will make living on campus more convenient for students,” said Susan Serrano, Director of Business Affairs. “Throughout the last few years we began recognizing the need for dining services.”

Last year, Betsy Gran, Preparatory Education Program Assistant, organized cooking times in Donnelly’s cafeteria as a volunteer for the Healthy Student Task Force.

“I had spoken with a number of students in the residence halls whose only complaint was the lack of access to a kitchen,” said Gran. “With the meal plan, students get two hot meals a day, including vegetarian options.”

There is still limited space available in the two halls this fall, and administrators expect to have both residence halls at full capacity in coming semesters.

COMING SOON: AN ON-CAMPUS FITNESS CENTER!

Donnelly is working to create a small fitness center in the International Center residence hall! Plans are to create two different fitness-focused rooms, one to hold equipment such as weights and aerobic machines, and the other a space for classes such as yoga or kick-boxing. Visit donnelly.edu for updates on this exciting campus addition!

Donnelly Welcomes Augustinian Priest to Teach, Direct Campus Ministry Program

THE DONNELLY COMMUNITY begins the fall semester by welcoming Rev. John Melnick, S.S.A., to campus as the Director of Campus Ministry and Religious Studies Instructor.

A native of Nova Scotia, Canada, Melnick comes to Donnelly by way of Freeland, Pa., where he served as pastor of four Catholic parishes. He came to Kansas City with a group of fellow Augustinian priests from different provinces and jurisdictions who are establishing a new community house here.

After meeting with Archbishop Joseph Naumann to discuss his reassignment, Melnick stressed his interest in trying something new. Archbishop Naumann informed Melnick about Donnelly’s unique history and growing need for a Catholic priest on campus.

"The journey becomes more colorful, more remarkable when people of different backgrounds come together with a shared interest."

Intrigued by the challenge, Melnick went straight to work visiting with faculty, staff and students, and learning about their hopes for a strong campus ministry program.

“Though new to Kansas City and to Donnelly, he has already generated enthusiasm on campus,” said Steve LaNasa, President of Donnelly. “Father Melnick brings a wealth of experience to Donnelly having served as faculty in the seminary and in several pastoral positions, and it’s obvious that he’s a true collaborator. That experience—coupled with his commitment to Hispanic outreach—will help Donnelly establish a program that meets the campus ministry needs of all of our students.”

Fr. Melnick is excited by the variety of faiths represented by Donnelly students. Though Donnelly is a Catholic institution with 41 percent Catholic students, the College serves international and local students from many diverse faith backgrounds. “I speak from Catholic tradition, but I recognize the need to relate my beliefs into something students from all denominations can relate to,” said Melnick.

“God, no matter what you call him, her, it, is present all around us,” he said. “Human beings, by our very nature, are spiritual. We are forever looking to move beyond ourselves. The journey becomes more colorful, more remarkable when people of different backgrounds come together with a shared interest. When we seek something together, it’s always bigger and better than what it would be going at it alone.”

Beyond his religious and instructional duties, Melnick enjoys watching classic films and listening to jazz music. He also loves the theatre and Broadway, collects fountain pens for fun, and is fascinated with American civil war stories.

The community is excited to have another Augustinian minister on campus to further our relationship with that order. In the 1970s, the order had many priests stationed in Kansas City. The College’s third president, Fr. John Oldfield, was also an Augustinian, as well as alumnus Fr. Peter Jaramillo, Class of 1975, who went on to become a priest within that order.

Next time you’re in the neighborhood, take a moment to come by and meet Father Melnick. You’ll most likely find him singing a happy tune in one of the hallways. His presence has brought not only a new face, but also a fresh, joyful spirit to campus.

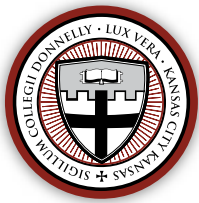


Rev. John Melnick, S.S.A., joins the Donnelly community as the Director of Campus Ministry and Religious Studies Instructor.

ABOUT THE AUGUSTINIAN ORDER AN EXPLANATION FROM FATHER MELNICK

Augustinian priests, called friars, live a monastic life based on the Rule of St. Augustine. Nonetheless, they are involved in the active works of the Church. The Order, in its many expressions, traces its influences to St. Augustine of Hippo, whose conversion to Christ gave the western Church a spirituality of "God-seeking" and "God sharing."

Intensely human, Augustinian spirituality might be summed up this way: "tell me what you love, and I will tell you who you are." Augustinians put great emphasis on community life and prayer — and seek to live as brothers sharing their lives with each other and the people they serve.



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1949-2009



60TH ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SEPT 24:** Convocation Day Mass, 10 a.m.
St. Peter's Cathedral, KCK
- SEPT 26:** Third Annual Scholarship Dinner, 6 p.m.
Jack Reardon Civic Center, KCK
- OCT 1:** Alumni Hall of Fame Nominations due
- OCT 6:** Religion & African American Theatre, 10:40 a.m.
- OCT 15:** The Green-Collar Job, 7 p.m.
- NOV 7:** Donnelly Dash 5K Run/Walk, 8 a.m.
- NOV 19:** Gratia

*Friends, alumni and neighbors are invited
to join us at any of these events.*

For more information on Donnelly's upcoming events,
visit our website: donnelly.edu