FALL 2021
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Dear Friends,

The College of DuPage Foundation Board of Directors has been dedicated to the achievement of our mission to support College of DuPage during these unprecedented times. We’ve done this by raising and distributing with the support of COD’s Office of Institutional Advancement nearly $300,000 in COVID-19 Relief Funds to more than 600 students facing exceptional hardships due to the pandemic, providing $25,000 to the College to have additional hot spots available for students trying to keep their academic journey on track. Not to mention the more than $460,000 in scholarship support to nearly 500 students since last spring. A list of our good work could go on and on, but none of it would have been possible without the support and generosity of our donors and friends.

Your gifts have rewarded students for their leadership, have helped overwhelmed students overcome financial challenges, have opened new doors of opportunity, and have made it possible for those with nothing to feed their family for weeks at a time via our Fuel Pantry. In all cases, your belief in COD and the students we serve has encouraged us during this time in history to continue to believe in ourselves and has propelled our entire community forward.

This summer, we reconnected with many of you in the Frida Garden at the MAC, celebrating not only togetherness but the once-in-a-lifetime Frida Kahlo: Timeless exhibition. During these reunions, I was reminded of how important The MAC and its programs are to our community. Arts & Culture distinguishes College of DuPage as a destination to experience a broad range of cultural offerings and arts education and outreach, all under one roof. Yet, perhaps, more importantly, the MAC is a source of inspiration, respite, joy, and community for so many personally. The MAC would not be the gem it is today without donors like you.

On behalf of the College of DuPage Foundation Board of Directors, I thank you for your support and generosity. You have made more dreams than you may know a reality.

Karen M. Kuhn, MS, CFRE
Executive Director
College of DuPage Foundation
THE ART OF PLANNED GIVING: ANITA AND GLENN DICKSON

For the late Anita Dickson, who served as a College of DuPage Professor in the Graphic Arts Department and ASDGN Coordinator for over 24 years, the doors to higher education weren’t always open.

If not for scholarship support, Dickson would not have been able to attend the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and become the first in her family to earn a college degree.

The skills and love for the arts that Dickson developed at college continued to serve her and her students when she began her career at College of DuPage in 1983 teaching Commercial Art part-time alongside her husband, Glenn, who she met while attending the Art Institute of Chicago. When a full-time position in the Ad Design and Illustration program became available, both Glenn and Anita applied for the position. During Glenn’s interview, he shared with the Dean that was conducting the interview, “You could not hire a better Art Professor than my wife, Anita.” Anita was hired and began her full-time teaching career at College of DuPage in 1986. Glenn continued his part-time teaching until his passing in 2003 and Anita continued teaching until her retirement in 2010.

Inspired to provide the same opportunity the Dicksons were afforded to attend college, Anita established the Glenn & Anita Dickson Fine and Applied Arts Scholarship, with over a $900,000 estate gift to be allocated to the scholarship. When established in 2012, the scholarship awarded $1,000 annually to one student pursuing a degree or certificate in Fine and Applied Arts who demonstrates excellence in their studies and has financial need.

Among those to receive the scholarship was Alexia Garcia, who, like Anita, was the first in her family to attend college. For generations to come, students in need of financial assistance will be able to grow personally and professionally because of the Dickson’s desire to help them do so.

No matter the amount, including the College of DuPage Foundation in your estate plan helps students build a foundation for a successful career. To learn more about planned giving or speak with Karen Kuhn from the COD Foundation, visit cod.planmylegacy.org or call (630) 942.2698.
Fulfilling the mission of the Rotary Club to create lasting change across the globe and in local communities, Naperville Rotary Charities, a local branch of the worldwide organization, has provided thousands of dollars for scholarships for College of DuPage students each year to help students achieve their dreams.

Over the past 20-plus years, the organization has donated over $800,000 in scholarships to COD students. Each year, the Rotary Club of Naperville awards a minimum or at least five scholarships of up to $6,000 to students who reside in Community College District 502.

The scholarships funded by the Naperville Rotary Charities are unique in that they support students who are “caught in the middle,” said Diana Christopher, Financial Aid Representative at COD who has worked with the foundation for almost eight years.

The foundation looks to support students who may not be eligible for PELL grants, grants from the federal government that are available to low- and middle-income students, but are also unable to afford to pay for college out-of-pocket, or do not have financial support from their families.

“They’re really invested on those students who kind of get left out,” Christopher said.

The Naperville Rotary Charities scholarships also differ than others because recipients are invited to apply again, especially if those students are pursuing medical degrees such as nursing or dental hygiene which are more expensive than an associate's degree.

The scholarships help pay for tuition, books and any other expenses students need to be successful. Often, the assistance helps students pay to attend COD full-time instead of part-time.

“Naperville Rotary is a very generous organization that truly puts themselves in the student’s shoes,” Christopher said.

In the financial aid office and at donor events, students often say the same thing: “Thank you for believing in me.”

“I understand the importance of education and I am trying very hard to overcome all obstacles to achieve this including the obstacle of limited finances. I am truly grateful for this assistance. Thank you very much.”

JOHN MADISON
Lombard, IL
Degree Program: Master Auto Service Technology

“This scholarship means more than money to me. It also means time. I can focus on working on myself and my academic goals. I can now reinvest my time to make sure I am performing well academically. Thank you very much for granting me this scholarship!”

FATIMA MUNOZ MARTINEZ
Glendale Heights, IL
Degree Program: Associate in Arts

“My education pursuits would not be possible without the generous support from scholarship sponsors like your organization. Thank you so much for your support to bring my dream to come true.”

NAWAZ KHAN
Lombard, IL
Degree Program: Associate in Arts
THE PETERSON FAMILY PHILANTHROPY HONORED

The Peterson Family was already known as a philanthropic force when they were announced in August as the 2021 recipients of the West Suburban Philanthropic Network’s (WSPN) Philanthropists of the Year Award.

The late Alan and Milly Peterson lived a life of service and worked tirelessly for their community. Alan was a long-time supporter and Board Member of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage (MFSD), a supporter of Central DuPage Hospital, and a lover of the arts at the McAninch Arts Center (MAC) at College of DuPage.

Alan and Milly funded endless community projects and educational opportunities. In doing so, they inspired the philanthropic spirit of many including their son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Marcie Peterson of Wheaton.

Sharing a deep appreciation for the arts, Alan, Mark and Marcie proposed the Frida Kahlo Exhibition to COD leadership in 2016.

The Petersons envisioned the Frida Kahlo: Timeless exhibition as a way to enrich the quality of life in the region, boost local business and expand cultural understanding.

The exhibition, which regularly sold out on weekends, featured 26 pieces of original art and an immersive historical exhibit.

Mark and Marcie raised over $600,000 to support the exhibit, volunteered as Co-Chairs for the COD Foundation’s “For the Love of Frida” Gala Committees, and recruited a dedicated group of volunteers who facilitated successful in-person and virtual events.

Sadly, both Alan and Milly Peterson passed away in 2020, but they knew their vision would become a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many. Mark and Marcie are deeply invested in our community and continue to carry forth the family’s philanthropic legacy.

(L-R) Patrick Peterson and daughter Lucy, Marcie Peterson, Mark Peterson, Matthew Peterson and Erin Peterson (portrait on the wall of Milly and Alan Peterson).

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITES

The COD Foundation and COD Alumni Relations have both launched newly designed websites. The refreshed sites have drop-down menus, making it easy to navigate the site’s dozens of features, including news, events and more.

COD Alumni Relations  |  alumni.cod.edu
COD Foundation  |  foundation.cod.edu
Josh Tolentino found a career that combines his love of sports and his desire to tell stories. Currently, he works for the Philadelphia Enquirer and covers the Philadelphia Eagles. Tolentino appreciates what he learned at COD, which set him up to further his education and start his career.

“All of the things I do now I did at COD,” Josh said. “COD prepared me well. I covered every sport, I curated pages and I practiced journalism across campus. I was so invested in wanting to make each issue the best issue of the paper. In reality, I was more invested in the newspapers at COD and ISU than I was in my classes, and the skills I learned transferred to my career when I finished school.”

To read Josh’s full story visit, www.cod.edu/about/stories/students/tolentino.aspx

SUPPORTING SUCCESS

Your Giving Options

Whether it is a student you want to motivate, a loved one you wish to honor or an educational program you would like to see expanded, the College of DuPage Foundation is here to help. Please consider the following giving options:

• Establish an endowment
• Make a gift in honor or in memory of someone
• Sponsor, participate in or volunteer for our upcoming events
• Gifts of stocks and bonds
• Gifts of insurance
• Gifts of retirement assets
• Gifts in kind
• Immediate use cash gift
• Car donation

All gifts made through the College of DuPage Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Pledges may be paid in installments.

ONLINE: foundation.cod.edu/donate
BY MAIL: P.O. Box 4866, Wheaton, IL 60189
BY PHONE: (630) 942-2462
GRACIAS TO OUR DEDICATED FRIDA KAHLO TIMELESS SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

The Frida Kahlo: Timeless exhibition has come to a close and the numbers tell a story of great success — more than 100,000 visitors from all 50 U.S. states and 43 countries. It would not have been possible without our corporate and foundation partnerships. The College of DuPage Foundation would like to thank the following corporate and foundation partners for their generous support in helping make this a successful event.

BEYOND COVID RELIEF: STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

The college journey is full of hurdles that can have a significant impact on whether students complete their studies. Everyday challenges are already demanding for many students who are working while in school, have someone depending on them, or facing food insecurity. An emergency or unexpected situation could be that hurdle that stops their journey.

The Student Emergency Fund provides support to COD students who are experiencing a crisis that could adversely affect their semester. The fund helps support students experiencing a temporary financial hardship and keep them on their path of higher education. The awards vary according to the needs of the student and is limited to $1,500. Expenses covered may include housing, utilities, food, tuition, books and supplies, technology costs, mental health or counseling costs and child care costs during necessary to complete classwork.

The fund was started years ago but has evolved to address new and specific needs and challenges of students as they arise. In the past six months, the Student Emergency Fund has distributed over $15,000 to more than 30 students who have face an unexpected crisis, including students impacted this summer by the Father’s Day tornado in Naperville.
The Foundation actively collaborates with College of DuPage Office of Institutional Advancement on initiatives and campaigns which may be initiated by either the Foundation, Institutional Advancement employees, or College employees to raise resources in support of these goals.

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