FORGING A PATH
GUIDED BY
THE SPIRIT

ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRESIDENT GORMLEY’S FIRST FIVE YEARS

DUQUESNE
UNIVERSITY
PREPARED. FOR ANYTHING.
Ask Duquesne graduates to describe what their time on the Bluff did for them, and the most common answer is “Duquesne made sure I was prepared for anything.” A commitment to readiness—and to looking always to the future—is part of the DNA of this University.

In July 2016, the University’s Spiritan leadership and the Board of Directors committed once again to being prepared for anything by installing Ken Gormley as president. With his deep connections to the Pittsburgh region, an international scholarly reputation, and a proven track record in educational leadership as the Dean of the Duquesne University School of Law, Ken Gormley donned the official regalia as prepared as any past president.

As the first five years of his presidency have shown, not only was that a benefit, it was a necessity.

The phrase “prepared for anything” took on special intensity during his presidency, particularly in the last two years, and with a special emphasis on anything.
In July 2016, flu seasons were manageable. Pittsburgh only had one medical school. George Floyd was not a household name.

And Duquesne stood on its storied Bluff, overlooking a bustle of culture and commerce, traffic and trade. The intent of the Spiritans and the Board of Directors when inaugurating Ken Gormley as the University’s 13th president was to usher in a bold new era. Right away, with faculty, staff, students and the board, President Gormley created a Strategic Plan explicitly directing the University to re-imagine its Spiritan legacy as a future-focused guide for a new era.

No one knew how relevant such a call would be. The University did understand the necessity of aligning its mission to ever-shifting needs. And as recent history proved, the 21st century didn’t stay calm for long. Planning was necessary.

But change rarely waits for just the right moment. Seismic cultural changes erupted.

Indeed, President Gormley’s first five years as president included national political upheaval and partisan divides, the most calamitous global health crisis in a century, and the birth of a new civil rights movement—in addition to the ambitious goals Duquesne already had when he was inaugurated.
LEGACY IN SPITE OF CHALLENGE
In just five years, President Gormley and Duquesne University launched a proposed new medical school, created a new common learning experience for all undergraduates, begun work to raise a higher standard for inclusion, raised funds and built a new home for athletics, attained new financial strength and achieved new heights for fundraising.

During two of those five years, a global pandemic threatened the University’s ability to provide its students a way to make progress on their education. Yet the President, supported by his leadership team, alumni leaders and the entire campus community, surmounted those obstacles.

For his steady leadership in incredible circumstances, Duquesne’s board of directors voted in October 2021 to extend President Gormley’s term for another five years. The five years prior that led to their decision showed a commitment to students as the polestar of decision-making at Duquesne, words that the president himself repeats often and with force when faced with challenges.

Those words also are at the core of the Strategic Plan that has guided and inspired the changes at Duquesne since 2017. The Plan has five pillars, and it is on them that the President has built what will be an enduring legacy and significant momentum into his next term:

- Duquesne will identify bold pathways to offer students the knowledge and skills they will need for productive and fulfilling lives and careers in the 21st century
- Duquesne will become the region’s flagship institution for community engagement through mutually beneficial partnerships that advance the city, the region and the world
- Duquesne’s academic programs will transcend traditional boundaries, positioning it as a leader in interdisciplinary and interprofessional programs
- Duquesne will create a vibrant campus community that fosters the achievements of its talented faculty, students and staff
- Duquesne will encourage an entrepreneurial spirit that will allow it to creatively steward University assets, adapt to changing environments and enhance its financial vitality to fulfill its mission for a new era

Already, under President Gormley’s leadership, many major accomplishments have been achieved, advancing the five priorities of the Strategic Plan for the benefit of Duquesne’s community, especially its students.
A NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL: THE BOLDEST PATHWAY
Duquesne University’s proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine is perhaps the boldest initiative in a century, a move widely lauded by the city and region for its clear potential to help fill a dire national shortage of doctors—and to do so with physicians attuned to a complete mode of care.

The new medical school not only will have an uncompromising standard of excellence in how it educates future physicians, it aspires to be among the most forward-thinking medical schools in the nation, addressing the two largest problems facing medicine today:

- A shortage of doctors in primary care disciplines
- A system of pervasive disparities in health care, especially in underserved urban and rural communities.

The new medical school is a natural fit for Duquesne, connecting with all other schools at the University, from the School of Nursing to the School of Pharmacy, the Rangos School of Health Science to the School of Music. As the medical school has developed, so too has President Gormley spurred support for aligning other research and teaching around integrative health—care that uses multiple approaches alongside conventional medicine, which could include lifestyle changes, nutrition, physical rehabilitation, psychotherapy and community involvement.

President Gormley named John Kauffmann as the founding dean of the medical school in 2019. Community organizations, medical professionals, the business community and elected officials have all praised the move. Thanks to generous support from key foundations and individuals, Duquesne is closing in on the initial fundraising goal of $25 million to support the medical school’s building. The University will break ground on the new facility in spring 2022, with the goal to start recruiting the first class to matriculate in fall 2024.
A NEW CURRICULUM: RE-THINKING WHAT ALL DUQUESNE STUDENTS LEARN TOGETHER

The Strategic Plan stated that Duquesne would create and adapt academic programs to transcend traditional boundaries, positioning the University as a leader in interdisciplinary education.

President Gormley charged the faculty with re-imagining the general education—those required courses all undergraduate students have to take. The process, led by the Provost’s office, engaged both faculty and students sharing and refining ideas over several months. The result not only transcended traditional boundaries—it put a premium on connecting them in novel ways, training students to ask essential questions and develop abilities and competencies critical for contemporary work and citizenship. And because it makes connections and leads to expanded horizons for students, it also reflects well the University’s place in the City of Bridges.

BRIDGES COMMON LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The new Bridges curriculum prepares students for what’s next and keeps them from having to narrow their ambitions. Students can choose courses that interest them—because the curriculum is designed to intersect with their majors and give room to pursue learning opportunities that excite them.

Bridges was designed with career-readiness in mind. The faculty used data from employers and hiring managers to identify and embed skills they prioritize. Bridges courses also...

Two Duquesne students, Alex Wolfe and Michael Kramer, received prestigious U.S. Fulbright Awards in the program's most competitive year ever.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, Duquesne launched its new Catholic Studies Department in order to carry out one of President Gormley’s key strategic priorities. Intended to enliven and modernize understanding of the power and potential of the Catholic faith, the department offers minors and courses for students to deepen their education through disciplined study.
prepare students to adapt and evolve in a dynamic professional landscape. They connect the specialized work students do in majors to relevant insights from other fields and opportunities. Because of its flexible design, Bridges can help students who want to pursue credentials in addition to their major, such as certificates, minors or additional majors.

Bridges also introduces students to Duquesne’s heritage through courses that explore the riches of the Catholic intellectual tradition, develop skills for ethical reasoning, inspire a love of learning by asking essential questions, and get them engaged in communities, local and global.

**BRIDGES HERE ARE BUILT FROM IDEAS**

Not all great ideas come from the faculty. If disciplinary lines are blurred, so are hierarchies. The late John G. Rangos, Sr. and President Gormley together created the Rangos Prizes, awards given to support novel ideas for adding classes and experiences to the Duquesne curriculum. Ideas are solicited from students and faculty, and to date, more than 29 distinct prizes have been awarded, resulting in various programs.

**BRIDGES CONNECT... TO CAREERS**

The sixth floor of the Duquesne Union overlooks the city where so many Duquesne students live some of their college years, meet mentors and acquire jobs. Appropriate, then, that in January 2018, it also started to house the new Center for Career Development, a beautiful, student-oriented facility that President Gormley made a top priority.

That same year the Center launched “Hire a Duke,” and nearly 3,500 students attended 189 on-campus career programs, workshops and presentations offered by the Center. While the pandemic forced its operations to be virtual for many months, the Center still was able to provide advice and guidance through more than 18,000 student sessions in its first three years. President Gormley also added a new associate director of alumni career networks, Martin Black, to link Duquesne students directly to alumni in order to create internships and job opportunities around the country.

**LIST OF RANGOS-FUNDED CLASSES**

**Curriculum-based projects**

- Course: Empathy in a Digital Age; offered at the undergraduate and graduate level in the Psychology Department
- Course: True Crime and the Justice of God; a team-taught course between Theology and Forensic Science and Law, resulting in original scholarship by the faculty partners
- Duquesne University Patient Telehealth Guild, an interprofessional development project to integrate telehealth initiatives in the Rangos School of Health Sciences
- Interdisciplinary (Health Sciences, Sociology, History) project on Health Inequalities, Professional Preparation and the Pittsburgh Region (also community-engaged)

**Community-engaged projects**

- Institute for Community-Engaged Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: CETR and faculty are collaborating to advance scholarship on community-engaged forms of teaching and learning
- Community-based Writing Center extends writing tutoring to Duquesne’s neighboring communities

President Gormley has strengthened ties with the Spiritan congregation. Visiting with the Spiritan Generalate in Rome, meeting the Superior General and his Council, publishing in Spiritan Horizons on Spiritan Education, and providing support for the Spiritan Theological Institute in Nigeria all are examples. Perhaps most visibly, the President has told the Spiritan story in Pittsburgh in ways as never before.
A NEW STANDARD FOR INCLUSION:
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH ALL OF THE COMMUNITY

With a clear understanding that an increasingly diverse and talented workforce and campus community are crucial to advancing Duquesne, the Strategic Plan articulated an intent to “cultivate a pervasive campus culture of diversity and inclusion in recruitment, hiring and programming across campus.” At the time the Strategic Plan was drafted, it referred to creating a council for diversity and inclusion.

Over time, and after creating an advising group on diversity and inclusion, President Gormley determined that a presidential-cabinet-level position would best inspire collaboration and action. As a result, in fall 2021 Duquesne launched a nationwide search for its first Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) and Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. President Gormley ultimately selected Crystal McCormick Ware, who holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Duquesne, concluding that she possessed the skills, knowledge and experience to bring people together in shared actions to make the University inclusive for all who choose to work or pursue their educational goals here.

The new CDO will work closely with, and be an asset to, the President’s Council on Diversity and Inclusion, the University’s Bias Education Response Team and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion action plan—each of which was launched by Presidential directive.
After several years of discussion among prominent law alumnus Thomas R. Kline, President Gormley, and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the University created the new Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education in the Law School, established in 2019 with the largest single philanthropic gift to Duquesne Law School in University history, $7.5 million. This Center provides high-quality continuing education for judges across the Commonwealth.

President Gormley worked with the Nancy Jones Beard Foundation to create a new program to advance the legacy of iconic Pittsburgh playwright August Wilson. Established in 2019, the Duquesne University/August Wilson House Fellows support artists of color and enlivens conversation at Duquesne at the nexus of the arts and inclusion.

Duquesne University’s Small Business Development Center earned CARES Act funding to expand its services to help small businesses deal with the challenges stemming from business disruption and damage by the current pandemic.

While official structure will help Duquesne, attracting a diverse community and celebrating their achievements is most important. Duquesne created a new Spirit of Community Scholarship, offering significant financial support to five first-year students who bring volunteer experience and a passion for community engagement with them to the University.
President for the Students

Whether flipping pancakes, giving out pumpkins, handing out presidential Pez dispensers or cheering the Dukes, or even just stopping for a selfie on A-Walk, President Gormley is a regular presence among students.
A NEW HOME FOR ATHLETICS: THE UPMC COOPER FIELDHOUSE
For decades, alumni indicated a strong desire to elevate the athletics program at Duquesne. President Gormley hired a new men’s basketball coach, Keith Dambrot, and embarked on a total renovation of the Palumbo Center.

Named in honor of basketball legend and Dukes star, Chuck Cooper, the first African American player drafted by the NBA, the new UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse was completed in January 2021. The Dukes played their inaugural game in their new home—defeating the Dayton Flyers 69-64 in a thriller set against the exciting background the new arena provides.

While the pandemic cut their 2019 season short, the men’s basketball team was one of the final four teams nationally to remain undefeated after its first 10 games. It was the best start for a Duquesne team in more than 50 years. The team also won its first three conference games—something that hadn’t happened in 40 years.

The new UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse is not only invigorating athletics. Its inspirational spaces now welcome new students to the University’s FAST event as well as open houses for high school students and families considering Duquesne.

Chuck Cooper III signs the final beam before it is placed in the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse in January 2020.

Opening day in 2021 welcomed the largest student audience ever to watch a Duquesne basketball game.

The new facility is a showstopper for prospective students and their families visiting Duquesne for the first time.

With a packed house in the new facility, “Evening with the Stars” during Homecoming 2021 welcomed luminaries for performance and conversation, including actor Debbie Allen and Duquesne/NBA basketball legend Norm Nixon.
A NEW HIGH FOR GIVING: TOTAL GIFTS TO DUQUESNE HIGHEST EVER
Duquesne’s Strategic Plan envisioned bold actions and initiatives to serve faculty and students. President Gormley set out to implement them swiftly. Some initiatives were possible through re-imagined roles and relationships between people and organizations on campus, but many would require new investment—particularly the physical spaces for the proposed new medical school and the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse as well as intentional increases in scholarship funds for students.

Alumni and friends have responded with enthusiasm to the plans. Their generosity has been instrumental in supporting Duquesne’s aspirations. The result?

Gifts made to Duquesne during President Gormley’s first term, as of June 30, 2021, totaled $162,144,878.79—breaking all records set in any similar period in University history.

Not every gift was a blockbuster—in fact, the majority of the gifts came from men and women who wanted to give back in amounts that they could do from year to year. They knew that the total of their gifts with others would lead to substantial resources to benefit students.

In 2021 alone, for the third consecutive year, the annual Duquesne Day of Giving resulted in record-high numbers. A total of $552,672 was raised from 2,199 gifts. The Day of Giving grows each year, highlighting how gifts made that day (and any day) provide students the rich experience they know to expect at Duquesne.

Duquesne University, Radnor Property Group and Harrison Street Real Estate Capital partner on two distinct projects to provide enhanced, high-quality living experiences for Duquesne students. Brottier Hall became an apartment-style campus residence hall. St. Martins also will be re-imagined, to open in academic year 2022-2023. The campus energy center was transferred to a private partner to enhance access to energy for the campus and the Uptown corridor.

Collectively, these projects infused nearly $140 million into the University’s endowment for the benefit of students and campus-wide initiatives.

ENDOWMENT CLEARS $500M

JUNE 30, 2016
$292M
JUNE 30, 2021
$635M

TOTAL GROWTH: $343M OR 117%
When the Strategic Plan was unveiled in 2017, President Gormley said, “Community engagement is the hallmark of this University. We want to be the driver of change and the epicenter of development in our community and worldwide.” A first move was to create a new position—senior vice president for community engagement—for which he hired Bill Generett.

Committing to the ideal of community engagement worldwide has meant inviting the global community to Duquesne just as much as it has meant walking alongside others in the world. In the last five years, that ideal has also spurred the development of multiple pathways for students to connect globally—to both places and ideas.
CENTERS AND INSTITUTES DRIVE INNOVATION, ACHIEVEMENT AND ENTREPRENEURIAL THOUGHT...

• President Gormley visited other university campuses around the country in search of innovative ideas. As a result of those visits, the Union is now home to the new Center for Emerging and Innovative Media, a state-of-the-art broadcast center that gives students marketable, career-building professional experience. The Center’s technical infrastructure lets students produce high-quality video and audio products, and it also is compatible with classroom studio technology.

• Duquesne’s John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences established the Duquesne-China Health Institute with Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Fujian University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Sichuan University-Medical School and Tongji University-Medical School. The open exchange of medical expertise and training is a boon for both regions and students.

• The Carl G. Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology and Law presented its inaugural symposium in 2020, “Disinformation, Misinformation and Technology: New Ethical Challenges and Solutions,” featuring experts in technology, ethics, public health and free speech. Its connection to the challenges around COVID-19 communication was particularly timely.

• The Duquesne Institute for Ethics and Integrity in Journalism, funded by alumna and emeritus board member Patricia Doherty Yoder, collaborates with instructors and programs to give students opportunities to enhance their education and experience. The Institute was founded to help rebuild trust in journalism and news media amid a national and global climate in which such trust is lacking and challenging.

• A $1.5 million gift from an anonymous benefactor helped establish the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business Center for Student Success, a new hub on the seventh floor of Rockwell Hall.


AND MAJOR EVENTS BRING THE WORLD TO THE BLUFF.

• Since 2017, the Civil Discourse Speaker Series, hosted by President Gormley, has featured prominent national and regional figures on various topics:
  - “Politics, Contentious Elections and Civil Discourse” featured prominent political figures who delved into relevant, thought-provoking topics as the nation prepared for Election Day 2020
  - “Civil Discourse, Faith and Community in a Changing Society” featured religious and community leaders in 2019
  - “Technology, Social Media and Civil Discourse” in 2018
  - “Racial and Cultural Understanding in a New Era” in 2017

• The inaugural Duquesne University Leadership Academy for high school students was held June 11–15, 2019. Students from local Catholic high schools and from Holy Ghost Preparatory School in Philadelphia lived on campus and participated in workshops and community engagement activities to awaken and refine their leadership skills.

• In 2018, the Duquesne community and the public gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood and the publication of “The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers” by Maxwell King.

• In February 2018, Duquesne hosted a major tribute event for the late Ambassador Dan Rooney, a Duquesne alumnus, attended by over 700 VIP guests, with keynote address by former Vice President (now President) Joe Biden.

• In December 2018, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor addressed a tremendous crowd of more than 2,000 people packed in the A.J. Palumbo Center.

• President Gormley organized and hosted the “National Conference on the First Amendment: Bedrock of American Freedoms,” which was held at Duquesne in October 2018.
A NEW DAY: MOVING AHEAD
With bold new initiatives established and underway, President Gormley and the Duquesne community are looking to the horizon—and how to expand it for the benefit of Duquesne students and the community and region. The University has embraced a call to pursue bigger goals—personally and institutionally—in serving the mission to which generations have committed.

Amid new demands and new ambitions, with new ideas and new actions, Duquesne will continue to serve God by serving students, so that they may, in turn, serve others. The President’s focus in his new term will be to develop the resources necessary to animate Duquesne’s promise to its students, its community and the larger world.
“In my time as president, I’ve stressed that our students are the polestar of all decision-making here at Duquesne. What we have achieved in the last five years has made Duquesne a more exciting and vital place for students, so there’s been no better time to suggest the University to a new generation.”

— President Ken Gormley

Duquesne is a great place for students to pursue their bigger goals! People like you are our best ambassadors. To refer a student who might be interested in attending and excelling at Duquesne, start by emailing admissions@duq.edu, and type REFERRAL in the subject line.