

PARENT & FAMILY

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HILL

Spring has arrived on the Hill, bringing vibrant energy to campus as we enter the final stretch of the academic year! From senior capstone exhibitions to evening concerts and inspiring guest speakers, there's no shortage of exciting events. Students, faculty, and staff are also preparing to showcase their research and creative work at our annual [Academic Symposium](#).

This month's newsletter is packed with important updates as you prepare to bring your student home for the summer. We're also reminding returning students to **FILE THE FAFSA!** Plus, with the semester wrapping up, we're addressing end-of-term stress and sharing valuable resources to support your student's success.

As always, we're closely monitoring federal and state regulations to keep you informed of any changes that may impact your student. Stay tuned for all the information you need to know! Our [financial aid page](#) is your go-to resource for staying informed.

We also want to share an important update with families of our graduating students - the official [Commencement page!](#) Bookmark this page for all the essential details leading up to the big day. Be sure to check out the Commencement speaker!

Wishing you and your student all the best as they push through the final stretch of the semester!



Christine Moran
AVP of Student Success



Heidi Reigel '97
AVP of Constituent Engagement

COMMENCEMENT 2025



Celebrate your favorite graduate!

Friday, May 23, at 1 p.m.

Please visit our [Commencement webpage](#) for up-to-date information.



Need a gift to commemorate Commencement or another special occasion in your Green Terror's life? Shop the exclusive [McDaniel College Jewelry Collection](#) for bracelets, necklaces, cufflinks, and more!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING ACADEMIC DATES

- April 7: Undergraduate fall registration begins
- May 5: Academic Symposium
- May 9: Undergraduate classes end
- May 10: Reading days begin
- May 12: Undergraduate exams begin
- May 16: Undergraduate exams end
- May 19-23: Senior Week
- May 23: Commencement

The complete academic calendar is available [online](#).

ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM



Students presenting on a panel during the Academic Symposium.

Parents and families, you're invited to the **Annual Academic Symposium on Monday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** This special event showcases original research, scholarship, and creative achievements from McDaniel faculty, staff, and McDaniel students (ask yours if they are presenting!).

Whether you'd like to attend the whole day or drop into a session that interests you, this is a fantastic opportunity to see firsthand the incredible work on the Hill. Sessions will occur throughout campus and are free and open to the public.

Come celebrate the academic excellence of our McDaniel community - we'd love to see you there!

For more information and to view the full schedule, visit [the Symposium webpage](#).

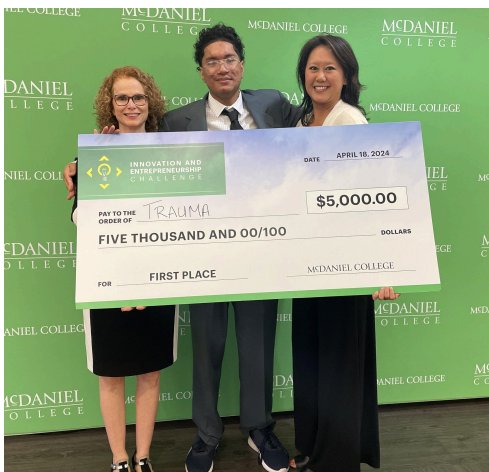
ADDITIONAL EVENTS ON THE HILL

Parents and families, mark your calendars for these upcoming end-of-year events and plan to join us on the Hill! Check out these and other events at mcdaniel.edu/calendar.



Students singing in a choral performance.

- **Thursday, April 24:** Student African Drum Ensembles in Baker Memorial Chapel
- **Sunday, April 27:** College Choir Concert in Baker Memorial Chapel
- **Sunday, May 4:** Singing on Stage in the Dorothy Elderdice Studio Theatre, WMC Alumni Hall
- **Monday, May 5:** A Cappella Ensemble in Baker Memorial Chapel
- **Thursday, May 8:** Jazz Night in the Mainstage Theatre, WMC Alumni Hall
- **Friday, May 9:** College Band Concert in the Mainstage Theatre, WMC Alumni Hall
- **Saturday, May 10:** Gospel Choir Concert in the Mainstage Theatre, WMC Alumni Hall

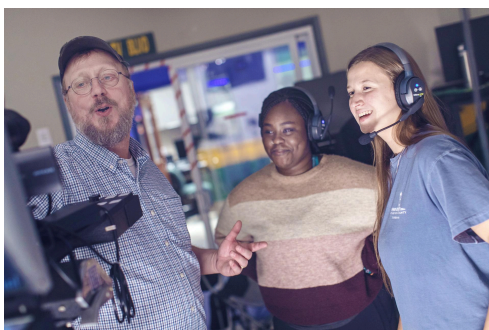


Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge panel presenting 2024 winner Josiah Yung with the \$5,000 prize.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge

Tuesday, April 29 | 7 p.m.

McDaniel College student finalists compete for a \$5,000 top prize in this annual competition by pitching their entrepreneurial ideas and products to a panel of experts in Naganna Forum, Roj Student Center.



Professor Jonathan Slade with Cinema students in the studio.

Student-Directed Production

Thursday, May 1 – Saturday, May 3 | 7:30 p.m.

Advanced Theatre students perform an original production in the Dorothy Elderdice Studio Theatre, WMC Alumni Hall. Call 410-857-2448 for tickets.

McDaniel Cinema Showcase

Wednesday, May 7 – Thursday, May 8 | 6:30 p.m.

Cinema majors premiere their capstone films in Decker Auditorium in Lewis Hall of Science. Each screening includes a brief Q+A with the filmmaker. (Note: Some content contains adult material intended for mature audiences.)

RESIDENCE LIFE

Happy April, everyone! We should be finishing the room selection process this week. Hopefully, your student has been in touch with you about their plans (or has already let you know if they have selected a room during an earlier stage). As a reminder, room selection information is available online. The website is typically updated mid-February for the upcoming spring semester process.

[2025-26 Room Selection | McDaniel College](#)

As the campus gears up for final exams, please note that exam week will take place May 12-16. Students should plan to depart 24 hours after their last exam or by 10 a.m. on May 17, whichever is earlier. Students do need to move out completely for May closing.

If you are looking ahead for next year, our closing/opening schedule website is typically updated in June, but the planned dates for the next academic year will be:

Aug. 23-24, 2025: Opening weekend for returning students

Oct. 13-14, 2025: Fall break; residence halls do NOT close

Nov. 26, 2025: Residence halls close at 10 a.m. for Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 30, 2025: Residence halls re-open at noon

Dec. 13, 2025: Residence halls close at 10 a.m. for Winter Break

Jan. 4, 2026: Jan Term opening at noon (student must be enrolled in Jan Term and/or is a winter athlete)

Jan. 25, 2026: Spring semester opening at noon

March 13, 2026: Residence halls close at 7 p.m. for spring break

March 22, 2026: Residence halls re-open at noon

May 16, 2026: Residence halls close at 10 a.m. for May closing

[Residence Life: Opening & Closing Calendar](#) (The 2025-26 academic year will be updated on this page in June!)

CAMPUS SAFETY

April, recognized as **National Distracted Driving Awareness Month**, is a great time to reflect on our driving habits and take responsibility for our choices on the road.

Distracted driving has become a serious epidemic on our roads. The most common distraction is cell phone use, specifically texting, talking, and browsing social media. Other dangerous behaviors include adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup, eating, and drinking. When you drive distracted, you lose critical seconds, which could mean the difference between a close call and a tragic accident.

Drivers with less experience are especially vulnerable to the dangers of distracted driving, as they are still developing essential skills and reaction times. Taking your eyes off the road for even a few seconds to check a message or adjust an app can be even riskier for new drivers, as it increases the chances of a serious accident. Staying focused and eliminating distractions are essential for developing safe driving habits from the outset.

Share these safety tips with your student to help them stay focused and drive safely:

- Need to send a text? Pull over and park in a safe location before using your phone.
- Assign a passenger as your “designated texter” to handle calls and messages.
- Avoid scrolling through apps while driving.
- Struggling to resist the urge? Store your phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat until you reach your destination.

GREEN TERROR ATHLETICS

Celebrating DIII Athletics and Mental Health Awareness on the Hill



McDaniel students encouraging Tournament of Champions participants as they play with a colorful parachute.

Earlier this month, McDaniel College proudly celebrated NCAA Division III Week (April 7-13), a national opportunity to recognize the impact of athletics and student-athletes on campus and in the broader community. As part of the celebration, the college hosted its annual Tournament of Champions on Friday, April 11, in Gill Center. Over 100 children with special needs from Carroll County Public Schools joined McDaniel student volunteers for a fun-filled morning of athletic activities. It was a heartwarming and energizing day that reminded all of us of the power of connection, inclusion, and teamwork.

In addition, throughout April, McDaniel Athletics highlighted student mental health by hosting six Mental Health Awareness Games across various sports. Fans showed their support by wearing green and cheering on our student-athletes at home competitions for baseball, softball, men’s and women’s tennis, and men’s and women’s lacrosse. These events showcased athletic talent and sparked important conversations about wellness, balance, and the mental health needs of today’s students. We’re proud of our teams for their leadership on and off the field!

Don’t forget! Follow your favorite Green Terror teams throughout the year, either in person or online. Admission is free, or you can watch the event online via a mobile device. [Check out the complete athletics schedule](#) so you never miss cheering the Green Terror to victory!

STUDENT ACCOUNTS/BURSAR

As the end of the semester approaches, the Bursar’s team would like to wish the students good luck with their finals. We also congratulate our seniors and their families on their accomplishments and wish them the absolute best in their future endeavors.

Senior checklist:

- Be sure to have your student confirm their mailing address.
- Remind your student to remove their electronic consent for their 1098T; this will ensure the 2025 1098T is forwarded to their current address.

- Review the tuition account to ensure it is accurate and clear. You don't want it getting in the way of graduation!

End of semester reminders:

- Be sure to have your student return their mailbox and room keys before leaving.
- Review the tuition account in late May to clear potential charges.
- You'll want to make sure that your student's spring semester account is clear of any remaining balances so that nothing interferes with preparing for the fall. Please review the accounts each month, as incidental charges may be reflected.

Important tuition due dates:

- **June 1, 2025:** Summer tuition is due.
- **June 15, 2025:** Fall payment plan enrollment opens. (Installments are due on the first day of July, August, September, October, and November.)
- **July 15, 2025:** Fall tuition; health insurance waiver.
- **Nov. 15, 2025:** Spring payment plan enrollment opens. (Installments are due on the first day of December, January, February, March, and April).
- **Jan. 5, 2026:** Spring tuition is due.

New in Summer 2025!

This summer we're rolling out PayMyTuition, a new payment platform!

- Students will receive instructions on navigating the new site, registering an authorized user, making payments, and setting up payment plans.
- Student refunds will be directly deposited into the bank account of their choice.
- Parent Plus refunds will be deposited directly into the bank account of your choice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at 410-857-2209 or at bursaroffice@mcdaniel.edu.

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (OSE)

Encourage your student to attend programming sponsored by OSE. Students can contact Amanda Gelber at agelber@mcdaniel.edu with questions!

Late Night Breakfast | Monday, May 12 | Free | 9-10:30 p.m. | Englar Dining Hall

A finals week tradition, students can take a break and grab some late-night food while relaxing with friends before returning to the grind! Uniquely McDaniel, faculty get behind the counter to help serve up breakfast to their hardworking students.

Senior Week | Tickets on sale now!

Senior Week tickets can be purchased individually or together. (Save money and purchase as a package.)

- **Orioles Baseball Game | Sunday, May 18 | \$35 | 1:35 p.m. | Baltimore**
How 'bout them O's? Tell your student to join their friends to cheer on our local Major League Baseball team. Transportation is provided, and the bus will depart the Harrison Lot at 11:30 a.m. Limited tickets are available.
- **Senior Send Off | Monday, May 19 | \$25 | 6-10 p.m. | On campus**
This unforgettable evening will feature local food trucks, a traditional Maryland crab feast, a beer and wine garden, novelty activities, live music, and more — creating the perfect vibe to toast the end of senior year. Encourage your student to grab their ticket and get ready for a night of fun, friends, and farewell moments on the Hill!

Free Senior Week events include:

- **Career Boot Camp | Tuesday, May 20 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. | On Campus**

Your senior won't want to miss this opportunity to jump-start their future! Join the Center for Experience and Opportunity (CEO) for a full day of workshops, speakers, and hands-on sessions to help with career goals. Whether polishing a resume or prepping for interviews, this boot camp has them covered. Plus, there will be food, prizes, and plenty of pro tips to help them take the next step with confidence! (PRO PARENT TIP: Did you know that the CEO offers career services to alumni? You'll want to make sure your soon-to-be graduate knows!)

- **Hats Off to the Hill | Tuesday, May 20 | 6-8 p.m. | On Campus**

All seniors are invited to our annual reception, where we tip our hats to the Class of 2025 and welcome them into the McDaniel College Alumni Association! Hats Off to the Hill is a special celebration where students connect with local alumni, expand their professional networks, and toast their college achievements.

- **Graduation Cap Decorating | Monday, May 19 – Wednesday, May 20 | 1-3 p.m. | On Campus**

Encourage your graduating student to participate in the fun tradition of decorating their graduation cap! Sponsored by OSE, this event provides all the supplies they'll need. Your student should bring a cap, friends, and creativity.

Leadership in the Wild: Adventure Awaits!

From May 27 to June 6, McDaniel students will embark on a once-in-a-lifetime experience through the McDaniel Adventure Program, exploring Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. This unique opportunity - led by OSE - combines outdoor adventures like whitewater rafting, hiking, and horseback riding with leadership development, environmental education, and responsible recreation. We're thrilled to offer this immersive program to our students to strengthen their leadership skills and deepen their connection to the natural world. Interested students can learn more and apply through the study abroad portal. Questions? Contact [Emily Haas](#), Coordinator of Student Engagement.

FINANCIAL AID

As we welcome the spring season, here are some important updates and reminders regarding financial aid:

FAFSA and Financial Aid Renewal

If your student has not yet completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2025-26 academic year, please remind them to submit it as soon as possible. Doing so helps maximize full financial aid potential.

Scholarship Opportunities

Spring is a great time to explore additional scholarship opportunities. Encourage your student to visit our scholarship database.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Reminder

To maintain financial aid eligibility, students must meet SAP requirements, which include maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.0 and successfully completing 67% of their attempted credits. The Financial Aid Office will monitor students' progression at the end of the spring semester.

Preparing for Summer Courses

If your student is considering taking summer courses, they may be eligible for financial aid. Remind them to visit the Financial Aid Office to determine available funding and enrollment requirements.

Follow our Instagram ([@mcdaniel_financial_aid](#)) for important updates, additional scholarship opportunities, and special programming offered by the Financial Aid team!

WELLNESS CENTER



Flowering tree in front of Baker Chapel.

If you walk around the Hill right now, you will see the stage set for greatness as trees fill with buds, flowers bring brilliant color to the scenery, and we are surrounded by new life. It's a season full of expectation and excitement in the personal story of each McDaniel student. For most, this time of year awakens a new level of pressure as they prepare to finish classes strong and step into what's next on their paths. What does that look like for your student? Are they soaring in their season? Are they navigating pressures well? Perhaps they are somewhere in the middle, or does it vary day to day?

Stress can be healthy, motivating, and - quite frankly - necessary for life! It helps us react, pay attention, and keep us safe! College is a key time to learn how to find balance in stressors, recognizing when it is time to push harder and when it's time to breathe and reset. It can be hard to watch your student walk through stressful times, yet how we respond as parents and families can be so impactful.

By checking in with compassion and simply listening to your student, you are doing great work! We know that when we talk about stressors, we feel better. A note of encouragement or a care package is a welcome way to reinforce that you support them through this time. When you sense your student is exhibiting signs of stress, help them do a little self-check!

ASK YOUR STUDENT

- How well have you been eating?
- How well have you been sleeping?
- What have you been doing for fun?
- Have you been engaged in your classes?
- Has anything been difficult for you lately?

Remaining optimistic, help your student assess how their stress could be impacting their enjoyment, choices, and overall wellness. Help them see that this stress is anticipated and that it is okay to feel this way. Guide them toward goal setting, understanding their limits, and taking control of their choices, and suggest healthy outlets for the pressure they feel.

Healthy outlets for students:

- Take a free yoga class on campus.
- Go on a walk with a friend.
- Visit What's Up McDaniel and look forward to a campus event.
- Visit the Wellness Center Portal page for meditation, mindfulness, and other ideas.

If you sense your student could benefit from professional support and guidance, the Wellness Center is here to help. Services are free to full-time undergraduates. Students can make a confidential appointment by calling 410-857-2243, emailing wellness@mcdaniel.edu, or scheduling through the [Wellness Center portal page](#). For more information on the services the Wellness Center offers, please visit [McDaniel College Student Counseling & Health Services](#).

Best wishes to you and your student as you wrap up the spring semester!

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

THE 1867 CHALLENGE



We extend our heartfelt thanks to YOU - our parent and family donors - who made gifts during the 1867 Challenge. It's truly remarkable that over 130 parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles contributed just over \$53,000 towards the total of \$483,839!

Thank you for being a driving force behind this incredible achievement!

GIFT HIGHLIGHTS

The success of many of the initiatives in the [strategic plan](#) are dependent upon the generosity of our donors. Thank you to the following donors for their recent gifts to the college. We can't do what we do without you!

- \$420,867 from Donald Rembert '61 and Judith Ellis Rembert '60 as part of the 1867 Challenge, supporting 10 funds including The Track Renovation Project Fund, The Donald '61 and Judith '60 Rembert Football Coaching Fund, and The Student Success Fund.
- \$250,000 from James M. Lamont '80 and Karen Bellamy Lamont '81 to support The Lewis Recitation Hall Renovations Fund.
- \$25,000 from Sharon Klompus M.Ed. '75 to support The Sharon L. Klompus M.Ed. '75 Endowed Scholarship Fund.
- \$42,453.26 from the late Marclyn S. Hendon to support The James R. Hendon Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- \$25,733.82 from Samuel Hopkins '80 to support The Track Renovation Project Fund.
- \$97,000 from J. Michael Elder '71 to support The J. Michael Elder '71 Endowed Scholarship Fund.

[Make your gift online today](#) or contact Justin Forget, director of annual giving, at 410-386-4801 or jforget@mcdaniel.edu.

Conversation Starters: Questions to Connect with Your Student About the Hill

- As the semester draws to a close, what strategies are you using to stay on top of your coursework and prepare for finals?
 - Looking ahead to summer, are there any new experiences - such as internships, jobs, or travel - you're considering to build on your academic and career goals?
 - Reflecting on the past year, what's one thing you're proud of, and how has it influenced your plans for the next year?
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Let's Get Social



Follow McDaniel College social media accounts to be in the know! Don't forget to join our McDaniel College Parent & Families Facebook Group. All accounts can be found on the [Parent & Family Resources](#) page.

Update Your Contact Information

McDaniel College

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