

PARENT & FAMILY

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HILL

We hope many of you enjoyed time with your students as they rested and recharged during fall break! It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the semester, and the Hill is alive with energy as our community continues to thrive in the second half of fall 2025.

October is one of the most beautiful months on campus, with golden foliage and glowing sunsets. One highlight is **Homecoming, Oct. 24-25**, which brings alumni back to the Hill from near and far. Encourage your students to say hello to returning alumni — they'll find it fun and inspiring to connect with those who lived and learned on the Hill long before them. These connections not only create valuable networking opportunities but also remind students that they are part of McDaniel's tradition of lifelong learning.

We're also excited to share that [registration for Parent and Family Weekend](#) is now open! At McDaniel, family is who you choose, and all are welcome to experience your student's home away from home. Encourage your student to show you where they learn, gather, and relax. Highlights of the weekend include an inside look at the new Learning Commons @ Hoover Library — complete with faculty from the various academic areas, as well as student support resources. Additionally, you can gain some insight into career guidance through CareerTracks and learn about our study abroad programs. We've also planned a fun mosaic-making craft, a '90s-themed murder mystery buffet, the Parent and Family Council's Welcome Reception, and the spirited Hilltop Huddle Suite experience during the last home football game of the season. The weekend will close with our Undergraduate Awards Ceremony and Brunch. [Check out the full schedule and register today.](#) Be sure to sign up soon so we can roll out the best experience for our extended McDaniel family.

And if you can't be here to celebrate in person, don't worry — we've created a special spot for your student to enjoy the weekend fun! During Saturday's football game, your student can stop by the Office of Student Belonging tent for a welcoming place to relax, connect, and enjoy some McDaniel spirit. Free food, drinks, and snacks will be available.

We can't wait to see you on the Hill and celebrate all that makes this community so special!



Christine Moran
AVP of Student Success



Heidi Reigel '97
AVP of Constituent Engagement

ACADEMIC DATES

Monday - Tuesday, Oct. 13-14	Fall Break (no classes)
Tuesday, Oct. 14	Mid-semester grades available
Monday, Oct. 20	Deadline to register for fall internships
Wednesday, Oct. 29	Last day to withdraw with a "W" grade or select P/Dx/F
Wednesday, Oct. 29	Deadline to add a 1-2 credit independent study
Monday, Nov. 3	Spring 2026 registration begins
Saturday, Nov. 15	Deadline for May 2026 graduation application

FIRST YEAR FUN

First-year students have been staying active both in and out of the classroom! Last week, many took the plunge at the first-ever FYE Splash Bash, showing off their swimmer's strokes in the college pool. Looking ahead, students will embrace the fall season with a pop-up pumpkin painting event. In early November, the fun continues with Freshmen Feud in Decker Auditorium — an exciting opportunity for students to enjoy some friendly competition with their classmates.

Also coming in early November: Applications open for next year's Peer Mentor program! If your student loves McDaniel and is looking for a meaningful leadership opportunity, encourage them to apply for this highly coveted role.

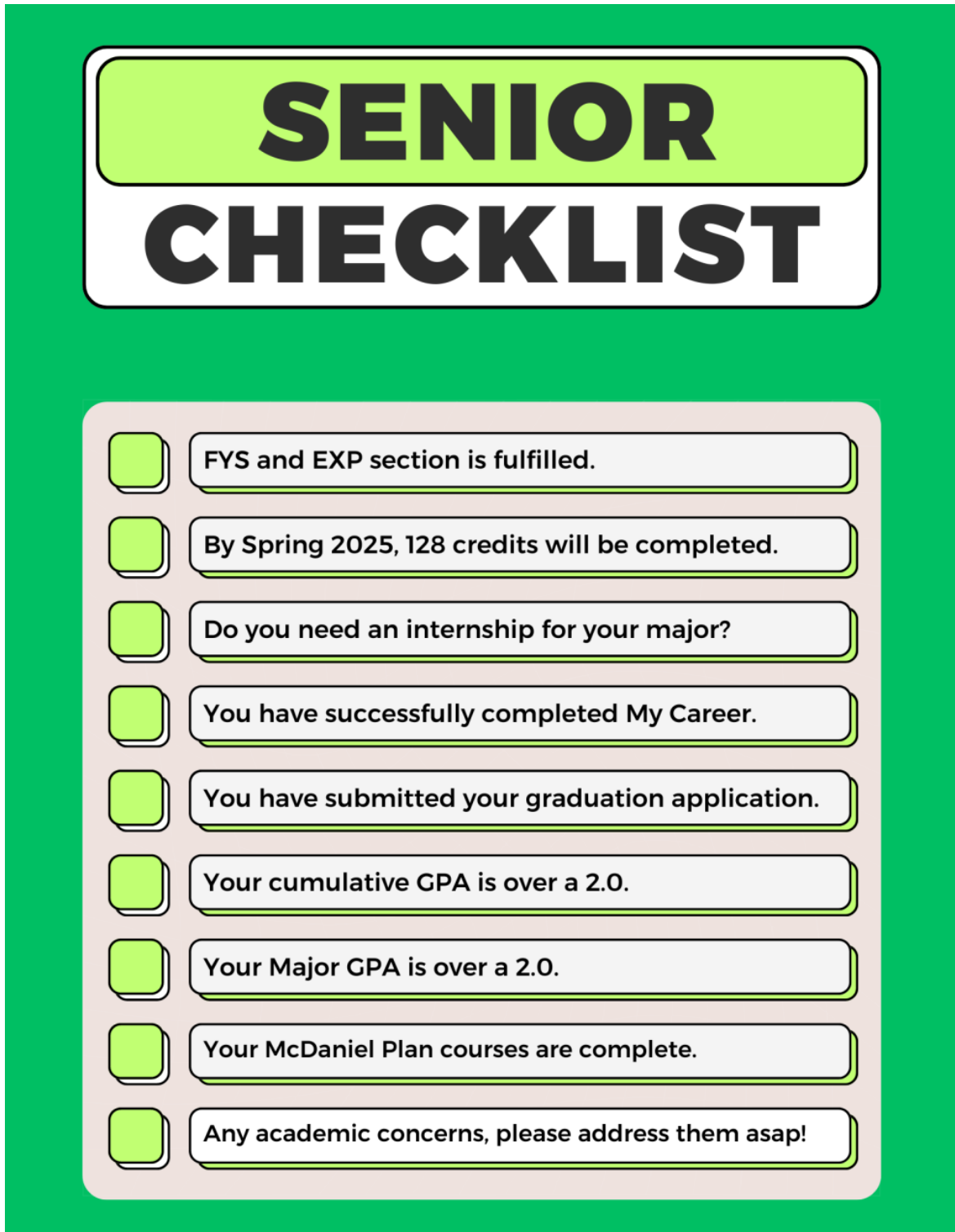
REGISTRATION FOR SPRING

Registration for spring 2026 classes will also be here before you know it! Please remind your students to meet with their student success coach or faculty advisor to review and select courses. Typically, students should register for 16 credits to stay on track and "finish in four."

DO YOU HAVE A SENIOR?

The online graduation application for undergraduate students anticipating a May 2026 graduation is Nov. 15. Students need to submit their graduation application through Self-Service.

Ask your student about the following senior checklist items leading up to graduation.

A graphic titled "SENIOR CHECKLIST" with a green background. The title is in large, bold, black letters on a light green rounded rectangle. Below the title is a list of nine checklist items, each with a green square checkbox on the left and the text in a white rounded rectangle on the right. The items are: "FYS and EXP section is fulfilled.", "By Spring 2025, 128 credits will be completed.", "Do you need an internship for your major?", "You have successfully completed My Career.", "You have submitted your graduation application.", "Your cumulative GPA is over a 2.0.", "Your Major GPA is over a 2.0.", "Your McDaniel Plan courses are complete.", and "Any academic concerns, please address them asap!".

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- ☐ FYS and EXP section is fulfilled.
- ☐ By Spring 2025, 128 credits will be completed.
- ☐ Do you need an internship for your major?
- ☐ You have successfully completed My Career.
- ☐ You have submitted your graduation application.
- ☐ Your cumulative GPA is over a 2.0.
- ☐ Your Major GPA is over a 2.0.
- ☐ Your McDaniel Plan courses are complete.
- ☐ Any academic concerns, please address them asap!

THE WRITING CENTER IS IN FULL SWING

This fall, the Writing Center is buzzing with creative writing events and workshops designed to spark imagination and strengthen communication skills. These experiences not only enrich your student's academic work but also build valuable skills they'll carry into internships, careers, and beyond.

Encourage your student to explore upcoming opportunities on the What's Up McDaniel page!

OFFICE OF STUDENT BELONGING

A New Chapter for Belonging on the Hill

Did your student meet Director Moody yet? In our last newsletter, we introduced Andraelya Moody, director of the Office of Student Belonging. We'd love for you to encourage your student to stop by and say hello!

The Office of Student Belonging is more than just a physical space — it's a welcoming environment where students can pause, connect, and be reminded that they are never alone. Through cultural celebrations, leadership opportunities, and even quiet moments of reflection, the office was designed to help students recognize their worth and find their voice.

Director Moody brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for student success. She is committed to ensuring that every student — regardless of background, interests, or journey — knows they have a place where they belong here at McDaniel.

RESIDENCE LIFE



McDaniel College's resident assistants in front of Ward Memorial Arch.

The Office of Residence Life will open applications for the 2026-27 Resident Assistant (RA) position in January 2026. Students must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA, live on campus for a minimum of one semester, and be in good behavioral standing with the college.

RAs are responsible for cultivating a safe and engaging community in our residence halls. They create educational bulletin boards, plan social programs, facilitate roommate mediations, report maintenance concerns, and conduct rounds from 9 p.m. until midnight every night.

RAs report to an area coordinator who is a live-in professional staff member with previous residence life experience. To learn more about the Office of Residence Life, please [visit our website](#) or [follow us on Instagram](#).

Reminder: The residence halls will close at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26 for Thanksgiving Break and will reopen at noon on Sunday, Nov. 30. Check out the opening and closing dates on our Residence Hall Calendar.

FINANCIAL AID TEAM

The [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) for the 2026-27 academic year is now open! Even though the fall 2025 semester has just started, we recommend that you and your student submit your 2026-27 FAFSA as soon as possible and check it off your list. Filing the FAFSA early helps secure priority consideration for financial aid and enables families to plan with accurate financial information.

If your student is a Maryland resident, please note that this past year, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) only awarded funds to students who submitted their FAFSA and MHEC One App by the March 1 deadline. State scholarships and grants are limited, and MHEC will only distribute funds until they are exhausted.

Policy Highlights of the Month:

Housing Updates

Students' financial aid eligibility is directly tied to their housing status. If your student decides to change their housing status from living on campus to commuting or vice versa, they must complete a Housing Update Form with the Financial Aid Office.

Here's what to know:

- Students moving from resident to commuter status will see a reduction in their McDaniel aid, since the cost of attendance decreases.
- Federal or private loans may also be adjusted when housing status changes.

We strongly recommend that students consult with the Financial Aid Office before finalizing any changes to their housing arrangements, so they can understand how these changes may impact their aid package.

Important Changes to Parent PLUS Loans

Congress recently passed new federal legislation (referred to as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act") that introduces several significant changes to federal financial aid programs. These updates affect both students and parents, and while many families may not be directly impacted immediately, it's important to be aware of how these changes could shape your financial planning for college.

One of the most notable updates regarding the Parent PLUS Loan program is the introduction of the Parent PLUS Loan Cap. Families are now limited to a lifetime borrowing cap of \$65,000 per student. The average Parent PLUS loan at McDaniel in 2024 was \$18,000, so many families will stay below this limit. However, families whose PLUS loans exceed this average should keep this new cap in mind when planning for the remaining costs of their student's undergraduate education.

And as always, our team is here to assist you with all your financial aid needs!

THE BURSAR'S OFFICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE: REFUNDS VIA DIRECT DEPOSIT ONLY

- Students received instructions on how to set up direct deposit through PayMyTuition.
- If the refund is from a Parent PLUS loan and is not going to the student, the parent must also set up direct deposit.
 - The student must designate the parent as an authorized user through PayMyTuition, for this to happen.

REMINDER: REVIEW STUDENT STATEMENT MONTHLY

- Check your student account regularly to ensure your balance is paid in full.
- Nov. 1: Final fall payment plan installment is due.
- Nov. 3: Spring registration opens, and the account must be in good financial standing to register.

SPRING 2026 SEMESTER

Spring statements will be available on Monday, Nov. 17, and payment plans for spring also open that day, with the first installment due upon enrollment. Installment amounts are based on your enrollment date in the plan. The last day to enroll in the payment plan option is Jan. 5, 2026. There is a \$75 enrollment fee.

The additional payment plan installment dates are:

Dec. 1, 2025

Jan. 1, 2026

Feb. 1, 2026

March 1, 2026

April 1, 2026

LOOKING AHEAD TO IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER AND FALL 2026

June 1 - Summer tuition due

June 15 - Fall payment plan enrollment opens. The first installment is due at the time of enrollment. Installment amounts are based on your enrollment date. Installments are due: July 1, Aug. 1, Sept. 1, Oct. 1, and Nov. 1. There is a \$75 enrollment fee.

July 15 - Fall tuition due

July 15 - Health insurance waiver deadline

CENTER FOR EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY

Professional Pathways

Why does McDaniel College use professional pathways for career development? Grouping college majors into professional pathways helps students make clearer connections between their academic studies and potential career outcomes. This approach simplifies career exploration by organizing majors around shared industries or roles, making it easier for students to see how different disciplines can lead to similar professional opportunities. It also encourages interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration, reflecting the way employers often hire based on skills and interests rather than specific degrees. Overall, professional pathways create a more intuitive, inclusive, and strategic framework for career development.

What are the three McDaniel professional pathways?

1. **Quantitative, Computing, and Business Sciences Pathway:** Actuarial Science, Applied Math, Business Administration, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, International

Business, Marketing, Physics

2. **Kinesiology, Health, and Natural Sciences Pathway:** Biochemistry, Biology, Biomedical Science, Chemistry, Environmental Studies, Kinesiology, Health Sciences, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Pre-Vet, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Speech-Language Pathology
3. **Humanities, Arts, Education, and Social Sciences Pathway:** Art, American Sign Language, Deaf Education, Communication, Education, English, Food Studies, Library Science, Writing & Publishing, Journalism, Theatre, World Languages & Cultures, Philosophy, Criminal Justice, Sociology, History, Political Science, Pre-Law, Psychology, Social Work, Counseling



McDaniel student speaking with a job recruiter.

The Professional Pathway Showcase is our signature recruitment event — designed to be more relaxed than a traditional job fair, but just as impactful. This in-person experience brings together 15-20 employers, graduate programs, and international internship providers, all organized around strategic industry and academic groupings.

Whether exploring career options, seeking internships, considering graduate school, or looking to build a professional network, this is a great opportunity to:

- Meet face-to-face with professionals from a wide range of fields
- Discover internships, jobs, and global opportunities
- Learn about graduate programs aligned with your interests
- Ask questions, get advice, and make connections in a welcoming, low-pressure environment

Encourage your student to check out the following showcases:

Quantitative, Computing, and Business Sciences Showcase

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025

11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Mid-Level, Roj Student Center

Kinesiology, Health, and Natural Sciences Showcase

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Mid-Level, Roj Student Center

Humanities, Arts, Education, and Social Sciences Showcase

TBD – Spring 2026

Study Abroad:

Although the Jan Term and spring 2026 study abroad applications have closed, there's still plenty of time to plan for upcoming study abroad and travel opportunities! The Office of International Programs is sponsoring two McDaniel summer programs:



Student looking out toward a Chilean landscape.

Chile: Discovery & Community Service (May 24 - June 4, 2026)

Spend 10 days in San Pedro de Atacama, engaging with local communities, international scientists at ALMA Observatory, and the region's natural wonders. This service-learning program focuses on social, cultural, health, and environmental issues.

Hybrid Information Session: Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m. (Innovation Lab & Online). Register on What's Up McDaniel to attend online or in person.



GrandTeton park entrance sign.

McDaniel Adventure Program: Yellowstone & Grand Teton (May 26 - June 5, 2026)

Join OSE for an adventure in Wyoming's iconic parks! Activities include hiking, rafting, horseback riding, and exploring conservation, wilderness safety, and leadership skills — plus the famous Cody Nite Rodeo and sessions with outdoor experts. Applications are due Oct. 15 and are available in the Study Abroad Portal.

Independent summer and fall 2026 program applications open in mid-October and are due March 1, 2026, in the Study Abroad Portal. Students are encouraged to book an advising appointment with study abroad staff through Student Navigate for program guidance, applications, and funding support.

If your student is interested in studying abroad, encourage them to join us for our virtual Funding Your Study Abroad workshops. Information is available in What's Up McDaniel.

- Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



Students playing spikeball.

Students can find out about events and clubs on What's Up McDaniel, and they can also register for trips and purchase tickets.

Event Highlights

Oct. 20-25 Homecoming Week: Spirit Week/Greek Week
Oct. 31 Roj Trick or Treat
Oct. 31 Black Student Union x OSE Halloween Monster Bash Dance
Nov. 12 Stuff-A-Buddy

Leadership Workshops

Encourage your student to stop by OSE to sign up. All workshops are FREE!

- Cultivate Your Happiness
- Emerging Leaders: Values & Leadership
- True Colors Workshop: How to Use Your Personality Strengths

Help Your Sophomore Grow as a Leader!

McDaniel College is excited to offer the Sophomore Cohort Leadership Program, a free opportunity designed just for second-year students. This 15-hour program features dynamic workshops, off-campus experiences (with transportation included), and guided opportunities for reflection and skill-building.

Through hands-on activities, your student will:

- Strengthen leadership skills
- Build meaningful connections with peers
- Learn how to create positive change on campus and beyond

Students can also apply the program toward an EXP Tag, and those who complete it will receive a certificate of completion and be recognized at the 2026 Impact Awards.

Spots are limited — encourage your sophomore to take the next step in their leadership journey by letting them know they can apply through the What's Up McDaniel app.

CAMPUS SAFETY

October is National Crime Prevention Month, a time to highlight the importance of safety and awareness. At McDaniel, we not only recognize the value of crime prevention but also promote the supportive measures in place to help keep our students and employees safe.

As part of our commitment, [the Annual Security and Fire Safety \(Clery Act\) Report is now available.](#)

Here are some key crime prevention and safety tips to help protect your student and support the well-being of our entire campus community:

- Always carry a cell phone or other communication device with you when you are out by yourself.
- Update your contact information for McDaniel Alert messages.
- If you go walking or running, always do so in well-populated areas and during daylight hours, and avoid walking in alleys and poorly lit areas off campus.
- Always lock your vehicle and never leave items in your vehicle in plain view.
- Park in well-lit areas. The college routinely assesses parking lot and campus lighting to maintain a well-lit campus.
- Always lock your residence hall, house, or apartment room door.
- Do not prop open any doors to campus residences.

[McDaniel College's Department of Campus Safety](#) is a resource available to your student 24 hours a day by phone at 410-857-2202 or in person at 152 Pennsylvania Ave.

WELLNESS CENTER



Image that says Hope Heal Inspire.

Happy fall! We hope you are enjoying the season and all the opportunities it brings to connect with your student. October is **Relationship Violence Awareness Month**, and we want to share some helpful information so you feel prepared to recognize the signs of unhealthy relationships and know how to offer support.

As parents and family members, it's natural to worry about the challenges college students face as they build new relationships. Abuse can take many forms — physical, emotional, verbal, or psychological — and each can have a lasting impact. Some warning signs to watch for include:

- Sudden changes in mood or behavior
- Withdrawal or isolation from friends and family
- Lower self-esteem or loss of confidence
- Excuses for a partner's unhealthy behavior
- Expressions of fear, stress, or anxiety

If you notice these signs, approach the situation with empathy and understanding. Create a safe, non-judgmental space for your student to share their feelings. Rather than criticizing their partner, focus on expressing your care, concern, and support. Please encourage your student to make their own decisions while reminding them that they deserve respect and kindness in every relationship.

Resources are available to help. McDaniel's Wellness Center is a key support on campus, and national resources like [Love Is Respect](#) also provide valuable guidance.

We know it can be deeply stressful to suspect that someone you love may be experiencing harm. Please remember to take care of yourself, too.

If you have any questions, please call us at 410-857-2243 or email us at wellness@mcdaniel.edu.

You can also [visit our website](#) or follow us on Instagram (@mcdaniel_wellness) to keep up with all the programs we offer!

GREEN & GOLD CHALLENGE: Oct. 22 - 29

The **Green & Gold Challenge** is a weeklong competition to help student-athletes reach new heights. For one week each year, Green Terror athletic teams ask for your support to help ensure that student-athletes have the resources they need every step of the way to compete at the highest level.

The Green & Gold Challenge can only be successful with the help of student-athletes, coaches, alumni, parents and families, and fans. Help spread the word and garner support for your favorite Green Terror team.

Learn more on the [Green & Gold Challenge Toolkit](#) page!

GIVE NOW!

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

We're thrilled to share the exciting news of the public phase of Reaching New Heights, McDaniel College's bold and visionary campaign for the future. This momentous occasion was marked by the announcement of the most significant gift in the college's history — a landmark bequest from the estate of Class of 1950 alum Jonas Eshelman in excess of \$15 million, a portion of which will be focused on academic innovation. A gift of this size is a powerful testament to what is possible when donors believe in the power of a McDaniel education. At its heart, Reaching New Heights prioritizes our students and the meaningful connections that define the McDaniel experience. It's a campaign rooted in honoring our past while investing in a future filled with promise, but we will need your support as we strive to raise the remaining \$10 million to reach our \$50 million goal. Visit the [campaign website](#) to learn more.

Gift Highlights

Our future as an innovative liberal arts college focused on student achievement and professional success lies in us reaching new heights — together. Thank you to the following donors for their

recent gifts to the college in support of the strategic plan and Reaching New Heights: The Campaign for McDaniel College. We can't do what we do without you!

- \$100,000 from President Julia Jasken and David Colquhoun to establish The Julia Jasken and David Colquhoun Undergraduate Research Current Use Fund and The Julia Jasken and David Colquhoun Undergraduate Research Endowment.
- \$100,000 from Donald Rembert '61 and Judith Ellis Rembert '60 for The Locker Room Renovation Fund.
- \$25,000 from Joseph Browning '11 and Caitlin Browning for The Locker Room Renovation Fund.

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

Conversation Starters: Prompts to connect with your student about the Hill.



Three students studying.

- Have you met with your success coach or faculty advisors to plan for the spring semester?
- How are you and your friends getting involved with Spirit Week (the week before Homecoming)?
- How are you balancing your academic requirements and social activities as you head into the last weeks of the semester?

Need some McDaniel gear to show off your Green Terror Pride?

Looking for the perfect way to celebrate your student's McDaniel journey? The Kyle Cavan Jewelry Collection features cufflinks and elegant pieces with the McDaniel College seal, as well as an exclusive architectural piece featuring the Ward Memorial Arch! The collection features beautiful keepsakes that can be personalized for birthdays, holidays, or special milestones.

[Explore the jewelry here.](#)

You can also show your Green Terror spirit from anywhere by shopping the [Campus Store's Spirit Shop](#) for apparel, accessories, and more!

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
[Unsubscribe](#)