



MAN ON A MISSION

Celebrating President Ken Gormley's 30 Years at Duquesne

— Fall 2024 —





“30 Years of Vision and Extraordinary Results”

Ken Gormley Marks Three Decades at Duquesne

In the 144-year history of Duquesne University, only two prior presidents have attained 30 years of continuous service at the University.

Duquesne’s fourth President, Fr. Martin Hehir, transformed the tiny Pittsburgh Catholic College to a full-scale University, and served for 31 years, starting as a faculty member in 1899 and concluding his work as president in 1930.

Fr. Henry McAnulty, Duquesne’s ninth President, served as a military chaplain during World War II and returned to his alma mater to serve as assistant to the President for a year before taking office as President in 1959. Following 21 years as President, he stepped down in 1980 and was appointed Chancellor, a position he held until his death in 1995.

President Ken Gormley began his career at Duquesne in the fall semester of 1994 as a new law professor, before serving as Interim Dean and Dean of the Law School from 2008 until 2015. He was appointed the 13th President in 2016.

Now in his ninth year of leading the University, Gormley is only the third President to hit this 30-year milestone. He is also the first President to have children attend the University and the first to have children married in the Duquesne chapel (both to fellow Duquesne graduates) during his time in office.

To mark this historic 30-year anniversary, University Board Chair Jack McGinley, Vice Chair Diane Hupp, Vice President of Marketing and Communications Gabe Welsch, and Assistant Vice President and Editor of *Duquesne Magazine* Patty Swisher decided to produce this special edition to recognize Gormley’s extraordinary vision and success.

A font of ideas and bold initiatives that have touched every school and every corner of Duquesne’s campus, Gormley has distinguished himself as a top academic leader in the United States. His entire career has been marked by innovation, strategic thinking and a tireless work ethic that has allowed him to take the rich Catholic and Spiritan history and legacy of Duquesne to unparalleled new levels of excellence.

As he marks 30 years at this special institution that has become his home, and his family’s home, the exciting question remains: “What’s next?” We hope you enjoy this collector’s edition that shows the impressive trajectory of Gormley’s work and heralds more extraordinary things to come.

John R. “Jack” McGinley Jr.
University Board Chair

Gabe Welsch
Vice President of Marketing and Communications

Diane S. Hupp
University Board Vice Chair

Patty Swisher
Assistant Vice President of Marketing and Communications

“

“To know President Gormley is to witness an unwavering commitment to every facet of the Duquesne University community. His leadership goes beyond his role of President—exemplifying an endorser of academic excellence, a contributor for student development and achievement, and an advocate for all members of the Duquesne family. His influence resonates in every corner of Duquesne, and his ability to inspire and guide our vibrant community is a testament to the 30 years he has given this University.”

**Skyler Wrubleski '26, Biomedical Engineering
Mathematics & Nursing, Honors College,
and Director of Orientation**

”





President Ken Gormley has now worked at Duquesne University in one role or another for 30 years. Over those decades, he has established himself as a fixture at Duquesne as a professor, then as a dean and then, since 2016, as the 13th President of the University. With his wife, Laura, he helped raise four children, two of whom earned undergraduate and advanced degrees at Duquesne. And his youngest daughter, Maddy, earned her master's degree in 2023 and works at Duquesne to recruit students for the School of Science and Engineering.



Over three decades, Ken Gormley has met thousands of alumni, many of whom are or were Duquesne legends—and often Pittsburgh legends as well. His travels in service to the University and his profession have resulted in his taking the Duquesne name to more than 20 states and to nations across several continents.

Several distinct themes have woven through his time in service to Duquesne: a love for and understanding of Pittsburgh and the surrounding region's history and the exciting potential for new progress; the importance of the U.S. Constitution, the American system of government and call to public service to enrich society for all; and the continuous joyful pursuit of new ideas that can benefit our students and the broader Duquesne community, so that Duquesne, its students and graduates can be leaders in society today and for generations to come.

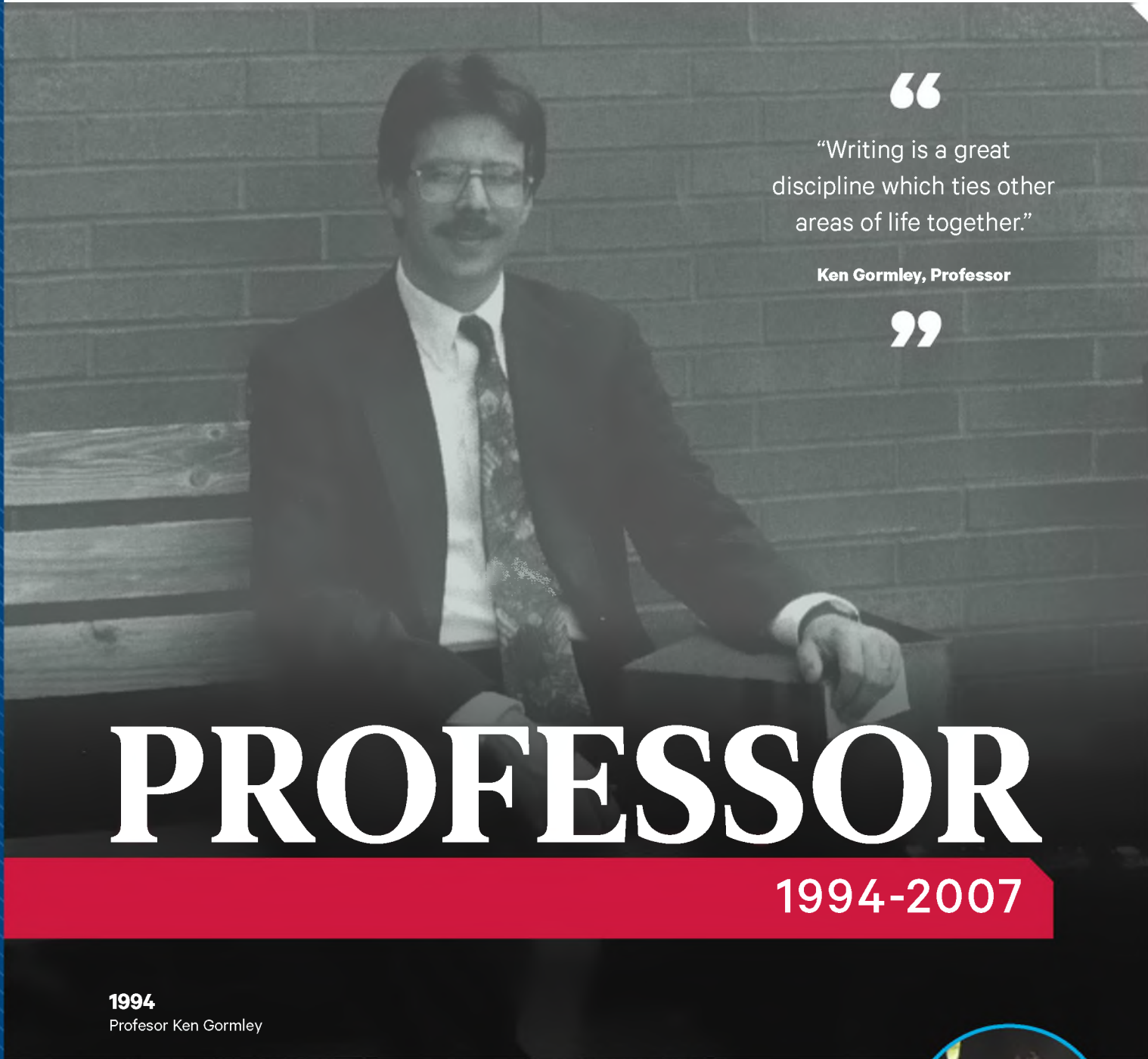
Since his arrival on campus 30 years ago, Gormley has embraced a bold vision for Duquesne. And, collaborating with others, he has delivered remarkable results.

“

“Ken Gormley personifies the enthusiastic spirit, hometown pride and boundless hopefulness that define Pittsburgh. And while that is apparent from his decades of work in the public—whether in educating thousands of college and law students, his extensive writings, or even during his time as Mayor of Forest Hills—to focus there would be to miss the very best of ‘Professor G.’ Take a walk with him, and you’ll see his most inspiring moments are the briefest interactions he has with fellow Pittsburghers, across all walks of life. You’ll see he has deep friendships with everyone and that after his one true love, Laura, Pittsburgh itself is his lifelong and best friend.”

David D. Cardone L '03, founding partner, DDWK (San Diego, CA)

”



“Writing is a great discipline which ties other areas of life together.”

Ken Gormley, Professor

PROFESSOR

1994-2007

1994
Professor Ken Gormley

Ken Gormley joined the law school faculty at Duquesne in 1994, following nearly a decade and a half practicing in various legal and academic roles. With experience ranging from general private practice to building a legal writing program at the University of Pittsburgh to public service, when he arrived at Duquesne, Gormley prioritized teaching his students about the ways law fuels the engine of civic harmony—while modeling civic engagement himself.

His teaching built around two core concerns: careful writing and research and a sense of connection to larger currents of history. As he began his scholarly work at Duquesne, Gormley already had nurtured numerous relationships while working with U.S. Supreme Court Justices and prominent legal figures producing his first works of legal scholarship and non-fiction writing.

Insights he gained through constitutional scholarship complemented his zeal for public service—and his public life stitched regional connections that would create opportunities for Duquesne students over the decades, building upon his early teaching days. With his family present on and around campus since Gormley’s first day in the fall semester of 1994, it is not surprising that most of them and their spouses would earn at least one degree from Duquesne.

By 2007, then-President Charles Dougherty tapped Gormley for a leadership role based upon his efforts creating and coordinating numerous high-profile scholarly events at the University. As associate vice president for interdisciplinary scholarship and special initiatives, Gormley began building creative, collaborative programs across the University. It would prove a useful training ground for work to come later.

Through expert commentary, service to the region and a knack for distilling ideas for a broad reading public, Gormley’s professional work set themes in motion that would characterize his leadership years later. As a faculty member, he was service-minded, writing in ways that made accessible the connection between constitutional law and its impact on American history and culture. He soon found a niche explicating great moments in American history to translate the impact of the Constitution for a popular audience that gained national attention. And from the earliest days, he was focused on delivering big results for the University that became his home.

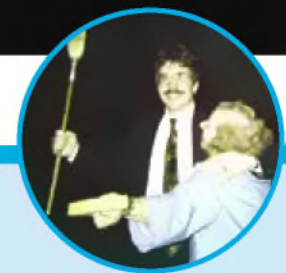
KGTV

Gormley has appeared on numerous broadcast networks lending his expertise to discussions concerning law, history, politics and culture.



A TIMELINE OF COMMITMENT

1997 First Up! Archibald Cox
Archibald Cox: *Conscience of a Nation* is published in 1997, his first major work of biographical legal scholarship. It wins the Bruce K. Gould Book Award for an outstanding publication relating to law and is named a prestigious Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle selection.



1999 Staff Recognition
Bridget Tomasits, a beloved member of the facilities crew in the Law School, gets a little help in her work.

2000 Conversations with History
During a break in testimony at the U.S. Senate, Gormley converses with Lawrence Walsh, the independent counsel appointed in December 1986 to investigate the Iran-Contra affair during the Reagan administration.

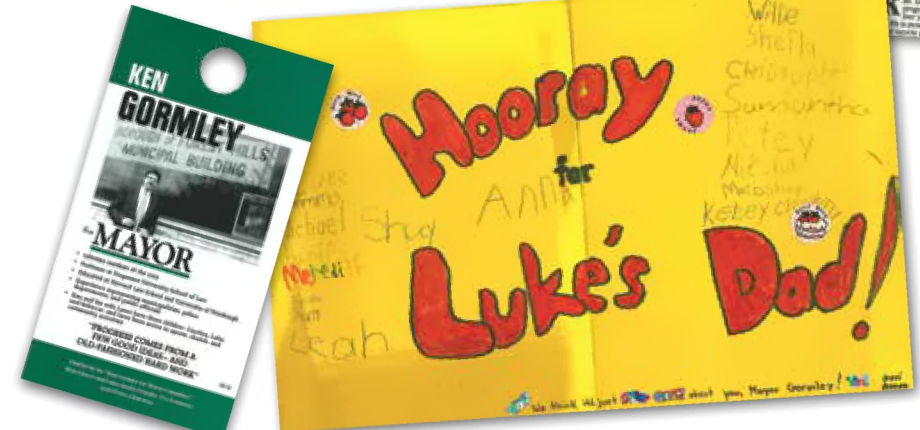


2001 A Fine Local Legacy
The Forest Hills Lions Club names Gormley its Person of the Year, and the community paper in Woodland Hills bestows its Person of the Year award on him in 2002.

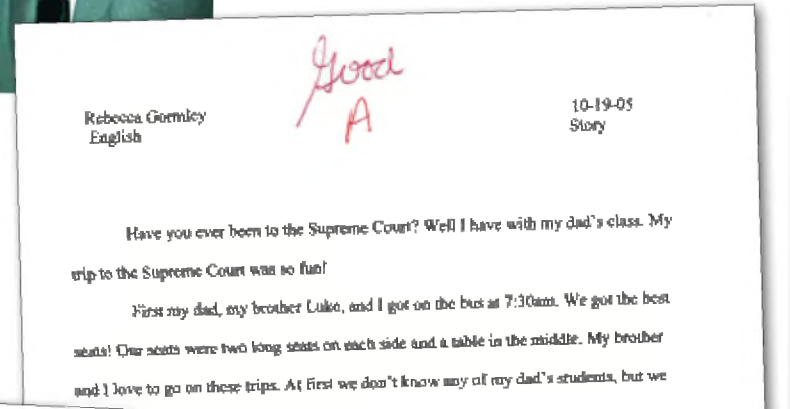




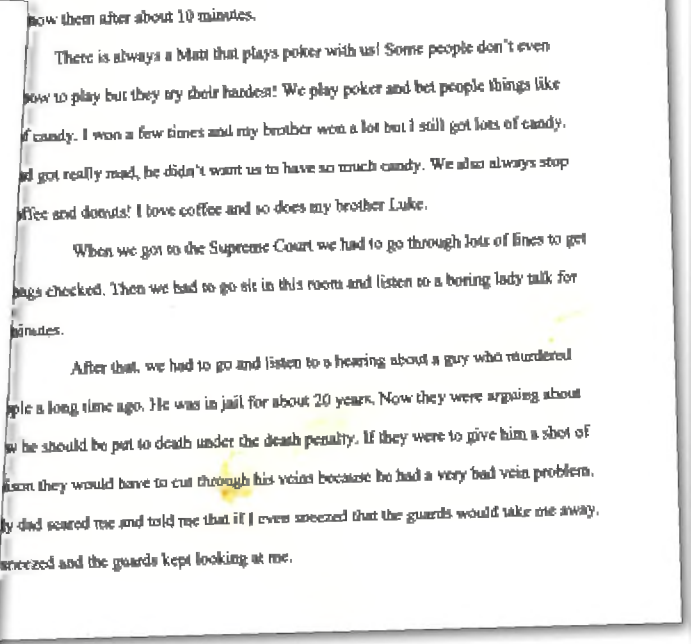
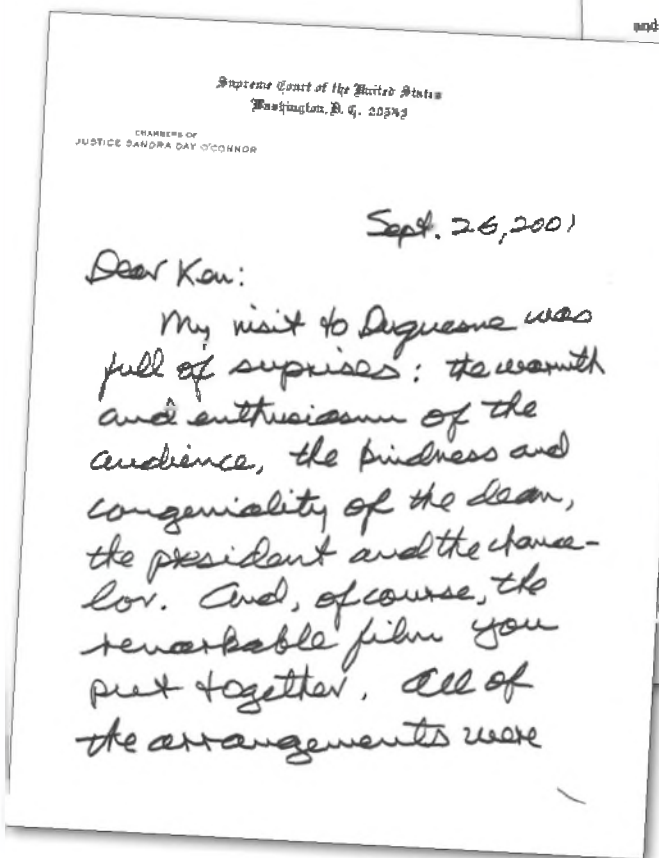
1999
A Front-Row Seat to Civic Engagement
The new Mayor of Forest Hills outside his office in 1999. Gormley served from 1998 to 2002. The late Judge R. Stanton Wettick, Jr. swore Gormley into office.



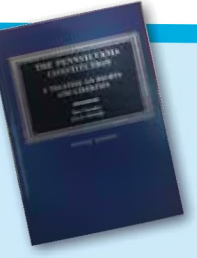
2001
Sandra Day O'Connor Visits Campus
In 2001, the Supreme Court Justice would be the first of many Justices to visit Duquesne thanks to Gormley's invitations. As often happened, one of the Gormley children was also there.



1999
Pursuit of Truth
Initially covering the Clinton impeachment trial as part of his scholarship, Gormley soon realizes he has a much bigger project on his hands.



2004 Not Just the U.S. Constitution!
Gormley creates and edits *The Pennsylvania Constitution: A Treatise on Rights and Liberties*, 2004. The legal treatise would go on to earn thousands of citations, from every court in Pennsylvania.



2008 Judicial Nomination
Governor Ed Rendell nominates Gormley for a spot on the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. While political wrangling doomed the nomination, it would not be the last nod to Gormley's potential as a judge.

2001 Handwritten History
Through the decades, Gormley has earned the friendship and trust of numerous Supreme Court Justices. This letter from the now-retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is just one example of such correspondence.



2001 Authority Foreshadowed
 Testimony, United States Senate, Judiciary Committee, "Possible Constitutional Amendments to the President's Pardon Power," (Washington, D.C. 2001) (broadcast on CNN, C-SPAN and Fox News).



2001 A Fine Local Legacy
 Gormley becomes a sought-after speaker, both locally and nationally, speaking about important issues of the day.



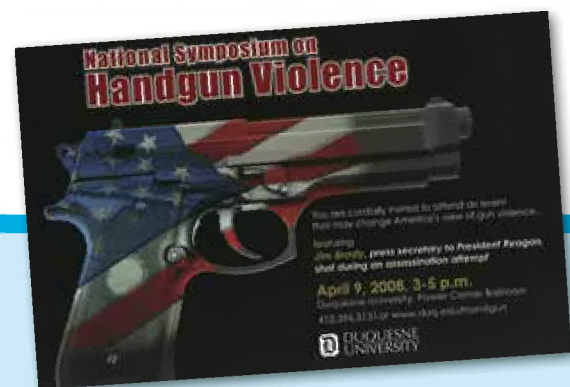
1999 Dining with Alumni
 At an annual law alumni dinner, Gormley hosts along with Liz Miles, a popular WTAE TV personality.



Sweet Tradition
 Gormley knew early on that the way to the heart of a class is through its stomach. Even as a new faculty member, he hosted ice cream socials to celebrate his students' successes at the end of the year. He would also enhance relationships with alumni during his time as a professor and, later, Dean.



2007 President of the Allegheny County Bar Association
 Gormley is the first academic to be elected to this important position in the 137-year history of the organization.



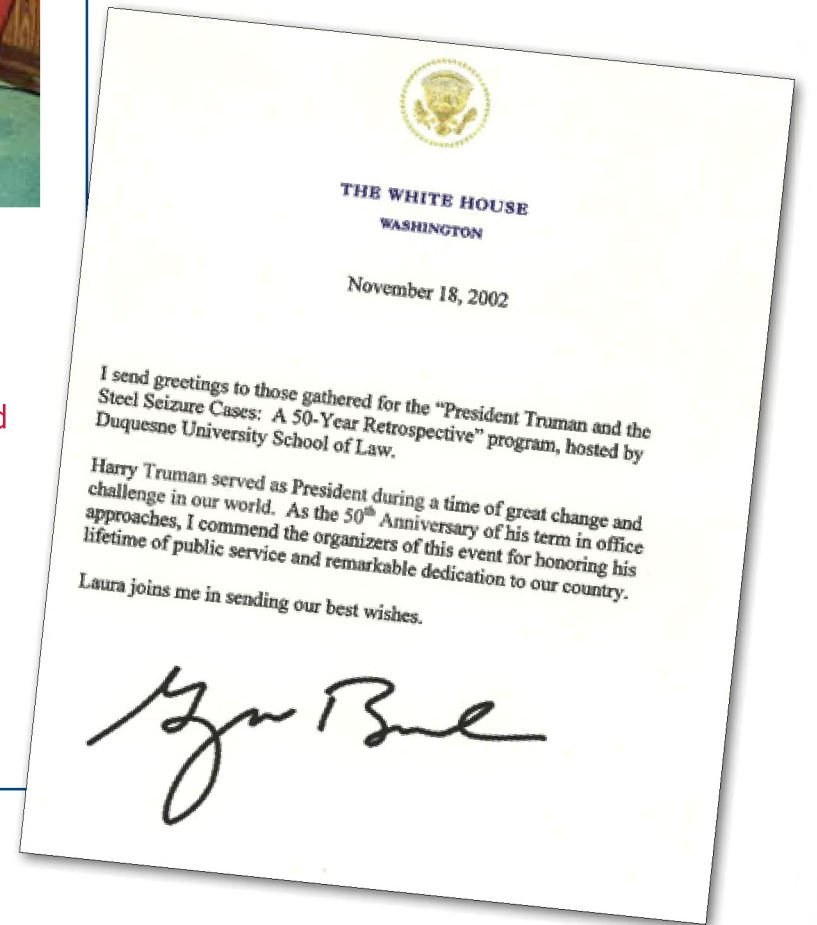
2008 Handgun Event
 Gormley events routinely draw praise from professionals and students alike.



2002 In Chief Justice William Rehnquist's office at the U.S. Supreme Court.

“When I was at Harvard, we would see these luminaries, and I wanted to have them appear at Duquesne for our students.”

Ken Gormley, Professor



2002 Expertise as a Prelude
 Gormley hosts a symposium on President Harry S. Truman and the Steel Seizure Case, involving a crisis during the Korean War. President Truman seized the steel mills to keep them operating, and his presidential power was challenged.

“I am sure that every professor is concerned about the future of his or her students; however, throughout my education (which at this point seems like an eternity), I have not been instructed by a teacher or professor who demonstrated a genuine trust in and care for a class as you have. By sharing your anecdotes about Laura, your kids and, of course, your encounters with distinguished members of the legal community, you have made yourself vulnerable on a personal level, thereby confirming trust in our class.”

Annie Altieri, in a letter to then-Professor Gormley, 1998



DEAN

2007-2015

2010 Living Legends Event

During a program examining the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*, Gormley speaks with Charles Hamilton Houston Jr. A '68. Houston's father had been the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall's professor and mentor. Marshall's son, John Marshall, also spoke, and the event was the first time these children of two historic figures met.

Ken Gormley took the helm at the close of the first century of Duquesne's law school—strengthening its practical focus while elevating it to national visibility—at a time when his scholarly work was earning increasing acclaim.

“

“Our strength at Duquesne has always been in producing quality, hands-on practitioners and professionals, and we are in a position to set the national standard here.”

Ken Gormley, Dean

”



Gormley with Nancy Perkins, who was then the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the School.



Naming Gormley Interim Dean in late 2008, President Charles Dougherty made the appointment permanent in 2010 and Gormley continued as the new Dean of the School, with plenty of momentum behind him. Although he took the role at a time when law school enrollments were bottoming out across the country, Gormley was determined to elevate the stature of the law school and laid out an ambitious plan to do so. Focused on the need to produce excellent, practice-ready attorneys, he re-invented the School's bar prep program, strengthened international offerings, and built clinical and public service opportunities to emphasize their importance for all students.

Believing firmly that the best and brightest graduates should be present in every area of the law, he implemented changes designed to expose students to every aspect of law, develop their enthusiasm and graduate them ready to make a difference.

The same year “interim” was removed from his title, he also gained the adjective “bestseller.” Gormley's landmark book, *The Death of American Virtue: Clinton vs. Starr* (2010), brought acclaim to its author and national attention to Duquesne.

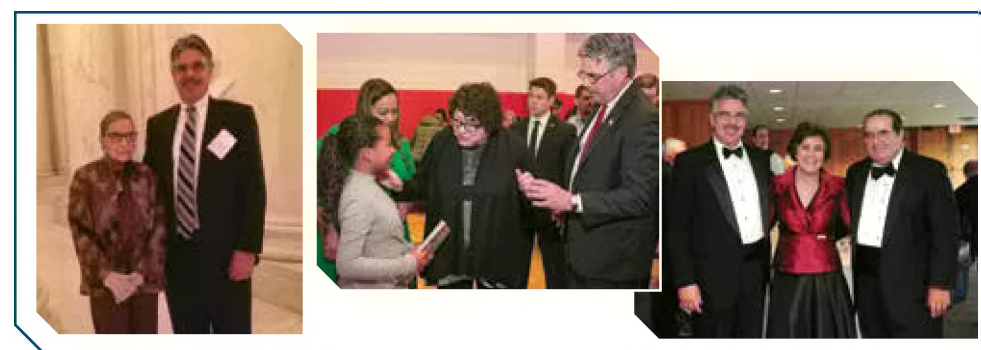
In demand for commentary and leadership, Gormley navigated Duquesne's strategic priorities while leveraging service to bring renown to the University. During that period, his research led him to forge even more connections and relationships with influential figures in politics, the judiciary, the news media and academe.



Establishing Duquesne as a Center for State Constitutional Studies
Gormley hosts numerous events with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in attendance.



2010 Growing Role, Growing Family
As Gormley's leadership responsibilities grow, the first of his children considers attending Duquesne. Luke started at the University in the School of Pharmacy in 2012.



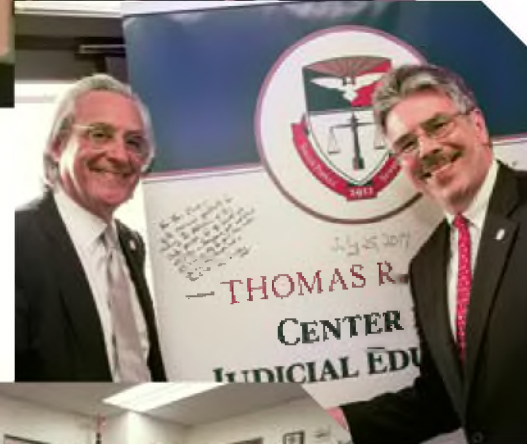
With the Supremes
Gormley invited numerous U.S. Supreme Court Justices to campus to speak with students about their work and to elevate Duquesne's reputation.

Busy Developing Strong Programs

Tribone Center, Veterans Clinic, Family Law Clinic and the Pennsylvania Innocence Project with Temple University— and laying the groundwork for the Kline Center for Judicial Education.



Creating the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education in 2017.



2015

Nominated

In 2015, then-Governor Tom Wolf nominated Gormley to serve as a Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice.



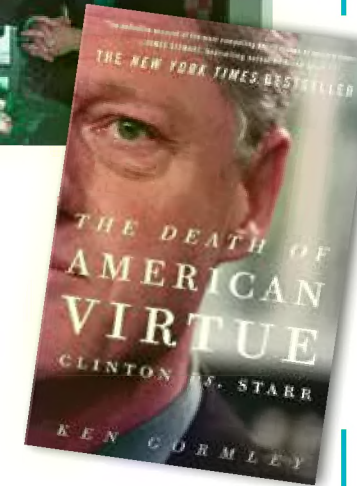
“I hate to lose him for even one day. Ken’s done a great job in repositioning and raising the bar for the law school. What he’s done has been in an institutional way, so that a short leave will not interrupt the progress that has been made.”

**Marie Milie Jones,
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette,
February 4, 2015**



The Death of American Virtue

Gormley’s book on the various facets of the Clinton-Starr investigation was a bestseller and earned universal acclaim for its fair and thorough coverage of the political saga. Here he visits Clinton at his home, with Clinton attorney David Kendall (right).



A Century of Duquesne Women in Law

As part of the School’s centennial, Gormley included a celebration of Duquesne’s strong record of educating women who pursued careers in law. Gormley would later go on, as President, to appoint more women as deans than any other Duquesne President.



An Important Tradition

Gormley starts organizing annual trips for students and student athletes to the Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast in the Hill District, creating a tradition that continues today.



“Ken Gormley has been a transformative force on the Bluff. He has raised the regional and national profile of both the University and law school. As I have watched him over the years, his boundless energy and deep intellect never cease to amaze. His scholarly writing on the Pennsylvania Constitution is a regular source of analysis for me as a Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. As an alumna of the law school, it gives me pleasure to cite Ken, the face of Duquesne University, in my opinions. There are very few people in the western Pennsylvania region who have a higher profile within the community than Ken Gormley. Over the course of his years with Duquesne he has developed relationships in government and in the legal community that make him the ‘go-to guy’ whenever a brilliant speaker is required. He never disappoints. It is hard to quantify the value that he brings to Duquesne University. I am so grateful to him in that regard. I am also grateful to call him my friend.”

**Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice
Christine Donohue, L ’80**

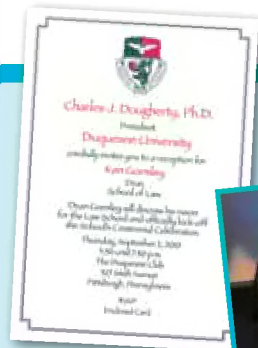
“I have known Ken Gormley as a professor, author, boss, mentor, Dean and University President for over 25 years. Ken’s fundamental value guidance system has been evident in every role. Ken’s commitment to students and their scholarly pursuits has been evident throughout his entire career. His commitment to colleagues is also evident. Just as one example, he launched the Gender Equality Institute for the Allegheny County Bar Association and made it a top priority. I was honored to work with him on that. What I saw daily as his research assistant was that his genuine authenticity draws people to him from all walks of life. He is very much ‘every man’ and people are anxious to tell him their story. Most significantly, he listens. People often say how lucky Duquesne is to have President Gormley as their leader. What I see is a person loyal to the model of his parents and neighbors, who can compete anywhere in the world, and yet chooses to do his work in our corner. We are much more than lucky; only in the future will we know just how amazing a ride it has been with Ken Gormley!”

**Linda Varrenti Hernandez, Esquire, Of Counsel,
Dickie McCamey**



2011 Celebrating 100 Years

Gormley presides over the centennial celebrations of the Law School, events which included visits from U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.





Legacy and Tradition

With former President and Chancellor John Murray (right), a long-time mentor, and former President Charles Dougherty (left), who created opportunities for him to expand leadership capabilities and influence. Gormley was well prepared for his next role at the University—one that would soon present itself.



Visiting the Sisters

Gormley never forgot the Sisters of Charity, who provided him his foundational education at St. Anselm School in Swissvale, and whose example inspired his own care for students.

“

“Ken Gormley is the same person he was when I taught him 10th grade biology at St. Anselm High School in Swissvale. He is enthusiastic, inquisitive and he loves dealing with people. Last year, even while he was President of Duquesne, he and his classmate Peggy Eiseman organized their 50-year St. A’s reunion and it was the best ever. He has always had great respect for the Sisters of Charity, and we certainly are proud of everything Ken is accomplishing.”

Sr. Mary Lou Palas, former teacher at St. Anselm High School in Swissvale, PA

”

PRESIDENT

2016-2024



With his long history at Duquesne, increasing national visibility, and deep local and regional connections, Ken Gormley took on the task of defining a new era when he was installed as the 13th President of Duquesne University in July 2016, with a campus-wide inauguration ceremony in October. Charged with strengthening the University in every dimension, President Gormley sought to do so while taking the Spiritan mission as inspiration for the work ahead of him.

2016
Inauguration

That inspiration led to a Strategic Plan that made students the “polestar” of all decision-making and stressed excellence in scholarship and service. As such, it extended themes of Gormley’s personal career into a larger domain to continue to push Duquesne forward.

Scarcely more than three years after taking the role, Gormley found himself leading during a time of upheaval from a contentious political environment, a global pandemic and other unforeseen challenges.

Despite these hurdles, he led the University to remarkable successes, including:

- launching the College of Osteopathic Medicine,
- re-imagining the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse and injecting renewed strength in athletics,
- setting a new standard for inclusive excellence,
- working with Provost David Dausey to create numerous curricular enhancements—from the Bridges Common Learning Experience to new engineering programs,
- securing a transformational philanthropic commitment to name the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, and
- attracting record-breaking philanthropic support for the University.

“

“Ken Gormley is deeply committed to our Spiritan mission. For the past two decades he has exemplified the mission through his interactions with students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University.

Fr. Jeffrey T. Duaine, C.S.Sp., then-provincial of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, Province of the United States and chair of the Members of the Duquesne University Corporation, 2015

”



2016 Heady Times
Inauguration festivities had the energy of a street fair even as the moment was also the mark of a new era for the University.



The First Presidential Christmas Card



2018 Papal Audience
Gormley greets Pope Francis with Spiritan priest and Senior Advisor Fr. Jim McCloskey at a Papal Audience in Rome, with students from the University's Rome campus in the audience.

Presidents and the Constitution
Gormley continued his presidential scholarship into his presidency, publishing a new two-volume edition of his popular book.



2018
At an event in the Duquesne Union to honor the late Ambassador Dan Rooney, Gormley presents former Vice President Joe Biden with a copy of his book, *Presidents and the Constitution*.



With Steelers luminaries.

THE POLESTAR OF OUR DECISION MAKING

President Gormley took office knowing that his chief responsibility was to serve the students who had chosen Duquesne. The University's Strategic Plan notes prominently, at his insistence, that Duquesne is "committed to ensuring that Duquesne will consider the best interests of our students as the polestar of all decision-making."

Duquesne students are also fun to be around, curious, committed and down-to-earth. For Gormley, one of his top priorities has been to be visible to students, a leader they can recognize and approach, and a person they know has their interests as his top priority. Regularly meeting with the Student Government Association leaders and ensuring he attended a variety of campus events ranging from Red Masquers productions to music recitals to late night stress-busters, Gormley prioritized students in his already busy schedule.



DONUTS!

College students love free snacks—and whether serving donuts, tea and honey, pancakes, or barbecue, Duquesne's president delivers.



“

“From its beginnings in 1878 to its prestigious place today among America’s top-rated universities, the Spiritans established Duquesne as a university where students from all backgrounds are given the opportunity to learn and succeed. President Gormley is the embodiment of this Duquesne mission and Spiritan pedagogy in which Duquesne’s foundation lies. Having seen President Gormley through the lens of a professor, university president and mentor, I can attest to how great of a servant leader and person he is, and how lucky we are to have had such a positive presence in the Duquesne community for the past 30 years.”

Claudio Simione, SGA President, 2023-2024

”



ALUMNI MAKE IT HAPPEN

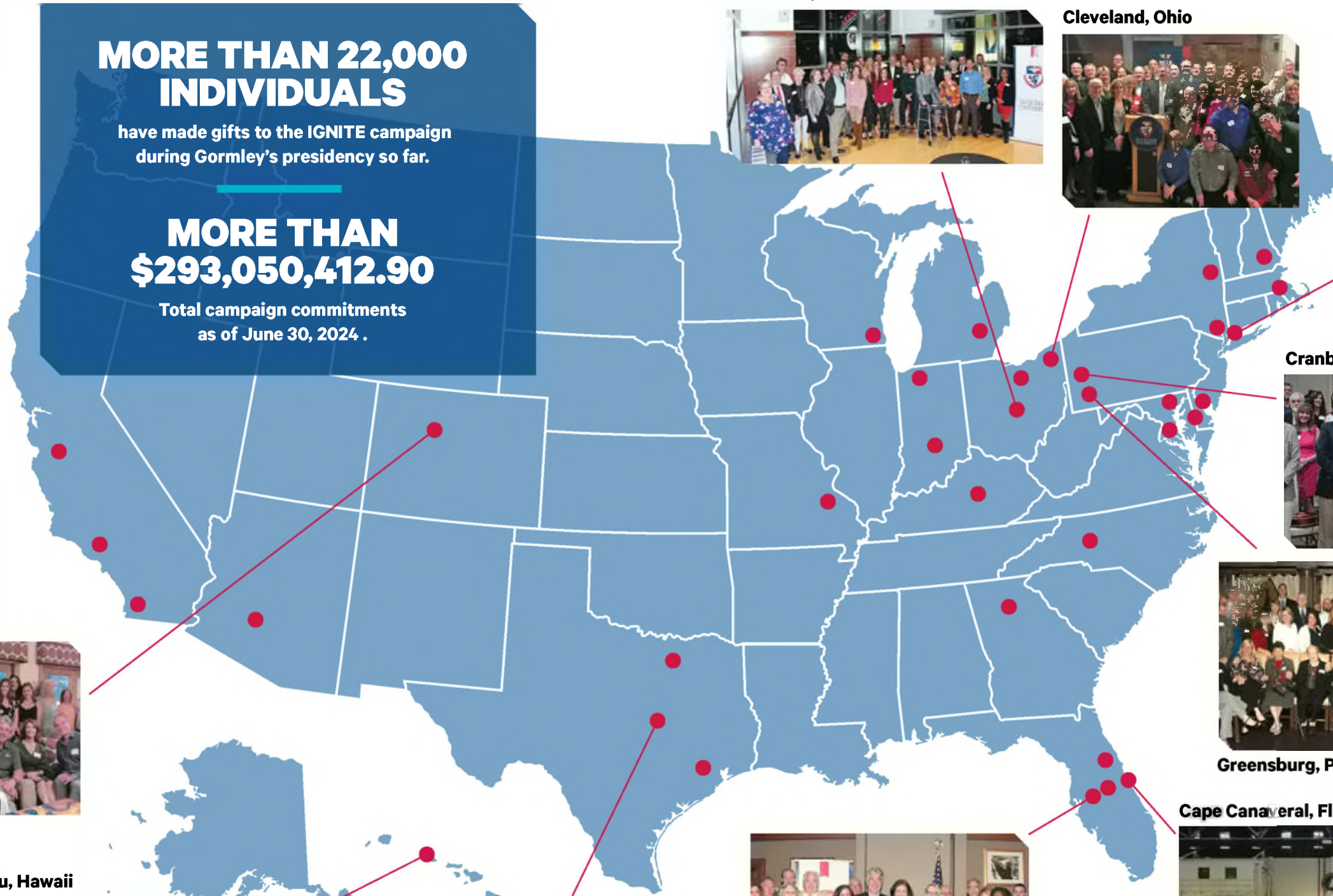
Alumni have shown up when President Gormley visits their cities to share news of the exciting things happening at the University and the momentum it has been experiencing. Increasingly, prospective students and their families also join the mix; and Gormley even meets with high school counselors, in the service of future Dukes—to help them find their way to Pittsburgh and the Bluff.

MORE THAN 22,000 INDIVIDUALS

have made gifts to the IGNITE campaign during Gormley's presidency so far.

MORE THAN \$293,050,412.90

Total campaign commitments as of June 30, 2024 .



Columbus, Ohio



Cleveland, Ohio



New York, New York



Cranberry, Pennsylvania



Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Vail, Colorado



Cape Canaveral, Florida



Space Force

Alumnus Shawn Walleck GA '17, who serves as Director of Operations at the Space Force, hosted a gathering of alumni at the Cape Canaveral operation.



Tampa, Florida

Honolulu, Hawaii



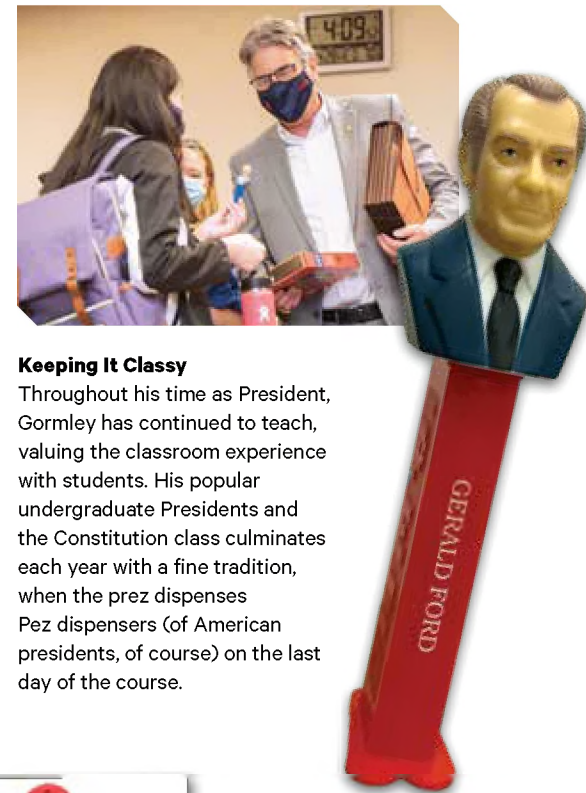
Austin, Texas

AMERICAN PSYCHE

President Gormley assumed the presidency as political and social schisms in the United States were increasingly divisive and volatile. His career as a law professor and constitutional scholar prepared him to foster greater understanding of the value of civil discourse as well as the constitutional basis for freedoms—and responsibilities—of expression.

Talking the (Civil) Talk

Right away, Gormley created an annual series on Civil Discourse for students and the Duquesne community, encouraging respectful discussion even on difficult topics.



Keeping It Classy

Throughout his time as President, Gormley has continued to teach, valuing the classroom experience with students. His popular undergraduate Presidents and the Constitution class culminates each year with a fine tradition, when the prez dispenses Pez dispensers (of American presidents, of course) on the last day of the course.



Walking the (Free Speech) Walk

Experts discussed the past, present and future of First Amendment freedoms at The National Conference on the First Amendment: Bedrock of American Freedom, a program Gormley organized and held over two days in front of a packed Power Center ballroom. Among the panelists were editors of *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*; Tom Ridge, former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security and former Pennsylvania governor; General Mike Hayden, former CIA and NSA director and Duquesne alumnus; television and radio commentators Juan Williams and Hugh Hewitt; and journalist Nina Totenberg, among many others.



Moderating the First Amendment Symposium at Duquesne with Federal Appeals Judge Thomas Hardiman and then-U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco.



DELIVERING A VISION THAT WAS A CENTURY IN THE MAKING

When students helped President Gormley cut the ribbon to open the new College of Osteopathic Medicine, wall-to-wall media coverage shared the celebration with hundreds of thousands of people across news media and social media. The inaugural class, chosen from more than 4,000 applicants, numbered 91 students who, in 2027, will become Duquesne's first medical doctors.



“

“It [is] timely to congratulate Ken on all of the positive attention that has been generated by Duquesne's new School of Osteopathic Medicine over the course of recent days. Clearly, the Gormley years have emerged as golden years for Duquesne, which is great for the entire community.”

Mark Nordenberg
Chancellor Emeritus
University of Pittsburgh

”



2021 The First Fritzky Chair
Naming Jennifer Paden Elliott to the inaugural Fritzky Chair in Integrative Health places a dedicated community practitioner in a key role combining research and outreach.



2023 Supporting in EVERY Way
In addition to his personal leadership, Ken and his wife, Laura, make their own significant gift to the College of Osteopathic Medicine and become St. Catherine of Sienna-level supporters of the new College.



PREPARED FOR ANYTHING

At a time when leaders in higher education faced the greatest challenge in decades, President Gormley leaned in to his commitment to students and his network of connections through the city and region to lead Duquesne through the crisis.



Lemons and Lemonade

We learned a lot during COVID—and even built upon a few things. One of the most popular additions during the time of social distancing was large tents erected on campus for outdoor studying, hanging out and dining. Observing that these tents were used extensively, Gormley decided to make the option permanent.

With the help of a generous gift from alumnus Dan Unico and his son, Ken, daughter-in-law Sheila and family, the **Unico Family Pavilion** was built along Academic Walk, across from Rooney Field, complete with a gas fireplace and speakers. It sits today in the same spot where students heavily used an outdoor tent during COVID. A beautiful replica of the Pieta was installed in the yard nearby, again thanks to the generosity of Dan Unico.

“

“An uncommon brand of cooperation took shape among academic institutions and county officials, leading to greater success in managing the COVID crisis than in most other areas of the state and the country...Running a university campus during COVID was like building Disneyland from the ground up. It required innovation and reinventing the entire operation... Rather than seek to hoard good ideas to gain an advantage, which some other institutions around the country did, the academic leaders in this region willingly shared approaches that yielded success. Thus was born a novel Western Pennsylvania approach to the health crisis, a disciplined collaboration, which helped to keep infections and hospitalizations under control.”

Ken Gormley in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, September 4, 2022

”



Shake Every Hand

COVID-era regulations meant spacing out people in classes and at Commencement. After discovering students and families appreciated the personal attention created by separate commencement ceremonies for each school, Gormley decided to implement this practice indefinitely. Schools have had separate commencement celebrations ever since.



At Mass of the Holy Spirit with Bishop David Zubik during the COVID pandemic.

ENSURING ALL STUDENTS FEEL WELCOME

As a more diverse range of students find their way to Duquesne, President Gormley works to ensure they are welcomed and supported in a manner consistent with our Spiritan mission.



Built in 2021, the new **Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion** now occupies a prominent location in the Student Union.

Gormley creates a position for Duquesne's first Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Advisor to the President on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and names Crystal McCormick Ware to the post.



GET MOVING

A \$1.1 million endowment to support **club sports** across the University campus now exists thanks to an unrestricted estate gift that Gormley used to elevate the importance of more than 15 club sports teams on campus (2023).





WHAT'S IN A NAME? PLENTY.

The Duquesne community learned the answer—a history of advocacy for a safer world and a strong future for a storied School. President Gormley’s decade-long friendship with Thomas R. Kline led to Kline making the largest gift commitment in Duquesne history—\$50 million—in 2022. In appreciation, the University renamed its law school the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.



To meet student interest and demand, Gormley seeded a **pre-law program for undergraduates** that is now thriving, with some of its students moving right into Duquesne Kline School of Law to become double Dukers.



Gormley helped launch the **Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education** through Kline’s generous \$7.5 million gift—the largest at the time in 2017. Kline would far outpace that generosity a few years later.



Kline made an **additional \$3 million gift** to create a new grand entranceway, façade and display room in 2024.

THE DUKES’ NEW HOME: THE UPMC COOPER FIELDHOUSE

When the national spotlight landed on Duquesne basketball in March 2024, their home had already been spruced up with plenty of curb appeal. Early in his presidency, President Gormley pushed for fundraising to help create a revitalized and expanded UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, and the completed structure opened in 2021. While it was the most visible investment in competitive athletic programs at Duquesne, it was far from the only marker of the Dukes’ success.



The UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse



Friendly Neighborhood Competition
A sign of things to come—Duquesne’s victory in the City Game against Pitt in 2017.



Cooper Connection
A point of Duquesne pride is the storied career of Chuck Cooper, a Dukes star who became the first Black player drafted into the NBA. The UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse now bears his name—and the signature of his son, Chuck Cooper III, is also preserved on one of its beams.



Playing the Long Game
Gormley hired basketball coach Keith Dambrot in 2017 to spark basketball—and in 2024 that move paid off big time with an A-10 win and NCAA Tournament appearance, the first in 47 years.



Opportunity for All
Gormley was the inaugural co-chair of the A-10 Commission on Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.



Campus of Champions
In 2023-2024 Duquesne was one of only six Division I schools in the U.S. whose basketball and football teams both won conference championships.

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Innovative discussions with faculty, alumni supporters, foundations and more led to numerous additions and enhancements to the learning environment at the University.



To support students' practical needs for career guidance and exploration, Gormley sparked an early win in building a new **Center for Career Development** for students on the 6th Floor of the Student Union in 2017.



In 2019, the **Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science Technology and Law** launched thanks to a generous \$1.5 million grant from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation, in honor of prominent alumnus Carl Grefenstette, who served as trusted advisor to Henry Hillman for decades.



After the creation of the **Center for Integrative Health**, Gormley named Dr. Jennifer Elliott as the inaugural Ed and Karen Fritzky Chair in Integrative Medicine and Wellbeing in 2021.



Thanks to a generous gift from alumna Patricia Doherty Yoder, the **Institute for Ethics and Integrity in Journalism and Media** opened in 2021, to instill values of journalistic integrity and civil discourse in students.



Working with **Provost David Dausey**, Gormley has made creating new academic chairs and recognizing faculty excellence a priority.



In 2023, the University dedicated the **Eugene P. Beard Center for Student Success** at a major event in Rockwell Hall, and Gormley announced the creation of a \$1 million endowed University chair, the **Eugene P. Beard Endowed Chair in Professional Ethics**, to recognize Gene Beard's myriad contributions. In addition, thanks to Beard's generosity, the University created the **Eugene P. Beard Presidential Prizes for Innovation and Distinction** for faculty members pursuing cutting-edge initiatives at the University.



The Bob and Lou Mallet Centers in the School of Business helped spur the renovation of Rockwell Hall.



Gormley worked with Provost David Dausey, Dean Ellen Gawalt and others to create a suite of **new engineering programs**, resulting in a renaming of the School of Science and Engineering in 2023. Soon after that announcement, **Matthew Costello and his wife Liselott made a generous gift** to create the inaugural Costello Family Endowed Chair in Engineering.

2019 For the Readers

The **Peirce Family Foundation** establishes programs in the School of Education to train teachers focused on literacy education, with an emphasis on dyslexia and reading disabilities. Law alumnus Robert N. Peirce and his wife, Joan, would build on the gift with one of the most significant gifts made in the U.S. to support teachers helping children with dyslexia.



2019 A Coveted Medal

Gormley creates and launches the popular **John G. Rangos, Sr. Prizes for Students and Faculty**, thanks to a gift from the late John G. Rangos, Jr. Rangos Prizes support innovative class and learning ideas by students and faculty.



2024 Honoring a Hero

Herb and Barbara Shear establish the **Herb Bonn Endowed Scholarship and the Herb Bonn Character and Courage Award** to honor the memory of Herb Shear's uncle Herb Bonn E'37, a former All-American Dukes basketball player killed in action in World War II.



PITTSBURGH IS THE POINT

President Gormley is one of the few presidents of local colleges and universities who was born and raised in Pittsburgh—and his devotion to his hometown has been evident in his time at Duquesne and especially while he’s had the top job.



“

“I had the privilege to study and play basketball at an exciting time for sports at Duquesne. It’s been exciting to see how President Gormley has rallied the University to build up Duquesne athletics again—and especially to see all the success of the basketball and football teams recently. So many alums have waited for a return to this level of success and it is gratifying for all of us to see Duquesne winning!”

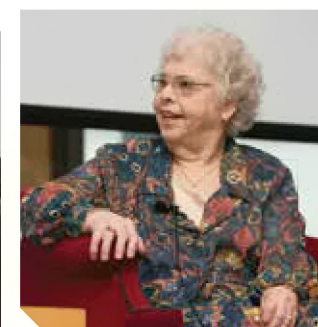
Norm Nixon A '77, former Duquesne star point guard and former LA Laker

”

In 2021, basketball legend **Norm Nixon** and actress and choreographer **Debbie Allen** joined Constanza Romero Wilson, widow of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson, and Nancy Jones Beard for an **Evening with the Stars**.



2024 Gormley presents Pittsburgh-born jazz legend **George Benson** with an honorary doctorate at the musician’s home in Arizona.



In 2018, author Max King, Fred Rogers’ widow, Joanne Rogers, and “Handyman” Joe Negri, with other characters from Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood, participated in an event honoring “**The Good Neighbor, The Life and Work of Fred Rogers**.” Rogers and King would go on to receive honorary doctorates from Duquesne at the 2019 Duquesne University Commencement ceremonies.

With the support of the **Nancy Jones Beard Foundation**, the **August Wilson House Fellows** program was born, recognizing accomplished artists of color. Recent Fellows include Pittsburgh actors Carter Redwood (*FBI International*), center left, and Maurice Redwood (*House of Stones*), center right, shown here with Gene and Nancy Beard.

INVESTING IN DUQUESNE AND ITS STUDENTS—CONNECTED TO HOME

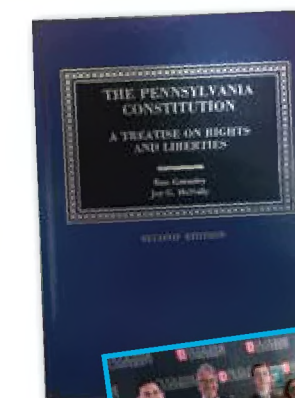
Ken Gormley and his wife, Laura, have made numerous gifts to the University:



Donated and helped to design a new stained-glass window for the **Duquesne Chapel of the Holy Spirit**, custom-made by Hunt Glass (one of Pittsburgh’s oldest glassmakers).



Created a **special scholarship** to Duquesne for students at Woodland Hills High School—where their four children attended.



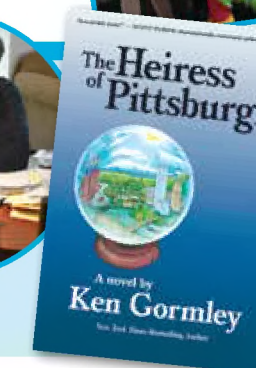
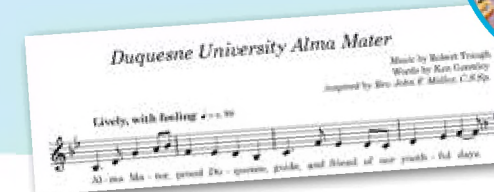
Donated royalties from *The Heiress of Pittsburgh* added additional funding to **support students pursuing their interests in creative writing**. A similar fund, consisting of royalties from *The Pennsylvania Constitution: A Treatise on Rights and Liberties* and *The Presidents and the Constitution*, supports law students.



With student leaders, the Pirate Parrot and Pierogi at a student book event after the release of *The Heiress of Pittsburgh*.

2022 Love Song for Duquesne

Gormley works with music professor Robert Traugh to refresh the University’s alma mater on the 150th anniversary of the Spiritans arriving in Pittsburgh.



2022 Love Story to Home

A book decades in the making, Gormley’s first novel appears and is a love letter to the city he has called home.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Ken Gormley's 30th year at Duquesne coincides with the final year of the IGNITE Campaign, an effort to raise more than a third of a billion dollars to bolster the strength of educational offerings for students who choose to earn their degrees at Duquesne. As the ambitious \$333 million goal draws nearer to becoming reality, prior to the July 1, 2025 close of the campaign, bigger goals still await the University community.

WHAT'S AHEAD? PRESIDENT GORMLEY'S VISION FOR THE NEXT EXCITING CHAPTER

Throughout his 30 years at Duquesne, President Gormley has produced a steady stream of bold ideas and executed them with remarkable success. Working with his talented leadership team, and supported by a growing cadre of dedicated alumni, foundation leaders, community leaders, faculty, staff, students, parents and friends of the University, Gormley's vision for the next era of success is now taking shape. It's reflected in the newly released **Vision 150: Continuing the Momentum**, an updated **Strategic Plan** that will take the University to its historic 150th anniversary in 2028. Some of the exciting new elements of that vision are listed below. These will come to pass only through the vision, generosity, commitment and proud leadership of alumni and other University partners—the secret that has allowed Duquesne to reach for, and achieve, bigger goals in past generations. To become part of making the next stage of Gormley's vision a reality, please contact Senior Vice President Jim Miller B'87 at 412.396.5172 or millerj@duq.edu and discover your distinctive pathway to inventing the future of Duquesne. Ambitious new goals include:

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE: FILLING AN URGENT NEED

Perfectly aligned with the Spiritan ethos of the University, the **College of Osteopathic Medicine** is a **marquis naming opportunity** for a person or entity with exceptional philanthropic vision.

- Duquesne must build an endowment for **student loan forgiveness** for medical school graduates who agree to work in **underserved communities**.
- **Empowerment Scholarships** can enable students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds to become doctors at Duquesne.
- **A student-run free clinic** could provide medical care to our underserved neighbors in the city.

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: EXPANDED OFFERINGS

The newly named **School of Science and Engineering** provides an exciting opportunity for naming and other special initiatives. Having added vital programs in Mechanical, Environmental/Energy and Systems engineering to the successful Biomedical Engineering program, Gormley aims to add a crucial new program in **Civil Engineering** to make the school even more relevant to the regional workforce and a top-notch destination for engineering students.

NEW HEALTH SCIENCES COMPLEX

As Health Sciences continue to thrive and expand at Duquesne, building an ambitious new **Health Science complex**—to tie the health sciences programs together and build inter-professional opportunities for students—would transform Duquesne's offerings and elevate its stature as a national leader in health sciences.

SCHOOL OF NURSING: NAMING OPPORTUNITY

As the **School of Nursing's** national reputation continues to rise, and as the shortage of nurses nationwide continues to grow, a naming gift and/or endowments to support vital new programs and initiatives would allow the school to touch even more lives and leave a lasting imprint.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Duquesne's reach extends to other nations and continents around the world. Gormley has made access to **international studies**, for all students regardless of financial means, a priority.

- **Scholarships** and other **financial supports** would allow more students to **study internationally—in Rome, Ireland and other locations**—including first-generation students who otherwise would not have that opportunity.
- Enhanced scholarship support could also attract more **highly talented international students** from across the globe who wish to benefit from a Duquesne education.
- Expanding the **Roberto Clemente Endowed Scholarship** for students from Puerto Rico, where Duquesne University has a long and proud history of partnership, would be very special.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

New creative projects and initiatives that could spring to life with the support of equally visionary alumni include:

- Expand and amplify the work of the **Center for Integrative Health**, which has had an extraordinary, positive impact on the region, including in dealing with childhood asthma in communities of the Mon Valley.
- Build a new **Center for Excellence in Business Analytics** to harness new technologies such as AI.
- Create a **Math Clinic** and a **Special Education Clinic** in the School of Education.
- Expand the highly successful **Institute for Ethics and Integrity in Journalism and Media**, to inject a sensitivity to ethics into the coursework of all journalism and media students, and bring that work into the broader community.

- Expand **creative writing offerings**, a specific interest of Gormley's.
- Create a **Center for Democratic Values** in the Duquesne Kline School of Law to promote non-partisan, democratic discourse both regionally and nationally.
- Build **archival displays** throughout campus that feature artifacts highlighting Duquesne's storied history.
- Create a central **Center for Student Success** that serves students of all 10 Schools.
- Expand offerings in the growing field of **music technology and digital recording and production**, creating new pathways for exciting careers in the music industry.

Gormley's collaborative approach has involved philanthropic investment from thousands of alumni, charitable foundations, corporate partners and a wide array of friends. The first eight years of fundraising dollars during Gormley's leadership surpass the total raised in the previous 25 years, shattering all previous records. This vividly reflects the enthusiasm of alumni and friends for the success of Duquesne. The momentum continues—and opportunities to be a part of that success are more plentiful and exciting than ever.

It's time to reach for **bigger goals!** Join President Gormley as he advances the next array of bold initiatives as we approach the historic **150th anniversary** of this very special University!



Gormley with many of the members of his leadership team, whose commitment and hard work have helped Duquesne build momentum.

A Duquesne Family

Ken and Laura Gormley's children literally grew up on campus, and, with their spouses, collectively have earned six Duquesne degrees. Now, a new generation of five grandchildren is making the campus on the Bluff their home.



At the height of the most challenging time in his presidency—the COVID pandemic—President Gormley addressed the campus community with an important reminder. He said, “Our first collective duty is to remain true to the mission of the University. Doing so demands that we continue to put our students at the top of our priorities, and their aspirations and needs must continue to drive our decision-making. We must pay attention to the needs of students who choose to attend Duquesne for its mix of pragmatic and future-focused offerings, delivered in a learning environment that provides depth and meaning to their aspirations.”

His career at Duquesne has hewn closely to that significant commitment and philosophy, and will continue to do so in the years to come, as his scholarship, leadership and commitment to students and to family define his time at Duquesne.

“

“Go Dukes!”

Ken Gormley, Eternal Duquesne Duke

”



600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282
duq.edu

Change Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 390
Pittsburgh, PA

President Gormley's welcome back BBQ for staff and faculty, August 2024, to celebrate another great year.

