



Opening Speech of the 2024-2025 Academic Year at Danubius International University

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President of the Board of Administration

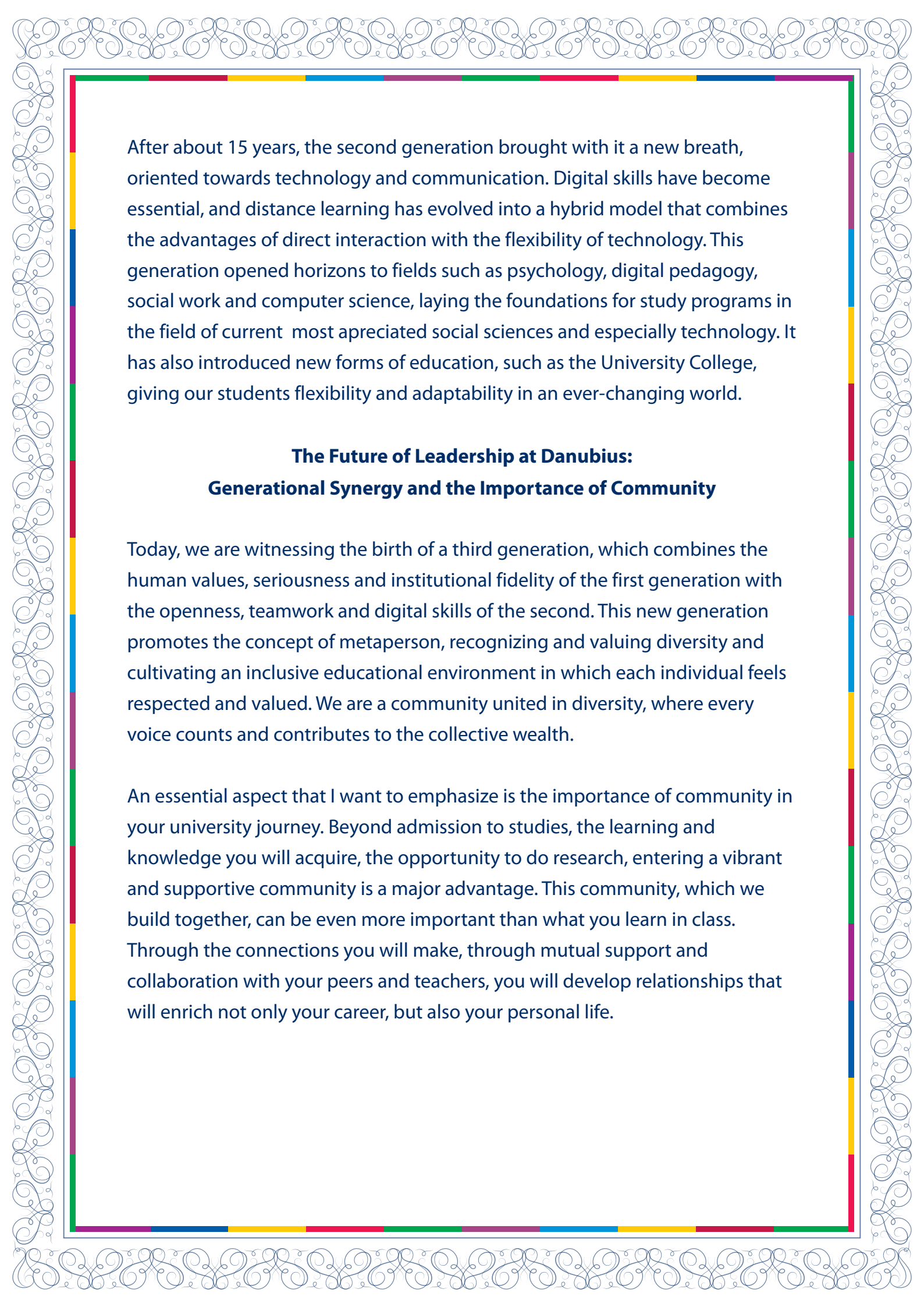
Dear students and colleagues, esteemed teachers, distinguished guests,

Today we are not only at the beginning of a new academic year, but also at a defining moment in the history of Danubius International University. In this context, I would like to share with you some reflections on leadership, on the role of community and on the power of human imagination and creativity in building a brighter future for our university.

A journey through generations: from origins to the future

Since its establishment in the 90s, our university has traveled a road full of challenges and achievements. The first generation of teachers, staff and students, motivated by the desire to create an alternative to the existing educational system, laid the foundations of an institution that has become a landmark of higher education in Galati.

This initial generation, inspired by the classical models of education of Plato and Aristotle, following the examples of the first generation of universities founded in Bologna or Paris, brought academic seriousness and rigor to the forefront, emphasizing the importance of human values and deep knowledge. Together, we have built a solid foundation, we have developed innovative study programs, unique at the time for Galati and we have trained graduates who today contribute significantly in various fields.



After about 15 years, the second generation brought with it a new breath, oriented towards technology and communication. Digital skills have become essential, and distance learning has evolved into a hybrid model that combines the advantages of direct interaction with the flexibility of technology. This generation opened horizons to fields such as psychology, digital pedagogy, social work and computer science, laying the foundations for study programs in the field of current most appreciated social sciences and especially technology. It has also introduced new forms of education, such as the University College, giving our students flexibility and adaptability in an ever-changing world.

The Future of Leadership at Danubius: Generational Synergy and the Importance of Community

Today, we are witnessing the birth of a third generation, which combines the human values, seriousness and institutional fidelity of the first generation with the openness, teamwork and digital skills of the second. This new generation promotes the concept of metaperson, recognizing and valuing diversity and cultivating an inclusive educational environment in which each individual feels respected and valued. We are a community united in diversity, where every voice counts and contributes to the collective wealth.

An essential aspect that I want to emphasize is the importance of community in your university journey. Beyond admission to studies, the learning and knowledge you will acquire, the opportunity to do research, entering a vibrant and supportive community is a major advantage. This community, which we build together, can be even more important than what you learn in class. Through the connections you will make, through mutual support and collaboration with your peers and teachers, you will develop relationships that will enrich not only your career, but also your personal life.

Internationalization and the global community

Internationalization is a central pillar of our vision. Danubius International University is located at the intersection of Moldova, Muntenia and Dobrogea, a place where diverse cultures and influences meet. The Dobrogea region, neighboring us, is a remarkable example of ethnic diversity, being home to 18 ethnic groups that have lived together in harmony for centuries. This multicultural coexistence is a living proof of our common values and a model that we want to promote globally.

Galati, Brăila and the entire Danube and Black Sea region are transformed into a hub of international education, a place where diversity is not only accepted, but celebrated and integrated into the educational process. Our community expands beyond borders, creating unique opportunities for learning and collaboration with students and teachers from all over the world.

What is leadership? Vision, action and inspiration

To meet the challenges of the present and the future, we need a leadership model that inspires, motivates and facilitates excellence. But what does leadership really mean? Unlike simply exercising a position of authority, leadership involves being a role model by example, inspiring others to follow your vision not because they have to, but because they are motivated to do so. A true leader guides and builds trust through concrete actions and the ability to turn ideas into reality.

Recently, I received a T-shirt with the message "I'm here for you to be happy". At the same time, our rector, Steven Michael, received a T-shirt with the message "I'm here to make things works well." These messages, although simple, reflect the essence of modern leadership: combining caring for people with the determination to achieve outstanding results. It's about being with those around us, inspiring and supporting them, while making sure our vision and goals come to life.

In memory of our founder

We cannot talk about the future of Danubius University without remembering with gratitude our founder, Benone Pușcă, whose vision and dedication made the existence of this institution possible. His spiritual legacy is carried on by the "Benone Pușcă" University Foundation, which continues to support the development of the university and promote the values that were the basis of its establishment.

Conclusion: together towards a bright future

Dear colleagues, dear students, dear graduates,

The future of Danubius International University is in our hands. Let's use our imagination and creativity to build a university that not only educates, but also inspires and transforms lives. Let's be leaders who are not afraid to dream of great things and who have the courage to turn them into reality. To be a community that keeps alive the flame of curiosity and the desire to learn, a community that leaves its mark on the world.

Thank you and I wish you an academic year full of achievements and satisfactions!

