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Seniors welcome Class of 2020 in traditional Shield Day ceremony

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In designing the 2020 Class Shield for incoming freshmen, Melissa Stoakley '17 and Erika Rosales-Shelfo '17 drew on their family experiences at home and on campus.

“We were primarily focused on the [Dominican ideal](#) of community and what that means not only to us, but also to the entire student body and the Dominican experience,” says Melissa, a [Communications](#) major and a member of the Penguins’ women’s soccer team.

“For me, it was more of a personal thing because I’m a senior and my brother (Oliver) is a freshman,” says Erika, a [Political Science](#) and [History](#) double major.

Each fall Dominican seniors welcome the freshman class with the gift of an illustrated shield that reflects an inspirational motto. By custom, the motto helps lead the student through their years at Dominican.

The Class of 2020 shield was officially unveiled November 2, at the 92nd Annual Shield Day Ceremony in Meadowlands Assembly Hall. Dean of Students Paul Raccanello '96 delivered the welcoming address and Maureen de Nieva-Marsh '07 & '11 was the keynote speaker.

Shield Day is a beloved tradition at Dominican. Classes in the 1920s began designing shields, using elements from the original Dominican shield to celebrate the Dominican heritage. The wooden shields are on display in Caleruega Dining Hall.

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