

**Commencement May 2018**  
**Honorary Degree Citation for**  
**Donald E. Graham**

Few gifts are more powerful than the gift of an education that expands intellectual horizons, builds confidence through knowledge and the capacity to work at advanced levels, and generates lifelong curiosity along with a deep sense of fulfillment. Through his personal generosity and remarkable ability to persuade others to join him in supporting scholarship programs, Donald Graham has transformed thousands of lives through the gift of education.

Globally renowned as a newspaper publisher and business leader, Don Graham's legacy would have been more than secure through his lifetime of work, starting as a Vietnam veteran after graduating from Harvard in 1966, then a stint as a D.C. police officer, later as a reporter for the Washington Post before moving into the executive ranks of the newspaper as publisher and chairman. He was the lead director of Facebook and a member of the Pulitzer Prize board, among many other endeavors. Today, he is chairman of Graham Holdings.

But beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Graham has made his greatest mark on college students. In 1999 he launched the D.C. College Access Program (D.C. CAP) to parallel the federally-funded D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program (D.C. TAG). Thanks to Mr. Graham's leadership, tens of thousands of D.C. residents have enrolled in college during the last two decades, including several thousand Trinity students.

Turning his sights to national collegiate challenges, Mr. Graham learned of the exclusion of undocumented students from federal financial aid programs, preventing thousands of outstanding young people from achieving college degrees. In 2014 Mr. Graham organized national business leaders to create a unique scholarship program for Dreamers. TheDream.US has supported several thousand undocumented students across the nation, including nearly 100 Dreamers at Trinity. The first class of Trinity Dreamer Scholars graduates in May 2018.

Mr. Graham is a tireless advocate for Dreamers, for D.C. students, and for the idea that a great college education can truly change lives. For his lifetime of achievement, his powerful leadership and generosity for thousands of students, Trinity is delighted to bestow upon Donald E. Graham the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.