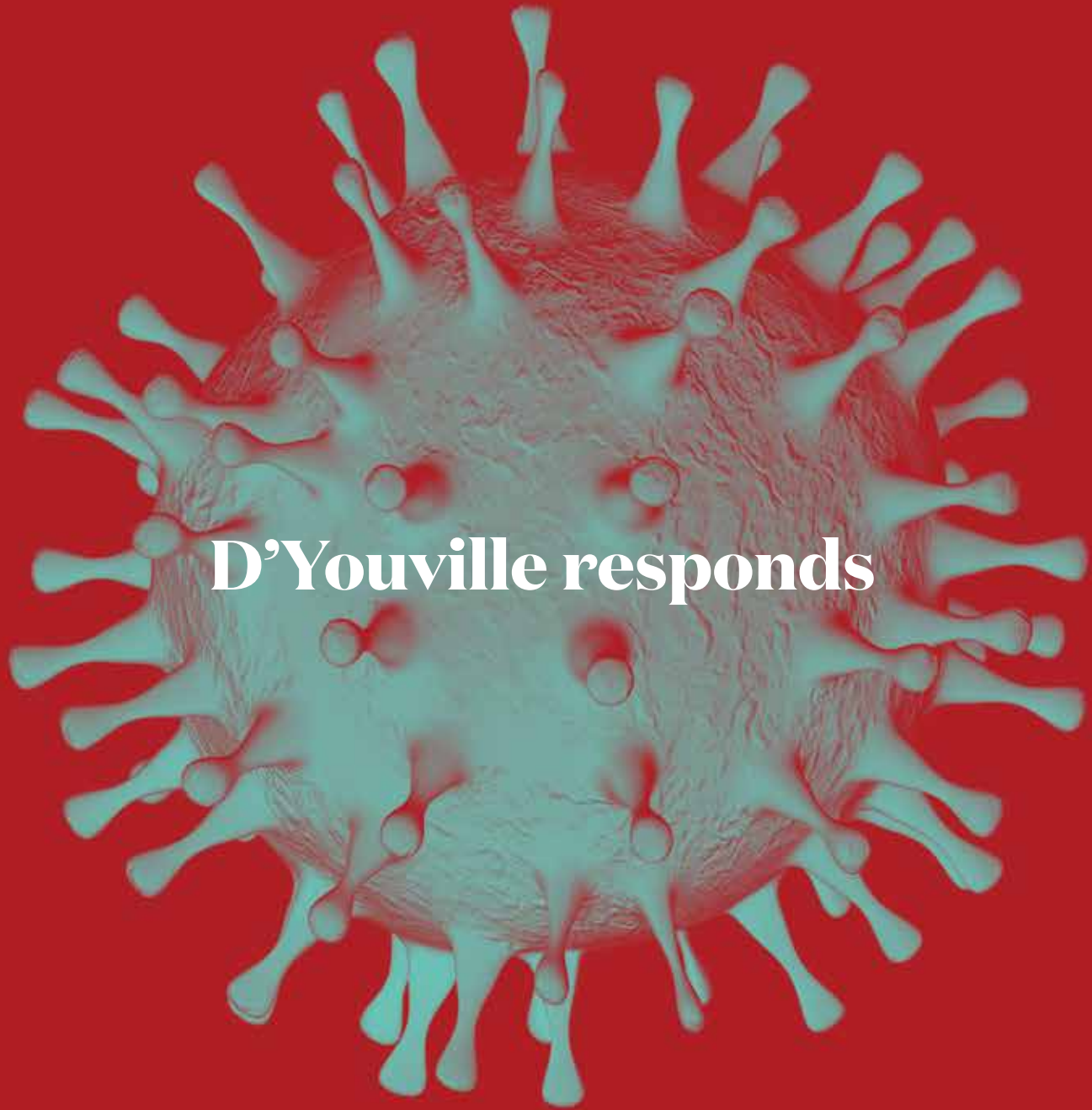


D' MENSIONS

THE D'YOUVILLE MAGAZINE / SUMMER 2020



D'Youville responds

Lighting the way

Welcome to the Summer 2020 edition of D'Mensions. The last six months profoundly impacted the way we think and function as a society. The world tumulted into chaos while we searched for a ray of hope, a voice of reason, and a sense of human connection. When we found the results lacking, we were called to pick up the pieces — to create hope, encourage love, and lead boldly.

As I write this, we are 120 days into the COVID-19 crisis. I am a university president. I am also a mother and daughter. My husband is a medical practitioner. People I love are at risk. I am responsible to lead a community and protect it. I wake up every day daunted by the challenges but excited for the opportunities ahead. I can say without doubt, even in this moment, D'Youville stands at the dawn of a bright and beautiful future. Our university is a lighthouse in dark times — where many voices speak innovation to reality.

In these pages you will find our stories — your stories. You will discover a D'Youville that never refuses to serve; a campus committed to cutting edge opportunities;

a people whose hearts reach toward healing and wholeness. You will learn how D'Youville was first in the region to digitize classrooms, move populations, and build support structures. You will see how we served the community, from contactless food drives to scholarships for essential workers. You will read about high school seniors who took free summer classes to develop their leadership; and witness our faculty, students, and alumni serving the front lines in desperate, unprecedented times.

Then, just as America thought it endured all it could, another major event took place — the murder of George Floyd. Our executive team stood united — unequivocally committed to response through action. You will read about our efforts to address racial injustice, support our Black students, examine and change our own systems.

Even in crisis, D'Youville's teams fortified our mission. We launched the BuffaLearn masterclass series; supported rural communities with workforce shortages; built new programs; and celebrated with thousands at our digital Commencement. Our alumni and friends cast their support through a record-breaking Day of Giving



and more than 1,200 tuned in to our Hope and Healing Prayer Service. Our Health Professions Hub was named a priority construction project in NYS and is on track to open this winter. At D'Youville, we continue to lead.

In his prayer "Burn Brighter," Ray Angle of Gonzaga University wrote, "lives perish while the flames of leaders around us dance erratically in the blistering winds of change...their sparks, barely visible, struggle to light the way." He calls us to shine on: "May the bright flames of our spirits burning in unison create a bonfire that sparks hope, ignites faith, illuminates love, and lights the way."

With this, I say to you — to D'Youville — shine on. Light the way. Together, we will make it through this difficult day.

Lorrie A. Clemo

LORRIE A. CLEMO, PHD
D'YOUVILLE PRESIDENT

Contents

- 2 AROUND CAMPUS**
- 6 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**
A commencement without precedent
- 8 COVER STORY**
In this together
- 14 MAKING AN IMPACT**
We never refuse to serve
- 16 MAKING AN IMPACT**
The definition of impact
- 17 MAKING AN IMPACT**
Closing the distance
- 18 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**
Ready, willing, more than able
- 20 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**
Hit the ground running
- 22 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**
Life lessons on the front lines
- 24 ATHLETICS ROUNDUP**
- 26 THE KAVINOKY THEATRE**
The show must go on
- 28 ALUMNI EVENTS**
- 30 CLASS NOTES**



Editor and Chief Writer Cathy Wilde, Alumni and Donor Communications Manager

Designer Pete Reiling

Contributing Writers AnneMarie Haumesser, EdD, Loraine O'Donnell, Jeff Papia, and Pamela Say

Contributing Photographers Robert Kirkham, Stephen McCarthy, John McKeith, Brandon Moran, and Thomas Wolf

Vice President for Institutional Advancement Pamela Say, CFRE

Associate Vice President for Philanthropy and Engagement AnneMarie Haumesser, EdD

Director of Marketing and Brand Management Jesse Stoddard

D'MENSIONS is published twice a year by D'Youville's Division of Institutional Advancement. Send correspondence, address changes and Class Notes to dmensions@dyc.edu

All information in this issue of D'Mensions is accurate as of printing in late July. Due to the unprecedented nature of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, some information may change by the time the magazine is received in the mail. For the most current information on D'Youville, visit our website at dyc.edu.



PHOTO: BRANDON MORAN

Addressing racial injustice

Three initiatives will elevate the issue of racial inequality and add support to racial justice as a strategic institutional priority at D’Youville this year. The initial plan focuses on awareness through art, accessibility through scholarships, and long-term, actionable efforts through a larger task force.

“It is imperative that every leader in our nation look at their privileged position as an opportunity to influence societal change,” says President Lorrie Clemo, PhD. “It is the duty and responsibility of leaders to provide space for efforts to flourish and to encourage the communities entrusted to them to both act and self-examine. No collection of human beings is perfect, nor is D’Youville. However, this effort is our means to say that from a leadership level, we will do what is necessary as an advocate and an ally to support systemic change.”

In June, D’Youville hosted internationally known “graffiti superstar” and muralist Maxx Moses as an artist-in-residence. “Moses was thrilled to come to Buffalo to work with our Black students and community members to create a mural for our city and community

that embodies strength, determination, and struggle, combined with self-love, and enlaced with Moses’ bright African American vision,” says Benjamin “BG” Grant, chief student affairs officer. The mural is titled “Black Matter is Life.”

“In response to recent national events, recognizing and challenging our nation’s long history of institutionalized racism, D’Youville has established the George Floyd Memorial Black Lives Matter Scholarship” says Pamela Say, vice president for institutional advancement. “D’Youville will award the scholarship to five Black students each year, providing free room and board to ensure all of their personal needs are met, so their only focus will be on academic success.”

D’Youville has created a task force to address the concerns of the Black Lives Matter movement and create tangible efforts to address racial inequalities within the Western New York community and across society as a whole. The task force is comprised of students, faculty, staff, and administration and is led by Nik Peavy, director for student development and advocacy, and Rachel Earsing, DC, executive director of D’Youville’s

chiropractic program, who is serving in a diversity, equity, and inclusion fellowship

As a precursor to the formation of the task force, D’Youville’s Student Government Association and Division of Student Affairs hosted a series of “Campus Climate Conversations” to check in with students of color to gauge how they are navigating the national landscape, learn how D’Youville can best support them, and find out where needs have not been met and how the university might correct that.

“D’Youville remains committed to addressing issues of racial injustice, whether they be within our campus community or throughout Western New York and beyond,” Clemo says. “These initiatives add to the work and advocacy already directed by our student affairs office and Student Government Association to address issues of diversity and inclusion, such as our Pride mural, unveiled in 2019. We are listening to our students and know the work must continue.”

More information about D’Youville’s racial justice initiatives will be featured in our next issue of D’Mensions.

We Are D'Youville. We Are The Saints!

With the recently announced move into NCAA's Division II, D'Youville unveiled a brand new athletic identity — the Saints — with a Saint Bernard as the new mascot. The 'Saints' reflect the school's namesake, St. Marguerite d'Youville, while Saint Bernards, known for their life-saving rescue work, are a strong symbol of D'Youville's mission of "never refusing to serve."

"I can't imagine anything that more eloquently represents the characteristics of our student athletes. A Saint Bernard represents dignity, strength, nobility, and service which perfectly aligns with the history, mission, and direction of D'Youville," says Ona Halladay, director of athletics.

The name and mascot change were made after a long study which engaged

students, alumni, coaches, faculty, staff, and volunteers. After significant research, no story or history could be found about how the previous Spartans identity came to be, and little to no pride was expressed in the identity from the study. With the Saints, D'Youville seeks to create a shared story and experience for all students, alumni, and stakeholders.

In addition to the new Saints name and Saint Bernard logo, D'Youville is welcoming two new members to the family - Maggie and Saint, Saint Bernard puppies who will serve as school mascots, in addition to interacting with students and alumni throughout the year.

"The puppies will live in loving homes and receive professional training to help support our students along their journey," says Benjamin "BG" Grant, chief student affairs



D'YOUVILLE SAINTS™

officer. "Maggie will be spending her days with Athletics in the College Center and Saint will be hanging out in KAB in Student Affairs."

GO SAINTS!

Hub receives nearly \$1.2 million from Mother Cabrini Health Foundation



The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation awarded D'Youville's Health Professions Hub \$1,177,649 for two initiatives: \$500,000 for the construction of the rehabilitation and wellness center and \$677,649 to establish the Health Professions Hub Pathways Program, a workforce training program for low-income Buffalo residents.

The rehabilitation and wellness center will provide physical, occupational, and

chiropractic therapy, ensuring that some of the most vulnerable populations, including the elderly and those requiring therapy due to surgery or chronic disease, have access to ongoing medical support.

The Pathways Program is a workforce training and support program designed for individuals who are new English-language speakers and/or are unemployed or underemployed, and has three tracks: health professions, pharmacy, and nursing. Students can earn an advanced

certificate in pharmacy technician and associates degrees in community health and pharmacy studies.

The Hub, in partnership with Catholic Health, will provide medical services with a focus on primary care and chronic disease management for community residents, especially the medically underserved on the West Side of Buffalo. Construction is currently underway with an expected opening date in December 2020.

Read more about the Hub on page 15.

Rural Outreach Initiative to assist understaffed healthcare facilities

A new D'Youville program, the Rural Outreach Initiative (R.O.I.), will provide a 50 percent tuition scholarship after aid for up to two current or prospective healthcare employees at rural healthcare facilities in New York regions experiencing critical workforce shortages. Participants will be able to select from a dozen online or in-seat programs like RN to BSN, Family Nurse Practitioner, and Doctor of Pharmacy, to name a few.

Senator Patrick Gallivan, Ranking Member of the Senate's Health Committee, says the program will "provide critical support to hospitals in rural communities throughout our region," and "help the hospitals attract and retain critical professional staff while ensuring quality health services are provided to the community."



Degree programs added

A number of new degree programs at D'Youville have been approved by the New York State Board of Education and will offer several advanced opportunities for students starting this fall. The programs range from certificate to master's degrees to doctoral degrees.

A post-baccalaureate certificate in medical ethics, primarily for health professionals, will guide our graduates in ensuring principled, informed decision-making.

Three new iterations of D'Youville's Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program also will begin in the fall. These will include an online FNP master's degree, a combined FNP/Doctorate degree, and a Family Nurse Practitioner Advanced Certificate.

Finally, D'Youville will offer a pre-baccalaureate Spanish language interpretation certificate for individuals seeking to become medical translators.

Kavinoky Theatre receives renovation grant

The Kavinoky Theatre received a \$145,000 grant from the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Awards. The grant will be used for a Broadway-style covered entryway, new theatre seats, and an updated projection system to expand productions.

"We are thrilled to receive this award," says Loraine O'Donnell, executive artistic director of The Kavinoky Theatre. "This grant will breathe new life into the theatre and provide our audience with an even more enjoyable experience. The awning will make our guests feel like they are taking in a show in New York City and the projection equipment will enhance future productions."

Owned and sponsored by D'Youville, the theatre is located inside the Koessler Administration Building and housed in



a 250-seat Victorian-style auditorium featuring rococo architecture, a balcony, and boxes, providing a warm and intimate atmosphere for all theatre-goers.

"This grant from the Regional Economic Development Council will allow The

Kavinoky Theatre to continue to play an essential role in Buffalo's vibrant arts community, as it has for the past 40 years," says Pamela Say, vice president of institutional advancement at D'Youville.

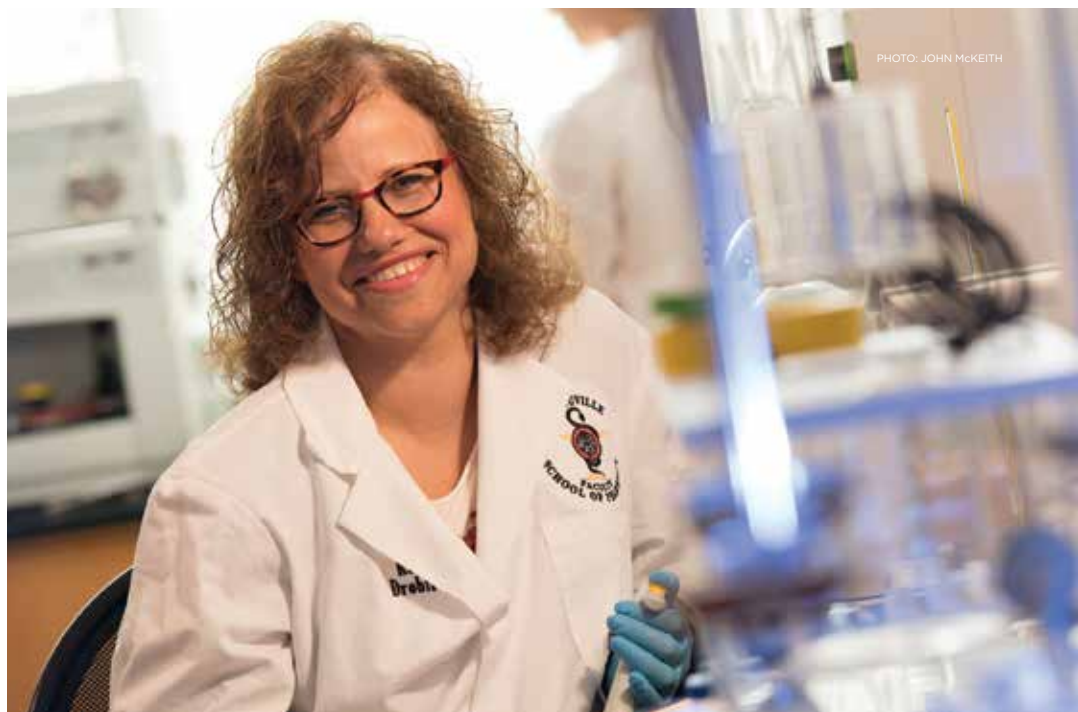
For more information on this year's season, please see pages 26–27.

D'Youville scientist's work shows promising results fighting cancer

Shoshanna Zucker, PhD, assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy, is working on a cure for cancer – and her research is showing terrific results. “The best way to describe my research is to think about the health benefits of ‘antioxidants.’ My research utilizes the opposite effect, ‘oxidative stress,’ to induce cancer cell death,” she says.

Zucker has demonstrated that combining two therapies – a drug that selectively kills cancer cells by promoting oxidative stress and a nonthermal plasma that selectively kills melanoma cells – reduced melanoma tumor volume in mice by at least 90%. “I show even better results with glioblastoma in the laboratory, so there is reason to believe that my therapy could be at the forefront for this deadly disease for which no treatment has proven effective,” she says.

Not only is she excited about her results, but she is also thrilled her graduate students at D'Youville are directly involved in the research and have presented it at D'Youville Research Day and regional conferences such as the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental



Therapeutics (ASPET) and the Pharmacists Society of the State of New York (PSSNY).

Zucker has established a company, Haniva Technology LLC, and hopes to license her therapy to a larger company, so that they can help to fund clinical trials and bring the

treatment to patients as soon as possible. “Hopefully, we can really make a difference in patients’ lives,” Zucker says. “It would be truly amazing to establish a new therapy that so many students have contributed to right here in the laboratories at D'Youville.”

D'Youville launches BuffaLearn series



BUFFALEARN

D'Youville has launched BuffaLearn, a new community-focused educational outreach effort. Similar to the popular MasterClass, BuffaLearn offers an immersive online experience where users can take online classes on a wide variety of subjects taught by industry leaders.

The first three BuffaLearn classes released were “The History of Buffalo Brewing,” with Ethan Andrew Cox, president and co-founder of Community Beer Works; “Beekeeping 101,” with Mike Masterson, owner and operator of Masterson’s

Garden Center; and “Anatomy of a Play,” with Loraine O'Donnell, executive artistic director of D'Youville's Kavinoky Theatre.

Each course is \$24.99 to buy or \$6.99 to rent for 14 days. A percentage of proceeds will be re-invested in the Buffalo community to support local organizations. Courses are available for purchase or rent at buffalearn.vhx.tv. Individuals interested in learning more about the BuffaLearn series or to register for upcoming classes should visit buffalearn.com.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The coronavirus pandemic affected every corner of D'Youville and every member of our community. Throughout this issue of D'Mensions, you will read stories about the challenges we faced, how our students persevered, what responses we took, and the many

alumni, students, and faculty who served on the front line.

But on these two pages, we celebrate the Class of 2020, who spectacularly rose to the occasion when faced with completing their degrees under unprecedented circumstances.



A COMMENCEMENT WITHOUT *PRECEDENT*

Although we could not join together for a traditional Commencement ceremony, the D'Youville community found some other ways to celebrate. To begin, each member of the Class of 2020 received a personalized celebration box, complete with graduation cap. Some graduates received them via remote-control car, while others got a personal, socially distant, delivery from President Lorrie Clemo herself.

On May 17, we broadcast a Virtual Commencement Celebration on our YouTube channel. Premiering at 1 p.m., the ceremony racked up nearly 4,000 views within 24 hours, with thousands more in the following weeks. Thank you to all our students, parents, families, faculty, and friends who tuned in to view the ceremony and celebrate our graduates. It is still available to view online - visit youtube.com/dyouville.

Please stay tuned for more information on a future in-person commencement on campus.

CHEERS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!



“The COVID episode challenged your routines of study, of work, leisure, and relationships, and you will ever be associated with the character you demonstrated to achieve your goals.”

G. JOHN ABBARNO, PHD, ONE OF THE LONGEST-SERVING MEMBERS OF THE D'YOUVILLE FACULTY, WHO SERVED AS CHIEF MARSHALL AND OPENED THE VIRTUAL CEREMONY.



“I have witnessed the Class of 2020 put ambition for the collective above self-interest time and time again. The examples are as endless as your generosity is boundless.”

PRESIDENT LORRIE CLEMO, PHD, SHOWN HERE WITH HER HUSBAND, STEVEN NICOLAIS, MD, DELIVERING COMMENCEMENT BOXES TO UNSUSPECTING SENIORS. DURING THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY, SHE PRAISED THE SENIOR CLASS FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS DURING THEIR FOUR YEARS AT D'YOUVILLE, ALONG WITH THEIR GIVING SPIRIT.



“Class of 2020, you will be remembered, not by the challenges you faced this semester, but by how brilliantly you responded.”

MIMI STEADMAN, PHD,
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS





IN THIS TOGETHER

*D'Youville proved uniquely well-prepared
for a once-in-a-century health crisis.*

BY CATHY WILDE

The Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918, which swept through Buffalo just 10 years after D'Youville was founded, is barely a footnote in college history. The December 1918 issue of D'Youville Magazine simply states, "Like all other Buffalo educational institutions, D'Youville was obliged to close its doors for three weeks on account of the influenza epidemic." And that's that.

How times have changed.

When the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, began its U.S. spread in early 2020, colleges across the country scrambled to make decisions that would affect their students' lives and their own bottom line. Should they close? For how long? How could classes continue? Could they make online learning work?

Among colleges in Western New York, D'Youville led the way in the transition to digital learning and numerous other critical issues brought about by the crisis (see sidebar). D'Youville was the first local university to move all classes online and the first to tell students to stay home after Spring Break. In fact, D'Youville extended its break so faculty could be trained in the new environment, and online-only classes launched March 18.



“
WHEN D'YOUVILLE'S
ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM
COMMITTED TO MAJOR
IT INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENTS 18 MONTHS
AGO, NO ONE COULD HAVE
FORESEEN HOW VITALLY
IMPORTANT THEY WOULD
BECOME DURING THE
SPRING OF 2020.
”

JEREMIAH GRABOWSKI, PhD
DEAN OF ONLINE LEARNING

MOVING ONLINE

Jeremiah Grabowski, PhD, dean of online learning, says the quick transition to online learning for all students was accomplished only because of investments made long before anyone even heard of COVID-19.

In particular, Grabowski cites Panopto and Proctorio as two software investments that were critical to success. Panopto is a leading lecture-recording tool which allows faculty to upload video and provide feedback to students from their laptops or mobile devices. Proctorio uses advanced machine learning and facial detection technology to remotely and reliably proctor online exams. "When the move to online-only learning was made, both tools allowed faculty to continue to provide students with content as well as administer secure exams from a distance," Grabowski says.

Faculty used these programs, as well as Zoom lectures, PowerPoint presentations, regular email communication, and other digital technologies, to keep students on course for the rest of the spring semester. When classes went online, D'Youville's IT department was ready with a 24/7 Help Desk, so students

COVER STORY

“ COVID THREW US ALL TO THE WOLVES AND WE SHARED IN THE STRUGGLE. ”

JASON DEN HAESE, PHD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

could reach out if they had any technical problems, any time, day or night.

“I think our students made a pretty positive transition, even though it wasn't their preference,” says Christine Verni, EdD, FNP-BC, APRN, dean of the Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing. “They handled the classes themselves very well. Their academic performance was very good.

“A lot of the challenges they faced revolved around their home situations,” she says. “Some of our students are

older, so they have kids they need to care for. Some were distracted by siblings and other responsibilities. So they were very grateful for the flexibility a lot of our faculty displayed, being available up to 18 hours a day, so they were there when the students needed them.”

CREATIVE STRATEGIES WIN THE DAY

In a survey of students regarding the online learning experience, many shared positive comments about the creative strategies their professors used to develop engaging coursework, including case studies, interactive modules, discussion boards, recording skills-videos for assessment, Jeopardy-style and Kahoot games, guest lecturers, and role-playing clinical scenarios.

Several students tipped their hats to one professor in particular – Jason Den Haese, PhD, assistant professor of biology in the School of Arts, Sciences, and Education – for his engaging video lectures and Zoom meetings. One student called him “The MVP of D'Youville.”

Den Haese says he sometimes spent from 12 to 15 hours a day creating content for his students. “I put myself in the students' shoes,” he says. “COVID threw us all to the wolves and we shared in the struggle. I wanted them to know I was there for them.”

Because he had to come onto campus several times a week to take care of the biology department's animals (including a bearded dragon named Moe), Den Haese took the opportunity to photograph and video record anatomical models normally used in class, which he then shared with his colleagues. These proved invaluable to his students, because they could see 3-D renderings of models, instead of just flat pictures on a computer screen.

He also took the time to make voiceovers for his PowerPoint presentations. “Just having a PowerPoint without a discussion is a very difficult way to learn,” he says. “I taught myself how to do the voiceovers so I could walk my students through the information.”

Den Haese admits the work could be exhausting, but it was worth it. At the end of the day, he says, “Our success is our students' success.”

Theresa Vallone, EdD, OTR chair of D'Youville's Department of Occupational Therapy, says the toughest part of the online semester was the loss of hands-on training.

“It was certainly a challenge for students and faculty,” Vallone says. “Faculty had to envision and then create what they determined to be the best way to demonstrate the skills they aimed to teach their students. I was very proud of the faculty members' resilience and responsivity to a whole new way of teaching lab.

“The training involved the use of video to demonstrate and explain psychomotor skills, interpersonal and group leadership skills, and hands-on manipulation of assessments and modalities that are used in occupational therapy,” she says. “To do so, faculty members had to be innovative in utilizing human models (most often family members) and props.”

One OT graduate student, Daniela Cousineau, was skeptical at first about completing online modules for her Level I fieldwork studies, thinking she would be “missing out” on clinical, hands-on experience.

“However, after I completed the modules, that was not the case,” she says. “The modules required me to use critical thinking skills, integrate material from other courses, and challenged my observational skills (through video). Designing a group protocol and home exercise program and learning about an OT's role during a global crisis made me feel more competent in my skills and knowledge as a future OT.”

Vallone is proud of how her students and faculty persevered. “This semester resulted in faculty and students who are more adept with transitions, more comfortable with technology, more inspired by innovation, and more competent with unexpected personal and professional skill sets,” she says. “What is most endearing



PHOTO: ROBERT KIRKHAM

“ I THINK OUR STUDENTS MADE A PRETTY POSITIVE TRANSITION. THEY HANDLED THE CLASSES THEMSELVES VERY WELL. ”

CHRISTINE O'CONNOR VERNI, EDD, FNP-BC, APRN
DEAN, PATRICIA H. GARMAN SCHOOL OF NURSING
D'YOUVILLE CLASS OF 1997, 2007, 2015

about the transformation to virtual education was witnessing the beauty of human potential – the commitment and perseverance of faculty and students who personified the value of lifelong learning!”

CARING FOR THE WHOLE STUDENT

Although academics are a primary concern for any university, D’Youville also made sure its students’ mental, emotional, and spiritual needs were met.

Benjamin “BG” Grant, chief student affairs officer, sees the role of student affairs as developing and supporting students, and says that was clearly demonstrated throughout this crisis.

Communication is key, he says. “Students have become very comfortable with my office, which helps maintain open communication with the student body,” Grant says. “The nice aspect about D’Youville is that our size allows individual responses by real people who already have a connection.”

Grant established a regular channel of coronavirus-related support emails to help students navigate the situation. “In addition, I’ve personally sent hundreds, if not thousands, of individual messages to students – ranging from something as simple as ‘what time the library is open’ to something as challenging as ‘I’ve lost a loved one to COVID-19,’” he says.

He worked to keep students’ spirits up with fun or interesting digital activities each day, including Motivational Mondays (students received a playlist of motivational YouTube videos hand-selected and curated by someone in residence life), Trivia Tuesdays, Wise Words Wednesdays, Ted Talk Thursdays, “Free” Style Fridays, Spartan Saturdays, and Mindful Sundays (students offered links to guided meditation, yoga they can perform in their rooms, and other digital resources that focus on solo wellness activities).

Jeff Papia, chief mission officer, looked to the community’s spiritual needs. D’Youville’s Roche Center of Mission



“

WHAT IS MOST ENDEARING ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATION TO VIRTUAL EDUCATION WAS WITNESSING THE BEAUTY OF HUMAN POTENTIAL.

”

**THERESA VALLONE, EDD, OTR
CHAIR OF D’YOUVILLE’S DEPARTMENT
OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
D’YOUVILLE CLASS OF 2004, 2011**



PHOTO: TOM WOLF

“

OUR SIZE ALLOWS INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES BY REAL PEOPLE WHO ALREADY HAVE A CONNECTION.

”

**BENJAMIN “BG” GRANT
CHIEF STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICER**

Integration created a website called “Closing the Distance” which included numerous resources, from a virtual prayer intention book to webinars to daily prayer sessions. (*For more about “Closing the Distance,” please see page 17.*)

Approximately 80 students had to remain on campus during the crisis. John Rzik, a PharmD major, was unable to leave D’Youville because the rest of his family is overseas. He stayed in Marguerite Hall with about 30 other students.

“The shock of the situation didn’t set in for a few weeks. I didn’t realize at first how difficult it would be,” Rzik says, especially because, even within the residence hall, the students were self-isolating in their rooms.

But overall, he thinks he handled it well. “All our schoolwork was a good distraction from the whole situation,” he says. “The faculty and staff did a great job, in my opinion, in helping students, and we really appreciated all the material online.”

“ THE SHOCK OF THE SITUATION DIDN'T SET IN FOR A FEW WEEKS. I DIDN'T REALIZE AT FIRST HOW DIFFICULT IT WOULD BE. ”

JOHN RZIK, PHARM D MAJOR



He also praised the support services D'Youville offered throughout the crisis. When the heater in his room went on the blink, facilities staff fixed it right away. The same quick service took place when he ran into the occasional IT problem.

Rzik and the other students on campus were given choices for meals each week, which were then delivered straight to their rooms. "It was kind of like a meal-prep service," he says, "and all our rooms have refrigerators and microwaves, so we could heat them up ourselves." The only problem? "Well, you can't go up for seconds like in the dining hall," he laughs.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

As the unprecedented semester came to a close, D'Youville grappled with how and when to move forward. A COVID-19 Restart Plan was published in June, outlining how D'Youville will welcome back students in the fall, with details about housing, academics, support services, and infection control. To view, visit go.dyc.edu/covid-plan.

In addition, D'Youville's COVID-19 Working Group, which includes representatives from throughout campus, has crafted a 182-page handbook with operational and financial plans and answers to hundreds of questions around safety,

protocol, and communications for and with students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, government, and the community.

"Keeping our students, faculty, and staff safe once we reopen is our top priority," says D'Youville President Lorrie Clemo, PhD. "We are still working on what that will look like.

"But I can say, without reservation, I could not be more proud of how our D'Youville family has come together throughout this semester. We have faced extraordinary challenges with grace, understanding, and strength, and I have no doubt D'Youville will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever."

D'YOUVILLE WAS FIRST IN WNY TO:



- DIGITIZE CLASSROOMS (EVEN BEFORE STUDENTS RETURNED FROM SPRING BREAK!)
- TRAIN FACULTY ON BEST PRACTICES FOR ONLINE TEACHING
- ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO BRING LABS ONLINE
- EXPEDITE GRADUATION FOR STUDENTS IN CRITICAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS
- MOBILIZE A B-TEAM OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS TO JOIN HOSPITAL STAFF AS CRISIS PEAKED IN WNY
- HOLD A VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS
- LAUNCH DIGITAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS



WEATHERING THE FINANCIAL STORM

Even before COVID-19 hit, the higher education industry was feeling the economic heat.

Almost exactly a year before the coronavirus started closing college campuses (temporarily), U.S. News & World Report printed an article titled “The Higher Education Apocalypse,” which cited forecasts from experts like Harvard Business School’s Clayton Christensen painting a gloomy picture – predicting half of all universities would close or go bankrupt in the next decade.

In the past four years, nearly two dozen colleges in the Northeast have closed permanently, according to the website Education Dive, and more were already expected to follow due to shrinking enrollments, smaller pools of high school graduates, declines in state funding, and competing educational models. The COVID-19 crisis only exacerbated the financial problems many colleges face, due to a loss of liquidity and cash flow, diminished philanthropy, and severely decreased revenue from ancillary services.

Fortunately, D’Youville leaders were thinking about the university’s long-term financial stability well before the coronavirus disrupted operations. Under President Clemo’s leadership, administration and faculty spent the last three years planning and implementing new forms of education, greater collaboration with community partners, and operating teams which could innovate more quickly than others.

Innovative projects have included:

- The Early College Bridge Program which helps enrollment while allowing high schoolers to earn college credits
 - Ever-expanding online undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs which make earning a D’Youville degree more convenient and accessible for a wider variety of potential students
 - New degree offerings, such as undergraduate marketing and a post-baccalaureate certificate in medical ethics
 - Other revenue-generating programs such as the BuffaLearn series (see page 5) and professional development classes
- The new Health Professions Hub, which brings D’Youville into partnership with local government and healthcare leaders to offer primary care to our West Side neighbors while providing clinical and medical education opportunities for our students (see more on page 15)

Like nearly every college across the country, D’Youville is expecting a slight drop in enrollment for the fall. We also face the challenge of decreased revenue from ancillary services such as housing.

However, the long-term planning undertaken by D’Youville leadership will help soften that blow, along with the many alternative funding sources being pursued by the university. “We are applying for every aid program available, including the CARES Act and FEMA Disaster Reimbursement, along with every other imaginable form of state, private, corporate, and foundation grants and aid,” President Clemo says. “We will not leave any stone unturned in order to keep D’Youville on a steady, healthy financial footing.”



“We never

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID CRISIS



Jeff Papia, chief mission officer, delivers food collected during D'Youville's contactless food drive.

PHOTO: BRANDON MORAN

When the coronavirus hit Western New York and area colleges were forced to close their campuses, D'Youville did all it could to help its students get through the semester successfully (see cover story).

But we didn't stop there.

“The COVID-19 crisis affected the entire community, not just our campus, and we wanted to make sure our neighbors received the support they needed,” says President Lorrie Clemo, PhD. “It's our mission to continue living up to St. Marguerite d'Youville's motto, 'Never refuse to serve.'”

Natalia Martinez '17 is the director of Upward Bound at D'Youville, a federally funded program through the Department of Education that provides college prep services to Buffalo Public School (BPD) students, including those at International Preparatory School at Grover Cleveland and Da Vinci High School, located on the D'Youville campus.

“Through the COVID-19 crisis, we have continued to provide online services, including weekly tutoring and mentoring

services from D'Youville students and tutoring services for students doing their schoolwork at home,” Martinez says. “We've also helped Upward Bound families navigate meal services provided by BPD and the process to receive their stimulus checks.”

Recognizing that many in the Buffalo community were going without due to layoffs and job losses, the Roche Center of Mission Integration organized a “Yes We Cans” contactless food drive for FeedMore WNY. D'Youville employees working from home set out donations to be picked up by D'Youville volunteers.

“We had six cars traveling to nearly 60 different homes to pick up donations,” says Jeff Papia, chief mission officer. “In all, we collected more than 2,000 pounds of food, 70 handmade protective face masks, and 200 handmade cards for Meals on Wheels participants.” (For more information on pastoral care initiatives, please see page 17.)

The COVID-19 crisis also caused a shortage of donations at local blood banks. D'Youville answered the call – not once, but twice. Brian McNamara,

director of campus projects in the Office of Operations and Facilities, organized a blood drive on campus for ConnectLife on April 17 and the Department of Physical Therapy sponsored another drive for the American Red Cross on July 7. During each drive, the Blue Lounge in the Campus Center was organized so donors stayed six feet apart at all times to ensure everyone's safety.

To honor the individuals in our community who served on the front lines during the pandemic, D'Youville established “Scholarships for Essential Workers,” awarding \$2,000 per academic year toward tuition for nurses, front-line retail workers, emergency personnel, and others deemed essential during the coronavirus pandemic. “Individuals who find themselves at home or quarantined may be interested in using that time to further their education with a certificate or degree that will be useful when they return to work or as they begin to prepare for a career change or promotion,” says President Clemo.

D'Youville is offering a “COVID-19 Resiliency Program” during the summer, where up to 100 high school seniors can

refuse to serve.”



earn six free, transferable credits to keep their college readiness plans on track. The Crisis Ready™ Workshop seeks to help students embrace their resiliency, navigate the pandemic, and take a step toward their future leadership.

The program was crafted by Benjamin “BG” Grant, chief student affairs officer, who partnered with Melissa Agnes, founder and CEO of the Crisis Ready Institute, to ensure tangible outcomes for students. The four-week program will not only allow students to develop resiliency skills but also will give them an opportunity to complete a project that addresses crisis response in their communities. D’Youville is recruiting an internationally-diverse population for the free courses and will have global stories to share once the students complete them.

At the end of April, D’Youville’s Institute for Teaching Innovation hosted a free, online conference for area teachers to help them navigate the new world of remote learning. The timely conference covered the topics of exemplary pedagogy,

technology-infused instruction, outcome-based assessment, inclusive strategies, and faculty research and scholarship.

The event also featured an interactive panel who answered questions about caring for students and self-care in a post-COVID-19 campus. More than a dozen D’Youville faculty and staff members took part in the conference, sharing their best practices with faculty from other institutions.

Finally, faculty members too numerous to mention volunteered at hospitals and healthcare facilities throughout the region when the crisis was at its peak – relieving staff, screening patients, providing therapies — in short, “never refusing to serve.”



Hub construction continues despite crisis

Although much of New York State went on lockdown in March due to Governor Andrew Cuomo’s “PAUSE” stay-at-home order, construction on D’Youville’s Health Professions Hub continued right on schedule. The three-story, 60,000-square-foot project was deemed “essential” by the state due to the critical healthcare services it will provide and so construction was allowed to continue.

The Hub remains on track for a December 2020 opening, and President Clemo looks forward to opening the first-floor community health clinic even earlier, in the fall, to help respond to the coronavirus crisis, if necessary. The clinic will be run by Catholic Health.

A game-changing medical, training, and education facility, the Hub will provide

much-needed primary healthcare to residents of Buffalo’s West Side, as well as housing a pharmacy, classrooms, and training spaces, including medical simulations to recreate real-life situations for learning by students and “up-skill” training for current medical personnel.

MAKING AN IMPACT

A MESSAGE FROM ANNEMARIE HAUMESSER, EDD
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PHILANTHROPY AND ENGAGEMENT

The definition of impact

im-pact

verb

/im'pakt/

have a strong effect on someone or something

You made an impact. You made a profound impact.

On March 20, just 11 days prior to our scheduled Day of Giving on April 1, D'Youville had successfully moved 75% of our campus population to a remote learning and working model. Laptops were packed up and an uncertain yet steadfast sense of 'we'll figure it out' wove through offices and buildings across campus.

It was inevitable - things were going to get worse before they got better. "What are you going to do about Day of Giving?" we were asked. "You certainly can't ask the D'Youville community for their philanthropic support at a time like this!"

But...why not? Our mission is strong. Our values are unwavering. There is a need, a huge need, and our donors will assist us in filling it. They can make an impact - and they will!

We knew you - alumni, faculty and staff, parents, friends, and community members - believe in the future of healthcare and higher education, and we knew you would answer the call.

Organizing a community-wide initiative such as Day of Giving, rooted in pride and stories of success, without stepping foot on campus, was a humbling experience. The partnerships, communication, and trust between nearly every department across campus led to the most successful Day of Giving in D'Youville's history. While the coronavirus pandemic left some unable to give philanthropically, the outpouring of support for our students was demonstrated in many ways.

To those who were able to make a gift - please accept our sincere gratitude. Together, we raised more than \$91,000 - supporting D'Youville's continued offerings of student financial aid and enhanced in- and out-of-classroom learning experiences. To those who sent prayers and messages of hope - please know your positivity speaks volumes, especially to the approximately 120 D'Youville students who elected to graduate early and join the workforce in the fight against COVID-19.

The success of our fourth annual Day of Giving is a positive representation of the success of our fiscal year. Amid growing innovations and funding opportunities, The Fund for D'Youville remains the driving philanthropic force behind donors' belief in the value of a D'Youville education. From upgrading facilities and technology, creating new degree programs, and offering more than \$16 million in student financial aid, The Fund propels D'Youville's ability to maintain our commitment to excellence in teaching, learning, and career readiness.

At D'Youville, we never refuse to serve, and this year's annual campaign and Day of Giving proved no different. We know, especially in this uncertain time, there are many causes worthy of your philanthropic support, and we are humbled by your trust in us to continue building healthy, thriving communities.

To learn more about philanthropic giving to D'Youville, please visit: alumni.dyouville.edu/ways-to-give.



2020 DAY OF GIVING BY THE NUMBERS

277

NUMBER OF DONORS

19

NUMBER OF STATES FROM WHICH
GIFTS WERE RECEIVED

1977

CLASS THAT RAISED THE MOST

\$91,226

TOTAL RAISED

\$329⁴⁹

AVERAGE GIFT

44

NUMBERS OF DIFFERENT CLASS
YEARS PARTICIPATING

A MESSAGE FROM JEFF PAPIA, CHIEF MISSION OFFICER

Closing the distance



For a few moments, I simply stared at my laptop. The pandemic had begun and the D'Youville community was teaching, learning, and working from home. Like everyone else, I was awakening to a new normal. Longing for a way to provide comfort, support, and pastoral care to our students, I stared at my screen, searching for inspiration. I imagined the empty hallways and closed doors. I felt enclosed by a new horizon that went no further than the walls of my home.

Yet, in that moment, I was reminded of St. Marguerite, who was no stranger to suffering and persisted nevertheless. Personal family tragedy did not stifle her charitable works. The dire financial state of Montreal General Hospital did not extinguish her compassion for the sick and poor. In fact, as a result of her resourceful business acumen and relentless desire to serve, she not only restored the hospital, she expanded it, built a church, and in 1761, founded a home for abandoned children - the first in North America. Faced with a smallpox epidemic in 1755, she did not cower in fear. She and the

Grey Nuns responded by providing treatment to the indigenous Canadian population when no one else would.

Her efforts remind us all that even if we are at a distance, we need not be divided. For the hallways of our campus are empty, but our hearts are not. The doors may be closed, but our arms remain open. Panic may separate, but compassion unites. Sickness can spread, but so too can love.

Therefore, in response to the pandemic, the Roche Center of Mission Integration launched a virtual platform for pastoral care, entitled "Closing the Distance." Created with our entire community in mind, the site is home to a virtual prayer intention book and a compilation of emotional and spiritual resources to support holistic well-being. It contains a series of short webinars from experts on topics that affect our lives in this new shared reality, ranging from healthy eating, to personal finance, to prayer. It also hosts "One at One," when we come together as one at 1 p.m. for daily prayer, which has been enjoyed by students, faculty, staff, and Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart.

Additionally, during Holy Week, D'Youville premiered a prayer service on YouTube, called "Hope and Healing," for all those serving and suffering as a result of this pandemic. We received video contributions from students, faculty, staff, administration, and alumni. We gathered prayers from the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. We listened to a graduate of our nursing program who is presently serving on the front lines. We heard from the president of the Muslim Student Association, the president of the Alumni Association, and the president of D'Youville. Ultimately, nearly 200 people attended the premiere and more than 1,200 have since viewed it.

As you can see and read in this magazine, our students, faculty, and staff are rising to the occasion with courage and compassion in the spirit of St. Marguerite d'Youville. For, even in a pandemic, we will close the distance and we will never refuse to serve.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ready, willing,

With so many D'Youville alumni in healthcare fields, it's only natural for many of them to be closely involved with the COVID-19 crisis. A few agreed to share their experiences with D'Mensions.

Shannon Donovan, who received her nursing degree from D'Youville in 2017, was working at Kenmore Mercy Hospital when she heard Catholic Health was turning the St. Joseph Campus of Sisters of Charity Hospital in Cheektowaga into a dedicated COVID-19 treatment facility. She immediately volunteered for a transfer. Why?

"I chose to work at St. Joe's because I knew there was a need for nurses and I felt it was an opportunity to learn more about intensive care," Donovan says. "It's a beautiful thing to witness nurses and other health professionals from a variety of hospitals come together to save lives."

A typical day for Donovan starts with putting on surgical scrubs and full PPE (personal protective equipment), before stepping onto one of the designated intensive care

floors, where the sickest COVID patients are sedated and on ventilators.

"These intubated patients must be sedated and/or paralyzed to allow the ventilator to breathe for them," she says. "I am continuously assessing the patient's neurological status, level of sedation/paralysis, and vital signs" during her 12- to 13-hour shift.

Donovan says the toughest part of her job is knowing that her patients have families and friends who want to, but cannot, be with them, especially when they pass away.

"Holding the hands of dying patients never gets easier," she says. "In fact, I think it is even more difficult now with restrictions on visitors. In my eyes, it is a privilege and an honor to share in their last moments."

Donovan, who is studying for her Family Nurse Practitioner degree at D'Youville, says the experience at St. Joe's has helped her build upon her D'Youville education.

"Through this pandemic, I have learned more than I ever imagined," she says. "It has taught me to never be completely satisfied with myself as a nurse because



PHOTO: TOM WOLF

GRIFFIN KRAMER, MPAS, PA-C
D'YOUVILLE CLASS OF 2015

there is always more to learn. I will never be complacent. D'Youville taught me to always push myself to the next level."

Griffin Kramer, MPAS, PA-C, also is working at St. Joe's through the crisis, as well as at other hospitals in the Buffalo area. He received his Physician



“IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING TO WITNESS NURSES AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FROM A VARIETY OF HOSPITALS COME TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES.”

SHANNON DONOVAN, RN
D'YOUVILLE CLASS OF 2017



PHOTO: TOM WOLF

more than able

Assistant degree from D'Youville in 2015 and is employed as a hospitalist through Buffalo Medical Group.

Kramer describes a typical 12-hour shift as, "Getting to work around 6:30 a.m. and pre-rounding on all patients for the next two hours, reviewing labs consults, etc. The next two to three hours is spent seeing all the patients with the remaining hours spent following up for second visits, calling family and writing notes and orders."

"Somewhere in there, we fit in times for all the new admissions, calling the families of those who were discharged the previous few days, and (tending to) emergencies/rapids on the floors," he says.

In some ways, it's lot like his role pre-pandemic. But in other ways, it's much more difficult.

"The toughest part has been not being able to see friends or family, or have the ability to go do things I enjoy to de-stress during these difficult few months" due to quarantining, Kramer says. A sense of humor seems to help. "The mullet I've unintentionally grown has probably been a difficult part for my coworkers," he says.

But in addition to the difficult times, there are stories of triumph.

"One of the hospitals where I work plays music when a patient is discharged who had COVID," Kramer says. "I had one patient who had a very difficult, prolonged stay, but as he was wheeled off the floor, 'Eye of the Tiger' started playing and he pumped his right fist straight in the air, almost like the ending of 'The Breakfast Club.' That was a cool moment."

Rachelle Richards, a 2014 D'Youville graduate, is a nurse manager of an acute medical/surgical telemetry unit. She ensures the unit is appropriately staffed and that medical staff have

the necessary resources to provide safe, quality care for their patients.

Richards says one of the toughest challenges in her role as a nurse manager is ensuring trust throughout the staff. "In the beginning, as the CDC guidelines consistently changed, the significance of trust was the greatest obstacle to overcome," she says. "Trust in each other (peer to peer) for infection prevention compliance, trust in our medical equipment and PPE, trust in leadership to ensure safe staffing/resources, trust in the licensed independent practitioners, to name a few."

"It was my personal challenge to team build, refocus staff, present facts instead of fears, and be physically present," Richards says. "The COVID pandemic has solidified our team. Staff now feel like they are a family. The past few months have definitely been challenging, but with the mindset of 'we are all in this together,' we are making it through."

Richards was proud to report that when interviewed for this article, her unit had gone nearly three months without any employee testing positive for COVID-19. "This only helps to reassure staff that we are doing something right, that staff are being mindful of infection prevention and are in good hands," she says.

"My education from D'Youville helped in many ways," she says. "I learned the importance of team work on an interdisciplinary basis. I learned how to rely on evidence-based practice, best practices, and utilization of resources."

Richards is also grateful for what she calls the "compassion, flexibility, and mercy" shown to her by D'Youville and her professors, while earning her Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner degree this year.



“

IT WAS MY PERSONAL CHALLENGE TO TEAM BUILD, REFOCUS STAFF, PRESENT FACTS INSTEAD OF FEARS, AND BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT

”

**RACHELLE RICHARDS, MSN, PMHNP
D'YOUVILLE CLASS OF 2014, 2020**

"Because of D'Youville, I can proudly say I was fully prepared from my first MSN program in 2014 and the program I completed during these challenging times."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Hit the ground

In March, D'Youville announced it would offer accelerated graduation for students in nursing, pharmacy, and physician assistant programs to help deliver critically needed healthcare workers in New York. Approximately 120 D'Youville students took the option so they could join in the fight against COVID-19 during a time of high need.

Shannon Hurst and Elizabeth Cieslak opted for accelerated graduation for their Nurse Practitioner degrees and quickly signed up for temporary contracts to work in New York City just as the coronavirus crisis was exploding. It was an eye-opening experience.

"The hospital was in such a great need when we got there, they did not even give us an orientation," Hurst says. "We just had to take our assignment of patients and ask questions the entire night as we got our work done."

Luckily for them, Hurst and Cieslak had a long history of medical mission trips, and those experiences served them well. "The adjustment to new areas and clinics with limited resources was not new for us," Hurst says.

Hurst was able to take the early graduation option because she had finished her clinical hours at the end of February and had only one class to finish, which she did online, to complete her degree. "I was already set for graduation and was very eager to get into the work field," she says.

She convinced Cieslak to join her. "It's ironic, as Elizabeth was the one who got me to go back to FNP school with her (Hurst has been an RN since 2010), and



“MY D'YOUVILLE EDUCATION MOST DEFINITELY HELPED ME FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT AND GAVE ME EVEN MORE CONFIDENCE IN MY MEDICATION SUGGESTIONS”

SHANNON HURST, RN, FNP,
D'YOUVILLE CLASS OF 2020 — PICTURED WITH
ELIZABETH CIESLAK, RN, FNP, CLASS OF 2020

running

then in return I got her to take a nursing contract with me.”

The hospital where they worked was a small, 150-bed operation in Yonkers, one of the New York cities hardest hit with COVID-19 cases. Hurst says up to 95% of the patients she cared for in the ICU were on ventilators.

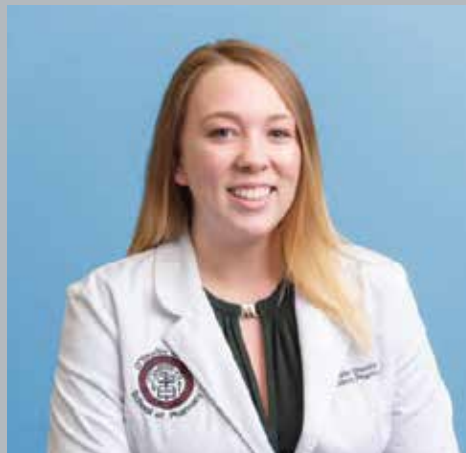
“My D’Youville education most definitely helped me for this assignment and gave me even more confidence in my medication suggestions,” she says. Her increased knowledge of the pathophysiology of heart failure and lung disease process has also added to her confidence.

“That new mindset and way of thinking of a nurse practitioner has helped,” she says. For example, “Elizabeth and I suggested to turn off fluids if we believe a patient may be headed towards heart failure because their kidneys have 100% shut down. So many suggestions we made turned out correct in the end.”

Hurst says she and Cieslak also have had the opportunity to pass on their knowledge to the other nurses at the hospital.

“Elizabeth and I have both worked in Level 1 trauma centers before, so we were able to share, critique, and correct many staff when the circumstances have allowed us to.”

Halie Sheehan opted for early graduation for her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Although not working directly with COVID-19 patients, Sheehan is helping others with health issues navigate the tricky landscape caused by the state’s social distancing and lockdown orders as a community pharmacist at Walgreens.



“

**I AM JUST SO
BLESSED TO
BE ONE OF THE
PEOPLE WHO GETS
TO HELP EVERYONE
AND WORK ON THE
FRONT LINES.**

”

HALIE SHEEHAN, PharmD
D’YOUVILLE CLASS OF 2020

Canio Marasco, PhD, dean of the School of Pharmacy, has said pharmacists are often a person’s most accessible healthcare provider. With coronavirus limiting people’s movements, this is now even more often the case.

Sheehan chose early graduation so she could have more of an opportunity to help. “I wanted to do everything I could during this uncertain time,” she says. In her role as a community pharmacist, this can mean everything from counseling people on the safest ways to get their prescriptions to picking up various grocery items for customers while they wait in the drive-thru, so they can avoid coming into the store.

“My D’Youville education 100% helped me prepare for this (crisis) by teaching me to work under pressure and that things can change in the blink of an eye,” Sheehan says. “We have the best professors to prepare us to be the best pharmacists we can be – from talking with people to calm their nerves to using all our knowledge to fill thousands of prescriptions every week.”

Prior to graduation, Sheehan had a clinical rotation at Sisters of Charity Hospital in February and March, just when the coronavirus was quickly spreading throughout Western New York.

“My experiences at both Sisters Hospital and Walgreens have been so eye-opening,” Sheehan says. “I am just so blessed to be one of the people who gets to help everyone and work on the front lines. This is everything I hoped for while in school. I really feel like I’ve made a difference.”

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Life lessons on

Why did Nursing Assistant Professor Theresa Arida head to New York City during the COVID-19 crisis?

"It's just what we nurses do," she says. "It may sound hokey, but if there's a call to action, we jump in to help out."

Arida began going to New York City on the weekends to lend a hand when coronavirus cases began spiking in March. When D'Youville moved to all-online classes, she stayed in NYC and taught remotely while working four days a week at several hospitals in Staten Island.

One of the most difficult parts of the experience, she says, is just the sheer amount of gear she must wear through 13-hour shifts. "It's necessary to keep our patients and ourselves safe, but it can be overwhelming," she says. "I'll have one pair of gloves on, but then with each new patient, I'll put an extra pair of gloves on top of that. There are just so many layers."

Beyond the warmth and bulkiness of the protective gear is the added difficulty of communication. "Nurses are very holistic in our care - body, mind, and spirit," Arida says. "It's hard to do the nonverbal communication when a patient can't see your smile or feel your touch."

Of course, the hardest thing she's experienced is being with patients when they die. "I've had a few people pass away with me, instead of being surrounded by family," she says, choking up a bit. "But then I'm able to tell their families that at least someone was with them when they transitioned from one life to the next."

"This is absolutely the type of experience I try to relay to my students" in D'Youville's nursing program, she says. "There isn't always one right answer. And I think it's important that they know they have professors who are out there on the front line."

John Copas answered a different call to action - this one from Uncle Sam. A captain in the Air Force Reserve, as



“

IT MAY SOUND HOKEY,
BUT IF THERE'S A
CALL TO ACTION, WE
JUMP IN TO HELP OUT.

”

Theresa Arida, RN
Assistant Professor of Nursing
D'YOUVILLE CLASS OF 2016

well as an assistant professor of nursing at D'Youville, Copas went to NYC when his unit was called up to assist. He was assigned to the temporary medical unit at Jacob Javits Convention Center in Manhattan, dedicated exclusively to COVID-19 patients.

At the Javits Center, he served as a Team Lead (charge nurse) for a "pod" of 50 patients, with seven Air Force reservists under his charge, along with reservists from other branches of the military.

"It was a really humbling experience," Copas says. "There's so much we still don't know and the information we received on treating patients kept changing."

The sheer number of patients at the Javits Center was overwhelming. "At our peak, we had 900 patients - just rows upon rows of people with the same problem," he says. By April, thankfully, the numbers started to go down.

Copas stayed a mile and a half away and walked to the Javits Center every day. "It was really ominous to walk through Times Square and it was completely empty," he says. At other times, cars would line the streets, with people honking and cheering on the service men and women as they walked by.

After the Javits Center closed, his unit was bused every day to Elmhurst Hospital in Queens. "We worked on a COVID-19 unit until the numbers declined enough to free us up to sanitize and open the first non-COVID-19 unit in the hospital since the outbreak began," he says. "Elmhurst was one of, if not the, hardest hit hospitals in the country and every conversation I had with the staff was like a plot to its own harrowing movie. I will forever be in awe of the courage and sheer resilience of the people that live and work there."

Copas returned to Buffalo on June 5 and taught summer classes at D'Youville while preparing for his PMHNP (psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner) certification exam.

Both Arida and Copas say their experiences at the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak are ones they'll never forget, but they were glad to help out. Like Arida says, "It's what we do."

the front lines

“ ELMHURST WAS ONE OF, IF NOT THE, HARDEST HIT HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY ...I WILL FOREVER BE IN AWE OF THE COURAGE AND SHEER RESILIENCE OF THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE AND WORK THERE. ”

JOHN COPAS, RN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING
D'YOUVILLE CLASS OF 2008, 2011



Timing is everything

JEFF GLODZIK TEACHES CLASS ON BLACK DEATH DURING PANDEMIC

When asked how long he'd been teaching a class on the Black Death at D'Youville, Jeff Glodzik, associate professor of history, burst out laughing. "This was the first time!" he said. "I don't know whether to say that's lucky or unlucky."

The class, for students in D'Youville's Honors Program, is one he'd wanted to offer for a while. "I thought it would be particularly relevant for our Honors students in healthcare majors, to see how global health issues can affect things like the economy and government," he says. Little did he know just how relevant it would be in the spring of 2020.

"Interestingly enough, the way I envisioned it wasn't that different from what it turned out to be," he says. "A lot of the subject matter stayed the same. The most significant change is that we were able to see some of those subjects play out in real time."

The Black Death, which refers to the bubonic plague pandemic which took place in the mid-1300s, killed nearly half the European population during a time when medical practices were crude at best.

"The fundamental difference is our medical knowledge, of course," Glodzik says. "Back then, people didn't know what this disease was or where it came from. They thought it was 'God's punishment' or that it was caused by the alignment of the planets."

Although our current medical knowledge now understands what caused the bubonic plague, as well as the science behind our current pandemic, one unfortunate aspect of human nature has not completely changed.

John Rzik, a PharmD student in the class, says it was interesting discussing the idea of "scapegoating" as a reaction to a pandemic. Scapegoating usually involves blaming "the outsider" for causing illness, and Glodzik says this fell



PHOTO: TOM WOLF

on the traditional European scapegoat, the Jewish population, during the Black Death. Rzik says he sees the same thing happening today with coronavirus and the scapegoating of Asian-Americans.

Glodzik looks forward to his chance to teach the Black Death class again in the future. "This year, our students were able to experience a pandemic as lived history," he says. "We don't yet know the long-term effects of COVID-19 on our society and economy, and it will be fascinating to revisit it in a few years when we have the answers to some of those questions."


Here come the

D'Youville winter athletes continued to exert power across Western New York, garnering several individual and team all-conference recognitions.

The Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) announced the 2019-20 Winter Sportsmanship Teams, honoring the student-athletes who consistently demonstrated a high level of ethical conduct, respect, sportsmanship, and fair play in both practice and competition, as well as positive representation of school spirit as a spectator at other teams' sporting events. D'Youville recipients include men's basketball senior Simeon Heard, women's basketball freshman Elizabeth Bradley, women's bowling senior Alison Imiola, and men's volleyball junior Mitch Mason.

WINTER 2019–2020

MEN'S BASKETBALL



The men's basketball team looked to repeat its 2018-19 success, leading the conference in scoring and clinching the third AMCC playoff berth in program history. With nine new players, the team highlighted play on the court. Sophomore point guard Devon Darrell led the conference in steals and was second in assists, along with averaging 13 points per game. Sophomore Will Saunders joined the team second semester and contributed 16 points per game, and junior Grant Beyer averaged 13 per game before undergoing season-ending surgery in January. Off the court, the team received the Gold Level in the AMCC Community Service Awards for an array of events.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL


Women's basketball ended the year with an 18-9 record, giving them back-to-back seasons in which they nearly doubled the previous year's win total. Those 18 wins go down as the program's second-most in the NCAA era and most single-season wins under Head Coach Danny Glover. Their record of 15-5 in AMCC play propelled them into the No. 3 seed in the AMCC playoffs, their highest program finish in 10 seasons as a member of the AMCC. As the No. 3 seed, D'Youville played host to Penn State-Altoona in the opening round of the AMCC Tournament at home in the College Center. The energy from the stands was echoed on the court, as the Spartans tamed the Lions early, taking an 8-point lead just minutes into the game. The lead would be stretched to 18 in the fourth quarter and D'Youville would coast to a 79-69 victory, earning a spot in the AMCC Semi-Finals, where they lost to cross-town rival Hilbert. Sophomore Danielle Hore was named First Team All-Conference, and first-year sharpshooter Sara Pfeiffer was named 2019-20 Newcomer of the Year, and Second Team All-Conference after setting a team record for 10 three-pointers in a game.

BOWLING

In their first year of AMCC competition, the D'Youville women's bowling team placed fourth and advanced to the AMCC Finals, where they went 6-3 overall to end the weekend in fourth place. The team had a total pin fall of 7,379 and an average of 164.0 pins/game. The exciting and upward progress of this first-year program into post season play was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic. Senior Ashley Len earned AMCC Second Team All-Conference honors and sophomore Chloe Strong was named as an AMCC Third Team All-Conference.



MEN'S VOLLEYBALL



The 2020 men's volleyball campaign saw a team just beginning to hit their stride as the season was brought to an abrupt end due to COVID-19. In a match just before Spring Break, the team came out on top with a commanding 3-0 victory over SUNY Potsdam. Freshman outside hitter Dan Busha led offensive efforts, leading the team in kills, while junior and first-year team member Mitch Mason led the team in digs. His 2.95 digs per set topped the AMCC and placed him just outside the top 10 nationally, at 11th among all NCAA DIII players. The team looks to carry the momentum into the 2021 campaign with the addition of five incoming freshmen. The team is led by first-year Head Coach Chris Krueger, a 2013 D'Youville graduate and former member of the men's volleyball team.

SPRING 2020

To kick off the spring season, 112 D'Youville student-athletes were named to the AMCC Academic All-Conference team. The recognition awards those with a GPA of 3.2 or higher as of fall 2019. The D'Youville recipients for the 2020 AMCC Spring Sportsmanship Team include baseball junior Nick Jank, women's lacrosse senior Julia Prychodko, and softball senior Rylie Russo.

On March 18, the pandemic brought D'Youville Athletics to a standstill. Our programs were able to compete through the beginning of March, showing great promise for the 2020 spring season and beyond.

BASEBALL

D'Youville baseball played just seven games in Florida at the beginning of the 2019-20 season before being informed the remainder of season was canceled. Ultimately, the NCAA granted a blanket waiver for all student-athletes this spring which allows the five seniors to decide whether they would return for another season. All five have made the call to return next year and compete in the 2021 season:



Saints

WE'RE IN
DII!

NEW NAME, NEW MASCOT,
NEW DIVISION! TO LEARN MORE,
VISIT ATHLETICS.DYC.EDU

LOOK FOR A FULL FEATURE IN
THE NEXT ISSUE OF D'MENSIONS.



Brendan Burke, Nick Jank, Matt Guenther, Adam Lampman, and Bryce Little.

SOFTBALL

D'Youville softball also began the year with a trip to Florida, returning home safely with an 8-2 record as the best start in program history. Junior Alexa Haberer was named as AMCC Pitcher of the Week twice, as the team drove in 96 hits, 41 RBIs, and 56 runs. Head Coach and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Ona Halladay made history as she earned her 100th win with the program. Seniors Ashley Carney, Therese Losardo, Megan Meyer, and Rylie Russo

will all leave a significant impression on the softball program for years to come. Juniors Rachel Colan and Brittaney Goodrich, also remained true to the mission of our school, never refusing to serve, by taking on roles during the COVID-19 pandemic as nursing assistants at Kenmore Mercy and the Catholic Health COVID-19 Treatment Facility at St. Joseph Hospital Campus.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

The 2020 Women's Lacrosse team kicked off the year with a 2-1 start that produced 45 goals and 23 assists. The 2020 seniors of the women's lacrosse program

included Sierra Brooks, Marina Campbell, Isabella Lucania, Julia Prychodko, and Paige Robinson. Coach Kate Mayhook felt strongly about the impact each member had on the program and have been pivotal in the development of the emerging program. As the COVID-19 pandemic developed, senior Sierra Brooks and freshman Jordyn James followed the D'Youville mission to serve others. Sierra worked as a nurse's assistant at Sisters Hospital in Buffalo, while Jordyn worked at Cobb's Hill Manor in Rochester as a personal care aide.

The show must go on

Picture it: 2020. The 40th Anniversary of The Kavinsky Theatre. This was the first year as the new artistic director that I could call my own. I meticulously chose every show, hired each director, gathered the best of the best of the actors, designers and crew in Buffalo. The first show, "Hairspray," that big, beautiful musical that celebrates diversity in every form, was a hit. The second show, "To Kill a Mockingbird," finally was brought to the stage after the national media frenzy and sold out every performance, becoming the biggest hit in Kavinsky history. Then came the gorgeous musical based on the beloved book "The Bridges of Madison County," garnering four stars from The Buffalo News. The opening weekend of the fourth play of the season, "Indecent," went very well. The season was looking to be the most successful season yet...and then, COVID-19.

Our beautiful theatre went silent — like every other theatre across the country — across the world.

As theatre artists, we create our art for the public. Stowing away from each other in quarantine is the antithesis of what theatre is about. Taking the stage and telling a story, with the audience looking on, all of us sharing that same experience, at the same time, in the same room...that's the magic.

It was taken away...like that.

If this pandemic has taught me anything personally, it has shown me that producing theatre can enrich my soul as much as performing can. The joy I feel when I see an audience sitting in a dark theatre, letting actors move them to tears, fill them with laughter or shake their heads in collective disbelief is as fulfilling to me as acting in a great scene from Shakespeare or any song I could sing on the stage.

It fills me with hope and excitement for the future.

And I believe, with all my heart, that theatre AFTER the pandemic will be more important, more relevant than ever before.

During these two months we have been busy - not just trying to navigate what's to come, but keeping some form of our art ALIVE.



PHOTO: TOM WOLF

“

I BELIEVE, WITH ALL MY HEART, THAT THEATRE AFTER THE PANDEMIC WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT, MORE RELEVANT, THAN EVER BEFORE.

”

The Kavinsky asked patrons for their stories from the pandemic — what were they doing? How were they feeling? The good, the bad, as well as the ugly — we wanted to hear all of it. Meanwhile, Ben Michael Moran, theatre professor at D'Youville, had the same idea working with his students — to have students interview subjects from all walks of life and put together a theatre piece. Well, we combined our efforts and the finished product is called "The COVID Chronicles." This original play will be available digitally in August!

Now, for the 2020-21 season:

The safety of our patrons, actors and crew is what's most important to us.

A big musical like "Something Rotten!" was not a good idea for September, for safety reasons for our actors. (YOU try singing and dancing all while wearing a mask and keeping six feet apart!) We have made the decision to not cancel the show but move it to next September and to move "The Woman in Black" to next November.

Looking ahead to September and October, we have decided to offer a live-streaming series to be enjoyed in the comfort of your home. We're calling it "Live: From The Kav!" Some of your favorite Kavinsky actors and musicians will perform songs and chat with me about their lives and their art. A great way to get a closer look at these performers.

This season will be a shorter version of a traditional season- a four-show offering starting on November 8 with the hit Broadway comedy "I'll Eat You Last: A Chat with Sue Mengers" starring...ME! I may as well keep everyone else safe and do it myself.

Did I mention that Bette Midler starred in this on Broadway a few years ago?

Did I mention that it's hilarious?

Did I mention that it's filled with HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP AND JUICY STORIES?

Depending on seating/health guidelines, we will offer this in the theatre as well as streaming so YOU can choose your comfort level.



So, as the season progresses, we will base all our decisions on the health and safety of our actors, designers, crew and YOU.

All of the shows are subject to change... and we won't make that decision lightly.

To ensure that all ticketholders are satisfied, we will now make all single tickets as well as flex-passes and

subscriptions valid for two seasons. That means if we need to postpone or cancel a show due to COVID-19, your ticket will automatically go on account to use for any show within the next two seasons.

I hope you have all stayed safe and healthy through this trying time. I can't WAIT to see you all at the theatre next

season....and you won't recognize it - this is the before photo with the seats and carpeting gone - wait until you see the AFTER!

With much love and respect for our patrons and alumni,

— LORAIN O'DONNELL

Alumni events

This past January we welcomed a new decade, and a refreshed excitement to visit D'Youville alumni across the country. D'Youville's Philanthropy and Engagement Team "hit the road" for D'Youville on Tour 2020: Bringing our Vision to You. Needless to say, our tour has been cut short, but we were able to meet some incredible alumni in the early months of this year.

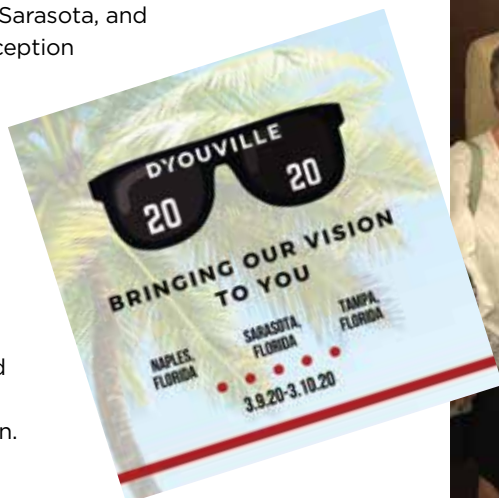


In February, AnneMarie Haumesser, associate vice president for philanthropy and engagement, travelled to Colorado to join physical therapy students, faculty, and alumni at the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting. Organized by the D'Youville Physical Therapy Alumni Affinity Group (DYPTAAG), a happy hour gathering was held at a downtown Denver restaurant

one evening, and alumni representing three decades of D'Youville physical therapy were able to reconnect and reminisce. "Having a dedicated alumni affinity group has been key in connecting Physical Therapy alumni with each other and with current students," Haumesser says. "I am looking forward to establishing a similar affinity group model with other departments this year."

With more than 40 students in attendance, D'Youville physical therapy was strongly represented at the Combined Sections Meeting, where physical therapy professors Karen Panzarella, PhD, and Pam Bartlo, DPT, both led conference presentations.

In early March, AnneMarie Haumesser and Sarah Garcia, donor relations and events coordinator, were able to visit D’Youville alumni along Florida’s gulf coast. D’Youville on Tour stopped in Naples, Sarasota, and Tampa, hosting lunches and a reception for our alumni and providing extensive updates on the latest developments and initiatives on campus. “We can always count on an enthusiastic crowd in Florida,” Haumesser says. In fact, D’Youville has more than 720 alumni living in the state of Florida, not to mention the proud group of ‘snowbirds’ escaping Buffalo winters for the Florida sun.



Just about the time Haumesser and Garcia returned from Florida, NY PAUSE was enacted. With that, the university made the difficult decision to put a hold on travel and group events until further notice. Unfortunately, this led to the cancelling of our annual Alumni Tea, scheduled this year at the Saturn Club, which has been rescheduled to December 6. We are deeply saddened by the unexpected pause in D’Youville on Tour, which planned to visit Westchester, Washington D.C., Rochester, and southern Ontario throughout the spring and summer months. While our ability to travel and gather with our fellow alumni remains uncertain, we are hopeful we can re-engage our tour in late 2020 and extend events into 2021.



With the rise in public health concerns also came the decision to postpone any in-person events for Reunion and Family Weekend 2020. Scheduled for September 25-27, the weekend was planned to include Redfest at Dobson Field, tours of Buffalo and the D’Youville campus, and the Alumni Reunion and Recognition Dinner, among other events. Thankfully,

alumni will still have the opportunity to celebrate reunion in a virtual format! Exact details have yet to be announced, but alumni are encouraged to save that weekend for virtual tours of campus and the Health Professions Hub, a virtual university update by President Clemo, and a fully online Alumni Reunion and Recognition ceremony, allowing alumni,

friends, and family from across the country (and world!) to celebrate our award winners and anniversary classes. Anniversary class alumni (years ending in 0s and 5s) should also be on the lookout from some special surprises by mail later this summer! While the entire D’Youville community is saddened by our inability to gather for our traditional Reunion Weekend, we hope you will join us in our virtual events and celebrations September 25-27. You never know – you may recognize a face on the screen of someone you haven’t seen in 30 years!

In the meantime, please remember the office of Philanthropy and Engagement and the Alumni Association are here for you! Perhaps you’d like to host a virtual mini-reunion or regional happy hour? The Philanthropy and Engagement team is ready and willing to provide you with the resources necessary to connect with D’Youville and your fellow alumni, no matter how long it has been since you stepped foot on campus. Please do not hesitate to contact us at alumni@dyc.edu, and look out for rescheduled and reinvigorated events coming your way later this year!

Class notes



JEAN ALBERTI '57 received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who in recognition of her achievements, leadership qualities, credentials, and successes in her field. She received her doctorate from and was employed for many years at the University at Buffalo, where in 2010, she helped establish the Dr. Jean M. Alberti Center for the Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence. The mission of the Alberti Center is to reduce bullying abuse in schools and in the community by contributing knowledge and providing evidence-based tools to effectively change the language, attitudes and behaviors of educators, parents, students and society.

DOLORES RINALDO GAZZO '57 shares the sad news that her husband, Angelo, passed away in April. They had been married for 60 years.

BARBARA CAMPAGNA '63 was recognized with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who in recognition of her achievements, leadership qualities, credentials, and successes in her field.



Campagna had a distinguished career in banking for more than 30 years, retiring as vice president and team leader of an HSBC branch. She served for two years as director of corporate relations at D'Youville, then spent 20 years as a sales manager for Globe Advertising and Proforma Total Business. She received D'Youville's Alumni Service Award in 1998 and Delta Sigma Award in 2014.

SR. NANCY KACZMAREK '72, GNSH, was appointed archivist at OLV Charities, formerly known as Our Lady of Victory Homes of Charity, in Lackawanna, N.Y. She is now a certified archivist, having passed the national accreditation exam which covers seven different areas of archives expertise.

KATHLEEN SCULLY GRIMM '81, MD, FAAP, FACP, MHSC,

was recognized by Business First's 2020 Excellence in Health Care Awards. She is the director of supportive care and palliative medicine at Erie County Medical Center and a member of its Board of Directors. In addition, she currently serves as clinical assistant professor of medicine at the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.



SALLY CONSCHAFTER PORTER '81, RN, was recognized by Business First's 2020 Excellence in Health Care Awards. She is vice president and chief clinical officer at Supplemental Health Care.

JENNIFER M. BRITTEN '88, LCSW, was promoted to associate professor in human services and awarded tenure at HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College.

THOMAS MORAN '88 was hired as vice president of operations for Waste Harmonics a Rochester-based managed services provider in the waste industry. He brings 27 years of waste industry experience to the role, most recently serving as vice president of sales at Casella Waste.

ETHYLENE VILLAREAL '02 is working at a health unit in southwestern Ontario where she is staffing COVID-19 phone lines.

VICTORIA TURNER CATALDO '07 was appointed executive director of the Edwin J. Wadas Foundation Inc. in New York Mills, N.Y. She will serve as the main spokesperson and represent the foundation in all professional and business capacities.



MARY ANN LONG '07, RN, has returned to Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center as senior vice president of nursing. She previously served as director of Magnet at Roswell Park until her retirement in 2012. She also was assistant director of nursing and director of patient care services, and served more than 30 years as an intensive care unit nurse.

CATHERINE MUTH '11

accepted a position as statewide director, U.S. Export Assistance Center, U.S. Department of Commerce. She previously served as the director of workforce development for the Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance.



PETER GRUEN '13 was featured in Business First in an interview about his varied career. After 21 years working at Wegmans and a brief career in the U.S. Army, which included a stint in Iraq, he enrolled at D'Youville and is now a public health nurse with the Erie County Department of Health Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

KAYLA GALLIVAN LEONARD '14 was appointed to the board of trustees for Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School. She is an associate at Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak LLP (KSLN) in the firm's insurance defense department.

AMANDA MOHAMED BUZYNSKI '13, '19, FNP, RN-BSN,

was featured in The Buffalo News because of her outreach work in West Africa last year. She has served as an emergency room nurse at Erie County Medical Center for six years and recently received her family nurse practitioner degree. She and a small contingent from the Jericho Road Community Health Center volunteered at a community health center in central Sierra Leone to introduce Stop the Bleed, a national program used at ECMC to teach people how to use a tourniquet and other means to better control a bleeding wound.



BRENDA BEUTEL '18, RN, MSN/ED, CCRN, joined the AuSable Forks Health Center, part of the University of Vermont Health Network's Elizabethtown Community Hospital, as a family nurse practitioner.

ASHLEY LONG '16, '19, DPT,

was hired as a physical therapist and certified lymphedema therapist at Advanced Care Physical Therapy of WNY.



ZACHARY KIENDL '19, DC,

joined Brookside Chiropractic in Jamestown, N.Y., as a new doctor. D'Youville faculty member Lynn Pownall, DC, DACNB, is also a member of the practice. Prior to receiving his chiropractic degree from D'Youville, Kiendl was an active member of the Student American Chiropractic Association, including serving as chapter president.

TAYLOR TAMBURLIN '19, FNP,

joined Audubon Women's Medical Associates in Williamsville as a family nurse practitioner.

**NEW JOB? PROMOTION?
WEDDING? RETIREMENT?
LET EVERYONE KNOW!
SEND CLASS NOTES TO
DMENSIONS@DYC.EDU
TO SHARE GOOD NEWS
WITH YOUR CLASSMATES.**



McIntosh shares her story as Honors Convocation keynote speaker

Shenika McIntosh, a licensed occupational therapist with a master's degree from D'Youville, was the keynote speaker at Honors Convocation, one of the last major events to be held by D'Youville on March 4 at Kleinhans Music Hall, prior to the campus closing due to the coronavirus crisis. McIntosh, a native Bahamian, is CEO of Occupational Therapy Consulting Services, founder and president of the Occupational Therapy Association of The Bahamas, vice president of the Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists, and Bahamian delegate to the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. Returning to Buffalo for the first time since her graduation in 2011, McIntosh told the assembled honorees how the D'Youville community supported her after Hurricane Dorian devastated her home island in September 2019. "For three days, I was unaware if my parents, sibling, grandfather and 16 other family

members were alive or not." But soon, she said, "Messages via Facebook, email and other social media platforms began to flood my phone. Sentiments of love, encouragement, care, and concern were wholeheartedly expressed by my D'Youville community." She recalled receiving prayers and comforting words from numerous faculty members and administrators, and later, after she was thankfully reunited with her family, receiving comfort dolls from now-retired campus minister, Rev. Jan Mahle, and students in a class taught by Christine Walawander, EdD, to assist children orphaned from the hurricane. McIntosh concluded her remarks by telling the honorees, "striving for excellence in academia is encouraged, becoming a leader in your community is needed, being an advocate for justice is welcomed, but there is nothing greater than expressing compassion, initiating kindness, and making a difference in the lives of those you encounter."



In memoriam

CATHARINE WALSH FASANELLO '43

FLORENCE BUCZKOWSKI WAGNER '43

RITA SULLIVAN SECOR '44

MARJORIE DUNN KINSLEY '47

MARY JANE MCDONALD DEAN '49

NOREEN TOOMEY IGOE '50

VERNA BLASSEY MATTIMORE '50

JEAN AUMULLER '51

ELEANOR BARONE COURTNEY '51

PATRICIA BROHMAN WINKLER '51

PATRICIA DECK PHILLIPS '52

CAROLYN LAVENTURE GERVAIS '55

ANGELINE BRUCKLIER PADULA '55, '78

SR. VIRGINIA TAYLOR, GNSH, '56

NANCY DOHERTY O'MARA '60

MARY MARGARET "MAGGY" WOODWARD '64

MARILYNN MAHONEY FLECKENSTEIN, PHD '65

KAREN STUCKEL FENNELL '70

KAREN CONROY MOTSAI '71

DIANE BELLA '72

JEAN LUCZKOWIAK '95

SHARON MEYERS-TVETER '95

JOAN PAX '96

ROBERT WESTAWSKI '00

JANICE FULMER SZABLICKI '02

The Department of Physical Therapy lost an esteemed faculty member, **SUSAN E. BENNETT, DPT, EDD**, on June 4 after a battle with cancer. Bennett joined the D'Youville faculty in 1990 and served for six years in various roles, including PT program director and chair of the Division of Rehabilitation Science (OT and PT). In 1996, she was named dean of the then-newly created School of Health and Human Services. She left full-time employment at D'Youville in 1998, but returned in 2002 in a faculty role as the school's lead clinical expert in the area of neurologic rehabilitation. Bennett was a recognized national leader in the field of rehabilitation of individuals with multiple sclerosis. She founded her own physical therapy practice which grew to five locations and two dozen employees; served as president of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers and received its Lifetime Achievement Award; and was a longtime member of the board of directors of the New York Physical Therapy Association and eventually served as the organization's president. "Sue leaves a legacy of excellence in teaching, service, and leadership that has been imbued in every student, faculty member, and clinician she encountered," says Mimi Harris Steadman, EdD, vice president for academic affairs.

ROBERT WOLLMAN, PHD, a long-time laboratory technician in the School of Arts, Sciences, and Education, passed away on January 14 at the age of 56. He received his doctorate from the Department of Biophysics at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center through the University at Buffalo and worked as a research scientist in the Biophysics Department at Roswell. He continued his career at D'Youville until his passing. Memorials may be sent to American Heart Association or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I write this message in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving not only a trail of hardship in its wake, but also great uncertainty for the future. However, I am confident that we will see this through and I am reassured by our own D'Youville community that we will come out of this stronger than ever.

As the newly elected president of the Alumni Association, I am filling this role during a very difficult time as the pandemic has also strained institutions of higher education like D'Youville.

D'Youville alumni, including the thousands of nurses, physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, and all those in the health professions have continued to demonstrate how and why a D'Youville education sets them apart in the workforce and has prepared them to tackle the challenges at hand. I, on behalf of all alumni, thank those alumni working in the health professions during these difficult times.

Additionally, D'Youville as an institution has pivoted by transitioning to online learning as the primary method of delivering education and by working to graduate certain health professions early to begin their work on the front lines. D'Youville has also organized a food drive for FeedMore WNY, and our Student Government Association has set up a special fund from its budget to assist students impacted by the pandemic. Our students and alumni continue to forward the mission of D'Youville despite hardship and adversity.

For an update on your alumni board: I am pleased that this upcoming academic year will see a full board at 25 members. Our meetings are open to all alumni and we

welcome you to join us. We as a board work tirelessly with D'Youville staff and administrators to organize alumni events, reunion weekend, and to help bridge the gap between alumni and D'Youville.

Even as a recent 2012 graduate, there are so many changes to D'Youville since my time here. Our athletics department is transitioning to Division II level competition, our campus continues to expand its footprint with a beautiful athletics field, a School of Arts, Sciences, and Education building on Niagara Street, and the soon-to-be completed Health Professions Hub, which will serve as a community clinic in partnership with Catholic Health. The changes being made will benefit our future graduates for years to come with more hands-on learning, more opportunities to compete in competitive sports, and more opportunities to give back.

All D'Youville alumni are part of its rich history and legacy, and I hope to hear from you over the next three years of my term and to learn about your lives after D'Youville. D'Youville has a magnetic way about it and I encourage you to embrace that: come to an Alumni Association meeting, join us for alumni weekend filled with fun events, tour the campus or come for a show in the soon-to-be updated Kavinoky Theatre. For those in a position to give, I also encourage you to consider donating to The Fund for D'Youville - which allows D'Youville to continue serving its students and the community at large.

Sincerely,

Todd Potter '12



D'YOUVILLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Todd J. Potter, Jr. '12
Attorney, Law Offices of Todd J. Potter, Jr.

VICE PRESIDENT

Judy Jordan Dobson '89, '04
Vice President of Medical Surgical Nursing Services, ECMC

RECORDING SECRETARY

Mary Elaine Henning Spitler '70
Retired, Senior Research Scientist, University at Buffalo

John Bellasai '99, '05
Physical Therapist, Visiting Nurses Association of WNY

Andrew Belden '07, '10
Physical Therapist, Utilization Management-Rehab, Fidelis Care

Catherine Braniecki '73
Retired, KeyBank

Pat Bisantz Caldiero '69
Retired, Buffalo Public Schools

Ashley Carney '20
Registered Nurse, Buffalo General Hospital

Samantha Cohen '19
Registered Nurse, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

Kathleen Rooney Colombo '69
Retired, Medical Case Manager

Ryan Eaton '19
Consulting Nutritionist, Georgetown Fitness

Eileen Hanley-Noworyta '78, '15
Retired, Buffalo Public Schools

Lisa Nocera Hauss '88, '11
Medical-Surgical Services Nurse Manager, ECMC

Eileen Sullivan Herlihy '69
Feedwater Treatment Systems, Inc

Christina Joyce '10
Senior Quality Coordinator, ConnectLife

Alyssa Sicoli Kaczmarek '11
Clinical Nurse Manager, Hospice Buffalo

Elizabeth Byron McGowan '70
Retired, Buffalo Public Schools

Ryan Miller '05, '08, '11
Associate Director of Transfer Services, D'Youville College

Dolores Gaeta Prezyna '70, '14
Retired, Frontier Center Schools Principal SUNY Fredonia Field Supervisor/Adjunct Instructor

Johnny Qiu '19
Research Assistant, University at Buffalo

Kathleen Scanlon '71
Retired, Frontier Central Schools

Katelyn Buck Violanti '18
Clinical Dietitian, UBMD Pediatrics and Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Center of WNY

Judy Po-Chedley Wilkins '74
Research Coordinator, University Surgeons

JoAnn Schuessler Wolf '01
Assistant Vice President of Medical Surgical Nursing Services, ECMC

JoAnn Schuessler Wolf '01
Assistant Vice President of Medical Surgical Nursing Services, ECMC

JoAnn Schuessler Wolf '01
Assistant Vice President of Medical Surgical Nursing Services, ECMC

JoAnn Schuessler Wolf '01
Assistant Vice President of Medical Surgical Nursing Services, ECMC

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:
Natalie Fix, '22

D'YOUVILLE

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
320 PORTER AVENUE
BUFFALO, NY 14201

Upcoming events

The COVID-19 crisis has put many of our campus and alumni events on hold. Until we meet again, know that we are keeping you and your families in our prayers.

REUNION AND FAMILY WEEKEND

Although we are deeply disappointed we will not be able to gather on campus for our annual Reunion celebration, we do have a number of mini-celebrations planned to mark this special anniversary year for classes ending in 0 or 5. Watch your mail for further announcements (and a few surprises!), and plan to join us on Saturday, September 26, for a number of online events, including our Alumni Awards presentations, virtual tours, and campus updates.

THIS YEAR'S ALUMNI AWARDS

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Catherine Muth '11
Statewide Director
U.S. Export Assistance Center
U.S. Department of Commerce

DELTA SIGMA AWARD

Joyce Kontrabecki Markiewicz '80
Executive Vice President
and Chief Business Development Officer
Catholic Health

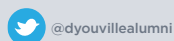
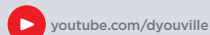
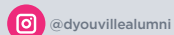
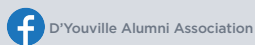
Joanne Haefner '90
Chief Executive Officer
Neighborhood Health Center

ANNE LUM AWARD

Dolores Gaeta Prezyna '70, '14
Retired Principal
Frontier Central Schools
Field Supervisor, Adjunct Instructor
SUNY Fredonia

SAVE THE DATE

Alumni Tea
December 6
Saturn Club, Buffalo



D'You Remember?



Nursing students receiving their caps in 1980 probably never imagined a pandemic in their lifetime. But then, as now, D'Youville provides its students with the clinical knowledge they need, along with the heartfelt ideal of never refusing to serve, so our alumni can provide the finest healthcare possible.