

# D' MENSIONS

THE D'YOUVILLE MAGAZINE / WINTER 2021



LOOKING  
FORWARD

PAGE 8

# An eye on the future, grounded in the strength of our past

**B**efore the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Nicole Catherine Webb '18 processed into Commencement with her classmates to commemorate the completion of a profound phase of her journey. While her fellow graduates took their seats in the rows and aisles spread out before the stage, she parted ways. She walked up the wooden stairs to sit with the platform party – faculty, administrators, and the Board of Trustees. As Commencement speaker, she would represent her class, sharing her experience and hope. Behind the podium, wearing her cap and gown, she boldly proclaimed a commitment.

She said, “At D’Youville, it’s the students and the climate that we’ve now made, that we don’t want to work today for a better tomorrow. We don’t want to wait until tomorrow, and so we don’t, because we’re making a better today.” Webb pointed out that, “this climate of change didn’t start with our class and it won’t end with our class moving on. It’s the product of a thousand open minds that came before us recognizing and advocating that people of all creeds, races, sexual orientations, cultures, and upbringings deserve the same opportunity to succeed and to have their experiences add to and strengthen the community.” At D’Youville, she was empowered to pursue a career in pharmacy, carrying the virtues of compassion, empathy, and respect.

It is ironic that D’Youville began developing new messaging just

before the pandemic with input from alumni, students, and employees that differentiates us this way: “In the absence of certainty, there is endless possibility. At D’Youville, we are seizing it.”

Whether immersing themselves in the City of Good Neighbors, becoming a change maker, or matching careers to social problems – D’Youville students CARE. They chose this place because it offers education today for what’s next. Now, more than ever, in a world marked by disruption, communities and employers need D’Youville Saints.

As you read through the pages of this magazine, you will see what we mean. From the thrilling realization of our university master plan to powerful racial justice initiatives; from our heritage corridor to our oral history project; from reclassified athletics and new sports to the transformational impact of puppies on campus – D’Youville is the university of the future, grounded in the strength of its past.

The last year has been no easy task. Personally and organizationally, we were tested. Socially, we were isolated. Emotionally, we leaned on each other to persevere. We find ourselves now on the launching pad to recovery – but I say to you, let’s not stop our gaze there. Like the inspirational graduates of D’Youville’s past and the students returning to campus today, let us consider the world we create each and every day.



Let us, together, fulfill Webb’s vision of a healthier and more equitable world.

On behalf of our entire leadership team, we pledge to do the same. This amazing university, this sacred place of learning, this purposeful community – collectively, will lead. We will forge forward as a comprehensive university, just as we develop students into leading professionals with a vision for humanity.

We are not reacting to 2021.  
We are creating a new future today.

*Lorrie A. Clemo*

**LORRIE A. CLEMO, PHD**  
**D’YOUVILLE PRESIDENT**

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**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](mailto:dmensions@dyc.edu).

*All information in this issue of D'Mensions is accurate as of printing in mid-March. Due to the unprecedented nature of the 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](http://dyc.edu).*



# D'Youville purchases Holy Angels



**D**'Youville has purchased the former Holy Angels Church, marking the latest variation in the long, rich history the university and former parish have shared since the early 1900s.

"We are thrilled we are able to officially make the former Holy Angels a part of our campus, as we have enjoyed a strong relationship with the former school and parish for more than one hundred years," says President Lorrie A. Clemo, PhD.

In October 2019, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) announced they planned to close Holy Angels, a parish the order had run since the 1850s, citing staffing and financial concerns. The last Mass was celebrated in July 2020.

D'Youville began making plans to purchase the former church, its rectory, and the

detached convent building in late 2019. The university will add 1.6 acres and three buildings totaling 48,000 square feet to its footprint. The purchase price was \$1.2 million.

In the purchasing agreement, D'Youville stated it would "preserve, honor, and celebrate the legacy of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and Holy Angels Church as we transition the property into any future use." D'Youville is currently exploring the most appropriate use of the buildings for both campus and community purposes.

"Although this purchase comes at a precarious time due to the current COVID-19 crisis, we are confident it is the best decision for D'Youville's long-term future," Clemo says.



## SNIFFING AROUND FOR MORE D'YOUVILLE NEWS?

Check out our monthly e-newsletter, D'Youville Digest. It goes out mid-month to all alumni via email and is a great way to keep up with all the latest news from campus. If you do not receive it currently, check your spam filters or send your email address to [alumni@dyc.edu](mailto:alumni@dyc.edu) so we can make sure you're on our mailing list.

*Saint, pictured here, is a subscriber*



## KeyBank, in partnership with First Niagara Foundation, donates \$1 million to Hub

**K**eyBank, in partnership with the First Niagara Foundation, is donating \$1 million to support the Health Professions Hub at D'Youville.

"We at KeyBank are committed to ensuring that all members of our community have access to quality healthcare and workforce development opportunities," said Gary Quenneville, KeyBank regional executive and Buffalo market president. "The D'Youville Health Professions Hub will transform healthcare in Buffalo by providing much-needed clinical care for residents in the heart of our city's West Side, while also offering health professions education, training, and degree programs in a state-of-the-art setting."

"KeyBank, in partnership with the First Niagara Foundation, is excited about the work taking place at the Health Professions Hub to prepare individuals for thriving futures, while creating opportunities to inspire lasting change. They are working to remove the barriers of racial inequity

found in existing health systems and will serve as a national think tank on inclusive solutions to healthcare issues in low and moderate income communities," said Elizabeth Gurney, executive director of the KeyBank and First Niagara Foundations.

"We are profoundly grateful for this generous gift from KeyBank and the First Niagara Foundation toward our Health Professions Hub," said D'Youville President Lorrie A. Clemo, PhD. "This \$1 million gift is a tremendous vote of confidence in our vision for building healthy, thriving communities in Western New York, particularly on Buffalo's West Side, and in providing the highest level of hands-on education and training for our health professions students and community members. KeyBank's deep commitment to Buffalo and their investment in promoting the health and well-being of our community are truly remarkable and we are forever grateful."

Learn more about the Hub at [healthprofessionshub.org](http://healthprofessionshub.org).



Elizabeth Gurney, executive director of the KeyBank and First Niagara Foundations, and D'Youville President Lorrie A. Clemo tour the under-construction Hub.

## Pharmacy students help provide flu vaccinations

**D**uring this difficult winter, D'Youville's pharmacy students lived out our motto of never refusing to serve, as a number of sophomores, juniors, and seniors helped at free flu vaccination clinics held throughout Erie County by the Department of Health.

In New York State, pharmacy technicians cannot provide immunizations, but they can help with many other aspects of the procedure, such as checking in patients,



screening for health issues that might prevent the vaccination, and observing patients after vaccination to ensure there are no side effects. Karen Mlodozienec, PharmD, RPH, director of student engagement and assistant director of experiential education in the D'Youville School of Pharmacy, says nearly 50 students assisted with the flu vaccine clinics and many more are eager to help with COVID vaccinations when they become available to distribute.



# \$2.25 million federal grant will aid success and retention of low-income students



Congressman Brian Higgins announces the \$2.25 million grant, joined by President Lorrie A. Clemo.

**D**'Youville has been awarded a five-year, \$2.25 million federal grant through the U.S. Department of Education's Strengthening Institutions program that will focus on building programs and support systems to help low-income students remain and be successful in college until graduation.

"D'Youville serves a diverse student population producing graduates in high-demand fields. This significant federal award provides the resources that allow for a comprehensive approach to student retention and success," said Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-26) when announcing the grant in October. D'Youville will use the funds to expand

upon a number of programs recently launched by the university which have shown great benefit to retention and graduation rates.

"We have spent the past several years creating the educational ecosystems to support students through their journey, including revamping our general education curriculum, launching a new First-Year Experience, and creating both a new Student Success Center and Advocacy Center," said President Lorrie Clemo, PhD.

"This grant will serve as a springboard for the next phase of building support systems which allow us to significantly

exceed national standards in graduation and retention of low-income students, leading D'Youville to be named one of the best universities in the country for social mobility by U.S. News and World Report two years in a row," Clemo said.

Future plans include adopting predictive analytics for data-informed retention interventions, course and program revisions, hiring a Student Success Navigator, creation of a student engagement mobile app, and professional development for faculty and staff.



## D'Youville lauded by national student engagement organization

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), one of the nation's leading educational research organizations, featured D'Youville on its website due to our success in revamping academic advisement for students.

Stephanie Atti, director of advising, and Ryan Miller, director of student persistence, shared D'Youville's success with NSSE, prompting them to write the article, which outlines how D'Youville used the results from the 2018 NSSE survey on academic advising to redesign the entire advising process for our students. By responding to student concerns raised in the survey, D'Youville was able to devise a new advisement model and launch the Student Success Center. Recent NSEE surveys show increased student satisfaction at D'Youville and advisement experiences that are now on par or exceed peer institutions.



The new Student Success Team Model assigns each student a professional academic advisor who keeps in touch and reminds them of important dates such as drop/add, advisement, and registration; a faculty mentor to engage in meaningful conversations

about their field of study, research opportunities, and networking opportunities; and a career coach to guide them through the job process.

Read more at [nsse.indiana.edu/research/annual-results/advising/dyouville.html](https://nsse.indiana.edu/research/annual-results/advising/dyouville.html).

## New programs in health humanities, nursing, and pharmacy

D'Youville has launched three new programs to appeal to students at various stages of their educational journeys.

A new undergraduate major in health humanities recently launched for students to prepare for healthcare careers through the exploration of the human experience. "Health humanities programs have become increasingly popular in the United States, growing from a dozen or so to more than 100 in the past 20 years," says Gina Camodeca, PhD, chair of D'Youville's Department of Humanities. "The major is ideal for students who are seeking alternate routes to

healthcare careers by exploring the social and cultural issues involved in health and medicine."

D'Youville is the first school in Western New York, and only the third school in New York State, to offer a major in health humanities. Currently, Syracuse University and Columbia University offer similar programs, while four other New York schools offer the program as a minor.

For students who already possess a bachelor's degree, the Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing will offer a new, 18-month, accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree starting in Summer 2021. The six-semester program combines clinical, lab, and work outside the classroom to achieve learning outcomes.

"The accelerated BSN is a program designed for students to build on their previous educational success and begin a nursing career in the

most expedient way possible," says Michelle R. Bork, DNP, RN, chair of undergraduate nursing. "Our accelerated BSN was developed at the request of our healthcare partners and reflects our goal to build leaders dedicated to serving our communities."

The School of Pharmacy has launched an online program for military personnel. The Military Pharm Tech Pathway is designed for active duty pharmacy technicians in the military to complete course prerequisites and prepare for our PharmD program in only 18 months.

With online classes, military personnel will be able to complete courses while still continuing their duties. As many pharmacy technicians have already completed important coursework, participants should be able to transfer in a significant portion of required courses when entering our PharmD program, setting them on an accelerated path to a pharmacy career.



# Isn't it GRAND?

PHOTOS: TOM WOLF



**MARY ALICE VOLKER KOTANSKY '63  
AND ANNA KOTANSKY '22 HAVE A LOT IN  
COMMON — INCLUDING D'YOUVILLE**

**M**ary Alice Kotansky and her granddaughter, Anna Kotansky, both chose to attend D'Youville, but for very different reasons. The former Mary Alice Volker wanted to be a teacher from a very young age, having been strongly influenced growing up under the tutelage of Franciscan sisters. "I admired them, and I always enjoyed

working with children," Mary Alice says. "I always knew I wanted to teach."

Her parents didn't have the money to pay for tuition but, fortunately, Mary Alice was able to attend college locally, at D'Youville. It was the early 1960s, and D'Youville was an all-female school with just one building. It was well known and respected for its Education program, which included the

Cadet Five Year Program, a joint venture with Diocese of Buffalo to educate women to teach in Catholic elementary schools. The parishes paid for tuition; in return, the women taught for two years in the parish school, earning \$1,000 a year.

"This was a wonderful program," says Mary Alice. "Our entire curriculum was set for us. We took liberal arts courses the first two



## FOR THE KOTANSKYS, ATTENDING D'YOUVILLE WAS A "HAPPY COINCIDENCE"

years and most of our education courses during the summer. The only drawback was not graduating with the women with whom we spent the first two years. And of course, we didn't have the technology they have today. We worked on typewriters, so if you made a mistake, you had to start over." But Mary Alice appreciated being in a small program where she received individualized attention, and she was able to do her practice teaching at the same school, Hillview Elementary in Lancaster.

Mary Alice remembers seniors wore black gowns to class every day, which they paid for and maintained. Upon graduation, elementary education students received permanent certification, and weren't encouraged to continue their education, something Mary Alice regrets. She was hired at Hillview Elementary School (at an annual salary of approximately \$4,300) after graduating in 1963, and got married the following year. "Once we started a family, I didn't have the time or money to go back to school."

After her second child was born, Mary Alice put her career on hold. "There was a dire need for teachers, but I wanted to raise my family. But I did substitute teaching when the kids were growing up, mostly in Catholic schools." She resumed her full-time teaching career in 1980 at St. Mary's in Lancaster, retiring in 2007.

She hasn't had reason to be on campus much since graduation, but when it came time for her granddaughter to choose a college, Mary Alice encouraged her to visit D'Youville. "It does bother me a bit that the education program has been diminished," says Mary Alice. "That said, they've really built up the healthcare programs, which is what Anna is interested in. I simply encouraged her to take a look at the school and the program, the rest was all her."

"I originally wanted to go to Duquesne," says Anna. "But I loved D'Youville from the

moment I stepped on campus, much to my grandmother's delight. And their Occupational Therapy (OT) program is excellent.

"Everyone is so personable," says Anna. "My professors are extremely helpful and caring. The class sizes are small, and we all know, help, and encourage each other. You can't get that kind of attention at a large school."

Anna selected OT so she can help people regain their independence after an injury or illness, and so they can "go from feeling useless to feeling useful again." Her ultimate goal is to open her own practice, but she also wants to work with children and teenagers.

"D'Youville's OT labs have everything we need, everything that will prepare us to work in clinics and schools," she says. And although the COVID pandemic made doing an internship impossible, Anna did get fieldwork experience, and loved every minute of it. "I am so thankful to have had that in-person experience, particularly

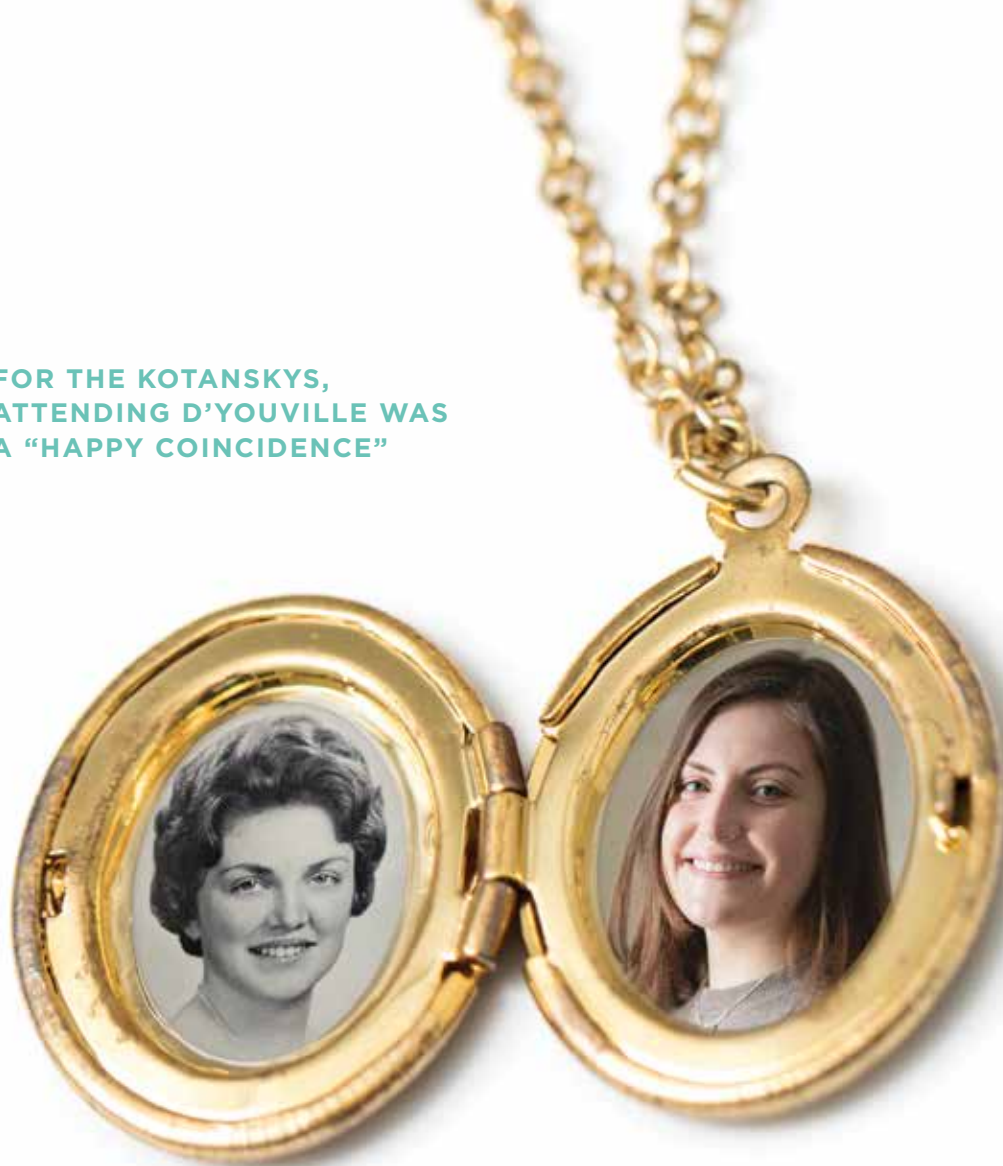
during these times. I've been doing most of my lectures online, but the labs are in person. And I'm looking forward to getting more hands-on fieldwork."

Anna is from Cleveland and lives off campus while attending D'Youville. She sees her grandparents regularly, and says her grandmother thoroughly enjoys the updates Anna provides about the school and her studies.

"I'm glad to see D'Youville has grown as much as it has, but that it has not lost that intimacy that existed when I attended and that is so important to getting a good, quality education," says Mary Alice. "I'm very happy Anna made the same choice as I did. D'Youville will serve her well, as it did me."

— NANCY CARDILLO

*For information about our new alumni referral program, please see page 29.*



# FOR THE FUTURE

D'YOUVILLE RISES TO MEET THE FUTURE WHILE EMBRACING ITS PAST

BY CATHY WILDE

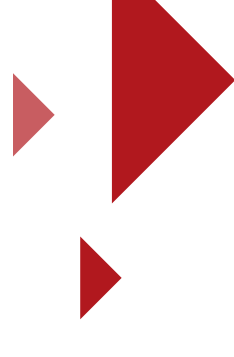


PHOTO: TOM WOLF



“PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS WILL SEE D’YOUVILLE AS MODERN AND FRESH AND THINK, ‘THIS IS A PLACE I WANT TO BE.’”

JAMEL PERKINS CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**D**'Youville has always been a progressive institution, unafraid to face the future. In 1908, when many still believed women didn't belong in higher education, the Grey Nuns were undeterred and opened the first all-women's college in Buffalo.

Throughout our history, D'Youville has adapted with the times. Just as the college transformed its focus from training teachers to educating healthcare professionals, from all-women to co-ed, from mainly commuters to increasing numbers of residential students, so too is D'Youville meeting the challenges of 21st century higher education.

**ADAPTING TO A CHANGING LANDSCAPE**

"In much the same way as the Grey Nuns were ahead of their time by advocating for

women's education, we also seek to remain ahead of the curve in anticipating what's needed to provide our students with the best education and career readiness possible," D'Youville President Lorrie A. Clemo, PhD, says.

"Higher education is a dynamic enterprise, and the pace of change we currently face is accelerating. D'Youville is well-positioned to do more than simply endure wave after wave of change. We are flourishing and prepared to emerge strengthened and renewed following the recent disruption brought on by the pandemic," Clemo says.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE**

Accordingly, D'Youville's Board of Trustees and senior leaders have made a mix of excellence, resilience, and creativity the

foundation for positioning D'Youville as the "University of the Future." (*University? Yes, university. Please see page 13 for more information on why that designation is appropriate.*)

What does that mean? It means, D'Youville both anticipates and responds effectively to an array of ever-shifting needs – the need to remain relevant as student and employer expectations evolve; the need to adapt curricula, pedagogies, and modes of delivery to attract and better serve students from a global society undergoing broad demographic changes; the need to change inadequate financial business models; the need to be bold in the adoption of new technologies and courageous in building new partnerships.



**“AT D’YOUVILLE, WE BELIEVE RESPONDING TO CHANGE AND ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE IS NECESSARY, AND WE ARE DOING IT THROUGH A STUDENT-CENTERED LENS.”**

**LORRIE A. CLEMO, PHD D’YOUVILLE PRESIDENT**



Following a series of presidential salons and town halls with students, faculty, and staff, asking for their input and priorities, the Board of Trustees moved forward with a well-designed and thoughtful plan of action that empowered the college community to promote promising innovations, to engage in creative thinking – both as a Board and with campus constituencies. Operating within a new culture of innovation, employees across the university were motivated and empowered to take risks in pursuit of creative solutions.

One such solution was manifested in the university’s new Capital Master Plan. The plan has resulted in many dynamic new spaces across campus that address the needs of students, faculty, staff, community partners, and alumni.

“We took a holistic look at the entire institution,” says Jason MacLeod, PhD, associate vice president for operations and administration. “We analyzed where people belong and how to best organize departments. In many cases, faculty or staff in the same department were

spread throughout a building or even in separate buildings. We tried to build efficiencies by bringing people in the same department, or in departments that often worked together, closer to each other.”

Jamel Perkins, chair of the Board of Trustees, noted, “The Board has always been focused on what are the right capital investments at the right times. With these latest improvements, we are making a substantial investment not only in the university in general, but in Buffalo’s West Side.”

PHOTOS: TOM WOLF AND BRANDON MORAN





### PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST

The first phase of the campus improvements focused on improving D'Youville's forward-facing student services, the two most prominent being the Solutions Center and Success Center. As outlined in previous issues of D'Mensions, the Solutions Center brought together the offices of financial aid, registrar, bursar, and student accounts, while the Success Center created a centralized, one-stop shop for student advisement, transfer services, and career development.

Both centers feature bright, open-concept designs with casual seating areas to help students feel welcome and encourage communication with staff. Solutions and Success are spaces that promote an educational ecosystem which streamlines the place, processes, people, and technology needed for an exceptional student experience.

Last year, the educational ecosystem concept was the basis on which new spaces for information technology and student services were created. The IT Pulse Center centralizes technology services and features a walk-in area where students and staff can bring their

laptops for immediate service. It also features a sophisticated lounge area where students can meet, work, and socialize.

Student services, including counseling and connections to other on- and off-campus resources, have been brought together in The Park, D'Youville's student advocacy center. Once again, a warm, colorful, design welcomes students and puts them at ease when accessing The Park's services. And, if they're lucky, they might run into Saint, one of D'Youville's new mascots, who has his own space in The Park and is always ready to offer snuggles to those who need them.

This past summer, despite the slow-down due to COVID-19, Kuhrt Dining Hall in the Campus Center underwent a major transformation. Once a relatively plain but serviceable space, the dining hall is now alive with stylized trees, colorful floor and walls, and a variety of seating options.

"The campus upgrades ensure that prospective students will have a great experience when they visit," Perkins says. "They will see D'Youville as modern and fresh and think, 'this is a place I want to be.'"

Clemo credits MacLeod and Brian McNamara, director of capital projects, for their vision on the design and construction of new spaces around campus.

### UPGRADING OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The second phase of the master plan focused on improving the quality of D'Youville's teaching and learning environments throughout campus. Classrooms were renovated and designed with new seating arrangements, including café-style "hi-top" seating, comfortable benches, and new desks. Upgrades also included portable charging stations for laptops and phones and new technical equipment to enhance faculty lectures.

Lab spaces also received makeovers, with physical and occupational therapy tables reupholstered and new equipment added. Study spaces were created for healthcare majors which included whiteboards, human skeleton models, and comfortable seating for group work.

Fresh consideration was given to where certain departments and programs were located. "With all the interprofessional





The Health Professions Hub will help both students and the West Side community.

and interdisciplinary work carried out at D'Youville, it made sense, for example, to move certain departments closer together," MacLeod says. "For example, the School of Pharmacy used to be the only program in the D'Youville Academic Center (DAC). We asked them who they worked with most often, and they said the physician assistant and dietetics departments, so we moved them to the DAC, too."

A major investment into D'Youville's information technology infrastructure, including the educational software programs Panopto to Proctorio, proved to be highly prescient, as they were critical in helping D'Youville swiftly pivot to all-online learning when the coronavirus pandemic hit last spring. The programs allow for the video recording of lectures and remote proctoring of online exams. The introduction of Microsoft Teams and SharePoint platforms improved campus-wide communication and collaboration.

#### INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY

One of the largest investments approved by the Board of Trustees was the construction of D'Youville's new Health Professions Hub. President Clemo describes the Hub as a "moonshot idea" that will now

become reality, with a grand opening planned for May. (For more about a recent investment in the Hub, see page 3.)

Not only will the Hub offer our students clinical experiences right on campus, it will also provide much-needed primary healthcare to the residents of Buffalo's West Side, with a health center run by Catholic Health, a pharmacy, dietetics programming, and PT, OT, and chiropractic services. In addition, the Hub will help build a new ecosystem of shared prosperity as it delivers healthcare trainings, certificates, and degree programs so local residents can pursue secure, well-paying careers.

The Summer 2021 edition of D'Mensions will feature many photos and stories about the Hub and all it will offer our students, faculty, and community. It is the bricks-and-mortar realization of our motto of "never refusing to serve."

#### THE UPSHOT TO INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

In every decision made about campus improvements, the primary question was, how will this best serve our students? In the past few years, we have found out.

D'Youville began participating in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) during 2017-18. In the most recent data (before COVID-19), we have seen marked improvements in student satisfaction, retention, and graduation rates. Based on that survey, when asked, "What has been your overall experience here?", senior year student responses indicated that satisfaction increased by 5% (78% to 83%), and first year student responses increased by 8% (85% to 93%). In addition, D'Youville's three-year weighted average for retention rates grew by 14% (71% to 85%) from 2015 to 2019, and graduation rates increased 18% (44% to 62%).

A D'Youville student made this comment on the NSSE survey: "I would say that outside of our dedication to service, the other thing that D'Youville is quickly becoming known for is innovation. D'Youville is not afraid to make forward-thinking decisions that lead to the rapid advancement of the institution."

We can't think of a better endorsement than that. ■



# ARE WE A COLLEGE OR A UNIVERSITY?

# YES

People have asked, “Why does D’Youville refer to itself as a university? Isn’t it a college?” The answer is, it’s the difference between *name* and *status*. Our official name is D’Youville College. However, leading educational organizations and publications classify D’Youville’s status as a university, and for good reasons.

The main difference between a college and university is not, as many believe, size. University classification is based on several indicators, the first of which is the number of doctoral degrees awarded. D’Youville currently offers eight doctoral programs, more than any other comparably sized school in Western New York and considerably more than the three doctoral programs currently required by New York State for university classification. D’Youville provides three research-based academic doctorates (Doctor of Education, EdD) in Educational Leadership, Health Administration, and Health Professions Education, and five professional doctorates, including Chiropractic (DC), Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP), Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (DNP), Pharmacy (PharmD), and Physical Therapy (DPT).

In light of our broad academic offerings, the prestigious Carnegie Commission on Higher Education added D’Youville to its ranks of Doctoral/Professional Universities in 2018. The Carnegie Classification® has been the leading framework for recognizing and describing institutional diversity in U.S. higher education for nearly 50 years. U.S. News & World Report uses the

Carnegie Classification when grouping higher education institutions in its annual rankings and in 2020, moved D’Youville from the “Regional Colleges – North” category to the “National Universities” category (completely bypassing the “Regional Universities” category). With this latest report, D’Youville was recognized as the second-highest nationally ranked university in Western New York and the highest-ranking private institution.

In New York State, Education Law §224(1) prohibits an entity from doing business under the name “university” unless the Board of Regents has given it permission to do so. The Board approved a definition of “university” in the Commissioner’s Regulations in 1968:

*University means a higher education institution offering a range of registered undergraduate and graduate curricula in the liberal arts and sciences, degrees in two or more professional fields, and doctoral programs in at least three academic fields (§50.1 [1]).*

The New York Board of Regents, which oversees NYSED, only governs whether an institution can call itself a “university” in its official name. On April 30, 2008, Johanna Duncan Poitier from the State Education Department, in her presentation to Regents Higher Education Committee stated, “The only issue is using the word ‘university’ in an institution’s name, not an institution’s use of that word to describe itself, which is not prohibited. For example, it would be acceptable now for an institution to

describe itself as follows: ‘The New School - a global university in Greenwich Village offering numerous degrees and continuing education opportunities in design, social sciences, management, humanities, and the performing arts.’ It would not be acceptable for the same institution to call itself ‘The New School University’ unless it met the regulatory requirements of a university.”

D’Youville filed an application with NYSED for a name change more than two years ago and that request is still pending. In the meantime, although our name is not “D’Youville University” (yet), it is appropriate to refer to ourselves as a university, due to our educational status and Carnegie Classification. This designation boosts our reputation, while also helping in the recruitment of international students.

Whether a college or university, the mission of D’Youville has not changed. We still seek to honor our Catholic heritage and the spirit of St. Marguerite d’Youville by providing academic, social, spiritual, and professional development in programs that emphasize leadership and service. We can be proud the Grey Nuns’ initial vision of the institution has broadened to welcome the doctoral-level programs providing critical leadership in education and healthcare.

**ANY QUESTIONS? DROP US  
A LINE AT [ALUMNI@DYC.EDU](mailto:ALUMNI@DYC.EDU).**

*This article is based on research conducted by Joggeshwar (Jogy) Das, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning.*



MOVING FORWARD

# CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

NEW D'YOUVILLE COMMUNITY FOR CHANGE TASK FORCE AND FELLOWSHIP LEAD THE WAY

Last year's combination of the novel coronavirus, George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police, and the larger issues of the country's long-simmering racial inequities made a response to the emergent racial reckoning imperative.

With actions to meaningfully address issues, D'Youville is following through on its initial post-Floyd statement, which said, in part "[we] do not stand for the inequality, mistreatment, and killings of people of color and...[are] elevating this issue as a top institutional priority..."

Three initiatives kicked off the response. The first was to raise awareness through art. So, to start, D'Youville engaged a Black artist, who created a large mural on campus. The second was to increase accessibility through scholarship: The Black Lives Lead Scholarship welcomed its first cohort. (See sidebar)

And, thirdly, what was formed as the Black Lives Matter Task Force has become the D'Youville Community for Change (DCC) Task Force. Comprised of students, faculty, staff, and administration, it is co-led by Rachel Ersing, '12, '13, and NiK Peavy. Ersing, executive director of D'Youville's

School of Health Professions' Chiropractic program, is D'Youville's first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fellow. Peavy is the director of student development and advocacy.

D'Youville's efforts, say Ersing, are more than lip service. "We wanted to begin and establish initiatives that would carry on," Ersing says. "The mural and the scholarship are good starts."

Peavy agrees that D'Youville needed to make strides—and that the task force can do it. "With Rachel at the policy change level and me interacting with students day-to-day, it's easier to break down silos and see problems from all angles," Peavy says. "And, with the shift from BLM to the DCC Task Force, we broadened our base and can support all marginalized students."

"Through conversations, we identified students' desire for cultural enrichment. We've set up a Cultural Enrichment Center, within the Koessler Administration Building," Peavy continues. The Center will house inclusive materials celebrating Black history and authors, and other issues, including cultural competence. A cultural enrichment coordinator was hired, and a related education module developed; the

Center will also host events for and about BIPOC ("Black, Indigenous, and people of color"), LGBTQ+, and other groups.

The DEI Fellowship empowers Ersing to conduct institutional-level assessments. Areas she and the task force are examining include hiring, admissions, and administration, including bias incident reporting, reviewing, and response times.

"We've conducted intimate group discussions and larger-scale cultural climate surveys. We have at least 10 departments collaborating in these efforts. Students have shared many issues," Ersing says.

Student feedback is shared anonymously back to departments, so they can roll any responses into their plans. Adam Grupka, '12, chair and program director of the physician assistant program in the School of Health Professions, says the student input from Ersing was helpful. "It brought us self-awareness," he says. "I realized, both as program chair and a healthcare provider, that I might be doing things that make someone feel unsafe or unwelcome. The feedback opened doors for faculty and students alike."

Building trust is an important element of the initiatives. “Because Rachel is a person of color, and not a member of our department faculty, students, especially those of color, seemed willing to be honest in voicing their concerns and opinions,” adds Grupka.

“We learned that everyone is interested in more—and more regular—training,” adds Peavy. “It’s important to bring people together to discuss issues, to have a coordinated response.”

“We’re seeing that faculty and staff want information and education about issues,” confirms Ersing. “Renee Cadzow, chair of the Department of Health Administration and Public Health, won a grant to partner with the Erie Niagara Area Health Education Center; she’s set up a schedule of anti-bias and cultural awareness/cultural competence trainings for staff, faculty, and students.”

They haven’t really encountered resistance to change or objections to the



**NIK PEAVY (L) IS DIRECTOR OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY AND RACHEL ERSING '12 '13 IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF D'YOUVILLE'S CHIROPRACTIC PROGRAM AND THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION FELLOW.**

efforts, though some express concern about their agency and safety.

“This has been a long time coming,” says Ersing. “And most agree, though some wonder if their voices will be heard and acted upon. Just starting these potentially uncomfortable conversations is huge; I feel positive that they are sharing at all.”

“I’m heartened to see people face where they’re at,” Peavy says. “I’m one of the good ones; I know how to support them, is easy to say; taking the first step, to listen, is hard. I’m proud of the efforts to hear students feedback—especially because it includes a willingness to admit you might’ve been wrong.”

The task force and related initiatives are

primed to succeed with an unwavering commitment from the administration. “It’s really nice that, despite money being tight, the college is still funding the initiatives,” says Peavy. “Dr. Clemo, our president, is doing a lot of work.”

“The president fully supports the DEI Fellowship and the initiatives,” agrees Ersing. “That’s not always the case. As an African American, as a Black graduate and employee, these improvements feel like they’re now becoming part of the institution; they will affect all students’ experience and are built to last for a long time.”

— JANA EISENBERG

## Solé Young receives Black Lives Lead Scholarship



**T**he Black Lives Lead Scholarship, created in response to recent events, challenges our nation’s history of institutionalized racism. Solé Young, 18, among the first scholarship recipients, is a first-year student in D’Youville’s nursing program.

**What does it say that D’Youville is offering this scholarship?**

It’s an example of the change that may happen in the future, showing that doors can open for everyone of any race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. I’m proud to be at a school that’s acknowledging the challenges and trying to help.

**What was your application essay about?**

I wrote it during the protests over the recent killings of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd. I talked about attending a white public school, and how I educated my friends about the Black community. I talked about how important it is to have a voice to protest.

**What do you hope will be the result of efforts like D’Youville’s for racial and other types of equity?**

They’re helping to make sure that we can continue to fight for change; that our generation can come together and have a voice on something important that we all care about.



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



## Calling all saints

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic brought about significant changes in our daily lives. While schedules have shifted and much has been put on pause, for many of us, our commitment to the causes we believe in remains the same. Philanthropic support for D'Youville is no exception. While 2020 brought much uncertainty, you — D'Youville alumni and supporters — have kept our mission top-of-mind, and for that we are forever grateful.

Your gifts, no matter the size, truly do make a difference. Your gifts demonstrate your commitment to our current students and are a guarantee for their prosperous futures. Your gifts allow D'Youville to update technologies, train faculty in the latest research and pedagogies, and support the growing needs of our diverse West Side neighborhood. Most importantly, your gifts are markers of pride.

When you make the decision to give to D'Youville, you are demonstrating your love for our institution, the fond memories of your time here, and your commitment to ensure our strong, sustained future.

Through months of uncertainty, you did not forget about your alma mater, and we certainly did not forget about you. We recognize traditional fundraising methods may no longer be as viable as they once were, which led D'Youville's Institutional Advancement team to use this opportunity to adapt our approach. Our goal is simple—to ensure you, the donor, have the best possible experience and witness the direct impact of your gift.

On October 16, we launched a special 24-hour campaign in honor of the Feast Day of St. Marguerite d'Youville. Along with your gifts, many of you sent notes expressing your fond memories of Grey Nuns and fellow classmates who embody the teachings of St. Marguerite. Your reflections and generosity were incredibly humbling. A very special Thank You to Barbara Campagna '63 who matched dollar-for-dollar gifts up to \$2,000.

On Giving Tuesday, December 1 — an internationally-recognized day of philanthropy and service — our D'Youville family again rose to the challenge. We know there are thousands of organizations deserving of your support, so we are especially grateful to the 43 donors who chose to prioritize D'Youville during the season of giving. A very special Thank You to Leona Gonzales '57 who matched dollar-for-dollar gifts up to \$500.

Perhaps our most exciting new initiative is the launch of the Saints Society! The Saints Society, founded in honor of our mascot and history, is a circle of loyal

*the fund for*  
**D'YOUVILLE**

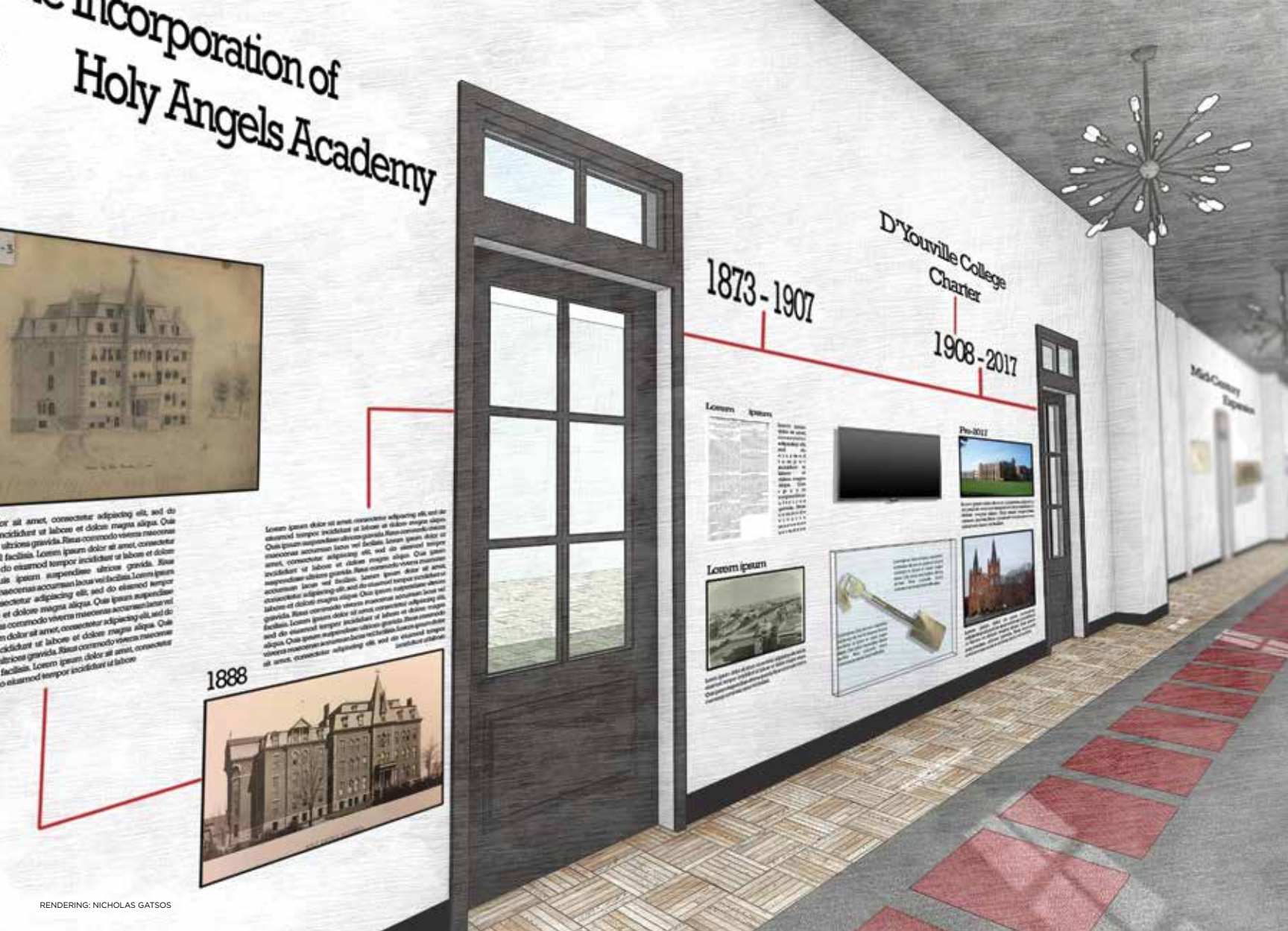
**TOGETHER, WE HAVE**

- RAISED \$4,319 IN HONOR OF THE FEAST DAY OF ST. MARGUERITE D'YOUVILLE
- RAISED \$6,050 ON GIVING TUESDAY
- WELCOMED 23 NEW MEMBERS INTO THE SAINTS SOCIETY
- AWARDED MORE THAN \$482,000 IN DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

and generous donors who make exceptional commitments to D'Youville. While entry point into the Saints Society is generally an annual gift of \$1,000 or more, recent graduates can earn membership at a reduced rate. This exclusive group of donors enjoy special perks and recognition, all while carrying on D'Youville's rich tradition of alumni generosity. We hope you will consider becoming a Saints Society member! For more information, visit [alumni.dyouville.edu/saints-society](http://alumni.dyouville.edu/saints-society).

From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU to all those who supported D'Youville throughout 2020. We anticipate a reenergized, prosperous 2021!





RENDERING: NICHOLAS GATSOVS

## ANNOUNCING THE D'YOUVILLE HISTORY CORRIDOR

# Honoring our history, heritage, and mission

At D'Youville, we are proud to share our story and St. Marguerite d'Youville's credo of never refusing to serve. Very soon, we will unveil a beautiful, interactive exhibit in the Koessler Administration Building (KAB) to showcase D'Youville's mission, history, and heritage.

The new History Corridor will feature photos, maps, digital displays, and timeless historical artifacts that illustrate the evolution of D'Youville, starting from the immigration of its founders, the Grey Nuns, and continuing on through the leaders and alumni who sustained it. Our memorable traditions, including Moving Up Day and pinning ceremonies, milestone historical programs and buildings, and the transition from an all-women to a co-ed institution, will be showcased.

KAB's first floor, which is currently under renovation, will serve as a "Front Door," museum-like welcoming center for prospective students, alumni, community partners, and other visitors, to experience a first-class D'Youville introduction. The new gallery will create memorable experiences for old friends, lasting impressions for new ones, and allow us to document new stories and historical events we've experienced along the way.

It is a truly exciting time, as we move toward designing this wonderful historical time capsule. We look forward to sharing photos of the completed project in the summer issue of D'Mensions. Until then, please enjoy these illustrations which show where the exhibit will begin, near the Kavinoky Theatre on

Prospect Avenue, and working its way up the chronological timeline toward Madonna Hall on Fargo Avenue.

Much of the historical information to be featured in the corridor is based on the book "The D'Youville Family Album," authored by Emeritus Faculty David Kelly (who is featured page 23 of this magazine).

If you are interested in making a gift in support of this historical and tradition-filled project, please contact AnneMarie Haumesser, associate vice president for philanthropy and engagement, at 716-829-7802 or [cuccia@dyc.edu](mailto:cuccia@dyc.edu).



## WARRIOR ON AND OFF THE COURT

# Carrie Owens '03

**C**arrie Stevens Owens '03 fought some tough battles on the basketball court, where she was a star forward throughout her four years at D'Youville and then served as assistant coach until 2008. Now she is using her fierce tenacity to fight the biggest battle of her life – recovering from a serious motorcycle accident in early November 2020 that resulted in the loss of her left leg.

The accident occurred when a truck making a left turn ran into her while she was riding her motorcycle. Owens endured multiple injuries beyond her left leg, including a torn meniscus and lateral ligaments in her right leg, deep bone contusions, and ligament damage in her right wrist. But with the same drive that led her to be an all-star athlete and successful coach, she left the hospital only nine days after the lower part of her leg was amputated.

“Anybody who knows me, knows I stay busy,” Owens says. “I’m always teaching, coaching, working security, doing lots of activities. After nine days in the hospital, I told the doctor, ‘I need out.’ They wanted to send me to rehabilitation facility, but Erie County was about to go back into lockdown (due to coronavirus). I wouldn’t have been able to have any visitors.” Her doctors needed convincing. So, a little more than a week after her life-changing accident, Owens performed a series of tests to show she could handle living at home – using a walker, going up and down stairs, getting in and out of a shower. And she passed.

Regarding her recovery, she says, “The physical part isn’t going to be difficult for me. The emotional and mental part is what’s going to be difficult. I knew I needed to be around my family, because they wouldn’t allow me to go into a dark place of feeling sorry for myself.” By the end of the month, Owens even returned to work, teaching online. She is a career and technical education



PHOTO: TOM WOLF

teacher at East Community High School in Buffalo, in addition to coaching girls basketball at Sacred Heart Academy.

Although some were surprised by her quick return to teaching, Owens says, “It was the best decision as far as making progress in my recovery. It gets me up in the morning and gives me a purpose. The kids bring me joy. They are so genuine in their care for me, it lifts my spirits.”

Owens receives a number of therapies to aid in her recovery and she was excited to learn her occupational therapist, Maria Klein McLaughlin, is also a D'Youville alumna. McLaughlin, who graduated in 1996, helps Owens with regaining her range of motion and strength in her hand with ligament damage.

“I love her!” Owens says. “She’s always shown concern for me as a person, not just as one of her OT patients. She can tell when I come in if I’m having a rough day. She takes the time to talk to me and reassures me that what I’m going through is OK.”

A GoFundMe has been set up for Owens to help with expenses. Owens hopes the funds raised will help her get back to being an athlete again. “My insurance will cover only one type of prosthetic,” she says. “I’ll have to pay out-of-pocket if I want a more athletic one for running and coaching, and they cost \$20,000.” If you wish to donate, visit [www.gofundme.com/f/recovery-for-carrie](http://www.gofundme.com/f/recovery-for-carrie).

— CATHY WILDE



## PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH, ONE PATIENT AT A TIME

# Julia Z. Miller '73

**J**ulia Z. Miller '73, a public health nurse and administrator in rural West Virginia, insists on going by Julie, a lack of pretense that belies her long history of healthcare leadership.

Miller, who grew up on Long Island, moved to West Virginia right after graduating from D'Youville to work across the Kentucky border as a hospital nurse. She first discovered public health as a consultant for West Virginia county public health departments. Nearly four decades later, she lives in Williamson, West Virginia, and works in neighboring Boone County, a former coal-mining region battling serious chronic and acute health issues including opioid addiction, diabetes, and lung disease.

As a busy public health administrator for Boone County, Miller balances tight budgets, writes grant applications, and constantly reshuffles her staff to best serve the county's 21,547 residents. She notes that number down to the last person because public health, she says, is about reaching everyone.

"We are members of your community," says Miller, who credits D'Youville for instilling a cooperative, close-knit culture during her undergraduate years. "I don't live in the county where I work, but I know exactly what's going on. We pray with people on the phone about their relative on a ventilator. Folks yell across street to me about their test results. I try to foster that one-on-one contact to affect the entire family, not just the patient."

In addition to her administrative role, Miller is one of only two nurse practitioners staffing Boone County's health clinics. "We do well-child checks, STD screening, women's health, immunization and much more," she says. "We try to educate about diet and health, and about the

pandemic, but it's challenging with our small department. We get out there at festivals, on weekends, handing out pamphlets. We have done a lot of flu shots."

More shots are coming as Miller prepares for the COVID-19 vaccine. With a strained state public health budget and a staff of three during the first five months of the pandemic, Miller says, "stress is getting to a lot of us." Grants and other funding eventually let her hire another nurse, a part-time environmental clerk, a full-time sanitarian, and another part-time sanitarian. The team helps respond to COVID outbreaks and also handles the county's ongoing health needs.

"First responders say they're going to come to us for the vaccine, which makes me feel good," she says.

Recognized for her dedication, Miller was named 2013's West Virginia Public Health Nurse of the Year by the West Virginia Public Health Association and is the organization's president-elect. Previously, she served three times as head of another West Virginia organization representing the state's 48 local public health departments.

Her education also armed Miller with a determination to advocate for herself and her work. She says her time at D'Youville, which was then an all-women's college, "showed me I can do just as much as anyone else. It's an important thing, not to let yourself feel like a little old woman and get pushed around."

Miller has supported D'Youville for an impressive 41 consecutive years. "I give because somebody helped me get the college's aid, and I want to do the same for someone else."

Her career is proof that public health can be a good profession for diverse



“

**FIRST RESPONDERS  
SAY THEY'RE GOING  
TO COME TO US  
FOR THE VACCINE,  
WHICH MAKES ME  
FEEL GOOD.**

”

fields, including education, environmental studies, nursing and teaching.

Although many public health workers are out on the front lines, as Miller puts it, "if you don't hear about us, that's a good thing." Her story, however, illustrates the impact public health efforts have on a community's well-being, one patient at a time.

— LAUREN NEWKIRK MAYNARD

# Who lets the dogs out?

## MEET OUR NEW BEST FRIENDS' BEST FRIENDS

**D**'Youville students are curious, compassionate, and hardworking; it is no coincidence that these are the very traits that a Saint Bernard is known to demonstrate. So, what happens when you combine the two? Through our Saint Sitters student worker program, students are tasked with being the caretakers

of our newest mascots, Maggie and Saint. And although our mascots have since outgrown their iconic red wagons, you can find Maggie and Saint around campus at any given time, playing with and learning from their Sitters.

### MAEVE FINNEY '23

#### HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN BEING A SAINT SITTER?

I'm on the softball team and my coach asked me if I wanted to. I was beyond happy to watch Maggie!

#### WHAT DOES D'YOUVILLE MEAN TO YOU?

D'Youville means family.

#### WHAT IS YOUR MAJOR/EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?

I am a sophomore in the nursing program.

#### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE D'YOUVILLE?

I chose D'Youville because of the positive and welcoming atmosphere.

#### WHAT DOES THE MASCOT OF A SAINT MEAN TO YOU?

To me, the mascot of a Saint means leadership, determination, and perseverance.





## **TYLER STUEBCHEN '25**

### **HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN BEING A SAINT SITTER?**

I got involved as a Saint Sitter through Benjamin Grant (D'Youville's chief student affairs officer). At the start of the semester, he sent out an email to all students looking for help to watch our sweet little buddy Saint.

### **WHAT DOES D'YOUVILLE MEAN TO YOU?**

To me, D'Youville means community and family. Ever since I came here, I've felt at home. There is always so much going on and so many opportunities at D'Youville to get you involved.

### **WHAT IS YOUR MAJOR/ EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?**

I'm in the physician assistant program, class of 2025, pursuing accelerated graduation.

### **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE D'YOUVILLE?**

I chose D'Youville for the proximity to home and because of the benefits they offer to veterans and their families. I received discounted tuition because my father served in the Army.

### **WHAT DOES THE MASCOT OF A SAINT MEAN TO YOU?**

To me, the mascot means many things. Like a puppy Saint Bernard, we are always learning and growing. However, when we are grown and ready for the world, we are strong, fearless, loyal, and proud.





## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH Alyssa Cizdziel Wozniak, PharmD '18

**A**lyssa Cizdziel Wozniak is the first D'Youville alumna to be hired as a faculty member in the School of Pharmacy, so she has a special relationship with her alma mater.

### **Why did you choose D'Youville for college?**

I chose D'Youville because it had a small family feel. I came from a small town where I graduated from a class of only about 25 high school seniors and when I toured D'Youville, it seemed to have that same close-knit feeling that I was familiar with.

### **What is your best memory from your student days?**

My favorite memories from my student days circle around the connections I made. For example, three friends I made as a student were bridesmaids in my wedding the year after graduation. I also connected with many pharmacist preceptors in early clinical rotations through D'Youville and now work with many of them today at my faculty clinical practice site. The opportunities for professional and social connections were always endless at D'Youville!

### **What would our alumni find most surprising about you?**

I think most of our alumni would find it surprising that now I am faculty! Most of my fellow classmates knew I liked community pharmacy and up until our final year of rotations, I thought I would probably work in a brick-and-mortar pharmacy like a CVS or Rite Aid. In my final year of school, I had a teaching rotation as well as a rotation in ambulatory care within a doctor's office. I found that I like teaching students as much as I like teaching patients about their medications, so I soon learned that a career as a clinical professor would be a good fit for me.

### **How does it feel to be back at D'Youville as a professor?**

I would summarize it in one word: rewarding. Not only did D'Youville provide me with the



degree and affiliated residency training I needed to land my dream job, but I landed that dream job right here at D'Youville! I can now take the passion I saw as a student in my faculty role models and radiate that same passion onto the students I now have the opportunity to teach. Seeing a student have an "aha" moment in the classroom or at my clinical practice site is an amazing feeling and because of that, I truly wake up every day excited for the workday ahead of me.

### **What's your favorite spot in Buffalo?**

Any restaurant in Buffalo! And preferably one with good chicken wings and blue cheese!

### **What is your biggest pet peeve?**

Dishes left in the sink! Whether it is dishes from cooking or baking, or supplies from compounding medications, both bother me!

### **What was the last book you read?**

Truthfully, most of my reading is related to pharmacy. The last book I read was titled "Building a Successful Ambulatory Care Practice: A Complete Guide for Pharmacists." While I've been at my primary care clinic faculty practice site for a little over a year now, this book offered great insight that I can apply when I move my faculty practice site into D'Youville's upcoming Health Professions Hub.

### **What's your personal motto?**

"It's a great day to have a great day."

## RETIRED? NOT EXACTLY.

# David and Ruth Kelly

**D**avid Kelly, PhD, was a fixture at D'Youville for nearly 40 years in the history department. Eventually, his wife, Ruth Kelly, PhD, joined him in the department, where they both served until their retirement in 2013.

However, in this age of nontraditional learning (thanks to the coronavirus), the Kellys still maintain their ties to D'Youville, as they occasionally teach courses online for the history department.

David arrived at D'Youville in 1975 and, over the course of his career, taught a wide variety of history and political science classes ("some 30 different courses," he says) and served as chair of the liberal arts and social science department. He also wrote a book, "The D'Youville Family Album: One Hundred Years of Teaching and Caring," to mark the school's centennial.

As the book name implies, D'Youville became like a family to David. "Students, faculty, and staff all helped me through the death of my first wife from cancer," he says. And then, "I met my second wife, Ruth, when she returned to school as a non-traditional student."

Ruth graduated with a degree in philosophy in 1989. "Thanks to my D'Youville professors, especially Professor Robert Nielsen and Professor John Abbarno, I left D'Youville prepared to go on to graduate school and I earned a PhD in history," she says. She returned to D'Youville, joining David in the history department.

Both David and Ruth have many fond and fun memories of their years at D'Youville. "My best times at D'Youville were those times with students in and out of the classroom," Ruth says. "We hosted student get-togethers at our home every



semester. We organized trips with students to Washington, Ottawa, Pittsburgh, and our favorite - taking students to Ireland!"

In retirement, the couple continued to travel until the coronavirus forced them to stop. They have enjoyed a river cruise in Europe, several visits to Israel and Ireland, and traveling to many U.S. national parks, including Glacier, Yellowstone, and the Grand Tetons.

The Kellys now split their time between Western New York and Florida, where they are active with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Eckerd College, which offers noncredit courses for adult learners.

"I have taught short courses on Russia since Communism, China under Communism, Dickens as a historical source, and

currently, on Zoom, 1920 as compared to 2020," David says. The Dickens course led to a new endeavor for David.

"When the COVID lockdown began I was working on turning the Dickens lectures into a book," he says. "But then I turned to writing a memoir on my life and art collection that has become a 300-page manuscript I'm polishing to look for a publisher."

"Both David and I teach courses in OLLI and we still teach at D'Youville online," Ruth says. "So, my favorite part of my D'Youville life - teaching - continues."

The D'Youville women's basketball team made history on January 31 by posting the first Division II win in program history for the Saints, defeating the Clarion Golden Eagles 72-64 at Clarion University's Tippin Gymnasium.

PHOTO: JOE CROOM

# POWERING THROUGH

While the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may have delayed the D'Youville Saints' planned debut on the court and field at the NCAA Division II level, the work to get the athletic department ready for that start has not been hindered.

Despite the postponement of competition until recently, all 14 varsity programs saw improvement during fall practices from newcomers and returnees alike, with every program gearing up to compete in spring of 2021. Behind the scenes, the rebranding of D'Youville Athletics has continued both physically and virtually, and work on the school's Athletics Hall of Fame progresses towards its first induction class later this year. With the NCAA-mandated transition period just beginning, D'Youville has already made major strides towards becoming a competitive D-II program in the East Coast Conference, with full membership in 2023. Led by Director of Athletics Ona Halladay, the Saints are also looking to compete for USCAA national titles in the meantime and become a top-tier destination for student-athletes from North America and abroad.

During this first year of the provisional process, D'Youville Athletics has remained committed to engaging our student-athletes throughout the pandemic and preparing them for Division II membership. The Academic Training Center opened in August 2019, providing student-athletes a space to complete study hall hours and work in the College Center. In addition, the Saints began a new student-athlete development program called the Leadership Academy, which is available to all student-athletes. Five sessions were held throughout the fall semester and included training from the Institute of Sport and Social Justice.

After the announcement in October 2019 that D'Youville will unveil its Athletics Hall of Fame and the first induction class on Reunion Weekend in September of this year, work has continued in preparation to honor those that served as the building blocks of D'Youville Athletics. Nominations were accepted until January 15 and reviewed thoroughly by the induction committee, with the inductees being announced later this spring on March 30. A case statement for the Hall of Fame's display has also been formalized, as the showcase for D'Youville

Athletics history will take up a prominent place in the main lobby of the College Center.

Entering the season after a later start than usual, the D'Youville basketball teams are laying the foundations for success in the short and long term. Men's basketball coach Earl Schunk has hopped on the national recruiting train already, bringing in three Floridians and a Georgia native. The 2020-21 team also includes a pair of talented in-state freshmen, as two-time All-Western New York selection Trent Scott has joined the Saints after a year in prep school, while Mason Putnam ended his high school career with the eighth-most points all-time in New York State history and has kept up a high scoring clip in the college ranks. These newcomers have provided a boost to key returners such as the team's second-leading scorer, Grant Beyer.

On the women's side, Danny Glover '11 brings back multiple stars from last year's squad that went 18-9 and reached the AMCC semifinals. The roster is highlighted by AMCC All-Conference First Team honoree Danielle Hore and AMCC Freshman of the Year Sarah Pfeiffer, as the team returned to action with





# TO NCAA DIVISION II

its top eight scorers from 2019-20. In addition to almost all the team's scoring coming back, Glover brought in a pair of freshmen.

The women's team made history on January 31 by posting the first Division II win in program history for the Saints, defeating the Clarion Golden Eagles 72-64 at Clarion University's Tippin Gymnasium. Halladay says, "In a time of such uncertainty, D'Youville Athletics has continued to forge through in order to ensure a great experience for our student-athletes. Our women's basketball program made history by solidifying the first win against a Division II program in our first year of Division II membership. This feat is a product of incredible strength, perseverance, and determination by the student-athletes, coaches, and staff. I am proud of the women's basketball for being our first, and know that there are many more firsts to come for all of

our athletic programs and student-athletes. What an exciting time to be a Saint."

Longtime soccer head coaches, Brendan Murphy on the men's side and Jim Hesch for the women's team, both return with competitive squads. Murphy brings back AMCC All-Conference selections Nick Dumond and Jake Kowalewski, while Hesch retains four all-conference honorees, including AMCC All-Tournament Team member Jordan Pachla. Former men's volleyball standout Chris Krueger '13 is forging ahead in his second season at the helm of his alma mater, with his starting libero Mitch Mason and top hitters Ali Khadra and Dan Busha all carrying over from last year's roster. Fellow D'Youville alumnus Lauren Ciurzynski '14 is also back to lead the women's crew program, her 11th-straight overall season as a part of the program and her sixth as the head coach.

The architect of the women's lacrosse program since its inception in 2015, Kate Mayhook is guiding a talented roster that includes a former all-conference selection in Alison Gareis along with two conference weekly award winners from the shortened 2020 season. Head baseball coach Kyle McLain continues to form the foundation of his program as the Western New York native enters his third season with the program. With an all-conference bowler in Ashley Len back on her squad, head bowling coach Susan Jeziorski continues to show immediate results for a program that only began in 2018. Led by AMCC All-Conference Second Team selection Dena Iadanza, the women's tennis team has 10 returnees after an AMCC semifinals last season and are seeking to continue the success in the East Coast Conference under a talented coaching staff.

The 2020-21 campaign will also see the head coaching debut for several at D'Youville. Former assistant coach Megan Asham has been elevated to take over the successful softball program from Halladay and carries over several key pieces from the 2020 roster, while women's volleyball coach Kyle Shanley also moves up from the assistant spot to the bench boss of his program. Another first-time head coach will be cross country coach Patrick Moran, who wrapped up his career as a student-athlete last season. Finally, head coach Kameron Prince continues to recruit players for the inaugural season of the Saints men's lacrosse program in the spring of 2022, already making several signings to the Class of 2025.

While the 2020-21 athletic season may not be a normal one in many ways for D'Youville Athletics, the future is bright and this season will be one to remember in Saints history.

— MARSHAL FILIPOWICZ







**The show must go on. Right?**

A NOTE FROM KAVINOKY EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LORAIN O'DONNELL

Are you familiar with the “New Math”? I call it “Vaccine Math.” For the last nine months The Kavinsky Theatre and arts organizations around the world have been trying to do this new math in our heads.

“So, if we get a vaccine to the general public in April, that gives us four months until a theoretically safe opening season in September...”

Of course, we want to be able to get our actors back onstage, to hear the “roar of the crowd,” but what we are really excited about, is to welcome you back to the theatre...the newly renovated Kavinsky Theatre, thanks to a \$145,000 grant from the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Awards.

While these pictures are beautiful, I promise you they can't hold a candle to walking into the space and experiencing it all for yourself. Designer Jason Kruszka and his carpenter Frank Ferelli have literally changed the way the room feels with the sophisticated new color palate. Thanks to project manager Brian McNamara's attention to detail, and overall vision for the



renovation, every aspect of the room — from the chair rails to the new lighting sconces to the gorgeous vintage chandeliers — completely transform the theatre into what it deserves to be: a showplace for the arts.

And even though this transformation is complete, you still have an opportunity to become a permanent part of this beautiful restoration by buying naming rights to a seat. Go to our website [www.KavinskyTheatre.com](http://www.KavinskyTheatre.com) for more information.

The show must go on? We hope so. With an optimistic eye to the future, we plan to open in September with an original musical revue tentatively titled “Women of Country” — a review of women's contributions to country music from the 1950s to today's new progressive artists, with the stories of these pioneering women woven in between. We would then pick up from what was supposed to be last season with *The Woman in Black* (November), *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (January), *Pride & Prejudice* (March), *People, Places & Things* (May), and *Rock of Ages* (June/July).

Until we can all gather together again in a Theatre, please stay safe and healthy.

And as always, we can't wait to see you at the show!



# Alumni events

**W**e had BIG plans for 2020! We were going on tour — bringing D'Youville to you! Alas, our tour did not get much further than our own computer screens. But don't fret - we are energized and ready to visit our alumni across the country as soon as it is safe to do so.

"As cumbersome as it may sometimes seem, I am grateful for technology and

old-fashioned snail mail that has allowed us to connect with alumni throughout the past year" says AnneMarie Haumesser, associate vice president for philanthropy and engagement. "The decision to celebrate Reunion Weekend 2020 in a virtual format was not as easy one, but these resources allowed hundreds of anniversary-class alumni to celebrate their much-deserved milestones." From September 25-27, 2020, alumni across the country (and world!)

tuned into "Good Morning, D'Youville" — a university update with President Clemo, a virtual campus tour, the Awards and Recognition Celebration, and a livestreamed Reunion Mass from Sacred Heart chapel. There is at least one positive thing about online events — they live on forever! To relive Reunion Weekend 2020 visit [alumni.dyouville.edu/Reunion2020](http://alumni.dyouville.edu/Reunion2020).

## Congratulations to our 2020 Alumni Award winners



**YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD**  
Catherine Muth '11



**DELTA SIGMA AWARD**  
Joyce Kontrabecki Markiewicz '80



**DELTA SIGMA AWARD**  
Joanne Haefner '90



**ANNE LUM AWARD**  
Dolores Gaeta Prezyna '70, '14

## D'Youville Voices

D'Youville alumni have many things in common — one being your bounty of wonderful stories. "Nothing warms my heart more than hearing from an alumnus/a as they reminisce about life in Marguerite Hall or meeting their best friends in the Nursing labs," says Haumesser. With this in mind, D'Youville has embarked on a year-long oral history project with trusted partner, Publishing Concepts Inc. While participation is voluntary, all alumni are encouraged to take part in D'Youville Voices which will capture and preserve the stories of generations of graduates. Story collection will continue through April and books will be distributed in October. As D'Youville continues to embrace and celebrate our history we look forward to reading pages of your heartfelt memories. For more information on the D'Youville Voices oral history project, please visit us online at [alumni.dyouville.edu/dyouville-voices](http://alumni.dyouville.edu/dyouville-voices).



**D'YOUVILLE  
ALUMNI**

## Saints across the states

**E**ach year, our students tell us they discovered D'Youville through alumni, community members, or friends of our university.

D'Youville is on the move and we want you to help share our story! As alumni you are our greatest assets and ambassadors. Through Create a Connection, our new referral program, you can make a real impact on the lives of students and on



our entire community — plus you have the chance to receive a gift card for sharing your love of D'Youville! As we take exciting steps toward expanding academic programs, growing our Division II athletic teams, and broadening our brand, we want alumni to be an active part of our progress! For more information on how to refer a student or share D'Youville with your community visit [go.dyc.edu/connect](http://go.dyc.edu/connect).



### DID YOU KNOW?

While we love our Western New Yorkers, we want to share D'Youville with the world! An increasing number of students are coming from far and wide to experience the value of a D'Youville education. Here's an idea of how many alumni live in neighboring cities.

## Let's connect

The Department of Philanthropy and Engagement and the D'Youville Alumni Association are always here for you! Perhaps you'd like to host a virtual mini-reunion or schedule a tour? We are ready and willing to provide you with the resources necessary to connect with D'Youville and your fellow alumni, no matter how long it's been since you last stepped foot on campus. Please do not hesitate to contact [alumni@dyc.edu](mailto:alumni@dyc.edu), and look out for rescheduled and reinvigorated events coming your way later this year!

# Class notes

**MARION FULMINES SIONKO '61** sadly announces the passing of her husband Raymond from COVID-19 on January 2, 2021, after 57 years of marriage.

**ARLENE DUBIEL BELL '66** and her husband, Mike, quietly celebrated their 50th anniversary on March 30, 2020. She says an official family gathering and celebration is postponed until travel is safe again. They live in Comox, British Columbia, Canada.

**CORDELIA ROBINSON ROSENBERG '67** was appointed Professor Emeritus at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

**DOROTHY RUBRITZ ELLIS '70** and her husband, Allen, are retired and enjoying their 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**ANN FLYNN HOLLER '70** is an adjunct professor of pediatric nursing at National University School of Health and Human Services in San Diego, California, at the Rancho Bernardo campus. She received permanent Gold Award status from Girls Scouts USA which she earned as a First Class Scout.

**CHERYL WHITMAN '74** writes, "I am forever grateful to D'Youville for the fabulous nursing education and the environment that supports the growth of women, leadership skills, and self-confidence. Delighted to see D'Youville's ongoing excellence!"

**CHARLES F. PRIORE JR. '75** is retired and lives on 56 wooded acres in Minnesota. After 41 years as a science librarian, he says reading and writing are still his passions. He has two daughters and one beautiful grandson.

**MARY P. SULLIVAN '78** recently retired after a 42-year career, the last 38 as a community health nurse at Visiting Nursing Association. She wishes her friends who are doing the same a happy and healthy retirement.

**MARIANNE KOCH O'BRIEN '80** retired from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center after more than 30 years as a nurse.

**LORRAINE MILLER D'ANGELO '83** is the owner of Great Lakes NP of Psychiatry PLLC in West Seneca, New York.

**LAUREN SIONKO PAISLEY '86** received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service which recognizes consistently superior service contributions of teaching faculty over multiple years. She is a business professor at Genesee Community College.



**MICHELLE MURTHA KRAUS '99** was appointed administrator of long-term care for Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) Corporation.

**THERESA HURD '04, '19**, is the systems director for inpatient wound and diabetes services at Catholic Health. During the COVID-19 crisis, she was called upon to help train medical-surgical nurses for roles in intensive care units, as elective surgeries were suspended. She was formerly a full-time faculty member in the Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing and currently serves as an adjunct at the graduate level.

**ROBERT NOSEK '06, '07**, was named Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton's Civilian Volunteer of the Year. He also received the President's Gold Star and Lifetime Service Awards for his work with military, veteran, and first responder charities.

**KATHERYNE E. HASSMAN '09, '12**, accepted a new position as director of pharmacy at St. James Hospital, an affiliate of the University of Rochester Medical Center, in Hornell, New York. She married Eric J. Uhl in June 2020.



**JULIANA MARCINIAK-ZITNIK '12** was named to Business First's "40 Under 40" list. She owns and is a chiropractor at Peak Performance Chiropractic & Wellness.

**TARA L. DARLING '13** is a physical therapist at Chautauqua Physical and Occupational Therapy, which has locations in Dunkirk, Jamestown, and Mayville, New York. She specializes in all levels of orthopedic rehabilitation including total joint replacement, back, neck, shoulder, and knee pain and dysfunction.

**CHRIS KRUEGER '13** has been the head coach of the men's volleyball team at D'Youville since 2019. He recently was added to the admissions team as a university recruiter and admissions liaison to the athletics department. In his new role, Krueger will be a primary point of contact for incoming Saints student-athletes as they begin the admissions process, an important need for the department's recent move to NCAA Division II.





**KIMBERLY  
BUCHNER  
HERRINGTON '15**

is a data journalist at BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York, where she serves as an “analytics translator” and helps others tell impactful data stories. She is dedicated to the transformational promise of data literacy and was nominated for a Data Literacy Advocate of the Year Award through Data Literacy LLC. At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, she launched an NGO, [www.wnywifwarriors.com](http://www.wnywifwarriors.com), to help raise awareness around internet access and its relation to social determinants of health. In 2020, she was recognized by Rivery.io as one of 20 Emerging Influencers in 2020 for Big Data, Data Science, & Analytics.



psychology degree to provide her Korean co-teachers insight on effective teaching practices and engaging students in immersion learning.

**ALLYSA FULLER  
OLSEN '17** is the health center administrator and a member of the senior leadership team at Fox Run Orchard Park, a senior living residence.



**TAYLOR BELLAN '18** received the “25 Under 35” award from Saint Joseph Academy in Cleveland, Ohio.



She is an occupational therapist who works with stroke patients to help them re-learn basic skills. She has participated in service trips to Jamaica to work in the clinic at the Holy Spirit Foundation and is involved with the Miracle League, which creates wheelchair-accessible baseball fields and playgrounds for individuals with disabilities.

**BRITTANY SOULISKE '16** is serving as a guest English teacher in Busan, South Korea, where she helps expose students



to a foreign culture and assess English proficiency. She says she is using her

**NEW JOB? PROMOTION?  
WEDDING? RETIREMENT?  
LET YOUR CLASSMATES  
KNOW! SUBMIT YOUR  
CLASS NOTE TO  
DMENSIONS@DYC.EDU TO  
SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS.**

**SAMANTHA COHEN '19** accepted a new nursing position at Sisters of Charity Hospital as a member of the Supplemental Work and Transition team.

**JAMES NAGLE '19** is a physical therapist at Chautauqua Physical and Occupational Therapy, which has locations in Dunkirk, Jamestown, and Mayville, New York.

**ASHLEY OTT '19** joined the staff of Fillmore Physical Therapy in Fillmore, New York, as an occupational therapist.

**AJ WADE '20** joined Crowley Webb, a full-service marketing communications agency in Buffalo, as a junior analyst.



## Father Denning Achidi '14

**D**enning Achidi, a 2014 D'Youville graduate, was ordained as a Catholic priest in the Diocese of Buffalo on September 19, 2020. Originally from Cameroon, Father Denning came to the United States in 2001 after his family was granted political asylum. As a student at Montgomery College, he met a priest from the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, who at the time ran Holy Angels Church next to the D'Youville campus. Father Denning decided to transfer to D'Youville to

study philosophy while he lived with the Oblates and discerned his call to the priesthood. “In time, I discovered that diocesan priesthood is what I was called to do,” he says, and he entered Christ the King Seminary. He was recently appointed to be parochial vicar at Queen of Heaven Parish in West Seneca, New York. Father Denning has fond thoughts of his time at D'Youville. “It’s a place where people can feel at home,” he says. “It felt like home to me. The students, and faculty were very welcoming.”



# In memoriam

ROSE RANALLO SAPECKY '39  
MARY MARGARET MURRAY CHREN '42  
LEONA KEEGAN SCHWARTZ '43  
MARTHA MURRAY CRUMLISH '47  
ELIZABETH SUTTELL '48  
GRACE MAGHRAN LENAHAN '48  
ANN GRISANTI MORIARITY '49  
ANNE KEEFE RAICHE '49  
MARY JOAN BYRNE '50  
SISTER MARIAN M. ADRIAN GNSH '51  
MARILYN REPSHER '52  
BARBARA GUNNING JOHANSEN '54  
THERESA PAPA SHORT '56  
LEONA REED GONZALES '57  
TERESA SCHWAB MARGARONE '58  
MARY ANN CARLO JOYCE '59  
MAUREEN BURKE ROWLAND '61  
BARBARA HUSSEY REGAN '62  
MARNA DOCKUM BELLANCA '63  
ELAINE TURRI GRIFFITHS '63  
MAUREEN MCCARVILLE LEWIS '63  
JOAN PLANZ SPENCER '63  
MARY ANN DISCENZA '64  
JOAN COX MCCAFFREY '64  
CATHERINE L. MADDEN '66  
TERESA J. SIPONE '67  
BERNADETTE JORDAN PURSEL '69  
VINCENETTA VENTRESCA O'DONNELL '71  
JEANETTE SCALZO FERA '74  
DENNIS A. PINES '74  
SUSAN BENSON FELICE '75  
DIANNA QUINN JACOBS '77  
PATRICIA KOCH SCHMIDT '83  
JOAN ARDILLO CATALANO '85  
BEVERLEY PHILP '98  
VIRGINIA MAY CARL '05  
RYANNE SULLIVAN '14

The D'Youville community mourns the loss of **PATRICIA 'PAT' (LYONS) VAN DYKE** who passed away on August 1, 2020, at the age of 90. Pat, a graduate of the class of 1952, was known and loved by many throughout her 29-year career at D'Youville. Pat led major and planned giving for the college from 1986 until her retirement in 2015. During this time, she spent countless hours building relationships with fellow alumni and assisting families in creating endowed and memorial scholarships. Much of D'Youville's legacy of philanthropy and current alumni support is a testament to Pat's unwavering dedication to her alma mater. Pat received many awards and accolades during her time at D'Youville, including the Alumni Service award in 1980, the Anne Lum Distinguished Alumni Award in 1986, and the Delta Sigma Award in 2015. Pat's memory lives on in the hearts of generations of D'Youvillians who were blessed to know her. Pat is preceded by her husband James, and leaves nine beloved children, their partners, and 11 grandchildren.



**ALICE DUSZKIEWICZ, RN, BSN, MSN, PHD** passed away unexpectedly on September 15, 2020. Duszkievicz, an Army veteran, became a nurse in 1996 and served as a clinical assistant professor in the Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing since 2013. She was a versatile instructor who taught online, in the nursing skills lab, and in clinical settings, and was admired by her students for her knowledge and her care for patients. She served as an at-large member of the AAUP, and in recent months she contributed to the development of a new Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program for undergraduate nursing students at D'Youville.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

When I wrote my last D'Mensions article, we were only a couple of months into the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, several months later, the pandemic has left a wake of closed businesses, financial hardships, and, worst of all, death and sickness like we haven't seen in our lifetimes. I myself spent two weeks battling COVID-19 and all of its symptoms along with my wife and feel fortunate to have recovered.

However, we now have hope in the form of two vaccines that have been approved by the FDA to help stop the spread of COVID. This is a welcome development for our D'Youville nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who have been battling this disease on the front lines in our hospitals and primary care centers for nearly a year. D'Youville pharmacists will be among those helping administer the new vaccines alongside our other healthcare professionals. I thank each and every one of our healthcare heroes for your work during these very uncertain times.

On a brighter note, I do have a great update to provide our alumni about all that D'Youville has done over the past several months. D'Youville has not allowed the pandemic to slow its unprecedented growth. In late October, D'Youville purchased the former Holy Angels church and its campus which will be used to serve the community moving forward and expands the footprint of D'Youville's main campus. Construction of the Health Professions Hub continued as an essential project during the shutdown, and we expect to cut the ribbon in Spring 2021, which is right on target with pre-pandemic projections. Your alumni board toured the half-finished facility several months ago

and left energized and enthusiastic for our current and future students who will benefit from this state-of-the-art facility that will serve Buffalo's West Side.



I'm personally very excited about the ground-to-ceiling renovation of one of the beacons of the Western New York arts and cultural scene, the Kavinoky Theatre, which was recently completed. We're so lucky to have a world-class theatre on campus which consistently offers top-notch productions which will be enjoyed by students and patrons of the arts for many, many years.

We've also continued to move our athletics forward into the next tier to Division II. The athletics steering committee is planning for a visit from the NCAA this spring to see our progress and offer feedback on how we can continue to improve.

Your D'Youville Alumni Association Board of Directors has been meeting virtually since March. We are excited about all the goings-on of the institution and look forward to rolling up our sleeves and lending a hand when we are called upon to serve. We welcome any and all alumni to join us for our regular meetings to learn more about all of the exciting things going on at D'Youville and welcome applications to join the board to any alumni with an interest in giving back.

Wishing all of our alumni a happy and prosperous new year!

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, Sisters of Charity Hospital*

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*

Ryan Miller '05, '08, '11  
*Director of Student Persistence, D'Youville*

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*

Jonvier Whittington '19  
*Registered Nurse, ECMC*

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

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

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Natalie Fix '22  
*Nursing*



# D'YOUVILLE

DIVISION 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 WEEKEND

Let's try this again! We are deeply disappointed we were unable to celebrate 2020 Reunion Weekend in person, though we are grateful for those who joined us virtually. In the spirit of optimism, we now have a reason for an even bigger and better celebration this fall! Anniversary classes ending in 0, 1, 5, and 6 will all be specially recognized this year. Save the date for September 24-26 - as always, all D'Youville alumni are invited and encouraged to join in events throughout the weekend!

### ALUMNI AWARDS

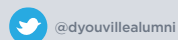
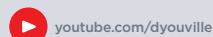
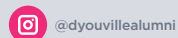
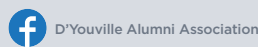
Do you know an outstanding alumnus/a deserving of recognition? Nominations for the 2021 Alumni Association Awards are open! Visit [alumni.dyouville.edu/alumni-awards](http://alumni.dyouville.edu/alumni-awards) for more information. Award winners will be recognized during Reunion Weekend.

### DISTANCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER

Sadly, our annual and much-anticipated Alumni Tea has been twice postponed. For the safety of all our guests we will forgo hosting an Alumni Tea this spring and look forward to reconnecting with you in the near future. Stay tuned for a new date!

### SAVE THE DATE

March 24 - Day of Giving  
May 16 - Commencement  
September 24-26 - Reunion Weekend



## *D'You Remember?*



Do you remember when the Koessler Administration Building was painted white? In 1985, the paint was removed to uncover the beautiful rose-colored brick we enjoy today. For the latest campus updates, see our cover story on pages 8-13.