

# D'MENSIONS

THE D'YOUVILLE MAGAZINE / FALL 2021

**A vision realized**





A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A living embodiment of our ideals

When I first arrived at D’Youville in 2016, I immediately felt the warmth and possibilities which exist among our community. The urban campus, the long history of service and commitment to mission, and the academic position of healthcare programs all described an institutional foundation with capacity to grow. With the appropriate partnerships and investments, it was clear D’Youville could become a thriving anchor of positivity for the West Side community and the greater world.



It was also evident momentous challenges lay ahead. The education sector was becoming increasingly competitive with an “enrollment cliff” predicting significant declines due to shifting population demographics over the next decade. Particularly as a small, private university, market outlooks were grim, even before the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the conditions requiring dynamic changes to the way we attract, educate, and retain students in higher education.

The aging boomer population was also creating massive demand for healthcare workers, to an extent that outpaced the rate at which higher education could train healthcare professionals. Unbeknownst to us at the time, the COVID-19 pandemic would disruptively accelerate this demand for workers like rarely ever experienced throughout history. It was clear that D’Youville not only needed to scale up the facilities available for instruction, but we also needed to form new ventures and partner with Providers to align greater opportunities for students’ clinical placements—a key limiting factor to scaling enrollment capacity in the high-needs healthcare fields.

Looking outward to our neighboring West Side community, it became increasingly evident that D’Youville was uniquely positioned in an area of healthcare inequity.

There were very few specialized Providers on the West Side, leaving a community of individuals with underserved needs. Moreover, the services that were available were geographically distributed, requiring long commutes on public transit that largely inconvenienced the coordination of care and prevented the delivery of health services for a large quantity of individuals with refugee status.

Attempting to tackle these multifaceted challenges was an incredibly difficult objective. However, through many discussions, talk-back sessions, presidential salons, and other communication efforts, the faculty, staff, and administration at D’Youville fearlessly embarked on the “moonshot” – a bold, visionary idea to simultaneously address the intricate labyrinth of needs among many stakeholders.

And now, after three years of meeting, planning, designing, and constructing, the moonshot has been actualized. Words cannot express the happiness and pride I feel for having this innovative state-of-the-art facility available to both our students and community.

As you will see throughout this issue of D’Mensions, the Hub is truly a one-of-a-kind facility. All spaces within the Hub

serve multiple purposes, with the primary emphases being to deliver care and offer students high-impact experiential learning opportunities. You will see a flurry of activity, for instance, PharmD students taking care of customers in Vital Pharmacy; nursing students shadowing doctors in Sisters Health Center; PT, OT, and Chiro students providing therapies in Thrive Wellness and Rehabilitation Center; and nutrition and dietetics students working with the community in the D’Lish Demonstration Kitchen.

We have so many people to thank for helping us make the Healthcare Professions Hub a reality. First, we received significant support from the State of New York with the largest DASNY grant ever awarded to an institution in Western New York. The \$5 million award became a cornerstone of our project financing plan. Additionally, our partner, Catholic Health, provided \$5 million in support and runs the 10,000-square-foot Sisters Health Center on the first floor. Many other leading foundations have also provided significant financial support for both the building and special programming. They include: KeyBank/First Niagara Foundation, Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, James H. Cummings Foundation, George Alden Trust Foundation, JM McDonald Foundation, and the Charles D. and Mary A. Bauer Foundation. Numerous individuals also shared philanthropic support and you can see their names on page 16 of this issue.

The Hub is the embodiment of the ideals we hold dear at D’Youville – education, service, equity, and commitment to the greater good. We hope you can join us on campus soon to see it for yourself.

Sincerely,

*Lorrie A. Clemo*

LORRIE A. CLEMO, PHD  
D’YOUVILLE PRESIDENT

Hub commemorative issue



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AROUND CAMPUS	2
THE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS HUB	
COVER STORY A vision realized	6
MAKING AN IMPACT Hub Heroes	16
MAKING AN IMPACT Hub Pathways program	18
FACULTY IN THE HUB	20
STUDENTS IN THE HUB	22
THE FINISHING TOUCH	24
ATHLETICS ROUNDUP	26
THE D’YOUVILLE KAVINOKY THEATRE	27
ALUMNI UPDATE	28
CLASS NOTES	30





# 2021 commencement celebrated at Highmark Stadium

D'Youville honored its 2021 and 2020 graduates with a special Commencement ceremony held at the home of the Buffalo Bills, Highmark Stadium, on May 16.

Nearly 600 undergraduate and graduate students took part in the ceremony, with many 2020 graduates returning for this one-of-a-kind celebration. Shari McDonough '16, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo, served as the commencement speaker. The evening was filled with

surprises, including the "Voice of the Buffalo Bills," John Murphy, serving as MC, a performance by local artist and "The Voice" singer Cami Clune, commemorative jerseys, a flyover by Mercy Flight to honor first responders, healthcare workers, and veterans, and fireworks at the end.

More Commencement photos can be viewed at D'Youville's Flickr account, [flickr.com/photos/dyouville](https://www.flickr.com/photos/dyouville).

Congratulations, D'Youville Graduates!



# Back to our regularly scheduled programming

After a long, difficult 18 months, which nevertheless proved the strength and resilience of the D'Youville community, we are thrilled to announce that all classes and operations will resume full-time, on-campus, for the Fall 2021 semester. D'Youville has been ahead of the curve with returning to on-campus instruction, with most classes resuming last spring, but this fall will mark a full and complete return to normal operations. Masks will be required for everyone while in classrooms, labs, designated student service offices, and while riding the RedBus. This protocol was put in place as a precautionary measure due to rising COVID cases and will be reevaluated throughout the semester. All returning students are required to show proof of vaccination and those who still need one can receive it for free on campus at Vital Pharmacy in the Health Professions Hub.



# New senior leadership announced

Ralph O. Mueller, PhD, was named executive vice president for strategic initiatives, beginning in June. He is responsible for leading the articulation, planning, and implementation of D'Youville's institutional priorities.



RALPH O. MUELLER, PhD

Mueller joins the D'Youville community with a 34-year career in higher education as a teacher-scholar and administrator at a broad range of public and private institutions. Previously, he was professor of education and psychology at Purdue University Northwest, a recently merged institution where he also served as inaugural provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Prior, Mueller was professor and dean of the University of Hartford's College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions.

Natalia F. Blank, PhD, is D'Youville's new vice president for academic affairs. She will work closely with university leadership to ensure that D'Youville continues to climb in national rankings for student social mobility and academic excellence.



NATALIA F. BLANK, PhD

Blank will also take on an active role in the creation of new academic programs to best meet the needs of future students while also serving current students by strengthening existing programs within the university's four schools.

Blank previously served as associate vice president for academic affairs at Norwich University where she also taught in and served as chair for the department of

chemistry and biochemistry, was the founding director of the Norwich University honors program, and led decennial accreditation efforts. Additional experiences include roles at Dartmouth College, Middlebury College, and the Russian Federal Nuclear Center.





# Corporate Partnerships offer tuition benefits for local businesses

D'Youville has launched a Corporate Partnership Program to help local businesses offer generous educational benefits to their employees and their families. Corporate Partners will be eligible to offer their employees, their spouse, and dependents a 25% tuition discount for in-seat D'Youville programs or 10% tuition reduction for online programs. The program is available to any company with 100 or more employees and is completely free.

The Corporate Partnership Program offers discounts for both bachelor's and master's degree programs, with the exception of Physician Assistant and Nurse Practitioner graduate programs.

"As we start to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the challenges companies are facing is attracting and retaining employees. Our Corporate Partners will be able to offer their employees a terrific benefit of reduced tuition not only for their employees, but their families as well," said Jeremiah Grabowski, D'Youville's dean of online learning.

Additionally, D'Youville has partnered with Peanut Butter, an employee benefit program, which offers student loan payback assistance. D'Youville recently added student loan assistance as a benefit to its own employees, and all program partners automatically receive a percentage off all fees during the first year of service with Peanut Butter.



For more information, visit [dyc.edu/about/corporate-partnerships](https://dyc.edu/about/corporate-partnerships) or contact Kimberly Boulden, assistant director of online learning, at [bouldenk@dyc.edu](mailto:bouldenk@dyc.edu).

# Jerge named Nurse of Distinction

Emily Hart Jerge, MS, RN, CHSE, clinical associate professor in D'Youville's Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing, was named the 2021 Nurse of Distinction in Education by the Professional Nurses Association of Western New York (PNAWNY).

Jerge was recognized for her innovative use of technology as a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator. She helped implement virtual learning and simulation experiences for her students during the COVID-19 pandemic, which were brand-new clinical environments for both students and faculty. In her role as clinical coordinator, she works closely with local hospital systems to increase their number of Dedicated Education Units.

Jerge received a master of science in nursing from D'Youville in 2013 and joined the faculty full-time in 2014. She was named the Nursing Faculty of the Year for 2017-18.



## DO YOU GET THE 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.



# Four new members named to Board of Trustees

Four individuals have joined the D'Youville Board of Trustees for three-year terms.

Melissa Agnes is the founder and CEO of The Crisis Ready Institute, a public benefit corporation focused on crisis management and communication. A recognized leading authority on crisis preparedness, reputation management, and brand protection, Agnes is the creator of the Crisis Ready™ Model and author of "Crisis Ready: Building an Invincible Brand in an Uncertain World."

Ofo Ezeugwu is the founder and CEO of WhoseYourLandlord, a website that provides landlord, property management, and apartment reviews for areas across the United States. Ezeugwu has been recognized as a rising star and exceptional Black entrepreneur by Techstar, NBCUniversal, New York On Tech, the African American Chamber of Commerce, BET, and Black Enterprise.

Joyce Markiewicz is executive vice president and chief business development officer at Catholic Health. A 1980 graduate of the D'Youville School of Nursing, Markiewicz is Catholic Health's chief liaison for D'Youville's Health Professions Hub, which includes the Sisters Health Center at D'Youville. Markiewicz has been named a Woman of Influence by Business First and recognized on their lists of Buffalo's Most Powerful Women and Most Influential People in 2014 through 2021.

Bart McGloin is partner-in-charge of the assurance services department at Dopkins & Company LLP. McGloin specializes in



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MELISSA AGNES, OFO EZEUGWU, BART MCGLOIN, JOYCE MARKIEWICZ

forensic accounting matters including fraud and embezzlement cases, litigation support services, and fraud prevention techniques. A 1987 D'Youville graduate with a bachelor's degree in accounting, McGloin previously served as the chair of the St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute Board of Trustees.

# Transition to Division II continues

Great news, Saints! In July, the NCAA Division II Membership Committee approved D'Youville's continued transition to becoming a Division II member.

"We are thrilled the NCAA has approved D'Youville Athletics to advance to year two of the Provisional Membership process to Division II," says Ona Halladay, director of athletics. "This

has been an entire campus effort, and we are eager to continue the path to becoming a full member of the East Coast Conference and Division II."

Schools transitioning from one classification to another must follow a three-year provisional period, each year carrying success thresholds. The 2021-22 academic year will be the Saints' second in a three-year transition period before becoming a full

Division II and East Coast Conference member starting in 2023-24.

Currently, D'Youville sponsors 15 varsity sports, and spring 2022 will bring the debut of men's lacrosse to the Saints' portfolio. Thirteen of the Saints' sports are sponsored by the East Coast Conference; only men's volleyball and women's crew do not compete under the ECC banner.



# HUB

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## A vision realized

The Health Professions Hub — our state-of-the-art, game-changing center for healthcare, education, and community engagement — is now a reality. What was once just an ambitious concept is now a combination of bricks, mortar, concrete and steel, but with a heartbeat that is reflective of our D'Youville mission, to educate the next generation of healthcare providers while serving our neighbors on the West Side.

BY CATHY WILDE  
PHOTOS BY TOM WOLF







PHOTO: CAMERON AIRHART

“WE THOUGHT NIK WALLEDA WAS THE PERFECT EMBODIMENT OF EVERYTHING WE ARE DOING WITH THE HUB – TAKING RISKS, PUSHING BOUNDARIES, AND REACHING NEW HEIGHTS,”

NATE MARTON, VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

President Lorrie A. Clemo refers to the Health Professions Hub as a “moonshot” – the type of project almost too large to conceive, but which takes bold steps to address a significant need. Since the start of her tenure as President, Clemo saw not just one need but many needs, in fact, and with D’Youville’s leading position in the healthcare field, envisioned multiple services under one roof that could provide much-needed care to Buffalo’s West Side, while providing students with training and clinical opportunities and simultaneously helping to fill the healthcare worker shortage gap in our region.

“Three years ago, the faculty, staff, administrators, and Trustees of D’Youville saw an opportunity. We opened our eyes to the possibility and we collectively decided to refine our future in a way that aligned with the mission of our past,” Clemo said at the Hub’s Grand Opening on June 17, echoing St. Marguerite d’Youville’s motto, “Never refuse to

serve.” We recognized the need to reach out to our community and realized we could be part of a solution to the West Side’s limited access to quality care.”

The Grand Opening was a huge celebration for this extraordinary new facility, marked by a special guest appearance by world-famous aerialist Nik Wallenda, who walked a 320-foot-long wire between Montante

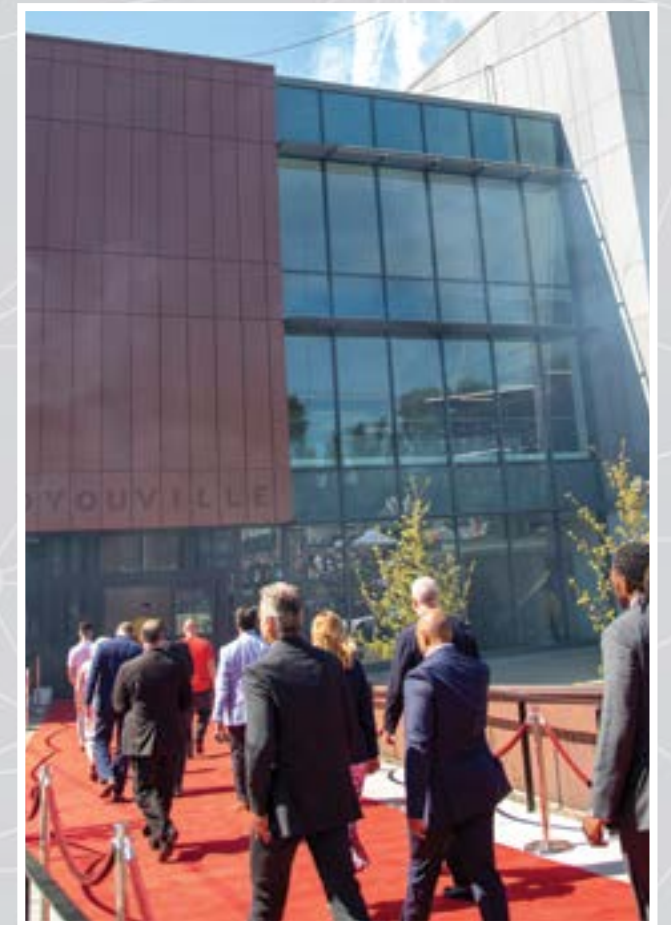


Pictured with President Lorrie Clemo, State Senator Tim Kennedy, D’Youville Class of 1999, was instrumental in securing state support for the Hub through a \$5 million Higher Education Capital (HECap) grant.

Family Library and the Hub to “deliver” the Hub’s building key to President Clemo. The walk was followed by a block party where West Side residents were welcomed to the campus to enjoy free carnival rides and games, music, treats, and dinner.

“We thought Nik Wallenda was the perfect embodiment of everything we are doing with the Hub – taking risks, pushing boundaries, and reaching new heights,” says Nathan Marton, vice president of operations, who led the Hub construction project.

In his remarks at the opening, Marton noted that the number of feet Wallenda traversed – 320 – was the same as D’Youville’s campus address, 320 Porter Avenue, and that “2021 is the 320th anniversary of the birth of St. Marguerite d’Youville ... Nik was destined to be at D’Youville today. St. Marguerite called him to be with us.”

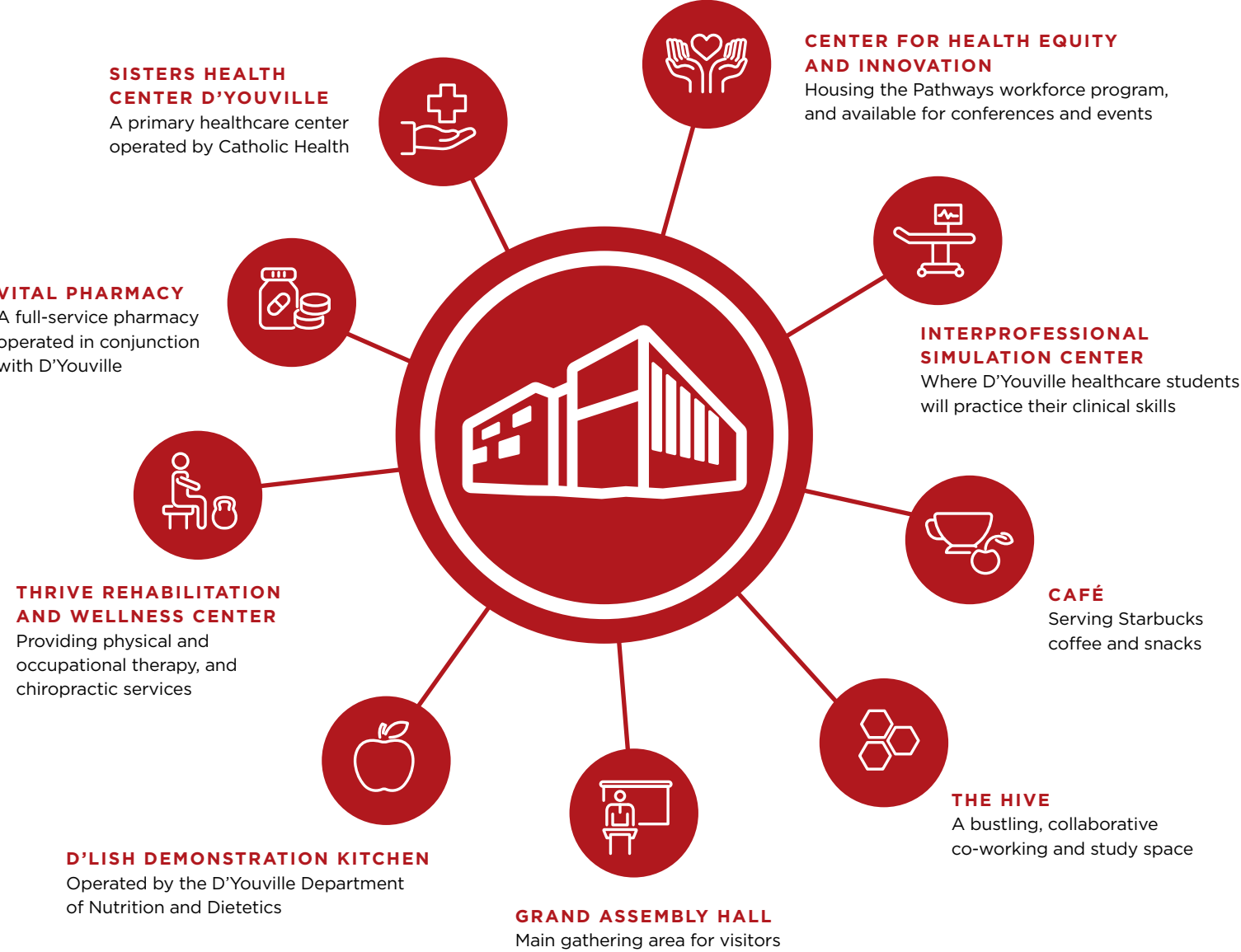


**SCENES FROM THE HUB GRAND OPENING** Clockwise from top left: Student tour guides show their enthusiasm for the Hub; guests walk the red carpet into the officially opened Hub; students and guests view the Simulation Center; (from left) Joyce Markiewicz, President Clemo, Nik Wallenda, and Catholic Health CEO Mark Sullivan address reporters; D’Youville mascot Saint gets a tour of Vital Pharmacy; local dignitaries including (from left) Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, Common Council Majority Leader David Rivera, State Assemblymember Jonathan Rivera, Catholic Health’s Markiewicz and Sullivan, and State Senator Sean Ryan.



# Get to know the Hub

The Health Professions Hub is providing a new model of holistic, patient-centered care,” Clemo says. “It is remarkably rare to see this diversity of experiences all working in a single healthcare ecosystem under one roof. It goes without saying that this high degree of interprofessional education will define the next generation of healthcare excellence and its workers.”



## “THE HUB IS GOING TO TRANSFORM THE WAY D’YOUVILLE EDUCATES THE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS OF THE FUTURE...”

**ADAM G. GRUPKA, DMSc, PA-C**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATION IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS HUB  
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT



Located on the corner of West Avenue and Connecticut Street, the Hub is perfectly situated for easy access by D'Youville students and local residents. “The Hub has been strategically designed and situated in a place to address the critical healthcare inequities of our home, the West Side of Buffalo,” Clemo says. “We are working hard to make healthcare readily accessible, extremely reliable, and exceptionally comprehensive. This is a ‘one-stop shop’ for health and wellness.”

Not only that, says Adam G. Grupka, DMSc, PA-C, the Hub’s director of healthcare and education, “The Hub is going to transform the way D'Youville educates the health professionals of the future by immersing students into interprofessional education from the moment they step on campus. At the Hub, the students will be exposed to the collaboration it takes amongst all members of the healthcare team to improve health outcomes and patient satisfaction.”

**SISTERS HEALTH CENTER - D’YOUVILLE,**  
The “anchor tenant” of the Hub is Sisters Health Center D'Youville, a full-service primary care clinic run by Catholic Health located on the first floor.

“We recognize that this is an area that has been underserved and the fact that there are many immigrant families here,” commented Joyce Markiewicz, chief development officer at Catholic Health. “We wanted to help create that vision that Dr. Clemo initiated and we embraced, to be able to bring the community into a space and not only provide them healthcare but also help them raise themselves up, so they can have a better life.”

Markiewicz, a 1980 D'Youville graduate in nursing, played a critical role in forging the partnership which helped create Sisters Health Center D'Youville. “It is only fitting that a first-of-its kind Health Professions Hub would partner with Sisters Hospital, the first hospital in Buffalo, New York, founded in 1848 by the daughters of

Charity of St. Vincent DePaul,” Markiewicz said at the grand opening. “This partnership between Catholic Health and D'Youville pays homage to the women religious who came before us, who were also committed to serving their communities, caring for the sick, and providing opportunities for education through the development of schools and colleges.”

Maria Orellana, MD, is the lead physician at Sisters Health Center that provides comprehensive care to West Side families. Dr. Orellana’s comprehensive approach to wellness aligns closely with the intentional multi- and inter-disciplinary approach to care which was embedded into the Hub’s planning and design. The examination rooms are larger than ordinary clinic rooms, designed to accommodate a larger multi-discipline collaborative care team, including D'Youville healthcare students interning or fulfilling clinical requirements alongside Catholic Health staff, and other providers from the on-site pharmacy, wellness center, or demonstration kitchen. Best of all, patients who need prescriptions, rehabilitation therapies, or healthy meal plans can access those, only a few steps away.

**VITAL PHARMACY**  
Across the hall from Sisters Health Center sits Vital Pharmacy, a uniquely beautiful space filled with cutting-edge technology. “We want to be Buffalo’s premier digital pharmacy, embracing technology whenever possible to bring the most advanced and effective care to our community, patients, and caregivers,” says Michael Mac Evoy, PharmD, director of pharmacy services at the Hub. “Our future-forward stance promotes the best practices in medication delivery and adherence support.” Vital’s digital methods of scanning and filling prescriptions greatly reduces the opportunity for error in filling medication prescriptions, more apt to occur in the manual process most pharmacies use.



## “WHEN WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY, WE LOOKED AT IT AS SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE HEALTHCARE”

**JOYCE KONTRABECKI MARKIEWICZ '80**  
CHIEF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, CATHOLIC HEALTH



One of the most important aspects of Vital's services is the individualized packaging to help patients stay on track. With "medication adherence packaging," patients do not receive separate bottles for each medication. Instead, they will receive a roll of small packages which group medications together based on the time and date they must be taken. For example, if you take three pills in the morning, one at lunch, and three at dinner, your medications will be grouped in three pouches, date- and time-stamped, for each time of day.

"Medication adherence, or taking your medications as prescribed, can affect your health outcomes, quality of life, risk of being hospitalized, and overall healthcare costs," Mac Evoy says. "The way your medications are packaged greatly enhances your ability to take your medication as prescribed, which in turn increases your ability and likelihood to achieve your health-related goals, such as lowering your blood pressure which can rely on the consistency of medication intake."



**"OUR FUTURE-FORWARD STANCE PROMOTES THE BEST PRACTICES IN MEDICATION DELIVERY AND ADHERENCE SUPPORT."**

**MICHAEL S. MAC EVOY, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, CDE**  
DIRECTOR, VITAL PHARMACY  
DIRECTOR OF EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION, CLINICAL  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT** Maxine Sroda MS '19, RDN, CDN, who co-runs the Nutritional Empowerment program in D'Lish, chops some healthy food; actors from Dramatic Solutions role play in the Simulation Center's hospital room; community members take part in the Balanced Boxing program in Thrive.



**"THE HUB CONNECTS ACADEMICS, HEALTHCARE AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO COLLABORATE AND MEET THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY."**

**CHRIS NENTARZ, PT, CSTS, NASM-PES, CSTI**  
DIRECTOR, THRIVE REHABILITATION AND WELLNESS CENTER

As with all of the medical service spaces in the Hub, Vital Pharmacy is now part of our clinical placement pharmacy inventory where D'Youville pharmacy students can get clinical hours. To see what they say about the experience, see pages 22-23.

**D'LISH DEMONSTRATION KITCHEN.**  
"At D'Lish, we want people to learn that 'food is medicine' - how it can be used to manage and prevent disease and how proper nutrition can promote good health," says Megan Whelan, associate dean of the School of Health Professions and director of D'Lish.

Located just down the hall from the pharmacy, the D'Lish Demonstration Kitchen is a place where local residents can work with D'Youville students and faculty from the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics to learn more about healthy cooking and eating.

"We consider good nutrition to be just as an important piece of the puzzle in regard to good health as the other services in the Hub, like primary care in Sisters Health Center, medication management in Vital Pharmacy, or physical activity in Thrive," Whelan says. "We aim to bring together the community and the training of future dietitians in a space where everyone can feel comfortable."

D'Lish offers a plethora of nutritional guidance, including free cooking classes,

food demonstrations, medically tailored meal delivery, nutritional counseling, a weekly farmers market, and grocery bag deliveries. Additionally, it is the home and distribution center for the "food pharmacy" - a food scarcity and wellness program designed to help those in need.

See pages 20-21 to learn more about the two faculty members running many of these programs at D'Lish.

**THRIVE REHABILITATION AND WELLNESS CENTER**  
Patients who are in need of physical therapy, occupational therapy, or chiropractic services are able to obtain those services at the Thrive Rehabilitation and Wellness Center, located on the second floor of the Hub. Equipped with the latest equipment and technology, Thrive offers a full range of rehabilitation services for people of all ages and conditions. "We care for the whole patient," says Thrive's director Chris Nentarz, PT, CSTS, NASM-PES, CSTI. "Wellness extends beyond the absence of illness. Whether returning to walking or running, we are prepared to meet your needs. Whether 6 years old or 96, our team is unified towards your goals."

"Thrive follows three overarching themes: care, comprehend, and connect," says Nentarz. "Care represents the services offered and the mission to serve the underserved. Comprehend refers to our

understanding of the benefits of interdisciplinary medicine. Our collaborative environment improves patient outcomes and sets the standard for modern rehabilitation and wellness programs. The last 'C' may be the most important - now more than ever we recognize the need for connection. The Hub connects academics, healthcare, and industry partners to collaborate and meet the challenges of today."

As is the pharmacy and health center, Thrive is open to the public so anyone can access the services, not just patients seen at Sisters Health Center. "Whether through our Student Run Free Clinic or during an advanced clinical experience, our methods offer healthcare students the opportunity to develop into the practitioners and leaders our communities need," Nentarz says.

Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and chiropractic students are not the only students who have the ability to work in Thrive. Other healthcare majors,



PHOTO: SARAH GARCIA

**"AT D'LISH, WE WANT PEOPLE TO LEARN HOW 'FOOD IS MEDICINE' AND HOW IT CAN BE USED TO MANAGE AND PREVENT DISEASE AND HOW GOOD NUTRITION CAN PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH."**

**MEGAN WHELAN, PHD, RDN, CDN**  
ASSOCIATE DEAN, SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, COORDINATED PROGRAM IN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS, NUTRITION AND DIETETICS DEPARTMENT



**“THROUGH THE PATHWAYS PROGRAM, WE HOPE TO HELP PEOPLE OUT OF DEAD-END JOBS AND ONTO A PATH OF WELL-PAYING, STABLE CAREERS...”**

**RUSSELL DAVIDSON**  
FOUNDING DIRECTOR, PATHWAYS PROGRAM



such as physician assistant, biology, and anatomy, are able to receive training and clinic experience as well. To read what they think of Thrive, see pages 22-23.

## INTERPROFESSIONAL SIMULATION CENTER

D’Youville’s interprofessional approach to educating our students has a new home where that work can be showcased: the Interprofessional Simulation Center located on the Hub’s second floor. Students from all of the healthcare majors at D’Youville – nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic, physician assistant, and nutrition and dietetics – take part in the simulations, which are a critical part of their training.

The 4,700-square-foot space features sleek and contemporary meeting spaces, but the heart of the Simulation Center is the area where faculty can configure up to six different patient “rooms” for

training. The modular technology, with moveable walls on tracks, allows the rooms to be set up in a variety of shapes and sizes. Rooms are outfitted in various ways, such as a home living room, doctor’s office, outpatient clinic, or hospital room.

Actors from a local troupe called Dramatic Solutions often take the parts of patients during simulations and are trained to act out different, sometimes challenging, scenarios, just like providers might see in the real world. The sessions are recorded and then interactively critiqued with faculty and fellow students so that everyone can learn what was and was not effective. The whole experience occurs in a “safe environment,” in simulation, therefore allowing students to hone both their technical and interactive skills with patients without risk.

The Simulation Center has the latest, state-of-the-art technology to advance the boundaries in which simulations

can be presented, including a “black box” room where 360-degree digital images can represent an unlimited number of different spaces.

## CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY AND INNOVATION

One of the major focal points of the Hub’s planning and construction was for D’Youville to create a physical location to connect with our community. Located on the third floor of the Hub is the Center for Health Equity and Innovation, a conferencing and educational arena that houses D’Youville’s Pathways Program for workforce development in healthcare professions.

The Pathways program is a workforce training and support program that was established through a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation. It is designed for individuals who are new English-language speakers, are unemployed or underemployed, or who have been out of school for many years, or didn’t complete high school. It currently offers certificate programs in pharmacy technician, community health worker, and nursing assistant.

“Through the Pathways program, we hope to help people out of dead-end jobs and onto a path of well-paying, stable careers,” says Russell Davidson, founding director of the program. For much more about the Pathways program, see pages 18-19.

The Center for Health Equity and Innovation also serves as the campus’s largest event space and includes multiple breakout and conference rooms, flexible furniture to meet the needs of varying space layouts, and a warming service kitchen to facilitate light food needs. The space is perfect for hosting conferences to discuss new ideas and solutions for addressing equity in healthcare and throughout society.



**“THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS HUB, IN ALL ITS ACTIVITIES, WILL AID THOSE IN DISTRESS, BRING HOPE TO THOSE IN NEED, OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL, AND SPREAD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS ACROSS OUR GREAT CITY AND REGION”**

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



# The future of healthcare education

After turning that original bold idea into a reality, the Health Professions Hub is finally open for business and it will transform healthcare education and delivery in Western New York and beyond. It is a model of transformative, ambitious, “moonshot” thinking and action – and it will make a life-changing difference in both the lives of our students and our community.

“I believe the Health Professions Hub will be recognized as a national leader and strengthen our community by providing

accessible, affordable, innovative, and collaborative healthcare to all,” says Adam Grupka. “The Hub is an outward-facing building which invites the community to not only have access to healthcare, but also to be a part of educating the health professionals of the future.”

“The Hub is more than just a building with a clinic,” says Joyce Markiewicz. “It is a beacon for both students and the community, a place to learn and to educate, a place to heal and be healed, and a place

to gain the confidence and skills that are so important for tomorrow’s workforce.”

President Clemo summed it up best at the opening celebration: “The Health Professions Hub, in all its activities, will aid those in distress, bring hope to those in need, offer opportunity for all, and spread health and happiness across our great city and region. D’Youville remains committed to our founding call embodied within these walls: We must never refuse to serve.”



MAKING AN IMPACT

Our (Hub) Heroes

Not long ago the Health Professions Hub was simply a moonshot – a little spark of ‘what if’ in the minds of D’Youville’s leaders. Just three years later that idea has become a profound reality – but not without the support of countless donors and partners. Without philanthropy, projects like the Hub would not be possible.

Funders who supported the construction of the Health Professions Hub didn’t just offer capital support. Their gifts ensure the Hub will have real community outcomes in four key areas:

HEALTH EQUITY AND INNOVATION

The Center for Health Equity and Innovation on the third floor serves as a conference venue and a think tank where leaders from throughout the world will incubate new ideas and solutions to address equity in social and health outcomes.

WORKFORCE AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

D’Youville is ranked in the Top 100 in the nation for social mobility of our graduates. We know how to provide education that results in enhanced economic circumstances for individuals and families. Embedded in the Hub is Pathways – a workforce development program to improve quality of life for even the lowest income residents of our community.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Hub sits upon a bedrock of research about community health right here in Buffalo. From diabetes to obesity to heart health, the Hub tackles real health disparities faced by our residents, supporting the whole person rather than just treating a disease.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

One of the first in the nation, the Hub is akin to a teaching hospital where medical students learn and work alongside practitioners. Our teaching clinic – Sisters Health Center – and state-of-the-art Simulations Center not only benefit D’Youville students but can be broadcast out to locations across the state.

One family’s legacy of giving



Mom had such fond memories of D’Youville,” says Nora Marino, who made a gift to the Health Professions Hub in memory of her mother, Helen Jendrasiak McBride ‘50. “She met her lifelong friends there. Growing up we always knew, though they didn’t live near each other, that mom’s three closest friends were from D’Youville. I am even named after one of them.”

Helen passed away in 2010, but in 2004 established the Emily Jendrasiak Endowed Scholarship in honor of her cousin who financially supported her education at D’Youville during a time when few women were able to pursue a degree. Nora is proud to carry on her mother’s legacy of giving.



Thank you

D’Youville is humbled by the commitment of our generous Hub Heroes – donors who committed at least \$5,000 to one or more of these focus areas. Our Hub Heroes and capital donors include:

CATHOLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS  
CHARLES D. & MARY A. BAUER FAMILY FOUNDATION  
DORMITORY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
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LORRIE CLEMO, PHD  
ANDREW DORN, JR.  
TIMOTHY KANE  
CECELIA KOHLMEIER ‘69 IN MEMORY OF BERNARD WAKEFIELD  
NORA MARINO IN HONOR OF HELEN MCBRIDE ‘50  
NATHAN MARTON  
PHILIP PERNA, LINDA PERNA BALL, AND MARY JO PERNA

D’Youville would also like to thank the following annual donors who designated their gift to the Health Professions Hub:

ROBERT M. BENNETT  
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MARGARET MACHON ‘58  
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KAREN PANZARELLA, PHD  
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CORDELIA ROSENBERG ‘67, PHD  
MIMI STEADMAN, EDD  
MAUREEN STRAIGHT ‘67  
AUDREY WHALEN ‘69

— ANNEMARIE HAUMESSER, EDD

HUB PARTNER IN CARING

Cecelia Scuto Kohlmeier, BS ‘69, MS ‘88

Even before she worked as a teenage candy-striper at Kenmore Mercy Hospital, Cecelia Scuto Kohlmeier set her sights on nursing. When her Catholic school principal asked returning students what they wanted to be when they grew up, she would write down the same thing — “a nurse” — year after year. Two of her aunts were nurses at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, where Kohlmeier first attended nursing classes.

It was a calling to help others, says the Buffalo native. “I was raised in a family that taught you to go forward and give forward.”

That spirit is reflected in Kohlmeier’s distinguished career as a nurse, teacher, and healthcare administrator, and in a recent \$25,000 challenge gift she made during D’Youville’s 2021 Day of Giving, in honor of her partner, Dr. Bernard “Dick” Wakefield. She also gave \$35,000 to the Health Professions Hub to fund one of its conference rooms, to be named after her and Wakefield, who died in 2018.

“I wanted to honor Dick because he was such a good, kind and generous person,” Kohlmeier says modestly, noting their shared love of travel that took them on motorcycle trips throughout Europe, New Zealand and Canada. “He took good care of me and widened my world.”

Their partnership in caring began when the two met at Kenmore Mercy, years after she worked there while attending D’Youville as a nursing undergraduate. “They were very good to me, and encouraged young women to get their bachelor’s,” she says, recalling how the Sisters in admissions helped her navigate tuition and earn credits through Mercy, where she worked

full-time while taking classes including history, statistics and public health.

“They encouraged you to try different things. Once you further your education, it instills you to do more,” she says.

And more she did. After graduating, she was assigned to Kenmore Mercy’s intensive care unit and eventually promoted to evening administrator at the hospital, returning to D’Youville to complete a master science in 1988. Kohlmeier built a varied career in Erie County public health and corrections, overseeing the county’s STD/HIV/TB clinics, Physical Handicap Program and Medicaid unit and serving as Director of Correctional Health for the county holding center and its correctional facility in Alden, New York. A former member of the D’Youville College Alumni Board, Kohlmeier has also served as a clinical instructor for the school’s senior nursing students.

Wakefield was a well-respected and loved WNY internist whose Amherst practice, Kohlmeier says, was one of the first in the area with labs and exam rooms under one roof—similar to the interconnected clinical and community spaces within the Hub.

He also strongly believed in supporting education and the arts, volunteering his time at Shea’s Theatre and with Habitat for Humanity.

Having toured the Hub before its grand opening in June, Kohlmeier is enthusiastic about its potential to help bring D’Youville and the local community even closer together.

It’s also something Wakefield would have been excited to see after a lifetime spent



PHOTO: TOM WOLF

“ I WAS RAISED IN A FAMILY THAT TAUGHT YOU TO GO FORWARD AND GIVE FORWARD. ”

advocating for interdisciplinary approaches to medicine, community and culture.

“It makes me feel good that I can do this for Dick,” she says, “to pay forward what he did and remember who he was.”

— LAUREN NEWKIRK MAYNARD



## HEALTH PROFESSIONS HUB PATHWAYS PROGRAM

# For community, for people, for jobs

The Hub's Pathways Program is an initiative formed and funded specifically to train and support people who are new English-language speakers and/or are unemployed or underemployed for career paths.

Pathways currently offers technical training in three health care professions: community healthcare, nursing, and pharmacy. The program also helps participants gain "soft skills" they may need for success.

Russell Davidson, founding director, helped develop Pathways after D'Youville's School of Health Professions faculty developed the concept, and he also helped secure the program's initial funding, through a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation. The program closely aligns with the Hub's multipronged mission to empower and increase health equity and innovation, workforce and social mobility, community health, and health professions education.

"One of the Hub's goals is breaking down traditional healthcare barriers in the communities around D'Youville, especially among lower income and underrepresented minorities," Davidson says. "It will make a strong impact on public and community health in a neighborhood that really needs a boost."

Tony Spina is the coordinator of Pathways, and a long-time D'Youville administrator. He agrees that the Pathways model is a win-win-win for D'Youville, participants, and the community, city, and region. "Pathways is designed to train and educate people to enter the healthcare industry with an entry-level position, and also to address healthcare professional needs of WNY," he says. "There's a worsening shortage of people to fill available jobs."

The Pathways program offers people from the community help finding well-

paying jobs, inspiration to pursue further education, and feelings of agency. In its first year and half, the program has enrolled almost 100 participants. Many of them have become certified post-training, have received assistance with job placement, as well as access to ongoing support. Most primarily reside in Buffalo's East and West Sides. Other Pathways participants included D'Youville students exploring their options, and working professionals seeking to deepen their understanding of community health work.

"The community healthcare worker (CHW) program is offered with our partner, CoNECT (Community Network for Engagement, Connections and Transformation)," says Davidson. "The training helps to address problems that COVID-19 laid bare, such as the health equity gap...it engages people of and from the community, educating and training them in healthcare. It provides credibility and comfort for the community."

The trainings vary in length, from four days to eight weeks. For participants, the goals are clear-cut: to lead them first to an entry-level job, and then either to a long-term career or inspire them to return for more education in order to pursue higher-level jobs.

Hiyam Darbo is a student at D'Youville's School of Pharmacy, studying for a doctoral degree (PharmD). Spina asked her to join Pathways, both as a participant and a mentor/tutor. "Another of Pathways' goals is to provide community health training to students who will work in the Hub, increasing their knowledge and skills to work more impactfully with our trainees and community. Given Hiyam's career goals and aspirations, we invited her to the program," says Spina.

Darbo grew up on Buffalo's West Side; her family came to this country from Iraq over

20 years ago. "During the training, all the participants shared close conversations; it's important to be connected, and to have those discussions. I recommend this program to anyone interested in building community," she says.

Emmanuel Uwimana, 21, also took the training; now in his second year at D'Youville, he heard about it from his adviser. "I haven't decided on a major yet," says Uwimana, who is originally from Uganda, and now lives on the West Side with his family. "I took the CHW training course to try something different; I met people from the community, many of them older. They had a lot to share.

"During the training everyone learns from each other; you teach me, and I teach you," adds Uwimana. "Everyone had to participate. And we listened to each other. I felt like I was respected, like I had 'voice.' It was good, especially because I am new to the country. The experience helped me become more connected to Buffalo."

As one of CoNECT's CHW trainers, and a D'Youville alumnus, Sherman Webb-Middlebrooks, '14, gladly uses himself as a model, sharing that with community support, he is grateful, and determined to give back and serve.

"I've spent my whole life in Buffalo, I've been blessed to have numerous entry points, organizations, and systems. People helped me," says Webb-Middlebrooks. "Now, D'Youville's Hub and the Pathways program are creating more entry points. It's also important to add a level of legitimacy, for example, to Black CHW workers. We need to be valued more, both in terms of salaries, and with respect.

"There weren't many Black kids from the projects when I was at D'Youville," he adds. "That's one of the reasons I always try to engage with D'Youville initiatives;

it's important for youth, high school kids, to see me in a career where I'm happy and giving so much back to a community that's given me so much."

CHW training, says Webb-Middlebrooks, can validate people's experiences. "Many community members have had dehumanizing experiences engaging with the Social Services system. But in the training, you are recognized as having value, meaning, and purpose. Your experience could save others time, hassle, and stress—that can give a sense of growth."

The training also helps introduce new language for potential community healthcare workers. "Many don't have words to describe or practice some of what we talk about, like using a trauma-informed perspective, or engaging in restorative conflict resolution techniques," says Webb-Middlebrooks. "When more people have that, we see the culture shift; people are more civic-minded, more empathic, more 'neighborly' in the 'City of Good Neighbors.'"

If he's seen any challenges, Webb-Middlebrooks says it's gaining institutional buy-in, convincing higher-ups that the investment in their employees is a worthwhile one. However, Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) is setting an example that could lay the groundwork for better traction in that regard, says Davidson, the Pathways founding director.

"During the first cohort of the pharmacy tech training, we reached out to ECMC to partner for job placement. It's bloomed into a much deeper relationship," he says. "ECMC could no longer run their internal training program, which identified and assisted entry-level employees to apply for better jobs within the institution. Now they send employees to us for training—those



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Sherman Webb-Middlebrooks, '14, Hiyam Darbo, Emmanuel Uwimana

— JANA EISENBERG



## FACULTY IN THE HUB

# Feeding a community in need



Rachel Laster, MS '20, RDN and Maxine Sroda, MS '19, RDN, CDN, run the grant-funded Nutritional Empowerment program.

**D**'Lish, a demonstration kitchen designed to help Buffalo's West Side community improve its health outcomes through better nutrition, opened its doors to the public earlier this summer at D'Youville's new Health Professions Hub.

Outfitted with professional-grade oven ranges, overhead monitors, and gleaming, stainless steel, the space is run by Rachel Laster, MS '20, RDN, and Maxine Sroda, MS '19, RDN, CDN, registered dietitians and recent graduates of the joint BS/MS dietetics program in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Both women were hired through D'Lish's first major project, called Nutritional Empowerment through Teaching, Opportunity, and Sharing. Funded by a one-year, \$500,000 grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, the project offers D'Youville nutrition and dietetics

students hands-on experience providing food-based educational programs to the diverse and often underserved neighborhoods surrounding campus.

As part of the Nutritional Empowerment grant, the Cabrini Foundation – a private, nonprofit organization focused on improving the health and well-being of vulnerable New Yorkers – also included \$166,000 in capital funds to help build and equip the kitchen.

### A LOT ON THEIR PLATES

As program director, Laster is in charge of planning and organizing an ambitious roster of nutrition programs for Sroda, the kitchen's community dietitian, to implement. Examples include free cooking classes and food demonstrations, medically tailored meal delivery for patients, and nutritional counseling, a service close to Sroda's heart.

"I am passionate about helping people make better choices about what they eat," she says. "Food is medicine, and many people we're trying to reach are battling chronic health conditions like diabetes, asthma, and heart disease, that can be greatly helped by a healthy diet."

The team is already partnering with local businesses, community organizations, and farmers, and it will conduct needs assessments to ask community members what programs they would like to see at D'Lish. By factoring in such cultural and social sensitivities as traditional diets, language barriers, and health disparities like asthma and obesity, Laster and Sroda can better customize their services and motivate people to visit the kitchen.

"There are 86 languages spoken on the West Side," Sroda says. "We'll make sure our programs have translations for all of them."

The Nutritional Empowerment grant also supports a Community Table program offering entrepreneurial job training for up to five West Side residents looking to start their own food businesses in nearby neighborhoods, and a weekly farmers market serving the public right outside the Hub, on West Avenue.

Through programs like the farmers market and free grocery bag deliveries, Sroda and Laster are thrilled to have the opportunity to put nutritious, locally produced food directly into the hands of community members and arm them with knowledge about how to choose and prepare it.

"Everyone goes into dietetics wanting to help someone," Laster says. "It's exciting to be able to realize that in such a tangible way."

### DREAM JOBS BECOME REALITY

With backgrounds in bioinformatics and public health, respectively, Laster and Sroda are still pinching themselves about their new venture. "This is a unicorn job, to work at your alma mater improving people's health," says Laster, who first discovered dietetics as an AmeriCorps volunteer at Erie County Medical Center.

Both women were older, non-traditional students who were drawn to the quality and efficiency of D'Youville's coordinated BS/MS dietetics degree program and its internship opportunities.

According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, in addition to holding a bachelor's and master's degree, a registered dietitian (RD) or registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) must fulfill an accredited nutrition curriculum, complete an extensive, supervised internship at a healthcare facility, foodservice organization or community agency, and pass a rigorous registration exam. D'Youville's coordinated degree helps students check all the boxes.

**"I WAS ATTRACTED TO THE DIETETICS PROGRAM BECAUSE I WANTED TO HELP MY COMMUNITY."**

RACHEL LASTER MS '20, RDN



Nutrition and dietetics graduates can work in a variety of areas: community-based practice, food services management, clinical healthcare settings, and either academic or private-sector research. What makes D'Lish unique is how it integrates all of these within the Hub's larger but similar mission to deliver healthcare education, workforce development, and community medical services.

"I was attracted to the dietetics program because I wanted to help my community," Laster says. "I discovered that everyone is highly service-minded here, so it was a good fit."

"It can be very competitive especially in Buffalo to get an internship," adds Sroda, who always knew she wanted to be a dietitian. After earning a bachelor's degree in public health in Chicago, she transferred to D'Youville for her dietetics graduate work.

"One of the main reasons I chose D'Youville is because it has so many different connections with local hospitals, nursing homes, and community organizations," she says,

noting the school's access to a who's who of Western New York healthcare and food access resources including Buffalo General Hospital, Meals on Wheels, Jericho Road Community Health Center, and FeedMore WNY.

Fourth- and fifth-year nutrition and dietetics students will work and learn at D'Lish as part of their own internships, including those who choose it as part of their specialty rotation.

In a year's time, Laster and Sroda hope the kitchen becomes so vital to the community that it can attract additional funding to expand its programming.

"If you had told me a few years ago that I'd be newly graduated and already directing a community-based nutrition program, I'd have said you were crazy," Laster says with a laugh.

Her plate is indeed full, but she's smiling.

You can follow D'Lish online at [dishkitchen.org](http://dishkitchen.org) and on Instagram @dishkitchenhub.

— LAUREN NEWKIRK MAYNARD





STUDENTS IN THE HUB

“A place of innovation and collaboration”

One of the most critical principles in the establishment of the Hub was to provide a place where D’Youville healthcare students could experience hands-on learning – including required clinical rotations – right on campus. Several students shared their impressions of the Hub and what it means for their educational experience at D’Youville.

Cameron Abbey-Mott, Samantha Rowland, and Gillian Sacco are P4 students in the School of Pharmacy and are on track to receive their Doctor of Pharmacy degrees in 2022. They are currently fulfilling their rotations in Ambulatory Care Research and Service Development at Vital Pharmacy in the Hub.



**SAMANTHA ROWLAND** We all believe the Hub facility offers a great study and work environment as well as the opportunity to have a lot of interprofessional experiences. As a P4, I can see that the school is working to promote the best patient care by allowing students to practice via simulation as well as with real patients to better their future careers.



**GILLIAN SACCO** At Vital, there is a COVID-19 clinic where we administer vaccines and tests. We have designed over-the-counter vitamins/supplements packs such as an immune booster and

a focus booster, and currently we are working on a vegan pill pack. We’re also working on a research project about medication adherence and pharmacy intervention through the Sisters Health Center at D’Youville and Vital Pharmacy.



**CAMERON ABBEY-MOTT** The best part of working in the Hub is that it is a friendly environment with healthcare professionals who enjoy working together and teaching students, plus the numerous study spaces and the café serving Starbucks, of course!

Students working in the Thrive Wellness and Rehabilitation Center can come from a variety of programs and majors, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic, anatomy, physician assistant, or nursing.



**CHANDRIKA THAL, CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE, TRI 8**  
I work as a rehab technician in Thrive and I also help Chris Nentarz, Thrive director, with drafting and revising office procedures, policies, and forms. The Hub is a state-of-the-art facility and the best part of working here is getting more exposure to a diverse community.



**CAROLINE SZUFLITA, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM, 3RD YEAR**  
I am a rehab technician and social media manager for Thrive. The faculty at Thrive

is like no other. The professionals who work there genuinely are passionate about what they do and will go to any length to help their patients and students. The atmosphere in Thrive offers support, learning opportunities, and a once-in-a-lifetime experience for students. The best part about working in the Hub is having the opportunity to address patients and coworkers early on in my career. My job in Thrive will help me with my communication skills so that one day I can address my own patients with the same respect.



**KAITLYN VASSAW, MASTERS IN ANATOMY PROGRAM, 1ST YEAR**  
While working at the Hub is not required for my degree, it is providing me with a lot of hands-on experience that will help me as a future healthcare professional. I believe the Hub is a place of innovation and collaboration that will greatly benefit the D’Youville community. As healthcare professionals, it’s very important to work as a team with your fellow peers. Not only do we get to do that within our own programs, but the Hub will also facilitate interprofessional collaboration between several different programs. One of D’Youville’s most important values is service, and thanks to the Hub we will be able to help an underserved community. As someone who learns best by doing, I really appreciate the chance to get hands-on experience with patients.



**MARC MORENO, DPT ’23**  
I have been assisting with the utilization of the BodiTrak Biometrics mat in Thrive and learning how we can use the BodiTrak technology from both an athletics perspective and healthcare perspective. I am also involved in assessing prospective community service programs to be hosted at the Hub. Overall I think the facility is unique and ahead of its time. I think the Hub offers students the opportunity to apply what they are learning in their classes to the real world. As students we learn theory, concepts, and definitions in our courses but don’t necessarily get to apply what we learn until after we graduate and start working. The Hub gives us students that opportunity before we go out into the workforce.



## The finishing touch

**O**n August 12, D’Youville unveiled the final piece of our visionary Hub project – a vibrant, colorful mural commissioned by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery Public Art Initiative. The mural, titled “The Tree of Y,” is the work of internationally acclaimed artist Maya Hayuk (Ukrainian-American, born 1969), whose elaborate abstract work is inspired by popular culture as well as Ukrainian folk art. At 96 x 60 feet, it is one of the largest pieces of public art in Buffalo, and its boldness, vibrancy, and dynamism reflect the vision of the Hub as a beacon of hope on the West Side.

The mural was made possible through the generous support of Philip A. Perna, who served on the D’Youville Board of Trustees from 1992 to 2001, and his sisters, Linda Perna Ball and Mary Jo

Perna. Their gift is in honor of their late mother, D’Youville alumna Phyllis Esposito Perna, who graduated in 1942 with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and had a lifelong love of the arts.

The Albright-Knox’s Public Art Initiative is an innovative partnership with Erie County and the City of Buffalo, whose goal is “to create spaces of dialogue where diverse communities have the ability to socially engage with, actively respond to, and cooperatively produce great public art that is capable of empowering individuals creating stronger neighborhoods, and establishing Western New York as a critical cultural center.”

“When we first met about the Hub being a part of the museum’s Public Art Initiative in Buffalo, we were both humbled and elated about the plan,”

says President Clemo. “We have always placed a focus on being an active part of the community, beyond being simply an educational institution. Maya’s work on the Hub is not only a great addition to the campus environment but also will reflect the diverse cultural heritage that D’Youville and our city embraces and showcases. We are proud to become a part of that legacy.”





# Partnership with the Hub continues Athletics’ advancement

The Thrive Rehabilitation and Wellness Center and the Health Professions Hub officially opened their doors on June 17 to better serve the D’Youville community and the West Side of Buffalo.

“The timing of the Hub could not be better for D’Youville Athletics,” says Director of Athletics Ona Halladay. “As we continue our transition into NCAA Division II membership, it will be critical for our student-athletes to have best-in-class care and education regarding health and wellness.”

The Athletics-Hub partnership will elevate the performance of the student-athletes of the Saints and provide current and prospective student-athletes with the level of care and support associated with a Division II athletic department. Additionally, the two staffs will teach student-athletes the skills to keep them at peak performance and live healthy lives after their careers at D’Youville.

“Our services extend beyond basic rehabilitation and include a tailored return to

sport programs, strength/conditioning, and team training/education,” says Chris Nentarz, Thrive director.

Inside the 3,000-square-foot space, Saints’ student-athletes and teams will use state-of-the-art technology, equipment, and expertise to focus on nutrition, pregame preparation, injury prevention, and rehab, in a highly personalized and progressive approach. “The Hub is going to be a great addition to the athletics department,” says Kevin Pullyblank, head athletic trainer. “It will provide an on-campus resource for the athletic training department that will help us continue to provide high-quality care for our student-athletes.”

The D’Lish demonstration kitchen will teach student-athletes nutrition concepts, help them understand what their bodies need to be ready to compete and then recover from competing, and how much dietetics can help them during and after their playing careers.

Nentarz adds, “The Hub is now a one-stop-shop for the performance and rehabilitation needs. Our proximity



makes us truly a part of the athletic department allowing for seamless integration and direct communication with coaches and our sports medicine staff.”

Long-term injury rehabilitation is another area in which the center will benefit the Saints. Having a facility like the Hub on campus will allow student-athletes to stay connected to their teammates and trainers during their rehab and get exposed to best practices in the Buffalo market.

Halladay added, “Between sports performance, rehabilitation, and nutrition, the Hub will be a platform that elevates our student-athletes physically and mentally.”

## Sports Highlights

The 2020-21 school year marked D’Youville’s first season of Division II competition in the East Coast Conference (ECC) and is part of a three-year transition process for the Saints.

**THE SAINTS’ SOFTBALL PROGRAM** fared well in its first season of NCAA Division II (16-19, 8-16 ECC) competition and secured a bid to the USCAA World Series and advanced to the semifinals. Maddy Pepke received First Team All-ECC honors while Rachel Colan, Mikaela Milleville and Ava Miller earned Second Team honors. Milleville and Pepke were named USCAA First Team All-Americans.

**BASEBALL’S JEREMY GLINSKI** was the ECC leader in steals (18), which also set a school record. He earned Second Team All-ECC and USCAA Second Team All-American honors.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL** picked up its first ECC win at home against Mercy on Feb. 27 to close a 2-6, 1-5 ECC season. Sophomore Sara Pfeiffer was named Second Team All-ECC.

**SENIOR MATT DAVIS** earned USCAA Student-Athlete of the Year for men’s soccer.

**AMANDA WALISZEWSKI**, a junior, earned Second Team All-ECC honors for women’s lacrosse in the program’s first season in Division II.

**KATELYN HOOVER AND KATRINA WHIPPLE** picked up wins for the Saints in their first season of ECC and Division II competition in women’s tennis.

**KELLY CLEVERSLEY** averaged 3.0 kills/set in women’s volleyball, leading the team.

**MEN’S VOLLEYBALL** played an abbreviated campaign and ended with a 3-5 record. The Saints improved their win total from 2019 despite playing 10 fewer games.

**THE D’YOUVILLE ESPORTS TEAM** competed in the ECC Rocket League and picked up three Xconference wins.

For full team records and more news, visit [athletics.dyc.edu](http://athletics.dyc.edu).

## ANNOUNCING THE 2021/22 SEASON

# The D’Youville Kavinsky is back!

Remember, back in March, 2020 when we thought we’d be closed for a few weeks...? When we re-open on September 10, it will be 18 MONTHS our stage has been dark.

We’ve been busy. Renovating the Theatre, planning our return, and most of all, imagining the joy of what this very special opening night will be like.

So, welcome back to The Kavinsky. We’ve missed you and can’t WAIT to see you in the audience!

**LORAIN O’DONNELL**  
Executive Artistic Director



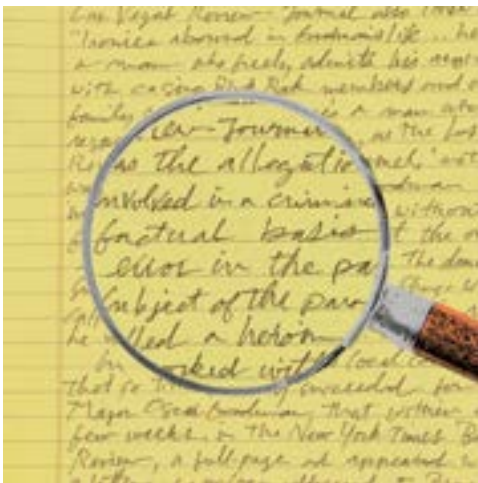
**FROM HONKY TONK TO PROTEST**  
**SEPTEMBER 10—OCTOBER 3**

Subtitled “A Woman’s View of Country Music,” this part concert/part musical history lesson will have you singing along to the hits of yesterday and today.



**THE WOMAN IN BLACK**  
**OCTOBER 29—NOVEMBER 21**

A junior solicitor is sent to attend the funeral of a client, and discovers a terrible secret. This chilling ghost story is one of London’s longest running plays.



**THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT**  
**JANUARY 7—30**

A magazine employee is assigned to fact check a powerful essay, leading to a comedic yet gripping conflict between the facts and the truth.



**PRIDE & PREJUDICE**  
**MARCH 4—27**

Bold, surprising, boisterous and timely, this P&P for a new era explores the absurdities and thrills of finding your perfect (or imperfect) match in life.



**PEOPLE, PLACES, & THINGS**  
**APRIL 29—MAY 22**

Emma was having the time of her life. Now she’s in rehab. An inventively dramatic tale of addiction, recovery, and everything that happens in between.

FOR TICKETS GO TO [WWW.KAVINOKYTHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.KAVINOKYTHEATRE.COM) OR CALL (716) 829-7668.



# Alumni updates

## Unveiling the D'Youville Athletics Hall of Fame

**T**his fall, D'Youville Athletics will unveil our new Hall of Fame to recognize and celebrate those individuals involved with the D'Youville Athletics program who distinguished themselves through outstanding achievements in intercollegiate competition and personal endeavors. The Hall of Fame will be a living, constantly evolving space designed to pay tribute to those individuals and stories that make up the history of D'Youville Athletics as a constant reminder of the values we uphold. The project will be showcased on the main floor of the College Center, with displays and images that highlight inductees, stories of student-athletes, coaches, donors, and the history of D'Youville Athletics.

On September 23, D'Youville will hold its first-ever Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner, where the inaugural class (clockwise from top left) will be officially inducted into the Hall of Fame. For more information, visit [athletics.dyc.edu](http://athletics.dyc.edu).



**JUDY PO-CHEDLEY WILKINS '74**

Women's Basketball

**CARRIE STEVENS OWENS '03**

Women's Basketball

**1999 MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM**



## D'Youville Voices

**L**ast fall D'Youville embarked on a year-long oral history project with trusted partner, Publishing Concepts Inc. More than 1,900 alumni participated in D'Youville Voices which captures and preserves the stories of generations of graduates. Those who chose to purchase a copy of our oral history book will receive it 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, visit [alumni.dyouville.edu/dyouville-voices](http://alumni.dyouville.edu/dyouville-voices).



## Let's connect

**T**he Department of Institutional Advancement and D'Youville Alumni Association want to stay in touch with you! Do we have your latest contact information? If not, please email us at [alumni@dyc.edu](mailto:alumni@dyc.edu) so we may update our records.



## Honoring a 100-year legacy



**O**n August 24 of this year, D'Youville recognized an important event in our history – the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart.

The Grey Nuns have played an integral role throughout D'Youville's history, starting with the Grey Nuns of the Cross, the Canadian order which came to Buffalo in 1857 to work with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in the newly established Holy Angels Parish. The Sisters went on to establish Holy Angels Parochial School and Holy Angels Academy, and then, in 1908, D'Youville College.

The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart were the first U.S. congregation of Grey Nuns and took form during those early years in Buffalo. Their Foundation Day occurred on August 24, 1921, and they committed to carrying on the work of their Canadian sisters in education and caring for the poor. Since then, they have established a motherhouse in Philadelphia and continue to serve the poor and marginalized in our society.

In these endeavors, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart lived out the legacy of their foundress, and our college's namesake, St. Marguerite d'Youville, who established the order in Montreal in 1737. As the order grew and the Sisters' charitable works became more recognized, they were granted a charter to take over the General Hospital of Montreal, which was in ruins and in debt, with St. Marguerite herself as director – the historical root of our own healthcare mission.

Since their founding in 1921, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart have played a large role in the life of our school. For many years, they served as faculty members and chief administrators at D'Youville. Although their numbers have decreased, we are proud to have two Grey Nuns as members of our Board of Trustees, providing critical guidance in our goal to live out the mission of our namesake, "We must never refuse to serve."

From D'Youville's outreach to the underserved in our community, to welcoming first-generation college students, to preparing students to pursue



Pictured is Sister Frances Xavier, who served as D'Youville president from 1962-68 and oversaw a period of rapid growth. She is wearing the traditional, pre-Vatican II version of the Grey Nuns' habit.

careers in caring for others in healthcare or as community leaders, we continue to follow the ideals set out by the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. We honor their legacy and congratulate them during this special anniversary year.

*Do you have a special memory about your experience at D'Youville with the Grey Nuns? Please share it with us via email at [alumni@dyc.edu](mailto:alumni@dyc.edu) for possible inclusion in our monthly e-newsletter.*



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

**JOANNE WALL FUCHS '51** celebrated her 91st birthday last October and still maintains her own house. She has 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and says she has “wonderful memories of my college years at D’Youville.”

**JOAN NICAISE URBAN '56** was recently interviewed by the Arlington Catholic Herald for their Senior Corner. The article recounts Joan’s early life in Buffalo and move to Virginia after she married. She and a friend launched the Catholic Elementary Foreign Language Program for diocesan schools which hired teachers to instruct students after school in French, German, Latin, and Japanese.

**JOANNE ERNST LANGAN '59, PHD,** is enjoying “happy, vaxxed retirement” in Florida after a career teaching at Nardin Academy in Buffalo and Montgomery City Schools in Maryland. She is active at St. Agnes Parish in Naples, where the pastor, Rev. Robert Kantor, is from Buffalo.

**NADINE LENNIK FANNELLI '61** has two granddaughters who’ve attended D’Youville. Her granddaughter Julia Krasner Reed received a nursing degree in 2015 and her sister, Lily Krasner, will receive a master’s degree in occupational therapy in 2022.

**BETSY SLAGA GLUCK '64** reports she is retired and has three grandchildren under the age of 10.

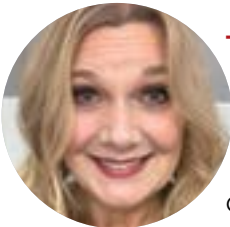
**MARY KRIEGER JOSEPH '74** recently retired as a school psychologist with the Webster Central School District in Webster, New York.

**MARILYNN CASTIGLIA DI CARA '79** recently retired from nursing after a 42-year career, the last 27 spent at Roswell Park as a nurse case manager.



**JOAN JOHNSTON WOLKINS '63** was married to Donald Wolkins on May 22, 2021.

**MARCIA SCHULTZ RUSSO '79** was elected to the New York Convenience Store Hall of Fame by the New York Association of Convenience Stores (NYACS). She is a national client development manager for Acosta Sales & Marketing, a full-service sales, marketing and service company, representing leading manufacturers of consumer products sold in the convenience store channel, including Acosta’s national clients such as Campbell’s, Procter & Gamble, Edgewell Personal Care, and Spectrum Brands. She has served on the NYACS Supplier Advisory Board for 15 years, including two as chair, as well as multiple NYACS committees.



**TRACEY PLEKAN TAYLOR '94, OTR/L,** is the academic fieldwork coordinator and faculty member in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at

Bryant and Stratton College in Rochester, New York. She is a founding member of Autism Up, a leading not-for-profit autism support organization for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families in the Greater Rochester area. She also is chair of the Rochester Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council and an advisory board member for Best Buddies of WNY, which offers one-to-one friendship, integrated employment, and leadership development programs for individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**TRICIA PETER-CLARK '04** was named president and chief executive officer of ConnexCare, a network of healthcare practices in Oswego County, New York, that operates a number of health centers in communities and schools.

**JOAN KILPATRICK CARUSO '05** was promoted to clinical associate professor of physician assistant studies in the Lewis School of Health Sciences at Clarkson University, where she also is the program director and chair of physician assistant studies.



**GERALDINE FORD '09** was honored at the second annual IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equity Awareness) Awards sponsored by Business First of Buffalo, recognizing people and organizations that make diversity and inclusion a priority. She is manager of contract diversity and regional council of Western New York for Empire State Development.

**AKESHA ROGERS LEONARD '09, '15, FNP-BC, EDD** was recognized with one of Business First’s 2021 Excellence in Health Care awards. She is a family nurse practitioner and East Side medical director at Jericho Road Community Health Center.



**RAYMOND DEGLI '10, DPT,** opened a new business, Alchemy Body + Bike, in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, which provides manual physical therapy and technologically advanced bike fitting services using a Retül 3D motion capturing system.

**MICHELLE GORDON ACORN '14 DNP, NP PHC/ADULT, FCAN, CGNC,** was appointed chief nurse of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), a federation of more than 130 national nurses’ associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally. As ICN’s chief nurse, Acorn will be responsible for the development of ICN’s Nursing and Health Policy work, and the strategic development and delivery of ICN programs and projects. Acorn most recently served as provincial chief nursing officer, Ministries of Health & Long-Term Care, in Ontario, Canada, and is an inaugural Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Nursing (FCAN).



**STEPHEN TYRPAK '14** was named to Business First’s 30 Under 30 list for 2021. He is director of clinical and regulatory affairs at Garwood Medical Devices LLC and helps raise money for pride centers to support youth and LGBTQIA+ mental and physical health. In June, he participated in a virtual event coordinated by the Massachusetts Medical Device Center (M2D2) at UMass Lowell and sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Innovation – JLABS. He was a featured speaker and panelist in the “Key Considerations & Best Practices” session, sharing his expertise and insights related to regulatory strategy in and out of the U.S., the importance of reimbursement considerations early on, and clinical study design and management for early-stage companies seeking regulatory approval.



**DOMINIQUE JOHNSON '15** recently published her first book, “New Habits. Who Dis? – Monthly Motivational and Habit Change Planner & Journal for the Culture.” Her business, Coaching for the Culture, provides life and wellness coaching and resources with an emphasis on social emotional learning and skill building.



**ROBERT BUNNELL '18, DPT,** was appointed as a clinic director for the Livonia Medical Center location of Probility Physical Therapy. The new facility is a joint venture between IHA Medicine and the Saint Joseph Mercy Health System serving the western Metro Detroit area.



**SHAWNTRES CURRIN '20, RN, MSN,** was appointed as a unit manager at ECMC. She is a preceptor to D’Youville nursing students, helping to increase their knowledge and clinical skills in medical/ surgical nursing on a trauma step-down unit.

**JORDAN NELSON '20, DC,** joined the Brookside Professional Center in Jamestown, New York, as a chiropractor. He is a member of the New York State Chiropractic Association and the American Chiropractic Association, which presented him with the Excellence in Leadership award at their annual Leadership Convention in 2019.





# In memoriam

RITA STEINMILLER CRACCHIOLA '46

JOAN SPAULDING URBANCZYK '46

VICTORIA LAMPKA STRONSKI '47

CHARLYN SPELLMAN FEDAK '50

CONCETTA AMICO FRASIER '52

ROSEMARY E. KERSTEN '52

BERNADETTE DEVINE BARTON '53

SISTER PATRICIA DONOVAN RSM '54

PATRICIA HALPIN MARONEY '54

DELPHINE GORSKI KOZERA '55

MARGARET MARY MURPHY '55

JOANNE SIRAGUSA '55

JOAN YOUNG HEINE '57

KATHLEEN “KAY” QUINLAN '57

DORIS C. KREUZ '60

JANET D'ARRIGO ANGELINO '60

ROSEMARY O'CONNOR LAWLEY '60

PATRICIA GLEASON CONROY '61

ARLENE M. FREITAS '61

SISTER GRACE CASCIA SSJ '62

SISTER MARY ELAINE HECKER '63

LOIS I. BERNBECK '64

ELIZABETH GIERMATA WEISS '64

JUDITH JEZEWSKI STRIEGEL '65

KATHLEEN MCGOWAN CLOTFELTER '69

AMALIA QUINLAN '69

DENISE O'CONNOR MANSFIELD '70

MARGARET TERRANCE '74

TWEEDIE H. BROWN '76

DIANNA QUINN JACOBS '77

JOANNA ROSE FELDMANN '85

SISTER MARY ZAENGLEIN OSF '93

RUTH A. BENJAMIN-UTTER '94



## A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

The Bills' stadium. Onlookers cheering, 50-yard line, John Murphy, celebratory fireworks. No, I'm not describing a Bill's game – this was graduation for D'Youville's classes of 2020 and 2021 on May 16.

Feeling a sense of normalcy for the first time in over a year, I joined fellow members of the Board of Trustees on stage for the Commencement and welcomed into the Alumni Association our newest graduates. What a spectacular event for those graduates who have been most impacted by the pandemic's effects on higher education and a symbolic one for the nearing end to the pandemic.

As you may know, D'Youville was recently granted permission by the state to award associate degrees in some fields. As you may also know, many students dropped out of college due to the pandemic. What you likely don't know, however, is that D'Youville found 10 students who dropped out during the pandemic, but who had enough credits to receive an associate degree, and these 10 students were invited to walk at Commencement and receive degrees they were otherwise not expecting to receive. D'Youville's consistent dedication to its students and alumni is really highlighted in this feel-good story and I am happy to share it with you.

I am also happy to share that our Alumni Association Board of Directors has recently undergone a bylaws revision and our meeting structure has changed to be more accommodating of out-of-area graduates by having meetings once per quarter and providing virtual options. We recently approved some new members to have another nearly full board.

Our next meeting will take place in the Hub, which was introduced to the West Side of Buffalo with an amazing grand opening with all the pomp and circumstance it deserves. President Clemo and her team took a literal dream for most institutions and quickly turned it into a reality that will serve our students, alumni, and the community for years to come and will continue to expand the institution's visibility and impact.

Our new Health Professions Hub is just one of the exciting changes taking place at D'Youville. This year will also be our first with athletes recruited to play at the Division II level. We will be welcoming student-athletes to campus from as far away as Thailand, as well as at least 15 other countries! Many changes occurring on campus will continue to make D'Youville attractive to current and prospective students in an increasingly competitive higher education environment.

I have also been busy meeting with fellow alumni to discuss all of the exciting things going on at D'Youville, including an April lunch in Tampa, Florida, with a 1967 graduate who still keeps in touch with several of her classmates and with the goings-on at D'Youville. I enjoy talking about our beloved institution and welcome any alumni interested in discussing D'Youville or joining our Alumni Board to contact me.

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 Bellassai '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 Colombo '69  
*Retired, Medical Case Manager*

Ryan Eaton '19  
*Registered Dietitian, 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*  
Sarah Marino Krueger '16, '19  
*Physical Therapist, Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital*

Ryan Miller '05, '08, '11  
*Director of Student Persistence, D'Youville*  
Kristen Dennis Obarka '04  
*Director of Social Work, Our Lady of Peace Skilled Nursing*  
David Po-Chedley '78  
*President, Cambridge Consulting Inc.*

Johnny Qiu '19  
*Inclusion and Diversity Program Manager, Apple*  
Kathleen Scanlon '71  
*Retired, Frontier Central Schools*  
Ellen Pitz Sponholz '88  
*Nurse Practitioner, Buffalo Niagara Hospitalists LLC*  
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:

Peyton Smith '25  
*Occupational Therapy*



# DYOUVILLE

DIVISION OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT  
320 PORTER AVENUE  
BUFFALO, NY 14201

