

DYOUNVILLE

UNIVERSITY

Feeding the Body



Dion Dawkins, Offensive Tackle, Buffalo Bills



A Message from the PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the Fall 2023 issue of D'Mensions with a health and wellness theme of *"Feeding the Body."*

The articles within aim to represent the dynamically changing landscapes of healthcare and higher education. Amidst the turbulence of our time, we believe it is critical to ensure every decision a university makes has an eye on the future and promotes public good. Our hope is that this issue illustrates how D'Youville University continues to achieve both as we strive to become the health and wellness capital of our region.

As you will see in the following pages, we are a body in motion.

Our students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, and community constituents are always on the move, making an impact within their respective areas of expertise and service. Within this magazine, you will read about the rigor of academic and student engagement on campus, activities and services in the surrounding community, and outcomes of the deliberate choices we have been making to face forward and pursue game-changing goals.

Among recent achievements, one of our most ceremonious milestones has been the full

completion of our three-year transition to NCAA Division II athletics, which occurred in July 2023. D'Youville now hosts 19 intercollegiate teams of student athletes and coaches competing in the East Coast Conference. This elevation of play is catalyzing countless new opportunities for student growth, wellbeing, and recruitment. As of the Fall 2023, we are enrolling an exceedingly diverse student body from a larger geographic footprint than ever before, in large part driven by students' interest in playing for a Division II athletics team. We invite you to cheer on our student athletes, in-person, or online—as all our games and competitions are live streamed for viewing from anywhere around the globe.

D'Youville University now consists of students enrolling from 26 states, 18 countries, and with greater than 80% of new students enrolled in health-related majors. This is not only exceptional news for the cultivation of ideas and a vibrant campus culture, but also very beneficial for combating the "enrollment cliff" which is plaguing many colleges and universities in the Northeast with a declining number of secondary students graduating and going to college. While we are fortunate to have new student enrollment return to pre-COVID-19 levels, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to maintain enrollment, so we may continue our objective of empowering people to lead compassionate, productive, and responsible lives.

A second, more comprehensive and longitudinal achievement is the positive re-affirmations of both our 'BBB' investment-grade bond rating and our institution's national accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. In August 2023, D'Youville was not only evaluated to be in full compliance but acknowledged with nine commendations of exceptional organizational practice. These results were the outcomes of a seven-year preparation process which engaged hundreds of campus constituents in a culture of continuous improvement. Throughout this process, cross-sections of campus teams tirelessly documented, reviewed, assessed, and made improvements to nearly all aspects of the university, in accordance with the guidelines and expectations of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. D'Youville University now has a clean record moving forward toward our next assessment cycle to commence in 2030.

While these selected highlights are representative of our momentum, it's just the tip of the iceberg. As always, I encourage you to reach out to our Advancement team to schedule a time to visit campus, in person. And in the meantime, please enjoy learning about all the excitement happening at D'Youville University as you browse this edition of D'Mensions Magazine.

Sincerely,

Lorrie A. Clemo

Lorrie A. Clemo, PhD
D'Youville University President

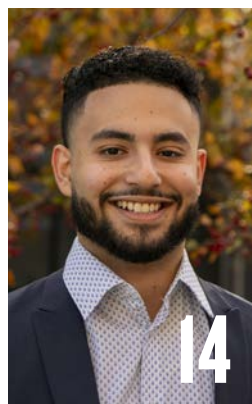
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Send in your
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UNIVERSITY REACCREDITED

Capping 7-Year Effort

This summer, D'Youville University achieved reaccreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE).

The process spanned seven years, with the university's extensive self-study conducted by a committee comprising D'Youville administrators, faculty, and staff.

The MSCHE, which first accredited D'Youville in 1928, made nine recommendations but set no conditions for reaffirmation. The commission's on-site evaluation occurred in early April.

"Earning this credential has been a constant at this institution for nearly 100 years," said **Joggeshwar (Jogy) Das, EdD**, executive vice president and senior advisor to the

president. "This news is a testament to our university's dedication to upholding rigorous academic standards and delivering a top-tier educational experience."

This accreditation preserves D'Youville's eligibility to participate in federal financial aid programs, which encompass federal loans, grants, and work-study opportunities administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

"I take great pride in the team effort at D'Youville that maintained focus for many years and deserves credit for seeing the process through to its successful completion," said Das. "This news bolsters our institution's reputation within the academic community—and



strengthens the standing of a D'Youville degree."

A regional accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, the MSCHE assesses institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

D'Youville will prepare its next self-study to apply for reaccreditation in 2030.



"This news is a testament to our university's dedication to upholding rigorous academic standards and delivering a top-tier educational experience."

Joggeshwar (Jogy) Das, EdD
executive vice president & senior advisor to the president

New Board of Trustees Members

Dr. Abeer Eddib



Abeer Eddib, MD, a nationally prominent obstetrician, gynecologist and medical professor, has joined the D'Youville University Board of Trustees. Her appointment is effective immediately.

A clinical assistant professor in the Department of Urology at the University at Buffalo (UB) Jacobs School of Medicine &

Biomedical Sciences, Eddib is the author of more than a dozen peer-reviewed journals on preeclampsia, pregestational diabetes, endometrial cancer and other topics in her field.

At UB, she also serves as assistant director of the school's ObGyn Residency Program, in addition to directing Kaleida Health's Robotic and Advanced Pelvic Surgery Fellowship Program.

A board-certified physician and surgeon with Western New York Urology Associates, Eddib practices at Erie County Medical Center, the Veterans Affairs Health System, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center and other facilities.

In 1997, Eddib earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from Tripoli University in Libya. At UB, Eddib completed an obstetrics and gynecology residency, as well as clinical fellowships in advanced pelvic surgery and high-risk pregnancy and robotics. In 2014, she also earned a master's degree in health care administration and management from the Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Andrew Belden, PT, DPT, LNHA '07, '10, '20, '22



Andrew Belden '07, '10, '20, '22 joined the D'Youville community as a student in 2004. For his extensive campus involvement, he was the recipient of the Lee Conroy Higgin Award in 2008. Andrew has since graduated from D'Youville four times

and is currently enrolled in a dual masters program in Business Administration and Health Services Administration.

Andrew is licensed as a physical therapist and nursing home administrator. His career has focused on physical rehabilitation and the geriatric population. Andrew currently oversees utilization of inpatient therapy services for FidelisCare.

He is the president of the national board of directors for the alumni association of D'Youville University. Andrew is married to D'Youville nursing graduate **Mary-Alice (Wasneechak) Belden '10**. They have three wonderful boys and future Saints: William (7), Teddy (4) and Harrison (6 months).



Happy 115th D'Youville!



New Health Programs Serve Students—and Patients

*D'Youville Welcomes
Aspiring Clinical
Psychologists
Displaced by the
Closing of Medaille
University—Ensuring
Their Educations
Stay on Track*

Nurturing the physical and mental wellness of others was a fundamental conviction of the Grey Nuns and a core principle in the establishment of D'Youville in 1908.

The institution's dedication to these ideals is exemplified by two new academic offerings—the Clinical Psychology Doctoral degree program and the Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor certification.

“Our country and communities are in critical need for trained practitioners who can address and treat mental health concerns,” said **Lorrie Clemo, PhD**, president of D'Youville. “As a health sciences-focused institution, we must respond and meet the moment.”

Keeping Counselors Qualified to Serve

In June 2022, New York State announced modifications for Office of Addiction Services and Support (OASAS) counselors. D'Youville was the first educational institution in New York State to offer “upskilling” opportunities for current professionals to meet the state's new requirements—keeping counselors caring for their patients.

Offered online, the program supports counselors in the field—and accelerates the credentialing of additional professionals at a faster pace. The program's combination of advanced coursework and clinical training hours ensures students are workplace-ready and meet current state guidelines.

To further address the workforce shortage in mental health, the university is partnering with the Beacon Center.

“This partnership will be the perfect springboard for students, with the university providing a training ground for counselors to learn about treating substance abuse,” said **Jacqueline West**, CEO of Beacon Center. “Students will learn how to conduct individual sessions, group sessions, and how to perform evaluations.”



Jacqueline West



From Medaille to D'Youville: Future clinical psychologists find a new home for their training and continue to serve their patients.

Meeting the Urgent Need

Recognizing the need to support Medaille University students after the institution closed in August, D'Youville accelerated its efforts to secure approval for students to enroll this fall into the university's Clinical Psychology Doctoral program, which prepares students to become licensed psychologists while treating patients in supervised environments.

"With our program already in place, our team was able to quickly move and bring Medaille students and faculty to D'Youville," said Clemo. "We are eager to help students complete their training and degrees, which will place more practitioners in the field, where the need is great."

Online Pharmacy Program Helps Meet National Need

D'Youville Launches the First Three-year Online PharmD in the Country

In response to growing healthcare demands, D'Youville created a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program that places graduates into the workforce quickly.

The accelerated program—which welcomed its first cohort of 60 students last fall—allows students to study from anywhere and graduate in three years, instead of the traditional four years, thanks to a year-round class schedule.

"Accelerated programs are what students prefer, and ours is designed for their success," said **Jeremiah Grabowski, PhD**, executive dean of online learning and faculty development. "Most pharmacists are paid six figures—so an extra year in the workforce increases their earning potential."

In recent years, the country has faced a shortage of pharmacists—that is only expected to worsen—along with an aging population and a rise in chronic health conditions.

"The online program is like a family," said PharmD student **Assalah Othman**, who lives in Rensselaer, New York and is a member of the program's Class of 2025. "There's a team behind you that offers much support."

Paving a New Path for Pharmacists

Working with online instructional designers, D'Youville pharmacy faculty constructed the program's academic year to include summers and five days of on-campus training per year. Students are placed in internships in their home communities, which allows them to get hands-on experience and build a professional network.

"The online PharmD program is a tremendous example of how we're able to serve those who otherwise wouldn't be able to access a D'Youville education," said President **Lorrie Clemo, PhD**. "We listened to student needs—many always dreamt of pursuing this degree, and now they can."

"The online program is like a family. There's a team behind you that offers much support."

Assalah Othman, Class of 2025



2023 RESEARCH DAY

A Celebration of Teaching & Research

An annual celebration of the university's commitment to academic excellence, Research and Scholarship Day highlights the dedication of faculty and students in their pursuit of knowledge.

On April 19, students and faculty showcased their latest discoveries and innovations in a diverse range of disciplines, while sharing ideas and perspectives among colleagues and peers. Participants formally and informally presented their findings, discussed their research methodologies, and received feedback and suggestions.

In addition, the event was an opportunity for networking and collaboration—which has led to new research partnerships and projects after previous events of the kind.

“Research and Scholarship Day is a proud D’Youville tradition,” said **Renee Cadzow, PhD**, associate director of the Center for Doctoral Studies and Research, which organizes the yearly event. “Among our community, it uniquely promotes a culture of academic excellence, encourages curiosity and a lifelong interest in learning.”

Over 50 research topics were presented, with large-screen monitors giving presenters a better experience, more opportunity to share their work, and a more dynamic overall environment.

Remote opportunities allowed students who were unable to physically attend to present their research and fully participate in the experience, which was also open to the public.



SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Grants



Whelan, Megan (PI), Nwora, A. (co-PI), Bentley-Root, T (co-PI). awarded by HRSA for "DYU Health Careers Opportunity Program" (\$3,250,000 for five years) with the goal of serving 300 economically and/or educationally disadvantaged students with pathways into high-wage, high-demand health careers such as: physician assistant, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and registered dietitian.

Whelan, Megan (PI), Cadzow, R.(co-PI), Laster, R. (co-PI) awarded by UnitedHealthcare for "Creating a Response Food Pharmacy" (\$325K for one year) with the goal of Increasing emergency preparedness and food security for low-income and resource limited households in the City of Buffalo.

Capinera, Rebecca (PI), awarded by Women's Sports Foundation for "Tara VanDerveer Women's Coaching Fellowship" (\$17,500 for one year) with the goal of growing DYU's strength and conditioning coaching fellowship and increase the involvement of women in collegiate athletics leadership.

Publications

M. Yehl, D. Kucharski, M. Euban, B. Gullledge, **Gamal Rayan, Md Gias Uddin**, Genevieve Remmers, Eugene S. Kandel, D. P. DuFaux, **Timothy Hutcherson**, S. Sexton, and **Shoshanna N. Zucker**, "The Development of Nonthermal Plasma and Tirapazamine as a Novel Combination Therapy to Treat Melanoma In Situ" *Cells*, 2023, 12, 2113.

Sisto, Walter "Cyborg Technologies: Bulgakov and His Sophiological Perspective," *Irish Theological Quarterly* 88, 2023, 201-226.

Sisto, Walter "Towards the future of Orthodox theology: Bulgakov and cyborg Enhancement Technology," *Studies in East European Thought*, July 2023, 1-15.

Ray A., Moore T.F., **Pandit Rajashree**, Burke A.D., Borsch D.M. "An overview of selected bacterial infections in cancer, their virulence factors, and some aspects of infection management." *Biology*. 2023, 12, 963.

Park E., Zhou Y., **Chen Chia-Hui**, Chacko T., Mahoney M., Chang Y.P. "Systematic review: interventions to quit tobacco products for young adults." *BMC Public Health*, 23, 2023, 1233.

Foy, Michael, Mang, Sharon & Mitchell, Abigail

"End stage renal disease and hemodialysis: Improving nursing care and patient experience." *Nursing*, 2023, 53, 46-51.

Lombardo, Susan "Financial gerontology." *Home Healthcare Now*, (May/June, 2023), 41(3), 173.

Rabey, Jeffrey "Long-Range Enrollment/ Needs Assessment for Expansion of Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Building a New Facility Study" report prepared for Lockport Central School District, 2023

Rabey, Jeffrey "Master Scheduling Process and Programming Study" report prepared for Avon Central School District, 2023.

Davie, Jeremiah "Enterobacteriaceae." *AccessScience*, McGraw Hill, Aug. 2023.

Davie, Jeremiah "Quorum sensing." *AccessScience*, McGraw Hill, July 2023.

Davie, Jeremiah "Antiviral agent." *AccessScience*, McGraw Hill, June 2023.

Davie, Jeremiah "Antifungal agent." *AccessScience*, McGraw Hill, June 2023.

Davie, Jeremiah *Antimicrobial agents*. *AccessScience*, McGraw Hill, June 2023.

Nyamekye, M. B., Adam, D. R., **Boateng, Henry**, & Kosiba, J. P. (2023). Place attachment and brand loyalty: the moderating role of customer experience in the restaurant setting. *International Hospitality Review*, 37(1), 48-70.

Amenuvor, F. E., Mensah, K., Nkukporu, A., **Boateng, Henry**, Akasreku, F., & Owusu-Antwi, K. (2023). Formal salesforce controls and service-sales ambidexterity: the moderating role of salespeople's grit. *Marketing Intelligence & Planning*, 41(3), 375-390.

Books

Feltham, Karen

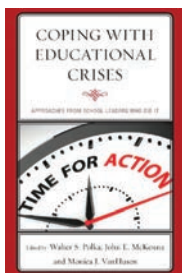
and Hardtman, P. (May 2023)

"The State of the World's Midwifery: A Caribbean Response. Small Nations, Large Impact: The Caribbean Regional Midwives Association" published by USAID, UNFPA and Momentum.



Rabey, Jeffrey

(May 2023). "A practicing superintendent's experiences during a global crisis: Recommendations for preparing for the next one!" In W. Polka (Ed.), *Coping with Educational Crisis: Approaches from School Leaders Who Did It* (pp.25-52). Rowman & Littlefield.



the United States." International Association of Applied Business Research, Academic Conference on Business, Economics, Finance and Accounting, Miami, FL.

Hammer, Kate and Nesselbush,

Danielle (June 2023) on "*Strong Student Engagement = Strong Alumni Engagement: How Collaboration Enhances Your Work and the Student Experience*" NASPA Region 2 Conference, NYC, NY.

Woite, Julianna (June 2023).

"*From Laughter to Learning: How to use humor and pop culture to keep student engagement*" International Learning Ideas Conference, Columbia University, NY.

Woite, Julianna (August 2023).

"Living in the Gilded Age of Western New York" Holland Land Office Museum, Batavia, NY.

Hernandez, Humberto and

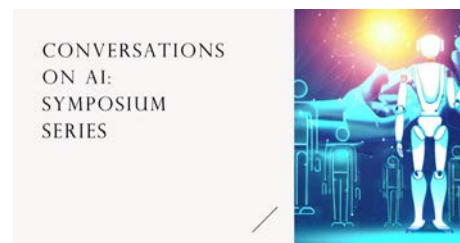
Grabowski, Jeremiah (May 2023)

"*Universal Design, Gamification, and the Use of Assistive Technology in Higher Education*" Online Higher Education Quality: Design, Technology, Leadership (OHEQ) Conference, University of Wroclaw in Poland.



Hernandez, Humberto (June 2023), "*Awareness of Emerging Technologies by Online Leadership: Strategies to Increase Enrollment and Create a More Egalitarian System in Human Development*" Summit for Online Leadership and Administration + Roundtable (SOLA+R) Conference, Madison, WI.

Hernandez, Humberto (July 2023), "*Intersections of Universal Design for Learning and its Intersections of Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies: Increasing Sense of Belonging at Higher Education Institutions*", UDL Symposium by CAST, Denver, CO.



Hernandez, Humberto (August 2023), "*Artificial Intelligence and their implications in higher education administration and pedagogy*", AI Symposium hosted by Canisius University, Buffalo, NY.

Voorhees, Clara (May 2023)

"*University Undergraduate General Education Curriculum and The Great Lakes*", International Association of Great Lakes Researchers IAGLR, Toronto, Ontario CA.

Voorhees, Clara, Clark, A., Sirot, L.

Hamel, J. Finn-Fowler, K. & Prior, N. (July 2023) "*Taking students across town or across the world: A guide for field leaders and student participants.*" Animal Behavior Society, Portland, OR.

Voorhees, Clara (July 2023)

"*Science of Teaching and Learning; Incorporating Animal Behavior into General Education Courses*" Animal Behavior Society, Portland, OR.

Conference Presentations

Curtin, Kathleen (June 2023)

"Addressing Barriers to Prenatal Care in WNY." New York State Perinatal Association's Annual Perinatal Partnership Conference. Albany, NY.

Lueck, Rocco, Daly, Dion (August 2023) "*A Quantitative Analysis of Selected Determinants of Inward Foreign Direct Investment to*

Theatre Production

Mallinson, Katie Directed Bloom by Marco Antonio Rodriguez for Raices Theatre Company (June 2023).

Healthcare Trailblazers

Western NY Alumni Excelling in Top Positions



Joyce Markiewicz '80 is the first female chief executive and fifth overall at Catholic Health—the second largest health system in Western New York that employs around 9,000 people.

Markiewicz relies on her long history of patient care to guide her leadership strategy, especially amid constant changes in the healthcare industry.

With an early career rooted in nursing, Markiewicz continues to be guided by her experiences ensuring quality care for patients, before transitioning to home health care.

In 2005, Markiewicz joined Catholic Health as vice president of home care operations and eventually was promoted to the roles of president and CEO of the division.

“I try to be a mentor to women,” said Markiewicz. “My nursing program at D’Youville supported my growth in a career that is truly a calling. The faculty and staff were great role models. As a leader at Catholic Health, and as a member of the Board of Trustees at DYU, and as an alum I take this role seriously—and strive to be an example for others.”

At **Marjorie Quint-Bouzid’s '85** D’Youville graduation ceremony, she told one of her nursing professors that she would return to Buffalo—someday. “I said, ‘I’m going to come back and serve this community,’ which surprised even me,” said Quint-Bouzid, laughing.

Her remark proved prescient. In June, Quint-Bouzid became executive vice president and chief nurse executive at Kaleida Health, which operates Buffalo General Hospital, the John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital and others. In her new role, Quint-Bouzid oversees nursing operations across the entire organization, which has nearly 10,000 employees and serves an eight-county area in Western New York. “I suppose I’m fulfilling a promise I had the foresight to make nearly 40 years ago,” she said.

As Quint-Bouzid acclimates at Kaleida and establishes priorities, she stepped into the role with an intent to increase partnerships with community organizations through the region that promote healthy living and wellness—“not just preventing sickness,” she said.

This philosophy of care and management were established in prior executive roles, with Quint-Bouzid serving as a senior vice president at Parkland Health and Hospital System in Dallas and in leadership positions at Fort Washington Medical Center near Washington, D.C. “I’ve always aimed to alleviate suffering throughout my career, in different ways,” said Quint-Bouzid, “but, no matter what we do, our work is always about helping others feel whole.”



Creative Research Powers D'Youville's Im

At D'Youville, a wide range of grants are facilitating advanced faculty research projects—from the lab to the classroom to the community. In fact, the university is securing more grants than at any point during its 115-year history. This recent run of success is allowing the institution to better transform its mission—and aspirations—into reality.

“A diverse mix of organizations are making significant investments in the university—and stand as endorsements of what we’re pursuing together,” said **Lindsey Jakiel Diulus, PhD**, director of corporate and foundation relations. Diulus added, “We have a powerful North Star and beautiful history we inherit from Saint Marguerite d’Youville and the Grey Nuns, and we seek to continue their commitment to service above self, service to the students and to the community.”

In the last fiscal year, D'Youville has secured more than \$10.6 million in grants—from federal, state and local sources.



Lindsey Jakiel Diulus, PhD

\$3,966,653 | Brightening the Future

Led by Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing Acting Dean **Shannon McCrory Churchill, DHEd, CPNP-PC, CNE**, D'Youville will expand its hands-on approach to nursing education and bring medical care to underserved communities in Erie and Niagara Counties through a nearly \$4 million Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) grant. “We are entrepreneurial and willing to take risks to compete for grants that maybe normally wouldn’t go to an institution of our size,” said Churchill. “That’s part of our overarching boldness that we strive for at D’Youville.” New nurse-led mobile health units will set up pop-up clinics in partnership with fire stations and EMS personnel. The grant will also advance undergraduate nursing education for those who may experience challenges with traditional models.



\$2,999,835 | Training Community Health Workers

An additional HRSA grant involves building partnership with several community-based organizations to expand the health workforce. According to **Renee Cadzow, PhD**, associate director of the Center for Doctoral Studies and Research, “Community health workers are trusted members of the communities in which they work—and bridge community and health and social services to improve access, quality and cultural responsiveness.” The grant supports training and apprenticeship programs and academic development.



\$1,535,467 | Identifying Paths to Success

The U.S. Department of Education and Upward Bound initiative is a national year-round pre-collegiate program that provides equitable support for high school students who are of historically underserved and underrepresented populations. These future first-generation college students “have the desire, motivation, and potential to complete high school and enroll in post-secondary education,” said **Kissena Frazier, MSW**, director of Upward Bound at D’Youville and a first-generation graduate who is leading the grant. “We’re striving to make an impact on the next generation through mentorship, motivation and leadership.”



pact—with \$10.6 Million in Grant Funding

“Securing grants will continue to be a central strategy employed by the university to enhance educational experiences for students,” said Diulus, “while also addressing healthcare disparities and improving health outcomes, often in underserved or historically marginalized communities.”

\$748,250 | D’You Scholars

Stacy Ruvio, PhD received \$748,250 from the National Science Foundation Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (S-STEM). The grant aims to “increase the recruitment, enrollment, retention, and graduation of low-income, academically talented biology majors with financial need,” said Ruvio, chair of the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Scholarships will be awarded to 13 students, known as D’YOU STEM Scholars, who will receive enhanced faculty mentoring and career development and engage in other activities to foster a STEM identity.



\$325,000 | Food Farmacy

Historic winter storms and the May 2022 terrorist attack at the Tops on Buffalo’s East Side highlighted and exacerbated food inequities that exist in the city. A \$325,000 grant from United Healthcare will create a responsive Food Farmacy that addresses social determinants of health. Led by interim dean of the School of Health Professions **Megan Whelan, PhD, RDN, CDN**, and **Renee Cadzow, PhD**, associate director of the Center for Doctoral Studies and Research, as well as Nutrition Empowerment Program Director **Rachel Laster ’20, MS, RDN, CDN**, the project will distribute emergency food kits through community partners and



train community health workers on how to address food insecurity.



\$250,000 | Diversifying Employment Pipelines

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield is providing \$250,000 for the Pathways Pharmacy Technician Program—a healthcare workforce training initiative offered to pharmacy techs, nurse assistants, and community healthcare workers who have been historically excluded from educational opportunities. According to project lead and Title III Program Director **Leona Soule, MEd**, “This program helps these students enter the healthcare workforce with meaningful credentials, specialized training and soft skills.”



\$185,000 | Improving Community Health and Well-being

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation is providing funds for the Nutrition Empowerment Program, which improves the health and well-being of community members by increasing food access, nutrition knowledge, and cooking skills. Registered dietitians work with community members and offer free cooking classes, nutrition education sessions and a warm weather farmer’s market. Grant programming takes place at D’Youville’s state-of-



the-art Health Professions Hub. **Megan Whelan, PhD, RDN, CDN** and **Rachel Laster, MS, RDN, CDN** are co-principal investigators.

\$116,500 | Advancing Social Mobility

The John R. Oishei Foundation is aiding the creation of the Bridge To Success program. D’Youville will increase its capacity to advance the social mobility of underserved learners, first-generation, underrepresented, and low-income students. Through the university’s Associate of Arts degree, the Social Opportunities Hub will enable students to transition into four-year degree options, or directly into professional life in the health, business, and social service sectors. Students will develop skills in reading, writing, critical thinking, and mathematics, along with skills that complement machine- and computer-driven productivity.



D'YOUVILLE COMMENCEMENT

Dopesick Author Beth Macy Addresses the Dimensions of Addiction

As new D'Youville graduates stood on the cusp of stepping into the world as health professionals, they were reminded of their vital role in helping address societal challenges at the university's spring commencement.

On a day of both reflection and hope, 474 undergraduates and 320 graduate students received their D'Youville degrees.

As the culmination of the university's year-long focus on the opioid epidemic, journalist and writer **Beth Macy** served as commencement speaker.

"As a huge fan of D'Youville University and the work you're all doing to bring health care and humanity to the least of us, I appreciate the honor of speaking to you," said Macy, a *New York Times*-bestselling author and executive producer of the Hulu series based on her book, *Dopesick*.

Macy, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from D'Youville, encouraged graduates to spend their time "engaged in meaningful work...that enriches our larger community."



Journalist Beth Macy examines factors precipitating substance abuse, from America's rural to urban communities.



You have already learned through
practice and toil that the secret to
patient care is to *care* for the patient.

Beth Macy

She added, “You have already learned through practice and toil that the secret to patient care is to *care* for the patient.”

President Lorrie A. Clemo, PhD

appealed to students as soon-to-be health professionals—encouraging them to use their education and training to make a difference in the addiction crisis, “You may be treating victims, supporting their families, or researching solutions, and I know that all of you will be engaged, compassionate and understanding.”

Offering the event’s salutatory address, graduating senior **Christian Gochez ’23**, a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, spoke from his perspective as a non-traditional student.

“From what I’ve seen, this generation isn’t waiting for anyone’s approval. They will do what they set their mind to,” said Gochez, who will pursue a PhD in social policy at Brandeis University. “This world is a better place because of this class.”



A CENTURY OF STUDENT LEADERS

Honoring D'Youville Tradition, Student Government Drives Positive Change

When a fire at a residence near campus recently left a D'Youville student in immediate need of food and shelter, a Student Government Association (SGA) emergency fund provided accommodations and stability while longer-term remedies were explored.

It worked just as **John Rizk** intended. As the president of SGA—and first-ever to be elected to three terms—he helped establish the new budget line to support students in urgent and dire circumstances.

“This is what we’re here for,” said Rizk, a fifth-year Doctor of Pharmacy student. “To make sure students are taken care of, comfortable, and getting the most out of their college experience.”



Dedication to Students

For more than a century, SGA has played a significant role in shaping student life at D'Youville.

Shortly after the organization was established at the institution, the 1922 *D'Youvillian* yearbook stated: “Student government teaches responsibility to youth by *giving responsibility*—which results in student initiative and executive ability.”

SGA proves to be a training ground for future leaders—in diplomacy, negotiation, and consensus-building. As small-scale democracy-in-action, the organization epitomizes the ideals of representation, civil discourse, and accountability.

The experience of **Sheila Sloan '75** was no exception. Serving as SGA president her senior year, Sloan met often with then-President **Sister Mary Charlotte Barton**, who “was interested in working with students and hearing our perspective.”

“No matter what, my agenda was to represent students and advocate for our position,” said Sloan, a retired licensed architect living in Rochester. “And I feel like we were heard.”

Historically, SGA has awarded scholarships, staged key annual events and run intramural leagues, among other activities.

During Rizk's first two terms, his administration—consisting of elected senators and members-at-large—has focused on creating student jobs, extending hours of services, and creating partnerships with off-campus community groups to boost volunteerism.

"Students come to SGA to change things on campus," said Rizk, "because we've proven to be a functioning body that serves their needs."

Nurturing Leaders

While Rizk leverages his position to aid other students, SGA has also contributed to his personal growth.

Born in Canada and raised by native Egyptians—who worked in Saudi Arabia for the first 15 years of his life—Rizk attended high school in northern Ohio before enrolling at D'Youville.

"I had to put myself out there—I knew no one," he said. "This organization gives students a chance to join a community and create their own story."

This academic year, Rizk is serving an unprecedented third term—possible given his enrollment in the six-year pharmacy program.

"It's a chance for consistency of leadership," he said, "to offer stability."

Fairness and Progress

For Sloan, her mid-70's presidency coincided with a period of intense change at D'Youville—reflective of deeper shifts at a college seeking to modernize. Unquestionably, it was not the same institution attended by her mother, **Marie Carberry '44**.

These changes also offered new opportunities—SGA was invited to Board of Trustee meetings for the first time. The college also altered its charter—losing aspects of its Catholic affiliation—to gain eligibility for state funding.

Men enrolled at D'Youville for the first time during Sloan's freshman year. When she ran for president, her opponent was one of the six men in her class. "In all things, I sought to be fair," said Sloan, "and include all who wanted to be involved."

In the generation since her presidency, the now-university has undergone further transformations. Still, SGA has—and is poised to continue to—serve as an incubator of ideas and leaders, and give students a seat at the table.

"It's our job to keep building on progress," Rizk said, "that can be passed to the next president."



Four Women, Four Graduates, One Legacy

*D'Youville's First Four-
Alumni Family has been
Part of the University
for More Than 100 Years*

As a sophomore, **Katie Gazda '22** was walking up a staircase in the Koessler Administration Building when she spotted something familiar out of the corner of her eye. Approaching a picture of the Class of 1983, she recognized the signature of her late mother, **Kitty (Murrett) Gazda '83**.

"My mom had the tiniest, neatest handwriting," said Gazda. "It felt like a sign I was in the right place."

When Gazda graduated last year, with a degree in biology, she became the first fourth-generation alumna in D'Youville's 115-year history.

She was preceded at the institution by her great-grandmother, **Helen (Desmond) Mahaney 1917**; grandmother **Mary (Mahaney) Murrett '49**; and her mother—a nurse and administrator at Erie County Medical Center—who passed away in 2013, when Gazda was 13.

The distinction carries special importance to Gazda, especially considering how uncommon it was for women to attend college when her great-grandmother was a member of the institution's sixth-ever graduating class.

"When I'd have a challenging day, I'd think about the three generations of strong women in my family walking these exact same hallways," said Gazda, who is pursuing a master's degree at the university and serves on the Alumni Association Board. "I knew I belonged here. If anyone belongs here, it's me."

Following in Family Footsteps

After Gazda lost her mother, she spent more time with her grandmother, "and I learned about our legacy at D'Youville and wanted it to continue." It's easy to see why.

“The women in my family shaped me into the woman that I am.”

Katie Gazda '22

“It’s impossible to give a full picture of how much I loved it there,” said Murrett, who turned 95 this year.

In the mid-1940’s, she lived with her parents in the Northtowns—taking two buses to get to campus, where she had a full day of classes every day.

Post-World War II, she and her fellow students often attracted the notice of caravans of male students from Canisius College, as “they circled campus every day, we’d wait by the windows,” she said, adding, “I married one of them.”

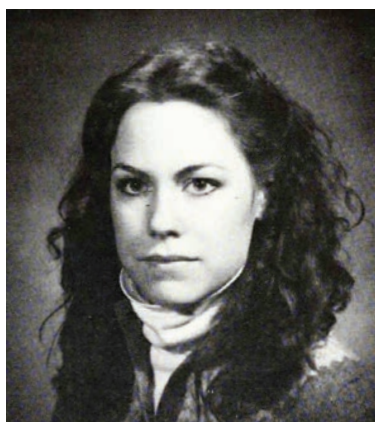
After graduating, Murrett followed in the footsteps of her mother, becoming an educator and teaching Latin at the renowned City Honors High School in Buffalo.

“Because my mother went to college, my parents made it a mission to send me, too—no matter what it took,” said Murrett. “I felt no different when raising Kitty—who raised Katie the same way. It’s understood that education is important to us.”

While the institution—and the world—have undoubtedly changed in the decades separating the D’Youville experiences of the four alumni, there are indelible similarities.

“We both thought it was a lot of work,” said Gazda.

“We both had a lot of fun,” Murrett added, laughing. “I’m really so proud of her.”



Kitty (Murrett) Gazda '83



Mary (Mahaney) Murrett '49



Alumnae and their daughters:
(Front) Mary Mahany Murrett '49, Marie Michalski Stroh '56, Rita Penasak Hahn '54, Alice Fyderek Bernat '58, Jane McSweeney Mago '43, Mary Schroer Bremer '42, Mary Healy Cullen '59, Patricia Lyons Van Dyke '52, President of the Alumni Association. (Back) Catherine Murrett, Ellen Marie Stroh, Rosemary Hahn, Margaret Bernat, Sr. Denise, Claire Mago, Kathleen Bremer Durinka, Colleen Cullen, Mary Lohnes.



Two of our newest alumni board members Katie Gazda '22 (left) and Shannon Stappenbeck '21

Speaking Through Science

Fearless Forensic Pathologist, Public Health Trailblazer



Before **Marcella Farinelli Fierro '62, MD** became one of the first female forensic pathologists in the country—or the inspiration for the protagonist in crime thrillers that have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide—she was a 10-year-old girl certain of her career path. She'd be a doctor or bust.

"Things either fit with the plan. Or if not—next," said Fierro. "It made all decisions very easy."

Growing up in north Buffalo, Fierro tended to her father, who died after a long illness when she was just 14. The experience "put me in caregiver mode" and sparked an interest in the field of medicine for her and her sister, **Linda Farinelli Stanek '67**, now a retired nurse.

In 1958, Fierro enrolled at D'Youville to major in biology, and along the way, developed her appreciation for the Grey Nuns, who taught at her high school—the now-closed Holy Angels Academy—and operated the college at the time.

"The Grey Nuns were scholars—and a model of leadership for women. Which was very hard to find in those days," said Fierro, who has a 41-year history of giving to D'Youville. "A college run entirely by women? I thought it was cool."

A Visionary in Civil Service

At a time when there were few women physicians, Fierro earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from what's now known as the University at Buffalo Jacobs School Of Medicine And Biomedical Sciences.

Gravitating toward pathology—studying the nature and causes of disease and injury—Fierro eventually embraced a subspecialty of medicine, forensic pathology. She's heavily influenced the profession on a global scale.

As a forensic pathologist, Fierro examined suspicious and non-natural deaths—commonly through autopsies—and often in concert with criminal or civil law cases. Spanning thousands of investigations, Fierro estimates only one percent of her "patients" ended up with an undetermined cause or method of death.

In 1994, Fierro was appointed the first-ever women medical examiner in Virginia. She revolutionized the position, becoming a staunch



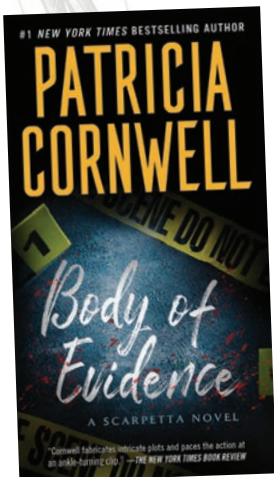
advocate for public health—using the data her office collected to compel the commonwealth’s legislature to address preventable deaths, including domestic violence and drownings. “Public health was not a focus,” she said, “but I made it a focus.”

From Autopsy Room to the Page

Along the way, then unpublished author **Patricia Cornwell** began to shadow Fierro, whose hard-working nature and personality can be seen in Kay Scarpetta, the central character in 27 best-

selling crime novels who—as Virginia’s chief medical examiner—uses forensic technology and her instincts to solve grisly and mysterious murders.

“I don’t know where my life would have gone if I had not met her,” Cornwell told *Richmond Magazine* in 2009, the year after Fierro retired. “She’s the most brilliant forensic pathologist I have ever met.”



Before Fierro’s pioneering career, her profession had almost no public profile. Now, it’s a subject of fascination and an array of entertainment and reality content.

Post-retirement, Fierro has used her clout to act as an advocate, co-authoring a National Academy of Sciences study credited with strengthening standards in her industry.

“I always aimed to see something good come out of misery and death,” she said. “It can help the living.”



Fierro (left) teaching best-selling author Patricia Cornwell (right)

“I always aimed to see something good come out of misery and death. It can help the living.”

Marcella Farinelli Fierro '62



Forensic Pathology: CSI vs. Reality in Virginia featuring Dr. Marcella Fierro - September 13, 2007. Photo: VCU Libraries

Bills Tackle Dion Dawkins Gives Back — at D'Youville

Health Fair Highlights University's Mission to Provide Education and Healthy Food to Its Community



A light drizzle couldn't stop Buffalo Bills tackle **Dion Dawkins** from making new friends at a community health fair at D'Youville's Health Professions Hub.

The event highlighted several no-cost public services available to students and the surrounding community, including D'Youville's Food Farmacy. There were free health screenings, educational stations, cooking demonstrations and a free hot meal.

The Bills' 2022 nominee for the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award, Dawkins encouraged attendees to take advantage of the resources right in their neighborhood. Dawkins and his foundation worked with UnitedHealthcare to sponsor the event.

"With my career and my life, health is one of the biggest

things," Dawkins said to the crowd. "You have to be healthy to play football, you have to be healthy to smile and be happy and give off positive energy."

Nourishing Minds and Bodies

The Food Farmacy started in October 2021, through a partnership between D'Youville, Catholic Health and FeedMore WNY. It is funded by UnitedHealthcare, through their Empowering Health initiative launched in 2018.

The Food Farmacy provides participating community members a three-day supply of healthy food, twice a month, as well as counseling with a registered dietitian, health screenings and cooking demonstrations.

"I think anytime somebody can get food and be able to feed their

family is the ultimate win, because food is expensive, and healthy food is expensive," Dawkins said.

Speaking at the event, **Joyce Markiewicz '80**, CEO of Catholic Health, said that the impact of the program has been clear.

"I'm proud to report that over the last 18 months, the Food Farmacy has provided 58,416 pounds of food to 1,098 members of this community," she said.

Fueling Wellness—Close to Home and Beyond

The event occurred as Buffalo approached the anniversary of the racist mass shooting at the Tops Markets on the city's east side, which prompted an ongoing focus on providing resources to people living in food deserts, or places

with limited access to affordable and healthy foods.

Junior Harewood, CEO of Employee and Individual Plans for UnitedHealthcare of New York, noted how social and economic factors have a heavy impact on people as they try to eat better.

“For a lot of folks, they want to be healthy,” Harewood said. “But a lot of times, access to fresh food is not available to them. And then, other offers (that) are a lot cheaper. So, if we can bring fresh food at a reasonable or no costs, it helps the community in general.”

Harewood said that sometimes if someone grows up in an environment that is not food secure, they may fall back on the type of diet they were used to as a young person.

“It’s kind of changing the trend of that cycle, and (getting) people educated,” Harewood said. “And sometimes, just awareness is

enough for people to kind of get on that path of eating healthy foods.”

Bills offensive linemen **David Quessenberry**, **Greg Mancz**, **Ryan Van Denmark** and **Alec Anderson** were also in attendance. Dawkins said it “means everything” to see his teammates come out to support the event.

“I literally just put it in a group message and my guys came,” Dawkins said. “They just popped up, no questions asked. So, it’s definitely a nice thing.”



Escaping the Ukrainian Conflict

Embracing Opportunity

Providing an opportunity to pursue an education far from the dangers of war, D'Youville welcomed 11 Ukrainian students last fall.

Over the last year, these students have immersed themselves in Buffalo and their studies. Common to all 11 students—who have been provided full-tuition scholarships and room and board—is a goal to return to their home country to help rebuild once the war is over.

This summer, several of the students took advantage of staying on campus—serving internships or volunteering to gain professional experience and contacts.

Finding Refuge and Purpose

Yaroslav Malynych was the first student to apply to D'Youville. A chemistry major from Lviv—in western Ukraine—Malynych excelled academically in his first year.

He spent his summer in an internship shadowing oncologist **Nataliya Buxbaum** at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and studying liquid chromatography, an analytical chemistry technique. He also assisted and observed Buxbaum, whose lab is a developing noninvasive method for diagnosing graft-versus-host disease in transplant patients.

“Chemistry is the basis for developing solutions. I hope to make a difference—in any way I can—and contribute to my country’s future,” said Malynych. “D'Youville offered an opportunity to for me to grow and make an impact.”

Max Poplavsky, a biology major, also interned at Roswell Park with Buxbaum—assisting, and observing research in her lab. He aspires to be a pharmacist.

“I am so thankful to be here and am amazed by how much I am learning,” he said. “The campus is beautiful



“Chemistry is the basis for developing solutions. I hope to make a difference—in any way I can—and contribute to my country’s future.”

Yaroslav Malynych

and everyone I interact with is supportive of our success—professors, staff and community neighbors.”

Community Contributions

Fellow Ukrainian students **Vlad Komarov** and **Milana Cherniaieva** spent the summer volunteering at FoodFarmacy—the food pantry located in D’Youville’s Health Professions Hub—sorting and distributing provisions.

Katie Morris, a FoodFarmacy dietitian, said, “We had a number of Ukrainian immigrants utilize our services, and our students spoke with them in Ukrainian to help them feel at home in Buffalo.”

Komarov and Cherniaieva enjoyed being able to help and support new refugees.

“It felt good to make a difference,” said Komarov. “I can’t help at home yet, but in Buffalo I can talk with people from other countries and make them feel welcome.”

In addition to volunteer work, internships and reading ahead for their second year at D’Youville, the Ukrainian students headed to Camp Turk, a summer camp in Oneida, for a few days to mentor Ukrainian high school students visiting the United States.

“I really enjoyed talking with some of the younger girls,” said Cherniaieva. “I was able to talk to them about American fashion and we were amazed at the differences between our home country and [the U.S.]. But mostly I think we all enjoyed the chance to talk in Ukrainian and reassure the younger campers that everyone is so supportive and invested in helping our country—now more than ever.”



Max Poplavsky and Yaroslav Malynych



Vlad Komarov and Milana Cherniaieva volunteering at FoodFarmacy

Preceptor Nurtures the Future of Nursing

Alumna Guides Compassionate Care Behind the Scenes—Including at Home

When **Stefania Fynn-Aikins '05** graduated from D'Youville and became a psychiatric nurse practitioner, there were few others in her profession. Often, she wished for a mentor to help answer questions or provide guidance.

Now, as a veteran nurse, she serves as preceptor—a licensed clinician who teaches and coaches nursing students during clinical rotations—helping them translate theory and training into real-world practice.

“My job is to teach by example,” said Fynn-Aikins. “It’s essential for nurses to accumulate experiences, and I strive to make them more knowledgeable about their patients and profession.” She added, “I try to be the voice I wish I’d had when starting out. And give a dose of reality, when needed.”

Caring Runs in the Family

Attending D'Youville as an adult student, Fynn-Aikins completed the RN-to-BSN program while working full-time and raising her family. She credits the university for establishing a learning environment where she could study, work and grow thanks to a network of fellow students and supportive professors.

Board certified in psychiatry since 2007, Fynn-Aikins has started her own practice—Erie Niagara Psychiatry, PLLC—where she continues to provide private consultations to hospitals and nursing homes. She also serves as a psych NP at BryLin Behavioral Health Center and Mercy Hospital of Buffalo.

Fynn-Aikins is frank—being a psych NP “is not glamorous,” she said. “My role as preceptor is to help those who choose this field understand the expectations. It’s not easy—but incredibly rewarding.”

Her guidance is effective. For proof, look no further than one of her new colleagues—her daughter, **Aba Aikins '23**—who graduated from D'Youville's Psych Nurse Practitioner Program in August.

“I’m incredibly proud of her,” said Fynn-Aikins. “In the field of nursing, no matter what your specialty—or relationship—there’s a camaraderie and sense of belonging to something bigger than oneself.”



“Part of my role as preceptor is to help those who choose this field understand the expectations. It’s not easy—but incredibly rewarding.”

Stefania Fynn-Aikins

ELLEN NEWTON IS GUIDED BY GIVING BACK

Connecting with Billie Jean King and the WSF

The VanDerveer Fellowship is one of the most coveted grants of its kind in collegiate sports. In fact, the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) selects only 10 nationwide each year.

As a leader and mentor to student-athletes and others, D'Youville coach **Ellen Newton** is among a select group to be awarded the fellowship—now two years in a row.

From the Field to the Clipboard

Named for legendary Stanford University women's basketball coach Tara VanDerveer, the grant provides opportunities for women coaches to participate in professional development such as conferences, workshops, and leadership programs.

Newton credits the fellowship for contributing to her growth as a coach and mentor.

"I'm still finding my voice as a young female coach," said Newton, an assistant coach of women's lacrosse, as well as a strength and conditioning coach. "It's exciting to learn and use new knowledge to be a better leader and example for others."

Added Newton, "Opportunities can be few for women in sports, so I strive to be a role model for our student-athletes—and be someone they can always come to with questions, so they feel comfortable and supported."

After graduating from Canisius University in 2019, where she lettered in lacrosse, Newton began coaching at D'Youville. After earning a Master of Science degree from the university in occupational therapy (OT) two years later, Newton was elevated from a graduate assistant to assistant lacrosse coach.

Working with goalkeepers, Newton played an integral role in the Saints' first-ever East Coast Conference (ECC) Championship semifinal appearance. Then, in 2022-23, the team performed nearly as well, again reaching the ECC Tournament.



Tennis legend Billie Jean King and D'Youville's Ellen Newton, recipient of the Women Sports Foundation Tara VanDerveer Fellowship

Born to Lead

This academic year, Newton is taking on a larger role in Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAC), which supports community outreach programs and mentoring of young leaders.

"Giving back has always been a passion," she said—including working with special needs children or those from underserved or socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.

As a former college athlete, Newton understands the benefits of participating in team sports and wants to ensure student-athletes and youth can benefit from the same opportunities and experiences.

"As the eldest of four kids," said Newton, "I feel as though I was naturally born into the role of being a leader."



DYU Moves to DII

Transition Triumph

This summer, the NCAA Division II (DII) Membership Committee approved D'Youville University for full Division II membership as part of the East Coast Conference (ECC).

"Our move to DII has been building for many years," said **President Lorrie Clemo, PhD**. "We've enacted a vision to increase athletic opportunities on our campus for student-athletes from all over the world. We've bolstered our athletic program through staffing, recruitment, student-athlete programming, branding, grants, and corporate partnerships."

"Now more than ever, we're positioned as a global institution of education," stated **Ona Halladay**, executive director of intercollegiate athletics.

D'Youville began the membership process in early 2020 and began competing as a provisional member. The latest NCAA approval moves D'Youville to an active member, making teams eligible to compete in postseason championships and eligible to receive awards, honors, and other benefits.

The Journey

Since starting its transition to DII, D'Youville has grown its athletics program with the additions of men's lacrosse, women's track and field, women's wrestling, and women's field hockey. The D'Youville Saints now offer nineteen varsity sports.

Over this period, the Saints have also added over 130 new students to the university—driving recruitment into new national and international markets. Now, student-athletes hail from 25 states and 17 countries—internationalizing the campus with new cultures, philosophies and lived experiences.

This growth has enabled the campus community to grow with annual events, active residence halls, and increased school spirit. That pride has also been fed by athletic success. During its transition period, Saints earned seven First Team All-ECC honors and 21 Second-Team All-Conference selections and many other recognitions of athletic and scholastic achievement.

In 2023, D'Youville earned the NCAA Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence for achieving an academic success rate of at least 90%. As one of the 44 DII schools to earn the award, D'Youville is one of just three ECC institutions, along with Mercy and St. Thomas Aquinas to receive the honor.

Now more than ever,
we're positioned as a global
institution of education.

ONA HALLADAY
Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

We Are the Saints

D'Youville has also enlivened the university community with its rebrand as the Saints. Saint Bernards are known for their life-saving work by performing rescue excursions in the Alps. The breed embodies the dedication and tenacity synonymous with one of the university's guiding principles—serving when needed most.

Recent facility upgrades also ensure the Saints have the tools to be competitive at the DII level, in addition to serving students, faculty, and staff through recreation and intramurals.

The university is also deepening relationships with alumni of its athletic teams by building institutional traditions—such as the Hall of Fame, alumni games, and speaking engagements.

Life in the Balance

A founding pillar of DII is community engagement, which dovetails with the D'Youville mission of service. As Saints, D'Youville student-athletes are leaders who support teammates and are dedicated to service in Buffalo and beyond—in public schools, youth clubs, Team Impact, the Make a Wish Foundation and others.

In 2022, D'Youville received the ECC Community Engagement Award of Excellence for hosting the Lead Her Forward youth clinic promoting athletic participation among women and girls.

Here Come the Saints

As a DII member, D'Youville is eligible to compete against the division's 311 member institutions located in 47 states and the District of Columbia. The division also includes NCAA's only international member university (Simon Fraser in British Columbia, Canada) and three schools in Puerto Rico.

"This is an historical moment for our storied institution—and a testament to collaborative work across our campus throughout the transition process," said Halladay. "The future is bright for D'Youville athletics."



D'Youville
University earned the
NCAA Presidents' Award
for Academic Excellence
for achieving an
Academic Success Rate
of **90%** or higher.



For the second year in a row, women's basketball captured the 2023 U.S. Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) Small College National Championship, with sophomore **Anna Jankovic** earning Tournament MVP. Senior **Brianne Moxley '23** and sophomore **Stella Mollica** earned All-Tournament Team honors. Mollica was also selected to the Second Team All-East Coast Conference (ECC) and Jankovic to the Third Team All-ECC.

Women's bowling was led individually by sophomore **Megan Kapsiak**, who finished ninth out of 76 participants in the DII-DIII Wildcat Invitational. As a team, the Saints achieved their highest finish of the season at the Medaille Brunswick Classic, earning fourth place.

The men's basketball team increased its wins within the ECC by two games. Senior guard **Willie Kondrat**—a USCAA Player of the Week earlier in the season—received All-ECC Second Team honors, after averaging more than 18 points per game.

Women's lacrosse became the first DYU sport to compete in ECC postseason play, facing Mercy University in the semifinal game. Complementing the achievement, sophomore **Brinn Stworzydlak** was named the ECC Goalkeeper of the Year with freshman **Sam Newlin** being honored as the ECC Rookie of the Year. Stworzydlak was also named to the All-ECC First Team with Newlin, sophomore **Sydney Gordon**, and freshman **Lauren Parker** all receiving All-ECC Second Team honors.

Softball continued their recent strong runs into the postseason, clinching a trip to the USCAA World Series for the third consecutive season. Sophomore **Hannah Bardeen** and freshman **Bryanna Dewey** had strong performances in the World Series, both earning USCAA All-Tournament Team honors. Bardeen also received All-ECC First Team honors, with **Gianna Adamo**, **Laura Beck**, **Lauren Booth**, and **Sarah Parzych** each earning Second Team All-ECC honors.



Women's rowing had a strong ending to the 2022-23 season, with a second-place finish in the Women's Club Eight division at The Knecht Cup. The Saints backed up that performance with a first-place finish in the second race of The Black Rock Cup. The season concluded a fourth-place finish at the Jefferson Dad Vail Regatta in the Women's Collegiate JV Four.

During their first season of competition, the outdoor track & field team began on a high note with **Kelly Lucas** placing first in the high jump at the UB Spring Opener. The Saints carried their momentum into the Brockport Invitational as the 4x400M relay team of **Lexie Hillman**, **Tsianna Barnwell**, **Sevilla Groebe**, and **Kelly Lucas** took third place. DYU concluded their season at the ECC Outdoor Track & Field Championships, where Groebe was named All-ECC Second Team in the 400M hurdles.



The Saints baseball team put together a record-breaking 2023 campaign, earning the most wins in program history, with 21. DYU also set eight team records throughout the memorable season. **Billy Morris** was the catalyst of the squad, earning ABCA/Rawlings First Team All-Region, NCBWA All-East Region, and All-ECC First Team honors. **Ethan Hammond**, **Chris AuClair**, and **Samuel Worthen** were named to the All-ECC Second Team.

Entering their second season of competition, the men's lacrosse team recorded their first win in program history, knocking-off Dominican University in a 13-12 thriller. The Saints went on to capture three additional wins—including notching the program's first-ever conference triumph, defeating the University of District of Columbia. The team saw vast improvements from a year ago, scoring over 100 more goals and achieved improvements in assists, ground balls, and caused turnovers.

A message from the

ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of your Alumni Association and the Alumni Association Board of Directors, we are honored to uphold the proud heritage of D'Youville Alumni while supporting the University's mission to serve the community's needs and modern students.

This past year marked our first year as a University and our 115th anniversary. Throughout its evolution, the Alumni Association affirms that the history and values of our alumni stay at the core of its progress. Saints will have a different experience than Spartans but the personal dedication to student success and service will remain at D'Youville's foundation.

In the spirit of never refusing to serve, the Alumni Association calls on our graduates and friends to take this opportunity to experience D'Youville's revitalization firsthand. In reconnecting with campus, you are advancing the success of our alma mater's future. Your connection, voice and experiences are invaluable in guiding the university.

In the coming year, we hope you will learn about the exciting progress underway at one of our events, through our alumni website or on social media. The Alumni Association is working to create new opportunities to engage with the University including:

- Visibility of alumni success through Alumni Spotlights
- Promotion of alumni-owned businesses
- Increased family-focused events throughout WNY

You will soon see new opportunities for professional development crossover events with current students, including in-person and remote mentoring. We seek your participation in engaging our students as they become alumni and professional peers.



Executive board Andrea Panzuto Cudney '18, Andrew Belden '07, '10, '20, '22 and Johnny Qiu '19

We look forward to the exciting future of D'Youville and look forward to seeing you or hearing from you soon.

***Never Stop Learning;
Never Refuse to Serve!***

Andrew W. Belden, PT,
DPT, LNHA '07, '10, '20, '22
Alumni Association
President

The Difference is YOU!

The need for your support has never been greater than it is today. Your gift advances the University's highest priorities and most vital initiatives. It goes to work immediately, helping each and every student—assisting with scholarship support, financial aid, providing research funds that enhance the curriculum—and making needed improvements to campus.

Your gift demonstrates your regard for the University and your desire to help the D'Youville student body.

Your gift to the 2023-2024 Fund for D'Youville is a gift that will ensure the experience you had at the University continues for current and future D'Youville students.

On behalf of the entire community, thank you for your generosity and continued support.

Sincerely,

Taylor Chaney
Director of Annual Giving
chaneyt@dyc.edu
(716) 829-7506

To make a
gift online



Alumni Engagement at D'Youville

We had a fantastic year as we enhanced connections with D'Youville alumni across the nation and right here in Buffalo. Our in-person gatherings provided alumni with opportunities to maintain their ties to our cherished D'Youville traditions, stay updated on the latest university developments, and join in celebrations with their fellow alumni.



D'Youville University's **Alumni Weekend** is a three-day experiential opportunity for graduates on campus and at local venues within the City of Buffalo. Reunion events have existed at D'Youville for over a century as an opportunity for graduates to reconnect with old friends, reminisce about their time at their alma mater, and discover the campus evolution since graduation. It was truly heartwarming to see alumni travel from places like Delaware, Florida, and even Hawaii to join us for this special occasion. Our event included our

exciting **Redfest** celebration, exclusive **Campus Tours** and exploring our rich history, a **Front Lawn Family BBQ** with mascots Saint and Maggie, an **Alumni Mass** celebrating our Catholic roots and a **Class Party** with dancing under the stars.

At the **2022 Distinguished Alumni Awards Brunch**, five remarkable women were honored. Last year's recipient of the highest honor presented to alumni and the Anne Lum Distinguished Alumni Award is **Dr. Jean Alberti '57**. The award is bestowed annually upon alums who have achieved distinction through professional achievement and excellence in their chosen profession, involvement in community affairs, service to D'Youville, or any combination of these factors. The award is named for the late **Anne Ryan Lum '24**, whose volunteer service resulted in the establishment of the Loyalty Fund, now known as The Fund for D'Youville. The other 2022 Distinguished Alumni Delta Sigma Award recipients were **Kayla Deth '14**, **Dr. Takesha Leonard '09, '15**, and **Carolynn Welch '04**, and **Habiba Mohamed '16**, Young Alumni Award.





During our fall season, we embarked on an exhilarating new event with a **Tour of Buffalo's Highmark Stadium**, the proud home of the Buffalo Bills. This unique opportunity included the ability to explore the locker rooms, media facilities, and even stand right on the 50-yard line of the stadium's turf.

EXPLORE & MORE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



The alumni association organized a family-friendly gathering—a **Day at Explore & More**—The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Children's Museum. The event featured an exciting day of museum exploration, engaging activities for the kids, and delightful D'Youville-themed Saint cookies.

FT. MYERS, FL



Our gathering in Fort Myers, FL, brought together friends and alumni from the region, offering an enriching opportunity to delve into the latest advancements at the University.

HONORS CONVOCATION



The 2023 **Honors Convocation**, dedicated to recognizing our outstanding graduating seniors, featured an inspiring address delivered by alumna **Dr. Takesha Leonard '09, '15**, a distinguished graduate in Health Policy and Health Policy. Furthermore, the esteemed Lee Conroy Higgins alumni association award was bestowed upon **Julia Silvestro '23**, with the honor presented by **Dr. Andrew Belden '07, '10, '20, '22**, the current president of the alumni board, who himself had received this accolade during his time as a student.



We had the pleasure of reconnecting at the renowned Army and Navy Club for the **Washington, D.C. Alumni & Friends Gathering**. This exclusive institution has served as a distinguished haven for some of the most prominent figures in America's military and political history, making it a fitting and welcoming venue for our gathering in the nation's capital.



Our beloved **Alumni Tea** was a resounding success this year! We combined our traditional high tea offerings with a touch of D'Youville University flair. Our guests adorned themselves in their finest garden party attire with hats, fascinators, florals, and prints. This splendid event took place at the esteemed Saturn Club of Buffalo, where the Alumni Tea embraced the historical charm of this iconic Buffalo landmark. Our guests enjoyed an assortment of delightful finger sandwiches, complemented by a quintessential tea experience.

The D'Youville **Women's Soccer Alumni Game and Social** brought back alumni to both the soccer field for an Alumni Game and a gathering at the Thin Man Brewery afterwards. It was fun to reunite on the field while proudly donning the red, black, and white!



Dr. Karla Rodriguez '16, '19 congratulated the senior class at our annual **White Party** during commencement week. Karla was our alumni guest speaker.

ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR

For the second year in a row, we hosted our **Alumni Happy Hour** at the Health Professions Hub. Sponsored by the alumni association, this event included Hub tours by Alumni Board members. Guests relished our exclusive Saint Sangria and delectable refreshments on the 3rd-floor rooftop terrace.



PHYSICAL THERAPY / OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY '93



The **Class of '93 members** visited Buffalo for a special day, including campus tours and a visit to Buffalo RiverWorks. The day became even more memorable as classmates from OT/PT classes '91, '92, and '94 also joined in. Cheers to enduring bonds and timeless friendships on display at the Class of '93 Alumni Visit.

ALUMNI BOARD MEETING



The **Alumni Board Meeting Installation and Inaugural Meeting** marked a fantastic start to the summer. This comprehensive gathering formally introduced our newest board members and welcomed alumni, both virtually and in person. The day commenced with a warm welcome from **President Lorrie Clemo, PhD**, followed by an address from the newly elected board president, **Dr. Andrew Belden '07, '10, '20, '22**. Guest presentations were also made by **Dr. Natalia Blank**, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and **Taylor Chaney**, Director of Annual Giving.

The Office of Alumni Engagement is here to keep you connected. We look forward to seeing you at our next event! If you would like to host a gathering on campus or take a tour, call Director of Alumni and Community Engagement Kate Hammer at (716) 829-8705 or hammerk@dyc.edu.

CLASS NOTES

'50s – '80s

Megan Koscinski '19, Dietetics, started at Bariatric Fusion as a Nutrition Support Specialist. She was promoted to Community and Content Coordinator - hosting support groups, copywriting emails, social media, recipes, blogs, and marketing materials.

Kim Wilcox '59, Social Work, traveled to Seoul, Korea, with her daughter and son. It had been 10 years since her last visit. During this year's three week trip Kim enjoyed reconnecting with family and showing Seoul to her children.



Thora (Blackwood) Perkins '69, Education, is a graduate of the 5 year plan for NY State Teachers. This was the best preparation for her 37 year career in Education in four states & various district positions. Thank you D'Youville!

Deborah Brush '72, Humanities, connected with other alumni from the graduating class of 1972 in March. They reminisced about their travels to Europe during those years.



Sharon (Kerwin) Roloff '72, Nursing, has co-authored a book, *Dysautonomia Diary: Essays and Tips for Enjoying Life Despite Chronic Illness*.

Laura (Hartmann) Lincoln '79, Nursing, retired in January 2023 as the Director of Clinical Research, Pulmonary Associates of Richmond after 24 years.

William L. Blake '82, Accounting, is proud to announce his grand-daughter graduated from Kindergarten. He and his wife are so proud along with her mom and dad.

Marjorie A. Quint-Bouزيد '82, Nursing, was named new chief nurse executive for Kaleida Health.



James R. Hewitt, Jr. '83, Biology, retired from teaching middle school science after 25 years. He now works as a Senior Wellness Team Leader.

Cynthia (Childs) Taylor '84, Education, retired after a 33 year career in special education spanning both New York & Florida public schools. She currently resides in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee.

'90s

Dr. Walter Iwanenko '93, Occupational Therapy, was inaugurated as the Eighth President of Gannon University.



Tracey (Plekan) Taylor '94, Occupational Therapy, was named Program Director for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Bryant & Stratton College in Rochester, NY in June 2022. Previously, Tracey was the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator for the program.



'00s

Bryan Gee '02, Occupational Therapy, was added to the American Occupational Therapy Roster of Fellows for 2023.

Andrew Belden '07, '10, '20, '22, Health Services, Physical Therapy, Long-Term, Health Services Administration, and **Mary-Alice (Wasnechak) Belden '10, Nursing**, welcomed Harrison Christopher on June 16, 2023.



Nakiea Cook '08, Accounting, honored as 'Woman in Leadership' by NYS Women during Black History Month.



Send in your **class note** and **information updates**



Submit your **class note** and receive a **baby bib** for your little Saint today!



This is what happens when a social mixer goes well and a D'Youville alumna marries a St. Bonaventure alumnus.

Matthew S. Holman '08, Information Technology, after 15 successful years at the Batavia City School District, two promotions and two awards by the Batavia Board of Education, Matthew was hired as an IT Project Manager at WFL BOCES - EduTech.

'10s

Lisa Krueger '10, Educational Leadership, was named superintendent of the Newfane School District.

Sarah A. Williams '10, '22, Dietetics, Physician Assistant, was named a PA medical fellow in the ER/Trauma Service at Good Samaritan Hospital on Long Island.



Lindsay (Ladouceur) Baldo '11, Nursing, graduates with her MSN from Empire State in May 2023.

Jordan J. Kilijanski '13, Biology, has joined the law firm Barclay Damon as an associate.



Kilijanski is a member of Corporate Practice Area. He focuses his practice on corporate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, corporate and partnership formations, and general corporate and business law.

Dr. Nikolaos Moraros '16, Health Services, was named the new Dean of the School of Nursing in New Braunfels.



Senija Mehmedovic '17, '22, Sociology, International Business, was named accounting manager for Zordan Industries, LLC. Zordan creates tailor-made environments for the retail industry and private customers through the hard work of a highly motivated team and a network of skilled craftworkers.

Marisa Prokop was named as the new administrator of Schoellkopf Health Center for the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

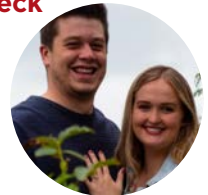


Alyssa (Cizdziel) Wozniak, '18, Pharmacy, welcomed Jase Wozniak on December 1, 2022.

'20s

Shannon Stappenbeck '21, International Business,

announces her engagement to Mitchell Zasa. The couple plans to wed in August of 2024. Shannon is starting a new position as Student Employment and Pre-College Program Coordinator at D'Youville University!



Where in the world is D'Youville?

Tag @dyouvillealumni on Instagram or send us your photo at alumni@dyc.edu. Here's Saint at Place d'Youville the historical square in Montreal named after St. Marguerite d'Youville. Don't forget to include your D'Youville apparel, swag or sign in the picture!

#saintlyadventures

#whereintheworldisDYU



Send your **engagement announcement** and receive this **pennant** for your wedding ceremony.
#dyouvillealumni

IN MEMORIUM

Mary (Sullivan) Alico '49, Commerce, passed away on May 16, 2023.

Dolores (Franzek) Zabrocki '49, Chemistry, passed away on June 15, 2023.



Mary Alice (McNamara) Browne '52, Education, passed away on January 28, 2023.

Mary Crowley Carosella '52, Nursing, passed away on August 3, 2023.



Virginia Nowak '54, Secretarial Science, passed away on April 24, 2023.

Dr. Margaret A. "Peggy" Acara '55, Chemistry, passed away on May 29, 2023.

Mary (Durkin) McNally '55, Nursing, passed away on February 9, 2023.

Mary Elizabeth (Cosgrove) Miller '57, Nursing, passed away on October 16, 2022.

Carole (Bird) Huff '59, Education, passed away on March 10, 2023.

Joanne (Ernst) Langan Ph.D. '59, English, passed away on July 19, 2023.

Dr. Judith L. (Lodick) Merrick '59, History, passed away on February 3, 2023.

Antoinette (Orlando) Green '60, Education, passed away on March 2, 2023.

Mary Jo (Durkin) Hughes '61, Education, passed away on March 5, 2023.

Elizabeth (Seereiter) Hogan '62, Mathematics, passed away on July 28, 2023.



Mary (Holler) Garrity '65, Education, passed away on August 8, 2023.

Ann (Reynolds) Gordon '68, English, passed away on July 20, 2023.

Jacquelyn Manis '68, Social Work, passed away on August 13, 2023.

Carol (Jozwiak) Ernst '69, Education, passed away on August 13, 2023.

Sandra Rae Putnam '69, French, passed away on July 27, 2023.

Evelyn Radginski Guyer '70, Nursing, passed away on July 14, 2023.

Isabel Smith-McMahon '72, Nursing, passed away on March 1, 2023.

Christine (Rumpf) Smith '80, Nursing, passed away in 2023.

Carol (Lenox) McDougall '90, Nursing, passed away in February 2023.

Joyce (Wedalowski) Bremer '94, Nursing, passed away on July 8, 2023.

Mary Helen (McOmber) Guenther passed away on March 22, 2023. She attended D'Youville as a student.

Ardyce Leah Stevens Lightner passed away on May 5, 2023. She was a professor at D'Youville.

Leonard Oseekey passed away on May 29, 2023. He was a veteran of World War II and a retiree of D'Youville.

Please inform the alumni office if you know of alumni who have passed
alumni@dyc.edu



D'YOUVILLE

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

320 PORTER AVENUE

BUFFALO, NY 14201



ALUMNI BOARD

OFFICERS **President** – Andrew Belden '07, '10, '20, '22 **Vice-President** – Johnny Qiu '19
Recording Secretary – Andrea Panzuto Cudney '18

Event Co-Chairs – John Bellassai '99, '05; Katelyn Buck Violanti '18 **Alumni Awards Co-Chairs** – Kathleen Rooney Colombo '69; Stephen Tyrpak '14 **Student Engagement Co-Chair** – John Kofmehl '07, '10 **Alumni Weekend Co-Chairs** – Lisa Hauss '88, '11; Ellen Pitz Sponholz '88 **Board Members** – Fr. Denning Achidi '14; Janice Blake '93; Carla Ciraco '22; Kayla Deth '14; Catherine Gazda '22; Qinones McFarland '10; Kristen Dennis Obarka '04; Luciana Payne '13, '16; David Po-Chedley '78; Elise Rhodes '88, '95; Karla Rodriguez '16, '19; Michelle Swygert Seay '98, '21; Monique LaTrice Skinner '08; Lara N. Smith '14; Shannon Stappenbeck '21; Monica Viggiani '15; Dorette Sugg Welk '71 **Student Representative** – Ernest Sebuliba



WEDNESDAY
APRIL 3

Mark Your Calendar!

Connect With Us

 D'Youville Alumni Association

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