

D'YOUVILLE UNIVERSITY | FALL 2025

D'MENSIONS

MISSIONERS OF HEALTH

From World War II to today,
the history of D'Youville's
trailblazing, innovating
nursing program



'GREATNESS IS IN YOU'

Nearly 450 D'Youvillians walked the stage and grabbed their diploma at D'Youville University's spring commencement ceremony in May. DYU alumnus and U.S. Congressman Tim Kennedy delivered the address and told the graduates to remember that life is a journey and not a guided tour. "Greatness is in you," he said. "Know that it is God preparing you for what is next. Stay focused, follow your heart and create you own pathway."

Photo by Lauren Innes





D'MENSIONS

FALL 2025 | VOLUME 21 | ISSUE 2



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D'Youville's School of Nursing was born in 1942 from a nationwide need for nurses as the country entered World War II. From that first class of seven young women to today, nursing has grown to become the university's flagship program that hasn't lost sight of its mission to serve.

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After 83 years, D'Youville University's Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing is going strong and continues to be a leader and innovator in health sciences education in Western New York. We look at the current state of the program and its new simulation lab that provides students hands-on, real world experience.



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A 1975 nursing graduate, Sister Donna DeSanto has lived a life of service and devotion to God — and she shares her unpredictable journey from NYC to the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Rochester.

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Andy Blidy was a star on the basketball court during his college days at D'Youville. He's been an even bigger deal in the world of science research during his 50-year career.

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Cover image from 1942 U.S. Army Nursing Corps recruitment posters

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Lorrie A. Clemo

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***D'Mensions Magazine will publish
three times a year beginning in 2025.***

D'Youville University is a private university located on the vibrant west side of Buffalo, N.Y., preparing students for the 21st-century. Excelling at helping students reach their educational, professional and career goals, D'Youville instills adaptability, high expectations, hands-on experience and best-in-class education to our students to become change agents, working for themselves and their communities by doing good.

Founded in 1908, the Grey Nuns named the college after the Patron Saint Marguerite d'Youville to be a compassionate place of learning for those from underrepresented populations to give them a better life. As a school with a long Catholic history of supporting the underserved, D'Youville welcomes students of every culture, background and faith and is a place where traditions can be openly shared and respected.

As a leader in education, D'Youville University provides innovative, responsive, excellent academic programming with the tools necessary to enhance the learning process. Our quality academic programs are aimed at preparing students for passionate, driven careers and/or graduate and professional studies. Featuring an urban, growing campus community of more than 3,000 students,

D'Youville offers more than 50 majors in undergraduate, graduate and doctoral studies including advanced certificates and accelerated learning programs. With degrees in healthcare, business and the liberal arts, D'Youville's proud graduates have the academic rigor necessary for careers that make a difference for the world of tomorrow.

Celebrating our history of answering the call

Dear Alumni & Friends:

As we welcome a new academic year at D'Youville University, I am reminded of how deeply our university has been shaped by a steadfast commitment to preparing health care professionals who serve not only New York State, but the entire nation and our neighbors in Canada. This issue of *D'Mensions* celebrates that mission and the many ways our students, faculty and alumni continue to advance health care delivery across neighborhoods, borders and generations.



Dr. Lorrie Clemo

Our cover story highlights one of D'Youville's proudest legacies: the history of nursing education. From its founding in 1942 — when the program was launched in direct response to the urgent call for nurses to serve the Allies during World War II — to today's advanced programs that prepare nurse practitioners, nurse educators and health care leaders, nursing at D'Youville has always reflected our university's ability to respond to society's most pressing needs. Generations of graduates have carried the D'Youville spirit of caring, innovation and resilience into hospitals, clinics, schools, communities and even battlefields around the world.

That spirit remains at the heart of our work. In today's challenging health care landscape, the need for well-prepared,



Nursing students attend the capping ceremony at D'Youville College in 1970.

compassionate professionals has never been greater. Our programs in nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, dietetics, occupational therapy, and — soon — osteopathic medicine, are united by a common vision: to create a healthier future by training students who will not only fill critical workforce shortages, but who will also lead with empathy, excellence and a commitment to equity in care.

As you turn the pages of this issue, I hope you will take pride in the stories of our students, faculty and alumni who continue to embody D'Youville's founding values while boldly shaping the healthcare systems of tomorrow. Whether you are a graduate, a friend or a supporter, your connection to this community is helping us prepare the next generation of caregivers and leaders.

With gratitude and excitement for all that lies ahead,

Lorrie A. Clemo

Dr. Lorrie Clemo
President, D'Youville University



MADONNA MEMORIES

Photos of residence hall's past ignite memories of curfews, janitor closets, bar hopping and more

I SPENT A HAPPY HOUR transported back to my DYU years (1958-62), while looking at the old and new pictures of Madonna Hall in the latest *D'Mensions*.

As a sophomore with no car, I somehow arranged to spend Tuesday nights in Madonna that first year it opened. I bunked wherever there was an empty bed and took the bus with the regular resident students out to OLV hospital for

our clinical day. How I ever managed my huge, starched apron is lost in time. I remember looking out the windows of Madonna Hall, watching the snow fall, listening to Marty Robbins singing "The Streets of Laredo" and wondering about living somewhere with no snow. Little did I know that in 1971, I'd move west permanently. As I write this (in Arizona), it is 104 degrees outside.

The lobby was where we met our dates for junior prom, under the watchful eye of the nun assigned to monitor our coming and going. We had a curfew — it may have been midnight. By then, I'd moved into the dorms for my entire junior year.

The dining room picture evokes a lot of old memories, and many in that picture were my classmates. You had to be seated in place when the nun assigned to eat with us showed up, or you'd have to give Sister your excuses. We tried to make sure our table was full, so she wouldn't sit with us. In retrospect, that was very shortsighted. We were young and sheltered in those very different times. I was especially so — I was horrified when as a senior, I learned that the nuns could drink wine.

Finally, thanks for the pictures of our student uniforms. We thought we were "hot stuff" in those. I love all the updates, and I wish I'd been able to persuade some of my many nieces and nephews to attend D'Youville. Thanks again!

Cathy Luby Ceranski ('62)

HISTORY WAS MADE at D'Youville College on Friday, Aug. 27, 1971, as 12 male students entered Madonna Hall for their freshman orientation. They were to be one of the most rambunctious groups of undergrads in DYU's long and distinguished history.

To say they were not quite ready for us would lend itself to understatement. There were no real "men's rooms" to speak of, so someone put black tape over the "wo" in "women," and away we went. In taking our physical education courses, there was only a women's locker room. The men changed in a very small custodian closet where we managed somehow to get into our swimsuits amid the mops and brooms.

But one certainty prevailed; this bond that was formed amongst 12 strangers 54 years ago led to many lifelong friendships, which are still strong to this very day.

Charles Priore ('75)

MADONNA HALL WAS WHERE the "day hops" hung out between class and sometimes the "Rathskeller" under the current theater, but that was literally a dungeon.

So much went on in Madonna because it was also the main path to cut through from outside to the classrooms and the health/science building and the library. The residents from Marguerite Hall and Madonna used it as a thoroughfare, especially before the Student Center was built.

We studied, gossiped, worried about tests and procrastinated going to the library. We heard about good and bad dates and good and bad professors and helped plan graduations, weddings and Moving Up Day parades there.

Because the dorm, the dining hall, library, admin building, chapel and the classrooms were all connected through Madonna, we had at least two members of our class who didn't leave the building from Winter Break until Spring Break — more than 60



Before a night out with friends at the entrance of Madonna Hall in the early 1970s.

days of being inside, and they were proud of it.

Madonna (and Marguerite) were also our names when we went to the Armory or other taverns and met guys and didn't want to see them again.

I have many memories — including taking turns pounding a coin into a wedding ring for a gal in our group (I wonder if her husband still wears it). It took many months to create.

I am sure we showed up in some of your photos. I couldn't locate any, but the ones in my mind will be treasured forever — beige linoleum squares, turquoise sofas and so many lovely memories.

Mary M. DeLaney ('72)

MY FONDEST MEMORIES are the ethnic food tables in Madonna Lounge, hosted by Campus Ministry. Staff would bring Italian dishes for St. Joseph's Table. Polish dishes were shared at the Easter Swieconka. Father Walker would open with a blessing of gratitude. We valued community.

Madonna Lounge was an oasis of peace. Light from the tall windows facing Fargo Avenue filled the space. It was a

privilege to have access to a grand piano, which I played on occasion. One of my roommates played the flute, and we practiced together.

In the dorm, we shared a telephone at the end of the hall. Whoever answered would shout a name down the hall and/or knock on one's door. There was also a "phone booth" in the basement near the laundry room. Cell phones did not exist — screen time was gathering around the common TV in the kitchenette at the end of the halls.

Sister Denise Roche was our RA during freshman year. She was an exemplary role model and most likely inspired me to want to become a Grey Nun. What I loved about Madonna Hall was seeing many Grey Nuns walk through on their way to meals or the administrative building. The work and values of these women set me on a path of dedicated service.

Jennifer Christiansen ('80)

I REMEMBER THE HAIR CARE AREA in the basement (in the early 1970s). Many of us with long straight hair at the time loved it, (as well as) the sinks and particularly the strong dryers attached to the walls.

Kris Lamar



Enrollment the best since pre-pandemic era at DYU

More accelerated degree pathways, overall value and commitment to athletics just a few reasons for university's success heading into fall

THE PRELIMINARY NUMBERS were very good for D'Youville University heading into the fall semester. While official admissions figures aren't don't go out until final add/drops are accounted for, DYU is on track for a 10- to 13-percent increase in enrollment over 2024. The upward trajectory reflects D'Youville's distinct mix of accelerated degree pathways, nationally recognized value and commitment to student success, according to President Dr. Lorrie Clemo.

"D'Youville's momentum is the direct result of our focus on creating pathways that prepare students for in-demand careers while ensuring they have the resources and support to thrive," she said. "Our academic innovation, NCAA Division II athletics and commitment to social mobility are resonating with students in a very powerful way."

Fall enrollment is approaching the university's pre-pandemic high of 3,048 students in 2019. Heading into September, student housing was already at 95 percent capacity, driven in part by the expansion to 21 NCAA Division II athletic programs. The growth is prompting the launch of a new, fully furnished student residence, scheduled to break ground in January.



Learn more: Visit dyu.edu/admissions

WHEN IN FOAM

New D'Youville University students enjoyed a foam party in the middle of campus during orientation over the summer. DYU welcomed its largest incoming class in several years this fall, and overall enrollment is approaching pre-pandemic levels.

Photo by Lauren Innes

Your will, your future, your legacy

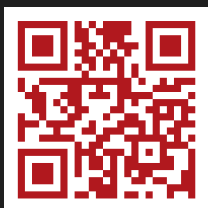
Find empowerment in your
planning and support
D' Youville with your legacy

Every day at D'Youville, students are paving their own paths to a bright, successful future. Have you considered how to support your own?

No matter your age, a well-crafted estate plan protects and provides for your family and the communities you value. Nearly 68% of Americans do not have an up-to-date will, missing an essential act of personal and financial empowerment.


D'Youville encourages our alumni and supporters to complete this important task with FreeWill. Using their free online tool, you can:

1. Make a will in as little as 20 minutes, at no cost
2. Care for your loved ones and craft a plan for your assets
3. Create a planned gift to support future generations of students at D'Youville



Scan the QR code or visit
FreeWill.com/dyu

D'YOUVILLE

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GREEN LIGHT

*D'Youville gets approval to move ahead with historic
College of Osteopathic Medicine*

Rendering subject to change

THE FIRST OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL SCHOOL in Western New York is coming to D'Youville University. The American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) granted pre-accreditation in September to launch what will become the D'Youville University College of Osteopathic Medicine, or DYU-COM.

Pre-accreditation affirms D'Youville's readiness to admit students and build the infrastructure to welcome its inaugural class in fall 2026. The approval also reflects D'Youville's longstanding mission to expand access to healthcare and medical education, especially in underserved and rural communities.

"This is a monumental moment for D'Youville and for Western New York," said President Dr. Lorrie Clemo.



The College of Osteopathic Medicine comes on the heels of successful D'Youville health science programs like physician assistant, launched in 1974.

“Opening a medical school is more than education, it’s about transforming healthcare access, growing the workforce, and strengthening the fabric of our community. We are grateful for the trust COCA has placed in our vision and eager to build Buffalo’s first medical school in almost 200 years.”

DYU-COM will emphasize the osteopathic philosophy of whole-person care and a curriculum that integrates early clinical experience, interprofessional collaboration and a focus on cultural competency. Nearly 50 clinical affiliation agreements with hospitals and healthcare providers across Western New York, Upstate New York and New York City are already in place to ensure medical students have robust clinical training opportunities.

“We are intentionally prioritizing clinical partnerships with hospitals and providers serving rural and underserved populations,” Clemo added. “There is a critical shortage of primary care physicians in these communities, and D’Youville looks forward to being part of the solution.”

Receiving pre-accreditation is the culmination of years of planning and collaboration by our university and community partners, said Founding Dean Dr. Shawn Cannon, a doctor of osteopathic medicine.

“We are assembling a faculty who are not only academically and clinically accomplished, but deeply committed to mentorship, service, and training physicians who reflect the communities they serve,” Cannon said. “DYU-COM will be both accountable to Western New York and a model of excellence in medical education.”



Prospective students can apply at dyu.edu/medicine

HIGHLIGHTS

- First new medical school in WNY in 180 years.
- Four years of planning and community collaboration led to COCA approval.
- COCA is the only accrediting body for osteopathic schools in the U.S. Receiving pre-accreditation means COCA has reviewed D’Youville’s application, facilities, finances, curriculum, leadership and planning and has determined that the university meets the standards required to begin enrolling medical students.
- Nearly 50 signed affiliation agreements for clinical training across New York.
- Curriculum prioritizes primary care specialties: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, OB/GYN, General Surgery and Psychiatry.
- Growth plan: 90 students in 2026, scaling to 180 per class by 2028, with a total enrollment of 720 by 2031.

Starting with 90 students in fall 2026, DYU-COM will quickly expand to 180 students per class by 2028 — ultimately reaching a capacity of 720 student physicians by 2031. Potential students can now apply through the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service.

The first year of instruction will be held on D’Youville’s main campus. In fall 2027, DYU-COM is planning on moving into its permanent home at 285 Delaware Avenue in downtown Buffalo, a state-of-the-art facility intentionally selected to keep the medical school in the heart of the city.

New school will be in heart of Buffalo, near DYU campus

Building not only investment in education and health care, but also ‘in our region’s future’

285 DELAWARE AVENUE is the planned location for the first college of osteopathic medicine in Western New York.

The creation of a new medical school is expected to have a transformative impact — both on D’Youville and the broader Western New York region. At full capacity, the program will bring hundreds of new students to the city, strengthen D’Youville’s undergraduate health programs, attract new talent, and build a stronger pipeline to local healthcare providers, many of which are facing critical workforce shortages.

Located just over a mile from D’Youville’s main campus, the 285 Delaware site was intentionally

The proposed site for the D’Youville University College of Osteopathic Medicine, at 285 Delaware Avenue.



selected to keep the medical school in the heart of Buffalo. Developed in partnership with Uniland Development, the building reflects the university's long-standing commitment to remaining embedded in the city and strengthening its accessibility and connection to the community.

“Bringing a medical school to Buffalo aligns with our mission to transform healthcare education in ways that are community-focused, equitable and rooted in the neighborhoods we serve,” said President Dr. Lorrie Clemo. “This new building is not just an investment in education — it’s an investment in our region’s future.”

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, the U.S. could face a shortage of 17,800 to 48,000 primary care physicians by 2034. In New York State alone, more than 27,000 physicians are expected to retire in the coming years.

“With a growing portfolio of advanced degree programs across healthcare, education, and leadership, the university is deeply committed to preparing graduates for the highest levels of professional practice,” said Clemo. “The new site expands both our reach and our ability to meet critical workforce needs across Buffalo and beyond.”



So, what is osteopathic medicine?

When Andrew Taylor Still turned 30, he enlisted in the 9th Kansas Cavalry and would become a captain and major in the Kansas Militia during the Civil War. But his grim experiences as a war medic did little to prepare him for what awaited at home after his service.

An epidemic of spinal meningitis killed three of his children. His first wife died during childbirth, and a daughter from his second wife died of pneumonia at a young age.

Shaken by war and his inability to save his wife and children, Still rejected most of what he had learned about medicine. There had to be another way.

He dedicated his life to finding alternative ways to cure disease. In 1870, he completed a short course in medicine at the new College of Physicians and Surgeons in Kansas City, and would begin investigating treatments such as hydrotherapy [using water in therapeutic treatments], improved diet, bonesetting and magnetic healing. He imagined a day when rational therapy would include manipulation

of the musculoskeletal system, surgery and less use of drugs.

He named his approach “osteopathic medicine” because of his focus on the musculoskeletal system. He founded the first school of osteopathic medicine — the American School of Osteopathy [now A.T. Still University] — in Kirksville, Mo., in 1892.

Today, there are 43 accredited osteopathic medical schools in the United States. Osteopathic graduates (DOs) have the same training as allopathic graduates (MDs). Legally and professionally, they’re equals and can apply for the same residencies nationwide.

The biggest difference between MDs and DOs is the philosophical approach to patient care and the additional training DOs receive in Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment. While MDs follow a more disease-focused, allopathic model, DOs receive a holistic education emphasizing the interconnectedness of the body, mind and spirit, and learn hands-on OMT techniques to diagnose and treat conditions.

MDs have been around longer. DOs are newer, but growing. In the 2023-24 academic year, more than 38,000 osteopathic medical students were studying to become osteopathic physicians, an all-time high. This represented more than a 65 percent increase in the last decade.

CONTINUED GROWTH

New student housing coming in next two years

University has invested in 'comprehensive environmental cleanup' of site, ensuring cleaner footprint in community



Computer rendering of the new student housing project, which will break ground on West Avenue this January.

AS D'YOUVILLE CONTINUES to expand its footprint and student experience, the University announced in July plans for a new, fully furnished student housing project at 443 West Avenue in Buffalo, scheduled to break ground in January.

The new residence will offer primarily individual apartment-style units, each featuring a full kitchen and in-unit laundry — creating an ideal living environment for today's student. The project is expected to be completed by July 2027, in time to welcome students for the 2027–2028 academic year.

“This project is another example of how D'Youville is rising to meet the moment,” said President Dr. Lorrie Clemo. “With growing demand for housing — driven by the exciting momentum in our NCAA Division II athletics and the future

launch of our new College of Medicine—this new residence is not only timely, but essential.”

Developed in partnership with Uniland Development, the housing expansion reflects D'Youville's commitment to providing students with a vibrant, supportive campus experience as the university grows in size, impact and national visibility. In preparation for the project, D'Youville has already invested in a comprehensive environmental cleanup of the site — ensuring both a strong foundation for construction and a safer, cleaner footprint for the surrounding community.

As with other recent initiatives, the project is part of D'Youville's broader strategy to strengthen its role as a forward-thinking anchor institution in the City of Buffalo.

TGIT

D'Youville lauded for its 32-hour work week in new book on changing work cultures in higher ed

DYU'S GROUNDBREAKING

approach to work-life balance and employee well-being is in the national spotlight thanks to the release of *The Caring University*, a new book by higher education scholar and workplace innovator Dr. Kevin McClure. The book examines how colleges and universities across the country are redefining what it means to care for their students, employees, and communities in a time of profound change.

The book devotes a featured section to D'Youville's pioneering and highly publicized decision to implement a 32-hour workweek for full-time staff while maintaining salaries and benefits. The move, launched in 2022, made D'Youville one of the first institutions in the nation to fully adopt a four-day, reduced-hour workweek as a permanent policy.

“[The shift] was rooted in our belief that caring for our employees directly benefits our students and the community,” DYU President Lorrie Clemo said. “The Caring University captures exactly why higher education must lead with empathy and innovation.”



A chapter of *The Caring University* looks at how D'Youville's shorter workweek has influenced its culture.

CHAMPS COMMENCE

D'Youville's softball squad was 400 miles away playing in its first Div. II NCAA Regional Tournament series when their classmates walked the stage in May. Six members of the team (like Emily Przybysz, pictured) got their own ceremony upon their return following their historic season.

Photo by Lauren Innes





D'YOUVILLE
UNIVERSITY

A new point of view, from atop DYU

BUFFALO LOOKS BRIGHTER thanks to a brand-new weather camera now perched atop D’Youville’s Marguerite Hall.

The camera captures stunning views of Lake Erie, the Niagara River, the Peace Bridge and, of course, the city skyline. Whether it’s a glowing sunset over the water or the first snowfall of the season, this new lens shows off Buffalo at its best.

In partnership with WIVB Channel 4, the camera is already making appearances on local weather forecasts, giving Buffalonians another reason to tune in. And for those who can’t get enough of the view, the camera streams live 24/7 at wivb.com.

For D’Youville, the project is about more than weather — it’s about celebrating the university’s role as an anchor on Buffalo’s west side. The camera provides a new window to the campus and the vibrant community around it.

So the next time you’re checking the forecast, keep an eye out. You just might catch a glimpse of Buffalo’s beauty, seen from D’Youville’s point of view.



Screen cap of the new WIVB weather camera from D’Youville’s campus.

BUFFALO BITES

A quick look at some of the recent high points that make us proud to be Saints:



PAs now have option for Doctor of Medical Science

D'Youville University launched its new Doctor of Medical Science program for physician assistants, a cutting-edge doctoral program designed to advance clinical practice, leadership and academic careers for licensed PAs.

Designed for working professionals, the DMSc program offers flexible online coursework and specialized tracks that empower PAs to deepen their clinical knowledge, expand their leadership capabilities, and contribute to scholarly research and healthcare innovation.

D'Youville is the only college or university in New York to offer DMSc program fully online, further solidifying its position as a leader in advancing healthcare education and professional practice.

Clema named to Power 200 list

President Dr. Lorrie Clema's was named to *Buffalo Business First's* 2025 Power 200 Women list, recognizing the region's most influential and impactful female leaders. Ranked at No. 18, Clema is once again being honored for her bold leadership, dedication to community health and commitment to innovation in higher education.

Since becoming D'Youville's first lay president in 2017, Clema has guided the university through a transformative period of growth. Most recently, D'Youville announced the upcoming launch of Western New York's first college of osteopathic medicine.



SPRINT FOOTBALL ADDED AS 22ND VARSITY SPORT

D'Youville University announced the addition sprint football as its 22nd varsity sport, marking another milestone in the growth of Saints Athletics. The university has also named Graham Johnsen, a veteran coach with more than two decades of experience, as the team's first-ever head coach. The program will take the field in fall 2026.

Sprint football is a distinctive version of the sport, requiring players to weigh 178 pounds or less. With its emphasis on speed, agility and technique, the game delivers fast-paced action that prioritizes athleticism and strategy over size and strength. It has a long tradition at prestigious universities such as Army and Navy and is currently governed by the Collegiate Sprint Football League and the Midwest Sprint Football League.

Johnsen brings a wealth of experience to the role, having coached across NCAA Division I, II, III, and sprint football programs. Most notably, he served as head coach at Mansfield University, where he helped reestablish its sprint football program and guide its growth in the CSFL.

DYU expands Institute for Teaching Innovation

D'Youville University announced in August a strategic expansion of its Institute for Teaching Innovation, reflecting the evolving role of digital and hybrid learning in modern higher education. As part of this evolution, the university has transitioned its former Online Learning Department, integrating its staff and responsibilities into a more comprehensive academic support structure.

The newly enhanced ITI will serve as a central hub for teaching excellence, providing robust faculty development resources, one-on-one support, workshops, and leadership in the integration of emerging technologies. The goal is to support student engagement and effective instruction across all delivery methods — face-to-face, hybrid and fully online.

Julianna Woite was appointed as director of the Institute for Teaching Innovation and now leads a team that includes two transitioned learning and design specialists and an instructional technologist/LMS specialist.

The traditional 'dink'

The collegiate 'dink' is a tradition that goes back to the early 1900s. D'Youville has carried on that tradition with a 'dinking ceremony' for freshmen and first-year transfer students. The red and white beanie caps are seen as a fun 'welcome' to students and are meant to invoke a sense of school spirit.

See a full photo gallery of this year's Dinking Ceremony (as well as other photos from both freshman orientation and welcome week festivities) on D'Youville's Flickr site: [flickr.com/dyouville](https://www.flickr.com/photos/dyouville)



DYU trustee honored with state healthcare award

Dr. Alycia Redlinkski, D'Youville University Board of Trustees member, was recognized by *Buffalo Business First* for outstanding achievements to the healthcare sector in Western New York. The award highlights high-achieving professionals in the health care industry whose work has improved the way the health system operates in Western New York hospitals and health facilities.

Redlinkski serves as the associate site medical director and emergency medicine physician for Keystone Healthcare Partners, as well as the assistant director of emergency medicine for Bertrand Chaffee Hospital.

In 2024, Redlinkski became a member of D'Youville University's Board of Trustees, a moment she said was her proudest accomplishment of last year. "I'm excited to witness the positive impact this addition will undoubtedly have on our medical community and community at large," she said.



DYU faculty, staff secure \$2.2M in grants, awards in 2024-25

D'Youville announced a record-setting year in faculty scholarship and research funding for the 2024-25 academic year.

Faculty and staff across numerous disciplines and departments secured nearly \$2.2 million in competitive grants and published upwards of 50 scholarly articles, book chapters, and creative works, furthering D'Youville's reputation as a leader in innovation, research and community-focused scholarship.

D'YOUVILLE, GANNON AGREE TO NUTRITION, DIETETICS PARTNERSHIP

D'Youville and Gannon University signed an articulation agreement establishing a 3+3 nutrition and dietetics pathway between the two institutions.

Under this new agreement, students will complete three years of study in the nutrition program at Gannon and then transfer to D'Youville to earn a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics. Once at D'Youville, students will complete six semesters of study.

The first two semesters will consist of didactic, pre-professional coursework to prepare to enter their ACEND*-accredited nutrition and dietetics coordinated program. The courses completed during this period will fulfill the requirements to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition from Gannon University.

The remaining four semesters at D'Youville will consist of professional coursework within their accredited coordinated program. Upon successful completion of this program, students will be eligible to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration national credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian. D'Youville will hold five seats in the program annually for eligible Gannon participants.



DYU continues to climb ranks as top private university

D'Youville University has increased in rankings in the "National Universities" category according to *U.S. News & World Report*. D'Youville jumped 17 places from the previous year and now ranks 242nd out of close to 1,500 national colleges and universities using 17 measures of quality.

The new rankings also place D'Youville at number 101 nationally for social mobility impact on students.

"We are thrilled to be considered among the top 250 colleges and universities with a national reach and impact," said President Dr. Lorrie Clemo. "This recognition underscores our commitment to innovative programs in the health sciences and business, as well as financial aid initiatives that empower students from all backgrounds to achieve success during their time at D'Youville and beyond."

U.S. News & World Report publishes the Best Colleges rankings each year to provide students and their families a comparison of the undergraduate programs within America's colleges and universities.

Saint gets Cape Cod call

D'Youville baseball standout Billy Morris took his talents to one of the most elite summer leagues in the country.

After a strong showing with the Forest City Owls in the Coastal Plain League, Morris was called up to join the Orleans Firebirds of the prestigious Cape Cod Baseball League — a dream come true for many aspiring professional players.

In five games with the Firebirds, Morris — a standout both on the mound and at the plate for the Saints — pitched in seven games for Orleans.

THAT'S A WRAP

From the Welcome Back Bash and its array of fun (go-kart racing and inflatables included) to the much-anticipated Battle of the Floors, D'Youville students got an opportunity to have fun and meet new friends before the start of the fall semester. Photo galleries from both events are available on DYU's Flickr site: [flickr.com/dyouville](https://www.flickr.com/photos/dyouville/).

Photos by Lauren Innes





DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Recent graduate rings in a new legacy at DYU

John Rizk served as SGA president while working toward his PharmD; his parting gift a celebratory victory bell



WHAT BEGAN WITH AN INTRODUCTION and an inquiry about joining the Student Government Association to D'Youville's Vice President of Student Affairs developed into a relationship that will leave a lasting mark on the University.

From Day 1, John Rizk ('25 PharmD) has shown to be a D'Youville Saint through and through. After joining SGA (after talking to VP Benjamin "BG" Grant), Rizk was quickly elected as SGA president, a position he held for three years while working toward his Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

"He's the type of student leader and advocate that university faculty and administrators dream about engaging."

— *Vice President of Student Affairs*
Benjamin "BG" Grant

During his six years with the SGA, Rizk brought organization and a vision to student government. He helped establish key committees to ensure student representation in critical University decisions, including initiatives to secure over \$100,000 in funding to expand student access to national student life and academic conferences.

Beyond his service and leadership within SGA, Rizk also served as a resident advisor, orientation leader, University ambassador and Saint Sitter. In addition, he excelled in his scholarly contribution to D'Youville where he co-authored a peer-reviewed publication in the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association* that advocated for expanded pharmacy practice and improved access to pharmacist-administered injectable contraceptives.

His research underscored a steadfast commitment to advancing healthcare accessibility and patient outcomes.

"John Rizk is what I would call a once-in-a-lifetime student leader — visionary, driven and deeply committed to service," said Grant. "He's the type of student leader and advocate that university faculty and administrators dream about engaging. At D'Youville, John's leadership has transformed student engagement and left a lasting impact on our entire community."

As Rizk's time at D'Youville concluded, the question arose: What would be a fitting legacy? Ever focused on enhancing the student experience, Rizk chose to gift the university a victory bell that will be rung during moments of significant celebration. In a surprise ceremony in May, the new bell was unveiled to Rizk and his close friends.

Grant says Rizk's leadership, vision and dedication will continue to inspire Saints for generations to come — encouraging them to lead with purpose, pursue excellence, and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

A HEALTHY WESTERN NEW YORK BEGINS AT
DYOUVILLE UNIVERSITY



See to Learn More



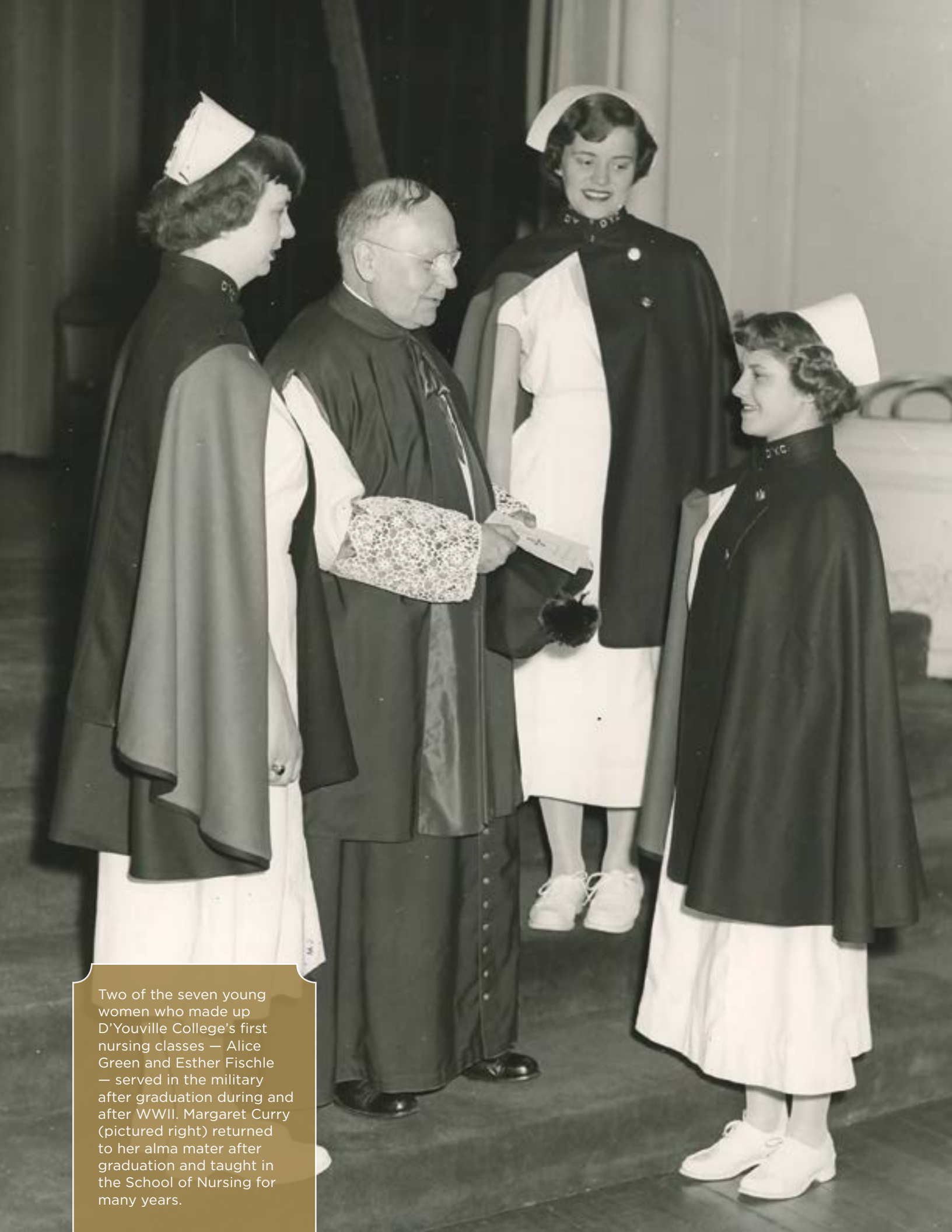
D'YOU WANT TO BE UNSTOPPABLE? APPLY TODAY.

The United States had just entered World War II, and the country was in desperate need of nurses both overseas and on the homefront when D'Youville College launched its nursing program in 1942. This image is one of several ads from the U.S. Army Nurses Corps that appeared on posters and in newspapers and magazines around that time.

*As a **missioner of health**, I will dedicate myself to devoted service for human welfare.*

— Florence Nightingale Pledge, 1935 version —





Two of the seven young women who made up D'Youville College's first nursing classes — Alice Green and Esther Fischle — served in the military after graduation during and after WWII. Margaret Curry (pictured right) returned to her alma mater after graduation and taught in the School of Nursing for many years.

A CALL TO Service

D'Youville's nursing program
was born from a need for health care
professionals as the country entered World War II.
The program has held true to that call to serve
for the past 83 years.

THIRTY-SEVEN DAYS AFTER Japanese forces attacked an American fleet at Pearl Harbor, a short article in the Buffalo Evening News — 4,700 miles away on the opposite side of a country heading into war — made a plea to all women (at least 17 years old) to serve their country by enrolling in Red Cross nursing classes in Lackawanna. Before the attack, fewer than 1,000 women made up the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, so the call was desperate, as the nation's military would grow from about 400,000 to 16 million in the next four years.

Six months into World War II, tiny D'Youville College — then an all-women's school with barely 275 students enrolled — answered the call. That spring, the college announced the launch of Western New York's first four-year nursing degree program, and that summer in 1942, its first student, Beatrice Koch from Mount St. Joseph Academy, received the first \$500 nursing scholarship.

While the war greased the wheels in getting D’Youville’s program — and several other programs throughout the country — off the ground in the fall of 1942, the idea to introduce a health science curriculum at what had been a predominantly liberal arts school was first born in 1934 with a letter written by two chaplains from E.J. Meyer Memorial Hospital (now Erie County Medical Center) in Buffalo. The two men reached out to the superintendent of that hospital, because they felt “young Catholic women” in the area should be “provided with an opportunity to carry on their non-profession studies surrounded by every approved Catholic influence, if they so desire.”



(From top left) Patricia Burns, Margaret Curry, Esther Fischle, Alice Greene, Beatrice Koch, Valeri Sauk and Annette Smith made up D’Youville College’s first class of nurses in 1942. The group graduated in 1946 after two years of on-campus learning and two years of hands-on clinical practice at a hospital in rural Ogdensburg.

D’Youville and Canisius College were the only two Catholic higher ed institutions in Buffalo at the time, and neither had the programs (or facilities) to make it happen. D’Youville President Sister Grace Wechter was intrigued by the idea, and in 1936, she reached out to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Nursing, which invited her to attend a state conference in Albany that spring.

Wechter and D’Youville continued to pursue the program heading into December of 1941, when President Franklin Roosevelt declared war on Germany and Japan. Suddenly, federal aid became

part of the picture as the government began to push for more registered nurses — at least 3,000 a month, initially. And while World War II was the catalyst for an increase in programs, more nurses were needed on the homefront, too, due to the rise in industrial accidents, union-backed health insurance plans for workers and the general improvement in the standard of living at the time.

Nursing is, in the best sense of the term, a profession, because it constitutes a service indispensable to man and closely bound up with his physical and spiritual welfare. The field of nursing has an educational content of high culture, intellectual and spiritual value and so much be regarded as a fundamental department of learning in any well-rounded education plan.

The American Journal of Nursing, 1939

D’Youville’s plan was to create a program that combined two years of pre-clinical coursework on campus, followed by two years of hands-on training. In January of 1942, the school brought in Sister Rosalie Ashline to plan and develop the new Department of Nursing. Ashline had previous experience both in education and nursing before becoming a Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart. She earned a Master of Science in Nursing Education from The Catholic University of America and served on the New York State Board of Nurse Examiners from 1936-38.

Her first challenge was finding a hospital to partner with the school for the 10-week summer session after their freshman year and for a full year of rotations during their third year. The school had to agree to only accept D’Youville students, allow D’Youville to control the educational process and had to agree to allow all science courses to be taught on the college campus. Of the seven hospitals on Ashline’s wishlist, A. Barton Hepburn Hospital in Ogdensburg checked the most boxes. The only problem (and a big one) was Ogdensburg being 274 miles away from Buffalo.

That fall, D’Youville welcomed eight students into its first class of nurses, seven of whom would graduate four years later — Koch, Patricia Burns, Esther Fischle, Valeri Sauk, Annette Smith, Alice Greene and Margaret Curry. Curry — who would return to the school after graduation to become an assistant professor of nursing and eventually the School of



Nursing's general chairman in the 1960s — recalled that first summer in Ogdensburg, which had just over 16,000 residents during the war.

“We went to the country, and none of us had ever been away from home,” she said. “It was exciting, though, because we actually got in and took care of patients. We had a set time to go to bed and to get up. We had to go to Mass every morning, before we went on duty. It was a lot like being in the Army.”

While on campus, those students enrolled in a good mix of liberal arts and health science courses. Religion, philosophy, ethics, English and history were joined by nursing history, anatomy and physiology, pathology, psychology, biology and nutrition and diet therapy. The clinical experience featured surgical nursing, care of children, operating room technique, maternity care, psychiatric nursing and — a sign of the times — tuberculosis nursing. Emergency room and public health nursing were added in the 1950s.

Prospective nurses at D’Youville had to be at least 16 years old and have “satisfactory references” in regard to their health, character and ability. They had to undergo annual physicals from a doctor (including a chest X-ray) and agree to vaccinations against smallpox, typhoid fever and diphtheria.



(Top photo) New D’Youville nursing students stand in line before their capping ceremony in 1966. **(Above)** Sister Virginia Taylor, director of the School of Nursing in 1956, joins senior nursing students on their graduation day.



ELEANOR ALEXANDER ('61 BSN)

"She was a goddess to us for volunteering for Army nursing. She was our Florence Nightingale."

Those words came from Patrick Vellucci, who served in the U.S. Army's 10th Cavalry, 4th Infantry in Vietnam for two years beginning in 1967. That first year, he met a young nurse, Eleanor Grace Alexander, who joined the Army Nurse Corps earlier that year after starting her career at hospitals in upstate New York and in New Jersey before volunteering to join the war effort.

Alexander made it to Vietnam that June and was placed at the 85th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon, where she cared for seriously wounded soldiers, both Americans and the Vietnamese. On Nov. 30, 1967, she boarded an Air Force C-7B transport plane with 26 others for a routine flight from the Cam Ranh Air Base back to Qui Nhon, about 165 miles away. As the plane approached their airfield, the pilot was advised the weather made landing unsafe and told the pilot to proceed to another nearby base.

Enroute to that base, the plane hit a mountain at 1,850 feet, killing all 26 on board, including Alexander. She was one of only eight military servicewomen (all nurses) and 59 civilian women (Red Cross volunteers and others) to die in action during the war.

Harold David Parks wrote a tribute for Alexander for the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial & Museum, and while he never formally met her, he remembered Alexander well: "She was the subject of admiring conversation by all of my enlisted buddies. She was always smiling and bright-eyed ... when word came that we lost her, everyone was sad. We had lost other young from our unit, and we hardened ourselves against such losses and expected them. Capt. Alexander, however, was different. Her loss was felt by everyone, and grief cast a cloud over the 85th.

"After we lost her ... we all realized that she had made our lives in Vietnam a bit more bearable."

As for cost, during the 1940s, tuition was roughly \$250 for freshmen, \$250 for sophomores, \$30 for the 10-week summer session and \$10 for a public health affiliation. The third and fourth years cost \$50 and \$25, respectively. Other fees were included for library access, laboratory equipment and textbooks.

"We were very nervous during the war. There was a very, I want to say, 'religious' feeling. We were concerned for the people who were suffering or dying. It was rough, and we spent a lot of time in the chapel and a lot of time with the chaplain. It was a rough time for all of us, because we were young and [emotional]. Our young men were over there, and a lot were dying or coming home hurt. We were praying for them all the time."

Quote from The D'Youville Family Album

Colleges and universities all over the country felt the impact of World War II in 1942. While D'Youville — being an all-women's school — didn't take on the enrollment hit like co-ed schools, life on campus changed dramatically. Blood drives became the new "social gathering," and D'Youville women raised \$75,000 in war bonds that year to pay for a pursuit aircraft that would be named for the school. Students took part-time jobs in local industries to help with the war effort, and even in their free time, students' thoughts stayed overseas (one story had a young woman knitting an afghan to donate to troops as she listened to a lecture in English class).

Adding nursing to the curriculum was another way D'Youville could help.

The school was one of hundreds to benefit from the Bolton Nurse Training Act, adopted nationally to address the wartime shortage, and the federally funded U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, which paid full tuition, room and board to students who pledged wartime service. Posters and magazine ads went out all over the country featuring images of stoic, patriotic uniformed women and promises of a fulfilling career and a "lifetime education." By 1945, the Army's nursing ranks grew to 57,000, with cadet nurses assigned to hospital ships and trains, flying ambulances, field hospitals and general hospitals on the homefront.

GOING CO-ED

D'Youville College became a co-ed school in 1971 when the school's trustees voted to begin allowing men in its ranks. Frank Bennett (pictured) was one of 10 men who enrolled in the School of Nursing that year. Today, approximately one-fourth of D'Youville's nursing students are men.





The 1970 School of Nursing Capping Ceremony held in Holy Angels Church. Capping is a traditional rite of passage that marks a nursing student's transition from academic study to professional clinical practice. While actual caps are no longer part of the D'Youville tradition, the pinning ceremony remains a significant event for nursing graduates

The war brought on innovations in the profession — military nurses dealt with shock, blood replacement and resuscitation in real-life situations. Their service wasn't without risk, as 201 U.S. nurses died during the war from accidents, disease, weather-related incidents and hostile fire; and 67 Army nurses became Japanese prisoners of war after the fall of Corregidor in the Philippines in 1942.

Of the seven trailblazing nurses in the first class at D'Youville, Alice Greene and Esther Fischle were the only two to serve in the military during and after the war. Greene served in Germany, and Fischle became a nursing instructor in the Philippines. And while she didn't serve, Valerie Sauk's nursing degree allowed her to become a stewardess for the first international flights by American Airlines, which required medical training from its staff on long flights.

“Let me dedicate my life today to the care of those who come my way. Let me touch each one with healing hands and the gentle art for which I stand. And then tonight, when the day is done, let me rest in peace if I help just one.”

A Nurse's Prayer, by Teri Lynn Thompson

Under the leadership of Ashline, the department of nursing and its seven students blossomed into the School of Nursing and more than 100 students by 1950. When Ashline died suddenly in 1951, she was succeeded by Sister Francis Xavier, who also held undergraduate and graduate degrees in nursing from Catholic University. Xavier (who would go on to become president of D'Youville in the 1960s) led the school through its greatest period of growth in the 50s and established D'Youville's first graduate program in nursing.

By 1962 — 20 years into the program's existence — the School of Nursing had 270 students enrolled and more than 500 graduates living in every state in the country (plus Puerto Rico, Canada,

France, Germany and Italy). At the time, Xavier attributed the school's success to its focus on both professionalism and humanitarianism.

"We build the woman, and on top of that we develop her career," she told the Buffalo Evening News in a 1962 article celebrating its 20 years. "The school of nursing tries to train 'head, heart and hands' — not just to teach a nursing student what she must do ... but to teach her to think, plan, cooperate and manage, too."

When Xavier was named president in 1962, she was succeeded by the School of Nursing's first lay woman to be named dean, Virginia Ego. The program peaked in the 1970s with more than 1,000 full- and part-time nursing students enrolled at the school. In the 1980s, D'Youville leaders moved to reduce their dependency on nursing by adding more programs in business, computer science and education. Occupational and physical therapy were added in the late 1980s, strengthening the school's health science programs but ultimately cutting into nursing.

Today, nursing is still the most popular undergraduate degree offered at D'Youville, and enrollment in the graduate program is right around the 450 mark. In 2017, D'Youville received a \$2 million gift from Richard Garman and his family to name the School of Nursing in memory of his wife, the late Patricia H. Garman, who earned her BSN in 1976 and later taught nursing at the school. The gift was one of the largest one-time gifts in the school's history and allowed D'Youville to expand and strengthen its program.

The COVID pandemic in 2020 highlighted the continued need for nurses in the U.S. and revealed a shortage that could hit 100,000 by 2030.

This summer, D'Youville named Dr. Shannon McCrory-Churchill as dean of the Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing after she served as interim dean and held a variety of academic clinical leadership roles during her career. The university said McCrory-Churchill's focus on "student-centered learning, innovation in clinical preparation and dedication to addressing health care workforce needs" made her the right choice.

"She is the ideal leader to guide our School of Nursing during this critical time for the profession," President Lorrie Clemo said. "Her vision for innovation in nursing education, paired with her passion for advancing access to healthcare and supporting our students, will ensure D'Youville continues to prepare nurses who are both highly skilled and deeply compassionate."

MILESTONES



1942 | As the nation heads into World War II, D'Youville College — answering a nationwide call for more nurses — launches the first bachelor's nursing program in New York.

1950 | Eight years into the program and four years after graduating its first class, the nursing department becomes the School of Nursing.

1957 | D'Youville launches a BSN completion program for nurses coming with with an associate's degree and for diploma RNs.

1972 | A year after D'Youville College goes co-ed, the School of Nursing admits its first male students.

1978 | The School of Nursing enjoys its highest enrollment with 1,107 total nursing students.

1983 | The School launches its first graduate program in nursing — a Master of Science in Community Health Nursing.

1990s | Between 1989 and 2001, D'Youville launches a dual BSN/Master's program, a Family Nurse Practitioner program, a five-year dual degree program and new post Bachelor's certifications.

2010 | Nursing students embark on the School's first mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

2012 | D'Youville's Doctor of Nursing Practice program is approved by the NYSED.

2019 | After nearly 70 years as a school, the School of Nursing becomes the Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing, in recognition of her contributions to the nursing profession and her family's generous contributions to the school.

Dr. Shannon McCrory-Churchill was named director of the Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing over the summer after serving in an interim role. "Nursing is the heart of healthcare," she said upon her announcement, "and D'Youville nurses have a long and respected history of stepping up to meet societal needs."



To SERVE A Calling

*D'Youville's nursing program
continues to thrive as the University's top
undergraduate program, one that continues to
train highly qualified professionals well equipped
to succeed in an ever-evolving, in-demand field.*

NURSING WAS NOT HER FIRST CHOICE. Shannon McCrory-Churchill's passion was music, and her initial plans for college revolved around that passion. She played several instruments. She was accepted into a prestigious school for music. She would become a professional musician, and one day, she would incorporate her skills into another budding interest — teaching.

Her plan couldn't be more clear. Until it wasn't.

Around the time of her high school graduation, McCrory-Churchill's mother suffered a stroke. Suddenly, she could not leave for college, because she was needed at home. And school had to be something close to home and quick ... something she could do while helping in her mother's recovery. She found nursing, which offered both convenience (a two-year degree) and a career with potential.

She also found her calling.



The 2025 class of BSN graduates celebrated their pinning ceremony to mark the end of their journey at D'Youville. Their chances at landing jobs out of college are high, as the U.S. is projecting approximately 193,000 annual job openings for nurses over the next decade due to retirements, workforce exits, and increasing healthcare needs from an aging population.



“It’s a very interesting and exciting time to be in healthcare. But it’s also a bit terrifying, because of changes in the industry and in government. You never know what’s coming. So we have to be failure-proof. It’s my job to make sure that we are.”

Dr. Shannon McCrory-Churchill

McCrory-Churchill worked in some of the profession’s most difficult settings — pediatric oncology and emergency room being the most demanding, mentally and physically. But in those jobs, her appreciation for the important role nurses have in the “heaviest” of settings grew, and she particularly enjoyed her interactions with students and younger nurses who saw her as a mentor. While working at a children’s hospital, she was approached by a faculty member who suggested she look into becoming an adjunct faculty member in pediatric nursing.

She clearly remembers her job interview to become a clinical associate professor at D’Youville in 2007, and not because it went particularly well.

“I was late for my interview with the then-chair of nursing, because I had a student in the OR, and I wasn’t willing to pull them from their experience so I could go to my interview,” she recalls. “They still hired me, even though I was an hour late. I did call and let her know the reason why, and maybe that helped. But I wasn’t willing to sacrifice their experience for mine.”

McCrory-Churchill worked for 15 years as a professor before becoming acting dean in the summer of 2022. This August, D’Youville “dropped the act” and named her dean of the Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing — D’Youville’s 83-year-old program born from a need for wartime nurses during World War II and growing to become arguably the University’s flagship program and a consistent enrollment draw even in lean years.

Today the School offers three undergraduate programs (BSN, RN to BSN and accelerated BSN), a nurse practitioner master’s program, two doctorate programs (family focus and mental health) and two post-master’s certificates. All programs feature immersive internships and clinical placements, and graduates leave prepared for careers in several healthcare settings — from primary care to hospitals, community and home health to long-term care.



The Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing offers three undergraduate programs (BSN, RN to BSN and accelerated BSN), a nurse practitioner master's program, two doctorate programs (family focus and mental health) and two post-master's certificates. All programs feature immersive internships and clinical placements, and graduates leave prepared for careers in several healthcare settings — from primary care to hospitals, community and home health to long-term care.

The new dean enters her role in a post-COVID era where the shortage of registered nurses is very real. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the workforce is expected to expand by 6 percent by 2032, yet 23 percent of current nurses in outpatient, ambulatory and clinical settings have either recently retired or are expected to retire in the next five years. And with the country's population continuing to live longer (Americans aged 65 and older will increase from 58 million to 82 million by 2050), the need for nurses is expected to remain for years to come.

"I'm reminded that there are a lot of nursing programs in this country [more than 2,600 accredited programs, according to the AACN], but the real question is, 'Are there going to be a lot of jobs?' And the answer is yes — that is not something we're going to have to worry about in the next 20 years and beyond," says McCrory-Churchill. "There is no possible way — with the current nursing faculty shortage, especially — that this country can even come close in the next 10 years of meeting the need for nurses that we have right now."

It's not just a nursing shortage; it's a provider shortage, she says (the physician shortage alone is expected to hit 86,000 by 2036). Uncertainty with the country's Medicare program, increased demand due to the aging population and rising chronic diseases and overall post-COVID burnout across all healthcare professions have been contributing factors. McCrory-Churchill says her program is not only providing well-paying careers for its graduates, it's also contributing to positive health outcomes in Western New York and beyond.

"Hospitals are spending, honestly, millions of dollars on travel nurses [RNs who take on temporary assignments to fill shortages] to fill those gaps," she says. "We need to find a way in this country to make healthcare less expensive, and one way to do that is by continuing to put out high-quality nurses to fill those roles."

McCrory-Churchill has been at D'Youville for nearly 20 years, and a lot has changed in the nursing profession and in healthcare since then. Those changes are exciting, but the uncertainties in the

profession — government involvement, affordability, to name a few — can be terrifying. D’Youville has to train students who can adapt to change. Students who are “failure-proof.”

“I see my role as a progressive one,” she says. “I have to have a vision for what’s going to happen in the next 10 years and make sure we aim toward that vision before a need arises.”

“As a people-person and someone who is very compassionate, nursing seemed like a better fit for me. The majority of bedside interaction in healthcare comes from nurses — and that model of care better fit who I am.”

Joshua Peters, 2025 BSN graduate

A GOOD NURSE not only impacts a patient, they impact that patient’s loved ones as well. Sidney Domroes was a sophomore in high school when she learned her mother was diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer. Sidney was by her side for all of her treatments, her chemotherapy, her radiation treatments and her double mastectomy.

“I wanted to be there, because I felt like I was at that age where I could help out,” says Sidney, a student in D’Youville’s RN-to-BSN accelerated program. “And I remember when I’d go with her to fusion treatments, I’d notice the nurses and how they were caring for her and interacting with her. And it stuck with me.”

Those nurses were there for her mother during her initial bout and have been by her side since her rediagnosis in August 2024 (this time, Stage 4). They’ve gone beyond the bedside and appointment care — they’ve helped her find wigs after chemo, bras following surgery, support groups for her mental health and more.

“I’ve known for a while that I wanted to go into nursing,” says Sidney, who started college at a different school in 2020, but struggled to find a fit in that program as she juggled her schedule, her mom’s schedule and the sudden death of her father in 2023. “I knew that if I wanted to get back into it, I needed an accelerated program, and that’s how I found D’Youville.”



PATRICIA H. GARMAN (’76 BSN)

Patricia H. Garman was born in Selinsgrove, Penn., and earned a degree to become a registered nurse at Georgetown Medical Center of Temple University. After taking time off to raise her family, she returned to school in 1973 and earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing at D’Youville and, later, a master’s degree in psychiatric nursing at the University of Buffalo. She became part of the faculty team at DYU in 1977 and taught psychiatric nursing until 1985.

She and her husband Richard were advocates for nursing education in Western New York and generous supporters of D’Youville University and the University of Buffalo, her two alma maters. In 2017, the Garmans donated \$2 million to D’Youville to name the School of Nursing after Patricia. The gift, at the time, marked one of the largest one-time gifts to the school and resulted in the continuation, expansion and strengthening of the nursing department.

“Pat Garman chose to pursue a career in nursing at D’Youville for an opportunity to serve the health, education and welfare needs of the community,” President Dr. Lorrie Clemo said at the naming ceremony in 2017, three years after Garman’s death. “This gift honoring her legacy as an alumna and faculty member of the school will place her memory and the Garman name in a tradition of those who have established, nurtured and articulated a vision for a college of the future.”

While she taught at D’Youville, Garman started Counseling Specialists (a business that focused on families and children), using her knowledge and experience to provide comprehensive care to individuals, families and children dealing with mental illness, addiction and other struggles.

As a nurse, Garman’s strong therapeutic relationships with individuals transformed lives in a positive way.

Joshua Peters grew up in Rochester in a family of healthcare professionals — his mom is an EMT and his uncle is a doctor. He decided to follow in their footsteps in college and took courses to prepare for medical school. But a job as a patient care technician at a hospital in Rochester revealed what it was about healthcare that Joshua was drawn to in the first place — the people. After finishing his four-year degree in psychology at another school, Joshua sought nursing programs that offered an accelerated path to a BSN, and he found that at D’Youville. He started the program in May of 2024 and graduated this past August after 15 months.

“From the beginning, I was drawn to the nursing side of medicine and care,” he says. “As a people-person and someone who is very compassionate, nursing seemed like a better fit for me. The majority of bedside interaction in healthcare comes from nurses — and that model of care better fit who I am.”

McCrary-Churchill points to students like Sidney Domroes and Joshua Peters as classic examples of why students are drawn to nursing — reasons that aren’t much different than the seven who made up D’Youville’s first class in 1942.

“Being a nurse really puts you closer to the action than being a physician or a physician assistant,” she says. “The role is hands-on and personal. It’s a caring role, and the caring philosophies and all of the nursing theorists will tell you — that piece of it makes it so much different from the other professional models, and that’s what attracts people to it.”

Nursing is the nation’s largest healthcare profession with nearly 4.7 million registered nurses nationwide. The median age of nurses in the U.S. is 46 years old, and while the majority of nurses continues to be women, the percentage of men in the field continues to grow (up to 11 percent in 2022). Registered nurses comprise one of the largest segments of the nation’s

workforce as a whole, and more than half of all RNs work in general medical and surgical hospitals, earning an average salary of \$77,600 a year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

As for what nurses do, that answer varies greatly. Most healthcare services involve some form of care from nurses — they’re in high demand in every sector of the industry, from hospitals to private practices, schools to mental health agencies, and hospice and nursing homes to military agencies. While many view the profession as an “assistant” to physicians and other patient-facing professionals, nurses often operate independently.


According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, there are four times as many RNs in the U.S. as there are physicians.

The many paths a nurse can follow are covered in D’Youville’s curriculum, according to McCrary-Churchill. The program also doesn’t gloss over the potential negatives of the profession — nursing can be a physically and mentally demanding career, and burnout is a serious concern within the industry. More than a quarter of current nurses report they plan to leave nursing or retire in the next five years, and 62 percent of current nurses say they experienced high levels of stress in their job in 2025 (that number jumps to 69 percent for those under 25).



The majority of registered nurses in the U.S. work in general medical and surgical hospitals, earning an average salary of \$77,600 a year.

“There is a common saying in the profession: ‘Nurses eat their young.’ We stay away from that. It is a demanding profession, and [students] have to be prepared for the fact that it’s not going to be an easy road, because sometimes things worth doing aren’t easy,” McCrary-Churchill says. “You have someone’s life in your hands. You need to do what the patient needs you to do, when the patient needs it. Some demands are reasonable, and some aren’t. Nursing is a calling. It’s something you don’t do if you don’t love it. And those who love it stay with it, and they find a lot of fulfillment in it.”

A portrait of Dr. Amanda Barton, a woman with brown hair pulled back, wearing glasses and a dark blue V-neck scrub top. She is smiling and sitting at a white desk. Her left hand is resting on the desk, showing a gold watch and a ring. The background is a light-colored wall with a subtle pattern.

Dr. Amanda Barton is director of nursing simulation and clinical practice and oversees the School of Nursing's impressive sim lab. Her students will experience at least 100 hours of simulation — roughly 33 percent of their of their total clinical time — by the time they graduate from the program.

D'Youville's state-of-the-art nursing simulation center is located on the fourth floor of the Dr. Pauline M. Alt Building and is designed to fully immerse students in a hospital environment. High-tech mannequins can do everything from simulating heart attacks and injuries to giving birth, allowing students to work through scenarios they'll see on the job.





“The students are glad they had this simulation time. They know how the flow of a code goes. They know how to handle a postpartum hemorrhage. They know how to care for a patient who’s confused and not communicating clearly. Being able to see it here, touch it here ... it makes a huge difference for them.”

Dr. Amanda Barton

PHOEBE HAS GONE INTO LABOR in one room. Monica is complaining about chest pains in another. And could Chandler *be* more vague about his symptoms in Room 3?

The high-tech mannequins in D’Youville’s nursing simulation lab share the names of the staff’s favorite *Friends* characters, but unlike their television counterparts, these fictional people have very clear jobs — to throw out any possible scenario (from the routine to the rare) at students to help them prepare for the real thing once they graduate.

D’Youville’s new state-of-the-art nursing simulation center — located on the fourth floor of the Dr. Pauline M. Alt Building — was designed to fully immerse nursing students in the hospital environment and includes a nursing station to allow students to carry out scenarios outside of the patient room. The lab is equipped with 360-degree cameras to monitor students, ICU-style bays, those fully functional high-fidelity mannequins and simulation scenarios written by faculty and clinicians who work in the field.

SEE MORE OF THE LAB

See more of the nursing simulation center at the Patricia H. Garman School of Nursing in the digital edition of D’Mensions Magazine, available at alumni.dyouville.edu.



Dr. Shannon McCrory-Churhill (left), dean of the School of Nursing, and Dr. Amanda Barton, director of nursing simulation and clinical practice, look over the equipment in D'Youville's state-of-the-art nursing simulation lab, built to replicate the look and feel of a hospital, complete with a nurse's station.

The center is overseen by Dr. Amanda Barton, director of nursing simulation and clinical practice, who says the average D'Youville nursing student will see around 33 total simulations and 100 hours in the lab by the time they graduate. Roughly a third of their clinical time is spent in simulation.

"They start with the basics here, like making a bed with a patient in it or communicating with a patient and their family," Barton says. "And we work all the way up to our senior level, like caring for an intubated patient. We have ventilators set up. Multiple drugs set up. Even the simulated fentanyl is in a lockbox — we try really hard to make things as realistic as possible."

Adding to the realism is the Friends cast, made up for full-body high-tech patient mannequins that bring realism in the form of a pulse, breathing simulations, the ability to bleed and urinate and speech (provided by faculty and supervisors in the control room).

"He blinks, he breathes, his chest can rise and fall, he has a pulse everywhere you can have a pulse, he has lung and bowel sounds, and you can put a tube in him anywhere you would put a tube in a patient,"

Barton says, standing over "Chandler" in one of the patient bays. Each patient runs the department \$80,000 and up, not including the equipment surrounding it.

The beds, the machines, the lighting and even the paint schemes, floor tiles, the smells and even the molding along the floors and ceilings are all as close to the real thing in a hospital as you can get, but perhaps the most impressive detail of the lab is the nurses station at the center of it all. For anybody who's spent any time in a hospital recently, the station is familiar — cabinets, desks, space for records, bulletin boards, phones, medicine storage ... it has it all. It's the spot where a nurse will spend most of their time during a hospital shift, and a big part of a student's simulation experience at D'Youville is spent at that station.

"What happens if a bipolar patient gets out of their room and approaches your station? What do you do? Who else is there to help? What is everybody's role?" Barton says. "We even work on things like calling providers and calling labs to get patient information. How to approach your charge nurse to ask for help. So much happens here. It's important that we are able to recreate all of that."

When she was a student, Barton says her first experience with patients, real or fake, was in a hospital, where there is little time for a new nurse to “ease into” their new settings. The reality, she says, is that nurses are often just thrown into the fire — practicing the possibilities before they happen can lead to better outcomes for everyone. The patient is better served, and the nurse is more sure of themselves and less stressed in those important early years of their profession.

“This is a place where they can and do make mistakes,” Barton adds. “And it’s OK to do that. It’s OK to have fun in this setting. We want them to relax. We want them to know you’re not going to hurt this mannequin if you do something wrong. But if you do something wrong, we’re going to talk about it and learn from it. And guess what? You’ll never do it again. Do it here. Don’t do it out there.”

The lab is just one of the selling points of the now 83-year-old nursing program at D’Youville, McCrory-Churchill says. She also points to smaller class sizes that allow students to interact face-to-face with their professors and not come in “feeling like a number.” She also says students appreciate the options, such as the school’s Family Nurse Practitioner master’s program designed to prepare registered nurses to care for individuals across the lifespan and lead to eligibility for FNP board certification. The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner master’s program and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepare students to take leadership roles on their teams.

And D’Youville’s involvement in New York’s Career Pathways Training Program — which offers free tuition and covers fees and supplies for those pursuing healthcare degrees in nursing, mental health counseling, physician assistant, pharmacy technician and other areas — has led to a large influx of students who may not have otherwise been able to afford a four-year undergraduate program.

“Nursing isn’t going to disappear. AI isn’t going to take our jobs,” McCrory-Churchill says. “Nurses have been taking on more progressive roles in terms of driving care in our system, and I think that’s why the four-year BSN [and graduate programs] are so important. There’s absolutely nothing wrong with having a two-year RN

degree — they come out incredibly prepared and really well-suited to do the roles that they’re in. But in terms of management and patient care and moving things forward, you need the four-year degree. And that’s where D’Youville really shines.”

Sidney Domroes says she wishes D’Youville would have been her first choice as an undergraduate, but she’s happy to be in the accelerated BSN program and enjoys the one-on-one opportunities she has with her professors. “I feel like they really care for us and want to see us do our best. I recently had a situation before one of my exams where I had a panic attack, and that affected my performance. I met with two professors, and they understood my situation. They referred me to counseling services on campus and helped me through a difficult situation.”



The patients in D’Youville’s nursing simulation center can be actual humans, too. Many are brought in to act out real-life symptoms to provide better training for students.

Joshua Peters — who encouraged his classmates to advocate for their patients, their teams and themselves during his pinning ceremony speech this year — said he came to D’Youville with a lot of self-doubt about his abilities and his future.

“Being able to get through this difficult program has shown me a lot. I know I can do it now, and now I can move forward and work toward becoming a nurse practitioner. There’s a whole new set of challenges coming up, but I’m more confident about them now. D’Youville showed me I can handle it, and I’m glad I came here.”



Donna DeSanto in an image from the 1975 edition of the D'Youville College yearbook. DeSanto graduated that year with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

DONNA DELSANTO ('75)

Sister Donna

ADVOCATE. FRIEND. REBEL.

BY BILLY LIGGETT

When Donna DelSanto and the Sisters of Saint Joseph first made the large, historic home on Gregory Street in the South Wedge neighborhood of Rochester the site of their convent home 16 years ago, one of her first visits as a new neighbor was to the bar on the other side of the backyard fence. Her new community had an outdoor noise ordinance that began at 10 p.m., and the bar over the fence was not honoring said ordinance in the least.

The meeting was anything but confrontational. Instead, DelSanto invited the owners over for dinner, and when they arrived — holding three bottles of wine — and realized who the new occupants were, there was awkwardness.

“They’d never met sisters before,” DelSanto says with a smile. “They asked if the wine was OK, and I said, ‘Oh, yeah ... no problem. We’re not Baptists.’ They agreed to cut down on the noise, and they even bought us white noise machines for each room. We’ve hit it off with them ever since.”

As the bar owners discovered, DelSanto does not represent the stereotypical portrait of a Catholic nun. She was nearly 40 when she took her vows to become a sister, and she hasn’t been afraid to sprinkle in a few protest appearances as part of her life of service and vow of obedience to God. This past summer, while offering a prayerful presence at a series of Immigration Court hearings in Buffalo, she confronted masked ICE officials who were handcuffing and taking in men and women in court for their legal hearings.

“I felt sick, angry and horrified all at the same time,” she later wrote in a testimony on the Catholic Substack, Roundtable. “What has happened to our humanity?”

Her advocacy and even her moments of rebellion are shrouded in care, which has carried over to her alma mater at D’Youville in the form of a scholarship that bears her name.



Sister Donna DelSanto is a 1975 D’Youville nursing graduate and a member of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Rochester.



The Sisters of Saint Joseph convent in the South Wedge community of Rochester, where Donna DeSanto and three other sisters live with a handful of college students seeking to “live intentionally” while in school.

The rain is pounding, and the low roar of the thunder is both heard and felt on this unusually hot and humid mid-July day in Rochester. The warmth has made its way inside the un-air conditioned convent, so DeSanto serves lunch on the covered back porch, where there’s at least a breeze to cut the sticky air.

Her scholarship — awarded annually to upperclassmen nursing students who, like her, demonstrate a commitment to community service in addition to their commitment to the healthcare industry — is the reason for this midsummer interview. But there’s so much more to learn about the 1975 D’Youville College graduate, and the previous month’s run-in with ICE is just the tip of the iceberg.

Her story begins in Poughkeepsie, where she was the oldest of six siblings to a Scottish mother who was a nurse and an Italian father who was an undertaker (*they worked on opposite sides of healthcare*, she jokes). DeSanto knew at an early age that she wanted to follow in her mother’s footsteps as a nurse — both of her parents were keen on community service and giving back, and nursing felt like a logical step toward a life of service. DeSanto’s first job was in a hospital as a

ward clerk in the same hospital where her mother worked.

“They’d always say, ‘Are you Peggy’s daughter? You have big shoes to fill,’” DeSanto recalls. “It was because my mother was so compassionate and such a good nurse. I was a little nervous about [going into the profession], because it would be difficult to live up to her as the model. But all my female cousins on her side of the family were nurses here ... maybe it was genetics.”

DeSanto learned more about the profession at D’Youville, but the campus is also where she got her first taste of social justice. The Vietnam War had already ushered in a new era of progressive change on college campuses across the country, and DeSanto was eager to join the fight against other non-military causes while a student. She was part of a small lettuce and grape boycott against the school’s cafeteria director, because those products came from Cuba, where farmers and farmworkers were being treated unfairly.

It wasn't long after this that DelSanto began to see religion in a different light as well. She attended a Catholic high school growing up, attended a Catholic college at D'Youville and worked in Catholic-run hospitals. But in her early 20s, she felt like her church didn't have the same passion for social change that she had — she felt like her church didn't have the same drive to help those less fortunate that she had.

"I didn't see the church caring for people who were poor," she says. "I understood the readings. I understood the message. But I wasn't seeing the actions. I was asking how was it we were really living our values."

So, she walked away from the church. In today's terms, it was more like she "ghosted" the church.

"I never walked away from God. That's an important distinction," she says. "It was organized religion. I still very much had a relationship with God ... I just questioned the structures that were perhaps made by man."

The late 70s saw DelSanto leave New York for the Midwest and the Southwest, joining friends in Kentucky and, later, Texas to see the country and find work with the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), an organization created by the Nixon Administration to help fight poverty through work in community projects. DelSanto says she and her golden retriever left Kentucky for a town near Austin, Texas to find work helping the area's poor. After being told by one woman, "We don't have any poor people here," she found work assisting pregnant teenagers in a small Mexican-American community in that area.

She didn't speak Spanish, but DelSanto was welcomed with open arms into the community — her current advocacy for Latino immigrants can be traced to her experience in Texas.

"I learned their stories, and the older women there treated me like a granddaughter," she says. "I got invited to quinceaneras and all kinds of events."

VISTA workers received \$75 a week — barely enough to live on even in the 70s — and DelSanto had to apply for Food Stamps to help make ends meet. She recalls experiencing racism (despite being and appearing white)

for the first time, which had a profound effect on her to this day.

"My last name is DelSanto, and that was a Latino-sounding last name," she recalls. "So I was going to use [the Food Stamps], and I was treated poorly. They thought I was Hispanic, or that I was married to a Hispanic man. I remember wanting to tell them that I was a VISTA worker from New York, but I'm so grateful that I didn't, because I realized I could leave Texas and never have to experience that kind of racism against me again. But my friends there, this was their home. This was their life. This would always be their skin color and their language. And I just felt really privileged to be in solidarity with them.

"I remember thinking, 'This is what they feel every day.' And I've never lost sight of that."

DelSanto would eventually become a recruiter for VISTA and the Peace Corps, and that job eventually led her back to New York, where she took a position in Rochester, traveling to colleges around the state to recruit new volunteers. Upon her return, she was asked to help a coworker secure a mass card for her recently deceased father, and when she did, DelSanto met a young priest who — after a two-hour off-the-cuff conversation — was convinced he found the next nurse to run his church's medical clinic. That clinic was located in an abandoned building that was being restored "board by board" so it could serve the city's uninsured. DelSanto joined the effort to revitalize the building and would end up running the clinic for the next 11 years.

Sister Donna DelSanto pictured recently with School of Nursing Dean Dr. Shannon McCrory-Churchill and two students who received the nursing scholarship bearing DelSanto's name, Sydney Torrey and Gavin Izard.



Her work with the clinic was fulfilling and, more importantly, a great benefit to Rochester. Volunteer physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners and even dentists were there for everything from routine checkups to helping people develop care plans to live healthier lives. DelSanto's association with the clinic and the church also helped rekindle her relationship with religion. She got to know many sisters during her time there, and she began to find answers to those questions that pulled her away in her 20s.

"The work we did was all about our neighbors, whether they were poor or affluent," she said. "I was in an environment where people were brought together, and that appealed to me. I never thought about becoming a sister myself, but I agreed to take part in a 40-day retreat in 1991, and I had an experience that I did not anticipate. God told me he wanted more out of me.

"I've talked to people who share their experiences with God, and when He asks something of them, they're very willing and pliable. I, on the other hand, asked him, 'More? Really?' I remember screaming at God to pick somebody else. I didn't think I had more to give."

Growing up in a Catholic family, DelSanto said she was taught that only Catholics went to Heaven. She never bought into that idea. Even as a child, she said her view of God was as something generous. Something for everybody. She said her reconnection with the Catholic faith — which led her to join the Sisters of Saint Joseph at the age of 40 — was about committing herself to that generous lifestyle.

She says the difference between the God she knows today and the God she was taught growing up is that He is bigger than anything she ever imagined.

"He is a God of love. A God of reconciliation. A God of abundance. I think so often churches talk about a God of scarcity and of punishment, and you have to hold on to your own. I believe in a God of abundance and that we are agents of abundance. I've never given away something of myself that didn't come back tenfold. I hold to the belief that when we're really relying on God's providence, there is no limit."

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Sister Donna DelSanto

Sixteen years ago, DelSanto and four other Sisters of Saint Joseph moved into the South Wedge convent, where they provide spiritual direction to the revolving door of students who come through looking for affordable housing and "intentional living." The students have to agree to take part in prayer sessions and live a life of simplicity.

"We've had nuns, and we've had NONES, which I suppose is the largest growing religious group in the country," DelSanto says. "We ask them to take part in something called 'State of the Heart,' where we share what we've experienced with God. Even those who aren't necessarily religious, we ask them to talk about signs of kindness or compassion that they've

seen. Or talk about seeing people struggle or deal with disappointment. What is the state of your heart? That's a big part of living here."

DelSanto makes the hour-plus drive to Buffalo to visit her alma mater somewhat regularly to meet the nursing students who receive the scholarship that bears her name. The scholarship was funded to honor DelSanto by a close friend and D'Youville classmate and her husband (the two choose to remain anonymous). The DelSanto Family Community Health Scholarship supports nursing students in their junior or senior year who demonstrate a commitment to community

service and are planning a career in community health.

"The scholarship specifically goes to students who are going into public health, because D'Youville didn't have a public health degree back when I started," DelSanto says. "A lot of nursing students weren't going directly into public health, but they could see how nursing helped people in the community. When I started my career in a rural hospital, I met people and heard their stories [of struggle and success], and I was amazed. I wanted to be where they were and see what they were like. I wanted that connection with the community.

"I use a quote from Howard Thurman: 'Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive.'"



Nancy Acara was a 1947 graduate of D'Youville College. She died in 2022, leaving behind a legacy of education and generosity.

A life and legacy of courage

EDUCATION MEANT THE WORLD to Nancy Acara. From an early age, she understood the power of knowledge and the doors it could open — especially for women, at a time when those doors were often tough to open.

After graduating from Holy Angels Academy in Buffalo, Nancy pursued a degree in chemistry at D'Youville College, defying expectations in an era when women were rarely encouraged to attend college, let alone study the sciences. Determined to go further, she earned a scholarship to complete her master's in chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh. Her father, protective and hesitant to send a young woman to a distant city alone, initially refused. But Nancy, ever resourceful, enlisted the help of a local priest to change his mind. Her persistence paid off — she went on to complete a formidable thesis titled Cyanoethylation of Certain Alkylated Ketones.

Her success never made her forget the importance of lifting others. She paid for both of her younger sisters to attend college, ensuring they had the same opportunities she had fought so hard to secure. At 41, Nancy embarked on a new adventure. She joined the Peace Corps, learned Swahili and traveled to Kenya to teach at an all-girls school. While there, she befriended a priest and often traveled hours to attend Mass, a reflection of her deep and abiding faith.

Her generosity extended far beyond her time abroad. Nancy was a multi-gallon blood donor, a faithful volunteer at Kenmore Mercy Hospital, and a steady supporter of charities — especially those that served the disadvantaged. For many years, Nancy shaped young minds as a chemistry teacher in the Buffalo Public Schools. Even in retirement, she traveled widely, volunteered faithfully, and doted on her grand-nieces and nephews.

Nancy's life was one of intellect, service, faith and quiet courage. She blazed a trail for the women who came after her, not through grand gestures, but through steadfast action and a heart full of purpose. Though she was far too humble to boast of her accomplishments, her legacy lives on in the many lives she touched.

D'Youville celebrates distinguished alumni award winners for '25

D'Youville University recently honored outstanding alumni who exemplify excellence, leadership and service through its 2025 Alumni Awards.



SERVICE TO D'YOUVILLE AWARD MARJORIE QUINT-BOUZID ('85)

Dr. Marjorie Quint-Bouzid serves as executive vice president and chief nurse executive for Kaleida Health, overseeing nursing across the organization. Previously, she held senior leadership roles at Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas, Texas, where her initiatives in patient care, staff development, and community health earned national recognition.



SERVICE TO D'YOUVILLE AWARD FRAN SCHMIDT

Fran Schmidt dedicated 18 years to D'Youville's Career Center, guiding countless students and alumni in navigating their career paths. She co-created the Alumni Networking Program on campus. A lifelong learner and author, Schmidt earned multiple degrees as an adult student and has written both career guides and novels. Her dedication to mentoring and service has left a lasting impact on D'Youville University.



YOUNG ALUM AWARD
DR. DARA GILL ('17 DPT)

Dr. Dara Gill has distinguished herself as both a dedicated clinician and an inspiring advocate. After being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis shortly after graduation, she turned her challenge into a mission to raise awareness and support others with MS and autoimmune disorders.

Dr. Gill works across hospital, inpatient, outpatient, and home care settings, sharing her journey on Instagram @dr.dsimone, collaborating with the MS Society, and advocating for patients nationally. Her story has been featured in *Women's Health Magazine*.



DELTA SIGMA AWARD
CHRISTINE YAKUBEC ('70)

Christine Yakubec has dedicated nearly four decades to education, specializing in reading and special education. Her career included roles as a reading specialist, teacher and literacy leader in Florida's public schools, where she also served as co-chair of the Florida Literacy Association. Now retired, she continues her commitment to learning by volunteering at DYU as a tutor for refugee students and as an actor in the Simulation Lab.



Always a fan of Saints sports, Andy Blidy ('77), a former basketball player during his collegiate days, poses with D'Youville basketball coach Andy Stark for a photo back in 2022, Stark's first year with the program.

A legacy of biotech innovation

Former hoops standout celebrates 50 years as world-renowned scientific contributor, developer

WHEN ANDY BLIDY ARRIVED at D'Youville College in the early 1970s, he was a standout student-athlete with a deep love for science and a drive to make a difference. Over the decades, that combination of discipline, intellectual curiosity and dedication would propel him to the forefront of groundbreaking biomedical research and the Human Genome Project.

Today, as chief scientific officer for SaltusBiotech, LLC in California, Blidy's life reflects the best of what a D'Youville education can inspire — a career that blends intellectual rigor, innovation and a commitment to improving the human condition. His scientific contributions span biotechnology, immunology and molecular biology, with a legacy of innovation that has directly impacted diagnostics, therapeutics, and the advancement of personalized medicine.

A graduate of St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, Blidy was well-known in Western New York for his athletic prowess, particularly on the basketball court. His decision to attend D'Youville, then still a young institution transitioning into coeducation, offered him the opportunity to be part of something special. As a member of one of the first men's basketball teams, Blidy quickly established himself as an outstanding player — known for his skill, tenacity and leadership on and off the court.

“Basketball taught me discipline, resilience, and how to work as part of a team,” Blidy reflects. “Those lessons have been as valuable in science as they ever were in sports.”

While athletics played a major role in his student life, academics were never far from Blidy’s mind. He was drawn to the sciences early, fascinated by the intricacies of biology and the potential for research to change lives. Faculty mentors at D’Youville nurtured that interest, challenging him to think critically and engage with emerging developments in medical science.

After graduating in 1977 with a degree in biology, Blidy took a position at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. There, in the early 1980s, he gained valuable hands-on experience in cutting-edge biomedical research — particularly in lymphocyte research and flow cytometry, an emerging technology at the time. In the mid-1980s, Blidy made the pivotal move to Boston, joining Tufts University School of Medicine and later Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. He worked on advanced immunology projects, helping to shape understanding of immune function during a time of rapid medical discovery.

The 1980s were also a transformative era in biomedical science, especially in HIV/AIDS research. Blidy became part of the scientific community’s global response to the epidemic, contributing to groundbreaking studies on immune cell behavior and pathology. His expertise extended to the development and application of TaqMan technology — an innovation that revolutionized the ability to detect and quantify genetic material, and which would play a critical role in diagnostics for decades to come.

Relocating to California opened a new chapter in Blidy’s career. His roles at Applied Biosystems, Roche Molecular Systems/Ventana and eventually SaltusBiotech positioned him at the heart of some of the most important advancements in molecular biology. He contributed to the Human Genome Project, an ambitious international

effort to map the entire human genetic code. For Blidy, the work was more than sequencing data — it was about unlocking possibilities for precision medicine, targeted therapies and early disease detection. Over his career, Blidy has been recognized as a flow cytometry pioneer for more than 50 years, a molecular biology innovator, and a driver of 8K image technology for digital pathology — cutting-edge tools that are shaping the future of cancer diagnostics and therapeutic strategies.

Today at SaltusBiotech, Blidy guides scientific strategy with a focus on translating discoveries into real-world medical applications. His leadership continues to bridge research and patient care, ensuring that breakthroughs in the lab lead to meaningful advances in healthcare delivery. Under his direction, the company has pushed the boundaries of biotechnology, integrating his decades of experience across research institutions and global biotech firms into solutions that serve the greater good.

Despite his far-reaching accomplishments, Blidy remains deeply connected to his roots. He credits D’Youville for instilling in him the values that have carried him through his career — critical thinking, collaboration and service.

“D’Youville prepared me to think critically, work collaboratively and stay focused on making a positive impact,” he says. “Those principles have guided me through every stage of my career.”

He also fondly recalls the lifelong friendships forged on campus—teammates, classmates and professors whose influence still resonates.

As science continues to evolve, Blidy’s work — spanning lymphocyte research, molecular diagnostics and biotechnology innovation — remains at the forefront, impacting lives around the world. For current and future D’Youville students, his story stands as proof that the lessons learned here can echo across a lifetime and leave a mark on global science.



CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
DR. MARK BEEHLER ('14)

Dr. Mark Beehler has dedicated his life to education, public service and community leadership. Currently superintendent of Salamanca City Central School District, he has led transformative initiatives that raised graduation rates from 59 to 91 percent, established a nationally recognized STEM program and developed a groundbreaking Native American Curriculum Resource Hub. A U.S. Air Force Reserve veteran, longtime firefighter and active community volunteer, Beehler exemplifies the dedication, vision, and service celebrated by the Career Achievement Award.



ANNE LUM AWARD
JUDITH PO-CHEDELEY WILKINS ('74)

Judy Po-Chedley Wilkins has distinguished herself through a remarkable career in nursing and healthcare administration, and her lifelong dedication to service. After joining the Peace Corps in Colombia, she earned a Master’s in Health Care Administration and held numerous leadership roles across Texas and New York. Since returning to Buffalo, she has volunteered with the Lions Club, FEMA, Explore Buffalo, the DYU Alumni Board, and FeedMore of WNY.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

D'Mensions Magazine wants to publish your wedding, engagement and birth announcements, promotions and anything else you feel like sharing! Email Reneeé Orr, director of alumni engagement, at orr@dyu.edu. Please be sure all photos are high resolution!

Thomas DeLuca ('76)

was elected supreme president of the 20,000-member Knights of St. John International at its convention in Buffalo in 2024. DeLuca has been an active Knight for 56 years, largely in leadership roles. He had served as the group's first vice president for a decade before his election to president.


Joyce Markiewicz ('80 BSN)

was named to Buffalo Business First's Power 200 Women list for 2025. Markiewicz is chief executive officer for Catholic Health Buffalo.



Cathy Zacher ('95, PT) is the director of rehab services at UR/Jones Memorial hospital and currently serves as secretary of the APTA New York.



Emily Jerge ('13, MSN) was named one of Buffalo Business First's "40 Under 40" recipients in November 2023. Jerge is the former director of nursing simulation and clinical practice at D'Youville.

Jessica Trainer ('17 BSN) was named a clinical leader at Upstate Medical University last December. Trainer began her career at St. Joe's and joined Upstate in 2020. She served as charge nurse and preceptor in the Burn ICU.



Trey Boling ('22, '24) married Zoe Oliver in August at Brinksberry Hollow in Wilson, NY. After a one year administrative fellowship at Rochester Regional Health, Boling was named practice manager of primary care in July.



Dr. Matthew Smith ('14, '17 DPT) was honored with two American Physical Therapy Association awards: the APTA NY Western District Service to the District Award in 2024 and the APTA NY Chapter Appreciation Award in 2025. Smith currently serves as lead therapist with Associated Physical & Occupational Therapy. Smith joined the faculty at D'Youville University as an adjunct professor in 2023.

**1940-2025
REMEMBERING OLGA KARMAN**

Olga Karman, a leading figure in the Buffalo writing community for nearly five decades, died on July 9 after a brief illness. A poet, memoirist, fiction writer and community leader, Karman was a professor of Spanish language and literature for over two decades at D'Youville and served as the college's director of community affairs.



She was born in Havana, Cuba, and graduated from the distinguished Ruston Academy of Havana in 1958. When Fidel Castro's regime came to power in 1959, she left Cuba and moved to the United States to marry her American fiancé. Feeling isolated and removed from her culture as a young mother in rural Connecticut, she enrolled in Connecticut College, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1966, and became a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

She subsequently was awarded a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship to Harvard University, where she earned her PhD in Latin American Literature in 1976. Her PhD dissertation was on the Cuban writer José Lezama Lima's neo-Baroque novel *Paradiso*.

Her poetry collections include *Adios* (Just Buffalo Literary Center, 1984) and *Border Crossing* (The Buffalo Press, 1990). In 1997, she returned to visit Cuba after 37 years. While there she gathered material for her much-praised memoir *Scatter My Ashes Over Havana* (Pureplay Press, 2006) and her fiction collection *A Woman of Some Years* (2010).

Olga taught Spanish at Nichols School, and then was a professor at D'Youville for 27 years. She taught Spanish and Spanish for the health professions, and worked from the beginning to create Leonardo Da'Vinci High School in partnership with D'Youville.

She spent her later years as a certified Spanish language interpreter for the New York State Board of Parole. Olga served on the Board of Directors of Just Buffalo Literary Center from 2011 to 2018. She continued writing poems and short works of prose and fiction until her death.

— thebuffalohive.com



FUEL D'YOUVILLE

GIVING DAY - OCTOBER 22, 2025

Mark your calendars — Giving Day is back and you won't want to miss! All day long, campus will be buzzing with **giveaways, swag, music, games, and prizes** from morning to night.. Whether you stop by in person or join online, the excitement will be everywhere.

But Giving Day isn't just about the fun, it's about **fueling something greater**. The Fund for D'Youville is the heartbeat of our university, powering scholarships, programs, and opportunities that shape the next generation. Philanthropy is more than giving money, it's an act of belief. It's saying yes to future leaders, caregivers, and change-makers.

When you give to the Fund for D'Youville, you **ignite** curiosity, **impact** lives, and **inspire** bold futures. You're not just part of our history, you're part of what comes next.

What your Gift CAN DO!

\$25

Provides essential lab materials for hands-on student learning

\$100

Covers textbooks for a student in need

\$500

Supports a semester's worth of clinical supplies for a nursing student

\$1000

Funds scholarships and campus renovations



Scan here for more details!

GIVING SOCIETIES RETURN

D'Youville is proud to relaunch its Giving Societies, honoring the generosity, loyalty, and vision of our supporters. Each society reflects the unique ways donors make a difference—whether through years of faithful giving, annual leadership support, or planned gifts that secure our future. Together, these societies recognize the extraordinary commitment that fuels student success, advances our mission, and carries forward the legacy of Saint Marguerite.

The Saint Marguerite Society (*\$10,000 or higher*)

Reserved for D'Youville's most generous benefactors, whose leadership gifts honor Saint Marguerite's vision and create lasting change.

The 1908 Club (*\$2,500 - \$9,999*)

Named for the year D'Youville was founded, this circle celebrates those who provide transformational support to sustain our mission and future.

Saint's Circle (*\$500 - \$2,499*)

Recognizing donors who make a strong impact through their generosity, fueling opportunities for academic excellence and student success.

Maggie's Pack (*\$100 - \$499*)

Honoring gifts that provide essential support for students and campus life, joining a loyal community inspired by our beloved mascot, Maggie.

The Heart of Service Award

Celebrates donors who have given faithfully for 10 or more consecutive years and made a gift in the last year, showing extraordinary commitment to D'Youville and its students.

D'Youville Legacy Society (*Planned Giving*)

Honoring those who secure D'Youville's future through planned gifts, leaving a legacy that will impact generations to come.

SAINT MARGUERITE SOCIETY

(*\$10,000 or higher*)

Barbara J. Campagna
Christina B. Eberl
Mary Jo Eichner *20
Richard J. Eichner
Mary E. Epp
Estate of Barbara Nowaczyk
Estate of Evelyn D. Kruse
Edith M. Flanigen *39
Eileen Koolpe
Ann McCormick-McQuillan *30
James McNicholas
Carl J. Montante
Robert J. Strassheim
Community Foundation for
Greater Buffalo
County of Erie
Fitzpatrick Rooney Family Fund
Foundation of the Roman
Catholic Diocese of Buffalo



Joseph Rafai Charitable Fund
Lawley Insurance Agency LLC
M&T Bank Charitable Foundation
Niagara Scenic Tours
Phillips Lytle LLP
Paul J. and Martha N. Rees
Charitable Trust [DAF]
Shubert Foundation Inc.

** Heart of Service Award and number of years*

THE 1908 CLUB

(*\$2,500-\$9,999*)

Jean M. Alberti
Linda M. Beardi
Lorrie A. Clemo
Jo Ellen M. Cronin *25
Crystal M. Crossett
Scott Darling
A. Sharon Deehan
Donald MacDavid
Charitable Trust *13
Patricia M. Gilbert
Mary C. Heflich *39
Robert Klocke
Michael J. Kresse
David Kresse
Kenneth A. Kresse
MaryEllen Kresse-Rutowski
Marcia Mariani
Joyce Markiewicz
Donna F. Owen *24
Kathleen Seibel
Ruth Smith *37
Eugene Thirolf



Judith E. Travers *12
BMC International Pty Ltd
Compass Group USA Division |
Chartwells Dining Services
Law Office of Peter J. Todoro Jr PC
Ocean Reef Community
Foundation
Raymond E. Kelley Inc | RE Kelley
Sisters of St Francis Of
Holy Name Province Inc.
The Vincent & Harriet Palisano
Foundation

** Heart of Service Award and number of years*



(\$500-\$2,499)

Robert Anderson
 Marcia B. Andrews *40
 Stephanie A. Atti
 Susan M. Bennett
 Catherine M. Braniecki
 Lynn M. Brennan
 Carol Brenon
 Eileen M. O'Brien-Cardona *29
 Drew J. Cerza
 Carolyn T. Chlosta
 Margaret A. Coleman
 Sandra K. Dale
 Joggeshwar Das
 Britt J. Davis
 Elaine A. Deangelis *24
 Denise DiRienzo
 Abeer Eddib
 Estate of Mary Grace
 Poorten Demarse
 Elizabeth A. Flynn

Kathleen Forbrich
 Mary Fran
 Margaret M. Geiger
 Emma Goddaer
 Jeremiah Grabowski
 Carol A. Greisberger
 Jane F. Griffin
 Mary Alice Gwynn
 Joanne Haefner
 Ona Halladay
 Susan Hanifin
 Audrey Hernandez
 Pamela Hines
 Ann E. Holler
 Paul A. Hollins
 Eileen Holzhauer
 Walter Iwanenko
 Lindsey B. Jakiel Diulus
 Kathryn Janz *25
 Amy C. Johnson *27
 Christine A. Kalish
 Mary Catherine Kennedy *35
 Astrid Kodric-Brown
 Kenneth Koller
 Pamela M. Krawczyk-Greene
 Guangyang Li
 Marilyn L. Lilly
 Ann Marie LoFaso
 Patricia A. Lombardi
 Timothy Lopez
 Mary Mascott
 Bartholomew McGloin
 Marian McGowan
 Jane Ellen Mead *31
 Jo Ann M. Mecca
 Elizabeth Messner
 Barbara A. Micare
 Julie Z. Miller *34
 Carole F. Moore *36
 Janice M. Moran
 Norine Morgenfeld *17
 William Morris
 Chau Nguyen *11
 Judith A. Nocek-Genung
 Michael F. Noe
 Patricia A. O'Bryan
 Catharine F. Olsen *17
 Catherine Paone
 Richard Penfold *19
 Theodore Pyrak
 Carol J. Riniolo
 Cordelia Rosenberg *14
 Richard J. Ruh
 Rita S. Schoeneman
 Caren Shapiro
 Matthew Shriver
 Mary Ellen Smith *18
 Barbara Smith
 Kathleen A. Smith
 Patricia A. Smyton *34
 Mary L. Stephen *26
 Patti Stephen
 Christine A. Stravino
 Corey Stull
 Jeanette Swartz
 Loretta S. Syput *11

Michael S. Taheri
 Barbara Thorpe Cartee *17
 Nicholas Tollar
 Patricia C. Touchette
 Joseph A. Treanor
 Craig Tyson
 Paula Wagner
 Marilyn A. Welch
 Anna M. Wilson
 Veronica M. Wingen
 Caryn Wojtowicz *10
 Patricia A. Wrobel *12
 Amy Zian
 Ann & Bob Brady
 Charitable Fund
 Balbach-Bace Family Fund
 DeSpirt Foundation, Inc.
 DexCom
 Elsie P. and Lucius B.
 McCowan Private
 Charitable Foundation
 Give Lively Foundation Inc.
 Irenaeus Foundation
 Kenneth L. & Katherine G.
 Koessler Family
 Foundation Inc.
 McCarthy Family Fund [DAF]
 National Board of
 Chiropractic Examiners
 The Delta Air Lines
 Foundation
 The Perna Family
 Charitable Foundation

* Heart of Service Award
 and number of years



(\$100-499)

Robert E. Ackerhalt
 John Adamo
 Dale Anderson
 Carol A. Arper
 Barbara Asselin
 Joan Ast
 Rebecka Atwater
 Maureen C. Bender
 Lisa Berlin
 Patrick Binsol

Gail Busillo
 Ann H. Byrne
 Jean P. Caldiero *13
 Gina M. Camodeca *11
 Joseph J. Cozzo
 Eileen Cregg *10
 Kathleen A. Crowe
 Richard Curtis
 Anne Curto
 Fehmi Damkaci
 Patricia L. Di Sessa *15
 Eileen T. Donovan
 Andrew W. Dorn
 Laura Ehrlich
 Michelle Emerling *20
 Rachel L. Ersing
 karen farley
 Joan Fedor
 Craig Fedor
 Susan Felton
 Mary Ann Ferris
 Natalie J. Fiala *14
 Barbara M. Filipiak *11
 Catherine Finn
 Timothy Finney
 Maryalice Fish *46
 Todd Fleming
 Bonnie Flickinger
 Janice Forsyth
 Buck & Billie Frantz
 Margaret Frazier-Plodzick
 Patricia B. Frey *11
 Brandon M. Fyock
 Virginia Gebus *23
 Stuart A. Gellman
 Alexandra Giancaterino
 Rosemary Gillen
 Carol R. Glaeser
 Michael Glinski
 Marie Goins
 Mary Anne Goldsborough
 Margaret Goodman
 Laura M. Grable
 Paul J. Graziano
 Sylvia L. Grendisa
 Magdalene Halasz
 Colette M. Hall *25
 Sean Hall
 Matthew Hall
 Alexis Hanley
 Mary T. Hanzly
 Charlene R. Harman
 Lori A. Haspett
 Catherine Hayden
 Patricia Heavey
 Will Helmn
 Mary Hiel *13
 Renee Higgins
 Janet Hiller
 Dorothy A. Hobart *26
 Aja Holland
 Elizabeth Huber
 Joon H. Huh
 Diane Huot
 Joseph Hurley
 Francoise Hurrle
 Martha K. Jacobius
 Patrick R. Janiga *26
 Linda Jenkins
 John Joerger
 Graceann B. Johnson *26
 Chester Jones

Paul Jones
 Mary Joseph
 Shirley Joy
 Theresa P. Joyce
 Mary Elizabeth Jurca *25
 Melody Kaczmarek
 Debra A. Kasper
 Elizabeth Keane
 Dorothy A. Kelleher
 David H. Kelly *39
 Martin Kelly *16
 Irene Kelly
 Geoffrey Kent
 Constance Kerner *10
 Maureen Killeen *18
 Harry King
 Paul Kline
 Mary E. Knapp
 Patricia Kohler *20
 Stella M. Kohn
 Kathleen A. Koon
 Craig A. Kornacki
 Aileen Kornetsky
 Millicent Kosier



Nancy Coons Conley'55
 Mary M. De Laney'72
 Nancy A. Kulczyk Desu'81
 Shannon Myers
 Stephanie Scheuer'22
 Monique L. Skinner'08
 Michael D. Volpe'21
 Gregory Wells'80



(Gifts made for 10 or more consecutive years)

Dolores Gazzo *36
 Leticia Gonzalez *33
 Maureen Jandrisevits *33
 Margaret E. Kelly *31
 Stacie J. Lampkin *29
 Nancy J. Lee *26
 Mary Long *25
 Canio Marasco *23
 Therese A. McNichols *23
 Eileen Mullaney *21
 Marilyn P. Panzica *21
 Dolores M. Prezyna *19
 Irene P. Rozmus *16
 Colleen A. Scoville *16
 Margaret M. Spadinger *16
 Gary R. Stillman *15
 Cristina E. Taylor *12
 Mary H. Thomas *12
 Todd Walter *11
 James J. Weidel *11
 Karen Ziemianski *10



Bryan Krempa
 Gay Krog
 Mary Kukaryshen
 Jean A. Lalor *14
 Lisa LaVan
 Suzanne M. Lavin
 Susan Lee
 Jacqueline Lesniewski
 Eileen Lewis
 Ivy Lewis
 Laura A. Lincoln
 Rebecca Lovelace
 Alfred F. Lühr
 Bruce Lyford
 Patricia Lyford
 Mary E. Lyons
 Margaret Machon
 Jason MacLeod
 Susan J. Macyko
 Elizabeth M. Mahony
 Joseph Mancuso
 Martha Mangan
 Lisa R. Mankins
 Mary Claire Markarian
 Bill Markel
 Michael Marro
 Nicole Marro
 Anthony M. Masiello
 Tammy Maston
 Marie McCarthy
 Jennifer McCarthy
 Robert McClaine
 Alicia McDevitt
 Colleen J. McDonnell
 Jerilyn E. McGivern *11
 Sheila C. McKeon
 Geraldine McMahon
 Brian Mcnamara
 Donna McQuillen
 Lisa M. Melroy
 Maria Merone
 Judith A. Merrill *25
 Eric R. Miller
 Abigail Mitchell
 Barbara Miyanaga
 Bonne T. Mogulescu
 Marjorie J. Mohr
 David J. Mohr
 Maj-Britt Moller
 Judith A. Moran-Peters
 Richard Morris
 Josephine C. Mulvihill
 Karen C. Murphy *26
 Jennifer Murphy
 Amy Murphy Carroll
 Ellen Murray *20

Frances S. Murray
 Janet Murtha
 David Nelson
 Kathleen D. Nikischer
 Darci Noonan
 J Nowak
 Marianne O'Brien
 Kay R. O'Connell *10
 Anne-Marie O'Connor
 Sue O'Gara
 Gay OKeefe
 Susan OKelly
 Ashley Olsen
 Helen Pace
 Karen Panzarella *11
 James M Pasierb
 Marjorie I. Pastalaniec *18
 Dorothy M. Pattison
 Christa Pearson
 Margaret M. Pech
 Monica N. Perez
 Jamel C. Perkins *10
 Mary Ann Perry *13
 Mary Pherson
 Shino Philips
 Virginia Pierce
 Judith M. Po-Chedley
 Wilkins
 Alycia Pollinger
 Monte D. Prentice
 Susan Prible
 Adam Puccia
 Lebert Puma
 Susan Quinn
 Janet Rebhan *27
 Deborah A. Reilly
 Kaitlyn A. Reinhardt
 Paula W. Reitz
 Marie Repka
 Louis Q. Reynolds
 Rita M. Riley *22
 Caroline M. Rimlinger
 Lynn C. Rivers *31
 Sandra Roderick
 Joshua Rollain
 Stephen Ronsen
 Jason Ruhlman
 Chad Ruhlman
 Sara B. Russell
 Renee A. Ryan
 Kevin Ryan
 Martha Ryan *19
 Carol A. Ryan
 Jason A. Santiago
 Joseph Santilli
 Kathleen M. Sartini
 Tracy Schafer
 Rosemary Scharf
 Jeanne Schenk
 Ellen Scherer
 MaryAnne Schiffner
 Pamela Schreck
 Mary Patricia Shanks
 Fatima A. Sharif
 Mary A. Sharrow
 Marie C. Shea
 Victoria J. Shepardson

Ann Sievenpiper
 Dolores Simons
 Olivia F. Simpson
 Monica L. Sleaf
 Carlene A. Sluberski
 Carol A. Smith
 Anna Mae Sokusky
 Catherine Sorensen
 Mary Elaine Spitler *11
 Ward Stiles
 Jaci Stricklin
 Susan Sullivan
 Catherine Durkin Sullivan
 Jane Svejkar *12
 Laurie Sweeney *15
 Michelle D. Swygert-Seay
 Mary Ann Szarmach
 Thomas G. Tarsavage
 Kimberly Terpening
 Barbara Townsend
 Chad Trimbell
 Kathleen Twist
 Margaret A. Umhauer *26
 Eric Vallone
 Kimberly Vallone
 Nancy A. Vanderlinde
 Keiko Vann
 Lois M. Waterman Kibler
 Lucille Watford
 Kevin Webber
 Sheila Webster
 Elizabeth Welch
 Geraldine E. Westwood
 Audrey Whalen *28
 Sharon R. Wheat
 Megan Whelan
 Mary Elizabeth
 Whissel-Weiler
 Lorraine Wianecki
 Margaret R. Wietig
 Christine R. Wightman
 Elizabeth A. Wilson *14
 Mary A. Winograd *10
 Sally A. Winston
 Bette A. Wolf
 David Wolinski
 Joan Wolkins
 Maria Woloszyn
 Phyllis Wray *17
 Barbara Wright *10
 Linda J. Yarr
 Patricia R. Youngberg
 Florian Zablotny
 Lana Zahn
 Jeanne M. Zelenak
 Raymond Zelenak
 Buffalo Rotary
 Foundation Inc.
 Peace of the City Ministries
 Print2Web LLC
 South Towns Tennis
 and Pickleball
 The Mary & Paul Thomas
 Family Trust
 The Wilbert H. Green Jr.
 Charitable Fund

** Heart of Service Award and number of years*

Investing in *Futures* That Last *Forever*



At D'Youville, we see firsthand the transformative power of education every day. We also see the barriers that can stand in the way for talented, driven students who are ready to change the world — but face financial challenges that make the journey harder than it needs to be. That is where endowed scholarships change everything.

An endowed scholarship is more than a gift; it's a legacy. With a minimum investment of \$25,000, you can create a named scholarship that supports students not just today, but in perpetuity. The principal remains untouched — invested carefully and strategically — while the earnings fund scholarships year after year, generation after generation. Your gift works forever, ensuring that your values, your story, and your belief in opportunity live on.

The impact is real. Scholarships relieve financial burdens, allowing students to focus on their studies, clinicals, and community service. They open doors to internships, research, and leadership opportunities. They empower students to graduate not only with less debt, but with more confidence to lead in healthcare, education, business, and beyond.

When you create an endowed scholarship at D'Youville, you're not just funding an education — you're shaping the lives of future nurses, doctors, therapists, teachers, entrepreneurs, and advocates. You're fueling the kind of ripple effect that will be felt in homes, hospitals, classrooms, and communities for decades to come.

**Because the best legacies
aren't built in buildings or
stone - they're built in people.**

If you've ever wanted to make a lasting impact, there is no better way than through an endowed scholarship. Together, we can ensure that every deserving student who walks through our doors can walk across the graduation stage.

To learn more contact the D'youville University Office of Institutional Advancement:

Ryan DiNunzio
dinunzir@dyu.edu
716-829-8458

Because the best legacies aren't built in buildings or stone — they're built in people.



Impact at a Glance:

- \$25,000 minimum creates a named endowed scholarship — can be funded over a five year period
- Principal is invested — earnings provide scholarships forever
- The donor helps guide the criteria and can support a specific program/college
- Creates a lasting personal or family legacy
- Currently more than 140 endowed scholarships provide more than \$1M in student-aid annually



D'YOUVILLE UNIVERSITY

320 Porter Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14201

www.dyu.edu

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DYU ON FLICKR See more photos from opening week to all events at D'Youville on the university's Flickr and Instagram accounts @Dyouville



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