

# SPIRITUS

Spring 2017 • The Magazine for University of Detroit Mercy



## Building for the Future

Big plans for Detroit Mercy's newest building

International attention  
for the DCDC  
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A \$3-million gift  
for scholarships  
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One of the great  
Lady Titans graduates  
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Dear Alumni and Friends of Detroit Mercy:

As spring approaches its midpoint, another academic year is coming to an end. Time has gone by fast for those 1,100 undergraduate and graduate students who began their studies just a few years ago and will be graduating in May. But as our new alumni happily move on and begin their careers, another new class of enthusiastic students is ready to take its place in our excellent academic programs.

To maintain the quality of our outstanding academic programs, state-of-the-art facilities and technology are essential. That was the rationale for the new addition to the College of Health Professions facility on the McNichols Campus. Construction began last May, and it opened for classroom use in February. This attractive new facility serves two purposes. First, it increases the lab and clinical space for our Physician Assistant Program, which was crucial to the University receiving approval recently to double the size of the program over the next four years. It also provides more space and technology for other classes and for University-wide programming. A dedication and blessing is set for April 28.

This timely facility enhancement occurs simultaneously with the recent release of *U.S. News & World Report's* 2018 Best Graduate Schools, where top-tier rankings in the Midwest were awarded to our Physician Assistant program, Master's in Nursing program and our Nurse Anesthesiology program. This issue of *Spiritus* has extensive coverage of the College of Health Professions and the McAuley School of Nursing that will show its strong momentum. I should also note, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked our MBA program in the Top 20.

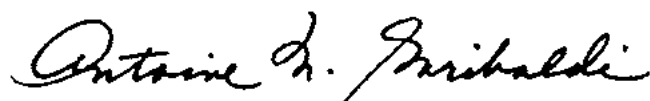
As I continue to meet with alumni across the country and locally, these successful graduates express their deep affection, thankfulness and appreciation for the University, the Jesuit and Mercy missions and the rewarding educational experience they received. Several of these alumni are profiled in this issue: Tony Award-winner Angelina Fiordellisi; business leader Ray LeBlanc and his wife, Dorothy, who hosted an alumni reception for us in February in Houston; and entrepreneur Ron Shahani. I think you will be impressed with their accomplishments.

At the end of April, we will honor seven graduates whose University of Detroit, Mercy College of Detroit and Detroit Mercy education prepared them for distinguished careers. In addition to being leaders in their fields, the honorees are also mentors, philanthropists and innovators, as you will see in this issue's article and on the new website's video of the April 28 awards ceremony at [community.udmercy.edu/](http://community.udmercy.edu/).

If you have not visited the University's new website, I encourage you to do so. The website was unveiled in February and features clear navigation, intuitive organization and a much more vibrant view of our campuses and programming. The newly designed website is the last component of the new branding effort that was launched last September. Visit [www.udmercy.edu](http://www.udmercy.edu) to see all the changes.

Please mark your calendars for the University's fall Homecoming on Sept. 29 and 30. Last year's fall Homecoming — the first since 1970 — brought over 1,100 people back to events sponsored by all three campuses. We want you and other graduates to come back to the University to see the many improvements made on all the campuses and to spend time with fellow alumni and faculty. We hope to double the number of attendees this year. We hope you'll save the date to join us; and look for updates on the event in your mail, email and on our website.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Spiritus*, and I look forward to seeing you in person in Michigan or around the country.



Antoine M. Garibaldi, Ph.D.  
President



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## SPIRITUS

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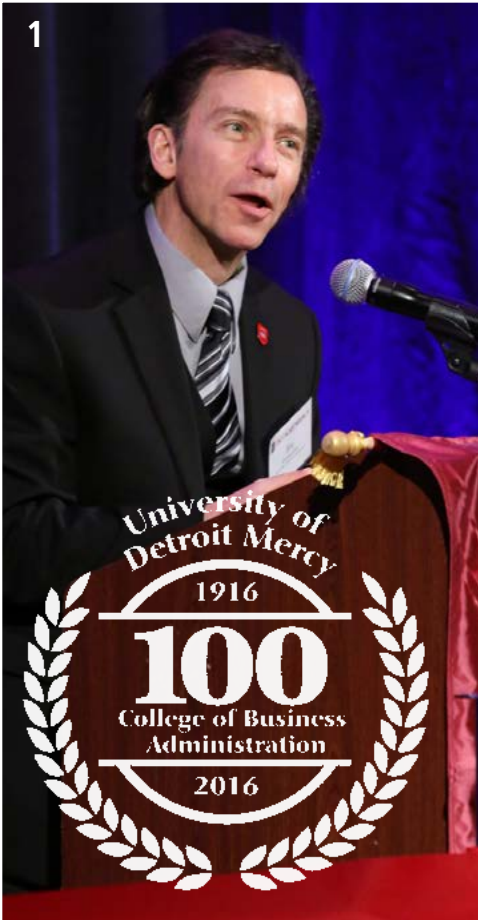


### Detroit Mercy Mission Statement

University of Detroit Mercy, a Catholic University in the Jesuit and Mercy traditions, exists to provide excellent student-centered undergraduate and graduate education in an urban context. A Detroit Mercy education seeks to integrate the intellectual, spiritual, ethical and social development of students.

Visit Detroit Mercy on the web: [udmercy.edu](http://udmercy.edu)





# CBA Anniversary

## 100 years in the making

The 100th anniversary of the College of Business Administration has come to a close following a year of special events and grand openings.

Hundreds of alumni and friends of the College turned out in October for a gala dinner and grand opening of the Center for Social Entrepreneurship, where Mark Ellis '90, president and COO for Marketing of Time Inc., gave the keynote address. That same night, the new Center for Social Entrepreneurship had its official grand opening.

Also in October, the CBA honored four CBA alumni for their achievements. Edward T. Sprock '78, director of Worldwide Transportation at Chrysler, and Nancy Hazely '78, president and CEO of Tax Trilogy, received lifetime achievement awards. Rising Star honorees were Emily Doerr '12, founder of Hostel Detroit, and Mirela Mesic '10 '13, global program manager at American Axle & Manufacturing.

CBA student-athletes were honored during a basketball game in February and in March, a panel of distinguished alumni discussed "A Century of Commerce: Business Trends Past & Present" before an audience of students, alumni and faculty during Alumni Week.

Photo 1: Dean of the College of Business Administration Joe Eisenhauer at the gala celebration.

Photo 2: Seated from left, Keynote speaker Mark Ellis '90 and wife, Janet Ellis; Carol Garibaldi and Detroit Mercy President Antoine M. Garibaldi; and Daniel Pierce and Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs Pam Zarkowski. Standing are Elizabeth and Joseph Eisenhauer.

Photo 3: Alumnae Jane Kay Nugent '48 and Phyllis E. Peters Look '51 at Alumni Week.

Photo 4: Director of the Center for Social Entrepreneurship Phillip Cooke, S.J.

Photo 5: From left, Mirela Mesic '10, '13; Edward T. Sprock '78; Nancy Hazely '78 and Emily Doerr '12.





# This is Detroit Mercy.

University of Detroit Mercy is the sum of its stories. Here are just a few. For more, visit [udmercy.edu](http://udmercy.edu).

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U.S. Sen. Gary Peters '84 visited the McNichols Campus earlier this year with President Antoine M. Garibaldi. He met with students and got a look at the College of Business Administration's Financial Markets Lab.





# Detroit Mercy is Getting Noticed



The Alley Project, known as TAP, is a place for artists and the community to gather.

## Prestigious honors for the DCDC

**T**he work of the School of Architecture's Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC) is bringing the University international attention.

In December, the DCDC was named the 2017 winner of the American Institute of Architects' prestigious Whitney M. Young Jr. Award.

"For any architect or organization committed to public interest design, this is without a doubt the highest honor one could hope to receive," said Will Wittig, AIA, dean of the School of Architecture, which is home to the DCDC. "We are humbled to be the recipients of this distinction, and are grateful for the leadership of Dan Pitera, FAIA, professor and executive director of the DCDC, Steve Vogel, FAIA, professor, former dean, and founder of the DCDC, Fr. Terrence Curry, S.J., AIA, the original executive director, and all our talented staff members who have contributed to the work of the DCDC since its inception."

Named for the civil rights leader, the honor is given to an architect or architectural organization that "embodies social responsibility and actively addresses a relevant issue, such as affordable housing, inclusiveness or universal access."

The award will be officially presented at the AIA national convention in Orlando, Fla., later this month.

The DCDC was also honored by the Curry Stone Design Prize, an international organization that honors innovative projects that use design to address pressing social justice issues.

This year, Curry Stone decided to recognize a number of groups and individuals that have inspired the organization over its first 10 years. Those groups and individuals, including the DCDC, were named to the Social Design Circle, and will be highlighted on the organization's website throughout the year. Check [currystonedesignprize.com](http://currystonedesignprize.com) for more information.

From September 2016 through February, Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum in New York City included the Detroit Future City project in an exhibit called "By the People: Designing a Better America."

Detroit Future City, organized in part by the DCDC, is a 50-year plan for revitalization of Detroit through civic engagement that allows residents to help plan the future of their city.





## A GoodTurn is on the way

By John Powell

**A** team of Detroit Mercy alumni, students and faculty is testing a prototype of an app that will be used to connect nonprofit organizations with volunteers who can haul materials and resources.

The app was made possible by a \$200,000 grant to the College of Engineering & Science from the Bill Ford Better World Challenge, which encourages Ford employees to work through the Ford Volunteer Corps on transformational community projects. The idea came from three Ford employees, two of whom are Detroit Mercy alumni.

"The team has come together nicely. There is great communication and teamwork," said Associate Dean for the College of Engineering & Science Katy Snyder '89, '93. "It's an exciting project to work on and a great way to connect our alumni to the University in a meaningful way."

The development team has an ambitious timeline for the Apple iOS-based app. The project kicked off in August and progressed quickly through development and coding, and is currently in the prototype stages.

The beta version is expected in April, with a full release in late May.

"I really enjoy working with a group of like-minded people on a cool project solving a real-world problem," said Jacob Vanassche '15. "I'm learning a lot about mobile development, specifically for iOS using Swift. Most of the team was familiar with Android development, so we have been learning the iOS platform together."

"This is a fantastic way to provide a real-world project and enhance our curriculum, while promoting the mission of the College and University," said Snyder.

"I am thoroughly enjoying my experience on the project, and I am very excited to see it come to life," said Vanassche.

Visit [udmercy.edu](http://udmercy.edu) in late May to see how you can download the app and put it to use.

## Detroit Mercy is Celebrating



### Join the grads

**C**ommencement is just around the corner and everyone is invited to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2017.

School of Dentistry: Friday, May 12 at 9:30 a.m. at Calihan Hall on the McNichols Campus. The address will be given by Leo E. Rouse, D.D.S., dean of the Howard University School of Dentistry and former president of the American Dental Education Association.

School of Law: Friday, May 12 at 6 p.m. at Calihan Hall. The Hon. Denise Page Hood, chief judge of the U.S. District Court's Eastern District of Michigan, will give the Commencement address.

Undergraduate and graduate: Saturday, May 13 at 1:30 p.m. at Calihan Hall. An honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree will be presented to James J. Padilla '69, '70, who for years was president and chief operating officer of Ford Motor Co. and a member of the company's board of directors. He will also give the address.

### Detroit Mercy is among the best

**U**niversity of Detroit Mercy's Nurse Anesthesia program ranked tenth in the nation and the MBA program ranked among the top 20 graduate Management programs in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2018 Best Graduate Schools.

This is the College of Business Administration's third consecutive year for this high honor.

Additionally, the University was awarded top-tier rankings for Best Nursing Schools: Master's, Physician Assistant, Clinical Psychology and Doctor of Nurse Practice.



# Detroit Mercy is Great Faculty

## Prestigious grant will fund female Engineering professor

**T**he College of Engineering & Science is interviewing female candidates for a faculty position in mechanical engineering specializing in assistive technology.

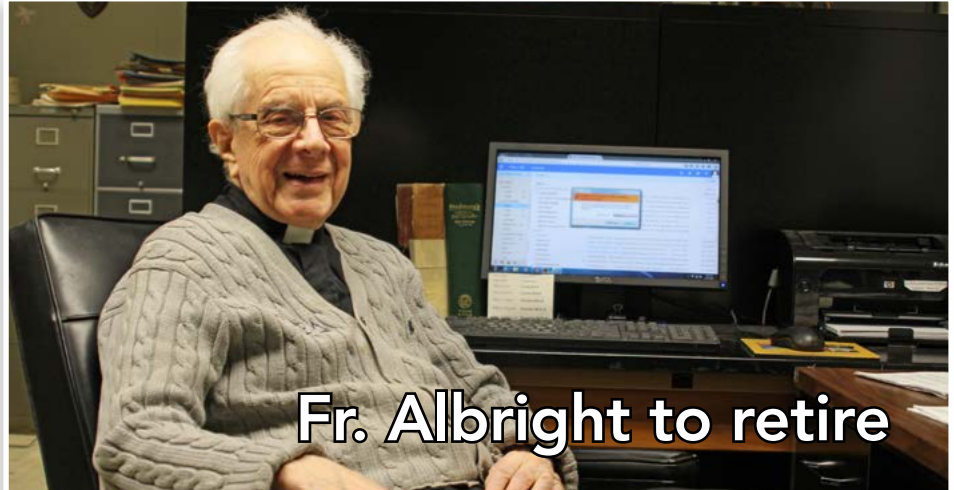
The five-year, \$476,000 grant is from the Henry Luce Foundation's Clare Boothe Luce Program, which is dedicated to increasing the participation of women in the sciences and engineering in higher education and serves as a catalyst for colleges and universities in their own efforts toward this goal. The woman hired will be the only current Clare Boothe Luce Professor at any college or university in Michigan.

This professorship will be the first hire at Detroit Mercy dedicated specifically to the assistive technologies program, in which adaptive and rehabilitative devices are designed for people with disabilities.

The Clare Boothe Luce Program of the Henry Luce Foundation is the single largest private source of funding for women in science and engineering. In its first 25 years, the program awarded grants totaling more than \$150 million.

Other recent grants to the University include:

- \$80,000 from the Sutaruk Foundation for scholarships for students studying Engineering.
- \$20,000 from the Michigan State Bar Foundation for Detroit Mercy Law's Housing Law Clinic.
- \$10,000 from the Pierre Fauchard Academy to help Detroit Mercy Dental provide care to patients with special needs.
- \$5,000 from the CVS Health Foundation for scholarships for students in the Family Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant programs.



**A**fter a teaching career that spans 57 years, Detroit Mercy professor of Biology Gerard Albright, S.J., will retire at the end of this school year.

Fr. Albright, 91, felt a religious calling in high school and was inspired to join the Society of Jesus because education is such an important aspect of the Jesuits' mission and because he admired many of the Jesuits who taught him at University of Detroit Jesuit High School.

He joined the Society of Jesus in 1944 at 17, immediately upon graduating from high school.

"I was thinking I'd like to teach English or Philosophy," he said. "But I was told that the University of Detroit would need a Jesuit Biology teacher in a few years and that I should study Biology."

Fr. Albright started full time at University of Detroit in 1960, after completing his final Jesuit studies and earning bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees.

"What we teach in Biology has changed over the years," he said. "When I started, it was mostly organismal. Now it's more cellular and molecular, and it's starting to spread to environmental."

His career at Detroit Mercy has included teaching 18 different courses; serving as department chair more than once; and founding and serving as the chairman of the student evaluations committee, which writes letters of recommendation for students applying to medical and dental schools. He also once served as interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Education.

This semester he is teaching Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy to 76 students in lecture and labs, adding that number to the thousands of students he's taught on the McNichols Campus.

Those students remember and admire him. Last year, more than 160 alumni and friends attended a reception in honor of his 90th birthday.

"We students are so sad," said senior Biochemistry major Sehie Olivia Koh. "The impact he has had on students is huge. He challenges us and pushes us as students and he makes the subject come alive. But more than that, he cares about students. When I needed to talk about anything from school-related issues or personal things, he was always there for us."

"That's why I do it," Fr. Albright said. "I like Biology, but that's not the reason I'm here. I'm here for the students. They are what keep me going."

*A special event honoring Fr. Albright's career at University of Detroit is being planned for Homecoming Weekend, Sept. 29-30. More details will be announced online at [community.udmercy.edu](http://community.udmercy.edu).*





Matt Mio

## Alumnus professor named to national board

Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Matthew Mio '97 was elected a full member of the Society Committee on Education within the American Chemical Society, "which supports the development and implementation of programs that bring the wonder, excitement, opportunities and challenges of modern chemical science."

"This is a big deal," said Mark Benvenuto, Chemistry department chair. "Getting to be a member of SOCED is really tough."

"I am honored to be selected to be a part of this important work," Mio said. "There are a number of major issues in modern chemical education, not the least of which is the increasing use of technology for instruction and the erosion of physical science training for medical professionals. For the most part, the topics and methods of chemical instruction have been stagnant for the last 50 years. I hope to be a part of the next big renaissance in chemistry pedagogy."

Mio has served as an associate and consultant, writing science policy statements including how online lab experiences should not substitute for in-person lab training.

"I am also very proud to be a member of the Chemistry department at Detroit Mercy," said Mio. "We take an active interest in the direction of our profession. Detroit Mercy is both well-known and well-respected by ACS."



## World's Jesuit alumni coming to U.S.

For the first time in its history, the World Union of Jesuit Alumni will host a gathering of Jesuit alumni in the United States, and Detroit Mercy will be well-represented in the programming.

WUJA, as it is known, will hold its gathering at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio, June 28-July 2, bringing renowned, world-class speakers committed to "uniting Jesuit frontiers" in arts, business, science, law, spirituality, theology, faith, leadership, service and justice.

Professor of Business Ethics Gerard Cavanagh, S.J., will be on a panel titled "Supporting Business Decisions for a Flourishing and Sustainable World," and Professor of Business Administration Gregory Ulferts' panel will discuss "Global networking: Technology Benefits Jesuit Alumni."

For more information, visit [wujacongress2017.org](http://wujacongress2017.org).

## Alumnus' will includes \$3 million for scholarships

One of the largest gifts ever given to the University by an alumnus will create a special scholarship for Engineering students.

Bernard A. Schlaff, who died in 2015 at the age of 95, left \$3 million to the University in his will to establish an endowed scholarship for students studying Engineering



Bernard A. Schlaff

in the University's nationally recognized College of Engineering & Science.

Schlaff graduated in 1944 with a Bachelor of Aeronautical Engineering degree, and had a long career, with positions at NASA's Ames Aeronautical Laboratory, Lockheed Missiles & Space Company and Boeing Aircraft Co.

"Bernard was always impeccably dressed, a gentleman's gentleman, extremely well-mannered," his Trustee Pat Bye said. "He was an artist who loved to draw portraits, cars, landscapes and was involved in car design competitions. He was highly respected in the aeronautical world and sought after for his unending forward thinking."

Three boxes of effects forwarded to the University late last year included his University of Detroit report cards, letters, graduation programs, University of Detroit yearbooks and other mementos of his educational experience as evidence of the place the University held in his heart. He did not marry and had no children.

"This endowed scholarship will provide an engineering education for current and future Detroit Mercy students forever, while also perpetuating the memory of Bernard Schlaff," said University President Dr. Antoine M. Garibaldi.

*If you would like information about making a planned estate gift to the University, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at 313-993-1600.*



# Detroit Mercy is Community-Focused

## Tumbling Teeth

### Alumnus gets creative in Dental fundraiser



**W**illiam Demray, D.D.S. '75 tells the many people who ask that the 3,333 molars tumbling across the front of his dental office are overflow from the teeth he's been storing for the Tooth Fairy.

But everyone knows the Tooth Fairy has plenty of room, so what's the real story?

It's a unique fundraiser to benefit Detroit Mercy Dental's Titans for Teeth program. For a donation of \$20, artists from across the country and a few in Canada received a 6-by-9-inch molar in the mail to transform into a creative masterpiece. The pieces were then entered into a competition.

Demray's practice, Preservation Dental in Northville, Mich., started the competition last summer and, as artists returned them, the works of art were welded onto the outside of the building. In February, during National Children's Dental Health Month, a committee chose the winner.

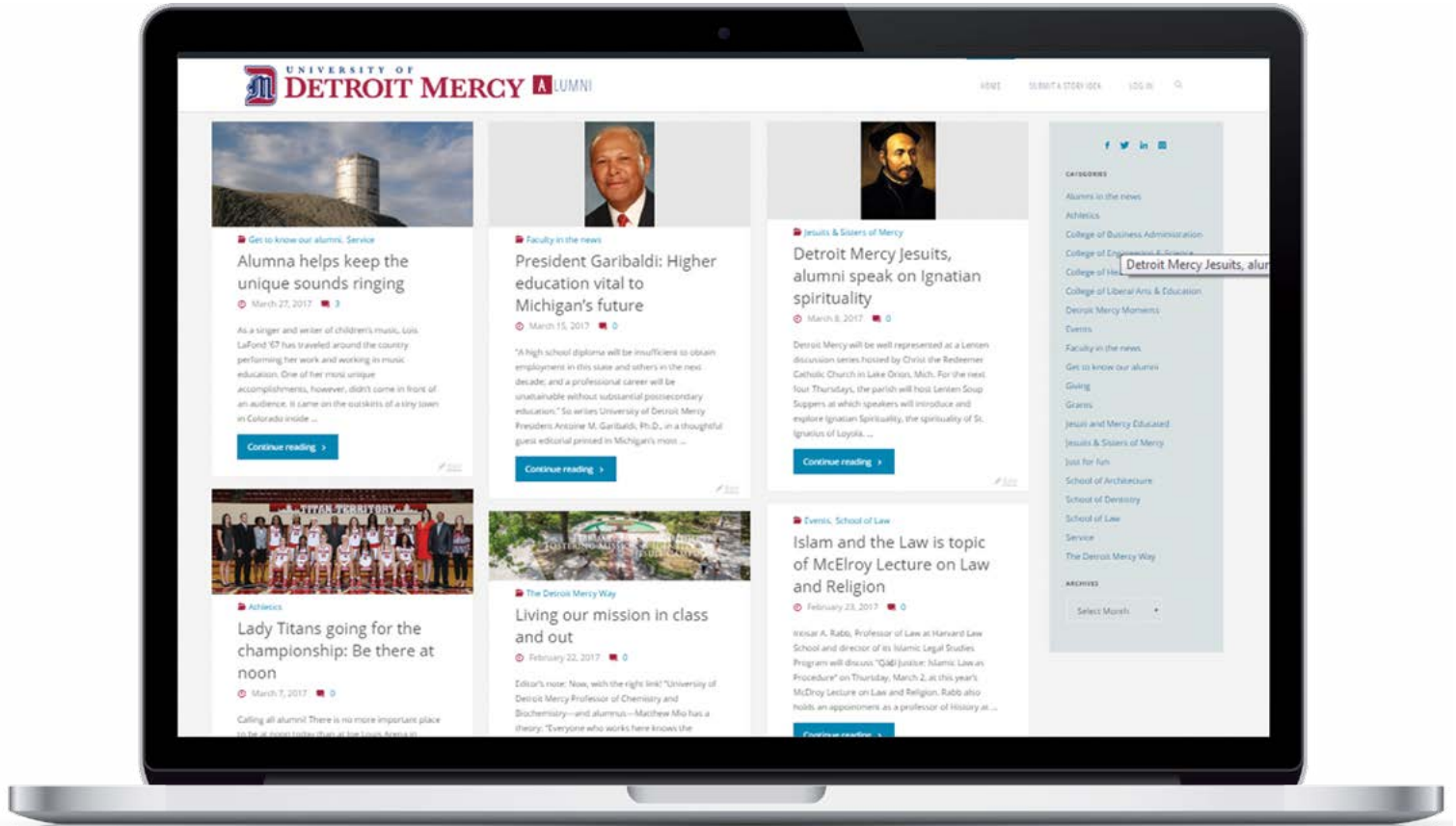
Demray, who is on the alumni board at Detroit Mercy Dental, said the goal of the competition is twofold: Raise funds for the dental outreach program — which brings mobile dental care to underserved communities — and also to get people excited about going to see the dentist.

"We want to show how cool dentists are," Demray said. "We are fun people, too." People of all ages take photographs and ask questions about the installation. It has become a point of interest in downtown Northville.

An exhibit of the teeth was held in February, and Marilyn and Ollie Bush, who turned their teeth into a couple of wolves, were named the winners. They generously donated their winnings back to the Titans for Teeth program.

— Kari Radjewski





## Keeping in touch

**W**e are coming up with easy ways for you to find out what's going on at Detroit Mercy and with our alumni. News can be found easily on our new website's News page, where you can read about on-campus programming, student features and more. Visit [udmercy.edu](http://udmercy.edu) to see what's happening.

Our alumni blog tells stories we think alumni want to know. If alumni are making news anywhere in the world, you'll find it at [sites.udmercy.edu/alumni](http://sites.udmercy.edu/alumni).

You can find these and many more stories like them on our alumni blog. Plus, there's a link so you can submit story ideas.

As a singer and writer of children's music, Lois LaFond '67 has traveled around the country performing her songs and working in music education. One of her most unique accomplishments, however, didn't come in front of an audience. It came on the outskirts of a tiny town in Colorado inside an old, steel water-treatment tank, now known as The Tank Center for Sonic Arts.

*From a story posted March 27*

University of Detroit Mercy Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry — and alumnus — Matthew Mio has a theory: "Everyone who works here knows the mission of the school, but everyone interprets it differently—there is not just one way to carry out our mission." It's only 44 words long, but those words inspire a sense of community drawn straight from the University's Jesuit and Mercy founders. Here are four of the creative ways that faculty, staff and administrators carry out their interpretation of the mission of Detroit Mercy.

*From a story posted Feb. 22*



This statue that greets visitors to the Istanbul Technical University was inspired by the artwork of Detroit Mercy professor of Mechanical Engineering Nihad Dukha

*From a story posted Feb. 9*

# Detroit Mercy is Athletics



## Duerod jersey retired

**D**etroit Mercy's men's basketball team honored Terry Duerod, one of the program's most gifted athletes, by retiring his jersey.

Known as "Sweet Doo" to the Titan community, Duerod was one of the best pure shooters in

school history — as well as in the collegiate game — during his time wearing the red, white and blue from 1975-79.

"He is certainly deserving, no doubt about that," said Dick Vitale, who recruited and coached Duerod in his first two seasons.

He ended his career with 1,690 points; fourth best when he graduated, and sixth today. In 111 career games, he averaged 15.2 points and is among the top 10 career leaders in field goals (third with 790) and field goal attempts (fourth with 1,542).

As a senior, he was named an All-American after averaging 23.3 points, seventh in school history at the time and ninth today.

## Szumlas makes his mark at NCAA Fencing National Championship

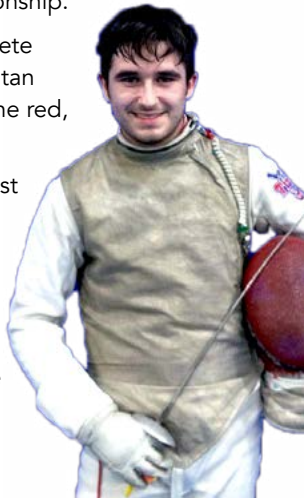
**D**etroit Mercy sophomore Algird Szumlas finished the 2017 NCAA Fencing National Championship in 23rd place in the men's foil.

Overall, he finished with a record of 3-20 during the national finals, going head-to-head with the top collegiate men's foilists across the nation. He scored 51 touches while receiving 102 touches.

Detroit Mercy was one of 20 schools across the nation to field a men's fencer at the NCAA Championship.

Szumlas was the first Titan to compete in the national finals since former Titan Michael Purdy-Sachs represented the red, white and blue in 2011.

On the season, the sophomore foilist finished with a record of 61-34. He medaled at the Midwest Fencing Conference Championship individually and also helped lead the Titans to a third-place finish, their best finish in program history at the conference championship.



## Kendell repeats as Horizon League Fall Scholar Athlete

**J**unior Ben Kendell had to share the award last year, but in fall 2016, the Detroit Mercy men's cross country harrier was named Horizon League Fall Scholar-Athlete of the Year all by himself.

The third-year runner just finished one of the best cross country seasons in school history and holds a 3.987 GPA in Electrical Engineering.

In cross country, Kendell led the Titans in all six of the events he took part in, posted a pair of wins and runner-up finishes and was in the top 10 in five races.

He earned All-Horizon League First Team honors for the third-straight year. He is the first Titan to post three top-five finishes at the Horizon League meet.

He ended the year taking 35th at the 10k NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championship in a career-low 31:26, giving him three top-100 finishes in his career at the GLR, just the fourth Titan in school history to accomplish that.

## Detroit Mercy inducts 2017 Hall of Fame Class

It was a weekend to remember for over 25 former student-athletes and coaches as six individuals and one team joined the ranks of all-time greats in the University of Detroit Mercy Athletic Hall of Fame on Jan. 28.

The class included Teresa Emery '93 (softball), Tony Kaseta '75 (baseball), Shireese Statin '00, '03 (track & field), Jack Szczepaniuk '04, '08 (track & field) and Mark Sommerfeld '08 (golf), former women's basketball coach and women's athletic coordinator Sue (Kruszewski) Hardy and the 2004 Detroit Mercy women's soccer team.

## Boissonneault to play for Canada in World Cup

**F**ormer Titan women's lacrosse standout Emily Boissonneault '13 has made the 18-player roster representing Canada at the 2017 FIL Women's Lacrosse World Cup, which will be held this summer in Guildford, England.

Boissonneault is one of the veteran members of the squad, having helped Team Canada to a silver medal in 2013. She played all seven games at midfield during Team Canada's run in the 2013 World Cup, finishing with five goals, three draw controls and two caused turnovers.

She is the Titans' all-time career leader in points with 272 and was the President's Award winner her senior season. Boissonneault's name still appears in the NCAA Division I record books as 10th in career caused turnovers, 14th in career goals and 16th in career goals per game.





# A lasting legacy



## Rosanna Reynolds sets example on and off the court

By Adam Bouton

She probably didn't envision it at the time, but when Rosanna Reynolds first stepped onto Detroit Mercy's McNichols Campus in 2012, she began a legacy that few before her had accomplished.

Five years later, Reynolds has wrapped up her collegiate women's basketball career with a place in the record books as the Titans' all-time career leader in assists, and third in scoring.

The Canton, Mich., native also was a standout in the classroom and is set to graduate with her second degree in May after completing the five-year MBA program at the University.

"I knew I had the opportunity to play on the court, but I didn't know that five years later all of these things would happen," Reynolds said. "And I think that just goes to show all of the people who have been behind me all along and supporting me and pushing me to be better. They deserve the credit as well."

She earned numerous academic honors in her career, including being named the Horizon League Winter Scholar-Athlete as a junior in 2015-16. In her final season, she helped lead the Titans to the Horizon League Championship game at Joe Louis Arena in March.

It was all the sweeter because she came back from multiple injuries, including an ACL tear at the beginning of her sophomore season. Her dedication and drive to return stronger than before

was evident in earning three All-Conference honors in the three years following her knee injury.

Not only did Reynolds put up numbers on the court — she finished her career with 1,745 points and 552 assists — she made an impact in the classroom, earning a 3.72 undergraduate GPA.

"The business school was really, really good," Reynolds said. "I enjoyed the classes and the small size of the classes and the teachers were so helpful and understanding, especially with my basketball schedule. It's unbelievable to have my undergrad and Master's degree all in five years."

"She's a very, very hard worker," added second-year women's basketball head coach Bernard Scott. "She leads by example and a lot of the younger players see how hard they have to work to be as good of a player as her."

Reynolds won't soon forget everything she accomplished on and off the court while at Detroit Mercy.

"I'm glad that I stuck here for all five years," Reynolds said. "Just the fact that later on in life, of course you are going to remember the good times that you've had and some of the most memorable games, but overall you're going to remember the experience you had with your teammates. That's something that I will treasure forever and that's the most special to me."

# So they said

## A collection of recent quotes heard at and around Detroit Mercy

"I work for the greatest (police) department in the country and went to the greatest school in the country. I'm forever in debt to them both."

**Abby (McCollum) Campbell '14**, in an article in the Detroit Free Press written as the Detroit Police Department and the University honored her for saving the life of a suicidal man. She said she used techniques learned in the classroom at Detroit Mercy.

"I don't know what the requirements are to graduate from University of Detroit Mercy, but it should be a requirement that you spend some time in the History Department. ... And if you do, you can do a lot worse than spending some time under the tutelage of Dr. Roy Finkenbine."

**Author Ta-Nehisi Coates**, to nearly 4,000 people at Calahan Hall who came to hear him give a speech based on "Between the World and Me," for which he won the 2014 National Book Award. Coates met Finkenbine while researching a groundbreaking article, "The Case for Reparations," printed in *The Atlantic* in 2014.

"I like to think of attorney life as 'Bruce Wayne' mode, and music life as 'Batman' mode."

**Omar Aburashed '11**, civil rights attorney by day and Detroit-area hip-hop artist bigO by night, in an article in the *Detroit Legal News*.

"To assure that the state prospers economically and Michiganders have secure futures over the next several decades, it is imperative that we embrace the tenet that all children can and will learn, achieve and be capable of pursuing postsecondary educational opportunities."

**Detroit Mercy President Antoine M. Garibaldi** in an opinion piece titled "Help wanted. Credentials required. Are Michigan job-seekers ready?" in the online magazine *Bridge*.



# Law clinic program expands under new director

By Rebecca Wyatt Thomas

**A**fter 13 years as an adjunct faculty member with Detroit Mercy Law, Anne Yantus has taken on a new role, that of Director of Clinical Programs and Director of Externships.

The position puts her at the head of the school's six current law clinics and paves the way for additional clinics to help indigent people in the city of Detroit while educating law students.

Yantus' primary responsibilities include overseeing the law clinics: The Immigration Law Clinic, Criminal Trials Clinic, Veterans Law Clinic, International Intellectual Property Law Clinic, Juvenile Appellate Law Clinic and the State Appellate Defender Clinic. By fall, the School of Law will have three more, a revived Veterans Appellate Clinic, a Housing Law Clinic and an Entrepreneurial Law Clinic.

"The clinics are based on community need," Yantus said. "We only take clients who are indigent or low-income. If someone has the type of case we can handle, they work with a professor and students for the semester. The students function as the attorney. They learn the process of taking a case from start to finish, including interviewing clients, performing legal research, writing pleadings and even appearing in court on the case."

Each clinic uses anywhere from three to 10 students per semester and handles as many cases as possible. In some clinics, that is one per student and in other cases the clinic will handle more than 70 cases per semester.

"The students learn what it's like to work with an actual client," Yantus said. "Students often participate in simulations where they are learning through experience, but not working with actual clients. Having the opportunity to work with clients in a clinic is often a motivator for our students. It feels like they are actually practicing law."

The benefit isn't just for the students. Yantus said she believes the services of the law clinics are valued by the community, as well. She said many of the clients don't have the right to an appointed attorney, and they also can't afford one on their own.

Prior to joining the School of Law, Yantus served as Managing Attorney of the Plea and Sentencing Unit of the State Appellate Defender Office.

"I was approaching the age and service limits for the State of Michigan, and I always thought that I would like to try something different for an encore career," she said. "The school had the position open. I had been working as an adjunct faculty member and I loved it. I love the school, and I really appreciate and value my colleagues and enjoy working with the students.

"There is a great need for legal services in our community," Yantus added. "The results tend to be better for the clients when they have a lawyer on their side, and the students can make a positive impact on the community around them."

## Grant will fund housing Law clinic

**T**hanks to a \$20,000 grant from the Michigan State Bar Foundation, the School of Law is adding a new Housing Law Clinic.

It will function in partnership with the existing operation run by United Community Housing Coalition and Michigan Legal Services at the 36th District Court in Detroit.

"We are grateful to the Michigan State Bar Foundation for recognizing the need for more housing assistance for Detroit residents," Yantus said. "The goal is to expand the services of the existing clinic while also providing invaluable experiential learning for our students."











# Healthy changes

## *Detroit Mercy positions itself for the future of the healthcare industry*

**T**he College of Health Professions and the McAuley School of Nursing are long known for being on the leading edge of healthcare and nursing education. Today, more than ever, the College is committed to keeping up with the demands of the constantly changing healthcare industry and it does that in many ways.

This year, more than a quarter of Detroit Mercy's student body is enrolled in the College of Health Professions or McAuley School of Nursing. Over the past 25 years, more than 7,500 graduates, educated in the Mercy and Jesuit traditions, have earned degrees in Nursing, Health Services Administration, Physician Assistant, Health Information Management and Nurse Anesthesiology from the College and the McAuley School of Nursing. Healthcare is an important and growing field with more jobs than there are qualified candidates, and University of Detroit Mercy continually looks for ways to meet the needs of this dynamic industry and, more important, the patients.



## An impressive new space

In a development that has transformed a corner of the McNichols Campus, the University invested \$3 million in the future of healthcare education and the University with a 20,000-square-foot expansion of the Health Professions facility.

Construction was completed in January and classes began using the new labs and study spaces in February.

"This is so exciting," said Amy Dereczyk, chair of the Physician Assistant program, on her first day in the new facility. The addition includes 10,000 new square feet for instruction and labs, mostly for the graduate- and advanced-level programming. An additional 10,000 square feet will be used for university-wide academic and event programming.

The \$3-million expansion was generously funded by donations from Michael J. Brenner '67, and a leadership gift of \$1 million from the Joseph O'Reilly Trust.

A grand opening will be April 28. Check [udmercy.edu](http://udmercy.edu) for more information as it becomes available.

## What is the O'Reilly Trust?

Joseph O'Reilly established a trust in his name in 1955 after a long career in the U.S. Navy, which he joined in 1899 at the age of 15.

He was frugal and a savvy investor and had amassed a small fortune. Though he had no connection to University of Detroit, he was impressed by the way the University had educated his nephews, James '39 and Joseph A. '33, '38. He set up the fund to pay for the children of his many nieces and nephews to receive a college education. The original Joseph O'Reilly was one of 12 children, and over the next 60 years, more than 80 grandnieces and grandnephews were eligible to draw from the trust to pay for college education, though not all did.

Joseph O'Reilly's trust expired in 2015 and the funds that remained — more than \$1 million — were transferred to the University, who decided to put the funds into the expansion of the College of Health Professions facility and scholarships.





## PA program receives official go-ahead to double in size

**A**long with the increased space comes a much-needed expansion of the College of Health Professions' Physician Assistant program. Over the next four years, the University plans to double the number of students in the program, which is the oldest in Michigan.

The University has been laying the groundwork to expand for years; the College heard the good news in February.

The program currently receives more than 400 applications for the 42 spaces each year. The approval allows them to grow the program to 84, which the College will do gradually over the next four years.

PAs are in high demand, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which predicts a 38 percent growth rate for the profession by 2022. PAs work in hospitals, physicians' offices and clinics, and are trained and licensed to diagnose and treat illnesses and diseases. They perform physical exams and prescribe medications. Though they have a great deal of independence in patient care, the law says they must work in tandem with a physician.

## Dean Pacini to retire, sort of

**C**hris Pacini, dean of the College of Health Professions, would like to slow down her pace a bit and will leave the University that has been such an important part of her life since 1967.

Pacini has a degree from both schools that became Detroit Mercy. She earned a history degree from University of Detroit in 1970 and a Nursing degree from Mercy College of Detroit in 1974. She has been a professor at each school and dean of the College of Health Professions since 2010.

"I love the place," she said. "What I think my legacy is — if you want to use that big a word — is that I brought stability to the infrastructure at the College of Health Professions and the McAuley School of Nursing. And with that infrastructure, we have the right people doing the right things. We're more collaborative and we work together to make the program stronger."

The benefit of having the right team in place is that it makes it easier to attract and retain new, highly qualified faculty and staff, Pacini said.

"I feel very secure about the leadership we have in the McAuley School of Nursing," she said. "We have the highest level of doctorally prepared, tenured and continuously employed staff that we've ever had."

A search committee is in the process of finding Pacini's replacement; she will stay until the new dean is hired.

## UDMA, he's no dummy

**H**e's fun, he's educational and, truth be told, he's a little creepy.

He's UDMA, the unofficial mascot of Detroit Mercy's Physician Assistant program.

UDMA is a simulation mannequin, and he spends his days and nights and, frankly, years in the hallway of the College of Health Professions facility just outside the PA department offices.

"We dress him in PA garb or occasionally we dress him for holidays," Associate Professor in the Physician Assistant program Sharon Moser said. "We use him sometimes for 'Question of the Week,' where he holds up questions and students can answer them."

UDMA can occasionally scare newcomers who aren't used to him, but he's valuable to the PA program because he helps students have a little fun during the demanding academic program.

"They're really stressed to the max," Moser said. "These kids are in a very tough program. Anything we can do to try to keep it light as possible is beneficial. It's fun for them." — Dave Pemberton



## Partnerships keep programs strong

**E**ach year for the last 16, a group of students is admitted into the McAuley School of Nursing who will rarely be seen on the McNichols Campus, where hundreds of other students are working on their undergraduate nursing degree.

These students — 60 a year — take their classes at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Mich., though their nursing courses are taught by a six-member faculty of Detroit Mercy professors. Core courses and prerequisites are taught by Aquinas College faculty. Their bachelor of science in Nursing degree is from Detroit Mercy.

The success of that program led to another partnership with Cornerstone University, also in Grand Rapids.

Cornerstone students will earn a two-year associate of Science degree in Health Services then receive guaranteed enrollment in the McAuley School of Nursing. They complete their B.S.N. on the McNichols, campus and through collaboration with area health systems to provide their clinical education.

"Our similar mission and commitment to increasing the number of nursing professionals in the state made this an ideal collaboration," Detroit Mercy President Antoine M. Garibaldi said.

The Cornerstone program begins in the fall.





## McAuley Health Center

### Meeting the needs of the community and the students

**T**he McAuley Health Center is the very embodiment of the University's Jesuit and Mercy values and mission.

Nestled in Detroit's Samaritan Center on the city's east side, the McAuley Health Center provides primary care services to an underserved population of all ages and healthcare needs.

In addition to those services, it also acts as a classroom for undergraduate and graduate Nursing students. In fact, that was the initial goal when creating the center 15 years ago, said Carla Groh, the center's project director.

"The original goal was training healthcare workers," she said. "Community healthcare was secondary."

It didn't take long, though, before they came to understand the needs of the community they served. Each month, the full time staff of four, with help from students and other part-time employees, sees 275 patients. Their goal is to raise that number to 300.

"What makes us different is that we are a nurse-managed health-care center," Groh said. "We are staffed by nurse practitioners and our advanced Nursing students can do their clinical rotations here. Students here see a complexity of care they don't see elsewhere and they find that really rewarding."

Noelle Maude agrees. She was a nurse for many years before coming to the University to pursue her Nurse Practitioner degree, which she will complete this year.

"McAuley Health Center is a very good place for patients who are sort of lost in the system," she said. "Nurses are trained differently from doctors and learn to listen to patients. Patients always say that they come back because somebody finally listened to them."

"I love my interactions with the patients and being able to help them. I didn't know it when I started here, but I know now that this is where I needed to be to grow as a practitioner and as a person."



The academic footprint has been expanded beyond the health professions. In recent years, Engineering students designed and built a cart for employees to bring their computers to and from exam rooms and students in the Communications Studies program made a promotional video describing the mission and goals of the McAuley Health Center.

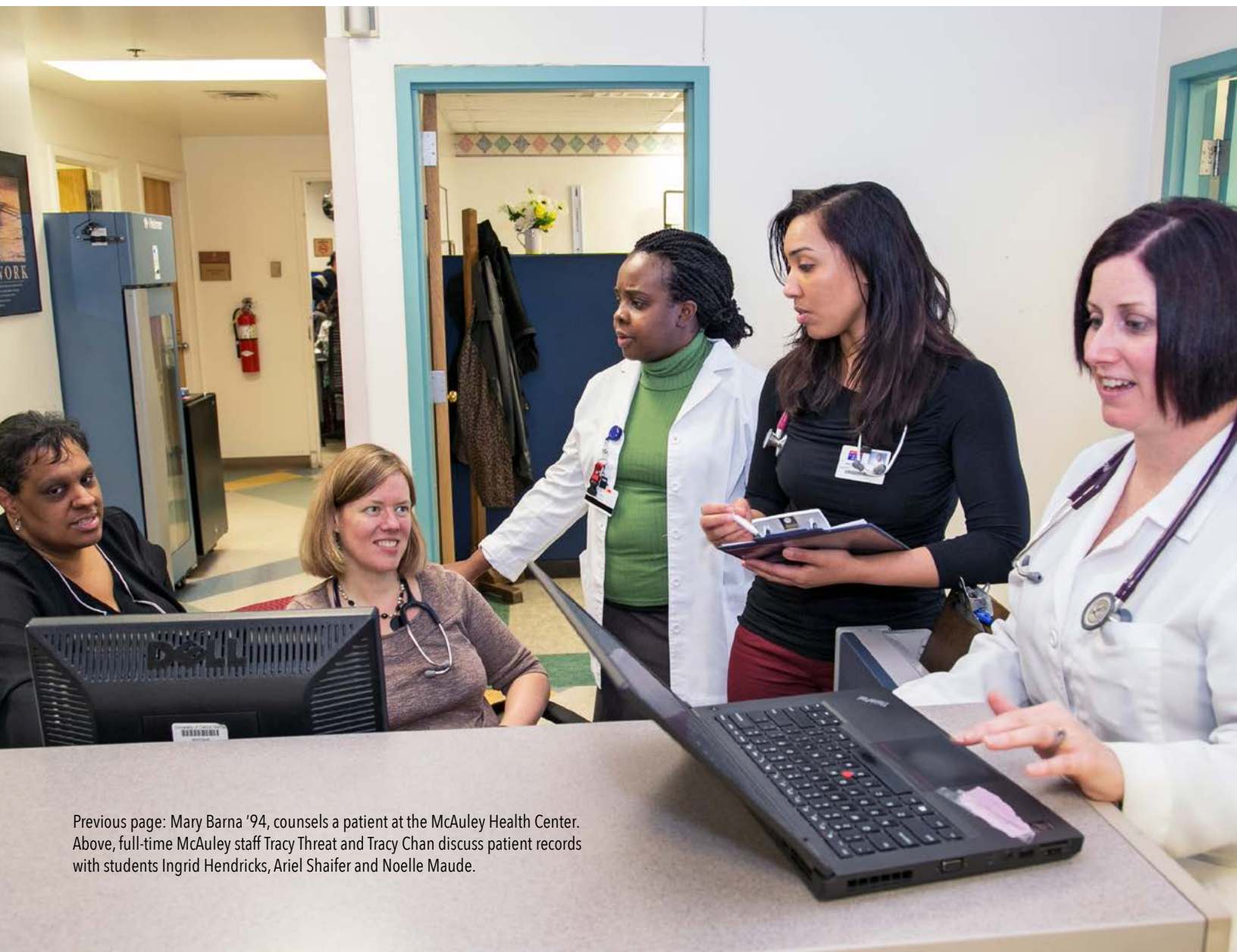
Their mission to “provide high-quality primary health care and health promotion services to the metro Detroit community” includes mental health services and the center recently received a grant to add diabetic educational programming. The staff also provides help in making appointments with specialists and sometimes transportation to those off-site appointments. They help patients with issues like access to healthy food or connect them with social service organizations that address other factors that may be compromising their health. It is one of the first community service agencies to partner with the Detroit Mercy-based Rx for Reading, which provides free books to children who might not otherwise have access to them. “There are an incredible amount

of services we offer,” said Ken Rates ’14, ’17, who is the director of clinic operations. With a master’s of Health Services Administration and MBA, he deals with the business side of health-care. All patients must have insurance — many of them are on Medicare or Medicaid — and the clinic, which began with a grant, now operates solely on revenues and grants.

“I think this is a great place for students,” said Ariel Shaifer, who expects to graduate in 2018. “And it’s a great place for patients, too.”

*The McAuley Health Center is supported by tax-deductible donations. Contact Mary Morency, director of Development for the College of Health Professions, at 313-993-1669 or [mary.morency@udmercy.edu](mailto:mary.morency@udmercy.edu).*

*See Parting Thoughts on Page 34, for a reflection about the way community nursing changes lives.*



Previous page: Mary Barna '94, counsels a patient at the McAuley Health Center. Above, full-time McAuley staff Tracy Threat and Tracy Chan discuss patient records with students Ingrid Hendricks, Ariel Shaifer and Noelle Maude.

# Seven making

## Meet the 2017 Alumni

Each year the University honors one alumnus from each of its schools and colleges with its Alumni Achievement Spirit Awards. These people have made their mark in their chosen field and in the community. They truly embody University of Detroit Mercy's Jesuit and Mercy mission.

Spiritus asked each recipient for a quote about the University and has collected them here. For more information on these outstanding alumni, along with videos of the April 28 event, visit [community.udmercy.edu/awards](http://community.udmercy.edu/awards).



### College of Business Administration

*Michael J. Brenner '67*

Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Related Companies

"I have had a great career and a great life. I am blessed with a wonderful family. All of this, I believe, was made possible in no small part because of the tremendous experience and opportunities I received while at University of Detroit."



### College of Engineering & Science

*Charles E. Lucas, M.D., '59*

Professor of Surgery, Wayne State University

"I am the youngest of four boys, all of whom chose University of Detroit, which provided the background for their achievements and the achievements of thousands of other lower income Detroiters. Detroit Mercy will continue to be an essential ingredient of college and postgraduate education for many more years."



# making a difference

## Mini Achievement Spirit Honorees



### College of Health Professions

*Mary Maurita Sengelaub, RSM, '49*

Retired Chief Nurse Executive, Catholic Healthcare Association

"The enduring foundation I received at Mercy College of Detroit and at Jesuit-sponsored University of St. Louis gave me the strength to speak out for patients in a rapidly developing scientific approach to diagnosing and treating illness."



### College of Liberal Arts & Education

*John P. Hayes '71*

Retired

"A combination of critical thinking skills learned in the classroom and the social and teamwork skills, experienced outside the classroom, was terrific preparation for life after college."



### School of Architecture

*Rainy Hamilton, Jr. '78, '79*

Founder/Owner, Hamilton Anderson Associates

"There's no other city I'd rather be in than Detroit. Being a Detroiter, my focus has always been how I can contribute to the revitalization of Detroit. It's still the same today."\*



### School of Dentistry

*Carl E. Misch, D.D.S. '73 (posthumously)*

Founder and former president, Misch Implant Institute

It is certain that Carl E. Misch did not know, when he entered Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, that he would change the field of dentistry forever. He did not know that he would become the father of implant dentistry. He did not know that he would be a scientist, researcher, author and holder of many patents. What he did know is that he was proud to have begun the journey at Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. – Richard Persiani '73



### School of Law

*Charles R. Rutherford '53, '57*

President, Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, Retired Of Counsel, Dykema Gossett, PLLC

"The idea was always to serve — God, country, community and profession. Besides, it's fun."

\* Quote taken from another publication.

# CLASSNOTES

Have you recently been promoted, honored or published? Have you switched employers or career paths? Share the news with fellow Detroit Mercy alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff. Send your Class Notes to [alumni@udmercy.edu](mailto:alumni@udmercy.edu) and look for them online at [community.udmercy.edu](http://community.udmercy.edu).

## 1960s

**Michael Tierney '60** is the new president and CEO at Community Bankers of Michigan in East Lansing. He was previously CEO and executive vice president of Flagstar Bank.

## 1970s

**Gary Herbertson '78** has been promoted to senior project manager in the Program Management Office at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

**Evelyn H. Hirt '76** has been appointed technical advisor to the United States National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission's committee on Nanotechnology for Electrotechnical Products and Systems. She works with PNNL's Office of Lab Planning and Performance Management.

**William Ladd '79** was named Children's Attorney of the Year for 2016 by the State Court Administrator's Office Foster Care Review Board. He is with the Michigan Children's Law Center and is an adjunct professor at Detroit Mercy Law.

**Edward R. Post '76** has joined Varnum Grand Haven (Mich.), focusing on mediation, arbitration and litigation consulting. He recently retired after 24 years at the 20th Circuit Court in Ottawa County (Mich.).

## 1980s

**William B. Balke '82** has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America as the Lawyer of the Year in Labor Law and Management in Detroit. He is a partner with the Detroit office of Littler, an international employment and labor law practice.

**Sylvia Elliott '89** has been appointed to the Environmental Justice Work Group by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder. The group is tasked with creating environmental guidelines to better serve Michiganders. Elliott is managing attorney and director at the Office of Legal Affairs for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

**Susan E. (Olkowski) Fairchild '88** was named the 2016-17 president of the Federal Bar Association for the Eastern District of Michigan. She is an assistant U.S. Attorney with the Violent Crimes Unit for the Eastern District of Michigan.

**Robin Ferriby '87** was named scholar in residence at the University of Arkansas. He is vice president of philanthropic services at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

**Fr. Robert Fisher '83** has been named an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit. He previously was pastor and rector at Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak, Mich. ▶

## GET TO KNOW

# Angelina Fiordellisi '81

Angelina Fiordellisi is a seasoned actress, theatre producer and play director who has won many awards — including a Tony Award — and worked with some of the top producers, directors and actors on and off Broadway.

Yet one of her favorite memories comes from the small, 60-seat studio at the Cherry Lane Theatre in New York City.

Fiordellisi was producing "The Refreshment of the Spirit" on the small stage of Cherry Lane. Ten female actresses involved in the production had to crossover behind stage to make an entrance from the other side.

"The space they had to squeeze through was maybe three feet and they had these giant hoop skirts. They would take their hoops and put one end down by their feet and the other end up by their heads," said Fiordellisi, laughing almost as hard as the first time she saw it. "It was one of the funniest solutions to a challenge I've encountered."

This and many of Fiordellisi's favorite theatre memories were made at Cherry Lane, which she purchased and began refurbishing in 1996. It is home to the Cherry Lane Alternative whose signature program, the Mentor Project, provides an opportunity for playwrights to be mentored, show their work and launch their careers.

"This is where I found my niche," said Fiordellisi. "I wanted to provide an environment where young playwrights could work with mentor playwrights. I wanted them to have someone who could guide them, support them and listen to their concerns, help them get an agent and bring in people to view their work. I've done that here."





Cherry Lane is New York's longest continuously running Off-Broadway theatre and the winner of several awards, including an Obie Award for the Mentor Project.

## Starting out in Detroit

The acting bug officially bit when Fiordellisi was in high school and it bit at Detroit Mercy.

"I went to see a production by the University of Detroit Theatre Company at Marygrove. It was 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,' " said Fiordellisi. "I was so blown away. They were so good. It was one of the best things I'd seen in my life and it inspired me. Right there, I said 'I'm going into performing arts.' "

After auditing a class at University of Detroit Mercy, Fiordellisi was offered a full-ride scholarship to become a full-time student in the Theatre program.

"We were a scrappy theatre company," Fiordellisi remembered. "The professors treated us like professionals. When we were auditioning for plays, we had to audition with professional actors. We made the costumes, we did the lights, we built the sets, we stage managed. We handled every aspect of the theatre company and that was a great experience for me, especially when I started Cherry Lane Theatre."

"Everything I learned at University of Detroit Mercy I was able to apply to this company. I learned to love, respect and experience every aspect of putting together a production. Every element is important, from actors to directors to producers to lighting and set design."

After graduation, Fiordellisi became a professional actress working on and off Broadway and touring the country with hit productions, including "Annie" and "Zorba." She worked on television and acted in movies. Then she got married, had children and took on her favorite role: Mother.

"I stayed home with my children for eight years when they were first born. I did the traditional Italian mother thing," she said. "I wanted to stay home with my children and I moved to Los Angeles to be with my husband, who was a playwright that found enormous success in television."

Fiordellisi, second from left, with, from left, the cast of "Out of the Mouths of Babes," Francesca Choy-Kee, Estelle Parsons and Judith Ivey.



While she was raising her children, she got involved in new play development.

"To me, it was more gratifying than being on stage and performing. I think it goes hand-in-hand with raising children and developing the hearts and souls and minds of my own children. I loved watching how, over just two weeks, a play could grow with the input of the actors and dramaturges. I loved seeing the playwrights find their voice and say what they wanted to say in a way the audience would understand," Fiordellisi said.

## Raising the next generation

In 1996, she purchased the Cherry Lane Theatre and established the Cherry Lane Alternative as a way to serve the theatre community.

"When playwrights are in college, there are a lot of resources, and then there is a big black hole between that and a playwright's first professional production," she said. "I thought I could fill that gap. I could find the best emerging playwrights and launch their careers with a workshop production in New York City."

When she bought the building, she thought a storage room in it would make a great black box studio theatre. Her business model was unique: Rent out the mainstage to larger plays and keep the mentor program in the studio. The rentals helped fund the Cherry Lane Alternative. This plan allowed her to grow the business and helped her through difficult economic times to focus on what she loved—helping emerging artists.

She said many of the playwrights she brought into the Cherry Lane Alternative had never worked with a designer or director. She helped them build professional relationships that would last beyond the last bow on the studio stage.

Now in its 21st season, the Cherry Lane Theatre is running without Fiordellisi this year as she is on sabbatical to act in several productions. At the same time, she is prepping Cherry Lane Alternative to be turned over to the next generation. She said she plans to maintain control of the rentals and the main theatre and work there often.

"Theatre is always a labor of love and it's always a risk," said Fiordellisi. "It's all about the artists you believe in. It's the artists you want to work with. If you find a good play, you can always attract good talent."

While Fiordellisi's role in theatre is changing once again, she wants to make sure the good talent in the field continues to grow.

"When I started Cherry Lane Alternative in 1996, there were 350 not-for-profit organizations. In 2016, there were 3,500. Everyone is fighting for the same funding and the same audiences. We want to continue the work," she said. "Theatre is a reflection of our time and our humanity and it's important to keep it going."

—By Rebecca Thomas

## GET TO KNOW

# Ravinder 'Ron' Shahani '77

“I like to achieve things,” says Ravinder Shahani. But as a child in India, he probably couldn’t have imagined what he’d achieve halfway around the world.

“Here, if you work hard, you can achieve your goals,” Shahani, who goes by Ron, said. “But in India, success is not necessarily measured by merit. There, if your family is not influential, you don’t have access to the same opportunities.”

Today, Shahani creates opportunities for thousands of people as president of Acro, a Livonia-based staffing firm that specializes in providing highly qualified workers in the fields of information technology, engineering, accounting, finance and more. What started in 1982 with one small office now has 34 offices across the United States and six in Europe and India.

His journey started in his last year at college in Mumbai, where he was finishing a degree in commerce. Shahani, who had wanted to move to the United States for years, decided the time had come, so he went to the consulate to research U.S. colleges. Leafing through *The Handbook of American Universities*, he discovered University of Detroit. He applied at schools in other cities where people he knew lived, but what attracted him most to University of Detroit Mercy was a paragraph describing the scholarships available. His family helped him with the application fee and it wasn’t long before he was accepted to the University, and received some of that financial aid he had read about.

Shahani arrived in Detroit with enough money for only one semester. It was stuffed in his sock because he heard Detroit in the mid '70s was a tough place. Knowing he’d have to work and attend classes, he asked around on campus. He washed dishes at the cafeteria and was pleasantly surprised to discover the job included free food. He got a second job at the tutoring center and a third, arranged by his department chair, as a teaching assistant.

“I bought my first suit for that job, because I was teaching students who were mostly older than I was, and I wanted them to look up to me,” he remembered.

He found great value in the fact that so many of his professors worked outside the University.

“I learned how the real world worked,” he said. “I got the sense early on that I was getting good information and knowledge.” He was so pleased he recruited two brothers to the University where they earned master’s degrees.

Upon graduation with an MBA, he went to work as a financial analyst for Ford Motor Company.

“I was very happy there,” he said. But things were changing in

the automotive industry. Japanese automakers had made major inroads into the U.S. car market and the Big Three were losing billions of dollars annually.

“The auto industry is cyclical,” he said. “So when things are good, there are lots of jobs, but when things slow down, the companies have to lay off workers and it creates huge costs and bad publicity. One of the things you do as a financial analyst is to look for ways to convert fixed costs into variable costs,” he said.

Shahani started to think that perhaps payroll could become a variable cost. Couldn’t the engineers, draftsmen and designers be hired on a contract basis, he asked himself and others. This was happening on a small scale — to skirt hiring freezes — and he determined that the U.S. auto industry had to change and that he could be part of that change.

Much to the dismay of his parents, who tried to talk him out of leaving a job at a company like Ford, Shahani left to create Acro. The company was inspired in part by Kelly Services, a Michigan-based company that provided temporary clerical workers to businesses. Acro, however, specialized in high-paying contracts for automotive engineers. It seemed to be just the solution the auto industry needed, and his company grew rapidly.

Shahani, keeping in mind the cyclical nature of the auto industry, saw the need to diversify and he pursued the aerospace industry, which needed workers similar to the automotive engineers Acro had specialized in. He expanded from there. Today, though the automotive sector is Acro’s biggest client, the company provides contract and temporary workers for government, pharmacology companies, energy, utilities and the medical fields around the world.

Shahani’s wife, Chitra, and children, Rajiv and Sanjeev, help run the global company that was named a 2016 National Best and Brightest Company to Work For by the National Association for Business Resources.



Ravinder and Chitra Shahani

— Ron Bernas





## Mentor Day

**A**lumni returned to campus in late March to share their tips and experiences one-on-one with current students at the Alumni Relations Department's first Mentor Day. Students signed up for 30-minute meetings to hear job-hunting advice and make connections with alumni working in the field.

*If you're interested in mentoring Detroit Mercy students, fill out the online volunteer form at [community.udmercy.edu/volunteer-form](http://community.udmercy.edu/volunteer-form).*

**Rochelle Lento '87** was elected partner of the Detroit-based law firm Dykema. She is a member of the real estate practice group.

**Michael Robbins '80** has joined Code42, a Denver-based company that specializes in data protection and recovery.

**Mark Schmid '81** received a Lifetime Achievement Award from *Chief Investment Officer Magazine*. He is CIO of the University of Chicago. He was honored for his innovative thinking in investment strategy.

## 1990s

**Michelle Alamo '99** was appointed chair of the Defense Research Institute's intellectual property litigation committee. She focuses on intellectual property and patent litigation. She is an attorney at Dickinson Wright.

**Christopher Aller '95** joined Stephen Auger + Associates Architects as director of design.

**Diana Brown '94** has joined the Birmingham, Mich.-based Transitions Legal and will focus on divorce and family law.

**John Grzybek '91** was named to head Kalamazoo, Mich.-based Greenleaf Trust's office in Grand Rapids, Mich. He is a founding member and senior relationship manager of Mirador family wealth advisers at Fifth Third Bank.

**Jacqueline L. Hourigan Rice '97** has joined the ADTRAN, Inc. board of directors. ADTRAN is a leading provider of next-generation open networking solutions. Rice is an executive vice president and chief risk and compliance officer for Target.

**Andrea Leslie '97** is the president of Spectrum Health United and Kelsey hospitals. She was previously chief nursing officer for the western Michigan healthcare company.

**Scott MacGriff '96** has joined Dickinson Wright PLLC's Washington, D.C., office as a member, to assist in leading the firm's U.S. Government Contracts practice. He was previously with the Department of Justice.

**Mark Wisniewski '90** received the 2016 Time and Talent Award from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. The award is Detroit Mercy Law's most prestigious honor, given to alumni who exhibit distinguished leadership and longstanding service to the University. He has served on the board of directors for the School of Law's Alumni Association and several committees and has served as an adjunct professor. He maintains a practice at Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook, P.C., in Detroit.

## 2000s

**Julie M. Bell '03** has been appointed chief human resources officer for The Advanced Group, a diversified professional staffing, consulting and outsourcing organization in Chicago.

**Michael Castillo '05** has been promoted to Electrical Powertrain OBD Technical Specialist at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles.

**Kathryn A. (Sulkey) Gross '04** was named an Everyday Hero by RARE. The teacher at Loyola High School in Detroit was nominated by one of her students, who called her compassion and work for many volunteer organizations inspirational.

**Brett Miller '05** has been named a shareholder at Butzel Long in Detroit. He focuses his practice on labor and employment law and fair housing litigation.

**Jeffrey R. Mitchell '09** was awarded the Tim & Melody Skoog Extra Mile award by Venture.org for his fundraising efforts. In 2015, he rode his bicycle 3,582 miles from Seattle, Wash., to New York City to raise funds for Burmese refugees. In 2016, he rode 450 miles around the Olympic Peninsula to raise funds for International Justice Mission.

**Christopher Quattrin '86, '06** was elected Berrien County (Mich.) Drain Commissioner in November. ▶

**Sara Rubino '08** was named partner at Jaffe Raitt Heier & Weiss in Southfield, Mich. She is also a speaker on probate-related topics such as guardianships, conservatorships, estates and trusts.

**Matthew Richardson '01** was named manager of MCTV and library communications by the city of Midland, Mich.

## 2010s

**Nina Abboud '15** has joined the staff of the Bloomfield Hills, Mich., law firm Dawda, Mann, Mulcahy & Sadler PLC. She is a court qualified mediator and a member of the Insurance and Indemnity, Young Lawyers and Litigation Sections of the State Bar of Michigan.

**Stephanie A. Boyle, D.D.S., '16** has joined the Shelby Township, Mich., office of Pointe Dental Group.

**David M. Brush '14** has published his first novel, *Induction*. It is about a dystopian future created by a mandatory eugenics program.

**Javon R. David '13** published "Michigan No-Fault & Third Party Practice: Is the Tide Turning in the McCormick Era" in *The Journal of Insurance & Indemnity Law*. She is an attorney with Secrest Wardle's Troy, Mich., office.

**Matthew Denner '11** has joined the design staff at Miller Hayashi Architects LLC in Seattle.

**Paymon Dorri, D.D.S., '15** has joined the Livingston County Dental Center in Howell, Mich. He is a member of the national dental honor society Omicron Kappa Upsilon.

**Jennifer A. Dukarski '10** has been elected a shareholder at Butzel Long in Detroit. Her practice focuses on technology and communications with an emphasis on emerging issues in digital media, cybersecurity, infotainment, vehicle safety and connected and autonomous cars.

**Lawrence Kajj '15** was recently hired by Ayar Law Group in Southfield, Mich. The firm specializes in state, federal and international tax law.

**Deise Oliveira, D.D.S., '16** is one of 18 licensed dentists chosen for a new residency program at the Georgia School of Orthodontics.

**Alex M. Petrik '14** has joined Plunkett Cooney's Insurance Law Practice Group in the firm's Bloomfield Hills, Mich., office.

**Kevin Sanker '16** joined Howard & Howard Attorneys in Royal Oak, Mich. His practice is in real estate, corporate law and business transactions.

**Mary E. Sclabassi '11** has been named to the new Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission. She is chief of police for the city of Taylor, Mich.

**Brian Sparks '10** was promoted to manager at UHY LLP Certified Public Accountants with offices in southeast Michigan.

**Steven Spriggs '14** has joined the McTague Law Firm in Windsor, Ont., Can., as an associate lawyer. He focuses in corporate/commercial and real estate law. ●



Gary Peters '84

## Alumni represent both sides in Congress



Vern Buchanan '86

**T**en percent of the 115th U.S. Congress that was sworn in last week, are graduates of Jesuit colleges and universities. Of the 56 Jesuit institution alumni, two are from University of Detroit Mercy.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Gary Peters '84, who represents Michigan, is one of 12 in the Senate who hail from Jesuit institutions.

Florida Rep. Vern Buchanan '86, a Republican, is one of 44 Jesuit alumni who serve in the House of Representatives.

Peters is the newcomer, elected in 2014; Buchanan was first elected in 2006.

Both earned their MBAs in the College of Business Administration.

American Jesuit Colleges and Universities President Rev. Michael J. Sheeran, S.J., said, "A hallmark of Jesuit education is service to others, and we are proud to see that commitment represented by the alumni of Jesuit institutions who serve in the House and Senate. We appreciate their leadership and look forward to working with them during the 115th Congress."

## Chorus members reunite

**I**f you were a member of the University of Detroit Chorus (previously known as the Choral Club and the University of Detroit Choral Society), you are invited to join other former members at a reunion on Saturday, July 15 at the Motown Museum in Detroit.

The regular event, organized by several chorus alumni, brings singers together to share stories about the campus group, which started in 1946 and ran until 1975.

Elaine Tokarski '65, '67, has fond memories of the group, and said die-hards like her arranged their classes around chorus practices.

From 1953 until it ended in 1975, the chorus was under the direction of Don Large, of whom Tokarski has great memories.

"He was a very special person," Tokarski said. "The group didn't have a lot of money, so Don would write the vocal arrangements himself."

The group sang at dinners and special events and took their show on the road around Michigan. After Tokarski graduated, she said the group performed around the country and in Europe.

The University has many recordings and photos of the group over the years as part of the special digital collections at research.udmercy.edu.

To join the other singers at the July 15 reunion, email Tokarski at [ejlt613@att.net](mailto:ejlt613@att.net).



## DETROIT MERCY MOMENTS: Ray '55 & Dorothy '56 LeBlanc

Ray and Dorothy LeBlanc recently held a reception for Detroit Mercy alumni who live in the Houston area. Afterward, they chatted about their memories of their time on campus. For more memories from other alumni, and one from Ray about the time he stole a car, sort of, visit our alumni news blog at [community.udmercy.edu/alumni](http://community.udmercy.edu/alumni).

It all started with a road trip.

"I came to the University of Detroit over Memorial Day weekend in 1950," Ray LeBlanc remembered. "It was just supposed to be for a weekend." His friend had recently purchased a car and planned to drive from Buffalo, N.Y., to Detroit to visit another friend who was living in the residence halls at the University. LeBlanc thought he was just going along for the ride. He ended up staying, enrolling in University of Detroit and building not only a career, but a family and lifetime friends.

Over the course of the weekend, LeBlanc learned about the well-paying jobs at Ternstedt, a division of General Motors.

"Ternstedt was working seven days a week, 10 hours a day," he said. "I went to Ternstedt that Tuesday morning and they said they weren't hiring. I filled out an application anyway. The guy looked at my application and saw I was from Buffalo. He said if I passed a physical, I could start that night."

Going to college was important to LeBlanc. He had to pay for college on his own, so he had been driving a truck in Buffalo and planned to study engineering at Cornell that fall. Instead, he called his mother and told her to pack his clothes and ship them to Detroit.

"I stayed in the dorm with my friend and earned money for college. I learned more about University of Detroit and ended up registering there, and started in the fall of 1950," LeBlanc said. "I would work three months, go to school for three months and I continued that for three years, until I ran out of money. The school gave me a scholarship for my last year."

Elsewhere on campus, LeBlanc's now-wife, Dorothy, was also working toward her degree.

"She's from Detroit. She went to St. Bridget's and Immaculata and then on to University of Detroit," said LeBlanc. At University of Detroit, Dorothy LeBlanc studied for a Secretary of Science degree, then decided to become a teacher. After graduation, she taught second and third grades.

### Finding love

The LeBlancs met during a chance encounter at a fraternity party. While he was walking down the stairs to the basement, he tripped and landed on Dorothy LeBlanc's lap, breaking the porch-



Ray and Dorothy LeBlanc, second and third from left, at the President's Dinner in 1957.

style swing she was sitting on.

"I said 'My name's Ray, what's yours?' She said 'No way,'" LeBlanc recalled. "She was in the Homecoming queen court, so I knew who she was. In fact, she was dating a good friend of mine. I started calling her, but she kept turning me down. I finally got a date with her. After that, we went steady for almost a year and a half, before we got married."

LeBlanc served as executor of his late-uncle's estate, earning him \$250. He used the money to buy Dorothy an engagement ring. They were married in October 1955, only a few months after LeBlanc graduated with a degree in civil engineering.

### Life on Campus

The LeBlancs made plenty of memories on campus. He chaired the 1954 carnival that brought actor Danny Thomas to campus.

"I had a lot more fun doing things around the University than I did going to class," said LeBlanc.

LeBlanc was also involved in the St. Francis Club, a fraternal organization for out-of-state students that offered good food and plenty of activities.

"St. Francis Club impacted my life. There were 80 guys that formed the very close-knit group," said LeBlanc.

One of the things that made the biggest impact on the LeBlancs were their friends. Many of them are still friends today. Dorothy and her friends would meet at the diner across Livernois from campus. She said they had "terrible coffee" and "greasy spoons." Now, members of the old gang live all over the country, but still keep in touch.

"We made some really great friends at University of Detroit," Ray said. "We've made other friends throughout the course of our adult lives, but our longest friendships started on that campus."

### Beyond campus

After college, LeBlanc wanted to go into commissioned sales. He went to work for the Dale Prentice Company in 1955. He moved to Toronto and then to Houston for various jobs, taking his wife and six kids along with him. In 1975, he was tapped to be CEO of Keystone International, where he grew sales by nearly \$600 million in ten years.

"It was a good run, we had a lot of fun," said LeBlanc. In addition to his work, LeBlanc spent a lot of time with his family. They travel across the country in their motor home. In addition to their six children, they have nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

— Rebecca Thomas



# ALUMNI EVENTS



## Homecoming and more

**M**ore than 1,000 alumni, students and friends of Detroit Mercy gathered for the University's first Fall Homecoming in many years last September and October. Two days of events included a 5K Fun Run/Walk through the community around the McNichols Campus. Because the theme was the 1980s, runners showed up in their craziest '80s wear. There were grand openings of new spaces on campus, tours, and a tug-of-war tournament run in the style of the old St. Francis Club. Other events included a Law School golf tournament, activities for the kids and a vow renewal Mass.

It was such a success, we decided to make it an annual event. Set aside Sept. 29-30 to join in the fun. Planning is well under way and it promises to be bigger and better than the first!







1. Runners in 1980s-inspired garb took part in the first Detroit Decades Dash, which started the day of Homecoming events on Saturday.
2. A muddy tug-of-war included this team of Detroit Mercy Dental students.
3. Dozens of alumni renewed their vows at a Mass celebrating love, which closed Homecoming.
4. Detroit Mercy Law alumni and friends participated in a wet, but fun golf outing.

**In other alumni events sponsored by the University.**

5. In February: The Alumni Chili Cook-off brought families together to share good food and cheer on the Titans men's basketball team.
6. In September: Hundreds of alumni gathered at Comerica Park to cheer on the Tigers.
7. In March: Alumni, students, parents and friends played euchre and board games to raise funds for Detroit Mercy's Campus Kitchen.



# In MEMORIAM

## 1930s

Daniel C. Fisher '39

## 1940s

Gerald J. Aben '43

Helen (Wiggin) Baker '49

Marilynn (Shefferly) Brainard '48

Mary Catherine (Dilworth) Dorais '43

Patrick R. Dwyer '43

Marguerite (O'Brien) Ewald '47, '49

Evelyn (Gornawich) Fitzpatrick '47

Harry S. Gorden '41

Donald L. Jandernoa '48

Shirley (Parlow) Kane '49

Joseph W. Klosterman '48

Patricia (O'Laughlin) McGlone '47

Virginia (Dutcher) McKenzie '46

John A. Monark '49

Wanda (Hamialo) Palmisano '49

Louis L. Peven '44

Gloria (Polom) Sheridan '48, '52

Robert A. Shooltz '49

Loretta (Wolf) Skewes '47

Lenore (Rapin) Strohmmer '47

Boyd H. Vanderbeke '49

Trieste G. Vitti '49, '51

Dorothy (Barker) Winkworth '43

Joseph A. Wyrtrwal '49, '50

## 1950s

Algird Ambrose '54

David J. Antishin '57, '61

Thomas P. Ashe '51, '62

Robert J. Austin '58

Edwin A. Bakun '54

Dale J. Boes '59

Henry J. Boullard '59

James Bradford '53

John R. Brandstatter '55

K. T. Bryant '52, '59

Robert E. Burgie '53

Raymond Burnett '58, '59

Jesse J. Cardellio '58

Patrick F. Carron '52

Theresa T. Cheng '57

Gerald J. Christ '52

Harold B. Clark '55

Richard L. Cline '51

Simon L. Cook '59

Larry D. Copus '59

Robert G. Coyle '55

Joseph C. Cox '54

Gail (Meyer) Dembowski '58, '65

Camille (Dowgialo) Doherty '55

Edward J. Drogowski '55

Alfred W. Duff '53

George J. Durr '54, '55

Robert F. Fellrath '51

James F. Ferrella '52

Urban A. Fisher '51

Larry E. Fleischmann '59

Marilou Foster-Cheff '50

Edward S. Fron '54

Joseph J. Gerber '56

Warren P. Geiger '59

Ralph T. Gigliotti '59

Roman J. Gronkowski '58

Werner H. Grunheid '52, '56

Richard D. Hansen '57

Frank P. Hart '55

Richard F. Hayes '54

J. James Hiller '56

Lawrence H. Hogan '58, '72

Donald P. Howard '51

Andrew C. Huebner '56, '63

Martin E. Keck '58

Richard M. Kelley '55

J. E. Kerwin '54, '63

Elroy D. Kidle '54

Paul A. Klozik '58, '62

Eugene P. Klueg '60

James R. Kremidas '57

Chester P. Kristy '54

Raymond E. Krupa '56, '61

Stanley E. Krzeminski '54

Gerald G. Lacey '59

Joseph P. LeBlanc '50

Robert J. Leonard '59

Yvonne (Dujardin) Lemaux '56

Stanley D. Lingeman '57

Agnes (Bogdon) Ludlow '54

Richard F. Majkowski '52, '56

Philip J. Maloney '53

Mario T. Manarino '59

James H. McCormick '53, '57

Frank J. McCotter '54

William J. McCurry '58

Harriet (Wolff) McMahon '56

Thomas J. McNamara '54

Walter E. Mead '55

Eugene H. Merkert '51

Robert H. Michels '52

Albert T. Milauskas '58

Kenneth J. Mixter '53

Robert R. Montagne '57

Margaret (Connarn) Nelson '51

Arlene T. Nowak '53, '57

Kenneth J. Nowak '59

John J. O'Brien '55

Arnold J. Ochs '57

James E. O'Halloran '53, '55

William J. O'Halloran '55

Gerald R. Olesko '53, '71

Donald R. Pearsall '50

Nancy (Hastings) Polcyn '51

Richard S. Polovitch '58

Marjorie (LePage) Pope '58

Therese (Kress) Prince '55

Peter Pukszta '51

Richard J. Quadri '57

Richard A. Sampson '56

Gerald J. Schenking '55

Leonard L. Schmitt '59

Flocella M. Schulist '55

Walter J. Schulstad '55

Stanley J. Sczechowski '55

Ralph E. Seaton '50

Edward R. Sensel '58

Paul A. Shubnell '58, '62

Ronald A. Simon '58

Thomas A. Smiggen '58

Martin J. Smith '57

Sally (Storey) Spohn '52

Mary (Walton) Steinhelper '56

Joseph P. Steger '58

Norman P. Swanson '53

Arlene (Zurawski) Thomas '56

Paul J. Van Den Branden '51

Joseph L. Villerot '50

James R. Waggoner '51

Walter D. Ward '58

William J. Wildern '58

Joseph T. Willett '56

Edward E. Wilamowski '54

Francis A. Yezbick '56

Gilbert A. Youngdale '54, '56



Stanley R. Zajdel '58  
Stanley W. Zdral '56, '60  
George S. Zimbalatti '56

## 1960s

Robert J. Artbold '60, '62  
Robert K. Babboni '63  
Maria (Krichfalushij) Baltarowich '61  
Charles J. Baker '69, '71  
Sally (Thompson) Battle '69  
Anthony J. Bellanca '63  
John R. Bennett '64  
Judith (LaPorte) Bertucci '61  
Karen L. Birchard '67  
Rae C. Bremner '61  
Harry F. Brinsden '67, '73  
John Buchanan '60, '66  
Mary A. (Magi) Burdick '63  
Walter C. Burns '66  
James Cameron '61  
Robert J. Casey '61  
Robert Check '69  
George S. Chick '62  
Stephen E. Cieslak '61  
Robert C. Creamer '61  
Thomas G. Darcy '66  
Dolores M. Deziel '67  
William D. Donovan '65  
Harry J. Dowd '60  
Theodore Dziurman '62  
Francis L. Gietzen '62  
Elliot B. Gilksman '69  
John F. Goetz '65, '68  
M.A. Gozdowski '66  
George B. Hayek '61  
Joyce (Masalkoski) Herula '67  
Douglas W. Hoste '66  
Lee E. Jacokes '64  
Jeffrey P. Jorissen '67  
Elizabeth (Erbes) Kessler '66  
Walter J. Kloc '61  
Thomas R. Kolhoff '61  
Gerald D. Kopasz '62  
Richard S. Kordos '64  
Andrew Kowal '61  
James E. Ladd '62  
Robert J. LeVasseur '63  
Lorraine (Woszczyzna) Long '66  
Richard B. Lutz '61, '63  
M. M. Marchiniak '65  
Patrick E. McCartney '61  
Gary R. Mettie '62  
Joseph B. Miniatas '61  
Sonja O'Regan '66  
Louis R. Pace '64  
Dennis Pinkos '69

David L. Reich '61  
Frederick C. Rosenberry '62, '63  
Charles J. Ruhlin '60  
Linda F. Sams '67, '08  
Susan (Jukuri) Schillinger '63  
William B. Schmitz '65  
Bonaventure Scully '61  
M. John Shamo '60, '64  
William W. Sipowicz '60  
Donald J. Sladick '67  
Jack N. Smerdon '64  
Mary (Czarnecki) Stark '62, '68  
Edward W. Strugala '62  
Victor H. Studer '66  
Thomas P. Sullivan '65  
William Sullivan '68  
Paul T. Suszczyński '68  
James K. Swift '60  
William C. Thompson '63  
Eilleen (Cross) Trewartha '63  
John R. Tucker '69  
Martha Twomey '63  
Judith (Roman) Whitehouse '69

## 1970s

Robert I. Anderson '71  
Russell A. Bayly '73  
Edward A. Bullard '78  
Dolores (Hakalow) Channing '75  
Lynn Coleman '72  
George F. Coley '71  
Joseph R. Csotty '75, '76  
James E. Davis '77  
David S. Dixon '77  
William C. Dobrowolski '72  
Richard L. Dungy '75, '80  
Donald L. Figurski '61  
Charles F. Gerds '75  
Robert M. Green '75  
Lorraine (Williams) Greene '72  
Vernon F. Hall '72  
Douglas Hamel '77  
Gerald R. Hand '73  
Nancy (Dynek) Hickman '75  
Gail M. Hilmer '70  
Karen F. Jahn '75, '81  
Cynthia (McIllaney) Kababik '72  
Kraag C. Lieberman '77  
Gerald T. Mann '78  
Steven B. Margolin '74  
Roger W. Martenson '71  
Duane G. McDermid '77  
Michael J. McNamee '73  
Pauline O'Brien '74  
James R. Oravec '71  
James A. Rademacher '74  
Allyn C. Ravitz '72

Catherine (Hulbert) Reindel '75  
Ellen (Galson) Ritteman '75  
Lorene (Stevenson) Robinson '76  
Charles F. Ruh '71  
Zouhair G. Sabbagh '79, '95  
John A. Sample '78  
Jack E. Thompson '72  
Richard F. Zapala '73

## 1980s

Nicetas P. Bugais '80  
Lynne M. Cooper '81  
Suzanne E. Dreifus '86  
Arnold B. Engle '80  
Gerold W. Haas '86, '87  
Harriette E. Johnson '83  
Michael J. Lavoie '80  
Terry A. Lewis '83  
D.J. (Bittern) May '85  
Corazon S. Nery '84  
Kent R. Kickol '87  
John J. Oleksik '81  
Lina F. Pajarillage-Stone '86  
Germaine (Victor) Phillip '83  
Deborah (Wardowski) Redding '83  
Thomas E. Sepanik '80  
Mark Valente '81  
Drucilla (Croft) Wilson '82

## 1990s

Sharon A. Lewer '92  
Michael A. Schuster '92  
Kaye (Brockman) Scott '91  
Rosemarie T. Stonehill '92  
James L. Wolfe '92  
Michelle (Sharp) Zander '90

## 2000s

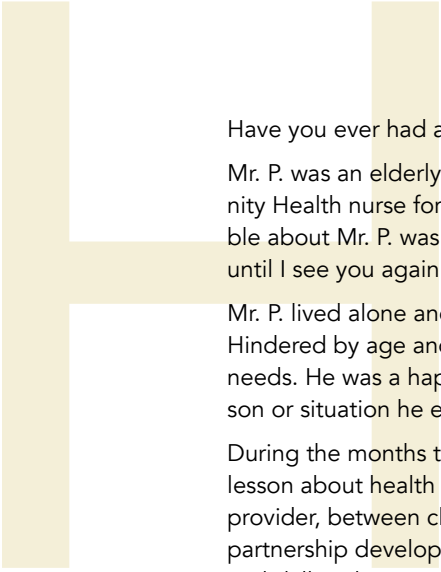
Robert S. Detwiler '07  
Andrea (Karpala) Humphrey '05  
Lauri A. Sanko '01  
Scott I. Spokojny '08

## 2010s

Eugene Scott '12

## Faculty and Friends

**Anita L. Foster**, former staff member  
**Rowland Hutchinson, D.D.S.**, former dean of the School of Dentistry  
**Carl E. Misch, D.D.S. '73**, former member of the Board of Trustees  
**Theodore Walters, S.J.**, former professor and dean of the graduate school  
**Lawrence A. Wisne**, former member of the Board of Trustees



# The Blessings of Partnership

By Judith Mouch, RSM

PARTING THOUGHTS

Have you ever had an encounter with someone you just can't forget? I have.

Mr. P. was an elderly man who I cared for in his home when I worked as a Community Health nurse for the New Orleans Health Department. What was so memorable about Mr. P. was the blessing he offered me after each visit: "I will pray for you until I see you again."

Mr. P. lived alone and was not able to meet his daily needs without assistance. Hindered by age and immobility, he was dependent on others to meet those needs. He was a happy man who often told me that he found God in every person or situation he encountered. Blessing me was his form of gratitude.

During the months that I provided wound care for Mr. P., I learned a valuable lesson about health and healing. It's all about the partnership between client and provider, between client and his God, the source of compassion and healing. Our partnership developed as we worked together. He needed my nursing knowledge and skill and I counted on his blessing as I faced the challenges that came as a Community Health nurse in the Big Easy.

At the McAuley School of Nursing, we focus on preparing professional nurses who are committed to serve and lead persons in need of health or healing with an emphasis on the underserved and most vulnerable. We stress that the partnership with the client is primary, and partnerships with community agencies are essential for sustaining health and healing. This is expressed as *cura personalis* and is demonstrated in Catherine McAuley's belief that care was to be provided in the community because that is where people who are sick and poor live.

Creating intentional partnerships with agencies in the local community is one way we faculty facilitate the vision of St. Ignatius and Catherine McAuley so our students may experience the importance of developing relationships with the clients they serve. Our nursing students frequently cite the personal blessings they receive when working with patient partners at clinical sites such as Cabrini Clinic in Corktown, Pope Francis Warming Center on Jefferson Avenue, McAuley Health Center on Detroit's east side, the Trinity Senior Living sites near the McNichols campus, and numerous school-based clinics.

I often think of Mr. P., and I bless him for reminding me that God is to be found everywhere and that health and healing depend on many partnerships. In McAuley School of Nursing we are constantly blessed by the insight and example of Catherine McAuley and St. Ignatius, who both challenged their companions to partner with others so the most vulnerable could experience health and healing.

*Judith Mouch, RSM, associate professor of nursing, has taught at Detroit Mercy for 25 years. She holds national certification as a Community Health Nurse Specialist and her interests are in family health, spirituality in nursing, and transcultural nursing. She is a practicing parish nurse and consults on parish nursing nationally.*







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*Thank you!*

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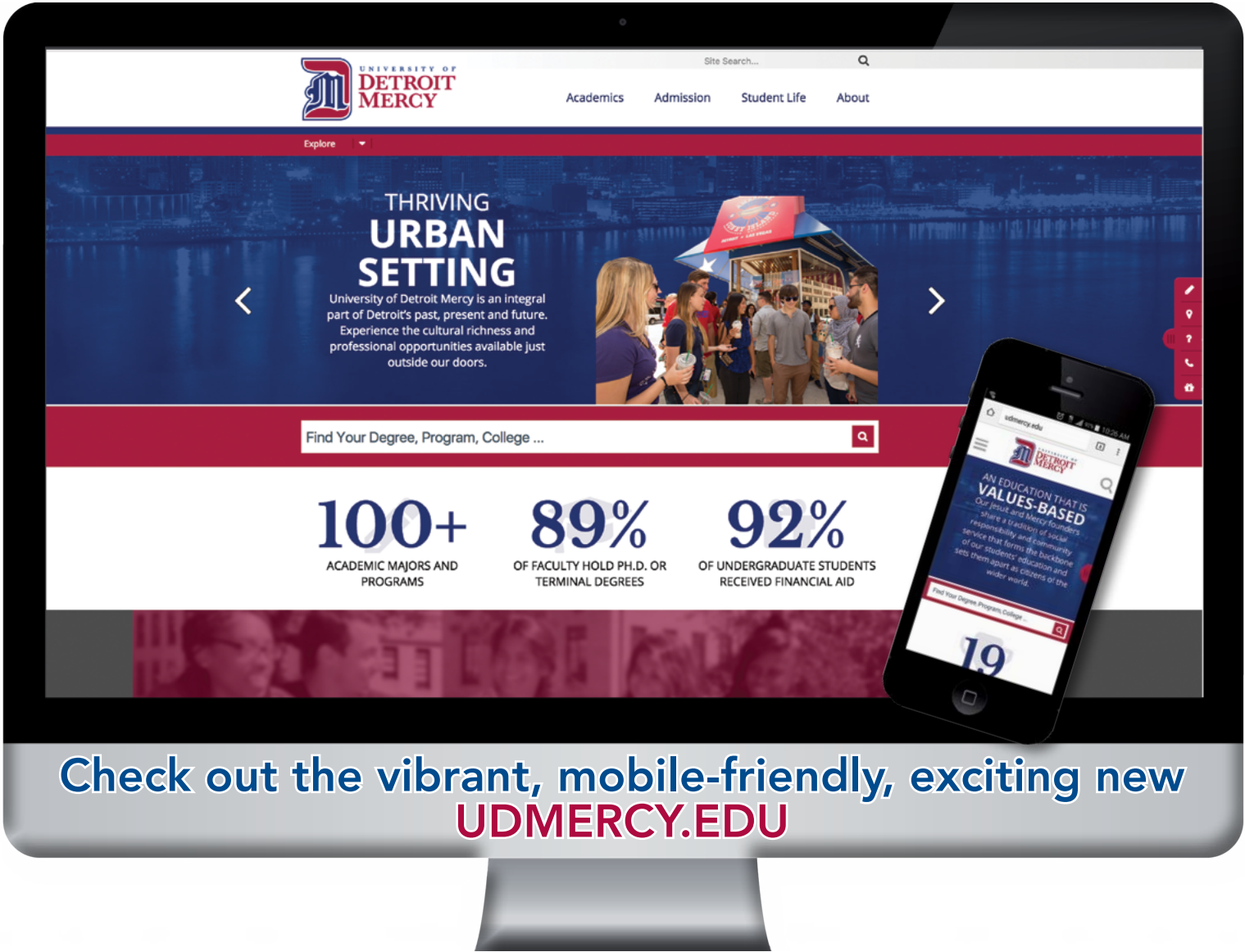
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