

TITANS

IN HEALTHCARE

SPRING 2025

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
& McAULEY SCHOOL OF NURSING AT UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY



TITANS IN HEALTHCARE

A publication of University of Detroit Mercy's College of Health Professions & McAuley School of Nursing.

- 4** Symposium showcases student, faculty research
- 6** STAR Center enhances student-patient connection
- 8** Nursing programs spread across Michigan
- 10** Healthcare Operations Management completes year one
- 11** Nationally ranked DNP program is leading the way
- 12** Who's MEAGN? A unique Nursing program
- 13** PA Program is about community health
- 14** Family Nurse Practitioners are needed
- 15** Milestones



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FROM THE DEAN

ONE YEAR AT DETROIT MERCY

Reflections and updates on our progress

Dear Alumni,

I hope this message finds you well. It's hard to believe that a year has already passed since I had the privilege of becoming the dean of the College of Health Professions & McAuley School of Nursing at University of Detroit Mercy. In this short time, we've made significant strides together, and I'm excited to share the progress we've made, our ongoing efforts and the opportunities ahead.

One of our key achievements this past year was the creation of the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, a major step forward in our mission to expand and enhance our academic offerings. Through this new school, innovative programs in graduate Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy are envisioned, and undergraduate Health Sciences and Sports & Exercise Sciences majors are planned to start this fall. These programs reflect our deep commitment to addressing the growing demands of healthcare in Michigan and empowering students with the knowledge and skills to excel in these fields.

We are also introducing a hybrid delivery model for our Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program, which will begin this fall. This innovative approach provides our students with more flexibility to balance work, life and education, which is important as we strive to meet the needs of busy, dedicated healthcare professionals. Furthermore, our collaborative efforts with Oakland Community College (OCC), Macomb Community College (MCC) and other key health partners continue to grow, particularly in the development of seamless RN-to-BSN pathways that will allow Nursing students to further their education and enhance their careers.

Throughout my first year, I have focused not only on expanding and improving academic offerings but also on ensuring that we place student success at the heart of everything we do. By continually refining our work processes, fostering an environment that promotes faculty and staff development and ensuring that our college functions efficiently and optimally, we are able to provide the highest-quality education to our students. Faculty mentorship and professional development are central to this approach and I am committed to supporting our team in staying at the forefront of both teaching and research.

Our focus is on innovation in the classroom and beyond. In addition to embracing technology, such as artificial intelligence and augmented reality in our curricula, we are also exploring new ways to improve the delivery of our programs. We are committed to remaining agile, always adapting to the evolving needs of healthcare education. Recently, our state-of-the-art Simulation Technology & Research (STAR) Center received provisional accreditation by the Society of Simulation in



Healthcare (SSH). This will continue to allow us to provide high-quality, safe, culturally competent and comprehensive learning experiences for our students, faculty and community with a foundation built on evidence-based healthcare practices.

Our Research Symposium this year was a major success, showcasing groundbreaking work from our students and faculty. The symposium highlighted the depth of research being conducted across the College and reinforced the role of our faculty in advancing knowledge and improving health outcomes in Detroit and beyond. We are also proud of the federal grants we've submitted this year, which will further support our research endeavors and the continued growth of our programs.

As we reflect on these achievements, it is important to note that they are only possible thanks to the dedication of our faculty, staff and alumni. We have made incredible progress, but we are far from done. There are many exciting developments on the horizon, and I am thrilled by the possibilities for the future.

These achievements are deeply rooted in our core values, our faith and our mission of educating students to be compassionate, competent and ethical healthcare professionals committed to the service of others, especially those who are most vulnerable in our communities, while striving to create a positive impact in both our students' lives and the lives of those they will serve.

Thank you for your continued support and for being an integral part of our journey. I look forward to staying connected with you and sharing more updates in the months ahead.

Go Titans!

Ahmed Radwan, Ph.D., DPT, CPE, MBA

Dean, College of Health Professions and McAuley School of Nursing



Research symposium looks at future of healthcare

One of the many offerings that brought Detroit Mercy community to the McNichols Campus to celebrate Homecoming 2024 was a symposium highlighting healthcare research hosted by the College of Health Professions.

Transforming Healthcare in Detroit: A Research Symposium on Healthcare Innovation and Leadership showcased

40 peer-reviewed research submissions from students, healthcare professionals and educators in the College of Health Professions Facility. The event featured presentations, discussions and networking opportunities that reminded the crowd of Detroit's rich healthcare history and the city's role as a hub for medical innovation and leadership.



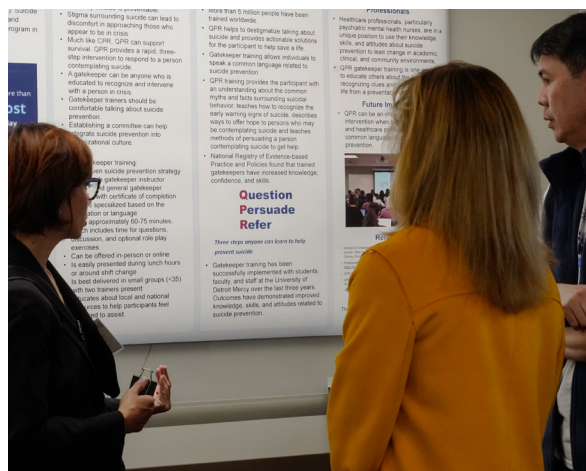
The symposium was organized into three tracks based on the submitted abstracts:

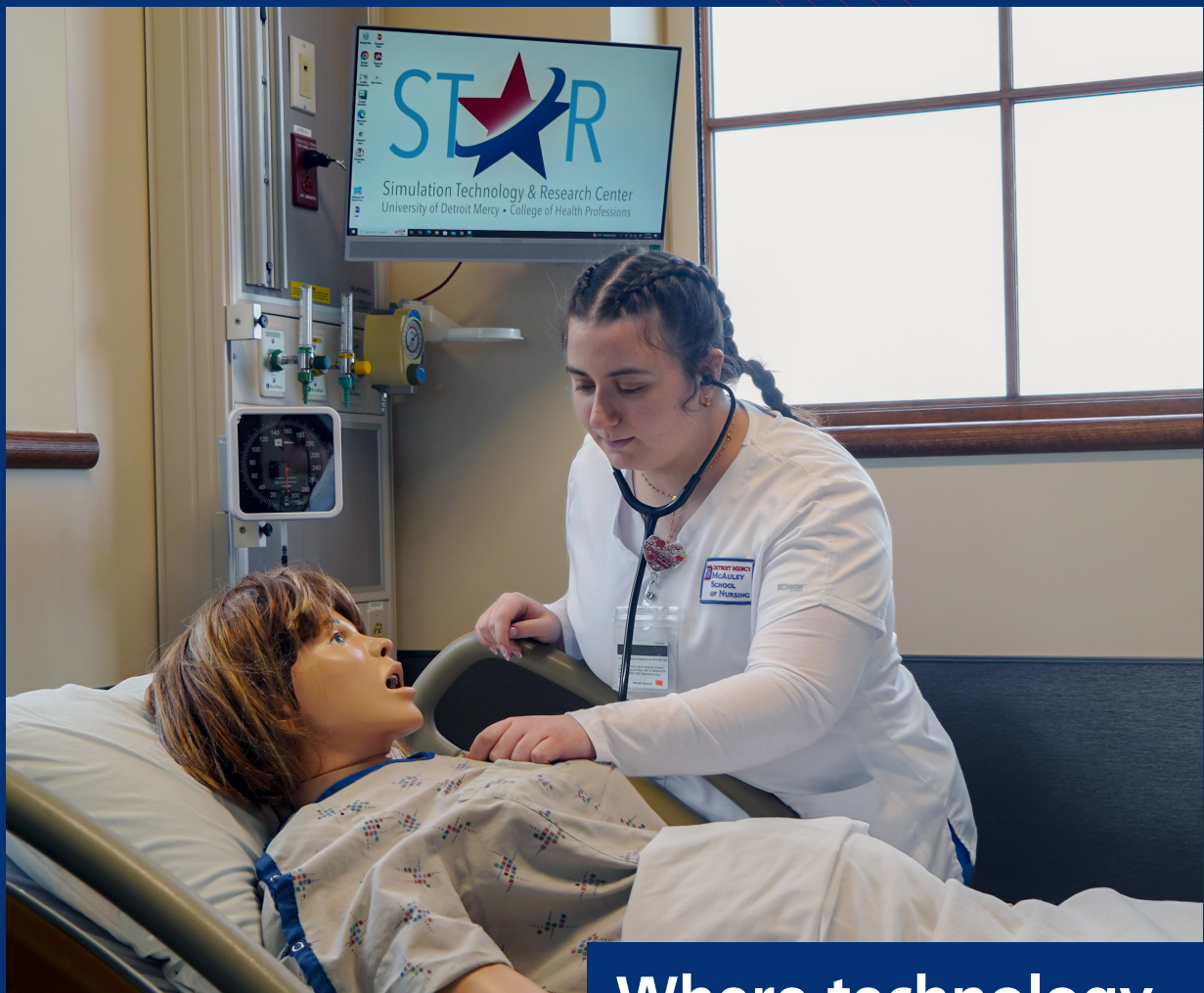
- Clinical practice expertise, showcasing advancements in patient treatment and clinical decision-making.
- The Wellbeing Revolution, addressing holistic healthcare solutions that enhance provider wellness and patient outcomes.
- Educational Innovations, exploring novel teaching strategies and technological advancements in healthcare training.

Leading this event was Joshua Olson, an assistant professor in the Nurse Anesthesia program, who talked about the inspiration for the symposium.

"Bringing together healthcare leaders, researchers, educators and clinicians under one roof fosters meaningful collaboration," Olson said. "Our goal was to inspire innovation and promote research-driven solutions that improve patient care, enhance provider wellbeing and shape the future of healthcare education."

Due to the success of the event, the College of Health Professions is already planning the next one, to be held during Homecoming 2025; look for information on abstract submission in late summer at healthprofessions.udmercy.edu.





Where technology is the STAR

In an era where patient safety and quality healthcare are paramount, simulation has emerged as an essential aspect of health professions education. To meet those needs, the College of Health Professions created the Simulation, Technology & Research Center.





The STAR Center, as it is known, opened in fall 2023 on the second floor of the College of Health Professions Facility. The 5,000-square-foot simulation space replicates a hospital environment, enabling learners to practice across disciplines safely to improve patient outcomes.

Through strategic goals aimed at holistic, innovative and collaborative learning, the STAR Center is a vital resource for the healthcare community. Its commitment to best practices ensures that all simulation experiences are grounded in effective methodologies, continuously improving learning outcomes.

Its focus on research strengthens the connection between academia and healthcare practice, providing students with a welcoming environment to engage in simulation-based learning.

The history of simulation in healthcare dates to the mid-20th Century, when it began primarily with manikins for

basic training. Over the years, this evolved into high-fidelity simulations, enabling the replication of complex medical situations in a risk-free environment.

As the director of Simulation and Interprofessional education, Nina Favor cultivates an environment that emphasizes the importance of collaboration across healthcare disciplines.

“The STAR Center team is passionate about community engagement,” she said. “We have championed initiatives such as hands-on CPR demonstrations and participated in simulation activities to educate youth and create excitement about considering careers in healthcare. Through these events, we have developed pipelines within our surrounding communities to highlight that they are our future.”

The STAR Center is available for tours and other events. Visit healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/about/star-center.

UDM in Grand Rapids...

A quarter-century partnership in caring

This year, University of Detroit Mercy, Aquinas College and Trinity Health Grand Rapids celebrate 25 years of working together to bring a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to students at Aquinas in Grand Rapids.

The Aquinas program uses the same curriculum UDM's McNichols Campus, and has been approved by the Michigan Board of Nursing and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

The nursing program in Grand Rapids is direct admit and is located in a new science building at Aquinas College with a state-of-the-art nursing simulation lab. Aquinas College professors teach the science and general education class, and UDM Nursing faculty teach all the Nursing classes at Aquinas. Students take all of their classes, including clinical rotations, in Grand Rapids. The passing rate of the National Council

Licensure Examination (NCLEX) exam has consistently been above the state and national averages, and all graduates have nursing positions upon graduation.

During the community clinical rotation in the senior year, students have clinical experiences that align with the University's mission of serving vulnerable populations in a wide variety of settings, from homeless shelters and migrant camps to hospice, home care, transitional house for men who have been incarcerated, a city owned senior citizen housing complex and many Trinity Health Grand Rapids outpatient clinics.

Students also work in the community and last year, they provided more than a hundred foot assessments and offered foot care for the area's unhoused population, helping them find resources for care.



Alumna Kailey Stutzky '17 is medical coordinator for Building Bridges of Hope and Fundacion Mariana San Isidro Labrador, serving patients and families on the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Stutzky helped build a clinic in the mountains and has been with this organization since graduating from this program.

... & in metro Detroit!

The McAuley School of Nursing has partnered with two community colleges to make it easy for students to complete a Detroit Mercy Nursing degree in the convenience of their own back yard.

Since 1991, UDM has been offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Completion program at the Macomb Community College University Center in Clinton Township and, since 2024, at Oakland Community College's Southfield Campus.

The program consists of 30 credits with additional general education requirements for some students. While the majority of the courses are delivered online, students have the option to attend in-person meetings and receive support at the University Center.

Currently in the Macomb program, 59 students are enrolled across three cohorts, including 46 full-time and nine part-time students. Of these, 41 are receiving full tuition assistance through a federal grant.

The partnership with OCC is a collaboration to bring a bachelor's degree in Nursing completion program to Oakland County. The partnership officially started in October 2024 and offers associate degree nurses (ADNs) an accelerated pathway to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 12 months.

The partnership gives nurses working or living in Oakland County the chance to earn their BSN closer to home. The new program expands Nursing educational opportunities to help professional nurses advance their careers. The first cohort is 31 students, 20 full-time and 11 part-time; all students are receiving full tuition assistance for nursing courses through a federal grant.

For more information on any of these programs, visit healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/academics.

Clinical Nurse Specialist program is 100% online

From performing bone marrow biopsies to coaching a newly licensed nurse how to care for a dying patient to creating substantial declines in hospital infection rates, the graduates of the Clinical Nurse Specialist program at Detroit Mercy do great things for patients, nurses and healthcare systems.

The 100% online CNS program with specialty focus in adult/older adult advanced nursing care at Detroit Mercy is ranked No. 58 by *U.S. News & World Report* among all online master in Nursing programs.

Students have come from more than 20 states from Alaska to Georgia. Graduates of the Class of 2024 had a 100% first-time pass rate on national CNS board examinations and the program has an overall 98% first-time pass rate.

Graduates help shape the next generation of CNS students by giving back as preceptors, volunteering at state and national level CNS organizations and presenting and publishing patient outcomes as a result of their work in patient care. For example, 15 CNS graduates contributed chapters to a recent book entitled: *10 Nursing Interventions for Family Caregivers: Guide to Best Practices in Adult/Gerontology Patient Care*, edited by Detroit Mercy CNS Program Coordinator Mitzi Saunders.

For more information, please visit healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/academics.



HOM program completes first year

The Winter 2025 semester will complete the first full year of the Healthcare Operations Management (HOM) Program at University of Detroit Mercy.

The undergraduate HOM program is currently housed under the Health Services Administration (HSA) Department, which also houses a Master of Health Services Administration (MHSA) graduate program.

The HOM program is in its infancy, recently undergoing an innovative update from what was the undergraduate Health Services Administration Program. The changes were based on the feedback from focus groups of industry experts who provided insight into what skills and knowledge they need from graduates to ensure they were ready to make meaningful contributions in an ever-changing healthcare environment.

During COVID 19 we learned those in healthcare operations roles became invaluable. They were needed for determining who got personal protective equipment (PPE) first from limited supplies, and without them, calculating staffing ratios became near impossible. Data from our focus groups supported this information.

The name was changed from HSA to more clearly state what these people do, so “operations” needed to be highlighted. The HOM program was then upgraded to include two tracks, one in digital health and the other in population health. The digital health track is geared toward using AI as a tool in industry to improve efficiency working with data and large data sets. The population health track is designed for those who may desire more of a role

connected to clients, client interactions, experiences or expectations in the healthcare system.

The HOM department is proud of the internship and capstone courses students take during their curriculum. In these courses, students gain real-world experience in the roles they may find themselves in when they graduate at sites like the Detroit Medical Center Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, Friendship House, Crossroads of Michigan and Deo Gratias Ministries, among many others.

HOM students have found it meaningful to align the unique Mercy and Jesuit mission of UDM to that of the internship partner they have connected with.

In the capstone course, students will work as consultants to a partner site, which will present the class with a healthcare problem, and the class will work as a team to respond. The capstone is a senior level class, and because the program is so young, no cohort has reached this point. But the program found success with a similar course in the MHSA program.

In fall 2024, the HOM program hosted a Detroit Urban Health AI Challenge. Community members, industry executives, faculty and students from UDM and other surrounding universities participated in this two-day event that demonstrated the importance of interdisciplinary teams in using AI to solve healthcare related problems.

For more information about the HOM program, visit healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/academics.

DNP program is a story of success

The Detroit Mercy Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia is an intense, three-year program awarding a Doctor of Nursing Practice.

Founded in 1941 at Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital in Detroit and subsequently affiliated with Mercy College, it is the oldest of the five nurse anesthesia programs in Michigan. From its humble, one hospital beginnings, the program has evolved into a program with 27 clinical affiliation sites across the state. The program believes strongly in the urban centric mission of Detroit Mercy, but our students also learn in an array of surgical settings, from Level 1 trauma academic centers to community-based institutions and rural, critical access hospitals preparing students to care for all patients across the lifespan with a full scope of practice. Admission is highly competitive; more than 200 applications are received to be considered for the 25 seats in the program each year.

In 2024, the program was ranked No. 18 of 141 programs nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*. The overall first-time pass rate for the last 10 graduating classes is 92% and 100% of graduates were employed immediately upon receiving their certification. The program has continuously been fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs.



The program has a history of community outreach through its annual Anesthesia Seminar. In 2024, the program held its 46th seminar presenting topics like regional anesthesia,



maternal mortality, the use of artificial intelligence in nurse anesthesia and much more.

Presenters have included current students and alumni as well as nationally known experts. The event attracts more than 100 attendees including practicing CRNAs as well as prospective students, and provides supplemental funding for program initiatives such as the purchase of advanced simulation equipment. In addition, NA students serve local charitable organizations each summer through service-oriented learning activities, prospective student events and in many other ways.

Alumni also serve. Seven current leaders on the board of directors or committee chairs for the Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists (MANA) are Detroit Mercy alumni. This continues a longstanding tradition of leadership, as several alumni and current faculty Greg Bozimowski and Andrea Teitel have served as president of MANA.

Current students also carry the torch of serving the community and the field. Student Isabelle Miller recently presented to the University community on human trafficking in a talk sponsored by the College of Health Professions/ MSON Inclusive Excellence Committee. Nichole Childrey '25 served in the Dominican Republic and Asiana O'Neal '25 served in Kenya, administering anesthesia for international relief organization for patients in dire need of anesthesia services.

For more information on the Nurse Anesthesia Program, visit healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/academics.



MEAGN offers a second chance at a nursing degree

The Master's Entry Advanced Generalist Nursing Program, otherwise known as MEAGN, gives those with a bachelor's degree the opportunity to become a registered nurse while earning a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree.

The MEAGN program is the first of its kind in Michigan. The first cohort started in 2021 and moved to the newly acquired Novi Campus in January 2022. The Novi Campus gives faculty the opportunity to readily use simulation to support classroom learning. Every semester, the students and faculty come together for integrated learning encounters that combine seminar style learning with simulation to explore the holistic care of a patient from all aspects of nursing.

The MEAGN program is five semesters long and admits 24 students every fall and winter semester. It takes approximately 20 months to complete. The curriculum includes prelicensure courses that begin with fundamental nursing and culminates in specialty nursing courses and a one-on-one preceptorship to ready the student for entry level nursing practice.

In addition to prelicensure nursing courses, students take six graduate supportive course classes that foster development as a leader in healthcare and culminate in a capstone project. These classes include population health, research, data analytics, advanced pathophysiology, health policy and systems leadership, and qualify as transfer credits for most APRN programs.

The MEAGN program partners with Trinity Health Oakland to give students the opportunity to learn hands-on nursing in a healthcare environment that shares the mission and values of Detroit Mercy. Students who commit to stay at Trinity Health Oakland after graduation may qualify for tuition support during the program. Faculty work closely with the nurse educators and staff to support learning activities for students.

For more information on the MEAGN program, visit healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/academics.

Community engagement is key to PA program

One of the oldest programs of its kind in the country, Detroit Mercy's Physician Assistant (PA) program continues to stand as a beacon of excellence in medical education.

Known for its rigorous curriculum, dedicated faculty and outstanding students, this program not only prepares its graduates for success in the healthcare field, but also instills in them the values of compassion, leadership and service.

Students in the Detroit Mercy PA program are a diverse and talented group who exemplify dedication and resilience. From Day One, they are immersed in a challenging curriculum that equips them with the knowledge and hands-on experience necessary to excel in the field.

Their commitment to patient care is also seen in their involvement in community outreach, service projects and leadership initiatives. These students go above and beyond, demonstrating a relentless pursuit of excellence and a genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of their patients.

What truly sets this program apart is its strong emphasis on service and community engagement. Rooted in the University's mission of developing socially conscious professionals, Detroit Mercy PA students actively engage in healthcare initiatives that address the needs of underserved populations. For example, in one service-learning course, students volunteer at Angel's Place serving the needs of adults with disabilities.

The program's faculty are experienced clinicians, educators and mentors deeply committed to their students. These professors offer guidance, real-world insights and support as students navigate the challenges of PA education. They serve on state and national boards, present at conferences, engage



in research and publish, helping to advance and promote the field.

Graduates of the program leave as highly skilled, compassionate and confident professionals, ready to make an impact in various medical settings. They carry with them not only a wealth of clinical knowledge but also the mentorship, camaraderie, and ethical foundation instilled by Detroit Mercy.

For more information on the PA program, visit healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/academics.



FNP program uses hybrid mode to push nursing into new territory

Nurse practitioner is one of the fastest-growing careers in the country, with a 54% growth rate expected over the next 10 years.

Detroit Mercy's Family Nurse Practitioner program, which graduated its first cohort in 1999, is well situated to help fill the more than 110,000 new jobs expected by 2034. Since the program began in 1997, it has graduated more than 450 nurse practitioners.

The FNP program began as a Master of Science in Nursing and is now a hybrid Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice with a Master of Science exit. There is also a four-semester FNP post-master's certificate program as well as a three-semester post-FNP emergency

nurse practitioner specialty certificate. The program can be completed on a part-time or full-time basis and is a hybrid of online classwork with on-campus intensive clinical courses.

Our all-time national certification pass rate is 100% and 100% of graduates from this program are employed in many different healthcare settings.

We offer part-time and full-time degree options. The program is delivered in a hybrid format with coursework delivered online, and three clinical courses have 2-3 day on-campus intensives.

For more information, please visit healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/academics.



MILESTONES

Judy Mouch, RSM, beloved educator passes away

Judith Ann Mouch, RSM, a Sister of Mercy for 59 years, passed away unexpectedly at her home in Detroit on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024. She was 77.

"Sr. Judy was exceptional in every sense of the word," said Detroit Mercy President Donald B. Taylor. "She lived her life always with the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy at the forefront."

Sr. Judy's intellectual rigor, deep faith and good humor made an impact on the lives of countless individuals. She served as a Nursing professor at Mercy College of Detroit and University of Detroit Mercy, where she inspired and mentored future healthcare professionals, including some who became her colleagues at Detroit Mercy. She was also an inspiration to many at Detroit Mercy outside of the College of Health Professions & McAuley School of Nursing.

As a pastoral associate at St. Luke Parish in Detroit, she ministered to the spiritual needs of the community. She was also deeply involved in the Migrant Health Ministry advocating for underserved people. Most recently, Sr. Judy was a sponsor affiliate in UDM's Office of Mission Integration, a Mercy liaison position to parallel the position of the Jesuit representative.



Sr. Judy Mouch led trips to Ireland for Nursing students that included stops at the first House of Mercy on Baggot Street in Dublin, founded in 1827 by Catherine McAuley.

Born Aug. 17, 1947, in Toledo, Ohio, she responded to her call to religious life on Sept. 8, 1965, when she entered the Religious Sisters of Mercy in Cincinnati, Ohio. She professed temporary vows on Aug. 16, 1968, and perpetual vows on July 29, 1973. Her ring bears the motto: "I thank you my God for this amazing day," a reflection of her grateful and joyful spirit.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Judith A. Mouch, RSM Memorial Fund at University of Detroit Mercy, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas or Mercy Beyond Borders.

To make a contribution please visit udmercy.edu/giving.



Three-time alumnae graduate with DNP degree together

Hana Alqadhi and Eman Ali are the two newest Doctors of Nursing Practice, finishing their coursework and projects this year.

Alqadhi earned a BSN in 2013 and an MSN in 2020. Her doctoral project was titled Bridging the Gap, Enhancing Dementia Diagnosis through Translated Tools and Streamlined Screening Assessments.

Ali also earned her BSN in 2013 and MSN in 2020. Her doctoral project was titled Culturally Competent Advanced Care Planning for Arabic American Patients and Families.

Their Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees will be conferred later this year.



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