

4-1-1994

In Deed: A Survey of Programs and Activities Related to Identity and Mission: University of Detroit Mercy

Editorial Board

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Recommended Citation

Editorial Board (1994) "In Deed: A Survey of Programs and Activities Related to Identity and Mission: University of Detroit Mercy," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*: Vol. 5, Article 10.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations/vol5/iss1/10>

dren are our future, and the experiences they have now will affect their future," said one student organizer. "It shows that Saint Peter's College cares."

In a recent conversation, Rev. Daniel Degnan SJ, the current president of Saint Peter's College, said: "To put it simply: We teach and we teach with love. To teach with love means to demand hard work from students who must learn a discipline of the mind, habits of study and a rigor of analysis.

"At the end and at the beginning of love and knowledge, there is our relationship to God. Theology, the study of the individual's relationship to God, is at the center of the Saint Peter's College education."

Sharing Resources

Saint Peter's College has always shared its intellectual and physical resources with the community. The college is generous when a neighboring high school needs a gymnasium for intramural sports, a community group needs a meeting place for a public forum or the local library needs a speaker for a lecture series.

Increasingly, Saint Peter's College brings its resources to the community. College credit courses are given at Newark International Airport and at four local hospitals. Courses leading to the bachelor's degree and the M.B.A. degree are offered at the new Merrill Lynch office tower on the Jersey City waterfront about two miles from campus.

Several partnerships with local high schools en-

courage students to stay in school. A "Can Do" Program helps prepare teenagers for the reality of the business world. The Reading Center offers courses, such as *English for New Americans* and Saturday programs for elementary school children.

Advancing Learning

In 1988, a Governor's Excellence Initiative Award enabled Saint Peter's College to establish the Institute for the Advancement of Urban Education, a partnership with seven local high schools and six elementary schools. The idea is to initiate strategies to improve teaching in urban communities. Groups of elementary school and high school teachers, along with Saint

Peter's College teachers, collaborate to devise new teaching techniques which are then tested in the classroom. The results of this important research are disseminated nationally through workshops, presentation, journal articles, an electronic bulletin board and a telecommunications network.

Through satellite dishes and television monitors, Saint Peter's and its partner schools can interact and communicate. The Institute has sponsored two nationally broadcasted symposia—one featured Dr. Ernest L. Boyer, the former United States Commissioner of Education—and a series of distance-learning graduate seminars. Elementary school children, high school

and college students and adult students, too, benefit from tutoring, computer assisted instruction, and skills workshops given by the Institute.

Continuing Traditions

Each spring, alumni come together to spend a day renovating and repairing the homes of the elderly and others in Jersey City who cannot make basic repairs themselves. As one alumnus said at his 25th reunion, "It is our turn to demonstrate that we have learned, by the example of the Jesuits, how to share."

The lessons of a unique, urban, Jesuit education are not easily forgotten.

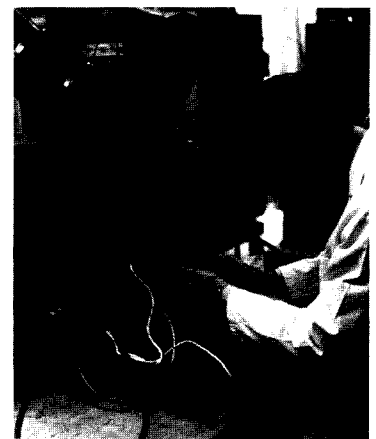
University of Detroit Mercy

Detroit, Michigan

When the University of Detroit and Mercy College of Detroit consolidated in 1990 to become University of Detroit Mercy, the university benefited in having both the Jesuit and the Mercy traditions to guide its mission. The collaboration of traditions provided a unique perspective in forming the university's core values: a passion for excellence, an emphasis on the liberal arts and science, a focus on ethics and values in personal and professional life, a recognition of the centrality of religious faith in the educative process

and commitment to personal attention to students as individuals. These values create the foundation for university activities in the classroom, on the individual campuses and in the community.

Today the university comprises four campuses with a diverse student body of approximately 7,500 students—33% of whom are minority students. Under the leadership of President Maureen A. Fay OP, PhD, (the only female president of a Jesuit university or college), University of Detroit Mercy has initiated a five-year strategic plan to con-



In one of the research projects of the Center for Excellence in Environmental Engineering and Science's, Pradip Bhowmik, assistant professor of Chemistry, is studying the feasibility of using waste tires in asphalt pavement mix.

University of Detroit Mercy (Continued)

tinue and strengthen its mission as a Catholic, urban university. Currently in the second year of the plan, the university has a number of initiatives under way that ensure a continuation of these traditions and values into the 21st century.

Academic Initiatives

■ The university's College of Engineering and Science is the lead investigator in a coalition with 11 other universities and corporations to develop a new curriculum for the education of future engineers. The project is funded through a \$15 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

■ The College of Education and Human Services has launched its Focus Program to address the needs of education students in preparing for Michigan's teacher certification test. Many participants are students of color who wish to return to college and obtain their endorsement so they may teach in an urban environment.

■ Through a federal grant, the McAuley School of Nursing has developed the Passages Program to provide support for educationally disadvantaged students interested in professional nursing. The program assists pre-nursing students in strengthening their academic and social skills by emphasizing study skills specific to nursing curriculum, time

management skills, community resources and job placement in health care.

■ As a national research and teaching center, the Center for Excellence in Environmental Engineering and Science is attempting to address tough environmental challenges facing our society. The center,

American Partnership, Monterrey Tech students study at University of Detroit Mercy and gain on-the-job experience while working in American industry; UDM students gain insight into Mexican culture, language and business operations by studying and working in Mexico for one year. Twenty-two students are participating in the program, now in its second year.

Street," a Halloween village that offers neighborhood children a safe environment in which to trick-or-treat on the Friday before Halloween.

■ The University's professional schools and programs provide clinical services to community members at little or no cost. At the Urban Law Clinic, law students offer free legal counsel for people with



McAuley School of Nursing's Passages Program provides academic support for pre-nursing students.

which is partially funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, has just completed its first year of research, which focused on plastics in the environment.

■ In preparing students for the global market, the university has established a unique engineering student exchange program with Monterrey Tech in Mexico. Through the Mexican-

Community Outreach

■ Students in the School of Architecture assist neighborhood groups and community agencies with redevelopment projects by creating redevelopment renderings and drawings for such efforts as park sites, tot lots, and business districts. For the past four years, architecture students have built "Safety

low incomes on cases ranging from child custody to criminal defense. The Dental School's clinic at Detroit Receiving Hospital University Health Center is the largest hospital dental clinic operated by a dental school in the country. The school also has a dental outreach program for the institutionalized elderly and handicapped in six nursing

homes. In addition, the psychology clinic offers counseling services for a nominal fee.

■ Each summer, the athletic department provides personnel, facilities and resources for the National Youth Sports Program. Over 500 youngsters participate in the program where they are taught sports skills, social skills and substance abuse education.

■ Faculty and staff from the School of Business Administration, in conjunction with the Detroit Executive Service Corps, are reaching out to students in ten Detroit-area high schools by holding dialogues to keep students in school, consulting and giving presentations.

■ The Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (DAPCEP) at UDM helps to inform and counsel minority students about career opportunities in engineering. The six-week training provides an overview of academic skills and knowledge that are needed to be successful.

■ The university provides library services, meeting rooms and recreational facilities and programs to area community members and organizations at little or no cost. The university is involved with many neighborhood groups and funds or promotes many of their projects, especially those that involve education and community pride.

■ Through the Detroit Public School System's Adopt-a-School program, UDM has an on-going relationship with Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, its adopted school. For three years, the university has organized and staffed (with the help of UDM Education majors) a tutorial program in math and reading for Marshall students each Saturday during the school year. Other linkages with area schools include campus visits and special programs, such as Technology Day hosted by the College of Engineering and Science to interest middle school and high school students in the study of engineering and science, or the Summer Reading Program for elementary school students.

Catholic Identity

■ Spiritual growth is an integral component of an individual's development at UDM. Students, faculty and staff are invited to participate in scheduled prayer services and liturgies on campus. To accommodate student schedules, the Sunday Mass schedule also includes a 10 p.m. Mass in a residential hall on the McNichols and Outer Drive campuses. Opportunities to participate in directed retreats are also available to students as well as faculty and staff. Campus Ministry also sponsors presentations by religious speakers and dialogues with faculty on a variety of topics.

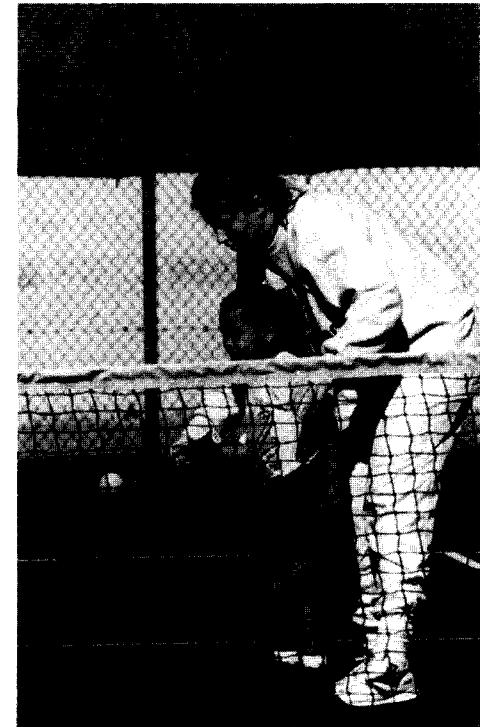
■ Each November, campus ministry sponsors Hunger Week to call attention to the plight of the hungry and homeless. Activities include presentations, a fast-a-thon, a food collection, a candlelight vigil and volunteer participation at St. Leo's Soup Kitchen.

■ As an alternative to the traditional spring break last March, 22 UDM students spent the break as community service volunteers. Projects included helping with home repairs in hurricane-damaged Florida; tutoring students; working in a Washington, D.C., shelter and soup kitchen; performing construction work in the Appalachian Mountains; and volunteering at a Cass Corridor drop-in center for homeless and hungry people.

■ At the opening of each new school year, a Colleague Orientation program is scheduled for new colleagues to provide information about the university. Representatives from the Jesuit and Mercy orders discuss their religious mission and traditions and how they are reflected at the university. This year about 50 colleagues participated in the program.

■ The university has initiated a year-long celebration, exploration and discussion of its identity as a Catholic educational institution. A faculty/staff committee was established to guide the year's activities. The year of reflection

began at the Convocation Ceremony in September with the presentation, "Traditions and Pluralism: Opportunities for Catholic Universities," by Dr. William M. Shea. He stressed that the ability to welcome the stranger is central to the mission of the Catholic university. In November, a survey was distributed to faculty, staff and selected students to determine what is significant



Each summer the University of Detroit Mercy Athletic Department hosts the National Youth Sports Program for area youngsters to increase their sports skills and substance abuse awareness.

about our Catholic identity in order to clarify and strengthen how we express that identity. Based on survey results, focused discussions will occur on topics of interest, such as compensation in the Catholic tradition, the Jesuit/Mercy tradition in higher education, or liturgy and prayer.