

# THE MICHIGAN FRONT PAGE

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## U of D Mercy celebrates presidential inauguration

By F. Carlton Peoples

University of Detroit Mercy wrapped up a week-long inaugural celebration for its new president, the Rev. Gerard L. Stockhausen. The celebration included an evening of music with American Idol Ruben Studdard and the university's own "Titan Idol" competition. The competition which included three student finalists, Meghan Tonjes, Jessica McGrath and Alyson Johnson kicked off the official inaugural celebration.

In a wonderful display of talent, stage presence and overall performance it was Alyson Johnson who proved she had what it takes to become UDM's first "Titan Idol." The second-year mass communication major's rendition of "God Bless the Child" brought the house down. Thousands of students, visitors, faculty and staff rose to their

feet in feverish applause. The night's performances also included the sounds of the honoree himself, Rev. Stockhausen and his band of Jesuit priests, Taking Stock.

Reflecting the inauguration theme, "Leadership and Service in Our Community," other events such as the Red Mass, Celebrate Spirit and academic symposiums play an integral role in connecting with the student body as well.

"The university's role in the community is critical... I'm glad to see U of D so involved," says Joi Bell, a senior majoring in psychology and criminal justice. "The new president takes an active role with the students. He's always around the campus."

Being Michigan's largest private Catholic university is a great responsibility yet many have confidence in the new president. With

the changing of the guard, the university expects to see more growth with plans to up enrollment num-



Reuben Studdard

bers considerably in the next few years.

UDM has already begun reor-

ganizing its main campus on Detroit's northwest side located at Livernois and McNichols Avenue.

As part of the reorganization process the university has consolidated classes to its main campus and it's Everfront Law School.

Strolling receptions and dedications across the campus saw events hosted in many of the new facilities including a ribbon-cutting at the newly renovated Commerce and Finance Building and the newly constructed College of Health Professions. The new construction and renovation of its facilities have marked a new era in UDM history.

The weeklong celebration concluded with the official installation of Rev. Stockhausen and a black tie gala at the Detroit Opera House.

For more information on the University of Detroit Mercy visit online at, [www.udmercy.edu](http://www.udmercy.edu)