First-generation, economically disadvantaged and/or students with disabilities will soon receive even greater support at University of Detroit Mercy through a new five-year $1.1 million Student Support Services (SSS) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This is the University’s first federal TRIO grant.

The new grant will provide more services to first-generation and low-income students and students with disabilities. Activities will focus on increasing student retention and success by strengthening their engagement at UDM, particularly in mission-oriented activities.

One-fourth of University of Detroit Mercy’s recent freshman classes are first-generation students, meaning that neither parent attended college. Twenty-two percent are from low-income families and four percent have disabilities. To be eligible for the program, students must also be a citizen or national of the United States and meet the residency requirements for Federal student financial assistance.

As part of the program, qualified students will have access to individualized academic coaching from University professionals and upperclassmen, tutoring, and assistance with financial aid literacy. They will also participate in the University’s First-Year Experience program that includes monthly workshops about the transition to college, service learning opportunities, leadership development and cultural experiences in and around Detroit. As they near the end of their undergraduate education, they will also be assisted in applying to graduate and professional schools.

Susan Trudeau, Director of the Student Success Center, and Cate Caldwell, Director of Sponsored Programs collaborated to write the grant proposal. The award requires the creation of a new TRIO office, which will be located on the third floor of the McNichols Campus Library near the Student Success Center. The two offices will collaborate to provide the best support services possible to low-income and first-generation students. The search for a TRIO Director is currently underway. Two additional positions, one full-time and one part-time, will report to the new director. Also included are costs for peer mentors and participant programming. It is anticipated that the TRIO office will begin providing services in January 2016.
SAMHSA Funds Health Professions Training in Substance Abuse Screening and Intervention

The University of Detroit Mercy SBIRT Inter-Professional Training Project prepares counselors, dentists, nurses, physician’s assistants, and psychologists to effectively screen, intervene, and coordinate treatment of substance abuse disorders. The project is based on the premise that in addition to behavioral health professionals, dental and primary health professionals are in key positions to identify problematic substance use among patients and coordinate a referral for treatment. Funded by a three-year, $779,681 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the inter-professionally-focused training project will train 1,074 primary and behavioral health professionals in the process of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). Of the 63 SBIRT grant awards in 2015, UDM’s project is the most comprehensive involving five academic programs and undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral-level students.

Led by Project Director Nancy Calleja, Professor of Counseling and Addiction Studies, the project will impact health professions students and faculty across the university and also have broader impacts in the community. A collaborative team of faculty and administrators from each of the participating departments will participate on the project, including Daniel Duryea, Associate Professor of Addiction Studies, E. J. Newness, Associate Dean of the School of Dentistry, Sharon Moser, Associate Professor of Physician’s Assistant program, Janet Baiardi, Associate Dean of College of Health Professions, Cheryl Munday, Associate Professor of Psychology, Carla Groh, Professor of Nursing, and Elizabeth Rodems, Clinical Assistant Professor of Patient Management.

Each of the four major public health clinics at the University will also participate, including the Counseling Clinic, Dental Clinic, McAuley Health Center, and Psychology Clinic. Located throughout the city of Detroit specifically to provide a range of dental, behavioral, and medical health care, the clinics serve more than 14,000 community members annually. The Clinics will serve as practice settings for trainees to apply SBIRT throughout the project, and will modify operational policies and protocols for the continuous implementation of SBIRT into the future.

Addressing a significant gap in the health professions curriculum, the project will result in SBIRT being embedded into the curricula of each of the participating health professions following project completion. As a result, future generations of dental, primary, and behavioral health professionals will be trained to competently address substance use, thus expanding the region’s capacity to do so. In addition, SBIRT training workshops will be provided to individuals across the region and state to further expand the health setting system capacity to address substance abuse and prevention.

By targeting a region significantly impacted by racial and ethnic health disparities, the SBIRT project will help to close the gap in the city of Detroit and southeast Michigan. Data collection and analysis activities will provide essential data on access, use and outcomes for subpopulations by race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation (as appropriate) that will significantly contribute to the expansion of knowledge of health care disparities and that is essential to effectively addressing and eliminating these disparities in the future.

UDM receives Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad to Brazil

University of Detroit Mercy has been awarded $84,707 by the U.S. Department of Education to administer a Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad (GPA) to Brazil from Aug. 3, 2015 through Jan. 3, 2017. The program is open to up to four UDM faculty members and seven K-12 educators.

The program, African Contributions and Contemporary Issues in Northeast Brazil, will take place next summer in Sao Luis, Maranhao, and Salvador, Bahia, Brazil for one month. The goal for the project is to provide a four-week collaborative learning experience in Brazil that will give participants multiple perspectives of the African-American experience through scholarly research and dialogue in northeast Brazil. Through this experience, one will learn, build and enhance curricular resources and internationalize curricula in meaningful and measurable ways. As a result, participants will develop thematic units and projects that can be integrated into their schools and institutions, as well as shared with audiences nationwide.

For more information, see the overview web page or contact project director Lara Wasner at 313-993-1191 or wasnerle@udmercy.edu.
NSF Grant funds Scholarships in Robotics and Mechatronics

Disadvantaged students in the Robotics and Mechatronic Systems Engineering program will now receive scholarships and academic support through a $593,500 grant from the National Science Foundation. The five-year grant, directed by Professor Shuvra Das, will help address the ever-increasing need in industry for engineers with expertise in both electrical and mechanical systems. The program will also help make high-quality college education affordable to students based on the following criteria (in order of importance): (a) Low income (b) Minorities (c) Women (d) Transfer students.

The grant, funded through the NSF’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program, will support a total of sixteen students through four years of study. An aggressive recruitment plan is in place to increase the applicant pool, including collaborations with Detroit Area Pre-college Engineering Program (DAPCEP), close interaction with high school classes in the greater Detroit area, and aggressive marketing of the program among FIRST Robotics competition participants.

S-STEM scholars will be selected from the pool of students admitted into this program. An equally aggressive retention plan includes: strong academic support for the S-STEM scholars with comprehensive, focused, and cohort-based advising; cohort-based registration in most classes to help develop camaraderie within the group; tutoring in math and other challenging subjects, as needed; participation of all S-STEM students in a one-year paid co-op experience in industry; mentoring from alumni and industry leaders on the college advisory board; annual field trips and networking events to develop professional relationships with potential employers and develop career insights.

In addition to helping low-income students achieve parity, the S-STEM project will help meet the demand, both inside and outside the auto industry, for innovative, interdisciplinary engineers.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Funds Specialists for Low-Income Patients at McAuley Health Center

Patients at McAuley Health Center (MHC) will now have access to specialty care, thanks to a $100,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. The two-year grant project, led by Carla Groh, Professor of Nursing, will bring an endocrinology specialist on-site at MHC and connect patients with an area podiatrist. Services will be provided one day per month, more often if demand exceeds the allotted time. The grant will also fund a dedicated access coordinator.

Endocrinology services will include opportunities for diabetics to meet with a certified diabetes educator and a registered dietician for improved nutritional literacy and increased diabetes self-management. MHC will become accredited as a Diabetes Self-Management Training site through Medicare. Podiatry services will include non-routine foot care as stipulated by Medicare and Medicaid, such as diabetes neuropathy and lower extremity wound care.

A new access coordinator will collaborate with the advance practice nurses at MHC to schedule patients for these appointments, and experience improved satisfaction and health outcomes. This model can be useful, sustainable and replicable in other safety net and clinical organizations, as well to a broader population that may face similar barriers to health care access.
NIH Funds Study of Primary Care Utilization among Patients with Serious Mental Illness

What factors prevent people with serious mental illness from accessing primary care services? Through a $417,827 research grant from the National Institutes of Health, a team of researchers led by Assistant Professor Kristen Abraham will attempt to answer this question. The study is intended to provide new knowledge that can be applied to increase the use of primary care services, and thus potentially reduce health disparities and premature mortality in the vulnerable population of people with serious mental illness.

The three-year study will provide critical information about how individual factors, such as health and health insurance literacy, and interpersonal factors, like racism and stigma related to mental illness, serve as barriers to adequate use of primary care services among a diverse sample of patients receiving mental health care at community mental health centers in Detroit.

Carla Groh, Professor of Nursing, and Cheryl Munday, Associate Professor of Psychology, are also part of the research team, as is Heather Dillaway, Associate Professor of Sociology at Wayne State University. The research study is, in part, a product of collaborations that were formed through the REBUILD Detroit Consortium. Undergraduate and graduate students will gain training in social science and health disparities research through their involvement in the study.

The research is supported by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health. Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) (R15) awards exist to "support meritorious research, expose students to research, and strengthen the research environment of the institution."

Theatre Company wins grant to produce Low Hanging Fruit

The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) has awarded the UDM Theatre Company a $27,000 grant to produce Low Hanging Fruit, a project highlighting the differing circumstances faced by women veterans as they return from active duty to their homeland. The goal of the project is to raise awareness in the Detroit community of the presence and ongoing challenges of female veterans as an underserved minority in the larger group of military veterans.

The project includes six stages of community engagement, the first of which is an artistic partnership with The Matrix Theatre to produce the Michigan premiere of Low Hanging Fruit at the Boll Family Y.M.C.A. in March 2016. The Boll Center, located in the heart of downtown Detroit, will help the collaboration to achieve increased visibility and connect with new audiences and participants. The partnership is founded on a shared commitment to enriching the cultural fabric of the city while raising awareness to social injustices.

Other stages of community engagement include the public presentation of 12 performances of Low Hanging Fruit; five post-show discussion talkbacks with female veterans and experts; a Job Fair for female veterans; a clothing and goods donation drive for needy female veterans; a partnership with local Detroit restaurants to raise funds for veterans’ organizations; and assistance to veterans’ organizations in creating ticket fundraisers.

The Low Hanging Fruit Veterans Project seeks to open the window on the specific plight surrounding female veterans who have faithfully served our country and returned with physical and mental wounds. “Too often when we speak of the needs of returning vets we think of the predominantly male veterans we see in the television pleas for assistance or in the big-budget feature films from Hollywood,” says Gregory Grobis, Assistant Professor of Theatre, who will manage the project.

More information and a performance schedule can be found online at http://liberalarts.udmercy.edu/programs/depts/performing_arts/theatre/season/play3/index.htm
Sage Publications Invites UDM Faculty to Appear in Educational Videos

Sage publications invited Mithu Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor of Decision Sciences in the College of Business Administration, to participate in a series of educational videos which will come out in fall of 2016. Bhattacharya prepared content for two videos based on her published papers, one a case study about Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology and one tutorial introducing the Delphi method. Taping took place in September 2015.

In the case study video, Bhattacharya speaks about a mixed method exploratory study in which she examined the impact of RFID technology on retail value chains. RFID tags, also called “smart labels,” are tiny chips about the size of a grain of rice. These tags, which can talk to a network system for tracking purposes, can be attached to consumer products or even implanted in pets or people. RFID tags might someday replace bar codes, since a cashier would not need to scan each product individually, but could scan the entire contents of a shopper’s cart at once. The capacity of this technology to revolutionize commerce has motivated several retailers, such as Wal-Mart and American Apparel, to mandate the adoption of the chips. The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has also mandated its suppliers to implement the technology.

However, despite the potential impact and the mandates, the transition to RFID has been slow. Some researchers have theorized that privacy concerns, specifically the capacity to read personally-linked information without consent, might be contributing to the delay. However, Bhattacharya found that it is primarily the technology costs that are driving adoption decisions. Retailers are having difficulty monetizing the technology during the normal course of business, and this factor overshadows both customer-service benefits and also privacy concerns. The technology is, in short, still too expensive to win out in a cost-benefit analysis.

Bhattacharya utilized two methods during the course of this research: content analysis and the Delphi method. Content analysis is a technique for making valid inferences from texts by counting the frequency of occurrences of particular words in the text and providing a means for statistical analysis. The Delphi technique combines judgments from a panel of independent experts, a useful method when little hard data is available but where experts have expressed relevant judgements. The aggregation of responses reduces error. In the second video, a tutorial, Bhattacharya gave an introduction to this method.

Videos will be available online in fall 2016 at https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/sage-video.

Human Subjects Protections—Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and fifteen other Federal Departments and Agencies have announced proposed revisions to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects. A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), published in the Federal Register, seeks comment on proposals to better protect human subjects while facilitating valuable research and reducing burden, delay, and ambiguity for investigators.

Some of the major changes being proposed that will better protect research subjects are the rules relating to informed consent. With regard to informed consent in general (such as consent to participating in clinical trials), the rules would be significantly tightened to make sure that the process becomes more meaningful. In addition, informed consent would generally be required for secondary research with a biospecimen (for example, part of a blood sample that is left over after being drawn for clinical purposes), even if the investigator is not being given information that would enable him or her to identify whose biospecimen it is.

The proposed rule also attempts to make the level of review more proportional to the seriousness of the potential harm. Research that poses greater risk to subjects should receive more oversight than less risky research. The result of these changes is that some studies that currently require IRB review would now become exempt. Some that are currently exempt would specifically be declared as outside the scope of the regulations (“excluded”), and thus would not require IRB review. Further, in terms of determining when a study is exempt, a web-based “decision tool” will be created. That decision tool will provide a determination of whether or not a study is exempt. It is expected that in many instances the tool would be used by the investigators themselves, thus obviating both the need for further review and the concern that the institution might be subjecting itself to future liability by allowing investigators to use the tool.

The Department of Health and Human Services will be accepting public comments until December 7, 2015. For more information, please visit: http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/regulations/nprm2015summary.html
Please Remember to Certify Your Effort!

If you have time and effort charged to a sponsored program, please help us stay in compliance with federal regulations by certifying your effort! We accept paper reports as well as electronic certification in TitanConnect self-service. Effort reports are due on January 31 (for fall term), May 31 (for winter term) and September 30 (for summer term).

VIDEO ABOUT TITANCONNECT CERTIFICATION
To assist you in better understanding the process, the OSPRA has developed a short video for your viewing. Please view the following four-minute video for more specific instructions on certifying effort using TitanConnect: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdHrHvRp9q0

VIDEO ABOUT UNDERSTANDING EFFORT REPORTING
For additional information about why effort certification is required, please see the following four minute video about Understanding Effort Certification: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zOaO0q2Ft8

More information can be found on the OSPRA website at http://www.udmercy.edu/academicaffairs/ospra/effortreporting/index.htm

Faculty Scholarship Highlights, April—October 2015
UDM faculty names are bolded and UDM student names are italicized.
Please note that the library keeps more comprehensive lists of faculty publications over time. Please see the website at http://research.udmercy.edu/achievement/

Books


Sumner, Gregory. Detroit in World War II. The History Press, Charleston, SC. 2015

Faculty Scholarship Highlights

Book Chapter


Journal Article

Abraham, Kristen, and Catherine Stein. "Meaning making and stress-related personal growth among emerging adult children of mothers who have been diagnosed with mental illness." Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal. 38.3 (2015): 227-233


Corrigan, Catherine, and Andrea Kwaszy. "Utilizing service-learning to promote a value based professional nursing curriculum." Creative Education. 5.21 (2014): 1848-1855.


http://www.springer.com/medicine/journal/40615

McClelland, Molly, Mary-Margaret Crombez, Catherine Crombez, Cathy Wenz, Margaret Lisius, Amanda Mattia, and Suzanne Marku. "Implications for Advanced Practice Nurses when Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder (PANDAS) is suspected; A Qualitative Study." Journal of Pediatric Health Care. 29.5 (2015): 442-452.


http://www.nursinglibrary.org/vhl/handle/10755/581125


Published Conference Proceeding


Freeman, John. "Tupac’s ‘Holographic Resurrection’: Corporate Takeover or Rage against the Machinic?" European Network of Comparative Literary Studies 6th Biennial Congress. Ireland. 25 August 2015.


Conference Presentation


Graves, James, Adam McDonald, Hung Nguyen, and Alina Ivaniv. "Isolation of Bacteriophage against Pseudomonas aeruginosa Resistant to Antibiotics in Undergraduate Research." *Fall Meeting of the Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology at the University of Michigan*. Ann Arbor, Michigan. 24 October 2015.


Weatherston, Rosemary. "Literary Studies as Medical 'Practice' in Undergraduate Curriculums." Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference. Kalamazoo, MI. 24-25 September 2015.

Faculty and Student Awards

Benvenuto, Mark. Fellow, American Chemical Society.