



# IMPACT *of* GIVING



## TITANS OF *GIVING*

FALL 2024



## DEAR FRIENDS OF UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY,

Detroit Mercy is having a good year — or should I say *another* good year.

Last year we welcomed a record-sized class of first-year students. Shortly into the academic year, we received news that *The Wall Street Journal*/College Pulse ranking named University of Detroit Mercy the No. 52 best college in the country based on measures like social mobility of graduates and best value for students.

This academic year started in September with another record first-year class — and at 650 new students, it is the largest group since 1990 when University of Detroit and Mercy College of Detroit consolidated and became University of Detroit Mercy. Shortly after that we learned that we moved nine points up in the WSJ/College Pulse rankings, coming in at No. 43 in the nation.

It's a great time to be a Titan!

These students bring a new vibrance to life on Detroit Mercy's McNichols Campus. So do new commissioned artwork and other improvements like brightly colored campus maps that help people find their way around and new spaces for student gatherings.

These projects were funded by donors like you. You are the reason we can provide a home away from home for our students. Gifts of all sizes help make this University one of the top 50 in the nation and attract students to our campuses.

This issue of Impact of Giving celebrates a number of long-time donors to the University's Annual Fund. These donors have included this institution in their yearly giving for decades, and for a very important reason. This institution changed their lives, and they want Detroit Mercy to continue doing that for others.

I ask you to think about what Mercy College of Detroit, University of Detroit and University of Detroit Mercy mean to you and ask you to help us keep changing lives for the better.

Thank you,



**Dennis Carlesso '90, '97**

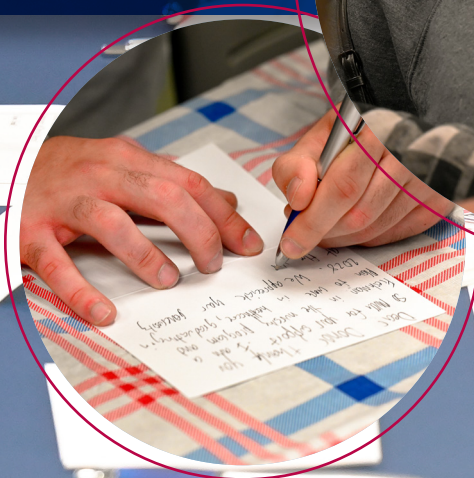
Vice President for University Advancement  
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# ***A DAY OF GRATITUDE***

Hundreds of students at Detroit Mercy's McNichols and Corktown campuses spent some of their time between classes to write thank you notes to donors in September during the annual Thank a Donor Day. The event is designed to let students understand the important role donors play at Detroit Mercy and give them a chance to thank those donors with a hand-written note.





# A LIFETIME OF GIVING

Detroit Mercy is blessed to have many longtime donors. Meet three of our most consistent alumni who say their giving is an investment in young people, and a way to repay those whose gifts helped them receive an education that changed their lives.



"I had a wonderful education at dear, old University of Detroit and it led to a very successful career in public accounting. I started giving during my career to the College of Business Administration primarily for scholarships. I wanted to help students and since they were enrolled, they made their first step toward getting a good, solid education. I wanted to help them stay in school rather than drop out because they couldn't afford it. I felt an immediate payback. One thing the Jesuits instilled in me was a feeling of integrity and doing what is right. That is a good feeling."

## Phyllis Peters Look '51

Director of Professional Standards, Retired  
Deloitte and Touche

*Phyllis Peters Look was one of the first women to make her way into the all-male field of accounting. She also served the University as a member of the College of Business Administration's Advisory Board and in 2016 received the Alumni Achievement Spirit Award.*

"I received a pretty generous financial aid package that made University of Detroit very affordable. I was a commuter student, but I immersed myself in the activities of the school. I went to plays by the Theatre Company, every basketball game and had a psychological, social and personal connection with the University. It was natural to continue my relationship with the University after I graduated. I work with the Center for Career and Professional Development at Detroit Mercy because it keeps me connected in a way relevant to the skillset I had to offer, since I worked in HR for the U.S. Attorney's Office. My donations are not really significant ones, but I think they help supplement many activities. I think of my gifts as paying it forward because my degree was paid for by people before me. I'm happy to be able to help the University do the great work it does for students and the community."

## Bob Rogowski '77, '79

Administrative Officer, Retired  
U.S. Attorney's Office

*Bob Rogowski still attends most Titans basketball games and offers workshops and seminars for students preparing to enter the workforce.*



"It didn't take me any time to figure out any success I might have in whatever I did is, One: only fractionally related to my innate ability; Two: due to luck; and Three, a direct response to the teaching and learning opportunities that were presented to me. When I was at UDM, the focus was not only on technological prowess, but also on how to hit the ground running so I was able to do that when others couldn't. It was very important to give back to those who gave me the opportunities I had and to provide opportunities to those who came after me. And one more thing: giving encourages additional support and I was absolutely delighted to see all the changes at Detroit Mercy when I was back recently. Great things are happening there."

## Mark Proulx '76

Dynamics Test Engineer, Retired  
Boeing

*Mark Proulx "did all kinds of stuff" as a mechanical engineer, but his favorite work was doing oddball jobs he had never done before because he was thrilled by the challenge.*



# SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Staff and faculty support the University in meaningful ways in addition to their work at the University. Last year, several longtime employee donors talked about why they donate in a video created for the Office of Annual Giving. Here's what they had to say. *You can find that video on our YouTube Channel.*

## Mary Lou Caspers '72

Professor of Chemistry  
Detroit Mercy



"I give back to Detroit Mercy because the education I received prepared me for my future career in biochemistry and allowed me to come back as a faculty member to help educate students."

## Pat Higo

Archives & Special Collections Librarian  
Detroit Mercy, Retired



"The University's faculty, staff and students are like my extended family and I want to support them in any way I can."

## Monica Barbour '75, '79

University Secretary & Senior Attorney  
Detroit Mercy



*Donor for 42 years*

"A small campus with many quality programs allowed (my siblings and me) each to earn two degrees from the University in various disciplines. Detroit is fortunate to have this University within the city."

## Pam Zarkowski

Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Detroit Mercy



*Donor for 31 years*

"It is a privilege for me to give. I give to the University because I am grateful for what it has given me. My colleagues, past and present, and students have inspired me and fueled my dedication to the University."





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