



## 2023 UPEI Inspiring Young Alumni Award Danaïet Teame (BScN 2012)

Danaïet Teame was in grade three when her father, Teame Neguse, was deported to his native country of Eritrea from Ethiopia. But his family remained in Ethiopia. Though they were able to keep in touch by phone, Danaïet and her older brother Sofonyas would never see their father again. Teame Neguse spent several years living as a refugee in Israel searching for a peaceful, democratic country where he could reunite with his family and where his children could freely pursue a good education.

That dream was realized after six years when he received word that the family could reunite in a place called Prince Edward Island, Canada. He handled all the paperwork and legal work to arrange their eventual move, but tragically, he passed away just 20 days before the family moved halfway round the world to settle in PEI.

When Danaïet arrived in PEI at the age of 14, she didn't speak any English. But neither her childhood trauma, the language barrier, nor the culture shock could hold her back from achieving academic success or from helping others. She was determined to live up to her father's dreams. When she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with honours at UPEI in 2012, *The Guardian* published a story about her remarkable journey. In it, Kim Critchley, the dean of nursing at the time, described her as a "star student" and a "very brilliant person."

Danaïet began her nursing career at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown, working in the areas of neurology and internal medicine before relocating to Calgary, where she worked as a registered nurse at the South Health Campus in the neurology department.

In January 2015, she was on the move again, this time in an educational role with the University of Calgary in Qatar where she worked as a simulation lead until 2021.

Today, Danaïet is the manager of the Health Simulation Learning Lab at Mount Royal University in Calgary. She holds a master's degree in nursing from the University of Calgary, and she is enrolled as a PhD student in the Health Professions Education – Simulation program at MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston.

Unsurprisingly, Danaïet is still a star student and a very brilliant person who is drawing on her own experiences dealing with and overcoming culture shock, language barriers, discrimination, and systemic racism to prove that simulation-based teaching and decolonized curriculum can improve learning outcomes for diverse and "non-traditional" learners, especially students with language barriers.

Her work has taken her to Calgary and abroad, but Danaïet still retains strong connections to Prince Edward Island, the safe home envisioned by her father, and UPEI. In honour of their late father, Danaïet

and her brother Sofonyas who graduated from UPEI with a BBA in 2010 established the Teame Neguse Memorial Award to be awarded annually to a student of African descent with demonstrated financial need.

The Guardian article about Danaiet's graduation from UPEI, published in May 2012, was entitled "Doing her father proud." In the eleven years since, she has indeed "done her father proud" and achieved so much more.

In recognition of her many achievements, her community contributions, and her truly inspiring story, the UPEI Alumni Association is proud to present Danaiet Teame, BScN 2012, with a 2023 Inspiring Young Alumni Award.