

## College Welcomes New Continuing Education Director

The College of Nursing welcomed Jodie Brown as the new director of Continuing Nursing Education, Recruitment and Marketing in November.

"Jodie will bring us to new heights in continuing education for Central New York nurses and interprofessional opportunities," said Dean Joyce Griffin-Sobel, PhD. "She'll also do targeted recruitment and marketing for our program. Her experience and local roots are tremendous assets for the College."

Brown has extensive experience in developing and implementing recruitment and retention strategies for

nursing staff at Upstate's University Hospital (UH) as its director of nursing recruitment and retention for eight years. She coordinated the hiring process for new staff, recruitment events, related communications, clinical preceptorships, and more. She also was a critical care RN, a transplant coordinator, and a clinical educator, the latter also at UH.

In addition to a BSN from Syracuse University, Brown earned a dual MSN/MBA degree from the University of Tampa.



Jodie Brown, RN, MSN/MBA

## Achieving "Firsts" in Work and Academe

**Ray Muldoon**, a veteran psychiatric nurse practitioner at Upstate University Hospital, became the first assistant director of nursing for Advanced Practice Services this fall.

Also a part-time DNP student, the College of Nursing awarded him as its first Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar. With the Jonas honor plus transitioning into a new role, Muldoon has had no time to rest on his laurels – not that he would.

For the last 13 years as an NP, Muldoon worked primarily with the ED and pediatric units. His new responsibilities entail "the direction, leadership and operations concerning the provision of advanced practice services (APS)," he explains. He supports the associate director of APS in meeting the needs for

state-employed AP providers – NP, PA, CRNA, CNM – on both the downtown and community campuses. He also remains in clinical psychiatric practice one day a week.



Ray Muldoon, MS/FNP '01,  
PMHNP-BC, RN

As a life-long learner, Muldoon noted: "I thought it particularly advantageous for me to use the opportunities that exist here for educational support. When you love learning as I do, this is where I wanted to be."

On his Jonas selection, Joyce Scarpinato, DNP, assistant dean for Graduate Studies, said, "Ray is an excellent representative of the College of Nursing, and

I'm confident he will do great things." Muldoon joins an elite group of 600 Jonas Nurse Leader Scholars nationwide. The Jonas scholarships support doctoral

candidates who are preparing to meet the health care challenges of future patients who will require increasingly complex care.

For the scholarship, Muldoon is completing a project on interprofessional education and collaboration (IPE/IPC). He serves on the university's IPE Committee which initiated the first IPE course this year.

"Many working health professionals have yet to fully appreciate what interprofessional collaboration is. Part of my project is surveying advanced practice providers and physicians about their knowledge and attitudes concerning IPE/IPC." His doctoral project will study "the application of a consultative intervention with psychiatric patients and staff improving IPC and reducing 30-day readmission."

Muldoon expects to complete the DNP in 2016.

The SUNY Upstate Medical University Nursing Alumni Association publishes *Nursing In Touch* quarterly. Distribution is free to College alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends.

## Alumni Director:

Mary Knepper

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# Construction Underway for New Home for College of Nursing

Since July, concrete has been poured and steel beams erected for the new five-story academic building that will house Upstate's College of Nursing. The 80,000 square-foot structure on the west side of the Weiskotten Hall complex will be complete in spring 2016. The nursing college will be housed



*An artist's rendering of the new academic building which will house the College of Nursing.*

on the first floor, with other multi-function student spaces on other floors, as well as select programs of the College of Health Professions.

Dean Joyce Griffin-Sobel, PhD, says that the college relocation from its current off-campus site will revitalize the Upstate campus. The new learning environment will be conducive to interprofessional education

and research," the dean continued.

Naming opportunities will be available to nursing alumni at various giving levels and plans are underway for a donor recognition wall to be prominently featured in the building. For more information, call the Alumni Office at (315) 464-4416.

"Learning spaces will facilitate working in teams, reflecting our new curricular approach emphasizing team-based learning. Our College will have its own identity and increased visibility on campus, which is essential to interprofessional education, practice

## Omicron Alpha Awards Alums at Induction Ceremony

Forty-three College of Nursing students were inducted into the Omicron Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International in November, and three alumni were given recognitions.

**Deborah Patterson, MSN, RN, CWON (BS '92/MS '94)**, a certified wound ostomy nurse at Crouse Hospital who is a founding member of Omicron Alpha, was given the Virginia B. Byers

Professional Organization Award. **Sherri McMullen, PhD, RN, FNP, NNP-BC (MS '97)**, assistant professor of nursing at Upstate who focuses her research on premature infants and SIDS, received the Excellence in Nursing Research Award. **Kelly Keenan (MS '10)**, a medical-surgical CNS at Crouse, was inducted as a Nurse Leader.

## Remembering Mimi Pfeiffer

The Alumni Association sends condolences to the family of Mimi Pfeiffer upon her passing on December 6, 2014, at age 58 in Wilmington, NC. Mimi was the association's first alumni director, leading it from a fledgling group in 1991 into a well-established organization. By the time she retired in 2002, she had nurtured the group into an active association membership with a strong annual fund



campaign supporting 24 annual student scholarships. She then worked part-time as a communications design specialist for the Upstate Foundation. In 2005, Mimi moved with her husband, Rick, to North Carolina where she worked at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Mimi is fondly remembered for being an alumni advocate and dedicated Upstate colleague, as well as for her personal kindness and many talents. She will be missed!

## Spiritual “Tug” Leads to Palliative Care

“I know I am where I’m supposed to be.” Archie McEvers realized this shortly after beginning his new job as a Palliative Care Service nurse practitioner last fall. It was quite a change in his career at Upstate University Hospital. Archie had worked 26 years – the last 16 as an NP – with the cardiac surgery service.



Archie McEvers,  
AAS '74/BS '95/MS/NP '97

“I’ve seen many changes in the service. We went from a full-complement cardiothoracic fellowship program with only one NP to a service covered 24/7 by NPs and PAs,” he said. Archie went from caring for floor status

patients to providing first-line care for fresh postoperative cardiac surgery patients.

“I learned a great deal, and participated in educating patients, family members, nurses, medical students and NP students. I also maintained my critical care certification for 34 years and challenged my knowledge and skills every day.”

Despite his love of critical care, Archie said he was ready for a change. He now consults about patients with chronic or catastrophic and, often, end-of-life illnesses.

“We assist patients and their families to set goals and make decisions about treatment, and sometimes about stopping treatment. We help with management of symptoms, with

advance directives and discharge plans when palliative or hospice care is needed, providing as much support as we can,” said Archie. “We even provide books to help children of dying relatives understand the process and be less frightened.”

“I felt a strong inner spiritual ‘tug’ leading me in this direction,” commented Archie. “I felt that I could provide the direction, support, encouragement and empathy that these patients need.” Finally, he says, “I am thrilled to be a part of such an important service, and I’m feeling rewarded by what I do.”

Archie served on the Nursing Alumni board of directors for many years, including two as president. We thank him for his service and wish him well in this new phase of his life.

## Oncology FNP Helps Head Survivor Center

Last summer, Upstate opened the doors to its new Cancer Center, which houses the William J. Waters Center for Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders. That clinic includes a bright, hopeful place called the Survivor Wellness Center, run with the care and expertise of Jody L. Sima, MD, and **Barbara Niedziolka**, an MS/FNP alumna.

Before the Center opened, Barbara worked with children on the 4th floor of University Hospital – “but it wasn’t built to fit our kids.” By contrast, she says, “the Waters Center is a place that is built with kids in mind, to meet their needs.”

The overall space is “much nicer and friendlier. There are new games and toys for the children as well as other activities. For example, we now have an interactive game that is

displayed on the wall for kids to play. Technology-wise, providers have more computers to work with and new equipment in the exam rooms and infusion room,” she said.



Barbara Niedziolka,  
MS '11, FNP-C, RN

Barbara sees a wide range of patients, from children actively on cancer treatment to kids and adults off cancer therapy who are survivors of both childhood cancer and adult cancer. The program provides long-term, follow-up care.

“We truly have the most amazing group of staff working within our pediatric hematology/oncology center – some of the greatest nurses, doctors, and support staff. I am grateful to work with them,” Barbara commented. “I am also grateful to work with such a wonderful group of patients and families.”

## SAVE the DATE! APRIL 21, 2015 The Future of Informatics and Health Care

*In Honor of Fay W. Whitney, PhD, RN, FAAN*

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**Diane J. Skiba,**  
PhD, FAAN, FACMI  
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informaticist, University of  
Colorado professor

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# Nursing *InTouch*

## Nursing Alumni Association News

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## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES



**Diana Farneti, MS '98, RN**, writes about her new position as vice president and chief nursing officer for the Loretto system in Central New York. "I am very excited to be part of Loretto. It is my goal to help make Loretto the leader for skilled and elder care in the region." Her job includes oversight for both nursing and clinical operations,

from complex care, rehabilitation, skilled nursing home care, and housing to home care.



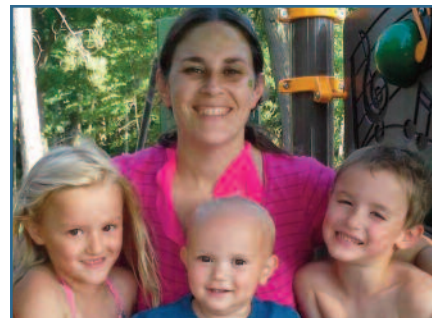
**AnneMarie Walker-Czyz, EdD, MS/CNS '07, RN**, recently added the role of chief operating officer and senior vice president for operations to her other duties as chief nursing officer (since 2008) at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center in Syracuse. She also recently obtained her EdD in Executive Leadership.

**Barbara Niedziolka, MS/FNP '11, RN**, who works at Upstate's Cancer Center, married Jesse Eckhard on August 30 in Syracuse at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

## FACULTY UPDATE

**Donna Gregory, DNP**, joined the faculty as assistant professor after four years at Utica College in administrative-faculty roles for online nursing programs. She obtained her Doctor of Nursing Practice and her MSN as a women's health

nurse practitioner from Old Dominion University. Her other interests involve anything outdoors with her family (*see photo*), including camping, hiking, snowshoeing and canoeing.



## CON Programs Receive 10-Year Accreditation

People can rest assured they are receiving the best health care possible when their nurse is an Upstate graduate. The College of Nursing's bachelor's and master's degree programs have been reaccredited and the post-graduate certificate program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education's Board of Commissioners through 2024.

## Looking for a new opportunity?

Check out the job postings at  
[www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni](http://www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni)