

## Partnership Formed with Brownell Center

The College of Nursing is partnering with the Brownell Center for Behavioral Health of Liberty Resources to provide primary care to those clients receiving psychiatric mental health care at the center. This unique clinical partnership will allow the College to create a dedicated education unit where faculty can work directly with students in the provision of health care to consumers at the center. Dean Joyce Griffin-Sobel, PhD, RN, has been working closely with Robert Feldman, PhD, LMHC, of Liberty Resources, to create this environment where faculty, students and clinical staff can work together in education, practice and research.

"It is an ideal situation where our faculty and students can clearly see how education, practice and research are an

inseparable trio in providing the best health care to the citizens of Syracuse," Griffin-Sobel said.

According to the dean, the Brownell Center program will be open to all CON students, but may be of most interest to those in the FNP and FPMHNP programs. Anywhere from five to 10 students each semester will work alongside faculty in patient care. Research projects will focus on quantifying outcomes for the center – e.g., providing primary care access to clients and determining improvements in their health status.

The Brownell Center is the largest community-based outpatient mental health provider in Onondaga County. Treatment is

delivered at the main clinic on James Street, Syracuse, at 12 school-based clinics in the city, and at satellite clinics in Oswego, Oneida and Monroe counties.



## Alum Recognized for Honoring the Uniqueness of Individuals

**Bridget McCarthy**, an MSN/FNP 2008 graduate and Nurse Practitioner with Upstate's Employee/Student Health Office, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Faculty and Staff Association for Diversity during the Black History Month opening ceremony on February 4.

Presented by Trymeter (Tree) Carter, RN, of the FSAD Committee, McCarthy (*left in photo*) was honored for her work as a member of the Juneteenth Board, the NAACP Health Committee, and as current president of the Syracuse Area Black Nurses Association. She also participated in Upstate's Mentors in Healthcare pilot program and is a College of Nursing clinical preceptor.

"It was a pleasant surprise to receive recognition from the FSAD for promoting Upstate's value of diversity and inclusion," commented McCarthy. "I go through every day



hoping that each interaction I have honors the uniqueness of that person."

McCarthy joined Upstate in 1998 as an orthopedic RN and moved to the health office in 2009. She also holds a BS degree in biology from William Smith College and an associate in nursing from the Crouse School of Nursing.

## Be a Clinical Preceptor – Engage Learning!

Nurse Practitioner student **Phitsamai ("Mai") Thatvihane** is shown at Upstate University Hospital's GEM Care, the special emergency department for patients over age 65 at the Community Campus, where she is completing clinical experience hours.

"As the population ages, learning how to care for older adults is essential to their health," Mai commented. "I was also interested in this site because it is an acute setting, another interest of mine. My preceptor, Dr. Jamie Ciaccio [who heads GEM Care], always takes time to teach and include me in every new learning experience possible. Having a great preceptor, who welcomes you, makes you feel comfortable and engages you, helps to enhance the learning process."

**Alumni make terrific preceptors – to serve, contact Carrie Rewakowski at 315-464-9828 or [rewakowc@upstate.edu](mailto:rewakowc@upstate.edu).**



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

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# Thank You to our 2014 Donors!

We extend our gratitude to the alumni, faculty, students and friends who contributed to the Upstate College of Nursing Alumni Association 2014 annual campaign, including restricted funds and endowments. Donors are listed below according to gifts received between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

## Dean Elvira Szigeti, PhD, RN, Society\*

Named after the longtime former dean of the College of Nursing, the Szigeti Society recognizes donors who have given lifetime gifts of \$2,500 or more to the alumni association and/or have given annually for 10 or more consecutive years. Special thanks go to founding members who have given for 22 years – every year since the alumni association was formed.

### DIAMOND SOCIETY

*Gifts of \$25,000 and Up*

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### SILVER SOCIETY

*Gifts of \$1,000 – \$4,999*

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*"I made a career change in my 40s – a decision that was both very exciting and yet scary as I set myself up*

*for a long, unpredictable and challenging journey. It is very rewarding and humbling to know that my hard work has been recognized! The scholarship allowed me to cut down on overtime hours so I was able to concentrate on graduating, so that one day I may give back to this fine university."*

*– Dean Stark, PFMHNP '15*

*– Nursing Alumni General Scholarship*

### BRONZE SOCIETY

*Gifts of \$500 – \$999*

Bonnie L. Miner\* – 19 years

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*"This money allows me to pursue my dream, as I've wanted*

*to become a nurse practitioner since the 10th grade. It allows me to help pay for my education and be able to help people every day in healing them."*

*– Cassandra Lord, MS/FNP '15 – Gene and Cindy Szigeti Endowed Scholarship*

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*"It is wonderful that the O'Leary award exists to help students afford an advanced education. I*

*cannot thank the Upstate nursing alumni enough for making generous contributions to this scholarship. I plan to use this scholarship to pay part of my student loans accrued in obtaining a Master of Science Family Nurse Practitioner degree."*

*– Kaitlin P. Corona, MS/FNP '14*

*– Colleen O'Leary, MD, Endowed Scholarship*



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*"I am grateful for this award because it will support me as I transition into my new professional role as a Family Nurse Practitioner. I plan to use the award to help pay for my certification review course and examination."*  
**- Emily Glisson, MS/FNP '14**  
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## SACON Events Help Others and Give Students an Edge



The Student Association of the College of Nursing (SACON) hosts various events each semester to provide students with learning, mentoring and community volunteering experiences. SACON members and College faculty volunteered in late January at the Samaritan Center to serve a meal to those in need, and included (left to right) FNP students Emily Powell, Jennifer Ryfun and Delphine Hyppolite with faculty members Jodie Brown, Dr. Roberta Rolland and Dr. Meega Wells. Thanks go to Mary Anne Grady, Samaritan Center supervisor, for taking the photo!

Other recent events helped students gain an edge in such skills as evidence-based research and thesis writing, resume development, and head and chest imaging in primary care. Coming later this spring is a "skills day" with multiple one-hour acute and primary care provider presentations.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

#### Local Sigma Theta Tau Chapters Conference

Thursday, April 16 • 12:30-4:30 pm

Crouse College of Nursing  
 Marley Education Center

Speaker: Kathleen M. Vollman, MSN, RN, CCNS, FCCM, FAAN

Topics: "If Florence Knew, How and When Did We Get so Lost?: Examining Nursing's Unique Contributions to Healthcare" and "The Power of One: Impacting Outcomes By Returning to Basics"  
 Register online:

[www.upstate.edu/con/programs/cont\\_ed](http://www.upstate.edu/con/programs/cont_ed)

Presented by: Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, Omicron, Omicron Alpha, Upsilon Upsilon chapters, Le Moyne College of Nursing Honor Society, and **Institute for Continuing Nursing Education Upstate Medical University**

#### NP Review & Clinical Update

June 2 - 4

Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel  
 & Conference Center

APEA offers comprehensive 2 and 2.5 day ANP/AGNP/FNP review course

**Details & Registration: [www.afea.com](http://www.afea.com)**

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The College of Nursing also offers online courses in **Nursing Case Management** and **Nurse Leadership Skills - Change Management**.

# Nursing *InTouch*

Nursing Alumni Association News

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[www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni](http://www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni)

## INSIDE...

See how your contributions  
make a real difference to  
Upstate nursing students.

We offer a heartfelt thanks to alumni and  
friends who gave generously in 2014!

For more on supporting the  
Upstate Nursing Alumni Association, visit  
[www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni](http://www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni)

## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**Rochele Clark, BS '05, RN**, was recently appointed service line administrator for Crouse Hospital's Neuroscience Institute in Syracuse. She was coordinator for the stroke program at Upstate Medical University and coordinated Crouse's program from 2011 to 2013. With more than 30 years of clinical, management and administrative experience, Clark also serves as chair of the Central/Western New York Stroke Coordinator Group.



**Scott Jessie, BS '03, MS/CNS '07, RN, CCRN**, was appointed director of Emergency Nursing for Upstate University Hospital's Community and Downtown campuses. Jessie has served in many positions during his 19 years at Upstate, including nursing unit director for the surgical and burn ICUs and staff nurse in the medical and coronary care ICU settings. He was an EMT/Advanced EMT for eight years prior to his nursing career. He holds an associate degree in nursing from Cayuga Community College, and a bachelor's degree and a master's degree for CNS with an education minor from Upstate. He is certified as a critical care RN and has spoken nationally on critical care topics in nursing.

**Deborah Pflugh, RN, NP '79**, recently joined the practice Syracuse Orthopedic Specialists. She earned her RN from St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center School of Nursing and earned NP certification at Upstate. She is a certified member of the American Nurses Association and a member in the

Syracuse chapter of the Nurse Practitioner Association.

**Brian Pratt, RN, BS '12, CCRN**, the sepsis coordinator for Upstate University Hospital's Department of Nursing Quality, presented at a January Nursing Grand Rounds on "Closing the Loop with Sepsis: Let's Communicate Effectively to Reduce Time to First Dose Antibiotic." His presentations at both the Golisano Children's Hospital and Upstate's Community Campus were targeted to all RNs and interdisciplinary clinical staff.



*Want to let your fellow alumni know about your accomplishments? Send your news to: [hickeyl@upstate.edu](mailto:hickeyl@upstate.edu)*

## FACULTY JOB POSTINGS

**Upstate Medical University College of Nursing** is accepting applications for **TWO FACULTY POSITIONS** (assistant, associate, or full professor) in advanced practice, nursing education and informatics. To apply, visit Job # 039969 at [www.upstate.edu/jobs](http://www.upstate.edu/jobs). For more information, contact Dr. Joyce Griffin-Sobel, dean, at [griffinj@upstate.edu](mailto:griffinj@upstate.edu)

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