

Health Professions **Alumni Connection**

Health Professions Alumni Association News

Summer 2015

## New Building to Transform Educational Environment

A new, 80,000-square-foot Academic Building, set to open in early 2016, will provide a transformative learning environment for physician assistant and physical therapy students. The second floor will house the PA program and the dean's suite, while the third floor will be dedicated to the PT program. A multi-functional space on the fourth floor will accommodate up to 349 people and will be the largest gathering space on campus. A café will be located on the first floor.

The building connects for access from the Weiskotten complex to the hospital and parking garage.

This 21st century facility means adaptive teaching areas – flexible for traditional classroom modalities, or computer/AV-equipped distance learning, group learning, and recorded lectures. In addition, practice labs, simulation, and inter-professional education will be easily facilitated.

“The faculty is energized about our new facilities, which will directly support our mission by establishing a learning environment that promotes excellence in professional education as well as expanded opportunities for the specialized training of practicing clinicians,” said PT program chair Katherine Beissner, PT, PhD.

When the new academic building is complete, much of Silverman Hall will be renovated and modernized to provide CHP students with current technology and much-needed space.



Gifts of \$250 and up to **The Campaign to Empower Learning + Enhance Healing** will be recognized on a **Donor Wall of Distinction** in the new building. Contributions can be spread over two to three years. Or, classmates can join to give a Class donation. Naming opportunities are also available – learning spaces, classrooms, offices, and more.

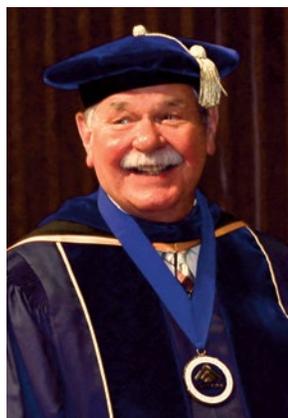
The Campaign to  
**Empower Learning  
Enhance Healing**

Learn more about the building and giving opportunities at: **315-464-4416** or [www.upstatefoundation.org/chpalumni](http://www.upstatefoundation.org/chpalumni).

## Milestones and Memories

The College of Health Professions Commencement Ceremony held in May at the Syracuse Oncenter complex bestowed 176 diplomas – 69 bachelor's, 42 master's and 65 DPTs – to Upstate graduates in eight healthcare disciplines.

Pictured here, now-retired Dr. Hugh Bonner savors presiding at his last Commencement as dean.



**Mark your calendar!**

## Med Tech Program Reunion

**Thursday, September 17 at Pratt's Falls County Park**  
For details, visit the alumni website.

## Educator, Global Health Expert Named New CHP Dean

Donald Simpson, PhD, MPH, a health professions educator and administrator from the University of Arkansas for the Medical Sciences with experience in laboratory sciences, public health, global health and research, has been named Upstate's new Dean of the College of Health Professions. Simpson assumes his duties August 3, succeeding Hugh Bonner, PhD, who retired this summer.



Upstate Interim President Gregory Eastwood remarked, “Dr. Simpson brings extensive experience, a remarkable set of personal skills, and a collaborative spirit to his new leadership position.” (*Watch for more on Dr. Simpson on the web and in future editions.*)

## Health Professions

### AlumniConnection

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## Time at Upstate: 'Joy of My Life'



An accident she had as a junior high cheerleader that led to multiple X-rays with the help of a kind technologist spurred **Patricia (Finocchiaro) Duffy, MPS, RT(R)(CT) '72**, into a long, rewarding career.

She's spent most of her 45 years in radiology at Upstate – 40 years to be exact. Two of those were as an imaging student, Class of '72. As an Upstate University Hospital technologist, Duffy joined the faculty in 1981, becoming assistant director and clinical coordinator. She later served almost a decade as chair and program director, returning to clinical coordinator afterwards.

"All of it has been the joy of my life, and I will miss my alma mater," said Duffy as she moves on to emeritus status on August 1.

"Pat Duffy has been such a key contributor to the Medical Imaging Sciences program for so many years," commented MIS chair, **David Clemente, MEd, RT(R), MR '93**. "Each of the faculty has known Pat as his or her own instructor and as a colleague. She has been a vital educator of so many who have come through our program."

Teaching meant making a double difference to Duffy because "it was not only about imparting how to be a technologist, but also how to be compassionate in treating patients. This has meant the world to me."

In 2000, Duffy was honored with the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. As program director, Duffy was instrumental in the creation of the baccalaureate degree from the associate's program. She was recognized by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology as the MIS Clinical Education Coordinator.

"As the faculty responsible for teaching all of the positioning principles, conducting all of the positioning labs and all of the lab competencies, it has allowed me to follow through from the classroom, the lab, into the clinical arena to see



*Pat Duffy is most appreciative to all of the clinical instructors who step up to educate MIS students. The **Patricia J. (Finocchiaro) Duffy Fund** is being established in order to enhance clinical education and professional development for Medical Imaging clinical instructors and students.*

**To honor Pat Duffy and help this fund get a strong start, visit [www.upstatefoundation.org/chpalumni](http://www.upstatefoundation.org/chpalumni)**

the progress and development of the student." Some of the dedicated clinical instructors are alumni, she noted.

Duffy was a founding member of the CHP Alumni Association board, serving in the '90s, and again in 2000.

"Support from alumni enables individuals to become future technologists and helps current faculty attend national meetings," she said. Duffy herself was given the alumni association's 2014 Donald C. Goodman Award for Faculty Enrichment.

Duffy is Life Member/Past President of the Association of Educators in Radiologic Technology of NYS, as well as for the CNY Society of Radiologic Technologists. She is co-chair for the educator group's annual conference in Lake George. She also served as a board member of the Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences. Currently, she is on the advisory board for the 13th edition of Merrill's text on Radiographic Positioning and Procedures.

Duffy happily asserts, "Students have been my life!" You may continue to reach her at: [duffyp@upstate.edu](mailto:duffyp@upstate.edu).



*Faculty/Alumnus Joe Sorbello tells graduate Mimi Ityough: "Keep in touch. We're always here for you," as he writes down faculty contacts for her.*

## STUDENT RESEARCH

**Abigail Diez, MT (ASCP) '15**, represented the College with her oral presentation, "Assay Development for the Clinical Analysis of the CEBPa Gene in AML Patients Using Polymerase Chain Reaction – High Resolution Melt Curve Analysis," at the Charles R. Ross Memorial Student Research Day. Diez has a BS from Upstate and, with her master's in hematology, Diez plans to work at Upstate University Hospital in the Molecular Diagnostics Lab.

### PA Seniors Present Research

Physician Assistant seniors— 35 this year— presented their capstone poster projects to faculty and peers. The areas of interest reflected the diversity of their training, with such topics as: antibiotic therapy as an alternative to surgical intervention in acute appendicitis; the effects of music therapy on Alzheimer's patients; and botox treatments for chronic low back pain.

## PT Alumni Go Pro in Highly Selective Sports Fellowships

With about 200,000 physical therapists in the US, what does it take to stand out among them? Completing a post-graduate residency and an even more selective fellowship would certainly cast a spotlight on that PT professional.

Two Upstate alumni, **Sean Bardenett** and **Joseph Micca**, “had their ‘eye on the ball’ from the very beginning,” noted **Michelle Dolphin, PT, DPT ’06**, an educator and mentor to both. These “outstanding DPT program representatives” finished sports residencies and are now completing rare sports fellowships, she noted. Each is following a dream of working with pro athletes – Sean with the Kansas City Royals, and Joe with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

“Being chosen for a fellowship is an extremely selective process with only 35 PT fellowship programs nationwide,” according to Michelle, who served five years on the American Board of PT Residency and Fellowship Education. She completed an orthopedic manual therapy residency in 1996 when only eight such programs existed. Residencies have since grown to 182.

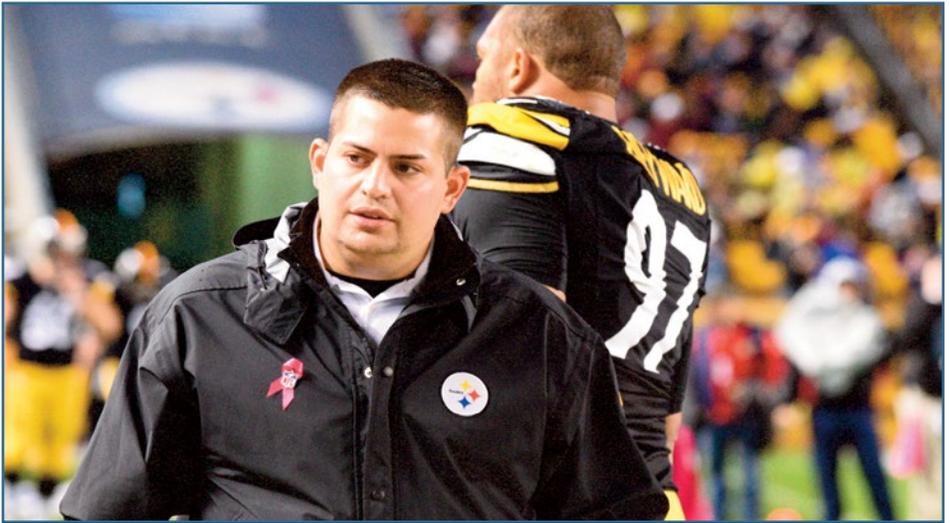
“Residencies are usually full-time, average one year and provide training in a chosen specialty. Fellowships may vary somewhat in structure, but all have close mentoring in a subspecialty,” Dolphin explained.

Growing up playing baseball, Sean had a passion to work as a PT in that sport. After spending time with the San Diego Padres during his residency, it confirmed for him that professional baseball was his career path.

“Jobs in professional sports for physical therapists are difficult to obtain,” Sean commented. So, to set himself apart, he completed a sports residency with Texas Christian University (TCU) and Ben Hogan Sports Medicine in Fort Worth, TX.

“I was fortunate to work closely with a world-renowned baseball physician in the clinic,” he said. “Athletes came from all over the country to see him and I was exposed to lots of high-level baseball players.”

He continued on to win one of only two baseball fellowships in the country. Sean spent this spring at the Kansas City Royals training facility in Surprise, AZ. The first stage of his fellowship was in



*Joe Micca, DPT '13, works the sidelines during Monday Night Football in Pittsburgh against the Houston Texans.*

*At right: Sean Bardenett, DPT '13, recipient of one of just two baseball fellowships in the country, is shown at the Kansas City Royals training facility in Arizona.*

Greenville, SC, where he trained and mentored with “two very established PhDs in the baseball world.”

The end of baseball season brings Sean to home base with completion of the 13-month fellowship. “With this, I’ll have gained valuable experience and, hopefully, earned the respect of others in the business to help land a permanent position with a baseball team.”

When Joe Micca graduated from Upstate and became professionally licensed, he also won a sports residency with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

“UPMC’s reputation is in the top three PT programs in the country,” he noted. The opportunity provided a graduate teaching assistantship and a budget to travel to educational programs across the country. This was while working with the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Penguins, university teams, and the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

“This is one of the only programs in which you can work directly with a professional football team for an entire season, including sideline coverage and day-to-day treatment as part of their healthcare staff. My love of football made a sports residency for me a no-brainer.”

Supported by his residency director and local mentor, Syracuse sports physical therapist Drew Jenk, Joe



continued into the Kevin Wilk Traveling Fellowship sponsored by DJO Global. He observed sports PT experts such as Russ Payne, who returned Adrian Peterson to football. He visited with the Houston Rockets and Houston Texans; and, in Arizona, met with a US Tennis Association leader and covered the Arizona Diamondbacks in spring training.

Joe attributes his success also to residency director and sports PT expert Tara Ridge. “She believed in me and pushed me to be the best I could.”

He plans to remain teaching in the University of Pittsburgh PT program, continue on the residency faculty, and treat patients in the rehab clinic while consulting with the NFL.

“This fellowship,” Joe commented, “was a fantastic learning experience in which I was able to see the different treatment perspectives of sports PT experts in various professional sports. Working with the NFL is a unique experience, one which goes far beyond just physical therapy. It has opened several doors that could not have been opened for me without it.”

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## Empower Learning Enhance Healing

### Will your name be there?

Support equipment, technology, and other needs for the new Academic Building – and renovation of Silverman Hall – with your gift today. Make sure your name is there when the **Donor Wall of Distinction** is unveiled!

Call the Alumni Office at (315) 464-4416 or visit [www.upstatefoundation.org/chpalumni](http://www.upstatefoundation.org/chpalumni)

## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**Dale J. Buchberger, MS/PT '06**, DC, CSCS, DACBSP®, recently released the fourth version of his iBook, “The Buchberger-12 Clinical Edition 2015” which contains a progression of rotator cuff and scapular strengthening exercises for the shoulder with video of each exercise. It was originally released as a paper in 2003, and has been sold across the US and in 21 countries. It can be found at [www.shouldermadesimple.com](http://www.shouldermadesimple.com). Earlier this year, Dr. Buchberger moved his clinic, Active Physical Therapy Solutions, PC, to 91 Columbus Street, Auburn, NY.



**Karen Kemmis, PT, DPT '84**, and **Kerry Walsh, PT, DPT '08**, presented at the World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress 2015, held in May in Singapore. Faculty member Gary Brooks, PT, DrPH, also presented at the conference, with assistance from the Alumni Association's 2015 Donald C. Goodman Award for Faculty Enrichment.

## Alumni Pin Means Fond Memories, Pride

What does it mean to receive an alumni pin at graduation? A 1985 alumna wrote in to say that when she lost her cherished pin last summer, the alumni office dispatched a new one to her and it meant something special. **Karen Jaeger-Summers, MBA, MT(ASCP) '85**, division director of Medical Careers and Cosmetology at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, commented:

“As we do our pinning ceremonies at CPCC, I am reminded of my MT '85 graduation celebration, the faculty roast and awards – and it brings back fond memories of the staff and fellow classmates. I do wonder what they all are up to now. Thanks so much for my pin, and I will indeed wear it with pride!”



## Gold Standard Educator

At Upstate's Eighth Annual Celebration of the Faculty in March, Instructor for Clinical Laboratory Science **Josephine Przepiora, MS'10/MT(ASCP)SM '00**, received the 2015 Gold Standard Award for demonstrating a high level of dedication, commitment to excellence and genuine interest in her students. She is director of Upstate's Medical Scholars Program for under-represented minority students who complete a thesis-dependent master's degree toward provisional acceptance to the College of Medicine. She also helps coordinate the Health Professions Shadow Day program, which achieved a 20 percent application rate from participants. As president of the CHP Alumni Association, Przepiora works to create opportunities for graduates and current students.



**Have you presented, been promoted or published? Share your story with fellow alumni. Send your news to: [hickeyl@upstate.edu](mailto:hickeyl@upstate.edu)**