

## Convocation Welcomes Students



New faces of the DNP program: Mashelle Jansen, MS, FNP '02, Susi Koshy, MS, FNP, Lorriane Falanga, MS, FNP '10, Denise Hiser-Ruddick, MS, FNP '09 and Ray Muldoon, PMHNP, FNP '01. Missing from photo are: Wendy Wais, MS, FNP, Florence Mandebvu, MS, CNS '11, Toni Usev, MS.



Right: Dean Griffin-Sobel greets student on stage.

This fall, the Upstate College of Nursing welcomed new students in a Convocation Ceremony held August 28 – a premier event in the college's orientation activities – as well as launched its new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. The incoming class of 142 was welcomed by Dean Joyce P. Griffin-Sobel, PhD, RN, University President David R. Smith, MD, Vice President of Public Sector Banking for Keybank Gerhard Vogel, as well as SACON leaders, Caroline Berrios and Kaitlin Corona, Omicron Alpha Chapter President Donna Parks, and program faculty.

In her address, the dean emphasized the importance and necessity of applying advanced technology and informatics – including the essential smart phone in

every nurse's pocket – in order to succeed in studies and in evidenced-based practice today. "We don't work in the health care system of yesterday," Griffin-Sobel said. The College's priorities will include more inter-professional education with diversified clinical sites and simulation opportunities. In addition, Griffin-Sobel plans to establish a student lounge area where students can socialize and collaborate: "You owe it to yourself to enjoy your education, while knowing your priority is to obtain a degree to provide better care for your patients."

During the ceremony, each new student received a bookstore gift certificate and Upstate alumni association patch.

## Griffin-Sobel Named AAN Fellow

**Dr. Joyce P. Griffin-Sobel**, dean of Upstate's College of Nursing, was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. A formal induction ceremony is to be held October 19 in Washington, D.C. One of the most prestigious honors in the field of nursing, Griffin-Sobel is one of only 10 individuals in New York State to be selected this year. More on Dean Griffin-Sobel at: [www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni](http://www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni).

## \$300,000 to High Need BSN Online

Programs in the colleges of Nursing and Health Professions at Upstate will receive \$481,000 in funding over the next three years to support workforce development in high need career fields throughout New York State given through the SUNY High Need Program of the Governor's Office. The College of Nursing will receive \$300,000 over the next three years, specifically to support faculty in their efforts to transition RN-to-BSN courses into an online format.

"It is essential to increase the number of nurses with baccalaureate degrees," said Dr. Joyce Griffin-Sobel, dean of the college. "This new online program will allow us to reach a greater number of nurses and make it more convenient for them to obtain their degrees at Upstate."

Nursing Alumni President **Barbara Kane, BS '98/MS '99, NP**, and **Deirdre Neilen, PhD**, of the humanities faculty, collaborated this summer on a nursing scholarship endowment that would reflect the inspiration both felt in knowing educator and poet, **Bonnie St. Andrews, PhD** (photo). See story inside.



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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# Arts and Sciences Join to Create Scholarship Fund

## Honoring Bonnie St. Andrews

Distinguished teaching professor of Bioethics and Humanities, **Bonnie A. St. Andrews, PhD**, left an indelible mark on this medical university. A brilliant scholar, incisive poet and founding editor of *The Healing Muse*, she helped give voice to the bonds that link the arts with the medical sciences for the betterment of both patient and practitioner. Bonnie died as a result of a brain tumor in 2003.

Nursing Alumni Association President **Barbara Kane** approached **Deirdre Neilen, PhD**, associate professor of Bioethics and Humanities and current *Muse* editor, about forming a scholarship fund that would honor Bonnie and her influence on nursing students. Deirdre responded: "I'd be very happy to join you! Bonnie admired her nursing students for their intelligence, their curiosity and their empathy. She encouraged them to pursue their education, telling them the world needed to hear their stories and learn from their research."

Barbara, a nurse practitioner at the Syracuse VA Hospital and 1998 BS/1999 MS alumna, commented: "Bonnie was a creative inspiration to me and many of us, both in the classroom and through her poetry." Writing about her own practice experiences, Barbara had two of her poems published in *The Healing Muse*.



Deirdre Neilen, PhD, and Barbara Kane, NP, team up to establish scholarship fund.

Together, Barbara and Deirdre gave \$5,000, which was matched by the Foundation for Upstate Medical University, to form a nursing scholarship endowment. The new scholarship, noted Deirdre, "will honor both Bonnie St. Andrews' legacy and Barb Kane's commitment to nursing by ensuring that more nurses will have the opportunity to further their education and contribute to their profession." The fund's name is the **Bonnie A. St. Andrews and Barbara Maloy Kane Nursing Scholarship Endowment**.

Please give to this scholarship endowment for nursing students at [www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni](http://www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni), or call 315-464-4416.

## Professor Invited to Lecture in China

**Dr. Melanie Kalman**, Upstate professor of Nursing and '92 alumna, visited China in July to give invited lectures during a milestone event at Harbin Medical University's College of Nursing in Harbin, China. She was invited by the dean of nursing there to lecture at the opening ceremonies of its first master's degree in nursing class.

"There were 125 nurses in that class. I gave three lectures on the state of research in the US, qualitative research and nursing theory today. It was my first time in China and everyone was incredibly kind and seemed to appreciate my talks," she commented.



Meeting surgical staff members at Harbin Hospital



## ALUMNI PROFILE

### BS Grad Seeks to Help in Emergencies

**Cheryl Youker** earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Upstate (summa cum laude) and was one of five recipients of an Outstanding Student Award from the Central Counties Professional Nurses Association, both last May. She was nominated for the award by faculty for her academic achievement and community service. Cheryl lobbied in Albany to continue funding for school-based health centers, and is advocating for passage of a bill that would protect child trafficking victims and prosecute traffickers.

"People think it only happens in third-world countries, but it happens here, too," Cheryl said.

With her BSN in hand, Cheryl is continuing her studies in the NP master's program. One of her goals is to join the Air National Guard and help at disasters like the recent tornado in Moore, Oklahoma. "I always think, 'How can I help?' I don't just want to send \$10. I want to go in, pull people out and stabilize them," said Cheryl, adding that she doesn't like to sit still. "I try to

make the most of every minute."

About a year ago, Cheryl did exactly that – saving the life of a woman she had found on the sidewalk who was in cardiac arrest by giving her cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

She is pursuing her MS degree part-time while working at Crouse Hospital and raising a family. "As a nurse practitioner, I think I'll focus on missionary care," she said, "but there's so much needed in the U.S., I'll probably stay stateside."



Cheryl Youker, RN, BS '13

*Read in entirety by Jim McKeever:  
<http://blogs.upstate.edu/withdistinction>*

## FACULTY UPDATES

*The following were among the University's faculty members who received excellence awards presented at the September Faculty Convocation Ceremony.*

**Maria Wheelock, RN, MS, WHNP**, assistant professor of Nursing, received the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Maria has demonstrated professional effectiveness in teaching both clinical and theory courses in the undergraduate and graduate programs. She exemplifies a combination of leadership, accomplishment and service in the educational and scholarly life at Upstate Medical University. Maria has an excellent rapport with students and brings excitement into the classroom, her colleagues noted. She developed Family Nursing Theory as an online course and readily shares her expertise and research in women's health. She is an advisor to many students, volunteers and serves on various committees. Maria earned her MSN from University of



Pennsylvania and is pursuing her PhD in Nursing Science at Binghamton University.

**Lynne Odell, RN, MS, NP**, received the President's Award for Voluntary Faculty Service. Lynne brings 40 years of experience in community health nursing and maintains a private practice as a psychiatric nurse practitioner at Comprehensive Holistic Health & House Calls. Nationally certified, she focuses on comprehensive mental health care of children, adolescents and their families. Since 2008, she has precepted students enrolled in Upstate's Family Psychiatric NP program. Lynne is beloved by her students who experience the richness of their clinical experiences with her. "To me, the core of Community Health nursing," said Odell, "is education, adaptation of traditional medicine with the spiritual, sociocultural, and economic realities of a family unit, however that unit is constituted."



# Nursing *InTouch*

Nursing Alumni Association News

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### National Expert Visits

**College:** Nursing informatics pioneer, Dr. Diane J. Skiba, professor and coordinator of Healthcare Informatics at the University of Colorado - Denver, visited campus October 8-11 to consult with nursing faculty and students and speak about the effective use of technology in education and health care, including social media and M-Health innovations.



### NP Certification Review:

The 2014 Nurse Practitioner Certification Review Course, presented by Advanced Practice Education Associates (APEA) will be held June 4, 5, 6 at the Syracuse University Sheraton Hotel with registration available online at [www.upstate.edu/con](http://www.upstate.edu/con) after January 1, 2014.

## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**Julie Doody, RN, BS '06, MS** was named patient services supervisor for the Pediatric and Adolescent Center (UPAC) at University Hospital effective August 1. Julie joined Upstate in 2005 and was most recently patient service leader at UPAC. She obtained her MS in nursing administration from Le Moyne College, her BS degree from Upstate and her AAS degree from Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital School of Nursing.



**Diane Nanno, RN, MS/CNS '12**, assistant director of Transitional Care at Upstate, was quoted in an *UpdateOnline* article (Aug. 8-15 edition) for her involvement with a collaborative program with VNA Homecare that provides care to patients with sickle cell disease, a patient population with a high hospital readmission rate that faces demanding social and clinical challenges. "We expect teens to crave independence and to make their fair share of mistakes as



they learn to become self-sufficient," explained Diane. "Teens dealing with chronic illness like sickle cell disease are no different. They want to branch out from their families, attend college, leave the family home and stand on their own two feet - but they need to be ready to manage their own critical, medical care. This is a huge challenge and makes this collaboration between hospital and home care a necessity."

**Patricia Powers, DNP, MPA, RNFNP-C, PMHNP '03**, clinical assistant professor of Nursing at Upstate presented, "Distant Faculty Observation using the iPad," in faculty development seminars at Upstate and at SUNY IT for a conference on instruction and technology.



**Donna Parks, RN, BS/MS '93**, was an invited speaker at Upstate's College of Nursing Convocation as president of the Omicron Alpha Chapter of STTI, the first organization to fund nursing research in 1936, she noted.

