

Three Strategic Initiatives Announced

Since her arrival last spring, College of Nursing Dean Joyce Griffin-Sobel, PhD, RN, FAAN, has led faculty, stakeholders from communities of interest and students in a strategic planning process that builds upon the findings of the Institute of Medicine's landmark report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. Three strategic initiatives have been identified for the College: be a national leader in interprofessional education; be a national model of excellence for innovation in nursing; and, partner with communities of interest to impact the health of Central New York and beyond.

Ongoing Efforts: The College has begun an online program for its clinical doctorate degree (DNP), and is expanding options for nurses to achieve their baccalaureate degrees, including online options and onsite classes at regional hospitals.

To encourage more student interaction, space in the College is being renovated to establish a comfortable student lounge with the financial support of the Nursing Alumni Association.

Watch for more details in future issues of *Nursing In Touch*.

Cultural Competence Means Better Patient Care

As a cyclist in two 100-mile bike rides for Missing and Exploited Children, **Theresa (Terri) Morse, MS, RN-BC ('10), FNP-C ('12)**, seems propelled by her commitment to raise awareness and improve the lives of children. Near and dear to her heart are the children she works with at the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital University Pediatric and Adolescent Center.

Terri says, "If we understand who the patients are as individuals, we are better able to treat them. Cultural competence is critical to ensure good patient outcomes.

Our pediatric clinic often looks like the United Nations. We have a large population of refugees from Iraq, Somalia and Burma." Terri noticed a "disconnect" between the negative results of the clinic's patient satisfaction surveys and the positive compliments the staff was hearing directly from children and their families. To find out why, she reviewed the research and

determined that minority patients are less likely to return such surveys. This led to Terri's collaboration with a Master's in Public Health student, Sarah Irish, to design a study with a questionnaire that was written in Arabic as well as English.

Once the questions were written in the patient's language, "the response rate and scoring were virtually 100 percent positive," according to Terri. "This reinforced what we had been hearing, and brought to light the need to have surveys written in the patient's primary language."

Terri's project has been recognized with a research award by the STTI Omicron Alpha Chapter, and is being submitted to the *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Healthcare*. "Hopefully, my passion encourages others to become more sensitive and knowledgeable of cultural differences in an effort to provide culturally effective healthcare," said Terri.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

We offer a heartfelt thanks to alumni and friends who gave generously to the 2013 Nursing Alumni Annual Fund to ensure continuation of scholarship support for our students, as well as continuing education opportunities for faculty and special events for alumni.

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 2013 Donors!

We extend our gratitude to the alumni, faculty, students and friends who contributed to the 2013 annual campaign, including restricted funds and endowments. Donors are listed below according to gifts received between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.

DEAN ELVIRA SZIGETI, PhD, RN NURSING LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP*

Named after the longtime former dean of the College of Nursing, the Szigeti Legacy Society represents donors who have given lifetime gifts of \$2,500 or more to the alumni association, or have given annually for 10 or more consecutive years. Special thanks go to founding members who have given for 21 years – every year since the alumni association was formed.

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"I am very appreciative to the nursing alumni for the scholarship

award, which will be used for tuition expenses to further my education. An advanced education will equip me to reach my highest potential as a nurse and nurse educator. In the past two years, more state budget cuts have affected higher education costs, research funding and preventive programs for the community – all of which have touched me in a personal way. This scholarship is not only a financial relief, but a great encourager.

— **Teresa Koulouris, BSN '14, Suzanne Spaulding-Gehrke Nursing Scholarship**

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"This alumni award is greatly appreciated because it fosters

educational excellence, leadership and service, which are attributes that I strive to uphold. This generous award encourages me to continue to delve deeper into the nursing profession and become more of an asset to my community. I am honored to be a recipient and thank you for choosing me!"

— **Delphine Hyppolite, MS/FNP '15, Jorge Grimes Nursing Scholarship**

"I appreciate this scholarship award because I need to decrease my hours at my job when I begin my clinicals. The award will be helpful in bridging the gap toward my family's needs while I continue my studies."

— *Frances Mosconi, MS/FPMHNP '15, Nursing Alumni Association Scholarship*

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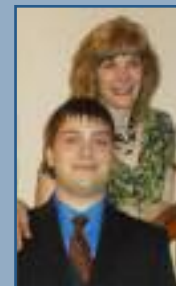
"I am extremely honored to be the recipient of the Bess Buser scholarship. Ms. Buser was an accomplished clinician and nurse educator and I am so proud and humbled to be counted among those who have received this award. Thank you for your confidence in me and I am very grateful for your support of my graduate education."

— *Christine Kirkman, MS/PNP '14, Bess Buser, RN, MSHE, CPNP Endowed Scholarship*

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"As a parent with a child in college, this scholarship will ease some of the financial burdens I

have undertaken...assisting with my tuition and the purchase of books. This money will allow me to concentrate on my studies rather than working overtime to meet financial obligations. It has also given me the positive reinforcement to inspire others to achieve their education goals."

— *Dawn Burr, BSN '16, Phyllis Balk Memorial Scholarship*

Share Your Memories!

Help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Upstate's Downtown and Community hospitals. If you have memories/artifacts of the construction of either hospital, please contact Susan Keeter, keeters@upstate.edu or 315-464-4834.

Take a walk down Memory Lane at whatsupatupstate.wordpress.com



50 YEARS
1964-2014
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Candy strippers, 1971

Nursing Alumni Association News

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ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

During the Omicron Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau's induction ceremony last November on campus, the Chapter presented awards to these Upstate alumni: **Debra Johnson, PhD, RN (RN-MS '93)**, OR and Sterile Processing Department Manager at St. Joseph's/Candler Health Care System in Savannah, GA, was given the Virginia B. Byers Professional Organization Commitment Award. **Rochele Clark, BS, RN (BS '05)**, Stroke Center Coordinator at Upstate University Hospital, was given the Community Mentor Award.

Theresa Morse, MS, RN-BC ('10), FNP-C ('12), FNP in the University Pediatric and Adolescent Center at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, was given the Excellence in Nursing Research Award.

Upstate educators **Melanie Kalman, PhD, CNS '92**, and **Carol Anne Kozik, MS '96, CAS, CNS, FNP**, were among a group of nursing professionals who helped lobby successfully to amend New York's education law to provide "title protection" for clinical nurse



specialists. Enacted last fall, the law ensures that only those properly educated and prepared to be CNSs present themselves as such, otherwise fines can be imposed. Joining 42 other states, now nursing specialists in New York have "a legally recognized identity," said Kozik.

Joyce Scarpinato, DNP, PNP, FNP '09, Upstate's DNP Program Director, was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare to support a student as a DNP Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar. The Upstate student to be selected will join an elite group of 600 Jonas Nurse Leaders/Scholars across the country.

CONTINUING EDUCATION Visit www.upstate.edu/con for details and online registration:

Women's Health: Where Are We Today?

Wednesday, April 30
Holiday Inn, Liverpool, NY
Keynote: Karen DeCrow, Esq;
Plenary: Linda Lowen

2014 NP Certification Review and Clinical Update Course For Adult, Adult/Geriatric and Family Nurse Practitioners

June 5 - 7
Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel & Conference Center
Instructor: Amelie Hollier, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP

1st Annual Interprofessional Transitions in Care Conference Moving Patients Seamlessly from One Care Setting to Another

Tuesday, June 10
Holiday Inn, Liverpool, NY
Keynote: Eric A. Coleman, MD, MPH