

White Coat Event Welcomes New Class

The annual College of Health Professions White Coat Ceremony drew an excited crowd of entering students with family, friends and faculty to the Syracuse University Schine Student Center in late August. Each of the 147 new students in eight degree programs received a new white lab coat – a gift from the Alumni Association – and was greeted on stage by Dean Hugh Bonner, PhD, CHP program chairs and Interim University President Gregory Eastwood, MD.

It's both a welcome and a farewell to this class for Dean Bonner, who announced he will be retiring next year (see story in future edition).

Alumni President **Josie Przepiora, MT'00/MS'10**, and **Joseph Nicoletti, RRT '76, RN**, of Franciscan Companies, long time sponsor of the ceremony, also offered remarks. "We believe at Franciscan that the support of future healthcare professionals is essential to the continuance of quality and high-tech healthcare. Our patients deserve it and the healthcare industry demands only the best," commented Nicoletti, director of Corporate Development, Sales and Clinical Services.

Student speaker **Robin LeClerc, PAS '16**, vice president of the CHP Student Government and also a medical technology alumna, plans to become a physician assistant "to help alleviate the need for medical care in an underserved area." She encouraged fellow students to "always wear these coats with pride, as they symbolize your commitment to humanism and professionalism."



The sleeves may be a bit long, but Upstate is a good fit for Elizabeth Steele in Medical Imaging Science as she attends the white coat fitting.



Radiation Therapy students Brandon Frary, Kris Regan and LeeAnn Spingler enjoy the moment.



Some of the men of PA Studies pose for pictures.



Leader in PT Education to Retire

Susan Miller, PT, DPT, MS, chair and associate professor of Physical Therapy Education, has seen and helped lead the way for amazing changes since beginning her teaching career at Upstate 32 years ago.

"I've seen our program go from a bachelor's to master's to the doctorate degree and the class size has grown from 20 to 33. With the completion of the new

academic building (in 2016) it will be 40," she noted.

The program earned a 10-year accreditation by CAPTE, "due to a fantastic team of faculty," she said. Serving as program chair since 2006, she was the first on campus to be given the SUNY Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award and was an

continued on page 3

Health Professions Alumni Connection

The SUNY Upstate Medical University Health Professions Alumni Association publishes *Alumni Connection* quarterly. Distribution is free to college alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends.

Alumni Director: Mary Knepper

Writer: Lois Hickey

Design: Marketing & University Communications

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Josephine Przepiora, MT '00/
MS '10

Vice President:

Anthony Kurec, CLS '82

Treasurer:

Kenneth Galbraith, MIS '84

Secretary:

Allison Lewis, PA '12

David Clemente, MIS '93

Joseph Colello, RRT '12

Christine Elliott, DPT '13

Trevor Farnsworth, MS, PA-C '12

Elton Garvin, RT '93

Thomas Grady, RT '88

Joseph Nicoletti, RRT '76, RN

Michelle Pisik, MIS '72

Anne Reilley, DPT '14

Laura Rigg, CP '14

Robert Sunheimer, CLS '74

Nicole Tomasello, CP '11

Jim Vossler, MT '81

Student Representative:

Melissa Aubin, PA, Class of '15

Kailey Kinsella, MT, Class of '15

Ex-Officio Members:

Hugh W. Bonner, PhD

Dean, College of Health
Professions

Gregory L. Eastwood, MD,

Interim President,

Upstate Medical University

Eileen M. Pezzi, MPA

VP for Development,
Upstate Foundation

Address Corrections to:

Health Professions Alumni Office

Upstate Medical University

750 E. Adams Street – CAB 326

Syracuse, NY 13210

315-464-4416

chpalum@upstate.edu

Connect online at:

www.foundationforupstate.org/

chpalumni

ALUMNI PROFILE

“Eyes of Medicine” at Community Campus

Cindy Cress, RT '73, (R,N), CNMT, oversaw transitions in her department that included receipt of an MRI scanner this April at the Upstate University Hospital, Community Campus. The upgrade in hardware and software allows the new MRI service there to include breast imaging, according to Cindy. She has been director of Medical Radiography since 1998, with 31 years total there.

“The staff is very positive about the changes. It is very exciting to see the new programs opening on the Community Campus with the renovations and updates that have occurred,” she commented. The entire department conducts about 63,000 exams per year, while about 400 MRIs are performed each month. Since 2011, the

Medical Radiography department has added a new state-of-the-art 128 slice CT scanner and new ultrasound equipment for general, interventional and breast exams.

“The technology is the most interesting part of medical imaging,” she added. “We really are the eyes of medicine – imaging helps determine the reason behind people’s illnesses or symptoms. It’s very gratifying. But I find the most enjoyable aspect of my job is the people I work with and to whom I provide services.”

Last year, Cindy was presented the President’s Employee Recognition Award for Leader of the Year for the Community Campus for exemplary day-to-day problem-solving, leadership, team building skills and productivity.



\$21,500 Awarded in Annual Alumni Scholarships



The Barbara Gonnella Memorial Scholarship was presented to Gwen Goulburn, MBT '15, by Alumni President Josie Przepiora and Severin Gonnella, husband of the late Barbara Gonnella.

The following 29 health professions students earned support from alumni scholarships this year. A total of \$21,500 was awarded, with three new named scholarships (noted below) presented for the first time! The first alumni scholarship for a PA student was also awarded. Congratulations students, and *thank you* – alumni and friends!

Entering Students

Kelly Bouchard, MT '16

(Harriet Mark Scholarship)

Emily Cotey, DPT '17

Eric Duke RT '16 *(Robert J. Councilman Scholarship)*

William Fieroh, MBT '16

Kathryn Greer, PAS '16

Min-Ho Lee, CP '16

Danielle Maya, RT '16

(Franciscan Management Inc. Endowed Scholarship)

Diana Okhman, RT '16

(Franciscan Management Inc. Endowed Scholarship)

Tatyana Onufriych, RT '16

Chantel Seller, MIS '16

Abigail Whiting, RADT '16

Returning Students

Melissa Abbate, MT '15

Harold Appleby, RADT '15

(Lisa A. Parlato & Clark M. Brown Radiation Therapy Continuing Education Scholarship – New)

Parlato & Brown Scholarship recipient Hal Appleby poses in front of the Radiation Therapy department bulletin board.

Spencer Blackman DPT '16

Anna Brothers, RADT '15

Kelly Carolan, DPT '16

Joseph Ciciarelli, MBT '15

Ethan Curtis, RT '15

Brianna Fitzpatrick, DPT '15

Gwen Goulburn, MBT '15

(Barbara Gonnella Memorial Scholarship – New)

Brittney Haselmayer, MIS '15

Irena Henry, MIS '15

Ann Iannotta, DPT '15

Yiming Liu, CP '15

Lauren Peterson, RADT '15

(The Thomas Grady Scholarship for Radiation Therapy – New)

Danielle Pizzuto, DPT '15

(Kevin J. Reistrom Memorial Scholarship)

Sarah Polum, CP '15

Brianna Rossi, RADT '15

Alex Tabone, RT '15



Giant Step in Cancer Care and Clinical Education

The \$74 million state-of-the-art Upstate Cancer Center which opened this summer adjacent to Upstate University Hospital not only infuses the Central New York region with the most sophisticated cancer care, but also raises student clinical training opportunities to a new level.

"This means access to a world-class learning environment with equipment that is cutting edge technology," commented Radiation Therapy's clinical education coordinator, **Elton Garvin, RADT '93**. "As it is, our program faculty are thankful for all of the clinical sites available to students, including Roswell Park and the University of Rochester, which have already placed our students on the leading edge of education in the clinical environment. The new Cancer Center is a giant step in the evolution of training students for tomorrow's new discoveries in combating cancer."



Radiation therapist Andrea DeCondo, RADT '07, with the newly installed TrueBeam linear accelerator.

The Center houses the region's first VERO Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy System, one of only three nationwide, as well as the only TrueBeam linear accelerator in Central

New York. The Truebeam offers Gated RapidArc radiotherapy to effectively treat tumors that may move during breathing. These advanced technologies join the already robust offering of cancer imaging and treatment tools available at Upstate University Hospital, including Tomotherapy, Calypso, Gamma Knife Perfexion and the UroNav fusion biopsy system. Other special features at the new Center are 27 infusion chairs, four linear accelerator vaults for

radiation therapy, a high-tech intraoperative suite, a four-season rooftop healing garden, meditation room, family resource center, and more.

Why I Became a CHP Preceptor

Trevor Farnsworth graduated in 2012 with high honors from Upstate's Physician Assistant program, and now works as a primary care provider in Elbridge, NY, with Family Care Medical Group where he is responsible for newborn to geriatric patients. He serves as a new member of the CHP Alumni Association Board of Directors. With his busy responsibilities, why did he also step forward to serve as a preceptor or clinical instructor for Upstate's PA program?

"Upstate has been very good to me," he commented. "I received both my undergraduate (medical biotechnology) and graduate degrees here and loved every minute of it! I have received so much from Upstate and feel it is important to give back to a great institution that has been good to me and does a lot for the greater community. Precepting is absolutely essential! I would not be where I am today if not for the clinicians who were kind enough to invest themselves in my education and training. I enjoy teaching and plan to continue to precept and hope to influence the next generation of clinicians in a positive way."

Interested in becoming a clinical instructor? Contact the appropriate program chair at: www.upstate.edu/chp/faculty.php



Trevor Farnsworth, MS/MBT '07, PA-C '12, examines a patient

PT Leader Susan Miller Retires

continued from page 1

inaugural member of the Academy of Upstate Educators in 2012. She is co-author of an article to appear in the January 2015 *Journal of PT Education* on a novel approach to develop assessment and feedback skills of clinical instructors. This year, Miller received the Lifetime Service Award from NYPTA, having served as its past president and continuing to serve in the APTA House of Delegates. She is serving a second term as chair of the NYS Board for Physical Therapy.

"I'm leaving at an exciting time for the PT program," Miller commented, "especially as the new academic building will be opening and the program will be embarking on the use of more simulation. I will miss being part of this tremendous Upstate family, yet I am excited to find new adventures!"

PT Alumni, watch for more information on a reunion event honoring Sue Miller at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting in February in Indianapolis!

Alumni Connection

Health Professions Alumni Association News

SUNY Upstate Medical University
326 Campus Activities Building
750 East Adams Street
Syracuse, New York 13210

www.foundationforupstate.org/chpalumni/

Be counted among the alumni who remember your quality Upstate education and choose to ensure its future.

Be counted twice! Double your gift through the Foundation Matching Gift Program.

Give today at
foundationforupstate.org/chpalumni/
or (315) 464-4416

Have you presented, been promoted or published?

Share your story with fellow alumni.

Send your news to: hickeyl@upstate.edu

FACULTY UPDATES

The following CHP faculty members were recognized at the Fall Faculty Convocation.

Carol Recker-Hughes, PT '79, PhD, received the SUNY-wide Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Recker-Hughes is highly respected for her skill at facilitating discussion and using active learning techniques, with her research interests centered on the professional development of clinical instructors and students. She most recently was published in *The Journal of Physical Therapy Education* and received two SUNY grants for innovative instruction and student learning. Recker-Hughes also is a member of the inaugural class of Upstate's Academy of Upstate Educators.



Sandra Banas, BS/MT '77, MST, RPA-C, assistant professor and founding chair of the Physician Assistant Studies program, earned the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. She joined Upstate in 2008, having been a science teacher, a medical technologist and experienced PA. Banas developed and implemented the PA Studies program, achieving full accreditation status and



increasing enrollment from eight to 35 students. Banas secured \$3.2 million in federal grants and developed a network of comprehensive clinical sites.

Mary Ellen Dougherty, PT '76, a clinical instructor for Physical Therapy Education, earned the President's Award for Voluntary Faculty Service. Dougherty has been a senior PT since 1989 at St. Camillus Health and Rehabilitation Center in the Brain Injury Unit. She is active in professional development activities at the state and regional levels and is an active clinical member of the NYNJ Clinical Education Consortium.



Michelle Dolphin, PT, DPT '06, MS, OCS, clinical assistant professor of Physical Therapy, was accepted into the Academy of Upstate Educators as an exceptional educator, facilitator, collaborator and mentor with a passion for her career as an orthopedic PT. She brings "real life" into her classroom and uses various teaching techniques to accommodate learning.

