



Dean Bonner's Retirement Marks 20 Years of Progress

Upon the announcement by **Dean Hugh Bonner, PhD**, that he will retire in June, the University community

reflected on how markedly improved he leaves the College of Health Professions.

"Hugh Bonner was one of my first administrative hires at Upstate when I first became president in 1995, and I have always considered it among my best," said Interim President Gregory Eastwood, MD. "Dr. Bonner's imprint on the quality preparation of our graduates will be felt for years to come."

Dr. Bonner guided the College to become a true upper division and graduate institution, reflecting the increase in professionalism and licensure requirements. He helped lead the College toward licensure standards for both medical laboratory technology and perfusion. The MS Physician Assistant program vaulted to one of the state's best, and the post-graduate DPT provided licensed Physical Therapists an opportunity to earn their doctorate.



As part his outreach to community leaders, before the November Leadership Coffee, Dr. Bonner gave Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney a tour of the College, including the state-of-the-art Perfusion Simulation Laboratory. Perfusion students were on hand in OR garb as if preparing for a simulated patient procedure using the ECMO machines and monitors.

A master's medical microbiology program and new baccalaureate tracks in medical biotechnology, medical sonography, MRI and CT were also developed. As a result, the College has grown in numbers and prestige – from 200 full-time students in 1995 to more than 400 today. Dr. Bonner helped to secure \$4.5 million in federal, state and local grants as well as numerous equipment donations.

His service in national agencies for health education and specialized accreditation has brought national stature to the College. Offices held include: past president of CAAHEP, board member of NAACLS, representative on the Commission

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National Leader, Scholar Takes Reins of PT Program



Katherine Beissner, PT, PhD, has joined the College of Health Professions as director of the Physical Therapy Education program. On the Ithaca College faculty for 28 years, Beissner became a full professor in 2000, served as PT department chair from 1998 to 2006, was associate dean, and was named a Gerontology Institute Faculty Fellow in 2003. She is also active on the national level with the

American Physical Therapy Association, serving in the education, research, orthopedics and geriatrics sections and reviewing journal manuscripts. She has authored dozens of publications in peer-reviewed journals, most recently an

article about her research on pain management strategies for older adults in home health care.

"Katherine is a national leader and scholar and she will lead our very strong and productive department during this time of tumultuous change in health care," said Dean Hugh Bonner, PhD. "Katherine will continue to build the national reputation of the PT department and the College."

Beissner holds a PhD in Instructional Design, Development and Evaluation from Syracuse University, an MS in Health Science Instruction from Texas Women's University, and a BS in Physical Therapy from the University of Texas Health Science Center.

"I am very excited to have joined the Department of Physical Therapy Education," said Beissner. "I look forward to working with this faculty to further develop innovative education and research partnerships to address the complex challenges of contemporary health care."

Health Professions AlumniConnection

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COLLEGE NEWS

Construction Underway for New Academic Building

Since last summer, concrete has been poured and steel beams erected for a new five-story academic building that will house select programs of the College of Health Professions as well as the College of Nursing. The 80,000 square foot structure on the west side of the Weiskotten Hall complex will be connected to both Silverman Hall and University Hospital. Completion is scheduled for spring 2016.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and Physician Assistant (PA) programs as well as the Dean's suite will move to the new building from their current Silverman Hall locations.

"The DPT and PA programs will each occupy the better part of a floor with each featuring a practice laboratory, simulation and class/study group facilities in order to



An artist's rendering of the new academic building slated for completion in 2016.

develop an individualized 'learning community' during the students' professional education at Upstate," said Dean Hugh Bonner. Additionally, when the new academic building is complete, much of Silverman Hall will be renovated and updated to provide students with current technology and much needed space.

Naming opportunities will be available to CHP alumni at various giving levels and plans are underway for a donor recognition wall to be prominently featured in the building. **For more information, call the Alumni Office at (315) 464-4416.**

ALUMNI PROFILE

'Working in the Light' in Nuclear Medicine

Marsha Roskopf began her career in Upstate's Nuclear Medicine Department during the exciting 1970s when Technetium-99m-methylene diphosphonate (Tc99m-MDP), an imaging agent, had been discovered. It still is being used worldwide.

Noting its importance, Marsha explains: "Tc99m-MDP finds bone tumors six to 12 months before they can be seen on a standard x-ray."

Beginning as a radiologic technologist in the Radiology Department after graduating from CHP in 1973, Marsha also completed a one-year certificate program at Upstate in Nuclear Medicine, and soon became a research technologist in the Nuclear Medicine Department. Marsha chose Nuclear Medicine imaging "because you worked with the lights on – in x-ray, it seemed like you were always in the dark."

Marsha's research involved "the radioactive labeling and imaging of white blood cells and platelets, biliary and renal imaging agents." She stayed in the Nuc Med research section for the next 13 years until it closed due to loss of grant funding; then moved to Radiation Physics/Safety, a



Marsha Roskopf, MIS '73

Radiology division, where she still works today.

Her years in research "were extremely rewarding," she commented. "My

research positions were such a learning experience, from performing surgery on small animals to learning many software applications for data analysis, not to mention countless scientific publications. Most of all," she noted, "I got to work with so many bright and gifted people from Radiology, the residents, medical students, SU students, as well as the medical physicists."

In 1997, Marsha obtained a four-year degree in science from Thomas Edison College – for which her Nuclear Medicine lab work earned her credit. Marsha carries out the Quality Assurance program for the Radiology department today, involving quality control testing of all radiographic equipment.

"Occasionally, I conduct 'clean' radiology research projects – just working with images – no dirty work with animals, blood and guts."

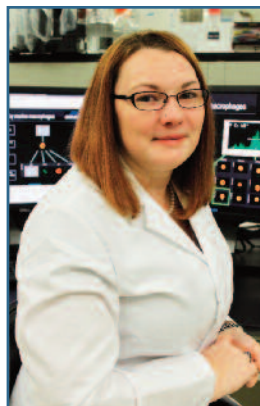
Reflecting on it all, Marsha says: "My 40 years at Upstate have been great!"

MB Grad Credits Upstate for Boosting Research Goals

Nicole Flaherty's passion for studying infectious diseases was fueled at Upstate with clinical research opportunities in Dr. Rosemary Rochford's microbiology/immunology lab and at the NYS Biodefense Lab while obtaining her medical biotechnology degree.

"The training I received at Upstate prepared me for a field of public health research as I was instilled with the knowledge and tools required for a diagnostic hospital setting that I now apply to new projects involving vaccine formulation," she commented.

This January Nicole becomes Dr. Flaherty, completing her PhD in immunology and microbial disease/nanoscale science at SUNY Albany, focusing on host-pathogen interactions. "Specifically, I study how bacterial antioxidants interfere with host cell signaling during the immediate pathogen response." Her thesis defines the antioxidant determinants of *Francisella tularensis* virulence, and two of her papers are out for



Nicole Flaherty, PhD, MB '08

peer review, with publication expected this spring. She presented this topic at several scientific meetings.

Last fall she was a New York Academy of Sciences Teaching Fellow, for which she taught an after-school program on genetics to inner city middle school students. Nicole's outreach work with youngsters earned her the SUNY

Outstanding Service Award last year. Nicole also gives back to her community as a volunteer firefighter with a specialty in hazardous materials.

Nicole plans to continue working in a post-doctoral research program in the Albany area and eventually to teach science at the college level and run a small research program.

"The Upstate medical biotechnology program is the perfect pathway for anyone who wishes to continue into medical research. Without a doubt, I believe this program was a key factor in my own scientific success."

FACULTY UPDATE



Carol Recker-Hughes, PT '79, PhD, (left) associate professor and vice chair, and **Jill A. Dungey, PT, DPT '07, MS, GCS**, assistant professor, (both directors of clinical education) attended an American Council of Academic Physical Therapy Clinical Education Summit in Kansas City to discuss new visions for clinical experiences. Recker-Hughes was a primary author of one of the position



papers for the conference.

Robert Sunheimer, MS/MT(ASCP) SC, SLS, MT '74, professor emeritus, and **Wendy Stockwin, BS, MT(ASCP) SBB**, clinical instructor in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, along with Linda Graves and Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing, recently authored the textbook, *Clinical Laboratory Urinalysis and Body Fluids*. The book reflects the authors' extensive combined experience in academia, research and the technical areas of a clinical laboratory with practical insights for students using case studies and "mini case" patient scenarios.

Dr. Bonner's Legacy of Leadership *continued from page 1*

of Accreditation for Respiratory Care; and member of the NYS Respiratory Care Licensing Board (10 years). He is a site visitor for the Commission on Accreditation for PT Education.

To develop a dialogue among academic deans and CEOs of nursing and health professions accreditation societies, Dr. Bonner co-hosted national meetings under the auspices of CAAHEP and the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP). He served two ASAHP board terms, and has been an ASAHP Fellow since 2005. In 2010, he received the Darrell Mase Presidential Citation – the society's most prestigious honor for leadership in allied health education. Dr. Bonner also is a contributing editor for the *Journal of Allied Health*.

Dr. Bonner's active role in NY-AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) has strengthened linkages to better meet the needs of rural medically underserved communities. He served on its board since it began in 1997 and was confirmed by Congress to serve on its federal oversight advisory committee. He provided a strong voice for the health professions in regional

high schools, colleges and hospitals and he worked to prepare the health professions workforce to serve in these communities.

"Hugh Bonner gave a face to the College of Health Professions and Upstate Medical University," said Dan Hurley, assistant vice president for Government and Community Relations. For instance, the Dean's Leadership Coffee receptions for local elected officials and community leaders have been "a valuable conduit to grow relationships and build supporters of the College."

Dr. Bonner has "walked the walk" in many levels of community engagement, building important relationships on the alumni board and among the over 4,000 CHP alumni along the way. "He has been a staunch supporter and participant at alumni events," noted Alumni Association President Josie Przepiora: "It has been my pleasure to serve beside him."

The CHP Alumni Association wishes Dr. Bonner and his wife all the best as they move to Georgia, closer to their daughter, two sons and six grandchildren.

Alumni Connection

Health Professions Alumni Association News

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Just one example of student altruism for the holidays was Physical Therapy students hosting a food drive to benefit the downtown Samaritan Center, which feeds hundreds every day.

PT Alumni! Going to CSM in Indy?

Don't miss the reunion event honoring Sue Miller at:
Granite City Brewery, 49 West Maryland St.
Thursday, Feb. 5 • 5:00 – 7:00 pm
For more information, visit
www.foundationforupstate.org/chpalumni

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES



Sophia Lustrinelli, BS/MT '85, MT (ASCP)SH, C, was named director of Laboratory Services for Upstate University Hospital. She has 29 years of hematological and clinical chemistry diagnostic testing experience. First employed by St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center laboratory, Sophia came to Upstate as bone marrow/morphology

coordinator from 1991 to 2003 and then was core lab supervisor until late 2013 when she began serving as interim director of lab services. She holds ASCP certification in medical technology, special hematology and clinical chemistry.



Joseph Nicoletti, RN, RRT '76, executive director of Corporate Development, Sales and Clinical Services with Franciscan Companies, has been presenting free weekly informational sessions for people with pulmonary problems at the Healthy You Wellness Center at Kinney Drugs in Syracuse. Topics include medication

management, coping with winter, and allergies. Co-sponsored by Franciscan Companies, the wellness center treats and supports walk-ins with sudden onset pulmonary issues or who need hospital discharge follow-up support.

Remembering Mimi Pfeiffer



The Alumni Association sends condolences to the family of Mimi Pfeiffer upon her passing on December 6, 2014, at age 58 in Wilmington, NC. Mimi was the association's first alumni director, leading it from a fledgling group in 1991 into a well-established organization. By the time she retired in 2002, she had nurtured the group into an active association membership with a strong annual fund campaign supporting 20 annual student scholarships, and two faculty enrichment awards. She then worked part-time as a communications design specialist for the Upstate Foundation. In 2005, Mimi moved with her husband, Rick, to North Carolina where she worked at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Mimi is fondly remembered for being an alumni advocate and dedicated Upstate colleague, as well as for her personal kindness and many talents. She will be missed!

Have you presented, been promoted or published?

Share your story with fellow alumni.

Send your news to: hickeyl@upstate.edu