

## College of Nursing to Get New Home on Upstate Campus

Excitement is growing as faculty, students and staff of the College of Nursing watch the construction of a new Academic Building on campus. For the first time in its more than half-century existence, the College of Nursing will have its own home.

The College will move from its current Cedar Street location into the first floor of the new building west of Weiskotten Hall. Set to open in early 2016, the state-of-the-art facility will transform the learning environment for Upstate nursing students.

"I am so happy about the new building," said Dean Joyce Griffin-Sobel, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN. "Being on campus will expand collaborations with the other colleges, which is essential to our work in interprofessional education, practice and research. We will have far more visibility as a College, both on campus

and to the public, helping us communicate the critical part we play in improving the health of the Central New York community."

Team-based learning, distance learning and interprofessional education will come alive in classrooms rich with technology and labs designed for the 21st century student. A multi-functional space on the fourth floor will seat up to 349 people and will be the largest gathering space on campus.

Nursing students will be at the hub of the campus, with indoor accessibility from the CON to the Clinical Skills Lab, library, hospital and parking garage. In addition, a convenient café will be on the same floor as the College.

**Bambi Carkey, DNP, PMHNP-BC, NPP (MS '00)** joined the faculty in 1982 and has experienced several locations since then. "It's exciting to give up our

nomadic existence and come into a home of our own that's identified as the rightful space of the College of Nursing on the Upstate campus," she commented.

### The Campaign to **Empower Learning Enhance Healing**

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. For more information, call 315-464-4416 or visit [www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni/](http://www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni/)

## 124 Nurses Achieve Advanced Practice Degrees

A distinguished nurse leader at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Linda Burnes Bolton, DrPH, RN, FAAN, was on hand to congratulate students and receive an honorary degree at the Upstate Medical University College of Nursing Commencement Ceremony in May. A total of 124 diplomas were conferred – 36 bachelor's, 85 master's, and three post-master's certificates.

At Cedars-Sinai, Burnes Bolton is vice president for nursing, chief nursing officer and director of Nursing Research, and a principal investigator at The Burns and Allen Research

current president of the American Organization of Nurse Executives.

Student speakers were class valedictorians **Brian Pratt, MS/CNS**, and **Dawn Burr, BSN**. Burr is a certified perianesthesia nurse who works in health information management at Crouse Hospital. Pratt, a critical care RN and the sepsis coordinator at Upstate University Hospital, was an alumni scholarship recipient. "As working adult learners," he said, "the sacrifice and support our families have demonstrated are integral to being a successful student."



*Dr. Linda Burnes Bolton receives hooding regalia for honorary degree from CON Dean Joyce Griffin-Sobel, PhD, RN, and Upstate Interim President Gregory Eastwood, MD*

*Below from left: Brian Pratt, MS/CNS '15; new FNP's Yolanda Brown and Sarah Ntim; Lori Kelly, FNP '15*



The Upstate Medical University Nursing Alumni Association publishes *Nursing In Touch* quarterly. Distribution is free to alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends.

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## FNP Finds Reward in Small Town Primary Practice

Married with two teenage children and four dogs, **Loretta Edinger** still feels energized each day going to work as a Family Nurse Practitioner in Tully, NY.

"I honestly can say that [after more than 17 years in practice] I get up every morning still wanting to go to work."

The majority of the week finds Loretta at the Tully Family Practice where she shares seeing approximately 25 to 30 patients a day with her physician husband. They pride themselves on having served the community for 20 years and love living in a small town.

"We've always made a great team in the practice going back to when I was his charge nurse." Another bonus is, "we live in the same building – half house, half practice – in which we work, so I have no commute."

One day a week, however, Loretta drives to Syracuse to a practice in orthopedic pain management, Musculoskeletal Medicine (MSM). She began as a staff nurse there part time when, as a master's student, she was pressed for time by clinical requirements and raising her family and stopped working full time.

While her passion is family medicine because it allows her to establish long-term relationships with her patients, Loretta comments that, "I also enjoy the diversity that the pain management specialty gives me and learning new pain management techniques from Dr. [John] Finkenstadt."

Upon becoming an FNP graduate, Loretta was asked to stay on at MSM part time, and she returned "almost full time" to the family

practice. Loretta was also tapped by the College of Nursing to serve as a preceptor.

Every semester she has a student in Tully who shadows her or who she monitors with patients. With a minor in education, "I love the role of teaching," she said. She envisions

becoming an educator at the associate degree level where, she says, most learning is concentrated on a clinical, firsthand basis.

"While at that level of learning I found it to be grueling, I was being exposed to everything and I felt like a giant sponge, absorbing so much of what I was seeing and hearing. I would even eavesdrop on physicians when they were in other rooms teaching skills to students. To become a nurse is about something you have to see before you know how to handle it. It's about getting your hands dirty, so to speak."

So it comes full circle for Loretta, like that expression nurses often say – "see one, do one, teach one." And, she continues to do so with a smile on her face.



Loretta (Phillips) Edinger, BS '08, MS/FNP '11

**Looking for a new opportunity? Check out the job postings at [www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni/](http://www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni/)**

## You're Invited!

13th Annual Children at Risk Conference  
"Behavioral Health Challenges"

**September 16, 2015 • 8 am – 4 pm**  
**Holiday Inn, Liverpool**

### Register Online:

[www.upstate.edu/con/programs/cont\\_ed](http://www.upstate.edu/con/programs/cont_ed)

Advanced Practice Skills Workshop  
"From Diabetes to Diagnostics"

**October 2, 2015 • 3 – 7 pm**  
**Weiskotten Hall**

Sponsored by your Nursing Alumni Association

### Register Online:

[www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni](http://www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni)

## Boosting Our Students for Success!

Many students get the critical boost they need from you, our valued alumni and friends, and the scholarships awarded because of your generous donations. The popular Matching Gift Program has been extended through 2015 so that your gift between \$250 and \$5,000 to a scholarship endowment will be matched by The Upstate Foundation, doubling its impact.

Would the matching program allow you to create an endowed scholarship in honor of a loved one while giving nursing students a boost? For details, call Mary Knepper at 315-464-4416 or e-mail [knepperm@upstate.edu](mailto:knepperm@upstate.edu)



## Alumni Scholarship Recipient Getting the Third Degree

While 16-month-old Isabella may not have understood the meaning of a special event she attended with her grandmother, **Denise Hiser-Ruddick, FNP-C '09, BS '07, RNC**, she certainly enjoyed the hugs and cookies that followed. Denise, from Cortland, NY, was there to accept the alumni-supported Nursing Scholarship for Advanced Practice at the College of Nursing's scholarship awards ceremony this spring.

A mother of four grown children, Denise is now also a temporary parent with her husband to their youngest grandchild while Isabella's mother serves in the Army – this while also working and studying for her professional doctorate. It will be Denise's third Upstate degree; she

received her BSN in '07 and her MS/FNP in '09.

Denise works full-time at Upstate University Hospital's Family Birth Center. Not averse to taking back-to-back work shifts, she assists patients during caesareans and difficult deliveries and stabilizes infants in distress. She educates parents on newborn care and, along with education staff, "we develop policies and procedures reflecting evidence-based practices." Denise also works as an RN part-time in St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center's NICU, where she encourages parents to be "active participants in their infant's treatment plan."

"Becoming a 'mother' again has been a big adjustment," Denise



commented. "But I was able to continue my program with my family's support and the fact the DNP program is online. And, the faculty is very supportive of non-traditional students," she added, "and why I returned to Upstate to pursue my DNP."

Her doctoral project will educate families on "Infant Safe Sleep." Part of her alumni scholarship, she noted, will be used toward completing the project.

## Growth Seen in Alumni Scholarship Awards

Springtime on campus brought a growth spurt in alumni financial aid to nursing students, with a number of new scholarships being presented for the first time. Several years ago The Upstate Foundation introduced its Matching Gift Program, which enabled many donors to achieve more than they may have thought they could. The program provided additional dollars to help establish or grow scholarship endowments, several of which are coming to fruition now.

The awards ceremony on May 6 was part of a National Nurses Week event hosted by the College of Nursing. A total of 19 alumni scholarships, or \$15,500, was awarded. The Nursing Alumni Association also assisted The Advocates for Upstate Medical University in awarding two Hennessy Scholarships.

The Barbara Brady Orr Memorial Endowed Nursing Scholarship was established upon Barbara's untimely passing in 2012. She was a longtime Sandy Creek elementary school teacher who became an active volunteer at Upstate University Hospital. Five family members (pictured, with their relationship to Barbara) were on hand

for the ceremony. Crystal Gholipour-Abbasi, the inaugural Barbara Brady Orr Scholarship recipient, said, "I appreciate the opportunity to apply this award to my textbooks, supplies and other resources. College is expensive and this award really helps lighten the burden!"

Additionally, all four of the scholarships established by former College of Nursing Dean Elvira Szigeti, PhD, RN, (including three honoring family members) were given out this year. Other awards introduced were: the SACON Scholarship, created by the Student Association of the College of Nursing; and the Clive R. Jones Memorial Scholarship, established by former faculty member Julia Minoia, MSN, RN, WHNP-C, in memory of her husband, a lifelong learner.

The Matching Gift Program nurtures the growth and strength of the alumni scholarship endowments and many new student awards blossomed this year as a result.



Left to right: Sarah Orr, daughter; Andy Orr, son; Colin Brady, nephew; Lauren Shepard, niece; Steve Brady, brother

Elvira Szigeti, PhD, RN, established four endowed scholarships during her tenure as dean.

Below: Carly Detor (center) receives the Carl H. Neuman / Eastwood Rotary Nursing Scholarship from Eastwood Rotary President Wayne Bodow and Alumni President Barbara Kane.



# Nursing *InTouch*

## Nursing Alumni Association News

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The Campaign to

**Empower Learning**  
**Enhance Healing**

## Will your name be there?

Support equipment, technology, and other needs for the College of Nursing's new home 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.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni/](http://www.foundationforupstate.org/nursingalumni/)

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## COLLEGE NEWS

**Research Events:** More than 100 students from Upstate's four colleges participated with research posters in the annual Charles R. Ross Memorial Student Research Day held March 25. One student from each college was selected to give an oral presentation in front of his/her peers. **Yvonne Quesinberry, BSN '12, RN-C**, in the master's CNS program, was selected to represent the CON presenting her topic: "Higher Level of Safety: A Quality Multidisciplinary Shift Report."



The CON also held its annual poster session for graduate students in April at the Institute for Human Performance. A total of 88 participants shared practice interests on such diverse topics as: early behavioral intervention for toddlers with autism; vitamin D and falls in the elderly; and medical cannabis versus opioids for chronic pain.

**Celebrating American Nurses:** The College presented a free public screening of the documentary, "The American Nurse: Healing America," with a reception as part of the American Nurse Project. About 80 nurses attended, representing nearly all of the regional hospitals and colleges of nursing.

"This moving film showed the variety and scope of a career in nursing, and the caring and compassionate nature of our work," said Dean Joyce Griffin-Sobel. Those who attended were eligible for a continuing education credit through the American Nurse Project.

## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**Vickie Keeler, RN, MA, HNB-BC, PMAC '10** (Nursing Education), and **Deborah Delaney Finger, RN, BSN '14**, presented "Holistic Nursing and Integrative Care: Enhancing Patient and Nursing Satisfaction," in Nursing Grand Rounds in April at the Community Campus of Upstate Medical University.

Keeler works in Pediatric Nephrology and Rheumatology at Upstate, and holds an MA degree in wellness. Last year, she received the Level 6 Award for Upstate's Career Advancement Program, and she has been a member of the American Holistic Nurses Association, becoming certified in 2013. She writes, "My goal is to teach nurses more about holistic/integrative nursing so they can bring it to the bedside, in clinics and in the community. My portion of the grand rounds was to offer nurses and other healthcare providers an introduction to this."

Delaney Finger (*photo*) is nurse manager for the Pediatric Multi Specialty Clinics at Upstate which include these pediatric services: pulmonary, infectious disease and immunology, rheumatology, nephrology, integrative care, and cystic fibrosis. "My part of the presentation," she wrote, "was more about 'care for the caregiver,' involving self care and yoga. I recently obtained my 200-hour teacher certification through the Boston Yoga School and I teach yoga at Upstate and other studios in the area."

