

Danielle Laraque-Arena to Lead Upstate Medical University

The SUNY Board of Trustees appointed Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP, currently chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Maimonides Medical Center and vice president of Maimonides Infants and Children's Hospital of Brooklyn, as president of Upstate Medical University. Laraque-Arena also currently is professor of pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University. Laraque-Arena, who will be the first woman to lead the university, begins her appointment January 14, 2016.

"Dr. Danielle Laraque-Arena is an accomplished professional with precisely the right balance of academic, medical, and community engagement experience needed to lead our esteemed SUNY Upstate Medical University," said SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher.

"This is an exciting time for Upstate, a special time of awareness and anticipation, as we contemplate the arrival of our new president," said Interim University President Gregory L. Eastwood, MD. "I want to welcome Dr. Laraque-Arena and her family – husband Luigi Arena, MD, PhD, and children, Marc and Julia – on behalf of everyone at Upstate."

Read more about Dr. Laraque-Arena at: www.upstate.edu/news/article.php?title=8726



Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP

Dean Simpson: Crafting a Shared Vision for Alumni

"Students are the lifeblood of the college, and alumni are the future of the college," observed Donald D. Simpson, PhD, MPH, CT(ASCP), CM newly installed dean of the College of Health Professions. "Continued involvement by alumni, however, has to be earned and not just expected," he commented. "Upstate gave them the foundation to become the great health care providers they are but to keep alumni involved we, as an institution, must continue to meet their needs."

"The personal connection with alumni already exists through each of CHP's programs," he noted, "through the outstanding chairs and faculty. But our connections should be perceived as college-wide and university-based. As we look ahead as a College for such opportunities, we need to work toward a shared vision."

"Crafting a shared vision for the College and our alumni revolves around collaboration and integrating the academic with the clinical," Simpson said. Much depends on alumni relationships, such as those established at clinical rotation sites.

"Clinical sites are meeting everyone's needs – those of the community, our

students and alumni," he noted. "As a College, we can also ask what continuing education offerings are needed and how we can provide them in an integrated, interdepartmental fashion to alumni. I want to look for ways in which alumni needs are met and that they find value in what we offer them." Increasing access to healthcare and education in rural, underserved communities through alumni involvement is equally important, he said.

Communicating effectively with alumni is key to earning their input, he said, including taking advantage of outreach with social networking and other web-based solutions.

Simpson plans to be personally involved in building alumni connections: "I want to go where the alumni are," such as alumni events, board meetings, and clinical sites. He notes that the new academic building slated to open next year (see inside) "will create proximity for working even more interprofessionally, including with the College of Nursing," which will be housed there with the PA and PT programs.

"Alumni are huge ambassadors for us and they can benefit by being so," added

Simpson. "I look forward to meeting them whenever possible." He invited alumni visiting campus to contact him at SimpsoDo@upstate.edu.



Dean Donald Simpson, PhD, thanks the many Upstate community members who attended his welcome reception in August.

Health Professions

AlumniConnection

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

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Educators **Ronald Angona, Jr., MS, CCP '01**, (left) and **Kevin Neville, PT, MS, CCS**, earned university excellence awards at the fall Faculty Convocation. See the full story at www.upstatefoundation.org/chpalumni.

Students Receive \$27,150 in Alumni Scholarships

Twenty-five health professions students earned financial awards this year, generated through the loyal support of alumni and friends, for a total of \$27,150 in scholarships. This number increased over last year by nearly \$6,000. Congratulations students, and thank you, alumni and friends!

Below are thoughts from two alumni award recipients:

"I am lucky to be a part of such a supportive group at Upstate and I want to thank the alumni association. I look forward to becoming a part of my fellow alumni group in hopes of helping another student like me pursue a successful health professions career."

- Rebecca Bennett, MIS Class of '16, Ken George Scholarship



Rebecca Bennett

"Receiving the Thomas Grady Scholarship is such a blessing. I am proud to attend a school where the alumni are willing to support current students. It's another confirmation that I am in the right place here at Upstate."

- Abigail Whiting, RADT Class of '16, The Thomas Grady Scholarship for Radiation Therapy



Abigail Whiting

White Coat Ceremony: A Noble Beginning



Physical therapy students Amy Potter, John Licata and Alexander Baldwin pose in their white coats.

"This is a big deal," noted CHP Dean Donald Simpson, PhD, at his first White Coat Ceremony on September 2. There were 146 entering students with family members and friends who gathered at the SU Schine Center Goldstein Auditorium. Of the 1,733 applicants to the College, only a select 148 were accepted, he told them.

"This ceremony is a ritual designed to convey that the health professional not only treats but also cares for the patient," he noted. "Its purpose is to join the symbol of the white coat with the virtues of altruism, responsibility, duty, honor, respect and compassion."

"The white coats you have been given are a symbol representing the knowledge you will acquire, the skills you will hone, and the compassion I suspect each of you already has, otherwise you would not have chosen to enter these noble professions," commented **Josie Przepiora, MT'00/MS'10**, alumni association president. "Remember," she added, "true nobility is not a statement about being better than someone else; it is about being better than

you used to be. I challenge all of you to strive toward that nobility."

Joseph Nicoletti, RRT '76, RN, representing event sponsor **Franciscan**



Joseph Nicoletti, Josie Przepiora and Dean Simpson

Companies, spoke about the importance of earning the patient's trust.

Rebecca Bennett, a Medical Imaging senior and Upstate Student Government vice president advised, "Wear your white coat with pride, knowing that you can and will attain the knowledge of your profession to treat patients. You are the future of healthcare. Be proud of that!"



Dean Simpson (center, back) helps give a lift to enthusiastic Med Tech students who volunteered to sell CHP t-shirts at the White Coat event.

PA Grad Finds Reward in NICU

Allison (Ferris) Lewis, PA '12, a member of the Physician Assistant program's second graduating class, says, "I always knew I wanted to be in the medical field and that helping people was something I was passionate about."

With a degree in biology, she chose the PA profession "mainly because of the amount of responsibility that comes with it," she said. So it's not surprising Allison works in the neonatal ICU at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse.

"On a daily basis, I work side-by-side with an attending physician for newborns in need of higher care," she says. There are many challenges in working with very sick infants.

"At any given time, I could be in charge of between 40 to 60 babies. We work very closely with families and

parents. It is difficult to have to be the person that separates a baby from his or her mother, but also extremely gratifying to be able to reunite a baby and the family."

"As difficult as the job can be," she commented, "I enjoy working with this patient population because it is the most rewarding job I could have."

Allison also finds time to be secretary of the CHP Alumni Association board, the first PA graduate to serve. "I enjoy being involved now as an alumna. I like being able to encourage current students through alumni sponsorship of scholarships and other special programs."

Allison's practical experience with infants will come in very handy as she and her husband of two years, Jeff, are expecting their first child in February!



Allison (Ferris) Lewis, PA '12, at work in NICU

COLLEGE NEWS

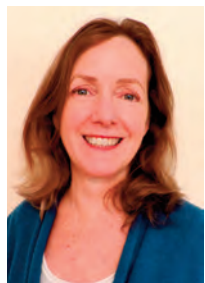
Excitement Grows as New Facility Takes Shape

All PA students, along with those enrolled in the DPT program, will soon benefit from a new learning environment being constructed in the heart of campus. The new building is slated for completion in early 2016 and will house technology-rich classrooms, clinical procedure labs, a PA simulation lab, a café, and the largest gathering space on campus.

"We're thrilled that the Physician Assistant program will no longer be the 'program on a cart,' transporting equipment from classroom to classroom. We're coming home to a beautiful new facility that will increase our students' accessibility to equipment and faculty," said **Sandra Banas, MST, RPA-C, (MT/BS'77)**, program chair. Increased collaboration will also be encouraged with the College of Nursing moving to the facility's first floor.

Students and faculty in the Physical Therapy program are equally "energized about our new facilities," said Katherine Beissner, PT, PhD, program chair, "which will support our mission to inspire students and PT clinicians to be transformative leaders in our profession."

In addition, Clinical Lab Sciences will move into refurbished Weiskotten space and Silverman Hall will be renovated to enhance the remaining CHP programs. An overriding goal is to bring classrooms and labs closer to faculty offices to facilitate interaction between students and faculty and accessibility to labs and equipment.



*Katherine Beissner,
PT, PhD*

learning" at: (315) 464-4416 or www.upstatefoundation.org/chpalumni.

Alumni from all CHP programs are invited to promote excellence in professional education for CHP students with a gift to **The Campaign to Empower Learning • Enhance Healing**. Gifts of \$250 and up will be recognized on a Donor Wall of Distinction. Contributions may be spread over two or three years, and classmates can join for a Class donation. Naming opportunities for classrooms and other spaces are also available. Learn how you can help "empower



The new building will be completed in 2016.

The Campaign to

Empower Learning
Enhance Healing

Will your name be there?

Support equipment, technology, and other needs for the new Academic Building – and renovation of Silverman Hall – 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.upstatefoundation.org/chpalumni

Alumni Connection

Health Professions Alumni Association News

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Before the White Coat Ceremony, students gathered in interprofessional groups to talk about qualities that are important in healthcare professionals. Their word cloud (above) was projected onscreen to close the ceremony.

Self-Assessment Helps MIS Students Hone Their Skills

For decades, practice simulation has been an important educational component of the Medical Imaging program, as well as other CHP programs. Now, in addition to having an instructor's critique on student competencies, newly acquired technology gives each student the ability "to self-diagnose" performance in the lab. This fall, Medical Imaging is using four mobile video cameras and a viewing monitor funded in part by a \$1,500 grant from the Upstate Foundation.

"This equipment is a great learning tool and resource for students to role play as provider and patient, so they can self-critique, gaining insights on what they can improve upon in their practice, from technical procedures to proper positioning and verbal interactions with the patient," said **David Clemente, MIS, '93, program chair**. "It may help develop more quickly the psychosocial and technical skills needed for the profession. We're very excited to have this and to integrate it into the curriculum."

Faculty member Dominick DeMichele, MSED, RT(R)(CT), (left) shows students newly acquired video equipment to improve practice competencies.



The College welcomes Dominick DeMichele, MSED, RT(R)(CT), to the Medical Imaging Sciences program as assistant professor and clinical coordinator. He was chief technologist at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center, and a clinical instructor with CHP for many years. He also was assistant professor in radiology at Monroe and Broome Community colleges.



Connections Renewed at MT Reunion

Nearly 40 Medical Technology graduates, students, and families met at Pratts Falls County Park near Syracuse in September to enjoy a picnic and renew old ties. Alumni were excited to visit with professor emeritus **Harriet Rolan-Mark, MA, MT(ASCP)** (right), who served as program chair and associate dean for many years. Shown with her, left, is current program chair **Susan Graham, MS, MT(ASCP), SH**.

Your gift of \$250 to \$5,000 by Dec. 31 may be eligible for matching!
Donate online at www.upstatefoundation.org/chpalumni/ or call (315) 464-4416.