

DPT, PA and RADT programs move to new home

Following the opening ceremonies for the new Academic Building in early September, three programs of the College of Health Professions now call the \$40.5 million shining structure home – Physician Assistant Studies, Radiation Therapy and Physical Therapy Education. With the College of Nursing's new home located on the first floor, all of these programs benefit greatly by joining together at the heart of the campus where they can work alongside one another. By calling this building the new home for these programs, visibility of both the colleges is raised and faculty and students are brought together to the center of medical education.

"The bricks and mortar have produced a stunning building but most important is the learning environment this building creates by bringing together all our students who gather in the pursuit of knowledge and its application to the compassionate, family-centered and quality care of patients," said Upstate President Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP.

The 80,000 square-foot, five-story structure has connecting corridors that allow a person to walk all the way



President Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, addresses the standing room only crowd at opening ceremonies for the Academic Building.

from Silverman Hall to the west parking garage without having to step outdoors.

"We are most appreciative to the many alumni and friends of both colleges who have generously supported this project," said Mary Knepper, Health Professions and Nursing alumni director. (See donor wall above.) "Their roster reads like a slice of Upstate history, a story that today begins an exciting new chapter."

The Health Professions' programs in Medical Imaging Sciences, Cardiovascular Perfusion and Respiratory



A workman puts the finishing touches on the Donor Wall of Distinction.



PA students assess the "SimMan" in their new state-of-the-art clinical lab.

Therapy will undergo clinical and classroom renovations in Silverman Hall during the next calendar year. The Clinical Laboratory Sciences program will move to larger space in Weiskotten Hall.

LEED certification at the Silver level from the U.S. Green Building Council is being pursued for the facility.



Radiation Therapy program celebrates 50 years.

See inside.



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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Upstate students offer day of service to community



Students clean up at Schiller Park in Syracuse. More than 140 Upstate students, faculty and staff served at six community sites on the **National Day of Service and Remembrance**, held on the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Students participate in many volunteer efforts throughout the year, including a community toy drive for Christmas.

Have you presented, been promoted or published?

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Students appreciate new venue for White Coat Ceremony



Interim CHP Dean and PT Program Chair Katherine Beissner, PhD, PT, welcomes incoming students at white coat event.

also gave students more opportunity to celebrate afterward with their family and friends.

Event sponsor Franciscan Companies was represented by **Joseph Nicoletti, RRT '76, RN**. He advised the new group of 153 incoming students always to focus on the

patient: "As health professionals you represent hope for your patients every time you walk into a patient's room. It is important that all the different disciplines work together well in a team for the good of the patient."

Franciscan Companies has sponsored the White Coat Ceremony for 10 years. CHP alumni comprise most of its senior leadership (see Franciscan Award below) with Nicoletti its executive director of corporate development, sales and clinical services. "Supporting the College is extremely important to all of us," he said. "We take pleasure and pride in our university, and it gives us great joy to support the College."

With the start of this fall's semester, a new spotlight was shone on the White Coat Ceremony. Instead of its traditional weekday niche, the College's welcoming ceremony was held Saturday, August 27, in tandem with the College of Medicine's white coat event, both at the John H. Mulroy Civic Center in downtown Syracuse.

This new venue was selected to place more focus on interprofessional education, welcoming new health professions and medicine students in the same place and on the same day. In addition, the larger space better accommodated student needs, allowing students to invite as many as they liked to the event. The midday, weekend time

Franciscan Companies honored for service

President and CEO Frank L. Smith, Jr. (with plaque) is joined by representatives of Franciscan Companies to accept the 2016 **President's Award for Excellence in Philanthropic Service – Corporate**. Franciscan Companies has significantly supported Upstate for more than 20 years, financially as well as through gifts of time, talent and equipment. Three of the executives shown are Respiratory Therapy alumni. (Left to right) Gregory Fernandez, **Joseph Nicoletti (RRT '76)**, **Timothy Scanlon (RRT '84)**, president and CEO **Frank L. Smith, Jr. (RRT '72)**, Daniel Carelli and Theodore M. Pasinski.



Give online at www.upstatefoundation.org/chpalumni or call (315) 464-4416.

John Ben Snow Memorial Trust grant aids growing DPT program

The CHP Alumni Association recently received a grant of \$10,000 from the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust to enhance student learning in Upstate's Doctor of Physical Therapy program. The award is for acquisition of new equipment "to support the program's increasing class size and optimize learning opportunities afforded by our move to the new Academic Building," according to DPT program chair **Katherine Beissner, PhD, PT**.

The new Academic Building has space for larger classes, allowing for expansion of class size from 33 to 40

students in each year of the three-year program, Beissner explained. "Total program enrollment may increase from 99 to 120. Of the program's graduates, 72 percent stay in New York State to live and work, a trend which we expect will continue," she said.

Equipment purchased through the grant will be used to teach physical therapy students how to work with patients on balance, strength, stability, range of motion, and mobility.



DPT students like Dominick Vilsaint (shown) must learn to use a wheelchair just as a patient would.

RADT program marks 50th year with reunion in new facility

The new Academic Building's splendid fourth floor with its panoramic views was the scene of the Radiation Therapy Program Reunion in October. More than 75 alumni, family, friends and students enjoyed time together and shared memories. The group celebrated the program's historic 50th year and the beginning of a new era in this state-of-the-art facility. Alumni also were given a tour of Upstate's Cancer Center, which opened just two years ago.

Since its inception in 1966 offering an AAS degree, the program has graduated 362 radiation therapists who serve or have served cancer patients across the US. The BS degree was established in 2000. At the program's helm is **Joan O'Brien, MEd, RT(T)**, a steadfast source of knowledge, skills and expert guidance to students during the past four of those five decades. Also playing a main role over the years have been clinical education coordinators, including **Tom Eggleston, AAS, RT(T) '73**, **Bill Sobotor, LRT(T), PhD, Mary Z. Hare, MEd, RT(T), CMD, '79**, and **Elton Garvin, BS, LRT(T) '93**.

"I remember Joan always being enthusiastic as a teacher, and fair but tough as the program director. For many reasons, she is one of my life's heroes," recalled **Craig Hansen,**



Abby Whiting '16, Amy Stefanik '15, Robin Roehm '15, Chelsea Fitzgerald '15, Brianna Rossi '15, and Amelia Weimer '14.



Derek Kurtz '12 with Cindy Smith-Roosevelt '84.



Paul Abbass '06, Tom Ames and Theo Howard-Ames '80, and Vince McDonough '06.

RT(T) '88. Hansen is chief therapist at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire and an administrative surveyor for the American College of Radiation Oncology. "My education prepared me for everything I would encounter in the working world. The rigorous clinical rotations and classwork

ensure that students are well prepared," he noted.

When the program started, Upstate University Hospital was its only clinical site. Since then, the program has affiliated with radiation oncology sites across Upstate

NY and now has 37, where many of the clinical instructors are distinguished alumni.

"I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with wonderful students and with generous alumni who are willing to volunteer their time to work with students in clinical," O'Brien said.

Alumni Connection

Health Professions Alumni Association News

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Students and dignitaries formally open the new Academic Building at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – let the learning begin!

See more on page 1.

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES



Physical Therapy Education welcomed **Lori Maria Walton, PhD, DPT**, to the faculty this fall. Walton completed her doctorate at Nova Southeastern University in 2012, received the DPT from Creighton University and is pursuing an MPH in epidemiology and biostatistics from Johns Hopkins University. Walton's research focuses on international maternal and fetal health programs. She is published in over 20 peer reviewed journals and has presented internationally. She is a member of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars and is an advocate for pro bono physical therapy for vulnerable populations everywhere.



George Gaebler, MSEd, RRT '74, FAARC, retired after 44 years as a respiratory therapist, including serving as director of respiratory care at Upstate University Hospital and president of the American Association for Respiratory Care. In 1983, Gaebler became director and later vice president of CMH Services in Cortland. He returned to Upstate in 1992. For 14 years he was an adjunct instructor and he served 18 years on the Respiratory Care

Program Advisory Committee. Gaebler entered the AARC House of Delegates in 1992, and served 14 years on the board including as president in 2013-14.



Brenda Perez, who joined Upstate in 1986 and has been secretary of the Clinical Laboratory Science department since 2011, has received the prestigious Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service. Her exemplary service includes working with faculty on the CHP Health Careers Shadow Day programs, resulting in 100 percent attendance.

Linda Miller, PhD, MP(ASCP)SI, professor of medical technology, is the co-author and editor of Clinical Immunology and Serology – A Laboratory Perspective, 4th edition. **James Vossler, MS, CLS(NCAML), MT(ASCP)SM '81**, assistant professor, authored two of the chapters.

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