

New College home shines at opening

The name over the door says it all – the College of Nursing has come home!

After decades located several blocks off campus, Nursing students and faculty now enjoy a gleaming new academic facility in the heart of campus. The opening celebration took place on September 7.

The College greatly benefits by moving to the main campus, in close proximity to the other colleges. By calling this building the College's new home, the visibility of both the College and the nursing profession are raised and faculty and students are brought to the center of medical education.

The building facilitates interprofessional education – it is also home to three health professions programs: Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant Studies and Radiation Therapy.

"Opportunities for collaboration across the colleges will enhance our teaching, research and service," said the CON's chief nursing officer and assistant dean for Graduate Studies, **Joyce Scarpinato, DNP, PPCNP-BC, FNP-C '09**. "The classrooms, technology and office spaces are spectacular!"

"I have seen rejuvenation in the short time since we've moved in," said **Roberta Rolland, PhD, RN, FNP (BS '03/MS '05)**, undergraduate program director. She says the move has meant "increased opportunities for faculty to attend journal clubs, professional development or interprofessional activities, and more involvement with Omicron Alpha to promote scholarship and service."

"We are most appreciative to the many alumni and friends of the colleges of Nursing and Health Professions who have generously supported this building project," noted Mary Knepper, Nursing and Health Professions alumni director. "Their roster reads like a slice of Upstate history, a story that has begun an exciting new chapter."

For information on named giving and other opportunities – or to tour the building if you're visiting Syracuse – contact the alumni office.



President Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, addresses the standing room only crowd at opening ceremonies for the Academic Building. With faculty, students, alumni and media on hand, tours followed the ceremony.



A workman puts the finishing touches on the Donor Wall of Distinction, recognizing the many alumni and friends who demonstrated their support for Upstate's educational mission.

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Lynn Cleary, MD, vice president for Academic Affairs, was named interim dean of the College of Nursing in December. **Joyce Scarpinato, DNP, PPCNP-BC, FNP-C '09**, assistant dean for Graduate Studies and director of the DNP program, is also serving as chief nursing officer for the College of Nursing. In addition, Cleary co-chairs a search committee which is working to select a new dean this year.

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

Alumni Director:

Mary Knepper

Writer: Lois Hickey

Design: Marketing & University Communications

Board of Directors list at:

www.upstatefoundation.org/nursingalumni

Address Corrections to:

Nursing Alumni Office
Upstate Medical University
750 E. Adams Street – CAB 326
Syracuse, NY 13210
315-464-4416
nursalum@upstate.edu

Connect online at:

www.upstatefoundation.org/NursingAlumni

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nursalum@upstate.edu

Convocation promotes IPE



Stephen Fournier, market president Central New York, KeyBank, noted, "Nursing is the face of wellness. KeyBank is proud to support Upstate graduates who make a difference in our community."

The College of Nursing's 2016 Convocation was held in the new Academic Building in September – the first official event after the ribbon cutting ceremony. The College welcomed 137 incoming students. A survey of the new students revealed that most work full-time, nearly half have children and, not surprisingly, their main

challenge is to balance their time successfully with school, work and family.

Core members of Upstate's Interprofessional Education (IPE) Committee – representing the colleges of Nursing, Health Professions and Medicine – presented an overview of IPE and facilitated a discussion with students.

Presenters included **Bambi Carkey, DNP, PMHNP-BC, NPP (MS '00); Joanne (Jody) Coppola, MS, RN, FNP '06; Carol Recker Hughes, PhD, MA, PT '79;** and Ann Botash, MD. They explained that case-

based activities among NP, PA, MD and PT students, such as PT students sharing expertise with medical students at musculoskeletal examinations, and other collaborations build mentoring, teaching, critical thinking, communication and listening skills

"The IPE Committee has been working for over a year to develop and promote IPE activities across all colleges," reported **Sandra Banas, MST, RPA-C, (MT '77)**, Physician Assistant Studies chair. "Student and faculty feedback has been positive so we continue to work toward this goal."

Students are encouraged to team up for community service projects too, such as the 9/11 Remembrance Day of Service. IPE is a university-wide strategic initiative.



From left, faculty members Jodie Brown, Roberta Rolland and Joyce Scarpinato welcomed incoming students with a lamp of knowledge pin from the alumni association.

RN TO BS TO GO ONLINE

The College of Nursing plans to launch a fully online RN to BS program in Spring 2018 using technology to bring students together in virtual communities.

Some technologies using ZOOM, Adobe Connect and Google Drive in the current program are already receiving positive student feedback.

Watch for more details!



Expertise, compassion with international reach

Following graduation magna cum laude last May as a psychiatric nurse practitioner, **Brandy (Boucher) Baillargeon** joined a two-week medical mission to Ghana, Africa, with Americans Serving Abroad. She believes her medical team made a real difference, seeing about 1,000 patients in four isolated villages.

“Whether we offered them a toothbrush, prescription or complex wound care, they all were so grateful to receive it. We gave them everything we could.” Baillargeon resourcefully made splints for one baby with clubfeet by using tongue depressors, ace bandages and high-top sneakers. “Some children merely wanted to be seen and cared for. It was an experience I will never forget. Ghana will always have a place in my heart.”

Baillargeon conducted a survey of 100 patients there regarding mental health perceptions to develop resources she will use as she continues in her doctoral work. A member of Sigma



In Ghana, Brandy Baillargeon, MSN, FMHPNP '16, cared for villagers of all ages including young Amina, a child with a serious infection (left), and a two-day newborn with mother.



Theta Tau and a 2015 alumni scholarship recipient, Baillargeon works in a Watertown family mental health clinic. Her husband, an army soldier, inspires

her to work closely with military families. “I most prefer working with children, especially those with disabilities, as I have a disabled child of my own.”

Advocate for global health nursing

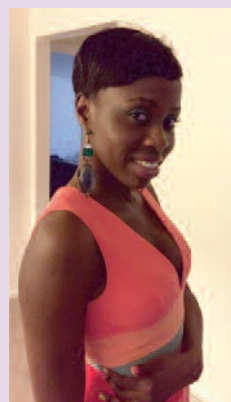


Brooke Fraser, BSN '14, RN, with a little girl being discharged from the Jimma Hospital in Ethiopia.

Brooke Fraser, BSN '14, RN, recently shared her varied global health nursing experiences with Upstate RNs at a Nursing Grand Rounds. A 17-year charge nurse in pediatric oncology at the Golisano Children's Hospital, she served recently in Africa. On three prior medical missions she traveled in groups from Upstate to help run clinics in El Salvador. This time she ventured alone to work with nurses in Jimma, Ethiopia, for the Aslan Project to help develop their pediatric oncology program. Fraser wrote a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) to help them “focus their energies moving forward.” Pleased with

her work, they asked Fraser to return, which she plans to do upon graduating with the MS/FNP degree in May.

Student scholar plans return to Ghana



Miriam Asare, MS/FNP Class of 2017

The 2016 **Colleen O'Leary, MD, Endowed Scholarship** was awarded to **Miriam Asare, MS/FNP Class of 2017**. Asare was inspired to become a nurse when in her native Ghana she ingested poisonous mangoes and a very caring and compassionate nurse saved her life. After graduation, Asare plans to return to help advance the practice of nursing

in her homeland. Among other Upstate volunteer activities, she organized a clothing drive for Ghana.

“This scholarship is of great assistance in helping me achieve my goal of becoming a nurse practitioner and in bringing me closer to one day returning to Ghana to educate nurses in CPR and sterile techniques and to develop 911 call centers.”



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

See more on page 1.

CLASS NOTES



Michael Allain, RN, MS '09, representing the alumni association at Convocation this fall.

Michael Allain, RN, MS '09, ACNS-BC, CCRN, CEN, was elected the new president of the Nursing Alumni Association Board of Directors in September. “My goal is to increase awareness of the association itself, and how it can help not only

nurses in school but alumni as well,” he said. With 15 years in critical care, Allain is a clinical nurse specialist for Critical Care and Emergency Services at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse. “I have found it most rewarding to be able to take care of

people when they are at their worst and watch them get better, and to support other nurses in doing the same,” he said. In 2014, the Emergency Nurses Association gave Allain the National Clinical Nurse Specialist Award. He recently completed a term as president of the Omicron Alpha chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.



Roxanne Taylor, MS/CNS '06, RN, NE-BC

Roxanne Taylor, MS/CNS '06, RN, NE-BC, retired last summer as deputy director of Nursing with 14 years at Upstate. She started as a vascular access RN, then moved on to radiology and nursing lead-

ership. Taylor became the first nurse director of Radiology in 2005. She noted that in this nontraditional nursing role, “I brought to the table caring for the patient as a whole, not just as a chest X-ray.” She instituted processes for patient safety and earned the Nursing Excellence Award in Radiology. She remains professionally active, including teaching Basic Patient Care for Medical Imaging Sciences. “I really don’t see me ever hanging up my nursing cap!”

Kristi Shaver, MS '14, CNS, RN, CDE, co-authored with Rachel Hopkins, MD, and Ruth S. Weinstock, MD, PhD, Management of Adults with Diabetes and Cognitive Problems in the American Diabetes Association’s *Diabetes Spectrum* journal, November 2016 (Vol.2, No. 4). Shaver is education team leader at Upstate’s Joslin Diabetes Center.



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