

Alumna finds rewarding path in pediatric nurse management

Amie Lorini, RN, BS '14, made the change from adult to pediatric nursing early in her 20-year career. "I quickly found out that participating in a child's recovery is the most rewarding feeling." She joined Upstate in 1999 on the pediatric hematology/oncology unit and shifted to the pediatric surgical unit (PSU), becoming a charge nurse there as soon as it opened in 2003. "That's where I have made my home," she said.

With years at the bedside in this leadership role, in 2014 Lorini completed the BSN degree *summa cum laude* from Upstate while working and raising a family. With degree in hand, "I decided to take the plunge. I felt ready to take on the challenge of management," beginning as assistant nurse manager in the PSU. Lorini undertook staff scheduling, performance evaluations, staff coaching and mentoring, while still performing some patient care.

In 2016, Lorini moved up to become her unit's nurse manager to include the support pool, "making certain the staff has the resources necessary to provide the best possible care to the children and

families on our unit." She's responsible for staff hiring, performance counseling, budget monitoring, productivity, customer satisfaction and quality improvement initiatives.



Amie Lorini, RN, BS '14

"I truly enjoy my role as nurse manager. I love the team I work with, and am grateful for the opportunity to support and help them develop as professionals. I am also part of an amazing leadership team. We are doing wonderful things in quality and safety for the pediatric population." They are in a network known as Solutions for Patient

Safety, she noted, and have different teams comprised of multidisciplinary members focused on improvement initiatives for specific HACs (hospital-acquired conditions).

In the near future, Lorini plans to obtain leadership certification. She's also raising two small children, so further down the line her goal is a master's in administration. "In the meantime, I enjoy spending as much time as possible with my family while continuing to learn and grow as a nurse manager."

BSN Program

The BSN degree program is a flexible, upper division program for RNs with associate degrees or diplomas in nursing. The program prepares the student to deliver comprehensive care to patients of all ages in an array of settings as a direct care provider and as a nursing leader.

Most full-time students complete degree requirements in two years. Part-time students taking two or three courses per semester will complete the degree in three to four years. Degree requirements must be completed within 5 years of matriculation.

Many classes are offered fully online or in a hybrid format. Plans are underway to be fully online in the future to best accommodate the busy schedules of working nurses.

For more information, visit upstate.edu/con/programs/bs/

PLEASE HELP!

The College of Nursing requests your assistance through a 1-2 minute survey to enable us to accurately report on alumni activities and identify areas where we may be able to improve programs. This data is also needed for grant applications that could provide financial assistance for the College.

To complete the survey, visit <https://redcap.upstate.edu/surveys> and enter code M733LXYKM.



To get there quicker, scan this QR code.

Questions? Contact Alice Boyce at boycea@upstate.edu

Thank you!

The search for a new dean for the College of Nursing is moving forward, with applicants being interviewed through the summer. Now settled into its new home on campus, the College is well-positioned to attract the finest candidates. The search committee hopes to name the new dean by the end of the year.



Looking for a new opportunity?

Check the latest job postings at www.upstatefoundation.org/nursingalumni

New endowed scholarship honors alumna/professor



*Melanie Kalman, PhD, CNS '92, RN
Professor
Assistant Dean for
Research and Scholarship
College of Nursing*

Thanks to an anonymous donor and a challenge met, a new scholarship endowment has been created to honor longtime faculty member and alumna **Melanie Kalman, PhD, CNS '92, RN**. Kalman's achievements were previously recognized with the 2009 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

In establishing the endowment, the donor noted, "Dr. Kalman is highly respected by her peers and by all who come through her classroom. Her reputation as a student-centered educator who expects excellence deserves to be recognized." Endowing the scholarship allows it to be awarded in perpetuity, recognizing Dr. Kalman's contributions to nursing education and the nursing profession for generations to come.



*Terry Jean Yonker
RN, MS, FNP-BC
FMHPNP
Class of 2018
2017 Kalman
Scholarship recipient*

The first Kalman Scholarship was awarded in Spring 2017 to Terry Jean Yonker RN, MS, FNP-BC, a member of the Family Mental Health Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Class of 2018. "My goal is to practice in a rural underserved area using an evidence-based model that integrates primary care, family practice, addiction medicine, and behavioral health," said Terry. "I am grateful to the Association and scholarship sponsors who have made these awards possible."

This year the Nursing Alumni Association awarded 27 scholarships totaling \$27,750, the most scholarships and the highest dollar amount in the history of the alumni association. This is only possible through the loyal and consistent support of our generous nursing alumni.

To give to the Melanie Kalman, PhD, CNS, RN, Endowed Nursing Scholarship or other Nursing Alumni fund of your choice, call 315-464-4416 or visit www.upstatefoundation.org/nursingalumni

Technology, training and transitions are focus of recent faculty research

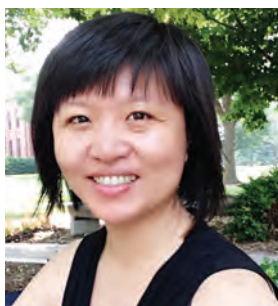
Assistant Professor Shuhong Luo, EdD, MSN, RN, has designed and developed a mixed methods research design app collaborating with Dr. John W. Creswell. The app provides expert consultations for users to learn and use mixed methods research. Drs. Luo and Creswell described their process in the article, "Designing and developing an app for a mixed methods research design approach," published in *International Journal of Design for Learning*, 7(3), 62-71 in 2016.

Dr. Luo also encourages nursing students to think beyond traditional boundaries of the nursing profession and become more innovative in technologies design, development, and implementation. Under her direction, undergraduate students made plans to develop their own apps that either help patients' self-management

or help healthcare providers improve the quality and safety of patient care and clinical practice.

In addition, to improve meaningful learning in technology education so nursing students are able to meet the informatics requirements of Quality and Safety Education so Nursing competencies, Dr. Luo designed and developed a 12-step technology training protocol following a simplified experiential learning model that addressed the core features of meaningful learning: to connect new knowledge with students' prior knowledge and real-world workflow. The protocol can be used not only for new software training, but also in any new procedural or performance training. This work was published in the 2017 *Nursing Forum*, 1, 1-8.

Dr. Luo is also helping Upstate University Hospital's emergency department to develop and validate a new fall risk assessment screening tool for triage nurses.



Shuhong Luo, EdD, MSN, RN



Helen Clancy, DNP, MBA, LNHA

Care Bundles: Easing the Transitions to Long-Term Care

by Helen Clancy, DNP, MBA, LNHA, was published in the July issue of *Nursing Management*. Before becoming an assistant professor at the College of Nursing, Clancy spent more than a decade as a Nursing Home Administrator. In that position, she found that transitioning a family member into a nursing home for permanent placement was always a challenge. She did a literature review and developed a care bundle to address admissions so the family, resident and staff all work together to make a good transition for the patient. "Families know their loved one best so it is very important to draw on their knowledge during this difficult time," she noted.

Alumni recognized for innovative new medical device

Upstate University Hospital critical care nurses **Sherod Harris, BSN, RN, CCRN** and **Trina Skeele, BSN, RN, (FNP Class of 2018)** have been in the news lately for innovation and entrepreneurship. Together they founded Harris Skeele Corp., a medical device start-up focused on helping to reduce CAUTIs, or catheter associated urinary tract infections.

At the recent Medical Device Innovation Challenge hosted by Upstate's CNY Biotech Accelerator, the product created by Harris and Skeele was selected as a winner. Their SafeDwell GU device is a urinary catheter securement device. It is designed to aid in "Point of Care" identification of dwell time (how long the catheter has been in a patient's bladder).



From left: Robert Corona DO, MBA, director of the CNY Biotech Accelerator; 2015 nursing alumni Trina Skeele and Sherod Harris; and David Amberg, PhD, Upstate's vice president for Research; at the Medical Device Innovation Challenge.

As challenge winners, Harris and Skeele will be able to continue work on their product with free use of Accelerator facilities, including the "creation garage" and 3D printer where ideas are turned into prototypes. They will also have access

to the expertise of community business partners for consultation and guidance through the regulatory process and product marketing.

Last November, Harris and Skeele presented at the Upstate Nursing Innovation and Entrepreneur Summit, sharing lessons learned in surviving medical device development. The Summit was held in partnership with the College of Nursing and the CNY Biotech Accelerator.

Skeele, director of Patient Safety for the Emergency Medicine Group at Upstate University Hospital, told the audience, "Innovation happens one step at a time. Don't be intimidated. Knowing that you are going to make life better for others will drive you."

108 diplomas conferred at Commencement



NASA physician/astronaut Michael R. Barratt, MD, received an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree.

At Commencement ceremonies in May, the College of Nursing awarded 103 degrees and 5 certificates: 23 BSN, 76 MSN, 4 DNP and 5 post-master's certificates.

An honorary doctor of science degree was awarded to keynote speaker Michael R. Barratt, MD. Barratt is a NASA physician/astronaut dually trained in medicine and aerospace medicine. He played a role in developing NASA's space medicine programs for both the Shuttle-Mir Program and the International Space Station.

Representing the Class of 2017 were student speakers **Taylor Solak**, (BSN program), **Allyson Kemp** (MSN program) and **Florence Mandebvu**, (DNP program). All three were recipients of alumni scholarships at some point during their time as students.

Mandebvu remarked on the leadership role that nurses have historically played in improving patient outcomes. "Florence Nightingale... was willing to take a hard look at complex problems, collect data, analyze [it], and create innovative solutions based on evidence, followed by measuring the effectiveness of the interventions. As an early leader in nursing, Nightingale collaborated with Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first female physician, who is celebrated on the Upstate Medical University campus," she continued. "Both [women]



Friends, family and future colleagues celebrate the graduates' big day.



Florence Mandebvu, DNP '18, RN, GCNS-BC, prepares to give her remarks.

understood the importance of interprofessional collaboration. Our strength as nurse leaders lies in our ability to work collaboratively, empower others, and be the patient advocate by providing ethical, patient-centered care."

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Nursing *InTouch*

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Nursing In Touch is published by the Upstate Medical University Nursing Alumni Association. Distribution is free to alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends.

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Crouse Hospital
Medical Advisor, Transfusion Services,
Laboratory Alliance of Central New York

Working Wisely

Strategies to help providers manage psychiatric patients with comorbidities.

Bambi Carkey, DNP, PMHNP-BC, NPP

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