

## New dean, Dr. Tammy Austin-Ketch, poised for exciting developments

In January, **Tammy Austin-Ketch, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP**, became the dean of Upstate Medical University College of Nursing. After two decades of serving as a clinical professor and assistant dean of the MS/DNP programs at the University of Buffalo's School of Nursing, Dean Austin-Ketch is ready to share her knowledge and passion and accomplish her goals for the college.

"We have dedicated faculty, who have fantastic ideas to assist in reaching our goals," said Austin-Ketch. "Our college must be nimble, as healthcare is nimble. If we are not, we will be left behind." One of the dean's goals is to improve education for nurses while supporting them with their needs of balancing school and working in the field. Austin-Ketch said, "There has been a continuous movement toward nurses having higher educational standards. The newly passed BSN-in-10 legislation will allow nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training." Austin-Ketch noted that it is an exciting time as the college, its students and administration have a strong bond, tremendous support and encouragement from leaders like Upstate University Hospital Chief Nursing Officer Nancy Page, MS, RN, NEA-BC.

Austin-Ketch and her team are focused on their students receiving the highest standards in education, thus improving high-quality patient care and driving Upstate's quest for Magnet designation.

"Offering an online RN to BSN, as well as a post-grad DNP program, while supporting those who are not as familiar with the technical aspect will be another important focus," added Austin-Ketch. "The College of Nursing, along with its hospital campuses, wide variety of health services, specialty clinics and patient care, is unique to Upstate, which strengthens and improves the life of citizens of upstate



New York as BSN, DNP, FNP, and PNP nurses are deployed into our community," said Austin-Ketch.

The new dean also realizes the importance of the college's alumni. "We want to understand the experiences our alumni had at the college. We expect to meet with them and gather information as the alumni association and philanthropy work in partnership with the college," said Austin-Ketch.

In keeping with the Upstate mission, Austin-Ketch intends to increase visibility, selectiveness, diversity, connectedness and standards in all nursing programs offered at the college. The college's highly qualified team of faculty, staff and students will help build upon the successes of the past while looking toward the future to achieve their vision.

"Syracuse feels like home. I belong here," said Austin-Ketch.

## DNP student will represent Upstate at 2018 World Conference in San Francisco

As a nursing alumna, member of Sigma Theta Tau and recent DNP graduate at Upstate Medical University **Brandy Baillargeon** was chosen to represent the College of Nursing at the 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Nursing Care in San Francisco, presenting her doctoral project to the nursing research and education community from across the world.



*Brandy Baillargeon, MSN '16,  
RN, FMHPNP-BC, DNP '18*

Her project was designed to determine the prevalence of screenings (informal and formal) administered by school nurses in New York State to identify depressive symptoms in adolescents.

The information collected during the project will be utilized to provide insight to school nurses and officials regarding current practice of screening as well as barriers and benefits to specific screening tools in hopes of aiding in future implementation of a more effective screening process. Since early detection of depressive symptoms

in adolescents within New York State schools can offer more timely access to mental health services, this project can help to identify current screening practice among NYS school nurses and may provide schools with more effective alternatives.

## Nursing *InTouch*

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

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## College of Nursing receives \$1.8 million federal grant to meet a regional need

A four-year grant of more than \$1.8M to the College of Nursing at Upstate Medical University from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be used to increase the number of family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners in rural communities and in medically underserved communities, such as Syracuse.

The grant is part of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education Training program (BHWET) and is designed to develop a culturally competent and diverse workforce.

The grant will be used primarily to expand the college's recruitment efforts to attract nurses from the targeted communities to its master's and doctorate degree programs that specialize in family psychiatric mental health. The nurse practitioner students focus on the management of patients with psychiatric disorders and comorbidities, such as substance abuse, and the integration of behavioral health into primary care. Upon graduation, the expectation is that these FPMHNPs will practice in medically underserved and/or rural areas.

According to **Bambi A. Carkey, DNP, PMHNP-BC, NPP, (MS '00)**, the first year of the grant will provide up to 20 stipends to nurses enrolled in the college's Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (FPMHNP) master's degree program. Up to 3 stipends will be provided to FPMHNPs enrolled in the college's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program. The number of stipends will increase each of the remaining three years.

"We are very excited about this HRSA award," said Carkey, assistant professor in the College of Nursing. "Given the



From left, Bambi Carkey, DNP, PMHNP-BC, NPP; Alice Boyce; Joyce Scarpinato, DNP, PCNP-BC, FNP-C; and Karen Klingman, PhD, RN

economic challenges of today, this support will enable more nurses to seek advanced practice education and help to meet critical and complex behavioral health care needs in our medically underserved and rural communities."

"As the director of the FPMHNP program and principal investigator on this grant, I am grateful to be part of our dedicated (HRSA-BHWET) team: Grant Director Karen Klingman, Data Manager Alice Boyce and Joyce Scarpinato, who is assistant dean for Graduate Programs and director of the DNP Program," said Carkey.

In addition to providing stipends, the grant will:

- increase the college's capacity to provide clinical experiences in behavioral health care for rural communities and those which are medically underserved.
- enhance the education of FPMHNP students, clinical preceptors and faculty through the dynamics of working on interprofessional teams.
- add a student success specialist who will support stipend recipients and additional FPMHNP faculty will be jointly appointed to the college of Nursing and the Department of Psychiatry.

Source: UpOnline, Oct. 19 to Oct. 26, 2017 issue



## Looking for a new opportunity?

Check the latest job postings at [www.upstatefoundation.org/nursingalumni](http://www.upstatefoundation.org/nursingalumni)



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Named after the longtime former dean of the College of Nursing, the Szigeti Society recognizes donors who have given lifetime gifts of \$2,500 or more to the alumni association and/or have given annually for 10 or more consecutive years. Special thanks go to founding members who have given for 25 years – every year since the alumni association was formed.

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## Outstanding Faculty at Upstate



*Dr. Roberta Rolland*

**Roberta Rolland, PhD, RN, FNP (BS '03/MS '05)**, director of Undergraduate Programs, has received the prestigious President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. But that is merely a sliver of Rolland's accomplishments. Rolland has taught nearly every course in the BS program and graduate program while generating innovative initiatives for student learning. Rolland serves on

numerous committees within the College of Nursing including Leadership Council, the Admissions Committee, the Outcomes and Evaluation Committee and is the chair of the Curriculum and Development Committee, among others.

Rolland donates her time to the local and international chapters of Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society for Nursing, encouraging student involvement and membership. She has presented countless topics, has led many university activities, and published in numerous nursing journals.

Rolland received both her MS and BS degrees at Upstate Medical University. She received a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from Binghamton University. Rolland is principal investigator, in collaboration with University of South Florida for the research project, "Military Veterans Transitioning to the Role of Civilian Nursing Student." Rolland said, "We have a shortage of nurses in the military and civilian sector. We want to identify the obstacles and barriers and gain understanding of military veterans transitioning to the role of a nursing student in a civilian nursing program." She presented this topic at the Sigma Theta Tau International 44<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Indianapolis last fall.

# Nursing InTouch

Nursing Alumni Association News

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*Nursing Alumni Director Mary Knepper (left) meets with Dean Tammy Austin-Ketch to discuss exciting new developments at the college. Read more on page 1.*

## ALUMNI NEWS

### Alumni tour College's new home

**Ann McDonald, AAS '66, Jeri Gallauresi, AAS '66 and Joyce Scarpinato, DNP, PCPNP-BC, FNP-C '09** met with **Mary Knepper**, Nursing alumni director for a tour of the new College of Nursing.

McDonald and Gallauresi have been friends since their time at Upstate when they received their AAS Nursing degrees in 1966; McDonald's husband is a medical college alumnus. McDonald and Gallauresi get together when McDonald is in town for the Medical Alumni Reunion weekend.

"Jeri and I were so impressed with the new facilities for the nursing school. I am sure the students know how lucky they are to be able to obtain a quality education in such an amazing facility," said McDonald. "We thoroughly enjoyed the tour! The new facility is beautiful and the 'old' buildings brought back many memories. The improvements at the hospital are amazing," added Gallauresi.



*Left to Right: Jeri Gallauresi, Ann McDonald and Joyce Scarpinato*

Now on the main campus, nursing students and faculty greatly benefit by being in close proximity to the other colleges. The visibility of both the College and the nursing profession are raised and faculty and students are brought to the center of medical education.

If you're ever in town and would like to see the new facility, contact the alumni office.

### Congratulations!

**Connie Randolph, RN '05, MS, CNS, CCCC**, is Upstate University Hospital's new Heart Failure Program Coordinator. Randolph has over 18 years of experience with Upstate Nursing, most recently as the Advanced Practice Resource Nurse (APRN) for Cardiac Services. Prior to that role Randolph was the Heart Failure and Chest Pain Coordinator at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center. She is certified as a Cardiac Care Coordinator from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care and also serves on multiple committees dedicated to Cardiac Care. Randolph has also published evidence-based practice articles based on her research.

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