

Health Professions Alumni Connection

Health Professions Alumni Association News

Spring 2014

ALUMNI PROFILE

Alumna Dances in Worldwide Competition

The “Dancing with the Stars” contest has nothing on one Upstate alumna’s experience competing at the highest level internationally for ballroom dance. **Ilona Prouty, PT ‘98**, and husband Andrew, represented the U.S. dancing the rumba and other Open Latin Division styles at the World DanceSport Federation World Championships in Salsomaggiore, Italy, last November.

“There were 82 couples and eight heats – the size of this competition was something I never remotely experienced!” commented Ilona, who is also the founder and president of the Syracuse Chapter of DanceSport USA. The duo has 15 years together on the dance floor.

Ilona’s enthusiasm for dance began in Poughkeepsie where she started ballet lessons at age three and later starred in her high school musical. Dance, however, took a back seat as she obtained a degree in psychology and worked as a school youth counselor. When she came to Syracuse years later for her master’s in physical therapy, her love of dance was rekindled at ballroom dance parties, where she also met Andrew.

What transpired was a whirlwind of dancing together socially, performing at dance exhibitions and, ultimately,



“a surprise marriage proposal before 200 of our dancing friends. We competed for the first time on our honeymoon in 2005,” Ilona noted. “We dreamed of winning a national competition together.”

In April 2013, they did just that at the USA Dance Senior 2 National Latin Championship in Los Angeles. The call came last September to compete across the Atlantic.

Placing better than midway – 40th – was more than they anticipated in their first, such high-level competition. “Our ultimate dream became a reality,” she said. Ilona also felt privileged to be one of two selected to recite the Athlete’s Oath during the opening ceremonies.

According to Ilona, her combined experience in PT and dance makes for “perfect synergy” in her PT job at

Crouse Hospital. Specializing in treatment of vestibular and balance disorders, “I use my critical eye as a dancer to identify minute deviations in movement patterns. I have taken my dance training techniques or exercises, such as turning skills, and adapted them for my patients.” Conversely, she believes, “the in-depth knowledge PTs possess of the body, especially anatomy, has given me an advantage to learning proper ballroom dance technique.”

Inside this issue: Thanks to our 2013 Donors!

“I want to express my heartfelt thanks for renewing my alumni scholarship! It was an honor to be selected for renewal as I know there are so many deserving students and a limited number of funds. I know the alumni rarely get to hear a thank you from the recipients, and I want to make sure they know how appreciative I am of their investment in my education. Thanks again, and God bless!”

– Ann Iannotta, DPT ‘15, CHP Alumni Scholarship



Check inside for more messages on how your gift to the 2013 Health Professions Alumni Campaign made a difference!

Health Professions

Alumni Connection

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Thank You to our 2013 Donors!

We extend our gratitude to the alumni, faculty, students and friends who contributed to the 2013 annual campaign, including restricted funds and endowments. Donors are listed below according to gifts received between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.

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Named in honor of respected pediatrician, epidemiologist and public health administrator A. Clement Silverman, the society represents donors who have given lifetime gifts of \$2,500 or more to the alumni association, or have given annually for 10 or more consecutive years. Special thanks go to founding members who have given for 21 years – every year since the alumni association was formed.

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"I was ecstatic when I found out that I was awarded the

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that this was a big
accomplishment.

I am very grateful."

— Alex Tabone, RTBS '15

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"I was thrilled when I received the CHP alumni scholarship! It has greatly

helped me with my finances, especially since I'm an international student. I've had a much easier time focusing on my schoolwork rather than worrying about depleting my savings, and I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to the CHP Alumni Association for selecting me as a recipient. It is truly an honor!"
 — Yiming (Mike) Liu, CP '15

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"I am honored to accept this scholarship. It is wonderful to receive

an award created for a caring and compassionate physical therapist who was an integral part of the Upstate community."
 — Abigail Lynch, DPT '13 - Kevin J. Reistrom, PT Memorial Scholarship



Health professions students and faculty filled the lobby of Silverman Hall to greet US Representative Daniel Maffei at the College's recent Leadership Coffee. The Congressman speaks with faculty member and alumnus **Adam Rufa, PT '02/DPT '08**, (right) along with Physical Therapy Program Chair Susan Miller, PT, DPT, MS, and Respiratory Therapy Program Chair and alumnus **Joseph Sorbello, MEd, RRT, RT '73**.

Alumni Connection

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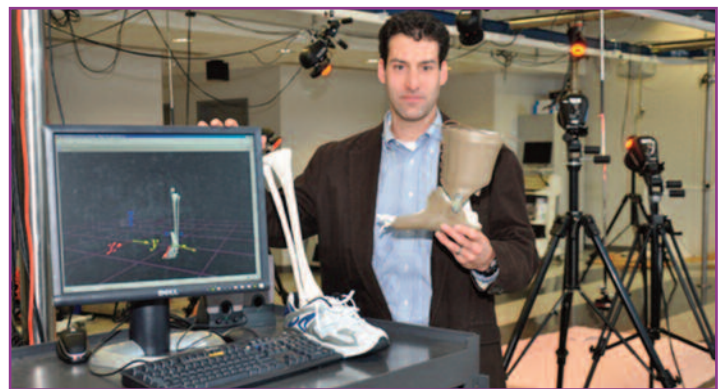
ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Sophia Lustrinelli, BS/MT '85, has been named interim director of the Clinical Laboratory, Department of Pathology at Upstate University Hospital. Sophia succeeds **Karla Lauenstein, BS/MT '75** (pictured), who retired from Upstate in December after more than 39 years of dedicated service.



FACULTY UPDATES

A four-year study funded by the National Institutes of Health to determine treatment for a common flatfoot disorder is being led by **Christopher Neville PT, PhD**, associate professor of Physical Therapy. The Upstate clinical trial will test various ankle braces used to treat flatfoot due to Posterior Tibial Tendon Dysfunction in adults over 40. Findings will determine which brace design is most successful for clinical use and provide insight for future device development.



Share Your Memories!

Help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Upstate's Downtown and Community hospitals. If you have memories/artifacts of the construction of either hospital, please contact Susan Keeter, keeters@upstate.edu or 315-464-4834.

Take a walk down Memory Lane at whatsupatupstate.wordpress.com

50 YEARS
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