

CLASS NOTES

1949

Stuart K. Cohan, of Houston, TX, writes, "I just turned 93 and can still talk medicine with my two grandchildren, who are doctors."

1950 Reunion

APRIL 24, 2021

1955 Reunion

APRIL 24, 2021

1956

Michael L. Del Monico, of Raleigh, NC, is adjusting to North Carolina weather. "It is better here with family, but I still miss New York."

John G. Egner, of West Islip, NY, is still hanging in there at 91 and may be one of the oldest of his class. "Hope all is well," he writes. "I miss my days in medical school. I remember our anatomy instructor, Dr. Armstrong, who was relentless in our dissections, and made us all benefit from that great medical education that Upstate provided for us. I am indebted to him and all our teachers and instructors at Upstate. They all made my life one that I would never regret and one that I loved. It's been a good road for me and I look back on it and rejoice on attending school where they molded me into a physician and provided me the abilities to lead the life that I have lived and loved. I am in the twilight of my years now and wouldn't change a thing."

1959

Myron Miller, of Baltimore, MD, continues to work part-time teaching medical residents, now by use of Zoom and other video sharing programs. "Slowly emerging from COVID-19 shutdown, but still a long way to go before any semblance of normalcy returns," he writes.

distancing, my string quartet has been put on hold. During the interlude, I have decided to teach myself the piano and am very much enjoying it."

1960 Reunion

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Richard J. Lubera '59

Robert Penner '56 of Chula Vista, CA, recently received a Bronze Telly Award for his efforts with the San Diego start-up Color Butler, to help those with color vision deficiency. The Color Butler iPhone App uses a patented approach to help people dress for success by color matching their clothes. This is useful for people who are visually impaired through color blindness and are unable to properly judge colors and color matching. He himself has lived with color vision deficiency his entire life.

Richard J. Lubera, of Grosse Pointe, MI, was excited to join a large medical group in August 2019 after 53 years in private practice. "I feel very privileged to still have an active practice and be assisting my patients during this COVID-19 crisis through working at the hospital and utilizing telemedicine at my office. As a 1959 graduate, my classmates and I would never have imagined the telemedicine technology that we use today to help our patient. My wife, Liz, and I both feel very blessed by our wonderful family and we celebrated our 62nd wedding anniversary on June 14. Because of social

Jerome Glazer, of Boca Raton, FL, and his wife are surviving the virus. Their two sons are physicians and are working hard helping patients with the virus. "Best Regards," he writes.

Frank J. Weinstock, of Boca Raton, FL, is enjoying retirement. "I totally recommend it. If you are in the area call us at 561-368-8376."

1961

A. Stephen Casimir, of Scottsdale, AZ, and wife Sally have spent the past 18 years as snow birds, wintering in Arizona and returning to their lake

home in Greene, NY, in June. "Not this year," he writes. "Folks back East have strongly suggested that we not travel home, but remain in Arizona, and so we will. We will experience firsthand what the dry heat and dust storms of an Arizona summer are really like. Let us hope that we will be able to have a 60th reunion next year and that we will be able to attend. Be well; stay well."

Howard R. Nankin, of Columbia, SC, joined the new medical school at the University of South Carolina, in Columbia, SC, as a faculty member. "Over the years, I had great colleagues," he writes. "We did patient care, teaching, and endocrine research. Retirement came in three stages and was completed on December 31, 2008. That was followed by a 17-week master gardener course given by Clemson University. Even with that training, growing tomatoes has become more difficult here as the climate warms. During the past few weeks I have contacted five Upstate classmates; two in Southeast Florida, one on the West Coast of Florida, one in the middle U.S., and one in Southern California, the latter two, having had no contact for 59 years. It seemed as if we had seen each other a few days ago. Everyone has an interesting story to tell. Stay well."



Kirtland E. Hobler '62 and his wife, Joanna

1962

Kirtland E. Hobler, of Milford, OH, is trying, during this pandemic, to become a barber-surgeon in order to keep Joanna out of hair salons in Milford. "I'm quite excited to try, but Joanna is not so sure," he writes.

1963

Carl Salzman, of Cambridge, MA, is professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society in May.

1965 Reunion

APRIL 24, 2021

Anthony R. Caprio, of Fall River, MA, says all four of his grandchildren are well and attending college. "The bills are on their parents," he writes.

Pete Haake, of Scottsville, NY, and Cathy are enjoying retirement and are near almost all of their children and grandchildren. So far, they have two great-grandchildren.

Robert A. Sargent, of Englewood, CO, is clinical professor Emeritus at the University Colorado Medical Center. He has been on 92 charity missions, teaching eye surgery at third world locations. His wife, Margo, is residing at an Alzheimer's facility in Denver.

1966

Neal M. Friedberg, of New York, NY, retired from hematology/oncology in 2005. He has been sequestered in Columbia County since mid-March. His entire family is either negative or recovered from COVID, including his three-month-old great-grandson. His interests include fiction, music, photography, and friends.

Susan and Bernard D. Glasser, of Los Angeles, CA, have been retired since the end of 2002. "We are now isolating at home for two-plus months with our son and his family while his house is being remodeled and he is running his psychiatric practice online from our house. I am keeping busy as vice commodore of our yacht club, helping to manage a mid-size resort in the midst of the pandemic."

Austin M. Pattner, of Englewood, NJ, shares, "It's a boy," his third grandchild. He is completing 46 years in active practice with no end in sight because of enduring patient relationships.

1967

Harold C. Burchel, of Burlington, NC, writes that he and his wife, Ruthan, were missionaries in East Africa for many years. In between mission assignments, he worked 15 years in family practice and about 20 years intermittently in emergency departments. He retired in May 2017 after 50 fulfilling years in medicine. They have four wonderful children, 10 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. The last two were born in early spring, identical twin girls, weighing in at 6 lb. 7 oz. and 6 lb. 2 oz. Mom, dad, and two-and-a-half-year-old brother are doing well. "I will always be deeply grateful to Upstate for allowing me to work my way through medical school. We now live in North Carolina, close to most of our family. My wife is disabled, but we are in a lovely independent living facility and are well cared for."

Martin L. Cohen, of Morristown, NJ, reports that coronavirus may have sent him into retirement. "I was still working six-to-eight days a month, but not now," he writes. "Joan and I bought a new place in Boynton Beach, FL, and had looked forward to seeing

Charlie and Jackie Sitrin there at Tanglewood in July. That has all changed. Two grandchildren are in college, one pre-med, and one in biomedical engineering. Joan and I just keep busy at home in the time of coronavirus. Hope everyone stays safe."

1968

Robert L. Bard, New York, NY, is editor of a book on COVID-19 with contributors from six countries, *Image Guided Management of Covid-19 Lung Disease*.



Rear Admiral Robert B. Halder, USN (Ret) '68

Rear Admiral Robert B. Halder, USN (Ret) of Bonsall, CA, interned in surgery at University of California, San Diego, where in 1969 he was named Intern of the Year. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1969 as a flight surgeon and served with a Helo Squadron until 1971, when he entered the ophthalmology residency program at Naval Hospital, San Diego. Upon completion, he was boarded and served at Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton from 1974-84 as staff surgeon, a member

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of former President Nixon's medical team, and hospital chief of staff. In 1984, he was executive officer at Naval Hospital, Long Beach, CA. From 1985-87, he was commanding officer at Naval Hospital, Naples, Italy, and from 1988-92, Commanding Officer of the Navy's largest hospital, Naval Hospital, San Diego. Upon his retirement, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy's highest non-combat award. From 1992-2002 he served as an internationally recognized expert in the area of clinical quality improvement, consulting world-wide, including with the Mayo Clinic. He has published numerous articles in this field. Living in Italy with his wife, Marilyn, from 2003 to 2010, he served as president of the Navy League, Naples, Italy. Upon his return in 2010, he cofounded two local not-for-profits to provide support for wounded warriors. His two sons are successful executives and he and Marilyn have five grandchildren. They return to their beloved Italy every other year.

Kenneth J. Hoffer, of Santa Monica, CA writes, "We celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 30."

1969

Joann Dale Tomaszewicz, of Rochester, NY, writes, "I hope all of you are well. Sadly we are in the high risk group during this pandemic. When New Yorkers were

ordered to isolate themselves at home, I felt this was no great sacrifice for me. As a retired widow, I felt that I pretty much stayed home all the time, venturing out for groceries and doctor or dental appointments. Soon the reality set in as two of my scheduled tours were canceled. I guess my hobby is traveling, but I also entertain, visit with friends, offspring, and neighbors, and go out to dinner and to shows. It has been very lonely, but I was fortunate to enjoy a cruise in Australia and New Zealand in January and then a land tour in Morocco in February. Now that the weather has finally warmed up, I have been able to entertain my daughter and her family, my son and his, and the couple who are my dearest friends, while sitting outside six feet apart. We survived medical school, so we can surely survive this!"

1970 Reunion

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1971

Richard M. Stratton, of Gilbert, AZ, writes, "What happened to the golden years. Our outings are now doctor's appointments. But Yukiko and I have positive attitudes and grand kids."



Philip R. Caropreso '72

1972

Philip R. Caropreso, of Keokuk, IA, has been elected second vice president of the American College of Surgeons and was installed at the annual convocation in Boston on October 27. He is one of three elected officers in the organization and the first surgeon ever from Iowa. He is looking forward to representing surgeons all over the world, with plans to travel to Chile and Germany. He practiced in Iowa and Illinois from 1976 to 2013 and is now fully retired from rural general surgery practice.

1973

Steven M. Rothman, of Clayton, MO, has been coming to Syracuse several times annually to attend on the pediatric neurology service at Upstate University Hospital since 2016. The pandemic put a halt to travel but he is doing out-

patient pediatric neurology for Upstate via telemedicine. Otherwise, he is splitting time between St. Louis and Belfast, Maine.

Gary M. Kohn, of Algonquin, IL, has been working at a local free clinic doing telehealth during the quarantine.

1975 Reunion

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Joseph A. Cincotta, of Syracuse, NY, enjoys being back at Upstate as part of the family medicine residency faculty. They welcomed their second class of six residents in July and are making an effort to cultivate family medicine as a preferred medical career path for their students. He spends his free time cycling and enjoying the central New York region, including the winters.

Robert M. Goldberg, of Somers Point, NJ, is happy to say that he is in good health and coming up on 40 years of practice in medical oncology/hematology in his solo practice in Somers Point, between Ocean City and Atlantic City in South Jersey. "I love what I do (hate the system) and was just listed again as a "Top Doctor" in Philadelphia magazine. I am proud to say my younger daughter, **Jackie Mandell '10**, is board-certified in ophthalmology and did her residency at Upstate and fellowship-trained in medical retina. She is practicing in San Diego and is a mom to two delightful little



Wedding photo of Kenneth J. Hoffer '68 and wife Marcia

daughters. I am awaiting to see what will happen as to our 45th class reunion in September."

James A. Terzian, of Vestal, NY, writes, "My first grandchild, James, age one, born to my son **James '07** and his wife Amanda!"

1976

Richard M. Alexander, of Houston, TX, continues to work full time in cardiovascular surgery. "I hope everyone is safe in these crazy COVID-19 times," he writes.

Harriett L. Burris, of Alexandria Bay, NY, retired from River Hospital in 2014. "I've been busy with the Thousands Islands Arts Center with weaving and the Bay House Artisans, where I sell my knitting, and with enjoying life in my hometown, Alexandria Bay," she writes. Her oldest daughter, Liz, lives in Seoul, South Korea, with her husband, Won Heo. She has a master's in international cooperation from Yonsei University and teaches English to Korean corporate types. Daughter Kate and her wife, Shanna, are currently in Hockessin, DE, raising Burris' first grandchild, Christopher David Kline. Kate worked for Aramark for 14 years, most recently as a senior financial officer. In January, 2019, she took a finance job with Rentokil in Reading, PA. They are one of the largest pest control companies in the world, based in the UK. Shanna is taking

time off from echocardiography since the baby. All three have been at home since March. "Husband John is well. We finally invested in a ramp this spring, only three years after he became wheelchair bound (he's not what you'd call an early adopter)."

1977

William R. Latreille, of Malone, NY, was re-elected speaker of the Medical Society of the State of New York on May 7. He will continue to play an active role in the outpatient medical practice at the University of Vermont Health Network, Alice Hyde Medical Center in Malone, NY. He will also continue his internal medicine practice in Malone and at the Indian Health Center in Hogsburg, NY.

1979

James P. Corsones, of Hurley, NY, recently welcomed his fourth grandchild, Jameson Douglas Finney, born on March 3 to daughter Rebecca Corsones Finney and husband Ryan Finney.

1980 Reunion

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Ernest M. Found, of Iowa City, IA, writes, "I can't make it to the 40th reunion, bummer. I retired a year ago and it's the BEST! Cheers to all."

Gerald A. Lauria '81 of Orchard Park, NY, led a medical team to Los Naranjos, El Salvador, in February, his sixth such trip. They saw 400 villagers over four days with a variety of complaints.

1982

Nicholas G. Tullo, of Towaco, NJ, is on the medical advisory committee for the Arrhythmia Alliance, an international advocacy group based in the UK, and was interviewed online regarding patients with syncope. His oldest son, Chris, is a graduate student majoring in mental health counseling. His younger son, Alex, will be a senior at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, FL, majoring in computer animation, and his daughter, Veronica, will be starting as a film production major at Chapman University in Orange County, CA, in the fall. "Best regards from New Jersey! Stay safe," he writes.

1983

Richard G. Birkhead, of Dracut, MA, is a cardiologist at Merrimack Valley Cardiology in Lowell, MA. He recently stepped down as managing partner of the 12-person group and is past president of the Lowell General Hospital medical

staff. He has been married to Jean almost 10 years. He is a proud parent to three kids, including two Tulane Medical School graduates and a social worker, and three step-kids, including a Green Beret.

Theodore M. Mazer, of Poway, CA, and wife Marcy are now grandparents, with the safe birth of Isaac Bowie on April 3 to Neil and Jennifer in Manhattan, during the COVID outbreak. Ted is now serving on the Financial Solvency Standards Board of the California Department of Managed Health Care. He is the vice chair of the California Delegation to American Medical Association.

Susan Zahalsky Jensen, is happily retired in Fort Mill, SC, about 10 minutes south of Charlotte. She is keeping busy, even in quarantine, with work as *Mensa World Journal* profiles editor, contributing writer to new Italian online food magazine thegoosto.it, and freelance writer for local and national newspapers. She began indoor hydroponic gardening and is studying to become a South Carolina BBQ judge. Her 18-year-old daughter,

Jessica, is off to the Darla Moore International School of Business at University of South Carolina, Columbia, in just a few months. "We are grateful the school is opening for classes. Wishing everyone good health," she writes.

1984

David J. Anderson and **Pamela J. Reinhardt**, of Plattsburgh, NY, are delighted to welcome their first grandchild, Audrey Marie Anderson, born to their son Ian and his wife **Taylor M. Pong '23** on April 29, 2020. "All are healthy and we are looking forward to meeting Audrey as soon as possible, when it's safe."



Audrey Marie Anderson, granddaughter of David J. Anderson '84 and Pamela J. Reinhardt '84 and daughter of Taylor Pong '23 and husband Ian Anderson

CLASS NOTES



Brian Sorrentino '85 and Robert C. Berlin '85

Suzanne B. Sorrentino, of Memphis, TN, writes, "Thank you so much to **Robert C. Berlin '85** for endowing the Sorrentino Scholarship in memory of my husband, **Brian Sorrentino '85**. And a special thank you to all their classmates who gave in his memory. This scholarship will continue to make a difference in the lives of future physicians, and I am forever grateful."



Michael F. Trevisani '84

Michael F. Trevisani, of Spring Hill, FL, is starting a new position at HCA Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point in Hudson, FL, as the chief medical officer.

1985 Reunion
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Drew (Edward) Malloy, of Santa Cruz, CA, writes, "I feel fortunate to have my health and meaningful work. My family is healthy and I enjoy my job as a family physician at UC Santa Cruz Student Health, taking care of young adults. My daughter Maggie is finishing her first year at UC Davis, where she was part of the Aggie swim team. My thoughts are with all of you striving on the front lines to manage this novel virus during these uncertain times."

1986

Elizabeth A. Prezio, of Clifton Park, NY, is proud to report that her daughter, Sarah Whitney Jenkins, graduated with her MD from University of Texas Medical Branch in Texas.

1987

Robert E. Lubanski, of Wilmington, NC, is still practicing full-time anesthesiology with a part-time job as vice president of medical affairs for a local hospital system. His son, Ethan, graduated from East Carolina Medical School and will be starting anesthesiology residency at Miami. "If passing through coastal North Carolina or Naples, FL, give me a call," he writes.

Jeanine M. and Peter J. Morelli, of East Setauket, NY, wishes to thank classmate **Mike Farrell** for the excellent prenatal care for



Erin Wilcox, niece of Jeanine M. '87 and Peter J. Morelli '87 and daughter Mackenzie

their niece, Erin Wilcox, and the delivery of Mackenzie who was born July 2019 at Lourdes Hospital in Binghamton. They are still working and teaching at Stony Brook, Jeanine in family medicine and Peter in pediatric cardiology.

1988

Erick C. Bulawa, of Greeneville, TN, announces that his daughter Lillith graduated from East Tennessee State University. "She is now following in her parents' footsteps by accepting a position to join the 2020 medical school class at the East Tennessee State University James H. Quillen College of Medicine. She has two very proud parents," he writes.



Erick C. Bulawa '88 with daughter Lillith

1989

R. Eugene Bailey, of Manlius, NY, is residency program director in family medicine at Upstate Medical University. The program welcomed its second class in July. He also has been awarded a grant through the March of Dimes to expand implementation of interconception care as part of a large IMPLICIT network. Data will be shared to improve pre-term delivery and premature births. He and his wife, Karen, have three children: Joanna, Frank and Zoe, and they enjoy family time together.

1990 Reunion
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Jeffrey R. Allen, is chief medical officer at the Greater Rochester Independent Practice Association (GRIPA) and Cognisight. He practices internal medicine with a subspecialty in hospice and palliative care medicine. He is married to Sandra and they reside in Victor, NY. They have four grown children; Rebecca Harper, Daniel, David, and Mary.

1991

Edward C. Gabalski, of Bellmore, NY, was named chief of otolaryngology and head and neck surgery at Glen Cove Hospital. He

JENNIFER McCONNELL, MD '94

Stepping Up

Car accidents, sports field concussions, heart attacks, insulin spikes. Whenever someone has a medical emergency in a grocery store, on a plane, on the road or during a sporting event, if Jennifer McConnell, MD '94, is on the scene, she's often the first to offer help.

"It doesn't matter where she is, she's the first one to the rescue, to do whatever she can to help someone," said Dr. McConnell's daughter, Julie.

So it wasn't a surprise when McConnell told her family she wanted to work at the local coronavirus testing and screening tent.

McConnell's wife, Lori Smail, was concerned about the risk to McConnell and their family from a virus that has created a pandemic.

"The first question I asked Jenn was, 'How well will you be protected?'" said Smail, an elementary school principal.

McConnell reassured her wife and daughters that she would be fully protected with a motorized respiratory mask that filtered and cleaned air.

"Once I was confident that she was safe, I was 100-percent supportive," said Smail.

A physician for 26 years, McConnell worked as a family doctor for Maine General Health in Augusta, Maine, for years before opening her own practice with a partner. Known for her dry wit and unflappable character, McConnell is not shy about standing up for what she believes in—whether battling unfair insurance practices or fighting for educational support for her 18-year-old daughter, Sarah, who has autism.

So when her medical partner Lisa Clarcq, DO, heard that Maine General needed doctors to staff the coronavirus screening tent, McConnell and Clarcq immediately volunteered.

"We both jumped two feet in," McConnell said.

From mid-March to mid-April, McConnell and Clarcq rotated shifts, working every other day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. A few of the patients McConnell evaluated had to be immediately hospitalized. Ten percent were sent to an emergency room for further evaluation.

"And some, about five percent, came back several days later, sicker, and needed to be admitted," McConnell said.

The Augusta screening and testing facility is one of about a half-dozen tents set up outside Maine hospitals.

"Our goal is to keep the less acute patients out of the ER, so the doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists can take care of the really sick patients," said McConnell.

Each day, after being cleared by security and the registration nurse, patients pull up to the COVID tent, where McConnell approaches their car. To protect herself and the patient, she wears a hospital gown, gloves and a PAPR — a motorized respiratory mask with a plastic shield.

"My first line to the person is always: 'Tell me your story,'" McConnell said. "So I get a sense of whether or not they have been sick or exposed to the virus."

McConnell asks about fever, sore throat, cough, what they do for work, if they or someone they know have traveled recently. She also tests the patient's temperature, heart rate, and oxygen level.

The big concern, McConnell said, is their oxygen levels.

"I tell them if they are so short of breath that they can't walk from their couch or their bed to the bathroom, that would be a reason to be very concerned, and to come back or call 911," she said.

Many of the patients McConnell treats and counsels are anxious and scared. Calming them is a priority, a skill she has honed.

Jessie Blake, a home healthcare nurse and one of McConnell's patients, recently came to the screening tent with a sore throat, cough and fever.

"Jenn told me to come get checked so I don't spread it to my patients," said Blake. "When she told me she was at the testing tent, I was so proud of her. She is a phenomenal human being, putting herself out there like that in this unprecedented time."

Though she is proud of her mother, McConnell's daughter Julie can't help but worry as Maine's coronavirus infections and deaths continue to spike. Along with working 12-hour shifts at the screening tent, her mother still cares for her private practice patients and offers medical care to people in recovery.

"What she is doing is really great," said Julie. "I try to stay positive, but that fear is there. She is at a much higher risk exposing herself."

But Julie understands that her mother cannot stand on the sidelines during a pandemic, a time when her community needs her.

"She would do anything to try and help make things better," Julie said. "She's definitely a hometown hero."

McConnell herself tries to tamp down her fears. She has stopped watching news reports about healthcare professionals who die from the virus. "This is a pandemic with so many questions and few answers," she said. "I don't know how long we're going to be fighting this."

—Barbara Walsh

This article originally appeared on PineTreeWatch.org. Adapted with permission.



Maine family doc Jennifer McConnell, MD '94, volunteers at a COVID-19 screening tent in Augusta.

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also remains part of the head and neck team for the Northwell/Hofstra otolaryngology program. "Our department started our own residency program this year and we continue to help host residents from the Montefiore program. It is a privilege to help train the next generation of otolaryngologists," he writes.



The Intern by Peter Hogenkamp '93

1993

Peter Hogenkamp, of Rutland, VT, published his first novel, *The Intern*, which was released April 13. The book was inspired by an interaction he had with a 12-year-old boy dying of cancer, during his internship at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse. The boy died a few days after Peter met him, but Peter never forgot the boy's resilience, courage and strength, and more than 15 years later, he sat down to write a book in which the main character was based on the boy he never forgot. The character

has been influenced by dozens of other people—patients he treated, people he knew, characters he met in novels, and several editors who have worked on the book—but that original boy is still there. If you would like to read more about *The Intern* check his author website, <http://www.peterhogenkamp-books.com/>

1995 Reunion

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1997

Carolyn Milana, of Miller Place, NY, was promoted to chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Stony Brook Medicine as well as the physician-in-chief of Stony Brook Children's Hospital.

2000 Reunion

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2004

Kenar D. Jhaveri, of Great Neck, NY, was appointed editor-in-chief of the American Society of Nephrology's journal, *ASN Kidney News*.

2005 Reunion

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Denise Cinquegrana '13 and daughter Lucia Grace Lara

2010 Reunion

APRIL 24, 2021

2013

Denise Cinquegrana, of Baltimore, MD, writes, "We welcomed our first child, Lucia Grace, on October 21, 2019. Congrats to many of my classmates who also had babies this year (there were quite a few of us, and it has been wonderful to swap cute baby pics.) I am still working on the COVID front lines in anesthesiology at Johns Hopkins. It is a challenging but very rewarding role. Hoping that all of my Upstate colleagues and friends are staying well during these crazy times!"



Grace Catherine, daughter of Michael R. '13 and Emily C. Daugherty '13

Emily C. and Michael R. Daugherty, of Cincinnati, OH, welcomed a daughter, Grace Catherine, on March 15. "Big brother Jack and grandfather, **Bob Cupelo '82** are very excited to have her in our family. Mickey started at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in July as an assistant professor in pediatric urology. I remain an assistant professor in radiation oncology at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and recently became medical director of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Barrett Cancer Center in September 2019," she writes.

JOSHUA SCHOEN, MD '02

From OR to ICU

ANESTHESIOLOGIST JOSHUA SCHOEN, MD '02, SPENT THE PANDEMIC INTUBATING COVID PATIENTS

At Nyack Hospital, located 25 miles outside Manhattan, all elective procedures were halted on March 12. "We had admitted our first few patients with COVID-19 and then saw the surge very quickly after that," says Joshua Schoen, MD '02, assistant director of anesthesia.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo asked all New York hospitals to increase capacity by 50 percent. Nyack Hospital came up with a plan to increase capacity by 100 percent, converting operating and recovery rooms into ICUs, and using an emergency room that was undergoing renovation as an emergency department ICU.

"We're a small community hospital, but the response from our administration and staff was phenomenal," Schoen says. "Everybody pulled together to put together this action plan. At our peak we had five ICUs in operation."

With no elective surgeries, physicians from different specialties were recruited to help out in the ICU as much as possible. Dr. Schoen stepped in to volunteer as an intensivist. "Intubating a COVID patient is a high-risk procedure with exposure to the airway a big concern," he says. "We wanted the most experienced people doing the intubations, which for the most part, were anesthesiologists."

At the peak of the pandemic, the hospital had 200 COVID patients with 70 intubated. "There was a short period of time where we used anesthesia machines as ventilators," he says.

Normally, Schoen says, anesthesiologists are on call at the hospital for 24 hours. But during the peak of COVID, it became simply too much. "I would go in at 5 p.m. and work until 7 a.m., sometimes intubating 10 to 12 patients during that time," he says. "Often the biggest challenge was running from room to room taking PPE off and on."

Fortunately, he says his hospital never had a serious shortage of PPE. "They even got us the PAPR positive airflow respirators," he says.

While not all of his partners used them, Schoen says he wore his all the time. With a wife and four children at home, he was always acutely aware of the risk.

"Being in the ICU and intubating patients, there was zero chance of not being exposed," he says. "I told my wife up front I thought there was an 80 percent chance that at some point I would become infected and get sick."

In the beginning, he says he would shower immediately when he got home from work and wouldn't touch his kids. "It was really traumatic," he says.

But over time, he saw that his colleagues weren't getting sick. "It seemed like the PPE and the hand washing was really working," he says. "Out of 100 medical staff, only two or three people got sick, and fortunately, only with minor symptoms."

Schoen had a negative antibody test in May and a negative COVID test in June, when his hospital began performing elective surgeries again. "We're slowly ramping up. We started at 25 percent capacity and by July hope to be at our regular elective schedule," he says. "With social distancing, you just can't bring patients in as quickly. You can't have them as close to each other. It's complicated, just like everything else. You've got to think three steps ahead."

As of early June, there were only nine COVID patients in the hospital. "I've only intubated one patient in the last three weeks," he says. "We're getting back to doing more of what we usually do."

Schoen says the pandemic is the most impactful experience of his medical career. "This is like nothing I'd ever done before or ever want to do again in my life," he says. "I really love anesthesia but I made a very conscious decision when I was a resident not to do an ICU fellowship."

The silver lining, he says, was to see how his hospital administrators and colleagues pulled together and adjusted their practices to make a difference for patients during a very difficult and scary time.

"We were scared of this thing in the beginning—not that we're not scared of it now—but we really came together and worked as a team to fight this," Schoen says. "I'm proud to have been part of that effort."

—Renée Gearhart Levy



Joshua Schoen, MD '02

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Justin P. '13 and Jenny A. Meyer '13 with son Pike Johnson Meyer

Justin P. and Jenny A. Meyer, of Jamesville, NY, announce the birth of their son, Pike Johnson Meyer in February. They currently work at Upstate in psychiatry and neurology, respectively.

2015 Reunion
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2016

Nicole M. Cifra, of Fairport, NY, was married on July 6, 2019, to Alexander Gancayco.

Saeed D. Mohammad, of Tuckahoe, NY, matched at the Joseph H. Boyes hand surgery fellowship at University of Southern California. He and his family will be moving to Los Angeles for 2021-2022 after he completes his orthopedic surgery residency.

2017

Julia A. Reiser and **Connor G. Policastro '18** of Syracuse, NY, welcomed their first child, Nora Joan Policastro on May 24. They are both currently residents at Upstate, Julia in orthopedics and Connor in urology.



Nora Joan Policastro, daughter of Julia A. Reiser '17 and Connor G. Policastro '18



Styve M. Pamphile '18, Elaine Rodriguez '16 and Allen M. So '16

2018

Styve M. Pamphile, of Riverdale, NY, shares that he, **Elaine Rodriguez '16**, and **Allan M. So '16** are Jacobi-Montefiore residents and are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MPH / 2018

Nicolette C. Nunez-Ford, of Monroe, NY, writes, "I am now an MD candidate for 2022. On May 12, I married Tyree Ford. We had to postpone our big destination wedding to January 2021, but did not want to wait until January to take that big step, and we are so happy that we kept our original date."



Nicolette Nunez-Ford MPH '18 and husband Tyree Ford

Residents

Marvin Koss, of Fayetteville, NY, was recently elected to the position of Secretary of the New York State Psychiatric Association.

Barbara E. Krenzer, of Manlius, NY, shares that daughter **Elizabeth M. Stone '20** graduated from Upstate and is going to Brown for her pediatric residency. "I did my internal medicine residency at Upstate from 1983-86 and have been on faculty here in internal medicine and palliative care ever since. It has been wonderful to have her here these last four years," she writes.

Stuart Trust, of Syracuse, NY, was named in the "Exceptional Teacher Initiative." The initiative shares information from students on how a faculty member, resident, nurse, therapist or anyone else has impacted or influenced them in a significant way and how it changed them.

Robert S. Wilkinson, Jr., of Washington, DC, was on house staff from 1958-62. He was recipient of the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award and was included in Marquis Who's Who Top Professionals in the category of Top Doctors.



Elizabeth M. Stone '20 and Barbara E. Krenzer, MD

Mystery Photos



Above: No information available.

Right: Associated with Binghamton Clinical Campus in the 1990s. Do you recognize anyone?



Do you have photographs or papers from your school days that you would like to donate? For details email Howec@upstate.edu or call (315) 464-4585.