

UPSTATE MEDICAL **Alumni** JOURNAL

SPRING 2016 PUBLISHED BY UPSTATE MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MEET THE PRESIDENT

INTRODUCING DANIELLE LARAQUE-ARENA, MD





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SPRING 2016 ISSUE

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Phone: 315/464-4361

Fax: 315/464-4360

Email:
norcross@upstate.edu

Paul Norcross

Executive Editor

Renée Gearhart Levy

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Sarah Burns

Lori Murphy

Kristen Piescik

Chere Raven

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Kiefer Creative

Design and Production

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The *Alumni Journal* welcomes letters regarding the content of this magazine, which may be used for publication unless the writer states the letter is not to be published. Letters may be edited for style, length, clarity, grammar, and relevance to Upstate issues.

Email letters to:

norcross@upstate.edu

Mail letters to:

Upstate Medical
Alumni Journal
Setnor Academic Building
#1510
750 E. Adams St.
Syracuse, New York
13210-9976

Medical Alumni Foundation

UPSTATE
 MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
 COLLEGE OF MEDICINE


Dear Fellow Alumni:

I am thrilled and honored to assume the role of president of the Upstate Medical University Medical Alumni Association. I am a proud graduate of the College of Medicine's bicentennial class of 1976 and remained in Syracuse to complete my pediatric residency and assume my current position as director of Pediatric Emergency Services here at Upstate Medical University. For 40 years, I have had the opportunity to bear witness to the wonderful advances that have taken place within our medical center and medical college.

What stands out most is the fact that Upstate graduates some of the best and brightest medical students on a yearly basis. At this year's graduation, I will be blessed to be able to watch my own daughter graduate from our school. Through her, I have reconnected greatly with the medical student experience here at Upstate. Indeed, one of the goals for my tenure is to maintain a strong liaison with the medical student body to help ensure their positive connection to the institution as future alumni.

Today's medical students are more intelligent, better prepared, and more discerning than ever before. They have a more global perspective on the needs of our patients, blending academic knowledge with cultural awareness in a mosaic of thoughtful care. The cost of providing an affordable, quality medical education for these students is a challenge for the institution. At the same time, tuition has grown higher than any of us could have imagined when we were medical students.

Your contributions continue to deliver opportunity and enhance the medical educational experience here at Upstate through gifts we provide in the form of scholarships, books, programming, and faculty support. Without your ongoing support, many of these enhancements simply would not be possible.

What we do here and what you do for us is immeasurable. Thanks to all of you who have made this commitment and all who will in the future. I look forward to the next two years with great anticipation.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Cantor, MD '76

SUNY Grant Brings Precision Medicine to Upstate Cancer Center

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY WILL

receive \$575,000 to establish precision medicine for cancer treatments, the latest innovation in personalized health care. This method compiles a wide range of data on patients and their conditions from various sources, then uses that information to tailor treatment specific to that exact patient. The award comes from the SUNY Performance and Investment Fund.

Precision medicine is the foundation of the SUNY Institute for Precision Cancer Research,

Education and Care (IPCREC), a new initiative of Upstate Medical University and its partners. Upstate's IPCREC program was one of 32 selected for funding out of 211 submissions. Partnering campuses include SUNY Oswego, Onondaga Community College, and SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry.

"Precision medicine provides an incredible opportunity to provide care that is tailor made to each patient and each tumor," says David Amberg, PhD, vice president for research and principle investigator on the IPCREC grant. "The IPCREC will align the resources and infrastructure needed to bring this personalized care into our clinics."

The IPCREC will bring together vast amounts of data, technology to compile the data, experts to interpret it, and clinicians to implement improved and better informed treatments for patients. Ultimately, IPCREC will fuse the patient's personal data to the cancer treatments in clinic. Examples of data that will be mined include a patient's genome sequence, the genome sequence of his/her tumor, detailed electronic health records and big data biomarker information obtained through proteomics and metabolomics.

The program is projected to launch in 2016.



Upstate Named VHL Care Center

AN INTERNATIONAL organization that serves patients with an inherited disorder, called von Hippel-Lindau or VHL, that causes tumors affecting the brain and other parts of the body, has designated Upstate Medical University as a VHL Clinical Care Center. Upstate is one of several centers in the United States and the only center in New York outside of New York City to have earned this designation from the VHL Alliance.

VHL is an inherited disorder causing multiple tumors, both benign and malignant, in the central nervous system (CNS) and in internal organs. The most common tumors are retinal and CNS haemangioblastomas, renal cell carcinoma (RCC), renal cysts and pheochromocytoma.

"Upstate now has become a tremendous resource for patients with hereditary syndromes and for those with associated kidney cancers or tumors," says Gennady Brat-

slavsky, MD, chair of Upstate's Department of Urology, who led the effort to gain the VHL designation. "We now get requests for evaluation of opinion from as far as California, and from patients traveling to Upstate from as far as Europe."



MENTORSHIP MATTERS

THE 10TH ANNUAL CAREER ADVISORY DINNERS were held in Syracuse and Binghamton in early January. More than 100 second- and third-year Upstate medical students received information and advice regarding various medical specialties and career paths from alumni, career advisory mentors, and Upstate faculty. The dinners are sponsored by the Upstate Medical Alumni Association.

Medical Student Wins Young Investigator Award

Upstate Medical University MD/PhD student Rebecca Sager has received a 2015 Joy Cappel Young Investigator Award from Rockland Inc., a Pennsylvania biotechnology company. Sager will use the \$4,000 award to further her research into molecular changes associated with prostate cancer. She is a fourth-year student in the laboratory of Leszek Kotula, MD, PhD, associate professor of urology and biochemistry and microbiology.



In the Kotula Laboratory, Sager examines the role of genetic alterations in the WAVE protein complex in castration-resistant prostate cancer. The WAVE complex,

which includes tumor suppressor gene Abi1, is important for cell adhesion, shape and migration. Sager's goal with this award is to help design and purify an antibody against Abi1 that works better than others that are already available. This will be an essential tool to the success of her project examining Abi1's role in castration resistance.



Duggan to Step Down as Dean

DAVID B. DUGGAN, MD '79, HAS ANNOUNCED he will step down as dean of the College of Medicine, effective October 15, 2016. Following a six-month sabbatical, he will return to the faculty.

Dr. Duggan has served as dean since 2011. During his tenure, he led the College through the LCME accreditation process, a move toward a more systems-based curriculum, and the introduction of student learning communities. "Dr. Duggan has provided solid leadership to the many responsibilities of the Dean's Office and I know the entire Upstate community joins me in thanking him for outstanding service," says Upstate President Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD.

The position will be filled through a national search.

Upstate, SU, ESF Collaborate with \$1.12-Million NSF Award

Upstate Medical University, along with the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), and Syracuse University, have received a \$1.12-million grant from the National Science Foundation to acquire the region's first field emission scanning transmission electron microscope (FE-STEM). The instrument will advance research into human and plant diseases by providing for more precise examination of the

nanostructure of biological and non-biological materials and molecules and by allowing chemical analysis of complex samples.

Stephan Wilkens, PhD, associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, is Upstate's lead investigator on the grant. Dr. Wilkens will use the technology to further his study into the structure and mechanism of biological macromolecules involved in human disease processes. "The

new microscope with its superior brightness and coherence together with the cryo capabilities (the examination of biological material at the temperature of liquid nitrogen, around 300 degrees below zero Fahrenheit) will allow structure determination of the disease-causing protein complexes at a level of detail that will aid with structure-based drug design and discovery," he says.

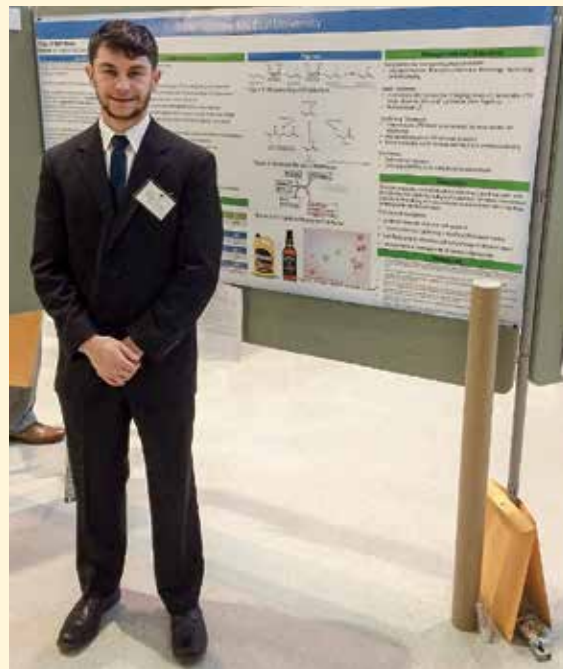


Stephen V. Faraone, PhD

Faraone Named "Influential Mind"

FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR,

Stephen V. Faraone, PhD, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Upstate Medical University, has been included in the Thomson Reuter's list of World's Most Influential Minds and its list of Highly Cited Researchers in the field of psychiatry/psychology.



Medical student Ian Kratzke '17

Upstate Student Poster Takes Top Honors

Third-year Upstate medical student Ian Kratzke was awarded first place at the New York American College of Physicians (NYACP) medical student poster competition last fall. His poster featured a case report on a patient who had attempted suicide by drinking antifreeze, but had also ingested alcohol, which protected his body from the toxic ingestion. "This case was a great example of multidisciplinary medicine, involving emergency medicine, internal medicine, toxicology, nephrology, and psychiatry," says Kratzke, who will participate in the national student poster competition in Washington, DC, in May.

Upstate Awarded \$2.35 Million to Expand Alzheimer's Efforts

Upstate Medical University has received a New York State Department of Health award of up to \$2.35 million over five years and the new designation as a Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease.

"The distinction as a Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease affirms Upstate's role as a leader in the region in the management of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias," says Sharon A. Brangman, MD '81, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine, medical director of the Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease and chief of Geriatric Medicine at Upstate.

Designation as a Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease means that patients will be provided integrative, comprehensive and coordinated medical services for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias (AD/D). These centers also train health care providers and students on the detection, diagnosis and treatment of AD/D. They serve as a regional resource and referral source, providing coordinated delivery of services to AD/D patients and their families which is essential to allow these individuals to remain in their communities as long as possible.

Dr. Brangman says that the funding will be used to expand the center's efforts to diagnose those with AD/D in the early stages of their illness. "There are many benefits to making an early and accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or other dementias," she says. "For example, patients will have access to new courses of treatment as they become available, may participate in clinical trials, and will be at a stage in their disease where they can have a say in their advanced care planning to address their financial, legal, medical, and caregiving needs."



Sharon Brangman, MD '81

Robert Swan, MD '08, Joins Ophthalmology Department

ROBERT SWAN, MD '08, HAS JOINED

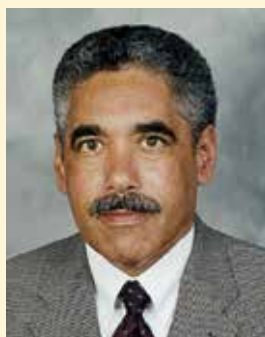
Upstate as assistant professor of ophthalmology, with clinical specialty in pediatric and adult uveitis/ocular inflammatory disease. He also serves as the quality officer for the Department of Ophthalmology. Prior to joining Upstate, Dr. Swan was an attending ophthalmologist at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown. His research interests include ocular inflammatory disease and other causes of preventable blindness, and access to care issues in ocular inflammatory disease.



Robert Swan, MD '08

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR DAMON TWEEDY, MD, SIGNS A COPY OF his book, *Black Man in a White Coat*, for medical student Adekorewale Odulate-Williams '18, as Angela Rios '19, looks on. Tweedy, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Duke University School of Medicine, gave two lectures and did a book signing with current and incoming students at Upstate on February 10 in honor of Black History month.



K. Bruce Simmons, MD '79

Simmons to Retire from Student Health

K. BRUCE SIMMONS, MD '79, DIRECTOR of Employee/Student Health for more than two decades, will retire at the end of June.

Employee/Student Health is responsible for pre-employment health clearances on all Upstate staff, annual health assessments for all hospital staff on hospital payroll and/or patient contact, exposure follow-ups and the influenza vaccination program. The office also provides care services for matriculated students.

Dr. Simmons has served as director for 24 years, and was previously associated with the University Internist practice for 25 years. "I would love to have someone with an Upstate connection assume the post—a former student, resident, or current staff member," he says. "I was recruited for the position years ago by Murray Grossman, MD '45. It has been a wonderful experience to serve important roles that address both the wellness of our students and health standards of the institution."

The job posting for the director of Employee/Student Health can be found on the Human Resources website at: www.upstate.edu/hr/jobs.



MEDICAL STUDENTS DID A DRAMATIC READING

of poet James Wheldon Johnson's "Lift Every Voice and Sing" at Upstate's Black History month opening ceremony on February 3. From left to right, Kareem Royes '18, Styve Pamphile '18, James Osei-Sarpong '19, Kyle Richardson '17, Malcolm Philogene MPH '16, '20, Lambert Lewis '16 with his son Brantley, Aluko Gift '18, and Donald Moore '18.

Upstate Surgery Makes Cover of *Urology*



Gennady Bratslavsky, MD

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND ROBOTIC—assisted surgery performed at Upstate's University Hospital was featured on the cover of the December 2015 issue of the journal, *Urology*.

In the article, Upstate physicians describe the first case ever in which doctors used minimally invasive robotic surgery to perform a radical nephrectomy (removal of entire kidney) with a level III inferior vena cava thrombectomy (removal of a tumor from the largest vein that carries blood to the heart). The procedure also included the removal of numerous lymph nodes. The surgery was performed in 2013.

Of special note in this case was the size of the tumor thrombus—11 centimeters. Prior to this operation the largest inferior vena cava (IVC) tumor removed by robotic surgery has been reported in

literature as five centimeters (level II). Doctors say the tumor came within two inches of the patient's heart.

Previously, removal of this type of tumor was done by making large incisions that often required patients to remain in the hospital for many days or even weeks. Recently, with the introduction of the robotic-assisted surgery, a few centers have performed this tumor removal without large incisions allowing patients to go home earlier than after traditional open approach.

The Upstate case is important in that it expands the surgical limits of minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic surgery, says Gennady Bratslavsky, MD, chief of Urology at Upstate, who authored the case report with Jed-Sian Cheng, MD, MPH.

Family Medicine Chair Named to National Task Force

John Epling, MD, MS Ed, professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, has been named to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). The task force issues evidence-based recommendations about a variety of screenings, and medications aimed at preventing illness and disease.

With his appointment, Dr. Epling becomes

one of 16 members on the task force. Members are appointed to serve four-year terms by the director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Upstate is pleased to congratulate Dr. Epling on this important appointment," says David Duggan, MD '79, dean of the College of Medicine.

"His appointment to this noteworthy panel reflects his outstanding work in preventive and evidence-based medicine and family medicine. Clinicians, patients, and policy makers will be well served by Dr. Epling as he shares his expertise creating new recommendations for a healthy future across the United States."



John Epling, MD

From Syracuse's Mean Streets to Medical School

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT ASPIRES TO SERVE HIS HOME COMMUNITY

BY JAMES T. MULDER



George Thatvihane '19, a first-year med student at Upstate Medical University, with his parents Vieng and Donald in the family's Syracuse home on November 18, 2015.

After a 10-hour day at Upstate Medical University, first-year medical student George Thatvihane, MPH '15, goes home to study in a poor Syracuse neighborhood known for producing gunshot victims, not doctors who treat them.

The 24-year-old climbs a steep flight of stairs to his bedroom at 441 Seymour St. on the Near West Side. He lives there with his Southeast Asian refugee parents, three siblings, and two young nieces.

His small room is furnished with a bed, desk, computer, and not much else but a box of saltine crackers and a can of coffee. "It's like solitary confinement," Thatvihane says with a laugh.

On Thatvihane's street, there have been nine cases of shootings or shots fired — two of them gang related — since 2012.

MOST DON'T FINISH HIGH SCHOOL ON NEAR WEST SIDE

In his neighborhood, most young people don't finish high school, never mind go to medical school. Only 30 percent of students at Fowler High School, his alma mater, graduate.

He attributes his academic success to supportive parents and older siblings who went to great lengths to shield him from the neighborhood's violence, drugs, and gangs.

His father, Donald Thatvihane, 64, a doctor in Laos during the Vietnam War, drives a taxi. His mother, Vieng Thatvihane, 62, works as a housekeeper at a nursing home. They are proud of their youngest child's accomplishments.

"He's the first to go up to the top," Donald Thatvihane says.

But for a while, it looked like Thatvihane might go the other way.

TOO MUCH PARTYING

When he was in Shea Middle School, Thatvihane entertained the idea of becoming a drug dealer like people he saw on street corners. At Fowler High School he was a bright student who didn't work up to his potential. He skipped school often during his senior year before graduating in 2009. He received scholarships to Ithaca College, but lost them after one semester because he spent too much time partying and hanging around with the wrong people.



JOHN BERRY



Thatvihane addresses the graduates at the commencement ceremonies for the Fowler High School Class of 2015.

After Thatvihane lost the scholarships, his angry and disappointed father drove to Ithaca to talk to his son and pay one of his college bills.

“Why are you here?” he asked his son.

To get a degree and land a decent job, George replied.

“No, you’re here to learn,” his father said.

That was a wake-up call for Thatvihane. He buckled down, worked with tutors and got his scholarships back. After two years at Ithaca, he moved back home with his family and transferred to Syracuse University on a “Say Yes” scholarship that paid his full tuition. He graduated *cum laude* in 2013 with a 3.6 grade point average. Before enrolling in med school, he earned a master’s degree in public health at Upstate.

A HERO AT FOWLER HIGH SCHOOL

Faculty at Fowler consider Thatvihane something of a hero. Stacy Levin, a counselor there, invited him to speak at Fowler’s commencement ceremony earlier this year. George agreed.

“Graduates, we made it through Fowler, the high school that regularly gets bad publicity. If we can do that, I really think anything is possible,” he said in his speech.

Fowler is in one of the city’s poorest census tracts where 44 percent of residents live in poverty. Its student population is the poorest in the city. State records show 80 percent of Fowler students are “economically disadvantaged.”

Thatvihane, pictured at University Hospital, was a recipient of the Setnor Scholarship awarded by the Medical Alumni Association.



Thatvihane shadows nurse Leanne Graf at the University Hospital Emergency Department.

Many kids on the Near West Side have little parental support, according to Levin. “That’s not the case with George,” she said. “His parents are very concerned about their kids and supportive.”

FATHER PERSECUTED IN LAOS

Thatvihane’s parents grew up in the same village in Laos. Donald Thatvihane joined the military, which sent him to medical school. He was a military doctor during the Vietnam War, which spilled over into Laos and Cambodia, and was recruited to fight the Communists. After the Communists won in 1975, he spent three years in a detention camp in southern Laos. He’s reluctant to talk about what happened there.

“It’s was very terrible,” he says. “We got persecuted. It was like the Nazi camps.”

He escaped from the camp and came to the U.S. in the mid-1980s with his wife and their two oldest children. They came to Syracuse because his wife’s brother lived here. Thatvihane and two of his siblings were born here.

Thatvihane says it was a difficult transition for his father going from doctor to taxi driver. He couldn’t be a doctor here because he did not have the necessary documentation and credentials.

“He’s not much of a complainer,” he says. “He was of the mindset, ‘I wish I could practice medicine, but I need to provide for my family more than anything.’”

The elder Thatvihane sold insurance for a while, then started driving a cab.



Thatvihane with his parents and his sister, Phitsamai, in the family’s Syracuse home.

WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM

“The American dream isn’t about dreaming. It’s about working,” Donald Thatvihane says.

As he and his family pursue the American dream, fears of terrorism have sparked a national debate over allowing more refugees into the U.S. Some presidential candidates have said the U.S. should close its borders and keep Syrians and Muslims out. Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner has encouraged President Barack Obama to accept more Syrian refugees into the U.S. The city has a long history of resettling refugees. A letter Miner and 17 other U.S. mayors sent to Obama in September said, “The drive and enterprise of immigrants and refugees have helped build our economies,



Family photos on display in the Thatvihane family home in Syracuse

enliven our arts and culture, and enrich our neighborhoods.”

Thatvihane’s parents bought the house on Seymour Street in 1995 for \$67,000 from Rebuild Syracuse, a nonprofit community development group. Before that they rented on Rowland Street, also on the West Side.

Donald Thatvihane says many people have suggested they relocate to a better neighborhood, but he cannot afford to move. “If you run away, go some other place and it’s bad again, where are you going to go?” he says. “Anywhere we stay, if it’s bad, we make it better.”

There were 28 cases of shootings or shots fired on the Near West Side, with six people wounded, during the first seven months of 2015.

A DANGEROUS NEIGHBORHOOD

Thatvihane says it was dangerous growing up on the Near West Side.

“We were the only Asian family on the West Side and I was bullied all the time because of my race,” he says. “There were a lot of people getting killed on the West Side and people trying to start fights with me or my family.”

Some of his middle school friends were killed in drive-by shootings. Neither Thatvihane nor anyone else in his family has been shot. But Thatvihane says gunfire is a common sound in the neighborhood.

His parents sheltered him. His father drove him to school in his taxi and picked him up nearly every day. If his father was working, one of his older siblings picked him up. His parents did not want him wandering around the neighborhood. When he wasn’t in school, Thatvihane stayed inside the house.

But in his senior year of high school Thatvihane lost his focus. “I became very concerned about George because he lost his passion for school,” says Levin, the school’s counselor. “His attendance slipped.”

Thatvihane says he had lost his motivation and was depressed. But when he started paying more attention to his family he emerged from his funk. “I started seeing the sacrifices my parents made for me coming over to this country,” he said. “It was time for me to grow up.”

While Ithaca College is only 55 miles from Syracuse, Thatvihane says he felt like he was “on the other side of the world” when he got there. He missed home and didn’t fit in. He wanted to study, but the people he hung out with didn’t. When he doubled down on studying to regain his scholarships, his friends at Ithaca did not understand why he wasn’t socializing with them anymore. “That was one reason I needed to get out of Ithaca,” he says.

SCAVENGING FREE FOOD TO SAVE MONEY

To help offset the financial bind created by the loss of scholarships, Thatvihane dropped his meal plan for a semester to save money. He bought some food and rationed it out over the course of the semester. He also scavenged free food from events around campus and went into the dining hall with friends who shared food with him.

Thatvihane’s parents and his sister, Phitsamai, a nurse practitioner at Crouse Hospital, got him interested in medicine. When he was a youngster, his mother occasionally took him to the nursing home where she worked. He was impressed by the way she looked out for patients. He grew up listening to his father tell stories about being a doctor in Laos.

For a while Thatvihane thought about becoming a physician assistant because he didn’t think he was smart enough to be a doctor. Phitsamai, his sister, told him to stop doubting himself.

He decided to go for his MD midway through the master’s of public health program at Upstate. He’s received some scholarships to help pay for medical school.

Thatvihane is one of three Syracuse City School District graduates among Upstate’s first-year class of 158 students. His goal is to specialize in internal medicine or family medicine.

His dream is to be an inner-city doctor in Syracuse, maybe on the Near West Side.

“There’s no other place I want to be,” he says. “I want to practice in the community so people can see my face and know that I grew up here and that it’s possible to make it and do what you want to do in life.” ■

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To see an interview with George, visit www.syracuse.com/health/index.ssf/2016/01/med_student.html



Meet Danielle Laraque-Arena,

Upstate Medical University's seventh president is a pediatrician with expertise in child abuse and a keen sense of social justice.

BY RENÉE GEARHART LEVY

Why Upstate? It's a question that Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, is asked wherever she goes. For her, the answer is simple.

The challenges and the opportunity. As the new president of Upstate Medical University, she looks to tap into her long commitment to the underserved by building on the joint missions of science, education, and health care to bring transformative change to Central New York, by improving access to medical education and addressing healthcare disparities within the community.

Dr. Laraque-Arena brought that clear vision to Syracuse in January and she's hit the ground running, wasting no time in her goal to meet with every department on campus to learn as much as possible about each aspect of the University. Five weeks to the day of her arrival, she sat down with the *Alumni Journal*. During a wide-ranging, hour-long conversation, we learned a lot. Here are some highlights.

MD



Dr. Laraque-Arena is the first woman and first African American to serve as Upstate president.



UPSTATE MEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHY



UPSTATE MEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHY



Her Upbringing Left a Huge Imprint

Laraque-Arena was born in Haiti, where her father served in the military and was a revolutionary poet, critical of Haitian leader François “Papa Doc” Duvalier. The family fled the country’s oppressive regime when she was seven, settling in Queens for a better life. Her father was a parking attendant at New York University, and later taught French at Fordham Prep. Her mother, who began as a clerk at the United Nations, worked her way into higher positions. “I grew up in a very modest home, but it was intellectually very rich,” Laraque-Arena says. “The walls were lined with books. Education was a priority.”

Social justice was a popular topic at the dinner table and those conversations planted lasting seeds. “My parents were an incredible influence on my life,” she says. “That mission to serve the poor—not as charity, but in terms of basic human rights, that’s a message I got from the very beginning.”

Her maternal grandfather had been a physician in Haiti, where he and her grandmother also ran a pharmacy. Although he died when Laraque-Arena was a pre-schooler, her grandmother came to the United States with her family and lived with them until she died. “She was one of the most brilliant women I’ve ever known and probably would have

been a physician herself if opportunities had been different for her.”

Laraque-Arena became focused on a career in medicine as a pre-teen. “I wanted something that led to concrete changes and medicine offered that,” she says.

She majored in chemistry at Fordham University, which she attended using remitted tuition benefits from her father’s teaching job, and spent her junior year at Leeds University in England. She transferred to UCLA for her fourth year, and then won a full scholarship to attend medical school there. She is acutely aware that her career is a result of this opportunity, as she had no ability to fund her medical education on her own. That’s one reason she says “Yes” whenever UCLA calls.

She Has a Great Love Story

Laraque-Arena met her future husband, Luigi Arena, MD, PhD when she was a freshman at Fordham and he was a Fulbright Scholar from Italy earning a master’s at Brooklyn Polytechnic. When he finished his program, his visa expired and he returned to Naples. Laraque-Arena spent the year in England doing her own exchange program. By then the couple knew they wanted to spend their lives together, and when Arena was accepted to a doctoral program in engineering at UCLA, the dean accepted her to arts and sciences for her senior year. They were married a year later.

When it was time for Laraque-Arena’s residency, it was her turn to choose institutions, and the couple headed to Philadelphia. But her love for medicine had rubbed off, and Arena decided to switch careers, attending the Medical College of Pennsylvania (now Drexel) while his wife was a resident. He became a radiologist, working for many years at New York University and then as chair of the Department of Radiology at St. Joseph’s Hospital. He retired in 2010, and fully supported the move to Syracuse and his wife’s latest leadership role.

The couple has two children: son Marc is a first-year law student at Duke University and daughter Julia is a first-year medical student at New York Medical College.

She’s Focused on Those with the Least Voice

During medical school at UCLA, Laraque-Arena’s third-year clerkship in pediatrics was at Martin Luther King Hospital/Drew-UCLA Medical School in Los Angeles, which served the Watts and Compton neighborhoods, and she experienced the disparities in care and economic opportunity these communities endured.

She went on to a pediatrics residency and fellowship at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, which abuts one of the poorest neighborhoods in Philadelphia. Her five years there cemented a commitment to commu-



CV IN BRIEF:

Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD

BOARD CERTIFICATION

Pediatrics

Child Abuse Pediatrics

EXPERTISE

Child Abuse

Injury Prevention

Adolescent Health Risk Behaviors

Healthcare Delivery in Underserved Areas

EDUCATION

BS, UCLA

MD, UCLA

Pediatrics Residency,
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship in
General Academic Pediatrics,
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

LANGUAGES

French • Creole • English • Italian

CREDITS

She has been continuously funded since the early 1990's and has authored more than 100 papers, numerous chapters, media and educational materials and given more than 150 invited presentations.

EXTRA CREDITS

She began the only child abuse pediatrics ACGME fellowship program in New York State at Maimonides Infants & Children's Hospital in 2011.

ORGANIZATIONS

Among numerous leadership roles, she is past president of the Academic Pediatric Association and just completed her term as American Academy of Pediatrics, New York State, District II Chair. She's an honorary member of the Haitian Pediatric Society, among other organizations.

“We must address the issue of poverty with our science, our enterprise, and our collective will to make a difference.”

nity pediatrics and a marriage of academics and service. It was a natural fit when she was offered a position at Harlem Hospital with a full academic appointment at Columbia University.

In her first faculty position, Laraque-Arena was hired to see the highest-risk kids. “I had a wise ambulatory service director who said, ‘You’re in the middle of Harlem. If you’re supposed to see the high-risk kids, you’ll be seeing every patient,’” she recalls.

Instead, Laraque-Arena developed three separate multi-disciplinary teams to evaluate and treat abused and neglected children, focusing herself on those who were at the highest socioeconomic risk. The Family Support Program was the first program funded by the Office of Children and Family Services to integrate mental health into a child abuse program.

“I began to take on leadership positions because I wanted to do things differently, to organize care differently,” she says. “You can manage well, but that doesn’t make you a leader,” she says. “To be an effective leader, you need good content knowledge and the ability to decide on the things that are worth speaking out about.”

From 2000-2010, she served as professor of pediatrics and professor of preventive medicine and the endowed Debra and Leon Black Professor of Pediatrics, chief of the Division of General Pediatrics and vice-chair for public policy and advocacy at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and more recently, as chair of the Department of Pediatrics and vice-president of the Maimonides Infants and Children’s Hospital of Brooklyn, and professor of pediatrics at the Albert Einstein School of Medicine.

She developed a reputation as an international expert on injury prevention, child abuse, adolescent health risk behaviors, and on issues critical to health care delivery in underserved communities.

One of the things that attracted her to Upstate was the unique mix of health challenges faced by the institution’s service area, including health disparities compounded by concentrated urban poverty, a shortage of rural practitioners, and a local indigenous population.

Laraque-Arena believes her

experience makes her uniquely suited to help Upstate tackle those challenges, something she considers part of the institution's mission. "We cannot sit in a city where we are the experts in health and know that the biggest determinant of health is not the medicine you get but the social conditions in which you live, and do nothing to help achieve equity in the basics—e.g. good nutrition, proper sanitation, and a safe place to live and learn—things unfortunately, that haven't been obtained for segments of our population," she says. "I am convinced that zip code/geography should not determine the fate of a newborn baby's life."

She's a Team Builder

"Upstate Medical University is not alone in its proximity to poverty," says Laraque-Arena, pointing to institutions such as Johns Hopkins, Columbia, and the University of Pennsylvania, among others. "The critical questions here are what do we do well and whom can we partner with to help affect change?" she says.

Laraque-Arena says she'll take a team approach to addressing poverty and its impact on health in Syracuse by engaging with other organizational and governmental stakeholders to work toward common goals. "We must address the issue of poverty with our science, our enterprise, and our collective will to make a difference," she says.

She'll take a similar approach internally in efforts to translate research, transform education, and improve the delivery of care provided directly by the institution. The first step is putting together her own leadership team and developing a strategic plan. While that is a work in progress, Laraque-Arena plans to employ information technology to monitor and report on the progress. "The concept is to decide what the core things are that we want to accomplish, map out a strategy, and then be very tough about measuring targets, tracking progress and reporting it out," she says. "Not meeting

those targets isn't necessarily failure, just a sign we may need to take a different approach."

She's not afraid to make change. One area of likely focus is training clinicians in team-based care, a concept she's passionate about. "Twenty-first century medicine tells us that while physicians may know their content area very well, they can't possibly provide all the support a family needs in all situations," she says. "And evidence shows that when you equalize all members of the team, you reduce the number of medical errors because everyone shares the same responsibility to speak out."

Laraque-Arena says the proliferation of medical knowledge has become so amplified that it's difficult for physicians to actually know all of the science in detail without getting very narrow. "In my lifetime, areas I once considered my specialty have been farmed out to subspecialties—child abuse pediatrics used to be part of the generalist field; adolescent medicine used to be part of the generalist field," she explains.

"Team-based care allows us to see the whole picture. I'm a primary-care physician but I couldn't imagine working without my team of social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, or social service agencies."

The College of Medicine is at the Core

That team approach may extend to the College of Medicine. "I think the medical education system needs to be much more interprofessional and more adherent to looking at how the workforce achieves what it needs to achieve with respect to health," says Laraque-Arena.

She views the College of Medicine as an essential component of Upstate Medical University and believes it's a particularly rich training ground for students interested in rural health or working with underserved populations.

A major challenge is making medical education affordable for the next generation of physicians. While not a problem unique to Upstate, "We have a special calling in public education to provide access while providing excellence in education," says Laraque-Arena. The challenge is to keep tuition low to provide access, while increasing support for scholarships to recruit the best students and endowments to support quality faculty.

She hopes for assistance from alumni, both from the College of Medicine and University Hospital's residency programs. "Continuing to develop the reputation of this organization is dependent on active support from those who trained here," she says, both through financial contributions and through mentorship.

"Both scholarships and mentorship made a real difference in my life," says Laraque-Arena, who invited her own mentor from her residency years to speak at her Upstate inauguration. "I am hopeful that our alumni feel a loyalty to the institution that gave them the foundation for their careers, and that if we ask, the answer is 'Yes.'"

She's a "First," but She'd rather it not be Noteworthy

Laraque-Arena is both the first woman and first African-American to serve as president of Upstate Medical University. "I embrace those identities because that's who I am, but I have the same tough job as anyone sitting in this position," she says.

More important, she says, is the openness of our society to a diversity of leadership. "The demographics of those we serve is increasingly diverse so it's only a positive thing for Upstate's leadership to reflect that diversity," says Laraque-Arena. "So I celebrate being the first, but we need to get beyond that." ■



Michael Campbell, MD '05, is an orthopedic surgeon in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Bracing for Impact

Orthopedic physician performs groundbreaking bone surgery

BY JANET WALDMAN

One look at the young woman's legs and Michael Campbell, MD '05, knew he was viewing the most severe case of rickets he'd ever seen.

The patient, Natasha Christian, was referred to Dr. Campbell in February 2015 from an associate at his Virginia Beach, Virginia, -based practice, Atlantic Orthopaedic Specialists. The four-foot, four-inch woman was born with Vitamin D-resistant rickets, also called X-linked hypophosphatemia (XLH), which caused her legs to bow severely. Despite multiple surgeries since childhood, the 35-year-old mother of two has endured constant pain and stress fractures in both of her femurs and walked with a waddling gait.

As fate would have it, Campbell and five other orthopedic physicians from around the country had been invited to Texas

Scottish Rite Hospital in January to learn how to perform surgeries on complex deformity patients using innovative technology newly approved by the FDA.

In March 2015, Christian was on the operating table again, this time making history with Campbell, the first surgeon to use the Orthofix TrueLok Hexapod external fixator to correct deformities in a patient's femur and tibia at the same time. The circular fixator uses tensioned thin wires and half pins that are precisely placed through a patient's bones and connected to external rings. Six adjustable struts for both the tibia and femur connect the rings to each other. Bones were cut between the rings to allow Christian to correct the length and shape of her leg twice a day.

With each series of turns and clicks, Christian brought her bones one millimeter closer to her dream of having straight legs and a more normal height. She wore the seven-pound fixator for four months and was proud to show off a very straight right leg in August. She is completing physical therapy, and surgery on her left leg was planned for this year.

“Nothing else would have worked for her,” says Campbell, who narrated the five-and-a-half-hour procedure as he worked so that Orthofix could use it to educate other physicians. Footage from the surgery was used by a local TV news station in a reporting segment it did on the procedure.

XLH is the most common genetic form of childhood rickets. It occurs in 1 in 20,000 people and is characterized by the failure of the kidneys to reabsorb phosphate. Bones become soft (called osteomalacia) and cannot support the body’s weight without bowing, and they remain soft throughout adulthood. XLH is carried on the X chromosome; hence the “X-Linked” in the name. There is no cure.

If this process could be interrupted in childhood with a new medication still in the testing phase, patients might be able to avoid the many complications the adult disorder presents—from bone spurs and fused spines to hearing problems and the need for limb surgery.

Anatomy of the Surgery

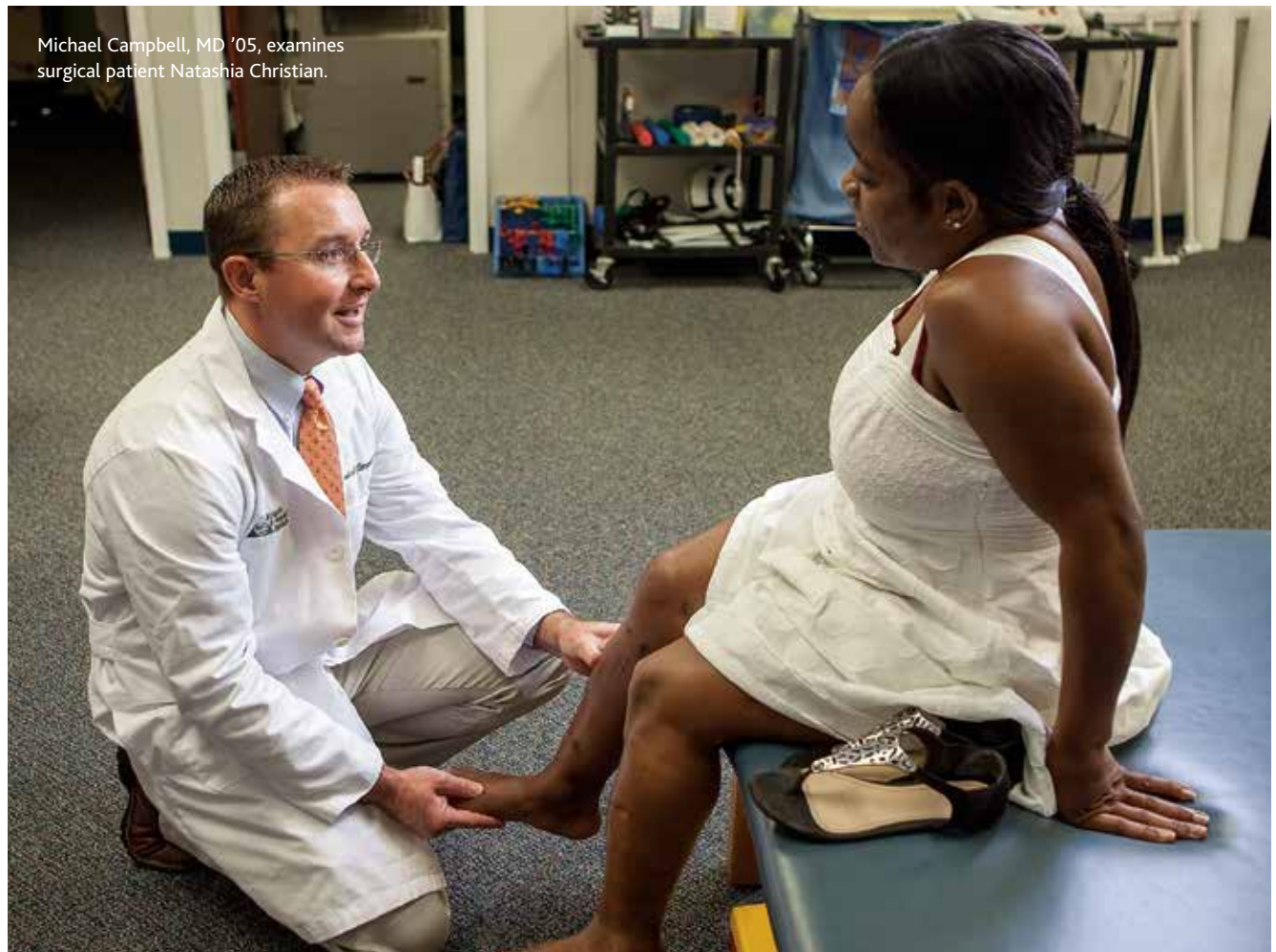
“Deformity correction using external fixators is done routinely at a handful of major medical centers, but many orthopedic surgeons find it cumbersome,” says Campbell. He explained that the technology that determines how he places the fixator is more sophisticated and user-friendly for the patient.

Besides straightening Christian’s legs, Campbell leveled her joints and hopes to give her a three- to four-inch gain in height.

Campbell calls the fixator “the world’s largest erector set.” Once Christian was anesthetized, he constructed the fixator from scratch in the OR based on measurements taken beforehand. “I precisely plan where I will place it, and where I will make bone cuts in the femur and tibia to correct the patient’s deformities.”

Once he applied the fixator in the OR, new X-rays were taken and a host of measurements were entered into a computer program, which then printed a prescription. There are six struts on each external fixator frame. The prescription tells the patient how much and how often to turn each knob to correct the deformities.

“Dr. Campbell showed me how to turn each knob. He said take my time, push and turn until I hear the click. It felt like somebody was pulling on your finger but not letting go,” she said.



Michael Campbell, MD '05, examines surgical patient Natasha Christian.



An X-ray of Natasha Christian's legs after surgery shows the external fixator placed on her right leg by Michael Campbell, MD '05, to correct bone deformities caused by rickets.

Campbell added, "If you go too fast, you can stretch the nerves, causing paralysis, but if you go too slowly, the bone can start to heal and stop your correction prematurely." He said once the deformity was corrected—after a month—he left the frame in place in a static position to allow for healing.

The Healing Process

Five and a half months after her March surgery, Christian was getting around on crutches and having physical therapy. X-rays show the gaps in the bone have filled in with new growth.

"Just walking was tearing up my knees before the operation," Christian recalled. Campbell explained that, pre-surgery, Christian's weight went completely through the inside of her knee and ankle joint, causing premature wear.

After the surgery and once out of a wheelchair, lifting her leg was arduous with the fixator. She felt some pain from the struts, but controlled it with medication. One Sunday when she was feeling considerable pain, she texted Campbell, who met her at the ER. "He's awesome. He came, on the weekend, to make sure everything was OK. That's dedication."

The duo has developed a tight doctor-patient bond owing to the amount of time they've spent together.

Campbell mentioned that a major advantage of the Hexapod over the older system is the stability with which it holds the bones after correction, resulting in better healing. The fixator also can be used for a post-traumatic deformity that could occur while a broken leg heals or for a congenitally deformed limb that needs lengthening, Campbell said.

"Natashia has healed wonderfully, and I could not be any happier with her progress. It's not an easy procedure to go through, and her spiritual nature helped," he said, adding that the long recovery process can cause "cage rage" where "patients just want the frame off."

Christian worked as a certified nursing assistant for 13 years and plans to take online classes to begin a nursing degree. Her short stature caused her emotional pain during childhood. "I was teased, called a midget, and picked on in middle school. One thing I am most definitely looking forward to is having capri pants that don't come down to my feet," she said with a gleam in her eyes.

Her son, Christopher, has rickets and takes medication that potentially could damage his kidneys. He will need surgery in the future, but not as extensive as his mother's.

PT Laid Groundwork

After graduating from Quinnipiac University with a physical therapy degree, Campbell worked at St. Charles Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Port Jefferson, New York, for a year before medical school at Upstate, followed by an orthopedic surgery residency at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania, and a foot and ankle fellowship at the Penn State Milton S. Eisenhower Medical Center. He's been with Atlantic Orthopaedic Specialists since August 2011.

"Hopefully, I won't be doing this surgery by the end of my career," Campbell said. "With this surgery, we made the best of a bad situation, but it's better to prevent it from occurring in the first place. That is the goal of all who work in medicine."

Christian will always take medicine to mitigate the effects of osteomalacia, but she says she can't help smiling when she thinks how far she's come. "I feel bliss, I'm happy, and there are no words to describe it. God sent Dr. Campbell to me. I'm 36, and it took all this time to get it right." ■

Adapted with permission from the fall 2015 issue of *Quinnipiac Magazine*

Transgender Perspectives

STUDENT-SPONSORED PANEL FOCUSES ON THE UNIQUE MEDICAL NEEDS OF TRANS PATIENTS.

Upstate medical student Jordana Gilman '18 envisions the day when patients in physicians' waiting rooms see these categories on the intake form: *Your Gender Identity* and *Your Preferred Pronoun*.

Gestures like that, Gilman says, will send a message to transgender patients: "We treat people like you here; you are welcome here; we will give you our best."



Medical students learn about the unique medical needs of transgender patients at a recent Transgender Health Panel.

That was more or less the theme of the annual Transgender Health Panel held on January 14, hosted by Upstate's LGBT club and co-sponsored by more than a dozen other campus groups and clubs.

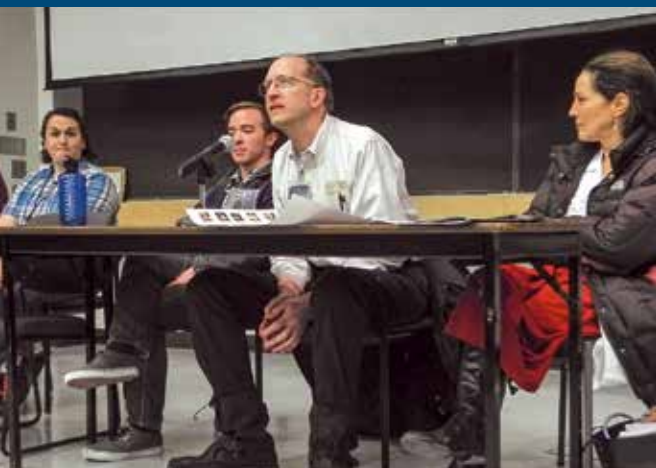
Four members of the local transgender community were on the panel, along with two physicians: Harold Husovsky, MD, HS '86, associate professor of medicine at Upstate, and Barbara Feuerstein, MD '84, an endocrinologist at the Joslin Diabetes Center.

"I'm encouraged by the turnout," Dr. Husovsky told the crowd of about 75 people, mostly Upstate students, in Weiskotten Hall's ninth-floor auditorium. "Every year we get more and more, and that's the way it should be," he said.

Gilman, LGBT club vice-president and a second-year medical student, says the panel was designed as an introduction to the challenges transgender patients face in the health care system, and to educate future health care professionals as they strive to provide the best possible care for patients.

She credited physicians who care for the unique health needs of trans patients—"the cross hormone use, the sexual health care, and even surgery if that is what patients require," she says. "Those doctors deserve our greatest respect and support."

In recent years, the medical profession has seen some advances in awareness, acceptance and treatment of transgender patients. In 2013, the American Psychiatric Association formally did away with the term "gender identity disorder" to describe the incongruity transgender people feel. "Part of removing stigma is about choosing the right words," according to the APA. "Replacing 'disorder' with 'dysphoria' in the diagnostic label is not only more appropriate and consistent with familiar clinical sexology terminology, it also removes the connotation that the patient is 'disordered.'"



A New York State law went into effect January 20 making it illegal to discriminate against or harass people based on gender identity, transgender status or gender dysphoria.

Fifty percent of transgender patients with dysphoria try to kill themselves, Husovsky said. They are in true pain, and have a higher percentage of smoking and alcohol use. If untreated, he said, “it turns out badly for some of them.”

Husovsky has seen 60 to 80 trans patients since 1998, and each one is a unique individual. Sexual identity is a spectrum, he says, echoing an audience member’s comment that labels are meaningless.

Dr. Feuerstein said there are trans patients of all ages, and the timing of hormone treatments can be crucial—for instance, in the case of a young female transitioning to male, halting puberty through hormone treatments can delay breast development.

Here are some observations from the members of the trans community on the panel:

“Nothing ever felt right,” said Jamie, who grew up in a “masculine” home and is transitioning from male to female. “I hated what I was. I knew it was wrong for me.”

At medical appointments, Jamie said she knows as soon as the physician walks into the exam room whether it will be a good match. She’ll tell a joke, and the right response can make all the difference. “Most of us just want to be accepted,” Jamie said.

In response to a medical student’s request for advice in treating their future transgender patients, Tyler—who transitioned to male several years ago starting at age 20—said he has had “some awkward gynecological experiences. One doctor wouldn’t even look me in the eye. I never saw him again.”

Tyler pointed out that he’s had the benefit of a supportive family and the ability to shop around for the right physician, something that a lot of transgender people don’t have.

Josh, who’s transitioning from male to female, began hormone treatments 16 months ago and said, “It’s the best thing I’ve done. It calmed a lot of nerves.”

A parent of a transgender child said their family has been fortunate, thanks in part to an understanding pediatrician. “The longer we deal with it, the easier it gets,” the parent said. “But it’s still scary.”

Panelists included members of the local transgender community and Upstate physicians Harold Husovsky, MD HS ’86 (second from right) and Barbara Feuerstein, MD ’84 (far right).

Fifty percent of transgender patients with dysphoria try to kill themselves, Husovsky said. They are in true pain, and have a higher percentage of smoking and alcohol use.

Gilman considered the event a huge success. “I know everyone walked away having learned something,” she says. “We will carry what we learned in that room with us throughout our careers, wherever they may lead.”

The panel was co-sponsored by these Upstate student groups: Endocrine Club, AMWA, COM Class of 2018, Cross Cultural Awareness, Docs for Tots, Emergency Medicine, Integrative Medicine, Jewish Med Association, Med Students for Choice, Muslim Students Association, Ob/Gyn Club, Physicians for Human Rights, Radiology Club, and the Secular Students Association. ■

—Jim McKeever

CLASS NOTES

1946 *Reunion* SEPTEMBER 23•24, 2016

1951 *Reunion* SEPTEMBER 23•24, 2016

1953

Douglas H. Smith, of Manchester, CT, has been retired from anesthesiology since 1993. He has been totally devoted to running the Hockanum River Linear Park committee and sub-committee for the Manchester, CT, Conservation Commission since April 1970. The committee works to maintain 16 miles of hiking trails along the river three mornings weekly year round, and then they all go for coffee at their favorite Chez Ben Diner. He is now the retired chairman. Their website is www.hockanum-riverwa.org and it describes the nine hiking trails with maps to follow. "If anyone happens to be in the area, please stop by for coffee at the Chez Ben, 10:30 am sharp, though please call

(860-402-9908) to let us know you are coming!" He also writes, "At age 87, I am still having fun and staying active on trails and enjoying my two sons, daughter, grandchildren, and one great granddaughter."

1954

Keith R. Dahlberg, of Kellogg, ID, has published his seventh book, *Achieving Large Goals*, an inspirational, non-fiction book, found on CreateSpace and Kindle.

1956 *Reunion* SEPTEMBER 23•24, 2016

Michael L. Del Monico, relocated to Raleigh, NC, from Rhinebeck, NY, to be closer to family after his wife, Irene, passed away in August 2014.

Lawrence H. Port, of Lake Worth, FL, has given up snowbird status and is now a full time Floridian. He and Dilys are both generally well, though he finds he is not completely enthralled with the aging process. He is volunteering once a week at a medical clinic for migrant workers, riding his bicycle 15 miles several times a week, and when his back lets him, plays tennis two or three times a week. He is looking forward to the 60th reunion in September.



Lawrence H. Port '56 with his family

Frank E. Young '56, of Wilmington, NC, received the 2015 Distinguished Scientist Award from the American College of Toxicology. This award is presented to an individual who "has made outstanding contributions to toxicology, its relationship to the regulation of chemicals, and/or the improvement of public health."

1960

Julian M. Aroesty, of Lexington, MA, is the first MD to volunteer to provide subspecialty care in a federally sponsored pilot program offering subspecialty care to underserved areas. "The program is called MAVEN Consults. They use web technology, are pro bono, and my program name is MAVEN 001," he writes.



Julian M. Aroesty '60

1961 *Reunion* SEPTEMBER 23•24, 2016

1962

John Ritrosky Jr., of Fort Myers, FL, is still working full time, even with EMR.



John Ritrosky, Jr. '62

ALAN POLLACK, MD '61

Creating Sustainable Habitats



Alan Pollack, MD '61, and a redbud tree from his backyard habitat.



Alan Pollack, MD '61, and his wife, Patti, moved into their Woodland Hills, California, home in 1968, near the beginning of his 30-year psychiatry career. During those years, a traditional grass lawn and concrete driveway surrounded the home.

Today, the yard is a lush garden oasis, its manicured lawn replaced by native California and Mediterranean plants that attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. A bed of decomposed granite, which allows rainwater to soak through and feed the surrounding trees and plants, has replaced the concrete

driveway. A dry creek bed running through the backyard also collects rainwater. The garden has been designated a wildlife habitat site by the National Wildlife Federation, a label that means it provides the four basic elements needed for wildlife to survive: food, water, shelter, and places to raise young.

"It is unlike the typical meticulous, manicured gardens one is used to seeing," explains Dr. Pollack. "Plants grow to their natural size and shape; leaves and pine needles lie where they fall, providing Mother Nature's mulch; and because it is planted mostly with California natives and plants from other Mediterranean climate zones, the need for water and fertilizing is much reduced and, in some cases, eliminated."

It's a model he actively promotes to others. In 1995, after retiring from psychiatry practice with the Kaiser Permanente Medical Group, Pollack tapped into his natural talent for landscaping and began transforming

his "very boring" yard. In the process of creating a more natural state, he discovered he'd also made his garden wildlife friendly, and began connecting and volunteering with wildlife rehabbers. A skilled woodworker—he's built many of the furniture pieces in his home—he began building cages and aviaries, including his own aviary for recovering songbirds.

In 2004, after learning about training given by the National Wildlife Federation, Pollack became a certified Wildlife Habitat Steward. For the last dozen years, he has provided free consultation to people interested in converting conventional landscapes into wildlife gardens, hosting tours of his own garden, and giving his lecture/slideshow, "Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time."

"I've been delighted to combine two of my passions: a lifelong love for gardening and wildlife," says Pollack, who also serves on the board of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society and received the organization's annual conservation award in 2012 along with Congressional recognition for his work for the environment. "I especially value the time spent with the college biology classes and other youth groups that visit my garden since influencing future generations is so vital for our planet's sustainability."

According to Pollack, grass lawns don't belong in a semi-arid, drought-prone climate such as California. He advocates "sustainable gardening" by creating gardens that imitate nature as much as possible. "It involves conserving water, soil, plant and animal life and is important to do everywhere if we want a planet that supports human life (which depends on our biodiversity)," he says.

At 79, he is thrilled to have an avocation as fulfilling as his long medical career. Says Pollack, "This is my payback to Mother Nature for all the pleasure she has given me."

—Renée Gearhart Levy

CLASS NOTES

Alan Solomon, of Bellingham, MA, is still in part-time practice and has arranged for a lecture circuit regarding MSK Ultrasound/Shoulder Ultrasound. He will start this year with a lecture at NYU Orthopedics, and SUNY Downstate, followed by five more at sonography schools in his local area.

1963

Paul E. Berman, of Amherst, MA, and his wife, Yvonne, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June.

Marcia C. Kirsch, of Syracuse, NY, shares that her husband passed away on October 6, 2015.

David I. Rosen, of Bath, PA, is still in practice. "From urology to administrative Medicare, and now 'House Call MD,' a return to humanistic care," he writes.

1964

Stanley B. Burns, of New York, NY, along with his daughter, Elizabeth A. Burns and The Burns

Archive, served as the medical, historical, and technical advisers to the new Ridley Scott/PBS Civil War medical drama *Mercy Street*. He was on set for all the medical and surgical scenes.

1965

Peter J. Adasek, of Colorado Springs, CO, went on an Indian Heritage tour in September with fellow docents of the Colorado Springs Fine Art Center. They visited reservations meeting Native Americans of several different tribes and toured Indian monuments. In October, he made his yearly trip to his boyhood hometown of Little Falls, NY, to visit old friends and relatives. He and Sun Hui continue to "cut the rug" at the International Dance Club, Eagles Club, and other venues. Their favorite is dancing at Broadmoor.



Peter J. Adasek '65 with his fiancée Sun Hui



Stanley B. Burns '64 (in Upstate teeshirt) working on the set of *Mercy Street*



George H. Newman '66 and Sally, pictured in Kauai, HI. In the background is the fig tree from the movie *Jurassic Park*.

Anthony R. Caprio, of Fall River, MA, and wife Gail spent the winter in Vero Beach, FL. Anthony continues to be active with the Shriners and other fraternal organizations in Massachusetts.

derful daughters, and four wonderful grandchildren," he writes.

Lawrence Panitz, of Yonkers, NY, writes "If I make it to my 50th anniversary reunion, I will be the only class member to have attended every five year reunion!"

Austin M. Pattner, of Englewood, NJ, is finally a grandfather! His practice is growing and is recruiting an eighth associate, and not selling out to a hospital or large-group control.

1966 Reunion SEPTEMBER 23•24, 2016

George H. Newman, of Bedford, NH, and his wife, Sally, enjoy the outdoors, hiking, and spending time with their five grandchildren. "Hope to see our classmates at the September reunion," he writes.

A. Michael Kaplan, of Dix Hills, NY, is still working in pediatrics with two offices. He is in the process of building a home in Lenox, MA. This summer he and his wife will celebrate their 50th anniversary. "I have a wonderful wife, two won-

1967

Abba E. Borowich, of Hollywood, FL, and wife, Sandy, are trying to do their "Bucket List" things and are enjoying them as much as possible. "Best regards to all my classmates," he writes.



Alan M. Davick, of Cape Coral, FL, has his fifth book out, *Violence in Children-Spark, Tinder, Fuel*,

that was just published and takes its place in his Misbehavior in Children Series, accessible at DrDavick.com. He lives with his wife, Barbara, in Cape Coral.

1970

Douglas E. Brown, of La Jolla, CA, retired in April. He and wife Connie celebrated her 70th birthday with a trip to Europe and were joined by **Sherwood Lee '69** and Barbara, in Amsterdam and Spain. They get together frequently with **Michael Kalafer** and Derelynn, as well as occasionally getting up to the Bay area to see **Roy Kaplan**.

1971 Reunion

SEPTEMBER 23•24, 2016

Norman F. Jacobs, of Atlanta, GA, is working part time as a surveyor for Joint Commission International, doing accreditation of healthcare organizations in Europe, Middle East, and Asia. He and Kathy split their time home between Atlanta and Savannah.

David A. Ostfeld, of Allentown, PA, has officially retired. He and his wife have three children and four grandchildren.

Richard M. Stratton, of Gilbert, AZ, is retired and enjoying his grandchildren, walking the dog, and trips back to Alaska.

John J. Zone, of Salt Lake City, UT, has been chairman of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Utah for the past 29 years. He has nurtured the growth of the department from five faculty members to 38. The department is recognized among the best nationally.

1973

Charles E. Jordan, of Geneva, NY, is now semi-retired with a part time independent medical examination practice in Geneva. He has three married daughters and four grandsons and one new baby granddaughter.

1974

Joseph A. Blady, of Franklin Lakes, NJ, retired from the Department of Defense.

Maria M. Shevchuk Chaban, of New York, NY, is privileged to be the first chair of the In Vivo Microscopy Committee of the College of American Pathologists, which gives her the opportunity not only to work with some of the best minds in the country, but to also feel that she is leaving a legacy for the next generation of pathologists. In addition, she is involved in research in her subspecialist field of urological pathology at Weill Cornell Medical



Maria Shevchuk Chaban '74 with husband Bohdan Chaban, their children and grandchildren

College. "In my personal life I am blessed by the love and fun of my husband of 40 years, my three children and one daughter-in-law, all professionals, and my three wonderful grandchildren," she writes.

1975

Jay M. Walshon, of Westport, CT, writes, "It is with great pride that my wife, Tamara, and I announce our son Michael-Isaac (Zak) will be graduating in May 2016 as a member of the SUNY Upstate medical class. Such a privilege, honor, and absolute joy to be a part of the ceremony to bestow the degree of MD upon this outstanding man. It will be a very emotional event."



Jay Walshon '75, Tamara, and Michael-Isaac (Zak) Walshon '16

1976 Reunion

SEPTEMBER 23•24, 2016

James F. Cornell, of Ore-field, PA, is still working in a 16-physician GI group practice in Lehigh Valley.

1977

William R. Latreille, of Malone, NY, is chairman of the Board of Trustees and vice speaker of the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY).

Your Specialty: How did you choose?

An influential mentor?

A loved one suffering from a disease?

Or perhaps it was a memorable experience during a clinical rotation.

If you have a good story about how you chose your area of medicine, we'd like to hear from you. Please email us at norcrosp@upstate.edu with How I Chose in the subject line.

Jay S. Steingrub, of Wilbraham, MA, is at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA, going on year 34. He is director of the Medical ICU, and vice chair of research in the Department of Medicine, and professor of medicine at Tufts Medical School. He has been a NHLBI funded investigator for the past 16 years, with his focus in ARDS. He most recently was appointed as the director of the Center of Clinical Trials for a new partnership between Umass Medical School and Baystate Health. He sends greetings to the class of 1977. "I would love to hear from some of you, especially **Neil Strickman** and **Henry Friedman** down at Duke, **Mark Shulman** in Boston and the New York ophthalmologist. All my best to my classmates."

Mark Zilkoski, of Wolf Point, MT, recently delivered his 21st grandchild on January 17. He still has a ton of family practice students from all over, but none from Upstate. "Life is good," he writes.



Mark Zilkoski '77 and his 21st grandchild

Nancy J. Tarbell '79, of Waban, MA, received a gold medal from the American Society for Radiation Oncology, given at the annual meeting in September 2014. The award is ASTRO's highest honor, and is given to members who have made exceptional contributions to the field of radiation oncology, including work in research, clinical care, teaching, and service.

1978

David E. Gunther, of Williamsville, NY, had a right total knee replacement on January 5, 2016. He plans on retiring in June 2016 after 35 years of primary care internal medicine. He worked 22 years for a local HMO, then helped form a private practice group of internal medicine and family practice physicians in 2003. He and Marcia hope to be snowbirds in Florida after the renters in their Florida home move out this summer.

Michael Lustick, of Woodbridge, CT, and his wife continue to be very active practicing child and adolescent psychiatry. Their work has been more satisfying and meaningful than they could have ever imagined. Michael has rekindled his passion for golf and plays in amateur tournaments. "Thanks to Upstate for helping me launch my career and best wishes to my classmates," he writes.

Richard J. Steinman, of Jamesville, NY, is still in the Emergency Department at Crouse Hospital. After 30 years as medical director and chief of emergency services, he took a step down to be associate director and vice chief. "Let someone new go to all the meetings—I have two grandchildren to look after," he writes. There are now two doctors in the family; his wife, Kathy, earned her Doctorate in Nursing Practice, *summa cum laude*.

1980

Lowell L. Hart, of Fort Myers, FL, has accepted an academic part-time position at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and its cancer center as associate professor of internal medicine.

Gerald B. Rakos, of Stamford, CT, was named to the Stamford Health Board of Trustees. He remains chair of pediatrics.

1981 Reunion
SEPTEMBER 23•24, 2016

1982

Michael P. Duffy, of Syracuse, NY, has completed his term as president of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists. The NYSSA is the second largest state society for anesthesiologists in the U.S. and runs one of the premier anesthesia educational meetings in the world, the PGA. He says it has been a pleasure to serve such an outstanding physician organization. Since completing his residency at Upstate in anesthesiology in 1990, Duffy has practiced at nearby Crouse Hospital and has remained on staff at Upstate as an assistant clinical professor with a sub-specialty in obstetric anesthesia.

ERNIE FOUND, MD '80

A Gift of Friendship

Five years ago, orthopedic surgeon Ernie Found, MD '80, suffered an unimaginable tragedy. Within a two-week span, he lost both his 17-year-old daughter, Caroline, to a head injury suffered in a moped accident, and his wife, Ellyn, to pancreatic cancer.

Dr. Found was not alone in his heartbreak. His Iowa City community was rocked by the back-to-back loss. Ellyn was a much-loved community volunteer who immersed herself in school, church and other community activities. She was particularly involved with her daughter's volleyball team. Caroline was captain and setter on the West High School girl's volleyball team, which had won the state championship the previous year. Like her mother, Caroline—called Line by her friends—was widely beloved. She was not only the glue that bonded her team together but was one of those rare individuals that always had kindness and a smile for everyone.

"What I remember the most about Caroline was her smile and her laugh," says Found, who also has two older children, Gregg and Catherine.

But grief can do unexpected things, in this case, galvanizing a community to support each other and the Found family to a place of healing.

In the wake of Caroline's death, her teammates considered cancelling their upcoming volleyball season. Instead, like something out of a Hollywood movie script, the team that should have had a re-building year went on to win an unlikely second state championship, with Found cheering them on the entire way. The "Live Like Line" slogan, originally printed on t-shirts for the volleyball team, became a mantra carried by the entire town. That story, both tragedy and triumph, has been shared on ESPN.com, by acclaimed sportswriter Frank Deford on an *HBO Sports* segment, and in the book *Live Like Line, Love Like Ellyn*, by Bill Hoeft. The Live Like Line facebook page continues to chronicle acts of kindness by student athletes across the country.

"I can't tell you how many good things came from something so tragic," says Found.

Most recently, a scholarship fund was established at Upstate Medical University by Found's classmates. The Friendship Scholarship, Given in Honor of Dr. Ernie Found '80, in Loving Memory of His Wife, Ellyn, and Daughter, Caroline, was spearheaded by Marc Subik, MD '79, a former roommate of Found while medical students. Dr. Subik was at the Class of 1979 35th reunion in 2014 when he heard about Found's family tragedy. "I knew he had lost

his wife to cancer, but I had never heard the whole story. The extent of his loss was almost incomprehensible," Subik recalls. "I was really shaken by it."

Found had met Ellyn, a native of Binghamton, New York, during his residency years in Boston. They married and moved to Syracuse, where he completed a spine fellowship at Upstate and she earned a master's degree at Syracuse University's Newhouse School. Through the years she came to know many of his medical school friends due to the close relationships they had developed while in school.

Wanting to do something for his old friend, and for Upstate in the process, Subik reached out to other classmates for support in establishing a scholarship fund. Everyone he contacted said yes. Subik asked Larry Marsh, MD '79, also an orthopedic surgeon in Iowa City, to reach out to Found to make sure he would be comfortable with the effort.

Found was moved, making his own contribution to honor his wife and daughter. "Many of us develop lifelong relationships as medical students going through the drudgery and difficulty of the experience together, and I think this scholarship is testimony to that," he says.

To date, the Friendship Scholarship has raised \$32,800. The first scholarship from the endowment was presented at Reunion 2015 and Found was on hand to meet the recipient.

"I am so honored and appreciative of the scholarship established in memory of my family," says Found. "I hope it can be an enduring scholarship and help many medical students in the future."

To donate to The Friendship Scholarship, or for more information, please contact Paul Norcross at the Upstate Medical Alumni Association at norcrossp@upstate.edu or 315-464-4361, or visit medalumni.upstate.edu/donate.



Top, the Found family in spring 2011: Ellyn, Gregg, Catherine, Caroline, and Ernie.

Bottom, Dr. Found holds up the Golden Spike while receiving hugs from his daughter's teammates following their championship win.

Harry C. Dietz III '84, of Towson, MD, received the American Heart Association 2015 Research Achievement Award, “for life-saving discoveries related to the cause and treatment of aortic aneurysm, a disorder that contributes to death in up to two percent of individuals in industrialized nations of the world.”

1983

Theodore M. Mazer, of Poway, CA, was elected to his third and final year as Speaker of the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association, and nominated as President Elect of the CMA. He continues in solo practice of otolaryngology in San Diego. He also continues in his local and national media roles for advocacy for physicians and patients, recently appearing in *Time* magazine and on PBS “Newshour,” along with local and statewide news articles on topics ranging from physician aid in dying and failure of Medicaid expansion to improving access to specialty care and the legalization of cannabis. He and his wife, Marcy, recently celebrated their 35th anniversary.

Ruth Zodkaevitch Scher, of Holmdel, NJ, writes “I am so excited as the time nears for our eldest to be entering the 2020 College of Medicine class! Our daughter is loving nursing school at Emory and her twin brother is thriving at the business school at TCNJ. I recently met up with awesome **Eric Freded**, whose kids are also thankfully thriving. It was fabulous to see such a great friend who remains an absolutely genuine good soul! Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2016!”

1984

Maria Tasso Longo, of Wolcott, CT, finished her first Marine Corps marathon!

Brian D. Woolford, of San Diego, CA, had a wonderful year of retirement starting in March, with a ski trip with the SAGA ski club in Banff; a cruise from Peru to San Diego in April; a trip back home to Glenmont for two weeks in June to visit family, and another trip back to New York in October to see family and take a fall foliage cruise from NYC to Quebec City. Besides travel, he continues to enjoy reading, exercise, golf, and being on the social committee at his condo.

Lori J. Mosca, of Tenafly, NJ, received the 2015 American Heart Association Physician of the Year Award. She is director of preventive cardiology at New York- Presbyterian/ Columbia University Medical Center.

1986 Reunion

SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2016

John Labiak, of Saint James, NY, and his wife Eileen, share a recent photo of their first grandchild, Luca, born April 22, 2015.



Luca, first grandchild of John Labiak '86

1990

John D. Bisognano, of Pittsford, NY, and classmates **Susan V. Rockwell** of Canandaigua, NY, **Cynthia B. Jones** of Apulia Station, NY, and **Paul O. Ketron** of Boston, MA, celebrated their 25th Reunion, in September 2015, gathering on the ninth floor of Weiskotten Hall for the all-class dinner party.



Enjoying reunion, Class of 1990 members Susan V. Rockwell, John D. Bisognano, Cynthia B. Jones, and Paul O. Ketron

1987

Jeanine M. Morelli, of East Setauket, NY, was happy to partner with Katie Callaghan, class of 2018 at SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine, to form a student sector of the Catholic Medical Association. They celebrated their first white mass recently where they thanked God for their blessings and asked God to help them in their work.



Jeanine M. Morelli '87 and Katie Callaghan

1991 Reunion

SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2016

Molly A. Brewer, of Farmington, CT, took on the chair of OB/GYN last year at University of Connecticut Health Center. “Challenging but interesting,” she writes.

1992

Gregory A. Baum, of Jamesville, NY, and **Anthony R. Deboni '90** opened their new state-of-the-art plastic surgery office in December 2014. They recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of being in their new office and their ninth year of being in practice together. "We are blessed to have a busy plastic surgery practice," he writes.

1995

Seth M. Jacobson, of Penfield, NY, has joined the faculty at the University of Rochester Medical Center as associate professor of clinical medicine-cardiology division. He is also the medical director of cardiac rehabilitation. He and his wife, Linda, have three children: Marc, 18; Mia, 17; and Lily, 13.

1996 *Reunion*

SEPTEMBER 23•24, 2016

Stephen A. Goldstein, of Tucson, AZ, and Melanie welcomed Jonah and Milo to their family on October 27, 2015. Leo, two-and-a-half, is a great big brother.

2001 *Reunion*

SEPTEMBER 23•24, 2016

2002

Rebecca L. Bagdonas, of New York, NY, and husband, Vineet Budhraj, welcomed a new daughter, Annabelle Elise, on November 3, 2015. She joins big sister, Victoria, who's two-and-a-half. Rebecca is a pediatric anesthesiologist at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary at Mount Sinai.



Rebecca L. Bagdonas '02, husband Vineet, and daughters, Victoria and Annabelle Elise

2006 *Reunion*

SEPTEMBER 23•24, 2016

Donna M. Esposito, of Rhinebeck, NY, and husband Joe are happy to share that their son, Alex, has finally beat acute lymphoblastic leukemia after



Alex, son of Donna Esposito '06 and her husband, Joe

two-and-a-half years of chemotherapy. "Although he still must be followed closely over the next few years, we are proud to say he is cancer and chemo free, and thriving in his kindergarten class in Rhinebeck," they write.

2010

Irina Domantovsky, of Pairie Village, KS, and her husband, Eugene Silinov, welcomed baby daughter Katherine in October 2013, now two years old. Domantovsky is finishing her residency in plastic surgery at University of Kansas Medical Center this year, with plans to do a fellowship in pediatric plastic surgery at University of Toronto Hospital for Sick Children starting in July 2016.

Jennifer Muniak, of Rochester, NY, and Daniel Williams announce the birth of their daughter, Penelope Williams, born December 2014.



Penelope Williams, daughter of Jennifer Muniak '10 and Daniel Williams

2012

Dana Amiraian, of Jacksonville, FL, is engaged to Dick D'Souza. Their wedding will be held in Jacksonville in October. Dana is a fourth-year radiology resident at Mayo Clinic. She will be staying at the Mayo Clinic after residency to complete a combined fellowship in breast imaging and cross-sectional body imaging.

Toni Melville, of Leland, NC, completed her residency in family medicine in June 2015 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC. She is currently in private practice at New Hanover Medical Group in Leland.

Brian D. Santacrose, of Santa Barbara, CA, completed his pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and is now in private practice at the Children's Medical Clinic of Santa Barbara, CA. He was recently engaged to Diana Capous.



Dana Amiraian '12 and fiancé Dick D'Souza



Brian D. Santacrose '12 and fiancée Diana Capous

Attention Classes of 1986 & 1996!



Join your Class Reunion Facebook Page to stay updated on happenings during Reunion Weekend and see who is attending!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UpstateMed1986/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SUNYUpstate1996/>

CLASS NOTES

Christopher Weaver, of Charlottesville, VA, will finish his residency at University of Virginia in ophthalmology in June and then join a comprehensive ophthalmology practice in Greensboro, NC.

2013

Rhonda L. Diescher, of Hartford, CT, will return to Upstate in July to complete a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine after completing her residency in emergency medicine at the University of Connecticut and will wed Andrew Philomena on October 1, 2016.

Nikolai V. Kolotiniuk, of San Diego, CA, and his wife welcomed their second baby boy, Liam, born November 8, 2015. Their oldest, Nate, just turned two. "Lots of fun and no rest," he writes.



Nikolai Kolotiniuk '13
with his family

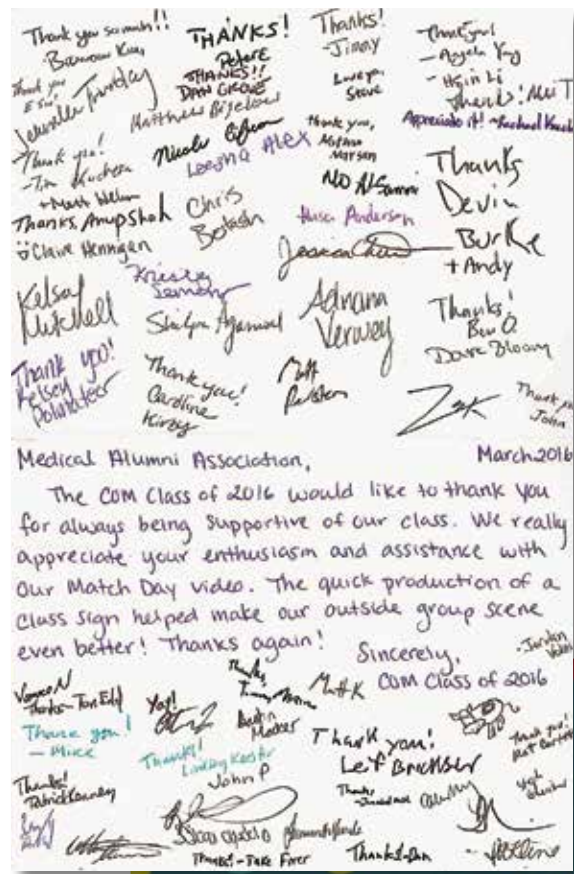
2015

Lauren I. Keshishian, of Arlington, VA, married Zachary Schott of Sterling, VA, six days after graduation. "I gained two titles in one week," she writes. After a honeymoon in the Loire Valley, the couple moved to Arlington so that Keshishian could start her medical internship at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. "It's been a great year so far, and quite a bit warmer than the Syracuse climate," she writes.



Jason Freedman '06 visits with Caryn Kerman '07 and Thomas Franzon '15 in Philadelphia at an Upstate alumni event.

2016



House Staff

Eugene P. Trager, of Lake Forest, IL, has had three recent publications that deal with the relationship between psychiatry and religion: "Models of Madness: Science and Soul," published in the *Journal of Religion and Health*; "The Many Faces of Faith," published in *The Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Temple University; and "Therapeutic Abortion, The Principle of Double Effect and the Irish Compromise," published in *The Medico-Legal Journal of Ireland*. Dr. Trager was a resident in psychiatry from 1960-1963.

I N M E M O R I A M

1942

ALSON F. PIERCE, of Colorado Springs, CO, died November 27, 2015. Dr. Pierce completed a medical internship at City Hospital of Manhattan in New York City before entering the Navy and serving as medical officer aboard the destroyer USS Greer, which patrolled the Atlantic Theater during World War II. He went on to complete a residency in anesthesia at Colorado General Hospital in Denver before being recalled to active Naval duty for eight months during the Korean Conflict. He then settled in Colorado Springs, where he raised his family and practiced anesthesia for more than 30 years. He was survived by his son, Phil; daughters, Harriet, Sarah, and Mary; 10 grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

1946

CURTIS C. FULLER, of Canastota, NY, died on March 13, 2014. Dr. Fuller served in the U.S. Army during World War II as an Army Captain at the 64th Field Hospital at Fort Bragg, NC. He was an anesthesiologist at Rochester General Hospital and later at Community Memorial Hospital, Hamilton, and Oneida City Hospital, Oneida. He was survived by his three sons, Doug, Stephen, and Tim; a daughter, Linda; 10 grandchildren, and several great grandchildren.

1951

SHELDON O. BURMAN, of Chestnut Hill, MA, died November 27, 2015. Dr. Burman was a cardiothoracic surgeon who spent the early part of his career developing techniques for replacing the aortic valve of a human with a valve harvested from an animal. His pioneering research led to a successful aortic valve replacement with a calf valve in 1967, the first such surgery in the United States. Most of Burman's academic surgical career was spent in Chicago, where he taught and performed surgery at the University of Illinois Medical School and the Chicago Medical School. He was survived by his wife, Diane; his children, Allison, Jocelyn, and Harrison Emory Guy Burman, MD; and nine grandchildren.

1953

JOHN S. FORREST, of Elmira, NY, died August 28, 2015. Dr. Forrest completed his internship and first-year surgical residency from 1953-1955 at Upstate. In 1955 he entered the U.S. Air Force as a reservist and then served as a regular Air Force officer from 1957-1966. In 1966, he resigned from the service as a Major and entered private practice with Elmira Orthopedics. He retired from surgery in 1992, but continued doing orthopedic evaluations for Riverfront Medical until 2008. He was survived by his wife, Judith; sons David, Paul, and Steven; daughters Deborah and Rebecca; 15 grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

FRANCIS MICHAEL SHIELDS, of Rio Rancho, NM, died on December 5, 2015. Dr. Shields served in World War II in France as an Army Staff Sergeant. After his internship at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, NH, he returned to Syracuse where he began his pediatric practice in 1955. Shields was also the physician for Onondaga County foster care and Syracuse public schools. He retired in 1984, and continued part-time as a physician with the county and city until he moved to New Mexico. He was survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter Kathleen; son John; and one grandson.

1956

MARSHALL A. GREENE, of San Mateo, CA, died January 12, 2015. Following Dr. Greene's residency, he entered the U.S. Navy and served for the next two years as a psychiatrist at the Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in Oakland, CA, holding the rank of Lt. Commander. He maintained a private practice in psychiatry and psychoanalysis in San Mateo, and was very active in the mental health community. Greene served as staff psychiatrist for San Mateo County Health Services, and for 31 years served on the senior faculty, where he supervised residents and psychology interns. He was a founding member of the Department of Psychiatry at Peninsula Hospital. He provided mental health services for a total of 53 years, seeing patients up until a week before his death. He was survived by his wife, Marlene Levenson; sons, Joel, Mark, David, and Ken; two grandchildren; Marlene's daughters, Barbara Levenson and Toby Levenson, MD; and one granddaughter.

1964

MELVIN W. CLARK, of Green Cove Springs, FL, died April 11, 2014. Dr. Clark was the chief of pathology at Alachua General Hospital of Gainesville for more than 25 years.

SAMUEL G. ROSENTHAL, of Jacksonville, FL, died December 10, 2015. Dr. Rosenthal became chief resident in plastic surgery at Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, where he received his board certifications in general and plastic surgery. He proudly served as an officer in the U.S. Navy at Jacksonville Naval Air Station. Following the Navy, he established a private practice specializing in cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery in Jacksonville, where he practiced for more than 40 years. He was affiliated with many organizations, including the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery and the American Cleft Palate Association, where he donated his time and skills for many years. He was survived by his daughters, Caryn and Pamela; son Brad; and two grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM

1985

JAMES E. FREIJE, of State College, PA, died October 12, 2015. Dr. Freije was an Associate of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at Mount Nittany Physicians Group. He also practiced in numerous health centers including Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin, Community General Hospital, The Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, and Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital. He was survived by his sons, Carter and Paul; his brother and three sisters; and his mother, Mary Louise Freije.

House Staff

WALTER A. CHARLES, of West Palm Beach, FL, died December 8, 2015. Dr. Charles served in the Pacific during World War II. He attended the Chicago Medical School, performed his internship at Kings County Hospital, and his residency at Upstate and Kings County Hospital. Charles was in private practice from 1954 until his retirement in 1995. He was a clinical associate professor of pediatrics at Upstate and his hospital affiliations included Upstate, Crouse, and Community General. He was survived by his wife, Elaine; sons, Mark, Steven, and Charles; and three grandsons.

JAY F. HARRIS, of Albuquerque, NM, died October 8, 2011.

Emeritus Faculty

WILLIAM H. BERGSTROM, of Danvers, MA, died January 16, 2016. Dr. Bergstrom was a medical professor, pediatrician, and researcher. He earned a BA at Amherst College in 1942 and an MD degree at the College of Medicine and Dentistry of the University of Rochester in 1945. His medical career included research posts in Boston, teaching pediatrics for decades at Upstate, and traveling with medical teams to Algiers, Brazil, and China. In the early 1960s he initiated and ran summer evening clinics, with a full complement of medical staff, to care for children in migrant farm worker camps in Upstate New York. He was survived by his wife, Charlotte; sons William, John, and David; daughter Mary Linn; five grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

Is There an Aspiring Doctor in Your Family?

Applying to medical school is a highly competitive—and often highly stressful—process. We'd like to help.

As a service to our alumni, the Upstate Student Admissions Office will host a medical school admission workshop designed to help “friends” of Upstate as they prepare to apply to medical school. The half-day interactive workshop, intended for college students and beyond, will provide an insider’s view on how we evaluate applications and offer tips on preparing for interviews, as well as one-on-one constructive feedback regarding individual applicant credentials.

Friends of Upstate Admissions Workshop June 13, 2016

9:00 am Registration / Continental Breakfast
9:30 am Welcome / Program Overview
9:45 am How to Apply to Medical School:
Nuts and Bolts

10:00 am The Application
■ Dos and Don'ts
■ What the Admissions Committee Really Wants to See
■ Examples of Applications

10:45 am The Personal Statement
■ What We are Really Looking For

11:00 am The Interview
■ Dos and Don'ts
■ What Interviewers Want to Hear

11:30 am MMI Mock Interviews

Noon Lunch

1:00 pm One-on-one counseling sessions with
Admissions Staff Members

This program is designed to help future applicants assess potential strengths and weaknesses so they can prepare the strongest application possible, wherever they choose to apply to medical school. Although we hope your loved ones will choose to apply to Upstate, participation in the workshop should not be viewed as indication of future admission.

To register, please visit the Admissions website at upstate.edu/prospective prior to June 3



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“I owe so much of my success to having been selected to be a medical student at the Upstate College of Medicine.

Back in those days, the cost of my education was nominal and completed with no student debt. But costs have grown enormously for students and institutions. The average medical student now incurs substantial debt earning his or her medical degree.

Through a bequest, my wife, Diane, and I became members of the Upstate Medical Alumni Foundation Legacy Society as a means to help future students. This is a small repayment for a career as fulfilling as mine, and a way to say ‘thank you’ for all of the benefits we have enjoyed. It is simple and easy. We invite you to join us.”

—Michael S. Levine, MD '66

