**Mid-Winter Dinner/Dance**

Thanks again to the generosity of several members of the pediatric faculty, the residents and faculty were able to enjoy an evening of fine food and dancing at the Black Olive on Friday, January 31st for their annual mid-winter dinner dance. There is no doubt everyone had a great time, and the party continued long after the dinner was over. There was also some exceptional live entertainment starring the Friedman/McBride/Steele woodwind trio.

(picture compliments of Helena)

Special thanks to our chiefs, Allison Martin and Katie Fry who put the whole event together.

**Officially Retired?**

It is official. Sort of. Dr. Weinberger retired on 1/31, and was back on 2/6 for very big retirement party at UPAC. Thanks to the famous UPAC photographer Sue Black we were able to capture a few of the party’s most exciting moments below:

The day after his celebration, Dr. Weinberger wrote the following to express his appreciation:

“Thanks to Steve Blatt for organizing a wonderful retirement luncheon in my honor yesterday. The food was great, the invited guests filled the 5th Floor conference room at UHCC and the mood was definitely upbeat.

John Andrak presented an overview of my contributions to our residency program over the years. Patty had computed that since my arrival in the Department of Pediatrics in 1964, I had interacted with 512 residents!

Graduates of our residency program are in almost every state of the union and in many nations around the globe. Some are in primary care practices and others are in subspecialties. Some have joined academic departments (including our own at Upstate).

It has been my honor and pleasure to have made my modest contribution to your training in my roles as residency program director, outpatient division director and department chair.

Over the years, I have enjoyed reminiscing by viewing the "gallery" of photos taken of each residency class. Thanks to Patty Mondore, I now have an album with a copy of each of those photos…as well as a number of messages and greetings which were sent by former residents in honor of my retirement.

I appreciate all the effort which went into putting the album together and especially to the kind and thoughtful comments sent by our former residents.”

**Positive Pediatrics**

The Crier learned of an innovative new program being used by and for the residents and asked its creator, Jenica O’Malley, to fill us in:

“"In life, and residency, there are always going to be challenges, difficulties and days where you are just plain feeling down. There is no doubt that evaluation and criticism have their role in helping to make us all better pediatricians and strengthening our program by identifying areas for improvement; however during a particularly intense House Staff meeting one day I thought back to a few of the jobs I have had over the years.

“At one of these odd jobs we had meetings every 1-2 weeks to discuss how things were going, what we could do better, etcetera, etcetera. Of course, as often happens at our housestaff meetings, it was always easy to get stuck on the "hot topics" that tend to be a bit more negative. To help maintain our morale our boss would collect positive comments from staff, parents, teachers (it was an astronomy camp!) and group leaders to read to the group. All comments would then be placed back in a jar, and a comment would be drawn to award a small gift card or camp store credit (being in an astronomy camp, we called them "Star Awards"). Hearing all the wonderful comments was always an uplifting way to end our meetings, and it seemed like our Housestaff Meetings could use a bit of a positive twist!!

One of the nicest things about our new tradition is that it reminds us how the little things we all do, sometimes without even thinking, can truly make a big difference for someone else! Each month it is so great to hear how our fellow residents are so selfless and thoughtful. I would like to add that so far we have mostly recognized Residents, but this need not be strictly the case - we have so many great attendings, nurses and staff that we can definitely recognize as well!!

I’m so happy that this has caught on, and that people are finding the good in each other. Anyone is welcome to participate or recognize someone they feel deserves to know they have made a difference - nominations can be placed in the envelope on the chiefs’ door or even emailed. Keep up the positivity - and remember even on bad, frustrating days, there really is a lot of good out there. : )

- Jenica O’Malley (PL2)

A SIM Day Success!

The entire housestaff spent four hours on Feb 13th experiencing the first (hopefully)
The Crier received the following note from Asalim Thabet: “I am pleased to announce the arrival of our baby boy Hamza Aladwar - born on 2/13/14 at 4:17pm weighing 7lb 11oz and 21 inches long. We are all doing well.” Congratulations, Asalim!

Welcome Baby Tamborelle
Congratulations to Lindsay Tamborelle on the healthy birth of big baby boy Samuel Edward Tamborelle at 8 lbs, 1 oz. All are doing great!

March Dates to Remember:
- March is Child Life Month
- Match Day – Friday, March 21st

Irish Tunes by Dr. O’Chai
Since March 17th is St. Patrick’s Day, we thought we would end this issue of the Crier with a couple of Irish tunes as rendered by Dr. Jonathan O’Chai et al.

Jonathan Chai’s Irish YouTubes
http://youtu.be/dN0Fehdasbw
http://youtu.be/bwnMDqGUyAU

Syracuse Visits Manila– Xandy Ortego
The Crier received the following photo and note from Dr. Paul Fuller: “Marlana and I and dinner with Xandy while we were visiting our daughter Julie and family in Manila over the holidays. Xandy is thriving professionally in both his clinical and educator roles. He is doing some impressive clinical work in a top rate academic medical center in Manila. He also has important responsibilities for medical student and resident education. My best to you all. – Paul”

Pediatric Star-of-the-Month
By Lisa Blystone
This month’s Pediatric All-Star is Jennifer Nead for her initiatives on the subject of patient safety. She has gone above and beyond and has been instrumental in developing compliance data and seeking ways to improve patient safety, here in Syracuse and also at the Miami Children’s Hospital. Jennifer - please stop by the pediatric offices and pick up your stars prize from Patty or Lisa.

Welcome, Baby Aladwar (Thabet)