They Could Have Danced All Night
On Saturday, January 22nd, the residents, faculty and staff enjoyed a night of music, dancing, dinner, and fun at the annual mid-winter dinner-dance at the Traditions at the Links Restaurant.

There are many people to thank for making this happen, but at the top of the list are our chief residents, Akaber ElKhamra and Derek Gorski for making it happen. A special thanks also goes to Bob Kanter and Derek Gorski for stepping up at the last minute to cover the floor and PICU so the residents could go. In addition to all of the faculty who again stepped up to support the event, the chiefs would like to express special thanks to Drs. Gloria Kennedy, Nader Atallah, and Vicki Meguid for their extravagant generosity.

Brad in Liberia
By the time you read this article, Dr. Brad Olson, who is the medical director of the Upstate Pediatric Refugee clinic, and an Associate Pediatric Residency Program Director, will have just returned from a medical mission trip to Liberia. Dr. Olson’s trip served multiple purposes including being able to teach medical providers there at the country's only teaching hospital, treat the sick children there, and also to help develop an international health elective course for our pediatric residency program. The program that has allowed us this exciting opportunity is called HEARTT (http://www.heartt.net/ - Health Education and Relief Through Teaching). We are working in collaboration with UMASS in Boston who has been working with HEARTT since 2008.

While away, Dr. Olson has been blogging his experiences which you can read at: http://bradinliberia.wordpress.com/
The Post Standard also covered the story which you can read online at: http://blog.syracuse.com/cny/2011/01/upstate_pediatrician_will_teach_and_treat_children_in_liberia.html

Note, however, that next month the Crier hopes have an exclusive interview and pictures with Dr. Olson telling more about his trip and the experiences he encountered.

Dr. Olson is just one of several faculty members and residents who will be participating in International Medical Missions over the next month. The Crier hopes to also be able to interview Steve Blatt, and also our first resident to participate in the elective, Saadiya Khan, when she returns from Liberia at the end of February. In addition, Dr. Joe Domachowske will be revisiting El Salvador and PL-3 resident, Christy Rivers will be spending a month in Belize. We are very proud of all of our doctors who are taking the time, effort, and expenses to help some of the children who do not have the kind of health care available to our children here in the US.

Taking A Flying LEAPP
By Veteran Reporter Beth Nelsen

LEAPP started as a meeting of like-minded folks in the Monet Room in mid-2009. We came together because we realized the inconsistencies that occur when kids have procedures in the hospital, specifically those done in the non-OR setting. The worst occurrences of all were the dreaded "sneak attacks" - procedures done on patients with no prior warning to them or to their families. We know that procedures cause stress. We wondered what we could do to standardize the process and reduce this stress.

The mnemonic for LEAPP (Listen, Evaluate, Anticipate, Plan, and Proceed) was actually an aside from John Andrake as he stopped to get coffee during one of our meetings! Since that off-handed remark, we have developed a multidisciplinary approach to pediatric procedural management. This includes the use of a worksheet that nurses, physicians and other care providers complete prior to the procedure that clearly outlines supplies needed, patient and family assessment regarding the planned procedure, and the person(s) responsible for the procedure and the sedation (if needed). We have also effected policy change within our walls (PED I-02) to reflect the importance of managing pediatric procedures. This new policy and its associated program was implemented in late 2010 as required education for all residents at Upstate University Hospital.

We even made a video! It can be watched here if you haven't seen it yet:
Peacocks in Deutschland
Jay Peacock

Last August I made plans to visit my son, Adam’s family in Germany in December with the hopes that I might get lucky and see him come back from his second deployment in Iraq. I hadn’t seen him since September 2009, and my daughter-in-law (Abby) and granddaughter (Izzy) since May. We all know how much our soldiers sacrifice for their country, but a deployment places as much, if not more, pressure on the families. Izzy said good-bye to her dad just after Christmas 2009. Not much of a Christmas present for a 2 and a half year old. At the same time it was September 2009 when they moved to Germany for his next assignment. Four months later he was off to Iraq again.

Abby and Izzy were so excited that someone was coming to visit, that I got countdown emails every day for 14 days prior to my arrival on Dec 16th. I beat the snow in Europe by a day. Upon arrival I met two smiling faces. They were happy to see a family member, but they had just gotten word that Adam would be arriving in two days. The excitement in this household and on the base was incredible. He would be in the second to last group of this battalion to come back. Officers are often the last ones to leave.

We have seen the news clips of the troops coming home after a deployment, but it doesn’t hold a candle to being there. The buzz of the children, the screams of the spouses, and the roar of the very appreciative crowd drowned out the music from the 20-piece Army Band. Some of the soldiers did not have family there to meet them, but there was a large contingent of friends and other soldiers there so that everybody had somebody to greet them. It took 5 minutes for the 250 members of his unit to march in and the noise from the crowd as they saw a loved one only got louder. The experience and pride that you sense when this incredible event is occurring is unexplainable. This is an experience that every individual should see for themselves. I have referred to it as the best Christmas present ever.

The next week and a half was spent touring the western part of Germany when it was snowing. We went to the Christmas Markets in three towns, and went out to dinner often. The Germans do know how to produce wine and beer. I got the opportunity to spoil my granddaughter rotten [Editor’s note: NOT with the wine and beer]. The pictures say a 1000 words.

Making A Difference
Cindy Bonville

Cindy Bonville is proud to announce that her oldest son, Joshua, has been selected to represent the United States in an international volunteer program. He will be traveling to Costa Rica with International Student Volunteers (ISV), which is a USA-based non-profit organization, to work on an environmental conservation project dedicated to endangered species preservation and habitat restoration. He will also learn about sustainable management of resources and how to use the natural environment responsibly.

Josh is currently a junior at Binghamton University pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular and Cell Biology with a minor in their Scholars program. Additionally, he is preparing to apply to medical school in early June. As part of his career preparation, he has been incredibly fortunate to volunteer 220 hours in the Outpatient Surgery Recovery Department at Crouse Hospital. Additionally, he has spent over 130 hours shadowing five physicians with different specialties in both the Syracuse and Binghamton areas. Josh’s most memorable time has been spent with our very own Dr. Joseph Domachowske. Observing first-hand how the medical expertise of healthcare providers is cloaked in first-hand how the medical expertise of healthcare providers is cloaked in compassion and respect for their patients, cemented his decision to pursue a career in medicine.

Yet, Josh realizes that making a positive impact on the lives of others extends well beyond this field. When a representative from ISV visited his campus in the fall, he immediately fell in love with the idea of pushing past his comfort zone to make a small difference in the world. In each host country, volunteers are assigned to either a conservation or community project. He has been selected to travel to Costa Rica to participate in a conservation project. Josh will be able to expand his biology background
by preserving very specialized ecosystems of the world while still developing an appreciation for the native culture and people. He will not know which specific volunteer activities he has been assigned to until 60 days prior to his departure date of June 24, 2011. Josh is confident that this will be an incredible opportunity to not only learn about Costa Rica but also himself and what is really important in life. Josh will be responsible for funding this program with his own resources. Thus, any financial assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you believe that this project will benefit our world and would like to sponsor him in any shape or form, please feel free to contact Cindy Bonville at 4-7563 or bonville@upstate.edu for additional information.

Link to the Oneida Daily Dispatch press release:
http://www.oneidadispatch.com/articles/2011/01/14/life/doc4d311a899b09e698020222.txt?viewmode=fullstory

**Double Dip**

Over the holidays, while some of us were sitting by the fireplace daydreaming about the return of summer, others were apparently too impatient to wait. On December 27th, Dr. Bill Hannan and nephew took a little dip in the St Lawrence Seaway at his parents’ home in Ogdensburg.

Dr. Hannan tells the Crier, “The rule is you have to get completely dunked. Here we are coming out. Take a close look at our faces”.

The Crier has done its best to cover the “who, what, when, and where”, but even after talking with Dr. Hannan one is left to ponder the “why”.

**Interview Season, 2011**

A great big thank you to all who helped to make this interview season one of our most successful seasons to date. We interviewed a total of 128 applicants (about 25 more applicants than we have ever interviewed for a single season). We are especially thankful to the faculty members who gave up time to interview all of these candidates, to the residents who hosted applicant dinners, did tours, and spent extra time answering applicant questions during the 20 interview days we had between October 28 and January 14. And a special thanks to all of our education administrators who made the effort to be here early enough, every morning, to greet the applicants at the main entrance. Of course, we won’t know the final results until Match Day but the feedback we’ve gotten from the applicants has been very encouraging thanks, again, to all of you!

**Pediatric Star-of-the-Month**

By Lisa Blystone

While stars abounded last month, one individual’s extraordinary efforts seemed to outshine the others because without her efforts there would not have been a mid-winter dinner dance. Our Pediatric Star of the Month is Akaber ElKhamra for all of the work she did at making the dinner dance a success and an enjoyable evening for all who attended. Akaber, contact Patty or Lisa to pick out your prize from the Stars treasure chest.

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2/3 Kevin Ragosta
2/7 Tristan Lindberg
2/11 Charlie Bergstrom
2/14 Steve Blatt, Greg Liptak, Winter Berry
2/17 Trisha Tavares
2/18 Leonard Weiner
2/22 Tri Nguyen
2/23 Raya Safa
2/24 Manny Karjoo, Richie Cantor

**Calling All Fathers & Daughters**

Don’t miss the Ninth Annual Father/Daughter Valentine Ball on Feb. 8, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Empire Room at the Fairgrounds. The event is hosted by Eastside Vineyard Church to benefit pediatric cancer services at the GCH. The event includes balloons, special gifts, dancing and magicians. Advanced reservation is required. For reservation information, call 464-4416 or visit www.foundationforupstate.org/fdvb. The Crier will be accepting any pictures taken at the event, especially of our peds dads and daughters.

**With Our Deepest Sympathy**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dr. Danielle Katz and her daughter following the unexpected death of her husband Dr. Stu Forester.