The Grand Opening, Continues

Wildlife at the GCH
The Crier recently learned that there had been some wildlife sightings at the new Children’s Hospital last month. A real coyote was spotted on the 11th floor. We sent out our unarmed reporter out to track down the story. It turns out that the coyote was, indeed, real. Stuffed, but real. And his appearance in the Children’s Hospital was to bring delight to a very sick young man. It is an inspiring story and we will let Chris Reichel tell it in her own words:

“My husband brought the Coyote home after purchasing it at an estate sale last year. This coyote has scared me, my children, my dog and my guests many, many times much to my husband’s amusement. It is not a home interior decoration that I had in mind. Ridge is a patient being treated on 11G for recurrent osteosarcoma/rhabdomyosarcoma or as Ridge likes to call it “turbosarcoma.” One day last month, he was telling me about a hunting trip he went on in Texas. His eyes lit up telling me how much that he enjoyed this trip. So I went home and casually mentioned to my husband that I had a patient that I wanted to give the coyote to. I fully expected him to say no way but much to my surprise he agreed. The coyote was smuggled into the hospital in a trash bag and believe it or not, I was never stopped by security! We then brought him to pediatrics for a visit and he met Dr. Sima, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Nelson and Dr. Schurman. I think that Dr. Schurman and Chris Lopez liked him the best! I then gave Ridge his new pet and he named him Rocky. Ridge has a fan club of younger patients who idolize him and visit regularly. Many of the kids and their parents got a kick out of Rocky the Coyote! Ridge is an exceptional kid who serves as an inspiration to all of us.”

For the record, the Crier would like to state that Chris Reichel is also an inspiration to all of us for having done such a thoughtful thing for a sick patient. She is yet another example of what the Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital is all about.

The First Christmas at the GCH
T’was the night before Christmas and on every floor were holiday happenings, and parties, and more. On Christmas Eve, we sent our roving photographer out on a quest to see what the first Christmas was like at the new GCH. The picture below is our photo essay of what she found. Indeed, as the pictures reveal, many creatures were stirring (for starters, Rajoo and Saleh were stirring their coffee). “Upon first arriving on the 11th floor, the festivities were not clearly evident until I heard the rustling of paper behind a closed door. I burst in unannounced, and to my delight realized I had discovered Santa’s workshop filled with elves busily at work (under the leadership of Sue Karl). I stopped by the Christmas tree in (appropriately) the Treehouse and then found a second tree on the 11th floor where Colleen Baish also showed me a huge pile of holiday cards designed by some local school children for the GCH patients. A quick trip into the playroom revealed yet another tree – a masterpiece painted on the easel by one of the kids. I was then directed to the 12th floor to a holiday party in the conference room for all the patients and their families (pictured are Regina Losita, Rev. Louise Shepard and Leanna Severence adding holiday cheer). Just down the hall, I found Marvin hard at work under the Christmas tree in the PICU. See if you can find the photographer hiding in the picture. All in all, it was a most wonderful first Christmas at the GCH.”

Welcome, Dr. Alison McCrone!
Dr. Alison McCrone recently joined the Dept of Emergency Medicine as our newest Pediatric ED attending. In an exclusive interview with the Crier, she tells us, “After spending my undergraduate years at nearby Colgate, I am happy to be returning to central New York and am excited about joining the faculty at Upstate. I have spent the past six years in Buffalo where I did a pediatric residency and pediatric emergency medicine fellowship and focused my research on pediatric snowboarding injuries and accidental window falls. My husband is from the area and moving to Skaneateles has been a nice homecoming for our family. Our two little boys, Jeffrey (4yrs) and Ryan (18mos) keep us busy and we are all thrilled to be here.”

We are equally thrilled to have you join our program. Again, welcome to Upstate!

Lie/Lie Truth – Answers and Winners
And now the article you have all been waiting for. Prior to the annual holiday party, housestaff and faculty were asked to share three “facts” about themselves. Two were lies, and one was true. At the holiday party, contestants were asked to determine which statement was true about each entry. To see all of the entries followed by the answer key, click here.
(http://www.upstate.edu/gch/images/education/truthories.pdf)

The winner, with a total of 15 out of 26 correct answers was Dr. Bob Lebel. Congratulations, Dr. Lebel. You can stop by the Crier news desk to pick up your fabulously appropriate prize package.

Honororable mention (for second and third place) goes to Manny Karjoo and Priyanka Kaul.

Also in keeping with our departmental tradition, we are pleased to announce that Kim Vogelsang and Peter Chmiel are the proud winners of the Nancy Roizen “I couldn’t possibly have cheated” award with their tying scores of only four right (one of which was actually their own
I have shown these Cambodian doctors many cases from America and I in turn have experienced several diseases for the first time. I was fascinated with a 3-month-old infant with Beri Beri cardiomyopathy (vitamin B1 deficiency causing heart failure), a 4-year-old with Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever with low platelets and pleural effusion and an 11-year-old boy with tetanus. After acquiring written consents from the parents I videotaped these cases (and others) for future education of physicians when I return to America.

In addition to my wonderful experience at the hospital I fortunately befriended a Cambodian university student in Phnom Penh who had taken me to several villages about 20 miles from the city. Nearly every weekend during my 7-month stay I visited Cambodian villages and have made friends with several families, each asking me to eat at their home every time I visited. The families, the endless smiling children, the majestic Mekong river, winding country roads and exotic foods have made my decision to volunteer here in this country more than worth while. Did I miss home when I was away? “Nope, not really”. Will I be going back to this country to do more medical work? “You bet I will!”

A Maritime, Indeed
Former resident Siraj Amanullah got married on Nov 26 at Pakistan Maritime Museum in Karachi, Pakistan. He and his wife, Marium then returned to Rhode Island where Siraj is on the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Faculty at Brown. Congratulations, Siraj and Marium. We wish you the very best!

A Rao-zing Wedding!
On November 21, 2009, former resident Aarati Rao married Anand Paranjpe. Aarati tells the Crier, “We got married in Austin, Texas, at my brother’s place. Friends came in from India, St Louis, New Orleans and Mobile well as Boston, Buffalo and Chicago!!!!! We had a blast. Anand is from Bombay India, too. He is a computer techie at Microsoft. I will move to Seattle by April 2010. Yes I am ecstatic. Anand is a gem! I have attached pictures of him and myself, some wedding pics…Hope you enjoy them.” When she is not being Mrs. Paranjpe, Aarati is an Assistant Professor in Peds Heme/Onc at University of South Alabama College of Medicine. Congratulations, Aarati we are all so happy for the both of you!

She’s a Girl!
Krisjon Olson and Charlie Bergstrom would like to announce the arrival of their beautiful new daughter, Aurelia Coté Olson Bergstrom (7 lbs; 14 oz), born on Friday, December 4th, 2009 at St. Joseph’s Hospital.

Christmas Giving-A Great Success
Cherllynn Clarry
Our 2009 Christmas Project was a GREAT success! Thanks to all who once again gave so generously. Peace and best wishes to all for the New Year.

Pediatric Star-of-the-Month
By Lisa Blystone
Congratulations to Imran Malik who is the Pediatric Stars of the month. Imran covered for sick colleagues twice in one week at the last minute and did it most graciously. Imran, please contact Patty Mondore or Lisa Blystone to pick out your Stars prize.

Mid-Winter Party This Month!
Mark your calendars for the Pediatric Midwinter Party, Saturday, January 23, 2010 at Traditions at the Links in East Syracuse from 6 PM to 10 PM. The cost is $35 per person. Cash and checks made out to Beth Nelsen are accepted. Please RSVP to Beth (464-7207) no later than January 4, 2010 for this exciting event!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS
1/4 Bob Hingre
1/8 Christy Rivers
1/13 John Andrake
1/15 Enisa Hodzi
1/15 Matthew Ryzewski
1/16 Jennifer Sacks
1/20 John Friedman
1/24 Nancy Boeing
1/25 Nienke Dosa
1/30 Dany Curi
1/30 Imran Malik