The Grand Opening, Continues

GCH Interfaith Chapel Dedication

On Thursday, June 16th, the brand new GCH 12th Floor Interfaith Chapel was full to overflowing for its official grand opening and ceremony of dedication. Led by Rev. Louise Shepard and the rest of the Upstate chaplains, the dedication included candle lighting and prayer by our own Dr. Anbar, remarks by Leola Rodgers, Leanna Severance, and Paul Seale, followed by songs, blessings and prayers that the chapel would continually be a source of great comfort to our pediatric patients and their families.

The event was a part of Upstate’s Clergy Day so guests included chaplain residents from Albany Medical, Strong Memorial, chaplains from Samaritan in Watertown and clergy from both the Southern Tier as well as the North Country. As Terry Culbertson put it, it was “A great representation from our catchment area who wanted to be with us for this wonderful event.” Also of note was that the beautiful “Water of Life” sculpture (that has undulating lights and will eventually include waterfall sound effects) was donated through the money raised by Pastor Wes Fleming and the Eastside Vineyard Church through the annual Father/Daughter Valentine Ball. Stop in some time and visit this lovely new addition to the GCH.

Much Appreciation

The annual Housestaff Appreciation dinner was on June 9th at the Brewster Inn. The somewhat gloomy weather couldn’t dampen the spirits of those who attended this lovely evening and gave honor to our graduating PL-3s. Several other awards were presented including the Resident Teaching Awards as follows:

PL-1: 1st - Asalim Thabet, 2nd - Jaclyn Sisskind, 3rd - Priyanka Kaul
PL-2: 1st - Saadiya Khan, 2nd - Matthew Mittiga, 3rd - Christine Rivers
PL-3: 1st - Marvin Mata, 2nd - Jonathan Henderson, 3rd - Mouhammad Yabrodi

Pediatrician of the Year – John Friedmann
Special Appreciation Award – Patty Mondore
Pediatric Faculty Award – Bob Hingre

Child Life Cow Bell Award
1st – Sarah Finochiaro
2nd – Jon Henderson

And then there were the PL-3 Bars presented by the PL-2’s that stole the show.

We are going to miss you all and wish you the very best.

New Faculty

Re-Introducing, Beth Nelson
Editor’s Note: The Crier asked our beloved chief-resident-turned-faculty to introduce herself to those who don’t know her, and those who do:

After spending four years in the same department (and if you include medical school, eight in the same institution), it’s hard to re-invent myself. The basics: I am a Syracuse native, a fact I share proudly. My parents live in the same house in which my dad grew up and I am their only child, a fact my mom shares proudly. My husband Chris and I have been married for nearly seven years. We have lived in Liverpool for the last three years and our house is in a constant state of flux (read: there are many incomplete home improvement projects). We have no pets, unless you include the groundhog living underneath our shed whom I have affectionately named "Woody". While Woody does a great job of keeping the grass low, he has chewed through all of my purple coneflower and has thus earned himself a spot on the most wanted rodent list. Jay has volunteered to help in his "relocation", but I would prefer that I don't spend my summer finding relocated bits of groundhog.

I am better known for being a crazy Red Sox fan and the owner of a particular boot lamp. I am less known for my newfound interest in running, reading just about anything I can get my hands on, crossword puzzles, taking pictures of all the beautiful flowers in my yard and the Great New York State Fair. I really enjoyed my four years as a resident here and I'm even more excited about continuing to work with all the great faculty and residents as an attending!

The New Megan Pecha

Dr. Pecha is another resident-turned-faculty who we are delighted to be able to re-introduce to you: 

After spending the past 7 years of medical school and residency here at Upstate, it’s...
The Crier, page 2

The Lucky Man!
The Crier recently discovered that one of our residents, in between winning teaching awards, found a little time to get married one weekend. Asalim Thabet shares the inside story in this exclusive interview:

“Dhaifallah and I were married on April 24th. The wedding was small and included just close family. It was a two day spectacle (Saturday and Sunday). On Saturday we had a traditional Yemeni style party at our homes (gender specific parties with music and lots of food) and Sunday we had a reception style American party at the Sheraton on the SU campus. It was a nice time. Dhaif and I met through our parents. Now 6 weeks into the marriage, we are both well acclimated to one another and are getting along lovely, thankfully. He's a fantastic guy and I am very happy. And yes, as you'd imagine, he realizes he is a lucky man.”

Congratulations, Asalim. We wish you and Dhaifallah the very best.

Best Wishes, Colleen
Colleen Baish has been offered a full time faculty position at Syracuse University in the Department of Child and Family Studies. Her last day in Child Life here at Upstate was June 30th. We will all miss her very much. Colleen tells the Crier, “I am already feeling sad about leaving such a dynamic group of people. It is rare you find a place where you enjoy not only the children and families, but also the people who you get to work with. Keep me in mind any time you have an open slot or a cancellation for a lecture! We will still be neighbors! “ All the best, Colleen! You’ll be missed!

Pediatric Star-of-the-Month
By Lisa Blystone
The Pediatric All-Stars for this month are the heroes who covered the floors on June 9th so that the residents could all go to their graduation dinner. Congratulations, Drs. Blatt, Ragosta, Seidberg and Tavares. You are true stars. Please contact Lisa Blystone or Patty Mondore to pick out your Stars prize.

Two Fundraisers for GCH
Syracuse's Assault City Roller Derby takes on the Ithaca Bluestockings at the Greater Baldwinsville Ice Arena on Saturday, June 19. Doors open at 6pm; the bout starts at 7pm. $1 from every ticket benefits Upstate GCH. Tickets are available online at www.ticketleap.com or at the door. General admission: $10; Front Line: $20 (must be 18+); Kids 5 - 12 years: $5; Under 5 free. For more information visit www.assaultcityrollerderby.com or contact Terry Toscano Shenfeld at 4-4284 or shenfels@upstate.edu

2010 Benefit Raffle for the new Pediatric Cancer Center: Bath remodel or airline tickets, tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20. You can purchase raffle tickets from Cherlynn Clarry, Room 5403. Drawing to be held on August 2, 2010.

Familiar Faces
Four familiar faces recently reappeared for their first official visit to GCH. Larry, Angelle and the kids were passing through Syracuse on 6/18, and say hi to anyone who they might have missed while here.

JULY BIRTHDAYS
7/6 Robin Jodoin
7/14 Esther Livingstone, Karen Teelin
7/20 Jana Shaw
7/23 Chris Kuehnle