The Grand Opening, Continues

May Photo Exhibit
In case you didn’t get to see it, the GCH hosted its first display provided by the National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions in the 12th Floor Treehouse Gallery. The exhibit was a collection of some amazing photographs and children’s artwork.

PAS-ing By
Nick Bennett’s Insider (and outsider) view of this year’s PAS meetings in Vancouver:
This year, for the first time, I was at the PAS meeting for the entire duration. This was partly because I’m a dutiful fellow and there were interesting talks every day. It also had something to do with the fact that my own abstract was being presented on the last afternoon session.

My first clue that this was going to be a special meeting was when I discovered just how far away Vancouver was from Syracuse. I had gotten used to the idea that Canada was “north of New York” and forgotten it spread from sea to shining sea just like it’s southern neighbor. The idea of twelve hours of traveling also fed into the decision to make it a trip worth going on! The second clue was as the stewardess gently shook me awake on the final descent, and I looked out the window to see that the city lights were...bumpy. Most cityscapes at night are decidedly flat orangey speckles. Vancouver is not. I pondered on this as the Prius taxi (most of the taxis are Priuses it seems) drove me downtown to the Pan Pacific hotel, but it didn't hit home until I opened the curtains the following morning...

I had a full view of the harbor, surrounded by mountains whose peaks were shrouded in mist. A cruise ship sounded its horn as it floated majestically into dock, and small seaplanes buzzed their way into the air just in front of the hotel. Wow, said I.

The mountain view was one I never tired of seeing. On the sunnier days you could see the snow still on the highest peaks. The city itself sprawled up the flanks of the foothills, explaining those bumpy city lights.

The picture here shows one part of the view. You can see a cruise ship heading out in the distance and a little of the snow. The angular, grass-covered thing in the bottom-left is the convention center.

My hotel as it turned out was probably the best one to be in. A mammoth building positioned between the two PAS venues and connected to both (and an underground food court) by glass and tunnels, so I didn't really need a coat at all. From the delighted screams of the family next door as the cruise ship drew in, it was also home to the cruise dock.

The conference itself was a whirl of science, networking, chance encounters and coffee (Starbucks was an omnipresent feature of the city). One text conversation with a previous chief to me began with "where are you?" and ended with "turn around". We joked over lunch that it took 2 years and several hundred miles of flying for Joe Nimeh and I to actually sit down together and chat for more than five minutes, despite the fact he’d been in Syracuse several times since leaving for his fellowship.

In one session on fellowship career development another peds ID fellow mentioned that she needed help with her educational research project. She just happened to be sitting between myself and a senior resident who had both done educational research! We formed an impromptu focus group and brainstormed her project over coffee, and I was able to put her in touch with two others who had some similar things whom I had met at a poster session. The atmosphere was one of congeniality and support.

We were educated on parental reasons for vaccine refusal, the emergence of candida parapsilosis in neonatal sepsis, new meningococcal vaccine technologies and prolonged shedding of bocavirus...and that was just on the infectious disease track! There were sessions for every interest - I joined a couple of workshops on leadership and academic scholarship.

Along the way there were more people to bump into from the past, fancy dinners, lots of coffee. I had brief opportunities to see more of the city in daylight - like Toronto from a previous PAS, it’s a curious mix of European and American styles. HMV had a store just down the street from Williams Sonoma. But there was also a strong influence from pacific nations. Signs were as likely to be in Japanese as French, and sculptures and artwork with a pacific island theme were seen everywhere from the airport immigration hall to the foodcourt decor. All in all it made for a very unique and rich vibe from the city.

So now, as I write this on my smartphone 36000 feet up, I ponder on what I learned most about over the past 5 days. I learned I want to come back.

Meanwhile, back at the homestead…
Nick’s wife Erin entered the 93Q contest for a free makeover. The station posted the before and after shots so you can see the lovely surprise Nick came home to (see pictures online)
A Dosa Excellence

On May 19th, our very own Nienke Dosa was given the Celebration of Excellence Award by the Syracuse Parents for Public Schools Organization. They stated, "Our goal is to acknowledge the unsung heroes and heroines within the City School District who contribute greatly to their school but who are seldom mentioned." Dr. Dosa is "being honored for her work with city schools and children who have disabilities. Our committee found Dr. Dosa truly deserving." Congratulations, Nienke! This truly is a great honor!

Humanism & Excellence

Congratulations to our very own Asalim Thabet who is a recipient of the 2010 Humanism & Excellence in Teaching Award. Asalim will be honored at the Annual Student Clinicians’ Ceremony, which will be held on Tuesday, July 6, from 5:00pm – 6:00pm in Weiskotten Alumni Auditorium. Friends, families and fan club members are welcome. The Awards recognizes residents who excel in humanistic skills both at the bedside of the patient and with the learners under their supervision. Sponsored by the Arnold Gold Foundation, the awardees are nominated by students, faculty, and/or residents, and then chosen by the third year class. There were 49 nominees this year, from a total of 475 residents who are currently in training at Upstate and affiliated hospitals throughout the central New York corridor. Needless to say, we are all very proud of Asalim for this well-deserved honor.

The Hypnosis Report

Sarah El Yaman

Thursday May 6 to Saturday May 8 were memorable dates for four SUNY Upstate residents: Asalim Thabet, Prita Mohanty, Sarah El Yaman, and Dany Curi, who had a first close encounter with basic experimental hypnosis. For three consecutive days, 32 attendees coming from all walks of life: psychiatrists, pulmonologists, anesthesiologists, residents, and nurse practitioners, all gathered at the Craftsman Inn, where they received intense didactic teaching by Dr Ran Anbar, Dr Daniel Kohen, Dr Pamela Kaiser, Margaret O’Shea and Linda Thomson, of techniques on how to recognize and facilitate hypnosis and formulate suggestions for therapeutic change. We had the opportunity to experiment in small groups and to directly apply hypnotic interactions. Thank you Dr Anbar for providing such a wonderful experience!

Photo Caption Contest

It has been a while since the Crier has had a photo caption contest. We recently received a photo (below) that is just begging for a good caption. Get your best response in to the Crier prior to June 21st for a chance at winning another fabulous Crier prize package.

Baby Henderson

Congratulations to Jon Henderson on the birth of beautiful baby girl Reaghan Noelle Henderson on Monday, May 24th at 7 lbs, 5 oz, 20 in. Jon assures us that “mom and baby are wonderful!”

Kayaking for Dummies

One of the Crier’s chief reporters recently received a national writing award from the Amy Foundation for an article she wrote entitled, “Kayaking for Dummies”. You can read the press release at: www.upstate.edu/gch/images/education/amyaward.pdf, or view the winning article from the Foundation’s website at: http://www.amyfound.org/amy_writing_awards/writings/2010Mondore.html

On the Same Paige

The annual Paige's 5K run will be on June 5th. In his weekly newsletter, Dr. Welch wrote, “The goal of the Arnold family this year is $150,000. If they achieve this, the run will have raised a million dollars for pediatric hematology oncology since its inception. Most of this money is now earmarked to support basic research in pediatric oncology, largely that being done in Bill Kerr's laboratory. This is one of the major recurring fund raising events we have, and we really appreciate the amazing work this family has done in orchestrating the event. I am hoping that many of you, and your families, will be able to join us for the run this year. There is a 3K walk, entertainment, and a lot going on for folks of any age. Online registration is available through the run’s website: www.paigesbutterflyrun.org.”

June Events list:

6/5 – Paige’s Butterfly Run
6/9 – Housestaff Appreciation Dinner
6/10 – GCH Chapel Grand Opening
6/11 – PL-3 Retreat
6/21 – Intern Orientation Begins

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/10 Kristel Holmlad
6/11 Joan Pellegrino
6/14 Jean Szokotak
6/16 Sue Delaney
6/21 Scott Schurman
6/23 Neal Seidberg
6/23 Tim Harris
6/29 Tracy Gilgallon
6/30 Bill Hannan

The DeJesus Gang

Former resident Myla DeJesus, who is now practicing in Watertown, NY, sent the Crier the latest family photo.