Leanna Severance Retires
By Sarah Irish

Leanna began her nursing career as an RN in 1974. Throughout her 36 years at Upstate, she has been the manager of several pediatric units and outpatient clinics, worked as a traveling nurse and now holds the position of Associate Nursing Director for pediatrics. Leanna oversees a variety of staff including Nurse Managers for inpatient and outpatient areas, Child Life Specialists and Nurse Practitioners.

Leanna’s current office is located in the Golisano Children’s hospital which Leanna played a large role in the development, planning and implementation of design. Other career accomplishments include participation in H1N1 Team of the Year, Organ Donor Council and current president of the Central New York Chapter of the Society of Pediatric Nurses.

Once Leanna retires, she plans to spend time in Gloucester, Massachusetts, where much of her family resides. She enjoys kayaking and plans to enjoy the water there with her dog Millie.

A retirement celebration will be held for Leanna on Friday, November 5th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the Performance Center of the Children’s Hospital. Cake, cookies and drinks will be available for all who wish to come. Please contact Sarah Irish if you have any questions: irishs@upstate.edu.

The GCH Welcomes Amanda Griffin

There is another new face at the GCH these days. Amanda Griffin is an employee of Pediatric Administration, and her title is Specialty and Community Service Activities Coordinator. Amanda’s primary responsibilities will include serving as the Lead Coordinator for Safe Kids Coalition of Greater Syracuse, managing and scheduling the exhibits for the GCH Gallery, conducting tours of the GCH, supporting the Upstate Foundation staff with fund-raising initiatives and assisting the Child Life team with special events and projects. Additionally, she will be maintaining the GCH website.

Again, welcome to our department, Amanda!

Meeting the New Faculty

On October 28th the Department of Pediatrics hosted a ‘Meet the New Faculty” reception at the Red House to welcome several of the new faculty now working at the GCH. We are excited to warmly welcome each of them to our department:

Tamer Ahmed, M.D. – Pediatric Surgery
Rahila Bilal, M.D. – Peds Anesthesiology
Yaman Eksioglu – Peds Neurology
Robyn Inglehart, M.D. – Peds Anesthesia
Kim Mendelson, M.D. – Peds Surgery
Elizabeth Nelsen, M.D. – Gen Peds
Joseph Nimah, M.D. – Gen Peds
Megan Pecha, M.D. – Upstate Peds
Marcus Rivera, M.D. – Peds GI
Venkata Sampathi, M.D. – Peds Anesthesiology
Prateek Wali, M.D. – Peds GI

You have gotten to read about some of them in the Crier already. We hope to introduce the others to you in the future.

Blindfolds and Broken Eggs,
The annual intern retreat was held at Stella Maris on September 23rd through 24th. You might say it was a smashing success. Rather than sending a lot of details to the Crier, they sent pictures that pretty much tell the story. After a relaxing evening on their own in Skaneateles they were joined on Friday morning by Dr. Welch and the program directors who quite literally put them through their paces. There were challenges, games, winners and losers (some apparently took losing better than others). It was obvious that almost everyone had a good time (Asthma plans to dress warmer next time they go out). Residents were paired up and challenged to pack a raw egg (with minimum resources) so that it would not break when dropped from a significant height. Congratulations to Christy and Kunal who were reportedly the only ones who didn’t break an egg. There’s meaningful symbolism behind this exercise but you’ll have to ask an intern for the full explanation.

(see online for more pictures)

Just Married…

Joseph and Rachael Gianfagna

You will probably notice that Joe Gianfagna was not in any of the retreat pictures. That is because he was busy getting married. Here is his report: Our wedding was a lovely occasion that took place on a crisp fall day in northern, NY. We were surrounded by our loved ones and friends from far and wide. It was the happiest day of my life. Rachael is a beautiful person and I am very lucky to be with
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Laudy. Please stay in touch and my best regards to all. - Maud

Incos Torreda -

As promised here's a picture of me and Kerry. We just got back from our trip to LA, went to visit family (my side and Kerry's too). I'm working in a small pediatric clinic and taking calls at our local hospital. Unfortunately we don't have a pediatric hospitalist who can take calls; so if you know somebody who's interested in this position they can send their resume to Shands Medical Center at Lake Shore, here in Lake City, Florida.

Lake city is pretty much a small town, where everything is only 10 minutes away from home (work, shopping malls and even the church). We belong to a catholic church and Kerry is even active in the choir (he had been convincing me to join; maybe I will one of these days). So far we had been enjoying a very laid back lifestyle; if we want to visit the big cities, Gainesville and Jacksonville are 45mins and an hour drive from here.

Incos

Climb Every Mountain

Residency is a lot of work, but definitely not all work and no play. Dany Curi sent the Crier a picture of how he spent the Columbus Day weekend. He wrote, “I hiked Black Mountain in the Adirondacks! It was amazinggggg...here is a pic.”

Awesome if they do say so themselves

As reported by Carol Christianson

On Sat, Sept 25, UPAC "hosted" an evening of volleyball, food and fun at Trappers in East Syracuse. Family and friends joined some staff from Peds and Urology for a fun-filled night. We are planning to do this event again in May of 2011 and open it up to all out-patient departments. Look for more info to follow. The winning team - winning 4 out of 4 games - was Team Awesome (Christine Hodkinson, Shaun Northrup, Cyndi Ryan, Lisa Susko, Gerry Susko, Carol Christiansen).

In Memory

The Crier wants to wish our deepest sympathy to the family and many friends of Aileen Jackson who passed away on October 11th. Aileen was an RN at Upstate for 27 years and will be greatly missed by all the staff and patients she cared for, for so many years in peds heme/onc. Aileen asked donations go to Camp Good Days (where she volunteered for many years), or Grace.org (gynecological cancer website).

Pediatric Star-of-the-Month

By Lisa Blystone

This month's Pediatric All-Stars are Jen Sacks, Beth Nelsen, Karen Teelin, and Matt Ryzewski for their awesome efforts in the OPD on the day when three people were out sick. Please stop in the Pediatric offices at your leisure and contact either Patty Mondore or Lisa Blystone (464-7600) to pick out a prize from the Stars treasure chest.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Irene Cherrick
11/8 Joe D., Manika S.
11/9 Regina McConnell
11/15 Jay Peacock
11/20 Mirza Beg
11/21 Peter Chmiel
11/29 Akaber ElKhamra

her. We really couldn't be happier. Her entire family came from Maine, and mine from Watertown. Our friends came from four different continents to join us on our big day. It was truly a magical event. I hope you all get to meet my wonderful wife sometime soon.

Ryan and Megan Miller

Ryan shared the following details of their September wedding:

We were married on September 18th at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Syracuse. It was a beautiful, warm, sunny day! The reception was held that evening in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Syracuse. The guests were entertained by the dancers of Rince na Sonas, the Irish dancing school that Megan runs. The wedding was fantastic, and we took a brief honeymoon to Cooperstown, NY.

Congratulations and blessings to Joe and Rachael, Ryan and Megan from all of us!

Keeping in Touch

We continue to receive notes and updates from some of our former residents, like:

Maud Ojaimi

It is always nice to be in contact with you. You just brought me all the good old memories back. I got married to Hadi -an engineer- and we have 2 girls : Cedra (6 y.o) and Yara (4 y.o). We live in Koura. I have my own private pediatric practice which thanks god is an extremely busy one and is the main one in my area. I am also clinical associate pediatrics at Balamand medical school and head of pediatric infirmary clinic there. I am also associate professor at Lebanese American University School of Pharmacy. I am so happy to be back to Lebanon and can't ask for anything more. I miss you all and hopefully I may come next year for a visit after the AAP with...