



**Douglas Brown, MD '70**, of La Jolla, CA, sent in this picture of Upstate alumni gathered in New Castle, NH, for a friend's wedding. Pictured are Brown, Sherwood Lee '69, and Ken Grundfast '69.

### 1949

**Charles B. Marshall**, of Martinsville, VA, and wife Doris returned in April from their seventh tour at Baptist Hospital in the north of Cote d'Ivoire. "Lord willing we will return there again for the medical needs are great," he writes.

### 1955

**Monroe Richman** still lives in Kauai, HI. He has also built a home in Scottsdale near his daughter and grandchildren. "We welcome visitors in both locations," he says.

### 1959

**Andrew C. Sabey** of Coronado, CA, is happily retired after 40 years in medicine and enjoying life with his wife, three children, and four grandsons.

### 1961

**Arthur Sternberg**, of Suffern, NY, has been in private psychiatry practice since 1973 and still fully active.

### 1962

**Jack Wittenberg**, of Newton Highlands, MA, writes that his "Jump shot is long gone and tennis skills are disappearing rapidly, however our brood (NY, MN, CA) thrives so I continue to work to provide for those 529's."

### 1963

**Penny W. Budoff**, of Lloyd Harbor, NY, and husband Sy celebrated their 44th anniversary on June 24. "And you said it wouldn't last..."

### 1965

**Paul J. Honig**, of Mount Laurel, NJ, and wife Sharon have spent the last two winters in Scottsdale, AZ. "Each time we have met up with **Don Jeck '65** and his wife, Eleanor," he writes. "Don is retired and loving it. I am now emeritus professor of pediatrics and dermatology at Penn. My daughter, Karen, is a pediatric ER doctor in Denver and my daughter, Lisa, is a vice president of sales for Freemantle Media, the company that owns distribution rights to "American Idol."

### 1967

**Jonathan M. Gordon** is still working in solo practice in Danbury, CT, and doing a lot of nature photography. "My younger daughter is an orthopedic PA at New England Medical Center in Boston."

### 1969

**Robert** and **Joann Dale**, of Rochester, NY, write that Bob, as the only pulmonologist in private practice in Rochester, is thinking about what to do as he approaches retirement age. "We enjoy our grand girls here in town (nearly six and nearly three). Son Matthew and wife survived Wilma outside of Miami."

**Daniel Driscoll**, of Lisle, NY, was inducted into the Section IV Athletic Hall of Fame in March at the Broome County Veteran's Memorial Arena in Binghamton, NY. As a volunteer, Dr. Driscoll has patrolled the sidelines for Whitney Point High School football teams for more than 30 years. Driscoll is the director of family medicine at Lisle Medical Arts Center and has spent his professional life attending to the medical needs of North Broome residents.

### 1974

**Joseph A. Blady**, of Franklin Lakes, NJ, is currently working in nuclear weapons negotiations in the office of the secretary of defense.

**Robert A. Edelman**, of Mill Neck, NY, writes that daughter Stephanie married in August 2005 and daughter Erica married in September 2006.

**Stephen P. Heyse**, of Silver Springs, MD, writes that his youngest son, Michael, graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law, cum laude, and with honors in May. His grandson, Nicholas, was born in August 2005 to his daughter, Jennifer and her husband, Angel Aponte. Dr. Heyse is still consulting at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

### 1975

**Glen Mogan**, of Short Hills, NJ, writes his private gastroenterology practice in West Orange continues to thrive. He lectures and teaches medical students, residents, and young gastroenterologists. Dr. Mogan and his wife of 34 years, Diane, are proud of their sons, Grant, 25, a corporate attorney, Craig, 22, who works in the financial industry and Doug, 15, an athlete and student.

**Robert S. Pyatt**, of Chambersburg, PA, has been installed as the 90th president of the Pennsylvania Radiological Society, elected by the 2,000 radiologist members in Pennsylvania. He is also the president and founder of his group practice of 13 radiologists, serving four hospitals and providing imaging services to about 250,000 people in three counties. Dr. Pyatt and his wife, Cathi, have six children and four grandchildren.

### 1976

**Lorinda J. Price** of Tampa, FL, has been doing locum tenens locally since 2001, out of which a few steady part-time positions doing out-patient and hospitalist pediatrics have evolved. Her daughter is 16 and headed to Iceland and Ecuador this summer. "I'm looking forward to our 30th reunion as I missed our 25th."

### 1977

**Neil E. Strickman**, of Missouri City, TX, lists his website [www.HGCARDIO.com](http://www.HGCARDIO.com).

### 1978

**Mauri R. Cohen**, of Marblehead, MA, recently returned to practice in general internal medicine after six years in geriatrics and 18 previous years of general internal medicine. He and his wife, Laurie, have three sons, Alex, Zack, and Ben. The older boys are in college. His fourth son is a labradoodle, Moxie.

### 1979

**Mark S. Erlebacher**, of Fayetteville, NY, received the SUNY Upstate President's Award for Outstanding Voluntary Faculty, College of Medicine.

**K. Bruce Simmons**, of Manlius, NY, received the SUNY Upstate President's Award for Advancement of Affirmative Action.

### 1982

**Charles W. Mackett**, of Pittsburgh, PA, retired as Commander, 6th Medical Group, MacDill AFB Florida, in June 2005 after 23 years in US Air Force. In July, he started as executive vice chair in the department of family medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and chair of the medical advisory committee of UPMC Disaster Management Center.

### Dennis Nave, MD '81

## Organized for Action

When Teamsters from across North America met in Las Vegas for their international convention at the end of June, they heard from a variety of political leaders and one unlikely speaker—a Syracuse family physician.

Dennis Nave, MD '81, was invited to address the 7,000 Teamsters because of his success organizing the Central New York Physician Teamster Alliance. Membership had grown from 250 in April to more than 500 physicians by June. "Our goal is to have 1,000 physicians by the end of 2006 and we're rapidly approaching that," he says.

The reason—bargaining power against insurance companies, says Dr. Nave. "As doctors, we are the ones who should dictate how medicine is practiced, not some clerk at an insurance company," he says.

Nave and the original 250 members came from the Federation of Physicians and Dentists, a national union based in Florida that started a chapter in Syracuse with 36 members in 2002. Nave became the group's representative to the Greater Syracuse Labor Council. That's what led him to the Teamsters, who invited him to speak at the New York State convention last summer.

"One of the top issues in labor negotiation nationally is healthcare and the cost of healthcare," says Nave.

Nave shared the problems faced by today's physicians: principally managed care and medical liability. "They didn't understand the role of the insurance companies. They thought costs were dictated by doctors themselves," he says. "And when I shared the salaries of insurance company CEO's, they were appalled."



Dennis Nave, MD '81, addresses the 2006 International Teamsters Convention.

Out of conversations held during the following nine months, the Central New York Physician Teamster Alliance was born, with members from Rochester, Auburn, Oneida, Oswego, Cortland, Binghamton, Ithaca, and Syracuse.

"The Teamsters have a reputation for getting things done. They have a lot of political clout," says Nave. "If we're going to convince government officials we need to make a change, it's more important to hear it from physicians and patients with one voice, rather than just patients or physicians. Through this relationship, we hope to restore our ability to make patient-care decisions without being overruled by insurance companies."

Members of the Central New York Physician Teamster Alliance are the first private practitioners in the nation to join the 1.4 million-member Teamsters Union. The Teamsters would like to replicate the Central New York effort as part of its goal of making health care a front-burner issue nationwide. Hence, Nave's invitation to address the convention crowd.

"Doctors can't be ignored if we're part of the labor movement," he says. "Our issues are our patient's issues. We want to preserve the doctor-patient relationship."

—Renée Gearhart Levy

## Did You Know?



**Dr. Sheila M. Lemke's brother, Mark Lemke, is a former major league baseball player.**

**Sheila M. Lemke, MD '86**, her brother Mark, and their niece, Sara, at a 1992 Atlanta Braves baseball game. Mark made his professional debut in September 1988, when the Braves called him up from AAA Richmond, then split his time between the minor and major leagues until 1990.

**Joseph A. Smith**, of Hillsborough, NJ, writes that his kids are getting older and all doing well. Becky is 23, Jenny, 20, and Danny, 17. His wife, Fern, is his billing supervisor and the practice is doing well.

**Arthur P. Vercillo**, of Fayetteville, NY, is president of the Onondaga County Medical Society, vice president and chief medical officer of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, and a member of the executive council for the Golisano Children's Hospital. He has clinical appointments in both general surgery and otolaryngology at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

## 1984

**Kenneth J. Edwards**, of Saint Josephs, MI, was elected chair of the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) board of directors during the 141st annual meeting of the MSMS house of delegates in April. Dr. Edwards will preside over meetings of the 41-member MSMS board of directors, which meets five times annually. The board sets policies and oversees operations for the 15,000-member medical society. "I am honored to serve as MSMS board chair during what will prove to be a memorable year," Dr. Edwards says. "We will be furthering the goals of our 'Future of Medicine' report by championing universal health care coverage for all Michigan citizens and leading the way to a healthier Michigan through our 'Smoke-free Michigan' commitment."

**Sandra M. Lombardo**, of Yonkers, NY, has two children, ages seven and 11, and is in full-time practice of oncology in Manhattan.

## 1987

**Joseph F. Femia**, of Sherrill, NY, was selected the Rome Rotary club's first annual Healthcare Professional of the Year for exemplifying the Rotary motto "Service above Self." The six-member selection committee selected Dr. Femia from among nine nominees because of his commitment to dignity, respect, excellence, integrity and compassion in his professional and community service.

**Robert E. Lubanski, Jr.**, of Wilmington, NC, has been elected chairman of the department of anesthesiology at New Hanover Health Network in Wilmington, NC. He is a partner with Wilmington Anesthesiologists.

## 1989

**Susan Auffinger** and her husband, Steve, recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. They live in Clemmons, NC, with their two children, Sean, 14, and Grace, 11. They enjoy spending time together at their weekend home in Sugar Mountain, NC, where Sean is a competitive junior ski racer on the U.S. Ski Association circuit. Dr. Auffinger coaches Grace's field hockey team and works with the YMCA in their field hockey and lacrosse programs. In her spare time, Dr. Auffinger, is medical director of several long term care facilities. She writes, "Come see us in the fabulous, friendly South!" My email is [drauff@triad.rr.com](mailto:drauff@triad.rr.com).

**Joseph Terrazzino**, of Huntington Beach, CA, had a recent physician excursion with **Ronald Freudenberger '87** in Las Vegas that proved to be one for the history books.

## 1990

**John Bisognano**, a transplant cardiologist in Rochester, NY, made a presentation on current topics in cardiology at Upstate's Annual Cardiology Day, at the invitation of student **James Calloway '08**, president of Upstate's Internal Medicine Club.

## 1991

**David Dexter** writes, "I am sorry, but I cannot attend our 15th year class reunion. Sadly it is the same weekend as my 10th year reunion and postgraduate seminar from residency for which I am speaker. I wish everyone well from the class of 1991, and I am very saddened to see that **Rita Leighton** and **Brian Penrod's** lives were tragically cut short. That is a terrible shame. My family (Patricia, Jennifer, and Christopher) and I are very happy living in Erie, PA. I practice as a general and trauma surgeon at Hamot Medical Center where I am the chair of the department of surgery. I am also the track physician at Lake Erie Speedway. I wish the best to all of my classmates and hope to see you the next time around."

**Denise Monte**, of East Setauket, NY, will complete 10 years of service as a pediatric otolaryngologist at SUNY Stony Brook in September 2006. Her husband, Tony, is also at Stony Brook. Her daughter, Allison is starting kindergarten in the fall, and her son, Austin, will turn three.

Have an interesting tidbit to share for future "Did You Know?" segments? Please contact us at [medalum@upstate.edu](mailto:medalum@upstate.edu) or 315-464-4361.

## Gwen Korovin, MD '84

## Finding Her Own Voice

When Celine Dion accepted the 1998 Record of the Year Grammy Award for "My Heart Will Go On," the *Titanic* theme song, she thanked a host of usual suspects: her husband/manager, her family, the film's director.

But first, she thanked her physician, Gwen Korovin, MD '84, a New York City otolaryngologist who specializes in care of the professional voice.

"I almost fell off my couch," Dr. Korovin says.

But Korovin's reputation is well-known throughout the music industry for keeping her patients' vocal cords in tip-top shape.

Dion's "My Heart Will Go On," for instance, was reportedly recorded only once, because Dion's voice was deemed "perfect" by producers.

"A lot of my patients' complaints and problems are the same ailments everyone gets but for someone who needs to perform, they're much more serious—colds, scratchy throat, allergies, reflux," Korovin says. "Often, I'm treating someone who has to perform that day or evening."

And many conventional treatments can adversely affect the voice. "Certain medications can be drying," she says. "You don't want to be treating one problem, but causing another."

Korovin's practice is almost entirely office-based. ("For vocal professionals, surgery is really the last choice," she says.) Long days are the norm as her schedule fills up with performers who have woken up hoarse or scratchy. "Wednesdays tend to get crazy because Broadway performers want to come in between matinee and evening shows," she says. Backstage house calls are not uncommon.



Gwen Korovin, MD '84, cares for some of the most well-known voices in the world.

Korovin chose an elective rotation in otolaryngology while an Upstate medical student to learn more about her father's hearing loss and was drawn to the specialty because it was both medical and surgical and involved patients of all ages. She became interested in treating voice patients during her internship and residency, where she had the opportunity to work with Wilbur J. Gould, MD, chair of otolaryngology at Lenox Hill Hospital and a pioneer in the treatment of professional singers. She joined Dr. Gould's well-established practice after her training until his death five years later. She's been in private practice on New York's Upper East Side ever since. She's also a clinical assistant professor at New York University School of Medicine and has privileges at Lenox Hill Hospital and Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital.

Though professionally discreet, media references show Korovin has treated well-known voices ranging from Luciano Pavarotti to Mick Jagger and Twisted Sister front-man Dee Snider (forced to undergo surgery in January after Korovin discovered a polyp on his vocal chord). And she pops up on the current MTV reality series, *Cheyenne*, treating the would-be pop star for a sore throat.

"I have a really interesting patient population. Demanding at times, but mostly a lot of fun," Korovin says.

"It's very gratifying to treat my patients and get them back to performing, I feel like I make a difference in their lives. I love what I do!"

—Renée Gearhart Levy



Medical Student **James Calloway '08**, and **John Bisognano, MD '90**, at Upstate's annual Cardiology Day.

**1992**

**Wendy Book**, of Atlanta, GA, is director of the Emory University Adult Congenital Cardiac Program in Atlanta. She and husband, **Michael Piansky**, have two beautiful children, ages eight and six. She writes, "Due to our younger son's illness, I am also vice president of the American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders."

**1993**

**Joan Mitchell**, of Liverpool, NY, has been selected as the new chief of medicine at the VA Medical Center in Syracuse.

**James T. O'Connor** and **Kathleen Tierney**, of New Hyde Park, NY, share that son number three, Brian, was born on June 6, 2005. He joins brothers Matthew and Sean. "Everyone is doing well."

**1995**

**Kenneth B. Harris**, of Oakhurst, NJ, and wife, Meka, had twins, Carly and Ryan, in October 2004. They are expecting a son in September. They live at the Jersey shore where Dr. Harris is a cardiologist.

**John** and **Amy Kasper**, of Wilbraham, MA, welcomed their third child, Lauren Alexis, on November 11, 2005. She joins big brothers, Ryan, six, and Jeffery, two. Amy continues to work part-time in a busy pediatric practice with six other doctors. John is busy with his surgical practice and is currently serving as chairman of general surgery at Mercy Medical Center.

**Wailang Lau**, of Woodstock, CT, is enjoying his eighth year of internal medicine private practice in the "quiet corner" of northeast Connecticut. "Hope everyone is well. Give me a buzz if ever in the area."

**Samir S. Patel**, of Arlington, VA, remains at the George Washington University rehab division. In July, he became director of the fellowship program. He and his wife celebrated the second birthday of their daughter, Kaeya.

**1997**

**Shani Lipset**, of Wellesley, MA, and her husband, Craig, welcomed their second child, Rebecca Meredith, on February 14, 2006. She joins big brother, Ethan, who is three. She is in private family medicine practice outside of Boston.

**1998**

**Amy L. Pierce** is in private practice with Capital Area Pediatrics in Falls Church, VA.

**2000**

**Jayne L. Healey**, of Liverpool, NY, graduated from her pathology residency this year and began a hematopathology fellowship.

**2001**

**Paul Sanchirico**, of Lewiston, ID, started a new position at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lewiston. He has three children: Joey, Paulie and Anna.

**John Fahrbach** and his wife, Charlene, are living in Buffalo, NY, where Dr. Fahrbach is nearing completion of his residency in neurosurgery. They welcomed their first child, Jackson Christopher, in March.

**2003**

**Carolina D. Nisenoff** of Dayton, OH, and her husband, Matt, welcomed their third child in June. Sons Ariel, two, and Jacob, one, are very excited. Dr. Nisenoff is finishing up her second year of psychiatry residency at Wright State.