

SUNY Upstate Records Greatest Enrollment Increase in More Than a Decade

Reflecting an initiative to strengthen New York's response to the ongoing shortage of healthcare professionals, Upstate Medical University has recorded its largest enrollment increase in more than a decade. For the 2008 academic year, 1,377 students are enrolled at the academic medical center, up 9.4 percent from 2007.

"We need to be part of the solution to the nationwide shortage of healthcare professionals, and increasing our enrollment is one of the ways we can make good on our promise and embrace our mission of helping to meet the area's healthcare needs," says David R. Smith, MD, president of SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Much of the growth is in the College of Nursing. This year the college accepted 152 students into its bachelor's, master's and certificate degree programs—a 76-percent increase over the 2007 enrollment of 86 students. The number of males in the incoming class nearly doubled in the last five years, from 7 in 2004 to 13 in 2008.



College of Medicine Launches New Student Orientation Program. Starting this year, all incoming medical students begin their Upstate experience with New Student Orientation. This six-day program included academic and social events to introduce students to the campus and give them an idea of what to expect as medical students.

According to Elvira Szigeti, RN, PhD, dean of the College of Nursing, the increase is due both to a faltering economy and the necessity of acquiring advanced nursing degrees as nurses take on more responsibilities at the bedside, in research laboratories, and in hospital leadership. "Nursing has always been a career that has been immune to economic cycles: Nurses are needed 24 hours a day in every corner of the state," she says.

While the College of Medicine incoming class size remains the same as Fall 2007—160 students—it has a decidedly Empire State feel to it this year. Eighty-one percent (130 students) of the incoming class is from New York. This compares to 2007, when 49 percent (78 students) of the incoming class was from New York. This year marks the largest number of New York state residents in the incoming College Medicine class since 2003.

"Our enrollment increase among state residents reflects the College of Medicine's commitment to educate and train a strong cadre of medical professionals who have roots in New York and may seek opportunities to care for patients here," says Steven J. Scheinman, MD, SUNY Upstate senior vice president and dean of the College of Medicine. "I believe that our admissions process has struck a good balance between accepting the best students regardless of state of origin and our obligation to the people of New York to educate physicians who are more likely to remain in the state."

Also enjoying an enrollment surge is the College of Health Professions, which enrolled its largest class in the last five years. The number of students in the 2008 class is 146, up from 131 students last year and 119 in 2004. The college prepares students for a variety of health professions, including cardiovascular perfusion, radiation and physical therapy, many of which are also facing shortages across the state.

Other Vital Statistics:

- Average age of incoming student:
- Medicine: 23.3 (2008); 22.9 (2004)
 - Nursing: 36.9 (2008); 34.2 (2004)
 - Health Professions: 25.7 (2008); 31 (2004)



The White Coat Ceremony was started at the College of Medicine in 1997 by former Upstate President Gregory Eastwood, MD. Each year since, the ceremony has celebrated the entrance of the newest class of aspiring physicians. The white coat is symbolic of the new responsibilities these students will undertake. They are "coated" by second-year students and chosen faculty members—symbolizing the tradition of helping those who follow. Pictured below, left to right: Dean Steven Scheinman, MD, Alumni Association Past President Karen Heitzman, MD '83, Gene DeCastro '12, Arthur Vercillo, MD '82, Rebekah Stalter '12, Sam Richter '12, and Upstate President David Smith, MD.

Applications at the College of Medicine have risen steadily in the last five years:

- 2008—5,321
- 2007—4,611
- 2006—3,764
- 2005—3,145
- 2004—2,896

The incoming medical class has more men than women:

- 83 men and 77 women are members of the incoming medical class. It's the first time men outnumber women in the incoming class since 2005.



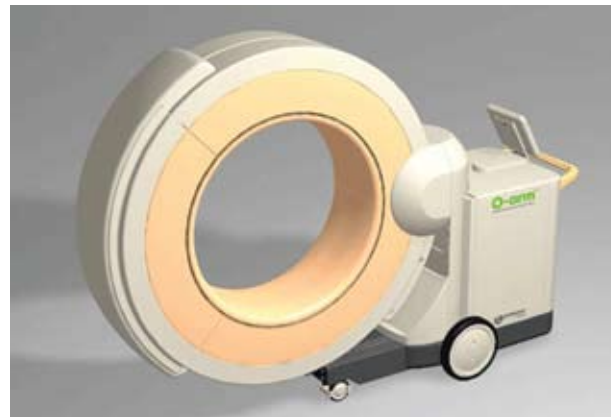
Book Distribution. Since the early 1990's, the Parent and Family Association of the Medical Alumni Foundation has presented first year students with copies of *Harrison's* and *Netter's*, a savings of approximately \$275 to each student. Pictured, left to right: Keisha French '12, Alumni Association Past President Karen Heitzman, MD '83, Barry Berg, PhD, Debra Buchan, MD '87, and Lewis Britton '12.

University Hospital is First in State to Bring New Imaging Device into Operating Room

University Hospital is the first New York hospital to use a revolutionary new imaging system—the O-arm Imaging System—that provides physicians with unprecedented views of patient anatomy—in the operating room, during the surgical procedure.

“This real-time access improves accuracy and enables us to employ more minimally invasive techniques,” says neurosurgeon Ross Moquin, MD, the first University Hospital surgeon to use the system. “Our immediate access to high-resolution, 3D images results in decreased ‘collateral damage’ such as incision size and blood loss.”

The system is particularly useful in spinal deformity or scoliosis surgery, Moquin says. “The spine is often so deformed that normal landmarks are not clearly visible. With the O-arm, we have an immediate, accurate view of patient anatomy and instrument placement.



The O-Arm Imaging System

“Prior to completing the procedure, we can obtain a post-op scan, while the patient is still open and under anesthesia,” he says. “This decreases the need for return to the OR for implant revision procedures.”

The O-arm’s unique configuration—it literally encircles the patient—provides lateral patient access and a significantly larger field of view, which appears on a 30-inch flat digital monitor. Imaging speed is also enhanced. In approximately 30 seconds, the O-arm completes a 360-degree spin and captures almost 400 three-dimensional images.

University Hospital’s O-arm is the only system in New York state and one of 65 worldwide. It has been in use at University Hospital since May 2008.

University Hospital Adopts Vocera Communication System

A lightweight, four-inch wearable communication device has become as ubiquitous as ID badges at University Hospital, with its impact being felt from such diverse departments as the Pharmacy and Food Service to the Emergency Department.

Piloted four years ago with 250 people in four departments, the Vocera system now boasts some 2,400 users in nearly every inpatient unit and most departments at University Hospital, placing more than 180,000 calls and broadcasts a month.

The system does away with loud overhead pages in patient areas and the incessant beeping of pagers. To communicate using the Vocera system, the user pushes a button on the device and identifies the person he or she needs to speak with. The connection is made instantly over the hospital’s wireless network. One can even dial a phone by simply reciting the telephone number to be called into the communication badge. Officials from other hospitals, such as Stony Brook’s University Hospital and Boston’s Brigham & Women’s Hospital have made trips to University Hospital to see firsthand how the system works and to learn more about how a busy trauma center benefits from this device.

The Vocera Communication System



BINGHAMTON CASTLE CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY

September 24, 2008, marked the 150th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the state Inebriate Asylum, also known as the Binghamton Castle. The structure is undergoing restoration to serve as home of SUNY Upstate’s Binghamton campus. SUNY Upstate Medical University administrators and students were on hand to take part in the commemoration festivities.

“It’s been enjoyable being able to show and tell about this system with other hospitals,” says Dave George of the Division of Information Management Technology. “But while the technology provides us with the ability to be more efficient, it’s actually the employees who’ve made it work so well.”

Alumni Board Member Robert Richman Dies

Robert A. Richman, MD ’67, professor of pediatrics and former Chief of Pediatric Endocrinology at Upstate Medical University died on August 18. A loyal alumnus, Richman was a long-time member of the Syracuse Medical Alumni Association Board of Directors, serving as president from 1992 to 1994. He also created Upstate’s popular Mini-Medical School Program, which provided a taste of medical school to Syracuse community members. Dr. Richman is survived by his former wife, Donnie; their three children, Peter Richman, MD ’93, of Scottsdale, AZ, Michael of Bedford, MA, and Tamara of Cambridge, MA; their three grandchildren, Cara, Dante, and Samuel; and his two brothers, Steven of Great Neck, NY, and Richard of Greenwich, CT.



Robert Richman, MD '67



Sarah Loguen Center Dedicated. The grand opening of the Dr. Sarah Loguen Center, Upstate’s new child-care facility, was held on October 22, with second-year student Latoya Lawrence, recipient of the 2008-09 Sarah Loguen Fraser Scholarship, making remarks. “Words will never suffice to truly express my utmost appreciation, yet I humbly and most graciously accept the audacious goal of carrying on the legacy of a phenomenal woman, Dr. Sarah Loguen Fraser,” said Lawrence. “I am so proud to be a student here at SUNY Upstate Medical University and truly commend this fine institution on reviving the spirit and tremendous accomplishments set forth by one of the first African-American woman physicians in the nation.”

