

upstategrad update

transforming students from consumers of knowledge into producers of knowledge

march 2016

STUDENTS FIRST

As many of you know, I now have two daughters in college. Yes, I am broke, but that is not what I was going to discuss. What I wanted to discuss is student experiences. Higher education has changed drastically in the decades since I went to college but in many ways it remains the same. In talking to my daughters, I have learned an immense amount about things we should and should not be doing, and my daughters' colleges display a stark contrast in best versus worst practices. Both are universities with large graduate and undergraduate populations and both have a large emphasis on research. The differences revolve around how the students are treated on a day-to-day basis.

At one institution, they are afforded every resource possible. They are given beautiful dorms, friendly advisors, faculty eager to teach and even eager to teach undergraduates. Teaching assistants that go the extra mile. Administrators are happy to see students and to listen to concerns they may have. This has created an incredible environment for my daughter, one where she has thrived. The other university treats undergraduates like they are unimportant. Yes, there are faculty that are eager to teach, but it is not universal. College becomes a survival game where there are isolated diamonds in the rough to help you succeed, but they are hard to find and many students get left behind. Luckily, she has learned to steer through this and find those resources that she needs to succeed. She will be stronger for this in the end, but as a parent it can make you very nervous.

These two experiences have certainly given me a new appreciation for everything we do for our students. Dr. White and our Student Affairs division has led this effort with all the colleges to provide easily accessible resources that our students need to succeed. They have developed a culture here, where students come first. It can be seen in curriculum development, in the library, in our diversity and in the emphasis on student safety. At leadership meetings and at all levels students are given a voice and that voice is heard. This culture has spread throughout the institution and even extends to most of our faculty. In my view it makes us a better, stronger, friendlier institution to students and parents who worry about their children. Most importantly it creates that incredible environment where success is attained, expected and celebrated.

– Mark E. Schmitt, PhD
Dean, College of Graduate Studies
schmittm@upstate.edu

publications

In the past month, the following researchers in the College of Graduate Studies have published articles:

Juárez-Morales JL, Schulte CJ, Pezoa SA, Vallejo GK, **HILINSKI WC**, England SJ, de Jager S, **LEWIS KE**.

Evx1 and Evx2 specify excitatory neurotransmitter fates and suppress inhibitory fates through a Pax2-independent mechanism.

Neural Dev. 2016 Feb 19;11(1):5. doi: 10.1186/s13064-016-0059-9.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26896392>

GENEVA II.

Photobiomodulation for the treatment of retinal diseases: a review. *Int J Ophthalmol.* 2016 Jan 18;9(1):145-52. doi: 10.18240/ijo.2016.01.24. eCollection 2016. Review.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26949625>

RADOEVA PD, Fremont W, Antshel KM, KATES WR.

Longitudinal study of premorbid adjustment in 22q11.2 deletion (velocardiofacial) syndrome and association with psychosis. *Dev Psychopathol.* 2016 Feb 11:1-14. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26864886>



Biophysical Society Meeting

Los Angeles, CA | February 26th - March 3rd

JOSHUA KARCHIN, a PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology presented a poster.



NICK STAM, a PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, joined President Danielle Laraque-Arena and other students from SUNY Upstate for the SUNY Upstate Lobby Day in Albany, NY. The group spent two days advocating for much needed resources for SUNY Upstate Medical University. The group visited members of the Central New York Legislative Delegation including: Assemblyman Al Stirpe, Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli, Assemblywoman Pam Hunter, Assemblywoman Addie Russell, Senator Dave Valesky, Assemblyman Will Barclay, and Senator John DeFrancisco.

Pictured, clockwise from center: President Danielle Laraque-Arena MD (front center) Aisha Lubega (Nursing) Linda Veit (Public Affairs), LeAnn Spingler (Health Professions), Nick Stam, George Thatvihane (Medicine), Alicia Marhefka (Medicine-Clinical Campus), Dan Hurley (Public Affairs) and Debra Buchan, MD (Associate Professor of Medicine)

from our students:



JEREMIAH MARTINO, a PhD Student in the Physiology program, successfully defended his dissertation last month. Jeremiah has accepted a postdoctoral position with Simone Sanna-Cherchi, MD, in the Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. **Congratulations, Jeremiah!**

ASHIS SINHA, a student in the Neuroscience program, successfully passed his qualifying exam last month. Ashis' advisor is Dr. Rick Matthews.

Congratulations, Ashis!

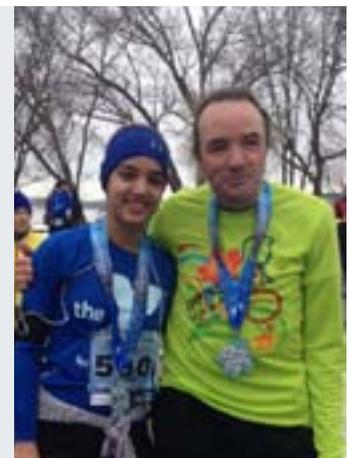


The College of Graduate Studies showed their support at the Sickle Cell Fundraiser Dinner Dance hosted by the Student National Medical Association on February 13th. In attendance that night was: **ERIC PLANTE**, a first year graduate student, and his guest, Trinity Stupp; **HEATHER NELSON**, a graduate student in Cell & Developmental Biology; **OLESEA COJOHARI**, a graduate student in Microbiology & Immunology; and **HELEN AUBURN**, a postdoc in Microbiology & Immunology.



Students from the College of Graduate Studies participated in the Lunar New Year Celebration, on February 19th, hosted by the Chinese Students Association (CSA) and Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA). The celebration featured performances by Upstate Students, including kung fu, the lion dance, Chinese umbrella dance, fan dance and piano and guitar performances. Dance troupes from the community and from Cornell University also participated. The night also included authentic Chinese food, snacks, games and prizes. Pictured above from left: **SIYU WEI**, College of Graduate Studies; **DISI CHEN**, College of Medicine; **ESTHER MUTONGI**, College of Graduate Studies; **WEIYI XU**, College of Graduate Studies; and **XIAN ZHANG**, College of Graduate Studies.

STUTI SHARMA, a PhD candidate in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, completed the Lake Effect Half Marathon on February 21st. Also participating that day was Stuti's dissertation advisor, **DR. STEPHAN WILKENS** - Go Team!



from our alumni:



JASON HORTON, PhD, and wife Liz welcomed a daughter, Grace Lorraine Horton, on January 20, 2016. She weighed 8lb 11oz. Jason, now an Associate Professor of Orthopedics here at Upstate, earned his PhD from the Physiology Program in 2011. **Congratulations Jason and Liz!**



MAGGIE PANNING PEARCE, PhD, and husband Kevin welcomed a daughter, Sophie Alice, on February 10, 2016. She weighed 8lb 4oz. Maggie earned her PhD from the Pharmacology Program in 2009. Pictured above is little Sophie Alice with her siblings Ryan and Molly. **Congratulations Maggie and Kevin!**

CHAD CORCORAN, PhD, recently visited Belize with nursing students from Le Moyne and St. Joseph's. Chad is currently a Professor of Practice at Le Moyne College. Chad has been teaching microbiology to the nursing students and was able to tag along with the Chair of Le Moyne Nursing, two grad students, and nine undergrads to Belize. They were there for two weeks, spending time at six different clinical sites and exploring the country in their free time. "I'm obviously not a clinician but I was able to help out here and there and enjoyed learning quite a bit about the culture and the people."

Chad, who earned his PhD in the Pharmacology Program in 2008, has moved up the ranks over at Le Moyne. He spent the first two years as an adjunct professor, the next two as a visiting assistant professor and these final three as a Professor of Practice, which is a three-year non-tenure track appointment. "I love teaching, which I'd never thought I'd say when I was a grad student!" **Keep up the great work, Chad!**

We love hearing from you ... [Drop by our website](#) & let us know how you're doing!

IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??

Email Jennifer Brennan at brennanj@upstate.edu to get it included in the next issue!

college happenings



DR. MARY FOWKES returned to the Upstate Campus as our **2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LECTURER** on February 16th. During her visit, Mary gave a talk, entitled "Opportunities Taken and Made," and met with current students and faculty.

Dr. Fowkes completed her PhD in Anatomy and Cell Biology with Dr. David Mitchell, and her MD both from Upstate Medical University, as a single parent raising two young children. Both degrees were conferred in 1999 after a total of eight years here. She completed residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Beth Israel Deaconess Harvard Medical School in 2003 and held Fellowships in

Neuropathology at NYU and Forensic Pathology at the NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiners.

She was hired by Mount Sinai in 2006 and is currently the Director of Neuropathology and Autopsy Service. Dr. Fowkes and the Neuropathology Division provide diagnostic support for Mount Sinai and consultation to its affiliates. She has worked to update protocols on Prion Disease and assist with EBOLA preparedness, including volunteering for the EBOLA response team. She is actively involved in research with her primary focus on primary low grade gliomas, recurrent and de novo high grade meningiomas, and

collaborative efforts with institution departments such as Neurosurgery and Neuroradiology.

She has worked to expand the autopsy service for warm autopsy research and to support of Mount Sinai's HIV, degenerative and Autism Brain Banks and tissue bank. She is actively involved in external leadership with legislative engagement and advocacy. She was appointed as a resident to the College of American Pathologists, a national pathology organization, and then as a faculty member with subsequent appointments to the Pathology Advocacy Committee, the Federal and State Affairs Committee and Subcommittee Chair of the Grass Roots Committee. She is the New York State Issue Advisor to the College of American Pathologists and is on their House of Delegates. Mary is President of the New York State Society of Pathologists and the Pathology Inter-specialty Committee representative for the Medical Society of the State of New York. She regularly advocates for Pathology and Mount Sinai in both Washington DC and Albany, and has done public health radio broadcasts on cancer, food poisoning, Deep Vein Thrombosis, HPV, Sudden Infant Death and Methacillin Resistant Staphylococcus as a spokesperson for the College of American Pathologists.



Dr. Schmitt, Dr. Bettinger & Dr. Amberg.

Last month, alumnus **BLAINE BETTINGER**, presented "**Research Without a Bench: Pursuing a Career in Patent Law**" as part of our Career Development Series. Blaine, earned his PhD in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology in 2006. His advisor was Dr. David Amberg. He then earned his JD from the College of Law at Syracuse University in 2009. Blaine is now a Patent Attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King.



Please join us in congratulating Jennifer and welcoming Cheryl!

As you may know, we have recently done some reorganization in the graduate offices. With the departure of Melissa last summer, we have been without a Coordinator of Postdoctoral Affairs. Jennifer Brennan has now taken over that position and has also taken on a newly created position of Coordinator of Career Development. With Jennifer's previous effort in organizing career development workshops, her excellent organizational skills and attention to detail, I expect this will lead to further enhancement of both activities.

In addition, we have a new Assistant to the Dean, Cherylene Small. Cheryl comes into the position with 20+ years experience. Cheryl will also be assisting faculty with graduate courses and the SURF program.

upcoming events & save the dates!

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

SciPhD: Preparing for a Professional Career

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM | WH 3113

Join us for a very special workshop featuring SciPhD Founder Randall Ribaudo! We are very excited to welcome Randy back to Upstate. This workshop is a must attend for anyone considering a future in industry or preparing for life post-grad school. Randy will present three interactive hour-long workshops designed to help you market yourself for industry. He'll dissect job postings, cover letters, resumes and more. Bring your CV and sample cover letter to review with him!

SAVE THE DATE!

Student Research Day

Friday, April 8, 2016

1:30 PM | WH 2231

The Research Day features four student talks, a keynote presentation and an early evening poster session in the IHP Atrium. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Michael Caligiuri, MD, Professor of Internal Medicine, Hematology, Ohio State University and CEO James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

Please visit: <http://www.upstate.edu/grad/students/celebration.php>

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Landing Your First Faculty Position

Monday, April 11, 2016

1:00 PM | Setnor 3507/3508

College of Graduate Studies Alumnus, Margaret "Meg" Stratton, joins us for an informal discussion about life in academia. Meg recently accepted a position at University of Massachusetts at Amherst as an Assistant Professor. Join us as Meg shares advice on finding and getting a job in academia to starting your own lab. Come with your questions!

SAVE THE DATE!

MD/PhD Distinguished Alumni Lecture

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

12:00 PM | WH 1159

Join us as we welcome back to campus, Dr. Daryll Dykes, our 2016 MD/PhD Distinguished Alumni Day speaker and honored guest. Dr. Dykes will be presenting: "The meaning methods, myths, and magic of mentoring." Dr. Dykes graduated from our MD/PhD Program in 1995 and recently received the 2015 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from Upstate. We are so very excited to welcome him back to campus. Mark your calendars ... You will not want to miss it!

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Writing a Scientific Paper

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

12:00 PM | WH 3113

Dr. Patricia Kane, Professor and Chair of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, will walk you through the process of writing a good scientific paper. She will offer some advice on everything from grammar, sentence structure, voice and organization to overcoming writers block.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Show Me the Data! Presenting Your Results Visually

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

12:00 PM | WH 3113

Now that you know how to write a solid paper ... what about figures! A good paper is nothing without quality graphs and illustrations. Dr. Aileen Kenneson-Adams, Epidemiologist in the Center for Global Health and Translational Science, will offer her tips and tricks while teaching you the do's and don'ts of presenting your results visually.

AFTERNOON TEA | Every Wednesday at 3:00 | WH 3120 or NRB 3708* | *First Wednesday of the month, tea is at the NRB.

IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??

Email Jennifer Brennan at brennanj@upstate.edu to get it included in the next issue!