

Message from the Dean

The start of a new academic year is always exciting because of the fresh class of students that arrive with bright faces, eager to begin their medical education. But this year it is especially exciting because we will be dedicating the Setnor Academic Building. The state-of-the-art classrooms and high-tech Clinical Skills Center will give Upstate students an enviable facility in which to attend lectures, examine simulated patients — and visit the new Alumni office. Its atrium, which is likely to become a social hub for the south end of the campus, is named in honor of Dr. Gregory Eastwood, who was Upstate's longest-serving president when he stepped down last year and was the building's champion.

I encourage every Upstate alum to visit the Setnor Building, admire its architecture and atmosphere, and envy the students who will get to use it.

The Setnor Building is but one of the palpable signs of growth and excitement at Upstate these days. The vertical expansion of University Hospital's East Wing, to be topped by the new Golisano Children's Hospital, is well underway and on schedule to be completed in early 2009. The parking garage is gone, leveled, and being replaced by a new one. Research laboratories throughout Weiskotten Hall and in University Hospital are being renovated beautifully through a \$38 million capital allocation from SUNY. Beyond this, Dr. David Smith, our new president, has energized the entire campus with his ambitious vision for Upstate and plans for campus growth that include both acquisition and construction of additional new buildings. Stay tuned.

The renewal of our physical facilities is setting the stage for an exciting period in

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Upstate's history. By the end of 2007, the number of educators and researchers in the basic science faculty will have grown by 20% over the preceding three years, and the clinical faculty continues to grow as well. Through new initiatives, such as SUNY's Empire Scholar program, we will be bringing major research leaders to our faculty, in both basic and clinical science departments. When the two active chair searches are complete later this year, there will be new leadership for almost half of the College's departments. Upstate's outreach to the local and regional community in clinical care and educational opportunities is expanding. We are initiating a Masters in Public Health program, with the plan to enroll students in 2009, as a collaboration between our College of Medicine and Syracuse University, open to medical students and others.

Our newly implemented matching gift initiative, Upstate Scholars, has been performing at record pace. Through this initiative, all gifts of \$1,000 or more are



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matched 1:1 and applied to student scholarship. Already, nearly \$500,000 has been secured through this program. Alumni from the College of Medicine have rallied to support our students, whose need for scholarships is now greater than ever. It is still not too late to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

I can't imagine that there has ever been a time when it was this exciting to be the dean of this College of Medicine. I come to work thinking this every day, but never more so than when the new students arrive, and particularly this year.