

EXCEPTIONAL MOMENTS

IN TEACHING



Phyllis Sheriff-White, DO, an assistant professor of Obstetrics/Gynecology at Upstate Medical University's Binghamton Clinical Campus, is the **December 2022** recipient of the **Exceptional Moments in Teaching recognition**.

COMMENTS FROM DR. SHERIFF-WHITE'S STUDENTS:

"I will never in my life forget the time Dr. White had to school us on the umbilical cord. I'm not sure how it happened, but my colleague and I had come under the frank delusion there were two veins and one artery. We were so confidently incorrect that we even had nurses agreeing with us. Dr. White, instead of correcting us immediately, asked us if we were sure? We answered affirmatively several times. She said, "I may be wrong..." and told us to look it up. Well, of course she was correct! But she let us figure out our own mistake which made the lesson really stick. Her Socratic style and infinite patience with her students made the Ob/Gyn clerkship the best of third year."

"Dr. White consistently would come up with scenarios centered around our patients. On one such occasion, we were reading a non-stress test and Dr. White saw that we were struggling. She went through a pile of old NSTs she had and taught us how to read them and then tested us on our ability to interpret them. Overall, she was also very accepting of our knowledge level, especially at the beginning of the clerkship when we didn't know as much. It was nice to see her expectations grow as the weeks progressed."

The Norton College of Medicine recognizes exceptional teachers with the monthly "Exceptional Moments in Teaching" program. Honorees are selected via student assessments from courses and clerkships.

Recognized teachers—including medical faculty, residents, nurses and other educators—are those who challenge students and provide an exceptional learning experience.