

# UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

## COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

# Curriculum office

*Improve the health of the communities we serve through education, biomedical research and health care.*

<http://www.upstate.edu/com/curriculum/>

## Letter from Dean Ko

*The Curriculum Office is responsible for managing, coordinating and evaluating the medical school curriculum. In addition, we provide support to the students, faculty, and administration.*

Happy Holidays!

As the weather changes and snow begins to fall here in Syracuse, most of you are busy with courses, clerkships and interviewing for residency. This is always an exciting but busy time of the year for everyone. Between checking off all the items on your gift list for family and friends, most of you are busy finishing projects, studying for final unit exams and clerkships before taking some much needed time off to spend with family and friends.

We have passed the half way point of Clerkships for 3rd year medical students. Many of you are trying to decide on your future career choices as far as specialty as you go through the clerkships. We want to point you to a few upcoming resources. There is a Alumni career exploration dinner in early January, as well as a 4th year curriculum overview that is

scheduled for the end of January. These are opportunities to meet with and discuss with faculty and residency directors in various specialties about the specific process of residency applications, and how to plan your 4th year accordingly. The Learning communities and clinical advisors are also another great opportunity to discuss your thoughts about career choices with faculty with experience in different fields.

I would also like to thank all the faculty who have been working so hard in developing our new curriculum. We are looking forward to all that we will accomplish in the new year.

Dr. Paul Ko  
Interim Associate Dean for UGME



happy holidays



## LCME® Update

On December 1, Dean Duggan submitted a status report to the LCME following up on two specific areas: 1) Upstate's curriculum renewal including faculty needs to implement the revised curriculum, and 2) learning environment. The status report will be reviewed at the next meeting of the LCME in February 2016. Results to follow...



**Joni Mitchell, MD**

Director

**Alison McCrone, MD**

Associate Course Director...

The POM course directors met with both the first- and second-year class representatives and are happy to incorporate the following changes based on student feedback. Keep those good ideas coming students!

**YOU SAID:** Include the POM calendar in the News flashes so we can be reminded of upcoming assignments

**WE DID:** Going forward, we will include the link to our course calendar with each News Flash for easy access

**YOU SAID:** News Flashes would be better a little bit earlier so we can prepare for the upcoming week

**WE DID:** News Flashes will now be sent out on Wednesday to give students more time to prepare for upcoming sessions, lectures, and assignments

**YOU SAID:** We want to make sure all of the clinical experiences are strong.

**WE DID:** Based on student feedback, certain clinical experiences have been eliminated and others have been extended to ensure quality clinical exposure

**YOU SAID:** It would be helpful if we had the answers to the clinical vignettes provided in small groups.

**WE DID:** On Friday of each week after students have completed their small group sessions, answers and discussion for the clinical vignette cases will be posted to blackboard

**YOU SAID:** It would be helpful to understand the rationale for exam questions that we might have gotten incorrect.

**WE DID:** We created a list of "Key Concepts" for every exam that is posted to BB so students can review critical concepts for the POM course



## DANIELLE BYRNE

The Curriculum Office welcomes Danielle Byrne as the new Phase 1 Coordinator. Danielle will be working with Meghan on the POM Course and will be assisting Dr. Poole on other projects for Phase 1.

Danielle comes to us with a Masters Degree in Public Administration and completed her internship with the BCC Foundation. Danielle will help coordinate the POM course as well as help coordinate curricular transformation in the 1st two years.



## Curriculum Committee—

Paul Ko, MD

We want to take this opportunity to address the forums that took place on campus recently ‘Reflections on Miz-zou’. The administrators, leadership, deans, and department chairs have been listening carefully to the discussions that are coming out of these forums. Specific to the curriculum front, the Curriculum Committee has been in dialogue with student leaders regarding the desire for curricular additions and changes to address specific issues surrounding what this mean in the context of being a student physician and the patients we serve. Issues around unconscious biases, diversity and inclusion are all important topics that demand further discussions. We look forward to engaging students, faculty, and staff in this discussion to push our curriculum forward to meet the needs of our students and society at large.

Whatever you celebrate, I hope you are able to spend time with family and friends this holiday season. See you in the New Year!

Dr. Paul Ko

## AAMC Year Two Questionnaire (Y2Q)

**Great Job to the Class of 2018!!** Nationally 46% of MS-2 students have completed the Y2Q. The class of 2018 is at 65% completion (104 completed / 10 have started / 44 have not started). The deadline is December 15th!

The AAMC administers the Medical School Year Two Questionnaire (Y2Q) annually to all active, second-year medical students.

Student responses to the Y2Q are analyzed and presented in a national report. This information will help medical schools understand the climate and culture of medical education.

If any students did not receive their confidential Y2Q link, contact the AAMC directly at [Y2Q@aamc.org](mailto:Y2Q@aamc.org).



## AAMC Graduation Questionnaire (GQ) & Mistreatment

For 2 years in a row, 100% of our graduating students indicated on the GQ that they are aware that Upstate has a Mistreatment Policy, and 98.7% in Syracuse and 82.8% in Binghamton know the procedures for reporting mistreatment! The Mistreatment QR code is in every syllabus, and the link is on the cards handed out at 1st & 3rd year orientation. You can always type “mistreatment” in the search bar of the Upstate website to give you the link.

<http://www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/support/rights/mistreatment.php>

Aware of Mis-treatment Policy	2014			2015		
	Yes	No	Count	Yes	No	Count
Syracuse	100%	0.0%	108	100%	0.0%	105
Binghamton	100%	0.0%	36	100%	0.0%	29
<i>All Schools</i>	<i>93.3%</i>	<i>6.7%</i>	<i>13,515</i>	<i>94.5%</i>	<i>5.5%</i>	<i>13,954</i>

Know Procedures for Reporting	2014			2015		
	Yes	No	Count	Yes	No	Count
Syracuse	93.5%	6.5%	108	98.7%	1.3%	105
Binghamton	97.2%	2.8%	36	82.8%	17.2%	29
<i>All Schools</i>	<i>78.6%</i>	<i>21.4%</i>	<i>13,510</i>	<i>80.8%</i>	<i>19.2%</i>	<i>13,954</i>

**Mistreatment QR Code** takes you to the Learning Environment website for anonymous reporting.





# Committee Updates

## Phase 1—Tom Poole, PhD

Another academic year has just come to a close and we are already thinking about changes to the curriculum for next year, the year after that, and the year after that. The MS2 year will not change very much for next year. The EBM portion of POM2 will be more spread out than last year and there will be minor changes to several other courses based on student feedback this past year. The MS2 year in 2015-16 will see the premier of two new courses. Molecules, Cells and Microbes (MCM) is a

new foundational course in units 1 and 2 that incorporates portions of MCP and Microbiology/Immunology into an organized introduction to cell biology, molecular



biology, genetics, microbiology and immunology. The course directors of the new course are Dr. Margaret Maimone and Dr. Rebecca Greenblatt. Excellence in Care is a new course that incorporates the ELSIM and PM portions from last year's POM1 course into a new course with course directors Dr. Amy Caruso Brown and Dr. Martha Wojtowycz. This course will have lectures and small groups on Wednesday mornings for all the MS1 year and will provide students knowledge and skills in ethics, law, economics, public policy, communications, social and cultural context, and epidemiology as they develop into physicians.

There are bigger changes planned for 2016-17! We have hired Dr. Bill Paolo from Emergency Medicine as the new CBL course director for MS1 and MS2 years starting with the 2016-17 academic year. He has already started planning and he will organize a new Case-Based Learning course that will incorporate self-directed learning in small group PBL case discussions that will align with organ-based course units. We have begun to interview MDs and PhDs for co-directors of these organ-based units.

## Phase 2—Paul Ko, MD

In November, there was a Phase 2 Retreat for both clerkship directors and coordinators from both campuses. In the morning sessions, time was spent looking

at the overall vision and direction of the Clinical Skills curriculum in the clerkships and the entire four years. Specific issues addressed included the purpose and goals of our Standardized Patient Encounters, how we graded them, and improving the comparability between sites on these cases. Specific recommendations regarding future direction of the Clinical Skills Exams, how we prepare and orient students for these were also discussed. Additionally, gaps in the current clerkship clinical skills curriculum were examined, and recommendations made going forward to make changes to address those gaps.

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In the afternoon session, the clerkship and site coordinators worked on several items including reviewing specific grading policies, and

how we can be more transparent in presenting the grading calculations to our students. Additionally a brainstorming session on the MS3 Orientation topics and schedule was also done.

## Phase 3—Mariah Fisher, MD

Acting Internship / MS4 Taskforce is a subcommittee of Phase 2 combined with some current acting internship directors and coordinators focusing on acting internships for fourth year students. We have spent this summer and fall developing objectives to help better define acting internships and will be presenting these for approval this month to start implementation for 2016-17. We also have started work on some basic broad modules to introduce and reinforce topics and practical knowledge fourth year students need on their acting internships and as they progress toward internship. Utilizing the 13 AAMC Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA <https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/coreepas/>) tasks as a framework, we have aimed to target advanced clinical skills in the Acting Internship to build on what students have learned in the clerkships. The plan is to pilot these ideas and modules with some of the core acting internships this coming year. We plan to continue to work on standardizing and improving students' experiences and help continue to prepare them before residency with these ideas.

# CURRICULUM OFFICE COMMUNITY SERVICE



## Golisano Children's Hospital

On Friday, 10/30/15 members of the **Curriculum Office** dressed up as M&Ms and handed out candy to the patients at the **Golisano Children's Hospital**. On their way back to the office, they stopped in to Dr. Poole's MS-1 class to give candy to the students.

Pictured to the left from left to right: Meghan Freed, Lisa Phelan, Colleen Dillenbeck, Barb Hinds, Tom Poole, Paul Ko, Danielle Byrne, Colleen Denniston, Lauren Germain.

## Curriculum Office Adopts a Family for the Holidays

Members of the Curriculum Office participated in adopting a family through PEACE, Inc. and providing gifts for each member of the family of five. Items included toys, clothes, coats, boots, dishes, sheets, and stockings with candy and small toys.



Pictured above from left to right: Alison McCrone, Meghan Freed, Danielle Byrne, Lisa Phelan, Tom Poole, Susan Barbour, Barb Hinds, Colleen Dillenbeck, Colleen Denniston, Susan Anderson.



## Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Administrator Award



### Patty Gooden—Winner of the 2015 AQA Chapter Administrator Award!

This award recognizes the AQA chapter administrators who are so important to the functioning of the chapter or association. The nomination is made by the councilor or other officer of the chapter. A gift check is awarded to the individual, as well as a framed certificate of appreciation. Great job Patty!!

<http://www.alphaomegaalpha.org/pharos/AOA-ThePharos-Autumn2015.pdf>



## From the Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research

*"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant. if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."*

– Anne Bradstreet, *The Works of Anne Bradstreet*

It's hard to believe fall is almost over and we are heading into the winter season. Here are some of things we've been up to in the Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research:

WE'RE LISTENING.



**Student Feedback Boxes:** Don't forget there are two feedback boxes available to students - both are located in Weiskotten - one is outside the 1<sup>st</sup> floor auditorium and one is outside the 9<sup>th</sup> floor auditorium. *Students asked for these feedback boxes, but they have been underutilized* ☹️ Not only can these boxes be used for ideas and suggestions, we would also love to hear about when a student, faculty or staff member went out of their way to be helpful. If you share something positive, the student, faculty or staff member you write about will be entered into a quarterly prize drawing.



**2 New Videos Posted on YouTube:** You can find these videos and more on the "Curriculum Classics" channel on YouTube - subscribe today!

1. **MS3 Grading Video:** MS3 grading getting you down? Check out this awesome (somewhat cheesy) PowToon video Lauren created to explain how Clerkship Grading is done and the monitoring system in place to safeguard this process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwkm2jhnUqo>
2. **Unit Exam Review Process Video:** This new video is for MS1 & MS2 students and explains how exam questions are analyzed and reviewed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLp8N12Z-Ak>

**Focus Groups - We want to hear your opinions!** Lauren & Colleen are in the process of planning focus groups with MS1 and MS3 students for this academic year. Thanks to the students in the MS4 class who participated in a focus group with us in September and the MS2 students who participated in November. Focus groups are a great way for us to learn about what concerns, ideas and feedback you have- plus there is food provided! We take the information (without names or identifiers) and pass it along to the appropriate people or departments so that your feedback reaches those who can respond and learn from it.

### Focus Groups



**Away Electives Survey Report - Attention MS3 students - thinking about an Away Elective for your MS4 year?** There is a great resource available to you. We surveyed students from the Class of 2014 on where they went for Away Electives and they provided information on things like housing, supervision, quality and their recommendation. The report is located on the Career page of the College of Medicine Upstate website:

<http://www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/career/career-com/index.php> - the report link is on menu bar on the right hand side of the page, scroll all the way to the bottom, it's called "Away Electives Feedback". **\*\*Please note that you have to be on Upstate's network to get to this page and view the report\*\*** If you would like a copy emailed to you, please contact Colleen Dillenbeck ([dillenco@upstate.edu](mailto:dillenco@upstate.edu)).

# What's new with the Exams and Software??

Hi everyone!! There have been some major changes in computers over the last few months. Because updating an operating system often effects the applications and software we have installed and use on our computers, many of those applications must also be upgraded.

As many of you know, Windows and Apple have both completed operating system upgrades within the last few months. With these upgrades both ExamSoft and the NBME exam platforms have had to conduct extensive testing of their own systems to see how the operating system upgrades and changes would or could potentially require upgrades to their own applications.

Why is it such a difficult process? Well, Windows/Apple create a test version of their operating system upgrade called a Beta version. They release this version for companies to start testing with behind the scenes. This is where they find out if there may be bugs or problems within the operating system upgrade.

While all of Windows/Apple's vendors are testing and making the necessary potential changes that they believe they will need, Windows/Apple are continuing working on improving the upgrade.

After 2 – 3 months of testing, the operating system that Windows/Apple releases to the public is completely different from the Beta version and the vendors often have to re-test again to find any additional issues. Often they find that issues they had were resolved by the Windows/Apple. Other times, they find additional conflicts they need to fix.

This is a very simplified explanation of a very complex and dynamic, multi-layered process. However, I did want you to have a grasp of the difficulties and the inter-reliability everything has when it comes to the computer applications we use.

As for some of the issues experienced (possibly still experiencing – contact me if you are) during this period of upgrades:

- Google Browser issues with pdf functionality for ExamSoft Reports – resolved
- Google Browser issues with ability to resize and zoom items within ExamSoft (contact me if had this issue last exam)
- Image Capture Extension on MAC had to be manually shut down – resolved with El Capitan for most users (no more Stack-shot script needed if you upgrade!!)

Tips to keep in mind when you are testing:

ExamSoft

- On a MAC, you may have to hit the “=” sign to reset an image back to normal size when it first opens.
- If you had trouble with viewing pictures in last unit's exam, find an image in a question first thing in the upcoming unit's exam, see if it works. If not, let the Chief Proctor know so we can trouble shoot and restart your exam.
- Hide your screen: Ctrl-H (PC) or Cmd-H (MAC)

NBME

- If your screen freezes, alert the proctor for restart code. Power down your computer by holding the power button down for several seconds. Restart your computer, then re-enter the exam. Wait for proctor to give you the restart code and approve your re-entry.

Colleen Denniston

Exam & Evaluation Coordinator



## YOU SAID... WE DID...

### **YOU SAID:**

*Students requested and adjustment to the time of the late notice emails.*

### **WE DID:**

*The evaluation due date for each individual Course in MS1 and MS2 has been extended to 30 days. Most of the units are 4 - 5 weeks in length. At this time, we send out at the 1st week of the course. This will send out the late notice at an appropriate time.*

## NEW APPOINTMENTS



We are pleased to announce that **Sarah Edwards** will be joining the Curriculum Office as the Director of Phase 1 Curriculum. Sarah has a Masters in Health Communications from Boston University, and previously served as Residency Program Coordinator for OB/GYN at Boston University. Most recently, she joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as Administrative Coordinator for Medical Education here at SUNY Upstate. Altogether, Sarah has 10 years experience in various management roles pertaining to medical education and health program management. In her role as Director of Phase 1 Curriculum, she will help lead and coordinate the implementation of the new integrated systems based curriculum alongside the curriculum team. She will be working closely with the newly appointed Unit Directors in the revised curriculum, as well as the Thread Directors, and various coordinators.

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology is delighted to welcome **Christine Rydelek** as the new Administrative Coordinator for the OB GYN Clerkship effective with the next rotation that begins January 4, 2016. Christine has an extensive background in higher education counseling and student service, and we are familiar with Christine's management skills and level of professionalism working in the Office of the Chairman and look forward to working with her in her new role.

## JOB POSTING: Assistant Dean for the Clinical Curriculum

SUNY Upstate Medical University is seeking a dynamic leader for the position of Assistant Dean for Clinical Sciences. This faculty member will contribute as members of the Curriculum Office leadership team to promote curriculum development and educational innovation for medical students. The Assistant Dean will work collaboratively with chairs, faculty and staff who participate in the education of Upstate medical students. The Assistant Dean position is a 0.4 FTE position and reports directly to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education.

The preferred candidates will have either a Doctorate in Medicine (M.D.) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO). The candidates should also have a significant background and experience in medical education, including curriculum development and assessment, and an interest in medical education scholarship. Successful candidates should have strong organizational and managerial skills, excellent leadership skills with the ability to work independently as well as within a team, strong interpersonal communication skills and an ability to multitask. The candidates should also have strong personal and professional integrity.

Interested applicants should email a CV and Letter of Interest by 12/1/2015 to: Susan Anderson, Administrative Director of the Curriculum Office, [AndersSu@upstate.edu](mailto:AndersSu@upstate.edu) Detailed job descriptions are available for those interested in further information.



# Sad News from Clinical Skills:

Friends,

It is with great sadness that I tell you that the standardized patient family has lost one of its longest serving and most beloved members. **Richard Cookman** passed away on Monday following complications from a recent surgery. His loss saddens us all and is a great loss to this program.

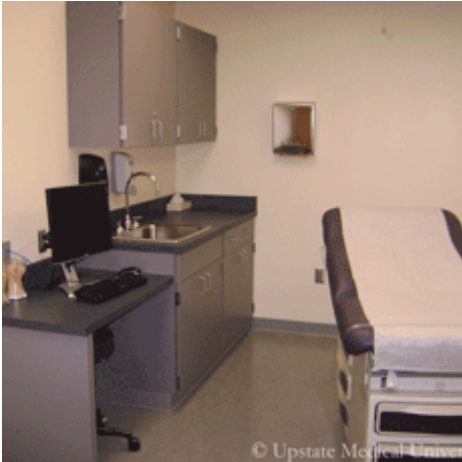
Richard was among the very first SPs that I ever hired. He was a part of the birth and growth of this program. Richard's deep commitment to helping our students become better clinicians was a model for us all. Over the past 20 years, hundreds of students have benefitted from Richard's passionate dedication to helping them remember that the patient's well-being should always be their primary concern.

Richard touched many lives here at Upstate and throughout the Syracuse community. His work as a singer, artist, educator and activist will truly be missed. We will pass along any information we receive about paying our respects to Richard. I also ask everyone to keep, in particular, Harry Freeman-Jones and Arthur Lum in your thoughts. Harry, Arthur and Richard have been pioneers in the patient-centered teaching of sensitive exams at Upstate. The loss of their very dear friend is difficult for Harry and Arthur.

Rest in Peace Richard.

**Steve Harris, MS**

Director, SP Program



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## COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & MULTIPLE MINI-INTERVIEWS

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Applicants to the College of Medicine now interact with a standardized patient as part of their Multiple Mini-Interviews. The SP scenarios are tailored for medical school applicants rather than medical students, and all involve well patients waiting to see their physician. This SP station gives applicants an opportunity to demonstrate their communication skills with the general public in a clinical setting.

Several COM colleagues collaborated to create several scenarios and train the SPs: from the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, Jennifer Welch, Associate Dean, and Barbara-Ann Mitchell, Admissions Advisor/Interview Coordinator; from the Standardized Patient Program, Amber Hansel, Trainer/Coordinator, Susan Barbour, Trainer, and Barb Hinds, Administrative Assistant; and from the MD/MPH Program, William Reed, Student Assistant.

**Susan Barbour**

Standardized Patient Trainer

# Rural Medicine Education Leadership Changes

We are happy to announce a transition in the leadership of the Department's Rural Medical Education Program.

**Carrie Roseamelia, PhD** will assume the role of Director of the Rural Medical Education Program effective immediately. Dr. Roseamelia has worked with the RMED program as the Coordinator since 2013, and has been invaluable at improving communications between the students and the RMED office, helping to recruit and retain RMED sites, improve the administrative processes of the program, and create new rural recruitment and interest opportunities for pre-clinical students. Dr. Roseamelia obtained her PhD in Sociology from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship in 2015 and has worked in the Department of Family Medicine since 2010. Along with the RMED directorship, Dr. Roseamelia will be involved with the planning for the new Utica Clinical Campus and will continue her work on Rural Outreach and Recruitment with the Admissions Committee.



**Jim Greenwald, MD** will transition to a new position of Medical Director for the Rural Medical Education Program. In this position, he will use his considerable knowledge of the program and of New York State to assist with site recruitment and retention. He will assist with curriculum development and faculty development also. Dr. Greenwald has been instrumental in expanding and developing RMED after taking over for Dr. Thomas Wolff (RMED's founding director) in 2004 and the Department and the University greatly appreciate his continued service for this important program.

The RMED program serves a valuable role in meeting the mission of Upstate Medical University. The Department of Family Medicine is honored to deliver and continually improve this program for the benefit of our students and our rural communities.

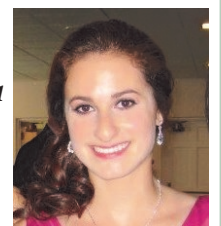
## Rural Medicine Education Update

In November, 7 RMED students completed their traditional program requirements. Having started in January, these students spent almost a year living and practicing medicine in our rural and small town host communities across New York State.



**Rachel Kopicki, MS4** describes her experiences as RMED comes to a close, stating: *Working in radiology has been rewarding because I see most of the studies we ordered on my patients alongside my family medicine preceptor. I am present when the radiologist calls on my preceptors to discuss their patients, many whom I have met, and even evaluated. Experiences like these really make me appreciate the continuity of RMED. While I am excited to start something new, I am also sad to see RMED end. I have learned so much from my preceptors and really become close with all of the staff.*

**Zoe Kostarellis, MS4** offers her final words on the RMED experience, stating: *RMED has been an eye-opening educational experience, and I would not trade it for anything. I learned priceless information about many aspects of medicine, including the business side of running a practice, and wading through the intricacies of insurance companies. I have grown so much as an individual, and gained an incredible amount of confidence in my clinical and personal skills. I cannot thank my primary preceptor enough for all of her encouragement, and support over these past several months. She has really helped shape the type of doctor I want to become in my future career.*





## PLEASE VOTE for the Droid BB8

The Curriculum Office will be participating in the **Child Life Program's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Snowperson Decorating Contest**.

**The snowpeople will be displayed Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.** Patients and their families will be encouraged to visit the Snowperson Parade and vote for their favorite one. In-person and online survey monkey voting will be available.

The snowperson with the most votes will be awarded an ice cream social for their unit supplied by the Child Life Program.

*Designed by Dr. Tom Poole*



### Graduation Competencies and Educational Program Objectives

(EPOs) are used as the basis for all courses and clerkships. These objectives for the medical education program serve as statements of what students are expected to learn or accomplish during the course of medical school at Upstate.

<http://www.upstate.edu/com/curriculum/objectives.php>

**The Curriculum Office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and will close at noon on New Year's Eve.**



*Happy Holidays*  
*From the Curriculum Office*



For questions regarding this publication, please contact Lisa at [PhelanLA@upstate.edu](mailto:PhelanLA@upstate.edu) or 464-7004