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Western Pennsylvania Hospital NewsTM

THE REGION'S MONTHLY HEALTHCARE NEWSPAPER

The Children's Home and Lemieux Family Center Celebrate New Facility



**Recognize
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 Security
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BY BOB BRONDER

There's no question that security staffs play ever-increasing roles in the day-to-day operation of most healthcare facilities. Oftentimes, they are the first people that patients, staff and visitors see when they visit your facility; and also, the last ones they see when they leave. They enhance the feeling of safety and security in areas of higher vulnerability, including parking lots, emergency rooms and even hospital nurseries. In areas where security personnel aren't always visible, security, fire alarm, access control and video surveillance systems also provide an added measure of reassurance. The role of security is not always viewed to be as important as a healthcare facility's reputation for care, cutting edge technologies, cleanliness and results. However, it is increasingly becoming a contributing factor in the overall equation which makes a healthcare location more or less attractive to both patients and staff members.

So, this year, Vector Security, in association with *Hospital News*, has created an awards program designed especially to honor individuals whose collective efforts keep those you serve and your colleagues

Continued on page 12

The Children's Home of Pittsburgh opened its doors for a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 15 to celebrate the organization's new facility and home of its three programs: Adoption, Child's Way, and its 28-bed Pediatric Specialty Hospital. The ribbon cutting was the public's first glance into the state-of-the-art facility. Over 150 dignitaries, families, and neighbors attended.

"This expansion marks a significant improvement in the continuum of care available to pediatric patients in our region," said Pamela Schanwald, Chief Executive Officer of The Children's Home of Pittsburgh. "We are helping to fill gaps in care for medically fragile infants and children while supporting the entire family. In this building we can offer our unique services to more children and families in Pittsburgh, help continue the renaissance of the Penn Avenue corridor,"

Continued on page 13



(l-r) Mario and Nathalie Lemieux, Mr. McFeely, and Children's Home CEO Pam Schanwald cut the ribbon at The Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center. The Children's Home added Lemieux Family Center to its name in honor of The Mario Lemieux Foundation's substantial gift to the building project.

★ FOCUS: SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS ★

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

When children across the country hear the name "Elmo" they think of the furry red muppet from "Sesame Street." When patients at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh hear the name "Elmo," they think of a furry brown dog that visits them and puts a smile on their face.

Elmo is a labradoodle, a cross between a Labrador and Poodle, and is an important member of the Pet Friends program at Children's. Two or three times a month Julie Hailstone, Elmo's owner, brings the friendly dog to visit patients. She has been bringing him for the past two years, since Elmo was 1 year old.

"We spend a couple of hours up on the floor visiting the kids," said Hailstone. "He loves seeing the kids and the kids get really excited when he comes to see them."

Hailstone has dedicated her life to volunteer work, beginning from the time her two daughters were young. Even when she went looking for a dog, she had the Pet Friends program in mind.

To be a Pet Therapy dog the animal must be highly trained and boast a temperament conducive to interacting with children. Elmo is certified through Therapy Dogs International, a volunteer organization dedicated to regulating, testing and registration of therapy



Julie Hailstone and Elmo

the patients. "Elmo is a very special dog. He is actually one of the kids' favorites, probably because he so fluffy and affectionate. We feel very lucky to have both him and Julie with us," Burns said.



dogs and their volunteer handlers for the purpose of visiting nursing homes, hospitals and other institutions.

In addition to the certification, dogs that enter Children's go through a second screening from Kathy Dougherty, a local veterinarian.

"Just being able to pet and walk and play with a dog makes the kids feel more comfortable, more relaxed," Hailstone said. "Sometimes Elmo will do a trick and then the kids take that idea home with them and teach their own dog how to do it."

Laura Burns, manager of Volunteer Services at Children's, sees the positive impact that the Pet Friends visits have on

See pages 30-35 for more Salute to Volunteers!

Publishers Note... *By Harvey D. Kart*

A Pain in the Back Can Be A Pain in The

It's indisputable. We don't need a recount or an examination of a hanging chad. I am, without a doubt, the world's worst patient – and I don't care who knows it. All I want is to put the back pain I've been experiencing lately behind me, so to speak.

I'd like to tell you the exact nature of my malady, but I'm afraid I'll violate some HIPAA regulation. (Talk about your classic pain in the back, eh?) I think I may be a bit delirious from my medication. I'm picturing my pain on a scale from one to ten – with one being Pee Wee Herman and five being, oh, George Clooney – then I'm way past 10, all the way to an off-the-charts John Wayne kind of pain. Or, if one is a Rosie O'Donnell, I'm at a Bo Derek.

In other words, I'm a hurtin' cowboy. I've figuratively fallen, and I can't get up – at least not without screaming or grinding my teeth so hard I can taste enamel. Okay, HIPAA be darned: my problem has to do with a problem with my back, a problem not bad enough to require surgery, but aggravating enough to banish me to the floor when I want to get any sleep.

If there's one thing immobility gives you, it's plenty of time to think, and this recent mishap with my back has caused me to reflect on how much we take our health and health care for granted.

Here's what I've come up with, offered for your consideration as coherently as possible (the meds, remember?): First, it's a lot easier to maintain perspective about a health problem when it's someone else's rather than yours. Indeed, I've been there for many a friend going through everything from a headache to cancer. In every case, I've been sympathetic, supportive ... and extremely rationale.

But when the illness is mine, well, it's all about me. When I'm sick, nothing else matters. But it gets worse. Like a spoiled child, I want attention. Here's a classic: I had an appointment to see my orthopedic surgeon, his office

called to cancel because he had the flu and, at least for a moment, I was offended. Hey, I thought, if I'm willing to drag my aching body to his office he should be willing to suffer some sniffles to meet me there.

Here's another truism: My illness is worse than yours. This is not open for discussion or contestation. If your ingrown toenail is throbbing, mine is throbbing more. If you have tennis elbow, mine is Wimbledon grade. And if you happen to be suffering from a bad back, know that my back is so bad it could write rap music.

I am also obsessive compulsive when I'm suffering. The day the technician gave me the film of my MRI and CT scan to deliver to my doctor, I first took them home and, with help from the Internet, did a 4-hour self-diagnosis. (I finally had to quit when the only thing I could figure was that I'm pregnant.)

But in the midst of all this self-absorption, I must give a shout out to the caregivers, physical therapy staff, family members, and friends who suffer right along with me – or maybe because of me. To paraphrase Judy Collins, I've looked at pain from both sides now, and I know one thing for sure: I'm better at giving comfort than receiving it.

But, while I might not always show it, I do appreciate the support and concern I've received through this most recent tribulation. It really is true that if you have your health you have everything. So in the words of the Terminator (a.k.a. Governor Arnold), when it comes to my back, I'll be baataack. In the meantime, pass the meds and hand me a pillow. If you need me, I'll be on the floor.



Harvey with granddaughter Mackenzie and grandson Karter

Harvey Kart

You can reach Harvey Kart at (412) 856-1954 or hdkart@aol.com.



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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Colleagues,

Western Pennsylvania healthcare institutions and the people who work within them are truly remarkable. These people are there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide quality healthcare whenever and wherever needed, to lend a compassionate ear and to support patients and their families. In addition, these fine institutions are economic engines within the communities they serve. For these reasons and in recognition of National Hospital Week 2007, Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania wants to publicly acknowledge and thank its members, their employees, physicians and volunteers for their ongoing dedication to the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

A.J. Harper
President

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Thank You



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Event Bridges Hospitals, Health Systems, Physicians Embracing Technology

A new and very unique healthcare executive technology event is coming to Pittsburgh next month. The event is called Northeast U.S. Healthcare Trade Faire & Regional Conference. The event is both a day full of various Conference tracks, coupled with an upscale and intimate Trade Faire of 50+ solution providers.

This event brings regionally based hospital and health system management and physicians together for an all day networking and educational event, which will take place from 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Friday, May 11th at the Hilton Pittsburgh, Ballroom level.

This event coming to Pittsburgh next month on Friday, May 11th also brings together several different elite professional healthcare association chapters and organizations for a day of networking and education. For next month's event in Pittsburgh, the sponsor group is Western Pennsylvania Chapter of HIMSS (WPHIMSS). The Pittsburgh event is also driven in cooperation with Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania (HCWP).

Additional groups participating in this event whose memberships are being invited to attend and network with their fellow regional industry peers include but not limited to: ACHE of Western Pennsylvania, Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Central & Southern Ohio Chapter HIMSS (CSOHIMSS), Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association, and national HIMSS. Many healthcare and hospital management will also be attending the May 11th event from regions in fairly close geographic proximity to western Pennsylvania. Parts of regions of West Virginia, New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, Delaware, and Ohio. But the bulk of the event audience who be Pennsylvania-based.

Conference portion of the event:

The day will have over dozen conference presentations and keynotes to be able to choose from to listen in on.

Trade Faire portion of the event:

Here is a partial list of some of the companies who will be on hand for the Trade Faire portion of the event:

Gold Level Sponsors/Exhibitors McKesson

McKesson is transforming healthcare through a comprehensive portfolio of advanced financial, clinical and consumer solutions combined with automation technologies. Please visit with us in booth # 39.

Bronze Level Sponsors/Exhibitors Geisinger Health System

Geisinger Health System will have 15 staff on hand in their booth. Geisinger Health System staff will also be giving away from the booth CDs of our lab mapping training tools used in this project. Visit us in booth # 46.

IBM

Explore Innovation in Healthcare with IBM and Healthlink, a division of IBM. We will be showcasing our broad range of leading healthcare and life sciences services and solutions. Visit with us in booth # 51.

M*Modal

M*Modal offers speech recognition based conversational documentation services that help healthcare providers capture discrete clinical information from dictation to generate complete and timely electronic medical records. Please visit with us in booth # 14.

Oracle

Oracle's business is information – how to manage it, use it, share it, protect it. Visit with us in booth # 24.

Siemens Medical Solutions

Siemens Soarian is an integrated health information solution (HIS) that was developed to empower healthcare providers to proactively manage the clinical, financial, and administrative process from beginning to end. Visit booth #47.

ADDITIONAL EVENT EXHIBITORS

AdvizeX Technologies

AdvizeX Technologies is a leading information technology provider of infrastructure and enterprise application solutions. Visit booth # 41.

AEC Group

AEC Group, Inc. is a technology solutions provider with core competencies around access infrastructure, communication and collaboration, and availability. Please visit with us in booth # 22 on the exhibit floor.

ALLSCRIPTS

ALLSCRIPTS delivers the clinical software and information that more than 30,000 U.S. physicians in 4,000 clinics use to improve health care. To learn more, visit us on the web at www.allscripts.com. Visit booth # 15.

api Software, Inc.

api Software, Inc. offers integrated time and attendance, scheduling and staffing, productivity management, payroll/human resources, workflow, education management and access control solutions. Visit booth # 49.

Cerner

Cerner is the leading U.S. supplier of healthcare information technology solutions that optimize clinical and financial outcomes. Visit booth # 22.

Cisco

The Cisco Medical-Grade Network architecture connects features from Clinical Connection Suite, Connected Imaging, and Electronic Health Records solutions to enable secure information sharing. Visit booth # 34.

dbMotion

dbMotion's proven healthcare information integration software facilitates interoperability and Health Information Exchange (HIE) for health information networks and integrated healthcare delivery systems. Visit with us in booth # 28.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



FRIDAY, MAY 11
HILTON PITTSBURGH

• There will be a morning and afternoon Keynote speaker presentation. The featured Morning Keynote speaker at 9:00 a.m. for the event will be Jerry J. Fedele, President and CEO, West Penn Allegheny Health System. Topic is being determined at press time. Panelists for this presentation will include Nicholas J. Valadja, Vice President and CIO, West Penn Allegheny Health System. Other panelists for this presentation being determined at press time. At press time the Afternoon Keynote speaker details are not confirmed fully.

• There will be four to five morning presentations and four to five afternoon done by Event sponsor companies/organizations and their executive and medical panelists. These presentations, the presenters are overviewed at www.healthcaretradefaire.com/Pittsburgh/

• At 3:45 p.m., one key track to be sure to check out is presented via the Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania. This track is titled CIO Insomnia: what job issues keep hospital CIOs in the Northeast U.S. region up at night? The interactive discussion and dialog will high light the top ten issues or things and then will have multi-perspective discussions on four or more of them. Audience CIOs and their direct reports are encouraged to interact, or to just listen and observe. Here are four short discussions that will be touched on:

1. Connecting all stakeholders in the healthcare system to a single information and communications infrastructure
2. Improving connections between clinicians, patients, and information, while taking advantage of location-based and collaborative-care components
3. Eliminating the costs and delays associated with traditional film imaging by using digital imaging to quickly and easily share diagnostic images
4. Enabling effective distribution of electronic health records to help caregivers improve care while allowing organizations to decrease expenses and increase productivity

Eclipsys

Eclipsys is The Outcomes Company®, a leading provider of advanced integrated information software, best-practice clinical content and professional services that help healthcare organizations improve clinical, financial, operational and customer-satisfaction outcomes. Visit with us in booth # 15.

EnovateIT

EnovateIT products include Mobile and Medication Workstations, Automated Vital Sign Charting Systems, and Computer Fixed Arms and Mounts. CPOE, EMAR and Bedside Documentation are just a few of the many emerging healthcare applications that we support with our comprehensive, custom solutions. Visit with us in booth # 33.

HIMSS

HIMSS is the healthcare industry's membership organization exclusively focused on providing leadership for the optimal use of healthcare information technology (IT) and management systems for the betterment of human health. Learn how HIMSS and your local HIMSS Chapter enable you to shape your professional future, enrich your career, and expand your industry intelligence. Visit booth # 25.

Intel - Digital Health Group

Intel brings breakthrough technical expertise, manufacturing leadership, inspired partners, and the drive for industry standards to put new technologies and platform solutions in the hands of patients, their families and healthcare providers. Visit with us in booth # 38.

IronPort Systems

IronPort Systems is the leading gateway security provider for organizations ranging from small businesses to the Global 2000. Please visit with us in booth # 22 on the exhibit floor.

Medicity

Medicity specializes in complex clinical integration projects and e-health solutions configured from its own commercially-available compo-

nent applications, which include an MPI, an integration engine, and an EHR. Visit with us in booth # 20.

Misys Healthcare Systems

Misys Healthcare Systems, an industry-leading healthcare IT company and a division of Misys plc, develops and supports reliable, easy-to-use software and services that enable physicians and caregivers to more easily manage the complexities of healthcare. Visit booth # 26.

NextGen Healthcare Information Systems, Inc.

NextGen Healthcare is a leading provider of fully integrated enterprise practice management and electronic medical records software. Visit booth # 48.

Dictaphone, Div. of Nuance Communications, Inc.

Nuance's Dictaphone Healthcare Solutions Division provides comprehensive dictation and transcription solutions and services that improve the way patient data is captured, processed and used changing the way people process and work with medical information. Visit booth # 50.

Prithvi Information Solutions

Prithvi is an ISO 9001:2000-certified global technology consulting and process outsourcing company. Visit with us in booth # 46.

QuadraMed

QuadraMed develops innovative, flexible information technology solutions that empower healthcare institutions to deliver quality care with optimum efficiency across the entire patient care continuum. Visit with us in booth # 37.

Rubbermaid Medical Solutions

Rubbermaid Medical Solutions provides innovative Mobile Medication and Computing Stations that assist Northeast U.S. based healthcare facilities in patient safety initiatives. Visit with us in booth # 33.

Sensitron, Inc.

Sensitron will be showcasing careTrendsR, which enables a variety of point-of-care devices to directly communicate results to a centralized intelligent database for storage, retrieval, trending and interface to many CISs. Visit us in booth # 35.

Specialized Receivables

Specialized Receivables is the leading accident claims billing company focused exclusively on the successful resolution of healthcare claims relating to motor vehicle accidents, work related injuries or illnesses, and third party liability claims. Visit booth # 44.

Sprint Nextel

Sprint provides an array of cost-effective mobile solutions that help healthcare providers balance patient care, operational efficiency, cost management and regulatory compliance. Visit with us in booth # 36.

TeleTracking Technologies

Market leader TeleTracking Technologies, Inc. has helped over 650 hospitals manage mission-critical patient flow challenges with their proven workflow automation solutions. Visit with us in booth # 30.

The Global Innovation Center (GIC)

The Global Innovation Center (GIC) is a cross-disciplinary venture that uniquely combines innovative processes from industry-leading experts with emerging and proven data analysis technologies. Visit booth # 46 on the exhibit floor.

...

On average, over 200 regionally based healthcare professionals attend this unique event in each city where it is held. These 'select' regions include Honolulu, Oklahoma City, Atlanta, and Pittsburgh. Cost to attend is \$695. The fee will be waived if you qualify. Inquire via Robert Glanville contact information below.

Hospital and health system executives, as well area physicians who would like information on how to attend this event should contact the event organizer Robert Glanville at (503) 387-3120 or robert@healthcaretradefaire.com.



Building a Resource for the Community.

Part of what makes The Commons at Squirrel Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center unique is our dedication to providing vital community resources. It's part of who we are as a nonprofit organization. As such, we continue to develop educational outreach as well as specific clinical programs to meet the needs of our community. From providing experienced ventilator and respiratory programs, to in-house hospice, extensive wound care, rehabilitation and long-term care, The Commons at Squirrel Hill is committed to providing vital services, now and in the future. We invite you to learn more by calling or scheduling a tour with Suzanne Machek at 412-287-8408.

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Employer Must Review Pension Plans for Compliance with Pension Protection Act

Today most pension plans are defined contribution plans, in which the employer pays a certain amount into the retirement accounts of participating employees with no guarantee of any particular pension amount. Growth in an account depends on the performance of the investments in it.



BY JOSEPH A. VATER, JR., ESQ.

Employers that offer their employees defined contribution retirement plans need to review these plans to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Pension Protection Act enacted last fall. Those that offer automatic enrollment should review the investment options which they use as defaults. All defined contribution retirement plans which provide for participant direction will have to provide participants with quarterly statements on their investment accounts. Approximately one-third of eligible workers do not participate in their employer-sponsored defined contribution plans, such as 401(k) plans. Studies suggest that almost all of these workers, especially young ones, would participate if

they were automatically enrolled. Many employers are interested in offering automatic enrollment, but the fact that they are potentially liable for any investment losses in these accounts has been a serious disincentive to offering this feature.

The Pension Protection Act removes several impediments to automatic enrollment plans. One of the most significant provisions of this law protects employers that invest participant assets in certain types of default investments from liability for losses.

The Department of Labor has issued proposed regulations that explain exactly how this will work. The most significant change is that, to enjoy this relief, an employer that automatically enrolls employees must invest in "qualified default investment alternatives," which the proposed regulations define as:

- Life-cycle or targeted-retirement-date funds
- Balanced funds
- Professionally managed accounts.

Employers that have relied on stable-value, e.g., bond, or money-market funds in the expectation that these less-risky investments would protect them from liability for losses should consider switching to different, equity-based, investment funds to obtain that protection if the proposed rules become final. The government is apparently encouraging a move away from more conservative investments on the assumption that equity-based investments are more appropriate for younger employees and will produce larger nest eggs for employees when they retire.

To be protected from liability for investment losses in automatic enrollment accounts, the employer must also:

- Have given participants and beneficiaries an opportunity to choose their own investments.
- Notify participants and beneficiaries 30 days in advance of the first invest-

ment and at least 30 days in advance of each subsequent plan year. The notice must include: a description of the circumstances under which assets will be invested, a description of the investment objectives, and an explanation of the right of participants and beneficiaries to switch to other investments.

- Forward any material, such as investment prospectuses and other notices, from the mutual funds or investment managers to participants and beneficiaries.
- Give participants and beneficiaries the opportunity to direct investments out of the default with the same frequency as other plan investments, but at least quarterly, with no penalty.
- Offer a broad range of investment alternatives.

Employers also face a looming deadline to comply with the new reporting requirements of the Pension Protection Act.

According to the new law, defined contribution plans that permit employees to make investment decisions by themselves must provide participants with quarterly statements. Defined contribution plans in which trustees make investment decisions must provide annual statements.

The good news is that employers and plan sponsors can use email to get the statements to employees. The Department of Labor recently published a bulletin describing how to deliver the statements electronically. The bulletin also provides specific language employers may use in the investment warnings that the new law says they must give.

The effective date for the new law is for fiscal years beginning January 1, 2007 or later and companies have 45 days after the close of a quarter to start complying. That means that the first deadline for many companies is May 15.

Joseph A. Vater, Jr. is a partner at Meyer, Unkovic & Scott, who focuses his practice on employment law and employee benefits. He can be reached at jav@muslaw.com.



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Pension Reform Law Affects Physician Practices

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 received a great deal of press coverage for its reform of big corporate defined benefit pension plans. But there's much in the 900-plus-page law that affects physicians and their practices. The law enhances retirement planning incentives, imposes tough new requirements for charitable deductions and preserves tax breaks for college savings. Physicians need to understand these changes and begin factoring them into their personal and business financial planning in 2007.

Here is a brief overview of the most significant changes.

Roth IRA rollovers: After 2007, participants will be able to directly roll over funds from a qualified retirement plan to a Roth IRA (assuming other requirements are met). Currently, a two step process is required: Roll over the funds from a qualified plan to a traditional IRA, and then roll over from the traditional IRA to a Roth IRA.

Qualified retirement plans: Many favorable retirement plan provisions in the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA) were scheduled to expire after 2010. The new law repeals these "sunset" provisions—including higher contribution and benefit amounts, catch-up contributions for older workers, faster vesting on employer matching contributions and various other enhancements—and makes them permanent.

Inherited plan assets: For distributions after 2006, a non-spouse beneficiary can elect to roll over the assets in the decedent's qualified retirement plan to an IRA of his or her own. Previously, this benefit was only available to spousal beneficiaries.

Charitable contributions: The new law tightens the rules for deducting donations of clothing and household items, while enhancing benefits for food and book donations by physicians and their practices. It also permits, for the first time ever, tax-free distributions of IRA proceeds for charitable purposes, through



BY PAUL RUDOY, CPA/PFS

the 2007 tax year. For a contribution of cash, regardless of the amount, the donor must have a cancelled check, a receipt or letter or other written documentation from the entity showing the name of the contribution or other reliable written records showing the name of the entity, the date and amount of the contribution.

Section 529 plans: The new law preserves tax breaks for Section 529 plans, the tax-deferred college tuition savings plans, that were scheduled to expire after 2010. Besides enjoying tax-free distributions for qualified higher education expenses, taxpayers can continue to roll over funds to a different state plan each year without changing the beneficiary. Also, investors can still use a Coverdell Education Savings Account and 529 plan for the same beneficiary in the same year.

Physicians should always consult with a professional tax adviser to determine how the new law affects them as individuals and their practices.

Paul K. Rudoy is managing partner of the accounting firm Horowitz Rudoy & Roteman. He can be reached at (412) 391-2920.

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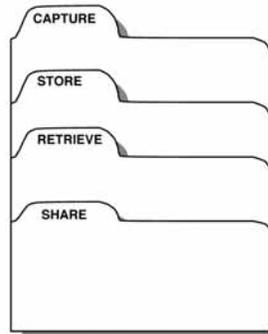
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Around the Region



Concordia Visiting Nurses Announces Key Promotions

Martin J. Trettel has been named President and Chief Executive Officer and William J. Giallombardo of Butler has been named Chief Financial Officer of Concordia Visiting Nurses as a result of corporate restructuring within the Concordia Lutheran Ministries system.

Giallombardo came to Concordia in 2002 as controller for CVN from Heckett Multiserv, a diversified steel mill service organization in Butler having worked for VNA Services and Foundation for 11 years as Vice President of Finance/Controller.



Martin J. Trettel



William J. Giallombardo

Heritage Valley Beaver Hires New Director of Medical/Surgical Nursing

Heritage Valley Health System announced that they have hired Lori McAninch, R.N., for the role of Director of Medical/Surgical Nursing, IV Therapy, Escort, and Inpatient Rehabilitation Services at Heritage Valley Beaver.

Lori recently held the position of Project Manager for Information Systems at St. Clair Hospital. Prior to this she was the Nurse Manager at St. Clair for their Post Surgical Unit, PACU, and Holding Area Unit. In addition she held the position of Nurse Manager at LifeCare Hospitals of Pittsburgh in the Critical Care Ventilator Unit.



Lori McAninch

Denise P. Westwood Appointed to Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania Board of Directors

Denise P. Westwood, MSN, RN has been appointed to the Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania Board of Directors. Westwood, a resident of Findlay Township, is the vice president of nursing at Canonsburg General Hospital. She received both a Masters and bachelor of science degree in nursing from Duquesne University.



Denise P. Westwood

Astorino Adds Five

Astorino welcomes five new employees to the firm's growing staff in both the Pittsburgh, PA and Palm Beach Gardens locations.

Steven Johnson brings 22 years of experience to his new position with Astorino. Having most recently worked in Syracuse, NY, Johnson joins the firm's Pittsburgh office as a project architect/administrator in the firm's Corporate Commercial studio.

Heidi Burson joins Astorino's Pittsburgh office as a Construction Administrator Technician with the firm's Design/Build studio. Fred Zrinscak has been consulting with Astorino's Palm Beach Gardens office since its inception in June of 2003. Recently hired as a full-time employee, Zrinscak has over 30 years of experience and will work as a project manager. Jeff Ivanco brings over twenty-one years of experience in architecture and computer system management to his new role at Astorino as a CADD Manager with the firm's A/E Practice Studio. Anastasia Herk works in Astorino's Sports/Commercial/Higher Ed studio as an Architectural Intern.



Steven Johnson



Heidi Burson



Fred Zrinscak



Jeff Ivanco



Anastasia Herk

Craig Maartmann-Moe Named Director of CRS McCandless

The Centers for Rehab Services (CRS) has named Craig Maartmann-Moe, M.P.T., as director of its McCandless facility. A specialist in orthopedics and sports medicine, Maartmann-Moe provides services in a variety of areas, including strength and conditioning, spinal manipulation and fitness and rehabilitation. CRS is a partner of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and affiliated with the UPMC Institute for Rehabilitation and Research.



Craig Maartmann-Moe

Paula Lawlor, RHIA, Installed as President of Pennsylvania Health Information Association

Diskriter recently announced that Vice President, Health Information Management Services, Paula Lawlor, RHIA, will be installed as President of Pennsylvania Health Information Association (PHIMA) at the Business Meeting and Installation of Officers Luncheon at the PHIMA Annual Conference at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA.



Paula Lawlor

Providence Pharmacy Promotes New Pharmacy Director

Providence Pharmacy, the in-house pharmacy at Concordia Lutheran Ministries, recently promoted a new Pharmacy Director to head operations.

Rich Zabinski, a 1991 graduate of Duquesne University with a Bachelor of Science in pharmacy, begins his tenure as Pharmacy Director with over 16 years experience in long term care, formerly working for Klingensmith, Nursing Center Services (now Omnicare), and Pharmacia.



Rich Zabinski

Cynthia Miller Murphy Elected President-Elect of the National Organization for Certifying Agencies

Cynthia Miller Murphy, RN, MSN, CAE, Executive Director of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC), was recently elected President-elect of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA). Murphy will serve one year as President-elect, one year as President, and one year as Past-President.

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Around the Region

Heritage Valley Beaver Promotes Kathleen M. Harley to Vice President of Patient Care Services

Heritage Valley Health System announced the promotion of Kathleen (Kathy) M. Harley to the new position of Vice President, Patient Care Services at Heritage Valley Beaver. Kathy has been employed at Heritage Valley Health System as Director of Nursing for Surgical Services at the Beaver campus since March 2002.

Prior to coming to Heritage Valley Health System, Kathy was the Director of Surgical Services at East Liverpool City Hospital and the Operating Room Nurse Manager at Trumbull Memorial Hospital - Forum Health in Warren, OH. Kathy earned her Bachelors of Science in Nursing degree from Penn State University in 1995 and her Masters in Business Administration from Youngstown State University in 2002.



Kathleen M. Harley

Angela Garcia named Deputy Director at Global Links

Angela Garcia has been named Deputy Director at Global Links, a Pittsburgh based international medical relief organization. Garcia has served as Assistant to the Executive Director since 2000, taking on numerous assignments and special projects, and becoming involved in many aspects of the organization. As the organization has grown, so has Garcia's role.



Angela Garcia

Gail Miller Earns Promotion to Vice President for Quality

Gail Miller has been promoted to the position of vice president for quality at Mount Nittany Medical Center.

Miller's appointment as vice president for quality reflects both her commitment and success exhibited at Mount Nittany Medical Center over the past 30 years. Miller started working at Mount Nittany Medical Center (formerly Centre Community Hospital) in 1976 as a medical-surgical nurse. Over the years she served in a variety of roles at the medical center, including critical care staff nurse, employee health nurse, supervisor of the sterile processing unit, infection control coordinator and, most recently, director of performance improvement and education.



Gail Miller

Amerinet Welcomes New Employees to Enterprise Solutions Team

Amerinet announces the appointments of two new employees to its Enterprise Solutions team. Randall Walter, executive vice president of Supply Chain and Enterprise Solutions, recently welcomed the addition of Thomas DeSalvo and Bryce McHenry to Amerinet.

DeSalvo has joined Amerinet as the new director of medical and surgical for the Northeast region. Prior to joining Amerinet, DeSalvo served as director of Materials Management at William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, CT. He also was director of Materials Management at Meadville Medical Center and Corporate director of Materials Management for Baystate Health Systems in Springfield, MA.

Bryce McHenry has accepted the role and responsibilities of director of Corporate Business Development. Prior to joining Amerinet, McHenry served as director of Consulting and Contract Services for VHA Mid-America, the last of a series of positions that he had with VHA.

Josephine L. Fletcher Named Senior Vice President of Nursing for Monongahela Valley Hospital

Josephine L. Fletcher has been named Senior Vice President of Nursing at Monongahela Valley Hospital.

Fletcher most recently served as Director of Nursing for IHS at Greater Pittsburgh in Greensburg.

She attended the Washington School of Nursing, completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at Waynesburg College and in 2002, received her Masters in Business Administration from Waynesburg College.



Josephine L. Fletcher

Dr. Bei Wu Receives Fellow Status from Association for Gerontology in Higher Education

Bei Wu, Ph.D., has been selected as a 2006-2007 Fellow of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). Wu is one of eight professionals who have exhibited outstanding leadership in gerontology/geriatrics education across the nation.

Dr. Wu is an assistant professor in the West Virginia University Center on Aging and Department of Community Medicine. Currently, Wu also serves as a faculty associate at WVU Center for Women's Studies and an adjunct assistant professor at the WVU School of Dentistry. In addition to West Virginia University, she also serves as an adjunct professor at three academic institutes in China: Shanghai University Sociology Department, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, and Wuhan University School of Public Health.



Dr. Bei Wu

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PHYSICIAN ANNOUNCEMENTS, APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS

Psychiatrist Joins UPMC Northwest Medical Staff

Psychiatrist Ronald McFadden, M.D., is the new medical director of Behavioral Health at UPMC Northwest.

Dr. McFadden has practiced psychiatry the past six years with several western Pennsylvania health care organizations including Paoletta Psychological Services in Franklin and Mercer, Community Counseling Center of Mercer County, Clarion Psychiatric Center, Brookville Hospital, and UPMC Horizon in Mercer County. Earlier he practiced for three years in West Virginia.



Dr. Ronald McFadden

AGH Physician Named to Exclusive NCI Panel Overseeing Conduct of Clinical Cancer Trials Research

David Parda, M.D., F.A.C.P., chairman of Allegheny General Hospital's (AGH) Department of Radiation Oncology, is one of three cancer specialists in the country recently elected to the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Central Institutional Review Board (CIRB) Initiative.

In addition to his AGH role, Dr. Parda serves as chairman of the West Penn Allegheny Health System Radiation Oncology Network.



Dr. David Parda

Children's Names New Hepatology Director To Develop Cutting-Edge Liver Disease Management Program

Benjamin L. Shneider, M.D., has been named director of Pediatric Hepatology at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

Dr. Shneider comes to Children's from The Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, where he served as chief of Pediatric Hepatology and was a tenured professor of Pediatrics.



Dr. Benjamin L. Shneider

Memorial Medical Center Physician Elected to ACEP Post

Daniel Wehner, M.D., M.B.A., Chairman of Emergency Medicine at Memorial Medical Center, was elected secretary of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (PA ACEP).

Dr. Wehner has been with Memorial for seven years. Prior to moving to Pennsylvania, he was president of the Delaware Chapter of ACEP.

Upon graduating from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Dr. Wehner completed a residency at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, in 1984.



Dr. Daniel Wehner

Plastic Surgeon Dr. Robert Kang Joins The Western Pennsylvania Hospital

The Western Pennsylvania Hospital is pleased to announce that plastic surgeon Robert H. Kang, M.D., F.A.C.S., has joined the medical staff. Board-certified in plastic surgery and hand surgery, he now practices with West Penn Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the hospital's Mellon Pavilion on Liberty Avenue in Bloomfield. He comes to West Penn from Mercy Hospital, where he was chief of the Division of Hand Surgery.



Dr. Robert H. Kang

Dr. Charles J. DeNunzio, Jr. Joins Wetzel County Hospital

Charles J. DeNunzio, Jr., D.O., a physician certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians, has joined the Wetzel County Hospital medical staff as a family practice physician, announced George Couch, CEO.

Dr. DeNunzio attended the Pennsylvania State University where he received a B.S. in Microbiology, High Distinction. He received his Doctor of Osteopathy degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his post-graduate training at West Allegheny Hospital. Dr. DeNunzio served 6 years in the US Public Health Services in rural Pennsylvania.



Dr. Charles DeNunzio, Jr. with (l-r) Joan Pack, Secretary, Faye Marne, LPN, and Jayne Viskovich, RN.

Wilson Named to Lead Trauma Center

Alison Wilson, M.D., has been appointed director of the Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center at West Virginia University Hospitals. Dr. Wilson also serves as section chief of trauma, emergency surgery and surgical critical care in the WVU School of Medicine.

Dr. Wilson received her residency and fellowship training at the Baylor College of Medicine and has been a faculty member in the Department of Surgery at WVU since 2002. She was appointed section chief of surgical critical care in 2006.



Dr. Alison Wilson

OVMC Physician Appointed to Commission on Cancer Position

Nadeem Ikhlauque, M.D., of Wheeling, WV, recently received a three-year appointment as Cancer Liaison Physician for the cancer program at Ohio Valley Medical Center.

Dr. Ikhlauque, who specializes in Oncology and Hematology, joined the Cancer Center at OVMC in July 2006. A graduate of Rawalpindi Medical College, University of the Punjab, he served as a Field Medical Officer and Family Physician in Pakistan. He completed his Residency in Internal Medicine at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. While at Wright State he served as Chief Resident in Internal Medicine and completed a Fellowship in Hematology and Oncology.



Dr. Nadeem Ikhlauque

Solan to Receive Sickman-Levin Award at Hospital's Annual Gala

James A. Solan, M.D., of Rostraver Township is the 2007 recipient of the Sickman-Levin Award for Dimensions in Medicine at Monongahela Valley Hospital.

A family practice physician whose service to the health system spans more than 20 years, Dr. Solan will be honored Saturday, May 19 at the hospital's Nineteenth Annual Gala.

Dr. Solan, who was appointed to the MVH Medical Staff on September 4, 1986, received his Medical Degree from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia in June 1979. He completed his residency in family practice at The Washington Hospital in Washington, PA in June 1982.

He was a member of the Medical Staff at Geisinger Medical Center in Phillipsburg, PA, where he also was a member of a large medical practice, from 1982 to 1986. He returned to Rostraver Township in 1986 and has been in solo practice with an office in Fayette City since then.



Dr. James A. Solan

Hospital-Physician Joint Ventures: Looking Into the Future



BILL MURPHY



GENO BONETTI

BY BILL MURPHY
CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR, GENO BONETTI

The landscape for hospitals and physicians is changing. Physician incomes are suffering as payments and reimbursement rates continue to trend downward, and hospital inpatient volumes are suffering as cases continue to move to outpatient surgery centers. It's time for hospitals to start looking at things in a new way before their physician base, procedure mix and market share begin to – or continue to – deteriorate.

According to the American Medical News, the number of surgeries performed in outpatient surgery centers jumped by 191% from 1990 to 2000. And in the year 2000, 70% of all surgeries performed in the United States were outpatient. These numbers clearly indicate that outpatient surgery centers have grown and continue to grow in their popularity and case volume. This trend leaves little doubt as to what hospitals need to do to remain competitive both now and in the future: Develop hospital-affiliated outpatient surgery centers that physicians want to participate in and patients want to be treated in. The solution? A hospital-physician joint venture that satisfies physician ownership and control desires while allowing hospitals to preserve their money-making staff, procedures and market share.

The hospital-physician joint venture idea isn't a new one, although it's recently begun increasing in popularity. According to a 2006 article in Healthcare Financial Management, regulatory and market changes are causing physicians to begin working more collaboratively with hospitals. Financial changes have also made it more difficult for physicians to finance ASC opportunities on their own. In addition to these changes, an article in Health Affairs says hospital-physician relationships "aren't what they used to be." The article goes on to say they've become increasingly strained over the years due to physicians investing in competing community surgery centers and taking a stand when it comes to what's being asked of them by employers.

As a hospital, you know that continued advances in research and treatment make retaining valued physician staff more important now than ever. Coupled with the fact that hospital management continues to better understand the benefits of joint ventures, and that joint ventures show no sign of letting up in the near future, it's clear that hospital-physician JV partnerships will continue to be a positive way for hospitals and physicians to work together going forward.

Is your hospital prepared to handle the needs and demands of your system's physicians? Have you ever considered joint venturing with your doctors and, if so, do you know where to start in order to maximize your success as well as theirs?

Take a look at part three of our article series on hospital-physician joint ventures in next month's issue of Western PA Hospital News. We'll be discussing your options for developing an ASC joint venture with your physicians, and some of the important things to consider before getting started.

Bill Murphy, Vice President of Business Development for Titan Health Corporation, can be reached at bmurphy@titanhealth.com or (214) 722-7539.

Geno Bonetti, Vice President of Business Development for Titan Health Corporation, can be reached at gbonetti@titanhealth.com or (412) 670-1053.

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COVER STORY: Recognize YOUR Security & Safety Department:

ENTER THEM IN THE 2007 VECTOR SECURITY/HOSPITAL NEWS SECURITY AWARDS PROGRAM

Continued from Page 1

safe and secure within the work environment. Our plan is to bestow four awards during February of 2008 to healthcare security departments and personnel from Western PA and Eastern OH, which make up the subscriber base of Western Pennsylvania Hospital News. The award categories will be as follows:

1. Healthcare Security Executive, Director or Manager of the Year (1 award)

This award will be given to the Healthcare Security Executive, Director or Manager who has been the most effective in his or her role. Qualifications for this award would include excellent planning of or administration of a new security program, the successful deployment of new security technologies, achieving a unique level of leadership within the organization, personal dedication to a security or life safety advocacy cause or association, reaching high goals or performance levels in the execution of the facility security plan, or actions taken during a highly volatile security incident. Submitted entries could include those which impact the life safety of patients, staff or the community at large.

2. Healthcare Security Department of the Year

This award will be given to the collective security department that has performed its job best as a department, rather than as individuals. Qualifications for this award would include achieving high goals or performance levels by acting as a team; a specific team-oriented program that provides a higher level of security and safety to the facility's staff, patients or visitors; team dedication to a security or life safety advocacy

cause or association; or exemplary actions as a team during a highly volatile security event.

3. Healthcare Security Officer or Staff Member of the Year (1 award)

This award will be given to a single member of a healthcare facility's security staff ? to include a security officer, clerical person or front line manager ? who has demonstrated an exemplary performance level in the execution of his or her job. Qualifications for this award would include achieving high goals or performance levels, personal dedication to a security or life safety advocacy cause or association, or exemplary action during a highly volatile security event.

4. Healthcare Security Best Practice of the Year

This award will be given to the healthcare facility that has deployed the most highly effective security or safety program or "best practice." Qualifications for this award would include items such as the development and implementation of a highly effective hiring or training program which has produced exemplary results in terms of officers/staff members' performance, career enhancement and higher retention levels; the application of new technologies or the "marriage" of new technologies with highly trained officers to achieve higher performance levels; or the development of a new program which itself has brought about new levels of security and safety.

Submission of Entries: Content

Entries should consist of a complete

description of the entry subject and why that specific entry should be worthy of consideration. Each entry should include back-up materials which support the entry. Back-up information could include items such as (a) documentation of definable increases in performance levels; (b) department reports; (c) citations from senior healthcare managers; (d) letters of citation or recommendation from public officials, police departments or any other governmental agency which has jurisdiction over healthcare security; (e) media coverage of any event or incident reflected in the submission; or (f) any additional document that serves to describe, ratify or extol the submission subject.

Submission of Entries: Deadline

All completed entries must be received no later than Monday, December 3, 2007. Any facility wishing to submit an entry is asked to complete a pre-submission application form no later than July 1, 2007, which will serve as notification of your intent to participate. Applications will be provided by Vector Security; please contact Bob Bronder at 724-779-8800 to obtain one.

Development & Limit of Submissions

We strongly suggest that you obtain the interest and assistance of your facility's senior managers and public relations/marketing staff in the development of your individual submission(s). Please remember that each facility can provide a submission for ANY ONE OF THE FOUR CATEGORIES they prefer, or even ALL FOUR of the categories. The person ultimately responsible

for the submission must be the most senior security and/or safety manager at your facility.

Divisions or Satellite Operations of a Major Healthcare Provider

If your security department operates in a division or satellite facility of a larger healthcare group, you can make award submissions if your department operates as a separate entity with a distinct local management staff.

Separate Technology & Security Officer Departments

If your facility operates separate technology and officer management departments, then the department responsible for managing the topic of the award submission must be involved in the application process. The person ultimately responsible for the submission must be the most senior security and safety manager operating out of the location.

In closing, the impetus behind the creation of this awards program is to give well-deserved recognition to members of the security industry. We want the program to be successful, and for that to happen, we need to hear from you! Also, please feel free to contact me at 724-779-8800 if you have any questions or comments concerning the program. We'll report on the progress of this program in future editions of *Western Pennsylvania Hospital News*.

Bob Bronder is the General Manager at Vector Security's Pittsburgh branch office location. Bob can be reached at (724) 779-8800 ext. 1264 or by email at rpbronder@vectorsecurity.com.



Joseph Antonowicz, M.D., (left) medical director of Altoona Regional Behavioral Health Services, presents the Darrell Nixdorf Award to Mark Schimminger, community treatment coordinator, for his outstanding contributions to his field.

Altoona Regional Behavioral Health Services Presents Darrell Nixdorf Award

Altoona Regional Behavioral Health Services recently presented the Darrell Nixdorf Award to Mark Schimminger, community service treatment coordinator.

The Nixdorf Award is given to the staff member who goes above and beyond the scope of his or her duties in the field of behavioral health to improve services or advocate for consumers. Schimminger has been an employee for 16 years. He determines the most appropriate work site for persons with community service obligations.

Health Rangers Program Looks To The Future

Every other Friday morning from October through May a group of Children's Hospital employees can be found meeting with students from local middle schools in various parts of the hospital. As part of the Health Rangers program, employees (mentors) meet with selected students from the Pittsburgh Public Schools (mentees) within the hospital, sharing information about health-related careers.

Coordinated by The Community Education Program, The Health Rangers program encourages employees to share their expertise with students by providing a positive role model, and aspires to help the students improve school attendance, achieve higher grades and exhibit better behavior. In addition, these mentors help teach students basic job skills and provide an opportunity to develop relationships with positive role models and support to make informed decisions about career goals and life choices.

Current host hospitals for Health Rangers include Allegheny General, Mercy as well as Children's Hospital. Children's Hospital partners with Frick International Academy and Arsenal Middle School.

The Health Rangers program is one of the 150 local mentoring programs supported by the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania. With a mission to expand the community's capacity to support quality-mentoring relationships they work to pro-

vide quality training and technical assistance for local mentors and mentoring programs, as well as raise awareness about the need for mentors. By helping to connect those wanting to be a mentor with the appropriate local program they are working to eliminate the waiting list of over one thousand youth who have asked for a mentor in their life.

Currently, The Mentoring Partnership is gearing up for their annual "Mentoring Awareness Day" on Saturday, June 2, 2007. This festive and informative event will take place from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Waterfront in Homestead in the Town Center (behind Starbucks) and includes music from the Ambridge High School Steel Drum Band as well as a chance to talk to representatives from a variety of mentoring programs about volunteer opportunities. According to Gregg Behr, chairman of The Mentoring Partnership Board of Directors, "As kids, most of us, somewhere along the way, received valuable guidance from somebody—a parent, a teacher, a friend—who took an interest in us because they wanted to see us become somebody. We're asking for people to return the favor and at the end of the day, our entire community will be better for it." You can be the key to a child's success.

For more information, visit www.MentoringPittsburgh.org, call (412) 281-2535 or email info@mentoringpittsburgh.org.



Mario and Nathalie greet children Annie and Greg Boughner who are busy enjoying one of the many play spaces for children and families located throughout the new Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center.



Children's Home CEO Pam Schanwald smiles alongside County Chief Executive Dan Onorato (left) and Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl (center) who were on hand to help cut the ribbon and show their support.

COVER STORY: *The Children's Home and Lemieux Family Center Celebrate Expanded Services at New Facility*

Continued from page 1

and have a significant impact on our region's economic development," said Schanwald.

In recognition of a substantial grant from The Mario Lemieux Foundation, The Children's Home added Lemieux Family Center to its name. This addition signifies the importance of family at the center of the organization's mission and is physically represented through the many family spaces throughout the building, including an enlarged family living area and Austin's Playroom for siblings.

"Our son Austin was born prematurely," said Mario Lemieux. "Nathalie and I, along with other members of the Foundation, certainly understand and believe in the importance of a place like The Children's Home."

The Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center includes living spaces that allow families to spend time together. These areas were created to provide a sense of home and comfort for the children and families who are receiving care at facility.

Another significant source of support for the project was \$4.5 million in financial assistance from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Honorable Edward G.

Rendell, Governor. The announcement of this funding in August marked the first public support ever received by The Children's Home of Pittsburgh.

The ribbon cutting featured a reception and remarks by The Children's Home CEO Pam Schanwald, President of The Children's Home's Board of Directors Bill Wycoff, Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, County Chief Executive Dan Onorato, and Executive Director of The Mario Lemieux Foundation, Tom Grealish.

Mario Lemieux, his wife Nathalie, and "Mr. McFeely" of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, David Newell, were among the ribbon cutters. Following the ribbon cutting, attendees had the opportunity to explore the new facility and ask questions of The Children's Home staff.

The building's unveiling marks the culmination of several years of diligent planning and involvement from staff, families, neighbors, volunteers, advisors, donors and other community leaders. Many groups collaborated to ensure the building was attuned to families' and children's needs.

"The layout for the new Child's Way is beyond our imagination," said Robb and Emmie Belak, parents of Gabriel, 4, who attends Child's Way and was also a patient in Transitional Infant Care (T.I.C.) as a baby. "It's as if all the designers truly had a vocation to nurture our children. All the areas speak of a center that will provide the social interaction that the kids thrive in."

Designed by Pittsburgh architectural firm Perkins Eastman

Robb and Emmie Belak with son Gabe, 4, share a smile in the new Child's Way, Pittsburgh's first and only pediatric extended care center providing day care to medically fragile children ages birth to eight. Gabe also spent eight weeks at The Children's Home's Transitional Infant Care (T.I.C.) hospital unit as a baby.



with construction management by P.J. Dick Incorporated, the new building spans 63,000 square feet at an approximate cost of \$20 million. The Children's Home is expanding its 28-bed Pediatric Specialty Hospital which houses the Transitional Infant Care (T.I.C.®) and the new Transitional Pediatric Care (T.P.C.) units. The Hospital specializes in providing continued acute care for infants and children transitioning from hospital to home. The new Transitional Pediatric

Care unit also offers the first dedicated pediatric in-patient hospice beds in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Child's Way, a state licensed Pediatric Extended Care Center, will increase enrollment from 45 to 60 medically fragile children per day in a medical day care setting. The Children's Home's flagship infant Adoption program will benefit from improved meeting space and conference rooms for support groups, training sessions, and one-on-one counseling.




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SNAPSHOTS



ACMC Opens Expanded Cardiac Rehab Center

Ashtabula County Medical Center recently unveiled its newest addition - a new, expanded space for the Cardiac Rehabilitation Department.

The new Cardiac Rehab department features a large reception space and a gym with a wall of windows, plus treadmills, bikes, weights, and other equipment. Two new treadmills were recently obtained, one purchased by ACMC and one donated by the Richard S. Morrison Foundation.

Construction of the new space was done entirely in-house by ACMC's Engineering Department, saving the hospital thousands of dollars.



Alle-Kiski Medical Center Opens New Medical/Surgical Unit

Officials at Alle-Kiski Medical Center (AKMC) recently announced the opening of a recently renovated 20-bed medical surgical unit that provides added inpatient rooms to accommodate increasing patient volumes.

The renovated first floor unit once housed Obstetrics. The renovation, which included adding medical gases to the rooms, allows for more flexibility to accommodate patients with various medical and surgical conditions. The new unit makes available an additional 12 private and 4 semi-private rooms for those inpatient admissions.

MVH Hosts Annual Regional Auxiliary Meeting



The Auxiliary of Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc. recently teamed up with the Southwest Regional Area Pennsylvania Association of Healthcare Auxiliary (SRAPAHA) and held its annual spring meeting in the Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center.

Pictured are Maureen Lusk, President of the Auxiliary of Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc., chatting with Reverend Mike Milinovich during the SRAPAHA/Auxiliary spring meeting.

Hospital's New System Advances Breast Cancer Detection

A state-of-the-art imaging system is advancing UPMC Northwest's ability to diagnose breast cancer and other breast diseases.

The hospital's R2 Technology ImageChecker System makes mammography exams more thorough than ever, according to radiologist and Imaging Department chairman Mark Salerno, M.D.

Pictured is mammography technologist Brianne Grooms demonstrating the ImageChecker's touch screen features.



Mercy Trauma and Burn Centers Celebrate Excellence, 40 Years in Burn Care & 20 Years in Trauma Care

Individuals who have survived from some of life's most devastating injuries recently reunited with their caregivers at The Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh during Burn Survivor Sunday. The annual celebration of survivorship took place at the close of National Burn Awareness Week.

Started in 1994 by a burn center nurse, the event took on even greater importance in 2007 as Mercy observes its 40th anniversary as a comprehensive burn center and its 20th anniversary as a Level I Regional Resource Trauma Center.

Pictured are students from the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing who volunteered their time to help pediatric burn survivors with Valentine's Day crafts and face painting.

The Journey to Improve Hospice Care in America

We each have our own life stories. Often those stories become even more important as we reach the end of our life. Sometimes the life review is most important for us, sometimes it is most important for those closest to us. Because of the impact of these life stories and the importance of life review, Family Hospice and Palliative Care created Your Gift of Legacy.



BY RAFAEL J. SCIULLO, MA, LCSW, MS

Through Your Gift of Legacy, patients create a visual journal that reflects their lives, experiences, and relationships. Some choose to record an audio or video interview while others are more comfortable with a hands-on-project, such as a memory box or a collage. Like all hospice decisions, the patient is the driving force and directs the project. "Recently an elderly gentleman and his wife made a DVD about their life together and viewed it with their family at Christmas time. It was very meaningful for them to share their life story with their children and grandchildren," reflects Paula Church, Your Gift of Legacy coordinator.

A former hospice nurse and photojournalist student, Ms. Church, either visits with the patients at home or meets them at Family Hospice and Palliative Care's Quality of Life Center. Together, they

embark on this personal journey about the patient's life. Once completed, the patient may choose to distribute the video or art work to friends or family. According to one patient's wishes, her video stories were delivered to family members once she had passed away. Her video reiterated her desire that her family rejoice in her life rather than mourn her absence.

Your Gift of Legacy emphasizes the basic hospice philosophy – to care for patients medically, emotionally and spiritually. To see the whole person. To care for the individual person not just the disease. It lets patients know that our staff and their loved ones see them as people with distinct experiences, individual memories, and unique life experiences.

The recording of an individual's story can often be healing for the patient and family. Although more than 50 years had passed, our patient had never talked with his family about his intense experience as a World War II soldier. Making a video, complete with still photos of him in uniform, gave him the chance to share with his family and important time in his life.

For others, Your Gift of Legacy allows patients and families to focus on better, easier times in life. While participating in

the project, one mother was able to relive happy memories of times she had with her children when they were young. For many, this project serves as a launching pad for many hours of storytelling with their loved ones.

Many patients are surprised that a health care organization – a hospice – is interested in their lives before becoming a patient. Your Gift of Legacy is one way that Family Hospice and Palliative Care demonstrates to patients their commitment to caring for the whole person. It also shows how the hospice philosophy focuses on living rather than death and dying. Your Gift of Legacy says to a patient – "You are an individual and we are interested in the stories that make up your life."

Your Gift of Legacy reflects the best of hospice by helping patients and families with reaching a level of peace and comfort through life review and storytelling. For many this project provides the needed closure and for others it is a welcome opportunity to review the good times in life. Family Hospice and Palliative Care understands the importance of both of these. Sometimes good end-of-life care is less about the end of life and more about the memories, stories, and experiences of an entire life.

Rafael J. Sciuлло, MA, LCSW, MS, is President and CEO of Family Hospice and Palliative Care. He may be reached at rsciuлло@familyhospice.com or at (412) 572-8800.

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Health Hope Network Sponsors Stroke Survivor and Caregiver Symposium

Health Hope Network (formerly Visiting Nurse Foundation) is hosting the 2007 Stroke Survivor and Caregiver Symposium on Saturday, May 19 from 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Green Tree.

The Stroke Survivor & Caregiver Symposium is targeted to the stroke survivor & their families, not the medical profession, which is more typical. The day will provide stroke survivors and their caregivers with information to improve their quality of life through educational opportunities addressing all areas of wellness—physical, emotional, cognitive and social.

Speakers include Ashis Tayal, M.D., Medical Director of the Comprehensive Stroke Program at Allegheny General Hospital; Carol Schramke, Ph.D., Director of Behavioral Neurology, Department of Neurology, Allegheny General Hospital, and Associate Professor of Neurology Drexel University College of Medicine; Catherine Birk, M.D., Medical Director of Neuroscience Program, HealthSouth Harnarville Rehabilitation Hospital; and Lynn O'Donnell, BSN, RN, CRRN, CBIS, Primary Nurse Care Coordinator for the Stroke & General Rehabilitation Unit at South Side Hospital.

Vendors represented at the Symposium include American Stroke Association, Highmark, Medtronic, American Healthcare Group, Hangar O & P, Merck, Solutions for Accessible Living, Advance Staffing, UPMC Stroke Institute, Allegheny General Hospital, Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services, Home Instead Senior Care, HealthSouth, The Woodlands Foundation, Sanofi-Aventis, Stroke Survivor Connection, and UPMC South Side Hospital.

Admission to the event is \$10. For more information, visit www.healthhopenetwork.org or call (412) 937-8350.



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(l-r) HIMSS Vice Chair Marion J. Ball, Ed.D, FHIMSS; HIMSS Chair George T. Hickman, CPHIMS, FHIMSS; Barry Ross, FHIMSS, Lifetime Member Hackett



(l-r) HIMSS Vice Chair Marion J. Ball, Ed.D, FHIMSS; HIMSS Chair George T. Hickman, CPHIMS, FHIMSS; Stephanie Rose Hackett; Brian Compas, FHIMSS, Fellows Foundation Fundraising Workgroup Chair

Two Members of Western Pennsylvania HIMSS Chapter Recognized for Health IT Contributions

Two members of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of HIMSS residents were recognized at the 2007 Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition in New Orleans, LA.

Barry T. Ross, MS, MBA, FHIMSS, DHHs, president of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of HIMSS, received the John A. Page Outstanding Service Award. Stephanie R. Hackett, a PhD student in Rehabilitation Science with an emphasis in health information systems at the University of Pittsburgh, was honored with the HIMSS Foundation PhD Scholarship.

Barry T. Ross, MS, MBA, FHIMSS, DSHS, was one of two recipients of the John A. Page Outstanding Service Award. The award is presented to an individual(s) who, in the judgment of the HIMSS Board of Directors, has made significant, commendable and long-standing contributions to the Society. A long-time HIMSS volunteer, Ross is president of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter. He was the 1984 President/Chairman of the Board of HIMSS and was responsible for instituting the HIMSS scholarship program. Ross was founder and past president of both the HIMSS Dairyland (Wisconsin) Chapter and the New York Chapter. He is both a fellow and lifetime (30 years or more) member of HIMSS. He has served on the board of Western Pennsylvania ACHE.

Stephanie R. Hackett, a native of St. Marys, PA., received the 2007 HIMSS Foundation PhD Scholarship. Hackett is a 1995 graduate of St. Marys Area High School. She earned a BS in Health Information Management and a MS in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences from University of Pittsburgh with an emphasis in Health Information Systems. She is also active in the Western Pennsylvania Chapter and serves on the chapter's Communications Committee. Hackett is also the recipient of 2007 Anne Pascasio PhD scholarship and 2007 Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association (PHIMA) student scholarship.

Corazon Founder & CEO Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Jackie Johnson, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Corazon has received the 2007 Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business.

A Nominating Committee brings candidates to the entire Board for a vote on the year's winners. This year, Jackie's professional qualifications, leadership contributions to the healthcare industry, and commendable community service have earned her this special recognition.

Johnson earned her Master of Business Administration Degree from Katz in 1986 as a recipient of a Fellowship for Academic Excellence—she was the only nurse in a class of 209 full-time students. In 2004, Johnson completed an Entrepreneurial Fellowship with the University, and to date remains involved with the Katz Business School as a participant in the EFC Roundtable and through attendance at speaker and social events held throughout the year.



Jackie Johnson

Arnie Burchianti, CEO, Celtic Healthcare Nominated for 2007 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Arnie Burchianti, CEO of Celtic Healthcare, was nominated for the 2007 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The Entrepreneur of the Year awards began as a way to recognize and honor the best in the business world, and Ernst & Young has been honoring entrepreneurial excellence for over twenty years.

Burchianti began his entrepreneurial career as a Physical Therapist in 1995 with the formation of Functional Integration, Inc., a therapy rehabilitation company, which has since evolved into Celtic Healthcare, Inc.



Arnie Burchianti

Memorial Medical Center Employee "Humbled" by Tribute to Women Award

"If it's important enough, you make time for it." That quote from Shelby McHenry reflects the kind of thinking that landed her the YWCA of Greater Johnstown Tribute to Women's highest honor, the Yellow Rose Award, which is selected by YWCA Board of Directors.

"The Yellow Rose Award was established to recognize someone who upholds the mission of the YWCA," says Audrey Basko, a YWCA Board Member who nominated McHenry. "Shelby is the Yellow Rose Award, she doesn't just exemplify its meaning. After you hear her speak and her positive attitude, you think, 'I can be a better person.'"

McHenry, a certified surgical technologist (CST) at Memorial Medical Center's Lee Ambulatory Surgery Center, and Basko became acquainted while serving together on the YWCA board and have since helped coordinate events such as public teas and other fundraisers as Tea Committee members. McHenry had to step down from her role as board member when her husband began experiencing serious health problems. "The YWCA is an excellent institution," says McHenry. "When I was going through a particularly rough time with my husband's illness, they supported me; and everyone needs a little helping hand sometime, that's why I feel it's so important to give back to them."



Shelby McHenry

Health Hope Network Stroke Survivor and Caregiver Symposium

Health Hope Network (formerly Visiting Nurse Foundation) is sponsoring a Stroke Survivor and Caregiver Symposium on Saturday, May 19, 8a-3p to mark Stroke Awareness Month. The symposium will provide stroke survivors and their caregivers with information to improve their quality of life through speakers and vendors addressing all areas of wellness: physical, emotional, cognitive and social.

Health Hope Network also sponsors Stroke Survivor Connection -- a network of free weekly therapy support groups for stroke survivors and their caregivers.

The symposium will take place at the Holiday Inn in Green Tree and admission is \$10, which includes lunch. Please visit www.healthhopenetwork.org or call 412-937-8350 for more information.



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Advanced Practice Nursing is on the Move at Robert Morris University's School of Nursing

There has never been a better time to be an advanced practice nurse! Now is a critical time in the vision and direction of nursing as educators begin offering advanced practice nursing programs to prepare the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Robert Morris University's new DNP offering will lead Pennsylvania's nursing efforts to provide strong programs with clear outcomes that support the delivery of quality health care for all of our citizens.

The role of advanced practice nurses (APN) has evolved over the past three decades in response to the changing and complex health care system. Nursing has always met the challenge of the changing health care environment by educating nurses to deliver high-quality health care in acute and primary care settings. In the past, non-baccalaureate nurses were able to practice as APNs if they obtained a certificate following an associate degree or diploma education. Many of these clinicians are grandfathered and in practice today. Now, however, recognition as an APN requires a graduate degree and in Pennsylvania, national certification, to practice.

APN programs continue to evolve and, just recently, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recommended that all APNs be educated at the doctoral level by 2015. APN doctoral programs will provide nurses the opportunities to gain an advanced knowledge base and skills through classroom and clinical instruction. The DNP is a practice degree preparing nurses to work at the highest



BY CARL A. ROSS, R.N., PH.D., C.R.N.P., BC, CNE, & LYNDA J. DAVIDSON, R.N., PH.D

level of nursing practice. The DNP is not meant to take the place of the Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD), which is the preferred degree for nurses who wish to be nurse scholars.

Nurses who fit under the category of APN are those who practice as certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNP), clinical nurse specialists (CNS), certified nurse anesthetists (CRNA), and certified nurse midwives (CNM). APNs are frequently in situations where they must use clinical judgment in the treatment and monitoring of disease states. In addition, many APNs play an important role in caring for the underserved, rural populations, and the elderly in long-term care facilities and assisted living. With declining numbers of family practice physicians, it is imperative that APNs such as NPs continue to provide safe, high quality health care.

Robert Morris University's (RMU) School of Nursing has led the way for

education of these APNs by opening the first Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing-approved DNP program for bachelor's-prepared nurses. This innovative program will allow nurses who currently hold a bachelors of science in nursing (BSN) degree to begin doctoral studies. RMU's School of Nursing offers the DNP degree with specialization as a family nurse practitioner, adult nurse practitioner, and adult-psychiatric nurse practitioner.

While a handful of Pennsylvania institutions, including RMU, currently offer a completion option for advanced practice nurses with master's degrees, RMU's newest program is the first to allow nurses with bachelor's degrees to pursue learning at the highest level of nursing practice without obtaining a separate master's degree. Similar to the DNP completion option announced by RMU in January, the curriculum in the BSN-to-DNP program will incorporate the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine in developing multi-disciplinary teamwork skills in order to meet the challenges outlined in the organization's "Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality, 2003." DNP students will also complete a capstone course in which they conduct field projects under the supervision of an onsite preceptor and RMU faculty advisor.

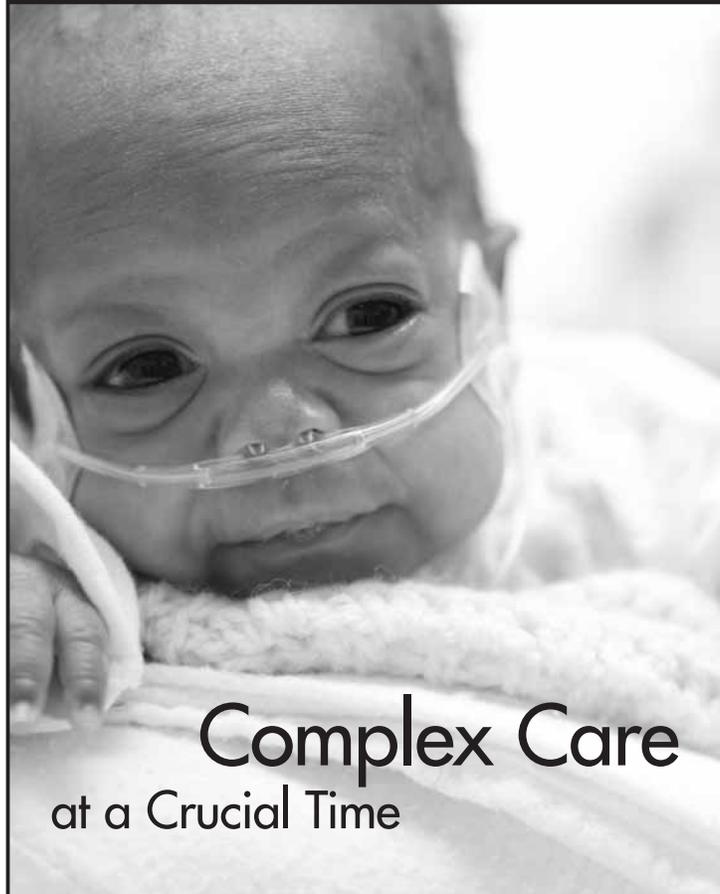
RMU's BSN-to-DNP pro-

gram addresses recent initiatives by both Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell and the AACN. As part of his "Prescription for Pennsylvania" program, the governor has proposed expansion of the role of nurse practitioners in the provision of patient care throughout the Commonwealth. The AACN's recommendation that all advanced practice nurses be educated at the doctor of nursing practice level by 2015 is also supported by the National Academy of Science. Currently, there are only 28 other DNP programs in existence nationwide.

Carl A. Ross, R.N., Ph.D., C.R.N.P., is a professor of nursing at Robert Morris University. He can be reached at ross@rmu.edu. Lynda J. Davidson, R.N., Ph.D., is dean of the School of Nursing and a professor of nursing at Robert Morris University. She can be reached at davidsonl@rmu.edu.

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EDUCATION

Lake Erie College Of Osteopathic Medical Education Is Preparing The Teaching Physician of the Future

The success of medical students depends a great deal on the quality and experience of the professors and physicians who teach them. As a leader in faculty development, The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine has trained physicians to become better teachers through national and regional workshops.

This June, a new group of teaching physicians will take medical education to a higher level. Nine doctors will earn a Masters of Science in Medical Education from LECOM.

Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Evaluation Hershey S. Bell, M.D., a MS in Med Ed candidate and faculty member, provides a description of the program:

We designed this two-year, 32 credit hour curriculum specifically for clinicians who desire careers in academic medicine and academic leadership. LECOM seeks to prepare physicians who, as educational leaders, possess the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to create and sustain curricular innovation.

We want to assure that the MS in Med Ed graduates are well equipped to advance the science and practice of medical educa-

tion. We expect graduates of the MS in Med Ed curriculum to pursue careers in academic osteopathic medicine and achieve positions of leadership within their medical education settings.

An emphasis on curriculum distinguishes our program from other MS in Med Ed programs. The curriculum is divided into three components. The first component covers the full scope of the "Fundamentals of Medical Education." In five courses, we teach educational theory, the relationship between medical education and medical quality, curriculum development and design, and competency-based education. We provide the basics of working with individual learners, working within difficult teacher-learner situations, lecturing skills, small group teaching skills, advising and mentoring skills, giving and receiving feedback, and the fundamentals of conducting valid and reliable evaluation.

The third course covers the topics felt to be most necessary to assuring successful curriculum implementation including delegation and supervision, negotiation, meeting management, and money and time management. The fourth course covers newer topics that have not traditional-

ly been part of the medical school curriculum, but which are invaluable to the physician-educator. The topics include evidence-based medicine, research design and implementation, grant-writing and funding opportunities, health care management and medical-legal issues, both with an emphasis on academic medicine. Finally, the "Fundamentals" series concludes with a reflective course on leadership.

In January 2008, LECOM will put online a distance education version of the Masters curriculum. Students will cover the "Fundamentals" course material in an interactive learning environment that will include podcasts, chat rooms, bulletin board discussions, and other leading distance education innovations. Twice per year, students will convene for "experiential learning" at either LECOM's Erie, PA or Bradenton, FL campus. The educational practicum can be completed at the student's home site and the thesis will hopefully be tied into a true need at the student's home program, making the results of the student's education immediately available to their entire program or COM.

The ideal student for this curriculum is a graduate medical practitioner – DO,



MD, PA, NP or other related health care profession – who aspires to a career in academics and has opportunity to teach in their current setting. Interns, residents, fellows, and faculty are ideally suited to enter this curriculum.

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PHYSICAL THERAPY

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Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) offers the M.S. in Nursing - Education Track and Administration Track – from their IUP at Monroeville location. Graduates of the Education Track meet the growing need to fill faculty teaching positions in LPN, Diploma, Associate, and Bachelor's degree nursing programs. Additionally, graduates of this program are prepared to pursue roles as patient educators and nursing staff developers in a variety of academic and health care settings.

Graduates of the Administration Track assume leadership positions in a variety of health care settings including hospitals, long-term care facilities, home health agencies, and rehabilitation facilities. As health care leaders, graduates assume a critical role in health care decision-making and in evaluating outcomes.

Students complete this program in two years by taking two courses per term. Classes are offered Fridays from 5:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. at Penn Center East and are taught by doctoral-level IUP Nursing faculty members. This program utilizes a cohort format, where students take all required courses as a group, enabling them to develop a strong relationship with faculty members and colleagues, which promotes a supportive and challenging learning environment.

To learn more about the program first-hand, attend an information session at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 20 or on Friday, May 25 at Penn Center East (Building 4, 9th Floor). IUP is accepting applications for the Fall 2007 term. For further information, call 1-800-845-0131, email grad-ocp@iup.edu or visit www.iup.edu/graduate.

Employees at Kane Climbing the Career Ladder

Lisa Marton had her career mapped out, but the directions to her intended destination weren't quite clear.

Six years ago, Marton was working as a nurse aide, but a career in nursing was what she wanted. However, with a 1-year-old daughter to care for at home and limited resources to pay for the education needed to further her career, Marton knew she needed to find a special program that would meet her needs. That's when she turned her attention to John J. Kane Regional Centers.

Martin learned about Kane's Career Ladder program, which pays for tuition, fees and books for employees training to become LPNs and RNs. She sought employment with Kane, and as soon as she was eligible, she enrolled in the Career Ladder Program in January of 2002. In 2004, she completed her LPN training and last year she became a RN.

"I couldn't have done it otherwise," said Marton, who now works at Kane Regional Center Scott Township. "I had to work full time and at most places your employer is not going to accommodate the schedule you need".

"Here, they gave me the schedule I needed to accommodate my schooling and family life. I never would have gotten that cooperation elsewhere, plus I would have had student loans to pay back when I finished."

While the program is generous, it does require that employees qualify. To be eligible for Career Ladder, workers must have been employed by Kane for a year and satisfy some other criteria.

Charlotte Bennett, Training and Development Coordinator for Kane Regional Centers, said the program has been very successful with between 10 to 20 employees enrolling each year. Kane has gained nearly 50 nurses since the program's inception in 2002.

"If you read the classified ads, you'll see

facilities offering signing bonuses for nurses," Bennett said. "Our philosophy is that we would rather grow our own rather than offer signing bonuses.

"We have had a lot of people who have been with us for a long time and it's a way of offering career advancement within our facilities. We also see it as a way of attracting new employees because once they have been here for a year they can participate in the program as long as they continue to meet the other criteria."

Bennett said that, like Marton, most who enter into the Career Ladder program are entry level employees at Kane. Some are nurse aides, but others come from different positions such as house-keeping, clerical and dietary.

"We develop individualized programs for each person that will help them to arrange to take all of the coursework they need to complete their degree," Bennett said.

The Career Ladder Program isn't the only way Kane encourages its employees to improve themselves. It also offers tuition reimbursement for other courses of study, which many have taken advantage of to continue their education. Marton said a bachelor's degree will be the next step in her progression.

Both programs do require that employees give a time commitment following the completion of their degree. Once that contractual obligation is satisfied, they are free to go elsewhere, but Bennett said very few have chosen to leave even after fulfilling their commitment.

"I'm not going anywhere," Marton said. "I've got a good job paying a good wage, I work 15 minutes from home and my schedule is exactly what I was looking for. Why would I go anywhere else?"

For more information on the Career Ladder program, contact Charlotte Bennett, Training and Development Coordinator, at (412) 422-6799.

LECOM Introduces Three-Year Medical Degree Curriculum

LECOM has decided to recruit more physicians for family practice by reducing the time it takes to earn an osteopathic medicine degree to three years. Continuing the mission to help grow the osteopathic medical profession, the college will start a Primary Care Scholars Pathway (PCSP) that not only will reduce the time it takes to become a family physician but also reduce the cost of medical education.

The LECOM PCSP has received approval from the American Osteopathic Association Committee on Osteopathic College Accreditation and backing of the American College of Osteopathic Family Practice. The PCSP will condense four years of medical education into three years in order to graduate more family doctors sooner and to save these students one year of expenses that adds to the mounting debt held by medical college graduates.

LECOM proposed this innovative curricular pathway in response to the declining interest in primary care and particularly family practice. Studies show that educational loans topping \$150,000 will influence career paths taken by medical students. They are least likely to pursue family medicine. LECOM hopes to attract new students by offering them a shorter path to a medical degree without jeopardizing their education in the areas needed to train a family physician.

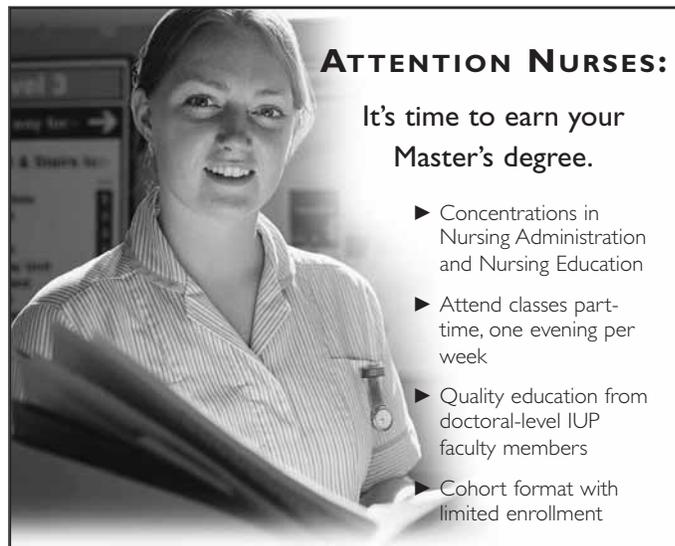
In the fall of 2007, LECOM will select its first PCSP class from a group of candidates after they complete the first twelve weeks of Gross Anatomy. Medical students who enter PCSP in October 2007 will graduate with a Doctor of Osteopathic Degree in 2010. Graduates will continue their post-graduate education through a three-year residency program at selected hospitals.

For more information, visit www.lecom.edu.

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Carlow University is pleased to announce its first doctoral program. The Counseling Psychology curriculum will follow the practitioner-scholar model, placing emphasis on practitioner training. Applications are now being accepted for fall 2007. Carlow University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Contact: Dr. Mary C. Burke | 412.578.6408

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EDUCATION

CCAC Students Find Success in Health Career Programs

Last year, Community College of Allegheny County was ranked third in the nation for the number of students it graduates in both the Health Professions/Related Clinical Sciences and Nursing programs by "Community College Week" newspaper. A lot of those graduates are the nontraditional student who chose later in life to pursue a health field career.

Sharon Sommerfeld used a personal tragedy as a motivational tool to pursue a career in the health field. Her older brother survived a horrible car accident in 1993 but lived in a long-term care facility before dying in 2004.

"I was forced to reflect on my life and plan for the future. I decided that I wanted to help others become as functionally independent as possible."

Sommerfeld is in her second year in the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program at CCAC-Boyce. Prior to coming to CCAC, she was a full-time mother of three and homemaker for 21 years.

"The OTA program at CCAC is very accommodating to my life's schedule," said Sommerfeld. "You can work a part-time job and go to school."

In addition to her studies at CCAC, Sommerfeld is the president of the Student Occupational Therapy As-socia-

tion at Boyce Campus as well as doing volunteer work for the therapeutic riding for the handicapped in Allison Park.

"My advice to anyone making a career change is to volunteer in a health career area before applying for that program. That way you can see if how much you like it."

Linda Radovich also took an introspective look at her life which led to a new career path at CCAC. As a graduate from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, she worked several jobs over the years involving various forms of art, sales and management. Simultaneously, she became a displaced worker as well as the primary caregiver for her elderly mother.

"I found it necessary to look for a new career and direction for my life," said Radovich.

Since CCAC offers more than 30 associate degrees and certificate programs in leading health careers, Radovich carefully researched several professional career topics before deciding on enrolling in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program.

"My counselor at CCAC instructed me to participate as an observer in an out patient therapy setting and I got to see first hand what a PTA does," said Radovich. "Although it is a very difficult program, I was convinced this is where I



Sharon Sommerfeld



Linda Radovich

want to be."

Radovich will graduate this spring with an associate's degree in PTA. In addition to that degree, she will also finish with a certificate in Massage Therapy.

"I'm taking 22 credits this semester but the overall sacrifice is well worth it."

Radovich is also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and is currently working at Churchill Country Club as a massage therapist.

Since Health Career programs at CCAC are not open enrollment programs, students cannot enroll in Health Career courses without having been formally accepted into a program.

For more information on applying to a program, please call the Center for Health Careers Intake Office at (724) 325-6834.



University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Ranked 7th Overall

In the 2008 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Graduate Schools*

Several nursing specialties also ranked in the top 10:

- Anesthesia 5th
- CNS Psychiatric/Mental Health..... 6th
- Pediatric NP 6th
- Adult NP 9th



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RMU to Launch First State Board of Nursing-Approved Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

Robert Morris University (RMU) recently received full approval from the Pennsylvania Board of Nursing to begin offering the state's first doctor of nursing practice (DNP) program for nurses holding bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degrees. While a handful of Pennsylvania institutions, including RMU, currently offer a completion option for advanced practice nurses with master's degrees as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, midwives or nurse anesthetists, RMU's newest program is the first to allow nurses with bachelor's degrees to pursue learning at the highest level of nursing practice without obtaining a separate master's degree. In addition, the University has named Judith A. Kaufmann, Dr.P.H., CRNP-BC, as director of the DNP program, effective June 1.

RMU's BSN-to-DNP program addresses recent initiatives by both Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). As part of his "Prescription for Pennsylvania" program, the governor has proposed expansion of the role of nurse practitioners in the provision of patient care throughout the Commonwealth. The AACN, supported by the National Institutes of Health, has recommended that all advanced practice nurses be edu-

cated at the doctor of nursing practice level by 2015. Currently, there are only 28 other DNP programs in existence nationwide.

Expected to enroll its first class of 11 full-time and 25 part-time students this fall, RMU's BSN-to-DNP program will allow nurses to earn a doctoral degree as either a family nurse practitioner, adult nurse practitioner, or adult psychiatric nurse practitioner. Similar to the DNP completion option announced by RMU in January, the curriculum in the BSN-to-DNP program will incorporate the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine in developing multi-disciplinary teamwork skills in order to meet the challenges outlined in the organization's "Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality, 2003." DNP students will also complete a capstone course in which they conduct field projects under the supervision of an onsite preceptor and RMU faculty advisor.

The content and competencies of RMU's program also align with the Essentials of the Doctoral of Nursing Practice as defined by the AACN.

For more information, contact graduate enrollment counselor Janene Szpak at (412) 397-2429.

Pitt Program Helps Professionals Update Skills and Knowledge to Meet Changing Times

BY RON CICHOWICZ

Ten years ago, the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) at the University of Pittsburgh launched a program aimed specifically toward helping mid-career professionals.

A decade later, GSPIA's Master of Public Policy Management (MPPM) would have to be considered an unqualified success, having graduated more than 200 students to date.

"MPPM students usually are working full-time and attending one or two classes per term; the majority of MPPM students cannot attend school during the day," said Program Director Michele Garrity. "The 'typical' MPPM student is 35 to 45 years old and has seven to 10 years work experience."

The program admits students for fall, spring and summer terms. On average, MPPM admits 25 to 30 students per year. Applicants must have at least five years of significant experience. An accelerated program, MPPM has a 30-credit requirement, which can be completed in one year of full-time study, or two years if the student opts to go part-time.

Among the areas of specialization from which students can choose are nonprofit management, urban and regional affairs, policy analysis and evaluation, security and intelligence studies, global political economy, and human security.

"As one of the leading schools in the United States, GSPIA affords students a unique opportunity to learn critical management skills while getting a sharper understanding of the changing nature of today's global environment for governments and nonprofit organizations," said GSPIA Interim Dean David Miller. "We are proud of our ability to teach critical management skills while giving students a better understanding of the political and cultural forces that are shaping today's management climate."

Added Garrity: "I think what is attractive about GSPIA in general is its focus on policy issues, and public affairs more broadly, and that the school has a domestic focus as well as a global focus."

She also said that students most often pursue an MPPM degree for promotion or advancement opportunities with their current employer; if they're planning a lateral move within their profession or occupation; if they're switching careers; or they're pursuing a second—or third—career due to early retirement, downsizing, or disability.

"MPPM students come from very diverse backgrounds across the public, private, and nonprofit sector," said Garrity. "What they have in common is a desire to become a part of a learning environment again. While they are a bit nervous about returning to school after a seven to year absence, they are also very enthusiastic about being a student once more."

One such student is Stacey Chick (MPPM '07), who said this about MPPM: "This program has allowed me to gain



Stacey Chick

management skills, and the knowledge and expertise on how to lead an organization to both financial and goal-oriented success. There has been a good selection of courses offered in the evenings, which has enabled me to take one or two classes each semester while working full time during the day at The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Moreover, the education received via the MPPM program has contributed to an internal promotion."

Chick doesn't appear to be alone in her assessment of the value of a degree from the MPPM Program. GSPIA conducted an MPPM alumni survey in 2002 and the results were extremely positive. Among the findings: 86 percent of respondents said the MPPM program contributed to a positive change in employment status. Many said their experience at GSPIA broadened their perspectives on the political and socio-economic factors at work in societies, while others agreed it enhanced their understanding of the ethical dimensions of public and/or international policy making and decision making.

More than three-fourths said their experience at GSPIA deepened their commitment to public service.

Said Arita L. Gilliam, MS, MPPM, who serves as coordinator of the UPMC Shadyside/Pittsburgh Public School Health Partnership: "GSPIA offered me an immediate, tangible resource for personal professional development. After completing the core courses, which served to provide the technical foundation for my interest in policy analysis, I had the opportunity to explore topics that were specifically related to my work and my interest in adolescent health policy and education.

"The availability of evening classes, the cultural diversity of the student body, and the expertise and professional credentials of the professors all contributed to a rich and rewarding educational experience."

For more information about the Master of Public Policy Management at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, visit www.gspia.pitt.edu/mppm or call (412) 648-7598.

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EDUCATION

Chatham College Develops Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree

In response to the anticipated shortage of nurse educators and executives in the near future, the Chatham College faculty have approved the creation of a new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, according to Laura Armesto, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs. The new program is Chatham's third nursing degree, which includes a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN).

The first DNP cohort, entering fall 2007, is limited to 20 students to ensure greater student-faculty interaction.

"We are building upon our existing relationships with UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing and St. Margaret's School of Nursing to provide an advanced education that focuses on evidence-based scientific nursing practice, patient safety, and quality outcomes," Dr. Armesto said. "Employers are seeking nurses with advanced degrees to take leadership roles in private practices, hospitals and other healthcare settings, and so our programs are designed to help nurses reach career goals and impact quality health care delivery in a variety of health care environments."

For more information call (800) 837-1290 or visit www.chatham.edu.

Respiratory Care Program Under Way at UPMC Northwest

To help meet the need for respiratory care professionals, UPMC Northwest has joined forces with Clarion University-Venango Campus and UPMC Horizon to launch a two-year respiratory care program that is under way. Thirteen students are enrolled in the new program and they completed the fall semester at Venango Campus.

"The respiratory care program is an important addition to the School of Nursing and Allied Health," said Renee Smith-Schaffer, chair of the Department of Allied Health, "and is a clear example of its mission to partner with area employers to meet critical workforce needs of the region."

Students will complete the 14-month clinical practicum portion of the respiratory care program at UPMC Northwest and UPMC Horizon campuses in Greenville and Farrell, as well as at other clinical affiliates including Clarion Hospital, Meadville Medical Center, Hamot Medical Center in Erie, and St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio. Students will graduate in August 2008 with an Associate of Science in Respiratory Care degree from Clarion University-Venango Campus, and will be eligible to sit for the credentialing examinations for advanced-level respiratory therapists administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC).

Students who successfully complete the NBRC examinations earn the credential RRT (registered respiratory therapist) and are qualified to provide care in a variety of health care settings.

The respiratory care program is not the only way that UPMC Northwest and Clarion University work together to meet the need for health care professionals. UPMC Northwest's Radiologic Technology School and Clarion University partner to offer a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences degree program. With over 140 students enrolled in the four-year program, students who graduate each year are eligible to sit for the certification examination in radiography administered by the American Registry of Radiology Technologists.

Also, more than 30 UPMC Northwest employees are enrolled in the second RN Back-to-School program, an associate degree nursing program that UPMC Northwest offers in partnership with Venango Campus. The RN Back-to-School students will graduate in May 2010 before joining the nursing staff of UPMC Northwest organizations.

In addition, a number of UPMC Northwest employees have been accepted into Clarion University's Executive MBA program that will begin at Venango Campus in fall 2007.

For more information about the respiratory care program, call (814) 677-7202 at UPMC Northwest or visit the respiratory care home page on Clarion University's web site at http://www.clarion.edu/academic/nursing/nursing_respiratory.shtml.

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Nurses are Shaping the Future of Healthcare

Ageing baby-boomers ready to crowd the healthcare market are driving changes, not just with their numbers, but also with their level of knowledge and their attitudes about healthcare delivery. Armed with knowledge and data from the Internet, they want to be partners in healthcare – they don't want anyone telling them what to do, they want to have choices, and they want control. An estimated 17 percent of Americans younger than 65 do not have health insurance, so as they become eligible for Medicare, these aging baby boomers may use more health care resources because of health care that was delayed at earlier ages.

Faculty and students at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing are preparing to meet the medical needs of this growing segment of the population with a number of programs and initiatives. Research in the areas of adherence, technology, and healthcare informatics help elderly patients remain independent. And highly skilled nurses trained in gerontologic care, advanced practice specialties, evidence based practice (EBP), and leadership are all making a difference in healthcare delivery and outcomes.

"We are one of the few nursing schools in the country that offers a specialized program for geriatric nursing," says Deborah Crowley-Lisowski, MS, RN, instructor in the Department of Health and Community Systems. The program has transitioned from a focus on Alzheimer's care to expose students to a broader spectrum of senior health concerns. In the clinical setting, Crowley's mission is to expose junior level nursing students to a variety of learning opportunities to care for and learn from, as many older adults as possible. "The Pittsburgh region is rich with hands-on, experiential and service-based learning

opportunities," says Crowley. "Consequently, our students are able to interact with and care for many seniors along a continuum of care; including senior centers, adult day care centers, dementia units, rehabilitation units, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes."

The didactic curriculum adheres to the guidelines taken from the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute of Geriatric Nursing for baccalaureate nursing students. The focus of this intense program is on the scientific theories and principles central to the delivery of health care to the elderly. The program emphasizes assessment and health promotion, management of common health problems, nutrition and aging, geriatric pharmacology, psychosociology and psychopathology of aging, and geriatric health issues. "There is also a research component in the program," says Crowley-Lisowski. "It is important for students to understand why certain things are done and how it benefits older adults."

Researchers at the School of Nursing are developing technology solutions to assist caregivers as well as improve outcomes and quality of life for patients. Studies include the use of hand-held computers and pocket PCs to promote adherence, communication devices for non-speaking ICU patients, robotic assistance for the elderly, and healthcare informatics and computer training modules to support evidence based practice.

With more than four times as many nurses in the United States as physicians, and an aging population that's growing faster than at any other time in history, nurses are shaping the future of health care in ways that could not have been imagined even a decade ago.

For more information, contact Deborah Crowley-Lisowski at (412) 624-1915 or dcrowley@pitt.edu.

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