

AMC Events

August 6

Weight Watchers at Work Program Begins

3:30pm in the C-6 classroom. The cost is \$186 for 17 weeks, including E-tools. Please e-mail Janine Cantalupo or call her at 262-1963 for more information.

August 6

Midtown Homeownership Program Information Session

4-7pm on the grounds of Albany Law School. Includes tours of eligible properties with the Midtown area. Realtors with Midtown listings will also be available. Mayor Jennings will appear to kick off the tours. Under the Midtown Homeownership Program, employees of Albany Med are eligible to receive \$5,000 for down payment and closing costs in the form of a five-year forgivable loan for purchasing homes within the Midtown Homeownership Zone Phase I boundaries. For details and restrictions, go to: <http://www.albanyny.org/Government/Departments/DevelopmentPlanning/NeighborhoodRevitalization/Midtown.aspx>

August 7

American Health Information Management Association Audio Conference

1-2:30pm in Huyck Auditorium. "Coding Central Venous Access Devices." Two AHIMA continuing education credits are available for attending the session. To register, contact Maria Santostefano at 262-4692 or via Groupwise e-mail.

August 8

American Academy of Professional Coders Audio Conference

1-2:30pm in J-306. "Pediatric Guru." Two AAPC continuing education credits are available for attending the session. To register, please e-mail Maria Santostefano or call her at 262-4692.

August 16

Carnival on the Hill

Noon-5pm, Judson and Second Streets, West Hill. Albany Medical College and Project Medscope have been named among the "Gold Sponsors" of the event based on the high number of employee and student volunteers.

August 18

Annual White Coat Ceremony

3:30pm in ME 700.

August 19

Annual Cruise for Incoming Students

Annual three-hour welcoming cruise aboard the *Captain JP* for all incoming students and their guests. Sponsored by the Alumni Association. For more information, call the Alumni Association at 262-5033.

September 12

Bus Trip to Hyde Park

Sponsored by the Recreation Committee. Included is a tour of and meal at the Culinary Institute of America and a visit to the F.D.R. National Historic Site. The trip costs \$79 per person. Sign up/pay at the service cashier on M-1.



Albany Medical Center

43 New Scotland Avenue (Mail Code 125)
Albany, New York 12208

Change Service Requested

Alter Ego

Steve Ross

Home, for many, represents a place to retreat after a long day's work—someplace warm, comfortable and private. For **Steve Ross**, director of Albany Med's Perinatal Outreach Program, warmth and comfort abound at home. Privacy, however, is another story. But, Ross wouldn't have it any other way.

For the past 26 years, he has lived with his wife, Debbie, at the Ronald McDonald House on South Lake Avenue. Although Debbie serves as resident house manager, the commitment is a family affair. The couple, who raised three daughters in the house, has a separate apartment on the third floor of the building. But their lives are anything but separate from the families who stay on the lower floors.

"We always laugh, because we provide a hot meal downstairs every night, but we always seem to end up having children eating with us upstairs," Debbie says. Children routinely migrate up the stairway for visits and sleepovers, attracted by the cozy attic space with slanted ceilings, exposed beams and a spiral staircase leading to a loft. Volunteers and other staff members come up to use the computer. Children of past guests regularly spend the night and accompany the Ross family on outings—even vacations. Volunteers ring the door buzzer at night with important questions. Albany Med calls with medical information on the office phone, which rolls over to Steve and Debbie's private line after 9 o'clock at night.

But any sacrifice or inconvenience that goes with this unusual work/home arrangement has been more than compensated in satisfaction, Steve says. "It's been so rewarding to see the interactions that happen there. Fortunately, most families don't have to experience the serious illness of a



Steve Ross in the Ronald McDonald House with his wife Debbie and guests in the background.

child, but the people who stay at the house are going through some of the worst times of their lives. Thank goodness the house is there. The support that families get from the house and from each other makes all the difference. And we're the beneficiaries of that."

It started when Steve accompanied Debbie on a trip from Lenox, Mass., to Albany, where she had been invited to interview for the Ronald McDonald House position. Both had just finished their undergraduate degrees, and Steve planned to attend the University at Albany graduate program in social work. Neither was familiar with the Ronald McDonald House concept, championed in Albany by former head of pediatric urology, William Cromie, MD.

The couple looked at the house, still undergoing renovations, and had a tour of the unfinished attic that would be their home. They decided to make a two-year commitment to the project. That was 26 years ago. At first, Debbie was the only house employee, which made Steve an automatic, albeit willing, volunteer

—lugging furniture, mowing the lawn, always at the ready to help with a fundraiser.

At the same time, Steve attended graduate school and took a part-time job in Albany Med's receiving department. That led to a full-time job, and later, with master's degree in hand, he joined the ranks of the hospital's social workers. Evolving over the years, his position led him to work as a quality consultant for the Perinatal Outreach program, which he now heads.

And while Albany Med has an active relationship with Ronald McDonald House in general, it has a direct link with Perinatal Outreach. Out-of-town mothers with high-risk pregnancies can stay at the house with their families while they await birth. They have access to outpatient services, transportation and a ready-made support network of other parents with children—the same benefits available to all residents.

Steve and Debbie have rarely considered ending their "two-year" commitment to the house, but they have considered moving. "For our daughters

growing up here, it has not been a typical experience of family life," Steve says. "We didn't want to deprive them of that, and several times asked if they would prefer to live outside the house. They always wanted to stay."

Ultimately, the experience for his daughters has been rewarding, he says. They developed close friendships with children who stayed in the house, learned to appreciate and value volunteering and became adaptable and giving. Steve says he watched as his daughters developed close bonds with children who later died. "Of course, it was hard to see them go through that, but they're stronger for it in the end."

Their youngest daughter has just graduated from Albany High and is heading for college in the fall, but Steve and Debbie have no plans to move on themselves. Steve calls Debbie the soul of the house and attributes its warmth and spirit to her. But she says Steve has been called the real saint in the operation. "Well," she laughs, "never once has he said, 'could we just have our privacy?'"

Albany Med

TODAY

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NEWS AT ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER

AMC.edu Receives Facelift

Albany Med's web site has been updated, with the first visible changes right on the home page (www.amc.edu). The main buttons on the home page have been reduced from four to three—patient care, research and education. To keep the appearance fresh, photos associated with these buttons change randomly each time the page is called up. The end result is a simpler, cleaner look.

The home page also now provides a separate link to a section devoted to medical professionals. The upper-right area contains a text link titled **For Physicians** that provides useful information for medical professionals, including a log in to secure clinical software, profiles of new faculty physicians, and marketing/educational brochures for referring physicians.

For the first time, there is now a more prominent red button displayed on the home page titled **Find a Doctor**. The search tool then allows users to search by a list of medical conditions or by typing in keywords. The search produces a list of full-time Albany Med faculty physicians and those with emergency department on-call responsibilities.

We will continue to add many new interactive features to the site including redesigned education, research and residency sections, video clips in the human resources section, "Care Pages" that allow patients to post blogs about their health status for friends and family members, and much more.

Please contact **Diana Martin**, assistant vice president for marketing, **David Gardinier**, web manager, or **David Ross**, manager of information systems for the web, with any questions or comments.



Senator Joseph Bruno Pledges \$25 Million in State Funding for NICU; \$42 Million to Establish New Research Facility



Senator Joe Bruno, Albany Med President Jim Barba, and UAlbany Interim President George Philip at the news conference.

Albany Med's \$360 million proposed expansion project got a major boost this month as New York State Senator Joseph Bruno announced a \$25 million commitment from the state to support one of its major components—a proposed 60-bassinet, state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). In addition, the senator announced \$42 million for the Institute for Biomedical Education and Research at the

increased demand. The daily census in the NICU—the only Level IV neonatal facility in the region—has grown in recent years by 23 percent, from 35 babies in 2001 to 43 babies in 2006. Last year, the NICU provided critically important care to 802 babies from counties throughout upstate New York. Approximately 27 percent of these babies were transferred from other hospitals in the region unable to

remarked, "The new NICU will help our expert medical staff perform their work in the best possible environment given that the proposal calls for fully equipped private rooms. We are very excited about this announcement and we are very appreciative of Senator Bruno's support."

The Medical Center has filed a Certificate of Need application in conjunction with the proposed expansion project, which is currently under review by the state Department of Health.

The proposed NICU facility will be located in the proposed 6-story complex to be built in front of the current patient tower facing the corner of New Scotland and Myrtle avenues and also would include 20 new inpatient operating rooms. "This is an important component of the NICU since many premature and sick babies require surgical procedures," said Horgan.

The \$42 million will support the Institute for Biomedical Education and Research, which is intended to increase scientific productivity, create more research opportunities, and enhance the biotech industry throughout the region. The Institute will benefit from collaborative efforts of the Albany Medical College and UAlbany.

"The key to a vibrant economy is strong collaboration between government, higher education, and private industry," said

Continued inside

East Campus of the University at Albany. It would be utilized for joint biomedical education and research projects involving both Albany Medical College and UAlbany.

The \$25 million commitment for the NICU (\$5 million expected to be paid this year, and \$5 million each of the next four years) will help replace the 50-bassinet unit, which was last renovated in the early 1990s and which is no longer large enough to accommodate

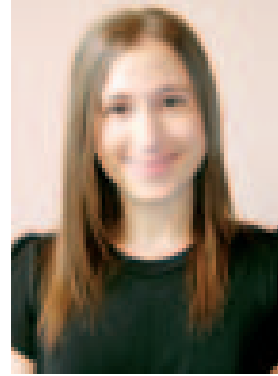
provide the level of care uniquely available at the Medical Center.

"With the help of this funding, the new NICU will afford new babies and their families the highest quality of care in a more comfortable and private setting," said Albany Med President **Jim Barba**, who participated in the senator's July 14 press conference at UAlbany's East Campus in Rensselaer.

Upon hearing the announcement, **Michael Horgan, MD**, head of the division of neonatology,

Lauren Nazarian Joins Staff of the Albany Medical Center Foundation

Lauren Nazarian has been named associate director of leadership gifts, according to an announcement made by Terri Cerveny, senior vice president for development. In this position, Nazarian will be responsible for identifying, developing and soliciting high-level financial resources for Albany Medical Center.



Lauren Nazarian

"Lauren has a very diverse background that promises to bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to the table," said Cerveny. "Her experience and enthusiasm will round out our exceptional team of major gift officers. We are fortunate to have her join us and help further our mission."

Nazarian previously served as executive director at Congregation Ohav Shalom in Albany. She also was the director of corporate relations for Greater Philadelphia Cares, where she researched, identified, and solicited corporations, foundations and individuals for philanthropic support.

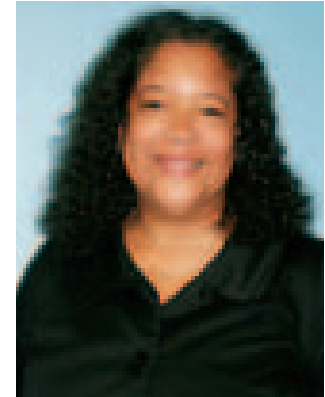
"Her experience and enthusiasm will round out our exceptional team of major gift officers. We are fortunate to have her join us and help further our mission."

She received her bachelor's degree in communications from Rider University in Lawrenceville, N.J. and completed her master's degree in elementary education from Temple University. Nazarian is a member of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce and is a founding member of JenX—a young, Jewish professional networking group in Albany.

Roslyn Jefferson Named New EAP Coordinator

With the thousands of employees and students on our campus, there's bound to be myriad counseling needs—from personal, legal or financial matters, to difficulty dealing with the death of a loved one. The good news is there's a new "friendly face" for staff, students, and even their family members, to turn to.

Albany Med recently welcomed Roslyn Jefferson to the office of human resources as coordinator of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Jefferson's job is to provide assistance and referrals to community resources for counseling, substance abuse or mental health issues. EAP also presents departmental wellness workshops and management consultation.



Roslyn Jefferson

"EAP recognizes that employees are people first, with personal lives and families that are very important to them," explains Jefferson. "When concerns arise in this area of their lives, EAP, on behalf of the organization, is here to help them and to point them in the right direction. It's a free and voluntary benefit that is handled with discretion."

Jefferson previously served as director of the Center for Problem Gambling of Family and Children's Services of the Capital Region, and prior to that, as EAP coordinator at the University at Albany. She has worked in numerous other capacities throughout the Capital Region serving victims of sexual assault and substance abuse, and providing psychotherapy services through various counseling centers and in private practice.

She received a bachelor of arts degree from Syracuse University, and her master's of science in social work from Columbia University.

Jefferson can be reached by calling 262-3324 or visiting her office on M-338. For more information on the EAP program, visit the Intranet and look under the "Workforce" tab.

Med Student Misty Richards Named Fulbright Scholar

Misty Richards has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright United States Student Scholarship to study at the National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry in Tokyo, Japan. Richards, a California native, is a fourth-year medical student at the Medical College, and also is working toward her doctorate degree in the Center for Neuropharmacology and Neuroscience.

Richards will leave for Japan in September, where she will spend one year investigating how the stigmas associated with schizophrenia compare in America versus Japan, and the impact they have on treatment.

Recipients of Fulbright Awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership in their fields. The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Richards' extensive research experience includes a National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health Research Fellowship in the Japanese division of the East Asia and Pacific



Summer Institutes Program. She has also served as a research assistant at Albany Medical College, and as a research coordinator at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She is a member of numerous professional organizations including the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, the American Physician Scientists Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and serves as national president-elect of the American Medical Women's Association. She also serves on the board of directors of the Engeye Health Clinic in Sub-Saharan Africa, which was founded by student Stephanie Van Dyck.

Light Up the Night Event Better than Ever

On Friday, July 11, Saratoga National Golf Club hosted more than 525 party-goers to help Albany Medical Center "Light up the Night." The Medical Center's premier summer fundraiser—the third annual—drew the largest crowd to date and raised a record-breaking \$140,000 to support the emergency department, the region's only state designated, level one trauma center.

Highlighting the importance of the emergency department to the region was a special campaign that featured seven Saratoga County residents who benefited from the unique services we provide. Among those special guests whose stories and photos were featured on posters and table cards during the event was Officer Adam Baker of the Saratoga Springs Police Department who was sent via helicopter to Albany Med last fall after being stabbed in the throat while on duty.

"If it wasn't for the availability of Albany Medical Center and the LifeNet helicopter, I might not be here for my daughter, Ava. I'm so grateful," said Baker who was shown in a photo holding his infant daughter.

Other county residents featured in the campaign included Bill Petronis of Burnt Hills who was literally "brought back to life" after being involved in an accident with a school bus, and 14-year-old Cameron Olson who was hit by a car last May in the Shenendehowa High School parking lot.



Party-goers enjoy specialty foods and drinks at Prime at Saratoga National.

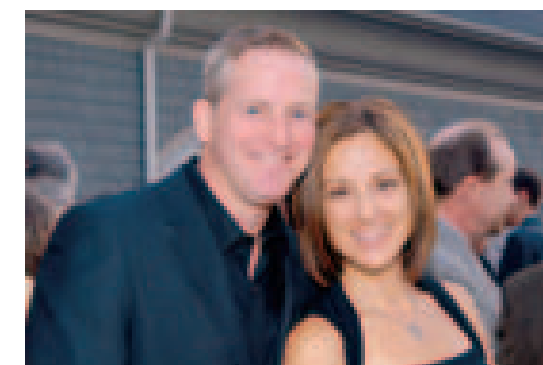
"When the EMTs asked where we would like to take our son after he had been hit by a car, there was no question that it was Albany Medical Center," said his parents Ron and Maria.

Also attending the event and featured in the campaign was Ann Robb of Clifton Park who was impressed with how comfortable the staff made her feel in the ED. And highlighted was Truman Gonzales, 15, of Clifton Park who broke his collar bone during a lacrosse game, and 11-year-old Delana Ringer, who was saved by John Burton, MD, emergency attending physician, when she experienced commotio cordis (her heart stopped beating) after being kicked by a horse during a horse show in Rexford.

"We see these critically injured and severely ill patients coming to us from all over our region every day. Too often, Albany Med, including our emergency department, is seen as an 'Albany service,' when in fact we serve the greater Capital Region, including patients from far into Saratoga County and beyond into the North Country," says Mara McErlean, MD,

chair of emergency medicine. "An event like 'Light up the Night' is intended to inform people about the full scope and reach of our services."

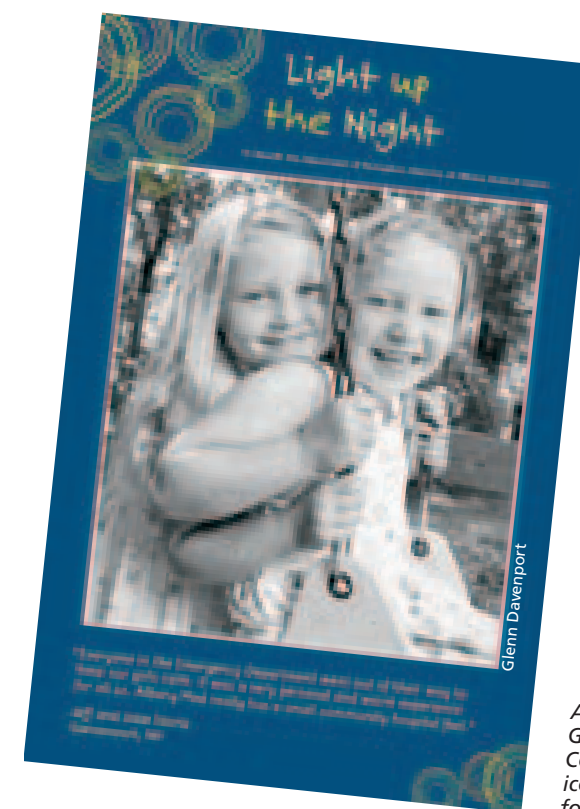
Proceeds from Light up the Night will be used to fund educational opportunities,



Edward and Tracie McBain of Saratoga's McBain Construction, Inc. were present for the festivities.

research initiatives and equipment purchases that will further strengthen the department of emergency medicine.

Guests at the gala event enjoyed specialty foods and desserts by Prime at Saratoga National's award-winning executive chefs, a grand fireworks display by Alonzo Fireworks, and music by the New York Players. Dean Vincent Verdile, MD, and his wife Lou-Ann, residents of Saratoga, served as honorary chairs of the event.



A poster featuring twins Rachael and Olivia Stortz of Gansevoort was among those highlighting Saratoga County residents who have benefited from the services of the ED. Rachael was treated in the ED last year for a kidney infection.

Hyundai and Billy Fuccillo Show Support for Children's Hospital

Peter DiPersia, Hyundai eastern regional representative, right center, along with representatives from local Hyundai dealerships, presented a \$50,000 check to staff members from the Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders in July. As part of the ceremony, a white Hyundai Santa Fe made its initial stop at Albany Medical Center as part of its national tour of 32 children's hospitals in an effort to raise awareness about pediatric cancer and to support institutions



Photos by Glenn Davenport



battling it. Patients were able to place their painted handprints on the car as part of the event. The same day, Billy Fuccillo—of the Fuccillo Automotive Group, who is famous locally for his use of the word "huge" in car commercials—made a personal donation of \$25,000 in support of the Children's Hospital. He is shown in the photo at the left with Dr. David Clark, director of the Children's Hospital, and Dr. Vincent Verdile, dean and executive vice president for health affairs. The Hyundai "Hope on Wheels" program unites the effort of nearly 800 Hyundai dealers across the United States to raise awareness about pediatric cancer and celebrate the lives of children battling the disease.

State Funding for NICU

Continued from cover

Senator Bruno. "This announcement will keep the Capital Region at the forefront of cutting-edge research and education. This Institute will revolutionize health care, biomedical research, and medical education in upstate New York. Albany Medical Center and the University at Albany are the largest educational and research institutions in the Capital Region and have accomplished so much, and contributed greatly to the entire area—this collaboration will allow them to achieve even more."

At Senator Bruno's urging, Albany Medical College and the University at Albany have been in discussions, recently formalized in a Letter of Intent, about development of joint degree programs (BS-MD, MD-MPH, and MD-PhD), co-location of research facilities and collaborative research in cardiology, cancer and neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's. These are initial elements of a broader vision which includes provision of the basic sciences curricula for first and second year medical students in new, well-equipped classroom space.

"These discussions are ongoing, but the planned \$42 million facility sets the stage for intensive negotiations to achieve the senator's vision," said Barba. "For decades it has struck me as curious that these two great institutions didn't find a way to collaborate. This marks the beginning."

Barba said he would like to bring scientists together in new clusters in order to promote, expand and enlarge the biomedical research to allow us to be more competitive in getting NIH grants. "We can get a lot more of those dollars here in the Capital Region. This kind of biomedical research promotes economic development. Look at the Georgia Research Alliance. In 1990 they put together a research alliance and in the past 18 years they've managed to grow 90 new companies and 4,000 high tech jobs," said Barba.

Increasingly, the NIH is seeking collaborations in the award of grants for translational research.

"These announcements are further examples of Senator Bruno's career-long commitment to improving the health of people throughout our region as consistently demonstrated through support of the education, research and health care missions of Albany Med," said Barba.

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Comments and story suggestions can be directed to the Albany Medical Center Public Relations Department, 43 New Scotland Avenue (Mail Code 125), Albany, N.Y. 12208 or by faxing to (518) 262-3880, or by calling (518) 262-3421.

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