



Scholarship Celebrates Robert Councilman RESPIRATORY LEADER-CLINICIAN

Robert J. Councilman (AAS/RT '85), an outstanding clinician, alumnus and friend, is memorialized in a new scholarship endowment for students in the College of Health Profession's Respiratory Therapy program.

"Bob was my lifelong friend – I also referred to him as my surrogate big brother. He was an example to students of what it means to be an outstanding respiratory therapist and patient advocate," commented his best friend and SUNY Upstate roommate, Ed Coombs (AAS/RT '86) (*see Coombs' profile, page 2*).

"Bob died unexpectedly of a sudden heart attack in May 2009 at the young age of 46, despite the fact he led an active and healthy life," Coombs said.

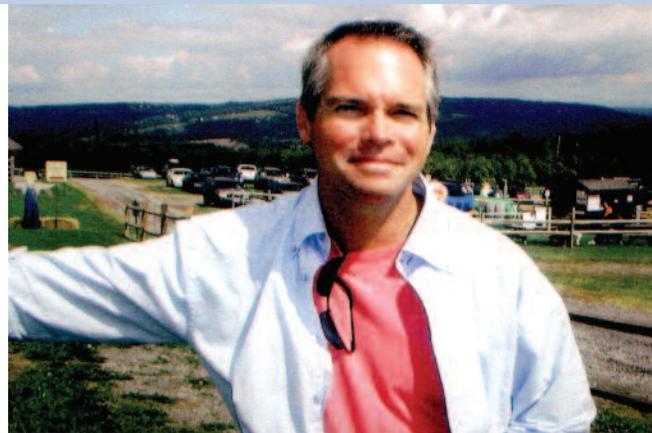
Councilman, originally from Johnson City, NY, was co-owner and clinical operations manager of Oxypros, a homecare company in Stuart, FL. This had followed many years of serving patients as a respiratory therapist and then director of a hospital respiratory care department. Bob not only was a leader in the respiratory care field, but was known for his compassionate nature, according to Coombs. "One example was he personally looked in on my grandparents, who had each fallen ill while in Florida. During visits at my grandmother's home to check her oxygen, he spent

many hours reassuring her, and putting her mind at ease."

With a generous donation, Coombs initiated the Councilman Scholarship Endowment in homage to his friend and fellow classmate: "This tribute will ensure Bob is forever remembered as a most caring professional and wonderful humanitarian," he commented.

"Our family is so honored, and Bob would be so pleased about this scholarship," commented his sister, Sandy Hancock, an X-ray technologist from Marcellus. "He loved his work and was really missed by his patients – many of whom sent cards telling us how special his care was to them. His was a great loss to our family and friends."

With further help from alumni



Remembering Robert Councilman, RT '85

and friends, the Department of Respiratory Therapy plans to award an annual Councilman Scholarship. **Please consider a generous gift!**

**Please make checks payable to:
Robert J. Councilman Endowment
Scholarship**

Mail to:
Upstate Medical University
Foundation
750 East Adams St., CAB-326
Syracuse, NY 13210

The endowment is administered through the Upstate Foundation, Health Professions Alumni Association, 315-464-4416.

Largest Class Graduates at Commencement

The 2010 graduating class is the largest ever for Upstate since joining the SUNY system in 1950. The College of Health Professions awarded 154 degrees in Cardiovascular Perfusion (BS); Medical Biotechnology (BS) and Medical Technology (BS/MS); Medical Imaging Sciences (BS/BPS - radiography, CT, MRI and ultrasound); Physical Therapy (DPT/T-DPT), Radiation Therapy (BS/BPS) and Respiratory Therapy (BS). At Commencement, T-DPT graduate, Joel Grimshaw, receives congratulations from Dean Hugh Bonner, PhD, and Program Director Dale Avers, DPT, PhD, PT (left).



Health Professions Alumni Connection

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RRT Builds Rewarding Corporate Career

Ed Coombs (AAS/RT '86) brought 17 years of clinical knowledge to the corporate side of healthcare, currently as Regional Director of Marketing for North America at Draeger Medical (DMI) – Respiratory Care Division (DMI), an international medical products corporation. Coombs still fulfills his dream of helping patients – now by promoting and developing state-of-the-art ventilation products and related services.

“I love the diversity of my responsibilities – if not clinical product development, it’s product training or customer outreach,” he commented. “Being well connected to the clinical aspects of technology has been beneficial in my understanding of both products and customer needs.”

His job spans product management and outreach for mechanical ventilation equipment used in transport, critical care and neonatal applications. Coombs



**Edwin L. Coombs, Jr., MA, RRT
Holbrook, NY
AAS Respiratory Care
Class of 1986**

develops clinical and product training programs, interacts with industry leaders and organizations, and travels both domestically and internationally to promote best practice among his colleagues. Since Coombs joined the company in 2007, DMI has received several industry recognitions within the respiratory care community.

“It’s been very rewarding. I have to give credit to the professional values I was taught and shown during my respiratory therapy education at Upstate

– particularly the excellent faculty and clinical instructors who played such a big role in shaping my career success.”

Prior to DMI, Coombs worked at Maquet, Inc. for four years. He was a clinical instructor and Respiratory Care Department therapist/shift supervisor at SUNY Stony Brook from 1989 to 2003, where he obtained his Master of Arts degree and certificate in healthcare management. Earlier, he owned and managed a medical supply company for six years, and worked in hospital settings.

Coombs remains involved with the respiratory therapy profession through various editorial board appointments, including *Neonatal Intensive Care* magazine and *Respiratory Therapy Journal of Pulmonary Technique*. He is a neonatal resuscitation program instructor for the American Academy of Pediatrics/American Heart Association, and holds memberships in a number of professional organizations such as AARC and SCCM.

Faculty National Distinctions



Edward M. Darling, MS, CCP, was elected the 2010 President of the American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion, a prestigious professional group that

promotes excellence in continuing education. Darling is associate professor and clinical coordinator of Upstate’s perfusion education program in the College of Health Professions (CHP).



Susan S. Graham, MS, MT(ASCP)SH, was named a member of the Hematology Examination Committee and a member of the Joint Generalist Committee for

the American Society of Clinical Pathology Board of Certification. Graham is associate professor and chair of CHP’s Department of Medical Technology.

Three Generations of Sanborns Serve Imaging

Not only do identical twins, Kevin and Ryan Sanborn, 24, share a close personal bond, but now they share a professional one as well — and it extends across three generations. With their grandfather, John (Jack) Sanborn, MD, 80, a radiologist (semi-retired), and their father, John, a senior medical imaging technologist (board certified in nuclear medicine), the young men continue a family tradition of service in healthcare — all having graduated from Upstate.

The brothers graduated this May as medical imaging professionals having taken dual tracks in X-ray and CT. While one is considered more outgoing than the other, they both share a hard work ethic, consistently making dean's list, and Kevin graduated with *magna cum laude* honors.

They have always been each other's greatest support system from playing high school football, both as running backs, to studying together. "We are best friends and are always there for each other," noted Ryan.

Having dad there to help them practice for imaging science exams was a real bonus, they said. "Both our father and grandfather would help us out if we had questions on case studies," Kevin said.

How do the brothers feel about graduating from the family's alma mater? "I feel great about it. It's nice to know we will be working alongside in the same field. I can't wait to get out there and get started," said Kevin.



Kevin and Ryan Sanborn
Fayetteville, NY
Medical Imaging Science (MIS) BS Degree
Class of 2010

John Sanborn (MIS '89), father, and Jack Sanborn, MD (COM '59,) grandfather, proudly flank new graduates, Kevin and Ryan Sanborn.

"All the faculty and clinical instructors were always there to give us a hand. They prepared us well, and I can't say enough about them and the great influence they've had on us."

"Upstate was a great choice," Ryan agrees. "We fell in love with the profession and I'm excited to go out and gain experience. We were provided all we needed to know to perform in the clinical setting. We couldn't have asked for better teachers — they are passionate about their profession and will be there for us even after graduation."

"I'm proud of them," their father said. "They know I've enjoyed my work immensely and it's an excellent field to be in."

Alumni Connection

Health Professions Alumni Association News

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Syracuse, New York 13210

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Summer 2010

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CLS Medical Scholar Graduates

Four graduates among the Class of 2010 received the MS Medical Scholarship in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS). The scholarship, for economically disadvantaged and underrepresented minorities, is funded by the NYS Department of Health and Associated Medical Schools of New York and gives recipients who successfully complete the program acceptance into medical school at Upstate. CLS scholars obtain the MS degree in CLS with a concentration in microbiology – and are eligible for national certification, according to Susan Graham, CLS program chair. “These MS medical



scholars have the choice of pursuing medical school, or joining their current profession to help meet the demand nationally for medical technologists.” The 2010 medical scholars are seen here with **Josephine Przepiora (center), director of the Medical Scholars Program and MT Class of 2000 (BS) and 2010 (MS) alumna**. Going on to medical school are: (l-r:) **Marsha Peart, Bronx, NY; Soyika Richardson, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; Beth-Ann Ollivierre, Fort Bend, TX; and Nicole Sanders, Los Angeles, CA. Congratulations!**