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MARCH 2008

UPDATE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR **WATERBURY HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES** & NETWORK AFFILIATES



Auxiliary Fashion Show Hopes to Draw Sellout Crowd

Members of the Waterbury Hospital Auxiliary's fashion show committee pose in front of Talbots in Southbury, which is sponsoring the event titled "Spring into Elegance." Pictured above (from left to right) are: **Virginia Paolino**; **Donna Duncan, RN**; **Mary Calvo, RN**; **Heather Clinger**, Manager of Volunteer Services and Coordinator of Community Health Education and Evergreen Club 50; **Linda Osterman Hamid**, Auxiliary President; **Sybil Smith**; and **Vickie Luddy**.

Auxiliary Continues to Dedicate Itself to Hospital's Betterment

With the hope of attracting a more diverse audience and a subsequent increase in monies raised, the Waterbury Hospital Auxiliary has revamped its annual luncheon to include a fashion show featuring Miss Connecticut 2008, as well as many other local "celebrities," who will don the latest fashions from three area retailers.

"Spring into Elegance: A fashion show and luncheon," will be held April 6 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Southbury Crowne Plaza. Fashions from Talbots of Southbury, Val's Unique Boutique of Watertown and Delianne Bridal and Formal Wear of Waterbury will be featured. Miss Connecticut 2008, Watertown native Dana Daunis, will also appear and perform. Daunis won the talent competition at the 2008 Miss America Pageant.

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PHOTO BY
KEVIN J. CZARZASTY



"I hope that someone would do that for my family."

Five Employees Rush into Burning Building and Save Seven Strangers

Neftali "J.P." Peña, PCA; **Alan Copeland**, Safety Security Supervisor; **Anne Adamski**, Communications Specialist; and Safety Security Officers **Hector Torres** and **Ken Rasmussen**, (pictured from left to right), all assisted in saving seven residents whose building caught on fire (pictured above). Missing from the photo is **Andrew Romano**, Safety Security Officer.

It was just before 11 p.m. on February 6. **Alan Copeland**, the hospital's Safety Security Supervisor of 13 years, was patrolling the hospital grounds to ensure the safety of employees arriving for the night shift, just as he did during countless other nights. But this evening turned out much differently.

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Five Employees Rush into Burning Building and Save Seven Strangers

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As Copeland looped around the hospital's main entrance, he saw what he thought was smoke wafting out of a three-family home across the street from the hospital. When he pulled closer to Robbins Street, Copeland saw flames shooting out of the third floor apartment. He immediately called the hospital's switchboard operator. **Anne Adamski** answered and notified the fire department. Copeland then radioed for backup.

Neftali "J.P." Peña, a Patient Care Assistant, was driving into work when Copeland flagged him down. Simultaneously, Safety Security Officers **Hector Torres**, **Andrew Romano** and **Ken Rasmussen** hurried toward the home after hearing Copeland's radio plea for help.

With flames and smoke now billowing out of the third floor, Copeland frantically banged on a door leading to the first-floor apartment. He then kicked open a second door, which led to the second and third floor apartments, when he realized it was jammed. After what seemed like an eternity, a woman finally opened the door. Copeland swooped in, grabbed the woman's two young children and led the family out of the apartment.

During this time, Peña rushed up to the second floor apartment with Torres following closely behind. They found an elderly woman and two men standing at the top of the stairs. Surrounded by darkness and with thick, black smoke closing in on them, Peña swiftly removed them from the home. Torres entered the second floor apartment where he found a third man in a bedroom. Torres pleaded with the man, who was trying to get dressed, to immediately leave the home. He too got out safely.

"It got bad quickly," said Torres. "We just got blasted with smoke."

"You could feel the heat from the fire," Peña added when asked if he hesitated before entering the burning home. "But I was thinking about my family. I hope that someone would do that for my family."

Copeland, Peña, Torres, Romano and Rasmussen received praise from their fellow hospital employees and members of the Executive Management Team.

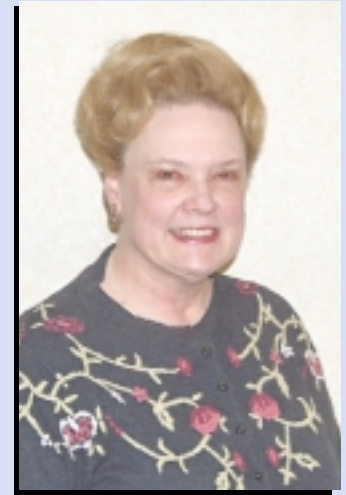
"We are so proud of these men who became heroes," said **Mary Prybylo, RN** and COO. "This act of heroism is another example of what our staff does for this community we serve." 🌍

Auxiliary Fashion Show Hopes to Draw Sellout Crowd

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The fashion show will feature a variety of trends from everyday women's wear to career wear, and from prom dresses to a bridal gown. The models include hospital employees, hospital employees' family members and other local residents.

"We wanted to spice up our annual luncheon this year, and thought what better way to do it than by holding a fashion show," said **Patricia Fahey**, the Auxiliary's Vice President of Programs who is co-chairing the event with **Mary Calvo, RN**, of the Family Birthing Center.



Linda Osterman Hamid, Auxiliary President

Founded in 1890, the Auxiliary is a volunteer organization comprised of all women, and boasts more than 400 members. It prides itself on being an integral part of the hospital's fundraising efforts and has donated more than \$1.5 million to the hospital over the past 25 years.

"The Auxiliary is dedicated to sponsoring a wide variety of fundraising events such as fashion shows, house tours, luncheons and art sales in order to raise money and to help stimulate interest in Waterbury Hospital throughout the Greater Waterbury area," said Auxiliary President **Linda Osterman Hamid** (pictured above).

One of the Auxiliary's most recent projects was the implementation of "Quickcharge," a program that enables employees to swipe their badges, rather than using cash, to purchase items in the cafeteria, the Auxiliary Gift Shop and from outside vendors that sell their goods inside the hospital. That contribution totaled \$50,000. The Auxiliary has also donated \$10,000 in recent months to fund a cafeteria renovation feasibility study.

In 2004 and 2005, the Auxiliary contributed more than \$150,000 to the renovations of the Bizzozero Conference Room, the hospital lobby and gift shop, and to the creation of Zuzu Café, the java bar located in the hospital lobby.

"The Auxiliary is an invaluable asset to Waterbury Hospital," said **John Tobin**, President and CEO. "I applaud these true friends of Waterbury Hospital for their continuous philanthropic support over the years."


"Spring into Elegance: A fashion show and luncheon" is open to the public. Tickets cost \$30 and are available at the Auxiliary Gift Shop. For more information on the event, please call (203) 753-5613. 🌍

Photography Encourages HIV/AIDS Patients to “Get A Life”



In an effort to help persuade non-compliant HIV/AIDS patients in the Greater Waterbury Area to become more proactive in the management of their disease, the Waterbury Hospital Infectious Disease (ID) Clinic has implemented innovative programming in the last year geared towards achieving this objective. “*Get a Life*,” is a recent initiative overseen by the ID Clinic that allows patients to express their creativity through photography. Participants recently had the opportunity to showcase their work for the hospital’s staff and visitors, and several sold their art to eager buyers. One photograph was raffled off and those proceeds went directly back into the program.

Still in the planning stages are other similar creative arts initiatives that also empower and encourage patients to become invested and interested in their own lives. These include quilt making, drawing and jewelry making, according to **Juana Clarke**, Director of Grants at the hospital. “These programs give our patients hope, a different perspective and a reason to get interested in something else in their lives besides their disease,” she said. “It has been amazing to watch how their involvement in non-clinical activities like photography, has the affect of getting them to take their medicine again, visit their physician regularly, and become re-engaged in their treatment plan.”

Waterbury Hospital is the only hospital in Connecticut to receive direct federal Ryan White CARE Act HIV/AIDS funding for the care of over 500 area residents. In a recent Ryan White Title I site visit, reviewers ranked the hospital’s ID Clinic as the top HIV primary care clinic in New Haven-Fairfield County, and recommended that the clinic be funded as a national model program and HIV Center of Excellence. For more information on the ID Clinic and the “*Get a Life*” program, please call 203-573-6086. 




Clinical Psychologist **Daniel O'Connell** speaks with a nurse following a workshop, in which he discussed the handling of adverse events.

Renowned Psychologist Gives “Bad News” Tips to Staff


Daniel O'Connell, a clinical psychologist with more than 25 years of experience, recently presented a combined grand rounds, in which he discussed ways to communicate adverse events and “bad news” to hospitalized patients.

Roughly 150 physicians, nurses and other staff members attended the program’s main presentation and subsequent workshops. The attendees’ response was excellent, according to **Donita Semple**, Quality Manager.

O'Connell helped those in attendance understand the rationale for greater openness when faced with an adverse outcome; to appreciate the importance of agreement on the most accurate explanation of the event; to recognize the elements of a satisfactory resolution and the steps to achieving it; and the integration of response within the hospital’s risk management process. 



Waterbury Hospital Hosts Residents at Mamma Mia!

Waterbury Hospital recently hosted residents from the Watertown Convalescent Home at the Palace Theater for opening night of the hit Broadway musical *Mamma Mia!* Waterbury Hospital is the opening night sponsor of the 2007-2008 Broadway Series at the Palace Theater. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: **Ann Petito**; **Dot Machokas**, both of the convalescent home; and **Heather Tindall**, Director of Public Relations, Media Relations and Marketing at Waterbury Hospital. Pictured in the back row, left to right, are: **Gaylene Nageotte**, Recreation Director at the Watertown Convalescent Home; **Mary Kraus**; **Mary Daddona**; **Irene Pilla**, also of the convalescent home; and **Ann McManas**. The Watertown Convalescent Home serves 46 residents and offers long and short term rehabilitation. 

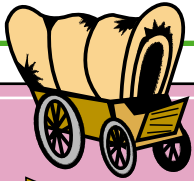


Hospital Launches New Method for Obtaining Patient Feedback

Waterbury Hospital has begun surveying discharged in-patients by telephone, rather than mailing surveys, according to **GINNY POTREPKA, RN**, Manager of Patient Relations and Advocacy.

HealthStream Research will now randomly call patients, who have been discharged from the Family Birthing Center, Telemetry, the Cardiovascular Unit and Pomeroy floors five, seven and nine. HealthStream has replaced Press Ganey.

For more information, please contact Ginny Potrepka at Ext. 7386.



WELCOME WAGON

Waterbury Hospital congratulates and welcomes the following new employees who joined the hospital in January and February:

Brian Barry
 Nicole S. Brown
 Christina Browne
 Kathleen Butcher
 Nicole D. Butler
 Shannah M. Calvert
 Tammy A. Carissimi
 Reina Carr
 Audra Charette
 Karin Chretien
 Mahogany C. Clemon
 Georgette V. Cole
 Winnona Coleman
 Vanessa Cruz
 Katelin Cummings
 Alisher Dadabayev
 Elizabeth Daverio
 Noel Diaz
 Janet Dunbar
 Isaac F. Fernandes
 Jeffrey Fonseca
 Scarlett K. Forbes
 Sara A. Frysinger
 Giuseppina Garro
 Corinne Georgette
 Susan M. Gniadek
 Sewraney Gobindraj
 Nicole L. Gugliotti
 Susan Heins
 Paul G. Harvill
 Nicole L. Hawley

Sonia I. Henriques
 Kaitlin Holihan
 Sochara Im
 Sanela Jahic-Tupkusic
 Katie Jobs
 Bonnie J. LaMadeleine
 Carolyn Maldonado
 Donald W. McDonough
 Melissa A. Mieszczanski
 Laurie A. Mikulski
 Kristina Monahan
 Judith N. Monarca
 Brittany S. Nealey
 Jacqueline Peccerillo
 Lindsay Perry
 Nella Perugini
 Holly A. Poglitsch
 Elizabeth Quadrato
 Yvette Rivera
 Christina Schiaroli
 James A. Sirleaf
 Corey Slusarski
 Rachel Smith
 Daniela Sousa
 Jeffrey M. Stein
 Nancy Symanowitz
 Ayesha M. Thompson
 Doreen M. Townsend
 Lisa M. Vieira
 Guiging Wang
 Kayann Wilson

UPDATE

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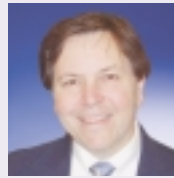
MANAGING EDITOR: HEATHER TINDALL

ASSISTANT EDITOR: JENNIFER MANES

SUBMIT ITEMS FOR UPDATE TO:

htindall@wtbyhosp.org

ON THE MOVE



David J. Pizzuto, MD

David J. Pizzuto, MD, has been appointed to Chief of Staff. He was previously elected to serve as chair of Waterbury Hospital's Department of Medicine from 1998 to 2007. During that time, he also sat on the hospital's Board of Trustees and the Staff Executive Committee. He replaces **Glenn Taylor, MD**, who finished his three-year term as Chief of Staff at the hospital, effective the end of 2007.



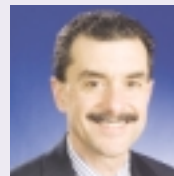
Stephen Laskarzewski

Stephen Laskarzewski has been promoted to Chief Information Officer and Administrative Director of Information Services (IS). He succeeds **Jim Olson**, who will retire later this year. Laskarzewski served as the hospital's Assistant Director of IS since joining the hospital in 2004. He has played key roles in IS planning, project management and department leadership. Olson has been named Chief Technology Officer.



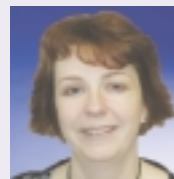
Steven Jalowiec

Steven Jalowiec has been named Administrative Director of Facility Operations. He was previously the Director of Plant Engineering. In addition to managing Plant Engineering, Jalowiec is responsible for Dietary and the Environmental Services departments. He also oversees various regulatory compliance programs, including Environment of Care, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the state Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



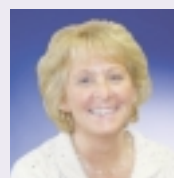
Christopher J. Michos, MD

Christopher J. Michos, MD, was recently named Director of the Emergency Department. He has served as Interim Director of the ED since September 2007. Michos joined the hospital in 2000 as a physician in the ED.



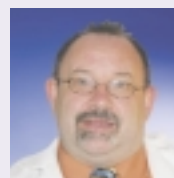
Sue Gniadek, BSN

Susan Gniadek, BSN, has joined the hospital as its new Assistant Director of Critical Care. Gniadek has extensive nursing experience particularly in the areas of Critical Care, Cardiovascular Care and Telemetry.



Betsy Sweeney

Betsy Sweeney has been promoted to Manager of System Integration and Change Control. Sweeney joined the hospital in 2002 and has worked in IS since 2006. In her new role, she will continue to oversee the Cerner system architecture and change control, but will take on additional management, planning and coaching responsibilities within the department.



Ralph Proulx, RN

Ralph Proulx, RN, recently joined the Nursing Service Administration staff as a new Administrative Supervisor. Proulx joined the hospital in 1972 as an orderly and most recently worked in the Emergency Department as a staff nurse.