

amh

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around the corner,

around the clock

A publication of Auburn Memorial Hospital

inside

New Operating Room Opens

Fingerlakes Weight Loss Recognized
by American College of Surgeons

Five New Physicians Welcomed

AMH Opens State Of The Art
Patient Wing

The long anticipated opening of Auburn Memorial Hospital's (AMH) newly renovated third floor took place on February 19. The first patients were then admitted to this patient-friendly, state of the art wing which has 24 beds. Each of the private patient rooms boasts individual bathrooms, including bath and shower facilities. The opening was the culmination of many months of construction work which required complete replacement of nearly the entire plumbing, electrical, and heating systems. The patients in 3 Memorial are surrounded by comforting hues that adorn the walls and plenty of soft daylight. These

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Message from the President/CEO

By Scott A. Berlucchi, FACHE, NHA

Please join us at our April 26, 2009 Open House!

We're very enthused about the opportunity to give our friends a chance to see all that we've accomplished over the past year. As many of you know, in early December we opened our new Behavioral Health Center and welcomed everyone at that time to tour this new state-of-the-art facility located on the 3 Central unit.



Scott A. Berlucchi,
FACHE, NHA

Since then, we've completed construction of an entirely new, leading-edge operating room and full renovation of our 3rd Floor Memorial wing. Both of these areas will be open on April 26 and I do hope you will be able to join me and my staff for a tour and reception. I'm confident you will be extremely pleased and proud of all that we have accomplished for the Auburn community.

We're well into 2009 and have many important initiatives underway – and not all of these are of the “bricks-and-mortar” variety. In my last letter to you, I spoke about our deliberate change in focus from the very short term to a longer-term view of what our institution must accomplish in order to continue to grow and thrive. This is not to say that we have abandoned our disciplined attention to cost

containment and prudent stewardship of our daily activities. This focus will always be with us.

However, our recent, strong financial performance does enable us to embark on the important work required to fortify our foundational programs and capabilities. In 2009, our most important watchwords are **quality and patient safety**. We're making significant investments in a series of initiatives that we believe will translate to sustained improvements in the quality of care delivered at AMH and the safety of the environment for our patients.

Perhaps the least visible of these – but the one that has the potential for the greatest long term impact – is a two-year effort to install a **new hospital information system** that will enable us to capture, index, store and retrieve patient information in electronic form. Last month we initiated this project, which will conclude in December 2010. We have a long way to go, but, once complete, AMH will operate with a fully-integrated clinical information system that can substantially reduce the potential for errors and ensure improved connectivity and coordination with our broader medical community. Our patients will be the primary beneficiaries of this new information system.

In addition to this major project we've embarked on a number of programs that are giving us

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Message from the President

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improved and more frequent access to the data that provides the most accurate picture of our quality and patient safety results. This information is driving additional staff training and the implementation of targeted initiatives to realize gains where they are needed.

Finally, allow me to alert you to another stream of activity, about which you'll learn more as we move through the year. I'm pleased to tell you that our Board of Trustees approved the acquisition of new imaging technology, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography / computed tomography (PET/CT). Once installed, our patients and their physicians won't have to go elsewhere for access to these critical technologies.

In closing, let me extend my thanks for your continued support of this institution, its medical staff, employees and volunteers. Without your help we wouldn't be where we are today, nor will we be where we can be tomorrow.

AMH Opens Patient Wing

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rooms are more akin to an upscale suite than those of a hospital room of several decades ago. Hidden behind this warm and inviting exterior is a multitude of high tech equipment such as heart monitors (telemetry), oxygen and suction attachments, and high-intensity lighting for patient evaluation.

Mary Mazzeo, RN, serves as Nurse Manager of this new unit, also called Critical Care/ Third Memorial. Nurse Mazzeo is no stranger to the AMH family. She first began caring for patients in 1970 after receiving her B.S. in nursing from State University of Utica, Rome, NY. She has held a variety of nursing managerial positions throughout patient care areas of the hospital. This new unit is something that Mary Mazzeo has been looking forward to for a long while. "It allows us to bring state-of-the-art technology with its safety and accuracy to the patient's bedside. That is the best of both worlds for us nurses. We are able to give direct bedside care without going to other areas to retrieve necessary information. Nearly all we need is at our finger tips. The new unit fulfills our goal to be able to offer cardiac telemetry 24/7," said Mazzeo.

Eric R. Allyn Re-elected as Chairman of Auburn Memorial Board



Left to right: Scott Berlucchi, Eric Allyn, Dr. James Blute

At the January 28 meeting of the Auburn Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, the Board re-elected as its Chairman **Eric R. Allyn**, Vice President at Welch Allyn, Inc. of Skaneateles Falls. **Joseph P. Bartolotta**, Senior Associate with Gilberti Stinziano Heintz & Smith, P.C. in Syracuse, NY, was elected Vice Chairman. **Peter J. Emerson**, Director and Past President of the Fred L. Emerson Foundation, Inc. was elected Treasurer, replacing **Karen E. Lockwood**, Branch Services Manager of

AmeriCU Credit Union, Auburn, who is leaving the Board after nine years of service. **Gail S. Homick**, Executive Director of United Way of Cayuga County, was re-elected Secretary.

Mr. Allyn, who holds a B.A. degree from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A. from the University of Virginia, has worked with Welch Allyn since 1982. He currently serves as a Vice President of the company, and is the Director of Welch Allyn's Family Office. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Allyn Foundation where he is Chairman of the Investment Committee, and he is a past member of the New York State Hospital Review & Planning Board. He was a Founding Member of the Auburn Hospital System Foundation Board from 2001 to 2005. He and his wife, Margaret O'Connell, reside in Skaneateles with their three children.

Fingerlakes Weight Loss Program at AMH Recognized by American College of Surgeons

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) has granted Auburn Memorial Hospital (AMH) "provisional approval" as an "American College of Surgeons Level 2B Accredited Bariatric Center."

Carl A. Weiss III, M.D., Ph.D., FACS, Director of the Fingerlakes Weight Loss Program at Auburn Memorial Hospital, stated: "This designation from the American College of Surgeons suggests that our bariatric program is on solid footing, and we are excited. We are grateful to all of the dedicated employees and obviously to the outstanding level of hospital support that has made this possible."

The FLWLP mission is to improve the health and well-being of obese and overweight adults by providing a

comprehensive program of weight loss and maintenance based on bariatrics, the science of weight loss. More information is available by visiting www.fingerlakesweightloss.com.



Front: Carl A. Weiss III, M.D., Ph.D., FACS. Back, left to right: Daniela Kowal, Physical Therapist; Christy VanOstrand, R.N., Bariatric Coordinator; Kim Bertonica, R.N., Clinical Nurse; Jean Drocak, Administrative Assistant; Shelly Sennett, B.S.W., Support Group Leader; Jessica Planer, R.D., C.D.N., Bariatric Dietitian.

Former AMH Nurse Manager Becomes First Surgical Patient in New Operating Room



Shown in the new operating room, left to right, are Tom Patterson, OR Supervisor; Emilie Hauger, Nurse Manager of Surgical Services; Judy Dove; and Dr. John Ryan.

Judy Dove retired after 25 years of service to Auburn Memorial Hospital (AMH) in October, 2008. She had served as Nurse Manager of the hospital's psychiatric unit and developed a strong commitment to AMH.

When she recently had to make a decision about where to have a surgical procedure, there was no doubt in her mind what hospital she preferred. "I trust Auburn Memorial Hospital," she said. Dr. John Ryan performed surgery at AMH in January, and she had the

honor of being the first patient to benefit from a newly remodeled operating room which has just been completed as part of the HEAL NY project funded 50% by NYS and 50% by area foundations. Two additional new operating rooms will be opening within the next year.

Partnering with Stryker Corporation, AMH is building a group of fully integrated, high definition operating rooms best described as "operating rooms of the future."

"With the addition of our new i-Suite[®] Operating Rooms," explained Emilie Hauger, Nurse Manager of Surgical Services, "AMH reaffirms its commitment to providing the highest level of health-care to our community. The i-Suite provides a new level of medical care while allowing us to increase the productivity of our staff, reduce our overall operative costs and most importantly, improve procedural efficiency which can boost patient outcomes."

Hospital Musical Comedy Review, *Palpitations, Rocks Auburn Again*

"PALPITATIONS 2009: HOSPITAL IDOL!" took the stage on April 3 and 4, and the two sold-out shows, held in East Middle School auditorium, raised close to \$20,000 for a Newborn Hearing Screener for the AMH Maternity Unit.

The plot of the show in a nutshell: A Hollywood production company is exploring the concept of a fantastic new show, "Hospital Idol," to be set in an actual hospital somewhere in the U.S. The show will feature talented doctors, nurses, other hospital employees and event patients. Only one lucky hospital will be selected for "Hospital Idol," and it will receive a signing bonus of one million dollars!



Left to right: Mary Jo Pelc, Grace Lentini, Susan Kenyon

Three talent scouts arrive at Auburn Memorial Hospital to look for talent. Dorothy, the "AMH PR Lady" takes them through a variety of hospital areas where hospital staff and patients perform songs, dances, and stand-up comedy routines. One especially memorable performance was by Drs. Rosenblum, Nangle, Nizam, W. Foresman, and Godishala, who performed one-liners in the style of Groucho Marx.

The show was directed by Susan Kenyon and Martha Petrosino, with Grace Lentini as Musical Director and Mary Jo Pelc as Choreographer. Accompaniment was provided by the Bob Piorun Ensemble.



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AMH Welcomes Five New Physicians

Auburn Memorial Hospital (AMH) is pleased to announce that five new physicians have joined the Medical Staff: Paul A. Koenig, M.D., and Chelsea Foster, M.D., Emergency Department; Laurence D. Seltzer, M.D., Psychiatry; Nanette S. Sable, M.D., Hospitalist; and Frederick A. Kaempffe, Orthopaedics.

Dr. Kaempffe is a Fellow of the American Academy of Othopaedic Surgeons and the American College of Surgeons. He received his medical degree from the State University of NY at Buffalo. He completed his internship in general surgery at Millard Fillmore Hospital, Buffalo, NY; his residency in orthopaedic surgery and a fellowship in Hand, Upper Extremity and Musculoskeletal Microsurgery at SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine.

Dr. Seltzer is board certified in general psychiatry. He received his medical degree at the Medical University in Basel, Switzerland, and completed his psychiatry residency at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, NY followed by a child psychiatry fellowship at the Hillside Hospital in Glen Oaks, NY. He was an active staff member in psychiatry at AMH from 1974 to 1996.

Dr. Sable is board certified in both internal medicine and infectious diseases. She graduated from the University of Michigan and received her medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NYC, followed by a residency in internal medicine at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY and a fellowship in infectious disease at the University of Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Koenig received his M.D. degree from SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine. He became board certified in Emergency Medicine and Director of the Emergency Department (ED) at Fox Memorial Hospital, Oneonta, NY.

Dr. Foster earned her M.D. degree at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and completed her emergency medicine residency at Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY.

POSTAL PATRON

Plaque Honors David L. Emerson

A plaque honoring the late David L. Emerson, a long-time supporter of Auburn Memorial Hospital, was recently hung in the reception area of the AMH Emergency Department. The plaque reads:

In Memory of David L. Emerson
In Appreciation of
his Leadership and Service
to Auburn Memorial Hospital
Member, Board of Trustees,
1993-2001



Shown here at the dedication of the plaque are (left to right): Sally Emerson Wagner; Peter Emerson; Christopher Emerson; Scott Berlucchi, AMH President/CEO; Anthony Franceschelli, President, Fred L. Emerson Foundation Board of Directors.

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www.auburnhospital.org