



## PASTORAL CARE'S

## ANNUAL

## Celebration

Many employees go beyond their job responsibilities to help patients through difficult times. **Sharon Widman** of Clinical Nutrition Support Services is one of these people ... and the 2008 winner of Pastoral Care's Spirit of Caring Award.

Widman works on Rhoads 7, a unit with bone marrow transplant patients who lose their appetite, sometimes leading to a 'failure to thrive' condition. In presenting Widman with her award at the annual celebration, staff chaplain **Kava Schafer** noted that "over the years, Sharon has brought a presence. These patients need mothering. They need warmth and comfort. She'll say, 'I notice you didn't eat. Is there something I can get for you?' and then make a separate trip downstairs to get what they asked for.

"Sharon has bought food — or cooked it herself — and brought it in for patients ... anything to encourage them to eat," Schafer continued. "Sharon brings people to life. People have thrived because of her attention."

"We know what a gem we have in Sharon," agreed nurse manager **Debra Dearstyne**, RN, OCN. "She serves our patients far more than meals."

### Highlights of the Past Year

Each year, HUP's staff chaplains, students in the Clinical Pastoral Education program, and Pastoral Care's 60 volunteers respond to



Ralph Ciampa congratulated Damaris Christensen (l.) and Sharon Widman, who each received an award during the Pastoral Care celebration event.

"This is the essence of why we're here — taking care of people and showing acts of kindness to patients."

— **Al Black, COO**

an estimated 2,500 trauma calls as well as to calls throughout the hospital. Pastoral Care director **Ralph Ciampa** thanked everyone who does so much to help patients and their families, and our staff, noting that "plans for extending these caring services to Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse are currently under way."

During the celebration, Ciampa touched on highlights of the past year. For the third year, the Board of Women Visitors provided funds to make *Care Notes* and *Life Lights* available to waiting areas throughout the hospital. These publications provide brief inspirational, non-sectarian readings on

(continued on page 2)

## A TOP-10 HOSPITAL

HUP has once again been selected for a top spot on the Honor Roll of Best Hospitals in America by *US News and World Report*.

HUP was rated 10th out of more than 5,400 hospitals in the United States. Only 170 hospitals were ranked highly in one or more of 16 medical specialties and, of those, just 19 hospitals — including HUP — were considered "best of the best" by the editors of the publication.

HUP ranked in the top 10 in five specialty categories: Digestive Disorders; Ear, Nose and Throat; Endocrinology; Kidney Disease; and Respiratory Disorders. In addition, it improved its ranking in 14 of 16 specialty categories.

## PASTORAL CARE'S ANNUAL *Celebration*

(continued from page 1)

dozens of topics a patient may confront during illness and hospitalization. The department also received a grant from the Eastern Region of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education to develop a curriculum for clinical pastoral education students to address the epidemic of post-traumatic stress disorder affecting our returning veterans. Ciampa also introduced **Randy Shoun**, the new coordinator of the CPE Program.

He also announced the creation of the Ralph Thomas Taylor Award of Inclusive Worship, named in honor of HUP's former CPE resident, adjunct chaplain, and staff chaplain who died in 2006. Ciampa said the award recognizes one of Taylor's many contributions: his extraordinary eloquence in leading worship in this interfaith setting. Chaplain resident **Damaris Christensen** was the first recipient. "It was an unusually rich year in our interfaith chapel events, but Damaris stood out," he noted.

"This is the essence of why we're here — taking care of people and showing acts of kindness to patients ... and to each other," said **Al Black**, COO of the hospital. "Members of Pastoral Care do so much for the hospital. They respond rapidly and with great caring — for patients, for families, and for staff. They make difficult situations much better.

"Thank you, Ralph, for directing a world-class department."

To learn more about Pastoral Care at HUP — including its programs, activities, and history — visit [www.uphs.upenn.edu/pastoral](http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/pastoral).



## 2008 CPE *Graduates*

Last month, six full-time chaplain residents and 10 part-time chaplain externs graduated from HUP's nationally accredited Clinical Pastoral Education program. These students — many second-career ministers or committed laypersons — provided pastoral care at both HUP and Pennsylvania Hospital, and shared regularly in the overnight trauma and emergency coverage at HUP.

Since the program's inception in the 1980s, over 300 students have participated in these 400-hour educational units. This includes over 100 students from our immediate community as well as students from around the world representing many religious traditions.

Noted **Ralph Ciampa**, director of Pastoral Care, who supervised the students' education with Chaplain **Sam Bryan**, "We both feel privileged to work with these outstanding groups who have served our patients, enriched our department, and dedicated themselves to rigorous learning and personal growth."



## T O R E M E M B E R

Earlier this year, the Abramson Cancer Center held its Oncology Memorial Service, an annual tribute to individuals who passed away during the year. Over 200 family members, friends and staff attended the service, which included shared readings and reflections that focused on loss, love, peace, hope, and memories.

Family members, friends and staff brought mementos and pictures for memory boards that were displayed in the auditorium. Family members and friends shared stories of personal and professional accomplishments of their loved ones. "They spoke of their cancer care spanning from 29 days to ten years," said **Patty Meehan, LSW**, associate director of Clinical Resource Management & Social Work. "They recounted cross country trips and births of grandchildren that occurred during treatment. They shared poetry and reflections written by the patients.

"Family members acknowledged the care that they received from the Oncology Team," she continued. "They acknowledged staff for listening and responding to their individual concerns and needs as well as the patients. The outpouring of appreciation from the families was overwhelming." Family members also acknowledged the care provided by the Wissahickon Hospice Team members.

The Memorial Service is funded through a generous grant from the Board of Women Visitors. In addition, Patient and Family Services of the Abramson Cancer Center and HUP Clinical Resource Management and Social Work provided support for the annual event.

"We are so proud of this event for so many reasons," noted **Christiana Bach, LSW**. "It brings together health-care professionals from many disciplines with families to celebrate the lives of those lost to cancer. It fosters a sense of community in grief and in hope."