

Happy National Superhero Day!

Welcome to this surprise extra issue, a surprise even to my partner in crime for the Wellbeing Newsletter, Dr. Bakke. As I listened into various meetings at the end of last week and heard the concerns about the numbers and what this week would hold, it seemed like a perfect opportunity to use the newsletter to refocus on our priorities.

Over the last four days, your families and loved ones have graciously taken my texts and emails. I was stunned at how this project assumed a life of its own in a short time. If your photos are not in this issue, we will continue to post them in future episodes as they are received. I will continue to work with point people to try to track down contact information, as there were a few families for whom I could not obtain contact information (Special thanks to Jeanne Bigelow who was my secret weapon for the faculty contacts!)

To your patients, the health care system, the world, and to your families, you are superheroes. This issue is a testament to you. It is also testament to your loved ones who are superheroes in their own right: their support grounds us and gives us meaning. These photos and stories remind us that while most days we do not cross paths as a Department, we are a united community of faculty, residents, APP, administrative assistants, and all staff. Regardless of our physical distance, you will see from these photos, we, WITH our loved ones, are ONE.

Together we will get through this. On the other side, we will look at our lives in more meaningful ways, knowing that we cannot take a single minute for granted. Let us start today. I hope that these photos remind each of you of the joy and love in the world and the reason why we are here fighting.



Our leader. Submitted by John Kelly (Sr.)



Ashley Russo and I originally planned to have our wedding this past weekend. Instead of walking down the aisle on April 25th, Ashley was walking the halls at the UMass Memorial Campus. We recognize how fortunate we are that a wedding is a very moveable event – and nowhere near as difficult as the hardships so many are facing during this COVID-19 pandemic. I see firsthand how exceptionally trying these times are for all essential healthcare workers.

It is inspiring to see Ashley remain as passionate as ever about being at her best to treat patients - and being there for all her UMass colleagues. When she is not at the hospital – we made the decision that we needed to do something fun to remain upbeat in the face of this challenging situation. We dove headfirst into creating Tik Tok dance videos (15-second high-energy choreographed dances). We learned three things by doing these dances: 1) Ashley is a natural dancer 2) Ashley was able to further develop patience with me and my progressing skills 3) Our favorite dance videos are all the many, many outtakes. The journey to our 'first dance' has been fraught with more outtakes than anticipated. Eventually, we will get to put this 'dancing journey' to good use at our postponed wedding!

To my frontline bride ... seeing you rise to the occasion and staying so optimistic during this pandemic has been incredible. I love you! - Joe Cosentino



One of my favorite wedding pictures. Still makes me laugh every day. Submitted by Rachel Buckle-Rashid, Resident at Hasbro Children's Hospital, and wife of Gazi Rashid

This picture is such a precious keepsake of Jonathan & our granddaughter, Brooklyn. Brooklyn was "taking notes for Uncle Jon!" It shows , especially during these trying times, how love of family needs no words, just presence of family. Submitted by Debbie Green, mother of Jonathan Green





From Paris with love. Submitted by Huy (Lucas) Hoang, husband of Chau Hoang



The group photo is a funny memory because we randomly bumped into some relatives in the streets of Chinatown without prior planning. The photo of Sebastian and our younger brother at the Palms was a great time our family spent sharing stories and food. Submitted by Graham Chung, brother of Sebastian Chung, showing family time during a recent trip to Philadelphia for Sebastian's younger brother's wedding.



Not all superheroes wear capes; some just need a super sidekick and 'swords' for those random forest battles. Dan with his son Ponder on a family-favorite activity, hiking. Though our son doesn't say many words yet, when I ask him what his dad does, Ponder responds 'helps.' We're very proud of our resident superhero!" --Megan Baldor, wife of Dan Baldor



Submitted by Frank Santosuosso, husband of Joyce McIntyre



Anselm hates taking photos, so he makes funny faces in all of them! Submitted by Annarita, wife of Anselm Wong

Submitted by Heather Maykel, wife of Justin Maykel





Matching mask photos and superhero family time at the Millennium Falcon. Submitted by Matthew Davids, Medical Oncologist at DFCI and husband of Jennifer Davids



Submitted by Christine, wife of John Castle



Submitted by Stephanie Scurlock, wife of Josh Scurlock

"Zoom bomber" Submitted by Nick Francalancia, husband of Janice Lalikos





Submitted by Abigail, wife of Sam Vazquez, celebrating Amelia's 2nd birthday.



Submitted by Jim Hendrix, father of Ryan Hendrix

Submitted by Trish Kelly, wife of John Kelly (MIS)



John Kelly, Nora Fullington and Trish Kelly at Best Buddies Ride. Submitted by Trish Kelly



Submitted by Sara Torres, wife of Ulises Torres



Shout out to our hero - Rob! While we won't be traveling for a while, our biggest adventure is around the corner as you take on your new role as a dad. The call room may start looking more like a 'vacation' come July. 😊 Thank you for all that you do to keep our family safe - we love you! --Dianel McLoughlin, wife of Rob McLoughlin

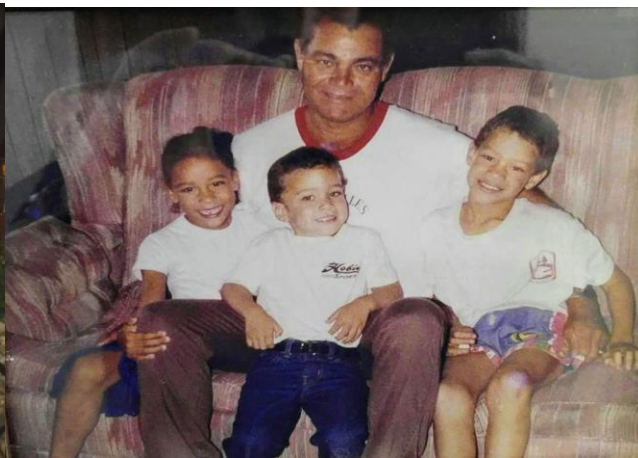
Submitted by Holly Rothkopf, wife of Doug Rothkopf. Photo 1 is Doug and his daughter, Emma, with her fiancé, Conor, in Utah winter woods; Photo 2 is Ian, Doug's son, on a favorite mountain in the Maine summer.



GRATEFUL FOR A GOOD GUIDE THROUGH ALL TERRAIN



My superhero is Don. As the Hospital Epidemiologist at Boston's Chinatown hospital, I've been working 18-hour days every day since early January. Don, between telehealth visits, urgent cases and ACS call, has stepped in to pick up my slack at home, gives my boys the attention they deserve, and takes me for long walks to clear my head. He gives me strength to keep going when I want to give up. --Submitted by Shira Doron, wife of Don Czerniach



Submitted by Marilis Mercado
aunt of Jose Mercado-Matos,
on behalf of his mother.

Submitted by Peter
Larkin, husband of Anne
Larkin





Submitted by Johan, husband of Muriel Cleary, reflecting the family's connection to nature and the outdoors.

Leora Balsam and Bill Hoffman, taken in New York last spring, by Leora's sister, Sherri. The "photo bomber" is Leora's niece Abby. --Submitted by Bill Hoffman.



Submitted by Maria Fernanda Decio, wife of Danilo Decio. The family is expecting their second child in June.

Seville. Submitted by Geoff Findlay, husband of Kate Dinh





Submitted by Kirstie Viens, fiancée of Salim Munoz. The couple are expecting their first child in June.

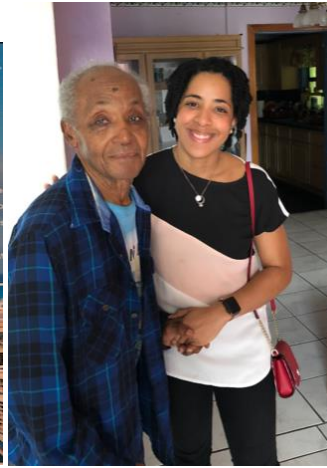


Cathy Beauharnais and her mother in Haiti in 2017, during a vacation brunch at Le Rancho Hotel. --Submitted by Cathy's aunt, Guerda Adrien



Submitted by Laura Cohen, wife of Phil Cohen





“Photo 1: Cruising Eastern Caribbean. My wife Cynthia, Marah & Monteiro Tillman. Photo 2: Marah with my dad Leroy Tillman her 87 year old Grandpa US Air Force RE in Florida City, Florida. Photo 3: Marah & Dad @Ocean Beach - Golden Gate National Recreation Area San Francisco, CA. Photo 4: Now Retired Labor & Delivery Nurse Mom Cynthia as Marah Rotates through Labor and Delivery @ Baptist Health System South Miami Florida. Photo 5: Marah Relaxing at home with Bella, our German Shepard. Photo 6: My Plaque above was Food for thought Marah after graduating from University of Central Florida Didn't know what was next. She wanted to be a Nurse, I said hard job ask Mom. Then I said you could do Micro or Molecular Biology research. Or be a Nurse Practitioner or a Physician's Assistant who both take orders from Doctors. The next morning Marah looked at my Plaque and said Dad I like your Plaque, I'm gonna be a Doctor. She applied to Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Florida International University got accepted and now she's All yours at UMASS mask and All. 😊”--Monteiro Tillman & Wife, US Army Retired.



Giles enjoying the sunshine Saturday planting Pancreatic Cancer Alliance pansies and sharing them with friends and neighbors. Submitted by Lynn Whalen, wife of Giles Whalen





There is a background story for the picture of Danielle laying on the lawn. She came home for dinner one day after working a long shift. We were talking out in the yard and I went in to start dinner. When I came back out I found Danielle sound asleep on the lawn. --
Submitted by Mike DePalo, dad of Danielle



Family photo with Austin (6) and Lucy (2), backyard fire during social distancing, and bedtime stories. Submitted by Lindsey Baker, wife of Brett Baker



Michael has been keeping up his surgical skills during the quarantine, using his dexterity to put together over 30 miniature replica soldiers from the Battle of the Bulge. I'm not sure what deal he struck with Amazon, but they consider these essential deliveries! Also hoping his hat collection outlasts the virus. --Submitted by Julianne Hirsh, wife of Mike Hirsh



Photo1 : Jon's brother who works for Customs and Border Protection. Photo 2: Jon's 2nd birthday. The theme was Peter Rabbit, who he loved. When Jon was born, his mother, checking him over as all proud Moms do commented "on how long his fingers were and that he will either be a surgeon or a piano player." He went on to do both. In Jon's kindergarten, they didn't grade work. Jon wanted a grade to know how was doing. So Jon being humble as he is only gave himself an A- on ocean art work mural. Photo 3: Jon's mother, a 43 year maternal child RN. Jon's dad was a former fire service/paramedic for 42 years-- all are first lines heroes! We are so proud of you. We love you. --Submitted by Dave Durgin, father of Jon Durgin

Giulia loves spending time with her nephew, George. Since the implementation of social distancing, she Facetimes with him and her sister whenever possible. The first photo was taken this Easter when George still wanted to give her a kiss from behind the glass door. The second photo is at George's baptism. - Submitted by Chris Louissaint, fiancé of Giulia Rizzo





Dorothy is an amazing person and I am thinking of her every time she goes into the hospital during these unsettling times. Through it all, she remains the same goofy, caring and smart girl I fell in love with. Submitted by Ryan Bottary, husband of Dorothy Liu



During his last year in Med School, Ricardo chose to do a rotation in a remote indigenous town in the Amazon jungle called Kamarata. A few months into his rotation, the entire family went out to visit him. His work in Kamarata was one of the highlights of his career. His time in this community helped shape him into the caring, thoughtful, hard-working individual he is today. The first picture is Ricardo with our Mom, Diana. The second is Ricardo with a few of his friends and our family the day we got there. --Submitted by Carlos Bello, brother of Ricardo Bello-Boccardo.



Submitted by Kathleen Barry, wife of James Lindberg



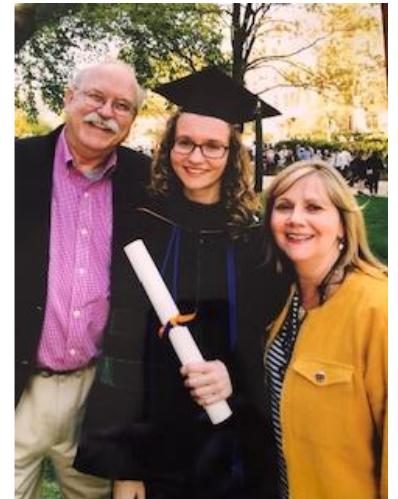
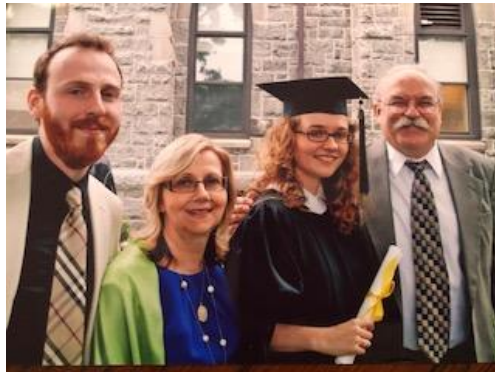
Submitted by Chad Fowler, husband of Jennifer LaFemina



Emily is a terrific violinist and an avid outdoors woman, who love skiing, and hiking. She is also very close with her sister and brother. --Bill Mackey, father of Emily Mackey. Photo 1: Loveland Pass Colorado with brother, Chris. Photo 2: Emily at her sister's wedding with her brother. Photo 3: Exit Glacier, Seward, Alaska with her brother, sister, and brother-in-law



We're very thankful for all the amazing people who are on the frontlines taking care of patients and also helping to keep our society afloat--from healthcare workers, environmental services workers to first responders and all of the other essential workers and volunteers in the community. And for my nursing school classmates - they have cooked huge batches of meals for us and have surprised us by dropping everything at our house. We have been the recipients of some exquisite compassion and are very grateful for these nursing school colleagues. Submitted by Amanda Hazeltine, wife of Max Hazeltine



Katherine's response to the pandemic is a manifestation of her understanding that we are all in it together. If we all help each other then we will get through the storm. Together. As her parents, we have always been a bit amazed by Katherine's sincere belief that helping others is the only way for most of us to become the person we are. For Katherine, becoming a physician and surgeon is not an end in and of itself; it is a means to join others in the work of living and helping others to live too. We consider ourselves very fortunate to be her parents. -Jane and John