

MED-CENTER

# Pulse

**INSIDE:**

A Publication for the Employees of ECMC Corporation

*Message from  
ECMC Corp. President & CEO  
Michael Young - pg. 2*

*ECMC Welcomes new  
Chief Operating Officer  
Mark Barabas - pg. 4*

*Team ECMC at Corporate  
Challenge - pg.5*

*Buffalo Wellfest - pg. 6*

*New Employees - pg.9*

## ECMC Opens All New, Expanded Digital Cardiac Catheterization Suite

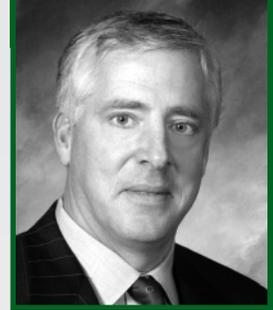


*Performing a cardiac catheterization procedure in ECMC's all new, enhanced/expanded Cath Lab are ECMC Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Director Neil Dashkoff, M.D. (center); Interventional Cardiologist Eram Chaudhry, M.D. (right); and nurse Tammy Goodemote, R.N. (left).*

continued on pg. 3



# A Message from President & CEO Michael Young



Michael A. Young  
M.H.A., F.A.C.H.E.

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

As we end the 2nd quarter of 2007, our clinical outcomes, our financial results, and our patient volumes continue to improve. It is your hard work every day that has been attributing to this success.

Also, in the past few months, I have received a very high number of letters of thanks for the care you are providing. The letters continually talk about the compassion and attention to detail that you deliver in caring for our patients. They notice and the whole community is noticing. In this regard, I have included a letter from a patient which speaks to your dedication.

The Department of Health has recognized our collective success. It is hard to argue with results and action, and that is what we have provided. From our clinical success to our financial success to our image enhancement, they realize that ECMC plays an important part in the delivery of QUALITY healthcare in Western New York.

In the last few weeks, you have heard much public debate and positioning. Regardless of these public efforts, we are hopeful that the Department of Health will continue to look at the facts and treat ECMC fairly as they deliberate the future of a consolidation with the Kaleida Health System. As information becomes available to ECMC from the Department of Health, we will be sure to communicate it to you immediately.

In the meantime, continue to provide the best care for our patients and work hard to improve our processes. Doing so has resulted in one of the fastest turnarounds of a hospital system in Western New York healthcare and you can be proud to know you have been a part of it.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michael A. Young". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael A. Young  
M.H.A., F.A.C.H.E.

*President & Chief Executive Officer*

Cheryl Grassia  
Angola, New York

Dear Editor:

Since we hear so many negative stories about health care these days, I'd like to share my recent experience as a surgical patient at ECMC. Throughout my three day stay I was cared for by professionals who were caring and competent. Even when dealing with difficult patients and situations, they remained pleasant and professional.

The Berger Commission is calling for changes across New York State in the way health care is delivered. One of the changes calls for merging ECMC with Kaleida. And it makes me wonder what will happen to the quality of care at ECMC if this merger takes place.

I was a 30+ year employee of Millard Fillmore Hospital when it merged with Buffalo General and other facilities to become Kaleida. From my perspective we lost much more than we gained.

Those who are charged with making decisions that affect so many need to remember that health care is a personal issue - both for the patient and the provider. ECMC is an excellent facility providing critical services to meet the needs of our community. And while it should continue to look for ways to operate efficiently and collaborate with other facilities, ECMC should stand on its own.

I commend all those who work so hard every day to give the best care possible.

Cheryl A. Grassia

## ECMC Opens All New, Expanded Digital Cardiac Catheterization Suite

ECMC Corporation held a grand re-opening of an expanded, state-of-the-art digital Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory (Cath Lab) Suite on May 24th. Dignitaries, political officials, ECMC board members, administrators, physician and nursing staff members were on-hand in support of the \$2.2 million facility expansion and enhancement.

Recognizing community need, in April of 2006, the New York State Department of Health (NYS-DOH) approved ECMC's Certificate of Need (CON) application for the new facility. ECMC's new Cardiac Catheterization Suite now features three (3) state-of-the-art, digital imaging cardiac cath labs—one with dual capacity for both heart procedures (cardiac catheterization—passage of a catheter through an artery in the arm, leg or neck into the heart for evaluation or treatment of blockage) and in selective patients there is the possibility of imaging via peripheral angiography (study of outer boundary vessels—such as the kidney, legs and other arteries—using a contrast material for viewing of blockages) procedures. The two original cath labs have been fully upgraded to include the same advanced digital technology as the new/third lab. The patient recovery-holding area includes bed-side electronic charting capability that enables nurses to monitor and record patient conditions with the latest in computerized patient monitoring technology. This area doubles capacity with space for eight patients/beds (rather than the previous four) improving patient comfort and physician efficiency. Additionally, physician and nursing staff have been added to fully utilize the new cath suite and better respond to patient needs.

“ECMC's new digital cardiac cath lab expansion is the next step toward the provision of an entirely new level of cardiac care service for this community with the development of our proposed 'Heart Hospital,'" stated ECMC Corporation President and CEO Michael A. Young, M.H.A., F.A.C.H.E. In April, Young unveiled plans for ECMC's \$91.7 million "Heart Hospital" (comprehensive heart and vascular care facility).

“The expansion of our cath lab suite enables us to increase capacity to further improve our response time in emergency situations and to address multiple problem areas in selective patients. The new technology will help us to continue to improve patient outcomes, safety and comfort. This translates into better service for the physicians, staff and their patients," noted Neil Dashkoff, MD, Director of ECMC's Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory.

*New facility features latest digital technology*

Coronary heart disease is the number one killer in America, and the Buffalo region has consistently held one of the highest rates of heart disease in the country. In March of 2004, ECMC responded to a vital community need with the activation of the region's first 24-hour, seven-days-a-week emergency angioplasty service. ECMC's 24/7 trauma system, rooftop heliport accessibility, and a teamwork approach has created the ideal foundation for an efficient and timely cardiac transfer system and a regional resource for around the clock angioplasty. ECMC remains a leader in emergency care of cardiac patients—with a 2007 year-to-date angioplasty door-to-balloon time (elapsed time from hospital arrival until the blocked artery is re-opened) of only 65 minutes. The national benchmark is 90 minutes.



*During re-opening event, ECMC President/CEO Mike Young explains Cath Lab improvements to dignitaries, politicians, board members and staff*



*At the event held May 24th-ECMC formally re-opened an expanded and enhanced Cardiac Cath Lab. Shown participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony are (l to r) Cath Lab Director Dr. Neil Dashkoff, Unit Manager Melissa Neff and Senator Antoine Thompson*



*Cath Lab Pre-op/Recovery Area*

# ECMC Welcomes Mark Barabas, New Chief Operating Officer

**Mark C. Barabas, C.H.E.**, recently joined ECMC Corporation as Chief Operating Officer. Mark Barabas is a mission-driven senior health-care executive with over 20 years of comprehensive healthcare experience. He has a proven track record featuring major accomplishments in cost containment (turnaround situations), foundation work, managed care, strategy, labor relations, operations, the regulatory approval process and hospital accreditation. Mark Barabas is an extremely well-rounded professional and we are fortunate to have him representing ECMC.

As C.O.O. for ECMC, Mr. Barabas is currently working on numerous initiatives, including: helping to facilitate preparation for the joint commission review; a confidentiality agreement between Sheehan Memorial Hospital and ECMC was signed recently, and talks began regarding the transfer of 22 Detox Beds to Sheehan Memorial, as required by the Berger Commission; a length of stay initiative has been active since early April, where several priority areas on which to focus were identified to decrease patients' time in the Emergency Room and inpatient units. An appointed committee and associated sub-committees meet on a regular basis to implement action steps aimed at reducing length of stay across all services. Mr. Barabas also works extensively on physician contracting issues.

Prior to joining the ECMC team, Mark Barabas served as the Chief Executive/Operating Officer in three different hospitals. From 2000-2006, he was in East Norriton, Pennsylvania at Mercy Suburban Hospital, making some drastic improvements, including increasing the hospital's cash position. He added 16 operating beds and increased market share by 4 percent. He managed the organization's growth plan with over a 30 percent increase in admissions from 2003-2005, returning the hospital to profitability in 2003, 2004, and 2005.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital and Foundation at Community Hospital of Lancaster in Pennsylvania (1993-1999), Barabas engineered a \$1 million hospital turnaround in one year by reducing over \$2 million in hospital expenses with an aggressive 12-point expense reduction program. As Administrator and Chief Executive Officer



*Mark C. Barabas, C.H.E., Chief Operating Officer,  
ECMC Corporation*

(1980-1993) for Youngstown Osteopathic Hospital in Ohio, Mark Barabas actively recruited twenty-five physicians to expand the hospital's services and patient base. Through his aggressive planning and managing, Mark Barabas was instrumental in spearheading fund-raising efforts, raising approximately \$10 million over his 30-year career for both healthcare and community organizations.

Mark Barabas holds a Diploma in Hospital Administration (D.H.A.—equivalent to a Master's Degree) from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Youngstown State University, Ohio. He has a Buffalo connection, having served his residency at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo approximately 30 years ago—ask him about snow!

Mark Barabas has received many professional awards, but most notably he was awarded the Graduate Literary Award from the University of Toronto, Society of Graduates in Health Administration (2001) for a healthcare article he authored.

Mark Barabas has devoted his time to numerous boards, community organizations, and many professional membership positions on National Boards. He has done consulting and accreditation work across the country.

Please welcome Mark Barabas to the "ECMC team!"

# ECMC Makes Great Showing at Corporate Challenge



*ECMC 2007 Team participant compete and enjoy the day!*



*An early ECMC Corporate Challenge Team. Do you recognize any co-workers?*

The largest ECMC team ever to participate in the JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge braved the hot and humid weather at Delaware Park on June 7, 2007. In a sea of light-green scrub shirts reading, "Everyone's Behind ECMC, Now You Are Too!" over 150 ECMC employees made their presence known in fine fashion. Many participants (even from other companies!) enjoyed the ECMC-branded water that participants handed out. Three hundred ECMC scrub shirts were also given away.

The highlight of the evening was the delicious pre- and post-race buffet, catered by Morrison's and featuring a tropical theme. Runners and walkers fueled up with vegetable crudités, a tropical fruit display, cheese and crackers, and more. After the race, ECMC employees (and a few visitors) relaxed with Jack Daniels sliced fire-roasted tenderloin, sliced roasted turkey

breast with jerk seasoning, grilled garden vegetables, and all of the trimmings.

While no one from ECMC took first place, everyone had a great time and a great workout. Led by team captain Pam Valentine, the runners and walkers left satisfied knowing that they helped to raise money for the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

Thanks to the ECMC Corporate Challenge committee for making the event such a success: Pam Valentine (captain), Eric Gregor, Ken Richmond, Karen Duchon, Agnes Minorczyk, Steven Krolczyk, Lisa Traniello, Mike Galbraith, Lauren Kennuth, Mark Herle and Tim Maher.

Be sure to sign up for next year's race so you don't miss out on the fun!

# Buffalo Wellfest

On Wednesday, May 16, 2007, the ECMC Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and P.E.D.S. (Pediatric Educational and Diagnostic Services) represented ECMC at the first annual Buffalo WellFest. This event was held at the Buffalo Convention Center in celebration of National Employee Health and Fitness Day. ECMC's Outpatient PT department presented two interactive tables to educate the public on some traditional and non-traditional therapy services offered. John Lindhurst, Senior Physical Therapist (PT), a golf performance specialist through the Titleist Performance Institute, demonstrated the department's newest equipment, the K-vest. The K-Vest, part of the new Golf Fitness and Performance Center through ECMC, provides a 2D and 3D computerized analysis of the golfer's swing. It analyzes speed and segment sequencing from multiple views with every swing. This information helps identify where the golfer is moving and how a stability or flexibility issue can limit their performance. Combined with a fitness examination, this tool assists John in addressing physical barriers to the golf swing.

The other Outpatient PT Department demo was a postural assessment screen that utilized a postural grid and a digital camera. This demo was operated by Stacey Lenhard, Lead PT.

Participants were provided with a photograph of themselves and shown how their postures where deviated from an ideal position and how this may predispose them to various spinal problems. Participants were provided exercise strategies to address their deficits.

Additionally, participants were given opportunities to ask the physical therapist about any problems or pains from which they might be suffering. General information, business cards and brochures were provided so that patients could call to set up an appointment for a formal evaluation.



*ECMC Senior Physical Therapist John Lindhurst, PT, monitors golfer with the latest in golf conditioning equipment.*

Connie Howell and Chris Prokop from P.E.D.S. – ECMC distributed information on the importance of “Tummy Time” for infants. While the American Academy of Pediatrics’ (AAP) recommendation in 1992 to put babies to sleep on their backs has resulted in a dramatic decrease in SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), they also recognize that tummy time needs to be a part of the baby’s daily routine. Their “Back to Sleep – Tummy to Play” campaign reminds parents to provide babies with adequate supervised tummy time to promote growth and development.

They also distributed information regarding “Activ8Kids!”, New York State’s Childhood Overweight and obesity prevention program. The basic principles of this program are 5 fruits and vegetables each day, one hour of physical activity every day, and two hours or less of TV or screen time daily. Brochures and further information can be found at [www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/obesity/activ8kids/](http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/obesity/activ8kids/)

Representatives from Stand Advertising distributed ECMC T-shirts and other information regarding the hospital – look for them all over the area!

On June 6, 2007, the Transplant Support Group of Western New York presented a check to ECMC in the amount of \$4,000.



*Shown left to right are: Virginia Smaczniak, LMSW Transplant Social Worker; Karen McCarthy, Transplant Financial Officer; ECMC Senior Vice President of Operations Kenneth A. Richmond, M.H.A., C.H.E.; ECMC Surgical Director of Transplantation Dr. George A. Blessios; Transplant Support Group of WNY's Norbert Antonik; Lorian Piccione, LMSW Dialysis Social Worker; and ECMC Director of Ambulatory Services Katrina Buchholtz, M.H.A.*

## Volunteer Board Honors Volunteer of the Year at Annual June Luncheon



The Volunteer of the Year award went to **Naoma Allen**, who has been on the board since 2001 and is currently serving as the Vice President. Naoma was recognized for her strong support of the board and her willingness to always “step in” when needed. Some of her contributions to ECMC include, but are not limited to; Co-chairman of the Spring flower sale, regular participation in the Skilled Nursing Facility workshops, assisting with the ECMC blood mobiles and helping out at the gift shop.

# ECMC Retirees



A reception was held on June 20th to honor recent retirees. We would like to thank all the retirees for their dedication and hard work at ECMC.

NAME	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
TROUSE, MARY	AMBULATORY CARE	19
PALUMBO, ALICE	HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS	26
MARTIN, GALE	ECH - ACTIVITIES	18
SACHER, JUDITH	ECH - HOUSEKEEPING	16
BURKE, PAMELA	ECH - NURSING	23
FRANK, CHRISTINE	ECH - NURSING	15
HACKER, CAROL	ECH - NURSING	19
HATFIELD, MARYANN	ECH - NURSING	12
MANGAN, CASSANDRA	ECH - NURSING	18
WOPPERER, SHARON	ECH - NURSING	12
DONATI, DONNA	SKILLED NURSING FACILITY	9
WALKER, MARY	SKILLED NURSING FACILITY	34
MURAWSKI, BETTY	SWITCHBOARD	30
ALEXANDER, BEVERLY	DENTAL	32
SPECK, MARY	RADIOLOGY	35
CLARE, NANCY	FISCAL	22
ALIF, CAROLYN	LABORATORY	20
MISRA, SAROJINI	LABORATORY	26
GOLDBERG, GUSTAV	PLANT OPERATIONS	13
BRENNAN, KAREN	9 ZONE 2	38
PANNAFINO, KATHLEEN	12 ZONE 2	34
SANFORD, MARY	ED	8
ARMSTRONG, ALFRED	SECURITY	36
BAKOWSKI, DONALD	SECURITY	41
NOWICKI, RITA	SECURITY	22
THURMAN-PORTER, CHARLENE	GI UNIT	18
DENECKE, JOAN	OR	22
ISGRO, KATHRYN	IMMUNO	24

# New Faces at ECMC

Management orientation was held this month. Here is a list of the new employees. Let us give them all a warm welcome!

NAME	DEPARTMENT	TITLE
BIELEWICZ, LYNETTE	SNF	DON
DOMBROWSKI, JENNIFER	REHAB MEDICINE	SR. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
DZIWULSKI, SUSAN	MATERIALS MANAGEMENT	PURCHASING SUPERVISOR
EDDINS, MAXIE	ENVIRONMENTAL SVC	HEAD JANITOR
JOCOY, ANGELA	REHAB MEDICINE	SR. PHYSICAL THERAPIST
LINDHURST, JOHN	REHAB MEDICINE	SR. PHYSICAL THERAPIST
MCDONOUGH, PEGGY	FINANCE	DIRECTOR PATIENT FINANCIAL SERVICES
ONDAK, ELSIE	RADIOLOGY	TECHNICAL DIRECTOR ECHO
RYBZYNSKI, BRAD	ADMINISTRATION	GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS LIAISON



## ECMC Participants in Pharmacy Symposium

ECMC Director of Pharmacy Randy Gerwitz, R.Ph., and Senior Pharmacist Susan Ksiazek, R.Ph., participated in a panel discussion about “Introducing Medication Management into Your Clinical Practice”. The symposium was held on Wednesday, June 13th by the University at Buffalo’s School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Their goal was to initiate a regional conversation about the emerging transition in the practice paradigm. The symposium provided an opportunity to propose methods to add additional aspects of medication management.

## June Nurse of the Month



**Nathan Sull** is June's Nurse of the Month. Nathan has continuously helped out 4 Zone 4 in their time of need. He is easy-going, pleasant and will help wherever he can to make everyone's life easier. Nathan's friendly and easy-going nature is exactly what is necessary to handle the stresses of his job. We thank you Nathan and congratulate you on receiving this honor.

## National Nursing Home Week

National Nursing Home Week was held from May 13th-19th this year. We celebrated many fun events throughout the week under the theme "Treasure our Resident." The week's events went as follows:

- 13th -Mother's Day Social
- 14th -SNF Open House
- 15th - Treasure Hunters
- 16th - Family Night with entertainer John Little
- 17th - Trash or treasure and what do you treasure?
- 18th - Treasure Garden

# *For Tradition, Today, and Tomorrow... Share Our Vision!*

In 1980, the E. J. Meyer School of Nursing closed. Since that year, the Alumni Association Artifacts Committee has collected a testimony to the nursing tradition and legacy inspired by those early caregivers who founded today's standards and inspired future generations.

The Artifacts Display Committee is dedicated to preserving the E. J. Meyer School of Nursing legacy through it's collection of uniforms, pins, pictures and other memorabilia in an effort to achieve a permanent memorial dedicated to celebration, historical content and public awareness.

**We hope you will support and help complete our legacy.**

Please make your tax deductible donation to:

## Artifact Display Committee

E. J. Meyer Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association

---

c/o Emily Juszczak  
49 West Grand Boulevard  
Cheektowaga, New York 14225

In 2005, the campaign was initiated to create a permanent display at the Erie County Medical Center. ECMC has agreed to locate the display in a prominent location. Should ECMC merge, the display will be transferred to the University at Buffalo School of Nursing. The fund raising effort has now reached a critical point. The next phase is to pursue private funding. Our effort is to achieve this realization in recognizing the E. J. Meyer School of Nursing and it's historical impact upon the vital role of nursing in today's health care environment.

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 2076  
BUFFALO, N.Y.

MED-CENTER

# Pulse

*Med-Center Pulse is a monthly publication of the Public Relations/ Communications Department of ECMC Corporation*

**Editor: Joseph B. Cirillo**

**Contributing Editor: Amy Hackspacher**

*Please direct all communications for this publication in digital form to:*

**Joseph B. Cirillo**

E-Mail: [jcirillo@ecmc.edu](mailto:jcirillo@ecmc.edu)

#### **Pulse Publication/Submission Schedule for 2007**

ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE REQUIRED IN ELECTRONIC FORM (either as text in E-mail or in Microsoft Word on diskette/CD). Photographs should be forwarded as digital files/scans.

*Due dates for article/digital photograph (if applicable) submission:*

#### **2007 ISSUES:**

First weekday of month prior to month of publication

WESTERN NEW YORK'S  
HOSPITAL OF CHOICE  
ECMC.EDU



462 Grider Street • Buffalo, New York 14215

Friday, August 3, 2007  
LEGENDS ON THE NIAGARA

TO BENEFIT WNY'S NEW HEART HOSPITAL AT ECMC

## **ECMC Tournament of Life Golf Classic**

The 2007 edition of the Tournament of Life Golf Classic is Friday, August 3, 2007.

Hope to see you there!