

WHO IS NYCC?

RYAN BARKER, DC ('10), MSACN ('10), MSHAPI ('13)

“The reward of practice comes with never using the word ‘job’ or ‘work’... I am treating patients, educating patients, and practicing my art, and how many people get to say that they never go to ‘work’?” Meet Dr. Ryan Barker, a 2010 graduate of NYCC practicing in the Rochester area. Originally from the Finger Lakes area of upstate New York, Dr. Barker decided on NYCC due to its academic excellence, diversity, and its commitment to the Seneca Falls community. He now practices with two other doctors of chiropractic, while teaching full time at SUNY Oswego in both the biological sciences department and the health, wellness, and promotions department.

While at NYCC, Dr. Barker completed both the DC program and the Masters of Science in Applied Clinical Nutrition (MSACN) program. Prior to graduation, he networked with another student in the program whose husband worked as a respected DC in Rochester, and eventually began working for his practice while striving to obtain a Master’s of Science in Human Anatomy and Physiology Instruction (MSHAPI) at the same time. “It was an opportunity that put me right into practice life with a large patient volume, and taught me the systems needed to maintain an efficient office and patient flow. That experience afforded me the opportunity to earn my MSHAPI degree while fine-tuning the lessons of practice life.” Because of his perseverance and love of teaching, Dr. Barker’s journey led him to be the doctor and teacher that he is today. In the future, he sees himself moving into the administration side of healthcare, although he admits that it will be “many, many years down the road.”

From his experience, Dr. Barker offers future chiropractors some lessons that he learned from his education and practice. First, he recommends that students should not over-diversify their practice style early, because trying to solve every problem for a patient may lead to no problems being solved. “New doctors should master small segments of their office life with precision and refinement before tackling new and less mastered arts.” He also encourages students and graduates alike to find a mentor that they want their practice style to evolve to, because there are many different chiropractic practices and some practice styles won’t mesh with what the student would like to see in their own practice. Finally, he advises students to practice. “I believe that the idea of a “practicing doctor” is just that; it continues and evolves as a practice to an art. If I were to reflect on the distribution of my time as a student at NYCC ... I would have adjusted and palpated more students and patients, so that the art of my practice would have evolved more quickly.”

