

# The Vibe@

Summer 2010

## The Graduate School of Nursing

### Greetings and welcome to

**The Vibe**, a newsletter created with you in mind, a vehicle for communicating news about your alma mater and connecting you to your fellow alums. Twice a year, we'll let you know about new initiatives at the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) and share ways that you can stay connected to both the institution and your classmates.

In this inaugural issue, you'll read about a new doctor of nursing practice program that will prepare advanced practice nurses for leadership roles in health care. You'll learn about the construction of the school's newest and most ambitious facility, the Albert Sherman Center. You'll read about a fellow alum and learn about ways to reconnect with others. And, we'll keep you informed about upcoming events. You'll also learn about why your support is so important to the future of the GSN and the students who follow in your footsteps in their educational pursuits.

We hope you enjoy The Vibe. If you have news you'd like to share or have suggestions for future issues of the newsletter, drop us a note at [alumni@umassmed.edu](mailto:alumni@umassmed.edu) or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-856-1593.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

**Jill Terrien, MS '97, PhD '07**

Chair, GSN Alumni Association



### Shaping tomorrow's nursing leaders

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL of Nursing continues to evolve to address contemporary issues in nursing education and practice. Complementing the Graduate Entry Pathway (GEP) program, established in 2003, and the nursing PhD program, which became independent in 2005, the GSN introduced the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) program in 2008 and admitted its first students that same year. This addition to the school's rich roster of programs will prepare advanced practice nurses (APNs) for leadership roles, as expert clinicians who can evaluate and translate best evidence into practice and as preceptors and mentors for future nursing students.

▲ DNP students Vinetta McCann, MS, RN (left), and Dawn Carpenter, MS, RN (center), discuss a patient record on the surgical ICU with Jeff Perras, MS, RN, a neurocritical care nurse practitioner. They are members of the first DNP class.

The program focuses on the development of the skills necessary for APNs to apply the principles of population health outcomes and evidence-based practice in clinical situations to advance patient care.

This post-master's program focuses on theory courses and includes a residency requirement and a capstone project. Central to the program are the interdisciplinary partnerships with the School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Commonwealth Medicine, UMass Correctional Health, UMass Memorial Health Care and the greater central Massachusetts community. ■

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JUNE

### GSN Alumni Association Graduation Breakfast

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2010

8 a.m.

**Blais Pavilion, Aaron Lazare Medical Research Building, UMass Medical School**  
Graduates of the class of 2010 will be welcomed into the alumni community at our Annual Graduation Breakfast. Following the breakfast, there will be a nursing continuing education program on health care reform. This program offers one contact hour.

### 37th Commencement Ceremony

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2010

12 noon

**Campus Green, UMass Medical School**

### UMass Comes To You

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2010

9 – 2:30 p.m.

**Ocean Edge Resort & Golf Club, Brewster, MA**

UMass Comes to You offers a series of short lectures on health care, current events and culture with some of the most prominent and accomplished faculty members from across the UMass system. \$50 per person includes continental breakfast, lunch and six lectures.

## SEPTEMBER

### Investiture

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

4 p.m.

**UMass Medical School**

### Convocation

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

10 a.m.

**UMass Medical School**

### Walk to Cure Cancer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

12 noon

**Aaron Lazare Medical Research Building  
UMass Medical School**

## OCTOBER

### Pink—Lighting the Way to a Cure

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010

6 p.m.

**Aaron Lazare Medical Research Building  
UMass Medical School**

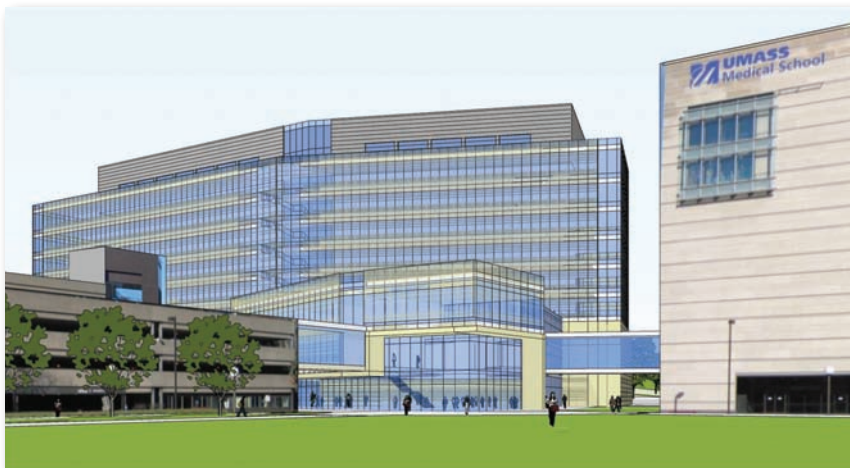
### UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center Starlight Celebration

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2010

**Wagner Motors, Shrewsbury, MA**

For more information about these events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-856-1593, email [alumni@umassmed.edu](mailto:alumni@umassmed.edu) or visit [www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical](http://www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical).

## The Albert Sherman Center: a foundation for the future



APRIL MARKED the beginning of a new era in life sciences discovery with the start of construction of the Albert “Albie” Sherman Center, a \$400 million state-of-the-art research and education facility on the northwest side of the Worcester campus. Slated for completion in 2012, the center will strengthen the Medical School’s competitive position as a leader in the life sciences and double its research capacity. Last year, the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center approved \$90 million in funding for the Sherman Center in recognition of the institution’s positive economic impact on the commonwealth. When fully operational, the Sherman Center is projected to support 1,600 jobs and \$264 million in annual economic activity throughout the state.

▲ Rendering of the Albert Sherman Center (provided by ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge)

The Center will be an interdisciplinary research and education facility that will foster interaction and collaboration among scientists and across disciplines. It will incorporate new education space that fosters interdisciplinary learning, including the UMMS Simulation Center. The Sherman Center will also be home to the Advanced Therapeutics Cluster, which includes the RNA Therapeutics Institute, the Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine and the Gene Therapy Center, and will provide research space for more than 100 investigators. ■



► Enthusiastic students worked the telephones during our spring Alumni Phonathon. Thank you to all who generously donated!



## GSN partners with Special Olympics to improve access to care for athletes

A GROUP of students and faculty from the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) was among the hundreds of volunteers at the recent Special Olympics of Massachusetts (SOMA) Winter Games. They were there to provide health screenings at the Healthy Athletes health fair, held as part of the three-day games. Dedicated to improving health care access and quality for individuals with intellectual disabilities, the Healthy Athletes initiative provides health services and education to Special Olympics athletes and trains health care professionals to support the initiative.

The GSN expanded its role in the UMass Worcester and SOMA affiliation established in 2008 by partnering to evaluate a triage pilot

project designed to make the health fair more focused and beneficial for attendees. Coordinated by Kathleen Miller, EdD, GSN associate dean for advanced practice programs and director of the Doctor of Nursing Program, and Paulette Seymour Route, PhD, dean of the GSN, the pilot project gave GSN students and faculty the opportunity to use a systematic model that measures health status indicators (including body mass index or BMI, blood pressure, bone density, hearing, vision and flexibility) and then refers individuals to other health care specialists at the fair who can address potential medical issues flagged in the screening results. For example, an individual with a high BMI indicating obesity would be referred to a nutritionist

for follow up and further evaluation. "With feedback from athletes and families, we will continue to evaluate and develop the most worthwhile health promotion methods," said Dr. Miller. ■



▲ GSN faculty and students performed health screenings and then referred athletes to onsite specialists.

## Giving back

AS ALUMNI REFLECT on the excellence and value of their UMass Worcester Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) education, many show their gratitude by generously supporting the school through donations to the GSN Annual Fund, Scholarship Fund and Lillian R. Goodman Endowment Fund. Such alumni support is critical to enhancing the student experience and leads to exceptional nursing care.

The GSN Annual Fund strengthens academic programs and supports faculty and research initiatives that make us a leader in education, research and service. The Scholarship Fund cultivates the next generation of nurse leaders, educators and advanced practice nurses pursuing masters, post-masters and doctoral programs.

The Lillian R. Goodman Endowment Fund was created to establish the first endowed GSN faculty position—a mark of national distinction for the growing reputation of the school.

With less than 10 percent of UMass Worcester's budget coming from the state, philanthropic contributions are essential. Every gift, no matter the size, has an impact. Please consider joining friends and alumni of the Graduate School of Nursing in supporting the Alumni Annual Fund Campaign. ■

## ALUMNI ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

UMass Medical School recognizes donors to its Alumni Annual Fund Campaign at the following leadership levels. These levels of giving are based upon cumulative gifts received during each fiscal year, beginning July 1.

<b>Founder</b>	\$10,000+	<b>Partner</b>	\$5,000-\$9,999
<b>Patron</b>	\$2,500-\$4,999	<b>Benefactor</b>	\$1,000-\$2,499
<b>Friend</b>	\$500-\$999		

The Heritage Society recognizes donors who support UMass Medical School through bequests, life-income gifts, retirement plans, life insurance policies and other estate intentions.

**You may make a secure online gift at [www.umassmed.edu/foundation/onlinegiving](http://www.umassmed.edu/foundation/onlinegiving) or send your contribution to the UMass Medical School/UMass Memorial Development Office, 333 South Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.**



The Class of 2011 at the 2009 Graduate School of Nursing Graduate Entry Pathway Program Pinning Ceremony

Office of Alumni and Parent Relations  
333 South Street  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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The Graduate School of Nursing

Office of Alumni and Parent Relations  
Diana Tsotsis, Director  
333 South Street  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545  
alumni@umassmed.edu  
508-856-1593  
www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical

To submit information to be  
considered for this newsletter, send  
an e-mail to [alumni@umassmed.edu](mailto:alumni@umassmed.edu).

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of Massachusetts Medical School Office  
of Alumni and Parent Relations. It is  
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Parent Relations by the Office of Public  
Affairs and Publications.*

## Alumni Profile



**Name:** Robin Sommers, RN, MSN, NP  
**Program:** Adult Nurse  
Practitioner Program  
**Year of Graduation:** 1996

In 2008, Robin Sommers enrolled in the new GSN Doctor of Nursing Practice Program and is currently a full-time student expecting to graduate in June. "As an advanced practice nurse (APN) in a nurse practitioner role at an NCI-designated cancer center, direct care is an essential competency for my position. Preparation as an APN with a doctorate in nursing practice will give me the necessary tools to take my practice to the next level," she said. Robin is currently working at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in the division of gastrointestinal oncology.

Robin was recently invited to serve on the editorial board of *The Journal of the Advanced Practitioner in Oncology*, the inaugural issue of which was published in May.

She is the proud mother of three grown daughters, who, with her husband, have been extremely supportive throughout her academic endeavors. In addition to numerous volunteer activities, Robin hopes to travel more with her husband when she finishes her doctorate. ■

**Anyone with news to share is encouraged to send their class notes to [alumni@umassmed.edu](mailto:alumni@umassmed.edu). You may also submit notes by visiting the UMass Alumni Online Community at [www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical](http://www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical) and click on "Class Notes."**