

Message from the Dean

The past year has brought exciting opportunities for the GSN. As co-chair of the Board of Higher Education/Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives "Nurse of the Future" project, it is gratifying to see academic and practice leaders partnering to build consensus on the Nurse of the Future competencies for the state. Grants are currently available for schools to assess their curriculums with their clinical affiliates, ensuring that educators address contemporary competencies necessary to prepare professional nurses. Nursing academic and practice leaders are also developing recommendations for a statewide model for transitioning new nurses into the practice setting. The GSN's participation in these initiatives influences the nursing profession in the commonwealth and beyond.

The GSN is participating in the strategic planning underway for the UMass life sciences initiative as well as the UMass Medical School strategic planning with our clinical partner UMass Memorial Health Care. Additionally, the GSN's own strategic initiatives include a proposal to transition the curriculum for the Advanced Practice Nursing Program from a master's degree to a doctorate of nursing practice.

Interdisciplinary and interprofessional opportunities are also expanding. GSN students and faculty are collaborating with our colleagues in the School of Medicine and UMass Correctional Health (UMCH). The Community Health Clerkship, for example, is now a requirement for both the GSN and SOM programs. The mini-selectives in *Emergency Medicine*, *Laboratory Medicine for the Clinician* and *Urgent Medical Problems* and the Optional Enrichment Electives *Understanding and Improving the U.S. Health Care System*; *The Bigger Picture: Health Issues Facing the Community of Worcester* and the *Rural Health Scholars Program* are also models of

interprofessional learning.

The GSN continues to embrace and lead the integration of technology into teaching. Simulation is part of all GSN clinical programs. At the UMMS Simulation Center, GSN nurse educator faculty and students train medical students on intravenous cannulation as part of the third-year Surgical Clerkship. GSN students are visiting selected correctional institutions to provide hands-on skills training for UMCH staff. These opportunities allow the GSN nurse educators to work with faculty in real-time learning situations.

In December, the GSN and the Department of Nursing at UMass Memorial Medical Center piloted an innovative model. The purpose of the pilot was to evaluate the skills of newly oriented critical care nurses and acute care advanced practice nursing students responding as a team to simulated emergency scenarios. The sessions were observed and evaluated by nurse educator students and clinical faculty. The pilot was successful and will continue this spring providing students and nurs-



Paulette Seymour-Route, PhD, RN

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ing staff with experience in communication, teamwork and collaboration needed to care for our sickest patients.

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alumni message



Hello to all alumni and friends of the GSN!

This year we are looking forward to important events that involve alumni. First, we hope that you have saved the date of Friday, May 30, 2008, for the annual Alumni Breakfast. In addition to welcoming our newest graduating class as alumni, we will

be offering a continuing education program featuring information on the doctor of nursing practice degree. As you know, this has been the hot topic of discussion across the nation, and our planned speaker will be a great source of information and inspiration. If you have never come to a breakfast, make this the year you join us to learn about a program with tremendous implications for nursing practice as you reconnect with friends and classmates.

Second, there's wonderful news from the UMass President's Office about the creation of the UMass Online Alumni Community. Soon you'll be receiving an e-mail or letter at home about this exciting new tool to help keep us connected.

The Graduate Student Nursing Organization (GSNO) continues to be active in offering gatherings and educational events for their classes. The GSNO has also become involved with the interdisciplinary offerings here at UMass Worcester, connecting GSN students with students from the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

We encourage you to let us know your ideas about enhancing the alumni experience. We look forward to being with you on May 30.

Jill

Susan

Student Profile

by *Joselyn Cortez, RN, GSN '08*

For the past several years, medical students from the UMass Medical School (UMMS) International Health Interest Group, along with several faculty-clinicians, have organized a medical service trip to the Dominican Republic. Last year, I had the opportunity to join them on this wonderfully enriching experience.

The group visits the Dominican Republic in March and is hosted by the Good Samaritan Foundation, an organization that for more than 20 years has served Haitian immigrants working in sugar cane fields near the city of La Romana. The sugar cane workers live in rural villages called "bateys" ("camp" in English) that lack many of the basic necessities, including running water and electricity. The volunteers who travel to the Dominican Republic—doctors, nurses, optometrists, construction workers—bring their different skills and talents, but share the desire to help people in need.

Our group's mission was to provide much-needed medical aid to the people of the bateys and on a typical day, we awoke at 6:30 a.m. and packed our supplies onto a bus. Once at the bateys, we set up mobile clinics in a school house, church or open space. Our group of approximately 20 students split up into two teams, with each team visiting a different village in order to maximize the number of people we could reach in a day. Our clinics consisted of separate stations where patients were triaged, seen



GSN student Joselyn Cortez traveled to the Dominican Republic on a medical mission coordinated by the UMMS medical student organization International Health Interest Group. She is pictured here (front row, second from the right) in La Romana with fellow UMMS students and friends.

by a medical student under the supervision of the team's physician and then sent to our pharmacy station to pick up their medications. Each team saw about 100 people each day. In addition to the mobile clinics, we organized educational sessions in the villages and discussed issues pertaining to women and children's health and preventative care, particularly ways to reduce the spread of infectious disease.

It was rewarding to participate in the medical mission and be part of an interdisciplinary team

that was so committed to helping. We are getting ready for the third annual trip and have a lot of work ahead of us. Although the trip lasts only a week, it is the result of six months of planning, organizing and fundraising. This year, the group includes eight second-year and six first-year medical students, and four GSN students, including Nicole Capite (GEP/GSN '08), Angela Sabol (GEP/GSN '09), Jennifer Richardson (GEP/GSN '09) and me. The entire project, from start to finish, is all about team work.

From here to the United Nations: the reluctant Nurse Practitioner

By *Carol Jaffarian, MSN*

It was in June 2001 when I received a phone call from my nurse colleague Penny Giragosian, MS, RN, who was active in the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) and the United Nations (UN). Her request was simple—that I present a "quick update on HIV infection" during a panel discussion at the UN. The fact that the panel was at the UN scared me to death. My excuses and suggestions for alternative speakers did not deter Penny's phone calls and e-mails requesting my presence. Penny would not take "no" for an answer.

With the strong encouragement of my good friend and co-worker Carol Bova, PhD, RN, ANP, I soon found myself at the UN. (Secretly, I took comfort in the fact that, if my presentation was not well-received, chances were I would never be at the UN again.) From that point on, unexpected opportunities unfolded. Sitting next to me on the UN panel was Dr.

Sevak Avagyan, former deputy health minister of Armenia, and at dinner I met Ms. Maro Minassian, chairperson of the ARS. Both Dr. Avagyan and Ms. Minassian asked me to come to Armenia to help establish an HIV program.

Forty-eight hours later, I was back at UMass Worcester asking Carol if she'd be willing to make a trip to Armenia.

By 2002, our needs assessment was complete, and by 2003, the HIV Education and Prevention Project was born—a collaborative effort between UMass Worcester and the ARS, funded by a grant from the World AIDS Foundation.

As a result of my work in Armenia, I was appointed to the United Nations Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Committee on HIV/AIDS and currently hold a position on the executive committee. As a nurse practitioner, I feel honored to be the only person on the committee with a medical background. The majority of the committee's membership holds full-

time NGO positions in New York City, devoting their efforts to UN activities.

My role at the UN has included attending monthly committee meetings and giving presentations at several UN functions, including a presentation in April 2007 on our HIV Education and Prevention Project in Armenia. But the most poignant moment for me was giving a presentation at the UN in April 2006 highlighting the contributions of my colleague, friend and the person who would never take "no" for an answer, the late Penny Giragosian. My continuing work at the UN is dedicated to her memory and her passion for the children and families of Armenia. ■

Recent grants, publications and posters

Grants

Jean Boucher, PhD, RN, ANP, ACNP
National Institutes of Health R15:
*Symptom Instrument for
Chemotherapy Induced Diarrhea*;
funded September 2007, \$242,688

Janet Fraser Hale, PhD, APRN, BC
Health Resources and Services
Administration: *Advanced Education
Nursing Traineeship*; funded July
2007, \$57,167

Kathleen Miller, EdD, RN, ACNP
Health Resources and Services
Administration: *Comprehensive
Geriatric Education Program*; Year 2
funded July 2007, \$172,138

Health Resources and Services
Administration: *Advanced Education
Nursing*; Year 5 funded July 2007,
\$250,083

Lynne Schilling, PhD, RN
National Institutes of Health R01:
*Measuring Self-Management of Type
1 Diabetes in Youth*; awarded No
Cost Extension, June 2007

**Susan Sullivan-Bolyai, DNSc, RN,
CNS**

National Institutes of Health R15:
*STEP Intervention: Social Support to
Empower Parents*; awarded No Cost
Extension, March 2007

Meyers Primary Care Institute:
SIMKID: Teaching Parents T1D;
awarded No Cost Extension,
August 2007

Publications

Bova, C., Burwick, T. N., and
Quinones, M.
*Journal of the Association of Nurses
in AIDS Care*, January/February
2008, 19(1), 58-65
"Improving Women's Adjustment to
HIV Infection: Results of the Positive
Life Skills Workshop Project"

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Improving the care of elders through the Geriatric Fellows Program

Elders often represent the frailest and most vulnerable patients receiving care. As the number of elders living longer continues to increase, there is an urgent need to improve their care. In response, the Graduate School of Nursing has established the Geriatric Fellows Program through the project Comprehensive Geriatric Education and Mentoring across Settings (Co-GEMS), funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The Co-GEMS project provides education and mentoring to registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants at four sites including hospitals and long-term care facilities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Geriatric Fellows Program provides nurse administrators and nursing faculty with opportunities to enhance their knowledge of geriatric health care needs while also participating in professional activities and interdisciplinary partnerships. The project coordinator for this initiative is GSN Instructor Laurie Herndon, MS, GNP.

The first two fellows completing this innovative program were Christy Capistran and Lori Peasley from UMass Memorial Health Care. They attended two geriatric courses that addressed critical health needs and issues influencing the care of elders and participated in interdisciplinary

The Co-GEMS project provides education and mentoring to registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants.

and community activities associated with elder care. Using what they learned in the Geriatric Fellows Program, Capistran and Peasley have educated nursing personnel on



As the number of elders living longer continues to increase, there is an urgent need to improve their care. Through the Co-GEMS project, the GSN is providing opportunities for nurses to enhance their knowledge of geriatric health care needs.

polypharmacy (problems that can arise when a patient is taking more medications than clinically indicated) and falls prevention. Additionally, some of their nursing units are participating in the UMass Falls Initiative,

which is addressing JCAHO's National Patient Safety goal. Their experience has led to a more knowledgeable nursing staff and improved patient safety. ■

alumni remembrance



Sheila Porter, MS, APRN, BC, ANP

Sheila was unanimously selected for the Excellence in Primary Care Award at the 2007 UMMS Educational Awards ceremony in recognition of her contributions as a faculty preceptor for two GSN NP students in one year.

Sheila Porter, MS, APRN, BC, ANP, died in September after a brief illness, leaving an adoring family and many close friends, colleagues and patients she cared for. Sheila was a nurse practitioner with UMass Correctional Health (UMCH) at MCI-Norfolk.

Sheila served UMass Worcester (UMW) in many ways throughout her 40-year nursing career. A distinguished 1989 alumna of the GSN's Adult Nurse Practitioner master's specialty, she was a clinician with UMCH for the past four years as well as a GSN affiliate faculty member. Sheila mentored medical and NP students during the annual UMMS and GSN Correctional Health Clerkship and was unanimously selected for the Excellence in Primary Care Award at the 2007 UMMS Educational Awards ceremony in recognition of her contributions as a faculty preceptor for two GSN NP students in one year. Her ability to successfully serve her clinical population and mentor two graduate students reveals her dedication to the profession and to her clientele. Sheila's commitment to student learning continued until she died. Her husband reports that she was still teaching in her final few days in the hospital, encouraging students to observe her own examinations and treatments.

Sheila began her career in corrections in 1990 at MCI-Framingham. As a UMCH clinician, she was dedicated, flexible, adaptable and happy to work in any of the 17 Department of Correction sites as needed. She was well respected by her colleagues as a clinician who provided for the health needs of the inmate population without bias. Always their advocate, she was respected by all.

To her students, she epitomized professionalism, competence and compassion in caring while respecting the strict security required in the challenging corrections environment.

UMass Worcester, UMCH and the GSN are fortunate to have been able to call Sheila Porter one of our own for so many years. We celebrate her accomplishments and contributions with sadness, however, for a life cut short.

Sheila's personality is reflected in the following comments from her friends and family:

Anyone who has met her knows what a good feeling it is when she shows up—accident victims to friends—everyone loved to see her. She never did anything for recognition. She was just out there doing what she does best. She knew what was right and she followed the line. Sheila was dedicated to her work and to her friends. She led by example and her students excelled, successfully completing their programs and often continuing on to pursue careers in corrections. Sheila is remembered for her kindhearted and compassionate demeanor, which she displayed with ease; her love for her family; as a caretaker of those in need; and as a truly remarkable person, clinician, teacher and friend.

Publications

continued from page 2

Bova, C. and Jaffarian, C.

Worcester Medicine, May/June 2007
 “Working globally: lessons learned from conducting an HIV education and prevention project in Armenia”

Hale, J. F.

Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America: Special Issue: Nurses’ Experiences in War and Disaster: Lessons Learned and Needs Identified, March 2008
 “Managing a Disaster Scene and Mass Casualties Before Help Arrives”

Leiby, S.

Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America: Special Issue: Nurses’ Experiences in War and Disaster: Lessons Learned and Needs Identified, March 2008
 “Caring for the Caregivers and Patients Left Behind: Experiences of a Volunteer Nurse during Hurricane Katrina”

Ndiwane, A.

Pocket Guide to Cultural Health Assessment, Fourth ed. by D’Avanzo, Chapter “Republic of Cameroon”

O’Dell, K. K., and Morse, A. N.

Journal of Midwifery & Women’s Health, January/February 2008, 53(1), 28-36
 “It’s Not All About Birth: Biomechanics Applied to Pelvic Organ Prolapse Prevention”

O’Dell, K. K., Morse, A. N., Crawford, S. L., and Howard, A.

International Urogynecology Journal, May 2007, 18, 1481-1489
 “Vaginal Pressure During Lifting, Floor Exercises, Jogging, and Use of Hydraulic Exercise Machines”

Schilling, L. S., Dixon, J. K., Knafelz, K. A., Grey, M., Ives, B., and Lynn, M. R.

Nursing Research, September/ October 2007, 56(5), 361-366
 “Determining Content Validity of a Self-Report Instrument for Adolescents Using a Heterogeneous Expert Panel”

Sullivan-Bolyai, S., Bova, C., Deatrick, J. A., Knafelz, K., Grey, M., Leung, K. and Trudeau, A.

Western Journal of Nursing Research, June 2007, 29(4), 486-500
 “Barriers and Strategies for Recruiting Study Participants in Clinical Settings”

Sullivan-Bolyai, S. and Trudeau, A.

Worcester Medicine, November/December 2007, pg 18
 “Holiday Strategies for Staying Healthy: Young Child with Type 1 Diabetes”

Theroux, R.

Nursing for Women’s Health, February/March 2007, 11(1), 77-79
 “Preventing Pre-Eclampsia: Do Multivitamins Work?”

Nursing for Women’s Health, June/July 2007, 11(3), 319-321

“Breast Cancer After Menopause: Do Weight and Exercise Affect Risk?”

Nursing for Women’s Health, October/November 2007, 11(5), 503-505

“Listening to Women’s Pregnancy and Postpartum Experiences: Two Qualitative Studies”

Thies, K. and Ayers, L.

Journal of Nursing Education, July 2007, 46(7), 325-329

“Academic Microsystems: Adapting Clinical Microsystems as an Evaluation Framework for Community-Based Nursing Education”

Posters

Bova, C. and Jaffarian, C.

“Armenian HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention Project”
 University of Massachusetts Global Health Symposium, May 2007

Hale, J. F., Hollins, S., Chellali, L., DeGurski, S., Plourde, M., Lattanzi, S., DeFosse, A., Bettez, N., Morrison, J., Quartey, S., Toft Klar, R., Jaffarian, C., Cahan, M., McGee, S., Zanetti, M., Rogoff, M. L., Kelly, C., and Taylor, M.

“Simulated Basic Skills Training: Graduate Nursing Students Teaching Medical Students: A Work In Progress”
 Eighth Annual International Meeting on Simulation in Health Care, San Diego, CA, January 2008

Resick, L., Hale, J., and Leiby, S.

“The Current Status of Registered and Advanced Practice Nursing Educational Competencies for Mass Casualty Incidents”
 International Council of Nurses (ICN) Conference, Yokohama, Japan, June 2007

Bonner, A., Miller, K. H., Tjia, J., Briesacher, B., and McGee, S.

“Transition from Hospital to Skilled Nursing Facility: A Medication Reconciliation Study”
 RAND/Hartford Building Interdisciplinary Geriatric Health Care Research Centers Initiative Career Development Institute Conference, New York, NY, May 2007

Theroux, R. and Klar, R.

“Community Perceptions of Cultural Factors and Practices Impacting Perinatal Outcomes Among African Immigrants in Worcester”
 Massachusetts Global Health Symposium, May 2007

Graduate Student Nursing Organization

The Graduate Student Nursing Organization’s (GSNO) purpose is to foster communication, coordination and continuity among graduate students and the administration and faculty of the University of Massachusetts Worcester, the Graduate School of Nursing and the University community. Membership includes all full-time and part-time students enrolled in the GSN. Monthly meetings are conducted by elected GSNO officers with open GSNO meetings held quarterly.

Class Officers

2008

President: Katie Sullivan
Secretary: Jaime Cesnickas
Treasurer: Stephen DeGurski
GEP representative: Rosemary Kirousis
Traditional Representative: Tammy Glynn

2009

President Elect: Angela Sabol
Secretary Elect: Allison Learned
Treasurer Elect: Lindsay Farragher
GEP representative: Shawna Steadman
Traditional Representative: Lauren O’Connell

2010

GEP representative: Jennifer Mistretta

save the date

For information on these events, contact Jill Terrien at 508-856-6622.

April '08

8 Doctoral Round Table, 5–7 p.m.

15 Educational Awards Recognition Ceremony

May '08

6–12 *National Nurses Week—celebrate!*

30 Alumni Breakfast and CE Program

June '08

1 Commencement

*Focus on the Graduate School of Nursing
 Produced by the UMMS Office of Public Affairs and
 Publications for the Graduate School of Nursing*

Photography: Robert Carlin Photography
 UMMS Technology and Media Services

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