

On the Graduate School of Nursing

"...where research, practice and service are the keystones of education."

Message from the Dean

This has been a landmark year for the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN), based on the accomplishments of our students, alumni and faculty — the heart and soul of our school. These accomplishments have made a difference in the way we do business in the GSN, enhancing our educational enterprise and bringing us closer to our vision of cultivating leadership and excellence to improve health care for patients and their families.

Let me share just a few of these accomplishments:

- We now total more than 500 GSN graduates since 1987, and more than 20 doctoral graduates since 1997;
- Donor contributions for the past year were the largest ever in the history of the GSN;
- NIH research funding from the National Institute of Nursing Research has become a reality, with more prospects for future funding;
- Receipt of the largest program training grant in the history of the GSN from the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Nursing will enhance the geriatric specialty across our master's curriculum to improve the care of the elderly in our community;



Dean Doreen Harper, PhD, CS, ANP, FAAN

- The selection of faculty and doctoral graduates for post-doctoral study in geriatrics and oncology;
- The first Nursing Summer Enrichment Program for high school students interested in pursuing nursing as a career, held in June in partnership with the UMass Memorial Health Care Nursing Department and the Fairlawn Nurse Scholars Program; and
- The receipt of both national and statewide faculty and student awards.

We've also experienced a number of significant transitions over the past

year. Mary K. Alexander, EdD, RN, CS, ANP, retired from the University and her position as associate dean of the GSN in June 2002. Her contributions to the GSN, nursing and nurse practitioner education are well known nationally and throughout the state. At her tribute in May, her colleagues, students and graduates — who made significant donations to the newly established Mary K. Alexander Academic Achievement and Leadership Award — recognized these contributions. We will miss Dr. Alexander's daily presence in our school, but know that we can count on her continued support as she joins the ranks of the school's *emeritus* faculty.

Transitions also bring new beginnings. I am pleased to announce that Associate Professor James Fain, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been appointed associate dean of Academic Programs. Professor Janet Fraser Hale, PhD, RN, CFNP, in addition to her role as director of Interdisciplinary and Community Partnerships, will assume the position of coordinator of the Graduate and APN core curriculum; Associate Professor Kathleen H. Miller, EdD, RN, ACNP, will take on the new role of coordinator for APN Specialties; Assistant Professor Carol Bova, CNP,

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Improving care for older adults and their caregivers

The population of this country is aging at a rapid rate. The number of people aged 65 and older is projected to double by the year 2030, resulting in many more elders with illnesses that require the services of health care providers such as nurse practitioners. With these changes in population demographics, the need is great to investigate models of care using advanced practice nurses that enhance the recovery of older adults.

To meet these challenges, GSN Associate Professor Kathleen H. Miller, EdD, RN, ACNP, has commenced the Summer Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in the School of Nursing at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland. This program, located in the John A. Hartford Foundation Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, prepares nurse leaders to meet the challenges of caring for an aging population through the

integration of practice, education, research and policy.

"Through the fellowship program, I'm looking at advanced practice nursing care focused on patient education and symptom management," Dr. Miller explained. "This transitional care model will center on the special needs of older adults and their caregivers who choose home recovery after discharge from the hospital."

Miller is working with Hartford Center Director Patricia G. Archbold, RN, DNSc, FAAN, the Elnora E. Thomson Distinguished Professor, and Associate Professor Anne Rosenfeld, PhD, RN, to advance her research training in gerontological nursing. Both Archbold and Dr. Rosenfeld are nationally known nurse researchers with expertise in their respective areas of caregiving for the elderly and for women with heart disease. Miller will use this opportunity to develop a pro-



From left to right: Patricia G. Archbold, RN, DNSc, FAAN, Anne Rosenfeld, PhD, RN, and Kathleen Miller, EdD, RN, ACNP

positional examining nurse practitioner interventions that promote positive outcomes for seniors following cardiac surgery, and for their caregivers. Miller's current work will also complement her recently funded training grant from the Division of Nursing titled, "Enhancing the Acute Care and Ambulatory Nurse Practitioner Programs with a Geriatric Specialty," to meet the GSN's strategic plan to improve health care for older patients and their families through research and service initiatives. ●

Greetings, Alumni and friends



The Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center provided a great backdrop for the 12th Annual Alumni Breakfast. Much excitement was generated by the 80 attendees, celebrating the achievements of advanced practice nurses.

Last fall, a suggestion was made to incorporate a CEU program with the breakfast; 43 people attended our first program, presented by Mary Perras, MS, MBA, RNCS, on "Strategic Business Practices for Today's APN." It was a bigger success than expected and so has energized us to do it again next year!

We also felt that the CEU program was one way to help our members meet the need for increasing their number of CEUs. Any advanced practice nurse who has had to re-certify knows that the ANCC has not only increased its requirements, but also delineated five categories, other than contact hours, that can be used to fulfill the requirements. One such category is precepting. We ask you to consider precepting a GSN student to keep your own skills sharp and contribute to a student's education. Conducting five presentations or publishing can also count towards credits to fulfill your re-certification needs. Or return to the PhD program; those semester hours count!

Our alumni membership grew to 500 with the graduation of the class of 2002 on June 2. We are so proud of all of you. Please keep in touch; let us know where you are and what you are doing and join us for some of the alumni projects we have planned.

Mark your calendars for next year's Alumni Breakfast — Friday May 30, 2003. We hope to see all of you there!

Jill Diana

A Glance Back: The Alumni Breakfast – May 31, 2002



Lois Howland, DrPH, RN, (left) admires the Alumni Breakfast favors alongside 1999 GSN graduate Kathleen Jackson, MS, RNCS, ANP.



From left to right: Lucie D. Russell Briefcase Award winner Susan M. Balducci with Mary K. Alexander, EdD, RN, CS, ANP, and Russell family members, sister Denise Bachand Prince, parents Mr. and Mrs. Guy Bachand, daughter Courtney Russell and sister Monique Freilich



Co-chair of the Alumni Association
Jill Terrien, MS, ANP

2002 Award Recipients

Chancellor's Award: *Paulette E. Remijan*

Mary K. Alexander Academic Achievement and Leadership Award (Acute):

Nancy M. Carbone

Mary K. Alexander Academic Achievement and Leadership Award (Ambulatory):

Tara Sabrina Roy

Excellence in Clinical Practice Award (Acute):

Mary K. Stanley

Excellence in Clinical Practice Award (Ambulatory):

Michele Grace Gasbarro

Post-master's Excellence in Clinical Practice Award (Acute):

Carla Aresco Hollingsworth

Post-master's Excellence in Clinical Practice Award (Ambulatory):

Colleen Monahan Smith

Lucie D. Russell Briefcase Award: *Susan M. Balducci*

Lucie D. Russell Scholarship Award: *Deborah Brookings*

Lillian R. Goodman Award: *Maureen Wassef*

Mildred M. Connor Award: *Kristal Imperio*

Mary Kinnear Raymond Award: *Julia Ann Lombardi*

focus Graduate School
of Nursing

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Contributors to this issue:

Diana Bergin, MS, ANP
Doreen Harper, PhD, CS, ANP, FAAN
Kathleen Miller, EdD, RN, ACNP
Jill M. Terrien, MS, ANP

Photography:

UMMS Media Services

Graduate School of Nursing
University of Massachusetts Worcester
55 Lake Avenue North
Worcester, MA 01655 • 508-856-5801

Alumni Association
508-856-6622 or jill.terrien@umassmed.edu
508-334-8144 or BerginD@umhmc.org

Sigma Theta Tau
Nancy Kowal at kowaln@umhmc.org

Dean's message

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PhD, will assume oversight of the Ambulatory Nurse Practitioner Specialty; and Assistant Professor Elaine Barber Parker will manage the Advanced Practice Nurse Educator Specialty. We've also had a number of staff join the school in the past six months. Jacqueline Benoit assumed a new role as office coordinator; Carole Skidmore is working with Academic Programs; and Betty Flodin continues as coordinator of Student Affairs. Our newest staff member, Christine Pruitte will work with the dean's office and support faculty in their growing research endeavors. As dean, I am excited about the opportunity to work with this new leadership team and professional staff to advance the GSN's mission. For it is the contributions of our faculty, professional staff, students and alumni that ensure smooth transi-

tions in the growth and development of our school.

Last but not least, I write this message sitting in my office in our new GSN home. Our new location on campus brings together all faculty and staff and provides a fresh look and enhanced space. In celebration, we will host an Open House on October 8, 2002, in our new GSN quarters on the afternoon of the Second Annual Dean's Lecture. Geraldine "Polly" Bednash, PhD, RN, FAAN, executive director of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, will address the GSN community on the "Lessons of Nursing Leadership." Mark your calendar.

I invite you to visit us in our new home, sharing your accomplishments and support for the GSN. You are our partners in progress, helping us achieve our fullest promise and potential. ●

Save the Date

Unless otherwise noted, please contact Elizabeth Flodin at 508-856-5801 for more information on any of these listings.

August 2002

13 Registration Semester 1

September 2002

2 Walk to Cure Cancer
Contact: 508-856-1634 or www.walktocurecancer.com.

10 Dean's Clinical Scholars Colloquium

25 Open House/Information Session
For Prospective Students
5 – 7 p.m.

October 2002

TBA Second Annual GSN
Dean Lecture Series

15-17 Semester II Registration

16 Sigma Theta Tau educational
presentation on STDS
Vinny Testa's Restaurant,
6 – 8:30 p.m.
Contact: Nancy Kowal at
kowaln@umhmc.org

17 Alumni Business Meeting

December 2002

Publication of the next *Focus* on
the GSN newsletter

January 2003

15 Open House/Information Session for
Prospective Students 5 – 7 p.m.

TBA Dean's Clinical Scholars Colloquium

March 2003

19 Open House/Information Session for
Prospective Students 5 – 7 PM

Publication of the next *Focus* on
the GSN newsletter

April 2003

29 Excellence in Nursing Conference

TBA Dean's Clinical Scholars Colloquium

May 2003

5-11 National Nurses Week

30 13th Annual Alumni Breakfast

June 2003

1 Commencement 2003