



## On the Graduate School of Nursing

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

## A message from the Dean

The University of Massachusetts Worcester Graduate School of Nursing inaugurated a new mission and strategic agenda during the past year. The dynamic nature of the clinical environment, the competition for talented nurses, and the long-term predictions of a nursing workforce shortage led the faculty to re-evaluate and revise the vision of the GSN in the fall of 2000. As one of the few nursing schools in New England based at an academic health science center, the GSN pursues opportunities in nursing and interdisciplinary research, service and education amidst a collaborative health professions environment. An invigorated GSN faculty set out to enhance the research and service missions as the basis for excellence in graduate nursing education. Building on the foundation established over the school's 15-year history of preparing nurse leaders, we sought to create an environment to promote success for tomorrow's nurses.

I am proud to share examples of our progress in this issue of *Focus*. Dr. Lois Howland was recently awarded a three-year Clinical Trials: Collaboration for Nursing Research Award from the



Dean Harper discusses the GSN's interdisciplinary vision with incoming students.

National Institute of Nursing Research with Dr. Deborah Storm of the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey. The project, "Quality of Life in Children with HIV," builds upon Dr. Howland's dissertation research. Eighty-five percent of the

second year students in the collaborative PhD program with UMass Amherst have been successful in acquiring grants for dissertation research. Dr. Carol Bova also joins our faculty on a full-time basis after completing her post-doctoral study at Yale University School of Nursing. Dr. Bova is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for her work with women infected with HIV/AIDS.

Our efforts to establish community-based solutions to the nursing workforce crisis are illustrated by the support we receive from the Fairlawn Foundation of Worcester, which has provided a two-year grant to develop the Worcester Nursing Pipeline Consortium (WNPC). The WNPC seeks to recruit nursing students and retain talented nurses to improve the health of the Greater Worcester community by providing resources for partnerships among nursing programs at all levels. Also as a result of this award, the Fairlawn Nurse Scholars Program has been established to provide scholarship awards for master's and doctoral students. Such scholarship programs

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## Reaching out to tomorrow's nurses

A nursing shortage looms in Central Massachusetts and is expected to worsen as the workforce ages and retires. In light of this alarming prospect, the University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Nursing (GSN), in partnership with the nursing programs at Worcester State College (WSC) and Quinsigamond Community College (QCC), has been awarded a \$120,000 Fairlawn Foundation grant to establish the Worcester Nursing Pipeline Collaborative (WNPC).

The mission of the WNPC is to improve health care in the Worcester Community by offering area schools the resources to increase enrollment, retention, graduation and academic advancement of nursing students and practicing nurses. The Fairlawn Foundation will also provide each of the three participating schools with \$40,000 scholarships over the next two years to assist qualified high school students, nursing students and practicing nurses as they advance through the nursing education pipeline to achieve their career goals. These are the first scholarships available to publicly fund-

ed institutions in the Worcester area that target nursing.

The Fairlawn Scholarship recipients will officially be announced in December. WNPC Outreach Coordinator Kristal Imperio, MSN, RN, CANP, CGNP, will guide the Fairlawn Scholars in a variety of recruitment initiatives including forming nursing clubs, sharing information about nursing careers and working with high school students during a week-long summer nursing camp.

GSN Dean and WNPC Principal Investigator Doreen Harper, PhD, CS, ANP, FAAN, describes the partnership with the local community and state college as one grounded in the belief that the pipeline will assist in matching applicants with the schools and programs that best fit their learning styles, finances, immediate goals and desired educational environment. While the Fairlawn Foundation specifically targeted the public nursing programs in Worcester for scholarship funding, the WNPC plans to invite *all* colleges of nursing in Worcester and Central Massachusetts to participate in the consortium in the future.



From left to right: Nursing Program Director for Quinsigamond Community College Allison Shields; GSN Dean Doreen Harper; Nursing Program Director for Worcester State College Helen Rogers, PhD; Kristal Imperio and Janet Fraser Hale

According to WNPC Program Director Janet Fraser Hale PhD, RN, CS, FNP, professor and director of GSN Interdisciplinary and Community Partnerships, it makes sense that WNPC recruitment should include all state and private schools of nursing in the Worcester community, based on the importance of matching schools with students' needs and interests. "Partnerships and collaboration are core beliefs Dean Harper personifies," concluded Dr. Hale. "The WNPC is just one of the many examples of what she values." ●

## Alumni Message



Have you had a chance to visit the Alumni section of the Graduate School of Nursing Web site? If you haven't, simply type [www.umassmed.edu/gsn](http://www.umassmed.edu/gsn). Not only will you have access to nursing links and the latest information from the GSN, but you can also obtain vital alumni information and this newsletter.

Join us in watching the Web site – currently in the early stages of development – evolve and grow and feel free to make suggestions. We believe this is going to be an exciting site where we can meet and communicate, as well as efficiently change or update a name or address. It will also enable all of you to let each other know where you are working and what you are doing within your practices. We may even be able to set up a chat room as a forum to share clinical pearls and "Aha" moments, or establish a bulletin board for open positions. The possibilities are endless and exciting for reconnecting.

We would like to hear from you. What are your interests? What do you need from the site? How can we help you? Jill and I hope that we were able to reach you through our Phone-a-Thon and that we have established a connection with you that provides an important link to our Graduate School and other alumni. We are interested in your work and want to support you in receiving the recognition you deserve for those achievements.

Mark your calendars for May 31, 2002, the date of the Annual Alumni Breakfast. We are working toward offering a CEU program immediately following the breakfast.

A Web site for networking, the alumni breakfast, CEUs ... what more could you ask for?

God Bless,

Jill (Riana)



## Nursing Notes & Accomplishments

- **James A. Fain**, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate professor and director of the Collaborative Doctoral Program at UMass Worcester/Amherst, presented a paper titled, "Overview of Outcomes Research: State of the Art," and participated in a panel discussion at the 61st Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association held in Philadelphia last June. Dr. Fain also was recently granted board certification in Advanced Diabetes Management by the American Nurses Credentialing Center in conjunction with the American Association of Diabetes Educators and appointed to another three-year term as editor-in-chief of the *Diabetes Educator*, an official, peer-reviewed journal of the American Association of Diabetes Educators.

- GSN Dean **Doreen Harper**, PhD, CS, ANP, FAAN, Associate Dean **Mary K. Alexander**, EdD, ANP, and **Kathleen H. Miller**, EdD, ACNP, associate professor, presented "Articulated Models: Building Competency-Based Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Across Settings," at the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties Conference in San Antonio this past April.

- Assistant Professor **Maureen McMullen**, DNSc, RN, ACNP, joined several Medical School family practice and psychiatry faculty in presenting, "Health Status of a Low-Income Vulnerable Population in a Community Health Center," at the Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy Annual Meeting in Atlanta. McMullen also made a presentation titled, "Using the SF-12: Assessing Health Status in a Community Health Center," at the May Society for Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Conference in Colorado with UMMS Family Medicine & Community Health faculty Suzanne Cashman, ScD, and Judith Savageau, MPH.

- **Kathleen H. Miller**, EdD, ACNP, associate professor, recently presented two lectures titled, "An Evidence-Based Approach to the Care of the Complicated Cardiac Surgical Patient," and "Innovative Strategies to Develop a New Role," at the National Teaching Institute and Critical Care Exposition in Anaheim, Calif. In addition, Dr. Miller received a Mentor/Fellow Award from the Nursing Fellows Reporter Program in Critical Care at the conference for a paper she co-authored titled, "Optimizing Outcomes for Cardiac Surgical Patients," which appeared in the May issue of the *American Journal of Nursing*.

- **Elaine Parker**, PhD, RN, CNAA, assistant professor, co-authored an article titled, "Making the Transition to a Hospital-wide Department of Education: Strategies for Success," that was published in the *Journal for Nurses in Staff Development*. This article was also formatted as a CE offering. ●

## Dean's message

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are a first for the GSN. In addition, the Kinnear and Russell families have made donations to support unrestricted scholarships for graduate nursing students in the master's and doctoral program.

Finally, community-based service/learning was implemented across the master's curriculum to develop a population-based approach to health care for communities among all APN programs. Supported in part by the Partners in Caring and Community of the Campus Community Partnerships for Health, this curriculum innovation has taken on a new meaning in the aftermath of Sept. 11. As a result of this initiative, faculty and students have expanded the academic and service mis-

sion to build and sustain partnerships for health with vulnerable communities in the region. Some of the entities where partnerships have been initiated include the Worcester Public Schools, Community Health Link, Epworth Methodist Church Free Clinic, the Family Health Center and the Shrewsbury Senior Citizen Center.

In an environment structured for success, the GSN cultivates nursing leadership and excellence to improve health care for patients and their families. The research and service activities initiated over the past year have moved us closer to this vision, but our work has just begun. Enjoy and take pride in the 2000-2001 GSN achievements featured in this issue of *Focus*. ●

## Save the Date

### December

- 4 First Annual Dean's Lecture Series, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., research laboratory building, Worcester campus  
Contact Jane Faucher at 508-856-5756 for information.

### January 2002

- 9 GSN Open House 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Faculty Conference Room  
Contact Elizabeth Flodin at 508-856-5801 for more information.
- 16 Snow Date —  
GSN Open House
- 22 Registration for GSN Semester III classes  
Contact Elizabeth Flodin at 508-856-5801 for information.

### February 2002

- 12 Sigma Theta Tau-Iota Phi Chapter Dinner Meeting  
Contact Annmarie Samar at 508-839-5660 for time and location.

### March 2002

- 15 Application deadline for GSN Fall 2002 classes  
Contact Elizabeth Flodin at 508-856-5801 for information.

### April 2002

- 7 Sigma Theta Tau Induction Ceremony, Iota Phi Chapter  
Contact Annmarie Samar at 508-839-5660 for time and location.
- 30 3rd Annual Nurse Excellence Conference  
Contact Jill Terrien at 508-856-6622 for time and location.

### May 2002

- 6-10 National Nurses Week
- 31 GSN Annual Alumni Breakfast  
Contact Jill Terrien at 508-856-6622 or Diana Bergin at 508-334-8144 for information.



## Graduate School of Nursing

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