"Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service."

Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito was the keynote speaker at the 8th annual Women’s History Month Celebration on Tuesday, March 29. All members of the UMass Medical School and UMass Memorial Health Care community were invited to attend the event, which shares the national theme “Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service.”

An exemplar of women in public service in numerous prior roles as well as her current one, Polito has worked to promote jobs and economic development, especially encouraging young people to explore careers in science and technology. She has served on the Robert H. Goddard Council on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education, and hosted the annual “Women in Science” Conference in Worcester. A lifelong resident of Shrewsbury, Polito was inaugurated as the 72nd Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in January 2015.

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Jennifer Berryman is Vice Chancellor for Communications at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. In this role, Berryman is responsible for all internal and external communications, including media relations, executive communications, and brand management.

**What was your job prior to UMass Medical School?**
For more than two decades I’ve worked as a broadcast journalist, and was fortunate to spend nearly 19 years at WCVB-TV Channel 5 in Boston, starting out as a newscast producer and working my way up to Executive Editor. That was a wide-ranging and fast-paced position in which I led the investigative, medical and special reporting units of the news department and did a little bit of everything else – from breaking news coverage to union negotiations! Not only does journalism give us a front-row seat to history, but it is an extraordinarily special gift and great responsibility to tell others’ stories.

**Why did you choose UMass Medical School?**
How could I not? The opportunity to contribute all I’ve learned in support of such an important public mission was enormously enticing. The work that happens every day at UMass Medical School -- led by Chancellor Collins, Provost Flotte and the faculty -- is influencing how well we’ll be cared for and what we understand about science and our own health. For the communications team, there’s never a dull moment and no two days are the same.

**Three words to best describe you:** Curious. Committed. Easygoing.

**What advice would you give to a new High School Graduate?**
Trust your gut.

I’m proudest of: My family.

**Words to live by?** Live and let live. Practice compassion. When I was a teenager my dad gave me this little plaque with the quote “Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity” and that sentiment has stayed with me and holds up pretty well. I still have the plaque in my office.

I’m happiest when: I’m somewhere warm, preferably with my toes in the water and something interesting to read.

**Favorite pastimes:** Hikes with our dog. Family ski days. Enjoying a good meal (that I actually had time to cook) with great friends. Binge watching Netflix or actually going to a movie, which doesn’t happen nearly often enough.

**People would be surprised to know:** I had a show on a hometown radio station when I was 14.

If I could do it all over again, I would… wholeheartedly embrace at an earlier age the lesson to trust your instincts and when necessary, respectfully speak up for what you know is right.

**Favorite Memory:** Life is about continually creating new favorites, but in a quiet moment I’m usually drawn back to memories of travels or those sweet, quiet moments with the kids.

**Pet peeves:** An entitled attitude.

**Favorite music, movie or book:** I love getting caught up in a compelling story and have read too many to list! Recent great reads include Zeitoun by Dave Eggers; When Breath Becomes Air, by Paul Kalanithi; and Wonder, by R.J. Palacio, which was a hit with both the adults and the kids each time we read it in my mother/daughter book clubs.

**Best Vacation:** The next one.

**Before I die, I would like to:** Figure out a way to slow down time.
The event was hosted by the Diversity and Inclusion Office and sponsored by the UMMS Professional Women’s Committee, Women’s Faculty Committee and Women’s Leadership Work Group.

The UMMS community was extremely impressed with her message and enthusiasm for the citizens of Massachusetts. She was both engaging and inspirational. The Lt. Governor opened her talk on the subject that inspires her, that of Dorothea Dix, who in the 1800’s reformed the treatment of those considered insane. As a result of Dix’s efforts, funds were set aside for the expansion of the state mental hospital in Worcester.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito engages the UMMS audience with her enthusiasm for issues relating to the opiate crisis and increasing awareness of the importance of women in STEM.

From left to right: Dean Terence Flotte, Mary Lee, Molly Waring, Tammy LeBlanc, Greer Jordan, Christine Pimentel, Luanne Thorndyke, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Chancellor Michael Collins, Deborah Plummer, and Sarah Cutrona
Lt. Governor Polito holds the opiate crisis and the STEM program, which encourages women to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, high on her agenda.

Her interest in science and technology was sparked by Christa McCauliffe, our own native New England heroine, which ultimately led her to serve on the Robert H. Goddard Council on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education.

Lt. Governor Polito’s membership on the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse and on the Joint Committee on Labor and workforce Development, has given her insight into jobs of the future and which field of studies will be in demand. She pointed out that mental health, particularly substance abuse, is an up and coming field to study due to the increase in addiction. Addiction is now an epidemic and will increase the need for counseling which will create these opportunities.

Comments and Tweets:

“She demonstrated the essence of women’s history with a celebration of women who broke barriers long ago and those who are continuing to remove barriers today.”

“She was so genuine and really inspired me.”

“I was not interested in politics, now I want to find a way to give back to my community.”

Enjoyed being in Worcester at @UMassMedical to help celebrate #WomensHistoryMonth. @UMassMedNow

Celebrating women’s history month @UMassMedical where women are making a difference in people's lives –

Thank you #UMassMed for being the first to incorporate #opioid prescript & treatment into #meded. - @MassLtGov
Donated: suits, dresses, skirts, blouses, handbags, jewelry, shoes and boots.

At $5.00 per item, sales for the event totaled $1,620. Add on to that a generous donation of $180 - we raised $1,800 for Dress for Success (DFS) of Worcester.

The PWC would like to thank all who contributed, especially Francesca D’Angelo and the many volunteers who made this a successful event.

We look forward to our next DFS event in the spring of 2017.
The mission for Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

We are an ever-expanding network of affiliates who work together with referral agencies, volunteers and companies across the world to make a big impact in women’s lives. By supporting each other, we can reach a greater number of women and make our vision a reality.

For more information about DFS call Beth Butler at 508-796-5660.*
An Evening of Zentangle was held on March 30th. All that attended let their inner talents come out and let their mind unwind.
Upcoming Events 2016 - 2017

Interview Skills and LinkedIn
Resume Writing
Social Media Platforms – Fall
Mentor/Mentee Program
Dress for Success – Main Campus in the Spring
Joint event with CWM CDC (Cultural Diversity Committee)
Speaker to discuss the Value of Women Supporting Women

Watch for information on Dates and Times

Bookshelf
The Professional Women’s Committee (PWC) has purchased a number of books available for borrowing from the Lamar Soutter Library. For a complete list of publications, visit the PWC website.

Monthly Meetings
The committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 3PM. Contact Holly Brown via email or by phone at (508) 856-3970 for more information.

Website
http://www.umassmed.edu/dio/engagement/committee-on-equal-opportunity-and-diversity/professional-womens-committee/

Generating Momentum is published 3 times a year
Your input on the newsletter is always welcome, so let us hear from you. Contribute an idea, write an article, or attend the next newsletter planning meeting. Send an email to the newsletter mailbox to let us know how you want to contribute.

To view copies of previous newsletters, please visit the Professional Women’s Committee website or contact the newsletter.

Suggestions? Comments? Email us!
Newsletter mailbox | PWCNewsletter@umassmed.edu