



Alumni Profile | Ellen Grady Venditti, MS, RN, CPHRM, FASHRM



Program: Nursing Management Year of Graduation: 1996

From an early age, Ellen Grady Venditti, MS '96, RN, CPHRM, FASHRM, aspired to a career in nursing and her enthusiasm for the profession led her to roles as a surgical nurse and a nurse supervisor. Always looking for ways to advance, yet sometimes finding it challenging to do so, she found that her GSN experience played a pivotal role in her ability to influence change in her career, with colleagues and supervisors, and in her personal life.

"I remember that working on my

master's was really hard, but it gave me confidence I had lacked," said Venditti, senior director of risk management for UMass Memorial Health Care, who entered the GSN nearly 20 years after completing her nursing education in a hospital program and earning a bachelor's degree. "Knowing that I can influence change has made a big difference in my career."

This epiphany led her to pursue a role in the field of risk management after earning her MS in nursing management. "I came into the field when the patient safety movement was gaining momentum and that really supported my holistic approach to risk management," she said. "If we are keeping the patients safe, first and foremost, we are safe from an enterprise perspective. Protect the patients and you protect everyone around them as well."

Venditti was recently named a fellow of the American Society of Healthcare Risk Management, recognizing her contributions to the field and her leadership. Her work, which focuses on

basic safety mechanisms that have a substantial impact on high-risk procedures, remains influenced by the nursing theorists she studied at the GSN and who created new ways to nurse and manage the variables of the job.

Venditti and UMass Memorial's risk management team are collaborating with the School of Medicine to develop simulation scenarios, which will serve to help further reduce the occurrence of adverse events and support providers when communicating about them to patients and families.

"Anything that we can do to automate and simplify procedures will leave less room for ambiguity and less chance for error," she said. ■

Anyone with news to share is encouraged to send their class notes to alumni@umassmed.edu. You may also submit notes by logging in to the Alumni Community website at <http://alumni.umassmed.edu> and clicking on "Class Notes" under the Alumni Network heading.

The Vibe@

Summer 2013

The Graduate School of Nursing

Miller named fellow of the American Academy of Nursing

KATHLEEN MILLER, EdD, associate dean for clinical scholarship, diversity and evaluation in the GSN, received one of the nursing profession's highest honors when she was inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) during the Academy's 39th Annual Meeting and Conference in Washington, DC. Comprising 1,800 of the nation's top nurse researchers, policy makers, scholars, executives, educators and practitioners, the AAN inducted 176 new fellows in 2012, the largest class yet. Dr. Miller, who is also professor of nursing and medicine, has the distinction of being the first nursing faculty member from UMass Medical School to receive this honor during her tenure at the GSN.

"I am honored to be recognized by my professional nursing colleagues for my work at the GSN in geriatric education, research and practice," Miller said. "I look forward to making continuing contributions to improve health care outcomes for older adults."

Selection criteria for the Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing designation include evidence of significant

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▲ Dawn Carpenter, PhD (left) and Laura Maguire, MS

Carpenter and Maguire honored for nursing scholarship

GSN faculty member Dawn Carpenter, DNP '10, and PhD in nursing candidate Laura Maguire, MS, were honored for advanced practice nursing scholarship at national and regional nursing education conferences recently.

Dr. Carpenter, assistant professor of nursing, received the 2013 National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Poster Presentation Award at the 39th Annual NONPF Conference for her poster presentation, "Simulation to Facilitate Interprofessional Education." The project used human patient simulation with acute care scenarios in which interprofessional health care professionals, including

nurses, pharmacists, respiratory therapists and nurse educators, focused on teamwork and collaboration.

Maguire received the first place Doctoral Student Nursing Scientist Award at the Annual Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) Conference for her early doctoral poster, "Adapting A Parent Diabetes Education Intervention For Grandparents Using Focus Group Data." The poster presented findings of a focus group conducted with individuals caring for grandchildren with type 1 diabetes, which was Maguire's preliminary dissertation research with faculty mentor Susan Sullivan-Bolyai, PhD. ■

SUPPORTING THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING

Alumni support is essential to the GSN student experience and leads directly to exceptional patient care in Massachusetts and beyond. With less than 4 percent of UMass Medical School's budget coming from state funds, philanthropic contributions are vital.

Donations to the GSN Annual Fund support faculty and research programs, enhancing the GSN's ability to provide leadership in education, research and service by developing programs of national distinction. Gifts to the Scholarship Fund support the next generation of nurse leaders, educators and advanced practice nurses as they pursue their graduate degrees. Contributions to the Lillian R. Goodman Lectureship Fund enrich professional development of nursing students and alumni by supporting lectures by leading experts in the field.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes an impact. Please consider joining your friends and fellow GSN alumni by supporting the Alumni Annual Fund Campaign.

Gifts can be made online (w3.umassmed.edu/OnlineDonation) **or by calling 508-856-5615.** Contributions can also be mailed to the **UMass Medical School Development Office, 333 South Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.** ■



◀ Meredith Walsh, MS, RN (left) and Carol Bova, PhD, RN, ANP (inset).

RN, ANP, received the Faculty Community Engagement Award for her community-based research activities and clinical practice with Worcester patients infected with HIV. Meredith Walsh, MS, RN, who graduated in May, was honored for founding the Worcester Refugee Assistance Project (WRAP) for refugees from Burma.



For more than two decades, Dr. Bova, who in 2003 became the first GSN recipient of the University of Massachusetts President's Public Service Award, has worked to improve community-based clinical care and quality of life for one of Worcester's most vulnerable populations. Walsh co-founded WRAP and in 2009 received support through a UMMS Learn and Serve grant, which facilitates service and service-learning opportunities for UMass students. Since then, WRAP has become an invaluable resource to improve health and access to care for the community of refugees from Burma living in Worcester. ■

GSN faculty and graduate receive Community Engagement Awards

The Graduate School of Nursing took the spotlight on behalf of UMass Medical School when the Colleges of Worcester Consortium (COWC) recognized and celebrated the outstanding community engagement of faculty and students at its member institutions in March. Associate Professor of Nursing Carol Bova, PhD,

UMASS WORCESTER CELEBRATES 40TH GRADUATION

The University of Massachusetts Worcester awarded 211 degrees, including two honorary degrees, at its 40th Commencement exercises on Sunday, June 2. Honorary degrees were presented to cardiologist James Dalen, MD, MPH, a founding UMass Worcester faculty member and champion of integrated medicine, and former MIT president Susan Hockfield, PhD, the first life-scientist to lead the prestigious institution. UMW awarded 117 doctor of medicine degrees; 32 doctor of philosophy degrees in the biomedical sciences; one master of science in clinical investigation degree; five MD/PhDs; and, in nursing, 49 master of science degrees, two post-masters certificates, one PhD and two doctor of nursing practice degrees. ■

Complete coverage of Commencement 2013 activities, including stories, slideshows and videos, can be found online at www.umassmed.edu/news/commencement/2013.



Nursing Graduation Breakfast celebrates past and propels future

THE ANNUAL GSN Alumni Association Graduation Breakfast was a reunion and a sendoff at which former students wished their successors well as they become newly minted advanced practice nurses, educators and leaders. The breakfast took place in the Albert Sherman Center on Friday, May 31, ahead of UMass Worcester's 40th Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, June 2.

A tribute to dean emeritus Lillian Goodman, EdD, (pictured above) in honor of her 90th birthday was followed by award presentations and announcement of the 2013 graduates. New this year in a growing list of scholarships for exceptional students is the Suzanne T. Sullivan Scholarship, donated by her family in honor of the late GSN alum whose legacy is her passion for providing

compassionate, home-based care at the end of life.

GSN Dean Paulette Seymour-Route, and Jill Terrien, PhD '07, assistant professor and director of nurse practitioner specialties, told graduates that opportunities abound as they start their careers.

"Our graduates will have many opportunities," said Dr. Seymour-Route. "We wish them well."

In addition to the student awards, five preceptors were recognized with GSN Community Faculty Awards and one with the UMass Memorial Medical Center Outstanding Preceptor in Critical Care Award.

A video overview and a slideshow of the event are available online at: bit.ly/11BKD2U. ■

Miller named fellow...

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contributions to nursing and health care; selection is based, in part, on the extent to which nominees' nursing careers have influenced health policies and the health and well-being of all.

Miller, a pioneer in developing curricula to prepare geriatric advanced practice nurses in primary and acute care, has overseen foundation and federally funded geriatric nursing initiatives of the GSN, including scholarships and traineeships for students. Additionally, she was recently awarded a third cycle of funding for the education of nursing and interprofessional providers caring for older adults in federally qualified health centers, correctional health settings and facilities serving medically underserved populations. Co-principal investigator of the Rosalie Wolf Geriatric Interdisciplinary Health Care Research Center at UMMS, Miller has published extensively on related topics, including her own research on the recovery of older adults after coronary artery bypass surgery, and maintains a clinical practice as a nurse practitioner caring for older adults.

"Dr. Miller has focused much of her career on improving the health of older adults through her clinical practice and scholarship. As an educator and successful grant writer, she is preparing future advanced practice nurses to do the same within our discipline and as part of interprofessional teams," said GSN Dean Paulette Seymour-Route. "We are very proud of her and are delighted that she has achieved this national distinction." ■



Albert Sherman Center at UMMS opens

Gov. Deval Patrick headlined a host of elected officials and other dignitaries, including Albert "Albie" Sherman, to mark the official opening of the Albert Sherman Center on Wednesday, Jan. 30. An essential element of the governor's Life Sciences Initiative, the Sherman Center is an interdisciplinary, state-of-the-art research and education facility designed to maximize interaction and collaboration among researchers, educators and learners to encourage innovation and learning across disciplines.

For more information, visit www.umassmed.edu/shermancenter.

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