

The Vibe @

December 2010

The Graduate School of Nursing

Happy Holidays! As we look toward a new year of opportunities, GSN students, faculty and alumni continue to enrich our program and enhance the depth of nursing education and leadership happening every day at UMass Medical School.

In this issue of *The Vibe*, we celebrate the GSN's unparalleled growth and successes in its first 25 years, which was detailed at a recent forum featuring our current and former leadership. And you will meet a fellow alumna who is extending her education as both an advanced practitioner and as faculty and mentor to GSN students, and read about first-year GEP students' pride experienced in their pinning ceremony, as well as the amazing success of our GEP graduates.

Be sure to check out event listings and opportunities for you to stay connected with your fellow alumni. If you have news you'd like to share or have suggestions for future issues of *The Vibe*, drop us a note at alumni@umassmed.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-856-1593. We look forward to hearing from you!

Wishing you and your family a festive holiday season and a healthy New Year,

Chair, Jill Terrien, MS '97, PhD '07
Alumni Association



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTINE REINHARD, OFFICE OF MEDICAL HISTORY AND ARCHIVES, LAMAR SOUTTER LIBRARY

Focus Forward: Nursing Pioneers Celebrate GSN's First 25 Years

THINK CRITICALLY. Create opportunities. Advance nursing education and research. GSN's leaders and key contributors reflected on the school's founding and exponential growth to national prestige in just 25 years, during an anniversary celebration and panel discussion, "Look How Far We've Come (and How We Got Started)," held October 19.

In its short twenty-five years, the Graduate School of Nursing has accomplished more than many schools accomplish in twice that time. Panelists detailed the

▲ Panel participants (l to r) Kathleen Dirschel, PhD; Sue Roberts, DNS; Karen Coteleso, MS, APRN '87; Lillian Goodman, EdD; and Mary K. Alexander, EdD, discuss the founding and growth of GSN. Not shown are Gail Frieswick, EdD, and Paulette Seymour-Route, PhD, RN.

school's initial vision and growth, reflecting on the challenges and accomplishments while sharing personal, unique perspectives in helping to shape what has become a resource in nursing excellence for all of Massachusetts. The GSN's first dean upon its 1985 establishment, Dr. Kathleen Dirschel, worked to build the school from the ground up—everything from developing the curriculum, to recruiting an entirely doctorally prepared faculty, establishing admission standards

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Nursing Newcomers Proudly Experience Pinning; GEP Students Soar

FOR THE 29 MEMBERS of GSN's Graduate Entry Pathway (GEP) Class of 2012, their Pinning Ceremony held September 20 was a personal milestone, proudly affirming their stepping into a new profession rich with time-honored traditions and commitment to service. This class represents a diverse group of adult learners, including seven men, ranging in age from their 20s to 50s, all with bachelor's degrees in fields other than nursing. For GEP students, this ceremony marks the completion of the program's first year of study,



passage of the national exam that will license them as registered nurses and the transition into the master's level course of study. The students sealed their accomplishments and evolution as compassionate, expert nurses by reciting the program's pledge, committing themselves to provide care when needed, elevating the standards of the nursing profession and embodying the integrity expected by their peers and patients. "The accelerated GEP model meets patient and health care needs with an exciting, innovative and effective approach," said Eileen Terrill, PhD, assistant professor of nursing and director of the GEP

► Dean Paulette Seymour-Route, PhD, RN, pins members of the Graduate Entry Pathway Class of 2012.

program. "GEP students bring their diverse experience, varied education backgrounds and maturity to the table."

Most recently, 100% of the GEP students who qualified to take the National Council Licensure Examination in fall 2010 passed the exam to become registered nurses in the state of Massachusetts. Congratulations to our newly licensed nurses and to the GSN faculty for their commitment to our students! ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

8th Excellence in Nursing Conference Quality and Safety in Patient Care: Implications on Research, Education and Practice

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011
8:30-3:30 pm

JUNE

Alumni Association Graduation Breakfast

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011

38th Commencement Ceremony

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2011
12 noon

Campus Green, UMass Medical School

For more information about these events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-856-1593, email alumni@umassmed.edu or visit www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical.

Nursing Pioneers Celebrate *Continued from page 1*

and finding space. Today GSN boasts a track record of excellence and accredited programs built on the foundation of the vision crystallized by leaders, including former deans Dr. Dirschel, Dr. Lillian Goodman and Dr. Doreen Harper, as well as current dean Dr. Paulette Seymour-Route.

In addition to excellence in nursing education and research, GSN has built a reputation as a tool for building meaningful partnerships to enhance the nursing profession and participate fully in health care systems. Today, the prestigious program is well positioned for

health care reform and the future of nursing. Using the words of Florence Nightingale, Dr. Seymour-Route concluded the discussion: "Unless we are making progress in our nursing every year, every month, every week, take my word for it, we are going back." The school has shaped nurses and nursing practices in Central Massachusetts and across the region in a significant and strategic way. The next 25 years will surely be filled with many more innovations and initiatives in response to dynamic changes in the health care industry and the changing role of nurses. ■

HRSA Funds Bolster Specialties with Shortage of NP Providers

GSN STUDENTS COMMITTED to working in medically underserved urban and rural communities may be entering the primary care workforce sooner, thanks to a recent \$760,000 grant from the Health Services Resource Administration (HRSA). The grant funds GSN's Adult Gerontology Primary Care and Family Practice Care Nurse Practitioner students for one to two years. In some cases, students can accelerate from part-to full-time study so that they can enter the workforce

as advanced practice nurses sooner and improve patient care. "Our focus will be on funding those students who are economically or educationally disadvantaged, from underrepresented groups in health care," said Kathleen Miller, EdD, GSN, associate dean for advanced practice programs. With the critical need to expand the primary care workforce under national health care reform, this grant gives GSN students an opportunity to train for and enter the field faster. ■



THE POWER OF PARTICIPATION

Leaders, educators, caregivers, collaborators, discoverers, mentors...you are the alumni of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. From past to present and future, annual giving links you together. When you participate, you join forces to support world-class education for those following in your footsteps.

Alumni support is critical to enhancing the student experience and leads directly to exceptional patient care and research. Participation is on the rise and we hope you partner with us on a continued trajectory of success. Just three years ago, alumni participation was at 6% and last year alumni participation reached 16%. We strive for consistent growth on an annual basis. Help us keep the momentum going. It is through the power of participation that you demonstrate that making a difference starts with you—our alumni.

Participate. Every gift has impact. Make a difference.

Leave a Legacy to UMass Medical School....

The Heritage Society recognizes donors who support UMass Medical School through bequests, life-income gifts, retirement plans, life insurance policies and other estate intentions. Please let us know if you have included UMass Medical School in your estate plans. We would like to welcome you as a member of our Heritage Society and thank you for your support.

You may make an online gift at <http://w3.umassmed.edu/OnlineDonation> or send your contribution to UMass Medical School Development Office, 333 South Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.



Team Raises Cancer Research Funds

Dean Paulette Seymour-Route, PhD, RN (at left) led GSN's enthusiastic team of students, faculty, staff and friends in the annual Walk to Cure Cancer on Sept. 26. The walk has become the largest single-day fundraising event in Central Massachusetts. Over 12 years, the event has raised more than \$6 million for lifesaving cancer research and patient care at the UMass Memorial Cancer Center of Excellence. ■



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Office of Alumni and Parent Relations
Diana Tsotsis, Director
333 South Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
alumni@umassmed.edu
508-856-1593
www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical

To submit information to be
considered for this newsletter, send
an e-mail to alumni@umassmed.edu.

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Alumni Profile | Dawn Carpenter, DNP, ACNP-BC



Program: DNP

Year of Graduation: 2010

For Dawn Carpenter, DNP, ACNP-BC, completing her doctorate in nursing practice was just the beginning of her journey—to advancing patient care and helping to keep the GSN on the cutting edge of national nursing trends.

As a manager and nursing supervisor at

Rhode Island Hospital, Dr. Carpenter yearned to return to clinical care and completed a post-master's certificate through the GSN at UMass Worcester in 2003, which led her to work in the surgical ICU at UMass Memorial Health Care. "It was clear from the very first phone conversations I had with people at UMass that it was a natural fit for me," she recalls. "There is a palpable difference from other programs. People are approachable, available for questions, and they went above and beyond to help me succeed."

The collegial, supportive environment Dr. Carpenter originally discovered at the GSN led to her decision to return to the program to pursue a doctoral degree. Dr. Carpenter is one of the first four nurses to earn a DNP through GSN's program and is now committed to nursing education as well as clinical care. Shortly after being awarded her doctorate in spring 2010, Dr. Carpenter assumed her faculty position as

assistant professor and coordinator in the acute care NP tract, which she has added to her full-time position as critical care nurse practitioner in UMass Memorial Health Care's surgical ICU.

Today Dr. Carpenter is committed to GSN and the importance of the GSN Alumni Fund. "It keeps us on the cutting edge of where advanced practice is going," she says. "GSN is aligned where nursing is going nationally, and we're at the leading edge. There is a clear methodology to building programs in a sound and optimal way, doing so in the most cost-conscious way by seeking grants to help make nursing education affordable for everyone." ■

Anyone with news to share is encouraged to send their class notes to alumni@umassmed.edu. You may also submit notes by visiting the UMass Alumni Online Community at www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical and click on "Class Notes."