# NURSING NEWS

FALL 2008

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND



Dean Janet D. Allan

Welcome! You were probably expecting the fall 2008 issue of our award-winning magazine *University of Maryland NURSING* in your mailbox. Instead, I'd like to welcome you to the School of Nursing's *NURSING NEWS*.

But don't get too comfortable with this abbreviated format because, as attractive as our glossy little newsletter may be, it is only a temporary fix while we give the "real" magazine a face-lift (even publications cannot escape the ravages of age).

In a recent survey of our readers, you told us that you'd like to see a fresh look. This opinion was echoed in a review of our benchmark publications conducted by our Communications Advisory Committee. The current version of *NURSING* magazine has served us well, and apart from a name change and some minor modifications, it has essentially retained its original form for nearly a decade. But it is time to bid it farewell.

To coincide with the 120th anniversary of the School of Nursing's founding in 1889, we will roll out a new magazine that informs, engages, inspires, and connects with all of you—alumni, donors, friends of the School, and other avid readers.

In the meantime, we hope you'll greet our newsletter with the same loyalty and enthusiasm that you have shown *University of Maryland NURSING*. And be on the lookout for a newly designed version of the magazine in early 2009.

Janet D. Allan, PhD, RN, FAAN Dean and Professor

# Who Will Care for Us as We Get Older?

Once again, the School of Nursing is leading the way in nursing education by being the first nursing school in the state of Maryland to offer a combined adult and gerontological nurse practitioner (ANP-GNP) master's program. This nursing specialty program, which addresses current demographic trends by preparing more advanced-practice nurses with specialized knowledge

in the care of older adults across multiple health care settings, was developed in response to a recommendation by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

The new program, offered for the first time this fall, comes as the aging population in the U.S. is rapidly increasing. According to the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the



number of Americans 85 and older is expected to increase by 40 percent between now and 2015, and the number of people 65 and older will double to 71.5 million by 2026.

"People are living longer and patients have more complex health issues than those of the past," says Jane Kapustin, PhD, RN, CRNP, co-director of the ANP-GNP program and assistant dean for graduate studies at the School of Nursing. "Combining these

Continued on page 2

# Scholarship Programs Address Nurse Shortage

### Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, CareFirst Provide Funds

The School of Nursing is among the first in the U.S. to receive funding from the New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The program is aimed at strengthening the nation's pipeline of new nurses by providing scholarships to students enrolling in fast track or accelerated nursing degree programs. These programs offer the most efficient route to licensure as a registered nurse for those who have already completed a bachelor's or graduate degree in a discipline other than nursing.

"Bringing more nurses into the profession at the baccalaureate and master's degree levels will help decrease both the nurse and nursing faculty shortages," says Gail Schoen Lemaire, PhD, PMH/CNS, BC, associate professor and co-director of the School of Nursing's Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) program.

The School was awarded \$80,000 for eight \$10,000 scholarships for students admitted to the CNL program for the spring 2009 semester. The 16- to 23-month CNL program allows students with at least a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing discipline to earn a master's degree and be eligible to take the examination for licensure as a registered nurse. Award preference is given to students from groups that are under-represented in nursing or who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Dr. Robin Newhouse (right) congratulates Marian Grant

Also, for the second consecutive year, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield has awarded the School of Nursing a ProjectRN Scholarship to assist a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. A collaborative effort

between CareFirst and the School, ProjectRN helps tackle Maryland's shortage of nurses by addressing the lack of nursing faculty. The scholarship program provides financial support to help students obtain a graduate degree in nursing and qualify for teaching within two years.

This year's ProjectRN scholarship recipient, Marian Grant, MSN, will receive \$80,000 over two years—a \$40,000 stipend each year-for tuition, fees, books, and living expenses. Like all funded scholars in the program, Grant will be required to commit



to four years of full-time employment as a faculty member in a

nursing education program in Maryland, Washington, D.C., or Northern Virginia—the region in which CareFirst has committed \$1 million to ProjectRN.

Grant, for whom nursing is a second career, worked as an advertising executive for more than 20 years before entering the nursing profession. "This scholarship will allow me to pursue a goal I have had as a nurse: to become a nurse educator so I can teach people about palliative care," she says.

"Nursing faculty members are in great demand in colleges and universities as the nurse shortage worsens," says Robin Newhouse, PhD, RN, CNAA, CNOR, associate professor and director of the DNP program. "Marian Grant is a nurse practitioner with expertise in palliative care. As a faculty member, she will have a significant impact on students at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Scholarship opportunities such as ProjectRN are exactly what DNP students need to help close the gap creating the nursing faculty shortage."

### Who Will Care for Us as We Get Older?

Continued from page 1

nursing specialty programs helps equip students with the necessary skills to care for our aging population."

The program also expands the scope of practice for gerontological nurse practitioners, who traditionally could only care for people over the age of 55. Students graduating from this new program will be able to provide care for patients ages 16 and up.

"Maryland's nationally ranked nursing program offers the challenging and comprehensive academic foundation I wanted, as well as a diversity of clinical experiences that will provide a solid base from which I can grow my practice and explore the opportunities unfolding for nurse practitioners," says Ginny Kolb Jones, MSN, RN, CMSRN, a student in the ANP-GNP program. "At a time when lack of accessible and affordable health care compromises the welfare of so many people, the nurse practitioner role has never been more crucial. I look forward to joining other NPs as we move toward improved health care options for all."



The Universities at Shady Grove

# BSN Program Expands at Shady Grove Campus

In response to the increasing demand for highly skilled nurses in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C., region, the School of Nursing expanded its Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville, Md., this fall.

The School has seen steady growth in enrollment at Shady Grove since it started offering courses there in 2000. Those initial programs—the complete undergraduate program, the RN to BSN program, and a variety of graduate courses—are now ready for further development, according to Karen Clark, PhD, RN, CCRN, interim assistant dean for the Shady Grove nursing program. The development includes increasing BSN enrollment, registering BSN students in both the fall and spring semesters, offering RNs the opportunity to obtain a BSN degree, making key graduate courses available on a consistent basis, and interviewing faculty for didactic and clinical courses.

"This commitment will provide the mechanism we need to double our current enrollment," Clark says.

Janet D. Allan, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the School of Nursing, has worked hard to persuade Maryland lawmakers that investing in nursing education is the most effective way to alleviate the state's increasingly critical nurse shortage, which is driven by a lack of faculty. Gov. Martin O'Malley allocated \$3.4 million in the 2009 budget for the School of Nursing to expand undergraduate student enrollment at Shady Grove and to add more graduate nursing student slots at the School's Baltimore location.

# Why Do Some People Abuse Drugs? Professor Receives Grant to Find Out

Substance abuse can have devastating consequences for individuals, families, and society. Yet despite years of research on chemical addiction, a central question remains: Why do some people abuse drugs and alcohol while others do not? Lynn Oswald, PhD, RN, an assistant professor in the Department of Family and Commu-



nity Health, has received a \$3 million, five-year grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to study brain mechanisms that may help provide answers.

"Groundbreaking discoveries in neuroscience over the past decade have led to growing awareness that variations in brain function may help to explain differences in risks for a number of psychiatric disorders," says Oswald. "We now know that, like with other organs in our bodies, our brain function can be affected by both our genes and our life experiences. However, our understanding of these processes is still limited and human studies are lacking."



Dr. Lynn Oswald

Oswald and her collaborators from the School of Nursing, the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine will use psychological and behavioral assessments, as well as sophisticated brain imaging, to study whether factors such as chronic stress affect brain dopamine systems in ways that could increase a person's risk for drug abuse.

### Sherman Named Assistant Dean for Research



Dr. Deborah Sherman

Deborah Sherman, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, ACHPN, FAAN, has been named assistant dean for research and professor in the Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health. In her role as assistant dean, Sherman chairs the School of Nursing's Research Council, mentors research-intensive faculty, and works with other junior faculty on their research.

Sherman is certified as an adult nurse practitioner and as an advanced certified hospice and palliative care nurse. Her research interests focus on palliative care for patients with advanced cancer and HIV/ AIDS and their caregivers, as well as breast cancer patients and their partners.

"I believe that research is essential to the development of nursing knowledge, as it is the link between theory and evidence-based practice," says Sherman. "As the assistant dean for research, I hope to support a culture of scholarship in which nursing faculty, students, and interdisciplinary colleagues across the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus engage in a creative synergy to advance research and disseminate knowledge through scholarly publications and presentations."

Sherman was previously an associate professor at New York University College of Nursing, with a joint appointment as co-director of a palliative care interprofessional fellowship program at the Bronx VA Medical Center. She has also recently served as a palliative care nurse practitioner and educator at the Regional Hospice of Western Connecticut. She has a PhD from New York University, an MS from Pace University, and postdoctoral training in AIDS and palliative care.



Jeanne Ascosi Dorsey, BSN '74

# Fostering the Nursing Profession Through Philanthropy

Jeanne Ascosi Dorsey, BSN '74, is an alumna who realizes the importance of giving back. After many years of making annual contribu-

tions to the School of Nursing, Dorsey has pledged \$10,000 to the School's Capital Campaign to be paid over five years.

"I believe in formal education for nurses," says Dorsey, "and part of being a professional is fostering your profession."

Funds from the first year of this commitment will buy several specially equipped Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) for graduate students. Subsequent payments will be split equally between scholarship and faculty support.

"From my experience working in information systems, I know the value of PDAs for enhancing practice," says Dorsey.

"Also, as a student I was dependent on scholarships, so I feel a responsibility to give that opportunity to others. I feel good knowing that my contributions can support a specific need at the School."

After graduating from the School of Nursing, Dorsey became a clinical nurse and a nurse educator for the federal government. She received a master's degree in clinical nursing from Catholic University in 1983 and began working with hospital information systems for the U.S. Army. She went on to work for the Army surgeon general in information management, providing consulting and strategy support for battlefield medical information systems. Dorsey retired in 2007.

When asked why she is so philanthropic to the School of Nursing, Dorsey says, "My nursing education provided me with theoretical frameworks and skills that served me well throughout my diverse career. After graduation, I felt so much more prepared than most of my peers, and I am thankful to the School for providing me with leadership and management skills that proved invaluable."



# Mother, Teacher, Graduate, Nurse— Gourley Proves Anything Is Possible

While a clinical instructor at the School of Nursing, Bridgitte Gourley, DNP '08, MSN, CRNP, pursued her goal of obtaining a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree with a vengeance. Last spring, while also a nurse practitioner aboard the Governor's Wellmobile, and while pregnant with twins, Gourley completed the DNP program, graduating four days before delivering her first children: daughter Audrey

and son Declan. Obtaining the degree was not an easy feat, doing it all with little help—her husband was away, serving in the military in Afghanistan.

Some may call her an overachiever or a Super Mom, but Gourley says the work was in part a coping mechanism.

"Military wives must stay busy to avoid constantly worrying," she says. "I had a goal in mind, and I was determined to achieve that goal."

Gourley has been a member of the School's faculty since 2000, teaching undergraduate students during their community health rotations, and midwifery and nurse practitioner students on the Wellmobile. When she returned to the classroom this fall, her position changed to a more traditional faculty role as an assistant professor lecturing in the family nurse practitioner

"It is important for me to continue in clinical practice so I can share the experiences with students," says Gourley. "It is rewarding to observe the students and the patients because both benefit from the interaction."

As for her new role as a mother of twins, Gourley says, "I feel incredibly lucky to have two healthy babies. Sure, they keep me busy, and sleep is optional, but I am enjoying each moment. Working night shift in the ER was good preparation for the first few months of motherhood!"

### Soeken Awarded Emeritus Status

Karen Soeken, PhD, RN, has been awarded the rank of professor emeritus at the School of Nursing. She is the ninth faculty member from the School to obtain emeritus status.

Soeken served on the School's faculty for 27 years before retiring in 2006 as a tenured professor. She produced more than 100 publications and was a statistician and statistical consultant on numerous research grants. She also served on a variety of School and campus committees and task forces.

While her scholarly accomplishments were many, it was Soeken's teaching skills and her work with graduate and doctoral students that best defined her contributions to the School and the nursing profession. She served on or chaired more than 100 master's thesis committees and more than 80 doctoral dissertation committees.

"Dr. Soeken impacted an entire generation of nursing researchers, administrators, and scholars, and helped mold the School's doctoral program from its inception," says Janet D. Allan, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the School of Nursing. Upon her retirement, Soeken's former doctoral

students funded an award in her



Dean Janet D. Allan and Dr. Karen Soeken

honor—the Karen Soeken Research Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation—that is being presented annually during the School of Nursing's convocation ceremony.

"It is truly an honor to be awarded emeritus status, especially since I feel that I received more from my interactions with faculty and students than I was able to give," says Soeken. "To be a part of the School of Nursing community was indeed a blessing in my life."



Laurette Hankins Associate Dean for Development and Alumni Relations



Kathleen Hider Director of Development and Alumni Relations



Stacey Conrad Assistant Director of Development



Michelle Healy Associate Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund

## Getting to Know You

With the recent hire of Michelle Healy as associate director of alumni relations and annual fund, the School of Nursing's entire development and alumni team is now on board. The four members of the senior staff—Laurette Hankins, associate dean for development and alumni relations; Kathleen Hider, director of development and alumni relations; Michelle Healy; and Stacey Conrad, assistant director of development—look forward to getting out and meeting many of our alumni in the months and years to come. Please feel free to contact them at 410-706-7640.

Michelle Healy, MS, has eight years of experience in the area of development. She most recently served as assistant director of constituent relations at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. In addition to relationship building with faculty, students, and parents for the School of Medicine, Healy managed the Medical Family Annual Fund. Prior to working at the School of Medicine, she managed campuswide events—including commencement ceremonies, convocation, and the president's annual retreat—for the Office of Institutional Advancement at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Before working at UMBC, Healy was a special events professional for nine years, managing national conferences and trade shows.

# Giving Back by Bringing History Alive



Docents Theresa Maskell, DIN '50, and Joan Hessey, DIN '50, wait to greet visitors in their "Flossie" nursing caps.

If you walk by the School of Nursing's Living History Museum around lunchtime, you may notice a pair of women seated in front of the gallery. And if you stop to chat with them, you will find out that they hold a wealth of information about how the School used to be in "their day." You might hear what it was like to be part of the very first "Heart Team" with R Adams Cowley, MD. Or perhaps you will be told about the challenges faced by the School's first African-American student. You might even find out that in many ways, learning to be a nurse back then wasn't very different from today.

These ladies are the museum docents, a team of 21 alumnae who volunteer their time to share the history of the School of Nursing. They are diploma, bachelor's, and master's graduates from many classes—ranging from 1945 to 1980—and some are former faculty members.

"Being a docent is not just about sharing their own personal experiences with others, but it is also an opportunity for the volunteers to learn more about nursing today, connect with a younger generation of nurses, and reminisce with old friends," says Jennifer Ruffner, MA, museum curator. "The docents say that they often learn as much as they teach."

So the next time you visit the School of Nursing, take a few moments to stop and chat with the Living History Museum docents—and discover a piece of your heritage. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Wednesday during the academic semesters, and by arrangement at other times. If you want to visit or would like to become a museum docent, contact Ruffner at 410-706-2822 or ruffner@son.umaryland.edu.

### Class Notes

Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing graduate Sherry D. Ferki, RN, BSN '71, MSN, who retired from the Army Nurse Corps and then worked in pediatric hospice for 12 years, has since worked with four nursing programs and schools, delivering pediatric lectures and clinicals. In addition to teaching, she has reviewed numerous pediatric textbooks and authored the 13 pediatric care plans in the All-in-One Care Planning Resource.

Sally Brown, BSN '74, and Sue Markus, BSN '74, MS '06, coauthored the chapter "Introduction to Legal and Regulatory Issues" in the second edition of the Manual for Clinical Trials Nursing, published by the Oncology Nursing Society in April.

Gail Paige (Bramble) Sallett, BSN '74, MS '79, took early retirement in September. Prior to retirement, Sallett had been director of the Geckle Diabetes & Nutrition Center since 2002. She has also championed a Greater Baltimore Medical Center inpatient normoglycemic project for the care and management of diabetes

Patricia C. McMullen, BSN '75, MS '81, CRNP, PhD, JD, has been appointed associate provost for academic administration at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Three members of her family are also alumni of the School of Nursing: husband Bill Howie, BSN '82; brother Alex McMullen, BSN '79; and sister-in-law Laura Roe McMullen, BSN '86.

Dorrie Fontaine, MS '77, was appointed dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Virginia, effective Aug. 1. Fontaine served for six years as associate dean for academic programs and clinical professor at the University of California San Francisco. She has also held associate dean positions and taught at Georgetown University School of Nursing.

Rear Adm. Carol Romano, BSN '77, MS '85, PhD '93, RN, BC, CNAA, FAAN, chief nurse officer, U.S. Public Health Service, has been named

acting chief of staff of the Public Health Service's Office of the Surgeon General.

Micheline Birger, RN, BSN '78, has written the book Hot Nursing Careers for the 21st Century: 111 Frequently Asked Questions About Entering Nursing. The book is a practical guide for anyone who is considering becoming a nurse, as well as those who have already worked in the profession. The book has been published by iUniverse and is available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Borders.

### 1980s

Edward Streyle, MS '83, was hired as chief nursing officer at Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore. He is responsible for all aspects of patient care provided by the nursing staff. Streyle previously served in a vice presidential role at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Terri L. Schieder, MS '84, is vice president of clinical development at AtlantiCare, a two-hospital health system in southeastern New Jersey. Prior to this appointment, Schieder held several positions in health care including director of critical care nursing, assistant vice president of nursing, and administrator of a 250-bed hospital.

### 1990s

Joyce S. Willens, PhD '94, RN, BC, is currently teaching sophomore physical assessment and fundamentals in nursing at Villanova University School of Nursing. In addition to teaching, Willens chairs the Content Expert Panel for the American Nurses Credentialing Center and is helping conduct a second role delineation study. She is a member of the Sedation and Monitoring Taskforce that is developing evidence-based guidelines for the American Society for Pain Management Nurses.

Rachel Ellen (Siegel) Garvin, BSN '96, MD, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 2006 and is currently in the third year of an emergency medicine residency at the University of Cincinnati. She is planning for a fellowship in neurocritical care. Garvin has worked in the pediatric intensive care unit at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and in pediatric emergency medicine.

Timothy C. F. Fuss, BSN '97, MSN, CCRN, has been appointed associate professor at Montgomery College in Takoma Park, Md.

Capt. Mary Chaffee, MS '98, PhD '08, of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, has been named disaster research coordinator at the Disaster Information Management Research Center, National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. She is coordinating a portfolio of congressionally funded disaster research initiatives that are aimed at enhancing disaster response among military, federal, and civilian facilities in the Washington, D.C., area.

Sampson A. Omotosho, PhD '98, completed a post-master's online psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program with the University of Missouri to facilitate his clinical function as program director of Optimum Health Systems. Established by Omotosho in 2003, Optimum Health Systems provides outpatient mental health clinical services to children and adults in Baltimore. The clinic also provides services in psychiatric rehabilitation, therapeutic behavior, and expanded school-based mental health.

Beverly Bye, MS '99, EdD, RN, FNP-BC, CRNP, FNE-A, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation "Evaluating High Fidelity Simulation Within a Health Assessment Course" and graduated from Towson University in August with an EdD in instructional technology.

### 2000s

Leslie Greenberg, MS '04, RN, OCN, has joined the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) as health policy manager. She is directing and coordinating the ONS' legislative advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill. Prior to joining ONS, Greenberg was a nurse

specialist at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md.

Melissa Pasko, BSN '05, is working in the cardiovascular recovery room at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C., where she began her nursing career and performed her senior practicum. The cardiovascular recovery room is a surgical critical care unit that specializes in treating postoperative open heart surgery patients. Pasko and her husband, Vincent, had their first child, Finnegan "Finn" Matthew, in October 2007.

Jennifer S. Powers, RN, BSN '07, has been promoted to senior physician liaison, a new position at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

### In Memoriam

Margaret "Maggie" Blanche (Wildesen) Cox, BSN '90

Congratulations to the following alumnae who were recently inducted as fellows in the American Academy of Nursing: Regina Cusson, MS '79; Shirley Jones, MS '81; Gale S. Pollock, BSN '76; Julie Stanik-Hutt, PhD '94; Joyce A. Stechmiller, PhD '94; Kathleen White, MS '78; and Margaret Wilmoth, BSN '75, MS '79.

### We Want to Hear From You!

Please send us information about what's happening in your life—appointments, presentations, honors, awards, advanced education/degrees—so we can include your news in Class Notes. Don't forget to include your degree(s) and graduating year(s) from the School of Nursing.

E-mail information to: alumni@son.umaryland.edu Fax to: 410-706-0399 Visit us online at: www.nursing.umaryland.edu, and click on "Alumni" or Mail to: Office of Development and Alumni Relations University of Maryland School of Nursing 655 W. Lombard St., Suite 731

Baltimore, MD 21201

# 2009 Calendar of Events

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH LECTURE Feb. 23—4-5:30 p.m.

For information, call 410-706-3767 or visit www.nursing.umaryland.edu/events.

### EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE CONFERENCE

"Nursing Practice Based on Evidence:

Moving Science Into Action"

Pre-conference: April 1 Conference: April 2-3

For information, call 410-706-3767 or visit www.nursing.umaryland.edu/events.

# ANN CAIN LECTURE IN PSYCHIATRIC NURSING April 30—4-5:30 p.m.

For information, call 410-706-3767 or visit www.nursing.umaryland.edu/events.

### SUMMER INSTITUTE IN NURSING INFORMATICS

"Informatics at the Point of Care: A Barrier or a Bridge?"

Pre-conference: July 20-22 Conference: July 22-25

For information, call 410-706-3767 or visit www.nursing.umaryland.edu/sini.



# ALUMNI REUNION CELEBRATION May 30, 2009

For information, call 410-706-0674 or visit www.nursing.umaryland.edu/alumni.

The following classes will celebrate reunions: 1924, 1929, 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004.

The School of Nursing will also proudly induct alumni from the Class of 1959 as the newest members of the 50-Year Heritage Class.

If you want to volunteer as a class representative, or if you would like more information about attending the Alumni Reunion Celebration, contact Michelle Healy, associate director of alumni relations and annual fund, at 410-706-0674 or healy@son.umaryland.edu.

## PhD PROGRAM 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Oct. 1-2, 2009

Mark your calendars now for Thursday, Oct. 1, and Friday, Oct. 2, for a celebration commemorating the 30th anniversary of the School of Nursing's PhD program. Contact Michelle Healy, associate director of alumni relations and annual fund, at 410-706-0674 or healy@son.umaryland.edu for more information or to obtain information in the future via e-mail.



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID

Baltimore, MD Permit #7012