April 3, 2017

Dear Nursing Alumni and Friends:

Greetings to all! We are delighted to share a selection of news and highlights from the School of Nursing. In October, we received official confirmation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for our 10-year re-accreditation of the BS, RN-BS, and MS programs, and the full five-year accreditation for our initial accreditation of the post-Master’s Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

The demand for Nursing continues, and our enrollments are growing dramatically. Baccalaureate nursing students total 437, including those enrolled in the RN-BS degree completion option. The number of MS NP students is currently 70, preparing Adult-Gerontological Primary Care Nurse Practitioners and Family Nurse Practitioners. We now have 47 doctoral nursing students in our two doctoral nursing programs, PhD in Nursing and Doctorate of Nursing Practice. As a result of this enrollment growth, we welcomed several new faculty and professional staff to the School of Nursing in 2016-17, including: Dr. Susan Parker, Lecturer and DNP Program Coordinator, and Liz Burrows, MS, RN, Nursing Simulation Education Specialist. We currently have position openings for FT tenure-track Assistant/Associate/Ful professors; a link to this can be found at: http://jobs.uml.edu/applicants/Centra?quickFind=5520, as well as a full-time Clinical Assistant/Associate Professor (http://jobs.uml.edu/applicants/Centra?quickFind=55340).

The School will be revealing some very exciting news – it will soon be designated as the Alan and Susan Solomont School of Nursing, based on the incredible gift of UMass Lowell BS in Nursing alumus, Alan D. Solomont,’77, ‘94 (H). A ceremony to honor this momentous occasion in the School of Nursing is tentatively scheduled to take place Thursday, April 27, 2017, 11 a.m. More information will be forthcoming.

Additionally, through the continued and immense generosity of Rob and Donna Manning, the first Nursing Endowed Chair position, the Donna Manning Endowed Chair for Nursing, has been gifted to the School of Nursing. This Endowment will create a named chair in the School of Nursing. The initial use of this fund will be to recruit an exceptional new faculty member to the School who exhibits excellence and leadership in the field of nursing and health promotion research.

The School of Nursing has a very active nursing simulation technology integration program, which is staffed by outstanding professional staff. We are honored that the generous gift from Robert and Donna Manning has enabled us to update our 4-suite, state-of-the-art Donna Manning Nursing Simulation Laboratories.

The School is committed to excellence in teaching, research and community engagement. The research and scholarship efforts among faculty are centered on expanding the scientific body of knowledge for clinical practice and conducting research with a focus on promoting the health of individuals and families across the lifespan. This encompasses a broad range of selected areas, including the cultural impact on health and the role of health disparities on individual health outcomes. Research funding in 2016 and 2017 for the School of Nursing includes:

- U.S. National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Dr. Heidi Fantasia, Co-Investigator, with Dr. M.A. Sutherland (Boston College, Principal Investigator) R03 Award for study, “Violence screening in college health centers: Predictors and missed opportunities”
- CDC-National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, CPH-NEW, Dr. Mazen El Ghaziri, Principal Investigator and Dr. Yuan Zhang, Co-Investigator, “Assessing the occupational health risks and health behaviors for men in correctional nursing and evaluating the barriers and facilitators for a peer mediation program”
- AT&T and Greater Lowell Health Alliance, Dr. Ainan Koren, Principal Investigator, “Delaying the second pregnancy among teen mothers”
- Fogerty Center, National Institutes of Health, NIOSH, Dr. Barbara Mawn, Co-I, “GEOHealth HUB: Improving agricultural health in Southeast Asian”
• UMass Lowell, Dr. Anya Peters, Principal Investigator, “Development and implementation of smart phone app to measure and manage undergraduate clinical student anxiety”
• UMass Lowell, College of Health Sciences Teaching Grant, Dr. Yuan Zhang, Principal Investigator, “Reinvigorating engagement and collaboration through interprofessional education”
• Several other federal, state, and private foundation grants have been submitted and/or are under review.

There are currently 12 endowment opportunities for alumni and friends to consider donating to, and we are pleased that alumni and friends specifically recognize these Endowments in their gift-giving when contributing to the School of Nursing:

- Dr. May Futrell Scholarship Endowment for Graduate Nursing Students
- Robert and Donna Manning Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Bring Diversity to Nursing Endowed Fund
- Dr. Susan M. Reece, Graduate Nursing Scholars Diversity Fund
- Shalin Liu Award for Academic Excellence and Internship in Nursing
- Bruce Z. Arakelian Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Gertrude Barker Memorial Endowment Fund
- Shirley M. Cyronis Nursing Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Solomont Family Nursing Endowment
- Madonna J. Schromm Nursing Scholarship Endowment
- Jacqueline Puliafico Endowed Scholarship for Music and Nursing
- Eileen C. Bean, RN, Memorial Scholarship Fund

Additionally, several naming opportunities for the Nursing Laboratory as well as named Professorships are available. If you would have an interest in learning more, please feel free to contact Demetra Gys, Director of Development, 978 934-4810, or myself at 978 934-4417 or Karen_Melillo@uml.edu. Your generosity and gifts have been instrumental in the success of our School of Nursing and to the quality graduates who have benefited with scholarships and state-of-the-art learning environments.

As always, I feel honored and privileged to be able to present to you, our alumni and friends, an update of our School of Nursing achievements and accomplishments. We value and appreciate the positive reputation of School enjoys, thanks in good measure to you, our distinguished alumni and friends. Thank you for all you do to promote UMass Lowell Nursing.

Best Wishes,

Karen Devereaux Melillo, PhD, A-GNP-C, FAANP, FGSA, Professor
Interim Dean