On behalf of the Department of Nursing at UMass Lowell, I am very pleased to send along these updates relative to our Graduate Programs. It has been an exciting year for us! Our numbers have increased, especially in the FNP Specialty, we have new faculty members to introduce, we have fine-tuned our DNP curriculum, and substantial progress has been made on the new building. Currently there are students enrolled in our PhD Program, in our DNP Program, in the MS program, and in our certificate programs.

Our Post-MS DNP Program, launched in 2009, has been progressing nicely and will graduate its first cohort this year. The faculty revisited the curriculum, and the required credit numbers have been reduced substantially from 41 to 33. Courses are offered in the evenings, most are hybrid seminars/online, and as of the fall, some will be in Executive format (online and one weekend per month).

The PhD curriculum also came under review this year and will be moving to an exclusively executive format in the fall to better meet the needs of students who are working and/or live at a distance from the University. This translates to one weekend day per month and courses that are primarily online. The number of credits has changed from

Another exciting piece of news is that the Department of Nursing will be moving to a new Health and Social Sciences building in Spring of 2013! Dr. Jacqueline Dowling has represented our Department in the design of the nursing conference, office and laboratory space for the building.

Finally, and on a personal note, I will be retiring from the University as of May 31 this year. My decision is not without ambivalence, as I have so enjoyed by time with graduate students, faculty, and professional colleagues through my affiliation with UMass Lowell. Now I must reserve some quality time for family and grandchildren, my gardens, and other endeavors that are important to me.

I send along my best and hope that you will remain in touch with UMass Lowell. If you have not already, consider coming to campus to meet faculty, visit the new building, and possibly continue your education through one of our courses, one of our certificates, or better yet, or through one of our doctoral programs!

Most Sincerely,

Susan Reece

Director of the MS, DNP, and Certificate Programs
ALUMNAE IN THE NEWS!

Alice Bonner (MS, UML, 1989), currently the Director, Division of Nursing Homes, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, was honored April 18 by UMass Lowell as A Distinguished Alumna, who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment and who have made significant contributions in her professional field. She was also selected this year for the Francis Cabot Lowell Alumni Award for the School of Health and Environment.

Dr. Mary Aruda (PhD UML 2001), Clinical Assistant Professor, UMass Boston, just received the 2012 “Distinguished Alumni Award for Cornell University-New York Hospital School of Nursing”. She was also inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners at 2011 Annual meeting in Las Vegas. In collaboration with Dr. Mary Kelly (PhD, UML, 2010), published the following:


Dr. Colleen Simonelli, (PhD, UML 2008), Instructor in MCH, Boston College published the following:


Dr. Susan Kelly Weeder (PhD, UML, 2004), Associate Professor, Boston College, published the following:


Diane Feeney Mahoney, PhD (UML MS 1979) recently received a two-year research grant from the Alzheimer's Association to develop a prototype automated dressing coach for people with dementia to prolong their dressing abilities using state- of -the- art context aware sensor technologies.

Shirley Cartwright (UML MS, 1990), received the 2010 NH Lifetime of Service Award

Jane Cooper, (MS, 1999) moved to SC to retire, however found a position in a federally funded community health center in rural McClellanville and Georgetown, SC. This new chapter she describes as extremely rewarding.
Cassandra Cavanaugh, ARNP, DNP (UML, MS 2002) - Works at Dermatology Associates of Southern NH. She received a DNP from UMass Amherst in 2011. Currently she is serving as an editor for the *Dermatology Nursing Journal*.

Mary Witkos, GNP-BC (UML BS 1987, MS 1996) and Lisa A. Brown MS, PMHNP-BC, (UML MS 2003), won the UMass Lowell Preceptor of the Year award and MCNP Exceptional Preceptor Award as well.

The MCNP Exceptional Preceptor Award recognizes nurse practitioners in different regions who demonstrate excellence in the preceptor role to nurse practitioner students. This award provides an opportunity to publicly recognize the unique characteristics of the nurse practitioner who role models, teaches, and evaluates nursing students who are learning advanced nursing practice skills

Marie Campasano (UML MS, 1990) volunteers with Global Smile Foundation, a group of dedicated medical professionals and volunteers who are actively involved in global outreach programs in Latin America, Africa and India

In June, Marie was part of a team that provided needed surgical and dental procedures to patients born with cleft lip and palate deformities as well as implemented educational and preventive programs in Trujillo Peru, a city that is extremely underserved medically. During this mission the team screened 122 surgical patients, performed 65 pediatric anesthesia consultations, 38 corrective surgical procedures, 365 dental patients were screened, 305 dental procedures performed and 36 psychosocial consultations completed.

Marie will be returning to Trujillo Peru for 10 days this June 2012 for her second mission.

**Precepting**

Our graduates make the best preceptors! Our need for excellent preceptors is acute with our growing number of Master’s students in practica experiences. Please consider precepting for this next year.

To do so, contact Arline_Elashkar@uml.edu and she or a faculty member will contact you with the details. Precepting hours can be counted toward re-certification by the ANCC and a tuition voucher may be awarded for those of you interested in continuing your education.

Thank you.

**Alumni Notes:** Let us know what you have been up to by writing your news and returning it to the address below. We will use the information in the next edition of the newsletter. Or if you know someone has moved, please notify us.

Present Name:

Name at Graduation:

Year of Graduation
BS ____
MS ____
DNP ____
PhD ____

Current email:

Suggestions for future activities:

My Story:
MASTERS STUDENTS IN THE NEWS:

Susan Gage, BS, RN, received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Department of Nursing. She will graduate this May in the Adult/Gero Nursing specialty. Susan was recognized for her academic excellence and leadership contributions for her work in the GSO. She also co-authored an article with Dr. Karen D. Melillo: Gage, S. & Melillo, K.D. (2011). Substance abuse in older adults: Policy issues. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*.

Djwan Scott, BS, RN, received the 2012 Brigham and Woman’s Hospital Ujima Award in recognition of the strength of a diverse community. Djwan will graduate this May with from the Adult/Gero Nursing Specialty.

NEWS FROM THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

PhD PROGRAM IN NURSING
Program Director: Barbara Mawn, 978-934-4485 Barbara_Mawn@uml.edu

The PhD in Nursing Program has recently announced it will offer core nursing courses using an Executive blended/weekend format beginning Fall, 2012. Most courses will have one weekend session per month along with weekly online/hybrid contact. This year the faculty revised the curriculum using a streamlined approach moving it to a 48-credit program. The program had retained its renowned health promotion focus. The new weekend blended format will allow working professionals to complete the program on weekends using state of the art information technology. For further information please contact barbara_mawn@uml.edu

Dissertation Defenses Completed:

12/10/11 – Dr. Georgia P. Ameia Yen-Patton "Nurse and Nursing Assistant Reciprocal Caring in Long Term Care: Outcomes of Absenteeism, Retention, Turnover and Quality of Care"

2/14/12 – Dr. Nancy Labore "Transition to Self-Management: The Lived Experience of 21-25 Year olds with Sickle Cell Disease"

5/4/12 – Dr. Susan Lynde Hamilton "Predictors of Readiness for HIV Testing among Midlife Women"

5/10/12 – Dr. Terri Jabaley Leonarczyk "The Experience of Cancer Risk Management Decision Making for BRCA+ Women"

DNP PROGRAM
Program Coordinator, Dr. Angela Nannini, Angela_Nannini@uml.edu 978-934-4938

The DNP Program underwent significant curriculum revision this year, transitioning from 41 to 33 credits above the MS degree. In Fall, 2012, we will be pursuing the option of a Fast-Track MS to DNP for UML MS students. The Fast-Track will allow students to use two graduate courses for both MS and DNP degrees. Watch for news about this new program, and for information on the DNP, please contact Dr. Nannini.
We are pleased to announce that Cohort I DNP students defended their Scholarly Projects on April 25, 2012. They are:

**Dr. Carolyn Ernst**, “Openness to Diversity: Student Nurses and Patients Tell their Stories.”

**Dr. Susan Gordon**, “Bedside Coaching to Improve Nurses’ Recognition of Delerium.”

**Dr. Cynthia Greywolf**, “Nurses Recognition of Delirium in Residents with Dementia in LTC Settings: A Program Evaluation.”

**Dr. Valerie King**, “Nurse Practitioners, Electronic Medical Records, and Chronic Disease Management.”

**Dr. Susan Parker**, “Patient Outcomes and Satisfaction with Care Following Palliative Care Consultation.” Susan Parker got First Place for her poster at the *Northeast NP Conference* in Manchester, NH.

**MASTER’S PROGRAM**

The MS program is disappointed to announce that Dr. Ruth Remington will be leaving UMass Lowell to teach in a university closer to home. We have so appreciated all that she has given to our MS Program in the areas of excellence in teaching and research, student support and her service role as Coordinator of the Graduate Certificates. We wish her good fortune in her future endeavors. She will be sorely missed.

The MS program continues to grow with major interest in the FNP specialty. Within the next two years, the Adult/Psych Mental Health Specialty will be evolving into a Family Mental Health Specialty to meet AACN requirements. We continue to need preceptors to provide clinical support and education to the next generation of UMass Lowell Nurse Practitioners. If you are interested in precepting a graduate nursing student, please contact Dr. Amy McCarron (Amy_McCarron@uml.edu) or Arline El Ashkar (Arline_ElAshkar@uml.edu). Should you precept, you will receive a voucher toward graduate credits at the University and credit toward ANCC re-certification. We firmly believe our best preceptors are graduates of our program.

**ANNOUNCING NEW FACULTY MEMBERS IN THE GRADUATE PROGRAM**

Several new faculty members have joined the Graduate Program this year.

**Dr. Heidi Fantasia (BS, MS Boston College/Women’s Health, PhD Boston Collage, Post Doctorate, BC):**

Dr. Fantasia, Assistant Professor, comes to us as an expert nurse practitioner in women’s health. She practices in reproductive health at Health Quarters in Haverhill. Her research focus is in the intersection of violence and reproductive health, coercion, and consent in relationships, especially in college females. She teaches primarily in the MS Program, the women’s health content in the Family and Adult/Gero I and in clinical.

**Dr. Dee Fasoli**, PhD (BS, St. Anslem College, MSN, U. Cincinnati, MBA, Health Care Management, SUNY Binghamton, PhD, Social Policy (Health Policy), Brandeis University, Postdoctoral
Fellowship, VA Center for Health Quality, Outcomes, and Economic Research, Bedford, MA.

Dr. Fasoli, Research Professor, is a Research Scientist at the VA Hospital, Bedford, MA and serves as Chair of the VHA Office of Nursing Services Research Advisory Group. She holds a joint position at UMass Lowell as a Research Professor working primarily with the DNP and PhD students. Her teaching interests are in leadership & management, organizational behavior and change theory. She has a long history in the military (Navy and ROTC service) and in health administration. She is very enthusiastic about combining her major passions, combining leadership, management, education and research.

**Dr. Amy McCarron (BS & MS, UML, DNP, Simmons).**

Dr. McCarron, Lecturer, graduated with her MS (FNP) from UMass Lowell in 2005. Since that time she has practiced primarily in primary care rheumatology. Her DNP Capstone Project was “Exploring the Effects of a Support Group on Patients Diagnosed with RA.” This qualitative study was published in the Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She continues to run the monthly support group out of her practice setting. Amy teaches primarily in the FNP MS program with some additional work with the DNP students.

**Ms. Bethany Gentleman (MS Gerontology, UML, 1999).** Ms. Gentleman, Visiting Lecturer, teaches in the Adult/Gero and FNP Specialties. Her practice arena since graduating from UML has primarily been in primary care provider to older adults in skilled rehabilitation and long term care settings. She also practices in primary care providing house calls to homebound elders. Beth has actively been involved with Eta Omega chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the AANP and Mass Coalition of NPs, the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurse Association, the American Academy of Home Care Physicians, and the American Geriatrics Society. She is interested in geriatric health promotion research and plans to continue her education in our PhD Program.

**Ms. JoAnna Rorie (BS Simmons, MS, Yale School of Midwifery, MPH Harvard University, PhDc, Brandeis).**

Ms. Rorie came to UMass Lowell to be our Visiting Diversity Scholar for the Department of Nursing. She has had a wide and varied educational and practice experience including her role as Director of the Beth Israel Hospital Nurse Midwifery Department, the first midwife and nurse to direct the OBGYN Service at the Dimok St. Health Center, and her involvement with the Healthy Start program in Boston. She continues to teach graduate students midwifery and about health disparities and to practice in infertility at Harvard Vanguard. She is most proud of her participation in the National Black Women’s Health Study for the past ten years. JoAnna came to UMass Lowell under the HRSA grant, “DNPs Caring for the Underserved” to seek out new cultural experiences and to return to a setting that educates nurses.
POST-MS CERTIFICATE OPTIONS

Post-MS Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education (12 Credits)
This certificate responds to the growing need for professional nurses who have specialty education in teaching methods and curriculum. It is intended for nurses who hold a masters degree, a doctoral degree, or are matriculated in a doctoral program. The courses emphasize teaching/learning principles, curriculum and instruction, and research evaluation in higher education.

Post-MS Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing Certificate
This 18-credit post-Masters certificate in adult psychiatric and mental health nursing provides MS-prepared nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists with the knowledge and skills necessary to care for adults with psychiatric and mental health issues. Those who complete the certificate are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for nurse practitioners and/or clinical nurse specialists in adult psychiatric and mental health nursing. Didactic and practicum courses must be taken concurrently and in sequence over a 3-semester period beginning in a Spring semester.

Post- Master’s Certificate in Sleep & Sleep Disorders in Health and Disease [Online]
This 12-credit online certificate program in sleep and chronobiology aims to respond to the NIH call to facilitate learning for health professionals in the areas of clinical and theoretical dimensions of sleep and chronobiology. The courses in the certificate program aim to provide the student with fundamental information in the normative mechanisms of sleep as well as biological and environmental influences in sleep and wakefulness across the lifespan. From this foundation, additional course work focuses on diagnosis and intervention in sleep dysregulation with a particular focus on the formal sleep disorders. State of the science intervention strategies are addressed from both the behavioral and pharmacologic perspectives. MS students are permitted to enroll in the introductory course in this certificate as their elective.

For more information on the Graduate options at UMass Lowell, see our website:
http://www.uml.edu/college/SHE/Nursing/Programs.html

A NEW HOME FOR NURSING

Since last April, when ground was broken, we have enjoyed witnessing the New Health and Social Sciences building go up. The building, adjacent to MaGauvran on Wilder St., will be the new home for Nursing in addition to the departments of Criminal Justice and Criminology and Psychology. This is the first new building on South Campus since the 1970s. Its four stories will hold faculty offices, seminar and classrooms, conference rooms and laboratories. The Department eagerly anticipates its move into the new building.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BOOKS


Redeker, N. S. & Phillips McEnany, G. (Eds.) (2011). *Sleep disorders and sleep promotion in...*

AWARDS

**Dr. Jacqueline Dowling** was elected to the (2012---2014) Awards Committee for the Eastern Nursing Research Society.

**Dr. Heidi Fantasia** was elected to the Planning Committee for the 2013 annual convention for the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrical, and Neonatal Nurses, Nashville, TN.

**Dr. Fantasia** was also named "Nurse of the Year" by the Massachusetts chapter of the March of Dimes in December, 2011 and was inducted into the National Academies of Practice as a Distinguished Practitioner and Fellow for the profession of nursing. The National Academies of Practice is a nonprofit professional organization composed of elected members from ten different health professions.

GRANTS

**Dr. Lisa Abdallah** and **Dr. Barbara Mawn** were awarded Echo360 development grants for the 2011---12 academic year. These grants are intended to explore innovative uses of lecture capture, assess the effectiveness of the technology, and expand the use of this resource on campus in general.

**Drs. James Lee, Lisa Abdallah, Karen D. Melillo, Ramraj Gautam, Ruth Remington, & Ms. Deborah Van Etten** have been awarded a School of Health and Environment Interdisciplinary Seed Grant, for *Comparative analysis of alternative primary care models in institutional long term care residents using the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, 2011-12*

**Dr. Dorothy Brewin** Investigator with Principal investigator Lusine Poghosyan, received an RO3 award, “Validation of the Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Organizational Climate Questionnaire (NP---PCOCQ)” funded through Agency for Health Research and Quality in the amount of $100,000 June 2011-May 2012.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


**Fantasia, H.C.** (2011). Really not even a decision any more: Late adolescent narratives of implied sexual consent. *Journal of Forensic Nursing.*


**Melillo, K.D., Abdallah, L., Blanks, C., Campbell, I., & Herndon, L.** (2012). Teaching Faculty Institute for Gerontological Nursing: Strengthening partnerships for clinical education in long-term care. *Nursing Education Perspectives, Innovation Center column,* Special Issue on educating students for geriatric care.


**Dr. Susan Reece – Reflections from Chair and Faculty Colleague**

As Department Chair and Faculty colleague, I would like to share my reflections on the incredible career of Dr. Susan Reece as she transitions into retirement from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. I have known Susan since her arrival on the campus full-time in 1988, but before that when she was a faculty member teaching in the pediatric theory and clinical course for Master’s students. I have been amazed and humbled at the incredible and innovative ways she has raised the bar and advanced the education of MS APN and PhD students. She has always given 100% to the education of students, and her engagement with each of them in enabling them to reach heights even they themselves didn’t believe possible, was often evident. I had the privilege of being able to acknowledge this in my nomination of her for the Massachusetts Association of Colleges of Nursing Innovative Teaching Award, for which she was selected. She has wisdom and critical insights that have moved us forward in constantly revisiting and revising our curricula to meet the current needs for nursing in this ever-changing healthcare environment. Her research and scholarship in the areas of health promotion and health behavior (specifically self-efficacy theory) have been recognized internationally, and numbers of her PhD students have transferred what they learned in her courses into their own dissertation work.

Thus, it gives me such pleasure to share with you the wonderful retirement celebration that occurred on April 30, 2012, at the Allen House Gallery. Administration, current and former faculty, staff, MS and doctoral students, proud alumni, and her family were present to honor and acknowledge her many contributions. Her lasting legacy will continue as an *Endowed Scholarship Fund for Graduate Nursing Students of Diversity* has been established in her name. Guests at the retirement celebration and others unable to attend have contributed toward the launch of this scholarship fund, and an anonymous donor has stepped forward offered to match contributions on a 4:1 basis in order to enable us
to reach the $25,000 Endowed Scholarship Fund amount. I hope that your experience was as positive as it has been for us, and that you, too, will consider a donation.

If you wish to contribute, please contact Mark Reimer, Executive Director of Major Gifts and Gift Planning, Office of Advancement, UMass Lowell, Southwick Hall 250, One University Avenue, Lowell, MA 01854-2882; 978 934-4805; cell 617 320-4436; email: Mark_Reimer@uml.edu.

Please join me in congratulating Susan Reece for an outstanding career at UMass Lowell, and for joining the ranks of Professor Emerita. We know she will continue to flourish in her new chapter of life, and we thank her for all she has done to promote Nursing and specifically Nursing at UMass Lowell.

Sincerely,

Karen Devereaux Melillo
May 22, 2012