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On September 12, I announced my decision to step down as dean of the School of Nursing in order to direct the Sleep Research Program at the University of Rochester Medical Center. In this role, I will have the chance to take this emerging field of study in new directions to improve the quality of life and outcomes for people with a wide range of diseases and conditions.

This marks an exciting return to my passion. Prior to my appointment as dean, I co-directed the Program in Sleep at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., leading investigations that improved the quality of sleep for people with chronic illness.

As I look forward to my return to the laboratory, I reflect on my tenure as dean with pride in the progress made to solidify the School's place at the forefront of nursing education. I am especially pleased that the School was able to increase its scholarship support, stipends and flexible study options to attract and retain top students. The efforts made to expand academic programs and enhance our infrastructure, resources, and facilities were also critical to supporting growing numbers of students and faculty, and position the School perfectly for the future.

As you will read in the cover story, the School also succeeded in developing new interdisciplinary programs of research in conjunction with the Medical Center's Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI), and has emerged as a national model in this area. This is one example of the expanding role nurses are playing in developing solutions to improve patient outcomes and reduce health care costs. Our experience and perspective will be needed more than ever as our health care system continues to evolve.

Under Kathy Rideout's leadership, I am confident the School will continue on its upward trajectory in all areas of practice, education and research, and particularly in its ability to prepare the nurse leaders of tomorrow. I will always remain devoted to the School of Nursing, grateful to the faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters who have contributed to its success, and honored to have served as dean.

Kathy P. Parker

Kathy P. Parker, PhD, RN, FAAN
 Director, Sleep Research Program, URM
 Professor, University of Rochester School of Nursing



My love for the School of Nursing and its mission of lifelong learning has been forged over the past 25 years as I've worked as a teacher, a practicing nurse clinician, and scholar, alongside men and women whom I consider to be the best and brightest faculty, staff and students anywhere in the world.

As associate dean for academic affairs, I've been continually inspired by our students and faculty, and proud to have played a part in the development of our strong and diverse educational programs and clinical partnerships.

As interim dean, I'm passionate about ensuring that our faculty and students remain successful and that our School remains dynamic, strong, and held in the very highest regard.

Though we have many challenges ahead of us, nurses will play a vital role in reshaping the delivery of health care. The contributions we make as researchers, educators and clinicians are essential to transforming our health care system to better meet the needs of patients and our broader community.

As a School we are also entrusted with the responsibility and privilege of preparing the next generation of health care leaders, educators, researchers and providers who will be able to meet new challenges and positively contribute to the future of our profession.

We are entering a very exciting time for our School as we build on the strength and tradition of our past, and chart a course toward an even more vibrant future. In the coming weeks, with the input and support of the School's leadership team, faculty and staff, and our Medical Center partners, we will be formulating a new strategic plan that will build on our areas of excellence and thoughtfully position us to meet the projected needs of nursing education in this era of health care reform.

Our unique passions, ideas and commitment to our mission will continue to fuel the School's success. I look forward to your input and support as we embark on this fulfilling journey together.

Kathy H. Rideout

Kathy H. Rideout, EdD, PNP-BC, FNAP
 Interim Dean, University of Rochester School of Nursing

Contents

- 2 *Cover story:* Bringing Research to the Real World: Nursing's Essential Role
- 6 *Feature:* Nursing Students Help Community, Gain Experience
- 9 Nursing News
- 21 Planned Giving
- 22 Commencement 2011
- 26 Class Notes



On the cover:

The School of Nursing plays a key role in the University of Rochester Medical Center's Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and its work to "bring across" new and existing discoveries to a place where they make a real difference in the lives of patients. (From left to right) **Mark Taubman**, dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry, **Kathy P. Parker**, professor, School of Nursing, **Thomas Pearson**, director of the CTSI, and **Harriet Kitman**, co-director of the CTSI's Center for Research Implementation and Translation (CRIT), which is housed in the School of Nursing.

Bringing Research to the Real World: Nursing's Essential Role

Bringing scientific discoveries more rapidly from the bench to the bedside—to improve patient outcomes and lower health care costs—has been a major goal of the University of Rochester Medical Center for many years.

This goal came into even sharper focus when the doors to the Saunders Research Building, the new home of the Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI), opened on April 8. Following the opening, more than 600 scientists, physicians, nurses, statisticians, research administrators, students, and support staff moved into the 200,000-square-foot, four-story building, which is attached to the School of Nursing's Helen Wood Hall.

The spacious, eco-friendly building is a long-anticipated shot in the arm to clinical and translational research. Uniquely designed to inspire synergistic collaboration among researchers across all disciplines and specialties, it also provides a depth of centralized resources and expertise to help researchers turn ideas and insights into effective drugs, devices, and techniques to prevent and treat disease.

The concept of creating a physical home for clinical and translational research at the Medical Center gained momentum in October 2006, when the Medical Center was one of the first institutions in the nation to receive a \$40 million Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Soon after, the Medical Center committed to creating the new facility, which was funded with an additional \$50 million in capital support from New York State. It was dedicated in honor of local businessman E. Philip Saunders and his decades of support to the Medical Center, which includes a recent \$10 million gift to support research programs in muscular dystrophy, cancer, and translational medicine. Saunders also requested that the building pay tribute to those who have served in the armed forces.

“This building places the Medical Center at the forefront of a national movement to break down barriers between the lab and the lives of people,” said University President **Joel Seligman**. “The work that will go on inside this building will help propel local economic growth, foster academic and private partnerships, and improve health.”

The Long and Winding Road to Change

“The reality of research is that it tends to move very slowly,” said **Thomas Pearson, MD, MPH, PhD**, director of the CTSI, and a practicing cardiologist for 30 years. “The fact is that it can take up to 25 years for a new drug or device to move from an idea in the lab, to FDA approval, to actual therapeutic use in humans. And many ideas never make it all.”

The steps and challenges along the way are many, yet essential.

“Lab insights must first be translated to a testable candidate drug, device, or technique, but that’s only the first hurdle,” said Pearson. “Next come studies of safety and effectiveness—first in animals, then in humans, in small groups, then in large ones.”

Important evaluative questions then arise, he said.

“It’s not simply a matter of ‘does drug X help disease Y,’ but does drug X do so in a way that improves upon existing therapies—either by conferring less risk, fewer side effects, etc.?” he noted. “Or, does drug X help males more than females? African-Americans more than Hispanics? Children more than adults? Researchers must carefully design trials to assess these variables and discern which therapies hold

the most promise for a given population.”

To carry out trials, investigators must also secure funding, submit designs for ethical review, and overcome volunteer recruitment challenges. Even *if* a drug or device secures FDA approval, the translation protocol isn’t finished; researchers must find ways to actually implement it into the flow of care. This gives rise to another field of study, known as implementation research.

“Take aspirin, for instance, which has been used for over 100 years,” said Pearson. “More than 155,000 people have participated in studies that collectively show taking aspirin daily could reduce one’s risk for heart attack and stroke by about 25 percent. Still, too few heart disease patients take aspirin daily—even though it’s been widely studied, proven safe, is available over the counter, and costs just pennies a day. The big question now is how to actually change behavior and get patients to take it. And, to get more providers to recommend it.”

With all these steps, translation can be a complicated process.

“But it’s incredibly important,” Pearson said. “If a finding doesn’t translate completely, it can’t produce change. And change is the whole point.”

How will the new facility help to speed the

process and narrow the gap between research and real-life treatments?

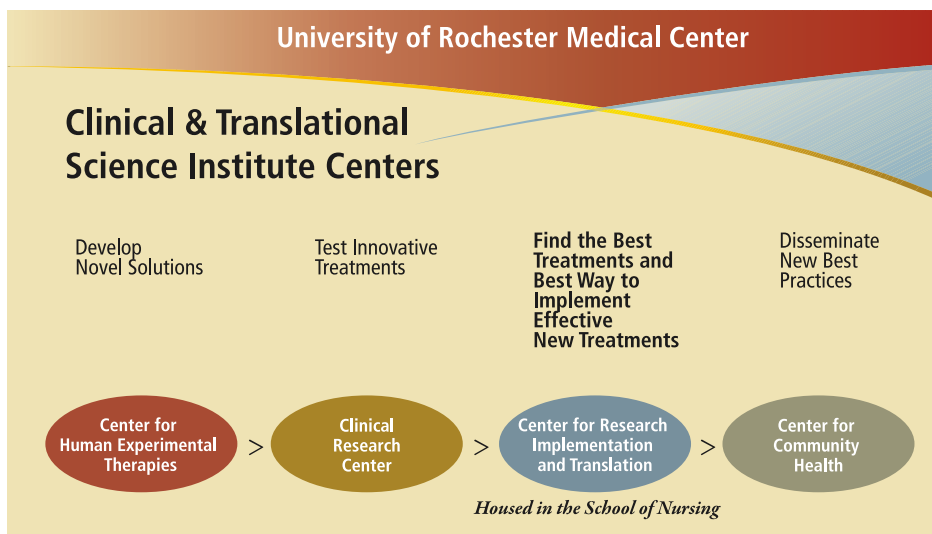
To start, it houses a host of support services—experts in bio-informatics, technology transfer, regulatory affairs, human subject protection, trial recruitment, and retention—that are crucial to the process.

“Each of these groups provides critical intelligence necessary to keep research progress on track, supporting clinical investigators at every step,” said Pearson. “These services are interspersed throughout the facility, and in many cases their offices are situated right next to an active research program.”

The very design of the building—with wide hallways, shared break rooms, glass walls, and low dividers separating workstations—also promotes spontaneous conversation and collaboration.

“For scientists who have spent most of their careers at the lab bench, the process of translating their work into new therapies can be daunting,” said **Mark Taubman, MD**, dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry. “This building was constructed with the recognition that translational medicine is a completely different discipline. It requires people with the knowledge and experience necessary to take new ideas, move them through the many stages of testing and evaluation, and bring them to the

Translation literally means “to bring across,” and the purpose of the CTSI and the new building is to not only identify the most promising treatments and prevention methods, but to “bring across” new and existing discoveries to a place where they can make a measurable difference to real patients.



“The CRIT is an incredibly important part of the CTSI and serves as a national model for how a School of Nursing can have a leadership role in a clinical and translational science award program.”

– Thomas Pearson, MD, MPH, PhD

“The driving focus of our work is to shape treatments and approaches to the context of patients’ lives, to the daily work of health care providers, and to the long-term benefit of the entire health care system.” —*Harriet Kitzman, PhD, RN*

point where they ultimately improve the lives of patients.”

The Perspective Nurses Bring

Translation literally means “to bring across,” and the purpose of the CTSI and the new facility is not only to identify the most promising treatments and prevention methods, but to “bring across” new and existing discoveries to a place where they can make a measurable difference in the lives of real patients.

Educated to see the whole person—biological, psychological, social, cultural, spiritual—nurses bring a critical and unique perspective to clinical and translational research, particularly when it comes to comparing the effectiveness of methods and treatments to prevent diseases and promote greater community wellness and health literacy.

“Nursing’s unique perspective comes from our constant vigilance and engagement in the health care system,” said School of Nursing Dean **Kathy P. Parker, PhD, RN, FAAN**. “Regardless of when, where, or why one intersects the health care system, one is receiving care from a nurse. Whether for a routine health screening in an outpatient setting, an acute illness requiring hospitalizations, or rehabilitation in the home or in an institution, nursing is a constant presence. Therefore, our focus in clinical and translational research is not only about finding ways to treat disease, but also on keeping people healthy across the lifespan.”

Some of the current research that nurses here and across the country have been closely involved in is crucial to national priorities of health care reform, Parker added.

“For example, what are the most effective tools and systems to engage patients in their care? What are the most effective models for care coordination? How can we reduce 30-day readmission rates? How is palliative care best provided?” are the kind of questions nurses seek the answers to,” she said.

The School of Nursing plays a prominent role within the CTSI by serving as home to the **Center for Research Implementation and Translation (CRIT)**, which is co-directed by **Harriet Kitzman, PhD, RN**, senior associate dean for research at the School of Nursing, and **Katia Noyes, MS, MPH, PhD**, division chief of health policy and outcomes research in the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine.

Here, School of Nursing faculty, working in collaboration with faculty from the Departments of Community and Preventive Medicine and of Psychiatry, lead the CTSI’s key function of Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER), which compares the risks and benefits of different interventions and strategies in “real-world” settings. CRIT scientists evaluate new and existing research evidence to identify those approaches that hold the most promise of improving outcomes and lowering costs.

The CRIT also leads implementation research, which looks at the reasons a particular treatment might not actually be used in practice. For example: is the treatment not being prescribed by providers, is the patient just not using it, or is it not being incorporated into the patient’s daily routine by his or her caregiver system?

“Our comparative effectiveness research focuses on answering the questions of how, why, and under what conditions treatments are more or less effective,” said Kitzman. “In implementation research, our goal is to illuminate the fallacy that ‘if we discover it, providers will use it,’ or ‘if we order it, patients will take it.’ The driving focus of our work is to shape treatments and approaches to the context of patients’ lives, to the daily work of health care providers, and to the long-term benefit of the entire health care system.”

Kitzman’s own work provides an example of research that has led to actual change. Since the early 1980s, she has studied the effects of nurse home visitations on first-time mothers



The Saunders Building’s wide hallways, shared break rooms, glass walls and adjoining workstations promote spontaneous collaboration.

and children. Focused on the economically disadvantaged, these interventions led to a broad range of positive short- and long-term outcomes, and shaped new health care policy. Study results informed national program models for nurse partnerships with children and families that today provide home visits to low-income, first-time mothers from pregnancy to their child’s second birthday.

Today, CRIT faculty are focused on a wide range of research areas—from finding new ways to prevent and manage chronic diseases like heart disease and asthma, to evaluating palliative care approaches, to studying the effectiveness of various models of primary care. Regardless of the specific area of research CRIT investigators pursue, issues like quality of life, cost-effectiveness, and an understanding for the unique perspectives and backgrounds of patients are paramount.

“Because nurses see patients in their environments, we are inclined to study and understand the many complex variables of human behavior and are constantly thinking about how treatments resonate within their personal lives,” said Kitzman. “That is the intrinsic value we bring to research.”



Shannon Moreland, MSN, RN, FNP
Instructor of Clinical Nursing



Carolyn Ruffing, RN

Thursday, October 21, 2010 8:28 PM

From: Ruffing, Carolyn
To: Moreland, Shannon K. Cc: Rideout, Kathy
Subject: Clinical Experience

Shannon,

I wanted to write and thank you for all the teaching you gave me in Acute Care clinical. I am in the middle of my medical rotation now and I feel so prepared to care for the patients, because of the training you gave me on 6-1200. My first action after reviewing the chart and hearing report, is to go in and perform an assessment on the patient. I credit that to you, and how you taught us the importance of assessing as soon as we meet the patient. And I smile when I get medications to look up because most likely I have the card done already. I am so glad we had to look up all the meds for our acute care patients, (one assignment was 32 meds, remember that one?).

I am learning a great deal in med/surg however, I thank you for the basics I had going into the rotation. You gave me a solid foundation in assessing and medication administration, and the overall goal of providing excellent care. I'll never forget doing tracheotomy care my second day on the unit and I hope you can rest easier knowing when I did it on the surgical floor I used one pair of sterile gloves :-). My instructor complimented me on how prepared I was and on my technique. That felt good, but most importantly, the patient was comfortable and breathing much easier because you taught me the gold standard.

One of the advantages of being my age is having lots of life experience before I entered the program. And I can say from that experience, not only are you an excellent nurse, you are a gifted teacher. Please know that the high standards you taught me are deeply ingrained, and if I can become half the nurse you are, I will consider myself blessed.

Thanks again,

Carolyn Ruffing, RN (2010 APNN Graduate)
Staff Nurse, Level 1
Unit 1400, Palliative Care and Hospice
Strong Memorial Hospital

Nursing Students Help Community, Gain Experience

Every year, between 600 and 800 refugees come to Rochester, fleeing war, ethnic persecution and oppression in their home countries. Currently, about 66 percent of Rochester's refugees come from Burma and Bhutan, in Southeast Asia. About 11 percent come from Iraq and Afghanistan; nine percent from African countries, primarily Burundi, Somalia and Liberia; and three percent from the Ukraine. Another 11 percent come from various countries around the world, including Cuba and Vietnam.

Most come to Rochester with help from the Catholic Family Center, which links them

to federally subsidized housing and a host of community support services to help refugees in the daunting task of rebuilding their lives in a strange new place. These men and women—many of whom have suffered repeated traumas and lost loved ones along the way—now face the challenge of learning a new language, gaining job skills, finding transportation and providing the basics of food, clothing, education and health care for their families.

One of the programs in Rochester helping refugees and other adults toward these goals is the Office of Adult and Career Education





Emily Schmeling and Fola Ogundiran, both students in the School's accelerated baccalaureate program for non-nurses (APNN), provide information about when to visit a hospital emergency room to adult learners in the OACES program, most of whom are refugees from countries in Southeast Asia.

Services (OACES) operated by the Rochester City School District, and directed by Charmaine Hunter. It is located in the Upper Falls area of Rochester, an area now home to many new refugees and often referred to as the literacy zone. Within the building, adults receive a comprehensive range of career-related services, support and education to promote their self-sufficiency.

In 2010, the School of Nursing began a partnership with OACES, coordinated by

clinical nurse instructor **Leann Patel, MS, RN**, through which students provide health literacy education to refugees while also developing critical multi-cultural competence and fulfilling a core part of their clinical practice curriculum requirements. Over the course of a semester, SON students work as partners to develop and present on basic health topics relevant and useful to the multi-cultural population, all of whom received very limited health care in their former countries.



Feature: Community

Topics have included basic infection control, hygiene and nutrition, understanding cold and flu symptoms, how to complete medical forms and speak with a health care provider, when and how to access emergency care and how to recognize and monitor various chronic disease and illness symptoms.

“Our goal is to prepare nurses who will be sensitive and attuned to the needs of people from all cultures and backgrounds, wherever they plan to practice,” said Patel. “We see

tremendous growth in our nursing students from the start of this program to the end, in terms of their understanding and their ability to communicate and interact with the OACES learners, despite the language barriers. It is such a thrill to see the students’ eyes light up when they make a connection and realize what a crucial role they can play in someone’s well-being with their expertise and compassion.”

Nursing student **Emily Schmeling** called the experience life-changing.

“The gratefulness and respect we receive from the men and women here, for what we share with them, is really inspiring to me,” said Schmeling. “Despite the challenges they face, they are so happy to be here and optimistic about their lives. It’s opened my eyes to the opportunities I have as a nurse to benefit the health of people in our community through education, advocacy and outreach.”

Lam Cing works on a project in OACES’ tailoring class, taught by seamstress Nina Nylconchuk, which successfully prepares many refugees for local jobs in the tailoring business. A former schoolteacher, Cing and her three children escaped the strife and poverty of their war-torn homeland of Burma in the spring of 2010. “I am so happy to be here and have my children with me...safe,” she said. “The nurses have taught me many ways to keep my family healthy and get the care we need.”



OACES tailoring instructor Nina Nylconchuk, School of Nursing clinical nurse instructor Leann Patel, and nursing students Fola Ogundiran and Emily Schmeling.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Awards Fourth Round of Scholarship Funding

For the fourth year in a row, the School of Nursing has received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) New Careers in Nursing (NCIN) Scholarship Program to support the enrollment of students who are traditionally underrepresented in the field of nursing.

During the 2011-12 academic year, the School will receive \$150,000, which will provide \$10,000 scholarships for 15 students entering the School's Accelerated Program for Non-Nurses (APNN). Since 2008, the NCIN has provided \$530,000 in scholarship funds to the School, which has supported 53 APNN scholars. The School is one of only 19 nursing schools in the country to receive this level of funding for all four years.

The NCIN Scholarship Program was launched in 2008 by the RWJF and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to address the national nursing shortage, develop a diverse professional nursing workforce reflective of the U.S. population, and fuel the pipeline of nurse faculty and leaders.

"Through the NCIN program, we are challenging nursing schools across the country

to expand nurse leadership and strengthen education, two clear goals of the landmark 2010 Institute of Medicine Future of Nursing report," said Denise A. Davis, DrPH, RWJF program officer for NCIN. "By diversifying the nursing profession through these scholarships, we are also helping to create a health care workforce ready to meet the needs of the 21st-century American patient."

The APNN builds upon students' existing degrees in other fields by providing generalist nursing studies that qualify students for nursing licensing exams. It offers an efficient route to licensure as a registered nurse for adults who have already completed an undergraduate degree in another field. The program began in May 2002 with 22 students, and today enrolls more than 168 students. To accommodate this interest, the School expanded in 2011 to include three cohort admission cycles.

Although the number of applicants to the APNN has increased dramatically over the years, students who already hold degrees in other fields are often disqualified from receiving federal financial aid for entry-level programs. The RWJF NCIN initiative not only addresses

this issue but specifically supports the enrollment of students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

"The men and women entering this program from across the country bring rich life experiences and valuable cultural perspectives to our profession," said **Kathy Rideout, EdD, PNP-BC, FNAP**, associate dean for academic affairs at the School of Nursing. "We are thrilled to once again receive this award, which makes it possible for our most deserving students to attend and for our School to play a role in preparing a diverse national nursing workforce for the future," she says.

Rideout notes that NCIN funding has been used by the School to help leverage new faculty resources and ensure successful program completion by scholarship recipients. This year's grant will also strengthen the tailored mentoring program that was initiated for awardees, enrich students' leadership opportunities, and expand the program's academic services.

"We have taken the leadership content developed as a result of previous year's awards and incorporated it into our current program so that all of our students benefit from the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation," Rideout said.

Scholarship details, application procedures, and deadlines are available on the School of Nursing Web site: www.son.rochester.edu. Prospective students can also call (585) 275-2375 for more information.



The School of Nursing's 2011 graduating class included RWJF scholarship recipients Sharon Lawson-Davis, Sean Goonan, Ngoc Diep, Timothy Munier, Arnice Jackson, Cyrus Marcy and Nana Nuamah.

School of Nursing Names Associate Deans



Lisa Norsen, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC

In May, School of Nursing Dean **Kathy P. Parker, PhD, RN, FAAN**, announced the appointments of **Lisa Norsen, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC**, to associate dean for innovation, entrepreneurship, and community outreach, and **Daryl Sharp, PhD, PMHCNS-BC, NPP**, to associate dean for faculty development and diversity.

Norsen, who most recently had been serving as an interim associate dean, will oversee the expansion of the School's current business



Daryl Sharp, PhD, PMHCNS-BC, NPP

lines, and lead the development of new business lines and mutually beneficial educational opportunities and relationships within the community; she will also work to build on the School's successful collaboration with the Healthy Living Center within the URM Center for Community Health. Norsen will retain administrative responsibilities for the master's programs at the School, which have grown significantly under her direction.

Sharp will support the School's faculty in its work toward meeting career goals within the context of the School's strategic plan while addressing diversity issues, strengthening inclusiveness, and facilitating communication. In addition, she will continue to work in close collaboration with the Medical Center through her role on the clinical team of the Healthy Living Center. She is also working with UR vice provost for faculty development and diversity Vivian Lewis, MD, on the study, "Researcher Resilience through Multidimensional Mentoring—An Upstate New York Initiative," which will evaluate the impact of mentoring and peer groups on the retention of women and minorities in academic careers.

Due to the shift in Norsen's and Sharp's responsibilities, the School's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, which Sharp previously directed, will be overseen by **Pamela Herendeen, DNP, RN, PNP, NNP**. **Patrick Hopkins, DNP, RN, PNP, NNP**, was named Care of Children and Families (CCF) specialty director, and **Craig R. Sellers, PhD, RN, ANP-BC**, will serve as associate director for the Master's of Science/Nurse Practitioner Program.

School Rated 32nd Best in Nation for Master's Programs By *U.S. News & World Report*

In April, *U.S. News & World Report* announced its rankings for colleges and universities across the country, and the School of Nursing is pleased to be listed as 32nd best in the nation, out of 442 national nursing schools, for its master's-level nursing programs.

"This represents a sizable jump from a position of 40th five years ago, and reflects our strong position as a leader in preparing the next generation of nurses to meet the evolving health care needs of our community," said Dean **Kathy P. Parker, PhD, RN, FAAN**.



Go to: grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools

Kearney Named Vice Provost and University Dean of Graduate Studies

On July 1, **Margaret H. Kearney, PhD, RN, FAAN**, and independence foundation chair in the School of Nursing, officially became the new vice provost and University dean of graduate studies.

Kearney is the 14th person to hold the post at the University since Charles Hoeing, a professor of Latin, originally held it in 1924, one year before the University conferred its first doctoral degree. Kearney succeeds Bruce Jacobs, whose 12 years in the post made him the University's longest-serving dean of graduate studies.

As dean, Kearney will oversee doctoral studies across the University, chair the University Council on Graduate Studies, and serve as the central administration's liaison with graduate student organizations. Kearney's duties also include appointing the chair of each doctoral dissertation committee, as well as administration of the Sproull Fellowships for exceptionally qualified doctoral applicants and the Provost's Fellowships for doctoral applicants who enhance the University's diversity and inclusiveness.

Provost **Ralph Kuncel** said the range of work undertaken at a comprehensive research university like Rochester means that graduate education is inevitably decentralized. That decentralization also can make it difficult to harness economies of scale and assure some consistency in areas that are common, including health benefits, the development of family friendly policies, and other student support services.

"Providing an environment of consistent support, given the decentralized nature of our programs for graduate students, requires

wisdom, innovation and leadership. I am delighted that someone possessing all of those traits has agreed to serve as our next dean of graduate studies," Kuncel said.

"Maggie brings great motivation and passion to the challenges of graduate education," Kuncel



notes. "She has participated in more than 40 doctoral committees at Rochester and previously at Boston College, and she is a respected mentor. She is a highly regarded scholar whose rigor, sound judgment, and devotion make her an ideal choice for this leadership role."

Kathy P. Parker, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the School of Nursing, credits Kearney with "numerous interdisciplinary contributions that highlight the expanding role of nursing in

research and research education. She is a model of diversity of thought and professional maturity and is most certainly an excellent choice for this role."

Kearney, who joined the University in 2005 to head the School of Nursing's PhD program, began her professional career as a maternity nurse and women's health nurse practitioner. She said she decided to move into research, she said, was "to answer clinical questions and contribute to building better nursing practice." Her early research involved analyzing in-depth interviews with pregnant drug users for her doctoral dissertation at the University of California at San Francisco.

Today, Kearney is a nationally recognized expert in qualitative research methods—naturalistic approaches to the study of behavior and communication, often involving systematic analysis of open-ended interviews and observations. The author of more than 70 scholarly articles, books, and chapters, she presents workshops regionally and nationally and collaborates with other investigators as a qualitative methodologist.

Nurses enjoy a broad perspective on issues of health and illness that is reflected in their research, she notes. That breadth will be an asset as she oversees graduate studies in the more than 50 graduate programs at the University.

Kearney is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, with bachelor's degrees from Marlboro College and Columbia University, master's degrees from Plymouth State College and Boston College, and a doctorate in nursing from the University of California at San Francisco.

DNP Program Earns CCNE Accreditation

In November, the School of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program received five-year accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The DNP program was established in September 2007 to provide the highest level of academic preparation and training for practicing nurses. Unlike the PhD, the DNP program is not intended to prepare students to design and build programs of research. Rather, this rigorous

program prepares advanced nurse practitioners to lead the delivery and evaluation of evidence-based, patient-centered care.

Five years is the maximum length of time given by the CCNE for a first-time accreditation. The CCNE, which is the accreditation arm of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, uses a voluntary, self-regulatory process to assess and identify programs that engage in effective educational practices.

The DNP is nursing's equivalent to practice-focused degrees in other disciplines, such as Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Doctor of Psychology (PsyD), and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). Students in the program learn how to synthesize research findings to develop and refine practice guidelines, as well as how to integrate information technology into the management, application, and evaluation of patient care.

Founding Dean Dr. Loretta C. Ford Named to National Women's Hall of Fame



NATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

In 1937, **Loretta C. Ford, RN, PNP, FAAN, FAANP**, was a smart, ambitious 16-year-old living with her family in New Jersey. An early graduate from high school, she was eager to start her life's journey. She wanted to be a teacher.

"But my family didn't have the resources to send me to college for teaching," she recalled. "They could afford nursing school, so... that's where I went."

Ford worked as a nurse's assistant until she turned 18 and was old enough to attend a nursing-diploma school in New Brunswick.

Thus began a nearly 50-year career that would transform the nursing profession and the delivery of health care, and consequently benefit generations of patients worldwide.

Ford is best known for co-developing the nurse-practitioner role at the University of Colorado in 1965, and for serving as founding dean of the UR School of Nursing from 1972 to 1985, where she implemented the unification model of education, practice and research.

She will be honored for her legacy this fall when she becomes one of 11 new inductees to the National Women's Hall of Fame.

From her home in Wildwood, Fla., Ford, 90, acknowledges that the magnitude of the honor

Ackerman Receives National Award for Excellence in Critical Care

Michael H. Ackerman, RN, DNS, APRN-BC, FCCM, FNAP, FAANP, associate director of nursing at Strong Memorial Hospital, and professor of clinical nursing at the School of Nursing, has received an American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) 2011 Circle of Excellence Award.

Ackerman is also director of the Margaret Sovie Center of Advanced Practice at Strong Memorial, and directs the Center for Clinical Trials and Medical Device Evaluation. He is one of only 22 nurses in the country to receive the award and the only award recipient in New York State.

The award is given for achieving excellent outcomes in the care of acute and critical patients and their families. According to the AACN, criteria used to evaluate the Circle of Excellence Award candidates include



relentless promotion of patient-driven excellence; communication skills; true collaboration; effective decision-making; meaningful recognition of others; the ability to transform thinking, structures, and processes; and the ability to address challenges, remove barriers to excellent patient care, and achieve visible results through leadership.

The awards were presented at the National Teaching Institute and Critical Care Exposition in Chicago. Founded in 1969 and based in Aliso Viejo, Calif., the AACN is the largest specialty nursing organization in the world. AACN joins together the interests of more than 500,000 acute and critical care nurses and counts more than 235 chapters worldwide.

A resident of Chili, Ackerman joined Strong Memorial Hospital in 1993 as a clinical nurse specialist.

hasn't quite sunk in yet and that she has "been overwhelmed by the outpouring of good wishes" from people across the country, particularly her former colleagues and current faculty and staff at the URMC and School of Nursing.

"I have such great respect and fondness for everyone in Rochester," Ford said. "I look at those days I spent there as the days of Camelot."

The recognition has given Ford pause to reflect on her life's path, the vision that guided it and the people who inspired her.

After earning her nursing diploma, she worked as a visiting public health nurse, where she delivered babies and provided essential in-home health care to families, infants and the infirm.

"That was where I gained my experience and knowledge about how much nurses could do," she said. "That was where my vision began. I knew nurses could do much better at serving patients and the whole health care system if they had advanced-practice education."

After working at U.S. bases in the Army-Air Force during WWII, Ford pursued her nursing degree at the University of Colorado. There, she spent years testing and developing the nurse-practitioner model, working with pediatrician Henry Silver, MD. Much of this work took place during the social and political unrest of the

1960s, when gender roles were a hot button.

The times were indeed changing, but "there was a lot of resistance to change from outside, and even within, the nursing profession," she said. "For the most part, it was embraced by the nurses who wanted to do what the patients needed us to do, and practice to the full extent of our capabilities. The patients loved it. I look upon it as my cracking the shell to what was inside the nurses."

Today there are more than 140,000 nurse practitioners in the United States and thousands more around the world practicing in all specialties, most in family health practice and pediatrics. More than 90 percent of U.S. nurse practitioners have at least a master's degree. While in Colorado, Ford often traveled to present at the University of Rochester, and in 1972 she was asked to lead the establishment of the School of Nursing as a collegiate school. It had been inaugurated as a diploma school in 1925.

Ford not only implemented the unification plan during her tenure, but expanded the School's educational offerings beyond bachelor's and master's degree programs to provide doctoral and postdoctoral training.

"It took a lot of work, and there were very high expectations, but it was all good work because

everyone's interest was in helping the School," she said.

Ford refers to those days as "Camelot" because there was "a marriage of education and practice that was vital to nursing. Rochester had the philosophy and the interdisciplinary aspects to develop a team approach, and establish a system that was receptive and responsive to new ideas."

Ford predicts the number of nurse practitioners will surge as greater consistency is established for the role across all states. Health care reform initiatives in care coordination and chronic disease management are ideally scripted for nurse practitioners, she said, and the need for highly educated nurses to lead innovations to promote community wellness will never wane.

"The most important thing is to have a vision," she said. "You can't take a short-term view and look at success like the stock market, undulating every day. If you do, it's easy to get disillusioned and off-course. But if you look at your vision in totality and understand it involves some backward steps and give and take, well, eventually you will arrive where you envisioned."

Dr. Ford will be inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, N.Y. on Oct. 1, 2011.

Andolina Honored

In November, **Elaine Andolina, MS, RN**, director of admissions for the School of Nursing, received the New York Organization of Nurse Executives (NYONE) Leadership Award for the Finger Lakes chapter. Andolina received the award at the annual NYONE meeting in Tarrytown, N.Y.



School Ranks 14th in National Institutes of Health (NIH) Funding

According to rankings published in February by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, the School of Nursing is 14th among 80 national nursing schools in research funding. Of note is that the School was one of the smallest in the top 15 ranked nursing schools, which included, among others, the University of California-Los Angeles, Yale University, New York University, Johns Hopkins, the University of Pennsylvania, and Columbia University.



Highland Hospital Achieves Gold Standard for Nursing Excellence

In May, nursing leaders at Highland Hospital learned from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) that they have been granted Magnet® status, the highest recognition for nursing excellence and an honor that only about six percent of U.S. hospitals receive.



A URMHC affiliate, Highland is the first hospital in the Rochester area to receive Magnet status under a new set of rigorous standards based on patient outcomes criteria. Strong Memorial Hospital was the first in the region to achieve designation in 2004 (it recently secured re-designation in January 2009), followed by two other regional hospitals—Rochester General and F.F. Thompson.

“We are simply elated,” said Chief Nursing Officer **Tommye Hinton, RN, MSN**, who leads more than 700 Highland nurses. “This

highlights the commitment our nurses have for excelling in all areas—in the way they work with patients, in the way they count on and challenge each other as teammates, and in their commitment to continuous learning that strengthens their nursing practice.”

The four-year designation recognizes health care organizations that provide the best in nursing care and professionalism in nursing practice. The term “magnet status” originates from a group of 41 hospitals during a national nursing shortage in the 1980s that nonetheless was able to recruit and retain nurses, serving as a magnet for the profession.

“This recognition demonstrates that Highland provides excellent outcomes, a safe environment, and care that is focused

on patients and their families,” said Steven I. Goldstein, president and CEO of Highland Hospital and Strong Memorial Hospital.

Studies show patients benefit from hospitals with Magnet status. Recognized hospitals report higher patient outcomes and satisfaction and improved recruitment and retention of nurses, physicians, and other medical professionals. The Magnet Recognition Program®, administered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the largest and most prominent nurses credentialing organization in the world, recognizes health care organizations that provide the very best in nursing care and professionalism in nursing practice. The program serves as the gold standard for nursing excellence and provides consumers with the ultimate benchmark for measuring quality of care.

For more information about the Magnet Recognition Program and current statistics, visit www.nursecredentialing.org/magnet.

Carno to Be Inducted as Fellow of American Academy of Nursing

Margaret-Ann Carno, PhD, RN, D, ABSM, CPNP, assistant professor of clinical nursing and pediatrics, will be one of 142 nurse leaders to be inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) this fall. Carno will be inducted during the academy’s 38th annual meeting and conference on October 15, 2011, in Washington, D.C. This year’s inductees hail from across the United States, Canada, England, South Korea, and Taiwan.

“Selection for membership in the academy is one of the most prestigious honors in the field of nursing,” said Academy President Catherine L. Gilliss, DNSc, RN, FAAN. “Academy fellows are truly experts. The academy fellowship represents the nation’s top nurse researchers, policymakers, scholars, executives, educators,

and practitioners.”

Selection criteria includes evidence of significant contributions to nursing and health care, and is based, in part, on the extent to which nominees’ nursing careers influence health policies and health care delivery for the benefit of Americans. The inductees are selected by a panel comprising elected and appointed fellows; each nominee must be sponsored by two current academy fellows. The academy is made up of more than 1,600 nursing leaders in education, management, practice, policy, and research.

Carno, who was appointed to the School of Nursing faculty in 2005, earned her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh and completed her post-master’s certification at Rochester. She specializes in sleep concerns in children and adolescents.



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Rhee Earns Provost Multidisciplinary Award For Asthma Research

In June, School of Nursing associate professor **Hyekyun Rhee, PhD, RN**, received a 2011 University of Rochester Provost Multidisciplinary Award of \$50,000 to support her collaborative research aimed at helping adolescents with asthma better manage their disease and improve their quality of life through the use of mobile phone technology.

Rhee and co-principal investigator, University computer science professor **James Allen, PhD**, are developing a mobile phone-based asthma self-management aid (ASMA) that can be used to help adolescents manage their asthma and enable greater parent partnership in asthma care. During the year-long study, Rhee and Allen will develop the system and evaluate its feasibility and acceptability with focus groups of adolescents and parents. The project's start-up phase begins in July, and its results will eventually result in a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant application to further evaluate the system's effects on asthma outcomes in adolescents.

Rhee and Allen's proposal was one of five selected to receive this year's awards. The award fund was created in 2007 by University President **Joel Seligman** to support faculty research involving two or more disciplines. The awards are overseen by University Provost **Ralph Kuncel**. A Multidisciplinary Fund Review Committee provides peer review of grant applications.

Adolescents are at great risk of asthma complications, due to poor symptom control that is often related to peer pressure, feelings of invulnerability, increased counterproductive behaviors, and a lack of management skills. Additionally, the ability of parents to influence their teen's asthma management is often compromised by changes in the parent-child relationship.

"Their growing need for independence and autonomy would seem to make adolescents better at assuming more responsibilities in their asthma care," said Rhee. "But in fact

the opposite is often the case. An array of challenges, including an increased desire for normalcy, and to 'fit in,' often causes them to downplay symptoms and neglect their asthma care. That's why, whether teens like it or not, parent partnerships are still pivotal in achieving optimum asthma care. There is a real need for an innovative and developmentally appropriate approach that not only helps adolescents manage their asthma but also engages parents in asthma management."

The use of computer technology has exploded in disease management programs over the last decade because of its capacity for interaction and personalization. For self-managing asthma, mobile-phone technology has shown the greatest potential due to its accessibility and portability. And when it comes to teens, using mobile phones is a way of life. According to the Pew Research Center, 75 percent of kids age 12 to 17 owned a mobile phone in 2009 and some 66 percent use text messages, spending an average of 95 minutes a day texting.

"Given their widespread ownership, their attractiveness to teens, and the adaptability of their features, we are confident that mobile phones can be a powerful tool in aiding adolescents' asthma self-management and facilitating parent partnership," said Rhee. "This award will enable us to not only develop the ASMA system, but to pilot test its use with both adolescents and parents."



Wilde Receives International Fellowship



Mary H. Wilde, RN, PhD, associate professor at the School of Nursing, was recently awarded a four-week fellowship from the International Continence Society (ICS) to collaborate with United Kingdom investigators and develop research initiatives to improve

the lives of people with long-term, indwelling urinary catheters.

For more than two decades, Wilde has focused on identifying, understanding and describing catheter-related problems from the perspective of patients, and on developing effective self-management interventions. In August, Wilde will travel to England to share knowledge, expand relationships and develop a research proposal with microbiologists from Bristol Urological Institute's BioMed Centre and the University of Southampton, who like Wilde, have led significant patient-focused research and initiatives in this area.

Her goal is to improve the quality of life for people whose incontinence issues require long-term catheter placement. These men and women, who may also cope with additional health issues, often experience distressful catheter-related problems such as urinary tract infection, blockage or obstruction of urine flow, accidental catheter dislodgement and urine leakage, all of which contribute to excess health care expenses. Nurses in home care settings or clinics are often closely involved in

trouble-shooting and managing these problems.

Wilde is principal investigator for eight clinically focused studies related to bladder and catheter issues, and has authored more than 30 publications, including 11 data-based publications from six completed studies. She has few American colleagues in her area of interest, however, due to the fact that most U.S. research has been medically oriented to address short-term catheter use in hospitals. Her involvement in the ICS Nursing Committee enabled her to build relationships outside the United States that will continue to evolve through her fellowship; specifically, she and the U.K. team will develop a research proposal related to urinary drainage bag decontamination, which was identified by the ICS Nursing Education Subcommittee as a top priority in 2010.

"This fellowship will not only enhance my own research but research programs in the U.K. as well," said Wilde. "It's a tremendous opportunity to strengthen international collaborations and build a foundation for a larger network in catheter-related studies that could involve researchers in other countries."

Watson Named New York State Distinguished Nurse Researcher

In November, School of Nursing associate professor **Nancy M. Watson, PhD, RN, FGSA**, was named the 2010 New York State Distinguished Nurse Researcher by the Foundation of New York State Nurses. She received the award at New York University.

The award recognizes Watson for the quality, evidence, contributions and dissemination of decades of research, which has focused on understanding and improving the experience of older persons living in residential long-term care (LTC). Since the 1970s, she has worked to improve the quality of long-term care, especially for individuals with dementia, and has been dedicated to translating her research into practice.

The span of Watson's multi-site work includes being the first to document the shift of nursing homes from "rest" homes to facilities caring for persons with significant behavioral symptoms associated with dementia. This recognition led to a major new direction in nursing home research. Working from the perspective of LTC patients, she developed a better understanding

of acute episodes of agitation and emotional distress related to dementia.

In addition, Watson developed the first guidelines for antibiotic use in LTC residents; identified the nature of acute conditions experienced in LTC; improved the understanding, evaluation and care of urinary incontinence in LTC; described and evaluated the trajectory of symptoms of persons in LTC with dementia at the end of life; and detailed significant problems with oral care in LTC. Her internationally recognized work with University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing Professor Thelma Wells, PhD, RN, focused on improving the psychological well-being of persons with dementia through rocking-chair therapy.

Following her role as the founding director of the School of Nursing's Elaine C. Hubbard Center for Nursing Research on Aging in 1999, Watson developed solutions to prepare nurses to care for geriatric patients. She has initiated gerontological curricular changes, mentored students and faculty pursuing geriatric research,

and reopened the geriatric nurse-practitioner program at the University of Rochester. In 2008, she was named the Geriatric Nurse Faculty Champion by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and The John A. Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing.



School Takes Part in Exchange with West China School of Nursing

In April 2011, the School of Nursing was asked by Linda H. Aiken, PhD, FAAN, FRCN, RN, chief nursing advisor to the China Medical Board (CMB) and the Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor in Nursing, professor of sociology, and director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania, to take part in a project to support the advancement of nursing education in China, as part of a larger initiative to improve the quality of China's community care.

Currently, there is a significant lack of community care services in urban and rural areas of China, resulting from health reform initiatives that have directed China's health care resources, and most of its highly trained clinicians and researchers, to support the work of the country's hospitals. Most of the doctors who provide primary care in Chinese communities have only three years of post-high school

United States that have an excellent track record of establishing and maintaining community-based practices in which nurses have central roles.

The UR School of Nursing committed to collaborate with the West China School of Nursing at Sichuan University through an international exchange. In August, the School of Nursing hosted nurse faculty from the West China School, as well as Chinese community health and government leaders, on a week-long visit to Rochester.

The group visited the School of Nursing, the Medical Center, and community nursing centers to learn about the community practice nursing model, particularly as the model is used to help transition patients from the hospital to home sooner and to reduce the frequency of hospitalizations for those with chronic illness or disease. Specifically, the information gained through this exchange will help the West China School of Nursing with its plans to develop a pilot community nursing model in Chengdu, Sichuan Province.

"This partnership offers tremendous opportunities to strengthen our global connections with nursing colleagues and may evolve to include exciting international learning opportunities for our students in the future," said **Harriet Kitzman, PhD, RN**, senior associate dean for research and evidence-based practice, who is coordinating the project. "Above all, it provides a way for us to support the West China School of Nursing in its effort to expand the role of nurses in community care settings and benefit many lives in their country.

Look for an article and photos from the August visit in the next issue of *NURSING*.



Created more than a century ago by the Rockefeller Foundation, the CMB has led numerous educational innovations and is responsible for creating a network of eight leading university-affiliated nursing schools in China. Today, the goals of the CMB include advancing doctoral education for Chinese nurses, conducting policy-relevant research, and advancing nursing's leadership in community care.

training and most community care nurses have only a high-school-level nursing education.

To help meet this urgent need, four of the nursing schools within the CMB network are seeking to establish primary care practices in association with their universities or provincial government, to demonstrate that advanced practice nurses can improve the quality of primary care. The CMB is providing funds to enable these four schools to establish partnerships with university nursing schools in the

Quinn Presents at AHA Meeting

In November, **Jill Quinn, PhD, RN, CS-ANP**, assistant professor at the School of Nursing, presented the most recent piece of her ongoing work at the American Heart Association (AHA) Annual Meeting in Chicago. With a grant from the AHA, Quinn has devoted many years to researching the variety of factors influencing heart patients' decisions to seek medical care, including symptom perception, quality-of-life perception and



depression. Quinn has also looked at the integral part family caregivers/significant others play in their loved one's care and decision-making.

For the more than five million Americans diagnosed with heart failure—most of them elderly—monitoring and managing their chronic conditions can be a full-time job. While adhering to lifestyle changes and strict medication regimens, they also need to be keenly attentive to the subtle symptoms that their condition may be getting worse—such as swelling, weight gain, fatigue, shortness of breath and confusion.

Because changes in symptoms can happen gradually, knowing when to contact a health care provider is not easy. Failing to do so soon enough, so that symptoms can be controlled safely at home, may be one of the reasons heart failure is the leading cause of hospitalization in the United States, claiming the lives of more than 300,000 Americans each year.

The ultimate goal of Quinn's research is to help determine if earlier symptom recognition by heart-failure patients and their caregivers, and more timely contact with their providers, would prevent or reduce hospitalizations for this population.

Although more research is needed to draw a correlation to hospitalization rates, Quinn's findings to date show that early symptom recognition by heart patients and their family caregivers, together, does have a measurable impact on their decision to contact their health care providers.

"Patients and caregivers who recognized worsening symptoms together, and believed there could be consequences to those symptoms, were more likely to contact their providers than those who did not," said Quinn. "To me, this is another piece of the puzzle, showing us that we need to keep digging deeper about how these close patient-caregiver relationships shape patient decisions and ultimately may affect outcomes. Additional research will also help inform the way we can improve symptom education, management, communication and support to this population."

Quinn's study involved interviewing 233 patient subjects hospitalized for worsening heart failure and 146 caregivers/significant others. They were interviewed before leaving the hospital to determine if, why and when they contacted their primary medical providers before coming to the hospital. They also answered specific symptom-recognition questions. The survey results point to a high correlation in the perceptions and actions of both patients and caregivers. They also show that recognition of symptoms—and patients' belief that there could be life-threatening consequences if they did not seek care—had the biggest impact on the decision to contact their providers.

Tantillo Earns Award for Counseling Research

In March, **Mary Tantillo, PhD, PMHCNS-BC, FAED, CGP**, received the Association for Creativity in Counseling (ACC) Research Award, which recognizes her for research that focuses on the development of creative, diverse, and relational approaches to counseling. Tantillo was selected based on the role her research has

played in furthering the understanding of these counseling approaches and on her promotion of the ACC's core values and competencies. Her recent article, "Measuring Perceived Mutuality in Women: Further Validation of the Connection-Disconnection Scale," published in the ACC's *Journal of Creativity in Mental Health*, was recognized by the ACC as instrumental to helping clinicians and researchers measure and promote the efficacy of Relational-Cultural Therapy and growth-fostering relationships. In addition, the ACC noted Tantillo's 25 years of clinical work in a variety of community settings, with particular emphasis on working with clients with eating disorders and their families.



Nursing Home Project Receives AMDA Award, Adds Videoconferencing Capability

The Greater Rochester Nursing Home Quality Consortium (GRNHQC), established in 2009 by School of Nursing associate professor of clinical nursing **Tobie Olsan, PhD, MPA, RN**, has enjoyed a successful and eventful year as a recipient of awards and grants that recognize and expand on the initiative's research value, and support its ongoing collaborative work to improve the quality of care and services for residents in rural, underserved nursing homes.

Currently funded by a three-year Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant, the GRNHQC is composed of

15 participating nursing homes in upstate New York and is actively working to expand its reach and impact. The shared goal of Consortium members is to improve the care of residents by providing Lean Six Sigma quality improvement training to interdisciplinary nursing home teams, and offer ongoing support, collaboration and sharing of best practices.

In March, Olsan and her colleagues **Suzanne Gillespie, MD, RD; Jurgis Karuza, PhD; Paul Katz, MD; Jim Evinger, MDiv; and Chandni Sud, BS**, received the 2011 American Medical Directors

Association (AMDA) Foundation/Pfizer Quality Improvement Award for their related project, "A Rural Collaboration to Reduce Nursing Home Residents' Avoidable Hospitalizations." This project's goal is to develop, implement, and test the impact of a transitional care model to reduce avoidable hospitalizations for nursing home residents. The School of Nursing, School of Medicine, and seven nursing homes within the GRNHQC are participating in this initiative.

In September 2010, the Consortium received a \$300,000 HRSA grant for videoconferencing technology to enhance collaboration and educational initiatives throughout the growing network of nursing homes. Three regional education centers were equipped with 42-inch Tandberg profile units to support meetings and educational sessions. Desk-top high-definition videoconference cameras were also installed within the School and within all nursing homes for smaller learning and coaching sessions. The technology not only enhances communication and collaboration among Consortium members and consultants, but furthers the project's long-term sustainability.

Barbara Zeller-Maw, RN, MPA, assistant director of nursing at the Living Center at Geneva, meets with Reginald Stewart, MQM, Six Sigma master black belt educator and coach, and Tobie H. Olsan, PhD, MPA, RN, School of Nursing associate professor of clinical nursing.



Preceptors Honored at Spring Workshop

On April 27, the School welcomed more than 120 preceptors from throughout the community to the 16th annual Preceptor Education and Recognition Workshop, where they were honored for their important contributions to students and attended free educational workshops.

The nurse practitioners and physicians who serve as preceptors provide direct supervision for the clinical portion of the master's programs, giving students the opportunity to see patients and practice their assessment, diagnosis,

treatment, and planning skills. Depending on their specialty, preceptors devote up to 224 hours a semester working one on one with students. Many have served as preceptors for continuous semesters year after year.

Two awards were given out during the event. **Delean Lunger, MS, RN, FNP-C**, was named Outstanding Preceptor of the Year, and **Jennifer Mercandetti, RN, MSN, FNP-BC**, received the Distinguished Alumni Preceptor Award.



The School of Nursing National Council: Diverse Perspectives Shape School's Future

The National Council of the School of Nursing, chaired by Roger B. Friedlander, is the top volunteer advisory group for the School. The Council is composed of a dedicated group of distinguished leaders from across the United States whose insights and experiences help the dean shape strategic plans for the School.

Currently, there are 11 National Council members. Though diverse in backgrounds, careers, and expertise, they all share a close, personal connection with the School or the University as alumni, retired faculty, parents, friends, and supporters. Council members serve three-year terms and meet four times a year in Rochester.

Council members play a critical role in environmental and peer assessment, focusing primarily on the long-term objectives and

progress of the School in the light of national trends and projections.

In addition to bringing their perspectives to the development of the School's vision and strategic plan, National Council members also help the School extend its global network of supporters, and actively promote the efforts of University advancement. Council members often support the University through the George Eastman Circle at a leadership level.

"National Council members are shining examples for other School of Nursing volunteers through their leadership, service, and support, and most of all their passion for the School," said Dean **Kathy P. Parker, PhD, RN, FAAN**. "Every member brings valuable insight and ideas to the table and helps us successfully carry out the strategic plan and visionary agenda of the School."



The School held its first-ever Pinning Ceremony December 16, 2010, to recognize 50 of the most recent students to complete their degree requirements through the accelerated program for non-nurses (APNN). Forty-seven of the graduates at the ceremony represented the first cohort class since the program's beginning in 2002, which was added in January 2010 to accommodate a growing number of applicants to the program. The APNN now has three cohort admission cycles. Pinning ceremonies are a time-honored tradition at many nursing schools across the country and symbolize a graduate's official entrance into the nursing profession. Each graduate selects a special person in his or her life—a spouse, parent, friend, teacher or mentor—to give them their pin during the ceremony.

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School of Nursing Benefits from Sutherlands' \$1 Million Gift to Medical Center

Karen Webb Sutherland, a 1961 graduate of the University of Rochester School of Nursing, and her husband, Robert M. Sutherland, PhD, a 1966 graduate of the University's School of Medicine and Dentistry, recently gave \$1 million in support of an endowed scholarship and an endowment for research and technology commercialization.

The Karen Webb Sutherland and Robert M. Sutherland Endowed Nursing Scholarship Fund will boost scholarships and financial aid for students.

"Keeping the School competitive yet also within reach of the best and brightest students, who often depend on financial assistance, is critically important," said **Kathy P. Parker, PhD, RN, FAAN**, dean of the School of Nursing. "Karen and Bob's gift is a generous and substantial gift that will advance us toward this goal."



Income from the Robert M. Sutherland and Karen Webb Sutherland Endowed Medical Technology Development Fund will be competitively awarded to faculty of the School of Medicine and Dentistry to provide gap funding for discoveries and emerging technologies before they are ready for commercially motivated investment.

"Bob and Karen's commitment is an investment in our faculty, our students, and our future," said **Bradford C. Berk, MD, PhD**, chief executive officer of the Medical Center. "They have demonstrated extraordinary leadership through their years of service to the University and long-time financial support. We are grateful for their inspiring example of what it takes to move an institution forward."

Karen Webb Sutherland, a past member of the School of Nursing Dean's Advisory Council and previously active in the School's Future of Care campaign, has extensive experience in not-for-profit volunteer fundraising. She is a

former president of the Association of Auxiliaries to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford and board member of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health.

Robert Sutherland, who received a doctorate in biophysics from the School of Medicine and Dentistry, specializes in the management and direction of biomedical research programs in both academia and business. He is senior investment officer for the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research in Toronto, where he previously served as vice president of commercialization. He has held faculty appointments in biophysics and radiation oncology at the University of Western Ontario, the University of Rochester, and Stanford University.

He is past member of the executive committee of the School of Medicine and Dentistry Alumni Council and currently is a member of the School's National Council.

The Sutherlands live in Menlo Park, Calif.

University of Rochester School of Nursing Commencement 2011





Nearly 250 graduates crossed the Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre stage to receive their diplomas at commencement May 13. The majority of the 2011 class earned their bachelor's degrees through the Accelerated Program for Non-Nurses (APNN) or through the School's RN to BS program. Many of these nurses hold degrees in other fields and/or have worked or volunteered in a broad range of settings—bringing rich and diverse life experiences to the nursing profession. The School also conferred master's degrees to 42 graduates of the Nurse Practitioner program and eight graduates of the Leadership in Health Care Systems program. As well, six nurses and a physical therapist received PhD degrees. **Rebecca Tucker, MEd, RN, CCRN**, senior associate at the School of Nursing and a cardiac care nurse practitioner at the Medical Center, received the 2011 Dean's Excellence in Teaching Award.

Online now!

See the exclusive
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Commencement slide show.

 **Web Extra**
nursing-magazine.urmc.edu

Roger and Carolyn Friedlander Honored as Outstanding Philanthropists

Roger and Carolyn Friedlander, who share an exceptional history of charitable support to the University of Rochester, the School of Nursing, and the Rochester community, were recently presented with the Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), Genesee Valley Chapter. The Brighton residents were co-nominated for the distinction by the School of Nursing and Hillside Family of Agencies, two organizations with whom they share particularly strong relationships. Presented at the Riverside Convention Center, the award specifically recognized the Friedlanders for inspiring others toward philanthropic generosity and civic involvement.

“Carolyn and Roger’s unwavering commitment to health care and education has benefited vital programs, scholarships, facilities, and resources within our school and the University,” said School of Nursing Dean **Kathy P. Parker, PhD, RN, FAAN**. “Moreover, their three decades of generosity and involvement has tangibly benefited the individual lives of countless medical and nursing students, families, at-risk children, and others throughout the Rochester community. We could not be more pleased to see them receive this fitting honor.”

As the most recent example of their generosity, the couple has pledged \$250,000 to the School of Nursing Alumni Scholarship Fund, to be granted in \$25,000 annual increments over ten years beginning in May 2012. This significant gift will help provide need-based scholarships to deserving nursing students, who will be recognized as Friedlander Nursing Scholars.

Roger and Carolyn’s relationship with the University began when they were students there in the 1950s and 60s. Over the last 34 years, their gifts to the UR have been largely in the form of nursing and medical scholarships. Carolyn was one of the first to complete the Nurse Practitioner program at the School of Nursing in 1968. Inspired by her own experience as a pediatric nurse practitioner for more than 25 years, she has consistently given scholarships to support the continual development and education of nurse practitioners within the School of Nursing and Hillside Family of Agencies. Currently, the Friedlander Nursing

Scholarship provides financial support to RNs and RNPs who are employed by Hillside and seeking advanced practice degrees in child and adolescent health through the School of Nursing.

Roger, a 1956 UR graduate, gave his first major gift to create the Roger B. Friedlander Lobby in the Rush Rhees Library. He and Carolyn also funded the refurbishment of the Welles Brown Room and the lobby in 1999. In 2007, they established the Elizabeth McAnarney, MD, Scholarship Fund for medical

Board and former board member for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2010, Roger pledged a \$200,000 challenge gift for the renovation of the Eastman Theatre, which inspired many others to follow suit. The Friedlanders are also charter members of the George Eastman Circle, the University’s leadership annual giving society.

Carolyn is a past member of the UR School of Nursing Dean’s Advisory Council, a docent of the Memorial Art Gallery, and a long-time member, and former chair, of the Memorial Art



students, in honor of the former chair of pediatrics, and over the years have supported the Kornberg Research Laboratory at the Medical Center.

Roger currently chairs the School of Nursing National Council, the highest volunteer board of the School, of which Carolyn is also a member. He is also a voting trustee of the University, a Golisano Children’s Hospital trustee, and current member of the boards of the Simon School, the Eastman Institute of Oral Health Foundation, and Strong Partners Health System. In addition, he is past chair and board member of the University Medical

Gallery Board of Managers. She also serves on the executive committee of the Friends of UR Libraries.

Beyond the University, the couple’s contributions to Hillside Family of Agencies include providing vital strategic insight and service development through the couple’s many years of board leadership, membership, and committee involvements. Carolyn is a current Hillside board member and past chair; Roger is vice chair of the Hillside Board of Governors. Both are key volunteers and advisers to the organization, championing the needs of children and helping the organization thrive and excel.

Nurse Practitioner Graduates Share Their Experiences

As registered nurses, **Rebecca Golding, MSN, ANP, PMHNP**, and **Kathy Marchiony, MS, RN, NPP**, have each spent nearly 20 years as health care providers to boys and girls with serious mental and behavioral health issues who are served by Hillside



Family of Agencies. As two of the most recent graduates of the School of Nursing's Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner program, Golding and Marchiony now look forward to playing even greater roles in providing, and leading, that care.

They were able to pursue their advanced practice degrees with the help of an ongoing scholarship program developed by Roger and Carolyn Friedlander, which specifically supports RNs and NPs who are employed at Hillside and seeking advanced practice degrees through the School. Marchiony also benefited from scholarship assistance provided by long-time School of Nursing friends and donors Jan and Bob Scala.

At a lunch on June 23, the new graduates had a chance to describe how their education has benefited their career paths and, most importantly, the children and families they work with.

"At Hillside, we have been able to develop a true collaborative between the psychiatrists and the nurse practitioners, which is such a huge benefit to the clients," said Golding, who plans to continue working toward her Doctor of

Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at the School, and is focusing on ways to improve outcomes for mentally ill youth who suffer from post-traumatic stress. "What I really love is working on the family piece within clients' homes. The quality of my education and training here was truly exceptional and has made me a much better clinician."

Marchiony said the scholarships, and the structure of the courses, many of which are offered online, made it possible for her to work and raise her young family while working toward her degree over the last three years.

"It was so accessible here and really accommodated my lifestyle," she said. "There's no way I could have done it otherwise, and now there are so many new doors open to what I can accomplish for the kids we serve."

Rebecca Golding, MSN, ANP, PMHNP, Roger and Carolyn Friedlander, and Kathy Marchiony, MS, RN, NPP.

PLANNED GIVING

The Eleanor Hall Bequest Society: Honoring a Legacy



By *Jane Tuttle, PhD, APRN, BC, FNP, CPNP*
Professor of Clinical Nursing and Specialty Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program

Eleanor Hall, RN, MA, who passed away in 2009, was chair of the Department of Nursing of the School of Medicine and Dentistry during a transformational time in its history, from 1957 to 1971. She worked closely with then-University Associate Provost Robert R. France to establish an independent school of nursing, and was instrumental in recruiting Dr. Loretta C. Ford as its first dean.

Both of these amazing women were great innovators who were able to bring to fruition their vision of a school that responds to societal needs by educating excellent nurses, conducting cutting-edge research, and providing leadership and service both locally and globally.

Eleanor was most proud of elevating the Department of Nursing's educational standards to a level that matched those set for the University's other educational units, and was steadfast in her efforts to ensure that nursing students were respected and judged by the same criteria as were their University colleagues.

Eleanor and I became friends during the last several years of her life, and I have fond memories of visiting her and her dog, Max, at her summer home in Bass Harbor, Maine, and her home in Brighton. Shortly after her death, I decided I wanted to do something special for the School of Nursing in her memory, and joined the Eleanor Hall Bequest Society by including the School in my will. Eleanor remains a wonderful inspiration to me and many others, and this is a way I can honor her legacy while helping to secure the future of our School.

My decision to make this commitment to the School of Nursing was based on my firm belief in our capacity as nurses

to transform the health care system, as is so often exemplified by the work of our school's faculty and Dean Kathy P. Parker. The future of the Bequest Society depends on our history, as well as our present place as a leader in nursing education.

I am blessed to be "standing on the shoulders of giants" like Eleanor and Loretta and am honored to join them as members of the Eleanor Hall Bequest Society. I encourage anyone who shares my passion for the School of Nursing to consider including the School in your estate plans so that, together, we can continue transforming health care and thus transforming lives.

For more information about making a gift to the School of Nursing, please contact Dianne Moll, director of advancement, University of Rochester School of Nursing, at (800) 333-4428 or (585) 273-5075, or e-mail dmoll@admin.rochester.edu.

1970s

Jennifer Foster, RN '76, PhD, was inducted into the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) 2001 fellowship class at the organization's 56th annual conference in San Antonio, Texas, on May 25, 2011. Foster, who is a researcher in maternal and newborn health at Emory University, was elected in recognition of her clinical work to establish the first midwifery practice on the island of Molokai, Hawaii. She was also honored for her advancements in the provision of maternal health services in Latin America and for the improvements she made to the quality of maternal care using a community-based participatory research approach.



1980s

Fran London, RN '86, MS '91, received an American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year award for her book, *No Time to Teach: The Essence of Patient and Family Education for Health Care Providers*, in January 2011. London disseminates the latest patient education research and news at www.notimetoteach.com and on Twitter @notimetoteach.

Susan Michaels-Strasser, RN '86, PhD, was inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) in November 2010 at the organization's 37th annual conference in Washington, D.C. Strasser, who serves as country director of the Elizabeth Glaser Aids Foundation in Zambia, was recognized for her accomplishments and contributions to the field of nursing and the continued impact of her work in Africa. She joined the foundation in 2008 as a consultant to the Zimbabwe office, and was later named technical advisor to the Zambia office prior to her promotion to country director in 2010. As director, Strasser leads the foundation's HIV prevention care and treatment efforts and manages a supporting staff. Strasser received her BSN from Rochester and her MSR and MPH in international health from the Yale School of Nursing and School of Medicine, respectively, and her PhD from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. A board-certified nurse

practitioner, Strasser was a speaker at Yale School of Nursing's 2011 Commencement. The daughter of Beryl and Harry Michaels of Gates, N.Y., she is married to Pastor Arden Strasser, UR (MS) '84. They reside in Lusaku, Zambia, with their daughters Chloe and Alea.

April Haberyan, RN '89, MS '93, PhD, an associate professor of psychology, sociology, and counseling at Northwest Missouri State University, received the 2011 Governor's Award for Excellence in Education in January 2011. The award is bestowed annually on outstanding faculty members from each of Missouri's four-year universities. Haberyan began teaching at Northwest in 1995 and earned a full-time appointment in 2001. Her work there has included playing a leading role in the creation of an interdisciplinary crisis response minor, which prepares students for careers in disaster relief. Last year, Haberyan traveled with 11 students to Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, Fla., where they participated in an earthquake/civil war disaster scenario that required implementation of skills taught in Haberyan's courses. Haberyan earned her undergraduate and graduate nursing degrees at Rochester and her PhD in psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

1990s

Tracey Backus, RN '99, MS '10, began a new position in October 2010 as a credentialed trainer for eRecord at the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center.

2000s

LaRon E. Nelson, RN '02, MS '04, PhD '09, was named one of Canada's Rising Stars in Global Health in June 2011, through which he received a \$100,000 grant to fund his research to prevent the spread of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. Nelson, an assistant professor at The Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto, has dedicated his research career to the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmissible infections among socially marginalized groups within African and African diaspora communities;

in particular, these groups include teenage parents and men who have sex with men. The award recognizes Nelson's commitment and determination to take on one of the toughest, most worrisome global health issues and to save lives. His research project is aimed at reducing HIV transmission in Ghana by using social networks to reach men who are at highest risk for infection, yet the least visible and among the most difficult to reach and persuade to engage in HIV prevention services. In addition to condoms, the prevention tool kit now includes pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which provides daily antiretroviral medication to HIV-negative, high-risk individuals to lower their chances of infection. Working in collaboration with Ghana's public health officials and community, Nelson and his team hope to discover the most culturally appropriate strategies for harnessing social/sexual networks to facilitate the implementation of behavioral and biomedical interventions such as PrEP, within the context of a multi-level prevention strategy.

2010s

Marya Kaszubinski, MS '10, is working as an associate project manager for VirtualScopics in Penfield, N.Y., an imaging core lab that provides quantitative imaging for clinical trials. Kaszubinski is a graduate of the Leadership in Health Care Systems master's degree program.

Mark Maier, RN '10, is working on the Neurology/Orthopaedic floor at South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside, N.Y., which serves the greater Long Island area.



In Memoriam

The School of Nursing expresses sympathy to the loved ones of our deceased alumni.

Alexander, Dorothy I. (Mosley), '47N, December 27, 2010, Geneva, NY

Allison, Phyllis (Carr), '47N, January 4, 2011, Penn Yan, NY

Altemoos, Elizabeth B. (Pomeroy), '59N, June 22, 1999, Buffalo, NY

Ames, SueAnn W., '78N (FLW), December 10, 2010, Buffalo, NY

Barkley, Patricia (Mason), '56N, March 22, 2011, Rochester, NY

Barry, Marion (Cardiff), '33N, December 18, 2010, Sanford, FL

Boardman, Charlotte (Pommerer), '50, '51N, November 9, 2009, Round Top, NY

Brautigam, Dorothy (Peat), '47N, January 25, 2010, Syosset, NY

Bray, Martha (Bardenhagen), '62N (MS), August 24, 2005, Baton Rouge, LA

Bromfield, Patricia E. (Bayers), '68N, September 2, 2010, Plainwell, MI

Butler, Andrea (Reule), '59N, February 21, 2011, Springfield, IL

Carter, Bernice (Woolshlager), '46N, March 2, 2011, Lowville, NY

Chapin, Marjorie (Thomes), '50N, March 3, 2011, Eustis, FL

Charron, Helene K. (Shetler), '64, '66N (MS), August 4, 2010, West Bloomfield, NY

Cox, Dorothy E. (Costich), '66N (MS), January 26, 2011, Syracuse, NY

Crim, Dorothy (Hill), '50, '51N, March 3, 2011, Saline, MI

Dodds, Dorothy (Mundy), '49N, January 19, 2011, Wimberley, TX

Douglas, Katherine M., '02N, December 16, 2010, Rochester, NY

Felton, Dorothy (Doyle), '41N, April 3, 2011, Annapolis, MD

Fleischmann, Jeanne (Morrison), '47N, May 16, 2011, Buffalo, NY

Florey, Rhita (Shafer), '42N, February 24, 2011, Denver, CO

George, Melda (Russell), '35N, May 27, 2010, Jamestown, NC

Gigee, Wilda R., '34N, January 7, 2008, Port Charlotte, FL

Grant, Mary E., '91N, April 10, 2011, Rochester, NY

Grega, Kathleen Carol, '66N, April 2, 2011, Willows, CA

Hanke, Olivia A., '30N, February 26, 2001, Tavistock, ON

Haws, Joan (Diamond), '55, '56N, August 26, 2010, Orchard Park, NY

Houle, Jeannine (Todd), '56N, January 9, 2011, Canandaigua, NY

Hill, Lois Isabel (Ferguson), '49N, July 5, 2011, Edgewater, NJ

Huff, Georgann (Colwell), '59N, October 4, 2010, Victor, NY

Huff, Sheryn (Hansen), '59N, January 14, 2011, Seattle, WA

Hull, Margaret Mary, '89N (PHD), June 1, 2009, Hamburg, NY

Kelly, Margaret (Miller), '48N, October 9, 2008, Mesa, AZ

Kosobucki-Wolmering, Carolyn, '78N, July 26, 2009, Clarence Center, NY

Lane, Hazel Blake (Uttley), '52, '53N, May 10, 2011, Sunderland, MA

Lenrow, Rosemary (Wetterings), '54N, March 31, 2011, Westport Point, MA

McGarrah, Lucile (Beaman), '47N, August 10, 2010, Mount Kisco, NY

Monje, Marcia Jean, '60, '74N, November 14, 2002, Rochester, NY

Mulligan, Ruth (Stevens), '41, '42N, August 2, 2010, Pittsford, NY

Neimanis, Judith (Johnson), '60N, February 6, 2001, Dunkirk, MD

Norris, Joan (Casarett), '53N, November 24, 2010, Liburn, GA

Northrup, Esther L., '49, '50N, August 28, 2010, Pittsfield, MA

Parry, Gretchen (Towner), '51N, August 2, 2010, Rochester, NY

Pearson, Elizabeth A. (Lamott), '39N, January 18, 2011, Dedham, MA

Phillips, Nada M. (Blake), '45, '46N, December 27, 2010, Williamson, NY

Polgrean, Virginia (Myers), '56, '57N, September 11, 2010, Poughkeepsie, NY

Quigley, Elizabeth (Brady), '36N, '45, February 8, 2001, Pittsford, NY

Rank, Susannah (Mallery), '63N, May 28, 2010, Cincinnati, OH

Richards, Nancy (Church), '46N, May 17, 2009, West Tisbury, MA

Rubens, Peter Michael, '79N, October 27, 2010

Saxton, Joyce Sandra, '71N, September 19, 2004, Glendora, CA

Scanlon, Barbara J. (Brown), '49N, June 18, 2010, Waukesha, WI

Schirmer, Florence (Danielson), '41N, '46, September 27, 2010, Rochester, NY

Schmitt, Evajane (Canon), '71N (MS), September 15, 2010, Valparaiso, IN

Schucker-Pearsall, C. Annette (Frick), '49N, January 27, 2011, Troy, PA

Silvanic, Marie (Polizotto), '52, '53N, April 5, 2011, San Ramon, CA

Sisson, Sheila A. (Donnelly), '63N, March 24, 2009, Oxnard, CA

Smith, Diana (Smith), '55, '56N, August 22, 2010, Hanover, VA

Stockton, Edna (Sine), '35N, March 9, 2011, Dobson, NC

Wessman, Margaret (Ball), '46N, October 27, 2010, San Diego, CA

Williams, Elizabeth (Ickes), '43N, January 2, 2011, Jackson, MS

Williams-Lupi, Beverly (Densmore), '65N, June 6, 2010, Elba, NY

Winsor, Helen (Toms), '61, '65N (MS), January 24, 2011, Pittsford, NY

Witherspoon, Regina (Yodkwicz), '40N, '47, October 29, 2010, Rochester, NY

Rosemary Lenrow (Wetterings) '54N, beloved sister of Elizabeth "Bette" Wetterings Smith '50N, died peacefully in the company of her family on March 31, 2011. She wished to thank all of the friends and fellow community workers she had come to know for their care and fellowship. A memorial was held in June to celebrate Rosemary's life and her love of the world.

UPDATE US!

We want to know what's happening. Send NURSING the latest news on your career advancement and honors, publications and family. Please include pertinent information as well as class year and degree and a way to reach you with questions. We also invite you to submit photos from significant events you'd like mentioned in Class Notes. We will feature as many as space allows. We accept color or black-and-white prints, or high-resolution digital images. E-mail news and digital photos to Christine_Roth@urmc.rochester.edu. Mail news and photos to NURSING, c/o Christine Roth, 601 Elmwood Avenue, Box SON, Rochester, NY 14642.

Remembering Elaine Melia, Nurse and Student



On February 6, the School of Nursing lost one of its promising students when **Elaine C. Melia, RN**, passed away from pancreatic cancer at age 45. A Chili resident, wife, and mother, Melia was a registered nurse for the Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Rochester, and was working toward her master's degree in the Leadership in Health Care Systems Clinical Nurse Leaders (CNL) track. The CNL program enables experienced registered nurses to advance in their careers while remaining clinically focused.

Melia's decision to become a nurse evolved after serving four years in the U.S. Navy. She began working for Veteran's Affairs shortly after earning her BSN at SUNY College at Brockport, and was intent on improving the health and well-being of veterans. With the VA, her roles included team leader, case manager, triage nurse, and charge nurse. She was named Veterans Affairs Nurse of the Year in 2009. "At the VA, the more capable you are, the more hats you wear, and Elaine was very capable," said her friend and co-worker

Debra Khani, MD. Khani worked with Elaine in one of the VA's patient-centered medical homes, a model of practice in which a team of health professionals, coordinated by a personal physician, works collaboratively to coordinate all aspects of a patient's preventive, acute, chronic, and end-of-life care. "Elaine was very happy at work; she really loved being able to play a multi-faceted nursing role here and being involved in all aspects of a patient's care."

Khani said that Melia was excited to be pursuing her master's degree at the University so she could be a nurse leader overseeing geriatric care in the VA medical homes, which was her particular interest.

"Elaine was a nurse who truly wanted to make a difference in how veterans receive health care," said **Lisa Norsen, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC**, associate dean for innovation, entrepreneurship, and community outreach and director of the School of Nursing's master's programs. "She began her education with careful planning and enthusiasm, and I never doubted that she would be a great success."

Melia was described by her professors as having a calm demeanor and positive outlook. "She was a quiet and thoughtful person whose contributions to class discussions were always measured and insightful," said associate professor **James McMahon, PhD**, who taught her in his Epidemiology and Population Health Research (NLX 466) course last fall. "She was also very well-liked and respected by her classmates."

Tragically, Melia was diagnosed with an advanced stage of pancreatic cancer after experiencing some symptoms in the late fall, and died within two months. She is survived by her husband of 23 years, Kevin P. Melia; children, Anthony and Rachel Melia; parents, Anthony and Judy Alestra; and sisters, Donna and Sue Alestra.



Craig R. Sellers '78N, '88N (MS), '09N (PhD), '10N (PMC), Laretta Allington '97N (MS), '02N (PMC), Maria C. Lafaro Kelly '01N, '03N (MS)



Sharon Matthys '60N, Marian Hewett '60N, JoAnne Ostrye '60N, Patricia Tarr '60N, Judy Knight '60N, Frances Scalzo '60N, Dorothy Dahm '60N, Karen Brizendine '60N

Web Extra
nursing-magazine.urmc.edu

Go online to view the extensive slide show of the 2010 School of Nursing reunion.



The School of Nursing now publishes an eNewsletter, *Notes on Nursing*, to bring you timely information on the School's most noteworthy activities and accomplishments. To subscribe, please email Christine_Roth@urmc.rochester.edu.

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NURSING Online Edition



NURSING: Summer 2011

NURSING is a biannual publication of the University of Rochester School of Nursing in conjunction with the University of Rochester Medical Center Departments of Nursing Alumni Relations and of Advancement and Public Relations and Communications.



MELIORA MOMENTS



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*Meliora Moment excerpt,
Patricia Dundon Larrabee '77N*

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