

# NursingMatters

A newsletter from the  School of Nursing

SUMMER 2011



## Dean's Research Day

Dean Kathleen Potempa called it "a day of scholarship, fellowship, and thinking ahead to the future of nursing," and it was that and more. With over 300 faculty, students, alumni, researchers, and practitioners in attendance, the 2011 Dean's Research Day provided an engaging opportunity for the community to focus on leading-edge research that is changing the face of healthcare. As Dean Potempa observed in her opening remarks, "The golden age of nursing is ahead of us, a time when we will rely on research that betters the lives of the people and communities we serve."

Pursuing that same theme, Ada Sue Hinshaw, dean emerita and the inaugural Suzanne H. Brouse Endowed Lectureship speaker, urged young nurse researchers to carefully consider the focus of their research careers and to select topics that will advance health policy and improve models of care. She also noted that in order to capture the attention of policy makers, medical research must address a major health problem of interest to multiple audiences and engage an interdisciplinary team of investigators with diverse perspectives. According to Dr. Hinshaw, "Nursing science lends itself exceptionally well to meeting this criteria and gives nurses the opportunity to build research careers around these qualities to improve the body of knowledge used in creating national health legislation."



*From left to right, Dr. Suzanne Brouse, Dean Kathleen Potempa, and Dean Emerita Ada Sue Hinshaw.*

## The Suzanne H. Brouse Lectureship

Motivated by both vision and leadership, Dr. Suzanne H. Brouse (BSN '58) has endowed a new lectureship in perpetuity, one that will enable the school to bring a noted speaker to campus on an annual basis. At this year's research day event, the occasion of the inaugural lecture, Dean Potempa thanked Dr. Brouse for "her generosity and inspiration to give back to her alma mater in a way that will allow current students and the school community to engage with scholars who will push us to keep thinking, to keep moving forward in advancing the science of nursing."

Accepting an honorary plaque from the dean, Dr. Brouse noted, "It's a joy to be in this room with these past, present, and future researchers who will make an impact not only on nursing science, but also on the lives of the people we serve as nurses. We who have outstanding training need to give back so that others may have similar opportunities."

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[www.nursing.umich.edu](http://www.nursing.umich.edu)

## A Message from the Dean

### Responding to the IOM Report

This past fall, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a study entitled *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. This groundbreaking report recommends significant changes in the roles, responsibilities, and education of nurses in order to meet the growing demand for care and advance improvements in America's increasingly complex health system.

Numbering more than three million in the U.S. alone, nurses comprise the largest segment of the healthcare workforce and spend the most time delivering patient care. This makes them uniquely qualified to collaborate as equal partners in improving the quality and safety of care, as envisioned in the recent Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The IOM report cites regulatory and institutional obstacles that currently prevent nurses from practicing to the full extent of their education and training. It also calls for the removal of barriers — such as limits on the permitted scope of practice — to give nurses more responsibility in patient care and provide greater opportunities for them to gain leadership skills.

This landmark report lays the groundwork for uniting the profession around shared priorities and achievable goals. However, meaningful healthcare reform cannot occur unless the nursing profession takes decisive and collective action to fully engage in redesigning the nation's healthcare system.

In the coming academic year, the School of Nursing will be discussing the recommendations in this report, analyzing the implications for education, research and practice, and identifying ways that we can forge change as students, educators, researchers, practitioners, and leaders.

It is my sincere hope that you will join us and engage in this process as nursing alumni and members of the larger community of healthcare professionals. Together, we can implement the IOM recommendations, move the nursing profession forward, and empower nurses to become full partners in reforming our healthcare delivery system.

**Kathleen Potempa,**  
**PhD, RN, FAAN**  
Dean and Professor



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## Impact in Practice: Nurse-Managed Centers

Although healthcare providers and policy makers are not always in agreement, they generally see eye to eye on the need to control the cost of care while maintaining widespread access to the highest quality medical services. Our Nurse-Managed Centers (NMCs), some of the first in the country, have been doing this in the greater Ann Arbor community since they were established.

With two primary facilities and outreach clinics in schools, shelters, and other community organizations, the NMCs provide basic medical care for families and individuals who might not otherwise have access to healthcare services. Because these centers function as community facilities, the nurses who staff them are in a unique position to understand the health challenges of those they serve, provide beneficial risk reduction measures, and promote health education programs. So effective are our NMCs that, at the annual meeting of the National Nursing Centers Consortium, they were recognized for their excellence in meeting the community's healthcare needs.



## Improving the NMCs Through Research

### IMPACT

Dr. Donna Marvicsin, clinical assistant professor, has been granted a \$1.5 million award from the Division of Nursing at the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA). Part of the federal Affordable Care Act, this three-year grant provides the support needed to effectively consolidate the school's two existing Nurse-Managed Centers into one expanded facility.

The merger will provide underserved populations with increased access to primary care services and will improve both capacity and resources to serve the community as a whole. According to Dr. Marvicsin, "Building on the successful and cost effective nurse-managed model, the new center will deliver care that emphasizes health promotion, disease prevention, risk identification and remediation, patient empowerment, and collaborative patient/provider relationships."

## Other Points of Impact

*Across the country and around the globe, School of Nursing faculty members are making a difference and having an impact.*

**Dr. Jody Lori (BSN '80, MS '92)**, clinical assistant professor, director of the Office of Global Outreach, and deputy director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center, is researching the feasibility of teaching midwives with low literacy levels to use cell phones to report data regarding maternal and newborn healthcare outcomes in Liberia, a country with extremely high maternal mortality rates.

**Dr. Joanne Pohl (PhD '92)**, professor, recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties in recognition of her visionary work to advance the nurse practitioner role through education, policy, and research.

**Dr. Lisa Kane Low (BSN '84, PhD '01)**, assistant professor and coordinator of the Nurse Midwifery Education Program, is working to provide evidence that will help maternity caregivers reduce the risk of

incontinence associated with childbirth by analyzing audiotapes of women in second stage labor.

**Elizabeth Kuzma**, clinical instructor, is developing a nurse-implemented community program that supports survivors of domestic violence in building lifestyles and habits that foster health and well-being for themselves and their families.

**Dr. Marjorie McCullagh (PhD '99)**, assistant professor and director of the Occupational Health Nursing Program, is working with the Michigan Farm Bureau to compare the efficacy of two alternative approaches to promoting the use of hearing protection among farmers, a demographic in which nearly 80 percent of individuals are affected by preventable hearing loss. She recently participated in an elite panel at the Institute of Medicine Workshop on Respiratory Protection Curriculum for Occupational Health Nursing Programs.

**Dr. Beatrice Kalisch**, Titus Professor of Nursing, received the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation McDevitt Excellence

in Research award for her work to improve patient outcomes through the study of missed care nursing. The award provides an opportunity to further her existing program of study through clinical trials or health policy research.

**Dr. Janet Larson**, professor and chair of the Division of Acute, Critical, and Long-Term Care Programs, was appointed president of the Midwest Nursing Research Society, one of the largest and most influential nursing research organizations in the country.

**Dr. Christine Anderson (BSN '81, PhD '08)**, clinical assistant professor, had an article published in the prestigious British journal, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. Her work focused on a new and innovative methodological tool that can help nurse researchers examine complex systems as they relate to the field of nursing.

**For the most up-to-date news on the School of Nursing, visit our website at [nursing.umich.edu/news](http://nursing.umich.edu/news)**





## Recruiting Top Faculty

Identifying and recruiting notable scholars, researchers, and educators is an ongoing process. Although competition can be fierce, the School of Nursing has much to recommend it and, now, thanks to the generous support of distinguished alumna Dr. Suzanne Feetham, the school has yet another tool for attracting the best faculty.

The intent of the endowed Suzanne Bellinger Feetham Professorship is to support a promising new scientist and scholar in developing a strong program of research. As Dr. Feetham explains, "This endowed professorship represents an expression of gratitude for the mentoring that I received early in my career, mentoring which proved to be instrumental in building my research and leadership skills." During the fall 2011 semester, the school will launch a national search to fill this distinguished position.



## Celebrating Julia

In many ways, Julia Strecher was the personification of a great student nurse. Humble, intelligent, grateful for life's opportunities, and committed to the profession, Julia made a shining addition to the School of Nursing, which she was proud to attend as an undergraduate. Since her passing in 2010, Dr. Vic Strecher and his wife, Jeri Rosenberg, have established the Julia Strecher Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of their daughter. Each year, this endowed fund will provide a scholarship for an undergraduate student like Julia — someone talented and compassionate, with the potential to become an outstanding nurse.

## Reunion 2011 — Save the Date!

Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss the exciting array of activities planned for this year's reunion, which will take place Thursday, October 27 through Sunday, October 30. Renew friendships, attend special alumni events and tours, and join with your classmates to cheer the Michigan Wolverines to victory as they take on the Purdue Boilermakers at the Michigan Stadium.

Visit [nursing.umich.edu/reunions](http://nursing.umich.edu/reunions) for detailed information, including online registration. We look forward to seeing you back on campus this fall!

## Carol Ann Fausone

Few in the military achieve the rank of general and, among female soliders, fewer still have the honor of earning that title. Alumna Carol Ann Fausone (BSN '75) is a member of that elite group. Throughout her outstanding military career, she has been a model of professional commitment and an advocate for soldiers and veterans.

Following graduation, Brigadier General Fausone began a tour of active duty that took her across the country. "I just had this yearning," Fausone explains. "I wanted to serve my country, and being a nurse was great." She rose through the ranks, eventually serving for more than 30 years and becoming Michigan's first female Brigadier General.

To Fausone, her role in the military was always clear: "It was to take care of our American heroes, those on active duty, in the Guard, and our veterans." Now retired, she continues creating a legacy of leadership through her work on the School of Nursing Advisory Board and the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America Advisory Board.



## A Life of Service, in the Service

Stephen Kilijanczyk (BSN '07) is an alumnus who is building a career on service to others. Currently deployed in Afghanistan as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, he is working on the Intermediate Care Ward — part of the nursing team charged with caring for American soldiers and NATO forces as well as the local Afghan population.

From soldiers wounded in battle to adult civilians with severe burns to children in need of cleft palate surgery, Stephen provides care for them all. "It was my U-M education that gave me the tools I needed to make an impact on the lives of the people I encounter," he says. And even though he's half way around the world, he adds, "I still watch Michigan football games... Go Blue!"



*Stephen Kilijanczyk and his colleagues gather for a group photo at their base in Afghanistan.*

## Upcoming Accreditation Review — Opportunity for Comments from Constituents

The University of Michigan School of Nursing is scheduled for accreditation review by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) from October 3 – 5, 2011. The CCNE invites the School's constituents (students, alumni, faculty, the practice community, etc.) to comment on quality and satisfaction regarding the School of Nursing's baccalaureate and master's degree programs. Written and signed comments may be submitted to the CCNE up to 30 days prior to the scheduled site visit and will not be shared with the School of Nursing.

### Comments may be submitted to:

Cristina Walcott  
Administrative Assistant  
Commission on Collegiate  
Nursing Education  
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530  
Washington, DC 20036-1120

## STUDENTS

### Student Giving Efforts: Helping Haiti

This year's annual Hope for Haiti Charity Ball sponsored by the Student Nurses' Association (SNA) raised \$3,690, bringing the event's four-year cumulative fundraising total to over \$20,000. The ball raises money for the Haiti Nursing Foundation, which funds nursing education through the Faculty of Nursing Science of the Episcopal University of Haiti located in Léogâne, Haiti. The country's only four-year baccalaureate nursing program was co-founded by Dr. Ruth Barnard, associate professor emerita.

"Funds from the Hope for Haiti Ball support students," said Marcia Lane, executive director of the Haiti Nursing Foundation. "That, in turn, helps the school continue to serve as a center of care for the local community."



*Hilda Alcindor, dean of the Haitian school benefited by the SNA charity ball, chats with an event participant.*

### Student Accolades

**Moira Visovatti**, doctoral candidate, won a National Research Service Award (NRSA) from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). Building on her dissertation research, her study is entitled "Pretreatment Assessment of Cognitive and Immune Function in Individuals Newly Diagnosed with Colorectal Cancer."

**Jesse Moes**, doctoral candidate, was awarded a Midwest Nursing Research Society Graduate Research Scholar award. His proposal, "Insulin Resistance in Rats with Neuropathic Pain," was one of only two selected for the prestigious award.

**Josephine Foley**, master's student, was elected president of the Michigan chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses.

**Vanessa Hoyos**, master's student in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program and a staff member at a School of Nursing Nurse-Managed Center, was selected to attend a summer research training program sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The program, the Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT), will take Vanessa to Chile where she will conduct research under the mentorship of a U-M faculty member.

**Carmen Alvarez**, doctoral candidate, has received research funding from the U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWG). According to Janet Malley, associate director of IRWG, the award was made in recognition of Carmen's outstanding scholarship in the area of women and gender studies.

**Stephanie Small**, doctoral student specializing in women's health, won the Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation/Sanofi Pasteur Health Through Immunizations award which will support her ongoing research on Human papillomavirus (HPV), a virus that can lead to cancer in reproductive organs.

**Terese Cook**, master's student, won second place out of more than 100 posters at the Midwest Nursing Research Society annual conference.

**Melissa Foster-Reitz**, master's student in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program with a concentration in occupational health nursing, has been published in the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Journal. Her article is entitled "Why Breastfeeding Matters to Occupational Health Nurses and Employers."



# STUDENTS



Class of 2011 — Graduation Day Images



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- The Future of Nursing: Responding to the new RWJF/IOM Report
- Increasing the impact of our Nurse-Managed Centers
- Alumni serving in the military
- Faculty and student accolades and more!

See Page 7  
for images from  
graduation 2011

## A Parting Gift from the Undergraduate Class of 2011

Congratulations to all of our 2011 graduates who are joining the field as practitioners, researchers, educators, and, above all, leaders.

In celebration of their time at the University of Michigan, the BSN Class of 2011 created an endowed fund as a gift to the school. Thanks to the generous contributions and pledges of these newly graduated nurses, the Class of 2011 Scholarship Fund will provide much needed support to future students.