



# UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND SCHOOL OF NURSING

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## December 2014 - January 2015

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Welcome to *School of Nursing News*, an electronic newsletter designed to inform, engage, inspire, and connect with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other constituents of the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON).

### First-Ever December Graduation Ceremonies Held at Shady Grove and Baltimore

Commencement ceremonies for fall and winter 2014 graduates were held Friday, Dec. 12, at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG), and Monday, Dec. 15, at the Hippodrome Theatre in Baltimore. Three hundred twenty-four degrees were awarded for the first half of the academic year. Among the graduates were 139 Bachelor of Science in Nursing, 160 Master of Science, 20 Doctor of Nursing Practice, and five PhD. Nine certificates were awarded. The events marked the first December graduations to be held at UMSON—another new tradition launched in our 125th anniversary year. [Click here for more information and to view a photo collage.](#)



Additional graduation photos can be viewed on [Flickr](#).

### Vikell Receives First Staff Excellence Award

**Lisa Vikell, AA**, office manager, Administrative Services, received the first Staff Excellence Award at the December All-School Assembly, held December 16. Formerly known as "Staff of the Quarter," the award has been revamped with new criteria and a cash prize. Lisa was acknowledged for her outstanding work on the CCNE accreditation visits and her leadership in advancing the goals and mission of UMSON. Other nominees included Alice Dorr, coordinator, Administrative Services; Rachel McKelvey, coordinator, Academic Affairs; Steve Pease, MS, director, Division of Sponsored Programs; April Rai, AA, office manager, Office of the Dean; Lorrie Voytek, BS, donor relations coordinator, Office of Development and Alumni Relations; Barbara Scharf, PhD '09, MSN-MPH, RN, nurse researcher I; Monica Williams, human resources coordinator, Administrative Services; and Megan Wolff, MS, instructional technology specialist, Academic Affairs. Congratulations to all!



### PhD Program Marks 35th Anniversary

PhD alumni, faculty, and currently enrolled PhD students gathered at UMSON on Saturday, Nov. 8, to celebrate the program's 35th anniversary. Guests enjoyed panel discussions, a student poster exhibit, and the opportunity to reminisce with former classmates and faculty members. Dean Jane Kirschling announced that the goal of raising \$16,667 to endow a PhD Program Alumni Scholarship had been exceeded. With matching funds of 50 cents on the dollar through a special University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc. initiative, the scholarship will be endowed at the mandatory amount of \$25,000 and will provide support for future PhD nursing students. For more information about this matching gift opportunity, contact Laurette Hankins, associate dean for development and alumni relations, at [hankins@son.umaryland.edu](mailto:hankins@son.umaryland.edu) or 410-706-7640.



## Veterans Day Event Features Alumni Panel

A Veteran's Day program, held November 11 as part of UMSON's 125th Anniversary Celebration, honored faculty, staff, students, and alumni who have served or are currently serving in the military. The event featured a panel presentation by alumni veterans and a currently enlisted alumna. Panelists included **Carol Romano, PhD '93, MS '85, BSN '77**, Rear Admiral (RET), United States Public Health Service (USPHS); **Elizabeth Niemyer, BSN '78**, Rear Admiral (RET), U.S. Navy; **Richard Riccardi, MS '91**, Colonel (RET), U.S. Army; and **Bernice King, DNP '14**, Major, U.S. Air Force. **Sylvia Trent-Adams, MS '99**, Rear Admiral, USPHS, who was scheduled to participate, was deployed prior to the event. Panelists discussed their experiences as nurses in the military and how UMSON prepared them for careers in nursing.

[Watch the presentation here.](#)



## Students Seek Opportunities at Annual Career Fair

A career fair held at the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center on December 1 drew more than 100 nursing students and more than 35 recruiters. Students seeking employment, internships, or graduate school opportunities attended the event, where representatives from regional and national health care institutions and other schools of nursing were on hand to meet students, share information, and answer questions.



## Twelve Faculty Members Receive New Nurse Faculty Fellowships

Twelve UMSON faculty members were awarded New Nurse Faculty Fellowship Awards for FY 2015-2017. The grants are funded through the Nurse Support II Program, a statewide initiative designed to grow the number of nurses prepared to effectively function in a faculty role. Grant recipients include: Assistant Professors **Lori Edwards, PhD, MPH, BSN '80, RN, PHCNS-BC**; **Maranda Jackson-Parkin, PhD '13, MS '06, RN, CCRN, CRNP-BC**; and **Gina Rowe, PhD '13, DNP '10, MPH, FNP-BC, PHCNS-BC, CNE**; and Clinical Instructors **Beth Barrows, MS '13, BSN '05, RN**; **Mary Burr, MS '02, CPNP**; **Ann Felauer, MSN, RN, CPNP-AC/PC**; **Lori Mooney, MS '09, BSN '05 RN, PMHNP-BC, CRNP-PMH**; **Linda Murray, MS '84, CPNP**; **Karin Russ, MS '09, BSN '89 RN**; **Kate Scott, MPH, RN**; **Celeste Seger, MS '13, BSN '10, RN**; and **Nicole Smith, MS '14, RN**. These fellowships will assist Maryland nursing programs in recruiting and retaining new nursing faculty to produce nursing graduates to staff Maryland hospitals. [Click here to read more.](#)

## STTI Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy Visits UMSON

As part of Assistant Professor **Bim Akintade's, PhD '11, MS '05, MBA, MHA, BSN '01, ACNP-BC**, acceptance into the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (NFLA), the NFLA team visited UMSON to meet with key stakeholders for the project. Akintade and the NFLA project team, consisting of **Meredith Caves, MS '13, RN**, clinical instructor; **Amy Daniels, MS '12, BSN '89, RN**, clinical instructor and acting director, clinical simulation labs; **Mary Fey, PhD '14, MS '01, RN, CHSE**, former faculty member and director, clinical simulation labs; **Marg Hammersla, MS '05, BSN '95, RN, CRNP**, assistant professor; **Maranda Jackson-Parkin, PhD '13, MS '06, RN, CCRN, CRNP-BC**, assistant professor; **Megan Lynn, PhD, MBA, RN, FNE-A**, assistant professor; and **Anup Patel, MS**, senior instructional technology specialist, presented the NFLA project, "Transforming Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Education by Integrating Experiential Learning through Simulation." The NFLA team toured UMSON's simulation laboratories, research labs, Student Success Center, Office of Global Health, and the University of Maryland Medical Center's R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. The NFLA program is designed to foster academic career success; promote nurse faculty retention and satisfaction; encourage personal leadership development; and cultivate high performing, supportive work environments in academe.



## Mark Your Calendar

**Now Open** – Call for abstracts and online registration for the Summer Institute in Nursing Informatics (SINI) 2015. Join SINI's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration July 22-24 at UMSON. New preconference and networking events! <http://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/sini>

**Friday, Jan. 23-Saturday, Jan. 24 – 7 a.m.-5 p.m. – Pediatric End-of-Life Nursing Education Train-the-Trainer Workshop** – Southern Management Corporation Campus Center, Elm Room, 621 W. Lombard St., Baltimore, MD 21201 – \$200 registration fee covers workshop, handouts, and continental breakfast. Co-sponsored by UMSON, Children's Hospital National Medical Center, University of Maryland Medical Center, the HSC Pediatric Center, and Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center. [Click here for more information.](#)

**Thursday, Feb. 26 – 8:30 a.m.-noon – Third Annual Interprofessional Education Day** (faculty only) – Southern Management Corporation Campus Center, Room 349; **12:15-5:30 p.m.** (faculty, staff, and students) – UMSON Room 130 and lobby. [Click here to register or for more information.](#)

**Saturday, March 7 – 3 p.m. - Ann Cain Lecture in Psychiatric Nursing** – UMSON - featuring guest speaker Loretta Sweet Jemmott, PhD, RN, FAAN, van Ameringen Professor in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, and Director, Center for Health Disparities Research, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. More details to come.

**Saturday, April 18 – 6-10 p.m. – 125th Anniversary Gala** - Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel

As part of its 125th anniversary celebration, UMSON is honoring 25 outstanding alumni (both living and deceased) as Visionary Pioneers who have become expert clinicians, educators, and leaders in Maryland, the nation, and around the world. The 25 inaugural Visionary Pioneers will be honored at UMSON's 125th Anniversary Gala. [Click here to view a list of the Visionary Pioneers.](#) For more information about the gala, contact Tiffany Hooper at [hooper@son.umaryland.edu](mailto:hooper@son.umaryland.edu) or 410-706-7640. For information about event sponsorship opportunities, contact Laurette Hankins, associate dean for development and alumni relations, at [hankins@son.umaryland.edu](mailto:hankins@son.umaryland.edu) or 410-706-7640.

**Saturday, Sept. 19 – Reunion 2015** – If your DIN or BSN graduation year ends in a “5” or “10,” or if you earned a degree in the Clinical Nurse Leader master's option in 2005 or 2010, mark your calendar for the 2015 Alumni Reunion. Look for your invitation in the mail in early spring. If you would like to volunteer as a class representative, contact Cynthia Sikorski, associate director of alumni relations, at [sikorski@son.umaryland.edu](mailto:sikorski@son.umaryland.edu) or 410-706-0674. For more information, visit the alumni website at <http://nursing.umaryland.edu/alumni>.

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