



## ALUMNI & FRIENDS NEWS

June 2016

### Farewell, Laurel Mallon

Last month, the School of Nursing community bid a fond farewell to Laurel Mallon. Most recently serving as the school's director of alumni and donor relations, Laurel's career spanned 29 years and touched many nursing and pharmacy students. We are grateful for her dedicated service and the contributions she made to the University community.

### Welcome, new alumni!

The School of Nursing commencement ceremony was held May 13 at Northrop. U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar delivered the [commencement address](#). The spring class of 2016 is comprised of 145 Bachelor of Science in Nursing, 73 Doctor of Nursing Practice and seven PhD graduates. Visit the school's [commencement album](#) on Flickr to see images from the day.

### Commencement gifts

Honor the Class of 2016 or your classmates with a tax deductible gift to the School of Nursing. Each year, alumni giving provides scholarship aid to students, becomes seed money for nurse-led research and attracts new faculty from our own graduating classes. For the second consecutive year, the School of Nursing Foundation Board of Trustees has granted \$40,000 to match all gifts up to \$1,000 dollar-for-dollar. So even if you can only give a few dollars, you are helping to bring nursing education to new generations of learners. Every gift matters. [Make a gift today.](#)

### Back to the Future

On April 21, School of Nursing alumni gathered at Town and Country Club to reconnect with friends, share memories and celebrate nursing education. With the theme *Back to the Future: Remember, Celebrate, Imagine*, the annual all-class reunion included reflections on the student experience over the decades and provided an opportunity to recognize alumni, faculty and student achievement. This year's award winners are:

#### **Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award**

Bryan Polkey, BSN Class of 2016

#### **Outstanding Graduate Student Award**

Mary Whipple, PhD candidate, BSN '14

#### **Excellence in Nursing Education Award**

Dereck Salisbury, PhD '14

#### **Rising Star Award**

## **Distinguished Alumni Humanitarian Award**

Scott Harpin, PhD '10, MS '03, MPH '03

See if you recognize any classmates in the school's all-class reunion [album](#) on our Flickr webpage.

## **Congratulations!**

*Mpls.St.Paul* Magazine named the finalists for the 2016 Outstanding Nurses Awards. Finalists include School of Nursing alumni Kristin Epland, Donna Fabian, Marsha Moreen, Judy Pechacek, Jessica Riemenschneider, Cheryl Robertson, Mary Steffes, Diane Treat-Jacobson, Hope Ukatu and Andrew Wallin. Pechacek, Robertson, Steffes and Treat-Jacobson are faculty members at the school. Award winners will be announced at a ceremony in July.

## **Straight outta Minnesota**

Longing to leave Minnesota for exotic locations? Enjoy the special camaraderie that happens when University of Minnesota alumni and friends explore fascinating destinations and unique cultures together. Upcoming trips include a Rhine River Cruise and travels to the Royals and Viking British Isles. Visit the U of M Alumni Association [travel page](#) for more information.

## **Save the date**

The 2017 School of Nursing Spring Celebration and All-Class Reunion will be held on April 27 at the Town and Country Club. Whether you completed your undergraduate or graduate degree at the school (or both), you'll find it an exciting time to return to the University of Minnesota. To volunteer or for more information, contact Barb Mullikin at [westr073@umn.edu](mailto:westr073@umn.edu).

## **Homecoming, home away**

See the Golden Gophers go for a win in royal fashion as they take on the Rutgers Scarlet Knights at Homecoming 2016. The fun starts with the annual pregame party and pepfest at McNamara Alumni Center Oct. 22, with kickoff at 11 a.m. For those who need a bit of home away from home, get in the game-day spirit in College Park, Maryland before the Gophers take on the University of Maryland Terrapins Oct. 15 in their first-ever meeting as Big Ten opponents. Visit the Alumni Association [webpage](#) for more information on these and other upcoming events.

## **Research participation opportunities**

Several important research projects are underway at the School of Nursing that are currently seeking qualified participants. A study to identify ways to ease the stress of those caring for a person with memory loss is being conducted by Professor Joe Gaugler. [Learn more](#). A study to determine the impact of exercise on symptoms of Alzheimer's disease is being conducted by Associate Professor Fang Yu. [Learn more](#).

## Upcoming events

### Summer Institute in Adolescent Health

Learn strategies for effectively engaging young teens and their families in conversations about values and behaviors that set a course toward healthy sexuality during [Setting a Healthy Course: Talking about Sex in the Middle School Years](#) June 25-27.

### Care Across the Continuum

This [conference](#) will teach health care professionals about new research and standards of care and is hosted by the Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care on Sept. 20. American Nurses Credentialing Center contact hours will be available.

### Doctoral information sessions

Advance your nursing career with a doctoral degree. [Learn more](#) about the PhD and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs and how to apply at sessions on Aug. 11 or Sept. 8.

## Keep us up to date

Do you have employment news, a class note, a nursing memory or favorite photo to share? Please send your news via our [website](#) or email [mmclemor@umn.edu](mailto:mmclemor@umn.edu). Update your contact information [here](#).



---

*Copyright © 2016 Regents of the University of Minnesota, All rights reserved.*

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

#### **This message was sent from:**

University of Minnesota School of Nursing

5-140 Weaver-Densford Hall, 308 Harvard Street SE

Minneapolis, MN, 55455

USA