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For Immediate Release

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Greetings!:

The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing has exciting news, prestigious awards and ground breaking research developments happening every day. See what we've got going on now. Click on the headlines to be taken to the full story below:

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Dr. Donna Shalala to Speak at Nursing's 2011 Graduation

Dr. Donna E. Shalala, Professor of Political Science and President of the University of Miami, will be the next graduation speaker for the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing's Class of 2011.

President Shalala is an accomplished scholar, teacher, administrator, and national

leader in health care. Most recently, she served as Chair of the IOM/RWJ Future of Nursing Committee which will release its report on October 5, 2010.

Dr. Shalala is probably best known for her role as U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). In 1993, President Clinton appointed her to this post where she served for eight years, becoming the longest serving HHS Secretary in U.S. history.

As Secretary for HHS, she was responsible for such programs as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Child Care and Head Start, Welfare, the Public Health Service, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). As HHS Secretary, she directed the welfare reform process, made health insurance available to an estimated 3.3 million children through the approval of all State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP), raised child immunization rates to the highest levels in history, led major reforms of the FDA's drug approval process and food safety system, revitalized the National Institutes of Health, and directed a major management and policy reform of Medicare. At the end of her tenure as HHS Secretary, The Washington Post described her as "one of the most successful government managers of modern times."

Previously, Dr. Shalala served as Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she helped it become one of the top Universities in the country. She has also served as President of Hunter College of the City University of New York and held tenured professorships at Columbia, the City University of New York, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She served in the Carter administration from 1977-80 as Assistant Secretary for Public Development and Research at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

President Shalala received her A.B. degree in history from Western College for Women and her Ph.D. degree from The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. In June 2008, she was presented with the nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bush. In addition, she has more than three dozen honorary degrees and is the recipient of numerous awards including the 1992 National Public Service Award, the 1994 Glamour magazine Woman of the Year Award; and was named one of "America's Best Leaders" by U.S. News & World Report and the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

"It is such an honor to have Dr. Shalala as our 2011 Graduation speaker," said Dean Afaf Meleis, PhD, DrPS (hon), FAAN, the Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing. "We are all looking forward to hearing her message for our graduates, so be sure to mark your calendar for Monday, May 16, 3-5 p.m. for the School of Nursing Graduation ceremony at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts."

Headshots are available upon request.

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[Dr. Kathleen Burke Appointed a Director at Healthcare System](#)

Kathleen Burke, PhD, RN has been appointed to the University of Pennsylvania Healthcare System (UPHS) as the Director of Nursing Professional Development and Innovation. She will report to Dr. Victoria Rich, UPHS Chief Nurse Executive & Associate Professor of Nursing Administration.

In this new role, Dr. Burke will provide oversight of Nursing Education and Innovation at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Pennsylvania Hospital, Clinical Practices of the University of Pennsylvania, Home Care & Hospice Services and Rehab at Good Shepherd Penn Partners.

"To continue our strong partnership with the University of Pennsylvania Healthcare System, Dr. Burke, formerly a Practice Professor in the School of Nursing, will maintain a teaching position as Lecturer, part time, for the Nursing and Health Care Administration and Health Leadership Master's in Nursing Programs," said Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, Associate Dean for Practice & Community Affairs at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Dr. Burke will also hold the title of Assistant Dean for Clinical Learning and Innovation "to forge new pathways to develop and implement Penn nursing student and faculty interprofessional education, research, and practice innovations," Dr. Sullivan-Marx said. Dr. Burke will work with Dr. Sullivan-Marx, and the Director of the Center for Professional Development, Joan Polsky, MSN.

"We congratulate Kathy on this great new opportunity that will continue to strengthen and sustain partnership in innovative clinical nurse learning as we prepare students for quality practice with our dynamic health system partners at Penn," Dr. Sullivan-Marx said.

Headshots are available upon request.

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Two Health Outcomes & Policy Research Fellows Awarded Grants

Two Center for Health Outcomes & Policy Research fellows have been awarded grants.

Lesly Kelly was awarded the Margretta Styles Award from ANF/ANCC for research on magnet hospitals. Jingjing Shang received the CANS/ANF Scholar Award. Lusine Poghosyan, a Center alum and now an assistant professor at Northeastern also received an ANF award.

Headshots are available upon request.

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Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence Expands Funding for Doctoral Nursing

Students, Addressing Nurse Faculty Shortage

The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing will share in the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence's expansion of the Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar Program.

The program will fund 50 doctoral nursing students at nearly two dozen of the nation's leading academic institutions. As part of the expansion, The [John A. Hartford Foundation](#) and the [National League for Nursing](#) (NLN) will support doctoral students who will help meet needs in the areas of geriatrics and the science of nursing education, respectively.

The Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar Program was created in 2008 as a novel initiative to support educational development of new nursing faculty and stimulate models for joint faculty appointments between schools of nursing and clinical affiliates. The grants, made through institutional awards, also prepare doctoral candidates to help students address the needs of future patients - from dealing with co-morbidities and chronic illnesses to providing culturally competent care. The Jonas Center has provided nearly \$3 million to the program to date.

"Our goal is not only to increase the number of nursing faculty, but to develop educators who lead efforts to improve the quality of patient care and reduce costs - efforts that will be carried on further by their students," says Darlene Curley, Executive Director of the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence. "Expanding the Scholar Program and partnering with prestigious schools and like-minded funders to achieve this goal are natural extensions of our original mission and will benefit countless patients nationwide."

Increasing Geriatric Nursing Faculty

A two-year partnership with the Hartford Foundation will support the preparation of nine faculty members to specialize in geriatrics at each of the Hartford Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence (CGNE): Arizona State University; Oregon Health & Science University; Pennsylvania State University; the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Nursing; the University of California San Francisco School of Nursing; the University of Iowa College of Nursing; the University of Minnesota; the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing; and the University of Utah.

Advancing Evidence-based Science of Nursing Education

As part of the National League for Nursing's (NLN) goal to advance the science of nursing education, it will support ten Jonas Nursing Scholars over two years as they complete dissertation research related to the [NLN's Priorities for Research in Nursing Education](#), such as curriculum design.

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Lecture Series: Nurses at Penn Understanding Sexuality in Healthcare

Nurses PUSH has announced the start of a lecture series for the 2010 fall semester.

Nurses at Penn Understanding Sexuality in Healthcare (Nurses PUSH), is Penn's first nursing student organization dedicated to understanding LGBTQ health concerns from a nursing perspective and addressing barriers preventing culturally competent care for LGBTQ patients.

The first lecture of the semester, "Straight Talk about Gay Issues in Healthcare," will be given by Dr. Benoit Dubé, noon to 1 p.m., September 15 in room 216 of Fagin Hall.

Dr. Dubé is Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and describes his talk as "everything you need to know about sexual orientation and its impact on delivery of care."

This lecture is open to all and lunches are welcome! We hope to see you all there!

Headshots are available upon request.

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Dr. Ellen Giarelli Elected to President-Elect of International Society of Nurses in Genetics

Dr. Ellen Giarelli has been elected to the post of President-Elect of ISONG. ISONG, the International Society of Nurses in Genetics, is a global nursing specialty organization dedicated to fostering the scientific and professional growth of nurses in human genetics and genomics worldwide.

Dr. Giarelli was elected to a two-year term which automatically succeeds to the presidency at the conclusion of the President's term of office. The slate of officers will be presented to members at the 23rd Annual ISONG Conference in Dallas, Texas October 16-19, 2010.

Headshots are available upon request.

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