

DR. GLORIA HOLMES AND DR. MAY H. FUTRELL ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP



May H. Futrell, PhD'76 (left) and Dr. Gloria Ann Holmes (right)

The Dr. Gloria Holmes and Dr. May H. Futrell Endowed Fellowship was created in 2013 by May Futrell, PhD'76, a graduate of the Heller School, to support doctoral students whose focus is health policy. Today, Heller has grown into one of the country's most highly ranked schools of social policy and a leading health policy research institution shaped by its social justice roots.

Dr. Gloria Ann Holmes, Dr. Futrell's sister, a U.S. Navy Commander (ret. 1982) was a renowned holder of esteemed academic credentials. After retirement in 1982, Gloria received a degree in theology and was ordained. She died in 2005 of melanoma skin cancer.

Growing up in a Vermont farming town, May Futrell formed a close bond with her grandparents. May cites their presence and love for her and her sister were among the greatest influences in her life. So it came as a shock to her several years later as a young nursing student on hospital duty when she witnessed the neglect of elderly patients. This struck her deeply and ultimately defined her career. Her enthusiasm for caring for the elderly has been, and always will be, a goal she has worked toward for close to forty years.

Dr. Futrell taught nursing at Boston University for 10 years and UMASS Lowell for 35 years. She served as chair, of the UMASS Lowell Department of nursing for 23 years before retiring in 2005. As professor emerita, she continues to consult and conduct research. She highly values her academic training at the Heller School and was one of the first nurses in the Heller PhD program.