Dean’s Message

It is my distinct pleasure to extend greetings to the alumni of the Faculty of Nursing. While the majority of our alumni reside in Manitoba, graduates with their BN and MN degrees are living and working throughout Canada, the United States, and across the globe.

The purpose of Nursing Transitions is to stay “in-touch” with our graduates. Highlighted in this publication are faculty-based events which should be of interest to you. You will note that the Faculty is working diligently to address the nursing shortage in Manitoba. Indeed, great strides have been made in this regard.

As Dean, it is a great privilege to work with colleagues who are fully committed to excellence in nursing education and practice, research and scholarship, and community service. While the Faculty of Nursing has experienced tremendous growth in student numbers, particularly the undergraduate programs, it has also matured as a research unit within the University of Manitoba. Faculty members are now funded at the local, provincial, and national levels.

Recently, two new programs are changing the face of our Faculty and nursing practice within Manitoba. We now offer a nurse practitioner stream in the Master of Nursing program and in partnership with the Department of Community Health Sciences (Faculty of Medicine) we will offer a PhD program in Cancer Control, commencing in the fall of 2004.

Fundamental to the Faculty’s mission is our students. As former students, know that we take great pride in your success. As alumni, consider coming back “home” and visiting the Faculty of Nursing.
Wanda Martin, MN Student, Receives Prestigious American Award

Women in families with breast cancer may also face depression, anxiety

By Chris Rutkowski, Public Affairs

Faculty of Nursing student Wanda Martin is the recent recipient of the Clinical Research Nurse Award from the US Army Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. She received the funding for her project on: Perception of Risk and Surveillance Practices for Women with a Family History of Breast Cancer. The value of the award is $63,433 (US).

Martin explains that women with a family history of breast cancer are encouraged to attend screening mammography at a younger age than average risk women but there is limited data on the utilization of cancer surveillance among high risk women. The purpose of this study is to look at women who have knowledge of having a hereditary connection to breast cancer and determine their comfort level and compliance with screening programs.

She says, “High levels of cancer specific distress have been found in pre and postgenetic counseling of these women. There can also be increased levels of stress as a result of their perceived risk status, depression, and intrusive thoughts of breast cancer risk, which may make them less willing to undergo mammography screening.”

“If women’s perceived risk and depressive symptoms are found to be high, psychosocial counseling groups may be recommended to best serve this population,” Martin adds. Martin is in her final year of her Master of Nursing in the Faculty of Nursing, studying breast cancer prevention with Dr. Lesley Degner under her CHSRF/CIHR chair award for cancer control, prevention and palliation. After graduation, she plans to specialize in breast cancer prevention programs.

“We are all very proud of Wanda’s accomplishment,” Dr. Degner says. “Her award represents the first time that one of our students has received funding from an American source. The eight master’s students who have studied in the Chair program since its inception in the fall of 2000 have received more than $400,000 to support their studies. Wanda’s initiative and persistence in seeking funding from the US Army provides an excellent role model for future students coming to our program.”

Dr. David Gregory, dean of nursing, adds, “The Faculty of Nursing takes great delight in Ms. Martin’s success — and her research award reflects the high calibre of graduate students in our program.”
Faculty of Nursing Turns 60 and Continues to Grow
Deans, directors and staff members from past and present gathered for the Faculty of Nursing’s 60th birthday party on September 20.

By Dale Barbour

The Faculty of Nursing rang in its 60th birthday by bringing together some of the people who helped it reach that milestone.

Timed to occur during Homecoming celebrations, the faculty welcomed alumni and past faculty, deans and directors for a birthday celebration on Saturday, September 20.

While nurses have been trained in Manitoba since 1887, the first certificate program wasn’t started at the University of Manitoba until 1943. Even then the program remained on shaky ground because the funding remained tentative for the first five years of the program.

In congratulating the faculty on reaching its 60th birthday, university president Emöke Szathmáry also congratulated its founders for standing up for the integrity of their program.

“In 1948 the entire faculty of the School of Nursing resigned because of an absence of clear funding,” Szathmáry said. “I have the utmost respect (for then director Hazel Keeler) and her staff.”

Since that time, the faculty has changed from a School of Nursing to a full-fledged faculty with over 1,500 students. In the late 1990s the provincial government refocused nursing education by requiring all graduates to have a baccalaureate degree – typically offered through the University of Manitoba. Although the system changed slightly when the NDP government relaunched a diploma program at Red River College, the upshot was that the number of graduates going through the U of M program nearly doubled.

In taking on nursing training for the entire province, Szathmáry said the current dean, David Gregory, had to rewrite the way the faculty does its job – something he was able to do without losing control of the curriculum or changing the faculty’s standards.

The growth of the faculty was not lost on the deans and directors who helped it along its way.

For June Bradley, acting director from 1979 to ‘80 and director from 1980 to ‘84, one of the standout changes was the growth of the graduate program from just three students when it was initiated in 1980 to a peak of 95 this year.

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Cynthia Cameron, acting dean from 1994 to ’95, said she has watched the faculty take on a broader role on the international front – including being involved in programs in places such as China and Cuba. She said the decision in the early 1990s to change the faculty’s status from school to faculty has played a role in its growth. “When we became a faculty other developments began to happen,” Cameron said. “That move increased our stature and credibility.”

For dean emerita Janet Beaton (1992 to ’98) the challenge of the day was finding a new building for the faculty – eventually fulfilled in 2000 with the opening of the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing. “It was very tough,” Beaton recalled. “The most difficult part was convincing people we needed a new building and then finding a way to do it.”

Despite the fact the Bison Building, the faculty’s home at the time, was falling down and the U of M was being asked to saddle more teaching responsibilities, funding would likely have continued to be an issue if the faculty had not received a boost from an unlikely source – the 1999 Pan American Games.

“It was a happy marriage of circumstance,” Beaton said. In exchange for providing some support for the building project, the Pan Am Games were able to use the facility to house athletes before turning it over to the faculty.

To past director Helen Glass, who did her stint from 1972 to ‘79 in the Bison Building and lent her name to the new building, bringing the faculty under one roof was a godsend. “I think it’s wonderful and thanks to Janet for her hard work,” Glass said. “It covers every aspect of nursing.”

Have YOU visited the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing? Call (204) 474-7452 and arrange a tour today!
Where are they now?

Working with clients gives me such a great feeling of personal fulfillment, especially when I begin seeing the changes in clients,” reflects Barb Wasilewski. “I think nurses have the ability to build very respectful, therapeutic and trusting relationships with our clients. It’s a very unique experience.”

Barb Wasilewski, RN, BN (1994) has been in nursing for almost 10 years in a variety of roles, including: prenatal instructor, health educator, community developer, chair of various community committees, quality improvement officer. She now works at the Youville Clinic as Director of Programs.

Three years ago she enrolled in the MBA program at the Asper School of Business, and hopes to graduate in the next year. “I think being a nurse with an MBA will continue to offer me many new and exciting experiences.”

Ms. Wasilewski has found working with different disciplines rewarding. “Working within a multidisciplinary team has taught me a tremendous amount, and it has made my practice very stimulating.” Finally, as a manager, she finds working with the staff and co-workers inspiring. “Working together and seeing what we can accomplish together is the greatest thrill.”

“I fondly remember all the friendships I made at the Faculty of Nursing. We really supported one another.” Ms. Wasilewski also appreciates the opportunities for critical reflections and debates students had in the classroom. “Professors and instructors created an open atmosphere of asking tough questions. I think it added more realism to the class. I use those critical reflections skills to this day.”

She recalls fondly the professors who inspired her and called her to action. “There were wonderful professors and instructors who influenced me: Dean Care taught me Nursing Leadership, a course that greatly influenced me and helped me be where I am today.”

“Marion Mackay is a board member here at Youville and still cheers me on in my endeavours. I can’t forget Barb Patterson who taught me principles of adult education and behaviour management. It inspired me to choose community health nursing – a role I love.”

Ms. Wasilewski keeps in touch with some of her fellow graduates. “We still connect. And then I have run into people whom I haven’t seen since university. It is amazing the variety of roles we nurses play in health care. It’s very impressive.”

When asked about her future goals, Wasilewski knows she’s built a solid foundation. “I think that by combining my nursing background, with real-world experience and my MBA, the opportunities are endless.”

“Health care is always changing. More and more, you need those real life experiences in health care and business acumen to face all the challenges. Whatever my next role may be, I hope I can be an agent of change, always improving the quality of health care we receive.”

I chose nursing because of the variety of opportunities and experiences it offered.

It hasn’t disappointed me yet.

To send us your story or update your contact information please email nursing_info@umanitoba.ca

We would love to tell your fellow nursing alumni where YOU are now!
Brandon University Opens New Health Studies Complex
By Brenda Jasper

On Friday, September 19, Brandon University marked the official grand opening of its newly expanded Health Studies Complex. The new and renovated space provides much needed classroom and skills lab space for nursing programs, a distance technology classroom equipped for both audio and video links, and culturally appropriate space for First Nations and Aboriginal programs. The expansion of the former School of Health Studies building was made possible by a $5 million contribution from the Government of Manitoba.

“Three years ago the provincial government wanted us to expand our nursing capabilities, take over the Brandon site for the University of Manitoba nursing program, and expand our nursing infrastructure,” said Dr. Louis P. Visentin, President of Brandon University. It is a symbol of the commitment of Brandon University to the future of this province, and of our commitment to meeting the needs of our community.”

The School of Health Studies currently houses three programs: the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing – four-year degree program; the Bachelor of Science in Mental Health – two-year post-diploma program for Registered Nurses; and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing – two-year post-diploma program for

Registered Nurses. Also housed in the Health Studies Complex is the First Nations and Aboriginal Counselling four-year degree program.

The faculty and students of the University of Manitoba’s Brandon site School of Nursing, formerly housed at the Brandon Regional Health Centre, have re-located to the new Health Studies Complex at Brandon University. This will remain a University of Manitoba program for the 2003-2004 academic year, but will become a Brandon University program in September 2004.

Says Bev Temple, site coordinator for the Faculty’s Brandon baccalaureate program said, “Our current U of M nursing students will be fortunate to complete their degree from these brand new surroundings. We thank Brandon University faculty and staff for making us feel welcome and for including us in the planning of this facility. We all recognize the importance of maintaining the BN nursing program in this area of the province.”

Dr. Hart Honoured with Ethel Johns Award from CASN

On October 17, in Ottawa, Wendy McBride, executive director of CASN, and Dr. David Gregory, dean of nursing presented Dr. Margaret Elder Hart with the Ethel Johns Award.

The Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Ethel Johns Award is named after the founding director of the first university nursing program in Canada at the University of British Columbia. It is given in recognition of distinguished service to Canadian nursing education. This award is presented annually, at the time of the council meeting, to outstanding nursing education leaders.

Dr. David Gregory nominated Dr. Hart for her great influence on the course of nursing in Canada and the United States. Hart accomplished a number of “firsts” in Canada. Dr. Hart was one of the first nurses in Canada to receive a doctoral degree with nursing as a major field of study. She was also responsible for establishing the degree program in nursing in Manitoba and served as its first director.

In the early years of nursing education, the School of Nursing was funded on a yearly basis, and struggled for a permanent and legitimate place in a university setting. No one was more involved in this struggle than Margaret Hart. She chaired the then-Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses Education Committee. Step-by-step, she saw the ambitions of her continued, page 6
committee realized, although it was not until 1952 that the School finally became a permanent part of the University of Manitoba. It would take ten more years before the degree program for registered nurses was established. In the following year, the degree program for students entering directly from high school was offered.

Dr. Hart was director of the School of Nursing at the University of Manitoba from 1948 to 1972. Dr. Hart is a well-known pioneer in public health nursing in Manitoba. She was instrumental in developing programs to advance nursing education in public health nursing, administration, and teaching.

Moreover, she was responsible for an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Manitoba to be bestowed upon a nurse – for the first time in Manitoba. Dr. Isabel Maitland Stewart, the recipient, was a world-renowned scholar in the health and nursing fields.

Dr. Hart recognized the need for continuing education among members of the nursing community. An early and long association with the Extension Division of the University of Manitoba (now known as Continuing Education) was established. From 1950 on, programs in the form of institutes and conferences were offered to Manitoba nurses annually. This took place when very little in the way of continuing education was being offered to any professional group in Manitoba.

Dr. Hart has contributed to nursing through professional associations at the provincial and national levels. She assumed leadership and committee memberships roles both in the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) and the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses (MARN). She served as President in the early years of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing (CAUSN). She also acted as consultant to educational institutions and has written for various nursing and health journals.

Dr. Hart’s impact on nursing and education is evident far and wide. She was a founding member of the National League for Nursing in the United States. She was also active internationally with the American Public Health Association and the Royal Society of Health. As a member of Zonta International, she was instrumental in the establishment of scholarships for the benefit of nursing and other students. She is also a charter member of CASN.

Dr. Hart has been recognized provincially with the Manitoba Centennial Medal, and nationally with the Canada Centennial Medal. In 1972, she was awarded Honorary Membership in the CAUSN. In 1986, she received the MARN award for Excellence in Nursing Education.

In 1993, the year of the 50th anniversary of the Faculty of Nursing, the University of Manitoba presented Dr. Hart with an Honorary Doctorate. A Graduate Study Scholarship and a Distinguished Lecture Series have been established in her name at the Faculty of Nursing.

She is held in high esteem by the Faculty of Nursing, the nursing community, and the University of Manitoba. She continues to study and write and has an abiding interest in nursing. She currently resides in Ottawa.

Please note: Dr. Gregory acknowledges Dr. Janet Beaton and Prof. Marion McKay for providing historical and background information related to Dr. Hart.

Would you like to share pictures from your years as a nursing student?

Scanned photos (high res) may be sent to:

nursing_info@umanitoba.ca
Reunion – Class of 1978
By Sandy Kluka

Our class is so appreciative of the reception held Friday, July 18, 2003 hosted by Dr. Gregory. Classmates mentioned many times how much they valued seeing Dr. Glass, the tours, the food, Shirley Dyck’s patience with numerous cameras, and so on. The Class of 1978 also noted your willingness to attend (on a summer Friday evening) and your interest in our careers and families. We had a super day at the Forks on Saturday and a wonderful dinner Sunday evening at Pine Ridge Hollow. Many thanks... we leave with very fond memories.

Reunion – Class of 1973
By Margarete Schulz

A reunion celebration was scheduled to coincide with our Faculty’s 60th Anniversary at the Homecoming in September 2003. On September 19, 2003 the Class of 1983 gathered at Branigan’s for a casual evening, where we re-lived highlights of our years together. The pictures were not only a “blast from the past” but served as helpful identifiers of colleagues “maturing gracefully”. Friendships were re-kindled and the vote of confidence for the next reunion of 25 years was unanimous! So “heads up” – mark your 5 year planners!

On September 20, 2003 several classmates were able to join in the Faculty’s 60th Anniversary reception and received a commemorative token by none other than our Dean of Nursing, June Bradley – who joined us in a photo-op in the foyer of the Helen Glass Building along with the current Dean of Nursing, David Gregory. As you can see we celebrated in style! We missed those who were not able to join in these milestone celebrations and are already looking forward to the next reunion – you won’t want to miss it!
the profession of nursing.

Dr. David Gregory observed, “Our faculty members have worked diligently to increase the number of registered nurses for Manitoba. We celebrate the success and achievements of the class of 2003.”

Enrolment in the Faculty of Nursing has been steadily increasing since 1997. Faculty initiatives such as Nursing Summer Term, accelerating second-degree students, and program partnerships, have increased the number of baccalaureate nursing graduates by more than 200% from 1998 figures (2003 = 351, 1998 = 104). This year will see the largest graduating class of nurses in the Faculty’s 60 year history. In fact, the Faculty of Nursing will graduate 84% of all new registered nurses in Manitoba in 2003.

“I am thrilled to be a part of this ceremony saluting the largest graduating class of nurses in the history of this faculty,” said Health Minister Dave Chomiak, pictured right. “I congratulate both the new graduates and the Faculty of Nursing. Together, they should be proud of what the Manitoba Nursing Strategy has accomplished.”

“We are pleased that most of the graduates will be joining the workforce in Manitoba,” said Jan Currie, CNO and Vice President of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. “This group of graduates will contribute significantly to the reduction of the nursing shortage. However, this is not the only contribution they will make to health care in Manitoba. They bring with them their skills, knowledge, ideas and unique personalities all of which will help to shape the future of nursing in Manitoba, and in Canada. Best wishes for success in your careers.”

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**Funding Announcements**

**Dr. Michelle Lobchuk** who received funding in the amount of $30,000 from the Canadian Lung Association for her research project entitled, *Induced Perspective-Taking: Assisting Caregivers to Achieve Enhanced Perceptual Accuracy on Lung Cancer Patient Symptom Experiences*, with Jacquie Vorauer and Dr. Lesley Degner.

**Dr. Karen Chalmers** who received funding in the amount of $46,137 from the University of Manitoba and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority for her project entitled, *Proposal for an Interpretive Evaluation of the Babyfirst Program*, with Drs. Maureen Heaman and Roberta Woodgate.

**Dr. Roberta Woodgate** received funding from the CIHR-Manitoba Regional Partnership Program (RPP) for her application entitled, Development and Validation of a Computer Video-Game for Self-Assessment of Meaning-Centred Symptom Experiences by Children with Cancer. A total of $128,085 (over two years) was awarded.

**Dr. Anne Katz** received funding, along with Dr. Alan Katz, from the Department of Family Medicine for a study entitled, *The Androgen Replacement Monitoring Study ARMS*, in the sum of $10,000.

**Dr. Lorna Guse** received funding in the sum of $180,000 from CHSRF and Manitoba Health, Nursing Research Fund; University of Manitoba; Winnipeg Regional Health Authority; and the College of Registered Nurses for her project entitled, Integrating New Nursing Graduates into the Workplace: Strategies for Retention and Career Development. The objectives are to examine and compare the workplace and professional integration of two groups of registered nurse graduates, one of whom experiences the usual work support strategies while the other, in addition, participates in a “transition facilitator” program.

**Dr. Lynn Scruby** (PI), Dr. Pamela Hawranik, Kathy Strachan (Villa Rosa), and Sharon Taylor (Wolseley Family Place) received a grant, in the amount of $4958.64 from the Prairie Women’s Health Centre of Excellence for their research project is entitled, *Needs of low income women with children: Implications for public policy and women’s health*.

**Dr. Dean Care** received a grant, in the amount of $7,500 from the Winnipeg Foundation in support of his project, *Conversion of a nursing ethics course to web-based delivery*. 