Celebrating “Nurses working with the poor against poverty”

by Cindy Nordick, KCC Instructor

Nurses’ week, (May 10-16), is the Canadian Nurses Association’s annual occasion to recognize, honor and promote awareness of the important contributions nurses make daily to the health care system. In 2004, the Canadian theme “Nursing: Knowledge and Commitment at Work” reflected on the important contributions nurses make in hospital and community health care settings and how these are the result of ethically applied knowledge, life-long learning, competence and dedication to client safety.

Innovation, flexibility, team work and communication skills are qualities that enable nurses to manage constant changes around them and to be successful in an evolving, challenging, knowledge-based work environment. The International Nurses’ Day (May 12) theme was “Nurses Working with the Poor against Poverty.”

To celebrate these two themes at The Pas campus, former nursing instructor Patti Banks, RN, BN was invited to present an overview of her trip to India (February 14-28, 2004) as part of the Rotary International PolioPlus Immunization program. She was a member of an international group of health professionals, teachers and business people who volunteered to spend two weeks in India to assist with National Immunization Days Clinics. These clinics run throughout the year in different months.

The goal of this immunization program is to provide five-year old children with oral polio drops. Currently, 99% of the world’s polio cases are found in India,

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University of Manitoba faculty to help train Cuban nurses
By Susan Parker with files from Chris Rutkowski

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded a $1 million project linking the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Manitoba with counterparts in Cuba, in March 2004. The project was proposed by Drs. Janet Beaton, Dean Care and Cynthia Cameron under the direction of Dr. Judy Scanlan, of the Faculty of Nursing.

This project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) University Partnerships in Cooperation and Development (UPCD) Program, draws upon Canadian university expertise to help build the capacity of developing-country education and training institutions in addressing the sustainable development priorities of their countries.

Strengthening Nursing Practice Through Education and Research is an international development program to improve health and well-being at the community level by strengthening Cuba’s capacity in nursing education and research, and enhancing nurses’ participation and role within the health care system. The project aims to enhance the capacity of the Instituto Superior de Ciencias Médicas-Habana (ISCMH) and Cuba’s Ministry of Public Health to provide relevant graduate nursing education and strengthen the ability of nurses to conduct research and disseminate results using existing community needs assessments.

Over the next six years, the project will see Manitoba faculty members travel to Cuba to help develop nursing courses for a PhD program there. They will also help revise current nursing courses for distance education programs and conduct workshops across that country at health centres and institutions.

“It’s a testament to the credibility and recognition of the Faculty of Nursing,” explains Scanlan. “We have an excellent record of developing and delivering international nursing programs, such as our recent successful efforts in China, so we have acquired an international reputation in this area.”

She adds, “Distance education and community outreach programs are the future of nursing in Cuba. Because of the present political situation, it’s been difficult for them to access Western nursing education resources and tools for sustaining advanced nursing programs.”

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On September 30, at the Hotel Fort Garry, friends, colleagues, and family saluted Dr. Helen Preston Glass for her lifelong contributions to nursing education and practice. Such was the billing for the event that hailed the establishment of a Distinguished Researcher in Residence program at the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Manitoba.

Kaaren Neufeld, chief nursing officer of St. Boniface General Hospital, extended a warm welcome and made acknowledgments. Sandy Cosgrove Kluka recited the blessing prior to dinner.

The words “A Lifetime of Achievement” graced a projection screen facing the crowd of 160 guests. During dinner, guests were lulled by the soothing sounds of a harpist. After the dinner, it was time for reminiscing and celebration. President Emőke Száthmary spoke of Dr. Glass’s courage and conviction saying, “Few among us have the courage of our convictions, but Helen Glass did. She has ever been thus, so it is no surprise that she has inspired many – not only nurses in Manitoba, but also lay people outside her profession, who admire her passionate commitment to what she believes.”

Dr. Annette Gupton, one of the first graduates of the Master of Nursing program at the Faculty of Nursing, thanked Dr. Glass for pushing her students to do their best by leading by example. Personal reflections about Dr. Glass were given by Joan Gilchrist. Applause was abundant.

A choice moment occurred when Dr. Lorna Guse took guests down memory lane, and reflected on Helen Glass – the woman, the visionary, the achiever. The slideshow gave guests an in-depth picture of Helen as she grew from her humble beginnings in Saskatchewan to deciding studying home economics was not her, and finding her lifelong passion in nursing. From her educational pursuits both in Manitoba, and abroad at Columbia University, it was clear that Helen Glass had learned much, and was eager to share and impart her wisdom to her students.

In her comments, Dr. Glass thanked everyone for attending and demonstrating their support for the Distinguished Researcher in Residence Program. She also thanked the organizing committee for their hard work.

She expressed profoundly her thanks and love to her daughter and son-in-law, Susan Glass and Arni Thorsteinson for their unwavering support and continued dedication to realizing her vision of nursing in Manitoba. “I am so appreciative of them,” she said.

Proceeds from the gala event benefit the establishment of the Distinguished Researcher in Residence Program at the Faculty of Nursing. The program seeks to attract distinguished researchers to the Faculty for the purpose of enhancing nursing research. The Distinguished Researcher would be renowned, highly esteemed, and likely from another country – providing a global perspective; and work with faculty members on joint research projects.

At the end of her comments, Dr. Helen Glass made a wonderful announcement. She pledged $10,000 towards the program’s establishment. In addition to these funds, the Faculty of Nursing contributed $20,000 as a matching contribution. With Dr. Glass’s donation, the endowment fund stands at $40,000.

Out of town guests included: Aldis Hunt - Sister of Arni Thorsteinson, Edmonton, AB; Joan Gilchrist - Nursing colleague and life long friend, Ottawa, ON; Annette Gupton - Former faculty member, one of the first graduates of the master of nursing program, Duncan, BC; Carole Orchard - Director of Nursing, University of Western Ontario, London, ON; Barbara Warren - Faculty of Nursing, graduating class of 1969, Surrey, BC; Linda Dean - Faculty of Nursing, graduating class of 1969, Ddo, Quebec; Louise Hanvey - Faculty of Nursing, graduating class of 1974, Chelsea, Quebec.

It was a lovely evening honouring one of nursing’s greatest champions. Thank you to all those who attended and supported Dr. Glass’s wish of establishing the Distinguished Researcher in Residence Program at the Faculty of Nursing. It will be another great hallmark of Dr. Glass’s enduring legacy.
National Nursing Week is celebrated annually to increase public awareness of the important role nurses play in health care. The theme for 2004 was Nursing: Knowledge and Commitment at Work.

Festivities and events were held throughout the week, sponsored by both the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, as well as clinical and administrative agencies hosting their own events on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

On Thursday, May 13, the Manitoba Nursing Research Institute (MNRI) at the Faculty of Nursing hosted Celebrating Research in the Atrium of the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing. Greetings were brought from the Vice-President's (Research) Office by Dr. Peter Cattini, Associate Vice-President. Guests, including former deans and directors, alumni, and nursing leaders were entertained by a jazz band from the School of Music, and even greeted at the door by Florence Nightingale. Every guest received a gift of an MNRI lapel pin.

Dr. Lorna Guse (Associate Dean, Research) and Dr. Karen Chalmers (Associate Dean, Graduate Programs) planned the event to highlight the history and work of the Manitoba Nursing Research Institute (MNRI) since 1985, and research projects of graduate students.

Professor Marion McKay and past faculty member, Pat Powell produced a presentation on the history of the MNRI in the Margaret Hart Heritage Room display window. A continuous slideshow presentation featured the rise of the MNRI and the Faculty of Nursing's research aspirations. Graduate students provided ongoing presentations related to their thesis research in the Dean's boardroom.

Dean David Gregory and Drs. Guse and Chalmers spoke briefly about the accomplishments of the Faculty during the past twenty years. Given the Faculty's role in stimulating, conducting and disseminating research in the province, this was a most fitting way for the Faculty to celebrate National Nursing Week.

On November 22, 2004 the Board of Governors approved the appointment of Dr. Marlene Reimer for a five year term as Dean of the Faculty of Nursing effective July 1, 2005. Dr. Reimer will also hold a tenured Professor appointment in the Faculty.

Dr. Reimer has served as Acting Dean in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary. She holds appointments as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, and as an Associate in Nursing with the Calgary Health Region Department of Clinical Neurosciences. She completed her initial education in nursing through the Calgary General Hospital School of Nursing, followed by a Bachelor of Nursing from the University of Manitoba. In 1984, she graduated with a Master of Nursing degree from the University of Calgary and shortly thereafter joined the Faculty of Nursing as an Assistant Professor. In 1997, she completed a PhD in Health Care Research through the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary. From 1998 to 2003, she was Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Programs, followed by a 15-month term as Acting Dean.

Dr. Reimer has held a number of major appointments. She is past president of the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses, a former member of the Board of the Canadian Nurses Association, and former Chair of the Graduate Committee of the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN). Currently, she is in her second term as an appointed member of the Institute Advisory Board for the CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addictions, a member of the CASN Research Committee, Alberta representative to the Canadian Association of Nurse Researchers, and a founding member of the Canadian Association for Rural and Remote Nursing. Her research focuses on quality of life interventions and measurement, particularly with adults who are cognitively impaired secondary to brain injury, dementia or other neurodegenerative or psychiatric illnesses.

Dr. Reimer has an extensive record of teaching, research, and professional service. She brings a wealth of administrative experience, and we look forward to welcoming Dr. Reimer to the University and to working with her in the future.
Pakistan and Nigeria. Rotary International hopes to eradicate polio worldwide by 2008. Their program slogan is “2 Drops to Save a Life.”

To help us comprehend the immensity of this endeavor, Patti provided us with the following statistics: In one day, 37.8 million children received polio drops when she and other volunteers from the Rotary PolioPlus program, World Health Organization workers and Unicef workers combined forces for a country wide immunization clinic blitz. The goal is for 250 million children to be immunized by the end of 2004.

Patti’s slideshow photos and stories about her trip and work in India were inspiring and informative. India is a land rich in culture and beauty. It is also a land of extreme contrast between marble palaces with mosaics of inlaid precious gems (Taj Mahal) and back-streets with open sewers running down curbside gutters.

If you would like more information about the Rotary immunization program go to www.rotary.org and click on the Polio Eradication link. Volunteers from all work backgrounds are welcome to be part of the solution to eradicate polio worldwide.

Enns Makes Outreach a Global Effort

University of Manitoba faculty and staff members were recognized at a special ceremony on November 16 for outstanding community involvement. The University conducts Outreach Awards each year on faculty and staff who have made exemplary contributions to the broader community. One recipient was our own Marlee Enns, an instructor in the Learning Labs. Here she shares her first-hand experiences of Ethiopia.

For five weeks this summer I had the pleasure of volunteering my time in central Ethiopia. This short-term missions position was through an international organization called SIM (Serving in Missions).

The first two and a half weeks were spent at a clinic located in a rural area three hours drive south of Addis Ababa in the Rift Valley. The Lake Langano Clinic is a primary health centre which services a large population of subsistence farmers.

On an average day, between eighty to a hundred patients are seen at the nurse managed clinic. During my time at Lake Llangano, I was mainly involved in areas which did not require an Oromo interpreter. This included prenatal assessments, STD screening, and childhood well-baby clinics.

Perhaps my favorite days were spent doing community outreach clinics. Performing immunizations under a tree in a local pasture was both challenging, with cattle getting a little too close for comfort; and entertaining, since this seemed to be the biggest social event of the season.

Experiences that were not as pleasant included seeing several children with anthrax, and many children with scabies, malaria, and malnutrition.

One unexpected responsibility I had was to foster a five-week old, malnourished infant named Alima, from the region. Her mother had died a week before due to anemia, and her father was unable to care for her.

When she came to me, Alima weighed only two kilos. For four days, I had the pleasure of caring for Alima until a more permanent home could be found.

The second half of the time in Ethiopia was spent in the capital Addis Ababa. There, I was involved with an HIV/AIDS homecare team. In the slum areas of Addis Ababa, HIV rates are as high as 28%. Through the visits, our team tried to ensure that the ‘beneficiaries’ had adequate social supports, enough food, enough resources for their children to attend school and that their basic health care needs are being met.

It was sad to see that most of the individuals in the program were young women with dependent children and that adequate analgesics, let alone anti-retro viral medications, were not available to them.

My experience in Ethiopia was rewarding in so many ways, of which—the cuddles from baby Alima, the smiles and hospitality from the HIV clients, and the request from the national nurses at the Langano clinic for me to stay on—were not the least.
Helping China Build a Foundation for HIV/AIDS Knowledge and Prevention
by Benita Cohen

A team of academics from the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Nursing and Department of Community Health Sciences recently spent two weeks in China, developing a proposal for the funding of an HIV/AIDS education/training project by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Janet Beaton and Benita Cohen represented the Faculty of Nursing on this proposal design mission. The proposal outlines the goals of establishing Sichuan University in Chengdu (pop. 10 million) as a centre of excellence for HIV/AIDS education/training in West China and, ultimately, assuming a leadership role in responding to the emerging HIV/AIDS epidemic in West China.

The proposed project will, among other things, prepare faculty in the schools of nursing and public health to develop and deliver comprehensive, current, research-based curricula focused on HIV/AIDS prevention, control, care, and support.

It is anticipated that, if funded, one of the benefits will be that nurses in West China will be better equipped to assume a more effective role in the care and support of individuals and their families with HIV/AIDS in hospitals, homes, and community health agency settings, and that nurses will develop an expanded role in HIV/AIDS prevention and health education.

Drs. Beaton and Cohen were able to spend additional time with colleagues from the School of Nursing who had been involved in previous collaborative initiatives with our Faculty (e.g., the development of the first Baccalaureate nursing program in West China). Team members also spent some time in Beijing, meeting with a variety of individuals, including: the deputy minister of health and the chief nursing officer of China; officials in the National Centre for STD/AIDS Prevention and Control; technical experts and project leaders with UNAIDS, UNICEF and the China-UK HIV/AIDS Project; and the President of the Chinese Nurses Association.

Says Cohen, “The trip to China was an exciting learning experience for me. It was particularly impressive to observe how highly Janet Beaton is regarded by our Chinese nursing colleagues. Her great wisdom and knowledge of Chinese cultural norms, history, and the School of Nursing at Sichuan University were invaluable—both to me and to the entire University of Manitoba proposal development team.”

Katz’s Workshop with Therapists Talks about Cancer and Sexuality

Living with cancer can affect sexual functioning in various ways – some of these effects may be due to the cancer itself, the treatments, sense of yourself and/or the emotions the person is feeling. People with cancer often have questions about sexuality – and these questions change from the time of diagnosis, through treatment, and then into recovery. Some of the sexual issues people with cancer have to deal with are relatively minor, but sometimes they are ongoing and more serious.

On May 16, Dr. Anne Katz presented a two-hour workshop entitled, A Long and Winding Road: Cancer and Sexuality at the 36th annual conference of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, & Therapists, SPEAKING OUT: Advocating for Sexual Rights and Sexual Health.

The workshop aimed to identify the major sexual issues affecting individuals with cancer, and plan specific interventions to assist the individual to resolve the problems and return to satisfactory sexual functioning.

Says Katz, “This is an area where individuals with cancer and their partners have an enormous need, but there is a lack of professionals with the neces-
Class of 1974
On Saturday, October 2, nursing alumni from the Class of 1974, including faculty members Marion McKay and Lorna Guse, gathered at the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing as part of Homecoming Weekend. Alumni were given a tour of the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing, and welcomed with a wine and cheese, hosted by the Dean’s Office.

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Katz says she has learned many life lessons that she tries to apply to her own life: That life is precious and joyful, despite the challenges, some of them extreme, that one has to face. “I have learned that even deep, long-term intimacy can be threatened by poor communication.

I have learned to challenge the ageism that is so dominant in our culture. Many of my clients are in their 70s and 80s and they are determined to remain sexually active and intimate in the face of cancer and age-related changes,” she muses.

When asked about changes she would like to see, she replies. “I would love to see nurses and other health care providers becoming more proactive in asking clients about sexual side effects as part of routine care.

I am seeing some changes in this area, in part because the staff at CancerCare know that I have a practice, so they can refer patients to me. This allows them to ask the questions without the fear of having to deal with any problems themselves!

We also need more research in this area and the funders need to recognize that this is an important issue for people with cancer, not a ‘novelty’ topic.”
Recent Funding Awards

Dr. Lorna Guse is co-investigator on a three year project entitled, *Influenza immunization, an indicator of self-care: Researchers’ and policy-makers’ roles in increasing immunization coverage among older Manitobans and Canadians*, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Health Policy and Systems Management Research). Lead by Betty Havens, and co-investigators Verna Menecand and Barbara Payne. The value of the award is $80,182.

Drs. Hack and Degner received a $20,000 proposal development grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council/Community-University Research Alliances (SSHRC/CURA). Together with Dr. Lorna Butler (Co-PI) and Dr. Joan Evans (Co-PI) from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Drs. Hack and Degner will develop a full-scale proposal to explore issues of masculinity for men diagnosed with cancer.

Dr. Michelle Lobchuk (PI), along with Dr. Susan McClement (co-investigator), and P. Daeninck (co-investigator), were awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant in the amount of $35,515 to be held for one year. This grant is part of the Strategic Initiative ‘Palliative and End of Life Care: Pilot Project Grant’. The study is entitled, *What do informal caregivers think and feel when they are induced to perspective-take on cancer patients’ symptom experiences*.

Dr. Diana McMillan is pleased to report that a pilot study proposal entitled *Evaluation of three therapeutic blankets on sleep and agitation in institutionalized elderly persons with dementia* has received funding from the Riverview Health Centre Research Competition in the amount of $6,761.50. Team members include: co-principal investigators: Diana McMillan, RN, PhD, Faculty of Nursing and Lynda Wolf, OT, Senior Occupational Therapist, Riverview Health Centre; and co-investigators: Laurie Cerqueti, RN, BN, Riverview Health Centre and Michael Shumsky, OT, Riverview Health Centre.

Dr. Dean Care and Prof. Ulysses Lahaie recently received funding for *Integrating WebQuest initiatives into online nursing courses* from the Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) Grants Program, University Teaching Services, in the amount of $3,365.

Dr. Loretta Secco received funds from the University of Manitoba Research Grants Program, in the amount of $3,619 to study, *The role of infant, situational, and maternal factors as determinants of parenting stress among older and adolescent mothers*.

Drs. Michelle Lobchuk and Roberta Woodgate both received the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) Research Scientist Award: Behavioural/Psychosocial/Cancer Control (BPCC) Research Personnel Award from the National Cancer Institute of Canada, for the period of July 1, 2004- June 30, 2010. The award provides salary support.

Drs. Susan McClement and Roberta Woodgate, along with Harvey Chochinov, received an operating grant valued at $14,335 for their project entitled, *Involuntary weight loss in advanced cancer: Patient and family member perspectives*. Funding is provided by the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation Inc. for the period of July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

Dr. Maureen Heaman is a co-investigator on a project entitled, *Activity levels for women at risk for preterm birth: A survey of Canadian care providers*, which was recently awarded a one-year operating grant of $45,227 from the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. Ms. Ann Sprague (Doctoral Candidate, University of Alberta) and Dr. Beverley O’Brien (Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta) are the co-principal investigators.

Dr. Roberta Woodgate (PI), J. Sloan, and R. Yanofsky received an operating grant from the CIHR valued at $49,428 for their project entitled, *Parents’ and children’s decisions and experiences in childhood cancer clinical trials*.

Dr. T. Hack along with R. Thomas-McLean, B. Mediema, A. Towers, W. Kwan, and S. Tatemichi received funding (2004-07) from the CIHR valued at $438,336 for their project entitled, *Charting the course of arm morbidity in breast cancer: A prospective, longitudinal follow-up*.

Dr. Christine Ateah (PI) and Kathy Hamelin (co-investigator) have received $4,524 from the Manitoba Institute of Child Health for their study entitled, *Parent and infant co-sleeping practices*.