**Dean’s Message**

It has been an exciting year in the Faculty of Nursing! We have much to celebrate. Our partnerships with Red River College, Norway House Cree Nation and the University College of the North are as strong as ever.

Our relationship with the Regional Health Authorities continues to grow and improve. Our Four-Year Baccalaureate Program was reviewed by the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba and the Faculty achieved a four year approval – the maximum length of approval allowed. This is an outstanding achievement that is testament to the high quality of education provided at all program sites.

The Faculty held a successful planning retreat this fall. We established a clear vision for the Faculty for the next three year period. One of our main goals is to revise the graduate program (Masters of Nursing). The guiding principles behind this review are intended to make the Program more accessible, flexible, and responsive to the needs of students and employers.

Research activity continues to flourish in our Faculty. We are steadily improving our research productivity. Faculty members are regularly being sought out for their knowledge in their respective areas of expertise.

If you are planning to celebrate a reunion this coming year, we hope you will choose the Helen Glass Centre of Nursing as a place to host an event. An ideal time for a get-together reception and tours of our Faculty is during Homecoming Week (September 12-16, 2007). It is a wonderful way to meet your former classmates and reminisce about your days as a student.

With warmest regards.
Dr. Dean Care, RN

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**Report on the Faculty of Nursing Alumni Survey**

*David Hultin, Research Associate, MNRI*

Through the generous support of the Faculty of Nursing Endowment Fund, a survey of Faculty of Nursing alumni recently took place to determine how the Faculty of Nursing could build a stronger relationship with nursing alumni. Alumni were asked questions on how they have been involved with nursing alumni and the Faculty of Nursing, what alumni activities they would be interested in and what types of information they would like to see in this newsletter.

The survey was sent to a random sample of alumni who graduated between the years 1992-2003, and who were living in Winnipeg. A total of 83 alumni completed the survey and this is a snapshot of what they said:

- A significant portion (80%) of the alumni indicated that they continue to remain in contact with fellow graduates of the Faculty of Nursing – either personally or professionally – creating a network of friends and colleagues.

- After graduation, alumni remain involved with the faculty through attendance at special events, public lectures/seminars, retirement receptions, and contributions to the Manitoba Nursing Research Institute.
- Since the construction and opening of the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing in 2000, a majority of alumni surveyed (72%) reported that they had either visited or toured the building.

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The Master of Nursing Program at the Faculty of Nursing

The Master of Nursing program is designed to prepare nurses for leadership positions in research, advanced practice, or administration. The program prepares nurses in a specialized field of nursing practice, and leadership and consultation. Students have the opportunity to complete a thesis, practicum, or comprehensive examination to complete the program.

The Faculty has formal linkages with the University of Manchester and the University of Tennessee, Memphis. Collaborative research is being conducted with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Research, consultation, and practice are also being conducted at many health facilities in the province by faculty members. The relationships provide graduate students with endless possibilities and vast opportunities to pursue their areas of interest and expand their understanding of health and health care.

The Master of Nursing program is currently undergoing a curriculum review. During the past 18 months, Dr. Pamela Hawranik, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs, met with stakeholders, nurse educators, nursing leaders, and other groups to solicit information and feedback on the program. The information is being used in the development of the new curriculum.

Another development in the program is the implementation of courses blended. The first two blended delivery courses will be offered this summer. Students who take courses by blended delivery will be completing the majority of the course on-line with some blocked in-class sessions.

Since the first admission of four graduate students in the fall of 1980, the Faculty has graduated more than 270 master-prepared nurses for today’s evolving health care system. Each year, the Faculty admits 30 new graduate students in the master’s program and graduates approximately 20.

For more information about our graduate program, please visit our website at www.umanitoba.ca/nursing, e-mail nursing_grad@umanitoba.ca, or call (204) 474-6216.

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- Almost half (44%) reported they had read the Nursing Care Newsletter, while nearly 40% were interested in receiving the newsletter regularly through e-mail.
- In response to a question about activities of interest, alumni told us they were most interested in professional development sessions, public lectures/seminars, class reunions and clinical practice in-services.
- Alumni reported they would most like to see Faculty of Nursing news and program information in Nursing Transitions followed by research news and professional development information.

The Faculty of Nursing is always looking for innovative ways to engage alumni, and welcomes your feedback as to how best to do this. Please drop us a note if you have suggestions—we would love to hear from you!

You can e-mail us at nursing_info@umanitoba.ca. The Nursing Care newsletter and the Faculty’s Annual Reports are available on our website at www.umanitoba.ca/nursing.
I am pleased to have assumed the role of Co-ordinator of International Affairs for the Faculty of Nursing as of Jan 1, 2007. In the past several years, a number of new partnerships have been established through the work of my predecessors, Janet Beaton and Judy Scanlan. My time has been focused on maintaining these relationships and working on new ideas for building awareness of international nursing and globalization. Judging by the first two months, this is proving to be an active and exciting responsibility.

Current initiatives in the Faculty include the ongoing CIDA project in Cuba, partnerships with Umeå University in Sweden, Turku Polytechnic University in Finland, and Sichuan University in China.

The Cuba project is a partnership with Havana Medical School. It involves establishing and delivering the first Doctoral program in Nursing in Cuba, revision of the Master’s program in Nursing, fostering nursing research in Cuba, and Continuing Education workshops in rural provinces in Cuba.

There have been three activities in Cuba over the past month: Cosette Taylor-Mendes conducting a workshop on Academic Writing with the doctoral students; Annette Gupton, Ruth Dean, and Judy Scanlan giving a research workshop; and Marion McKay offering a workshop on Health Promotion and Prevention in Caimaguay (500 km from Havana).

In addition to the Cuba activities, we welcomed a visitor from our partner, University in Sweden, for one week in January. Charlotte Angström teaches in the Faculty of Nursing at Umeå and was in Winnipeg to investigate possible research collaboration with Roberta Woodgate. Regular seminars are held with faculty members in Umeå via teleconference. The January seminar focused on palliative care, with presentations by Susan McClement, (U of M) and Birgit Rasmussen (Sweden).

Another activity that attracted widespread interest was a display and sale of African jewelry and art by Sheila Omom, a graduate student in International Development. Sheila works with AIDS orphans in her home country and sells their artwork in Canada. The Student Council is fund raising with the goal of sponsoring one of the orphans to attend nursing school in Kenya.

January and February have been busy months. March promises to be no different with a delegation from the Faculty traveling to Chengdu to sign an exchange agreement with Sichuan University. Stay tuned for further developments!

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**Awards**

**Dr. Michelle Lobchuk:** Outstanding New Investigator Award from the Canadian Association for Nursing Research (CANR) Award for Excellence in Research. CANR Annual General Meeting, Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) Biennial Convention, June 20th, 2006, Saskatoon, SK.

**Dr. Lesley Degner:** inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (C.A.H.S.), Ottawa on September 27, 2006.

**Dr. Lesley Degner:** Distinguished Merit Award for services to Cancer Nursing, the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (I.S.N.C.C.), England, on September 28, 2006.

**Research Grants**


Jennifer Wellborn, RN(EP), BN/01, MN/05

I started off my nursing career at the University of Manitoba, with my Bachelor of Nursing. As I prepared to complete my degree in the fall of 2000, I was still unsure of where I wanted to spend my time as a new RN - I knew that the opportunities for nurses were plentiful, but was unsure of my calling in the field. I explored many options for my senior practicum placement, but could not find the one that I was truly excited about. As I continued my hunt, I spoke with a friend who had decided to do her placement in northern Manitoba, and had had a wonderful experience. It sounded like a great opportunity and a lot of fun, so off I went.

Arrangements were made for me to complete my final student placement working in the isolated First Nations community of Bloodvein, MB. I looked at this experience as one where I could explore many types of nursing practice as well as have a bit of an adventure. While hoping to utilize my placement as a stepping stone for another nursing role, I inadvertently found the type of nursing that I wanted to pursue. My brief student placement turned into the start of a six year career providing care to the residents of northern Manitoba.

I spent the first few years of my new role falling in love with my position as a community health nurse in the remote, fly-in community of Garden Hill, MB. At times, the position was challenging, fulfilling and exhausting. However, the time I spent in that role provided me with the opportunity to work with individuals across the lifespan. I was able to interact with a diverse range of patients from newborns to the elderly. As a part of the health care team, we provided primary health care to the community as well as health promotion, illness prevention, and the care of many common ailments. Many times we were also called upon to respond to acute, emergent presentations. There rarely was a dull moment and I realized that I truly enjoyed being a clinical nurse, especially in a primary care role.

These experiences within an expanded nursing role left me wanting to further my education and pursue a career as a nurse practitioner (NP). I returned to the University of Manitoba and graduated in 2005 with my Master’s in Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Stream). I recently obtained my RN(EP) [Extended Practice] designation and I am in the process of embarking upon the next chapter of my career as a nurse practitioner. I currently work as an NP in a community health clinic in Winnipeg, and thoroughly enjoy it.

To help familiarize myself with the nurse practitioner role I became an active member of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Manitoba (NPAM). Many of the members of this group have worked hard to establish the role of the NP in the province and continue to mentor us novice nurses who are just entering into the field. I look forward to continuing to grow professionally and plan to be involved in helping others who choose the role of the nurse practitioner as their career choice.

Although I never would have predicted the course that my career has taken to date, I cannot say that it would have turned out better had I planned it this way!
Nursing is a profession that calls for passion! Enthusiasm and passion are exactly what brought me to nursing. I was born and raised in the Philippines. I came to Canada when I was 19 years old. I came to Canada for a number of reasons – better opportunity and to be reunited with my family.

Realizing that I wanted to go into the health care field, I considered medical school. But knowing that I wanted a family and free time for myself, I decided that nursing was the best option. Nursing would give me the flexibility and provide me with the career opportunities that I was looking for.

I had always dreamed of working in a surgical cardiac unit ever since I was in my teens. But moving to Canada was not a smooth journey; there were a lot of obstacles and challenges that I needed to overcome. I knew that in order for me to become successful, I would need to stretch my abilities to meet the challenges I was facing at the time. I believe that we can't always choose what our circumstances are, but we can choose what we'll do with them. There are many choices in life which we can make – the choice that I made was to pursue my dream, to become a cardiovascular thoracic (CVT) nurse.

Nursing school was not easy. After four years of hard work I finally obtained my degree, a Bachelor of Nursing from University of Manitoba (U of M), Faculty of Nursing. The University helped me achieve my dream to become a nurse. The learning process was comprehensive and thorough. You learn your profession and you learn it well. I graduated from the BN program in 2000 and landed a job at the Health Sciences Centre (GA3- CVT surgical unit). It was very exciting. I was in that unit for a good three years.

My desire to learn more and to further my career/experience in the area of nursing that I love led me to make another decision. I decided to move to Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina (United States). I started my job in the CVT-stepdown unit then to CVT-ICU. It was a very good experience and very rewarding. I took care of a variety of cardiothoracic patients with complex surgeries. I was then trained to take care of patients in LVAD (thoratec, heartmate 1 & 2, novacor and DeBakey). The LVAD machine is a bridge to heart transplant and other complex surgeries like heart and lung transplant, CABG, valve surgeries via heartport procedures.

After a year of working at Duke hospital, I was offered the position of Unit Orientation Coordinator in Duke heart center. I was responsible for creating strategies in staff retention and in educating new staff. It was then that my interest in teaching started.

In spite of all these good experiences, my wife and I decided that it was time to go back to Canada. Health Sciences Centre gave me another opportunity to work in GA3—CVT unit (where I started my 1st nursing job). I am now a Clinical Resource Nurse (CRN) of this unit. I was very excited to come back. To be able to contribute to the unit/ward where I started my nursing career is a blessing for me.

Last year another opportunity was presented to me. I was hired by the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Manitoba to become a Clinical Educator Facilitator (CEF) for 3rd year U of M students. I applied for the CEF job because I missed being in a teaching role. I wanted a career where I had the fulfillment of seeing the difference I was making everyday – it's about interacting with people in a personal and creative way to help them develop and improve their lives and career. As a CEF, I help students discover their potential and encourage them to pursue their dreams. It is a blessing for me to have the opportunity to share my experiences and knowledge with the students.

Working as CRN and CEF are both physically and mentally demanding but very rewarding. My passion for this job is what drives me to keep going and talk positively about nursing profession. I really love what I do. Being a nurse is what makes me happy. There's nothing better than doing what you love most.

To learn more about being a Clinical Education Facilitator (CEF), please contact Penny Davis, Four-Year Program Coordinator, at 474-9519, or by e-mail at penny_davis@umanitoba.ca
Jennifer Eaglesham, RN, BN/03

It’s hard to believe that it’s already been 4 years since I completed my Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Manitoba. Of the many memories and significant experiences that occurred during this time, there were a couple of ‘smaller’ experiences that really stick out for me, and provided me with some insight as to where my interests lay.

We did an exercise early on, probably in second year, where after being divided into groups we were asked to produce a definition of health and a definition of nursing. Sounded easy enough, but it took what seemed like forever to come to a conclusion that everyone could agree. And interestingly enough, each groups’ definition differed from the next. Although they all seemed to have had the same underlying message, this exercise reflected the diverse interests, beliefs and values in this class of students working towards the same degree.

Time has flown by and I am proud to say that I am working in an area that both excites and motivates me on a daily basis. I began working as a Public Health Nurse shortly after graduating in 2003. At that time I held a position in the general program and had the opportunity to work with individuals and groups in a variety of settings. This included working with families in the postpartum period, participating as a facilitator with Health Start for Mom and Me, working in school and community based immunization programs, and carrying out investigations for a number of communicable diseases.

There were a few things that drew me to this area of nursing. I have always held an interest in community development, social justice issues, disease prevention and health promotion. I also enjoy working independently and having a diverse daily routine. I find that working in an ‘unstructured environment’ where I have increased autonomy and a high level of responsibility to be quite appealing. Being able to incorporate these aspects into my nursing career has been exciting so far!

In April 2005 I started a half-time position with the WRHA Centralized CDC team as a Public Health Nurse with the Street Connections program. More recently I am happy to have taken on an additional half time position with the same team, with a focus on Tuberculosis case management. Street Connections is a mobile Harm Reduction program that has been in operation for the past 15 years in Winnipeg. We operate six days a week and work out of a van in the community with marginalized populations. This includes street involved people of all ages and backgrounds, those who are homeless or inconsistently housed, sex trade workers, people with addictions, and those who use drugs occasionally.

Our services are rooted from the Harm Reduction Philosophy. If and when someone who uses drugs decides to make changes in their life, our team, which consists of four Public Health Nurses and four Community Outreach Workers, are trusted people they can rely on for accurate and reliable information, referrals and support. Our program includes a needle exchange program, safer crack use kit (SCUK) distribution, teaching about safer drug use practices, STI and BBP testing, and treatment for certain STI’s, HIV pre- and post-test counseling, referrals and most importantly, advocacy and support for addictions—no matter what end of the spectrum the individual is at with their drug use. Having a presence in the community allows us to assist clients to take care of immediate health concerns and act as an advocate or bridge to other services, whatever they may be. This provides people with opportunity, which can be as equally important to the future of both the individuals and community’s health.

I immensely enjoy working as part of this team and learn from the clients I work with each and every time I am out in the community. I think what is common amongst all people is that we all value life and health, no matter what the circumstance may be in which we live. One thing that I try to remember is that we all start off in the same boat and will all end up in the same, but it’s what happens in between that differentiates one person from another. My experience at the University of Manitoba created the foundation on which I practice today. Learning to work in a non-judgemental fashion while developing both academic and clinical skills gave me the confidence to take initiative and make quick decisions which are essential all areas of nursing.

Homecoming 2007

Homecoming this year will be celebrated September 12-16. Class reunion is being planned for Class of 1997. Visit www.umanitoba.ca/alumni or call (204) 474-9946 or toll-free in Canada at 1-800-668-4908 for more information.
Some interesting facts . . .

. . . from reports by the Manitoba Nursing Research Institute from surveys on graduates’ and employers perceptions on how the nursing education program has prepared graduates to meet entry-level competencies and graduates employment status and preferred employment:

- Over 80% of 2004 graduates surveyed reported being able to find work as a nurse as soon as they wanted
- 69% of graduates reported obtaining nursing positions in Winnipeg, while 25% of graduates obtained positions in Manitoba (outside Winnipeg)
- Very few graduates left Manitoba to work in another province (5%) or in another country (1%)
- 88% of graduates were satisfied with their current employment status
- 77% of graduates indicated that their senior practicum led to their first nursing positions after graduation
- 92% of graduates said their senior clinical practicum eased their transition from student to professional nurse
- The majority of employers (98.1%) were satisfied or very satisfied with the performance of new graduates as a whole
- 94% of graduates reported that if they could choose again, they would still select a career in nursing
- 95% of graduates would encourage others to pursue a career in nursing
Events and Announcements from the Faculty

Researcher in Residence

The Faculty of Nursing is pleased to present our second Dr. Helen Glass Researcher in Residence

Dr. Joy Johnson RN, PhD
Professor & Associate Director
Graduate Programs and Research
School of Nursing
University of British Columbia

From Neurotransmitters to Neighbourhoods: New Frontiers in Health Behaviour Change
April 11, 2007
2:00 p.m.
Room 370
Helen Glass Centre for Nursing
University of Manitoba

The New Public Health: Refocusing on the Ecology of Health and Health Behaviour
April 12, 2007
6:00 p.m.
Inn at The Forks, The Ballroom
75 Forks Market Road, Winnipeg, MB

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
RSVP stating lecture/s attending 474-9080

New Dean

The Faculty of Nursing would like to announce the appointment of Dr. Dauna Crooks as Dean, Faculty of Nursing, for a five year term beginning July 1, 2007.

Dr. Crooks received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Toronto, her Masters in Nursing Science from the University of Western Ontario, and her Doctorate in Nursing Science (DNSc) from the State University of New York in Buffalo. Currently the Director of the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing at Trent University in Peterborough, Dr. Crooks also holds academic appointment with McMaster University’s Faculty of Health Sciences.

Dr. Margaret Elder Distinguished Visitor Series

Dr. Wendy Austin
Professor & Canada Research Chair
Relational Ethics in Health Care, Faculty of Nursing and the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre

the 2007 Distinguished Visitor, will be in the Faculty of Nursing November 6 & 7, 2007

Watch for more information on the Faculty’s web site

Program Approval

The Four-Year Baccalaureate Nursing Program received a four year Program Approval by the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (CRNM). This is the maximum length of approval allowed by the CRNM.

National Nursing Week 2007

Come celebrate National Nursing Week (May 7 to 13) with the Faculty of Nursing
Check our web site for events

April 2007