Dean’s Message

I am pleased to be sending greetings to our Alumni and to update you on the initiatives in the faculty of Nursing.

This year at Homecoming, three graduating classes will be celebrating on site: the classes of ’69, ’74 and ’79. We have an event planned for the Alumni that will let them see firsthand what faculty and students are doing.

Our new masters program was approved in Senate in January 2009 and will accept the first class of students this fall. The foci for this program include education (academic and clinical); administration and clinical (advanced practice roles). The Nurse Practitioner stream was reviewed in late fall and a four year approval was granted!

We are embarking on a doctoral program this year with the first class expected in fall of 2011. Our greatest need is support for scholarships for this student group to allow full time study. We are working with Advancement and Development Services at the University of Manitoba to set up a means for donors to indicate their support.

Our faculty continues to excel in teaching, research and community service. We are considered one of Canada’s research intensive Faculties, no small feat for a small faculty cadre. We now have the Manitoba Centre for Nursing and Health Research and are part of the Centre for Innovation on the Bannatyne campus.

We are developing well in Interprofessional Education and Practice at all levels from grassroots to Deans. We have developed innovative models and will continue to explore and grow in this area. One example is an initiative with Dentistry around oral systemic health, a foundation for much of nursing practice. We are excited to be involved and improve our depth of scientific knowledge in this emerging field. The student run WISH clinic in an impoverished part of Winnipeg is up and running, demonstrating student’s need for team work and a demonstration of the principles of social justice.

Finally, I would like to establish closer links with Alumni. As so often happens classes have organized events for themselves and this is a wonderful thing! I would appreciate your opinions about how to bring an Alumni Association together to benefit all of you and to maintain strong links with Faculty. I have appended my e-mail mail below so please send ideas along!

Regards,

Dauna Crooks, RN, DNSc
Dean
dauna_crooks@umanitoba.ca
Open House and Atrium Dedication

On May 13, 2008, the Faculty held its second annual Open House in celebration of National Nursing Week. As part of this year’s event, the Faculty held a Donor Appreciation Luncheon and also included the official ribbon-cutting for the new simulation learning centres.

The Faculty was also proud to unveil the plaque dedicating the atrium to Mary Kathleen Ruane, a nurse who had bequeathed part of her estate to the Faculty. Ms Ruane’s total bequest of $450,000 will establish an endowment fund to support Nursing students’ academic and research objectives. These include two research grants for graduate students, two scholarships for graduate students, four scholarships for undergraduate students, and four bursaries for undergraduate students.

A Welcome BBQ

New and returning nursing students and staff were treated to a free BBQ lunch at the Faculty of Nursing on August 26 and 27, 2008. This annual event was hosted the Nursing Student Association Council.
Dr. H. Glass Researcher in Residence

The Faculty of Nursing was pleased to host Dr. Alba DiCenso from McMaster University as this year’s Dr. Helen Glass Researcher-in-Residence from April 1 through April 4, 2008. A professor in the School of Nursing at McMaster University, a CHSRF/CIHR Chair in Advanced Practice Nursing, and the Director of the Ontario Training Centre in Health Services and Policy Research, Dr. DiCenso is also well-known as an expert in Evidence-Based Nursing Practice and is the author/editor of a textbook on the topic which is familiar to us all.

In her lecture to the Faculty, entitled *Translating evidence into practice*, she talked about creating the environment that supports the incorporation of research findings into practice. She described changing practice in an organization – frameworks and approaches. The public lecture, held at the Inn at the Forks and attended by over 50 participants, was *Successful integration of advanced practice nurses into the Canadian health care system: Is it possible?* She passionately presented an overview of the challenges and successes in integrating and making full use of Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists in today’s health care system. Dr. DiCenso also met with faculty, graduate students, community health care providers and interest groups in small group discussions, demonstrations, and consultations around a variety of topics of mutual interest.

Celebrating Nursing Research: Building Bridges from Knowledge to Practice

The Faculty of Nursing and the Manitoba Centre for Nursing and Health Research will be hosting the above event on May 20, 2009 at The Fort Garry Hotel located at 222 Broadway in Winnipeg.

This event will be, first and foremost, a celebration of academic and clinical accomplishments resulting from nursing research while also re-branding the former “Manitoba Nursing Research Institute” as the “Manitoba Centre for Nursing and Health Research” (MCNHR). The name of the Centre has been changed to reflect a broader interdisciplinary focus on health research while retaining the vision of promoting nursing and health research throughout the province.

Cocktails will begin at 5 p.m., followed by a program at 6 p.m., which will include short speeches and a public lecture by Dr. Pamela Hinds (Director of Nursing Research, Children’s National Medical Centre, Washington, DC), the Faculty of Nursing’s 2009 Dr. Helen Glass Researcher-in-Residence.

We sincerely hope that you are able to attend. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Diana Clarke, Director of the MCNHR at 474-9080.
Health Screening Clinic

Nursing students offered their first health screening clinic on October 21 at Saul Sair Health Centre at Siloam Mission. For a couple of hours in the afternoon, the students were on hand at the downtown Winnipeg institution to take blood pressure and provide health information to the poor and homeless.

The idea for a student health screening clinic was inspired by a desire to provide second-year nursing students with a hands-on opportunity to reach out to the community with health screening. 

“This is a way to set an example to encourage others to participate in communities other than our own, to get involved and to give back to others,” says event coordinator and Faculty of Nursing clinical course leader and instructor Rae Harwood.

United Way in the Faculty

The Faculty launched its internal United Way campaign with a “big breakfast” on November 19, 2008. A pancake breakfast with sausages and fruits was served by the Faculty’s Administrative Team, (Dr. Dauna Crooks, Dean; Dr. Judith Scanlan, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs; Dr. Marion McKay, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs; Dr. Maureen Heaman, Associate Dean, Research; and Mrs. Jackie Dewar, Executive Assistant). Donations collected during the breakfast totalled $100.00.

Other activities for United Way included ticket sales for two draws: a spa day (manicure and pedicure) and lunch for six. Congratulations to Diane Cepanec who won the spa day and to Eva Brasko, Karla Blackwell, Cathy Johnston, Sandy Kluka, Norma Brown, and Diane Cepanec for being drawn for the lunch. The lunch, prepared by Jennifer Leach, was held on Wednesday, November 27. The main dish on the menu was whisky-lemon chicken with roasted garlic, served with gratin dauphinois and green beans. The chicken recipe by Jennifer won the runner-up award in the 2008 Canadian Living Cook of the Year contest. Dessert was apple crisp with whipped cream made by Collette Pancoe.

Other activities included an auction of “gently-used” small appliances donated by staff as well as a sale of costume jewelry donated by Diane Cepanec. The fund raising activities in the Faculty for United Way were organized by co-chairs, Norma Brown and Cathy Johnston. The different events raised over $400. The co-chairs would like to thank all who participated in the events. A big thank you to Norma and Cathy for their energy and creativity in planning the events and we look forward to next year’s events.
Farewell to Dean

On June 26, 2008, the Faculty bid farewell to Dr. Dean Care. Dean joined the Faculty in 1998 as the Urban Program Coordinator. He then held various administrative positions in the Faculty, including Academic Assistant to the Dean and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs. Dean was Acting Dean in 2004-2005 and the Interim Dean from 2005 to 2007. In honor of his tenure as Acting Dean and Interim Dean, a portrait of Dean is hung in the Faculty’s board room, together with the portraits of past Deans.

Dr. Dean Care is now the Dean and Professor at the School of Health Sciences, Brandon University.

Distinguished Visitors Events 2009

By E. Mordoch, RN PhD, Chair, Distinguished Visitor Committee

The Dr. Margaret Elder Hart Distinguished Visitors Event is held annually in the Faculty of Nursing. This year was particularly important in light of Dr. Margaret Elder Hart’s recent death at the age of 100 years. Traditionally most distinguished visitors are nurses known for their work in academia. However, the terms of reference allow for a choice of visitor who is a non-nurse and who may be of interest to the Faculty of Nursing and the practice community. To commemorate and pay tribute to Dr. Hart’s creative vision and commitment to knowledge from diverse sources, two important events were scheduled this year.

The first event was Partnerships in Health Promotion: Nurses Working with Communities. In keeping with our new community health practicum course and increasing recognition of the broad determinants of health, the Distinguished Visitors Series chose to honour key people in our city who work with diverse populations and communities that face significant challenges to their well being. Our distinguished speakers were: Mr.
Sel Burrows, community activist and chair of the Point Douglas Residents Committee; Dr. Anne Durcan, program coordinator of the Inuit Health Program Northern Medical Unit, Mount Carmel physician, and mentor to medical students participating in the Alan Klass Health Equity program WISH clinic, Mr. Marty Dolin, CEO of Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council, and Mr. Kevin Chief, coordinator of the University of Winnipeg’s innovative Learning Center and recipient of the Hydro 2008 Spirit of the Earth award. This panel of speakers created a powerful discussion on health and social issues affecting Aboriginal, refugees, immigrants, and low income populations while focusing on creative solutions. Each speaker voiced their determination and their vision for healthy safe communities based on equity of resources and commitment to innovation in tackling problems.

Our second event hosted an evening with Ann Thomas Callahan, RN (retired), BA, MA, {White Bird Woman} one of the first Aboriginal nurses in Manitoba, a great grandmother, grandmother, mother, a traditional woman, and an active community participant. Ann has received the First Nations Award in the Medicine and Health category, sponsored by the Women of the Dawn, Regina, Saskatchewan, and the Gold Eagle Outstanding Citizen Award presented by the Indigenous Women’s Collective of Manitoba. In 2006, Ann was honoured for her life time career of caring, healing and commitment to the health needs of the Aboriginal community, with the naming of the Ann Thomas building, the site of the new critical care services at the Health Sciences Center. This was a $135 million dollar project that houses among other services, adult and pediatric emergency departments, intensive care units, a burn unit, diagnostic imaging units, coronary care and an operating room dedicated to trauma cases.

Ann’s presentation titled Moving Beyond, highlighted her experiences as a student in a residential school for fourteen years and her nursing career path which demonstrated how she moved beyond the hardships of her early years. Ann’s ability to tell her personal story, discuss the macro issues that impacted her family life when she was a child, and to continue to be optimistic and successful in her life provides strong encouragement to nursing students, practicing nurses and nurse educators. Susan Dennehy, a nurse in the Masters of Nursing program commented that for her, Ann’s presentation made her think it is important to learn from the past, but not live in the past rather to move forward to live and learn. Susan was impressed with how Ann persevered when she encountered hardships and racism. Ann’s commitment to education, perseverance, Aboriginal people and faith in the good things of life made a significant impression on the audience.

The theme of social responsibility as the obligation to promote equity, access, and justice arose in both presentations. Social responsibility derives from the social contract between society and individuals or groups, and for nursing is part of the nurses’ duty or obligation. Social responsibility includes promoting positive forces as well as mediating detrimental forces that effect health and as such cannot be removed from the core values of nursing (Kelley, Connor, Kun, & Salmon, 2008). All of our distinguished visitors challenged and assisted us as a faculty and student body to reconsider nursing’s role in social responsibility, right in our own backyard!


Acknowledgements: Distinguished visitor committee members, Carla Shapiro, Judith Toth, Lai Chun Yee, Nicole Melnyk, Susan Dennehy.
On Thursday, July 10, 2008, Dr. Helen Glass was one of 12 Manitobans awarded the Order of Manitoba, the highest honor bestowed by the province. Dr. Glass was recognized for her contributions to the nursing profession as well as her contribution to the scope and wording for the Canada Health Act (1984) when she was president of the Canadian Nurses Association.

Dr. Glass was appointed an officer of the Order of Canada in 1988 and she is currently professor emeritus at the Faculty of Nursing.
Homecoming 2008

Alumni members from the classes of 1973, 1978, and 1993 visited the Faculty on Friday, September 12, 2008, as part of the University’s Homecoming celebration. Alumni members were welcomed by Dr. Maureen Heaman, Associate Dean (Research) at a coffee party and were given a tour of the Faculty. Many commented on the good fortune of current students who are getting their education and training in the new facilities. The alumni members had all graduated before the new building was built.

On Saturday, September 13, alumni attended the Homecoming Dinner. Representing the Faculty were current faculty members and members of the current Nursing Student Council. Also in attendance at the dinner was Peri Venkatesh, faculty member and a member of the Board of Directors of the U of M Alumni Association.

Dear U of M Faculty of Nursing alumni:

GREETINGS! It is with great pleasure I send you this message as a newly elected member of the Board of Directors of the University of Manitoba Alumni. I consider it an honour to sit on the Alumni Board as your nursing representative. As in the past, the U of M Alumni and its staff are enthusiastically planning for an exciting 2009 Homecoming celebration. On behalf of our Dean, Dr. Dauna Crooks, and the entire Faculty of Nursing, I welcome and encourage you all to partake in the homecoming events being held during the week of September 9-13, 2009. Perhaps your graduating class may want to hold its reunion during this week and attend the Alumni Homecoming Dinner.

Please consider this a formal invitation to attend the Dean’s Reception being held in the Faculty of Nursing at 1500, on September 11, 2009. Following the reception, there will be a tour of the Helen Glass Centre (Faculty of Nursing). As an alumnus, I am sure you will be interested in seeing the latest technology currently in use in our skills labs and classrooms. In fact, as part of the University’s continuing growth, numerous exciting and innovative development projects and programmes can be seen throughout the university. With our new President, Dr. David Barnard, in place, these are exciting times at the U of M.

Please make a commitment today to attend the 2009 homecoming celebrations and learn more about your Alumni and the University. We look forward to your attendance and the opportunity to renew friendships. See you there.

Sincerely,
Peri Venkatesh
Faculty of Nursing
Member, Board of Directors, U of M Alumni
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For more information about Homecoming 2009 or if you wish to plan a reunion for your class, please check the information at umanitoba.ca/alumni/homecoming/ or call the Alumni Association at (204) 474-9946 or toll-free, 1 (800) 668-4908.

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