Greetings

It is with great pleasure that I send you greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors of the University of Manitoba Alumni Association and the Faculty of Nursing. This is my third year on the Board, and it has been an honour to serve you, the nursing alumni. I would very much like to welcome and encourage you all to become involved in the activities of your alma mater and its Alumni Association. The Association’s communication tools, the website and the OnManitoba magazine, are a great source of information for and about the alumni. It is my hope and belief that you are a regular reader of our OnManitoba publication. You can also check the U of M and the Alumni Association web sites for information on current projects and events.

There are many exciting and cutting edge advances taking place both at the University and within the Faculty of Nursing. The Faculty’s administrative, academic and support staff are constantly focussing their energy toward enhancing the programmes and courses. The Faculty have recently embarked on developing a very innovative and practical undergraduate curriculum that would provide a thorough knowledge base and competent skills for an ever changing and demanding practice environment. You can be proud that your alma mater is constantly striving to enhance the quality and capacity of its graduates.

If you would like to visit us at the Faculty of Nursing and/or take a tour of the many “state of the art” facilities of Helen Glass Centre, we welcome you to use the contact information noted on our Faculty’s website at http://www.umanitoba.ca/nursing/.

One of the Alumni Association’s premier events, the Homecoming celebrations, will be held during September 14-18, 2011. On behalf of the Alumni Association and its President, Mr. Evan Kuz, I would like to cordially invite you to attend the Alumni Association’s Homecoming celebrations at the University. If your graduating class would like to hold its reunion event during our homecoming celebrations, please contact the Alumni Association or make arrangements with Lai Chun Yee at lc_yee@umanitoba.ca.

I look forward seeing you in the near future.

Warm regards,
Peri Venkatesh, Instructor II, Faculty of Nursing; and
Member, Board of Directors, Alumni Association, U of M

Giving Opportunity
The Faculty of Nursing’s current main priority is to raise funds for graduate student support. The Faculty is preparing to launch a PhD program, and graduate fellowships at the doctoral level will help attract and retain outstanding doctoral students. For more information on giving, please go to http://umanitoba.ca/admin/dev_adv.
The Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence

Three awards for Teaching Excellence were awarded for the past academic year. The Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence acknowledges academic and clinical faculty who have made outstanding contributions to teaching and student learning. Award winners are nominated by colleagues, students, or alumni.

The Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence was awarded to Diana McMillan and Carol Enns during the Faculty’s Annual General Meeting in August.

Also awarded during this meeting was The Dean’s Award for Clinical Teaching Excellence is open to all Clinical Education Facilitators who have taught in the clinical area in the Faculty of Nursing, for a minimum of three years. The winner of the award this year is Patricia Shaw. Patricia Shaw is a Clinical Education Facilitator for NURS 3330.

Graduate Student Meet and Greet

New graduate students were invited for a breakfast “meet and greet” on Monday, September 13. The event was an opportunity for new graduate students to meet with teaching faculty and to get to know each other.

New graduate students, Twyla Goritz and Judite McLeod “found” each other again at the event. Twyla and Judite first met each other when they were working in the cafeteria at the Health Sciences Centre to save money for tuition for their nursing degree. Unfortunately, they lost touch with each other after graduation with busy nursing careers. Twyla ended up on Ohio and have just recently moved back to Winnipeg. According to Judite, it was Twyla’s voice that she recognized right away. Both agreed that it felt like it was “yesterday” that they were in school together.

Farewell to Penny Davis

The Faculty bid farewell to Penny Davis who retired last summer. Penny joined the Faculty in 1996 and officially became the Four-Year Program Coordinator in 1999. She stepped down as the coordinator in December 2007, and continued as an Instructor until her retirement on June 30, 2010. We wish Penny good health and sunshine as she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.
Nightmare / Night Care

The event Nightmare, Night Care took place Friday February 4, 2011 night into the next morning. It was a great success! This event has been held for nursing students for several years but this was the first time medical students also participated. Approximately 35 nursing and medical students took part taking the role of either patient or health care provider. Barb Goodwin was the “Nursing Supervisor” and Dr. Rob Brown was the “Attending Physician” guiding the care givers as needed.

The feedback from nursing and medical students was extremely positive. Students had the chance to practice their collaborative and clinical skills in an interprofessional and safe environment and others had a chance to experience the patient perspective. All had a chance to experience a night shift! The night shift ended with a breakfast for all participants. There was also some fun of course, but this only enhanced the experience.

Some feedback from the participating students:
“As a first-time attendee to the Faculty of Nursing’s “Nightmare, Night Care,” I feel overjoyed to have taken part in such a successful evening. Having the opportunity to collaborate with medical students allowed each member of the health care team an opportunity to assess their own communication skills in a relaxing, non-judgmental environment. Not only were we able to see the positive effect of this enhanced communication in our work ethic, but more importantly in our patient care. All nursing and medical students should be given the opportunity to participate in a program such as “Nightmare, Nightcare,” as each person will walk out of the evening as a more confident and aware member of the health care team. Thank you so much for this wonderful learning opportunity - it was a night of personal growth, mixed in with a lot of laughter!” Jennifer O’Neill-Salki (3rd year Nursing student)

“Nightmare Night Care was an invaluable experience for me and the other medical students. In a non-threatening environment, we were able to learn more about how nursing and medicine work together for their patients, and how important direct communication and mutual respect are for ensuring patient safety. In medicine, we learn very little about other health-care professions before getting on the wards, and activities such as NightmareNightcare ensure that we have a basic understanding of how interactions between doctors and nurses ought to be. It would be great to see this integrated into the curriculum so that all medical students get a chance to participate.” Justin Cloutier (2nd year Medical student)

There was good media coverage from The University of Manitoba Bulletin, The Winnipeg Free Press, CBC, and the Nursing Student Paper (Soap Notes)!
Planning committee members were Marlee Enns, Wanda Falk, Nicole Harder, Barb Goodwin, Theresa Bowser, Dr. Christine Ateah (faculty members), Elvin Forte and Brianna Hamlin (students) from the Faculty of Nursing and Dr. Rob Brown, Dr. Heather Dean (faculty members), Alex Thielmann and Bria Sharkey (students) from the Faculty of Medicine. These events take a great deal of time and effort to get off the ground and everyone's enthusiastic support and participation are acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

Christine Ateah RN, PhD
IPE Coordinator, Faculty of Nursing

Recent Faculty Achievements

Dr. Michelle Lobchuk received a College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (CRNM) Excellence in Professional Nursing Awards. This award is given to a registered nurse whose practice exemplifies excellence in nursing. Michelle received the award at the CRNM Professional Nursing Awards banquet on Thursday, May 13, 2010.

Dr. Roberta Woodgate won the 2011 University of Manitoba Qualitative Research Group (QRG) Award for demonstrating continued excellence in research as well as mentoring of students and Faculty alike. The award will be presented in the spring of 2011.

Dr. Robeta Woodgate received an MHRC Research Chair in 2010 in recognition of her excellent research record. The Manitoba Research Chair Awards support internationally recognized mid-career researchers who work as independent investigators in health research. The five-year award is intended to increase the competitiveness of the investigator within a program of research.

Ms. Terri Ashcroft received the Access Award from Disability Services on February 11, 2011. This award is presented to faculty for outstanding service in providing accommodations for students with disabilities. Terri was part of a team who wrote an article about students with disabilities and she took on the task of developing a disability policy and process for the Faculty of Nursing. Terri was thoughtful in developing our policy and process to work within the resources and collaborations we have. Terri also invited Disability coordinators to accompany CEF’s and students to clinical practice so that they understood first hand what was required of students. The collaboration with Disability is stronger now than ever before. Terri’s doctoral work is developing her expertise in this area.

Ms. Sandy Gessler was among a group of thirteen University of Manitoba staff recognized with an Outreach Award at a reception on November 19, 2010. Sandy was nominated for her work in the area of social justice in Winnipeg.

For more information about Homecoming 2011 or if you wish to plan a reunion for your class, please check the information atumanitoba.ca/alumni/homecoming/ or call the Alumni Association at (204) 474-9946, toll-free, 1 (800) 668-4908.

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