Dean Change

A farewell reception was held in the Faculty’s atrium on Thursday, June 7, 2012 for Dr. Dauna Crooks where staff and colleagues took the time to thank her. Dr. Crooks joined the Faculty as Dean in 2007 and finished her term in June, 2012.

In attendance were staff from the Faculty, the University, and colleagues from the nursing community. Staff thanked Dr. Crooks at the farewell and presented her with a painting by a local artist as a farewell gift.

In October, 2012, the Faculty welcomed new Dean, Dr. Beverly O’Connell. Dr. O’Connell is an accomplished administrative leader and comes from one of the largest research-intensive nursing schools in Australia.

Dr. O’Connell has been a Professor of Nursing for over ten years and Associate Dean of Research of the Health Cluster at Deakin University in Australia. She was also the Inaugural Chair in Nursing at Deakin University and Southern Health, the largest health care service in the state of Victoria. In this position, she built a productive clinical partnership, fostering the advancement of research, education, and knowledge translation. She also served as Acting Head of Deakin’s School of Nursing and on the health cluster’s executive team.

Nursing Education at the U of M

Nursing education at the University of Manitoba began 70 years ago when the first Nursing program was offered in 1943. The one-year certificate courses prepared registered nurses either for teaching and supervision or for public health nursing.

As the demand for nurses with preparation beyond the one-year certificate courses grew critical, two program sequences leading to the degree of Bachelor of Nursing were designed. In 1962, the program sequence for registered nurses was offered, and in 1963, the program sequence for students from high school or other faculties in the university was established.

A new program for applicants with a bachelor’s degree in another field and for registered nurses was established in 1971.

Homecoming 2013

Come join us for a tour and Tea with the Dean during Homecoming on Friday, September 27, 2013, for more on our history and where we are headed in the future.

Check for details at umanitoba.ca/faculties/nursing/info/alumni.html
CIHR Chair

Chair in Reproductive, Child and Youth Health Services and Policy Research from 01/2013 to 01/2018 for her program of research entitled, A Child and Youth Centred Approach to Applied Health Services and Policy Research. Dr. Woodgate has developed a strong foundation of research on children’s and youth’s perspectives and experiences of health and illness that has contributed to advancing the improvement of health service delivery for Canada’s children and youth. The main goal of Dr. Woodgate’s research program is to conduct applied child and youth health services and policy research that involves and is germane to health system managers, policy makers and healthcare providers as well as children and youth who are directly impacted by the research.

In all her research, Dr. Woodgate strives to ensure that the voices of children and youth are accurately represented by adopting innovative research approaches including the use of photovoice and ecomaps.

For more information about Dr. Woodgate’s research, visit umanitoba.ca/faculties/nursing/research/woodgate_chair.html

Dr. Tom Hack was awarded a Chair in Psychosocial and Supportive Care Oncology Research by the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation for the period 2012-2015. Dr. Tom Hack is a Professor in the Faculty of Nursing and Principal Investigator in Psychosocial Oncology and Cancer Nursing Research at the St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre. Dr. Hack’s CBCF Research Chair has been established to conduct innovative and high impact cancer research, develop educational initiatives for frontline nurses in oncology, and build the next generation of psychosocial oncology researchers by supporting graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

The associated funding will enable Dr. Hack to conduct research while working collaboratively with researchers, health professionals, administrators, cancer patients, patient advocacy groups and other stakeholders to improve the lives of those impacted by breast cancer within the Prairie/NWT Region, and at national and international levels. He will also address the needs of oncology nurses in the Region for education to effectively address the psycho-educational concerns of their cancer patients. (Obtained from CBCF announcement.)

For more information about Dr. Hack and his research, visit umanitoba.ca/faculties/nursing/academic_staff/hack.html and sbrc.ca/clinical-research/psychosocial-oncology-and-cancer-nursing-research/faculty/dr-tom-hack/
Research Hall of Fame

Dr. Lesley Degner, senior scholar in the Faculty of Nursing and former Director, Psychosocial Oncology and Cancer Nursing Research, St. Boniface Hospital Research, has been inducted into the St. Boniface Hospital Research Hall of Fame.

An internationally recognized scholar and researcher in patient involvement in medical decision-making, she published “Life-Death Decisions in Health Care” in 1987, a groundbreaking book illustrating how treatment decisions are made for patients with life-threatening illnesses. Her theory forms the basis of the Control Preferences and Information Needs Scales - measurement tools which are employed internationally.

Dr. Degner’s research into informational needs, decision-making preferences and the meaning of illness in women with breast cancer included comparative studies in England and Sweden. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers, and in 2010, was identified as the most frequently cited nurse scientist in Canada.

“We congratulate Distinguished Professor of Nursing Lesley Degner on her many trailblazing accomplishments in the field of nursing research,” said Dr. Digvir Jayas, Vice-President (Research and International) and Distinguished Professor at the University of Manitoba. “Her career has spanned decades and her areas of research have evolved over that time from cancer nursing and psychosocial oncology to her current focus on clinical practice and nursing knowledge translation.”

A graduate of the Universities of Manitoba, Washington, and Michigan, Dr. Degner joined the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Manitoba in 1972. From the year 2000, she held a 10-year National Research Chair from the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, to support her program “Development of Evidence-Based Nursing Practice in Cancer Care, Palliative Care and Cancer Prevention.” Dr. Degner has created training opportunities for the next generation of advanced practice nurses and nurse scientists all over the world. Dr. Degner retired from her position as Distinguished Professor at the University of Manitoba in 2012.

The St. Boniface Hospital Research Hall of Fame was established in 2011 to honour the achievement of St. Boniface Hospital scientists who have produced important contributions to medical research, specifically those who have made direct advancements to the knowledge of disease processes and health care. Inductees are recognized with plaques permanently installed within the large pillars prominent within the St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre Atrium.

(Abill Peters, Communications Coordinator, St. Boniface Hospital Research)

Awards

Dr. Elaine Mordoch, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Nursing, was honored with an Excellence in Professional Nursing Education award by the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba in 2012. Dr. Mordoch teaches mental health and does research in child and family health promotion in families living with a mental illness.

Elsie Duff, ANP, Senior Instructor in the Faculty of Nursing, has been awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. The award was created in 2012 to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The medal is given out to Canadians in honour of their significant contributions and achievements.

For more information about Elaine and Elsie, visit umanitoba.ca/faculties/nursing/academic_staff
Globe Trotting Nursing Grads - Peter Sansom in Edinburgh, Scotland

Eight months after moving to London, Peter saw an advertisement for a Haematology Module at Thames Valley University and signed up for it. He was seconded to the Bone Marrow Transplant team and operated the COBE Spectra machines used to harvest peoples' peripheral blood stem cells. The London tube bombing was a turning point in Peter's London life. He no longer felt safe and decided to get the paperwork done and head down under. In the meantime, he embarked on a bus journey “all around Scotland.” It was love at first sight. Fate stepped in and Peter found an oncology position in Edinburgh while searching for positions in Australia.

“I learned the ropes and progressed again from a Staff Nurse to a Deputy Charge Nurse and again the lure of education drew me.”

Peter is enrolled in the MSc in Advanced Practice in Cancer Care at the Edinburgh Napier University. Now the Education Lead for Haematology, Peters speaks on education days, works with new starts and members of staff from across NHS Lothian who are completing various competencies, and guest lectures for the Edinburgh University’s Undergraduate Cancer Care module, “something I never imagined I would do when I was a student at the University of Manitoba!”

Peter’s role at the Western General Hospital is currently split between clinical, managerial and education. He provides direct clinical care, is Bed Manager/Resource Nurse for the Oncology/Directorate, and is responsible for the educational needs of the nurses on his ward. In addition, he is also the Lead Mentor for the ward and liaise with three local Universities to provide placements for student nurses on the ward.

Peter hopes to one day complete his MSc Advanced Practice in Cancer Care, and within that a Post Grad Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education.

All the best to you, Peter!

Did you know?

Chinyere Asagwara, RN, BN (class of 2009) was honored with the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba’s Rising Star Award. This is a new award which recognizes the contributions of someone who is new in the profession.

The theme for National Nursing Week this year (May 6-12), Nursing: A Leading Force For Change, which celebrates the role of nurses at the forefront of effecting change in the quality of health care, was proposed by Kathryn Chachula, RN, BN (class of 2003). Kathryn’s submission was selected as the winner by CNA in the National Nursing Week theme contest.