Message from the Dean

In the winter of 2013, our staff developed the vision for the Faculty “to create an innovative learning environment that fosters personal and professional development, appreciation for diversity, mentorship, critical thinking and reflection, development of collaborative partnerships in education, research, health care delivery and service”.

As Dean of the Faculty, I am pleased to say that we have developed and implemented processes that will help us achieve our vision. Our student centred approach to teaching and learning is at the forefront of innovative nursing education. We challenge students to develop as independent learners, problem solvers and innovators. We value student engagement and interactions with academic staff and the global community. We support indigenous education by providing an undergraduate nursing pathway.

Our dedicated Faculty are leaders in nursing education and research and work towards providing students with an education that prepares them to achieve their career aspirations and develop as lifelong learners with generic skills that can diversify their career.

The Faculty celebrated its 70th anniversary last year reflecting on our success that is demonstrated in the achievements of our students and staff; the leadership positions they hold; and how the knowledge from our research influences world practice. We were pleased to welcome members from the classes of 58, 69, 70, 73, and 93, to the Faculty for tea and visit. We hope to see you at this year’s Homecoming.

Some of you have heard about the proposal to establish a Faculty of Health Sciences, consisting of the Faculties of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and the School of Medical Rehabilitation. Work has begun on the implementation of the new Faculty of Health Sciences. Please go to the web site at umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/ for more information and updates on the initiative.

Regards,
Beverly O’Connell
Dean

Dean O’Connell (seated in middle) with Alumni members, Barbara Tabata, Mildred Lucky, Donna Iliffe, Beverly Sheard (McCormick), and Audrey Gibson.
Innovation in Clinical Teaching

The clinical environment (including hospitals, nursing homes and community health agencies) provides students with the opportunity to experience what it is like to be a nurse. Students interact with patients and families as part of their clinical education. The clinical environment is supported by the Faculty in a variety of ways, in order to develop the qualities and abilities required as emerging professionals.

Innovation in clinical teaching began with the appointment of Carol Enns as the Director of Clinical Education. In her role as Director, Carol is responsible for providing academic and administrative leadership in ensuring the integrity, alignment, and continuity of clinical education in the Faculty of Nursing’s Undergraduate Programs.

The Faculty of Nursing Clinical Course Leaders provide an orientation to the clinical course for students. Site Program Leaders are available “on site” at the various hospitals to support student learning. Clinical Education Facilitators are nursing instructors who provide direct learning assistance with students at the bedside or in the community setting. Close working relationships with the various health care agencies maximizes opportunities for learning. We have a Student Affiliate Program with our tertiary hospitals, allowing students to complete most of their clinical experiences in one placement.

Since the implementation of the Site Program Leaders, we have received positive feedback from our clinical sites, Clinical Education Facilitators, and students. Students are given the opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on their experiences. We will continue to work on improving our students’ learning experiences.

Coordinator, Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Cossette Taylor, Communications Instructor in the Faculty of Nursing, was appointed Coordinator, Innovation in Teaching and Learning, in the fall of 2013.

As the Coordinator, Cossette is responsible for providing academic and administrative support to enhance the delivery of the Faculty of Nursing’s programs. She will provide strategic and academic support for teaching and learning, and the student experience in the Faculty’s programs. In her new role, Cossette will work closely with and be supported by the Associate Deans and the Director of Clinical Education to ensure the integrity of the Faculty’s programs and the development of blended learning modalities.

Did you know . . .

In a survey of the graduates from the Class of 2012, 79% of the respondents (n=207) indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their nursing education program.

About three-quarters (72%) felt they were very well-prepared or well prepared for nursing practice, and the overwhelming majority of the graduates (95) would select a career in nursing if they had to choose again!

For more information on the results of the survey, go to umanitoba.ca/faculties/nursing/mcnhr/media/2012_Graduate_Report.pdf
Art Therapy for Students

The nursing program is an intensive program and sometimes, students forget to take time out for themselves. For this reason, the Nursing Student Association has organized various self-care sessions for students in their new student lounge. One of the sessions offered to students this winter is Art Therapy.

Art therapy sessions were held in the Faculty of Nursing on Tuesday, February 4, 2014. The afternoon sessions were organized by the Nursing Student’s Health and Wellness Initiative which consists of faculty members Carla Shapiro and Cosette Taylor, and graduate of the Faculty of Nursing, Katie Kutryk, the Health and Wellness Educator for the University of Manitoba, and undergraduate students, Evan Graham and Barbara Signer. The event was planned in conjunction with the Nursing Student’s Association.

“The nursing school can be pretty stressful. It’s easy to get caught up in homework and clinical and forget to take time out for myself. We learn in our classes how to help clients or patients deal with stress through various therapies such as art or animal, medication and mindfulness. It was a wonderful opportunity to use some of these strategies for myself.”

The session itself was facilitated by Tammy Anders from the Canadian Mental Health Association. All art materials were provided by Canadian Mental Health Association.

The purpose of the sessions was to support the mental health of our students by providing them with the opportunity to express themselves in a creative way. Students who participated enjoyed the experience and suggested this become an annual event.

Students participating in the Art Therapy session

Our Mission

We are leaders in nursing education, research and outreach. Our goal is to advance nursing knowledge, practice and health care locally, nationally and internationally.

Vision Statement

To create an innovative learning environment that fosters personal and professional development, appreciation for diversity, mentorship, critical thinking and reflection, development of collaborative partnerships in education, research, health care delivery and service.

Value Statement

The Faculty of Nursing values excellence in nursing grounded in the following:

- Leadership that is consultative, empowering, future-oriented and inspirational.
- Collaborative Relationships that are respectful, collegial, and build on communities of interprofessional education, practice and research.
- Learning/Work Environments that are supportive, challenging, dynamic and creative
- Professionalism that is based in knowledge, ethics, competence and accountability.
- Scholarship that is fueled by passion and creativity to further the discovery, creation, synthesis, evaluation and dissemination of new knowledge in education and practice.
- Client/patient-centered care which focuses on the goals and values of the client and facilitates client participation and decision-making to meet health care needs.
- A commitment to promoting social justice\(^1\) and equity\(^2\) in education, research, and practice.

\(^1\) Equal opportunities for health.
\(^2\) Absence of systematic disparities in health, or its social determinants, between more and less advantaged groups in society.
Research Internship

The Manitoba Centre for Nursing and Health Research (MCNHR) is committed to supporting undergraduate and graduate student engagement in research and has established several initiatives to provide opportunities for student involvement in research.

Between May-August each year, the MCNHR runs a Summer Internship Program to foster undergraduate student engagement in research. The Program was piloted in 2010 with funding from the Faculty of Nursing Endowment Fund and it provides the opportunity for undergraduate nursing students to be gainfully employed while engaging them in student learning, scientific inquiry and scholarship through one-on-one faculty-intern research mentorships.

In 2013, based on the success of the Summer Internship Program, the MCNHR piloted Graduate Student Research Training Awards to support research training and experience for graduate students. Graduate Student Research Awards provided graduate students with the opportunity to work collaboratively with a research mentor of their choice for up to 15 weeks on a research project that was separate from their thesis or dissertation research. Graduate students received a $5,000 stipend award.

The MCNHR hosts an Annual Graduate Student Poster Competition and offers Travel Awards and Research Grants to graduate students. Ensuring a stable and reliable source of funding for these initiatives and to expand and leverage donations and funding so even more students can benefit from them has been identified as a priority area for the MCNHR. If you are interested in supporting these initiatives, please contact the MCNHR at mcnhr@umanitoba.ca.

Alumni Tea

For Homecoming 2013, the Faculty welcomed members from the classes of 58, 69, 70, 73, and 93, to the Faculty for tea and visit. Our guests were taken on a tour of the building and facilities by our student and staff volunteers and then adjourned in the Faculty Lounge for tea visit with the Dean and staff.