The College of Nursing is deeply saddened by the passing of an esteemed colleague, benefactor, and nursing leader, Dr. Helen Preston Glass, on Saturday, February 14, 2015, at the age of 98.

Helen Preston Glass, O.C., B.Sc. (N) (1960), M.A.(N) (1961), M.Ed.(N) (1970), Ed.D. (N) (1971) (Columbia University), was born in Regina in 1917, and received her diploma in nursing from Montréal’s Royal Victoria Hospital School of Nursing in 1939. She worked in hospitals and clinics until 1958, when she returned to study, receiving her Certificate in Teaching and Supervision of Schools of Nursing from the University of Manitoba. In 1962, she joined the School of Nursing at the University of Manitoba. She later returned to the University of Columbia where she received her Master and Doctoral degrees in nursing education.

In 1972, she was named Director of the School. During her tenure she established a graduate program in nursing, and was instrumental in the creation of the Manitoba Nursing Research Institute, now known as the Manitoba Centre for Nursing and Health Research (MCNHR). In 1989, she was named Professor Emerita.

During her many years as a nursing educator and administrative professional, Dr. Glass lent her expertise to the development of new policies as the concept of health care shifts from institutional care to community-based health promotion strategies. Her Remembering Helen Preston Glass

When I took a graduate course in 1985 from the woman we all called Dr Glass, she was at that time encouraging us to look to beyond the year 2000 – she was always planning for the future, never content to rest on laurels . . . she built such a strong legacy with her futuristic thinking that she will never be forgotten. A trail-blazer, a challenger, an innovator, a visionary!

Dr. Diana Clarke, Director, MCNHR

Dr. Diana Clarke and Dr. Helen Glass, in 2011, with and Dr. Mary Canales, the 2011 Researcher in Residence
commitment and experience in health care policy development and nursing education and research is recognized nationally and internationally.

In honour of her accomplishments and contributions to nursing, the nursing building was named the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing, and was dedicated by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, on the occasion of her visit on July 25, 1999, during the XIII Pan American Games.

Dr. Glass will be remembered for her steadfast dedication to the College of Nursing at the University of Manitoba, an institution she proudly championed and generously supported.

Reflections on a Mentor and Friend

Dr. Helen Glass was without a doubt, a trailblazer and a visionary for nursing. To me, she was also a wonderful mentor and a dear and sage friend. I had the great privilege of working closely with Dr. Glass as her Research Assistant during my time as a Master of Nursing student many years ago. When I was a doctoral student, she would sometimes stop by my house to offer her encouragement and advice; she would bring her little black poodle along and my four young daughters would squeal with delight that there was a puppy in her purse! Almost every year since then, we would get together to discuss local, national and international health issues during Researcher in Residence Week. She encouraged me to think big; to dare to make mistakes. As a leader, she reinforced the belief that professional nurses could and should be change agents influencing care at all levels – be it care of the individual or through the shaping of public policy. Dr. Glass role modelled passion and perseverance, combining these qualities with a razor sharp intelligence and political savvy, and always with a great sense of style!

I am indebted to Helen for all she has done for nursing, and more personally for her steadfast mentorship and friendship.

Diana E. McMillan, RN, PhD
Associate Professor, College of Nursing, University of Manitoba &
Associate Professor for Clinical Practice, Health Sciences Centre
Since our last Alumni newsletter, we are now officially the College of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences.

At the recent Faculty of Health Sciences Town Hall on February 27, 2015, the new Deanery for the Faculty was announced. Information from the town hall can be found at umanitoba.ca/healthsciences.

Within the College of Nursing, staff have been working hard in revising the undergraduate curriculum. The revised concept-based curriculum is designed to “prepare entry level practitioners whose knowledge, attitudes and skills will transform nursing practice and make significant contributions to the health of Manitobans, Canadians and to global health”.

The innovative curriculum will also include student practice in state-of-the-art simulated learning environments. The curriculum will begin the Fall of 2015. The College will also begin to accept students in two intakes, one in Fall and one in Winter. This will allow for the better sequencing of courses so that students will complete the program in a timely manner.

In addition, the University College of the North’s Midwifery Program will relocate to the College this summer. The program will be delivered through a partnership between UCN and the University of Manitoba.

We have embarked on many new initiatives in the College as we continue to ensure that we keep current with changes in health care. If you are planning a class reunion and coming to the College during Homecoming this Fall, please contact us at nursing@umanitoba.ca so that we may have the opportunity to provide you with updates and more information on what is happening in your alma mater.

What’s New at the College

CAre Lab
Caregiver Communication Research Environment

Funded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, the unique home-like environment in CAre will be housed in renovated 943 square foot space at Grace Hospital in Winnipeg, providing Dr. Michelle Lobchuk (College of Nursing) and Dr. Alan Katz (College of Medicine) with access to clinicians, nursing and medical students, medical residents, patients and family caregivers. The new St. James Access Centre next to Grace Hospital will also be accessible to CAre researchers for their studies.

CAre will be a dedicated research space that welcomes clinicians and family caregivers to immerse themselves in dialogue in a quiet, home-like setting. The flexible infrastructure of CAre is essential to research that requires either visual recording cameras to capture dialogue or a one-way mirror to observe dialogue in the ‘kitchen’ or ‘living room’ observation areas. CAre will be a multipurpose space for learning research observation techniques in the control room, conducting observational studies in two ‘home-like’ conversation areas, and holding research meetings. By use of innovative video-recording, feedback, and video-editing technology, communication tools and resources will be developed in CAre and become part of clinical care to bolster communication skills of current and future clinicians. Dedicated live interactive video-conferencing technology will be available to test immediate effects of communication interventions and foster rapid knowledge exchange and dissemination activities within (i.e., remote/northern communities) and outside Manitoba.

For more information about CAre, contact Dr. Michelle Lobchuk at michelle.lobchuk@umanitoba.ca
Innovators in Teaching

The Nurse Practitioner teaching team, Cheryl Dika, Laura Johnson, Joe Nava, Mike Limerick, and Annabelle Reimer, have been using innovative teaching strategies to fulfill the College’s mandate to provide accessible learning to nurses who are interested in completing their Masters in Nursing (Nurse Practitioner).

The courses in the program are offered through blended learning, a combination of in-class and on-line course delivery. In order to engage students and ensure that content is delivered effectively, several innovative strategies are used, e.g., Shadow Health virtual avatar patients with whom the students interact, case-based learning, podcasts, gaming, simulated patients, etc.

... fun and I liked being able to test my knowledge to see if I fully understood concepts or I was just letting information be put into my head! I feel confident in my ability to diagnose and successfully manage patients!

Megan, NP Student

The NP faculty are also innovative in their methods of evaluating the students. For example, the An Open Access Test or Exam (OAT) is a test/exam during which students have access to textbooks, course materials, practice guidelines and the Internet accessed through the D2L course site. The OAT is intended to replicate the clinical reasoning and judgment of NP practice. It evaluates students’ understanding, critical thinking, and problem solving abilities rather than simply testing students’ ability to memorize and recall significant amounts of information.

The instructors have access to the College’s Coordinator of Innovation in Teaching and Learning, Cosette Taylor, who assists faculty in adapting blended learning methodologies and instructional strategies into their courses, and to Shay Kaminsky, Educational Technologist, who incorporates these strategies into their courses through the creative use of technology.

Joe Nava, Michael Limerick, Cheryl Dika, and Laura Johnson

Cosette Taylor and Shay Kaminsky