Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni

My term as dean is over in June and I want to tell you what a wonderful time it has been to be here in Manitoba.

In five short years we have created a new doctoral program and we are working to revise and update our undergraduate and Nurse Practitioner programs. As you can see, this is a dynamic Faculty in which to work.

Our ratings on workplace satisfaction were the highest in the University and no wonder, our faculty and support staff work seamlessly together. We have fun and celebrate at every opportunity. We have improved our relationships with our Alumni and hope to work more closely together as time goes on.

I hear about our graduates and the wonderful things they have done and am proud to have known them. Many monetary gifts to the Faculty of Nursing have come from alumni and former faculty and that also is a comment on the positive experiences people have had here.

I leave knowing the faculty, students and staff are in good hands. Thank you for your ongoing support and connection with the Faculty of Nursing.

Dr. Dauna Crooks, Dean

Message from Peri Venkatesh

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the University of Manitoba Alumni Association, my heartfelt greetings to you, the nursing alumni. It has been my great pleasure and honour to serve as your representative on the University’s Alumni Association Board over the past few years. I would very much like to encourage you to participate in the activities of the University and your alumni association. As an alumnus of our university, I am extremely proud of the many creative initiatives undertaken by the University and your alumni association. I encourage you to check out the alumni association’s website and read the OnManitoba magazine for important information about your alma mater.

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What’s Happening in our Graduate Programs
Dr. Judith Scanlan, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs

The revised Master of Nursing (Administration, Education, Clinical foci) is in its third year of implementation. The revised curriculum is designed around core knowledge that underpins research and advanced nursing practice. The curricular design allows for individualization of student learning and choices which acknowledge students’ experiences and expertise, while moving them to a deeper understanding of their practices. Students are able to pursue unique interests in core courses. Students proceed through the Master of Nursing Program as a cohort which enhances socialization and facilitates development of peer support. As a group, students are able to dialogue around issues relevant to the program such as, research foci, health care policy, and practice. Courses are delivered in class and by blended delivery (combination of in class and online).

The Nurse Practitioner stream of the Master of Nursing Program is highly subscribed to by potential graduate students. The Nurse Practitioner curriculum is designed to meet the entry level competencies for nurse practitioners in Manitoba as set out by the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba. Students in the Nurse Practitioner stream have clinical practice in Year 1 and Year 2 with consolidated clinical practice with a preceptor at the end of the program. Graduates of the Nurse Practitioner stream of the Master of Nursing Program are eligible to write the licensing examinations to qualify for extended practice as a nurse practitioner. The current curriculum is being revised and the anticipated date of implementation of the revised curriculum is September, 2013.

A PhD Program in Nursing has been approved by the Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba and the Council on Post-Secondary Education (COPSE). Applications into the program is now open for the term beginning September 2012. Information regarding applications to the program is posted on the Faculty of Nursing web site.

International Connections
Dr. Ruth Dean, Coordinator, International Affairs

Representatives from the Faculty of Nursing, Marion McKay (Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs) and Ruth Dean (Coordinator, International Affairs), accompanied by Caroline Piotrowski (Human Ecology) and James Dean, Director, International Relations, visited Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya in 2011. Activities included signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two universities and agreement on a partnership in Nursing.

Six students from Nursing and two from Human Ecology are expected to travel to Kenya this summer for a 6-week course in community health and assessment as a result of this new partnership.

For the past six years, the department of Student Life has been taking students to Bangladesh for a 5-week service learning internship. This year, for the first time, the student group will include two nursing students. Two nursing faculty members will accompany the group to investigate further opportunities for nursing clinical placements.
Another Successful Nightmare!

The Faculty of Nursing once again hosted Nightmare, Night Care as an Interprofessional Education event in our Nursing Skills Lab on February 3-4, 2012.

Twenty-one nursing students and sixteen medical students participated in the roles of patients and practitioners. For the first time since the event has been held, five pharmacy students participated as practitioners.

“Nightmare, Night Care was a lot of fun,” said Chris Lawson. “It was different from my part-time pharmacy work and practical rotations. Without a supervisor or preceptor actively watching over me, I really felt the responsibility of giving good, accurate advice to the “patients” and other health-care students.”

The event was organized by Faculty of Nursing team led by Marlee Enns, and included Nicole Harder, Wanda Falk, Barb Goodwin, and Theresa Bowser. Student lab technicians, Erin Brownlee and Jennifer O’Neill-Salki, and nursing students Paula Henuset and Candace Battick played major supporting roles! There was a great deal of time and effort put into this event to make it as realistic as possible.

Nursing supervisors Barb Goodwin and Mike Stevenson (CEF) demonstrated their excellent clinical and leadership skills as they provided support for our students for the entire event! The medical faculty team was led by Rob Brown and pharmacy students were supported by faculty members Chris Louizos and Nancy Kleiman.

Many of our faculty members visited during the evening and provided their support. “Patients” were also visited by friends and family who brought flowers and treats.

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

The Alumni Association’s premier event, the 2012 Homecoming celebrations, will be held over September 12-16. On behalf of the Alumni Association and its President, Mrs. Jan Coates, 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@ad.umanitoba.ca.

I look forward to seeing you at our homecoming celebrations.

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

The Faculty of Nursing held its annual Appreciation and Awards Reception on Monday, November 7, 2011. Undergraduate and graduate student award/scholarship winners and their guests were invited to the reception as the Faculty acknowledged their academic achievement with a small gift. Donors of the awards were also acknowledged by the Dean, Dr. Dauna Crooks, for their generous contribution to awards and scholarships, enabling students to pursue their dream.

Also acknowledged at the reception were clinical education facilitators, clinical instructors, preceptors, faculty advisors, and clinical agencies for their contribution to nursing education. Four agencies received the Faculty of Nursing’s Agency Recognition Award: GH4, Acute Medicine, Health Sciences Centre; 7AW, Surgical Unit, St. Boniface General Hospital; 4 North, Medical Unit, Victoria General Hospital; and St. Matthew’s-Maryland Community Ministry.

Nursing Students Vote to Support Those in Need

Through the student referenda process, nursing students are making a difference not only in the health field but also on campus and beyond.

Since 1988, nursing students have raised money for their faculty by holding a referendum every three years and using the opportunity to vote to make an additional contribution, on top of their tuition, for projects they feel strongly about. As a result, all full time students will make an annual donation of $90 to the Faculty of Nursing. In the last referendum, held in November 2011, students voted to support three main initiatives: the Nursing endowment fund, the Student Initiative fund and the Humanitarian fund.

Pepper-Mackena Pritty, Vice Stick for the Nursing Student Association (NSA), notes that close to 90 per cent of the money raised by students goes to support the endowment fund.

“The endowment fund is the big one,” she says. “We’re carrying on a tradition by looking back and seeing what has been done in the past and supporting things that students have been concerned about.”

Although the majority of money raised goes towards the endowment fund, since 2008 students have also contributed to the Student Initiative fund to help pay for student costs such as membership fees for the Canadian Nursing Students Association, covering the costs of conferences, bringing in guest speakers and supporting any other programs that benefit nursing students as a whole.

Nursing students have also decided to support initiatives that provide assistance to those in need. One mission students have undertaken is supporting Perez Opar, an AIDS orphan in Kenya, and have developed a plan to put her through nursing school. This is a project that nursing students are justifiably proud of and the NSA has even started a donation jar in the student lounge to buy Perez a graduation gift. As the Humanitarian fund grows it will be used to support further efforts of this kind.
Philanthropic Support Helps Master’s Student Succeed

As a high school student, Linda Townsend knew that she wanted to pursue a career where she could help others, but could not decide whether to be a teacher or a nurse. Today, she enjoys the best of both worlds working in the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Nursing, teaching students in a clinical setting.

“It is my hope that I can inspire and encourage nursing students to understand the value of ongoing lifelong learning,” says Townsend. “I want students to enjoy learning as much as I have, and still am. To me it is the key to growth both personally and professionally.”

Townsend is also pursuing her masters in nursing with the support of a graduate student award from the Foundation of Registered Nurses of Manitoba. Townsend, who has specialized in the area of neuroscience nursing for most of her career, says receiving the award is a great honour and that the financial assistance the Foundation provides is not only an investment in the individual nurse but, perhaps more significantly, in the future of nursing.

“To be encouraged by the Foundation of Registered Nurses (through this award) told me that others that are highly skilled and valued in nursing were willing to help and encourage me in my work,” she says. “I am very grateful for the support given to me by the Foundation to do this.”

Townsend believes that rapid changes in science and technology have reshaped the role of the nurse in today’s health care environment. Nursing education must now facilitate critical thinking and independent learning more than ever.

“I believe that nursing students are our future,” she says. “Delivering high quality education to student nurses now will positively impact our future nursing to all Manitobans and I’m proud to take part in that.”

Looking back, Townsend is able to reflect upon how life often comes full circle. “I find it interesting how life takes you down the path you were meant to be on,” she says. “Because here I am now involved with teaching nursing students and loving it.”
We expect nurses to devote their lives to helping others. Sometimes that care goes beyond a lifetime. Irene Nordwich was a graduate of the University of Manitoba (UM) School of Nursing and a member of faculty until her retirement in 1990. Over two decades later, her presence lives on in the conference room that was named after her through the Irene E. Norwich Foundation, a private foundation she established in 2002 to provide awards to Nursing students at the UofM and Western University (formerly the University of Western Ontario).

Irene Nordwich was a very private person and perhaps few of her colleagues would appreciate why it was important to her to name Nursing students as beneficiaries of her foundation. Irene grew up in what is now Grudziadz, Poland, a small northern city known for its culture, education and large military garrison. The only child of barrister Bruno Nordwich and his wife Elsa, Irene’s plans for attending university were interrupted by WWII. She was teaching when evacuees began streaming in from the east in advance of the Russian army. Irene and her mother fled to West Germany with only what they could carry in their suitcases. Their anxiety about the fate of her father was finally relieved when they learned that he had been evacuated by the British forces to Gutersloh, the location of a major NATO base. Rather than regret the loss of their possessions and comfortable life, Irene wrote to an aunt: “After a long wait, we have found our father again. Everything is a bit easier to endure now. One should not think too much about what once was and what one has once had but to thank God one was able to save our bare lives.”

In 1948, Irene was sponsored by a rural Manitoba family to come to Canada as a ‘farm worker’. She studied English, secured a $200 student loan and gained admission to the Misericordia General Hospital (MGH) program for Registered Nurses. This was an attractive option at a time when nursing students received room, board and small stipend in return for providing much of the hospital’s labour. Within a year of graduation (Class 1953B), Irene had discharged her student loan, repaid her sponsors for the cost of her passage to Canada and arranged for her parents to come to Winnipeg. The following year she was able to make her first major purchase, a second-hand piano with which she could enjoy her life-long passion for music.

Continuing her studies, Irene earned a certificate in Teaching and Supervision from the U of M School of Nursing (1955). While teaching at MGH and the Winnipeg General (now HSC) she took courses towards her BN (1966). Manitoba did not offer a graduate Nursing program at the time so she completed her Master’s degree at UWO (MScN, 1970). Irene enjoyed the intellectual challenge of graduate study and spoke fondly of her years at Western. She was the sole caretaker for her aging mother and could not pursue a doctoral degree, but gained great satisfaction from seeing her students go on to further studies.

Irene joined the faculty at the UM (1971) and remained there until retirement. In both academic and clinical areas, she was known for her commitment to excellence and her high expectations for student performance. During retirement, Irene was able to indulge in her passion for travel and for the arts, particularly the symphony, opera and local theatre. She gave generously of her time and money to a number of worthy charitable groups and devoted her Saturday mornings to teaching at the local German School.

Nursing has been her major beneficiary. In the past decade, the Irene E. Nordwich Foundation has awarded over $63,000 to 26 deserving students. In celebration of its 10th anniversary, the Foundation recently announced that, in addition to regular awards, it will present $5,000 to each PhD student entering the Graduate Nursing programs this fall at the UM and at WU.

Before she died in June, 2006, Irene had the satisfaction of writing cheques for the first Foundation awards. She was deeply touched by receiving letters of gratitude from recipients and knowing that her financial assistance may have made their pathway to university education just a bit smoother than her own.

For more about this amazing alumna and her Foundation visit http://www irenenordwichfoundation.org
My Very Swedish Practicum
Lindsay Adriaansen

When deciding where to do my senior practicum I wanted just like everyone else to have a placement that was going to challenge and support me to become the nurse I want to be. I researched and talked with faculty members about what was and was not possible. I was given the exciting opportunity because of an exchange agreement between the University of Manitoba and the University of Umeå to go to Sweden to complete my nursing senior practicum. I also was fortunate to have two different placements. One was in oncology where I practiced at the hematology intensive care unit at Norrlands Universitetssjukhus in Umeå. My other placement was in community palliative care and I worked with the interdisciplinary care team at VIOO, Skellefteå, a smaller town north of Umeå.

I enjoyed having the opportunity to learn from nurses from different cultural backgrounds. In both of my rotations, the health care team truly worked as an interdisciplinary health care team to provide holistic patient centered care. I found they understood their own and their co-workers’ scope of practice. Whether it was RN, LPN or physiotherapist for example, they were able to use each other’s specialties for the patient’s advantage.

One difference continues to stand out for me now as I am a practicing registered nurse here in Manitoba: our lack of Fika! Fika or to fika is a social institution for the Swede’s; to put it simply, it means having an enjoyable break from work. During many of my fika breaks, I was grilled about the life of a Canadian nurse, and who was better at hockey: Canada or Sweden. I do not think we ever settled the hockey discussion with an obvious winner. As for nursing here vs in Sweden, we are paid more but they get 4 weeks summer holidays (no matter how high your seniority is) and then a week or two to use other times of the year.

One challenge I faced was with communication as I did not speak Swedish. I took Swedish lessons in preparation but I was fortunate that many Swedish people (though shy/reluctant at first) spoke fluent English. In situations where my patients did not speak English, I had the opportunity to focus my attention on the non-verbal communication between the patients and the health care provider. This was an incredible learning experience for me especially in my palliative placement. Many of the things I noticed and focused on would have been lost/ignored if I was just focusing on the verbal conversation. I became confident in safely caring for patients despite having a language barrier through non-verbal communication. This has been valuable skill as even here in Manitoba I care for patients who are non-verbal or English is not there first language. I have a better understanding of the frustration associated with not being able to verbally communicate with someone and having to rely on others to communicate for you or that your non-verbal communication is interpreted correctly.

I have taken the lessons I learned in Sweden and implemented them into my nursing practice here. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to go on this exchange. I met many wonderful people who helped support me during my time abroad. They helped make my experience in Sweden an unforgettable one.

Homecoming 2012
The Faculty of Nursing would like to welcome the class of ’82 to the Faculty of Nursing and the University of Manitoba as they celebrate their 30th class reunion. Events are being planned for the class and all alumni are welcome to attend. Please go to http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/nursing/info/alumni.html for information.
Update from John Kabesh

As you may recall, I attended the U of M as part of the Canadian Forces Programme. After graduation from the BN programme in 1992, I was moved to Victoria where I worked in Canadian Forces Hospital Esquimalt, known to almost everyone by its former name Naden. I worked on the small Med/Surg ward until I was moved to Ottawa in 1996. While in Victoria, I obtained a Certificate in Critical Care and Emergency Nursing from the British Columbia Institute of Technology. In Ottawa, I had a variety of roles at the National Defence Medical Centre (NDMC), from Med/Surg to PACU to Head Nurse and other uniquely military jobs.

While at NDMC, I rotated through a variety of critical care areas of local hospitals to maintain my critical care skills for deployment, usually in 3 month blocks. I truly enjoyed being back into high acuity areas after “flying a desk” for a while. These experiences paid dividends when I deployed to the Canadian Field Hospital in Bosnia, a NATO Multinational Field Hospital in Bosnia, and the NATO Multinational Hospital in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

In 1996 I retired from the Canadian Forces and took a casual position in the PACU of The Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus. I enjoy the PACU because of the great team I work with and the variety of patients we see, from day surgery to full blown ICU patients. I still am active in Forces as a reservist “flying a desk”.

My wife Lorie and I were married while I was at U of M. We have two boys, the oldest who was born in Winnipeg is now in college himself. That is me in a nut shell.

Dr. Helen Glass Researcher in Residence

The Dr. Helen Glass Researcher in Residence program was launched in 2004 in celebration of Dr. Helen Glass’s lifelong contributions to nursing education and practice. The goal of the program is to attract distinguished researchers to the Faculty for the purpose of enhancing nursing research. The program also benefits the broader nursing community as it provides for two public lectures by the distinguished visitor. The public lectures are open to all who are interested.

To date, six researchers have been invited to share their knowledge: Dr. Carol Estabrooks, University of Alberta (2006); Dr. Joy Johnson, University of British Columbia (2007); Dr. Alba DiCenso, McMaster University (2008); Dr. Pamela Hinds, Children’s National Medical Centre, Washington, DC (2009); Dr. Margarete Sandelowski, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2010); and Dr. Mary Canales, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The Faculty of Nursing is pleased to announce that Dr. Nancy Edwards from the University of Ottawa has accepted our invitation to be the 2012 Dr. Helen Glass Researcher in Residence. Dr. Edwards is the holder of a CHSRF/CIHR Chair award and the focus of her award is “Multiple Interventions in Community Health Nursing Care”. The two public lectures that Dr. Edwards will be presenting are titled “What Makes Community Health Interventions Work?” and “A Health Equity Agenda for Multiple Intervention Research: Challenges and Opportunities”.

For more information about these lectures, please call the Manitoba Centre for Nursing Health Research at (204) 474-9080. Information is also available at http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/nursing/mcnhr/Researcher_Events.html.