



50 YEARS OF NURSING

# Inspiring Leadership

CELEBRATING NURSING ALUMNI 1974-2019



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

## To our UCalgary Nursing community:

In this celebratory 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, I am proud to look back at the history of UCalgary Nursing Alumni: to understand how it all began with the establishment of an alumni group and how we progressed through our growing pains with the shifts in curriculum and within the health-care system itself.

Through it all there was a passionate core of graduates who believed that staying connected to each other and to the academy would be mutually beneficial. I can heartily agree that it has made us stronger. Graduates of our faculty lead throughout every walk of life: stretching from the frontlines of health care, to building system policies and framework, educating our future registered nurses and beyond the parameters of the health system. Today, we have a vibrant and engaged alumni executive who are continuing the legacy of meaningful activities and promoting lifelong relationships.

Whether it has been five, 15 or (almost) 50 years since you graduated, you are part of what makes UCalgary Nursing a dynamic community. Enjoy this slice of history and take pride in your place within it.

**Sandra Davidson** (RN, PhD)  
Dean, UCalgary Nursing



## Dear UCalgary Nursing Alumni:

We are so excited to share this brief Faculty of Nursing Alumni history and timeline with you. Our nursing alumni executive is one of the longest-standing volunteer groups at the University of Calgary and despite a short hiatus during the 1980s, we came back stronger in the 1990s with leadership from key people like Arlene Johnston, Janice Arbour and Lorraine Watson.

As members of the current executive, we volunteer because we are proud RNs and proud of our affiliation with our alma mater. We also want to contribute to the next generation in our profession through mentorship and leading by example.

May the next 50 years be a continuation of how UCalgary leads the pursuit of nursing excellence!

**Dominic Chan** (BN'14)  
**Kate Wong** (BN'12)  
Co-presidents,  
UCalgary Alumni Executive 2018-2019





## A proud history

This booklet provides a visual and narrative overview of the almost 50-year history of alumni at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Nursing. It is a proud history!

The formation and the evolution of the faculty itself has been showcased in **Geertje Boschma's** (RN, PhD) history, *Faculty of Nursing on the*

*Move*, documenting the years 1969 to 2004. This booklet has a unique focus on our alumni and our alumni executive, reprising some of the early high points such as when the School of Nursing celebrated its first graduation in May of 1974, with 33 graduates earning their Bachelor of Nursing degrees.

Not long after, the graduating class formed an alumni association. It was 1976 and the group's objectives at the time were to maintain contact between nursing graduates for social and professional purposes and to promote nursing education through scholarships for students.

Since then, the alumni have continued to organize and fundraise. Today, they provide several bursaries to graduate and undergraduate students through an ongoing endowment, a wonderful means of support for nursing students.

Alumni activities revolve around one major event each year, typically a luncheon and silent auction. The Alumni Committee is also dedicated to promoting collegiality among UCalgary Nursing graduates in order to support community-building and professional development.

Please enjoy this brief look at the history and activities of the Faculty of Nursing alumni spread across five decades.

## Mission

The Faculty of Nursing Alumni mission is to facilitate nursing alumni collegiality and to promote alumni pride and commitment to the Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary.

### Goals

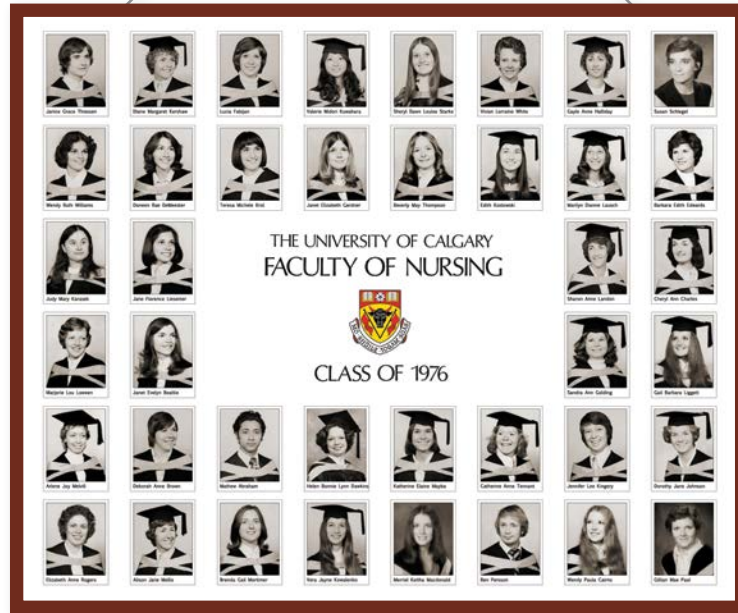
- To provide and foster an environment of fellowship and collegial relationships under the Faculty of Nursing umbrella.
- To maintain open and active communication with the University of Calgary alumni, the Faculty of Nursing administrative team and representatives from the undergraduate and graduate programs.
- To initiate and develop liaison activities with the community for the purpose of promoting the programs' initiatives and innovations.
- To initiate and develop fundraising activities for nursing student bursaries and educational endeavours.
- To recruit nursing alumni into active involvement in alumni affairs.



# 1976-1977

## First Executive

- Diane Campbell, president
- Marie Hammill, president-elect
- Bev Mulzet (BN'75), vice president
- Nancy Connors (BN'75), secretary-treasurer
- Sharon Banning (BN'75), social convener
- Von McCaffery, faculty council representative
- Chris Kidder (BN'74), Marg Duke (BN'75) and Jane Burnham (BN'76), class representatives



## Achievements

At the initial alumni meeting in November, a guest speaker spoke about “Nursing and the Law.” Rules for a nominating committee and guidelines for resolutions and constitutional changes were established during the first several meetings.

Discussions began with the University of Calgary Alumni Organization about effective ways to integrate the broader university alumni with the Faculty of Nursing Alumni. Results were promising, with the university alumni offering to help fund printing and mailing of newsletters and announcements. A plan for a nursing scholarship fund was also established between the two groups.

Other affiliations: President **Diane Campbell** coordinated with the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses and the University of Alberta Nursing Alumni to respond to nursing issues in health care.

# 1977-1978

## Alumni Executive

- Marie Hammill, president
- Gayle Halliday (BN'76), vice president
- Debbie Brown (BN'76), secretary-treasurer
- Sharon Landon (BN'76), social convener
- Judy McAllister (BN'74), Sharon Banning, Jennifer Nagel (BN'76) and Karen Viner (BN'77), class representatives
- Veronica Dalla Longo, faculty council representative

## Achievements

In August 1977, these objectives were established:

- Promote a spirit of loyalty, cooperation and good fellowship among alumni through bi-annual class newsletters and a class reunion for each class every five years or at the will of the class.
- Keep members in close touch with nursing affairs in general, in order to promote the welfare of nurses, and to uphold the standards of the profession.
- Promote nursing education through financial sponsorship.

## Nursing scholarship initial mission statement

*“University of Calgary Nursing Alumni Scholarship of \$500 will be offered to a post-basic registered nurse entering the second full-time year of the Baccalaureate of Nursing Program at the University of Calgary, 1978-79. Award will be based on academic merit and financial need.”*



*Nursing program pin*

## Alumni mail-out and phonathon

In October 1977, two nights were dedicated to this fundraiser, which generated \$321 towards the Nursing Alumni scholarship.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF NURSING ALUMNI

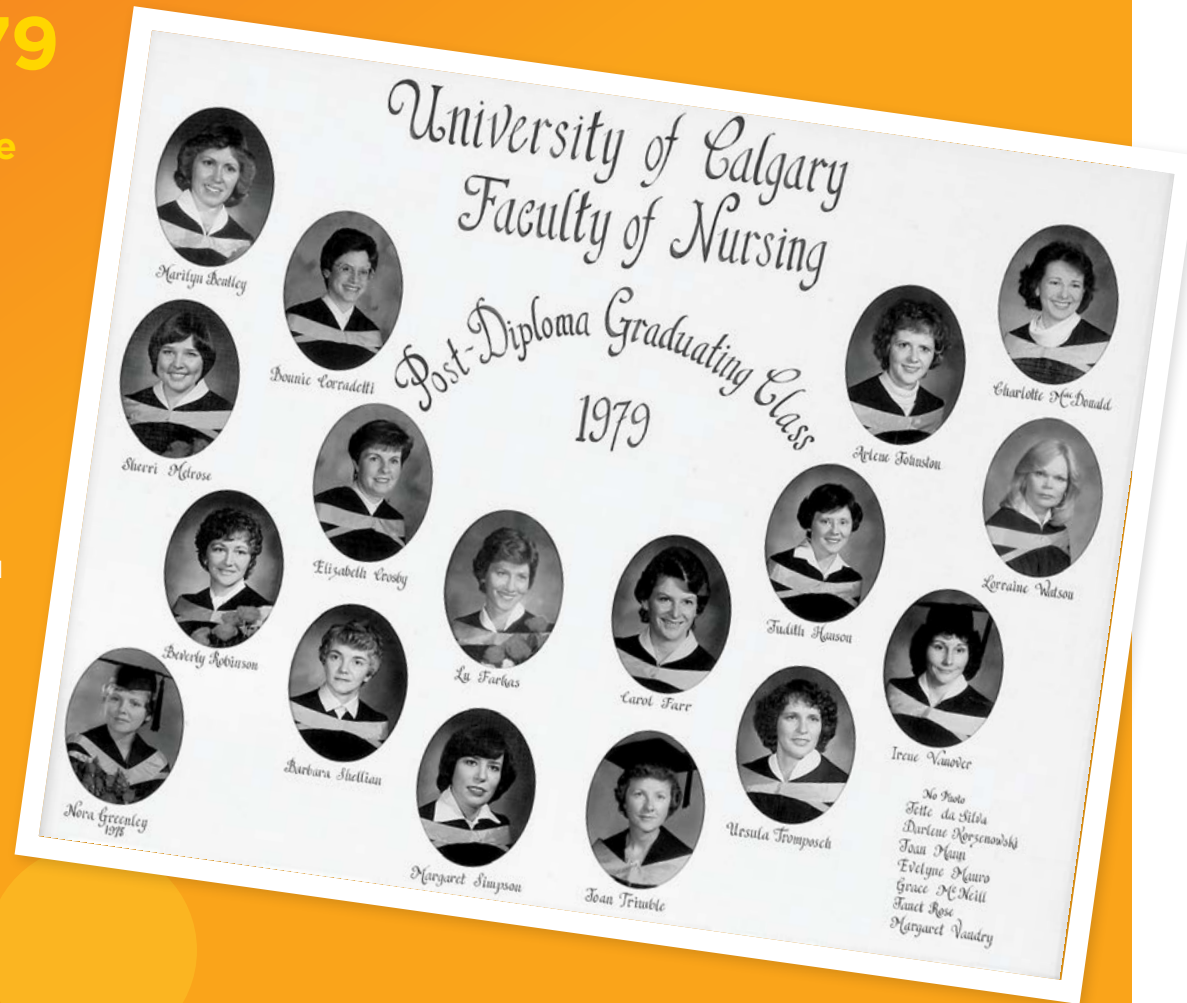
# Membership fees

\$3 per year  
\$25 for a lifetime membership

# 1978-1979

## Alumni Executive

- **Gayle Halliday**, president
- **Brenda Hannah** (BN'77), president-elect
- **Karen Viner**, secretary-treasurer
- **Carol Cremer** (BN'77), social convener
- **Cathy Eldridge** (BN'74), **Elaine Fischer** (BN'75), **Cathie Dallas** (BN'76) and **June Goldman** (BN'78), class representatives
- **Becky Porter**, faculty council representative



## Achievements and challenges

There were difficulties collecting annual fees and lifetime memberships this year. The committee decided on laminated lifetime membership cards to avoid costs of future mail-outs.

The committee set up standardization protocols for nursing caps and ribbons to be stocked in the bookstore for student purchase.

Newsletters were continued on a yearly basis as a communication tool to solicit funds for the scholarship, to encourage alumni participation and to notify members about constitutional changes to the alumni structure.

The University of Calgary Alumni Organization continued to help support stationary and mail-out costs related to class reunions.

# 1979-1980

## Alumni Executive

- **Diane Smiley** (BN'77), president
- **Rhonda Sissons** (BN'78), vice president
- **Diane Anderson** (BN'74), secretary-treasurer
- **Erin Danyleyko** (BN'77), social convener
- **Janet Jewitt** (BN'75), **Cathie Dallas**, **Judy Samson** (BN'77) and **Joan Jeal** (BN'78), class representatives

## Achievements and challenges

Apricot and black were selected as the official colours to create a distinctive visual identity for nursing students and a pin was designed for nursing graduates.

The alumni committee along with the Undergraduate Nursing Society dedicated time to the Year of the Nurse project.

It was decided lifetime memberships would be honoured but no longer available to purchase. Memberships in the future would be one- or five-year terms.



*Today, graduates continue to wear apricot sashes at convocation*

# 1980-1981

## Alumni Executive

- Elaine Fischer, president
- Val Edwards (BN'74), Janet Jewitt (BN'75), Cathie Dallas, Judy Samson and Susan Eubank (BN'79), class representatives

## Achievements and challenges

There were challenges with recruiting active alumni members and finding alumni to take executive positions. The August *Nursing News* annual letter sent by the president stated a lack of active membership was taking a toll on the alumni committee.

The Phonathon continued to raise funds for the scholarship managed by the University of Calgary Alumni Organization. The balance of the Alumni Fund Nursing Scholarship was \$716 and another trust account, Nursing Alumni Calgary, had a balance of \$1,088.

The class of 1975 organized a successful five-year class reunion.



Members of BN Class of 1975 meet with current students in 2015

# 1981-1982



Dean Margaret Scott Wright

## Alumni Executive

- Joan Borg-Schmitt (BN'80), president
- Sharon Baay, president-elect

## Achievements and challenges

The alumni committee was declining and had challenges encouraging members to participate. However, the mail-outs and Phonathon continued to be avenues of revenue for the scholarship managed by the greater university alumni.

Dean **Margaret Scott Wright** was the guest speaker at the alumni meeting where she outlined the proposed Master of Nursing program for the Faculty of Nursing scheduled to begin in the fall of 1981.

**Master of Nursing Bursary:** The alumni agreed to offer a \$500 bursary to a candidate in the first year of the Masters of Nursing program.

# The 1980s



The first MN class in 1982

The 1980s were a period of non-activity for the UCalgary Nursing Alumni. In the 1990s however, activities shifted as several key people met the challenge of renewing and revitalizing the Alumni Committee as a vital presence within the faculty.

There was mounting pressure for the alumni in general to become a contributing component of the Faculty of Nursing. As well, students in the post-basic program wanted to be more engaged in alumni activities.

The alumni who gathered to discuss revitalizing the committee established three goals:

- Provide more visibility for alumni;
- Develop a structure for the alumni; and
- Encourage active alumni members.

The group considered current activities, strengths and limitations of the alumni and used this data to develop a five-year plan for the reactivation. The acting dean, **Margaret Scott Wright**, requested postponing reactivation plans until **Janet Storch** assumed the role of dean in June 1990.



Class of 1987 at their 2017 reunion



Alumni luncheon guests

# 1991-1992

In 1991, the revitalization of the Alumni Committee began in earnest under the leadership of **Dean Janet Storch**. In March, she and Director of Alumni Affairs **Darlene Field** together with Master's graduates **Glenda LaBelle** (MN'84) and **Laurie Perchaluk** (BN'77, MN'91) met to discuss effective ways to establish an active role for the alumni.

In September 1991, Dean Storch met with several alumni interested in making the Alumni Committee an active and permanent force within the Faculty of Nursing.

A steering committee was established with these executives:

- **Darlene Field**,  
Director of Alumni Affairs
- **Dean Janet Storch**
- **Edna McCutcheon**
- **Laurie Perchaluk**
- **Arlene Johnston** (BN'79)



Members of the newly organized Alumni Committee

## Goals and achievements

The reactivation plan established in March 1990 under the leadership of acting dean **Margaret Scott Wright** was used as a guideline to develop future goals: to become a viable alumni group, to create a structure to support alumni and to recruit alumni members.

# 1992-1993

## Steering Committee Executive

- Dean Janet Storch
- Dorothy MacKay (MN'88), president
- Glenda LaBelle (MN'83), secretary
- Janice Rae (BN'92), treasurer
- Clarence Kort (BN'90), Edna McCutcheon, Terry Dingle, Dorothy Conklin, Lorraine Watson (BN'79), Arlene Johnston, Ursula Dawe (BN'79), Nora Greenly, Marjorie Syms, Laurie Perchaluk and Janice Arbour (BN'88)



A new visual identity for the faculty was created

## Goals and achievements

This was a productive time for the re-establishment of an alumni committee and much was agreed on, including:

- Strengthening communication between the University of Calgary Alumni office, all nursing programs and the nursing community at large;
- Creating a logo and visual identity for the Faculty of Nursing to develop an evolving consciousness and relationship with their alma mater;
- Designing lapel pins to give to graduates;
- Increasing a sense of identity through provision of t-shirts (purchased by the Dean's Office) and coffee mugs with the Faculty of Nursing logo. The t-shirts were purchased by nursing students and some were given to preceptors as gifts. Faculty, alumni and students purchased the coffee mugs in support of the alumni. The Dean's Office purchased mugs as gifts for visiting professionals. These visual identity items were successful in creating awareness about the alumni committee and helped raise money for the committee's activities.



As part of a plan to ramp up fundraising, in the fall of 1992, the alumni committee began to design the first luncheon and silent auction to be held in the spring of 1993. Prior to that, "An Evening with Donahue" held on November 1991 was the first sponsored event by the alumni. Dr. Patricia Donahue (PhD), author of *The Finest Art: An Illustrated History*, spoke at the event.

# 1993-1994

## Steering Committee Executive

- Clarence Kort, president
- Glenda LaBelle, secretary
- Ursula Dawe (BN'79), treasurer
- Catherine McCulloch (BN'83) and Nancy Thiele (BN'89), new community members

## Achievements

The inaugural luncheon and silent auction were a great success, raising \$5,363. The money was distributed as bursaries to students in Year One of the Master's program, to Post-Diploma RN students and to third and fourth year regular track nursing students.

# 1994-1995

## Executive

- Bonnie Corradetti (BN'79), president
- Glenda LaBelle, secretary
- Ursula Dawe, treasurer
- Arlene Kent-Wilkinson (MN'93), new community member

## Achievements

It was another successful year with the luncheon: \$5,912 was raised. As a result, every student bursary in the nursing faculty was increased. The committee agreed to increase funding for the graduate luncheon that was sponsored by the Dean's Office prior to convocation.



Proud graduates



# Annual Alumni Luncheons — 1990s

Throughout the late nineties, the luncheon and silent auction re-invigorated the alumni membership and became firmly established as an exciting social event. Held at the Valley Ridge Golf and Country Club, they became the alumni committee's most successful fundraising ventures. Faculty members and alumni **Janice Arbour**, **Arlene Johnston** and **Lorraine Watson** planned the annual event and played a vital role in the energy and direction of the alumni committee over many years.

To prepare for the luncheon, the committee solicited gifts for the auction, sold tickets and arranged the facility and food, which amounted to many hours of planning. **Carol MacMillan**, administrative assistant to the dean, was a key figure in bringing these events to fruition.

The site and ambiance at Valley Ridge was a lovely setting for the March event. The first year, **Bonnie Zwack** (MN'84) played the piano at the luncheon. In subsequent years, harpist Maureen O'Sullivan was the event musician.

The auction provided a lot of fun with bidding competitions for the variety of donations, including:

- A gourmet dinner for eight people, supplied and hosted by Janet and Don Storch;
- Framed petit point pictures from Arlene Johnston's mother, Fay Jensen;
- Special quilt items from Lorraine Watson's sewing collection;
- A family photograph session from Arbour Photography; and
- A bouquet of fresh flowers from Red Rose Florist.

Door prizes were awarded and a 50/50 draw was held regularly at the luncheon. **Barb Kathol** (BN '82, MN'97) and her team were always successful in making the 50/50 draw profitable. The yearly attendees that made this event such a success were alumni members, students, Mount Royal College colleagues and many family and friends of the alumni. The alumni committee was highly engaged because they recognized their efforts created collegiality and served as a way for all alumni to bond.

These were highly fruitful fiscal years for the Nursing Alumni, accumulating more than \$45,000 over the full decade. This allowed the group to make investments to garner yearly interest and to turn over.

“ For their significant contribution to the Alumni Committee over these 10 years of renewal, we especially recognize the contributions of **Carol MacMillan**, **Ursula Dawe** and **Janice Arbour** (treasurers), and **Lorraine Watson** and **Arlene Johnston** (presidents). Their commitment to the organization, leadership and fundraising allowed the Faculty of Nursing Alumni to honour their mission statement and achieve the goals set out by the committee.”

— *Janice Arbour (BN'88), Arlene Johnston (BN'79, MEd'81) and Lorraine Watson (BN'79, MEd'82, PhD'91)*



Spring luncheon over the years

# 1995-1996

## Steering Committee Executive

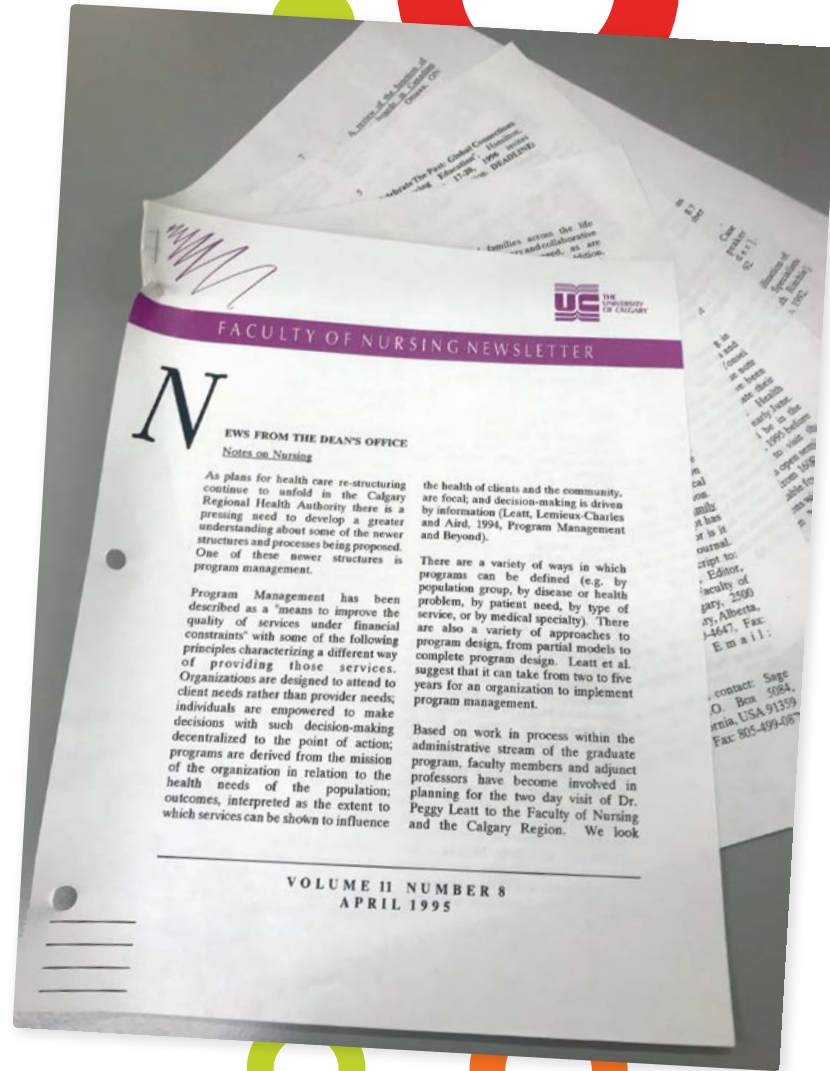
- Bonnie Corradetti, president
- Glenda LaBelle, secretary
- Ursula Dawe, treasurer
- Barb Boyer (BN'82, MN'92), Bonnie Zwack, Leslie Demytruk (BN'90), Dianne Tapp (MN'93) and Pat DeWitt, new community members

## Achievements

This luncheon continued to be successful, raising more than \$6,300 that year. With proceeds from the luncheon, a Faculty of Nursing display unit was purchased to provide a visible presence and be a source of information for the public at venues and functions. A student travel grant offered one student \$1,000 to attend a nursing conference.

Because fundraising events continued to flourish, bursaries increased from \$750 to \$1,000, with awards for first year Master's, Post-Diploma RN and fourth-year nursing students.

The name of the alumni group was changed to the **Faculty of Nursing Alumni** and the goals of revitalization of the alumni were achieved. This provided a functional structure for alumni and helped to engage more members.



# 1996-1997

## Alumni Executive

- Lorraine Watson, president
- Glenda LaBelle, secretary
- Ursula Dawe
- Janice Arbour, treasurer
- Shelley Raffin, new member from faculty professoriate

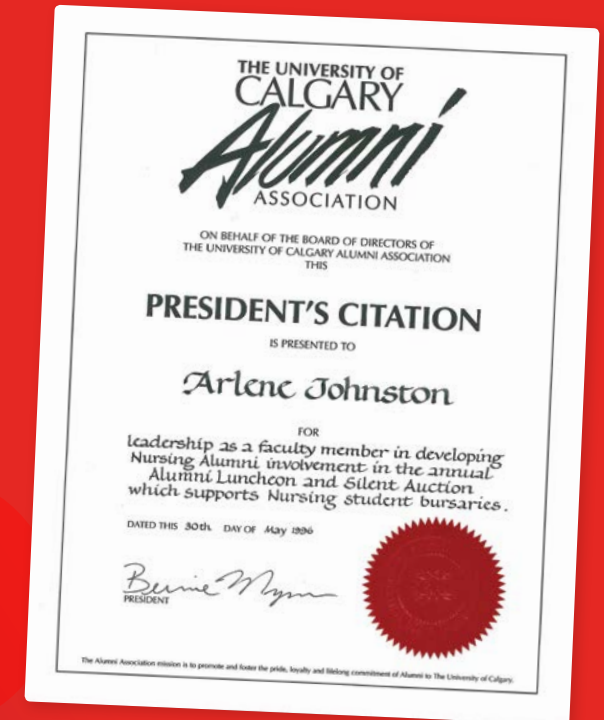
## Achievements

Once again, the Spring Luncheon and Silent Auction raised more than \$6,000 and the committee realized just how successful this annual fundraising initiative had become. Most of all, it had evolved into a social activity that alumni and friends could look forward to. Due to this financial success, the committee agreed to once again invest \$5,000 in a GIC to generate interest.

The President's Citation Award was presented to **Janice Arbour** (BN'88), **Bonnie Corradetti** (BN'79), **Arlene Johnston** (BN'79, MEd'81) and **Lorraine Watson** (BN'79, MEd'82) to recognize their leadership as faculty members in fundraising for student nursing bursaries. The award was handed out during the university's Annual Alumni General Meeting in June 1996, where president Murray Fraser gave special recognition to alumni members who have made a significant contribution to the University of Calgary alumni.



1990s Alumni Executive members Lorraine Watson, Arlene Johnston and Janice Arbour in 2019



# 1997-1999

## Alumni Executive 1997-1998

- **Lorraine Watson**, president
- **Glenda LaBelle**, secretary
- **Janice Arbour**, treasurer
- **Shannon Jaycock** (BN'89, MN'95), **Eleanor Unterschultz** (BN'95) and **Jackie Cabanoc** (BN'87), new community members

## Alumni Executive 1998-1999

- **Arlene Johnston**, president
- **Nancy Thiele**, secretary
- **Janice Arbour**, treasurer
- **Jocelyn Lehman** (BN'85), new community member

## Achievements

The luncheon was not held in 1998-99, largely because key organizers **Arlene Johnston** and **Janice Arbour** were co-chairing the sixth Annual North American Learning Conference at the University of Calgary in 1998. (However, selling t-shirts and mugs did financially benefit the alumni.) At that point, the committee decided to host the luncheon and silent auction every two years, beginning in 1999.

With the assistance of the technology team, Johnston and Arbour developed an alumni page for the Faculty of Nursing website. A revised mission statement and goals were created by the alumni and posted on this site.

# 1999-2001

## Alumni Executive 1999-2000

- **Arlene Johnston**, president
- **Nancy Thiele**, secretary
- **Janice Arbour**, treasurer

## Alumni Executive 2000-2001

- **Arlene Johnston**, president
- **Jocelyn Lehman**, secretary
- **Janice Arbour**, treasurer
- **Lucy Reyes** (MN'91), **Brenda Huff** (BN'91, MN'93) and **Dianne Dyer** (BN'76, MN'93), new community members

## Achievements

In the spring of 2000, the silent auction raised more than \$8,000, the highest amount raised to date. This was the last luncheon to be held at the Valley Ridge Golf & Country Club, ending an era under organizers Arbour, Johnston and Watson.

In 1999, after a few years of discussion with the Dean's Office, a wall-mounted display was hung in the Faculty of Nursing foyer, recognizing major financial contributions from organizations and community members and student bursaries provided by the Alumni. The Alumni Committee was recognized as a "gold" donor (\$25,000-\$50,000) on this donor wall.

# 2001-2002



Pat Rosenau and Rita Lisella, 2019

## Alumni Executive

- Rita Lisella (BN'82, MN'91), president
- Arlene Johnston, past president
- Jocelyn Lehman, secretary
- Janice Arbour, treasurer
- Patricia Rosenau (BN'81, MN'94) and Shelley Raffin-Bouchal, co-treasurers
- Janet Bullard (BN'82), Elaine Fischer, Pat Ceri (MN'94), Cathie Dallas, Dianne Dyer and Genevieve Currie, new community members

## Achievements

Alumni executive continued to host the spring luncheon and silent auction that initially took place at the Earl Grey Golf and Country Club and then at the Calgary Winter Club. These spring events had various themes and guest speakers. At the Earl Grey Golf and Country Club, the spring luncheon included a fashion show presenting work by former RN and businesswoman Suzanne Truba and lingerie from Commitments Boutique.

In 2001, funding efforts focused on growing the undergraduate endowment bursary fund so it would become self-sustaining and to develop a bursary award for graduate students.

Faculty member **Geertje Boschma** was given a \$500 honorarium towards the publication of her book. Alumni president **Rita Lisella** contributed to the foreword for this book.

# 2002-2003

## Alumni Executive

- Rita Lisella, president
- Arlene Johnston, past president
- Jocelyn Lehman, secretary
- Janice Arbour, treasurer
- Patricia Rosenau and Shelley Raffin-Bouchal, co-treasurers
- Janet Bullard, Elaine Fischer, Pat Ceri, Cathie Dallas, Dianne Dyer and Genevieve Currie, community members

## Achievements

In 2002, Dean **Deborah Tamlyn** met with **Arlene Johnston** and **Rita Lisella** to discuss the future of the Faculty of Nursing alumni. She generously offered the Alumni Committee \$25,000 towards the establishment of the Faculty of Nursing Undergraduate Bursary Endowment fund.

These initial funds led to the creation of two undergraduate bursaries and two MN bursaries, to be awarded annually and valued at \$1,000 each. At this point the post-diploma bursary was phased out to correspond with the changes in programming.

Alumni executive also pursued a connection with the University of Calgary Alumni Relations Office to reach out to more nursing graduates. Using the call centre, UCalgary students connected with nursing alumni around the world to learn about their many accomplishments. In these conversations, the

Former alumni presidents receive a plaque to recognize their leadership of the Alumni Committee

benefits of being a nursing alumnus were reinforced and individuals were made aware of the undergraduate and graduate bursary endowment funds.

Donations were gratefully accepted and put towards these awards, amounting to more than \$11,000. Through support to the call centre, the committee became more aware of funding available to support the faculty alumni activities. For the next three years (2002-2005), these resources were accessed to offset luncheon costs and for travel to Medicine Hat College, where the alumni group of UCalgary's nursing program began to develop.

In October, a special plaque was unveiled in recognition of past presidents of the Alumni Committee. Many current and former alumni executive were present including current president **Rita Lisella**, **Clarence Kort** (1993-1994), **Arlene Johnston** (1998-2001) and **Lorraine Watson** (1996-1998).



# 2003-2004

## Alumni Executive

- **Rita Lisella**, president
- **Arlene Johnston**, past president
- **Jocelyn Lehman**, secretary
- **Janice Arbour**, treasurer
- **Patricia Rosenau and Shelley Raffin-Bouchal**, co-treasurers
- **Janet Bullard, Elaine Fischer, Pat Ceri, Cathie Dallas, Dianne Dyer and Genevieve Currie**, community members

## Achievements

In 2003, a barbershop quartet entertained luncheon guests, followed by a silent auction. Once again successful in raising funds to support the endowment fund, a new graduate bursary endowment allowed for a \$2,500 annual award.

In 2004, alumni were privileged to host the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the Honourable Lois Hole, at the annual luncheon. She spoke about the importance of education and advancement of women in society. Appropriately, a gardening theme was chosen for the luncheon and silent auction to honour Ms. Hole's passion for Alberta horticulture. The event was a huge success as more than 200 alumni and guests attended. More than 100 gardening-related auction items were donated generating close to \$20,000. The other highlight of this momentous event was that mothers of alumni were invited to participate. This tradition continues as part of the spring luncheon celebrations.



Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Hole (middle) at luncheon

# 2005-2006

## Alumni Executive

- **Judy Hanson** (BN'79, MN'83), president
- **Rita Lisella**, past president
- **Pat Rosenau, Pat Ceri, Cathie Dallas, Dianne Dyer, Elaine Fischer, Glenys Jenkyns** (BN'05), **Murielle Maurice** (BN'05) and **Vanessa Wong** (BN'05)

## Achievements

Various goals during this year included:

- Increasing the endowment that had previously been established for the graduate and undergraduate bursaries through diverse fundraising efforts;
- Reaching out to nursing students to increase awareness of the Alumni Committee;
- Maintaining contact with older alumni members, encouraging their involvement;
- Liaising more closely with the Faculty of Nursing.

Held at the Calgary Winter Club, nurse historian and faculty member, **Dr. Diana Mansell** (PhD) was the guest speaker at the annual luncheon. Her presentation, "Forty, Fun, and Fabulous" was in celebration of the university's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and focused on the contributions of registered nurses in Canada during the 40 years UCalgary had been in operation.

In 2005, a collaborative fundraising approach was explored. Alumni partners from the faculties of Kinesiology and Medicine joined in the dinner and dance festivities.

This unique event spurred many new friendships and fond memories, and the funds from the event were shared among these alumni groups. The enormous success of this event prompted the group to consider other network opportunities.



A major fundraiser that continues today was launched: the sale of stethoscopes to first-year nursing students. It raises funds, but also provides a great opportunity for the alumni to engage with nursing students to raise their awareness about the Faculty of Nursing Alumni Committee and bursary awards. This captures the interest of students, perhaps making them more likely to join the Alumni Committee when they complete their degrees. This initiative raised more than \$15,000 in five years.

As endowment funds grew, the undergraduate bursary awards increased from two to four awards annually, and the amount of the individual awards, to \$2,500 each. The graduate endowment bursary also grew during this time.

# 2006-2007



Volunteers at alumni booth for September Kickoff event

## Alumni Executive

- **Judy Hanson**, president
- **Rita Lisella**, past president
- **Cathie Dallas, Dianne Dyer, Elaine Fischer, Glenys Jenkyns, Murielle Maurice, Vanessa Wong and Justine Reyes**

## Achievements

Lisa Johnston, a motivational speaker from the University of Oregon, was the featured guest at the May luncheon, held at the Calgary Winter Club. More than \$8,000 was raised at the luncheon.

A fun event in celebration of the University of Calgary's 40<sup>th</sup> year took place on September 9, 2006 starting with a multi-faculty tailgate party

before a UCalgary Dinos football game. (The Dinos won!) Guests were encouraged to stop by the Nursing Alumni booth and play a game for a prize.

Nursing students **Justine Reyes** and **Vanessa Wong** updated the website, renaming it "Alumni and Friends," with links to other organizations like CARNA and adding a memorial donation/gift tab.

From 2006 to 2011, the Alumni Committee sought new ways to raise funds for the bursary endowment. The luncheon continued to have a good turnout of guests, but the committee recognized that it must diversify activities to engage new graduates. As president for five years, **Judy Hanson** worked tirelessly to maintain a strong executive team and to recruit new members while not losing any momentum.

# 2007-2008

## Alumni Executive

- **Judy Hanson**, president
- **Rita Lisella**, past president
- **Elaine Fischer, Tracey Clancy (BN'97, MN'08), Cathie Dallas, Dianne Dyer, Kathleen Davidson (MN'94) and Glenys Jenkyns**



Judy Hanson and Dianne Tapp with Tara McCool

## Achievements

The theme of this year's luncheon was "Dare to Care ... For Yourself." Featured guest and emcee was Tara McCool, a local radio and television personality, who spoke about her own personal experiences with caring for herself.

\$10,000 was contributed to the bursary fund from stethoscope sales, the luncheon (which alone raised more than this amount) and a direct appeal to alumni for donations (which raised more than \$1,200).



Susan Smith with her ARCH award nominator, Sarla Sethi, in 2015

For the first time, the faculty had a dedicated Director of Development and Alumni Relations, **Nidia McIntosh**, who was included in meetings of the executive, brought fundraising expertise and enhanced connections with the larger university Alumni Association.

**Susan Smith (BN'75)** received UCalgary's Distinguished Alumni Award, the first time a nursing graduate had ever been awarded the honour. Smith delivered an acceptance speech at the event that highlighted the challenges of helping an Indigenous population in Mexico establish health care, water and sanitation, education and economic self-sufficiency.

# 2008-2009



Professors Emerita Marguerite Schumacher and Nan Sparks at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the faculty, 2009

## Alumni Executive 1997-1998

- **Judy Hanson**, president
- **Rita Lisella**, past president
- **Elaine Fischer, Tracey Clancy, Cathie Dallas, Dianne Dyer, Kathleen Davidson, Glenys Jenkyns**
- **Nidia McIntosh**, director of Development and Alumni Relations, Faculty of Nursing
- **Maureen Best and Norma Jackson (BN'84)**

## Achievements

The spring luncheon and silent auction's theme was "Celebrating Everyday Heroes: Creating the Future of Professional Nursing Practice." Alumna **Dianne Tapp (MN'93, PhD'97)** was the guest speaker and local TV personality Linda Olsen emceed the event. There was no silent auction this year, in light of 'donor fatigue,' which resulted in a drop in profit for the event. However, more than \$10,000 was still raised for the bursary fund through the luncheon, stethoscope sales and a new venture — FundScrip — that relies on purchased gift cards that add a donation to the cause of choice.

# 2009-2010

## Alumni Executive

- **Judy Hanson**, president
- **Maureen Best, Norma Jackson (BN'84), Brenda Marks (BN'86), Tracey Clancy (BN'97, MN'08), Anita Jenkins (BN'84, MN'99), Carol Slauenwhite (BN'89, MN'94), Bryan Clarke (BN'07), Elaine Fischer, Diana Mansell, Rita Lisella**

## Achievements

Held again at the Calgary Winter Club, the silent auction was reintroduced this year. It was a healthy boost to fundraising efforts, adding a generous \$15,000 to the bursary fund.



Judy Hanson and Brenda Marks at an alumni luncheon

# 2010-2011



Judy Hanson and John Duwana at alumni luncheon



Guest speaker Nancy Moules (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) with luncheon guests

## Achievements

The Winter Club in May was once again the location for the spring luncheon with faculty member and alumna **Nancy Moules** (BN'95, MN'99, PhD '00), presenting on an area of her research, entitled "Marking and Being Marked: Celebrating our Alumni."

**President Slauenwhite** submitted a request for funding support for the luncheon to the Alumni Association, in which she summarized the mandate of the Nursing Alumni Committee:

*"As a chapter of the University of Calgary Alumni Association, our purpose is to encourage alumni to realize the benefits of belonging to this larger group. We wish to provide an opportunity for faculty, including staff, instructors, students, alumni, and friends of alumni, to gather, network and stay connected, while supporting our bursary fundraising efforts. The event is an opportunity to celebrate and reinforce alumni pride, which culminates in the spirit of giving back through continued support of student awards."*

## Alumni Executive

- **Carol Slauenwhite**, president
- **John Duwana** (BN'10), vice president
- **Janet Nastiuk**, treasurer
- **Anita Jenkins**, secretary
- **Elaine Fischer**, FundScrip coordinator
- **Judy Hanson**, past president
- **Brenda Hannah**, events
- **Brenda Marks, Norma Jackson and Diana Mansell**, Faculty of Nursing representatives
- **Jenna Gallant, Kate Wong and Erika Tataryn**, students

# 2011-2012

## Alumni Executive

- **Carol Slauenwhite**, president
- **Janet Nastiuk**, treasurer
- **Erika Tataryn** (BN'11), secretary
- **Elaine Fischer**, FundScrip coordinator
- **Judy Hanson**, past president
- **Brenda Hannah**, events
- **Brenda Marks, Bryan Clarke, Norma Jackson, Lorraine Sinclair** (MN'04), and **Diana Mansell**, Faculty of Nursing representatives
- **Kristie Joa**, student

## Achievements

About 120 attended the May 2012 luncheon, raising more than \$7,000 through raffles, draws and the auction. **Carol Slauenwhite** and **Jenna Gallant** (BN'11) were the co-emcees and they happily announced that the ranks of nursing alumni had surpassed 6,000 individuals.

Several activities helped raise funds this year: sales of stethoscopes, self-learning CDs, pocket protectors and nametags for the students and Faculty of Nursing mugs.

The faculty reached out for alumni input into the planning for its strategic direction for the next five years. Building on existing strengths of students, faculty, staff, alumni and health-care partners, the goal of the alumni was to weave together inclusivity with pride for the diverse work that graduates do. Included were BN graduates from Medicine Hat College and the University of Calgary in Qatar.



Alumni Executive group, led by Carol Slauenwhite (3<sup>rd</sup> from right)



# 2012-2013

## Alumni Executive

- **Kate Wong** (BN'12), vice president/president
- **Carol Slauenwhite**, past president
- **Diana Mansell**, appointed by the dean
- **Elaine Fischer, Brenda Marks, Jenna Gallant** and **Brenda Hannah**, members-at-large

## Achievements

2012 was a year of change for the Alumni executive. **Carol Slauenwhite** completed her term as president and moved to Ontario and recent BN graduate **Kate Wong** assumed the role of president after a short term as vice-president. Most positions were vacant on the Alumni Committee Executive, which led to an opportunity for a new direction and a large recruitment push.

A crowd of 136 attended the event at the Calgary Winter Club. \$10,000 was added to student bursaries as a result of proceeds from the luncheon/silent auction and stethoscope sales.

The launch event for the new Faculty of Nursing strategic plan, held at Bistro Alma on campus, was an opportunity to highlight past achievements as well as the future of nursing and for alumni to celebrate a new direction for the Faculty of Nursing. Alumni provided a critical voice to focus groups with observations and recommendations that would help form the foundation for the direction the faculty would take for the next five years. As 2011-2012 president of the Undergraduate Nursing Society, Wong also played an important student role during the strategic planning exercise.



Alumni and guests at UCalgary's annual ARCH Awards

# 2013-2014

## Alumni Executive

- **Kate Wong**, president
- **Tyler Hume** (BN'13), vice-president
- **Judy Hanson**, past president/interim treasurer
- **Dominic Chan** (BN'14), treasurer
- **Catherine Laing** (BN'98, MN'08, PhD'13), appointed by the dean
- **Ellena Picone** (BN'12) and **Stephanie Powell** (BN'12), co-secretaries
- **Victoria Phillips** (BN'14), stethoscope sales
- **Brenda Marks** and **Brenda Hannah**, members-at-large

## Achievements

The Calgary Winter Club hosted an expert panel for the luncheon including **Mark Sollis**, UCalgary Alumni associate vice president, **Graham Courtney**, current nursing student and **Judy Boychuk Duchscher** and **Tracey Clancy**, nursing faculty members. A survey on nursing membership was conducted to gather data for future mentorship efforts.

The alumni participated in several other events or groups on campus in this year:

- Student orientations in September and January;
- Covenant Health Faculty of Nursing Awards Luncheon, where members of the Faculty of Nursing community were recognized for leadership, excellence and teamwork;



Victoria Phillips and Judy Hanson at Night Owls event

- A dinner in support of the University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ), organized by the Joint Oversight Board of UCalgary/UCQ;
- University of Calgary Alumni Association ARCH Awards;
- Membership on the UCalgary Alumni Association;
- Year One nursing event;
- Nursing convocation/post-convocation reception to welcome the newest nursing alumni.

A mentorship initiative called The Night Owls event allowed students and new graduates to meet with experienced nurses and discuss night shift management strategies.

Holiday Pub Night aimed to connect students and new graduates with faculty and staff in a casual, informal way. It was also a chance for students to relax and socialize during a stressful exam period.

# 2014-2015

## Alumni Executive

- **Kate Wong**, president
- **Tyler Hume**, vice president
- **Dominic Chan**, treasurer
- **Catherine Laing**, appointed by the dean
- **Ellena Picone** and **Stephanie Powell**, co-secretaries
- **Elaine Fischer** and **Elizabeth Huitema** (BN'12), events
- **Victoria Phillips**, stethoscope sales
- **Heather Legge** (BN'13), social media

lecture series. The first invited speaker was **Lt. Cdr Jo-Ann Hnatiuk** (MN'01) who gave an inspirational talk called "A Day in the Life of a Military Nurse." The event was emceed by president **Kate Wong**; **Dean Dianne Tapp** and class of 1974 valedictorian **Faith Nixdorff** (BN'74) also addressed the crowd. The lecture was well-attended and featured members of the first class of nursing students at the University of Calgary — a first-class affair all around!

A holiday pub night hosted during the Christmas season brought together current students, alumni and faculty members. The Spring luncheon/afternoon tea in 2015 changed locations to Heritage Park's Gasoline Alley.

Chris Carruthers talked about "Sleep and the Shift Worker," a free presentation for all, which was held in the newly renovated nursing foyer of the Professional Faculties building.

Once again, \$10,000 was added for student bursaries through stethoscope sales and luncheon ticket sales.

The Alumni Committee participated in several other events or groups on campus that year:

- Student orientations in September and January;
- Covenant Health Faculty of Nursing Awards Luncheon;
- UCalgary Alumni Association ARCH Awards;
- Membership on the UCalgary Alumni Association;
- Cross country alumni dinners;
- Year One welcome barbeque for new nursing students; and
- A post convocation reception, in June, to welcome new alumni.



*Kate Wong, Jo-Ann Hnatiuk and Dianne Tapp*

## Achievements

Alumni played a pivotal role in the inaugural Marguerite Schumacher Memorial Alumni Lecture, which was established to celebrate 40 years of nursing education and leadership at the Faculty of Nursing. A bequest from the former dean of the faculty allowed creation of this new

# 2015-2016

## Alumni Executive

- **Tyler Hume**, president
- **Kate Wong**, past president
- **Dominic Chan**, treasurer
- **Catherine Laing**, appointed by the dean
- **Ellena Picone** and **Stephanie Powell**, co-secretaries
- **Elaine Fischer** and **Elizabeth Huitema**, events
- **Victoria Phillips**, stethoscope sales
- **Heather Legge**, social media

## Achievements

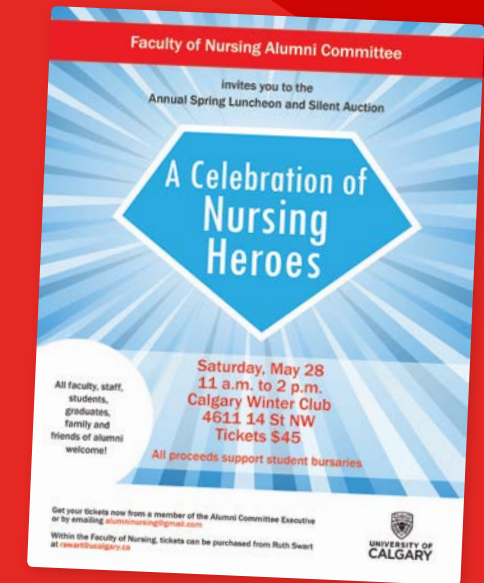
The second Marguerite Schumacher Memorial Alumni Lecture event featured **Bonnie Johnston** (BN'75), former CEO of the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre, who spoke on "Hope, Help and Healing: One Child at a Time." President **Tyler Hume** emceed and welcomed reunited members of Johnston's BN class who attended the event.



*Bonnie Johnston, Tyler Hume, UCalgary president Elizabeth Cannon and Dianne Tapp*



*Luncheon guest Marilyn Machum with alum Anthony Wong (BN'17), David Huynh (BN'17) and Amy Beck (BN'05, MN'14)*



Held at the newly renovated Calgary Winter Club, "Nursing Heroes" was the theme of this year's luncheon, with each table representing an iconic nursing figure from the past.

A total of \$10,000 was raised for student bursaries through stethoscope sales and the luncheon event.

# 2016-2017



Students volunteer at Schumacher Lecture

## Achievements

The 2016 Marguerite Schumacher Memorial Alumni Lecture featured **Lorna Estabrooks**, (MN'97 NP'09) who told of her own personal nursing path in "Serendipity: My Nurse Practitioner Clinical Journey." The class of 1976 celebrated their 40-year reunion by attending the lecture, touring the faculty and meeting informally as a group. They created a book commemorating many classmates' life journeys since graduation.

The annual luncheon celebrated 25 years. There was another great turnout for this well-promoted event, which featured greetings from former presidents and executive members **Lorraine Watson, Arlene Johnston, Judy Hanson and Jan Arbour.**

**Arsheen Dhalla** (BN'10) was one of five distinguished UCalgary graduates to receive an Alumni Achievement Award at the annual university's ARCH Awards in November. Dhalla was celebrated for the establishment of Daraja Foundation, which aims to create sustainable communities through support of education and improvement to health and nutrition.

Two \$5,000 scholarships were donated that were matched by community donors, resulting in \$20,000 raised for nursing student bursaries. This was part of the inaugural Giving Day initiative at the University of Calgary. Several alumni executive members were Giving Day ambassadors and they promoted the event through social media, news stories and YouTube videos.

This year saw a closer connection between the Alumni Committee and the faculty. In particular, the Alumni Committee benefitted from the active support of nursing's Development, Alumni Engagement and Communications team who have become valued partners in efforts to re-engage all alumni.

# 2017-2018

## Alumni Executive

- **Kate Wong**, president
- **Dominic Chan**, vice-president
- **Chrystal Benedek** (BN'14), treasurer
- **Maria Bergos** (BN'14), secretary
- **Judy Hanson**, Gold Committee chair
- **Suman Parmar** (BN'17) and **Pawanpreet Chahal** (BN'17), Bronze Committee co-chairs
- **Ivan Lerida**, Undergraduate Nursing Society representative
- **Erika Castillo**, Development, Alumni Engagement and Communications representative
- **Sonia Dhadda, Karla Sanchez** (BN'17), **Natalie Wiebe, Ellena Picone, Julia Imanoff and Zeeyaan Somani** (BN'18) members at large

## Achievements

The 2017-2018 year began with formulating and consolidating alumni executive roles. New mission and vision statements were identified to better serve the alumni populous. The objective of this endeavour was to increase alumni engagement through events and alumni programming.

Three separate committees were formulated (Bronze, Silver and Gold) based on number of years post-graduation. The intent was to develop programming and events targeting specific populations.

In the summer, alumni executive members had an opportunity to engage in a leadership course through TallTrees Leadership. TallTrees is a coaching enterprise, dedicated to serving those who lead and work in health care or in a health-related field and is run by mother-daughter team and nursing alumni **Carol Gray** (BN'75) and **Leah Wuitschik** (BN'05). Executive members learned about their specific leadership style and traits to better understand working with each other. All attendees engaged in various team building and leadership activities during the one day course.

The 2017 Marguerite Schumacher Memorial Alumni Lecture featured **Barbara Shellian** (BN '79, MN'83), president of the Canadian Nurses Association. Her topic, "They Smell Like Sheep," drew parallels between nursing leadership and shepherds who stay with their flock. The turnout was large at more than 100 guests at The Ranchmen's Club.

The new sub-committees took on their own initiatives. The Gold Committee planned the annual luncheon, held at the Calgary Winter Club with the theme "Six Degrees of Connection". The Bronze Committee organized Financial Management 101 with Assad Wealth Management. This presentation focused on making the most of the sometimes inconsistent income of young nursing alum based on casual nursing jobs and uncertain shifts.

The executive again acted as Giving Day ambassadors. Alumni donated \$2,500 to the Power in Numbers student emergency fund and \$2,500 to the undergraduate bursary. These donations were matched by community donors.

The pinning ceremony tradition was established this year. Offering a pin to each student from the BN Class of 2018 provided a wonderful opportunity for Alumni Executive to welcome and congratulate the newest UCalgary Nursing alumni.



*Alumni booklet contributors Janice Arbour,  
Arlene Johnston, Rita Lisella and Lorraine Watson*

## Acknowledgements

This book would not have come together without the committed work of **Janice Arbour** (BN'88), **Arlene Johnston** (BN'79, MEd'81) and **Lorraine Watson** (BN'79, MEd'81, PhD'91) who searched archives, scoured their own notes (and memories!) and canvassed former Alumni Committee members for their recollections and summaries.

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**50 YEARS OF NURSING**

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