



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF NURSING



Report to Community

Year in Review 2013-2014

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DEAN



Deb White, RN, PhD

2013-2014 has been another exciting year filled with initiatives that demonstrate both the quality programming and the scholarship within our faculty. A successful university unit review was completed in early 2014 and the culmination of two years of careful planning and reporting for accreditation occurred with the site visit of a review team from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN). I am excited to report that, in July, the Faculty of Nursing was awarded a full seven year accreditation, from CASN, for our Undergraduate Program and Educational Units.

A recurring theme throughout this report is engagement. With every initiative under every pillar of our strategic plan, we are engaging our stakeholders—internally and externally—and inviting them to participate in our future and the future of registered nursing. As you read through the next ten pages, you will discover that we are continuing to work diligently to:

- connect more strongly with our alumni for their knowledge and experience;
- unite our students, faculty and staff in order to further foster a sense of belonging;
- thread teaching and learning more strategically throughout all we do so that it becomes central to how we work; and
- develop our research capacity so that we attract keen leaders to our graduate programs and to our faculty and in order to better translate evidence to practice.

Late in September, we will celebrate all this and more at A First Class Affair, an event to commemorate our 40 years of educating registered nurses. Part of that event will be the inaugural Marguerite Schumacher Memorial Alumni Lecture, presented by an outstanding alumna, Jo-Ann Hnatiuk (MN'01). I hope you were able to attend. The momentum we generate from this evening, added to what we have accomplished so far in our current strategic plan, positions us for continued success.

OUR VISION

Advancing the practice of nursing and promoting human health through research and learning.

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Creating a Culture of Community

Reaching out to alumni

When the faculty's newest graduates convoked in June this year, they joined the ranks of approximately 7500 nurses who have completed nursing degrees at the University of Calgary since 1974. Our alumni are frontline clinicians, educators, managers, administrators, researchers and leaders at all levels of the health care system across Canada and are also our ambassadors, extending our reputation through their contributions to the next generation of nurses.

This spring, we reached beyond provincial boundaries to discover how our graduates have been making a difference in their communities. The dean travelled to Toronto in April, meeting with three alumni, and headed to British Columbia with alumni president Kate Wong in June.

"Alumni are really the base of our identity and have a huge stake in our future so we are very excited to reconnect with them across Canada," says Maria Martens, director of development, who accompanied the dean on the trips. "We are learning the importance of looking both to the past and to the future to inform our efforts today: the knowledge and skills of our graduates are incredibly valuable to nursing students, colleagues and peers who can benefit from their experience."

Martens cites the meeting of 2014 grad Dominic Chan and 1974 alumni Linda Stanger and Veronica McCaffrey at the get-together in Vancouver as being one of those connecting moments. "I believe it is a mutually satisfying experience to meet who came before you and understand their achievements and for alumni to meet the new grads and inspire their journey.

"Whether someone is practicing in a clinical setting, working in the community, educating future health professionals or perhaps focused in an entirely new direction, we want to hear about it," Martens adds. "It will serve to influence, motivate and inspire all of us."



A beautiful June day in Victoria: Dean Dianne Tapp (left, back row) with Linda Binding (PhD'07) and Margaret Scaia (MN'03) and, in the front row, Miriam Kiwilsza (BN'99), Kate Wong (BN'12), Coby Tschanz (BN'87) and Marg Lachmuth (BN'93).

Starting the conversation



The Faculty Engagement Committee, struck in September 2013 and tasked with developing strategies and activities that foster a sense of connection, belonging and opportunity

for all stakeholders, has been hard at work gathering data to promote a positive learning and working environment within the Faculty of Nursing.

Amanda O’Rae, instructor and co-chair of the committee, says the committee has worked diligently to develop a foundation for engagement. “We are using the tagline ‘join the conversation’ to encourage dialogue with all the groups. Before we can really map out a plan, we need to understand the wants and needs of our community.”



These energetic people were taking part in Walk and Talk.

Part of developing that plan included the April launch of a survey for students, staff and faculty to assist in gaining details around what makes for a healthy workplace and learning space. “We had an excellent response rate over the course of the almost-two months it was open with about 66 faculty and staff weighing in and over 70 students,” says O’Rae, adding that the committee is currently analyzing the data and plans to continue conversations in the fall.

In May, the committee also piloted Walk and Talk, a series of weekly 30-minute walks during the lunch hour for anyone in the faculty. “The goal was to bring people together—some who might not ordinarily work together or see each other regularly—for conversation and a little exercise,” explains Martie Dobbs, assistant dean (undergraduate programs) and committee co-chair. “Our attendance ranged from seven to 17 people per week with a good cross section of faculty and staff and even a few students.”

Plans for fall include a presence at the annual welcome back pancake breakfast and other events which will reinforce the results of the survey. “We are committed to developing a shared sense of community so we can be looked at as the best place on campus to work and learn,” says Dobbs.

Community Advocate Award

Associate professor Sandra Reilly was recognized in June with the City of Calgary Community Advocate award, given to an individual Calgarian who has made a significant volunteer contribution to the community.

Reilly was acknowledged for her 30+ years of work as a “passionate advocate for vulnerable children,” in particular as founder of the Children’s Cottage Society, named as one of Canada’s top charities by Charity Intelligence in 2011 and 2012. While Reilly has received many forms of recognition throughout her career, including the Governor General’s Commemorative Medal and a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, she says the Calgary Award was the highest accolade she could receive.



Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Faculty of Nursing associate professor Sandra Reilly and Councillor Ray Jones.
Wes Raymond Photography

Excelling in Scholarship of Teaching, Learning and Practice

Supporting teaching development

Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) Andrew Estefan is all about strategic thinking with his portfolio, a role he took over in January 2014 following the completion of senior instructor Pat Rosenau's term.

"It is strategically important to position teaching and learning at the centre of faculty practice and faculty development," says Estefan, who joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 2008. "I want us to be a faculty where teaching and learning together becomes a central, defining characteristic that shapes how we work, whether our emphasis is on teaching or on research."

In January 2012, the Faculty of Nursing introduced this new academic administrative role and tasked Rosenau with leading its beginning development. Early accomplishments under the teaching and learning umbrella included week-long orientations of new nursing instructors and certifying 17 faculty who completed the internationally recognized Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) last summer.

"Pat made an exceptional contribution to the teaching and learning portfolio during her term, especially her work on curriculum development and implementation; my plan now is to think about the strategies that will position the faculty

as teaching and learning leaders," explains Estefan. He jumped into the role by taking over as faculty lead with the Desire2Learn (D2L) implementation, a learning management system for students and their instructors that replaced Blackboard across campus.

"The implementation was very successful but it is an ongoing project," explains Estefan who worked with IT to design the core shell for

nursing and to work out the training needs for faculty members.

For fall 2014, Estefan has many plans to begin fulfilling the mandate of the position including supporting developments within the Teaching Development Unit. "We will continue much of what made the Teaching Development Unit a valued resource in the faculty, but we will also be thinking how it needs to grow and adapt



Andrew Estefan meets with graduate students Julia Wigmore and Christine Foran.

Launching the new Master of Nursing curriculum

to meet our changing faculty needs.” Estefan will implement special interest groups that will gather once to twice weekly. These will be informal opportunities to engage graduate students, faculty, including adjuncts, and health care partners. The first special interest group will address academic writing, a topic students and faculty have highlighted as a key area for support.

“In the fall semester we will trial a format for the group and evaluate it with students and faculty. My hope is that we will build momentum with this idea throughout the year and that faculty will form their own groups with ever-expanding topics of interest,” he continues.

Peer mentoring is also a fall initiative. “With new faculty starting, we want to get collaborative relationships going early on so that no one is really on their own.” Already, Estefan has begun work with new faculty members using a group preceptorship model to encourage integration, socialization, learning and the identification of ongoing development needs.

On a more individual basis, in this coming year, Estefan will work with faculty to help them design their own personal “roadmap” based on their identified career/learning needs and interests. “It is part of my role to facilitate—to broadly help people to continue their own teaching and learning.”



Recent Master of Nursing graduate Amanda Lucas was already in program when the refreshed MN curriculum was launched in 2013. But she saw an opportunity to adapt and incorporate

the new practicum projects model in her research and the result has been overwhelmingly positive.

As the strategic plan outlines, practicum projects respond to the identified needs and problems of practice settings, contribute to transfer of new knowledge and skills and foster community engagement and collaboration with mutual benefit for faculty, students and community partners. Lucas’s project took shape after an informal survey of nurses on three acute care units identified that they felt uncomfortable having discussions with patients and families about quality of life, advance care planning, symptom management and goals of care. Lucas became interested in how to increase the knowledge and skill level of nurses caring for the palliative care population.

“My intervention was to develop a community of practice (CoP) to help the learning needs of those health care professionals who had a passion and interest for palliative care, with the hope to increase knowledge, confidence and excitement about this area,” Lucas explains. “Their role would then be to pass on this information and new knowledge

to their colleagues to help expand and grow knowledge and the philosophy of palliative care.”

Lucas worked with the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) at South Health Campus throughout her project as well as members of some Alberta Health Services management teams. She started with an assessment of the learning needs of workers in palliative health care, circulating surveys and doing focus groups before arriving at her intervention.

Shelley Raffin Bouchal, associate dean (graduate programs) says that Lucas’s work was exactly what the faculty hoped for when the program was being revised. “We want to bridge the production of knowledge with the clinical application of that knowledge,” she says. “Our intent is to really strengthen the leadership capacity of our graduates and contribute to that transfer of new knowledge and skills that will ultimately improve patient outcomes.”

Lucas was offered a position as a CNS within palliative care and so will be able to see firsthand how her project is being implemented. “Our plan is to continue with a one year pilot project and analyze the effectiveness of the CoP at that time.

“This project has helped me fully understand and deal with conflict,” she continues, “and shows my leadership style and competency in effectively designing and implementing a project. Being in the same clinical area over two semesters really made me feel I was able to accomplish something.”

Strengthening Research and Knowledge Translation

Lorraine Venturato named Faculty of Nursing's Chair in Gerontology



Lorraine Venturato is a researcher and Australian-licensed registered nurse with expertise in care of the aged.

Significant recruiting efforts to build the Faculty of Nursing's research capacity resulted in the announcement of Dr Lorraine Venturato as the faculty's second research chair—Chair in Gerontology—earlier this year. Venturato's

role will focus on strengthening ties between health care educators, researchers and service providers and developing nursing expertise in this field.

Venturato (RN (Aus) PhD BN (Hons) BBUs (Health Admin)) joined the faculty from Griffith University in Queensland Australia. She began her nursing career in a long-term care facility in Brisbane where she gained an early interest in working with older adults. Her program of research explores models of service delivery and workforce development across community and long-term care settings. In 2007, Venturato was instrumental in establishing an innovative partnership between Griffith University and RSL Care (one of the largest providers of community and long-term care for older people in Queensland) that focused on integrating research and practice in care of the aged through development of a joint research fellow position and an industry-focused research program.

"This program with RSL Care was an important step in the integration of research, education and practice," she says now. "We developed innovative models of care, built clinical care

and research capacity and established and embedded an evidence-based culture within the aged care environment."

Venturato has coordinated national workforce development workshops around Australia for the aged care industry and government policy makers and is recognized as a leader in aged care workforce development and research in Australia.

Her clinical research focuses on dementia care and workforce issues associated with the care of older people with dementia. She is an active member of the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre and the Dementia Training Study Centre in Australia.

"We are truly excited to announce this chair and to have Dr Venturato join us," said Dianne Tapp, professor and dean of the Faculty of Nursing at the chair announcement in March. "The issues around the care of older adults in Canada are challenging and our experiences here are not dissimilar from those of other developed nations. With Dr Venturato's knowledge from her work in Australia and her ongoing research now in Canada, we know the University of Calgary can

Welcoming our first *Eyes High* postdoctoral fellow

become a hub for innovative thought around seniors' health care."

Despite the drastic change in climate, Venturato is enthusiastically leaping into the Alberta health care scene and is confident the transition to the Canadian system will not be onerous. "There are very general similarities between Australia and Canada when it comes to the older adult and health, including increasing demand for high quality cost effective care, staffing shortages and skill mix issues, increases in chronic diseases and consumer involvement in care with an increasingly regulated operating environment," she says. "We know demand for high quality specialized aged care service is growing, both in relation to community care options and residential care services. I think one of the biggest challenges for aged care service providers, educators and researchers is to find ways to come together, with consumers, to begin to address, not just current needs, but to also explore and reshape service delivery for older people into the future. I am really looking forward to taking on that challenge here in Alberta."

Record Setting Research Funding

In 2013-2014, the Faculty of Nursing's research funding topped \$1.7 million for 19 grants.



Mubashir Arain with Karen Benzies, professor in the Faculty of Nursing.

When Mubashir Arain was planning his next step following completion of his doctorate in health services research at the University of Sheffield (UK), moving his family almost 7,000 km was an exciting challenge.

"The opportunity to work as an *Eyes High* postdoctoral fellow I regard as a precious post," says Arain, the first Faculty of Nursing postdoc under the *Eyes High* initiative (aimed at attracting new scholars to the University of Calgary), who arrived in January. "And the potential to work with Dr Karen Benzies on her CUPS (Calgary Urban Project Society) project

was very exciting; those are the main reasons why I decided to move here during winter!"

Arain will assist Benzies on an evaluation project, funded by the Max Bell Foundation (<http://www.ualgary.ca/utoday/issue/2013-12-16/nursing-prof-receives-max-bell-funding>), to analyze the effect of CUPS' parenting education and family support programs on the brain development of the children and the overall wellbeing of the family.

"I am so delighted to have someone of Dr Arain's caliber, with his advanced skills and research perspective, join the team," Benzies says. "In addition to contributing to our research program, he will be helping CUPS improve their database and produce high quality reports with in-depth analysis."

Previous to completing his PhD on GP-led walk-in clinics in the UK (a relatively new phenomenon), Arain did a master's degree in public health in 2009. He worked for Oxford University for three years as a consumer research coordinator in the area of cancer research and has published a number of research papers in international medical journals.

Arain, wife Nasira and 18-month-old son Umar moved into permanent accommodations in March and are feeling very settled. "When I arrived in Calgary, it was very cold, but the welcome was very warm. I am looking forward to my time at the University of Calgary to further refine my health services research skills."

Fostering graduate student research



Yvonne Hayne with a photo of her parents Nap and Nancy Douziech.

Nursing faculty member Yvonne Hayne attributes much of the joy of growing up in Morinville Alberta to the self-sacrificing and devotion to family that drove her parents' lives. It has inspired her and brother Ray Douziech to set up a scholarship in their name—the Nap and Nancy Douziech Master of Nursing Scholarship—to help students who want to research palliative—specifically home—care and the family dynamic. The contribution signifies a level of engagement with the faculty that will help graduate students interested in palliative and family respite care.

“Their dedication to family is what forms the basis of this award,” Hayne says now. “The

health care system is so over-burdened and palliative care is being shuffled into the homes of the families. It falls to all of them to care for their loved ones, to pick up the loose ends, and it can begin to have a high cost to the family members.”

While this was not the situation in the case of her mother and father, who passed away within a month of each other in 2008, Yvonne recognizes that families suffer in many ways when someone falls ill. “It defaults to children, siblings and so on when care can no longer happen within the system. The caregivers need respite as well. I would like to see some evidence-based research that will minimize suffering and allow the family to remain close. That would be a wonderful legacy for my parents.”

Hayne says her parents were people of modest means, but made sure their four children did not go without. “They even sold the family home, which they had built, when I was 12 to move my three brothers and me to the city where schools were better. Money was scarce, but I remember there was 25cents for us to go to see a movie and there was breakfast out Sunday morning after Sunday church service. Those kinds of things really stand out.”

The terms of reference of the Nap and Nancy Douziech Master of Nursing Scholarship, who were married 66 years, cites the couple's unwavering support of scholarly values, demonstrated in the nurturing of educational

Avenue Magazine's Top 40 Under 40 for 2013

Shane Sinclair (PhD'09), assistant professor and cancer care research professorship holder, was chosen as one of Avenue Magazine's Top 40 Under 40 for 2013, showing that the University of Calgary continues to produce talented leaders and innovators from a variety of fields.

Avenue Magazine's annual selection of Calgary's up-and-comers is based on the criteria of vision and leadership within their careers, innovation and achievement, community involvement and their overall impact on boosting the profile of Calgary.

aspirations in their children and through the personal sacrifices this sometimes required.

“Family is so very important; how I was raised shaped the way my husband and I raised our children,” Hayne says. She is also setting up another award—the Marvin and Yvonne Hayne and Family Master of Nursing Scholarship—in memory of her husband who died in 2012. “My husband was very dedicated to family and the health of the family. It is important to me that I honour that.”

Canadian Academy of Health Sciences Fellow

Nicole Letourneau, professor and Norlien/ACHF Chair in Parent-Infant Mental Health, is the first member of the University of Calgary's Faculty of Nursing to be named to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) and the 29th from Canada's nursing schools.

CAHS Fellows are elected to the organization after a nominating and peer review procedure that recognizes those with a history of outstanding performance in the academic health sciences in Canada. Election to the fellowship is considered one of the highest honours for individuals in the Canadian health sciences community.

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation Funding

Nancy Moules, professor and holder of the ACHF/ACHRI Nursing Professorship in Child and Family Centred Cancer Care, is the first UCalgary researcher to receive funding from the US-based Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF). ALSF raises money for, and awareness of, childhood cancer causes, primarily research into new treatments and cures.

Moules and her team are studying sexuality and adolescents with cancer. The primary purpose of the two-year project is to learn directly from young adults with cancer about their experiences of sexuality.

University of Calgary Teaching Awards

The University of Calgary inaugural teaching awards, honouring outstanding educators, had three nominations from the Faculty of Nursing.

Award for Graduate Supervision
Nancy Moules, nominee

Award for Full-Time Faculty (Assistant Professor):
Andrew Estefan, recipient

Award for Team Teaching:
Tracey Clancy and Rita Lisella, recipients



Dru Marshall, provost and Elizabeth Cannon, president, present Rita Lisella and Tracey Clancy with the Award for Team Teaching.

OUR MISSION

Our graduates are prepared for leadership and practice in varied roles and settings, in local and global contexts, and with diverse populations through integration of nursing education and research. Infused with curiosity and driven by passionate determination, we embrace opportunities for innovation and transform health systems for the future.



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