2014 ANNUAL IMPACT

University of Saskatchewan
College of Nursing

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On the Front Cover:

Top Left – Alumna Anne Cholod
Top Right – La Ronge BSN student Jessica Emisch
Bottom Left – Yorkton BSN students
Bottom Right – Alumna Ashley Cheveldayoff

College at a Glance

Vision

The College of Nursing is a world leader in educating nurses in interprofessional health care, research, practice, innovation, capacity building and policy development.

Mission

As University nursing faculty in Saskatchewan, the College of Nursing strengthens nursing, health and the health care system, through the creation and integration of knowledge from research, education and practice.

Programs

The College of Nursing offers the following programs:

UNDERGRADUATE	GRADUATE
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)	Master of Nursing (MN)
Post-Degree BSN	Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (NP)
	Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Certificate (NP)
	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing

Our Locations ▶

The College of Nursing has campuses in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert. We also distribute our undergraduate BSN program to students in Ile-a-la-Crosse, La Ronge and Yorkton.

Message from the Dean

Traditionally, the Message from the Dean is to acknowledge the accomplishments of the year in review and to share the highlights that distinguish the work of the College within the university and the broader community we serve. It is perhaps fair to say that in 2014 many successes and highly innovative activities were overshadowed by initiatives within our university that gained widespread media attention.

From that perspective, my message is about why and how the College of Nursing maintained a strong presence during this time and continued to build capacity across the province and the country. The "why" is a reflection of the people – faculty, staff, students, alumni; the "how" is embedded in the relationships established within, and with partners that have unwaveringly represented the values and principles that guide our programs.

1. Principle of Responsiveness and Flexibility for Student Learning
2. Principle of Investing in Human/Social Capital
3. Principle of Research Intensiveness for both Undergraduate and Graduate Student Learning
4. Principle of a Knowledge Economy for Saskatchewan
5. Principle of Mutual Understanding, Recognition and Respect
6. Principle of Capacity-Building at the Community Level

The year 2014 was about our history, a history that has shaped nursing, beginning with 75 years in review. We entered 2014 in celebration of 75 years of providing nursing education in Saskatchewan. Celebratory events revealed the changes in nursing over nearly a century with a clear message that inspired our students of dedication, determination and drive to advance the profession.

Graduates from the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) crossed the stage at convocation, marking the end of a program that was designed to lead Saskatchewan in meeting entry-to-practice requirements for nursing in Canada. The new University of Saskatchewan Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program received a seven-year accreditation and welcomed students into their final year as the next BSN graduates. The graduate program began a curriculum review that would support a student-centered, responsive approach for advanced education in nursing.

The impact of these changes is phenomenal and will continue to be experienced in diverse ways by students, graduates, health regions and communities across Saskatchewan, as our new graduates begin to shape the nursing workforce.

In 2014, the role of the dean was shared with Dr. Lois Berry (acting dean, January-July). Her message for 2013 talked about legacy. I invite you to read this report within the context of 75 years of heritage – creating the legacy. While history is implicit, in 2014 our vision that aspires to living in the possible was very clear.

> "The year 2014 was about our history, a history that has shaped nursing."

I recently saw the film "The Imitation Game," and its theme of an innovation in its early stages struggling to achieve acceptance, struck me as highly relevant to our own process as faculty and staff execute our Third Integrated Plan. To quote the film's script, "sometimes it is the people that no one imagines anything of who do the things that no one imagines."

Seventy-five years ago who would have imagined our College's integrated plan would address the research productivity expected of our faculty today, or how our college would lead in inter-professional health education, advancing qualitative research methods within academia and showing how to use technology in health science education and global health initiatives with local application. As we consider the discipline of nursing on an international scale, what is expected varies by country. Our faculty are working globally to educate and raise awareness of what nurses can do for a community. The impact of positioning our college such that a community gains value because of our presence and constant connections with others to generate ideas and working together to seek solutions, has moved beyond what our integrated plan imagined.

I recently learned of a poem that is inscribed on the exterior of an old, historical building in Germany. The architecture was planned so the pieces could fit together, but the sustainability of the building was owed to the craftsmanship of the builders who laid the foundation for others who would continue to renovate the pieces overtime. The English translation is:

Because each piece supports the other

I could stand for centuries.

If everyone in this way, benefits the whole

No one will go down.

– (Author Unknown)

The work of the College of Nursing has supported the vision and goals of the university as articulated in Promise and Potential, the Third Integrated Plan. The impact and successes that we achieved in 2014 are shared successes within the university. Nursing has a sense of place in Saskatchewan. The following pages are examples of what it means to live in the possible that we aspired to achieve. We thank you for 75 years of history. We welcome the opportunity to spend the next 25 years pushing the possible beyond what one might once have imagined in 2014.

Lorna Butler, RN, PhD

Dean, College of Nursing

Highlights of 2014

Recognizing Students and Donors at Annual Awards Ceremony

Undergraduate and graduate nursing students are recognized annually with more than 90 scholarships and awards at the College of Nursing awards ceremony. This year we celebrated with our donors, students and their families, as we presented scholarships and awards totaling just over $171,000. "The generosity of our donors is overwhelming," said college relations officer Anna Pacik. "The awards have a tremendous impact on our students' lives on so many levels."

Norma Fulton was the College of Nursing's first director of Continuing Education and Development for Nurses (then called Continuing Nursing Education). During her years as a master's student, Fulton experienced the benefits of receiving a student award, and hoped at some point in her life to be able to pay it back. After retiring, she created and continues to fund the Norma Fulton Scholarship in Graduate Studies. Fulton, usually accompanied by her husband Fred, attends the annual student awards ceremony as often as possible. She looks forward to personally meeting the recipients of her award every year.

"Receiving a student award from the University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing is exciting," said Mary Ellen Walker, 2014 recipient of the Norma Fulton Scholarship in Graduate Studies. "It makes me feel valued and recognized for the work I have done in academia and practice. This financial support has also allowed me to focus on my PhD work, decreasing the distractions from other work to support my education. Attending the College of Nursing awards ceremony and meeting Mrs. Norma Fulton allowed me to thank her in person, and understand the importance of this award to her as well."

(l to r) Mrs. Norma Fulton and husband Fred with 2014 award recipient Mary Ellen Walker

Does the College of Nursing use Social Media? Yes, We Do!

When it comes to social media, the College of Nursing is not only in the game, but was working hard in 2014 to boost our numbers. We are proud of our strong presence on both Facebook and Twitter.

By the end of 2014, we had 2,249 Facebook friends and 1,030 Twitter followers, an increase of over 158% and 167% respectively since the end of 2013. Do you "like" us? Do you "tweet" about us?

To keep expanding our presence in 2015, we invite your contributions. We are always looking for new content. If you have news that would make a good feature story, or know someone who deserves to be profiled, please send us your suggestions. Or simply "like" us on Facebook and "follow us" on Twitter for informative articles, college stories, photos, event notifications and much more.

The impact of social media is incredible and the engagement we've experienced with our friends and followers online is fantastic; we would love for you to join us today.

facebook.com/usasknursing

twitter.com/uofsnursing

College Merchandise Sales Raise Funds for Students

What's more fun than shopping? Shopping that has an impact! Fundraising was again the goal as we offered staff, faculty, students and alumni the opportunity to purchase College of Nursing merchandise in 2014.

This year the College not only changed the artwork on all pieces, but expanded the offering to add a variety of new items. New merchandise included a fitted t-shirt, long jacket, zip up hoodie, travel mug and shorts.

"We've offered the online order five times now and it continues to be a success. The fall 2014 order was the second largest to date," said marketing and communications specialist Kylie Kelso. "A portion of proceeds from each item sold is used to support student initiatives, such as graduation banquets, conference travel, et cetera," added college relations officer Anna Pacik.

In 2014, supporters purchased 364 items, which raised over $2,300. Not only do the proceeds help students financially, but wearing college-branded clothing gives students a sense of spirit. That also raises the college profile, which translates to a greater impact within communities where our program may not be as well known. The online merchandise sale will continue to run twice per year, in spring and fall.

One of the new items available in the college merchandise order

Academic Advisor Sheila Watts Receives USSU Academic Advising Award

The University of Saskatchewan Student's Union (USSU) Academic Advising Award recognizes the invaluable role played by those faculty and staff members who provide undergraduate students with the effective and efficient direction they need to complete their chosen degrees. We are proud to announce that the 2013-2014 winner of the USSU Academic Advising Award was Sheila Watts, professional academic advisor in the College of Nursing, located at the Saskatoon Campus.

Watts works hard each and every day. She guides our students through the complexities of the College to ensure they complete all requirements for convocation. She helps students find an overall direction to best suit their needs and meet their academic goals. In doing so, she has an enormous impact on the student experience and our student's success.

"Sheila brings great experiences to the role of professional academic advisor in the College of Nursing," said Rachelle Smith, coordinator, academic advising. "She is a Registered Nurse with a Master's degree, who can easily relate to the demands and stresses of being a nursing student and also understands the joy, rewards and numerous career opportunities available in nursing. Sheila is a compassionate, kind and caring individual, which makes her a wonderful nurse and an exceptional advisor."

When asked how she felt about the award, Watts replied, "I was very surprised and honoured to receive this award. Nursing has been a wonderful career for me. I feel both excited and privileged to be helping our current and prospective nursing students on their journey to a rewarding career with so many possibilities."

Professional academic advisor Sheila Watts

Turning Data into Recommendations

With two undergraduate programs, four graduate offerings and staff, faculty and students spread among six sites in Saskatchewan, it's not always easy to gather data in the College of Nursing. But that's about to change.

Joining the College in June 2014 on a two-year contract, our new strategic analyst Suzana Lazic has been working hard to find, analyze and produce data to help the College with its objective of reporting to government and other agencies. She works with the data to identify trends and patterns that inform strategic recommendations. The College hopes to be able to answer questions about our nursing education program's impact on students, the communities we are a part of and the province as a whole.

When asked about her role, Lazic replied, "I am excited to take on this unique job opportunity with the College of Nursing and use an innovative way to evaluate strategic initiatives. Through the evaluation of key performance indicators, I will make sure measures of the College's goals are measured and evaluated, and that overall, strategic objectives are met. One of the indicators I'm most excited about is measuring the social impact our graduates will have in the north."

Strategic analyst Suzana Lazic

Strong Showing at the 2014 North American Indigenous Games

Go team! The University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing, Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association (SRNA), Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada (ANAC) and the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (SCBScN) program worked together to provide a strong and unified nursing presence that made a significant impact on the 2014 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) held in July in Regina, Saskatchewan. College of Nursing staff, faculty, students and alumni were involved throughout the games, taking on tasks that included staffing the wellness booth during the trade show, interacting with the over 3,000 visitors and volunteering at the NAIG health and wellness station for athletes requiring physical care.

Every evening during the games, athletes were treated to a featured speaker, including third-year College of Nursing student Raymond McKay, who gave a presentation alongside a nursing colleague from the SCBScN program. "The title of our presentation was 'Indigenous Wellness: Striving for Balance,' and the focus was on the idea of holistic health," said McKay. "This is a concept of wellness that was part of my Indigenous cultural upbringing. In our presentation, we described the concept as a process encompassing four areas: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. We wanted to provide the youth with knowledge based on a combination of Western and Indigenous wellness, not just about physical wellness, which is usually the focus of health. We hope our presentation impacted the youth and left them thinking about wellness as an overall concept, where all areas work together in tandem to be in harmony."

(l to r) Celeste Okemaysim (SCBScN student), Raymond McKay (College of Nursing BSN student) and Joanne Cook (ANAC)

College Recognized Internationally for Distributed Learning Innovation

The College of Nursing was recognized internationally for its distributed learning program, as the only Canadian recipient of the InTouch Health Outstanding Acute Care Telemedicine Achievement Award. The award was in recognition of the College's oral health program in northern Saskatchewan, which provides a big impact for the communities through oral health screenings and care to northern children.

"In the North, many Aboriginal children have limited access to preventative oral care, develop early childhood dental issues, and as a result, often require dental surgery," said Dr. Lorna Butler, dean of the College of Nursing. "The federal government invested a million dollars to fly over one hundred Inuit children under the age of seven to urban centres in Manitoba for dental surgery. We believe people living in northern communities should not be negatively impacted by geography and should have access to oral health care, the same way individuals living in urban centres do. So the College developed a way to bring dental care to the north."

The oral health program builds on the College's use of robotics to deliver its undergraduate program distributively by using more portable equipment called the RP-Xpress. Learning to use the RP-Xpress USB-powered oral health camera to perform oral health screenings for children in northern schools was part of the pediatric practicum for students in the College of Nursing.

(l to r) Robin Thurmeier, Dr. Carol Bullin, Mark Tomtene, Dr. Jill Bally (project lead), Dr. Lorna Butler and Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot. Missing: Drs. Shelley Spurr, Mary Ellen Andrews and Alyssa Hayes (College of Dentistry).

Australian Nursing Students Participate in Study Abroad Experience in Canada

As globalization increases, the College of Nursing recognizes the growing need to develop our students' understanding of universal health issues. One of the best ways to have an impact on a student's sense of global citizenship is an international study-abroad experience. In our undergraduate program, the College offers students the opportunity to complete an international clinical experience in Australia, Finland, the Philippines and Tanzania.

Associate professor Dr. Arlene Kent-Wilkinson coordinates the study abroad experiences between Australia and Canada. "Our reciprocal partnership with Flinders University in Australia has been in place since 2008. Our students love going to Australia and have always come back feeling as though they had life-changing experiences, growing personally and professionally from their exposure to different cultures, nursing practices and health care systems."

Six students from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia arrived in Saskatoon over summer. The first week was spent becoming familiar with the University of Saskatchewan and the College of Nursing program. Students toured the city, met fellow nursing students who will be going to Australia during the next exchange and visited various health care institutions. Then they were off to Meadow Lake for their two-week clinical experience.

"Being given the opportunity to come to Canada and have a clinical experience in Meadow Lake was incredible and had such an impact on me in every aspect of my life," said Australian student Chelsea Gebhart. "It provided me with the chance to learn so much about the differences and similarities in the health care systems between Australia and Canada, and enabled me to go out in the community and experience the Indigenous culture."

Australian nursing students with associate professor Dr. Arlene Kent-Wilkinson

Continuing Education and Development for Nurses Expands Its Boundaries

Continuing Education and Development for Nurses (CEDN) has had another productive year, providing impactful education and professional development programs to nurses and other health professionals throughout Saskatchewan. With over 40 years of history to draw on, CEDN continues to explore and implement new programming, sponsor graduate student practicums and assist planning committees to deliver nursing and interprofessional conferences.

Looking to facilitate the philosophy "learn where you live," CEDN presented its first online learning event, the Clinical Instructor Nurse Educator Course in 2014. This six-week course allowed nurses to improve their education, knowledge and skills on their own schedule, without having to travel or attend a structured class. Twenty-five nurse educators and clinical instructors from around the province participated in this pilot project. The response was overwhelmingly positive and plans are in place to continue this offering in 2015, with opportunities to expand delivery of the course to western Canada and into the north.

CEDN continues to work with health regions to provide education to nurses at the point of care. Plans have been finalized to use distributed learning technology to provide Foot Care Modalities for the Elderly Person, a long standing CEDN course, to nurses in northern Saskatchewan using a hybrid delivery model. This tailor-made approach improves accessibility to this important course by facilitating the lecture part of the course to be delivered from Saskatoon, and the hands-on practical portion to be provided by a podiatrist, in person, the following week. This new delivery system will have a positive impact on nurses and their clients in the north.

Nurses participate in CEDN's Foot Care Workshop

E-Learning Centre a Major Ingredient in our Success

Who makes distributed learning successful? Certainly the expert professors who are reinventing the "classroom" and the students across the province who are eager to learn. Then there's the modern hardware, software and networks. But the tie that binds everyone together, that allows us to innovate and that encourages us to "learn where you live," is certainly the dedicated expertise of the staff in the College of Nursing E-Learning Centre.

Since its inception in 2009, the centre has grown to include seven staff members who work within a provincial perspective. Each contribute professional expertise, leverage institutional connections and resources and work collaboratively towards common goals. Their impact on the College is far reaching.

Bruce Atamanenko and Evan Rust are our e-learning audio visual technicians. They are responsible both for the connections across the province and for helping us out with the daily needs of the College of Nursing, which includes a diverse range of distributed events for teaching, research and administrative purposes.

Atamanenko, geographically based at the Saskatoon Campus, joined the College of Nursing in 2009, and has facilitated connections around the world. He has had specialized training in the area of remote presence robotics. In addition to his professional knowledge and technical skill set, Bruce is also well known for his amazing customer service mindset. Atamanenko goes over and above standard expectations to ensure the highest quality outcomes. His work has an impact on many instructors and students.

Evan Rust joined the College of Nursing in 2012, coinciding with the launch of the new BSN curriculum and the opening of the U of S Regina Campus. Rust has pioneered a number of technical innovations to expand our service delivery capabilities and improve the flexibility and quality of distributed events. Rust has a keen eye for detail and likes to think outside the box.

Technology leaders like Atamanenko and Rust position us for success as a College. The expansion of service delivery in the College of Nursing can be attributed directly to their dedication and perseverance.

Bruce Atamanenko

Evan Rust

Janet McCabe Receives Provost's Award for Outstanding Teaching

The annual Provost's Award for Outstanding Teaching recognizes an outstanding teacher in each college at the University of Saskatchewan. The 2014 College of Nursing recipient was Dr. Janet McCabe from the Prince Albert Campus. McCabe is honoured for her achievements in outstanding teaching and educational leadership.

McCabe is thrilled to be the recipient of this award, and says her teaching style is a lot like her personality. "All our students are unique–everyone comes to the classroom with different experiences, understandings and learning styles. My goal is to try and meet students where they are, while making the content meaningful for the entire class. My teaching style becomes a bit eclectic–much like myself. I try to engage students by utilizing different media (including lecture, videos, podcasts, group work) and integrating technology into the classroom via polling and helping students utilize their handheld devices."

McCabe started teaching at the College of Nursing in 2009, after moving from Ottawa to Prince Albert. She loves the smaller classrooms that Prince Albert has to offer and the sense of community that becomes instilled in the nursing students at that campus. She worked as a Registered Nurse in both acute and out-patient settings before pursuing a career in academia. Her teaching and research interests have been impacted by her career choices (pediatrics), but also by research–she has a keen interest in the development of nursing as a profession and as a discipline.

(l to r) U of S Interim president Dr. Gordon Barnhart, award winner Dr. Janet McCabe and vice-provost, teaching and learning Dr. Patti McDougall

Celebrating CASN Accreditation

As the College of Nursing began to create a new undergraduate education program, it knew the curriculum must, at a minimum, meet the requirements of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association (SRNA). But to give our program maximum impact on the students, we wanted to go one step further. The College is proud to announce it has received accreditation, a recognized national standard of excellence, from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN).

"The process required a great deal of time and resources, but to have received CASN accreditation is an outstanding accomplishment for our College," said acting dean Dr. Lois Berry. "CASN accreditation helps us identify our strengths and areas where we are leaders on the national nursing education scene, while at the same time, it supports continuous quality improvement, as it identifies areas requiring development or modification to ensure we are offering the best possible program for our students."

The CASN accreditation program outlines parameters of quality and standards in not only the curriculum itself, but also in areas of leadership, innovation, scholarship and research, while incorporating flexibility to accommodate organizational structure. "Our College is quite complicated and a 'one size fits all approach' definitely doesn't work for us," said Berry. "We have been expanding our undergraduate program offerings across Saskatchewan, and every site is a little different."

In order to evaluate the College's program it its entirety, the CASN accreditation team visited five sites. They met with students, staff and faculty, as well as mayors and community members, while visiting northern sites. "Even though the accreditors noted each site is different, receiving the maximum seven-year CASN accreditation for the undergraduate program gives us confidence that our students are receiving a quality nursing education, no matter where they live. By earning the CASN accreditation, we have validated the excellence of our program for students, faculty, staff, the University of Saskatchewan and the communities in which we are located," said Berry.

CASN
ACESI

Students Start Canada's ToothFairy Initiative in Local Community

The National Children's Oral Health Foundation of Canada,™ also known as "Canada's ToothFairy," believes every child deserves a healthy smile. The organization is dedicated to eliminating children's preventable suffering from pediatric dental disease by providing programs and resources to deliver community-based preventive, educational and treatment services.

Tania Funk, fourth-year nursing student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the Saskatoon Campus, is one of the students to start Canada's ToothFairy in Saskatoon, with the goal to bring that program's impact to the local community. "The idea of forming this group arose during our clinical placement. My classmates and I noticed that many of the children at the school had very poor oral health and limited access to dental care. Our group did a lot of work assessing oral health habits and found many of the children did not have access to toothbrushes and toothpaste, and did not see the dentist regularly," said Funk.

Alongside Funk, nursing students Mallory Gardiner, Krista Winarsky and Mandy Helgason set a goal to do a minimum of four presentations during the 2014-2015 school year. "So far, we have been astonished by how receptive the children are to education on oral health, and by how excited they are to receive their toothbrushes and toothpaste during our oral health presentations," said Funk.

"Canada's ToothFairy is a way for nursing students to become leaders in health care. An educative and preventative approach can go a long way to impact the health of children and begin to change the focus of Saskatchewan health care from acute care to prevention. This is also a great opportunity for nursing students like myself to gain experience working in the community and improve our presentation skills," added Funk.

When asked about this project, assistant professor Dr. Marcella Ogenchuk replied, "I have incorporated pediatric oral health in my class curriculum and clinical rotations since 2007; however, Canada's ToothFairy is a new student led initiative, which provides them with a means to tackle issues they have observed. I am delighted to be involved as a faculty advisor with these committed students, who are working at increasing oral health literacy to improve health behaviors among children and youth".

(l to r) Mandy Helgason, Mallory Gardiner, Krista Winarsky and Tania Funk

Forum Attracts Global Leaders in Applying Remote Presence Technology

The University of Saskatchewan's International Centre for Northern Governance and Development (ICNGD) joined with the College of Nursing to offer a three-day international forum in 2014 to explore the application of remote learning technology in rural, remote and northern communities. The forum attracted global leaders and brought together individuals using remote presence technology for training and clinical purposes.

"The U of S was honoured to welcome this outstanding delegation of global leaders in remote presence technology," said forum chair Dr. Lorna Butler. "Four countries (Canada, United States, Philippines and Russia) came together to share their expertise. The innovative thinking that each person contributed to this new and emerging area of health technology was revolutionary. Individually and collectively we are impacting peoples' lives."

The forum offered individuals an opportunity to share their experiences and brainstorm how this technology can potentially transform the delivery of health education and practice. The ICNGD and College of Nursing have been working together for over three years on various projects designed to address health care challenges in northern and remote communities.

La Ronge mayor Thomas Sierzycki and forum chair Dr. Lorna Butler with attendees from the Philippines

Nursing Students Teach High School Students About Injury Prevention

A group of fourth-year nursing students worked together during their clinical placement to make an impact on the students of Warman High School by hosting a very well-received injury prevention fair.

"At the beginning of our placement, we asked the students what they were hoping to learn from us and we noticed a common theme—injury prevention," said student organizer Jenise Schneider. "Throughout our placement, we did presentations and informal education on a variety of topics, but we felt injury prevention was suited to a larger audience, including the community."

The students decided to host an interactive injury prevention fair with speakers from a variety of professions. "We worked collaboratively with the staff at Warman High School and the guest speakers. Together we were able to provide education on injury prevention, a topic the students felt had been previously missing from the standard curriculum," said Schneider. The event included guest speakers from STARS Air Ambulance, Warman RCMP, Warman Fire Department and the Saskatoon Police Service Canine Unit.

In the end, the presentation impressed not only the students, but their teachers as well. "The more the kids hear about injury prevention, the better. Whatever's out there that can potentially impact these kids' lives and their safety, it is important they learn about it," said Monika MacKenzie, grade 8 teacher at Warman High School. "The injury prevention fair was very informative and the topics selected were relevant for the students," said Grade 9 teacher Lisa Kuchler. "I hope in the future we can expand the fair to include more students, as I think the upper year classes would have enjoyed this as well."

Students organize injury prevention fair in Warman, Saskatchewan

Celebrating our 75th Anniversary in Northern Saskatchewan

The second term of the 2013-2014 academic year brought the College of Nursing to northern Saskatchewan to continue its 75th anniversary celebrations. In February, we visited La Ronge and Ile-a-la-Crosse to celebrate the impact of our longstanding nursing traditions with alumni, students, staff, community partners and friends of the College.

In La Ronge, we joined together for a dinner with the acting dean and an evening full of laughter and stories. Guests enjoyed a presentation by current Bachelor of Science in Nursing students profiling the history of health in the La Ronge area. Mayor Thomas Sierzycki brought greetings on behalf of the community, and Andrew McLetchie, CEO of the Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region, spoke about the impact of educating nurses in the community.

As we continued our northern celebrations, we hosted another dinner with the acting dean in Ile-a-la-Crosse. Mayor Duane Favel brought greetings on behalf of the community and spoke about how grateful he was that the College of Nursing had brought the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to his community. MLA Buckley Belanger brought greetings on behalf of the province of Saskatchewan.

At both events, guests enjoyed a slideshow with college photos from the past 75 years and the evenings concluded with a trip down memory lane, featuring a showcase of archival items that included a 1960s nursing procedures book, an original nursing cap and a nursing uniform.

La Ronge BSN students at 75th anniversary celebration

Celebrating

Over 300 alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the College came together in May to take part in a weekend of celebrations for our 75th anniversary.

When we started planning this anniversary, we knew there would be a lot of interest, but we never dreamt we would have so many people come back to campus to help us celebrate. "We had alumni from New York to British Columbia, from Nevada to the Yukon," said college relations officer Anna Pacik. "I think I speak on behalf of everyone on the 75th Anniversary Steering Committee when I say 'wow, what a weekend!'"

Celebrations kicked off May 22nd with an opening reception, followed by an intriguing guest lecture about the power and potential of leadership, delivered by presenter Dr. Ginette Lemire Rodger. The evening also included a tribute to the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) to celebrate the collaborative partnerships and shared vision of the partners (University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing, First Nations University of Canada, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology and the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association) who shaped and delivered the very successful NEPS program. NEPS accepted its last group of nursing students in 2010.

Residence, skills labs and classrooms may not have looked the same as when some of our alumni attended nursing school, but during the celebration weekend, alumni and friends were given the opportunity to experience the facilities used by current nursing students. Over 120 people came out to tour the new Health Sciences Building, with stops at the Clinical Learning Resource Centre (CLRC), state-of-the-art classrooms, collaborative learning spaces, the Health Sciences Library and the fourth floor, home to the College of Nursing.

In the CLRC, tour guests got to see high-fidelity simulation mannequins, medium-fidelity mannequins and simulation models that today's students use in simulation suites and procedure labs. During the stop on the College of Nursing floor, visitors were awe-struck as they watched a video about the robots currently being used to deliver undergraduate nursing education in northern Saskatchewan.

The biggest celebration took place the evening of May 24th with the final 75th anniversary gala. Over 300 alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the College were on campus to celebrate. The evening started with a nursing research poster presentation, then entertainment by the Saskatoon String Ensemble and was ultimately followed by dinner and a program. Nursing students from the Regina Campus presented a nursing cheer from the years 1959-1963 and a nursing song titled "Old Black Band".

Alumna Kasandra LeRand gave an outstanding tribute to the Post-Registration BSN program. Steven Lewis, President of Access Consulting, Ltd., delivered an incredible keynote address on the unique contributions nurses make to health care on behalf of those who access the system and the future opportunities that nurses must embrace to make health care equitable and accessible to all.

But the highlight of the evening, which left attendees laughing for hours, was the extremely entertaining "Nursing Throughout the Years" skit performed by Regina nursing students. The weekend festivities concluded on a celebratory note with recognition of alumni years and the announcement of the 75th Anniversary Alumni of Influence Honourees (read more about these honourees on page 22).

75 Years of Nursing Education

Experience Nursing

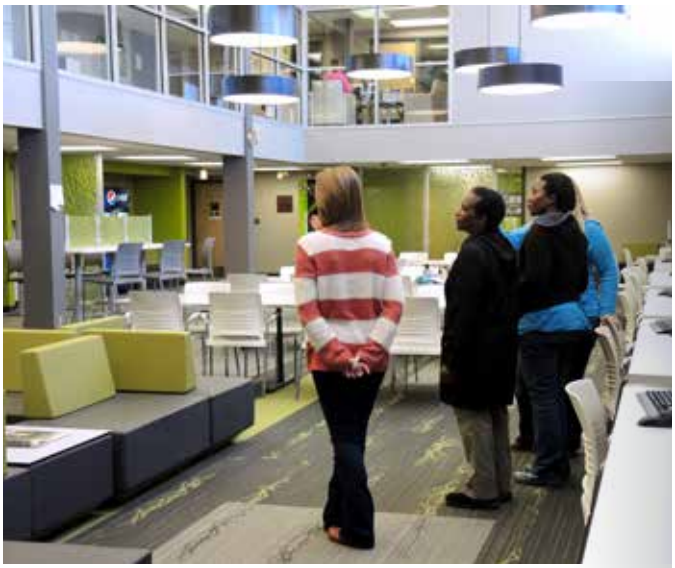
The College of Nursing values academic advising and understands its impact on both current learners in terms of guiding them through their studies, as well as on prospective learners who want to explore our programs. Throughout the year, our academic advisors give presentations at schools and meet with students who visit the various College of Nursing campuses. Profiled below are just a few examples of recruitment events that our advisors participated in during 2014.

DISCOVERY DAYS

High-school students, teachers and chaperones from across the province visited the Saskatoon Campus to take part in the annual Discovery Days in Health Sciences. This popular event introduces high school students to careers in nursing, clinical psychology, kinesiology, medicine, pharmacy and nutrition, physical therapy and veterinary medicine. Through hands-on activities, students gain a clear picture of what it's like to be a U of S student. Students get to interact with researchers, clinicians and educators.

HEALTH LINKS

The Health Links event targets grade 10 and 11 students keen on health care careers, in the Public, Catholic and Prairie Spirit School divisions. At the College of Nursing stations, students participated in hands-on nursing activities that demonstrate daily tasks in the occupation of a Registered Nurse. Following the visits to the hands-on stations, students attended a mini career fair.



OPEN HOUSE

The University of Saskatchewan's Regina Campus held an open house in March to showcase the site to prospective students, friends of the College and the public. It was a great opportunity to meet with students, tell them about our programs, explain the admission process and answer any questions in a one-on-one setting.

Bringing Undergraduate Education to Yorkton

Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Northern Saskatchewan, Regina and now Yorkton! The College of Nursing is proud to have an impact on yet another community. Starting in September 2014, the College of Nursing began delivering our Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in Yorkton.

Until the start of this program, students in the Yorkton area completed their pre-professional year (year one) at Parkland College, but then had to relocate to Saskatoon, Regina or Prince Albert to complete years two through four in the College of Nursing. As a result of the new partnership with Parkland College (announced in January 2014) and the support of the Sunrise Health Region, students are now able to complete their U of S BSN degree at Parkland College in Yorkton and most clinical components in the Sunrise Health Region.

"The College of Nursing was excited to celebrate our first Yorkton BSN class this fall," said Dr. Lorna Butler, dean of the College of Nursing. "We are pleased to collaborate with Parkland College and Sunrise Health Region to offer our BSN program to students in another Saskatchewan community. We look forward to great things from the Yorkton BSN Class of 2017."

"This partnership offers great opportunities to the Parkland Region and the province as a whole," said Parkland College president Dr. Fay Myers. "It is a pleasure to welcome the first students into our health care facilities to complete the clinical practicum components of their education," said Suann Laurent, president and CEO, Sunrise Health Region.

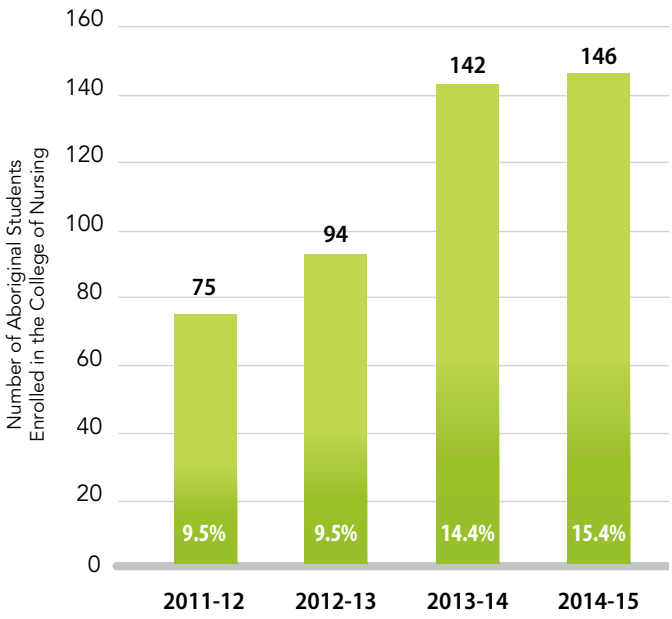
Yorkton BSN Students

Celebrating Aboriginal Student Success

The College of Nursing continues to see growth in its Aboriginal student enrolment, which has increased by 51% since the 2011-12 academic year. Much of this success and impact can be attributed to two factors: the accessibility of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program through our "learn where you live" strategy, and the dedicated supports provided by our Aboriginal student advisors in the Native Access Program to Nursing (NAPN).

Since the new BSN program was introduced, the role of NAPN has shifted to focus on recruitment and support for incoming students, especially as they enter and progress through the pre-professional year. Our Aboriginal student advisors, located in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert, have also played a key role in making sure we are connected to our Aboriginal students and communities in northern Saskatchewan and in the Yorkton region.

With the recent addition of equity seats in our Nurse Practitioner program, we look forward to matching our Aboriginal student success in our undergraduate program with our graduate programs.



Visiting Lecturer Professor David Newhouse Delivers Thought-Provoking Talk

Lecturer David Newhouse visited the College of Nursing Regina Campus in March to deliver a lecture titled "From the Indian Problem to the Canada Problem," about building foundations for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to live well together.

Professor Newhouse is Onondaga from the Six Nations of the Grand River community near Brantford, Ontario. He is the co-director of the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network and associate professor in the Department of Indigenous Studies and the Business Administration program at Trent University. He delivered a thought-provoking presentation on the history of Canadian relations with Aboriginal people and the consequences for present-day Aboriginal health. His talk ended with an inspiring and empowering discussion on the current era of "post-colonialism" and ways we can move forward together.

Professor Newhouse also hosted a Community Colloquium with several of our Regina-area partners. The impact of his visit helped the College of Nursing to develop new relationships and enhance old ones, leading to new partnerships for clinical placements and community-directed research projects.

Professor David Newhouse

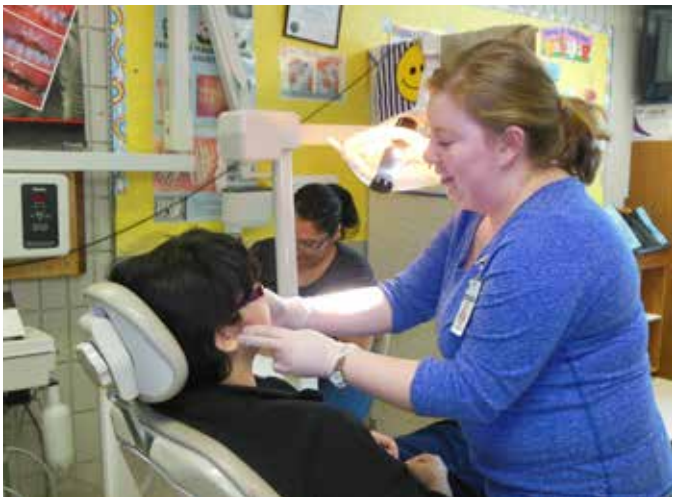
Students Complete First Ever Pediatric Practicum in Northern Schools

Third-year nursing students from La Ronge and Ile-a-la Crosse completed the first ever pediatric clinical rotation to take place in a northern school in 2014. The goal of this practicum is to give northern nursing students interprofessional pediatric learning experiences in Northern communities using remote presence technology, the same technology they use to learn their clinical skills in the classroom.

During their practicum, the nursing students were connected with Saskatoon faculty members from the College of Nursing and College of Dentistry using the RP-Xpress, a smaller version of the "large robot" they use in the skills lab. College of Nursing's Dr. Jill Bally helped facilitate this practicum experience.

"By using this technology, from right here in Saskatoon, we were able to support the students' skill acquisition and watch them develop their knowledge, while conducting assessments and providing health education to the students in the schools in La Ronge and Ile-a-la-Crosse," said Bally.

By the end of their practicum experience, the nursing students conducted assessments and used their pediatric knowledge base to organize numerous activities including health education, physical activities, wellness assessments and health screening, referrals to other health care professionals and oral health screening and treatment. Poor oral health is a big problem in northern Canada, where up to 90% of Aboriginal children have childhood cavities. This award-winning teaching strategy empowers locally-educated northern nursing students to have an impact on these regions by communicating a message of prevention and good oral hygiene in local schools beginning at an early age.



La Ronge nursing student Jessica Emisch completes an oral assessment during her pediatric practicum

Teaming Up With the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada

The College of Nursing signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada (ANAC) at their annual conference in Winnipeg in 2014. Five students from three different College of Nursing sites were able to attend the conference, and dean Dr. Lorna Butler made a presentation about our northern nursing program. The partnership with ANAC formalizes our work together on improving the recruitment, retention and experience of the College's Aboriginal students. We also embrace the opportunity to have an impact by jointly advocating for strategies, which strengthen the number of Aboriginal Registered Nurses (RN) in the Canadian health care workforce.

ANAC and the College have worked on two projects together thus far. The first outlines the framework for a mentorship program, which will benefit our senior Aboriginal students beginning in 2015. The other focused on developing a factsheet on the current status of the Canadian Aboriginal RN workforce. There are currently 7,945 Aboriginal RNs in Canada, making up 2.9% of the total workforce. The importance of nurses to Aboriginal health is underscored by the fact that 77% of Aboriginal health professionals, including physicians, specialists, pharmacists and others, are RNs.

Nursing students with College of Nursing dean Dr. Lorna Butler and ANAC president Dr. Lisa Bourque-Bearskin

Celebrating Students' Program Progression

Over the years, nursing education has had traditions come and go. But now, based on feedback from alumni and students, the College of Nursing has re-established its traditional pinning ceremony. Such ceremonies have a powerful impact on students because they allow them to celebrate their progression throughout their program.

"The pins are a symbol celebrating the effort that was needed to complete the students' education to this point. The new progression ceremony is a great way to celebrate these milestones, as they move through their years in the program," said dean Dr. Lorna Butler. "Students were looking for a way during their placements to communicate with community members about their level of education and we believe this pin, which we're hoping they will all wear proudly during their practicums, is the perfect way to do so."

To kick off this tradition, and to celebrate our students in the Post-Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (PDBSN) program, the inaugural pinning ceremony took place on May 21st in Saskatoon. During pinning ceremonies held across the province held between September and December, all students in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program received their 2, 3 or 4-year pin.

Post-Degree BSN students at inaugural pinning ceremony

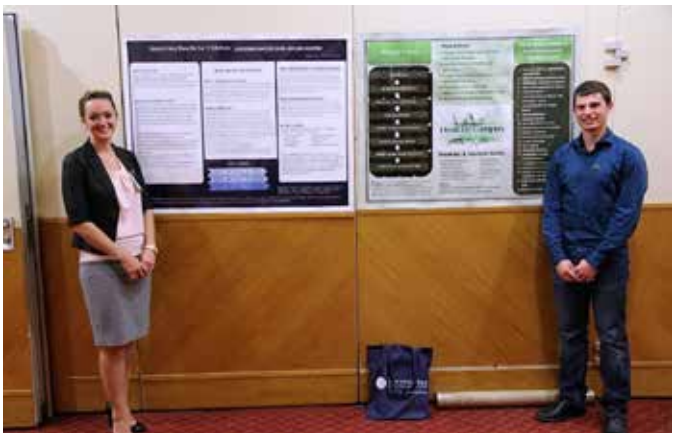
Students Attend International Conference in Ireland

Professor Dr. June Anonson from the Prince Albert Campus was honoured to be a keynote speaker across the world in Cork City, Ireland at the Irish Association of Directors of Nursing and Midwifery annual conference entitled *Aiming High and Digging Deep: Leading Nursing and Midwifery, with Pride, Passion and Professionalism*. But she also wanted to share the impact of this experience with her fourth-year nursing students, so she was pleased when some were able to accompany her.

During the conference, two of Anonson's students were given the opportunity to present three different research projects. "Our students were so professional and conveyed such wonderful enthusiasm in their presentations that the Irish Association is considering having a select group of student leaders attend in the future, not only as a succession planning concept, but also to bring the students perspective to this meeting of leaders," said Anonson.

Jennifer Catte was one of the students who travelled with Anonson. "By attending this conference, I was able to experience international nursing leadership through networking, observing Dr. Anonson and listening to the variety of speakers. Living in Canada, such a multi-cultural country, the greatest impact the trip had on me was experiencing being in another country where I am the minority culture. It increased my cultural sensitivity and provided me a foundation on which to grow in my nursing career," said Catte.

"This experience was very beneficial to me as a future nurse," said Taylor Roy. "Being immersed in another culture, learning what nurses in other countries think it means to empower yourself and grow into a leadership role, hearing speakers discuss topics such as becoming culturally competent when delivering quality care and learning how to build your own personal style of nursing to succeed in your own way, was very interesting. Although these are topics we may have been able to get a feel of at home, having the ability to see them from the viewpoints of people from another country impacted my views on how I look at building myself as a future nurse. This trip provided me with some beginner skills to model myself professionally when it comes to working in an interprofessional role with other cultures."



Fourth-year nursing students from Prince Albert present at international conference in Ireland

Expanding the College's Finance Team

As the College of Nursing continues to expand, so does our finance team. Mary Ellen Cox was added as the College of Nursing financial assistant in fall 2013. Located at the Saskatoon Campus, Cox works alongside the director of finance and administration, Shawn Anderson. In just over a year, she has already played a key role in the reorganization of some financial procedures.

"There are a lot of processes when it comes to handling finances for a College that is spread out across a province," said Anderson. "Bringing Mary Ellen on board has allowed me to focus on streamlining these processes to make sure we are utilizing college resources more efficiently. With her handling the day-to-day transactions, it gives me more time to focus on the strategic issues for the College."

Cox's impact on the College is already apparent. Improved response time for faculty and staff queries, as well as travel and other reimbursements and streamlined contracts for part-time instructors are just a few of the projects Cox has tackled so far.

"Working on a variety of projects and being exposed to so many different areas of the College has been really exciting for me," said Cox. "Having the ability to look at processes with a fresh perspective has really helped me see where improvements could be made, and the projects I've been able to work on so far have been a lot of fun."

Financial assistant Mary Ellen Cox

Introducing ExamSoft

In fall 2014, the College of Nursing adopted a new exam tool for distributed learning. ExamSoft was selected as a pilot project for undergraduate students in La Ronge, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Yorkton and the Nurse Practitioner program. By the end of the first term, feedback from faculty and students was overwhelmingly positive.

"ExamSoft allows instructors to create and manage comprehensive question data banks for nursing courses," said director of information and communications technology Mark Tomtene. "An exam creation component is used to produce both electronic and paper-based midterms and final exams from the question database. Students complete their exams on laptops in class or from home, depending on the distribution model of the particular course. The third component of ExamSoft allows instructors to evaluate a variety of factors, from basic student performance and scoring and question validation, to more advanced metrics like learning objectives, program effectiveness and National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) preparation."

ExamSoft offers students and faculty a secure, efficient and user-friendly way to create and deliver exams in a distributed environment. The tool is one of several innovative technology platforms that impact the high quality of distributed programs at the College of Nursing.

Students can now complete exams online in a distributed environment using ExamSoft

Results of Research Funding Have Impact on Little Boy in Tanzania

College of Nursing professor Dr. Pammla Petrucka and the Mama Kwanza ("Mother First") Socio-Economic Health Initiative are leading the development effort committed to reaching the most vulnerable women and children in Arusha and Ngorongoro, Tanzania. Over the past year, they have used research funds to provide health services and shared health information with thousands of reproductive-aged women and girls on topics ranging from breast health to healthy birth spacing. Mama Kwanza currently has four clinics offering primary health care services in traditionally underserved communities.

Through the support and expertise of Canadian volunteers, University of Saskatchewan students and faculty and partners on the ground, the group has made an enormous difference—giving women and their children access to health and social supports that make life-changing and sustaining impacts.

One of the Canadian volunteers—Dr. Brianne Hudson—along with local clinical officer Dr. Zenath, truly embraced the vision of this group in the case of 'Tate', who came to them from a remote village with a large facial tumour. This energetic smiling young man was an inspiration, having lived with his condition for nearly five years. The team was able to mobilize resources and partners to send him to Kenya for the required surgery and supports.

"The 'before and after' pictures capture the physical changes, but everyone who worked with 'Tate' remain emotionally touched by his near-daily visits to the Mama Kwanza clinic to bring eggs and goat meat in thanks, and to ask for a pen and paper, so maybe he could one day go to school – a privilege he missed out on, due to his medical condition," said Petrucka. "Next year's project! Thank you to all who have supported this initiative and allowed us to continue on this challenging, yet inspiring work."

'Tate' visits the Mama Kwanza clinic after his surgery

Research Success!

Dr. Angela Bowen

Dr. Noelle Rohatinsky

(l to r) Anna Pacik, Dr. Lois Berry, Dr. Lorna Butler, Mark Tomtene, Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot and Dr. Carol Bullin. Missing: Drs. Janet McCabe, Hope Bilinski and Mary Ellen Andrews.

CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH (CIHR)

- Knowledge Synthesis Grant: Honoring the Voices of Bereaved Caregivers: A Metasynthesis of Qualitative Research with Bereaved Caregivers; ***Dr. L. Holtslander,*** *Ms. S. Baxter* (Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association), Drs. W. Duggleby (University of Alberta), P. Hudson (University of Melbourne), **S. Peacock**, Mr. D. Cooper (Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region), Ms. V. Duncan (University Library)

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (SSHRC)

- Insight Grant: Facilitating Workplace Learning for Internationally-educated Workers and Students, and their Canadian Counterparts: A Participatory Action Project; **Drs. *L. Ferguson*, L. Racine, H. Graham-Marrs, N. Rohatinsky**
- Sport Participation Research Initiative: Rural children and their communities leading the way toward enhancement of sports and recreation; **Drs. *H. Bilinski***, TL. McHugh (University of Alberta), U. Teucher (Psychology), Ms. C. McCallum (Sask Sport Inc.)

GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA

- Stars in Global Health: Pathways to Rural/Remote Health Capacity: Moving Technology from Education to Practice; **Drs. *L. Butler***, C. Divinagracia (University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Centre)

WESTERN NORTH-WESTERN REGION – CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF NURSING (WNRCASN)

- Research Award: Nursing Students' and Instructors' Perceptions of Clinical Environments on Students Learning Environment: A Comparison of Two Different Clinical Models in Four Western Provinces; **Drs. *N. Rohatinsky***, R. Compton (Saskatchewan Polytechnic), M. Sedgwick (University of Lethbridge), Ms. M. Press (Saskatchewan Polytechnic)

BOLD DENOTES COLLEGE OF NURSING FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS; ITALICS DENOTE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS.

College of Nursing researchers have made significant strides forward in their programs of research this year. In addition to the projects that are led (and co-led) by nursing faculty and staff below, a number of our researchers are also engaged as co-investigators and collaborators in numerous health research projects with other research units. Congratulations to all our faculty and staff!

(l to r) Drs. Lorraine Holtslander, Shelley Peacock and Megan O'Connell. Missing: Genevieve Thompson.

(l to r) Safe Environments project facilitator Ruby Maquinay, Dr. Lee Murray and College of Nursing students Lauren Gamble and Jared Nickel

SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION (SHRF)

- Establishment Grant: A Psychosocial Intervention for Bereaved Spousal Caregivers of Persons with Dementia: Adapting the "Finding Balance" Tool; **Drs. *S. Peacock*, L. Holtslander**, M. O'Connell (Psychology), G. Thompson (University of Manitoba)
- Research Connections Grant: Building the Scholarship of Remote Presence Telementoring to Extend its Practice in Health Education and Service Delivery; **Drs. *L. Butler*, L. Berry, M.E. Andrews, C. Bullin, H. Bilinski, J. McCabe, H. Exner-Pirot, Mr. M. Tomtene, Ms. A. Pacik**

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

- One Health Research Development Grant: Join the C^{2}OHRIS: Citizen Centres for One Health Research, Innovation and Surveillance; **Drs. *P. Petrucka, P. Woods***, T. Epp (Western College of Veterinary Medicine, WCVM), E. Jenkins (WCVM), J. Buza (Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology)
- Community-engaged Scholarship Research Seed Funding: Postpartum Depression: Recent Immigrant Mothers' perspectives; **Drs. *A. Bowen***, C. Waldner (WCVM), Ms. K. Banga (PhD candidate)
- Support for Community-engaged Experiential Learning: Street Culture Kidz Youth Engagement Project; **Drs. *M. Dietrich-Leurer*, P. Petrucka, D. Campbell, Ms. H. Cote-Soop, Ms. C. Desautels**
- Support for Community-engaged Experiential Learning: Creating Safe Environments for Adolescents with Developmental Disabilities: Community Partnerships for Collaborative Practice and Student Learning; ***Dr. L. Murray***
- Centre for Forensic Behavioural Sciences and Justice Studies Research Grants:
  - Exploring Palliative Care in Corrections: A Scoping Review; **Drs. *L. Holtslander*, C. Peternelj-Taylor**, M. Burles (Thompson Rivers University), Ms. V. Duncan (University Library)
  - Saskatchewan Provincial Correctional Nurses: Roles, Responsibilities, and Learning Needs; **Drs. *C. Peternelj-Taylor*, P. Woods**
- Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness Curriculum Innovation and Experiential Learning Funds: Inspiring Inter-professional Excellence; **Drs. *S. Bassendowski*, L. Jansen, Ms. A. Mackey, Ms. M. Lockwood, Mr. J. Eisenkirch**

Our Alumni of Influence

As we celebrated our 75th anniversary, we took the opportunity to focus on the accomplishments of our alumni. They are researchers, care-givers, scientists, policy makers, clinicians, teachers, health region CEOs and more. In its 75 years, the College of Nursing has educated and mentored many leaders.

At our 75th anniversary gala, the College of Nursing celebrated our 75th Anniversary Alumni of Influence honourees. Each honouree was nominated by their peers in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the nursing profession. For complete biographies, please visit www.usask.ca/nursing/alumni/influence.php.

SYLVIA ACTON, DNURS'59
Advocacy, Volunteerism

ELI AHLQUIST, BSN'04
Legacy to Nursing

ARNETTE ANDERSON, DNURS'59. Academic Achievement/Acclaim

BEVERLY ANDERSON, DNURS'59. Academic Achievement/Acclaim

SUELLEN BEATTY, BSN'78
Academic Achievement/Acclaim, Advocacy, Mentorship

ANGELA BOWEN, BSN'86
Academic Achievement/Acclaim, Advocacy, Mentorship

YVONNE BROWN, BSN'63
Legacy to Nursing

ANNE CHOLOD, DNURS'57
Advocacy

LYNN DIGNEY-DAVIS, BSN'80
Legacy to Nursing, Mentorship

SHEILA EARLY, BSN'69
Legacy to Nursing

JO-ANN HNATIUK, BSN'95
Academic Achievement/Acclaim

SHIRLEY KERR, BSN'70
Advocacy, Mentorship

ADELINE (ADDIE) LOOMES, BSN'70. Advocacy, Legacy to Nursing

JANET MCKENZIE, BSN'65
Academic Achievement/Acclaim

ELLEN MCRAE, DNURS'59
(awarded posthumously)
Advocacy, Volunteerism

JEAN MORRISON, BSN'83
Legacy to Nursing, Mentorship

MARIAN MORRISSEY, BSN'91
Advocacy, Mentorship

PAMMLA PETRUCKA, BSN'93
Legacy to Nursing

SANDRA PETTIT, BSN'80
Legacy to Nursing

JOAN SAWATZKY, BSN'65
Academic Achievement/Acclaim, Advocacy, Mentorship

BONNIE SCHOENFELD, BSN'68. Mentorship

ANN SCHULMAN, BSN'65
(awarded posthumously)
Volunteerism

JANET SPENCE FONTAINE, BSN'65. Legacy to Nursing

WENDY STEFIUK, BSN'91
Advocacy, Legacy to Nursing

NORMA WILDEMAN, BSN'68
Advocacy

ALUMNI PROFILE

Student Award Impacts Healthcare

I had the distinct pleasure of interviewing one of the past recipients of the Gladys Procyshen Bursary in Public Health, Ashley Cheveldayoff. In doing so, I also learned something very interesting about Gladys Procyshen—she stays in touch with her award winners and continues to mentor them well beyond the year of their award. *– College Relations Officer Anna Pacik*

Meet Ashley Cheveldayoff

Education:

2008 Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology

2010 Bachelor of Science in Nursing

2012 Master of Public Health

Life after the College of Nursing:

- Worked in medicine in a casual position, as there were no full-time positions at the time
- Through a serendipitous wrong-floor exit off a hospital elevator, she saw a University of Saskatchewan School of Public Health poster advertising the Master of Public Health (MPH) program with a deadline of the next day, applied and was accepted
- Completed the MPH program in 2012, while still working full-time in chronic disease management, diabetes education and medicine
- Moved to cardiac rehabilitation where she used her education and skills to identify several gaps and implement solutions in the management of the program
- Takes on projects in order to be part of the change and to create better use of resources

Most proud of:

The connections she has made with people in and beyond the nursing discipline have provided Cheveldayoff with a broad perspective about the nursing impact on health. It has also given her a more holistic view on patient wellbeing. She understands transitioning a patient to their home goes beyond managing their discharge medicine, but also includes involvement in community programs.

Goals:

- Being more involved in health promotion as a health educator in order to impact disease prevention
- Impacting change on health policies

What did it mean to receive a student scholarship?

- Appreciated the financial support
- Loves the connection with Gladys, her advice and encouraging notes
- Will pay it forward in the future

Best advice for nursing students:

"Don't feel like ward nursing is your only option; however, it's a good place to develop your skills. There is a place and a purpose for people to do good nursing work outside of a hospital, so keep your horizons and options open."

"Considering Ashley's education and career trajectory, it is evident she was impacted by Procyshen's undergraduate award in public health and her mentoring connection."

– College Relations Officer Anna Pacik

Generous Donor Impacts How Nursing Looks at Caring Through Student Award

YOU Make a Difference!

"I will never forget her generosity."

Nursing student Becky Riekman with donor Dr. Darlene Pollock Forrest

Dr. Darlene (Darl) Pollock Forrest's rich career in nursing began in 1954 when she entered the nursing diploma program at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S). One of eight children, Forrest grew up on a farm near the small town of Abbey, Saskatchewan. Her older twin sisters, who were nurses, were her inspiration to choose a career in nursing. Following graduation, she was on staff at the university hospital, then lured to California where her twin sisters were settled, where she enjoyed further professional development with exceptional mentors and a lifestyle that provided lasting friendships and strong family ties.

Ten years later, Forrest returned to Canada when she married her husband Bob, an engineer teaching at the University of Alberta (U of A). Forrest continued her nursing career and educational pursuits earning a Master's and PhD in Educational Psychology at the U of A. At that time, she joined the Faculty of Nursing and enjoyed a long and gratifying career, retiring as professor emeritus.

Forrest's passionate focus on caring led her to create a nursing student award at the U of S that would ultimately impact others to consider its importance. The Dr. Darlene Pollock Forrest Award in Nursing is an endowment of $165,000, which provides an annual award of approximately $5,000 to a fourth-year nursing student who "…exemplifies excellence in the ability to combine the art of compassionate caring with the mindful application of nursing theory and knowledge". In the establishment of this award, Forrest hopes to emphasize to faculty and students the fundamental need for the practice of both the art and science of nursing care.

In Forrest's words, "With this award I honour my parents and the value system they lived and imparted to me. I feel fortunate to have been born and raised by caring, sensible parents who valued education. It also represents a thank-you at large to the Saskatchewan I knew growing up and in which I thrived. My thanks and gratitude for a solid educational system, an exceptional health care system and to the U of S, which provided an excellent nursing program as the foundation upon which I built a very successful professional career."

Fourth-year nursing student Becky Riekman was one of two recipients of the Dr. Darlene Pollock Forrest Award in Nursing in 2014. "Receiving a scholarship in my final year of nursing studies has meant so much to me," said Riekman. "I've been putting myself through school, working part-time during term and full-time during summer. During my final practicum, I was unable to work the same hours I usually did. With Dr. Forrest's generous gift, I was able to focus on developing my practice with financial peace of mind. I will never forget her generosity."

How Are We Doing?

In 2013-2014, approximately 1,200 students were studying nursing at the University of Saskatchewan. Here's what a few had to say about us.

The support I've received from the College of Nursing as a student athlete has been amazing. Whether it's the College sending supportive words my way, faculty accommodating me on travel weekends or students congratulating me on team successes, the College has always been there for me. They have given me another group of people to play for and made me proud to represent such a great college at a national level.

Samuel Flores-Richards, BSN Student, Saskatoon

I've enjoyed my graduate studies experience at the U of S. The PhD program has been really enjoyable. The close relationships that have grown from a small cohort of students and very supportive faculty has led to a very positive experience.

Irene Ostapowich, PhD Student, Saskatoon

Having the opportunity to complete the nursing program in Prince Albert has been amazing. I really get to know the students in my class, as well as my instructors. The instructors are always there to help, even if it is out-of-classroom time, which is super-beneficial for students. The clinical rotations I've experienced so far have been rewarding because of the incredible hands-on experience. I would highly recommend applying to the nursing program in Prince Albert.

Kelsey Olson, BSN Student, Prince Albert

I greatly appreciate that faculty and staff were willing to accommodate my individual schedule, which made it possible for me to participate in Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS), while working through the demanding course load in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Nick Foth, BSN Student, Saskatoon

Learning from home has been a blessing, as I am able to focus on my studies without having the added pressures of living away from family and friends, who act as a support system. Taking the program in the north has brought many unique experiences, including learning via the robot. Having our instructors on the robot in the lab setting was very beneficial, as they were able to instruct as if they were here in person. We've become so familiar with the robot that we sometimes forget the instructor on the screen is in Saskatoon and not actually in the room with us. Without remote presence technology, I feel it would have been impossible to complete the entire nursing program in La Ronge.

Christina Davies, BSN Student, La Ronge

Because I am located at the Yorkton site, we have a small class and the small class size is very beneficial to our learning. At times, it even seems as though we are receiving one-on-one instruction. The instructors (located in Regina) do their best to keep us engaged with the students there, and the amount of support we receive in Yorkton is phenomenal. Being from here, I did not have to move, buy/rent another home in a different city and best of all, I get to see my family each and everyday when I get home. Another benefit of completing my program in Yorkton is not having to look for a new job to help pay rent/bills in a different city... I was able to keep my current job and fortunately, I have a very supportive employer who allows me to work when I can.

Eric McDowell, BSN Student, Yorkton

The best part of the post-degree option is we jump right in and get a feel for what lies ahead in our career. This is sometimes overwhelming, but it stretches us as students in such valuable ways that it is beneficial to our future practice. I appreciate the small class size in this program, as we form a great community right away. Because it is a fast-paced program, two years go by really quick. In my final practicum, I was in a rural setting, which I felt allowed me to become well-rounded. Because I had the chance to experience so many different things, it gave me a chance to figure out where my niche as a future RN might be.

Trent Leland, Post-Degree BSN Student, Saskatoon

At the University of Saskatchewan Regina Campus, I can pursue my aspirations of becoming a nurse, while learning in my home community. I get to attend a nationally distinguished program, have the benefits of instruction from world-renowned professors and I never have to consider uprooting my husband and two kids. This program allows me to stay true to all of my priorities and supports me along the way.

Pamela Rice, BSN Student, Regina

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FOR STUDENTS 2014–15

You can brighten the future

There are students at the University of Saskatchewan right now that have the potential to change the world. The time they spend working, studying and learning is setting the groundwork for a powerful tomorrow. They are our future leaders, teachers, scientists and health-care providers—but they need your help to fulfill their dreams.

Your gift to the Annual Campaign for Students 2014-15 gives hard-working students a little more light when they need it most—from tuition assistance for those in need of financial support to scholarships for remarkable academic and artistic achievements.

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On the Back Cover:

Top Left – Regina Campus students at 75th anniversary
Middle – In Touch Health award recipients
Bottom Left – Alumna Dr. Darlene Pollock Forrest and BSN student Becky Riekman
Right – High school students at Health Links College of Nursing station

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