



Atlantic Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing

Region Atlantique Association Canadienne des Écoles de Sciences Infirmières

Newsletter 33, Summer 2011

A message from the President (Summary of the Report to the Annual General Meeting, June 2011)

I would like to acknowledge the support from the Executive Committee and the school representatives of ARCASN as well as the general membership. The ARCASN's executive met three times since the Annual General Meeting, May 2010, held in St. John's, NL. A one day meeting was held at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on September 24, 2010. We met once via teleconference on February 8, 2011 and our spring meeting will be held in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, June 17, 2011.

ARCASN's President participated at the CASN Board of Directors meeting, held November 16 and 17, 2010, at Lac Lemay, Gatineau, Québec. Dr. Patricia Benner was the keynote speaker. She presented excerpts from her most recent publication "*Educating Nurses: A Call for Radical Transformation*". Other interesting presentations included "*Recruiting and Retaining Aboriginal Students*" by the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada and a review of the White Paper "*Where Do we go from Here*", by Dr. Siobhan Neilson. She congratulated ARCASN for using the White Paper in the revision of their Strategic plan for 2010-2012. Evelyn Kennedy, Cape Breton University and Vicki Greenslade, Centre for Nursing Studies were re-elected to the CASN board as members for the Atlantic Region.

On February 7, 2011 the President attended a teleconference for Presidents of the CASN regions that provided the attendees with a forum for identifying and discussing issues in nursing education and research, including the changing clinical environment, the lack of clinical placements for the students, and the shortage of nursing faculty.

Over the past year, the ARCASN executive has worked hard to increase ARCASN's profile with several members sitting on national task forces and on the CRNE Exam Committee and its sub-committees. This past year ARCASN's executive has continued to pursue the activities outline in our strategic plan. We continue to meet our mission and reflect the changing needs in our region. In fall 2010 the Executive met and revised the Strategic Plan for 2010-2011. The Constitution and Bylaw documents were translated into French in January, 2011. These documents are available on ARCASN's website.

ARCASN continues to work hard at improving communication with our membership by producing a concise annual newsletter. This effort would not be possible without Pearl Herbert our editor. This newsletter can be found on our web site. Thank you to the Deans and Directors for their ongoing support, and to the ARCASN Executive and the school representatives on the executive committee. A very special thanks to every nursing educator for their support and collaboration in teaching nursing students to provide safe, competent, and ethical care to the people of the Atlantic provinces.

Respectfully submitted, Creina Twomey, ARCASN President (2010-2012).

The purpose of ARCASN is to provide an organized body to promote the advancement of nursing and research education in Atlantic Canadian schools of nursing and to cooperate with the other regions in meeting the objectives of the Canadian Associations of Schools of Nursing (CASN). ARCASN includes the four Atlantic Provinces: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador.

ARCASN membership year is July 1 to June 30. The date of the first Newsletter was fall 1996. At the 2007 ARCASN meeting it was decided that instead of each semester there would be an annual newsletter. The Constitution and Bylaws, along with other News, are displayed on the web site: www.arcasn.ca

ARCASN/ACENRA Council, 2010/2011

President: Creina Twomey (MUN); **President Elect:** Audrey Walsh (CBU);

Treasurer: Glenda Cuning (WRSON); **Secretary:** Doreen Dawe (MUN)

Representatives: Brenda Tobin (CNS); Christina Murray (UPEI)
Cyndee MacPhee (CBU); Diane Morin (UdeM);
Debbie Sheppard-Lemoine (Dal); Doreen Westera (MUN)
Donna Beiswanger (StFX); Donna Bulman (UNBF)
Alexia Barnable (WRSON); Nancy Logue (UNBSJ)
Newsletter Editor: Pearl Herbert (MUN)

ARCASN Education Committee Report Chairperson: Christina Murray (UPEI)

The nine members of this committee met twice via teleconference. The revised 2009 terms of reference were reviewed and as this small committee only meets twice yearly the need to appoint a secretary was discussed with the ARCASN Executive. The recommendation was to change the wording to “The Secretary may be decided by the Committee”. The priority for the educational development fund poster being given to development or implementation of an innovative teaching strategy, and secondly the funding can be awarded to support travel or expenses related to attending an educational conference. The committee decided to use the same evaluation criteria with a small amendment. Eight applications were received for this year’s ARCASN Education Awards competition. Each application was discussed in light of the established awards criterion. The Award recipients are: Peggy Colbourne and Erica Hurley (WRSON) for a project entitled; *Developing and Integrating Simulated Clinical Learning (SCL) Using High Fidelity Manikins into Undergraduate Pediatric Nursing Curricula*. Suzanne Harrison and Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard (UdeM) for their project entitled *S.I.M.P.L.E.: Making an Innovative Mediatized Tool Even Better*.

ARCASN Research Committee Report Chairperson: Ann Rhéaume (Université de Moncton)

The seven members of the research committee met in early May to review the research proposals submitted for the ARCASN research grant awards. The committee has seen an increase in the number of proposals submitted over the last three years and the overall quality of the proposals has also improved steadily. This past year, we have reviewed 10 proposals and will be giving research funds to the following two applicants:

Cynthia Brown (MUN) Title of research project: *Assessing the impact of a high-fidelity simulated interprofessional clinical experience on the attitudes, collaboration and teamwork of health sciences students: A pilot study*

Kathryn Weaver (UNB) Title of research project: *Health professional perspectives of eating disorders across Atlantic Canada*

Members of the committee will be reviewing the research strategic plan in late August and making recommendations.

Nominations for Life Members and Honorary Members

Criteria for a **life member** are: a former member of ARCASN, recommended by the Executive Committee for distinguished service or valuable assistance to the Association over time (ARCASN Constitution, Article III). Retiring or resigning from a school of nursing after long standing membership. Nominees should have more than one of the following: long-standing membership, held executive positions, held committee positions, or made other significant contribution(s). This honour is not intended for every retiring faculty member. Life members may attend meetings but have no voting privileges. Nominations, showing that the criteria have been met, should be signed by two persons and submitted to the ARCASN President in the Winter Semester.

Criteria for an **honorary member** are: a person, who was not a former member of ARCASN, retiring or

resigning from a position, in or associated with the Nursing Profession. Recommended by the Executive for distinguished service or valuable assistance to Nursing in the Atlantic region over time. This honour is not intended for everyone retiring/resigning from a nursing/associated position. Honorary members may attend meetings but have no voting privileges. Nominations, showing that the criteria have been met, should be signed by two persons and submitted to the ARCASN President in the Winter Semester.

Life Members who have been honoured for their contributions to ARCASN:

Electa MacLennan (Dal) 1971	Elizabeth Summers (MUN) 1981	Margaret Bradley (Dal) 1985
Dorothy Wiswall (Dal) 1985	Margaret McLachlan (UNB) 1986	Ruby Dewling (MUN) 1987
Joan Mills (SFX) 1989	Shirley McLeod (UNB) 1990	Hope Toumishey (MUN) 1990
Shirley Alcoe (UNB) 1991	Huberte Poirier (UdM) 1992	June Agnew (MUN) 1993
Frances Pynn Gabriel (UNB) 1996	Elizabeth Lambie (Dal) 1996	Purnima Sen (MUN) 1996
Dorothy Wasson (UNB) 1997	Heather Fraser-Davey (Dal) 1997	Pearl Herbert (MUN) 1997
Carol Brehaut (UPEI) 1998	Margaret Munro (UPEI) 1998	Marilyn Marsh (MUN) 1998
Margaret Arklie (Dal) 1999	Penny Ericson (UNB) 2001	Jeannette Walsh (MUN) 2001
Saru Sony (SFX) 2001	Sr Loretta Gillis, (SFX) 2002	Kay Matthews (MUN) 2002
Violeta Ribeiro (MUN) 2003	Patricia Davidson (UNB) 2004	Maureen Laryea (MUN) 2005
Sylvia Poirier (UPEI) 2006		

Honorary Members honoured for distinguished service or valuable assistance to the region:

Vera Dewar (PEI) 2001 Janet Story (NL) 2002

News in Brief

Cape Breton University CBU had 43 students graduate in the spring. There will be a total of 272 students next year across the four years. Currently there 13 tenured or tenure track nursing professors; 7 permanent Nursing Practice Educators (NPE); and one term NPE. We are currently seeking to hire an additional term NPE for the upcoming year as well as 1-2 part time NPEs to accommodate need as our increased student numbers move through the program. We currently have 5 faculty in PhD studies at various stages with a couple near completion. As a new program, CBU was granted a 4 year accreditation approval by CASN and CRNNS, which was a year above the maximum for a Path A, Stage 1 approval for a new program, effective until July 2014.

The use of Ipods in the clinical area continues for all of our nursing students with CBU covering the expense of the licensing with Nursing Central. New lab ready to roll in the fall with several NPEs and faculty intending to integrate simulation into course and clinical work. All new students will be assigned a Faculty/NPE member when coming into the program to whom they can turn to for support and guidance throughout their four years. Aboriginal and International students will have an additional mentorship program established. The nursing program is partnering with the Student Union who will pair each incoming student with a peer in a higher program level to allow for a more formal peer-peer support. Corrine McIsaac received the 2011 Excellence in Nursing Research Award CRNNS, and the IT Innovation Award from Innova Corp. She is part of a Pan Canadian Research Team investigating patient safety at home who have had 1 million dollars awarded to identify safety risks with care in homes, and is President and CEO of Health Outcomes Worldwide, working in measurement and improvement outcomes. Several other faculty members have sizeable research grants, and many have published in journals and chapters in books.

Centre for Nursing Studies. This past year the CNS offered the BN Collaborative with 386 students, LPN Bridging Option, BN NP, and Continuing Nursing Studies programs. There were 110 graduates from the BN (Collaborative) program. The first class to enter the LPN Bridging Option convocated May (2011). Sixteen students have been accepted for this year's Bridging program. The first graduates from the BN NP program graduated in the fall 2010. The BN NP program will continue until 2013. Continuing Nursing Studies currently has 10 programs running to address provincial demands for continuing education courses for RNs and LPNs. There were a total of 597 students enrolled in these continuing education courses over this past year. In the PN program 47 graduated in December 2010. The PN program is presently brokered in seven sites across the province and Jamaica with a projected intake of approximately 250 students, and is looking at brokering the program in Dominica. The CNS has finished its work in Central America, and is now submitting to CIDA proposals for other countries.

Through a partnership agreement with MUNSON faculty are continuing to work on courses for the MNPHC- NP program. This program will be offered in September, 2012. The BN revised curriculum is progressing. Work continues

on curriculum revisions/new course offerings/revisions. Interprofessional projects are ongoing in years 2 - 4 of the BN program.

Faculty has been involved in chairing, planning and presenting at a number of refereed conferences. Faculty members have been provided with a variety of professional development opportunities and currently are involved in research studies amounting to approximately \$190,000. There are four faculty members in varying stages of doctoral studies and two clinical faculty have completed their Masters degree.

In 2008, the BN Collaborative program received a 7-year accreditation rating from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) and from the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (ARNNL).

This year the Centre celebrated its fifteenth year anniversary. In July we will bid a happy retirement to our Director, Joan Rowsell, and welcome Dr. Anne Kearney as the new Director of the Centre for Nursing Studies.

Dalhousie University. This has been a year of sustained enrollment in the undergraduate program at Dalhousie with 185 seats filled at the Halifax site and 25 seats at the Yarmouth site. The high enrolment places considerable strain on the availability of clinical placements; especially in Year 1 and 2 of the program. The cooperative nursing program between Dalhousie SON and Department of Health ran for its 9th year. The upcoming co-op experience has 57 students placed for employment. An Internship was implemented for 10 weeks at the end of the 4th year of the program for the fourth time. Evaluation of the internship is very positive from stakeholders and students. There is discussion as to whether 10 weeks is necessary. The number of qualified applicants for the Post-RN BScN program has remained relatively small resulting in a small number of students being admitted for the fall of 2011. The program is currently under review as to whether it will be offered in the future. The BScN (Nunavut Arctic Nursing Program) continues to attract new students.

The graduate programs were reviewed in the fall of 2010 by Dalhousie Graduate Studies and the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia and the report of these reviews is pending. There are 21 PhD in nursing students and 87 masters of nursing students. The nurse practitioner program continues to be very popular and is offered at the master's level and includes two foci; one on caring for adults and a second with a focus on primary health care and working with families of all ages. The first master's cohort of 4 students graduated from the collaborative project between Dalhousie and Aurora College in Yellowknife, NWT.

Faculty research, publications and presentations locally, nationally and internationally continue to grow at the school.

The school was given program approval from the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia and CASN in 2011.

The Sigma Theta Tau Rho Rho Chapter continues to remain active and annually continues to host the induction of new members and presents a prize to a graduating student in the BScN program as a result of active fund raising activities.

Memorial University of Newfoundland. During the year a total of 78 students graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing degree (44 collaborative students; 13 post-RN students; 21 fast track students). Fifteen students graduated with a Master of Nursing degree - 9 practicum, 5 thesis, and 1 NP Diploma (Post-MN). MUNSON BN students advanced to the national finals in the Canadian Evaluation Society Program Evaluation Student Case Competition on May 2, 2011, and placed in the top three, the first time in the 16 years of the competition that a nursing team advanced to the finals. Dr. S. MacDonald, a faculty member at MUNSON is the students' coach. In November, 2010, MUNSON students launched the first ever Canadian nursing student chapter of Kidney Cancer Canada at the School of Nursing. MUNSON students took an active role in deciding the future of their national nursing student association at the 40th Annual National Conference of CNSA in January, by presenting five resolutions; three of the resolutions were passed to become the official position of the CNSA. The students who presented the resolutions were in Dr. S. MacDonald's senior leadership course. The School of Nursing is exploring new curriculum options for undergraduate accelerated nursing education. The School of Nursing worked with our collaborator, the Centre for Nursing Studies to achieve Senate approval (April 2011) to transition the BN (Post-RN) Primary Health Care NP program to the master's level. Contingent on ARNNL approval, students will be admitted to the new MN-NP Family All Ages program in September 2012.

In March, 2011, the School of Nursing submitted a proposal to the School of Graduate Studies for a new PhD program. This program will be the 14th nursing PhD program in Canada and the second program east of Montreal. We look forward to feedback from our external reviewers and we are optimistic that our first cohort will commence classes in September 2012. Plans continue for a new consolidated model of nursing education in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Under the proposed model, the Centre for Nursing Studies and the MUN School of Nursing would consolidate to form a new Faculty of Nursing (Memorial, St. John's) and the Western Regional School of Nursing would become a Division within Memorial, Grenfell Campus. In the future we are hoping this will mean a new building in St. John's.

Dr Lan Gien was awarded the 2010 National Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Women Development, by the Vietnam National Women's Union, Hanoi, Vietnam. Dr Lan Gien is a 2011 Member of CIHR "Doctoral Research Awards" Committee. Faculty members have been awarded grants for research and have been publishing in journals and other literature, and producing AV material. Life Member, Ruby Dewling, died January 24, 2011. For the first few years after the ARCASN Research Committee was formed she would give an annual donation toward the Seed Grants Awards.

St Francis Xavier University. Twenty-two Post Degree and Accelerated Option students graduated in December 2010; Seventy-two students graduated from the generic program and twenty-six students graduated from the Post RN Distance program with their BScN in May 2011. We anticipate another large freshman enrolment in September 2011 (120 students). This will bring our total on campus enrolment to 463 students this fall. We have placed 58 students into co-op positions. They are placed in all health districts throughout the province except DHA 2. They are in acute care/addiction services/VON/Public Health and Long Term Care. An increase of clinical hours was introduced in 1st and 2nd year of the program in 2010. A new Community Health Course for 4th year students has been developed and approved. In February 2011 the Committee on Black and Aboriginal Student Success received funding from the Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative/Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat for a second project to support efforts at recruitment and support of Aboriginal students and hired a program facilitator in April for an eleven month contract. The SON began offering the Aboriginal Nursing Student Seminar Option (ANSSO) in 2009 and continues to do so in order to support first year Aboriginal nursing students. A group of 4th year nursing students travelled to Rwanda for their 4 week consolidation experience. In October 2010, the STFX nursing students hosted a very successful and well attended ARCNSA conference.

The School of Nursing received notification of a successful accreditation result from the CRNNS and CASN in the fall 2010. The university has decided to make the Director Position a 3 year position and an invitation for applications is posted. The administration is not approving the move to a Faculty of Nursing at this time. There are preliminary discussions on space utilization in the School of Nursing.

Retired faculty member, Sister M. Simone Roach, recently received the Order of Canada Award.

A book launch was held to honour Saru Sony, retired faculty member and an ARCASN life member.

Université de Moncton. The nursing program is offered by the School of Research and Health Science at three sites; Edmundston, Bathurst, and Moncton, under the responsibility of the Université de Moncton. In total for the three campuses, there were 556 students in the BScN program, 26 in the Nurse Practitioner (1 graduated), and 22 in the Master degree with thesis (1 graduated). For the bachelor degree for the registered nurses, 69 are registered and 5 graduated, and this program will come to an end by spring 2014. There are 23 permanent faculty members and 41 others. The first year of our new program was implemented. The students' comments were very positive with this new form of teaching and learning, which is learning through clinical nursing cases and problem base teaching. One student is going to the Dominican Republic for six weeks, April-May 2011. Last fall there was a collaborative project with the Department of Information Management where students studied ethics, confidentiality, clinical notes and the importance of documentation during conflict or legal process.

Last summer three weeks of camp allowed 45 students, aged 11-14, to integrate health issues.

Faculty members have been receiving grants towards research and have been publishing in various journals.

Accreditation by NANB, CASN and the Université de Moncton, will occur this fall.

University of New Brunswick - Fredericton. There were 127 graduates from the BN program offered at three sites, Fredericton, Moncton, Bathurst. There were 16 students who graduated from the Master of Nursing program. At spring Convocation 2011, Dr. Judy Wuest, and Professor Getty Professor received Professor Emerita awards, and Dr. Cheryl Gibson was also named as Dean Emerita. Prior to Convocation Dr. Margaret Dykeman was awarded the President's medal in recognition of her distinguished career at UNB. Faculty continue work on abilities-based learning; continuation of the Aboriginal Nursing Initiative; continuing development of the Centre for Public Scholarship of Engagement in Primary Health Care, and continue to receive research and project funding from a variety of agencies.

University of New Brunswick - Saint John. At spring Convocation 31 students graduated from the BN program and 18 post basic students completed their BN RN studies. Currently for 2011/2012, there will be 218 BN students across all four years of the program with 53 students expected to enter year one this fall. Six year-4 students will travel to Tanzania for 2 weeks in June to participate in volunteer community activities, and 2 students completed a year-3 fall semester in a student exchange with the University of Tennessee at Martin.

As of January, 2011, all nursing students and faculty at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John campus have access to Nursing Central software via a site license. We have also recently started to formally evaluate student and faculty responses to the use of mobile devices within clinical practice environments. Data collection is to continue for the 2011-2012 academic year. Several year-4 students submitted papers to a national competition sponsored by the Health Council of Canada to identify a best practice in health care that deserves to be a model for the rest of Canada. Seven

students were short listed for awards and two students received a second place Health Innovation Award. They received a monetary prize and travel to the awards ceremony in Ottawa where they met with thought leaders from Health Canada. Faculty and students from UNB Saint John Nursing and New Brunswick Community College Respiratory Programs partnered with trauma clinicians to provide an interactive workshop. Three faculty members are pursuing PhD studies at UNB in the Faculty of Education. Faculty continue to publish articles. In July 2011 seven nursing faculty members and two librarians will attend the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Workshop at Queens University, for training sessions to become certified to author systematic reviews for JBI. Our goal is to become an internationally recognized JBI Center.

University of Prince Edward Island. On May 7, 2011 67 students graduated from the BScN program and 12 were from the first class of accelerated nursing students. These 12 students wrote their CRNE's in February 2011 and achieved a 100% success rate. Simulation is continuing to be used as a means to support student learning in the learning resource lab. Approval was received for a Master of Nursing program. This program will be offered in two streams; nurse practitioner and thesis, and accepted students will begin September 2011. A nurse practitioner faculty member is being hired for the MN program.

The School of Nursing participated in the *Canada, Mexico, and United States of America Student Exchange Program*, collaborative project with Dalhousie University. UPEI received funding for four years from CIDA for the Students for Development Project. This funding will support continued collaborative work between the School of Nursing and Farmers Helping Farmers in Kenya, and over the next four years allow students to participate in this project. In June, three fourth year nursing students will go to Kenya. These clinical experiences will count towards their final nursing fourth year clinical focus course. Accreditation review by CASN occurred in March 2011, and there was positive oral feedback by the accreditation team. A final decision regarding accreditation will be provided to the School of Nursing by CASN in July. Faculty members have been busy publishing.

Western Regional School of Nursing. A four year BN program and a two year fast track option are offered at WRSON in collaboration with our partners Memorial University of Newfoundland School of Nursing (MUNSON) and the Centre for Nursing Studies (CNS). There is an affiliation with Grenfell Campus of Memorial University where the students complete their non-nursing courses. In fall 2010 there were 63 new admissions to the generic BN collaborative program and seven fast track admissions. A total of 36 undergraduate students graduated in May 2011. Eight students from fast track option program graduated in October 2010. Scholarship activities follow Boyer's Model.

The school continues to collaborate with the Centre for Collaborative Health Professional Education at MUN, for the development and delivery of Interprofessional Education modules. The fast track program is under revision. In 2008, WRSON along with its collaborative partners MUNSON and the CNS, received CASN accreditation award and approval from the ARNNL for seven years. Annual approval reports are submitted to ARNNL and the most recent report January 2011 continues to show positive results. One faculty member completed a PhD program spring 2011 and another faculty member is completing a PhD program, while others are completing Masters of Nursing programs.

Please remember to forward the reports for the 2012 Newsletter to Pearl H when preparing for the next AGM. Also change of addresses for Life and Honorary Members.

Have a good year. pberbert@mun.ca