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In Memoriam
Last year I had the pleasure of reporting that the School of Nursing was getting bigger. For the 2007–08 year our enrolment has increased once again, as we expect the student body to go beyond the 500 mark. In today’s world, where nursing is being asked to take on a larger role in the delivery of health care, our continuing growth is timely and particularly important.

Faculty members have made a commitment to meet the challenges that accompany the wave of growth. They are exploring new approaches to teaching and supervising larger numbers of students in hospitals and community settings. They are engaged in major research and educational projects locally and in the national and international arenas. They have developed partnerships with colleagues in nursing and across the disciplines in order to maximize resources and enrich their productivity. In this sea of activity, we are riding the wave!

One of the highlights of the 2006–07 year was the arrival of six new faculty members in both non-tenure and tenure-track positions. Franco Carnevale, Céline Gélinas, Sandie Larouche and Sonia Semenic are fully immersed in their academic responsibilities and are profiled in this issue of the newsletter. Elaine Doucette and Fiona Hanley, clinician-educators with interests in critical care and community health, are joining us this fall. Faculty growth and renewal will continue to be an issue as faculty members leave the School or retire. We will be working to adjust the mix of permanent faculty and contracted teachers and to improve the faculty-to-student ratio.

A major event for the School has been the opening of the Medical Simulation Centre. Located on Park Avenue, the Centre provides all the professional schools with state-of-the-art learning tools, ranging from computerized mannequins to trained actors who serve as simulated patients. In this environment, practice takes on a whole new meaning. Nursing students were the first users of this facility — practising basic skills, taking medical histories and conducting physical examinations, and learning the interviewing techniques required for carrying out qualitative nursing research.

The School now has two graduates of the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner stream of the master’s program: Marianne Lapointe and Margarida Ribeiro da Silva. Hats off to these two young women for their commitment and their willingness to take on the challenge of being the first students in a new program! The success and quality of the program are a reflection of the time and effort invested by many individuals from both nursing and medicine. Richard Gosselin and his medical colleagues and Carol Ann Sherman and the neonatal nurse practitioners at the Montreal Children’s Hospital worked very hard to ensure that the knowledge and skills of advanced nursing practice were well integrated into this new nursing role.

A second Nurse Practitioner stream, for primary care nurse practitioners, is planned for the fall. This program will be delivered on site at the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue as well as locally. This is an important initiative not only for the School of Nursing but also for the University and the Faculty of Medicine, which has a
responsibility to provide specialized services for almost half of the geographic area of Quebec.

Other highlights have been the renewal of funding for GRISIM (Groupe de recherche interuniversitaire en sciences infirmières de Montréal) and FERASI (Formation et expertise en recherche et administration des services infirmiers). GRISIM, a joint undertaking of the McGill School of Nursing and the Faculty of Nursing at the Université de Montréal, has as its mandate the promotion of nursing intervention research. FERASI, a joint project of McGill, Université de Montreal and Université Laval, provides support for the development of nursing services administration and research. Both of these groups provide funds to support students and to create a network where ideas are discussed and collaborative projects are initiated.

I am happy to report that support for the School’s activities comes not only from external organizations but also through contributions from our own alumnae and friends. This year, with the gift of Elizabeth Logan, Director of the School from 1963 to 1971, we were able to establish an endowed Director’s Development Fund, which will enable future Directors to support special projects that showcase nursing in its many dimensions.

I invite you to read about the variety of activities taking place at the School. Stories about our student organizations — the Nursing Undergraduate Society and the graduate students’ Colleagueship — will provide you with a picture of student life at McGill. We are particularly proud of the continuing success of CJNR (formerly Canadian Journal of Nursing Research), the School’s little jewel, published under the able leadership of Laurie Gottlieb and Joanna Toti. Take a look at a new section in this newsletter devoted to news from individual alumnae. It will give you an opportunity to connect with old friends and to learn about the remarkable roads that nurses take in their professional careers. I encourage you to get in touch with us and share some of your own news and experiences.

A Word from the Alumnae President

Rachel Boissonneault

The year 2006–07 has been a very special one for the School of Nursing Alumnae Association. For instance, the energetic and very involved former President, Martha Ann Stewart, gave up her position to take on new challenges. As the new President, I want to take this opportunity to formally thank Martha for her many years of dedication and hard work for our alumnae as well as for all the photographs she has taken over the years.

In February the Alumnae Association participated in the 2007 Regional Thank-a-Thon, an event during which we telephoned all of our donors to thank them for their generous monetary gifts to the School of Nursing. I want to acknowledge the participation of faculty members Catherine Gros and Laurie Gottlieb (and her husband) and the School’s Director, Hélène Ezer, as well as to thank the several students who kindly gave their time. My own particular role was to call School of Nursing graduates, and I was pleased to hear that the well-being of the School was still close to their hearts.

In my role as President, I have developed an active collaboration with the Development and Alumni Relations Office of the Faculty of Medicine, in the person of Melanie Lane. Mrs. Lane helped us to increase our visibility in the Faculty through an advertisement in Medicine in Focus, the Faculty newsletter. Her support has been crucial to me in developing my new role.

Finally, let me use these remaining few lines to invite all School of Nursing graduates to join me in building a strong and proud Alumnae Association. We can together support the excellence of our School not only through monetary contributions but also through our involvement and our ideas. Please join an Alumnae committee and/or pass along your suggestions and comments to me.

With best wishes for a pleasant year.
dated,” one student commented, “knowing that I was being videotaped and that people were watching me through a mirror. But then I realized how helpful it was to watch myself and get feedback from everyone. I especially learned from watching other students — I know what I’m not supposed to do, but that doesn’t mean I know what to do!” Linda Crelinsten, Manager, and Lisa Kagan, Standard-ized Patient Coordinator, have been extremely helpful in working with our teachers and students. We are most appreciative.

Thanks to our generous alumnae funds, several scholarships were granted this year to BScN students for their high academic performance, as part of our in-course awards program. The recipients were: Marisa Robert, C. F. Wong Award; Angie Dion, Laura Stinson and Diana Moore, McConnell Awards; and Chelsea Wengzynowski and Kathryn McNaughton, School of Nursing Faculty Awards.

This year, our students hosted the Quebec region conference of the Canadian Nursing Students’ Association. Many nursing students particularly enjoyed the presentations on the topic of international health. The organizers were successful in ensuring the participation of student representatives from across the province. They were even able to secure key union leaders and Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec representatives as speakers. Faculty members were impressed, and very proud.

We have had our first experience with the McGill University Student Exchange. One of our final-year students spent his last semester at the University of Melbourne

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**Bachelor of Science (Nursing)**

**Madeleine Buck**

Assistant Director, BScN Program

We have several updates to report since the last issue of the newsletter. The Bachelor of Science (Nursing) program continues to be filled with much academic work, yet many of our students manage to participate in a range of related School, University and community activities.

The McGill Medical Simulation Centre opened in fall 2006 and our second-year BScN students were its very first learners. A videotape was made of these students’ first day, and was viewed by all of those who attended the opening ceremonies. Teachers have been modifying their approach to teaching and learning so as to take advantage of the value-added aspect of this marvellous facility. Our Health and Physical Assessment courses were run there, and students had the benefit of a modern clinic-like setting in which to learn. A range of technical-skills training workshops in several clinical courses were held at the Medical Simulation Centre — unlike many of our graduates, these students didn’t have to pretend there was suction as they practised oropharyngeal suctioning! Clinical teachers created scenarios from students’ hospital encounters and then used standardized patients (including children) and the true-to-life clinical environment of the Centre to help students learn. Students identified debriefing with classmates and teachers as an excellent learning experience. “At first I was intimi-
in Australia (a university partner in Universitas 21). We will be hosting the “counter-exchange” this fall when a student from Melbourne will spend the semester as a second-year nursing student at McGill. This is a new and exciting opportunity for our students. Closer to home, students benefit from a wealth of clinical learning experiences in the McGill University teaching network. More and more community agencies are supporting our students as we make a consolidated effort to increase the primary health care component of our program. Our international placement option in the final clinical internship remains popular. This year, students studied in Ghana, Australia, the Channel Islands and Bolivia.

We look forward to receiving readers’ comments or suggestions for future projects.

Bachelor of Nursing (Integrated)
Marcia Beaulieu
Assistant Director, BNI Program

The 2006–07 academic year was marked by several highlights. Student enrolment continued to be robust although less so than in the previous year, when the numbers were exceptionally high. Seventy-two students entered the program, with a shift upward in the proportion of students from other consortia (Francophone) compared with those from the McGill Consortium (Anglophone).

Incoming student Natalia Feigin (Vanier College) was awarded a Woodrow scholarship and later the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec (OIIQ) bursary for BNI students. Grzegorz Sobieraj (John Abbott College) received a fellowship from the PICH training grants as well as a renewal of his Woodrow scholarship from the previous year; he also received the Barbara Anne Altshuler Prize upon graduation as the BNI student with the highest Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) and Great Distinction. Other award winners were Josette Perreault (Bois de Boulogne), who received an OIIQ bursary for a three-year BN student, and Stephanie Sereda (Dawson College), who graduated with Distinction and received the Pearson Book Prize for the graduating student with the second-highest CGPA.

A total of 40 students from the BN/BNI program graduated in spring 2007, eight with Distinction: Andréanne Guimont-Depeyre (Sept-Îles), Marie-Eve Gaudette (Édouard-Montpetit), Carolyn Brown (Vanier), Else Leon (Dawson), Maria Viduya (Vanier), Christelle Bouthillette (Édouard-Montpetit), Devon Laframboise (John Abbott) and Stephanie Sereda.

Kudos also to Christelle Bouthillette and Robin Guyer (John Abbott), whose final-year community project was selected by the University for entry in the prestigious provincial competition Forces d’Avenir. Their project, ABC: Adolescents Believing in Communication, focused on promoting teen–parent communication.

Program changes continue as we gain experience. A lighter load in the first semester was greatly appreciated by the students. Shifting Health and Physical Assessment to the second semester facilitated the integration of this content into the clinical course that followed in the summer. The summer clinical course was taken to a new level, and students rose to the challenge. Listening to almost 20 of their presentations, I was impressed by the high quality of their work, their appreciation for research and their evident pride in their achievements. Several student groups also presented to nurses in the settings where the projects originated, and were gratified to see their value acknowledged.

For the academic year 2007–08, Research in Nursing is being offered in the first semester of the first year of the BNI instead of in the second year. This change will provide BNI students with the same timely access to research content that has been available to BScN students for the last two years. Placing research earlier will ensure better preparation for Social Psychology, which will now be offered in the winter, and for all subsequent courses that require research papers and a better understanding of the research underlying evidence-based practice.

Physiology continues to present a hurdle to a significant minority of BNI students, despite two semesters of additional tutoring supported by the School. We will continue to work with the Physiology Department and with the CEGEPs to improve students’ performance in these critical foundational courses.

In its short history, the BNI program is beginning to show some very positive results. During the academic year, day-to-day concerns and real challenges can easily overshadow the growing strengths of the program. By stepping back at the end of each year, we are able to see more clearly its enormous potential for developing the new nurses who are the future of our profession.

Community Health Nursing
Cheryl Armistead
Faculty Lecturer

It is two years since our last update on teaching and learning in community health nursing (CHN) at McGill. I welcome the opportunity to highlight key challenges and successes in our program. It would be impossible to teach a socio-ecological approach to health, as I do, without reflecting upon how the McGill CHN program continues to evolve in response to multiple determinants across all levels of society. Just as communities are shaped by dynamic interactions and relationships between people and their environments, our program is shaped by the
quality and quantity of personal, professional and community interactions.

Professionally, we strive to ensure that our program is evidence-based in theory and practice. It is now firmly and explicitly based on Canadian Community Health Nursing Standards of Practice. We believe two key tenets of quality learning in CHN are the development of relationships over time and continuity of care across the health-care continuum. Our vision of nursing dictates that CHNs work in collaboration with people, families and populations where they live, learn, work, play and pray. Accordingly, we strive to negotiate two-term community-based learning opportunities for our students. These placements offer students the opportunity to increase their knowledge about caring for families in the context of community. Students also learn basic competencies in aggregate and community-level health promotion through the application of theory within their CHN team projects. This integrated approach to CHN education is aimed at preparing graduates to work within an ever-widening scope of nursing practice in modern health-care systems. The success of this approach is dependent on the active engagement of each and every member of the collaborative teaching-learning team.

Our undergraduate nursing program continues to grow. We welcomed new BNI students into the CHN program in 2005–06. The arrival of these students meant that the class size increased to 77 students that year and to 104 in 2006–07. This tremendous expansion occurred without an equivalent increase in resources, and in concert with significant changes in the community settings secondary to reorganization of the health-care system. Naturally, students, faculty and our community partners all felt the effects. A major preoccupation has been the imperative to develop successful partnerships for community learning while also taking into account the size of preceptors' workload in times of constant change. Our partners contribute to a kaleidoscope of values, opinions and approaches to community health. Our desire to integrate multiple perspectives while promoting our vision and standards contributes to a sense of challenge in CHN education. Given the turbulent state that communities are in these days, we deeply appreciate being sustained by the wealth of experiential wisdom our community partners generously share with students and faculty alike. The opportunities for mutual growth and success are nurtured within our collaborative relationships across and beyond the McGill RUIS (Réseau universitaire intégré de santé).

Let me highlight some of our recent accomplishments. We placed 104 students with over 149 community partners (who either worked in direct preceptorship roles or helped to create conditions for learning) at more than 20 sites on and off the Island of Montreal. We piloted a new collaborative teaching model that saw two CSSSs (Centre de santé et de services sociaux) lend a nurse to fill a McGill CHN faculty position during the fall and winter sessions.

Fall 2006 graduates Leanne Michaela Cribb, Angela Kerubo Mwancha, David “Klink” Klinkusoom, Lélia Holden and Annique Decary
Hermes Cornejo assumed responsibility for teaching and learning at CSSS Cavendish and Nancy Gantzkw at CSSS Lachine/LaSalle. This created an opportunity to keep the academic program grounded in the reality of practice while also contributing to the professional development of two frontline practitioners. Additionally, it helped one of our newer RUIS partners to become acquainted with McGill through their own lens. We hope to sustain and extend this model across our RUIS partners in 2007–08 as we welcome more than 100 students into the program. In 2006 Mary Thompson brought her expertise in adult learning theory to McGill, contributing to teaching and learning in clinical and theory courses. Mary has now returned to the field of international development and we wish her well. Rosanna Zappavigna and Jessica Emed continued in their invaluable role as consultants to our preceptors at St. Mary’s Hospital and the Sir Mortimer B. Davis–Jewish General Hospital.

Within the class of 104 students, we had no fewer than 34 teams, who conducted a community health assessment of their assigned community last fall. Students then proposed, developed, implemented and evaluated a health promotion intervention to build aggregate capacity and/or diminish risk. While these pilot projects were necessarily limited in scope by feasibility constraints, they represent an important element in comprehensive approaches to learning. Skills learned are transferable to all domains of nursing. Project materials were left with our CSSS community partners as sustainable evidence of our students’ contribution to community health. The students deserve much credit for advocating for their vision. The reality is that they receive variable levels of support for their often innovative ideas in community settings as they learn to negotiate terms and conditions for project funding, design, implementation and evaluation.

Since it is not possible to describe all of the projects here, I will limit my report to a few examples of our students’ scholarship. One of the teams at the Lakeshore General Hospital developed an extremely popular mental illness “demystification” project. The team was committed to improving social justice for this vulnerable population by raising awareness among the general population. Well over 100 people participated during the two-day implementation. Another team developed a falls-prevention workshop tailored to the caregivers of adults with developmental disabilities. This workshop, implemented at the West Montreal Readaptation Centre, is an excellent example of adapting best practice guidelines to meet the needs of a particular population. This year we also had the good fortune to have a GRISIM (Groupe de recherche interuniversitaire en sciences infirmières de Montréal) Undergraduate Honours Fellowship award in the person of Laura Stinson. Laura employed all of her energetic, creative forces to implement the *Diabetes Conversation Map* at CLSC Côte-des-Neiges. Her preceptor, Thu Ha, was instrumental in providing an essential balance of support and flexibility. Thanks to Laura, the CLSC is now the proud owner of French and English versions of the *Map*, which is certain to be used with multiple populations in the future. Three student teams entered the 2007 Forces d’Avenir competition. The CLSC Samuel de Champlain team of Christelle Bouthillette and Robin Guary created the *ABC* family journal to optimize interaction and communication between teens and their parents. This innovative project was chosen by the McGill selection committee to represent the University in the communication sector of the Forces d’Avenir competition. This acknowledges the students’ contribution to Quebec society while at the same time recognizing the scope of CHN practice beyond the traditional health sector. Completing the circle, Robin’s mother, Dawn Lazar, worked with our students placed at Kateri Hospital in Kahnawake. Truly the McGill Model of Nursing family-mindedness in action! We would like to offer our congratulations to all of the 2006–07 teams.

In related news, the first annual CHN Internal Champion Award went to Michele de Gonzague of St. Mary’s Hospital. This student-nominated award recognizes an invaluable contribution to student learning and achievement in the context of a team health promotion project. Michele was presented with a one-year membership in the Community Health Nurses Association of Canada (http://www.chnac.ca). Those who attended the Preceptor Appreciation reception were deeply touched by her comment that this was the most meaningful award of her career.

Finally, I would like to share news of another achievement. The McGill integrated approach to learning was recently recognized as representing the gold standard in Canadian CHN education by researchers at the University of Manitoba, who conducted a study to establish the state of the art in clinical education and curriculum within CHN in Canada. This is an important achievement for McGill, on two fronts: it is the result of an external, objective review, and the findings provide substantive support for our vision of CHN education and practice. The recognition is due in no small part to the extraordinary foresight and commitment to excellence demonstrated by Omaima Mansi, who established the framework for our program before going on leave in 2004. Over the past three years I have had the privilege of building on this template, infusing the program with my own energy, passion and vision of CHN. In the face of many challenges, I have been blessed to receive the support of many faculty members and partners. We have room to grow and improve, but as we head into another challenging year I believe we can infuse our students and various community settings with our vision for meaningful CHN learning and practice to better serve the interests of our populations.
During the past year the Nursing Undergraduate Society worked hard to improve the university lives of nursing students.

Keeping in touch with students has never been easier, with e-mail lists set up early in the year to transmit information to them. When the Montreal Symphony Orchestra offered 20 concert tickets for a draw, we received over 40 applications from students within two days. This shows just how effective our communication system is!

Technological innovation and technological reliability have always been somewhat lacking at Wilson Hall. Printers have not been readily available and students have had to run around campus just to print out a page. The NUS therefore decided to have a trial run with a printer that was both low cost and sustainable. Satisfaction with the service and an increased need for reliability led us to upgrade to a laser printer that is equally cost-effective and should be sustainable for years to come.

Both the nursing Frosh and Discover McGill for new students went smoothly this year, with many new and current students participating. The NUS was also involved in such student-run events as the regional and national conferences of the Canadian Nursing Students’ Association and an interprofessional conference hosted by the Mitabi Interprofessional Health Initiative.

Of course, social events are at the core of student life. This past year was filled with a variety of fun activities. Some of the more popular ones were a beer and pizza afternoon at the Snow Air Pub (a temporary pub set up on the lower field the first week after Christmas vacation), a nursing and engineering party, and two concerts by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. We tried something new this year, called Nursing Meet and Greet, with a view to giving all those involved with nursing at McGill a chance to get together over refreshments. All teachers, support staff and students were invited to the Wendy Patrick Room in Wilson Hall for food and beverages on February 1. The event was a success, with many staff members and students from the various years of the undergraduate program taking advantage of the opportunity to mingle in a relaxed environment. Many of those who attended made positive comments about the get-together, and even those who were unable to be there said they thought it a marvellous idea!

The most popular activity of the year was a trip to a sugar shack. Approximately 30 students car-pooled to Erablière Sous-Bois in Mont-Saint-Grégoire to enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal followed by the traditional sugaring off, with fresh maple syrup served directly off the snow.

All in all, the events organized by the NUS this year were well received, with many students taking part in more than one activity and indicating the potential for increased participation in the future.
I am pleased to report on the master’s program as its new Assistant Director, as of October 2006.

We have had a very productive and highly successful year.

At the convocation this past spring, 24 students received an MScA degree in nursing. This included 20 Direct Entry graduates, three Bachelor Nurse Entry graduates and our first Neonatal Nurse Practitioner graduate (Marianne Lapointe). Two graduates were recognized with School of Nursing awards. David Wright was awarded the F. Moyra Allen Memorial Prize and Amy Nyland the CJNR Prize.

This was the second cohort to graduate from our recently revised master’s program. I have initiated a systematic review of the program, in consultation with students, faculty and administrative staff. A number of ideas have been generated regarding how the program might be strengthened; addressing these will a major focus in the coming year. Additional attention has been devoted to our Bachelor Nurse Entry stream, where enrolment has been quite low in recent years. We will need to ensure better recruitment and retention of students in this stream, while maintaining strong academic standards. We are quite excited to have received unusually large numbers of applications for both the Direct Entry and the Bachelor Nurse Entry streams for the 2007–08 year.

We have also accepted applications for our new Infirmiti ère praticienne spécialisée in primary care stream of study, through an arrangement with the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Work is proceeding towards the imminent launching of the Global Health Studies stream of our master’s program. This long-awaited option will enable some master’s students to focus on nursing populations abroad or in selected Aboriginal communities in Canada. Finally, our Neonatal Nurse
Practitioner stream will be undergoing an Accreditation Review by the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec and the Collège des médecins du Québec. This will be a highly demanding process! We are pleased to have recruited Linda Morneault as Coordinator for this stream, filling the role played by the departing Carol Ann Sherman. Linda is a neonatal nurse practitioner at the McGill University Health Centre with a joint appointment at the School of Nursing.

We have accomplished a lot this past year and are gearing up to do much more in the year to come.

Student Colleagueship

Jane Barry-Shaw
and Sandy François
Colleagueship Co-presidents, 2006–07

Our year as Co-presidents of the Colleagueship has been a busy and eventful one. We started off the 2006–07 academic year by greeting the incoming students at the Qualifying Year orientation with a question-and-answer session followed by lunch at Thomson House. That first meeting led to a new event, a welcome potluck party during the second week of classes, which was attended by over 40 students. This was a wonderful way to reconnect with returning students and meet new ones. We quickly realized what an enthusiastic group of master's students we had this year. The annual wine and cheese party, held in the Wendy Patrick Room, was a way for both faculty and students to meet, greet and talk about the year ahead.

One of the first Colleagueship events was the Terry Fox Run on September 17. A number of students participated in this event to raise funds for cancer research. It was a way for students in all years of the master's program to get to know each other and at the same time support a good cause.

The Colleagueship is proud to have been part of a new initiative spearheaded by its members — the Equity Fund. Money is often tight for students in our program, as pursuing a demanding, full-time course of study does not leave much time for paid work. The Equity Fund gives students the opportunity to contribute any amount of money they feel they can spare, which is then distributed among students who apply for it. The fund is divided equally among applicants, regardless of their academic or financial standing. This year, through flyers, e-mails and an official Colleagueship party, we raised more than $700 in contributions from students and faculty. This money was distributed to the applicants before the end of the fall semester. It is our wish that this initiative will continue into the 2007–08 academic year and beyond.

Our festive end-of-semester potluck party in December was well attended by students in each year of the program. Everyone had a chance to take a break, relax and talk about the semester that had just ended. Many students also participated in a very successful clothing swap, something originated by the class of ’08. There was a flurry of trying on, trading and compromise in the “dressing room” at this party! Any clothes left unclaimed at the end of the evening were donated to a local community mission.
In January the Colleagueship was proud to present the Second Annual Nursing Career Month. Our aim was to help prepare and motivate graduate nursing students by informing them about the options available and how they might reach their career goals. Former students Natalie Anderson, Irene Sarasua and Carrie Marchionni spoke at a panel discussion about their roles as staff nurse, clinical nurse specialist and nurse researcher, respectively, as well as fielding questions about licensing and about language exams. A presentation by the MUHC Human Resources Department was well attended, as was a seminar on CV preparation conducted by Career and Placement Services. This year we included career options for nurses outside Quebec; recruitment officers from the Marskell Group (nursing in Canada) and from the United States provided information about various opportunities in the two countries. Finally, we were fortunate in having a neonatal nurse practitioner and a primary care nurse practitioner come to speak about their roles.

Also in January, we held a CPR recertification session for second- and third-year students. This session, conducted by the McGill First Aid Society, was well attended. It was an excellent opportunity for the majority of students to become recertified according to the new Red Cross CPR standards.

In the spring, the Colleagueship organized a benefit clothing sale, offering master’s students the chance to purchase a variety of sweatshirts, T-shirts and sweatpants emblazoned with the words “McGill Nursing.” This fundraiser was immensely successful, adding nearly $200 to our organization’s educational and social activities coffers.

Our year-end celebration was held in May at Thomson House, capping off a busy and successful year of master’s studies. Faculty and students from all years of the program came together to enjoy some food, discuss plans for the year ahead and send off the class of ’07.

We celebrated the graduation of two doctoral students this year. Marie-Claire Richer defended her dissertation, The Effect of Appreciative Inquiry on the Retention of Nurses and Other Professionals and on the Development of Innovative Ideas in Health Care, on February 28, 2007 (thesis advisors: Judith Ritchie and Celeste Johnston). Dr. Richer is the first PhD graduate of the FERASI program (Formation et expertise en recherche et administration des services infirmiers). She takes up the position of Management Advisor, Clinical Transition Development and Research, at the McGill University Health Centre and will continue to collaborate with the FERASI Centre. Janet-Anne Bryanton successfully defended her study, Perception of the Birth Experience and Its Relationship to Early Postpartum Parenting, on March 28, 2007 (thesis advisors: Anita Gagnon and Janet Rennick). Dr. Bryanton will continue in her position at the University of Prince Edward Island. The McGill nursing community congratulates Drs. Richer and Bryanton and wishes them much success in their future endeavours.

Three students presented and defended their research proposals in 2006–07. They include Jo-Ann Mac-Donald, Promoting Optimal Outcomes for STI/HIV Prevention Skills in Youth, on November 17, 2006 (thesis advisors: Anita Gagnon and Janet Rennick), and Catherine Thibeault, The Relationships of Hospitalized Persons with Acute Mental Illness and Their Nurses: An Interpretative Inquiry, on April 11, 2007 (thesis advisors: Frank Carnevale and Celeste Johnston). A new format for the comprehensive examination was initiated in 2006. This involves an extensive oral examination and defence of the student’s research proposal. It is anticipated that the new design will allow students to proceed directly to ethics, begin data collection earlier and thus complete their program in a timely fashion. Alain Biron was the first student to go through the new process. He successfully defended his study proposal, Medication Administration Complexity, Work Interruptions and Nurses’ Workload as Predictors of Suboptimal Medication Administration Practices (thesis advisors: Carmen Loiselle and Melanie Lavoie-Tremblay), in an open examination session attended by faculty members and peers on December 6, 2006. We congratulate all of these students on this significant achievement in their dissertation work and wish them success in conducting these important nursing studies.

Students in the doctoral program have had considerable success disseminating their work. In the 2006–07 academic year, 14 articles were published or are in press in such
prestigious journals as Nursing Research, the Journal of Advanced Nursing, CJNR and Qualitative Health Research. Students presented papers at the national meeting of the Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology and the 16th annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research. The McGill School of Nursing was well represented on the international scene. Seven PhD students presented ten papers at nine international conferences, including the 40th annual meeting of the Society for Epidemiologic Research in Boston, the Family Nursing Conference in Thailand, the International Psychosocial Oncology meeting in Venice, the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Research conference in Vienna and the third South African AIDS conference.

McGill doctoral students upheld an outstanding record of funding. The following students received new awards or renewals:

Marilyn Aita – Ministère de l’éducation, du loisir et du sport (MELS) doctoral fellowship
Alain Biron – MELS doctoral fellowship; Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ) doctoral fellowship; FERASI doctoral fellowship; FERASI travel grant; Canadian Safety Institute award
Marsha Campbell-Yeo – Groupe de recherche interuniversitaire en sciences infirmières de Montréal (GRISIM) doctoral fellowship; Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation award; Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) fellowship
Lisa Chan – Maysie MacSporran graduate studentship; CIHR Strategic Training Grant in Palliative Care
Sylvie Dubois – MELS doctoral fellowship; GRISIM research award; Canadian Nurses Foundation award; CIHR Strategic Training Grant in Psychosocial Oncology
Lisa Keeping – GRISIM doctoral fellowship
Kelley Kilpatrick – FRSQ fellowship; FERASI fellowship
Sylvie Lambert – CIHR fellowship; GRISIM research award

Mae Gallant, a cherished student, colleague and friend who passed away on December 9, 2006. Mae began her studies at McGill in 2000 and was part of the “Maritime cohort” of students undertaking their doctoral work at a distance. She was a student of Marcia Beaulieu and Frank Carnevale. Our deepest sympathies were expressed to the family and a donation in Mae’s name was sent to the Prince Edward Island Cancer Treatment Centre in accordance with the family’s wishes.

Visitors from Taiwan with the School’s Director, Hélène Ezer (left)

Jo-Ann MacDonald – Canadian Nurses Foundation Nursing Care Partnership; Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research award
Dianne McCormack – CIHR Health Professional Research award
Anita Mehta – National Cancer Institute of Canada studentship; CIHR Strategic Training Grant in Palliative Care
Manon Ranger – GRISIM doctoral fellowship; Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation award; CIHR Strategic Training Grant in Pain in Child Health
Erna Snelgrove-Clark – IWK Foundation award; Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation award
Isabelle St. Pierre – FERASI fellowship.

Kudos to these award recipients on their extraordinary achievements.

We were greatly saddened by the sudden loss of Mae Gallant, a cherished student, colleague and friend who passed away on December 9, 2006. Mae began her studies at McGill in 2000 and was part of the “Maritime cohort” of students undertaking their doctoral work at a distance. She was a student of Marcia Beaulieu and Frank Carnevale. Our deepest sympathies were expressed to the family and a donation in Mae’s name was sent to the Prince Edward Island Cancer Treatment Centre in accordance with the family’s wishes.

This year was a prolific one for PhD students. Several students have seen their efforts rewarded as they have ascended to a higher level in their doctoral studies. Two of our colleagues — Marie-Claire Richer and Janet Bryanton — have successfully defended their dissertations. We look forward with great enthusiasm to learning about their future contributions to the nursing profession. Others have embarked on the PhD journey, entering the program this past year. Kelley Kilpatrick received funding from Formation et expertise en recherche et administration des services infirmiers et Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec to examine the impact of the new nurse practitioner role on members of the health-care team. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kelley on her achievement.

Last fall Manon Ranger joined Alain Biron in representing the interests of doctoral students on diverse committees of the School of Nursing. Our objectives for the coming year are to provide students with access to key information and to facilitate their progression through the PhD program. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Sylvie Lambert and Anita Mehta, who represented us wonderfully in past years.
Franco Carnevale

In October 2006 Franco Carnevale, a longstanding member of our clinically based faculty, moved to a full-time appointment as Associate Professor at the School of Nursing. He brings with him many years of experience as a clinician and administrator at the Montreal Children’s Hospital and as an educator for undergraduate and graduate students. Over the course of his career, Frank has developed his academic interests in the fields of qualitative research, ethics and philosophy, and he continues to examine the experiences of children and families with illness and disability. His interests have resulted in the publication of more than 50 articles relevant for a broad academic and clinical audience. His achievements have been recognized through awards for management performance and leadership at the Montreal Children’s Hospital and through his nomination for the Faculty of Medicine Honour List for Educational Excellence.

The depth and breadth of Dr. Carnevale’s experiences will be invaluable to the School. Since he assumed his new responsibilities as Assistant Director for the master’s program, it has been full speed ahead in a number of new areas! Major issues on his plate have been managing the increase in applications and enrolment, planning for the Nurse Practitioner stream in Primary Health Care, and delivery of the master’s program “by extension” through the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

We take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Carnevale and to wish him success in all of his endeavours.

Hélène Ezer

Céline Gélinas

Céline Gélinas has been an Assistant Professor at the School of Nursing since January 2007. She is also a newly appointed researcher at the Centre for Nursing Research of the Sir Mortimer B. Davis–Jewish General Hospital.

Dr. Gélinas was a critical care nurse for five years (1997–2002) and a clinical nurse specialist in cardiology for almost two years (2002–04). She completed a PhD in Nursing and Measurement at Université Laval in 2004 and postdoctoral training at the McGill School of Nursing in 2006. Her graduate studies were supported by grants from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec, Fondation de recherche en sciences infirmières du Québec and Groupe de recherche interuniversitaire en sciences infirmières de Montréal (GRISIM).

Dr. Gélinas has developed and validated a behavioural tool, called the Critical-Care Pain Observation Tool (CPOT), as well as physiologic indicators for pain assessment in critically ill non-verbal adults. She is now working on educational tools for use by critical care nurses when employing the CPOT, the implementation of the CPOT in intensive care units, and the development and testing of nursing interventions for pain management in critically ill adults. Critical care, pain and measurement are her main research interests. Since November 2006 she has led a research team on the evaluation of nursing interventions at the GRISIM.

Although a novice researcher, Dr. Gélinas has published many articles, book chapters, and abstracts and has also presented extensively locally, nationally, and internationally in the fields of critical care and pain. In 2004 her contributions to clinical practice, education and research were acknowledged with the Prix Florence – Relève of the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec.

C. Celeste Johnston

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Sonia Semenic

I would like to offer a sincere welcome to Sonia Semenic, who joined the School of Nursing faculty in January 2007.

After completing a degree in psychology, Sonia studied nursing at McGill in the Direct Entry graduate program. Early on, she became deeply committed to women’s health issues. She was a clinician and a lactation consultant for many years. As a result of a fortuitous meeting with Dr. Loiselle, she decided to undertake breastfeeding research and later earned her PhD in Nursing at McGill. She then went on to complete postdoctoral training with Nancy Edwards at the University of Ottawa.

Sonia has taught at the School of Nursing for many years, and has proved to be a great lecturer and role model for Direct Entry students. She brings to the School the wonderful qualities of leadership, intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm and high academic standards. You will surely cross paths with Sonia and notice her smile and her eagerness to lend a hand to those in need. Don’t be surprised, as you walk the corridors, to find her wanting to share a cup of tea with you!

Dr. Semenic is a true asset to the School of Nursing.

Carmen G. Loiselle

Sandie Larouche

Last winter we extended a warm welcome to Sandie Larouche, one of our newest full-time faculty members. Sandie completed her undergraduate studies at Université Laval in 1998 and her master’s at McGill in 2001. Before coming to the School, she worked at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis–Jewish General Hospital in a variety of clinical areas, including hematology/oncology, infection control and breastfeeding, in the latter two areas as a clinical nurse specialist. While at the SMBD–JGH, she made many presentations on a variety of subjects, including an invited presentation in Corsica on the importance of systematic follow-up for breast cancer patients. She also served as President of the Council of Nurses at the SMBD–JGH while completing her master’s degree.

Sandie is a dynamic and passionate young woman with a great sense of humour. These qualities infuse her teaching as she seeks to bring out the best in her students by challenging and supporting them in creative ways. Already, she has taught Health and Physical Assessment to various levels of students, Stress and Illness Management and Nursing in Illness I to the BNIs and Nursing in Illness 2 to the BScN students. She has readily adapted to the different objectives and levels of students with the self-confidence and humility of a seasoned teacher. Feedback from students suggests that she is off to an excellent start and is a definite asset to the School.

When not at work, she is a busy wife and mother with an active toddler who has inherited her mischievous streak. We wish her a happy and productive career at the School.

Marcia Beaulieu

Carol Ann Sherman

Following five highly active years at the McGill School of Nursing, Carol Ann Sherman has returned to her home state of California, where she will be resuming her clinical work as a nurse practitioner.

Carol Ann came to the School in 2002 following some initial work at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. Her extensive clinical background as a pediatric nurse practi-
tioner in the United States enabled her to rapidly become a valuable resource in our faculty.

Carol Ann’s skills in health and physical assessment were an asset as we established new courses on physical assessment in our BScN and BNI programs. She took on the coordination of key clinical courses and set a high standard for student performance throughout.

In our MScA program, Carol Ann was responsible for coordinating a course on advanced health and physical assessment and a course on role development in advanced practice, as well as coordinating the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner stream. Her experience and wisdom regarding clinical assessment as well as advanced nursing practice roles have been tremendous assets for the School. Her contributions have been highly respected and appreciated by the students.

Carol Ann’s departure will be deeply felt. We know how much she has been looking forward to returning to the California beaches and to clinical practice, so we are happy for her. We wish her the very best.

Franco Carnevale, Madeleine Buck and Marcia Beaulieu

Kathryn Sherrard

How do you capture the essence of a well-rounded, multi-tasking, flexible, competent, caring woman, a leader, team player, wife and mother who routinely maintains a balance between her work life and her personal life?

Professionally versatile and resourceful, Kathryn Sherrard moves with equal ease among neonates in the intensive care unit at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis–Jewish General Hospital, the elderly in the community and adults in acute care. Her background in psychiatry and family nursing complements an inherent curiosity and desire to understand as well as a deep sense of caring, whether for patients, families, colleagues or students. As a teacher, she empowers students, helping them to grow professionally and personally, extending their reach and facilitating their grasp of the complex phenomenon that is nursing. With longstanding colleagues, she is unfailingly supportive; with neophyte teachers, she is a mentor and role model. Her wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise makes it easy for those of us at the School to think of her when pondering “who could do that?” when “that” could cover a dauntingly wide range of issues. Kathie has “stepped up to the plate” more often than we can count and has weathered the continuous changes of the last few years with grace and dignity.

Kathie Sherrard enjoys life, and her easy laughter, open spirit and numerous interests make her fun to be around. Her musical tastes are eclectic, spanning classical, jazz, indigenous rhythms and pop. Gastronomically she is adventurous, game to try different types of restaurants and to experiment with many different cuisines — this is definitely someone you want to invite to a potluck supper! As a movie aficionado, she could probably give you a thumbnail sketch of most of the better movies in town in recent months. A keen gardener, she tends to various plants throughout the seasons, coaxing reluctant seeds, worrying about squirrels, shade and sun, appreciating each new bloom; at work, plants thrive year after year under her loving care, despite the temperature and humidity extremes in Wilson Hall. She is a lover of small creatures, particularly cats and the babies and grandbabies of colleagues, which touches us more than she knows. No slouch when it comes to exercising, in past years she has organized hiking trips in the United States and now takes yoga or Pilates classes and walks regularly, braving temperatures and distances that most of us wouldn’t dare — all while recovering from a broken ankle. She has been housemother to students from around the world, providing a home away from home and making mutually enriching connections with their families.

Over the last nine years it has been my good fortune to call Kathie not only a colleague but a friend. She has been a wise counsel, a positive role model and a thoughtful friend. As she prepares to retire from the School of Nursing, we are busily figuring out how we might entice her to stay involved. Her kindness and sensitivity have made the School a warmer, more positive place. Kathryn Sherrard has the respect and affection of her colleagues and friends at the School, and it is our wish for her that there are many satisfactions, rewards and joys yet to come.

Marcia Beaulieu

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The MUHC Nursing Department would like to acknowledge the contribution of Ann Lynch, former Director of Nursing and Director of Clinical Operations at the McGill University Health Centre, for her leadership and support of academic nursing by creating a separate Director of Nursing position at the MUHC. I assumed this position in June 2006.

The MUHC has engaged in a strategic planning exercise, and discussions about priorities for clinical care led to the creation of the Cancer Care Mission, led jointly by Dr. Armen Aprikian and Andréanne Saucier, Associate Director of Nursing. Changes in nursing leadership also took place in the adult Emergency Room and Mental Health missions.

We bid adieu to Gratienne Lamarche as Associate Director of Nursing. Ms. Lamarche is enjoying her new life with her grandchild. At the same time, we welcome Pina La Riccia to the team. Special thanks are due to Susan Drouin and Linda Ward, Associate Directors of Nursing, who covered Mental Health and Emergency Room, respectively, during the transition. Ms. Drouin, who is Associate Director of Nursing for Women’s Health, also assumed responsibility for nursing at the Montreal Children’s Hospital.

Kudos to the MUHC nurses who have engaged in improving practice through the implementation of best practice guidelines in pain management, skin integrity and falls. The MUHC is a co-winner, with the Charles Lemoyne Hospital, of the 3M Prize for Innovation, awarded by the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec (OIIQ), for this ongoing initiative in practice improvement.

Judith Ritchie, Associate Director of Nursing for Research, won the OIIQ’s Prix Florence for Nursing Research 2006 for her career-long commitment to the development of nurse scientists and evidence-based nursing care.

The Sir Mortimer B. Davis–Jewish General Hospital has a long history of welcoming McGill nursing students to our clinical areas. Here, they are able to focus on acquiring the skills and knowledge needed to provide excellent patient care throughout their careers. Students rarely have an opportunity to look back, observe the positive impact of their hard work, and see the outcomes on patient care and nursing service.

The ongoing program of student/clinician collaboration in the maternal-child area has left a large footprint and is a model for academic/clinical partnerships.

In the SMBD–JGH Maternal-Child Clinical Division, the importance of breastfeeding to the well-being of both baby and mother has been a critical consideration. Emphasis on this important nutritional modality has increased over the years, with many policy statements being issued by the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Breastfeeding Committee of Canada and the Quebec department of public health. As we looked for ways to increase nursing knowledge in this area, we quickly came to the realization that McGill students could make an important contribution.

Since 2004, we have been building a program of research in clinical quality improvement, marrying student
interest in this clinical area, opportunities afforded by course/curriculum requirements, and a strong commitment by the joint faculty-clinical leadership group to nurturing young professionals and improving patient care. With a view to maximizing interest and effort, each year we have proposed clinical studies and projects in the area of breastfeeding, and nursing students have risen to the challenge. Each student study has built on the last and has allowed the nursing clinical team to gain a deeper understanding of the clinical questions and concerns that have arisen. Students have been eager to participate, and their work has been easily adopted by the nursing team.

It is very important that nursing findings be shared, and there have been many opportunities for dissemination of students’ work. Students have been invited to present at a unit level, at Divisional meetings, at Nursing and Obstetrical Grand Rounds and before the Multidisciplinary Breastfeeding Committee. Two papers have been accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses this fall, and two manuscripts are being prepared for publication.

This academic/clinical partnership has supported the strong learning environment we strive to maintain and has been instrumental in effecting changes in clinical practice. Some of the improvements we have seen since the program was launched are an increased rate of rooming in, increased use of alternative methods of breast-milk supplementation, inclusion of breastfeeding content in the prenatal tour for expectant families and the publication of a breastfeeding information pamphlet.

Equally important, McGill students have had an opportunity to see their work make a difference and also to shine in a collaborative learning environment, working with clinical nurses at the bedside, with clinical nurse specialists, with lactation consultants and with head nurses. We are grateful to the group of students whose work has been instrumental in moving the breastfeeding agenda forward (see below). We look ahead to having many more McGill students join this academic/clinical venture as we strive to improve care for women and their families.

2004 – Cynara Radley, “Nurses’ Understanding of the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding”


2006– Charleen Magee, “Mothers’ Definition of Exclusive Breastfeeding” and “Evidenced-Based Practice Guidelines for Infant Supplementation”; Denise Ho and Ulrika Drevniok, “Maternal Decision Making on In-Hospital Supplementation”; Camille Boucher and Paola Brazal, “Mothers’ Breastfeeding Experiences in the NICU”

Nursing undergraduates on a clinical placement at the Montreal Neurological Hospital
Collaboration is a keyword for the research being conducted at the School. Work underway includes interprofessional, interuniversity, national and international collaborations. Those programs with a focus on collaboration are highlighted below.

Margaret Purden is co-principal investigator, with the surgeon David Fleisher, on a Health Canada project of over $1 million. The McGill Educational Initiative on Interprofessional Collaboration: Partnerships for Family-Centred Practice (Margaret Purden; Hélène Ezer and colleagues) is engaged in several activities to develop interprofessional education (IPE) within the four schools of the Faculty of Medicine and to promote interprofessional practice (IPP) within the McGill University Health Centre and the Sir Mortimer B. Davis–Jewish General Hospital. The first Joint Curriculum Committee of the Faculty of Medicine has found a way to integrate IPE into the programs of the schools. On the education front, 496 first-year students from all four schools took part in a professionalism workshop last fall. In the clinical setting, 14 oncology clinicians from the MUHC and the SMBD–JGH, along with a patient representative, attended a workshop to develop an evidence-based interprofessional care plan for breast cancer patients. Four clinical sites are participating, either as observational units where IPP is flourishing or as IPP intervention units. These initiatives will help us to create a learning and practice environment where professionals share in decision-making on patient care. A Web site has been launched (www.interprofessionalcare.mcgill.ca) and brochures are being disseminated to health professionals and patients throughout the MUHC.

The first McGill interprofessional conference will be held on October 17, 2007.

Anita Gagnon is on sabbatical in France pursuing work on the health of childbearing refugee women, supported in part by a joint Canada–France program of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale. Researchers from nine countries have formed Reproductive Outcomes And Migration (ROAM): An International Research Collaboration, led by Dr. Gagnon and Rhonda Small. The project now being conducted (funded by CIHR and the various funding sources of the collaborators) addresses three questions: Does the distribution of certain perinatal indicators differ by migration indicators across countries? What reasons can be hypothesized for any international differences in distribution of indicators? Can equity of perinatal care indicators for migrant women be measured across countries? This collaboration promotes the development of common outcome measures and methodologies and will permit the testing of similar hypotheses.

Two interuniversity programs are providing support to students. Formation et expertise en recherche et administration des services infirmiers (FERASI), a program of McGill, the Université de Montréal and Université Laval, offers a community and support to students pursuing nursing health services research. The McGill participants are Melanie Lavoie-Tremblay, who devotes some of her time to FERASI and mentors students, Judith Ritchie and Marie-Claire Richer. Dr. Lavoie-Tremblay and her student, Kelley Kilpatrick, have received support from the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec in the form of a Chercheur-Boursier Jr 1 and a PhD bursary. Dr. Richer, Alain Biron, a PhD candidate, and Margot Latimer have also received FERASI support. Drs. Latimer and Richer completed their PhDs in 2006 and 2007, respectively. David Wright and Lyndsay Hodgson are FERASI master’s fellows.

Groupe de recherche interuniversitaire en sciences infirmières de Montréal (GRISIM) supports students as well as faculty pilot projects. It has four axes: the development of interventions from nursing theory (McGill team leader: Nancy Feeley), the development of nursing-sensitive measures (McGill team leader: Céline Gélinas), including knowledge translation throughout a project (team leader: Judith Ritchie), and issues in conducting randomized controlled trials in nursing (team leader: Celeste Johnston, assisted by PhD student Manon Ranger and master’s student Farrahmina Francis).

A national CIHR project on knowledge translation in pain in children is underway, headed by McGill graduate Bonnie Stevens. Celeste Johnston and Christina Rosmus are the McGill investigators. The project involves eight pediatric hospitals and support amounts to more than $5 million over five years.
A notable innovation at CJNR in the past year has been the launch of an online tracking system. With the long-term goal of a paperless work environment, we are pleased to announce that we are now accepting online submissions. In addition, the peer-review process is now conducted exclusively through our online tracking system. This has resulted in faster turnaround for authors and easier decision-making for our editors.

The online version of the Journal has shown a steady rise in readership. This, coupled with the increasing number of copyright requests to CJNR, confirms the Journal’s impact on the scientific and student populations, both in Canada and internationally.

Our Associate Editor, Sean Clarke of the University of Pennsylvania, plays a crucial role in setting the direction of the Journal, as well as writing some memorable editorials such as his recent “Reviewing Peer Review: The Three Reviewers You Meet at Submission Time.” Other recent editorials, written by either Dr. Clarke or our Editor-in-Chief, Laurie Gottlieb, have focused on such hot topics as guidelines for assigning authorship.

As part of our effort to seek out topics of concern to the nursing community, in February Dr. Gottlieb visited the University of Toronto and York University to encourage faculty members and students to become involved as either reviewers or authors. Such forays have been energizing for the Journal: they allow us to discover the enthusiasm for research, the range of issues that nurse researchers are addressing, and the growth in both public and private funding, as well as to meet the next generation of nursing scholars.

Souraya Sidani of Ryerson University is Feature Associate Editor for Best Practices in Research Methods. The purpose of this column is to share theoretical and empirical information on the design and/or conduct of studies and to expand the repertoire of methods for addressing topics of interest to the profession. Recent Best Practices articles have covered such diverse topics as cut-off points, palliative care research in practice and missing data.

Each issue of CJNR features a focus topic as well as articles on other subjects. Each issue has a guest editor, an expert in the field with whom we work closely during the publication process. The 2007 focus topics are Risk and Safety (Guest Editor: Joan Bottorff, University of British Columbia); Violence and Health (Jacquelyn Campbell, Johns Hopkins University, and Angela Henderson, UBC); Health Information Technology and Nursing Care (Carmen Loiselle, McGill, and Sylvie Cossette, Université de Montréal); Pain Management Research (Kate Seers, Royal College of Nursing Institute, and Judy Watt-Watson, University of Toronto); Geography and Health (Shirley Solberg and Christine Wøy, Memorial University of Newfoundland); and Ethics, Values, and Decision-Making (Franco Carnevale, McGill).

In the Discourse feature, renowned scholars are invited to comment on the focus topic and share their knowledge and perspectives. Recent commentators have included Patricia March of the University of Alberta, Luc Mathieu of the Université de Sherbrooke, Sioban Nelson of the University of Toronto and some of the guest editors listed above.

An exciting development at CJNR is our involvement in the Global Theme Issue on Poverty and Human Development, organized by the Council of Science Editors. More than 200 science journals around the world are simultaneously publishing articles on this topic in order to raise awareness about and stimulate research into the subject. As one of the invited participants, CJNR profiles Canadian nursing studies on poverty and human development in our issue on Geography and Health, published in September 2007.

CJNR has been a true partnership. Eminent scholars have assumed the role of guest editor, working with us in crafting each focus issue. This involves developing the call for papers, alerting scholars to the call, selecting manuscripts for publication and securing qualified reviewers. Sally Thorne of the University of British Columbia was named 2006 Reviewer of the Year, for her thoughtful and scholarly reviews and her continued support of CJNR.

We are indebted to the School of Nursing for its ongoing support and to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council through its Aid to Learned Journals. As we approach our 40th anniversary as the voice of Canadian nursing scholarship, the future augurs well for Canada’s oldest peer-reviewed nursing research journal.
Both a Nurse and a Lawyer
Jennifer White
BN ’73

“I have a pretty good idea what you’re talking about — I’m a nurse as well as a lawyer.” I don’t know how many times a week I make that remark when speaking with my clients. As I did when I was a practising nurse, I can sense my clients settling down, knowing that they are communicating with someone who understands their environment, someone who “speaks their language.”

I’m a health industry lawyer providing legal advice and support to many health-care facilities and practitioners in Ontario, and I find it invaluable to be a nurse and a seasoned senior executive as well as a lawyer. When a client calls me, I never know what issue I might be expected to address. The caller could be a professional who has received a court summons or a complaint from a client. Recently it was a compassionate hospital staff member caring for a visitor from mainland China who had suffered a stroke while visiting her sons and whose private medical insurance had run out.

The particular legal field in which I practise is not that different from the hospital world in which I worked for some 35 years. I carry a Blackberry and clients know they can contact me any time, day or night. After all, health care is not a nine-to-five industry. When I arrive in my downtown Toronto office each morning, I check my messages from the night before, then go over the many e-mail and telephone inquiries that I receive daily. These may concern such matters as policies to be reviewed, working with the police, the media or out-of-province providers and patients, power of attorney, privacy, consent issues or criminal activity — in other words, a true potpourri of people and issues. Fridays are as interesting as they were in my hospital days. I routinely receive a bizarre, tragic or funny call on a Friday. “This week,” I joke with the particular client in question, “you win the Friday Award.”

How did I get to this place? I graduated from a traditional hospital school of nursing in Belleville, Ontario, in 1966. My time at McGill was spent in the post-basic nursing program in 1967–68 and again in 1971–73, at which point I graduated. From there, I entered the realm of administration, becoming a CEO just in time to be made redundant by the restructuring commission that made sweeping changes to the hospital system in Ontario in the mid-1990s. Not yet ready to retire, I went to law school and was called to the bar in 2004.

During those years I tried to be the supermom that a woman working outside the home was expected to be in the 1970s and 1980s. I had an executive career, raised five children, and reigned over the obligatory houseful of pets, toys and other paraphernalia that constitute a busy home. Now my five children are grown, have seven and a half children of their own, and keep coming home for various respites from their busy worlds. I love it!

I have fond memories of McGill and Montreal. My first year in the nursing program began during the last months of Expo ’67, and I saw it all because there was a transit strike on and the exposition was less crowded than usual. I remember being delighted that the School of Nursing provided two electric typewriters so students could type their essays rather than submit them handwritten or pay the outrageous sum of 10 cents a page to have them typed. One of the many lessons I learned at the School that has stood me in good stead throughout my career is that to be a good administrator one has to be a good teacher. I believe that principle was a great foundation for my 35-year career in nursing and general administration prior to my becoming a lawyer.

My graduation is an “interesting” memory in that I very nearly didn’t graduate at all. As my name is White, I was the last in my class to cross the stage at Place des Arts that day in June 1973. The student before me walked across, and then everyone on the stage sat down. I was left in the wings, sure that something had gone wrong and that I wouldn’t be graduating. Settling into her chair, our Director glanced into the wings, saw me, and was stricken with horror. She quickly checked her papers and found that I was a single name on the second page of her list. She hurriedly stood and signalled that there was one more student yet to come. I walked across the stage and then joined my fellow graduates in the auditorium.

Fabulous memories, a great education and a super foundation for a career that has spanned more than four decades. Thank you, McGill.
The Role of the Forensic Nurse

Halina Siedlikowski
MScA ’86

When I was invited to write a piece for this newsletter, I had recently made a career decision to spend more time teaching. I had been reflecting on how my generic master’s preparation had shaped my career and had concluded that this was an opportune moment for me to write about it.

During my years in the master’s program at the McGill School of Nursing, I had been part of one of the first groups of volunteers at a rape crisis line. This had provided me with much substantive information about the way in which people cope in the aftermath of rape. After graduating, I worked for a year on a postpartum unit. This was to be the end of my in-patient practice as a nurse. Shortly thereafter, I moved to Vermont, where I joined a newly formed multidisciplinary team whose purpose was to intervene and prevent the placing out of children who manifested symptoms of what was then called “severe emotional disturbance.” Although I was a nurse, the title given to all of us on the team was “family worker.” This fit very well with the McGill Model of Nursing whereby the family is viewed as the focus and the primary socializer in the learning of health behaviours. I was able to see how patterns learned over several generations are repeated again and again, with dire consequences for children. I also had the opportunity to serve as a witness in court, to substantiate the allegation of abuse. My involvement in the area of violence against women continued with my participation as a board member of the local rape crisis centre.

I later moved back to Canada with my family. At around that time (1993), the Ontario government announced that it would be funding the creation of hospital-based programs to provide immediate care and treatment for sexual-assault survivors, both adults and children. These programs were to be staffed by forensic nurses, more specifically sexual assault nurse examiners. The coordination position for which I was hired required master’s preparation as well as fluency in both official languages and experience with children. Once again I was entering uncharted territory, creating a service that heretofore had not existed. In retrospect, I can see how the generic master’s, which in the early 1980s was still considered novel, prepared us for confronting new situations and challenges with curiosity and creativity.

For me, the forensic nurse role brings out some of the most rewarding aspects of nursing. First and foremost, it is an independent role, where the nurse is clearly required to distinguish between what are considered medical acts and what fall under the nursing regulations. In the context of a traumatic situation, the forensic nurse uses three sets of intersecting skills: crisis counselling and health teaching, physical assessment, and provision of legal information and collection of evidence. Each one-to-one client encounter can last from three to seven hours, depending on the type of intervention that is chosen by the assaulted person. The glue that holds the intervention together is the nurse’s ability to assist the person in making decisions that will help her to take care of herself and move through the crisis while also tending to her health needs. The decisions to be made can range from whether to be vaccinated against hepatitis B or to undergo HIV prophylaxis to whether to report the assault to the police or to disclose it to another party, based on a review of the social supports that the client has available. If this is the woman’s first speculum examination, as is the case for some assault victims, much reassurance and guidance are required. The nurse is free to take as much time as necessary to meet the client’s needs. In most cases, the person who has been assaulted leaves the service feeling that she has the beginnings of a roadmap to recovery.

Once I decided to spend more time teaching, one of the first didactic courses I taught was at the Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO). Aimed specifically at practising nurses, this course focuses on the care and treatment of sexually assaulted persons. This is an exciting time in Quebec, as some hospitals are exploring the feasibility of implementing the forensic nurse role specifically with victims of sexual assault. In collaboration with a master’s student at UQO, this role is being developed on a pilot basis at the Centre Hospitalier Legardeur. It is my hope that it will develop fully, as victims can only benefit from the dedication, thoroughness and health orientation of professional nurses specializing in this type of work.

For more information on the role as it currently exists in Ontario, visit www.satcontario.com. For information on the broader aspects of the role and the professional networking site based in the United States, visit www.iafn.org.
2000s

Andrew Kerr BScN ’06
Andrew has been on 4 Main at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis –Jewish General Hospital since June 2006, quickly gaining a full-time position as a CPNP and awaiting his Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec licensing test results. He is adjusting to the routine and the challenges of his job. Andrew would like to serve as a McGill resource person for clinical instruction to an undergraduate student interested in palliative care. He is weighing his interests in nursing, considering when and where to pursue graduate studies.

Jeanesse Bourgeois BScN ’04
Jeanesse is a Clinician Nurse in the emergency service at the Montreal General Hospital.

Marie Létourneau BScN ’04
Marie’s current position is Floating Team Nurse at the Montreal Chest Institute. She is also a union representative. Marie is engaged to a fellow McGill alumnus and they plan to marry in October 2007.

Lisa Merry MScA ’02
Lisa gave birth to a baby girl, Monica Gabrielle Boivin Merry (a little sister for Luca), on her due date, January 14, 2007. “Had she been born a couple of minutes earlier she would have been born in the car! Marc André [barely] had time to bring me up to the room… It left both of us in utter shock.”

Mike Pasoff BScN ’02
Mike is back in school, in his first year of dentistry at McGill. He continues to work at the Montreal Children’s Hospital in intensive care, as well as at the Royal Victoria Hospital in emergency — and finds that balancing dentistry school and critical care nursing is no mean feat. Mike took part in the first interprofessional practice seminar between the four health-related schools, facilitated by Madeleine Buck of the School of Nursing. He found it interesting to participate in his capacity as a first-year dentistry student, a former nursing student and a practising nurse.

Mary-Jean Smith BScN ’01
In April 2007 Mary-Jean switched from postpartum nursing to public health nursing, and is enjoying the change. Her new position comes under the umbrella of prevention services, and she finds it a joy to be working in health promotion services for families and youths.
1990s

Sarah Fells BScN ’98
In August 2006 Sarah took a permanent position with Public Health Services in her home town of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Her six-year-old daughter, Madelyn, is in French immersion and her mother hopes she will one day head to Montreal for school. Sarah is considering starting a master’s degree in public health in the near future.

Heather MacMillan MScA ’96
Heather is a doctoral student in the School of Nursing, University of British Columbia. Her dissertation centres on socio-psychological factors associated with prostate cancer screening uptake. She was a PORT fellow in 2006–07. Heather lives in Vancouver with Mike and their two-and-a-half-year-old son, Campbell.

Muriel Mac-Seing BScN ’95, MScA ’98
After earning her master’s degree, Muriel started working in community health at CLSC Côte-des-Neiges in November 1998. She has been in the field ever since, having decided to further her community health skills in various developing countries. From 2001 to 2003 Muriel worked in Bhuj, Gurajat, India, as a Health and Nutrition Advisor in the aftermath of a disastrous earthquake. From 2003 to 2005 she was in Cambodia coordinating a project on HIV/AIDS prevention and livelihood activities for rural women. Currently she is in Nepal as a Health and Policy Feedback Officer for a community health and livelihood project in hill communities (see photo).

Greg Poole-Dayan MScA ’92
Greg is now living in New York.

1980s

Halina Siedlikowski MScA ’86
Halina is a half-time teaching associate at the University of Ottawa. She has also taught at the Université du Québec en Outaouais. (See her article on p. 21.)

Cynthia Mannion MScA ’85
Cynthia obtained her PhD from McGill in Dietetics and Human Nutrition in 2004. She was awarded tenure this year in the position of Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary, where she teaches research methods, maternal/child nursing, and nutrition/health and disease. She conducts research on maternal/child health and food intake and dietary behaviours and has published results in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. Cynthia is in the process of qualifying as a Registered Dietitian and speaks regularly on Canadian food trends, fad diets and superfoods. She was amazed to learn that the nursing Colleagueship is still going strong; she was one of its founders.

1970s

Jennifer White BN ’73
After completing her degree at the School of Nursing, Jennifer pursued a career in hospital management and health management consulting both in Canada and in the United Kingdom. She enrolled in law school in her fifties and was called to the bar in Ontario in 2004. (See her article on p. 20.)

Beverley (Williams) Hicks BN ’70
Beverley retired from her position as Assistant Professor at Brandon University in order to complete a PhD at the University of Manitoba. Her topic is sociopolitical influences on psychiatric nursing and her thesis is titled From Barnyards to Bedsides to Books and Beyond: An Examination of the Evolution, Education and Professionalization of Psychiatric Nursing in Manitoba from 1955–1980.

1960s

Gwen McDonald BScN ’69
Gwen is calling on her colleagues in the class of ’69 to reconnect. She can be reached at 12720 Riviera Place NE, Seattle, Washington 98125 USA, or at gwen@w-link.net. She is waiting to hear from you!

Janice (Ross) Berger BN ’63
Prior to graduating from the School of Nursing, Janice had been an assistant head nurse, a medical-surgical nursing instructor and a head nurse, and had a diploma in teaching and supervision from the University of British Columbia. After graduating, she married and did not nurse again. In 1986 she obtained an MEd degree from the University of Toronto. She had been trained as a psychotherapist, a profession she has been practising for more than 30 years. Janice has written a book, Emotional Fitness (Penguin Canada). She says that it has done very well and that it has been a most rewarding experience for her. She is now in the process of writing her second book. Janice is a mother of four and grandmother of five.

Marilyn Monk MScA ’80
Marilyn and her two daughters (Catherine, 17, and Olivia, 14) have been living in Nashville, Tennessee, for the past four years and are thoroughly enjoying work, school, the weather and all that the city has to offer. Marilyn is the Chief Operating Officer of the Nashville General Hospital and an adjunct faculty member at Vanderbilt University. Having lived in the United States for more than 11 years, she believes that nursing programs and nurse clinicians in Canada are superior in numerous respects. Marilyn says that reading the McGill School of Nursing newsletter makes her long to be once again part of academic nursing. She would love to hear from her former classmates (marilyn.monk@nashville.gov).
**IN MEMORIAM**

**Mira Susan Mierzwinski**  
BN ’77 (1950–2007)  
Mira began her nursing career at St. Mary’s Hospital and went on to earn her bachelor’s degree at the School of Nursing. She later worked at various hospitals, including Santa Cabrini, St. Mary’s and Mount Sinai. Mira passed away in January 2007.

**Estelle Ruth (Tritt) Aspler**  
Cert Nurs ’47  
Estelle Aspler died in Montreal on April 14, 2007, in her 88th year. She had a distinguished nursing career at the Reddy Memorial Hospital. During World War II she volunteered for overseas service with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. Commissioned as a Lieutenant Nursing Sister, she saw active service in North-West Europe and participated in the liberation of the Netherlands in 1944–45. Estelle helped to establish a nursing alumnæ award, the Women’s General / Reddy Memorial and A.W. Lindsay Award, presented to a BN student by the School of Nursing.

**Marjorie Baxter Kerr**  
Dip Nurs PH ’52 (1919–2007)  
Marjorie died peacefully on March 26, 2007, with her long-time friend Evelyn (Stubbie) Malcom at her bedside. She grew up in Canterbury, Quebec, a place she loved. She was a World War II veteran and a nursing graduate of the Montreal General Hospital. Marge loved to travel and was fortunate enough to see much of the world. She seldom missed a reunion of the Air Force Veterans (Wing 306) or of the MGH nurses. She was a dedicated volunteer at St. Matthew’s Church and at St. Anne’s Hospital for veterans.

**Estelle Ruth (Tritt) Aspler**  
Cert Nurs ’47  
Estelle Aspler died in Montreal on April 14, 2007, in her 88th year. She had a distinguished nursing career at the Reddy Memorial Hospital. During World War II she volunteered for overseas service with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. Commissioned as a Lieutenant Nursing Sister, she saw active service in North-West Europe and participated in the liberation of the Netherlands in 1944–45. Estelle helped to establish a nursing alumnæ award, the Women’s General / Reddy Memorial and A.W. Lindsay Award, presented to a BN student by the School of Nursing.

**Mae (Dunn) Gallant**  
PhD student, class of ’08  
Mae died peacefully at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on December 9, 2006, at the age of 47.

**Betty Eggen**  
BN ’63  
Betty Eggen died on November 5, 2006.

**Mary Doris Gunn**  
Dip Nurs ’57  
Mary Doris Gunn passed away on April 7, 2006, in Winnipeg.

**Marguerite (Sister) McCadden**  
BN ’70 (1930–2006)  

**Angela Wilson**  
BNI student, class of ’08 (1979–2007)  
Sadly, Angela passed away suddenly. Her compassion, caring nature and sense of humour will always be remembered.

**WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?**

Have you moved? Been promoted? Changed careers? The Alumnae Association welcomes updates from graduates of the School. Be sure to include your name, degree/year, present position, address, telephone numbers and e-mail address with your news.

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