

2007 PROFESSIONAL NURSING AWARDS

THE College honoured sixteen registered nurses and one interdisciplinary health care team at the annual nursing awards banquet on May 9, 2007.

COMMUNITY CARING AWARD

The Community Caring Award is presented to a registered nurse who has made a significant and meaningful contribution to the well-being of others through volunteerism.

Gail Fones RN

Gail Fones is a past-president of the College who quickly found something else to do once her two-year term ended. Gail says she always had an interest in nursing in a third world country. She put that interest into action by making inquiries about volunteer needs in Africa. Less than 6 months later, Gail made her first African journey.



The mandate from the two organizations Gail was responsible to was to develop the relationships that would be vital to building a team that would initiate community health programs to be delivered through the newly built Wentz Medical Centre and Laboratory. They were to provide quality health programs to the people of Gabba, a fishing village, and a large district of Kampala.

Anyone who really knows Gail knew her work would not stop with her safe return to Winnipeg. The former paediatric nurse has become a passionate crusader for malaria prevention and a person who desperately wants the world to know it only takes \$10 to keep a child from death. She would be only too happy to take a moment to convince all Manitobans to support Buy-A-Net, a Canadian initiative founded by former

Winnipeg RN Debra Lefebvre that provides bed nets, malaria medication and education to villages in Uganda.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM AWARD

The Interdisciplinary Health Care Team Award is presented to an interdisciplinary health care team whose work has made a significant and meaningful difference to the health and well-being of a client population in a direct care, education, administrative or research setting. Only one award may be presented annually for the entire province.



Nor'West and WRHA Inkster Team

Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre Inc. is a non-profit accredited health agency that was established in 1972 by community members. It has a community-elected Board of Directors and follows Co-op Bylaws. In 1999, the WRHA Inkster Public Health Team (community mental health worker, public health nurses and Families First home visitors) were co-located at Nor'West and began to work collaboratively. Currently, Nor'West in partnership with the WRHA, Inkster Parent Child Coalition, FSH and other community agencies provides services to the residents living in the Inkster community.

Nor'West has been chosen as one of five health agencies from across Canada to participate in the Enhancing Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Primary Health Care Research Project. Last year, Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre was cited in the publication Interdisciplinary Primary Health

Care: Finding the Answers - A Case Study Report. The Team's Interdisciplinary Practice has been included in the Interdisciplinary Tool Kit for Ontario Community Health Centres on the use of integrated charts, integrated goal setting and case consultations.

Nor'West has been awarded the Cooperative Achievement Award by the Manitoba Cooperative Association Inc in 2006.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Professional Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a retiring or retired member of CRNM in recognition of the member's outstanding contribution to the nursing profession over the course of the member's career in nursing.

Val Horner RN

The bulk of Val Horner's career was in the challenging practice environment of corrections where she helped create significant change in the medical area, in the Counseling Department of Winnipeg Remand Centre, in Manitoba Corrections' Training Department and in developing Suicide Prevention policies and training for Manitoba Corrections.

In the early '80s Val started as a registered nurse at the Winnipeg Remand Centre. She did an assessment and quickly determined there were gaps in the system and so she recommended corrective changes. She observed that many of the inmates were in personal crisis; and started to lobby for a counselling department to address this need.

Trying to initiate counselling and other programs to offenders was not easy but her perseverance brought success and the Counselling Department was instituted with Val supervising the new department.



Suicides within provincial correctional facilities was a problem compounded by the lack of standardized training to recognize the behavioural indicators. Val educated staff and was instrumental in promoting Manitoba Corrections to adopt the Living Works Suicide Intervention program of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training or ASIST. Since 1995, all Provincial correctional and probation staff are trained in ASIST.

EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL NURSING AWARDS

Excellence in professional nursing awards reflect all the major practice settings in which registered nurses work including direct care, administration, research and education. This award is given to a registered nurse whose practice exemplifies excellence in nursing.

Caroline Chartrand RN

Caroline's nursing career began in 1986 as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She continued her education on a part time basis, completing her Diploma in Nursing in 1988 and six years later earning her Bachelor of Nursing Degree from the University of Manitoba.



Caroline has since earned a Community Health Care Management certificate in 2000.

After graduation Caroline worked at Concordia Hospital before moving back to her home community of Pine Creek where she worked as a Public Health Nurse for three years before accepting the position of Director of Nursing for the West Region Tribal Council (or WRTC) Health Department in Dauphin.

It was in this position that she was responsible for guiding and supervising the Community Health Nurses in the seven First Nation Communities belonging to the WRTC. This past February Caroline accepted a new challenge as Diabetes Integration Project Coordinator for Four Arrows Regional Health Authority in Winnipeg.

Caroline has a strong belief in the value of professional development opportunities for the nursing staff. Caroline created opportunities for and supported her nurses in completing their Bachelor of Nursing Degree while working. Out of a total of seven RNs,

two have already graduated, another two are near completion and one has recently enrolled in the baccalaureate program.

Renata Cook RN

Renata Cook has been at Nor'West Health Clinic since the late '80s. During her time at Nor'West Health Clinic she has developed and expanded the nursing practice as a primary care nurse. The nursing role at Nor'West (developed by Renata) has now expanded to three primary care nurse practitioners all practicing in the role of the primary care nurse.



Renata is presently involved in a number of research related projects including the Diabetes Care Map initiative and evaluation. She has been instrumental in the Inkster in Action initiative - a partnered community research initiative to promote physical activity and nutrition in the community and she is leading the primary health care team in a formal 3 year evaluation and research initiative.

Renata has ensured that there are many access points to care (appointments, walk-in, outreach, home visits) and all with a multidisciplinary focus — as evidenced by the interdisciplinary care consultation team meetings and family care meetings — concepts implemented and facilitated by Renata. She chairs the Interdisciplinary Case Meetings held monthly at Nor'west. Through these meetings her commitment to collaboration is evident in her advocacy for clients and encouragement for consideration of other's expertise in the plan of care.

April Frego RN

April Frego began her nursing career as a licensed practical nurse and later attended the St. Boniface School of Nursing where she earned her diploma in 1993. She has earned a solid reputation as a skilled diabetes educator who walks the talk of collaborative practice every day. She has been called upon frequently to share her knowledge and expertise on diabetes foot care, diabetes offloading, and chronic and post



surgical wound care. April has been called on to participate on the WRHA's Wound Care's Steering, Recommendation and Educations Committee. She has co-chaired the Education Committee and co-chaired the Wound and Skin Nursing Interest Group.

April shares her skill and knowledge with Family Medicine residents in specific skills and protocols including pap smears and breast exams. She participates in Family Medicine Residency teaching and evaluation. She holds a Faculty Instructor appointment with the University of Manitoba.

For 10 years she worked with the College of Family Physicians of Canada as part of the assessment process for candidates for the Family Physician exam. In her role as a primary care nurse with the Family Medical Centre and Kildonan Medical Centre April coordinated community outreach through a Pap Day.

Ivy Harrison RN

Ivy Harrison believes that if registered nurses don't teach and pass on their accumulated knowledge to our next generation they are not doing themselves justice. That's why she lives those words serving as a preceptor and a clinical education facilitator and regularly receives high praise from her students. Ivy Harrison has been an RN for almost 30 years — in roles that include the ER, Surgery, Acute Medicine and Oncology.



During the past decade Ivy has been a member of the Policies and Procedure committee at the Victoria General Hospital. She can often be heard sharing her extensive knowledge of policies as she helps novice nurses. She sets a high standard for professionalism, responsibility and accountability. She demonstrates ethical nursing practice through her advocacy for patients and their families. She collaborates very effectively with other disciplines in facilitating patient goals. One place where this is very evident is the formulation of patient discharge plans.

Ivy's history of advocacy has also extended to her fellow nurses when she served as the local MNU president. She saw her role as a strong way to give back to new and existing nurses.

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Cathy Hopfner RN

Cathy Hopfner graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing in 1971. She was granted her Bachelor of Nursing Degree from the University of Manitoba in 1998. Cathy recently completed level three of the Skills Enhancement for Health Surveillance, a web-based Epidemiology Course from the Public Health Association of Canada.

Cathy began her 36-year nursing career as a staff nurse at the Ste. Rose General Hospital. During these 14 years she was both a staff nurse and respected leader and role model to her colleagues. In 1985 Cathy joined Manitoba Health as a Public Health Nurse where she also served as Preceptor for two of the Community Health Workers.

In the year 2000 Cathy became the Regional Immunization Coordinator and Site Manager for the East District of the Parkland Regional Health Authority. In the fall of 2005 this position expanded to include the title of Clinical Services Manager for Communicable Disease and Immunization, and Clinical Nursing Support for the four Primary Health Care Centers in the region. She is a published author in the field of Communicable Disease and Infection Control.

Cathy has been actively involved with the College. She served on the College's Board of Directors and continues to volunteer her time to serve on College committees.



nine sites; 7 Day Hospitals, and 12 outreach programs.

Jo-Ann has participated in a National Working Group to support the Canadian Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (CARN), a new/emerging group within the Canadian Nurses Association. Jo-Ann currently represents Manitoba on the Interim board of Directors of CARN.

She has provided the leadership to implement and integrate the 39 recommendations resulting from an external review of Deer Lodge. Although a difficult experience, Jo-Ann decided to help others by sharing the challenges she faced over this period so others could benefit from her experience.

Jo-Ann lives her commitment to life-long learning by making time to be an assistant professor in the faculty of nursing at the University of Manitoba.

Sylvia Oosterveen RN

Sylvia Oosterveen has earned the respect and trust of her colleagues through her own uncompromising integrity both personally and professionally. She is a life long learner with a strong commitment to personal and professional development.

After graduating with a nursing diploma, she pursued and attained both a bachelor and masters degree in nursing. Sylvia has also earned a Nursing management certificate, Intensive Care Certificate and Catholic Health Leadership Certificate.

Her expertise is widely recognized as evidenced through her ongoing participation as a guest lecturer, panel expert in the preparation of future nurses. As the Executive Director of Youville Centre she also demonstrates a commitment to future health providers through employment opportunities for extended practice registered nurses and providing learning opportunities for many health care practitioners, with an emphasis on nursing.

Through Sylvia's leadership Youville embarked on its first attempt at the accreditation process with excellent results and a three year accreditation. This leadership extends to her participation on the board of the Victoria General Hospital through chairing the Quality Improvement and Risk Management Committee.

With all that has been on her plate, Sylvia has still found time for professional activities with CCHSE and CACHCA, as well as



board involvement in CRNM, CACHCA and Victoria General Hospital.

Carla Pindera RN

Carla Pindera has more than 20 years of practice experience and is an AIDS Certified Registered Nurse who has achieved both her BN and MSC degrees.

Carla is the Team Leader and Operations Manager of the Primary Health Care Team at Nine Circles Community Health Centre Inc. Her area of nursing is a Community Health specialty: Sexually transmitted infections and blood borne pathogens with special focus on HIV/AIDS and marginalized client populations

Carla Pindera serves as a role model who leads by example. She inspires and motivates the entire primary health care team at Nine Circles Community Health Centre to ensure that their client population has access to quality client-centered care. She encourages her nursing team to work to the full extent of nursing practice and supports them by ensuring appropriate policies, resources and continuing education are in place.

Carla is one of the primary investigators that received a \$240,000 Canadian Institute of Health Research Grant (CIHR) to study social supports, care giving and quality of life of persons living with HIV/AIDS. She is also the primary investigator of a successful two year technical research assistant grant to develop and enhance community based research capacity among Aboriginals and non-Aboriginal community members HIV/AIDS in academic and non-academic settings.



Jo-Ann McKenzie RN

Jo-Ann McKenzie has been practicing in gerontological nursing long enough to be recognized as an expert by many. She has been an RN for 29 years and achieved her BScN. (with distinction) in 1984 and her Masters of Nursing in 1993.

Her career path has taken her from practice on the front line of care delivery to regional directorship of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Rehabilitation and Geriatric Program. Today Jo-Anne is now responsible for a total budget of \$92 million dollars; 1187 beds across



Patricia Setlack RN

Patti Setlack has more than 25 years experience and puts it to use every day as the clinical resource nurse for a combined surgical/obstetrical unit at a rural hospital. She has earned the respect and admiration of colleagues through her insightful leadership and hands-on approach to her nursing practice. In addition to being the clinical resource person, Patti is also the charge nurse for the



unit Monday through Friday.

Most of the staff arriving at Patti's unit have little or no previous experience in obstetrics and as a result require a thorough orientation. Patti used her years of experience and love of teaching to develop an in-depth 16 hour teaching and orientation package she delivers to help bring new staff up to speed quickly and efficiently.

To further assist staff in upgrading their knowledge and skill, Patti has been instrumental in bringing the MORE OB program to the facility. Nurses and doctors are expected to complete this program this year.

Patti leads the regional maternal child care committee as chair and through this committee has coordinated care and addressed issues between the 2 facilities delivering obstetrical care in the region resulting in smoother processes and better patient outcomes.

Michelle Toddoruk-Orchard RN

This year will mark Michelle Toddoruk-Orchard's 20th anniversary in nursing. Michelle is a Clinical Nurse Specialist for the WRHA Home Care Program.

She has developed a number of innovative and creative solutions to client specific and regional program nursing issues including: a wound care education competency program for home care, and ankle brachial index program, and a vacuum assisted closure therapy program to name but a few.

As a result of her years of experience and her keen grasp of issues, theory and best practices Michelle is regarded as a quintessential wound care expert within the Winnipeg region and presently co-chairs the Regional Wound Care Steering Committee. Colleagues from all disciplines recognize Michelle's unparalleled clinical expertise, collaborative enthusiasm and unwavering commitment to improving wound care management across all sectors of the health care continuum.

Her commitment to life long learning led to her earning her BN in 1987, MN in 2000, Enterostomal Therapist designation last year and is currently working towards Certified Diabetes Education certification.

Michelle's nominator summed things up quite nicely when she wrote, "Michelle epitomizes the highest standards in profes-



sional nursing due to her humanitarian approach, insightfulness, knowledge and clinical expertise, ability to build consensus and the overwhelming positive recognition of her colleagues."

Pam Walker RN

Pam Walker has been an RN for more than 20 years. Her provincial and regional colleagues and staff describe her as professional and always keeping practice standards, accreditation standards and regional policies in mind when planning, implementing and reviewing new and existing public health programs and services.

Pam acts as a resource and provides support and leadership to regional staff and both her regional and provincial colleagues. She effectively chairs a variety of program, regional and provincial committees. She is described by staff as an excellent supervisor who enables them to develop their skills and encourages their independent critical thinking within clearly defined program parameters. She is described by her peers as generous, a broad thinker who is able to share knowledge and expertise easily, linking them with other initiatives and appropriate resources effectively. She exceeds consistently the expectations of her role and remains a valuable contributing member of the Assiniboine Regional Health Authority leadership team.

Pam co-chaired the Public Health Manager Network for two two-year terms and led the development and implementation of the Assiniboine RHA Regional Diabetes Program.

Dawn Winter RN

We've all heard the title head nurse. Dawn Winter has earned the affectionate title of "heart nurse" in the Brandon and Westman area. Her nominator notes she is such an expert at cardio nursing that she successfully attained her CNA certification in Cardiovascular Nursing without even studying for the exam!

An RN of thirty years, Dawn is an integral leader in the program development and evolution of Cardiac Rehabilitation nursing. In



1985 a team with Dawn and a cardiologist started the first Cardiac Rehab program in Brandon.

Dawn's efforts have had a great impact on cardiac care for patients and their families. The results can be seen in greatly decreased need for travel outside the region for care with the resulting decrease in ambulance costs to patients and has also greatly resulted in improving follow-up care. This has also had a positive impact by decreasing stress to patients and their families and to the organization fiscally and in bed utilization.

Dawn truly walks the talk when it comes to heart healthy living. She is a lifelong advocate for healthy living, as a role model for active living, healthy eating, and maintaining a healthy balance between homelife and worklife.

Dr. Roberta Woodgate RN

Dr. Roberta Woodgate has been an RN for 30 years and is currently an Associate Professor in the U of M Faculty of Nursing where she has built a strong program of research on families and children/youth with cancer, chronic and life-threatening illnesses. Her research has contributed to the scientific and practice communities and has improved the care experiences of families and children within the health care system.

Her dissertation study (2001) resulted in new discoveries about childhood cancer and cancer symptoms, and gave "voice" to children/youth and their families. She currently holds funding from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) for a project that revisits how children's cancer symptoms are assessed and managed using a child-centered computer video-game.

Roberta is an effective role model, mentor, and educator in the Faculty of Nursing Graduate Program. She is committed to preparing the next generation of nurse scholars and is currently the Thesis Chairperson for 8 graduate students and one PhD student; and a thesis committee member for another 8 graduate students and one PhD student.

Roberta has disseminated research findings to clinical and scientific audiences (over 40 peer reviewed publications, over 70 conference and scholarly presentations) at the local, national and international levels.



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OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The outstanding achievement award is bestowed on a person who has been a member of the College within the last five years, whose exceptional and sustained individual achievements have made an outstanding contribution to the profession of nursing.

Noreen Wallwin RN

In the words of her nominator, "If I could only use one word to describe Noreen, it would be innovative. It seems that in every project she takes on, she thinks outside the box and puts a new innovative twist on it."

Noreen Wallwin wears many hats in the Burntwood region. One of those hats is that of Emergency Preparedness Officer for Burntwood with responsibilities for main-



taining emergency plans and ensuring staff are educated about those plans.

As the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, Noreen went to Fort Wayne Indiana and attended a 5 day SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) course. In her typical fashion, Noreen took information she got from that course and created her own 4-hour course for emergency staff about conducting forensic sexual assault interviews, exams and about court appearances. She has offered the course in Lynn Lake; for FNIHB at a nurse in charge conference and in Thompson for BRHA staff.

It is clear that regardless of her role, Noreen strives to support and empower her colleagues and is able to inspire this higher standard by her own example as well as through educating those around her, both formally and informally.

These are just a few examples of what Noreen brings to nursing. Some of the most powerful information on her nomination came from her nominator. Here's an excerpt: "I vividly recall an experience shortly after graduation that helped shape some of my

thoughts about ethics in nursing. I found myself in a situation where a fellow nurse was not acting ethically. Noreen was the administration on-call that day and dealt with the situation. What impressed me most and stayed with me is that she called me to her office within days of the incident to discuss it with me. She made it clear that what I had witnessed was unethical and unacceptable and that I had a right to be angry for being put in such a situation. This helped me to think independently and realize that just because someone is a senior nurse, their actions are not always right or ethical. It taught me critical thinking instead of blind trust — an important lesson to a new and impressionable nurse who is eager to please."

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