



FREUDIAN SHIP

The Motley Crew takes to the water to raise funds for cancer research.
page 3



TAKING FLIGHT

BU's first student flight nurse takes to the air and makes history.
page 4



HONORARY DOCTORATE

Marlene Fitzsimmons receives BU honours.
page 8

SHS Caring Connections



**BRANDON
UNIVERSITY**

Founded 1899

**School of
Health Studies**

Master of Psychiatric Nursing Becoming a Reality

Dr. Renee Robinson, R.P.N., Ph.D.
Department of Psychiatric Nursing

The Department of Psychiatric Nursing has developed a proposal for a Masters' degree in Psychiatric Nursing (M.P.N.). Decision-makers, employers, practitioners and consumers have all indicated strong support for the program.

The M.P.N. program has been specifically designed with practicing psychiatric nurses in mind. The program will:

- Build on strength – Brandon University has been a pioneer in psychiatric nursing education, establishing the first post-diploma degree in psychiatric nursing in Canada in 1986 and

the first 4 year undergraduate degree in 1995.

- Draw on expertise from across the country – The faculty complement at Brandon University will be extended through partnership with individuals who are leaders in psychiatric nursing and with educational institutions offering relevant courses.
- Tailor education to student interest – The Master of Psychiatric Nursing program offers streams in advanced clinical practice, administration, and education. Each stream offers substantial opportunity to pursue a focus of professional interest.

continued on page 2

Health Studies Complex Renamed

See story on page 7.



The Dr. James Brown family with Dr. Louis Visentin.

First Nations and Aboriginal Counselling Program Becomes a Department of the School of Health Studies

The School of Health Studies is pleased to announce that the First Nations and Aboriginal Counselling (FNAC) Program has officially become a Department of the School of Health Studies. This change took place in September of this year. The Department of First Nations and Aboriginal Counselling joins the Department of Psychiatric Nursing and the Department of Nursing. This is an exciting time for the Faculty and students of all three Departments as the Dean and Faculty look forward to working together and to more changes in the future.

A Message from the Dean

In Pursuit of Quality Education and a Positive Learning Environment

The start of another academic year is an exciting time in the School of Health Studies. Students and faculty are back in the classrooms, skills labs, and clinical areas. There is much anticipation of the new year and what lies ahead. The School is embarking on many initiatives that will have positive impacts upon the education of our students, professional practice, and the health of citizens of Manitoba.

I am pleased to share that the First Nation and Aboriginal Counselling (FNAC) program joined the School of Health Studies in June 2009. Under the leadership of Andrea Hinch-Bourms, Acting Director of F.N.A.C., the program is embarking upon a transitional year with plans for curricular revisions, program improvements, and renaming of the academic credential. We have established a Program Advisory Committee which includes employers, elders, students, faculty, and graduates of the program. This committee will provide ongoing consultation, collaboration, and advice on program development, implementation, and evaluation. It is an important component of a newly restructured and rejuvenated program.

We have established a proposal to the provincial government for a Master in Psychiatric Nursing program. This will be the first of its kind in Canada and will be based upon a strong foundation of expertise and experience in Psychiatric Nursing at Brandon University. We anticipate a favourable response from the government and enrolling the first students in the fall of 2010.

Enrolment in School of Health Studies programs has increased by approximately 20% this academic year. A concerted effort to attract more applicants and recruit more students was quite successful. The School has been “rebranded” with the slogan *Care to make a Difference? Join us in Health Studies*.

The School is piloting a new clinical supervision model that includes hiring part time clinical teachers who also continue to be employed in their respective health care agencies. This model has served to create a bridge between education and practice by ensuring our clinical teachers are grounded in the realities of practice. It also assists the School in meeting the needs of our increasing student population.

This summer we received positive news from the College of Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba and the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba that our B.Sc.P.N. and B.N. programs received maximum lengths of approval. This is a testament to the quality of programming and instruction that our students in Health Studies have grown accustomed to.

In summary, Health Studies is a vibrant place to work and attend school. Pursuing quality education and creating positive learning environments are goals we will continue to pursue throughout the years to come.



Dr. Dean Care, RN, PhD
Dean and Professor
School of Health
Studies

Master of Psychiatric Nursing Becoming a Reality

continued from front page

- Facilitate application of theory to practice – Each of the required courses in each stream will include practice time.
- Facilitate program access – The program is designed to meet the needs of adult learners, many of whom are currently employed as psychiatric nurses. Access is facilitated through an option to study on a part-time basis, prior learning assessment, transfer credit and distributed learning.
- Contribute to meeting market needs – Advanced practice psychiatric nurses, health care managers and psychiatric nursing educators are all in high demand.

The M.P.N. program is designed for students who are seeking advanced practice roles in psychiatric nursing. Foundational courses in advanced practice are complemented by a focus on a selected stream. Streams are offered in advanced clinical practice, administration and education. The streams are supported by research courses which, when combined with content from the selected stream, will enable graduates to evaluate current practice and contribute to innovation in service delivery. Graduates will be prepared to be leaders in psychiatric nursing and health care. Graduates will also be prepared to undertake doctoral study.

The program consists of 33 credit hours and includes a thesis requirement. Each student's program of study will be tailored to his or her interests and learning objectives. Tailoring of the program will occur through selection of a focus for the two courses in the chosen stream and an elective course specific to the student's area of interest. Demonstration of advanced knowledge and skill in clinical practice, administration, or education is incorporated into the program.

Development of the M.P.N. proposal has been in process since 2008. A statement of intent was submitted to the Council on Post-Secondary Education (COPSE) in the fall of 2008 and, in March 2009, the School of Health Studies was invited to submit a full proposal. The full proposal has been approved by the Department of Psychiatric Nursing, Health Studies Faculty Council, and most recently by Brandon University Board of Governors. The full proposal was submitted to C.O.P.S.E. at the end of October 2009.

We will continue to provide updates on the status of the proposal in the School of Health Studies newsletter. Additional information can be obtained from Renée Robinson, (204) 727 9721 or Robinson@BrandonU.CA.



Brandon University School of Health Studies 2009 Spring Convocation

Wendy Haidey
Department of Nursing

Brandon University's 98th Annual Spring Convocation was held on Saturday, May 30, 2009.

Forty-five students from the Bachelor of Nursing program received their degrees. **Margo Klassen** was the recipient of the Brandon University Gold Medal in Nursing, the Brandon Regional Health Authority Gold Medal and the C.R.N.M. Medal of Excellence. **Patricia Foster** was the recipient of the Brandon Regional Health Authority Silver Medal. **Karen Wenham** was the recipient of the Brandon Regional Health Authority Bronze Medal.

Brandon University, School of Health Studies, Bachelor of Nursing program proudly presents the Class of 2009!

Bachelor of Nursing Graduates

Jenna Andres	Erin Dickey	Karen Noakes
Carly Baloun	Jenna Dixon	Sarah Nyland
Taylor Basaraba	Robyn Duerksen	Lindsay Penner
Shelda Beamish	Janelle Dyck	Tamara Sawatzky
Jennifer Blaikie	Michelle Egan	Melissa Spelliscy
Jenn Blumer	Tracey Evans	Jocelyn Stewart
Jenna Boguski	Kelly Fitzpatrick	Trevor Thompson
Garrett Bray	Sheena Ford	Melissa Towle
Kaitlin Campbell	Patricia Foster	Serena Verstraete
Maria Campbell	Marcy Goetz	Fallon Vines
Kayla Caul	Gaylynn Kennedy	Cindy Webb
Sara Chartier	Margo Klassen	Karen Wenham
Stephanie Crepeele	Sioban Maier	Melissa Wielenga
Nicole Clement	Peggy Maxwell Bos	Stephanie Winslow
Jessica Currie	Lindsey McMillan	Brandi-Lynn Wykes

Thirty-four students from the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing program and three students from the Bachelor of Science in Mental Health program received their degrees. **Amber Elias** was the recipient of the Brandon University Gold Medal in Psychiatric Nursing and the Brandon Regional Health Authority Gold Medal. **Margaret Keating** was the recipient of the Brandon Regional Health Authority Silver Medal. **Jennifer Adair** was the recipient of the Brandon Regional Health Authority Bronze Medal. **Kristina Lischynski** was the recipient of the Brandon University Gold Medal in Mental Health. **Margaret Keating** delivered the Valedictory Address.

Brandon University, School of Health Studies, Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing program proudly presents the Class of 2009!

Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing Graduates

Brandon Campus		
Andrea Cassan	Paige Mathison	Kimberley Graydon
Bryce Couling	Laura Pugh	Sarah Haliuk
Chelsea Donogh	Christie Roth	Carly Hallett
Amber Elias	Tessa Small	Richard Herget
Stephanie Fraser	Jennifer Steele	Pamela Kachur
Jamie Godwin	Andrea Thomson	Tristan McDougal
Angela Hammond	Kaylan Trott	Larissa Medwid
Jodie Hodgins	Alicia Wruth	Trevor Milloy
Amy Johnas		Michael Pawluk
Margaret Keating	Winnipeg Campus	Joe Russo
Kelsey Kroeger	Jennifer Adair	Marcy Symaka
Amanda Lenius	Joyce Evans	
	Lynne Gosselin	

Bachelor of Science in Mental Health Graduates

Kristina Lischynski	Gary Dale Pankiw	Judith Ramore
---------------------	------------------	---------------

The Motley Crew of the "Freudian Ship" Earn Money for Cancer Research

Debra Dusome, R.N., B.A., Ex.A.T.
Department of Psychiatric Nursing

Psychiatric nursing students at the Winnipeg Campus, with the help of family and friends, earned \$1,259.00 for cancer research by participating in the dragon boat races held September 11-13th, 2009 at the Forks in Winnipeg. Shannon Morley the team captain and team members Curtis Reynolds, Cecilia Urguelles, Kelly Hyra, Mackenzie Stewart, Jessica Winnicki, Shawn Kawolke, Ziggy Bernard, Lani Zastre, Carolyn Jenkins, Burgess Mertens, Aleem Khan, Kris Bautista, Angie Paquette, Nick Hall, Dianne Gilmore, Sandra Jenson, Courtney Paquette, Sarah Cameron, Jon Royal and Kyle Hyra plan to participate next year as well. The team won a plaque for the most original team name! They would like to encourage other psychiatric nursing students to come on board for next year.

Student Nurse Takes To The Air

Chris Van De Woestyne
Third Year Nursing Student

Nursing Practice VI (N.P. VI) is the consolidated 3 week experience at the end of the third year of the Nursing Program. My N.P.VI took place April/ May 2009. During this clinical experience I was fortunate to participate in flight nursing with FastAir Medevac from Winnipeg. This type of flight nursing involves flying into remote communities in the north and transporting patients to larger centers of care such as Winnipeg or Thompson. The reason for transport is due to the patient being at a level of acuity that cannot be safely dealt with at the northern hospital or nursing station.

I chose to pursue this experience because I have lived in the north and my wife is a flight nurse. I had heard of the challenges and adventures that are part of this career and I believed they would fit well with the goals to be achieved in N.P.VI. I also felt this type of nursing experience would fit well with my goals as a student and where I was in my personal development. I have been an L.P.N. for 13 years and many of the practice environments I have seen as a B.N. student are quite familiar to me. I wanted to pursue an experience that would truly push me to expand my current knowledge base. Here is an excerpt from my own final evaluation.

Being in this new environment did take me well out of my comfort zone. Also, being the first B.U. student flight nurse brought with it some anxiety as well as some honor. It was certainly a goal of mine to set the bar high and perform at the top of my game. I do not feel that this would be an experience that everyone would enjoy. You are away from home, work very long hours (the clinical component for N.P.VI was 120 hours; we fulfilled this in under 9 days), you have to be aware of your personal safety when at the reserves/nursing stations, you also have the safety of the crew to consider when you accept these patients and their escorts. Last but not least, you need to be very



Chris Van De Woestyne and his preceptor, Lynda Newell

confident in your skill and ability. In this case you were working for a private company who has to make a profit. Good PR is vital

“Being in this new environment did take me well out of my comfort zone. Also, being the first B.U. student flight nurse brought with it some anxiety as well as some honor. It was certainly a goal of mine to set the bar high and perform at the top of my game.”

— Chris Van De Woestyne

for them to continue to succeed. I must say that I was totally exhausted at the end of this experience...but it was fantastic!!!

The diversity of this experience was one of the highlights a flight nursing

placement. During these 9 days we transported 14 patients, did approximately 30 different flight legs. The mode of transport included planes, helicopters, vans, trucks, ambulances, and even a hovercraft...it was awesome!! We flew all over Manitoba from Lac Brochet to Shamat-tawa and many points between. The range of patients that I provided care to was extensive. Another excerpt from my journal reads: *My range of skills over the past few weeks covered the map. We transferred 14 patients. We had palliative, several pediatric, cancer, orthopedic, overdose/psychiatric, ETOH/chest pain, fractures in young and old, and one call that due to level of acuity, we did not transport after doing a thorough assessment. That patient required the services of lifeflight, an advanced team of nurses and doctors...*

This adventure has certainly had a lasting impact on my personal and professional life. I believe it is hard to gain a full appreciation of the obstacles
continued on next page



Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Update

Jane Karpa, R.P.N., M.M.F.T.
Department of Psychiatric Nursing

The Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (W.R.C.A.S.N.) founded in 1969 is an affiliate body of the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (C.A.S.N.). Through W.R.C.A.S.N. members are provided with opportunities to examine beliefs, ideas, and concerns regarding nursing and nursing education. All Brandon University School of Health Studies Faculty are able to register for membership in this organization. There are several reasons why membership in W.R.C.A.S.N. is important to the Brandon University Faculty within the Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing programs. W.R.C.A.S.N. serves as an excellent forum for networking, sharing in the interchange of nursing education knowledge and the promotion of research in nursing education. As well, members from the School of Health Studies have input into the regional representation of views regarding issues of importance concerning university nursing education and the profession.

In mid-winter, February 19-21, 2009 W.R.C.A.S.N. held their Annual Conference and General Meeting in Calgary, Alberta. On behalf of Brandon University's School of Health Studies, Assistant Professor Jane Karpa, in her role as member-at-large, attended the conference entitled: Teaching from Within: Supporting Nurse Educators for the Future. The conference theme was well reflected in the chosen concurrent sessions, with topics such as: reflective teaching practices; diversity and culture within nursing education; supporting clinical teaching; building teaching common communities; and tools for building scholarship being presented. The keynote speaker was Dr. Florence Myrick, Professor Faculty of Nursing,



Jane Karpa

University of Alberta. Dr. Myrick spoke eloquently on "Social Justice Nursing – Fostering a Climate of Critique", calling for a nursing education environment that is respectful and critically reflective.

During the conference, representatives from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing presented an update, regarding the first draft of the White Paper stemming from the inaugural Nursing Education Summit in 2008, to the W.R.C.A.S.N. executive and members-at-large. This White Paper will outline an action plan to address the summit recommendations on redesigning nursing education to satisfy population health needs and support health human resources planning across Canada.

Ms Karpa was honored with an invitation to become a member of the W.R.C.A.S.N. Executive Committee. In consultation with the Dean of the School of Health Studies, Ms Karpa's first official task was to request Brandon

University School of Health Studies be placed on the Rotation of Officers for W.R.C.A.S.N. Over the years ahead, Brandon University School of Health Studies will have representation in the positions of President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Vice President. Brandon University is proud of its long history in nursing and psychiatric nursing education and as the future of scholarly nursing education and research is on a precipice of change, it is very important Brandon University School of Health Studies have a strong voice in promoting the advancement of nursing education and nursing scholarship in Western Canada.

Student Nurse Takes To The Air

continued from page 4

and challenges faced by people living in these northern communities until you experience them first hand. Like many things in life, we take for granted all that we have until we see and are part of a life that does not have many of what we call basic services. Things like running water, fresh produce, access to a doctor 24/7 or a simple 30 minute drive to any and all conveniences. On a more positive note, the peace and tranquility of the north can hardly be put into words as well. To see the beauty of the lakes, rocks, and trees from the air was a gift that I will never forget. To look across the lake and be surrounded by truly unspoiled nature is something that I wish everyone could experience.

In closing I would like to thank those that helped make this opportunity a reality. It has, without doubt, been the highlight of my educational experience thus far.

Faculty and Students Present at National Hospice Palliative Care Conference

Dr. Renee Will, R.N., Ed.D.
Department of Nursing

Elizabeth Redfern
Third Year Psychiatric Nursing Student

Kelly Will
Third Year Psychiatric Nursing Student

On October 19th, Dr. Renee Will was privileged to present a workshop at the Canadian Hospice and Palliative Care Association Annual Conference in Winnipeg MB. She was joined in the presentation by two third year students from the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing program, Elizabeth Redfern and Kelly Will. They were both students in the course 69:272 Introduction to Palliative Care taught by Dr. Will in January 2009.

The presentation given by Dr. Will was entitled, "Reflection and Student Learning: Utilizing Journeys in Hospice Palliative Care in Nursing Education" and was followed by a one-hour workshop, co-facilitated by Dr. Will, Elizabeth and Kelly. The workshop gave interested health care professionals the opportunity to utilize writing stems and engage in journaling themselves. Ms Katherine (Kath) Murray, B.S.N., M.A., C.H.P.C.N.(C) designed the journal *Journeys in Hospice Palliative Care*, to help individuals gain an understanding of the increasingly deep body of hospice palliative care knowledge, theory and research, and to help individuals integrate their new knowledge into practice. Dr. Will used the journal in the course to stimulate reflection and critical thinking



Elizabeth Redfern and Kelly Will

about palliative care and the many complex experiences that students encounter as they begin their journey in this specialized area of psychiatric nursing care.

The workshop was well received as both students and professionals were given the opportunity to share experiences and thoughts surrounding death and dying and utilize their journal writing to reflect on their practice.

Dr. Will reports "I am so pleased to report that Elizabeth and Kelly were excellent ambassadors for the School of Health Studies, the Department of Psychiatric Nursing and the psychiatric nursing profession. They were professional, presented confidently and responded effectively to audience questions. They fielded questions about psychiatric nursing and their program, as some of the participants were from eastern Canada and less familiar with the profession, in a confident manner that led many to question why psychiatric nurses are not evident on palliative care teams. As this is something I have been promoting for some time, it was wonderful to have the students there to provide clear evidence of the contribution psychiatric nurses could make to palliative care services." Kath Murray was in attendance from Victoria and was thrilled.

Brandon University Nurses Association – The Torch is Passed



Doris Gardiner

Doris Gardiner
President, Fourth Year B.Sc.P.N. Student

I am pleased and excited to have taken on the role of President of BUNA for 2009-2010. This is a new venture for me and one that I look forward to as I move through my final year in the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing program. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

I was born and raised in Switzerland and immigrated to Canada in 1985 when I married a Canadian farmer. In 2005 our marriage ended and the following year I entered the B.Sc.P.N. program. I have been immersed in the program ever since and now, with my final year beginning in the fall, I have

made the decision to become more involved in my student association. I believe that my enthusiasm, my appreciation and experience with different cultures, and my love of people will serve me well in my role as President.

This fall the School of Health Studies grew to three programs with the addition of the First Nations and Aboriginal Counselling program. This provided an opportunity for B.U.N.A. to re-evaluate our name with the result that we have changed the name to the Brandon University Health Studies Students Association or B.U.H.S.S.A. Welcome to all of the F.N.A.C. students to B.U.H.S.S.A.



Health Studies Complex Renamed

Brandon University Alumni Office

On May 29, 2009, Brandon University's Health Studies Complex was officially named *The Dr. James & Mrs. Lucille Brown School of Health Studies*. This dedication was made in honour of the late Dr. Brown's long and distinguished career in the field of medicine and in recognition of his and Lucille's dedicated support to Brandon University.

James Brown was born in Brandon in 1923 and graduated from Brandon College in 1944 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He graduated from the University of Manitoba Medical School in 1949. He did specialized study in ear, nose and throat medicine at the University of London, England, and had a long and distinguished medical career taking him from London to New York, Los Angeles, and Calgary, Alberta. In 1955, Dr. Brown married Lucille Millions, who had trained as a Registered Nurse, achieving the General Proficiency Prize on graduation from Brandon General Hospital in 1952. They returned to Canada in 1956 to establish a medical practice in Calgary. It was here that they made their home and had their four children, sons John and David and daughters Maryann and Michelle. Together they opened an office which over time grew and became The Brown Clinic with a large staff of specialist doctors and support staff. Dr. Brown devoted the rest of his life to the surgical treatment of the deaf, doing over 30,000 operations, including the first successful case in Calgary in 1957. He was an active member of his profession, publishing numerous articles on his research into deafness and presenting his findings at academic conferences around the world. In 2004, on the 60th Anniversary of his graduation from Brandon College, he received the degree Doctor of Science (honoris causa) from Brandon University in recognition of his outstanding commitment to the

advancement of medical and surgical knowledge in his field and to his continued affiliation and contribution to Brandon University.

Dr. Brown was always active in the community in service club fundraising and other charitable causes, and he and Mrs. Brown were very generous to Brandon University, establishing the Dr. James and Mrs. Lucille Brown Bursary in Health Studies, and the Dr. James and Mrs. Lucille Brown Bursary in Music.

In 2006, Dr. Brown became a member of Brandon University Foundation. In December 2007, in recognition of their roots to the city of Brandon, and their close ties to Brandon College, Dr. Brown made a generous commitment for the development of sports medicine services within Brandon University's Healthy Living Centre.

Dr. James Brown passed away May 1, 2009 at the age of 86 years. Mrs. Brown continues to live in Calgary, Alberta.



**BRANDON
UNIVERSITY**

Founded 1899

"Something Special"

Contact:

Dr. Dean Care
Dean, School of Health
Studies
Brandon University
270-18th Street
Brandon, Manitoba
Canada R7A 6A9
Phone: (204) 727-7456
Fax: (204) 726-5793
E-mail: cared@brandonu.ca

For more
information visit:
www.brandonu.ca

School of Health Studies Assistant Professor Positions

Brandon University is a leader in providing high quality education to over 3,000 full- and part-time students in arts, sciences, education, music, and health studies. Based in southwestern Manitoba, Brandon University also offers pre-professional and Masters programs, as well as innovative and award-winning outreach programs in a personalized learning environment.

Applications are invited for four (4) probationary tenure-track positions in the Nursing Department (1), and Psychiatric Nursing Department (3). We seek individuals with a commitment to excellence in teaching and research. Duties of the positions include teaching courses related to mental health, maternal child, and community health. Development of a program of research/ scholarship, and service to the community are also expected.

Qualifications:

- Current registration, or eligibility for registration, with the CRNM or CRPNM;
- Completed PhD in Nursing or related discipline preferred;
- Master's degree in a related discipline is required;
- Relevant teaching experience required;
- Recent clinical experience in the area of mental health or maternal child or community health preferred;
- Excellent communication/interaction skills.

Interested candidates should forward a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and names of three referees.

Rank and Salary: Commensurate with qualifications

Application Deadline: March 1, 2010 or until filled

Start Date: July 1, 2010

We thank all applicants for their interest and effort in applying for this position and advise that only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. Short listed candidates will be expected to provide copies of credentials at time of interview. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply, however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

communications

Names of members of the School of Health Studies are in bold.

Publications

Pachkowski, K., & Robinson, J. R. (2009). *Feedback to the diversity task group: Promoting excellence in serving ethno-cultural groups in rural areas*. Submitted to the Diversity Task Group, Mental Health Commission of Canada. Brandon, MB: Author.

Abstracts Accepted

Doty-Sweetnam, K., & Ek, N. *Recruitment and retention of psychiatric nursing faculty in Canada*. Accepted for presentation at the World Congress for Psychiatric Nurses Conference, March 18-20, 2010 in Vancouver, B.C.

Pachkowski, K., & Robinson, J. R. *R.P.N.s working to meet the mental health needs of immigrants and refugees in rural areas*. Accepted for presentation at the World Congress for Psychiatric Nurses Conference, March 18-20, 2010 in Vancouver, B.C.

Robinson, J. R., & Pachkowski, K. *Promoting excellence in serving ethno-cultural groups in rural areas*. Accepted for presentation at the Rural Health Research Society Conference, October 15-17, 2009 in Kingston, ON.

Invited Presentations

Karen Clements and Renee Robinson were among a select group invited to Toronto to participate with the Diversity Task Force of the Mental Health Commission of Canada in making recommendations on immigrant and refugee mental health.

Awards and Recognitions

The School of Health Studies is proud to announce that **Ms. Marlene Fitzsimmons** was awarded the degree of **Doctor of Science (honoris causa)** during spring convocation on May 30, 2009. Marlene has dedicated her life and career to psychiatric nursing and made major contributions to the profession of psychiatric nursing, psychiatric nursing education at Brandon University and innovative mental health service delivery here in Brandon. Marlene has always been dedicated to the clients. She has been a strong advocate for individuals with mental illness to ensure that they experience improvement in the quality of their life. She has been a mentor to many new Registered Psychiatric Nurses, taking them "under her wing" and encouraging them to become all that they could be and more.



Marlene Fitzsimmons and Dr. Louis Visentin

When asked how she felt about receiving this degree, Marlene responded "I am absolutely thrilled and humbled to have received this very prestigious award, Doctor of Science (honoris causa). I accepted this award on behalf of all the staff, clients and families I have had the privilege of working with over the past 50 years. The changes in psychiatric nursing education, practice and in the mental health delivery system are overwhelming. The recovery model that promotes partnerships between clients, families, service providers and communities continues to evolve and reduce stigma. As a Registered Psychiatric Nurse, I am proud to have been a part of this evolution. Thank you to all my nominators."

Please join us in congratulating a very worthy recipient. Congratulations Marlene and thank you for your vision and mentorship.

Dr. Renee Will was awarded the Board of Governor's **Award for Excellence in Community Service in 2009**. Dr. Will is an Associate Professor and the Norma Wylie Professor of Palliative Care in the Department of Nursing at Brandon

University School of Health Studies. Dr. Will has been involved in palliative care for most of her 35 year nursing career, and received this award based upon her contributions within both Brandon, and the broader community of Manitoba. Her contributions have included sitting on a variety of committees and boards, including the Manitoba Hospice Palliative Care Association and the Westman Hospice Association. She is also a member of the Brandon Regional Health Authority Palliative Care Team. Dr. Will's contributions have included teaching hospice volunteers, securing financial support for a variety of palliative care initiatives, and mentoring students in palliative care experiences. Congratulations, Dr. Will.

Tracey Collyer received was presented the **Order of Felis rufus** award by Brandon University President Dr. D. Poff at the fall General Faculty Council Meeting. The Order of Felis rufus is an honour society that recognizes those individuals whose distinguished work helps promote the quality and excellence of Brandon University. Tracey was recognized for her valuable contributions as Student Advisor in the Department of Nursing, for efforts in recruitment and ongoing advisement of students. Of particular note was the exemplary work that Tracey has done with Aboriginal students. Well done and congratulations, Tracey.



Publisher: Dean Care
Editor: Roberta Graham
Newsletter Committee: Debra Dusome, Cathy Foster, Faye Simpson

Submissions to the next newsletter should be forwarded to Roberta Graham at grahamr@brandonu.ca.

Brandon University • School of Health Studies
270-18th Street, Brandon, MB R7A 6A9
www.brandonu.ca/Academic/HealthStudies



**BRANDON
UNIVERSITY**

Founded 1899