

**Communiqué** is a quarterly research and scholarship publication of the University of Victoria School of Nursing. **Communiqué** is *the* source for information regarding research and scholarly activities in Nursing at UVic. Submit to **Communiqué**! Tell us your ideas, recent publication citations, awards, or research and scholarship news by contacting Robbyn Lanning at robbyn@uvic.ca.

#### **Announcements**

2011 Alumni Award of Excellence

- Zulis Yalte, MN student, and Joan Humphries, PhD student, were the recipients of the 2011 Dr. Joy Johnson Award for Excellence in Scholarship presented at the School of Nursing research conference, Building connections: Nursing's contributions to health research. The awardees were selected through a blind review process and received the highest ranking scores amongst student applicants. More information from the conference will be featured in the upcoming Fall 2011 edition of the Communiqué!
- The nursing scholar, a research and writing blog for graduate students is launching this September (soft launch August 22). Bloggers Robbyn Lanning (research) and Madeline Walker (writing) will provide students with information and discussion about writing and research in the diverse field of nursing. Students can drop in occasionally, subscribe to the blog, or respond to blog posts. The nursing scholar encourages lively discussion about various topics to do with writing, research and scholarship in nursing. All graduate students are welcome!

nt, Deanna Hutchins, RN, BSN, MN



• Support for faculty who are preparing the Common CV as required for grant proposals to CIHR (and 30 other granting agencies) is now available! As an initiative to facilitate faculty grant applications at the School, the Research and Scholarship team is working to ensure that every faculty member who needs one has a Common CV and that this CV is up-to-date. For information regarding how to receive assistance setting up a new Common CV or support for your existing Common CV (including annual updates), please contact **Emma Hannah**, Administrative Assistant, Research and Scholarship at ehannah@uvic.ca or 250-721-6315. Please note, we are unable to provide support for CV's other than Common CV at this time.



## Table of Contents:

Announcements	
Letter from Dr. Betty Davies, Senior Schold	ır 2
Remembering Sister Kathleen Cyr, SSA	3
Nursing is: Speaking the unsayable	
Focus on research: iPANEL	5
Dorothy Kergin Endowment Fund	6-7
Alumni Award of Excellence	8
School Spotlight: Donna Zukowski	9 - 10
Successes	10 - 1

## **Letter from Betty Davies, Senior Scholar**

## — Welcome to the new academic year!

Welcome to the Summer issue of *Communiqué* and to the new academic year! Despite the late arrival of summer on the West Coast, I hope you enjoyed the sunshine of the last few weeks and are now ready to begin again!

I want to extend a special welcome to our incoming doctoral students this year — as these five students comprise the first cohort in the new Distributed Option PhD Program. The students will be onsite to begin the program from September 6th through 16th. Thus they will be able to join other doctoral students at the year's first *Chocolate & Research* (*C&R*) *Seminar* on September 15th where we will share ideas for the upcoming year's monthly *C&R Seminars*. The new format for the doctoral program is an exciting venture — certainly a new beginning for students, faculty and the School.

Indeed, this is a time of new beginnings for all of us as we re-engage with scholarly work; we do not know where our work will lead but the year lays before us filled with possibility. In the words of Florence Nightingale, "Never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself." May you start the year with enthusiasm and anticipation of all to come!

Best wishes,

Betty Davies, RN, PhD, CT, FAAN

Professor and Senior Scholar

Betty Suice

PhD Program Coordinator School of Nursing

University of Victoria





# Remembering, honouring, celebrating

Sister Kathleen Therese Ann Cyr, SSA

March 7, 1933 - May 3, 2011

by Emma Hannah

Thirty-five years after co-founding the School of Nursing at the University of Victoria, Sister Kathleen Cyr passed away at St. Ann's Residence in Victoria. A life-long resident of British Columbia and a dedicated Sister of St. Ann — an order of nuns that helped pioneer nursing education in the province — Sister Cyr's influence was widespread.

After teaching elementary school for six years, Sister Cyr obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Seattle University and a Master's in

Psychosocial Nursing at the University of Washington. She was certified in adult learning facilitation and obtained certification in various psychology and counselling specialties with a focus on spirituality. During her career, Sister Cyr served Victoria in many capacities: she worked as an emergency and surgical nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital; taught psychiatric nursing in St. Joseph's School of Nursing; was a public health nurse in the Ladysmith area; and served her religious community as an administrator.

Sister Cyr's commitment to her congregation led to her role as one of several Sisters of St. Ann instrumental in facilitating the building and opening of St. Ann's Residence for their elderly and infirm members in 1982. She was administrator of the Queenswood Spirituality Centre from 1993 - 2002, a facility that for forty years drew hundreds of people from across the globe, all eager to benefit from the programs it offered.

Always an educator, Sister Cyr made an indelible impression on the UVic community. In 1976 she co-founded the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at UVic; she taught in the school for a number of years and was well loved by her students. "She was a very dedicated person; she loved nursing and she loved teaching," says Lynne Milnes, her friend and a UVic development officer.

On her blog, a former student remembers Sister Cyr as always, "warm, kind, understanding" even when the student and her peers used their school bus passes to go to the mall instead of straight to the hospital for their practical experience. Sister Cyr "thoroughly chastised" the students, but did not sacrifice the understanding and kind nature for which she was known.

The School of Nursing has grown to offer five Master's options and a Doctoral program both on campus and via distributed options. Sister Kathleen served as the founding chairwoman of the UVic School of Nursing advisory council and remained active in this position until she became too ill to participate. Despite our profound loss, Sister Cyr's legacy will be with us always.

For those wishing to contribute to the Sisters of St. Ann Scholarship and Bursary helping to support UVic School of Nursing students in Sister Kathleen's memory, please contact Lynne Milnes at 250-472-5031 or lmilnes@uvic.ca.



Living with death and dying is a reality for many of those diagnosed with chronic disease. Experiences of dying are often difficult if not impossible, to express. As a result, many people coping with chronic disease focus on the positive and hopeful aspects of treatment. In the case of nephrology patients, treatment could mean dialysis or kidney transplant(s) resulting in life extension. Even when treatments are successful however, the possibility of death is always present. For those receiving kidney dialysis this is especially true; a patient can choose to stop treatment at any time, with the body ceasing to function within 4 to 10 days as consequence.

Little is known about the experiences of living with chronic kidney disease that are difficult to discuss, ineffable, and beyond words. These unsayable aspects of experience may be expressed consciously or unconsciously through indirect and non-verbal means. UVic School of Nursing doctoral candidate Kara Schick Makaroff's qualitative research works to give voice to the unsayable ideas and concerns faced by those living with incurable kidney disease. By employing narrative inquiry as a methodological approach, Schick Makaroff ensures that the unsayable is acknowledged and communicated, thus addressing a need to know what is happening in the lives of people affected by end-stage renal disease.

Schick Makaroff's research includes secondary analysis of interviews with people living with chronic kidney disease who are living with dying (Interviews were originally conducted in the *Re-stor(y)ing Life Within Life-threatening Illness* project; Dr. Sheilds, PI). These patients make meaning from their experiences by relating stories about their lives. Part of the discussion with patients involves visual elicitation: the discussion of objects, symbols, photographs and images significant to, and representative of, the patient's lived experience. By engaging in a visual analysis of images and objects, patients are able to create dialogue regarding aspects of their illness that they may have previously found incommunicable. Schick Makaroff believes that "stories beget stories." In sharing their stories through research, these patients make their experiences accessible to the community — not just health care professionals. Schick Makaroff and the *Re-stor(y)ing* Team plan to further expand the reach of their research through an exhibition of the symbols, images and stories from participants' lives.

Schick Makaroff begins her post-doctoral studies with Dr. Anita Molzahn at the University of Alberta School of Nursing this Fall. She has been awarded a 3-year funded position as a post doctoral fellow with the Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training Program (KRESCENT). Funding through KRESCENT is provided through the Kidney Foundation of Canada, CIHR, and Canadian Society of Nephrology.



Three-quarters of British Columbians who die every year, do so without accessing adequate pain management, psychosocial support and advance care planning associated with palliative care. iPANEL research — for nurses by nurses — contributes to understanding how the nursing profession can help more people in BC benefit from palliative philosophies and services. With nurses offering a palliative approach in multiple settings (residential care facilities, general hospital wards and at home) more patients and families can be better supported through the many transitions of chronic conditions like dementia, lung, kidney, or heart disease and cancer.

By creating a cycle of nursing practice to nursing research and back again, iPANEL research will be informed by clinical practice, and all gathered evidence should be relevant, useful, and well-communicated to nurses and patients alike. This will take the support and cooperation of many parties including health professionals, employers and health care consumers, but it is the belief of the iPanel team that nurses can and will contribute to a better and more supported experience for British Columbians toward the end of their lives.

iPANEL is co-led by Kelli Stajduhar, Associate Professor, UVic School of Nursing/Centre on Aging and Carolyn Tayler, Director of End-of-Life Care, Fraser Health Authority. A truly provincial initiative, this research team includes 15 additional team members from a number of Health Authorities and Universities throughout British Columbia, including the Vancouver Island Health Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Interior Health Authority, Trinity Western University, UBC Okanagan and Thompsons River University. UVic School of Nursing faculty Gweneth Doane, Betty Davies and Anne Bruce are also iPANEL co-investigators. iPANEL was recently awarded a 4–year Michael Smith BCNRI Investigative Team Award; this funding started in January of 2011.

To follow the iPANEL research projects or to register with the iPANEL website (in order to receive updates and /or news related to iPANEL research), please go to www.ipanel.ca. If you would like more information about iPANEL or any of its associated research projects you may contact the project coordinator (Amy Bitschy) by email at info@ipanel.ca.



Pat Coward, Ami Bitschy; **middle row (I - r):** Sheryl Reimer-Kirkham, Pat Porterfield, Coby Tschanz (student guest), Anne Bruce, Melissa Suzuki, Amy Cox, Barb McLeod; **front row (I - r):** Judy Lett, Carolyn Tayler, Kelli Stajduhar, Deanna Hutchings, Della Roberts

## Dorothy Kergin Endowment Fund — Margaret Scaia, RN, MN, PhD(c)

Storytelling and History: Encounters in Health Workshop, University of Ottawa



In May of 2011, I attended an interdisciplinary graduate workshop offered by the Associated Medical Services (AMS) Nursing History Research Unit at the University of Ottawa. The workshop was entitled *Storytelling and History: Encounters in Health*.

As an interdisciplinary student in nursing, women's studies and history, it is important to understand cross disciplinary methodologies and disciplinary perspectives in order to achieve the quality of scholarship expected at the PhD level. While many faculty and doctoral students in the School of Nursing are interested in history none are formally engaged in historical research. Similarly, some historians are interested in the history of health care and women, but none in the Department of History focus on nursing history. Thus, I was eager to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with other students and scholars engaged in research in health care and nursing.

The organizers invited graduate students from any discipline whose research is grounded in the social history of medicine health, and healing to submit a proposal focusing on the stories used by historians to uncover the past.

The organizers were interested in stories that show how encounters are shaped by (human) interaction with other people, objects or spaces and that speak to wider social

relationships, broader historical contexts and themes. Presentations and discussion looked at how the stories we tell contribute to creating new understandings and interpretations of the past. Specifically, each of us was asked to select a brief account from our own data that highlights some encounter involving, for example, patients, health care workers, health care systems, medical technologies, medical institutions or other environments of health disease or illness. We were asked to examine the underlying assumptions in these encounters and their consequences in conducting our research.

The Dorothy Kergin Endowment award made it possible for me to participate in this workshop and to try out new ideas and receive constructive feedback from colleagues, as well as an opportunity to work toward a publication based on my presentation.

With thanks,

Margaret Scaia

## Dorothy Kergin Endowment Fund — Lorelei Newton, RN, PhD(c)

Presentation at the In Sickness and in Health Conference, Odense, Denmark

Thank you supporting my travel to the *In Sickness and in Health Conference* (Odense, Denmark) held May 2011. The purpose of the *4th International In Sickness and In Health Conference* was to critically examine social and healthcare related issues of power, ethics and professional practice and to explore the potential for crafting social change. The main objective of this conference is to create a focused opportunity for a diverse group of international researchers and graduate students who share an interest in studying contemporary issues of power, ethics and policy in relation to health care and social practice, to engage in dialogue together.

To this end, I was privileged to present as a doctoral student with both my dissertation supervisor and research internship supervisor from the BC Cancer Agency (Vancouver Island Centre). In addition, as a co-investigator on a nursing research project with both of these supervisors, I was able to present as their colleague. While their mentorship has been (and continues to be) a vital aspect of my doctoral studies, it is also wonderful to have opportunities to interact with academics in an international setting as a colleague during this time of my transition out of the doctoral program over the next several months.

It was also an excellent opportunity to meet and forge professional relationships with other doctoral students from various



backgrounds and countries. The majority of students I met share my philosophical perspective and it was great to spend so much time in a setting where so many of us 'speak' the same language. There are several of us who plan to meet again at the 5th In Sickness and In Health Conference being held in Montreal (2013).

Most importantly, I was able to listen to several academics who I am considering as an external examiner for my dissertation defence. It is informative to hear someone in person and watch them 'in action' as well as reading their publications. It is also no small feat to choose someone that has experience with both my substantive area and methodology and has not previously worked with my supervisor! This conference gave me the opportunity to confidently narrow the list to a few people for my supervisor to consider.

The Dorothy Kergin funds were used to pay for food and incidental expenses of the trip. Denmark is lovely but it is extremely expensive to travel there. This is particularly true for me because I am allergic to milk. Denmark is a dairy-intensive travel destination and it was expensive to find non-alcoholic and non-dairy alternatives with my meals. I was a bit shocked to find that my jet lagged self paid \$10 for a soy latte my first day and subsequently, \$7.50 for a diet cola at another meal! Thank you again for supporting my travel. This was truly a wonderful experience for me to meet new people in my area of interest, to spend time with like-minded students as well as to interact with academics in an international setting as my doctoral studies are winding down.

#### Lorelei Newton

## Nursing Week 2011: Alumni Award of Excellence

#### by Madeline Walker

On May 12, the fifth annual 2011 Alumni Awards ceremony took place at the University Club. The event was opened by keynote speaker Betty Davies, Senior Scholar in the School of Nursing. Betty spoke about hope as an antidote to helplessness, weaving inspirational quotations around her observations of how survivors from the recent Japanese disaster have worked together in exemplary ways to restructure their lives.

Four deserving nurses were acknowledged for their considerable contributions to nursing. Deanna Hutchings was the recipient of the Alumni Award of Excellence, Anita Fernando received the Preceptor of the Year Award for the BSN program, and Leanne Hale and Tracey Adams were each awarded the Preceptor of the Year Award in the Nurse Practitioner program. Betty presented the award to Deanna, describing this alumnus' active engagement and accomplishments as a nurse, educator, leader, and scholar in the field of palliative and hospice care. A double graduate of UVic (post-RN BSN 1994 and MN, 2003), Deanna's heartfelt work spanning almost three decades, particularly her ability, in Betty's words, to "blend science and soul," made her a very worthy recipient of this year's award.

Noreen Frisch, Director of the School of Nursing, closed the event with the distribution of toy noisemakers and the injunction to blow our horns and make some noise about nursing—an invigorating and fun exercise, to be sure! What with Betty's moving opening and Noreen's joyful closing, audience members were observed crying and laughing—sometimes simultaneously—during this well attended event.



## School Spotlight — Donna Zukowski, BSN, MN

Masters of Nursing, Advanced Practice Leadership student by Emma Hannah

When Donna Zukowski started her Masters of Nursing in Advanced Practice Leadership, she already had her research question in mind. Having worked as the manager of the Hepatitis Clinic at the Kelowna General Hospital since 2006, she was aware of how little research about the lived experiences of women with Hepatitis C existed. Despite a small amount of Australian literature that reflected women's voices, Zukowski believed that biographical stories — highlighting the challenges of being diagnosed with Hepatitis C as well as the ways in which Hep C positive women are unfairly stigmatized — was relatively unchartered territory.

When Zukowski and her supervisor Bernie Pauly sent out roughly 100 letters of inquiry seeking research participants to women in four British Columbian communities, they received a tremendous response. "I was hoping for eight [participants]," Zukowski says. Zukowski received twenty responses — all from women with Hepatitis C who were eager to share their experiences.

The overwhelming response led Pauly to encourage Zukowski to consider undertaking a thesis rather than the project option she had selected to pursue for the completion of her degree. The idea was, "a little scarier," Zukowski says.

Zukowski was unsure about what a thesis using such sensitive information would look like. Her background as a nurse ingrained in her to keep patient information confidential; the idea of writing about such personal issues — even from women who had signed consents and were willing to share their experiences — required a shift in mindset. Zukowski credits her supervisor Pauly with giving her the confidence and support she needed to proceed, "Marginalized populations are Bernie's expertise, and that gave me confidence". Pauly stressed that the women's voices needed to be heard and Zukowski notes that by the end of her research she felt like she had shared in a valuable experience.

To Zukowski, her thesis research became emblematic of how research and practice should inform one another. The women in her study shared powerful stories in which there was a common thread — the feeling of being silenced and a fear of being stigmatized. Existing Hepatitis C research is heavily focused on quantitative data and emphasises the physical implications of living with the disease; Zukowski's research was a departure from this more common approach.

Zukowski explained that much of the knowledge generated from research using a quantitative approach addressed the physical aspects of the disease, providing women dealing with a Hep C diagnosis little in terms of support or resources. The women vocalized that they felt lost when it came to questions about the spiritual or emotional aspects of the disease. Questions like "How do I talk to my family?" and fears about contagion were not addressed.







...continued on page 10



## School Spotlight — Donna Zukowski cont...

The societal stigma associated with having Hepatitis C led many women to internalize these feelings. "It was interesting to learn that even though these women may have felt physically well, the impacts of the disease internally were huge." Zukowski remembers a woman who shared an experience of having a test done and the technician did not want to help the woman take off her sweater, despite the fact that she was having difficulty. The experiences of these women and the stories that they shared pushed Zukowski to think about her own approach to patient care and motivated her desire to communicate a broader perspective of Hepatitis C patients' experiences.

After defending her thesis in April and convocating in June, Zukowski's research has already contributed to her practice community through a presentation of her findings that she did in collaboration with a fourth year nursing undergraduate student. "It was nice to share my learning experience at the graduate level with another student," noted Zukowski. The student was interested in hearing about Zukowski's experiences and to learn about the research process. Most importantly for Zukowski, sharing her experiences with, and perhaps inspiring another student, continued her own learning process even after the completion of her degree.

Zukowski is currently working to publish sections of her thesis and has recently been invited to speak about Hepatitis C patient's lived experiences by the medical director of the Kelowna General Hospital.

## Successes! Nursing and health – in the news

Progress is being made by various groups to solve Victoria's affordable housing problem, but
more still needs to be accomplished, says Mayor Dean Fortin, co-chairman of the Greater
Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. The coalition released their annual report yesterday.
 Dr. Bernie Pauly, UVic nursing professor and a coalition member, comments about the use of
shelters, the challenging housing market and occupancy rates.

#### Related articles:

- More challenges ahead on homelessness by Kathryn Burnham (Times Colonist, June 29, 2011).
- Coalition to End Homelessness releases annual report by Andrea Boyes (CFAX 1070, June 28, 2011).
- Wednesday, July 6 **Rita Schreiber** was interviewed by Gregor Craigie on CBC Radio Victoria's On the Island regarding the lack of Nurse Practitioner positions in the province.
- Thursday, August 18 **Rita Schreiber** was on CBC Radio Victoria's *On the Island* discussing how nurse anesthesiologists could help address the shortage of anesthesiologists in BC. This was in response to the recent newborn death at VGH.

#### Related articles:

- Newborn died due to staff shortage, anesthesiologist says by Belle Puri (CBC News, August 16, 2011).
- Anesthetist calls for inquest into baby death, but hospital says infant was stillborn by Richard Watts (Times Colonist, August 16, 2011).

### Successes! cont...

#### **Grants** - *Faculty*

- Benoit, C., Marcellus, L. (Co-PI), Anderson, J., Hallgrimsdottir, H., Salmon, A., MacKinnon, K. (Co-PI). Treatment and prevention of illicit substance use among pregnant and early parenting women (2011). CIHR catalyst grant, Gender and Health, Population and Public Health (2010-2011), \$88,048.
- Davies, B. (PI), Steele, R. (Co-PI), Albersheim, S., Cadell, S., Doane, G., Siden, H., Strahlendorf, C. Best practices: Parent/provider interactions in pediatrics, CIHR Operating Grant, (2011-2014), \$404,742.
- Marcellus, L. (PI). Care of infants with neonatal withdrawal in Canadian hospital settings: Has practice advanced in ten years? University of Victoria Internal Research Grant (2011), \$3998.
- Siden, H. (PI), Cadell, S., **Davies,B.**, Straatman, L., Steele, R., and others (Co-Is). PedPalASCNet: A Network for Accessible, Sustainable, and Collaborative Research in Pediatric Palliative Care". CIHR Network Catalyst PEOLC Grant. (2011-2014), \$375,327.
- Benoit, C., **Marcellus**, L. (Co-PI), Anderson, K., Hallgrimsdottir, H., **MacKinnon**, **K.** (Co-I).Interventions to promote health and healthy equity for pregnant and early parenting women facing substance use and other challenges. CIHR operating grant on Population Health Intervention Research (2010-2012), \$117,224.

#### Awards - Students

- **Trudy Norman,** PhD student, has been awarded the University of Victoria Interdisciplinary Grad Award valued at \$2,500 for the 2011 2012 academic year.
- Congratulations to all MN and PhD students who submitted an application to be considered for Graduate Scholarships through the School of Nursing! Good luck to each of you! Scholarship recipients will be notified, in writing, directly by the Faculty of Graduate Studies on behalf of the Graduate Admissions and Awards Committee (usually in October, however notification may be as late as November). If you have questions regarding scholarships, contact Emma Hannah at 250-721-6315 or ehannah@uvic.ca.

## **Publications - Faculty**



- Coward, H., & **Stajduhar, K.I.**, (Editors), (In press), 2011, Religious Understandings of a "Good Death" in Hospice/Palliative Care. State New York University Press.
- Donovan, R., Williams, A. **Stajduhar, K.I.**, Brazil, K., & Marshall, D. (2011). The influence of culture on home-based family care giving at the end of life: A case of Dutch Reformed family caregivers in Ontario, Canada. Social Science & Medicine, 72(3), 338-346.
- Foster, T.L., Gilmer. M.J., **Davies, B.**, Dietrich, M.S., Barrera, M., Fairclough, D. L., Vannatta, K., & Gerhardt, C. A. (2011). Comparison of continuing bonds reported by parents and siblings after a child's death from cancer. Death Studies, 35(5), 420-440.



# **Successes!**, cont... Publications - Faculty

- Funk, L., **Stajduhar, K.I.,** & **Purkis, M.E.** (2011). An exploration of empowerment discourse within home care nurses' accounts of practice. Nursing Inquiry, 18(1), 66-76.
- McKinnon, Karen. "Rural Nurses' Safeguarding Work: Reembodying Patient Safety". Advances in Nursing Science, 34(2), DOI: 10.1097/ANS.0b013e3182186b86.
- McKinnon, Karen. "We cannot staff for 'What ifs': the social organization of rural nurses' safeguarding work". Nursing Inquiry, DOI: 10.1111/j.1440-1800.2011.00574.x.
- Stajduhar, K.I., Funk, L., Roberts, D., Cloutier-Fisher, D., McLeod, B., Wilkinson, C., & Purkis, M.E. (2011). Articulating the role of "relationships" in access to home care nursing at the end of life. Qualitative Health Research, 21(1), 117-131.
- Stajduhar, K.I., Funk, L., Roberts, D., McLeod, B., Cloutier-Fisher, D., Wilkinson, C., and Purkis, M.E. (2011). Home care nurses' decisions about the need for and amount of service at the end of life. Journal of Advanced Nursing, 67(2), 276-286.
- Thoun, Deborah S. (2011). "Specialty and Advanced Practice Nursing: Discerning the Differences". Nursing Science Quarterly, 24(3), 216-222.



• Walker, Madeline R. The Trouble with Sauling Around: Conversion in Ethnic American Autobiography, 1965–2002. University of Iowa Press. 1-60938-063-0. Available: September 2011.

