



Memorial University of Newfoundland School of Nursing

5th Anniversary



Message From Dr. Alice Gaudine, Dean, Memorial University School Of Nursing

It is such an honour and privilege to be dean of Memorial University's School of Nursing in this 50th anniversary year. We are immensely proud of our past, and our growth. We began in 1966, with only 38 students and three faculty members and here we are in 2016 with over 400 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. Our BN program has regular and fast-track options; our MN program has a practicum and nurse practitioner option, and our PhD program is now into its third year. We now have over 4,000 graduates.

We are actively involved in nursing research, and public engagement, because we care about making a difference in the lives of people and communities.

Over the past 50 years, the faculty and staff members at our school have been exceptionally committed to our students. We recognize that being entrusted with the education of nurses who care for individuals and families through all life stages, and for communities is an important responsibility.

It is because of the accomplishments of our graduates as well as the contributions of our former and present faculty and staff members that our School has an excellent reputation. We are proud of our graduates and how they leave the school as knowledgeable, caring, and skillful nurses. They are grounded in social justice and advocate for the health of patients, residents, and clients. Our graduates are in demand in Newfoundland and Labrador, across the country, and much further afield.

This booklet includes some of our important milestones and accomplishments at the School of Nursing over our 50 year history; we have much to celebrate in teaching, research, engagement, and the success of our students and alumni. While we did not have the space to include all of the milestones and accomplishments of our graduates and former and present faculty and staff members, we value and celebrate all of your contributions to nursing and everything that you have done to make this school great!

School of Nursing by the decades

60s

- Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland (ARNN) sends out a brief in 1961 calling for the establishment of a university program in nursing.
- Memorial's Board of Regents gives conditional approval for establishment of a BN in Nursing in 1963. (Dr. Story, a former director of the General Hospital School of Nursing, has an influential role in this development.)
- In 1965 Ms. Joyce Nevitt is appointed as the first director of Memorial University's School of Nursing. A native of England, Ms. Nevitt attended McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont. and was one of the first five McMaster graduates to earn a bachelor of science in nursing.
- In 1966 the school officially opens its door to students in one room of the Arts and Administration Building. At this time there are three faculty members and 38 students.
- The school initially offers a five-year basic bachelor of nursing (BN) for students entering from high school and other educational backgrounds, and a four-year post-basic BN degree for registered nurses.
- 1969 marks the graduation of the first four post-basic nursing students.



Job-sharing led to 'nice lifestyle' for pioneering SON alumni

By Marcia Porter

Louise Tipple and Sharon Leonard have known each other for quite some time, since they were students together at the School of Nursing (SON) over 40 years ago. They graduated the same year, in 1975; they celebrated their wedding showers together in 1975; they got married the same year, in 1975.

And now they're both happily retired after satisfying careers that included a 27-year run as job-sharing community health nurses.

It was the perfect arrangement for Ms. Tipple and Ms. Leonard, who had been working in casual positions following the births of their first children in 1981.



70s

- Six basic BN students with advanced standing graduate in 1970.
- The school has 12 faculty members and a secretary in 1972.
- Margaret D. McLean becomes director of the School of Nursing on Sept. 1, 1973 and oversees introduction of new curriculum beginning in 1975. At this time the school has 19 full-time faculty members.
- Two diploma programs are added in community health nursing - mental health and psychiatric nursing.
- The School of Nursing becomes an independent school in the Health Sciences division of Memorial University of Newfoundland.
- In 1976, 10 years after nursing was first offered as a degree program at Memorial, enrolment grows to 136 basic and 50 post-basic students (later known as post-RNs.)
- Move begins in the summer of 1978 to a permanent home at the Health Sciences Centre
- A new BN program for registered nurses is approved in 1978 and incorporates a two-year outpost nursing program, which includes community and primary health care and nurse midwifery.



80s

- The master of nursing (MN) program is introduced as a full-time, thesis-based program in 1982.
- Dr. Caroline White becomes director of the School of Nursing in 1983, bringing with her expertise in stimulating research activity and an interest in graduate students.
- Beginning in 1982 and at various times until the early 2,000s, the school's "unofficial" historian Prof. Marilyn Beaton becomes associate director. Distance education is a key focus for Prof. Beaton between the years 2001-2005.
- Nursing students in the Class of 1985 attend their "pinning" ceremony in academic dress rather than white uniforms and caps.
- The School of Nursing consolidates into a single area on level two of the Health Sciences Centre.
- Dr. Leslie Hardy becomes director of the school in 1987 and emphasizes the role of research in nursing over the next four years of her tenure.
- A new structure and constitution is passed for the school in 1989, resulting in the establishment of two new positions, associate director for undergraduate programs and associate director for graduate programs and research.
- Prof. Joan Rowsell is named the first associate director of undergraduate programs; Dr. Lan Gien is the first associate director of graduate programs and research.
- The school begins to offer its post-RN degree by distance in 1989.



Terra Nova granny still making a difference!

By Marcia Porter

Dr. Kay Matthews is a retired Memorial School of Nursing (SON) faculty member, an honorary graduate of Memorial University, a retired mid-wife and registered nurse.

And for much of her career she was well-known for her work with mothers and babies in Africa, Indonesia and Nunavut during much of her career.

These days as an active member of the Terra Nova Grannies, she's still finding ways to make a difference in the lives of children and families.



90s

- The School of Nursing celebrates its 25th anniversary in 1991.
- Elizabeth (Betty) Summers is awarded an honorary doctorate at fall convocation.
- In 1993 Dr. Marianne Lamb becomes director of the school. During her five-year tenure, post-RN bachelor courses are delivered entirely by distance education, and the BN (collaborative) program becomes entry to practice as an RN in the province.
- During the 1990s, Prof. Margaret Hackett serves as associate director, followed by Prof. Karen Webber. Their dedication contributes to the school's success in accreditation.
- In 1993 the school begins work with the Centre for Nursing Studies (CNS) in St. John's and the Western Regional School of Nursing (WRSON) in Corner Brook to develop a collaborative nursing program for the three sites.
- By 1996 the three schools implement a collaborative curriculum, delivering an identical BN program at each site.
- Dr. Carol Orchard is appointed as director of the school in 1998. During her tenure the BN fast-track option is developed and implemented.



2000-10

- The school, along with its partner collaborative sites at the CNS and WRSON, receives the first of three consecutive full seven-year accreditations beginning in 2001 from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN). A full seven-year accreditation is considered the gold standard in nursing education.
- With increased demand for nursing graduates, a fast-track nursing option of the BN program is first offered in 2002 at the SON and WRSON in Corner Brook. 21 students register for this two-year accelerated degree option.
- Dr. Sandra LeFort is named director of the school in 2004. Dr. LeFort initiates discussions about consolidation of nursing education to Memorial, and also about development of a PhD in nursing program.
- In 2004 Dr. Janet Story receives an honorary doctorate at fall convocation.
- The school marks its 40th anniversary in 2006. At this time there are over 2,000 alumni.
- Recently retired faculty member Kay Matthews, is awarded an honorary doctorate at spring convocation in 2006 for her many contributions to maternal and child health.
- In 2006 faculty member Lynn Cooze introduces the Janeway Children's Hospital's first dog-therapy program, a well-loved program that continues to present day.
- Along with its collaborative partners at the CNS and WRSON, the school receives a second consecutive seven-year accreditation in 2008.
- Dr. Judith McFetridge-Durdle becomes director of the school in 2009; early in her tenure the position title is changed from director to dean. She works towards consolidation, an initiative championed by other faculty member over the years. During her tenure



Changing the world a few lives at a time

By Marcia Porter

They didn't go expecting to change the world, but helping more than 600 of Honduras' poor felt pretty satisfying to fourth-year nursing students Jordan Chapman and Jess Conrod.

"It was so rewarding," said Jordan who along with 29 nursing, medicine, pharmacy and science students spent 10 days this past summer setting up and helping staff a makeshift health clinic that operated out of a small village school in rural Honduras.

Ms. Chapman put together this first Memorial University contingent of Global Brigades, a student-led organization that works in four countries, including Honduras.



she oversees the launch of the master's program nurse practitioner (NP) option in 2013. The PhD program receives senate approval.

- The school launches its annual Crest Ceremony for all first-year students in February of 2009. The ceremony officially welcomes first-year students into the profession of nursing, where they receive SON crests before beginning clinical rotations.

2010-16

- In December, 2012, Dr. Sandra MacDonald receives the 2011 President's Award for Distinguished Teaching, becoming the second faculty member from the school to receive the recognition.
- Dr. Shirley Solberg, associate dean (graduate programs), development of a PhD in nursing program, which is approved by senate in June of 2012.
- The school launches a PhD in nursing degree and admits its first three students in September, 2013.
- Faculty member Dr. Lan Gien, well-known for her many international research projects and her work particularly in Vietnam, becomes the school's first professor emeritus during fall convocation in October 2013.
- In keeping with national and provincial recommendations that nurse practitioner education be at the master's level, master of nursing nurse practitioner (MN NP) and post-MN NP diploma options are expanded and revised and a new class enters in January, 2013.



- In September of 2014 the school adopts a standardized uniform for students consisting of white tunics with burgundy bottoms. The school's collaborative partners also introduce uniforms for nursing students.
- Dr. Alice Gaudine is appointed dean of School of Nursing for a five-year term in December, 2014. She had served as the school's dean pro tempore since September 20, 2013, and earlier as associate dean of graduate programs and research.
- For her contributions to nursing education and her work as a gay rights advocate, Anna Curren receives an honorary doctor of laws degree at fall convocation in 2014.
- Dr. Karen Parsons, and a long-serving faculty member, receives the 2014 President's Award for Distinguished Teaching.
- In June of 2015 our BN (collaborative) program (along with our partner sites) once again achieves the gold standard in nursing education, a full seven-year accreditation from. It's a hat-trick for Memorial's nursing program.
- Drs. Sandra LeFort and Shirley Solberg, recently retired, are named the school's newest professor emeriti at fall convocation in October, 2015.
- Dr. April Manuel receives the President's Award for Exceptional Community Service in December, 2015, for her work with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- The School of Nursing marks its 50th anniversary in 2016. In 1966 the school's enrolment is 38 students; in 2016 enrolment is over 350 students in the regular stream and fast-track option of the undergraduate program, and 145 in the graduate programs.

A place where everyone knows his name

By Marcia Porter

It's not exactly like being a rock star, but working as a young registered nurse at the Bonavista Peninsula Health Centre comes with name recognition!

"It's amazing that almost everyone knows you by your first name," said Luke Redmond who moved to Bonavista from St. John's last spring, following graduation from Memorial's Bachelor of Nursing (BN) (Collaborative) program.

"On one of my first shifts I got paged to pick up a call from a patient," he said. "They wanted to speak with the 'male nurse who lives on Red Point Road.'"



Gold standard in education

By Marcia Porter

Memorial University's bachelor of nursing (BN) (collaborative) program has once again achieved the gold standard in nursing education, a full seven-year accreditation from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN).

Memorial's undergraduate nursing program, delivered at three sites in the province – Memorial University of Newfoundland's School of Nursing, the Centre for Nursing Studies and the Western Regional School of Nursing – has earned top marks from CASN, the governing organization in Canada for nursing education.

Each of the three sites was assessed separately in February 2015, with all three awarded seven-year accreditation.



Bachelor of Nursing (BN) undergraduate program

“The strength of our undergraduate nursing program, both past and present, is that our students participate in a wealth of clinical practice opportunities in a variety of health care institutions, community agencies and groups throughout the province, and in selected out-of-province settings. Since our opening 50 years ago, the BN undergraduate program has evolved in response to the needs of its learners, the profession, and the people of our province. The past we celebrate has provided the best of foundations for the future we envision for our students, who will become the future of nursing.”

~ Prof. Andrea Brennan Hunter, associate dean, undergraduate programs

- MUNSON has always been proud of its undergraduate programs, students, and faculty/staff teams.
- 50 years after welcoming its first students, the SON says good bye to the Post-RN program. No longer needed in the province, final courses were offered during 2015-2016, and the last official graduating class will celebrate at this fall's 2016 fall convocation and pinning ceremony.
- This year marks 20 years of the BN (collaborative) program, created in partnership with the CNS and WRSON. It's a system that has worked well, helping build strong faculty teams and ultimately a stronger program at each school.
- Since 1999 the school has worked with the Centre for Collaborative Health Professional Education (CCHPE), to develop and implement inter-professional education (IPE) learning activities for nursing, medicine, pharmacy, social work and other health-related professions.

- Undergraduate enrolment at the SON this fall 2016 is 296 students across all years of the four-year and Fast-Track (FT) options; 23 FT students graduate this fall.
- In 2015 the SON's Dr. Caroline Porr is appointed chair in Teaching and Learning, and focuses on opportunities to create a teaching and learning environment that engages teachers and learners, emphasizes outcomes for students, and builds community.
- The SON continues to build innovative learning opportunities for students, as technologies evolve, and we explore new teaching and learning strategies. This fall 2016, to celebrate our 50th anniversary, we open the new Cahill Nursing Simulation Room, and the Joanna Briggs Institute Collaborative Site.



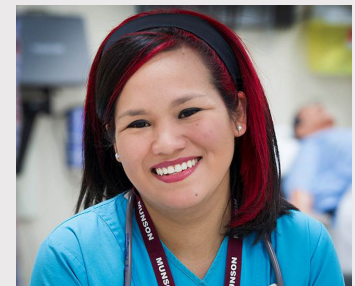
Memorial University School of Nursing 50th Anniversary

Mature world view

By Marcia Porter

When Rosa Diaz Armas began looking into nursing programs four years ago, the native of Lima, Peru, researched a number of Canadian schools. It was her mother's friend, a retired nurse living in Ontario, who recommended Memorial's program.

"We have a few issues here in Newfoundland and Labrador, it's true. But, for example, in small communities in the Andes people are poor, yet they do a lot with what they have. In small communities here there is access to more resources and I think we need to focus on what we have, to have a positive view and build on what we have."



Going online a game changer

By Marcia Porter

Registered nurse Else Leon arrived for her first ever visit to Newfoundland and Labrador last May, just in time for Spring Convocation, and the School of Nursing's (SON) annual graduation ceremony.

She wanted to meet her professors and fellow graduates, people with whom she had bonded over the course of her online master of nursing program.

"I'm always surprised when they know each other," said Dr. Donna Moralejo, "But they take many courses together, move through the courses at the same time, and there's a lot of discussion in our courses. They get to know each other through follow-ups, asking for help, or sharing ideas."



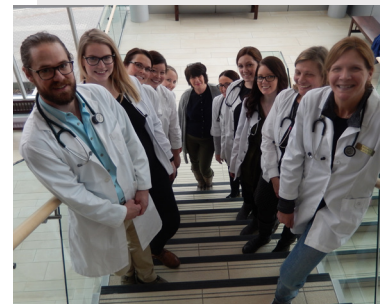
Graduate Programs:

"Our graduate programs help nurses further develop their critical appraisal skills, writing and argumentation skills, and ability to integrate evidence, theory and practice. Graduates from the MN practicum option are prepared to provide leadership in nursing to help develop nursing practice at a unit or organizational level, as well as the level of the individual nurse. Graduates from the nurse practitioner options prepare nurses at an advanced level of nursing practice. Our doctoral program is helping to develop the next generation of nurse scholars; their research will help shape nursing practice. We are proud of our graduates' contributions to nursing knowledge and quality of care and work life."

~Dr. Donna Moralejo, associate dean (graduate programs)

- The School of Nursing's (SON) graduate programs begin in 1982 with introduction of a thesis-based master in nursing (MN) for which students complete course-work and a small research study.
- In 2000 the MN practicum route is added as an alternative to the thesis option, with students conducting projects that address a particular concern in the practice environment.
- Beginning in 2000, the MN program transitions from classroom-based to online, and is fully online by 2007.
- Move to online delivery is a 'game changer' for the MN program, as a master's in nursing suddenly becomes accessible to busy, working nurses. Enrolment goes from 10-12 in the mid-late 1980s to about 150-175 in 2015. The program is competitive and spaces fill up every year.

- In 2013 the focus on research in graduate education shifts to the doctoral level with initiation of the PhD in nursing program. The master's program thesis option is phased out.
- The MN NP option of the master's program admits 16 students when it launches in January, 2013.
- The PhD in nursing program begins in the fall of 2013, with three students; four more doctoral students are admitted in 2015, and new students will be admitted every second year.
- The first-year PhDs successfully complete coursework and comprehensive exams, have obtained funding and are conducting their research.
- Current program enrolments are:
 - MN-NP: 53
 - Post-MN NP diploma: 6
 - MN Practicum: 80
 - MN Thesis: 6
 - PhD: 7



Faculty raise a cuppa for conversation about mental health

By Marcia Porter

Flowering plants, colorful keepsakes and framed art on their desks and walls create atmospheres conducive to conversation in the offices of Drs. Joy Maddigan and Nicole Snow.

The two School of Nursing faculty members hope to get people talking about mental illness and the need to reduce its stigma, as well as to build awareness.

Drs. Maddigan and Snow share a keen interest in mental health that dates back to their days as bachelor of nursing (BN) students in the SON.

"I think we need to put a lot of dedicated time into pushing the mental health agenda," said Dr. Snow.



Research in the School of Nursing

"Memorial University School of Nursing is nationally and internationally recognized for world-class research that addresses a broad range of clinical, public health and health system research questions. Our nurse researchers engage in research on matters of national and international significance while acknowledging our special obligation to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. We place a high value on research collaborations and the sharing of research findings with external partners to ultimately advance the quality of nursing care for patients in communities and hospitals through the advancement of knowledge and research-informed innovative practices."

~ Dr. Karen Parsons, associate dean (research)



"At the School of Nursing many of our research partnerships have a strong focus on community service and engagement. As Dr. Parsons has stated, nursing research is ultimately about advancing the quality of nursing care for patients, families, communities and the people of this province. There is often a strong public education and capacity-building component as well; this is something you'll notice as you read through the following examples of research and international development projects at the school. It's the way we link to Memorial University's mission to make a difference. We are also very proud of our students, many of whom go above and beyond to contribute to the life of the school and the larger community. Many, many of our faculty and staff devote their times and talents to local and national volunteer organizations."

~ Dr. Alice Gaudine

Key developments:

- Dr. Caroline White becomes director of the School of Nursing in 1983, bringing with her expertise in stimulating research activity and an interest in graduate students.
- Dr. Leslie Hardy becomes director of the school in 1987 and emphasizes the role of research in nursing over the next four years of her tenure.
- The Nursing Research Unit is established in 1999, providing support and resources for faculty and students.
- The school's doctoral program introduced in 2013 aims to educate the next generation of nurse researchers and scholars as leaders in nursing practice, education, research, administration, and policy.
- Dr. Karen Parsons, a faculty member known for her work and research in the area of aging and Alzheimer's disease, becomes the school's first associate dean of research in September, 2015.
- A research grants facilitator joins the school in 2015 to work with faculty on internal and external grant applications.
- In the summer of 2016, under the leadership of Dr. Sandra Small, the school is named an affiliated group of the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI). The JBI carries out comprehensive systemic reviews to ensure the best available evidence is used in health care delivery. Currently the school has four reviews underway.

Research highlights:

- Dr. Sandra LeFort's pioneering work in the area of chronic pain beginning in the mid-1980s, is funded by leading external research bodies. Her Chronic Pain Self-Management Program is adopted by Stanford University, among others.

Seniors helping Seniors

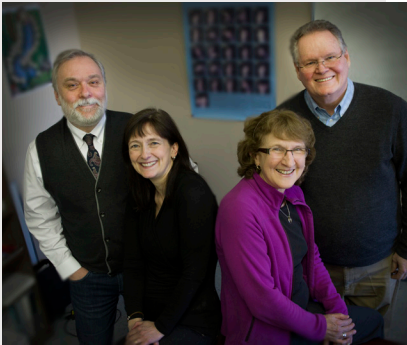
By Jeff Green

While many seniors living with diabetes express an interest in changing their diets to improve their health, most don't know where to start.

Drs. Caroline Porr and Lan Gien from the School of Nursing and their multi-disciplinary team wants to change that.

They're working on a research project that aims to clarify dietary information and make it more accessible to seniors attempting to better manage their diabetes in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.





- Professor Purnima Sen becomes the first faculty member to move in international arenas, receiving Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funding to develop and implement training programs in Belize.
- Beginning in 1997, Dr. Lan Gien leads CIDA-funded international development projects in Vietnam that involve School of Nursing faculty and other faculty from across Memorial University.
- In 1998, Prof. Kay Matthews (Nursing) and Dr. Marilyn Porter (Sociology) lead a million dollar, six-year CIDA-funded project to work with the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta.
- Funding from external agencies such as the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) increases substantially after 2,000, with research by Dr. Lan Gien, Dr. Sandra LeFort, Dr. Shirley Solberg and Dr. Alice Gaudine.
- Faculty members Marilyn Beaton and Jeanette Walsh write extensively about the history of nursing in Newfoundland and Labrador prior to 1950. Upon retiring they publish *Come from Away* in 2012.
- In 2014 Dr. Sandra LeFort collaborates with Memorial's Faculty of Medicine and the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for the Deaf (NLAD) on new research assessing pain in people who are Deaf, a critical issue in the that community and a relatively unexplored area of research.
- In 2014 Dr. Caroline Porr and Dr. Lan Gien, lead a multi-disciplinary team of Memorial researchers on a project that aims to clarify dietary information and make it more accessible to seniors in rural areas; seniors who are attempting to better manage their diabetes.

- Dr. Donna Moralejo, associate dean (graduate programs) receives the 2015 Moira Walker Memorial Award for International Service from Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Canada for her work in developing countries such as Haiti, Ethiopia and Indonesia.
- Dr. Zaida Rahman joins the SON in 2015 adding a focus on the health and well-being of Aboriginal people and communities to research at the school
- In 2016 Dr. April Manuel and Dr. Julia Lukewich receive a Seed, Bridge and Multidisciplinary Fund from Memorial University to look at predictors of success on the NCLEX –RN exam for Newfoundland nursing graduates; they receive a research grant from ARCASN for similar work. In May 2016 Dr. Ann Noseworthy, president of the Association of Midwives of Newfoundland and Labrador helps spearhead development of new regulations recognizing midwifery as a health-care profession in the province.
- In June of 2016 School of Nursing professors Drs. Sandra MacDonald and April Manuel, along with their research assistant and new nursing graduate Jennifer Guy, lead the school's commemoration of WW1 and the Battle of Beaumont Hamel. They discover the stories of 11 Newfoundland born and educated nurses who served in the battlefields of Europe.
- In September, 2016 Dr. Robert Meadus and Dr. Creina Twomey receive an award from the American Assembly for Men in Nursing for their article, Men nurses in Atlantic Canada: Career choices, barriers and satisfaction.

Nursing alumnus receives Alumni Tribute Award

By Lisa Pendergast

Congratulations to School of Nursing (SON) alumni Christopher Nolan, recipient of the Outstanding Community Service Award in this year's 2016 Alumni Tribute Awards.

Mr. Nolan, originally from Duntara, N.L., is currently employed by the Government of Nunavut and is the supervisor of a health centre in Hall Beach, a small fly-in community in one of the most remote places in Canada's Arctic. In addition to his bachelor of nursing and master of nursing degrees, he is currently working on a post-master's nurse practitioner graduate diploma at the SON, which he expects to complete in spring 2017.



Student wins national recognition

By Marcia Porter

Nursing student Jessie Noseworthy has just become the second Memorial Sea~Hawk to win the national Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Student-Athlete Community Service award.

The talented third-year striker follows Samantha Hansford who won the award in 2010.

Ms. Noseworthy first earned the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) Student-Athlete Community Service Award earlier this month, and just last week was named a first-team AUS all-star after finishing fourth in the AUS conference with a team-leading nine goals in 13 league games.

Ms. Noseworthy helped lead the Sea~Hawks to their first-ever AUS women's soccer title.



Student achievement, success and involvement:

"Being part of Memorial University's School of Nursing in its 50th anniversary year means joining a 50-year tradition of excellence in learning. It means being part of a group of nurses who are recognized throughout our country, and even throughout the world. It means that I can be proud of my school and the nurse I am becoming."

~ Danielle Lebvre, MUNSON third-year student and president of Nursing Society

- We're not sure when Nursing Society officially gets its start, but to this day they are a vital force in the school. The society holds special events year-round for fellow students, is an active member of the Canadian Nursing Students Association (CNSA) and raises awareness and funds for local and off-campus charities.
- In the spring of 1998 students from the SON and the Centre for Nursing Studies (CNS) hold their first annual Nursing Charity Ball. Over the years students raise many thousands of dollars for organizations such as the Single Parent Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, the YWCA, the SPCA, among others.
- In 2011, senior students in Dr. Sandra MacDonald's nursing leadership class develop resolutions they present to the CNSA annual conference that help shape the future of nursing education in Canada. Nursing students continue to develop and submit resolutions every year.
- Four nursing students make it to the finals of the 2011 Canadian Evaluation Society Case Competition (CES); it's the first time in the competition's 16-year history that a nursing team advances to the finals.
- In 2011, under the leadership of Dr. April Manuel, students found the Heart and Stroke Foundation of NL student chapter; it's the school's first student led chapter at the school and opens the door to other student-led chapters of charitable organizations such as the

Canadian Diabetes Association and Kidney Cancer Canada. The Heart & Stroke Chapter hold yearly Care Conferences.

- SON alumna Gina Colborne wins a Rising Researcher national award in 2011 through the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP).
- Students launch a Spread the Net campaign in fall 2012 and raise five times their fundraising goal to support purchase of anti-malaria mosquito nets for families in Africa.
- Nursing student Leslie Brown is elected regional director of the CNSA in March of 2012. She follows in the footsteps of previous MUNSON students involved in the executive of the national organization. The following year in 2013 student Kaleigh Newton, also active in the CNSA, becomes vice-president.
- In November, 2013 fourth-year nursing students attract twice as many donors as expected for their Get Swabbed event, for OneMatch, the Canadian Blood Services' stem cell and marrow network.
- In November of 2014 nursing student and star soccer forward Jessie Noseworthy helps lead her team, the Memorial Women's Sea~Hawks, to the university's first ever Atlantic University Sport (AUS) women's soccer title. In 2015 she becomes the second women's Sea-Hawk to win the prestigious Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Student-Athlete Community Service award.
- In the summer of 2014 nursing student Meaghan McKeough co-founds the campus-wide student-run group MUNMinds, which aims to end the stigma associated with mental illness, and raise awareness about mental health issues.
- Nursing student Andrea Crowe enters a 2015 national student essay competition and wins top prize from the Justice Emmett Hall Foundation for her paper on physician assisted death.





Faculty uncover unsung heroines of WW1

By Marcia Porter

When Maysie Parsons of Harbour Grace graduated from the General Hospital School of Nursing in St. John's in 1914, young men from her hometown were already leaving for Europe to fight in the First World War.

Ms. Parsons, who later became Lieut. Parsons in the Canadian military, signed up to serve too, and became the first Newfoundland-educated nurse to join the war effort.

According to a 1915 article in the Evening Telegram, Ms. Parsons' General Hospital colleagues gave her a fine send-off which included the presentation of a new watch with a luminescent dial "in recognition of the "noble work she has undertaken."

Memorial University School of Nursing (SON) faculty members Drs. Sandra MacDonald and April Manuel, along with their research assistant, new nursing graduate Jennifer Guy, learned about Lieutenant Parsons early in their quest to uncover the war contributions of nurses born and educated in Newfoundland.

Their quest was prompted by Memorial University's focus on Newfoundland in the First World War, and supported by the WW100 Living Memorial Commemorative Fund.

"We found a group of heroic nurses," said Dr. MacDonald. "I'm not a historian, but as we got deeper into this I really felt that

these women were unsung heroes, these were lost stories, stories that the public should hear too."

They found the names of 12 General Hospital graduate nurses who served in both the Canadian and British militaries in a master's thesis about the General Hospital's School of Nursing written by Linda White, director of the Centre for Newfoundland Studies.



Visits to archives, libraries, communities, meeting families and chasing leads also helped shine a light on the Newfoundland nurses' contributions.

Most of them were posted to England and France, but Lieut. Parsons and Sister Frances Cron (nurses with the British military were known as sisters) also served at stationary hospitals in locations such as Salonkia, Greece. Where it was wet, muddy, often flooded; where rats and influenza were a common problem.

General Hospital-prepared nurses trained in what was once called 'fever nursing;' it was knowledge considered invaluable for treating soldiers who fought, lived and died in the damp and muddy trenches of First World War battlefields.

"A lot of the nurses with experience in fever nursing were taken near the front and worked in very difficult conditions," said Dr. MacDonald. "They had to deal with horrific gunshot and bayonet wounds, and all the soldiers had trench foot because of wet and gruesome conditions.

"In letters home to their families the nurses would acknowledge that conditions were terrible, but then they'd comment on the smile of a soldier."

Lieut. Parsons wrote to her mother about some of her hospital experiences, where "..... Guards were on duty every 50 yards along the beach" and there were "terrible wounds, quite a lot of amputations, eye cases and fractured skulls."

Sister Grace Gardener of Trinity, stationed at Salisbury Plains in England, Egypt and Palestine, nursed soldiers in mobile hospitals at the front, and along the way contracted malaria, a disease that plagued her for many years.

"After the war a lot of nurses stayed on to care for soldiers who were still in hospital," said Ms. Guy, who thinks that so little is known about their contributions because "... nursing was just a part of what they did, and they didn't want to toot their own horns."

"Their stories are inspiring in so many ways," said Ms. Guy, who has since graduated with



her nursing degree and is feeling pretty good about her decision to pursue a nursing career, especially with all that she has discovered.

“There were moments when I was doing research I’d say wow, she’s a really brave woman and I like her,” said Ms. Guy. “By doing this research I’ve gained a much broader perspective, and I hope that something like this can help educate students about where we’ve come from.”

Author’s note: The first Newfoundland nurse known to have volunteered in the Great War, Martha Isabel Loder, completed her nursing education in London Hospital and arrived in France on Nov. 5, 1914, about six months ahead of Ms. Parsons. You can read about Martha in the Winter 2015/16 and Spring 2016 issues of the Newfoundland Quarterly.



We love to hear from friends and alumni, so please stay in touch.

Our mailing address is:

Memorial University of Newfoundland
School of Nursing
St. John's, NL
A1B 3V6

We have a dedicated email address for our alumni:

MUNSONalumni@mun.ca, or call us at 709-777-6695

You can connect with us on Facebook at School of Nursing, Memorial University, or twitter at MUN_Nursing, or on Instagram at munnursing

Project co-ordinator and writer: Marcia Porter, communications coordinator, School of Nursing

Design: Mykila Sherren, HSIMS, Faculty of Medicine

