



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN DR. DEBBIE SHEPPARD-LEMOINE



It is with great pleasure that we bring to you our inaugural issue of our newsletter *Connecting* on behalf of the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Windsor. Our proud faculty resides on

the traditional territories of the Three Fires Confederacy, made up of the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi.

Since becoming Dean of the Faculty in 2020, it has long been my goal to share the incredible stories of what is new and exciting at the University of Windsor with our Nursing alumni, donors and friends. This goal has finally come to fruition through the newsletter you are now reading.

We've been so thrilled to have completed this school year, mostly in person. On June 1, we proudly celebrated the convocation of 322 graduates- from **Dr. Shelley Evans**, our

newest Doctor of Philosophy, 14 students completing their Master of Nursing, 2 students completing their Master of Science in Nursing, and our graduands from our Bachelor of Science in Nursing. These individuals have risen above the challenges that very few have experienced. In the face of adversity, and amidst a global pandemic, they have transitioned from student nurses to compassionate healers and are ready to impact the healthcare system and the lives of many.

I know you will read with interest the news of our largest career fair in recent memory. If you are interested in collaborating with us for your employers, companies or health care facilities, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

We are also happy to share our new lecture series, titled *"Intentional Conversations with the Dean"* and this semester's featured speaker **Dr. Nancy Edwards**. We want you to know about the generosity of our donors, and hope you enjoy the article on a new scholarship for First Nation, Métis

or Inuit students, generously supported by **Camille Dan** in honour of her son. And this vehicle gives us a chance to look forward to upcoming events, like the 50th anniversaries of the classes of 1973 and 1974!

We invite you to connect with our new team members in both alumni and fund development and communications. We want to stay in touch with you and share ideas on how to continue to be a part of our students lives, through mentorship, financial support, attending events, and simply keeping in touch.

I often refer to the Nursing profession as a calling, and it is a critical one in the ever-evolving landscape of healthcare. It is such a privilege to be leading this incredible faculty and collaborate with the professors and sessional instructors who educate our students. We look forward to sharing more of these stories with you and always welcome your feedback.

Warmest Regards and Happy reading!

Debbie



SUPPORT THE FACULTY OF NURSING

Your support of the Faculty of Nursing means the world to us. We are happy to explore all current and potential giving opportunities with you. Whether you're considering supporting our student mentorship programs, establishing a scholarship or annual award, helping us purchase state-of-the-art equipment for our simulation and clinical learning labs or even to leave a legacy gift, we are here to help.

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DR. NANCY EDWARDS RETURNS TO WINDSOR TO SHARE LESSONS OF HER 45-YEAR CAREER IN PUBLIC AND GLOBAL HEALTH

The Faculty of Nursing welcomed back alumna **Dr. Nancy Edwards** (BScN 1974) for a March 7 address entitled “Lessons learned about leadership and capacity-building: a 45-year career in public and global health.”

Dr. Edwards is a professor emeritus at the University of Ottawa and an author, most recently of *Not One, Not Even One: A Memoir of Life-altering Experiences in Sierra Leone, West Africa*, published by FriesenPress in 2022.

Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, **Dr. Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine**, called Dr. Edwards’ remarks inspiring: “Our guests from the Windsor Essex County Health Unit, the University, retirees, students, faculty, staff, and donors all heard the passion, commitment and innovative strategies that Nancy has shared across Canada and globally.”

Dr. Edwards’ clinical and research interests are in the fields of public and population health. She has conducted health services, policy, and clinical research that has informed the design and evaluation of multi-level and multi-strategy community health programs. Her work has spanned four continents with a focus on maternal and child health and capacity-building.

During her tenure at the University of Ottawa, Dr. Edwards held positions as director of the Community Health Research Unit, director of the Population Health PhD Program, principal scientist



Nancy Edwards signs a copy of her book “Not One, Not Even One” for nursing professor Noeman Mirza

at the Institute of Population Health, senior scientist at the Élisabeth Bruyère Research Institute, academic consultant for the City of Ottawa, and scientific director for the CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health. ■

NURSING FAIR SPARKS CAREER CONNECTIONS

More than 30 employers and 300 students discussed job opportunities during our Nursing Career Fair, March 31.

Regional hospitals, healthcare agencies, and national associations provided information on full-time, part-time, and occasional nursing positions to students at all levels of study as well as alumni.

The event shed more light on the need for nurses.

“In recent years, the nursing profession has gone through attrition,” **Dr. Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine** says. “Whether it be from retirement, change in career, or other factors, naturally that void creates opportunities.”

“Here at the University of Windsor’s Faculty of Nursing, we are fortunate to have such

great relationships with all these employers, that it really sets up our students on the right track for a rewarding career.”

The event was hosted by the Faculty of Nursing in partnership with the Office of Career Development and Experiential Learning. To view a list of employers in attendance, visit:

uwindsor.ca/career-development-experiential/786/nursing-career-fair ■



SPRING CONVOCATION 2023

On Thursday, June 1, 322 Faculty of Nursing students graduated at Spring Convocation 2023.

BScN graduate **Sylwia Borawski** was honoured with the Governor General Silver Medal, given annually to an outstanding graduating honours student on the basis of academic performance. In addition, Borawski received the Board of Governors Medal in nursing, a feat she also accomplished in 2021 and 2022.

“Over the years, Sylwia has demonstrated a passion for knowledge, leadership, and penchant for research. She’s beloved by her peers because she genuinely cares for others,” says **Dr. Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine**, Dean of Faculty of Nursing. “We are thrilled that she is capping her undergraduate experience with these honours and very proud of the entire graduating class of 2023”. ■



BScN graduate Sylwia Borawski was honoured with the 2023 Governor General Silver Medal and Board of Governors Medal in nursing



Dr. Robert Gordon addresses convocation attendees and graduands



We celebrated 322 new graduates from our nursing programs!



Mayor Drew Dilken with Dean Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine

LEAVE A LEGACY AND PLAN A GIFT TODAY!



Thousands of alumni, parents and friends support the University of Windsor each year. These gifts, of all sizes, provide the funding necessary to support student scholarships; purchase cutting-edge equipment for research and hands-on student learning; and support student groups and programming, resulting in a vibrant campus and memorable student experience.

uwindsor.ca/SupportNursing

- Make a gift honouring or memorializing a colleague
- Consider a planned gift and leave your legacy
- Establish a scholarship or endowment to support our Nursing students
- Give Securities
- Donate Gifts-In-Kind of equipment and supplies to enhance our clinical and experiential learning ■



CAMILLE DAN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

IN NURSING FOR FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS NURSING STUDENTS

A new scholarship fund will support nursing students who identify as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit. The inaugural award of the Camille Dan Family Scholarship in Nursing offers \$5,000 to graduate and undergraduate students.



"I hope that this scholarship, as part of the outstanding University of Windsor School of Nursing education, helps as a step forward offering opportunities for achievement and advancement of nursing and health care within our First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities in Canada," said donor **Camille Dan** (BScN 1982).

After a career in nursing, she founded the private investment firm Talitna Enterprises, and earlier this year published the book *Aaron's Energy: An Unexpected Journey Through Grief and the Afterlife With My Brilliant Son*.

Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, **Dr. Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine**, welcomed the announcement of the scholarship fund.

"I want to express my sincere thanks for the establishment of this new award that will provide scholarships for undergraduate and graduate

students of Indigenous heritage," she said. "We are looking forward to supporting this first-ever funding opportunity for an Indigenous nursing student."

The scholarship will make a difference for its recipients and beyond, said **Russell Nahdee**, co-ordinator of the Aboriginal Education Centre.

"The Camille Dan Family Scholarship in Nursing award promises to positively change Indigenous students' lives and shows that good things are happening in the world of nursing," Nahdee said. "The promise to inspire, educate, and help Indigenous students to feel more supported and at ease in their current careers and prospective careers, further supports the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action." ■



UPCOMING FACULTY EVENTS

2023 ALUMNI & FRIENDS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, July 24

Beach Grove & Golf Country Club

uwindsor.ca/alumni/golf

UWINDSOR ALUMNI WEEK 2023

Saturday, September 23 - Friday, September 29

uwindsor.ca/alumni/alumni-week2023

FACULTY OF NURSING 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Class of 1973 – August 16, 2023 (Ingersoll)

Class of 1974 – October 2024 (Windsor, further details TBD)



STAY CONNECTED!

We want you to stay in touch with us. We are happy to share messages and events with our alumni and supporters at the Faculty of Nursing and beyond. If you have an upcoming event you would like to promote, a message or communication you wish to share or a story we should know about, we are here to help.

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