



Fall 2011

*Canadian Association for the History Of Nursing*  
*Association canadienne pour l'histoire du Nursing*

## Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 2

### *President's Message- Beverley Hicks*

I have been reviewing presidential messages in past Newsletters to see what words of wisdom or insight have been offered. I have read through messages of Lynn Kirkwood, Sandra Bassendowski, Dianna Mansell, Carol Helmstadter, Anne-Marie Arsenault, Marg Gorrie, Geertje Boschma, and Marion McKay. This is a formidable group, all of whom wrote inspiring and interesting messages. Through these newsletters I was also able to map the flow of conferences and other highlights. But because I have no newsletters prior to 1996 I started wondering about our own historical record. Do we have somewhere a complete list of presidents and officers? Do we have a complete set of newsletters?

Next year will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first conference held on Prince Edward Island, the speaker was Monica Baly. So I wondered if we have minutes of the very first informal meetings held in 1987 and the inauguration in 1988? As is the case with many small, non-profit groups it is possible that somewhere meticulously hand written notes of the first tentative meetings are in someone's memorabilia?

As I perused these newsletters I also came across continuities and discontinuities of the association. A small but dedicated membership has been a characteristic of the association as has been a group of volunteers to carry out various offices and functions, many names keep recurring and many of these people have been active for at least 15 years. But there are also new names which illustrate that the association is relevant and important to young and emerging scholars and that interest in nursing history remains strong.

I also noted the continuing relationship with the CNA and how it has been redefined to suit changing needs. The importance of CAHN in maintaining the CNA archives in the 1990s is a milestone to be celebrated. We continue to review our relationship with the CNA and I believe that any change should only be considered after a thoughtful and thorough discernment of its nature.

We have also benefited from other relationships. The joint conference with the American Association for the History of Nursing in 2003 offered the opportunity to meet with American colleagues. This relationship continues on an informal basis. I was not able to pinpoint when we first began to meet with Canadian Society for the History of Medicine (CSHM) but it has always been agreed that these are very beneficial meetings. How to craft this relationship in the future has been a question that has been asked with increasing frequency over the past few years and one that perhaps should be addressed in a more formal manner. Marion McKay was in the process of exploring this at the time of the unfortunate and untimely passing of Peter Warren. Perhaps the threads of this conversation need to be picked up.

Other important highlights include the establishment of two scholarships to support scholarly research. The Allemang Scholarship is funded from our own investments while the Vera Roberts Scholarship is the result of a special bequest. These awards are very important in fostering scholarly research.

There have been many other achievements over the past 25 years and this is a modest sampling, but reading the newsletters has been both inspiring and daunting. Inspiring because it is humbling to see how much has been achieved by such a dedicated group. But it is also daunting; there has been great leadership in CAHN over the years and I hope I can achieve at least a part of what others have accomplished. I appreciate the dedication and support of our very excellent executive and membership and I am sure together we can maintain the growth of CAHN. As we move towards our twenty fifth year, the conference in Medicine Hat will be the opportunity to celebrate this milestone and I look forward to seeing you all there.

#### **INSIDE:**

#### **2012 CAHN/ACHN CONFERENCE**

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Anniversary  
Celebration**
- **Hannah  
Lecturer**
- **CALL FOR  
PAPERS!**

## The 2011 CAHN-CSHM Annual Conference Fredericton, New Brunswick.

By: Geertje Boschma

The annual CAHN conference was held jointly with the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine this year, at Congress 2011 in Fredericton New Brunswick from May 28-30. It was a great, well organized conference with many interesting and thought provoking presentations. The local arrangements team of Sasha Mullally, Wendy Churchill, and Penny Ericson, had done a marvelous job in making us feel welcome and well cared for. Program chairs Erika Dyck and Annemarie Arseneault had put together a great program. Presentations included several papers on nursing, midwifery, and mental health topics presented by CAHN members.

The Saturday program included a very interesting Round Table chaired by Kathryn MacPherson on Northern Nursing and Aboriginal Health Care. Panelists were Myra Rutherford, whose project has been supported by a Vera Roberts Research Grant, Heidi Coombs-Thorne, Leslie McBain, and Maureen Lux. The focus of the panel was on the notion of place, focusing on the importance of home, workplace, landscape, and identity in Canadian health care services. Myra Rutherford discussed the work and experience of nurses working in the missionary settlement of the Baffin Island community of Pangnirtung in light of newcomer and aboriginal people relationships. Heidi Coombs-Thorne analyzed the immigrant experience of British nurses with the Grenfall Mission in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador. Maureen Lux examined the history of the Blackfoot Hospital opened in 1924 on the Siksika (Blackfoot) Reserve East of Calgary. The hospital was initially band-owned, integrating health approaches and practice of Siksika and Western medicine. After the introduction of health grant funding and hospital insurance in the 1950s, of which the Blackfoot Hospital was excluded, operating the hospital became increasingly difficult and the owners could no longer bear the costs. Indian Health Service bureaucrats contributed to its demise, while patients were eventually removed to government-run Indian Hospitals away from the reserve. The hospital closed in 1957. Leslie McBain examined outpost nursing stations in Northern Saskatchewan between 1944 and 1957. She described the nurses' experiences in establishing the stations as well as the change they implied for the primarily Aboriginal population living in the communities. Ultimately, the stations changed the physical and social landscape of the North.

Cont'd on page 5...

## Call for Abstracts!

### Canadian Association for the History of Nursing/ Association Canadienne pour l'Histoire du Nursing 15-17 June 2012, Medicine Hat, Alberta

The 2012 Annual CAHN/ACHN Conference, to be held in Medicine Hat, Alberta on June 15-17, marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our association. Founded in 1987, CAHN/ACHN has an ongoing commitment to stimulate and promote historical scholarship of nursing and health. We are pleased to invite you to this conference.

The conference theme is: Places and People's Health: Exploring Nursing in Diverse Contexts. We welcome papers that explore diversity and contingency of nursing knowledge and practice. Aiming at a critical understanding of connections between place and practice, the conference seeks to examine the history of nursing and health care in diverse geographic, social, and political contexts, including rural and remote locations, specialty areas, and various communities. How did communities engage with health politics or respond to professional claims? What tensions arose as health services had to be established or transformed and professional identities changed? How did nurses pioneer new practice domains? How did local, regional, and global contexts of health care shape nursing? Abstracts addressing other questions are also welcome.

The conference will bring together scholars, professionals, and students from different fields and various areas of nursing and health care history. Longstanding members are especially invited to attend.

The Hannah Lecturer at the conference will be Carol Helmstadter, Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto. She is an award winning nurse historian and expert on the history of 19<sup>th</sup> century nursing. She has published widely on Florence Nightingale and nursing in Victorian Britain, including a recent chapter in *Notes on Nightingale (2010)*. Her new book, *Nursing before Nightingale*, co-authored with Judith Godden, will be released in Nov. 2011 by Ashgate.

Please submit your one page abstract (350 words max.) and one page CV for consideration by

**Dec. 1, 2011 to**

[geertje.boschma@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:geertje.boschma@nursing.ubc.ca).

Submissions by email are strongly encouraged. If submitting by mail, please send one original and 3 blind copies to:

Geertje Boschma,

UBC School of Nursing,

T201 2211 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver V6T 2B5, Canada.



**For more information visit our website at: <http://cahn-achn.ca/>**

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## Award News

Applications for the  
**CAHN/ACHN Margaret  
 Allemang Scholarship**  
 and the  
**CAHN/ACHN Vera Roberts  
 Nursing History Research  
 Award**

will be accepted until  
 February 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2012  
 award year.

Visit our website for more  
 Information.

[www.cahn-achn.ca](http://www.cahn-achn.ca)  
 For more information



**ATTENTION STUDENTS!**

**Website for Graduate Students:**

Canadian Historical Association-  
 Graduate Student Committee

<http://www.cha-shc.ca/gsc-ccd/en/index.shtml>

## Looking for Journals!

The uOttawa Health Sciences library is missing some volumes of the **Canadian Nurse** and would love to have a full set! If you know of any hospitals, schools or individuals who may have volumes 1, 2, or 11-21 inclusive that they would be willing to donate, please contact:  
 ctoman@uottawa.ca

\*\*\*a tax donation receipt can be provided

**The 2011 CAHN-CSHM Annual Conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick.**  
by Geertje Boschma

– cont'd from pg.2

The CAHN AGM meeting was well attended. Beverly Hicks started her term as our new president, and we elected a number of new people into the various positions and committees. Welcome to all new board and committee members! Saturday closed with a book launch reception where a number of new books of members were presented. Sunday's keynote speaker Dr. Susan Ledered delivered the Patterson Lecture on "Presuming Consent: Body parts appropriation and the body politic in Atomic-Age America. She discussed the historic ambivalence over signing consent for organ donation, which has generated continued difficulty to meet the demand for organs for transplants in health care. Following the Lecture was a workshop on funding and application processes with CIHR. Sunday closed with a great banquet in downtown Fredericton. Monday's highlight was Dr. Pat D'Antonio's key-note Hannah Lecture on her most recent research on American nurses and their place, work experiences, and position in their respective communities. The meaning of work and place was also the central theme in her lecture, entitled "Exploring people and place in the history of Nursing." An important part of the lecture included an analysis of the ways place and race relations shaped the nurses' work experiences in Southern US. Her talk was a highly stimulating closure of a great conference. The conference was a great opportunity to meet, present, and get inspired by the various talks on the ways nurses, other professionals, and families made and continue to make their contributions to the organisation and provision of health care in Canada. Thank you organizers for a great conference.

We hope to see many of you at our next conference next year in Medicine Hat. It will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CAHN, founded in 1987, which we plan to commemorate and celebrate. Watch for further news, and keep an eye on the website!

## **MARK THE DATE!**

### **International Nursing History Conference in Denmark August 9-11, 2012**

An international conference in Nursing History will take place in Denmark August 9-11, 2012. Venue of the conference will be **The Danish Museum of Nursing History**. The conference will be run jointly by the Danish Society of Nursing History and the Danish Museum of Nursing History. Accommodations.

Further announcement concerning theme, call for abstracts etc. will follow in 2010 at:

<http://www.dsr.dk/dshs.htm> and

<http://www.dsr.dk/dshs.htm>

## NEWS ITEMS

### Update on AMS Nursing History Research Unit

Jayne Elliott is returning as research facilitator/administrator to the NHRU on a part-time basis beginning September 2011. Last winter we also welcomed new faculty member Thomas Foth, who will be defending his PhD thesis, an analysis of psychiatric care under the Nazi Regime, 1933-1945, at the end of September. Congratulations are also due to associate Unit director Marie-Claude Thifault, who this past spring was named University of Ottawa Research Chair in Canadian Francophonie. Supported also by a major CIHR grant, her research will focus on the impact of psychiatric deinstitutionalization on francophone minority communities, particularly in Eastern Ontario, from the early 20th century to today. Marie-Claude will also take over as Unit director when Cynthia retires in December 2011. Working with Marie-Claude is postdoctoral fellow Isabelle Perreault, part of whose research is centred on psychiatric institutionalization and deinstitutionalization policies.

Other Unit work has also continued over the past year. Jayne and Cynthia joined forces with Kristin Burnett from the Department of History at Lakehead University to offer a SSHRC-funded graduate student workshop in Ottawa last May. The twelve participating students are now working on their papers that will be published in an edited collection in the near future. We opened the new school year with a Fall Seminar given by Susanne Kreutzer at the University of Osnabrück in Germany. Her talk entitled “The Rationalization of Nursing in West Germany, 1945-1970,” was well received, and we are looking forward to future collaboration with Susanne in order to establish international connections between Canadian and German nursing students interested in historical research.

We would like to remind graduate students that the University of Ottawa, through the Unit faculty, offers a history thesis option for a doctoral degree in nursing. Our four online history of nursing courses (undergraduate/graduate; English/French) are also available for students outside the University of Ottawa, providing the home university accepts the course for credit. A limited number of reimbursements of up to \$800 may be available to help defray the costs of these courses.

Please contact Cynthia Toman ([ctoman@uottawa.ca](mailto:ctoman@uottawa.ca)) for more information.

**Report on: *Storytelling and History: Encounters in Health*  
Margaret Scaia, RN, MN PhD (c)**

In May of 2011 I attended an interdisciplinary graduate workshop prepared by the AMS Nursing History Research Unit at the University of Ottawa. The workshop was titled: *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 there are many nurses in the School of Nursing interested in history here at UVic, there are none that are formally engaged in research in this area. Similarly, there are historians interested in the history of health care and women, but none in the department of history at UVic who focus on nursing history. Thus, it is important to take opportunities to meet with other students and scholars engaged in research in health care and nursing when the opportunity presents itself.

As there are only a handful of PhD students and indeed nurse historians across the country, I was pleased to be asked to attend this workshop on storytelling as an important part of history. The workshop organizers, Dr. Jayne Elliott, NHRU, University of Ottawa, Dr. Kristin Burnett, Department of History, Lakehead University and Dr. Cynthia Toman, NHRU, University of Ottawa, invited graduate students from any discipline whose research is grounded in the social history of medicine, health, and healing to submit a proposal for a workshop that focuses on the stories that historians use 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. Our presentations and discussion looked at how the stories we tell contribute to creating new understandings and interpretations of the past.

We were asked to select a brief account from our research that highlights some encounter involving, patients, health care workers, health care systems, medical technologies, medical institutions, or other environments of health, disease, or illness. Following the presentation of our papers, Dr. Megan Davies gave comment and a question period followed. At the end of the presentations, Dr. Kristin Burnett gave commentary along with Dr. Toman and Dr. Elliot. The conversations and feedback provided us all with much to consider in regard to our particular masters and doctoral focus.

Students were at different stages in their research program and were from universities across Canada and also Harvard University. The opportunity to be part of this very inspiring event provided a unique venue in which to participate in dialogue with other students and senior scholars in nursing and health care history. An additional benefit is that we are working, with mentorship from the organizing team, on the publication of a paper resulting from our presentations. Thanks to those that made this possible.

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## Course Offerings in the History of Nursing

### Découvrez l'évolution d'une profession... totalement en ligne!

Le cours NSG 4501 *Histoire des soins infirmiers au Canada* est un cours, au choix, de premier cycle de trois crédits offert à l'École des sciences infirmières. Aucun préalable n'est requis. Une expérience unique de cyber-apprentissage!

### Discover the evolution of a profession... completely online!

NSG 4101 *History of Canadian Nursing* is an undergraduate elective course of three credits offered by the School of Nursing. No pre-requisites required. A unique e-learning experience!

<http://www.health.uottawa.ca/sn/index.htm>  
<http://www.sante.uottawa.ca/e/si/>



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### D'hier à aujourd'hui, l'étude de l'évolution des pratiques de soins infirmiers

Le cours NSG 6550 *Contexte historique en sciences infirmières* est un cours d'études supérieures offert à l'École des sciences infirmières. Ce cours favorise une réflexion critique sur le parcours des différentes générations d'infirmières, dans le cadre de pratiques nursing spécifiques, et permet de mieux saisir les acquis, mais aussi les enjeux de la pratique infirmière en ce début de 21<sup>e</sup> siècle.

### Then and now, the study of the evolution in nursing practices

NSG 6150 *Historical Context in Nursing Practice* is a graduate course offered by the School of Nursing. This course encourages critical reflection on the many generations of nurses, within the context of specific nursing practices, to better understand the past achievements of nursing but also its challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

<http://www.health.uottawa.ca/sn/index.htm>  
<http://www.sante.uottawa.ca/e/si/>



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The above courses in nursing history are offered through the School of Nursing at the University of Ottawa. They are available to nursing students and others across the country who have permission from their home institutions to credit these courses as part of their program. The undergraduate courses are totally online; the graduate courses will be offered by distance and may or may not include a real time audio/visual component. For more details of the courses, which are offered in both English and French, please contact Cynthia Toman ([ctoman@uottawa.ca](mailto:ctoman@uottawa.ca)) for the English courses, and Marie-Claude Thifault ([mthifaul@uottawa.ca](mailto:mthifaul@uottawa.ca)) for the French courses.



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## Executive and committee members for 2011-2012

**President :** Beverley Hicks (2011-13)

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**Vice-President :** TBA

**Past-President :** Marion McKay (2011-13)

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**Treasurer :**

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**Secretary :** Margaret Scaia (2011-13)

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Judith Young (2010-12)

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