



Canadian Association for the History Of Nursing

*Association canadienne pour l'histoire du Nursing*

## Newsletter

Spring 2011

Volume 24, Issue 1

### President's Address

This is my last message as President of CAHN/ACHN. It has been a privilege to work with the many enthusiastic volunteers whose collective energy and creativity sustains our organization. Our membership remains stable, and our financial statements reflect our continued ability to support our mandate of putting the history of nursing and health care on the national agenda and to encourage new scholarship by providing financial support to both established and new researchers. I offer my sincere thanks to all the members of our executive who have served with me over the past two years, and I extend my best wishes to Beverley Hicks as she steps into the office of President at our upcoming annual meeting. I extend a warm welcome to our new executive members, and sincere thanks to those members who continue to serve in their current roles. Finally, as we look forward to a joint conference with CSHM/SCHM in Fredericton May 28-30, I particularly want to thank Anne-Marie Arseneault and Penny Ericson for their fine work on our behalf. The conference received an unprecedented number of abstract proposals, and the final program promises to provide a wide range of interesting papers. We are very excited that Pat D'Antonio has agreed to be the CAHN/ACHN's Hannah Speaker and look forward to her visit.

On a sadder note, Peter Warren, President of CSHM/SCHM died suddenly on May 3, 2011. One of the real joys of my term of office as president of CAHN/ACHN was that Peter's term was concurrent with mine. I first met Peter in the mid-1990s when he was the President of the Manitoba Society for the History of Medicine and I was the President of the Manitoba Association for the History of Nursing. He called me at home one

evening because he wanted to know whether or not I would be interested in exploring the potential merger of our two organizations. We agreed that both groups faced similar challenges, including a membership composed primarily of retired professionals who relished hearing papers read at their meetings, but produced little primary research of their own; a limited ability to attract younger members; limited participation by academic historians; and a focus on medical and nursing history to the almost virtual exclusion of other aspects of health care. We both believed that a merger of our two groups would strengthen the presence of the history of health care in academia and elsewhere, but perceived that the time was not yet right. We decided to bide our time. I joined MSHM (and CSHM), but continued to focus my energies on MAHN and CAHN. After several years, the MSHM ceased to operate - not because of a dramatic decline in membership, but because none of its members were able to take on leadership roles. The right time to negotiate a merger was so fleeting that we had no time to act. MAHN did invite MSHM members to join them, and a handful did so. However, only Peter attended regularly, and in the process he became our most loyal and committed new member.

I also had the privilege of working with Peter on a three year grant from Associated Medical Services. The project focussed on three priorities – the enhancement of history of medicine content for undergraduate medical students, the development of inter-faculty coursework in the history of health care at the University of Manitoba, and the strengthening of collaborative teaching and research in the history of health care between the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg.

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(cont'd from pg.1)

The project was an outstanding success, and AMS dedicated long term funding to the Faculty of Medicine to continue this work. However, to Peter's intense disappointment, his own Faculty made instruction in the history of medicine in the undergraduate medical program its sole priority, and the inter-faculty/inter-university collaboration ceased to exist. Our small, but committed group of health care historians moved on to other endeavours, including planning for three major history conferences; participation in the history of medicine book club; and the hosting of an annual history of medicine day which has recently expanded to include Lakehead University, University of Minnesota and University of Saskatchewan. Peter participated enthusiastically in all of these projects and, after retiring as a physician, embraced a second career as a graduate student in history.

Peter and I also served concurrent terms as members of the Manitoba Sanitorium Board. It was in this setting that I observed the depth of his compassion and his commitment to human rights. Well known as a highly respected academic and clinical physician, I had expected Peter to be engaged in the technical aspects of TB control. However, what I did not anticipate was his passionate commitment to social justice and the redress of the social and economic conditions that had led to a near epidemic of TB in Manitoba's first nations communities.

When Peter and I became presidents of our respective national organizations two years ago, we once again turned our attention to the merits of a merger. Many of the issues that we had first identified at the provincial level still held true at the national level. We were encouraged by the increased number of academic historians who joined our organizations and delivered papers at our conferences. We were concerned about the diminished and increasingly restricted funding opportunities available to historians of health care, and identified the need to speak in a unified voice to major funders such as AMS and CIHR. We were uncertain about the impact that broaching a future merger would have on our traditional membership bases. We wondered about the timing of a serious discussion about a merger, and very recently decided that this year, the time might be right. We agreed to discuss how we would broach this subject in early May, prior to the joint conference.

When I fell and fractured my shoulder in early February, Peter offered advice and reassurance which was primarily based on his experience with a similar injury some years ago. When Peter fell and fractured his pelvis in early April, I jokingly told him that I had no intention of following him any further down that path. I wondered if our inadvertent and coincidental calamities made us Winnipeg's worst ambassadors - Winterpeg indeed! He found the whole situation ridiculously funny and referred to the pair of us as "stars on ice." In his last email message to me, he apologized for his inability to attend the conference in Fredericton. Little did we know how prophetic his message would be.

Peter was one of the most humane, thoughtful and sincere individuals I have ever known. It was a privilege to work with him. I shall miss him as an ardent supporter of the history of health care, and as an academic who successfully embraced both science and the humanities. But mostly I will miss his cheerful, optimistic approach to challenging situations and his respectful conduct towards everyone with whom he interacted. Rest in peace, dear friend.

The logo for Marion, featuring the name in a stylized, green, cursive font.

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## CAHN/ACHN Member honored by the Universite de Moncton

Last Fall CAHN member Anne Marie Arseneault was named professor emeritus at the Universite de Moncton.

Arseneault received her bachelor of nursing degree at the Universite de Moncton. She then worked as a nurse before resuming her studies, obtaining her Master of Science (Community Health and Epidemiology) at Queen's University in Ontario.

She had a brilliant career as a professor with the Universite de Moncton's faculty of Health Sciences and Community Services' School of Nursing for 33 years. She specialized in the field of Community Health and Professional Ethics.

As a researcher, Arseneault published many articles and book chapters, mainly in the field of bioethics. Always looking to improve theoretical content and clinical experiences, she became an ambassador for community health and professional ethics in nursing.

As a professor, she demanded excellence in the content and writing of her students' works.

A pioneer in her field, she contributed to the implementation of mobility programs, providing students with an opportunity to take part in clinical internships abroad. Thanks to her efforts, many benefitted from an international experience in Haiti, Morocco, England and India.

Moreover, Arseneault became interested in the profession's history. She has been an active member of CAHN/ACHN since its creation in 1987. She has held the position of President from 2003-2004, and served as a member of the executive office for eight years. Most recently she had been instrumental in the planning of this year's conference in Fredericton (see pg.3 for more info).

Between 1987 and 2003 she was involved in several activities related to the CASN accreditation. She played a role in developing and launching an accreditation program for university-level nursing training schools and has co-authored numerous publications covering the accreditation process.

For many years, she was involved with the Universite de Moncton's Association des bibliothecaires, professeures et professeurs, where she served as a Nursing School representative, secretary and external vice-president, as well as serving as a member of the negotiations committee. She also served on the Academic Senate where she sat on various committees. Congratulations Anne-Marie! Félicitations!



(Taken from Journal Pioneer (Summerside Oct.2010) <http://www.journalpioneer.com/> )

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## CAHN Preliminary Conference Program

The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing / Association canadienne pour l'histoire du Nursing 2011 Annual Meeting, will take place in Fredericton, New Brunswick from May 28 – May 30, 2011.

This year's conference is part of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Congress which brings together thousands of scholars, students, practitioners and policy makers in a different city each year to share ideas, discuss today's complex issues and enrich their research. They gather under the aegis of more than 70 associations representing a rich spectrum of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. From theatre, literature and education to history, sociology and international development, Congress represents a unique showcase of scholarly excellence, creativity, and leadership.

Congress 2011 is being co-hosted by the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The theme for this year's Congress is ***Coasts and Continents: Exploring peoples and places.***\* (\*Taken from [congress2011.ca](http://congress2011.ca))

Highlights of this year's conference include nearly 50 papers, including several French presentations, as well as:

Saturday May 28th

10:45- 12:00- Roundtable

“Accounting For the Importance of Home-place, Workplace, Landscape and Identity In Canadian Health Care Services,” Panelists: Myra Rutherford, Heidi Coombs-Thorne, Lesley McBain

12:00-1:00- Graduate Student Lunch/ Déjeuner des étudiants diplômés

4:30-5:45- CAHN Annual General Meeting/ ACHN Assemblée annuelle

6:00-7:00- Annual Book Launch

Sunday May 29th

10:45-12:00- CSHM AMS Paterson Lecturer

Susan Lederer, (University of Wisconsin, School of Medicine and Public Health)

“Presuming Consent: Body (parts) Appropriation and the Body Politic in Atomic-Age America”

Monday May 30th

10:15-11:30- CAHN (AMS Hannah) Lecturer

Speaker: Pat D'Antonio (University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing)

“Exploring People and Places in the History of Nursing”

2:00-3:30- Special Joint Session with the Canadian Historical Association

(For full conference details see [cahn-achn.ca](http://cahn-achn.ca) )

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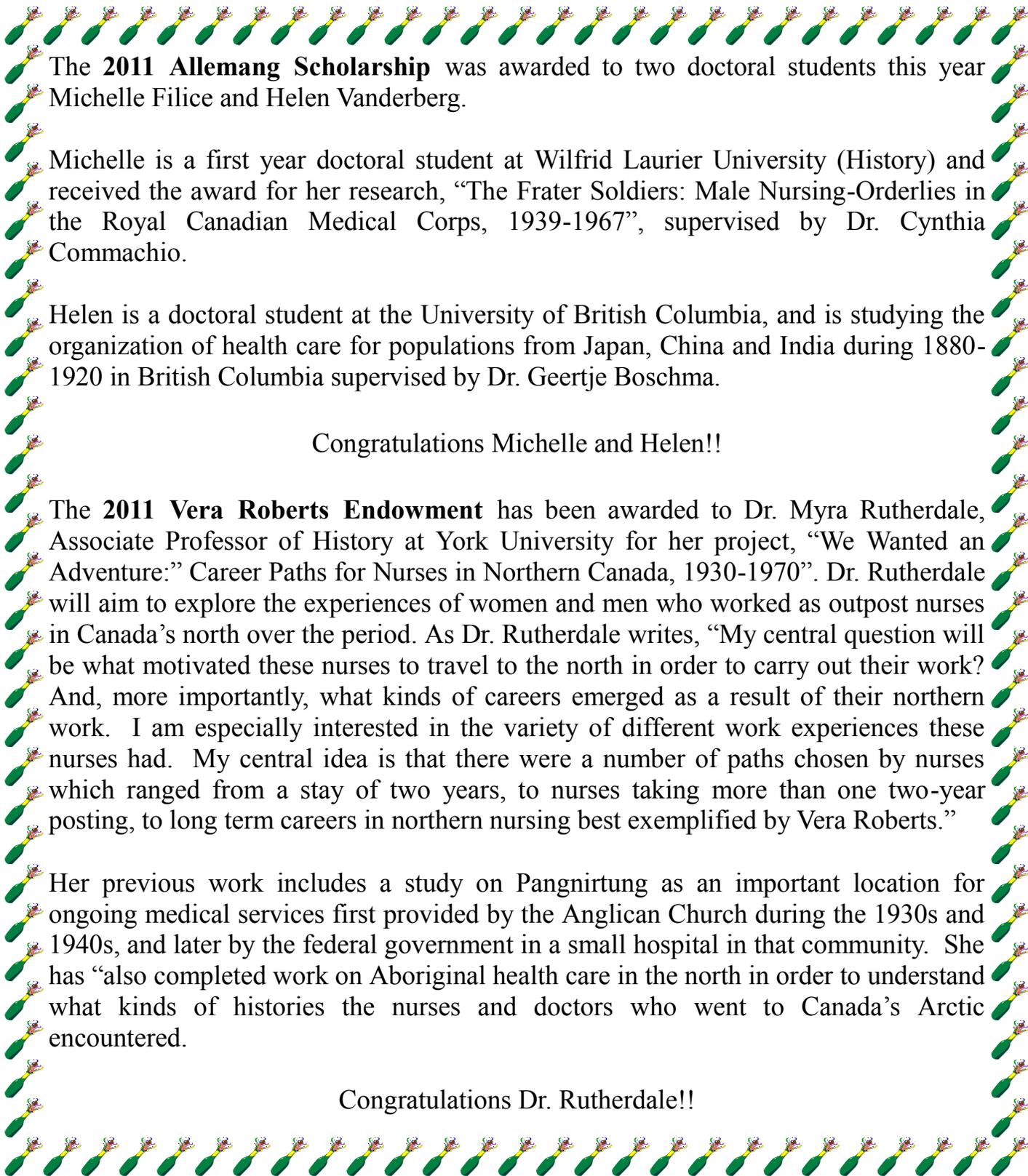
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## AWARDS



The **2011 Allemang Scholarship** was awarded to two doctoral students this year Michelle Filice and Helen Vanderberg.

Michelle is a first year doctoral student at Wilfrid Laurier University (History) and received the award for her research, “The Frater Soldiers: Male Nursing-Orderlies in the Royal Canadian Medical Corps, 1939-1967”, supervised by Dr. Cynthia Commachio.

Helen is a doctoral student at the University of British Columbia, and is studying the organization of health care for populations from Japan, China and India during 1880-1920 in British Columbia supervised by Dr. Geertje Boschma.

Congratulations Michelle and Helen!!

The **2011 Vera Roberts Endowment** has been awarded to Dr. Myra Rutherfordale, Associate Professor of History at York University for her project, “We Wanted an Adventure:” Career Paths for Nurses in Northern Canada, 1930-1970”. Dr. Rutherfordale will aim to explore the experiences of women and men who worked as outpost nurses in Canada’s north over the period. As Dr. Rutherfordale writes, “My central question will be what motivated these nurses to travel to the north in order to carry out their work? And, more importantly, what kinds of careers emerged as a result of their northern work. I am especially interested in the variety of different work experiences these nurses had. My central idea is that there were a number of paths chosen by nurses which ranged from a stay of two years, to nurses taking more than one two-year posting, to long term careers in northern nursing best exemplified by Vera Roberts.”

Her previous work includes a study on Pangnirtung as an important location for ongoing medical services first provided by the Anglican Church during the 1930s and 1940s, and later by the federal government in a small hospital in that community. She has “also completed work on Aboriginal health care in the north in order to understand what kinds of histories the nurses and doctors who went to Canada’s Arctic encountered.

Congratulations Dr. Rutherfordale!!

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## Conference News

### **AAHN 28th Annual Conference**

September 8 - 11, 2011

Harris College of Nursing, Texas Christian University  
Fort Worth, TX

#### **Keynote presentation: Dr. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Ph.D.**

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich is a historian of early America and the history of women and a university professor at Harvard University. Dr. Ulrich's innovative and widely influential approach to history has been described as a tribute to "the silent work of ordinary people"—an approach that, in her words, aims to "show the interconnection between public events and private experience." In 1991, Ulrich received the Pulitzer Prize in history for *A Midwife's Tale*. With her appointment to Harvard University, Ulrich became the James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History. Most recently, she was appointed the 300th Anniversary University Professor at Harvard University.

**For more information visit: [www.aahn.org](http://www.aahn.org)**

### **2012 International Nursing History Conference**

Denmark, August 9-11, 2012

An international conference in Nursing History will take place at 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.

More information concerning theme and call for abstracts will be available at [www2.dsr.dk/dshs](http://www2.dsr.dk/dshs) in May 2011.

**The 2012 CAHN/ACHN Conference will be held in.....**

## **Medicine Hat, Alberta**

*Stay tuned to our website for more information as it becomes available:*

**[cahn-achn.ca](http://cahn-achn.ca)**

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## Updates

### **Beyond Storytelling: Understanding Society through Encounters in the History of Health**

The Associated Medical Services Nursing History Research Unit at the University of Ottawa is hosting an intensive workshop for an invited group of 15 interdisciplinary graduate students whose research focus is on how the social history of health, broadly defined, illuminates broader societal relationships and interactions. In order to accommodate students at varying stages in their research, the workshop is organized around the theme of "stories," the unique, personal, and often compelling narratives that spark these deeper historical pursuits. Stories from the past are accessible, illuminate larger societal themes, contribute to new understandings of the past, and are useful tools for developing critical skills in examining evidence and questioning interpretations. Three inter-related objectives guide this workshop: 1) to strengthen student research and analytical skills in the history of health, thereby contributing to scholarship in the field, 2) to actively and deliberately mentor students in the demanding workforce skills of presenting, critiquing, and publishing their work and 3) to foster networking at the graduate student level across the disciplinary divides of humanities and health sciences. Dr. Megan Davies, history professor in the Department of Social Science at York University, will open the workshop with a keynote address (available to the public). Dr. David Pantalony, curator, physical sciences and medicine at the Canada Museum of Science and Technology, will conduct a guided tour of medical artefacts at the museum and a mini-workshop on how students can integrate the use of artefacts into their research and teaching. The workshop will take place Friday 13 May to Saturday 14 May 2011.

### *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](mailto:ctoman@uottawa.ca)

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## Executive and committee members for 2010-2011

**President :** Marion McKay (2009-2011)  
[marion\\_mckay@umanitoba.ca](mailto:marion_mckay@umanitoba.ca)

**Vice-President :** Beverley Hicks (2009-2011)  
[hicks@mts.net](mailto:hicks@mts.net)

**Past President:** Geertje Boschma (2009-2011)  
[geertje.boschma@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:geertje.boschma@nursing.ubc.ca)

**Treasurer :** Lorraine Mychajlanow (2008-2010)  
[lmychajlanow@nurses.ab.ca](mailto:lmychajlanow@nurses.ab.ca)

**Secretary :** Joyce MacQueen (2009-2011)  
[g.macqueen@sympatico.ca](mailto:g.macqueen@sympatico.ca)

**Members-at-large:** Florence Melchior (2009-2011)  
[Florence@mhc.ab.ca](mailto:Florence@mhc.ab.ca)

Margaret Scaia (2009-2011)  
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**Communications:** Jaime Lapeyre (2008-2010)  
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Judith Hibberd (2009-2011)  
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Margaret Scaia (2009-2011)  
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**Finance:** Lorraine Mychajlanow (2008-2010)  
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Beverley Hicks (2009-2011)  
[hicks@mts.net](mailto:hicks@mts.net)

**Membership:** Jayne Elliott, (Chair) (2009-2011)  
[jelliott@uottawa.ca](mailto:jelliott@uottawa.ca)

**Scholarship and Research Awards:**  
 Cynthia Toman (2008-2010)  
[ctoman@sympatico.ca](mailto:ctoman@sympatico.ca)

Carol Helmstadter (2008-2010)  
[Carol.helmstadter@rogers.com](mailto:Carol.helmstadter@rogers.com)

**Nominations:** Geertje Boschma (2009-2011)  
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Veryl Tipliski (2008-2010)  
[tipliski@telus.net](mailto:tipliski@telus.net)

**Long-Range Planning:**  
 Beverley Hicks (2009-2011)  
[hicks@mts.net](mailto:hicks@mts.net)

Chris Dooley (2008 – 2010)  
[Chris\\_Dooley@MTS.net](mailto:Chris_Dooley@MTS.net)

Judith Young (2008 – 2010)  
[judithy@primus.ca](mailto:judithy@primus.ca)