



Marilynn Jean Wood or “Marnie” as she is known, graduated from the School of Nursing at UBC in 1959. She immediately moved to Southern California where she spent the next 25 years, practicing nursing at UCLA Hospital and working in nursing and nursing education.

In the late 1960s, Marnie completed a Master’s degree in Public Health at UCLA, followed by a doctoral degree in Public Health in 1971. She then accepted a position with the School of Nursing at UCLA as an Assistant Professor of Nursing.

There, she met Pamela Brink, with whom she developed the idea of teaching students to form a research proposal based on the answers to the queries “What,” “What is the relationship,” and “Why.” From this experiment, Brink and Wood developed the texts *Basic Steps in Planning Nursing Research* and *Advanced Design in Nursing Research*.

In 1979, Marnie became the first Dean of the newly-formed School of Nursing at Azusa Pacific University, and in 1987, Marnie returned to Canada, accepting the role of Dean at the University of Alberta’s School of Nursing.

The Faculty of Nursing at U of A had approved of the first doctoral program in nursing in Canada, but progress had stalled. Marnie launched a long, spirited campaign to obtain the necessary funding for the PhD program, and also set about changing an entrenched culture that preferred diploma nursing over baccalaureate nursing in practice.

Under Marnie’s leadership and novel means of bringing diverse groups together in one project, the usually divisive hospital and college diploma programs in the province began speaking with one voice on issues of nursing education. In the fall of 1990, Marnie and her executive admitted six graduate students into “special case” PhD programs in advance of program approval.

Many initiatives started and flourished under her leadership, including the partnership with the school of nursing in Ghana; a very successful partnership that has continued to this day, with a PhD program having just gotten underway.