Our colleague, Lecturer Cathy Ebbehøj, retired as of December 31, 2017. Cathy is one of our own marvellous alumni, having completed both her BSN (1975) and MSN (1999) in our UBC School of Nursing. She brought her longstanding expertise in maternity nursing and education to our School as a clinical instructor in 1990, and has been a popular and inspirational educator for 27 years with the School. Cathy’s taken on leadership roles in the BSN program over the years, serving as Clinical Placement Coordinator, Baccalaureate Program Advisor, BSN Awards Chair, and Admissions Advisor.

While I could talk at length about the great teaching and curricular development Cathy has contributed to our School over the years, her excellent leadership on the Alumni Engagement Committee and many other School committees, her contributions to the profession of nursing through CRNBC working groups and other consultations, I promised Cathy I’d keep it short and sweet. Cathy during her time at UBC took on leadership roles in various professional groups, and served on many UBC committees. She is amazing at creating memorable events, has been the life of most parties, and for me, the person whose puckish sense of humour and energy has made the School a fun place to work. I won’t enumerate her many prestigious awards, among them the University Killam Teaching Prize, the UBC Blythe Eagles Volunteer Award, and the AWHONN Canada Award of Excellence, but instead mention how often she has been involved in awards for others both students and Alumni. I must also mention, with gratitude, her generosity in endowing a new award in honour of her parents, the Dell and Del Johnson Memorial Prize in Nursing, to be awarded to the graduating student who receives the overall top grade in the BSN program, starting with the class of 2018.

Cathy is also the recipient of a UBC Alumni Association’s Alumni Builder Award, a special recognition established this past year to mark the Alumni Association’s 100th Anniversary. This award was bestowed on Cathy at her retirement party on February 15, which of course she helped us organize, saying that it was an opportunity for her to say thank you and good-bye.

We’ll miss Cathy in our BSN program, but hopefully we’ll still see her regularly around the School, and at all the important events; she will continue her leadership of the Alumni Engagement Committee. Please join me in thanking her for her 27 years as a valued faculty member in our School, in congratulating her on her many achievements for the School and for nursing, and in wishing her well in the next phase of her career.

We also acknowledge the long and exemplary service of our colleague, Dr. Judy Lynam, Professor, who retired on December 31, 2017, after 35 years on faculty in the School of Nursing. Judy has been a stellar contributor to the success of the School over her years, through her excellent teaching, her research into the health of marginalized children and families, and in her leadership in curriculum and strategic initiatives.

Judy received her BScN from McGill University, her MSN from UBC, and her PhD from King’s College University of London. She started with UBC as an Instructor II, then shifted to Assistant Professor, was promoted to Associate Professor, and in 2009, promoted to full Professor. She helped develop and evaluate Social Pediatrics as a discipline and a clinical approach in Vancouver, drawing on her research with marginalized families in the Downtown East Side to support improved care. Among her recognitions she has received the CRNBC Research Excellence award, as well as the Community Builder Award from the Network of Inner City Community Service Societies, and the inaugural Canadian Social Pediatric Award for Advancing Interprofessional and Intersectoral Partnerships, from the Janusz Korczak Association of Canada and the Canadian Pediatrics Society. The RICHER Social Pediatrics Initiative that she led has just received the 2017 John F. McCreary Prize for Interprofessional Teamwork.

Judy’s leadership and service within the School over the years has contributed strongly to our success in new ventures, and our reputation for excellence. As the most recent example, during her three-year tenure as the Associate Director of Strategic Planning, Judy helped create and launch the Masters in Health Leadership & Policy degree in Seniors Care, serving as the School’s first MLHP Director and representing us ably among the APSC programs that launched similar professional degrees. She also co-developed the MHLP in Clinical Education that is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Advanced Education. Another aspect of her AD role involved co-leadership in transforming the BSN curriculum that has just been launched this term, conducting dozens of consultations and group deliberations about the structure and delivery model for the program, handling the transformation through the approval processes in the School, through the Faculty, and to the University Senate, and ultimately helping launch the new curriculum for the 2017/2018 term.

Judy will continue to be active within the School as a Professor Emeritus, but please join me in thanking her for her long years of exemplary service, and wishing her well as she moves her career into a new chapter.

JUST RETIRED
Farewell missives from Dr Elizabeth Saewyc, Director of the School of Nursing
It is with tremendous gratitude that we celebrate the long—super long!—UBC career of Senior Instructor Joanne Ricci, who has retired from the UBC School of Nursing after more than 40 years as a faculty member. We believe Joanne holds the School record as the longest serving tenured faculty member in our nearly 100 years as a School, and such dedication is worth acknowledging—especially as Joanne continued to work for the School nearly full time for another five months after retiring on December 31, 2017!

Joanne is also one of our own alumni; she completed her BSN with us in 1975, and promptly went on to complete her MSN in 1977, and joined our faculty. Joanne worked as an RN general duty nurse at Vancouver General Hospital on the surgical, burn, and intensive care units, and as a result, started her career with our School teaching medical-surgical nursing, but fairly soon in her career demonstrated her interest in health promotion and community health topics; in 1980 she started giving invited talks on sexuality, fitness and healthy lifestyles, and stress management in the community, for example. She soon shifted her teaching within the School to community health nursing, with a primary focus on child and youth health. Joanne has been actively engaged in several of our curricular transformations over the years, including helping to develop and teach in our post-NSN BSN completion program (teaching public health nursing, of course!). I remember her handing that course off to me as one of the first courses I taught when I came to UBC in 2004. She has taught thousands of BSN students over the course of her career with the School, and supervised or co-supervised 24 graduate student major essays or SPAR projects.

Joanne’s innovative contributions to public health education in our School have included a strong focus mentoring both our nursing students and young people in the community to develop health promotion initiatives. In 1999, one of the initiatives she helped support was a social marketing campaign developed by a student group, the Tobacco Reduction Awareness/Action Committee. Their Blue Ribbon-themed campaign involved a number of strategies and community partnerships; it was eventually taken up by Health Canada through the involvement of BC youth on their National Youth Advisory Council, and disseminated to tobacco reduction coordinators throughout Canada. In 2005, the Blue Ribbon campaign was still actively used by tobacco reduction coordinators, but had also begun to be shared internationally!

Other creative educational contributions Joanne has made to our public health program include helping to adopt the Minnesota PHN Wheel of Interventions into our curriculum in the early 2000’s. Joanne’s regular lectures on the Wheel, along with the rest of our Public Health Nursing team of faculty, and our students’ sharing of their learning with PHNs in their clinical rotations, helped spread this well-respected model to Vancouver Coastal Health’s PHNs too; first taken up by Vancouver Coastal Health’s Early Childhood and Child & Youth PHN teams, the model was recently adopted throughout VCH as their model of public health nursing practice.

Joanne has also been engaged in interprofessional education; she has co-led an influenza vaccine immunization clinic program in partnership with faculty from Medicine and Pharmacy, coordinating the training and the implementation of on-campus flu shot mass clinics with the three groups of professional students, and helped start the tradition of the UBC President getting their flu shot from a UBC health profession student (the first year, it was one of our BSN students, more recently, Joanne coached a medical student through the process for President Santa Ono).

Joanne has also held several roles in educational leadership within our School, serving as course coordinator and term coordinator repeatedly over the course of her career, participating on the Undergraduate Program Committee and admissions and progressions committees, as well as our complex practicum placement capstone course (NURS 427) over the past few years, stick-handling 25 faculty and 119 students’ individual placements. All of her creativity in educational strategies and her educational leadership have garnered teaching awards, including the CRNBC Award for Excellence in Education in 2014.

These are but a few examples of the many ways in which Joanne has been one of the vividly unforgettable faculty members in our School. For a dozen-odd years I had the office next door to Joanne’s, and I enjoyed sharing in energetic conversations about the work we do, experiencing her caring interest about the broader lives of those who work closely with her, and yes, even listening to her sharp frustration at the bureaucratic hurdles our students and our faculty encountered in health care and education, and the erosion of public health nursing roles across the province. Joanne is not shy with her opinions, but passionate about our profession. And, as so many of us know, she also throws a great event—the summer B52 parties (held in honour of the cohort of SoN faculty and staff who were all born in that auspicious year) have been a memorable tradition that continues to foster the cohesion of our School.

Thanks again, Joanne, for all you have brought to the School of Nursing over the many years you have been a part of the faculty; we look forward to your continued engagement as a Senior Instructor Emerita in the years to come!