TOUCHPOINTS 2021
SPRING/SUMMER

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ON THE COVER:
Rapid Testing at Orchard Commons February 2021
Photo: Martin Dee

TOUCHPOINTS
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GOING GREEN OR PREFERING PRINT
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I am delighted to announce that the office spaces and learning areas at UBC School of Nursing are reopening over the summer. Our graduated return to pre-pandemic conditions is happening already, and we should be entering into the next stage on September 7 when classes commence on campus. It has been a long journey to this point and I know that we have all learned a thing or two. What a delight to pass through several seasons without the sniffles or nagging cough! Perhaps we have built and can sustain a culture where everyone who can, gets fully vaccinated, stays home when they are sick, wears a mask for a while post-illness, and regularly practices good hygiene, with a soapy, 20-second hand-washing at appropriate intervals.

This issue of Touchpoints aims to keep you informed about what the school has been up to since January. On pages 4-5 read about our joint effort with the Canadian government and other stakeholders, to commence a COVID-19 rapid-testing trial, the success of which has informed a self-testing clinic that is taking place over the summer. The online seminar “Black (In)Visibility,” marked Black History month. A consideration of the contributions to nursing by nurses of colour, it is summarized on page 8 and includes the link to the video. We celebrated yet another virtual graduation (pp. 6-7), held our first (and last?) Nursing Gala on the Zoom platform (p. 9) and we have architectural designs being finalized for our new home (pp. 12-13).

As Executive Director of the Stigma and Resilience in Youth Centre (SARAVYC) I am also proud to announce our research centre is celebrating 15 years of policy-informing research! Please view our spread on page 10.

In closing, let me point you to in the links below, just a small sample of the media attention our faculty members have received over the last few months, advancing healthcare and promoting social change through research and the telling of their own stories.

Elizabeth Saewyc, PhD, RN, FSAHM, FCAHS, FAAN, FCAN
Director and Professor

**LISTEN**

Farinaz Havaei talks to Spice Radio Vancouver about how the COVID-19 pandemic deepened nurses' anxiety and depression and why better mental health supports are needed - On Soundcloud: soundcloud.com/user-244969524

Margaret Moss discusses her formative years as an adopted Indigenous child in A Different Kind of Leader podcast: adifferentkindofleader.buzzsprout.com/808817/8581057-never-give-up-never-give-up-never-never-never-give-up-interviewing-dr-margaret-moss

Elizabeth Saewyc’s new research showed that family and social supports can make a huge difference in the health of transgender and non-binary teens. Widely reported, here’s Part 1 of a CKNW interview: omny.fm/shows/the-simi-sara-show/a-new-report-is-the-first-to-highlight-gender-dive and Part 2: omny.fm/shows/the-simi-sara-show/gender-diverse-youth-part-2

**READ**


Meaghan Thumath finds a direct link between women who have a child removed from their custody and the increased likelihood those mothers will experience an unintentional overdose — especially if they are Indigenous: www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/mothers-accidental-overdoses-1.5808086

**WATCH**

Ranjit Dhari tells her powerful story in the video “Unseen”: vimeo.com/440063875

Bernie Garrett discusses the effectiveness of Virtual Reality in mitigating pain: bc.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2230695&jwsource=cl

Sabrina Wong gave several interviews about UBC’s COVID-19 rapid testing and self-testing pilot projects. Here she is on Global News: globalnews.ca/news/7899357/ubc-covid-19-test-trials/
Rapid Testing and Self-Testing
School of Nursing Leads the Campus Effort

The following is an excerpt from the full story. Read more and stay up-to-date on this study by visiting nursing.ubc.ca/news

UBC students living in residence and other select groups living and working on the Vancouver campus this summer will be able to access a new COVID-19 self-testing clinic, which opened May 26 on the third floor of the Orchard Commons student residence.

“UBC Nursing faculty, graduate and undergraduate students are collaborating with colleagues in public health, virology and other UBC departments to be able to offer this screening to the UBC community,” explained Dr. Sabrina Wong, who is a UBC Nursing and Centre for Health Services and Policy Research professor. Members of the UBC School of Nursing team, some of whom are pictured below, include Dr. Kirsten Haase, Dr. Emmanuela Ojukwu, Frances Affleck, nursing students Erica Tobias and Innocent Ndateba, and staff member Klara Hill.

As part of the study, participants will be asked to give themselves the test as well as have a second test administered by a registered nurse. Identical results from both tests, or congruence, will demonstrate that the test can be successfully self-administered. Clinic attendees will also be asked to interpret their own test results.

“It’s a little like reading a pregnancy test,” said Dr. Wong. “One bar is negative, and two bars means there is a high likelihood of being positive for COVID-19. This screening kit is designed to be self-administered. One of the things we are testing is whether that works in the real world.”

This summer clinic is being launched on the heels of an earlier study by Dr. Wong and her team of the BD Veritor Rapid SARS-CoV-2 antigen test. The spring pilot was only available to students and staff living or working in select student residences between February to April 2021.

“Students were testing to protect themselves and those around them,” explained Dr. Wong. “It’s fast, it’s easy, and it allowed us to break the chains of transmission sooner.”

The first study provided rapid screening test to over 1,100 unique individuals. The nasal swab was collected by UBC Nursing students as part of their public health rotation with training and supervision provided by UBC School of Nursing faculty. The pilot project identified a number of asymptomatic positive cases early, which helped interrupt further transmission.

“The UBC School of Nursing was quick to mobilize faculty, staff, and students for both of these COVID-19 testing studies,” said Dr. Elizabeth Saewyc, Director and professor of the UBC School of Nursing. “This ongoing collaborative effort really embodies UBC’s Campus as a Living Laboratory philosophy to integrate operational, educational, and research expertise to swiftly respond to societal challenges.”

Over the course of the summer the research team will also be evaluating the sensitivity of the self-test kits by comparing self-administered test results with the gold standard laboratory tests to assess the kits for potential false-positive and false-negative results.
Virtual Graduation Receptions for 2021
Celebrating Graduates of the BSN and Graduate Programs

Above left, Rana Hakami, Manager of Student Services joined with Director Elizabeth Saewyc (top right) to host the School of Nursing’s virtual graduation reception on June 2, 2021. In two separate events, students and their families were treated to a brief program, a virtual “walk across the stage,” award presentations, and an opportunity to chat in virtual breakout rooms. Associate Director of Undergraduate Programs, Elsie Tan (middle left), presented the BSN awards during the 1 PM event and the Associate Director of Graduate Programs, Alison Phinney, (middle right) presented awards to Graduate students during the 3 PM event. Representing the numerous friends, family and students in attendance are Professor Emerita Wendy Hall (bottom left) and freshly-conferred PhD, Mariko Sakamoto (bottom right) who were enjoying a pandemic-appropriate backyard gathering to celebrate.

Graduating this spring were 111 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN); 15 Master of Health Leadership & Policy-Clinical Education (MHLPC-E); 8 MHLPC-Seniors Care (MHLPC-SC); 1 Master of Public Health and Master of Science in Nursing (MPH/MSN); 8 MSN; and 4 PhD.

These were the school’s fourth and fifth graduation celebrations to be held online. Although each has been very successful in its own way, we look forward to congratulating our November graduates in person.
Awards & Recognition

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

Student Awards
Spring 2021

Miriah Hodgins, MSN
Pauline Capelle Memorial Prize in Nursing and
School of Nursing Outstanding Scholarly Practice Advancement Research Project
Applying an Equity Lens to Sexual Assault Services in the Context of Inequity: Vancouver’s Sexual Assault Service and the Downtown Eastside.

Caroline Frankfurter, MSN
School of Nursing Outstanding Scholarly Practice Advancement Research Project
Quality and Safety Webinars Related to Covid for Members of BCNU

Trevor Goodyear, MPH-MSN
School of Nursing Outstanding Thesis Award
Investigating the health-related experiences and trajectories of direct-acting antiviral hepatitis C virus treatment among people who inject drugs

Christine Ou, PHD
School of Nursing Outstanding Dissertation Award
Using mixed methods to explain maternal anger: Examining the relationships between sleep and anger and exploring mothers’ development of anger

Esther Kim, BSN
Helen L. Balfour Prize

Christine Gee, BSN
Dell and Del Johnson Memorial Prize in Nursing

Vida Jovanovic, BSN
Meg Hickling Prize in Sexual Health Education and Development

Golzar Doroudi, BSN
Undergraduate Nursing Society Leadership Award

Maia Joseph, BSN
Meg Hickling Prize in Sexual Health Education and Development

Ali Hicks, BSN
Undergraduate Nursing Society Leadership Award

Shayna Moore, MHLP-CE
MHLP Leadership Award

Connie Ku, BSN
Undergraduate Nursing Society Leadership Award

Raman Dhudwal, MHLP-SC
MHLP Leadership Award
Black (In)Visibility:
Black Nurses in Canada Who Paved the Way
Nursing History Symposium Celebrates Black History Month

Doctoral student Ismalia De Sousa played a significant role in creating the conditions that led to the nursing history seminar presented in February. A year before, Ismalia and another doctoral student, Eunice Bawafaa, wrote an article entitled: "Black History Month: A Recognition of Black Nurses’ Contributions to Healthcare in Canada and the World", exposing the reality that this was the first time anyone at the school had formally observed Black History Month. Curious about the lack of activity in relation to Black nursing in BC, Ismalia brought together nurses who identified as Black in some way. Their first meeting was hosted by the Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia, leading to the formation of the Coalition of African, Caribbean, and Black Nurses in BC. Ismalia then set out to create a directed studies course within her own doctoral program, in addition to her required coursework, to further investigate this invisibility question from a historical perspective, bringing in nursing professors Geertje Boschma and Lydia Wytenbroek. In a very real sense, this seminar is a direct result of one nurse’s willingness to ask the difficult questions and to persist in bringing people together to find answers, which is really a lesson for us all in how social change happens.

Excerpted from an introduction by Sally Thorne

In recognition of Black History month, the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry at the UBC-V School of Nursing hosted an online nursing history panel on February 25, 2021, called: "Black (in) Visibility: Black Nurses in Canada who Paved the Way."

The recording captures introductory comments, followed by the opening keynote address of renowned historian Dr. Karen Flynn, Associate Professor in the Departments of Gender and Women’s Studies and African-American Studies Program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. In her presentation, called "Locating Black Women's Stories in Canadian Nursing Narratives," Dr. Flynn highlights key arguments from her book Moving Beyond Borders: A History of Black Canadian and Caribbean Women in the Diaspora. In her analysis, she puts into context the complex, racialized experiences these nurses’ lived through in their careers, as well as the systematic racism shaping the health care system of which they were part.

In a second presentation, Ismalia De Sousa, a doctoral student at UBC-V School of Nursing, presents initial findings of her project on the history of Black nurses and midwives in BC in the late 19th and early 20th century; she offers new perspectives on Black nurses’ visibility in BC communities, the context of their work and the way they negotiated their identities and caring work as women, midwives and nurses.

A concluding commentary was offered by Dr. Dzifa Dordunoo, an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University of Victoria, emphasizing the importance of history as a way to understand and make visible ongoing systemic racism in nursing and health care.

The virtual event was attended by more than 150 people from provinces and states across North America, as well as a few European countries. A recording can be viewed at the link below.

https://open.library.ubc.ca/cIRcle/collections/historyofnursinginpacificcanada/46624/items/1.0398203

Co-organizers Ismalia De Sousa and Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek, Keynote Speaker Dr. Karen Flynn with her son and nursing leader Lillie Johnson, and Commentator Dr. Dzifa Dordunoo.
The first online UBC Nursing Gala took place on May 13, 2021 via Zoom. Fred Lee, Director of Alumni Engagement at Alumni UBC, was Master of Ceremonies while Director Elizabeth Saewyc, and Dean James Olson offered words of welcome, news, and announcements. Presenters of awards included the new co-chairs.

The event included a slide show of recent nursing events, introduction of new faculty, and an overview of the plans for the new Gateway Health building. A moment was set aside to contemplate the loss of friends and colleagues since we last were able to congregate in 2019. Of course the event was capped off with presentation of Alumni and Preceptor Awards. Many attendees remained after the formal event to chat in breakout rooms.

Most notable about the 2021 Gala was the presentation of new preceptor awards. Two of these were made available through a generous donation from Mr. Martin Kline and Mr. Mitch Erickson (class of 1989), in memory of Mitch’s mother, Bonnie Moerike.

The new co-chairs of the Nursing Alumni Committee, LeeAnne Currie, Associate Professor, and Kris Gustavson, Adjunct Professor, presented the Alumni Awards as follows:

- Caryn Dooner (BSN 2019)
  - Recent Alumni Award
- Lynne Palmer (MSN 2005)
  - Alumni Award of Recognition
- Marilynn “Marnie” Wood (BSN 1959)
  - Alumni Award of Distinction

We were fortunate to have Mitch Erickson on hand to present the inaugural Erickson-Kline-Moerike Nurse Practitioner Preceptor Awards to:

- Jacqueline Lum, NP (Class of 2011)
- Diane Wozny, MD

Professor of Teaching and Associate Director of Undergrad Programs, Elsie Tan, presented the Award for Excellence as BSN Preceptor to:

- Rajwinder Kaur, RN
- Kathy Paradis, RN, Retired
SARAVYC conducts a bilingual survey to learn about the health of 923 transgender youth in Canada. It is the first and largest of its kind in the country. The survey is repeated in 2019, with 1,519 trans and/or non-binary youth across the nation responding.

“Enacted stigma and HIV risk behaviours among sexual minority Indigenous youth in Canada, New Zealand, and the United States” is published. It is a project with Indigenous investigators from all three countries.

ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4716820/

Dr. Brittany Bingham worked in a leadership role with the Raven’s Children II and Moving Upstream: Aboriginal Marginalized and Street-Involved Youth in BC Reports. Brittany is currently leading Indigenous research strategy and initiatives at both VCH Indigenous Health and CGSHE.

Claire Pitcher, MSN, RN whose Master’s thesis was “Homeless and Street-Involved Youth Access to Primary Health Care Services: What Helps and What Gets in the Way?” is now the Integration and Access Lead at Vancouver Coastal Health Child and Youth Mental Health.

Dr. Jennifer Wolowic is applying her years of experience as former Managing Director at SARAVYC to her current role as the project manager for the Strengthening Canadian Democracy Initiative at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University.

Dr. Yuko Homma was a doctoral student and post-doctoral fellow with SARAVYC from 2007 to 2014. She is now faculty at Mukogawa Women’s University in Nishinomiya, Japan as Associate Professor.

Dr. Jones Adjei published “Boys are not Exempt: Sexual Exploitation of Adolescents in Sub-Saharan Africa” in Child Abuse & Neglect in 2017. He is a statistician and an instructor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Red Deer College, Alberta.

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EVALUATING OUT IN SCHOOLS (2004-2014)

2014

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

2006

The Stigma And Resilience Among Vulnerable Youth Centre (SARAVYC) is celebrating 15 years as a multi-disciplinary research centre this year. The results of SARAVYC’s creative research approaches have changed minds, informed legislation, generated awards, and had an impact on the lives of countless young people around the world.

Evaluating the Minnesota Runaway Intervention Project (RIP), a nurse-led intervention which provides health care, intensive support and life skill development for young runaway girls (aged 10 to 15) who have been or were at risk of being sexually assaulted or sexually exploited.

2011

INQUIRING MINDS

Best Poster Award for Childhood Sexual Abuse, Substance Use and Substance Use-Related Sexual Behaviour in a Rural School Population.

Claire Pitcher, MSN, RN whose Master’s thesis was “Homeless and Street-Involved Youth Access to Primary Health Care Services: What Helps and What Gets in the Way?” is now the Integration and Access Lead at Vancouver Coastal Health Child and Youth Mental Health.

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Vulnerable Youth Centre (SARAVYC) is celebrating 15 centre this year. The results of SARAVYC’s creative research formed legislation, generated awards, and had an impact on round the world.

In 2019 the Robert H. Durant Award for Statistical Rigor and Innovation was awarded to SARAVYC by the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. The award recognized the development of the SLEPHI method of evaluating population health interventions. Investigating site-level longitudinal effects of population health interventions: Gay-Straight Alliances and school safety.

In 2015 invited to the White House (Obama administration) for Bisexual Community Policy Briefing.

2016

The Stigma And Resilience Among Vulnerable Youth Centre (SARAVYC) is celebrating 15 years as a multi-disciplinary research centre this year. The results of SARAVYC’s creative research approaches have changed minds, informed legislation, generated awards, and had an impact on the lives of countless young people around the world.

"Enacted stigma and HIV risk behaviours among sexual minority Indigenous youth in Canada, New Zealand, and the United States" is published. It is a project with Indigenous investigators from all three countries.

2017

Infographic is released to disseminate knowledge about school-based interventions that benefit all students.

The Trans Youth Hormone Therapy Decision Making Study is conducted by Dr. Beth Clark, a PhD candidate at the time. The study explores how trans youth and their parents make decisions about initiating hormone therapy. Results are disseminated through a youth-driven, creative arts-based knowledge translation project.

Along with poetry, journals and paintings, this boardgame is designed and further developed to help health care providers understand the barriers trans youth experience when they are trying to access hormone therapy.

2018

SARAVYC research is quoted in HANSARD in both BC and Alberta, for example, from BC:

November 26, 2018 MOTION 33 - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policies for Inclusive Education System

2019

The World Health Organization (WHO) taps SARAVYC for urgent support developing a survey for a global guideline on school health services. The Guidelines Development Group (GDG) was chaired by Elizabeth Saewyc.

SPRING/SUMMER 2021
Earlier this year the Nursing Alumni Committee invited alumni to tell their stories about COVID. Below are three of the stories that were shared.

At the beginning of the Pandemic I was working in the OR and PACU. Our team was already working short due to chronic staffing issues as well as we did not have a manager and our CPL went on maternity leave early in the summer. Process and PPE requirements seemed to be changing almost daily at times as new information was disseminated and our nursing team really pulled together to provide the best care possible for our patients in the safest way we could. We were fortunate to have had few to no cases in our community up until the fall/beginning of winter. Since January, however, there has been a marked increase in cases in Prince Rupert. OR staff were directly affected and exposed by other staff who came to work ill as well as patients who had screened “green” for COVID-19 per the BCCDC surgical screening tool, but who later turned out to have been positive. Through it all, the OR team has shown tremendous resilience and I am honoured to have worked with them. Despite a recent move to a new position in Oncology, I still consider myself a part of the OR team and am proud to be so.

Lauren Payne
BSN 2009
Front line RN - Oncology

I have been impressed by my students’ desire to be part of a new era of HCA learning and progressing in these pandemic times. Not one of them gave up their clinical placements and my new group also shows great excitement to enter this new field. As well I admire the staff who work at this facility who day in and day out show up for their residents even in the face of no vaccines. You can see their love and care for the residents. It brings tears to my eyes to see their strength, courage and determination to carry on in times that are uncertain and could put them at risk as well as their loved ones. Each one follows the proper work procedures that makes a difference! Now with a vaccine we can breathe a bit easier than before. Much love to those on the front lines each day and much admiration for our health care heroes.

Sandy Khun
BSN 1998
Health Care Assistants Lab and Clinical Instructor and Contact Notifier for BC Centre for Disease Control

In November of last year I was redeployed to support contact tracing efforts for COVID-19. It was very challenging work that really enforced Dr Bonnie Henry’s messaging that ‘we are all living our own pandemic’. I spoke to people who were very grateful, I spoke to people who were very angry and I spoke to so many people who were each in a different situation. I’ll never forget one call I had where the person I was informing to isolate was very distraught. They were completing their final practicum of their education program to become a teacher. The two-week isolation as a close contact to a case made it so that they would miss the last two weeks of their practicum and have to repeat the term. This student did not have the finances to repeat the term and was in tears over the phone. While my role was to review their isolation dates, clarify the meaning of isolation and ensure they seek medical attention if needed, I found myself on the SFU Student Services website trying to help this student navigate the process to find support for their specific context. I can only hope that the program was compassionate enough to find another way to support this student to complete their practicum and find adequate support through the Student Services department.

Mark Sutherland
BSN 2009
Policy Analyst, Provincial Health Services Authority
New bursary in memory of Thelma Sieffert

to increase access to nursing education

“There’s no doubt that Thelma would have been on the frontlines of this pandemic. She absolutely would have wanted to be there.” When faced with challenges, Thelma Sieffert was the type of person to buckle down and get on with the job. Bruce Sieffert, Thelma’s nephew, remembers her as a no-nonsense but deeply compassionate woman.

Thelma was born in Vancouver in 1923. Not long after becoming a nurse, she worked hard to upgrade her skills with a Diploma in Public Health Nursing from UBC in 1956. After the move into public health nursing, Thelma worked in several senior roles around Vancouver, including the Downtown Eastside.

“It was the kind of environment she thrived in,” Bruce says. “She loved engaging people. Thelma just rolled up her sleeves in her very matter of fact and accepting way and did what needed to be done.”

Beyond providing service to some of Vancouver’s most vulnerable people, Thelma was an avid traveller – so much so that Bruce and his wife Rosalind often struggled to keep track of where in the world she was. Ever curious about the road less traveled, she loved to learn about different places and cultures and regale her family with tales of her adventures when she returned home to BC.

When Thelma passed away in 2015, the Sieffert family had the idea to create an endowment with the inheritance Thelma left them. “Thelma didn’t come from a wealthy background. She was all about fairness,” Bruce says. “That’s why our priority is to help the academically capable who might not otherwise have the resources necessary to enter the profession.”

Thelma was never one to seek out the spotlight, so the family see the bursary as the perfect way to honour the memory of a woman who helped so many over the course of her life. “This is us shining the light on her.”

The bursary will be available to undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Nursing, and Bruce and Rosalind hope that it will remove financial barriers for students from all walks of life.

And with more and more students applying to study Nursing at UBC, the bursary comes along at a perfect time. “The pandemic has focused us all on the importance of healthcare. A few may have been scared off, but I hope more have been excited about the challenges. I know Thelma would have been.”
Gateway Health Building
A New Home for UBC Nursing

A new home for the School of Nursing will soon be breaking ground at the NW corner of University Boulevard and Wesbrook Mall.

Because of its placement, this will be a statement building, so far dubbed “The Gateway Health Building,” which seeks to achieve three goals: a net-zero carbon footprint, a celebration of the Musqueam culture, and placing health and well-being as a core design driver.

This spring, the Board of Governors reviewed the plan, the cost-estimate, the environmental issues, and unanimously approved the next phase of development: releasing funds to finish the last bits of design, develop the construction schematics, put out the tender for the developers and prepare for Board 3 approval.

Project Website: https://planning.ubc.ca/gateway-building

Images by Perkins & Will | Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects
Sharing the building with the School of Nursing will be the School of Kinesiology, UBC Health, Faculty of Arts – Language Sciences, and there will be a designated space for Integrated Health Services.

Associate Professor Bernie Garrett is overseeing the project as Associate Director, Infrastructure and Technology.

This is a huge enterprise, and we look forward to achieving our goal of creating—for the first time on this campus—a state-of-the-art space designed with nursing research and education in mind.

Completion and moving in is anticipated to occur in August of 2024.
Suzanne Campbell | Recipient of Open Educational Resources Champion Award for supporting affordable and inclusive access to educational materials at UBC.

Kris Gustavson | Named Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Nursing.

Sandra Lauck | Recipient of the Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nurses Network Research Excellence Award from the International Council of Nurses.

Margaret Moss | Named as a board member of the US National Academy of Medicine, Board of Population Health and Public Health Practice.

Natasha Prodan-Bhalla | has been selected as a 2021 Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)

Manon Ranger | Recipient of two funded Health Starts Catalyst Grants from BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute. | A recipient of a Health Innovation Funding Investment (HIFI) Award.

Elizabeth Saewyc | Recipient of the Distinguished Humanitarian Award from her alma mater, the University of Minnesota. | Designated as Distinguished University Scholar at the University of British Columbia | Named Sexual Health Champion for 2020 by Vancouver’s Options for Sexual Health.

Cheryl Segaric | Presented with a UBC Certificate on Curriculum and Pedagogy in Higher Education for developing expertise in the scholarship of education leadership (SoEL) practices within and across diverse disciplinary settings.

Sally Thorne | Recipient of the 2021 Alumni UBC Achievement Award for Faculty Community Service.

Sabrina Wong | Co-Lead for Public Health Agency of Canada and Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network partnership to assess the utility of de-identified electronic medical record data from CPCSSN for COVID-19 surveillance and tracking unintended consequences of the pandemic among Canadians receiving primary care.
On June 21, 2021, we came together as a nursing community, holding our hands high, to honour Elder & Dr. Roberta Price and to celebrate her being conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws at UBC.

Doctor Roberta Price is a Coast Salish Matriarch and Elder of the Snuneymuxw and Cowichan Nations who has been sharing her knowledge and experiences in classrooms, healthcare settings, and communities for more than 35 years. Elder Roberta's relationship with the School of Nursing spans over 15 years as a researcher, teacher, and colleague. In 2018, she became the lead Elder for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing course on “Promoting Indigenous Peoples' Health”. Soon after, she was appointed as the Lead Elder for the Indigenous Advisory Circle to the School of Nursing.

The honouring event took place at the First Nations House of Learning on the Point Grey Campus, unceded territory of the Musqueam peoples. It was simultaneously shared on the Zoom virtual meeting platform and recordings of the UBC presentation and the Nursing celebration are available at the links below.

Dr. and Elder Roberta Price continues to impact the health and wellbeing of many, and we couldn’t be more pleased to have been able to celebrate this well-deserved honour in this way.

UBC Ceremony Conferring Honorary Doctorate on Elder Roberta Price

Nursing Celebration

Congratulations to one of our highly active alumna from the Class of ’58, Glennis Zilm, Honorary Professor, who, in April, was awarded UBC’s Alumni Builder Award for 2021.

SPRING/SUMMER 2021
To enhance their quality of life in their advancing years.

and a language barrier. She wanted to do whatever was necessary

confusion, fear, pain, frustration, and struggles with culture, illness,

herself, Lea had lived experience of feeling vulnerable in unfamiliar

settings in later years when they were most frail and vulnerable,

social network. The experience of being admitted to acute care

they had limited interactions with western culture outside their

mostly women. These patients often had little formal education in

particularly vulnerable group: first-generation immigrant seniors,

a person for whom caring is part of her nature, Lea was drawn to

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indicating with a swooping arc of her hand, the constant flow of
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Canada but plenty of life experience. They worked hard to dedicate
their lives to raising a family and maintaining a household. Often,
they had limited interactions with western culture outside their
social network. The experience of being admitted to acute care
settings in later years when they were most frail and vulnerable,
was for many of them, challenging and dramatic. An immigrant
herself, Lea had lived experience of feeling vulnerable in unfamiliar
surroundings and was sensitive to these patients’ feelings of
confusion, fear, pain, frustration, and struggles with culture, illness,
and a language barrier. She wanted to do whatever was necessary
to enhance their quality of life in their advancing years.

Although Lea was moved by these women and wanted to amplify
their voices, she was aware that confidence in her knowledge
might be her own obstacle, and set about clearing it. She became
a registered nurse in 2011, four years later, she attained her
Master’s in Science of Nursing degree, and she is now a first-year
doctoral student at UBC. Lea has not yet finalized her dissertation
topic but hopes that her research will provide a voice to those first-
generation immigrant seniors who don’t usually have one.

As she upgraded her nursing experience, Lea never forgot one of
her childhood dreams. Her small home town had a military base
nearby. The voices from the early morning drills sounded very
powerful to her. Because there was a concrete wall around the
base, Lea was left wondering what they were doing and why they
needed to call out so loud. The curiosity inspired in her a desire
to join the military; a dream she held onto for many years. As she
pursued her nursing education, she hoped to apply for a nursing-
related job in the Canadian military, but after waiting nearly a year
for a position to open, she realized that her window of opportunity
was narrowing. As Lea was about to commence her first year as a
PhD student at UBC—during a pandemic, no less—she abandoned
her attempt to join up as a health care provider. Instead, she took
a detour around the obstacle to her dream and signed on with
the Royal Canadian Navy—as a cook. She completed her first two
phases of basic military training in the summer of 2020 under
COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

During the last phase of basic military training, Lea was inspired
by a petty officer who spoke to her cohort. His life story and
wisdom had such an impact on Lea that she hopes to offer the
same strength to others by her own example. Lea set a new goal
to become a professor.

As one who rarely backs down, Lea recommends listening to the
inner voice, and also, “Set up your goals and try to stick with them
as much as you can. For many people, I believe struggling is part of
the path leading to success.”

Lea provided this interview mere days after returning from a
military base in Quebec, where she had completed the last phase
of her basic military training. The training was both mentally and
physically challenging but also fun. Her instructors were impressed
by her “very positive attitude” and praised her persistance. So, as
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Her next challenge? “I need to speak up more,” Lea says, “because I
want to inspire people as others have inspired me along the way.”

TOUCHPOINTS

Jennifer Kryworuchko Award

This annual scholarship has been made available through gifts from family and friends in memory of Jennifer Kryworuchko (1969-2019) and it is for an outstanding graduate student in the School of Nursing whose research is focused on patient-provider communication. Dr. Kryworuchko [B.Sc.N., Ph.D., RN, CNCC(C)] joined UBC in 2015 as an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing. She was highly respected and admired for her passionate dedication to nursing practice, her joy and remarkable talent in teaching nursing students, and her research to improve nursing care. Jennifer’s work to improve palliative care access through shared decision-making between patients and health professionals was exceptional. She was instrumental in enhancing interprofessional clinician guidance for the BC Centre for Palliative Care. Tragically, our community lost Jennifer in the prime of her life due to ovarian cancer. This scholarship was established to commemorate Jennifer’s exemplary contributions to nursing education and research.

Lea Liang

First Kryworuchko Scholar

Lea poses in military uniform on the shores of Vancouver in 2020.

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Tracy Truant In Memoriam

From her first nursing position as a staff nurse in the Vancouver Cancer Centre in 1988, to her dream role as Provincial Director, Research & Innovation at the BC Cancer Agency, Tracy Truant’s career was committed to cancer nursing. Whether as nurse, teacher, student, or researcher, Tracy’s dedication to her field of practice was steadfast. Over the years she developed into a widely respected national and international leader in cancer care, but always kept close ties to the UBC School of Nursing in various roles, as a triple alumna, Assistant Coordinator in the Learning Resource Centre, and research partner.

Countless cancer care nurses will remember Tracy as their mentor and inspiration through her roles at the BC Cancer Agency, the Complementary Medicine Education and Outcomes (CAMEO) Program, and her membership in the Pan-Canadian Oncology Symptom Triage and Remote Support Collaboration (COSTaRS). Many more will remember her through her work with the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO), including a two-year term as president, and the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC), leading the advancement of numerous strategic initiatives and establishing international partnerships and collaborations.

Tracy Truant, BSN ‘88, MSN ‘98, PhD ‘18
October 17, 1963 - April 8, 2021

Tracy loved her PhD program, and was excited to be able to integrate research leadership into a clinical scientist role. Judging from the immense output in the limited time available to her, the world is incalculably poorer for the loss of Tracy’s potential contributions to her field as a senior leader at BC Cancer.

For more details about Tracy’s life and career, please read her Amazing Alumni Story. Tracy’s friends and family have set up a fund in her name to support the research of UBC Nursing grad students in the cancer field. To contribute to the fund, please visit the Tracy Truant Memorial Fund.
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