

McMaster School of Nursing

Update

July 2020



Message from Dr. Sandra Carroll

This year will be remembered as the year of COVID-19. However, despite being faced with this incredible, ongoing challenge, the School of Nursing has had a full and productive year. Under unique circumstances, our students convocated, our researchers applied for and received new funding, we published, recruited new faculty and staff, and completed our new SON Strategic Planning, all of which has taken considerable effort. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all our faculty, staff, and students who contributed to our success.

The School continues to rank highly amongst schools of nursing internationally. This year, we ranked second in Canada and 16th in the world by the QS World University Rankings. Every single person in our school plays an important role in this continued success and outstanding ranking.

Across our educational programs, I would like to acknowledge the effort and dedication that the BScN Program office and Graduate Program office teams put forth. The rapid move in March asked us to pivot to online course delivery within weeks, which was an incredible endeavour and I am grateful to everyone who contributed to make this happen. The dedication of our staff and faculty ensured our students had access to the resources they needed to be successful and complete their winter term. COVID research funding calls this spring resulted in new opportunities for our faculty and their research teams.

We are moving forward with several initiatives in the school in 2020-2021 including, 1) the advancement of Indigenous concepts and new course in our nursing curriculum alongside the Indigenous Health Initiatives in the Faculty of Health Sciences, 2) our final phases of graduate curriculum renewal including new graduate course offerings, 3) One Admission for our Collaborative BScN programs, 4) a new Nurse Residency Program, and 5) finalizing our School of Nursing Strategic Plan, to name a few. Interest in our nursing programs remains strong as evidenced by the number of new applicants and acceptances for September 2020!

ACHIEVEMENTS

Awards

The quality of our faculty is exceptional. Their commitment to education, research, and knowledge translation is evident in the numerous awards bestowed in 2019-20. Some of the honours this year include:

- Alba DiCenso – Distinguished Alumni Award from McMaster University
- Diana Sherifali - Appointed Inaugural Heather M. Arthur Population Health Research Institute/Hamilton Health Sciences Chair in Inter-Professional Health Research at McMaster University
- Gina Browne – Faculty of Health Sciences Community of Distinction Award
- Maureen Dobbins – President’s Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision
- Elaine Shuhaibar, clinical instructor, received both the President’s Award for Outstanding Service and the McMaster Students Union Teaching Award.

Our students have been recognized for their exceptional contributions. They took home numerous awards from a number of organizations, including the CIHR, Canadian Nurses Foundation, the Alzheimer’s Society, Canada Graduate Scholarships, McMaster Institute of Indigenous Research, the Canadian Nurses Foundation, INDSPIRE, the Registered Nurses Foundation of Ontario, and internal scholarships, to name just a few.

Research grants and publications

Faculty and students were successful in obtaining research grants, including several which attracted media attention because of the high quality and importance of the research. Our faculty and students also continue to publish in high-impact journals. You can find stories about some of these on our website in the research news section.

Congratulations to all!

DEPARTMENT NEWS

This year we welcomed a new faculty member, Dr. Sheila Boamah. Our part time and clinical faculty appointments also grew.

Clinical Faculty Appointments

Anna Polanski
Caroline Mavrak
Cathy Bennett
Christie Robert
Heather Dunlop-Witt
Janet Daniels

Part-Time (Sessional) Instructors

Aleksandrija Ilic
Ashley Fry
Ashley Petis
Bernice Tiggelaar
Faith Amis
Janny Proba

Katelyn Limeback
Marlene DaGraca
Megan McBride
Rebecca Spark
Sandra Russell
Sarah Gondo
Sarah Romeril
Sarah Shackleton
Seonhee McDermott
Sera Nicosia
Stephanie Stokes
Yasmin Khalili

Jennifer Mitton
Julia Ropotyn
Kaitlyn Jans
Kate Fish
Kornelia Olejarczyk
Lauren San Martin
Martin Laguna
Mena Billeci
Nicole Levesque
Robin Enns
Sarah Grahn
Sarah Kam

We welcomed staff members Yvonne Maidment, Director of Administration, and Kathleen Romanoski, Executive Assistant, last fall. Cindy Potter, Curriculum Assistant, joined us in June 2020.

We also said good-bye to some friends. Long-serving faculty members Ruta Valaitis, Michele Drummond-Young, Jeannette LeGris and Janet Landeen retired in 2019. Staff member Rose Gillespie (formerly Vonau) also retired in June 2020. I thank them for their service and wish them all the best for a very happy retirement!

The school hosted two visiting scholars this year: Dr. Jennifer Weller-Newton, an associate professor in the Department of Nursing at Melbourne University, and Myung Kyung Lee, Vice Dean and Associate Professor, College of Nursing, Kyungpook National University, Daegu, South Korea.

Finally, as the 2019-2020 academic year comes to a close, I would like to say that I am so proud of our School's accomplishments and importantly how we have come together to continue to deliver our educational programs during a pandemic, and to support each other when our working world was disrupted. Thank you all for your dedication to our students and to the School of Nursing.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sandra Carroll

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