Annual Report to ARCASN
School of Nursing, St. Francis Xavier University
May 16, 2014

The School of Nursing at St. Francis Xavier University has had another very successful 2013-2014 academic year. Some of the major highlights include:

1. In December 2013, 17 students graduated from the Post Degree and Accelerated Option Program while eighty-seven students graduated from the generic program with their BScN degree in May 2014. We anticipate another large freshman class in September 2014. Our student enrolment prior to spring graduation was approximately 480 students.

2. Two faculty members completed their PhD this past year.  Currently we are in the process of hiring two tenure track faculty and another tenure track position is planned for in the near future. Two faculty members are retiring this year. One faculty member retired in May while another faculty member will retire in August 2014.

3. Work is ongoing related to curriculum review and revision. Some of the areas include:
a) Discussion around ways to help nursing students be more prepared for writing the NCLEX exams in 2015 is ongoing.
b) Plans are underway to increase senior consolidation from 4 weeks to 8 weeks beginning in the winter semester 2015 for 4th year nursing students.
c) The School of Nursing is in the early planning stage to develop a simulation lab.
d) The Pat Benner website has been a useful tool for learning about curriculum design and alternative teaching strategies to engage Faculty and Nurse Educators in curriculum transformation.
e) We are in the early planning stages for an LPN-BScN Program.
f) This year the School of Nursing entered into a formal agreement with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) to become the Atlantic Host Best Practice Guideline (BPG) Center of Excellence.  A Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) workshop is being planned for June 2014.
g) We are continuing to integrate content related to cultural competence and cultural safety into curriculum in all levels of the nursing program.

4. The Department of Health and Wellness are working with the Health Districts and Schools of Nursing to look at developing a new Model for Collaborative Undergraduate Nursing Education. Ongoing collaboration between the Health Districts and the Schools of Nursing in Nova Scotia will continue to ensure quality clinical placements and quality education for students.

5.  Noteworthy Events:
 a) In February 2014, the nursing society hosted the third annual Nursing Student Professional Day with the guest speaker being Dr Judith Shamian, President of the International Council of Nurses (ICN). The event was very well attended by faculty, nurse educators and nursing students.

b)  Many faculty and nurse educators are publishing in peer-reviewed articles and chapters/books as well as engaging in research in a variety of areas such as the environmental health, policy, social justice, Aboriginal health, community health, chronic disease, etc.

c) The Committee on Black and Aboriginal Student Success has continued to work on helping Aboriginal and Black students to be academically successful. A workshop on Indigenous Knowledge Ally Building will be held in September for Faculty and Nurse Educators.

d) A group of 4th year nursing students travelled to Rwanda for their 4 week consolidation experience with a Faculty member and Nurse Educator. One faculty member went to Rwanda and another went to the Congo for a year to work on nursing projects.

With the ARCASN research funding received in 2013, a faculty member recently went to Haiti to do nursing work along with a research project titled 'Experiences of pregnancy complications: Voices from rural Haiti'.

6. Distant Nursing Program Post RN to BScN Program continues to be successful. This program is administered through the Department of Continuing and Distance Education. It is entering the 20th cycle in 2014-2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Whitty-Rogers RN, PhD
ARCASN Representative for the School of Nursing
St. Francis Xavier University