



## Hot this Fall!

Not a quiet summer! There was so much activity on many fronts—weather, politics, ‘bed pressures’, bug bites and renovations—and that was in our ‘professional’ homes.

Now that it is ‘fall’ the energy, enthusiasm and events are ramping up. The Provincial Board is exploring avenues to share chapter / local support for the smaller in number groups—in part to promote involvement and to lessen the pressure of administrative aspects. More on this

later in the fall.

In promotion of older adult issues and in particular a focus on dementia strategies CGNA has connected with the provincial governments; and both CARNA and CLPNA are holding conference events focusing on older adult issues.

Stay tuned as more to come ....

Lynne Moulton,  
president@agna.ca

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AGNA info as displayed at the Edmonton Chapter's June BBQ

## Advocacy Committee

The Provincial Advocacy committee chaired by Dr. Sandra Hirst is pleased to announce the appointments of Martha Neguse and Mychelle Blackwood, both accepting one year terms to the committee. Their initial planning includes a fresh look for the Advocacy

page on the website with diverse and engaging perspectives on current issues along with the invitation to join the conversation!

Please contact - [advocacy@agna.ca](mailto:advocacy@agna.ca)

## A hearty thank you to our CARNA liaison!

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*'Nothing is more important than having the bravery to live your life'*

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News has been received from Barb Diepold, CARNA Regional Coordinator, Northeast and long standing AGNA liaison informing that she is leaving her position as of 30 September 2014.

To Barb we offer our heartfelt congratulations as you explore new vistas and much thanks for your support, guidance and promotion of our specialty practice!



*'It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the CARNA liaison for AGNA these past years. AGNA members are so enthusiastic and passionate at what they do and who they serve. I wish I could bottle this and spread it around...'*  
**Barb Diepold**

## CGNA also promotes a National Dementia Strategy

Through our conjoint membership with the *Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association* we continue to support a national dementia strategy. In July Dr. Lynn McCleary, President of CGNA sent letters to all of the provincial premiers regarding this issue

supporting the Alzheimer's Association of Canada promotion of a national dementia strategy. A response from the Alberta Government from the office of the Health Minister was recently received. Both letters can be viewed on our website ([click here](#)).

*'I have requested that Ministry staff consider CGNA as we work to develop provincial and national initiatives to improve dementia care and outcomes'*

*Fred Horne, Minister of Health*



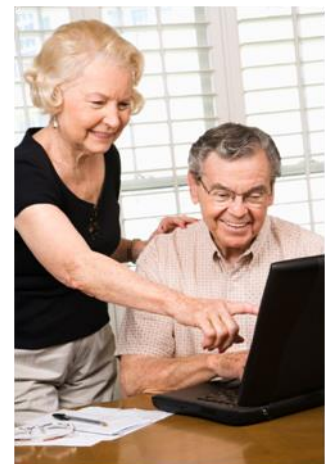
**AGNA Travel Mug at Work!**  
 Where has your travel mug been? Many thanks to Jacqueline Doran for suggesting!

## Professional Events of interest

Upcoming education—networking events with a focus on the older adult -

**CARNA** –  
[www.nurse.ab.ca](http://www.nurse.ab.ca)  
 3 November in Calgary – 'RN Solutions for Older Adult Care'  
[www.carnaconference.ca](http://www.carnaconference.ca)

**CLPNA** –  
[www.clpna.com](http://www.clpna.com)  
 23 October in Edmonton 'Senior's care, Innovation and Dementia' Think Tank



# Doing what matters: Personal philosophy of gerontological nursing

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## OBJECTIVES

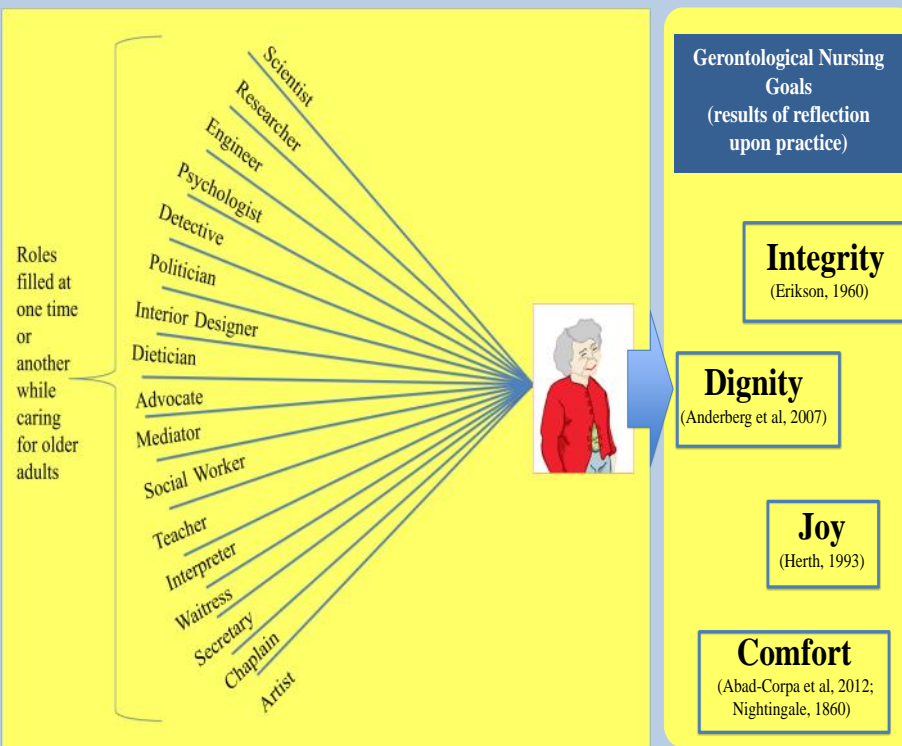
- To articulate my personal philosophy of gerontological nursing
- To identify why I do what I do as a professional

## METHOD

- Exploration of 'what matters' (Pringle, 2003)
- Auto-ethnography and inductive reflection upon my professional practice to answer the following questions...
  - What tasks and roles I enjoyed and why?
  - How can I best honour older adults?
  - What about my practice was art, science, or anything in between?

## RESULTS

- As a gerontological nurse, I simultaneously fill roles as an artist, a scientist, and various others
- Caring for the older adult is the centre of my practice
- I have a willingness to share roles, if in the best interests of older adults and honouring their personhood
- I am more than happy to fill whatever role is needed if doing so would lead to my gerontological nursing goals
- Improving daily quality of life (Pringle, 2003) is my professional priority



## IMPLICATIONS

- Territorial "that's not my job" attitudes are counter productive to providing person-centred care to older adults
- True person-centred care should foster genuine collaboration, and sharing of roles
- Fostering the achievement of the identified goals should be the priority of gerontological nursing

The author gratefully acknowledges the University of Alberta, Faculty of Nursing, for funding assistance, and also thanks Dr. Susan Slaughter and Carla Ickert for their contributions to this project.



## Continuing the Conversation

*'It is easy to forget why we became nurses, what we enjoy about our profession, and why we do what we do'*

At the April 25th AGNA conference Shawna Reid's poster tweaked many delegates interest and has stimulated the

continuation of the conversation of why we chose gerontological nursing (or why the field chose us!). Shawna has generously shared her poster and information of an article written to accompany the poster has been submitted to the International Journal of

Nursing Student Scholarship for publication. Information on publication will be shared when available.

Shawna is currently attending the University of Alberta Masters Nursing program.

*'I am more than happy to do whatever I can if it brings integrity, dignity, joy or comfort to the older adults for whom I care.'*

Shawna Reid

## Provincial Study Group

Last fall AGNA conducted a pilot virtual study group to support members registered for the April C.N.A. Gerontological Certification examination. AGNA Provincial is committed to developing this aspect of connecting members across the province and to this end is pleased to offer an expanded study support group.

### ***Care to be the Best***

C.N.A. Gerontological  
Certification 2015  
[www.cna-aiic.ca](http://www.cna-aiic.ca)

*“applications are being  
accepted for initial  
certification between  
September 2 and  
November 12, 2014”*

## **Alberta Gerontological Nurses Association Provincial Study Support Group**

**Province wide virtual group on-line / teleconferencing**  
From January to March 2015

Information details on the AGNA website [www.agna.ca](http://www.agna.ca)  
-select the Education tab then Study Groups

Registration for the group opens 27 October 2014  
Information session the week of 24 November 2014

Contact us at [StudyGroups@agna.ca](mailto:StudyGroups@agna.ca)

### **Contact us**

Your questions, suggestions and  
comments are always welcome.

Send us an email at [info@agna.ca](mailto:info@agna.ca)  
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