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nursing reimagined
nursing redefined

UCLA School of Nursing

FALL 2019

The Future Of Health Care Is In Good Hands





As part of our 70th anniversary celebration, we created Walls of History, Science and Art to adorn our hallways. The Walls of History have framed photos, newspaper articles, magazine covers, memorabilia, and even two early nursing student uniforms. The Walls of Science contain posters showcasing the important research being done by our faculty.

The Walls of Art – a series of paintings that reflect our rich history – have helped create an environment to inspire the current as well as the next generation of nurses. Created by renowned artist and UCLA alumni Gregg Chadwick, pictured with me at left, they bring something new and positive into the work space of our faculty, staff and students. These paintings have transformed our school.

I literally smile each day as I see one of these incredible paintings, reread one of the amusing historical newspaper articles or review some of the amazing research being done by our scholars. Each floor brings a sense of wonderment, pride and joy. If you are in the area, please stop by.

About a month after all of the work was installed, we were honored by a visit from family members of our first Dean, Lulu Wolf Hassenplug. They were moved by how we told her story through archival materials.

Entering our next decade, I am excited to welcome six new faculty members who are profiled in this issue, including a new Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Holli DeVon, and our first Shapiro Family Endowed Chair in Developmental Disability Studies, Dr. Lauren Clark. Each of these new faculty bring an exciting program of research that will benefit our students, the profession, health and health care, and open opportunities for the school to expand its strengths and pursue new directions.

Interprofessional collaboration is key to improving the quality and safety of patient care. We have highlighted two programs that showcase the best of interprofessional opportunities for pre-licensure and postdoctoral students.

We were among the first nursing schools to participate in the Summer Health Professions Education Program. Now in our third year, pre-nursing – along with pre-medical and pre-dental students – receive academic and career experiences that prepare them for future success. I have met many of these students and am in awe of their energy and commitment to create a culture of health, especially in underserved communities. The program culminates in health disparities project presentations that take on current world problems such as mental health, border health and opioid addiction and offer very smart and creative solutions.

An innovative interprofessional postdoctoral program is available through the National Clinician Scholars program. UCLA is one of the founding sites providing nurses and physicians the opportunity to work together to improve the health of all our communities.

This Fall, we are excited to welcome 604 new and returning students.

Finally, as one of the 121 original schools of nursing supporting the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, we look forward to celebrating their 50th anniversary in October.

Linda Sarna, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Dean
Lulu Wolf Hassenplug Endowed Chair

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SHPEP—Creating Opportunity for the Health Care Leaders of Tomorrow

SHPEP – Summer Health Professions Education Program – brings college students that much closer to making a health care profession a reality.



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THANK YOU TO OUR ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In June, the School said goodbye and celebrated the accomplishments of two family members:



Adjunct Professor Dr. Anna Gawlinski joined the school in 1999. Her teaching focused on care of patients with cardiovascular disease, the role of the advanced practice nurse, evidence-based practice, outcomes measurement and facilitation of evidence-based changes in the health care system.

Rhonda Flenoy-Younger

joined the School in 1985 and most recently served as Director of Recruitment, Outreach and Admissions and as Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She was responsible for recruitment, pre-admissions counseling, outreach, and admissions for both undergraduate and graduate programs. Read about the Scholarship established in her honor on Page 32.

Assistant Professors Dr. Christine Samuel-Nakamura and Dr. Yeonsu Song have been selected as 2019-20 UCLA Hellman Fellows. The UCLA Hellman Fellows Program was established by the Hellman Family Foundation to support and encourage the research of promising Assistant Professors who show capacity for great distinction in their research.



Mark Covin, BS, MPA, is the new Director of Recruitment, Outreach and Admissions for the School. With 10 years experience as the Student Recruitment and Admissions Coordinator, he brings important insights regarding how to “re-imagine” our student recruitment strategies to match the new generation of applicants.



Associate Professor Dr. Paul Macey discussed *Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Men and Women* at the May meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research. The talk can be viewed on the NINR YouTube Channel.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Dr. Kristin Choi (K12)

Title: Implementation of California’s Autism Mandate: A Stakeholder-Partnered Study of Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder within a Learning Health System

Sponsor: AHRQ & PCORI

Dr. Su-Yon Jung (K01)

Title: Insulin-Resistance Genetic and Epigenetic Variants and their Interactions with Lifestyle factors in Postmenopausal Breast Cancer

Sponsor: NIH

Dr. Janet Mentes (U54 – pilot project)

Title: Cancer Survivorship and Caregiver Leadership Education for Nursing Students

Sponsor: Charles Drew University/UCLA Cancer Center Partnership – U54 Pilot project

Dr. Mary Rezk-Hanna

Title: The Effects of Electronic Hookah on Endothelial Cell Function

Sponsor: University of California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program

Paula Belson, Ph.D. Candidate Mentor: Dr. Nancy Pike

Title: Paula Belson: Health-Related Quality of Life in Adolescent and Young Adult Retinoblastoma Survivors

Sponsor: Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses



Current nurse UCLA National Clinician Scholars (seated from left): Hafifa Shabaik, Ph.D., MSN, RN, Adrienne Martinez, Ph.D., MSN, RN, PHN, Patricia Soderlund, MSN, Ph.D. Standing: Dr. MarySue Heilemann, Associate Director – Nursing

National Clinician Scholars Program

Preparing Nurse and Physician Researchers to Solve Pressing Health Problems

When she was working towards her Ph.D. at the UCLA School of Nursing, Dr. Maria Yefimova knew she wanted to apply a systemic approach to geriatric care – one that addressed improving care through evidence and research. So when she learned about the National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP), she knew the program could help her achieve her goals.

“I was interested in it because it offered an opportunity to work collaboratively with the larger community, not just with nurses but also physicians, health economists, all sorts of people,” she says. “I realized in

order to change care for older patients, we have to look at not just clinical care but a range of factors such as reimbursement – who pays for it, who receives it and who makes decisions.”

A two-year postdoctoral program, the NCSP trains nurses and physicians to pursue clinical research – in partnership with community or government entities – designed to directly improve health and health care. The interprofessional, multidisciplinary program, launched in 2016, drew inspiration from the legacy of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program. Participants learn

research and leadership skills they need to design, implement and evaluate research addressing pressing health problems and how to make a difference related to policy. These skills are meant to not only serve them in completing an NCSP research project, but in whatever career they may pursue.

“This is not a traditional postdoctoral program,” said Dean Linda Sarna, founding member of the program. “It is a program with passion and purpose. These are clinician scholars who are talented scientists who want to look at health care and health services in a different way.”

“Our focus is on the delivery of services,” adds NCSP Associate Director Dr. MarySue Heilemann. “Specifically, we’re looking at health disparities and systems-level issues that drive these disparities and how to create new models of care that promote health equity.”

At UCLA, along with the David Geffen School of Medicine and the School of Nursing, partnerships have included the Fielding School of Public Health, Los Angeles County Departments of Health Services, Public Health and Mental Health, the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, Kaiser Permanente Southern California, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Charles R. Drew University, Healthy African American Families, Venice Family Clinic, Behavioral Health Services, MLK Community Hospital and the Los Angeles Unified School District.

For Yefimova, NCSP “really showed me that nurses are and can be in places where they weren’t necessarily working previously, or weren’t seen as much previously,” she says.

During the program she was a Veteran’s Administration fellow working with the National Home Health Program to look at how patients with heart disease made use of technology to monitor their chronic health conditions.

“One of the strongest skills I learned was the idea of community-based participatory research and how to interact with large, complex systems,” she adds. “[This included] engaging stakeholders, leading diverse meetings, identifying priorities, and reporting back to the community with the findings – research not in an ivory tower but as part of community building.”

The NCSP originated with the Schools of Nursing and Medicine at UCLA, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania and Yale. Since then, Duke and UC San Francisco have come on board. Participants become part of a national network of scholars and alumni with whom they can collaborate and consult. Current and alumni participants – including those from the Robert Wood Johnson program – also gather annually at a national meeting.

Heilemann notes that NCSP scholars have moved on to positions in academia, government, hospital leadership and private industry.

Yefimova is among the handful of nurse researchers at the Stanford School of Medicine. In addition to serving as Research Nurse Scientist at Stanford Care, she is part of the newly established Elizabeth Dole Center of Excellence for Veteran Caregiver Research at the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System, looking at improving care for older veterans and their caregivers, as well as the use of new technology for improving their living situations.

NCSP “really changed my life,” she says. “I wouldn’t be where I am right now if I didn’t go through it. It’s a lot of hard work but the reward is a hundred-fold.”

—by Nancy Steiner

“This is not a traditional postdoctoral program,” said Linda Sarna, founding member of the program. “It is a program with passion and purpose. These are scholars who are talented scientists, who want to look at health care and health services in a different way.”



To learn more about the National Clinician Scholars Program, visit nationalcsp.org.



The LAST LECTURE

Barbara Demman, a lecturer at the School of Nursing, stood in front of the large crowd and began to give her Last Lecture. The topic: death and dying.

Demman is the first woman to receive UCLA's Marty Sklar My Last Lecture Award. Created by UCLA's Alumni Scholars Club in 2010, the award was inspired by Randy Pausch's New York Times best-selling book. Each year, a student-nominated professor gives a lecture as if it was their last lecture on earth.

Considered by many to be a taboo topic, Demman spoke about the importance of opening a dialogue surrounding death and the dying. She shared her experiences as a hospice nurse practitioner where she provides care for patients with terminal diagnosis or a life expectancy of less than six months.

Death is a common experience, yet death in the medical world sometimes equates to failure, Demman said. "Often nursing students and medical students receive a few hours of theory lecture on the dying process and that's it. There is not

much clinical experience, nor guidance on how to be with and communicate with dying patients and their families.

"In a death adverse society and with no training, it's no wonder so many health care providers find it really difficult to engage in end-of-life discussions and help facilitate peaceful deaths."

She says communicating effectively with patients with terminal illness and their families can help decrease fears, minimize pain, and enable people to have conscious, empowered deaths.

"What is lonelier than knowing you're dying and accepting it within you, but everyone around you doesn't want to talk about it," she said.

She advises families interacting with dying patients to not withdraw from the patient due to fear of not knowing what to say.

"People aren't looking for you to make it right, people are just looking for you to be authentically you and listening," she said. "But so often we feel helpless, and, sometimes angry, so we turn away and inadvertently isolate our loved ones.

"Remember, this person is deserving of our respect, so be present. Be engaged. Create a calm and loving environment. Say loving and kind words."

Demman says by communicating with the patient, and asking questions about how they'd like to spend their last days, she can better accommodate the patient's desires.

She shared the story of a 93-year-old patient who was on his way to death. When asked if there was anything he'd like to occur before he died, he replied, "Yes, I would like to renew my

wedding vows to my wife of 72 years.” The hospice hosted a wedding to accommodate his wishes.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, author of the groundbreaking book *On Death and Dying*, said: “It’s only when we truly know and understand that we have a limited time on earth - and that we have no way of knowing when our time is up – we will then begin to live each day to the fullest, as if it was the only one we had.”

Demman challenged the crowd asking, “So what does death teach us about living”? She highlighted the appreciation of life and the power of presence. She takes that philosophy to heart; thinking about death and mortality makes her grateful to be alive.

“Every morning my husband and I wake up and say, ‘yay we’re alive.’”

Nursing students were not surprised that Demman was selected for the award because she’s an engaging lecturer.

“The way that she lectures is so conversational. It feels like you’re listening to a story instead of being taught to,” said Sophie Weingarten, MECN ‘19.

Vivian Dang, MECN ‘19, said Demman deserves the award since she’s revered by all nursing students that she has taught.

“She’s very beloved at the School of Nursing. I haven’t met a single student she has taught who hasn’t spoken highly of her,” she said. “Events like these discussions start to destigmatize the idea and concept of death and make it easier to talk about it and hopefully cope with it someday down the line.”

—by Wendy Li



Maximus Chen

UCLA Health System Auxiliary Scholarship Recipient

—by Bekah Wright

There are certain individuals who instinctively know how to care for and help others. The title for such a person: nurse. When it comes to embodying this type of compassion, intuitiveness and kindness, Maximus Chen checks all the boxes. The UCLA Health System Auxiliary recognized these qualities in Maximus when naming him one of their most recent scholarship recipients.

When applying for the scholarship, Maximus’ view of the role of nursing came through clearly. “Over 200 hours volunteering in the ER taught me nursing is not flashy or romantic; nursing respects healing as a process.”

And lest his love for nursing isn’t clear, he stated it’s “professionally and spiritually fulfilling to me. While I might not plot the path of patients’ treatments, it’s always my privilege to ensure they don’t journey alone. I’m signing up for the daily work: small victories born from science and expressed through empathy.”

Maximus is more than mere words on an application. He “walks the talk.” A first generation Taiwanese-American, Maximus’ own road into nursing has seen him conducting biomedical research at UC San Diego, Harvard Stem Cell Institute, and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, co-authoring a research manuscript on pressure ulcers in geriatric Asians, African Americans and Hispanics, and spearheading UCLA’s eSports Medicine Initiative.

Stepping into this research wasn’t easy. While overcoming

his financial obstacles to access higher education, Maximus used scholarships to uplift others with fewer resources. One from the Greater San Diego Business Association allowed him to identify new thrombocytopenia treatments for financially strapped patients needing lifelong medication. Another from the Harvard Stem Cell Institute allowed Maximus to develop innovative solutions for patients whose health was obstructed by donor organ availabilities.

Through grants, Maximus engineered human cartilage at the San Diego Veterans Hospital, developed diagnostic tools to combat women’s cancers at UCSD Moores Cancer Center, and advanced a clinical trial for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Yes, Maximus is driven.

Currently, Maximus is entering his second year in the MECN program, something that holds special appeal to him as its clinical sites serve a range of underserved communities.

With his eyes on the future, Maximus is looking to work in critical care environments, develop medical technologies, and promote healthy practices via gamification. Included in the equation – encouraging other nurses. “I want to set a bar in my nursing career and eventually see my students surpass my abilities, mentoring them with a sense of responsibility to pass the torch forward.”

SHIP

Building a diverse pipeline for aspiring health professionals

Their passion for health care is boundless. Some want to pursue nursing. Others, medicine or dentistry. **But they all want to change the lives of underserved communities.** And the Summer Health Professions Education Program – also known as SHPEP – brings college students that much closer to making a health care profession a reality.

EEP



SHPEP, a free summer enrichment program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is designed to improve access to information and resources for college students interested in the health professions.

SHPEP is geared to individuals who are the first family member to go to college, who don't have family role models or mentors or who are otherwise socio-economically disadvantaged.

For six weeks, 80 students from communities underrepresented in health care came to UCLA to participate in SHPEP.

When the six weeks were over, the participants had a much better understanding of the urgent need for health care professionals in medically underserved communities and

of the educational pathways that can lead to providing care to underserved populations.

The UCLA School of Nursing is one of six nursing schools across the country (and the only one on the West Coast) that participates in the SHPEP program. While the program originally targeted pre-medical and pre-dental students, it expanded in 2016 to include a broader array of health professions – including pre-nursing. This year, 20 of the scholars participating in the program at UCLA were pre-nursing students.

Dr. Anita Bralock, prelicensure program director at the School, and co-principal investigator for the program, explained the value of SHPEP. “The program provides the students with the confidence they need to pursue their dreams of a career in nursing or other health care professions. They start the program tentatively and end with new knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to apply for future education in nursing, as an RN, a nurse practitioner or a nurse researcher working to improve health disparities.”





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Among the nursing students this year was Paula Clemente, a rising sophomore at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and a Los Angeles Posse 16 Scholar. She heard about SHPEP through her scholarship program. “I thought it would be a great way to learn more about the nursing profession and working as a team,” she said about her decision to apply to the six-week program.

Clemente has had many life experiences that led her to choose nursing. “I am a very hands on person and have a lot of compassion. When I was young, my mom got very sick and I took care of her.”

“Through the years, I’ve accompanied several friends to the emergency room and saw firsthand the role nurses play in caring for them.”

The Six Weeks of SHPEP

During this intensive program, expert faculty and staff are eager to mentor students and share their knowledge. They heard about real-world health problems and patient experiences and participated in small-group discussions and activities. They learned study skills and received coaching on how to interview and successfully apply for degree programs in their areas of interest.

For Joudelyne Altidor, a nursing student at the University of Florida, the problem-based learning sessions were her favorite part of the program. “I felt like a scholar and felt validation for my commitment to health care and to nursing.”

For others, including Judah Foster, a future nursing student currently attending Pasadena City College, one of the most exciting and favorite experiences was the simulation and skills lab.

The students rotated through four stations, learning about physical assessments and bedside observations, inserting nasogastric tubes and were introduced to the TeamSTEPPS concepts (using Mr. Potato Head).

But the station creating the most excitement was the live birth manikin. The students were awed as the manikin simulated labor and actually gave birth. One pre-dental student got so excited he exclaimed that he might just change his major!

Clemente wants to be a certified nurse midwife so when a volunteer was needed to “birth” the manikin, she was quick to place herself in the position to guide the baby from the womb. She cradled the baby as one of the pre-med students suctioned it.

During the final two days of the program, interdisciplinary teams present results of their health disparity projects, focusing on



Another important component of SHPEP is the **concept and practice of wellness.**

Teaching and promoting how students can take care of themselves will empower them to be healthy and thriving health professionals.

To support this component, the **students participated in art and pet therapy and were educated on mindfulness, meditation and nutrition.**

Many students also participated in an optional cooking class, where they learned to prepare healthy meals.

issues faced by underserved and underrepresented populations and/or communities. These are tough topics that were ripped from current headlines including, opioid addiction, the impact of food deserts, maternal mortality for black women and improving health outcomes for immigrant women experiencing domestic violence. Each presentation showcased the research and background work, as well as creativity. For *Smile Savers: The Prevalence of Poor Oral Health in Low Income Elementary Schools in Los Angeles*, team members wore specially made t-shirts that they envisioned selling to raise funds to support an in-school dental curriculum program.

Colleagues applauded enthusiastically after each

presentation and asked smart, thoughtful questions.

And then, it was graduation day. Family and friends were there to show their pride for the hard work and dedication of the graduates. Antoine Thomas, a pre-med student from Rutgers University, surprised the audience with a moving rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. The directors, Dr. Clarence Braddock (medicine), Dr. Bralock, and Dr. Edmond R. Hewlett (dentistry), pictured bottom right, expressed their admiration for the efforts of each SHPEP participant. Finally, each student proudly crossed the stage and accepted congratulations from the directors.

Braddock, the principal investigator for the program

and Vice Dean for Education at the David Geffen School of Medicine said, "Leading SHPEP is one of the most meaningful things I do in my work. The students' passion for their future is palpable, insights and thoughtfulness impressive and their eagerness to grow and achieve excellence inspires me."

"With the interdisciplinary experience, the students got a better perspective of the team effort needed in health care," added Bralock. "We all depend upon each other. It was important for the students to learn about each other's field."

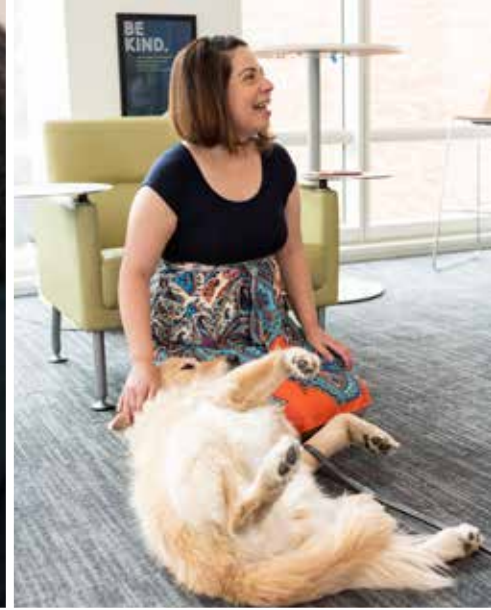
She concluded telling the students, "We know you are going to be successful and we're going to support you along the way."

"With the interdisciplinary experience, the students

got a better perspective of

the team effort needed in health care...we all depend upon each other..."

— Dr. Bralock



Walls of Adorn the Hallways of the School

When you enter the School of Nursing lobby, your attention is quickly drawn to three beautiful paintings adorning the walls. One depicts a small woman shaking hands with President Lyndon Johnson. The second is a hospital setting with a group of nurses and a therapy dog, and the third is of five women on the steps in front of the iconic Royce Hall.

Painted by renowned artist Gregg Chadwick, they bring the School's story to life in a way that engages and creates pride in the roll the School plays in the history of nursing and the history of UCLA.

The Birth of a Project

Chadwick has had a long and supportive history with UCLA and the School. He has, on a few occasions, created artwork that has raised funds and many faculty own pieces of his artwork.

Two years ago, he was approached by Dean Linda Sarna with a request: would he consider creating a painting that would celebrate our upcoming 70th anniversary? They both soon realized that

one picture alone would not tell the story. After perusing photos of the history of the School, the agreement for one painting turned into 12, with 10 currently hanging in the School's hallways.

Gathering Inspiration

Over his storied career, Chadwick often looks to historical imagery as an inspiration. "Ironically, shortly before the initial discussion with the Dean, I had gone to the UCLA Biomed Library and was looking at some of the ancient volumes they have in a locked room. One was by the early anatomist Vesalius, and they have one of the original copies from the Renaissance. And it kind of knocked my socks off. It was just housed there downstairs just beneath the nursing school."



Dean Hassenplug greets President Lyndon Johnson



70 Years Educating Nurses



UCLA Beginnings 1950

ART



“Gregg’s artistic sensitivity shows through in this wonderful painting of a nurse anesthetist providing care to a sleeping patient. His message is that nurses are there for our patients – awake, asleep, in pain, in need. We are there, watching out, caring, for every breath, and every heartbeat.”

—Chuck Griffis, Ph.D. '05

“We have a very diverse society and I wanted to make sure that was part of what was going on in all of the paintings.”

Deciding on the Themes

Chadwick gave his selection of themes a lot of thought before settling on one for each painting.

“I wanted images that weren’t so idiosyncratic that people would be like, ‘Huh?’” said Chadwick.

Three of the paintings were inspired from historical photos from the School’s files.

“For example, the picture of Lulu meeting President Johnson. That was a key moment in both the history of nursing and the history of the School,” he said. “So I really, really wanted to create something around that. I painted historical figures before, but I had never tackled Johnson. So that was kind of a fun thing to be able to do.”

For several other paintings, he decided he wanted a more contemporary take on the profession. One of the paintings, of an operating theater, “The Team,” was inspired by one of the School’s

distinguished alumni, Dr. Chuck Griffis, a long-time friend of Chadwick.

“I looked into Chuck’s profession as an anesthetist and wanted to create sort of an almost a dramatic image of the operating theater,” said Chadwick. “I wanted to have at least one of those images within the paintings that are in the school. And so I looked at the work of an American artist from the 19th century, Thomas Eakins, and he was a real inspiration for that piece. There are some classic paintings he did at the operating theater at that time in Philly, the University of Pennsylvania.”

Chadwick also wanted to make sure that he included images of people who look like the people who are all around us.

The Techniques

Each work was created through an open-ended series of painting sessions. As Chadwick paints, surfaces are scraped down,

over painted and layered with transparent pigments. Opaque swaths of color are brushed in the wet surface, leaving remnants of past figures and locations, while memories and future journeys surge to the surface and overwrite the image.

“The color in these was meant to create a draw and also a sense of pleasantness,” he said. “I picked colors that were more dreamlike to get you into a place of thinking of visions and times past.”

Nine of the 10 pieces are oil paintings on Belgian canvas and one, “Caring for Children: Listening is Key,” is a pastel.

“Often I do studies before I do paintings, and this was kind of a study to get into the project,” he said. “But when I shared it with the Dean and a few others, we all felt it was more than just a drawing – it could hold its own.

“It was a big body of work. No doubt about it. A lot of paint and a lot of brushes were sacrificed in the creation of these pictures.”



The Art and Science of Nursing



24/7



Royce Hall Where it All Began

Meet the ARTIST



Chadwick is an UCLA alum (BA '81). He reminisced, "For my first art class we took our drawing materials down to the botanical garden just across from Factor, so I have history in that space."

He had long been inspired by nurses – and is married to Dr. MarySue Heilemann, associate professor at the School. "Even before I met MarySue, I hung out with a number of nursing professionals," Chadwick said. "I learned a lot and tried to be open to understanding what the profession entailed. When I was a student, there was a lot of controversy about closing the School, so I was aware of those issues too."

The paintings were unveiled at a special reception prior to the 70th Anniversary Gala and the reactions were overwhelmingly positive.

"These ten paintings not only evoke different aspects of nursing and the School's history, they enhance the environment where we work, teach, study, explore and create," said Sarna.



Florence Nightingale



Caring for Children: Listening is Key



Marching to Save the School

WELCOME NEW FACULTY



Always asking why

Holli DeVon, Ph.D., RN, FAHA, FAAN Associate Dean for Research

Dr. Holli DeVon is passionate about research, and she is excited to bring that passion to the UCLA School of Nursing as the new Associate Dean for Research.

Her interest in nursing started in high school. As a volunteer in a local hospital, she observed nurses firsthand and thought “they were some of the smartest people I had ever met. They knew so much about the causes of illness and how to help people

recover.” That experience led her to Loyola University Chicago to obtain a BSN.

In her last clinical rotation, she worked in coronary care and was fascinated by electrocardiography. She wanted to know more about heart rhythms and other physiological measures and the implications on the patient’s status.

“My background was in critical care, but my first love has always been heart disease.”

When she was obtaining her master’s in nursing science, she was required to do original research. “I had a phenomenal mentor who strongly encouraged me to get a Ph.D. but family responsibilities intervened. Every year for 15 years my mentor said ‘when are you applying to the Ph.D. program?’” DeVon finally started the Ph.D. program at the University of Illinois at Chicago the same year her daughter started college.

Today, DeVon is a nationally recognized expert in cardiovascular care. Her area of interest is symptoms of ischemic heart disease.

While working as a critical care nurse, she noticed a number of differences between women and men. For example, “we were sending patients to the cath lab and many of the women had negative results while the men were coming back positive. I remembered wondering why are we sending so many women for invasive testing even though the risk was low? What might be the difference between women and men? I wanted to know so we could provide better care.”

Today, DeVon is a nationally recognized expert in cardiovascular care. Her area of interest is symptoms of ischemic heart disease. The primary focus of her program of research has been the influence of gender on symptoms during acute coronary syndromes (ACS).

In explaining her research, DeVon shared, “I developed the ACS Symptom Checklist to identify potential sex differences. Our research team has used an integrated, biobehavioral approach to advance symptom science by studying inflammatory and behavioral aspects of ischemic heart disease. An additional interest has been individuals that are vulnerable to poor health outcomes as a result of age, race/ethnicity, and/or low social status. I am also interested in research methods and measurement and have taught and published in this area.”

Her research has revealed sex and age differences in the symptoms of ACS that

leave women at risk for delay in seeking treatment for symptoms, delay in diagnostic testing, and delayed treatment.

Currently, she is funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to examine the characteristics of prehospital delay and outcomes in patients treated for potential ACS in the emergency department. “We believe our findings will aid in the development of interventions for both patients and clinicians to reduce prehospital delay for symptoms.” She is also conducting a clinical trial to test acupuncture to improve symptoms of stable angina.

DeVon believes the wonderful thing about nursing is there are so many paths you can choose from. And she has taken advantage of some exciting opportunities.

In 2017, DeVon received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to study traditional and novel risk for early onset cardiovascular disease in individuals with HIV. She spent four months during the spring of 2018 in Rwanda, working with new partners to launch this research. She said the experience was “life changing.”

DeVon serves as chair of the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science, an open membership entity of the American Academy of Nursing. In this capacity, she is committed to the development, conduct and utilization of nursing science. For the past 17 years, she has taught at the University

of Illinois at Chicago School of Nursing. Most recently she headed the Biobehavioral Health Science Department.

What brings her to UCLA?

“UCLA has a strong reputation in cardiovascular research,” she said. “You have some internationally recognized researchers right here at the School and I am excited to work with them.”

DeVon is also devoted to mentoring, which will help future scholars.

“I am privileged to have mentored many pre- and postdoctoral scholars in cardiovascular disease in such areas as coronary heart disease, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, stroke, and cardiovascular risk factors,” she added. “These scholars have received many awards from NIH and I welcome new collaborative opportunities at UCLA.”

Moving forward, she hopes to inspire more nurses to get interested in research.

“We need more nurse scientists. New knowledge is vital for the profession and to improve the health of our communities. I think we need to start in middle school – explaining the multitude of opportunities in nursing. Bedside care is only one career path in nursing.

“I feel very fortunate that I’ve had such a fascinating career and that I love doing what I am doing. I am excited to go to work every single day.”

Turning a Lens on an Overlooked Area

Lauren Clark, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Shapiro Family Endowed Chair in
Developmental Disabilities



In her research on health disparities among Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants living in the barrios of downtown Denver,

Dr. Lauren Clark noticed many parallels between the issues they faced and the challenges encountered by individuals with developmental disabilities.

“There were barriers relating to access to care, issues around language and translation, and discrepancies in understandings about what health care was supposed to be,” says Clark. She was particularly attuned to these issues as she has a child with developmental disabilities.

Over time, Clark shifted her research to focus on maternal-child health and disabling conditions, as well as the day-to-day health experiences of adults with developmental disabilities.

Now she joins the faculty as the first recipient of the Shapiro Family Endowed Chair in Developmental Disability Studies.

“Individuals with developmental disabilities have a variety of health issues that are more serious and complex than those of the general population from the moment of birth throughout their lives,” says Dean Linda Sarna. “Because of their ‘whole person’ approach, nurses are perfectly positioned to impact their care and quality of life.”

Clark says her new position will allow for an exploration and definition of what disability studies means in nursing.

“There’s lots of opportunity to think about the disability/ability context and what we can do, as nurses, to better understand that, and better care for those patients and their families.”

She also appreciates the uniqueness of the position. “This is a real gem of an opportunity to do vital work,” she says about

“I plan to build a bridge between what has been a very medicalized approach to disability and health care, and what is a more critical approach to the field.”

the endowed chair. “It’s a unique niche and exceptionally rare.”

Clark comes to UCLA from the University of Utah where she held a variety of positions including Ombudsman for the University’s Health Sciences Center and Division Chair at the College of Nursing. While there, she and her team developed a new measure for health-related quality of life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The tool has been used by Special Olympics International. Researchers around the world are now using the instrument and translating it into other languages, including French and Chinese.

While she looks forward to evolving the UCLA position in partnership with key stakeholders, Clark has some ideas about potential directions to pursue.

“One specific area where quality of life is an issue for people with disabilities – and one that the National Institutes of Health is focusing on – is reproductive health. Women with developmental disabilities have similar fertility rates to women without developmental disabilities, but we haven’t done much research to understand their needs regarding accessible health care, what constitutes a satisfying health care interaction, and how to facilitate their family planning goals over the life course.”

“I think the reproductive area is an area that is really interesting

because we have more people entering reproductive years with developmental disabilities than ever, partly because we have more people surviving premature births,” she adds. “Better health care for children with developmental disabilities has also increased their lifespan, too, making reproductive health care a priority.

“There are lots of considerations that enter into the policy arena and into health care education. How do we train nurses and doctors to address those specific health needs and work in partnership with people with developmental disabilities to achieve quality of life and meet their reproductive goals?”

Clark also envisions establishing interdisciplinary graduate seminars around developmental disability vis-à-vis health and health care, drawing participants from a range of fields including medicine, dentistry, anthropology, design, art and architecture to look at such issues as community design, stigma, exclusion, and family health.

She spent a sabbatical at the Living with Disabilities Research Centre at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. The Centre conducts social research into the lives and experiences of people living with cognitive disability with the goal of promoting their social participation and inclusion. A long-term goal of Clark’s involves exploring the possibility of creating a parallel center at UCLA and participating

in bi-national research as well as student and faculty exchanges.

Her previous research includes looking at the process parents undergo when receiving prenatal or neonatal diagnostic news about having a child with developmental disabilities, and the manner in which they come to terms with that news. She has also worked with a community partner to develop and deliver a curriculum to help individuals with developmental disabilities lose weight and maintain a healthy weight.

Clark received her BS in nursing, MS in community health nursing and Ph.D. in clinical nursing research from the University of Arizona. Prior to working at the University of Utah College of Nursing, Clark was an academic program director and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Her clinical nursing background includes providing community nursing care in an Indian health service clinic in Montana and working with Latino families in Colorado.

“I plan to build a bridge between what has been a very medicalized approach to disability and health care, and what is a more critical approach to the field. It’s a conversation about what nursing can do to actively promote self-determination and quality of life with people with developmental disabilities.”

—by Nancy Steiner



Combating Stress in the Workplace

**Jian Li, MD, Ph.D.
Professor**

It's the place we spend the majority of our waking hours, and it's also the source of much of our stress. A 2017 American Psychological Association survey found that 61 percent of Americans identified work as a source of stress.

Dr. Jian Li has been looking at the psycho-physiological effects of stress in the workplace for more than a decade.

“Chronic stress at work has been shown to be a risk factor for a range of diseases, including depression, cardiovascular disease and musculoskeletal disorders,” he notes in a study published in *BioMed Research International*.

Li's research focuses on psychosocial work characteristics, health-related effects of work stress and interventions in the workplace.

One interventional study conducted in Germany found that stress management interventions in the workplace could reduce stress levels at work in terms of effort-reward imbalance, and improve mental health status, even seven years after the intervention.

“Because I have a medical background, I'm not just interested in subjective measures, such as questionnaire-based findings. I'm using objective, biological impacts to measure stress and health outcomes,” he says.

Li earned his MD from Tongji Medical University in Wuhan, China and his Ph.D. in Public Health from Seoul National University in Seoul, South Korea. He shares an appointment between the School of Nursing and the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Fielding School of Public Health.

Li looks forward to teaching Occupational Health and pursuing research that will improve working conditions, particularly psychosocial working environment, in the United States. He will also compare health effects of work stress in the United States with those in Asia and Europe.

—by Nancy Steiner

Thriving after cancer

Eden Brauer, Ph.D., RN
Assistant Professor



When she discharged her patients from the bone marrow transplant unit, Dr. Eden Brauer was excited for their return home. Leaving the unit after many weeks meant patients and their families were emerging from a dark place and moving into a brighter future.

However, over time, she came to realize that this goodbye was, in fact, only the beginning of a long climb for her oncology patients. They were facing physical and psychological problems, as well as challenges in school, work, and their social relationships. She could see there was insufficient support in place for these survivors and their families, and wanted to do something about it.

“In recent decades, we have witnessed tremendous progress in cancer care and marked improvements in survival rates, which is wonderful news. However, cancer and its treatment can leave people devastated on many levels — physically, emotionally, financially. I had this very strong sense that we have to do better. We can’t just send people home and leave them to deal with these complications on their own.”

Brauer decided to return to her alma mater, UCLA, and pursue her Ph.D. to investigate solutions to the struggles she observed at the bedside. Her graduate work focused on cancer survivorship, and her dissertation was on the

challenges faced by adolescents and young adults following bone marrow transplantation for blood cancers.

“At that time, survivorship was still a new concept, especially in clinical practice,” she said. “The question became how can we enhance quality of life for survivors through the care we provide? Now there’s recognition that symptom management, psychosocial support and long-term follow-up care must be integrated into high-quality cancer care.”

Brauer’s current research explores how clinicians might better communicate with and prepare patients for long-term toxicities related to their cancer treatment. She is also working with the Head and Neck Cancer Program at UCLA Health to establish a multidisciplinary survivorship clinic.

Brauer received her undergraduate degree from Columbia University and her Master of Science and Ph.D. in nursing from UCLA. She also completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“With many new treatments and better supportive care, this is an exciting time in cancer care. As a new faculty member, I hope to improve quality of life for patients with cancer and their families, both in training the next generation of nurses and in my research in the clinic.”

—by Nancy Steiner



Mitigating the Effects of Trauma

Kristen R. Choi, Ph.D., MS, RN
Assistant Professor

As a nursing student, Dr. Kristen R. Choi, found clinical nursing a source of frustration.

Although she enjoyed the human element of patient care, she kept encountering health care system issues that interfered with her patients' abilities to receive services.

"I realized early on that I wanted to be a change agent working upstream in our health care system, rather than working downstream as a clinician," says Choi, a child/adolescent

psychiatric nurse and health services researcher.

Choi looks at health service outcomes and access for children with behavioral disorders as well as how trauma and violence early in life affect children. She has developed a screening tool that, when looking at adverse childhood experiences (ACES), specifically focuses on community violence and violent events in a child's environment.

"Once we identify ACEs in clinical settings, we need to respond to

them in a trauma-informed way that meets the needs of children and their families. That includes connecting them to services that can help them heal and grow from what they've experienced," she says.

Choi obtained her Bachelor of Science and doctoral degrees in nursing from the University of Michigan and her Master of Science in Health Policy & Management from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. She also participated in the UCLA National Clinician Scholars Program.

She was recently awarded a K12 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to study health services for youth with autism spectrum disorder. She also studies secondary trauma among health care providers, ACEs, and health system factors associated with firearm violence.

"I'm excited to join the UCLA School of Nursing with a research background in behavioral health and a clinical background in psychiatric care. Mental illness, substance abuse, and violence are major public health problems, but our current service systems are not meeting the needs of communities," she says. "Nurses are a critical stakeholder group in addressing mental health. We need leadership by nurses to find solutions."

—by Nancy Steiner

Shining a Spotlight on Health Disparities

Kia Skrine Jeffers, Ph.D., RN, PHN
Assistant Professor



It's probably safe to say that Dr. Kia Skrine Jeffers is the only faculty member at the School who is also a member of SAG-AFTRA, the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. In addition to theater productions and national commercials, she's appeared in episodes of *Boston Public*, *The Closer* and *Strong Medicine*.

As her performing career blossomed, Skrine Jeffers got a sudden, powerful urge to pursue medicine. Something called her to heal bodies. She looked into careers in acupuncture, chiropractic and herbal medicine, and was a successful massage therapist before enrolling in the MECN program at UCLA.

During her studies, she encountered troubling statistics about the cardiometabolic health of African Americans. "The statistics did not indicate why they fared worse, and I did not sense much urgency at the time to improve them. Health disparities felt like an accepted norm."

Skrine Jeffers decided to pursue a Ph.D. in nursing at UCLA to better understand the nature of this problem and what could be done to combat it. Her dissertation looked at African American older adults' experiences with structural racism and uncontrolled diabetes throughout their life courses. As a health equity researcher, she focuses on

disentangling the impact of structural racism on the physical and mental health of marginalized populations.

Skrine Jeffers has also found a way to combine her passions of science and art. While she was an NCSP Scholar, she received a grant from the California Arts Council. To demonstrate the impact of the arts in research through theatre, she partnered with the UCLA Center for Health Service and Society and Healthy African American Families and wrote a play *We See You, Sis*. This play, which aimed to destigmatize depression, was developed with six African American women in South Los Angeles who shared their experiences living with and seeking treatment for the condition. "Their stories showed that the historical, intergenerational, and contemporary pain that black women carry is often unrecognized and unseen," she says. "Our research found that this play helps make their pain and resilience more visible." Whether addressing cardiometabolic health or bridging her science with her art, Skrine Jeffers' vision is clear. "I'm looking forward to contributing context for the racialized disparities in health that we see, and developing creative interventions to improve them."

—by Nancy Steiner



Why I give

L-R: Dee Douville '59, Brenda Taylor '69, Margarita Vallejo '79

Three alumni participated in our Commencement Ceremony in June to celebrate their 40th, 50th, and 60th graduation anniversaries. In addition to participating in this milestone reunion activity, they also have a history of donating to the School.

Dee Douville '59

"Attending the UCLA School of Nursing commencement ceremony in June 2019 was particularly special to me. While pursuing my Bachelor's in Nursing at UCLA, I had entered the Army Student Nurse Program which helped finance my education in exchange for a two-year commitment in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps post-graduation. I was unable to participate in my own Commencement Ceremony as I had to report to Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco for a health procedure prior to reporting to Fort Sam Houston

in San Antonio, Texas for the US Army Nurse Corps Basic Course.

"I am very glad I had the opportunity to finally attend Commencement and to participate in my 60th Anniversary Reunion, and I am glad to be an alumna of the UCLA School of Nursing."

Brenda Taylor '69

"I had a great experience during my time at the UCLA School of Nursing. One of the things I really enjoyed about my education was the fact that we were encouraged to be analytical, and we learned how to be excellent communicators. We also learned how to solve problems, we learned how to help our patients, and we learned how to help the community look at the broader picture in solving health issues.

"I feel that we need to support the UCLA SON because the school is a wonderful source of mentors, educators, and experiences to be had for the new 21st century nurse."

Margie Vallejo '79

"Reflecting on my nursing career, it all began at UCLA in the late 1970s. After deciding to pursue a nursing major, UCLA was my one and only choice.

"My education afforded me the opportunity to learn from many nurse leaders, interact with wonderful mentors, and provided me the tools needed to render quality nursing care to all my future patients and their families.

"I earned my BS in nursing from UCLA, for which I am eternally grateful. I had a wonderful 39-year nursing career at UCLA Medical Center.

"Continued support by giving back to the SON financially is very important to me. Every gift, no matter how small, has a positive impact on the SON and assists future students with opportunities to succeed in fulfilling their nursing education.

"With baby boomers retiring, the world needs new nursing successors!"

UCLA LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

The generous alumni and friends who have chosen to remember the UCLA School of Nursing in their estate plans are a special group. Turning their individual passions into action, these donors have looked ahead to the needs of future generations. They have effectively put “money in the bank” to fulfill countless opportunities that ensure excellence — from scholarships to life-changing research, fellowships to distinguished faculty recruitment.

Ada M. and George* T. Lindsey
Ann* '57, MS '64 and Marcum Ivey
Ann M. Voda '63
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Clyde and Thomsen* Young '67, JD '74
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Linda MN '77 and Stanley* Gorman
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Rochelle Brucker '57
Rosalind MSN '04 and Eric Ng
Rose Marie* '57 and
Richard Nesbit '58, MS '60, PHD '63
Ruth Higgs
Susie Lee MN '77 and Keith Nakao
Vickie MN '62 and August Reis
*deceased

Thank You

to our 70th Anniversary Sponsors!

In April, the School celebrated its 70th Anniversary with a special Gala. Thank you to everyone who contributed - whether through attendance, financial support, or time and talent. We are grateful for your part in helping us make this celebration truly memorable. A special thank you to our event sponsors. Funds donated will support student scholarships and the School's most urgent priorities.

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Help us achieve our goal of identifying 1,200 new bequest intentions to the university by the end of The Centennial Campaign for UCLA on December 31, 2019.



Create a legacy by including the university in your will or trust. Please contact the UCLA Office of Gift Planning for more information.

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Let the discovery and achievements of UCLA's next century be part of your legacy.

The CENTENNIAL Campaign for **UCLA**

THANK YOU, ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS



In 2017, a new Alumni Board of Directors program was founded to support the highest priorities of the UCLA School of Nursing. Since then, the board has completed a multitude of projects, programs, and events that have enhanced the School, including fundraising for several campaigns that have netted over \$100,000 and

providing instrumental support to help us produce our 70th Anniversary Gala.

In June 2019, they completed their service term and we are so thankful for everything they have done for the School. **You all are true Bruins and we appreciate your loyalty to the UCLA School of Nursing.**

*Pictured above: L to R, during our 70th Anniversary Gala
Leslie Kern MN '79
Peter Anderson '99, MSN '01
Susan Given MN '84
Sherri Mendelson PhD '07
Megan Guardiano '15
Brittani Clark '11 MSN '16
Tonía Amos-Jones MSN '96, PhD '06
President Cathy Ward PhD '95
Not pictured: Isaac Montoya '17*

NIGHT WITH NINE NURSES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you want to make a difference for our nursing students but are not sure how? We have a wonderful opportunity for you. Host eight nursing students for a “Night with Nine Nurses” and share your wisdom, career expertise, and life advice with our eager nursing students. Dinners are casual and can be hosted anywhere—at your home, at a restaurant, or even at UCLA. As an alumna of our School, you are a valuable source of knowledge to our students and can greatly help them in their journey to becoming a health care provider. If you have questions, please reach out to Jonathan Adrias at jadrias@sonnet.ucla.edu.



Previous Night with Nine Nurses event

In memoriam



Elizabeth Resnick

Magnanimous. This is a word that resonated with Elizabeth Resnick.

It's also one that could be used to describe this loyal supporter and champion of the UCLA School of Nursing for over 13 years. Liz passed away on March 26, 2019 following a two-year battle with cancer.

A Bruin with her MBA, '13, from the UCLA Anderson School of Management, Liz was a dedicated educator, serving as an educational administrator at various schools including Northfield Mount Hermon Preparatory School, Sage Hill School, Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences, and most recently Harvard-Westlake School.

One of the many ways she showed support for nurses was through a 2017 gift to our campaign, 'One Word, One Gift'. This was when her love for the word 'magnanimous' came to the fore. For Liz, it conveyed a firm belief that there's "nothing as generous and benevolent as the care and professional attention of a kind, thoughtful, and skilled nurse when one is unwell and vulnerable."

Liz is survived by her wife, Jan Nash, and their children, Abraham and Hazel. Her devotion to family, career and the UCLA School of Nursing, as well as her unique combination of intelligence, humor, kindness, and patience were, well, beyond magnanimous.

The Liz Resnick Memorial Scholarship in Nursing, set to benefit nursing students in need, is just one of many ways her legacy continues.

If you would like information about supporting this scholarship, please contact Amy Drizhal at adrizhal@sonnet.ucla.edu or 310-794-2358.

The UCLA School of Nursing remembers the following alumni who passed away this past year between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to their families and friends.

Ardie Glenn '75

Betsy Phoenix MS '63

Eileen Mueller MN '82

Elma Massie MS '74

Harriet Jackson MS '59

Julie Gerhart-Stires '68

Juliette Poulson MN '71

Linda Foss '71

Louise Chambliss MA '72

Mary Lloyd MN '71

Mary Aspinall MS '68

Nancy Pepper MS '59

SPARK
700
for the **70th**

To conclude the 2019 fiscal year, the UCLA School of Nursing campaigned to reach 700 donations in honor of the School's 70th Anniversary. Donations were directed toward the Innovation Fund promoting the significance that innovation is a requirement for excellence.

We are grateful to our UCLA School of Nursing community for pulling together to help us exceed our goal. Thank you for supporting nursing education, scholarship and practice.

RHONDA FLENOY-YOUNGER'S ETERNAL FLAME



PANSAA members (from left to right): Athena Watkins, Sage Sims-Bleser, Rhonda Flenoy-Younger, Agazi Woldai, Tonia Amos-Jones, Kate Echereodo, Sidikat Giwa and Howard Booth.

Igniting a passion for nursing through her involvement in both the UCLA School of Nursing and the Pan African Nursing Student and Alumni Association (PANSAA) is something for which Rhonda Flenoy-Younger is renowned.

That dedication was recognized at PANSAA's annual graduation dinner in June when Flenoy-Younger was bestowed a special honor: the establishment of a scholarship in her name, the Rhonda Flenoy-Younger PANSAA Scholarship.

Of Flenoy-Younger's devotion, Tonia Amos-Jones, MSN '96, Ph.D. '06, UCLA School of Nursing, Alumni Board of Directors and PANSAA member says, "In her role as UCLA's Director of Recruitment, Outreach and Admissions, Rhonda facilitated the School of Nursing's efforts to

recruit and retain diverse student learners. She was committed to cultural representation as evidenced by dedicated service to several multicultural student groups, including PANSAA, where she served as its liaison for over 25 years."

The scholarship is intended to celebrate Flenoy-Younger's legacy as she enters retirement. "I was extremely overwhelmed when the dean announced the scholarship in my name," Flenoy-Younger recalls of this surprise that had been kept under wraps. Leading up to that evening, the School and PANSAA raised over \$20,000 and established the scholarship to provide support for PANSAA members, regardless of race or ethnicity, with financial need.

Dr. Anita Bralock, director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, prelicensure program director and alumna, is one of PANSAA's founders. "Rhonda has been a constant in PANSAA," Bralock says.

Of the many roles Flenoy-Younger played, it was the one that earned her the nickname of Mama Rhonda that stands out. Bralock explains, "We have a safe zone at the School – a place where students can go if they need to talk to someone one-on-one, whether it be about a challenge, something personal or school-related. The students began to refer to her as Mama Rhonda, because they knew they could go into her office, get a hug, talk about personal things and feel safe."

The bonds cemented in the safe zone are cherished by Flenoy-Younger. "One of the great benefits of this organization is that the relationships continue long after students graduate," she says.

Bralock added, "Rhonda's a rock, a foundation for the School of Nursing, and has been very influential in helping all students be successful, and especially underrepresented minority students. She's gone that extra mile."

Flenoy-Younger says humbly, "PANSAA members are my family. I've seen so many members grow to become parents, professionals and deans. I hope this scholarship will last forever and when people ask, 'Who is Rhonda Flenoy-Younger?' the response is: 'A woman who loved, encouraged and mentored students.'"

If you would like information about supporting this scholarship, please contact Jonathan Adrias at jadrias@sonnet.ucla.edu or 310-983-1140.

— by Bekah Wright





COVER PHOTO:

SHPEP participants deliver a simulated infant. Paula Clemente, pre-nursing, holds the “infant” immediately after “birth” while Myles Anderson, pre-medicine suctions the “newborn.”

Looking on are Jacqueline Kieu (pre-dentistry), Antonio Franco (pre-medicine), Terrance Lindsey (pre-nursing) and Hanna Butler Robbins (pre-medicine).

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