

# re

nursing reimagined  
nursing redefined

**UCLA**

**School of Nursing**

FALL 2020



**2020: THE YEAR OF THE NURSE**

# FROM OUR DEAN

# UCLA School of Nursing



This magazine was originally supposed to come out in Spring of this year, as a print edition. We had the stories drafted and the images selected. We had a few more pages to put together, and then we could start the process of printing. But when Spring came, it brought with it a global pandemic that changed our lives in a myriad of ways, including nursing education. What this year has proven, if nothing else, is that when a public health crisis emerges, we need to be ready. I'm extremely proud the team at the School of Nursing was ready and resilient.

For the past year, we have celebrated the courage and bravery of nurses as the pandemic created unexpected tests of strength and character. This was a year that the World Health Organization had declared as "The Year of the Nurse." I am honored to be a part of a profession that has provided healing and compassionate care to so many at such a vulnerable time. Many of our own Bruin alums were on the frontlines.

The School of Nursing has stepped up to these new challenges as well: developing solutions to difficulties presented by this pandemic in educating the next generation of nurses, leaders, and scholars. We completed our once-a-decade accreditation visit completely virtually (and even produced a [welcome video](#) for the accreditation team). We received accreditation for our new Doctor of Nursing Practice program reviewed in February, before the pandemic hit. We've been able to continue remote learning since March for all of our programs — while continuing onsite skills labs to prepare our students for practice. We've installed a new community advisory board, and welcomed a new alumni board, all with Zoom meetings.

The activities of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council have continued in earnest. In this transformed environment, we've facilitated virtual discussions and have created digital experiences to replace in-person interactions, as we faced painful realities at the intersection of social injustice and the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year we welcomed a staggeringly talented new class of undergraduate and graduate students. We welcomed back Bruins who will be, undoubtedly, leaders in the nursing profession and health care industry. We celebrated distinguished alumni and staff excellence. We continue to build our science as our research was "ramped down" and now "ramped up."

I hope you enjoy this virtual issue of the magazine: in it, you will find inspiring stories about students discovering the impact neighborhoods have on health; and a teaching kitchen that allows students to explore the link between food and health. Of course, there are also plenty of stories about our amazing faculty, alumni and donors.

These might be challenging times, but with the support of many, we remain Bruin Strong.

*Linda Sarna*

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

## NEWS

- 2 Kia Skrine Jeffers, Ph.D., RN, PHN, Speaks at Book Launch  
  
Judith Paice, Ph.D., RN, Inaugural Margot Mcaffery Lectureship  
  
John Lowe, RN, Ph.D., FAAN, Dean's Distinguished Lecture
- 3 Nurses on Boards – Make Your Voices Heard
- 3 Research Grants
- 4 New UC Program for Mental Health Nurse Practitioners
- 5 Healthcare for Veterans

## DEVELOPMENT

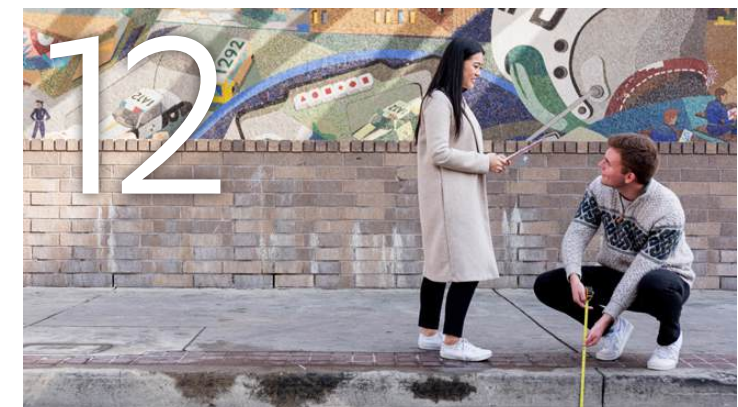
- 20 Distinguished Alumni Award – Pam Malloy, MN '79, RN, FPCN, FAAN
- 22 Distinguished Alumni Award – Dianne Fochtman, MN '71, Ph.D., CPNP, CPON, CHPPN
- 24 Rising Bruin Recent Alumni Award – Zenith Khan, BS '14 / MSN '18
- 25 Golden Bruin Staff Award – Michelle Aranda and Willie Dawson
- 26 Annual Scholarship Appreciation Lunch
- 28 Scholarships
- 30 Night With Nine Nurses
- 31 In Memoriam
- 31 Why I Give
- 32 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- BC Centennial Campaign



## FEATURES



### Cooking Up Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom



## PUBLIC HEALTH ROTATIONS

Students Experience Firsthand How Where You Live Impacts Health

## 18 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MECN student James Tran brings his military and law enforcement background to caregiving



### Kia Skrine Jeffers, Ph.D., RN, PHN, Speaks at Book Launch

Dr. Kia Skrine Jeffers is a co-author of a new book “**Racism: Science and Tools for the Public Health Professional**” which discusses how experiencing racism affects an individual’s health and how public professionals can identify and address racism. Skrine Jeffers authored the chapter “Critical Race Theory’s Antiracism Approaches: Moving From the Ivory Tower to the Front Lines of Public Health.” The book is the first ever academic text to address racism entirely from a public health perspective and is on the American Public Health Association Press list of their bestselling books.



L-R: Denise Economou (City of Hope) Dean Linda Sarna (UCLA SON), Judith Paice (Northwestern Medicine)

### Judith Paice, Ph.D., RN, Featured Speaker at Inaugural Margot McCaffery Lectureship

Judith Paice, Ph.D., RN, Director of the Cancer Pain Program at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine was the featured speaker at the inaugural Margot McCaffery Lectureship in Pain and Palliative Care. McCaffery was a faculty member at the School and a leader in pain management. When McCaffery passed away in 2018, Denise Economou, MS’ 93 and her husband established a lectureship at the School in her honor. Paice called McCaffery “a formidable nurse” and said it was important for her work to be remembered. Paice then presented “Unintended Consequences: Ensuring Access to Pain Control During an Opioid Epidemic.” She discussed

the importance of opioid medications for pain management in patients with cancer and what strategies are needed to maintain patient safety while minimizing the risk of opioid misuse.



### John Lowe, RN, Ph.D., FAAN – Dean’s Distinguished Lecture

The 2020 Dean’s Distinguished Lecture was presented by John Lowe, RN, Ph.D., FAAN, Professor and Endowed Chair for Health Disparity Research and Director for the Center of Indigenous Nursing Research for Health Equity, College of Nursing, Florida State University. During his talk on ‘The Impact of Colonization on Health Disparities Among Native Americans,’ he discussed that It is critical to approach Indigenous health through a framework of historical trauma and to understand the history of genocide that is the foundation for current health disparities. He also shared that “our communities trust nurses, so it is important for nurses to do the research”. Currently there are only 23 Native American nurses who hold Ph.Ds.

## NURSES ON BOARDS

### Make your voices heard



To encourage more nurses to join boards of directors for community and governmental organizations, foundations, corporations and other entities, Dean Linda Sarna and Dr. Karen Grimley, Chief Nursing Executive for UCLA Health, hosted a reception to introduce UCLA nurses to the Nurses on Boards Coalition (NOBC). NOBC is a national organization dedicated to improving the health of communities and the nation through the service of nurses on boards and other bodies.

“With almost four million nurses in the United States, we need to be at the table helping to make the critical decisions in healthcare and healthcare policy that impact our patients and their families, and,

frankly, our professional practice,” Dean Sarna told the group of about 40 attendees.

Dr. Grimley noted that nurses can offer a unique perspective. “You look at people holistically. You look at their social determinants,” she said. “You look at a whole variety of things that other people don’t even consider. That awareness can make a huge difference on the boards that exist outside of nursing and outside our professional worlds.”

The event included a panel of three UCLA nurses discussing their experiences serving on boards.

Dr. Kristen Choi, a Child Adolescent Psychiatric Nurse and Assistant Professor in the School serves on the Board of Trustees for the Rita

and Alex Hillman Foundation, which supports nursing research and training. “As one of two nurses on a board predominantly comprised of bankers and lawyers, I learned to speak up for patients and nurses to make a real difference,” she said.

“Look for something you’re really interested and passionate about to start with,” advised Dr. Cecily Byron, Director of MedSurg/Tele Unit for UCLA Santa Monica Hospital, who serves on the board of the Santa Monica Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Dr. David Bailey, Chief Nursing Officer for UCLA Health Santa Monica serves on the board of WISE & Healthy Aging, a service provider and advocate for older adults. “I’m gaining so much and it’s making me a better person, a better leader and hopefully, a better community member,” he said.

Visiting from Wisconsin, NOBC Executive Director Laurie Benson thanked UCLA for being a Coalition Founding Healthcare Leadership Organization Strategic Partner. She asked individuals who join boards to register on the NOBC website and invited participants to take advantage of the tools and resources offered by the organization.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

### Suzette Glasner-Edwards, Ph.D. Director of Research, Associate Professor in Residence

Sponsor: NIH – National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)

Award number: 1R61AT010800-01

Project title: Effectiveness of CBT-based mHealth Intervention Targeting MOUD Retention, Adherence, and Opioid Use

Project period: 9/28/2019 – 2/28/2021

Total award for R61 portion: \$822,521

Suzette also received a Supplement under the parent R61 à this a new award for Suzette this year, it came in Sept. 2020.

Sponsor: NIH

Award number: 3R61AT010800-02S1

Project title: Opioid Use Disorder Stigma Mechanisms in the Context of Buprenorphine Treatment

Project period: 9/21/2020 – 2/28/2021

Total award for Supplement: \$145,231

### Mary Rezk-Hanna, Ph.D., FAHA Assistant Professor

Sponsor: UC Tobacco-Research Disease Research Program (TRDRP)

Award number: T30IP1013

Project title: The Effects of Electronic

Hookah on Endothelial Cell Function: The Role of Nicotine

Project period: 9/1/2019 – 8/31/2021

Total award: \$498,723

Mary Rezk-Hanna new R01 à came in Sept. 2020

Sponsor: NIH – National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

Award number: 1R01HL52435-01A1

Project title: Chronic Hookah (Waterpipe) Smoking, Vascular Dysfunction, Inflammation and Oxidative Stress

Project period: 9/15/2020 – 8/31/2023

Total award: \$1,415,959

### Karen Gyllys, Ph.D., RN Professor

### Tina Bilousova, Ph.D. Associate Project Scientist, School of Nursing at UCLA

Sponsor: NIH – National Institute on Aging

Award number: 1R21AG063767-01A1: R1

Project title: Tau Pathology in Neurons, Glia, and Cell Type-Specific Exosomes from Cryopreserved AD Cortex

Project period: 1/15/2020 – 12/31/2021 (grant is currently in Year 1)

Total award: \$429,000

### Wei-Ti Chen, RN, CNM, Ph.D., FAAN Associate Professor

Sponsor: NIH – Fogarty International Center (FIC)

Award number: 1R21TW0112277-01:R1

Project title: Project BURMESE: Buddhist Understanding and Reduction of Myanmar Experiences of HIV Stigma and Exclusion

Project period: 5/4/2020 – 4/30/2022

Total award: \$377,602

# MENTAL HEALTH

## New UC program will double pipeline of specialized mental health nurse practitioners in response to growing crisis



**“This new, online PMHNP program is a major milestone for the UC system and for California. As a public institution, our goal is to meet the needs of this state and this program certainly does that.”**

—Linda Sarna, Dean  
UCLA School of Nursing

With California facing an urgent and growing shortage of mental health professionals, the three Schools of Nursing within the University of California system (UCSF, UC Davis and UCLA) are launching a new online certificate program that will prepare 300 psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNPs) by 2025.

Over 50% of people with mental illness in the state are not receiving psychiatric care —and many communities in the San Joaquin Valley and Inland Empire have only half as many psychiatrists as other parts of the state. A recent report from Healthforce Center at UCSF projected California will experience a 34% decline in the number of psychiatrists by 2028 — and will have 41% fewer psychiatrists than needed in the next 10 years. There are 1,200 PMHNPs working in California.

The new program — the first online, post-master’s certificate program of its kind in California — is expected to nearly double the state’s current pipeline of PMHNPs between now and 2025. Graduates are expected to serve as many as 378,000 patients over the next five years.

Along with psychiatrists, PMHNPs are specialized mental health providers authorized to prescribe psychotropic medications, treat severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders, and offer psychiatric care. A 2019 report from the blue-ribbon California Future Health Workforce Commission, co-chaired by former University of California President Janet Napolitano, highlighted the need for immediate action to address the state’s growing mental health provider shortages. Among its top priority recommendations, the Commission called for the rapid development of a PMHNP program to quickly recruit and train a substantial number of new mental health providers to serve in underserved rural and urban communities.

The program achieves this goal — allowing nurse practitioners across the state to expand their certification without requiring relocation to a physical campus. Students can stay in their own communities to complete their training. Applicants will also be recruited from underserved rural and urban areas — so they can better serve their communities upon program completion.

The development, design, and launch of the program has been supported by a \$1.5 million grant from the California Health Care Foundation. More information about the program can be found on our website [nursing.ucla.edu](https://nursing.ucla.edu).

# UCLA/VA RESIDENCY PROGRAM

## UCLA and VA of Greater Los Angeles partner to launch nurse residency program

Beginning September 2020, the School and VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System (VAGLAHS) launched a post-baccalaureate nurse residency program to prepare nurses to address the health care needs of our nation’s veterans and their families.

“This program will provide support for our new graduates as they transition from an educational environment to a demanding clinical environment,” said Dean Linda Sarna. “With strong mentorship and guidance, these new nurses will gain extensive experience in providing quality care to our veterans.”

The 12-month program will improve the quality of care for veterans by providing additional training and support to newly graduated nurses. It will incorporate clinical and experiential learning using an evidence based practice curriculum, aligned with military and veteran-centric care competencies and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation standards, involving nurses from VAGLAHS and our school.

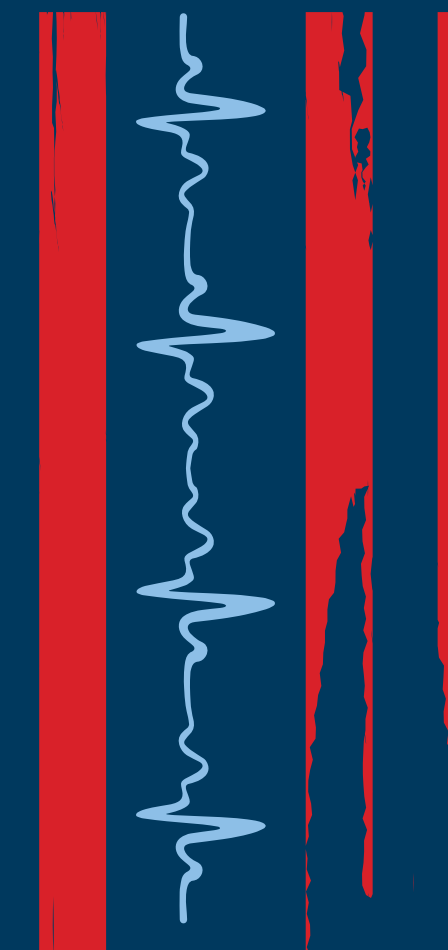
“The veteran population has specialized needs often linked to their service to our nation,” said Marcia Lysaght, VAGLAHS associate director for patient care services and chief nurse executive. “It is therefore a moral imperative to ensure that new nurses are well prepared to take care of our nation’s heroes.”

According to Lysaght, the program will ensure that new graduate registered nurses meet or exceed the high standards of care that are owed to veterans. A total of six positions will be open to pre-licensure graduates from our School’s bachelor’s and MECN programs. Applicants must be within one year of the date they graduated in order to be eligible for the program.

“The program is designed to increase the knowledge of new graduate registered nurses across the continuum of care,” Lysaght said. “A veteran-centric residency program that is evidence based and well-structured can be a solution to mitigating the high rate of turnover for newly licensed registered nurses during their first year as they transition into professional Veterans Affairs nurses.”

VAGLAHS and the School have a long and rich tradition of successful collaboration and clinical education. The two entities have been involved as team members in various VA programs including the VA Centers of Excellence in Interprofessional Academic Homeless Primary Care clinic, (H-PACT), and as advisory board members for the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center.

“This new partnership will strengthen our mutual commitment to provide innovative, quality-driven and transformational nursing care for veterans,” Sarna said.





**COOKING  
SKILLS  
+  
NUTRITION  
EDUCATION  
=  
IMPROVED  
PATIENT HEALTH**

The tantalizing aromas of roasting sweet potatoes, fresh kale pesto, garlic and spices wafted from the UCLA Tennis Center. The source was the “teaching kitchen,” a gleaming rectangle of stainless steel counters and appliances tucked into a corner of the center.



A small group of students were gathered around the spotless work counter, listening intently as Culinary Arts Coordinator Julia Rhoton demonstrated how to make a quick, tasty, budget conscious and nutritious meal while letting them try their hand at replicating it.

But these students were not aspiring professional chefs. Rather, they were in the master’s program at the UCLA School of Nursing, most hoping to treat patients in hospitals or clinics. So why were they spending their time learning about such things as knife safety and how to buy and prepare foods low in salt and sugar and high in nutrients?

“This is pretty much brand new here, how we use the kitchen to teach cooking and nutrition” to health care practitioners, said Dr. Catherine Carpenter, a faculty member of nutrition at the professor rank in the Schools of Nursing, Medicine and Public Health.

Carpenter helped develop the teaching kitchen’s program to assist nursing students in reaching

patients struggling with common chronic diseases. Most of those diseases have a large nutritional component and can be managed – or reversed or prevented – with improved eating habits, she said.

She believes UCLA is one of the first nursing schools anywhere to offer such a program.

There are seven kitchen sessions, each with 10 students and organized around healthier eating for patients with a specific health problem: colon cancer, osteoporosis, mental illness, diabetes, hypertension, atherosclerosis and HIV. The nursing students are assigned to one of the sessions, then tasked with giving a report to classmates who attended one of the other sessions. Each

two-hour kitchen session begins with a cooking lesson and is followed by an hour of lecture on the same condition (and yes, the students can eat what they cooked during the classroom hour.)

The kitchen session with the sweet potatoes and kale was aimed at helping colon cancer patients learn to incorporate more fiber into their diet. The classroom part, taught by Erica Lee, RD, MPH, focused on how to read food labels to make healthier choices in snack foods, cereal and the like.

“I want our nursing students to really understand the connections between food and health,” Carpenter said. She said the hands-on training not only helps the students with



**There are seven kitchen sessions, each with 10 students and organized around healthier eating for patients with a specific health problem: colon cancer, osteoporosis, mental illness, diabetes, hypertension, atherosclerosis and HIV.**

**“I want our nursing students to really understand the connections between food and health,” Carpenter said.**



*All images in this feature were taken pre-COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic, students have been working and learning remotely.*

their own food choices but also gives them ways to make life better for their patients.

The sessions provide easy, economical cooking tips. The knife use tips, for example, can help prevent injuries and make it easier to slice through a hard-skinned vegetable like butternut squash.

During the recent kitchen session on getting colon cancer patients to eat more fiber, Chef Rhoton suggested substituting kale for the traditional basil in pesto. Expensive pine nuts could be swapped out with walnuts or almonds and leftovers could be individually frozen in ice cube trays for use in a future meal. And a blender could be used if a patient doesn't have a food processor.

“You don't have to have fancy equipment or expensive ingredients to make good food,” Rhoton said.

The students, while at first surprised they would be in a cooking class as part of their coursework for their master's degree in nursing, gave the program high marks.

“I never thought we'd be cooking,” Eva Diaz said with a laugh. “But I liked the experience. I don't cook a lot, so it helped me and I think it's something I can use to help my patients.”

“I feel like I'm in a better position now to give good information to my patients,” said Keanna Dela Cruz.

Summer Buckley said she understands that “a big part of nursing is patient education.” And she also knows just how tempting it is, after a long, busy day, to “just go to Panda Express.” But she feels the cooking and nutrition classes have given her some good ideas for quick and nutritious meals she can make at home – and pass on to her future patients.

—by Jean Mer



**Thanks to the donors who made the Teaching Kitchen possible!**

- Semel Healthy Campus Initiative
- Marcie Rothman
- Upstream Obesity Solutions, UniHealth Foundation
- UCLA Recreation
- Lowenstein Foundation
- David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
- UCLA School of Nursing
- UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
- UCLA Community Program Office
- State of California

**PUBLIC HEALTH ROTATIONS**

**Students  
experience  
firsthand how  
where you live  
impacts health**

“I hadn’t really thought about how traffic patterns affected people’s health, how people are getting hurt on the streets if tents force them off sidewalks and curbs are too high for wheelchairs to negotiate.”

— Nursing student Emily Bloom, BS







“...when I came down here and saw what people living on Skid Row have to deal with and how it affects their health, I began to understand why this is important.”  
 —Nursing student Ayden Loughle, BS

**T**he 14 undergraduates have completed most of their clinical and classroom coursework when they began their Public Health assignment on Skid Row. Here they have spent several Wednesdays picking their way through the clusters of sidewalk-blocking tents and measuring curb heights and vehicle speeds as part of an assessment of street safety issues facing some of the city’s most vulnerable residents.

“I honestly didn’t understand why we were being required to do this,” nursing student Ayden Loughley said when he first learned of his assignment. “But when I came down here and saw what people living on Skid Row have to deal with and how it affects their health, I began to understand why this is important.”

UCLA nursing students are required to participate in one of several public health rotations to give them a better perspective on obstacles that some of their future patients experience.

In addition to the street safety assessment, past and present rotations have included a nutrition assessment of food served at the missions on Skid Row, a walkability study of a neighborhood in Highland Park, work with low-income mothers and their children at the Hope Street Family Center in downtown Los Angeles and a survey of accessibility to prenatal care in Pico Rivera.

Each of the 10-week public health rotations, for senior bachelor’s degree and master’s degree students, consists of eight hours a week in a community setting, plus clinical and classroom work. Students, between 9 and 14 to a group, are assigned by administrators to one of the community sites or at UCLA working on one of its Healthy Campus initiatives.



## “It’s very hard for students to pull back and see that much of the illness in this country is related to systems and community.”

— Dorothy J. Wiley, Ph.D., RN, FAAN

Dr. Dorothy J. Wiley, who leads the public health component, said the community experiences have been eye-opening for students, many of whom have grown up with little exposure to the stressors low-income families face. And how issues in their communities – such as a scarcity of nutritious food or a lack of access to prenatal care – can lead to illness and hospital stays.

“Most nurses spend the majority of their time in clinics and hospitals,” Wiley said. “But patients don’t live in those places.”

So it’s really important, Wiley said, that students understand the circumstances and health challenges their patients face in the community.

She said she has two primary goals for the program:

“First, I want our students to become better citizens,” to have a “better appreciation for others, whatever ‘other’ is. That is important to me.”

In addition, she wants students to see that “we, as a profession, are always talking about keeping

everybody well when much of our employment is in an illness setting.”

“It’s very hard,” she continued, “for students to pull back and see that much of the illness in this country is related to systems and community.”

Wiley believes the public health rotations go a long way toward helping students make that connection.

She sees the street safety project, for example, as “a tangible piece of work that students can get their heads around. They really learn a lot.”

At their “headquarters” in the conference room at the Courtland Hotel one Wednesday afternoon, the students were discussing their work in the traffic safety study, a large map of Skid Row on a wall within view of their rectangular table. They were entering data into spreadsheets and planned to give the finished work to City Councilman Jose Huizar who represents Skid Row.

“I hadn’t really thought about how traffic patterns affected people’s health,” said Emily Bloom, “how people are getting hurt on the streets” if tents force them off sidewalks and curbs are too high

for wheelchairs to negotiate.”

“When we are working in the hospital, we see patients when they are already sick,” said Julia Wenzel. “Here we are looking to prevent injury and illness. We can see how someone in a wheelchair is having trouble getting to a doctor. I’m really glad that I got a chance to see the big picture.”

“It’s a much more holistic approach,” added Jane Ly. “We can see the connections and hopefully do something about them.”

Antonella Ortega said she had been to Skid Row before the rotation, so conditions there were not as shocking to her as they were to some of her classmates. But she said she had not previously looked at the neighborhood from a public health and safety perspective, and that was eye opening.

“I had not thought about that before,” Ortega said.

Wiley said she also hopes that students’ better understanding of their patients’ community circumstances will make them not only more compassionate but also more effective.

—by Jean Mer

Pictured below (L-R):  
 Ayden Loughney, BS '20  
 Erica Choi, BS '20  
 Amanda Quintero, BS '20  
 Alvita Xiao, BS '20  
 Helen Lee, BS '20



All images in this feature were taken pre-COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic, students have been working and learning remotely.

# FINDING HIS WAY TO NURSING



**MECN student James Tran brings his military and law enforcement background to caregiving.**

**James Tran's path prior to entering nursing school might at first glance seem unrelated to his new career. He served as an aircraft mechanic in the U.S. Marine Corps and as a police officer in the northern California town of Pleasanton. But a deeper look reveals a common thread of helping others.**

As a high school student, James lacked motivation, doing the minimum required to stay on the school's soccer team. But then 9/11 happened. "I watched first responders and average citizens risking their lives to help others at Ground Zero," said James. He wanted to help, too.

It was then James decided to serve his country — and see the world. At the age of 17, James enlisted in the Marine Corps. Once he completed basic and combat training, he landed in aviation school to become an aircraft mechanic.

James had two deployments during his five year service with the Marine Corps, to Japan and South Korea. "It was eye-opening to meet people and be exposed to a new culture. It improved my interpersonal skills," he says, noting that he met members of the South Korean Air Force and Marines.

There was also tension. "South Korea was armed to the teeth and we knew we were in a potential war zone."

When his five year stint ended, James chose not to reenlist. He wanted to get a better education. He enrolled in community college, unsure of how he'd do. But the discipline he gained from the military served him well.

He considered transferring to Cal State East Bay as a kinesiology major, thinking he might become a physical education teacher. His sisters had been accepted to UC Davis, so he decided to apply there, as well as UC Santa Cruz and Berkeley. To his surprise, he was accepted to all three. He chose Berkeley.

"I never imagined I'd go to Berkeley," he says. "It was the best experience of my life." As part of the Cal Veteran's Club, James thought he might face negativity in a university known for its pacifist activities. But the veterans, he says, "got a lot of love" from the university community.

While at Berkeley, James came across information for the UCLA School of Nursing's MECN program. He printed out the information and held on to it.

James graduated with a degree in public health and began working as an EMT doing inter-facility transportation. The experience gave him a close-up view of nursing. "I worked with all the hospitals in the area and I met a lot of nurses and hospital personnel. If we were doing a critical care transport, there would be a nurse on board with us."

One Christmas Eve, he picked up a patient who had been shot in the back in a drive-by shooting. "It was exciting and nerve wracking," he says. "When we brought him in and saw the hospital staff start to work on him, I wished I could have done more for him, too."

His path seemed to be steering James towards nursing, but he took one final detour. He had previously applied and been accepted to a regional police academy. He decided to attend the academy and afterwards took a position with the City of Pleasanton Police Department. Working patrol at night, he saw fights and domestic violence. Dealing with homeless drug users, his only option was to take them to jail. "I didn't want to just put handcuffs on them; I wanted to get them help," he says.

James was spending as much time as he could in Los Angeles to see his grandmother, who had lung cancer. Seeing how his sister and aunt, both nurses, helped with his grandmother's end-of-life care made him realize he wanted to become a nurse.

That's when he decided to apply to the UCLA School of Nursing. James was accepted into the MECN



program and shared the news with his grandmother shortly before she passed away.

Nursing school, he says, "has been an adventure. My cohort is wonderful. Every person is a stellar student and stellar human being. I'm inspired every day by them, my patients and other nurses."

James particularly likes working with veterans and their family members. "I can tell who's a veteran. When I ask them and they say they are, it makes my day.

And they seem to like that I'm a veteran."

His military and police background help him think quickly on his feet, and he likes the challenge of not knowing what's on the other side of the door when he enters a new patient's room.

He's not sure what area of nursing he'd like to go into — he's enjoyed every rotation. As he's done in the past, James is willing to follow his new path wherever it takes him.

# ALUMNI & STAFF AWARDS »



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

**Pam Malloy**

MN '79, RN, FPCN, FAAN

**Pam Malloy, MN, RN, FPCN, FAAN is an oncology clinical nurse specialist with over 40 years of experience in clinical oncology and palliative care nursing, staff development, education, program development, and administration.**

She is currently the national Director and Co-Investigator of the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Project and Special Advisor on Global Initiatives at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in Washington, DC. She serves as faculty for all the national ELNEC courses and has presented ELNEC in 12 countries. In addition, she has developed palliative care nursing leadership curricula, as well as taught and mentored current and future nursing and physician leaders throughout Eastern Europe, Kenya, and Asia. Malloy directed the California Endowment project for AACN to develop cultural competencies for undergraduate and graduate nursing students. She collaborated with the US Department of Veterans Affairs to develop the ELNEC-For Veterans curriculum, which was presented to over 500 nurses, representing every VA hospital. She serves on the Board of Directors of Living Room International—which provides hospice/palliative care services in Kipkaren, Kenya. Malloy is a Florence Wald Fellow, a Fellow in Palliative Care Nursing (FPCN), and the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). She was recently presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the MD Anderson Cancer Center.

**“Finally, remember not everything can be fixed. So learn to be present with people, to bear witness with them during the most vulnerable times of their life.”**

## FAST 5 WITH PAM

### What inspired you to become a nurse?

I always had dreams of being a nurse when I was a child. I would pretend all my dolls were sick and I was their nurse. I was around several severely ill people growing up and always saw the compassion in nurses caring for them. At the end of the day, I believed that nurses made a tremendous difference. Over my 45-year career, I have witnessed the impact of good nursing care. I have had the opportunity to be with patients and their families during times of great joy (birth of a new baby) and in times of great sorrow (death of a loved one). In either of those extremes, it was the nurse who was the constant presence—that was inspiring to me.

### What has your career path looked like?

I began as a staff nurse, working on a pediatric oncology unit. From there, I moved to a general surgical and oncology unit. After completing my MN, I was hired as an instructor for the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) program at UCLA for one year. I did not work for a few years while I was raising my young family, but eventually went back part-time and again worked as a staff nurse on a surgical oncology unit. From there, we moved to Washington, DC and I began work full-time at the George Washington University Hospital. I worked there for 12 years in various roles—staff nurse, oncology educator, and Director of Education. For the last 16 ½ years of my career, I worked at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) as Director and Co-Investigator of

(ELNEC) Project and Special Advisor on Global Affairs. It provided me with many opportunities to develop palliative care curriculum (i.e. ELNEC-For Veterans, ELNEC-For Oncology APRNs, etc.) and to work with a team of dedicated nurses to update each of the ELNEC curricula annually (ELNEC-Core, Pediatric, Geriatric, Critical Care, Undergraduate). I also had many opportunities to develop leadership curricula and to teach it in Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe.

### What was your biggest challenge in your nursing career?

As nurses, we are committed to providing excellent, compassionate, safe, patient/family-centered care. There were times when we envisioned better care, but administration did not always see things the way we did. Learning to negotiate, working with interprofessional teams, and yet staying true to our vision were always challenging. But over time, as you practice those skills, what was once challenging becomes a central part of your work and you find you can accomplish so much more without compromising your own beliefs.

### What is your proudest professional accomplishment?

Perhaps my proudest professional accomplishment was providing palliative care education not only to US nurses, but also nurses from 12 various countries around the world. Specifically, educating and assisting nurses in Africa (Kenya, Swaziland, and Uganda), Asia (China, Japan, Philippines, South Korea, etc.), and

Eastern Europe (Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, etc.) to develop their leadership skills in an effort to promote, provide, and sustain excellent palliative care to seriously ill patients and their families. To see them take their education and put it into practice, with such few resources, was always so inspiring to me.

### What is one piece of advice you'd like to give for future nurses?

Foremost piece of advice is to obtain a mentor and be a mentor. It's vital to find someone who is a little further down the road in their career, who has more experience and “lessons learned.” Mentors are invaluable and can assist us in thriving in our career. In addition, I would highly recommend taking good care of yourself. As a new graduate, you will hopefully have many years in the workforce. When you are at work, work hard. When you have time off, play hard. There has to be balance and boundaries in your life. Finally, remember not everything can be fixed. So learn to be present with people, to bear witness with them during the most vulnerable times of their lives. You, as the nurse, are the constant in your patient's lives. Take every opportunity to obtain more education (we can't practice what we don't know) and this helps us to practice more confidently. No other healthcare professional spends more time with patients than the nurse. So to maintain a healthy life for the wonderful road ahead, get a mentor, take opportunities to obtain more education, take good care of yourself, and be committed to listen and be with your patients.



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

### Dianne Fochtman

MN '71, Ph.D., CPNP, CPON, CHPPN

**“I am grateful to UCLA for giving me a strong foundation for my career in nursing.”**

**When Dianne started in the Master’s program at UCLA almost 50 years ago, she was a pediatric ICU nurse “because I thought maybe I liked pediatrics and the ICU was where they put me in the Children’s Hospital.” Pediatric nursing has since become a lifetime career for her.**

In 1971, she graduated as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) from UCLA with the tools she needed to choose a path where she could be most effective. After several months, it became clear that pediatric oncology was the area most in need of her talents — and that’s the work she did for 40 years. She went on to develop the CNS role in many settings including inpatient, clinic, and community settings for Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago, and later developed the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner role at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children in Honolulu and at Hospice Hawaii. She founded the Long Term Survivor Clinic for childhood cancer survivors both in Chicago and in Honolulu. In 2010, she received her Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii, Manoa, focusing her research on adolescents with cancer. Dianne is a certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Oncology Nurse, and Hospice and Palliative Pediatric Nurse. Dianne has volunteered in many roles to advance pediatric oncology nursing practice, including serving as President of the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses and Editor of the Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing. Her work in oncology influenced her choice to be a pediatric nurse practitioner in pediatric hospice for the final years of her career. Dianne has been honored with The Casey Hooke Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses in recognition of her excellence in service to and leadership of the association and the Dr. Nancy E. Kline Mentoring Award from the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses for her lifetime commitment toward the professional development of pediatric hematology/oncology nurses.

# FAST 5 WITH DIANNE

## What inspired you to become a nurse?

To be honest it was having my tonsils out at age 5. At the time there were not too many career options for women. The nurses who took care of me when I was a young child inspired me. That’s a good lesson for all of us. You never know who you might be inspiring (or discouraging) by your actions and attitudes. Throughout my career I was inspired by teachers and mentors like Dorothy Johnson and Judy Grubbs at UCLA and Dr. Marilyn McCubbin and Dr. Lois Magnussen at the University of Hawaii, and administrators like Audrey Short and Ken Zeri who believed in me and had faith in what I could accomplish. Most of all I have been inspired for over 50 years by the children and their families, including the siblings. They are, and always have been, the true inspiration in my life. My job was never just a “job” because they made each day a new adventure. I made mistakes but they taught me how I could pick myself up and do it better next time. They showed me what true courage and bravery are and shared with me their thoughts, feelings and fears going through the most traumatic time of their lives. They showed me how to just sit with grief, to listen or be silent, and to, in time, grow with love.

## What has your career path looked like?

My career path has certainly not been in a straight line. Although I have only worked in three organizations in my career, my path within each institution changed through the years. I could never have foreseen when I graduated

from nursing school in the ‘60’s where I am today. I have been fortunate that I’ve pretty much always loved what I was doing. My career at every stage has been rewarding. I have made learning a lifelong process.

## What was your biggest challenge in your nursing career?

It would be difficult to identify just one challenge. My nursing career spans 50+ years and the “biggest” has varied, depending on the stage. As a new nurse in Chicago, fresh out of a diploma program, I was assigned to a Pediatric ICU. I faced a huge challenge in trying to understand what I now would call the “mechanics” of intensive care nursing, learning high tech care for the very sick child. Wanting to learn more, I returned to school to obtain a bachelor’s degree in nursing. The challenge at that stage was in obtaining a BSN while still working full time. Choosing a graduate program for my Master’s was another challenge. As the PNP for oncology at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children I was again faced with the challenge of developing a role. Working with children with cancer throughout their disease and treatment, I felt that those children whose treatment “failed” them and their families were most in need a special kind of nursing care. From that perspective I accepted the challenge to start a Palliative Care Program at the hospital. After several years I decided that to really make a difference to dying children I needed more education. I returned to school at the University of Hawaii to obtain my Ph.D. in

nursing. Later I accepted the challenge to start the first Pediatric Hospice Program at Hospice Hawaii (now Navian). I hope that my career has made a difference for children with serious illnesses and their families.

## What is your proudest professional accomplishment?

I’m sure that too has varied at different stages of my career. Right now my proudest accomplishment is to have established a Pediatric Hospice program in the State of Hawaii. I wanted to make a difference for dying children in the state and I think I have.

## What is one piece of advice you’d like to give for future nurses?

It’s difficult to narrow it down to “one piece” of advice, but I guess I would say “be open and willing.” Be open to new pathways and goals, new ideas, new learning, new ways of doing things. Be willing to change. Follow your heart. Make learning a lifelong process. If one nursing role doesn’t fulfill you, try another one. There are so many exciting pathways in nursing that are open to you. Be open and willing to listen – to the voices of patients and families, to coworkers and bosses and friends, and most of all to your own heart.



## RISING BRUIN RECENT ALUMNI AWARD

### Zenith Khan

BS '14 / MSN '18

Family Nurse Practitioner,  
Translational Pulmonary and  
Immunology Research Center,  
Southern California Food  
Allergy Institute

#### In the words of her nominator:

When I think of nursing excellence, I think of Zenith. I will never forget the first day I walked into N464 Pediatric Nursing and was greeted by the TA Zenith. She created such a warm and welcoming environment for myself and other students within the class, and provided such a conducive learning environment. She went above and beyond for myself and my classmates. I will never forget when Zenith said "I really want you all to learn and practice these skills and knowledge learned, I struggled with skills as a new grad and I am going to make sure you don't." This kind of concern for my knowledge and skills quickly told me that she truly cared about my learning and my future. She taught me to think beyond the patient and see the person behind the term "patient." Zenith is compassionate for all individuals regardless of socioeconomic status or other factors. She acts ethically, is highly skilled, and has a positive attitude that is unmatched. Zenith personifies a Rising Bruin both in the classroom and outside of the classroom.

**"...I struggled with skills as a new grad and I am going to make sure you don't."**

## GOLDEN BRUIN STAFF AWARD

### Michelle Aranda

Senior Contracts & Grants Analyst



Michelle Aranda is the Senior Contracts & Grants Analyst for the UCLA School of Nursing and has served at UCLA in various roles for 10 years, and in her current role with the School of Nursing for five years. Her areas of expertise include contracts and grants management,

program management, financial management, data collection and management, and biostatistics and epidemiology. While her primary responsibilities lie with the faculty, and the execution of their projects, she frequently engages with other external and internal stakeholders. She demonstrates great dedication and passion for supporting our nursing students, alumni, patients, the UCLA community and overall nursing community. Michelle led and maintained the grants and contracts functions within the school for over two years when the School had no Associate Dean for Research (ADR). She supported the other fund managers and faculty with grant submissions. As a result of Michelle's leadership and communication skills, she was promoted in November. Since that time, Michelle's responsibilities have increased to include support to the ADR and Faculty Research and Professional Scholarship Committee (FRPSC). Through all of these transitions, she remains cheerful, professional, and exhibits advanced interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence, and is highly deserving of this prestigious award.

#### What inspires you in the work that you do at the School of Nursing?

The people at the School of Nursing inspire me in the work I do as the contracts and grants manager. From proposal preparation, award management, to serving as a resource for The Office of Research and Innovation (ORI), I am able to engage and work with the faculty, staff and students every day in different capacities. Engaging with faculty and students has enabled me to understand their research but also get to know them more on a personal level. Additionally, my family inspires me. My husband and I instill the value of hard work and perseverance in our boys and all of this is possible when you have good people around you. It truly is the people who make a difference in the workplace and I can honestly say that this is true here.

### Willie Dawson

Finance Manager



Willie Dawson is the finance manager in the School's business office. His career began in September 2008 in the Administrative Support Office. In 2010 he accepted a position in the Business Office and has worked in this capacity for nearly a decade. He

works closely with our finance manager to assure that the school's budget is balanced and accurate. This involves frequent interaction with the dean and with the campus. Additionally, he has managed all of the finances for the School of Nursing Health Center at Union Rescue Mission. He was recognized by our funding agency Northeast Valley for his outstanding work. This year, Willie showed exemplary performance with the transition of the Health Center to Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. This required him to go above and beyond his responsibilities as finance manager. The demand on Willie's time was significant. He knew the transition would reflect on the school therefore he worked very hard to make sure everything was done right and on time. Willie rose to the occasion. He is well deserving of this prestigious award.

#### What inspires you in the work that you do at the School of Nursing?

My work has always been inspired by the fact that the people in the School treat each other like family. Everyone genuinely cares about each other both personally and professionally. I started working for the School of Nursing at such a young age, so I've had the opportunity to share many of my life's major milestones with my SON colleagues. Nothing has been more touching than the outpouring of love, support and joy shared by my colleagues when my wife and I announced that we were expecting our first child, Arielle Rose Dawson. Now my daughter is my life inspiration.

# ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP APPRECIATION LUNCH



The Annual Scholarship Appreciation Lunch recognizes our generous scholarship donors and honorees, and celebrates the deserving student recipients. We are grateful to our alumni and friends who help our students enter the nursing workforce able to take on opportunities based not only on salary considerations, but also on their skills and passions.

This year we recognized three new permanently endowed scholarships: The Jeanne C. Mayer Centennial Scholarship in Nursing, established by the Herbert R. and Jeanne C. Mayer Foundation; The Janice M. Roper Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Nursing, established by Rachel P. Parker and Timothy B. Parker; and the Suzanne F. Ward & Paul H. Ward Fellowship in Nursing, established by Suzanne F. Ward MN '85.

We also recognized two new annually funded scholarships: The Kyle Krepistman MECN Excellence Scholarship in Nursing, established by Mike and Lorri Krepistman, Lecturer Barbara Demman and family and friends; and The Liz Resnick Memorial Scholarship in Nursing, established by Jan Nash, family and friends.

Jolene Tan Smeltzer, third year Ph.D. in Nursing Science, 2020 recipient of the Dean Linda Sarna Doctoral Fellowship, shared her personal story:

*As a nurse scientist in training, I, like many of you, would not be here today if it were not for the encouragement from our beloved educators. To name a few, UCLA faculty mentors such as Dr. Janet Mentes and Dr. Linda Phillips (emerita) encouraged me to take a step beyond my role in the ICU as an entry level masters prepared nurse, to utilize my scientific inquisitiveness to advance the field of nursing research.*

*Prior to the Ph.D. program at UCLA, my involvement as an Albert Schweitzer Fellow nurse allowed me to partner with community-based organizations to implement projects that improved the postpartum health of minority women in South LA. Continuing with the interest of helping improve the health of the community, through my Ph.D. research I aim to determine the underlying causes and problems of poor dietary self-care management among Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus patients. Through brain imaging, I hope to understand why diabetics are unable to adhere to their diet regimens and determine if tissue damage in certain areas of their brain are associated with impulsiveness or food addiction similar to that of patients with alcohol or drug addictions.*

*Thank you to the faculty, supporters of higher education, and the generous donors to the UCLA School of Nursing. Because of your support, I am able to advocate for underserved communities through research.*



1. The Dr. Linda Sarna Doctoral Fellowship in Nursing: L-R, Dean Sarna; Jolene Smeltzer, Ph.D. 2. The Benson Family Fellowship: L-R, Merry Conserman, APRN; Karishma Gounder, APRN; Roxanne Abella, APRN; Ayomidamope Adebijoye, APRN; Joosun Shin, APRN. 3. UCPLA Deborah Rasmussen Scholarship: L-R, Peter Shapiro, Donor; Deborah Rasmussen, Donor; Lindsey Nicholson, APRN. 4. Shapiro Family Dean's Discretionary Fund: L-R, Joosun Shin, APRN; Cheryl Le Huquet, DNP; Peter Shapiro, Donor; Sarah Alkhaifi, Ph.D. 5. Crystal Heart Presented to Suzanne Ward for establishing a new scholarship: Suzanne F. Ward & Paul H. Ward Fellowship in Nursing: L-R, Suzanne Ward, MN '85; Dean Sarna. 6. The Florence C. Anderson Fellowship in Nursing: L-R, Joosun Shin, APRN; Jonas Obispo, APRN; Stephanie Busby, MECN; Nicole Balenton, MECN; Devon Black, MECN; Kayla Beland, MECN; Fajer Al-Najjar, MECN; Patricia Aggabao, MECN, Stephanie Cortes, MECN.



# SCHOLARSHIPS »



## THE JANICE M. ROPER ENDOWED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

—by Bekah Wright

The Janice M. Roper Endowed Memorial Scholarship was established by Rachel Parker and her husband Tim to honor Roper's passion for education and her nursing career. The scholarship will support pre-licensure students in the Bachelor of Science or Masters Entry Clinical Nursing programs, and Advanced Practice RN students. Its mission: to encourage nursing students, especially those from rural communities—like Roper, and those with an interest in diabetes care—a tribute to Roper's granddaughter, who has type 1 diabetes.

**Janice M. Roper grew up in the rural town of Booneville, Iowa with her brother and three sisters.**

"It was a hard scrabble life," her daughter Rachel Parker recalls. "There are photographs of the girls as toddlers wearing dresses made from flour sacks." Though Roper's father coped with limited mobility, the family ran a farm and a little store. Her mother worked for the post office.

Booneville had a one-room schoolhouse with only three children in Roper's grade. "Despite that modest start, when she graduated from the eighth grade, she had the highest grades in Dallas County," Parker says. "When she graduated from Van Meter High School, she was valedictorian of the class."



Post-graduation, Roper received her RN from Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines. Added to the mix: Roper got married, became a mother of two, moved to Hawaii, and then, in 1963, to Los Angeles. In LA, she became a floor nurse at the Veterans Administration (VA), a position that would ultimately shape her future. The sage words from the VA staff – to advance her career, she'd need a bachelor's of science degree – led Roper to attain her bachelors. It was in 1970 when Janice landed at UCLA, where she earned her Masters of Nursing with a focus on psychology. "She was working with vets who'd come back from Vietnam with PTSD [post-traumatic stress syndrome]," Parker says of Roper's specialization. "Learning about caring for

people with trauma disorders was important to her." Something Roper did at the VA, all the while moving up the ranks over her 45-year tenure.

The drive to continue her education saw Roper back at UCLA, earning her Ph.D. in social anthropology. Her upbringing had ingrained an interest in how rural communities cared for their sick, leading to a focus on medical practices in traditional farming and Native American communities in California. A book sprang from these studies, *Ethnography in Nursing Research*, co-authored with Jill Shapira.

Teaching was a natural foray for Roper, who took to the lectern at the UCLA School of Nursing. Eventually, Roper retired — something she wasn't quite ready to embrace. "There's more in me," she told Parker. "I want to help young nurses understand their careers."

An opportunity arose through a nursing program in Long Beach where students from less developed countries in Asia and the Middle East learned American nursing practices, including how to navigate their careers back in their home countries.

As she reflected on her life, Roper often told her kids she'd "done pretty good for a little girl from a little town in Iowa." Parker's thoughts, "We think so, too."

After Roper passed away from Alzheimer's, her family knew her desire to help nurses should continue. "Education, to her, was a way to improve your life and be an active member of society," Parker says. Something Roper's family hopes the scholarship will help continue for other nurses.



## THE JEANNE C. MAYER CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING

—by Bekah Wright

The Jeanne C. Mayer Centennial Scholarship in Nursing was established by the Mayer Foundation to support undergraduate students at UCLA School of Nursing.

**Some people just make an entrance. Such was the case with Jeanne C. Mayer, especially when wearing outfits like her elegant, floor-length, long-sleeve Pucci dress and matching turban.** "Most couldn't pull that off, but she would wear it and look so stunning," her granddaughter Sarah Kalter says. Yes, Mayer had a deep love of fashion, culture, art and...nurses.

The Kentucky native became a registered nurse, a role of which she was extremely proud. She loved everything about the career: from the camaraderie with fellow nurses to swapping jokes with physicians. "Her whole life she had a kind, thoughtful and caring nature," Kalter says. "I think that early foundation in nursing is part of where that came from."

Jeanne married Herbert R. Mayer, and the couple lived in Cincinnati, Ohio for a bit. Then, following a dream, they moved cross-country to California, Kalter's seven-year-old mother in tow. "They found a house they fell in love with in Sherman Oaks," Kalter says. "They lived there until their deaths – it was a place they cherished."

A descriptor that pops up often when hearing about Mayer is "lifelong learner." She delighted in working as a docent at the La Brea Tar Pits, especially when her grandchildren's elementary school classes visited on field trips. "She'd give an amazing tour, then have candies for everybody at the end," Kalter says. "She had this amazing way of making everything feel special."

UCLA was another place where Mayer exercised this love of learning, joining the university's PLATO Society: Partners in Learning Actively Teaching Ourselves.

Mayer relished the lectures and academic programs, especially as the organization's objective was in keeping with her own passions. "She just had an intellectual and cultural curiosity that stuck with her throughout her life," Kalter says.

A love of UCLA was something Mayer shared with Herbert, who was a board member at UCLA. Kalter remembers, "They always had tremendous respect for the school."

At the end of her life, Mayer developed Alzheimer's. Still, Kalter says, "I never saw her before that without full makeup, high heels and dressed to the nines." Jeanne passed away on March 29, 2011.

"My grandfather thought the sun rose and set on her shoulders," Kalter says. "Losing her was really hard for him."

Herbert Mayer was determined to honor his late wife. "Because she was such a lifelong learner, valued education so deeply and was proud of her time as a registered nurse, we felt that a scholarship in her name was a wonderful way for her memory to live on," Kalter says, "for her to give other students a chance to pursue a nursing career."

"It was a privilege to know her, it was a privilege to be loved by her," Kalter says. "It's a privilege to allow her memory to live on."





# NIGHT WITH 9 NURSES

Pre-COVID-19:  
Pam Malloy hosting a Night with Nine Nurses at the UCLA School of Nursing Factor Building



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you want to make a difference for our nursing students, but 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. These events are casual and can be hosted on Zoom. As an alumnus of our School, you are a valuable source of knowledge to our students and can greatly help them in their career journey. If you have questions, please reach out to Jonathan Adrias at [jadrias@sonnet.ucla.edu](mailto:jadrias@sonnet.ucla.edu).

*“It was really a fun and unique experience to share food and thoughts with such an intelligent group of young people interested in the future of health care delivery. They came from such varied backgrounds, but were so obviously connected to each other based on their four years of undergraduate experience. It was a refreshing evening that gave me such optimism about the next generation of nurses entering the workforce. It made me SO proud to call myself a Bruin alumnus!” - Alumni Host*

## IN MEMORIAM

### Kyle Krepistman, MSN '14

1987-2019

— by Bekah Wright



“I think we’re from the same tribe.” This is often how Kyle Krepistman would welcome others into his life.

“He had this capacity to truly see and hear people,” said Barbara Demman, a lecturer at the School. The 32-year-old, Orange County native drew people in with his warmth and open heart. His academic path took him to Cal State Dominguez Hills, where he earned his undergraduate

degree. From there, he headed to UCLA as a Masters Entry Clinical Nurse student (MECN), and then to Cal State Long Beach garnering an Advanced Practice Nursing degree with a neurology specialization.

It was through the MECN program that Kyle met Demman, one of his professors. Post-graduation, he would guest lecture in Demman’s class. “He became a role model for students,” Demman says, “with his encouraging words of, ‘this is where you can be in four years.’”

What Kyle was referring to was his post-education journey. After completing his education, he was hired by Kaiser Downey as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner/Stroke Coordinator in the neurology department. “He was a pioneer there,” Demman says. Indeed, Kyle’s work at Kaiser Downey saw him earning the International Stroke Conference Award of Excellence.

Supporting nurses was another driving force for Kyle. “He strived to speak for the unspoken,” Demman says. “As an advocate and change agent, it was appealing to him to implement protocols that would help a lot of people.”

Kyle also “paid it forward” as a mentor, especially to nursing students coming up the ranks. This is one impetus behind the Kyle Krepistman MECN Excellence Scholarship in Nursing. The scholarship benefits a second-year MECN student with a goal of decreasing financial burden. “It was very important to Kyle to always reflect, be present, learn and grow,” Demman says. “This scholarship opens the door for that.” And invites yet another member into Kyle’s tribe.

To support the Kyle Krepistman MECN Excellence Scholarship in Nursing, please visit [giving.ucla.edu/Krepistman](http://giving.ucla.edu/Krepistman) or contact Jonathan Adrias at [jadrias@sonnet.ucla.edu](mailto:jadrias@sonnet.ucla.edu) or (310) 983-1140.

# WHY I GIVE

**UCLA SON Alumna Catherine M. Gabster, MSN, NP, CNS, RN gives to honor her brother, Dr. Alan Gabster**

Cathy Gabster, MSN '07, taught master’s students at the School. She notes: “The UCLA School of Nursing made a big change in my life by enhancing my career in nursing, for which I will always be grateful. Being part of the larger Bruin community has been enriching as well. Alan Gabster, my older brother, passed away in November 2010. He was a retired cardiologist who volunteered setting up and supporting medical outreach clinics and yearly conferences in Panama that continue today. Contributing to the UCLA School of Nursing in his memory allows me to connect great memories of the many people who have been important to me there. I know he would approve and laugh at the same time, remembering the stories we shared about doctors and nurses.”



Dr. Alan Gabster

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) leadership team and the Council on DEI of the School of Nursing have sponsored activities and shared information that addresses racial unrest and promotes equity. Here are a few of the events the School of Nursing has hosted over the past several months:

### Open Forum Series

A series of three “*Caring and Sharing Amid Racial Tensions Open Forums*” were sponsored by the Council over the summer. These forums provided an opportunity for students in the school to share their personal experiences with racism, receive support from peers and Council members and recommend approaches to promote racial equity within the school.

### Asian Pacific Islander Health Care Providers on the Front Lines, So Why the Hate?

was sponsored by the School of Nursing in collaboration with UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Four panelists discussed Anti-Asian Racism in relation to COVID-19 and shared their personal experiences as health care providers and experts on social determinants of health inequities among racial minorities and Asian Pacific Policy. To watch the recording of this event, please click here.

### Health Disparities and Covid-19: Stories from Alumni on the Front Lines

Sponsored by the Council on DEI and the school’s Office of Alumni Relations on **Oct 6, 2020**, this event featured four alumni from different SON programs discussing their nursing experiences and health disparities in the context of COVID-19. The panelists also shared ideas on how to promote health equity in the future. Attendees included School of Nursing alumni, current students, faculty, staff and nurses employed at UCLA Health.

#### Moderated by Dr. Kia Skrine Jeffers, the panelists:

Benjamin Cioppa, (MSN 2019, Clinical Nurse II Emergency Dept, UCLA Health-SM)

Jamaris Hunt, (MSN 2018, MECN, RN at US Dept of Veteran Affairs in West LA)

Harold Sarmiento, (MSN 2016), Clinical Nurse II Emergency Dept, UCLA Health-SM)

Soraya Setarah, (MSN '19) MECN, Acute Care Float RN, Providence St John’s Health Center, SM)



**UCLA Four Health School Initiative**, The Fielding School of Public Health, the David Geffen School of Medicine, the UCLA Schools of Nursing and Dentistry have developed a curriculum addressing anti-blackness for students, staff and faculty. The goal is to champion a cultural shift within the health sciences community (students, staff, faculty) that dismantles systemic racism and provides affirming educational and social spaces for black, Indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC). The curriculum will feature current texts, such as Ibram Kendi’s ‘How To Be An Antiracist’ and others.



### University of California Health Sciences Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force

Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Deborah Koniak-Griffin represented the School of Nursing as a member of the University of California Health Sciences Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. The charge for this group was to identify effective and inclusive policies, practices, and/or assessments that aim to improve diversity, equity, inclusion and campus climate; increase accountability; and create opportunities to share best practices across all UC health professional schools.

### UCLA SCHOOL OF NURSING ADMINISTRATION

**Linda Sarna, Ph.D., RN, FAAN**  
Dean

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

**Lynn V. Doering, Ph.D., RN, FAAN**  
Associate Dean, Academic and Student Affairs

**Deborah Koniak-Griffin, EdD, RNC, FAAN**  
Associate Dean, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

**Karen Grimley, Ph.D., MBA, RN, FACHE**  
Chief Nurse Executive, UCLA Health, Assistant Dean

**Sheila Davis, BA**  
Asst. Dean Administration, HR Director

**Wendy Robbins, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, FAAOHN**  
Program Director, Doctoral Programs

**Nancy Jo Bush, DNP, RN, MA, AOCN, FAAN**  
Director DNP Program

**Mary Cadogan, Dr.PH, GNP-BC, FAAN, FGSA**  
Program Director, Advanced Practice

**John Lazar, Ph.D., FNP-BC, RN**  
Assistant Program Director, Advanced Practice

**Anita Bralock, Ph.D., RN, CNM**  
Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Program Director, Prelicensure Programs

**Emma Cuenca, DNP, RN, CCRN, CSC, CNS**  
Assistant Program Director, Prelicensure

**Mark Covin, MPA**  
Director, Recruitment, Outreach and Admissions

**Mary Ann Shinnick, Ph.D., ACNP, CNS, CHSE**  
Director of Simulation

**Shelli Shepherd, MA**  
Director, Student Services

**Editor**  
Kevin Tyler

**Contributing Writers**  
Jonathan Adrias, Amy Drizhal, Wendy Li,  
Nancy Steiner, Laura Perry, Bekah Wright, Jean Mer

**Photography**  
Chris Flynn Photography, pages 8-19, all others  
courtesy of UCLA School of Nursing.

**Art Direction and Design**  
Maria Bucaro

# Let there be above and beyond

**The Centennial Campaign for UCLA, a fundraising effort leading up to and concluding during the university's 100th year, closed with great success on December 31, 2019.**

Generous philanthropists from all over the world stepped up, giving gifts of all sizes to help UCLA pass the \$4.2 billion goal 18 months ahead of schedule and go on to raise a total of more than \$5 billion to support the university's mission of education, research, and service.

The campaign enabled the School of Nursing to significantly increase the number endowed funds, including two fellowships, eight scholarships, three program support funds, and its first endowed faculty chair in more than 20 years. Generous and passionate donors enabled the school to educate nurses to provide care for patients from diverse backgrounds, conduct important research to improve care across the lifespan, and lead efforts to strengthen nursing practice globally. The school celebrated its 70th anniversary alongside UCLA's centennial, enhancing its space with exhibits and artwork depicting school history and influential research. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts!

**Please visit the [UCLA School of Nursing YouTube channel](#) (link from our website at [nursing.ucla.edu](http://nursing.ucla.edu)) to watch an inspiring story about nursing student **Yuliana Estrada** who received funding through one of the Centennial Scholarships established during the campaign.**

You can read other stories highlighting the impact of campaign philanthropy at the School of Nursing at [lettherebe.ucla.edu/schools/school-of-nursing/](http://lettherebe.ucla.edu/schools/school-of-nursing/).

