

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

NURSING

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UCLA Joe C. Wen
School of Nursing



WELCOME

A Message from the Dean



Welcome to this special UCLA Nursing publication celebrating a defining moment in the life of our school. As you turn these pages, you will see stories that reflect not only where we are today, but how far we have come together over the past several years, and the bold future we are building.

Our school has experienced remarkable growth and momentum. Guided by a shared commitment to excellence, our community has expanded its impact across education, research, clinical practice, and service. We have strengthened academic programs, deepened interdisciplinary collaboration, and elevated our contributions to advancing health and improving outcomes for individuals, families, and communities. None of this progress would have been possible without the dedication of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners, whose collective energy continues to shape who we are.

One of the most transformational milestones in our 77-year history is featured prominently in this issue: the extraordinary \$30 million philanthropic commitment that established the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing. This historic investment represents a powerful vote of confidence in our mission and our future. It will allow us to accelerate innovation, expand

opportunities for students, support cutting-edge research, and further strengthen our role as a leader in nursing education. More than the naming, this gift affirms a vision of what nursing can accomplish when innovation, leadership, and excellence come together.

As you will see throughout this issue, our accomplishments extend well beyond any single initiative. From new programs and partnerships to impactful research and community engagement, the last five years have been a period of purposeful expansion grounded in nursing's core values of humanity, integrity, and compassion. Our students, faculty, and alumni continue to inspire us through their leadership and service across healthcare settings, locally and globally.

This moment is both a celebration and an inflection point. What we have accomplished here reflects a school that is confident in its foundation, energized by opportunity, and united by a shared belief in the power of nursing to change lives.

Thank you for being part of our story – and for helping to shape the future of the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing.

With appreciation and Bruin pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lin Zhan', written in a cursive style.

Lin Zhan, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean & Professor

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The Joe C. Wen School of Nursing acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva Peoples as the traditional caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and So. Channel Islands).

As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), 'Ahihirom (Elders) and 'Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.

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An Era of Achievement

The last five years have been a period of remarkable growth and achievement for the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing, culminating in the transformative gift that gave the school its new name (see page 6). Following are some of the highlights:



Education

The school launched the Post BSN-DNP program, bringing UCLA Nursing in line with national standards endorsed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The three-year program provides a pathway for post-baccalaureate nurses who desire the role of nurse practitioner with doctoral-level knowledge and skills. Students can choose from four specialties: Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, and Pediatric Dual Primary/Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.

UCLA Nursing undertook a curricular review process, resulting in partial or full curriculum revisions across all programs. This included an update of the BS, MECN, and Post BSN-DNP curricula

to align with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education*, a landmark framework that shifted nursing education from a knowledge-based to a Competency-Based Education model. The school also finalized PhD curriculum revisions.

The school paved the way for simulation lab work for UCLA Nursing students in Rosenfeld Hall, a recently expanded facility that consolidates the latest technology under one roof to enhance continuous training for future healthcare professionals. Rosenfeld Hall houses simulation training programs in partnerships with the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing, the UCLA Health Center for Nursing Excellence, and the UCLA Center for Prehospital Care.

Research

The school sustained impressive growth in its research portfolio. In the three years from FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25, grant dollars increased by more than 40%.



Faculty

The UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing recruited and hired more than a dozen faculty members, with a 12% overall increase in faculty from 2020 to the present.

Five UCLA Nursing faculty members have been inducted as American Academy of Nursing Fellows since 2021, adding to UCLA Nursing's total of more than a dozen AAN Fellows. Since 2021, FAAN recipients have included Dr. Kristen R. Choi, associate professor and Audrienne H. Moseley Chair in Nursing; Dr. Sarah E. Choi, professor; Dr. K. David Bailey, assistant adjunct professor and chief nursing officer for UCLA-Santa Monica Medical Center; Dr. Karen Grimley, UCLA Nursing assistant dean and UCLA Health chief nursing executive; and Dr. Mary Rezk-Hanna, associate professor.



Practice Partnership

The school forged a strong and fruitful partnership with UCLA Health, designing a model that uses integration, collaboration, and synergies to promote health

equity, innovation, and excellence. The partnership is in line with a national push, spearheaded by the American Organization for Nursing Leadership and American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The organizations identified five domains as part of their shared vision for integrating nursing education and practice: striving toward health equity, moving to competency-based nursing education, sustaining the supply of highly educated nurses, leading innovation to maximize nursing’s impact, and ensuring continuous advancement of nursing.



Global Collaboration

The school continued to increase its global footprint, with international collaborations stretching to Europe, Africa and Asia. The UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing fosters international partnerships to advance education, research, and evidence-based practice, featuring memoranda of understandings (MOUs) with institutions in Armenia, Austria, Cameroon, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malawi, the Philippines, South Korea, Spain, and Turkey. Collaborations most recently finalized include the University of Tokyo (School of Medicine), Yonsei University School of Nursing (South Korea), and China Medical University (Nursing), with new MOUs currently in final negotiation with the University of Indonesia and the National University of Singapore (Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies/ Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine).



Hosting Leaders

UCLA Nursing hosted U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough, as well as numerous international nursing leaders. Secretary McDonough met with UCLA Nursing students, veterans, faculty, and staff to discuss nursing opportunities at the VA and the challenges facing student veterans and nurses.

Development

In 2025-26, the school had the single

highest fundraising year in its history. Under Dean Lin Zhan, gifts and pledges have totaled nearly one-third of the all-time philanthropy going to UCLA Nursing. The last year included the largest commitment made by an individual donor — the \$30 million commitment from Joe C. Wen and his family that renamed the school — as well as the largest commitment ever made by a UCLA Nursing graduate, from Linda Gorman (MN ’77). The school has set a record for alumni giving during Zhan’s deanship, including the first endowed chair established by a UCLA Nursing alum. ●





“My family joins me in this commitment to support the UCLA School of Nursing’s mission to strengthen excellence in education and the healthcare system.”

— Joe C. Wen

TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT USHERS IN A NEW ERA

With a \$30 million commitment from Joe C. Wen and his family, the UCLA School of Nursing has a new name, and is poised to soar to greater heights.



↑ Joe C. Wen (second from right) with his son Alexander Wen (left), daughter April Wen (right), and UCLA Nursing Dean Lin Zhan.

The largest philanthropic commitment in the UCLA School of Nursing's history has set the stage for an era of unprecedented growth for the school in education, research, and practice.

A \$30 million commitment from UCLA alumnus and entrepreneur Joe C. Wen and his family will support the school's four educational programs, expand its innovative research, and ensure UCLA's role in meeting the healthcare needs of California and the nation. In recognition of the transformative investment, the school has been renamed the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing, making it the first UCLA school named for an Asian American.

"Nurses are the backbone of healthcare. In the span of our lives, a nurse is often the first and last person we see, a constant presence in our most vulnerable moments," said UCLA Chancellor Julio Frenk, a globally renowned scholar and champion of public health. "This extraordinary gift from Joe C. Wen and his family honors that vital role. As we approach the one-year anniversary of this visionary commitment, our priority is ensuring the continued strength, reputation, and long-term impact of the school."

"I am profoundly grateful to Joe and his family for understanding the value of nursing with this transformative gift," said UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing Dean Lin Zhan. "This historic and visionary investment enables us to continue our legacy of innovation, leadership, and excellence; to prepare exceptional nurses and leaders across healthcare ecosystems; and to elevate the school to fulfill our mission and goals."

Wen immigrated with his family from Taiwan to the United States as a teenager. While working to help his family and pay his tuition, he earned a bachelor's degree in economics from UCLA and then an MBA from USC before launching his first business — a paper trading company — in 2003. That business evolved into Formosa Ltd., now a multinational enterprise with holdings across several industries.

According to Wen, it was his parents who taught him the importance of giving back. Wen and his family, who reside in Orange County, are prolific donors to the University of California, as well as avid supporters of UC's health system.

"My family joins me in this commitment to support the UCLA School of Nursing's



mission to strengthen excellence in education and the healthcare system," Wen said. "This transformational gift will help create a global academic research powerhouse and think tank for future nursing leaders, and I am honored to support this great cause."

The historic gift will bolster the programs of a school that was already on an upward trajectory. Nearly 500 students enroll each year in the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing — from prelicensure baccalaureate students seeking entry-level professional nursing practice to those pursuing doctoral degrees in advanced nursing practice and research. As the first undergraduate nursing program

↑ From left to right: Bachelor of Science in Nursing students Ashlyn Brook, Vanessa Martinez, Nathaniel De Francia, and Fiona O'Donovan, pictured with the new UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing signage.

west of the Mississippi and the first in California to confer a Master of Science in Nursing degree, the school has a proud legacy of leadership and innovation, with a robust research enterprise. Recognized for educating nurse leaders, the school actively works to address the national nursing shortage by preparing graduates to lead across diverse settings, drive innovation, improve patient care, and transform healthcare from hospital systems to national policy arenas.

“NURSES ARE THE BACKBONE OF HEALTHCARE. THIS EXTRAORDINARY GIFT ... HONORS THAT VITAL ROLE.”

– Chancellor Julio Frenk

The school is strongly committed to community engagement to improve health, wellness, quality of life and nursing care for people locally and around the world. Nursing students and faculty regularly serve throughout Los Angeles, providing free health-care to unhoused and underserved populations through initiatives such as UCLA Health's Homeless Healthcare Collaborative and service at the non-profit Care Harbor. Internationally, the school maintains cooperative academic and research programs with institutions across Asia, Africa, and Europe.

The UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing will also continue to maintain a collaborative partnership with UCLA Health, which employs nearly 6,000 nurses across California and plays a key role in developing qualified nurses who are knowledgeable in evidence-based, technology-enabled, patient-centered care.

Last October, the school held a retreat with more than 40 faculty, staff, and students to identify strategic priorities in light of the transformative gift. The focus was on the school's pillars: deepening community engagement; leading in research and science; developing sustainable and innovative educational programs; sustaining and generating new resources; and building a culture that enhances inclusivity in education, research, and service/practice. Areas identified as targets for strategic funding included upgrades to the school's teaching facilities, investment in intramural research grants, support of student scholarships, and more.

The school also held an event celebrating the start of a new era as the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing, with more than 100 UCLA Nursing faculty, staff, students, UCLA leadership, alumni, community partners, and supporters



↑ Raising a toast to a new era: Joe C. Wen, with daughter April and son Alexander, at the celebration event.

gathering at the UCLA Luskin Conference Center. Attendees had the opportunity to connect directly with Wen and his family — sharing their thanks for their support and insight into the work they do as educators and researchers.

"Our entire nursing community is immensely grateful to Joe and his family for this historic support of nursing," Zhan told the attendees. "We are thrilled to have gathered with Joe; two of his children, April and Alexander; and our entire nursing community to celebrate his gift and thank him for uplifting nursing education and the profession. It is inspiring to know that he, and many others, deeply value the work we do as nurses and the

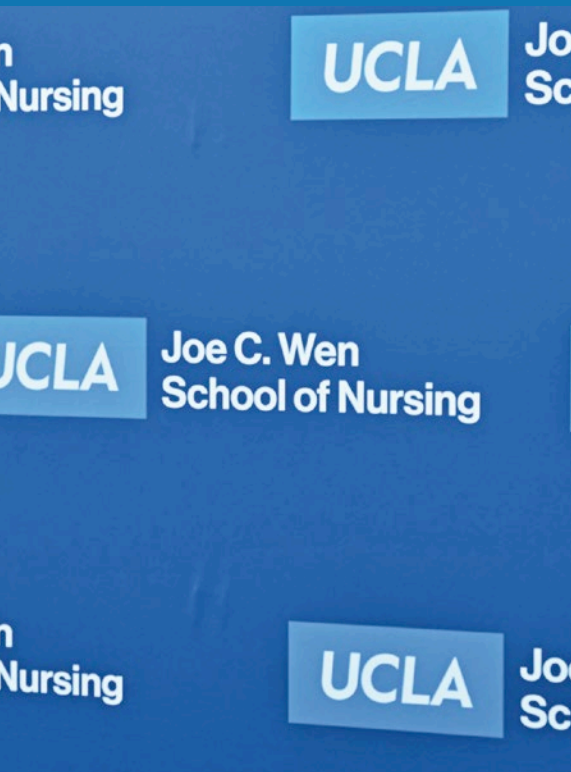
impact we make as nursing educators.

"This historic and visionary investment enables us to continue our legacy of innovation, leadership and excellence; to prepare exceptional nurses and leaders across healthcare ecosystems; and to elevate the school to fulfill our mission and goals." ●

“OUR ENTIRE NURSING COMMUNITY IS IMMENSELY GRATEFUL TO JOE AND HIS FAMILY FOR THIS HISTORIC SUPPORT OF NURSING.”

– Dean Lin Zhan





↑ From left to right: Alexander Wen, April Wen, UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing Dean Lin Zhan, Joe C. Wen, UCLA Health President Johnese Spisso, and Assistant Dean and UCLA Health Chief Nursing Executive Karen Grimley.

New Faculty Expand on School's Areas of Excellence in Teaching, Research and Practice

The UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing faculty has been bolstered by the addition of six new members, each of whom brings new strengths to the school.



Gerardo Flores, PhD, RN, MSN, MSK, joins UCLA Nursing as an assistant teaching professor. Flores earned his Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology/Spanish at California State University, Fullerton; his Master of Science in Kinesiology at California State University, Fullerton, specializing in Gero-Kinesiology; and a second master's degree, in nursing at UCLA. He was awarded his PhD in Nursing at UCLA in 2021. Flores' teaching experience has included nursing clinical skills lab, medical-surgical nursing theory, and clinical practicums for prelicensure students.

“I’m excited to be part of a school that values high standards in teaching, meaningful scholarship, and the preparation of future nurse leaders.”

“What drew me to the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing was its commitment to inclusive excellence in nursing education, its collaborative community, and its dedication to preparing students to serve a wide range of patients and communities with skill, humility, responsibility, selflessness, and integrity,” Flores says. “I’m excited to be part of a school that values high standards in teaching, meaningful scholarship, and the preparation of future nurse leaders.”



Kamala Gipson-McElroy, DNP, APRN, PHN, CPNP-PC, who has joined the faculty as an assistant teaching professor, is a board-certified pediatric primary care nurse practitioner whose scholarship focuses on pediatric primary care education, advanced practice provider

“I look forward to collaborating with faculty and students to advance pediatric nursing education and improve outcomes for children and families.”

workforce development, and leadership in pediatric health systems. Prior to joining UCLA, she served in executive advanced practice leadership at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, where she led clinical practice, workforce development, and integration for more than 200 nurse practitioners and physician assistants across over 50 pediatric subspecialties.

Gipson-McElroy is passionate about preparing the next generation of pediatric nurse practitioners through clinically grounded teaching, leadership development, and innovative approaches to advanced practice nursing education. "I was drawn to UCLA Nursing because of its longstanding commitment to excellence in nursing education, innovation, and impact across diverse communities," Gipson-McElroy says. "My clinical and leadership experience in pediatric healthcare has shaped my commitment to preparing pediatric nurse practitioners who are not only clinically competent, but innovative and grounded in pediatric evidence-based practice. I am excited to contribute to the preparation of pediatric nurse practitioners through clinically rigorous, practice-ready education that emphasizes diagnostic reasoning, comprehensive assessment, and thoughtful clinical decision-making. I look forward to collaborating with faculty and students to advance pediatric nursing education and improve outcomes for children and families."



Stacey Green, DNP, AOCNP, GNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, is a nurse practitioner who is board-certified in geriatrics, oncology, and psychiatry. In addition to working

“There is a huge need for mental health providers. This role allows me to help fill that need.”

for the past 20 years as an APRN in a diverse range of practices — including geriatrics, infectious disease, oncology, neurology, and psychiatry — she has served as a clinical liaison, lecturer, and assistant professor with UCLA Nursing's Adult Gerontology Acute Care APRN program since 2010.

In 2024, Green became the first teaching professor appointed at UCLA Nursing. While she has taught across academic programs, including primary and acute care, she currently serves as campus lead for the UC Post-Master's Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program, a collaboration among the four UC nursing campuses enabled by a grant Green was awarded from the California Department of Health Care Access and Information.

“Forty percent of Californians live in a mental health care provider shortage area,” Green says. “There is a huge need for mental health providers. This role allows me to help fill that need, engage in scholarship, and share the passion for nursing that the faculty instilled in me. I'm committed to fostering growth in my students and helping them continue UCLA's legacy of excellence in nursing. I hope to inspire them to come back and pay it forward.”

Ian W. Holloway, PhD, LCSW, MPH, is a professor and director of research at the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing whose applied behavioral health research examines the contextual factors that contribute to health disparities among sexual and gender minority populations. An expert in social network analysis, Holloway is particularly interested in how social media and new technologies can be harnessed for health promotion and disease prevention.

Holloway has been a principal investigator on research studies funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the California HIV/AIDS Research Program. He currently directs the Southern



California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Center, which brings the most relevant and timely evidence to bear on California's efforts to develop and maintain efficient, cost-effective, and accessible programs and services to people living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS.



Sungwon Park, PhD, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN, has joined the school as an assistant professor. Her research explores factors influencing sedentary behavior and physical activity at multiple levels for workers who are at risk of or having metabolic syndrome. She aims to develop effective interventions tailored to different organizational and environmental contexts to prevent and manage metabolic syndrome, addressing a significant gap in the literature, where few studies have systematically identified these multi-level factors across diverse settings.

“I hope I can contribute through research, teaching, and service to deepen occupational health, specifically in the aging workforce, at UCLA.”

Prior to joining UCLA Nursing, Park completed three years in a dual position as a postdoctoral fellow with the highly competitive Michigan Society of Fellows and as a non-tenure track assistant professor with the University of Michigan School of Nursing. After arriving at UCLA, she received recognition for her contribution to occupational health nationally as a fellow of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, and earned certification as an occupational health nurse specialist.

“I am so excited to join the faculty at the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing,” Park says. “The UCLA/UCI Southern California Education Research Center is one of 11 university occupational health nursing programs supported by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health across the U.S. I hope I can contribute through research, teaching, and service to deepen occupational health, specifically in the aging workforce, at UCLA.”



Joosun Shin, PhD, RN, AGACNP, has joined UCLA Nursing as an assistant professor. Her research focuses on dyspnea (shortness of breath) throughout

the lung cancer care continuum. It harnesses diverse big-data sources, including electronic health records and large, longitudinal clinical datasets with multi-modal variables. These datasets include smokers with and without chronic lung disease, as well as lung cancer patients and survivors who have undergone lung resection, chemotherapy, and/or immunotherapy. Through a multi-modal, big-data-driven approach that integrates machine learning, advanced statistical modeling, and omics analytics, Shin aims to identify the sociodemographic, clinical, physiological (including spirometry), molecular (omics), and imaging characteristics associated with dyspnea.

Shin’s long-term goal is to identify high-risk lung cancer patients who develop or experience worsening dyspnea before and after treatment, enabling clinicians to implement targeted, personalized interventions.

“As an alumnus, I was drawn back by the enduring UCLA Bruin spirit and the opportunity to pay forward the support and community that shaped my journey,” Shin says. “I’m excited to contribute and help cultivate that same sense of belonging for fellow Bruins.” ●

“As an alumnus, I was drawn back by ... the opportunity to pay forward the support and community that shaped my journey.”

Endowed Chair Established by Alumna’s Visionary Gift

For Linda Gorman, MN '77, getting a master’s degree from UCLA in what was then called Psychiatric Community Mental Health Nursing was a transformative experience that opened doors to advanced practice nursing roles Gorman says she wouldn’t have been able to pursue otherwise. Now, at the end of a rewarding career, Gorman is paying it forward.

With one of the largest single gifts ever given by a UCLA Nursing alum, Gorman has established the Linda Gorman Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Endowed Chair to support a faculty member in the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing with expertise in psychiatric/mental health nursing. Gorman and her late husband Stanley had previously endowed the school with two scholarship funds to support UCLA Nursing students: The Gorman Family Centennial Undergraduate Scholarship for undergraduate nursing students, and The Gorman Family Centennial Fellowship in Nursing for students in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

“We are so grateful to have visionary alumni who are not only using their UCLA Nursing education to make a difference in clinical, research, and community settings, but who also give back to the school to ensure that the next generation of nursing students benefit just as they did,” says Dr. Lin Zhan, dean of the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing. “Linda Gorman’s generous support will make a tremendous difference by supporting our faculty in an area of nursing where there is a substantial need.”

Gorman says her goal in establishing the endowed chair was twofold: to help strengthen UCLA Nursing’s psychiatric/mental health nursing education by supporting a faculty expert, and to provide opportunities for students to have the same rich professional experience she



“UCLA changed the course of my career.”

— Linda Gorman, MN '77

practice, Gorman says. “It’s such a high priority in the country now, and schools such as UCLA have a critical role to play in educating more advanced-level practitioners to increase access to mental health services,” she notes. “I hope this endowment will help with that.”

Dr. Stacey Green, an assistant teaching professor at the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing and the campus lead for the UC Post-Master’s Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program, notes that in 2025, the Office of Health Care Access and Information reported that every county in California is facing a shortage of mental health care providers, including nurses at all levels of preparation. “Linda Gorman’s generous gift to establish the Linda Gorman Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Endowed Chair will not only provide the necessary resources for teaching, service, and research at the highest levels, but also enable UCLA Nursing to address this profound shortage, especially in Los Angeles County and its surrounding areas,” Green says.

“This funding will enhance existing prelicensure mental health education and establish a PMHNP track within the BS to DNP program, which is crucial for training providers who can meet the diverse mental health needs of California’s population, particularly the most vulnerable among us. The endowed chair will improve the quality of education for future practitioners and promote innovative mental health care approaches that tackle the specific challenges faced by underserved communities. I envision UCLA Nursing strengthening its connection with the community in line with the strategic goals of the university and the school, fostering specialized research and clinical expertise. Ultimately, this gift will empower UCLA Nursing to lead initiatives that enhance clinical practice and improve access to mental health services, creating a more equitable and supportive environment for providers and those seeking psychiatric and mental health care.” ●

had. “UCLA changed the course of my career and led to things I wouldn’t have experienced otherwise,” Gorman explains.

Attending a university “was always a dream,” she says, but when she started her career, nursing education took place in hospitals, so she began her career working as a staff nurse at psychiatric hospitals in her native Chicago. When Gorman moved to Los Angeles in the 1970s, she set her sights on UCLA, enrolling in the master’s program after earning her bachelor’s degree at California State University, Los Angeles.

The UCLA Nursing education was eye-opening, Gorman recalls. “It showed me that for an advanced practice nurse in psychiatric/mental health, you didn’t have to work in a hospital setting — I learned there were many other ways to bring that mental health experience and knowledge to patient care.”

After earning her MN, Gorman served

as a mental health expert resource in a variety of acute care settings — positions in which she ran support groups and did short-term counseling for cancer patients and others whose mental health struggles presented challenges for nursing staff. She served on ethics committees and became a bioethics consultant. Eventually, she landed what she calls her “dream job,” as a clinical nurse specialist for palliative care at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Along the way, Gorman lectured on psychosocial, palliative, and end-of-life care as well as publishing several books. In 2009, the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists named her Clinical Nurse Specialist of the Year.

As the U.S. grapples with what many have called a mental health crisis, there is a considerable need for advanced practice nurses with mental health expertise regardless of the setting in which they

BEING A Bruin Nurse



MICHELLE PANLILIO,,
DNP,, GNP
BS IN NURSING '13

"Being a UCLA Bruin Nurse represents a commitment to clinical excellence, lifelong learning, and the advancement of the nursing profession. As Bruin nurses, we carry forward a legacy of improving patient outcomes, supporting families, and shaping the future of nursing through leadership and collaboration."

MARSELIS IRVING,,
MSN,, RN
MSN-MECN '21

"Being a Bruin Nurse means I've been given the educational foundation to provide the highest level of care to my patients. It means continuing a legacy of excellence."

