

advancing health

YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION SPRING 2020

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Giving back

Alumnus credits life-saving nurse for new career

Jason Ramos graduated in December 2019 with confidence to be a registered nurse and a health care perspective few have.

“You don’t plan on getting cancer. You don’t plan on being a patient,” Ramos says. “I assumed I would get my treatment and go back to work the next week.”

Yet, in 2005 when Jason entered the oncology unit at UC Davis Medical Center to begin chemotherapy, a severe allergic reaction to the drug sent him into anaphylactic shock. He stayed there the next eight-and-a-half months. Nearly 15 years later, he completed his capstone project for the Master’s Entry Program in Nursing working with the registered nurse who had saved his life. He chose to come back to UC Davis where the seeds of a nursing career were planted.

“In the beginning, I didn’t truly know where I wanted to go, I just knew I wanted to be in health care somewhere,” explains Jason, a Class of 2019 alumnus. “I wanted to give back to the industry that saved my life.”

Jason also wants donors to understand the value of your support for students.

“Investing in this school makes donors an integral part of the evolution of health care. They are change agents themselves,” Jason says. “Their gifts earn dividends for years to come as students, like me, transition to professionals.”

As he eagerly awaits to learn where he will begin his career as a registered nurse, Jason serves as secretary on the Sacramento chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses and aims for a future with no limits.

“Dream big, right?” he says. “The sky is the limit.”

DEAN'S LETTER

Together, we celebrate a Decade of Discovery



We find ourselves in challenging times. At the time of this writing, the COVID-19 pandemic requires us to rethink our connectedness and health care roles. As we celebrate National Nurses Week 2020, I'm reminded of the unique

and essential nature of each profession in the health care system.

As the country celebrates The Year of the Nurse, here at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis, we also celebrate a Decade of Discovery! Our first classes joined us this fall 10 years ago. Since 2010, we've grown to a community of more than 550 alumni, 300 current students, five graduate-degree programs and more than 350 community partners. We also welcomed nearly 2,000 graduates from the UC Davis family nurse practitioner and physician assistant programs. Along the way, donors who share in our vision partnered with us as well.

We are registered nurses, physician assistants, family nurse practitioners, policy makers, teachers and nursing scientists who seek change in the status quo. Many of our alumni and community partners stepped up in past months and collaborated to support needs. Our faculty innovated to continue quality instruction in a distance-learning environment.

Our nimble nature and leadership in action illustrate the heart of the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing. Our renewed vision propels us toward a future of self-discovery, optimal health and health care equity for all – in times of crisis and in everyday care.

Stephen J. Cavanagh, PhD, MPA, R.N., FACHE, FAAN
Dignity Health Dean's Chair for Nursing Leadership,
Dean and Professor

The Year of the Nurse

Each year, **May 6-12**, we celebrate the contributions of nurses nationwide during **National Nurses Week**. Now, more than ever though, as health care professionals respond to the coronavirus pandemic, we also celebrate all the health professionals who continue to sacrifice and work diligently to protect and save lives in their communities. Our nation needs nurses, physician assistants (P.A.s), nurse practitioners and nursing scientists to advance health, and health equity, for all. Your gift will allow us to support students who are financially impacted by this hardship. We thank you for your support. Visit <https://give.ucdavis.edu/SONU/324227> to make your gift today. **Join us, in honoring the health care heroes** of both today and tomorrow, during National Nurses Week 2020.



Outside investment

Sarah Peffer, a second-year physician assistant (P.A.) student at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis, received the 2020 Ray Dale Memorial Scholarship by the California Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA). The \$2,000 award recognizes her academic standing and activities to promote the P.A. profession in California.

Octavia Taylor was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship from the Sacramento Black Nurses Association prior to completing the Master's Entry Program in Nursing in December. Octavia plans

to focus her efforts on increasing health outcomes for African Americans, including inspiring youth to enter health care professions.

Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Alliance scholarships were awarded to two clinical students. P.A. student Selu Kateri Vargas was recognized for her curiosity and compassion for working with underserved populations. David Wilson, a family nurse practitioner student, stood out for his strong work ethic and excellent communication skills.

Why do you give to the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis?

LIFE IS FULL OF CHALLENGES that often are out of our control. The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing Student Support Endowment provides financial support to students in cases of adversity, such as major illness or significant personal losses due to natural disasters, that may affect students' abilities to succeed in pursuing their degrees. Established by alumni and now endowed by the school's leadership team, a few donors share why they choose to invest in student success.

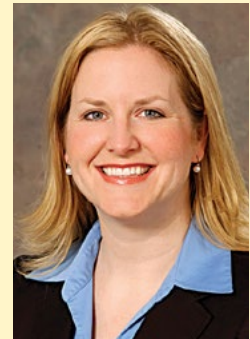
“I believe everyone deserves a safety net. I hope that my small contribution can help students remain in our programs who may not have other resources available, should they find themselves in a difficult financial situation. This school continuously centers around the success of students now, with a forward-looking focus on preparing them to be change agents in their chosen fields.”

Emily Sanson-Smith,
assistant dean for administration



choices. I believe this fund demonstrates our understanding that there are barriers beyond their control and our commitment to students during times of financial need.”

Elizabeth Rice,
associate dean for student and faculty success



“As a leadership team we feel it's important to support our students and to walk the walk, as well as talk the talk. We really believe in what the students are doing. We do not want the challenges that they may come across to ever stop someone from being successful in one of our graduate degree programs.”

Lisa Badovinac,
assistant dean for education

“Having your computer stolen or your rent increased can be difficult for many people, but events like these are potentially catastrophic for a student focused on graduate studies and clinical education. We push our students to think deeply about why people who experience a lack of access to health care are challenged to make healthy



“What started as a small fund has grown into something we know will be available for students in perpetuity. I'm so proud to be an alumna of a school where the leaders are willing to invest their personal resources into student success.”

Jennifer Edwards,
MS-L Class of 2018

In 2018, graduates of the master's-degree leadership program and graduates of the doctoral class of 2019 directed their class gift to the Student Support Fund. Soon after, members of the leadership team of the school joined the cause and grew it to an endowed fund.



Emily Sanson-Smith

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!
Your gifts support future health leaders.
Thank you, donors!





New fellowships launch Betty Irene Moore's vision to national prominence

Betty Irene Moore's vision to change health care has evolved over the past decade. From improving delivery systems to educating future clinicians and providers, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation wants to make health care better for everyone.

"Having met Mrs. Moore and spending time with her to understand what she wants to happen in health care, I have such a deep resonance with what she wants," explains Professor Heather M. Young.

That alignment of ideals now guides Young in her new role as national program director for the Betty Irene Moore Fellowships for Nurse Leaders and Innovators. Launched through a \$37.5 million gift from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the program honors Mrs. Moore's commitment to nurses as leaders to improve the quality of patient care. It also comes at a time when the number of nurse leaders nearing retirement is both increasing and impending.

"In the next generation, we need to find those leaders who will advance our systems, academic institutions, programs and policies," Heather says. "Bringing together a group of fellows over the next years and equipping them with new skills and insights will position them to make a real difference."

Mentors play a major role here. By tapping into the expertise of local mentors, who participants choose, and national mentors, who the program pairs with them, fellows advance along their career trajectory.

"By having more than one mentor, it offers the fellows the opportunity to benefit from different perspectives and approaches that can be tailored to their needs," adds Elena O. Siegel, associate director for the program. "That was a very valuable approach for me early in my career when Heather was my local mentor and others from across the country supported me as well."

This program recognizes early- to mid-career nursing scholars and innovators with a high potential to accelerate leadership in nursing research, practice, education, policy and entrepreneurship. It creates the next generation of nurse leaders by seeding and nurturing leadership in researchers across the country, expanding the impact of the School of Nursing.

For Heather, it's another opportunity to bring Betty Irene Moore's vision to new heights.

"I'm so honored to be able to create that community of people across the nation who can advance Mrs. Moore's vision."



Sheree Criner, a 2018 graduate of the master's-degree leadership program, is also treasurer of the Capital City Black Nurses Association.

From classroom experiences to community impact

Alumna expands mentorship, leadership lessons

Sheree Criner graduated from the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis in 2018 fired up more than ever before to make an impact. Equipped with new professional tools, she set her sights on leading in areas she felt personally compelled to change.

“The African American community continues to see a large gap in health care in every metric there is,” explains Sheree, a master's-degree leadership alumna. “The school taught me leadership skills, increased my professional network and boosted my confidence in

communications. With those tools comes influence and with influence comes the ability to make change.”

With guidance from Associate Clinical Professor Piri Ackerman-Barger, Sheree connected with fellow nurses in the 2018 Master of Science — Leadership class to launch a new professional association, the Capital City Black Nurses Association (CCBNA).

“The idea of passionate people, each having different skill sets, working together for a cause bigger than us was pure synergy,” Sheree says.

“Our collective talents are far greater than our individual skills alone.”

Sheree credits her relationship-building prowess to lessons learned at the School of Nursing, along with the approach to always have the right people at the table.

“I learned to leverage research, data and relationships to create action that resolves an issue,” she explains. “I learned to include everyone who's impacted at the table and make decisions based on the collective, informed input.”

Now, the CCBNA consists of 35 members representing

bedside nurses and nursing faculty who advocate for nurses and optimize health outcomes in communities where health disparities persist by promoting recruitment and retention as well as enhancing the nursing education pipeline.

“We're not only taking care of sick people through health screenings and education, we're also interjecting into the pipeline for high schoolers, even elementary students,” Sheree says. “I benefitted being surrounded by School of Nursing faculty and peers who helped me grow. The fact that I didn't have a mentor before graduate school now fuels me to be a role model for others.”

A L U M N I N E T W O R K

The Alumni Network enables physician assistant, nurse practitioner, nursing, nurse leadership and doctoral alumni to catch up and connect with one another.



Dialogue with the dean

Alumni enjoyed an engaging reception and panel discussion with Dean Stephen Cavanagh. The November event drew 20 graduates representing the interprofessional alumni network from the Class of 1972—UC Davis’ legacy family nurse practitioner program—to the Classes of 2019. From left, Patrick Ma (P.A. ’19), Sandra Calderon (FNP ’16), Sarina Fazio (master’s-leadership ’14, PhD ’18), Cavanagh, Yuuko Johnson (master’s-leadership ’15).



Alumni, students share career journeys

Doctoral and master’s-entry alumni shared their career journeys with students and recent graduates at two panel discussions. Adebola Olarewaju, current doctoral student and Jonas Scholar, led the Jonas Scholars Foundation Professional Development Night. Above, Associate Clinical Professor Piri Ackerman-Barger invited several MEPN alumni to share with students their experiences since becoming registered nurses.



Congratulations, MEPN Class of 2019

Celebrating the end of the rigorous 18-month Master’s Entry Program in Nursing, 48 students marked their symbolic entry into the nursing profession with a traditional pinning ceremony in December.

MORE ALUMNI FEATURES ON NURSING.UCDAVIS.EDU

A Decade of Discovery

Celebrate the moments that defined a decade of discovery for the UC Davis School of Nursing community. Visit bit.ly/AlumniMemories to share your memories and photos for an upcoming web retrospective. To learn more about how you can get involved, please contact Sarah Mentze at smentze@ucdavis.edu or (916) 501-9917.



THANK YOU

Your giving and your partnership improve health and health care today. These stories of our students and alumni and their impact on health are a direct result of your partnership. Thank you for being part of the School of Nursing community.



CONNECT WITH SARAH MENTZE,

director for alumni engagement, to learn more about how you as alumni can engage with the school. Please call or email to post a job, submit an alumni update or news, learn more about precepting opportunities or just to chat!

(916) 501-9917

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NEW ALUMNI FELLOWS AND RESIDENTS AT UC DAVIS HEALTH

Several 2019 graduates accepted positions as UC Davis Health advanced practice providers and nurse residents. Both the Advanced Practice Fellowship Program for new nurse practitioners and physician assistants and the UC Davis Health Nurse Residency program for new registered nurses provide new clinicians support and training in their critical first year of practice. Congratulations, alumni!

Advanced Practice Provider Fellows

Nicole Gunadi, M.S., FNP
Patrick Ma, MHS, P.A.
Andrew Thompson, M.S., FNP

Nurse Residents

Irene Cisneros-Fong, MSN, R.N.
Emerald Francisco, MSN, R.N.
Serena Garza, MSN, R.N.
Mona Keramatikhahmasouleh, MSN, R.N.
Maria Lozano Vazquez, MSN, R.N.
Abraham Musallam, MSN, R.N.
Jamie Pet, MSN, R.N.
Michelle Pham, MSN, R.N.
Tess Soper, MSN, R.N.