

# Advancing

THE BETTY IRENE MOORE SCHOOL OF NURSING AT UC DAVIS / February 2017

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

*A nurse's commitment to others inspires legacy for future generations*

### LILLIAN MAE REVENIG MCCOY

lost her mom at age 12, lived in an orphanage until she was 16 and became a widow when her first husband died after only three weeks of marriage. Yet she overcame these obstacles and dedicated 64 years to others, serving as a registered nurse in California. Her legacy now offers future nursing students opportunity at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis.

"My mom had such a commitment to people over the course of her career and lifetime," explained Kathy Samsom, McCoy's daughter and a nurse practitioner. "Her optimism, hard work ethic and positive role modeling inspired my and my sister's professional paths."

"Our mother did not just inspire us to become nurses. Over the past 40 years, many people have told me they chose nursing



**"Over the past 40 years, many people have told me they chose nursing because of Mom"**

—VIRGINIA HASS,  
SCHOOL OF NURSING  
ASSISTANT CLINICAL  
PROFESSOR

because of Mom," added Virginia Hass, a nurse practitioner and School of Nursing assistant clinical professor. "Her professional knowledge and life wisdom were contagious."

Hass said her mother is an unsung hero who played the role of cheerleader for others working to overcome obstacles. Now she and her twin sister, Samsom, hope to remove a financial barrier for future School of Nursing students through the Lillian Mae Revenig McCoy, R.N. Memorial Scholarship. They envision the scholarship assisting students who pursue family nurse

practitioner or nursing degrees, or students interested in caring for older adults or who are veterans, like McCoy.

"Mom inspired others to reach their full potential," Hass said. "We know our philanthropy has the ability to continue her legacy and influence future generations beyond the immediate impact of this gift." ♦



## COLLABORATION PROMISES BIG IMPACT

*Founding Dean Heather M. Young*

**TEN YEARS AGO**, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation imagined a big idea—to establish a different kind of nursing school to foster innovation that advances health through enhancing the field of nursing. In the decade since investing in UC Davis and announcing the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, we have grown into a strong community of scholars, learners and doers sharing a common vision to advance health and ignite leadership.

UC Davis' commitment to Northern California and the world has long defined our university and continues to drive us today. This year, UC Davis embarks upon a search for big ideas that will position the university for continued

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**UCDAVIS**

**BETTY IRENE MOORE  
SCHOOL OF NURSING**



**TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES**

*Sallie-Grace Tate, Assistant Dean for Advancement*

AT THE START OF A NEW YEAR, we often take stock of lessons learned in the past and set a course for challenges we hope to conquer in the future. Health care challenges loom, but, within the constantly changing landscape lays an opportunity.

From the inception of the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis, founders Gordon and Betty Irene Moore recognized the value in creating a new model of education. While traditional nursing education programs fulfill a role and a need in health care, someone must look beyond the conventional and innovate.

The current political climate spells an unpredictable future for health care. But we cannot become paralyzed by the downside possibilities of change. We must push beyond our vision.

How effective will we be leading the change, if there are no followers, no supporters of the vision? We need partners called to action. We need stakeholders to join us as we turn roadblocks into roadways, obstacles into opportunities and challenges into chances to drive change. Together, we will advance health and ignite leadership to transform health care as we know it. ♦

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT PROFILE: KHEN RUSSELL**  
*Harnessing technology to improve health care*



KHEN RUSSELL left his job at Intel nearly a decade ago to pursue a nursing degree because he realized that technology could make health care better. Armed with a passion for creating change and a vision for improving health care, he returned to school again and embarked upon the doctoral program at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis.

“As an informaticist, I am comfortable with computers. But as a nurse, I witnessed countless instances where others struggled with making data usable,” Russell explained. “My goal is to translate between the two worlds of technology and health care and serve as a leading communicator to advocate when policies lag behind the rapid pace of advancement.”

The recognition that quality of care for people and their families can benefit from greater technology integration now drives Russell as

he pursues a Doctor of Philosophy Degree at the School of Nursing.

Russell hopes to learn how to affect policy that trails the speed with which technology advances.

“Technology has the power to bridge that divide where sometimes humans cannot,” added Katherine Kim, assistant professor and Russell’s faculty adviser. “Khen’s perspective is valuable as we bring diversity into the informatics equation to address fundamental health disparities and contribute to innovative solutions.”

Now, fueled with a passion to create change

and supported from donors to the Constant M. and Tempest B. van Vlierden Scholarship, Russell sets his sights on changing the status quo.

“At this point in my career, there’s too much at stake to hear that tiny voice in my head saying, ‘How are you going to pay for this?’” Russell said. “I want those who fund my dreams to know their investment will reap great returns in how they and their families experience health care in the future.” ♦

“My goal is to translate between the two worlds of technology and health care.”

—KHEN RUSSELL

**DID YOU KNOW?**

This year, 41 graduate students received more than \$178,000 in scholarships. Creating a lasting legacy is within reach. A \$50,000 investment—paid in one lump sum or pledged over five years—generates millions during its lifetime.

**QUESTION:**  
*How might you create a legacy for countless future students by aligning with the School of Nursing’s mission?*

Send your thoughts to Sallie-Grace Tate: [sgtate@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sgtate@ucdavis.edu) ♦



Care navigator Theresa Powell, left, visits program participant Ruby Blackson.

**GRANT ADVANCES WORK OF NOVEL ADVANCED ILLNESS CARE PROGRAM**

**AN INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION**

between the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis and faith-based organizations takes a major step forward thanks to support from the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation Innovations in Care Program.

The School of Nursing, along with the Alameda County Care Alliance (ACCA) and Public Health Institute, received a \$600,000 grant for the Advanced Illness Care Program, a novel, person-centered, faith-based, lay care-navigation intervention serving predominantly African-American adults.

“This program capitalizes on the strengths of partner organizations to increase the alignment between end-of-life goals and the care received,” said Rachael Watman, vice president of programs at the Hillman Foundation.

Associate Professor Janice Bell serves as principal investigator and ACCA Executive Director and the Rev. Cynthia Carter-Perrilliat serves as co-principal investigator on a three-year project providing care navigation to address the advanced illness care needs of community members in alignment with their

spiritual values and cultural preferences.

“This program incorporates and builds on the insights and strengths of nursing science and holds great promise as a transformative care model for future replication,” Bell explained. “It also advances the work of national groups focused

on raising the profile of palliative care among people and providers, increasing awareness of its benefits and advancing best practices.”

Originally developed with input from church congregants, health systems, community groups and national organizations and funded by the Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Program, the program trains and deploys lay care navigators to provide advanced illness care navigation through five African-American hub churches.

“African-American families typically care for frail and older members at home more often compared to other groups, in circumstances often financially constrained, overwhelming and stressful for caregivers,” Carter-Perrilliat added.

“You have someone who cares about you and wants you to get better,” explained program participant Ruby Blackson.

“I feel privileged to be able to help. I don’t take it for granted,” said care navigator Theresa Powell. “To know they have someone to lean on, that’s a relief for me as well.”

Since its inception in 2013, the program has trained and deployed eight care navigators and more than

**COLLABORATION PROMISES BIG IMPACT**

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success for many years to come. To that end, the School of Nursing is collaborating on creative ideas and solutions with high potential impact to improve how people live and attain health. From harnessing technological opportunities to promoting healthy living across the lifespan to alleviating pain and improving quality of life, our ideas will move dreams into realities. We will share with you initiatives we’re spearheading later this summer.

The power to transform health care lies in our imaginative partnerships, both within UC Davis and with those who share in our mission. Collaborations with community organizations and national policy groups expand our reach and our impact, enable us to improve care for marginalized populations and offer robust opportunities for learning and growing.

The philanthropists and dreamers behind the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing recognize we need broader partnerships to make the vision a reality. I’m reminded of the words of Helen Keller, who said: “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” I look forward to growing with you as we dream of big ideas and work to ignite greater impact in California and the world. ♦

100 volunteers, provided service to more than 500 community members and secured start-up funding from multiple sources. This next phase addresses several gaps in existing care models and positions the program for sustainability. ♦



**INNOVATIVE LEARNING SPACES PUT INTO PRACTICE**  
*Betty Irene Moore Hall moves closer to completion*

**CONSTRUCTION** on Betty Irene Moore Hall, the future home of the School of Nursing, continues at a rapid, on-schedule pace. McCarthy Building crews have completed the majority of the façade and interior work is in progress on the three-story, 70-thousand-square-foot building. When complete, the \$55 million project will become the fourth structure in the education core of the UC Davis Sacramento campus.

With its stone exterior, expansive windows and open floorplan, Betty Irene Moore Hall is an undeniably eye-catching site. In tandem with



the Education Building, the Center for Health and Technology and the Administrative Support Building (ASB), Moore Hall complements the other health science education spaces and expands the innovative classroom and simulation environments currently available.

Since September, nurse

practitioner, nursing and physician assistant students have collaborated in new education spaces on campus. The 16,000 square feet of newly renovated space in ASB features propeller tables and LED monitors that promote teamwork in non-traditional ways.

“In traditional lecture halls, students tend to raise their hands and ask questions. The new layout



Large, open commons areas and classrooms featuring propeller tables are features in renovated spaces that support the educational philosophy at the School of Nursing.

extends the network of classmates,” explained YanYan Hollingsworth, a first-year family nurse practitioner student. “The discussion is not only limited to those who sit next to



each other, but to all other group members sitting around the tables.”

“Rather than being packed shoulder to shoulder in a lecture hall, this open environment sets everyone at ease and facilitates ease of discussion during class,” added Justin Palmer, a physician assistant student.

“Because the seats are facing every which way, you don’t feel as exposed as you would in a traditional lecture hall when you ask a question,” said Judy Wong, a family nurse practitioner student in the Class of 2018.

Students credit the layout to enabling professors to move around the room and engage with students, as opposed to orating from a lectern.

“The goal of these spaces is to support a philosophy and our commitment to create an environment of collaboration,” added Theresa Harvath, associate dean for academics. “Our faculty must be more nimble than ever to create a network of courses that resembles a spider web with connectivity across the curriculum.”

Construction on Betty Irene Moore Hall is expected to be complete later this year with a grand opening celebration planned in October. ♦

**ART SPURS ENGAGEMENT, COMPLETES EXPERIENCE**

**MOST CAN AGREE** that health care struggles to fulfill its potential. From an unsustainable financial model to uncertainties in insurance coverage for millions, the question of “what happens next” can seem daunting. That reality leaves people feeling overwhelmed and isolated, rather than empowered to make a difference. Amid the confusion, art holds the power to foster a sense of healing and community.

“Art helps us identify with one another and expands our notion of we—from the local to the global,” said artist Olafur Eliasson. “Art... can make the world felt. And this felt feeling may spur thinking, engagement and even action.”

Art will play a central role in the new Betty Irene Moore Hall. Whether inviting a connection to the senses or transporting visitors to a what if space, the pieces selected and sponsored will complement the innovative learning inside.

“Art is not merely decoration, but the top layer of the experience,” explained Beth Jones, a Sacramento art consultant. “Without artwork, the building misses an element that involves the human hand, creative process, vitality and life. It is a stimulating element which brings meaning to the whole building, but also to specific areas.”

School of Nursing leaders hope visitors’ visual experiences within the new building are as transformative as the education that will within its walls. To contribute to this effort, contact Sallie-Grace Tate at 916-734-2783 or [sgtate@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sgtate@ucdavis.edu). ♦

**INNOVATIVE COURSEWORK OFFERS UNIQUE LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVES**

**ONE OF THE CORE PRINCIPLES** upon which the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis was founded is that all health professionals must have leadership skills in order to create the change needed in health care. To achieve that goal, graduate students in all five programs take a leadership course during their first year of study.

“Whether our students lead quality improvement efforts on our units in the hospital setting or drive change in the community, we recognize that principles of leadership cross many boundaries of health care,” explained Assistant Clinical Professor Susan Adams, one of the course instructors. “This coursework marks an important milestone in their education and arms them with the knowledge to view health care policy through the lens of the people and communities they impact.”

The interprofessional course includes 20 students from the UC Davis School of Medicine. It offers

a critical examination of leadership from a variety of theoretical and philosophical perspectives and focuses on specific challenges in health care and leadership at patient, organizational and policy levels.

“I believe this course illustrated the importance of letting the team determine what kind of leader is needed, rather than a leader arriving among the team with his or her preferred leadership style,” said Krista Greaves, a second-year master’s-degree leadership student.

Throughout the quarter, students also learn from policy and health leaders who serve in public office. Many of those leaders joined students for a course kickoff dinner in January to share their leadership perspectives.

“The ability to use your leadership skills to be effective in your role is essential to one’s professional growth and effectiveness in their role,” said Joleen Lonigan, a registered nurse and director of Patient Care Services for UC Davis Medical Center who attended the dinner. “My hope for these students is

continued exposure to population management, primary and rural health care.”

“I always imagined leadership and change in health care occurred away from the bedside by uninvolved parties,” said Jonathan Trask, a second-year master’s-degree leadership student. “During the leadership course, I witnessed the multiple levels where leaders create change from the bedside, within the health system and community, even in government.”

Instructors ultimately hope to empower students to use their knowledge to ensure health perspectives are included in policy discussions, rather than shy away from those in power who work in arenas where critical decisions are made.

“Leadership has become one of those buzz words that gets bandied about frequently,” added Terri Harvath, associate dean for academics. “I define leadership as the skills and attributes needed in order to effect change in a desired direction.” ♦



(Left) Retired registered nurse and former Sacramento County Supervisor Sandy Smoley, left, provides leadership insight to master’s-degree leadership student Romeo Rivera. (Above) Joleen Lonigan, left, a registered nurse and director of Patient Care Services for UC Davis Medical Center, talks with master’s-degree leadership student Augustina Mushale.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



Physician assistant students Brian Spoh, left, and Justin Palmer received full scholarships from the National Health Service Corps.

**PA STUDENTS AWARDED NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Two physician assistant graduate students at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis each received a two-year, full scholarship from the National Health Service Corps to pursue their passion to become primary care providers and join a community of providers with a shared desire to serve people with limited access to health care.

Justin Palmer and Brian Spoh are among this year’s 196 recipients selected from more than 5,000 applicants across the U.S. The scholarship pays for tuition and various other education-related expenses and also provides a monthly stipend to assist with living expenses. For each year of financial support, Palmer and Spoh agree to serve at an approved site in a high-need urban, rural or frontier community across the nation.

Meanwhile, Daria Evans, a second-year master’s-degree physician assistant student, was awarded a \$2,000 National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCP) Endowed Scholarship through the PA Foundation.

**ALUMNA AWARDED GRANT TO CONTINUE STUDY USING TELEHEALTH FOR ASSAULT EXAMS**

Sheridan Miyamoto, a Class of 2014 alumna of the Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program, was awarded a \$1.14 million grant from the Office for Victims of Crime for the Pennsylvania Sexual Assault Examination and Training Center. Miyamoto, who is an assistant professor at the Pennsylvania State College of Nursing, first explored the application of telehealth in sexual abuse exams when she served as a forensic nurse practitioner at the UC Davis Child and Adolescent Abuse Resources and Evaluation (CAARE) Center. Miyamoto is the principal investigator for this study. The Office for Victims of Crime is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

**ALUMNA NAMED ‘RISING STAR’ BY HEALTH CARE PUBLICATION**

Emily Torres, a 2014 master’s-degree leadership graduate, was named one of six Rising Stars by *Modern Healthcare* as part of its 2017 Excellence in Nursing Awards. Torres, who is a nurse manager with UC Davis Medical Center, was recognized for her work to improve patient safety and outcomes by reducing ventilator-associated pneumonia. More than 120 nominations were submitted.



**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**ALUMNI: GET IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR**

Leaders at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing seek alumni input for a new Interprofessional Alumni Education and Networking Weekend. Alumni are invited to share their ideas for rewarding, lifelong learning opportunities and tour the new Betty Irene Moore hall. Two sessions are available: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 21.

**CANP RECEPTION**

Family nurse practitioner alumni are invited to join other alumni and faculty at an event in conjunction with the 40th California Association of Nurse Practitioners Educational Conference in Burlingame, California. Join others at 6:30 p.m. March 18, to reconnect with an extraordinary network and get a sneak preview of a new School of Nursing alumni initiative.

**WHY IS MY SMARTPHONE PERSONALIZED, BUT MY HEALTH CARE IS NOT?**

Gain understanding about the future of health care, the industry’s complexities and hear from thought leaders, providers, payers and technology partners about the critical and growing role of patients as partners. Planned for 5:30 to 8 p.m. April 13 at the Citizen Hotel, 926 J St. in Sacramento.

For more information or to RSVP to any of these events, contact Sarah Mentze at [smentze@ucdavis.edu](mailto:smentze@ucdavis.edu) or 916-734-9614.

## L A T E S T N E W S

### Advancing a culture of diversity and inclusion

**SCHOOL OF NURSING FACULTY** lead an effort to measure and improve institutional climate by piloting a first-of-its-kind diversity and inclusion toolkit. “This assesses our practices, policies and programs that contribute to a diverse and inclusive climate for members of our health system community,” said Kupiri Ackerman-Barger, assistant adjunct professor at the School of Nursing and co-principal investigator. Funders of the Association of American Medical Colleges grant hope the tool enables pilot universities to accelerate their progress toward more inclusive climates and contribute directly to practice and policy change in California.

## UC DAVIS HEALTH

### UC Davis Health

**LAST MONTH**, Vice Chancellor for Human Health Sciences Julie Freischlag unveiled UC Davis Health System’s new strategic plan. She also announced a new name: UC Davis Health. Freischlag said the new name better captures what UC Davis is about—serving the health and well-being of patients and the community, with patient-focused primary care and nationally renowned specialty care informed by the expertise, research and technology of a world-class university.

### Precision medicine initiative

**SCHOOL OF NURSING** Assistant Professor Katherine Kim, who specializes in using information technology to improve community health, care coordination and clinical research, is part of a UC Davis team that has joined the California Precision Medicine Consortium. Funded by the National Institute of Health, the landmark research effort aims to engage one million or more U.S. participants to enable research that will, over time, improve the ability to prevent and treat disease based on individual differences in lifestyle, environment and genetics.

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*To learn more about these advancements at the School of Nursing, contact Sallie-Grace Tate at [sgtate@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sgtate@ucdavis.edu) or 916-734-2783.*

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 223 current students
- 199 alumni
- 5 graduate-degree programs
- 41 scholarships
- Ranked among best nursing graduate schools by *U.S. News & World Report*
- 50-plus community partners and collaborators
- 150 clinical sites for student rotations

### UC DAVIS BETTY IRENE MOORE SCHOOL OF NURSING

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## Engage with us.

Together, we build a strong foundation and bright futures.

Visit [nursing.ucdavis.edu](http://nursing.ucdavis.edu)

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