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Updates from the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing

DEAN'S WELCOME



From the Dean

Welcome to the first edition of our new e-newsletter from the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis! We're excited to share this digital format, which replaces our annual award-winning printed magazine.

By moving online, we can connect with you more often, expand our reach and reduce the environmental impact of hard copies — a change that reflects our commitment to innovation and sustainability.

Health care is changing rapidly, and we are charting a bold course to meet that challenge. This year, we refreshed our three-year strategic plan through months of collaboration and a daylong retreat with more than 150 faculty, staff and leaders. Together, we defined priorities that position our school as a catalyst for innovation, equity and workforce development.

Below, you'll learn about the first students in the University of California system to pursue a [Doctor of Nursing Practice — Nurse Anesthesia degree](#), a program launched right here at UC Davis. You'll also read about [full accreditation](#) for our PMHNP Certificate and DNP-FNP programs, a trusted mark of quality in graduate nursing education. [You'll meet Jennifer Lingler](#), our new research leader advancing work in healthy aging and caregiving. Plus, we celebrate [national rankings](#) that place our programs among the best in the country.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in shaping the future of health care. We invite you to explore these stories and more. Together, we can build a stronger, healthier and more equitable future.

— **Stephen J. Cavanagh, Ph.D., M.P.A., R.N., F.A.C.H.E., F.A.A.N.**

Dean, Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing

STUDENT NEWS



Celebrating a milestone in advanced nursing education

The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis recently marked a significant achievement with its first Doctor of Nursing Practice — Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP-FNP) Academic Symposium.

The symposium highlighted how DNP-FNP graduates are prepared to lead in today's rapidly changing health care environment. From improving access in rural communities to integrating technology for better outcomes, these projects demonstrate the impact of advanced practice nurses on health equity and quality care. The event also underscored the school's role in addressing urgent workforce needs and shaping the future of nursing education.

[Read the full story](#)



PA graduates commit to compassionate care

The newest class of physician assistant graduates from the School of Nursing pledged to serve patients with skill and empathy during a September ceremony.

The event marked the culmination of rigorous training and a commitment to improving access to care across communities. Graduates recited the PA Professional Oath, affirming their dedication to ethical practice and lifelong learning. These graduates join a growing network of UC Davis-trained professionals who are shaping the future of patient-centered care.

[Read the full story](#)

SAVE THE DATE



Commencement 2026

Commencement 2026 will be held on **June 11, 2026, at 10 a.m.** Join us as we celebrate the next generation of health care professionals.

[Learn more](#)

EDUCATION



Pioneering nurse anesthesia education

The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis welcomed the first students in the University of California system to pursue a Doctor of Nursing Practice — Nurse Anesthesia (DNP-NA) degree.

This accredited program is only the sixth of its kind in California and addresses a critical workforce need for highly skilled anesthesia providers. These future nurse anesthetists will combine advanced clinical expertise with leadership training to improve patient care across diverse settings.

[Read the full story](#)

Excellence recognized: Accreditation and national rankings

We continue to earn national recognition for quality and innovation in graduate nursing education. This year, the UC Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program and the Doctor of Nursing Practice — Family Nurse Practitioner Degree Program [achieved full accreditation](#) from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, affirming our commitment to rigorous standards and continuous improvement.

In addition, the school [ranks among the nation's top programs](#) — placing in the top 30 for master's-degree nursing programs and top 35 for physician assistant education. These honors reflect the dedication of our faculty, staff and students to advancing health care through education, research and leadership.

RESEARCH



New associate dean for research joins School of Nursing

The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis welcomes Jennifer Lingler as associate dean for research. Lingler brings more than 20 years of experience in clinical research, focusing on aging, caregiving and the ethical implications of late-life cognitive decline.

Her leadership will strengthen the school's research enterprise and expand opportunities for collaboration across UC Davis Health and beyond. Lingler's appointment reflects our commitment to advancing knowledge that improves health outcomes and equity for diverse populations.

[Read the full story](#)

RESEARCH BRIEFS

Professor launches new global gerontechnology center

Professor Roschelle Fritz announced a new center aimed at helping older adults live independently using technology. She published [“A Global Gerontechnology Center for Nursing Science for improving aging-in-place technologies”](#) in [Nursing Outlook](#). She, and her co-authors, argue that while older adults in many countries share a desire to remain at home at long as possible, a technology gap leaves a mismatch between what older adults want and the current reality of doing this safely and inclusively.

Dean travels to Kenya with UC Davis chancellor

Dean Stephen Cavanagh joined a UC Davis and California state delegation to meet with Kenyan leaders to explore expanding collaboration in key strategic areas. For the School of Nursing, the visit deepened its growing relationship with the University of Nairobi's Faculty of Health Sciences. New initiatives will focus on nursing education, healthy aging, digital health, cancer care, and HIV research—building on UC Davis's long-standing presence and programs in Kenya.



Betty Irene Moore Fellows gather in the nation's capital

For the first time since its launch, the national program office for the Betty Irene Moore Fellowship for Nurse Leaders and Innovators held its annual convocation in Washington, D.C. The nation's capital served as a fitting backdrop for [the program's sixth event](#), which focused on the intersection of policy, politics and nursing innovation.

Faculty present on preceptor shortage at national conference

Vanndy Loth, Lynda Creighton-Wong and Stacey Green presented the study, "Exploring Motivations and Barriers: A Qualitative Study of Precepting Among Current Advanced Practice Nurses in Behavioral Health," at the [Annual American Psychiatric Nurses Association \(APNA\) Educational Conference](#). As faculty in the [UC Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program](#), the team is investigating how to recruit and retain preceptors by looking at motivations and barriers to precepting.

Faculty, alumni and postdocs publish caregiver study in national journal

Professors Janice F. Bell and Heather M. Young led a team that published [Comparison of Caregivers of Older Adults in State and National Surveys to Those seeking Help in California's Caregiver Resource Centers](#) in the journal [Gerontologist](#). Researchers found that caregivers who seek help through California's Caregiver Resource Centers differ significantly from those represented in national and state surveys. These findings suggest that relying solely on population-based surveys may overlook the needs of caregivers who most require support and resources.

- **Associate Professor Jessica Draughon Moret** was awarded the 2025 Chancellor's Achievement Award for Diversity and Community. She is one of six recipients honored for making a difference in moving UC Davis toward a more diverse and inclusive campus community.
 - Nurse anesthesia **Professor Lee Ranalli** received the 34th Annual Didactic Instructor of the Year Award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology.
 - **Associate Professor Laura Van Auken** was recognized for her outstanding global engagement work with the UC Davis Chancellor's Award for International Engagement.
 - The **Marketing and Communications Team** won the 2025 PRSA Influencer of the Year Award and received an honorable mention in the highly competitive PR Daily 2025 Content Marketing Awards for our [2024 Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing Annual Magazine](#). The publication highlights a year of impact, inspiring pride among our community while attracting future students, faculty and partners.
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2025 awards for faculty and staff service

School of Nursing award winners were [honored at an all-school celebration](#) for their extraordinary commitment, both in and out of the classroom, that propel the school forward.

ALUMNI



Profile: Sam Klein

For Sam Klein, becoming a registered nurse wasn't part of the original plan. Driven by the desire to "make wide, systematic change in health care and impact a great number of people," the Class of 2024 graduate found his path in the Master's Entry Program in Nursing.

[Read the full story](#)

THANK YOU, DONORS



Your impact makes a difference!

Last month, nearly 80 generous supporters of the School of Nursing came together in Betty Irene Moore Hall for an evening of gratitude and connection. The event was an opportunity to honor the incredible impact of their philanthropy and say a heartfelt “thank you.”

Dean Stephen Cavanagh shared, *“From the transformational gift of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to your ongoing commitment, your partnership makes everything possible. Because of you, we are educating health care leaders who drive change and advance health for all.”*

Your support fuels innovation, empowers future nurses and strengthens our mission to improve health care everywhere. Together, we are shaping the future of care.

ADMISSIONS

Applications are open now

- **Doctor of Nursing Practice — Family Nurse Practitioner Degree Program** – [Apply by January 5](#) to join the June 2026 cohort
- **PhD in Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership Degree Program** – [Apply by January 5](#) to join the September 2026 cohort

- **UC Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program** – [Apply by May 15](#) with our space available deadline to join the June 2026 cohort
- **Primary Care Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship** – [Apply by January 27](#) to join the October 2026 cohort
- **Clinical Instructor Internship** – [Apply by March 22](#) to join the Summer 2026 cohort
- **Nurse Faculty Residency** – [Apply by March 22](#) to join the June 2026 cohort

Stay connected!

[Join our email list](#)

Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis

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