

IOWA | NURSING

Alumni Newsletter | Spring 2021
nursing.uiowa.edu



A Message from the Dean

Dear friends,

As I write this note I have to reflect back on a year of challenges. For those alumni and friends who have lost a family member, colleague or friend to COVID-19, we grieve with you. Many of you have shared your stories with us and I am incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished. Our students and faculty are volunteering to provide vaccines, not only in Iowa City, but the surrounding counties. Faculty have adapted their teaching to ensure that students continue to receive the outstanding education that sets an Iowa nurse apart. And our clinical partners are providing exceptional opportunities for our students to gain the knowledge and skills they need as they get ready to graduate. Thank you for your continued support of the College of Nursing.

Go Hawks!

Julie Zerwic

In Memoriam: Dean Emeritus Evelyn R. Barritt

The College of Nursing recently learned of the passing of Dean Emeritus Evelyn Ruth Berryman Barritt on January 23, 2020.

Barritt served as the dean of the College of Nursing from 1972-1979. Barritt began her career as a staff nurse and later served as an instructor, director, and dean and was involved in nursing associations, including the American Nurses Association and the Iowa Nurses Association.

Barritt was born on September 4, 1929, in Detroit, Michigan. She married Ward LeRoy Barritt in 1951. She is survived by her daughter, Kelli Jo.

Nursing Leader Joseph Named AONL Fellow

Clinical Professor Maria (Lindell) Joseph, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been selected as a Fellow of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL).

This Fellow designation recognizes a nurse leader's sustained contributions to the specialty of nursing leadership, commitment to service, and influence in shaping health care.



"I have always strived to be a catalyst of change for nurses, nurse leaders, and health care organizations," said Dr. Joseph. "On a daily basis, I continue to envision new methods to influence the complexity of nursing, nursing leadership development, and health care delivery. This designation is a validation of my passion. I am grateful to my mentors and support systems for this recognition."

Dr. Joseph is one of 10 inductees in AONL's 2021 Class of Fellows, which will be formally introduced at the organization's annual conference, July 11-14, 2021, in Washington, D.C.

CON Reveals 2020 Alumni Award Recipients

The College of Nursing is excited to announce three alumni award recipients for 2020! This awards program was established as a way to recognize former students for their hard work and dedication to nursing and health care.

One of this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients is **Carol Jorgenson Huston, DPA**. Dr. Huston is the first nurse to serve as chair of Enloe Medical Center's Board of Trustees and, in 2007, she was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Huston also served as president of Sigma Theta Tau International (2007-2009) and received advisory status with the United Nations and the World Health Organization. She is the coauthor of five influential textbooks on leadership, management, and professional issues in nursing and has published more than 100 articles in leading professional journals. Dr. Huston received her BSN from the University of Iowa in 1977, her MSN from CSU, Chico in 1982, and her master's and doctorate in public administration from the University of Southern California in 1997.



Another Distinguished Alumni Award recipient is **Sally A. Norton, PhD, RN, FNAP, FPCN, FAAN**. Dr. Norton is a fellow of the Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses Association (HPNA) and the American Academy of Nursing. She also serves as a co-director of research for the Division of Palliative Care in the Department of Medicine at the University of Rochester and holds a secondary appointment in the School of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Norton was honored with the Distinguished Researcher Award from HPNA in 2017 and was named Palliative Care Nurse of the Year by the March of Dimes in 2013 as well as a Distinguished Practitioner by the National Academies of Practice in 2006. She received her BSN from the University of Iowa in 1983 and her doctorate of nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1999.

This year's Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient is **James Kinney, DNP, BSN**. Dr. Kinney is a nurse practitioner specialist at UIHC with the Department for Vascular Surgery. He is a primary preceptor for College of Nursing students and has served as an adjunct faculty member. Throughout his time at the CON, Dr. Kinney has been an outstanding role model for future nurse practitioners. He is the diversity representative on the board of the Association of Graduate Nursing Students and is a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the Iowa Nurse Practitioner Society, Sigma Theta Tau, the Society of Vascular Surgery, and the Society of Vascular Nursing. He received his BSN from the University of Iowa in 2014 and his DNP from the UI in 2019.



New Partnership Will Allow Iowa to Help Improve Health Care Across the State

By Tom Sneer | UI Office of Strategic Communication

A new \$8 million grant from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust will help the University of Iowa educate health care providers and first responders in rural parts of the state on procedures they don't often have the opportunity to perform. The Simulation in Motion-Iowa (SIM-IA) program will provide valuable hands-on experience for health care professionals using a truckful of state-of-the-art equipment and patient simulators.

"We are thrilled to partner with the University of Iowa to bring simulation education to communities across the state," says Walter Panzirer, a trustee of the Helmsley Charitable Trust. "Our rural emergency medical responders and rural hospitals face many obstacles, including costs, travel distance, and time off to getting critical education. Soon the education will come to them in their communities."

The declining number of patients in rural areas means that first responders and health care providers have fewer opportunities to practice certain procedures, so they may not be fully comfortable when called upon. Simulation-based education, meanwhile, is expensive and often requires lengthy travel.



"In rural areas, first responders don't often get many calls for service, so they can go months or years without seeing some situations," says Jacinda Bunch, assistant professor of nursing, who will co-direct the SIM-IA program.

The grant from the Helmsley Charitable Trust to the UI College of Nursing will allow University of Iowa health care professionals to support local agencies educating first responders and care providers in their own backyards for those seldom-seen situations.

"Thankfully, crisis situations do not happen often in most communities, but when they do, rapid responses and skilled, experienced professionals are needed," says Cormac

O'Sullivan, a clinical associate professor of nursing and director of the college's anesthesia program who will co-direct SIM-IA with Bunch.

The college will use a portion of the grant money to purchase three vehicles, each about the size of a semi-trailer truck and equipped with a simulated ambulance cab, a simulated emergency room, and a control room. University health care professionals will take the education on the road so first responders and health care professionals can sharpen their skills without the expense and hassle of travel.

The "patients" are technologically advanced mannequins attached to the control room, where educators from the College of Nursing and Carver College of Medicine can change the simulation on the fly by simulating any number of complications. It could be a heart attack, for instance, a severe hemorrhage, or even a reaction to a medication.

A Family Affair

More than a decade ago, Murtis and Andrew Smith created a scholarship to support University of Iowa nursing students. Their daughter, Karen Smith, also is giving back to support future students.

Anna Weikamp has always dreamed of becoming a nurse practitioner.

“I have seen their work in the clinical setting and always admired their ability to bring nursing compassion into a provider role,” said Anna, who is a mother of two daughters, works as an ICU nurse on the weekends, and currently is enrolled in the Adult/Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Iowa College of Nursing.

For Anna, who lives in West Branch, Iowa, scholarships have been instrumental in helping her achieve her educational goals. “Scholarships have taken some of the burden of student loans off our family,” she said.

Anna is a recent recipient of the Murtis Gordanier and Andrew Clark Smith, MD, Scholarship, which supports students within the University of Iowa College of Nursing. To date, 18 recipients have benefited from this scholarship that Murtis Gordanier Smith and Andrew Clark Smith (BA '50, MD '52) created in 2006.

Their daughter, Karen Smith (BA '78), was so inspired by her parents' generosity that she is supporting their scholarship through a bequest in her own estate plans.

“Their named scholarship created a legacy,” said Karen, who lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. “Nursing always was incredibly important to my mom, and dad credited a lot of his success to the nurses at his practice.”

Murtis came to the University of Iowa after saving her money from working at the family dry cleaning business in Postville, Iowa. At Iowa, she found a passion for nursing and met her future husband, Andrew, on a blind date.

“Their love story started at the University of Iowa,” said Karen.

Prior to Andrew passing away in 2007, the couple created the Murtis Gordanier and Andrew Clark Smith, MD, Scholarship. Murtis, now 96 years old, has continued to support Iowa for nearly 60 years. “Andy was very supportive of nurses and recognized how important their work is to physicians,” said Murtis. “I think he would be happy that I continue to support nurses.”

Learn how you can make a difference by going to our planned giving website or by contacting Dayna Ballantyne, director of development, at dayna.ballantyne@foriowa.org or 319-467-3727.



IOWA | NURSING

University of Iowa College of Nursing
50 Newton Road
Iowa City, IA 52242-1121

STAY CONNECTED

We want to hear from you!
Let us know what you've been up
to. Send us your name, year of
graduation, address, email and
activities to:

collegeofnursing@uiowa.edu

UI College of Nursing
50 Newton Road
Iowa City, IA 52242-1121

