

THE Heritage Society

SIGMA FOUNDATION FOR NURSING NEWSLETTER

January 2025



Dinner and silent auction

The venue for the next dinner and silent auction has been selected, and we will celebrate your philanthropy at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art on Sunday, 9 November 2025. We look forward to an evening of fellowship with all Heritage Society donors during Sigma's 48th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.

As a reminder, we are collecting silent auction donations for this event. Some of the most popular items are nice quality jewelry, nursing nostalgia items, and gift baskets. Please consider donating something special for the event. You can contact Nikki Aleman at nikki@sigmanursing.org if you would like to make an in-kind donation.

International Awards for Nursing Excellence

Do you have a nursing peer who should be recognized? Sigma's International Awards for Nursing Excellence recognize superior achievement in developing nurse leaders anywhere to improve healthcare everywhere by connected and empowered nurse leaders.

[Learn more about how to nominate »](#)

New Heritage Society donors

We gratefully recognize the newest Heritage Society donors who've made their commitment to support nursing worldwide.

Virginia Henderson Fellows



Audrey Berman, PhD, RN
Dean Emeritus
Samuel Merritt University
Nu Xi at-Large Chapter
Rio Vista, California, USA



Lucas M. Davis, MEd, CAE, ACC, SHRM-SCP, SPHR, ICE-CCP
Chief Executive Officer
Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA



Allison Murray, MSN, RN, PHN, CNE
Nursing Instructor
West Coast University
Chi Beta and Delta Theta Chapters
Los Angeles, California, USA

News about fellows

Mary Bemker co-edited and co-authored two nursing textbooks that were recently published. The first book is *Advancing Organizations by Exemplary Nursing Leadership*, and the second is *Population Health and Its Integration Into Advanced Nursing Practice*, Second Edition.

Sharon Byrne retired from full-time academia on 1 September 2024 and holds the title Professor Emeritus from The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). She still holds a per diem position as an Advanced Practice Provider (Nurse Practitioner) at MD Anderson Cancer Center Cooper in New Jersey and co-chair of the APP Research Subcommittee.

Gloria Chan was officially conferred as a Fellow of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in December 2024.

Holli DeVon was selected for the [2024 Katharine A. Lembright Award and Lecture](#) by the American Heart Association's Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing. She received the award at the organization's 2024 Scientific Sessions on 16 November 2024.

Esther Emard retired from The George Washington University School of Nursing at the end of 2024.

Betty Ferrell shared the announcement for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of [End of Life Nursing Education Consortium \(ELNEC\)](#) where she was the principal investigator.

Betsy Frank received the inaugural [Legacy Award](#) from the Association for Leadership Science in Nursing (ALSN).

Mary Graiver was appointed to the Alumnae Board of Ursuline College in Cleveland, Ohio. She graduated from St. John College (SJC) of Cleveland in 1972 with her BSN. The College closed in 1975, but its Division of Nursing found a home at Ursuline College. The alumni of St. John College were made to feel welcome at Ursuline, and Mary has continued to be involved in keeping the spirit of SJC alive.

Carol Huston received a Lifetime Achievement in Nursing Award at Sigma's North America Region 1 Conference in Honolulu in June 2024. She also received the College of Natural Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award from California State University Chico in May 2024.

Nancyruth Leibold received the 2024 International Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) Distinguished Service Award for her service as the MERLOT Health Sciences Editor.

Leslie Nicoll is retiring as editor-in-chief of *CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing*. She will be Editor Emeritus on 1 July 2025. Dr. Nicoll will become the editor of *Visions: Scholarship of Rogerian Nursing Science* in early 2025. She is pleased to share that the [43rd annual meeting of the International Academy of Nursing Editors \(INANE\)](#) will be held in Portland, Maine 4-6 August 2025.

Tim Porter-O'Grady co-edited and authored the newly published textbook *Nursing Professional Governance: The Framework for Accountability, Engagement, and Excellence*. It is his 31st published book in nursing. He is one of the lead consultants for the US \$75 million [1803 Grant: Nurses for a Healthy Arizona](#) directed to facilitate and increase the number of quality of practice-ready nurses for the state of Arizona's health communities.

Larry Purnell co-edited *Handbook for Culturally Competent Care*, Second Edition.

Irene Reyes enjoys retirement by volunteering for an expedition in Zambia with Mothers Without Borders. She did a poster and podium presentation at the annual convention of the University of the Philippines Nursing Alumni Association, Inc. (UPNAAI). She attended her 50-year nursing class reunion in the Philippines. She presented "Transformational Leadership: A Lifetime Journey" as a guest speaker for faculty and BSN graduating class at the University of the Philippines College of Nursing.

Gwen Sherwood continues her role as an Editor for Nursing and Health Sciences. She published "[Reflective practice and knowledge development: Transforming research for a practice-based discipline](#)" in the *International Journal of Nursing Sciences*.

Nancy Stuever completed three terms (9 years) on the Board of Trustees for Carlow University in July 2023. She was made a Carlow Laureate in December 2023 in recognition of her professional accomplishments and commitment to upholding Carlow's values in service to the nursing profession and the Carlow community.

Kathleen Taylor participated in a school nurse delegation to Cuba with the USA National Association of School Nurses coordinated by the Washington, DC-based Cultural Vistas Citizen Ambassador Program. Collegial interactions with Cuban nurses, other healthcare professionals, and Cuban citizens were in abundance as we all celebrated the Latin Day of Medicine and the International Day of People with Disabilities during our journey.

Joachim Voss was named a Fulbright Specialist for Indonesia and received the [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) from the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care.

Zane Wolf was awarded the inaugural [Excellence in Mentoring Award](#) from the International Association for Human Caring on 23 June 2024. Future mentoring awards by the organization will be named The Zane Wolf Excellence in Mentoring Award.

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Make two or more donations in the 2023-2025 biennium to be recognized by Sandra Bibb in her President's Circle. [DONATE](#)

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