A LETTER FROM THE DEAN

I’m pleased to introduce our first ever annual report, summarizing our many achievements, milestones and activities during 2020.

Despite a tumultuous and challenging year that affected every single person in different ways, I am proud of how our faculty, staff, students, donors and partners throughout UC Irvine rose to the historic moment.

Our faculty are collaborating with other brilliant minds at UCI to help solve the COVID-19 crisis. Many faculty whose research covered areas such as pediatric cancer, mental health, caregivers and domestic violence, were able to continue on as others had to shift because of the lockdown.

Clinical faculty performed an indispensable and critical role in running the COVID-19 test sites at UCI Health, and more recently, coordinating and administering COVID vaccine sessions. Thousands of people have been tested since their doors opened in March 2020. On the weekends, they personally called all positive patients to answer their questions. They are tireless.

Students bravely faced the challenges of shifting to online learning while missing their classmates and the formative experience of campus life.

The generous support of our donors throughout a difficult year fills me with gratitude. We have been able to expand the ways we are able to support our students. Many of them have been financially challenged; the pandemic has only deepened their struggles. Our donors show our students how much the community believes in them.

My wish for our community in 2021 is a year of good health, safety and happiness.

Sincerely,

Adey M. Nyamathi, ANP, PhD, FAAN
Founding Dean and Distinguished Professor
Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing
Our Leadership

Adey Nyamathi, PhD, ANP, FAAN
Founding Dean and Distinguished Professor

Miriam Bender, PhD, RN
Associate Professor
Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs
Director, Center for Nursing Philosophy

Leanne Burke, EDD, MSN, CNM, RNC-OB
Pre-Licensure Programs Director, Associate Clinical Professor

Megan Enciso, Med
Director of Student Affairs

Susanne Phillips, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, FAANP
Associate Dean, Clinical Affairs
Associate Clinical Professor

Susan Tiso, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP
Director, DNP Program
Clinical Professor

Dorothy Tu, MHA
Assistant Dean

Chuck Villanueva
Director of Finance

Our Faculty

Stephanie Au, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
Assistant Clinical Professor

Nakia Best, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor

Dawn Bounds, PhD, PMHNP-BC
Assistant Professor

Sara Brown, EDD, MSN, RN
Assistant Clinical Professor

Michael Bueno, MSN
Assistant Clinical Professor

Candace Burton, PhD, RN, AFN-BC, AGN-BC, FNAP
Assistant Professor

Sarah Campbell, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
Assistant Clinical Professor

Michelle A. Fortier, PhD
Associate Professor

Dana Rose Garfin, PhD
Assistant Adjunct Professor

Yuqing Guo, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ALISON HOLMAN, PHD, APRN, FNP, FAAN
PROFESSOR

DAVE HOLMES, PHD
PROFESSOR

ANGELA JUN, DNP, FNP-BC, ACNP
ASSOCIATE CLINICAL PROFESSOR

JUNG-AH LEE, PHD, RN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

TIFFANY K. NEILSEN, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
ASSISTANT CLINICAL PROFESSOR

JUNG IN PARK, PHD, RN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

NISA PATEL, MS, FNP-C
CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR

MELISSA D. PINTO, PHD, RN, FSASHM, FAAN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

AMIR RAHMANI, PHD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

VANESSA RODRIGUEZ, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
ASSISTANT CLINICAL PROFESSOR

SANGHYUK SHIN, PHD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

ELIZABETH SYMANSKI, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
ASSISTANT CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR

CANDICE WHEALON, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
ASSISTANT CLINICAL PROFESSOR

DNP-FNP PRACTICE PROGRAM

RUTH A. MULNARD, DNSC, RN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS

ELLEN OLSHANSKY, PHD, APRN, WHNP-BC, FAAN
PROFESSOR EMERITUS

KATHLEEN SAUNDERS, MSN, APRN, CNS, CPN, PHN
RETIRED ASSOCIATE CLINICAL PROFESSOR

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

JILL BERG, PHD, RN
PROFESSOR EMERITUS

LORRAINE S. EVANGELISTA, PHD, APRN, CNS, FAHA, FAAN
PROFESSOR EMERITUS

CAMILLE FITZPATRICK, MSN
RETIRED CLINICAL PROFESSOR

MAUREEN MOVIOUS, MN, APRN, CNS, CMSRN
RETIRED ASSOCIATE CLINICAL PROFESSOR

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

RETIRED ASSOCIATE CLINICAL PROFESSOR

RETIRED & EMERITUS FACULTY
WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

NAKIA C. BEST, PHD
Assistant Professor Nakia Best comes to the nursing school from the University of Chapel Hill – North Carolina, where she earned her PhD in 2018. Since her dissertation examining data on school nurses in North Carolina, Best has advocated for nurses in schools using powerful research and data skills. Best brought her work to UCI, where she is working to address a glaring shortage of nurses in Orange County.

DAWN BOUNDS, PHD
Assistant Professor Dawn Bounds, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, has a long career helping and advocating for at-risk children, particularly young girls caught in a cycle of running away and arrest. The Chicago native joined UCI in July to teach, perform clinical care and help build a psychiatric-mental health NP track in the DNP Program. She also plans to partner with county physicians to build an intervention for at-risk youths and their caregivers.

MICHAEL BUENO, MSN, RN, CNL
Assistant Clinical Professor Michael Bueno, MSN, RN, CNL, comes from the University of San Francisco Orange County campus, where he was an instructor in the master’s program. He has worked in all levels of a hospital and is a certified clinical nurse leader studying for his Doctor of Philosophy degree in nursing research, with a focus on caregiver health for those with Alzheimer’s and related dementias at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

ANGELA JUN, DNP, FNP-BC, ACHPN
Assistant Clinical Professor Angela Jun, DNP, FNP-BC, ACHPN, comes from Azusa Pacific University. She is a family and hospice/palliative nurse practitioner. Jun has worked in primary care settings, caring for everyone from children to seniors with various acute and chronic care conditions. Her past research has centered around pediatric patients with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); her current interest is palliative care among the geriatric population.

CANDICE WHEALON, MSN, FNP-C
Assistant Clinical Professor Candice Whealon earned her family nurse practitioner degree from UCI in 2013. In July, she returned as an assistant clinical professor and the FNP clinical coordinator of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. She is also pursuing her doctorate with a minor in nursing education at the University of Pittsburgh. Whealon is also the founding president of the UCI Alumni Association Nursing Chapter and president-elect of the California Association for Nurse Practitioners Orange County Chapter.
CONFRONTING COVID-19:
NURSING FACULTY MOBILIZE

FACE SHIELDS FOR CLINICAL STAFF
In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Assistant Professor Sanghyuk Shin and Clinical Professor Susan Tiso participated in a collaborative effort to produce hundreds of 3D-printed face shields for frontline clinical staff. Shin connected all the players, while Tiso tested dozens of shields for fit, form and function.

QUICKLY OPENING COVID TEST SITES
Clinical Professor Susanne Phillips collaborated closely with UCI Health leadership to have one of Orange County’s first COVID testing sites launched in just four days. “Since March, Phillips and her team of nurse practitioners have tested, comforted and educated thousands of people.

KEEPING STUDENTS ON TRACK
Associate Clinical Professor Leanne Burke and Assistant Clinical Professors Tiffany Nielsen and Sara Brown had to ensure their nursing students were able to stay on track despite stay-at-home orders and hospital closures. Nielsen led the expansion of simulations as the state allowed 50% of clinical time to be replaced with them. Burke and Brown worked to find every pre-licensure student a clinical placement to ensure they could get their required clinical time and graduate.

TRIAGING COVID-19
Assistant Professor Jung In Park was part of a team that developed a vulnerability scoring system (VSS) to speed the triage of patients with COVID-19. The VSS was created with a database of thousands of COVID-19 patients in the UC system and their outcomes. It updates in real-time as more people are diagnosed with the disease.

IMPACT OF SOCIAL ISOLATION ON HOMELESS ADULTS
Founding Dean and Distinguished Professor Adey Nyamath and her co-investigators are studying the effects of social isolation on homeless adults on Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles during COVID-19. Because of limited healthcare and social services, homeless adults reported more loneliness, anxiety, depression and heavier drug use.
CONFRONTING COVID-19

LINKING MEDIA CONSUMPTION AND STRESS
In March, Professor E. Alison Holman and her team launched a national study of the stress effects in real time of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were able to track respondents’ stress levels as the pandemic worsened. The study found a clear and direct link to excessive disaster-related media consumption and feelings of stress, anxiety and depression. Holman’s team also examined the effect of hurricanes during a pandemic, measuring crisis exposure, threat perceptions, responses and engagement with safety orders.

SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA
When California ordered all non-essential business to shut down, family caregivers of a loved one with dementia were hit hard as their sources of support were removed. Associate Professor Jung-Ah Lee launched a telephone support intervention study with UCI students providing emotional support, COVID-19 information and caregiving resources. Lee’s research team has supported caregivers in minoritized communities. Lee and multidisciplinary collaborators will continue a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research project to implement a home-based, culturally and language-specific caregiving intervention designed to strengthen relationships and educate caregivers.

COVID-19 IN HEALTHCARE STAFF
The Infectious Disease Science Initiative, led by Assistant Professor Sanghyuk Shin, supported a number of COVID-19 projects, including a study of COVID-19 risk among healthcare staff at UCI Medical Center. Associate Professor Miriam Bender is one of the Co-Principal Investigators. The study’s principal investigator is Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Professor Ilhem Messaoudi.

STUDENT TRANSMISSION
Assistant Professor Sanghyuk Shin and his co-investigators are studying the transmission of COVID-19 in a random sample of 200 college students. Blood and saliva samples are collected every three months. The study’s information will be used to understand virus spread among students and help universities develop preventive guidelines.
PANDEMIC IN PICTURES:
DISCOVER, TEACH, HEAL

PROFESSOR ALISON HOLMAN’S STRESS AND COPING RESEARCH TEAM MEET TO DISCUSS A GRADUATE STUDENT’S RESEARCH THAT WAS MAPPED ONTO THEIR LONGITUDINAL STUDY ADDRESSING RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF OVER 6,500 AMERICANS.

SARAH CAMPBELL, NP, AND HER TEAM WEAR FACE MASKS CAMPBELL’S MOTHER-IN-LAW MADE TO SUPPORT THE HEALTHCARE STAFF AT UCI HEALTH. “SHE AND MY FATHER-IN-LAW FELT STRONGLY ABOUT DOING SOMETHING TO GIVE BACK,” SHE SAYS.

COURTNEY NABORS, NP, SUSAN TISO, NP, AND NAZ MOTEBASEM, LVN, STRIKE A POSE DURING A BREAK AT ONE OF THE UCI HEALTH COVID-19 TESTING TENTS.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE STUDENT PAOLA GERMAN, RN, WORKING AT UCI HEALTH.

NURSE PRACTITIONER SUSANNE PHILLIPS, DNP, MAJORED IN NURSING BECAUSE SUPERHERO WASN’T AN OPTION.

LEANNE BURKE, DIRECTOR OF THE PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM, WORKS IN THE COVID-19 TRIAGE CALL CENTER SOON ITS OPENING.

SUSAN TISO, DNP, MODELS THE FACE SHIELD THAT WAS ULTIMATELY CHOSEN TO BE 3D PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED TO FRONTLINE STAFF.
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENCE INITIATIVE:
LEADERS COME TOGETHER

SANGHYUK SHIN, PHD

In 2020, the UCI Infectious Disease Science Initiative received an additional $150,000 in funding to continue its activities in its second year.

The initiative, led by Assistant Professor Sanghyuk Shin, PhD, facilitates new collaborations between UCI’s infectious disease leaders to better understand the factors driving infectious disease outbreaks and antibiotic resistance around the world.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the group shifted much of its focus to COVID-19 during its first year and will continue in its second year.

Research projects the initiative is leading or facilitating include:
- An investigation into the dynamics of tuberculosis transmission in Botswana
- A study of COVID-19 risk among healthcare staff at UCI Health
- Monitoring social interactions and COVID-19 among UCI students

Members of the initiative also led several community outreach projects, including:
- Coordinating the resources to manufacture face shields for UCI Health healthcare staff
- Participation in the COVID-19 Surveillance Working Group
- COVID-19 modeling consultations for the Orange and Riverside county health departments

In addition to Dr. Shin, the initiative’s leadership team includes:
- Donald Forthal, MD, Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases, UCI School of Medicine
- Guiyun Yan, PhD, Professor, Program in Public Health
- Shruti Gohil, MD, Epidemiology & Infection Prevention, Division of Infectious Diseases, School of Medicine
- Vladimir Minin, Professor, Department of Statistics, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science
"Ask any nurse to define nursing. They'll tell you an amazing story, but you won't get a definition. They inherently know it's not a thing."

Bender likens the attempt to define nursing to pondering human existence: Ask people for a definition of life, and everyone will have a different answer.

There has been a decades-long gap in conversations about nursing philosophy in the United States.

In the ‘60s up until the ‘80s, philosophical discourse was a critical element of academic nursing.

In the 2000s, says Bender, discourse waned as schools shifted their focus to the delivery of nursing, such as developing and testing methods to improve patient conditions.

To drive a move away from viewing nursing in numbers, she says nurses will need to be able to speak to exactly what unique things they do that make a difference.

Research can't easily capture those things.

"We seem to be hungry for this discourse and it's been too long."
Construction began on the UCI Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing and the UCI Susan & Henry College of Health Sciences.

Nursing's new home is a four-story, 71,500-square-foot building that is scheduled to open its doors in fall 2022.

The College of Health Sciences includes a state-of-the-art, five-story, 108,200-square-foot building. The college is a 9-acre health sciences complex that promises to be a national showcase for integrative health, patient care, training and research.

The building's doors will also be open to professional nurses in our community to continue to develop their education and expertise so they can offer an even higher level of care to Orange County residents.

“The priority as Dean of the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing is to educate and prepare nurses and nurse leaders to enter the workforce, advancing nursing science and promoting compassionate, evidence-based care for all in our communities near and far,” says Founding Dean Adey Nyamathi.
The Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing Alumni Chapter Board comprises volunteer alumni committed to supporting graduates and students through scholarship, mentorship, community outreach and philanthropy.
When Sharon Allen was three, her grandmother predicted her career. “I was always giving her foot rubs, back rubs. She called me her little nurse,” Allen’s mom told her later. “Sure enough, that’s the profession I chose.”

Today, the UCI Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing alum (’13) and family nurse practitioner uses her naturally compassionate nature to guide, mentor, and heal the souls and spirits of nurses.

Her work is more critical than ever amid a historic and devastating pandemic. It started when she wrote a 31-day devotional for nurses, *The Called Nurse*, which encourages daily and weekly reflection and journaling.

“I wrote it because I wanted to encourage them to examine the call of why they chose nursing. I honestly believe it’s my calling. Everything I do revolves around nursing.”

Students and professional nurses alike can lose touch with what drove them into nursing.

“SO MANY NURSES REACHED OUT AND SAID THIS IS THE TIME WE NEED IT THE MOST.”

She saw it in her students where she’s a clinical instructor at a community college in Cleveland. “Students would come to me with personal issues, some dealing with things that had nothing to do with nursing at all,” she remembers.

That led Allen to start a Bible-based mentorship program at her school that eventually transformed into the Ohio chapter of the Nurse Christian Fellowship.

The first meeting was Allen and two other nurses in her dining room.

The weekly meetings eventually expanded to a library. Then COVID-19 hit. Allen thought she’d table the meetings, but nurses pleaded otherwise. “So many nurses reached out and said this is the time we need it the most.”

Allen has impacted more than just the women who attend her meetings.

“I see changes taking place in their families. It’s wonderful when you see one person healed and joyful and how contagious it is to people around them.”
ALUMNI: THE YEAR IN PICTURES

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS GATHER TO CONNECT AND CELEBRATE.

ALUMNI BOARD: (L-R) JOHN SANGER (PAST VP), CANDICE WHEALON, KATRINA LAZARTE, TIFFANY NIELSEN AND JOHN ALEJANDRO.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR ROBIN CARR (C) WITH SARAH CAMPBELL, TIFFANY NIELSEN, KATRINA LAZARTE AND CANDICE WHEALON.

FELICE NG ('16) WORKS TO HEAL COVID-19 PATIENTS AT A FREMONT, CA, HOSPITAL.

PAUL KIM ('16) IS BACK AND PURSUING HIS DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE AT UCI.

KATRINA LAZARTE ('19) WORKS IN THE BONE MARROW PROGRESSIVE CARE UNIT AT UC SAN DIEGO HEALTH.

JESSICA HERNANDEZ ('14) IS A NURSE IN THE NEUROSCIENCE STEP-DOWN UNIT AT UCI MEDICAL CENTER IN ORANGE.
NURSING VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Heartfelt gratitude to the following cabinet and committee volunteers. Their leadership, guidance and longtime friendship to our school has positively changed the lives of our students, promoted the vision of our nursing school and continued to support innovative, nurse-led research.

Dean’s Cabinet
- Sue Gross
- John Conners
- Diane Drake (chair)
- Jennifer Johnson
- Debra Mathias
- Eileen Moore
- Judy Murphy
- Ellen Olshansky
- James Irvine
- Swinden
- Feizal Waffarn
- Maureen Zehntner

This distinguished group of community leaders serves as the senior advisory group to the dean of the school and the Office of Development in strategic planning and fundraising efforts.

Additional roles include advocating for the nursing school dean and promoting the interests of UCI in the community, nationally and globally.

They are trailblazers and visionaries who are making positive changes in the lives of our students and our community.

Their unwavering philanthropic support to assist the dean in successfully reaching fundraising goals has led to an unprecedented year in scholarship growth in all undergraduate and graduate programs.

Nurse Legacy Society
- July Boyle
- Tania V. Bridgeman
- Laura Bruzzone
- Dorreen Dann
- Nancy Eagan
- Sandra Longnecker
- Debra Mathias
- Mary Owen
- Dorothy Tu
- Cynthia Winner
- Susanlee Wisotzkey
- Ruthanne Wooten
- Maureen Zehntner (president)

Retired nurse leaders who remain deeply committed to the nursing profession initially inspired the recently established Nurse Legacy Society.

Through their advisory role to the dean in support of clinical practice and promotion of nursing research, this committee is powered by passion. Its members are true advocates of the evolving role of the nurse to meet the needs of our community and families.

Supporting our students through personal endowments and the establishment of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Endowment, they will soon commit their time to mentor students and alumni through the Alumni Association Anteater Network. These dedicated members continue to engage in community outreach as they connect practicing and retired professional nurses to the vision of our school. It is clear that once a nurse, always a nurse. It’s always time to celebrate their genuine camaraderie.
Giving Day 2020

Students Receive Skills Totes

This Giving Day, our community supported our nursing students as they embark on their educational journey. The support was so strong that every new student was given a skills tote.

These totes normally cost $125. They are a required and critical part of a nurse’s education and skills development.

Our students will now begin their education as nurses knowing that their community is behind them.

For more information about our volunteer opportunities or to learn how you can change the life of a nursing student, please contact Director of Development Juliana Goswick at jgoswick@hs.uci.edu.
MEETING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2019-2020 student scholarship recipients of the Elizabeth Tierney Endowment Award meet with Dean Adey Nyamathi and longtime friends Elizabeth and Tom Tierney to share their clinical experiences and aspirations for their nursing careers.

DONORS OPEN THEIR DOORS

We are especially appreciative of the many donors who opened the doors to their home and invited guests to hear the vision of our school. Through the generosity of hosts like Dr. Ellie Weinstein, the financial burden many students face were eased through gifts made to our scholarship and endowment programs.

VIRGIN RIVER AUTHOR COMES TO UCI

After the UCI Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing was mentioned on the television show “Virgin River,” the school invited author, Robyn Carr, to speak at its community and alumni event. Carr is pictured between UCI Health Pediatrician Dr. Dan Cooper and Dean Adey Nyamathi (left) and alumni Katrina Lazarte and Tiffany Nielsen (right).

Carr, who is educated as a nurse, shared her thoughts and experiences with an audience of 150 attendees. Because of community and alumni support, the sold-out event also led to the creation of a DNP endowment.
The ability to pursue a degree without having to work to survive is a luxury many people cannot afford.

UCI Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing Founding Dean Adey Nyamathi wants to remove those barriers to higher education.

As a result, she started the Founding Dean Nyamathi PhD Scholarship to support the school’s PhD students. The fund is something she has wanted to create for a long time.

“When I pursued my PhD, it was a struggle academically and financially,” the distinguished professor remembers.
ENDOWMENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
SUPPORTING OUR NURSING STUDENTS

HIEN "CATHY" NGUYEN

- Leslie Ann Ferree Memorial Endowment (DNP)
- Susanne Renee Leider Memorial Endowment (Undergraduate/MEPN)
- Ellen Olshansky Founding Director Leadership Endowment (PhD)
- Ellen Lewis Nursing Leadership Scholarship (Undergraduate)
- Mary Hannacker Endowment (Undergraduate)
- DNP Unnamed Endowment (DNP)
- Future DNP Grad Division Endowment (DNP)
- Tierney Scholarship (Undergraduate)
- Feizel and Dorothy Waffarn Scholarship (MEPN)
- Felix Schwarz Nursing Science Student Award (Undergraduate)
- Weinstein Scholarship (PhD)
- Diane and Brian Drake Nursing Endowment (PhD)
- The Hien "Cathy" Nguyen Scholarship (PhD or DNP)
FEATURED STUDENT: ASHLEY PLUMMER

FIGHTING THE CHLAMYDIA EPIDEMIC

While working with adolescents at a women’s health clinic, Ashley Plummer, WHNP, realized that she could help solve a problem: the chlamydia epidemic. In Denver, where she lives, more than one in 100 residents had the sexually transmitted infection in 2018, according to Denver Public Health. It’s the most common STI in the city.

“When we were trying to figure out how to lower the rates, we noticed that our clinic wasn’t ensuring that partners were being treated.”

Plummer is a member of the first class in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program. The effort is part of her final DNP quality improvement project, which will illustrate her ability to translate research into practice.

She’s the first student in the DNP program to present her project to nursing leadership and faculty.

Chlamydia is a silent infection that produces no symptoms. Left untreated, it can lead to female infertility. When one person in a couple has it, both partners must be treated or risk re-infection.

Plummer’s project is a text-based partner notification service. When one is diagnosed and treated for chlamydia, their partners are located and notified of the infection via text and provided with resources and information to get treatment.

“I REALLY ENJOY BEING A NURSE PRACTITIONER, AND THE DNP IS THE CAPSTONE, THE ULTIMATE DEGREE FOR AN NP TO GET.”

Ultimately, text-based notifications have the potential to lower the incidence of chlamydia and re-infection.

That all ties into diagnosing and treating chlamydia early, before permanent damage is done.

Plummer decided to pursue her DNP because it’s the highest level of nursing one can achieve.

“I really enjoy being a nurse practitioner, and the DNP is the capstone, the ultimate degree for an NP to get.”
OUR STUDENTS

KEVIN NOLASCO
Kevin Nolasco, RN, (20) celebrates his graduation.

ZOT ZOT ZOT
Nursing students wear masks while in class – a sign of the times.

KEVIN NOLASCO
Michael Guerra (22) is in his first year of the bachelor of science nursing program after changing majors.

SHELBY LEE
Shelby Lee (22), a Master’s Entry in Nursing Program student.

DANISHA JENKINS
PhD student Danisha Jenkins attends a protest with her fellow nurses to assist protesters in need of medical attention.

MICHAEL GUERRA

DNP COHORT
The School of Nursing’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program cohort.

KEVIN NOLASCO
Kevin Nolasco, RN, (20) celebrates his graduation.
CURRENT RESEARCH

LED BY NURSING FACULTY

Examining the clinical nurse leader model

A newly funded study seeks to show the effectiveness of the clinical nurse leader (CNL) model. It’s also the first federally funded study that aims to demonstrate how to implement nursing knowledge and practice into safe, high-quality, evidence-based care.

By identifying such strategies, patient safety can be improved and adverse healthcare outcomes reduced. (Principal investigator: Miriam Bender)

Intervention for underserved dementia caregivers

The National Institutes of Health and National Institute on Aging funded the implementation of a home-based, culturally and language-specific intervention for caregivers of a loved one with dementia.

The study will use education, stress reduction strategies and wearable technology to improve caregivers’ health and well-being. (Principal investigator: Jung-Ah Lee; Co-Principal Investigators: Amir M. Rahmani, Lisa Gibbs)

Model of digital community-centered care

The National Science Foundation is funding a grant to establish a cost-effective model of digital community-centered care. Current models rely on registered nurses to supervise caregivers who provide services to vulnerable populations.

A new model will transform the system into one that is efficient, automated and scalable. (Principal investigator: Amir M. Rahmani)

Managing childhood cancer pain

Several interventions designed to help children with cancer are being studied. A novel pain assessment and symptom management tool called Pain Buddy is teaching children cognitive and behavioral pain management skills. The app delivers child-reported symptom data to healthcare providers for more assistance.

Other projects in this area also include interventions to improve outcomes for Spanish-speaking families; help children navigate life after recovering from cancer and coping with the late effects; and minimize the number of painful needle sticks that are used throughout treatment. (Principal investigator: Michelle Fortier)
MINDFULNESS FOR TRAUMA-EXPOSED HOMELESS WOMEN

In the second year of a five-year study, 134 women transitioning out of homelessness learned mindfulness techniques as a strategy to cope with the trauma they had experienced.

The study team measures the effect of the intervention on their stress and cortisol levels. (Principal investigator: Dana Rose Garfin)

CELEBRATING OUR RESEARCHERS

FACULTY AMONG THE TOP 2% OF WORLD’S RESEARCHERS

UCI Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing Founding Dean and Distinguished Professor Adey Nyamathi, Assistant Professor Amir M. Rahmani, Emeritus Professor Lorraine Evangelista and former Professor Dave Holmes are among the top 2% of scientists in the world.

Nyamathi has been researching homelessness and working directly with the homeless community for more than three decades.

Rahmani is a expert on technology and how it can be used to improve our health.

JUNG-AH LEE RECIPIENT OF 2020 ATHALIE CLARK AWARD

Dr. Jung-Ah Lee, PhD, RN was honored with the 2020 Athalie Clarke Achievement Award, an annual honor that goes to exceptional researchers creating change in the field of medicine and nursing.

The award honors Lee’s groundbreaking and timely research supporting caregivers of dementia patients. Her work provides hope and support to the many families caring for the aging population, a significant number of whom experience memory loss.

JOURNAL OF FORENSIC NURSING AWARDS CANDACE BURTON ARTICLE OF THE YEAR

Candace Burton, PhD, received the 2019 Journal of Forensic Nursing Education Article of the Year Award for an article she and two external colleagues wrote about the importance of incorporating trauma-informed care into bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) education.

Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Education in Baccalaureate Nursing Curricula in the United States: Applying the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials was selected for the award for its innovation, significance, approach, potential impact, and overall writing.