

Bola Olarewaju  
is a Class of  
2020 graduate  
of the Doctor  
of Philosophy  
Degree  
Program.

# advancing health

YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION **SPRING 2022**

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## Because of you, Bola's impact goes global

Bola Olarewaju takes her knowledge across the globe — knowledge she gained during her doctoral program at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis. An education made possible thanks to donors like you.

“If you ask any Ph.D. graduate, they will tell you that this journey is a marathon and not a race,” says Bola, a graduate of the Class of 2020 Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program. “Support along the journey comes in many forms. Financial support through scholarships foster and facilitate access to higher education when it would not have been feasible otherwise.”

Bola received the school's Hersted Fund for Pediatric Nursing and was a Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar. Those funds are designed to invest in the education of future nurse leaders and scientists. For Bola, it launched the impact she always wanted in women and children's health.

She currently works with health care specialists in Cambodia on their shared goal to improve outcomes for infants in intensive care. That connection and Bola's potential impact extends far beyond one graduate.

“I am grateful for the investment in me and belief that I could succeed,” Bola explains. “Supporting transformative health care requires investment in institutions and that investment goes beyond one person.”

DEAN'S LETTER

# Charting our course for the future



**The world entered 2022** a bit bleary eyed from continuing pandemic challenges. We at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis started the new year focused on our future growth.

Our new strategic plan charts our course. We engaged more than 200 people from UC Davis Health and the Davis campus, including leadership, faculty, staff, students, alumni and postdoctoral scholars. If you gave of your time and input, I sincerely thank you.

For long-term success, we must leverage our unique strengths to advance each mission area for measurable impact to our collective communities. Our goals for the next three to five years include providing an exceptional education and growing our research program to increased engagement with our community partners and integration within UC Davis Health.

Achieving those means we must also create an environment where all can thrive and where we identify, attract and retain diverse students, faculty and staff to advance diversity, equity and inclusion.

Our plan is a living document, one in which I hope to partner with you and hear your thoughts as we strive for optimal health and health care equity for all, together. You can read about the plan on our website at [nursing.ucdavis.edu/strategic-plan](https://nursing.ucdavis.edu/strategic-plan).

**Stephen J. Cavanagh**, PhD, MPA, R.N., FACHE, FAAN  
Dignity Health Dean's Chair for Nursing Leadership,  
Dean and Professor

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11 physician assistant students earned National Health Service Corps scholarships.

## P.A. students' passion earns investment in their education, rural communities

**A record-setting** 11 future physician assistants (P.A.) from the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis earned scholarships from the National Health Service Corps to pursue their passion to serve people with limited access to health care.

The scholarship pays for tuition and other education-related expenses, and also provides a monthly stipend to assist with living expenses. For every year of tuition, the student must commit to practicing in a rural, urban or frontier community that has limited

access to care, upon graduation and licensure.

"I chose UC Davis because of its emphasis on primary care and rural care," explains second-year student Renee Wadsworth. "The goals of this scholarship, my goals and the school's goals are a perfect match."

"So many people have to travel 30 minutes up to two hours to see a provider. I want to work in those areas. I want to cross that bridge and help those people," adds first-year student Mike Needham.

### CONGRATULATIONS, DEAN CAVANAGH!

Dean Stephen J. Cavanagh was recently elected to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Board of Directors. AACN represents 840 nursing schools nationwide.

# Inaugural students pave way...

and continue to invest



**Two weeks into his pursuit of a master's degree in leadership** at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis, student Ren Bee turned cheerleader in support of creating the Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership Student and Alumni Scholarship Fund.

"We knew the initial \$100 million, which paid for our education, would run out," Ren says. "I wanted to be a filter through which that investment would flow to continue supporting those who come after us."

Suzanne Beshore, Ren's classmate, recognized how lucky they were to benefit from that initial gift from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. She joined the 100% of her classmates in giving, which, she says feels natural.

"My time at the School of Nursing is one of the more magical times in my life. We all believed we could change the world," she explains. "Now, even as the school's mission is evolving, they continue to reform and transform health care."

One decade after they graduated, Suzanne and Ren continue donating to the school. Ren went on to spearhead a UC Davis Health nurses' campaign, raise funds for the Dean's Lecture Series and to purchase a piece of artwork

for Betty Irene Moore Hall and establish the Bee's Family Interprofessional Scholarship.

He continues his cheerleading role and keeps their class together with annual gatherings. In fact, he's organized a 10-year reunion, planned for this spring, for his classmates whose generosity from the very beginning provided the capital for ongoing funds that continue to benefit the school.

"I'm grateful to come from a transformative program. We all had a shared vision and jumpstarted the school's purpose," Ren says. "Now I want to take the finance barriers out of the way of getting great quality students in the future."

"I am pleased to continue supporting the school," Suzanne adds. "I know that the people there are using these resources to make the world better."



Ren Bee, left, and Suzanne Beshore, both were students in the inaugural master's leadership program. Their class purchased this artwork for Betty Irene Moore Hall.

# Creating pipelines, building equity-minded nurses

**If the COVID-19 pandemic taught communities anything,** it's that dramatic changes reveal crises and nurses are on the front lines of both current care and future change. This watershed moment offers an opportunity for nurses to drive equity and improve the health and well-being for the entire population.

"The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity" was released in May 2021. It offers a road map for how nurses can work to reduce health disparities and promote equity.

"Given the disparate outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic and racial tension in the U.S., there is no better time to discuss health disparities and how to mitigate them," says Piri Ackerman-Barger, associate dean for Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. "We must constantly recommit to the ongoing work that is necessary to dismantle systemic racism and improve health inequities."

One way to address these challenges is to develop a nursing workforce that mirrors the diversity of the population. The Summer Health Institute for Nursing Exploration and Success (SHINES) aims to do just that. Currently under development, the program would expose Sacramento high school students to the nursing profession, learn what nursing pathways suit their needs and how to succeed in their academic aspirations.

"We think the earlier young people see themselves as capable and valuable to the health care profession, the sooner they'll make the steps to prepare where they need to go to get there," Piri says.

Piri also points to the lack of diversity in doctorally prepared nursing researchers. She sets her sights on a program to target prospective Doctor of Philosophy students and

create a pipeline for that degree.

In the meantime, the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing lives out its diversity statement "to prepare graduates who can inform and participate in improving the health policies needed for health equity to be achieved and for longstanding patterns of inequality to be interrupted."



# Giving back, staying connected

## Alumnus shares willingly with current, future students

**Keoki Leong** works each day in a capacity and place he never imagined three years ago.

As a physician assistant (P.A.) in plastic surgery at UC Davis Health, he works both inpatient and outpatient and delivers the care he always dreamed he could. It's an opportunity he credits to his time at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis.

"When I was an undergraduate, there was always that fear of not being enough," Keoki says. "The School of Nursing took a chance on me allowing me to study at this prestigious university. For that I am so grateful."

Believing in yourself and working hard for your goals is a message that Keoki shares willingly with current and prospective P.A. students. As a speaker at the Class of 2021's P.A. Oath event and the face of recent recruitment ads, Keoki encourages and inspires.

"The value I hope to share with current and future students is to always try and

put others before yourself. We endure all those late nights of studying and missed birthday parties, so we are empowered to be a source of comfort for others," he explains. "I have been able to connect with so many students to help them understand how to be successful."

Keoki humbly shares his success in his young career

and proudly touts the benefits of being an alumnus of the School of Nursing:

staying connected to former classmates and giving back when he can.

"I think other P.A. alumni seem to align more with UC Davis to connect with a broader audience," Keoki says. "It is my hope that as we share and promote the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, this name becomes more recognized."



# A L U M N I N E T W O R K

The Alumni Network enables physician assistant, nurse practitioner, nursing, nurse leadership and doctoral alumni to catch up and connect with one another.



**Congratulations, Master's Entry Program in Nursing Class of 2021!** Students, their guest pinners and faculty gathered at Betty Irene Moore Hall in December to commemorate their completion of the 18-month MEPN.

## THANK YOU FOR GOING BEYOND!

We send a special round of appreciation to alumni Lisa Peterson, MSN '18, Jenna Ricks-Cosens, MSN '19, and Keoki Leong, MHS '20, for allowing us to share their stories and photos for our fall and year-end fundraising appeals. Do you have a story you want to share, let us know! Email Maria at [marfernandez@ucdavis.edu](mailto:marfernandez@ucdavis.edu).

## SAVE THE DATE!

Inaugural Class of 2012  
10-year Reunion

**Reminisce and  
reconnect**

**2-5 p.m. Saturday,  
May 21, 2022**

Watch for your exclusive  
email invitation soon



### WANT TO RECEIVE EMAIL-EXCLUSIVE INVITATIONS?

It's easy when you join the Alumni Network with your current email address. Connect with classmates, sign up for events and post or find jobs, too!

**[AlumniNetwork.mn.co](http://AlumniNetwork.mn.co)**

**CONTACT ALUMNI RELATIONS** at [hs-SONalumni@ucdavis.edu](mailto:hs-SONalumni@ucdavis.edu) to learn more about ways to get involved.

UC DAVIS

**GIVEDAY** APRIL 22 - 23, 2022

[giveday.ucdavis.edu](http://giveday.ucdavis.edu)

Watch your email and social media for more details!



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