

# advancing health

YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

FALL 2019

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## It takes only one

### Grandmother's encouragement, donor support make dreams reality

**Cassi Carter and Crissi Patel** are living their dream: working as registered nurses at UC Davis Health. While their 20-year road was fraught with doubt, the support these twins received at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing affirmed their journey.

"We came from poverty. No one sought higher careers. Nursing was not in our community and not something we were propelled to do at all," says Crissi, a graduate of the second Master's Entry Program in Nursing class.

Cassi, a Class of 2018 alumna as well, adds, "Our grandmother was always there asking us 'what's next?' Having that one person encourage you, it only takes one."

The encouragement that prompted their graduate education now also serves their patients. Crissi recounts a recent interaction

in which an older African American woman was in distress.

"It's difficult for our community to trust. But as soon as she saw me and saw a face that's similar to hers, she leaned back and calmed," Crissi recalls. "It happens so often."

In the past three years alone, more than 27% of students in the school's five graduate-degree programs are from underrepresented minorities. The twins are grateful for that diversity and supporters, like you, who believed in what they could contribute to nursing. Now they sow that value into their families and the community.

"We were drawn here because of the value this school places on cultural inclusiveness and leadership. It goes back to that one person and the change they can make," Crissi says.

DEAN'S LETTER

# Your gifts support new collaborations, opportunities



Fall finds us deep into a new quarter with more than 300 current students working diligently. Some pursue dreams of becoming providers and clinicians. Others dig deep to discover new knowledge to improve health care for all of us. All, along

with faculty and staff, have gratitude for your partnership in these endeavors.

Since joining the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing in July, I've been amazed by the commitment of the team, the diversity among us and the important role the School of Nursing plays in the overall success of UC Davis Health. This is just such a wonderful opportunity for nursing to improve health care, build nursing science and educate the next generation of students, including policy and practice, and ensuring all we do works toward improving the health of our communities.

I witnessed first-hand the commitment of our alumni as I toured UC Davis Medical Center. I celebrated a milestone with physician assistant and family nurse practitioner graduates and students as they prepared to enter practice and deliver care to people. I welcomed new leadership students at the beginning of their studies. And I exchanged thoughts on the future direction of this school with generous donors. You have exceeded my expectations.

Thank you for leadership in advancing health. I'm keen to keep learning as we move into new collaborations and opportunities, together.

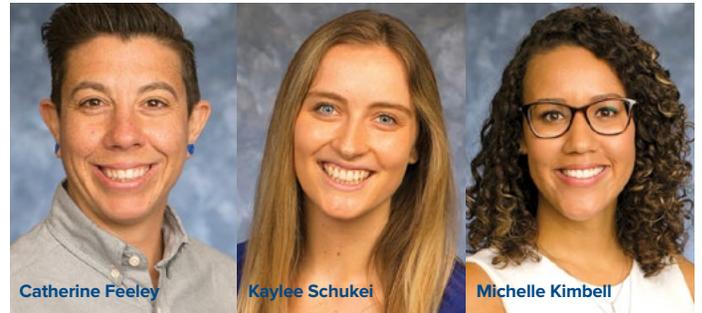
**Stephen J. Cavanagh**, PhD, MPA, R.N., FACHE, FAAN  
Dignity Health Dean's Chair for Nursing Leadership,  
Dean and Professor

## Honoring physician assistants, nurse practitioners

**National Physician Assistant Week**  
Oct. 6–12

**National Nurse Practitioner Week**  
Nov. 10–16

We recognize physician assistant and nurse practitioner alumni for your commitment and ongoing efforts to advance health and provide team-based, patient-centered care.



## Investing in future physician assistant leaders

**Outside investors** recognize the potential of three UC Davis physician assistant (P.A.) students and their potential to improve health care.

Catherine Feeley, Class of 2020, received a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP) award to pursue her passion to serve fellow veterans. Kaylee Schukei, Class of 2021, was awarded the National Health Service Corps Scholarship, which recognizes her goal

to serve as a primary care provider with a commitment to serve in high-need, underserved communities. Michelle Kimbell, Class of 2020, was selected for the Student Health Policy Fellowship by the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA). The fellowship enhances students' understanding of the political process and health policy, hopefully inspiring fellows for lifelong grassroots advocacy.



## Why do you give to the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis?

**Every donor has a reason. Here's why Ryan gives every month.**

**Ryan MaLachlan's nursing career** spans 15 years, but it was the two years he spent as a graduate student at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis that opened his eyes and softened his heart to patients.

"The program really focused on how certain people can't access health care. When I realized that it's a lack of resources and not just lifestyle choices, I had more sympathy," explains the master's-degree leadership Class of 2018 graduate. "I chose this school to learn about how nurses can make change outside of the hospital. But it changed my perspective on the work I do inside the hospital as well."

It also changed Ryan's view of philanthropy.

"I grew up with a single mom raising four kids. Financial aid got me through my undergraduate education. The fact that individuals, people who

believe in how nurses can change the world, choose to invest in us—it just felt so personal," he says.

Upon graduation, Ryan joined his classmates to personally invest in future School of Nursing students. They created the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing Student Hardship Fund that provides student support in cases of exceptional hardships, such as major illness or significant personal losses due to natural disasters, that may affect our students' abilities to succeed in pursuing their degrees.

"At first I wasn't sure if I could contribute what was needed. Then I saw how doable it was through payroll deduction at UC Davis Health, so I jumped on board to be a part of it," Ryan says. "We benefitted from others' generosity; now I want to invest in the future. If our participation alleviates the burden on future students, I encourage others to do it too."



**WE COULDN'T  
DO IT WITHOUT  
YOU!**

Your gifts support  
future health  
leaders. Thank  
you, donors!

# Faculty profile: Piri Ackerman-Barger

## Growing a diverse workforce

School of Nursing Associate Clinical Professor Piri Ackerman-Barger works to promote diversity and inclusion in schools of nursing and medicine. A national consultant on strategies to help under-represented groups in health professions thrive academically, she shares her perspectives on why health equity and social justice matter to everyone, not just people of color.

**Q:** *From your research, how do health professions*

*schools fare on recruitment and retention of minority students?*

**A:** It's clear that many schools are doing a better job on increasing the diversity factor in the student body. But what is their experience after they enroll? Students I've interviewed across the country tell me they expect to be treated with respect, but they arrive to find it's not all that inclusive. It's an added layer of betrayal that feels like a sucker punch.

**Q:** *How do stereotype threat and microaggressions affect a student's academic experience?*

**A:** If you're put in a position to confirm a stereotype about your cultural group, energy diverts away from the frontal lobe of the brain. It can affect short-term memory, the ability to process information and intellectual performance. Microaggressions, those daily slights and indignities that people from a stigmatized group experience based on their identity, trigger the same process. The intensity and frequency students report feeling this has dramatically increased from 2015.

**Q:** *How has the conversation changed since you began your diversity work?*

**A:** I used to get asked, 'What do I do?' Now, it's 'what do we do as an organization?' The awareness piece—making faculty and students aware of this reality—is the beginning of the process. Requiring schools to teach social determinants of health, as we do at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at

### **Center for a Diverse Healthcare Workforce**

School of Nursing Associate Clinical Professor Piri Ackerman-Barger is also co-director for the UC Davis School of Medicine Center for a Diverse Healthcare Workforce. The center conducts research to enhance diversity in health care workforces to improve health equity. The center leads a number of research projects exploring equity in admissions policies, community college pathways and learning environments. Learn more at [health.ucdavis.edu/workforce-diversity/](http://health.ucdavis.edu/workforce-diversity/).

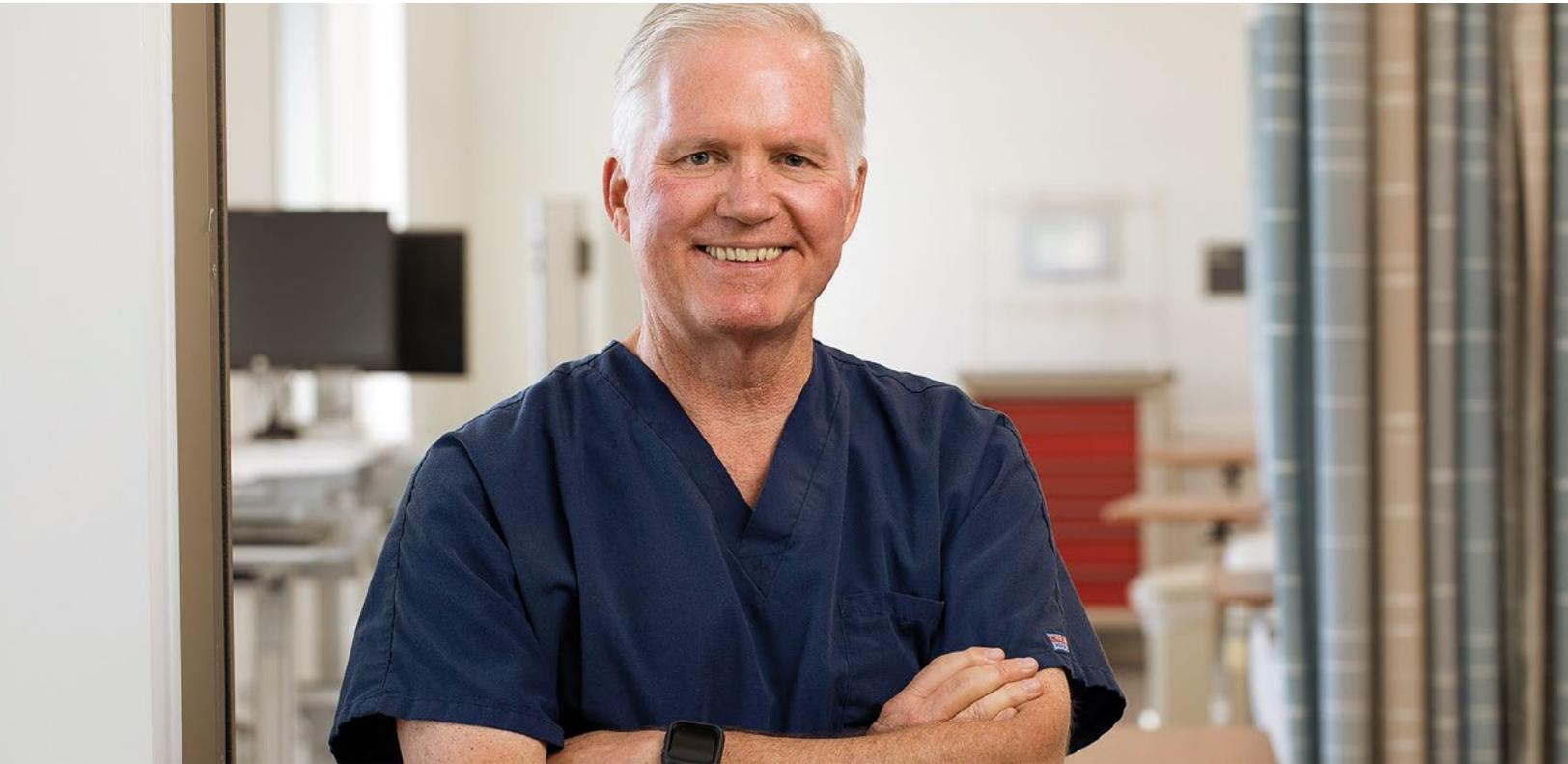
UC Davis, is critical and making recommendations at a policy level can help us mitigate these things, as does ongoing faculty development.

**Q:** *Why should everyone care?*

**A:** The benefits are the advancement of health equity. The way we get there is through increased racial concordance between patients and health care providers. That leads to better representation when creating health policies, choosing what to research, deciding upon resource allocation and designing curricula. This means that it is more likely that underserved communities and individuals will have equitable access to the resources they need to be healthy.



**Piri Ackerman-Barger, PhD, R.N., FAAN**  
Associate Clinical Professor



## From behind the story to the front of the class

### Alumnus moves from bedside care to teaching

**As a broadcast journalist** for 35 years, Bob Montgomery worked behind the scenes.

“That’s the way I liked it,” he jokes.

When he pursued a second profession in nursing, the experience thrust him out of his comfort zone and into a world of mentoring, teaching and engaging with his alma mater, the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing.

“I entered the master’s-degree leadership program only two years into my nursing career, because I knew I ultimately wanted to teach,” the Class of 2015 alumnus says.

One week after graduating from the program, Bob put all those skills to work when he directly jumped into teaching at area universities. When he learned about the School of Nursing’s Master’s Entry Program in Nursing, which launched in summer 2016, he jumped again into the role he’d always envisioned—clinical instructor.

“I literally started on the first day of the program working with students in the assessment course. Then, I stayed with them through their clinical rotations,” recalls Bob, who’s taught every cohort since the program’s

inception. “It’s such an amazing thing to see them blossom. You sort of drag them through the first few weeks. Then the last few weeks, you run to catch up!”

He felt an additional connection to the students’ journey because of his personal transformation during his graduate-school experience. Clearly, they felt that bond as well. At the first pinning ceremony in 2017, nine of the 24 students asked him to serve as their pinner.

“It was very emotional, like seeing your kid grow up,” he says. “Now, when I see them wearing their navy scrubs

as registered nurses working at UC Davis Medical Center, I almost get teary eyed.”

Those tears quickly turn to laughter when you ask Bob why he chooses – along with 28 other alumni – to stay connected to the School of Nursing and give back in this way.

“Giving back as an instructor and a donor is a thrill. I received such a great education both on the job at UC Davis Medical Center and in school from the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing—this is paying it forward,” he says. “Besides, I’m old. Increasingly I’ll need their care in the future!”

# 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.



**School of Nursing alumni**, from left, Cassi Carter (MSN '18), Charis Ong (master's-leadership '18), Wendy Leonard (MSN '18) and Julia Yu (MSN '18) volunteered for the school's second Poverty Simulation in August where Master's Entry Program in Nursing students assumed the roles of struggling family members to gain greater understanding of the factors upon which good health depends.



**Anna Olszewski**, master's-degree leadership alumna ('17) and a nurse on the UC Davis Medical Center Burn Unit, met with Dean Stephen Cavanagh when he toured the medical center in August. She's joined by doctoral alumna ('14) Lori Madding, Len Sterling, burn unit nurse manager, and Jo Ann Hambley, a master's-degree leadership graduate ('16) and clinical instructor.



**Class of 2019** physician assistant (P.A.) students joined future School of Nursing P.A.s and family nurse practitioners (FNPs) to mark milestones in their programs. Graduates recited the P.A. oath at this unique August event. Prior to the oath, first-year P.A. and FNP students celebrated the beginning of their journey with a white coat ceremony.

## MORE ALUMNI FEATURES ON [NURSING.UCDAVIS.EDU](https://nursing.ucdavis.edu)

### News alert for recent FNP graduates

Applications are now open for a new postgraduate residency program for nurse practitioners. Visit [nursing.nursing.ucdavis.edu/academics,NPresidency.html](https://nursing.nursing.ucdavis.edu/academics,NPresidency.html) to learn how to improve your knowledge and skills early in your practice.

### THANK YOU

Your giving and your partnership improve health and health care today. These stories of our students and alumni and their impact on health are a direct result of your partnership. Thank you for being part of the School of Nursing community.



### CONNECT WITH SARAH MENTZE,

director for alumni engagement, to learn more about how you as alumni can engage with the school. Please call or email to post a job, submit an alumni update or news, learn more about precepting opportunities or just to chat!

**(916) 734-9614**

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[nursing.ucdavis.edu](https://nursing.ucdavis.edu)

### LOOK AT THE IMPACT OF LEADERSHIP

#### BY THE NUMBERS

**341** current students

**547** alumni

**5** Nursing Science and Health-care Graduate Degree Programs

**48** scholarships

**350+** community partners and collaborators

**Ranked among the best** nursing schools in the U.S.

*(U.S. News & World Report)*

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SCHOOL OF NURSING**