

Aron King is a second-year student in the master's-degree leadership program and a UC Davis Medical Center assistant nurse manager.

advancing health

YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION **SPRING 2021**

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Because of you,

Aron found his purpose, expands leadership legacy

Aron King saw himself as a bedside nurse. But when he came to the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis, he found his purpose and a new trajectory to change the futures of more African Americans.

"I really wanted to push my family forward and education does that," says Aron, an assistant nurse manager at UC Davis Health and member of the master's-degree leadership Class of 2021.

Aron connected with alumni who launched the Capitol City Black Nurses Association (CCBNA) and faculty who taught from a multicultural perspective. Witnessing their influence and realizing his own potential, he took on new leadership roles in the community and his profession.

"Being a graduate-prepared nurse, you can influence change at a different level," Aron explains.

Because of generous scholarship support, Aron could focus on applying his new-found leadership skills outside the classroom. He led virtual discussions about social justice last summer, provided forums on COVID-19 in the Black community and amplified others' work to promote health equity.

"I really want to be that change maker alongside other leadership alumni," Aron says. "It may be the end of this program, but it is just the beginning for myself and many others in our final cohort."

DEAN'S LETTER

Together, we innovate for the future



When Betty Irene Moore paved the way for the nursing school that bears her name, she invested in a vision of health care leadership and bold system change. A decade since the first classes embarked upon their graduate education

journeys, their successes today bolster Mrs. Moore's, and our, legacy.

This June, the final cohort of Master of Science — Leadership students join 220 leadership alumni to challenge the status quo in the clinics, classrooms, communities and organizations where they serve. Though a degree program ends, the people connected to its experience and their contributions endure for generations.

We will always innovate for the future because that is how we drive change.

As we enter our next 10 years, we embark on the next leg of our journey with a new strategic plan consulting with our faculty, students, staff, alumni, off-campus partners and others in a manner that is inclusive and reflective of the diversity that makes our school a great place to be.

We are a community dedicated to optimal health and health care equity for all. Together, we partner to lead in health equity, cultural humility and collaboration creating a legacy sure to outlast us all.

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

advancing health, Spring 2021, Volume 4 Issue 1
Advancing Health is a publication of the advancement team at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis.
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Ranked No. 24!

In the latest list of best graduate nursing schools, the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis now ranks among the top 25 best master's-degree nursing programs. U.S. News & World Report 2022 Best Graduate

Schools ranks the School of Nursing as No. 24, up 16 spots from last year's rankings and tied with one other program. The school's graduate-degree programs emphasize problem solving, independent thinking and individual accountability. They empower students and alumni to lead needed change in health care. Learn more at nursing.ucdavis.edu.



Healthy Aging at UC Davis Health

The Family Caregiving Institute

now provides caregiver support and consultation at the new Healthy Aging Clinic at UC Davis Health. The interdisciplinary clinic is part of the Aging Initiative, a UC Davis Health systemwide approach to create the healthiest and highest-functioning older adult population in Northern California. Our goal is to provide an integrated, age-friendly approach to older adults across their lifespan and throughout all care settings. Visit health.ucdavis.edu/aging to learn more.

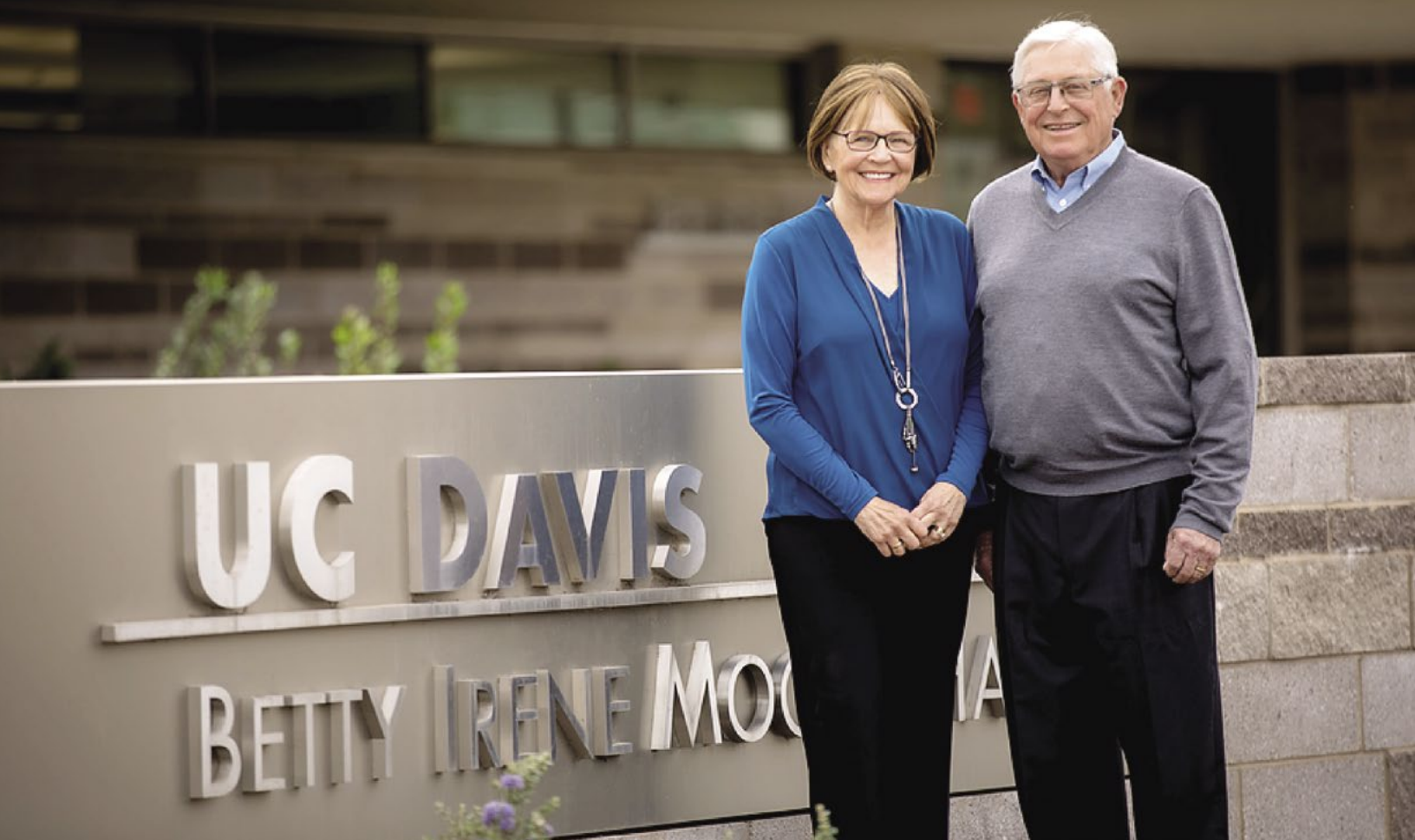
Institute Director Terri

Harvath is the 2021 president and board chair for the Gerontological Society of America, the nation's largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to the field of aging. Harvath's new role puts

her in a position to learn about cutting-edge issues impacting UC Davis Health patients and caregivers and network with colleagues who can help ensure that the Aging Initiative takes advantage of all the programmatic innovations that help older adults.

Geriatric clinical nurse

specialist and third-year doctoral student Anna Satake leads NICHE aging initiatives for UC Davis Health. The Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) program demonstrates organizational commitment and continued progress toward improving quality, enhancing the patient and family experience throughout the health system.



Deep roots yield prosperous future

Terry and Susan Eager believe in nurses as leaders

UC Davis' history runs deep in Terry Eager. His grandfather was a founding professor in 1913. His parents; wife, Susan; and children are proud alumni. He's served on the boards of the UC Davis Foundation, the Graduate School of Management and the Mondavi Center.

So, when an opportunity came to sow a seed in the future of nursing on the Sacramento campus, he invested in it.

"Dean Emerita Heather M. Young presented the vision — to create leaders among nursing talent. I thought, how can you not support nurses?" Terry explains.

Susan agreed. They established the Eager Family Endowed Nursing Award to support graduate students in their dream of becoming health care professionals.

"Seeing how the alumni are so productive and going out in the community, their role is so much bigger than I first realized," she says.

The school's impact is also bigger. In 2017, when the Eagers found themselves caring for three aging parents, they appreciated the launch of the Family Caregiving Institute.

Now, with a new post-COVID-19 reality, the focus on healthy aging and technology to support older adults keeps them engaged.

"It's remarkable how quickly the leadership got things moving," Terry says. "Our endowment will keep growing and growing. Plus, we're all getting older. We'll need these professionals in the future."



**IF YOU'RE
INTERESTED IN
ESTABLISHING
AN
ENDOWMENT,**

Contact Catherine Comley Adams at ccadams@ucdavis.edu or 916-416-7623 to learn more.

New initiative tackles mental health provider shortage

More than half of Californians living with mental health issues don't receive the psychiatric care they need and the situation is projected to get worse.

A new program from the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, in partnership with UC nursing schools in Los Angeles and San Francisco, aims to address that gap. The Post-Master's Certificate Program will train 300 nurse practitioners to become psychiatric mental health specialists within the next five years.

"This curriculum was designed to prepare these nurse practitioners to address their patients' mental health needs, while meeting a California health priority," says Dean Stephen Cavanagh.

And with the global pandemic taking a toll on people's mental health worldwide, help cannot come soon enough.

"I see so many people dealing with anxiety and depression," says Janet Meda, an assistant professor at the School of Nursing, family nurse practitioner at the Sacramento County Health Center and a student in the new program. "We cannot look at mental health and physical health in isolation."

The one-year program, supported by a \$1.4 million grant from the California Health Care Foundation, combines remote-learning

with in-person clinical training.

Sharon Demeter, a nurse practitioner, workplace violence liaison for UC Davis Medical Center and former assistant director for the Master's Entry Program in Nursing, is also a student in the program. She hopes it equips her to better serve the inpatient population and the employees who care for them.

"Our goal is to create a rapid response team

for behavioral health emergencies, just like the rapid response teams that we have in place for medical emergencies," Sharon says.

Nearly half of Americans report symptoms of mental illness since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Through this program, more will have a place to turn for help in the future.

Visit nursing.ucdavis.edu to learn more.



Sharing success to paint a pathway for future students

Alumna tells doctoral story for advertising campaign

Jacquie DeMellow admits she never saw herself in her current role today. As director of quality at St Joseph's Medical Center in Stockton, she's developing an inpatient dashboard for their COVID-19 response.

She attributes her professional success and personal growth to her four

years at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis.

"In 2014, I could never have imagined being in this position today," says Jacquie, a Class of 2018 alumna. "Being in the doctoral program gave me an opportunity to make a case for why something

is important, using data to tell a story and literature to support innovative evidence based practices that can impact our work, improving outcomes."

Jacquie shares her experience with others considering going back to school. So, when the School of Nursing marketing team asked her to expand her reach through a recruitment campaign, she said yes.

"It wasn't that different than what I share with people one-on-one," Jacquie says. "It opens their minds to seeing the possibilities for their future!"

It's one thing to work four years toward a dissertation. It's another to tell your story through a video interview and photo shoot.

"I'll admit, the video part made me a bit nervous, but it wasn't difficult to do" she says. "And I was so pleased with the photo shoot. I've used one of the images in my Zoom profile and everyone asks me who took it."

Jacquie says even with the great photos and the opportunity to present a pathway for future students, she really did it out of gratitude for the school.

"My education really was a life-changing experience," she says. "I got so much from it and take any opportunity to share all the amazing benefits that I received by being in this program."

See more alumni stories at nursing.ucdavis.edu/distinctions.



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 2020! Students celebrated with family, friends, faculty and staff remotely from their homes and offices in December to commemorate their completion of the 18-month MEPN.

Emily Rymlund, DNP, FNP-C '03 and second-year family nurse practitioner student Joey Langwoski met during a volunteer shift at the Yolo County



COVID-19 vaccination clinic in January. "It was an honor to be part of the cause to help reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 as well as reduce its spread throughout our county... This is what UC Davis Health is all about, connecting with our local community," Joey shared. "This has been a long year of isolation and since transitioning to telemedicine a few years ago, I really felt the need to help," Emily said.

Thank you, alumni! Master's Entry Program in Nursing alumni returned to the School of Nursing in December, at least virtually, for an online discussion with the MEPN Class of 2020 about transitioning from student to professional nurse. We're grateful to you, alumni, for supporting new nursing graduates.

DO YOU GO BEYOND?

The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis launches a new marketing campaign this spring. The Go Beyond campaign uses distinct imagery and language to communicate to a diverse audience of potential physician assistant, nursing and research students. We seek stories from alumni who go beyond in their roles every day. If you're interested, email Sarah at smentze@ucdavis.edu for more information.



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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing Decade of Discovery Alumni Celebration

Starting Ripples, Making Waves
10-11:30a.m. Saturday, June 26

Join us for an interactive and inspiring online event.

Invitations arriving exclusively by email.



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

CONTACT SARAH MENTZE, director for alumni engagement, at smentze@ucdavis.edu or (916) 501-9917 to learn more about ways to get involved.

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