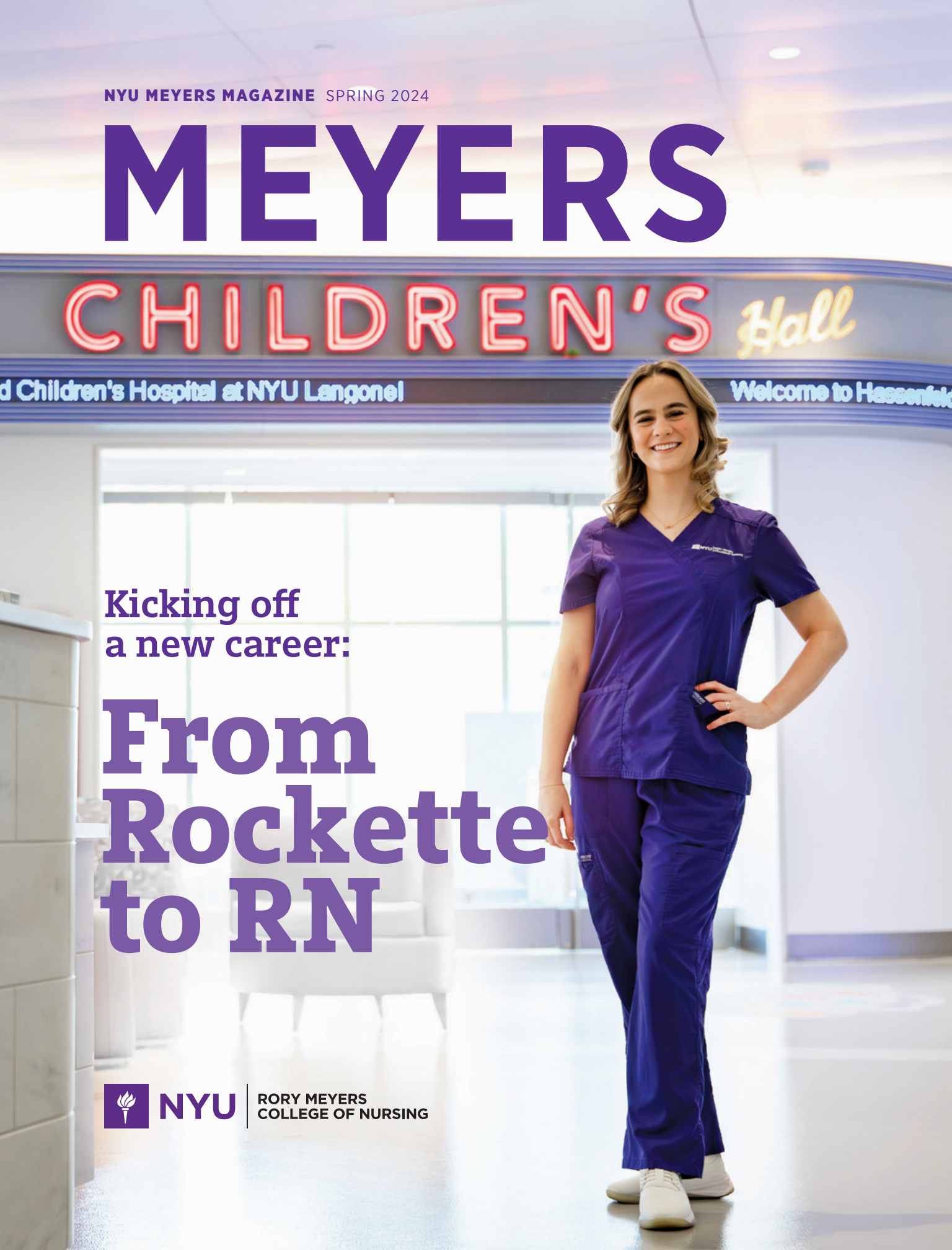
NYU MEYERS MAGAZINE SPRING 2024

MEYERS



Kicking off a new career:

From Rockette to RN

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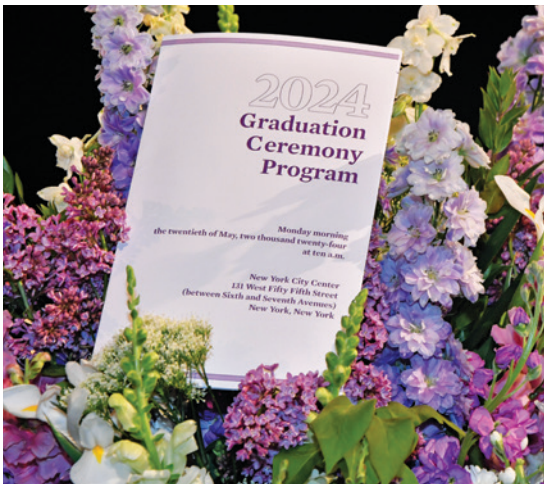
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Congratulations Class of 2024!

More than 600 students celebrated graduation on May 20 at the New York City Center.







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DEAN'S CORNER



Dear friends,

As I near the end of my first year as dean, I've been thinking a lot about milestones, and the moments in between.

For every milestone in our lives, there are countless small moments that connect them, and give them meaning.

Every experience leads to the next and creates a rhythm that propels us forward. Promise, learning, growth. Promise, learning, growth. The cycles are like the seasons, restoring and transforming us. Routine, but not predictable. Beautiful in new ways each time through.

Over these past several months, the Meyers family has welcomed me, challenged me, and helped me grow. Every event or lecture I attended. Every meeting with a faculty or staff member. Every conversation with a student or alumnus who shared what being a Meyers nurse means to them.

A few weeks ago, we celebrated the Class of 2024 graduation — my first here at NYU Meyers. I love the pageantry of commencement, but I cherish all that came before the celebration, and the promise of what's to come, even more.

I'm proud of my milestones, here at Meyers and throughout my life. Be proud of yours, too, and keep pursuing new ones. Just don't forget about the magic that happens in the moments in between. They are what sustain and inspire us.

I look forward to a future full of reaching milestones and sharing magic with the entire Meyers family.

With gratitude,

Angela Amar









Trailblazing forensic nurse **Ann Burgess**, who inspired the psychology professor/consultant character in the Netflix series *Mindhunter*, regaled an audience of more than 125 students, faculty, staff and alumni with stories about her role in the creation of the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit, the evolution of criminal profiling, and how her work has helped law enforcement catch serial killers and other violent offenders.



Prof. **Donna Cill** (far left) recently led and moderated an event at the UN called *Daughters as Change Agents: The Power of Mothers, Grandmothers, & Aunts*, which was held as part of the NGO Commission on the Status of Women 68 Forum and brought together national and international women's support and leadership organizations. The Forum is a series of more than 750 events organized by and for civil society, non-governmental organizations to run parallel to and complement the 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women, the UN's largest gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment.



Meyers hosted visiting staff from NYU Accra, and had a chance to talk about exciting plans for nursing students to participate in both short-term and semester-long global health programs in Ghana.



Meyers hosted a Chief Nursing Officers panel where **Theresa Dillman**, **Christopher Ruppert**, **Noreen Brennan**, and **Marsha Sinanan-Vasishta** were the speakers. They discussed the challenges in healthcare leadership, workplace violence, workforce retention, what they wish they had known at the beginning of their careers, how they mentor emerging leaders, stay connected to their frontline teams, and more.

Associate Dean for the Undergraduate Program **Selena Gilles** was named a fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Clinical Associate Prof. **Fidel Lim** was a panelist in the DEI Panel: Celebrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Nursing Education during the 72nd National Student Nurses Association Convention.

Clinical Associate Prof. **Robin Klar** represented NYU Meyers at the Inaugural AMPATH Nursing Consortium Conference in Eldoret, Kenya.

Prof. **Haeok Lee** developed storytelling narrative health education videos to increase cervical cancer screening among Malawian women living with HIV.

Clinical Prof. **Mikki Meadows-Oliver** was selected as a participant in the Executive Leadership Program offered by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Assistant Prof. **Komal Murali** delivered the Nessa Coyle Leadership Lecture at the Annual Assembly of Hospice and Palliative Care entitled "A Nurse Scientist's Journey and the Promise of Inclusive Leadership."

Assistant Prof. **Tina Sadarangani** was awarded a $250,000 grant from the Alzheimer's Association to understand how adult day centers meaningfully impact lives by using outcome measures that matter most to them and their families.

Prof. **Allison Squires** was selected for the NAM Future Champions in Global Health Research program which is jointly funded by the UK National Academy of Sciences and the US National Academy of Medicine.

Assistant Prof. **Yaguang Zhang** received an NIH/NIA Pilot Grant to conduct research on glucose monitoring to reduce care burden for older Chinese Americans Type 2 Diabetes and mild dementia.



Meyers was spotted at the Gala for the New York Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses. Dean **Angela Amar**, Profs. **Velda Gonzalez**, **Michele Crespo-Fierro**, and **Karla Rodriguez** were in attendance, along with doctoral student **Moroni Fernandez Cajavilca** and the leaders of our LATINOs student group **Marcos Casas-Cervantes**, **Katherine Pesantez**, **Oneida Zavala-Enamorado**, **Christian Perez-Guevara**, and **Leslie Almachi**. MS student **Marisol Montoya** received the NYU Langone Scholarship as well.



Faculty and staff volunteered at God's Love We Deliver this past December to give back during the holiday season.

New academic leaders

Audrey Lyndon

Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs



Audrey Lyndon, the Vernice D. Ferguson Professor in Health Equity, has been appointed associate dean, faculty affairs—a new role created to build and support faculty at Meyers.

Prof. Lyndon works with **Sean Clarke**, executive vice dean, to foster a rewarding, nurturing environment for faculty throughout their experience at Meyers, including recruitment, onboarding and review for reappointment, tenure and/or promotion.

She joined Meyers in 2019 as assistant dean, clinical research, and is nationally known for her work in maternal health equity and promoting diversity in nursing science and the healthcare workforce.

In maternal health equity, she focuses on patient safety and quality in maternity and neonatal care, including improving communication and teamwork among clinicians; identifying parents' perspectives on safety during labor, birth, and neonatal care; developing nurse-sensitive outcomes for labor and birth; and promoting a community- and asset-based approach to research on severe maternal morbidity and mortality. Prof. Lyndon also has concentrated on mentoring and sponsorship of historically excluded learners, clinicians, and scientists.

She comes to this new role with deep experience in leading faculty affairs for both clinical and tenure line faculty. She served as vice chair for academic personnel (2014–2017) and department chair (2017–2018) in the Department of Family Health Care Nursing at the University of California San Francisco. She is excited to return to faculty affairs and to support our faculty as they continue to grow their outstanding clinical and research scholarship. ●

Mary M. Brennan

Director, Doctor of Nursing Practice



Mary M. Brennan is a distinguished nurse practitioner and educator, who serves as program director of the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and as clinical associate professor at NYU Meyers. She has been named the director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program.

With a passion for advancing nursing education, Prof. Brennan has a multi-faceted interest in utilizing evidence-based practice, experiential learning, and innovative technologies to engage students and foster clinical decision-making. She has received several curricular development challenge grants, notably for designing a groundbreaking virtual hospital named "Acute Care General Hospital."

As a prominent figure in the field, Prof. Brennan has integrated progressively challenging simulations throughout the AGACNP Program. She chairs the Simulation Committee at NONPF, has co-authored a simulation guide for nurse practitioners, and is a founding developer of the NONPF simulation podcast. She serves as the co-chair of the Evidence-Based Practice Research Interest Group at the Eastern Nursing Research Society.

Prof. Brennan has demonstrated leadership in the realm of interprofessional collaboration. She has published on integrating compassionate, end-of-life care into interprofessional simulations and the culture of safety in global settings to improve cardiac care. In her clinical practice at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, Prof. Brennan provides advanced practice nursing care for patients with acute, critical, and chronic cardiovascular illnesses. Recognizing her outstanding contributions to nursing education, Prof. Brennan was honored with the inaugural Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2018. She holds a DNP from Case Western Reserve University and a MS from Boston College.

Prof. Brennan is very excited to lead the DNP Program into the future and prepare nurses who will improve healthcare outcomes, implement policies to mitigate health disparities, and ensure evidence-based practice for all. ●

Sascha James-Conterelli

Director, Nurse-Midwifery



Sascha James-Conterelli is a clinical associate professor. She received her bachelor's in nursing from Howard University and her master's in midwifery and doctorate from NYU. She has been a practicing midwife since 2002. Prof. James-Conterelli has practiced in both the public and private sectors. As a political advocate and policy leader she continues to open the door to many exciting opportunities for midwives to be recognized as invaluable stakeholders in perinatal care. She is also a strong advocate for equity and access to healthcare for women and birthing people, in particular, Black and Brown people.

Prof. James-Conterelli is a past president of ACNM's New York State affiliate: New York Midwives. She is also honored to continue to have opportunities to provide knowledge and expertise to many national and local policies such as the development of perinatal regionalization for New York State, serving as co-chair on Governor Andrew Cuomo's Maternal Mortality and Racial Disparities Task Force as well as a member of New York State's Maternal Mortality Steering Committee and New York State Maternal Mortality Review Board. Prof. James-Conterelli also served as a member of Governor Andrew Cuomo's COVID-19 Maternity Task Force. Nationally, Prof. James-Conterelli is the chair of the Fellows Board of Governors for the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) and the secretary of the Foundation for the ACNM.

Prof. James-Conterelli is recognized as a national leader in maternal mortality and racial disparities. She also understands the importance of global outreach and has dedicated efforts towards assisting the midwives and the perinatal community in her home of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

She looks forward to leading students in the Nurse-Midwifery Program! ●

Dena Schulman-Green

Director, PhD Program, Nursing Research and Theory Development



Dena Schulman-Green, whose research focuses on integrating palliative care into patient and family management of serious, chronic illness, became the director of the Florence S. Downs PhD Program in Nursing Research & Theory Development earlier this year.

As director, Schulman-Green will be responsible for promoting the growth and enhancing the quality and reputation of the PhD in Nursing program, ensuring that it achieves the highest educational standards and represents the College at national meetings centered on research doctoral education.

Her own research is rooted in her belief that healthcare goals should reflect personal goals and values. She designed Managing Cancer Care as an intervention to help women with breast cancer and their family caregivers manage cancer collaboratively with clinicians. She is well known for her role in developing the Middle Range Theory of Self- and Family Management of Chronic Illness to guide research on patient and family management of chronic illness.

Schulman-Green's work has been funded by the American Cancer Society, the National Institutes of Health, the National Palliative Care Research Center, and the Palliative Care Research Cooperative, among others. In March, she was inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM). Committed to mentorship, Schulman-Green supervises PhD and postdoctoral research trainees, and was re-elected last month as a member of the AAHPM leadership development committee. Since coming to Meyers, Schulman-Green has been deeply involved in the PhD program in a variety of ways.

Schulman-Green received a PhD and an MS in gerontology from the University of Massachusetts Boston, an MA and EdM in counseling psychology from Columbia University, and a BA in psychology and religion from Boston University. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in breast cancer and palliative care at the Yale School of Nursing under the mentorship of Dr. Ruth McCorkle and Dr. Elizabeth Bradley. ●



Karen Mack
named executive director of NICHE

by Rachel Harrison
Associate Director, Research Communications

Karen Mack has been named executive director of the Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) program at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing, a 350-member organization whose mission is to create age-friendly healthcare services for older adults.

NICHE is an award-winning nursing practice model that positions nurses to lead substantive changes in the design and delivery of nursing care to older adults to improve clinical outcomes, reduce the cost of care, and meet national quality goals. As the executive director of NICHE, Mack will oversee the growth and implementation of the NICHE practice model to improve health outcomes for older adults in care delivery settings, including hospitals and long-term care.

Mack joined NICHE leadership at NYU Meyers as director of programs in 2022. Before joining the NICHE program office, she led NICHE implementation at MedStar Health, a ten-hospital system in the Maryland and Washington, D.C., region, for a decade. Under her leadership, the health system achieved advanced NICHE member recognition of Exemplar or Senior Friendly at all MedStar Health hospitals. She has contributed to the work of the NICHE program nationally since 2013, leading a delegation of MedStar Health nurses to the annual NICHE conferences, podium presentations at these conferences, and as a reviewer of NICHE resource materials.

Her nursing career spans four decades, including two decades as a registered nurse in emergency, critical care, and medical-surgical care settings and two decades as an advanced practice registered nurse, including two recent years as a Senior Director of Nursing Excellence and Resource Management at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center.

She is board-certified as an acute care nurse practitioner and critical-care clinical nurse specialist. Mack is a recipient of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners: Advocate State Award for Excellence, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses: Circle of Excellence Award, and the University of Maryland School of Nursing Frances Arnold Neurosurgical Nursing Award.

She is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Nursing with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Trauma, Critical Care, and Emergency Nursing; the Carey Business School of the Johns Hopkins University with a Master of Business Administration in Medical Services Management; and the George Washington University School of Nursing with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

Mattia Gilmartin, who served as the executive director of NICHE from 2016 to January 2024 and was recently appointed the chief of staff at NYU Meyers, said, "I am thrilled that Karen Mack will serve as the next executive director of NICHE. Her wealth of experience implementing the NICHE practice model to support clinical nursing excellence in healthcare settings will be invaluable to our members as they strive to provide age-friendly nursing care." ●



Meet Joseph Valiakulathil

Assistant director for graduate student affairs and admissions

by Stephanie Gonzalez
Contributing Writer

Joseph Valiakulathil is assistant director for graduate student affairs and admissions at NYU Meyers. He has been in the position for two years, after having come from NYU Law where he was a graduate admissions assistant for eight years. During that time, Valiakulathil learned how to talk to people from many different cultures and backgrounds, given that the graduate programs at the Law School focused more on international students. He enjoyed learning about what motivates prospective students to pursue graduate studies and assisting them to make that vision a reality.

In his current role, Valiakulathil gives 100%. Recently, he traveled to Chicago for the ANCC Magnet Conference where he connected with nurses from around the county from Magnet-designated and Pathway-designated healthcare facilities to recruit for our graduate programs. Aside from traveling on occasion, Vialiakulathil has immersed himself in the admissions software Slate by Technolutions. Using this software, he has increased enrollment by 22% from 2022 to 2023 despite challenging circumstances in graduate program recruitment nationwide, particularly surrounding nursing programs.

The great work doesn't stop with Valiakulathil. He said the entire team is extremely supportive of each other and a joy to work with. He is regularly assisted by the student affairs officer and scholarship officer when conducting information sessions as prospective students find the information they provide valuable. To return the favor, he helps them whenever possible, such as at graduation time with ticket distribution. For Valiakulathil, collaboration within Meyers has continued to be a great experience.

When looking at graduate applications, Valiakulathil looks for a clear passion for the applicant's chosen specialization and a reason as to why NYU Meyers. To all nurses considering higher education, he offers the following advice: write down your thoughts and reflections after each clinical experience; explore all possible career paths in nursing; and think about how these paths play to your strengths.

In the future, Valiakulathil hopes to improve recruitment efforts in spaces like hospitals and healthcare facilities. To start, he wants to look into Python, R, Stata, Tableau, and more. When he's not at Meyers, you can find him spending time with family, hiking, watching a movie, and rediscovering his love for cooking. ●

NYU Meyers holds strategic retreat

by Mattia Gilmartin
Chief of Staff

The Meyers faculty and staff gathered at the Manhattan Penthouse for a strategic planning retreat to envision the future of our college. The overarching theme of the day was *Renew, Reconnect, Thrive: Committing to the Community We Deserve*. The retreat was facilitated by a team of consultants from CFAR who were joined by faculty and staff volunteers who led tabletop discussions and brainstorming activities.

The highlight of the retreat was the History of The Future storytelling exercise where participants created the story of Meyers to propel our work as a leading college of nursing known for its innovative work to advance health equity by preparing the next generation of clinicians and researchers dedicated to this mission. The Dean's Leadership Team provided an update on a range of quality improvement projects currently underway to build a strong foundation for the new strategic plan. The strategic retreat brought the Meyers faculty and staff together to share ideas, be creative, laugh, and learn from each other. The retreat was well-received and marked an important milestone in the strategic planning process that will continue throughout the year. ●





On January 31, faculty and staff gathered together to envision the future of the College. The day was filled with workshops, great discussion, and good food.



Exploring Health Equity Partnerships

by Karla Schuster
Director, Communications

More than 100 scholars, clinicians, health executives, and students from around the world explored the barriers to health equity and the critical role nurses play in addressing them during the *2nd Annual Dr. Bernardine Mays Lacey Symposium on Health Equity*.

The symposium, United in Care: Partnerships with One Vision for Health, was sponsored by NYU Meyers and the Howard University College of Nursing and Allied Health as part of the two institutions' educational and research partnership, which was formed in 2021.

The day-long symposium, held at NYU Langone, included two keynote speakers, student research poster presentations, and panels on topics such as diversity and cultural competency in nursing, maternal health equity, and the link between oral and systemic health.

Panelists came not only from Howard and NYU Meyers, but from institutions and clinical settings in California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Maryland, and even Portugal.

Keynote speaker **Dr. José Pagán**, professor and chair of the Department of Public Health Policy and Management at NYU's School of Global Public Health, discussed health equity initiatives at New York City Health + Hospitals, the largest municipal health care system in the nation. Pagán is chair of the NYC Health + Hospitals board.

Dr. Kenya Beard, inaugural dean of the Mercy University College of Nursing, delivered a wide-ranging talk, Harmonizing Differences to Create Health Equity, that urged nurses to "interrupt policies and practices that further injustice," even as they pursue scholarly studies about systemic equity issues.

"It's time to do something actionable," she said. "All of us have that power." ●



The first plenary session addressed women's health across the lifespan. (L-R) **Nikia Grayson**, chief clinical officer at CHOICES Center for Reproductive Health; **Audrey London**, associate dean, NYU Meyers; **Nkechi Enweren**, associate prof., Howard University College of Nursing and Allied Health Services; and **Sascha James-Conterelli**, clinical associate professor, NYU Meyers.

FEATURE

Kicking off a new career:

From Rockette to RN

by Rachel Harrison
Associate Director, Research Communications

Nine years as a Radio City Rockette prepared **Kristen Grace Smith** BS '24 for a bright future as a nurse.



Hassenfeld Children's Hospital played a big role in Smith's nursing journey. Here, she is in front of the four-story sculpture at the hospital's entrance. Opposite page: Smith (L), during the visit to the hospital that inspired her career change.

"Being a Rockette was my childhood dream come true," Smith said. "There are not many people who can say they've pursued their childhood dream, and now I get to follow my second dream of being a pediatric nurse."

Working holidays. Bringing smiles to children's faces. Wearing matching outfits with a tight-knit community of coworkers.

A career as a nurse might not seem to have much in common with the life of a professional dancer, but **Kristen Grace Smith** BS '24 felt a strong connection the moment she stepped into NYU Langone's Hassenfeld Children's Hospital in 2019 in her candy cane-inspired Rockettes costume and shiny silver heels. It was the holiday season, and Smith and a fellow Rockette were spreading holiday cheer to patients at Hassenfeld with the Garden of Dreams Foundation, a nonprofit that works with the MSG Family of Companies, which includes the Rockettes, to uplift young people in need in the tri-state area.

The afternoon set the dancer on a new path.

"Being immersed in the hospital environment and seeing how amazing the nurses were with the kids and their family members — it sparked something," Smith said. "I was so happy and comfortable being there. There was something inside me that was pulling me towards nursing."

Growing up on Long Island, Smith put on her first pair of tap shoes at age three, the same year she saw the *Christmas Spectacular* at Radio City Music Hall for the first time — an event that turned into an annual holiday outing. She spent her summers in intensive dance programs, including one by the Rockettes, and first auditioned as an 18-year-old dance major at Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Smith won a coveted spot after her third audition, just as she was heading into her junior year of college. She juggled dance and academics, working toward her undergraduate degree during spring semesters, rehearsing with the Rockettes six days a week during the fall, and performing at Radio City up to 16 shows a week during the holiday season.

For nearly a decade, Smith spent her holidays living out her childhood dream, but she knew that she wasn't going to dance professionally forever. "I wanted my next job to also be a dream job. If I'm going to do something besides dance, I want it to be fulfilling and meaningful," she said.



Supported by the Rockettes' tuition reimbursement program, Smith enrolled in prerequisite courses in chemistry, microbiology, and anatomy. She applied to several schools but had her heart set on NYU after that fateful visit to Hassenfeld Children's Hospital. (She was already fond of the place given that her grandfather is also an alum of NYU's law school. "Violet was in my veins," she said with a laugh.)

Smith was accepted to NYU Meyers' accelerated 15–month baccalaureate program for students who come to nursing with a bachelor's degree in another field. "The second I started school here at Rory Meyers College of Nursing, I knew this is where I needed to be," she said.

Her first clinical rotation as a nursing student brought her to the very hospital where she was born: NYU Langone Hospital–Long Island (formerly Winthrop Hospital). And while she enjoyed her coursework and clinicals in everything from psychiatric mental health nursing to palliative care, the real full-circle moment came in late 2023 when she returned to Hassenfeld Children's Hospital for her pediatrics rotation — an experience that reaffirmed her interest in working with kids.

"I knew the nursing world was big, but once I got to NYU, I saw that it really is so wide and vast — there are so many opportunities in the field," she said.

Smith, who graduated in May as one of this year's valedictorians, has been accepted to a master's degree program at NYU Meyers to become a pediatric nurse practitioner, which she plans to pursue in the coming years. As she begins her nursing career, she's not fazed by the prospect of working nights or holidays — she's used to it from her years as a Rockette performing on stage at Radio City and in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades.

"Being a Rockette was my childhood dream come true," Smith said. "There are not many people who can say they've pursued their childhood dream, and now I get to follow my second dream of being a pediatric nurse." ●

Class of 2024 Reflections



Rachel Eakley
PhD, Nursing

I am thrilled to be graduating from the Rory Meyers College of Nursing PhD program this May and excited for what comes next. This graduation happens to also be the 10-year anniversary of my graduation from the accelerated undergraduate nursing program at NYU and reinforces my decision to pursue nursing.

After graduation, I hope to explore post-doctoral opportunities to further my clinical skills in the care of perinatal mental health conditions and develop my program of research. I am looking forward to presenting the findings of my dissertation at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Annual Conference this fall and working on publishing my dissertation manuscripts.

Ultimately, I hope to pursue a tenure-track faculty position with two parallel goals: improving access to mental health care for pregnant people and increasing providers' preparedness to treat this patient population. ●



Joseph Han
MS, Psychiatric-Mental Health NP Program

Graduation is an exciting time because it brings me one step closer to realizing my dreams. I was first drawn to the psych-mental health program due to its unique emphasis on both psychotherapy and psychopharmacology. I enjoy building longitudinal relationships and fostering healing while helping clients work through trauma. When I see a patient with mental illness turn the corner, I am filled with immense joy and inspiration. There is something extremely rewarding about seeing a client flourish after you have journeyed with them through thick and thin.

My long-term dream is to start a private practice where I can provide treatment to adults with mood disorders, PTSD, schizophrenia, ADHD, and personality disorders. NYU's curriculum allowed me to develop an interest in cognitive-behavioral and group therapy, so I plan to pursue post-graduate training immediately after graduation. I am also developing an interest in researching faith and spirituality, especially as it pertains to mental health. I want to continue my education to eventually obtain a doctorate and consult religious institutions.

In the meantime, I would love to catch on some sleep and read all the books I didn't get around to while in school! Lastly, I plan to travel to my home country South Korea this October. I am excited because I will be visiting there for the first time in my life! ●



Ash Hazen
BS, Accelerated Undergraduate Program

I plan to stay in New York City and pursue a career at the intersection of psychiatric and emergency nursing. The emergency nursing elective equipped me with the skills to respond effectively to behavioral emergencies and provide compassionate support to individuals in crisis. In addition to nursing school, I am a professional dancer and performance artist. Upon graduation, I will premiere my second evening-length show, "SURROGATE", at New York Live Arts on June 13–15, 2024. ●



Madison Kammerer
MS, Acute Care NP Program

I am beyond excited to be graduating from the AGACNP program! It has been the most challenging, yet rewarding three years of my life. I have put my whole heart into this program, being both a part-time student and a full-time nurse. After May, I plan on using my newfound free time for some much-needed rest while also studying for my boards.

In my final clinical placement, I was introduced to and fell in love with the specialty of heart transplant. My goal is to work with this patient population in the future as their care is immensely complex. I find that the role of the nurse practitioner is a force in this field as NPs focus on a patient-care model that emphasizes not only medical care but mental health as well. The research in the transplant world is ever-evolving. The efforts of healthcare providers are producing both groundbreaking and lifesaving discoveries. It is a journey that I will be a part of. In the future, I also plan on returning as a simulation and clinical instructor to provide the future generation of nurse practitioners with an amazing educational journey just as NYU did for me. ●



Denise Rodriguez
BS, Traditional Undergraduate Program

My time as an NYU Meyers student has been an honor and a dream come true. Growing up, I always felt like the bridge between my Spanish-speaking immigrant family and the healthcare system. Little did I know that years later I would be a first-generation college student striving to do this professionally.

My placement in the LEAD Honors program has allowed me to complete a secondary data analysis on depressive symptoms in Black and Latina women with diabetes, an underserved community I grew up being a part of. This has reinforced my passion for research to address health disparities.

NYU has provided me with a multitude of other opportunities to nourish this passion. During the summer of 2022, I participated in a clinical trial at Rockefeller University Hospital. One experience that stuck with me at Rockefeller was when a Spanish-speaking woman was in a lot of pain and I took the initiative to comfort her by communicating with her in her native language. This moment allowed me to draw upon my time in Madrid, Spain during my semester abroad and my participation in the National Association of Hispanic Nurses.

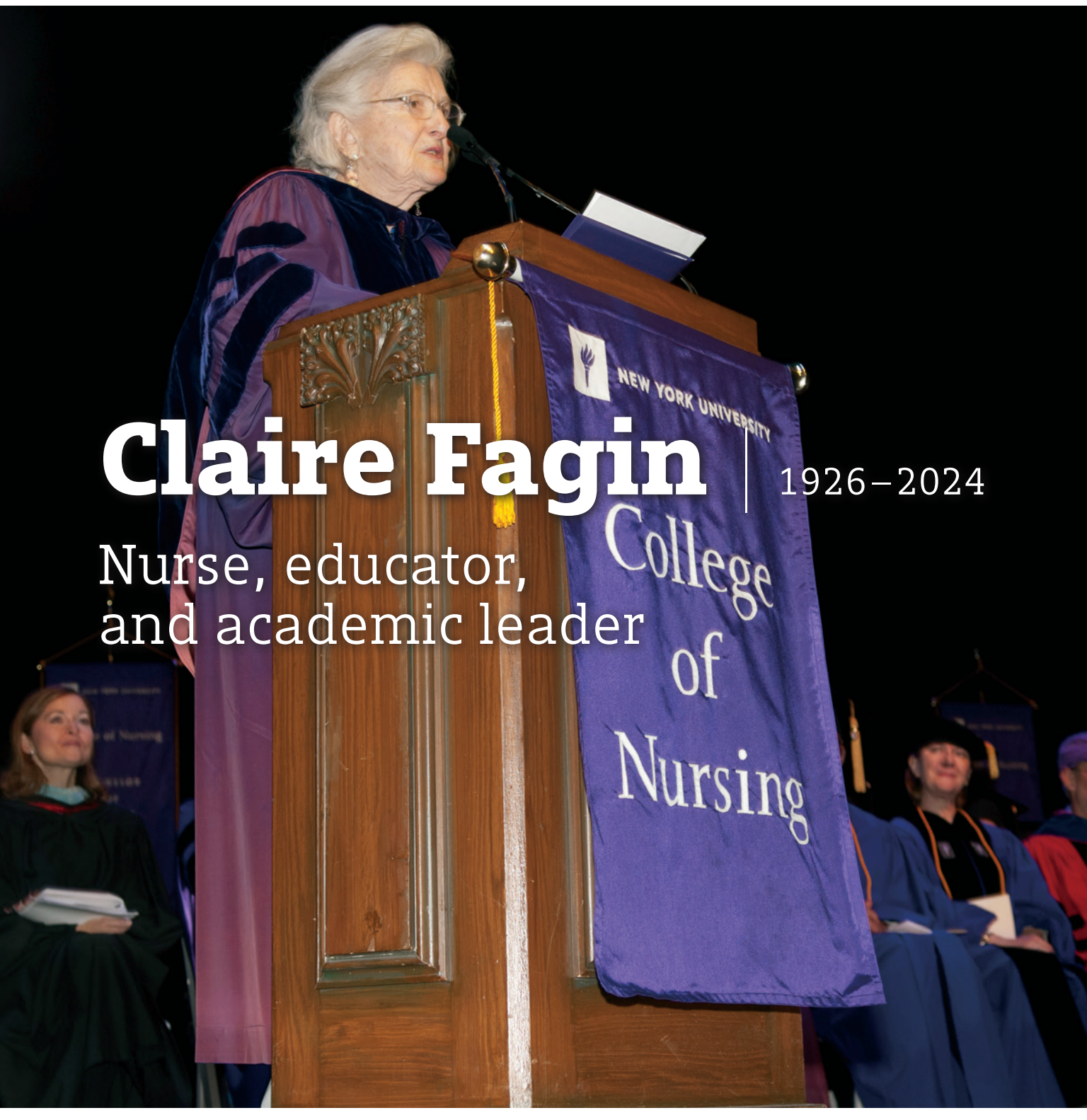
The following summer I was able to work across the street at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the ICU as a nursing aide. I hope to become a nurse in an ICU and gain my CCRN after graduation. What drew me to the ICU was the ability to engage in focused and detail-oriented patient care, allowing one to monitor, predict, and solve complications in high-acuity settings with a team-based approach.

There is truly a home for everyone in nursing, which is something NYU has allowed me to find. I would not trade the valuable experiences NYU has given me for the world. ●



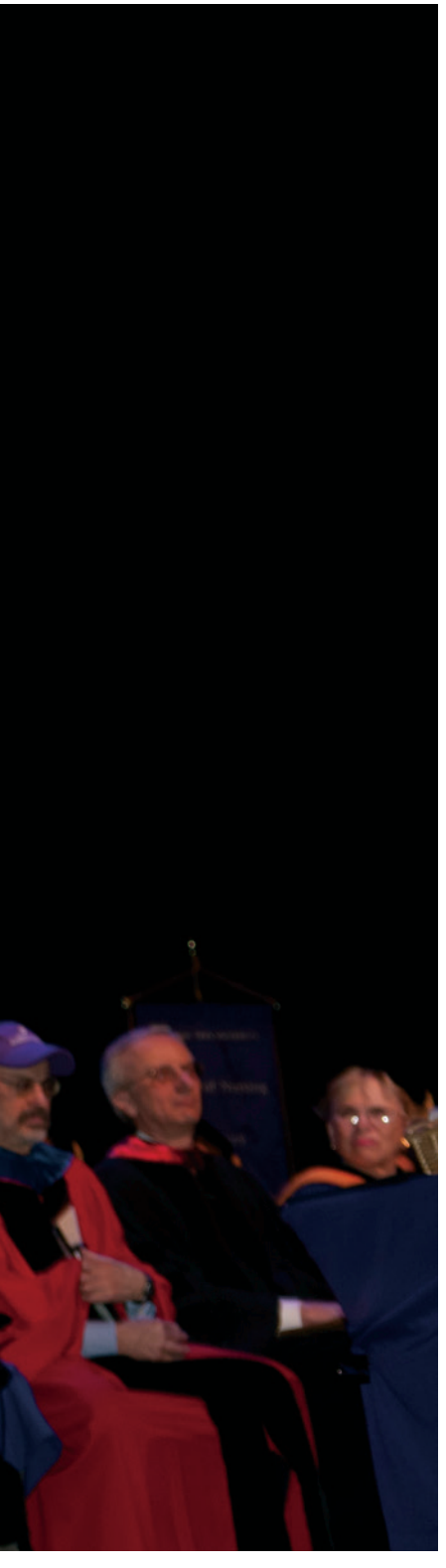
Gregory Wolownik
DNP

Now that I've graduated, I am planning on taking an extended vacation to Germany, which is essentially where my educational journey began back in 2004 with my first degree in German Language and Literature. After that well-deserved break, I am looking forward to using the skills I learned in the DNP program to help educate and empower nurses, especially when it comes to developing skills in palliative care. In the future, I would love to teach at a university and help the next generation of nurses develop to meet the challenges of a changing healthcare landscape. ●



Claire Fagin | 1926–2024

Nurse, educator, and academic leader



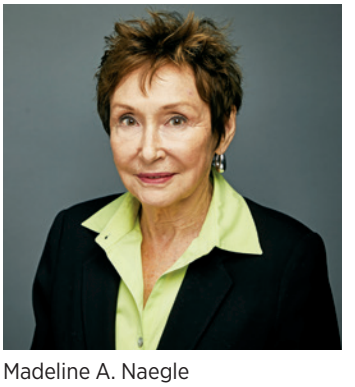
by Madeline A. Naegle
Professor Emerita

She was a leader "par excellence," and not only modeled innovative nursing practices but expected that we do the same.

Claire Fagin was a quintessential New York R.N. (Real Nurse, as she told her mother).

Her bravado, assertive style, and openness to the world reflected our wonderful city and her favorite haunts ranging from the Bronx to the Metropolitan Opera. She chose nursing over medicine against her family's wishes and always joked that it was because she liked the Army nurse cadet uniform. However, once she graduated from Wagner College, she found much more to like on the child/adolescent psychiatric unit at Bellevue where she practiced and found the inspiration to make psychiatric nursing her career.

After completing a master's degree at Columbia and a stint at NIH, she returned to NYU's Division of Nursing, completed her doctoral degree, and became director of the graduate programs in psychiatric nursing. That was where I first met her in 1965. I was too much in awe to ever consider that we would be friends. She was fearless, articulate, beautiful, and smart and I, a new master's student, was more than ready to follow her as my dean at Lehman College and Penn.



Madeline A. Naegle

She was a leader "par excellence," and not only modeled innovative nursing practices but expected that we do the same. Generous in spirit, she shared her resources and her opinions, but most freely, her knowledge, encouragement, learning, and career guidance. When she returned to New York after serving as interim president of the University of Pennsylvania, the first woman to do so, our visits blossomed into a loving and longstanding friendship. Those visits always included an update on nursing politics, activities, and "what was next" in US and global nursing, aside from personal life.

Much celebrated with many tributes, including 15 honorary doctorates, the ANA Hall of Fame, and the AAN Living Legends award, she remained charmingly outspoken and shared her concerns and pleasures, always eager to hear the same. Until her death, she never lost her acuity of wit, her humor, and her love for all of us in nursing. She is missed not only by friends and family but will be sorely missed in nursing. We are unlikely ever again to see a leader as insightful and brave. ●

by Eileen Sullivan-Marx
Immediate Past Dean & Professor



Eileen Sullivan-Marx

She never let up and we all saw her belief in the power of nursing and absorbed it into our work.

As I reflect on the impact of **Claire Fagin**'s phenomenal life and career, for me, the singular thrust of who Claire was for all nurses and the world was her unwavering embodiment of nursing for nurses and about nurses.

I think over and over of the many times where I would take a stand, position, or take up a project because of Claire's clarion call for all nurses to step up, step in, and be advocates for patients and society. She never let up and we all saw her belief in the power of nursing so we absorbed it into our work.

She was a leader who woke all of us up time and again. Sometimes it was to change policy so that parents could be with hospitalized children. Sometimes it was to make a demand to our elected officials. Sometimes it was to show that doctoral-level research is linked and embedded in practice. And sometimes, it was to say that without health reform we are abandoning our patients.

She was courageous confident and effective with such elegance and sincerity that doors opened. I still to this day draw on lessons I learned while taking her leadership course as a doctoral student at Penn. And somehow, I always felt that no matter who you were as a nurse or where you were, Claire had your back. This inspiration and support whether received overtly or through inspiration will stay with our profession for all time. ●



Alicia Volk, Norman Volk, Claire Fagin, and Eileen Sullivan-Marx

About Claire Fagin

Claire Fagin was a prolific nurse scientist, leader, and advocate.

Fagin's career began at Wagner College where she earned her nursing degree, followed by a master's in psychiatric nursing from Columbia, and a doctorate from NYU. Her doctoral research demonstrated the critical importance of allowing parents to room with their hospitalized child, which led to rule changes allowing 24-hour visits in pediatric wings.

Early in her career, she worked at Seaview Hospital and Bellevue. She then moved to the NIH Clinical Center, where she became its first director of the children's program. Fagin then moved to academia where she held leadership positions at NYU, Lehman College, and the University of Pennsylvania, where she served as dean, for 14 years. She later became Penn's interim president, one of the first women to lead an Ivy League institution.

Her honors were prolific: 15 honorary doctoral degrees; honorary fellow of the UK Royal College of Nursing; inductee into the ANA Hall of Fame; member of the National Academic of Medicine, American Academy of Nursing, the Century Association, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Fagin was a loyal friend and colleague to so many at NYU Meyers. We will miss her, but her lasting imprint on our field will remain.

Estelle Osborne Legacy Celebration

February 2024

by Janet Griffin
Director of Alumni Relations

Alumni, faculty, students, and friends gathered to celebrate the life of a nursing pioneer at our annual event held during Black History Month.

The event kicked off with a panel discussion entitled *A Nurse's Power to Change Minds, Lift Spirits, and Heal Our World*. The conversation featured alumni and faculty discussing how our collective action has the power to unravel injustice and heal our world. They shared real-world examples of how nurses are leading the charge toward more just and equitable healthcare systems.

The discussion was followed by a reception and awards ceremony. The 2024 Estelle Osborne honoree was **Kimberly Souffront** PhD '13. She is an associate professor of emergency medicine and faculty of the Institute for Health Equity Research at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and serves as the associate director of the Center for Nursing Research & Innovation for the Mount Sinai Health System. As an emergency-trained nurse practitioner, Souffront is nationally recognized for her expertise in emergency-based clinical research, focusing on asymptomatic hypertension and healthcare disparities. ●



The College invited students, faculty, staff, and alumni to listen to a panel discussion entitled *A Nurse's Power to Change Minds, Lift Spirits, and Heal Our World*. Afterwards, **Kimberly Souffront** PhD '13 was this year's honoree.

About Estelle Osborne



Few Americans helped to change the face of nursing in the 20th century more than **Estelle Massey Osborne**. A nurse administrator, educator, and leader at a time when racial lines prevented most African American women from holding top positions in their fields, she reached some of the highest ranks as she worked tirelessly to open up nursing to women of color.

In 1940, Osborne became the first Black superintendent of nurses at the storied Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis, the largest exclusively Black, city-operated general hospital in the world, which served more than 70,000 people. She was also the first Black woman director of its nursing school.

With the country at war, Osborne was hired in 1943 as a consultant to the Coordinating Committee on Negro Nursing for the National Council for War Service. That year, Congress passed the Bolton Act in response to the severe shortage of nurses at home and in the military overseas. Nurses could not be trained fast enough. Osborne helped to ensure that Black nurses benefited from the $160 million the bill provided for nursing education and financial aid. Her work also significantly expanded the number of nursing schools that accepted Black students.

After the war, Osborne returned to nursing education. In 1946, she became the first Black faculty member at what is now NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing.

Over the next 20 years, Osborne served mainly in national leadership roles. She was the first African American member of the ANA Board of Directors (1948–1952). She was also the assistant director of the National League for Nursing, the first vice-president of the National Council of Negro Women, a member of the National Urban League, an honorary member of Chi Eta Phi Sorority and the American Academy of Nursing.

FEATURE

January in Abu Dhabi



by Kerry Stalonas
Director for Global Operations

Meyers led its second J-term program in Abu Dhabi in January 2024. As a strategic initiative to expand global learning opportunities for nursing students in all of our programs, we offered both a graduate and undergraduate course this year. We hope that these global course experiences will equip our students with a diversity of knowledge, competencies, and cultural sensitivities that students can bring into their nursing practice, and to create a cadre of global health-minded professionals and citizens here at Meyers.

We had a total of 18 students join us in this 12-day global experiential learning program that included the graduate course *Nursing Issues and Trends in Health Care Delivery* led by Prof. **Mikki Meadows-Oliver** and the undergraduate elective *Comparative Health Systems* led by Prof. **Brian Fasolka**.

With the impressive NYU Abu Dhabi campus as our host and base, our nursing students participated in field visits and cultural activities that allowed them to explore global healthcare issues and trends, the role of nursing in the Emirates healthcare system, and immerse themselves in Emirati culture. We were fortunate to start the program with an in-depth orientation to the development of the nursing workforce in the UAE — past and present — with Fatima Al Rifai, founder of the Emirates Nursing Association, and long-term board member of the International Council of Nurses (ICN).

Throughout the immersive program, students met with Emirati and expatriate nurse leaders at various healthcare institutions across the UAE and shadowed various floor and charge nurses. Meyers students also met with equivalent



NYU Meyers J-term 2024 in Abu Dhabi was a great success! This year's 12-day experiential learning program included *Nursing Issues and Trends in Healthcare Delivery* for graduate students led by Prof. **Mikki Meadows-Oliver** and the undergraduate elective Comparative Health Systems led by Prof. **Brian Fasolka**.

Emirati nursing students and were able to exchange learning experiences. This year's program included site visits to the impressive Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, an outpatient surgical center run by Mubadala Health in Dubai, a primary/rural health care service center in Ras Al Khaimah with the Emirates Health Services and the Sheikh Khalifa Medical City that is managed by Abu Dhabi's health services company SEHA.

"Traveling to Abu Dhabi provided a unique experience to study nursing in a Middle Eastern context," explained Prof. Meadows-Oliver. "It was fascinating to see nurses from so many nationalities providing care with such cultural humility. Visiting both outpatient and inpatient facilities allowed our group to view nurses practicing in a variety of health settings—with varying levels of autonomy. This experience allowed me to have a greater appreciation for nursing within the United States and abroad."

The program also sponsored cultural visits to the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, and Al Watan Palace to gain perspective into contemporary Arab art and into the history and culture of a country that is so young, founded in 1971, and so multiculturally diverse: more than 89% of its population is expatriate.

Throughout the program, specific comparative themes and issues explored by our student groups this year included healthcare financing, nurse-to-patient ratios, pre-licensure nursing education requirements, the role of advanced practice nursing, and the use of expatriates in the nursing workforce. ●





"After learning and being able to experience the UAE culture firsthand, I have become culturally aware and more competent in being able to care for my patients with more compassion. My newfound cultural exposure will make me a better nurse."

Navneet Kaur BS '24

"Reflecting on this week, I feel confident I could be happy living in the UAE as a working nurse... The Emirati and expat nurses work harmoniously. The Emirati government is instilling programs to continue growing and progressing their medical infrastructure. I'm enticed by the idea of helping to build the nursing force here and encourage acceptance of nurse practitioners. The cultural differences don't feel as foreign to me and for that, I have living in New York City to thank. Each nurse I've met, no matter the country of origin, has shared my values and passions. It's clear to me, nursing is a field with universal compassion to care."

Chloe Chidester BS '24





January 2024 BS candidates for graduation generously donated their scrubs to the spring 2024 clinical sequence students.

Student life | Spring 2024



MS in Nursing Education student **Luke Carman** showcased his teaching skills by demonstrating how to insert intravenous lines to undergraduate students.



HIGN Scholar **Emma King** organized a Thanksgiving card drive for Greenwich House's older adult centers.



Spirit Week was a big success, and students loved the Club Fest and our merch giveaways!



Meyers competed in the NYU All-University Games that took place at the Paulson Center. A special shoutout to our first-year students who showed their school spirit.



Student Government President **Yilan Zheng** BS '24 and Student Affairs Officer **Lauriann Kormylo** were among the members of the Meyers community who turned out for the annual Health Sciences Spring Formal.



Undergrads **Irum Han** and **Kelly Yum** joined a medical mission in the Philippines during winter break.



Our students have been working hard learning advanced neuronursing and ECG interpretation skills.

Bright futures

Students, faculty, and staff took to the streets to catch the solar eclipse.



CELEBRATIONS

Estelle Osborne Legacy Celebration & Panel | February 21, 2024



Panelists, L to R: Dean **Angela Amar**, Prof. **Michele Crespo-Fierro** BS '90, **Mary Joy Garcia-Dia** MA '02, Prof. **Alexis Dunn Amore**, **Ashley Graham-Perel** MS '18



Student speaker **Ashley Carson** BS '24



Dean **Amar** and **Kimberly Souffront** PhD '13

Dean's Council Holiday Party | December 5, 2023



Dean **Angela Amar** with student performers



(L-R) Chief of Staff **Mattia Gilmartin**, Prof. **Allison Squires**, NYU Langone Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President for Patient Care Services **Debra Albert**

Chief Nursing Officer Panel Discussion | November 15, 2023



Pictured L to R: **Megan Clampet** MS '18, **Janet Griffin**, **Stacy Bentil** MS '10, **Renee Sanchez** MS '13, **Marisa DeFilippis**, MS '22, BS '13, **Steven Tyler** MS '15, **Mary Gallagher** MA '84, **Noreen Brennan**, PhD '13, MA '96

Lightening the load

by Margot McTiernan BS '20

After graduating from NYU Meyers College of Nursing in 2020, I began working as a Registered Nurse in NYC Hospitals. I was on medical-surgical floors for about three years before transitioning to an outpatient setting. While working inpatient, I learned the importance of time management and multi-tasking. I felt like no matter how prepared I thought I was for my shift, I still felt underprepared once it started.

I was always thinking of ways to make my day more efficient while also improving the care I could give to all my patients. I soon realized that there was one major thing always slowing me down throughout my shift: my supplies! I found myself constantly leaving patient rooms to go to the supply closet to fill my pockets with more flushes, IV caps, alcohol wipes, and more. As a hands-on bedside nurse, I often encountered situations where I'd be in the middle of a task with a patient, only to realize I didn't have the necessary supplies on hand. Not having my supplies would interfere with my workflow and ultimately take away time that could have been spent with my patients.

I knew I wasn't the only nurse having this issue, so I began researching ways to fix the problem. I was speaking with other healthcare workers who felt similarly and that's where I got the idea for Rumii. I decided I wanted to create a fanny pack that was designed specifically for nurses to use during their shifts to help store all of their supplies in an orderly fashion at their hip. After doing a lot of research and learning how the process works, I began sketching a prototype. Once I felt my prototype was up to my standards, I began to reach out to several suppliers who could hopefully deliver the perfect Rumii. After several rounds of trial and error, the first Rumii bag was created!

So, what exactly is a Rumii bag and why is it called Rumii? After much thought, the name Rumii felt like the perfect fit for my product. I felt it was creative and centered around what the bag helps nurses with the most, creating more room for their essential goods. Rumii is the essential bag for essential workers. It is designed specifically with a nurse mindset. For example, the Rumii bag has specific pockets for scissors, flushes, and alcohol wipes on the inside and there are loops for extra IV caps and a spot to hook your badge on the outside. The Rumii bag allows you to always have your essentials right at your hip so you can focus on your patients more and your supplies less.

"I have loved being a nurse entrepreneur so far. I will never give up on the dream of helping other nurses around the world."

One thing I can say is that I would have never imagined the amount of support we have received from the nursing community. It has been inspiring to see the connection and support this community brings. I launched Rumii in January 2023 and within a year, I have sold more than $50,000 in bags, shipped to 30 states, and now plan to release new colors and products this year.

For the first eight months of Rumii launching, I was working the night shift which was a challenge in itself. I would wake up early before a shift, package and ship bags, post on social media, and answer any email inquiries. Finding the time to be a full-time inpatient nurse while starting a business on the side has been an extraordinary experience, although I would be lying if I said I have not experienced difficulties. From finding suppliers to working through finances, I have learned a great amount about aspects of starting a business and I will always be able to take learning experiences from this endeavor and use them in other areas of my life.

As I now work in an outpatient setting, I find the time before or after my shift to devote to Rumii. I have a small team of mainly family members and friends who help me in the process. I have loved being a nurse entrepreneur so far. I will never give up on the dream of helping other nurses around the world. I have had a chance to see how much these bags have helped other nurses and it has been extremely rewarding. I continue to be inspired daily and plan to grow Rumii in the future. ●

Learn more at **https://rumiibags.com/**.

Our alumni are working in all kinds of settings across the NYU Langone Health system.









Why I give

by LiHung Lin MA ’86



When I was in junior high school in Taiwan, I was captivated by an article in *National Geographic* about New York City. From that moment on, it was my dream to call New York City home. In 1983 that dream was realized when I became a graduate student at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing. At that time, there were only a handful of Asian students at the College, and the educational approach was entirely new to me. However, I quickly became immersed in the exciting and diverse city I had previously only dreamed about, and the fantastic opportunities I found at NYU Meyers.

I discovered great mentors at NYU who gave me the tools to realize my full potential. These trailblazing professors broadened my horizons, encouraged me to be a critical thinker and creative, and inspired me to be a leader. Without a doubt, their guidance and training made me the nurse I am today. For this, I am forever grateful, and why I choose to ensure that future nurses have the same opportunity for growth.

Philanthropy is in my DNA. I was raised by a family that believed in the power of giving back. My mother, who tirelessly managed a successful business and raised a family, still made time to volunteer at an orphanage. Her dedication to this cause led to her establishing a scholarship supporting orphans who wanted to advance their education. My mother always said that education is the ticket to changing lives, and financial support is education’s most essential ingredient. I strive to follow in my mother’s footsteps by supporting both academic scholarships at NYU Meyers, and the NYU Meyers Fund for Student Support and Enrichment, which helps students purchase laptops and other equipment they need to succeed. As an instructor at NYU Meyers, I know all too well that many of our exceptional students come from financially underprivileged backgrounds, which is why it is my privilege to be able to assist them in their quest to become nurses.

My nursing career has gifted my life with a great sense of independence and fulfillment. I love working with students, and I always stress to them the importance of kindness as we care for people when they are most vulnerable. It is gratifying to see how far the nursing profession has advanced since I first arrived in New York City 40 years ago. There are so many diverse opportunities for nurses, and the enthusiasm in my nursing students reminds me why I chose to leave Taiwan and pursue my dream at this exceptional college. It is my honor to support nursing education because these students are the future of excellent patient care. ●

Did you know?

There are creative ways to support NYU Meyers that can benefit the College, you, and your loved ones all at the same time?

Are we already in your will, trust, or other estate plans?

If you have named NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing in your will please let us know. It helps us plan for the future. It also allows us to thank you for your generosity and honor your loyalty to the College.

If you have already included NYU Meyers in your will, contact **Sander Randall**, Development Manager, and he will add you as a member of the Society of the Torch.

The Society of the Torch is a special group of alumni, faculty, and friends of NYU who have recognized the importance of planning their philanthropy by providing for the University and its schools and colleges through their wills and estates. Through bequests in wills, trusts, and other arrangements, these donors have found a satisfying way to leave a meaningful legacy. Or, if you would like, your gift may remain anonymous.

Don’t have a will?

You are not alone! Now is a great time to start planning. Please consider including NYU Meyers in your estate planning. Contact Sander for suggested bequest language and NYU’s tax ID to share with your attorney.



To learn more about this giving opportunity, please contact Sander at **212-998-5305** or **sander.randall@nyu.edu**.

Greetings

from the Alumni Association President



Dear alumni,

As my term as president of the Meyers Alumni Association draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've been on together over the past two years. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve in this role, alongside dedicated board members and the exceptional staff at NYU Meyers.

Together, we have accomplished great things. From representing NYU Meyers across the University to participating in committees and events, we have amplified the voice and presence of Meyers within the broader NYU community. I am immensely proud of the recognition of our alumni, and thrilled to see a Meyers alumna being honored by the university this year at the annual NYU Alumni Association Awards Ceremony.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my tenure has been meeting and connecting with our incredible alumni and students. Whether at events, gatherings, or through various initiatives, I have been continually inspired by your stories, achievements, and dedication to the college. The growing participation in our events and the increasing number of donors during NYU One Day are testaments to the vibrant spirit and strong bonds within our alumni community.

I am filled with gratitude for the experiences, friendships, and memories we have shared. While my term may be ending, my commitment to staying involved and connected with our alumni community remains strong. I encourage each of you to do the same.

Thank you for your unwavering support throughout my tenure. It has been an incredibly gratifying experience, and I am excited to see what the future holds for NYU Meyers.

Regards,

Mary Gallagher '84
President, NYU Meyers Alumni Association



Meyers hosted an alumni reception in Scarsdale, New York at the home of alumna **Robin Schafer**, DNP '21, BS '99.

Upcoming Events

Summer Social

June 26
Amity Hall

Alumni & Parents Weekend

October 24–27
Washington Square Campus

1970s

Maureen "Shawn" Kennedy MA '75 is now editor-in-chief emerita of the *American Journal of Nursing* and contributing editor for *JAMA Health Forum*.

Diane Welch Vines MA '73 received the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's 2023 Alma Gault Award for Public Service.

1980s

Rona Faye Levin PhD '81 published her third book: *Evidence-Based Practice Improvement: Merging Evidence-Based Practice and Quality Improvement*. Her co-editor is Bonnie Lauder, also an NYU alumna.

1990s



Annemarie Dowling-Castronovo, MA '96, was recently appointed dean of the School of Nursing at Roberts Wesleyan University in Rochester, NY.

2000s

Lauren Pine BS '00 learned so much in the 16 years that she practiced as a med-surg nurse at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and is currently an advocate and volunteer for causes she cares about.

2010s

Rose Campomanes MS '18 is working as lead NP for NewYork-Presbyterian Workforce Health & Safety. She was accepted to Harvard Medical School's MS in Clinical Service Operations program and will start in fall 2024.

Kristina Fuhrmann BS '13 finished their FNP degree at the end of 2020, and now works in primary care in 2022. They recently had a baby girl and the family is doing well.

Hyo Jin Kang MS '15 is the clinical director for the Structural Heart Program at Mount Sinai Hospital, one of the highest volume structural heart programs in New York.

Christina Maroone MS '19 recently graduated from Yale with a DNP in Healthcare Leadership, Systems, and Policy.

Tina Sadarangani, PhD '17, BS '10 launched a freely available mobile application, CareMobi, that she designed via her NIH-funded research, and she has been featured on several podcasts and publications talking about how adult children can be better prepared to support their aging parents.

Jasmin Waterman-Parris MS '10 is a professional development specialist at NYU Langone Tisch and board member and past vice president of New York Black Nurses Association, Inc. She is also the founder of Nurtured Novice LLC, a professional development consultant service helping nursing students and novice nurses gain knowledge and confidence that will prepare them to navigate challenges in the clinical setting.

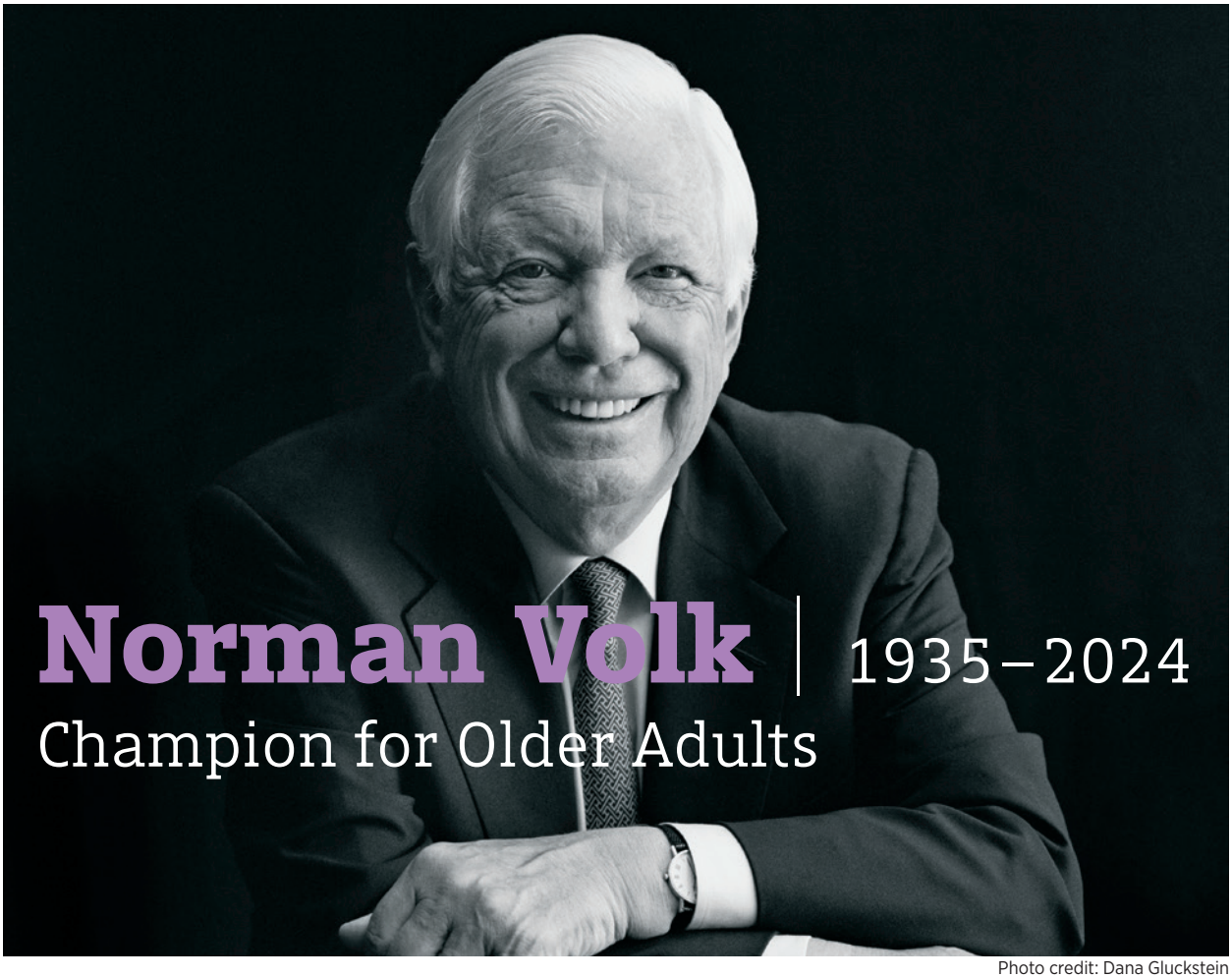


Congrats to **Tim Rupp** BS '19 who received the Emergency Department Nurse of the Year 2023 Award from Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego.

2020s

Kim Do BS '24 accepted her dream position in a Level 4 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin.

Julian Mohammed BS '23 has been accepted into the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner DNP program.



Norman Volk | 1935–2024

Champion for Older Adults

Photo credit: Dana Gluckstein

The Rory Meyers College of Nursing community mourns the passing and celebrates the legacy of **Norman Volk**, whose commitment to improving healthcare for older adults helped establish the College as a global leader in geriatric nursing research, innovation, and practice.

Volk's contributions to gerontology spanned more than four decades. During his service with The John A. Hartford Foundation, the organization made grants totaling more than $561 million to support the field of aging and health, including the creation of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing (HIGN) at Meyers in 1996.

Since its inception, HIGN's mission has shaped and advanced quality and equity in the care of older adults through research, education, advocacy, workforce development, and community-based partnerships. In addition, Volk endowed the Norman H. Volk Doctoral Scholarship Fund for PhD and DNP students specializing in the care of older adults, and, with his wife, the annual Norman and Alicia Volk Lecture in Geriatric Nursing. He also served on the Meyers Board of Nursing Advisors and the Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystems Elders (NICHE) Dean's Advisory Board.

"Norman Volk's impact on education and research in aging and health has been expansive and enduring," said Meyers Dean **Angela Amar**. "At Meyers, we're grateful not only for his advocacy and philanthropy, but his deep respect and affection for nursing."

Volk, who was inducted as an honorary member of Sigma Theta Tau, the honor society of nursing, made substantial contributions to geriatric medicine and research through a wide range of organizations. Along with his service to The John A. Hartford Foundation, he was a member of the board of the American Federation for Aging Research, the advisory board of the Stanford University Center on Longevity, and the Board of Trustees of Valparaiso University, as well as the National Council for its College of Nursing.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing. ●

GIVING | DONATIONS AS OF MAY 2024

We are grateful to the individuals who have included NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing in their estate plans. By providing a legacy these individuals are helping to further the education of nursing professionals into the future.

Leadership Circle

$10,000 AND ABOVE

Angela Frederick Amar
Christine and Joseph M. Amoroso
Annie Eaton Society
Anonymous (3)
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Dr. Gillian Barclay
Drue and H.J. Heinz II Charitable Trust
Estate of Carol R. Lofstedt
Estate of Jay R. Paul
Pamela and George Giacobbe
Kimberly S. Glassman, PhD '07, MA '87
Geri LoBiondo-Wood PhD '85
The Mayer-Rothschild Foundation
Mother Cabrini Health Foundation
National Philanthropic Trust
Rory and Howard Meyers Family Foundation
The Louis and Rachel Rudin Foundation
Eileen Sullivan-Marx and Kenneth Marx
Cynthia and Thomas Sculco

Innovator Circle

$2,500 – $9,999

AARP Inc.
Anonymous (2)
Debra A. Albert
American Assoc. of Colleges of Nursing
Monefa M. Anderson, BS '07, WAGNER MPA '96)
Claudia and Leo Crowley
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Elizabeth A. Duthie, PhD '06, BA '84
Terry T. Fulmer ADCRT '01
Margery Gott Garbin
Mary Joy S. Garcia-Dia MA '02
Catherine Alicia Georges MA '73
The Giacobbe Family
Mary J. Giuffra, PhD '73, MA '68
Goldman Sachs Gives
Sherry PhD and Brian M. Greenberg
Jennifer Harper
Tanisha R. Johnson-Campbell, Steinhardt PhD '18, MA '07
Jonas Philanthropies
Carl A. Kirton MA '92
Christine Tassone PhD '85 and Anthony Kovner
Mathy EdD and Andrew (Wagner '92, Medicine '60) Mezey, MD
Geri LoBiondo-Wood PhD '85
Madeline A. Naegle, PhD '80, MA '67
Jamesetta A. Newland
Marianne T. Roncoli PhD '73
Stacey and Michael A. Sadler, MD
Sylvia and Stephen C. Schoenbaum, MD
Vijay K. Anand, Physician P.C.
Alicia and Norman* H. Volk

Dean's Circle

$1,000 – $2,499

Patricia M. and Stephen R. Beckwith
Rose M. Boroch
Mary M. Brennan
Sean Clarke
Louis and Catherine O. D'Amico PhD '07
Caroline Gail Dorsen, PhD '14, BS '97
Annemarie Dowling-Castronovo MA '96
Arlene T. Farren, PhD '06, MA '87
Valerie MA '84 and James Grabicki
Judith PhD '84, MA '67 and Leonard Haber
Donna M. Hallas
Martha N. Hill
Larrine Sullivan Holbrooke
Audrey Lyndon and John Williams
John Mach
Craig Meyers
Joseph B. Narus, PhD '12, MA '99, BA '96 and Charles T. Soriano
National Student Nurses' Association
Schwab Charitable Fund
Neville E. Strumpf PhD '82
Chun Hsiung Su
Estate of Rwei Hwa Su
The Ohio State University – College of Nursing
Maria L. Vezina MA '77 and John A. Posser
Antonia Villarruel
Dorothy J. Wholihan and Thomas M. Harney
Bei Wu

Legacy Society

Anonymous
Ellen Baer, PhD '82, MA '73
Janet S. Curtin, ADCRT '07, MA '81
Hazel F. Chin, Esq.
Catherine O. D'Amico PhD '07
Cynthia E. Degazon, PhD '87, Steinhardt '72
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