

“The confidence I have to practice in rural primary care, I have UC Davis to thank for that.”

**Morgan Hines,**  
Class of '18 alumna

# advancing health

YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION WINTER 2019

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The Humboldt Clinical Student Housing Fund is made possible thanks to the support of Partnership HealthPlan of California, St. Joseph Health and Redwood Memorial Hospital Foundation.

## Thanks to your support, Morgan is a physician assistant providing primary care in Humboldt County

**As a second grader growing up** in rural Elko, Nevada, Morgan Hines underwent a spinal tap, a wrongly suspected case of meningitis and six days of not knowing the cause of her illness before providers realized a simple antibiotic was all she needed. That experience prompted Morgan to pursue a career as a physician assistant and make health care better for people in rural areas.

“After two clinical rotations in Humboldt County, I realized where I wanted to fulfill my goal,” says Morgan, a 2018 graduate of the physician assistant program at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing. “Being there felt like home. I connected with people who lacked access to good care. I knew it’s where I wanted to practice after graduation.”

For clinical students like Morgan, exposure to health care in Humboldt County is possible thanks to donor support that provides housing for students during their rotations.

“Without the opportunity to live and train in Humboldt County, my passion for working in rural communities would not have been rekindled,” she says.

In January, Morgan started practice at Redwoods Rural Health Center in Humboldt County.

“Not only did they choose me, but I chose them,” Morgan says. “I’m grateful to the donors who played a huge part in my future. The confidence I have to practice in rural primary care, I have UC Davis to thank for that.”

DEAN'S LETTER

# Your investment pours into communities where it's most needed



**As we settle** fully into this new year, I am re-energized by the commitment of our Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing community to advance health for everyone. Our founders envisioned our graduates as agents of change, who make positive

impact on the clinics, communities and classrooms they serve.

While many alumni continue to work in the greater Sacramento region and Bay Area, others work in rural areas of California as well as in the greater Los Angeles area. I grew up in Bakersfield, so I'm proud they choose to make a difference in rural and underserved communities.

As a land-grant institution, UC Davis has proudly served the Central Valley and beyond since 1908. At the School of Nursing, we advance the land-grant vision of service, thanks to the dedication of those who choose to invest in our students and graduates, who then pour their talents into the communities and people who need it most.

I hope you will enjoy the stories you read in this newsletter—stories about community organization leadership and rural health care service—that demonstrate your leadership in action. Together, we advance health.

**Debbie Ward, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.**  
Interim Dean and Clinical Professor

## Advancing is Advancing Health

**Our donor and alumni newsletter** is completely redesigned with you in mind. Through this newsletter, we hope you see what your gifts and leadership make possible here and in our communities. If you have suggestions for what you would like to see featured, please let us know by emailing Sallie-Grace Tate, assistant dean for advancement, at [sgtate@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sgtate@ucdavis.edu).



Students from all of the school's programs step up to support Camp Fire evacuees.

## Giving is contagious

### Students use campus closure to serve Camp Fire victims

**When classes** were closed due to unhealthy air quality in the Sacramento region last November, several physician assistant and nursing students used that time to support victims of the deadly Camp Fire in Paradise, California.

From collecting and delivering goods and supplies to aiding in shelter clinics, these future health providers spent countless hours serving people.

One first-year physician assistant student, Shannon Watson, a registered nurse, long-time disaster relief volunteer and former Butte County resident, organized her classmates as volunteers caring for older, frail evacuees at a shelter clinic.

"To me, this is what our school is all about," Shannon says. "Our mission is leadership and service to rural communities and the underserved."



Matthew St. Amant says he's proud to help drive the School of Nursing mission.

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

**Every donor has a reason. Here's why staff member Matthew gives every month.**

**Working with people and executives** in the health care and hospitality industries requires Matthew St. Amant to be at the top of his game with customer service and engaging with people. Joining the team at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing prompted him to serve in a new way: employee donor.

“When I started working here, I immediately recognized how the faculty and staff drive the mission of the school. That’s big,” says Matthew, travel coordinator and receptionist for the School of Nursing since last April. “I decided to give back part of my paycheck, because I believe in what we’re doing here. I want to help keep it going.”

Matthew says he feels more connected to the school community as an employee donor. He adds that a culture of inclusivity enables him to promote the mission in other ways. He serves as co-chair of the UC Davis Health LGBTQ+

employee resource group and is a member of Vice Chancellor David Lubarsky’s LGBTQ+ advisory committee.

“Because of this community, I’m able to get involved for betterment of the school and the health system as a whole,” Matthew says. “Leaders at the School of Nursing support and believe in me, so I give back and believe in them and our shared vision of making health care better for everyone.”



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

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

# Professor seeks to deepen community understanding

## Annual bus trip through Central Valley provides profound experience

### California's Central Valley

is home to 6.5 million people, provides more than half of the fruits, vegetables and nuts grown in the United States, and some of the state's most productive vineyards. Yet, those living in this 400-mile stretch of land down the middle of the state face the worst air quality in the country, diabetes rates above the national average and rampant food insecurity. That doesn't sit well with physician and School of Nursing Assistant Clinical

**JANN'S CLASSROOM ON WHEELS TEACHES SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUITIES, POPULATION HEALTH AND CULTURAL HUMILITY.**

Professor Jann Murray-García.

"We think we have an idea of what this land rich in history and diversity is all about, but I sensed we, as current and future health providers, could have a better sense," Jann says. "If we're going to build a health care system that serves everyone as well as it can, we need to understand the social and public policy determinants of health for those we serve."

Jann's desire to deepen future health care professionals' understanding grew into an interprofessional bus tour down Highway 99. Since 2017, three groups of students and faculty from the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing and the UC Davis School of Medicine made the overnight trip, which includes stops at community centers and health organizations, as well as historical sites. Jann's classroom on wheels, narrated in real time by Central Valley historian David Hosley, teaches social determinants of health, health inequities, population health and cultural humility.

or elsewhere in the nation that establishes an interprofessional mobile classroom, where every traveler is a learner, including students, faculty, staff and community members," she adds.

Participants experience these complex concepts through their own eyes, ears and hearts and walk off the bus profoundly changed by the experience.

"When my husband and I got off the bus, we went to get a burger. I remember thinking about the tomatoes—if they came from the Central Valley and who picked them," recalls Trudee Murray, a master's-degree leadership student and UC Davis Health nurse. "After this experience, I no longer just see what's in front of me, but the whole picture of my patients."

"We know of no other opportunity at UC Davis

Jann hopes to make more connections and have more UC Davis alumni from across the university's degree programs meet us along the way on Highway 99 during future trips.

**Erik Orlando Fernandez y Garcia, a pediatrician and associate professor in the School of Medicine, and Jann Murray-García, School of Nursing assistant clinical professor, take a break at a rest stop along Highway 99 during the 2018 bus trip.**





Yuuko Mabrey Johnson, Class of '15 alumna, serves as a board member with Her Health First.

## Community project becomes passion

### Alumna continues work to ensure safe, healthy pregnancies for black mothers

**African-American babies** die at twice the rate of other races in the United States. Black women are three to four times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes as their white counterparts, according to the Centers for Disease Control. *The New York Times* reports, “For black women in America, ...inescapable... racism can create a kind of toxic physiological stress... that lead[s] directly to higher rates of infant and maternal death.”

But an alumna from the Betty Irene Moore School of

Nursing at UC Davis works to change this reality. During the first quarter of her master’s-leadership program, Yuuko Mabrey Johnson learned of a Sacramento community organization that provides education, resources and support to African-American women to ensure safe and healthy pregnancies that benefit both mother and baby.

“During the Community Connections course, I was assigned to work with the Center for Community Health and Well-being on their Black Mothers United Program,” recalls Yuuko, a Class of 2015

alumna. “After graduation I stayed connected to the program, now called Her Health First. It epitomizes that aspect of health that’s happening every day around us.”

Her Health First offers support programs for African-American women during adolescence, pregnancy and motherhood in Sacramento County. Yuuko serves as a board member and contributes to the group’s mission by leveraging her School of Nursing knowledge. Together, they share a vision in which all

women have full and equal access to opportunities leading to the highest level of health possible.

“I’m challenging myself to continue my education and make an impact by holding those values of social justice I feel are so important,” Yuuko explains. “What I’m doing is bringing up the volume for change.”

Yuuko’s leadership in maternal and infant health promises to be the very change that’s needed.

# 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.



**Thank you**, inaugural Master's Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN) alumni ('17), from left, Michelle Hopkins, Maying Va, Julia Yu, Alana Matarazzo, Eric Yai, Dominique Gullat, Neal Oppenheimer and Angelica Gales, who joined via phone, for speaking to the soon-to-graduate MEPN students about the transition from student life to nurse practice.



**Patrick Nguyen**, a recent graduate of the physician assistant program ('18) and newly certified P.A., was recently appointed as a UC Davis Medical Center Advanced Practice Fellow in the Department of Radiology. The fellowship was designed to support new physician assistants and nurse practitioners in their first year of practice.



**Congratulations Alumnus** John "J.J." James, who was recently recognized with a Daisy award! J.J., who graduated from the master's leadership program ('17), was honored for his care of a patient who was injured in a car accident, along with his service dog. J.J. searched area shelters to find the dog for the patient.



**Jacquie DeMellow**, a doctoral alumna ('18), was promoted to director of quality at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Stockton, California, a Dignity Health facility. In this role, she leads the delivery of safe, effective patient-centered care at the medical center. Previously, Jacquie served as a sepsis coordinator and critical care quality facilitator at the same hospital.

## MORE ALUMNI FEATURES ON [NURSING.UCDAVIS.EDU](http://NURSING.UCDAVIS.EDU)



The latest alumni features include articles about master's leadership alumni Aldreen Venzon ('17) and Leah Morris ('13) along with doctoral alumna Sarah Brown Blake ('17).



### CONNECT WITH SARAH MENTZE

Connect with Sarah Mentze, director for alumni and community engagement, to learn more about how you as alumni can engage with the school. Please call or email to post a job, share alumni news, learn more about precepting opportunities or just to chat.

**(916) 734-9614**

[smentze@ucdavis.edu](mailto:smentze@ucdavis.edu)

[@SarahEMentze](https://twitter.com/SarahEMentze)

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

### HERE'S WHAT YOU SAID

*Thank you for participating in the 2018 alumni survey*

**82 percent**

Alumni who responded say their education experience was valuable

**93 percent** of

respondents reported they work in California, with the greatest concentration in Northern California

**93 percent** of all alumni

who responded report they contribute to priority areas of education, quality of care, safer care, system improvement or partnerships.

### LOOK AT THE IMPACT OF LEADERSHIP

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**323** current students

**406** alumni

**5** Nursing Science and Health-Care Graduate programs

**48** scholarships

**350+** community partners and collaborators

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

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