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# THE Heritage Society

SIGMA FOUNDATION FOR NURSING NEWSLETTER

January 2022

## Update your photo

As a Heritage Society donor, you are listed on the Sigma Foundation for Nursing website along with your photo on the [Heritage Society Honor Roll](#). Many of these photos have not been updated recently. If you would like to update your photo, please send it to Nikki Aleman at [nikki@sigmanursing.org](mailto:nikki@sigmanursing.org).

## Heritage Society Dinner and Auction



More than 80 Heritage Society donors enjoyed a nice evening with their peers during the 46th Biennial Convention. The Heritage Society Dinner and silent auction took place on Sunday, 7 November at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Guests enjoyed a silent auction during the dinner where they bid on an assortment of different items. The silent auction raised more than US \$3,500 in support of the Foundation.

The next dinner will be at the 47th Biennial Convention in San Antonio, Texas, USA, in November 2023. You will receive updates and more information about this dinner as we get closer to that time. We will be collecting silent auction donations for the next dinner. If you have items you want to donate, please contact Nikki Aleman at [nikki@sigmanursing.org](mailto:nikki@sigmanursing.org).

## New Heritage Society Donors

We gratefully recognize the newest Heritage Society donors who've made their commitment to support nursing worldwide.

## Pillar Society



**Susan R. Opas**, PhD, RN-C, PNP-BC, CPMHS, CHES  
Gamma Tau at-Large and Beta Iota Chapters  
Woodland Hills, California, USA

## Billye Brown Fellow



**Sandra Bibb**, DNSc, RN, FAAN  
Owner and Consultant  
Sandra C. Garmon Bibb Consulting  
Mu Phi at-Large, Tau Theta, and Zeta Mu at-Large  
Chapters  
Villa Rica, Georgia, USA

## Sigma Theta Tau Fellow



**Jerico G. Alicante**, BSN, RN, FISQua  
Registered Nurse  
Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center  
Alpha Eta Chapter  
Los Angeles, California, USA

## Virginia Henderson Fellows



**Cynthia Diefenbeck**, PsyD, APRN, BC  
Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurse  
Center for Counseling and Student Development  
Secondary Faculty, Associate Professor rank  
School of Nursing, University of Delaware  
Beta Xi Chapter  
Landenberg, Pennsylvania, USA



**Michael Joseph Diño**, PhD, MAN, LPT, RN  
Director of Research Development and Innovation  
Center Our Lady of Fatima University Nu Beta at-Large  
and Phi Gamma Chapters  
Valenzuela City, Philippines



**Mary Mullin Graiver**, MSN, RN  
Professor Emerita  
Saginaw Valley State University  
Alpha Mu and Theta Chi Chapters  
Midland, Michigan, USA



**Mary Beverley Anne Lansiquot**, DNP, MSN, BSN, RN  
Dean  
University of the Virgin Islands School of Nursing Delta  
Beta at-Large Chapter  
Sarasota, Florida, USA

## News About Fellows

**Jose Alejandro** continues as the [treasurer](#) of the Sigma Board of Directors (2021–2023).

**Amita Avadhani** was elected [regional coordinator](#) for the North America Region 14 (2021–2023).

**Phyllis Brenner**, Professor Emerita, Madonna University, was the recipient of the [2021 American Nurses Association Michigan Lifetime Achievement Award](#), in recognition of her longstanding commitment to and profound impact on nursing.

**Ellen Buckner** was awarded the 2020 Humanitarian and Outstanding Asthma Community Service Award in January 2021 from the Association of Asthma Educators (AAE). This was for the work developing the Virtual Young Teen Asthma & Wellness Camp, an active learning program to encourage asthma self-management and wellness in middle school students.

**Gloria Chan** was elected as [vice president](#) of the Sigma Board of Directors (2021–2023).

**Sandra Bibb** was elected as [president-elect](#) of the Sigma Board of Directors (2021–2023).

**Mary Lou Bond** presented *Perspectives of Global Nurse Leaders on Leadership* at the International Council of Nurses (ICN) conference with two peers.

**Sylvia Colon-Cabassa** co-published "Decreasing Patients' Length of Stay in a Post-Anesthesia Care Unit" in the *University of the Philippines Nursing Alumni Association International (UPNAAI) Nursing Journal*. She received the AFS Global Competence Certificate from Global Up on 30 April 2021.

**Norma Cuellar** was recognized at the 75th-anniversary celebration of The Fulbright Program on 30 November 2021 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, USA. She was recognized for her work as a Fulbright Specialist at the Universidad de Maria Auxiliadora in the fall of 2019.

**Cynthia Diefenbeck** returns to the [Sigma Board of Directors](#) (2021–2023).

**Ken Dion** is serving as the [president](#) of the Sigma Board of Directors (2021–2023). He was inducted to the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland in December 2021.

**Sara Horton-Deutsch** returns to the [Sigma Board of Directors](#) (2021–2023).

**Karen Gorton** was elected to the [Governance Committee](#) (2021–2023).

**Peggy Jenkins** returns to the [Leadership Succession Committee](#) (2021–2023).

**Carole Kenner** received the 2021 [Award of Excellence in Leadership](#) from the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN). She was elected to the Sister Cities International Board of Directors.

**Alina Kushkyan** was a recipient of [Sigma's European Recognition of Nursing Excellence during COVID-19](#).

**Nancyruth Leibold** published two open educational resource graduate-level holistic nursing textbooks in 2021. The first book is [Holistic Nursing and Culture: Body, Mind, and Spirit](#). The second book is [Holistic Nursing and Healing Environments](#).

**Carole Liske** was re-elected as [Regional Chapters Coordinating Committee chair](#) to the Sigma Board of Directors (2021–2023).

**Sarah Marshall** co-presented *Impact of Nursing Informatics on Healthcare Systems During the Covid-19 Pandemic* virtually on 14 November to Sigma North America Region 14. She presented *Women and Children Health* virtually on 12 November to New York Academy of Medicine. She presented *Organ Donation: What You Need to Know* to the Kiwanis Club of Hempstead in the New York District.

**Juli Maxworthy** was elected to the [Governance Committee](#) (2021–2023).

**Gladys Mouro** is Senior Nursing Advisor at Saint George Hospital University Medical Center in Beirut, Lebanon.

**Patricia W. Nishimoto** retired after 52 years of federal service from her position as Oncology and Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Specialist at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. She is now volunteering at the Tripler NICU.

**Joanne Olson** was honored at Riverbend United Church, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on 26 September 2021 as she completed 15 years of faith community nursing ministry and 30 years of parish nursing leadership in Canada. She continues her role as Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta.

**Susan Opas** was re-elected as [regional coordinator](#) for North America Region 2 (2021–2023). She was selected to the University of Cincinnati's College of Nursing Advisory Committee. She continues working with Project HOPE on their disaster relief team.

**Shannon Perry** published "50 Years of Progress in Neonatal and Maternal Transport for Specialty Care" in *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing*. She gave a tribute to Barbara Fargotstein at the 9 December 2021 Beta Upsilon Chapter induction ceremony at Arizona State University Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation.

**Jean Shinnors** has been the primary author for three articles published in the fourth quarter of 2021. They are "Versant's Nurse Residence Program: A Retrospective Review," "2021: The Year in Review," and "The Nursing Professional Development Role in Fostering Professional Development, Leadership, and Academic Progression for New Graduate Registered Nurses."



**Benjamin Smallheer** is one of the five faculty at Duke University to serve as a [fellow](#) in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Academic Leadership Network in 2022.

**Linda Streit**, nursing dean and professor at Mercer University, was appointed to the Georgia Nursing Task Force established by the Georgia Center for Nursing Excellence. The purpose of the task force is to foster partnerships among healthcare employers and strategic partners from workforce agencies, businesses, non-profits, academia, and other organizations to build a sustainable healthcare workforce pipeline.


**Enna Trevathan** is the Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health for Gavilan College. She was nominated as the Vice President for California Organization of Associate Degree Nursing (COADN) North.

**Nancy Valentine** co-authored the article "[Dealing with COVID-19 Post-Traumatic Stress: Strategies for Preserving the Nursing Workforce and Supporting all Vital Frontline Personnel](#)" for *Nursing Economics*. She also participated in a two-part podcast ([part 1](#) and [part 2](#)) about the article for *The Journal for Healthcare Leaders*.

**Sharon Vasuthevan** has accepted the position of Education Executive at Life Healthcare Group, one of the largest private hospital groups in South Africa. She held the position of Chief Nursing and Quality Executive for 11 years and is happy to return to education. She continues to drive research in the clinical setting.

**Dee Welk** led a 12-member author group of Sigma members in the Global Leadership Mentoring Community to publish "Capacity Building in Nurse Educators in a Global Leadership Mentoring Community" in the October 2021 issue of *International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship*.


**Barbara White** retired as Emerita faculty, School of Nursing, Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner specialty at California State University Long Beach (CSULB) on 15 August 2021 after 39 years of service. She will complete 13 years as the Executive Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSULB when the new replacement is appointed.




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