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THE Heritage Society

SIGMA FOUNDATION FOR NURSING NEWSLETTER

September 2021

The Dion Family Fund Established

Dr. Kenneth Dion established the Dion Family Permanent Fund to honor his late mother, Nancy L. Dion. The new fund will provide scholarships for nurses pursuing an advanced degree in nursing informatics and/or gerontological nursing. Dr. Dion attributes his passion for nursing to his mother's influence. He says, "The act of nursing embodies everything that is good and decent in this world. These values were instilled in me and have been reinforced throughout my life. When I am asked why I chose nursing as my profession, the answer is simple: I am a nurse because of my mother, 'The Lady in the Cape.'"

[Learn more »](#)

You Are Invited

Heritage Society Dinner and Auction

We hope you received your invitation to the Heritage Society Dinner and Silent Auction. The dinner will be at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, during the 46th Biennial Convention in 2021. We will celebrate your philanthropic spirit and introduce new Heritage Society donors who made lead gifts as part of the campaign in honor of Sigma's 100th anniversary.

There will be a silent auction in conjunction with the dinner where you may bid on a variety of items, including jewelry, artwork, and nurse memorabilia. Please confirm your attendance for the dinner by emailing Nikki Aleman at 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



Kenneth W. Dion, PhD, MBA, MSN, RN, FAAN
Assistant Dean for Business Innovation and Strategic Relationships
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing
Epsilon Theta, Nu Beta at-Large, and Theta Epsilon Chapters
Breckenridge, Colorado, USA



Evelyn Hayes, PhD, RN, MPH, FNP-BC
Professor of Nursing
University of Delaware
Beta Xi Chapter
Wilmington, Delaware, USA

Sigma Theta Tau Fellow



Robert Wilkinson, MSN, MBA, RN, APRN
RM Wilkinson Consulting
Iota at-Large and Omega Lambda Chapters
Marion, Kentucky, USA

News About Fellows

Jose Alejandro was appointed System Chief Nurse Executive/Associate Director-Patient Care Services at the VA Hines Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois, USA. He was selected for the 2021 National Association of Hispanic Nurses' Latino Legacy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amita Avadhani was featured in *Healthy Women* with her story [Treating Covid-19 Patients in the ICU Nearly Broke Me, But Now I'm Stronger For It](#). She earned her CNE certification and received the [2021 American Association of Nurse Practitioners Award for Excellence](#).

Pegge Bell co-published the text *Advancing Nursing Practice: Exploring Roles and Opportunities for Clinicians, Educators, and Leaders*.

Mary Lou Bond will be presenting *Perspectives of Global Nurse Leaders on Leadership*

at the upcoming International Council of Nurses (ICN) virtual congress.

Marion Broome received the Indiana University School of Nursing Bicentennial Medal on 16 November 2020.

Karen Brown has been a proud volunteer as a Phase 3 Moderna Vaccine study subject and participated in vaccinating approximately 600 individuals through the University of Arizona's Point of Dispensary (POD) from March to May.

Barbara Brunt received the [2020 Distinguished Alumni Award](#) from the Kent State University College of Education, Health and Human Services.

Sharon Byrne received the Certified Global Nurse Consultants (CGNC) certification through the [International Council of Nurses \(ICN\) and CGFNS International, Inc.](#)

Liz Carlson was recognized as one of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Nursing's [70 Visionary Leaders](#) during a virtual event on 20 April 2021.

Catherine Catrambone was appointed Associate Chair, Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing at Rush University College of Nursing. She received the Mary Beth O'Halleran Nurse Mentorship Award at Rush University Medical Center.

Sylvia Colon-Cabassa co-published "Using Video Monitoring with Video Technician for Fall Prevention" in *The University of the Philippines Nursing Alumni Association International (UPNAAI) Nursing Journal* and published "Aftershocks of a Pandemic" featured in Winter 2021 *Fairleigh Dickinson University Magazine*.

Debra Conner was appointed as Founding Chair: Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at Franklin University and named Chair of the School of Nursing at Franklin University.

Norma Cuellar was recognized as one of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Nursing's [70 Visionary Leaders](#) during a virtual event on 20 April 2021.

Juli Daniels accepted the new position Director of Regulatory Affairs with Johns Hopkins Medicine at Sibley Hospital in Washington, DC, USA.

Doris Edwards was named a [Local Nursing Legend](#) by the Medical Heritage Center at The Ohio State University. She received the Expert in Nursing Award from The Mid-Ohio District Nurses Association.

Esther Emard is the president of the Phi Epsilon Chapter at George Washington University School of Nursing as of March 2021.

Judith Halstead retired as the founding executive director of the NLN Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation in March 2021. She will be presenting a symposium on global nursing education accreditation at the 2021 ICN Congress with accreditation colleagues from the USA, Canada, and China. She will be teaching an interdisciplinary global healthcare course at Harlaxton College in Grantham, England, in summer 2022.

Pamela Jeffries is the ninth Dean of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing as of 1 July 2021.

Peggy Jenkins was promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Colorado College of Nursing.

Suzan Kardong-Edgren was appointed as Associate Professor in the College of Health Professions Education at the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions and is serving as the [2021-2022 President of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning \(INACSL\)](#).

Ida Martinson and her husband of 59 years have moved to Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers, Florida, USA.

Juli Maxworthy was appointed the [Vice President of Networking and Partnerships for the National Academies of Practice](#).

Karen Morin was appointed Editor of the *Journal of Advanced Nursing* and appointed Professional Development Editor for Wiley journals: *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, and *Nursing Open*. She presented virtual keynote messages: "Doctoral Education in Nursing: Looking Back and Going Forward" at the East Asia Forum of Nursing Scholars 2021 conference and "Technological Competency in Nursing and Health" at the 2021 Technological Competency as Caring in Health Sciences conference.

Susan Opas retired on 30 June after 50 years in nursing and 20 years at Kaiser Permanente Medical Group as a Developmental/Behavioral Nurse Practitioner.

Shannon Perry presented the keynote address "Nursing Education: The Past Thirty Years" at the Nurse Educator's conference. She published: "El Medico Cuida al Hombre, El Veterinario a la Humanidad" and "How I Spent my COVID-19 Summer" in *Emeritus Voices*; "Neonatal Transport For Specialty Care and Transport Nurse" and "Regionalization of Premature Infant Care in Arizona and the Nurses Who Helped Make it Happen" in *Arizona Nurse*.

Dan Pesut is serving as the chair of the [American Nurses Association Innovation Advisory Board](#). He is serving as a subject matter expert for Jonas Philanthropies and was recently inducted as an Honorary Fellow into the Global Academy of Holistic Nursing.

Larry Purnell had two publications in the *Journal of Nursing and Researchers*: "Amish Literature Review" and "Quantitative Research Question Development Using the Kipling Method." He presented "Amish Healthcare Practices" at the Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies Association annual conference.

Nancy Sharts-Hopko retired from her position as Professor, Villanova University Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, Villanova, Pennsylvania, USA.

Gwen Sherwood was appointed as Honorary Professor for the Tung Wah College

School of Nursing in Hong Kong. She was appointed as a Fulbright Specialist for two years and received the [Robert Wears Patient Safety Leadership Award](#) from Jacksonville University in 2020.

Larry Slater was recognized as the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Nursing's [70 Visionary Leaders](#) during a virtual event on 20 April 2021.

Marcia Stanhope was recognized as the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Nursing's [70 Visionary Leaders](#) during a virtual event on 20 April 2021.

Linda Faenzi Streit was recognized as the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Nursing's [70 Visionary Leaders](#) during a virtual event on 20 April 2021. She was reappointed to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Organizational Leadership Network Steering Committee where she also serves as secretary. She was presented the Nursing Leadership Award at the Atlanta Journal Constitution (AJC) in May 2021.

Beth Baldwin Tigges will be inducted into the American Academy of Nursing [2021 Class of Fellows](#) in October.

Stephanie Turrise was named the Associate Director for Administration at the University of North Carolina Wilmington School of Nursing.

Cynthia Vlasich will be presenting "Perspectives of Global Nurse Leaders on Leadership" at the upcoming International Council of Nurses (ICN) virtual congress.

Robert Wilkinson was elected president-elect of the Iota at-Large Chapter, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, for a one-year term, followed by a two-year term as chapter president.

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