

## “A way of saying thank you”

In the last two years, the Evelyn Anderson Research Fund has provided Yale University School of Nursing with \$10,000 to support scholarly activities.



BY KATHY KATELLA

When Evelyn “Evy” Anderson ’50 PhD, was working on her dissertation at the University of Surrey, she had no mentors or role models, and there was little to turn to in the way of previous research. She was a pioneer—one of the first to conduct research on nursing in England, which in 1972 was about 15 years behind nursing research in the United States.

“The Royal College of Nursing library had very little nursing research available, and nothing on role theory,” Evy said. “I’d send my family in the States a request for information, and they would send a paper or book to me by boat, which took six weeks. Nurses were way, way behind.”

Now Evy is 82 and a widow living in San Diego with a distinguished background in nursing, teaching, and research. Deeply grateful for the Yale University School of Nursing education that allowed her to launch her career, she is a firm believer in “paying it forward.” In the last two years, the Evelyn Anderson Research Fund has provided YSN with \$10,000 to support scholarly activities such as clinical change projects, dissertation or thesis projects, clinical program or protocol development, international clinical projects, or publishable reports. Evy said, “It is, for me, a way of saying thank you.”

Originally from Long Island, and with a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Evy followed her brother, Robert Hamburger, MED ’53, to Yale. Robert later became a professor and then professor emeritus at the University of California at San Diego School of Medicine.

Meanwhile, YSN led to opportunities for Evy. “The master’s degree in nursing at Yale was considered one of the most exciting things in the world,” she said. When she graduated, colleges sought her out for teaching positions. But she found herself on a different path: Evy married Claude Anderson, MED ’53, a medical student and Rhodes scholar who became a physician with the Air Force. They had five children and lived in various locations until Claude was assigned to spend three years as commander of the hospital at England’s Ruislip Air Force Base.

In London, the Royal College of Nursing included Evy as a nonpaid member of a research group taking part in a project called, “The Study of Nursing Care.” The project leader helped her register with the University of Surrey, where she completed her doctorate in 1972. Her dissertation, covering the “Role of the Nurse” from the perspective of doctors, nurses, and patients in general hospitals in London, was published and became, in its time, the most popular research book in England.

When Evy and her family went home to the States, she held professorships at the University of Texas in San Antonio, the University of Florida in Gainesville, and the University of San Diego, where she co-founded a menopause clinic. Nursing research was gaining momentum, and she found opportunities to study topics ranging from prevention of recurrent urinary tract infections to various aspects of menopause.

Evy, who has traveled around the world, admits to physical limitations as she grows older, but she remains active. Now semi-retired, she still teaches courses for the University of Phoenix. Her latest travel plans involved going to Cardiff, Wales, for the Royal College of Nursing’s International Nursing Research Conference in March, where she was invited to participate in a “witness panel” of nurses who were involved in the early days of nursing research. Evy took two of her daughters and two granddaughters to Cardiff, and traveled to Bath, Edinburgh, London, Morecombe Bay, and York.

But lately some of her most joyful moments have involved reading letters from young YSN doctoral students impacted by her donations. One student was studying the lead poisoning in babies living on an island; another, from Germany, wanted to make sure Evy knew how much the money helped her as a foreign student ineligible for many other scholarships. “They tell me a little bit about their research and about themselves,” Evy said. “It gives you a real feeling of closeness, and I know that the money is truly being used for nursing research.”



Evelyn Anderson Research Fund recipients Monica Roosa Ordway ’13, Carol Ann Fackler ’10, and Ulrike Muench ’12, with YSN Associate Dean for Scholarly Affairs Nancy Redeker (2nd from left). The Fund supports students’ clinical and academic research pursuits.