

From: [YSN Alumni Association](#)
To: [Regan, Mike](#)
Subject: Alumni Newsletter from Yale School of Nursing
Date: Thursday, August 7, 2025 12:00:50 PM

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The world is calling. We answer.

Yale SCHOOL OF NURSING



Dear YSN Alumni,

Welcome to our YSN Alumni August newsletter! I hope this summer brings you many moments of happiness recognizing and thankful for the meaningful connections we share as a wonderful community passionately dedicated to advancing health for all—within our specific practices! Thank you!

You are Invited: As we all navigate and embrace opportunities and challenges from which to continually innovate and improve, on behalf of the YSNAA I'd like to invite you to engage at the participation level most valuable to you for the near future upcoming events, webinars, and more. The following are initial programs, and I hope this variety provides interest and value to each of you:

Inaugural YSNAA/YSN Book Club – more details coming soon!

- Launching later this summer or early fall, the first book we'll be reading is *Ninth House* by Leigh Bardugo, Yale College Class of 1997.
- This isn't just a book club—it's a chance to reconnect, engage, and celebrate thoughtful dialogue within our YSN community.

Panel Discussion: Nurse-Led Ventures

- Monday, September 22—BYOB: Be Your Own Boss – How YSN Alumni Built Bold, Nurse-Led Ventures
- [Register here](#)

In-Person Event: Launch of the Center for Aging Well

- Mark your calendars! The Yale School of Nursing will celebrate the opening of its new Center for Aging Well on Wednesday, October 29.
- Hear directly from the YSN experts leading this exciting initiative, which will advance aging-related care, research, and education.
- Registration is required, and a streaming option will be available for those who cannot attend in person.
- [Register here](#)

With appreciation of our extraordinary YSN alumni,

Caroline Piselli '15 DNP
President, YSN Alumni Association

A Note from the Alumni Office on Recent Legislation

I want to begin by addressing an important challenge our broader Yale community is facing, a new federal endowment tax that will significantly impact the university's resources.

In July, Congress passed legislation imposing an 8% tax on university endowments, a sharp increase from the previous 1.4%. For Yale, this means an estimated \$280 million in additional costs in the first year alone, funds that have traditionally supported vital initiatives for students, faculty, and partnerships within New Haven and beyond.

While this tax is just one of several financial pressures Yale is navigating, including proposed cuts to major research institutions like the NIH and NSF, the ripple effects could be far-reaching. Universities like Yale play a critical role in advancing education, health, and innovation that benefit communities locally and globally. This new tax threatens those efforts.

The university is actively planning and adjusting budgets to meet this challenge, with thoughtful stewardship and continued advocacy for higher education's mission. As alumni, our voices and support remain crucial as Yale charts this uncertain path.

Amid these challenges, YSN continues to foster a vibrant alumni community. This newsletter highlights exciting achievements, new programs, and ways for you to stay connected and involved.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable community. Your engagement and dedication are essential as we move forward together.

Mike Regan
Program Manager: Annual Giving & Alumni Affairs
Yale School of Nursing

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

This spring, Yale School of Nursing held its 99th Commencement Ceremony, marking a significant

milestone as the newest class of graduates officially joins the YSN alumni community.



Dean Azita Emami delivered remarks highlighting the resilience, dedication, and passion that have defined this graduating class throughout their journey.

To the Class of 2025: Welcome to the YSN Alumni community! We look forward to supporting you, celebrating your successes, and staying connected as you make your mark on the world.

[Read more about the celebration](#)

Transformative \$7.7 Million Gift Advances IDD Care and Education

YSN recently received a transformative \$7.7 million gift from alumna **Susanna Peyton '83 M.S.N.** and Yale alumnus **John Campbell '80 M.A., '84 Ph.D.**, supporting care, education, and research for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).



This historic investment launches YSN's new, comprehensive **Initiative for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**, which will:

- Integrate IDD content into all existing YSN clinical specialties
- Launch a new master's-level concentration in IDD
- Emphasize a lifespan approach to care through simulation-based education and the use of AI
- Establish and expand clinical partnerships
- Develop an online Continuing Nurse Education (CNE) course to share best practices in IDD care with providers across the country
- Host symposia featuring interactive workshops, expert panels, simulation sessions, and

networking opportunities

This initiative represents a bold step forward in preparing nurses to lead change and improve health outcomes for individuals with IDD—across the lifespan and across all care settings.

Read more about the gift: [YSN and Yale Alumni Donate \\$7.7 Million](#)

Upcoming Events

Nurse-Led Ventures: A Conversation with YSN Entrepreneurs

BYOB: Be Your Own Boss – How YSN Alumni Built Bold, Nurse-Led Ventures

Monday, September 22 | 7:00–8:30 PM ET | Online

Join us for a lively panel discussion with YSN alumni who've launched their own clinical practices and healthcare businesses. Whether you're exploring entrepreneurship or already building something new, this conversation will offer inspiration, real-world lessons, and practical tips for getting started.

[Register here](#)

YSN Center for Aging Well Opening Event & Reception

Wednesday, October 29 | 2:00 – 5:00 PM ET | Yale School of Nursing

The Center for Aging Well is a collaborative hub that promotes global health and wellness across the lifespan—transforming observation into action for individuals, families, and communities seeking pathways to healthy living.

Led by Dr. Miia Kivipelto, the Center is driven by faculty across disciplines from the Yale School of Nursing and Yale University.

[Register here](#)

YSN Book Club – Coming Soon!

We're bringing back the YSN Alumni Book Club, and we can't wait to read with you! This fall, we'll gather (virtually) to connect around a shared title that sparks reflection, conversation, and community. Registration details coming soon!

More Events Through the Yale Alumni Association

Looking to stay connected beyond YSN? The Yale Alumni Association hosts events across the

country, and online, throughout the year. From networking nights to lifelong learning opportunities, there's always something happening in the wider Yale community.

[Explore upcoming YAA events](#)

Around the YSN Community

YSN Alumni and Faculty Named 2025 AAN Fellows



Congratulations to the six YSN alumni who have been selected as 2025 Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing—one of the profession's highest honors. Their induction will take place this October at the Academy's annual Health Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.

YSN Alumni Fellows:

- Mary Dawn Koenig, MSN '02
- Dilice Robertson, MSN '08
- Halley Ruppel, PhD '18
- Karen Sheffield-Abdullah, MSN '05
- Caroline Piselli, DNP '15
- Yiyuan Sun, DSciNur '06

YSN Faculty Fellow:

- [Wendy Mackey](#)

Learn more about the [2025 AAN Fellowship cohort](#) and the [upcoming conference](#).

Additionally, YSN alumna **Ada Sue Hinshaw, MSN '63** will be honored with the **Lifetime Legacy Award**.

Alumni in the Spotlight: Dr. Dani Bowie '18 DNP

Dr. Dani Bowie is advancing nursing leadership on a national scale, and she recently shared her journey and inspiration



with the Yale Alumni Association. Her story underscores how YSN alumni are shaping the future of health care across settings.

[Read her YAA Profile](#)

In Case You Missed It: Must-Listen YSN Conversations

Dean Azita Emami recently joined the Yale Global Health Podcast, discussing the critical role of nurses in shaping more equitable health systems around the world.

[Listen Here](#)

She was also featured on the Health & Veritas podcast with Yale SOM's Dr. Howard Forman and Dr. Harlan Krumholz to talk about the future of nursing leadership, her vision for the profession, and what makes YSN's mission so unique.

[Listen Here](#)

In another recent episode of Health & Veritas, **Sarah DeSilvey, DNP '20** shared her perspective on what it means to create space for healing in our current care systems—a must-listen conversation for anyone thinking about how we show up for patients and each other. [Listen Here](#)



Honoring Preceptors and Clinical



Partners

This spring, YSN hosted a Preceptor Appreciation Event to recognize the vital role preceptors and clinical partners play in shaping the next generation of nurse leaders. The event also celebrated the inaugural group of Dean's Advisors for Clinical Partnerships—a new initiative launched by Dean Azita Emami to strengthen and expand YSN's clinical learning network.

[Read more about the event and honorees](#)

Interested in becoming a preceptor? Please reach out to [Mike Regan](#).

Faculty Honored with Endowed Professorships

Four YSN faculty members have been awarded endowed professorships—Yale's highest academic honor. This recognition reflects their outstanding contributions to nursing education, research, and practice.

Xiaomei Cong, PhD, RN, FAAN

Named the Beatrice Renfield Professor of Nursing, Dr. Cong is a leader in symptom science, focusing on pain and stress in high-risk infants and vulnerable populations.

Deena Costa, PhD, RN, FAAN

Now the Helen Porter Jayne and Martha Prosser Jayne Professor of Nursing, Dr. Costa studies approaches to support and grow the nursing workforce.

Soohyun Nam, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FAHA, FAAN

Appointed the Gayle King Lee Professor of Nursing, Dr. Nam is an expert in cardiometabolic health, health disparities, and community-engaged research, with over 25 years of clinical experience.

Xuehong Zhang, MBBS, MSc, ScD

Now the Florence Wald Professor of Nursing, Dr. Zhang's research centers on cancer prevention, early detection, and global health, with a strong commitment to mentoring the next generation of scholars.

[Read the full announcement](#)

Share Your Good News

Reconnecting with YSN friends? Got an award or promotion? Speaking at an event? We'd love to hear all about it!

Drop us a line at YSN.Alumniaffairs@yale.edu and let us share your achievements with the YSN community!

Expanded Library Resources Now Available to Alumni

We're excited to share that Yale School of Nursing alumni now have access to the **JSTOR** database and **HeinOnline**, two extensive digital research libraries. These resources offer a wealth of scholarly journals, legal documents, and more.

To help you get started, Yale Library has created a comprehensive guide outlining alumni access privileges and how to make the most of these tools.

[Explore the Alumni Library Resource Guide](#)

Join the YSN Alumni LinkedIn Page

Interested in reconnecting with old classmates, hearing about upcoming events, seeing job postings from other Yalies and in the nursing field? Join nearly 1000 other members of the YSN community through our private [LinkedIn group](#)!

Support Current Students Through the Peer Support Network

Looking for a meaningful way to give back? Our newest initiative, the **Peer Support Network**, connects YSN alumni with current students who may be facing challenges. By sharing your experiences and offering encouragement, you can help students navigate tough times and build resilience.

Sign-ups for the Peer Support Network are ongoing—if you're interested in becoming a supportive presence for our students, [register here](#).

Mentorship and Admissions Ambassador programs will open for new volunteers this fall. We can't wait to welcome you to one of these rewarding opportunities!

Become a Class Agent and Make a Difference for YSN Today!

Class Agents play a vital role at YSN by working with the Development and Alumni Affairs team to engage classmates and encourage support for the Annual Fund through both mail

and virtual outreach. Your efforts help ensure the success of programs that directly benefit current students.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email Mike Regan at Mike.Regan@Yale.edu!

Yale

Yale School of Nursing

400 West Campus Drive, Orange, CT 06477 | nursing.yale.edu

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