The Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Advanced Practice, and Simulation

Dr. J. Robert and Mrs. Betty Beyster
In April 2012 University of San Diego Nursing Dean Sally Brosz Hardin announced a gift of $7 million from the Beyster family of San Diego to build the Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Advanced Practice, and Simulation. The three-story building, which will rise adjacent to the existing School of Nursing, will support the school’s strong commitment to research in concert with clinical practice. It will increase substantially current research capacity and provide facilities and technology to produce the next generation of nurse scientists and health-care leaders. A new doctoral research library and study space, classrooms, seminar and presentation rooms, faculty offices, and an expanded Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Laboratory will further enable the school to...
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better serve its students and Southern California civilian and military healthcare communities.

Dean Hardin has called the Beyster’s gift transformative for the school.

“There is no other institute for nursing research of its kind in the United States. I am so grateful to Mrs. Beyster and the whole Beyster family. They understand the importance of nursing research and advanced practice for the future of healthcare for San Diego, for all of California and for the country.”

Bob and Betty Beyster are San Diego residents who have focused their philanthropic giving on education in the sciences, and have given to USD Nursing since 2007. Their commitment to the Beyster Institute for Nursing Research is the culmination of several years of conversations with Dean Hardin about the school’s importance in San Diego County and beyond. An innovator in nursing education, USD Nursing is the source of over 40% of nurse faculty across the schools of nursing in San Diego County. It is an incubator of nursing leaders and a driver of best practices and health policy in Southern California.

Dr. Cynthia D. Connelly, Professor and Director of Nursing Research, spoke to the need:

“During the past several years we have greatly expanded our research portfolio; however there is no dedicated research space at the school. Research faculty and students work in off-campus sites, which compromises productivity and collaboration, and increases expenses. A new facility is critical for developing the innovation and expertise of clinicians and nurse scientists who guide and shape health care practice and policy at the local, national, and global level.”

The school’s current building opened in 1978 to serve approximately 100 students and faculty. In 2011-12, the equivalent of 465 students and 46 faculty, along with 14 administrative and support staff used the building, plus a laboratory annex half a mile from the main campus. The need is urgent for a physical facility that can support its research mission.

The Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Advanced Practice, and Simulation is that facility. The family’s lead gift of $7 million covers nearly half the cost of the building. It enables the school to take the first steps toward making the project a reality: commissioning the architectural plans and putting the project out for construction bids. By the terms of the Beyster’s gift, the building’s full cost of $15 million must be fully secured and construction started by 2017.

The new building will be built to the LEED Gold Standard for environmentally sound design. Its façade will be continuous with the existing School of Nursing building, and the two buildings will be connected by a bridge, patios, and colonnades. The building design focuses on adaptability to accommodate potential changes in health care education for future generations. It also will take full advantage of San Diego’s climate by utilizing internal and external spaces; its entrance connects to a Healing Garden and lighted, landscaped courtyard. The area will be a gathering place for students and also can serve as an event space.

Betty Beyster is welcomed by the nursing student honor guard
The first floor will house the Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Laboratory (Sim Lab), the keystone of the school’s clinical teaching facilities, and a national model for nursing education. The Sim Lab will double from its current size and include primary care exam rooms, acute care hospital rooms, and a home care room, all with two-way mirrors and observation spaces, and will be wired for audio and video observation. The data management system that supports teaching and research will allow faculty to record and retrieve data related to students’ clinical reasoning and judgment, and clinical and interpersonal skills. There will be debriefing rooms in which students and faculty can discuss their experience.

Professor Karen Mcauley, Director of Innovative Learning who runs the existing Sim Lab, sees the new Beyster Institute for Nursing Research as a significant gain for practice-relevant learning. It will enhance learning for the more than 300 students a week who currently are educated in the Sim Lab and permit students in all programs to spend a greater percentage of their education in hands-on activity. It also will allow for greater use of the Sim Lab by San Diego area healthcare facilities who use it for assessment and continuing education for their nursing staffs.

The Doctoral Research Library on the second floor provides faculty, doctoral students and alumni access to biomedical and nursing literature and a dedicated space for the School of Nursing research librarian. Online access to international research databases and dissertation collections will be readily available, and individual and group study areas will provide a relaxing and scholarly environment before and after classes. The second floor plan also includes seminar rooms and classrooms with moveable walls that allow spaces to be combined as needed. Expandable classrooms and conference rooms will provide space for research conferences and presentations and mentoring the next generation of nurse scientists. A reception area and interview spaces on this floor will facilitate contact with research subjects, and a rooftop terrace will be available to all users of the building.

The third floor of the Beyster Institute will be the Research Center, the heart of the school’s research efforts. This is where the Director of Nursing Research and senior research faculty will have their offices, and where they will work with graduate students and on their own research. Faculty offices on all three floors will accommodate an additional 27 faculty and three staff.

The Beysters’ gift opens a new era of growth for the school, and an expansion of its contribution to healthcare, locally and nationally. Their gift is a beginning, and for its potential to be fulfilled, much more must be accomplished. The focus now will be on raising the balance of the building’s cost, $8 million, to bring to life the promise of the Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Practice, and Simulation.
On a sunny day in April, Betty Beyster sat in her garden and talked about the gift that she and her husband made to USD’s School of Nursing. She is a gracious woman who wears her 80 years lightly. Her hair is a crisp gray, cut short, and she is casually dressed in gray silk blouse, trousers, and comfortable flats. Their house, where they’ve lived for 55 years, is comfortable and unpretentious. Her caring touch is especially apparent in the small garden areas surrounding the house. She seems less interested in things, much more in the good she can do. About giving, she says, “It makes you feel good.” She smiles broadly. “It makes you feel good to know you’re helping people.”

Dr. J. Robert Beyster is a physicist and the founder of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Since its inception in 1969, SAIC has grown to the largest employee owned research and engineering company in the US, a Fortune 500® company, that has over 41,000 employees worldwide. While Dr. Beyster was growing the company, Mrs. Beyster was fully occupied raising their two sons and a daughter, supporting her husband’s efforts, serving on a number of museum boards, and refining her skills at sizing up organizations and their effectiveness. A graduate of the University of Texas, she reveals a lively intelligence in her conversation, with no effort to flaunt it.

By the time their children were grown, the Beysters found themselves in a position that neither had ever imagined when they were growing up: they had substantial income and were in a position to make large charitable gifts.

During the 1990’s, they established the Beyster Family Foundation, which is now a Donor Advised Fund managed by the San Diego Foundation. They have given generously to organizations in the fields of arts and culture, education, employee ownership, the environment and health and human services. They focused on finding institutions that were well run and highly effective in their mission. Mrs. Beyster credits the San Diego Foundation staff for helping them identify such organizations, among them, USD’s School of Nursing and Health Science.

Mrs. Beyster had long been concerned about the shortage of nurses and saw scholarships for graduate education in nursing as a means to address the problem. Through the San Diego Foundation and the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS), an organization of women philanthropists supporting students in science and biomedical research, they have given scholarships for USD nursing graduate students. The Beysters met each year with the students whose scholarships they supported and were most impressed with their scholarly achievement and vision of nursing and nursing science.

Mrs. Beyster’s eyes lit up when she remembered a visit to the school and a tour of USD’s Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Lab. She appreciated the educational value of hands-on learning, and the school’s commitment to state-of-the-art teaching methods. She saw the limitations imposed by the Lab’s lack of space and its distance from the campus and the Hahn building. After that visit, the Beysters and Dean Hardin talked about a larger gift; and in subsequent meetings agreements on the scope of their gift and its support of the Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Advanced Practice, and Simulation were worked out.

Mrs. Beyster is clear about her hopes for the new building. She’d like to see “USD’s continued production of top notch nurses, so that when nurses anywhere in the country say they graduated from the University of San Diego, it means they’ve had the very best education.”

With their generous gift to the School of Nursing, Mrs. Beyster’s hope is well on its way to becoming a reality.

“Really Top Notch Nurses”
year after she and her husband gave $7 million dollars to launch the Beyster Institute, Betty Beyster is eager to see ground broken. Within months of their gift, other donors close to USD recognized the value of the Institute, and total gifts have reached $10 million of the $15 million needed. She hopes to see the balance raised as soon as possible. She said, “I’d love to see it get rolling!”

Dean Hardin has called the Beysters’ gift transformative for the school. “There is no other institute for nursing research of its kind in the United States. I am so grateful to Mrs. Beyster and the whole Beyster family. They understand the importance of nursing research and advanced practice for the future of healthcare for San Diego, for all of California, and for the country.”

The Beyster family’s gift arose from Betty Beyster’s long-standing concern about the shortage of nurses in California, and especially in San Diego. In a conversation in her garden, she remembered a tour of the Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Lab that enabled her to see the School’s commitment to state of the art teaching methods. Touring the Sim Lab helped her appreciate the need for more space, both for hands-on teaching, and for research that will shape the delivery of care. A new building dedicated to research could go a long way toward meeting those needs. Last fall, the architectural team gave her a presentation of the design of the new building. She liked the design, especially the generous plaza between the two buildings. Seeing the plans made her want to see them realized in stone and glass and plantings.

What would she say to someone contemplating a gift to the School? Mrs. Beyster didn’t hesitate. She said, “It’s not only a gift, but an investment. It isn’t just the next generation of students and faculty who will benefit, but the whole San Diego community, and really any community where the School’s graduates go.” She understands that well-prepared, highly skilled nurse leaders are the backbone of a healthcare system, and when the community provides the facilities for excellent education of its nurses, the benefits flow back to the community. She can’t wait to get started.
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Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson Foundation
The Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson Foundation announced a gift of $2 million in support of the new Simulation and Standardized Patient Laboratory in the Beyster Institute. Martin Dickinson, the president of the Foundation that he established to honor his parents, has been a committed supporter of the School for more than a decade. He and his wife, Carol spoke with Nursing Times about their commitment to the School. “We’ve been so impressed with the School of Nursing, especially the MEPN program,” Mrs. Dickinson said. Her husband added, “I’m very interested in ripple effects, how one person can affect so many others. The School’s students go on to teach, or their work in hospitals allows them to have an
impact on so many people. I love to support the School of Nursing.”

This gift is the second time that the Dickinson Foundation has underwritten the Sim Lab. Dickinson served on the Scripps Hospital board with the School’s second dean, Janet Rodgers. In 2000, Rodgers talked with Dickinson about the School’s new initiative: a Master’s level entry program for students with no prior background in nursing. The entering students would need to develop their clinical skills very quickly, and community placements were in short supply. Dickinson and the Foundation stepped up to the plate. In 2001, Dean Rodgers announced a gift from the Dickinson Foundation of $300,000, half of the cost to equip a 3500 sq. ft. clinical skills lab. Over the next decade, that lab expanded and evolved into the current Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Lab.

Since then the Dickinson Foundation has continued its support, giving $100,000 each year to the School’s scholarship fund. “One reason it’s been so rewarding to support the school,” Dickinson added, “is that Sally Hardin has done such a good job of getting us and the Foundation members involved in meeting the students who’ve received the scholarships. We’ve been so impressed by the quality of the students, and how appreciative they are. It’s made us feel very connected to the School.”

The Dickinson Foundation supports private institutions, chiefly within San Diego County. Its priorities are medical research and education. It usually funds programs and fellowships rather than bricks and mortar. Dickinson said that, in view of the School’s significant ripple effect within the San Diego healthcare community, the gift to help build the Beyster Institute made good sense. He and his wife and the Foundation look forward to seeing the balance of the funds raised, and ground broken for the Beyster Institute.
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The Krause Family
Krause PhD Research Library and Study: The BINR “Crown”

When Jim Krause, a trustee of the University, learned that the School of Nursing planned to build a new building, he decided to make a substantial gift to honor his mother, Kathryn Krause, MSN, who was a distinguished nurse educator in New Jersey. Krause’s gift provides for what Principal Architect, Edward Holakiewicz, described as the BINR “Crown” – the Krause PhD Research Library and Study.

Jim Krause admired his mother and respected her work, but, as he once told Dean Hardin, he didn’t know very much about what nurses do. In the next four years, he learned a great deal about exactly what nurses do, and the difference nurses can make in patients’ lives. Krause received a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, and his treatment involved several courses of chemotherapy. His wife Gale remembers that they were both very impressed by Jim’s oncology and infusion nurses, both for their knowledge and for their compassion.

“What he went through the last four years gave him a new perspective,” Gale said. “He was touched by nursing.” She added that she was touched as well. In the course of his treatment, the gift that had started as Jim’s idea “became truly a Krause family gift.” Jim Krause died in August of 2012.

Krause was a graduate of USD’s Law School (1975), and served as an adjunct professor, teaching securities law. Tim O’Malley, Vice President for University Relations and a good friend said, “Jim loved the University of San Diego. He was so proud of his relationship with this University, and his ability to impact students’ education.” The Krauses’ oldest son, Andrew, graduated from USD in 2012.

Gale Krause met with the design team to see the drawings for the library/study. She said, “I’m thrilled. It’s beautiful, and I think Jim and his mother would both have loved it.” In the presentation, architect Ed Holakiewicz called the third floor Krause PhD Research Library and Study the crown of the building.

Mrs. Krause graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing in 1945, married, and had two sons. In the 1950’s, at a time when fewer than two percent of nurses held degrees higher than a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Kathryn Krause pursued an MSN, because she wanted to teach. She founded a program to prepare licensed practical nurses in the rural county where she lived. Gale Krause, Jim’s wife, described her mother-in-law as deeply committed to education; had she lived in another era, she most likely would have pursued a PhD in nursing.

Jim would have loved being up there, looking out over the beautiful campus,” his wife said. “Now he will be.”
Mrs. Gale Krause receiving her Champion of Nursing Award at Convocation
The Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Advanced Practice, and Simulation

Danvera Foundation
Patrick Morrin, '83, received his BA in English and BBA in Business from USD before going on to get his MBA at UCLA. Today, Morrin believes strongly in the liberal arts education that he received from USD stating that "while I double majored in business and English, my interest and memories are with the English department". His success in business he credits to the skills he learned at USD – skills that could only be taught at a university and in a college that values, embraces, and actively promotes a liberal arts education.

Morrin founded and served as the Chief Financial Officer of Basis Communications, a provider of service-specific network processor platforms combining networking hardware and software for the convergence of voice and data over wide area internet networks. In March, 2000, Morrin sold Basis Communications to Intel Corporation for $450 million. After staying on with Intel for two years, he joined the board of eHospital, Inc., a leading innovator of business to business internet software solutions for the healthcare industry.

In 2002 Morrin founded the Danvera Foundation, a charitable organization named in honor of his parents Dan and Vera Morrin. The Danvera Foundation focuses its community support in the areas of: arts and culture, education, the humanities and health. Over the past eight years, Morrin through his foundation, has provided significant financial support to USD student scholarships in English, nursing and marine science. While supporting his professional interests in science and technology through the construction of the Shiley Center for Science and Technology, he is also deeply influenced by the passions of his family and supports educational causes that are important to them. In honor of his mother, who worked as a nurse, the Danvera Foundation supports the Hahn School of nursing at USD. He also supports undergraduate research through the Coastal Marine Pollution Studies Program, a cause connected to the work and research of his wife.