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NEWS RELEASE



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Birnbach Honored for Nursing Achievement at ANA National Event
SUNY Professor Emeritus Inducted into ANA Hall of Fame

WASHINGTON, DC – Nettie Birnbach, professor emerita at the College of Nursing, State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, was inducted into the American Nurses Association (ANA) Hall of Fame as part of ANA’s 2010 Biennial House of Delegates meeting. ANA is the largest nursing organization in the U.S.

Induction into the ANA Hall of Fame recognizes a nurse’s lifelong commitment to the profession and impact on the health and/or social history of the nation. It represents the pinnacle of achievement in the nursing profession. With the addition of five inductees this year, including Birnbach, the ANA Hall of Fame numbers 77 registered nurses who have distinguished themselves as extraordinary leaders.

“As a nurse historian, I am mindful that my name will be linked with a number of distinguished nursing leaders,” said Birnbach, EdD, RN, FAAN, of Boynton Beach, FL, in accepting the award.

ANA honored 20 nurses for their dedication to the profession and contributions toward improving nursing and health care this week at its House of Delegates, the meeting of ANA’s governing and policy-setting body.

“ANA Hall of Fame members like Nettie Birnbach have made a lasting impact on the nursing profession on behalf of patients, nurse colleagues and future nurses,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “Some specialized in research, others in clinical practice or organizational leadership. No matter their focus, they all stand as testaments

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to what can be achieved through commitment, persistence and passion for improving health care for all.”

As professor of nursing at the SUNY Health Science Center from 1986 to 1994, Birnbach helped start and co-directed the Center for Interdisciplinary Research, which brought together scholars from the colleges of nursing, health-related professions and medicine to collaborate on research projects.

Birnbach helped design and implement a clinical nursing master’s degree program in continuity of care, the first program of its kind in the New York City area. She also served as director for the SUNY College’s Center for Nursing Research.

From 1985 to 1993, Birnbach held various elected positions in the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), and served as president from 1991 to 1993.

Birnbach’s scholarship activities included a role as nurse historian. She served in numerous roles for the American Association for the History of Nursing, culminating in a term as president from 1998 to 2000, where she worked to increase the visibility of nursing history as a viable research focus.

Prior to her career in academia, Birnbach worked as a nurse for 18 years in a variety of clinical settings. She was a pioneering practitioner, developing and running her own independent clinical practice that offered home visits for nursing intervention on a fee-for-service basis from 1977 to 1981. She operated that nursing practice while also working as an associate professor of nursing at Molloy College in Rockville Centre, NY, where she taught from 1974 to 1984.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent member nurses associations, its organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.

