



Editorial

Distinguished Contribution to Family Nursing Award

Editor's Note: This editorial is the final set of published tributes offered to the five nurses who received the 2005 Distinguished Contribution to Family Nursing Award (Bell, 2007; Kaakinen, 2007; Limacher, 2007). The award recognizes persons for outstanding contribution to family nursing through either cumulative career achievement or a single contribution that has played a seminal role in the field. This award, offered for the first time in 2005 at the 7th International Family Nursing Conference in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, focused on substantive publication in family nursing and acknowledged the sustained efforts of authors or editors of family nursing textbooks that have been published in more than a second edition (see Bell, 2005).

Dr. Marilyn M. Friedman for:

Family nursing: Research, theory, and practice (1981, 1986, 1992, 1998, 2003)

Tribute to Dr. Marilyn Friedman offered by Janice M. Bell, RN, PhD

Dr. Marilyn Friedman, professor emeritus, School of Nursing at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA), first realized the need for family nursing theory while teaching community health nursing to students in the late 1970s. At that time, there was no comprehensive textbook in family nursing, and she used Sobel and Robischon's (1975) text that had a number of case studies within it that focused on nursing the family. She had a vision to define family nursing as conceptually and empirically distinct from nursing family members. She decided that a family assessment framework for nurses was needed, so she turned to the family sociology literature and developed an assessment tool of her own that focused on the structural- functional aspects of families. After circulating several handouts of this family assessment framework to her community health nursing students, she was encouraged to publish it in a book. Thus, the first edition of *Family Nursing: Theory and Assessment* (1981) began.

Across five editions of *Family Nursing* and 25 years of writing and revising, Marilyn has rightfully earned the respectful title as one of the beloved and nurturing "mothers" of family nursing. Her textbook is one of the most widely read and cited family nursing textbooks and is used in many undergraduate and graduate programs around the world. The book won the *American Journal of Nursing* Book of the Year Award in 1998. What is so noteworthy about Marilyn is her graciousness and humility about the significance of her work in leading the way for family nursing. She is always so curious about and commending of others' ideas. Her most recent edition, the fifth edition (2003), was co-edited by Vicky Bowden and Dr. Elaine Jones because she believes that the next generation of family nursing scholars needs to be nurtured.

Dr. Marilyn Friedman provided significant university leadership both inside and outside the Department of Nursing at CSULA. She served as chair of the Undergraduate Instructional Affairs Committee and chair of graduate studies for many years. She was successful in accessing federal funding to expand the graduate program options in the area of advanced nursing practice (home health care and four nurse practitioner programs). She co-founded the Nu Mu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at her university and served on the chapter's executive committee for 8 years. She has

also had a significant impact at the international level of family nursing, serving as a curriculum consultant in Thailand and Japan. She was a founding member of the editorial board of *Journal of Family Nursing* from 1995 to 2006.

I talked with Marilyn by phone in May 2005 and learned that she recently returned from trekking in Nepal and is enjoying a very active retirement. She asked me to send her affection and deep regard to those attending the 7th International Family Nursing Conference and asked me to encourage you in your efforts to extend the ideas of family nursing. Please join me in thanking Marilyn for her distinguished legacy to family nursing.

Janice M. Bell, RN, PhD, *Editor*

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