

From the Interim President and Trustees Chair: Death of Interim Penn President and Former Penn Nursing School Dean Claire M. Fagin

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Claire M. Fagin

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of our dear friend, former Interim Penn President and Penn Nursing School dean, Claire Muriel Mintzer Fagin, Hon'77, Hon'94. Claire was a passionate advocate for universal health care, nursing education, and the advancement of women in health-related fields who brought Penn Nursing to national prominence. As Interim President, she will long be remembered for guiding the University through a crucial period of transition in the early 1990s. We will miss her and offer our deepest condolences to her son, Charles, and daughter-in-law, France Myung Fagin. Claire was predeceased by her beloved husband Samuel Fagin and son Joshua Fagin.

Claire was a prominent University citizen whose appointment and service as Interim President of the University from 1993 to 1994 was enormously impactful. Her appointment made her the first woman to serve as chief executive officer of Penn and the first female interim president of any Ivy League institution. She not

only paved the way for future women leaders of the Ivy League, but also laid the groundwork for the lineage of Penn presidents who followed.

As Interim President, Claire provided a vital link between the accomplishments of the preceding Meyerson and Hackney administrations and the promise of the Rodin administration that was to follow. Her presidency coincided with a fractured time at Penn, and she received national recognition for her leadership, earning the title, "The Healer," for her work in bringing the campus together. Following her tenure, Claire returned to teaching and research among the nursing faculty, where she served until her retirement in 1996, after which she continued to work as a consultant to numerous nursing and health organizations.

Before her tenure as Interim President, Claire served as the Margaret Bond Simon Dean of the School of Nursing from 1977 until 1992, during which time she brought nursing education to the forefront at Penn. As dean, she grew the standing faculty, created landmark education and research programs, strengthened the relationship between clinical practice, teaching, and research, and developed and implemented a PhD program. For her extraordinary accomplishments to the school and University, Claire was presented with the Penn Alumni Award of Merit in 1991. The Penn Club of New York named her the 2012 honoree of the Guggenheim Honor Cup. It heartens us to know her legacy at the University lives on through the Claire M. Fagin Leadership Chair in Nursing, the Claire M. Fagin Distinguished Researcher Award, the Claire and Sam Fagin Scholarship, and the Nursing School's Claire M. Fagin Hall, which were named in her honor.

Claire held a BS from the School of Nursing of Wagner College, an MA from Columbia University's Teachers College, and a PhD from New York University. An expert on psychiatric and pediatric nursing, she was the author or editor of 15 books and monographs and more than 100 articles. Before coming to Penn, Claire had been professor and chair of the department of nursing at the City University of New York, where she also directed the Health Professions Institute and developed a baccalaureate nursing program that prepared nurses for primary care practice. Previously, she had been an associate professor of psychiatric-mental health nursing and director of the graduate program in psychiatric mental health nursing at New York University.

Beginning with her doctoral dissertation, which changed attitudes and practices relating to parental visitation in pediatric care facilities, Claire had a tremendous influence on her profession and on health care policy. She was an advisor to the World Health Organization, chair of the national advisory board of the John A. Hartford Foundation's Institute for Geriatric Nursing, the founding director of the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity program of the American Academy of Nursing, and president of the American Orthopsychiatric Association and the National League of Nursing. Claire was the founding chair of the National Advisory Council of the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at the University of California, Davis. She was a member of the governing board of the Institute of Medicine—now the National Academy of Medicine—and chaired its Board on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, as well as its Lienhard Committee. Her other board memberships included the New York Academy of Medicine, the van Ameringen Foundation, and the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, as well as the Radian Group Inc., Salomon Inc., and the Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company, where she was the first female director and chaired the Audit Committee. She was also active with New York City's West Side Urban Renewal Project.

Over the course of her career, Claire was recognized time and again for her contributions. She received the nursing profession's prestigious Honorary Recognition Award, now known as the Champion of Nursing Award, of the American Nurses Association. She was also recognized by the American Nurses Foundation, New York University, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Royal College of Nursing, Philadelphia's Women's Way, and the American Academy of Nursing. She was elected to membership in the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the New York Academy of Medicine, and the American Nurses Association Hall of Fame. She was also elected to the American Academy of Nursing and was named a Living Legend in 1998 for her achievements in nursing, nursing education, and health care. A senior fellow at Penn's Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, she held more than a dozen honorary degrees.

There will be a University celebration of her life on campus in the spring, and we will share details when they are available.

—Ramanan Raghavendran, Chair, Trustees

—J. Larry Jameson, Interim President