

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO COLLEGE OF NURSING  
THE MIDWEST NURSING HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER

## THE MIDWEST LINK

Nurse historian Barbara Brodie's spring MNHRC Lecture, which focused on the tragedy of a devastating 1958 Chicago school fire, illustrated how nurses cared for children with burns in the late 1950s. But why does history matter? One reason that American Association for the History of Nursing member Sonya Grypma has given is that remembering our past allows us to bear witness to traumatic events. Through that witness, we can present historical evidence and work through historiographical interpretations to gain insight into ourselves, as nurses, into our patients, and into the surrounding social context. Dr. Brodie allowed us to do just that with her sobering focus of the nurses' role during this Chicago tragedy.



**Why is The Midwest Link called The Midwest Link?** Because the MNHRC at the University of Illinois at Chicago lies between two major Nursing History Centers—thus this newsletter, and the Center itself, form a link in the pursuit of nursing historical scholarship. North of us in Philadelphia is the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. South of us is the Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry at the University of Virginia. With Chicago, these centers comprise the larger centers for historical nursing research in the US. As a Midwest Link, the MNHRC supports the growing interconnectivity of nursing history scholarship.

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/history/Pages/>

<http://www.nursing.virginia.edu/research/cnhi/>

## THE 2014 HARRIET FULMER LECTURE



Julie Fairman, PhD, RN, FAAN, will present the Harriet Fulmer Lecture on October 21 2014.

### ZOMBIE IDEAS AND COMPETITION: BUILDING THE HISTORICAL CASE FOR APRN FULL SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Dr. Fairman is the Nightingale Professor of Nursing and Director of the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. Julie Fairman's current work involves the history of the intersection of health policy and nurse practitioners in the United States from 1980 to the present. In 2009 she served as the IOM/AAN/ANF Scholar in Residence. In other words, she is an internationally known leader in the field of nursing history. We are delighted to welcome her to UIC.

Dr. Fairman's talk will center on the history of regulation and scope of practice for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with a focus on the Federal Trade Commission and advanced practice nurses.

Immediately following Dr. Fairman's talk, there will be a short commemoration of the life of Dr. Martha Pitel. Dr. Pitel, who died on April 19 2014, was a nurse researcher and educator. At a time when few nurses earned graduate degrees, Dr. Pitel studied for a PhD in anatomy at the University of Minnesota and continued her research at the University of Paris. During her long career Dr. Pitel taught at several of the nation's premier universities, including the UIC, and chaired the Nursing Departments at the University of Kansas and at Chicago's Northwestern University. We are proud to hold her papers at the MNHRC. In her memory and through her support, the Center will open the The Martha Pitel Illinois Training School digital collection.

The event will conclude with refreshments and optional tours of the Midwest Nursing History Research Center.

Registration: Free but please register through the event brite page at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-midwest-nursing-history-research-centers-annual-harriet->

[fulmer-lecture-dr-julie-fairman-from-tickets-10376192471\\*](#)

Registration gives us a rough headcount for refreshments and to gauge the interest in these presentations.

#### NEW ACQUISITIONS

This has been an exciting year! We are delighted that several organizations and nurses have allowed the center to archive their papers, and we are very appreciative of their trust in us. These include:

##### The Visiting Nurses Association of Chicago

The VNA of Chicago (VNA-C) was founded in 1889 to provide skilled home-nursing care to the city's poor as well as to educate family members and the public regarding cleanliness and care of the sick. VNA nurses were active in a wide range of community work including school nursing, smallpox and tuberculosis care, and maternity work. In a changing healthcare delivery environment the VNA-Chicago closed in 1995. Since then the VNA-C, now the VNA Foundation, has operated as a philanthropy. The collection includes annual reports from 1889 – 1994 (some years missing), manuals for use by the visiting nurses from 1914, 1915, and 1919, photographs and educational reel-to-reel movies (1960s-1980s. Dates unclear; one titled "poliomyelitis after-care in the home"). In addition, the VNA Foundation have included 4 charming dioramas of VNA nurses at work as well as images we will place in the museum. More materials will be forthcoming.

##### The Illinois Association of School Nurses

Organized in 1957 as an affiliate of the Illinois Education Association, the first Annual meeting of the Illinois Association of School Nurses was held in 1958. The association's goals included the promotion of better school health programs and the welfare and further education of school nurses. Work of the association during the early years included pursuit of school-nurse certification, liability issues for school nurses, and retirement plans. The collection includes early organizational minutes, annual meeting minutes from 1957-2004, and Executive Committee/Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from 1959-2007.

##### The Society for the Advancement of Modeling and Role-Modeling

The Society for the Advancement of Modeling and Role Modeling (SAMRM) was founded in 1975 to support wider knowledge and use of Dr. Helen Erickson's nursing theory of Modeling and Role Modeling. The collection covers 1975 through to 2013 and includes bi-annual meeting materials, correspondence with MRM founder, Helen Erickson, MRM theory DVD and book. The collection also includes honors and awards presented to Erickson.

##### Dr. Martha Pitel

Dr. Pitel (1921-2014) was a nurse research scientist engaged in basic bench science decades before most nurses worked in this area. With a PhD in anatomy from the University of Minnesota she studied at the

University of Paris for a year before taking up various leadership positions in US universities, including serving as the founding dean of Nursing Education at Northwestern University in Chicago. Her papers include family documents related to Pitel and her parents, educational documents and information, documents related to her brief war service, and materials related to her career in nursing education.

In addition, several people have donated old nursing textbooks and other nursing memorabilia. These include those illustrated below—the Clara Barton and Florence Nightingale dolls were donated, along with many other items, by Dr. Nancy Creason. The VNA-C Foundation have shared with us the ceramic plaque as well as framed historic images.

#### Visitors to the Center

In addition to many of visitors to the Center, coming at Alumni and Center events, as well as student nurses in the UIC program, the Center continues to welcome scholars engaged in nursing history research.



#### Changes to website

This fall: Caps, Books, Finding aides

I would be pleased to hear from you regarding this Newsletter or with any ideas or comments about the Midwest Nursing History Research Center.

Sincerely,

Brigid Lusk

Midwest Nursing History Research Center (MC 802)  
UIC College of Nursing, 845 South Damen Avenue, Chicago, IL 60612  
[bmlusk@uic.edu](mailto:bmlusk@uic.edu)