

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

## THE MIDWEST LINK

Welcome to the first issue of **The Midwest Link**, the newsletter of the MNHRC! The goal of this bi-annual newsletter is to publicize upcoming events at the Center, as well as other events of nursing historical interest, and to share news of recent donations and other Center activities. From time to time a short paper focusing on the MNHRC's collection will be included. My name is Brigid Lusk. I am an Adjunct Clinical Professor in the college as well as the Director of the Center—and therefore Editor of this Newsletter. I have been active in the field of nursing history for over twenty years and am honored to serve in this new role since my recent retirement from Northern Illinois University.



We are delighted to be able to welcome Dr. Barbara Brodie for the next MNHRC event, scheduled for April 22, 2014 in the College of Nursing's 3rd Floor Event Center in Chicago. Dr. Brodie will give a presentation titled "*The School is on Fire!*" Our Lady of the Angels School Fire, December 1, 1958 Dr. Brodie's presentation focusses on the role of the nurses involved during this devastating Chicago fire which took the lives of 92 students and 3 nuns.

Dr. Brodie is the Madge Jones Professor of Nursing, Emerita, and the Associate Director of the Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry at the University of Virginia. She has published extensively on nursing history including the 2010 history of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing with co-authors Drs. Arlene Keeling and John Kirchgessner.

We hope you will join us after the lecture for refreshments and discussion and a tour of our newly remodeled Midwest Nursing History Research Center. Please register for this free event at:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/midwest-nursing-history-research-center-lecture-the-school-is-on-fire-our-lady-of-the-angels-school-tickets-10376252651>

## HISTORICAL LECTURE SERIES BEGINS

Dr. Arlene Keeling from the University of Virginia was the MNHRC's inaugural guest speaker this past fall and presented her work on the nurses' role in Chicago during the 1918 influenza pandemic. Approximately 75 guests were in attendance and also toured the re-opening of the newly remodeled MNHRC. Pictured here are (l-r) Brigid Lusk, Arlene Keeling, and Dean Terri Weaver.



## THE MARTHA PITEL ILLINOIS TRAINING SCHOOL DIGITAL COLLECTION

In an exciting development, the MNHRC has received generous funding from Dr. Martha Pitel to enable us to digitize our collection of almost 250 photographs and glass lantern slides from the Illinois Training School for Nurses. These photos and slides show wards in Cook County Hospital from the 1880s, student nurses at work, graduating nurses, and informal snap shots of student nurses. The school was in existence from 1880 to 1929. These fragile pictures are in deteriorating wooden frames and some of the glass slides are cracked.. This collection will be named the Martha Pitel Illinois Training School Digital Collection in honor of Dr. Pitel, a leading nurse educator and administrator whose papers were recently donated to the Center. We sincerely would like to thank Dr. Pitel and Dr. Kathleen Sherrill who facilitated this gift.

## HONORING HARRIET FULMER

The Center's Advisory Board has proposed that the annual fall lecture will be named the **Harriet Fulmer Lecture Series**, in honor of one of the Midwest's leading nurses. Harriet Fulmer (1877-1952) trained as a nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago and served as one of the first four nurses in the small hospital created for the Chicago World's Exposition in 1893. She stated that she had been told that she was chosen for this responsibility because *she had*



Fulmer at her desk at the Chicago VNA. MNHRC Collection.

*demonstrated her ability to arrange linen closets, scrub bathtubs, and tidy medicine cabinets.* (Merrill, undated, p. 67). The hospital training schools of the nineteenth century valued different skills from today's Colleges of Nursing! Fulmer's career was marked by her pursuit of nurse registration and her leadership in public health nursing. She was superintendent of the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago from 1898-1912 and later supervisor of rural nursing services for Cook County. She was also very instrumental in starting school nursing in Chicago in 1906 and, also in 1906, co-founded, with Dr. Theodore B. Sachs, the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute. In 1901, Fulmer was elected as the first president of the Illinois

Graduate Nurses' Association and fought for state registration of Illinois nurses. Among her many accomplishments, she was cited for heroic action during Chicago's terrible Iroquois Theater fire of 1903. She was a proficient writer who was active in forming the American Journal of Nursing and serving as its editor for public health.

Sources:

Dunwiddie, M. *History of the Illinois State Nurses' Association 1901-1935*. Illinois State Nurses' Association, 1937.

Merrill, M.G. *History of St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing, Chicago*. Oak Park, IL: St. Luke's Hospital, nd.

Burgess, W.K. "Harriet Fulmer." *American Nursing: A biographical dictionary*. Vol. II. V.L. Bullough, L. Sentz and A.P. Stein, eds. Pp. 124-126. New York & London: Garland, 1992.



Above: Harriet Fulmer, at top, with other World's Exposition nurses. Merrill, undated, p. 67

In closing, the MNHRC is fortunate in having a diverse and committed Advisory Board. The members are:

Laura Beamer who is Assistant Professor of Nursing at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL and a candidate in the University of Utah's distance Nursing PhD program in Salt Lake City, UT. Her clinical practice focuses on oncology and clinical cancer genetics. Dr. Beamer's research focuses on quality of life and breast radiation dermatitis among women of color, preventive health behaviors in the presence of a family member with cancer, and cancer program uptake of national cancer practice guidelines. Collecting nursing artifacts, especially textbooks and medication containers, is her lifelong hobby and she loves to hear the narratives of past and current nurses.

M. Patricia Donahue is Professor Emerita at The University of Iowa College of Nursing. She received her Ph.D. in Social Foundations of Education, with an emphasis on history and philosophy from The University of Iowa. Although she has received numerous awards and honors, those received for teaching have been particularly important to Dr. Donahue, who regularly taught historical and contemporary issues, ethics, health policy, and economics at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Donahue holds memberships in numerous professional organizations in which she has held leadership positions. Her particular emphasis in historical research is in the interface of the art and science of nursing and biography.

Karen Egenes is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Promotion at the Niehoff School of Nursing at Loyola University Chicago. She holds a Doctorate in Nursing Education from Northern Illinois University and a Master of Arts degree with a major in history

from Loyola University Chicago. She presently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Nurses Association- Illinois. Dr. Egenes is co-author of the book, *Faithfully Yours: A History of Nursing in Illinois*. She is active in American Association for the History of Nursing, and has served on the Association's Board of Directors.

Laurie K. Glass is a Professor Emerita and Director of the Center for Nursing History at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Nursing. She received her PhD in Nursing Research and Nursing History from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her specific interest is the historical analysis of nursing leaders and their impact on issues and events, and the history of professional organizations. Dr. Glass has been a member of various national committees which focus on nursing history and is a past president of the Wisconsin Nurses Association. She also is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago College of Nursing. CDR Glass retired from the US Navy Nurse Corps in 1991 after serving 21 years.

Kathy Hanson received her PhD in Social Foundations of Education, with an emphasis in history and philosophy, from the University of Iowa. Dr. Hanson has published research in the intellectual history of nursing and nursing during the Civil War and is the author of the edited diary of Civil War nurse Amanda Shelton, titled *Turn Backward, Oh Time*. She has presented her research at numerous conferences including those of the American Association of the History of Nursing. Dr. Hanson's clinical area is public health nursing. She taught on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago for twenty one years, where she served as Director of the Quad-Cities Regional Program, Director of the Midwest Nursing History Resource Center and as Interim Dean for Curriculum and Academic Programs. She then served as faculty at the University of Iowa and retired from her position as Associate Dean for Academic Programs in 2002. Dr. Hanson is active in the American Association for the History of Nursing and has served as a member of the board, treasurer, and President.

Karyn Holm is a Professor Emeritus at DePaul University. Her primary focus has been research/scholarship addressing women's health as related to heart disease, bone loss and aging. Her training in statistics afforded her the opportunity to understand epidemiology from a statistical and historical perspective. Further, she has come to know many nurse leaders who have accomplished great things. It is her aspiration to acknowledge their work, paying tribute to them individually and collectively, knowing that within the context of practice, education and research nursing has played a pivotal role in the health of people and communities. Of particular interest to Dr. Holm is highlighting the careers and contributions of nursing in Illinois.

Arlene W. Keeling is the Centennial Distinguished Professor of Nursing at the University Of Virginia School Of Nursing. She is also Chair, Department of Acute and Specialty Care, and Director of the Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry. Dr. Keeling is author of numerous articles on nursing history and an award winning book, *Nursing and the Privilege of Prescription, 1893-2000* (Ohio State University Press, 2006). She has co-

authored/edited two other books: *Rooted in the Mountains; Reaching to the World: A History of the Frontier School of Nursing, 1939-1989*. (Butler Books, 2012) which received the AJN Book of the Year Award for Public Interest and Creative Works, 2012; and *Nurses on the Front Line: A History of Disaster Nursing 1879 to 2005*” (Springer Publishing), which received the peer reviewed 2012 Mary Roberts Book Award from the American Association for the History of Nursing. Past president of The American Association for the History of Nursing, Dr. Keeling currently serves as co-chair of the Expert Panel on Nursing History and Health Policy, The American Academy of Nursing.

Marie Lindsey is a family nurse practitioner who has served on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. Dr. Lindsey was a member of the negotiating team whose work resulted in the eventual recognition of advanced practice nurses in the Illinois Nurse Practice Act in 1998. In 2002, Dr. Lindsey was elected the first president of the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing and was the first recipient of, and the namesake for, the “Marie Lindsey Spirit of Advanced Practice Nursing Award.” Other awards include the Illinois Nurses Association 2009 Nurse Practitioner of the Year and American Academy of Nurse Practitioners State Award for Excellence in 2003 and 2009. Dr. Lindsey is delighted to serve on the Midwest Nursing History Research Center Advisory Board, as she shares Winston Churchill’s belief that “History is written by the victors.”

Laurie Quinn is an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). Dr. Quinn received her PhD in Nursing Science from UIC in 1996 with an emphasis on exercise and metabolism. As a UIC faculty member, her teaching, clinical and research endeavors have centered on the care and treatment of patients with types 1 and 2 diabetes. As a lifelong resident of Chicago, Dr. Quinn has an abiding interest in Chicago history, including the development of professional nursing in the Chicago metropolitan area.

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)