

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

THE MIDWEST LINK

The Midwest Nursing History Research Center exists to facilitate research in the history of nursing. Through protecting resources and demonstrating the legitimacy of historical research, it is actively fulfilling that mission. This morning a researcher, studying polio nursing in the 1940s, contacted me in an effort to locate the Michael Reese Hospital School of Nursing records. I was pleased to tell her that we have them. When Michael Reese Hospital closed these were headed for the dumpster until an alert staff member found out about our Center. Another researcher is studying nurses and home isolation in the early years of the twentieth century. We have the Visiting Nurse Association records showing the quarantine methods used—for smallpox, measles, and several other then-common diseases of childhood. Why is this important? One reason is to ensure that today’s discussions of infectious diseases and quarantine practices, currently topical through the outbreaks of Ebola and measles, don’t distort the historical record. In a recent Chicago Tribune column, historian Ron Grossman gave examples of this as he highlighted politically-motivated inaccuracies in the story of the Pullman village. (*Chicago Tribune*, Feb. 23, 2015, “History was mugged in recent Pullman coverage.”) So—thank you for your interest and support of UIC’s Center. It is important.

The Spring 2015 Midwest Nursing History Center Lecture

Noted women’s historian **Dr. Rima Apple** will present:

School health is community health:

The origins of school nursing in the early 20th century



4:00 PM, Tuesday April 21 2015

The Event Center, Third Floor, College of Nursing,
University of Illinois at Chicago

Dr. Rima Apple is a Professor Emerita at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has published extensively in women's history, the history of medicine and nursing, and the history of nutrition. Her current research focuses on the role of public health nurses in the evolution of maternal and child care. Dr. Apple has received multiple honors for her research including the Mary Adelaide Nutting Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing from the American Association for the History of Nursing. She is the author or editor of nine books and numerous articles, book chapters, and monographs, including *Perfect Motherhood: Science and childrearing in America* (Rutgers University Press, 2006). Her most recent co-edited book is *Science in Print: Essays on the History of Science and the Culture of Print* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2012).

Please register for this FREE public event at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-midwest-nursing-history-research-center-spring-lecture-uic-nursing-tickets-15577344256>

Refreshments and tours of the Midwest Nursing History Research Center will follow the lecture.

The Fall 2014 Harriet Fulmer Lecture and Dr. Martha Pitel Commemoration



Dr. Julie Fairman from the University of Pennsylvania was the speaker at the MNHRC's second annual Harriet Fulmer Lecture. As a nurse practitioner and nurse historian, Julie used nursing history to argue that nurse practitioners must practice to the full extent of their education. It was a memorable and timely address.

Dr. Kathleen Sherrell was the lead speaker at Dr. Pitel's commemorative event. Dr. Pitel was an early science-based nurse researcher who also served as Chair of Nursing Education at Northwestern University and as a Professor at UIC, among other appointments.



Collaboration of world-wide Nursing History Research Centers

Following her visit to the UIC Center, and attendance at the MNHRC Advisory Board meeting, Julie Fairman acted to increase collaboration between U.S. nursing history centers through a series of conference calls. Building upon that initiative, Jean Whelan, President of the American Association for

the History of Nursing, has convened a meeting of center representatives during the annual AAHN conference in Dublin later this year. Center directors from Australia, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the U.S., will attend. This increased collaboration should benefit all the centers through support, sharing resources, and heightened international awareness.

Update on the collections

The Center has been privileged to hold the Midwest Nursing Research Society's collection from 1977 to the late 1990s. Now, through the initiative of MNRS Board Member and UIC faculty member Patricia Hershberger, a historical committee has been formed to preserve their more recent heritage. Laurie Glass, MNHRC Advisory Board member, and I are representing the Center on this committee. Thank you, Dr. Hershberger, for your recognition of the importance of organizational history.

Fame at Last!!

The new website banner of the American Association for the History of Nursing, below, features two images from the Midwest Nursing History Research Center's collection.



On the right is a photograph of Mary Welty Christy, a Passavant Memorial Hospital graduate of 1905 who served in France during the First World War. The MNHRC holds many of her letters home, her scrapbook, her diary, and several other items. To the left of Miss Christy is a 1890s graduation photograph of students from Chicago's Provident Hospital Training School. We hold just 6 graduation photographs from Provident—a much larger Provident Hospital collection is in the archives of Chicago State University. When Provident Hospital Training School opened in 1892 it was the only training school in the city open to African American student nurses.

Please contact me if you have any comments about the Center or if you have found something in your grandmother's attic that you would like to donate. Also, of course, we are always in need of financial donations to support the collections and the lectures. Thanks.

Brigid

Brigid Lusk, PhD, RN, FAAN, Director, Midwest Nursing History Research Center
Clinical Professor, UIC College of Nursing, Professor Emeritus, Northern Illinois University
bmlusk@uic.edu