

AAHN BULLETIN

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American Association for the History of Nursing

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President's message



Welcome! As we make our way through a long, hot summer, we are so looking forward to some cooler fall air for our annual conference this September in Pittsburgh. There are some conference details included in this issue. The officers of AAHN are already looking forward to it. I hope you are, too.

Please join me in congratulating the AAHN members who were elected office for 2023-2025. In our officer list below, they are marked with an asterisk next to their names. There is lots to enjoy in this issue of the Bulletin, so take a few minutes to browse through it. Don't forget that we welcome member input and contributions to the Bulletin at any time.

Sincerely,

Annemarie McAllister

AAHN OFFICERS

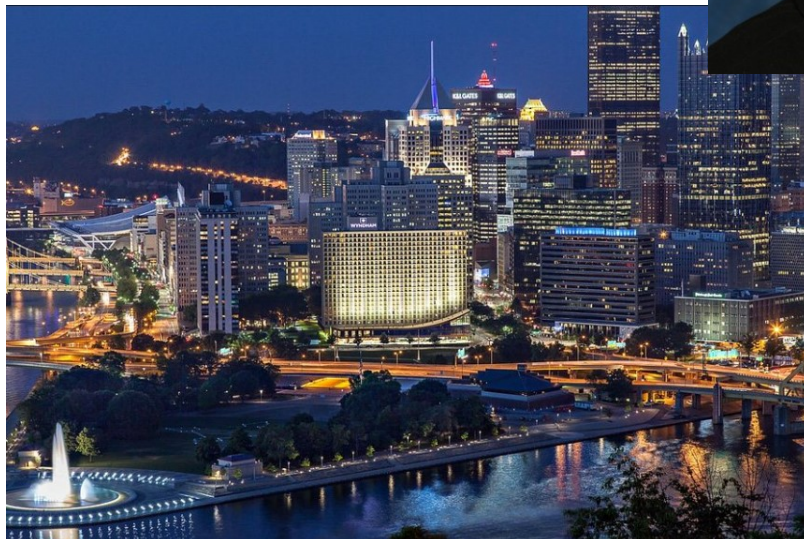
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2023 National Meeting: Registration Now Open

The American Association for the History of Nursing 40th Annual Nursing & Health Care History Conference will be held September 28—30, 2023 in Pittsburgh, PA. The location is the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown. Registration is now open. For more details and to register, see: <https://www.aahn.org/2023-annual-conference>

The officers of AAHN are pleased to announce our keynote speaker, Dr. Pat D'Antonio. Dr. D'Antonio is Carol E. Ware Endowed Professor in Mental Health Nursing, the Director of the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, and a Senior Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute. She will be speaking on: Toward a History of Healthcare: A New Paradigm for the History of Nursing and Medicine?

Attendees can make a hotel reservation by going to <https://book.passkey.com/event/50493007/owner/2945954/home> or calling 1-888-317-0197 and mentioning the AAHN conference. The group rate for AAHN is \$174 per night plus tax.



Evanston Hospital School of Nursing 1898—1984

A Look Back at Diploma Schools of Nursing

Contributed by: Carolyn Hope Smeltzer, RN, MSN, EdD, FAAN, FACHE (1972 EHSN Graduate)

While planning our 50th anniversary from Evanston Hospital School of Nursing (EHSN) in 2022, a colleague and I reached out to Evanston Hospital's leadership, now part of NorthShore University HealthSystem, for artifacts and history. We were told "all was lost in a flood... but check with the library." As we walked through the hospital's halls it felt like EHSN never existed and we were sad.

Our thoughts were "we were real," there was a school, we had been proud graduates for over 50 years and EHSN, like all diploma nursing schools, should be remembered in nursing history. We knew the diploma graduates were aging and current nurses may never have heard of diploma education. We believed this was the time to write EHSN's history which would depict most, if not all, diploma nursing schools.

In preparation for the reunion and book publication, we asked our classmates three questions; Why did you choose EHSN, what are your favorite EHSN memories, and what about the last fifty years? When summarizing their answers, it became clear they were enthusiastic to document and relive their past. Most had not reflected on their student nursing days since 1982, their tenth-year reunion and/or the school's closing in 1984.

When researching we discovered AJN published a book review of *The Evanston Hospital School of Nursing 1898-1948* by Clare Louis Smith. The review (June 1949, pg. 30-32) stated the book has a unique contribution to nursing history, as it was illustrative of all diploma nursing schools. The review reiterated why EHSN was successful; the quality faculty organization, an affiliation with Northwestern University, the up-to-date curriculum, participation in the grading system and being part of the Nurse Cadet Nursing program. The review ended with "The story of EHSN... closed with a summary of students' achievements."

The majority of the 1972 EHSN classmates were not born when the book/book review was written. We felt the full history of EHSN should be told, not just the first fifty years. Our goals were for EHSN to not be forgotten, the history to be illustrative of all nursing diploma programs and to jar other graduates' memories. Our goals were similar to what Smith's 1948 book achieved 74 years prior.

The 1972 EHSN graduates searched through attics, basements, and stored boxes to find memorabilia. They found pictures, scrap books, school acceptance letters, invitations to capping and tickets to their graduation. They salvaged newspaper articles describing their day at the horse races and the school's dormitory library fire.

The graduates retrieved notes from the switch board, report cards/nursing transcripts and school' billing invoices. They rediscovered their nursing pins, caps, and student uniforms. They found bed sheets and scrubs with the hospital emblem. These artifacts stirred memories about dormitory living, learning activities, faculty moments and patient care. Their findings validated the value of diploma nursing education. Their images of the past felt like it was yesterday, not over fifty years ago.

Through the scavenger process graduates recognized that our school was no longer. Our dormitory was now a parking lot, and our memorabilia were vintage history. Our hospital, as we knew it, was unrecognizable.

During the schools' tenure, there were five different blue pinned striped uniforms, three different nursing caps, numerous curricula, four living spaces but only one school pin. We learned the memories of the first two EHSN graduates in 1901 and the last graduates in 1984 and all in between, were similar; all proud to be EHSN graduates.

The book, Evanston Hospital School of Nursing 1898-1984 became more than a 50th anniversary gift to the class of 1972, it was a "look back" on diploma education and a gift to all nurses. We achieved our goal of preserving nursing diploma history and having others reflect on their own nursing education.

The book has been accepted into the archives of The Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, Chicago's Lost Art of Nursing Museum, Midwest Nursing History Research Museum, NorthShore University HealthSystem's Webster Library, Evanston History Center and the Library of Congress.

Readers review comments include "I covered up EHSN and replaced it with St. Joseph's School of Nursing, this book described my diploma school.", I taught at the School when the authors were students, after reading the book, I got out all my years books to refresh other memories of the time I treasured at EHSN", " I was deluged with the historic photos, comradery, support, values and depth of diploma nursing..", "I had fun revisiting the past. This is an Inspirational book to future nurses.", and "Your book brought back so many memories of my own nursing experience."

Planning the 1972 EHSN 50th celebration became the preservation of diploma nursing schools' history, values, and sentiments. I learned by rushing to get my BS, MSN, and EdD and I never truly valued EHSN. Fifty years after graduation, through this "Look Back" I realized my nursing values came from EHSN. I now cherish and treasure my 1969-1972 EHSN memories.

NURSING HISTORY REVIEW: EXCITING CHANGES AT OUR JOURNAL

Dear AAHN members,

First, please let me introduce myself. I am Jane Brooks and the new Editor-in-Chief for Nursing History Review, taking over from Arlene Keeling. I am a senior lecturer at the University of Manchester in the UK and a researcher in the history of nursing, particularly the history of nursing in the Second World War. I officially do not start until September but because of the timing of the journal, I need to start the work for my first volume – 2025, now.

I feel very privileged to have been appointed to this position, especially as I am the first incumbent from outside the USA. I hope that I can do justice to those who selected me and follow in the excellent footsteps of my predecessors. Sadly, Christine Hallett has stepped down as Associate Editor, as she has retired. I am pleased to announce that Michelle Hehman has agreed to take over the role. Christine's retirement is a great loss to the editorial board, but Michelle is the perfect successor and her knowledge of the journal will be invaluable to me. Erin Spinney has taken over as Assistant Editor.

I am making a few changes to NHR from 2025 and establishing some new sections.

1. We are reducing the word count. This in no way diminishes the rigour, it simply places the journal on a more equal footing with comparable journals, such as Social History of Medicine and Bulletin of the History of Medicine, both of which have an upper limit of 12,000 words (including endnotes). The new word limit for NHR will be 7,000-15,000 words (including endnotes);

2. We are introducing a new doctoral student/post-doctoral section. Manuscripts for this section will be between 4,000-5,000 words (including endnotes). Whilst the word limit is lower, again this will not reduce the research excellence expected or the rigour of the peer review process. The editorial team will however, offer mentorship to the chosen author to ensure the final paper is of the quality required for NHR. It is requested that any postgraduate student or early career researcher – within three years of their doctorate, submit their manuscript by 1 October 2023. A review board will then choose the best for NHR. This section will become a regular feature, so if you are not ready for this October, please consider for future volumes.

The editorial board has liaised with the Editor of the Bulletin of AAHN and the runner/s up will be given the opportunity to publish in the Bulletin;

3. We will no longer have a section 'In plain sight'. Drs Keeling, Hehman and I have discussed this and feel that the importance of more diverse and inclusive scholarship has been raised and the time is now right for that to be an expectation of the scholarship of nursing history;

4. We will be introducing a topical section each year. The section for 2025 is 'Nursing History in the Curriculum', following the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) 'Essentials' document which outlines the expectations for nurse education:

'Understand the historical foundation of nursing as the relationship developed between the individual and nurse.' I am aware that there are a number of papers on this topic for AAHN conference this year and hope you will all consider submitting to NHR;


5. Finally, we will be re-introducing sections for methodological papers and Keynote talks as appropriate.

I do hope that together we can continue in the excellent tradition of this critical international journal.


Best wishes to you all,


Jane Brooks


AAHN NURSE HERO: SUMMER, 2023





Featured Nurse Hero
Camillus de Lellis
1550-1614



After a challenging childhood, he joined the Venetian army at age 16. At 17, he received a leg wound that never healed.


While in the hospital, he struggled with managing his anger and gambling. He converted to Catholicism in 1575.


Concerned about the poor care he saw people receiving, he organized a group of men to care for patients at the hospital.


He became an ordained Catholic priest at age 34, and is known as the patron saint of hospitals, nurses, physicians, and the sick.


Skill and clean technique were of great importance to him. His men established the first military field ambulance in 1595 while caring for soldiers in Croatia and Hungary.


Burying people alive was not uncommon at the time. He created a policy that his men would pray for the dead for an additional 15 minutes after they appeared to have expired.

For more information, check out the following sites:
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-camilus-de-llellis/>
<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/july-14-saint-camilus-de-llellis-priest/>
<https://www.nursebuff.com/male-nurses-in-history/>

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