

AAHN BULLETIN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I reflect on the past several months, I am grateful for the enthusiasm and engagement of our members. The Buffalo conference provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues, share scholarship, and build new partnerships across disciplines. This spirit of collaboration continues as we look ahead to our upcoming virtual conference, Emerging Voices and New Directions in Nursing History, on October 30, 2026. I encourage all members to consider submitting an abstract and joining us for what promises to be an exciting day of scholarship and discussion. Whether you are presenting a new research project, sharing a work in progress, or highlighting innovative approaches to nursing history education, your voice and contributions are important to our community. In addition, I strongly encourage all members to attend the AAHN membership meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the virtual conference. Over the past several months, the Strategic Planning Committee and the Board of Directors have been working diligently to develop a new strategic plan to guide the organization into the future.

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- AAHN & AAHM Joint Conference
- Spotlight on Leadership
- Announcements & Member News
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This issue introduces the first installment of our new Spotlight on Leadership feature, designed to help members get to know the individuals serving on the Board of Directors and learn more about the work that supports the organization. One of AAHN's greatest strengths is the dedication and expertise of its members, and we hope this feature encourages more members to grow in leadership in the years ahead. Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to view the AAHN Bulletin as more than just a source of organizational news. The Bulletin is a space where we can celebrate one another's accomplishments, share new publications and projects, recognize awards and achievements, highlight innovative teaching and research, and stay connected as a community. We want the Bulletin to reflect the full breadth of the remarkable work our members are doing. If you have news to share, reach out to AAHN or contact the Publications Chair directly.

Thank you for your ongoing support of AAHN and for the many ways you contribute to preserving, promoting, and advancing nursing history. I look forward to connecting with you at our upcoming virtual conference and membership meeting.

Gwyneth Franck, PhD, RN, MPH

Highlights from the AAHN 43rd Annual Conference

in conjunction with the American Association for the History of Medicine 99th Annual Meeting



Molly Ladd-Taylor PhD,
delivers the Eleanor
Herrman Memorial Lecture

The 2026 conference was held in Buffalo, NY from June 3-6 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine. This was the first time the AAHN and AAHM had met together, despite their overlapping research interests and membership, and thus was an exciting opportunity to expand, diversify, and enrich both organizations' discussions about the history of nursing, medicine, and health care.

Highlights of the conference included the Eleanor Herrman Memorial Lecture, which was delivered by Molly Ladd-Taylor, PhD, Professor of History, York University, and titled, "Nurses, Mothers & Others: Baby-Saving and its Legacy in American History." As Dr. Ladd-Taylor explained, in the early 20th century, distressingly high

infant and maternal mortality led to a nationwide "baby-saving" movement and the first federal social welfare measure, the 1921 Sheppard-Towner Act, administered by the women-led Children's Bureau. Dr. Ladd-Taylor's lecture focused on four aspects of the Children's Bureau baby-saving campaign – prenatal and infant care, eugenics, state-building, and the active role of mothers and nurses – revisiting her own extensive body of research and exploring baby-saving's legacy in politics, scholarship, and policy. Dr. Ladd-Taylor's compelling presentation offered valuable historical lessons and perspective on current efforts to address regional and racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality in the U.S.

April Matthias, PhD RN, CNE

The preconference workshop, titled "Teaching Healthcare History Through Visual and Experiential Learning," was led by Emily Anne Barr, PhD-RN, NNP-PC, CNM, ACRD, FACNM, FAAN, Donna M. Curry, PhD, RN, and Ruth Manchester, BSN, MA, RN, and provided attendees with strategies for using visual and narrative environments to teach healthcare history.

Special thanks to Erin Spinney, Donna Curry, Lisa Held, and members of the AAHN abstract review committee, as well as the local arrangements and program committees of the American Association for the History of Medicine for all their hard work to make the conference a success.

Presentations & Networking



Highlights
from the
AAHN 43rd
Annual
Conference
Buffalo, NY



Spotlight on Leadership

Welcome to our new section that puts a spotlight on the AAHN's leadership group. Over the next several issues of the Bulletin, we'll share a little about who the current directors are and what they do for the organization. Our goal is to make AAHN's leaders more visible, relatable, and accessible to members, and to encourage more members to consider running for a leadership position in the future.

President and 1st Vice President Gwyneth Franck, PhD, MPH, RN

I am currently serving as the acting President of AAHN until October 2026 and the First Vice President, who is also in charge of the Strategic Planning Committee. Since the conference, I've been working hard with the organization's leadership to develop a new strategic plan for AAHN that will be released to the membership at our October membership meeting.

Outside of AAHN, I'm a clinical associate professor at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), and do both nursing history research and work in global health. Within nursing history, I've recently completed several public history projects: Mapping Care, Teaching Care, and two documentaries about nursing during



Gwyneth Franck



Donna Curry

World War I. My expertise is related to military nursing in WWI, WWII, and disaster nursing. I'm also the Associate Director of UIC's Global Health Leadership Office and oversee our nursing study abroad programs. Clinically, my background is in emergency nursing.

2nd Vice President Donna Miles, PhD, RN

As 2nd VP I am basically in charge of programs. I helped with aspects of the live conference we held this summer in Buffalo, recruiting moderators and such. The 2nd VP works closely with staff member Lisa Held, the president, and treasurer. I am currently working on the virtual conference to be held the end of October.

My interest in nursing history started over 20 years ago when I started an oral history project on the nursing program where I taught for over 30 years. I pulled that all together into a book, *Nursing the Wright Way: A History of Nursing at*

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Wright State University, which was completed in 2024. In addition to my focus on nursing education history, this past year I completed an updated book on the history of my church, Steadfast and Joyful, as we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the church. I am very involved with the Florence Nightingale Museum in London as a trustee and serve as CEO for the U.S. based charity, Friends of the Florence Nightingale Museum. I enjoyed helping to create a virtual tour of Lea Hurst, Nightingale's family home which can be accessed on the museum's website.

Secretary

Shannon E. Perry, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN

I am the current secretary of AAHN. Duties of the secretary are to record minutes of the Board, Executive Committee, and Membership meetings, present correspondence to the Board (I haven't received any yet), distribute minutes to the Board and Committee Chairs, and send a summary of Board actions to the Bulletin Editor. Although I have served as secretary in other organizations, I am learning the specific requirements of AAHN. It is a challenge to summarize a three-hour meeting into pertinent information. The meetings are recorded, which helps a great deal and the office takes care of distribution of the minutes.



Shannon Perry

I have been an AAHN member since 1998 and previously served as AAHN's 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair. I have given several podium and poster presentations at AAHN meetings. I've also participated in several national and international tours dealing with nursing and medical history. I made history as the first person to transport a premature infant in a helicopter in the U.S. (January 10, 1967). I published a paper on the history of neonatal transport (*JOGNN*, 2017). My recent research endeavors include interviewing and publishing information about nurses who have shaped nursing in Arizona. I am also Professor Emerita, San Francisco State University.

Treasurer

Mary Gibson, PhD, RN

As a member of AAHN for about 25 years, I have served in several roles including Second Vice President/Program Chair, President, and, currently, Treasurer (I am in my 2nd (non-

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consecutive) term). Our financial viability is really important to me! Jenn Riggs (from our management company) and I have worked closely, in collaboration with our Morgan Stanley representative, to responsibly manage our funds including our annual and meeting budgets. In 2022 we completely reviewed and revised our financial plan for our Policies and Procedures, which had not been done for more than a decade. The treasurer's job includes creating budgets, monthly monitoring of our statements, which are compiled by the management company, and reviewing these most months with Jenn Riggs and now with our reps from Chicago Association Management. Riggs merged with this firm just this year.

Being Treasurer does not require more than basic knowledge of responsible financial management and attention to trends and details. Our management team provides amazing support! I would like to encourage anyone who is committed to AAHN to consider running for Treasurer next go round. I'm happy to share any further information should you wish to contact me.

In 2019 I retired from teaching Nursing (after 20 years) and as the Associate Director of the Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry at the University of



Mary Gibson

Virginia. Prior to that, my nursing career focused mainly on public health and obstetrics. I earned my PhD through the Bates Center at the University of Pennsylvania in 2007 and my primary areas of historical research have been children with disabilities, public health nursing, and obstetrics. I consider myself so fortunate to have worked with and known so many distinguished nurse historians and historians of nursing, many through AAHN.

Speakers

Announcements & Member News

History-focused Activities for Nursing Education Curricula

In 2021, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) simultaneously published “The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Education” and the online [Essentials Tool Kit](#) to help faculty implement the Essentials. The online tool kit included a [teaching resource database](#) where nursing educators could access peer reviewed learning and assessment strategies by Essentials domain. The 2021 Essentials includes the expectation that nursing education curricula include nursing history, specifically within Domain 1: Knowledge for Nursing Practice; however, the study of nursing and healthcare history can be effective for students to meet sub-competencies across all 10 domains. To help ensure that faculty colleagues had access to history focused assignments, two AAHN members submitted teaching innovations to the AACN Essentials Teaching Resource Database.

Dr. Beth Hundt submitted, “[Disaster Preparedness Assignment using a Historical Case Study](#).” This history-focused activity provides students with an opportunity to plan measures to ensure safe, high quality nursing care in a hospital setting during a hypothetical disaster. To

et the stage, students are introduced to the care provided to hospitalized patients by healthcare providers at Charity Hospital during the Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in 2005 by watching a publicly available video. Hurricane Katrina caused Charity Hospital, the largest safety-net hospital in the region, to function without power for five days. Students were instructed to observe the care provided to patients and listen to the communication between team members in the video. Then, students are asked to consider a patient that they provided direct care to during a clinical practicum day, and how they would provide care for this patient in a disaster that caused the hospital to lose power. Finally, this assignment is discussed by students, clinical faculty, and interdisciplinary staff in the clinical practicum setting and a written assignment is submitted to the course instructor using an assignment template. This assignment aligns with nine sub-competencies across four domains of the Essentials.

Dr. Sarah Craig submitted, “[Nursing History in Action: Using the AAHN Nursing History Framework to Reinforce Public Health, Professional Identity, and Leadership Competencies](#).” The AAHN Nursing History Framework provides structure for using nursing history research to foster professional identity, critical thinking and clinical judgement using case studies; explore sensitive topics of equity and social justice; and provide context to

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broaden personal experiences and perspectives. Engagement with primary and secondary historical resources such as history research articles and public health nursing case studies evoke emotion, and an understanding of what nursing is and has the potential to be for learners at the entry and advanced levels. This assignment aligns with six sub-competencies across three domains of the Essentials.

The **History Nursing Education Committee** invites you to review and use these assignments in your courses as applicable. We also encourage you to submit your history-focused teaching innovations to the [AACN Essentials Teaching Resource Database](#) to help educators effectively incorporate history into nursing education curricula.

***Nursing History Review* Updates**

The AAHN Board of Directors recognizes and extends gratitude to Jane Brooks, Editor of *Nursing History Review*, for her decision to relinquish the editor's stipend and gift these funds back to the AAHN. We're grateful for Dr. Brooks' steadfast leadership of the AAHN's official journal..

April Matthias, PhD, RN, CNE has been appointed Assistant Editor of *Nursing History Review*, where she will work with Editor, Jane Brooks, PhD, RN, and Associate Editor, Erin Spinney, PhD.

Speakers

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News from the History Centers

The **Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing** announces the publication of several commentaries in the July 2026 issue of the *American Journal of Nursing* related to the **Nursing the Revolution**, a collaborative photo-essay and exhibit currently on display at the Bates Center.

In American Nursing: 250 Years and Counting, Antonia M. Villarruel, PhD, RN, PhD.

FAAN, the Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing notes that today's nurses must continue to innovate, adapt, and transform care across global health systems. However, she warns that untold stories of ethical leadership remain vulnerable to erasure in the current social climate.

In Nursing the Revolution, J. Margo Brooks Carthon, PhD, RN, FAAN, Director of the Bates Center examines how the systemic omission of nurses from foundational American history devalues the modern workforce. She notes that while popular history heavily emphasizes generals, battles, and physicians, it routinely ignores the vital intellectual and physical labor of early caregivers.

Jessica Martucci and Meg Roberts contributed 250 years of American nursing, which celebrates 250 years of American nursing, and explores the remarkable

history, resilience, and lasting impact of nurses across generations. Dr. Martucci also guest-edited a roundtable for *Nursing the Revolution: Care Work in Revolutionary America*, as a follow-up to the Center's February symposium. The roundtable in EAS Miscellany, features essays from several of the scholars involved in the symposium, including Meg Roberts, PhD, Jennifer W. Reiss, PhD, Elise A. Mitchell, PhD, Sarah Pearlman Shapiro, PhD, and Lilith Todd, PhD.

The **Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry** announces the acquisition of the **National Student Nurses Association Collection**. This comprehensive collection, which is the Bjoring Center's largest, includes official records and documents from both the national organization and its state chapters, as well as audiovisual materials, artifacts, and scrapbooks that reflect the NSNA's history since its founding in 1952.

Speakers

The Bjoring Center also announces its fall **History Forum speaker series**, which will feature online presentations by:

- Arlene Keeling, Professor Emerita, UVA School of Nursing, on September 29;
- Cathy Cabrera-Figueroa, PhD candidate in History, City University New York on October 20; and
- Mosunmola Ogunmolaji, PhD candidate in History, University of Florida on November 10.

For full details, visit the [website](#).

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News from the History Centers

The **Midwest Nursing History Research Center's newest collection piece is also its most unique.**

This July, the MNHRC was honored to welcome a new work of art into its collections, created by longtime Chicago public health nurse Dr. Margaret Okodua: a one-of-a-kind artwork composed of over 2,000 spent COVID-19 vaccine vials, assembled into the shape of one of Chicago's most iconic skyscrapers, the Sears Tower. To make this installation, Dr. Okodua saved thousands of vials while she administered vaccines at every point of the pandemic across the city's public health clinics. Standing over five feet tall, the artwork, which is dedicated to nurses across the globe who worked during the pandemic, serves as a striking visual representation of the impact of public health nursing and medical research.

Last fall, the MNHRC asked, what now?

Across two separate events, one at the University of Illinois College of Nursing (UIC) and the other in partnership with the Center for Global Study and Gender Equity, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign gathered community members, leaders, scholars, and medical professionals to reflect on the five-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on individuals and communities worldwide. In Chicago, the center's director, Dr. Karen Flynn, and Associate Director Shannon

Simonovich were joined by, among others, the commissioner for the Chicago Department of Public Health, Olusimo Ige, and Illinois State Senator Omar Aquino. In Urbana, the list of participants included Champaign Mayor Deborah Frank Feinen, State Representative Carol Ammon, Public Health scholar Dr. Pedro Hallal, and several others. Both gatherings provided a space for community dialogue, healing, and reflection on how the pandemic's legacy continues to impact us today.

To recognize the work of Dr. Flynn and the MNHRC, in November of 2025, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker issued a proclamation highlighting the center's role in leading the effort to commemorate not only the impact of the pandemic but also the history of the nursing profession as a whole.



Top: Dr. Okodua standing next to her artwork.



Top: Event held at UIC

Bottom: Event held at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.



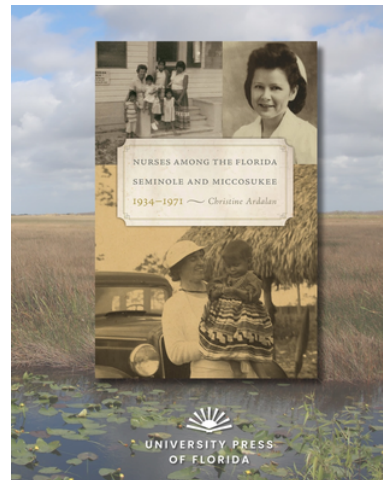
Right: State of Illinois Proclamation

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New Publications

Congratulations to our AAHN members who recently published new books;

- **Christine Ardalan**, *Nursing Among the Florida Seminole and Miccosukee, 1934-1971* (University Press of Florida, 2026)
- **Arlene Keeling**, *Harbor of Hope: Nurses of the Boston Floating Hospital* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2026)



Recent articles from our AAHN members include:

- **Yao Tang & Dominique Tobbell**, "Crossing Borders of Care: The Professionalization of Women in Nursing and China-US Collaboration at Xiangya, 1909-1926." *Nursing Inquiry* (2026) 33(3): e70119. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nin.70119>
- **Dominique Tobbell**, "Mom and Tots": Nursing and the Politics of Community Health in 1960s' Detroit." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (2026) 100 (1): 80-111. <https://doi.org/10.1353/bhm.2026.a990614>

- **Molly Yeo**, "Made by History: The March of Dimes campaign for a polio vaccine offers a model for restoring Americans' faith in science." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 26, 2026.

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Call for Abstracts

The AAHN is pleased to announce a Call for Abstracts for our upcoming virtual conference: **Emerging Voices and New Directions in Nursing History**, which will be held Friday, October 30, 2026.

This conference is designed to showcase recent, emerging, and works-in-progress in nursing history, providing a timely opportunity to share new research and innovative teaching approaches with the AAHN community.

We invite submissions to the following tracks:

Nursing History Scholarship Track

Presentations may include new or ongoing research, emerging findings, global or interdisciplinary perspectives, and critical approaches to the history of nursing and care.

Nursing History Education Track

Presentations may highlight innovative teaching strategies, curriculum development, use of archives or digital tools, and approaches to engaging students and broader audiences in nursing history.

Abstract Guidelines:

- 250–300 words maximum
- Indicate track (Scholarship or Education)
- Include author(s), affiliation(s), and contact information
- Note whether the work is completed or in progress
- [Click here for specific criteria](#)

Submission Deadline: August 16, 2026

Notification of Acceptance: Early–September 2026.

This virtual conference highlights timely, innovative, and diverse contributions to nursing history scholarship and education.

Please submit abstracts [here](#)

Save the Date

'Save the Date for the **2027 Colloquium of the UK Association for the History of Nursing (UKAHN)**.

When? 24th June 2027

Where? Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Further information to follow or sign up to the UKAHN newsletter by ukahistoryofnursing@gmail.com

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Member News

Shannon Perry shares that on a recent Mediterranean Cruise, they stopped at Tunis and visited the nearby North Africa North American Cemetery and Memorial. There is one nurse buried there, Second Lieutenant Rachel (Rae) Sheridan, a nurse, who served at the 32nd Station Hospital in Tlemcen, Algeria. Rachel graduated from the Delaware Hospital and Training School for Nurses in 1941. She was recruited for the Army through the American Red Cross soon after graduation. She became active duty on February 5, 1942, went through training and was sent with a group to Tlemcen arriving on February 18, 1943. On November 23, 1943, the day before Thanksgiving, Rachel was on a C-47, a military transport plane, returning to base from Algeria. The right engine caught fire and the plane crashed into the sea. A fishing boat picked up Rachel and two other soldiers. Rachel died enroute to the hospital and was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital, probably of drowning. Her mother chose to have her remains buried in this cemetery.



Lynn Hamilton attended the recent Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) annual meeting and shares the following reflection: “The welcoming title, “Nursing Humanities and Historical Imaginations: Exploring the Context and Politics of Nursing Across Time, Place and Medium,” was both appealing and appropriate to me. There I could discuss the process of eliciting the written narrative of a nurse peer whose story resulted in the publication of a book, *From North Korea to America Through Three Wars: A Nurse’s Journey* (McFarland, 2025).

My head is still spinning from all I learned in Canada. An international array of nurse scholar-presenters awaited us from as far as Germany, Israel, and Brazil. However, the preponderant focus was on Canadian indigenous nurse presenters—scholars, faculty, grad students, themselves Inuit, Haida, Cree—nurse historians all. How bright, thoughtful, and thought-provoking they were! I was heartened by their sense of empowerment—not just their fearless look at past wrongs perpetrated on their peoples, but their thinking about necessary current cross-cultural processes including cultural humility, historical knowledge, self-reflection, and ultimately, structured organizational change.

It was a joy to be among these Canadian nurse historians, spending two days saturated in supportive, open discussion, collegial

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challenge, and elaboration of concepts and thoughts. I come away with newly-heightened sensibilities.”

Valeria Eadler was a first-time attendee at the recent AAHN meeting in Buffalo, NY and shares the following reflection: “Attending the American Association for the History of Nursing conference in Buffalo was an unforgettable experience and an important milestone in my professional journey. Although I have attended many conferences in public history, museums, and historic preservation, this was my first conference focused specifically on nursing and healthcare history.

I was honored to receive the Brigid and Rusty Lusk Travel Award, which made it possible for me to attend. I am deeply grateful to AAHN for this support and for the opportunity to become part of such a welcoming and inspiring community of scholars, educators, practitioners, and researchers.

One of the highlights of the conference was presenting “A Century of Public Health Nursing: Archival and Material-Culture Evidence from a Southern State” with my colleague Alisa R. Haushalter. Our presentation explored

Tennessee’s public health history through artifacts, archival collections, photographs, and a statewide traveling exhibit created for the Tennessee Department of Health’s centennial. It was rewarding to share this work with an audience that truly appreciated the importance of preserving and interpreting nursing history.

Beyond presenting, I enjoyed attending numerous sessions and panel discussions. I learned a great deal about current scholarship in nursing and healthcare history and was inspired by the innovative research being conducted across the country. The conference provided many opportunities to meet new people, exchange ideas, and build professional connections. Conversations with fellow attendees gave me new perspectives and sparked several ideas for future research and public history projects.”

The **Nursing Archives Associates** (NAA) have selected **Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek**, assistant professor at the University of British Columbia, as the inaugural recipient of the NAA Archival Research Award. The award supports historical research about nursing and health care, and encourages the use of the [History of Nursing Archives](#) housed in the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center at Boston University Libraries for primary source research. Through this award, the NAA and BU Libraries seek to encourage innovative research through the

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archives and create accessible research opportunities.

Dr. Wytenbroek plans to use this award to study Virginia Arnold's role in developing nursing leadership in the Global South through the Virginia Arnold Collection. Arnold's papers, donated to BU as part of the Nursing Archives, document Arnold's work as the Assistant Director for Medical Education and Public Health for the Rockefeller Foundation. In this role, she developed the nursing education program at the University of Valle in Cali, Colombia, and the World Health Organization's regional center for nursing education at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

The NAA Research Award will enable Dr. Wytenbroek to gain insight into Arnold's international nursing work and her influence on the expansion of the nursing profession in the Global South through Arnold's own diaries, manuscripts, correspondence, and other primary sources. The BU Libraries are proud to host Dr. Wytenbroek, and work in partnership with the Nursing Archives Associates to provide greater support for scholars like Dr. Wytenbroek.

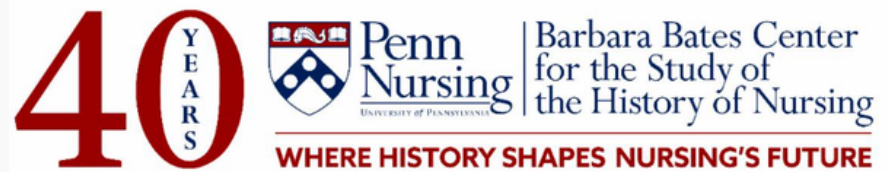
The History of Nursing Archives includes more than two hundred collections from various nurses and nursing organizations, chronicling the history of the nursing profession from its beginnings to the present day. Learn more about the History of Nursing Archives.

If you are interested in applying for the 2026-2027 NAA Archival Research Award please contact us at Nursing@bu.edu for details including application deadline

Speakers

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In Memoriam: Joan E. Lynaugh



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our beloved Joan E. Lynaugh, PhD, RN, FAAN, Founding Director of the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing and Professor Emerita of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing. Dr. Lynaugh began her nursing education at St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing before earning her BS (1961) and MS (1968) degrees in nursing, as well as a Nurse Practitioner certificate (1973), from the University of Rochester. She went on to complete her PhD (1982) at the University of Kansas.

Joan was a pioneer, along with her physician collaborator and partner, Barbara Bates, in interdisciplinary education and practice and what has evolved into the role of nurse practitioner. She caught the eye of Dean Claire Fagin, who recruited her in 1980 to lead Penn Nursing's new initiative in primary care nursing. It was Claire's commitment to support Joan's interest in history that convinced Joan to come to Penn.

During her tenure at Penn Nursing, Dr. Lynaugh held numerous leadership positions. She served as Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program and later as Associate Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Teaching Nursing Home Project. She also served as Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Studies from 1993 to 1996 and held a Term chair in the History of Nursing and Health from 1994-2000.

Joan's greatest impact is in the development of the history of nursing as a field of study. Along with colleagues Ellen Baer and Karen Buhler-Wilkerson the possibility of developing a nursing history research center at the School took shape. The Center was envisioned as a place to preserve documents, conduct research, and teach future generations of scholars. From 1985 to 1995, she directed Penn Nursing's Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, laying the foundation for what would become the internationally recognized Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing. The Center is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year with a series of special events.

Announcements & Member News

In Memoriam: Joan E. Lynaugh

Dr. Lynaugh's scholarship was both wide-ranging and deeply influential. Her research examined the social, economic, technological, professional, and demographic factors that shaped hospital development in twentieth-century America; the role of women in institution building; health care workforce issues; relationships between medicine and nursing; the international dissemination of modern nursing; and the development of nursing education. She was particularly interested in the delivery of nursing services, the evolution of nursing specialization following World War II, and the public policies that influenced the nursing profession.

A prolific writer and collaborator, Dr. Lynaugh authored and co-authored numerous books, articles, and historical studies. Working closely with faculty colleagues, students, and scholars around the world, she chronicled the histories of nursing leaders, foundations, American nursing, critical care nursing, hospital nursing, the federal Division of Nursing, and the International Council of Nurses. Through her scholarship, she helped establish nursing history as a vital field of inquiry and preserved the stories of generations of nurses whose contributions transformed health care.

Throughout her remarkable career, Dr. Lynaugh received numerous honors and awards. She was a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and a highly respected leader within the profession. Among her most notable recognitions were designation as a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, and the prestigious Kate Hurd Mead Lectureship from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Dr. Lynaugh was deeply committed to service. She served for many years on the board of the Visiting Nurse Association of Greater Philadelphia and was an active board member at Foulkeways at Gwynedd, where her wisdom, leadership, and dedication enriched the lives of many. Joan's intellectual curiosity, generosity as a mentor, commitment to excellence, and passion for nursing history left an indelible mark on the nursing profession worldwide. Her legacy endures through the countless students, colleagues, scholars, and practitioners she inspired throughout her extraordinary career.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, former students, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

The Bates Center will share information as it is developed regarding services and memorials.

Upcoming AAHN Events

Webinars

Teaching Nursing History Webinar

"Voices of Nursing: Oral History as a Pedagogy in Professional Identity Formation."

Presented by Mary Wotzka Laggard, DNP, BS, APRN, CPA, Alisa Haushalter, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, Michele Burdette-Taylor, PhD, MSN, RN, CWCN, CFCN, NPD-BC, LTC (Ret), and Lynn McQueen, DrPH, MS, RN

Thursday October 1, 2026, 3:30-5:30 pm EST.

During this webinar, you will examine the effectiveness of engaging students in both passive and active oral history for professional identity formation and receive guidance to incorporate oral history as a learning activity in your course. Register on the [AAHN website](https://www.aahn.org).

AAHN Fall Virtual Conference

"Emerging Voices and New Directions in Nursing History"

Speakers
Friday, October 30, 2026

Networking Events

Returning this fall:

Retired Members: Third Friday of the month

All Members: Fourth Friday of the month

For more information, visit www.aahn.org