



Midwest Nursing History
Research Center
Newsletter



NURSING

UIC College of Nursing | Fall 2022 | Midwest Nursing History Research Center

Center Announcements

- The MNHRC is happy to welcome our new undergraduate research assistant Tehya Berger! You can read more about her in a brief interview included in this newsletter
- Did you know that for the first time in over two years the center has regular hours? Come visit us Monday through Thursday from 9-3! We're available for general inquiries to research consultations!

Inside This Issue

PG. 2

Terrance and Karyn Holm Research Award

PG. 3

Exploring the Phyllis Powell Pelt Papers

PG. 4

An interview with Tehya Berger

PG. 5

Nursing Shellshock, and the National Archives

The Terrance and Karyn Holm Research Award

Each year, the MNHRC welcomes applications from nursing history scholars interested in using Chicago collections for historical research .

This year, we are happy to introduce the next recipient of the Holm Research Award, [Kailee Steger](#)! Read more about her in the profile below:

“After growing up in Illinois, I attended Creighton University in Omaha, NE where I earned my BA in History, MS in Clinical Anatomy, and finally my BSN.

My past degree in history allowed me to re-examine my role as a nurse and seek out opportunities to combine both history and healthcare to better understand the nursing profession and those we care for, which eventually led me to the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Additionally, my work as a pediatric intensive care nurse inspired me to explore how the history of childhood could re-inform my understanding of U.S. history, health policy, and the nursing profession. Through exposure to courses in the Graduate School of Education and work done by my advisors; Cynthia Connolly and Patricia D’Antonio, I became interested in the history of childhood and education and the ways in which nurses became active in schools.

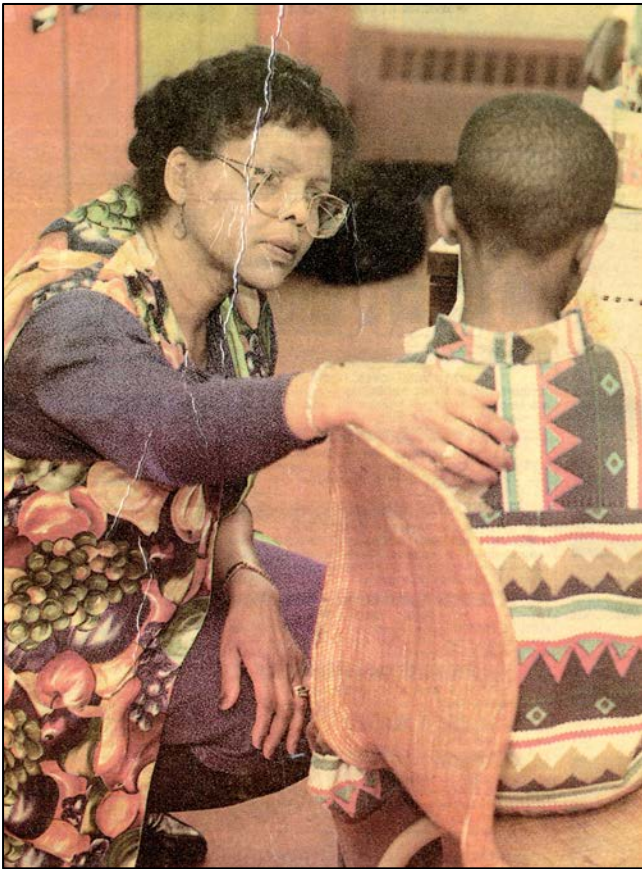
I am currently examining the role of school nurses from 1960-1980 to understand the dynamic relationship between education and healthcare and how school nurses acted as politically active organizers within this space.”

Congratulations, Kailee!

“My past degree in history allowed me to re-examine my role as a nurse and seek out opportunities to combine both history and healthcare to better understand the nursing profession and those we care for”

~ Kailee Steger, 2022 Holm Research Award Recipient





While the collection may be small in terms of volume (only 3 boxes), the materials contained inside are a thorough account of the important work carried out by Nurse Pelt, elevating the role of the school nurse in the historical archive.

The Pelt papers are an initial, but incredibly important step in the MNHRC's pursuit to diversify its holdings in order to more accurately tell diverse stories in nursing education, history, and practice. Thank you, Phyllis, for letting us give your records a home!

If you, or anyone you know has materials that you think would find a good home in the center, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can always send us an email at MNHRC@uic.edu

The Phyllis Powell Pelt Papers

As our Black Nurses in Chicago project continues to unfold, we find ourselves able to capture more than just breathtaking stories and tales of perseverance over audio and video. Such is the case with Phyllis Pelt (UIC MS '95 BSN '67). Many of you may remember Phyllis from her work at UIC in the first-of-its kind school nurse certification program, or her work on site as a leading school nurse herself.

But beyond her work, Phyllis' story is one of ongoing faith, determination, and grit. That's why the history center is honored to announce the acceptance of the Phyllis Powell Pelt Papers, a collection that extensively documents the career of Nurse Pelt across Illinois, focusing on her innovation as a school nurse, as an educator at UIC, and as thought leader in the field of nursing.

20-YEAR BELLWOOD RESIDENT NAMED '96 SCHOOL NURSE OF THE YEAR

Phyllis Powell Pelt, RN and certified school nurse at Whittier Elementary School in Oak Park, was recently honored as the 1996 School Nurse of the Year by the members of the



Illinois School Health Association at their Annual Conference. Nurse Pelt's work in highlighting sensitive

An Interview with Tehya Berger

Jojo, the center's curator sat down with Tehya Berger, a current nursing student at UIC, and the center's newest employee. Find out more about why she wants to be a nurse, why she's interested in history, and what future nursing students need to know below!

Q: Where are you from?
St. Louis, Missouri

Q: What got you interested in nursing?
I was in the hospital a lot as a kid for respiratory issues. Nurses made me feel safe when I didn't understand what was happening to me, and I want to bring that same comfort to my future patients.

Q: Why did you choose UIC for your studies?
I appreciate UIC's focus on the social determinants of health and the fact it's both [part of a] public hospital system and school. Accessibility to healthcare is a really important topic to me.

Q: Is there a specific area in nursing that is really capturing your interest?
I am really interested in emergency and acute care. My goal is to work on a pediatric emergency unit!

Q: How did you find out about the history center?
After my admissions interview, I reached out to Dr. Milbrath asking for book recommendations on the history of nursing. I was interested in learning more and becoming involved in her research, so I emailed her again this summer and that's when I learned about the center and all of the projects she and the team were working on!

Q: What are you currently working on at the center?
I'm currently working on cataloging the uniform collection and assisting Dr. Milbrath on a project focused around the Army School of Nursing.

Q: Is there any particular historical figure or event in nursing history that you find fascinating?
I'm interested in learning more about nurses during the AIDS crisis.

Q: How do you feel about Pumpkin Spice Lattes?
Sooo good. Live, Laugh, Love.

Settle a timeless debate...which band is better? Oasis or Blur?
Blur!!!

What's some advice you'd like to share with incoming nursing students?
Debrief with yourself after each class. Look over your notes and think about what is clicking and what isn't as you are building your knowledge of the subject matter. Spreadsheets and outlines often help me stay focused on the material in a way that makes sense, organizationally, in my head. Making a drug spreadsheet and updating it after each lecture is a good idea! (I really wish I would have done this)

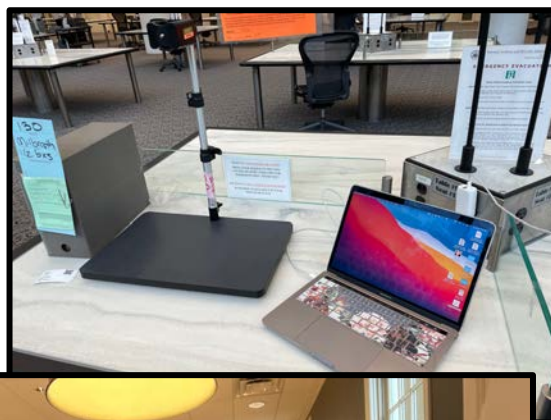
You can catch Tehya at the center every week, usually on Tuesdays and Wednesdays



Finding Nursing History in the Nation's Capital

This fall, the MNHRC Director, Dr. Gwyneth Milbrath and one of our graduate student employees, Stephanie Smith made their way down to the National Archives in College Park, Maryland to further their ongoing research on the four Chicago-area base hospitals stationed in France during WWI.

The trip was a great success and yielded amazing finds among the archives, including nurses' reports, base hospitals' nurse muster rolls, and even selected film footage and photos from the Army Signal Corps. One of the photos obtained is likely an unpublished image of the American flag draped over the caskets of Base hospital # 12 nurses Edith Ayers and Helen Burnett Wood who were both tragically killed on the SS Mongolia en-route to France.



Nursing Shellshock

This Fall, the College of Nursing and the MNHRC virtually welcomes Dr. Claire Chatterton, a decorated faculty member from England's Open University as the Fall presenter in the center's speaker series.

Her talk, "*These are men whose minds the Dead have ravished*" *Nursing Men with 'Shellshock' during the First World War* focuses on the nurses that are often omitted from the historical records in the medical fallout of World War I. Dr. Chatterton's talk presents an important spotlight on the nurses who played a significant role in the psychological treatment and recovery of service members from the war to end all wars.

Interested in attending? Visit <https://nursing.uic.edu/events/mnhrc-fall-speaker-claire-chatterton/> to register for her presentation October 18th at 1pm CDT.



Dr. Claire Chatterton is a faculty member in the School of Health, Wellbeing, and Social Care at the Open University in England