Note from the Curator

By Judith A. Wiener, MA, MLIS

As I write this column, we are closing in on the end of the summer semester on campus and turning our attention to the autumn term. While still following pandemic precautions, we are planning for a more normal return to the school year on campus this fall. The Medical Heritage Center is open to researchers and for tours by appointment, and I am enthused we will offer our traditional MHC Fall Lecture series this year.

We were honored to co-sponsor the Annual Humanism in Medicine Last Lecture series with the OSU College of Medicine Courage to Teach Program. This year, we welcomed Dr. Steven G. Gabbe, husband, father, grandfather, physician leader and educator, and Joslin Clinic 50 year medalist, as our fifth speaker in this series. During this virtual program, Gabbe described the importance of music in his medical career. Please visit go.osu.edu/lastlecture2021 for a recording of this lecture.

We are, likewise, thrilled to announce the return to co-hosting the Annual John C. Burnham Lecture in the History of Medicine/Science with the OSU Department of History on October 21, 2021. This year’s speaker is Angela Creager, PhD. Creager is a biochemist and historian and is the chair of the History Department at Princeton University. Additional information can be found at go.osu.edu/mhc when available.

In addition to our programming, I am pleased to announce the MHC will be welcoming two new George W. Paulson, MD Scholars-in-Residence to the Center in September: Dr. Patricia T. Gabbe and Dr. Douglas A. Rund. The George W. Paulson, MD Scholar-in-Residence program is sponsored by the Medical Heritage Center Fund at the Columbus Medical Association Foundation and was renamed in 2020 to honor long-time MHC scholar, founding MHC member, and extraordinary physician and local historian George W. Paulson, MD.

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The Medical Heritage Center is pleased to announce the publication of a new historical book, “Honoring the Past and Leading for the Future: The History of The Ohio State University Department of Surgery.” The book, edited by a former department chair, E. Christopher Ellison, MD, FACS, MAMSE, and the current department chair, Timothy M. Pawlik MD, PhD, MPH, FACS, includes contributions by many faculty. The book was made possible by the appointment of Dr. Ellison as the inaugural George W. Paulson, MD Medical Heritage Center Scholar-in-Residence and the support so conferred. Its publication was sponsored by the Department of Surgery.

The book describes the journey of the Department of Surgery from 1914 – 2020. “Honoring the Past and Leading for the Future” emphasizes that successful intellectual evolution of medical and surgical science occurs as we are privileged to “stand on the shoulders of giants” who laid the foundations for growth. Yet, while honoring the past we appreciate that change is inevitable. As the story unfolds, it is clear that future success requires adaptation and visionary leadership based on advances and innovations and the needs of the community.

The story begins by revisiting the creation of the Land Grant Universities in the Morrill Act of 1862 to underscore the community commitment of our university. After the Flexner Report in 1910, medicine would play an increasing role for these universities to meet their community obligations. It is a story of people, programs and places. It speaks to Columbus, Ohio’s thriving medical community. As it is embellished with over 50 biographical sketches and 185 figures, a major theme becomes apparent—“you win with people.”
The early history is recounted through the founders of the College of Medicine and the first University Hospital. The evolution of the Department of Surgery is divided into three phases: the early history (1914 – 1947); the Zollinger Era (1948 – 1973); and the Post-Zollinger Era and the sub-specialization of surgery (1973 – 2020). These stories are told through the voices of the faculty. Throughout all phases, the three pillars of the Department included outstanding clinical service, educational programs and innovative research. A number of firsts are cited, including descriptions of the Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome, the Clatworthy Shunt, the Hunt-Hess staging of cerebral aneurysms, repair of traumatic aortic transection, helicopter transport, the first woman chair of surgery, and the first robotic open-heart procedure.

From the initial unit, four exceptional Departments were born, including orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, urology, and plastic and reconstructive surgery. The evolution of key clinical programs and partnerships such as that with the Children’s Hospital are described. The educational initiatives include diverse and robust training programs in general surgery and related specialties, the master’s in medical science program for training future surgical scientists and programs for faculty leadership development. The exponential growth of the research programs exemplifies the importance of key recruits and outstanding research facilities. The Department prioritized diversity, equity and inclusion for faculty and learners. Emerging from a year of racial tension that started with the murder of George Floyd, the faculty recommitted to these principles in all clinical and academic programs.

With successful people and programs, facilities grow. Faculty participated in the planning of six research buildings and eight hospitals, including those on the campus of Nationwide Children's Hospital.

As the story closes, Ohio State is breaking ground on a new University Hospital. The faculty overcame the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and a social pandemic of systemic racism to emerge stronger than ever. Change is inevitable. Leadership is essential.

To order a copy of the book, complete the order form at go.osu.edu/honoringthepastbook or contact the MHC at 614-292-3275 or mhcmail@osumc.edu
Recent Donations
(January 23 – August 5, 2021)

Material
Barbara Anderson: in honor of OSU College of Nursing Class of 1966 (class of 1966 scrapbook) • David Baker: in memory of Abram Jackson Shoemaker, MD (prescription envelope and postcard) • Gary A. Beetner (Pulte Medical College booklets) • Anthony Bowersock (additions to his archival collection) • Roger Braun (books and journals) • Tobi Draper Campanella: in memory of Meryl Fitch Draper (nurse doll) • E. Christopher Ellison (his archival collection) • Patricia Fertel (paper doll collection) • Kitty Kisker (journal) • Sally W. Morgan (nursing uniforms and pin) • Patrice Rancour (books) • Barry Silverman (book) • Robert Swaim (books) • Karen Taylor: in memory of Rachel Louise Falls Waugaman (Grant Hospital School of Nursing information)

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For information on how to make a material or financial donation to the MHC, please contact Judith Wiener at judith.wiener@osumc.edu or visit our website at go.osu.edu/mhc
Collection Highlight: Newly Redesigned Second Blessing Digital Exhibit
By Kristin Rodgers, MLIS

The Second Blessing
Columbus Medicine and Health: The Early Years

A digital exhibit exploring the history of medicine in Columbus, Ohio.

go.osu.edu/secondblessing

The Second Blessing digital exhibit is based on the book, “The Second Blessing: Columbus Medicine and Health—The Early Years,” written by former Medical Heritage Center scholars Charles F. Wooley and Barbara A. Van Brimmer. The book title is based on a quote from “The Complete Angler,” by Izaak Walton, which states that “health is the second blessing that we Mortals [sic] are capable of: a blessing, that money cannot buy, and therefore value it, and be thankful for it.”

“The Second Blessing” describes the origins of medicine, health, health care, medical education and public health in Columbus, Franklin County and central Ohio.

Beginning with the frontier settlements in central Ohio, the narrative extends through statehood in 1803, and continues and expands throughout the nineteenth century, culminating with the establishment of The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1914.

A copy of the book may be purchased from the MHC by completing an order form at go.osu.edu/secondblessingbook or contacting staff via email at mhcmail@osumc.edu or by phone at 614-292-3275.

The redesigned digital exhibit was created in conjunction with the HSL Medical Visuals department. Visit go.osu.edu/secondblessing to view the exhibit.

We’ve enclosed an exhibit magnet with this issue of House Call.
The image depicted is from the book’s cover art: “1872 Columbus Ohio: Bird’s Eye View,” from The Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.
Visit Our Exhibits in Graves Hall and Thompson Library

Graves Hall:
This series of banners tells the stories behind the names of some of the medical and health sciences buildings on Ohio State’s main campus.

Thompson Library:
“The Living Heart Diet” by Michael E. DeBakey and “Low-Fat Cookery” by Gloria K. Warren and Evelyn Stead, two books from the MHC’s rare books collection, focus on how heart disease is impacted by nutrition.