Note from the Curator

2011 certainly has been a busy year for the Medical Heritage Center and its staff! The Center has been relocated temporarily to the OSU Biological Sciences Pharmacy Library at 496 West 12th Avenue to accommodate the two-floor educational expansion of the Prior building. We are happy to report that we have settled wonderfully in our new location and are providing daily historical collection assistance, both virtually and in-person. The construction project is currently on-track for an autumn return to the Medical Heritage Center’s home on the 5th floor of the Prior, complete with improvements to the facility. These include the installation of state-of-the art environmental controls and a fire suppression system in the collection areas. You can track the progress of the building’s construction though the project’s blog, Innovation on the Rise at:

http://innovationontherise.wordpress.com

On the topic of blogs, MHC Collections Curator, Kristin R. Rodgers, started Historical Reflections: the Medical Heritage Center Blog (http://library.osu.edu/blogs/mhcb/) in January. The blog highlights the programming and collections of the MHC and is just another way that the MHC is promoting our collections. The Center is also working on a number of digital projects to increase the visibility and access to the collections. Over 90% of the OSU College of Medicine’s Class Photo Collection has been digitized, due in large part to the support of the OSU College of Medicine Alumni Society. The Collection should be fully digitized in the Fall. The MHC staff is also working with other library colleagues to launch a MHC Digital Library. More news on this exciting feature will be shared in the near future!
2011 Barbara Van Brimmer Award Recipients Announced

The Barbara Van Brimmer awards committee is happy to announce that this year’s awardees were:

- Eric Johnson, OSUL’s Rare Books and Manuscripts Library
- Amy McCrory, OSUL Preservation Office
- Kristin Rodgers, Medical Heritage Center

Johnson will use his award to attend a one-week course dedicated to teaching the history of the book at the University of Virginia’s Rare Book School. McCrory will attend the Phase One Certified Professional Program to advance her digital preservation knowledge. Rodgers will attend the Society of American Archivists rare books workshop.

The Barbara Van Brimmer Endowed Academic Awards honor the accomplished Ohio State University Library Scientist whose passion for medical history and the history of medicine contributed to the creation of the Medical Heritage Center at the Prior. The fund provides staff development support for the professional staff and librarians of The Ohio State University Libraries (OSUL). Donations to the endowment can be sent to: Medical Heritage Center, attn.: Judith Wiener, 376 West 10th Ave, Columbus, OH 43210 or online at: http://go.osu.edu/fund640820. Please note “Barbara Van Brimmer Endowment” in your check's memo line.

You also may notice that the look of our House Call newsletter has been redesigned and improved. Although it took some time, the reformatting of our newsletter allows us to be more closely aligned with the overall look of our organization and provides a more professional look to our publications.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the MHC Advisory Committee approved a new mission statement in April. This mission statement will be featured prominently on each issue of House Call and reaffirms our commitment to preserving, promoting, teaching and celebrating the rich health sciences legacy of our area!
Friends of Nursing History Committee Update

Written by Carol Robinson, MS, RN and Debbie Freece, MS, RN, CNS

This past year has been a very productive one for the Medical Heritage Center’s Friends of Nursing History Committee. The Nursing History Committee, under the able leadership of Debbie Freece, continues to meet regularly to develop and guide nursing history projects at the Medical Heritage Center. Members with backgrounds in nursing practice, education and administration work to enhance the Center’s nursing outreach through programs, oral histories and collection of artifacts.

Each spring the committee, in coordination with the Ohio Nurses Association, presents a nursing history program. The event is held annually in recognition of Florence Nightingale’s birthday, which is May 12. On April 28, 2011, Florence Nightingale scholar Dr. Joan Pryor-McCann gave a lecture entitled, “Florence Nightingale: Her Life, Her Legacy.” Pryor-McCann identified Florence Nightingale’s personal motivation to become a nurse and how she became a leader. During the spring 2010 lecture, Teresa Long, MD, Director of the Columbus Health Department, spoke about the history of public health in Central Ohio, and especially the public health nurse’s role in reaching and serving citizens in their homes or in health clinics.

Oral histories are an important component of the Nursing History Committee’s work. Individual nurses, in video interviews, share many experiences as they talk about their professional nursing careers. Recently, Mary Ann Rollins, a public health nurse in Columbus for fifty years, spoke about her nursing practice on the east side of Columbus, visiting patients in their home and often guiding them to community support services she saw they needed. She described directing the Health Department’s STD clinic during the peak years of the AIDS epidemic, saying that education and screening, as well as community outreach, were vital components of clinic service. Community nurse Karen Kish spoke, in her oral history interview, about her work for the Columbus Red Cross, the services provided and the changes she saw over her many years of practice with that organization. Currently, committee members have interviewed thirty nurses. All interviews are available in the MHC collections for viewing by the general public.

In another type of outreach program, the Committee offers workshops for health care organizations to learn how to preserve and store valuable nursing documents. The program also includes suggestions about how to identify items of potential historical value that might otherwise be discarded or lost. Judith Wiener, Assistant Director for Special Collections and Outreach, has guided organizations in how to identify what is archival worthy as well as the best and safest way to preserve these records. Recently she worked with the Mid-Ohio District Nurses Association regarding the safe housing of their records, and has catalogued their early records which are now archived at the MHC.

In recognition of the accomplishments of the program, the Medical Heritage Center was recognized this April as the 2011 Nurses Choice Award for Organization by the Ohio Nurses Association. This award is given to organizations that have had a positive and consistent support of nurses and the nursing profession in Ohio.

As nursing programming and collections grow, the Nursing History Committee continues to move ahead with its goal of preserving local nursing history for future nursing history scholars. The nursing history project, started ten years ago, has only just begun the interesting and valuable work to be done.

Medical Heritage Center’s Friends of Nursing History Committee
In Pursuit of Excellence Reflects on OSUMC’s History

The Medical Heritage Center is pleased to announce the publication of a new historical book, In Pursuit of Excellence, The Ohio State University Medical Center - From 1834-2010, written by George Paulson, MD, and sponsored by Vice President for Health Sciences, Dr. Steven Gabbe, who wrote the Foreword for the book. This is the most recent of seven books and many additional scientific and historical papers originating from the Medical Heritage Center. One of the purposes of the Medical Heritage Center, in addition to preservation of medical artifacts and rare books, is such encouragement of research and scholarly activity.

In Pursuit of Excellence reflects the motto of “Excellence in Medicine,” a step toward President E. Gordon Gee’s insistence that The Ohio State University is now on the road to eminence, not just excellence. The current book emphasizes the early beginnings, evolution, continued growth and potential development of the Medical Center. The new book includes over 104 short biographies of leaders from the time of Dr. Westel Willoughby, for whom the first predecessor school of The Ohio State University Medical Center (OSUMC) was named, and concludes with summaries of deans who have served since 1995. After a 53-page review of our history from 1834 until 2010, there are a total of 383 pages discussing individual leaders. A brief history of the remarkable Children's Hospital, and four of its many leaders, is presented. There are biographies of two major researchers, community physicians, administrators and medical historians. The College of Nursing is discussed, as are four of the founders of cardiovascular surgery.

The Medical Center has always had children of faculty who follow in the footsteps of a parent and enter medical science. One relatively new phenomenon is the presence of many professional couples, members of the same family, who now serve The Ohio State Medical Center. As representatives of that trend, four such couples are reviewed. Ours is a rich patchwork of participating scientists and teachers, and the individuals selected are presented as symbolic of many categories of the devoted faculty and friends within the current staff of over 4,000 people. Indeed the book is dedicated “to the many contributors to The Ohio State University Medical Center who are not mentioned.” Many more than the 104 major contributors are mentioned as colleagues or leaders within departments.

Several trends are apparent in this book, in addition to the obvious testimony to the remarkable growth and success at OSUMC. For decades the clinical teaching was done solely by volunteers, and the school represented essentially an apprenticeship program in medicine. Beginning with Deans Upham and Doan, classical academics became more apparent. At the same time, the medical school was perceived in the medical community as not simply another hospital in which to practice, but rather the repository of fundamental teaching and of ground-breaking research in science and the medical arts. During our development, although the school was already part of the larger university beginning in 1914, the ties with the main campus gradually became richer.
and closer. On the other hand, the often joint teaching programs in town, places where residents in several disciplines once received much of their training, became more peripheral as opportunities within the Center became more complex and more complete. Community physicians do continue to be helpful in teaching medical students and graduates, but as new departments such as Orthopaedics, Plastic Surgery and Neurological Surgery flowered, most of the educational and research effort in medicine is now done “in house.”

The need for donor support is acknowledged in this book, and the major professorships and designated chairmanships are listed in an appendix. Nevertheless, In Pursuit of Excellence is really a tribute to individuals, men and women, past and present, and in multiple fields, all of whom served with consistency, skill and unblemished professional integrity. It is to learn more about these men and women that we recommend you open In Pursuit of Excellence.

In Pursuit of Excellence is for sale from the Dean's office by contacting Sidonia LaFramboise by phone at 614-247-7427 or email at Sidonia.laframboise@osumc.edu. The book costs $32.03 which includes applicable sales tax.

Recent Donations (June 8, 2010 - May 31, 2011)

Material
Ms. Lyndy Ackerman, OSU College of Nursing (nursing photographs) • Dr. J. Richard Briggs: in honor of Mrs. Darlene Auqenstein (Johnson and Johnson Esmarch Bandage) • Dr. John Burnham, PhD (books and journals) • Mr. Fred Dafler, Capital University (Starling Medical College graduate diplomas and certificates) • Mrs. Debbie Freece (nursing photographs) • Dr. Nancy J. Goorey, DDS and Dr. Louis J. Roseberry Goorey, MD (VHS tapes about Cancer) • Dr. John Holmann (Journal of the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation) • Ms. Frances E. Kaufman (nursing yearbooks) • Mrs. Kitty Kisker, MS, RN (Cameos of Caring programs and The OSU College of Nursing Magazine) • Mrs. Karen Lane, MA, RN (Program for School of Nursing Banding Ceremony and The OSU College of Nursing Magazine) • Dr. Louis Mengoli (correspondence from Dr. Robert Zollinger) • Ohio Nurses Association (books) • OSU College of Dentistry (articles and letters) • OSU College of Medicine Medical Alumni Society (photographs) • The Ohio State University Medical Center Service Board (additions to the Service Board Collection) • Mrs. Barbara Hotchkiss Paulson (medical instrument) • Dr. George Paulson (books and journals) • Mrs. Kathy Peppe, RN (nursing materials) • Mrs. Penny Perkins (book) • Ms. Tena Price (Ohio Medical University program) • Mrs. Carol Robinson, RN (nursing journals) • Dr. Carl Spragg (books) • Stewart F. Stock, M.D. Estate (books) • Mrs. Anne Titus (medical books) • Dr. Thomas Williams: in memory of Richard Meiling (bound interviews of Dr. Meiling) • Ms. Janice A. Wilson: given in the name of St. Francis St. Anthony School of Nursing (DVDR of their history) • Mrs. Lucia Wooley (journals and additions to the Charles F. Wooley, MD Collection) • Dr. Robert Zollinger (additions to Robert M. Zollinger, MD Collection)

Monetary
Dr. Donald and Mrs. Teresa Bowers • Ms. Pamela Bradigan • Dr. John and Mrs. Marjorie Burnham • Dr. Carl Coleman (in memory of Dr. Charles Billings and Dr. Charles Wooley, and in honor of Dr. George Paulson) • Mr. Thomas Crosbie • Mrs. Betty Elliott • Dr. Garth Essig • Dr. Harry and Mrs. Elizabeth Ezell • Dr. Martin R. Frost • Dr. Jerry and Mrs. Jennifer Guy (in memory of Dr. Nye R. Larrimer) • Ms. Frances E. Kaufman • Dr. Arnold and Mrs. Marilyn Johnson • Dr. James Mason • Dr. Paul and Mrs. Lee Metzger • Dr. Krzysztof A. Mrozek • The Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Contracts (in memory of Virginia Kostoff) • Drs. George and Ruth Paulson (in memory of Dr. David G. Cornwell, Dr. Robert J. Freedy, Mrs. Betty Reagan and Dr. Arthur I. Vorys) • Roundtable of Medical Arts (in memory of Dr. Charles E. Billings) • Dr. Si and Mrs. Barbara Sokol (in honor of Drs. George and Ruth Paulson) • Ms. Joann Sparks (in memory of Virginia Kostoff) • Ms. Effie Spillman • Dr. David Allen and Mrs. Shelia Taft • Mr. Michael and Mrs. Judith Wiener • Women Today (in honor of Dr. George Paulson) • Mr. Chris Wooley (in memory of Dr. Charles F. Wooley, MD) • Mrs. Lucia Wooley
The Class Photos Collection at The Medical Heritage Center is comprised of graduation photographs from Columbus Medical College, Starling Medical College, Ohio Medical University, Starling-Ohio Medical College and The Ohio State University College of Medicine (OSU COM). The only predecessor school to OSU COM not represented is Willoughby Medical College (1834 - 1847).

The Collection is one of the Center’s most highly used by researchers looking for information on their relatives who attended medical school. We use this Collection in conjunction with our newly completed database of medical school graduates to provide researchers with as much information as possible about past graduates. In order to provide increased access to the photographs, the Center is in the process of digitizing the collection, thanks in large part to a grant provided to the Center by the OSU College of Medicine Alumni Society. Over 90% of the photographs have already been digitized and the remaining images should be complete in the Fall.

If you would like more information or have a class photograph to donate from any health sciences disciplines, please contact Kristin Rodgers at (614) 292-9966 or kristin.rodgers@osumc.edu.

FROM THE MHC ARCHIVES:

Starling Medical College, Class of 1906