President’s Message

98! As you read this President’s message that is the number I want everyone to keep in mind because that is the number of abstracts the AAHN received for the 32nd Annual Research Conference in Dublin. It’s an amazing number of abstracts and sets a new standard for the Association. Just to provide some historical perspective, the Association generally averages about 50-60 abstracts each year so 98 is almost double over previous years. Not only did the number of abstracts increase but we received abstracts from a record number of countries including: Germany, Australia, Canada, Norway, Spain, the U.K, Italy, Portugal, New Zealand, Finland, Ireland, South Africa, Israel, and of course the US. The expanded international reach of the abstract submission process is a testament to how the AAHN has grown over the past several years. Thanks for this tremendous achievement go to Jeannine Uribe, Chair of the Abstract Review Committee who worked very, very hard at getting the word out about abstracts. Further thanks go to the Abstract Review Committee members, Arlene Keeling, April Mathias and Ann Marie Walsh Brennan, who diligently reviewed each and every abstract providing informed appraisals of all submissions. That is not an easy job and we are grateful the AAHN has Committee members who are willing to do this work.

The record number of abstracts also means that the Dublin conference will be a fantastic one in terms of cutting edge nursing and health care historical research. Multiple opportunities to hear excellent papers exist and we all look forward to an outstanding conference. Further, this milestone is an indicator of where the AAHN is as an Association. Over the last decade the AAHN has grown offering more programs and member benefits. It has also advanced a strong scholarly agenda that has become known in historical circles for its seriousness and strength. We all stand to benefit from this and look forward to many more years of progress.

Once the Abstract Review Committee completed the review process, our Executive Director Dave Stumph and Account Executive Andrew Van Wasshnova quickly arranged to increase the number of session rooms available so that we will now
have about 50 papers presented as well as a record number of posters. This is more great news. Conference attendees can enjoy a wonderful panoply from which to choose. The only downside is that given the number of submissions, paper acceptance rate was slightly lower. I urge all those who submitted papers but were not accepted this year to keep us in mind for next year. And also please plan to come to the Dublin conference whether you are giving a paper or not.

In addition to wonderful paper and poster sessions, the Dublin conference is shaping up as “The best AAHN conference ever!” LAC Chair Gerard Fealy, committee members Martin McNamara, Susan Grant and Suzanne Kealy and Program Chair John Kirchgessner are busy planning the conference which will feature all of the activities members come to expect as well as some new ones. We are thrilled to have as our Eleanor Krohn Herrmann Keynote speaker Dr. Dorrie Fontaine, Dean of the University of Virginia School of Nursing whose talk is entitled “Compassionate Care through the Centuries: Highlights in Nursing History” and will trace the theme of compassionate care throughout time. In addition, to the Keynote address we also welcome our Special Plenary Session speaker Dr. Christine Hallett of the University of Manchester who is speaking on “‘Neutrality, Engagement and Humanitarian Response’: US Nurses and the First World War.”

The conference will begin with an informative and very topical pre-conference. Mary Gibson, Pre-Conference Program Chair and committee members, Claire Chatterton and Karen Egenes planned a pre-conference titled “Working with Web-based Collections and other Sources.” As always, the Dublin Conference will feature the silent and live auction with a special guest auctioneer—we can’t say who it is right now as we never know who is going to show up at our auctions! We’ll be sending out more details over the next several months but in the meantime I ask members to think about items suitable for donating. Over the years members have donated a wonderful array of very useful and some not so useful objects to auction off. This year as many members are traveling over long distances, we urge you to think in terms of small items easy to transport. We all know that bedpans are a favorite donation item and who wouldn’t want a chance to bid on a bedpan? This year however, we ask that members consider items such as a dining out certificates or a week at a member’s vacation
house or a service that a member can provide. For example, the AAHN counts among its members many outstanding researchers and educators. Such members can donate an amount of consulting time in a particular area. Any other creative idea for donating is welcome. Last year the auction raised a record amount for the AAHN research grant program which enabled us to award three grants last year and we hope to do the same this year. To reach that goal, we need your valuable treasures and/or your valuable junk, which ever you want to donate!

Besides planning for a fabulous Annual Conference, the AAHN has been busy on many other fronts. As you all know by now, we recently launched a new website banner which modernizes the Association’s electronic image and contains photos better reflecting the diversity of the nursing profession. We welcome your comments on the new banner. We also increased the annual dues in a positive effort to stabilize the Association’s finances. Raising the dues places the AAHN in a much better position to sustain its growth over the next several years and the Association appreciates members understanding of the need to raise more revenue. There has also been a change in the Board of Directors. Secretary Barbara Maling resigned her position in January. The Board approved appointing Melissa Sherrod as the new secretary. We thank Barbara for her service and welcome Melissa to the Board.

We continued the Talking History series and held some fabulous sessions. In November, Sandy Lewenson hosted a session called Can We Talk? Integrating Nursing History into the Curriculum in which Sandy shared her expertise on the subject and participants asked questions and made valuable suggestions. In February, I was pleased to host the session entitled “The State of the AAHN and Other Topics of Interest to the Nursing & Health Care History Community.” It was a fantastic session in which we covered such diverse topics as the latest news from the Association to what members like most about the AAHN and where can the Association improve. Participants rated the annual conferences, e-blasts and the opportunities for networking highly. In the room for improvement category, participants wondered about ways to obtain even more information about ongoing research studies.

The next Talking History session is scheduled for May 21, 2015 and is hosted by Past-President Brigid Lusk who will discuss historical research and confidentiality. More information on the session is forthcoming.

Recently, I represented the AAHN at the SNRS conference during the exhibit sessions. I was very impressed with the number of conference attendees who came up to let me know about their interest in history. Most of the attendees were quantitative and qualitative researchers, both student and experienced researchers, yet they uniformly spoke to the relevance of history for their practice, academic and research lives. I didn’t have to explain the significance of history—they knew it already. I think many of us in the field have become aware of a growing interest in both history as a subject and the use of history as an analytical tool that answers questions not easily approached through traditional research methodologies as well as provides critical perspective on current issues. That message seems to have taken hold. The attendees also spoke to a need to access good historical resources. Many commented that they were unaware that an association on nursing and health care history existed.

This raises a predicament. AAHN members know the importance of the Association’s mission to advance scholarship in the history of nursing and healthcare. Those outside the association are looking for a way to access that information. We need to find a means to link the two groups together. Many of the SNRS attendees left with the promotional handouts in their hands and promised to look up the Association with the intention of joining. Still, the number I was able to reach is a drop in the bucket compared to those we would like to reach. This is where I ask for you the members help in capitalizing on the surging interest in history. I ask you all to get the word out about the AAHN in any and every conference, professional meeting, network, or coffee klatch you attend. The Association has a number of promotional materials available for such efforts. If you are planning on attending a meeting please email our Account Executive Andrew Van Wasshnova at aahn@aahn.com to let us know and we will be happy to send you handouts.

I am writing this President’s message on the first day of Spring (never mind that 6 inches of snow just fell outside my house today!). With that in mind, I close with warm thoughts for the next few months. May we see no more snow or feel any more cold weather. Keep checking our website and open our e-blasts for up-to-date information on all of the AAHN happenings. I look forward to seeing you all in Dublin!

Best,
Nursing History Centers

Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry Events
University of Virginia School of Nursing
McLeod Hall #5060
Noon–1 pm
September 29, 2015
Children of the Sun: Heliotherapy and Tuberculin Children
Barbara Brodie, PhD, RN, FAAN

Call for Abstracts
The Third Agnes Dillon Randolph International Nursing History Conference
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia
March 11-12, 2016
In recognition of the diversity and quality of nursing scholarship across the world, the University of Virginia School of Nursing Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry is hosting the Third Agnes Dillon Randolph International Nursing History Conference. We invite nursing abstracts of current research from historians around the world.

Abstracts are due on or before September 25, 2015.
Abstracts will be reviewed on a rolling basis; applicants will be notified of their acceptance no later than December 15, 2015.

Further information, including directions for electronic submission, is available on the conference website: www.nursing.virginia.edu/research/cnhi/2016-randolph-conference/

Save The Date
Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing
College of Physicians/Mutter Museum
September 10, 2015
Enduring Issues in American Health Care Colloquium
Epidemics and Endemics: Messages From the Past, Lessons For Tomorrow
Drs. David Barnes & Cynthia Connolly

Echoes and Evidence: A Blog
historian.nursing.upenn.edu
The blog focuses on topics of nursing and healthcare history and their policy implications from the perspective of nursing. It offers analysis, commentary, and discussion of the ways in which nursing history shaped the healthcare system today, and how such knowledge can be used to form healthcare policy of tomorrow.
UK Association for the History of Nursing
Midwest Nursing History Research Center
The Event Center, Third Floor, College of Nursing, University of Illinois at Chicago
4 pm
Tuesday April 21 2015
School health is community health: The origins of school nursing in the early 20th century

Dr. Rima Apple
Dr. Rima Apple is a Professor Emerita at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has published extensively in women’s history, the history of medicine and nursing, and the history of nutrition. Her current research focuses on the role of public health nurses in the evolution of maternal and child care. Dr. Apple has received multiple honors for her research including the Mary Adelaide Nutting Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing from the American Association for the History of Nursing. She is the author or editor of nine books and numerous articles, book chapters, and monographs, including Perfect Motherhood: Science and childrearing in America (Rutgers University Press, 2006). Her most recent co-edited book is Science in Print: Essays on the History of Science and the Culture of Print (University of Wisconsin Press, 2012).

Please register for this FREE public event at:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-midwest-nursing-history-research-center-spring-lecture-uic-nursing-tickets-15577344256

Refreshments and tours of the Midwest Nursing History Research Center will follow the lecture.

The Center has been privileged to hold the Midwest Nursing Research Society’s collection from 1977 to the late 1990s. Now, through the initiative of MNRS Board Member and UIC faculty member Patricia Hershberger, a historical committee has been formed to preserve their more recent heritage. Laurie Glass, MNHRC Advisory Board member, and I are representing the Center on this committee. Thank you, Dr. Hershberger, for your recognition of the importance of organizational history.

Member News

Susan LaRocca (Secretary 2011-2013) is teaching at the University of Jordan as a Fulbright Scholar for 2014-2015. Congratulations, Susan and we look forward to you contributing something to the next Bulletin.

Nominations
The Nominating Committee wishes to thank all those who have generously volunteered to be on the 2015 AAHN ballot. The slate will be submitted to the AAHN Board at the spring board meeting later this month.

—Brigid Lusk

Welcome the newest members of the AAHN!
Helps us welcome the newest members of AAHN, who have joined since the end of the 2014 Annual Conference:
Jane Corbett
Janet DeCoopman
Gail Hood Irwin
Rachel Newhouse
Sabrenda Littles
Jane Schultz
Vicki Daniel
Karen Schmoutz
Bridget Houlahan
Suzi Russell
Mary Rupp
Michelle Bornick
Jaclyn Hopkins
Elizabeth Anderson
Tomohiro Yamagishi
Marcia Schulz
Sara Laitres
Ronen Segev
Peter Twogig
Stephanie Prescott
Kenneth White
Richard Horton
Laura Madden
Research Connection Corner

Donation

Patricia L. Starck, immediate past Dean of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Nursing, officially presented her papers to the Texas Medical Center (TMC) Library’s John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center in December, 2014. A signing ceremony was held at the UTHealth School of Nursing in which Executive Director of the TMC Library L. Maximilian Buja, M.D. accepted the papers, mementoes, and other materials and welcomed the donation. For further information about the collection, please contact the McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center at http://library.tmc.edu/mcgovern/.

The Texas Medical Center Women’s History Project started in 2013 and for the third year has added five oral histories of women who have contributed to health science at the Texas Medical Center in Houston. The interviewees for this year’s installment are: Robin Burke Britt, EdD, RN, Professor Emeritus, Texas Woman’s University; Janet S. Butel, PhD, Baylor College of Medicine; Asha S. Kapadia, PhD, University of Texas at Houston (UTHealth) School of Public Health; Ann Scanlon McGinity, PhD, RN, Houston Methodist Hospital; and Elizabeth Travis, PhD, UTHealth MD Anderson Cancer Center. The transcripts and interviews will be available online at The Texas Medical Center Library’s Digital Commons at http://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/tmc-whp/.

The ten interviews from the past two years are posted on the Digital Commons site and include the oral histories of Dorothy Otto, PhD, RN, UTHealth School of Nursing, and Patricia Starck, PhD, RN, UTHealth School of Nursing.

Nurses in Art

The Columbus Art Museum is presenting, “Shine On: Nurses in Art” that runs through June 21, 2015. This exhibit celebrates nursing through various media of sculpture, paintings, prints, textiles, and photographs that span centuries. Included in this exhibit are various film clips demonstrating nurses in popular culture. More information about this exhibit can be found at http://www.columbusmuseum.org/exhibition/shine-on-nurses-art/. If you are in this area, don’t miss this exciting and valuable celebration of nurses and nursing.

Welcome from the Editors

Greetings to all. This is our first edition as the new editors of the Bulletin and we would like to thank Trudy Hutchinson for her exemplary efforts as editor and for her collaboration. We would also like to thank Publications Chair Barbara Gaines for her support and advice.

Our goal is to have the Bulletin be a resource and source of information beyond that disseminated in the AAHN e-blasts you receive on a regular basis. Much of what has been in past issues of the Bulletin may not be reflected as future issues are published. This is due to the regular notification of information as provided in the e-blasts. We are looking to you, the AAHN membership, for items that you would like to share. We would like to continue the Research Connection Corner, using it not only to “connect” with someone on a similar project, but as an arena to present information that might be of value to someone’s interests or research. This could include news items, information about exhibits, donations of archival materials, or upcoming events. Please send us any material you would like to have included. You can reach us at: melissin@aol.com or tmoneill@bellsouth.net. We look forward to hearing from you!

—Adrian Melissinos and Tess O’Neill
32nd Annual AAHN Nursing & Health Care History Conference

September 17–20, 2015
Alexander Hotel
Dublin, Ireland

For more information go to www.aahn.org/conference.html
Calling one and all

AAHN members—If you are going to a professional meeting or conference and are willing to distribute AAHN promotional materials, please email David Stumph, Executive Director AAHN or Andrew Van Wasshonva at our management company. Their emails are: dstumph@kellencompany.com and avanwasshnova@kellencompany.com. Help us spread the word about the benefits of joining the AAHN!