

AAHN BULLETIN



IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Message
- Conference Highlights
- Announcements & Member News
- Upcoming Events

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone!

I'm sure that you all will enjoy, as I will looking back at some highlights from our 42nd Annual Conference in this edition of the AAHN Bulletin. I would like to extend my thanks to all who helped make our conference in Wilmington a success, especially our local arrangements committee led by Dr. April Matthias.

I would also like to draw your attention to some new and recent initiatives at AAHN. First, the virtual speakers series continues on January 9th and February 6th with talks by Drs. Jess Dillard-Wright and Andre Rosario and Julie Fairman. More details available [here](#).

Second, as highlighted in this edition of the Bulletin, we will be having our second annual Graduate Student & Early Career Virtual Conference. This is a great opportunity for early career scholars to present their work. See page 12 for more information.

Finally, AAHN is actively seeking to share nursing history through Facebook and Instagram. See "Sharing Nursing History," on page 11 for details. Thank you to Dr. Bill Cessato for starting this initiative.

With all best wishes for a lovely holiday season and a joyous start to the New Year,

Erin Spinney

Dr. Erin Spinney



Highlights from the AAHN 42nd Annual Conference



Vanessa Northington Gamble, MD, PhD, delivers the Eleanor Herrman Memorial Lecture

The 2025 conference was held in Wilmington, NC from October 16-18. Although uncertainty and concern about recent changes to U.S. immigration policy deterred many international colleagues from traveling to the U.S., we were delighted to feature presenters from Canada, Czechia, Israel, and across the U.S.

Highlights of the conference included the Eleanor Herrman Memorial Lecture, which was delivered by Vanessa Northington Gamble, MD, PhD, Professor of Medical Humanities, George Washington University. Dr. Gamble's talk, which was titled, "The Field is Open Before Her and Many of Her Sisters': Discovering Early African American Women Physicians," analyzed the experiences of African American women physicians who practiced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as they navigated race and sex discrimination to craft careers that combined medicine, racial justice, and activism. Dr. Gamble's powerful presentation not only highlighted role of African American women physicians in the history of U.S. healthcare, but also provided important lessons on the critical work historians must do to mitigate archival gaps and silences.

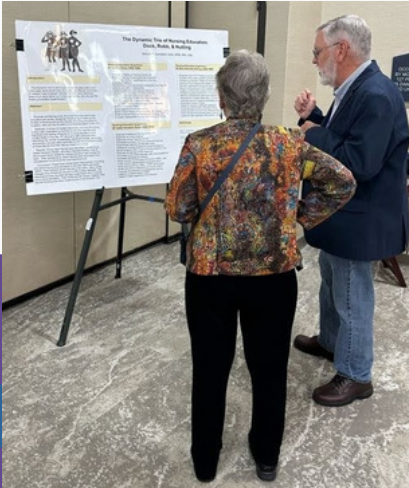


Pre-conference presenters April Matthias, PhD RN, CNE, Anka Roberto, DNP, MPH, APRN, PMHNP-BC, and Kassie Stoffer, MSN, FNP-C

The preconference workshop, led by April Matthias, PhD, RN, CNE, Anka Roberto, DNP, MPH, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNAP, and Kassie Stoffer, of the University of North Carolina Wilmington shared with participants trauma-informed pedagogical approaches to teaching nursing and healthcare history.

Special thanks to the local arrangements committee led by April Matthias, 2nd Vice President Karen O'Connell and members of the abstract review committee, and to Lisa Held for all their hard work to make the conference a success.

Presentations & Posters



Highlights
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AAHN 42nd
Annual
Conference
Wilmington,
NC

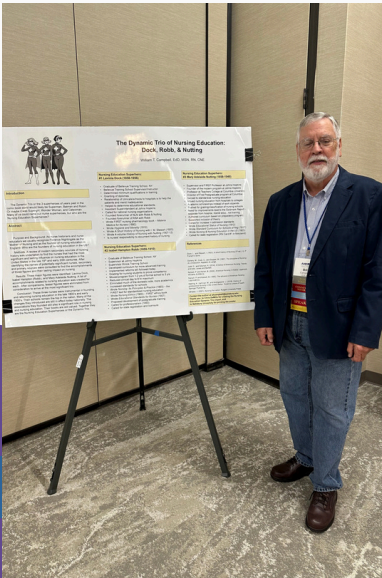
Presentations & Posters



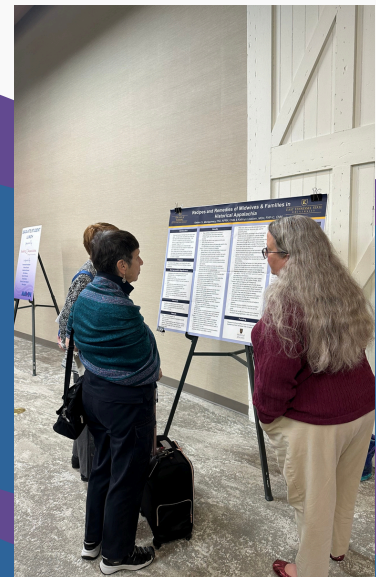
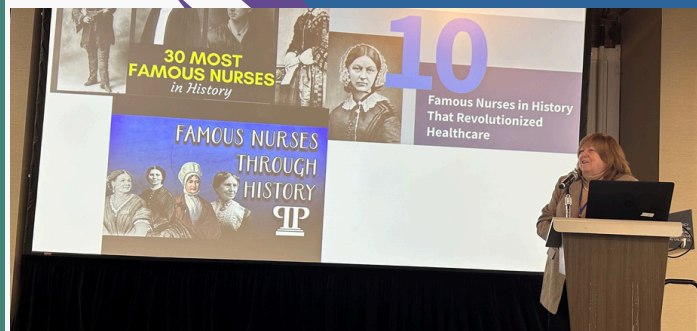
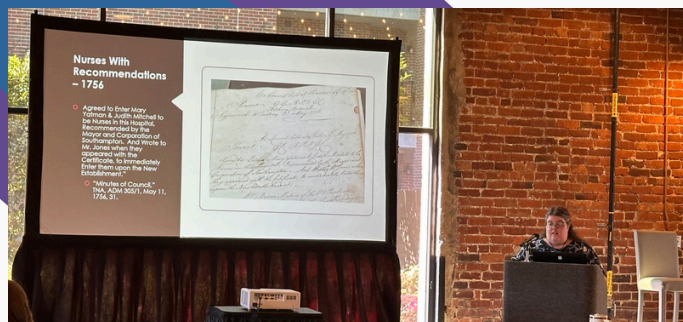
Highlights
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AAHN 42nd
Annual
Conference
Wilmington,
NC



Presentations & Posters



Highlights
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AAHN 42nd
Annual
Conference
Wilmington,
NC



Networking



Highlights from the AAHN 42nd Annual Conference Wilmington, NC

Networking



Highlights
from the
AAHN 42nd
Annual
Conference
Wilmington,
NC

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Highlights
from the
AAHN 42nd
Annual
Conference
Wilmington,
NC



Networking & Conference Venue



Highlights
from the
AAHN 42nd
Annual
Conference
Wilmington,
NC



Award Winners

Congratulations to the AAHN award winners who were announced at the 2025 conference:

Theresa Christy Award: Andre Rosario for his dissertation, "A Permanent Solution: Internationally-Educated Nurses and International Nurse Migration Policy, 1989-2009." (University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, 2024).

Lavinia L. Dock Award: Michelle Hehman & Arlene Keeling, for their book, *The Nurses of Ellis Island: Life and Work inside the Golden Door* (Texas Christian University Press, 2024).

Mary Adelaide Nutting Award: Ronen Segev for his article, "The Shaping of Military Nursing in Israel: 1947-1958." *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies & Gender Issues* (2023) 42(5783): 148-174.

H-15 Early Career Research Grant: Sarah Saffa, "History of the Indian Schools of Practical Nursing in the United States, 1935-1975."

H-21 Established Scholar Research Grant: Jane Brooks, "Travels with a 'freak unit': Nursing work and women's lives with the No 1 Mobile Military Hospital in the Desert War, 1941-1944."

H-31 Pre-Doctoral Research Grant: Julie Crowley, "Caregiving in Conflict: The Irish Experience."

AAHN President's Award: April Matthias.

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Announcements & Member News

New AAHN Feature

Sharing Nursing History: The AAHN, through its Facebook and Instagram accounts, is seeking to elevate the history of nursing organizations, programs, and schools. Please consider sharing a photo from your institution (and corresponding caption) for the AAHN to share on its social media accounts. You must have permission to share the photo, and it should highlight some aspect of the nursing history of your institution. If your records are maintained in an institutional archive (for example, in your organization's library), share this request with the archivist. Submissions for consideration can be sent via <https://tinyurl.com/AAHNursing>.

Call for Abstracts

The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing/Association Canadienne pour l'histoire du nursing (CAHN/ACHN) invites abstracts for the 2026 annual conference, which will be held at York University (Toronto, Canada) from May 29 to 31, 2026. The abstract submission deadline is January 15, 2026. For more information, visit the [Call for Abstracts](#).

Call for Proposals

The **Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry** at the University of Virginia invites applications for its annual research fellowships in the history of nursing and health care. The deadline for proposals is January 15, 2026. Visit the Center's [Research Awards page](#) for more information. Send queries, and proposals and supporting materials to: Dominique Tobbell, PhD, Director of the Bjoring Center at dtobbell@virginia.edu.

The **Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing** at the University of Pennsylvania is taking applications for 2026 Fellowships and Research Awards. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply. The deadline to receive applications is February 2, 2026. Please visit the Center's [fellowship page](#) or contact the Center at thistoryfellowships@nursing.upenn.edu if you have any questions regarding the application process.

2nd Annual Graduate Student and Early Career Virtual Conference

Space, Place, and Patients

*February
19-21, 2026*

On Zoom

The American Association for the History of Nursing (AAHN) invites submissions for a virtual conference on space, place, and patients from senior undergraduate students, graduate students, and early career researchers (defined as up to 5 years post-PhD).

Submissions that consider nurses or the role of the nursing profession in these issues are welcomed. However, presentations can consider any aspect of healthcare history within any geographic or temporal frame.

You do not need to be an AAHN member to submit an abstract, but accepted presenters must be (or become) members to present at the conference. We offer a special membership discount for students: two students from the same institution can become members for \$100 USD. More information on AAHN membership and membership benefits can be found [here](#).

Presenters will have 20 minutes to deliver their paper, followed by a 10-minute question and answer period.

Please upload your 250-word abstract [AAHN Graduate Student & Early Career Researcher Online Conference Abstract Submissions – Fill out form](#) by January 23, 2025. We will notify the accepted presenters by the end of January.

AAHN Graduate Student & Early
Career Researcher Online
Conference Abstract Submissions



Upcoming AAHN Events

Speaker Series

January Virtual Speaker

January 9, 2026, 12:00–1:00 pm ET

Jess Dillard-Wright, “Pushed Out: The Lavender Scare Comes to Teachers College.”

February Virtual Speaker

February 6, 2026, 12:00–1:00 pm ET

Andre Rosario & Julie Fairman, “Philanthropic Funding for Nurse Managed Health Centers in Philadelphia.”

Register for these events at www.aahn.org.

Networking Events

Retired Members: Third Friday of the month

All Members: Fourth Friday of the month

Writing Group: Second and Fourth Thursday of the month

For more information, visit www.aahn.org