

**The Papers of Columbia Memorial Hospital School of
Nursing
1925-1996 [bulk 1950-1979]**

The Hudson Area Library History Room

**Hudson Area Library
Hudson New York**

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Descriptive Summary Note

Title: The Papers of Columbia Memorial Hospital School of Nursing

Date (inclusive): 1925-1996 [bulk 1950-1979]

Abstract:

The Papers of Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) School of Nursing documents a span of time from 1925 to 1996. The collection includes publications such as yearbooks, class books, and newspaper clippings. There are also a series of photographic materials.

Administrative Information

Accession number: A2019-02 – Main floor, Archives room

Extent: 2.35 Linear Feet

Repository: Hudson Area Library

Language (s): Materials are in English

Access Restriction: The collection is open to research, except some photographic materials due to privacy concerns.

Public rights: There is no overarching copyright status for the entire collection. Individual items in the collection may have different copyright statuses. For guidance on the copyright status of a specific item, please contact the library.

Preferred citation: The Papers of Columbia Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Hudson Area Library, Hudson N.Y.

History of the collection: The Papers of Columbia Memorial Hospital School of Nursing were collected by Marylin C. Ewasick and donated by Nancy DeLamater (daughter) in September 2019. Mrs. Marylin C. Ewasick attended the Columbia Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, graduating with the Class of 1951. As a newly licensed Registered Nurse, she began her career in Nursing as a supervisor of central supply at Columbia Memorial Hospital and later in her career was the medical historian. She was an active member of the nurse's alumni, as well as participating in the Harvard Medical School Health Studies for 30 years.

Processing information: The collection was processed by Archivist Marie O'Toole, January 2020.

Historical note

The Hudson City Hospital moved into its new home in May of 1900. In June of that year, the board of the training school committee was appointed and the organization of a training school officially opened.

Applicants were required to be between the ages of 21 and 35, have good education, perfect health, and excellent moral character. At the end of a two-month probation period, the probationers had to pass an examination in reading, penmanship, simple arithmetic and English. The first graduation of the Hudson City Hospital Training School for Nurses took place in the fall of 1903. In November 1904, the former Peter Miller home was purchased for the school. Soon the training school was so large that the building no longer accommodated the students and it became necessary to find new quarters. Professor John C. Smock, realizing this great need, gave his home to the hospital for nurses in 1918. This became known as the Cavell House, which was loved by students who had the good fortune to live there.

In the year 1921, the training school became a separate unit. The fall of 1927 saw the opening of an addition of fourteen rooms to the Cavell House in honor of Edith Louisa Cavell the English nurse who was executed in 1915 for helping some two hundred British, French and Belgium soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium. This new wing was dedicated to the memory of local physician Dr. Crawford E. Fritts.

The years between 1927 and 1953 saw major progress in the building of a new hospital. In 1953, the training school graduated seventeen nurses. "The affiliations consisted of Queens General Hospital, Long Island for Pediatrics, and Willard-Parker Hospital, New York City for Communicable Diseases, and Hudson River State Hospital, Poughkeepsie for Psychiatry." [The White Cap, 1953, p. 18].

The Nursing school serving the Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) in its original configuration stayed active into the late 1980s. At this time, the State Department of Health, CMH, and Greene County Community Hospital merged into a single institution called Columbia-Greene Medical Center.

Scope and Content of information

The Papers of Columbia Memorial Hospital School of Nursing includes a variety of historical material spanning from 1925 to 1996, with the bulk of records dating 1950 to 1979. Record types include; yearbooks, scrapbooks, editions of "The White Cap", newspaper clippings, two newsletters, a brochure, programs, guest book, drawing, and photographs.

Arrangement

The original order of these records is unknown, and the current order has been imposed by the archivist. The Papers of Columbia Memorial Hospital School of Nursing are arranged into four series.

Series 1: Publications

Series 2: Memorabilia

Series 3: Miscellaneous

Series 4: Photographs

Subject Terms

- Hospitals--CMH-- Columbia Memorial Hospital
- Hospitals -- Nurses
- Hospitals -- Employees
- Hospitals -- New York-- Hudson
- Nurses -- Study and teaching
- Nursing -- Study and teaching
- Nursing schools
- Nursing students
- Public health -- Study and teaching

Series description of the collection

Series 1: Publications [1932-1996]

The series contains documents published and/or distributed by the School of Nursing. It includes yearbooks, issues of “The White Cap”, newspaper clippings, two newsletters one of which is titled “The Stethoscope”.

Arrangement

The series is arranged by date and consists of three boxes.

Series 2: Memorabilia [1961, 1969, 1971]

The series includes programs and a brochure for applying to nursing school.

Arrangement

The items are inserted in a folder.

Series 3: Miscellaneous [1968-1969, 1993, undated]

The series contains a guest book, a copy of poem by an anonymous author, a drawing of a road map locating the Columbia Memorial Hospital, and scrapbooks.

Arrangement

The series is arranged chronologically by subject.

Series 4: Photographs [1925-1980s]

The strength of the collection is found with this series. These photographs document the practical activities, classroom instruction, life of nursing students, capping ceremonies, photographs of groups or board members, medical instructors and administrative staff. Some photographs were taken by local photographers such as Howard Gibson, Rowles Studio, Jinny and Wendy Neefus and by other unidentified persons. A large quantity of student’s headshots **requires a prior authorization due to privacy concerns.**

Arrangement

The series is arranged in three boxes of different sizes. The first box contains seven folders organized by subject; board members, administration and medical staff, buildings, ceremonies and class photographs, life of nursing students, classroom instruction and practical activities, contact sheets about various topics. The second box contains headshots arranged chronologically and the third box contains slides of different activities performed by the School of Nursing.

Collection Inventory

Content	Box#	Folder#
Yearbooks, School of Nursing, CMH (1966-1975, 1978-1979)	1-2	
The White Cap (1932-1933, 1953,1961-1965)	2	
Newsletters (1970, 1981)	3	
Newspaper clippings (Undated, 1945, 1966, 1968-1969, 1972-1973, 1976,1978,1996)	3	
Programs and invitation, enrollment brochure (1961, 1969, 1971)	3	
Drawing road map (undated)	3	
Guest book (1993)	3	
Copy poem, anonymous (undated)	3	
Scrapbooks (1968-1969)	3	
Photographs board of members, administration and medical (1960s-1970s)	4	1
Photographs of buildings (Cavell House, Hospital, Eden Park Nursing Home) (1925-1970s)	4	2
Class Photographs and photographs of ceremonies (1950s-1980s)	4	3-4
Photographs life of nursing students (1950s-1970s)	4	5
Photographs of classroom instructions, practical activities (1960-1970s)	4	6
Contact sheets, various topics (1960s-1980s)	4	7
Students headshots (1925-1979)	5	
Slides, various activities (1968-1969)	6	