



Passion for Nursing History

UConn's School of Nursing co-hosted the 31st annual conference of the American Association for the History of Nursing (AAHN) last September. With a local arrangements committee chaired by Dr. Jennifer Casavant Telford, assistant professor of nursing and Dolan Collection co-curator, UConn faculty and staff devoted over a year to its planning.

In addition to scholarly papers by researchers from a variety of fields, the conference included special keynote and plenary speakers.

Dr. John Harley Warner, Avalon Professor of the History of Medicine at Yale University, was the Eleanor Krohn Herrmann Keynote Speaker, named in honor of the late professor emerita. Warner's research focuses on American medicine and science, with research interests in the cultural

and social history of medicine in nineteenth and twentieth century America, comparative history, and medical cultures since the late eighteenth century. Speaking in the Widmer Auditorium, he enlightened conference participants with his address entitled "Bedside Stories: Clinical Narrative and the Transformations of the Hospital Patient Chart."

Later in the day, guests proceeded to the awards presentations, followed by an evening reception hosted by the school in the Storrs Hall Widmer Wing.

"Hosting the AAHN conference provided a perfect opportunity to meet nurse historians from all over the world within the environs of the Dolan Collection museum exhibits," said Dean Regina Cusson.



It was an honor to welcome scholars from all over the globe to showcase the Dolan Collection of Nursing Artifacts and to celebrate our common interest in the history of nursing, said conference organizer Telford.

Conference participants were able to experience a touch of Connecticut history with tours of both the Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe Houses in the state capital, and, of course, they toured the Josephine A. Dolan Collection housed on the Storrs campus.

On Saturday at the Hartford Hilton, the conference hosted podium and poster sessions and held a silent auction to raise scholarship funds. Conference participants attended a special plenary session presented by Dr. Jane E. Shultz, professor of English and medical humanities, and director of literature at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis.

Dr. Shultz spoke about “Transformations of the Sickroom: War Nursing, Technology, and



Pictured above left (l-r): Rose Marie Lee, Sarah Darras, Director of Women’s Basketball Administration, and Bernadette C. Dann. Above right (l-r): Associate Dean Paula McCauley DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, Dean Regina Cusson PhD, NNP-BC, APRN, FAAN, Dr. Martin McNamara EdN, MA, MEd, MSc, BSc, RNT, RGN, RPN, UConn Honorary Doctor of Science Degree and Assistant Professor Jennifer Telford PhD, ACNP-BC.

Authority.” Schultz was UConn visiting guest professor for the month of September in the School of Nursing. The day finished on a high note with the conference’s annual banquet and live auction featuring nursing artifacts and memorabilia.

In wrapping up the conference, AAHN President Jean Whelan described this year’s event as “one of stupendous scholarship, noteworthy networking opportunities, convivial break times, fantastic food and a welcoming atmosphere that makes everyone feel like honored guests.”

Conference images are available on our Facebook page.