LEAVING A LEGACY
by Sarah Hedgespeth

When she first started thinking about retiring, Kathleen Gainor Andreoli, DSN, RN, FAAN, knew she would leave the Rush College of Nursing a parting gift. Just what she would leave, however, was a question mark.

Andreoli, whose 18-year tenure as dean of the College of Nursing and vice president for nursing academic affairs will come to an end June 30, racked her brain for an appropriate way to thank the institution for which she has done so much, and which has done so much for her.

“Having this kind of a positive environment to work in gives you a great incentive to come to work every day,” Andreoli says. “I have great respect for this school, but I also have great love for it, and for its alumni.”

That respect and love has shown in Andreoli’s dedication to keeping the College of Nursing on the cutting edge of nursing education.

More than 3,000 nursing students have graduated from Rush during her tenure. She also oversaw the creation of the nation’s second Doctor of Nursing degree program and the establishment of two endowed chairs in nursing.

Such growth has come despite a national nursing shortage that has challenged nursing schools everywhere in recent decades, and Rush is no exception. Yet Andreoli made it her mission to help Rush emerge from the crisis a stronger school, one that would continue to be a leader in its field.

“What this school is known for is its ability to set trends,” she says. “We’ve done a lot of leading.”

To lead Rush through the nursing shortage, Andreoli and her colleagues created a number of new programs to attract people to nursing school and to allow practicing nurses to expand their professional opportunities.

In 2002 the College of Nursing began offering an accelerated baccalaureate nursing degree (BSN) to prospective nurses who had already earned a bachelor's degree in another field. The new program gave these students the ability to earn a BSN in four quarters, as opposed to seven.

“This program brought lines and lines of people. We had a waiting list, people were so eager to get in,” Andreoli says. “We’ve graduated two classes from the accelerated program so far, and they all do extremely well on their licensure exams. We were able to respond to the nursing shortage by making smart nurses, faster.”

Moreover, Andreoli and her colleagues saw the importance not only of attracting new nurses but of keeping existing nurses up to speed with advances in their field and meeting a need for continuing education.

“We get a lot of nurses working at the Medical Center, and working elsewhere for that matter, who want to get advanced degrees,” she says. “The problem is that it’s difficult for them to go to school while they’re working. So what we did was create courses that could be taught on the Web, so nurses could work
their shifts, go home, put their pajamas on and take a course over the Internet. That allowed nurses to stay on the job while there is a shortage and earn an advanced degree at the same time, expanding their options as professionals.”

Today, 56 percent of the College of Nursing’s didactic courses are available online.

And even as she prepares to retire, Andreoli is helping to address the issue of a shortage not just of nurses, but of nursing faculty.

“This past September, 16,000 qualified people applied to nursing programs across the country, and they couldn’t get in because there aren’t enough faculty,” Andreoli says.

She and her colleagues in the College of Nursing are in the process of creating a program to accelerate the time between a nurse earning a BSN and earning a doctor of nursing science degree, quickly moving students from one program right into the next.

Such innovation in leadership is reflected in the recognition Rush’s College of Nursing has received. Andreoli vividly remembers opening U.S. News & World Report the very first time the magazine listed national rankings for nursing schools 10 years ago.

“There we were in the top five percent. And we have stayed there,” she says.

In 2002 the Medical Center earned a Magnet Award, the American Nurses Association’s highest honor for nursing services, and in 1999 the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited the Rush College of Nursing for 10 years — the maximum accreditation granted by CCNE.

While Andreoli says she is extremely pleased about all the advances the College of Nursing has made and the recognition she and the school have received for them, the personal accomplishment she is most proud of is not reflected in prestigious awards, increased enrollment numbers or the creation of professorships. It’s reflected in the smiles on the faces of grateful nursing alumni and in memories well preserved.

This fall, Andreoli gave the retirement gift into which she had put so much deliberation: a generous donation toward the creation of a photo exhibit of almost every class that has graduated from St. Luke’s, Presbyterian, Presbyterian-St. Luke’s and Rush, on permanent display as “Centuries of Excellence: Portraits of Nursing Alumni” in the College of Nursing. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the collection, where the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association named her an honorary alumna, Andreoli knew her gift had had its desired effect.

“The alumni were so happy. We cut the ribbon, and they couldn’t wait to run in and find their class. They took pictures of themselves in front of their class photos, and they had their friends with them, all gathered around pictures,” Andreoli says with a smile. “I had my son with me, and he said, ‘Mom, this is incredible. I’ve never seen so many happy people in my whole life.’ And they were.”

Kay Andreoli with her son Thomas.

GREETINGS FROM 1953

At last June’s convocation celebration, the Rush College of Nursing class of 2004 received an especially warm welcome into the ranks of the Nurses Alumni Association compliments of the Presbyterian class of 1953. Several months earlier, at their 50th reunion celebration, the class of 1953 had decided to put their class gift to work for Rush’s newest graduates by sponsoring the purchase of the class of 2004’s nursing pins. So when those pins were handed out on June 10, Patricia Richter Schiwolow and Betty Teas Baer of the class of 1953 were on hand to meet the future of nursing and to receive thanks — from each member of the class, the alumni association and Kay Andreoli, DSN, RN, FAAN — for one class’s gift to another. Welcome aboard, class of 2004, and thank you, Presbyterian ’53.
Admit it: You have a few boxes — in the basement, the attic or elsewhere in storage — that you haven’t opened in years. Everyone does. Maybe this year, during spring cleaning, you’d like a good reason to go through that old stuff and find it a new home.

Before deciding that new home should be a landfill, consider donating to the Medical Center Archives. The Archives is always looking to build its historical collections related to Presbyterian, St. Luke’s, Presbyterian-St. Luke’s and Rush. Though institutional items such as yearbooks, course outlines, student lists and, of course, class composite photographs make up much of those collections, it is often personal materials — scrapbooks, diaries, letters, snapshots and class notes — that are the most interesting and useful to the researchers and historians who make use of the Archives.

Once you’ve gone through all that old stuff, the Archives has a donation process that you can follow to assure your materials will be well-organized, easy to catalog and most accessible for researchers (see “The Donation Process”). Be sure to keep the following in mind:

- The more you can tell us about a particular item, the more useful it will be. Who used it? Was she or he a student? An intern? A faculty or staff member? Which hospital or school was she or he affiliated with? When was the item used?
- Because of space constraints and prior holdings, the Archives cannot accept every donation. So before making a donation, be sure to talk to the archivist, who will advise you on whether any of your items are a fit for the collection. Additionally, please note that the Archives cannot provide monetary appraisal of materials prior to donation.
- If you are mailing your donation, you may want to insure the package or have it packed professionally at a mailing shop to prevent any damage. Be sure to include any written inventory you have made, and your current return address.
- Once the Archives has received and assessed your donation, a “Deed of Gift” form will be drawn up for signature by the Archives staff and you. This form describes, in specific detail, what is being donated and the conditions of the donation and how you wish any unwanted items to be treated (returned to you, discarded or sent on to another archives). The deed also clarifies all copyright issues relating to the donation of personal papers so that the Archives can allow researchers to use quotes from your material or copies of photographs you have taken. The Archives prefers to assume copyright privilege with any donation.

The final step — and one you don’t have to worry about — is processing. Archives staff put materials in acid-free folders, which in turn go into archival storage boxes that are given a permanent storage location and recorded in a computer database. At that point, your donation can be accessed by researchers or used for exhibits around the Medical Center or on our Web site (www.univ.rush.edu/archives).

Donating your materials to the Medical Center Archives is a great way to stop thinking of them as “old stuff” and start putting them to use in a way that helps share and preserve our institutional history.

Contact the Archives at (312) 942-7214, Rush_Archives@rush.edu or 1700 W. Van Buren St., Suite 086, Chicago, IL 60612.

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**A NEW HOME FOR YOUR OLD STUFF** by Heidi Butler

**DESIRED ITEMS**
- Diaries and scrapbooks
- Photographs, especially if the subjects are identified
- Class notes
- Programs and brochures
- Correspondence

**ITEMS ACCEPTED ON A LIMITED BASIS**
- Publications (News & Views issues, etc.)
- Uniforms, caps and pins
- Books
- Materials on general Chicago medical history
- Medical instruments

*Archives may already have a complete collection of some of these items or lack the proper facilities to preserve and store them.

In all cases, talk to the archivist prior to making any donation.

**THE DONATION PROCESS**
1. Organize and inventory the materials you wish to donate.
2. Document their history as specifically as possible. Who used them? When? Etc.
3. Contact Archives to discuss the donation.
4. If the materials are appropriate, mail or personally deliver your donation.
5. Consider making a monetary gift to assist with conservation and preservation of your materials.
6. Complete the Deed of Gift form.
7. Feel good knowing that you have made a lasting contribution to our history!
Alumni who returned to Chicago and the Rush campus for Homecoming 2004 on Oct. 15 had an array of events to choose from: Tours of the Medical Center. A faculty-led discussion about palliative care. A special luncheon and tour of old St. Luke’s. The afternoon reception and tea. And, of course, that evening’s homecoming banquet at the Embassy Suites.

If the banquet was the perfect way to cap off an activity-filled day, then there was no better way to kick off that day than that morning’s one-of-a-kind event in the College of Nursing’s offices on the 10th floor of the Armour Academic Facility. There, to a hallway brimming with alumni and their families, Kathleen Andreoli, DSN, RN, FAAN, dean of the College of Nursing, Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association president Margaret Faut-Callahan, DNSc, RN, and Rush University Medical Center president and CEO Larry Goodman, MD, unveiled “Centuries of Excellence: Portraits of Nursing Alumni,” the new permanent exhibit of nursing class composites.

The display encompasses the alumni association’s entire history, stretching all the way back to the St. Luke’s class of 1887 and the Presbyterian class of 1903, on through the Presbyterian-St. Luke’s years and up to the Rush class of 2004 (with plenty of wall space for the College’s future).

Most of those on hand for the exhibit’s grand opening followed it from beginning to end, pausing at unusual pictures — the St. Luke’s Class of 1909 (above, right) drew some stares for their interesting choice of pose (“They look like the Rockettes”) — and at their own class’s display, to hug and smile for a few “Now and Then” shots with classmates.

One alumna, gazing up at the history that now lines the College of Nursing’s walls, seemed to express exactly what everyone was thinking: “This is really neat.”

Alumni split into formal and informal groups for lunch and the rest of the afternoon, but everyone was back together that evening at the banquet downtown. During the reception, everyone took more time to catch up with classmates and their families and to chat with current students and faculty. Discussions ranged from grandchildren and the past summer’s vacations to the looming flu vaccine shortage and plans for the holidays. There were also plenty of exhibits from Medical Center archives to take in, including nursing pins and dolls dressed in each school’s uniform.

After dinner, those dolls seemed to have come to life as nursing students roamed between tables in the very same fashions. Old yearbooks also made the rounds, with the Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Class of 1964 particularly engrossed in theirs.

It was then time for the 50th anniversary classes to take their official strolls down memory lane. Jean Mitchell Smith, St. Luke’s 1954, reminded her classmates about the Schweppe fire and the statue of Florence Nightingale, the 1953 variety show and Miss Marsky and her paperclips. Evelyn Kmet Lopez, Presbyterian 1954, noted that she and her classmates were the last class to live in the old Sprague residence, and that they have now outlived that building’s successor. “Schweppe-Sprague is no longer here,” she said, “but we are — and we continue to delight in the growth of Rush University Medical Center.”

The feeling, said Kay Andreoli, was mutual: “We have so enjoyed having you here.”
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented each year at Homecoming, recognizes graduates who have distinguished themselves through their dedication and contributions to the nursing profession and the community at large. This year’s recipient, Daniel J. Sheridan, PhD, RN, Rush 1982 and 1985, earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degree (the latter as a Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist) from Rush University College of Nursing, and ultimately completed a PhD in Nursing at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Ore. He is an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing in Baltimore, Md., and a forensic clinical nurse specialist in Johns Hopkins Hospital’s Department of Emergency Medicine. His skill in bringing forensics into the field of nursing has made him a popular speaker at national and international meetings and an expert witness for various court cases. He is also widely recognized for his care of vulnerable patients, including victims of violence, sexual abuse and elder abuse. Accepting the award at last October’s Homecoming Banquet, Sheridan praised Rush for cultivating his passion for excellence: “The best of nursing care — that’s what Rush is about.”

Daniel J. Sheridan, PhD, RN, Rush 1982 and 1985, and his wife, Margaret Ann Jozsa.
SUSAN BAUER, DNSC, RUSH ’97, has been selected to present the 2005 ONS Foundation Mara Mogensen Flaherty Memorial Lectureship at the Oncology Nursing Society’s 30th Annual Congress in Orlando, Fla. Bauer is director of the Phyllis F. Cantor Center for Research in Nursing and Patient Care Services at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Mass. She is an active member of the Oncology Nursing Society, the advisory board of Virginia Thurston Healing Garden in Harvard, Mass., and former group facilitator for the American Cancer Society’s Hope Lodge in Worcester, Mass.

ANITA CATLIN, DNSC, FNP, RUSH 1998; MICHAEL J. KREMER, DNSC, CRNA, RUSH 1997, and MARY FAUT RODTS, MS, RN, ONC, RUSH 1980, were each inducted as fellows of the American Academy of Nursing in November 2003. Catlin is a nurse practitioner and professor of nursing in Napa, Calif., specializing in perinatal ethics. Kremer is an accomplished nurse anesthetist whose current challenge is incorporating the human patient simulator into the curricula of Rush University College of Nursing, where he is on the faculty. Rodts is a leader in the development of orthopedic nursing and helped build the foundation for this nursing specialty. She currently practices at Rush.

GINNY CASEY, MS, RN, RUSH 1979, was recognized by the Illinois Nursing Spectrum’s 2004 Nurse of the Year Gala Committee for Outstanding Achievement in the Chicago Area.

GRACE PAULSEN CHAPMAN, PRESBYTERIAN 1952, and her husband, Wilbur, are as busy as ever with a variety of missionary work. Grace is currently learning Spanish as a way to broaden communication with Spanish-speaking parishioners in their congregation. Also, her first great-grandson, Tyler Kevin Bittner, was born in April 2004.

LUTHER P. CHRISTMAN, PHD, RN, former dean of Rush University College of Nursing, was inducted into the American Nurses Association Hall of Fame on June 28, 2004, during the ANA Convention in Minneapolis, Minn.

CAROL FARRAN, PHD, RN, FAAN, RUSH 1985, and DEBBIE GROSS, DNSC, RN, FAAN, RUSH 1983, were elected to the Institute of Medicine of Chicago.

SARAH KAGAN, PHD, APRN, BC, AOCN, RUSH 1986, was awarded a $500,000 fellowship by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The Foundation cited her for her “commitment to clinical excellence, a passion for original scholarship, a dedication to teaching, and a singular ability to mold all three in the interest of older and vulnerable cancer patients” (Chicago Tribune, March 17, 2004). Kagan is a gerontological and oncology nurse, a researcher and an educator. She lives in Philadelphia, Pa., where she is an associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and a gerontology clinical nurse specialist at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

EDWIN E. KOPYTKO, MS, RN, RUSH 1983, has accepted a position as Psychiatric Nursing Consultant Liaison at the Hines VA Hospital in Maywood, Ill.

CATHERINE KRATTEBOL LITT, PRESBYTERIAN 1935, and her husband currently reside in Antigo, Wis. They enjoy spending time with their family — two children, five grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren. Catherine would love to get in touch with former classmates. If you are interested in getting in touch with Catherine, or anyone in Class Notes, please contact the Alumni Relations office at (312) 942-2569.

MARY LOU JIBSON MOLL, ST. LUKE’S 1954, is quite an accomplished artist. She was kind enough last year to allow us to sell note cards and framed prints of her Spirit of St. Luke’s Mandala during Homecoming to benefit nursing student financial assistance.

ELIZABETH A. ROMNANKO, RUSH 1979, received her MS degree in nursing education from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Ill.

St. Luke’s
FLOSSIE BLIZARD VOLLMER, ’23, of Camp Hill, Pa.; Dec. 17, 2002
A native of Giltner, Neb., and a 1920 Graduate of Aurora High School in Aurora, Neb., Vollmer was a registered nurse in Illinois and Ohio. Following a period of private duty nursing in Chicago, she worked as an instructor at Fairview Park Hospital School of Nursing in Cleveland, Ohio, remaining there until her marriage to Rev. Philip Vollmer, Jr., administrator of the hospital. Surviving are one son, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and one nephew.

EMMA GROSS SCOTT, 1927, of Lincolnwood, Ill.; March 1993
AMANDA GRIFFITH RICHMOND, 1933, of Irwin, Iowa; Feb. 2004
LOIS RICKERT ROBERTON, 1937, of Rushford, Minn.; March 2004
MARIE AUGUSTA STEINKE, 1937, of Green Bay, Wis.; May 2004
ROBERTA VACHERONT WITKOWSKI, 1940, of Antioch, Ill.; Aug. 9, 2004
MARY ANN TELFEYAN, 1940, of Little Compton, R.I.; 2003
VERA ELLIOT SMALL, 1941, of Lake Forest, Ill.
MAJOR FRANCES EVELYN VAN DEVENTER, 1944, of Eight Mile, Ala.; Aug. 31, 2003
MARGARET EISIMINGER RILEY, 1942, of Eureka, Ill.; Jan. 2004
AVIS KRANS VONG, 1942, of La Grange, Ill.; June 2003
SHIRLEY NELSON EAGAN, 1944, of Bethesda, Md.; Oct. 1, 2004
DORIS ELGHAMMER, 1945, of Danville, Ill.; Jan. 2004
AHLENE GROVES PEEK, 1946, of Green Valley, Ariz.; July 3, 2004
BARBARA JOHNSON RICE, 1948, of Lake Charles, La.; Oct. 1, 2004
DORIS M. MILLS, 1950, of Niles, Ill.; Feb. 1999
### Helen Fehlandt O’Brien

Helen Fehlandt O’Brien, Presbyterian 1925, passed away in November 2004 at the age of 107. She was Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s oldest living nursing alumna.

Upon the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing’s 100th anniversary, O’Brien shared memories of her studies and early career with then Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association president Karen Van Dyke Lamb, ND, MS, RN. She fondly recalled being the first in the hospital to give insulin to a patient, working in the hospital pharmacy, caroling with the chorus and being watched like a hawk by the Presbyterian faculty.

“They were pretty strict,” O’Brien said. “I tried to sneak in after hours one night and couldn’t get in — someone was watching me!”

Curfew aside, O’Brien felt her education prepared her well for a career in nursing. Her alma mater took equal pride in her.

“Helen O’Brien truly had the gift of life,” says Rush College of Nursing dean Kathleen Andreoli, DSN, RN, FAAN. “She rarely missed Homecoming. She always came dressed to the nines and full of grand stories of her days as a practicing nurse. She will be sorely missed by all of us.”

O’Brien is preceded in death by her husband, George — the doctor she said she would never marry — and is survived by her son G. Dennis (Judith) O’Brien, three granddaughters and one great-grandson.

### Dorothy Black Christman

Dorothy Black Christman, wife of former Rush University College of Nursing dean Luther Christman, passed away on July 27, 2003, at the age of 87.

Dorothy and Luther were both born in Summit Hill, Penn., she on June 28, 1916. They met when they were five years old, but didn’t go on their first date until 1932, when they were in high school. Eventually, both attended nursing school in Philadelphia: Dorothy at Methodist Hospital School of Nursing and Luther at Philadelphia Hospital School of Nursing for Men. During that era, female nursing students were not allowed to date, so Dorothy and Luther met in secret once a week throughout their three years in nursing school. Upon graduation in 1939, they were married. For the 61 years of their marriage — which gave them three children, four grandchildren, three great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild — Dorothy was Luther’s best friend and a source of enduring support.

During World War II, she worked in St. Petersburg, Fla., where Luther was stationed. And after Luther came to Rush University College of Nursing in 1972, she worked diligently behind the scenes, entertaining international nursing visitors in their home and helping to establish the Rush University Bookstore.

In honor of Dorothy Christman and her dedication to both Luther and the College of Nursing, the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association and the Golden Lamp Society have elected to rename the Luther Christman Endowed Scholarship Fund for Nursing the Dorothy and Luther Christman Endowed Scholarship Fund for Nursing. We hope that through this scholarship, their partnership will live on in perpetuity.

To learn more about the Christman Scholarship Fund or if you are interested in making a gift in honor of Dorothy, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 942-7199 or alumni@rush.edu, or go to www.rush.edu and click “Giving to Rush.”
SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

Homecoming will be here before you know it

This year’s events include:
• An exciting continuing education program
• School-specific tours, including a visit to old St. Luke’s
• The Centuries of Excellence nursing exhibit
• The Homecoming banquet

Make your plans today to join the fun
Special room rates are available at the University Club of Chicago.
To make your reservation, call (312) 726-2840, ask for reservations and mention Rush Homecoming.

See you in September!
Look for your invitation — and more details — in your mailbox this July.

The 2005 Reunion classes:

For more information today, call the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 942-2569 or e-mail Joyce_A_Walsh@rush.edu.

WHAT’S HAPPENING?

Please send your news — personal and professional — to News & Views, c/o Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association, Rush University Medical Center, 1700 W. Van Buren St., Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60612 or via e-mail to alumni@rush.edu.

Name (please print) Class of


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Your classmates want to know

News

WHERE ARE YOU?

We’re compiling an e-mail database that will help us improve our communications with alumni, from keeping you up to date with Homecoming and other activities to letting you know where you can find helpful (or just fun) information online. So please be sure to include your e-mail address with your news or just drop us a quick line at alumni@rush.edu.