COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes; 1 oversized manuscript box; 3 folders color photographs; 5 folders OVB graphics.

COLLECTION DATES: 1919–2010

PROVENANCE: Indiana Methodist Hospital School of nursing Alumnae Association, December 2011

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:


ACCESSION NUMBER: 2011.0338

NOTES:
**HISTORICAL SKETCH**

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Indianapolis metropolitan area was expanding rapidly. Due to overcrowding, the city’s three hospitals were forced to turn away nearly two out of every four people seeking medical attention. It was clear that the city would need an additional hospital, and the Methodist church began to plan for the creation of a new hospital for Indianapolis. A school for nurses training became an integral part of the initial plans for the new hospital.

As the opening of the hospital approached, nursing students at varying degrees of experience were recruited. Methodist ministers and church members sought out women of “good character and background” to attend the new school. Transfers from other nursing schools were also accepted. The school officially opened in 1908, with the opening of the Methodist Episcopal Hospital. The superintendent of nurses served as the superintendent of the school of nursing. The school graduated two nurses in 1909 and five in 1910. The graduating class of 1911 was the first to attend the school for all three years of the program (14 nurses). By 1919, there were 206 students in training and the nursing school had an estimated operating cost of $25,000.

In the early years of the school’s existence, much was demanded of the students. Nurses worked in the hospital from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. This shift was followed by evening classes in the basement of the hospital. In 1917 the day was shortened to eight hours of work in the hospital followed by classes. Nursing students were also expected to help clean all areas of the hospital. Though discipline was strict at the school, nursing students enjoyed their free time in Indianapolis. In 1934, the school ran the first edition of “The Reflector,” the school newsletter.

Prior to 1932, students were not required to pay tuition. These students also received their room and board along with a monthly paycheck. In 1911, the monthly pay was $6. In 1932, nursing students were required to pay tuition of $175. This increased over the years to $375 in 1937 and $450 in 1939. In addition, students paid for their uniforms and equipment. With the introduction of the tuition and fees, the nursing school became self-supporting and even returned a profit through the Great Depression. Following WWII, Methodist Episcopal Hospital experienced a shortage of nurses. As a result, tuition dropped to $50 by 1947, with no charge for textbooks.

Hearing of the school’s plight, a prominent local businessman, Edward F. Gallahue, president of the American State Insurance Company, suggested a new method for recruiting students. Gallahue himself visited Methodist summer youth camps around the state, showing a film which dramatized a nursing career. Interested women provided their contact information. The “Gallahue Plan” relied on the year-round efforts of Methodist ministers and church members to contact interested women and encourage them to attend school. As a result of these efforts, the nursing school had one of its largest incoming classes in 1949. The “Gallahue Plan” received national attention as the subject of an article in the Reader’s Digest.
The creation of multiple scholarships for nursing students, coupled with a relaxing of the strict rules attracted more women as well. With the construction of tennis, horseshoes, shuffleboard and badminton courts, the appointment of a librarian and a full-time social director, the school began to emphasize social and recreational opportunities. This shift helped to make the nursing school more attractive to potential students. In 1957, the school converted the old Riley Hospital into a residence hall for nursing students, naming it Wesley Hall. Though positive changes had been made, the nursing school continued to struggle with the retention of its students, who often found other hospitals to work in after graduating. To address this problem, the school offered to waive the then-$235 tuition fee for the senior year if the student agreed to stay on for a year after graduation. Scholarships were created which stipulated that the student remain at Methodist Hospital for one year.

On May 11, 1969, exactly 60 years after the opening of the school, the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing graduated its last class (77 students). The program had been slowly phased out in favor of a two-year degree in nursing program available through classes at the regional campus of Indiana University (now Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis). In its 60 years of operation, the school graduated 3,668 nurses.

The Methodist Episcopal Hospital is now the Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital.

Sources:

_A Mission of Compassionate Health Care: The History of Methodist Hospital of Indiana Inc._ General Collection: RA982.I55 M487 1984

Methodist Health Foundation. “Methodist Hospital History: 100 Years Video.”
http://www.methodisthealthfoundation.org/methodistHospital.aspx


**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection has been divided into two series. The first, Methodist Hospital School of Nursing (1919–2010), is the larger of the two and contains materials related to the school of nursing. Materials include general school history, documents related to rules and regulations at the school, student handbooks, residence hall handbooks, annual yearbooks, school newsletters, programs and invitations to commencement and capping ceremonies, alumnae association materials, class photographs, class reunion materials, and materials related to individual graduates of the IMH School of Nursing. This series is housed in 3 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize manuscript box, 5 OVB Graphics folders and 3 folders of color photographs. The yearbooks have been transferred to the Indiana Historical Society Printed Collections (1919, 1926–27, 1940, 1948, 1951–68).

The second series, Methodist Hospital (1953–2005), contains materials related to Methodist Hospital and the IMH Nursing Service. Much smaller than the first series, this series contains general IMH history, IMH and Nursing Service newsletters and IMH and Nursing Service annual reports.
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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M1029).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.