Guide to the Rush Medical College Records 1923-1941

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier          ICU.SPCL.RUSHMEDICAL
Title               Rush Medical College. Records
Date                1923-1941
Size                4.5 linear feet (9 boxes)
Repository          Special Collections Research Center
                    University of Chicago Library
                    1100 East 57th Street
                    Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract            Contains agreements between Rush Medical College and the University of
                    Chicago. Also includes some correspondence and copies of miscellaneous
                    documents and printed material, including the Rush Medical School charter,
                    pamphlets, and programs.

Information on Use

Access              No restrictions.

Citation            When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Rush Medical College.
                    Records, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note     Rush Medical College was one of the first medical schools founded west of Ohio. It was named
                    by its founder, Dr. Daniel Brainard, in honor of Benjamin Rush, M.D., the physician-statesman
                    who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

                    During the nineteenth century, Rush grew quickly, paralleling Chicago’s rapid growth as a major
                    urban center. In the manner of most medical schools in the 1800’s, Rush was a proprietary
                    institution owned and operated by a group of physicians who, in this situation, had joined Dr.
                    Brainard in establishing practices in young Chicago.

                    By the beginning of the twentieth century, Rush was among the nation’s largest and most
                    distinguished medical schools. At that time Rush’s faculty "proprietors" accepted a proposal
                    to affiliate with the then new University of Chicago. It was a mutually beneficial development
                    for both institutions. University affiliation brought Rush the research academic connection
central to twentieth century medical school organization. Furthermore, the university helped Rush students and faculty create a "new" Rush with a reputation equaling that of the earlier institution. By World War II, however, Rush and the University of Chicago believed their affiliation no longer suited their respective missions and by 1942 Rush had developed an affiliation with the University of Illinois’ College of Medicine instead. The U. I. College campus became the city’s west side medical district neighbor of Rush and Presbyterian Hospital and its traditional teaching facility.

In the late 1960’s, Rush Medical College accepted the proposal of Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital to merge its historic charter with the large teaching hospital and to resume accepting students studying for the doctor of medicine. In 1956, Chicago’s distinguished St. Luke’s Hospital had accepted Rush’s teaching hospital’s invitation to merge to organize the critical mass of resources contemporary teaching medical centers need.

Rush trustees and alumni were impressed by budding plans for The Rush System for Health. Remarkable plans for a new medical complex were presented as the College considered renewing full instructional capabilities as part of the Rush University Medical Center. A renewed and revitalized Rush Medical College would be a key educational component to help guarantee the success of the comprehensive vision for healthcare research, education, and delivery the Rush System for Health represented. System plans, articulated originally by a group of distinguished physicians at Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital, continues to inspire the growth and development of Rush University Medical Center and Rush University.

**Scope Note**

The collection has been divided into four series.

Series I consists of documents pertaining to the development of the Rush Medical College as an educational institution and hospital. This series primarily consist of legal documents that are related in some capacity or another to a "friendly" legal suit that developed in 1941 between the University of Chicago and Rush Medical College. The suit involved a legal contract that had been begun between the two parties in 1917 and had been completed in 1924 in which Rush Medical College maintained its separate corporation status and continued to allot a large sum of scholarship money on an annual basis, but the University obtained all other ruling powers. The 1941 suit attempted to redefine the relationship between the University of Chicago, Rush Medical College, the Central Free Dispensary of West Chicago, and the Presbyterian Hospital of the City of Chicago.

Series II is a collection of minutes and correspondence from various boards and bureaucratic groups at the college, such as the Board of Medical Affairs, the Faculty of Ogden Graduate School of Medicine, the Faculty of Rush Medical School, the Rush Medical College Board of Trustees, and the Correspondence of the Secretary of the Rush Medical College.
Series III of the collection is composed of materials relating to the development and compilation of a memorial booklet marking the 50th Anniversary of the first graduating class from Rush Medical College. The booklet was entitled, "Records and Reminiscences of the Graduating Class of 1929 of Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago." The document was prepared for and presented at the 50th Reunion of the Class of 1929 of Rush. Besides a copy of the memoirs, this collection is comprised of three sub-sections. The first contains correspondence between Dr. P. Patches, the main writer of the document, and the various members of the Class of 1929. Curriculum vitae of the other members make up the second element. The final sub-section contains some of the letters between Dr. Patchens and Dr. Sippy (another doctor and teacher at Rush) as well as the memoirs of Dr. Sippy about Rush faculty and students.

Series IV holds ephemera and published works regarding meetings and administrative decisions. The first bound journal contains the minutes of the Fender Memorial Association, which was an organization established in honor of Dr. Christian Fenger (1840-1902), who was one of the most noted surgeons in Chicago at the time of his death. In 1877 he moved to Chicago, where he successively lectured in the Rush Medical College, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago Medical College and the Chicago Polyclinic. He was president of the Chicago Medical Society, Vice President of the American Association of Surgeons, and a member of various American, British, and German societies. He was a contributor for twenty years to various medical journals. The collection contains the early minutes of the organization, which was begun in 1907. One of the organization’s first goals seems to have been the collecting of Fenger’s work and notes with the purpose of being donated to and housed in the Rush Memorial Library. Over the course of the organization’s lifespan it provided grants for medical research and publication, often to projects emerging from the Rush Memorial site. In 1930, the corporation decided to be absorbed into the John Rockefeller McCormick Memorial Institute for Infectious Diseases.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html


Hirsch, Edwin F. "The Medical School of the University of Chicago," in Frank Billings: A Leader in Chicago Medicine, Chicago. 1960

University of Chicago. Presidents’ Papers

Subject Headings
- University of Chicago
• Rush Medical College
• Medical colleges -- Illinois -- Chicago -- History


date

INVENTORY

Series I: Legal Documents

Box 1
Folder 1
Drafts
• Memo, "In Re Location of Original Documents," Aug. 11, 1941
• Affidavit and attached letter, 1924

Box 1
Folder 2
Contract Copy, 1901

Box 1
Folder 3
Miscellaneous, 1941

Box 1
Folder 4
Trustees of the Rush Medical College, 1941
• Release Deed
• Lease
• Agreement, Between the University of Chicago and the Trustees

Box 2
Folder 1
Legal Agreements, 1917

Box 2
Folder 2
Legal Agreements, 1924
• University of Chicago and Trustees of Rush Medical College, May 5, 1924
• University of Chicago and Trustees of Rush Medical College, May 7, 1924

Box 2
Folder 3
Legal Agreements, 1924
• University of Chicago and Central Free Dispensary of West Chicago, May 27, 1924
• University of Chicago and Central Free Dispensary of West Chicago, May 27, 1924

Box 2
Folder 4
Legal Agreement, In Re Thompson-Bevan Fund, 1924

Box 2
Folder 5
Legal Agreement, In Re Thompson-Bevan Fund, 1941

Box 2
Folder 6
Legal Agreements, 1941
• Circuit Court of Cook County, Decree, June 20, 1941
• Bill of Sale, 1941
• Lot Indentures (3), 1941
• Settlement Agreement, 1941
• Final Letter of Approval, 1941

Series II: Minutes and Correspondence

Box 3
Folder 1
   Board of Medical Affairs, 1901-1921 (bound)
Box 3
Folder 2
   Board of Medical Affairs, 1921-1929
Box 3
Folder 3
   Faculty of Ogden Graduate School of Medicine, 1924-1930
Box 3
Folder 4
   Faculty of Rush Medical School, 1924-1925
Box 3
Folder 5
   Faculty of Rush Medical School, 1926
Box 3
Folder 6
   Faculty of Rush Medical School, 1927-1928
Box 3
Folder 7
   Faculty of Rush Medical School, 1929-1930
Box 4
   Bound collection of Rush Medical College Board of Trustees Minutes, 1911-1930.
Box 5
   Bound collection of Notes of the Secretary of the Rush Medical College, 1921-1927.
Box 6
   Correspondence of the Secretary of Rush Medical College (bound), 1914-1921.

Series III: Class of 1929

Box 7
Folder 1
   Correspondence, A-G, From Dr. Paul Patchens to members of the Class of 1929
Box 7
Folder 2
   Correspondence, H-M, From Dr. Paul Patchens to members of the Class of 1929
Box 7
Folder 3
   Correspondence, N-R, From Dr. Paul Patchens to members of the Class of 1929
Box 7
Folder 4
Correspondence, S-Z, From Dr. Paul Patchens to members of the Class of 1929
Box 7
Folder 5
Correspondence, A-G, From Members of the Class of 1929 to Dr. Paul Patchens
Box 7
Folder 6
Correspondence, H-R, From Members of the Class of 1929 to Dr. Paul Patchens
Box 7
Folder 7
Correspondence, S-Z, From Members of the Class of 1929 to Dr. Paul Patchens
Box 7
Folder 8
Curriculum Vitaes of the members of the Class of 1929, A-Be
Box 7
Folder 9
Curriculum Vitaes of the members of the Class of 1929, Bl-G
Box 7
Folder 10
Curriculum Vitaes of the members of the Class of 1929, H-M
Box 7
Folder 11
Curriculum Vitaes of the members of the Class of 1929, N-P
Box 7
Folder 12
Curriculum Vitaes of the members of the Class of 1929, Q-Z
Box 7
Folder 13
Letters from Patchen to Sippy
Box 7
Folder 14
Letters from Sippy to Patchen
Box 7
Folder 15
Memoirs Written by Sippy about Rush faculty and students
Box 7
Folder 16
"Records and Reminiscences of the Graduating Class of 1929 of Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago"

Series IV: Ephemera and Published Works

Box 8
Folder 1
By-laws of the Fenger Memorial Association.

Box 8
Folder 2

Ephemeral, 1919-1941
- Student Transcript (Class of 1897) reprinted April 7, 1944
- Alumni mailing entitled, "The Rush Man's Opportunity," date unknown
- Alumni mailing entitled, "A Message to the Alumni of Rush Medical College," date unknown

Box 8
Folder 3

Ephemeral
- Pamphlet entitled, "Rush Medical College," by Dr. Wilber E. Post, 1941?
- Newspaper edition of Rush Extra, October 28, 1925
- Letter from President Ernest Witt Burton to the Alumni of Rush Medical College
- Alumni mailing entitled, "The Rush Man's Opportunity," date unknown
- Alumni mailing entitled, "A Message to the Alumni of Rush Medical College," date unknown
- Dinner Invitation, June 3, 1924
- "Contract Between the University of Chicago and Trustees of the Rush Medical College," Stamped "Original" on May 7, 1924
- Copy of "The President's Convocation Statement," 1924
- Copy of "The Charter of Rush Medical College," March 24, 1914
- "By-Laws of the Country Home for Convalescent Crippled Children," date unknown
- Press Release, "Five Hundred Children to be Entertained by CENTRAL FREE DISPENSARY"
- "By-Laws of Rush Medical College," date unknown
- Leaflet for the Children's Christmas Party, Central Free Dispensary, Rush Medical College, December 24, 1927
- Rush Memorial College tribute to the memory of William Rainey Harper
- Commencement Pamphlet for Rush Medical College, 1912
- Leather-bound booklet entitled, "The Faculty and Senior Class of Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago, 1927-1928"
- Commencement invitation of Rush Medical College, February 25, 1879
- Reprint, "Daniel Brainard," by Arthur Dean Bevan

Box 8
Folder 4

Published Works.
- The University of Chicago Magazine. November 1924, Volume XVII, No. 1
- The Making of a Modern Medical School: A Sketch of Rush Medical College. 1901

Box 9
Folder 1

Diploma, Kate Francis Scott, 1917