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People Profile: M. Nathalie Wheaton

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of the **Rush** Archives. Many of the employees staffing the tables at the event were previously unfamiliar with our department.

Our most successful informational table took place during the groundbreaking celebration for a new building on campus. **Rush** invited all of its faculty and staff members to attend the celebration during their breaks. The event took place at a park near campus and included prize giveaways, free food, and informational tables about the new construction project and new programs throughout the institution. The **Rush** Archives booth featured a display with documents, artifacts, and uniforms from our collections. We spent an entire day at the table answering questions from curious employees, and we estimate that we made over 500 contacts that day.

Presentations about Collections

The Archives has also offered presentations connected to larger campus events and lecture series. We contributed to the regular Grand Rounds series of the Otolaryngology Department with a lecture detailing information about artifacts we hold in a collection in the Archives. Between 1890 and 1920, an otolaryngologist serving as a faculty member of **Rush Medical College** preserved the items that he removed from children during surgical procedures. Our presentation used artifacts in this collection to illustrate the details of individual case histories and their surgical resolutions. Following the presentation, delighted physicians swarmed the podium to view the objects.

We also arranged to participate in a slate of events including a series of presentations on campus about women in medicine. In 2010, the Director of the Library of **Rush University** arranged for the institution to host a traveling exhibit from the **National Library of Medicine** about female physicians: "Changing the Face of Medicine." The Archives took this opportunity to offer presentations about the history of female practitioners at **Rush**. **Nathalie Wheaton's** lecture focused on women graduates and physicians at **Rush**, and **Heather Stecklein's** detailed the advancements of nursing education at **Rush's** predecessor schools between 1900 and 1920.

Attending Events as General Participants

We have learned the great value of participating in campus events where we are not part of the organizing team. Each month, we review the upcoming events on campus, and we attend a selection of presentations, classes, and celebrations from a diverse range of departments and groups. We recognize the significant amount of planning that goes into organizing events, so we reciprocate by supporting the initiatives of other faculty and staff members. A fantastic consequence of our attendance is that the events bring us to many individuals that we rarely encounter or have never met. Most institutions host a solid range of these activities, and most are free to attend and take place during ordinary working hours. On our campus, events include cultural celebrations, retirement parties, ribbon cuttings, and informational presentations. They

against the grain people profile

M. Nathalie Wheaton

Librarian/Assistant Archivist

Rush University Medical Center Archives

1700 West Van Buren Street, Suite 086, Chicago IL 60130

Phone: (312) 942-6358 • Fax: (312) 942-3342

<Nathalie_Wheaton@rush.edu>

<http://www.lib.rush.edu/archives>

BORN AND LIVED: Atlanta, GA; Chapel Hill, NC; Chicago, IL.

EARLY LIFE: I was born and raised in Atlanta, GA, and majored in Anthropology at the **University of Georgia** at Athens. After graduation, I worked at a cultural resources firm, **New South Associates**, in Stone Mountain, GA. I analyzed and curated prehistoric and historic artifacts in the archaeology lab for four years and performed archaeological field surveys throughout the Southeast. I worked in the graphics department preparing reports and graphic elements for a year. I realized all of the tasks I enjoyed in these positions corresponded well to archives, particularly organizing and describing items, collections, and reports. I decided to pursue a master's degree in library science.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I earned a Master of Science in Library Science degree from the School of Information and Library Science at the **University of North Carolina** at Chapel Hill in 2006. While in graduate school, I was a research assistant at the Southern Historical Collection, part of the Manuscripts Department at **UNC-Chapel Hill's Wilson Library**. I processed collections ranging from antebellum correspondence to the papers of modern Southern writers and wrote EAD finding aids. I moved to Chicago, IL, and became assistant archivist at **Rush University Medical Center Archives**, a position I have held since 2006. I serve as Web Moderator for the **Chicago Area Medical Archivists** and created and maintain the **CAMA** blog.

FAMILY: I married fellow archivist and SILS graduate **Benn Joseph** in 2007. He is currently Manuscript Librarian at **Northwestern University's** Special Collections and Archives. We welcomed our first child, **Sophie Carolina Joseph**, in February 2010.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I have been dancing and singing for many years and continue to perform every chance I get.

FAVORITE BOOKS: I enjoy reading books on the history of anything, such as the alphabet, *Alpha Beta* by **John Man**, or chess, *Master Pieces* by **Gareth Williams**.

PET PEEVES: More and more people are using their cell phones to type professional emails, and, unfortunately, it often results in poor grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

PHILOSOPHY: My father taught me, "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing poorly." You have to try, even if it means making mistakes. Learning from mistakes is the only way you'll end up accomplishing anything worthwhile.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: I very much enjoyed presenting "Getting There is Half the Fun: Implementing Big Changes in Small Archives" as part of a session titled "Where is Everyone? Staying Current with a Small Staff" at the **Society of American Archivists** annual conference in Austin, TX, 2009.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Become a master of light processing!

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: For many researchers, if archival material isn't digitized and available online, it might as well not exist. Archives will have to prioritize large-scale digitization of historic collections without sacrificing processing standards. 🐻



also include more formal activities like the administration's Town Hall meetings, continuing education classes, and Marketing and Communications' First Friday Web Forum. **Rush's** Marketing and Communications Department hosts a monthly First Friday Web Forum that

allows them to discuss and introduce **Rush** Web initiatives and other marketing projects to the larger **Rush** community. **Rush** Archivist **Nathalie Wheaton** attended one such session, and all of the attendees introduced themselves.

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