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 the 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 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.