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## E. Ann Sheridan papers

1954-2024

6 boxes (3.25 linear feet)

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Read collection overview

Ann Sheridan was a longtime professor and dean emerita at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, who made significant contributions to the university's School of Nursing which was her lifetime commitment. Ann also made noteworthy contributions to the field of nursing in both her professional and academic practices.

Ann was born in Lawrence in 1934, Massachusetts and was raised in Salem, Massachusetts. Ann earned her degree in nursing from the Catherine Laboure School of Nursing ('54), a baccalaureate degree in nursing from Boston College ('57), a master's in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania ('64), a pediatric nurse practitioner certification from the University of Wisconsin ('74), and a doctorate of education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst ('83). Prior to Ann's employment at UMass, she gained much experience as a practicing nurse over the years in many different settings and positions. Ann worked in hospitals in Salem and Boston, Massachusetts as well as hospitals in Pennsylvania and California. Over her career Ann worked as a pediatric nurse, as supervisor of pediatric units, and was active during the polio epidemic during her time in Boston where she worked with patients using the "iron lung" respiration machine.

Ann Sheridan began teaching as an adjunct professor at UMass Amherst in 1965 at their school of nursing, where she taught until her retirement in 1998. During Ann's time at UMass, she was instrumental in many committees and activities, such as founding the College of Nursing Alumni Board, helping to establish the Beta Zeta at-Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and serving as the Dean of the College of Nursing from 1986-1988. Ann was the recipient of the UMass Amherst Chancellor's Medal ('97), the UMass Lifetime Achievement Award, and the American Nurses Association's Living Legend Award (2016) among many other recognitions and accolades. Ann Sheridan passed away on March, 26th, 2024 after a short illness.

This collection contains much of Ann's work during her time at UMass Amherst's school of nursing including her scholarly work, diplomas, programs, handouts, history research, and correspondence with faculty, staff, and alumni.

## Background on E. Ann Sheridan

E. Ann Sheridan was a longtime professor and dean emerita at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, who made significant contributions to the field of nursing in both of her professional and academic practices. Ann spent much of her life supporting the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst School of Nursing through her advocacy, teaching, alumni relations, and history work.

Ann was born on February 17th, 1934 in Lawrence, Massachusetts to parents Eva C. (Lambart) Sheridan and John J. Sheridan. Ann was raised in Salem, Massachusetts where she spent most of her childhood and was educated at the St. Mary's Grammar School and the St. James High School. In her senior year of high school, Ann was the recipient of a diocesan scholarship to the Catherine Laboure School of Nursing in Boston, Massachusetts where she would later graduate from in 1954, having earned a degree in nursing. After earning her degree, Ann began her career as a pediatric nurse, where her lifetime interest in pediatric nursing began. After several years of working as a pediatric staff nurse, Ann attended Boston College and earned a baccalaureate degree in nursing in 1957. Ann worked in many Boston hospitals, including Boston City Hospital during the Polio epidemic, operating "iron lung" respiration machines. During her time here Ann also cared for polio-patient and future mayor of Boston, John Collins who came down with the disease in 1955 and ran for Boston City Council from his hospital room.

Ann later returned to her hometown of Salem, Massachusetts where she accepted a position as supervisor of the pediatric unit at Salem Hospital, where she built a strong foundation of both nursing and administrative skills. Over the years she worked in many hospitals across the country including Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and California.

Ann Sheridan went on to earn a master's of science in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania in 1964 before being hired as an adjunct professor at UMass Amherst's School of Nursing in 1965, where she would spend the rest of her academic career. Ann would also go on to earn a pediatric nurse practitioner certification from the University of Wisconsin in 1973, and an Ee.D from University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1983. Ann lived through much of the School of Nursing's history and growth. When the School of Nursing was merged with the Division of Public Health to create the School of Health Sciences in 1973, Ann was a strong supporter of the School of Nursing's independence which finally became reality again in 1988. Ann served as Interim Director of the nursing program from 1986-1988. By the time of her retirement in 1998, Ann was instrumental in many committees and activities, such as founding the College of Nursing Alumni Board, helping to establish the Beta Zeta at-Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and by helping document and publish the history of the school of nursing through newspaper articles, commemorative books, and oral histories. Ann was the recipient of the UMass Amherst Chancellor's Medal in 1997, the UMass Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Living Legend Award from the American Nurses Association, Massachusetts in 2016 among many other recognitions and accolades. Ann spent her retirement in connection with the School of Nursing attending events, working with alumni, creating the Dr. E. Ann Sheridan Scholarship, and supporting the school's history through researching and writing newspaper articles, commemorative history books, participating in oral history projects, and working with the universities Robert S. Cox Special Collections and Archives on campus, as well as other nursing archives across the country. Ann Sheridan was predeceased by her parents, her partner George L. Balestri, her sisters Alice C. Saben, Claire F. Fosberry, Marion L. Rudolph, her brothers John J. Sheridan Jr. and Thomas J. Sheridan. She was survived by her family of cousins, nieces, and nephews of multiple generations of which she remained close to her whole life. Ann Sheridan passed away on March 26th, 2024 after a short illness.

## Scope of collection

The collection contains text documents, correspondence, photographs, and other ephemera relating to Ann Sheridan and the UMass School of Nursing. Among the text documents are letters from UMass faculty, staff, and alumni as well as scholarly work, academic materials, contact lists, newspaper articles, and personal records. Included among these are her 1983 doctoral dissertation Contracting and Client Satisfaction: An Inquiry into the Delivery of Effective Nursing Care and a chapter titled Illness and Hospitalization for the Textbook of Pediatric Nursing, among other scholarly works. Photographs depict UMass events, students, and alumni. Other ephemera is also included such as pins, medals, nursing apparel, a graduation cap.

## Series descriptions

### [Series 1. Education and Training](#)

1952-2020

2 boxes (.75 linear feet)

This series contains documents relating Ann Sheridan's schooling and education over the years. The series includes documents such as diplomas, certifications, and curriculum viates. the series also contains Ann's dissertation titled Contracting and Client Satisfaction: An Inquiry into the Delivery of Effective Nursing Care as well as other academic works submitted for the completion of a degreee.

### [Series 2. Career at UMass](#)

1962-2020

3 boxes (2.21 linear feet)

This series has documents pertaining to Ann Sheridan's time and work at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's School of Nursing both during and after her time as an employee. The series contains scholarly works, photographs, awards, speeches, and correspondence with UMass faculty, staff, and alumni.

### [Series 3. History Work](#)

1990-2022

1 box (.5 linear feet)

This series has documents pertaining to Ann Sheridan's history work for the School of Nursing and her personal life. This series contains her research and writings including commemorative tribute books to the School of Nursing, personal biosketches, and memoriums.

## **Inventory**

Series 1. Education and Training

1952-2020

2 boxes (.75 linear feet)

Catherine Labour School of Nursing: diploma, related material

1952-1954

Box 1: 1

TRIAD yearbook: publications, ephemera

1952-1961

Box 1: 2

Comprehensive patient study, personal calendar from UPenn Nursing

1963

Box 1: 3

Registrations and Certifications

1965-1988

Box 1: 4

Aesthetics in Nursing Education

1980

Box 1: 5

Contracting in Nursing

1980

Box 1: 6

Integrative Evaluation: an eclectic model and design

1980

Box 1: 7

Doctorate of Education: degrees and commencement information

1983

Box 1: 8

ANA Certification

1989-1993

Box 1: 9

Curriculum Vitae

1989-2020

Box 1: 10

UPenn Masters of Nursing, Pennsylvania certification of preliminary education

1965

Box 5: 1

Catherine Laboure School Distinguished Alumni

undated

Box 5: 2

Graduation cap

undated

Box 5:

The Clinic Shoe shoestring

undated

Box 5:

Nursing uniform apparel

undated

Box 5:

Bound Dissertation: Contracting and Client Satisfaction

1983

Box 6:

Series 2. Career at UMass

1962-2020  
3 boxes (2.21 linear feet)  
School of Nursing Faculty  
ca.1966  
Box 2: 1  
Sigma Theta Tau  
1962-1978  
Box 2: 2  
Who's who in American nursing  
1986  
Box 2: 3  
Personnel files  
1963-1983  
Box 2: 4  
Annual report files: scholarly activity, teaching, service, correspondence, and supporting documents  
1987-1990  
Box 2: 5  
Annual report files: teaching, service, scholarly publications, and supporting documents  
1989-1990  
Box 2: 6  
Annual report files: scholarly activity, service, correspondence, and supporting documents  
1989-1991  
Box 2: 7  
Annual report: Phi Kappa Phi and supporting documents  
1990-1991  
Box 2: 8  
Nursing school re-establishment convocation  
1989-1990  
Box 2: 9  
Events attended: pamphlets, invitations, and programs  
1974-2013  
Box 2: 10  
Honors Day (1994-2001) and Pinning Ceremony (1995-1999)  
1994-2001  
Box 2: 11  
Skinner Hall dedication ceremony  
2009  
Box 2: 12  
Utilization-focused integrative reviews in a nursing service  
1998  
Box 2: 13  
Textbook review  
1999  
Box 2: 14  
Pediatric nursing textbook: chapter 18, supporting documents  
1999-2001  
Box 2: 15  
Development of a Criterion Referenced Tool to Measure Knowledge of Research Consumerism  
undated  
Box 2: 16  
Teaching Nursing  
undated  
Box 2: 17  
Cards: registration, membership, business, and identification  
ca.1960s-1990s  
Box 2: 18  
Correspondence with Dr. Jeffers and supplemental documents  
1990-1999  
Box 3: 1  
Correspondence between UMass Amherst faculty/staff and Ann Sheridan  
1965-2020  
Box 3: 2  
Correspondence from UMass students/alum  
1978-2004  
Box 3: 3  
Correspondence: other  
1965-2005  
Box 3: 4

Retirement Party (12/15/1998)  
1998  
Box 3: 5  
Memories from the members of the class of 1968 and 1978  
1998  
Box 3: 6  
Chancellor's Award  
1997  
Box 3: 7  
Lifetime Achievement Award  
undated  
Box 3: 8  
Living Legend Award  
2016-2017  
Box 3: 9  
E. Ann Sheridan Scholarship  
2011  
Box 3: 10  
Relocation of Dr. Mary A. Maher's portrait  
2013  
Box 3: 11  
ANA Massachusetts' Excellence in Research Award: Dr. Cynthia Jacelon  
2014-2015  
Box 3: 12  
Zoom 40th Reunion of the class of 1980  
2020  
Box 3: 13  
90th birthday party (3/26/2024)  
2024  
Box 3: 14  
Nursing Alumni contact lists  
undated  
Box 3: 15  
Nursing photos by children  
undated  
Box 3: 16  
Photos  
ca.1960-2013  
Box 3: 17  
Recognition from Massachusetts House of Representatives  
1998  
Box 5: 3  
Photobooks  
undated  
Box 5:  
Chancellor's Award Medal  
1997  
Box 5:  
Assorted pins  
undated  
Box 5:  
Nameplates  
undated  
Box 5:  
Series 3. History Work  
1990-2022  
1 box (.5 linear feet)  
Collected publications: UMass School of Nursing, etc.  
1990-2012  
Box 4: 1  
College of Nursing postcards featuring historic photos  
2009  
Box 4: 2  
History research and writing  
undated  
Box 4: 3  
Transcript of an interview with Mary A. Maher  
ca.2013

Box 4: 4  
History of Beta-Zeta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at Large  
2012-2022  
Box 4: 5  
Remembrances and Reflections 1953-1993, 40th Anniversary  
1993  
Box 4: 6  
A Commemorative Tribute 1953-2003, 50th Anniversary  
2003  
Box 4: 7  
A Commemorative Tribute, 60th Anniversary  
2013  
Box 4: 8  
UMass College of Nursing, 65th Anniversary  
2018  
Box 4: 9  
Chronology of the History of Nursing 1953-2016  
2016  
Box 4: 10  
West Springfield Record: recognition of wartime nurses, finally, 75 years on  
2020  
Box 4: 11  
Personal history: nursing school, bio sketch  
2009-2013  
Box 4: 12  
Memoriums and Tributes  
2014-2021  
Box 4: 13

## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Alyson Saben, niece of Ann Sheridan, 2024.

### Processing Information

Processing and finding aid by Jay Blanchette 2025.

### Related Material

For additional materials related to the School of Nursing in Special Collections and University Archives, see:  
[University of Massachusetts Amherst. School of Public Health and Health Sciences Records \(RG 017\).](#)

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use ([More information](#) )

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## Search terms

### Subjects

- Education, Higher
- Nursing--Study and teaching--Massachusetts
- State universities and colleges--Massachusetts

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