



Center *for* The Study *of* The History *of* Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA - SCHOOL OF NURSING - NURSING EDUCATION BUILDING - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-6096 - (215)  
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**Ruth McCorkle**

**Papers 1941-1998**

**MC # 123**

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Ruth McCorkle

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**Biographical Sketch.**

Ruth McCorkle, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N., is internationally known as a leader in oncology nursing research and practice. She is currently Professor and Director of the Center for Excellence in Chronic Illness Care in the DNS Program at Yale University, School of Nursing, New Haven, Connecticut (from 1998 to the present).

McCorkle was born in Johnson City, Tennessee in 1941 to John Joseph and Margaret Ruth McCorkle. After receiving her diploma from Maryland General Hospital, School of Nursing and an associate degree from Baltimore Junior College, Baltimore, Maryland in the same year (1961) she went on to get her bachelor's in nursing from the University of Maryland Baltimore, Maryland (1972), and both the master's (1972) and doctorate (1975) from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. McCorkle did post master's studies at St. Christopher's Hospice, London, Care of Terminal Patients (1972) and at Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center, University of Southern California, Psychosocial Aspects of Aging (1973).

After graduating from Maryland General Hospital School of Nursing, McCorkle served as operating room staff nurse at Maryland General Hospital (1961-1963), and then at Women's Hospital (1963-1964) Baltimore, Maryland. From 1964-1966, she served as a second lieutenant and was promoted to captain in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps. She served on the nursing staff at Mather Air Force Base, Sacramento, California. Following her discharge, she was a staff nurse and nursing instructor in California, Washington and Iowa (1966-1970); her focus being medical and surgical nursing. From 1971 to 1975 McCorkle was employed as a psychiatric and oncology clinical nursing specialist and instructor at the School of Nursing, University of Iowa City, Iowa. In 1975 she assumed the position of Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Care Systems, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington was appointed to the rank of Professor in 1985.

McCorkle's association with the University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania spanned from 1986 to 1998. Ten of these years were spent as the Director for the Center for Advancing Care in Serious Illness, and for two as Associate Director Cancer Control at the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Comprehensive Center. Additionally she held the position of the American Cancer Society Professor of Oncology, Philadelphia Division, from 1986 to 1995. Active on the research front, she was principal investigator for the following proposals: "A Prospective and Current Study of Spouse Bereavement", DHHS, Health Resources and Services Administration, Division of Nursing (1986-1988); "Center for Advancing in Serious Illness" (1995-00), National Institute of Nursing Research; "Implementation of an Oncology Certificate Program", American Cancer Society (1985); and co-Investigator for "Fatigue in Cancer Patients: An Exercise Intervention," with Johns Hopkins University, School of Nursing, Baltimore, Maryland (1997-1999); and "A Family Caregiver Education Program", Pennsylvania Cancer Control Program, Department of Health, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

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McCorkle is a charter and board member of the Oncology Nursing Society, and board member of the International Psycho-Oncology Society. She was the first non-medical recipient of a National Cancer Institute, Institutional Research Training Grant thus paving the way for other non-medical fields to compete in securing these research funds. McCorkle served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Palliative Care*. She was elected to fellowship in Academy of Nursing American Nurses Association (1979), and to the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Science (1990). McCorkle is the author of numerous papers and book chapters Her co-edited textbook, *Cancer Nursing* won the American Nurses Association Book of the Year Award in 1996. In addition She was recognized as Nurse Scientist of the year by the Council of Nurse Researchers, American Nurses Association (1993).

**Summary.** These papers span McCorkle's professional career (1961-1998) documenting her educational and military life as well as academic research, and experience with various professional organizations and institutions. Many of her awards and honors as a nursing leader are included. Photographs are also included.

**Series Description.** This collection has been arranged into four series:

Series I.	Personal-1998
Series II.	Research, training and grant application, 1985-1996
Series III.	Career associations and institutions, 1980's-1997
Series IV.	Photographs, 1960's-1998

Series I. Personal, 1941-1998. This series includes birth certificate, curriculum vitae, and diplomas from school of nursing and universities attended. McCorkle's career in United States Air Force is documented with correspondence and letter of appointment to Second Lt. Nurse Corps. Awards and honors received and personal correspondence are found here.

Series II. Research, Training, and Grant Application, 1985-1996. Included in this series are applications, progress reports and request for the grant "Advancing Care in Serious Illness". Also includes application for continuing education for nurses.

Series III. Career Association and Institutions, 1980's-1997. This series documents McCorkle's association with International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Science, and National Institute of Nursing Research. Includes her association with University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing and Cancer Center.

Series IV. Photographs, 1960-1988. This series includes portraits of McCorkle (1989-1996) and several pictures while serving in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps. The remaining group are pictures taken at various social gatherings, meetings and conference activities.

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**Series I. Personal, 1941-1998**

Box 1

- f.1 Birth certificate, 1941
- f.2 Curriculum Vitae 1961-1998
- Correspondences, incoming and outgoing
  - f.3 Ellen Addy, 1986
  - f.4 Holiday greeting card, Yale University, School of Nursing, 1998
  - f.5 Personal letters, 1986-1992
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- Education
  - f.7 Eastern High School diploma, 1958
  - f.8 Maryland General Hospital, School of Nursing, diploma, graduation exercises program, Baltimore Junior College, diploma, and *Nightingale* (yearbook), 1961
  - f.9 University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, diploma (oversize ff.#5)
  - f.10 University of Iowa, diploma 1975
- Newspaper clippings re: capping exercises, nurses' convention, and advertisement for "Handy Dri-Ader", 1960's
- f.11 Passport 1972-1977
- f.12 United States Air Force Nurse Corps correspondence and letter of appointment, etc., 1964-1970
- Awards and Honors
  - f.13 Akron General Medical Center, Joan A. Liffick Award, correspondence and photograph of award, (see Box 5 for Award ), 1989
  - f.14 International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, certificate of appreciation, 1993
  - f.15 Oncology Nursing Society, certificate of appreciation, 1993
  - f.16 Sigma Theta Tau, Gamma Chapter, 1971
- Other
  - f.17 60th Anniversary, Maryland Nurses Association, program, 1963
  - f.18 University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. "A Tribute to Ruth McCorkle", program and script for "Ruthie at the Bat", October, 1998
  - Award, "Baby Ruth Athletic Support Award", December 15, 1986

**Series II. Research, Training and Grant Application, 1985-1996**

- f.1 Center Goals, Programmatic Theme, Research and Training Base, 1989, including abstracts of all funding nursing research (Appendix A ) 1989
- Advancing Care in Serious Illness Progress Report Summary

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- f.2 9-1-90 to 8-31-91
- f.3 9-1-91 to 8-31-92
- f.4 9-1-92 to 8-31-93
- Advancing Care in Serious Illness, grant application, April, 1994
- f.5 Face page and pages 1-101
- f.6 Pages 102-206

Box 2

- f.7 Special Review Committee Report, Advancing Care in Serious Illness, 1994
- f.8 Application for Continuation Grant, Advancing Care in Serious Illness, 1995-1998  
Training Grant Applications
- f.9 "Cancer Continuing Education Courses for Black Nurses", Oncology  
Nursing Society, Pittsburgh, PA, May 25, 1985
- f.10 "A Course for Nurse Educators: Cancer Prevention" International Society  
of Nurses in Cancer Care, New York, NY, September, 1986
- Other
- f.11 A Lymphedema Questionnaire for Breast Cancer, University of  
Pennsylvania, Proposal Transmittal and Approval form, (Sandra  
Norman), April 18, 1994
- f.12 "Behavioral Science Research Program" correspondence and booklet, Fall  
Retreat, 1995-1996
- f.13 "Fatigue Research Project", correspondence, 1995-1996

**Series III. Career Associations and Institutions, 1980's-1997**

- International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care
- f.1 Brochure, 1980's
- f.2 Constitution and Membership, 1985-1989
- f.3 List of officers, 1986
- Board meeting minutes (includes reports)
- f.4 1985-1988
- f.5 1989-1990
- Correspondence
- f.6 1985-1988
- f.7 1989-1990
- Conferences on Cancer Nursing
- f.8 4th, New York City, correspondence 1985-1986
- f.9 5th, London, England, correspondence 1986-1989
- f.10 7th, Vienna, Austria, correspondence and papers, 1991-1992

Box 3

- f.11 *International Cancer Nursing News*, Vol.1-9, 1988-1997
- f.12 International Directory of Cancer Nursing, Educational Experiences and

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- f.13 Professional Organization, 1990  
International Union Against Cancer, 14th International Cancer Congress,  
Budapest, Hungary, 1986; paper by Ruth McCorkle, "Impact on  
Advanced Disease on Functional Status", 1986
- f.14 International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, Blueprint, Year 2000,  
Strategic Plain, 1991
- f.15 Central and South America
- f.15 Grant application, "Cancer Control Workshop for Columbian Nurses", and  
correspondence, 1991-1992
- f.16 Correspondence, Cancer Nursing Conference " Bogotá, D.E. and  
Cartagena, (Republica De Colombia), 1987-1989)
- f.17 Correspondence, re: funding for nursing program in South America, 1992
- f.18 Rehabilitation: Support and Assistance of the Cancer Patient (conference  
outline), First Regional Latin American Conference of COPES  
Program, Panama, 1993
- f.19 Clara Hidalgo De Gonzalez and Esperanza Ayala de Calvo, correspondence  
re: two day visit to the University of Pennsylvania, 1988-1989
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- f.20 American Cancer Society, correspondence re: educational exchange  
program, 1995
- f.21 American Association for Cancer Education, abstract, "Accomplishment of  
American Cancer Society Professors on Oncology Nursing" 1994
- f.22 American Association of Colleges of Nursing, correspondence re: speaking  
engagements, 1995
- f.23 Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Science, correspondence re:  
planning committee for educational program and committee  
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- f.24 National Institute of Nursing Research (NINE), Division of Intramural  
research (DIR), correspondence re: consultation, etc., 1994-1996
- f.25 National Cancer Institute, correspondence re: applications, grants, research,  
etc., 1992-1995
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- f.26 Research Committee, School of Nursing, meeting minutes,  
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- f.27 Correspondence incoming and outgoing re: meetings and request  
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- Box 4
- f.28 Correspondence incoming and outgoing, Cancer Center, re: grants,  
administration, etc., 1993
- f.29 Correspondence and working document: Summary of Issues,  
Cancer External Review Committee, 1993
- f.30 Correspondence incoming and outgoing re: developing a formalized

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- cancer control program, 1990-1993  
Miscellaneous
- f.31. Correspondence incoming and outgoing re: *Textbook of Internal Medicine*, 1994-1995
- f.32 Correspondence incoming, Cancer Nursing A Comprehensive Textbook, including book reviews, 1992-1994
- f.34 Correspondence re: Helena Fuld Health, 1988-1993
- f.35 Correspondence, including *Standard of Oncology Nursing Education*, 1991-1992
- f.36 Profiles of Breast Cancer and Mammography in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties, 1994

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- p.2 Lt. Ruth McCorkle ,US Air Force Base Hospital, sitting at a hospital unit desk, 1960's
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- p.4-5-6a Portrait of Ruth McCorkle, 1989-1996
- p.7 Group, National Science Review Committee members, July, 1989
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- p.9 Jackie Dunbar-Jacob, Nancy Woods, Patricia Grady and Ruth McCorkle, 1990's
- p.10-11 Ruth McCorkle with two visiting faculty members from Tokyo Medical and Dental University, 1992
- p.12 Ruth McCorkle with two other individuals (not identified), 1990's
- p.1-2 Candid shots, soft ball game, University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing, 1980's
- p.3 Soft Ball Team, University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing, 1980's
- p.4 Candid shots Ruth McCorkle's "Farewell Skit", University of Pennsylvania, October 15, 1998