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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office
Series/Staff Member: Kristine Gebbie
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OA/ID Number: 3774
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Speech at Columbia University 5/19/94

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Program: Columbia University School of Nursing
Graduation of the One Hundredth Class



Columbia University
School of Nursing

Graduation of the
One Hundredth Class

May 19, 1994
2:00 p.m.



1892-1992

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

August 23, 1993

Ms. Kristine Gebbie, MN, RN, FAAN
National AIDS Policy Coordinator
Office of the National AIDS Policy
Coordinator
750 17th Street, N.W. - Suite 1060
Washington DC 20503

Dear Ms. Gebbie:

On behalf of the Columbia University School of Nursing faculty, and with my own enthusiastic support, I am delighted to invite you to be our 1994 graduation speaker. As you know from our telephone conversation last week, this will be a very special ceremony. We will be graduating our 100th class, and celebrating our first graduation under Columbia's new President, George Rupp.

The university graduation for all Columbia schools is held on the morning of Wednesday, May 18th. In the afternoon the schools hold their own ceremonies, featuring a distinguished speaker, and diplomas and awards are presented.

We have a reception to follow for graduates, their families and faculty -- usually about 400 in all. I hope you will be able to join us.

We also wish to present you with the Centennial Award for Excellence in Health Care during the ceremony.

All the best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Mary O. Mundinger, Dr. P.H.
Dean and Professor

MOM:cmf
II.gebbie

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 16, 1993

Mary O. Munding, Dr. P.H.
Dean and Professor
Columbia University School of Nursing
630 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032

Dear Dr. Munding:

This letter confirms the appearance of Kristine M. Gebbie,
National AIDS Policy Coordinator, at the Columbia University
School of Nursing graduation, on May 19, 1994.

Please call me at (202) 632-1090 once you determine the specific
time and place, or with any questions. I am enclosing a
biographical sketch and curriculum vitae for your reference.

Sincerely,

W. Steve Lee

W. Steve Lee, Executive Assistant
and Scheduler to
National AIDS Policy Coordinator

Enclosure

The HIV Epidemic! what would Florence have done?

Columbia University School of Nursing

C

DATE: June 6, 1994

TO: Kristine Gebbie

FROM: Gary Goldenberg, Editor
The Academic Nurse
The Journal of the Columbia University School of Nursing

RE: Article on commencement address

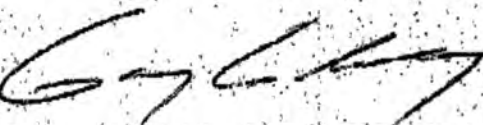
PAGES: 5 including cover sheet

Dear Ms. Gebbie:

We are planning to run an article on your recent speech at the nursing school in our magazine, *The Academic Nurse*. As a courtesy, I've enclosed a copy of the article, which includes lengthy quotes from your talk. You may want to review the quotes to make sure that I've transcribed them accurately.

Thanks for your help - and for your stirring speech.

Sincerely,



212/305-8285-6938
705412644@compuserve.com

OFFICE: 617 West 168th Street

MAILING ADDRESS: 630 West 168th Street / New York, NY 10032

Gary
Note comments
on the bio notes -
Speech quotes are
fine
K

Gebbie/Academic Nurse/Spring '94/1 of 4

The HIV Epidemic: What Would Florence Have Done?

If there were a list of the toughest jobs in the United States, Kristine Gebbie's would surely have to be among the top ten. Ms. Gebbie is the National AIDS Policy Coordinator. Her task is to ensure that the \$2.5 billion the Clinton administration has allotted for AIDS — perhaps the most pressing and contentious public health threat of our time — is wisely spent.

Ms. Gebbie visited the Columbia School of Nursing in May to deliver the 1994 commencement address, marking the graduation of the School's 100th class.

In a wide-ranging and stirring speech, entitled, "The HIV Epidemic: What Would Florence Have Done?" Ms. Gebbie addressed the policy challenges presented by AIDS and how the philosophy of nursing's pioneer might serve as a guide for nursing's response to the epidemic today.

A mark of our time

Ms. Gebbie opened her address by noting, "This epidemic has been a mark of our time. We are now starting to graduate from college young people whose entire awareness of life has been within the framework of this epidemic's existence, who from the time they entered school have been hearing the words HIV and AIDS."

Ms. Gebbie then reminded the audience of nearly 700 graduates, families, and friends gathered in Alumni Auditorium that Americans are not the only ones affected by the disease. "We are a very inwardly centered country and we often forget that the vast majority of those with this disease are living elsewhere, in sub-Saharan Africa, in Asia, in India," she said. Moreover, many of these countries are still struggling with routes of infection that the United States has long controlled, namely blood-borne transmission of HIV. "We forget that in many parts of the globe still fully half or more of the transfusions given are not screened for the presence of this disease."

The overall challenge, she continued, "is to stop the epidemic... We don't have the timetable to do that, because it is very dependent on the science that we haven't yet mastered. And so our interim policy takes three parts: research, services, and prevention. Research until we find the answers, not just biological answers, magic molecules that make things go away... but behavioral research as well, that can help people live with a complex chronic disease and cope with a difficult therapy regimen for years, behavioral research that would help is

Gebbie/Academic Nurse/Spring '94/2 of 4

understand prevention, prevention associated with addictive behavior and sexual transmission, and help us understand how to help our next generation of young people grow up safe from this disease."

In addition to research, we must have services, she added. "Anyone who is infected with this virus must be diagnosed early and have a full range of services so that he or she can live as long and full a life as possible." But that won't happen until "we have health reform, until we have a society that is sufficiently nondiscriminatory, so that people are willing to come forward to be diagnosed with this disease, and until we have health professionals who know enough about it, that they offer testing and services when appropriate, instead of leaving people undiagnosed because we didn't think that they might be exposed."

The third part of a rational AIDS policy is prevention, she noted. In an ideal world, the epidemic could easily be curtailed by asking everyone to avoid sharing needles or engaging "in sexual activity outside of a lifetime mutually monogamous relationship with a partner with whom they entered that relationship at virginity." In reality, she added, "The options beyond that are risky, and involve use of condoms consistently and correctly every time and limiting the number of partners."

Nightingale's response?

Ms. Gebbie then asked, "what would have Florence have said or done?" Surely, it would have been based on solid research, she said. "It's very clear that she understood the power of fact, the power of well-analyzed information, and the need to change what you're doing when the facts don't agree."

Second, Nightingale "was committed to a service of quality that was where the need was most obvious," Ms. Gebbie said. "I think that's the commitment that took her to the Crimea and kept her there in the face of immense criticism... [and that] made her such a powerful figure through the rest of her life, because the families and the men touched by the care she gave there became what supported her through many years of conflict in her later public life."

"She also was tied to the community, looking for ways to use the language of the people and understanding the need," noted Ms. Gebbie. While involved in work for the British East India Company, "she specifically asked that additional data be gathered from the Indian authorities about the people of India and said specifically, do it in their own language, because she knew that questions not asked in your own language become questions hard to answer, and answers hard

Gebbie/Academic Nurse/Spring '94/3 of 4

to hear. That, too, has been difficult around this epidemic, as we have not known the languages we need to know. Not just meaning language -- Spanish, English, Russian, Chinese -- but the languages of different social groups, the languages of different sexual orientations, the languages of different neighborhoods, towns across our country."

Nightingale also knew how to make her voice heard, Ms. Gebbie pointed out. "She cultivated people she knew who were members of the House of Commons, the House of Lords, leaders in government, and steadily fed them her data, year after year after year. And she knew the people who wrote for the newspapers, who would share her data with the world, and kept them informed in a timely manner when critical issues were being considered. Those are two things that nursing has come to a little late."

Nursing at the intersection

Ms. Gebbie then explained that AIDS affects people at the intersection of the biological, psychological, and sociological components of their being. This is nursing's realm, helping "individuals learn and grow, become healthy, stay healthy, face their illness with dignity and possibility. We know a lot about that intersection. We have not documented it well."

Another problem, she added, is that nurses "sometimes grab at ill-founded research from other people and spread it amongst ourselves rather than verifying it." Too many nurses are worried "about the supposed aerosol transmission of HIV, something that is absolutely not documented in science, has no credence in the strong scientific community, yet somehow members of our own profession keep grabbing onto, rather than moving on and ahead."

Nurses also have a responsibility to see that service is given, she continued: "Nurses have been at the front lines in service to HIV. I have talked to countless people living with this disease who attribute their continued survival and coping to the nursing care they are given... In many cases, however, we are still missing our opportunity. We are often there at those points where early diagnosis is being missed, where individuals have come for repeat visits to clinics and hospitals and offices with the risks evident, if you talk to them at all, that they could have been exposed to this virus. Nurses have to be a part of making sure that connection is made."

"We must consider the leadership opportunities to deal with prevention of this disease, which means dealing with the issues of substance abuse and sexual

Gebbie/Academic Nurse/Spring '94/4 of 4

transmission," said Ms. Gebbie. "I am absolutely fascinated at a number of health professionals who will spend three, four, or five hours debating the issues of occupational exposure to HIV (Will I get this from a syringe, from a bloody sponge, from a scalpel, from this or that in an institution?). It is true that a couple of hundred health professionals have documented cases of AIDS that come from these routes of transmission, but it is also true that there are thousands of other health professionals who have HIV infection, and guess how they got it? They got it through their sexual life, the same as most other people in this country.

"Until we confront ... our own humanity, and come to understand the decisions we have made, and the risks we may have escaped ... and then bring our professional thoughts to bear on that process, we will be neglecting what we can do as leaders, helping our community confront the continued transmission of HIV and thinking through what it will take to prevent further transmission to that next generation.

For the young among us

Ms. Gebbie concluded with a heartfelt plea to consider the impact of AIDS on the next generation. "We are here today to celebrate a very happy event, a graduation," she noted. "There are some very young voices among us today, some very small children here; some of them may be offspring of those of you who are graduating. Think of them as you think of the possibility of a world without AIDS, and realize that nursing, with its, research, with its services, with its role in prevention, following in the footsteps Florence walked so long ago, could be the answer to stopping this epidemic."

[box, up front]

In addition to being the "AIDS Czar," a post to which she was appointed by President Bill Clinton, Kristine Gebbie, RN, MN, FAAN, is chair of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory committee on the prevention of HIV infection. She previously served on the Presidential Commission on AIDS and the Oversight Committee for the Institute of Medicine. A graduate of nursing programs at St. Olaf College and the University of California, Ms. Gebbie helped pioneer the field of diagnostic judgment in nursing in the 1970s. Later, in 1989, she became secretary of Washington State's Department of Health, the first nurse to serve as a state commissioner of health.

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was
was the 1st but it was in Oregon, from 78 to 89

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Comments of

Kristine M. Gebbie, R.N., M.N.
National AIDS Policy Coordinator

before the

Columbia University School of Nursing
in
New York, New York

The HIV Epidemic: What Would Florence Have Done?

May 19, 1994

I. The basic outline of the epidemic

- A. global nature-
 - 1. retroviral
 - 2. blood borne
 - 3. sexually transmitted
- B. continuing growth
- C. shifting US demographics
 - 1. communities of color
 - 2. women
 - 3. the young

II. The policy challenge

- A. Research
- B. Services
- C. Prevention

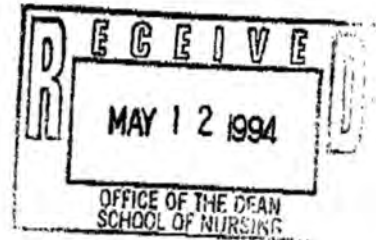
III. The Nightingale Standard

- A. Research based — *more exp than neg*
 - 1. master the science
 - 2. contribute to the science
- B. Committed to service of quality
 - 1. Go where the needs are
 - 2. Stick to your standards
- C. Tied to the community
 - 1. In the language of the people
 - 2. understanding the needs

D use of media / people of power

IV. What is the challenge to nursing today

- A. our response to HIV must be research based
 - 1. nursing research, not just other folks
- B. we must see that service is given
 - 1. early diagnosis may depend on us
 - 2. the care must be systematic/organized
- C. prevention has particular challenges
 - 1. look at our own behavior
 - 2. consider the leadership opportunities



**GRADUATION 1994
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

- 1:20PM** Start Centennial Tape. Run twice with sound, and then silent.
- 1:40PM** Musicians will play while tape runs silent
- 2:00PM** Musicians will play the Procession Music

ORDER OF PROCESSION

Mary O. Munding
Pardes/Cook
Gebbie/Jemmott
Cole/Peirce
Mazzola/Doddata
Herbert/Sochalski
Turnbull/Gaffney
Apfelbaum/Ruiz
Callan/Anastasi
Rosenfield/Fulmer
Then Rest of the Faculty Fall In

PROGRAM

Opening Remarks-Mary O. Munding

Guest Speaker

Awards

- 1) Centennial
- 2) Faculty
- 3) Students

Graduates



**Columbia University
School of Nursing**

**Graduation of the
One Hundredth Class**

**May 19, 1994
2:00 p.m.**

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Processional

Greetings

Mary O. Mundinger, DrPH, FAAN
Dean

Graduation Address

Kristine M. Gebbie, RN, MN, FAAN
National AIDS Policy Coordinator
Appointed by President Clinton

"The HIV Epidemic-What Would Florence Have Done?"

Awards

Centennial Awards for Excellence in Health Care

Jonathan Cole, PhD

Mr. Robert Herbert

Patricia Mazzola Lewis, RN, MS

Walter J. Turnbull, DMA

Transit Display Incorporated, accepted by

Bonnie Apfelbaum, MEd

New York State Nurses Association, accepted by

Mary Callan, MS, RN, CS-FNP

Faculty Awards

Dorothy H. and Thomas L. O'Neil Distinguished Faculty Awards

Teaching - Donna Gaffney, PhD

Community Service - Joyce Anastasi, PhD

Student Awards

Sarah S. Cook, MEd

Associate Dean for Academic and Clinical Affairs

Presentation of Graduates

Theresa M. Doddato, MA, CRNA

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Closing

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1993

Mary O. Munding, Dr. P.H.
Dean and Professor
Columbia University School of Nursing
630 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032

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and Scheduler to
National AIDS Policy Coordinator

Enclosure

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

1892-1992 A Century of Nursing Leadership

August 23, 1993

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National AIDS Policy Coordinator
Office of the National AIDS Policy
Coordinator
750 17th Street, N.W. - Suite 1060
Washington DC 20503

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Sincerely yours,

Mary O. Munding, Dr. P.H.
Dean and Professor

MOM:cmf
II.gebbie



Columbia University School of Nursing

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

RECEIVED

FEB - 2 1994

January 25, 1994

W. Steve Lee, Executive Assistant
and Scheduler to
National AIDS Policy Coordinator
The White House
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Mr. Lee:

We are pleased that Kristine M. Gebbie, National
AIDS Policy Coordinator, will address our graduating
class on Thursday, May 19, 1994. The ceremony will be at
2:00 p.m., followed by a reception at 3:15 p.m.

Please have Ms. Gebbie come to my office at 1:30
p.m. at 617 West 168th Street, Room 139, for robing.

We look forward to seeing her then.

Sincerely yours,

Mary O. Munding, Dr.P.H.
Dean and Professor

MOM/r
cc: T. Doddato



Columbia University School of Nursing

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

RECEIVED

FEB -2 1994

January 25, 1994

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and Scheduler to
National AIDS Policy Coordinator
The White House
Washington, DC 20050

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Dean and Professor

MOM/r

cc: T. Doddato