The 2014/15 season of the History of the Health Sciences Lectures began on Thursday, October 9, when Katherine L. Carroll, Ph.D., spoke on ‘The Fortress on the Heights:’ The Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in the Context of Early 20th Century US Medical School Design. It was held in the Russ Berrie Pavilion, Room 2, with refreshments at 5:30 pm and the lecture at 6:00 pm.

The end of the nineteenth century witnessed the transformation of the American system of medical education. Medical colleges shifted from commercial entities offering repetitious lectures to university-affiliated departments providing hands-on laboratory and clinical training. Medical educators saw the redesign of the medical school as indivisible from this shift in pedagogy. To meet the new educational standards, medical colleges across the country rebuilt their facilities. In this illustrated lecture architectural historian Dr. Katherine L. Carroll describes the three major medical school types constructed in the first part of the 20th century and the significance within this movement of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, which opened in 1928.

More than a discussion of building types and their plans, however, Dr. Carroll argued that the buildings themselves helped to codify and promote specific ideas about modern medicine. What is more, these spaces contributed to the formation of professional identities even before doctors and nurses entered the workforce. Buildings on the medical campus that were examined included not only the original, but also the medical school’s first dormitory, Bard Hall (1931), and the School of Nursing’s Maxwell Hall student residence (1928).

The Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library is pleased to announce a new exhibit, Building for Education, Research and Patient Care: Nine Decades of Expansion at the Columbia University Medical Center.

Using vintage photographs and original documents from the Library’s Archives & Special Collections, the exhibit chronicles the development of the Medical Center from the first groundbreaking in 1925 through the expansion of the 1980s.

The exhibit is located on Lower Level 2 of the Hammer Building in the Teaching and Learning Center. It is open to everyone holding valid Columbia University or New York-Presbyterian Hospital identification. Those without authorized access who wish to see the exhibition should contact us by e-mail at hslarchives@columbia.edu to make arrangements to view it.

The exhibit was curated by Stephen E. Novak, Head, Archives & Special Collections, at the Health Sciences Library. For further information please contact hslarchives@columbia.edu
iOS 8 Released

On September 17th Apple released the latest version of the iPhone and iPad operating system, iOS 8. As with any new OS release, we highly recommend waiting before upgrading so developers have time to patch bugs and other issues. Information on its compatibility with Athens and other programs at CUMC will be posted on our homepage as testing is completed. If you are not sure what iOS you are currently using, tap Settings from your home screen, then General, About, and look under Version.

iOS 8 offers enhancements to built-in apps including Safari, Mail, Messages, Camera and Photos organization, an updated keyboard with the option to use third-party keyboards, and general improved integration between apps. While Apple says it can be run on devices back to iPhone 4S and iPad 2, there are reports that it performs very slowly.

When you do decide to upgrade, connect to iTunes on your computer and perform a full backup, then delete any unneeded files and apps on your device. 5 GBs of free space is needed if you are downloading over the air directly to your iPhone or iPad; using iTunes to download and install it requires much less space.

Higher Security for Mobile Devices

Apple, Google and Microsoft have all announced that new and upcoming versions of their operating systems for mobile devices will default to higher levels of security, with encryption and a “kill switch” already enabled. A kill switch is software that allows for remote locking and disabling of a device, rendering it useless if the correct password isn’t used. Devices that don’t offer a kill switch can still be erased and activated for use by others, making them a target for theft.

Apple began including kill switch software called Activation Lock with iOS 7, though it was not enabled by default until the recent iOS 8 release. Devices running Android and Windows Phone may not offer kill switch software out of the box, however there are apps that can provide similar if not the same level of security. See the Phone and Tablet Security page for assistance in using encryption and remote disabling programs on different devices: www.cumc.columbia.edu/it/getting_started/phone.html

Using BitLocker

BitLocker for Windows is a great, free encryption program that runs seamlessly on compatible computers. Anyone interested in enabling BitLocker or are already using it may benefit by knowing the following:

- BitLocker full disk encryption is only available on some editions of Windows. Home editions – installed on most store-bought, out of the box computers – are not compatible.
- Use TPM version 1.2 or higher for proper security. TPM is hardware on the computer’s motherboard that BitLocker can use to prevent unauthorized decryption if basic or operating system code is modified, or the hard drive is removed.
- BitLocker defaults to an encryption level that is lower than University policy requirements. To set AES-256, which complies with policy to protect PHI, look up instructions for the version and edition of Windows you are using.

Look in the Using Encryption area of the CUMC IT website for more BitLocker information coming soon.