ONWARD! RIGHT ONWARD!
THE GOAL OF YESTERDAY IS THE STARTING PLACE OF TO-DAY, AND TO-MORROW WILL BE A POINT ON THE RECEDING HORIZON.

Jonathan A. Allen, M.D. during his Grand Oration at the dedication of the Rush Medical College Building at Wood and Harrison, October 4, 1876

RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE BUILDING, 1876-1923
After the Great Chicago Fire destroyed the original downtown campus of Rush Medical College, the Rush faculty decided to move the school to a location closer to opportunities for clinical teaching and practice.

When Cook County decided to build its new hospital facilities on Chicago’s West Side, Rush Medical College rebuilt itself within site of the hospital.

“Herefore the chief obstacle to the concourse of students at this point... has been the deficiency in the means of clinical teaching. That obstacle is now, fortunately, removed, and, even during the present session, the students of Rush Medical College will be provided with facilities for clinical observation and study, practically unsurpassed, even in Europe. We make the statement boldly, that Cook County Hospital, just across the street, is peerless in its perfect adaptation to its designed purpose.”

—Jonathan A. Allen, M.D., 1876 Grand Oration, Rush Medical College Dedication, 1876

Rush’s faculty board chose John C. Cochrane as the architect for its new building. Cochrane, who also designed Cook County Hospital, created a gothic style brick structure with a slate mansard roof.

When the Surgeon General of the Prussian Army visited campus, he declared that it was the best adaptation of a building for medical education that he had ever seen. He procured duplicates of its blueprints and sent them to the Prussian Government.

The Rush Medical College building was a multipurpose facility. In addition to classrooms and a lecture auditorium, the structure included a free dispensary with a large waiting room, a drug store, ten consultation rooms for private clinics, professor’s offices, a dissecting room, a museum, and a bed and parlor for the live-in janitor.

The building stood on campus for nearly 50 years. It was replaced by the Lawson Building in 1924.

As the Rush community anticipates the Rush Transformation, it is important for us to recognize our place within the enduring history of excellence in medical practice and education on this campus.

This exhibit traces the development of some of the major buildings that have stood on this campus, and it offers insight into the pride and excitement our predecessors felt as they embraced progress.

RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE LABORATORY, 1876-1952
The 1890s brought many changes in the field of medicine. In previous decades, a large number of medical schools developed in Chicago. Many of these schools accepted students with dubious credentials and produced physicians of inadequate skill.

The Rush Medical College faculty of the late 19th century included some of the most influential physicians in the world, and they worked fervently to uphold the high standards expected of their students.

In 1893, the school adopted a significantly more rigorous curriculum that required an additional two years of classroom study. To accommodate this change, the school added a building devoted to laboratory instruction.

“...in order to give the students the best instruction in medicine and the arts of healing, the Rush Medical College Laboratory was completed. This building, together with the Rush Medical College, is the leading medical institution in the world.”

—Rush Medical College Laboratory, 1893

RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE, 1876-1992
After a few years on campus, the Rush Medical College faculty realized that their clinical pursuits would improve if they access to a hospital that was directly connected to the school. In 1884, Rush Medical College solicited financial and administrative assistance from Chicago’s Presbyterian Churches, and the Presbyterian Hospital of the City of Chicago formed.

“The Presbyterian was founded with two high purposes, curing the sick and aiding in medical education. The hospital that confines itself solely to the treatment of the sick is somewhat dwarfed. To be kept alive and progressive it should have the stimulus of the necessity of instructing young, active, wide awake under graduates, interns, and nurses. Unless the spirit of research is in a hospital, unless it pervades the various branches of the medical institution... things fail to progress and patients suffer.”

—John B. Herrick, M.D., Speech to the Presbyterian Hospital, 1913

DANIEL JONES MEMORIAL BUILDING, 1888-PRESENT
“...Your eyes are delighted by its external beauty, the perfection of its interior furnishings, the thoroughness with which everything has been built; and, as you mark the open fireplaces in every room, as you are gladdened by the free play of sunlight and air in every part, as you walk the fireproof floors and note the admirable arrangements for supplying the patients with food, and feel the presence of skill and benevolence and tender sympathy in everything which meets the eye, you must realize that no man in our city has ever built a worthier monument than that which now stands as Mr. Daniel Jones’s memorial to his love of God and man.”

—Rev. John H. Borowes, D.D., Dedication Address at the Dedication Services for the Jones Memorial Building, April 22, 1889
Rush Medical College affiliated with the University of Chicago in 1898, leading to a new era of prosperity for the school. Rush, unwilling to give up its identity, autonomy, and philosophy, refused to be completely absorbed into the University and ended the affiliation in 1942. Instead, Rush closed its doors, re-opening under the leadership of Dr. James Campbell and other visionaries in 1969.
The 1956 merger of Presbyterian Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital brought many changes to the campus. The hospital merged with the newly re-opened Rush Medical College in 1969, Rush University was established, and Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center was born. In 2003, another change affected campus when the institution changed its name to Rush University Medical Center. Now, Rush enters a new phase as it breaks ground for a new hospital east of the Atrium.

**ARMOUR ACADEMIC CENTER (ACADEMIC FACILITY) (1976-PRESENT)**

Rush Medical College was re-established in 1969, and the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences was developed a few years later. A new building was needed to house the growing university. When the Academic Facility was built, it was raised on stilts and was only three floors. The open area around the stilts was eventually filled in, and more floors were added twenty years later.

In 1998, the Academic Facility was renamed to honor Rush Trustee A. Watson Armour III and his wife, Sarah Wood Armour.

“No one thought we could use the skinny site where the elevated train runs, but the hospital already owned it, and it was on the same block as the rest of the buildings. So we said, why not think of the El as an asset, building around it, maybe even putting stops right inside the hospital.”

**ATRIUM (1982-PRESENT)**

Once the Academic Facility was in place, the time was right for an updated hospital pavilion. The new hospital featured an atrium which provided sunlight to many interior rooms. To further brighten the atmosphere of the hospital, large, colorful banners were hung throughout the atrium area. Rooms that looked out into the atrium were outfitted with multicolored blinds.

The Atrium was part of a larger project which included expanded parking and the cafeteria. Like the Atrium, the cafeteria was designed in an array of rainbow colors.

“Buildings dating back to 1883 were still being used to house patients and there were no single-patient rooms. The sprawling medical center facilities had seven separate entrances which impeded the flow of traffic and threatened security. Multiple elevator rides were often required in the course of a single treatment. The major receiving area was served by what was once a coal chute.”