

Homer G. Phillips and the Legacy of Public Hospitals in St. Louis

In 1905 Dr. John Green, President of the St. Louis Medical Society, with a keen understanding of the plight of public hospitals in other cities issued this charge to St. Louis physicians on the eve of opening a new City Hospital:

“Will it vouchsafe to the pauper a medical care equivalent to that which his pecuniarily more fortunate fellow citizens receive? Will it fulfill to the utmost its function of providing instruction in practical medicine to the undergraduate student? And will our hospital be thoroughly in accord with the spirit of medical enlightenment?”

*Presidential Report, St. Louis Medical Review
January 14, 1905*

A succession of public hospitals failed in that charge -- City Hospital No. 1 (Max C. Starkloff), City Hospital No. 2, and St. Louis County Hospital, despite their professed missions, opened as segregated facilities. Only under duress, and toward the twilight of their existence, did they admit and treat irrespective of race, creed or color. There is one bright exception, the Homer G. Phillips Hospital. It opened its doors as a truly “public” facility in 1937, still shrouded in intrigue after the mysterious assassination of its main advocate and benefactor, attorney Homer Gilliam Phillips. At a time in American society when people of color were restricted from most medical training programs, the Homer G. Phillips Hospital became the premier training ground for African American medical professionals – many of whom remained to deliver high quality health care in the St. Louis area and who later assumed prestigious positions throughout the nation. The successes of its subsequent years of operation (as well as the complex issues surrounding its closure) became legendary in the annals of public hospitals. It closed its doors on August 17, 1979, followed by St. Louis City No. 1 in 1985, St. Louis County Hospital in 1987, and St. Louis Regional Hospital in 1997. While we cannot now walk the halls of Homer G. Phillips Hospital, we can learn much from its history, presented by the very people who strived diligently to provide culturally sensitive care to the patients who so deeply trusted and loved them and their hospital. This lecture series is named in honor of the historic Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis.

The Homer G. Phillips Public Health Lecture Series

“Homer G. Phillips and the Ville: Celebrating the Legacy”



Guest Speaker and Honoree:

John Wright, Ph.D.

Author, Historian, Academic Leader

Friday, October 23, 2015

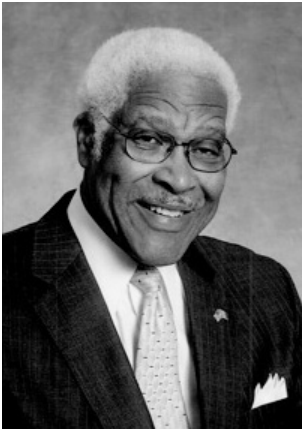
Washington University School of Medicine
Eric P. Newman Education Center (EPNEC)
320 South Euclid Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri 63110

6:00 p.m.
Cocktails
Atrium

6:30 p.m.
Dinner
Great Rooms

7:30 p.m.
Lecture
Great Rooms

John Wright, Ph.D.



John A. Wright is a native of St. Louis, Mo., and a graduate of the St. Louis Public Schools. After graduation from Sumner High School, he went on to receive a B.A. from Harris Teachers College (now Harris-Stowe State University) and his M.E.D. and Ph.D. from St. Louis University. He served as a Fulbright Scholar in India and at Harvard, Dartmouth College, and participated in postgraduate studies at Loyola University in Chicago, and as a trainee with the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Relations Division, in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Wright has had a long and distinguished career as a St. Louis academic leader. His previous jobs include serving as the Interim Superintendent of Schools for St. Louis Public Schools, Interim Superintendent of Schools for the Normandy School District and Assistant Superintendent for the Ferguson-Florissant School District.

Dr. Wright has been an engaged member of the education profession. He organized the first Teacher’s and Principal’s Academy for the Private School Federation in Bangkok, Thailand; established the first pre-teacher training program between a school district and St. Louis Community College (the first in the state); served as public hearing chairman for the Governor’s Vocational Education Advisory Council; established the minority recruitment program for St. Louis County school districts; and organized the Missouri Education Policy Fellowship Program for the Institute of Educational Leadership, located in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Wright is an active member of the community and has served on numerous boards. He presently serves on the boards of the St. Louis World Trade Center, Alliance Français of St. Louis, Regional Arts Commission; and the St. Louis, Missouri--Senegal Sister Cities Committee. He was elected chair of the Missouri Humanities Council in 2006 and in 2014 was appointed to the Missouri Charter Public Schools Commission by Governor Jay Nixon. He has many other professional and community affiliations and has received numerous awards. Dr. Wright is the author of 13 books about regional history, including *The Ville*, *St. Louis*, *Discovering African American St. Louis*, and *St. Louis: Disappearing Black Communities*.

Program

Welcome	Will Ross, M.D., M.P.H. Associate Dean for Diversity Office of Diversity Programs
Remarks	Larry Shapiro, M.D. Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean for Medical Affairs
Introduction of John Wright PhD.	Candace O’Connor Washington University Author and Historian
“Homer G. Phillips and the Ville: Celebrating the Legacy”	John Wright, Ph.D. Author, Historian, Academic Leader
Presentation	Will Ross, M.D., M.P.H. Associate Dean for Diversity Office of Diversity Programs
Questions.....	Audience