

# TRENT ASSOCIATES REPORT

Fall/Winter 2002

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## The Four Seasons Celebration

On Thursday afternoon 26 September 2002, the Trent Associates and the Duke University Medical Center Library hosted a lecture, exhibit, and reception to celebrate the publication of *The Four Seasons of Human Life*; four anonymous engravings from the Trent Collection. Thomas Robisheaux, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of History, presented a lecture on "Paracelsus, Late Renaissance Medicine and *The Four Seasons of Human Life*" in



Susan & Terry Cavanagh

which he made extensive illustrative use of the interactive *Four Seasons* CD-ROM funded by Dr. John P. McGovern. Designed to accompany the book, the CD-ROM was produced by Anthony Benson of the Division of Educational Media Services, with the assistance of Rob Devoe and other staff from that department.



Dr. Thomas Robisheaux

Special guests for the occasion were Dr. James H. and Mrs. Mary D.B.T. Semans and Mr. Douglas Zinn, all of whom supported the publication through The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation. G.S.T. (Terry) Cavanagh, Trent Curator emeritus, and Susan Smith Cavanagh, travelled from their retirement residence in Athens, GA for the celebration. Terry Cavanagh was involved in the early research on the four engravings and was instrumental in getting the European scholars interested in the project in the very early 1990s.



Mrs. Mary D.B.T. Semans

### Inside this Report

The Four Seasons Celebration.....	1	Future Issues Online.....	4
65 <sup>th</sup> General Hospital Renunion.....	2	Trent Associates.....	5
Medical Center Historian.....	4	SAHMS.....	5
Oral History Program.....	4	Membership Form.....	6

## 65th General Hospital Reunion

The 65<sup>th</sup> General Hospital (World War II) held its fifty-fifth and final reunion on the weekend of 26 October 2002. A pivotal activity was the dedication of the memorial sculpture on the lawn near the entrance to the Duke Clinics and Morris Building. Stephen H. Smith, a North Carolina native, was the sculptor for the memorial which was funded by grants from the Duke Endowment and The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.

Ralph Snyderman, MD, Chancellor for Health Affairs, presided over the occasion. Participating in honoring the survivors was William G. Anlyan, MD, Chancellor Emeritus, and R. Sanders Williams, MD, Dean of the School of Medicine. U.S. Army Brigadier General Eric B. Schoomaker, MD, gave the keynote address. Music was provided by the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Band from Fort Bragg. Ivan W. Brown, Jr., MD, the youngest physician to serve with the 65<sup>th</sup> and a former James B. Duke Professor of Medicine, presented some recollections of the medical unit. Dr. Brown has attended every reunion and serves as historian for the 65<sup>th</sup>. He created a documentary in the 1980s with his own funds covering the history of the unit and is responsible for placing a collection of materials for the 65<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in the Medical Center Archives.

The 65<sup>th</sup> General Hospital was established in October 1940 at the urging of Dean Wilburt Cornell Davison. The Duke-affiliated Army medical unit, one of numerous similar outfits from various medical schools and hospitals around the country, was initially composed of doctors and nurses all of whom had some connection with Duke – faculty, graduates of the medical and nursing schools, and current and former house staff. They reported for active duty at Fort Bragg, N.C. on 3 July 1942 with Colonel Gordon A. Clapp as Commanding Officer. At that time their ranks were supplemented with additional Army nurses and about five hundred enlisted men, mostly from New York and New Jersey, who served as support staff. After fifteen months of training, the unit was sent overseas. They arrived in England in October 1943 and were initially sent to Malvern in Worcestershire, but early in the next year were moved to Botesdale in Suffolk.



Dr. Ivan W. Brown



The 65<sup>th</sup> General Hospital differed substantially from most field hospitals in that they handled an entire range of injuries and illnesses. Since they served the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force there was no backward chain of evacuation from a battlefield. They provided the freshly wounded with complex, sophisticated care. The bomber crews went out in the morning on flying raids over Europe and returned with casualties in the late afternoon at what was called "flak time." The 65<sup>th</sup> was a designated specialty center for neurosurgery, thoracic and plastic surgery, burns, and hand injuries for eastern England. They also received battlefield casualties evacuated from the continent after D-Day (6 June 1944).

After a slow start, the 65<sup>th</sup> General Hospital was in continuous operation until 29 August 1945 when the unit ceased operations and turned over the few remaining patients to other hospitals in the area. During twenty months of operation overseas, the 65<sup>th</sup> General Hospital treated 17,250 patients and achieved a remarkable overall mortality rate for fresh battle casualties of 0.43 percent.

The Medical Center Library currently has a small exhibit in the lower lobby commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup>. A set of five oil paintings by Frank Beresford showing the 65<sup>th</sup> in action is also on permanent display on the first stack level. These paintings were acquired for Duke by Dean Davison, along with the artist's original sketches, which are housed in the History of Medicine Collections.



### Medical Center Historian

Walter E. Campbell, III, PhD, has been hired by the Medical Center to bring the institution's history up to date for the 75th anniversary in 2005. Dr. Campbell will carry the story forward from where the late Dr. James F. Gifford, Jr. left off in his *The Evolution of a Medical Center: A History of Medicine at Duke University to 1941*.



Walter is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received his doctorate in American history in 1991. Author of the award-winning book, *Across Fortune's Tracks: A Biography of William Rand Kenan, Jr.*, he has extensive academic experience which includes working in various capacities with the Southern Oral History program at UNC-CH and participating as a scholar in Duke's Center for Documentary Studies on "Behind the Veil: Documenting African American Life in the Jim Crow South." He has researched, written, and produced a number of documentaries for television, as well as educational films and instructional videos. One of his creations was the "Bull City Blues" public television series dealing with the history of blues music in Durham. He is currently involved as producer in several film projects, among them, "Color Lines: Race, Media and College Basketball."

If you have information you would like to share with Walter or suggestions about people with whom he should speak as he does his research on the Duke University Medical Center and Health System, you can reach him by phone at his office (919-660-1197) or contact him via email (campb082@mc.duke.edu).

### Oral History Program

In preparation for its 75th anniversary, the Medical Center Library has undertaken a program of oral histories to record reminiscences about the Library and its place in the Medical Center. Reflecting how essential he considered a library, Dean Davison began the process of collecting books for a hospital library before the medical school had been physically completed. The librarian, Judith Farrar, was among the first people hired for the faculty by the Dean. Her appointment dated from 1 September 1929. If you have not been contacted and would like to participate, please speak with Suzanne Porter at 919-660-1143 or porte004@mc.duke.edu.

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### Future Issues Online

Due to the rising costs of printing and mailing the paper copy of the Trent Associates Report, we will begin to distribute the newsletter online starting with the Spring/Summer 2003 issue. It will be available on the History of Medicine Website at <<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/hmc/>>. We will continue to mail copies to all Trent Associates, unless they request otherwise, and paper copies will be available in the reading room for visitors. Any others who wish to receive a paper copy should contact us with a mailing address.

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## SAHMS

On February 21-22, 2003, Duke University Medical Center in cooperation with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will host the fifth annual conference of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science. SAHMS is a regional association formed to stimulate interest in the history of medicine and science in all times and places by fostering collegiality and by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas. Major themes in this year's conference are pre-1800 history of medicine, 19th and 20th century history of medicine and science, and literature and medicine. Sixty five speakers from the United States, Canada, and Great Britain will present papers in twenty one different sessions. Participation will be limited to 180 registrants. For information see <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/sahms/> or call 919-660-1143.

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TRENT ASSOCIATES

for the

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I wish to become a member of the Trent Associates for 2003  
and enclose my check for the amount indicated below:

- Member \$25.00
- Contributing Member \$50.00
- Sustaining Member \$100.00

Gifts in kind are also appreciated and count toward membership.

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