

# TRENT ASSOCIATES REPORT

Spring/Summer 2010

Vol. 18, No. 1

## Curator Retires

My retirement at the end of July offers me an opportunity to reflect on the eighteen years I have spent as Curator of the History of Medicine Collections. I consider this period the capstone of my 44 year career as a rare and special collections librarian. It has been a pleasure and privilege to have daily access to the treasures in the Trent Collection. I will miss being greeted by the ivory bas relief *memento mori* skeleton each morning when I walk into the reading room.

Photo: Jessica Roseberry



I am proud to have made a significant contribution toward the security and physical integrity of the collections. I planned and had installed an alarm system, cameras, security mirrors, and doorbells to protect the reading room, Trent Room, and

locked stacks as well as the exhibition cases in the lower lobby. Over time, I was able to foster an appreciation for the collections with colleagues in the physical plant and to educate them on the value and the consequent need for a timely response to maintain target temperature and humidity levels. An updated appraisal helped get the attention of everyone associated with the physical care of the collections. Creation of a disaster response plan for the medical library was a further means to insure their physical well-being.

Some numbers can help summarize many of the activities with which I have been involved. I have edited 36 issues of the **Trent Associates Report** of which this is my last. I have mounted 43 exhibits, including two permanent exhibits (Nashold History of Stereotactic Neurosurgery, and the Zeiss Ultraphot II Photomicroscope), as a means to share materials from our collections with the community and to publicly thank our donors. I have hosted 20 events with speakers for the Trent History of Medicine Society in our collaborative series with the UNC Bullitt History of Medicine Club as well as at least a dozen other special speakers and celebrations over

Continued on page 2

### Inside this Report

Curator Retires.....	1	Recent Acquisitions.....	5
Three Prizes and a Scholarship.....	3	Trent Associates.....	6
Rommelins Return.....	4	Membership Form.....	Insert

**Curator Retires, continued from page 1**

the years. I have successfully applied for nine grants to support projects and publications. I supervised the initial digitization of over 3000 items in our picture collection now accessible online as the Historical Images in Medicine (HIM) collection. This continues to grow as new materials join the collections. Recently a long-needed inventory of our artifacts collection was completed. Each object or collection of objects now has a record and photograph to document and facilitate its use. During my tenure the history of medicine website was updated and a handsome brochure was created; both have helped to publicize our presence and guide those interested in using the collections.

I have enjoyed coauthoring or editing some major publications. **The Physician's Art** was both a collaborative exhibition with the other history of medicine collections in North Carolina and a very successful exhibition catalogue – now out of print. **The Four Seasons of Human Life**, an exhaustive examination of a set of seventeenth century engravings in the Trent Collection, was completed after ten years of research by more than a dozen European scholars. **The Four Seasons; an interactive CD-ROM** that was created to accompany the volume was the result of collaboration with the Division of Educational Media Services in the School of Medicine. I chaired the editorial committee which guided Walter Campbell as he wrote **Foundations for Excellence; 75 Years of Duke Medicine**. Our much admired brochure, **The Medical Garden**, serves as guide to the medicinal garden located on the terrace outside the reading room. Most recently I joined three other professional colleagues in publishing an advocacy document detailing the continuing importance of history of medicine collections and curators.

The annual anatomy class visit to the Trent Collection, established with the support of Dr. Edward Halperin, our former Vice-Dean for Medical Education, will mark its 7th year this Fall. The visit was begun as a way to introduce the first year medical students to our extraordinary rare anatomical atlas collection and to help them make connections with what they were seeing and doing in their dissection lab. It has had the added benefit of stimulating further interest in using the materials for study in the third research year or for personal projects leading to prizes or publication. I had the opportunity to use a bequest from the estate of Dr. William Reid Haas and Mrs. Ardelle B. Haas to create an annual essay prize and a scholarship for medical students and have chaired the selection committee since its inception.

Over the years it has been a pleasure to assist our faculty and students as well as researchers from around the world in accessing our collection for their classes, projects, and publications. It has been a particular pleasure to develop friendships with our donors whose support has enabled me to add rare materials to the collections (some as gifts from their own collections), to pay for the conservation of our treasures when needed, to fund speakers and special exhibitions, and to purchase special equipment/furniture. I would especially like to acknowledge Mrs. Mary DBT Semans and the Trent and Semans families and Douglas C. Zinn, Executive Director of The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, for their loyal and enthusiastic support for history of medicine collections. The Medical Library and the role of the History of Medicine Collections have changed substantially in response to both the economy and technology during the years I have served as curator. I look forward to seeing the next curator continue to meet these challenges and take the collections to an exciting new level. Since I plan to remain in the area, I am confident I will see many of you again.

**Suzanne Porter**

Three Prizes and a Scholarship



Hornéy

This year we had winners for all of the history of medicine awards administered by the library. There was again a tie for the Cavanagh Prize which honors the top medical school graduate(s). Carolyn Pickeral Hornéy and Mackenzie Rainier Cook each received a copy of GST Cavanagh's **Panorama of Vesalius** with an inscribed bookplate to mark the occasion. Beginning in 2007, presentation copies of the book have been donated by Susan Smith Cavanagh in honor of her late husband who was Trent Curator Emeritus. In the past four years seven prizes have been awarded



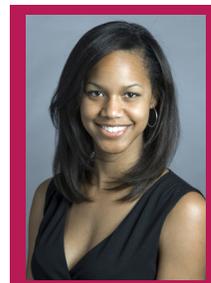
Cook

The Haas History of Medicine Essay Prize was awarded to Olukemi Ogundipe for her essay, **A Story of the Integration of Duke Medical Center: The Experiences of African-American Faculty and Medical Students (An Oral History Project)**. Kemi received a check for \$1200 and her name has been added to the perpetual plaque on display in the office of Student Affairs in the School of Medicine. The prize, established to honor the memory of Dr. William Reid Haas and Mrs. Ardelle B. Haas, recognizes a thoughtful and scholarly analysis of a topic on any aspect of the history of the health sciences.



Ogundipe

The Haas History of Medicine Scholarship was awarded for the first time. Also established to honor the memory of Dr. and Mrs. Haas, the scholarship supports a third year medical student engaged in research in the Medical Humanities Study Program. Iman Washington will receive a deposit of \$3000 toward her tuition costs for research on the link between healthcare and social justice. She plans to illuminate some aspect of the disparity of health outcomes in the African-American community. Dr. Margaret Humphreys will serve as her mentor.



Washington

Published at regular intervals during the year.  
Suzanne Porter, Curator & Editor  
Beverly Murphy, Assistant Editor/Photographer

## Rommelins Return

The Trent Collection is quite fortunate to have four early editions of Johann Remmelin's anatomy of the human body. In addition to the first authorized Latin edition (**Catoptrum microcosmicum**, 1619), we have translations into German (**Kleiner Welt-Spiegel**, 1632), Dutch (**Pinax microcosmographicus**, 1634), and English (**A survey of the microcosme**, 1738). We also have a few leaves from a French edition, **Abregé de l'anatomie de la femme** [1630?]. Remmelin, a late 16th century physician from Ulm, reproduced the anatomy of the human body in three plates, each with superimposed flaps revealing the internal organs of either the male or the female and published them with accompanying text. Flap anatomies had long been employed on fugitive sheets, but his was the first atlas to make extensive use of this method to illustrate the structure of the body. These plates seem to have had an obvious stylistic influence on our **Four Seasons** engravings; therefore, having them immediately available for study and comparison further enhances their value for our collection.

The Remmelins have been undergoing treatment with Etherington Conservation Services at The HF Group in Browns Summit, NC for the past few months. After centuries of wear and handling, many of the flaps had become detached or torn and were in need of painstaking repair. Soiled pages were cleaned and mended, folios were re sewn, and bindings were repaired or replaced. As a final step, custom made cases were created to house and protect the volumes. The process was photographically documented and any bindings removed were retained as a historic record. Gifts to the Trent Associates Fund from the George I. Uhde, MD Endowment Fund were used to defray the cost of conservation.

Please visit the Remmelins in the History of Medicine Reading Room (102) on the lower level of the Medical Center Library.



Catoptrum microcosmicum  
1619

**Recent Acquisitions**

**Address of the Royal Jennerian Society, for the extermination of the small-pox ...** London: Printed and Sold by W. Phillips [*et al.*] 1803.

Broca, Paul. **Des Anéurysmes et de leur traitement.** Paris: Labé, 1856.

Emmons, Samuel B. **The Vegetable family physician ...** Boston: George P. Oakes, 1836.

Flint, Austin. **Clinical reports on continued fever.** Buffalo: Geo. H. Derby & Co., 1852.

Foreest, Pieter van. **De incerto, fallaci urinarum judicio ...** Lugduni Batavorum: Ex officina Plantiniana apud Franciscum Raphelengium, 1589.

Hammond, Mrs. Luna M. **Trials and triumphs of an orphan girl; or the biography of Mrs. Deiadamia Chase, physician and phrenologist.** Cortland, NY: Van Slyck & Hitchcock, 1859.

Hoboken, Nicolaas. **Anatomia secundinae humanae ...** Trajecti ad Rhenum: Apud Johannem Ribbium, 1669.

Jackson, James Caleb. **How to treat the sick without medicine.** Dansville, NY: Austin, Jackson & Co., 1868.

Marshal, Andrew. **The Morbid anatomy of the brain, in mania and hydrophobia ...** London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme & Brown, 1815.

Neelon, Francis A.; Estes, E. Harvey; & Wallace, Andrew G. **Learning to learn; the teaching legacy of Eugene A. Stead, Jr., MD.** Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2010.

Newcomb, Daniel. **An Inaugural essay on the different theories that have been advanced on the subject of the proximate cause of conception in the human female ...** Philadelphia: Printed for the Author by John H. Oswald, 1806.

Pinel, Scipion. **Traité complet du régime sanitaire des aliénés ...** Bruxelles: Société Encyclographiques des Sciences Médicales, 1837.

Shew, Joel. **Hydropathy; or the water-cure ...** New York: Wiley & Putnam, 1844.

Smith, Joseph. **The Dogmaticus, or family physician ...** Rochester, NY: Printed for the Author by Marshall & Dean, 1829.

Trall, Russell T. **Diphtheria: its nature, history, causes, prevention, and treatment ...** New York: Fowler and Wells, 1862.

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