

Waring Library Society Newsletter

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President's Corner

By Dr. James H. Tolley, Waring Library Society Board President

I am now coming to the end of my two-year term as president of the Waring Library Society, at about the same time we are gingerly emerging from our two years of physical separation and face masking. We in the health care community, along with our patients, have experienced, and are experiencing a form of history in the making. We have learned to meet each other, our patients, and our health care providers virtually through online electronic programs and learned to project our voices through face coverings, all with various levels of success.

I would like to think that one of the positive results of the past two years was sharing our treasure of the Waring Historical Library to a larger audience through the use of electronic media. We have also expanded our lecture series from two to four presentations.

I am saddened by the fact that we could not meet in person during my term. So that we can continue to share with those who cannot be physically present, I look forward to the time when we can meet with the possibility of using a hybrid format.

Please take note of the Waring Library's continuing work in this newsletter, while sharing it freely along with our postings on social media. In our shared time during this epidemic, if you have experiences you would like to share, please do so [here](#). Members of our society who have not renewed their membership, please do so [here](#). Any of our readers who are not members, please consider joining us [here](#).

With the spring rain, we look forward to new beginnings. I look forward to continuing my efforts to promote the work of Waring in support of our incoming president of the Society, Dr. Jacob Steere-Williams.



Portrait of Dr. Jacob Steere-Williams.

Welcoming in the New WLS President By Dr. Jacob Steere-Williams

As incoming President of the Waring Library Society, there is no better place to start than to use the old Newtonian axiom: “if I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

An outpouring of thanks is first due to Dr. James H. Tolley, whose care, diligence, and leadership we have needed over the past two years as we navigated the difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. To be clear: we are a better and a stronger organization because of Dr. Tolley.

As a historian of medicine and public health my mind

wanders back into deeper historical waters as I begin my term as Waring Library Society President, to the founding of the WLS in 1979, and even further back to the origins of the Medical Society of South Carolina in 1789. Even a quick historical tour shows that our path has been a tumultuous one, with war, epidemics, and political change appearing the constants rather than the exceptions. The history of the health sciences in Charleston and the broader Lowcountry can continue to help us understand what continue to be uncertain times with COVID-19.

What is clear to me are two certainties about the WLS: with the leadership of Dr. Brian Fors and the broad support of our members, we are making positive changes to the physical space of the Waring, our prized collection, and our community of learners; now, more than ever, we need to forcefully bring the history of the health sciences in Charleston to the forefront in public discussions, academic discourse, and medical education. The momentum has been building, now is our time to seize upon it.

Waring Renovation

By Dr. Brian Fors

In the fall, the University commissioned a feasibility study for the renovation of the Waring Historical Library. The changes to the library would accomplish a number of things: improve temperature and humidity conditions in the building; create more shelf space for the collection; secure windows from hurricane damage and remove the metal cages over the first floor windows; create more open space on the first floor; create a second entrance/exit to improve access and safety; install a lift for access to the second floor; create a records processing room and conference/presentation space; improve storage and restroom space; and generally address deteriorating conditions of the walls, floors, windows, and doors, and clean the outside of the building.

The two images provided here (zoom in for details) give you some idea of the changes and the new look of the Waring if we are able to move forward with the renovation and we are able to raise the \$1.2 million to complete the work. The renovation will allow the Waring to take better care of the collection and to provide space to continue connecting with a wider community and make the collection relevant to the scholarly world.

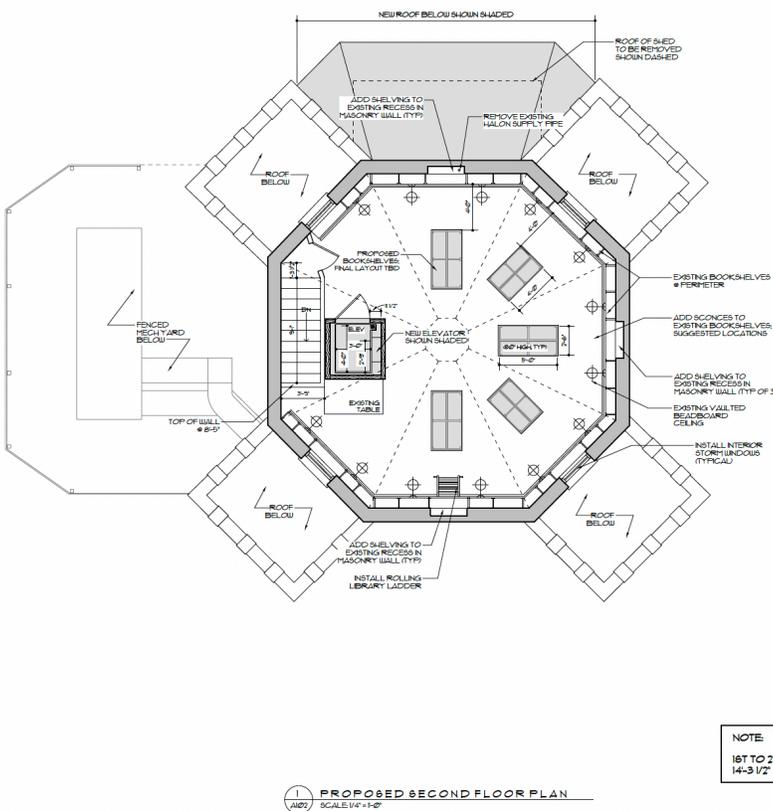
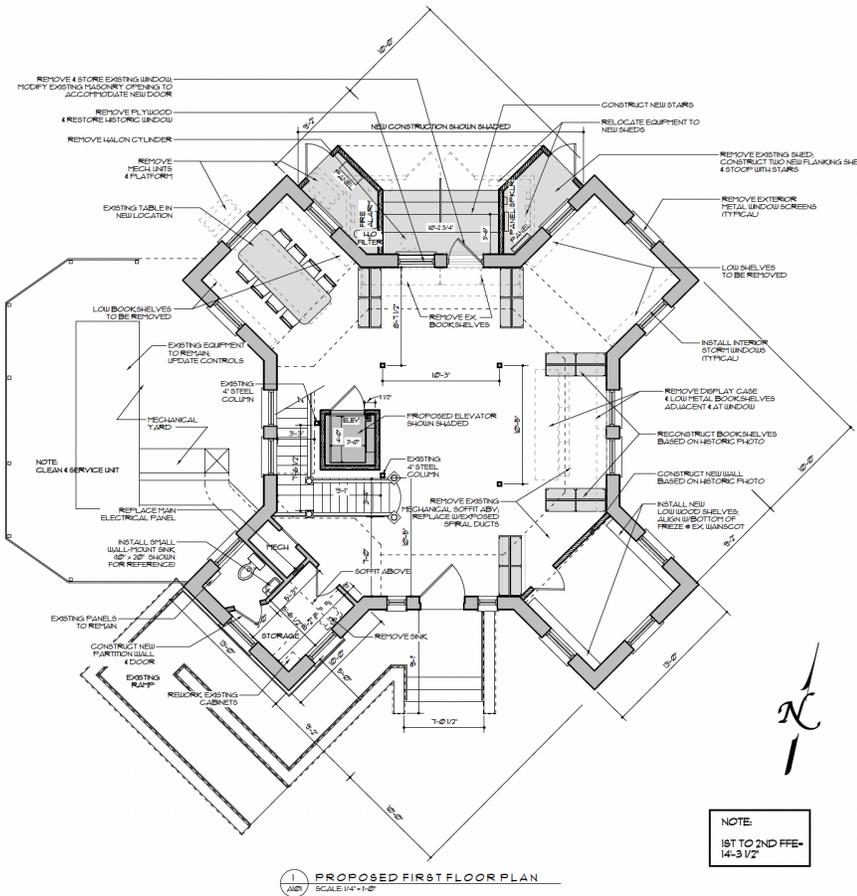




Image of Ms. Judith Arendall's badge and a book from the cataloging project she worked on.



Portrait of Ms. Judith Arendall.

Day in the Life of a Graduate Student

By Ms. Judith Arendall

The best smell that one can encounter is the smell of books, especially those of antiquity. My first encounter with The Waring Historical Library was my introduction day to go over general guidelines and familiarize myself with the library. To my great delight, I have yet to feel entirely too familiar with the library to ever get bored.

The general feeling of boredom would be hard to come by due to the massive quantities of rare books that haunt the Waring's shelves in need of re-cataloging and re-homing. When there are over 5,000 books on the queuing line, my days are often filled with translations of Latin or French texts, the googling of various arcane medical terms, and frantic flipping of pages to devour the latest details that catch my attention.

The job of cataloging can be one of the weird-but-intriguing lapses of sights like the decaying book covers of coy hide, insects fleeing the scene of their latest devastations. On days when cataloging grows tiring, if it ever does, I turn towards fun projects like processing a scrapbook belonging to Edward Frost Parker from the early 20th century. It can be the most satisfying project to work on, picking through pieces of historical memory, or it can be the most infuriating battle between me and the century-old glue stopping me from finishing that day's assignment. Some days are a win, and some are begrudging battles I am bound to lose.

I take a break to wander the shelves on the losing days to see if anything catches my attention. Oftentimes something does, like Kraft-ebing's *Psychopathia Sexualis*, a text that inevitably will play a role in my thesis work researching medical attempts at "curing" queerness in the 20th century.

The most general and simple way I can explain my time as a graduate assistant in the library is one of exploration. Every shift is a shift of new encounters with materials and learning new ideas, terms, and practices that continuously push my love for archives further. I dread the day that my consistent lurking amongst the books will end, but my joy continues for now!

Note: Ms. Arendall is a graduate assistant in the History Department at the College of Charleston assigned to the Waring.

A Look Back At Social Media By Ms. Anna Schuldt

If you follow us on social media, you might have noticed over the past two months we have been highlighting individuals from throughout MUSC's history. In February for Black History Month, a handful of the extraordinary Black graduates, faculty, and staff at MUSC, starting at the desegregation of MUSC through today, had the spotlight shine on them on our platforms. In March for Women's History Month, our series fell in line with the National Women's History Alliance's 2022 theme: "Providing Healing, Promoting Hope."

Individuals such as Dr. Bernard W. Deas, Jr., the first male African American graduate from the College of Medicine in 1971, and Rosslee Tenetha Green Douglas, RN, the first female African American graduate from the College of Nursing in 1972, were featured over the past two months. In order to see the posts and learn more, check out our social media and our [MUSC Women Exhibit!](#)

Make sure you stay up to stay connected with us and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube!](#)



Ms. Tabitha Samuel presenting on the SC History Day event.

Digital Archives Outreach: Nurturing Future Historians through SC History Day By Ms. Tabitha Samuel

For the past three years, part of my service and outreach activities have included serving as the Regional Coordinator for the Midlands Contest of the SC History Day Contests, which is an affiliate of National History Day. The SC History Day contests are maintained and sponsored by Coastal Carolina University, and the regional contests are coordinated on a volunteer basis by archivists, librarians, and history educators and instructors.

As one of the regional coordinators, I manage all of the particulars of the Midlands contest, which include the format, venue, judge recruitment and training, submissions cycle, the contest schedule and events, and awards ceremony. This is quite the undertaking, even in the virtual setting, but it is extremely rewarding.

Each year, enthusiastic and talented middle and high school students, dare I say young scholars, of history create elaborate projects based on a theme determined by National History Day and compete in teams or individually in one of five categories: Paper, Documentary, Exhibit, Performance, and Website. This year's theme was "Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures, and Consequences," and it was conducted virtually with 67 students competing.

(cont.)

It is incredible to see SC's students fully engaged in history and using a variety of primary sources from institutions across the state, including the Waring. As a judge in past years, it was an amazing experience to see their eyes light up when discussing their topics, the most fascinating sources they discovered, and all the hard work they put into developing their projects. And, progressing to the position of regional coordinator, I have had the experience of connecting with teachers and advocating for the continuation and expansion of the SC History Day competition, seeing what profound impact it is having on these young scholars and knowing what an impact history had on me once upon a time at their ages and even now to this very day.

Although the number of students participating has declined over the past couple of years nationwide due to the pandemic, SC's coordinators are hoping for a rebound with in-person contests next year.



Save the Date!

By Ms. Brooke Fox

May 25, 2022, marks the 40th anniversary of the diagnosis of South Carolina's first AIDS patient. To commemorate this historic event, the MUSC Waring Historical Library is hosting a hybrid symposium focusing on the history of HIV/AIDS in South Carolina and the South. Scheduled for May 24-26, 2022, the event will feature historians and scholars discussing the history of the disease, healthcare and public health professionals from the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina who were on the frontlines of the epidemic in the 1980s and 1990s, up through the present, and representatives from state and local HIV/AIDS support groups.

Symposium planners intend for the event to be a thoughtful and respectful reflection on the history of HIV/AIDS in the state and the South, and we hope you will join us. Please mark your calendars for May 24-26, 2022. More information will be available as we get closer to May. Sponsors of this event include MUSC Arts in Healing, MUSC Libraries, Gibbes Museum of Art, and the College of Charleston's Department of Medical Humanities.

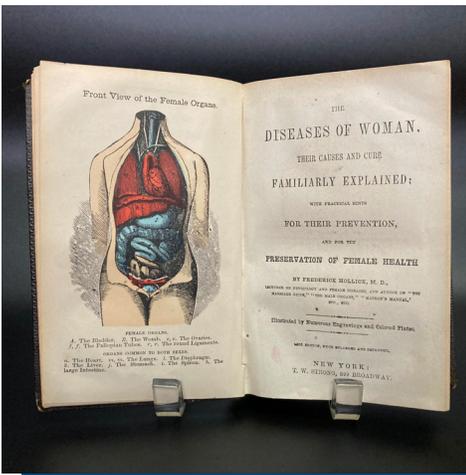
For more information and registration, [visit our event page](#).

Waring Collection Highlight: Women's Health By Dr. Brian Fors

As we continue the process of re-cataloging every book in the collection using the National Library of Medicine classification system, books on similar topics will be located together on the shelves and as that process continues, the Waring will provide highlights of the collection based on the topic categories. For this newsletter, the highlight is women's health. Most of the books during the 18th and 19th centuries addressing women's health focused on childbirth and combined health of mother's and children.

The Waring has multiple editions of some of these works. There is *Woman; her Diseases and Remedies, A Series of Letters to His Class* by Charles D. Meigs at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, published in 1848 and 1851; Fleetwood Churchill of King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland wrote several editions of *On the Diseases of Women; Including Those of Pregnancy and Childbed* published in 1852 and 1857, and *On the Diseases of Females* in 1841, 1843, 1844, 1847 and 1850. There are several other volumes with similar titles and focus, as well as books on midwifery, operative gynecology, and obstetrics.

There are examples of general health guides as well, specifically written as a guide to women that could be used in the home. One in particular, with images, is noted below. It is *The Diseases of Woman, Their Causes and Cure Familiarly Explained; with Practical Hints for Their Prevention, and for the Preservation of Female Health* by Frederick Hollick published in 1855 (originally published in 1849).



Title page and plate titled "Front View of the Female Organs."



Plate titled "Galvanism."