

TREASURES



UAB LIBRARIES HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS NEWSLETTER

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Reynolds-Finley Annual Historical Lecture

The 46th Annual Reynolds-Finley Historical Lecture will be held on Feb. 28, 2025, at 4 p.m. in the Hill Student Center Alumni Theater in conjunction with Medical Alumni Weekend.

The Annual Lecture will be delivered by Rubin Pillay, M.D., Ph.D., an internationally recognized health care innovator, futurist, and professor. Currently serving as the Executive Director of the Heersink Institute for Biomedical Innovation and the Chief Innovation Officer for the UAB Health System, Dr. Pillay is a leading expert on the integration of technology and medicine. He has authored several books, including *Now to Next: The Future of Healthcare and AI* and *The Quintuple Aim: Revolutionizing Healthcare for Better Outcomes*. With more than three decades of



experience, he is a sought-after speaker and ...

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consultant, driving transformative change in health systems globally. Pillay’s work focuses on leveraging AI and emerging technologies to enhance care delivery, equity, and sustainability in health care.

Pillay’s lecture is titled “AI in Medicine: Menace or Miracle?” Pillay will explore the dual-edged nature of artificial intelligence in health care. From its transformative potential to revolutionize diagnostics, treatment personalization, and operational efficiency, to the ethical dilemmas, biases, and unintended consequences it may bring, Pillay will delve into whether AI represents a miracle for advancing medicine or a menace to humanity’s core values in care. Drawing on his extensive expertise in health care innovation and AI implementation, he offers insights into how we can navigate the opportunities and risks to ensure AI becomes a force for good, reshaping the future of medicine.

For more information about Medical Alumni Association Weekend, visit maa.uab.edu.

Lecture Series Relaunch

Fall 2024 saw a relaunch of the Reynolds-Finley Lecture Series. While the Annual Lecture, in conjunction with Medical Alumni Weekend, is entering its 46th year, the lecture series began in the 1990s, ceased in 2016, and was restarted in October 2024.

Arielle Silverman, Ph.D., director of Research for the American Foundation for the Blind, delivered the first lecture, titled “Learning from Lived Experience: How to Champion Inclusion for People Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision.” Silverman shared personal experiences of navigating challenges as a Blind person and shared research from her team about the impact of non-accessible physical and digital environments.

Scott Jackson, M.D., delivered the second lecture on Nov. 7. Jackson, a practicing dermatologist in Bentonville, Arkansas, and an adjunct professor at the Alice Walton School of Medicine, discussed the history of skin disease classification, culminating with Joseph Jakob Plenck’s 1776 work, *Doctrina de Morbis Cutaneis*.

The 2024-25 Lecture Series rounds out the season with three lectures in spring 2025, including the annual lecture. Spring lectures include the history of the first Black doctor at UAB, Pillay’s work with artificial intelligence, and the work of two scholars from Auburn

to recreate a 16th-century prosthetic hand.

Upcoming Lectures

Feb. 5, 2025, 12 p.m.
Lister Hill Library
4th Floor

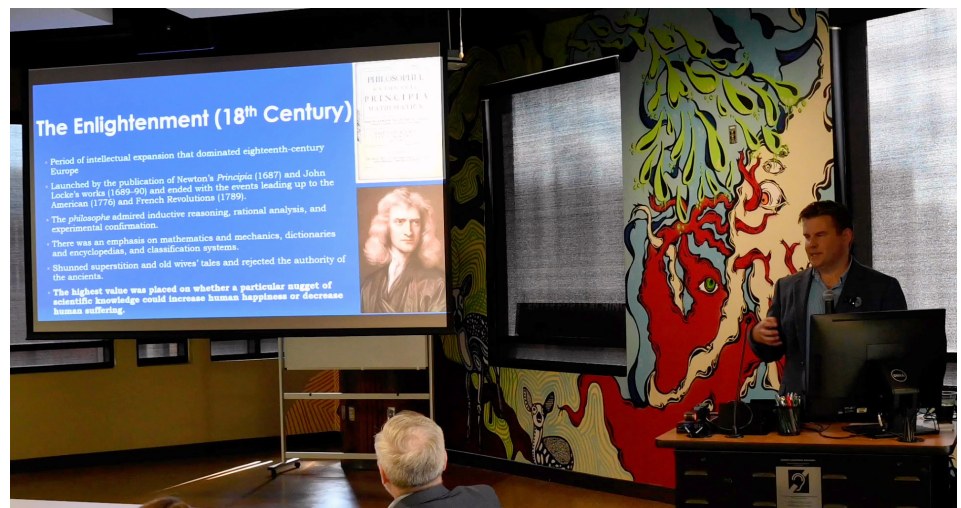
Haley Wells, MA, UAB ’24
Ala. Holocaust Education Center
“Knocking at the Door: The Life and Legacy of Dr. James Montgomery.”

Feb. 28, 2025, 4 p.m.
Hill Student Center
Alumni Theater

Rubin Pillay, M.D., Ph.D.
UAB Heersink School of Medicine
Reynolds-Finley Annual Lecture
“AI in Medicine: Menace or Miracle?”

March 27, 2025, 12:00pm
Lister Hill Library
4th Floor

Heidi Hausse, Ph.D., and
Chad Rose, Ph.D.
Auburn University
“Engineering History: Developing an Experimental Approach to Recover the Lived Experience of a Sixteenth-Century Amputee”



Dennis G. Pappas Historical Collections Gallery Grand Opening

Historical Collections at UAB Libraries hosted a grand opening for the Dennis G. Pappas Historical Collections Gallery on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, at 4 p.m., on the second floor of Lister Hill Library.

More than 170 guests attended the celebration, including supporters of UAB Libraries, friends and family of the Pappases, and UAB dignitaries.

Michelle Robinson, DMD, senior vice provost for Faculty Affairs, and Lisa Bristow, senior director of Development, spoke to attendees about the transformative nature of the Pappas Gallery and the gifts that made it possible.

Kasia Gonnerman, dean of UAB Libraries, introduced Dennis G. Pappas Sr., M.D., who shared stories of his passion for collecting in the history of medicine. Pappas regaled the audience with tales of how his collecting began and anecdotes of encounters



with items in his private practice over the years.

The Dennis G. Pappas Historical Collections Gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday from 12-5 p.m.

For more information visit go.uab.edu/pappasgallery.



Reynolds-Finley Fellowship Recipients

In November, UAB Archives hosted Blake Smith, Ph.D., the recipient of the 2024 Reynolds-Finley Fellowship. Smith is researching Southern gay writers in the post-1945 United States, and he was able to use material available in the Bo Brown Memorial Gay and Lesbian Collection, which is one of the collections of UAB Archives.

In the spring, the 2025 Fellowship recipient, Jewel Parker, will be visiting UAB as she uses the material in UAB Archives and the Reynolds-Finley Historical Library for her research on how intercultural interactions between American Indians, Africans, and Europeans changed medical practice and contributed to the development of Southern pharmacopeia in the early centuries of America. Parker received her doctorate in spring 2024 and is a lecturer at Appalachian State University.

Reynolds-Finley Fellowship awards are open to external scholars as well as UAB affiliates. External researchers are eligible for up to \$2,500 to cover the cost of travel to Birmingham. UAB applicants may apply for funds to cover the cost of travel to present their Historical Collections research at a conference.

For more information about the Reynolds-Finley Fellows program, including application information, visit library.uab.edu/special-collections/fellowship.

Education and Outreach: Historical Collections in the Classroom

UAB classes visit our collections and gallery spaces not just for direct content correlation to their curriculum, but also to interact with our spaces and material to explore and reinforce skills and objectives presented in class.

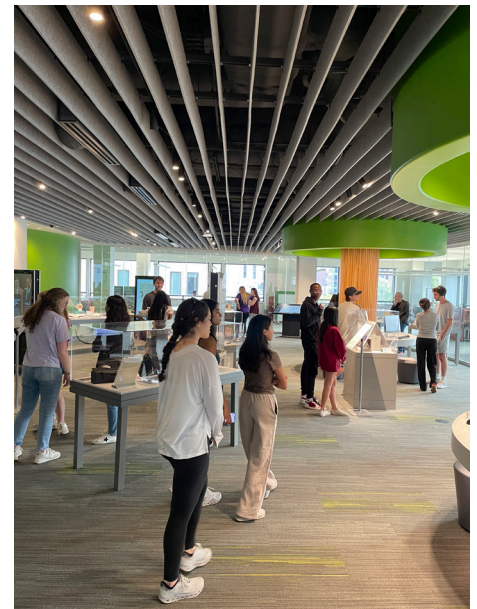
Historical Collections hosted 35 UAB classes in fall 2024, interacting with 608 students. We also conducted 82 research consultations with 92 researchers.

Christina McClellan, curator of the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences, conducted a workshop for the Center for Teaching and Learning titled “Teaching in 3D.” McClellan shared strategies with UAB professors on how to incorporate museum tours and collections into their classes. Partially as a result of this workshop, the Museum gave 29 tours in fall 2024.

UAB Archives discussed neglected history and urban legends of Birmingham with a Writing Bir-

mingham class. UAB archivists shared resources about Slossfield Community Center, communities affected by the growth of UAB, and the dance floor at The Club as an inspiration for the 1977 movie *Saturday Night Fever*.

Dr. Jill Clements’s “History of the Book” class made several visits to Historical Collections. Students had hands-on experiences with the rare books and manuscripts



in the Reynolds-Finley Historical Library collection, in addition to exploring Civil War-era printing from UAB Archives. The students also tried their hand at using the 1885 Chandler & Price printing press in Sterne Library.

The Pappas Gallery hosted 20 group tours and 346 visitors in fall 2024. For example, Dr. Kelly Nichols’s first year optometry students visited the Gallery Nov. 8 for a class assignment.

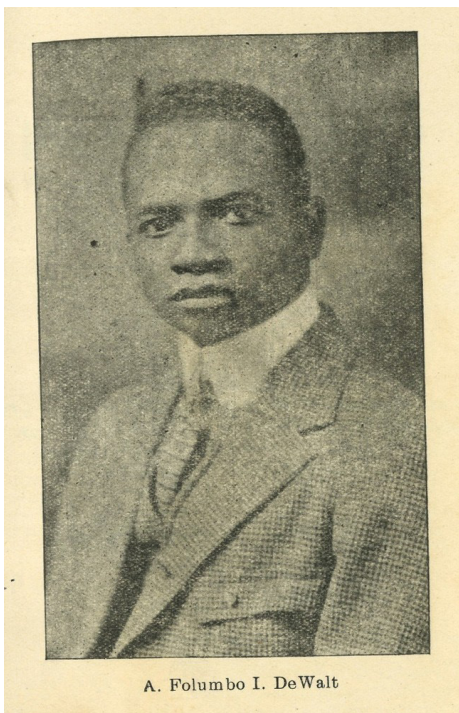
New Additions to the Reynolds-Finley Historical Library

Joseph Jacob von Plenck (1738-1807). *Lehre von den Hautkrankheiten*. Vienna: Rudolph Gräffer, 1789.

This German translation of Plenck's important *Teachings on the diseases of the skin*, or *Doctrina de morbis cutaneis*, is one of the most significant works in the history of dermatology. The Reynolds-Finley Historical Library acquired this text in conjunction with the Nov. 7 Reynolds-Finley lecture by Scott M. Jackson, M.D.

African American Medical Collection

A. Folumbo I. DeWalt. *Folumbo*:



A. Folumbo I. DeWalt

A Native African's Own Life's Story. N.P.: N.P., [circa 1922].

This first-hand account is of a native African who came to the U.S. for dental education at Howard University and traveled back to Africa to serve his family and community.

Adah B. Thoms. *Pathfinders: The Progress of Colored Graduate Nurses with Biographies of Many Prominent Nurses*. New York: Kay Printing House, 1929. First edition.

This 1929 book discusses the history of Black nurses. The author was one of the founders of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and advocated for Black nurses and the integrations of the nursing profession.

Thirteen letters to and from Dr. William Montague Cobb, related to efforts to desegregate the medical field in Missouri. *Kansas City; Washington, D.C., 1947*.

Cobb was a M.D. physician and Ph.D. anthropologist who was also involved in civil rights activism. The letters concern efforts to bring African American representation to the medical field in Kansas City, Missouri. The collection includes letters written by leaders of the Urban League of Kansas City, plus carbon copies of Cobb's responses.

Witchcraft, Hysteria and Psychiatry

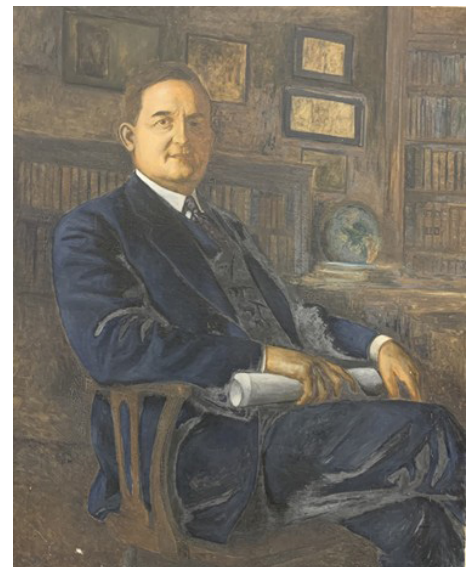
Edward Jorden (1569-1632). *A Briefe Discourse of a Disease Called the Suffocation of the Mother...* London: Printed by John Windet, Dwelling at the Signe of the Crosse Keyes at Powles Wharf, 1603. First edition.

Jorden's work is the first book in English on hysteria, also known as "suffocation of the mother."

Jorden was a physician and chemist who gave testimony at a witchcraft trial. Jorden published this work to educate the medical profession about hysteria in hopes of preventing other cases from being deemed witchcraft.

Donation Highlight

Mrs. Anne Sessions Smith recently donated a 34x42-in. painted portrait of Dr. Lawrence Reynolds (1889-1961), who donated his collection of about 5,000 rare medical books to establish the Reynolds (now Reynolds-Finley) Historical Library. Smith is the great niece of Reynolds, and the portrait has been in her family for generations. She is also a member of the Reynolds-Finley Associates Steering Committee, along with another great-niece of Reynolds, Mrs. Camilla Wible.



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Historical Collections

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Follow Us on Instagram

Historical Collections at UAB Libraries is now on Instagram! Follow us @historicaluab or visit [instagram.com/historicaluab](https://www.instagram.com/historicaluab).

Our Instagram account will feature objects curated from the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences, the Reynolds-Finley Historical Library, and the UAB Archives. Stay up to date with events and collections and catch some behind the scenes information about our work.

UAB Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach Gene Bartow (right) and Ferd Weil (left) of the Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce hang green and gold welcome banners along UAB streets to welcome the Sun Belt Conference Championship Tournament to Birmingham, February 1982.

Photo Courtesy of UAB Archives.

