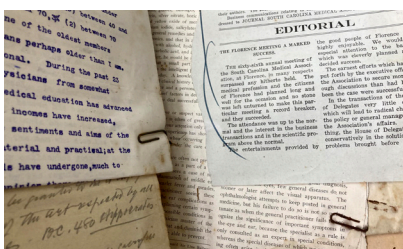


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## Waring Historical Library Statement Regarding Recent Events

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

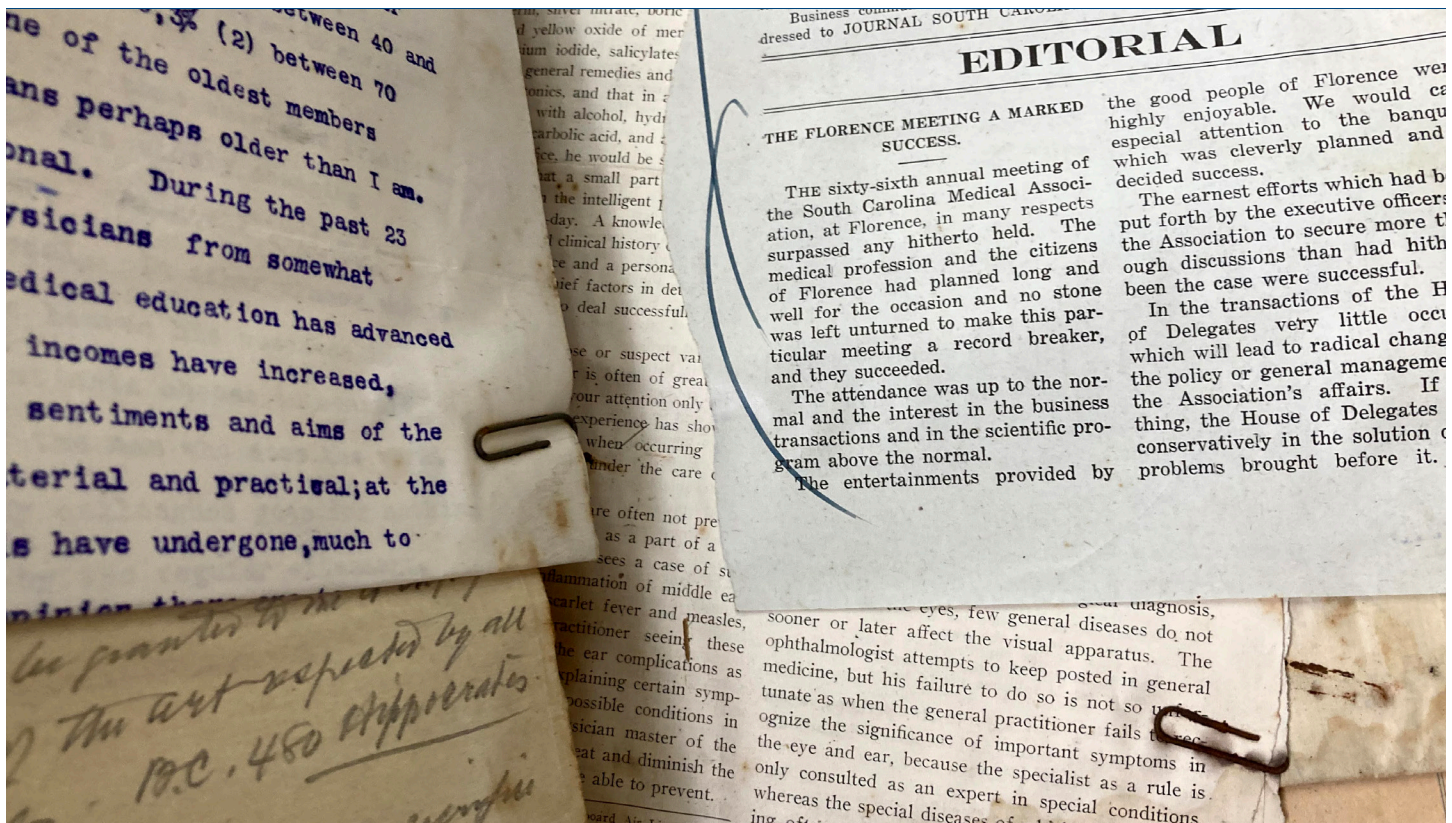
The Medical University of South Carolina has recognized that communities across our nation are publicly and privately grappling with the pain, inhumanity, and impact of systemic racism, and that the University remains resolutely committed to values of respect and compassion.

In addition to this commitment, the Waring Historical Library stands with communities of color and recognizes the importance of listening to and learning from their voices and experiences, while documenting them in an intentional manner.

There have been countless moments in our nation's history when there have been disregard and abuse of the lives, stories and bodies of African Americans (see documented example below). These institutionalized prejudices persist to this day not only in our judicial, social and economic systems, but also in healthcare. We stand in solidarity with those supporting, driving and longing for overdue change, and we commit to doing our part.

We believe that by examining our history, we develop community and shape our local and national culture. As a historical collection—special collections, archives, and museum—the materials we collect and share determine the culture we choose to establish and helps advance the future we wish to create.

[Read our full statement here.](#)



## The President's Corner

As we near the end of summer, we continue to find ourselves in the midst of a pandemic that does not seem to be abating.

Unlike our ancestors, who could often discern someone is possibly infectious by their open sores, their telltale rash or their productive cough, we must rely on facial covering, physical distancing and vigilant hand hygiene to protect us and our neighbors from infecting each other. It is comforting to know that we can explore some of our valuable, digitally archived historical material in the Waring Collection from the safety of our computer screens. Please go to the Waring Historical Library website and explore the [online exhibits](#), the [blog posts](#), the [MEDICA Digital Collection](#), and more.

Also from the safety of our computer screens, the board and staff have been meeting, working and making plans to continue the mission of The Waring Library Society. We will see an expanded Lecture Series this year brought to you in a safe, virtual environment. Look for announcements about the speakers and how to participate in their presentations.

I encourage all to explore the online offerings of the [Waring](#), follow the postings on social media and invite your friends to do the same. The work of the Waring Library Society and the Waring Historical Library is not slowing down, just changing how it is being done.

Dr. James H. Tolley



## MUSC COVID-19 Archive Update

By Ms. Tabitha Y. Samuel, MLIS, Digital Archivist

In our Spring 2020 newsletter, we introduced you to the [MUSC COVID-19 Archive](#), which documents life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, we have expanded our online platform for the project to accept contributions documenting the communications, programming, and efforts of MUSC during the pandemic to the MUSC University Archives. From the outset, we have received a tremendous amount of support from the University, and have accepted a number of contributions from the colleges and departments across the enterprise, which have included newsletters, photographs, videos, and program flyers. We have also supplemented these

contributions with our own efforts of collecting COVID-19-related webpages and social media posts created by the University as well as the communications disseminated to the enterprise by the Offices of the President and Provost, and MUSC Hospital CEO, Dr. Pat Cawley.

We continue to invite you to be a part of this project and to submit your personal reflections, which may take on various forms of expression, such as written and video diaries, artwork, poetry, prose, and musical compositions. So far, we have received a variety of personal reflections, and will continue to feature excerpts from selected pieces on the [MUSC COVID-19 Archive Blog](#).

If you like to reflect on your experience in an oral history interview, feel free to reach out to the Waring's staff.

As time progresses, we know that your perspective and experiences will evolve. We encourage you to share your personal reflections with us as often as you would like. Although it is difficult not to feel distant and disconnected from others during this time, we anticipate that the COVID-19 Archive will bring us all a level of connectedness by shedding light on the aspects of this experience that have been deeply shared and the unexpected ways life has been impacted. We look forward to hearing from you.

# Worthington Essay Prize Winners Announced

By Dr. Brian Fors, Curator

The W. Curtis Worthington, Jr. Essay Contest winners have been chosen for 2020. The Worthington Contest was established to encourage students to contribute to scholarship about the history of health sciences and to reward those whose work is exemplary. The Waring Library Society granted one award for an undergraduate essay (\$1,000) and one award for a graduate essay (\$2,000). The winners have been asked to submit a summary of the paper for a blog post and the essays will be published in a collection commemorating the university's bicentennial celebration in 2024.

The contest submissions needed to focus on the United States-Atlantic World History of Health Sciences in the modern era—from the late 1600s to the present. While there was a preference for topics that focus on or include events related to Charleston, S.C., it was not necessary. Entries needed to be 4,000-6,000 words for the undergraduate level, and 6,000-8,000 words for the graduate level (excluding notes and bibliography), and the entry needed to be the original work and ideas of the author.

The submissions were reviewed by a committee that read versions of the essays without the authors' names or identifying material, and scored them using a basic rubric.

The winning undergraduate essay is "Differentiated Physicians: Physicians with Mobility Disabilities and the Origins of Technical Standards" by Emily Gordon, a May 2020 graduate of Harvard College, the undergraduate college of Harvard University. Ms. Gordon's essay examines disability rights in relation to applicants to medical schools starting in the 1960s. In the era of disability rights, medical schools gained the power to discriminate against applicants with mobility disabilities, especially those in wheelchairs. The essay explores how medical schools set boundaries for admission into the profession, remained intransigent in their discrimination, and persuaded courts to side with them.

The committee found the essay to be an interesting exploration of a distinctive historical topic, in particular examining the topic of diversity and professional standards. Ms. Gordon's primary research and the incorporation of oral histories, as well as her articulation of the topic and engaging narrative, exemplified a high level of historical research and analysis.



**Pictured: Ms. Emily Gordon**



**Pictured: Ms. Allysa Peterson**

The winning graduate essay is “Bitter Knowledge: The Localization and Embodiment of the Environment in Early Medicine” by Allysa Peterson, a PhD student in History at the University of Texas Austin. Ms. Peterson’s essay examines the work of Dr. David Ramsay and his identification of local plants with medicinal benefits in the context of European materia medica. Dr. Ramsay practiced medicine in Charleston in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and was a prolific researcher and writer. While some historians have concluded that Dr. Ramsay’s identification of local substitutions for standard medication can be seen as a direct affront to European medical knowledge of the time, Ms. Peterson argues that it was simply a local

substitution that expanded access to medications.

Alyssa is a PhD candidate at the University of Texas at Austin with a focus on Atlantic and Environmental history, as well as the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (HSTM). She studies the Atlantic world, from roughly 1600 to 1800, and the creation, circulation, and transformation of scientific and medical information throughout the greater Atlantic. Her work looks at how medical practitioners within the Caribbean understood how earthquakes impacted physical and mental health. She also is interested in how physicians within the New World localized medical information arriving from Europe. She received her M.A. in History from Eastern Illinois University in 2016 with her thesis “‘We live in the midst of death:’ Medical theory, public health, and the 1793 Yellow Fever epidemic,” and graduated with her BA in History and Political Science from Indiana University in 2011.

The committee found the essay to be a thoughtful and well-researched examination of David Ramsay, an important figure for the history of health sciences in Charleston and South Carolina. Ms. Peterson’s work has helped fill a gap in the historical scholarship on Ramsay and presented an intriguing thesis regarding the relationship between American medical professionals and developments in the European medical world.

The 2021 Worthington Contest will be announced early this fall and promoted with the hope to attract similarly exceptional essays on the history of the health sciences.

# Scrapbooks of Edward Frost Parker

By Dr. Brian Fors, Curator

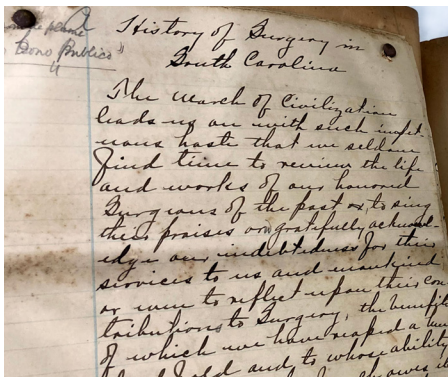
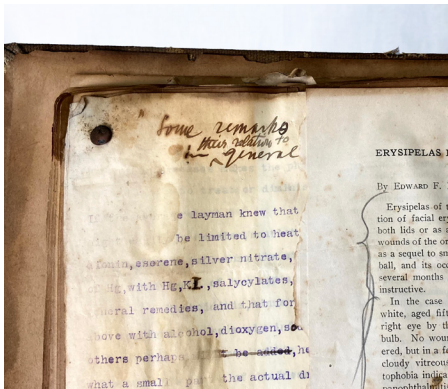
In May 2020 the Waring Historical Library accepted into the collection two large scrapbooks created by Edward Frost Parker. Dr. Parker was connected to the Medical College of the State of South Carolina in the 1890s and early twentieth century. He lectured at the college and in 1906-1908 he served as the college dean, an equivalent position to the president today.

The items in the scrapbook include lectures, meeting presentations, curricular and other college documents, correspondence, articles on the topic of medical education and training, commencement

programs, and local newspaper articles with detailed description of events at the college. The collection provides considerable detail about the activities of the college during a significant time period in its development as the medical world examined and debated its professionalization and what that entailed.

Born December 16, 1867, in Charleston, Parker came from Huguenot and English ancestry. His father was Francis Le Jau Parker, MD, dean of the college in 1892-1906, and former officer in the medical department of the Confederate

Army. He attended the South Carolina Military Academy, graduated from the University of Virginia in 1886, and graduated in 1889 from Medical College of the State of South Carolina, interning at City Hospital. In 1894 he became professor of Physiology, and in 1897 he spent a year in Europe studying Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat care serving as an appointed Junior Assistant in the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital and London Throat Hospital. In 1899 he accepted an appointment as Lecturer on Eye, Ear, and Throat ailments at the college. He left the college in 1908 to focus on his practice.



## Waring Society Lecture Series: Expanded Version

The Waring Historical Library is excited to announce our first expanded lecture series. The Waring Society Lecture Series provides a look at new, fresh, and innovative research and publications on the history of the health sciences. Each lecture will be presented in a hybrid format, part formal recorded presentation and part live discussion online with the author-historian. Those who wish to attend will need to register so that you can receive the necessary link to join the presentation, as well as a more detailed description of the logistics.

### Warren A. Sawyer Lecture

October 7, 6:00 PM

Dr. Jaipreet Viridi, from the University of Delaware. Dr. Viridi's presentation for the Sawyer Lecture is "The Usual HEARzone: Selling Deafness Cures in 20th Century America." Her book [\*Hearing Happiness: Deafness Cures in History\*](#) from the University of Chicago Press is out in August 2020.

### Charleston Literary Festival Collaborative Lecture

November 6, 3:30 PM

Dr. Mark Honigsbaum. This is a collaborative effort with the Charleston Literary Festival. Dr. Honigsbaum will discuss his book [\*The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria and Hubris\*](#) and the scientific dreams of preventing catastrophic outbreaks of infectious diseases since 1918. His book exposes the limits of science against nature, and how these crises are shaped by humans as much as microbes.

### Black History Month Lecture

February 10, 2021, 6:00 PM

Dr. Rana Hogarth, from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Hogarth's book, [\*Medicalizing Blackness: Making Difference in the Atlantic World\*](#), for which she used the Waring collection, is a broad look at the medical world in the late 18th and early 19th century. Dr. Hogarth will present on the topic "Professional Pursuits and the Making of Race: Medicalizing Blackness in the American Atlantic." This lecture is co-sponsored by the MUSC Office of Humanities.

### Joseph I. Waring Lecture

March 11, 2021, 6:00 PM

Dr. Stephen Casper, from Clarkson University. Dr. Casper's presentation for the Waring lecture is "Punch Drunk Slugnuts: Violence and the Vernacular History of Disease." The presentation examines early linguistic descriptions of neurological illnesses about head injuries: punch drunk, slug nutty, slap happy, goofy, punchie, and other colloquialisms. The discovery of neurological disease and its medicalization flew in the face of a culture that made head injuries jokes. Yet, a subculture began to emerge, first in medicine, then in journalism, then in the courts, and then finally with patient accounts about illness that increased medical understanding.

Make sure to join us and learn more about these fascinating topics and the newest research in the history of the health sciences.

## Student History Club Lunch Lecture Schedule

### September 16, 2020

Ms. Brook Fox  
"History of MUSC"

### October 14, 2020

Dr. Cara DeLay  
"Abortion and Women's Health Networks in 20th Century South Carolina"

### November 11, 2020

Dr. Zoher Kapasi  
"History of the College of Health Professionals"

### December 9, 2020

Ms. Emily Gordon  
"Differentiated Physicians: Physicians with Mobility Disabilities and the Origins of Technical Standards"

### January 13, 2021

Dr. Nancy Bristow  
"Lost Worlds of the 1918 Pandemic"

### February 17, 2021

Ms. Alyssa Peterson  
"Bitter Knowledge: The Localization and Embodiment of the Environment in Early American Medicine"

### March 10, 2021

Dr. Suman Seth  
"Race-Medicine in the Early Nineteenth Century: the Place of South Carolina"

### April 14, 2021

Dr. Jacqueline Antonovich  
"The Impact of Race, Gender and Politics on the Medical World"