The Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library are committed to the development and use of an exceptional collection of books and manuscripts relating to the history of medicine and the health sciences.

The collection was established through the efforts of Dr. Pat Ireland Nixon (1883-1965), who was born in Guadalupe County, attended Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and later built a practice in San Antonio.

Your support of the Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library helps to assure that we will be able to maintain, build and promote the use of the collection, both on the campus of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and in the academic communities of the surrounding area.

Contact the library:
Telephone: 210-567-2400
Fax: 210-567-2490
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, TX 78229-3900
http://library.uthscsa.edu

FRIENDS OF THE P.I. NIXON MEDICAL HISTORICAL LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

No. 29 Fall 2013

“San Antonio’s National and International Center of Excellence for Burn Care and Research”

Basil A. Pruitt, Jr. to speak

Dr. Basil A. Pruitt, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.M., will be the guest speaker at the 43nd Annual Meeting of the Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library. The evening’s program, to be held at the Old San Francisco Steak House, will explore a significant chapter in San Antonio’s history, reviewing the treatment innovations developed at the Army Burn Center that have revolutionized care and improved the survival of even massively burned patients.

Dr. Pruitt received his M.D. degree in 1957 from the Tufts University School of Medicine. He was drafted in 1959. Assigned to the U.S. Army Institute for Surgical Research (ISR) at Fort Sam Houston, he completed his residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in 1964 and went on to serve 31 years with the ISR. For 27 of those years, he was its commander and director.

The Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library invite everyone interested in the history of medicine to join us for an evening of good food and conversation.

Please RSVP by November 1. Send reservation forms and requests for student sponsorships to Susan Hunnicutt, Special Projects Librarian: hunnicutt@uthscsa.edu.

43rd ANNUAL MEETING
Dinner and Presentation
“San Antonio’s National and International Center of Excellence for Burn Care and Research”

Basil A. Pruitt, Jr., M.D., Clinical Professor of Surgery

Thursday, November 7, 2013

Cash bar: 6:30 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m. Appetizer, entrée, dessert, coffee or tea

Old San Francisco Steak House 10223 Sahara Street off San Pedro

Cost: $55/person; $30 for students. Cost of student dinner includes membership in the Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library. Paid sponsorships for students are available on request, and advanced registration is required.

Please RSVP by November 1, 2013 — A reservation form is enclosed.
Upcoming events

The Danny Jones History of the Health Sciences Student Essay Competition

In July the Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library announced a new essay competition in memory of Danny Jones, M.L.S., who served as Head of Special Collections at the University of Texas Health Science Center, and was also a Past President of the Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library. The contest is open to current students in any of the schools of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, as well as to affiliated residents.

Essays can be on any topic related to the history of the health sciences, including history of medicine, dentistry, nursing, public health, or any other health science or profession. A prize of $500 will be awarded to the best essay. Essays should be no more than 2500 words, sent in pdf format to Hunnicutt@uthscsa.edu. The deadline for entry is October 15, 2013.

The prize will be presented at the Friends Annual Dinner on November 7, 2013.

The Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library Noon Lecture Series

Gregory M. Anstead, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Medical Director of the Immunosuppression Clinic, South Texas Veterans Health Care System, and currently President of the Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library, has volunteered to organize the Nixon library’s noon lecture series for this Fall. These programs provide opportunities for informal learning and conversation in the Howe Conference Room on the 5th floor of the Briscoe Library. Everyone is invited. Please feel free to bring your lunch.

Thursday, September 19 — Jose Cadena, M.D. — “Wonder drugs vs. Superbugs: the struggle to preserve the utility of our antibiotic arsenal amidst relentless bacterial evolution”
Thursday, October 10 Anthony Hartzler, M.D. — Probiotics
Thursday, November 14 Kirsten Gardner, Ph.D. — Diabetes

History of Medicine Society will meet Wednesday, September 25

The History of Medicine Society is a newly-formed interest group within the Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library. The student-led group meets monthly to discuss the historical development of medicine and the health sciences, and the impact of medicine on society.

Ron Philo, Ph.D. will speak about The Anatomical Drawings of Leonardo DaVinci at the group’s first fall meeting, Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 6 p.m. Membership is open to everyone who is interested in the history of the health professions.

For more information, contact Susan Hunnicutt, Special Projects Librarian: Hunnicutt@uthscsa.edu.

A new location for the Friends’ Annual Dinner and Presentation

In planning the Annual Dinner and Presentation of the Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library we have encountered steadily rising costs. This year we received proposals from four venues, including the site of the most recent annual dinner. The proposal presented by Old San Francisco Steak House (Absolutely Delicious Catering) was by far the most affordable option. The catering proposal enabled us to avoid an increase in the cost of the event for members, and also to hold down the cost of student sponsorships.

We hope you will plan to join us at the Old San Francisco Steak House, 10223 Sahara Street off San Pedro, to hear the story of an important chapter in the history of military medicine in San Antonio, and to enjoy an evening of delicious food and good conversation.
Nominees for the Executive Board for 2013-2014

The business meeting of the Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library will take place at the Annual Dinner and Presentation on the evening of November 7. Two openings on the Executive Board will be filled: one for Vice-President/President Elect, and one for Member-at-Large. Information about the nominees for these positions can be found below.

Dr. Adelita Cantu, Ph.D., R.N., is the nominee for Vice President/President-Elect. An assistant professor in the School of Nursing, Dr. Cantu teaches family and community health systems to undergraduate nursing students. She has been a campus leader with faculty members from the Dental School, the School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy (a joint program with the UT Austin) to develop an interprofessional community service learning course.

Dr. Cantu has been Chair of the Library Committee since 2010, and is also completing her third year as a Member-at-Large of the Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library.

Daniel Barron, MS-3, is the nominee for Member-at-Large. Daniel is an M.D./Ph.D. student in the Human Neuroimaging Ph.D. track. He is the recipient of an NIH:NINDS fellowship (F31) to study thalamic connectivity in human medial temporal lobe epilepsy. Daniel’s interests include the history of epilepsy etiology and care, and the history of function location mapping in the human brain. He also enjoys studying how scientific progress has sculpted concepts of self.

The P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library hosted visitors throughout the year.

Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library

Board of Directors, 2012-2013

President: Gregory Anstead, M.D., Ph.D.
Vice-President/President-Elect: Charleen M. Moore, Ph.D., F.A.C.M.G.
Past-President 2009-2010: David P. Cappelli, D.M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.
Secretary/Treasurer: Rajia Tobia, A.M.L.S.
Members-at-Large:

Susan Seale Jarvis, J.D. Adelita Cantu, Ph.D., R.N. Eva Galvan, MS2

Library Staff, 2012-2013

Susan Hunnicutt, M.A., M.L.I.S, Special Projects Librarian
Anne Comeaux, M.L.S., Assistant Library Director for Special Collections
Mellisa DeThorne, Special Collections Library Assistant
A new Vesalius translation, and Charles Bell: Additions to the collection of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library in 2012-2013

Two works were added to the collection of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library in 2012-2013.

Charles Bell, *The Hand: Its Mechanism and Vital Endowments as Evincing Design (1833).*

This rare first edition copy of Charles Bell’s classic work on the anatomy, physiology, and adaptive importance of the hand was added in March.

Also known as the fourth Bridgewater Treatise, *The Hand: Its Mechanism and Vital Endowments as Evincing Design,* was one of a series of monographs written in response to William Paley’s 1802 work, *Natural Theology, or Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity collected from the Appearances of Nature.*

Paley’s popular work was debated throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, a time when religion and science were widely believed to be in harmony. It was included in the standard curricula at Oxford and Cambridge universities. The treatises, including Bell’s work on the anatomy and physiology of the hand, were produced between 1833 and 1840 by leading authorities in moral philosophy, natural history, astronomy, physiology, chemistry, and geology.

Charles Bell’s *The Hand: Its Mechanism and Vital Endowments as Evincing Design (1833)* was purchased as a memorial for Danny Jones, MLS, formerly Head of Briscoe Library Special Collections and a one-time president of the Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library. Danny Jones passed away in January, 2013. Names of contributors to the purchase have been entered in the catalog record for the book.


The P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library also committed to purchasing *The Fabric of the Human Body* (2013), a new, annotated English translation of the 1543 and 1555 editions of Andreas Vesalius’ (1514 - 1564) *De humani corporis fabrica libri septem.* Information about the new translation can be viewed online at:  [http://www.vesaliusfabrica.com/](http://www.vesaliusfabrica.com/).

In 1543, Vesalius produced what was at the time Europe's most detailed and best illustrated atlas of the human body. The P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library owns a rare copy of this classic book, which *The Oxford Medical Companion* calls "probably the most influential of all medical works." Vesalius challenged the authority of ancient medical books, especially the works of Galen (2nd cent. AD), by demonstrating their reliance on the dissection of animals such as the barbary ape instead of human cadavers. For Vesalius and those who came after him, the human body was the only reliable source for scientific anatomy.

The new translation *De humani corporis fabrica libri septem* is the work of classics scholar Daniel H. Garrison and Malcolm H. Hast, Professor Emeritus of Otolaryngology and past Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology at Feinberg School of Medicine of Northwestern University. It includes high resolution images of the original illustrations, and Vesalius’ recently discovered notes for a third edition that was never published.

*The Fabric of the Human Body* was purchased as a memorial for Dr. P.I. Nixon, III, who passed away in 2012.
The collection of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library supports inquiry in the School of Medicine and the School of Health Professions

Seven first year medical students and one graduate student from the School of Health Professions visited the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library on April 30, 2013. The visit to the library was the conclusion of a history of anatomy elective taught by Dr. Charleen M. Moore of the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology.

The course for medical students, Enrichment Elective 5022, and the graduate course, CSBL 5015, covered anatomy from ancient times to the present.

Forty-one rare books were on display, including:

- Albinus, Bernhard Siegfried, *Tables of the Skeleton and Muscles of the Human Body*, 1749
- Durer, Albert, *De Symmetria Partium in Rectis Formis Humanorum Corporm*, 1532
- Hooke, Robert, *Micrographia: Or Some Physiological Descriptions of Minute Bodies Made by Magnifying Glasses with Observations and Inquiries Thereupon*, 1667
- Morgagni, Giovanni Battista, *De sedibus et causis morborum per anatomen indagatis libri quinque*, 1765
- Vesalius, Andreas, *De Humani Corporis Fabrica Libri Septem*, 1543

In April, students from the School of Medicine and the School of Health Professions examined 41 rare books from the collection of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library.

At left: Charleen M. Moore, Ph.D.; Ashley Johnson, School of Health Professions-CLS Toxicology; and MS1s Kar-Wei Leung, Colleen Boehme, Camille Graham, Florisa Lubrin, Wen Zhang, Garret Winkler, and Paul Yeh.
P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library: Looking back on 2012-2013

On September 20 Greg Anstead, M.D., gave a noon lecture on the topic, Death Delivered on Gossamer Wings: The Resurgence of West Nile Virus Encephalitis in Texas, 2012. An exhibit, Chocolate: Not Just Another Love Story, developed by Susan Hunnicutt, Special Projects Librarian, was on display in the Boerne Public Library in September 2012. The exhibit explored the social and cultural history of chocolate, as well as recent research into its therapeutic benefits.

The new History of Medicine Society met for the first time on October 3. Charleen Moore, Ph.D., gave a presentation, Treasures of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library.


The Many Faces of India: Photos by Deborah Keller-Rihn was on display in November and December 2012.

On December 3 Phil Valente, M.D., gave a presentation to the History of Medicine Society on the topic, Virchow and Arias-Stella: Pathologist Pioneers and Social Activists.

Sanders Marble, Ph.D., Senior Historian with the Office of Medical History at Fort Sam Houston, spoke to the History of Medicine Society on January 24. His topic was Medical History and the Military: Opportunities and Differences.

On February 13, the Briscoe Library opened an exhibit There's the Humor of it: Shakespeare and the Four Humors, produced by the National Library of Medicine and the Folger Shakespeare Library. The exhibit explored concepts of humoral medicine — the dominant way of viewing human health and illness in the west prior to the advent of scientific medicine — through the writings of William Shakespeare. Mark Bayer, Ph.D., of the UTSA English faculty spoke at the exhibit’s opening on the topic, Why the Four Humors Make Sense: Shakespeare and the Four Humors.

Treasures of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library, a local exhibit highlighting humoral medicine as it is represented in the collection of the Nixon library, was also on display throughout February and March. Among the books from the collection that were noted in the exhibit were Regimen Sanitatis Salerni (1575); Avicenna, The Canon of Medicine (1582); and Robert Burton, The Anatomy of Melancholy (1632).

On February 27 Charleen Moore, Ph.D., of the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology, gave a lecture entitled A Balancing Act: Medical Practices and the Four Humors in the Renaissance.

Eva Galvan, MS-2 spoke to the History of Medicine Society on March 27 on the topic, The Impact of Mosquito Control on the Building of the Panama Canal.


A group of water color paintings, Dr. Sam Friedberg: People and Places, was on display in the entry of the Briscoe Library throughout the Spring and Summer of 2013. Dr. Friedberg is retired faculty from the Department of Medicine.
Portal to Texas History: Website features books from the collection of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library

The collection of the P. I. Nixon Medical Historical Library contains many interesting books on the history of Texas and San Antonio; not only books on the growth of medicine and health care in the area, but also books on the climate, the life of the early Texas pioneers, autobiographies of pioneer Texas physicians, conditions in early San Antonio and South Texas, and the history of San Antonio during and after the Texas revolution against Mexico. In 2010, with the help of a Rescuing Texas History grant from the University of North Texas, 12 books from the Nixon library were digitized, and may now be read online in full text through the Portal to Texas History (http://texashistory.unt.edu/).

Nixon Library staff have applied for a second Rescuing Texas History Grant to make 10 additional books and 6 issues of 19th century Texas medical and dental journals available through the Portal to Texas History.

As can be seen from the following list, some of the recently digitized books have been heavily viewed by researchers and students during the last 3 years.*

Books from the Nixon library that can be viewed in the Portal to Texas History

Texas Nature Observations and Reminiscences by R. Menger, 1913 (314 uses)
An Account of the Early History of Surgery in Texas by Albert Singleton, 1932 (162 uses)
President's Address, 19th Session of the Texas State Medical Association, Austin, Texas, 1887 (7 uses)
A Treatise on the Eclectic Southern Practice of Medicine by J. Cam Massie, 1854 (87 uses)
Queer, Quaint Old San Antonio: Its Climate in Throat and Lung Diseases, 1895 (221 uses)
San Antonio de Bexar: A Guide and History compiled and edited by William Corner, 1890 (869 uses)
Notes on the Newer Remedies: Their Therapeutic Applications and Modes of Administration by David Cerna, 1894 (292 uses)
Constitution and By-Laws of the Texas Eclectic Medical Association of the State of Texas, 1891 (34 uses)
A Frontier Doctor by Henry Franklin Hoyt, 1929 (389 uses)
The Menace: An Exposition of Quackery Nostrum Exploitation and Reminiscences of a County Doctor by Charles D. Dixon, 1914 (100 uses)
Texas Surgeon: An Autobiography by Donald Taylor Atkinson, 1958 (95 uses)
Investigations into the Nature, Causation, and Prevention of Texas or Southern Cattle Fever by Theobald Smith and F.L. Kilborne, 1893 (246 uses)

In 2008, the National Endowment for the Humanities identified the Portal to Texas History as one of the best online resources for education in the humanities. In 2013 the Portal to Texas History received the Texas Library Association’s Wayne Williams Library Project of the Year Award for “the highest levels of achievement, professional standards, and inspiration to other libraries.”

*Page views cited in this article were recorded on July 18, 2013.
**Membership Roster for 2012-2013**

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- William B. Brendel, M.D.
- David McMahon, M.D.

The Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library provide a forum for individuals who are interested in the history of the health sciences. The Friends meet periodically throughout the year for lectures, films and for the Annual Dinner and Presentation that takes place each November. Since the Fall 2012, a student-led History of Medicine Society has participated in the planning of programs. Programs of the History of Medicine Society often take place in the evening and are attended by affiliates of the health science center and other members of the San Antonio community.

Membership is open to everyone! Dues are $10/year for students, $25 for individual members and $50 for patrons. If you are interested in joining or would like to know more, please contact Susan Hunnicutt, Special Projects Librarian, at 567-2406 or hunnicutt@uthscsa.edu.