



## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Daryn P. Glassbrook, Ph.D., Executive Director

(251) 415-1109

[admin@mobilemedicalmuseum.org](mailto:admin@mobilemedicalmuseum.org)

*Mobile, Alabama* – The Mobile Medical Museum is pleased to announce the launch of a new medical history writing contest, open to all 7<sup>th</sup>-grade students in the Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS). Students may participate as a class or individually. The Museum is offering free tours from now through April 14, 2017, for participating students and their chaperones.

Due to space limitations, classes of more than 20 students that tour the museum will split into two rotating groups. The first group will tour the museum, while the second group will participate in a hands-on activity using x-ray slides of a human skeleton.

After touring the museum, students will select a person, artifact, or episode from medical history to serve as the focal point for their writing project. The project may be an original narrative, play, song, poem, journal entry (as told by a medical professional), or any other creative writing form that will convey this rich history and showcase their writing skills.

Sponsoring teachers will be accepting submissions on behalf of the Mobile Medical Museum through Friday, April 21, 2017. Submissions will be judged by a panel of educators, led by MCPSS teachers Ms. Stephanie Legrone and Ms. Johnnie Williams. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners at a public ceremony in May, 2017: \$500.00 for first place, \$250.00 for second place, and \$100.00 for third place. A limited number of \$25.00 gift cards from NASCO will also be awarded to sponsoring teachers on a first come, first served basis.

“Through this program, young people will have the opportunity to learn medical history by doing it—retelling the history themselves,” says Dr. Glassbrook, Executive Director, Mobile Medical Museum. “We hope to instill in these students a restless spirit of inquiry that will reverberate through all of their academic pursuits.”

“We sincerely hope that the students and their teachers will be intellectually stimulated by the medical heritage of our community and be challenged to consider pursuing careers in the medical, nursing, or allied health care professions,” says Dr. Charles B. Rodning, President, Board of Trustees, Mobile Medical Museum. “We are most grateful that the medical history writing contest is made possible through the financial support of the Ernest G. DeBakey Charitable Foundation and Hancock Bank.”

### **About the Mobile Medical Museum**

Founded in 1962, by Dr. Samuel Eichold, II, the Mobile Medical Museum preserves and exhibits medical artifacts and archives to commemorate Mobile’s prominent place in the history of medical education and public health in the state of Alabama and the Gulf Coast. The Museum’s collections and exhibitions provide the public with a broad understanding of the evolution of the art and science of health care.

Since 2004, the Museum has been located at the Vincent-Doan-Walsh House, Mobile’s oldest extant private residence, which is on the midtown campus of the University of South Alabama Children’s and Women’s Hospital. Included on the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service, the house was built in 1827 by Captain Benjamin Vincent, who commanded several cargo vessels that sailed between New Orleans and Mobile.

The Museum’s collections include thousands of medical artifacts, photographs, and documents from the past 300 years. The Museum also houses the J.L. Bedsole Archives and Ben May Library, which together contain over 50 cubic feet of letters, doctor’s registers, photographs, and rare books.

The Mobile Medical Museum is a locally supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and does not receive any funding from federal, state, county, or city taxes.