



UCLA Programs in Medical Classics

2003 - 2004

UCLA Programs in Medical Classics is a series of presentations designed to enhance an appreciation of the links among famous medical writings, clinical practice, basic research, and humanistic scholarship. Six times a year these meetings bring together a convivial group of individuals of scholarly tastes—both from the community and from UCLA faculty, students, and staff—for a lecture and an opportunity to discuss and examine texts and topics that embody the history of advances in medicine, as well as the relations of medicine to broader cultural settings.

<http://www.library.ucla.edu/biomed/his/medicalclassics.html>

Tuesday, 18 May 2004, 6:00 p.m.

Healing the Body, Preserving the Soul: African American Doctoring in the Antebellum South

Sharla M. Fett, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor of History, Occidental College

Introduction by Emily K. Abel, Ph.D.

Professor of Health Services and of Women's Studies, UCLA

This lecture explores the importance of African American doctoring within the charged social relations of nineteenth-century southern slave society. Complementing as well as challenging biomedical interpretations of slave health, Dr. Fett emphasizes the importance of spirituality to African American healing traditions and the critical role of enslaved women as health providers in antebellum plantation communities.

Dr. Fett's talk is based on her book, *Working Cures: Healing, Health, and Power on Southern Slave Plantations* (University of North Carolina Press), which was co-recipient of the Organization of American Historians' James A. Rawley Prize for 2003. The prize is awarded annually for a book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States.

An optional dinner with the speakers, at \$22.00 per person, will take place in the Faculty Center about 7:30 pm. A reservation is required for dinner; please call the History & Special Collections Division of the Louise Darling Biomedical Library at **(310) 825-6940** to make a reservation.

An abridged form of a classic text related to the evening's lecture will be distributed by snailmail to those persons who request it in advance. To request this *related* text (*the lecture itself is not recorded or transcribed*) or more information, please send Teresa Johnson <tgj@library.ucla.edu> an e-mail, including your name and address, with the words "**Medical Classics Program: May 2004 Reading**" in the subject line; or call the History & Special Collections Division at (310) 825-6940.