

Volume II Issue 2
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From the Director's Chair

Russell Koonts, Director

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DUMC 3702
Durham, NC 27710

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm

Saturday
By Appointment

Sunday
Closed

Holidays
Call Ahead

In 1968, a "lost" copy of the Declaration of Independence was discovered in Philadelphia. The copy, printed by John Dunlap on the night of July 4, 1776, was discovered in Leary's Book Store as it was preparing to go out of business. At the time the oldest bookstore in the United States, Leary's had occupied the same building for 132 years. As the owners were closing the store, it was decided that they should inventory their holdings. During this process, they discovered an unopened wooden crate that they had acquired in 1911. Upon opening it, the "lost" copy was discovered. After authentication, repair, and conservation, the copy sold for \$404,000. [http://www.weito.com/united_states_declaration_of_ind.htm]

At this point, you may be asking yourself, "What does a lost copy of the Declaration of Independence have to do with me?" The truth is that all of us, individuals and departments,

have items that we have stored away. Items could be stored in unused bedrooms, old janitor closets, file cabinets, or commercial storage facilities. Regardless of the location, these materials contain the "lost" copy of historical documents important to Duke Medicine's history. Granted, these items won't sell for thousands of dollars on the document market, they do hold the key to the growth and development of Duke Medicine, and to the contributions of individuals who have pioneered at Duke during the past 78 years.

Finding lost treasures is but one of the many reasons that each of us should search through our stored materials. Traditionally, the locations that are often chosen for storing materials, while convenient, is not always the best for the materials we keep. Closets often have water pipes which can leak or even burst. Filing cabinets can create small
(cont'd on p. 3)

Oral Historian's Corner

Jessica Roseberry, Oral History Coordinator

The oral historian has successfully completed all of the transcripts for a 2006-7 Josiah Trent Foundation grant, and will report to the foundation in the beginning of 2008. Funding a joint project with the office of the associate dean for faculty development, the grant supplied



Dr. Hilda Pope Willett, n.d.

monies for transcription and student auditing of twenty-one oral history interviews. The interviews are part of a project specifically conducted to uncover the names and stories of women in the Duke Medical Center, particularly of women who arrived at the medical center between 1930 and the 1970s or who were "firsts" in their fields. Dr. Hilda Pope Willett (see undated photograph at left) was one of the interviewees for this project. Plans are underway for the archives to construct an online resource to showcase these interview transcripts and sound clips with photos and biographical synopses.

(cont'd on p. 3)

Upcoming & Recent Events

Mira Waller, Assistant Director; Reference, Outreach, & Education Librarian

On February 7th from 2:30 to 4:00, the Duke Medical Center Library & Archives will host the 2008 Tea with Trailblazers in the Duke Medical Center Library's mezzanine area. The panelists this year are Dr. Brenda Armstrong, Associate Dean of Medical Education, Director of Admission, and Associate Professor of Pediatric Cardiology at Duke Medicine; Dr. Joanne Wilson, Professor of Medicine in Gastroenterology at Duke Medicine; and Dr. Thelma Brown, president and CEO of Central Homehealth Inc. and Central Family Home. Each of these panelists was an African-American pioneer at Duke. The opening speaker is Dr. Benjamin D. Reese, Jr., Vice President for Institutional Equity at Duke University and Duke University Health System. The closing speaker is Karen Jean Hunt, Director of the John Hope Franklin Collection of African and African American Documentation in the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections at Duke University. The public is invited to attend and will have a chance to ask questions of the panelists. Tea and other refreshments will be served at 2:00, and admission is free. This event builds on the success of previous events of its nature that have been coordinated by staff of the medical center library and archives.

The Duke Medical Center Archives and the Duke Medical Alumni Association are asking you to help us fill in historical gaps regarding Duke Medicine. We have collaborated on a project that will give alumni of Duke Medicine and other interested individuals the chance to identify people, events, or dates in certain "mystery" archival photographs. The

project launches on January 30, 2008 and includes a print and an online component. The print version will be included in the *DukeMed Alumni News* and will feature a set of unidentified or incompletely identified photographs currently in the archives' collection. Individuals with information about any of these featured photographs can contact Mira Waller at Duke Medical Center Archives (919-383-2653 or mira.waller@duke.edu). The online version of the project is based from the Archives' Website and will run the same set of photographs as seen in the magazine, as well as additional photographs. Individuals will be able to view photographs, comment on and provide identification of photographs, and view previously made comments and identifications. Individuals may also contact Mira Waller through the communication methods mentioned above. Please visit <http://medspace.mc.duke.edu/mystery/index.html> to view the online version of this project, or look for it in the *DukeMed Alumni News*.

Once again, on the weekend of October 12-13, 2007, the Archives participated in the Duke University School of Medicine's Alumni Weekend with a display that included memorabilia, photographs, yearbooks, and oral history sound clips.

If you would like to learn more about any of the events mentioned above or if you would like suggest any future projects and ideas for utilizing the Archive's tremendous wealth of resources please contact Mira Waller at mira.waller@duke.edu. ■

You've Heard of Compact Cars...But Compact Shelving?

Dawne Lucas, Head of Technical Services

Since 1977, the Duke University Medical Center Archives has been collecting materials from departments, faculty members, and alumni in order to preserve the legal, administrative, and historical records of Duke Medicine. Thus far, we have been successful in our mission—so successful that we began to run out of shelf space to store everything!

In order to accommodate our growing collections without sacrificing the security and climate-controlled conditions that our contributors expect, we have installed compact shelving in a portion of our stacks area. This new, electronically-moveable shelving allows us to store more boxes of valuable materials in our on-site facility. Fourteen ranges of shelving now hold a total of 3,465 standard-size archival boxes in the same amount of space that once accommodated only 1,800 boxes.

The new configuration also provides a wider aisle space in between the open ranges, making it easier for Archives personnel to retrieve materials for researchers. A sensor prevents the ranges from closing when an object or person is in the aisle.



Anticipating further collection growth, we plan to replace most of our remaining traditional shelving in the near future. We will store oversized materials on the shelving that we do not plan to replace. ■

From the Director's Chair (continued from page 1)

micro-environments where temperatures and humidity vary widely. Commercial storage facilities often do not control the environment either, but also have the added danger of paper-eating insects and rodents. Finally, the above mentioned storage locations are not cheap.

The Duke Medical Center Archives provides a free, safe, secure, and climate-controlled location for the permanent storage of Duke Medicine's treasures. Furthermore, the items receive professional processing, during which items are arranged, and then described in a "finding aid" or inventory. These finding aids allow Archives' staff and researchers to efficiently and effectively find materials that relate to the research question at hand, thereby decreasing search time and

increasing productivity. Finally, storing permanent records in the Medical Center Archives ensures that Duke's assets never leave official custody of the institution.

Whether you are moving offices, drawing to the end of the fiscal year, or reclaiming office space, it is time to contact the Medical Center Archives. Storing permanent records in the Archives reduces departmental and individual costs associated with the storage of records, increases access time, improves storage conditions, and ensures that Duke Medicine retains constant custody of its valuable assets. ■

Oral Historian's Corner (continued from page 1)

This resource will also feature previously conducted interviews as well as interviews to be conducted in the future about women in Duke Medical Center. The initial version of the online exhibit is projected to go live at the end of April 2008.

In October of 2007, the oral historian completed a series of interviews chronicling the history of the Duke Cardiovascular Databank. The databank was a computerized storage and retrieval system of multiple variables regarding Duke cardiology patients, and the program followed these patients over time. The information stored within the databank over

the course of its history could be used for evaluating cardiology diseases and treatments. The oral historian completed nearly twenty interviews for this project, which was conducted with the collaboration of Drs. Galen Wagner and Brant Mittler.

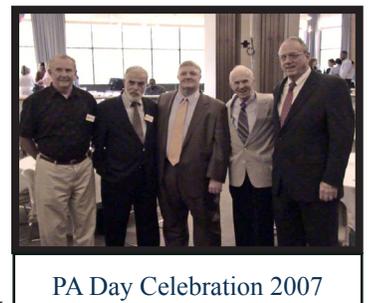
The oral historian is also working with other members of the Duke Medical Center Library and Archives staff to put together an event called "Tea with Trailblazers" in February of 2008. Please see page 2, *Upcoming Events* for details. ■

PA History Center Update *Adonna Thompson, PA History Archivist*

I was privileged to participate in the PA Day celebrations this year, which included a reception and the dedication of a plaque at Hanes House to Duke's first graduating class of PAs. In conjunction with the celebration we conducted oral history interviews with three early Duke PA graduates, Bill Stanhope, John McQueary, and Tom Godkins.

This Fall at the annual conference for the Physician Assistant Education Association, Dr. Reginald Carter (SPPAHx Historian), Ruth Ballweg (in-coming SPPAHx Board President), and I conducted our first informational and educational Program Historian meeting. All PA programs were invited and encouraged to send an appointed historian. I am happy to report that we had a successful turn-out with approximately 25 attendees. In this and future meetings we hope to educate our historians about archival issues and provide them with resources, advice, and encouragement as they begin

to collect and organize their own materials. Also at this conference, the SPPAHx Board of Trustees approved our budget for the migration of the PAHx online digital database. Since that time Russell Koonts and I have been diligently moving forward with this project.



After the recent archives office renovations most of us at the archives now have new and improved work space, which includes a new office for me and a dedicated phone line for the PAHx Center, (919) 383-8939. ■



Duke University Medical Center Archives

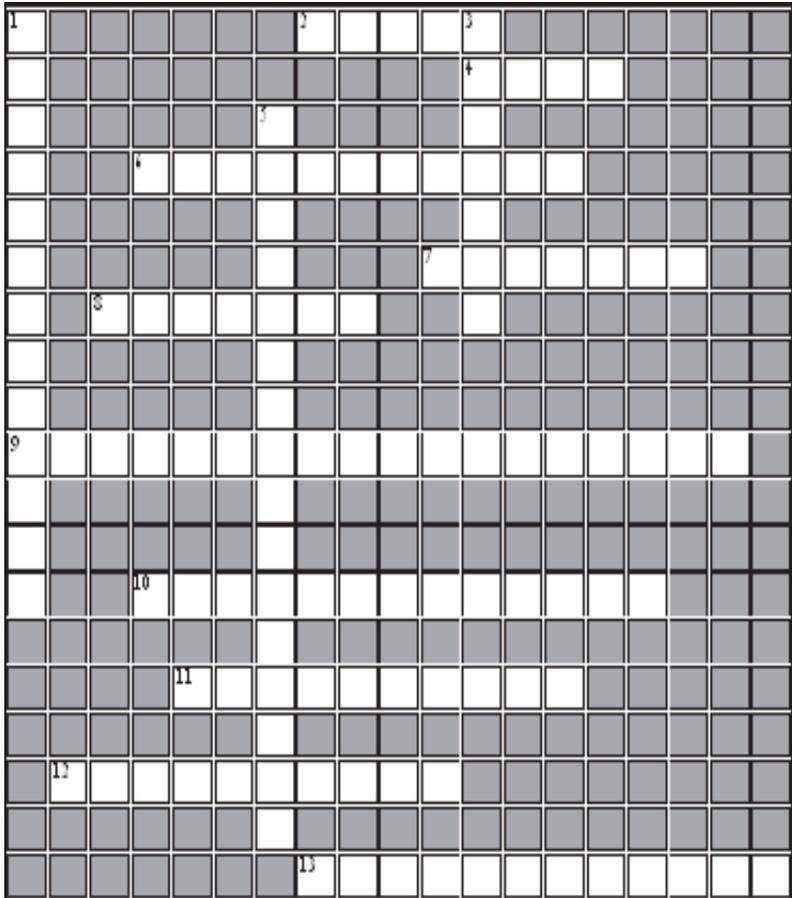
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Check out our website at
<http://archives.mc.duke.edu>

Please contact Mira Waller at mira.waller@duke.edu if you have any suggestions for future articles or questions about the newsletter.



Historical Moments in Duke Medicine

DOWN

- 1. Radio consultative program based at Duke which used radio to assist isolated doctors.
- 3. Performed the first stereotactic surgery in the South.
- 5. Located in Asheville and partly operated by Duke University from 1941 to 1980.

ACROSS

- 2. Trained conscientious objectors to be psychiatric orderlies during WWII.
- 4. With Dr. Hume, organized the first regional organ sharing program in the US (in 1969).
- 6. First African-American student admitted to Duke University SOM.
- 7. Developed blue baby operation and treatments for surgical shock.
- 8. Received a citation from President Reagan for outstanding contributions to biochemical research.
- 9. Originally housed in the basement of the SOM, Davison building.
- 10. Another name for the Gerontology Building and the Diagnostic and Treatment Center.
- 11. First Director of the Duke comprehensive Cancer Center.
- 12. Director of the NIH from 1982 to 1989.
- 13. Opened its doors on July 20, 1930.

Please contact Mira Waller at mira.waller@duke.edu for answer key.