



DUMC Archives

January 2011

Issue 7



From The Director's Chair

Russell Koonts, Director

In his document titled "A Proposal for Archives Development at the Duke Medical Center Archives," Dr. Jim Gifford, the Medical Center's first archivist stated,

The primary purpose of a Medical Center Archives is to meet the needs of the administrative and academic departments and divisions of the Medical Center itself through the preservation of their non-current but potentially valuable records in an organized fashion and at a reasonable cost.
-Undated report by Jim Gifford on file in the current director's office.



In the last 8 years, the Archives has expanded upon that primary purpose by collecting the personal papers of notable individuals who have administered, researched, taught or completed their education at the Duke Medical Center. Additionally, the Archives' staff has attempted to document events and activities by collecting photographs, publications, and oral histories. With the recent retirement of the curator of the History of Medicine Collections and the merger of the Collections with the Archives, we are expanding our role once again.

I have often compared the Archives' collecting initiatives as a "three-legged stool" approach. The first leg represents the core mission as laid out by Dr. Gifford. The core of the Archives' collection represent the administrative memory of the institution. These documents record the activities and decision making processes of the individuals and units (administration, departments, and divisions) that establish policies and procedures, and oversee the day-to-day operation of the Medical Center. While administrators and leaders are important, other individuals have contributed to the growth and development of the Medical Center. Taking a strictly archival approach, some of these individuals' accomplishments might never be preserved for generations of researchers.

This brings me to the second leg of the archival stool, manuscript, or personal papers, collections. These collections document not only the professional activities and achievements of Duke Medicine individuals, but their personal and private activities as well. While institutional archives focus on the leaders, manuscript collections expand to the practitioners, clinicians, researchers, and alumni who have contributed to the successes attained by the Medical Center over the past 80 years. Combined with institutional archives, manuscript collections help provide a fuller picture of the activities and operations of the organization.

The final leg of the archival stool is oral history. Oral histories help fill in the gaps not covered by the written record as documented in either the institutional archive or manuscript collection. Additionally, oral histories often capture the thoughts and recollections of individuals who never produce any written documentary evidence or who are historically under represented in either of the other two categories. Taken together, the institutional archives, the manuscript collections, and the oral history collections provide a fuller, richer picture of the growth and development of the Duke Medical Center. With the merger of the History of Medicine Collections, the archival stool has a fourth leg.

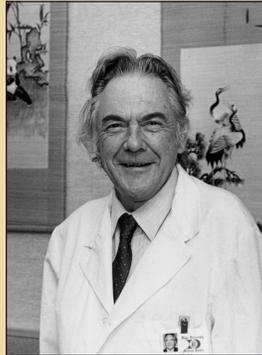
The Collections have long provided researchers with the *(continued on on page 3)*

Please Note

There was not a Fall issue for 2010 and we wish to apologize for the delay. You may also notice that we have adopted a new numbering scheme for our bi-annual newsletter.

Highlighting Dr. D. Bernard Amos

One of the wonderful things about being an oral historian is uncovering hidden treasures. Sometimes an interview, conducted decades ago, provides one of the few intimate links available with an historical figure. To hear the timbre of a voice on a newly discovered tape, the cadence of speech, the thoughtful pause before answering some meaningful question—these are links that personalize the past and bring it forward into the present in a very immediate way. I recently was able to secure permission to make the interview of Dr. D. Bernard Amos available to researchers. I listened to the British accent of this important figure I had only heard about, and I read his words in transcript form. A preeminent immunologist, Amos contributed greatly to his field, and his research into transplant immunology enabled Duke to perform the first kidney transplant between a recipient and a living donor who was selected on the basis of MHC antigen matching. In the 1992 interview



with former medical center archivist Dr. James Gifford, Dr. Amos talks about the medical center, the department, transplantation, and immunology. He also has apparently made some of his own changes to the transcript of the interview, revealing more, clarifying, and correcting. The interview and the transcript changes were all created before my arrival at Duke as the oral historian. But they reiterate to me as a discoverer, the happy importance of doing work with legends such as Dr. Amos, as well as with people whose names are not as easily recognizable. And now that researchers are able to access this interview, this particular hidden treasure is not as hidden as it once was. From the Dr. Bernard Amos interview:

"I've seen people who were moribund and probably didn't have a week to live, who've gone through kidney transplant, and three months later you wouldn't recognize them because they were so healthy." ❧

Archives Acquires Papers of Prominent DUMC Faculty Members

Dawne Lucas, Head of Technical Services

The Medical Center Archives recently acquired the papers of two prominent Medical Center faculty members, Dr. Robert B. Jennings and Dr. James O. McNamara.

Dr. Jennings' donation includes his correspondence and research from his long tenure at Duke, as well as some materials from his pre-Duke days at Northwestern University. Dr. Jennings recently retired from the Department of Pathology. He chaired the department from 1975 to 1989, and became the James B.



Robert B. Jennings

Duke Professor of Pathology in 1980. Cardiologists worldwide have used his research investigating how heart muscle cells die in order to treat patients who have suffered heart attacks or are at risk to have heart attacks. Now commonly used treatments credited to Dr. Jennings' work include angioplasty and "clot-busting"

medications. He has won numerous awards, including the American Society of Investigative Pathology's highest honor, the Gold-Headed Cane Award.

Dr. McNamara's donation includes laboratory notebooks from the McNamara Lab dating from 1996 to 2004. Dr. McNamara is the Carl R. Deane Professor of Neuroscience and a professor of neurobiology, pharmacology, and neurology. He has chaired the Department of Neurobiology since 2002, served as the director of the Epilepsy Center at the Durham VA Medical Center, and founded the Duke Center for the Advanced Study of Epilepsy. His main research interest is epileptogenesis, the process that causes epilepsy.

Other recent acquisitions include the final installment of materials pertaining to the late Dr. Walter Kemper, Dr. Barbara Newborg, and the Rice Diet, as well as the records from the late Terry Cavanagh, former director of the Duke University Medical Center Library and former curator of the History of Medicine Collections. In addition, Duke alumnus, Dr. Norman Garrett (1950),

(continued on page 3)

(From the Director, continued)

ability to learn about the history of medicine through its rich and unique materials, which include over 20,000 monographs and 4,000 manuscripts, as well as photographs, illustrations, medical instruments, stamps, medals, and a variety of medical artifacts. While the Archives' focus is Duke Medicine, the History of Medicine Collections cover the evolution of medicine throughout the ages. How then, do these Collections augment the Archives' current holdings?

The newly formed Historical Collections and Archival Services Department now allows for a fuller, richer research experience for our clientèle. While the Historical Collections document the evolution of medicine throughout the ages, the Archival Services collections help put Duke Medicine and its contributions into the larger context of medical history. Taken together, these two collections provide a fuller picture of advances and discoveries and the role that Duke has played in moving medicine forward.

As of September 1, 2010, Rachel Ingold, curator in the History of Medicine, and Adonna Thompson, assistant director for Archival Services, will be working together to provide research services and instruction, create digital and traditional exhibitions, and explore new and creative ways to market the collections to Duke Medicine, Duke University, historical researchers, and to the general public. ☐

(Archives Acquires, continued)



The Harris Ambulatory Sigmoid Syndrome, Garrett donation

has graciously allowed the Archives to borrow and scan a personal scrapbook from his student days. Check back with us in the near future to view a related online exhibit.

These acquisitions, as well as the many other transfers and donations housed at the Archives,

document the careers and achievements of individuals who have studied, researched, and pioneered at Duke University Medical Center.

Medical Center faculty members and alumni wishing to donate their professional materials to the Archives should contact Russell Koonts at 919-383-2653 or russell.koonts@duke.edu. ☐

PA History Center Update

Leila Ledbetter, PAHx Director & Archivist



This August, as part of their orientation, the PA History Center welcomed the Duke Physician Assistant Program class of 2012 for a tour of the Eugene A. Stead Center for Physician Assistants.

Seventy-six new students and seven faculty and staff flooded into the E. Harvey Estes Conference Center to listen to Dr. Reginald Carter, retired director and division chief of the Duke PA Program, talk about the establishment of the profession. Carter is also the founder and historian emeritus of the Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History. With his rich background in the profession's history, he regaled the audience with interesting stories and tidbits about the Stead Museum and the artifacts on display at the Center.



After Dr. Carter's brief introduction to what they would see during their tour, the students were let loose to explore the grounds. Many people clustered around cases showing examples of memorabilia

and early marketing of the profession. Displays on the walls introduced students to the doctors who were pivotal in forming the physician assistant idea and the organizations that helped legitimize PAs as a profession. Attendees sifted through the library, admiring old textbooks from some of the first PA programs. Dr. Carter stood in the museum replica of Dr. Stead's lake house office explaining the significance of the items on the desk and the walls. Quite a few gathered in quiet awe by the **"Lifesavers then - Caregivers now"** Combat Medic/Corpsman Memorial statue in the garden.



The delighted remarks of the visitors as they were leaving indicated the event was a resounding success. Plans are already beginning to form to conduct similar tours with future incoming Duke PA Program classes.

For more information about the PA History Center or to arrange your own tour, please contact Leila Ledbetter at leila.ledbetter@duke.edu, 919-383-8939 or visit PAHx.org. ☐

Duke University Medical Center Library & Archives

Mailing Address: DUMC Archives
DUMC 3702
Durham, NC 27710

Physical Address: 1408-A Christian Ave
Durham, NC 27705

Research Hours

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

Saturday
By Appointment

Sunday - Closed

Holidays - Call Ahead
919-383-2653

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News and Notes

Adonna Thompson, Assistant Director

In January we will partner with the History of Medicine to present an exhibit that focuses on the role of women throughout the history of medicine. This exhibit will be on display at the Medical Center Library until the end of March and will coincide with the National Library of Medicine's *Changing the Face of Medicine* travelling exhibit.

Our sixth Tea with Trailblazers event will take place on March 14. Traditionally we have held this event in February to commemorate Black History Month, but this year we have moved the Tea to March in order to celebrate Women's History Month. We are excited to announce our featured speaker, Dr. Nancy Andrews, vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of the Duke University School of Medicine.

In April the Archives will exhibit materials focusing on Duke School of Nursing at the annual Nursing Reunion Weekend. Please stop by and see us there!

If you would like to learn more about our events or exhibits, if you have suggestions for future projects or ideas for utilizing the Archives' wealth of resources, please contact Adonna Thompson at adonna.thompson@duke.edu

Exhibit Update Demystify our Images

We have migrated this popular interactive exhibit to Drupal, a new web platform. This will allow us to make additions and update the site with more regularity. So, please stop by to take a look at our newly added images and let us know what you think!

<http://digitaldukemed.mc.duke.edu/mystery/>

