MEDSpace. If you have followed the Duke University Medical Center Archives for the past eight years, you have probably heard that term hundreds, if not thousands, of times. But what exactly is MEDSpace? Short answer: MEDSpace is our digital repository. OK, so what is a digital repository? A digital repository is a place where we post items online in order to provide access to portions of our collections around the clock and around the world.

The first version of MEDSpace was launched in 2005 when, as a part of the 75th anniversary celebrations, the Archives received a grant from the Josiah C. Trent Memorial Foundation, Inc. to digitize photographs documenting the formative years of the Duke School of Medicine and Hospital. During this project, approximately 450 images were selected, digitized, and posted in MEDSpace. That same year, the Medical Center Library & Archives (MCL&A) acquired the Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society’s (UHMS) library and archives. In order to help serve the UHMS membership better, digitized articles from the Society’s journal were made available to them via our digital repository as well.

In 2007, when the MCL&A wanted to move its Historical Images in Medicine (HIM) collection to a new platform, the Archives began looking for new software that would improve access and usability. The result was MEDSpace 2.0. This new version allowed for cross collection searching, the capability to find similar items through linked subject, creator, and continued on page 2

65th General Hospital & Department of Surgery Documented in New Collection by Dawne Lucas

The Duke University Medical Center Archives proudly announces the acquisition of the Ralph Arnold Papers and Medical Equipment Collection. Dr. Arnold was a professor of otology and an associate professor of otolaryngology and ophthalmology at the Duke University Medical Center in the 1940s and 1950s as well as a consultant to the Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The collection consists of photographs, correspondence, tally sheets, and other documentation from the 65th General Hospital and Duke’s Department of Surgery. Medical equipment, at least some of which was used for the 65th General Hospital, is also included. The collection was donated by Dr. Arnold’s children: Louise Davis, Andrew Arnold, James Arnold, and John van Arnold. continued on page 3
format terms, and the ability to zoom in and out of high resolution images in order to view the finer details of an object. With the addition of the HIM collection, the size of our repository grew from about 1,500 to over 6,000 items.

Over the next six years, MEDSpace’s scope continued to grow. The next collection we added was the Physician Assistant History (PAHx) database, which consisted of documents from various archives’ collections related to the founding of the physician assistant profession. Around this time we also began to add publications produced by the Duke University Health System (DUHS), the School of Medicine, and various departments and programs within DUHS. The Archives continues to add new content to MEDSpace, the most recent addition being photographs of artifacts and artwork owned by the MCL&A.

As MEDSpace grew, however, it became increasingly difficult to add and display new items. Because of this, in early 2013 the Archives began to research other options. In July 2013, the Archives launched MEDSpace 3.0. This version was developed in-house, which allows us greater control over programming and presentation. While the content remains the same, the site has been redesigned with a new user interface and improved functionality to make it easier and faster to use. The new platform also increases our ability to add new items and projects. For example, we recently moved Demystify Our Images — a project that invites alumni and other users to help us identify individuals and events in our old photographs — to MEDSpace. Having this collection available via MEDSpace rather than a separate website means that, once an image has been identified, with one click of a button, it can easily be cataloged, searched for, and found by other patrons.

So, “What is MEDSpace?” MEDSpace is an online resource where the Archives highlights materials from our collections, promotes DUHS, and piques researchers’ interest in learning more about Duke’s history. To see the digital content available on MEDSpace, visit: http://medspace.mc.duke.edu. We would appreciate any feedback you would like to share in order to help us continue to improve this resource. Please visit our “Contact Us” page for the various ways to provide your comments: http://medspace.mc.duke.edu/ask-us.

DUMC Archives at Work by Jolie Braun

Copies of the Aesculapian, the School of Medicine’s yearbook

The DUMC Archives provides support to many departments on campus for a variety of different projects. A few recent examples of what we’ve been up to are below.

♦ Supplied historical images for Duke Graduate School’s upcoming documentary The Education of Ida Owens

♦ Participated in the School of Nursing Alumni event with a display of historical images and information, a vintage Duke nursing uniform, and old yearbooks, and talked to alumni about SON history

♦ Provided a historical image for the new lobby signage in Duke University Hospital

♦ Provided research, materials, and historical images for the upcoming Duke Family Medicine Residency 40th reunion

♦ Collaborated with the Museum of Durham History on their upcoming exhibit “Early Hospitals in Durham.” (See News & Notes on page 5 to learn more.)

Have an event, research project, or class you’d like the Archives help with?

We can provide images, historical information, instruction, and more! Contact us at: dumc.archives@mc.duke.edu
Dr. Arnold was born in Rochester, New York, in 1910. He earned his medical degree from the University of Buffalo (now the State University of New York at Buffalo) in 1936, and completed his internship and residency at Duke. During World War II, he served with the 65th General Hospital, a United States Army Medical Corps unit staffed by Duke University Medical Center alumni in England during World War II. The unit distinguished itself as a center both for specialized treatment and the immediate care of combat casualties. While the majority of other Army general hospitals remained comparatively idle during the build-up to the D-Day invasion, the 65th handled a constant stream of casualties from heavy bomber crews, as well as all of the acute diseases and emergency cases from the surrounding air bases. It was also a designated specialty center for neurosurgery, thoracic and plastic surgery, burns, and hand injuries from hospitals throughout eastern England. In all, the unit treated more than 17,250 patients during its time in England. Due to their exceptional success rate, the 65th quickly earned a stellar reputation among general hospital units in the European Theater of Operations. Members of the 65th General Hospital were often called upon to help train doctors and nurses in other units, and the physicians of the 65th General Hospital came to be known for their innovative and successful techniques.

Returning to Duke after the war, Dr. Arnold dedicated himself to the conservation of hearing and the treatment of patients with hearing loss. He was active in several professional organizations, serving as president of the North Carolina Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Society, chairman of the ophthalmology and otolaryngology section of the North Carolina Medical Society, and secretary of the Durham-Orange County Medical Society. Dr. Arnold died in 1960 at the age of 49.

The Archives staff plan to process the Ralph Arnold Papers in the near future in order to make it available to researchers. If you are interested in knowing more about this collection, please contact the DUMC Archives at dumc.archives@mc.duke.edu or (919) 383-2653. You can also learn more about the 65th General Hospital by viewing the collection’s finding aid on our website: http://archives.mc.duke.edu/mca65thgeneral.html.

Meet the DUMC Archives Intern

From time to time, the DUMC Archives offers internships to students enrolled in a library and information science program. This past summer we were fortunate to have Lindsay Farinella work for us. Lindsay is currently in her final semester of UNC’s School of Information & Library Science program. She has a BA in Philosophy from UNC Asheville, and before entering library school worked with medical records as a pharmacy technician. Recently we talked to her about her experience of doing an internship with us.

JB: What have you done during your internship? Have you acquired new knowledge or skills?

LF: I’ve learned a great deal about the fundamentals of archives management, as well as the intricacies involved in the processing, arrangement, and description of collections. I have processed several collections, including the David C. Sabiston Papers.

JB: What’s been the most interesting thing you’ve discovered or learned?

LF: It’s been fascinating to organize the collections of papers from various prominent medical professionals and learn about their lives, along with their historical context. It’s also been very interesting to see how many different types of materials the DUMC Archives contains; they range from papers, photographs or other kinds of visual media, audiovisuals, plaques, clothing, and even death masks!

JB: What has surprised you about doing an internship at a medical archives?

LF: I was pleasantly surprised to see just how important archival professionals are to researchers and donors. Archives take on a lot of responsibility to properly arrange, preserve, and make materials accessible. By making decisions concerning which materials are included in a collection, as well as how they are arranged, described, and presented, archivists are essentially deciding how history will be viewed or understood.
Lights, Camera, Access: Processing the EMS Motion Film Collection
by Matthew Shangler

One of the most interesting collections in the DUMC Archives is the Educational Media Services Motion Film Collection. This collection of films came to us from the Division of Educational Media Services (EMS) after it closed in 2005. EMS consisted of four branches: medical photography, medical art, instructional television, and media coordination. Though established in 1997, EMS’s origins can be traced back to the establishment of the Department of Medical Art and Illustration in 1935.

Despite being one of our largest collections with over 330 films on site and many more stored at the Library Service Center (LSC), the EMS Motion Film Collection also had been one of our most hidden. The information we had about the films was limited: we knew that many of the reels dated from the 1960s and 1970s, nearly all were produced by Duke physicians and faculty, and most of them showed medical procedures and served as instructional aids for medical students. In order to improve user access to the collection, we needed to learn more about the films, create an inventory, and rehouse damaged or deteriorating items.

An item-level inventory is the only way to get a true handle on the content and status of a motion film collection. It is nearly impossible to know what is there until you have looked in each case. For example, one fifteen-inch case for a 35mm film could house as many as eight or nine 16mm films. A hands-on inspection is also the only way to identify any preservation issues, such as acetate decay (characterized by a pungent vinegar smell), film shrinking, and mold.

Doing an item-level inventory for a film collection, however, presents a few challenges. Many mid-century film producers gave little thought to the long-term use and preservation of their work. In our collection, this was evident in the lack of documentation and poor storage conditions: nearly all the films were housed in metal cans crammed into boxes. Metal film cans lack ventilation and are prone to oxidation. Additionally, unlike still images, film requires specific equipment for viewing. While we have the equipment, not all the films could be put through the projector, as many had been transferred to cores and needed to be put back on a reel to be played, and other films were too brittle to be run through the projector.

To combat these problems, we did several things. We opened every film case and recorded the title, date, type, reel or core, and condition for our inventory. Films with incomplete or no identification were run through the projector when possible. Although degradation of film cannot be reversed, we were able to slow and prevent it spreading by rehousing each film in archival, vented cases.

The mission of this project was to inventory and increase the visibility of the EMS Motion Film Collection. We now know what films we have, where they are, and the condition of each one. Best of all, the collection is ready for researchers to use and discover some of our “hidden” gems. To learn more about the EMS films, visit the Educational Media Services Records finding aid on our website at: http://archives.mc.duke.edu/mcamedillustration.html.

The EMS Motion Film Collection before (left) and after (right) processing
News & Notes by Jolie Braun

New Exhibit at the Medical Center Library

The MCL&A has a new exhibit on display, “From the Rubenstein Collections: Henkel Family Physicians,” which highlights a family of doctors who lived and worked in the Shenandoah Valley during the 19th century. A collaboration with Duke University’s David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, the exhibit includes letters written by the Henkel family, books and broadsides published by the Henkel Press, and 19th century medical instruments and artifacts. The exhibit can be seen on Level 1 of the Library through the end of October 2013.

The exhibit was created to complement a National Library of Medicine display the MCL&A hosted this past summer, “The Henkel Physicians: A Family’s Life in Letters.”

Archives Launches New Blog

The Archives is excited to announce the launch of our new blog. The Archives blog shares stories about the history of the DUMC community, highlights interesting images, artifacts, and documents from the collections, and provides information about our resources, services, news, and events. Please visit it at: http://archives.mc.duke.edu/blog.

DUMC Featured at Museum of Durham History

The Archives has partnered with the Museum of Durham History on their new exhibit “The History of Durham’s Early Hospitals,” which looks back at the beginnings of medicine and healthcare in the city. The exhibit, which features materials from our collections, will be on display from October 2013 through March 2014. For more information, visit the museum’s website at: http://museumofdurhamhistory.org.

Upcoming Events

DUMC Archives Celebrates North Carolina Archives Week, October

The DUMC Archives will honor this year’s N.C. Archives Week theme, “Home Grown! A Celebration of N.C. Food Culture and History,” with a small exhibit highlighting food-related materials from our collections. Although Archives Week runs from October 21–27, the display will be available the entire month of October on Level 2 of the Medical Center Library.

School of Medicine Alumni Weekend, October 17–18

Archives staff will be at the SOM Alumni Weekend with a display on the history of the School of Medicine, yearbooks, and other materials for alumni. Please drop by and say hello!

Medical Illustration Exhibit, November 2013–February 2014

In November, the MCL&A will have an exhibit showcasing the history of medical illustration at the DUMC, including original artwork by artists Bob Blake and Frank Beresford. The exhibit will be on Level 1 of the Library through February.

This photo of Dr. J. Deryl Hart and team in the operating room is one of the images from the DUMC Archives used in the Museum of Durham History exhibit.