From the Director’s Chair  by Russell Koonts

Unprocessed and underprocessed collections: every archives has them. These collections present numerous problems for archivists and their users. From the archivist’s viewpoint, the materials are often unidentified or undated, housed in less-than-optimal conditions, and contain materials that have no long-term value to the institution, often taking up valuable shelf space. From the researcher’s perspective, the unidentified and undated materials result in missed research opportunities, restricted access to unprocessed materials, or extended research time.

In a 1998 Association of Research Libraries (ARL) survey, Judith Parnitch reported that, among the 99 participating repositories, unprocessed collections constituted 27% of their holdings. (Special Collections in ARL Libraries, 2001). Similarly, in 2010, Alexi Ramsey found that members of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (Big Ten schools and the University of Chicago) had, on average, 46% of their collections unprocessed (Working in the Archives, 2010). Within the past two years, the Medical Center Archives has initiated two projects to address its backlog of un- and underprocessed materials.

The newest of these projects began this year with the approval of funding from the School of Medicine and the Health System to establish archival internships. Open to graduate students in library science and public history programs, the internships provide valuable hands-on experience while helping the Archives address its backlog. (To read more about these internships, see the article on page 2.)

The second partnership began almost two years ago. The Medical Center Library & Archives endeavors to cross-train its employees and provide them with opportunities outside of their normal job duties. The Archives has worked with the Library’s Collection Services department on a number of projects. In addition to partnering with Library cataloger, Barbara Dietsch, to incorporate our collection records and reference books into the University’s online catalog, Ashley Brown and Randy Marsh from Access Services have been working on underprocessed collections.

Ashley has inventoried over 95 boxes of materials from the Department of Pediatrics, and inventoried and rehoused another 16 boxes of personal and professional records from Dr. Wolfgang Joklik.
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Meet the Archives Interns by Lucy Waldrop

Last summer, Astrid Cook-Dail and Alex Dowrey joined the Medical Center Archives for yearlong internships. Both are graduate students pursuing library science degrees with an interest in archival studies.

Astrid received her BA in English from Manhattan College and is taking classes to earn her MLIS at North Carolina Central University. Prior to working in Archives, Astrid worked in publishing, and while she enjoyed many aspects of that field, she decided to leave the sales-driven world of publishing for the information and user-driven world of libraries and archives. After completing her MLIS, she hopes to find a position that will allow her to build on her archival processing experience and passion for customer service by working as a reference archivist.

During her internship, Astrid has processed the Albert R. Behnke Papers, the W.H. Briner Papers, and the Catherine Lynch Gilliss Records. She has gained experience working with various formats, including paper, slides, photographs, mixed material photo collages, and oversized material. While working at the Archives, Astrid has learned that each archival collection “is truly unique and needs to be processed in a different way based on the types of materials, potential use, and original order.”

When Astrid is not busy with work and school, she enjoys gardening, crocheting, and playing board games.

Alex holds a BA in Classical Studies from Bryn Mawr College and an MA in History from Virginia Tech. She is currently working towards an MSLS at UNC Chapel Hill. With a background in early American history and public history, Alex worked as a graduate assistant at Virginia Tech’s Special Collections. While there, Alex discovered how much she enjoyed working with and providing access to archival materials. It was this experience that made her decide to pursue her MSLS to become an archivist. After graduation, she would like to work as a processing or reference archivist at a historical society or a university special collections.

During her internship, Alex has processed the Robert J. Lefkowski Papers, the George R. Parkerson Records, the Department of Arts & Health at Duke Records, and the Office of Curricular Affairs Records. These collections have given her the opportunity to work with various formats such as paper, audiovisual material, photographs, slides, and scrapbooks. Working at the Archives has broadened Alex’s knowledge of HIPAA and other privacy concerns, as well as teaching her how to create a processing plan as the first step to processing an archival collection.

Alex enjoys fencing, knitting, and learning about Colonial and Revolutionary history in her free time.

Looking for historic images?

Our digital image repository, MEDSpace, contains hundreds of images documenting Duke Health history: https://medspace.mc.duke.edu
The Archives Welcomes Lucy Waldrop

The Medical Center Archives is happy to introduce our newest staff member, Lucy Waldrop. She joined the Archives in January as Head of Technical Services.

Lucy comes to Duke from Stanford University, where as Project Archivist for the Helen and Newton Harrison Papers, she processed over 250 linear feet of material. Her previous positions include Project Archivist at Wichita State University and AmeriCorps volunteer in Letcher County, KY. She holds an MLIS with a concentration in Archival Studies and an MA in History, both from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and a BA in American Studies from Skidmore College.

As Head of Technical Services, Lucy works with Duke Health departments to transfer materials to the Archives. She also processes collections, creates finding aids, supervises the Archives’ two student interns, and works with the Archives Director and the Archivist for Research, Outreach, & Education to provide access to materials.

In her spare time, Lucy enjoys yoga, hiking, and spending time with her cats.

Duke Medical Center Archives at Work

The Archives provides support to many departments on campus and beyond for a variety of different projects. A few recent examples are below.

♦ Provided research and historical images for the article “The History of Duke Thoracic Surgery” by Drs. Peter K. Smith, Michael S. Mulvihill, and Thomas A. D’Amico

♦ Worked with Dr. Len White, who used the Archives research guide African American History at Duke Medicine for an orientation activity for Master of Biomedical Science students

♦ Contributed copies of archival materials and biographical information about several prominent women in Duke Health history for Duke’s Women of Science and Philosophy Wikipedia event

♦ Staffed the Duke Physician Assistant Program’s 50th Anniversary Celebration

♦ Provided materials and images about the 65th General Hospital Unit statue for the upcoming Duke project Statues Speak

♦ Provided research and images for the history page of Duke’s Health Sector Management Program site

♦ Contributed a blog post to This Day in NC History about Duke’s first graduating class of Physician Assistants

PA alumni at the 50th Anniversary Celebration, browsing class photos on the Library & Archives iPad
New Exhibit Highlights Duke Health Founders

The Medical Center Library & Archives is happy to announce that our new exhibit, “Early Duke Notables,” is now on display. Featuring artifacts, photographs, and documents from the Archives, the exhibit highlights some of the key individuals who helped found Duke Health. Visitors will learn about Dr. Wilburt C. Davison (pictured right), the first hospital director and School of Medicine Dean, who did everything from recruit faculty to help design the hospital; Bessie Baker, the first School of Nursing Dean, who also oversaw nursing at the hospital; Dr. J. Deryl Hart, Chair of Surgery, who pioneered the use of ultraviolet light in operating rooms to eliminate infectious organisms that cause post-operative Staph infections; and Dr. Frederic M. Hanes, Chair of Medicine, who started the earliest incarnation of Duke Gardens. Items on display include original hospital floorplans with Davison’s notes, a 1930’s nursing cap from Baker’s tenure, a patent for one of Hart’s inventions, and a letter written by Hanes about establishing Duke Gardens. “Early Duke Notables” may be seen on Level 1 of the Library from June to September 2016. To learn more about Duke Health history, visit the Archives website.

New Materials at the Archives

The Archives regularly receives materials from departments, faculty, and programs across the medical campus. A few recent acquisition highlights are below.

♦ William G. Anlyan Papers: A new addition to the collection of the Chancellor and School of Medicine Dean Emeritus includes scrapbooks, correspondence, administrative material, clippings, and more.

♦ O. Michael Colvin Papers: Colvin was Director of the Duke University Comprehensive Cancer Center from 1995 to 2002 and the William W. Shingleton Professor of Cancer Research. This collection documenting his career at Duke includes his administrative records, research, awards and honors, writings, and more.

♦ Justine Strand de Oliveira Papers: Strand de Oliveira is the Vice Chair for Education for the Department of Community and Family Medicine and a Professor for Community and Family Medicine and the School of Nursing. This collection documenting her career includes correspondence, clippings, photographs, reports, and more.

♦ Mary Champagne Papers: Champagne is Laurel Chadwick Distinguished Professor and Dean Emerita of the School of Nursing. This collection spans her tenure as Dean and includes administrative records and writings.

♦ Dr. John M. Falletta Oral History: Falletta is Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics and Emeritus Senior Chair of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the School of Medicine. In this 2015 interview he recounts his life and career from his childhood in Kansas to his advisory role at the IRB.
65th General Hospital Exhibit Now Online

Last summer the Library & Archives unveiled the exhibit, “Remembering the 65th: Duke’s General Hospital Unit,” which documented the staff, activities, and accomplishments of Duke’s World War II unit, the 65th General Hospital. We are happy to announce that a digital companion is now available online. Items featured include medical instruments used by hospital staff, an aircrew flak helmet worn by a patient treated at the hospital, original artwork depicting the unit’s doctors and nurses, and a letter from President Ronald Reagan commending the unit. The digital exhibit contains over 40 images as well as multimedia clips. To view, please visit: http://digitaldukemed.mc.duke.edu/sixty-fifth.

Remembering the 65th: Duke’s General Hospital Unit

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Randy Marsh has worked on materials created by Dr. Ralph Snyderman during his tenure as Chancellor. Between 1989-2004, Dr. Snyderman’s office transferred approximately 350 boxes of records to the Archives.

These boxes often contained hanging folders and non-archival materials. Additionally, many of the folders, while identified, were undated. As a result, Archives staff and researchers would often have to search through numerous boxes and folders in order to find the materials needed to answer a question. During his project, Randy refoldered all of the material into new, acid-free folders, recording the title and adding dates where none previously existed. The Archives also used this opportunity to work with Dr. Snyderman’s office and the Office of Finance and Business to dispose of non-archival materials. At the completion of this project, Randy had reduced the size of the collection by over 100 boxes and had provided the Archives with a fully inventoried (and dated) collection.

These efforts have already provided major benefits for the Archives. As noted by Randy’s work, rehousing collections often reduces the size of the collection and frees up valuable space that can be used to store new materials. Processing also increases access. During the Snyderman project, the Archives received a request for a document from the Chancellor’s office. With the newly dated inventory, our staff was able to locate the item in the exact folder and answer the question in under five minutes. Prior to this project, Archives staff would have had to look through a minimum of six undated folders to find the document.

Archives in the Classroom

A few classes the Archives have worked with recently include:

- Dr. Jeffery Baker’s pre-clerkship classes in surgery
- Dr. Jules Ondendahl-James’ “Playing Doctor: Medical Education, Research, and Theaters of Empathy”
- Dr. Mark Olson’s “Visual Cultures of Medicine”