



DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2015

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

From the Director's Chair: Archival Treasures *by Russell Koonts*

"Our archives are treasure troves — a testament to many lives lived and the complexity of the way we move forward. They contain clues to the real concerns of day-to-day life that bring the past alive."

— Sara Sheridan

Throughout my career, I have had the pleasure to work and do research in numerous institutions. There is something about working with primary source materials that brings the past to life. Primary sources provide us with direct access to historic events and people. At each stage of my career, I have a favorite memory of a "discovery" and the goose bumps that these materials have provided.

As a graduate student, my thesis topic centered on land speculation at the expense of former Revolutionary soldiers and how the activities of those involved led to the establishment of North Carolina's Supreme Court. The State Archives was full of primary source materials relating to the "Glasgow Land Frauds," as they were labeled. I remember pouring over microfilm of old newspapers in Duke's Perkins Library, and coming across an obscure reference that noted the death of James Glasgow, North Carolina's first Secretary of State. Though his death had occurred over 180 years prior, that obituary notice brought a bit of sadness to my research.

When I began my career at the North Carolina State Archives, I continued my interest in land speculation during the nation's formative years, and traveled to Philadelphia to conduct research in the Pennsylvania Historical Society. There I learned about a land speculator from North Carolina who helped bankrupt many of the nation's early leaders. After finding a letter mentioning his death in a debtors' prison and burial in the paupers' grave, I was able to consult with the archivist and old maps to locate the burial site. (Much to the exasperation of my wife, who was about 7 months pregnant at the time, we had to visit the park and walk the whole area).

Later, when I had moved to Duke University to work in the Hartman Center, I had the opportunity to make another "discovery." This time, however, the discovery was made for someone else. As the Reference Archivist for the Hartman Center, I conducted research on behalf of patrons who could not travel to Durham to look at the records themselves. In the spring
Continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Archival Treasures	1
Hyperbaric Exhibit	2
Arts & Health at Duke.....	2
A Plea for Posterity	3
DUMC Archives at Work.....	4
Archives Event	5

DUMC ARCHIVES STAFF

Russell Koonts
Jolie Braun
Matthew Shangler



One of the treasures found at the DUMC Archives, an illustration from the first autopsy performed at the Hospital in 1930

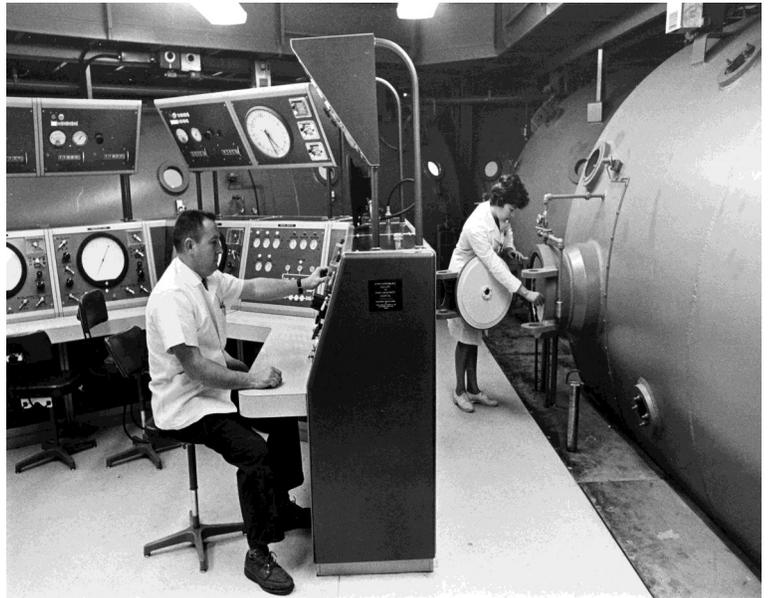


New Exhibit Features Hyperbaric Medicine at Duke

The MCL&A's new exhibit, "Under Pressure: Hyperbaric Medicine at Duke" is now on display. Featuring the Duke Center for Hyperbaric Medicine and Environmental Physiology, the exhibit charts the Center's development, activities, and achievements since its beginnings in the early 1960s. Items on display include documents, photographs, and promotional materials.

The Duke Center for Hyperbaric Medicine and Environmental Physiology is the major facility in the Southeastern U.S. and provides patient care and treatment for medical conditions – such as carbon monoxide poisoning and decompression sickness – using 100% pure oxygen. The facility also has been a hub for innovative research, such as the record-breaking Atlantis dives during the late 1970s and early 1980s, which proved that humans could function and work well underwater at great depths.

In addition to the history of the Center, the exhibit also highlights the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, the Divers Alert Network, and Dr. Charles Shilling,



Duke hyperbaric staff, circa 1965

a leader in the field of hyperbaric medicine, and his involvement with the rescue of the submarine U.S.S. *Squalus*.

The exhibit will be on display at the MCL&A, Level 1 and 2R, through January 2015.

DUMC Archives Acquires Arts & Health at Duke Department Records



Mona Lisa has been the Arts & Health at Duke logo for more than 20 years, and can be found on materials throughout the collection

The DUMC Archives is happy to announce the addition of a new collection: the Arts & Health at Duke Department Records. Begun in 1978 as the Cultural Services Program, Arts & Health at Duke was one of the first programs of its kind in the country. It was spearheaded by Drs. James Semans and Wayne Rundles, who strongly believed in the importance of art to the health and well-being of patients and staff. The department has provided a variety of programming over the years, including bringing local artists and musicians to the hospital, facilitating workshops, book clubs, and writing programs, and organizing art shows and live performances. Arts & Health at Duke is also responsible for acquiring all of the artwork in the hospital.

The Arts & Health at Duke Department Records contains a wide variety of materials documenting the department's origin, growth, and activities. The collection includes documents, news clippings, photographs, press releases, publications, and videos.

A finding aid for the collection is forthcoming. To learn more, please contact us at (919) 383-2653 or dumc.archives@mc.duke.edu.

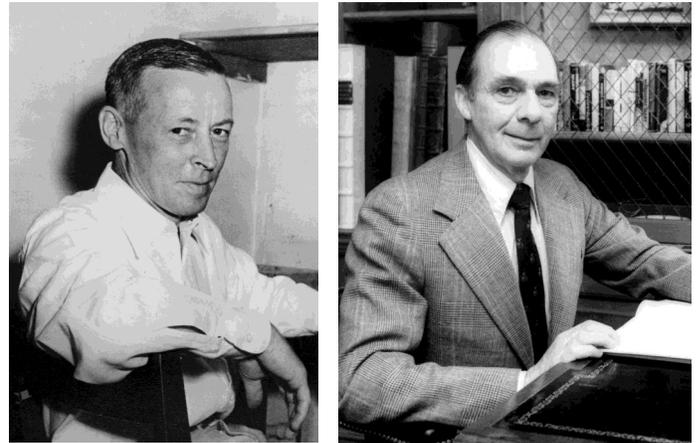


A Plea for Posterity: Preserving Duke Medicine’s History by Matthew Shangler

“Wait, Please...Before You Throw That Away!” Such was the admonishment in the October 1965 *Intercom*, advising readers to think twice about discarding old papers and other items documenting Duke Medicine’s history. School of Medicine Dean Barnes Woodhall and Library Director Terry Cavanagh recognized the historical importance of these items and issued this call when they realized they were in danger of being lost.

To us here at the Archives, this article is significant because it marks the start of what would become the Medical Center Archives. In the nearly 50 years since it was published, the archival collections have grown from a single room of old material to a warehouse with over 10,000 linear feet of records, artifacts, and audiovisual materials. The Archives has a staff of three dedicated to the preservation and access of these permanently valuable records. In addition to collecting and housing materials, we provide reference services to researchers and patrons throughout the Duke community and even across the globe.

But the article’s significance stretches beyond the walls and staff of the Archives. The *Intercom* piece closes with the line, “The ‘story,’ however, will be only as complete as the contributions received.” This line succinctly underscores the motive behind Woodhall and Cavanagh’s call. They knew that without saving these original materials from the waste bin, the story of the growth of the Medical Center would be incomplete at best. For example, take the Photograph Collection, which contains thousands of images showing the hospital and Medical Center at every stage of its development. The landscape of the medical campus has changed a great deal since the hospital and



Early archives advocates Barnes Woodhall (left), and Terry Cavanagh (right)

School of Medicine began in 1930, and it continues to evolve. These photographs help us see just how far we have come, and tell the story in a way that cannot be captured in any other medium. Similarly, the News Service Clippings Collection, which contains articles published about Duke Medicine from 1927 to 1986, not only provides information about important events, but also allows us to get a glimpse of their historical context and see how they were perceived when they happened.

The Archives does not create the history of Duke Medicine, *you* do. Our collections come from the departments, offices, and faculty of the Medical Center. Just as Woodhall and Cavanagh did in their article, we at the Archives leave you with a simple request to: “Wait, Please...Before You Throw That Away!”

The Archives welcomes any relevant transfers and donations to our collections. To learn more, please contact us at (919) 383-2653 or dumc.archives@mc.duke.edu.



A small portion of the DUMC Archives collections today

Stay informed!

Subscribe to our newsletter by sending an email to:

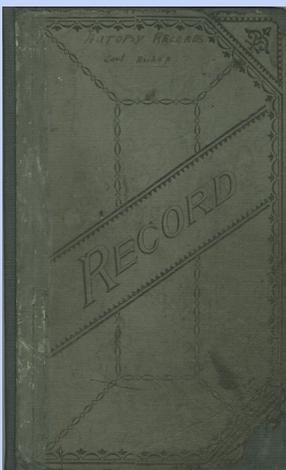
dumc.archives@mc.duke.edu



DUMC Archives at Work

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

- ◆ Contributed information, images, and oral history audio clips for the video *Changing the Face of Medicine: Women in Duke Medicine*. (Available online at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckDbIj2mLWw&feature=youtu.be>.)
- ◆ Provided images and information for a display documenting Duke Heart Center’s history and celebrating its 25th anniversary.
- ◆ Participated in the School of Nursing Alumni event (April) and School of Medicine Alumni weekend (October) with displays of historical images and information, old yearbooks and publications, and talked to alumni about DUMC history.
- ◆ Created a timeline for the Duke University Health System detailing the past 16 years of accomplishments, innovations, and growth. (Available online at: https://archives.mc.duke.edu/duhs_timeline.)
- ◆ Loaned materials to the Duke Divinity School Library for a display on Duke Hospital chaplain Russell Dicks and pastoral care. (Currently on view through the end of November 2014.)
- ◆ Collaborated with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources on a post for their blog, *This Day in North Carolina History*, about the opening of Duke University Hospital on July 21, 1930. (Available online at: <http://nchistorytoday.wordpress.com/2014/07/21/modest-beginnings-for-duke-university-hospital/>.)



Another DUMC Archives treasure: an early 1930s autopsy logbook

Continued from page 1

of 1997, I received a request from a graduate student who was researching William Faulkner. During his career, Faulkner had written only two teleplays, and scholars assumed that the scripts had been lost. The J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency had been the primary creator of the *Lux Video Theatre* for radio and TV, and a quick search of their microfilm archives located the two scripts. (For more information about Duke’s “lost” Faulkner television scripts, see: http://library.duke.edu/news/newsletters/frontandcenter/pdf/fc_v04_n1.pdf.)

All this leads to my favorite discoveries that I have made during my time at the Medical Center Archives. Unlike my previous experiences, this was not an “A-Ha!” moment, but occurred over time. After its grand opening in July 1930, the hospital’s day-to-day operations began in earnest. On August 4, 1930, Duke Hospital staff, led by Dr. Wiley Forbus, performed its first autopsy. This event was photographed and the Archives has a copy in our Photograph Collection.

Continued on page 5



Contact Us

Hours:

1408A Christian Avenue
Monday-Friday
8:30am-4:30 pm

Medical Center Library

Level 1, 103G

Monday-Friday
9:00am-4:00pm

Phone:

(919) 383-2653
(919) 660-1144

E-mail:

dumc.archives@mc.duke.edu

Website:

<http://archives.mc.duke.edu/>

Mailing Address:

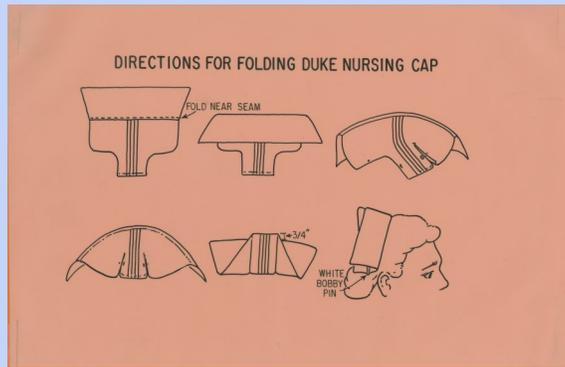
DUMC Archives
Campus Box 3702
Durham, NC 27710

DUMC Archives Celebrates American Archives Month with Halloween Event

In honor of American Archives Month, the DUMC Archives hosted a special Halloween event featuring “spooky” materials from our collections on Friday, October 31 at the MCL&A. The free event gave visitors a unique opportunity to see some unusual items firsthand and talk with archivists about DUMC history. Highlights included a death mask of the first School of Medicine Dean Wilburt Davison, original artwork from the Division of Medical Art and Illustration, materials related to the first autopsy at Duke in 1930, medical artifacts (such as a Küntscher nail donated by a Duke alum), and a plaque from the original columbarium in the Davison Building.



A selection of materials from the Poison Control Center Records were on display at the Halloween event



Upcoming MCL&A Exhibit

Beginning in February 2015, the MCL&A will have an exhibit on medical and nursing attire.

Stay tuned for more information!

Continued from page 4

My assistant showed this photograph to me shortly after my arrival, and two items located over the next few months increased its significance to me. The next was discovered about two weeks later while going through books piled on a desk in the Archives. In one of the stacks was a logbook with a handwritten label “Autopsy Records.” This book contained a listing of all the autopsies performed at the hospital from 1930 to 1936. The first entry was the listing for the event depicted in the photograph shown to me about two weeks earlier, giving the cause of death as acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis.

The final item was located while going through a box labeled “Framed Items from the School of Medicine.” Along with

portraits of early Duke Medicine leaders and landscapes, the box contained a medical illustrator’s rendering of a dissected pancreas with the label:

Acute Haemorrhagic Pancreatitis: This drawing was made by Nell Thorn Oates from the material obtained at the first autopsy performed at the Duke Hospital, August 5, 1930. Mrs. O. presented the drawing to W.D.F. as her contribution to the setting up of the new department.

Individually, these items provides a unique perspective of the first autopsy performed at the Duke University Hospital. Collectively, they help provide a fuller picture of the historic event, each providing details that otherwise would have been lost.