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Retrospect

News from the Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections

August, 2006

Volume 2, Number 3

The Archives Now Named the Louise Pettus Archives



Louise Pettus, professor emerita and Winthrop alumna, Class of 1946, has given the Archives a kind and generous gift of \$400,000 along with the wonderful donation of her papers--a wealth of historical information accumulated in a lifetime of meticulous research. President Anthony DiGiorgio announced the gift during his annual opening address to faculty and staff on August 16. Library Dean Mark Herring noted, "This is one of the most significant gifts ever given to the Archives or to Dacus. Louise Pettus has done more to make our archives more widely known than any other single

individual through her teaching and her writing. It is most fitting that the Archives bear her name as a testament to all she has done for Dacus, for Winthrop and for all of York County. This gift will open up to us new vistas of archives access and preservation by making certain that what is here now will be here in perpetuity. Hers is a most generous gift from a remarkable and beloved colleague and friend." The Archives staff is pleased beyond words over this announcement. We are honored that the University has chosen to name the Archives after one of our favorite and most respected researchers and friends. We will have an exhibit on Louise Pettus on the main floor of the library until the end of September. Please come by and take a look.

The Archives New Web Site

In July, along with the rest of the library, the Archives instituted a new, more user friendly, Web site. We have added new pages as well as updated and made more concise existing pages. Go to www.winthrop.edu/dacus/about/Archives/archivesdept.htm to look at it. We will be adding more finding aids and collection information in the next several months.

Digitized Collections



If you haven't taken a look at our digitized collections lately, please go to our Web site and note the additions. In the past several months, we have added *Founder's Day: Winthrop College, the South Carolina College for Women, Tuesday, January 10, 1928*. This booklet pertains to Winthrop's Founder's Day celebration in 1928. January 10th D. B. Johnson's birthday, was first marked as Founder's Day in 1921. A group of Winthrop professors, who wished to express their affection and appreciation of Johnson, made motions to the faculty and students at the chapel exercises that morning to declare January 10th as Founder's Day. The faculty and students unanimously voted for the motion and Johnson modestly and graciously acceded. The motion was sent to the Board of Trustees and the first official Founder's Day was celebrated in 1922. The 1928 celebration also honored those faculty and staff members who had served Winthrop 25 years or more. In the booklet there is a brief biographical sketch of each

of those honored. The 1928 Founder's Day was D. B. Johnson's last. He died on December 26, 1928 at the age of 72.

We have also added some photographs of the Army Air Force Cadets, housed on campus in 1943 and 1944. Early in 1943 the U. S. Army Air Force (previously known as Army Air Corps) contracted with Winthrop to house and assist in the training of Air Corps Cadets as the 41st College Training Detachment. Winthrop became a pre-flight training center for 320 aviation students awaiting acceptance in the Army's flight training schools. The cadets were housed in Bancroft Hall which became known as "Fort Bancroft." Fourteen Winthrop faculty members were given part-time appointments as army instructors. Cadets took courses in history, geography, English, physics, and mathematics as well as military training on campus and limited flying instruction (10 hours) at Roddey Field, an air field located south of Rock Hill. Each group of cadets, sent to Rock Hill alphabetically by last name, spent five months on campus. The War Department discontinued the program at Winthrop on June 30, 1944. Because the Archives has only negatives of these images (no prints), they are difficult, if not impossible, to use. The images are now fully accessible in digitized form. We have a total of 24 digitized collections and exhibits ready for use and are adding more every couple of months. Please let us know if these collections are of interest to you and if you have suggestions of other information you would like to see digitized.



Assistant Archivist Attends Georgia Archives Institute

From June 12-23, 2006 Assistant Archivist, Andrew Johnston, attended the Georgia Archives Institute held at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, Georgia (just south of Atlanta). The institute is sponsored by the Georgia Archives, the Society of Georgia Archivists, and the Atlanta Regional Consortium. The annual two week program, first held in 1967, is designed to teach beginning archivists, manuscript curators, and librarians the "basic concepts and practices of archival administration and management of traditional and modern documentary materials." The majority of the 25 attendees (hailing from as far away as Harvard University and the University of South Florida) had prior Archival experience and each brought with them their own unique experiences and perspectives. This diversity provided an added benefit (aside from the classes themselves) of gaining contacts and of being exposed to alternative Archival principles and practices employed by other institutions.

The instructors, Tim Erickson (former Head of the Society of American Archivists and current University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee Lecturer) and Christine Wiseman (Preservation Services Manager, Georgia Archives), provided the attendees with an in-depth look into such topics as starting an archives program, acquisitions and accessioning, arrangement, description, reference and access issues, electronic records, legal and administrative issues, preservation management, nature of archival materials, causes of deterioration, storage environments, disaster preparedness, and security. As a part of the program, Andrew participated in a 3-day internship at Emory University Special Collections. Overall, it provided a good basis from which to further augment his understanding of Archival practices and procedures while making valuable contacts.

For information on the Archives' collections and holdings, how to donate historical material, or how you can help, contact:

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