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New Gifts Support Archives' Mission, Fund Two Historical Projects

Winthrop University

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Quick Facts

- Donors Betty Buff and Julie Epting have made gifts to support new projects at Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections.
- The gifts, which total \$15,000, fund projects advancing the archives' mission.



Betty Buff has given \$10,000 to archives to fund the collection, organization and preservation of her personal SCFCL papers.



In addition to her \$5,000 gift, Julie Epting has donated a cache of her late husband's WWII memorabilia, including his uniforms, letters and more.

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – **Two new gifts totaling \$15,000** will assist Winthrop University's **Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections** in funding projects that advance the **archives' mission** to collect and preserve South Carolina history.

Donor Betty Buff has given **\$10,000** to archives to fund the collection, organization and preservation of Buff's personal **South Carolina Family & Community Leaders (SCFCL)** documents. The West Columbia, South Carolina, resident is a longtime SCFCL member who believes strongly in the importance of preserving history.

"People don't realize that we lose things we don't preserve," said Buff. The retired bookkeeper added that she whole-heartedly encourages the archives' mission of preserving history.

Donor Julie Epting of Columbia, South Carolina, also supports the archives' mission of preservation. **Epting's \$5,000 gift will fund Project Winthrop Veterans-WWII**, an effort to identify nine Winthrop alumnae who joined the

Women's Auxiliary Corps (WAACs) as cryptographers, conduct oral interviews to record their stories, and collect photographs, letters, service records and other documentation.

"Working as cryptographers, these alumnae were involved in breaking codes and helping win the war effort," said Archives Director Gina Price White '83. White added that she hopes to expand the project to include **locating all Winthrop alumnae who served in WWII in any capacity**, creating biographical sketches and conducting additional oral history interviews with the veterans or their family members.

The project serves as a continuation of Epting's efforts to **tell the story of World War II** through the experiences of her late husband, U.S. Navy veteran David Epting. Julie Epting previously donated a cache of her husband's **WWII memorabilia**, including his U.S. Navy work and dress uniforms, personal diaries, letters and more. David Epting's keepsakes will be featured in an **upcoming WWII**

exhibit at archives that will run mid-August through December.

In addition, archives is home to an **antique trunk** belonging to David Epting’s late mother, **Class of 1909 graduate Annie Davis Epting**. The items – which showcase “the life of a turn-of-the-century Winthrop student,” said White – include carefully preserved hand-written letters, photographs, clothing, Winthrop pennants and other memorabilia.

For their historical contributions and continued support, the **Friends of Dacus Library** will induct both **Epting and Buff** as **Life Members** of the group in October.

Buff also works to preserve the history of a number of the groups she serves on, including **Associated Country Women of the World; Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching; Country Women’s Council U.S.A.; National Master Farm Homemakers Guild;** and Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committees for South Carolina and Lexington County.

“If we don’t preserve our history now, nobody will know what we accomplished 100 years ago,” said Buff. “We’re failing our generation if we don’t record the history of what we’re doing right now.”

For more information, contact Meredith Carter, communications coordinator, at 803/323-2236 or email her at carterm@winthrop.edu.

[\[Back to Previous Page\]](#)

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A-Z Site Map	Board of Trustees	Disclaimer	Finance & Business	Office of the President	Site Feedback
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