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February 2000: Advisory Board; Archives and Special Collections

Dacus Library

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Focus

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Dacus announces advisory board formation

We look to this advisory board to help us organize all that wishin' and hopin' . . .

For several months now you've heard our plaintive cries about how important external funding is to libraries. In these days when inflation runs 140%, those libraries surviving the inflation cut are those who have strong external funding sources. For too long, libraries mouthed the words to a song that was popular years ago, whose refrain ran, "Just wishin' and hopin' and thinkin' and prayin' and plannin' and dreamin'." Dacus has been doing that, but now we're doing something else, too.

In cooperation with the Winthrop University Development Office, we're forming an advisory board to help us make all this wishin' and hopin' and thinkin' and prayin' come true. We've been doing a lot of wishing and hoping and begging and pleading with all our readers. We look to this new advisory board to help us organize all that wishin' and hopin', etc., into accomplished projects.

The Advisory Board is in no way a replacement for the Friends of Dacus, nor is it in any way in competition with it. The Friends of Dacus, by its very charter, seeks only to fund small book projects. The Advisory Board will be seeking more substantial gifts that will preserve the future of the library for

many years to come. We'll be asking a number of you to join us in this endeavor, hoping you'll agree with us about how important it is to the Dacus future.

What are some of our lofty and ambitious goals?

1. Books and Periodicals Endowment Fund: We could call this, were we not given to pleonasm, merely the Materials Endowment Fund. In the interest of straightforwardness, we're spelling it out. Dacus does not have a chance to grow without such a fund.

Libraries unaffected by the soaring inflationary costs in books and periodicals have such funds. Dacus has none—zero dollars. Currently we rob from Peter (our book fund) to pay for Paul (our periodical fund). Inflation in periodicals has soared over 100% since 1993. Dacus periodical costs increase 13% *annually*. Our book-buying power barely exceeds what libraries half our size have set aside for books. And in case you're wondering, it isn't just the large libraries who have such endowments.

Davidson, just up the street, announced recently that its fund exceeded seven figures. If Dacus is to improve, to take on the new millennium with as much panache as it has the last, this fund is essential to our well-being.

2. Library Technology Endowment: This fund will be used to help the library keep up-to-date with needed technology. For example, we have 50 public terminals in the building, maintain access to more than 70 databases, provide CD-ROM services, and hope to make inroads into the e-book, or electronic books offerings. Later this spring we'll be adding another 20 terminals in our new technology lab. Our head of Technical Services, Gloria Kelley, said it well. This fund is needed, "to replace outdated hardware and software; keep up with changing technology, including full-text databases, online resources and software upgrades; participate in statewide networking projects and the like; and contribute to international resource sharing." This is a tall order, of course, but with cyber-wary patrons filling each new freshman class, it's the minimum required of us.

3. Archives Digitization Project: Our archives, especially in genealogy, is one of the best in the state. But no one can use it without coming here, on campus. With a staff of two, our open times often aren't convenient for everyone who uses it. Our plans are to construct a much-needed

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Archives: Out of the past . . .

This issue of *Dacus Focus* is devoted to the Winthrop Archives, a rich resource of visual images and fascinating, important documents. The Archives has existed since 1972 when the first archivist began compiling records of historical significance to Winthrop. Since that time the Archives has received many valuable and rare manuscripts, including the Eleanor Burts collection of children's books, Civil War letters, plantation journals, World War II diaries, photographs and scrapbooks.

Now the Winthrop Archives is launching a publication program to share some of the priceless records with the public. The series' first book, *Palmetto Women: Selected Images From The Winthrop University Archives*, focuses on the Archives nationally-known women's history collection.

Authored by Ron Chepesiuk and Gina Price-White and published by Arcadia Publishing in April 1999, *Palmetto Women* highlights the role women have played in South Carolina's history. The book draws on the records of Winthrop and leading state-wide women's organizations, as well as personal letters, scrapbooks and diaries of prominent women leaders. The book shows the impact women have made on education, politics, religion, sports, business and the arts.

The second book in the series, *Along The Catawba River: Selected Images From The Winthrop University Archives*, was also published in 1999 by Arcadia. Compiled by Chepesiuk, Price-White and Edward Lee, the book contains more than 200 images of Chester,

Lancaster, and York counties. A special feature of the book is a forward written by South Carolina Gov. Jim Hodges. Hodges wrote, "The rich history and unique identity of Lancaster, Chester and York counties is captured in the book you are now holding."

The third book, also to be published by Arcadia, is scheduled for February 2000. The book is a pictorial history of Winthrop University, titled *The Winthrop Tradition, 1886-2000: Selected Images from the Winthrop University Archives*. Winthrop alumna Ida Crawford Stewart (class of 1943), a former vice president with the Estee Lauder cosmetic company, wrote the preface. The book is co-authored by Magdalena Aranda Chepesiuk, Professor Chepesiuk's wife. In researching the book, the authors looked at more than 50,000 photos from the

Archives collection. *The Winthrop Tradition* covers the University's "movers and shakers," campus life, buildings, alumni, faculty, and its relationship with the South Carolina community.

Two future volumes in the series are already scheduled for publication. *Bathed In Blood: Civil War Documents From The Winthrop University Archives* (Fall 2000), and *Made In The South*, a history of Rock Hill's famous Anderson Car company. The co-authors for both books are Chepesiuk and Lee

"Perhaps unparalleled for its size is the Archives publication program," said Dean Mark Y. Herring. "This sort of widespread promulgation that many have done and continue to do highlight for the world the treasure tucked away in our small community."

Ron Chepesiuk
Head of Archives & Special Collections

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Development advisory board formed

web site. (See article in this issue.) Not only would this make our materials (often one of kind) more available, but it would also attract scholars to this rich resource and thereby make some additional cost-recovery possible. This project would not only involve thousands of man-hours scanning in one-of-a-kind documents, but also the digitization of photographs antedating the turn of the century. Such a project would be a godsend to alumni who can't often make it back to campus, provide scholars quick

access to our rare materials, and enhance our outreach to the larger Rock Hill and South Carolina community.

4. Dacus and the New Millennium—It's hard to know what else to call this other than what it is: the Dacus transformation from a library ready for the 19th century to one on the cutting edge of the 21st. This is, of course, a tall order and will require much help from every quarter. Although the appearance of Dacus is appealing, the building itself suffers from thirty years of age. When

built in 1969, Dacus was at the top of its form, the height of library prowess. But thirty years can do a lot, and those three decades have worked their ill and then some. To be poised to capture the minds of students today, Dacus must reposition itself into the new age. This will doubtless mean either a new building, or a very extensive renovation.

We could go on but this seems like a good place to stop. We hope we've given you plenty of ideas. And if we haven't, give us a call (323-2131) or e-mail us at

herringm@winthrop.edu. We'll happily bend your ear about our needs anytime you wish. Drop by for a cup of coffee and we'll not only bend your ears, we'll talk them off! Meanwhile, you'll hear from us about our new Advisory Board that we look to escalate our wishin', and hopin', and thinkin', and prayin' and plannin' and dreamin' into real, transformational funding.

Mark Y. Herring
Dean of Library Services

Focus

. . . Into the electronic future

Researchers worldwide will soon have direct access to the Winthrop Archives' extensive collection of historical documents and information, thanks to a web site the department is constructing. The web site will not only provide the usual features, such as contact information and hours of service, but it will make it easier for researchers to mine the department's rich resources.

"The web site is a milestone in the Archives' historical development, and it will enhance and strengthen the types of services we provide," said Ron Chepesiuk, head of Archives and Special Collections.

The Archives' web site will expand substantially upon departmental information now provided by the Dacus Library's web site. Once constructed, the web site will highlight five areas of the Archives program: the Archives Collection (Winthrop history), the Manuscript Collection, the Women's History Collection, the Family and Genealogical Collection, and the Rare Book Collection.

In the past 25 years, the Archives has compiled several printed guides to its collections, and they will be scanned and made available on the web site. This includes the guides to more than 1000 manuscript collections, the two-million-plus item Archives collection and the 30,000-plus volume rare book collection. In addition, the department's family and genealogical guide to more than 1000 family surnames is being revised, and once available on the web, should attract the attention of genealogists and family historians worldwide.

"Family history is one of the fastest growing disciplines on the Internet and genealogists are hungry for information," Chepesiuk explained. "The web site will help the Archives fulfill its enduring goal of providing the best service it can to the public."

The Archives staff is constructing the web site with the help of Dr. Mark Y. Herring, dean of library services, and Antje Mays, head of Acquisitions.

As part of his training for the project, Ron Chepesiuk attended a six-week workshop on web site design and construction. The Archives expects to have the web site up and running by June of the year 2000.

Dean Herring believes that the Archives' presence on the web will mean increased national and international showcasing of Dacus and Winthrop, not only attracting scholars, but also underscoring Winthrop's intellectual importance as a source for ground breaking original scholarship. The Dean added, "A web presence will have something in it for Winthrop faculty, students, staff and alumni, as well as other South Carolinians. For past and present students of Winthrop, moreover, the web site will ultimately mean that there will no longer be any obstacle to tracing ones roots, heritage or occasional academic conundrum."

Ron Chepesiuk
Head of Archives & Special Collections

Attracting patrons to the archives

Winthrop University Archives attracts many undergraduates to its archives and special collections by implementing a few programs. One way to interest students is to inform faculty that we are available for undergraduate research. We send out brochures and information to all the faculty in all disciplines. Some faculty include a trip to the archives as part of the class. We have taught classes from Art and Design (Historic Interiors), Business, Mass Communication (Feature Writing), Anthropology, Religion, Sociology, Speech (Public Speaking), and Technical Writing.

We have had great success in attracting students through our cultural events programs. Each Winthrop student must attend 18 approved cultural events to graduate. Archives puts together at least four cultural events each semester. Most of them highlight our collections. For example, we usually show some of our historic

Winthrop films twice per semester and as often as three times in the summer.

Another technique to attract undergraduates is to suggest story topics to *The Johnsonian*, the student newspaper. If we receive a particularly interesting collection, we call the newspaper and ask if they would like to do a story on it.

At least eight times per year, we put together exhibits that highlight a collection or a particular topic with items or copies of items from the archives. In the past year we have had exhibits on Women in South Carolina; Rare Books in Dacus Library; Rock Hill in Pictures; 55th Anniversary of D-Day; Humor During WWII: the Cartoons of Bill Mauldin and George Baker; Winthrop Authors; and Photographs of the Catawba Region. Our displays generate numerous inquiries that frequently lead researchers to use our resources.

The Archives has compiled several guides, including one to our Manuscript Collection, one to the Winthrop Collection and a Family History Resources guide. We are in the process of putting entries for our Manuscript Collection on Dacus Library Online. We are also developing our own web page, which will include our guides and finding aids. We hope to have the web page up and running by the middle of June.

Once we show a student the possibilities in our archives, we have a convert for life. They may spend hours poring over fascinating tomes like the monk in a print in our Archives. That hunched old monk probably has a twinkle in his eye because he knows the possibilities.

Gina White Price
Assistant Archivist

Genealogists find gold in Archives

An explosion of interest in genealogy has mushroomed in recent years. As baby boomers age, urge to define themselves in relation to their background, many of them are now researching their family history on the Internet through such impressive web sites as Cindi's List (<http://www.cyndislist.com/>), the Church of Latter Day Saints Family History Resources (<http://www.familysearch.org/default.asp>), or the National Archives (<http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/>). These web sites offer an excellent way to find a great deal of information about ancestors. However, not all genealogical information is available on the Internet and some researchers are left wanting additional information. Often that information can be found tucked away in local libraries and in university archives.

Each year Winthrop Archives assists many people who have traced their family tree back to York or surrounding counties. Some researchers come because

they have learned that a grandmother attended Winthrop at the turn-of-the-century when it was an all-female college. They want to look at old university records. Some come because they discover that relatives have deposited family papers at the Archives. Others who visit the

Interest in genealogy has mushroomed in recent years

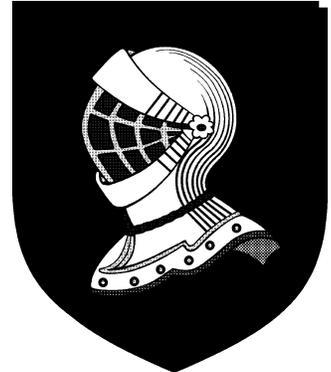
Archives want to see the old plat maps that show where their forebearers lived over one hundred years ago. These pieces of history, and many more, are preserved in the Archives and available to the public. The Archives is open from 8:00-5:00 Monday through Friday.

One advantage to visiting the Archives is to find information that is not available elsewhere. Another advantage lies in the opportunity to see and touch original documents. The

Internet, for all its value, isn't able to let a researcher put his hands on the very document an ancestor penned several generations ago. At the Archives a researcher can hold a leather-bound diary written in the 1840s by a great-great-great grandfather. They can look at the antiquated handwriting and see the drops of candle wax on a Civil War letter from Gettysburg to the folks back home in York County. They can lean in close to study the expressions on the faces of the men and women in old sepia photos and look for family resemblances.

While the value of the Internet will continue to grow as more and more material is added to it, the value of the Archives will also increase because it houses so many one-of-a-kind treasures and because it offers patrons the opportunity to hold historical documents in their hands.

**Lois Walker
Head of Government Documents**



**Dacus
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Lois Walker, Editor

The Dacus Online Catalog is available on the Internet via Telnet at "library.winthrop.edu. and on the WorldWide Web at "http://library.winthrop.edu"