New Expanded Hours in Special Collections

Have an evening free with nothing to do? Consider a visit to Special Collections. On a trial basis for the 2010-11 academic year, Special Collections has been open from 5 pm to 9 pm, Monday through Wednesday. Please come by and visit our search room!

The Special Collections Department has a variety of unique items available for viewing. We have more than 1,800 manuscript collections, items relating to the history of East Carolina University, 1,200 rare books, an extensive collection of materials relating to communism and anti-communism, and a science fiction/fantasy collection.

Last fall we welcomed researchers from as far away as France. They were studying the march of the American 79th Division through Europe during World War II and used the Ira Wyche Papers.

Our faculty and staff will be happy to show you materials from our collection. The search room can accommodate up to twenty researchers, so come by and visit. —Ralph Scott

Internationally Important Literary Collection Added

The Special Collections Department is currently processing the Stuart Wright Collection, J. Y. Joyner Library’s recently acquired literary collection. The Stuart Wright Collection contains a large accumulation of significant manuscripts and published works of American poets and novelists. The Wright Collection consists of more than 5,000 manuscript items and 3,000 printed works. Included are portions of the private libraries of Richard G. Eberhart, who taught for many years at Dartmouth College, the English poet Donald Davie, and of such noted Southern writers as Randall Jarrell, John Crowe Ransom, Peter Hillsman Taylor, and Robert Penn Warren. The collection contains significant manuscript items never before available for research, including notebooks, letters, photographs, drafts, and proofs of published works by Madison Smartt Bell, Eberhart, Jarrell, Ransom, Taylor, Warren, Tom Wolfe, and others.

Among the other writers represented by manuscripts in the collection are Cleanth Brooks, Robert Lowell, Andrew Lytle, Merrill Moore, Katherine Anne Porter, William Styron, Allen Tate, and Eudora Welty. (continued on page 3)
Prestigious Award Goes to the “Seeds of Change” Exhibit

The 2010 Gale Cengage Learning Award for Excellence in Reference and Adult Library Services has been awarded to Joyner Library for the production of the online digital exhibit entitled “Seeds of Change: The Daily Reflector Image Collection.” The award in the amount of $3,000 is given to a library or library system for development of an imaginative and unique resource to meet patrons’ reference needs. “The exhibit impressed the review panel in everything from the title of the resource to its presentation,” said Julia Gelfand, award committee chair. Gelfand also added, “This resource is a model for visual literacy, incorporating history and news with powerful images of the time.”

“Seeds of Change” features more than 7,500 images digitized from the photographic negatives used in The Daily Reflector, Greenville’s daily newspaper, between 1949 and 1967. These photos document the trends and developments that influenced the eastern region of North Carolina during this period of major change in the United States. The collection’s website also contains supplemental multimedia resources that offer historical context for the images, including a streaming video and full transcript of an interview with the newspaper’s former editor and photographer, an essay written by ECU history faculty member Christopher Oakley on the history of Pitt County and Greenville during this period, and an illustrated timeline identifying national and international events that shaped the era. The resource also contains tools for browsing the images by subject, facilitating users’ easy entry into the collection. The digital exhibit’s homepage can be found here.

The development of “Seeds of Change” was supported in part with federal funds made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources. This collection is the latest addition to Joyner Library Digital Collections, an online resource for the library’s rare and unique special collection materials. —Dale Sauter

New Personnel in Special Collections and University Archives

In April 2010, Joyner Library welcomed a familiar face as Assistant University Archivist. Arthur Carlson began serving Joyner Library as a part-time guard before ascending to the position of Night Security Supervisor. After graduating with degrees in history and classical studies, he resigned to pursue a graduate degree in American history from ECU. While attending graduate school, Carlson served as a graduate assistant within the North Carolina Collection and the Department of History. He accepted a position with Wayne County Public Schools upon completion of his course of study, working with the North Carolina New Schools Project to introduce technology and new teaching practices into the state’s schools. Carlson returned to Greenville, where he now lives with his wife, fellow graduate Hayley, and their cat and dog. In their free time, the Carlsons enjoy traveling, observing nature, and maintaining their 85-gallon live reef aquarium. —Kacy Guill
(continued from page 1)

A noted bibliographer, editor, translator, publisher, and collector of literary manuscripts and books, Wright has worked closely with many of the literary figures represented in the collection. A native of North Carolina and a graduate of Wake Forest University, Wright currently resides in England. His published bibliographies of American writers A. R. Ammons, James Dickey, Richard Eberhart, George Garrett, William Goyen, Randall Jarrell, Andrew Lytle, Walker Percy, and Reynolds Price have received the most public attention. During the course of his work, Wright developed close relationships with some of the writers represented in the collection.

Appraiser Lynn Roundtree of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, recently described the collection as “an extraordinary accumulation of rare literary papers of many of the finest American poets, novelists, and short story writers of the twentieth century.” The inclusion of materials by five poets laureate makes the collection of great value to students and scholars who will be able to see the creative process on display through the manuscripts and published works of these great poets and writers.

The staff of the Special Collections Department has completed preliminary inventories of the collection, but additional work must be accomplished before the collection can be made fully accessible. For more information, contact the Special Collections Department at (252) 328-6671. —Ralph Scott and Jonathan Dembo

New Personnel in Special Collections and University Archives (cont.)

Mark Custer, formerly the Text and Markup Coordinator in the Digital Collections Department, accepted the position of Digital Archivist in Special Collections effective October 1, 2010. Custer obtained his BA in English Literature from Indiana University and his MLIS and Certificate of Advanced Study in Digital Libraries from Syracuse University. He has demonstrated interest in scholarly work in the digital archives field through presentations and participation in panel sessions at meetings of state and national professional organizations.

The Special Collections staff collaborated with Custer during his three years of employment. His notable accomplishments include management of archival workflow for the East Carolina Manuscript Collection’s online finding aids.

New responsibilities include the development of encoding standards and software evaluation for Special Collections finding aids, offering training sessions on finding aid creation, and the selection of materials for digitization. Custer will also co-chair the Metadata Advisory Group.

Special Collections warmly welcomes Mark Custer.—Martha Elmore
New Acquisitions in Special Collections, Rare Books, and University Archives

For access to these and other interesting recent acquisitions, please contact the Special Collections Department at (252) 328-6671, or visit the departmental website at: https://www.ecu.edu/lib/spcoll/.

Glenn C. Ames Collection. Collection (1927-1986, undated) belonging to an intelligence officer serving in the 41st Infantry Division, United States Army, in Australia; Hollandia, New Guinea; Zamboanga, Mindanao, Philippines; Java, Shouten Island and Biak Island; and the Netherlands East Indies; also documenting his service as commanding general of the California National Guard, 1967-1975.


Howell Binkley Papers. Papers (1993-2004) documenting the work of a noted theatrical lighting designer and ECU graduate, including his lighting specifications for Broadway and regional musicals and plays.

Harold Stacey Burdick Collection. Collection (1892-1923) initiated by Lt. Commander Harold Stacey Burdick and completed posthumously, focusing on his early life, education at Brown University, membership in the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1909, and subsequent naval service, especially as the ensign and acting commander of the Paulding Class Destroyer USS JOUETT (DD-41) at the occupation of Tampico in 1914 during the Mexican Revolution.

Ethel May Burt Collection. Photograph album containing 119 black-and-white photographs (ca. 1900) taken in Edenton, North Carolina, and in the vicinity of Louisburg, N.C.

Fort-Whitaker Papers. Papers (1743-1881, 2009, undated), including bills, receipts, IOUs, and other financial records of Elias Fort and Dr. Matthew C. Whitaker of Halifax County, N.C.; also correspondence of members of the Whitaker and related families; and digitized reproductions of the documents on compact discs.

Robert Lee Ghormley Papers. (ca. 1890-2008, undated) of Vice Admiral Robert Lee Ghormley, a member of the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1906, including correspondence, orders, diaries, memoirs, photographic prints and negatives, certificates and commissions, legal papers, printed forms, ephemera, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, maps, museum objects, broadsides and posters, and publications related to his education, family, personal life, and naval career, including his World War II service as President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Special Naval Observer in Europe, August 1940-April 1942; as Commander, South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force during the battle for Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands, April-October 1942; as Commander of the Fourteenth Naval District and the Hawaiian Sea Frontier, 1943-1944; and as Commander of United States Naval Forces in Europe, 1944-1945.

Roy Hardee Papers. Papers (ca. 1867-2007, undated) including photographic negatives, prints, slides, and manuscript materials; also video cassettes and moving picture film reels produced during his career as a professional photographer for the Greenville Daily Reflector newspaper, 1952-1972; as bureau chief for the Raleigh News and Observer in eastern North Carolina; and as news director for television stations WTIN-TV and WNCT-TV, 1972-1997.

Harvey Family Papers. Papers (1788-1941) relating to the Harvey Family of Pitt County, N.C., including land grants and deeds of land in Pitt County from 1788 to 1821; and a group of photographic prints of the 1st Marine Air Group flying over Morehead City, N.C., taken by the air group’s Photo Section in 1941.

Utaka Hashimoto Papers. Scrapbook (1942-1946, undated) entitled “Utaka’s Over Sea Souvenir,” documenting the life of a Japanese-American soldier who was serving as a Technician 5th Class, in the 163rd Language Detachment, 32nd Division, I Corps, U.S. Army, during World War II.

League of Women Voters of Pitt County Records. Records (1966-2006, undated) documenting the activities of a Greenville, Pitt County, North Carolina, women’s political organization, including correspondence, board of trustees files, bulletins, clippings, research and membership files, printed materials, scrapbooks, annual reports, photographic prints, and slides.


Alvis Mewborn Papers. Photographic prints (April-June 1945, 1946-1949, undated) taken by U.S. Army Master Sergeant Alvis Mewborn (1917-1999) of Greene County, N.C., who served in the 131st Evacuation Hospital, 11th Armored Division, U.S. Third Army, during World War II, including scenes of Kirn, Germany; the Mauthausen Concentration Camp and Camp Gusen #1, near Mauthausen, Austria; St. Florian’s Monastery near Enns; views of homes belonging to Hermann Goering and Adolf Hitler at Berchtesgaden, Germany; and street scenes in Paris, France.


Papua New Guinea Collection. Album (ca. 1930) of photographic prints and postcards, compiled by an anonymous German missionary working in the vicinity of Malolo and Manel, Papua New Guinea, showing various views of the interior, the seashore, the mission school and staff, cargo sailing ships, and native agriculture and livestock, and illustrating the lives of the natives and the missionaries.

Nancy Joyner Smith Papers. Papers (1807-1925, undated) relating to the Joyner and Smith families of the Farmville, Pitt County, North Carolina area, compiled by Nancy (Nannie) Joyner Smith, and including family correspondence, wills, deeds, indentures, plat maps, and other land records; apprenticeship and share cropping agreements; financial, tax, and insurance records; and an oath of allegiance to the United States.

Rufus Delano Stallings Papers. Correspondence (1862-1863, 2009) of an Edgecombe County, N.C., soldier in the 30th Regiment of North Carolina Troops in various locations in Virginia and two additional letters, all addressed to his future wife, Miss Elizabeth S. Ward of Rocky Mount Depot, N.C.; also a compact disc with digital reproductions of letters & transcripts.

Ralph C. and Romona R. Tucker Papers. Papers (1844-2001, undated) including correspondence, newspaper clippings and scrapbooks, financial records, photographic prints and negatives, and printed materials pertaining to Ralph C. Tucker, the Tucker family, and the Kittrell, Cox, Crawford, Garris, Hinton, Joyner, May, Money, Nobles, Quinerly, Stocks, Turnage, Tyson, and related families of Greenville and Pitt County, North Carolina, focusing on his pre-war farm life, his World War II service in the 615th Ordnance Company (AM), and his postwar career as a member of the Pitt County Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Hugh A. Tudor Papers. Papers (1884-1912 [Bulk: 1895-1897]) including letters, circular letters, and reports of a Church of England missionary priest describing his work, among both natives and Europeans, for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, in Mount Frere, Griqualand East Parish, in the Diocese of St. Johns, Kaffraria, on the northeast frontier of the Cape Province, South Africa.

USS Porpoise Journal. Journal (19 Feb. 1845 – 16 June 1846) of a cruise in the U.S. Brig PORPOISE, probably kept by Midshipman Benjamin Lee Henderson, sailing from the Brooklyn Navy Yard to Norfolk and Galveston, including stops at Sacrificios, Mexico, Santo Domingo, Cape Haytien, and other ports and ending at Pensacola as part of the U.S. naval squadron in the Gulf of Mexico.

C. B. West Collection. Collection (1889-1901; 1909-1955) of ledger books relating to C. B. West and Company, general contractors, Greenville, North Carolina, including financial records of construction and repair of numerous structures in Greenville, North Carolina, and surrounding states; also Greenville, N.C., Mayor’s Court record books, 1889, 1896, and 1901, documenting minor crimes in Greenville.

Stuart Wright Collection. Collection (1909-1996) of nationally important literary manuscripts collected by noted bibliographer Stuart Wright, including papers of Madison Smartt Bell, Richard Eberhart, Randall Jarrell, John Crowe Ransom, Peter Hillsman Taylor, and Robert Penn Warren. Papers include literary works, correspondence, diaries, notebooks, scrapbooks, and photographs.

Rare Book Collection


Maps


University Archives

Leo W. Jenkins Papers, donated by Jeffrey Jenkins – The collection includes speeches given by Leo Jenkins, photographs of Leo Jenkins before and during his time at ECU, and numerous scrapbooks. A portion of this collection will be digitized in the spring of 2011.

Gay Wilentz Papers – The collection includes the research and teaching materials of Gay Wilentz from her time at ECU, donated by the Women’s Studies Program.
AWARDS ENCOURAGE RESEARCH IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Two recently established research awards have proven successful and have encouraged the use of materials in Special Collections.

The Rhem/Schwarzmann Prize was established in 2009 by Mrs. Ann Schwarzmann to honor William and Emily Rhem and Theodore and Ann Schwarzmann. This award annually recognizes outstanding research papers written by sophomores, juniors, and seniors at ECU. Awards consist of generous cash prizes in the amounts of $750, $500, and $250. It is required that students base their research largely on primary sources found in the Special Collections Department. Last year’s winner was Melissa L. Jones, a student of Dr. Wade Dudley in the Department of History. Jones received first-place for her paper, “Joseph McCarthy: The Face of the Red Scare.” Her paper was based largely on primary sources found in the Hoover Collection on International Communism. Other collections include the East Carolina Manuscript Collection, the University Archives, the Rare Book Collection, and the Schlobin Collection of Literature of the Fantastic.

The Special Collections Department Research Travel Award program was established in 2009 to assist researchers in using the department’s rich holdings. Each fiscal year, two awards of up to $500 or one grant of up to $1,000 are awarded to support recipients’ travel to Greenville. Faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students, or independent scholars whose research projects directly relate to the holdings of the Special Collections Department are eligible to apply. Applications are judged on the basis of clarity and the relevance of the topics to the holdings of Special Collections. Awarded funds may be used to defray transportation and living expenses, including lodging and meals. Applicants must reside outside a 250-mile radius of Greenville. Recent topics, researched by applicants from Brandeis University and Princeton University, include the creation and operation of tobacco farm policy during the 20th Century and the Ku Klux Klan during the Civil Rights Era.—Dale Sauter

Events Focus on Jewish History in North Carolina

As part its on-going investigations of ethnic diversity in North Carolina, the Verona Joyner Langford North Carolina Collection recently sponsored two events highlighting Jewish contributions to North Carolina history. From the beginnings of English colonization, Jews have been involved in the development of North Carolina. Joachim Gans, a native of Prague, accompanied Sir Walter Raleigh’s 1585 expedition to Virginia as a metallurgist. During the eighteenth century, Jewish merchants bolstered the colony’s trade and later helped finance the Revolution. As the young state evolved, its Jewish citizens were involved in every major movement from the Civil War to civil rights.

To highlight these contributions, the North Carolina Collection mounted an exhibit, “Tracing the Jewish Experience in North Carolina.” The exhibit presented selected primary resources available for exploring Jewish history in North Carolina. Artifacts ranged from the memoirs of a Civil War soldier to Harry Golden’s progressive newspaper, The Carolina Israelite. The exhibit was on display from October through December of 2010 in the North Carolina Collection.

Also, the film, Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina, was shown, introduced by one of its co-writers, Professor Leonard Rogoff. As historian for the Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina, Professor Rogoff has spearheaded efforts of the foundation to commemorate the contributions of Jewish people to the development of North Carolina. The Down Home project has included the production of the documentary film, a book of the same title authored by Rogoff, and the development of a museum exhibit currently on display at the North Carolina Museum of History.

Using historical analysis, creative recreations, and numerous interviews, the Down Home film documents experiences of Jewish people in the history and development of North Carolina, from the earliest explorations of Roanoke Island through the beginnings of the twenty-first century. While the early history traces the arrivals of individual Jews, the later scenes focus on the development of Jewish communities. The story that emerges is a tale of competing identities and accommodation. While the viewer is introduced to interesting historical figures, including explorers, merchants, soldiers, educators, industrialists, activists, and beauty queens, the moving moments are the memories shared by living individuals of their families, communities and, traditions, both Jewish and southern. —John Lawrence
NEW COLLECTION GUIDES FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

On April 12, 2010, a newly redesigned version of the Joyner Library Collection Guides website was unveiled.

The Joyner Library Collection Guides website contains descriptive information for more than 1,800 different collections managed by the Special Collections Department. These unique collections are comprised of historical documents, including letters, diaries, business records, organizational records, church records, maps, genealogy notes, photographs, and more than 300 oral history interviews. For the first time, this website also allows researchers to search across collections that are housed in the University Archives and the East Carolina Manuscript Collection.

Access the Joyner Library Collection Guides website here: http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/special/ead/

The website permits basic keyword searching across all collections, new options to conduct advanced searches, and the opportunity to browse collections by title, name of principal creator, subject, or by repository.

Tabbed Views for Each Collection

All finding aids now have at least two tabs. The first tab is the primary view of the finding aid, which contains all of the information about the collection as described by our library.

The second tab, labeled “Add/View Notes,” is an interactive section where researchers can leave messages or information about a collection that will be on display for other researchers to see and comment upon.

And finally, a third tab, “View Digitized Objects,” will only be present on those finding aids that have at least one digitized item.

Integration with our Digital Repository

Digital objects are now seamlessly integrated with our finding aids. Users may interact with these objects, navigating them by such facets as content type, date, and geographic location.

Improved Subjects

More and more of these important collections are now being cataloged. Once cataloged, a collection will be given Library of Congress Subject Headings. These subjects are hyperlinked to connect our collections to similar resources that are held throughout the world via the massive WorldCat database. Clicking on any of these subjects will direct a researcher to a variety of other formats, including published books, audio-visual material, and more. Once within the WorldCat interface, however, a researcher can easily narrow that list to other special collections materials by selecting the “Archival Material” format from the options on the left-hand side of the page.

Feedback

Got something to say? We accept feedback in a variety of ways. For example, submit feedback that only library staff will see by clicking on the orange triangle displayed on the bottom right-hand side of every page of the Joyner Library Collection Guides website.

—Mark Custer

For additional information, please contact Mark Custer at custerm@ecu.edu

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ON FACEBOOK

Special Collections now has a presence on Facebook! Click on the link below and become a “fan.”

http://www.facebook.com/ECUSpecialCollections
Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the Department For Disability Support Services at least forty-eight hours prior to visiting at 252.737.1016 (Voice/TTY).

Edited by Erik Estep