

Institutional History Subcommittee
Monday, December 2nd, 2013, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room (2CR), # 2111
DH Hill Library

Present – Art Cooper, Eli Brown, Craig Friend, George Hodge, Todd Kosmerick, Bill Krueger, Tim Peeler, Kristen Schaffer, & Walt Wessels

Staff – Greg Raschke, Associate Director for Collections and Scholarly Communication & Chris Tonelli, Special Assistant to the Vice Provost and Director of Libraries

Departmental Histories: List of 5 Test Case Priorities

Kosmerick had handouts for each of the department histories and mentioned his spreadsheet of written histories—many are not updated, and many departments have no written history.

He then referred to pilot program that was discussed at the last HIS meeting, including the five target departments. Civil Construction & Environmental Engineering has never had one, nor has Plant Pathology. Materials Science & Engineering's history needs updating, as does Marine, Earth, & Atmospheric Science (which includes Geology).

He then opened up the floor to suggestions (Education, CHASS, Management) and pointed out that the spreadsheet can be emailed upon request. Hodge asked if these histories were available, to which Kosmerick noted that they are only available in print form as books or archival documents. Raschke suggested these print resources be scanned and PDFs hosted on the Libraries' website. Friend asked if we needed a fifth and, in general, what the project is and who is writing the histories. He suggested that this could be done by public history students as part of an internship. Krueger suggested that Management be the fifth because it is new and could be a good template for how to move forward. Raschke and Brown suggested that it could also be part of a Library Fellows project. Friend suggested possibly re-upping a former alumni-sponsored internship. Cooper pointed out that ARF would be willing to do some and that the committee should identify those that need to be interviewed sooner rather than later. Hodge asked if the departments had been contacted. Raschke, Kosmerick, and Brown said that departments had not been contacted and that the Libraries will identify them and contact them. It was decided that Management would in fact be the fifth and that they should be contacted. During that exchange, they will be asked if someone in their department was willing to take on the project, but if not, it will be done with as a fellowship or internship.

Schaffer asked if the committee was interested in other campus units like Parks Scholars, and Cooper offered to ask ARF to identify key individuals. Raschke distinguished between oral and departmental histories, and that the committee would need key individuals identified.

All five departments will be contacted and proposals will be drawn up for the Public History internship and Library Fellows project. As for future departments to target, Cooper suggests Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, though Kosmerick said that theirs is actually fairly up to date.

Friend suggested that out-of-date histories should be evaluated as part of the project. Brown mentioned Extension's anniversary and that other non-academic units should be considered. It was determined that a consistent investment is needed—at least one dedicated person at all times. The CHASS anniversary timeline was brought up as an example, as it was developed by History and CRDM students who were supervised by Jim Alchediak. They basically turned oral histories into timelines. Friend suggests making it an actual job for a student, rather than fodder for a thesis.

Collection Development: Tiered Approach to Collecting Faculty Papers

Brown mentioned, like the department and oral histories, that this also is not an exact science. The first tier is comprised of nationally and internationally distinguished faculty—award winners (Nobel, Pulitzer, etc.) and those recognized by their national academies. The second tier includes those that have achieved statewide renown, have exhibited leadership on a statewide level, or have been honored/recognized by the university (Holladay Medal, etc.). This tier has shown consistent innovation, excellent scholarship, and grant success. Tier three consists of emerging leaders— PECASE winners, for example.

Another consideration for acquiring papers is their intersections with the strengths of the Special Collections Research Center. Hodge asked for clarification on the definition of “papers.” Brown and Raschke pointed out that “papers” are increasingly not actually paper. These files are made up of data sets, punch cards—whatever form the era used. “Records” or “body of work” might be a better term than “papers.” They typically include correspondence, teaching notes, and research notes. Raschke mentioned that different fields have different criteria for awards/associations/fellowships, so our criteria have to be relative. Brown added that there are external pressures from donors, etc. Kosmerick pointed out that archivists like wiggle room when it comes to criteria. Schaffer asked about born-digital archives—when formats change? Brown said that sometimes libraries need to invest in the vintage technologies that can read certain files. Raschke pointed out that libraries are all working together on this endeavor. Email is one of the most challenging formats. This kind of correspondence used to be sent via letters.

Friend asked about people who don't fit into these three tiers and suggested professors need to be educated about saving papers/correspondence. Brown mentioned that the Libraries sends letters to faculty upon retirement/leaving. Friend gave an example of a colleague who threw things out that were then found in the hallway. Raschke pointed out that office moves as a crucial moment for educating faculty. Brown mentioned various outreach efforts. Cooper shared the fact that ARF has a huge mailing list (not just members of ARF), suggesting that criteria should be developed and added to a mailing to this list. Various orientation sessions that faculty go to when they first arrive at the university are also educational opportunities. Brown mentioned that it isn't just faculty papers that are necessary but university archives too. Friend suggested a sample exhibit that could educate faculty on what to save and what it says about him/her, the department, college, and university. Libraries will look at our website, discuss Cooper's suggestion for contacting ARF, and talk about having another Celebrating Faculty event.

Oral histories

Kosmerick presented information on a potential oral history project that would cost \$9000-\$11,000 to conduct 20-25 one-hour interviews, or roughly \$450 per hour. It would draw upon oral history techniques developed by the NCSU Libraries through earlier projects, such as the Student Leadership Initiative, the Lewis Clarke Collection, and the NC Research Campus Archives.

This will entail interviewing key retired faculty members: Alan Tharp, Frank Abrams, John G. Vandenberg, Billie Richardson, Barbara Parramore, Maxine Atkinson, etc. One interview with Tharp or Abrams could be done as a test-case, and then a proposal for an interview project could be developed for an intern of Libraries Fellows project. In addition, Story Corp type interviews could be conducted through event sourcing, such as football games, class reunions, etc. Peeler mentioned a few of Athletics strategies, and that the Hall of Fame in Reynolds may affect what the university archivist/libraries have access to—a vast catalog of film/video waiting for a proper home.

Friend would like libraries to approach Blair Kelley and also mentioned that a new public history hire could possibly be oral historian. Kosmerick mentioned that the University Archives is working with Jim Alchediak in CHASS to acquire the video of their 50th anniversary oral history interviews.

Outreach activities

- a. **Recent activities**
- b. **Discussion of possible partnerships**

Kosmerick discussed Special Collections outreach events, some in which classes came to Special Collections, some in which Special Collections materials were brought outside the D. H. Hill Library, such as to the Natural Resources Library, Design Library, Black Alumni Reunion, etc. Brown mentioned having a presence in the broader community by taking presentations to retirement communities. It was decided that a future meeting of the subcommittee should be given a tour.

Oral history Presentation for future meetings: Jim Alchediak, Blair Kelley

Kosmerick wanted to gauge interest in inviting Alchediak to talk with the committee about CHASS files. Raschke asked Peeler about the timeline for the Hall of Fame in Reynolds, to which Peeler responded March 2014 - August 2016. Peeler mentioned that they would be working with a company to vet items. There is footage of Everett Case all the way back to the 30s, and the exhibit will include interactive display, video, film, etc. They are working with the Libraries and A/V Geeks to restore footage of things like the Dixie Classic films of games against Holy Cross and Bob Kousy. He also talked about the design for the new Reynolds, the 20 new members of the Hall of Fame, and the fact that the exhibit will be highlighting important firsts: integration, women ADs and coaches. All of this requires pending funding. Friend asked Peeler about conditions of storage, and Raschke asked about divvying up archives between Reynolds and the Libraries—climate controlled storage should be built into the Reynolds renovations, and the Libraries could house the rest.