**Institutional History Documentation**

**Abstract**: The Institutional History Documentation initiative will investigate and pilot new methods of identifying sources to explore and augment the documentary history of NC State. This will be a collaborative project involving many interested constituencies; students, alumni, faculty, the University administration, and the local community. The initiative will focus on methodologies to collect institutional history using social media, outreach and community based feedback in physical and web based environments.

**Supervisors**: Eli Brown, Head, Special Collections Research Center and Todd Kosmerick, University Archivist

**Description**: The University Archives serves as the administrative memory of NC State University, and its function is to preserve for the future the legal, administrative, and historical records of the university and make them available to all interested researchers. It also helps the University meet core legal requirements for administrative records requiring permanent retention. This project will help support the work of the University Archives and Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) by actively pursuing history in the making.

The assignment will augment and support the work of the University Library Committee Standing Subcommittee for Institutional History, which is charged with ensuring that the Libraries’ collecting, service development, and programming facilitate the campus community’s access to the institution’s history. Faculty have identified expanding university history efforts as an important priority. That subcommittee is comprised largely of faculty dedicated to pursuing creative ideas to document the institution’s history. This project capitalizes on that robust interest from scholars at the university and presents an excellent opportunity for new professionals to gain experience working directly with faculty.

This is a **two year assignment**.

**Outcomes:** This documentation project will enhance access to the institutional memory of NC State University. Through a sustainable curation, combining historical resources with real time collecting, this initiative will increase visibility for the Libraries’ programmatic initiatives in this area.

**Fellow’s role**: Working with the Head of SCRC and the University Archivist, the Fellow will manage pilot projects to test new initiatives focusing on documenting history in innovative and collaborative environments. The Fellow will develop resources to identify outstanding NC State faculty and leaders, and milestones in university history to create interactive narratives and resources associated with them. He/she will coordinate a team of graduate students in the Department of History to create oral history videography of selected subjects, conducting StoryCorps-type interviews at alumni reunions, retired faculty functions, and other events. He/she will also coordinate/facilitate the creation of narrative departmental histories that are absent from the record and identify those that require updating. The Fellow will work as a member of the SCRC Outreach Team, planning, developing, and executing programs to augment the documentation project in the community through attendance at events, the preparation of exhibits and tours, and involvement in social networking media settings.

**Role of other departments in this initiative**: The Fellow will have the opportunity to engage with staff in Digital Library Initiatives and Information Technology, developing platforms and online access to web-based resources created during the project, and with library outreach staff, developing programming and events.