VITAL, BUT NOT ALWAYS VISIBLE!

From the Director

The library is responsible for the Widener University Archives which collects, preserves and provides access to records of the history of Widener University and its predecessor institutions. The Archives holds the records of the administration of the university, including the papers of the presidents and provosts, Board of Trustees, legal documents, evaluative reports and accreditations, committee records, and a vast array of other formal records and papers related to the university and its environment.

While a major mission of an archive is to preserve the history of the parent institution, an archives is not a static warehouse of materials. An archive is an active storehouse, one that must be accessible while being preserved. The materials must also be arranged and organized and placed in suitable storage so that they can be preserved as well as be retrieved to afford information needed by administrators, deans, faculty, and others to produce publications, to answer legal and regulatory questions, to examine the basis of decisions or processes that may need alteration or justification and to answer a myriad of other questions.

A look at the Archives Web site: http://digitalwolfgram.widener.edu shows the diverse range of people, events and issues that have shaped the university. These online exhibits illustrate another mission of an archive—to promote and depict the history of the university and the people who are its major asset. Jan Alexander and Jill Borin have worked to preserve the history of Widener and PMC by digitizing yearbooks, scrapbooks, newspapers, and photographs so that the investment in preserving the materials can be used by current and future students and researchers to learn about Widener.

Some “clients” of the University Archives include the University Center, where photos from the Archives will decorate the café, the Alumni Magazine for photos to accompany a history of athletics at Widener, the School of Engineering for photos celebrating 150 years of engineering here: www.widener.edu/soe150/, and the planning committee for the Delaware County Veterans Memorial where quotes from PMC Cadets and Alumni from the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War will be engraved on the granite walls of the memorial and where pictures of these cadets and alumni will be displayed: www.delcoveteransmemorial.com/Home_Page.html.

Two very visible products of the Archives include the Timeline, on display in Alumni Auditorium, and an important award given to our two archivists. Photos and images from the Archives, found on the timeline in Alumni Auditorium, document Widener’s place in history, especially in relation to its place in the life of Chester. The Archives will be very visibly honored when Jan and Jill are presented with the George T. Raymond Freedom Award from the Chester NAACP for preserving the papers of George T. Raymond, a civil rights activist and president of the Chester NAACP for 25 years. Jan and Jill have digitized the scrapbooks and made them available on the Archives Web site, thus preserving an important piece of history of the civil rights movement. The Chester Branch of the NAACP is one of the first branches of the NAACP, and this award is an important and notable recognition of the work Jan and Jill have done to keep the Widener University Archives a vital and service-oriented organization.
The Widener University Sexuality Archives was a happy accident. In 2007 Molly Wolf received a donation of sexuality related materials from Drs. William and Judith Seifer. Among the books and videos that would be added to the Wolfgram Library’s regular Circulating collection were other items, such as, personal papers and pamphlets, that were outside of the scope of the Library’s collection development policy but that were too interesting to discard. Molly Wolf held on to these items until they began to take over her office. As she surveyed the growing collection of materials, Molly realized that she had an archive of sexuality related materials... and the Widener University Sexuality Archive was born.

Donations continued to roll in from Dr. William Stayton, the Sexuality Information and Education Counsel of the United States (SIECUS), the American Association of Sex Counselors, Educators and Therapists (AASECT), Dr. Eric Garrison, and others. The collection began to grow, and in 2009 the Sexuality Archives found a home in the office of the former Lindsay Law Library on the fourth floor of the Library. The organization of the collection continued, and in November 2011, the Widener University Sexuality Archives had its grand opening during the first annual Sex in the Library Week festivities.

Visits to the Sexuality Archives are currently by appointment; however, collection highlights, new acquisitions, and other exciting Sexuality Archives updates can be found on the Sexuality Archives Web site: [http://www.widener.edu/libraries/wolfgram/sexarchives](http://www.widener.edu/libraries/wolfgram/sexarchives), on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/widenersexarchives](https://www.facebook.com/widenersexarchives) or by following the Archives on Twitter: @sexualarchives.

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**A Shout-out to Our Graduating Library Student Assistants**

Kyle Gies  
Lindsay Pepino  
Jacqueline Rodriguez  
Autumn Yamamoto

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**Wolfgram’s Summer Reading Picks**

*Are You There, Vodka? It’s Me, Chelsea* by Chelsea Handler  
*Books by John Grisham: The Pelican Brief, The Summons, and The Street Lawyer*  
*Elephants on the Edge: What Animals Teach Us About Humanity* by G.A. Bradshaw  
*Mother Night* by Kurt Vonnegut  
*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck  
*Paris in Love* by Eloisa James  
*The Wolf Gift* by Anne Rice  
*Turbulent Souls: A Catholic Son’s Return to His Jewish Family* by Stephen J. Dubner