



Z. SMITH REYNOLDS LIBRARY

Special Collections and Archives



“By working with books and texts in their original — rather than, say, digital — formats, students are able to notice and analyze details they wouldn’t have been able to otherwise.

For instance, the size and format of books and quality of the paper reveal lots of information about the social context of the text’s production and the intended audience.”

STEPHANIE KOSCAK,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Special Collections and Archives

Special Collections and Archives (SCA) serves as a repository of the cultural heritage of Wake Forest University and the greater scholarly community. By bringing together unique materials such as books, papers, letters, diaries, artifacts, photographs and memorabilia, SCA preserves and provides access for these rare collections to thousands of Wake Forest students, researchers and visitors.

What We Do

As the hub for rare and unique collections at Wake Forest, SCA has made a significant effort to mainstream the use of primary sources and other special collections across the Wake Forest curriculum. SCA’s unique resources — including rare books, letters, manuscripts, diaries, and artifacts — are readily available for consultation by a wide variety of users, including both graduate and undergraduate students at Wake Forest University. More than 100 classes in numerous disciplines are hosted every year, including classes within and outside of the local and campus community.

Why It Matters

IT STARTS AT THE SOURCE

Examining original documents and artifacts involves far more than meets the eye. And when students are able to connect with these objects, they notice and analyze details that are simply not available in mass-produced materials. In other words, they are inspired by what they see, hear and touch.

In the winter of 2016, for example, a group of talented Wake Forest students, all of whom had been selected to participate, arrived ready to spend the entire night in ZSR Library. They were ready to challenge their creative abilities in Writers Camp, a writing event unlike any other.

The Writers Camp Organizing Committee decided the starting point for each student's writing odyssey would be a historic artifact from the University Archives. With some help from the Demon Deacon himself, the writers made a personal connection to the assigned artifacts that would inspire their work. Taken from periods throughout Wake Forest history, the artifacts were sure to inspire written work from poetry to short stories and more.

Twelve hours and eight pots of coffee later, 33 works were submitted. After editing, they were published in ebook and print formats, with several editions designated for Special Collections.

IT FURTHERS OUR ACADEMIC MODEL AND MISSION

Collaborating with SCA can take many forms, from object-centered lectures to group discussion based upon students' firsthand examination of documents. Course assignments using Special Collections may include everything from research papers and publications to translations, creative performances and interactive websites. Archivists

and librarians in Special Collections and Archives offer a variety of classes to audiences, including an introduction to special collections and archives; simple "show-and-tell" sessions; basic research orientations; specialized sessions for specific courses incorporating primary sources into faculty curriculum; and several for-credit academic courses.

IT STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY TIES.

SCA partners and collaborates with local and regional businesses and cultural organizations, including Piedmont Craftsmen, Piedmont Opera and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA). SCA is also committed to taking collections beyond the Wake Forest campus. It has done so by assisting Wake Forest's Lifelong Learning program, in which faculty teach five- or six-week courses open to the community at large on topics such as aging, literature, the arts and politics, and by creating pop-up exhibits for viewing at regular events such as "Hop into History," held at local breweries.



SCAmazing: Five Things You Should See

Maya Angelou's Film and Theater Papers

Materials include original scripts for film and theater with handwritten revisions; adaptations by Angelou of her own and other authors' works; items relating to productions which Angelou produced, directed or appeared in; and documentaries and interviews.

Howler Yearbooks

The Howler captures the Wake Forest experience in a way that nothing else can. The yearbook dates from 1903 and is still produced today. Come see your past, or the past of your parents, no matter the year.

Samuel and Sarah Wait's Collection

This collection includes correspondence between Samuel and Sally during his journeys in North Carolina; their correspondence with government and church officials, family members and others; Sally's journal (1814-1817); Samuel's journal (1826-1833); various financial, legal, and miscellaneous documents relating to the Wait family, the Baptist church, and the creation and administration of Wake Forest Manual Labor Institute; and personal possessions of the Waits, including Samuel's eyeglasses, cane, and trunk.

History of Wake Forest Oral History Interviews and University Timeline

Experience SCA online by utilizing digital collections such as "The History of Wake Forest University Oral Histories" collection, which includes audio and video interviews conducted by SCA. Topics include the Wake Forest alumni and student experience, campus social life and community, and the academic life of faculty and staff. Special thematic topics have focused on Global Programs and Services, the LGBTQ community and women scientists at Wake Forest.

Another unique collection is the University Timeline, which documents important events in Wake Forest history. Timeline entries were drawn from numerous historical sources.

North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection

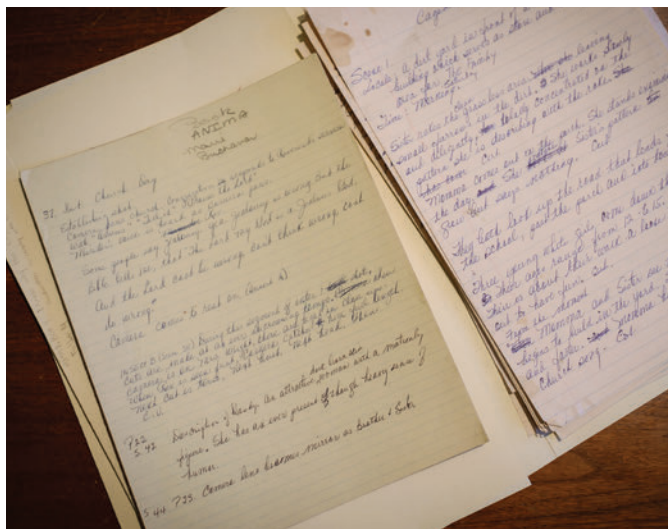
The North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection contains materials on Southern, Missionary, Primitive, African-American, Union and Alliance of Baptist churches. A special set of collections documents the impact of Wake Forest and its alumni, who set out to serve as pastors and missionaries throughout the world. Many of their collections are available for research.

How You Can Help

ANNUAL SUPPORT: A gift of any size helps Special Collections and Archives expand its impact — whether by collecting and preserving traditional manuscripts and records, unique rare books or born-digital materials; providing outreach activities to the Wake Forest campus and beyond; and by serving as an integral resource for Wake Forest students to expand the depth and quality of their papers and projects.

NAMED CURRENT-USE OR ENDOWED FUNDS: These gifts, which require a commitment of \$50,000 or more, can either enhance existing programs or help inspire and generate new, innovative offerings. They can help ZSR collect, preserve and give access to collections frequently requested by students and faculty; digitize major resources such as the papers of Presidents Samuel Wait, Harold W. Tribble and James Ralph Scales or materials from the North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection; and enhance the curriculum and opportunities to share these unique resources with a broader audience.

PLANNED GIVING: In addition to the impact you can have on Wake Forest by making gifts during your lifetime, you have the opportunity to leave a legacy for future generations through a bequest provision. From Wake Forest's beginning, bequests have been critical to the fiscal welfare of the University. Many alumni and friends have chosen this personal way of being permanently identified with Special Collections & Archives and the Z. Smith Reynolds Library.



“What do the collections in Special Collections & Archives represent? What do they mean for our users? They are a tangible and real link to the past, present and future — they remind us all of our connectivity through the generations and years. Preserving and caring for these materials, and helping others access them in new and creative ways, is a true professional challenge and responsibility.”

TANYA ZANISH-BELCHER,
PRESIDENT, SOCIETY OF AMERICAN
ARCHIVISTS, 2017-2018
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES



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