Note from the Archivist

Hello Mount Community,

The spring semester always seems to go by quickly and is often a busy time in the archives. This spring was no exception. This issue will update you on my Intro to Archival Science course, as well as the Historical Methods class that spent a week in the archives. This issue also contains updates on recent conferences and our progress with the NEH grant we were awarded in December.

As we head into the summer months, a visit to the archives is a great way to beat the summer heat! Whether you are conducting your own research or preparing for upcoming classes, we look forward to assisting with all of your research needs.

In the coming weeks, we will also be preparing our statistics for this academic year and will share them in our next newsletter. This year was a record-breaking one for sure! Thank you to everyone in the Mount community for your continued support of the archives.

Jessica Whitmore
**Intro to Archival Science Update**

*HIST 297 B: Intro to Archival Science*, the History Department elective taught by Archivist Jessica Whitmore, is in its finals weeks. Throughout the month of March, students explored the science of preservation. Topics included safe handling of materials, best practices for storage, and what to do in case of preservation emergencies such as fire or floods. In this unit, they were able to work with preservation materials hands-on and put their knowledge to the test by evaluating preservation concerns in different areas of the library and archives. For their unit project, they each created a preservation brochure that could be used by the public to better understand how to preserve their family papers and photographs.

In April, students were introduced to digital curation. They learned the fundamentals behind digital archiving and the basic technical knowledge to accompany it. Additionally, the class spent a day learning about the Mount campus through a historic walking tour of campus. Unfortunately, there was a steady rain coming down the day was the tour was scheduled. Students were given the option to stay inside, but instead voted overwhelmingly to have the tour in the rain anyway!

**NEH Grant Update**

In December 2017, the Phillips Library was awarded a Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions from the National Endowment for the Humanities. As part of the grant, Preservation Services Librarian Annie Peterson from LYRASIS came to campus to conduct a thorough preservation assessment of the building. The Phillips Library is very grateful to the Physical Plant staff who met with Ms. Peterson and shared their expertise on the building’s temperature and humidity control. The next step is for Ms. Peterson to write her preservation assessment report; this will allow the library to begin prioritizing and planning future preservation steps.
Students in Dr. Gianoutsos’s Historical Methods course recently visited the archives to complete a week long archival unit. On the first day, students learned how historians use archives and about the archivist profession. They also took a tour of the Mount Archives.

On day two, students broke into groups and put on their gloves as they used primary sources from the archives to answer one of the following questions:

1. Did the number of baptisms, confirmations, and marriages performed at the Mount decrease during the Civil War?

2. What can photographs of the Mount baseball team tell us about the history of the sport at the Mount?

3. What can the daily log book of the Civil Aeronautics Authority training program tell us about the daily life of cadets in the program?

4. What can the letters of Bill Lanahan tell us about student life at the Mount in 1930?

Students then spent the final class presenting their findings! This week-long unit has now become a permanent part of the Historical Methods course, which is a requirement for history majors.

In addition to Dr. Gianoutsos’s class, the archives has been abuzz with researchers. During March and April, we welcomed fourteen additional researchers to the archives including:

- 2 – Mount students
- 5 – Mount alumni and families
- 4 – Genealogists
- 3 – Outside scholars hailing from the University of Maryland, Hood College, and U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame and Museum
During the weekend of April 13-14, the archives were involved at two different conferences. First, Archivist Jessica Whitmore spoke at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference held in Hershey, PA. On a panel titled *Engaging the Campus: Exploring a Medley of Archival Relationships*, her presentation was titled “Power Pop-Ups: Using One-Day Exhibits to build Campus Community.”

The same weekend, Mount St. Mary’s hosted the spring meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association (ACHA), which had numerous archival connections. Friday evening, plenary speaker Dr. Catherine O’Donnell of Arizona State University spoke on “Elizabeth Seton: History and Memory.” Her presentation, as well as her upcoming book *Elizabeth Seton: A Life*, feature extensive research from the Mount Archives. A link to a video of Dr. O’Donnell’s address can be found below.

On Saturday, Archivist Jessica Whitmore presented “Faith in Art: The John La Farge Collection at Mount St. Mary’s University.” The talk, based on materials from the archives, was part of a panel titled “Catholic Identity in the 19th/20th Century America.” Also on the panel was former archives intern and senior Mount history-major Ronnie Georgieff. Ronnie’s presentation titled “The Grotto, Our Lady: Material Expression of Marian Devotion” was based on her thorough research in the Mount Archives.

Jessica Whitmore also held an archives open house featuring an exhibit of artifacts from the Mount Archives which are significant to American Catholic History. The exhibit included artifacts on loan from the Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise, Archives here in Emmitsburg as well. Finally, the weekend concluded with Jessica Whitmore leading a historic walking tour of campus as part of as one of the local excursion opportunities.
**Congratualtions, Interns!**

The Archives would like to congratulate the recent accomplishments of several of our former interns! Kayla Morrow, C’17, has recently accepted the position of Research, Reference, and Instruction Assistant at George Mason University Libraries.

Additionally, Kayla and Ronnie Georgieff, C’18, have been accepted into the Master of Information & Library Science degree program at Clarion University of Pennsylvania (the alma mater of Archivist Jessica Whitmore)! Ronnie has also been accepted to the Library Science program at the Catholic University of America and will make her decision in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to both Kayla and Ronnie!

**Upcoming Events**

**FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

On Tuesday, May 8th at 6:00 PM, Archivist Jessica Whitmore will speak at the Emmitsburg Public Library about the Mount Archives. The talk will discuss preservation work at the archives, specifically our work to preserve local history. The talk will also feature artifacts related to the Elder Family, the town of Emmitsburg, and St. Joseph’s College.

**Mount St. Mary’s University Reunion**

June 1-3, 2018

The Archives will be open on Saturday of Alumni Weekend from 2:00-4:00!

We look forward to seeing you!

Contact the Archives:

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