Note from the Archivist

I always enjoy welcoming our students back in the Fall semester. While most students were away this summer, the library and archives stayed abuzz with activity. This issue covers many of those exciting new initiatives, which we look forward to continuing into the fall.

In just our first few weeks of classes, the archives has already been a hub of academic research with several students visiting the archives to conduct research for class assignments. We have also answered numerous research questions from members of the campus community, alumni, and outside researchers about the Mount’s rich history. We look forward to another dynamic academic year, where we work to both preserve our treasured history while also sharing it with the greater community.

Jessica Whitmore
Biography of Mount St. Mary’s Founder Back in Print

*John DuBois: Founding Father* by Richard Shaw, the definitive biography of the founder of Mount St. Mary’s University, is now back in print. Originally published by the U.S. Catholic Historical Society in 1983, the biography was virtually out of print, raising the price for a copy to $4,025.40 on Amazon.com in 2017. The Mount responded by acquiring the rights to the book and signing with Wipf and Stocks Publishers to reprint this important work.

The book, which explores Father DuBois’s work as the founder of the Mount, superior of the Sisters of Charity and third bishop of the Diocese of New York, is available from the publisher and from Amazon. Shaw brings to life the man who had multiple nicknames. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton called him "The Pope," his students nicknamed him "Little Bonaparte" and Pope Gregory XVI addressed him as "my most paritcular friend." Father DuBois was just as comfortable felling lumber for the foundations of the Mount as he was riding through the night on horseback to minister to sick and dying Catholics in rural Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. The painting featured on the book’s cover was completed by Mira Vizzala in 1830 and currently hangs in the Mount Archives.

Profits from sales of the book will be directed to preservation of the historic papers of John DuBois and others in the Mount Archives.

New Mount History Elective for Spring 2019

The Department of History will be offering a new elective in Spring 2019 entitled “The History of the Mount.” This course will chronicle the 210-year history of Mount St. Mary’s, and students will have extensive opportunities to work hands-on with original materials from the Mount Archives. The course is scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-1:45 and will be taught by Archivist Jessica Whitmore. Please consider signing up for this course during scheduling week this fall.
**Building Renovations Assist Preservation and Access**

This summer, several renovations took place in the library that aided preservation efforts. The building’s HVAC system received extensive renovations, which allow us to better regulate temperature as well as improve air quality. In addition, all of the original windows were replaced. The new double-paned, tinted windows will allow us to better regulate temperature and energy costs. The new windows also reduce the level of ultraviolet light entering the building, which can be harmful to our archival collections. The ultraviolet light was also reduced in several exhibit spaces with the installation of new LED lights. Finally, the library’s elevator is currently being replaced with scheduled completion taking place this fall. Replacement of the library’s elevator will increase handicapped accessibility to the building and the archival collections.

In this photo taken during the renovations, the new windows can be seen on the first and second floors with the original windows still on the ground level. All original windows have now been replaced.

**First-Year Students Work with Primary Sources**

First-Year students in the Problems Facing Humanity course examined archival artifacts as they learned about primary sources. Students worked in groups of three to answer: (1) What does this artifact tell me about life during the time it was used? (2) What questions do you have after examining this artifact? and (3) What sources would you use to learn more about this artifact and time period? Students then presented their findings to the class. The artifacts they examined included: a Civil War sword belonging to Mount alumnus William Whelan, a rosary carried by a Mount alumnus into battle in World War II, an early 20th-century Kodak camera that belonged to Msgr. Hugh J. Phillips, and a balance that was used in a Mount science lab in the early 20th century.
Upcoming Events

The Archives will be open on Saturday of FamilyFest Weekend from 11:00-1:00!

The Archives will be offering an Alumni Tour during Seminary Alumni Weekend on Thursday, October 12th at 12:00.

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