

# The Archival Spirit

July, 2018

## From the Chair

Greetings Everyone:

Happy summer!

I've always noticed a different rhythm in my archives when summer comes. Do you also find this to be true? Working at an academic institution, I have far fewer student researchers, but many more faculty and outside researchers. One of my favorite summer activities is to partner with faculty members who are planning research experiences for their students in the coming school year. Right now, I'm working with an English professor who wants to try the "manuscript as question" method that I spoke about at last year's ARCS meeting, as defined by Michelle McCoy in her January 2010 *College & Research Libraries* article. This professor wants his students to learn from under-represented voices that might be present in our archives, and I'm thrilled to be able to draw from collections in both our institutional records and our religious records. We will start by selecting a small, appropriate collection for each student, and then teach them methods for making meaning from these materials. I love this kind of work!

As you experience your repository's own unique set of summer rhythms, I'd like to encourage you on a number of fronts. The 2018-19 ARCS ballot was released this past week (see the nominees [here](#)); please take time to cast your vote before the ballot closes on July 19. Then, if you are able to attend the SAA Annual Meeting in August, please make plans to come to the ARCS section meeting and get-together afterward. I know that an interesting and informative time is planned; you'll find the details on page two of this newsletter. Finally, if you aren't able to attend the SAA Annual Meeting this year, carry on your good work and stay in touch!

All the best,

*Janet Hauck, MLIS, CA  
2017-2018 ARCS Chair  
University Archivist  
Whitworth University  
Spokane, WA*

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Have an interesting story, project, or archival dilemma to share with your colleagues? Please consider submitting an article or news item for inclusion in the December 2018 issue of *The Archival Spirit*. Submissions may be directed to the newsletter editor at [tom@moravianchurcharchives.org](mailto:tom@moravianchurcharchives.org).

## Joint Annual Meeting News: Archivists of Religious Collections Section Meeting August 16, 2018, 4:15 p.m.



The Archivists of Religious Collections Section meeting this August will be a bit of a departure from the last few years. Following a short business meeting, we would like to take the time to get some feedback and learn a bit more about issues of concern to the membership of ARCS. With that in mind, we will facilitate breakout sessions to generate some ideas for the future direction and actions of the Section. It is our hope that you will take the opportunity, not only to ask questions and provide feedback for the larger section, but also to discuss issues and ideas with your peers. After the meeting, continue the conversation at the Exhibit Hall Happy Hour and the All Attendee Reception.

## Billy Graham Center Opens New Collections on Life and Ministry of Billy Graham

*Submitted by Bob Shuster, Archivist  
Billy Graham Center Archives  
Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL*

The Billy Graham Center Archives at Wheaton College opened two new collections on the ministry of Rev. Billy Graham and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA). These collections are made accessible to the public in accordance with the wishes, respectively, of Rev. Graham, who died on February 21, 2018, and the BGEA.

“These collections are a treasure house for anyone interested in Rev. Graham, American evangelicalism, or global Christianity, among many other possible subjects,” says archivist Bob Shuster. “People will benefit from Rev. Graham’s generosity in making them available for many years to come.”

The first collection, which was opened to the public in March 2018, is Collection 580 - Records of the BGEA: Montreat Office, 1940-1948, 1950-2012, includes letters, sermons, reports, memoranda, transcripts, clippings, manuscripts, and other materials maintained at the Montreat, North Carolina office of the BGEA. Montreat was Graham’s personal office and administrative base for his ministry. Topics covered in the records include Graham’s management of the worldwide activities of BGEA; the planning and conducting of his evangelistic campaigns; his involvement in the work of other Christian institutions; numerous interviews; and articles by and about him that appeared in print and electronic media for decades. This collection also includes some files from Rev. Graham’s pre-BGEA ministry with Youth for Christ and The Village Church (now The Village Church/Western Springs Baptist Church) of Western Springs, Illinois. Complete info about the collection is available [here](#).

Scheduled to be released to the public in November 2018 is Collection 685 - Records of the BGEA: Montreat Office - VIP Notebooks, 1946-2015, which consists of digital copies of letters, photos, notes on phone conversations, programs, and other documents kept at the BGEA Montreat office in a series of notebooks labeled “VIP.”

Most of these notebooks document Graham’s personal relationship with every president from Harry S. Truman to

Barack Obama. One notebook relates mostly to Pope John II; two others document contacts with various world leaders. Complete information on this collection is available [here](#).

The documents in both collections are closed until they are 30 years old; some documents have additional restrictions.



**Fig. 1.** A young Billy Graham preaching over the radio in Des Moines, Iowa in 1948. The collections opened in 2018 contain thousands of documents telling the story of Rev. Graham’s ministry from the 1940s into the 21st century. Image used with permission of the Billy Graham Center Archives.

The Billy Graham Center Archives is a department of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. It collects, preserves and makes available materials about North American parachurch evangelism. For more information, visit the Archives’ [website](#) or its Facebook page.





**Fig. 2.** Open-reel audiotapes from Special Collections & Archives. (Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University).

## Wake Forest University Receives CLIR Grant for Recordings at Risk

*Submitted by Tanya Zanish-Belcher  
Senior Librarian & Director  
Special Collections & Archives  
Z. Smith Reynolds Library  
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Winston-Salem, NC*

Special Collections & Archives (Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University) has received a Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Recordings at Risk Grant, being one of 16 grants awarded out of 51 applications.

CLIR will provide \$50,000 for "Documenting the Evangelical Movement in the United States: Digitizing Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Open-Reel Audiotapes, 1957-1980." George Blood LP (Philadelphia) will reformat and digitize approximately

1,500 at-risk and rare open-reel audio recordings for Special Collections & Archives at Wake Forest. The open-reel tapes document the American evangelical movement and contain presentations by prominent Southern Baptist pastors and church representatives at evangelical conferences and annual meetings of the Convention. The speakers and programs on the tapes document the denomination's activities and subjects of discussion, 1957-1980, ranging from Baptist theology to broad cultural and societal issues. This project will result in the long-term preservation and digital storage for these tapes, and broad access through the Wake Forest University North Carolina Baptist Portal currently being developed. Once completed, there will be an active outreach program, focused on demonstrating how historians, researchers, and religious scholars can use these records in their research and teaching.

As primary source material, the insight this material provides for the American evangelical movement through four decades is invaluable on many levels. The speakers include prominent Southern Baptist leaders, including such notables as Kenneth Chafin, Billy Graham, Dale Moody, Wayne Oates, and Stephen Olford. The subjects range widely, from internal Baptist concerns relating to baptism and dancing at Baptist colleges, the role of the church in an increasingly liberal society, missionaries working abroad, political involvement, and the role of women. Historians, researchers, scholars, and students, whether focusing on culture, the evangelical movement, gender, or religion, will gain new perspectives and understanding by having access to these materials that were previously unavailable for research purposes.