

*Desegregation and Co-Education at the
University of North Carolina at Greensboro:
An Archival Research Guide*

*“We believe that qualified students of any race can be incorporated
satisfactorily into the University of North Carolina”*

--Warren Ashby, memo to the members of the Faculty Council, 1955

OVERVIEW

The University Archives and Manuscripts at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) serves as the primary resource for information related to the history of UNCG. In 1932, the first 75 men were admitted as day students at the Woman’s College (WC), now UNCG. President Foust chose to admit male students for only one year, because of the numerous letters from Greensboro area families relating the financial strain of sending their sons away to college. It would not be until 1964 that the College would become a co-educational institution. In 1956, JoAnne Smart of Raleigh, NC, and Bettye Tillman of Wadesboro, NC, became the first black female students to enroll at Woman’s College. Black male students would not begin arrive on campus until the late 1960s. The following guide is an attempt to aid researchers in learning about the extensive collection of materials related to the racial and gender integration of UNCG by providing a selected list of available resources within the University Archives.

ARCHIVAL RESOURCES

Individual Collections

Ashby, Warren Papers 1949-1980

Manuscripts

Mss 052

This collection contains correspondence, speeches, photographs, interview transcripts, and research notes by Dr. Warren Ashby, a professor of religious studies at UNCG from 1949 until his death in 1985. He was a strong advocate for racial desegregation at UNCG in the 1950s.

Chancellor Papers: Foust, Julius
University Archives, 1906-1934
UA 2.2

These records contain material related to male students at the Woman's College (WC) from 1932-1933. It includes Foust's personal opinion on coeducation [Box 61 Clara Foust Correspondence] and also his thoughts about North Carolina's readiness for coeducation at a major state college in 1932 [Box 54 Consolidation Folder]. This collection also includes correspondence from Foust to Frank Porter Graham, President of the Consolidate University, protesting the Board of Trustees refusal to continue coeducation past 1933 [Box 50 Graham]. Other references to the integration of male students at WC can also be found in the papers.

Chancellor Papers: Graham, Edward Kidder
University Archives, 1950-1956
UA 2.4

These records contain material related to the desegregation of WC. Included are correspondence from Warren Ashby about the Faculty Council resolution [Box 16-F] and public reactions letters to integration [Box 17- Se-So].

Chancellor Papers: Pierson, William
University Archives, 1956-1957
UA 2.5

These records contain material related to the desegregation of WC. Including correspondence about the ban of male summer students and public reactions to desegregation at UNCG [Box 2 S-Se].

Chancellor Papers: Singletary, Otis
University Archives, 1961-1966
UA 2.7

These records contain material related to the integration of male students on the WC campus. It includes correspondence about the fear that male students would lower the quality of UNCG [Box 9 Pa-Pr, Pearsall Committee] and other memorandums related to the arrival of males on campus [Box 11 Men Students].

Faculty Council Records
University Archives, 1955
UA 1.2

The Faculty Council minutes on October 18, November 15, and December 8, 1955 documents the transition of WC into a racially integrated college.

The Carolinian
1932-1966
Microfilm

The UNCG student newspaper, *The Carolinian*, covered the arrival of male and black students on the campus, providing a good summary of the events surrounding integration as well student opinions.

Oral History Interviews

The University Archives contains a large collection of Oral History interviews documenting the history of UNCG. This recommendation list is only a small sampling of the collection:

Claudette Graves Burroughs-White
Class 1961
February 25, 1991
UNCG Centennial Oral History Project OH 003

Burroughs-White primarily discusses her experiences as one of the first African-Americans to attend Woman's College, including her decision to apply as part of a class project to integrate NC colleges, her experience as a day student, and her acceptance and inclusion by students and faculty. She briefly discusses her participation in the Woolworth's Sit-Ins, traditions at UNCG, her choice of career in children's services, and awards she has received.

Charles Cole,
Class of 1969
February 5, 1991
UNCG Centennial Oral History Project OH 003

Charles Cole was one of the first men on the UNCG campus. In this interview, he discusses his experiences including the lack of male dorms on campus, the atmosphere on campus, and the difficulty of breaking into the "old girl" network.

Craig Dozier
Professor of Geography, 1960-1985
October 20, 1990
UNCG Centennial Oral History Project OH 003

In this interview, Dozier discusses coeducation and how UNCG lost the national reputation as a women's college once men were admitted as students.

JoAnne Smart Drane
Class 1960
June 5, 2008
UNCG Institutional Memory Collection OH 002

This interview was conducted by Assistant University Archivist Hermann Trojanowski as part of the UNCG Institutional Memory Collection Oral History Project. JoAnne Smart Drane was one of the first two African-Americans admitted to UNCG in 1956. This interview covers a variety of topics including: her early background, her decision about attending college, her experience on the UNCG campus, and her life after graduating from UNCG.

Betty Hobgood Eidenier
Class of 1966
March 29, 1991
UNCG Centennial Oral History Project OH 003

In this interview, Eidenier talks about the integration of men on the UNCG campus, its effect on the female students and protests over men. She also mention racial integration.

Mereb Mossman
Faculty, 1937-1973
October 4 and 11, 1989
UNCG Centennial Oral History Project OH 003

In this interview, Mossman talks about the first men on campus in 1964 and black students as well as her other experiences at UNCG.

Otis Singletary
Chancellor, 1961-1966
November 9, 1989
UNCG Centennial Oral History Project OH 003

In this interview, Chancellor Singletary discusses his tenure as Chancellor at UNCG including coeducation, the NC University system as a whole and faculty members.

Celeste Ulrich
April 20, 2006
UNCG Institutional Memory Collection OH 002

This interview was conducted by Assistant University Archivist Hermann Trojanowski as part of the UNCG Institutional Memory Collection Oral History Project. Ulrich was a dormitory counselor at UNCG during the 1950s and discusses her interactions with Bettye Tillman and JoAnne Smart.

Edith Wiggins
Class of 1962
May 8, 1991
UNCG Centennial Oral History Project OH 003

This interview is part of the UNCG Centennial Oral history project. Edith Wiggins was one of the five black students admitted to WC in the Fall of 1958. She discusses the early years of campus integration including living arrangements and general treatment on campus as well as the Woolworth's Sit-Ins.

Vertical Files

“African American Students”

This vertical file documents African American students at UNCG. It contains a list of the first Black male students on campus and memorandums about integration including a copy of the Faculty Council Memo by Warren Ashby urging Woman's College to racially integrate on December 13, 1955. This file also has newspaper clippings from *the Greensboro Daily News* as well as copies of articles, brochures, and pamphlets.

Ashby, Warren Biography File

This files contains biographical information about Warren Ashby who was a UNCG professor in the Department of Philosophy and a strong advocate for racial desegregation at UNCG.

“Co-Education”

This file contains newspaper clippings, correspondence, copies of catalog records, list of the men who enrolled at WC in 1932, pamphlets, and articles related to co-education at UNCG.

Drane, JoAnne Smart Biography File

This files contains biographical information about JoAnne Smart Drane who was one of the first two African American students to enroll at WC. It contains newspaper clippings, correspondence, and articles.

“Men Students”

This file contains information about male students on the WC campus. It contains newspaper clippings, correspondence, articles, and pamphlets.

Articles

“Letters of Intent”

UNCG Magazine

Spring 2010

This article, written by JoAnne Smart Drane, is an excerpt from her book she is writing about her experience as one of the first African American students at UNCG in 1956. It contains letters written by various people expressing their support or distain for the integration of black students.

“The Way it Was...”

Alumni News

Spring 1980

This article was written by JoAnne Smart Drane and it gives her account about her first few weeks on the UNCG campus in 1956.

“The Men of 1932”

UNCG Magazine

Spring 2005

In this article, writer Sean Olson interviews several of the men who attended UNCG from 1932-1933. He focuses on the campus atmosphere and how the men felt being the first males on campus.

“The Admission of Men Students”

Alumni News

November 1932

This article covers the decision by President Foust to allow male students during the 1932-1933 school year. It also includes a photograph and a complete list of the male students who were enrolled.

Books

Trelease, Allen W. *Making North Carolina Literate: The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, from Normal School to Metropolitan University*. Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2004.

This book provides an extensive history of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro from its founding in 1891 up through 1994. It includes a chapter on desegregation and co-education at UNCG. His footnotes are an excellent resources for other primary sources related to desegregation and coeducation.

Gallien, Louis Bertrand Jr. , “The Coeducational Transition of the Woman’s College of the University of North Carolina: A Case Study in Organizational Change.” Ph.D Dissertation. University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 1987. Print.

This doctoral dissertation was written in 1987 and focuses on the coeducational transitions of UNCG. It is a historical case study that looks at the importance of the external and internal political forces that facilitate change within institutions of higher education. It includes interviews with key administrators during the transitional period and a discussion of the history of colleges for women in the South.

Photographs

The University Archives has a variety of photographs related to desegregation and co-educational integration. Subjects include:

African American Students
Ashby, Warren
Drane, JoAnne Smart
Men Students on Campus

Online Exhibits and Resources

UNCG Timeline

<<http://library.uncg.edu/depts/archives/universityrecords/timeline/pages/>>

The Timeline of UNCG is an online exhibit that maps out significant historical events- from the founding of the institution in 1891 as a women’s normal school designed to train teachers, to its present day status as one of the country's major research universities. It contains over 100 photographs and other images from the Archives' collections.

Sean Mulligan
May 2010

