

The importance of preserving history

ARCHIVING HISTORY

by Barbara Sedlock, Lead Librarian and Coordinator of Metadata and Archives

The Allen County Museum in Lima asks to see the records of Defiance College's archaeological digs from the 60s and 70s. San Francisco State University asks for information on former DC football coach Vic Rowen for a documentary. The child of an alumni couple asks for a copy of the program from the DC theater production of *Mourning Becomes Electra* during which his parents met. The Office of Sports Information asks for help verifying DC's football season scores from the past 100 years.

These are all requests that the Library staff has used the Defiance College Archives to answer in recent months. And, needless to say, all of the above are examples of the continuing value of the College Archives.

Where else, after all, would this information be found?

A college archives maintains files of noncurrent records of the institution which have continuing value. For Defiance College, these include *Oraculum* yearbooks, *Tom-Tom* and *Defender* student newspapers, an Image Bank of over 18,000 original printed and digital photos and slides; former students' scrapbooks, campus newsletters, Board of Trustee minutes, athletic, theater, and music programs; academic catalogs, and many others.

Here are some examples of how Library staff used these archival documents to answer some of the questions in the first paragraph:

- ◆ we scanned and sent copies of photos of Rowen to the documentary maker
- ◆ a scan of the theater program had already been made for DC Memory, so we emailed a copy to the alumni's child
- ◆ information on DC's past football records was found in *Oraculum* yearbooks, various DC student newspapers, and a file of original newspaper clippings about the College that spans the 1940s through the early 80s, and those items were forwarded to the athletic department

Without an archives, without a systematic, organized, accessible collection of documents from a college's history, answering these kinds of questions would be next to impossible.

Archives which contain historical documents are important outside of the academic world, as well. An example from the popular media happened a few years ago when documentarians wanted to make a film about Walt Disney, one which eventually aired on PBS's *American Experience* series, titled *Walt Disney*. The makers were not expecting to receive cooperation from the

THE DEFIANCE COLLEGE PRESENTS

Harvey

by
Mary Chase



May 4, 5, 6, 1989

7:30 p.m. Schomburg Auditorium

The Defender

VOL. 10 NO. 22 ONE COPY PER PERSON THE DEFENSE COLLEGE, DEFIANCE, OHIO Friday, May 22, 1964

124 TO GRADUATE SUNDAY

The year's Commencement exercises will have opened on Sunday for the 124 students who will walk the ballroom halls of Defiance College today for the last time on their way to classes.

These senior members of our Student Body will on Sunday change their status from the right to the left side of their stage, anticipating graduation.

Commencement exercises will begin at 10:00 a.m. behind the Student Union. The Graduation Chorus and choruses will have Judge Donald W. Walker, Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of Maine, speak.

All 2:30th Commencement exercises will begin their walk from Whitney Hall to the graduation site, behind the Student Union.

Charles Anderson Davis will jointly address the Graduation Class of 1964.

Just before the diploma will be presented in a 2 x 3 diploma, the class, 1964-1965, will change their tassels from the right to the left side.

Listed below are the graduating seniors in the three areas: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and B.S. in Education.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

- Ken Anderson
- Andrew Barwick
- Linda Beal
- Judy Boyle
- Carlin Carpenter
- Theresa Carroll
- Barbara Chace
- Marilyn Conroy
- Dean Collins
- LARRY COOPER
- Christa Deppa
- Paul Deppa
- Mark Ann Irvine
- Earl Lehnert
- Edna Lewis
- Cheryl To'Whi'Lo
- Garry Luskman
- Suzanne McClain
- Irving McMillan
- Ann Miller
- Agnes Pelton
- Janet Parker
- Robert Perkins
- Judith Perkins
- Frank Price
- Steve Purdy
- Walter Scherer
- LEONIE STEPHEN
- Ken Stuchess
- Jeff Swanson
- Keith Ann Swangler
- Marie Wagner
- Paul Young

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

- Ken Allen
- Bob Arthur
- Janice Berlage
- Robert Braggman
- Paul Braggman
- Julie Braggman
- Nancy Carter
- Debbie Chapman
- Linda Clark
- Ellen Clark
- William Cole
- Clay Colburn
- Christa Conroy
- William Dreyfus

- Lorrie Erwin
- Richard Erwin
- Lorraine Etzel
- Janet Eiler
- Dick Fleming
- Dave Froehlich
- Gleny Gauder
- Bob Garwood
- Tom Getz
- Howard Harlin
- Frank Houston
- Dotty Huber
- Thom Huber
- Paul Kahlstuen
- Carl Kahlstuen
- John LaGore
- Karen Latham
- Howard Lohd
- Janet McGuckin
- Mary Ann McNeill
- Jan McNamee
- Marie Malaska
- Bob Martin
- John Miller
- Norma Mitchell
- John Naylor
- Kathleen Peters
- Martha Phelps
- John Radtke
- Terry Schell
- Michael Shuler
- Ray Shuler
- Paul Shuler
- Fay Spiveille
- William Thayer
- James Walsh
- Paul Weaver
- Robert Weigart
- Vern West
- NORMAN WOODRUFF
- Delores Zecherich

B.S. IN EDUCATION

- Irvin Agnes
- Janice Boykin
- Norma Boykin
- Nancy Cary
- Tom Clark
- Lou Ann Glise
- Michael Grotzch
- James Hartzel
- Betty Hartzel
- Helene Fisher
- Nancy Fuchman
- Ken Franz
- Ladon Fritsch
- Robert Gering
- Erica Gering
- Therese Gredki
- Elizabeth Gulyas
- Dorothy Haines
- Lillian Hansen
- Jan Harrison
- Dolores Hize
- Ann Leach
- Reine Mack
- Don Miller
- Rebecca Miller
- Virginia Nitzsche
- Vivian Noveck
- Carol Kantall
- Kathryn Schwartz
- Robert Schneider
- Bob Suman
- Michael Swierke
- Caroline Spitzer
- Paul Stoescher
- Dorcas Wallance

VICTOR ROWEN TO LAY CORNERSTONE FOR PHYS. ED. CENTER



Dr. Victor Rowen, who posted Ohio's only undefeated and untied football record in 1937 as Defiance College's head coach, will return to Defiance to lay the cornerstone for the College's Physical Education Center.

Donation For Kevin McCann Study Center

The largest gift in the history of The Defiance College, amounting for the construction of the central unit in the library expansion program, was announced today by Earl H. Weaver, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The gift was made concerning a call two weeks ago to the same, who agrees to be announced by Robert W. Conroy of the Board of Trustees and President Kevin McCann.

life would have been a lot less interesting.

This is an example of how an archives can provide the fodder for historians to do their work. And the study of history is part of Defiance College's liberal arts-based curriculum, which holds that a "classroom based in the liberal arts is the centerpiece from which students form connections and discover new ways of viewing and exploring the world".

We know that the liberal arts tradition is grounded in seeing the world from multiple viewpoints. Without an archive, without the work of libraries, our views about the world would be severely limited as each document lovingly archived provides another window through which to understand the world.

In 1984 Historian David McCullough said: *History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are.*

The College Archives in the Pilgrim Library curates the historical documents from Defiance College's history, and provides primary source material for students of history and community members. An archives provides documentation on what we were in the past, and can give guidance on what the College can become in the future. ♦

Left: Front page of the May 22, 1964 Defender that announced former DC coach Vic Rowen would return to campus to lay the cornerstone for the new Physical Education (now Weaner) Center.

Opposite: Theater program from a 1989 production of "Harvey." View the whole program online, along with over 4,000 other documents from the Archives on the DC Memory website: memory.defiance.edu

Below: DC students doing an archaeological dig at the Brooke Site near the Power Dam outside of Defiance, 1971.



Disney organization, a company well-known for fiercely protecting its brand, but in the end the company consented. In newspaper interviews, director Sarah Colt cited the importance of archives in creating the film: "It's a visual medium. If you can't use archives, you can't make a documentary." Once permission was given to use the archives, the documentary makers were able to include film footage of Disney recording Mickey Mouse's voice, scenes of film cels from *Snow White* being created, and photos of Disney and staff discussing film storyboards and acting out scenes. If these materials had not been saved in the corporation's archives and made available, the documentary on Disney's