

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND THE ARCHIVES

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DISCOVER

The mission of the Kean University Archives and Special Collections is to preserve and make accessible collection material that has been collected by or donated to the University. We want to encourage the use of world-class primary sources for research and scholarship by students and faculty alike. We strive to be a resource for exhibits, curriculum support, and continuous learning. When working with Faculty, Students, and Interns, the original object will be used or scanned. The archivist also teaches seminars and a course on Genealogy.



TEACH

The Department of History builds curriculum around engaging undergraduate students in original historical research. Kean Archives offer the perfect "history lab" for them to "do" history. Students analyzed the papers of Congresswoman Florence P Dwyer for "Women in History;" scoured university archives for "BlacKean," -- a walking tour history of African American students at Kean; looked at the "Atlantic World in the Long 18th Century" through Livingston and Kean papers; learned how to care for rare books in "History of the Book," and reconstructed their own family trees while learning about immigration and social history in "Genealogy"--all in the Archives!

Design classes and projects. Consider scope/content and condition of collection, narrow down focus if necessary, decide how and when access will happen in class. Tie in with bigger University related projects, like anniversaries, books and Alumni events.



Everyone learns, everyone wins!
Presentations, exhibits, posters, and more.

Under supervision of the archivist, students process collections, create inventories, learn preservation skills (surface clean, mend, construct book boxes, build cradles), research and prepare exhibits.

LEARN

A GPA based program for History majors that allows students to work closely with a special collection. Initially students worked with the **Nancy Thompson Scrapbook Letter Collection** to scan and transcribe letters, search primary sources to complete biographical records, create school lesson plans, collaborate with KU students in design and computer classes to develop a website that makes all the material accessible to the world, and develop and curate related exhibits. Students have presented at 4 off-campus conferences in Washington DC, Boston, Gettysburg, and Glassboro. Their next project investigates the **Wedding of John Jay and Sarah Livingston** held at Liberty Hall in 1774 and the subject of a forthcoming VR recreation.



The Kean University Archives and Special Collections works closely with the Kean University Department of History and Honors History students. This poster highlights how we collaborate together to come up with projects, design classes, and introduce students to archival resources. A Women in History class was created to highlight the Congressional Papers of Florence P. Dwyer, which finished the semester with a display of student work at the State House. In addition to undergraduate classes, an Honors Program was established by the Department of History to work especially close with the archivist, professors, and a pre-selected collection. The first collection selected was the Nancy Thompson WWII Scrapbook Letter Collection. To date, 19 students have assisted the archivist to scan, transcribe, and research letter writers. Content from the letters were used to create lesson plans for middle and high school students. Interdisciplinary collaboration with design and computer classes helped in the construction of a website to host the collection online. The students have also attended various off-site conferences on the East Coast, including the prestigious Posters on the Hill in Washington, DC and curated exhibits.



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