The Kingswood K-12 Alternative School Project: Providing Additional Educational Opportunities to Students and Teachers

Rebecca Petersen May, Ashelee Gerald Hill, Melde Rutledge, Finley Turner, and Tanya Zanish-Belcher
Special Collections & Archives (ZSR Library, Wake Forest University)

**Introduction**

WFU Special Collections & Archives (SCA) has increased its programming for K-12 students in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County community over the past several years. General programming has included visits to local elementary schools and tours for high school-age students. However, SCA found that its small staffing levels simply did not allow it to do continuous broad programming. In 2019, SCA chose to refocus its K-12 efforts (2019-2022) on the Kingswood Alternative School (Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Public School System). Part of the Crossnore Children’s Home literally down the road from Wake Forest University, Kingswood offers an opportunity to have a tremendous impact on a smaller K-12 population facing numerous challenges.

**Our overall objectives:**

- Community connections for Wake Forest
- Donor-funded SCA outreach program as part of our mission
- Student experience enrichment
- Small classroom attention by visiting professionals, including archivists
- Show and share, hands-on with teaching collection

**Initial Timeline**

**Fall 2019:**
Career Day with local professionals (K-5)

**Spring 2021:**
Introduction to basic archives and special collections concepts (K-5)
Recyclable tote bags with supplies for each student (both K-5 students and Crossnore residents)

**Fall 2021:**
Career Day with local professionals (6-12)

**Spring 2022:**
Introduction to basic archives and special collections concepts (6-12)

**Fall 2022:**
Book purchases for Kingswood Library in collaboration with school media specialist
Repeat programming based on evaluation results
Possible field trips to the Wake Forest campus

**Career Day (November 2019)**

 Speakers for 5 classes of 5 students (10 minutes each):
- Melde Rutledge (Digital Collections Librarian, WFU)
- Otis Attucks (Principal Scientist, TransTech Pharma)
- DuVaughn Major (CAD Designer, EBA Architects)
- Anna Wishon (Dental Hygienist, Carolina Cosmetic Dental Care)
- Bianca Marti-Johnson (Branch Manager, Assistant Vice President, First Bank)

**Career Day 2019: Initial Experience**

Students: Excitement about professionals visiting; enthusiasm for individual focus and attention from outside people new to them; liked the handouts and takeaways; many questions

Teachers: Communicated behavior expectations with students beforehand; enjoyed the food and snacks; programming gave teachers a break from teaching; interest in meeting local professionals

SCA staff: coordinated participants, program, schedule for speakers; guided participants to multiple locations; provided food and gift cards for speakers ($30 from Bookmarks, the local independent bookstore); took photographs, and observed

Future Evaluation Plan:
- Emoji cards for feedback from students
- Email survey and personal interviews for teachers

**Selected Bibliography**


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Questions? Please contact us at archives@wfu.edu