

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCU) PHOTOGRAPH PRESERVATION PROJECT

A PROGRAM OF THE CONSERVATION CENTER FOR ART & HISTORIC ARTIFACTS,
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE, LYRASIS, AND HBCU LIBRARY ALLIANCE, WITH
FUNDING FROM THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION



PROJECT OVERVIEW

CCAHA worked with LYRASIS, the University of Delaware, and the HCBU Library Alliance in an initiative to improve the preservation of significant photographic collections held within Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). "These collections document the visual and institutional history and legacy of HBCUs and form a core of primary research for the study of African American history," said Kate Nevins, Executive Director of LYRASIS.



FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY



ONE OF THE MANY SCRAPBOOKS FROM PAST PRESIDENT, DR. RUDOLPH JONES (1956-1969) THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION. THIS ONE SHOWS DR. JONES, OTHER FACULTY, ADMINISTRATORS AND STUDENTS AT FAYETTEVILLE STATE COLLEGE IN THE 1960'S.



FOLDERS FILLED WITH HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS DOCUMENTING THE EARLY HISTORY OF FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY FROM THE HOWARD SCHOOL, 1867 THROUGH FAYETTEVILLE STATE COLLEGE, 1969.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

As the first publicly funded school for African Americans in the state of North Carolina, Fayetteville State University is home to a collection rich with historic photographs, scrapbooks, books, and other materials that document the period from the Era of Reconstruction through the Civil Rights Movement. This grant provided FSU's Charles Waddell Chestnutt Library with the opportunity to preserve the photographic history of the University through the stabilization, conservation and re-housing of historic scrapbooks, slides, and photographs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

All in-house projects identified in the grant were completed on or before schedule. In order to accomplish all projected goals, staff members at Fayetteville State University recruited, hired and trained new staff; scrapbooks were stabilized and re-housed in appropriate enclosures. The Rudolph Jones Scrapbooks were filmed and digitized by the Backstage Library Works. Staff members attended a workshop on Caring for Scrapbooks. A preservation needs assessment was completed on the photograph collection, in which over 3,000 photographs were identified, placed in archival-quality enclosures and then photo storage boxes. A light meter was purchased to monitor light levels in storage areas along with UV filter sleeves to block the ultra-violet radiation emitted by fluorescent lights. The Special Collections and Archives continue to monitor the environmental conditions in the department which continue to remain within the newly established parameters.

FISK UNIVERSITY



PROJECT OVERVIEW

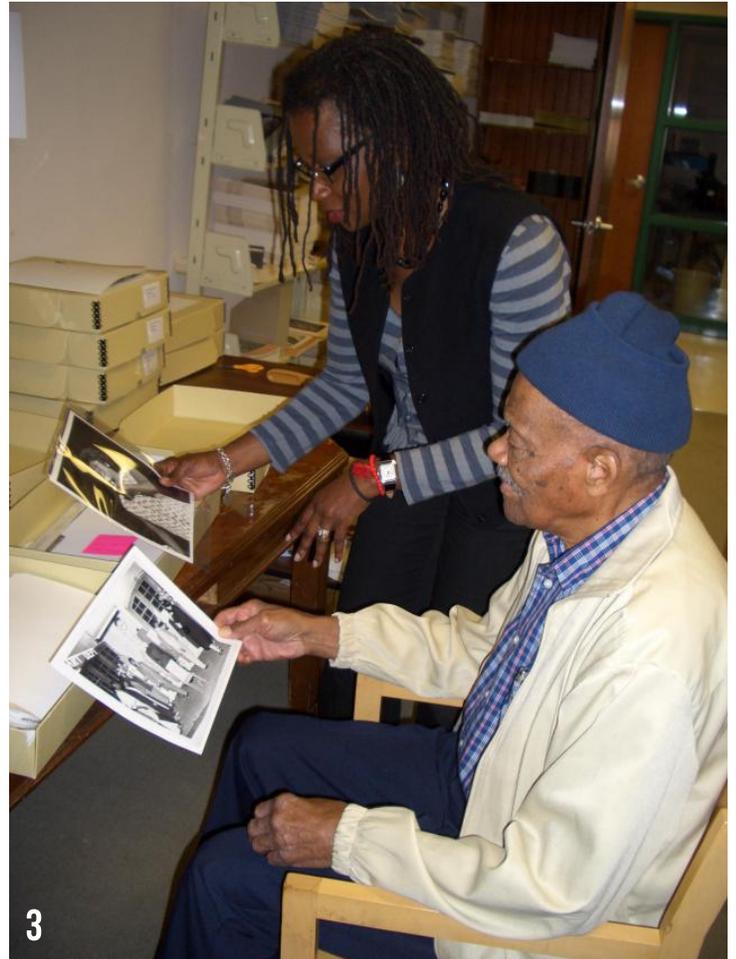
Fisk University houses an ever-expanding and diverse collection of African-American history, including more than 10,000 photographs. This grant aided in the cleaning and rehousing of photographs which portray Fisk buildings, Jubilee Singers and Fisk class photos; the flattening and proper storing of WWI panoramas; the stabilization and treatment of at-risk photographic materials; and the expansion of access for university researchers. The overall goal of this project was to stabilize and treat many of the at-risk photographic materials in the Fisk University Special Collections and Archives, and ensure that they will be available for future generations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fisk University staff, students and student volunteers from Watkins College diligently worked to accomplish all of their proposed goals. In November 2008, the staff hosted a photo preservation workshop for Tennessee State and Fisk Universities. They converted a room in the library into a photo preservation work area and purchased flat file cabinets for the archives. Humidification, flattening and rehousing of WWI panoramas is complete. Fisk preserved more than 1300 photographs from the Fisk Jubilee Singers Collection, class photographs, campus buildings, and other historically important images from the archival and manuscript collections.

IMAGES: 1: FISK AND TENNESSEE STATE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS PREPARE TO LEARN PHOTOGRAPHIC PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES; 2: A DETERIORATING GRADUATING CLASS PHOTOGRAPH SELECTED FOR PRESERVATION; 3: ROLLED FOR MANY YEARS, THIS WWI PANORAMA IS SAFELY FLATTENED IN THE HUMIDIFICATION CHAMBER BUILT ON-SITE AT FISK; 4: WORKSHOP LEADER BARBARA LEMMEN (CCAHA) AND ATTENDEES EXAMINE THE OUTCOME OF THEIR RECENTLY LEARNED PRESERVATION PROCEDURE.

HAMPTON UNIVERSITY



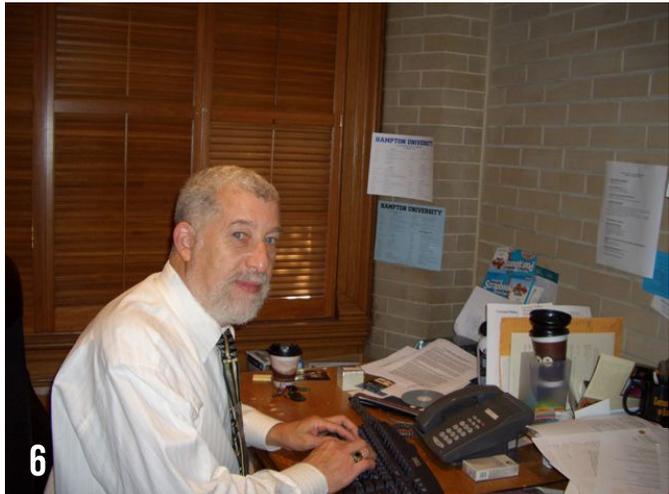
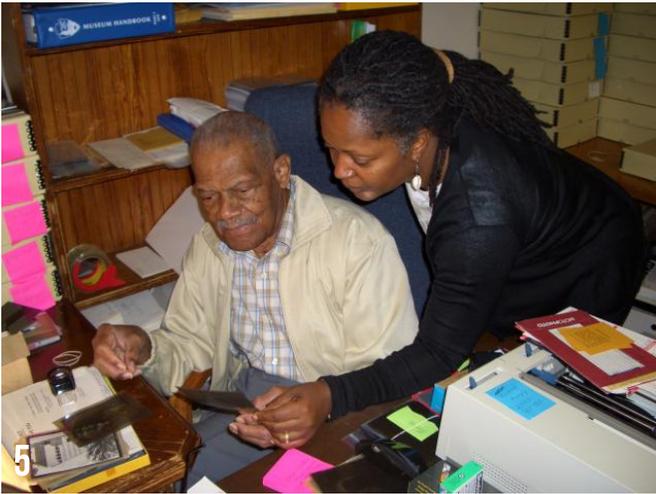
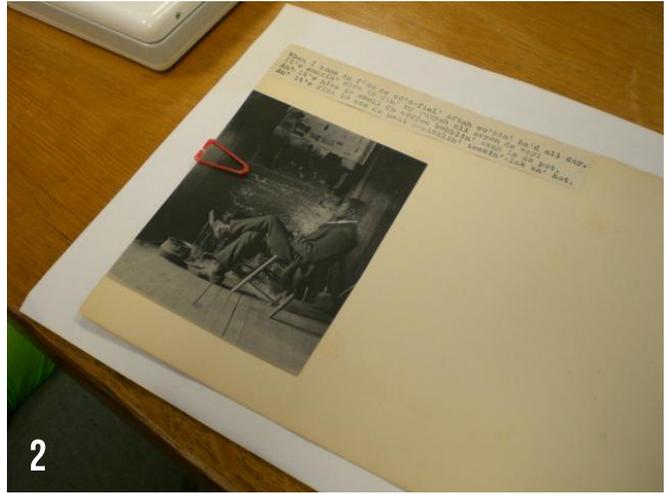
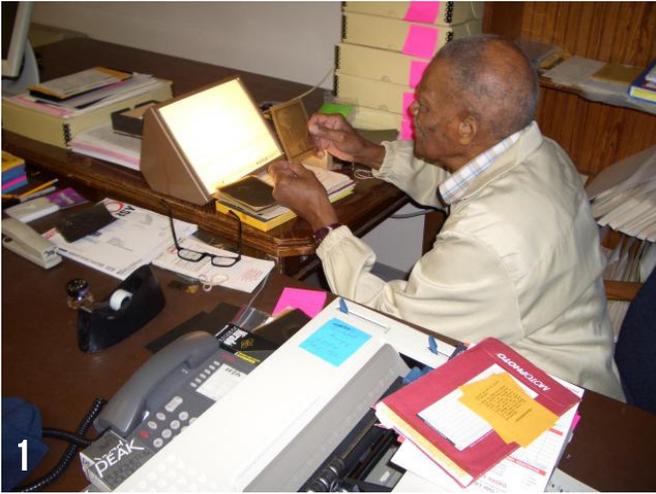
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Hampton University is the repository for more than 50,000 photographic materials which document the rich history of the University as well as the history of education for African American and American Indians after the Civil War. This grant provided for the preservation of the Reuben B. Burrell photographic collection, the rehousing of glass plate negatives, the conservation of two 19th century photographic booklets, the reformatting of 20th century 16mm film, and the rehousing of a collection of Desert Storm photographs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In order to accomplish their goals, the staff members at Hampton University recruited, hired, and trained new staff for this project. Supplies and a cold storage unit were purchased. A darkroom funded by the Hampton University was completed in order to aid in the identification and labeling of negatives from the Reuben B. Burrell photographic collection. The collection was indexed and transferred from the Stone Building to the Museum; flat files were rehousing; five reels of 16mm film were treated; and the collection of glass plate negatives were rehousing. A generous grant was secured to exhibit photographs from the Burrell Collection in February.

IMAGES: 1: SARAH-ANN LEVERETTE, STUDENT WORKER, REHOUSING AND FILING PHOTOGRAPHS IN SLEEVES; 2: DONZELLA MAUPIN, MANAGER OF ARCHIVES, OVERSEES THE REHOUSING OF THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES COLLECTION INTO NEW ARCHIVAL BOXES; 3: MR. BURRELL VIEWS PHOTOGRAPHS FOR IDENTIFICATION WITH MARY YOUNG, A VOLUNTEER FOR THE BURRELL PROJECT.



IMAGES: 1: RUEBEN BURRELL, UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHER, WORKING WITH NEGATIVES FOR IDENTIFICATION; 2: A PAGE FROM ILLUSTRATIONS FOR POEMS OF CABIN & FIELD, PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR; 3: BRENDA CARPENTER, OFFICE MANAGER OF THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, TESTING THE PRESERVATION ENVIRONMENT MONITOR; 4: A PLATINUM PRINT OF A BUTCHER CLASS; 5: VANESSA THAXTON-WARD, CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM, ASSISTS MR. BURRELL IN IDENTIFYING NEGATIVES; 6: VERNON COURTNEY, DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM & ARCHIVES, WORKING ON DOCUMENTATION FOR THE BURRELL PROJECT.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY



BETSY MORELOCK HOLDING A FRAMED PORTRAIT FROM THE WILLIAM AND HELEN EXUM PAPERS, DATING FROM APPROXIMATELY 1932. HELEN COUSINS EXUM TAUGHT FRENCH AT KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY AND IS SHOWN IN THE CENTER OF THE PORTRAIT WITH HER PARENTS, HENRY AND CALLIE COUSINS.



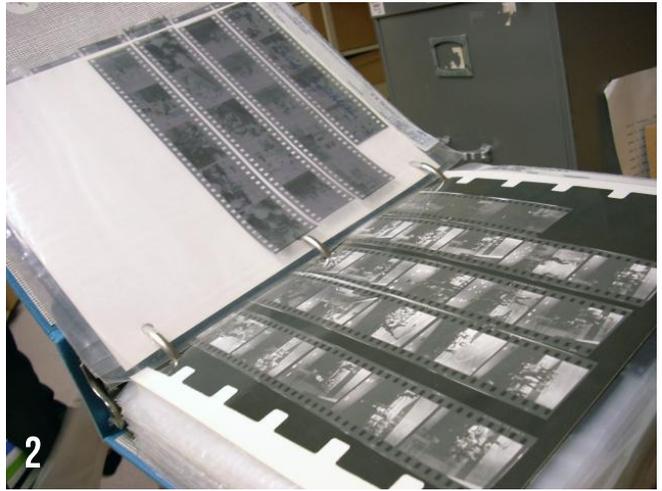
ONE OF 25 OVERSIZE COLLAGES WHICH WERE CLEANED AND PLACED IN PROTECTIVE HOUSING. TRAINING TO CREATE THE SINK BOXES FOR THE OVERSIZE COLLEGES WAS TAUGHT TO THREE STAFF MEMBERS AND TWO STUDENTS BY BARBARA LEMMEN OF CCAHA.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Kentucky State University contains a unique photographic collection consisting of thousands of images representing several generations of Kentucky African Americans. This grant will help to provide the adequate training and supplies necessary to increase the care and preservation of the University's photographic collections. The goal of this project is to provide increased access and promote awareness of the preservation needs of the photographic collections at Kentucky State University.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In order to accomplish their goals, the staff members at Kentucky State University recruited, hired and trained student workers and rehired a former KSU staff member on a contract basis to assist in completing the project. In 2008, CCAHA Senior Photograph Conservator Barbara Lemmen, provided on site training to staff members on how to properly clean collections with HEPA vacuums; dry surface cleaning and dusting of photographs; humidify and flatten rolled panoramic photographs; and construct proper archival housing for objects. A preservation needs assessment was conducted by Kim Andrews, former Preservation Services Officer at CCAHA. Minor treatment and rehousing of P.W.L. Jones prints, cleaning and rehousing 25 oversize photographic collages, as well as, the treatment by CCAHA on two Kentucky State University Class Photo Collages from 1939 and 1953 were part of the original grant. Presidential portraits were digitally photographed and replaced with facsimiles and digital images were made of the 25 oversize collages. An inventory of photographs in the Atwood Papers was done to determine the supply needs and the photographs were placed in protective polyester sleeves.



IMAGES: 1: ROLLED PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE ELIZABETH & JOHN W. DELANEY, JR. PAPERS, 1938-1953. MANY OF THESE ROLLED PHOTOGRAPHS ARE OF THE NATIONAL NEGRO FUNERAL DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETINGS. ALL PHOTOGRAPHS WERE HUMIDIFIED, FLATTENED AND PLACED IN PROTECTIVE HOUSING BY KSU STAFF. TRAINING ON THE HUMIDIFYING PROCESS AND CREATING FOLDERS FOR THE PANORAMAS WAS PART OF THE THREE-DAY TRAINING TAUGHT BY BARBARA LEMMEN OF CCAHA DURING OCTOBER 2008; 2: ONE OF MANY NOTEBOOKS CONTAINING UNIDENTIFIED KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY NEGATIVES; 3: A BOX OF HISTORIC KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY SLIDES WHICH NEED TO BE CLEANED AND REHOUSED; 4: A SMALL COLLAGE, CLASS OF 1930; 5: SHEILA STUCKEY CLEANING ONE OF THE OVERSIZE GRADUATION COLLAGES DURING THE THREE-DAY WORKSHOP; 6: OVERSIZE, PANORAMIC PHOTO, WHICH HAD BEEN TIGHTLY ROLLED, WAS HUMIDIFIED, FLATTENED, AND PLACED IN ARCHIVAL HOUSING.

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Lincoln University Archives, located within the Ethnic Studies Center, is comprised of items related to campus life and history of the university with an emphasis on the African-American culture on which it was founded. Materials include rare books, signed books by famous African-American authors, documents and ephemera, and approximately 8,000 photographic materials. The goal of this project and the purpose of this grant was to preserve the historic photographs of Lincoln University and allowing its students the opportunity to assist in furthering their education by participating in this venture.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Lincoln University hired a project manager and interns to complete the project. In addition, four students of Lincoln University, Gerald Bascoe, Kemar Lewis, Steven Mwase and Maggie Schulte, were employed to assist in completing the task. Part of the mission of this project was to offer student the opportunity to utilize archival and preservation techniques and procedures, thus expanding their possible career choices and providing financial support for their education. They categorized the photographs by collection and condition using Past Perfect. 7,500 photographs were labeled and rehoused with archival protective sleeves. Approximately 400 images were digitally scanned. All conservation work for at-risk photographs was completed by conservation students at the Missouri State Archives.

IMAGE: TWO ALUMS OF LINCOLN U. WORK ON SLEEVEING AND NUMBERING PICTURES IN THE HBCU PHOTO PRESERVATION PROJECT. ITHACA BRYANT WORKS IN THE ARCHIVES AND GERALD BASCOE IS A GRADUATE STUDENT OF LINCOLN.



IMAGES: 1: SARA BISI, A STUDENT ASSISTANT FROM THE BUFFALO STATE CONSERVATION PROGRAM, LOOKING AT SOME OF THE MANY PAGES OF SLIDES HOUSED IN THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES VAULT; 2: IMAGES LIKE THESE ARE PROCESSED BY HBCU PHOTO PRESERVATION STAFF AND STUDENT WORKERS AND ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF PRESERVING LINCOLN UNIVERSITY'S PROUD HERITAGE.; 3: ONE OF THE DUTIES OF LINCOLN'S STUDENT WORKERS ON THE HBCU PHOTO PRESERVATION PROJECT WAS TO CORRECTLY STORE THOUSANDS OF (PREVIOUSLY INCORRECTLY STORED) NEGATIVES AND IMAGES; 4: THE VAULT OF THE LINCOLN UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES IS WHERE SOME OF THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY IS KEPT. THIS IS WHERE THE PROCESSED IMAGES WILL BE STORED IN A CLIMATE CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Prairie View A&M University is the second oldest public institution of higher education in Texas, and contains over 130 years of African American history. Within the Special Collections Department of the John B. Coleman Library, there are currently close to 25,000 photographic materials. The goal of this grant project is to prevent further deterioration of these photographic materials. This will be accomplished through the improvement of storage facilities and environmental conditions, as well as, the training of staff on preservation techniques.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prairie View A&M University has accomplished their established goals: Staff have been recruited, hired and trained in order to complete this project; re-housing supplies have been received; preservation training has been provided for Special Collections staff; panoramic photographs were chosen to receive conservation treatment; a preservation needs assessment has been completed; and they have surpassed their target of re-housing 5,000 items. Over 5,300 items have been re-housed.



Rachel Wetzel, Photograph Conservator at the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, was the chief consultant for the Prairie View A&M University project. In 2007, Ms. Wetzel conducted a consultation visit and composed the accompanying survey for the preservation of the photographic collections at Prairie View. She also provided on-site training for staff and volunteers.

ROBERT W. WOODRUFF LIBRARY OF THE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Robert W. Woodruff Library is using this grant in collaboration with Spelman College Archives in order to preserve and make accessible photographic collections dating from the 1890s to 2000. These collections document the history of seven of the Atlanta University Center institutions - Atlanta University, Clark College, Clark Atlanta University, Gammon Theological Seminary, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morris Brown College, and Spelman College. Through this project 35,000 photographs will be available for research, study, exhibition, and publication. The aim of this grant is to preserve and make available photos dating from the 1890s to 2000 that document the history of Atlanta University Center institutions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Project staff members from the Robert W. Woodruff Library and Spelman College Archives worked diligently to complete the project goals. The photographs were sorted, identified, and descriptive information placed into an electronic database. Also the photographs were inserted into protective sleeves as a preservation measure and housed into protective boxes, folders, and file cabinets as appropriate. Selected items are being sent to the CCAHA for conservation treatment.

IMAGES: 1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN PIN (AMBROTYPE); 2: SHANNON BROGDON-GRANTHAM (SENIOR, SPELMAN COLLEGE), EXAMINES LANTERN SLIDES.

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Tennessee State University Special Collections and Archives collects, preserves, makes available, and publicizes institutional records, personal manuscripts, photographs, rare books, and selected artifacts in support of the research, teaching, and outreach mission of TSU. The goal of this project is to properly preserve valuable photographs and other visual formats documenting the history of the university. The support for these efforts is both welcomed and timely, as the university will be celebrating its centennial in 2012.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Staff members at Tennessee State University worked hard to accomplish all of their project goals. New staff members were recruited, hired and trained; 85% of the photographic collection were cleaned and rehoused; the cleaning and re-housing of the sports motion pictures were completed; descriptive data of the motion pictures was entered into a database; collections assessments have been conducted; and supplies have been ordered, which include a HEPA vacuum, flat files for oversized photographs and window coverings for storage rooms.



Barbara Lemmen, CCAHA Senior Photograph Conservator, was the chief consultant for this project. In 2008, Ms. Lemmen conducted both a preservation needs assessment and a collections assessment of the photographic materials at Tennessee State University. She also provided on-site training for special collections staff and student workers.

The Conservation Center recently conserved two photographs from the University: a 1949 class picture and an image of Coach Temple with the Tigerbelles, from 1956.

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

For more than a century, Tuskegee University has collected photographs, negatives and other media pertaining to the history of African American life in Alabama and the South in general, covering dates from 1881 to the present. This grant project will include stabilizing, restoring, rehousing the University's media collections which document Tuskegee's history. The goal of this project is to make the photographic collections available for future researchers.

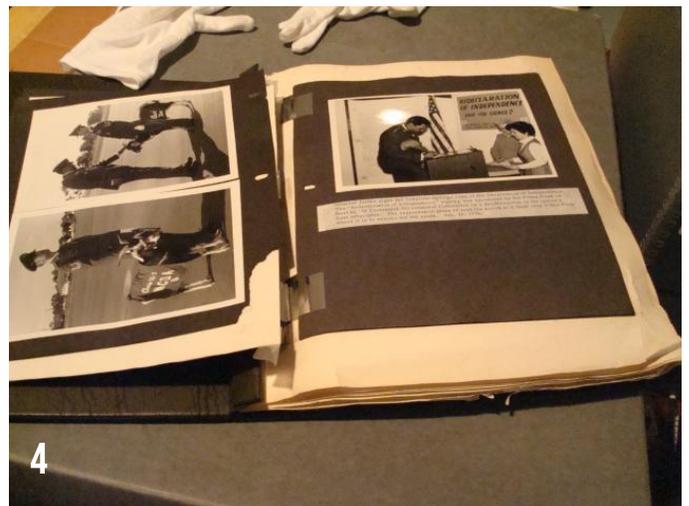
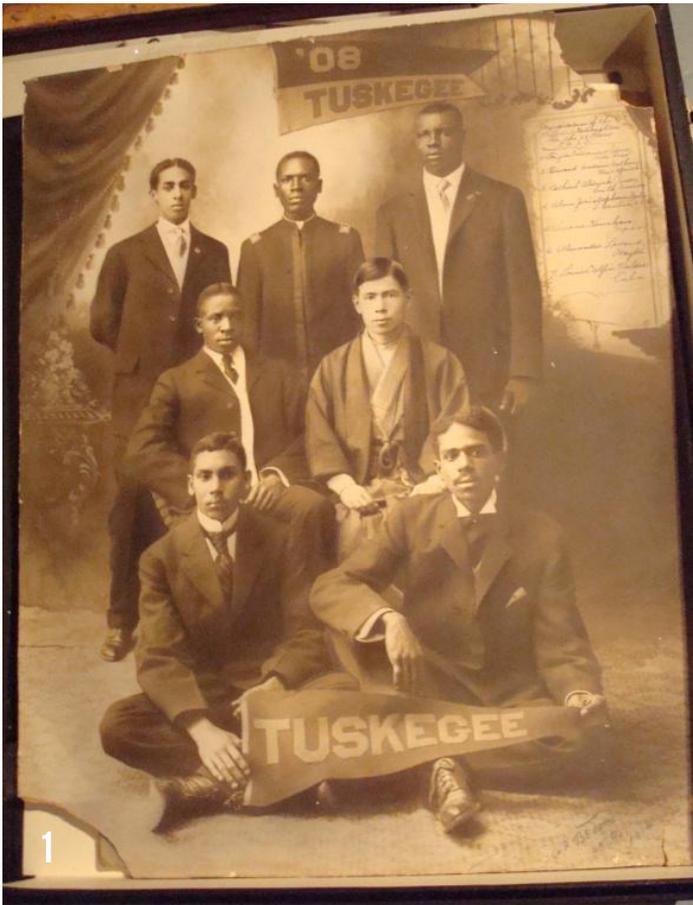
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tuskegee University has recruited, hired, and trained staff for this project and are well under way with completely their mission. In fact, they have already reached their goal of rehousing 5,000 photographs. Two capable and knowledgeable retirees from Tuskegee University, Lonice Middleton and Shirley Curry, having over 60 years of experience between them, have applied their considerable talents to gather, process, conserve and identify images so that researchers can easily access them in the future.

All photograph collections have been examined to determine which items may need stabilization or conservation; supplies and equipment have been purchased; the negative collection has been placed in cold storage; several collections have been cataloged and rehoused; finding aids were prepared for the photo collections; and photographs and negatives are being scanned to prevent any further loss. This work has incorporated further assistance from our scan technician, Roderick Wheeler, student workers and others in order for the preservation staff to continue working without interruption. Although not specified in the grant, the Tuskegee University Archives determined that processing and preserving the images without identification would not benefit our department. Therefore, processing and preservation moved at a slower rate than expected. Staff utilized a variety of sources (including year books, bulletins, funeral programs, etc.) located within the archives in order to identify individuals, buildings and events. Furthermore, due to the wide variety of photographic media and negatives, including polyester, nitrocellulose, cellulose acetate and glass plate negatives, different techniques were identified and utilized for preservation, repair and storage. Images and negatives were then coupled with existing archival collections for ease of identification.

Several scrapbooks and photograph collections have been rediscovered during this project: A scrapbook was discovered that documented Booker T. Washington's travels in Mississippi from 1904-1908. The photos it contained were of significant value. The photos were removed, re-housed, and digitized. Also, photographs of the Tuskegee Airmen and the AAF airfield were discovered, repaired, and scanned. Other images identified and repaired included large format and panoramic prints of major events, conferences or sporting events. Many images previously unknown to the University were identified and scanned. These include images from individuals other than the official Tuskegee University photographers.

Selected project images were digitized for use on the www.alabamamosaic.org and www.hbculibraries.org sites. Tuskegee University is committed to digitizing all images and providing sufficient metadata for the benefit of all that are interested in our University and its history. They anticipate building their own website in order to highlight these images, as well as a variety of items from within our archives.



IMAGES:

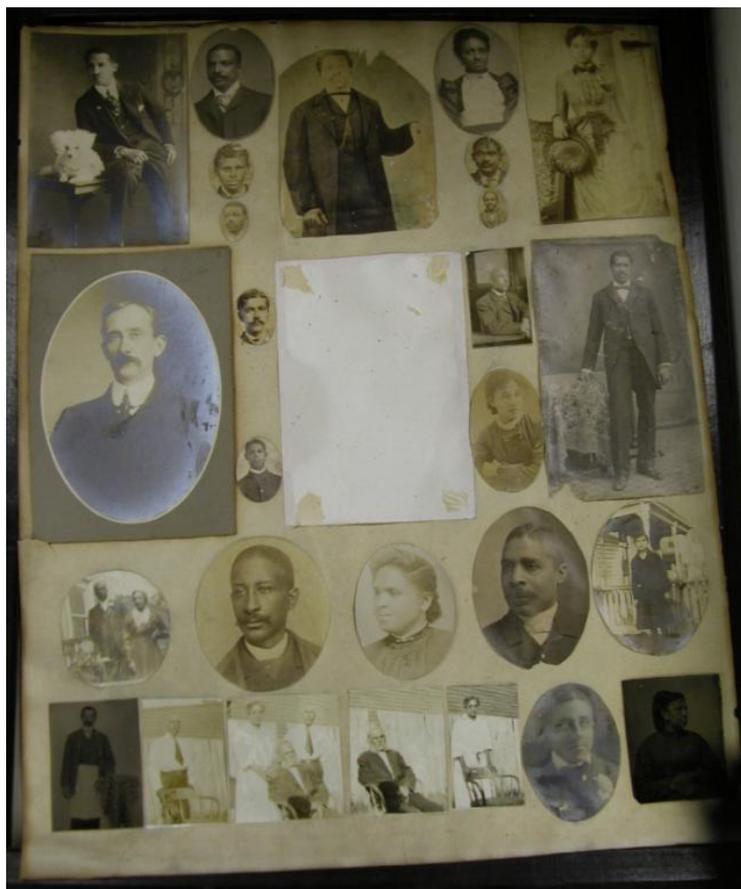
1: AN OVERSIZED PHOTOGRAPH FROM 1908. THIS IMAGE WAS REPAIRED, AND PLACED IN A NEW ARCHIVAL STORAGE BOX. THE IMAGE WAS SCANNED, REPAIRED DIGITALLY AND COPIES MADE.

2: IMAGES WERE FOUND IN HEAVY PLASTIC SLEEVES. PHOTOS, LETTERS, AUTOGRAPHS, ETC. WERE CUT OUT OF SLEEVES, PROCESSED AND PLACED IN NEW ARCHIVAL STORAGE MATERIALS.

3: PANORAMIC PHOTOS IMPROPERLY STORED IN A CARDBOARD CONTAINER. THESE PHOTOS WERE STABILIZED, DIGITIZED AND PLACED IN A NEW FLAT FILE SYSTEM WHICH INCLUDES LARGE SIZED FOLDERS AND TISSUE PAPERS.

4. AN EXISTING PHOTO ALBUM CONTAINING PHOTOS, LETTERS AND OTHER MEMORABILIA. THESE WERE SCANNED IN SITU, REMOVED FROM SCRAPBOOKS, CLEANED, STABILIZED, DIGITIZED AND PLACED IN NEW FOLDERS AND STORAGE BOXES.

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY



PROJECT OVERVIEW

For over one hundred years Virginia State University has produced and acquired thousands of documents, photographs, and other material documenting African American history in Virginia. The goal of this project was to improve the overall care and preservation of Virginia State University's photographic collection. This was accomplished through rehousing and reformatting of the photographic and negative collections, stabilization and treatment of at-risk photographic materials, and the completion of a full preservation assessment of the special collections materials.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Staff members at Virginia State University accomplished project goals through the purchase of supplies, including flat file museum cabinets and a freezer with an alarm system; the training of staff members through online courses and national conferences; the hiring of students for rehousing photographs and an assistant archivist; and the completion of a photographic collections assessment.

In 2007, Laura Wahl, a former Photograph Conservator at the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, conducted an on-site consultation on the preservation of the photographic collections. She also trained staff on conservation and preservation techniques.

IMAGES: THE WILLIAM HENRY JOHNSON PAPERS

