Fifty years after the closure of University High School, an oral history team is capturing the vibrant voices of its graduates.
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On the Cover — Patricia Buckner Mullins, left, and Kate Bussell were part of an oral history project that partnered with the Office of Oral History to pair graduates of University High School with current College of Education graduate students.
The university’s Office of Oral History is quickly growing into an archival hub for researchers and a learning center for students.

Oral history goes beyond storytelling. It’s a precise and purposeful account of events, told by the people who experienced those events, preserved forever. It captures the past like no other resource. In fact, I’d posit that oral history may be the most important way for future generations to learn about and understand the past.

I’m sure Andrea L’Hommedieu would agree. She heads the Office of Oral History, part of University Libraries, and last year received the 2016 S.C. Archival Association’s President’s Award for leadership and service to that organization.

As I write this, she and College of Education faculty member Christian Anderson are attending the Southern History of Education Society Conference, presenting on a collaborative project that brought oral history into the classroom last fall. Christian’s graduate students learned how to use oral histories as resources and the process for creating oral histories, and they added 34 such histories to South Caroliniana Library’s collections.

The students learned about University High School, a laboratory school that operated on campus from 1932 to 1966. They learned how to interview UHS graduates, many of whom are in their 80s and 90s. You can read more about it on page 4.

Another focus of the Office of Oral History is collecting histories from around the state. The online exhibit “Rosenwald Schools of South Carolina: An Oral History Exhibit,” created by Andrea and her student assistants, is one example of what that dedication can build.

The ultimate goal is to create a state Center for Oral History. Such a center would in part support the collection of oral histories, teach oral history research methods and techniques for gathering histories, purchase recording kits and create a statewide oral history database.

If you have an interest in oral history or would like to learn more about it, join us as we explore the idea of a South Carolina Center for Oral History.
surrounded by a swirling sea of graduates and graduate students gathered in the Wardlaw College courtyard, Elvera Johnson Holroyd stood out. Was that an original 1963 University High School letter sweater she had on? It was!

Holroyd was talking with Rebecca Borovsky, her de facto biographer. Borovsky was a student in EDHE 730, Evolution of American Higher Education, and she had been assigned to do something she had never done before: interview, record, transcribe and make available the memories of a University High graduate. Holroyd was her subject.

“We talked about Elvera’s experiences at University High and about what made the school great. She was involved with the yearbook, and she played a lot of sports — she was on the girls’ basketball team the year they won the state tournament,” Borovsky said. “It gave me a new appreciation for the history of the College of Education, and I learned about the importance of lab high schools and how they are the model for today’s magnet schools.”

From 1932 to 1966, University High School operated in Wardlaw College as a public laboratory school and training ground for teachers. Though the school closed half a century ago, its graduates still reunite every three years to reminisce about their beloved alma mater. In November 2016, they gathered to mark the 50th anniversary of the school’s last graduating class.

Christian Anderson said there is always a research project in his EDHE 730 course, usually one that uses the South Caroliniana Library collection, and he always invites the University’s oral historian to talk to his students.

“Andrea L’Hommedieu helps them understand what they have when they come across an oral history transcript, and how it is different from other research materials they might find,” said Anderson, an associate professor of higher education in the
Department of Educational Leadership and Policies.

“Then I ask them to conduct short oral histories for practice with each other.”

In fall 2016, he and L’Hommedieu turned that practice into the University High project.

“The students were responsible for every aspect of the oral history: they chose the person to interview, contacted them to explain the project and request an interview, followed through with an interview, even got the required release signed giving us permission to add their oral history to our collection,” L’Hommedieu said.

She sees the project as the first of many that will bring together students, archival collections and people with a story to tell.

“The goal for my students was two-fold,” Anderson said. “I wanted them to learn and contribute something about University High, and I wanted them to learn the process of oral history research. They contributed 34 oral histories, and they learned that gathering oral histories is fun, engaging and challenging.”

L’Hommedieu hopes other faculty will see the value of oral history and partner with her. “You can do an oral history of anything, and the experience is invaluable for students. I want faculty to see how open-ended it is and how it can be incorporated into any course.”

With funding from University Libraries, L’Hommedieu purchased and put together 14 oral history sound-recording kits for student use.

“Andrea came into our class and, right then and there, taught us how to use the kits,” said student Charlie Koors. “You don’t want to do an hour-long interview and then realize you forgot to turn the recorder on. She taught us how to set up the microphone, end the interview, and make sure the interview was stored properly.

“When we finished and gave her the WAVE files, she put the interview online immediately so that we could transcribe it. I interviewed Katherine Janetos Trimnal, Class of 1965, who graduated from USC and became a photojournalist. That transcript was 14 pages long and filled with her University High experiences.”

The collection will be available as an online exhibit in late April at library.sc.edu/socar/oralhist/index.html.
HORSESHOE HISTORY TOURS

University Archivist Elizabeth Cassidy West leads free public tours around the historic campus, sharing tales about the Great Biscuit Rebellion, the 1902 Carolina-Clemson Riot and other events from the past. All tours start at noon at South Caroliniana Library. The next two tours are April 20 and May 11. For more dates, visit library.sc.edu/p/Collections/SCL.

NEW SPACE IN THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY: SCHOLARS CORNER

Scholars Corner is designed to showcase scholarship and engage the university community in conversation. Most of the time the multi-use space is a casual study area; other times it’s a super-charged venue for student research talks, faculty presentations, or creative displays. Its location on the Main Level, adjacent to the lobby, makes Scholars Corner a natural gathering place. New soft seating provides comfortable space for studying and can easily be reconfigured to foster an informal panel or speaker event.

The first events at Scholars Corner were a series of student researcher panels led by a faculty facilitator. “Leadership Starts Here: Undergraduate Research” featured recipients of the 2017 Breakthrough Graduate Scholars Award. Upcoming events include a presentation for graduate students on “(Open) Scholarly Publishing” and a reception for an art education student exhibit.

We welcome ideas for programming in Scholars Corner. For more information, and to share your ideas, contact Jane Olsgaard at olsgaard@mailbox.sc.edu.

AROUND THE LIBRARIES
MUSHROOMS AND METADATA

Long-time Digital Collections student employee Sarah Funk is part of a team that is digitally scanning Henry William Ravenel’s *Fungi of South Carolina*. A 19th century botanist and planter, Ravenel painstakingly collected, documented and preserved fungi specimens from South Carolina in a scrapbook, seen above. Digitizing the scrapbook will make the collection available online and, in that way, forever preserve the specimens. Funk, who recently completed her master’s degree in library science, is also creating fully searchable metadata for each specimen.

Visit “Plants and Planter: Henry William Ravenel and the Convergence of Science and Agriculture in the Nineteenth-Century South” at ravenel.cdh.sc.edu to learn more. The project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, brings together staff and resources from Digital Collections, A.C. Moore Herbarium, South Caroliniana Library and the Center for Digital Humanities.

ART IN THE MUSIC LIBRARY

The ongoing partnership between the Trenholm Artists Guild and the Music Library brings new art by surrealist painter Christopher Lane to the library’s walls and massive chalkboard. Religion, politics and human conflict are all important themes in Lane’s work, and he has long been inspired by artists Salvador Dali and Hieronymus Bosch. Shown here is a portion of his chalkboard art which, along with several of his framed pieces, are on display in the Music Library through the end of the spring semester.

MAY 5 DEADLINE FOR PROGRAM THAT PROMOTES USE OF NO-COST TEXTBOOKS

The SCoer! Faculty Award from University Libraries helps faculty learn how to find and use freely available textbooks for their students. The “oer” in SCoer! stands for Open Educational Resources — high-quality, openly licensed teaching, learning and research resources that are available at no cost to students. OER are available in many formats and can be customized by faculty to fit their teaching needs.

SCoer! Award winners selected by the Libraries’ Scholarly Communications Team attend a one-hour workshop, choose an open educational textbook or library-licensed resource and incorporate it into a course in place of a traditional textbook. Winners receive a $500 prize.

Deadline for application is May 5, 2017.

For more information and to apply, visit library.sc.edu/p/research/SCoer.

WORKSHOPS

- Free Textbooks: Open Educational Resources
- Copyright in the Classroom
- Intro to Zotero Citation Manager

All free, all the time. For the full schedule and to register, visit libcal.library.sc.edu/calendar/libraryworkshops.
Born in 1934, Anita Lobel spent much of her early childhood in hiding in Nazi-occupied Poland and, later, imprisoned in a series of concentration camps. She chronicled her childhood experiences in her memoir *No Pretty Pictures*, a book that stands in stark contrast to the joyful riot of color I’ve been surrounded by as I archive her collection.

Anita is an award-winning children’s book author and artist who has illustrated almost 70 books in her five-decade career. The collection includes her award-winning works, such as *Alison’s Zinnia* and *On Market Street*, as well as some of her more subtly moving works, such as the illustrations for Charlotte Zolotow’s *This Quiet Lady*.

In 2015 she donated her entire archive, given in honor of Ginger Shuler and Leslie Tetreault. Ginger and Leslie are USC alumnae and Anita’s dear friends. The collection is the first large-scale children’s literature archive the university has received, and it is my first experience delving into the publication and creation of children’s literature.

The collection dates to the start of her career in 1965, when Anita wrote and illustrated *Sven’s Bridge*. The entire archive now housed in the Hollings Library includes books, book illustrations, original artwork, manuscripts, storyboards and papers. Her ability to adapt styles and apply them to her vibrant watercolors make each book in the collection a delight and a wonderful example of her artistry. This collection is impressive, artful and, at its core, happy!
The titular rooster from *How the Rooster Saved the Day* (1979), as an initial sketch and as seen complete on the book’s cover. Before moving to watercolor illustrations, Anita illustrated children’s books by first creating intricate ink drawings, which she compared to the embroideries she created as a textile designer early in her career.

First editions are part of the collection, including the award winners *On Market Street* and *No Pretty Pictures*.
University Libraries continue to create new digital collections and exhibits, making them freely accessible to everyone. Some of the newest:

• “Massenet First Edition Opera Scores Collection” showcases works of Jules Massenet (1842-1912). These scores were purchased through a generous donation to the Music Library from John K. Adams, distinguished professor emeritus, music.
  library.sc.edu/p/Collections/Digital/Browse/Massenet

• “South Caroliniana Historical Cookbook Collection” features 10 publications from 1832 to 1921 that provide insight into S.C. foodways.
  library.sc.edu/p/Collections/Digital/Browse/sccookbook

• “Views of Columbia, South Carolina” brings together photographs dating from the late 19th and 20th centuries from collections in South Caroliniana Library.
  library.sc.edu/p/Collections/Digital/Browse/viewsofcolumbia

• “South Carolina Aerial Photography,” a project funded by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, scans and georectifies historic photographs from the 1930s to 1980s in the libraries’ Government Information and Maps.
  library.sc.edu/aerialphotos

• Ten books and webpages have been added to the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections’ “Literary Annuals Collection.” Additions are made each year by students of Paula Feldman, English, who initiated the project.
  library.sc.edu/digital/collections/literaryannuals.html

Find more at library.sc.edu/p/collections/digital.
EXHIBITS

Now through July 14,
“It Is So Ordered: Judges and the Law in S.C.”
South Carolina Political Collections, Hollings Library

March 1-April 30,
“Women’s History Month,”
featuring material from
South Carolina Political Collections, Hollings Library

March 30-August 30,
“Ron Rash Collection,” Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Hollings Library

Throughout the spring semester, “Works from the Trenholm Artists Guild: Christopher Lane,” the Music Library, second floor of the School of Music at 813 Assembly St.

EVENTS

March 27-31
National Open Education Week, faculty workshops, panel discussions and more at Thomas Cooper Library. For the full schedule, visit library.sc.edu.

Monday, April 3
“The Lindisfarne Gospels: Bringing the ‘Good News’ from East to West,” an illustrated public lecture with Dr. Michelle Brown, University of London. Free and open to the community. Part of the “Understanding the Medieval Book” seminar, sponsored by the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. 4:30 p.m., Hollings Library. Reception hosted by the Thomas Cooper Society will follow.

Saturday, April 22
South Caroliniana Society Annual Luncheon with speaker A. Scott Berg, Woodrow Wilson biographer. Reception begins at 10 a.m., lunch at noon. South Caroliniana Library. This is a ticketed event. For more information, visit library.sc.edu/p/Collections/SCL.

Thursday, April 27
Thomas Cooper Society Annual Dinner with guest Ron Rash, 6:30 p.m., Hollings Library. This is a ticketed event. For more information, visit library.sc.edu or call 803-777-8240.

Displays in Thomas Cooper Library
March 1-May 1, “Altered Books: Memories Unhinged,” an exhibition by art education students, Main Level.

Open Gallery events at Hollings Library
April 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monthly events include gallery talks and tours of the latest exhibits. Free and open to the public.
We make South Carolina more vibrant.

Outreach librarian Jane Olsgaard is always eager to bring student art into the Thomas Cooper Library. When students in Natalia Pilato's art education course used books from their childhood to recreate personal memories, the results were magical. “Altered Books: Memories Unhinged” is on display through May 1.