Civil Rights Greensboro and other community-based collaborations at UNCG

The African American Studies Program’s 23rd Conference on African American Culture and Experience and 30th Year Anniversary Celebration

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
18 October 2012
Background

Civil Rights Greensboro provides access to archival resources documenting the modern civil rights era in Greensboro, North Carolina, from the 1940s to the early 1980s. During this formative period, Greensboro was an epicenter of activity, continuing a tradition that traces its roots back to the 19th century when members of the area's large Quaker population provided stops on the Underground Railroad.

May 21, 1969
Protests erupt at Dudley High School and spread to North Carolina A&T State University where gunfire breaks out between the National Guard and A&T students.
The concept

- Document the role of Greensboro and of the partner institutions in the postwar Civil Rights Movement.
- Mix photos, archival materials, clippings, scrapbooks, and oral histories to tell the story.

http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=471
“Curly” Harris scrapbooks

http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1158
http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1006
http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1228

CHAPTER 1

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February 1, 1960—Woolworth versus public Greensboro in Race Relations

Reference will be made to relate the economic, social, or moral aspects of race relations in Greensboro, and to show some of the basic race problems of society at large.

1. Employment. The important item in one’s life is the chance to “earn a living.” Woolworth’s downtown store in Greensboro employed a black and white. City’s population ratio was 5% black. City’s employment blacks were 1% of total employment. Woolworth employed 100-150 persons, varying as to the seasons. Some will infer that blacks occupied only menial jobs; however, those associated with store work know that all positions are not all white collar and that those who do not use their hands as well as their minds don’t last very long. Blacks shared in compensation, benefits, and recognition equally with all employees. Woolworth’s employees are derived from the middle and lower income peoples of our society, trained by competent store managers, and promoted according to each person’s ability and experience. College degrees are not required, but high school education demanded. Most applicants have to pass a fifth grade test.

2. Public recognition of blacks versus whites in public service. Almost in all walks of life there is a separation of the races; at the time churches, schools, service clubs, police, fire departments, even a black hospital. One councilman of seven was black. The public
William Chafe interviews

Approximately 70, including:

• Ezell Blair
• Jibreel Khazan
• William Snider
• Nelson Johnson
• David Richmond

Greensboro Voices

Approximately 135 including:

- Ezell Blair
- Jibreel Khazan and Franklin McCain
- Willa Player
- Floyd McKissick
- Vance Chavis
- Otis Hairston, Jr. and Otis Hairston, Sr.
- Geneva Tisdale
The partners

- UNCG
- Duke University
- Greensboro College
- Guilford College
- Greensboro Historical Museum
The result

http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1334
http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=928
http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=611
Greensboro Massacre, 1979

Death to the Klan flyer

Date: circa November 1979
Author: Workers Viewpoint Organization

Biographical/Historical abstract: See Communist Workers Party, U.S.A.

Additional contributor:

Description: This flyer announces the November 3, 1979 Death to the Klan march and conference to be held in Greensboro. The events were sponsored by the Workers Viewpoint Organization (later known as the Communist Workers Party) in response to recent overt Ku Klux Klan (KKK) activities held in China Grove, N.C. The march was violently confrontational between the Workers Viewpoint activists and KKK/Nazi members, resulting in the shooting deaths of five anti-Klan protestors. The event is known as the Greensboro Massacre.

Subjects:
- Greensboro Massacre

Format of original: Printed Materials
Collection: Miscellaneous Collection - J.A. Armfield Papers
Repository: Greensboro Historical Museum
Item#: 0.69.1223

http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1223
Greensboro Massacre, 1979

Workers Point of View

They Defied Automatic Weapons with Bare Fists and Sticks

LONG LIVE THE INVINCIBLE COMMUNIST SPIRIT OF THE COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY

http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1223
http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1161
http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1210
http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1204

FREE NELSON JOHNSON and THE GREENSBORO 3

NELSON THE TARGET

Shane Nuri, Nuri, Nelson has been explicitly set on a target by the government and media in an attempt to demonize his leadership in Greensboro, NC, and sap the moral and political support of his work fighting police brutality and organizing Black and working people. This nonsense is an inescapable reality. And people who believe this nonsense can prove it because Greensboro accepts this nonsense.

On May 5th, 1980, Nelson Johnson, Ron Motella, and Wilbert Cannon will go on trial in Greensboro, N.C. The very trial of the Greensboro 3 is itself an attempt to silence the voice of the people. For more than a year, the trial of Nelson, Ron, and Wilbert has been a focus of the community. The trial has been marked by attempts to intimidate the defendants and their supporters. The defendants have been forced to confront the government's attempts to strip them of their rights and freedoms. They have refused to be silenced and have continued to fight for justice.

http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1161
http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1210
http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1204

Do something bigger altogether
1960 sit-ins

Oral history interview with Jibreel Khazan and Franklin McCain by Eugene Pfaff

Date: October 20, 1979

Interviewee: Franklin Eugene McCain

Biographical abstract: Franklin Eugene McCain (1942-) was one of four students from North Carolina A&T State University to stage a sit-in for desegregation at the F. W. Woolworth store in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1960.

Interviewer: Eugene E Pfaff

Description:

In this transcript of an October 20, 1979, interview conducted by Eugene Pfaff with Jibreel Khazan and Franklin McCain primarily discuss the motivations, planning, strategies, participants, and activities of the 1960 sit-ins. They describe many of the specific community leaders, protest participants, negotiators, supporters, civil rights organizations, attorneys, and high school students involved on both sides of the desegregation issue in Greensboro. Khazan and McCain describe the formation of ShCC and their plans for urban renewal in Greensboro; they also comment on the backgrounds and personalities of themselves and the other two members of the “Greensboro Four,” especially the pressures and effects of their February 1, 1960 sit-in at Woolworth's.

Subjects:

- Business desegregation/sit-ins, 1960

Format of original: Oral History

Collection: Greensboro VOICES Collection

Repository: The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Item#: 1.10.607

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http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/oralHistItem.aspx?i=607
1960 sit-ins

Oral history interview with Jibreel Khazan and Franklin McCain by Eugene Pfaff

EUGENE PFaff:
We are continuing in our discussion with Franklin McCain and Jibreel Khazan concerning the sit-ins in the Woolworth and Kress in Greensboro in the spring of 1960. And I'd like to ask you now, how extensive were the protests? Were they focused on Woolworth and Kress, or did they include other stores, other types of establishments that also practiced segregation?

JIBREEL KHAZAN:
Well, as I can recall, the protests were originally designed—Joe calls it—we call it—I call it the sit-down movement, you know, in equal rights. It was really designed to be carried out at the Woolworth lunch counter originally. But I remember Frank making a statement as the protest developed during the week. We didn't want to put the world on fire, we just wanted to eat. But behind it, we, I feel, did have the idea that this would catch on. We were hoping it would catch on and it would spread throughout the country, but it went even beyond our wildest imagination.

But the main instance was upon Woolworth's. And I think, during the third day, on Wednesday, the Woolworth lunch counters became—they were filled to capacity. And there were people walking throughout the store. Woolworth's may have had over three hundred people in that store, and that store was only designed to hold a hundred. [laughter]

FRANKLIN MCCAIN:
In order to accommodate the enthusiasm, we had to go someplace else. So, we elected to go to Kresge [sic—Kress] which was some one or two stores down the street. After going to Kresge—or Kress, I think at that time it was called—the thinking was we ought not just to single out these two stores and let everyone else go as though they'd gotten off clean. And thereafter, we went to places like the hamburger drive-ins, where, in fact, you didn't go in to sit down or anything. You just got curb service to your car. But you still couldn't get service. We went to places like that.

We went to what was called The Hot Shoppo on Summit Avenue. We went to Eckerd's Drugs that had a counter as well, and also the O. Henry Hotel, which, I think, is torn now in Greensboro. We went there.

EP:
Did you receive service at any of these places?

FM:
Not any of those places did we receive service.

http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/oralHistItem.aspx?i=607
Letter from parent of a WCUNC student about her daughter's participation in the Greensboro sit-ins

Date: June 3, 1960

Author: Frank L. B. Seaman, Mrs.

Biographical/Historical abstract: Mrs. Frank L. B. Seaman was the parent of a student enrolled at Woman's College in 1960.

Additional contributor:

Description: This three-page handwritten letter, dated June 3, 1960, is a response to an earlier letter from Gordon William Blackwell, chancellor of Woman's College of the University of North Carolina (WCUNC, now The University of North Carolina at Greensboro), from Mrs. Frank L.B. Seaman, the mother of a student at WCUNC. In the letter, Seaman discusses her daughter's maturity and religious convictions with respect to race relations, and states that she is certain that her daughter would not behave in a manner that would bring "undesirable repercussions" to the university.

Subjects:
- Business desegregation/sit-ins, 1960
- Race relations at UNCG

Format of original: Correspondence

Collection: Chancellor Gordon William Blackwell Records

Repository: The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Jump to complete document

http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?id=248
1960/1963 sit-ins

Action Provoked In Local Strike

Four students from Scott Hall at A & T College walked into F. W. Woolworth & Co. in Greensboro on Monday, Feb. 1, and asked to be served at the lunch counter. When they were not served, they sat there for many hours, thus precipitating the sit-down strike at the Woolworth’s lunch counter.

Strikers Included

The movement of Tuesday with growing about twenty A & T down at the lunch cut being served Tuesday. Also on these was written by the State Committee for the American Civil Rights Movement, and the sit-in at Woolworth’s was organized.

Wednesday

Wednesday, the first day, was still growing. At one time, a large crowd gathered at the Woolworth’s lunch counter. The presence of Bennett and other African Americans added to the growing crowd.

http://library.uncc.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=1228
http://library.uncc.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=927
http://library.uncc.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=953
Food service workers’ strike

SGA SUPPORTS WORKERS

Date: March 29, 1969
Author: unknown

Biographical/Historical abstract:

Additional contributor:

Description: This March 29, 1969, article from *The Carolinian*, the student newspaper of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), reports that the UNCG Student Government Association (SGA) had voted to support striking food service workers who walked off the job on March 27, 1967. SGA also approved a resolution calling for better food quality and cleanliness standards, more meal plan options, and "considerable reservation" of whether ARA Slater should retain the food service contract. Some twenty-five largely minority workers walked out based on specific complaints related to pay rates, working hours, overtime provisions, wage reviews, breaks, severance requirements, and dismissal requirements, and there was also a student boycott of the cafeteria. Strikers returned to work on April 2, 1967. The strike was resolved with some concessions, and food service contractor ARA Slater retained its contract with UNCG. Two photos of the SGA meeting are included with the article.

Subjects:
- Food Service Workers’ Strike, 1969

Format of original: Newspaper Clippings

Collection: Carolinian

Repository: The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/item.aspx?i=843
Additional subject areas

• Black Power Movement
• Dudley High School/A&T protest, 1969
• School desegregation, 1950s
• School integration, 1960s-1970s
• UNCG Neo-Black Society
Context

All partners involved in contextual materials

Race Relations at Guilford College

Although Guilford College never had an official segregation policy per se, its faculty, staff, and trustees made decisions in the past that excluded, segregated, and limited people of color from participation and membership. Examples include exclusionary student admissions policies, inadequate or substandard pay for workers, disparities in staff and faculty hiring, and restrictions on campus lodging for people of color. These realities were at odds with the historic Quaker ideal of equality and with the personal beliefs of specific individuals within the college community.

While the college property outside and surrounding the campus was used in the Underground Railroad and North Carolina Friends banned slaveholding by law, the school did not reflect the dichotomy and underlying racism of African descent are noticeably absent for the institution’s first 125 years, except for a few years. However, a significant number of African Americans lived in the area.

In the 1830s as the Quaker population in North Carolina faced serious decline. Many friends lived without slavery and to have access to new land and opportunities. The institution was one of the few in the south that did not allow slavery. The institution was one of the few in the south that did not allow slavery. The institution was one of the few in the south that did not allow slavery.

Race Relations at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Introduction

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) was established in 1891 as the State Normal and Industrial School, a college for women where coursework focused on business, domestic science, and teaching. In 1932, the school became the Women’s College of the University of North Carolina (WCUNCG, or “WC” for short), a name that reflected a somewhat broader educational mission. Male students were first admitted in 1964, and in preparation, WC became The University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1965, the name it retains to this day.

Located just west of downtown Greensboro, the university has always been an integral part of the city’s civic life, educating many of its citizens and also providing a cultural context and performing arts center for residents. Students have also contributed greatly to the economic vitality of the city as a source of income for retailers, housing providers, and others. There is also a tradition of civic involvement by students, many of whom already have ties to the community upon entering the university.

Desegregation

Edward Kilday Graham, Jr., Chancellor of WCUNCG from 1955–1959, has been described as “neither a specialist in race relations nor a visible champion of Negro rights”, although his actions paint him as something of a sympathetic figure. Prior to Graham’s tenure, issues of race relations at WC had largely centered on allowing use of the college’s facilities, particularly the library, by non-white members of the community. Graham had allowed limited use of these facilities, a procedure instituted by his predecessor, Walter Clinton Jackson. While a faculty council resolution instigated by Professor Warren Ashley had called for it in 1955, desegregation of the student body itself was not really an issue until 1956, when court order required that all three University of North Carolina campuses, including WC, begin desegregating all their facilities. Graham, who had weathered several other race relations controversies during his six years as chancellor, did not see the first black students admitted to WC, he departed to become dean of liberal arts at Boston University several months prior to their entrance.

http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/topiclessays/racereluncg.aspx
http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/topiclessays/RaceRelGC.aspx

do something bigger altogether
Branding

Website was not UNCG “branded”:

http://library.uncg.edu/dp/crg/
What we learned

• Building on each other’s collection and infrastructure strengths.
• Collaboration breeds better content.
• Collaborative projects have more credibility.
Going forward: Focus areas

• Priority focus areas:
  – UNCG history
  – Women’s history
  – Performing arts
  – Local and regional history
Ad hoc collaboration at UNCG

- City directories project
- Greensboro pictorials project

Greensboro City Directory. 1896-97.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS DIRECTORY.

WHITE DEPARTMENT.

Abbott Miss Carrie B, h 2005 Keogh
Abbott Geo (Sula), wks Laundry, r 107½ w Market
Abbott J C (Julia C), h 2005 Keogh
Abbott J Leslie, wks So F & W Co, h 319 Lindsay

COLORED DEPARTMENT.

Adams Alf, carpenter, h Warnersville, bey lims
Adams Annie, washer, h 967 w McCulloch
Adams Cordelia, wid, washer, h 522 e Gaston
Adams Jno (Delilah) brickmason, h Warnersville, bey lims

http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/ref/collection/GSOCityDir/id/55
NC Runaway Slave Ads

North Carolina Runaway Slave Advertisements, 1751-1840

NC Runaway Slave Advertisements

About this collection
The North Carolina Runaway Slave Advertisements project provides online access to all known runaway slave advertisements (more than 2300 items) published in North Carolina newspapers from 1751 to 1840. These brief ads provide a glimpse into the social, economic, and cultural world of the American slave system and the specific experience within North Carolina. Working from microfilmed copies of these rare publications, the project team scanned the ads to provide digital images, create full-text transcripts and descriptive metadata, and develop a searchable database. The NCDS website includes digital scans of the ads, full text transcripts, an annotated bibliography to aid researchers, and a searchable database.

Browse all advertisements
Browse by county:
- Alamance County (NC)
Browse by decade:
- 1751-1759

Recent Additions
- 50 Dollars Reward
- $25 Reward
- 10 Dollars Reward
- Twenty Dollars Reward
- $20 Reward
- $10 Reward

Additional material:
- A brief history of slavery in North Carolina
- Noteworthy trends in the advertisements
- Annotated bibliography

http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/RAS
NC Runaway Slave Ads

• Collaborative project with NC A&T State
• Placed 2300 runaway slave ads online with transcription and enhanced discovery
• Scanning and metadata work performed at both institutions

http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/RAS/id/838
NC Runaway Slave Ads

http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/RAS/id/2287
Digital Library on American Slavery

Search the Petitions

Underwritten by a "We the People" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Digital Library on American Slavery is a cooperative venture between the Race and Slavery Petitions Project and the Electronic Resources and Information Technology Department of University Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The Digital Library offers a searchable database of detailed personal information about slaves, slaveholders, and free people of color. Designed as a tool for scholars, historians, teachers, students, genealogists, and interested citizens, the site provides access to information gathered and analyzed over an eighteen-year period from petitions to southern legislatures and county courts filed between 1775 and 1867 in the fifteen slaveholding states in the United States and the District of Columbia.

Information in the petitions can be accessed in three ways. To search the petitions by keyword, select geographic and date criteria then enter a search term or phrase below. To search the database for specific named individuals, select the Search By Name tab. To see petitions associated with particular historical, legal, or cultural topics, select the Browse Subjects tab.

State: ALL STATES

Filing Year(s)

From: 1775  To: 1775  Include relevant records with no date: 

Keywords

AND  OR  EXACT PHRASE

http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/
Digital Library on American Slavery

Details for SMITH, Andrew M. C. (Andy) in Petition 21385747

- Name: SMITH, Andrew M. C. (Andy)
- Petition: 21385747, filed in South Carolina, 1857
- Role in Petition: defendant
- Color and Gender: white male
- Status:

Identified Immediate Family:
-经济信息:
  - Hiring: 1855 - Answer, Andrew M. C. Smith
  - Sale: 1855 - Answer, Andrew M. C. Smith
  - Sale: Circa 1846 - Answer, Andrew M. C. Smith
  - Sale: Circa 1846 - Answer, Andrew M. C. Smith
  - Sale: Circa 1855 - Answer, Andrew M. C. Smith

- Age:
- Birth:
- Death:

- Owned slaves?: Yes
- Occupation:
- Skills:
- Diseases:
- Physical Attributes:
- Moral Attributes:
- Plantations:
- Literate?:
- Urban?:
- Runaway?:
- Punishments Received:
- Term Slave:
- Freedom:

Textiles, Teachers, and Troops

- Partnership between all five Greensboro universities and colleges plus the local history museum.
Textiles, Teachers, and Troops

• Two-year LSTA-funded project
• Will incorporate preexisting materials and add 175000 scanned images/pages
• Precursor to an even larger collaborative local history portal

http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/ref/collection/GSOPatriot/id/25290
In summary

• Collaboration with community partners is hard work.
• It involves compromise and considerable extra effort.
• The bureaucratic hurdles can expand exponentially with each new partner.
• There’s more wear and tear on your resources.
But it’s worth it!
Contact

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