

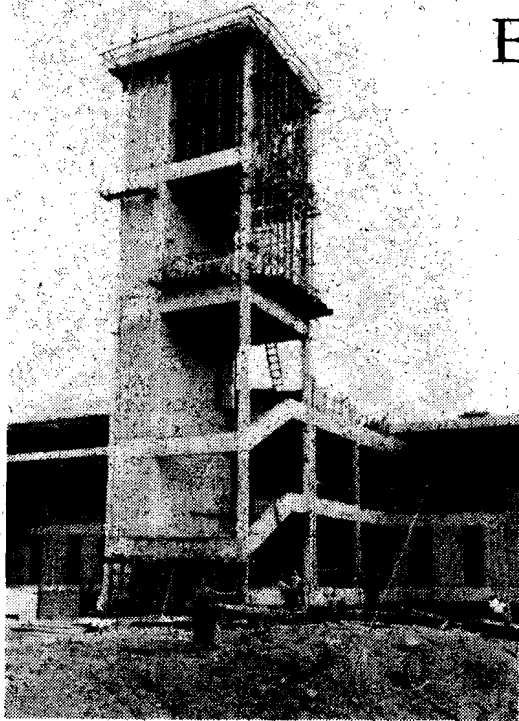
# Greenerscene

The Newsletter of The Evergreen State College

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## Evergreen History for the Future



*Archival Image:  
An archive offers  
much more than  
a journal of an  
institution's  
creation.*

If you thought Evergreen's archive was a stoic record of the college's past that has little impact on the general everyday routines of our present and future, you're in for a surprise.

Evergreen Archivist Randy Stilson envisions our future archive will set standards of excellence for students, help administrators develop new policy and allow the college to repeat its successes while avoiding the pitfalls of the past.

The archive project holds a prominent place in President Jane Jervis's goals for her first year in office, and already that goal is yielding results.

A group of nearly 20 people interested in preserving portions of our present and past experience using a variety of media and some high tech machines is meeting to develop ideas. And for the first time, a small coordinating committee is handling archive planning and administration to gather material, freeing Stilson to do the hands-on work of processing the material and implementing systems that will put a wealth of information within easy reach.

"An archive is a behind-the-scenes force that can make things work better," says Stilson. "It is the cultural, administrative and legal memory of the college."

This story wouldn't be complete without a bit of history about the archive, which was born through the efforts of Malcolm Stilson, Evergreen's first librarian, and inherited by his son, Randy.

"My father kept a lookout for materials. When people

left the college, he'd grab the material. It was stored in a study carol outside the periodicals area for a long time," says Stilson.

As an Evergreen student intern during the 1976-77 academic year, Randy gave the materials their first archival treatment under the supervision of faculty member Jovana Brown, who was then dean of the Library. The experience made an impression.

With a master's in library science from the University of Washington, Randy returned to Evergreen as a librarian in 1989. Since then, 10 hours a week have been devoted to maintaining the archive and planning for a database that will eventually open the resource to broad use. If you want archival information today, about the only person who can find the right stuff quickly is Randy. That will soon change.

Managing an archive is much different than managing a library collection. Archives grow and change dramatically as an institution grows and changes. Materials are arranged based on where they came from and in groups of similar items, such as student research projects, correspondence, invoices, memoranda and newsletters. Rather than going to an index that lists detailed descriptions of each item, you follow a path of more general descriptions of materials and their content until you reach the right file folder to sort through.

Stilson will begin working on six grants in January that will fund staff and equipment needs for processing materials under his care. A corps of work study students and volunteers will complement the main staff.

Goals include gathering student projects, master's theses, and even the work of alumni and faculty members who made their mark after leaving. This information will show current and potential students what Evergreen students are capable of producing and will maintain a high standard. The administrative archive will make it easy to learn from lessons of the past.

Many people on campus have played an integral role in developing a vision for the archive, including faculty members Craig Carlson, Charles Teske, Dave Hitchens, and emeritus faculty Sid White and Malcolm Stilson. They are involved in the larger committee, which is still open to anyone interested in the archive project. Among their chief concerns has been gathering vital pieces of institutional history from aging college founders and early pioneers who are leaving the school or passing away.

The archive coordinating committee includes faculty librarian Pat Matheny-White, faculty member Nancy Taylor, Library Services Dean Bill Bruner, and Steve Hunter of the Institutional Research office.