

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

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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 at this level. In 2019, SCA chose to refocus its K-12 efforts (2019-2021) at the Kingswood Alternative School. Part of the Crossnore Children's Home literally down the road from Wake Forest University, it seemed to offer an opportunity to have a tremendous impact on a smaller K-12 population facing numerous challenges.

Our overall objectives:

- Community connection 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 2020:

Introduction to basic archives and special collections concepts (K-5)

Recyclable tote bags with supplies for each student

(K-5 and Crossnore resident students)

Fall 2020:

Career Day with local professionals for 6-12 (Fall 2020)

Spring 2020:

Introduction to basic archives and special collections concepts (6-12)

Fall 2021:

Book purchases for Kingswood Library in collaboration with school media specialist

Repeat programming based on evaluation results

Field trips

Career Day (November 2019)

Speakers for 5 classes of 5 students (10 minutes each):

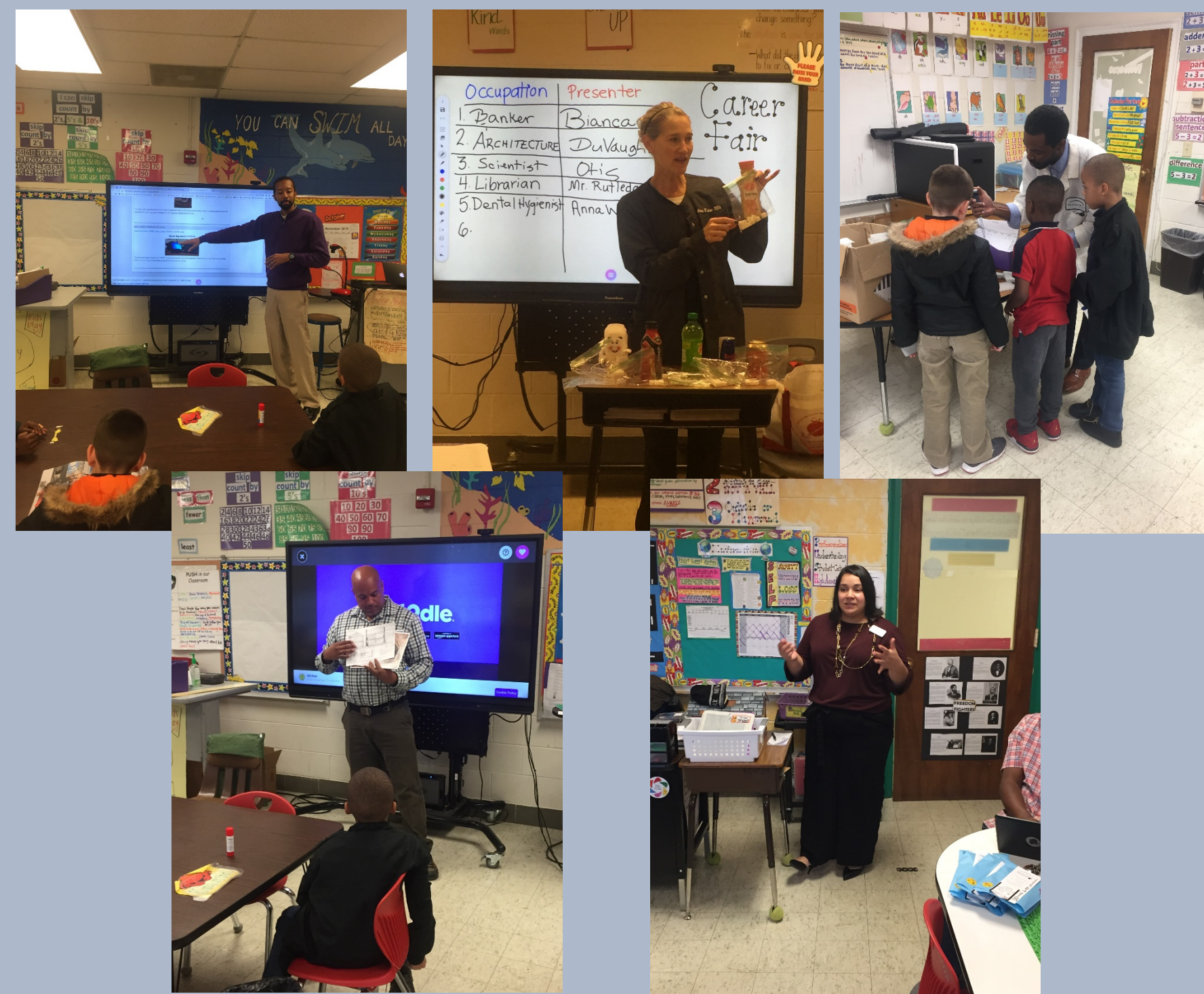
Melde Rutledge (Digital Collections Librarian, WFU)

Otis Attucks (Principal Scientist, TransTech Pharma)

DuVaughn Major (CAD Designer, EBA Architects)

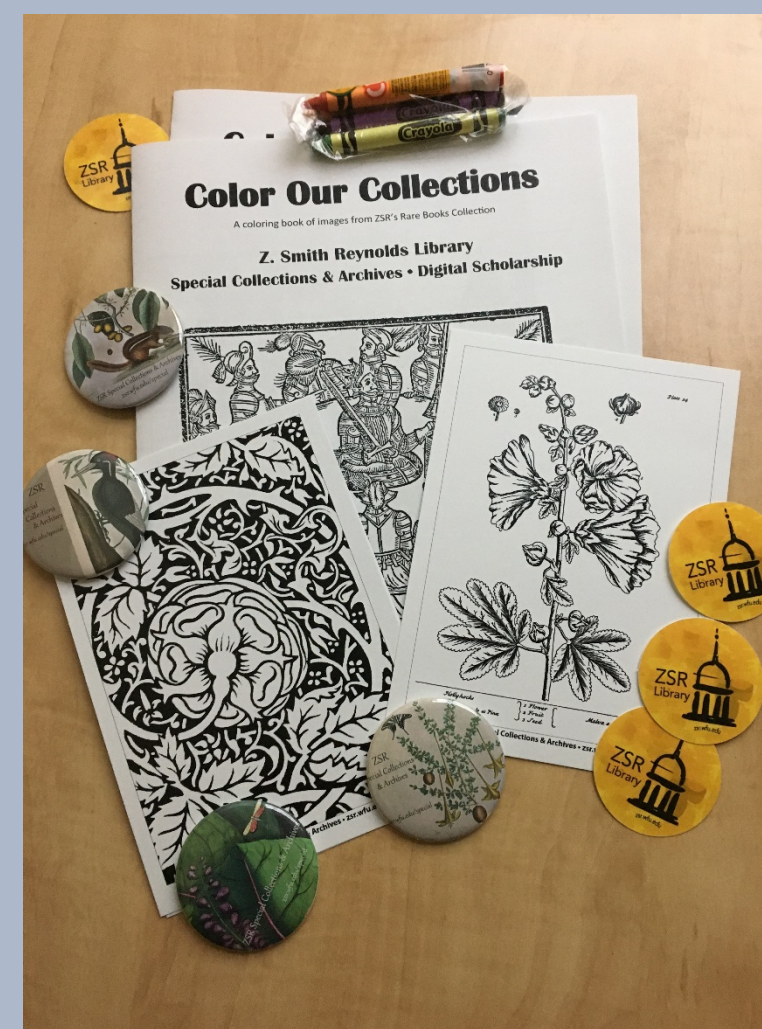
Anna Wishon (Dental Hygienist, Carolina Cosmetic Dental Care)

Bianca Marti-Johnson (Branch Manager, Assistant Vice President, First Bank)



Prepping for Spring Programming

In addition to a brief 20-minute program on special collections, we also provided recyclable tote bags for students, including handmade journals, coloring books and postcards, crayons, stickers, bookmarks, and magnets for them to keep



Career Day: 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 student beforehand; Enjoyed the food and snacks; Programming gave teachers a break from teaching; Interest in meeting local professionals

SCA staff: coordinated participants and 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 Plans:

Ask students at the end of program: what was your favorite part? What else would you like to learn about archives?

Selected Bibliography

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Questions? Please contact us at archives@wfu.edu