News from the Archivist

It has been an exciting and event-filled year at the New England Osteopathic Heritage Center. This past September I received a warm welcome from the University of New England (UNE) and the Osteopathic Community as the new NEOHC Archivist.

Throughout the year, NEOHC continued its focus on public outreach through several osteopathic conferences as well as exhibits around the Biddeford Campus. Our major project for the year was developing “Hand Over Hand,” an interactive, touch-screen, web-based exhibit exploring the history, definition and future of Osteopathic Medicine in New England.

I am very excited about the work we have done in the past year to create “Hand Over Hand.” Together with UNE Multimedia Specialist Holly Haywood, we worked with South Portland’s Catama Productions to collect hours of video footage interviewing DOs, MDs, and UNECOM students. The edited interviews, supported by archival records and images from NEOHC collections, allow the user to create a self-guided tour of Osteopathic medicine in New England.

Public outreach has been the central theme and impetus of the work of NEOHC, especially over the past two years. Although collecting and organizing materials for research accessibility is the ultimate objective of such a collection, none of these objectives can be reached effectively without public recognition. Last summer my colleague Cally Gurley, Director of UNE Special Collections, had the opportunity to meet many New England based DOs at the ROME conference in Connecticut and spread information about our exciting collection on the Biddeford campus.

With the help of former NEOHC Archivist Gay Marks, we created an exhibit from NEOHC collections for the 100th Anniversary of the Maine Osteopathic Association conference at the Samoset Resort. Throughout the upcoming year, NEOHC will be returning to both conferences and I look forward to meeting more of the Osteopathic community.

— Zachary Enright, NEOHC Archivist

GIVE A GIFT TO NEOHC

If you have any materials of historical significance to the osteopathic profession, we hope you will contact Zach Enright at (207) 602-2131 or neohc@une.edu to contribute to the collection.
Along with various outreach efforts and strategies, we continue to develop NEOHC’s holding, by creating access to current collections and acquiring new ones. In the past year we have begun the task of processing NEOHC’s collections following professional archival standards which include re-housing archival files in acid free folders and boxes, then arranging, describing, and indexing their contents and entering this information into our Collection Management Software (CMS) that is supported through the Library Services’ department of Special Collections. Soon we plan to add these collection listings to our website, which can be found at www.une.edu/neohc, so that potential researchers can access descriptions of NEOHC collections from anywhere in the world.

Through the generosity of donors NEOHC has acquired several collections documenting a variety of periods and people in the osteopathic community. These new accessions include:

- archival documents from the Maine Osteopathic Association
- historic medical supplies from the early 20th century
- a locker from the Maine Osteopathic Hospital donated by Dr. Edward Friedman
- contributions of publications by Dean Jerry Rodos, DO
- a copy of “The Year the Snow Didn’t Melt” by Dr. William Kirmes
- an early portable EKG machine donated by John Dougherty
- continued transfers from the Jack Ketchum Library of various osteopathic publications and rare books

We are very proud of the work we have done throughout this past year and look forward to unveiling “Hand Over Hand.” NEOHC continues to grow and develop. In the coming year, we are planning to continue with public outreach at Osteopathic conferences and events but are also hoping to begin connecting with the scholarly and academic community. We will be advertising the collection in history of medicine journals as well working with University of New England undergraduates.

If you are interested in following the progress of the New England Osteopathic Heritage Center, please follow us on Facebook. Also, be sure to watch for “Hand Over Hand” premiering on our website at: www.une.edu/neohc.