

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT CONTINUES

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Since September 2023, the Archives has facilitated an ongoing oral history project to document the experiences of former UWSP faculty and staff. Undergraduate students majoring in history plan and record interviews and create transcripts as part of an internship project required for their major. This project provides valuable experiential learning opportunities for students while also helping to record and preserve the diverse perspectives of past generations of UWSP faculty and staff.

If you know someone who would be interested in being interviewed about their experience working at UWSP for the oral history project, please contact the Archives at archives@uwsp.edu.



Oral history project intern Nathan Hoks interviews local journalist and historian Gene Kemmeter about his time at UWSP.

Research Hours:

Monday - Friday
10 a.m. - Noon & 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Reading Room:

Trainer Natural Resources
Building, Room 110

Research Appointments:

The Archives is currently open
by appointment only.

Please email us at
archives@uwsp.edu
to schedule an appointment.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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This 1948 painting of the interior of the Krembs' house in Stevens Point is just one of many unique and interesting items included in the Krembs Family Collection.

Generous Donations Support Archives Internship Experience

The Archives is proud to host several internship opportunities for UWSP students each semester. These experiences help students learn the basics of archival processing and preservation techniques. Interns are often responsible for their own processing project from start to finish, with time spent on background research, processing, digitization, and writing a finding aid.

This semester, several members of the Krembs family made generous donations to the Archives to fund the processing of the Krembs Family Collection. These donations were used to pay a UWSP student intern an hourly wage for their work and to purchase the processing supplies necessary for the project.

The Krembs Family Collection includes detailed family genealogy records, correspondence from family members in German and English, photographs, artwork, and more. The student intern who processed the collection has also digitized nearly all the materials as part of the project. This digitization work is useful for preservation purposes, and it will also make the Krembs Family Collection accessible to researchers all over the world.

Records Management Corner: Archives Transfers

Some records are destroyed once they meet their minimum retention times, but others should be transferred to the Archives where they will be evaluated for inclusion in the Archives' collections. These records, no matter how seemingly insignificant, all help construct the history and institutional memory of UWSP.

UWSP Archives staff have compiled **a list of common record types** that should be sent to the Archives before disposition. These include subject files, correspondence, meeting minutes, publications, press releases, and many other types of records.

Archives staff are available to assist with the appraisal and transfer of institutional records. If you or your office have records that may have historic value, please contact the Archives at **archives@uwsp.edu**. Archives staff can schedule a time to review the records and transfer them to the Archives.

For more information about records management, contact University Records Officer Brad Casselberry at **bcasselb@uwsp.edu** or visit the **UW System Records Schedules website**.

Archives Instruction Update

It has been another busy semester of primary source instruction in the Archives this fall. Instruction and Digital Archivist Kyle Neill has taught 12 different courses in the Archives' classroom so far this semester, and he has also scheduled dozens of individual research consultations to help students with their research projects.

Students in all disciplines can benefit from learning primary source research skills. The Archives hosts classes from a variety of different academic programs including media studies, women's and gender studies, art history, and even natural resources. All faculty and staff are welcome to schedule a time for their course to visit the Archives. Instruction times often fill up quickly, so please contact Instruction and Digital Archivist Kyle Neill at kneill@uwsp.edu to reserve a time for instruction for the 2025 spring semester.



Kyle Neill uses Gandalf as an example to teach students how to properly handle archival materials.



The UWSP Archives holds the papers of George Becker, a prominent environmental activist and former professor of biology at UWSP. The papers were donated in several different groups, but they are organized in one collection because they share the same provenance.

Decoding Archives-Speak: What is Provenance?

The archives profession uses many specialized terms to refer to different aspects of collections, preservation practices, and arrangement and description. This jargon can often be quite confusing to researchers and can make it difficult to understand how collections are organized.

Provenance is one such term that is central to archival theory. **The Society of American Archivists** defines provenance as “the origin or source of something.” In other words, provenance is the history of a set of records - it identifies the person or group who created the records or owned them before they were transferred to the archives.

A collection's provenance has a direct effect on how it is arranged and organized. While most libraries arrange books according to subject using the Dewey Decimal System or Library of Congress Call Numbers, archives group materials based on their provenance.

As the fall semester winds down, winter weather is on the way. A blanket of snow coats trees in front of the Fine Arts Building (now the Noel Fine Arts Center) in this photograph from the 1970s. Before the addition to the building in the mid-2000s, a prominent hill sloped down from the Fine Arts Building's east entrance to the Sundial below. The hill is partially obscured by the trees in this photograph. In the spring and fall, this hill was a popular location for studying outside or watching commencement ceremonies. In the winter, the hill was often used for sledding as illustrated by the individual carrying a toboggan up the hill in this photograph.



Archives Joke

Q: What does an archivist have when they use too much salad dressing?

A: Vinegar Syndrome

Vinegar syndrome is the degradation of acetate film that occurs when it is stored improperly. As described in an **article from the National Archives**, the process is called vinegar syndrome due to the smell of the acetic acid that is created as the film deteriorates.

Some of the film negatives in the Stevens Point Journal Photographs collection have begun to experience vinegar syndrome. The Portage County Historical Society owns the collection and has enlisted several volunteers to scan the photographs before they are damaged beyond repair.



In addition to cracking and flaking of the photographic emulsion, vinegar syndrome also causes photographs and film to warp and bend. These effects can be seen in these photographic negatives from the Stevens Point Journal Photographs collection.