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- Seba B. Sheavly Collection
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Longwood Alum Becomes Champion of the Oceans: Greenwood Library to Add Seba B. Sheavly Collection

William Sheavly recently donated the professional library of his late wife, Seba B. Sheavly, class of 1975, to Greenwood Library. Ms. Sheavly was a noted ocean conservationist and environmental consultant. In addition to supplementing the Library's collection, Sheavly's books and writings will provide the Longwood community an opportunity to draw inspiration from the career and legacy of one of the University's most successful alumnae.

It has been a rare privilege for me, as one of Greenwood's librarians, to work with Ms. Sheavly's books and writings. Though I never had the opportunity to meet Ms. Sheavly,



examining these materials has given me a remarkable opportunity to get a glimpse of who she was and what she cared about.

Ms. Sheavly was Longwood's Convocation speaker in 2007. A passage from her address offers a succinct description of her remarkable life:

My career has ranged from being a science teacher in Virginia's public schools and a science specialist for the

Virginia Aquarium, to being a phytoplankton researcher at Old Dominion University, a science program developer for the Virginia Space Grant Consortium and NASA, an ocean conservationist, educator and researcher with the Ocean Conservancy, and now an environmental consultant, where all of my previous experiences and interests are melded into one job. And I am still learning about and experiencing the world in which I live. My life's journey has been more than worthwhile, and I still have much to do and learn.

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Spotlight on Special Collections: The Papers of Dr. John Peter Wynne

Dr. John Peter Wynne was a professor of education at Longwood from 1924 to 1959. In addition to being a well-known and respected educator in his field, he was also an accomplished author of many books and articles related to the philosophy of education, including *A Guide to Educational and General Psychology* (1924), *Principles of Educational Methods* (1928), *The Teacher and the Curriculum* (1937), *Philosophies of Education* (1947), and *The Educative Experience* (1940). The John Peter Wynne papers housed in the

Library's Archives & Special Collections document the life and career of this very successful educator and author.

After earning his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Duke University, Dr. Wynne served



overseas with the 54th Infantry, 6th Division, of the United States Army. After serving his tour of duty, he began teaching in the public schools of North Carolina and Virginia. While in the Virginia public school system he taught classes and served as the school principal. From 1919 to 1924, Dr. Wynne taught education and psychology classes at A & M College in Mississippi. In 1924 he joined the teaching faculty of the State Teachers College.

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Sheavly Collection (cont.)

Ms. Sheavly's professional library shows that conservation and advocacy were persistent themes throughout her career. In her work as a conservationist and researcher, she devoted her energies to addressing the growing problem of marine debris.

A 2009 report published by the United Nations Environment Programme, entitled *Guidelines on the Use of Market-based Instruments to Address the Problem of Marine Debris*, gives a concise view of the scope of this issue. Sheavly co-authored this report with Katie Register, Executive Director for Clean Virginia Waterways, and other experts. The report notes:

Marine litter is more than just an unsightly inconvenience for beach-bound vacationers or weekend boaters.... The ubiquitous presence of marine litter, coupled with its physical, ecological, cultural, and socio-economic complexities, poses a real threat to the sustainability of sensitive coastal and aquatic habitats, as well as wildlife and people worldwide. Much of the debris that is found around the globe is attributable to what we consume – food, beverages, tobacco products and other consumer goods. Other significant categories of marine debris emanate from activities associated with marine transportation and shipping, fishing and manufacturing.



Clearly, this is a massive problem that Sheavly took on in the most global of venues. Her work becomes even more inspiring, particularly for members of the Longwood community, when one considers her beginnings. Her college textbooks confirm that this champion of the oceans who consulted for the United Nations was indeed a

Longwood student. An inscription in Breeland's 1953 *Manual of Comparative Anatomy* makes it real: the words "Pam Martin, 404 Stubbs" are crossed out and replaced with "Seba Breedlove, 405 Stubbs." Seba Breedlove Sheavly lived and learned and worked in the same places where we live and learn and work today.



Other items from her library give an indication of how she worked and what she valued. Just one example is a 1995 volume entitled *International Coastal Cleanup: U.S. Results*. In addition to serving as the coordinator for the International Coastal Cleanup project, Sheavly also compiled the results. Featured in this report are a meticulous presentation of remarkably varied data (right down to the number of cigarette butts collected) and numerous photos of the individuals who worked to clean up the coasts. Not only is it an expertly crafted technical document, it also stands as a testament to the efforts and experiences of the workers who gathered and hauled refuse away from the beaches and riverbanks in order to make room for the life and beauty that rightfully belongs there.

A collection of Sheavly's research and writings will be made available through the Greenwood Library Archives & Special Collections. Other resources from her professional library will be used to supplement the Library's circulating collection. These additions should prove particularly helpful for students enrolled in Longwood's new Environmental Sciences major. These materials will also give recipients of the new Seba B. Sheavly Science Scholarship the opportunity to learn more about the life and work of this remarkable scientist and advocate for the environment.

Mark Lenker, Librarian for Instruction & Research Services

Note from Dean Suzy

This past fall, the Greenwood librarians and staff finalized our new mission and vision statements as part of our annual review of the Library's strategic plan. In addition, we decided to focus on six specific goals to measure this year as part of our ongoing assessment efforts to improve the quality of our services and programs. I'd like to share these efforts with all of you.

Goals

- Information Literacy -- Provide information literacy programs that contribute to academic achievement and lifelong learning.
- Service Quality -- Provide excellent client-centered service including consistent, accurate, efficient and friendly interactions with our patrons.
- Library as Place -- Maintain the Library's physical and virtual spaces to ensure a range of environments that are conducive to learning, teaching, collaboration, and solitary work.
- Collections -- Provide excellent collections to meet user needs.
- Adequate Technology -- Provide sufficient computing equipment to meet user needs.
- Budget -- The Library will maintain sufficient funding and IT resources to support key user needs.
- Digital Commons -- Greenwood Library will provide students and faculty a convenient opportunity for making their research and creative work easily accessible online, thereby affording greater visibility for individual scholars and elevating the academic profile of the institution as a whole. (A future newsletter will feature our efforts with the new Digital Commons.)

Library Mission Statement

We believe in the power of recorded information to add breadth and meaning to one's life. The Library strives to provide value-added physical, virtual, and intellectual environments that connect our user community with historical and current information in order to help individuals change lives for the better.

In service to the Longwood community, the Library's central focus is to:

- Educate citizen leaders through targeted research instruction, technology, and innovative learning spaces that center on the pursuit of academic excellence.
- Offer collections and services to support academic, professional, and personal endeavors.
- Contribute to the advancement of research and scholarship.
- Partner with campus and community constituents to create engaging learning experiences.

Library Vision Statement

Celebrate curiosity @ Greenwood Library!

Our new mission statement truly reflects what each of us in the Library strives to do every day: connect our users – students, faculty, staff, community patrons – with the resources they need to improve their lives. I'm especially pleased that our new vision statement invites *everyone* to learn something new – and have fun – at the Library. I know I do every day.

"Dean Suzy"

Suzy Szusz Palmer, Dean of the Library

Wynne Collection (cont.)

During his early years in Farmville, Dr. Wynne spent his summers taking classes at Columbia University to earn his Ph.D. In 1928, he became one of the first Columbia University graduates to receive a doctorate in the Philosophy of Education and one of the last graduates to receive a doctorate under the eminent American philosopher, John Dewey. Just prior to receiving his doctorate, Dr. Wynne was promoted to Director of Teacher Education at the State Teachers College at Farmville. During his 35 years at Longwood, he became known as a specialist in the field of education, and his many accomplishments had an impact on the overall reputation of the College.

During his career, Dr. Wynne involved himself in academics both within the College and across the United States. For many summers, he taught and lectured at various schools throughout the country including Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Duke, the University of Illinois, and the University of Pennsylvania. The list of his professional involvements and activities is lengthy. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Delta Kappa, Kappa Delta Phi, the John Dewey Society, The American and Virginia Philosophical Associations, and the American Association of Student Teaching. He was a charter member of the Philosophies of Education Society, and one of the founders and the first president of the South Atlantic Philosophies of Education Society.

In addition to his professional activities, Dr. Wynne became involved in groups and activities within the Farmville community. He was an active member of the local American Legion and the Farmville Rotary serving in leadership roles for both organizations.

He was a member of the Farmville United Methodist Church, Five County Fair Association, and helped with the development of Holly Manor Nursing Home, now known as The Woodlands.

On the eve of his retirement, *The Rotunda* printed an article titled "Wynne Leaves Faculty After Thirty-five Years" which tells what Dr. Wynne meant to all within the college community. "The loss of this admired and respected professor will be felt by all of the college, for Dr. Wynne has become part



Dr. John Peter Wynne

of Longwood's traditions-- from his good-natured, jovial personality, to his scholarly lectures and guidance for the many students he has served in his years. He will be remembered as one of Longwood's greatest teachers."

The materials included in the papers of John Peter Wynne housed in Greenwood Library's Archives & Special Collections

are a testimony to the life of this great educator, author, and community leader.

Lydia Williams
Archives and Records Specialist



References:

"Prof. J. P. Wynne, Head of Dept. of Education and Director of the Training School Comes to us from Mississippi." *The Rotunda* 18 October 1924.

Steck, John. "Crusading Scholar Welcomes Retirement." *Farmville Herald* 15 September 1959.

Weaver, Sandra. "Wynne Leaves Faculty After Thirty-five Years." *The Rotunda* 18 February 1959.

Upcoming Library Events

On Thursday, February 14, 2013, the Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library will host Chocolate Friendly, a chocolate dessert contest. If you like to bake with chocolate or if you like to eat chocolate, this is an event that you would enjoy. For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/TUuY6>.

On Thursday, March 21, 2013, the Friends will host an event with children's author, Candice Ransom. Ransom, who has never wanted to be anything but a children's book writer, has published 110 books for children and young adults. Her work includes board books, picture books, easy readers, chapter books, middle grade fiction, "tween" fiction, biographies, and nonfiction. Among her popular titles are the award-winning *Finding Day's Bottom*, *Seeing Sky-Blue Pink*, *The Promise Quilt*, *The Big Green Pocketbook*, *Maria Von Trapp: Beyond the Sound of Music*, *When the Whippoorwill Calls*, *Tractor Day*, *Robert E. Lee*, *Rescue on the Outer Banks*, *Children of the Civil War*, *The Day of the Black Blizzard*, and *Pony Island*.

Options for Becoming a Member of The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library

Levels of Giving

Author: \$10 to \$99

- Greenwood Library Newsletter
- Invitations to special events, such as book signings and book groups

Editor: \$100 to \$249

- One (1) bookplate in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- CD, DVD, and video check-out privileges
- And all of the above

Publisher: \$250 to \$499

- Two (2) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- And all of the above

Patron: \$500 to \$1,249

- Five (5) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- And all of the above

Collector: \$1,250 to \$2,499

- Ten (10) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- Membership in the Longwood University

President's Circle

- Recognition on a donor honor roll located in the Library
- And all of the above

Greenwood Society: \$2,500 and up

- Twenty-five (25) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- Lunch with your favorite librarian
- And all of the above

Become a Friend of the Greenwood Library!

You may become a member of the Friends of the Library by making an annual tax-deductible contribution. Online contributions may be made through the Longwood University Foundation Office at www.longwood.edu/advancement.

Please indicate "Greenwood Library" under "Allocation" as your gift designation. You may also mail your contributions to Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library, Longwood University Foundation Office, 201 High Street, Farmville, Virginia, 23909.

Planned Gifts, Endowment Opportunities and Other Options

Donors making qualifying gifts may request that a room be named in honor or in memory of an individual or organization. The naming of buildings, rooms, or other physical spaces is contingent on approval by the Board of Visitors. Call Franklin Grant at 1.800.281.4677, extension 3, for a confidential discussion about the opportunities available.

Contact Us

The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library at Longwood University is governed by a steering committee composed of librarians, faculty, staff, students, and community members. For more information about the Friends of the Greenwood Library, please visit the Friends website at blogs.longwood.edu/libraryfriends/ or contact Suzy Szasz Palmer, Dean of the Library, at 434.395.2083 or palmerss@longwood.edu.



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