

Winter 2-4-2020

## Continuum - Winter 2020

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## Twenty Years of the Historical Resources Center

2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Historical Resources Center as the archival repository for The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. For the past 2 decades, the archives has collected, preserved, and made available documents related to the history, mission, and culture of our institution.

Our signature collections include:

- Materials from the first President's Office ([link](#))
- The Making Cancer History® Voices Oral History Collection ([link](#))
- Historical images from Medical Graphics and Photography and the Communications Office ([link](#))
- The Children's Art Project Archives ([link](#))

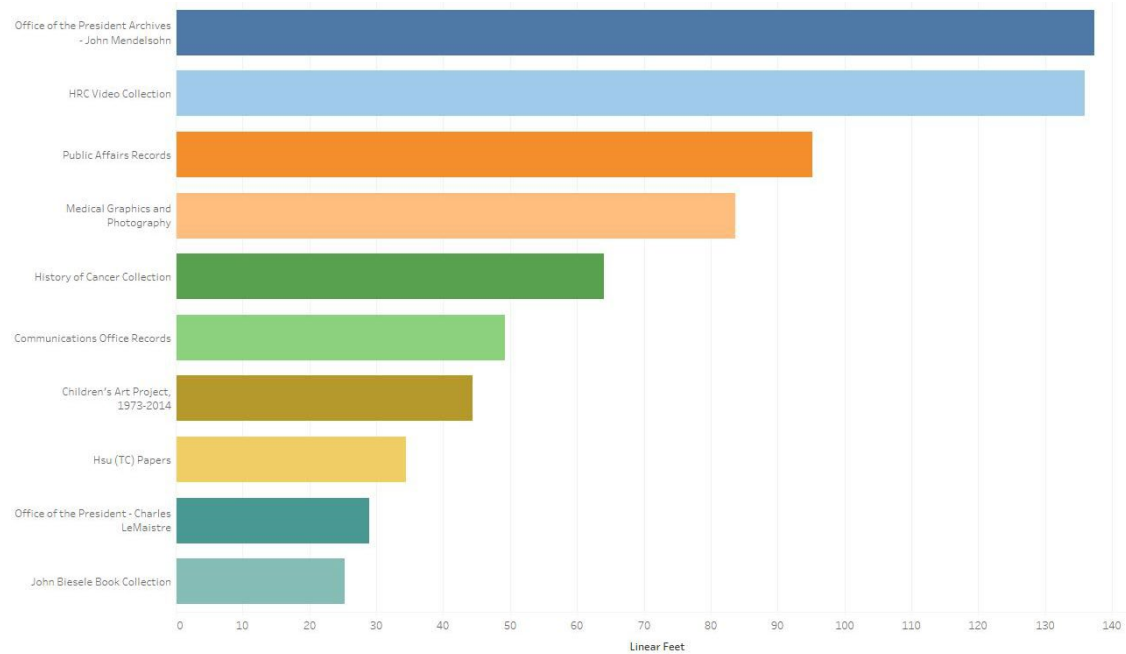
While we've made strides in making sure our collections are processed and available, history is being made every day. In the new year, we're hoping to add even more materials to our growing archives. Currently, the archives is undergoing a massive inventory project to create a unified collection database to ensure our historical documents are more readily available to researchers.



## The archives by the numbers

The HRC collects a myriad of information about its collection holdings, archival

donations, and reference requests. Creating a graphical display helps tell the archives' story beyond what mere numbers can show. The bar graph below shows some of the largest collections in the archives:



Glancing at the graph shows that among the largest collections are records from the President's Office and multimedia collections (Public Affairs, Communications, Videos). This representation can help show the scope of a collection and guide future archival endeavors. For example, knowing how large the Medical Graphics and Photography collection is compared to other collections shows that it is a signature collection that the archives can market to potential users.



## Our History / Our Archives

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. In 2014, Tacey Rosolowski, Ph.D., interviewed Thomas Burke, M.D., for the HRC's The Making Cancer History® Voices Oral History project. From 1989 to 1998, Dr. Burke served as the Medical Director of the Gynecologic Oncology Center in the Department of Gynecologic and Reproductive Medicine.



During his interview, he talks about the history of his clinic and how multidisciplinary practice was the norm in the department from the onset.

"And if you think back to the time, this was the 1950s, there was no

chemotherapy. So the two modalities were surgery and radiation. Then in the late fifties, some of the first chemotherapy agents became available, and some of the early ones like methotrexate and cisplatin and those first drugs that came forward had some GYN applications. So the two of them [Drs. Felix Rutledge and Gilbert Fletcher] said, "We're going to need somebody who specializes in drug treatment," because there wasn't a specialty of medical oncology at the time. So they recruited someone to come in and pick up that part of the practice and develop it.

So the chemotherapy piece got rolled into the surgery and the radiation, and so GYN oncology always sort of from that very beginning included people who did surgery, people who participated in radiation, and people who gave chemotherapy, and I still do that today. So I think that actually came out of MD Anderson, and it was their model that they exported around the country."



Click [here](#) to listen this chapter from Dr. Burke's interview.

February is Black History Month, when we celebrate the accomplishments that the African American community has contributed to our history. Ethel Fleming Arceneaux, R.N., was the institution's second African American nurse and left a lasting impact on the institution.



A Houston native, she grew up near the Baker Estate, which was MD Anderson's temporary first home. In 1951, she joined the institution as a

general nurse. She was part of the institution when it moved to the Texas Medical Center in 1954. Her work even inspired her daughter, Martha, to work at the institution as a unit coordinator in the Department of Nursing and eventually a manager in the Division of Human Resources.



In a 1977 story for the *Anderson Messenger*, Arceneaux reflected on MD Anderson's role in cancer care.

She stated, "The hospital's expectations are so high.... We instill that hope, or attempt to, in every patient. We want the patients to know that we are concerned about their disease and recovery."

Arceneaux worked at the institution for 37 years - becoming a nursing unit supervisor and assistant director for nursing for evenings. She served as the director of nursing for quality assurance when she retired in 1987. She passed away in 1993. The following year, the institution established the Ethel Fleming Arceneaux Outstanding Nurse-Oncologist Award in her honor.



**HRC Updates**



**MD Anderson Headlines**

### **Breast Cancer Videos**

Research from the archives helped provide the historical background on the history of breast cancer treatment for the videos commemorating the 25th anniversary of the breast cancer clinic.

*Click on each image to read the article*

From The Anderson Messenger,  
December 1979  
*"The Holidays will be a little warmer"*



How MD Anderson is changing breast cancer diagnosis and treatment



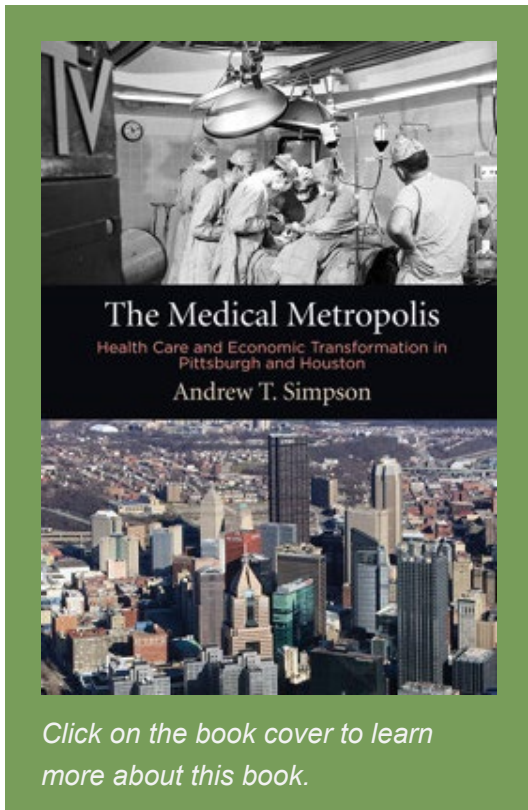


From The Anderson Messenger,  
January 1990  
*"Card in Space"*

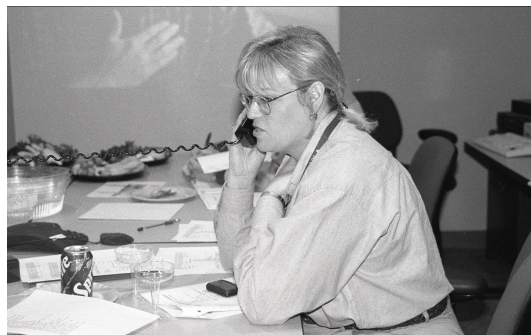


### **New Book**

Andrew T. Simpson from Duquesne University used primary resources from the HRC to write his book on the growth of large metropolitan medical centers like the one in Houston.



From The Anderson Messenger,  
February 2000  
*"We're A-Ok when it comes to Y2K issues"*



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**Come Visit Us at the Historical Resources Center!**

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