A CLOSER LOOK

The Towson University (TU) Special Collections and University Archives Department of Albert S. Cook Library established a unique collaboration with the Introduction to Archival Work elective class at Friends School of Baltimore. The partnership was developed as a successful workflow for students to dive into a digitized collection of World War II correspondence created by TU faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Using an active learning approach, the Friends School students apply what they’ve learned in the classroom to explore primary sources, research the creators, describe details of each piece of correspondence, and ultimately enhance and increase access to a live digital collection. In turn, these students applied the knowledge they had internalized to teach other students about primary sources and caring for their school’s own archival materials. During the course of the project, the Friends School students visited TU’s archives twice and completed the bulk of the work from their own campus via online, open access tools. Ultimately, the Friends School students gained the experience of working in and contributing to a real archives, while the TU archives’ digital collection was enhanced without taking up limited staff time.

SERVICES/SOLUTIONS/OUTCOMES

- Student learning and engagement
- Increased visibility of digital archival resources
- Recruitment
- Fundraising

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PARTNER ORGANIZATION

Friends School of Baltimore
www.friendsbalt.org

HANDS ON HISTORY 2.0
TU Archives as a Learning Lab for the Next Generation