

4-30-2019

Student Voices: Recording the First-Generation Student Experience

Jane Monson

Laura Uglean Jackson

Cynthia Mitchell

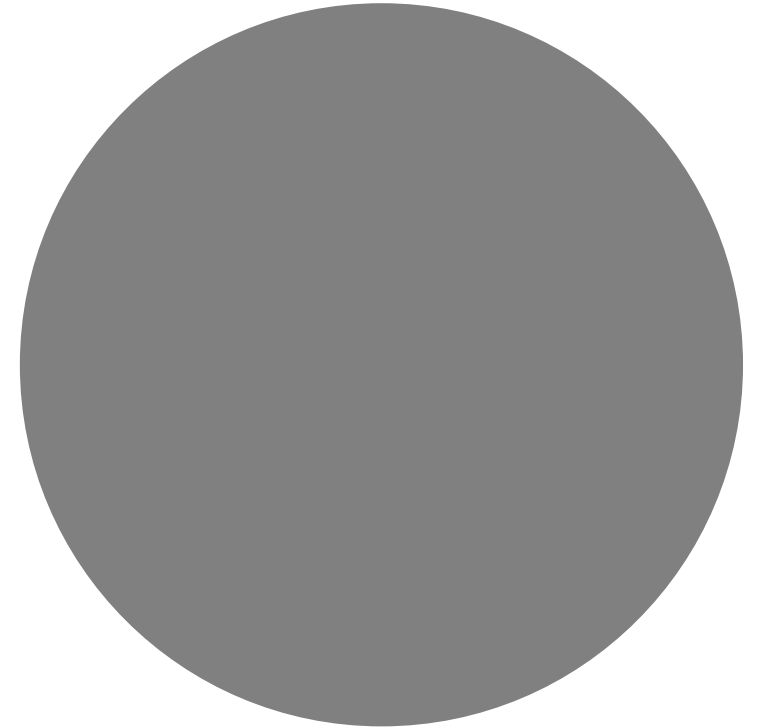
Student Voices: Recording the First- Generation Student Experience

Jane Monson

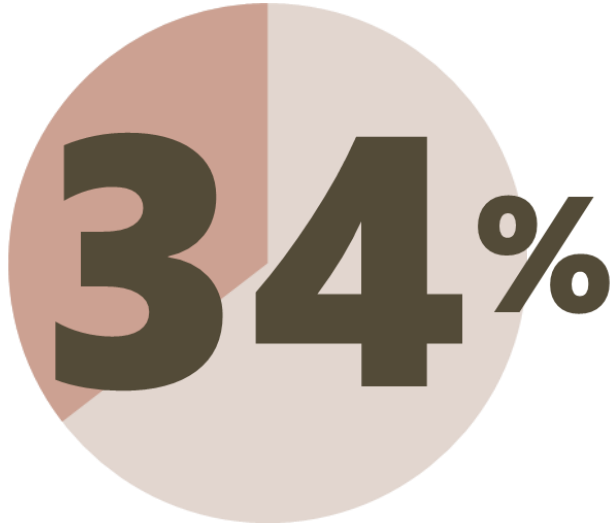
Cynthia Mitchell

Laura Uglean Jackson

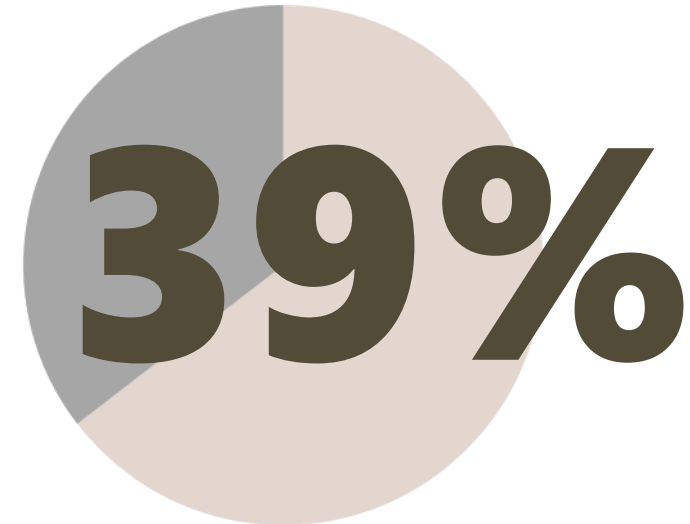
University of Northern Colorado



Growth of First-Gen Student Populations



of undergraduates nationally are first-generation students (2011-12, via NCES)



of UNC's undergraduates are first-generation

Project Goals

1	Introduce students to the purpose, value, and immediacy of primary source materials
2	Increase awareness and use of digital collections and university archives
3	Improve information literacy skills with these materials
4	Increase student voice in UNC archives
5	Preserve and make student oral histories available via UNC institutional repository

Project Background

- Started in 2015
- Collaboration between instructional services, archival services, and digital initiatives
- Delivered to undergraduate honors students in LIB 151: Research Skills for Beginning Researchers and first-generation students in LIB 150: Introduction to Undergraduate Research

Lesson Plan

- Guest lecture by Head of Archives and Digital Initiatives Librarian
 - Definition of primary sources
 - Purpose of archives
 - Overview of UNC archives collecting areas
 - Archival materials “show-and-tell”
 - Purposes of digitization
 - Selecting materials for digitization
 - Overview of digital repositories and digital “show-and-tell”

Assignment

- Work in pairs/groups of threes to record short interviews discussing first-year experience
- One required question: “Why did you choose to come to UNC? What expectations do others have for you attending college?”
- Interviews recorded as audio or video files, using phones or library recording equipment
- Audio files uploaded to Canvas, video files posted to YouTube and scraped

Deed of Gift

- Students submit deed of gift indicating:
 - Formal donation of file to archives
 - Permission to make files available online through the IR
 - Whether file should be made immediately available or placed under a 5-year embargo.

Repository Ingest

- Digital Initiatives Librarian creates metadata records in IR
- Files are uploaded to multimedia server for direct streaming via video or audio player in repository record

Pilot Phase Assessment

- Feedback indicated honors students were less engaged than first-gen students.
- First-gen students seemed to feel a greater sense of pride in telling their stories and derived a greater sense of personal meaning from the assignment.
- Decision was made to have project focus exclusively on first-gen students moving forward.

Current Iteration of Project

- Project moved from LIB 150/151 courses; now integrated into ENG 122: College Composition courses for first-gen students in Center for Human Enrichment (CHE) program
- New UNC archivist joined project in 2018; delivers oral history instruction
- Increased focus on power dynamics in archives
- Extended interview length
- Optional to donate files to archives/put in repository
- File submission to OneDrive

Digital UNC



Archives & Special
Collections @
Digital UNC

Scholarship &
Creative Works @
Digital UNC

CHE TRiO SSS

The Center for Human
Enrichment, UNC's TRiO
Student Support Program

- Department of Education Grant program serving first-generation students, two-thirds of low income families.
- Serve 200 students first year through senior year.
- Our motto: “Find your voice; tell your story.”
- <https://www.unco.edu/center-human-enrichment>



A Few Details about CHE

- We have several linked classes with other departments.
- I work at CHE as English Faculty & Writing Tutor Supervisor
- We encourage our students to use all campus services and resources.



Demographics and TRiO Services

- Participants primarily from cities and towns near Northern Colorado
 - Many are bilingual.
 - Some have parents who are new to the U.S.
 - All need support in retention and graduation.
- Intensive Advising
 - Linked Curriculum
 - Tutoring Services
 - Financial Aid Counseling
 - Technology Access and Training



Digital Archives & CHE

Our Collaborative Student Voices Project

- CHE has intentional programming to help cohort students connect with one another.
- Students had already used Story Corps interviews within papers and presentations.
- Some students furthered the primary source research by interviewing family members.
- Library colleagues and I collaborated to create the interview assignment.
- Library colleagues visited classes to show students background materials in Archives and to alert them to the fact that student voices were rare in our university's collection.

Digital Archives and CHE

- Students self-selected partners for the project and used their smart phones to film interviews.
- Students were so excited during and after the project to become part of history.
- Many of them exclaimed upon hearing about our presentation at Digital Initiatives Symposium, "We're going to be famous!"

Daniel Balderrama and Zheng Xian Lin



Role of Archives

1

Ensure every student can find at least a part of themselves in the university archives

2

Provide instruction on quality oral histories

3

Show them the value of archives- you WANT to be here!

Challenges

1. Convincing Students to Donate
2. Electronic Transfer and Upload
3. Making this material **really** part of the archives

Challenge 1: Convincing Students to Donate

- Nervous about private content in interview
- No pressure if content is confidential, private
- Confusion about the deed of gift
 - Completed by all participants
 - Several sections to complete

Solution: Convincing Students to Donate

- Followed-up with students
- Told them how valuable their contributions are
- Next time:
 - Complete form in class
 - Include written instructions

Challenge 2: Electronic Transfer and Uploading

- Assumed students knew how to move files from phone to OneDrive
- Long interviews → huge files
→ upload errors

Solution:
Electronic
Transfer and
Uploading

- Needed more instruction
 - In class and written instructions
 - Phone → iCloud → OneDrive
- Limit to 2 partners, 15 min max interview

Challenge 3: Being Part of the Archives

- In Scholarship and Creative Works repository
- Not treated like an archival collection
 - Not accessioned, no collection number or finding aid
- Not found with other archival description/ material

Solution: Being Part of the Archives

- Decided to create an archival collection
 - “Student Voices oral and video histories”
- Managed and described like an archival collection

Emily Gutierrez Danae Moore Brianna Rivas Vargas



Thank You!

digscholarship.unco.edu/voices/

Cynthia Mitchell, CHE English Faculty:
cynthia.mitchell@unco.edu

Jane Monson, Digital Initiatives Librarian:
jane.monson@unco.edu

Laura Uglean Jackson, Archives Librarian:
laura.ugleanjackson@unco.edu

