



**Archives of the History of American Psychology:
A Model for the Western Carolina University
Psychology Department**

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My initial impetus to develop an Archive of the History of the Psychology Department at Western Carolina University (WCU) resulted from several observations made in the early 1990s. One was that “outdated” equipment, psychological tests, and other materials were being discarded and consigned to the “boiler room.” It was also about this time that I became aware of the Center for the History of Psychology at The University of Akron, where, according to American Psychological Association, especially Division 26, historians have long recognized the value of laboratory apparatuses and other

instruments, including items used in testing, historical research, and teaching. Ultimately I communicated with Dr. John Popplestone and Dr. Marion White McPherson, founders of the Archives of the History of American Psychology (AHAP) at The University of Akron. Beginning as a modest endeavor in 1965, Drs. Popplestone and McPherson sought to realize a vision that would preserve the historical record of psychology in America. According to Dr. Popplestone, historians of the discipline of psychology were already drawing upon these types of materials and instruments with increasing frequency.

In order to undertake the archival study of the Psychology Department at Western Carolina University, I was supported by Dr. Randolph, department head, who encouraged the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) to provide funds in the nature of grants, to implement the development of the Archives at WCU—the Killian Building. To properly house the artifacts in the Killian Building, some special cabinets were needed. I was pleased to receive six grants from the SREB from 1994 to 2000, with a total \$3,200 to continue my visits to UA. Visits and communication continued until the year 2014 under the new executive director, David Baker.