

# Northwestern University



(left) Gwen Daniels, Barry Adams, Tyrone Hay, and Paul Johnson at a party following the 1973 Ritual. (Ronald Craig '74, photographer)  
(right) Daphne Maxwell (Reid) crowned Homecoming Queen in 1967, becoming the first Black homecoming queen at Northwestern.

## ENDOWING THE POSITION OF THE ARCHIVIST FOR THE BLACK EXPERIENCE

The history of Black students, faculty, and staff at Northwestern University is rich, complex, and integral to our understanding of the people and the institution. An important strategy for ensuring substantive research, education, and the preservation of at-risk materials is to advance a fully endowed position to lead the archiving of the Black experience.

### **A world-class faculty**

The cornerstone of Northwestern's academic excellence is its world-class faculty. Renowned for their scholarship, research, and teaching, Northwestern's faculty are working to solve pressing problems through their research while preparing students to lead and innovate in an array of professions.

The University's history of recognizing its most esteemed scholars and its most high-priority fields of study through named professorships, or chairs, is a time-honored practice. Professorships such as the William Smith Mason Professor of American History were established in the 1920s and continue today. More recently established chairs include the Leon Forrest Professor of African American Studies and the Lorraine H. Morton Professorship.

### **Strategic investments**

An endowed chair is the highest honor a university can bestow upon its faculty and ensures continuity of major research strengths. To attract and retain the very best, Northwestern needs endowed

professorships to recognize excellence in areas of strategic importance.

The University has more than 3,300 full-time faculty members, though fewer than 500 endowed professorships. Northwestern librarians and archivists hold faculty positions and are eligible to be appointed to endowed chairs. At the Northwestern Libraries, there are three endowed positions, including the Charles Deering McCormick University Librarian (who is also the Dean of Libraries), the George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator of the Melville Herskovits Library, and the Marie A. Quinlan Director of Preservation.

Endowed professorships provide a dedicated source of funds for an individual's scholarly activities and salary. **We are seeking \$1.5 million to endow the position of the Archivist for the Black Experience.**

### **The Archivist for the Black Experience**



A joint initiative with the Northwestern University Black Alumni Association (NUBAA) to expand and improve Northwestern Libraries' and Archives' stewardship of

collections relating to the Black experience began in 2016. In 2017, Charla Wilson was hired as the inaugural Archivist for the Black Experience. Charla has been instrumental in documenting the history of Black students, faculty, staff, alumni, and organizations at Northwestern. Her work has included supporting the commemorations of the [Bursar's Office Takeover](#) and [Northwestern Community Ensemble](#) by curating exhibitions, creating a [documentary](#) and [commemorative book](#), conducting oral history interviews with alumni, and organizing [programming](#). Additionally, she offers instruction, consults with campus departments and organizations, gives multi-media presentations, develops [audio tours](#),

and provides [reference support](#) to researchers, students, and faculty consulting archival materials. Her continued work includes securing significant [collections](#) and conducting oral histories and promoting these [collections](#) for research. **The time is more urgent than ever to document this important part of Northwestern's history.**

### **Opportunities for Partnership**

There are two opportunities for partnership:

- Gifts of any size to support the already-established endowed **Fund for the Archivist for the Black Experience**. Your gift will support the Archivist's outreach, acquisition, documentation, and preservation of materials in all formats related to the history of Black students, faculty, and staff, and
- Leadership gifts that collectively total **\$1.5 million to establish the [Named] Archivist for the Black Experience**. Your gifts to endow this position would provide a dedicated source of funds for the Archivist in perpetuity. You can have a voice in ensuring that the history of Black students, faculty, and their campus experiences continue to be preserved, acknowledged, and celebrated.

### **Our gratitude**

Our faculty and unique research resources drive discovery and creativity and are integral to the student experience. Thank you for your consideration of support.

### **For more information**

To learn about philanthropic opportunities via outright gifts or [planned gifts](#), please contact Jennifer Mullman '99 at 847-467-7278 or [jmullman@northwestern.edu](mailto:jmullman@northwestern.edu). To learn about the University Archives, please contact Charla Wilson at 847-491-2928 or [charla.wilson@northwestern.edu](mailto:charla.wilson@northwestern.edu).