(bulk 1990-1994)
Collection: Mss. 2016:1
Descriptive Summary

**Title:** The Edwin C. Epps Collection of Pat Conroy, 1983-1994

**Collection Number:** Mss. 2016:1

**Creator:** Dr. Edwin C. Epps

**Extent:** 1 box

Administrative Information

**Provenance:** Gift, 2016

**Processed by:** V. Emily Cranwell

**Access Restrictions:** Open to research

**Preferred Citation:** [Item], The Edwin C. Epps Collection of Pat Conroy, Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of South Carolina Libraries

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Scope and Contents Note

This collection documents Dr. Edwin C. Epps’ research process for his dissertation on Pat Conroy’s year teaching on Daufuskie Island, South Carolina, as well as presentations of that research at various University of South Carolina locations. Epps attended the University of South Carolina for both his Masters in English and his Doctorate in Education. While pursuing his doctorate, Epps worked with Dr. Craig Kridel, E. S. Gambrell Professor of Educational Studies, for his dissertation, titled, *Pat Conroy and the Daufuskie Island School*, which was published in 1993, the same year he graduated with his Doctorate in Education.

Epps currently lives in Spartanburg, SC, where he taught at Spartanburg High School for over thirty years. In addition to his doctoral work and work as an educator, Epps
wrote *Literary South Carolina* (2004), has been published in other publications such as *Still Home: The Essential Poetry of Spartanburg*, and is part of the Hub City Writers Project.

The majority of the collection is Epps’ interview materials as he conducted research – he interviewed a variety of people who knew, worked with, and/or were friends with Pat Conroy when he taught at the Mary Field’s School on Daufuskie Island from 1969 to 1970. The interview materials are a combination of letters of introduction, letters with research questions, handwritten notes on face-to-face or phone interviews, and personal correspondence. The interview materials focus primarily on identifying Pat Conroy’s teaching influences and impact.

The collection also includes manuscript materials, from both Epps and others. The manuscripts from others are related to Daufuskie Island and its history – one manuscript in particular is authored by Billie Burn, whom Epps interviewed for his dissertation research. Epps’ manuscripts are drafts for presentations he gave at the University of South Carolina for an exhibit opening at the McKissick Museum in 1993 and for the First Year Reading Experience in 1994.

Additional notes and description occur at the beginning of each series in the finding aid.

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**Related Materials**

Pat Conroy related materials also located in The Pat Conroy Archive, 1850– in the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, at the Hollings Library at the University of South Carolina.

Millen Ellis related materials are also located in the Millen Ellis Papers, 1962-2005, at the Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina.

Eugene “Gene” Norris related materials are also located in the Pat Conroy Archive, 1850– and in the Millen Ellis Papers, 1962-2005.

Additional Daufuskie Island material, Edwin C. Epps material, and Pat Conroy material can be found at the College of Education’s Museum of Education at the University of South Carolina.

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**Contents**
Series I: Correspondence
Series II: Interviews Re: Pat Conroy
Series III: Exhibit, “Pat Conroy at the Daufuskie Island School” McKissick Museum
Series IV: Address, “Looking Back: Pat Conroy and the Daufuskie Island School Twenty Five Years Later,” University of South Carolina
Series V: Manuscripts by Others
Series VI: Audio Visual Materials

Container List

Series I: Correspondence
Kridel, Craig, Re: Epps’ Enrollment, January 5, 1990
Sudduth, Elizabeth, Re: Epps Collections, March 10, 2016

Series II: Interviews Re: Pat Conroy Research
Interview files contain a variety of materials, and can range from a letter of introduction from Dr. Epps to postcards – many of the files also contain interview notes by Dr. Epps, or written answers to questions Dr. Epps asked about Pat Conroy and his year teaching on Daufuskie Island, South Carolina.
Interview prep, Epps, Edwin C., no date
Alberto, John: 1991
Barnwell, John, Jr.: 1992
Blake, J. Herman: [1994]
Burn, Billie: 1991-1992
Campbell, Emory: 1991-1992
Campbell, Katherine: 1990
Coleman, Sally: 1992
Conroy, Barbara: 1992
Conroy, Terrye: 1991
Criddle, Emma Lee: 1993
Dufford, William E.L 1992
Ellis, Millen, 1992
Heyward, George: 1992
Keister, Ted: 1991
Jones, Rev. Mike: 1991
Murray, Cynthia: 1992
Murray, Samuel E.: 1991
Norris, Gene: 1991
Powell, Mary E.: 1992
Randel, Morgan: 1992
Schein, Bernie: 1992
Sklar, Zachary: 1992

**Series III: Exhibit, “Pat Conroy at the Daufuskie Island School,”**

**McKissick Museum**

Exhibit Opening Program, March 2, 1993
Manuscript, “Pat Conroy as Teacher [On the Occasion of the Opening of “Pat Conroy and Daufuskie Island School,” Museum of Education, University of South Carolina, 2 March 1993],
Epps, Edwin C., March 2, 1993
Exhibit plan, photocopy, 1992 (2 folders)
Photos from Daufuskie Island (4)

**Series IV: Address, “Looking Back: Pat Conroy and the Daufuskie Island School Twenty Five Years Later,” First Year Reading Experience, University of South Carolina**

Folder titles in this series are original to the creator.

Notes
Series V: Manuscripts by Others

Burn, Billie, *Mary Dunn Cemetery, Daufuskie Island, South Carolina*, 1983

Series VI: Audio Visual Materials

Transparencies, “Looking Back” First Year Reading Experience presentation
Miniature cassette tape