



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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A Commencement Invitation Opens a Window into History

What will historians in the next century learn about you from those old cards and invitations you just can't seem to throw away?

This month in artiFACTS, you can see what a simple commencement invitation from the 1920s is telling today's historians. Return to a time when graduation ceremonies didn't require the use of a university arena and see what the male-female ratio was like in one Fairfax County class. The answer might surprise you.

The Park Authority has thousands of archival items, such as photographs, letters, maps, and other documents in its collections. These collections hold more than 5,000 historic objects, such as quilts, chairs, baskets, machines, and clothing and upwards of three million artifacts that include archaeological finds, such as spear points and pottery. All come with their own stories to tell, and artiFACTS allows us to showcase a small sampling of these treasures to educate, enlighten and entertain. Scroll through the artiFACTS website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/artifacts.htm> to learn what clothing, broken glass and an old mirror can reflect about our past.

For more information about the Park Authority's Museum Collections, contact Heritage Resource Specialist Megan Leining at 703-631-1429 or at megan.leining@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.