Guide to the Esther LaPorta Donor Relations records

Finding aid prepared by Ashley Toutain
University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections
Copley Library
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone: 619-260-2730
Email: spcoll@sandiego.edu
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Esther LaPorta Donor Relations records
Date (inclusive): 1938-1999
Collection number: USDA_2012_004
Creator: LaPorta, Esther
Extent: 3 boxes, (1.5 linear feet)
Repository: University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections
Copley Library
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110
spcoll@sandiego.edu

Abstract: These records include Esther LaPorta's research materials about the University of San Diego founding, interview transcripts for Author and Marge Hughes, and Capital Campaign materials. Research materials include copies of correspondence between Bishop Charles Buddy and members of the Nolan family as well as between Bishop Buddy and Mother Rosalie Hill.

Languages: English

Biographical Note
Esther LaPorta served in a variety of roles during her 16 years at the University of San Diego, with particular focus on fundraising and donor relations. Her tenure includes:

- Assistant Campaign Director Capital Programs, 1990-1992
- Director of Corporate Relations, 1992-1995
- Director of Donor Relations, 1995-2000
- Executive Director of Development, 2001-2002
- Associate VP of University Relations, 2004-2006

Scope and Content Note
Esther LaPorta collected these records during her tenure at the University of San Diego. LaPorta gathered historical records about the founding of USD to provide context during donor events. Correspondence between Bishop Charles Buddy and Mother Rosalie Hill, for example, were used to construct the narrative for the 1999 President's Dinner. Correspondence between Bishop Charles Buddy and members of the Nolan family, articles and manuscripts written about the founding of the San Diego College for Women and the early history of the University of San Diego, and records pertaining to President Author Hughes are also included. Of particular significance are interview transcripts of Author and Marge Hughes. These interviews were conducted in March of 1995 as the Hughes were preparing to retire from the University.

Documents pertaining to the University of San Diego Capital Campaign, as well as artifacts used to recognize significant donors are also included in these records. Capital Campaign records include reports and evaluations of the campaign. The bulk of these records are photocopies. The location of the originals is unknown.

Arrangement
These records are arranged chronologically into three series:

- Series I. University History Research
- Series II. Capital Campaign
- Series III. Artifacts

Access Information
These records are open for research.

Preferred citation
[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, Esther LaPorta Donor Relations records, Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

Acquisition Information
Gift of Esther LaPorta.

Processing Information
Initial processing of this collection was conducted by Tessie Camina in 2012. Further processing was conducted by Ashley Toutain in 2017.

**Removed or Separated Material**

One photograph of Author Hughes has been moved to photograph storage for preservation purposes. A copy remains with the collection.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

LaPorta, Esther
Buddy, Charles Francis, 1887-1966
Hill, Rosalie Clifton, Mother, 1878-1964
Hughes, Author E.
Hughes, Marge
Crane, Gertrude Bertina Nolan, 1897-1953
Nolan, Julia A., 1887-1982
Nolan, Thomas F., -1959

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

University of San Diego
San Diego College for Women

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

San Diego (Calif.)

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

benefactors
commemorations
fund raising
interviews
presidential inaugurations
presidents' spouses
presidents' retirement
Series I: University History Research, created 1938-1999; gathered 1990-1998

Scope and Content Note
The bulk of the records in this series pertain to the founding of the University of San Diego and to President Author Hughes. Founding records include correspondence between Bishop Charles Buddy and members of the Nolan Family, as well as correspondence between Bishop Charles Buddy and Mother Rosalie Hill. The Nolan family correspondence is primarily between Bishop Buddy and Gertrude, Julia, and Tom Nolan. Frequent reference is made to their mother Julia, brother Peter, family well being, and plans for visitation. Business correspondence regarding material made by Julia Nolan's Class Rings, Class Pins, Class Ribbons company for Bishop Buddy are included. After Gertrude Nolan's passing in 1953, correspondence between Julia and Bishop Buddy centered on an altar, honoring Gertrude, to be built in the Immaculata. Julia provided significant funding for the altar's creation. Correspondence between Bishop Buddy and Mother Hill regarding the University founding was gathered primarily to create the script for the 1999 President's Dinner.

Of particular note within this series are the interview transcripts with the outgoing President Author Hughes and his wife Marge Hughes. In her interview, Marge Hughes discusses her perceptions about life as the First Lady of USD. She discusses her first impressions of the University and how her life was shaped by being the First Lady. In his interview, President Hughes discussed his impressions upon arrival at USD, his challenges and accomplishments at USD, and his plans for the future.

University history records dating 1938 to 1973 are photocopies of original documents. These were gathered for Esther LaPorta's donor event research. For this reason, two dates are often represented. The earlier dates are the years of creation for the original documents that have been photocopied. The later date represents the years LaPorta was gathering her research.

Historical Note
Box/Folder: 1 / 10  
**Marge Hughes Interviews, 1995 March**

Scope and Content Note
[Transcript of interview conducted prior to Author Hughes retirement. Interview topics include the Hughes' experiences moving onto campus, their children's experience, and Hughes' experience at the University of San Diego.]

Box/Folder: 1 / 11  
**President Author Hughes Interviews, 1995 March**

Scope and Content Note
[Transcript of interview conducted prior to Author Hughes retirement. Interview topics include why Hughes chose the University of San Diego, his impressions of USD at the outset, challenges and accomplishments, and his plans for the future.]

Box/Folder: 1 / 12  
**President Hughes Photograph, 1996**

Box/Folder: 1 / 13  
**Bishop Buddy and Mother Hill Correspondence, 1942-1964, 1999**

Scope and Content Note
[Includes script for the January 9, 1999 President's Dinner.]

Box/Folder: 1 / 14  
**Bishop Buddy and Mother Hill Correspondence Index, 1998 April**

Box/Folder: 1 / 15  
**Foundation of the San Diego College for Women, created 1942-1952; gathered 1998**

Series II:  **Capital Campaign, 1987-1996**

Scope and Content Note
This series includes documents from the Capital Campaign, Education for a New Age. Records include reports and evaluations about the campaigns successes and failures.

Box/Folder: 1 / 16  
**Case Statement, 1987 April 14**

Box/Folder: 1 / 17  

Box/Folder: 1 / 18  
**Education for a New Age Final Report, 1993 June 10**

Box/Folder: 1 / 19  
**Education for a New Age Reports and Correspondence, 1993**

Box/Folder: 1 / 20  
**Education for a New Age Collections, 1993-1994**

Box/Folder: 1 / 21  
**Education for a New Age Plaza as Memorial, 1995-1996**

Series III:  **Artifacts, undated**

Scope and Content Note
These artifacts were used to recognize significant donors to the University of San Diego. Statues are accompanied by a note from Esther LaPorta about their use.

Box/Folder: 2  
**Angeles De Alcala Statue, undated**

Scope and Content Note
[The Angeles de Alcala statue was awarded to significant USD donors during President Author Hughes' administration.]

Box/Folder: 3  
**Edward Marshall Boehm Porcelain Dove, undated**

Scope and Content Note
[The Boehm Dove was presented by President Alice Hayes to recognize philanthropy.]