Guide to Black Masque Honor Society Records MSS.2010.12.01

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Note
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Contributing Institution: SJSU Special Collections & Archives
Title: Black Masque Honor Society Records
Creator: Black Masque Honor Society
Identifier/Call Number: MSS.2010.12.01
Physical Description: 15 boxes, 5.75 linear feet
Date (inclusive): 1957-2013
Date (bulk): 1965-1985
Abstract: The Black Masque Society Records document the history of the San Jose State University’s Black Masque Honor Society, alumni, and reunion activities from 1957 to 2013. The collection materials consist of the administrative records, correspondence, negatives, memorabilia, and scrapbooks with photographs, newsclippings, and announcements.
Physical Location: Vault 1, Range 28A, Bay 17
Biographical / Historical
The Black Masque Honor Society formed in 1930 as a secret senior women’s honorary student organization. In 1930 Gladys Aitken, a senior at San Jose State Teachers College, attended a convention of Associated Women Students and was first introduced to the Mortar Board, a national society honoring senior women for both scholarship and leadership. Influenced by the convention, Aitken proposed San Jose State establish its own organization similar to Mortar Board and the Dean of Women, Helen Dimmick, shared her enthusiasm and together outlined the provisional society called The Mystic 13. By 1931 member qualifications were chosen and a constitution written which entailed members to wear black robes and black masks for initiation, leading to the official name of the group—Black Masque. Each year thirteen women were invited for membership at the end of their junior year on the basis of their leadership and service to the university and would become active members their senior year. The group would convene for community outreach, fellowship, and annual reunions. The Black Masque Alumni Council was established in 1943 and continues to actively work with the campus society. In 1977 men were allowed admittance. Black Masque remains an active, albeit an exclusively nomination only, honor society of San Jose State University.
Scope and Contents
The Black Masque Society Records contain the administrative records, scrapbooks, and memorabilia documenting the San Jose State University Black Masque Honor Society, alumni committee, and reunion activities from 1957 to 2013. The collection consists of the Black Masque constitution, by-laws, agendas, negatives, printed material, audiovisual, and other object memorabilia of the society and its alumni. The bulk of the collection consists of scrapbooks, which include photographs, news clippings, and event announcements.
San Jose State University Student Memorabilia Collection
San José State University Student Organization Records, MSS-2009-03-09, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.
San José State University Scrapbook Collection
San José State University Scrapbook Collection, MSS-2010-03-04, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.
Preferred Citation
Black Masque Honor Society Records, MSS-2010-12-01, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.
Arrangement
This collection is arranged into four series: Series I. Organizational Records and Related Materials, 1965-2013; Series II. Scrapbooks, Photographic, and Audiovisual Materials (1958-2010); Series III. Printed Material; Series IV. Miscellaneous Materials.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
California State University, San José -- History.
San Jose State University-- History
Students -- Social life and customs
Students -- Societies
Women -- Societies and clubs
Black Masque Honor Society
Black Masque Honor Society
Series I: Organizational Records 1957-2013 bulk dates 1965-1990

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Scope and Contents

Series I consists of the Alumni Council meeting minutes and by-laws (1966-2013), organizational correspondence, reports, and the Annual Alumni Newsletter (1965-2010) of the Black Masque Honor Society. Also included in the series are reports and administrative information from the Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society and their review of the Black Masque's organizational structure and membership to Mortar Board.

Box 1: Administrative Records 1957-2013

Physical Description: 1 Box

Alumni Council Meeting Minutes 1966-1970
Alumni Council Meeting Minutes 1994-2000
Alumni Council Meeting Minutes 2002-2005
Alumni Council Meeting Minutes 2005-2008
Alumni Council Meeting Minutes 2008-2013
Agreements, Services Compliance, & Correspondence 1972-1985
Black Masque Standing and Advisory Content 1962-1985
Mortar Board Review and Bylaws 1967-1992
Mortar Board Report & Manual undated
Mortar Board Manual for Advisors undated

Box 2: Blackward Glances Alumni Annual Newsletters 1965-2010

Physical Description: 1 box

Blackward Glances Alumni Annual Newsletter 1965
Blackward Glances Alumni Annual Newsletter 1966
Blackward Glances Alumni Annual Newsletter 1967
Blackward Glances Alumni Annual Newsletter 1969
Blackward Glances Alumni Annual Newsletter 1970
Blackward Glances Alumni Annual Newsletter 1971
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Scope and Contents
Series II consists mainly of alumni reunion scrapbooks (1958-2001), which includes photographs, news clippings, correspondence, and flyers detailing the activities and events of the Society. Also included in the series are negatives (1965-1980) (bulk 1967-70) of Black Masque activities and reunion events, and oral histories recorded in 2010 of alumni from the Class of 1960.

Arrangement
The materials in this series are arranged by format and then chronologically by file.

Scrapbook Volume I 1958-1961
Physical Description: 1 Box

Scrapbook Volume II 1962-1973
Physical Description: 1 Box

Scrapbook Volume III 1973-1982
Physical Description: 1 Box

Scrapbook Volume IV 1982-1986
Physical Description: 1 Box

Scrapbook Volume V 1986-1988
Physical Description: 1 Box

Scrapbook Volume VI 1988-1990
Physical Description: 1 Box

Scrapbook Volume VII 1990-1992
Physical Description: 1 Box

Physical Description: 1 Box

Scrapbook Volume IX 1995-1998
Physical Description: 1 Box

Scrapbook Volume X 1999-2001
Physical Description: 1 Box

Negatives
Physical Description: 87 set of negatives

Oral History
Physical Description: DVD

Physical Description: 1 Box
Scope and Contents
Series III consists of miscellaneous printed material related to the Black Masque Honor Society which includes the Associated Women Students Handbooks (1964-1968), student academic organizations handbooks (1965-1972), and a compilation Black Masque members’ recipes and songs.
Arrangement
The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by subject, and then chronologically within each folder.

Box 1: Printed Material
Physical Description: 1 Box

Associated Women Students Handbook 1964-1968
Physical Description: 1 folder

Cookbook and Recipes 1980, 2000
Miscellaneous Handbooks 1965-1972
Songs undated

Series IV: Miscellaneous Material undated
Physical Description: 1 Box
Scope and Contents
Series IV is comprised of memorabilia such as commemorative dishes and a membership masque.
Arrangement
The materials in this series are arranged by format.

Commemorative Plates undated
Black Masque undated