
Guide to Black Masque Honor Society Records MSS.2010.12.01

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Note

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Language of Material: English

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 boxes5.75 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, newspaper clippings, 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 1983-1991

Alumni Council Meeting Minutes 1994-2000

Alumni Council Meeting Minutes 2002-2005

Alumni Council Meeting Minutes 2005-2008

Alumni Council Meeting Minutes 2008-2013

Black Masque Constitution 1957-1991

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: Backward 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

Blackward Glances Alumni Annual Newsletter 1972

Blackward Glances Alumni Annual Newsletter 1975

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Blackward Glances Alumni Annual Newsletter 2010

Series II: Scrapbooks, Photographic, & Audiovisual Materials 1958-2010 bulk dates 1965-1985

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

Scrapbook Volume VIII 1992-1995

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

Series III: Printed Material 1964-2000 bulk dates 1965-1972

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