Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: SJSU Special Collections & Archives
Title: San José State University Commencement & Honors Convocations Records
creator: San José State University Academic Senate Commencement Committee & Academic Affairs Division
Identifier/Call Number: MSS.2009.02.03
Physical Description: 14.0 boxes (11.92 linear feet)
Physical Description: 101 Rolls of microfilm
Date (inclusive): 1889-2017
Date (bulk): bulk
Abstract: The San José State University Commencement & Honors Convocation Records, 1889-2017 consists of programs, event planning paperwork, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks and correspondence for the university's commencement and honors convocation ceremonies. Photographs and negatives are included in the records.
Access
The collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
San José State University Commencement & Honors Convocations Records, MSS-2009-02-03, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.
Project Information
This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.
Processing Information
Organizational History
In 1857 the San Francisco Board of Education established Minns‘ Evening Normal School for current and prospective teachers in the city. Named after its principal, George W. Minns, the institution was formally established as the first California State Normal School by the State Legislature in 1862. A decade later, the Legislature voted to move the Normal School to San José, and the school relocated to its new home on Washington Square prior to the fall term of 1872. After a fire destroyed the Normal School building in 1880, the Legislature authorized $200,000 to construct a new building on the same site. Completed in 1881, the building was commonly referred to as the Second State Normal School. After several names and curriculum changes, Minns’ Normal school is now San José State University, offering more than 134 bachelor’s and master’s degrees with 110 concentrations, and is recognized as one of the top public universities granting such degrees in the West.
Minns’ Evening Normal School held commencement ceremonies in 1861 and 1862 with two graduating classes. After the institution became the California State Normal School, the first commencement was held on May 14th, 1863. The university’s Honors Convocation was inaugurated in 1962 by the Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi and Phi Beta Kappa Faculty Club honor societies. The convocation is intended to recognize President’s and Dean’s scholars--undergraduate students who have earned a 4.0 or 3.65 grade point average or higher in at least two contiguous semesters of the three semesters prior to the Honors Convocation, respectively.
Scope and Content
The San José State University Commencement & Honors Convocation Records 1889-2017 (bulk 1956-1968) consist of programs, event planning paperwork, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks and correspondence for the university’s commencement and honors convocation ceremonies. Photographs are also included in the records as well as negatives and negative indexes document the commencement exercises. Letters inviting commencement speakers and copies of university presidents’ speeches are also included. The extensive date range of commencement programs shows the growth
of the student population and the evolution of the university's academic programs. Also documented is the move from three commencements per academic year to a single commencement ceremony. For many of the years covered in the records, event programs are the only items that exist documenting commencement and convocation ceremonies.

**Arrangement**


**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Commencement ceremonies -- California -- San Jose
Education, Higher -- California -- San Jose
San José State University -- History
San José State University Academic Senate Commencement Committee & Academic Affairs Division
San José State Normal School -- History
San José State Teachers College -- History
California State University, San José -- History
San José State College

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**Series I: Academic Senate Commencement Committee** Series I: 1925-1978 (bulk 1956-1968) 1956-1968

Physical Description: 5.0 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains correspondence, manuscripts, programs, and scrapbooks from the San José State University Academic Commencement Committee. Letters inviting commencement speakers and copies of university presidents' speeches are also included.

Minns' Evening Normal School held commencement ceremonies in 1861 and 1862 with two graduating classes. After the institution became the California State Normal School, the first commencement was held on May 14th, 1863. The San José State University Commencement & Honors Convocation Records indicate that the school had winter, spring and summer commencement ceremonies each academic year until the 1971-1972 term. Today, commencement at San José State University occurs once in the spring.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date.

Box 1 Commencement Program Scrapbooks 1925-1956
Box 2 SJSU Presidents' Commencement Reports 1953-1964
Box 3-5 Commencement Programs, Correspondence & President's Reports 1951-1978
Series II: Academic Affairs: Commencement & Honors Convocation Series II: 1889-2017

Physical Description: 9.0 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains correspondence, clippings and programs from the Honors Convocation. Programs, negatives and negative indexes from commencement are also part of the series. The extensive date range of commencement programs shows the growth of the student population and the evolution of the university's academic programs.

The Honors Convocation was inaugurated in 1962 by the Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi and Phi Beta Kappa Faculty Club honor societies. According to the Office of the Provost, Honors Convocation is intended to recognize President's and Dean's scholars. President's scholars are undergraduate students who have earned a 4.0 grade point average at San José State University in at least two contiguous semesters of the three semesters prior to the Honors Convocation. Dean's scholars are undergraduate students who have earned a 3.65 or higher grade point average at San José State University in at least two contiguous semesters of the three semesters prior to the Honors Convocation.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date.

Box 6
Commencement & Senior Week Programs 1889-1980

Box 7-9
Commencement Programs 1924-1925, 1938-1998

Box 10

Box 11
Commencement Photographic Negatives & Graduate List 1991-1999

Box 12
Honors Convocation & Commencement Programs 1980-2009

Box 13-14
Honors Convocation Clippings, Programs & Correspondence 1962-1996

Series III: Academic Affairs: Commencement & Honor Convocation Negatives 1990-1999

drawer 4, 5 & 6
General Commencement Negatives 1990-1999
Vault 1; Microfilm Cabinet

drawer 6
Vault 1; Microfilm Cabinet

drawer 6
Black Students Ceremony 1999
Vault 1; Microfilm Cabinet