Abstract: The San José State University Student Memorabilia Collection documents the academic and social experiences of students who attended the college from the days when it was the Normal School to the present name of San Jose State University. The bulk of the collection is comprised of school catalogs, certificates/diplomas, report cards, teacher curriculum cards, and faculty correspondence. Other formats include event booklets, dance cards, newspaper clippings, yearbooks, scrapbooks, photographs, and magazines.

Access
The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
San José State University Student Memorabilia Collection, MSS-2011-06-23, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

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 Jose 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.

Scope and Content
The San José State University Student Memorabilia Collection, 1881-1975, documents student life at the school throughout its different eras as the Normal School, the Teachers College, San Jose State College, CSU San Jose, and finally, San Jose State University. The bulk of the collection is comprised of memorabilia documenting students' academic records such as: school catalogues, certificates/diplomas, report cards, teacher exercises cards, and faculty correspondence. Student life on campus is also documented through event booklets, dance cards, newspaper clippings, yearbooks, and other miscellaneous memorabilia such as scrapbooks, photographs, and magazines.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged into four series and is delineated chronologically by the various name changes of the college: Series I: San Jose Normal School; Series II: San Jose Teachers College; Series III: San Jose State College; and Series IV: CSU San Jose and San Jose State University.
**Series I: San Jose Normal School**

**Scope and Contents**

Folders contain all material pertinent to student activities that occurred during the San Jose State Normal School era, and the materials span the years 1881 to 1920. This part of the collection is comprised of a variety of objects and documents including: 1. Documents and objects related to students' academic life, such as: certificates, report cards, teacher training report cards and graduating exercises. 2. Documents and objects related to students' social life on campus, such as: event booklets, dance cards, photographs, yearbooks, journals, music books/sheets, school magazines and newspaper clips, school catalogues, handbooks, and reunion books. 3. Other miscellaneous student memorabilia, such as: class papers, student class work and a calendar.

**Arrangement**

Files are arranged chronologically and alphabetically.

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Series I: San Jose Normal School

Guide to the San José State University Student Memorabilia Collection MSS.2011.06.23

Box 1, Folder 18

Normal Pennant and Senior Year Book 1908, 1910

Series II: San Jose State Teachers College

Scope and Contents

Much of the contents are comprised of a variety of material donated by William Joseph Cagnes including: graduation certificates, citizen certificates, and State of California Diplomas. Other items of note include a folder of letters of prominent educators and clippings from the Western Journal. There is also a general teaching credential certificate from the Christmas family, once belonging to Geraldine Christmas. The materials span the years 1921 to 1934.

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically and chronologically by date and format.

Box 1, Folder 19

Certificates/Citizenship Certificates 1921-1934

Box 1, Folder 20

Correspondence 1921-1934

Box 1, Folder 21

Correspondence 1921-1934, 1935-1971

Box 1, Folder 22

Midterm in Philosophy 1921-1934

Box 1, Folder 23

School Magazine 1921-1934

Box 1, Folder 24

Directory of Students and Faculty 1933-1934

Box 1, Folder 25

General Elementary School Credential (Geraldine Christmas) 1935 June

Series III: San Jose State College

Scope and Contents

The series is comprised of a variety of material that documents student life during the period from 1935 to 1971. Examples include student publications such as Sparta Life, Reed Magazine, El Toro, the Platter, and the student yearbook, La Torre. Other items of interest include dance cards, and a variety of newspaper clippings documenting Greek life, student engagements and marriages. In addition there are faculty correspondence and miscellaneous samples of student essays and a script.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically and chronologically and by format.

Box 1, Folder 26

La Torre Yearbook 1935

Box 1, Folder 27

Correspondence 1935-1971

Box 1, Folder 28

Graded Papers 1935-1971

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Miscellaneous Memorabilia 1935-1971

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Social Events/Dance Cards 1935-1971

Box 1, Folder 34

Campus Compass 1945-1946

Box 2, Folder 1

Library Access and Associated Students Membership Cards 1945-1948

Box 2, Folder 2

Sparidi Gras Booklets 1946, 1948

Box 2, Folder 3

San Jose State College Calendar 1948

Box 2, Folder 4-6

Sara Anne Thompson’s Scrapbook 1953-1957

Box 2, Folder 7

Karolyn Hubbel Ramos, Gamma Phi Beta Photographs circa 1969-1972

Box 3, Folder 3

Sparta Life Magazine 1967

Box 2, Folder 8

Essays undated

Box 2, Folder 9

Script undated

Series IV: CSU San Jose and San Jose State University

Arrangement

The items are arranged chronologically by date.

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials relating to reflecting student life on campus in the early 1970s. The university was called CSU San Jose briefly from 1972-1973. In 1974 the name changed to its present title San Jose State University. Materials relating to student anti-war protests and organizing, an Associated Students membership card, and a group photo of students with some names mentioned are included in this series.
Box 2, Folder 10  
CSU San Jose Associated Students Membership Card 1972

Box 2, Folder 11  
San Jose State University Students Group Photo 1975