San José State University Home Economics Department Records

Collection number: MSS-2009-02-02

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

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Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University Home Economics Department Records
Dates: 1913-1982
Bulk Dates: 1977-1980
Collection number: MSS-2009-02-02
Creator: San José State University. Home Economics Dept.
Collection Size: 3 boxes(2.5 linear feet)
Repository: San José State University. Library.
San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The San José State University Home Economics Department Records, 1913-1982 (bulk 1977-1980) consist of a variety of administrative files, correspondence and department evaluations, particularly concerning the termination of the program. The decision to terminate the Home Economics Department was reached in 1979 and it officially closed in June 1982. Also included in the records are index cards containing Home Economics Department alumni information.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
San José State University Home Economics Department Records, MSS-2009-02-02, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

Processing Information

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.

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.

The San José State University Home Economics Department began in 1911 under the supervision of instructor Maude Murchie and President Morris Elmer Dailey as a specialization for students pursuing training programs beyond their teaching degree. The department began as the Household Arts Department, but in 1919 was renamed the Home Economics Department. The decision was made in 1979 to terminate the Home Economics program due to lack of accreditation and funding, and the department officially closed in June 1982. The Home Economics textiles specialization was discontinued at that time. The remaining Home Economics faculty members and curricula, including nutrition and child development courses, were absorbed into other SJSU departments such as Nutrition, Food Science & Packaging and the Psychology Department.

Bibliography
San José State University. About SJSU. http://www.sjsu.edu/about sjsu/.

Related Material
Scrapbook, c. 1930s-1940s. Delta Nu Theta, Home Economics Honor Society. SJSU University Archives Scrapbook Collection.

Scope and Content
The San José State University Home Economics Department Records, 1913-1982 (bulk 1977-1980) consist primarily of administrative files, correspondence, and department evaluations. The records contain a written history of the inception of the Home Economics Department, as well as graduate and undergraduate program reviews, facilities information, records of program graduates, and index cards containing Home Economics Department alumni information. In addition, the records include files concerning the decision to terminate the Home Economics Department in 1979, as well as files...
documenting the actions of the department and university related to the proposed termination.

**Arrangement**
This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Administrative Files, 1956-1982; and Series II. Alumni Information Index Cards, 1913-1972.

**Subject Headings**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
San José State University. Home Economics Dept. -- History
San José State Normal School -- History
San José State Teachers College -- History
San José State College -- History
California State University, San José -- History
San José State University -- History
Education, Higher -- California -- San José

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Series I: **Administrative Files 1956-1982**

- **Physical Description:** 2 boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**
This series consists of San José State University Home Economics Department administrative files, correspondence, department evaluations, and plans concerning the decision to terminate the department, which ceased to exist in June 1982.

**Arrangement**
This series is arranged chronologically by subject.

Boxes 1-2

**Administrative Files/Correspondence/Evaluations 1956-1982**

**Series II: Alumni Information Index Cards 1913-1972**

- **Physical Description:** 1 box

**Series Scope and Content Summary**
This series consists of index cards documenting San José State University Home Economics Department alumni information, including degree achieved and specialization within the department such as textiles, child development, and nutrition.

**Arrangement**
This series is arranged alphabetically by alumni surname.

Box 3**

**Alumni Index Cards 1913-1972**

**This box is located within Box 2 of Series I of this collection.**