Guide to the San José State University New College Records MSS.2009.11.03

Finding aid funded by the generous support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

SJSU Special Collections & Archives
© 2009

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0028
special.collections@sjsu.edu
URL: http://library.sjsu.edu/sjsu-special-collections/sjsu-special-collections-and-archives
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: SJSU Special Collections & Archives
Title: San José State University New College Records
Identifier/Call Number: MSS.2009.11.03
Physical Description: 10 boxes (15.42 linear feet)
Date (inclusive): 1965-1998
Language of Material: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access Restrictions
The collection is open for research. However, Box 4 is restricted.
Publication Rights
Copyright is assigned to the San José State University Special Collections & Archives. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Special Collections & Archives. Copyright restrictions may apply to digital reproductions of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.
Preferred Citation
San José State University New College Records, MSS-2009-11-03 , San José State University Library Special Collections & 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 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 Jose 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 New College program (1968-1981) was a four-year liberal arts course of study created to "tear down the walls between disciplines" with its experimental approach to higher education. Founded by SJSU faculty members Jack Pierce (Anthropology), Jack Douglas (Library), and Harold (Hal) DeBey (Chemistry/New College Provost from 1968-1977), New College faculty included artists, writers, and social scientists. The major objectives of New College were "to offer society's urgent need for wise, creative and responsible citizens prepared to participate actively in a self-governing community, to offer a clear alternative to the impersonality found in large colleges and universities, to bring students and professors together in the common pursuit of truth, and to introduce students to some of the decision-making processes involved in the creation of a curriculum." In addition, New College promoted the ideology of "allowing students to pursue individual paths of study free of rigidly structured requirements," as well as the concept of "supporting, guiding and encouraging the idealism of young people who are aware of the world's complex problems and who wish to dedicate themselves to their amelioration."

The first two years of a New College student's coursework was devoted to the study of humankind, with general education classes in three broad areas: in the Humanities and the Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Natural Sciences and
Technology. Course topics included “man’s image of himself,” “man and his natural environment,” and “the discussion of man’s future” in direct relation to global concerns such as human and natural resources conservation, population issues, and war and peace. In upper division study, New College students and faculty worked together to design a curriculum based on a combination of seminars, independent study, and courses from other departments in order to meet individual study objectives. Students also spent part of their time in community activities, and were encouraged to live in a special co-educational dormitory on campus to foster “informal discussions between students and faculty,” and to create “an opportunity for varied and unusual friendships across cultural and social barriers.”

Although at the time, New College was considered a successful alternative to traditional higher education, declining enrollment in the late 1970’s and diminishing fiscal resources in early 1980’s ended support for continuing the program and in 1980 New College officially closed.

Related Material
New College Senior Projects, 1970-1981. San José State University Special Collections & Archives.
San José State University Oral History Project Collection, MSS-2006-04-01. San José State University Special Collections & Archives.
San José State University Student Publications Collection, MSS-2009-08-02, San José State University Special Collections & Archives.

Scope and Content of Collection
The San José State University New College Records, 1965-1998, document New College - an experimental four-year liberal arts program that existed on the San José State campus from 1968-1981. The records consist of the following: Administrative files that document the creation and implementation of the College and its eventual closure, as well as audio and video of student activities; Reunion materials that include photos and updates from alumni; Daybooks and a scrapbook created by New College Provost Harold (Hal) DeBey.; Radical publications that include hippie, leftist, and activist magazines; and a New College banner.

Arrangement

University Archives Collection
Record Group: 6.3.7.1

Bibliography

Subjects and Indexing Terms
San José State University New College -- History.
San Jose State College -- History
California State University, San José -- History.
San José State University -- History.
Education, Higher -- California -- San Jose.
Interdisciplinary approach in education -- California -- San José.
Series I. Administrative Files 1968-1998

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series comprises the bulk of the collection and consists primarily of administrative materials related to the New College program. Items include the New College general plan, reports, student contracts, course-related materials, and program termination files.

Audiovisual materials consist of classwork, student work, and a faculty retreat, and include a freshman seminar lecture, a film about a college outreach program dedicated to servicing the mentally ill, and man on the street interviews about local urban renewal.

Arrangement
This series is arranged by format and then alphabetically by folder.

Access Note
Access Note: Box 4 is restricted

Box 1
Subseries 1. New College Proposal 1968

Box 2

Box 2, Folder 1: Activities and Programs 1974
Box 2, Folder 2: Alternative Education Lecture Series 1969-1975
Box 2, Folder 3: Brochures and Publications 1968-1978
Box 2, Folder 4: Classwork: Children's Books Bibliography Fall 1972
Box 2, Folder 5: Contracts and Diploma Undated
Box 2, Folder 6: Counselor's Report January 1970
Box 2, Folder 7: Creation and Implementation of College 1968-1974
Box 2, Folder 8: Faculty Assignments, Retention, and Workload 1968-1977
Box 2, Folder 9: Faculty Colloquium at Asilomar 1977
Box 2, Folder 10: Faculty Handbook Undated
Box 2, Folder 11: Faculty Obituaries 1980-1995
Box 2, Folder 12: Faculty and Provost Conflict 1978-1980
Box 2, Folder 13: Field Studies Program Fall 1975
Box 2, Folder 14: Founding Document March 4, 1968
Box 2, Folder 15: Graduates Survey 1970-1977
Box 2, Folder 16: Graduation Ritual December 1968
Box 2, Folder 17: Group Study Contracts Spring 1978
Box 2, Folder 18: Individual Study Contracts (1 of 2) Spring 1978
Box 2, Folder 19: Individual Study Contracts (2 of 2) Spring 1978
Box 2, Folder 20: Librarian - Tutor - Media Coordinator 1971-1979
Box 2, Folder 21: Nomination for Outstanding Professor 1974
Box 2, Folder 22: Objectives 1968
Box 2, Folder 23: "People Pool" Knowledge Directory 1973
Box 2, Folder 25: "Rantings" of Professor Bill McCormack 1974-1978
Box 2, Folder 26: Review of College May 1972
Box 2, Folder 27: Review of College, Prior to Termination 1978-1980
Box 2, Folder 28: Self-Evaluation Report 1977
Box 2, Folder 29: Self-Evaluation Report 1978
Box 2, Folder 30: Self-Evaluation Report 1979
Box 2, Folder 31: Seminars: Upper Division Offerings 1974-1975
Box 2, Folder 32: Seminars: Upper Division Offerings 1977-1980
Box 2, Folder 33: Senior Project Abstracts Spring 1978
Box 2, Folder 34: Senior Thesis Contracts Spring 1978
Box 2, Folder 35: Student Directory Circa 1973-1974
Box 2, Folder 36: Student Government 1972-1983
Box 2, Folder 37: Syllabi Spring 1978
### Series I. Administrative Files 1968-1998


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 38</th>
<th>Termination and Closure of the College 1979-1981</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 39</td>
<td>Thesis Handbooks Undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Audio Tape: Student Singing Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 2</td>
<td>Audio Tape: Women Depicted in Art and Music Spring 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 3</td>
<td>CD: Dirk Hamilton 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 4</td>
<td>Video Tape: Annual Retreat 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 5</td>
<td>Video Tape: Community of Communities Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 6</td>
<td>Video Tape: Man on the Street Interviews May 12, 1973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Box 4 | Subseries 4. Student Records (Restricted) 1968-1997 |

### Series II. Reunion Materials 1988-1998

**Series Scope and Content Summary**
- This series contains materials related to the New College twenty and thirty-year reunions, including flyers, photographs, and alumni updates.

**Arrangement**
- This series is arranged alphabetically.

| Box 3, Folder 7 | Alumni Updates (1 of 3) 1988 |
| Box 3, Folder 8 | Alumni Updates (2 of 3) 1988 |
| Box 3, Folder 9 | Alumni Updates (3 of 3) 1988 |
| Box 3, Folder 10 | Organizational Paperwork 1988 |
| Box 3, Folder 11 | Photo Prints 1988 |
| Box 3, Folder 12 | Press 1988-1990 |
| Box 3, Folder 13 | Thirtieth Anniversary Souvenir Book August 9, 1998 |
| Box 3, Folder 14 | "Where Are They Now?" Paperwork 1988 |

### Series III. Scrapbook/Daybooks 1970-1980

**Series Scope and Content Summary**
- This series consists of a New College scrapbook and daybooks. The scrapbook was created by Harold (Hal) DeBey, New College Provost from 1968-1977, and contains New College photographs from the 1970s. The daybooks include brief comments written by New College students during the 1970s, which serve as a record of the experiences of the New College community for the year noted.

**Arrangement**
- This series is arranged by format and then chronologically within each format.

| Box 5 | Harold DeBey Scrapbook 1970s |
| Box 6 | Daybooks 1970-1971 |
| Box 7 | Daybooks 1971-1972 1975 |
| Box 8 | Daybooks 1974-1976 |
| Box 9 | Daybooks 1979-1980 |

### Series IV. Radical Publications 1965-1973

**Series Scope and Content Summary**
- This series includes single copies of radical, leftist, and hippie publications published between the 1960s-1970s.

**Arrangement**
- This series is arranged alphabetically by publication title.

<p>| Box 3, Folder 15 | Berkeley Tribe November 7-13, 1969 |
| Box 3, Folder 16 | Challenge: The Revolutionary Newspaper Undated |
| Box 3, Folder 17 | Helix, Vol. 9, No. 4 August 1969 |
| Box 3, Folder 18 | El Malcriado: The Voice of the Farm Worker October 1st, 1968 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3, 19</td>
<td>The Militant, 2 Issues October 25, 1965; November 14, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 21</td>
<td>SDS New Left Notes July 30th, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 22</td>
<td>The 21st Century Fair - Associated Students May 14-18th, 1973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series V. Realia undated**

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series consists of a New College cloth banner with yellow, purple, and white colors.

**Box 10**

New College Banner undated