Guide to the San José State University Summer Session Records

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Collection number: MSS-2009-02-05

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Processed by:
Robert Donahue
Date Completed:
February 2009
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Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University Summer Session records
Dates: 1903-1980
Bulk Dates: 1950-1980
Collection number: MSS-2009-02-05
Creator: San José State University Summer Session Program
Collection Size: 6 boxes (5.46 linear feet)
Repository: San José State University, Library.
San José, California 95192-0028


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.

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Preferred Citation
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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.

San José Normal School principal James McNaughton foresaw the advantage of a summer session during his administrative tenure (1899-1900). However, it was McNaughton's successor, Morris Elmer Dailey (1900-1918), who was responsible for the inception of a summer program at the Normal School. Under Dailey's direction, the first summer session occurred in 1903 and 107 students enrolled for a 12-week semester. President William Kemp (1920-1923) further improved the summer session program by adding new courses such as library methods. Today, SJSU's summer session program is now widely recognized as a major contributor to the continuing education program, with such diverse course offerings as art history, English composition, elementary physics, and international relations.

Bibliography
Walsh, James P. One and the Same: This History of Coninuting Education at San José State University 1857-2007. San José: San José State University, 2006.

Scope and Content of Collection
The San José State University Summer Session records (1903-1980) [bulk 1950-1980] consist of general files, class schedules, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and statistical reports. Additional materials in the collection include Founder's Day and Centennial related files, as well as cloth samples and several artistic renderings of the college flag design.

Arrangement

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. Summer Session -- 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
Summer schools -- California -- San José
Education, Higher -- California -- San José

Series I:  **Summer Session 1903-1980 (bulk 1950-1980)**

- **Physical Description:** 6 Boxes
- **Series Scope and Content Summary**
  This series consists of summer session general files, class descriptions and schedules, pamphlets, statistical reports, college flag designs, and plans for the Founder's Day and Centennial celebrations on campus between 1958-1966.
- **Arrangement**
  The series is arranged chronologically by date range.

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