Guide to the Stanford University Founders' Day Collection SC1085

Daniel Hartwig
Department of Special Collections and University Archives
October 2010
Green Library
557 Escondido Mall
Stanford 94305-6064
specialcollections@stanford.edu
URL: http://library.stanford.edu/spc

Note
This encoded finding aid is compliant with Stanford EAD Best Practice Guidelines, Version 1.0.
Abstract: Speakers at the 2006 event, held in Memorial Church, were Reverend Scotty McLennan, President John Hennessy, and two student speakers, Clayton Brown and Dana Craig; music was provided by Talisman A Cappella.

Information about Access
This collection is open for research.

Ownership & Copyright
All requests to reproduce, publish, quote from, or otherwise use collection materials must be submitted in writing to the Head of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, California 94304-6064. Consent is given on behalf of Special Collections as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission from the copyright owner. Such permission must be obtained from the copyright owner, heir(s) or assigns. See: http://library.stanford.edu/depts/spc/pubserv/permissions.html.

Restrictions also apply to digital representations of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.

Cite As
Stanford University Founders' Day Collection (SC1085). Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

Biographical/Historical Sketch
Founders' Day celebration commemorates the founding of the University and the legacy of the Stanford family.

The first public event sponsored by the newly formed Stanford Historical Society in 1976 was a Founders' Day celebration held at the mausoleum on Tuesday, March 9, in joint sponsorship with the Alumni Association. Reacting to the neglect of recent senior classes of the long-standing custom of maintaining flowers at the mausoleum, a large basket of flowers was placed in tribute. Prof. James T. Watkins IV, first president of the society, told those attending, that the society and the Alumni Association did not intend to usurp the University's traditional observance, which was part of the regular service in Memorial Church on the Sunday closest to Leland Stanford Sr.'s March birthday.

Through 1979, the Historical Society and Alumni Association continued their custom of observing Founders' Day at the mausoleum on March 9, hearing speeches by Rosamond Bacon, David Jacobson (secretary to the university emeritus), and other campus figures.

In 1980, Founders' Day fell on a Sunday and the first joint celebration with the University was organized with the help of Dean of the Chapel Robert Hamenon-Kelly. Following the traditional Sunday service, the Historical Society and Alumni Association sponsored a reenactment of the Founders' Day pilgrimage that once had been a traditional activity of the senior class. At the mausoleum, remarks were made by a senior class president and presidents of the Historical Society and Alumni Association.

The joint Sunday celebration was a great success and has been the custom ever since with a faculty marshal leading senior class members carrying flags, followed by the church choir and anyone else who is interested in walking a mile. The Alumni Association provides the floral wreath and refreshments and the Historical Society arranges for a keynote speaker who gives brief remarks at the mausoleum that relate in some way to the founders. After the ceremony, participants are permitted to go inside the mausoleum to view the crypts.

Speakers for the Historical Society have included Don Kennedy (several times), Jim Rosse, Condoleezza Rice, Gerhard Casper, and Jim Gibbons. As a courtesy, the dean of the chapel traditionally consults the Historical Society about the selection of a church speaker for Founders' Day, but that choice ultimately is theirs.

Over the years, founders' Day has provided an opportunity for special celebrations. In 1984, those gathered at the mausoleum also recognized the 100th anniversary of Leland Jr.'s death. In 1985, the centennial celebration was launched
on March 9 with a joint Historical Society/Centennial Committee program marking the 100th anniversary of the Enabling Act that provided the legal basis for the University’s founding. The next day drew a larger-than-usual crowd to Founders’ Day, where Don Kennedy discussed the skepticism and ridicule the Stanfords faced in 1885. (As occasionally happens, the procession that year was rained out and the mausoleum ceremony was held in the church.)

The largest commemoration was held in 1991, when a capacity audience of 1,700 gathered in Memorial Auditorium to hear Wallace Stegner talk at a special centennial edition of Founders’ Day. (Memorial Church would have been used but was closed because of the 1989 earthquake.) Other speakers in 1991 were Richard Lyman, Don Kennedy, Don Winbigler, and Senior Class President Jacqueline Yau. The 1993 Founders’ Day, with Gerhard Casper speaking both in the pulpit and at the mausoleum, included tributes to the mausoleum’s large dying heritage oak tree, which was scheduled for removal a few months later. Occasionally, the same person speaks both at the church service and the mausoleum but Historical Society members generally prefer two different speakers.

Description of the Collection

Speakers at the 2006 event, held in Memorial Church, were Reverend Scotty McLennan, President John Hennessy, and two student speakers, Clayton Brown and Dana Craig; music was provided by Talisman A Cappella.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Stanford University -- History.
Hennessy, John L.
Craig, Dana.
McLennan, Scotty.
Talisman A Cappella.
Brown, Clayton.

Addresses 1906

Audiovisual Material

box 2

Remarks by David Jacobsen 2.1 1979
Physical Description: 1 audiocassette(s)

box 2

1980 Mar 9 2.2
Physical Description: 1 audiocassette(s)

box 2

1982 Mar 7 2.3
Physical Description: 1 audiocassette(s)

box 2

Centennial 2.4 1984
Physical Description: 1 audiocassette(s)

box 2

1984 Mar 11 2.5
Physical Description: 1 audiocassette(s)

box 2

1985 Mar 10 2.6
Physical Description: 1 audiocassette(s)

box 2

1991 2.7
Physical Description: 1 videotape(s) (vhs)
Scope and Contents
Ceremony marking the centennial of the founding of Stanford; includes multi-media presentation "Stanford: Portrait of a Family," narrated by Anna M. Chavez, remarks by Richard W. Lyman, President Emeritus, and keynote address by Wallace Stegner.
2006

Physical Description: 1 optical disc(s) (cd)

2007

Physical Description: 1 optical disc(s) (dvd)

Scope and Contents
This disc contains two files. Founders's Day is the laying of the wreath at the Stanford Mausoleum, with talks by students Andrea Fuller and Amy Chen. Community Day/Hewlett 201? includes talks by Prof. Richard Myers on the Human Genome Project and Prof. Channing R. Robertson on new developments in scientific fields.

box 1

Speech Competition Papers 1998

Scope and Contents
Collection consists of the texts of speeches submitted by Stanford students, including those of the two winners: "Living a Legacy" by Marian Hammond and "Dual Treasures" by N. Duru Ahanotu.

box 3

Photographs 1931, 1992