

Student Activism

A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan State University
Archives

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The purpose of this resource guide is to familiarize visitors of the MSU Archives with some of the available resources related to student activism, boycotts, demonstrations, riots, and strikes. Note that this guide is not a comprehensive listing of all the available sources, but is intended to be a starting point from which visitors can begin their research according to their specific needs.

Collections

Board of Trustees

- 1. Don Stevens Papers, 1905 - 1973. UA 1.1.2**
 - 28 cu. ft.
 - Don Stevens papers consist of Michigan State University Board of Trustee files and labor union papers, including magazine articles, AFL-CIO statements, speeches, executive board meeting minutes, activity reports, press releases, and news reports. Student activism subjects include student dissent, strikes, boycotts, racial problems, and controversial speakers. .

Presidents

- 2. Oscar Clute Papers, 1889 – 1893. UA 2.1.5**
 - .75 cu. ft.
 - He was selected president of M.A.C. in 1889 and remained for four years. In 1893 M.A.C. Board conferred upon him an LL.D. Also in 1893 he left for the presidency of Florida Agricultural College, retiring from there in ill health in 1897. The presidency at M.A.C. was a trying experience for the reserved and determined scholar. The college faced numerous crises from within as well as without. Student unrest, large scale faculty turnover and the populist revolt all seem to have taken a toll on Clute's health.
- 3. Robert S. Shaw Papers, 1890 – 1953. UA 2.1.11**
 - 2.33 cu. Ft.
 - Includes papers regarding the Social Problems Club and the ill-fated 1935 Peace Rally.
- 4. John A. Hannah Papers, 1954 – 1969. UA 2.1.12**
 - 140 cu. ft.
 - Correspondence, reports, notes, and newspaper clippings relating to the operation of administrative units on campus and overseas programs. Letters constitute the bulk of the series. They range in content from in-depth discussions of administrative policies as they relate to particular units to meetings attended by the staff and invitations to retirement dinners and departmental functions. University deans and vice presidents are the most frequent correspondents. General Subject Files series, composed mainly of correspondence, contains all materials directly related to the operation of the University not included in the ADMINISTRATIVE or COMMITTEE files.

Of particular interest are subject files related to outside speakers, ROTC Incident, Student Demonstrations and Riots, Protests and Demonstrations, Students for a Democratic Society, and the Vietnam Project.

- 5. Walter Adams Papers, 1969. UA 2.1.13**
- 2 cu. ft.
 - Walter Adams' papers contain administrative subject files, speeches, and correspondence from his short term as President of Michigan State University. Of interest are correspondence related to protests on campus.
- 6. Clifton R. Wharton Papers, 1950 – 1977. UA 2.1.14**
- 28.3 cu. ft.
 - His term of office was often a turbulent one, featuring student demonstrations in 1970 and 1972 as well as a National Collegiate Athletic Association investigation of the MSU football program. Fiscal problems resulting from budget cuts remained a constant problem throughout Wharton's tenure. His major achievements were his successful efforts to maintain the quality of MSU's academic programs despite budget reductions, his commitment to the education of the economically and educationally disadvantaged, and the integration of the School of Osteopathic Medicine with the other medical schools. Major innovations implemented under Wharton's tenure included the Presidential Commission on Admissions and Student Body Composition to study future enrollment policies and a Presidential Fellows Program to allow selected students and junior faculty members to gain experience in university administration. Of note are subject files related to Demonstrations and his speech on "Campus Violence and the Indochina War".

Other University Offices

- 7. Vice President for Student Affairs. Student Protest Files, 1965 - 1971. UA 7**
- .33 cu. ft.
 - The records document the activities of a number of protest groups and organizations. M.S.U. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), the most prominent protest organization on campus, was active in virtually every area of protest. Newspaper articles concerning their actions and SDS literature are prevalent throughout the protest files. Also included is coverage of the SDS national convention which was held at M.S.U. in 1968. The Committee for Student Rights (CSR), another protest group, concerned itself solely with student rights. Organizations such as the Black Liberation Front (BLF) and the Black Students Alliance (BSA) surface in civil rights material mainly concerning racial incidents in residence halls. Also included in the civil right protests are groups protesting the Chicago Conspiracy trial in 1970. Other groups include, the Committee to Abolish R.O.T.C., United Students, and the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. Publications include protest newspapers such as the "National Guardian," "The Student

Mobilizer, "LOGOS", and "Swill & Squeal; and "State New" articles which cover the major events on campus during this period.

8. Media Communications Records, 1925 – 2003. UA 8.1.1

- 169.5 cu. Ft.
- The subject files contain various documents and news clippings assembled by the News Bureau. Topics include Presidents Hannah and Wharton, the creation of the MSU Computer Center, the Student Strike, commencement, affirmative action and other subjects applicable to University activities, especially student life. This series contains materials surrounding student protest events on MSU campus. Materials are both news clippings and photocopies of news clippings, position statements, and public correspondence. These documents reflect student protest activities for the years 1968-1971; as well as the May 1989 black student occupation of the Hannah Administration building.

9. Sports Information Records, 1884 -. UA 8.1.3

- 8 cu. ft.
- Includes records related to the African-American Athletes' Boycott in 1968 and a player strike in 1975.

10. Clarence H. Judson Papers, 1874 – 2001. UA 10.3.126

- 19 folders
- Most of Clarence Judson's Papers consist of letters he wrote home during his college days, 1883-1886. Often writing daily, he described his classes, his finances, and his experiences working as a school teacher during school breaks. He was a member of the Union Literary Society, Y.M.C.A., military drill team, and the college choir. Other subjects mentioned in his letters include Class Day of 1884, the college museum, the class strike in 1886 and a visit to the Capitol Building in Lansing. The collection also includes genealogy charts, family history, an autobiography, school records, a photograph and copies of photographs, diaries from 1888 to 1902, and a notebook Judson kept when he worked for the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad.

11. Associated Students of Michigan State University Records, 1940 – 2008.

UA 12.1.1

- 4 cu. Ft., 5 scrapbooks
The records of the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) include policy codes, meeting minutes, agendas, proposals, reports, correspondence with campus and other universities' departments and officials, materials relating to the ASMSU presidents, handbooks, news clippings, fact sheets, press bulletins, and scrapbooks. Topics of interest in the records include People's Park, women's closing hours, Women's Inter-Residence Council, Men's Hall Association, student protests and demonstrations, Students for a Democratic Society, Students for an Alternative Candidate,

reactions to MSU policy, student government, Big Ten Students Association, Rosebowl 1953, and the National Student Association. Also included are two audio cassettes of the student council orientation from 1986.

12. College of Arts and Letters Records, 1943 – 1977. UA 15.9

- 2 cu. Ft.
- This collection includes interdepartmental correspondence, memos and brochures; publication lists; booklets; various college handbooks; course offerings; individual reports; scholarship lists; and annual reports. Includes folders on Communist Speakers on Campus in 1966.

13. College of Human Medicine Records, 1946 – 1984. UA 15.13

- 48 cu. Ft.
- Correspondence and speeches of Dean Hunt, correspondence and miscellaneous papers of Dean Weston, Associate Deans Howell and Kohrman and Assistant Dean Lyons. John C. Howell was involved in much of the early CHM planning and was Associate Dean for Curriculum. Arthur Kohrman was Associate Dean for Academic Programs as well as being an early member at the Department of Human Development and Chairman of the Curriculum Committee. James Lyons is Assistant Dean for Alumni Affairs and was centrally involved in off campus programs and HMO'S. Files include the 1970 student strike.

14. Anthropology Department Records, 1961 – 1995. UA 16.13

- 5 cu. Ft.
- Prior to 1944, Anthropology courses were available through the Department of Sociology in the Division of Liberal Arts. In 1944, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology was created in the Division of Social Science in the School of Science and Arts. Circa 1964, Anthropology and Sociology split into two departments. Today, the Department of Anthropology is within the College of Social Science. Files include the 1970 student strike.

15. Student Demonstration Files, 1970. UA 26.1

- 9 folders
- The records consist of materials related to student demonstrations and strikes from early 1970. Materials include newspaper clippings, copies of student flyers, as well as press releases. There are also copies of typewritten notes of timeline of events, damage to buildings, and class attendance.

16. Wesley R. Fischel Papers, 1921 – 1977. UA 17.95

- 83.45 cu. Ft.
- This series provides a broad overview of Wesley R. Fischel's professional life. Included are resumes, academic appointment papers and award certifications received by the scholar. Materials in the first nine folders reflect the beginnings of Fischel's early academic career, such as his appointment as an instructor of political science at UCLA. Also included In this series is the

Ramparts magazine article, "University on the Make", and the MSU student protest including the poster of Fishel indicting him with crimes against humanity.

17. Madison Kuhn Collection, 1827 – 1966. UA 17.107

- 9.4 cu. Ft., 9 vol.
- The Madison Kuhn Collection consists of materials accumulated by Kuhn during his tenure as University Historian. This collection, which was drawn from his reference files, constitutes only a small portion of the total documentation which he donated to the Archives. A large number of manuscript materials have been transferred, based on their provenance, to other University record groups. These separations, as well as transfers of printed maps, artifacts, photographs, publications, broadsides, and stamps, are recorded at the end of this inventory. Includes information on Class Strike of 1902 and the James Zarichney incidences involving the Communist Party.

18. Ruth Simms Hamilton Collection, 1968 – 1982. UA 17.269

- 2.4 cu. Ft.
- The Ruth Simms Hamilton papers consist of subject files and research materials on African American issues, including civil rights and affirmative action at MSU and other universities. The collection includes case studies of MSU conflicts and protests, newspaper clippings, files about other countries, files about university programs, and papers written by Hamilton and others. Also included are files about MSU student organizations which include Akers Black Caucus, Associated Black Students of Sociology, Black Brothers of Emmons, Black Brothers of Shaw, Black Liberation Front, Black Caucus, Black Med Students, Black Pre-Med (WAGANGA), Black Sisters of Rather, Black Student Alliance, Black Students of Engineering, Black United Front, Coalition of Black Athletes, Minority Pre Law, Pan African Students Organization of the Americas, United Blacks of Wonders Hall, and Office of Black Affairs. The collection retains the original subject divisions assigned by Hamilton.

Other Resources

1. MSU Information Files
 - a. Boycotts
 - b. People. Johnson, Samuel
 - c. Student Activism
 - d. Student Demonstrations
 - e. Student Groups
 - f. Student Organizations
 - g. Student Riots

MSU Archives

2. MSU Photographs
 - a. Students. Demonstrations
 - b. State News Coll. MSU. Students. Demonstrations
3. Serials (State News, Focal Point, Grapevine) Note: The State News is available on microfilm at the Main Library.