

2013

## Norman O. Gunderson Collection

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## Guide to Norman O. Gunderson Collection MSS.2012.06.12

Finding aid prepared by Xiaoda Wang



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**UNIVERSITY**

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**Title:** Norman O. Gunderson Collection

**Identifier/Call Number:** MSS.2012.06.12

**Contributing Institution:** SJSU Special Collections & Archives

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 1.25 linear feet (approx)1 box

**Date (bulk):** Bulk, 1967-1984

**Date (inclusive):** 1952-2004

**Abstract:** This collection is comprised of professional materials, periodicals, ephemera, correspondence and photographs documenting Norman O. Gunderson's significant career as dean of School of Engineering at San Jose State University (1955-1970), as director of Masters Degree Program in Cybernetic Systems (1970), and as a legislative and educational consultant to Santa Clara County Director of Transportation after his retirement from academia (1975-1991). The bulk of this collection (1967-1984) contains primary and secondary sources that delineate Norman O. Gunderson's role in the conception, establishment and expansion of SJSU's Masters Degree Program in Cybernetic Systems. In 1970, Gunderson resigned as dean to direct the establishment and development of SJSU's Masters Program in Cybernetic Systems, an interdisciplinary curriculum focused on technology-oriented problem solving methodologies within political, economic, social, and moral systems. Included in these files are curriculum proposals, course description, lecture notes, correspondences, event brochures, newspaper clippings, and compiled course and research readings. Other significant parts of the collection include documents related to Gunderson's effort to help SJSU School of Engineering obtain its state accreditation to offer graduate degree engineering programs and to provide research opportunities for faculty. The collection also contains personal effects and memorabilia, e.g., awards, honorable mentions, and miscellaneous biographical materials.

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

**creator:** Gunderson, Norman O., 1918-1996

**Access**

The collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights**

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**Preferred Citation**

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**Processing Information**

Collection processed by Xiaoda Wang. Finding aid created using Archivists' Toolkit. Reviewed by Danelle Moon.

**Biographical History**

This collection focus primarily on Norman O. Gunderson's (1918-1996) academic career at San Jose State University. Born in Laramie, Wyoming in 1918, Gunderson obtained a bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from University of Wyoming in 1939. After graduation, he worked for U.S. Soil Conservation Service Bureau of Reclamation (1939-1941), then he entered U.S. Army and retired as Lieutenant Colonel (1941-1946). In 1942, Gunderson married Bonne Jeane Davis. In 1947, Gunderson received a M.A. in Civil Engineering from University of Wyoming. Immediately afterwards, Gunderson was offered the position as assistant professor of Engineering at San Jose State College. In 1955, Gunderson was promoted to Dean of SJSU School of Engineering. During his tenure, he directed an effort to challenge the state-imposed restrictions on engineering education at the state college level, and successfully helped SJSU School of Engineering obtain its accreditation to offer graduate degree engineering programs and to provide research opportunities for faculty. Notably in 1966-1967 academic year, Gunderson had the honor of inviting and accommodating the incessant futurist and architect Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983) as SJSU's first "Distinguished Scholar in Residence." In 1970, Gunderson resigned as dean to direct the establishment and development of SJSU's Masters Program in Cybernetic Systems, an interdisciplinary curriculum focused on technology-oriented problem solving methodologies within political, economic, social, and moral systems, which he had previously conceived during his deanship. After his retirement in 1983, Gunderson served as a legislative and educational consultant for Santa Clara County Transportation and supervised University Fellowship Program.

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## **Bibliography**

Gunderson, Norman O. "Cybernetics and Man in the engineering curriculum." *Journal of Engineering Education* 56, no. 10 (1996): 362-365.

Gunderson, Norman O. *An Oral History Conducted by the San Jose State University Archivist*. Conducted by H. Brett Melendy. San Jose, CA: SJSU, 1987.

## **Scope and Content of Collection**

This collection is comprised of professional materials, periodicals, ephemera, correspondence and photographs documenting Norman O. Gunderson's significant career as dean of School of Engineering at San Jose State University (1955-1970), as director of Masters Degree Program in Cybernetic Systems (1970), and as a legislative and educational consultant to Santa Clara County Director of Transportation after retirement (1975-1991). The bulk of this collection (1967-1984) contains primary and secondary sources that delineate Norman O. Gunderson's role in the conception, establishment and expansion of SJSU's Masters Degree Program in Cybernetic Systems. In 1970, Gunderson resigned as dean to direct the establishment and development of SJSU's Masters Program in Cybernetic Systems, an interdisciplinary curriculum focused on technology-oriented problem solving methodologies within political, economic, social, and moral systems. Included in these files are curriculum proposals, course description, lecture notes, correspondences, event brochures, newspaper clippings, and compiled course readings. Other significant parts of the collection include documents related to Gunderson's effort to help SJSU School of Engineering obtain its state accreditation to offer graduate degree engineering programs and to provide research opportunities for faculty. The collection also contains personal effects and memorabilia, e.g., awards, honorable mentions, and miscellaneous biographical materials.

## **Arrangement**

The Norman O. Gunderson Collection is arranged into six series: Professional Materials, 1962-1991; Periodicals, 1954-1996; Correspondence, 1952-2001 (bulk 1980-1987); Ephemera, n.d., 1956-1996; Photographs, n.d., 1961-1968, 1980-1989; Biography and Awards, n.d., 1960, 1987-2004.

## **Subjects and Indexing Terms**

San Jose State University. College of Engineering.

Cybernetics -- Research

High technology and education--California--Santa Clara County

San José State University -- Faculty

San José State University-- Curricula--Programs

Santa Clara County Transportation Agency -- history

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## **Series I: Professional Materials, Bulk, 1967-1984 1962-1991**

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

This series consists of materials related to Norman O. Gunderson's work at San Jose State University and in Santa Clara County. The bulk contains primary and secondary documents that delineate Norman O. Gunderson's role in the conception, establishment and expansion of SJSU's Cybernetic Systems Program. Included in these files are curriculum proposals, course description, lecture notes, and compiled writings about systems analysis.

### **Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically within each subject.

**Folder 1: Binder I - Cybernetic Systems Course 200, 1977**

**Folder 2-4: Binder II - Cybernetic Systems Course 200, 1979**

**Folder 5-12: Binder III - Various Courses, 1979**

**Folder 13: Course Descriptions, n.d.**

**Folder 14: Course Reader - Cybernetic Systems Course 200, 1973**

**Folder 15: Course Syllabus and Schedule, 1973-1974**

**Folder 16: Cybernetic Systems Program, 1967-1984**

**Folder 17: Cybernetic Systems Program Awards, 1978**

**Folder 18: A Guide to the Cybernetic Systems Program, 1976**

**Folder 19-21: Lecture Slides, n.d.**

**Folder 22: Other Writings on Cybernetic Systems, 1962-1983**

**Folder 23: Reprint of *Cybernation and Man*, 1965**

**Folder 24: Santa Clara Transportation and Education, 1984-1991**

**Folder 25: School of Engineering, 1967-1981**

**Folder 26: Selected Writings on Cybernetic Systems, 1968-1982**

**Folder 27: *A Systems Tools Handbook*, 1976**

**Series II: Periodicals, Bulk, 1954-1981 1954-1996**

**Scope and Content of Collection**

This series contains newspaper clippings, newsletters and journals that document Norman O. Gunderson's public appearances, academic work and achievements.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically within each subject.

**Folder 28: Journals and Newsletters, 1954-1981, 1996**

**Folder 29: Newspaper Clippings, 1954-1988**

**Series III: Correspondence, Bulk, 1980-1987 1952-2004**

**Scope and Content of Collection**

This series contains letters written by or to Norman O. Gunderson that are related to his academic and professional pursuits.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged in chronological order.

**Folder 30: Correspondence, Bulk, 1980-1987 1952-2001**

**Series IV: Ephemera, 1956-1996**

**Scope and Content of Collection**

This series contains pamphlets, event programs and invitations, and agendas that Norman O. Gunderson had collected during his career.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged in chronological order.

**Folder 31: Ephemera, n.d., 1956-1996**

**Series V: Photographs, 1961-1968, 1980-1989**

**Scope and Content of Collection**

This series contains photographs that documents Norman O. Gunderson in various stages of his career and after.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged in chronological order.

**Folder 32: Photographs, n.d., 1961-1968, 1980-1989**

**Series VI: Biography and Awards, 1960, 1987-2004**

**Scope and Content of Collection**

This series contains timeline, biographical notes, and awards attributed to Norman O. Gunderson.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged in chronological order.

**Folder 33: Biography and Awards, n.d., 1960, 1987-2004**