

2010

# San José State University Student Organization Records

San Jose State University, Special Collections and Archives

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## Guide to the San José State University Student Organization Records

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## Guide to the San José State University Student Organization Records

**Collection number: MSS-2009-03-09**



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UNIVERSITY**

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Processed by:

Alicia Deadrick and Kimberly Koshiyama

Date Completed:

2010

Encoded by:

Robert Donahue and Kimberly Koshiyama

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** San José State University Student Organization Records

**Dates:** 1920-2011

**Bulk Dates:** 1930-1940

**Collection number:** MSS-2009-03-09

**Creator:** San Jose Staté University

**Collection Size:** 13 boxes,9.74 linear feet

**Repository:** San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

**Abstract:** The San José State University Student Organization Records, 1920-2011 (bulk 1930-1940), document various student body organizations over a 70-year period, such as the Associated Students, the Black Masque Honor Society, the Spartan Programs Committee, and various Panhellenic and honorary fraternities and sororities. The records consist of newspaper clippings, photographs, correspondence, flyers, programs, scrapbooks, handwritten scrolls, and meeting minutes. This collection is arranged into four series: Series I. Publications and Minutes, 1926-1975; Series II. Greek Letter Societies, 1920s-1980s (bulk 1930-1960); Series III. Honor Societies, 1930s-1970s (bulk 1930-1940); and Series IV. Additional Student Organization Materials, 1936-2011 (bulk 1957-1976).

**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**

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The collection is open for research.

#### **Publication Rights**

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#### **Preferred Citation**

San José State University Student Organization Records, MSS-2009-03-09, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

#### **Processing Information**

Collection processed by Alicia Deadrick and Kimberly Koshiyama. Finding aid EAD encoded by Robert Donahue and Kimberly Koshiyama. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen.

#### **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 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.

San José State University has been home to numerous student organizations throughout its 150-year history. SJSU student clubs range from social groups to Greek letter societies, honor societies to academic and major-related clubs, and service and human rights organizations. The Philomathean society is the oldest documented club on campus, with evidence of its existence prior to 1876. Many of the initial Normal School and San José State Teachers College student organizations were related to literary studies, oratory, and Christian missionary work. Panhellenic Greek societies were also present on campus during the nineteenth century, including Chi Epsilon, Kappa Delta, Iota Phi, and Alpha Rho. In addition, an early form of student government, referred to as the Student Body, was established on campus in 1898; it was subsequently renamed Associated Students in 1923. As of 2010, San José State University maintains over 300 active student clubs and organizations, including the service co-ed fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, the Akbayan Pilipino American Organization, the History Club, the Badminton Club, and the Longboarding Club.

#### **Bibliography**

Gilbert, Benjamin F, and Charles Burdick. *Washington Square, 1857-1979: The History of San José State University*. San José : San José State University, 1980.

Nellen, Annette. "Traditions through the years at San José State University." 1999.

[http://www.cob.sjsu.edu/nellen\\_a/traditions.htm](http://www.cob.sjsu.edu/nellen_a/traditions.htm)

San José State University. *About SJSU*. [http://www.sjsu.edu/about\\_sjsu/](http://www.sjsu.edu/about_sjsu/) (accessed 02/17/2010).

Walsh, James P. *San José State University: An Interpretive History, 1950-2000*. San José: San José State University, 2003.

#### **Related Material**

San José State University Associated Students Records, MSS-2009-08-01, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

San José State University Archives Scrapbook Collection, MSS-2010-03-04, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

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

The San José State University Student Organization Records, 1920-1989 (bulk 1930-1940), document various student body organizations over a 70-year period, such as the Associated Students, the Black Masque Honor Society, the Spartan Programs Committee, and various Panhellenic and honorary fraternities and sororities. The records consist of newspaper

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clippings, photographs, correspondence, flyers, programs, scrapbooks, handwritten scrolls, and meeting minutes.

**Arrangement**

This collection is arranged into four series: Series I. Publications and Minutes, 1926-1975; Series II. Greek Letter Societies, 1920s-1980s (bulk 1930-1960); Series III. Honor Societies, 1930s-1970s (bulk 1930-1940); and Series IV. Additional Student Organization Materials, 1936-2011 (bulk 1957-1976).

**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 -- Student Organizations -- History

San José State University -- History

San Joseé State Normal School -- History

San José State Teachers College -- History

San Jose State College -- History

California State University, San José -- History

Education, Higher -- California -- San José

Greek letter societies -- California -- San José

College students -- California -- San José -- Societies, etc.

Students -- Societies, etc.

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Series I: **Publications and Minutes 1926-1975**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series consists of publications, advertisements, fliers, handbooks, and meeting minutes of various SJSU student body organizations, including the Associated Students, Model United Nations of the Pacific West at San Jose State College, the Spartan Programs Committee, and various Panhellenic and honorary fraternities and sororities.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically by student organization.

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Box 1

**Publications and Minutes 1926-1975**

Series II: **Greek Letter Societies 1920s-1980s (bulk 1930-1960)**

**Physical Description:** 6 boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series documents Greek letter societies at SJSU, and includes materials such as Ero Sophian alumni books, Alpha Phi Omega announcements, an Omega Nu journal publication, a booklet celebrating Alpha Lambda Delta's fifty-year anniversary in 1974, Iota Sigma Phi correspondence, and Epsilon Phi Tau fraternity programs.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged chronologically by date.

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Boxes 2-4

**Fraternities and Sororities 1920-1989**

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Box 5

**Alpha Lambda Delta 1920-1989**

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Box 6

**Miscellaneous Societies 1931-1968**

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Box 7

**Ero Sophian Society 1947-1973**

Series III: **Honor Societies 1930s-1970s (bulk 1930-1940)**

**Physical Description:** 4 boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series documents honor societies at SJSU, and includes materials such as the Beta Phi Mu Constitution, Delta Nu Theta/Home Economics Honor Society meeting minutes, handwritten scrolls of the Ista Delta Phi constitution, and Iota Delta Phi invitations to a 1968 Open House event.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged chronologically by date.

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Box 8

**Delta Nu Theta/Home Economics Honor Society 1930-1949**

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Box 9

**Ista Delta Phi 1932**

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Box 10

**Miscellaneous Honor Societies 1940-1979**

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Box 11

**Beta Phi Mu 1970-1979**

Series IV: **Additional Student Organization Materials 1936-2011 (bulk 1957-1976)**

**Physical Description:** 2 boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series consists of additional documents and materials from various student organizations at SJSU such as a program for the Vietnamese Scholarship League from 1968, "Religion in Life" week pamphlets created by the College Religious Council in 1956, an English as a Foreign Language Club scrapbook from 1963, and a flyer written by the Black Student Union announcing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968. Also included are Black Masque Honor Society Materials, 1936-2011.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged chronologically by date.

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Boxes 12-14

**Additional Student Organization Material 1936-2011**

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