

Virginia Tech Ring and Class Collections

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1910-2015



Title Statement

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Author: LM Rozema, Archivist

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Business Number: 540-231-6308
specref@vt.edu
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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

RG.31.13.03

Unit Date

1910-2015

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Virginia Tech Ring and Class Collections document the work of the Ring Design Committee, Ring Dance Committee, and individual classes at VPI, including their reunions. Items include ring design proposals and collection brochures, invitations and flyers for ring dances, and memorabilia for graduating classes and class reunions.

Extent

5.83 Cubic Feet 11 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

Virginia Tech Ring and Class Collections was transferred and donated to Special Collections and University Archives from the 1980s to 2010s.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Virginia Tech Ring and Class Collections was completed in June 2015. Additional posters were integrated in February 2019.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Virginia Tech Ring and Class Collections, RG 31/13/3, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Historical Note

Each year, the junior class officers and student appointees form the Ring Design Committee, which works with the Virginia Tech Alumni Association and a jewelry vendor to design a class ring collection. The collection, unique to each class, is named in honor of a Virginia Tech alum, emeritus, president, or other administrator. The tradition originates to 1911, when the classes of 1911, 1912, 1913, and 1914 designed the first class rings. Symbols from these early years have become traditional elements: eagles, campus buildings, and a chain symbolizing unity around the stone.

In the spring of their junior year, the Ring Dance Committee holds a dance to represent the transition from junior to senior. At the Ring Dance, students wear their dates' rings on ribbons of the class colors. When the Corps of Cadets form the shape of the class year and perform the sabre arch, the students exchange their rings to the tune of "Moonlight and VPI," written by Fred Waring and Charles Gaynor for Virginia Tech in 1939. The Virginia Tech Swine Club releases a small pig onto the dance floor, which started as a prank by members of the Corps of Cadets over 30 years ago. Then the attendees move to the Drillfield to watch fireworks, listen to "Sliver Taps," and witness the firing of the school cannon "Skipper."

Scope and Content

The Virginia Tech Ring and Class Collections document the work of the Ring Design Committee, Ring Dance Committee, and individual classes at VPI. Items include ring design proposals from potential vendors; brochures about the committees, design processes, and class ring collections; invitations, flyers, and tickets for the Ring Dance; and such artifacts as wax molds of the rings, banners from events, and t-shirts, glassware, and other memorabilia given to students. There are also printed materials and memorabilia from class reunions and a poster about the history of the Virginia Tech Class Ring Tradition.

Separated Materials

Two framed Class of 1944 Ring and Ring Dance posters are part of the Art Collection.

Related Archival Materials

See also the Record Group Vertical Files at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives.

Keywords

Posters

University Archives

University History
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University -- Dances
Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (1896-1944)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by class year.

Description of Subordinate Components

Class of 1910

Reunion materials

Unit Date 1950

box 1

Class of 1925

Class Ring, inscribed D.L.W.

Unit Date 1925

box 4

Class of 1927

Alumni recollection

Unit Date 2001

box 1

Class of 1930

50th Anniversary Drink Glass

Unit Date 1980

box 4

Class of 1934

Graduation and reunion materials

Unit Date 1934

Unit Date 1984

Unit Date 1988

Unit Date 1994

box 1

60th Anniversary Drink Glass

Unit Date 1994

box 8

Class of 1935

Reunion materials

Unit Date 1980

box 1

Ring Dance invitation and booklet

Unit Date 1934

box 1

Class of 1937

Ring dance invitation

Unit Date 1936

box 1

Class of 1939

Class ring and ring dance materials

Unit Date 1938-1939

box 1

Class of 1944

The Virginia Tech, '44 Ring Dance Special Issue

Unit Date 1942-10-22

box 9

Baseball cap with patch labeled "VA TECH 44"

Unit Date undated

box 4

Scope and Content

Although this cap has a "VA TECH 44" patch, it is likely from a reunion for the Class of 1944 in the 1980s or 1990s, due to its good condition.

Reunion materials

Unit Date 1989

box 1

Class of 1945

Class of 1945 Reunion Gift

Unit Date 1995-10-13

box 5

Class of 1951

Ring Poster

box 9

Class of 1955

VPI Ring Committee

box 5

Class of 1956

Class Ring

Unit Date 1956

box 4

Class of 1964

Ring design materials

box 1

Class of 1965

Ring design materials

box 1

Poster

oversize 5 (box)

Class of 1967

Ring design and dance materials

box 1

Ring collection booklet

box 11

Poster

oversize 5 (box)

Class of 1969

Ring collection booklet

box 11

Class of 1972

Tech Showmen drink glass

box 8

Class of 1976

Ring collection booklet
box 11

Class of 1977

Ring collection booklet
box 11

Class of 1980

Ring collection booklet
box 11

Class of 1984

Ring design and dance materials
box 1

Class of 1985

Ring collection brochure
box 1

Class of 1988

Ring collection brochure
box 1

Scrapbook
box 5

Ring Premiere
box 9

Class of 1989

Ring design and dance materials
box 1

Class of 1990

Ring design and dance materials
box 1

Ring Premiere Poster
Unit Date 1997-10-14
box 5

Class of 1991

Ring design and dance materials

box 1

Poster

box 5

Ring Premiere Poster

box 5

Julian A. Burruss Collection Poster

box 5

Class of 1992

Class officer and Ring design and dance materials

box 1

Ring Dance Poster

Unit Date 1991-03-22-1991-03-23

box 5

Ring Premiere

Unit Date 1990-10-02

box 9

Class of 1993

Class officer and Ring design and dance materials

box 1

Jostens ring proposal

box 10

Ring Dance Poster

Unit Date 1992-03-27-1992-03-28

box 5

Class of 1994

Ring design materials

box 1

Ring designs

box 5

Balfour ring proposal

box 10

Artcarved ring proposal

box 10

Lucy Lee Lancaster Ring Collection

box 5

Class of 1995

Balfour ring proposal

box 10

Jostens ring proposal

box 10

Class of 1996

Ring design and dance materials

box 1

Wax rings

box 4

James D. McComas Ring Collection Poster

box 5

Class of 1997

Ring design and dance materials

box 1

Drink glass

box 4

The William E. Lavery Ring Collection Poster

box 5

Scrapbook

box 7

Jostens ring proposal

box 10

Class of 1998

Ring design and dance materials

box 1

Henry Dekker Ring Collection Poster

box 9

T-shirt

box 6

Class of 1999

Ring Committee and dance materials

box 1

Drink glass

box 4

T-shirt

box 6

Table card

oversize 5 (box)

The William and Margaret Skelton Collection Ring Poster

box 9

Class of 2000

Ring Proposal

box 2

Planning

box 2

Ring design and dance materials

box 2

The Colonel Harry D. Temple Ring Collection Poster

Text 9 (box)

Class of 2001

Ring design and dance materials

box 2

Drink glass

box 4

T-shirt

box 6

Class of 2002

Ring premiere and dance materials

box 2

Gobos (Light stencils)

box 4

Glass candle

box 4

T-shirt

box 6

Posters

oversize 9 (box)

Class of 2003

Ring premiere and dance materials

box 5

Frame

box 4

T-shirt

box 6

The Dr. T. Marshall Hahn, Jr. Ring Collection Poster

box 5

Class of 2004

Ring design and dance materials

box 2

Ring design poster

folder 5 (box)

Wax rings

box 4

Pen

box 4

Mug

box 4

T-shirt

box 6

Ring Premiere

Unit Date 2002-10-22

box 5

Class of 2005

Ring design and dance materials

box 2

Frame

box 4

Wax rings

box 4

Mug

box 4

Posters

box 5

T-shirt

box 6

Corps of Cadets Mug

box 8

Class of 2006

Ring design and dance materials

box 2

Drink glass

box 4

Key ring

box 4

Plastic cup

box 4

Ping pong ball

box 4

Posters

box 5

Handkerchief

box 6

T-shirt

box 6

Class of 2007

Ring design and dance materials

box 3

Drink glass

box 4

T-shirts

box 6

Class of 2008

Ring design and dance materials
box 3

Drink glass
box 4

T-shirts
box 6

Class of 2009

Ring design and dance materials
box 3

Drink glass
box 4

Poster
box 5

T-shirt
box 6

Class of 2010

Ring design and dance materials
box 3

Poster
box 5

T-shirts
box 6

Handkerchief
box 6

Ring Dance drink glass
box 8

Class of 2011

Ring design and dance materials
box 3

Drink glass
box 4

T-shirt

box 6

Class of 2012

Ring design and dance materials

box 3

Drink glass

box 4

Poster

box 5

T-shirt

box 6

Class of 2013

Ring design and dance materials

box 3

Drink glass

box 4

Eyeglass holder

box 4

Poster

box 5

Ring Premiere and Dance koozie

box 8

Two Ring Dance pins

box 8

Two Ring Ribbons

box 8

T-shirts

box 9

Class of 2014

Ring design and dance materials

box 3

Ring Premiere Eyeglass holder

box 4

Wine glass

box 4

Poster

box 5

Ring Premiere and Dance koozie

box 8

Two Ring Ribbons

box 8

T-shirts

box 9

Ring Dance banner

box 9

Class of 2015

Ring design and dance materials

box 3

Ring Premiere Tumbler

box 4

Key ring

box 4

Poster

box 5

Ring Premiere and Dance koozie

box 8

Ring Premiere and Dance flying disk

box 8

Two Ring Ribbons

box 8

T-shirt

box 9

Kickoff concert banner

box 9

Assorted poster

Virginia Tech Class Ring Tradition Poster

Unit Date undated

box 5