

A Guide to the Ellen Frank Armentrout Papers, 1961-1964 SC 0064

Ellen Frank Armentrout Papers

1961-1964



Title Statement

A Guide to the Ellen Frank Armentrout Papers, 1961-1964 SC 0064

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0064

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/384

Unit Date

1961-1964

Language

English

Abstract

The Ellen Frank Armentrout Papers, 1961-1964, are comprised of facsimiles of one essay, seven letters, and 15 photographs from Armentrout's time as a student at Madison College.

Creator

Armentrout, Ellen Frank, 1943-

Extent

0.12 cubic feet 3 letter folders

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open to research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

During the spring of 2004, Ellen Frank Armentrout loaned her Madison College scrapbook to Dr. Phil Bigler, formerly of the James Madison Center, who passed it along to Pam Brock, former editor of *Montpelier* magazine, who forwarded it to Chris Bolgiano, former Special Collections Librarian. Bolgiano requested permission to copy the papers and photographs for inclusion in Special Collections. Armentrout granted permission to have the materials copied and the scrapbook was returned on May 5, 2004.

Processing Information

The materials in this collection were loaned to Special Collections in the spring of 2004 for digitization. The letters were photocopied and the photographs were digitized at a low resolution. Photocopies of the letters and printouts of the photographs are available for research. Low-resolution digital surrogates of the photographs are also available (see below). In order to streamline the process of applying collection numbers, Special Collections staff completed a large-scale renumbering campaign in the spring of 2017.

This collection was previously cataloged as SU 2004-0505.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], [box #, folder #], Ellen Frank Armentrout Papers, 1961-1964, SC 0064, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bio/Historical Note

Ellen Frank Armentrout (b. 1943), daughter of John W. and Edith Baldwin Frank of Arlington, Virginia, matriculated into Madison College in the fall of 1961. Her freshman roommate was Maryanne Matthews. Armentrout served as Recreation Chairman of the Wesley Foundation and graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree. She married Donald Lee "Jack" Armentrout of Keezletown, Virginia in 1964. He attended Madison College as a day student and served as the sports editor of *The Breeze*. Many of Armentrout's letters home to her parents describe her courtship with Jack.

Scope and Content

The Ellen Frank Armentrout Papers, 1961-1963, are comprised of facsimiles of one essay on adjusting to college life, seven letters to her parents, and 15 photographs from Armentrout's time as a student at Madison College including May Day celebrations and dorm rooms. The materials originated from Armentrout's scrapbook which she loaned to Special Collections for selective digitization.

Keywords

Harrisonburg (Va.) -- History

Letters (correspondence)

Facsimiles (reproductions)

Black-and-white photographs

Digital images

Essays
Madison College -- History
Madison College -- Alumni and alumnae
Madison College -- Students
Madison College -- Students -- Social life and customs
James Madison University -- Students -- History
Smothers Brothers

Other Formats Available

Low-resolution digital surrogates of the photographs are available for research (see below). Armentrout's September 1962 photograph of her dorm room in Sheldon Hall is also available at [JMU Historic Photos Online](#).

Bibliography

The Breeze, May 11, 1962. Harrisonburg (Va.): Madison College. *The Breeze*, September 10, 1964. Harrisonburg (Va.): Madison College.

Location of Originals

Original papers and photographs are retained by the donor.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series. Both series are arranged chronologically.

- Papers, 1961-1963
- Photographs, 1962-1964

Description of Subordinate Components

Papers

Unit ID 1

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2344

Unit Date 1961-1963

Language English

Scope and Content

Series 1: Papers, 1961-1963, includes an essay commenting on adjusting to college life. Armentrout writes: "You say you love college and you're getting D's in all your classes? You say you cut three classes today so you could play bridge?....Don't despair, keep your chin up: it's all an adjustment to college. I'm having the same troubles."

This series also includes seven letters written by Armentrout to her parents between March 1962 and May 1963. She provides detailed accounts of student life, extracurricular and social activities, dating, classes and coursework, and weather. Of particular interest is her letter of March 9, 1962 in which she describes a historic snow storm. Thirty-six inches of snow fell in Harrisonburg and, as a result, the students were allowed to wear slacks to class. A photo of the storm is included in this collection. In many of her letters, Armentrout describes the dating scene at Madison and comments on her social life. Of her future-husband Jack she writes: "Jack and I have a date tonight. I must confess I was wrong on two accounts about him. First - his car does have its original paint and Second - he plans to teach science and minor in biology. Everything else I said still holds true and even more so. He is a good guy."

Essay

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2345

Unit Date 1961

Mixed Materials [1000886509] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2346

Unit Date 1962-1963

Mixed Materials [1000886509] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Photographs

Unit ID 2

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2347

Unit Date 1962-1964

Language English

Scope and Content

Series 2: Photographs, 1962-1964, is comprised of 15 facsimiles (and low-resolution digital surrogates) of color and black-and-white photographs taken while Armentrout was a student at Madison College. One image of the historic March 1962 snowstorm that blanketed Harrisonburg with 36 inches of snow is included. Also included are two images of dorm room interiors including a color image of Cleveland Hall, Room 106 and a black-and-white image of Sheldon Hall, Room 14; ten images of May Day celebrations (1962-1964); one image of the Smothers Brothers' November 1962 performance in the Keezell gym; and an undated image of downtown Harrisonburg.

Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2348

Unit Date 1962-1964

Mixed Materials [1000886509] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Snowstorm

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2349

Unit Date 1962

May Day (image 1)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2350

Unit Date 1962

May Day (image 2)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2351

Unit Date 1962

May Day (image 3)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2352

Unit Date 1962

May Day (image 4)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2353

Unit Date 1962

May Day (image 5)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2354

Unit Date 1962

Sheldon Hall, Room 14

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2355

Unit Date 1962

Cleveland Hall, Room 106

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2357

Unit Date 1962

Smothers Brothers

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2356

Unit Date 1962

May Day (image 1)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2358

Unit Date 1963

May Day (image 2)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2359

Unit Date 1963

May Day (image 1)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2360

Unit Date 1964

May Day (image 2)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2361

Unit Date 1964

May Day (image 3)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2362

Unit Date 1964

Court Square

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2363

Unit Date undated