

A Guide to JMU Centennial Voices No. 2 Oral Histories, 2004-2005 SdArch 0028

JMU Centennial Voices No. 2 oral histories
2004-2005



Title Statement

A Guide to JMU Centennial Voices No. 2 Oral Histories, 2004-2005 SdArch 0028

Author: Grace Thomsen

Publication Statement

Publisher: James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

820 Madison Drive
MSC 1706
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
Telephone: (540) 568-3612
library-special@jmu.edu
URL: <https://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/>



December 2022

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-04-11 07:01:38 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SdArch 0028

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/703

Unit Date

2004-2005

Language

English

Abstract

The collection comprises five interviews with a focus on reminiscences of Madison College, now James Madison University. The interviews have a range of topics including: day student life, curfews, the 1938 name change, freshman hazing, starting of "Alternative Spring Break" in 1990, and campus life during the Great Depression.

source

Smith, Steve (Charles Steven)

Extent

0.1 cubic feet 6 folders

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open to research. The audio component of the interviews is not available pending reformatting. 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

Collection was donated on September 14, 2005, presumably by Steve Smith.

Processing Information

Collection was originally cataloged at the item level; the descriptive metadata was compiled into a finding aid format in 2022.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], JMU Centennial Voices No. 2 Oral Histories, 2004-2005, SdArch 0028, Special Collections, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Biographical / Historical

The series of interviews were conducted as part of James Madison University's efforts to document the campus life experience since its founding in 1908. This was done in preparation for the university's centennial anniversary in 2008.

Scope and Contents

The collection comprises five interviews with a focus on reminiscences of Madison College, now James Madison University. The interviews have a range of topics including: day student life, curfews, the 1938 name change, freshman hazing, starting of "Alternative Spring Break" in 1990, and campus life during the Great Depression.

Harry Denis Hoover reminisces about his time at Bridgewater College and how it enabled him to be a summer day student at Harrisonburg State Teachers College, now James Madison University. He talks about his roles as a student teacher at the college and the impact it had on his later teaching career. Dolores Phelan Lescure recollects her time at the university during the later years of the Great Depression and her role as the editor of the student newspaper the Breeze, including an opportunity she had to interview Amiela Earhart in 1937. Louise Fontaine Baker mentions aspects of campus life such as roommates, dating, freshman hazing, and unplanned pregnancies. John A. Grace discusses his role as a Catholic Campus Minister at the university beginning in 1989. He discusses his decision to start the program called "Alternative Spring Break" (ASB) wherein students re-build homes in disaster areas in Latin America and the United States. Additionally, he speaks to his experiences as an advisor to the Theta Chi Fraternity.

Related Materials

Keywords

oral histories (literary works)

transcripts

Interviews

Smith, Steve (Charles Steven)

Description of Subordinate Components

Harry Dennis Hoover interviewed by Steve Smith

Unit ID 28-1

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27525

Unit Date 2005 June 22

Creator Hoover, Harry Denis, 1913-2005

Creator Smith, Steve (Charles Steven)

Creator Smith, Elaine

Scope and Contents

Records the reminiscences of Harry Denis Hoover, an alumnus of Harrisonburg State Teachers College, (which became Madison College, and later, James Madison University), who graduated in 1934. Discusses his boyhood in nearby Bridgewater and Dayton, Virginia, where he grew up on his family's farm. Mr. Hoover attended Bridgewater College during the Fall and Spring sessions in his undergraduate years, and HSTC in the summers, as a day student. This arrangement enabled Mr. Hoover to complete his studies in only three years. Recalls student teaching under the supervision of distinguished Madison professor Katherine M. Anthony. Discusses his experiences as a teacher and administrator in a variety of Virginia schools for over forty years.

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27526

Mixed Materials [1000897757] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Extent 19 pages

Original audiocassette

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27651

Audio SA028-CS-001 (Audiocassette)

CD (copy)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/32685

Audio SA028-CD-001 (CD)

Dolores Phelan Lescure interviewed by Lisa Riley

Unit ID 28-2

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27527

Unit Date 2005 May 4

Creator Lescure, Dolores Phelan, 1916-2006

Creator Riley, Lisa

Scope and Contents

Records the reminiscences of Dolores Lescure Phelan, a graduate of Harrisonburg State Teachers College, (which became Madison College, and later, James Madison University), Class of 1938. Discusses her experiences as a student at the college during the latter years of the Great Depression. Comments on campus life including dorm rules, dances, curfews, mandatory chapel attendance, and the institution's

name change in 1938. Recalls studying journalism under Dr. Edna Frederikson, serving as editor of the college newspaper, The Breeze, and an opportunity to interview famed aviator Amelia Earhart in 1937. Discusses her work as a teacher in Nottoway County, an editor for the Richmond News Leader, a teacher and information officer at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia, as well as serving as a president of the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation, (renamed the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in 2004), for more than twenty years. In 2001 the museum at the Presidential Library was renamed in honor of Mrs. Lescure.

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27528

Mixed Materials [1000897757] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Extent 15 pages

Original audiocassette

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27652

Audio SA028-CS-002 (Audiocassette)

Audiocassette (copy)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27656

Audio SA028-CS-006 (Audiocassette)

Louise Fontaine Baker interviewed by Lisa Riley

Unit ID 28-3

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27529

Unit Date 2005 April 8

Creator Baker, Louise Fontaine, 1907-2011

Creator Riley, Lisa

Scope and Contents

Records the reminiscences of Louise Fontaine Baker, who attended Harrisonburg State Teachers College for two years in the early 1930s. Recalls her childhood and family life as the daughter of a US naval officer. Discusses her family history, which includes direct lines to Shenandoah Valley explorer Jost Hite and pioneering oceanographer Matthew Fontaine Maury, for whom JMU's Maury hall was named in 1917. Speaks briefly of student life at the college, including such topics as roommates, dating rules, freshman hazing, and unplanned pregnancies. Mrs. Baker completed her undergraduate studies at the College of William and Mary and pursued her Masters degree at Columbia University. Recalls visiting Europe and attending the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, as well as her impressions of German Chancellor Adolph Hitler and the policies of his government on German education. Closes with brief comments on her teaching career and advice to current students.

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27530

Mixed Materials [1000897757] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Extent 27 pages

Original audiocassette

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27653

Audio SA028-CS-003 (Audiocassette)

Audiocassette (copy)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27657

Audio SA028-CS-007 (Audiocassette)

John Grace interviewed by Lisa Riley

Unit ID 28-4

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27531

Unit Date 2005 June 6

Creator Grace, John A., Pastor

Creator Riley, Lisa

Scope and Contents

Records the reminiscences of Father John A. Grace, who served as Catholic Campus Minister at James Madison University from 1989 to 2005. Recalls his arrival at JMU as successor to Fr. William LaFratta and the warm welcome he received at the other campus ministries. Discusses the challenges of holding masses at such public venues as the Grafton-Stovall Theater and the Festival Ballroom. Details his decision to launch the first Alternative Spring Break (ASB) at JMU in 1990 and the subsequent success of the program in recent years. The ASB program has re-built housing in disaster areas in Latin America and the US and has sponsored the creation of a village bank in Guatemala. Describes his teaching experiences at JMU, his role as advisor to the Theta Chi fraternity, and his response to the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Closes with his reflections on retiring from the CCM after sixteen years.

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27532

Mixed Materials [1000897757] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Extent 18 pages

Original audiocassette

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27654

Audio SA028-CS-004 (Audiocassette)

Audiocassette (copy)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27658

Audio SA028-CS-008 (Audiocassette)

Inez and Ralph Roop interviewed by Steve Smith

Unit ID 28-5

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27533

Unit Date 2004 September 28

Creator Roop, V. Inez Graybeal (Vivian Inez), 1913-2010

Creator Roop, Ralph Goodwin, 1915-2006

Creator Smith, Steve (Charles Steven)

Scope and Contents

Records the reminiscences of Inez G. Roop, a graduate of Harrisonburg State Teachers College, (which became Madison College, and later, James Madison University), Class of 1935. Discusses student life on campus and economic conditions in Virginia during the early years of the Great Depression. Describes Sunday dinners at Hillcrest House as a guest of the family of Dr. Samuel Duke, the college's second president. Recalls studying music under Edna Shaefer and history under Raymond Dingleline. Includes recollections of campus life including dress codes, house mothers, demerits, dating rules, and permission slips for riding with men in cars. Also describes college institutions such as May Day, Class Days, the Glee Club, the big sister system, and the college newspaper, The Breeze. Mrs. Roop and her husband, Ralph Roop, (who joins the interview briefly), have been long-time donors to James Madison University and Mr. Roop's alma mater, Virginia Tech. Both discuss their impressions of Dr. Duke's three successors; G. Tyler Miller, Ronald Carrier, and Linwood Rose.

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27534

Mixed Materials [1000897757] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Extent 22 pages

Transcript (edited copy)

Unit ID 28-5b

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27535

Mixed Materials [1000897757] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

General

Copy of original transcript but marked with comments and corrections on some pages.

Original audiocassette

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/27655

Audio SA028-CS-005 (Audiocassette)