

PURDUE

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FINDING AID TO THE PURDUE STUDENT SECTION OF THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS RECORDS, 1945-2010

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Processed by: Virginia Pleasant November 21, 2014

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Society of Women Engineers, Purdue University Student Section, 1954-
Title	Purdue Student Section of the Society of Women Engineers records
Collection Identifier	MSP 182
Date Span	1945-2010, predominant 1950-1990
Abstract	This collection contains papers, photographs, programs, scrapbooks, correspondence, and reports documenting the activities of Pi Omicron and its successor the Purdue Student Section of the Society of Women Engineers. The records also document the difficulties that women in science have faced over the years.
Extent	4.2 cubic feet, 6 boxes
Finding Aid Author	Virginia Pleasant, 2014
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Acquisition Information:	Transferred from Purdue Women in Engineering Program by Elizabeth M. Holloway on June 11, 2012.
Custodial History:	The Purdue Society of Women Engineers records were separated from the Women in Engineering Program records.
Accession Number:	20120611.1 20151015
Preferred Citation:	MSP 182, Purdue Society of Women Engineers records, Karnes Archives and Special Collections,

Purdue University Libraries

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**Related Materials
Information:**

UA 17.01.02-1, Women in Engineering Program
Records

MSP 7, Frank and Lillian Gilbreth papers

MSP 148, Mortar Board Records

MSP 97, Purdue Women's Club records

MSA 251, Roberta Gleiter papers

College of Engineering records

Engineering Communications records

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Lillian Moller Gilbreth, 1878-1972

Organizations

Purdue Student Section of the Society of Women Engineers

Topics

Purdue University. School of Engineering

Purdue University. Women in Engineering Program

Women in science.

Women's Archives at Purdue University

Form and Genre Types

Correspondence

Color photographs

Programs

Occupations

Engineers

History of Purdue Student Section of the Society of Women Engineers

The Purdue Student Section of the Society of Women Engineers began as the Gamma chapter of Pi Omicron professional society for women in engineering in 1946. Pi Omicron received support from Dr. Lillian Gilbreth, who was also involved in the founding of Pi Omicron chapters at Syracuse and Cornell. Dr. Gilbreth noted the specific challenges faced by women in engineering and believed that a professional society geared toward fostering fellowship among women engineers and providing resources to them was a necessity. Potential members of Pi Omicron were required to be enrolled in engineering, be of sophomore standing, have good grades, and maintain membership in her respective technical society.

The decision to join the Society of Women Engineers came as a result of the desire of engineering faculty and women students to participate in a national professional society in an effort to provide more opportunities and guidance for women engineering students at Purdue. The Purdue chapter became the first student section of Society of Women Engineers (SWE) in 1954. As a student chapter, they emphasize scholarship in addition to fellowship and professional development. They have provided scholarships and awards over the years to members with outstanding records, the first of which was awarded in 1967 with assistance from the Mortar Board. Since the advent of Title IX legislation, the Purdue chapter has also expanded to include male membership.

The Purdue chapter has frequently been recognized by the national organization of SWE. They have been honored as the best section in their region, the best student section in the nation, and for the involvement and leadership of individual members.

Source:

MSP 182, Purdue Society of Women Engineers records

Collection Description

Scope

The Purdue Student Section of the Society of Women Engineers records (4.2 cubic feet; 1945-2010) document the creation of a professional society for women engineering students at Purdue (Pi Omicron) and the subsequent transition to the student section of the Society of Women Engineers, a national organization. The bulk of the papers document the activities and organization of the Purdue chapter of SWE, and its relationship with the national organization of SWE. The participation of SWE in Purdue's Grand Prix is also documented. The collection is particularly strong in its documentation of the earliest years of both Pi Omicron and SWE (1940s-1950s) and the more recent era of the 1980s-2000s. The 1960s-1970s are not well documented within the contents of the collection. The bulk of the materials documenting the most recent years and the Grand Prix are in the form of scrapbooks. This collection would be particularly useful to researchers interested in women in STEM professions, women's professional organizations, Purdue's Grand Prix, engineering at Purdue, and precursors to Title IX legislation. Types of materials include papers, correspondence, photographs, programs, printed materials, scrapbooks, awards and slides.

Arrangement

1. SWE Organizational Materials, 1945-2010 (3.6 cubic feet). This series consists of various materials documenting SWE as an organization and their involvement in events and activities. Types of materials include historical and organizational documents, awards, publications, photographs, and scrapbooks. Also included is historical information about SWE's precursor, Pi Omicron. The series provides a good overview of the changing role of the Society of Women Engineers for engineering students at Purdue. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically by topic a/or type.

2. Grand Prix Materials, 1970-2009 (0.6 cubic feet). This series is comprised mostly of pictures and scrapbooks documenting the involvement of SWE in Purdue's Grand Prix. Also included are some Grand Prix programs that illustrate the various activities associated with Grand Prix Week and their evolution over the years. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically by topic a/or type.

Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained (for most of the collection however, there was no discernible original order). All materials have been placed in archival housing. All newsprint has been photocopied and in most cases original newspaper clippings have been discarded. Photo albums and scrapbooks disassembled for preservation purposes were first scanned to maintain a record of the original context.

Additions and Revisions

Five cubic feet of additional material was accessioned on October 15, 2015. The additional materials consisted primarily of scrapbooks and photo albums. Also included were some organizational papers, programs, and awards. During the processing of the addition, the original materials were re-processed to facilitate a better arrangement of the collection. The original arrangement utilizing a single series was changed to two series to better reflect the content of the collection. The finding aid has been updated and revised to reflect the content of these additions and new arrangement.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series 1. SWE Organizational Materials, 1945-2010

(3.6 cubic feet)

Box 1 (*Historic documents and publications*)

Folder

- 1 "A History of Purdue SWE," undated
2. Gamma Chapter of Pi Omicron, 1958-1953
3. Pi Omicron, 1946-1947
4. Purdue SWE Organizational papers and correspondence, 1952-1982
5. Purdue SWE banquet programs and membership directories, 1955-1970
6. Constitution and bylaws, 1976-2001
7. Member guidelines, circa 1980s
8. Section guidelines, 1985-1986
9. SWE publications, 1965-1989
10. SWE pamphlets and brochures, 1979-1983
11. Purdue SWE organizational documents, 1992-1994
12. Fundraising correspondence, 2001

Box 2 (*Awards and photographs*)

Folder

- 1 Purdue SWE merit awards, 1988-1995
2. Awards certificates, 1990-2013
3. Clippings, 1993
4. SWE embroidered logo sample, 2001
5. Purdue SWE awards programs and photographs, 1979-2004
6. SWE awards photographs, circa 1990s
7. Purdue SWE photographs, circa 1980-2000
8. SWE scrapbook, 1979-1980
9. SWE scrapbook photographs, 1982-1983
10. SWE scrapbook photographs (preservation copies), 1982-1983
11. SWE scrapbook photographs, 1988-1989
12. SWE scrapbook photographs (preservation copies), 1988-1989
13. SWE scrapbook photographs, 1995-1996
14. SWE scrapbook photographs (preservation copies), 1995-1996

Box 4 (*Scrapbooks*)

Item

- 1 SWE historical scrapbook, 1953-1987
2. SWE scrapbook, 1986-1987
3. SWE scrapbook, 1989-1990
4. SWE scrapbook, 1990-1991

5. SWE scrapbook, 1992-1993
6. SWE scrapbook, 1993-1994

Box 5 (*Scrapbooks*)

Item

1. SWE scrapbook, 1996-1997
2. SWE scrapbook, 1997-1998
3. SWE scrapbook, 2000-2001
4. SWE scrapbook, 2000-2001
5. SWE scrapbook, 2001-2002
6. SWE scrapbook, 2001-2002
7. SWE scrapbook, 2002-2003
8. SWE scrapbook, 2003-2004

Box 6 (*Scrapbooks and plaques*)

Item

1. Miller/Bush Award for Personal Growth plaque, 1993-2004
2. Student Organization Leadership Award, 2009
3. Morkescott Award for Enthusiastic Participation plaque, 1991-2002
4. SWE scrapbook, 2006-2007
5. SWE scrapbook, 2007-2008
6. SWE scrapbook, 2008-2009
7. SWE scrapbook, 2009-2010
10. Miller/Bush Award for Personal Growth plaque, 1981-1992

Series 2. Grand Prix Materials, 1970-2009

(0.6 cubic feet)

Box 3 (*Grand Prix programs and photographs*)

Folder

1. Grand Prix programs, 1972-1979
2. Grand Prix programs, 1982-1986
3. Grand Prix programs, 1998-2006
4. Grand Prix photographs, circa 1970-2009
5. Grand Prix slides, negatives, and proof sheets, circa 1980
6. Grand Prix photographs, circa 1980s
7. 1984 Grand Prix, 1984
8. 1984 Grand Prix (preservation copies), 1984

Box 6 (*Grand Prix scrapbooks*)

Folder

8. Grand Prix scrapbook, 2001

9. Grand Prix scrapbook, 2006