



**FINDING AID TO
THE FRANCE A.CÓRDOVA PAPERS, 1963-2012**

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
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Processed by: Virginia Pleasant, October 29, 2014

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	France A. Córdova, 1947-
Title	France A. Córdova papers
Collection Identifier	UA 3
Date Span	1965-2012, predominant 2007-2012
Abstract	The collection includes publications, correspondence, reports, notes, certificates, artifacts, and ephemera related to the life and career of France A. Córdova.
Extent	10.65 cubic feet; 24 boxes, 1 FF folder
Finding Aid Author	Virginia Pleasant
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC-R
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research. The collection is stored offsite; 24 hours notice is required to access the collection.
Acquisition Information:	Transfer from Purdue University Development Office via Hadley Thomas, August 5, 2008; Donation by David Lasater, August 5, 2008; Donation by France Córdova, August 8, 2008; Donation by France Córdova, July 8, 2010; Donation by France Córdova, March 1, 2012; Donation by France Córdova, July 2, 2012; Transfer from Westwood, July 13, 2012
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Related Materials Information: France Córdova Oral History Interview
Chris Foster Oral History Interview

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Córdova, France A.

Organizations

Purdue University

University of California Riverside

United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Women's Archives at Purdue University

Topics

Women in Higher Education

Women in Science

Form and Genre Types

Artifacts

Certificates

Color Photographs

Color Slides

Correspondence

Magazines (periodicals)

Occupations

College presidents-- Indiana

Biography of France A. Córdoba

France A. Córdoba, the eleventh president of Purdue University, was born in 1947 in Paris, France. Córdoba is the oldest of twelve siblings born to her parents, who returned to the United States after her father's service to the United States' State Department was complete. Córdoba attended Bishop Amat High School in West Covina, California and was active in her community and school activities. In spite of her later interest in astrophysics, she was initially drawn to the liberal arts, graduating cum laude from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in English. During her tenure at Stanford, Córdoba also explored her heritage while doing fieldwork with the Zapotec Indians in Oaxaca, Mexico. The trip resulted in the publication of a short novel and recipe book which ultimately led to an internship with *Mademoiselle* that allowed her to travel further after graduation. These early experiences affected Córdoba greatly, and had an impact on her approach as an educator- namely her support of international study, broad-based liberal arts education, and interdisciplinary research.

After the Apollo 11 moon landing, Córdoba renewed her early interest in science and became fascinated by space. Her initial exploration of astrophysics began with her appointment as a lab assistant. While working, she also took classes to gain foundational knowledge in astrophysics before ultimately earning her PhD in Physics from the California Institute of Technology in 1979. Her PhD thesis was titled *X-Ray Observations of Dwarf Novae*, and led to several publications and conference presentations. This research continued during Córdoba's ten year appointment at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Córdoba first tried her hand at higher education during her four year stint at Pennsylvania State University, where she began as a professor and was promoted to the head of the newly developed Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Subsequently, she was selected as the Chief Scientist of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration where she worked on the Hubble Space Telescope and with several other committees.

In 1996, she returned to higher education when she was appointed as the vice chancellor for research and professor of physics at University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2002, she remained in the University of California system but transferred to the Riverside campus as the newly appointed chancellor, where she helped to establish a School of Medicine. She remained there until her 2007 appointment as Purdue's eleventh president. This appointment brought much attention, as Córdoba was recognized for being the first female as well as the first Hispanic president of Purdue. Córdoba's time at Purdue was noted for the establishment of the College of Health and Human Sciences, the Global Policy Research Institute, and for improving upon various rankings of the university. At the conclusion of her five year term in 2012, Córdoba served as the chair of the Board of Regents for the Smithsonian Institution, before being appointed in 2014 as the new head of the National Science Foundation. In addition to her impressive resume and career thus far, Córdoba has

been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, some of which are highlighted throughout the collection.

Source(s):

UA 3, France A. Córdova papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University

France Córdova Oral History Interview, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University

Chris Foster Oral History Interview, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University

Bailey, Martha J., *American Women in Science: 1950 to the Present, A Biographical Dictionary*, Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO Inc., 1998, pp. 57-58.

http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/members/current_members/cordova.jsp

Collection Description

Scope

The France A. Córdova papers (1965-2012; 10.65 cubic feet) document the life and career of France A. Córdova. The bulk of the materials relate to Córdova's work in academia. The collection primarily covers Córdova's research and career, with little information or materials regarding her earlier years, personal life, or various appointments with governmental organizations (such as NASA or the NSF). This collection will particularly useful for researchers interested in France Córdova's research as an astrophysicist and her career in higher education. Also of note to researchers interested in NASA, astrophysics, or space are Córdova's slide collections and other printed materials from NASA. Types of materials include: correspondence, certificates, printed material, slides, photographs, machine-readable media, artifacts, ephemera, etc. The papers are organized into five series:

Arrangement

1. Personal papers, 1971-2012 (1.8 cubic feet). The personal papers cover a variety of materials from Córdova's personal files, including certificates recognizing and awarded to Córdova, course materials from courses she taught, publications and reports from her tenure at Purdue, documents regarding various professional organizations of which Córdova was a member, material related to the Nobel Prize ceremony for Purdue professor Eichi Negishi, and miscellaneous other papers. The teaching materials contain some slides and magazine clippings that have been kept in place in an effort to maintain original order and Córdova's filing system. This series should be particularly useful to researchers interested in the scope of Córdova's career in higher education. Materials are arranged chronologically by type.

2. Published Materials, 1975-2012 (2.35 cubic feet). This series includes articles and reprints written by Córdova, magazines and newspapers with articles about Córdova, and books that were given to a/or owned by Córdova (many of which are inscribed). Of particular note in this series is a bound copy of Córdova's PhD thesis. Materials are arranged chronologically by publication type.

3. Artifacts, 1963-2012 (3.2 cubic feet). This series includes various artifacts and ephemera collected by Córdova. Much of the series consists of plaques and awards received by Córdova and small buttons and pins from the various organizations with which she has been affiliated. Also included are a few trophies from Córdova's childhood extracurricular activities, including a speech contest, an award for running, and a first runner up trophy for a Jr Miss competition. Materials are arranged loosely by type and size.

4. Audiovisual and Digital Media, 1977-2012 (1.3 cubic feet). This series consists of photographs, slides, and various machine-readable media. The photographs primarily document people and events from Córdova's tenure at Purdue. The machine readable media consist primarily of backups of Córdova's files prior to her time at Purdue. Córdova's personal slide collection used for lectures and teaching may be of particular note to astrophysicists and researchers of space history- many of the slides were produced by NASA or affiliated organizations. Materials in this series are arranged chronologically by type.

5. Oversized Certificates, Photographs, and Other Materials, 1974-2012 (2 cubic feet). Of note in this series are nomination certificates from both George and George W. Bush, other framed awards from various agencies, and materials relating to the Nobel Prize won by Eichi Negishi. Materials in this series are arranged chronologically by size.

Descriptive Rules 2nd Edition / Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. Those materials with no pre-existing useable order have been grouped into series and subseries by type and arranged chronologically. All materials have been placed in archival housing. Most printed and audiovisual materials have been grouped into separate series for preservation purposes. Oversized maps, blueprints, diagrams, certificates, and other printed material [OVS]; photographs; and artifacts have been separated and grouped into individual series for preservation purposes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series 1. Personal Papers, 1971-2012

(1.8 cubic feet)

Box 1

Subseries 1. Inaugurations and Certificates, 2003-2012

Folder

1. UC Riverside inauguration, 2003
2. UC Riverside congratulatory certificates, 2003
3. UC Riverside congratulatory correspondence, 2003
4. UC Riverside farewell correspondence, 2007
5. Miscellaneous certificates, 2004-2012
6. Purdue recruitment and appointment, 2007
7. Purdue inauguration, 2008 (1 of 2)
8. Purdue inauguration, 2008 (2 of 2)
9. Purdue congratulatory correspondence, 2008
10. Purdue congratulatory certificates, 2008 (1 of 2)
11. Purdue congratulatory certificates, 2008 (2 of 2)

Box 2

Subseries 2. Teaching Materials, 1971-2010

Folder

1. Journals and clippings, 1971-2001
2. Slides, 1990-1998
3. NASA produced information on the Hubble Telescope, 1993-1994
4. UC Riverside "Life Beyond Earth" course materials, 1 of 2, 2004
5. UC Riverside "Life Beyond Earth" course materials, 2 of 2, 2004
6. UC Riverside "Life Beyond Earth" course materials, 2005
7. Purdue University "President's Leadership Class," 2009-2010

Box 3

Subseries 3. Events and Memberships, 1996-2012

Folder

1. Miscellaneous programs from various events and gatherings, 1996-2012
2. American Academy of Arts and Sciences induction program materials, 2008-2010
3. Global Summit of University Presidents event materials, 2011
4. Association of American Universities fall membership meeting materials, 2011

Box 4

Subseries 4. Miscellaneous, 1980-2012

Folder

1. Resume, 1980
2. Correspondence, 1993-2012 (Note: contains photographs.)
3. Córdova Speeches, 2007-2012
4. Scrapbook: "Top 20 Things to do at Purdue," 2007
5. Notes on "International Conference on Women Leaders in Science, Technology, and Engineering" stationary, 2007
6. Purdue calendar containing Córdova's commitments, 2009
7. Speeches by Others, 2009-2011
8. Miscellaneous Purdue, 2010-2012
9. "Perpetual Membership" certificate of the Perpetual Mass Association for Chris Foster, 2011
10. Business cards, 1993, 2008
11. Universities Research Association, 2002
12. UC Riverside recognition, 2007

Box 5

Subseries 5. Eishi Negishi Nobel Prize Materials, 2010

Folder

1. Program materials, tickets, menus, photographs, etc. , 2010
2. Press coverage, 2010

Box 6

Subseries 6. Purdue related materials, 2007-2012

Folder

1. Research Annual Report, 2007-2011
2. 2008 Board of Trustees retreat, 2007-2008
3. "Strategic Plan- Current", 2008
4. New Synergies strategic plan pamphlet, 2008
5. "Retreats and Summits", 2009
6. Year in review, 2009-2011
7. Budget planning, 2011
8. Plan for final year, 2011
9. President's Council New Mexico retreat, 2011
10. Decadal Funding Plan draft report, 2011-2012
11. Huron Consulting Group materials 2011-2012
12. Innovation and Commercialization Center promotional materials, 2011-2012

Series 2. Published Materials, 1975-2012

(2.35 cubic feet)

Box 7

Subseries 1. Articles and Publications authored by Córdova, 1975-1995

Folder

1. Bibliography in Astrophysics, 1975-1989
2. PhD Thesis: *X-Ray Observations of Dwarf Novae*, 1979
3. Article reprints and copies 1 of 5, undated ca. 1975-1995
4. Article reprints and copies 2 of 5, 1978-1979
5. Article reprints and copies 3 of 5, 1980-1984
6. Article reprints and copies 4 of 5, 1985-1989
7. Article reprints and copies 5 of 5, 1992-1993

Box 8

Subseries 2. Magazines containing articles on Córdova, 1984-2012

Folder

1. 1984
2. Penn State brochure, 1990
3. 1992-1997
4. 2006
5. 2007
6. 2008
7. 2009
8. 2010
9. 2011
10. 2012

Box 9

Subseries 3. Newspapers containing articles on Córdova 2007-2012

Folder

1. *Purdue Exponent*, 2007-2012
2. *Lafayette Journal and Courier*, 2007-2012
3. Other newspapers- Indiana, 2007-2011
4. Other newspapers- California, 2007
5. Other newspapers- National, 2008-2009
6. Other newspapers- in Spanish, 2012

Box 10

Subseries 4. Clippings, 2007-2011

Folder

1. Announcements on Córdova's appointment , 2007
2. *Purdue Exponent* Online, 2007-2008
3. *Lafayette Journal and Courier*, 2007-2008
4. *Indianapolis Star*, 2007-2008

5. *Inside Indiana Business*, 2007-2008
6. Indiana newspapers, 2007
7. *Louisville Courier-Journal*
8. California News, 2007
9. Medical Program articles, 2007
10. Business websites, 2007
11. Nature, 2007
12. Miscellaneous, 2007
13. HispanicBusiness.com, 2007
14. Misc. Internet Sources (Same Article), 2007
15. Copies of news clippings, 2007-2011

Box 11

Subseries 5. Books, 1999-2012

Item

1. Correspondence pertaining to book gifts, 2004-2011
2. *Zhores Alferov: Portrait of Intellect Russian Scholars* (inscribed), 2011
3. *An Enduring Quest: The Story of Purdue Industrial Engineers* (inscribed), 2009
4. *Return to Purdue: An Experience of a Lifetime*, 2012
5. *Entrepreneurial President: Richard Atkinson and the University of California, 1995-2003*, 2012
6. *Bridge Builder: An Insider's Account of Over 60 Years in Post-War Reconstruction, International Diplomacy, and German-American Relations* (inscribed), 2012
7. *Shen Nong Zhi Hun Da Di Chang Ge* (inscribed), 2009

Box 12

Item

1. *Become the CEO of You, Inc.* (inscribed), 2006
2. *Three Tigers and Purdue* (inscribed), 1999
3. Sigma Chi Photo Book, 2008

Series 3. Artifacts, 1963-2012

(3.2 cubic feet)

Box 13

Folder

1. Miscellaneous ephemera, 1990-2007
2. USPS Space Exploration commemorative stamps, 1991
3. TSS-1R Tether, 1996
4. Commemorative pins, ca. 1990-2011
5. Women in Science buttons, 1996

6. Purdue Basketball Championship memorabilia, 2007-2012
7. Commemorative coins 1994-2011
8. Miscellaneous buttons, ca. 1990s
9. Stickers pertaining to space launches/missions, ca. 1990s
10. Name badges, 1993-2012
11. Space buttons, 1994-1996
12. Patches pertaining to space launches/missions, ca. 1990s
13. MIDEX Coin, 2000
14. Purdue Aviation Technology weight, ca 2010
15. Purdue Women's Golf Big 10 Champions necklace, 2010
16. Purdue Women's Golf National Champions necklace, 2010

Box 14

Item

1. Mayo Schools recognition plaque, 2011
2. Purdue Chapter National Organization Women Membership plaque, 2007
3. West Covina Jr. Chamber of Commerce plaque, 1965
4. Langley Research Center plaque, 1993
5. NASA Chief Scientist plaque, 1996

Box 15

Item

1. Purdue Technology Center of Indianapolis ribbon cutting scissors, 2009
2. Purdue Technology Center of Southeast Indiana ribbon cutting scissors, 2008
3. Hispanic Achievement Award for Science and Technology, 1997
4. UC Riverside Black Graduation Committee recognition plaque, 2005
5. University Eastside Community Collaborative AmeriCorps Project Award, 2005
6. Purdue Midwest Conference for Women in Physics marker, 2011
7. Distinguished Sustainability Leader Award, 2007
8. Smithsonian Museum of African American History Groundbreaking plaque, 2012
9. American Society for Public Administration Outstanding Administrator Award, 2007

Box 16

Folder

1. UC Riverside Chancellor plaque, ca. 2007
2. UC Riverside Homecoming jersey, ca 2007
3. Los Angeles Girls, Inc. Award, 2004
4. NASA Alert Program Award, 1994
5. Softball with team (?) signatures, undated

6. Purdue hard hat belonging to Chris Foster 1 of 2, ca. 2008
7. Purdue hard hat belonging to Chris Foster 2 of 2, ca. 2008
8. Purdue North Central Córdoba Paperweight, 2010
9. American Council on Education Award, 2006
10. Nerf gun and invitation letter for Humans vs. Zombies, 2011
11. Indianapolis Business Journal Influential Women Award, 2007
12. Entre Nous Award, 2011

Box 17

Folder

1. Liberal Arts Achievement Award, 1995
2. West Covina Jr. Miss First Runner Up trophy, 1965
3. Bishop Amat Distance Relays trophy, 1963
4. K of C Speech Contest first place trophy, 1965
5. UC Riverside Chancellor hard hat, ca. 2006
6. Purdue Córdoba hard hat, ca. 2008
7. Hispanic Image Award, 2003
8. Purdue Honorary Doctorate Award, 2012
9. Purdue Córdoba basketball jersey, ca. 2008

Series 4. Audiovisual and Digital Media, 1977-2012

(1.3 cubic feet)

Box 18

Subseries 1. Photographs and Inkjet Prints, 2004-2012

Folder

1. Córdoba with Arnold Schwarzenegger. 2004
2. UC Riverside Delegation to Seoul album, 2005
3. Geddes award, 2007
4. Córdoba at Purdue events, 2007
5. Journal Gazette press photographs, 2007
6. Miscellaneous photographs, 2007-2012
7. Purdue presidents, 2008
8. Krannert event, 2009
9. President's Leadership Class, 2009-2012
10. Córdoba around Purdue, 2011
11. Córdoba and guests- football, 2011
12. Purdue Silver Twins, 2011
13. Big 10 Women's Basketball Champions, 2012

Box 19

Subseries 2. Slides, 1977-1992

Folder

1. Córdoba Slides and printed material pertaining to astronomy and astrophysics 1 of 2, 1983-1990
2. Córdoba Slides and printed material pertaining to astronomy and astrophysics, 2 of 2, 1983-1992
3. Astronomy slides 1 of 2, 1977-1990
4. Astronomy slides 2 of 2, 1990
5. Miscellaneous loose slides, ca 1990

Box 20

Folder

1. Women in astronomy, 1990-1992
2. An IRAS Gallery, ca. 1990
3. The Radio Universe, ca. 1990

Box 21

Subseries 3. Machine Readable Media, 1983-2011

Item

1. Córdoba introduction, 2007
2. Purdue on TV, 2007-2008
3. Last backup, 2007
4. Córdoba welcome draft 2, 2007
5. UC Riverside How to Raise a Bear, 2007
6. UCR email and website, 2007
7. My documents, 2007
8. The Affected Others, 2007
9. Conferment of honorary doctoral degrees, 2011
10. NASA 6
11. NASA 3
12. NASA 2
13. NASA 1
14. NASA 5
15. Chris
16. Chris from France's MAC
17. C. Foster and F. Córdoba
18. Lewin
19. NASA 4
20. Mail M-P
21. Mail P-S
22. Mail H-P
23. Mail AIP-3
24. Mail S-Z
25. Mail A
26. Mail A-B
27. Mail C-L

28. Mail AIP-2
29. Scopes: Women and Minorities in the Sciences at Penn State, 1992
30. Aimals [sic]
31. Trumper, 1983
32. Córdova GXN Symp., 1992
33. V. Trimble
34. WHG Lewin
35. Astron. BA x2
36. Sheila Tobias interview
37. Córdova II Caxaf, 1992
38. S. Holt I
39. Mutshowsky
40. Pulsars, sounds of

**Series 5. Oversize certificates, photographs, and other materials,
1974-2012**

(2 cubic feet)

Box 22

Folder

1. Scrapbook of congratulatory certificates, 2008
2. Certificates, 1991-2008
3. Eichi Negishi Nobel Prize materials, 2010-2011
4. Liftoff photographs
5. Landing Photograph 1 of 2, 1974
6. Landing Photograph 2 of 2, 1974
7. San Jose de Tumacacori, 1998

Box 23

Item

1. George W. Bush NSF nomination, 2008
2. Framed CIA certificate of appreciation, 2011
3. Framed American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellow nomination, 2008
4. Framed "Women of Hope" and Glass Ceiling Award marker, 2002

Box 24

Folder

1. Los Alamos National Lab certificate, 2002
2. Star registry, 2003
3. Star map, 2003
4. Girl Scout photograph, ca. 2007
5. Córdova portrait, 2008

6. APRU Group photograph, 2011
7. PMO Group photograph, ca. 2012

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Item

1. George Bush National Medal of Science Committee nomination, 1991
2. Chinese calligraphy,