



**FINDING AID TO
THE WOMEN IN ENGINEERING PROGRAM
RECORDS, 1935-2012**

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
Research Center
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West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058
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Processed by: Virginia Pleasant, November 21, 2014

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Women in Engineering Program, 1969-
Title	Women in Engineering records
Collection Identifier	UA 7
Date Span	1935-2012, predominant 1970-2000
Abstract	This collection contains papers, publications, photographs, and electronic media documenting the inception of the Women in Engineering Program at Purdue, as well as its activities and successes. Also included is information on Lillian Gilbreth, an important figure in engineering at Purdue, and Martha Dicks Stevens, the first woman graduate in engineering at Purdue.
Extent	1.85 cubic feet (5 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.
Accession Number:	20120611
Preferred Citation:	UA 7 , Women in Engineering Program records, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Purdue University per deed of gift
Related Materials Information:	MSP 182, Purdue Student Section of Society of Women Engineers records

MSP 7, Frank and Lillian Gilbreth papers

College of Engineering records

Engineering Communications records

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Martha Dicks Stevens

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

Brochures

Color photographs

Reports

Occupations

Engineers

History of Purdue Women in Engineering Program

The Purdue Women in Engineering Program was established in 1969 in response to the perceived lack of women students enrolled in engineering in spite of the successes of women engineers in other countries. The program was the first of its kind in the U.S., and is credited with providing a model for similar programs nationwide. The program worked to actively recruit women skilled in math and science from Indiana high schools and, later, elementary schools. In its outreach efforts, the program also attempted to improve general public knowledge about the engineering discipline and available career paths for graduates. In addition to recruiting, a second focus of the Women in Engineering Program was to provide support for existing female students in an effort to improve retention and graduation rates. These efforts included mentoring programs, grouping of women in classes, financial and personal support, and partnerships with the Purdue Student Section of the Society of Women Engineers. These efforts ultimately helped to improve both retention and graduation rates among female students in engineering. According to the Women in Engineering Program website, all of these efforts have resulted in the increased enrollment of women from one percent in 1969 to the current nineteen percent.

Source(s):

UA 7, Purdue Women in Engineering Program records

MSP 182, Purdue Society of Women Engineers records

Collection Description

Scope

The Women in Engineering Program records (1935-2012; 1.85 cubic feet) documents the creation of the Women in Engineering Program at Purdue University, as well as its activities and successes. Also included in the collection is information on Dr. Lillian Gilbreth and the first woman to graduate in engineering at Purdue, Martha Dicks Stevens. The records reflect the growth of the program over the years as well as the substantial increases in the number of women engineers that were attributed to the program. The collection would be useful to researchers interested in women in STEM and traditionally male fields, women's history, and the role of public universities in the women's movement. The records would also be useful for researchers interested in publicity a/or publications regarding Lillian Gilbreth and her role as a pioneering woman engineer. The collection is comprised primarily of publicly distributed materials and has little in the way of correspondence or personal papers. Types of materials include: brochures, clippings, electronic media, photographs, reports, and speeches. The records are organized into four series:

Arrangement

- 1. Administrative Information, 1970-2008 (0.75 cubic feet).** The administrative information series includes reports and statistical data on the Women in Engineering Program, promotional materials, information on mentoring, and clippings regarding the first woman graduate in engineering. The materials provide an accurate representation of the growth and expansion of the program as well as its impact on women students. The materials also situate Purdue's program within the context of other Women in Engineering programs in the United States. Materials in the series are arranged by type and subject matter.
- 2. Clippings and Publications, 1935-2012 (0.5 cubic feet).** The clippings and publications series includes clippings on Lillian Gilbreth, women and the engineering profession, women in engineering at Purdue, and the Purdue Grand Prix. Also included are Purdue and external publications such as *Womengineer*, *Feminengineer*, and promotional materials related to recruitment of women students to the engineering program. The materials in this series are arranged by type.
- 3. Photographs, 1970-2004 (0.5 cubic feet).** The photographs series primarily documents students and staff affiliated with the Women in Engineering Program. The photographs are organized chronologically by subject matter.
- 4. Electronic Media, 1992-1998 (0.1 cubic feet).** The discs in this series appear to be computer file backups and are arranged by type.

Descriptive Rules Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. All materials have been placed in archival housing. All newsprint has been photocopied and in most cases original newspaper clippings have been discarded. Some clippings containing images of people or color graphics, or front pages of newspapers, have been preserved for display purposes, with photocopies made available for research. Materials have been organized into series by type.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series 1. Administrative Information, 1970-2008

(0.75 cubic feet)

Box 1

Folder

1. Annual reports and related materials, circa 1970-1980
2. Annual reports, 1993-1994
3. Annual reports, 2000-2008
4. Statistical data, 1981-1992
5. Promotional materials, 1970-1990

Box 2

Folder

1. Cultural awareness programs, 1975, 1990s
2. Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS), ca. 1989
3. Exploring Successful Careers at Purdue's Engineering Schools (ESCAPES), 1991-1994
4. Purdue "Careers in Engineering Day" speeches, 1976-1985
5. Mentoring information, 1990s
6. Graduate assistantship, 1998
7. 25th anniversary materials, 1995
8. Information on first female engineering graduate, 1996
Photocopies of information pertaining to Martha Dicks Stevens who received three degrees from Purdue and was the first female graduate in Engineering. Included are copies of her theses, marriage certificate, obituary, etc.
9. Information on first female engineering instructor, undated

Series 2. Clippings and Publications, 1935- 2012

(0.5 cubic feet)

Box 3

Folder

1. Clippings, 1935-2012
2. *The Feminengineer*, 1975-1988
3. *Purdue University Womengineer*, 1974, 1995-2006
4. Miscellaneous Purdue publications, ca. 1970-1980
5. Non Purdue publications, 1954-1991

Series 3. Photographs, 1970-2004
(0.5 cubic feet)

Box 4

Folder

1. Female students, ca. 1970-1978
2. Students, faculty, staff, and mentor photos, 1990s
3. Staff and students, 2000
4. Students and staff, 2001
5. Contact sheets and negatives, ca. 1980-2000
6. Students, staff, mentors, and mentees, 2001
7. Mentors, staff, and students (contains electronic media), 2004
8. Unidentified miscellaneous photos, ca. 1990s

Series 4. Electronic Media, 1992-1998
(0.1 cubic feet)

Box 5

Item

1. Zip disk, unlabeled
2. Box of removable discs: Dr. E Wadsworth file backups, 1992-1998
 1. PCP Final Report, 1992-1993
 2. PCP Matching, 1992-1993
 3. PCP Report, 1993-1994
 4. SLOAN, 1993-1994
 5. SLOAN Report (Final)
 6. M & M Undergraduate Final Report, 1995-1996
 7. SLOAN Alum Report, 1995-1996
 8. M & M Report, 1997-1998
 9. SLOAN Report, 1997
 10. MWRTS Report
 11. Evaluation Resource Book
 12. SLOAN Team Survey Data