

# PURDUE

---

UNIVERSITY

---

## FINDING AID TO THE ROBERTA BANASZAK GLEITER PAPERS, 1938-2011



**Purdue University Libraries  
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections  
Research Center  
504 West State Street  
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058  
(765) 494-2839  
<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol>**

© 2011 Purdue University Libraries. All rights reserved.  
Processed by: Kristin Leaman, July 2011  
Revised: Stephanie Schmitz, February 2012

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Gleiter, Roberta Banaszak
<b>Title</b>	Roberta Banaszak Gleiter papers
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	MSA 251
<b>Date Span</b>	1931-2011
<b>Abstract</b>	The Roberta Banaszak Gleiter papers (7 cubic feet; 1931-2011) contains photographs, correspondence, speeches, certificates, awards, and other materials documenting Glieter's personal and professional life. Included in the collection is Purdue memorabilia as well as materials from professional organizations with which Gleiter was oriented.
<b>Extent</b>	8 cubic feet (11 mss boxes, 4 oversize boxes, 4 artifact boxes)
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Kristin Leaman, 2011
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Repository</b>	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

## Administrative Information

<b>Location Information:</b>	ASC
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	Roberta Banaszak Gleiter; Donation
<b>Accession Number:</b>	20100924, 20101007, 20110211, 20110519, 20120210
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	MSA 251, Roberta Banaszak Gleiter papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice:</b>	The donor has assigned the copyright in her papers to the Archives; copyright of some of the items may be held by their respective authors. Consult a reference archivist for details.

## **Subjects and Genres**

### **Persons**

Gleiter, Roberta Banaszak

### **Organizations**

The Aerospace Corporation

Society of Women Engineers

Chi Omega Fraternity

### **Topics**

Engineering

Women in engineering

### **Form and Genre Types**

Articles

Awards

Clothing

Ephemera

Manuscripts (document genre)

Photograph albums

Resumes (personal records)

### **Occupations**

Engineering

Student

## Biography of Roberta Banaszak Gleiter

Roberta Banaszak Gleiter received her BS in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University in 1960, a time when women engineers were very few and far in between. As a result, Gleiter faced discrimination in her field. She married fellow Purdue alumnus, John Gleiter, and raised her three children from 1960 until 1980. In 1980, she re-entered the workforce and was offered a job at the The Aerospace Corporation. She then earned her MS in Systems Management/Technical Systems from the University of Southern California. Gleiter has published several articles and given many presentations nationwide and worldwide. She is a proud advocate for engineering and received the 2008 *Outstanding Chemical Engineering Award* from Purdue University.

### Sources:

Roberta Banaszak Gleiter's CV

Unknown. "GIFTE Board Bios." *GIFTE: Global Institute for Technology & Engineering*. July 2011. [http://gifte.org/about\\_bios.php](http://gifte.org/about_bios.php).

Unknown. Articles: "Alumna working to pave way for women engineers." July 2011. [http://gifte.org/docs/article\\_alumna2010.pdf](http://gifte.org/docs/article_alumna2010.pdf).

## Collection Description

### Scope

The Roberta Banaszak Gleiter papers (7 cubic feet; 1931-2011) contains materials that document both Gleiter's personal and professional life such as letters of appreciation and commendation; awards; certificates; speeches and presentations; photographs; academic transcripts; items pertaining to Gleiter's involvement in professional organizations; and materials documenting Gleiter's time at Purdue, including her student identification card, materials pertaining to Glieter's involvement with the Chi Omega fraternity, and her and her husband's senior cords.

### Series Arrangement and Description

The Roberta Banaszak Gleiter papers have been arranged in twelve series.

**Series 1: Family and Education, 1944-1986:** Series 1 contains information compiled by Roberta Banaszak Gleiter about her family and education, including her piano book, Red Cross buttons, St. Bronislava School graduation ribbon, Latin Honor Society diploma, membership and identification cards, clippings, autobiography, Chi Omega booklet, receipts, report cards and transcripts, short course certifications, admission offer, transcripts, USC brochures, and photocopy of Gleiter's master's degree.

**Series 2: Biographical Information and Oral History, circa 1980s-2009:** Series 2 contains several biographies and curriculum vitas over the course of Gleiter's professional life, as well as an oral history of Gleiter by the Aerospace Storytelling series.

**Series 3: Professional Activities, 1964-2011:** Series 3 contains clippings, photos, guidebooks, handbooks, and conference information from Gleiter's professional activities, including Chi Omega, Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Purdue University, Global Institute for Technology & Engineering (GIFTE).

**Series 4: Speeches and Presentations, 1985-2011:** Series 4 contains speeches and presentations delivered by Gleiter for a range of professional activities, including Aerospace Corporation, Chi Omega, Global Institute for Technology & Engineering (GIFTE), Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Purdue University, and a variety of conferences.

**Series 5: Papers authored by Roberta Gleiter, 1986-2005:** Series 5 contains Gleiter's master's thesis, papers for conferences, and articles for *SWE Magazine*, *Orbiter*, and the *Purdue Alumnus*.

**Series 6: Articles mentioning Roberta Gleiter, 1983-2009:** Series 6 contains articles from *Orbiter*, *SWE Magazine*, and *Purdue Alumnus*.

**Series 7: Certificates and Awards, 1981-2009:** Series 7 contains Gleiter's certificates and awards that she has received from the Aerospace Corporation acknowledging her accomplishments in courses as well as personal and group achievements. Other awards and certificates are from Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Purdue University, Institute for the Advancement of Engineering Inc., Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration, and Career Planning Center Conference.

**Series 8: Letters of Appreciation and Commendations, 1974-2004:** Series 8 contains letters of appreciation and commendations to Gleiter from Aerospace Corporation, Department of the Air Force, Kennedy Space Center, University of California – San Diego, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Purdue University, Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Northwestern University, and Global Institute for Technology and Engineering (GIFTE).

**Series 9: Photographs, 1931-2010:** Series 9 contains photographs that document Gleiter's personal and professional life, including several photographs of Gleiter when she was a child through her late teens. There are several photographs documenting her and her husband's lives at Purdue University, as well as many photographs of Gleiter's family and professional activities: Chi Omega, Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Global Institute for Technology and Engineering (GIFTE), Aerospace Corporation, University of Southern California, and Purdue University.

**Series 10: Scrapbooks, 1999:** Series 10 contains three scrapbooks documenting Gleiter's professional activities: Japan trip, 1999; Society of Women Engineers Board of Director's Roast of Roberta Gleiter as National President, 1999; Society of Women Engineers Board of Director's Roast of Roberta Gleiter as National President, 1999.

**Series 11: Artifacts, 1966-1999:** Series 11 contains artifacts documenting Gleiter's personal and professional activities, including buttons, a tennis ring mould, ribbons, Judo materials, name tags, ball cap, Society of Women Engineers (SWE) items, Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) materials, Global Institute for Technology and Engineering (GIFTE) and Society of Women Engineers (SWE) pins designed by Gleiter, and an embroidered Chinese handkerchief presented to her by Beijing officials.

**Series 12: Oversize Materials, 1939-2010:** Series 12 consists of oversize materials from all of the series that documents Gleiter's life, including her and her husband's Purdue senior cords from 1960 and items pertaining to Gleiter's involvement with Chi Omega. The series also contains photos spanning from Gleiter's grammar school days to her college days at Purdue, as well as awards and buttons from The Aerospace Corporation, Air Force, Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS), and Gleiter's competition tennis playing days.

## **Descriptive Rules**

## **Processing Information**

The original order of the materials has been retained whenever possible. All materials have been housed in archival containers.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### **Series 1: Family and Education**

1944-1986

(0.25 cubic feet)

#### **Box 1**

##### Folder

1. Grammar School, 1944-1952  
Piano book, red cross buttons, St. Bronislava School graduation ribbon, Latin Honor Society diploma
2. High School, 1952-1956  
Membership cards, clippings, autobiography
3. Purdue University, 1956-1960  
Chi Omega booklet, receipts, membership and identification cards, clippings, report cards and transcripts
4. Graduate school, 1981-1986  
Short course certifications, admission offer, transcripts, USC brochures, photocopy of master's degree

### **Series 2: Professional Activities**

circa 1980s-2010

(0.25 cubic feet)

#### **Box 1**

##### Folder

5. Biographical Information and curriculum vitas, circa 1980s-2010
6. Media Aerospace Storytelling Series [oral history], 2009

### **Series 3: Professional Activities**

1964-2011

(0.5 cubic feet)

#### **Box 2**

##### Folder

1. Professional activities, 1964-1968
2. Professional activities, 1973-1979
3. Professional activities, circa 1980s
4. Professional activities, 1991-1999



5. Professional activities, 2000-2003
6. Professional activities, 2004-2005
7. Professional activities, 2006-2011

### **Series 3: Professional Activities**

undated  
(One folder)

#### **Box 3**

##### Folder

1. Professional activities, undated

### **Series 4: Speeches and Presentations**

1985-2011  
(0.5 cubic feet)

#### **Box 3**

##### Folder

2. Speeches and Presentations, 1985-1986  
Acceptance Speech at Woman of the Year Ceremony. March 4, 1985.
3. Speeches and Presentations, 1991-1999  
Speech presented at the Aerospace Scholarship and Corporate Award Banquet. 1991.  
Speech presented to the San Fernando Valley Panhellenic at Calabassas, CA. June 11, 1994.  
"Acquisition Reform: How it can impact YOU." Presentation by Roberta Gleiter. February 7, 1996.  
Speech for Region E Student Conference in Philadelphia. 1996.  
"We Have Our Work Cut Out For Us!" Speech presented by Roberta Gleiter on October 9, 1996.  
Speech for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual UCLA SWE Evening with Industry. January 22, 1997.  
Speech for the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Los Angeles section of SWE. 1998.  
SWE Thank you speech for Aerospace Corporation. 1998.  
Speech for the Region E Conference in New York City. 1998.  
FY99 Installation Speech. June 20, 1998.

Speech for Wichita State University SWE Conference. October 3, 1998.

Last president's note of Gleiter's SWE presidency. 1999.

"Reaching out for Success." 1999. [Presented to SWE]

Speech given at the Purdue SWE 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon. February 14, 1999.

"TRENDS: Women in Engineering." Presented by Gleiter at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists. July 24, 1999.

"A Fond Farewell." Presented by Gleiter at the SWE Annual Membership Meeting. June 26, 1999.

Speech for Government Women's Equality Day Luncheon. August 24, 1999.

4. Speeches and Presentations, 1999

Speech for Colorado School of Mines SWE Evening with Industry. September 13, 1999.

Speech for SWE Los Angeles section Scholarship Awards and Corporate Recognition Banquet. September 30, 1999.

Testimony for The Congressional Commission on the Advancement of Women, Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Development. October 7, 1999.

Speech for the Purdue SWE Region H Conference Banquet. November 13, 1999.

Speech for The 1999 International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition. November 14-19, 1999.

5. Speeches and Presentations, 2001-2011

Speech for National Engineers Week. 2001.

Speech for the Career and Educational Workshop held at Northwestern University. February 24, 2001.

Presentation "Corporate Culture and You" given in Paris, France. July 4, 2001.

Chi Omega Eleusinia Speech. April 2002.

Speech for Chi Omega Fraternity in Santa Clara, California. June 19-22, 2003.

Cal Tech speech. November 6, 2003.

Speech to Hartnell College. 2008.

6. Speeches and Presentations, undated
  - Speech, undated.
  - Speech for SWE section in Albuquerque, undated.
  - Speech for JETS TEAMS competition in Washington, D. C., undated.
  - Speech "Women in the Workplace," undated.

### **Series 5: Papers authored by Roberta Gleiter**

1986-2005

(0.25 cubic feet)

#### **Box 4**

#### Folder

1. Roberta Gleiter's Master's thesis, 1986
  - A Study of Organizational Behavior at A Systems Engineering Corporation.*
  - University of Southern California, 1986.
2. Papers authored by Roberta Gleiter, 1993-1999
  - Gleiter, Roberta. "A Systems Approach to Hazardous Waste Management."
  - Published and presented at the Society of Women Engineers National Conference in Chicago, Illinois. June 23, 1993.
  - Gleiter, Roberta and Captain Lee Rosen. "Insights into the Process of Converging Inter-Agency Government Programs." Presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Space Congress. April 25-28, 1995.
  - Gleiter, Roberta, R. Lucas, S. Jones, S. B. Guarro, S. Ruth. "Acquisition Reform Initiative (ARI) Space System Architecture and Processes." 1996.
  - Review by Roberta Gleiter on Judith Love Cohen's "You Can Be a Woman Engineer." 1997.
  - Gleiter, Roberta F., Captain John Whisenant, Milo E. Whitson. Abstract for "Lessons Learned on Managing Risk For the SBIRS High Ground Segment Software Development." 1999.
  - Gleiter, Roberta. "Space Based InfraRed System Risk Management Implementation." 1999.
  - S. Eslinger. "Software Acquisition and Software Engineering Best Practices." 1999. [Roberta Gleiter is acknowledged by the author for her contributions to the document.]
  - Gleiter, Roberta. "Are SWE Members Passionate?" *SWE Magazine.*

- March/April 1999.  
 Gleiter, Roberta. "ICWES Article." *SWE Magazine*. July 1999.
3. Papers authored by Roberta Gleiter, 2000-2005  
 Gleiter, Roberta F. "Risk Management of Ground Software Development for SBIRS High." 1999.  
 Gleiter, Roberta. "Business Etiquette in the Engineering Workplace." *SWE Magazine*. April 2001.  
 Gleiter, Roberta. Abstract and introduction for a panel discussion on "Breaking Barriers, Opening Doors to Global Opportunities" at the *International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES)* in Ottawa, Canada. July 2002. [Roberta Gleiter, Chair of panel]  
 Letter to the editor. *Wall Street Journal*. December 24, 2005. Page A9.
4. Papers authored by Roberta Gleiter, undated  
 Gleiter, Roberta. "Aerospace, Air Force and the Society of Women Engineers Celebrate with the Girl Scouts." undated.  
 "Future Engineers." *Orbiter*. May 20, undated.

### **Series 6: Articles mentioning Roberta Gleiter**

1983-2009

(0.5 cubic feet)

#### **Box 5**

##### Folder

1. Articles mentioning Roberta Gleiter, 1983-1986
2. Articles mentioning Roberta Gleiter, 1991-1993
3. Articles mentioning Roberta Gleiter, 1994-1997
4. Articles mentioning Roberta Gleiter, 1998
5. Articles mentioning Roberta Gleiter, 1999
6. Articles mentioning Roberta Gleiter, 2000-2002
7. Articles mentioning Roberta Gleiter, 2003-2009
8. Articles mentioning Roberta Gleiter, 2010
9. Articles mentioning Roberta Gleiter, undated

### **Series 7: Certificates and Awards**

1981-2009

(0.5 cubic feet)

#### **Box 6**

##### Folder

1. Certificates and Awards, 1981-1987
2. Certificates and Awards, 1990-1999
3. Defense Meteorological Satellite Program System Program Office Appreciation Award, 1996
4. Aerospace Women's Committee Award Presentation, 1997
5. Certificates and Awards, 2000-2009
6. Certificates and Awards, undated

## **Series 8: Letters of Appreciations and Commendations**

1974-2004

(0.25 cubic feet)

### **Box 7**

#### Folder

1. Letters of appreciation and commendations, 1974
2. Letters of appreciation and commendations, 1981-1989
3. Letters of appreciation and commendations, 1990-1999
4. Letters of appreciation and commendations, 2000-2004
5. Letters of appreciation and commendations, undated

## **Series 9: Photographs**

1931-2010

(0.5 cubic feet)

### **Box 8**

#### Folder

1. Photographs, 1931-1952  
Pictures of Roberta Gleiter and her family in her early years.
2. Photographs, 1952-1955  
Pictures of Roberta Gleiter and her family during her high school years.
3. Photographs, 1956-1960  
Pictures of Roberta and John Gleiter during their college years at Purdue. Pictures of Roberta Gleiter with her Chi Omega sisters at Purdue.
4. Photographs, circa 1960s-1979  
Family pictures of Roberta and John Gleiter and their children.
5. Photographs, 1980-1987  
Family pictures of Roberta and John Gleiter and their children. USC Graduate school graduation and work pictures of Roberta Gleiter.
6. Photographs, 1990-1999  
Work, vacation, and family pictures of Roberta Gleiter.

7. Society of Women Engineers photographs, circa 1990s
8. Photographs, 2001-2010
9. Photographs, 2011
10. Photographs, undated

## **Series 10: Scrapbooks**

1999

(0.5 cubic feet)

### **Box 9**

#### Item

1. Scrapbook from Gleiter's Japan trip, 1999
2. Scrapbook from Society of Women Engineers Board of Director's Roast of Roberta Gleiter as National President, 1999
3. Scrapbook from Society of Women Engineers Board of Director's Roast of Roberta Gleiter as National President, 1999

## **Series 11: Artifacts**

1966-1999

(1 cubic foot)

### **Box 10**

#### Item

1. Buttons, circa 1960-1994
2. Post-Purdue business (tennis ring mould from Gleiter's "Rings by Roberta," a California Licsensed business), 1966
3. Recreation (ribbons), 1968-1980
4. Recreation (ribbons), 1968-1980
5. Recreation (Judo materials), 1968-1980
6. Name tags from conferences and professional gatherings, circa 1980-1991

### **Box 11**

#### Item

1. SBIRS ball cap, undated
2. Society of Women Engineers miscellaneous items, undated
3. SBIRS magnet, 2004
4. Harvard Business School napkin, undated
5. SBIRS sticker and lanyard, undated

6. SWE and GIFTE pins designed by Roberta Gleiter, undated
7. Embroidered Japanese handkerchief, undated

## **Series 12: Oversize Material**

1939-2010

(3.5 cubic feet)

### **Box 12                    Oversize Purdue Memorabilia, 1960**

#### Item

1. Roberta and John Gleiter's Purdue University senior cords, 1960

### **Box 13                    Oversize Purdue Memorabilia, 1960**

#### Item

1. Society of Women Engineers ChemE (artifact), 1960
2. Purdue Freshman beanie, 1960

### **Box 14                    Oversize Purdue Memorabilia, 1956-1960**

#### Item

1. Chi Omega scrapbook, 1956-1960
2. Farwell present from Abbot Laboratories, 1957

### **Box 15                    Oversize T-shirt and article, 1996**

#### Item

1. T-shirt with buttons from when Gleiter was a national judge at the First Robotics, 1996

### **Box 16                    Oversize Photographs, 1944-1960**

#### Item

1. Grammar School photographs, 1944-1952
2. Purdue senior photographs, 1960
3. F.B.I. Tour photograph, 1988
4. Bridesmaid photograph, 1959

**Box 17          Oversize Artifacts, circa 1973-1996**

Item

1.      Baby Cup Classic Players buttons, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982
2.      Tennis trophy nameplates, 1973-1979
3.      Tennis trophy nameplates, undated
4.      Tennis pins and medals, undated
5.      Tennis necklace, undated
6.      Air Force Association Citation of Honor, 1996

**Box 18                  Oversize Travels, 1999**

Item

1.      Gleiter's ball cap from Japan, 1999

**Box 19                  Oversize Awards, 1983-2003**

Item

1.      Aerospace Outstanding Accomplishment Award, 1983
2.      SWE 50 Years Leadership pin (fabricated by Gleiter), 1999
3.      Women's Equality Day Celebration, 1999; SBIR Unit of the Year, 1996
4.      Abstract for International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientist, 2002
5.      *Diversity/Careers in Engineering & Information Technology*, December 2002/January2003
6.      50 years of Aerospace Corporation Calendar, 2010