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INVENTORY TO THE JAMES BLAKESLEY COLLECTION ON THE CLASS OF 1950, 1946-1950

**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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Revised: December 16, 2009
Compiled By: Mary A. Segó

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Blakesley, James, 1924-2016
Title	James Blakesley Collection on the Class of 1950
Collection Identifier	MSA 28
Date Span	1946-1950, predominant 1950
Abstract	Printed material; dance cards, newspaper clippings, event programs and playbills, along with photographs and artifacts from members of the Class of 1950.
Extent	3 cubic feet (2 boxes and 1 unboxed artifact)
Finding Aid Author	Mary A. Segó, 2009
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:	Donation received from James Blakesley on November 19, 2009
Accession Number:	20091119
Preferred Citation:	MSA 28, James Blakesley Collection on the Class of 1950, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Blakesley, James, 1924-2016

Organizations

Purdue University

Purdue University--Class of 1950

Purdue University--Alumni

Purdue University--Students

Form and Genre Types

Beanies

Dance Cards

Event Programs

Playbills

Photographs

Biography of James Blakesley

James Blakesley was a member of the Class of 1950. He was a part of Purdue University for nearly 50 years. His time at Purdue began with undergraduate studies and part-time employment compacted into three years. He spent the bulk of the remaining half-century serving under the basic broad guidelines of President Hovde to apply industrial engineering management concepts to Purdue in a fair and equitable way.

As recorded in the May 21, 1999 Purdue Board of Trustees minutes, President Beering recommended to the Board that James F. Blakesley be designated Emeritus Director of Space Management and Academic Scheduling.

Dr. Beering pointed out that Mr. Blakesley had been at Purdue University his entire professional career and had almost single handedly built Purdue's Space Management and Academic Scheduling office into one of the best functioning operations in the United States. He was decades ahead of his colleagues in using computers to assist in matters of class scheduling and in the assignment of space for classrooms, research laboratories, and office functions. His work on preparing statements of need along with planning for new facilities is legendary on campus. Blakesley devoted his entire life to Purdue and brought much distinction upon himself and the University.

The Trustees unanimously approved Blakesley's designation of emeritus status. James Blakesley died March 4, 2016.

James Blakesley gathered and organized the materials found in this collection from his fellow 1950 classmates. Tom Wilhite, who also contributed many items to the collection was the editor of the Debris in 1950.

Sources:

Retrieved December 14, 2009 from <http://earchives.lib.purdue.edu/u?/bot,7450> and from Mr. Blakesley himself.

Collection Description

Scope

The James Blakesley Collection on the Class of 1950 (1946-1950; 3 cubic feet) contains memorabilia from the Class of 1950's days at Purdue. Types of materials include: printed material; dance cards, newspaper clippings, event programs and playbills, along with photographs, record albums and artifacts. Some items are undated.

Arrangement

1. Printed Material, Photographic Material and Audio-Visual Material, 1946-1950 (1 cubic foot). The printed material consists of dance cards and invitations, entertainment programs and playbills, newspaper clippings and a campus map. Also contained in the box with printed material are photographs, record albums and a few artifacts [pots – beanies/hats].

Materials in the series are arranged in a small box [dance cards and invitations] and folders.

2. Artifacts, 1947-1950 (2 cubic feet). The artifacts consist of items donated by the Class of 1950, with an emphasis on pots (beanies/hats), pledge paddles, and other ephemera.

Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Printed Material, Artifacts and Audio-Visual Material, 1946-1950

(1 cubic foot)

Box 1 *Printed Material – Small Box, 1948-1950*

Item

1. Dance Cards and Invitations, 1948-1949
2. Military Ball, 1948
3. P-Men's Blanket Hop, 1948-1949
4. Snowflake Fantasy, undated (circa 1948-1949)
5. WRH Club, Winter Waltz, 1948
6. Zeta Chapter of Phi Kappa, Annual Pledge Dance, 1948
7. Beta Theta Pi, Orchid Formal, 1948
8. Skull and Crescent's Class of 1950 Sophomore Cotillion, 1948
9. Inter-fraternity Ball, 1949
10. Class of 1950 Junior Prom, 1949
11. Purdue Chapter of Delta Upsilon, Annual Rose Ball, 1949
12. Purdue Reamer Club's 25th Anniversary Dance, 1950
13. Kappa Sigma, Spring Dance, May 14, 1949
[green ribbon]

Folder 1 *Entertainment, programs and playbills, 1947-1950*

Item

1. Recorded Activities Album, Intercollegiate Recording Association, 1950
2. Purdue Playshop programs, circa 1947-1950
3. Purdue Musical Organizations and Purdue Convocations programs, 1947-1950
4. Hall of Music programs, 1947-1950
5. Victory Varieties programs, 1947-1949
6. Varsity Varieties programs, circa 1947-1949
7. Varsity Varieties cast and staff passes, 1949
8. Theatre Guild program, circa 1940s
9. Purdue Convocations schedule for 1948-1949
10. Purdue Penny Carnival program, 1949
11. Map of Lafayette and West Lafayette showing Purdue campus, undated
[drawn by Pauline Harlan, adapted with permission from a map by C. M. Draper]

Folder 2 *Bleacher Crash, newspaper clippings, 1947*

Item

1. *2 Dead, 200 Hurt in Cage Game Crash: Bleachers Fall at Purdue as Crowd Boilermakers' Team* [no publication information available]
2. *Tragedy Disrupts Purdue Basketball Game*, St. Louis Post-Dispatch,

Tuesday,
February 25, 1947

3. *2 Dead, 250 Hurt In Collapse Of Bleacherstands At Purdue U.: Seats Crash at Basketball Game –Panic Averted—Two From This Area Injured – Fieldhouse Sealed Pending Inquiry* [no publication information available]
4. *Stands Buckle When 4000 Give Ovation: Co-Eds Among Crowd Tumble to Floor Of Basketball Field* [no publication information available]
5. *After Collapse Of Spectator-Jammed Gym Bleacher [photo] 2 Killed, 200 Hurt As Gym Bleacher Fall At Purdue U.* [no publication information available]
6. *Purdue Bleacher Crashes: 3,400 Hurlled to Floor; 1 Dies, Scores Hurt,* Chicago Daily Tribune, Tuesday, February 25, 1947, front page.
7. *Fieldhouse Bleachers Collapse During Halftime; 2 Students Killed, Many Injured* Catastrophe, Purdue Exponent, Tuesday, February 25, 1947, front page
8. *Onlookers Give Account Of Terror And Bravery,* Purdue Exponent, Tuesday, February 25, 1947
9. *Bleachers Crash Victim Describes Sickening Fall, Panic Aftermath,* Purdue Exponent, Tuesday, February 25, 1947, front page
10. Hospital List, Purdue Exponent, Tuesday, February 25, 1947, front page

Folder 3 *Photographic Material, 1949-1950*

Item

1. Packet of photographs and negatives of student life at Purdue, circa 1949 [bridge, students playing in the snow, James Blakesley in derby, Purdue band on football field and parade]
2. James Blakesley in front of "One Brick Higher" poster, circa 1950's

Artifacts, circa 1900-1950

1. Alpha Phi Omega hat [blue and gold, 1940s]
2. Gold Pepper hat [belonged to Ros Griney, President of the Gold Peppers, 1949-50]
3. Skull and Crescent hat, 1940s
4. "G" hat [unidentified, Gimlet?]
5. Green beanie [freshman hat ?]
6. Kit of tools for creating engineering tools [drafting instruments in case, circa 1900-1950]

Audio-Visual Material, 1949-1950

Item

1. Package of Record Albums, "Our Voices Raise...A Year at Purdue On Record," Intercollegiate Recording Association, 1949-1950 [includes recordings of pep rallies, football games, cord parade, Varsity

Variety shows, Glee Club, dances, etc.]

Artifacts, 1947-1950

(1 cubic foot)

Box 2 *Artifacts, circa 1940s-1950s*

Artifact

1. Coin [fare token, Lafayette Transit Co., Inc.]
2. "P" Horse [black and gold, 1940s]
3. 1950 black and gold sweater [circa 1950]
4. Slide rule [in case, belonged to Tom Wilhite]
5. Slide rule [unidentified, circa 1940s]
6. Gimlet Club pledge paddle [belonged to Tom Wilhite]
7. Skull and Crescent paddle [belonged to Tom Wilhite]
8. Pi Tau Sigma paddle [belonged to James Blakesley]
9. ME-50 paddle [Mechanical Engineering, Class of 1950, belonged to James Blakesley]
10. Figurine [man wearing Purdue Boilermaker sweater, holding slide rule and pipe, 1940s]

Unboxed Artifact OVS

(1 cubic foot)

Item

1. Box/Cardboard Trunk – used to send laundry home, circa 1940s
[Item belonged to Tom Wilhite]