



**FINDING AID TO  
THE SISTERS FOR HEALTH EDUCATION  
(S.H.E.) RECORDS, 1978 – 1982**

**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: Jonnie McConnell, May 13, 2014

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Sisters for Health Education (S.H.E.)
<b>Title</b>	Sisters for Health Education (S.H.E.) records
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	MSP 150
<b>Date Span</b>	1978 – 1982
<b>Abstract</b>	The Sisters for Health Educations (S.H.E.) records contain correspondence, administrative records, pamphlets, and circulars documenting the formation and activities of a student group focusing on women's health issues.
<b>Extent</b>	1.4 cubic feet (3 mss. boxes, 1 small mss. box)
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Jonnie McConnell, 2014
<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-R
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	Transferred from the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program on January 10, 2013.
<b>Custodial History:</b>	The S.H.E. records were housed in the Women's Studies Program office before being transferred to the Karnes Archives and Special Collections in 2013 as part of the Women's Studies Program records. The custodial history before this transfer is unclear.
<b>Accession Number:</b>	20130110
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	MSP 150, Sisters for Health Education (S.H.E.) records, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice:</b>	Copyright owned by Purdue University

## **Subjects and Genres**

### **Persons**

Marcia L. Whisman

### **Organizations**

Sisters for Health Education (S.H.E.)  
Committee on Institutional Cooperation

### **Topics**

Women's health services  
Reproductive rights  
Birth control  
Abortion  
Rape

### **Form and Genre Types**

Circulars  
Clippings  
Correspondence  
Notes

### **Occupations**

Women college students

## History of Sisters for Health Education (S.H.E.)

Sisters for Health Education (S.H.E.) was a Purdue University student organization which functioned to inform, support and provide referrals to women in the Purdue community regarding birth control, problem pregnancy, rape prevention and counseling, and general women's health concerns. The group began in 1979 as an effort by three staff members to create a small women's health center. This effort was resisted by the administration because of the fear of abortion counseling. The idea for a women's health center was instead applied to creating a student group, led by the student Marcia Whisman and advisor Jackie Kassouff. Eventually, the organization opened a small counseling center on March 2, 1981, staffed by community volunteers and partnering with local groups such as Planned Parenthood, the YWCA, local churches, and women's organizations. The Archives has no record of the demise of the program, however there are no collection materials created after 1982.

*Source: Material within the collection.*

## Collection Description

### Scope

The Sisters for Health Education (S.H.E.) records (1979 – 1982; 1.4 cubic feet) documents the creation and operations of this Purdue student organization. The educational materials in this collection record the kinds of sexual and reproductive health information available to college students at the time. The collection also shows the difficulties encountered trying to establish an organization that talked openly about issues of abortion, birth control, and rape during this era. Types of materials include circulars, clippings, correspondence, and planning notes.

**Descriptive Rules** Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition / Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Processing Information

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. Original folder titles have also been retained. All materials have been placed in archival housing.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### **Box 1**

#### Folder

1. History of S.H.E.
2. Fiddler's Gathering food booth
3. S.H.E. Business
4. Correspondence
5. Financial documents, moneymaking
6. Purdue memos
7. Julie Chamberlain's file
8. S.H.E. Fliers
9. Publicity – Radio Spots
10. Publicity
11. Resources (books, films, etc.)
12. General health resources
13. Resources, nutrition
14. Birth control
15. S.H.E. logo design booklet
16. Birth control presentation
17. Health Equity Project  
Includes a detailed letter describing S.H.E. and the state of women's health services at Purdue circa 1981.
18. Abortion referral
19. Women's Festival, 1980
20. Women's writing
21. Public presentations

### **Box 2**

#### Folder

1. Birth Control presentation
2. Training – Role Playing Suggestions
3. Abortion – Indianapolis Women's Center, Concord Center Chicago
4. Abortion – Louisville and Madison
5. Abortion Information
6. Abortion, politics
7. Birth control – experimental
8. Adoption, Tippecanoe County
9. Birth control Depo-Provera
10. Birth control pills
11. Cervical cap
12. Diaphragm

13. Intra-Uterine Device (IUD)
14. Creams and jellies
15. Fertility awareness
16. Birth control for men
17. Birth control politics
18. Natural birth control
19. Sterilization
20. Planned Parenthood
21. Sterilization reversal
22. Rape – general information
23. Rape procedure
24. Rape – training for counseling
25. Local churches, service/help
26. Matrix Lifeline
27. Battered women, Lafayette
28. Bladder infections
29. Boston Women's Health Book Collective newsletters
30. Caesareans
31. Hysterectomy
32. Lesbian issues
33. Menopause
34. NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League)

### **Box 3**

#### Folder

1. Toxic Shock Syndrome
2. Vaginal Infections
3. Vitamin C – ascorbic acid
4. Women and substance abuse
5. Violence (against women, family, etc.)
6. Lafayette Women's Clinic
7. Drugs and hormones
8. Birth defects
9. Cancer
10. Occupational health
11. Teen sexuality
12. YWCA Women's Shelter
13. Feminist politics
14. The breast
15. Abortion – medical aspects
16. Venereal disease
17. S.H.E. public presentations, problem pregnancy and abortion handouts
18. Menstruation
19. Pregnancy, general information
20. Women's health – clippings, pamphlets, miscellaneous

## **Box 4**

### Folder

- 1 Women's health – clippings, handouts, newspapers
2. Boston Women's Health Book Collective news packet, 1979 – 1980
3. Community Resources directory (abortion, birth control, rape, pregnancy, sterilization)
4. Informational materials binder (birth control, pregnancy, rape, general health)