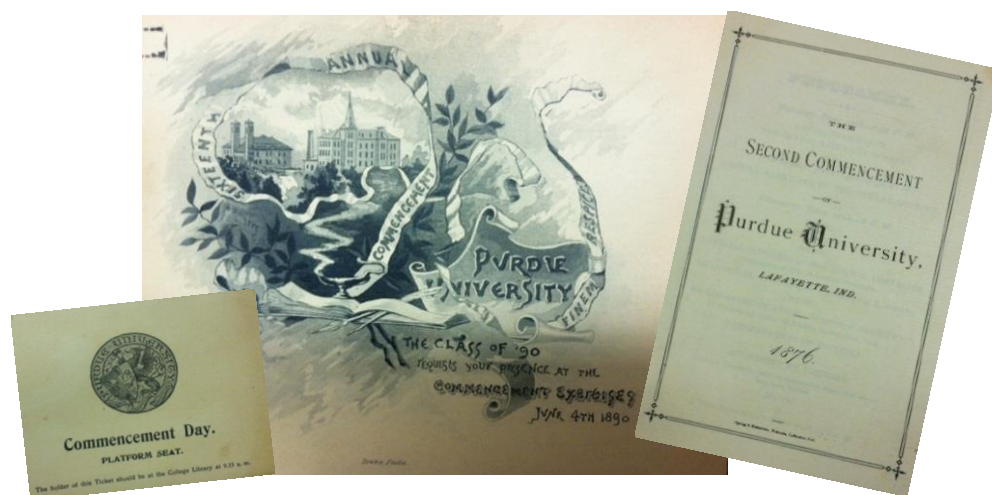


PURDUE

UNIVERSITY



FINDING AID TO THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT PROGRAMS AND INVITATIONS COLLECTION, 1883-2013

**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>

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Processed by: Mary A. Segó, August 6, 2014

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Legacy collection, creator unknown
Title	Purdue University Commencement programs and invitations collection
Collection Identifier	MSP 158
Date Span	1883-2013
Abstract	Programs, invitations, addresses and scrapbooks documenting Purdue University graduation ceremonies and graduation week activities.
Extent	5.9 cubic feet (2 mss boxes and 5 c.f. boxes)
Finding Aid Author	Mary A. Segó
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:	Legacy items; donors various and unknown. Some of the programs were obtained from the Office of the Registrar.
Preferred Citation:	MSP 158, Purdue University Commencement programs and invitations collection, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Purdue University

Subjects and Genres

Organizations

Purdue University

Topics

Purdue University--Commencement

Purdue University--Alumni and alumnae

Form and Genre Types

Commencement addresses

Invitations

Programs

Scrapbooks

Occupations

Graduate

Student

History of Purdue Commencement Exercises

Purdue University's first commencement took place in 1875. The graduating class consisted of one graduate, John Bradford Harper, a transfer student from Northwestern Christian University in Indianapolis, which later became Butler. Harper received a degree in Chemistry. In 1877 Purdue would graduate its first students to complete their entire coursework at the university; Eulora Miller from Lafayette was the first female graduate, and Franklin Pierce Clark from Baltimore, Ohio was the first out of state student to receive a Bachelor of Science degree.

In 1882, the School of Agriculture awarded its first Bachelor of Science degrees to Henry A. Beck, William E. Driscoll and Elwood Mead. In 1890, George W. Lacey would become Purdue's first African American graduate, and George Murata of Japan would become the first international student to graduate.

For more information on Purdue's first graduate see:

<http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/didyouknow/2013/Q1/did-you-know-purdues-first-graduate.html>

Source:

Whitford, Fred. *The Grand Old Man of Purdue University and Indiana Agriculture: A Biography of William Carroll Latta*. West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press, 2005. Print.

Collection Description

Scope

The Purdue University Commencement programs and invitations collection (1883-2013; 5.9 cubic feet) documents Purdue University commencement exercises and related events. The collection contains two scrapbooks which hold items from the earliest Purdue commencement and related events; 1883-1900. The first scrapbook contains invitations and programs from the 9th Purdue commencement - 18th commencement, along with Carlyle Literary Society, Philalethean and Irving Literary Society programs and related events that took place during commencement week. Also of note are commencement invitations from Indiana high schools and various colleges, and a flyer from freshmen "Can-Can!" The second scrapbook contains invitations and programs from the 19th Purdue commencement - 26th commencement, a chart with colored ribbons indicating which colors were used for diplomas and various other programs and invitations. The scrapbooks are in fragile condition.

The remainder of the collection consists of commencement programs, invitations and addresses. There are also a few commencement items from the School of Pharmacy, School of Medicine and Army Specialized Training Unit, 154th Service Unit. Types of materials include: commencement addresses, invitations, programs and scrapbooks. The programs have been placed in chronological order when possible; bound volumes did not allow for this at times.

Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1 *Scrapbooks, 1883-1900*

Item

1. Scrapbook, contains invitations and programs from the 9th Purdue commencement through the 18th commencement, along with Carlyle Literary Society, Philalethean and Irving Literary Society programs from events that took place during commencement week. Also of note are commencement invitations from Indiana high schools and various colleges, and a flyer from freshmen "Can-Can!" 1883-1891 (scrapbook in fragile condition)
2. Scrapbook, contains invitations and programs from the 19th Purdue commencement through the 26th commencement, chart with colored ribbons used for diplomas and various other programs and invitations, 1892-1900

Box 2 *Commencement and Related Programs and Invitations, 1886-1949*

Folder

1. Programs and invitations, 1886-1899
2. Programs, 2nd commencement, 1876 and 4th commencement, 1878
3. Programs, 1887, 1889, 1895-1899
4. Programs, 1900-1919
5. Programs, 1920-1929, includes 50th commencement and addresses, June 10, 1924
6. Programs, Baccalaureate Service and Commencement, 1930, 1932-1933, 1936, 1939
7. Baccalaureate Address, 1933, 1935, undated
8. Programs, 1940 ("commencement season" program includes dedication of Elliott Hall of Music and Memorial Window, in memory of Purdue President, Dr. James H. Smart)
9. Programs, 1941-1943, 1946, 1949
10. Programs, Commencement Musical Recital, 1905-1906
11. Programs, Commencement Vesper Service and University Vesper Service, 1905-1921
12. Programs, Chapel Exercises, 1885-1886, 1895
13. Commencement Programs, School of Pharmacy, 1892-1908
14. Commencement Programs, School of Medicine, 1906-1907, invitation, 1907
15. Program, Graduation Exercises, Army Specialized Training Unit, 154th Service Unit, 1944

Box 3 *Commencement Programs (bound volumes), 1896-1959*

Item

1. Programs, 1896-1924
2. Programs, 1924-1948
3. Programs, 1925-1935
4. Programs, 1930-1944
5. Programs, 1931-1940
6. Programs, 1940-1949
7. Programs, 1945-1952
8. Programs, 1946-1950
9. Programs, 1950-1959

Box 4 *Commencement Programs (bound volumes) and Commencement Addresses, 1950-1973*

Item

1. Programs, 1950-1959
2. Programs, 1951-1955 (includes program for 100th Purdue Commencement, June 1, 1952)
3. Programs, 1953-1969
4. Programs, 1956-1960
5. Programs, 1960-1969
6. Programs, 1961-1965
7. Programs, 1966-1971
8. Programs, 1967-1973
9. Commencement addresses, 1955-1968

Box 5 *Commencement Programs (bound volumes), 1969-1988*

Item

1. Programs, 1969-1971 (includes 2 programs for IUPU Fort Wayne and 1 for IUPU Indianapolis)
2. Programs, 1970-1974
3. Programs, 1970-1979
4. Programs, 1972-1976
5. Programs, 1975-1979
6. Programs, 1980-1984 (2 copies)
7. Programs, 1985-1988

Box 6 *Commencement Programs (bound volumes), 1985-2000*

Item

1. Programs, 1985-1989
2. Programs, 1987-1989
3. Programs, 1989-1992 (2 copies)

4. Programs, 1992-1994
5. Programs, 1995-1996 (2 copies)
6. Programs, 1997-1998 (2 copies)
7. Programs, 1999-2000 (2 copies)

Box 7 *Commencement Programs (bound volumes), 2001-2006 and
Commencement Programs (loose issues), 2003-2013*

Item

1. Programs, 2001-2002 (2 copies)
2. Programs, 2003-2004
3. Programs, 2005-2006
4. Programs, 2003-summer, winter 2013 (loose issues)