Donors: The Stuff of Archives

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Winning over Alumni and Influencing Student Life Collecting

The Stanford Alumni Legacy Project

@stanfordarchive  Josh Schneider
Why collect student life?

Records of student life provide insight into campus culture, the relationship between students, faculty, and administration, and student involvement in and reaction to events and movements on campus and beyond.

Wagner, 2013; Buchanan & Richardson, 2012; Prom & Swain, 2007; Chute & Swain, 2004; Christian, 2002
Okay cool... but why alumni?

- Great source of content
- One piece of our overall strategy for documenting student life
Introducing SALP

- Goal is **iterative and sustainable** program to collect student life content from alumni

- Focus on collecting from/about **underrepresented individuals** in Stanford community

- Side goal: **support programming** around University’s upcoming 125th anniversary
Strategy

- Build on existing campus relationships
- Align with broader campus programming
- Promote use of the collections that come in as a result of the program
- Focus on flexibility and convenience
Setting up website and forms

Stanford Alumni Legacy Project website, 2016

Lend Your Materials form accessible through SALP web page, 2016
Promoting the project

Help Preserve Your Stanford Legacy

The Stanford University Archives seeks materials created by alumni during their time on the Farm – student scrapbooks, photographs, audio and video recordings, posters, flyers, records of student organizations, and more. You can donate your materials to the Archives, or lend them for selective scanning.

The Archives will also accept digital content, which will be preserved in the Stanford Digital Repository and made available online.

Help ensure your story is told as part of the larger Stanford story. To learn how to share your materials with the Archives, please visit bit.ly/yourstanfordlegacy or email archivesref@stanford.edu.

Funding for the Stanford Alumni Legacy Project is sponsored in part by Stanford Associates.


Promotional postcard for the Stanford Alumni Legacy Project, 2014
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Oct. 23</td>
<td>10:00 AM - 7:00PM</td>
<td>Ford Center</td>
<td>Take photos with the Stanfords - Discuss your Stanford historical materials with an archivist - Donate or lend your Stanford historical materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 AM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Ford Center</td>
<td>Have your Stanford historical materials scanned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 PM - 2:30 PM</td>
<td>Green Library, Rotunda &amp; Bender Room</td>
<td>Tour of Movements for Change: Bob Fitch Photographs (exhibit) and Social Justice at Stanford (exhibit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Oct. 24</td>
<td>7:30 AM - 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Ford Center</td>
<td>Take photos with the Stanfords - Discuss your Stanford historical materials with an archivist - Donate or lend your Stanford historical materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 AM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Ford Center</td>
<td>Have your Stanford historical materials scanned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:15 PM - 4:15 PM</td>
<td>Green Library, Rotunda &amp; Bender Room</td>
<td>Tour of Movements for Change: Bob Fitch Photographs (exhibit) and Social Justice at Stanford (exhibit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 25</td>
<td>7:30 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Ford Center</td>
<td>Take photos with the Stanfords - Donate or lend your Stanford historical materials</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</td>
<td>Green Library, Bender Room</td>
<td>Social Justice at Stanford (exhibit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Oct. 26</td>
<td>11:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Cantor Arts Center</td>
<td>Founder’s Celebration (exhibit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Success!
Side Project 1: Letters Home

“The mornings are cold & frosty & the air makes a fellow’s ears tingle as he rides up to the Quad on a wheel.”
Frederic Perry, Class of 1900, wrote this letter to his mother from the Farm in January 1900. What story do your letters home tell?

#FarmPhoto by Tamer Shabani, '14.... See More

Join the Letters Home and Alumni Legacy Project
One person's correspondence tells his or her own Stanford story. As a collection, they tell all of ours. Submit your correspondence from the Farm.
LETTERSHOMEFROMSTANFORD.COM

462 others like this.
23 shares
Share your Stanford Story or Memory with the Archives!

(415) 952-7241

Side Project 2: Stanford Stories
Make an Impact...

Preserve Your Stanford History

The Stanford University Archives seeks materials created by alumni during their time on the Farm – student scrapbooks, photographs, letters, audio and video recordings, posters, flyers, records of student organizations, and more. You can donate your materials to the Archives, or lend them for selective scanning.

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@StanfordArchive
@StanfordLibs

Louis Agassiz statue, Stanford University, after the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. Stanford Historical Photograph Collection, Stanford University Archives.
Tap screen to change image. Text 'start' to 650-830-7294 to take pictures.

Brought to you by STANFORD ARCHIVES
Success!
SALP Results, Years 1-2


SALP-aligned accessions, 2014-2015
Analysis

- Flexibility greatly appreciated
- Increased burden on processing staff
- Broad engagement strategy had good ROI
- Oral history program at Reunion Homecoming much more successful than anticipated
Future

- Engage alumni through VR
- Extend focus on marginalized groups and student activism
- Continue oral history program
- Prepare for 125th anniversary exhibits
Recommendations

- Explore funding opportunities
- Build partnerships and seek out allies
- Consider innovative ways to engage community
- Keep message focused
- Consider less traditional collecting methods
NOT ALL MEMORIES ARE MEANT TO FADE AWAY

Share your Historical Materials with the Stanford University Archives Today
Oh, the Places You’ll Go

With the Children’s Theatre Company Archives

Kathryn Hujda
Assistant Curator
Performing Arts Archives
hujda001@umn.edu
In 1984, the Children’s Theatre Company’s (CTC) founding Artistic Director, John Clark Donahue, was arrested and later charged with sexually molesting three students of the Children’s Theatre Company School. Five other adult CTC actors and technicians were charged with similar lawsuits. All six were relieved of their positions with CTC, and all but Donahue were acquitted.

Since December 2015, 14 new lawsuits have filed by former students of the Children's Theatre Company School for alleged sexual abuse in the 1970s-80s. One names a former CTC light and sound technician. Four suits name a former CTC actor and teacher. Three suits name John Clark Donahue. Six suits name the theater company.
Timeline

• 1956-1966: Children’s Theatre Company (CTC) inaugural season
• 1975: UMN Performing Arts Archives contacts CTC
• 1984: Founding Artistic Director John Clark Donahue arrested and found guilty on 3 counts of criminal sexual conduct
• December 2013: Collection donor agreement signed
• 2014-2016: CTC records accessioned and processed
• December 2015: Renewed lawsuits
• February 2016: Exhibit open
• May 2016: Exhibit closes; statute of limitations ends for claims by survivors of childhood sexual abuse
The Children’s Theatre Company

- In operation from 1965-present
- Largest theater for young people in the nation
- Tony-award winning theater company
- Supported the creation of over 200+ new works
- World premiere adaptations of Disney, Sesame Street, and Dr. Seuss
- Access-oriented programming
- Theater training programs for young actors
- Community integration
- International tours and artist collaborations
Promises and Agreements

• Separation of archival materials from retained or restricted materials materials:
  - Retained: litigation records, employment records, and student records
  - Restricted: all materials, other than litigation materials or employment records, arising from and relating to the criminal investigation of John Clark Donahue (board minutes, correspondence, press clippings)

• 50th Anniversary Exhibit Display, February-May 2016
Curatorial Considerations

- Balancing the goals and needs of the university, the archives, and the donor
- Celebrating the good
- Remaining neutrality
- Highlighting important artistic achievements
- Respecting CTC’s wishes
- Retaining curatorial control
- Sensitivity to those who identify as victims
- Identifying community partners and advisors
The Exhibit

• Title: *The Children’s Theatre Company at 50: The Magic Continues*

• Themes: iconic productions (3), community partnerships, commitment to education, developing new work, international collaborations, and adapting classics for stage

• Highlights: actual production pieces selected with help from CTC costume designer, production manager, and properties manager

• Decision: no direct comment or mention of the 1984 lawsuits or current lawsuits
ABOUT THE ARCHIVES

Since 1971, the mission of the Performing Arts Archives has been to preserve and make accessible the history of our performing arts community. We do this by collecting not only the papers of esteemed organizations like the Guthrie Theater, the Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Dance Theatre, and CTC; but also by seeking out the papers of individuals—actors, designers, artists, students, and loyal fans—whose work and lives intersect with these institutions. The more than 150 collections in the Performing Arts Archives comprise the materials that were saved in office filing cabinets and storage closets, in basements and in attics.

Archives are full of stories—those that have been told many times and those that are being told for the first time. We continue to seek actively the stories that are missing from our collections. As archivists and librarians, we thank all those who share their stories and contribute to the growth of the historical record.
Building and Maintaining Donor Relations

- Invited tours for CTC staff
- Involving CTC artists in the selection of objects for display
- Internal documentation of the legal proceedings
- Actively engaging the community
- Targeted collecting efforts
- Willingness, openness, transparency
Jungle
Cape-Brick
Federation
Opus

Old Log

Sheila Smith - head of Monford Theater
Judy Hurnladner
Sally French

Theater Dept. Barbara?
Lance Brodeman
Build relationship
Acquisitions Across Three Centuries
From Early Donations to Negotiations in the Information Age

Lynette J. Stoudt
Georgia Historical Society
SAA, Atlanta 8/4/2016
Organizational History

- Chartered by the Georgia General Assembly in 1839
- Statewide, non-profit organization headquartered in Savannah
- Collections include archival materials, books, serials, maps, and objects
19th century acquisitions

• Began collecting in 1840; many donations are undocumented

• If documented, only listed in meeting minutes

• Some previously undocumented donations are turning up in old newspaper articles
Abraham Baldwin’s annotated draft of the U.S. Constitution
20th century acquisitions

- Documentation improves, but only slightly with more letters transferring collections

- Earliest formal Deed of Gift is dated 1950

- Donation alternatives are established: “Permanent Loan” and “Deposit”
Button Gwinnett and Lachlan McIntosh dueling pistols
21st century acquisitions

- Emphasis on documentation
  - Active solicitation files
  - Letter of Intent

- Donors wish to retain more rights, but institutions wish to make collections more accessible online
21st century acquisitions

- Ray C. Anderson papers

- Negotiations included: GHS, Ray C. Anderson Foundation, Interface, and lawyers representing all parties
Closing Thoughts

• Donor imposed restrictions

• Fragile donors

• Funding support for processing and long-term care

• Do we have to keep it?
Together We Can Work it Out: Building and Maintaining Donor Relations

Cheylon Woods
Archivist and Head
Ernest J. Gaines Center
University of Louisiana Lafayette
cheylon.woods@louisiana.edu
Let's Get Personal
What are future donors looking for?

Presence
Preservation
Familiarity
Transparency
Inclusion
Inclusion
You are your repository and your repository is you.

Alabama Department of Archives and History