

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY™

University Library

WE ARE ISU: SNAPSHOTS OF STUDENT LIFE



March 13–September 2019
403 Parks Library
Special Collections Reading Room

"And Peggy": All the Students We Didn't Spotlight

Rachael Acheson

Selecting student spotlights who represented a range of ISU experiences proved tricky, and we ended up leaving out a lot of interesting people. A complete survey of archival holdings would be impossible, but here is a taste of some of the kinds of perspectives, and tantalizing fragments of perspectives, you would be missing out on if you only viewed our exhibit and never pursued additional archival research on ISU student life.

In the early days of ISU, no institutional archives existed to preserve university history, and administrative offices that kept their own records rarely documented the day-to-day affairs of students. We do have some letters, like those Robert Jack Sharps exchanged with his family (RS 21/7/219), and several examples of coursework. These include the 1870-1872 class notes of Charles N. Dietz (RS 21/7/58), a member of the very first graduating class of Iowa Agricultural College, and a botanical specimen book from early women's courses, belonging to Cora Belle Keith Pierce (RS 21/7/136).

Counterintuitively, there is also a frustrating scarcity of student voices in recent ISU records. This is partly because more recent alumni aren't as likely to have donated their memorabilia yet. But other factors include the discontinuation of The Bomb yearbook in the 1990s, a professional scramble in the archives world to keep up with technological change, and the shift of social life and self-documentation to an online environment.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, options for student spotlights from the in-between periods of ISU history were abundant, but they hailed from such diverse perspectives that identifying any as "representative" felt limiting. For example, none of our exhibit finalists were veterans, although numerous World War I veteran scrapbooks reside in the archives. The long-running Home Economics program is also underrepresented here, though we considered the records of women like Dorleen E. (Aulerich) Witt (RS 21/7/174), who worked with the fascinating and

peculiar "house baby" project of the 1930s – 1950s (RS 12/5/5).

Multiculturalism, racial and ethnic diversity, LGBTQIA+ diversity, religious diversity, and a spectrum of physical and mental abilities are other areas in which our exhibit falls short of representing a full range of student experiences, and we hope that visitors will bear this in mind. Marginalized communities have been represented on campus throughout its history, even if their presence has been only fleetingly documented. However, despite the fact that, as a land-grant college, ISU has been open to applicants regardless of race and gender from the beginning, both ignorance and bias on the part of the predominantly white campus culture have played a role in obstructing access to, and subsequent full inclusion in, educational and social opportunities. In fact, evidence of exclusionary policies, practices, and attitudes are frequently better documented than are the efforts of people who have worked to break them down.

At SCUA, we are working both to overcome such historical biases in our community and to rectify archival gaps. We are collecting documentation of current campus activism as it occurs, specifically via web archiving social media and preserving protest paraphernalia. We have also been collaborating with the Digital Scholarship and Initiatives department to develop an oral history project, known as #VoicesinColor that will document campus communities of color. In fact, our "Student of Today," Julissa Garcia, along with several other members of her sorority, Lambda Theta Alpha, allowed us to interview them about their experiences at ISU. As the project expands, we are hoping to help share the stories of more student, staff, and faculty communities of color, so please let us know if you would be interested in participating.

This is still only a small sampling of projects and collections in the ISU archives. We encourage you to visit the archives in person to learn more.

Exhibition

The Early Years (1869–1898)

Profile of Thomas Rice. 1895. Facsimile. Photograph from University Photographs, box 1864, folder 1.

Veterinary hospital operating room. Circa 1896. University Photographs, box 1273, folder 2.

Train ticket that was used to secure passage between Ames and the Iowa State campus on the Ames and College Railway, otherwise known as the Dinkey. No date. Artifact Collection, 2001-R138.008.

Photograph of the Dinkey steaming across campus. Circa 1900. Facsimile. University Photographs, box 233, folder 2.

Image depicting southwest corner of campus, with Old Main in the center and Morrill Hall to the right. Circa 1900. University Photographs, box 332, folder 3.

Sample questions for an entrance exam. 1876. Iowa State College. *Seventh Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm*. Des Moines. Call Number LD2531 lo9r.

Image showing view of south side of the athletic fields during a football game. Circa 1909. Facsimile. University Photographs, box 223, folder 6.



1895 football team. Back row (left to right): Coach Pop Warner, Doc Blanche, Manager T.L. (Fat) Rice, Woody Woodburn, and C.C. (The Beard) Lewis. Second row: Fred Lyford, Joe Meyers, Jim Wilson, "Van" VanCampen, "Mike" Hammer, Ruby Shaum, S.O. Rice. Front row: Ben Wilson, Buddy Johnson, Mel Mellinger, Frank French, L.E. Rogers, Bill Parsons. 1895. University Photographs, box 1864, folder 1.

Map of College Grounds. 1891. Facsimile. Iowa State University. General Catalog. Ames, Iowa Agricultural College. Call Number LD2547.A2 I68x.

An International Reputation (1899–1928)

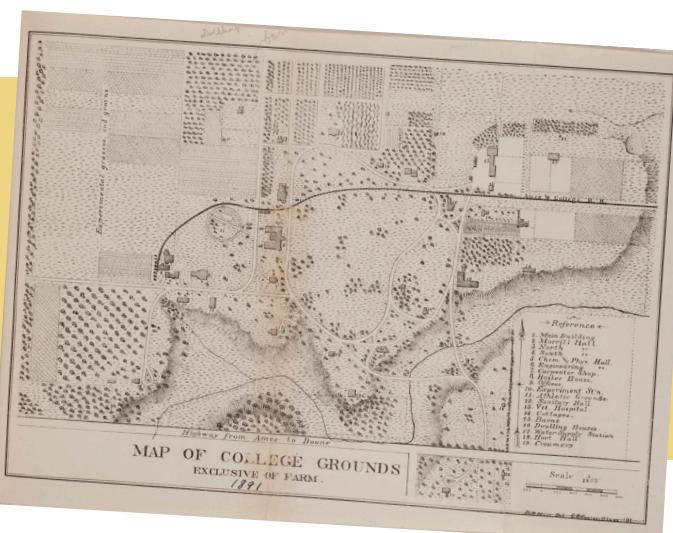
Profile of Fan-Chi Kung. 1926. Facsimile. Iowa State University. *Bomb*. Ames, Iowa State University. Call Number LD2548.lo9b.

Photograph of the cast of "Tour De Luxe." 1924. Facsimile. University Photographs, box 1617.

Program for the Cosmopolitan Club's Annual International Review. 1924. Iowa State University. Cosmopolitan Club Records, RS 22/3/2, box 1, folder 7.

"A Travelogue, Tour De Luxe!" Script for the Cosmopolitan Club international review. 1924. Facsimile. Iowa State University. Cosmopolitan Club Records, RS 22/3/2, box 1, folder 7.

Image of freshman students getting special instruction on fruit judging prior to competing in a contest at the student Horticultural Exhibition. 1928. Facsimile. University Photographs, box 745, folder 2.



Sheet music for Yalami: A Musicomedy, the Night Show production from VEISHEA, written by Ruth Elaine Wilson and Homer Huntoon. 1924. VEISHEA Records (1920s), RS 22/12/1, box 1, folder 10.

Cover and page 10 of program, Yalami: A Musicomedy. 1924. VEISHEA Records (1920s), RS 22/12/1, box 1, folder 10.



Group photograph of Tsing Hua graduates attending Iowa State College. Circa 1926. Facsimile. Fan-Chi Kung Photograph Album, RS 21/7/49, box 1, folder 2.

A photograph of Iowa State students from China posing near some homes in residential Ames. Circa 1926. Facsimile. Fan-Chi Kung Photograph Album, RS 21/7/49, box 1, folder 2.

Panoramic view of campus. 1913. University Photographs, map case.

Feast or Famine (1929–1958)

Scrapbook pages documenting Lorris Ann Foster Foster's life as a student at Iowa State University. Circa 1943–1946. Lorris Ann Foster Foster Scrapbook, RS 21/7/147, box 1.



Front page of the *Iowa State Daily* from V-J Day. August 15, 1945. Facsimile. Randall Matson Scrapbook, RS 21/7/145, box 1.

A softcover, spiral-bound scrapbook, featuring its original cover. Circa 1940s. Dorleene E. (Aulerich) Witt Scrapbooks. RS 21/7/174, box 1.

Image of students, viewed from behind, studying a projected image in an ISU history class. 1939. University Photographs, box 1079.

Two-page yearbook spread featuring Lorris Foster Foster's sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta. 1947. Iowa State University. *Bomb*. Ames, Iowa State University. Call Number LD2548.lo9b.

Poem "Note with a College Laundry Case," clipped from publication *The Pool*. No date. Facsimile. Lorris Ann Foster Foster Scrapbook, RS 21171147, box 1.

Laundry box. Circa 1940. Artifact Collection, 2003-172.002.

Seasons of Change (1959–1988)

Profile of Vernie E. and Delores Hawkins. Photograph of Vernie E. Hawkins. 1972. Facsimile. Iowa State University. *Bomb: Book 2*. Ames, Iowa State University. Call Number LD2548.lo9b. Photograph of Delores Hawkins. Circa 1974. Facsimile. Courtesy of Delores Hawkins.

Group photograph of Vern Hawkins with fellow Dodds House residents. 1972. Facsimile. Iowa State University. *Bomb: Book 2*. Ames, Iowa State University. Call Number LD2548.lo9b.

Image of students, gazing at the English department bulletin board. Circa 1960-1970. University Photographs, box 1073.

Photograph of student using reading machine in the Pearson Hall Reading Lab. 1962. University Photographs, box 1073.

Yearbook page featuring photographs and a short article about the aftermath of MLK's assassination and ISU student reactions. 1969. Facsimile. Iowa State University. *Bomb: Book 1*. Ames, Iowa State University. Call Number LD2548.lo9b.



Yearbook page featuring photographs of the dedication of the Black Cultural Center. 1971. Facsimile. Iowa State University. *Bomb: Book of Year*. Ames, Iowa State University. Call Number LD2548.lo9b.

Rap Update, news bulletin to keep students updated about campus and local events and opportunities, circulated by the Black Cultural Center. September 16, 1976. Black Cultural Center Records, RS 7/5/4, box 2, folder 6.



Photograph of roller skaters at an event hosted by the Office of Minority Student Programs (now Multicultural Student Affairs). February 1977. Facsimile. Multicultural Student Affairs, RS 7/5/1, box 1, folder 19.

Black Cultural Center brochure. Circa 1973. Black Cultural Center Records, RS 7/5/4, box 1, folder 19.

ODYSSEY: Special Issue: Blacks at Iowa State. January–February 1987. Black Cultural Center Records, RS 7/5/4, box 2, folder 6.

A subsection of residence and social policies governing regulations for women students, excerpted from a book of guidelines to student conduct on campus. June 4, 1969. Facsimile. Iowa State University. *The Chart: A Handbook for Iowa States Students*, Ames, Iowa: Iowa State College. Call Number Archives LD2535.8 I58x.

Two yearbook articles. Iowa State University. *Bomb: Book* 1. Ames, Iowa State University. Call Number LD2548.lo9b:

"Finalists Challenge Purpose of Greek Week Queen." 1972. Facsimile.

"RHW Raises Money for Mental Health." Features pictures of first Black king and queen of Residence Hall Week. 1972. Facsimile.

Clippings of an Iowa State Daily article describing early LGBT activism on campus. 1971. Facsimile. Political and Social Action Organizations, RS 22/4/0/1, box 2, folder "Gay People's Liberation Alliance."

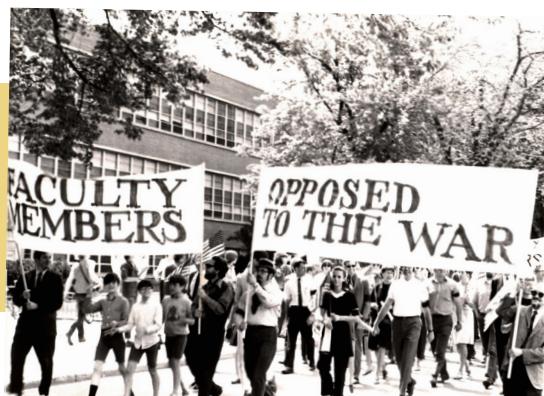
Article "Ask a Marine Officer" with a photo, featuring poet Allen Ginsberg, entitled "Recruitment amidst protest." 1971. Iowa State University. *Bomb: Book of Year*. Ames, Iowa State University. Call Number LD2548.lo9b.

Image of student protesters marching in the VEISHEA parade as part of an anti-war protest following the shooting at Kent State. May 9, 1970. University Photographs, box 30.

Dutch-angle image of a student being dragged along the sidewalk by law enforcement officers. May 7, 1970. University Photographs, box 30.

Image of protesters at an anti-war demonstration involving sitting in the street and blocking traffic. 1970. University Photographs, box 29.

Image of student activists, protesting the Vietnam War and Cambodia Invasion, lining the streets outside Hilton Coliseum. University Photographs, box 30.



Statement of faculty support of student protests against the Vietnam War. May 11, 1970. Vietnam War Political Demonstrations Collection, RS 0/12/1, box 1, folder 6.

Image of ISU faculty members and their families heading up the VEISHEA parade anti-war demonstration. May 9, 1970. University Photographs, box 30.

New Frontiers (1989–2019)

Profile of Tracy Brinkmeyer, photo taken at her graduation. 2003. Facsimile. Photograph courtesy of Tracy Brinkmeyer.

Tracy Regan's notes for an exam in Engineering Mechanics 324 (Dynamics). 2001. Tracy Regan Papers, RS 21/7/154, box 3, folder 6.

Image of the Engineering Career Fair in Hilton Coliseum. 2003. Facsimile. University Photographs (unprocessed), not cataloged.



Photograph showing view of central campus during VEISHEA. 2003. Facsimile. University Photographs (unprocessed), not cataloged.

VEISHEA program. 2003. VEISHEA Records (2000s), RS 22/12/9, box 1, folder 2.

Image of students displaying posters at the September 11th remembrance program in front of Curtiss Hall. 2002. Facsimile. University Photographs (unprocessed), not cataloged.

Program for the first Iowa State Conference on Race and Ethnicity (ISCORE) held at the Memorial Union. March 3, 2000. Office of Student Affairs Administrative Records, RS 7/1/3, box 12, folder 11.

Program for Women in Science and Engineering annual report. 2008. Program for Women in Science and Engineering Records, RS 3/10/0/4, box 2, folder 12.

T-shirt with "ISU Scientist and Engineers no longer one of a kind" printed on the front. 1990. Artifact Collection, 2006-120.002.

Student of Today

Profile of Julissa Garcia. Facsimile. Photograph courtesy of Julissa Garcia.

Photograph of Julissa with her "line sisters," students who joined LTA at the same time as Julissa. 2017. Facsimile. Photograph courtesy of Julissa Garcia.



Lambda Theta Alpha, Zeta Gamma Logo. No date. Facsimile. Photograph courtesy of Julissa Garcia.

St. Jude Philanthropy Walk/Run Medal. 2018. Medal courtesy of Julissa Garcia.

Group photograph of Lambda Theta Alpha members. No date. Facsimile. Photograph courtesy of Julissa Garcia.

Handheld fan with Lambda Theta Alpha logo. No date. Fan courtesy of Julissa Garcia.

Photograph of Julissa (center) at ISCORE. 2018. Facsimile. Photograph courtesy of Julissa Garcia.



Photograph of Julissa, at work, in the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Engagement. 2018. Facsimile. Photograph courtesy of Julissa Garcia.

Protest signs from the Gun Reform protest. 2018. Artifact Collection, (unprocessed), not catalogued.



Photograph of

2018 demonstration on gun reform that Julissa helped organize. 2018. Facsimile. Photograph courtesy of Julissa Garcia.

Photograph of Julissa Protesting at same demonstration. 2018. Facsimile. Photograph courtesy of Julissa Garcia.

Gun Reform Walkout Flyer. 2018. Facsimile. Flyer courtesy of Julissa Garcia.

Screenshot of Iowa State National School Walkout's Twitter. 2018. Facsimile. University Archives, (unprocessed), not cataloged.

This spring, the women of Lambda Theta Alpha were kind enough to lend their voices to the #VoicesInColor oral history project, which seeks to document the histories, experiences, and perspectives of communities of color on the ISU campus. #VoicesInColor has also interviewed the Black Faculty and Staff Association and hopes to expand outreach to other organizations in the future. If you or your student, faculty, or staff organization would like to be included in this project, let us know!

Building the Archives One Challenge at a Time Brad Kuennen

Working with archives can sometimes be challenging. Often the materials that researchers want to use are not neatly packaged in discrete collections. They find pieces of information scattered about the records and it takes time to locate those items that bring a story together. Archivists have a critical role to play in this process. We collect materials and prepare them for researchers to use, hopefully making that story a little easier to assemble.

This isn't always easy to do. Events occur without a physical record being left behind. Speeches are given with no recording equipment present and no transcript left to posterity. Modern digital files thought to be safe on hard drives are deleted or become corrupted. Whole segments of the population are simply ignored with only trace mentions in the "official record." These gaps in archival holdings often represent a permanent loss in our knowledge and understanding of our community.

There are things archivists can do to help make up for these losses. Iowa State University Library's Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) is working hard to minimize the effects of actions like these as we fulfill our mission to collect, preserve, and share materials that reveal the experiences, achievements, and memories of people associated with Iowa State University.

We are developing procedures to document events that occur on campus with little or no notification. Our Urgent Events Task Force is taking advantage of technology to capture social media resulting from these events.

We are also working with our Library colleagues to gather physical artifacts when possible.

In the coming months, our staff will be devising procedures to make sure that the large amounts of digital records in our collections are actively being preserved. Email correspondence, multimedia files, outdated formats, and the sheer number of digital records makes this process anything but simple; however, we are working diligently to ensure that these records will be available to future generations of researchers.

In order to better examine histories of underrepresented student populations on Iowa State's campus, the Library is sponsoring two undergraduate research assistants in SCUA who are exploring the history of some of these ISU students, groups, and organizations. These stories are being shared through blog posts, presentations, and online exhibitions. In addition, and with the support of our Library colleagues, SCUA staff members are conducting oral histories with underrepresented Cyclones to make sure that their stories are recorded. This project, called Voices in Color, will help fill in some of the narratives that are missing from our collections.

SCUA is working to meet the challenges of building modern archival collections. Our goal to gather materials that tell a more accurate and complete accounting of the University's unique and diverse history is ongoing. We welcome members of the University community to use and contribute to the University Archives. With your help, we can ensure that they represent all of ISU.

Exhibition Curators

Brad Kuennen

Rachael Acheson

Exhibition Coordination

Rachel Seale

Graphic Design

Kallie Beebe

Digital Exhibit

<https://exhibits.lib.iastate.edu/we-are-isu-snapshots-of-student-life>



Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa, 50011. Tel. 515-294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email eooffice@iastate.edu.