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Collection 292
Rider College Collection, c.1900-2009

By John Bednar
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History

Rider University was founded on October 2, 1865 as Trenton Business College. A collaborative effort by Henry Bryant, Henry Stratton, and William Whitney, the trio established the school to add to the multiple business schools in their network. This was a popular enterprise after the Civil War, with many looking to enter a growing business world with the advance of the Industrial Revolution.

In 1866, Andrew Jackson Rider, previously a teacher at Bryant, Stratton and Whitney Business College in Newark, accepted the position of president at Trenton Business College. He would later become a part time owner in 1868, and then sole owner in 1881 following the retirement of his peers. The name of the school officially changed to Rider Business College in 1897 with Andrew Rider presiding as its first president.

In 1898, Franklin B. Moore purchased the retiring Rider's share, becoming the second president and began more major changes to the school. This began with another name change, now going by Rider-Moore and Stewart School in 1901 to reflect the merging of the original school and the acquired Stewart Business College.

The turn of the century brought significant change with the move of the school in 1921 to locations at 428 and 430 E. State Street. The name Rider College was formally adopted that year as well to reflect the conferring of bachelor's degrees in the studies of Accounts and Commercial Science. In 1927, master's degrees began to be offered in the same two fields. By 1929, the

History (cont.)

athletics program began with basketball, football, and baseball. Later additions included soccer, swimming, track & field, tennis, and wrestling.

In 1956, the school started a plan to move to a new campus in Lawrence, citing needs to accommodate a growing student population. The college was reorganized into five schools by 1962: Graduate School, Liberal Arts & Science, Business, Education, and Evening. It also began offering a Master of the Arts through the School of Education. The move was fully completed in 1964, and the next year Rider celebrated its centennial with the dedication of the new library and chapel buildings.

Though the school's links to Trenton were mostly severed after the construction of the new suburban campus, Rider's history remains a part of Trenton's.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection contains newspapers and clippings, yearbooks, event programs, curricula, memorabilia, student work, maps, correspondence, and other circulated material produced by and for the college from the years 1917-2009. This collection is contained in two manuscript boxes, and divided into two series: I. Rider College in Trenton, 1900-1964; and II. Rider College in Lawrence, 1964-2009. The demarcation is made by the beginning of Rider's first full year at the Lawrence campus beginning September 1964, but includes information about the planning and building of the suburban campus.

The Rider College collection is important in tracking the history of the school, the decisions that led to its move and further expansion, and its status today as a university. Subjects of interest include education, the history of Rider College, Trenton history, Franklin F. Moore, Frank Nelson Elliott, and student activism.

Series Description

Series I. Rider College in Trenton, c.1900-1964

The first series consists of documents and paperwork related to Rider-Moore and Stewart Business College, Rider College, and the events leading to the construction of the Lawrence Campus. Included are correspondence, programs, handouts, clippings, student work, publications, and yearbooks.

Some material that may be of interest within the seven folders in this series include a commencement program from December 1941; correspondence between the school's Office of

the Secretary and the Trenton Public Library (1917, 1922, 1936) which shows examples of school letterhead over the years; clippings about the main old Rider building at 428 East State Street in Trenton and its renovation in 1970; and student calligraphy exercises on paper from Stewart Business School. Circulated material includes library guides for students (1957); annual report of the librarian (1955); campus map; Dramatic Club program for “The Philadelphia Story” (1948); commencement programs (1937, 1941); and announcement for appointment of Head of Department of Law, Godfrey W. Schroth. Publications include covers from “The Winner” (c.1901), “Onward” (1919, 1923), and “Bulletin” (1941). The photograph in folder 7 is of members of the 1923 basketball team, who can be seen in the 1923 yearbook. The series also contains “The Shadow” yearbooks from 1923 (two copies), 1927 (ex libris Olga Conover), and 1935, as well as instructional books on penmanship from 1903 (ex libris Edna C Smith), and typewriting from 1916 (ex libris William C. Alloways).

Series II. Rider College in Lawrence, 1964-2009

Beginning with the construction and move to the new campus in Lawrence, the second series contains newspaper clippings, maps, programs, conceptual designs, handouts, invitations, a yearbook, and official publications. The beginning of Rider’s first full academic year in Lawrence took place in September 1964, while the latest material is from 2009.

One item to call attention to is a set of construction conceptual sketches by the Spiegle Architectural Group that are undated but can be assumed to be from the 1980s or 1990s. These designs showed possible updates and expansions to the college in more recent years. Also of interest are lists of offered classes for students to choose from when planning a schedule. The growth of certain academic offerings can be seen in the available courses presented.

The news articles include information about demands made by African-American students in 1969, a teacher strike in 1974, and news about Theatre ’59. Circulated items include a letter to parents about a sit-in that occurred in April 1969; student guides to the library; campus maps; and information about the Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center. The Events folder includes dedications for the library and chapel (1965), fine arts schedule (1969), cultural affairs calendar (1970), exhibits, 125th anniversary and presidential inauguration (1990), and an invitation to Mayor Arthur Holland from Rider President Frank Elliot for a backyard party (1985). School publications include “Rider Today” (1966, 1968); “Rider News” (1968); “Directions” (1984); “Communique” (1987); and alumni news (2004).

Also included in Series II is a book of the college’s centennial (1965), “The Shadow” yearbook (1974), and an alumni directory (1989).

Provenance: Received from various sources

Restrictions: None

Container List

Box/Folder/Folder Title

Series I. Rider College in Trenton

1 / 1 / News articles and history, 1904-1965

1 / 2 / News articles, 428 E. State Street, 1970, 2005

1 / 3 / Circulated Material

1 / 4 / Correspondence

1 / 5 / Student Work

1 / 6 / School Publications

1 / 7 / Photographs

1 / / Yearbooks, textbooks

Series II. Rider College in Lawrence

2 / 1 / Campus Construction, 1957-1987

2 / 2 / Campus Construction, Conceptual Plans, c.1987

2 / 3 / News articles, 1965-1990

2 / 4 / News articles, Theatre '59, 1963-1967

2 / 5 / Curricula, 1967-1984

2 / 6 / Circulated Material

2 / 7 / Events

2 / 8 / School publications

2 / / Book, yearbook, alumni directory

Bibliography

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<https://www.rider.edu/about-rider/historic-rider/past-presidents/andrew-jackson-rider>

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