

Student Activism

A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan State University Archives

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The purpose of this resource guide is to familiarize visitors of the MSU Archives with some of the available resources related to student activism, boycotts, demonstrations, riots, and strikes. Note that this guide is not a comprehensive listing of all the available sources, but is intended to be a starting point from which visitors can begin their research according to their specific needs. Online versions of the finding aids for most collections listed can be accessed by clicking on the collection name.

Collections

1. [Walter Adams Papers, 1969.](#) **UA 2.1.13**
 - 0.1 cubic feet
 - Adams' papers contain administrative subject files, speeches, and correspondence relating to student protests and unrest.
 - Adams was president of Michigan State University in 1969, following the retirement of long-time president John A. Hannah.

2. [Associated Students of Michigan State University Records](#) **UA 12.1.1**
 - 0.25 cubic feet
 - Topics of interest include People's Park, student protests and demonstrations, and Students for a Democratic Society.

3. [Oscar Clute Papers](#) **UA 2.1.5**
 - 0.75 cubic feet
 - This Clute papers primarily consists of correspondence.
 - Clute was president of Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) from 1889 to 1893. The college faced numerous crises from within as well as without during that time, including student unrest, large scale faculty turnover, and the populist revolt.

4. [College of Arts and Letters Records](#) **UA 15.9**
 - 0.1 cubic feet
 - This collection includes information on Communist speakers on campus in 1966.

5. [College of Human Medicine Records](#) **UA 15.13**
 - 1 folder
 - Included in the collection is one folder about the 1970 student strike.

6. **Department of Anthropology Records** **UA 16.13**
 - 1 folder
 - Included in this collection is one folder about the 1970 student strike.

7. **Lana Dart Papers** **UA 17.263**
 - 0.1 cubic feet
 - This collection includes newspaper clippings about the Paul Schiff case and Committee for Student Rights (1965), flyers for student protests (2009), and a working paper, "Black Activism Reappraised: Tactics and Strategies" (circa 1970).

8. **Faculty Student Affairs Committee Records** **UA 14.3.1.13**
 - 0.1 cubic feet
 - Materials relating to the "Schiff Case" are contained in this collection. Paul Schiff, leader of the Committee for Student Rights, was expelled from MSU in 1965.

9. **Fraser Family Letters** **UA 10.3.441**
 - 0.1 cubic feet
 - The collection consists of photocopies of letters written by William Fraser, Eugene Law and Fred E. Miller to John C. Fraser, his wife Mrs. Eliza M. Fraser or John Fraser (father of William and John C.) The letters describe their life at Michigan Agricultural College (now MSU), including descriptions of the student protests against Professor Samuel Johnson.

10. **Grapevine Journal Records** **UA 12.7.3**
 - 6 cubic feet
 - This collection includes subject files on African American student activism in the 1970s.

11. **Robert L. Green Papers** **UA 17.20**
 - 0.25 cubic feet
 - This collection consists of publications Green authored while a faculty member at the University. These items center for the most part on minority students in college, their admission and various programs utilized by them. Also included is the speech "The University and Society," centering around the unrest in higher education during and around the 1970s and what is to be done about it at a land grant college like Michigan State University.

- 12. Thomas H. Greer Papers** **UA 17.21**
- 0.25 cubic feet
 - Included in this collection are materials relating to the student and faculty response to the Vietnam War, including newspaper clippings, speeches, and planning materials for the April 1965 Teach In at MSU.
- 13. Ruth Simms Hamilton Papers** **UA 17.269**
- 2.5 cubic feet
 - The Ruth Simms Hamilton papers consist of subject files and research materials on African American issues, including civil rights and affirmative action at MSU and other universities. The collection includes case studies of MSU conflicts and protests, newspaper clippings, files about other countries, files about university programs, and papers written by Hamilton and others. Also included are files about MSU student organizations which include Akers Black Caucus, Associated Black Students of Sociology, Black Brothers of Emmons, Black Brothers of Shaw, Black Liberation Front, Black Caucus, Black Med Students, Black Pre-Med (WAGANGA), Black Sisters of Rather, Black Student Alliance, Black Students of Engineering, Black United Front, Coalition of Black Athletes, Minority Pre Law, Pan African Students Organization of the Americas, United Blacks of Wonders Hall, and Office of Black Affairs.
- 14. John A. Hannah Papers** **UA 2.1.12**
- 2 cubic feet
 - Of particular interest are subject files related to ROTC incidents, student demonstrations and riots, protests and demonstrations, Students for a Democratic Society, Paul Schiff, James Zarichny, and the MSU Vietnam Project.
 - Hannah was president from Michigan State (1941-1969) during a time of extensive growth of the University, in both physical size and enrollment.
- 15. Clarence H. Judson Papers** **UA 10.3.126**
- 0.1 cubic feet
 - The correspondence in this collection describes the class strike of 1886.
- 16. Kamuyu-wa-Kang'ethe Papers, 1970.** **UA 10.3.112**
- 0.1 cubic feet
 - Kamuyu-wa-Kang'ethe was an international graduate student from Africa at Michigan State University studying anthropology. He refused his master's degree and instead of writing a Masters of Arts thesis, wrote a thesis of protest. It

decries western education, anthropology, and demands acceptance of African institutions as equal to European.

- 17. Madison Kuhn Collection** **UA 17.107**
- 0.1 cubic feet
 - Kuhn's collection includes information on the Samuel Johnson case, the Class Strike of 1902, the Paul Schiff case, and James Zarichny's alleged involvement with the Communist Party.
- 18. Lansing Magazine Publication, 1979.** **UA 28.11**
- 0.1 cubic feet
 - This issue of *Lansing Magazine* includes an article on Michigan Agricultural College student unrest on the night of February 22, 1911.
- 19. Media Communication Records** **UA 8.1.1**
- 0.5 cubic feet
 - The subject files include student protest activities for the years 1968-1971, the Central Intelligence Agency controversy in the 1970s, the May 1989 black student occupation of the Hannah Administration building.
- 20. Michigan State University Student Strike Files, 1970.** **UA 26.1**
- 0.25 cubic feet
 - The records consist of materials related to student demonstrations and strikes in 1970. Materials include news clippings, copies of student flyers, and press releases. There are also notes of damage to buildings, class attendance, and a timeline of events.
- 21. Office of the Ombudsperson Records** **UA 2.13**
- 0.1 cubic feet
 - In this collection are newspaper clippings about the 1989 student sit-in of the Hannah Administration Building.
- 22. Robert S. Shaw Papers** **UA 2.1.11**
- 2.33 cubic feet
 - This collection includes papers regarding the Social Problems Club, and the ill-fated 1935 Peace Rally.
 - Shaw was the eleventh president of Michigan State, serving from 1928 to 1941.

- 23. Special Senate Committee to Investigate Colleges and Universities Report, 1970.** **c.00483**
- 0.1 cubic feet
 - This is the final report of a special Michigan Senate committee that dealt with campus unrest in Michigan.
- 24. Sports Information Records** **UA 8.1.3**
- 0.1 cubic feet
 - The collection includes records related to the African-American athletes' boycott in 1968, and a player strike in 1975.
- 25. Forrest W. Starrett Papers** **UA 10.3.77**
- 0.1 cubic feet
 - The collection includes copies of newspaper clippings related to a student riot after a baseball game between M.A.C. and the University of Michigan, circa 1925.
- 26. State News Records** **UA 12.7.2**
- 0.5 cubic feet
 - The *State News* records include photographs of student demonstrations and riots.
- 27. Don Stevens Papers** **UA 1.1.2**
- 1.5 cubic feet
 - Student activism subjects in this collection include Vietnam War, Civil Rights, ROTC, and MSU's Vietnam Project.
 - Don Stevens was a member of the MSU Board of Trustees from 1958 to 1978. He was active on local, state, and national levels in the areas of education, religion, youth, employment, civil rights, and labor and industrial relations.
- 28. Vice President for Student Affairs. Student Protest Files** **UA 7.0**
- 0.5 cubic feet
 - The records document the activities of a number of protest groups and organizations. MSU Students for a Democratic Society, the most prominent protest organization on campus, was active in virtually every area of protest. Newspaper articles concerning their actions and SDS literature are prevalent throughout the protest files. Also included is coverage of the SDS national convention which was held at MSU in 1968. The Committee for Student Rights,

another protest group, concerned itself solely with student rights. Organizations such as the Black Liberation Front and the Black Students Alliance surface in civil rights material mainly concerning racial incidents in residence halls. Also included in the civil right protests are groups protesting the Chicago Conspiracy trial in 1970. Other groups include, the Committee to Abolish ROTC, United Students, and the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. Publications include protest newspapers such as the “National Guardian,” “The Student Mobilizer,” “Logos,” “Swill & Squeal,” and “State News” articles which cover the major events on campus during this period.

29. Vice President for University Relations Records

UA 8

- 2 cubic feet
- The Subject Files (boxes 3039-3040) include information about student demonstrations, campus unrest, and activism. Specific topics include civil rights, Vietnam War, ROTC, James Zarichny, and Paul Schiff. The “Special Senate Committee to Investigate Colleges and Universities Report to the Michigan Senate” (a.k.a. the Hubert Report on Campus Unrest) from August 1970 may also be of interest to researchers.

30. Wesley R. Fishel Papers

UA 17.95

- 0.25 cubic feet
- Included in this collection is the “Ramparts” magazine article, “University on the Make,” which alleges CIA involvement in MSU’s Vietnam Project. There are also files on student protests.

31. Clifton Wharton Papers

UA 2.1.14

- 0.1 cubic feet
- Of note are subject files related to Demonstrations, and his speech on “Campus Violence and the Indochina War.”
- Wharton was president of MSU from 1970 to 1978. His term of office was often a turbulent one, featuring student demonstrations focusing on the war in Vietnam and Civil Rights.

32. William A. Wiltberger Papers

UA 17.283

- 0.1 cubic feet
- William Wiltberger was a visiting lecturer in criminal justice at Michigan State University in the later 1950s. His collection includes a file of research materials

titled "Articles on Student Protests, "Dissent," and "Subversion"" from 1968 through 1970.

33. James Zarichny Collection, 1949.

UA 10.3.284

- 0.1 cubic feet
- The collection consists of the document "The Case Against James Zarichny." James Zarichny attended Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) and was placed on disciplinary probation for being involved in the American Youth for Democracy organization. The AYD had applied to be a recognized student organization but was denied. The members of the organization continued to meet for which they were placed on disciplinary probation when this was discovered by the college. Zarichny was one of the members and as punishment was not allowed to be involved in extra-curricular activities as a student. Later he was found to be in contempt of his probation because he continued to be involved in extra-curricular organizations. One of the organizations was a Communist organization which the college objected to, not because of political party affiliation, but because of Zarichny's involvement in extra-curricular activities. Zarichny contested the decision based on grounds that his civil rights had been violated. The document in the collection outlines the details of the case.

Other Resources

1. MSU Information Files
 - Boycotts
 - People. Johnson, Samuel
 - Student Activism
 - Student Demonstrations
 - Student Groups
 - Student Organizations
 - Student Riots
2. MSU Photographs
 - Students. Demonstrations.
3. Serials
 - [State News](#) (Serial 09999)
 - Focal Point (Serial 00766)
 - Grapevine (Serial 00326)
 - Lansing Star/Joint Issue (Serial 00405)

Keywords

Activist/activism

Boycott

Demonstration

Dissent

Moratorium

Occupation

Protest

Riot

Sit-in/sit in

Strike

Study-in/study in

Subversion

Unrest

James Zarichny

Paul Schiff

People's Park

Samuel Johnson

Students for a Democratic Society/SDS

Vietnam