

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES  
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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FACULTY WIVES CLUB

RECORDS, 1947-2001  
2.4 linear feet

- ACQUISITION: The papers were donated by the Faculty Wives Club in 2001.
- ACCESS: The papers are open for research.
- AUDIOVISUAL: 2 audiocassettes in box 1.
- COMPUTER DISK: 1 disk in box 1.
- COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to California State University, Fresno.
- PHOTOGRAPHS: In box 3.
- PROCESSED BY: Heather Crowder, 2001.

## **History**

Little information is known about the early history of the Faculty Wives Club because there are no records prior to 1947. It is known, however, that the Faculty Wives Club was founded in 1925 with the goal of promoting friendships among the wives of faculty members and providing service to Fresno State College. Mrs. Emory (Laura) Ratcliffe, who was the third and seventh president of the club, played a fundamental role in the founding of the club. The first elected president was Mrs. Frank (Lota) Morris in 1925. Until 1984, the Faculty Wives referred to each other by their last names and were listed in the directories under their husbands' names. In 1984, the Faculty Wives were listed in the directories by their own names for the first time, reflecting the change in times.

In 1969, the Faculty Wives Club added promoting education and assisting needy students to their stated goals. However, the primary objective of every activity put on by the Faculty Wives Club is to develop friendships among the members. Their interest groups reflect the various interests and talents of the members. As of 1993, there were thirty different interest groups revolving around afternoon bridge and evening bridge, sewing, lunch and newcomers, for example. The biggest fundraising event held by the Club is the Fashion Fair raffle. Funds raised by the ticket sales go to the memorial scholarship fund. In 1969, Mrs. William (Roslyn Robbins) Dienstein was able to secure a non-profit bulk rate with the post office. With this bulk rate, the Faculty Wives Club was officially recognized as a non-profit organization.

Over the years, the number of Faculty Wives members has increased, thus producing a greater demand for more leadership positions. In 1948, there were three positions: general chairman, co-chairman and publicity chairman. In 1949, the positions of courtesy, hospitality, and secretary were added. Later, in 1955, treasurer was added and historian in 1956. Currently there are thirteen officer positions. The Faculty Wives Club holds meetings about six times per year. Events (upcoming and past) and club information is presented and discussed at these meetings.

Membership has always been limited to the wives of faculty and administrators at California State University, Fresno. The big question was what happens to a member if she divorces her husband or remarries. Feelings about this were mixed, but it was eventually decided that one could be a life member if one had been a member for ten or more years. Now, anyone who joins is a life member.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Faculty Wives Club records measure 2.4 linear feet and date from 1947 to 2001. The collection was kept in the order in which the club organized it.

**Scope and Content Note** (cont.)

There are four revised and updated versions of the Faculty Wives Club (FWC) constitution (1975-1993). The constitutions include sections about the aims of the organization, stipulations about membership, meetings and amending the constitution, interest groups and officers and their duties.

The Cookbook (1966-1967) is a collaboration of various recipes from the members of the FWC.

Faculty holiday ball invitations (1983-1993) are invitations to the annual faculty ball put on by the FWC and the president of California State University, Fresno.

The History (1993) is a paper written by Susan Nef about the Faculty Wives Club from its origins in 1925 until 1993. The paper discusses the origins of the club, goals and activities, interest groups, challenges and new goals, the scholarship fund, and obstacles that the club faced over the years.

Included in the Membership lists (1954-1997) are the names of faculty wives who are/were members. Until 1984, the women were listed under their husbands' first and last names. After 1984, the women are listed under their own names and not the names of their husbands.

The Oral history transcripts (1998) are of four interviews with Faculty Wives Club members Mary Elizabeth Quibel, Mildred Berdahl, Dorothy Feuchs, and Mildred Herbert. The transcripts are typed and the first half of the Quibel/Berdahl interview is saved on the enclosed disk. Also included are two audiocassettes of the recorded interviews.

There are seven binders put together by the club. The binders are separated by category and the materials within each category are arranged from the most recent date to the least recent.

The Articles/Photos (1954-2001) are from newspapers. The articles are predominantly about the events that the Faculty Wives held. A few items are miscellaneous things that they kept over the years. Some of the campus newsletters and the announcements of meetings that were printed in newspapers are also included here.

The Newsletters (1955-2001) include schedules of upcoming events and club meetings, a message from the Faculty Wives Club president, club announcements, and a current list of the board of directors (officers). Also included are the historian's report, the treasurer's note, and news from the courtesy officer.

**Scope and Content Note** (cont.)

The Scrapbook materials (1954-2000) are in three binders and include treasurer's duties, annual reports, scholarship reports, letters, minutes, budget and financial reports, memoranda and reports of newcomers and events put on by the FWC.

**Box no. Description**

Box 1

Constitution, officer and chair job descriptions, 1975-1993  
Cookbook, 1966-1967  
Faculty holiday ball invitations, 1983-1993  
Fiftieth anniversary recognition, 1975  
History, 1993  
Membership lists, 1954-1997  
Officers, 1953-1983  
Oral history transcripts, 1998 [includes 2 audiocassettes and 1 disk]  
Presidents, 1925-1970, undated

Box 2

Binders

Articles/Photos, 1954-2000  
Newsletters, 1955-2001  
Photo album, 1956-2000  
Programs, 1947-1999

Box 3

Scrapbook materials (3 binders)  
1954-1971  
1972-1984  
1984-2000