

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES  
HENRY MADDEN LIBRARY  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

UNIVERSITY RELIGIOUS CENTER  
COLLECTION, 1946-1994  
4.75 linear feet

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Vida Samiian in 2000.

ACCESS: The collection is open for research.

AUDIOVISUAL: Cassette tapes, magnetic tapes and 16mm films in box 4.

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PHOTOGRAPHS: In box 5.

PROCESSED BY: Heather Crowder, 2003.

## History

The University Religious Center, previously known as the College “Y” at Fresno State College (1912-1970) and the College Religious Center (1970-1974), “had its beginnings with the organization of the Student YWCA in January 1912. A few years later the Student YMCA was organized and later the two merged to form the Student Christian Association, also known as the College ‘Y’. In 1947, the College ‘Y’ entered into a cooperative relationship with several Protestant churches in exploring more effective ways of providing a Christian program and ministry among students and faculty” (Box 1, Advertising, Pamphlets and brochures, Invest in the Future, undated).

In 1948, the College “Y” recognized that incoming freshmen were not being properly introduced to life in college. In an attempt to change this, the College “Y” decided to hold Freshman Camp for the incoming freshmen the weekend before the fall semester each year. It was held at Lake Sequoia and designed to introduce freshman to college life and help them make new friends. With the College “Y” growing in size, plans to construct a center began. Campaign funding for building the center lasted from 1954 to 1955. With enough money raised, “in 1957 the College ‘Y’ was able to erect a new building across the street from the college campus on Shaw Avenue. It is operated as an off-campus meeting place for discussion groups of all sizes on current topics of interest and as a non-denominational center of religious activity for students and faculty, without regard as to race, national origin, or creed” (Box 2, Correspondence, Letters, January 30, 1964). “The center has neither official standing within the university structure nor does it receive school money. Its funding has come from room rentals and from contributions by individuals, churches and, until recently, regional ecumenical campus ministries” (Box 3, Newspaper clippings, Dried-up funding finishes University Religious Center, 1994). A chapel was added adjacent to the center in 1967.

Over the years, the University Religious Center held and sponsored many programs, activities, lectures and events, such as Freshman Camp, luncheon discussions, lectures, seminars and retreats. The Beth Anne Harnish Memorial Lectures attracted speakers discussing issues of concern to students. The University Religious Center also arranged small Freshman Firesides in which small groups, usually twelve to fifteen freshmen, met to discuss problems. They also participated in Trick or Treat for UNICEF. In addition to programs and lectures, the University Religious Center also sponsored an annual service project, called Project Amigos, in Tijuana, Mexico, during Easter break which involved the building of houses and other facilities.

In 1995, due to the lack of funding, the University Religious Center was shut down and the property where the center was situated was sold.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The University Religious Center collection measures 4.75 linear feet and dates from 1946 to 1994. The collection is arranged in three series: Activities, Administration and Audiovisual. The names University Religious Center, College Religious Center and College "Y" are used interchangeably in the finding aid, but all refer to the same organization.

The **Activities** series (1950-1994 and undated) contains material on activities that the University Religious Center sponsored. Included are the College "Y" Banquet and Freshman Camp. The materials on Freshman Camp include camp brochures and programs on the events and activities held at camp. There are also materials on fundraising and retreat planning. Also included are items about advertising, which consist of flyers, posters, pamphlets and brochures that helped in promoting events. There are also a number of newspaper clippings about events held by the University Religious Center and about the center itself.

The **Administration** series comprises the majority of the collection. It is arranged in several subseries.

The committees subseries (1946-1994 and undated) is divided into two sections: meetings and minutes. The meetings section comprises a small portion of the committees subseries. Included are notes from the meetings of various committees of the University Religious Center. The minutes section comprises the majority of the subseries. Included are the minutes taken at each of the committee meetings by the appointed secretary. The minutes from the Board of Directors constitutes most of this section.

The correspondence subseries (1957-1994 and undated) includes letters, newsletters and memoranda to the members of the University Religious Center.

The facility subseries (1952-1995 and undated) includes information on the fundraising, construction and sale of the University Religious Center. Also included is information about how the facility was used.

The organization subseries (1951-1992 and undated) consists of materials about the organization of the University Religious Center. Included are by-laws, handbooks and information on finance and budget. Also included is material on the program and its structure.

The scrapbook subseries (1960-1975 and undated) is comprised of a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings, photographs, pamphlets and articles on the University Religious Center.

The **Audiovisual** series (1966-1992 and undated) contains cassette tapes, magnetic tapes, 16mm films and photographs. The cassette tapes and magnetic tapes consist primarily of lectures and talks that were sponsored by the University Religious Center over the years. There

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

are seventy cassette tapes and twenty magnetic tapes. There are also two 16mm films about the University Religious Center. Photographs comprise the bulk of this series and include prints, slides, negatives and proofs. The prints comprise most of the photographs. Included are prints of Freshman Camp, Midwinter Retreat, Silent Retreat, Project Amigos, lectures and various other activities held by the University Religious Center. Some prints are numbered, and were kept together collectively. These are now organized by topic. There are also slides, negatives and proof sheets.

**Box no. Description**

Box 1

**Activities**

College "Y" banquet, 1961-1967 and undated  
Freshman Camp at Lake Sequoia  
    Brochures, 1950-1972 and undated  
    Programs, 1956-1969  
Fundraising  
    Agreement, 1955  
    Brochures, 1954 and undated  
    Committee lists, 1954 and undated  
    Correspondence, 1954  
Guest books, 1957-1976, 1984-1989  
Publicity/promotional materials  
    Advertisements and posters, 1965 and undated  
Events  
    Beth Anne Harnish Memorial Lectures, 1988-1989  
    Personal Journal Writing Workshop, 1979  
    Newspaper clippings, 1954-1994 and undated  
    Pamphlets and brochures, 1950-1966 and undated  
Retreat planning, 1979-1983  
Task forces, 1971

**Administration**

Agendas, 1980, 1992 and undated  
Certificates, 1962-1965  
Committees  
    Endowment and Investment Committee correspondence, 1958-1969  
Meetings  
    Annual meeting of the University Religious Center, 1974  
    Building Committee, 1948-1957  
    College Religious Center Foundation and College "Y" Executive Board joint meeting, 1963  
    College "Y" Board and Cabinet joint meeting, 1968  
    College "Y" Personnel Committee, 1965, 1968, 1983-1986  
    Nominating committee report, 1977  
Minutes  
    Annual meeting of the membership of the Fresno State College "Y", 1970  
Board of Directors  
    1946-1955 (1 binder)  
    1956-1963 (1 binder)  
    1963-1968 (1 binder)

**Box no.   Description**

Box 2

**Administration (cont.)**

Committees (cont.)

Minutes (cont.)

Board of Directors (cont.)

1969

1970

1971

1972

1973

1974

1975

1976

1977

1977-1994 (1 binder)

Cabinet Committee, 1960-1968

College Religious Center Committee, 1968

College Religious Center Foundation Committee, 1958-1966

College "Y" Endowment and Investment Committee, 1967, 1975

College "Y" Program Advisory Committee, 1969

Executive Committee, 1960-1990 and undated

Finance Committee, 1969

UCCF Board, 1965-1969

Correspondence

Letters, 1962-1994

Letters from contributors, 1957

Letters to Board of Directors, 1962-1996

Memoranda, 1965-1979

Newsletters, 1964, 1986-1990 and undated

Staff report, 1966

Facility

Construction

Contract documents and specifications, 1957

Walter Wagner and Partners Architects and Engineers, 1954-1959

Fundraising for College Religious Center building, 1954-1955

Lease between College "Y" and Lutheran Group, 1954-1974 and undated

Lot #5 deed, 1952-1985

Sale of facility and property, 1965-1995 and undated

Trust agreement and mortgage, 1966-1987

Use of facility, 1970

Legal papers inventory list, 1967

**Box no. Description**

Box 2

**Administration (cont.)**

Lists of Board of Directors, 1955-1993

Organization

College "Y" by-laws, 1951-1988

College "Y" handbook, 1963-1967 and undated

Election by-laws, undated

Finance and budget

Donors to the College Religious Center Fund, undated

Financial reports, 1960-1992 (2 folders)

Request for funds, 1969

Miscellaneous, 1967-1987 and undated

Report of campus ministry review, 1969

Review of the program and its structure, 1961-1962, 1974-1987 and undated

Outside resources and links

Cross Cultural Awareness Network (CCAN), 1987-1994 and undated [shelved in  
oversize box 6]

Ecumenical and Intercollegiate Relationships, 1967-1968

Women's Resources and Research Center at University of California, Davis,  
1983-1990

Proposals, undated

Report of executive director, 1965-1966, 1987-1988

Resolution of the Board of Directors, 1974

Scrapbook, 1960-1975 and undated [shelved in oversize box 6]

Miscellaneous, 1970 and undated

Box 4

**Audiovisual**

Films (16mm)

*Reflections*, undated (color?, sound, 15 minutes)

*The "Y" at Fresno State*, undated (color, no sound, approx. 8 minutes)

Sound recordings

Cassette tapes, 1970-1992 and undated (70 tapes)

Magnetic tapes, 1966-1972 and undated (20 tapes)

Box 5

Photographs

Negatives

Cabinet, TSP, Chapel, undated

Camp, undated

College "Y" 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Banquet, undated

**Box no. Description**

Box 5 (cont.)

**Audiovisual (cont.)**

Photographs (cont.)

Negatives (cont.)

Dr. Toynbee, 1965

Numbered prints, undated

Project Amigos, undated

Miscellaneous, undated

Prints

Asilomar, 1951-1953

College Religious Center, 1964 and undated

Don Haulman ("Y" Board Chairman), 1965-1966

Fresno State College (FSC) "Y" Freshman Camp at Lake Sequoia group pictures, 1962-1966

Freshman Camp, 1965-1970

Midwinter Retreat, 1964-1965

National Student Christian Foundation (NSCF), 1959-1960

Numbered prints

Chapel services, undated

Food service, undated

Freshman Camp, 1964

Midwinter Retreat, undated

Panel discussion, undated

Speakers, undated

People, 1959-1964 and undated

Project Amigos, 1964-1965

San Francisco weekend, 1966

Seminar on sexuality, 1969

Silent Retreat, 1967-1969

"Y" Cabinet, 1964-1965, 1967

Proofs, undated

Slides

Fresno State College (FSC), 1956-1968

Freshman Camp, 1958 and undated

Project Amigos, 1965-1966 and undated

Miscellaneous, 1969 and undated

**Box no.   Description**

Box 6

*Oversize:*

Administration

Outside resources and links

Cross Cultural Awareness Network (CCAN), 1987-1994 and undated

Scrapbook, 1960-1975 and undated