

The University of Toledo Archives
Manuscript Collection

Finding Aid

➤Robert Burns Papers, 1950s to 1990s◀
UM 106

Size: 1.25 linear feet

Provenance: Robert Burns, October 15th 2001

Access: Open

Related Collections:

Processing Note:

Condition: Good to Fair

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Location: R 27/ S B

Completed by: Savannah Xaver, December 22, 2015

Robert Burns
Papers, 1950s to 1990s

Biographical/Historical Sketch

Robert Burns, professor emeritus of psychology, was born on November 14th, 1916. A native of the Toledo area, Burns attended Scott High School before attending the University of Toledo. While enrolled at the University, Burns worked as a student assistant in the Evening Sessions and in the Opportunity School Office beginning in 1936. He received his B.A. in psychology before enlisting briefly in the U.S. Air Force in 1941. After being discharged from the Air Force, Burns returned to the University of Toledo in 1946 as the Assistant Director of evening sessions, the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, and the Assistant Editor of the University Bulletin.

Burns received his masters from the University of Toledo in 1950 and in 1951 gained the rank of assistant professor of psychology. He then became an associate professor in 1957. At this time he was also attending the University of Michigan and earned his Ph.D. in psychology in 1966. While at UT, he taught multiple courses in industrial psychology and focused on teaching the effects of aging. After studying gerontology, the study of social, psychological, and biological factors in humans, he began teaching his own courses with an influence of gerontology. Dr. Burns also initiated and directed the Continuing Education Program in Aging for 10 years.

Dr. Burns was very active in his community when it came to helping pre-retirees, retirees, and seniors; he even assisted in the establishment of Toledo's first senior center. He was then named, in 1971, one of the governor's delegates to the first White House Conference on Aging, which he continued to express interest in for several more years.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Burns was a licensed psychologist and a member of several organizations such as the American Psychological Association, the Ohio Psychological Association, the American Gerontological Association, Phi Delta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi. After retiring from the University of Toledo in 1986, Dr. Burns and his wife traveled the world, eventually settling in Florida. Dr. Robert Burns died on June 7th, 2013 at the age of 96.

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Scope and Content Note

Collection contains information on numerous activities and organizations that Robert Burns was associated with. These range from his involvement with the Conference on Aging to his activeness as a UT alumni. Also included are copies of his undergrad thesis and doctorate dissertation. The collection is separated into five series: Alumni Association, Catalogs and Bulletins, Conferences on Aging, Miscellaneous Materials, and Psychology and Philosophy. Each series is arranged alphabetically unless dates are the predominant information in which case they are arranged chronologically.

Larger materials were placed in a second box, such as a record, a stamp depicting the University Hall Tower and Block House, and entire newspapers.

Series List

- S1 Alumni Association**
Contains information on the Dinner-Dances that were held by the Alumni Association as well as information contained in bulletins. Burns' 50th reunion Homecoming is also included, dated 1991. In this series is the record, labeled "Alumni Club" and dated May 20th, 1949.
- S2 Catalogs and Bulletins**
Contains copies of UT bulletins and catalogs of classes and evening sessions dating from 1939 to 1986. Also included are more detailed issues depicting big years of development for UT.
- S3 Conferences on Aging**
Includes information on the numerous conferences that Burns either attended or spoke at. Also, final reports of the meetings, research methods, and several other informative texts are in this series.
- S4 Miscellaneous Materials**
This series contains everything that did not fit within the other series, such as newspaper clippings on retirement, information about renovating the rare book area in the library, and a copy of The Collegian.
- S5 Psychology and Philosophy**
Contains copies of two books which describe the philosophy of the mind. Also included are Burns' thesis and dissertation along with a copy of a children's book by psychologist Janet Haskin.

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Folder List

Box	Folder	Item Description
		S1. Alumni Association
2	1	"Alumni Club"- May 20 th , 1949- Record
1	1	Bulletin, The Alumni, May 1947
1	2	Dinner-Dance, information, invitation, souvenir photo
1	3	50 th Reunion, Class of 1941, 1991 (Homecoming) (1 of 2)
2	2	50 th Reunion, Class of 1941, 1991 (Alumnus) (2 of 2)
1	4	Privileges and Photographs (1 of 2)
2	3	Privileges and Photographs (2 of 2)
1	5	The Alumnus, 1972
		S2. Catalogs and Bulletins
1	6	1939-1940
1	7	1943-1948
1	8	1948-1949
1	9	1950-1951
1	10	1972-1973- College of Arts and Sciences
1	11	1973-1983- Decade of Development
1	12	1977-1979
1	13	1985-1987
1	14	1986- Service Recognition Awards
1	15	The Tower's Lengthening Shadow: 125 years of the University of Toledo
		S3. Conferences of Aging
1	16	Correspondence
1	17	Education Committee
1	18	Fact Sheets/ Directory
1	19	Miscellaneous and Undated Materials
1	20	1963- Message from President to Elderly Citizens
1	21	1971-Programs and information
1	22	1971- "Toward a National Policy on Aging" Final Report Volume 1
1	23	1971- "Toward a National Policy on Aging" Final Report Volume 2
1	24	1972- Profile of the Elderly in Lucas County
1	25	1973- Post White House Conference on Aging Reports
1	26	1984- Developments in Aging Volumes 1 and 2
		S4. Miscellaneous Materials
1	27	American Artist 1952
1	28	Campus Views
2	4	The Collegian, 1984
1	29	Correspondence- Renovation of Rare Books Area in Library
1	30	Fraternities: Phi Kappa Phi and Theta Chi
1	31	"Mark" 1991
1	32	Retirement, newsclippings pertaining to
1	33	Smith, Bill
1	34	Stansbury, Dr. Paul W.- Obituary
2	5	Sunday Magazine

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2	6	Toledo Magazine
		S5. Psychology and Philosophy
2	7	“Abridgment of Mental Philosophy” James C. Upham, 1863
1	35	“An Analysis of the Occupational Adjustment of Arts College Male Graduates from 1932-1947”- Burns’ Thesis
1	36	“A Study of the Relationships of Certain Values, Personal Preferences, and Activities of Pre-Retired and Retired Professional Engineers” Burns’ Dissertation, pp. 1-75
1	37	“A Study of the Relationships of Certain Values, Personal Preferences, and Activities of Pre-Retired and Retired Professional Engineers” Burns’ Dissertation, pp. 76-end
2	8	“A System of mental Philosophy” J.L. Constock
1	38	“Johnny Bushytail” Janet Haskin