

A Guide to the Barbara McKnight Benham Papers, 1966-2021 SC 0338

Barbara McKnight Benham papers
1966-2021



Title Statement

A Guide to the Barbara McKnight Benham Papers, 1966-2021 SC 0338

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0338

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/712

Unit Date

1966-2021

Language

English

Abstract

The Barbara McKnight Benham Papers, 1966-2021, comprise materials related to Madison College sorority life, campus events, and alumni associated events. The collection focuses primarily on McKnight's student experience as a member of the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority with correspondence, photographs, and invitations giving insight to campus life from 1966-1970.

Creator

Benham, Barbara McKnight, 1948-2022

source

James Madison University. Alumni Association

Extent

0.39 cubic feet 5 folders in 2 boxes

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open to research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu).

Acquisition Information

Katelyn Galbraith, assistant director of events and operations, transferred the materials from the Office of Alumni Relations on November 28, 2022.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Barbara McKnight Benham Papers, 1966-2021, SC 0338, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bio/Historical Note

Barbara "Bobbie Ann" McKnight Benham (1948-2022) was born on February 19, 1948 in Neptune, New Jersey. She attended Madison College, now James Madison University, from 1966-1970 where she majored in English, participated in the hockey and tennis programs, and was elected senior class president. After she graduated, McKnight remained active as a Madison College alumna by holding leadership positions and planning alumni events for the class of 1970 alumni group. She began teaching English at Manasquan High School before she married Bill Benham, whom she met at Madison College, on August 14, 1971.

Scope and Contents

The Barbara McKnight Benham Papers, 1966-2021, comprise five folders of materials related to Madison College sorority life, campus events, and alumni associated events. The collection focuses primarily on McKnight's student experience as a member of the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority with correspondence, photographs, and invitations giving insight to campus life from 1966-1970.

Alumni materials include email correspondence between the Alpha Sigma Tau class of 1970 updating the current whereabouts of each member. Included in the collection are correspondence with Barbara McKnight including application information, commencement planning, athletic banquets, and announcements for the class of 1970. Additionally, there are handmade pamphlets and invitations for Alpha Sigma Tau events and photographs from class day productions put on by the sorority.

Separated Materials

University publications were separated and added to existing serials holdings.

Keywords

Printed Ephemera
Photographs
Newspaper clippings
Letters (correspondence)
Greek letter societies
Women -- Education (Higher) -- Virginia
Universities and colleges -- Virginia -- History
James Madison University. Alumni Association
Madison College -- Students
Madison College -- History
James Madison University -- History

Appraisal Information

Some materials not related to McKnight's time as a student at Madison College, including a high school poetry publication, a 1913 Schooma'am in poor condition, and a framed facsimile silhouette of James Madison, were not retained.

Custodial History

The collection was originally donated to the Office of Alumni Relations closely following the death of Barbara McKnight Benham. The collection was transferred to Special Collections in November of 2022.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Photographs and newspaper clippings

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28050

Unit Date circa 1966-1989

Mixed Materials [1000897857] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Alpha Sigma Tau class profile posters

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28054

Unit Date 1969-1970

Mixed Materials [1000885712] OV 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Madison College event materials

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28051

Unit Date 1966-1970

Mixed Materials [1000897857] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Commencement and Convocation

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28052

Unit Date 1969-1970

Mixed Materials [1000897857] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Alumni materials

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28053

Unit Date 1975-2021

Mixed Materials [1000897857] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)