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Guide to the Chemistry Department Records, 1937-1997

Title

Chemistry Department Records (RG 098)

Dates

1937-1997 (inclusive)

1945-1981 (bulk)

Creator

Oregon State University. Dept. of Chemistry.

Summary

The Chemistry Department Records document the research and graduate programs in chemistry at Oregon State University, primarily in the post-war period of the late 1940s to early 1960s, as well as building renovations and construction in the 1970s.

Quantity

0.75 cubic foot (1 box) and 4 microfilm reels

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives

121 The Valley Library

Oregon State University

Corvallis, OR 97331-4501

Phone: 541-737-2165

Email: archives@oregonstate.edu

Web: <http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/archives>

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Nielsen, 2008.

Historical Note

Chemistry courses have been taught at Oregon State University since the earliest years of the institution; the first doctoral degree in Chemistry was awarded in 1935. A Chemistry Building (later named Gilbert Hall for Earl C. Gilbert) was constructed in 1939; it was extensively renovated and the Gilbert Addition was constructed in 1981.

John Fulton was department head from 1907 until 1940, when Earl C. Gilbert, who had been on the faculty since 1917 was appointed head. Bert Christensen followed Gilbert as Department Head in 1956.

Oregon State College was one of the first institutions to offer a chemistry course by television and to broadcast a course to students at several institutions simultaneously.

Arrangement

The records consist of 6 series: I. General Subject File, 1937-1963; II. Research, 1958-1962; III. National Science Foundation, 1958-1961; IV. Graduate School, 1945-1961; V. Building Renovation and Construction Planning Records, 1970-1981; and VI. Promotional Materials, 1997.

Content Description

The Chemistry Department Records document the research and graduate programs of the department. Series I-IV consist of microfilmed records, primarily from the post-war period of the late 1940s to early 1960s. Of particular note are extensive correspondence between the department chair and the Dean of the School of Science, F.A. Gilfillan; materials pertaining to the department's use of educational television for teaching general chemistry courses; research proposals and summaries of research projects; and records of the department's graduate program.

The paper records consist predominantly of building renovation and construction planning records for major renovations to Gilbert Hall and the construction of the Gilbert Addition. A 1997 booklet for prospective graduate students includes profiles of all department faculty.

Preferred Citation

Chemistry Department Records (RG 098), Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Acquisition Information

Transferred from the Chemistry Department in several accessions from 1966 through 1997.

Future Additions

Additions to the collection are expected.

Related Material

Additional materials pertaining to the Chemistry Department are available in the [College of Science Records \(RG 024\)](#), the [Memorabilia Collection](#), and the Chemistry and Pharmacy Department Records. The [Chemistry Department Motion Picture Films \(FV P 205\)](#) include recordings of the General Chemistry course taught via interinstitutional television in 1958-1959. The Archives collections also include the Otto Ballhorn Chemistry Laboratory Notebook, the Harry Freund Collection, and the papers of Joseph S. Butts and Robert W. Newburgh.

Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the OSU Libraries Catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog (<http://oasis.oregonstate.edu>) using these headings.

Organizations

National Science Foundation (U.S.)
Oregon State College--Graduate students.
Oregon State College. School of Science.

Oregon State University--Buildings.
Oregon State University--Faculty.
Oregon State University--Graduate students.
Oregon State University. School of Science.

Topics

Chemistry--Research--Oregon.
Chemistry--Study and teaching (Higher)--Oregon.
College buildings--Oregon--Corvallis.
Research grants--Oregon.
Television in higher education--Oregon.

Other Creators

Christensen, Bert Einar, 1904-
Fulton, John, 1868-1953.
Gilbert, Earl C.
Gilfillan, F. A. (Francois Archibald), 1893-1983
Oregon State College. Dept. of Chemistry.

Series Outline

Series I. General Subject File, 1937-1963

Series II. Research, 1958-1962

Series III. National Science Foundation, 1958-1961

Series IV. Graduate School, 1945-1961

Series V. Building Renovation and Construction Planning Records, 1970-1981

Series VI. Promotional Materials, 1997

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. General Subject File, 1937-1963

The General Subject File consists primarily of correspondence sent and received by the department chairs (John Fulton, E.C. Gilbert, and B.E. Christensen); much of the correspondence is with the F.A. Gilfillan, Dean of the School of Science. The series also includes reports and statistics. Topics include research activities, budgets, student enrollment, graduate programs, and faculty.

1937-1939

Reel

1 1. Chemistry Department Statistics

1 2. Chemistry Building Contract

1942-1947

1 1. Anti-malarial research correspondence

1 2. ASTP correspondence

1 3. Chemistry Department correspondence

1945-1950

1 1. Forest Products correspondence

1 2. Gifts to the Department of Chemistry

1 3. General correspondence

1 4. Board of Control Oregon State

Communications

1 5. to the staff

1-2 6. from the staff

Correspondence

2 7. School of Science

2 8. President's Office

2 9. Information Analysis, outside requests

2 10. A.B. Scott

2 11. Dr. J.S. Butts

2 12. W.E. Caldwell

1946-1950

2 1. General Correspondence

2 2. Office of Naval Research U.S. Navy

2 3. Information and Analysis

2 4. Personal - E.C. Gilbert

2 5. President's Office Dr. Strand

Communications

2 6. To and from staff

2 7. To and from other departments

2 8. Gifts to the Department

2 9. Information Analysis

2 10. Oregon State Civil Defense Agency

2 11-14. School of Science F.A. Gilfillan

2 15. Personal E.C. Gilbert

2 16. Gifts to the Department

2 17. Presidents Office A.L. Strand

1950-1955

2 1. Interdepartmental Correspondence, 1952-1953

2 2. Gifts to the Department, 1950-1951

2 3. President's Office A.L. Strand, 1950-1953

- 2 4. School of Science, 1950-1955
- 2-3 5. E.C. Gilbert Personal, 1950-1955
- 3 6. Graduate Assistance Correspondence
- 1955-1963
- Educational TV
- 3 1. 1957-1958
- 3 2. 1958-1959
- 3 33. 1959-1960
- 3 4. 1960-1961
- 3 5. Departmental Seminars, 1962-1963
- 3 6. Gilfillan Dinner
- Planning Committee
- 3 7. Minutes
- 3 8. Reports
- Publications
- 3 9. 1961
- 3 10. Staff
- 3 11. Department of Chemistry and Exchanges from Other Colleges
- 3 12. Richland General Electric Graduate Work
- 3 13. General Chemistry
- 3 14. Kasetsart University
- 3 15. Gifts for Commencement Program
- 3 16. Interdepartmental Correspondence, 1955-1956
- 3 17. Gifts and Awards
- 3 18. Interdepartmental Correspondence, 1956-1957
- President's Office
- 3 19. 1957-1958
- 3 20. Report
- 3 21. 1959-1960
- 3 22. School of Science, 1962-1963
- 3 23. President's Office, 1955-1956
- 3 24. Gilbert E.C., 1955-1956
- President's Office
- 3 25. 1956-1957
- 3 26. 1960-1961
- 3 27. 1961-1962
- School of Science
- 3 28. 1957-1958
- 3 29. 1955-1957
- 3 30. 1956-1957
- 3 31. Gifts
- 3 32. Registration Report, 1959-1960
- 3 33. 1959-1960
- 3 34. 1961-1962
- 3 35. 1958-1959
- 3 36. 1960-1961

Series II. Research, 1958-1962

Series II consists of research proposals and applications for graduate fellowships; proposals to the National Science Foundation for research projects and equipment purchases; and summaries of research being conducted in the Chemistry Department.

Research Proposals

- 3 1. 1958-1959
- 3 1a. 1959-1960
- 3-4 1b. 1960-1961
- 4 1c. 1961-1962
- 4 2. Research Project Outline, 1958
- 4 3. Shell Fellowship
- 4 4. Research Reports of, 1959-1960
- 4 5. Fellowship bulletins

Reel**Series III. National Science Foundation, 1958-1961**

Series III includes announcements and publications issued by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as well as correspondence with NSF regarding research programs in chemistry at Oregon State.

- 4 1. 1958-1959
- 4 2. 1959-1960
- 4 3. 1960-1961

Reel**Series IV. Graduate School, 1945-1961**

Series IV provides information about graduate programs in the Chemistry Department including degree requirements and curriculum; graduate assistantships; and applications and inquiries from prospective graduate students.

- 4 1. 1945-1946
- 4 2. 1946-1947
- 4 3. 1947-1948
- 4 4. 1948-1953
- 4 5. Graduate Student Notices
- 4 6. Graduate Committee, 1946-1951
- 4 7. Graduate School, 1955-1961
- 4 8. Graduate School Committee Departmental

Box**Series V. Building Renovation and Construction Planning Records, 1970-1981**

The Building Renovation and Construction Planning Records pertain to the renovation of Gilbert Hall and the construction of the Gilbert Addition and include meeting minutes for various building committees, proposals, students, program descriptions, reports, correspondence, and dedication materials. All files include correspondence.

- 1 Space Requests Design Literature Space Requirements Committee, 1968-1970
- 1 Minutes of New Building Committee Planning Records Reports, 1969-1974
- 1 New Building Priorities, 1969-1974
- 1 Building Committees, 1970-1974
- 1 Building Program Reports, 1970-1974
- 1 Program Design Standards, 1971-1974
- 1 Proposal Planning Review, 1972-1978
- 1 Exhaust and Cross Contamination Study, 1973
- 1 Feasibility Study, 1973-1974
- 1 Architects' Folios Facilities Inventory, 1973-1974
- 1 Program, 1974
- 1 New Building (Executive Order Space Inventory), 1974
- 1 Architects Proposals, 1974
- 1 Project Description Preliminary Estimate, 1974-1975
- 1 Award of Contract, 1976
- 1 New Building Early, 1975-1977
- 1 New Building Committee Fall, 1977
- 1 Proposal Ways and Means, 1977
- 1 Energy Requirements, 1977-1978
- 1 Movables, 1977-1978
- 1 Space Utilization (Lab), 1978
- 1 Project Summary, 1978
- 1 Final Review, 1978
- 1 Bids Clippings, 1978
- 1 New Building Dedication, 1981

Box**Series VI. Promotional Materials, 1997**

The Promotional Materials consist of a booklet for prospective graduate students about the Chemistry Department graduate and research programs that includes profiles of all faculty.

- 1 Booklet for Prospective Graduate Students, 1997