

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA



The University Archives
and Records Center

A Guide to the
Office of the Provost. Vice Provost for
University Life Women's Oral History Project
1949-1983

5.0 Cubic feet

UPA 6.11

Prepared by Tina Goldberg Under the direction of Theresa R. Snyder
March 1991

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PROVENANCE

These papers, tapes, cassettes and scrapbooks were transferred to the University of Pennsylvania Archives and Records Center from Dr. R. Jean Brownlee, Dean of Women, 1989, and from the Penn Women's Center, 1990.

ARRANGEMENT

The information for the Oral History Project is arranged in four series. They include: Information on the Organization of the Project (Box #1), Biographical Material, Narrator and Interviewer Binders (Box #2), Tape and Cassette interviews (Box #3 and #4), Video Cassettes (Box #4), and Scrapbooks (Box #5).

The first series is arranged chronologically, while the remaining series are organized alphabetically.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Oral History Project documents the experiences of over 100 prominent female University of Pennsylvania students, administrators, faculty and faculty family members.

An Advisory Board to the Vice Provost for University Life began the project in 1983 to tape the history of women at the University over the previous six decades. Included are budget estimations, steering committee meeting minutes and narrator and interviewee guides and lists. These documents mainly chronicle the organization of the project and its attempt to enlist the support of the University community. A handbook for interviewers was also compiled as a reference aid for the oral histories.

The biographical material consists of newspaper clippings and other articles about each of the women interviewed on tape. These portfolios are organized alphabetically and most include the years of involvement and University affiliation; some also describe the current profession of the woman profiled.

The tape and cassette interviews are arranged chronologically according to the person interviewed. The labeling and content of the tapes is not consistent; also included are several video taped interviews and duplicate tapes. The tapes represent primarily the recollections of the oldest University affiliates recorded during the six decade span. The project is on-going and many of the women profiled in the biographical material have yet to be recorded on tape.

Two scrapbooks round out the collection: one chronicles alumnus Rosemary Mazzatenta's experiences at the School of Education 1949-1953, and the other records the founding of the first professional educational sorority at the University (Kappa Delta Epsilon, 1951-1953).

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