

Research Guide to Archival Resources on Coeducation

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Introduction

While Sarah Lawrence officially became coeducational in 1968, the College admitted male students as early as 1946. The College dropped “for Women” from its name early on to begin issuing credits to men. Sarah Lawrence College admitted a number of male students returning from the Second World War in compliance with a mandate from the governor of New York State. The College’s graduate program always accepted male students and the Performing Arts Programs accepted male visiting students from early on. College officials considered creating a coordinate men’s college and merging with Princeton University before deciding on becoming a coeducational institution. An interested researcher should begin their investigation by examining the [Virtual Exhibit- Sarah Meet Lawrence: Men at Sarah Lawrence](#). Organized roughly chronologically by topic, this research guide provides citations for documents, articles and collections in the Sarah Lawrence College Archives on coeducation. Though extensive, this research guide does not include all available citations nor does it include all audio/visual references and instead should be used as a starting point to the resources available. This research guide should be used in conjunction with the finding aid to each collection.

Note on Restrictions: Restricted and partially restricted folders are marked as such in the finding aid and on the folder itself. Generally, material is restricted due to correspondence with members of the public for which copyright does not reside with the College Archives as well as to protect the privacy of College community members. Please ask the Archivist for further assistance with restricted folders. See the [College Archives Access Policy](#) for more detailed information.

Male Students at Sarah Lawrence before 1968

WWII Veterans at Sarah Lawrence

In 1946, New York State Governor, Thomas E. Dewey issued a call for the State’s institutions of higher learning to admit veterans returning from WWII using their G.I. Bill benefits. To answer this call, the College’s President, Harold Taylor, initiated the process of admitting veterans to Sarah Lawrence College. The College first admitted veterans in the fall of 1946 and the last veterans graduated in 1951. This change brought about a name-change for Sarah Lawrence College by dropping the phrase ‘for Women’ from the end of the College’s name.

Audio-Visual Collection:

VHS 014 - Perfect Weekend: The Original 35 Veterans, Summer 1990
DV 0004 - President’s Luncheon for Veteran Alumni, June 2, 2000

Faculty Meeting Minutes, 1945-1946 (Bound):

-Report of the President to the Board of Trustees, April 12, 1946

Faculty Meeting Minutes, 1946-1947 (Bound): November 5, 1946; November 27, 1946; Board Meeting, May 19, 1947; Correspondence: Harold Taylor to Veterans, September 9, 1945; Correspondence: Esther Raushenbush to Veterans, February 24, 1947

Office of the President - Harold Taylor Papers - Subject Files- Veterans: Study and Report on SLC Veterans, 1956-1957 (Box 5)
Remarks by Harold Taylor in Honor of the 40th Anniversary of the WWII Veterans from Sarah Lawrence College

Oral History Collection- (Box 1, 2)
-Papaleo, Joseph, 2000
-Kilsheimer, Ralph '51, March 14, 2008
-Taylor, Harold, 1985

Student Life Collection - WWII Veterans/G.I. Bill
Collection of newspaper and magazine articles from 1946-2000

Male Graduate Students

Bessie Schonberg Papers- Male Students in M.A. Programs, 1952-1968 (Box 5)

Men in the Performing Arts Program

Faculty Meeting Minutes, 1952-1953: Curriculum Committee Report, November 11, 1952 (p. 5- Performing Arts)

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes: March 31, 1953; April 28, 1953

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes: November 14, 1952; May 14, 1953

Student Life Collection - Coeducation: Performing Arts Program, 1956/7, 1966 (Box 1)
This file contains: Proposal for Male Undergraduate Student in the Performing Arts by Bessie Schönberg to Esther Raushenbush; a postcard announcing that the College will begin accepting men in the Theatre, Dance and Music Programs for the 1956-7 school year.

Student Life Collection - Coeducation: General, 1957, 1961, 196-8 (Box 1)
Among other documents, this file contains: a letter noting that the charter of Sarah Lawrence College was amended to grant Master of Arts (M.A.) degrees and other information about men in Performing Arts.

The Coeducation Discussion

Coordinate College:

Harold Taylor Papers- Subject Files- Coeducation: Coordinate College, 1956-7/ 1960 (Box 3)
In a proposal to the Trustee-Faculty Committee on Planning and Finance, President Taylor suggests the establishment of a coordinate college for men alongside the institution for women. This file contains (among other documents): President Taylor's proposal; a letter from a former male SLC student; summary of the work undertaken by the aforementioned Committee; a memo to the faculty; a report titled: *Finance, Budgeting and Expense Control*.

Merger with Princeton:

Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes: May 10, 1967 (Closed until 2017)

Dean of the College - Robert Wagner - Administration- Coeducation- Reference Material- Princeton, 1968 (Box 3)

Among other documents, this file contains: a copy of the Princeton Alumni Weekly "A Special Report on the Education of Women at Princeton;" a confidential preliminary draft of a report for committee use in deciding the Princeton merger, 1968.

Esther Raushenbush Papers- Administrative Papers: General- Princeton-Sarah Lawrence Proposal, 1967

In 1967, Sarah Lawrence President Esther Raushenbush informally fielded a proposal from President Goheen at Princeton University for the two schools to merge. This merger would require Sarah Lawrence to relocate to Princeton while retaining its own campus. This matter was discussed by the Board of Trustees on May 10th, 1967 and they overwhelmingly decided against this possibility. Among other documents, this file contains: a map of Princeton; correspondence between Raushenbush and a number of different individuals regarding the possibility of a merger; a memo to the friends of the college; a copy of the Board of Trustee minutes in which the matter was discussed. (Partially restricted)

Coeducation Discussion:

Dean of the College - Robert Wagner - Administration- Coeducation: Reference Material- General, 1968-1973 (Box 3)

Student Life Collection - Coeducation: General, 1957, 1961, 1968 (Box 1)

Among other documents, this file contains: correspondence, General Committee meetings minutes and other documentation regarding the discussion of coeducation and its implementation.

Charles DeCarlo Papers - Subjects- Student Organizations: Student Senate- Statement on Minority Recruitment and Coeducation, February 1976 (Box 8)

Official Coeducation Onwards

Alice Ilchman Papers - Subseries K- General Subjects- Coeducation, Background Information re:, 1969-1973 (Box 17)

This file contains: a report on 1969 Coeducation Week; the preliminary and final report on Coeducation by the Coeducation Committee.

Student Newspaper 1967-1968, 1968-1969. Articles and Opinion letters which comment on Coeducation and Student Life:

The Emanon: 1967 - Mar 15, Sep 29, Nov 1, Nov 15, Dec 5; 1968 - Jan 24, Feb 14, Mar 7, Apr 24

The Emanon: 1968 - Dec 12; 1969 - Jan 22, Jan 29, Feb 19, Mar 13, Mar 20, Apr 17

Student Life Collection - Coeducation: General, 1957, 1961, 1968 (Box 1)

Among other documents, this file contains: a press release, dated February 1, 1968, announcing that the college will formally begin to admit men as full-time undergraduate students in the fall of 1968; newspaper articles regarding Sarah Lawrence's decision to become coeducational; memos to faculty and students regarding the publicity resulting from

the decision to admit male visiting students in the spring of 1968 and Esther Raushenbush's 'Remarks on Coeducation.'

Student Life Subject Files- Coeducation: General, 8/1968 - 12/1968 (Box 1)

Among other documents, this file contains: remarks by Bob Lamm, a Yale student who studied at Sarah Lawrence for a semester, titled *A Thought Paper on Sarah Lawrence Past, Present and Future*; General Committee meeting minutes discussing male students (10/2/1968); faculty meeting minutes (10/29/1968); correspondence of the Committee on Coeducation; President's report (11/20/1968).

Student Life Collection- Coeducation: General, 1969-1970 (Box 1)

Among other documents, this file contains: correspondence between Esther Raushenbush and a number of individuals regarding coeducation and the question of recruiting men for the freshman class; correspondence and notices of the Committee on Coeducation; documents about Coeducation Week; documents regarding housing for male students; faculty meeting minutes (2/25/69)

Evaluating and Establishing Coeducation

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes (1978-1999): Jan 13/14, 1978; Oct 26, 1979; Feb 29, 1980; Oct 20, 1981; Nov 5, 1981; Feb 15, 1985; Apr 26, 1985; Oct 4, 1985; Feb 21, 1986; Feb 28, 1986; Feb 28, 1992; Dec 2, 1994; Mar 3, 1995; Oct 20, 1995; Oct 18, 1996; May 20, 1999; Oct 16, 1999. (Closed – see Terms of Access for more information)

Student Life Collection- Coeducation: General, 1972 (Box 1)

Among other documents, this file contains: a collection of meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees and the Faculty on coeducation; a collection of documents regarding admissions procedures for male students.

Dean of the College - Robert Wagner - Administration- Coeducation Reports, 1970-1973 (Box 3)

Among other documents, this file contains: a brochure titled 'Five Men Talk about Sarah Lawrence;' correspondence to the Coeducation Committee titled 'Points for Consideration' regarding the low male to female ratio despite the college's official status as coeducational.

Student Life Collection - Co-Education: General, 1973 (Box 1)

Among other documents, this file contains: Report on Coeducation by the Coeducation Committee; a collection of Coeducation Committee meeting minutes.

Student Life Collection - Coeducation: General, n.d., 1975, 1981-1983

This file contains: minutes from a meeting of the Executive and Finance Committee (9.23.1975); recruitment brochures for men; a collection of documents regarding admission procedures; a collection of documents regarding the expansion of athletic services. (Partially restricted)

Student Life Collection - Coeducation: Media, n.d., 1968-1974, 2002

Collection of published media narratives regarding Sarah Lawrence and Coeducation.

Dean of Studies Records - Subjects: Walrus Committee, 1986-1988 (Box 5)

The Board of Trustees established the Walrus Committee in the fall of 1985 to try to identify ways to improve the appeal of the college to a wider range of men and women. Among other things, their research found that the college received a low number of male applicants which

resulted in marketed strategies aimed toward male students. Among other documents, this file contains the 1988 Report of the Walrus Committee; undated meeting minutes of members of the Committee; written planning notes of Committee members.

Michele Myers Papers - Subjects- Students and Alumnae/i- Coeducation, 1998-2001, 2006
This file contains: a copy of the article "Coeducation: Sarah Lawrence's Best-Kept Secret?" by Elizabeth Chute; correspondence regarding the creation of a coeducation taskforce to examine the ratio; an excerpt from the May 1995 Senior Survey.