

Research Guide to Archival Resources on Diversity

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Introduction

Sarah Lawrence College was established in 1928 as an experimental two year junior college for women. Above all, the educational philosophy of this newly established school was the creation of a student-centered and led program of education. During the College's first year, for the president's statement, Marion Coats comments that colleges like Sarah Lawrence diversify the existing types of college by giving attention to all parts of a student's education (Course Catalogue 1927/8 15). With this unique attention to the individual student's education, it is no surprise that student agitation for racial, social and cultural diversity has been an integral part of the College's development. As a result, the Sarah Lawrence College Archives holds numerous documents illustrating these various initiatives throughout the College's history. An interested researcher should begin their investigation by examining the [Diversity Timeline](#). Organized roughly chronologically by topic, this research guide provides citations for documents, articles and collections in the Sarah Lawrence College Archives on diversity. 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 guide to the resources available. This research guide should be used in conjunction with the finding aid to each collection.

Keywords: Racial Diversity, Student Life, Gender Diversity, Coeducation, Cultural Diversity, Class Diversity, Curricular Diversity

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.

Early Diversity and Student Life

Jewish Quota

Board of Trustees meeting minutes referencing 'Jewish Quota:'

Meeting Dates: May 29, 1929; Nov. 13, 1929; May 26, 1933; May 19, 1936; May 12, 1942

Oral History Collection- Harold Taylor 1985 (Box 2)- see Index

History of Sarah Lawrence College- Publications on SLC- Rose, Louise Blecher- The Secret Life of Sarah Lawrence and Responses- 1983

This file contains: a copy of the article written by Ms. Rose; its coverage by both the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times; correspondence to students, alumnae and parents regarding the article; and letters to the editors of these publications in response to the article

including responses by Sarah Lawrence presidents Alice Ilchman, Charles DeCarlo, Carla Perkelis Seitz, numerous other faculty and students.

Office of the President- Admissions- Quotas-Jewish Students, 1932-1956
CONFIDENTIAL- Not to be opened until 2026

The file herein is the same file referenced in *The Secret World of Sarah Lawrence* article by Louise Blecher Rose '65. This file and its contents are to remain confidential until 2026, however, interested researchers may petition to have the file opened for research before this date.

Racial Diversity

Petition for Negro Students

Constance Warren Papers- Petition for Negro Students, 1941 (Box 3)

In 1941, five students who represented a body of 71 students presented a petition at a faculty meeting for the inclusion of female negro students and listed the following reasons: ending segregation at the College; intercultural knowledge, breaking down prejudices.

Faculty Meeting Minutes- Volume 18- April 1, 1941 (Bound)

Deceased Alumni Files- Gonzales, Barbara '46

Response to Questionnaire by Barbara (Bobbie) Gonzales '46
significance: first Black student to graduate from Sarah Lawrence

Oral History Collection- Waite, Joan Berry '55, 2006 (Box 3)

significance: Early study abroad and fieldwork experience as a black woman

Office of the President Harold Taylor Papers- Racial Discrimination in Bronxville, 1947 (Box 5)
significance: Lead Belly Incident

Student Council Meeting Minutes, February 24, 1947

Oral History Collection- Harold Taylor, 1985 (see Index for Lead Belly)

Student Views on Diversity (added March 2017)

The student publication "Dimension" features two articles in volume 1, number 1 published in April 1946 featuring work conducted by students regarding the history and relations between blacks and whites in the United States. June White '48, one of the first black students on campus, wrote a piece entitled "The Slave Insurrections", and Babette de Bary, a white student with interests in social science and journalism, conducted a social polling of Sarah Lawrence and Hunter College female students and published her findings in the article "Poll of Opinion on the American Negro."

See also: [Diversity Timeline](#) (Digital Resource)

Veterans at Sarah Lawrence

["Sarah meet Lawrence" Online Exhibit](#) (Digital Resource)

Audio-Visual Collection

Perfect Weekend: The Original 35 Veterans, Summer 1990

President's Luncheon for Veteran Alumni, June 2, 2000

Office of the President- Harold Taylor Papers: Subject Files- Veterans: Study and Report on SLC Veterans, 1956-1957 (Box 5)

significance: Remarks by Harold Taylor in Honor of the 40th Anniversary of the WWII Veterans from Sarah Lawrence College

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

Faculty Meeting Minutes- Volume 18, 1945-1946 (Bound)
-Report of the President to the Board of Trustees, April 12, 1946

Faculty Meeting Minutes- Volume 19, 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

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

Protest/Activism and Curricula and Racial Diversity

1969 Westlands and Lynd House Sit-Ins

Protest and Activism on Campus Collection

Begin:

-“A Brief History”- Student Activism [re: Diversity], 1969-1993

See folders:

- Lynd House Sit-in: Disbandment of Institute for Community Studies, May 9-15, 1969
- Westlands Sit-In – Articles by Jean Goldschmidt-Kempton '71, March 1969
- Westlands Sit-In – Chronological Documents, December 1968- March 10, 1969
- Westlands Sit-In – Chronological Documents, March 11, 1969- May 1969
- Westlands Sit-In – Documentary Film by Ariel Dougherty '69, March 1969
- Westlands Sit-In – Histories of the Sit-In and the “Tuition Problem”, March 1969
- Westlands Sit-In – Newspaper Clippings, March 1969
- Westlands Sit-In – Newspaper Clippings, 1969-1973
- Westlands Sit-In – Research Requests, 1969
- Westlands Sit-In, 1969

Student Newspaper, 1968-1969:

-The Emanon, 1969: March 7; March 13; March 20; April 17; April 22

Faculty Meeting Minutes- March 5, 1969; March 18, 1969

For more information on Westlands Sit-In, 1969

Faculty Meeting Minutes: May 13, 1969, 1 pm meeting; May 13, 1969, 4:15 pm meeting; May 15, 1969; May 20, 1969, 1 pm meeting and memo to Esther Raushenbush from the Occupants of Lynd House 1968-69; May 20, 1969, 4:15 pm meeting; May 27, 1969

For more information on Lynd House Sit-In, 1969

1968- Black Studies

Curriculum: Black Studies Records 1967-1973

In 1968, The Black Students Association brought a proposal, "Proposal Concerning Incorporation of the Black Experience in the Curriculum," to the Dean of the College, Jacquelyn Mattfeld and President Esther Raushenbush. This resulted in the creation of coursework under the faculty group "Social Change and Black Studies" which included a lecture series "Black Steps Towards Social Change." The proposal also included a request for a Black Studies Coordinator to counsel black students. The first counselor, Sam Anderson, was hired in 1969. Following Anderson, in 1972 Sidney Black, Jr. was appointed the Black Studies Counselor but resigned in 1973. (Historical Notes, Guide to the Black Studies Records).

Subject Files- Social Issues: Segregation

Oral History Collection- Waite, Joan Berry '55, 2006 (Box 3)
significance: taught and counseled students from 1969-1972

See Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes: September 26, 1968; January 16, 1969; March 10, 1969; March 20, 1969; April 10, 1969; December 11, 1969; December 18, 1969; January 7, 1970; January 8, 1970; January 29, 1970; February 26, 1970; March 19, 1970; April 9, 1970; April 16, 1970; April 27, 1970; May 21, 1970; May 28, 1970

For more information on Black Studies/Social Change:

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

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

Among other documents, this file contains a 1988 report on 'Racial and Ethnic Diversity' put together by the Walrus Committee

1989 Westlands Sit-In

Protest and Activism on Campus Collection- Westlands Sit-In, 1989

Student Newspaper:

The SLC Newspaper- Issue 4, March 7, 1989

The SLC Newspaper- Special Edition, March 13, 1989

The SLC Newspaper- Issue 5, April 25, 1989

Dean of the College Records, 1928-2009*

*All administrative records are closed for 20 years from the date created. These records contain information regarding the 1989 sit-in including student responses and demands; records from the early committee on diversity; records on numerous diversity initiatives.

Box 23: Sub-series E. Diversity

-Committee on Diversity, 1988-1989

-Committee on Diversity, 1990-1991

-Committee on Diversity, 1992-1996

-Committee on Diversity – Background Material, 1989-1990

-Concerned Students of Color, 1989

-Correspondence – General, 1988-1989, 1993-1994

- Curriculum Diversity, 1989
- Discriminatory Harassment Policy – “Can I Speak My Mind on Campus?”, 1992

Box 24:

- Faculty Diversity, 1987-1994
- Ford Foundation – An Agenda for Building an Open and Equitable Community, 1990
- Ford Foundation – Difficult Dialogues: Promoting Pluralism and Academic Freedom on Campus, 2005
- General, 1996-1998
- Harambe Curriculum Proposals and Agendas, 1987-1990
- Institutional Diversity Task Force (Report), 2005
- Multicultural Affairs, Events, Miscellaneous, 1989-1995
- OAR Report, 1997
- Pluralism Training, 1989
- Press Articles and Clippings, 1989
- Reference Material, n.d., 1986-1994
- Westchester Colleges Project on Racial Diversity, 1991-1995
- Westlands Sit-In and Response, n.d., 1989-1991 (*see also Fishbein, Lauren – Policy Analysis Exercise, 1991-1992*)

More information on the 1989 Westland’s Sit-In and resulting negotiations can be found in: Office of the President- Alice Ilchman Papers- Sub-series Z: Racial Diversity and Aa: Student Organization (Box 23, 24)

1992- Protest and Activism on Campus Collection-Admitted Students Day Graffiti, April 1992

Student Newspaper:

The SLC 411 Newspaper- Vol. 1 Issue 2, March 1992- Common Ground’s March on Bates

1994- Hunger Strike

Protest against the denial of tenure to Horatio Williams and lack of effort to create a diverse campus educational and social environment.

Protest and Activism on Campus Collection- Hunger Strike, May 1994 (Box 1)

File includes but is not limited to: correspondence from the Office of the President to SLC community regarding the strike; planning notes from students in The Coalition; statements of intent and demands by The Coalition; Report on Diversity at Sarah Lawrence College, 1988-1993.

1997- Organized Against Racism (O.A.R.)

The O.A.R. membership consisted of a multiracial group of students and faculty members committed to “do something about racism Sarah Lawrence beyond consciousness-raising” (Introduction, O.A.R. Report, 1). The O.A.R. is a ‘portrait of racism,’ both statistical and anecdotal at Sarah Lawrence.

Protest and Activism on Campus Collection- The OAR Report, 1997; The OAR Report: Newsletter, 1997-1998; The OAR Report: President’s House Takeover, April 1997; The OAR Report: Frank Randall Tribute, ca. 1997; OAR – Correspondence, 1998 (Box 1)

2000- Westlands ‘Sit-In’

Representatives from a body of concerned students met with Dean Barbara Kaplan and then President Michele Myers to discuss a number of issues including: faculty appointments in Asian-American Literature and LGBT Studies; status and orientation of guest faculty members; the continued operation of the Office of Multicultural Affairs; access to information and procedures of all the governing and decision-making bodies at the College; and to hold President Myers accountable to statements made regarding coeducation at Sarah Lawrence.

Michele Myers Papers- Students and Alumnae- Sit-In, Spring 2000 (Box 10) *some content restricted*

2004- Teach-In on Bias, Racism, and Exclusion

In response to student concerns, the administrators at Sarah Lawrence made a decision to cancel classes on April 8 2004 (Thursday) to hold a day-long teach-in on bias, racism and exclusion. Around the same time these concerns were raised, the College began a search for the 'Director of Diversity and Campus Engagement' administrative position. Also emerging from the teach-in was the Institutional Task Force on Diversity.

Michele Myers Papers- Events: Teach-in on Bias, Racism and Exclusion, April 8, 2004 (Box 8)
This file contains correspondence, resources, planning notes and Michele Myers' statement to the College regarding the teach-in.

Protest and Activism on Campus Collection- Teach-in on Racism, Bias, and Exclusion, 2004

This file includes: correspondence from General Committee to the campus regarding the aftereffects of the teach-in; a copy of The Phoenix which offers student voices and opinions; reflections on the different workshops; opening and closing statements by faculty members; and flyers, among other documents.

2005- Ethnic Studies Campaign

In the fall of 2005, a group of students called 'The Coalition' submitted a written proposal to the College's administration and Board of Trustees regarding the permanent implementation of an Ethnic Studies Program. In response to students demands, the Committee on Ethnic Studies was formed to create a list of recommendations for the implementation of the program.

Protest and Activism on Campus Collection- Ethnic Studies Campaign, 2005-2006 (Box 1)

File includes but is not limited to: The Coalition's statement; Ethnic Studies Zine; report of the Institutional Task Force on Diversity and the Committee on Ethnic Studies to General Committee.

2010- Diversity Committee

On April 13th, 2010, faculty members voted regarding the formation of the Committee on Diversity as an official standing committee of the College and were met by a number of student demonstrators in favor of the creation of the Diversity Committee.

Protest and Activism on Campus Collection- Committee on Diversity, April 2010 (Box 1)

see also: Faculty Meeting Minutes, April 13, 2012 (currently restricted).

Not currently housed in the Archives Collection

For an analysis on Institutional Diversity at Sarah Lawrence:

(2011) Brown, Laura: Undergraduate Senior Thesis

(2012) Bellinger, Belinda: Independent Study Oral History

(2012) Race Summit Keynote Speech: Dean Allen Green as Chief Diversity Officer