Prettyman Family collection

Repository: Delaware State University Archives
William C. Jason Library
1200 N. DuPont Highway; Dover, DE 19901
302-857-6130

Creators: James A. Prettyman and Noble W. Prettyman

Date: 1957-2010 [bulk dates 1965-1990]

Location: Row 9, Bay C, Shelves 2-5

Extent: 9 linear feet

Language: English

Source of Acquisition: Noble Winder Prettyman, November 3, 2011

Conditions Governing Access: This collection is open to public viewing. No restrictions.

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Abstract:

The Prettyman Family collection is comprised of the records, photographs, and artifacts of three generations of Prettyman family members who attended Delaware State University. The majority of items found here are photographs, DSU clothing, and event programs collected by James A. Prettyman between 1960 and 1990. The collection additionally includes records of Katherine Anne DeShields Prettyman - a 1933 book of graduation memories and mementos and album of photographs from 1917-1930.

Scope and Content:

The Prettyman family collection is comprised of 3 series: Documents, Photographic Materials, and Artifacts.

Highlights from the documents series include an undated DSC admissions brochure, Echo newsletters, 1912 and 1923 teaching certificates for Effie Aiken Prettyman, and 1969 commencement invitations for James A. Prettyman. The series also includes a sub-series for event programs dated between 1957 and 1989. These include programs from academic events such as convocation and commencement, cultural events such as concerts and plays, and athletic press guides. The Documents series additionally has a second sub-series composed of the records of Katherine Anne DeShields Prettyman. The records found here are a book of graduation mementos and notes from classmates, her 1933 high school graduation program, a Laurels from Browning book of poetry, and an annotated photograph album featuring classmates and family members.

The Photographic Materials series, comprising the majority of the Prettyman Family collection, consists of dismantled photograph albums, photographs, photographic slides, and negatives. The collection contains nine photograph albums, eight of which, have been disassembled for preservation reasons. Each of the albums remain distinguishable and the original order of the contents have been clearly maintained and identified. Most of the albums had fluorescent round stickers with a typed number next to each of the photographs. These numbers were transferred to the back of each photo and any errors in numbering such as duplicated or skipped numbers were copied exactly. The Prettyman collection also includes photographs that were not a part of an album, but were found grouped together in manila envelopes. These groupings have also been preserved according to original order. Lastly, box 4
contains a smaller box of slides removed from a carousel. The slides make up a complete admissions recruiting presentation featuring images captured by David Pugh and Joanna Simms. The subject-matter of the images depict campus scenes including rehearsals of the marching band and other music ensembles, campus buildings, athletics, classroom environments, and student life.

The third series is composed of Artifacts. The items found herein are three-dimensional objects: DSU sweatshirts, DSU t-shirts, hats, DSU promotional buttons, audio cassettes of Gospel Choir concerts, and pennants from DSC as well as other colleges and universities. This series has been described to the item level in the box and folder list.

Biographical History:

The Prettyman family is one of Delaware State University’s legacy families as result of the enrollment of numerous generations of Prettyman family members. The Prettymans who appear within this collection are Katherine (née DeShields) Prettyman and her sons James Anthony Prettyman, and Noble Winder Prettyman. Additionally included is Effie (née Aiken) Prettyman, the paternal grandmother of James and Noble.

Very little is known about Effie Aiken Prettyman except that she graduated from the State College for Colored Students Normal course in 1908. Thereafter she married James Handy Prettyman and ultimately taught at 196C, the two-room elementary school in Milton, DE.

Katherine Anne DeShields Prettyman, of Milford, Delaware was born in 1915. She graduated from State College for Colored Students high school in 1933. She married James Aiken Prettyman of Milton, Delaware, a 1934 graduate of the SCCS high school.

James Anthony Prettyman, son of James and Katherine Prettyman, was born in Milford, Delaware on March 4, 1940. In 1962 he joined the Air Force and served as a dental assistant. He was honorably discharged at the rank of Airman First Class E-4 in October 1964. Through the GI bill, James Prettyman attended Delaware State College starting in 1966 and graduated in 1969. He achieved a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. Immediately thereafter he moved to Rochester, New York where he was employed by Eastman Kodak in the quality assurance and customer relations department. James Prettyman was highly active in the Delaware State College alumni association and served as an admissions recruiter in the Rochester, New York area. He was profoundly interested in photography. Consequently, the vast majority of the photographic materials found within the collection are believed to have been captured by him. As a whole, the majority of the items found within the Prettyman Family Collection are estimated to have belonged to James Prettyman due to his close affiliation with Delaware State University.

Lastly, the Prettyman Family collection was donated by Noble Winder Prettyman and consequently includes his brief biography. Please note that Noble Prettyman did not attend DSC. Instead, he attended Rowland State University in Glassboro New Jersey. Although he served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War era, he ultimately established his career in education and taught seventh and eighth grade at Woodbine Elementary School in Woodbine, New Jersey.

Arrangement:

To the furthest extent possible, this collection is arranged according to the creators’ original order. This is most prominently seen in the photographic materials in the second series which are arranged according to the numeric labels given to each photographic. For those photographs that are not numbered, the original order of appearance within each album or envelope housing is preserved.

The documents series and subseries are arranged alphabetically. The lone exception is the Katherine Anne DeShields materials which are housed together in accordance with original order. As such, her photograph album appears with the rest of her records in the documents series and not under the photographic materials series.
The items in the artifacts series are boxed according to material type and in the following order: sweatshirts, t-shirts, hats, pennants, yearbooks, cassettes.

**Box and Folder Listing:**

**Series: Documents**

**Box 1:**
- Correspondence - Jason, W.C. to “Mr. Young” [reproduction], February 12, 1907
- The Echo, 1974-1989
- Prettyman, Effie Aiken certificates [reproductions], 1912, 1923
- Prettyman, James A. commencement invitation, 1969
- Prettyman, James A. memorial, 2010
- Prettyman, Noble W. biography, n.d.

**Subseries: Programs**
- Alumni pageant and coronation, 1989
- Basketball guides – men’s, 1984-1986
- Basketball guides – women’s, 1984
- Career conference, 1964
- Commencement, 1965, 1969
- Concerts, 1963-1969
- Convocation, 1967
- Founder’s day 1964-1988
- Gospel Choir [folder 1 of 2], 1983-1986
- Gospel Choir [folder 2 of 2], 1987-1990
- Gospel Choir miscellaneous, 1984-1988
- Laws Hall dedication, May 25, 1963
- Miss DSC coronation, 1963-1987
- Parent’s Day, 1963
- Players Guild playbills, 1957-1958
- Price, John Robert memorial program, October 8, 1983
- Track and Field guides, 1989-1985
- Zeta Phi Beta sorority founder’s day, 1964

**Box 2:**

**Subseries: Katherine Anne DeShields Prettyman**
- Prettyman, Katherine DeShields – 1933 graduation program
- Prettyman, Katherine DeShields – miscellaneous, 1909, n.d.
- Prettyman, Katherine DeShields – photograph album, 1917-1930

**Series: Photographic materials**

**Box 3:**

Photographer: unknown, presumed to be James A. Prettyman
Photographs include casual portraits of individuals, possibly students, some of which were identified as the following individuals: Charmaine Cohen, Tamara Murphy, Chanel Green, Jackie Ellis, Ramona Dukes, Wanda Collins, Kenny Tisdale, Jerry Williams, Cornell Walker, and Rolley. Also included are photographs from commencement held in 1986 featuring President Luna I. Mishoe and Michael N. Castle. Other events depicted include Miss DSC pageant and what appear to be other homecoming events, as well as photographs of a football game. The album contains numbered photographs 15-139.

#166-474 untitled navy blue album [folder 1 of 2], 1967-1984, n.d.
#166-474 untitled navy blue album [folder 2 of 2], 1967-1984, n.d.
Photographer: unknown, presumed to be James A. Prettyman
Identified individuals pictured in the photographs include: John (Bull) Barber, Clayton (Riddler) Grier, Norman (Peabody) Moore, Margaret Logan, Althea (Hun Bun) Johnson, Mercedes Holloway, Jackie Hazzard, Sandra Jackson, Yvonne Morris, Loretta Roy, Cheryl Fields, Iris Taylor, Joyce Mitchell, Joyce Burris, and Charles Conway. Additional notable persons include: President William B. DeLauder, Michael Castle, and President Luna I. Mishoe. Photos include football players, cheerleaders, and what appears to be a parade, likely for homecoming. Photos also include a home economics class, commencement, cheerleaders at a basketball game, and photos of the marching band. The album contains numbered photographs 166-474.

#440-512 untitled brown album, October 1983
Photographer: unknown, presumed to be James A. Prettyman
Images largely capture the coronation of Miss DSC, which was attended by President Luna I. Mishoe. The last two photographs appear to be of parade floats, perhaps for the homecoming parade. The album contains numbered photographs 440-512.

#513-638 “Delaware State College” intact, green album, 1969, c. 1980s, n.d.
**Found in flat file Box 5**
Photographer: unknown, presumed to be James A. Prettyman
This album was left in its original state to preserve the context of the photographic and artifact items found within. The beginning of the album includes DSU bumper stickers followed by photographs of track and field team, baseball teams, football games, marching band with color guard, and Miss DSC activities. Images include President William B. Delauder. The album contains numbered photographs 513-638.

#639-954 untitled blue album [folder 1 of 2], 1986-2000, n.d.
Photographer: unknown, presumed to be James A. Prettyman
The album depicts various Miss DSC/Miss DSU appearances, homecoming parades, football games, the marching band, and presentations at football games including appearances by President Luna I. Mishoe, President William B. DeLauder, and Senator Tom Carper. The album contains numbered photographs 639-954.

#953-1093 untitled red album [folder 1 of 2], 1982
#953-1093 untitled red album [folder 2 of 2], 1982
Photographer: unknown, presumed to be James A. Prettyman
Photographs include the following homecoming weekend events: coronation of Miss DSC 1982-1983, the homecoming parade, and homecoming game which also includes depictions of the marching band and color guard, and cheerleaders.
Box 4:

**#1094-1729 untitled navy album, 1966, n.d.**
Photographer: James A. Prettyman
Images primarily depict homecoming weekend activities for c. 1966 including cheerleading, football, the stadium crowd, marching band, and the color guard. Additional photographs show members of the baseball and basketball teams. The only identified individual in the album is “Mr. Stone,” band director. The album contains numbered photographs 1094-1729 (not comprehensive)

**#1830-2099, 3000-3079 untitled navy blue and black album [folder 1 of 2], 1957, 1969, n.d.**
**#1830-2099, 3000-3079 untitled navy blue and black album [folder 1 of 2], 1957, 1969, n.d.**
Photographer: James A. Prettyman
Photographs include a 1957 football game of DSC versus Bloomfield State Teachers college, cheerleading, the Miss DSC court coronations for 1969, an unknown structure fire, fraternity and sorority activities, and commencement.


**#1-4065 numbered photographs not found in an album [folder 1 or 2], n.d.**
**#1-4065 numbered photographs not found in an album [folder 2 or 2], n.d.**
Photographer: unknown, presumed to be James A. Prettyman
The photographs found herein were numbered but were loosely filed throughout the Prettyman collection. They were not contained in any of the albums or binders. This is not a comprehensive run of photographs from 1 to 4065. The depicted subject matter includes campus buildings, the marching band and color guard, a parade of floats (likely for homecoming), football games and identified player profile photos, cheerleaders, a school dance, unidentified women photographed with the college sign and Hornet mascot, Dr. Dill holding a class in the field. There is a large portion of the folder that contains miscellaneous and unidentified groups of people.


**Unnumbered, untitled album, 1991, n.d.**
Photographer: unknown, presumed to be James A. Prettyman
Approximately 45 photographs of homecoming floats, Miss Alumni coronation activities, cheerleaders, and commencement. The photographs are undated but are estimated to be circa 1965 and 1991.
Box 5:

Admissions office Slide Presentation, n.d.
Aikens, Walter, brother of John Boykin Aikens, n.d.
Alumni House photographic slide
Football team portrait, n.d.
“Fraternities and sororities, student government” envelope of photographs
Prettyman, Katherine, March 1961
Unidentified photographs, n.d.
Untitled envelope of commencement photographs, n.d.
Untitled envelope of Miss DSC, football, homecoming, and commencement photographs, n.d.
Untitled photographs found boxed together – athletics, campus buildings, and Miscellaneous, n.d.

Series: Artifacts

Box 5 continued:

Miscellaneous Artifacts – address books, pencil holder, decal, n.d.

Box 6:

#513-638 “Delaware State College” intact, green album, 1969, c. 1980s, n.d. (see description in photographic materials series, above)
“Take Me There” Gospel Choir LP record, c. 1978 (reformatted onto CD, included)

Box 7:

D.S.C. Hornet wool letterman sweater, #65 patch on right sleeve, “J.Bernard Prettyman” embroidered on left side seam, white with maroon ribbing and stripes.

“Delaware State University” sweatshirt. Grey with blue and red sweatbands at openings. Hornet mascot at center. Cotton/polyester blend
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Box 8:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>“DELSTATE” sweater.</strong> Red with white lettering. Cotton/polyester blend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>“Delaware State Hornets” hoodie sweatshirt.</strong> Blue fabric with red lettering surrounded by white stripes. Hornet mascot layered over a star shape. PRETTYMAN printed in white lettering on the back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>“Delaware State Alumni” sweatshirt.</strong> Blue fabric with Red lettering and incorporation dates in a yellow circle. Cotton/Polyester blend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>“DSU” cap.</strong> Blue cotton fabric with red lettering and red/white Hornet mascot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>“Delaware State” cap.</strong> White face with red nylon mesh and a red visor. Blue/red Hornet mascot above blue lettering.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Box 9:**

| **“Delaware State University Homecoming 2009” long-sleeve t-shirt.** White fabric with red lettering. Hornet mascot centered between lettering. |
| **“Delaware State” t-shirt.** Navy blue fabric with red lettering surrounded by a white circle. Red/white Hornet mascot printed above the lettering. |
“Delaware State Hornets” t-shirt. Red fabric with white and blue lettering.


“Delaware State Alumni” t-shirt. Blue fabric with red lettering. Incorporation dates printed inside a yellow circle.

“STATE Delaware State College” t-shirt. White fabric with red lettering centered inside blue lines.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>“Delaware State University” t-shirt. Black fabric with blue lettering outlined in red. Shirt has splotches of white paint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>“I Love Delaware State College Gospel Choir” t-shirt. Red fabric with blue lettering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>“Delaware State” t-shirt. Red fabric with white lettering. Presidential seal printed above the lettering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>“DSC 2nd annual classic, 1985 Delaware State College vs. N.C. A&amp;T State Univ” t-shirt. Red fabric with blue lettering. DSC lettering is outlined by a football shape.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oversize Folder of Pennants:

Pennants:
“Delaware State College: fired up and stinging mad” with hornet mascot
“Delaware State College, Dover, DE: home of the hornets”
“Delaware State with presidential seal
“Delaware State” with hornet mascot
“Delaware State College, Dover, DE: home of the hornets” with hornet mascot
“Fayetteville State Univ.”
“Florida A&M University”
“Howard University”
“Morehouse Atlanta, Georgia”
“Morgan State University”
“North Carolina A&T State University”
“North Carolina Central University”
“Southern University”
“Spelman Atlanta, Georgia”
“Tennessee State University”
“Tuskegee University”
“Virginia Union University”

Yearbooks:
The following Statesman yearbooks were donated as a part of the Prettyman collection but are being housed with the other Statesmans in the yearbook collection located in Row 17, Bay A.

The Statesman, 1960
The Statesman, 1961
The Statesman, 1966
The Statesman, 1967
The Statesman, 1968
The Statesman, 1969
The Statesman, 1983
The Statesman, 1985
The Statesman, 1986
The Statesman, 1987
The Statesman, 1988

Box 10:

Cassettes:
Delaware St. Gospel Choir at Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, March 19, 1983 [copy 1 of 3]
Delaware St. Gospel Choir at Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, March 19, 1983 [copy 2 of 3]
Delaware St. College Gospel Choir, March 19, 1983 [copy 3 of 3]
Delaware St. College Gospel Choir 1985 Master
Delaware St College Gospel Choir at Memorial AME Zion Church, 1986
1986 Delaware St. College Gospel Choir annual spring concert, 1986
Delaware St. Gospel Choir, 1990
Colophon:

This collection was received from Noble Prettyman in 2011 and inventoried by DSU librarians. The collection was inventoried a second time by E. Cottle, the first formal archivist, following her arrival in 2012. The collection was formally processed by R. Scherry in 2018.

It is believed that the collection was weeded and likely disseminated into other format-based archival collections prior to E. Cottle’s tenure. Examples include the Hornet newspapers, Statesman yearbooks, course catalogs, and possibly photographic materials. Evidence of this lies in the fact that the donation inventory and collection inventory conducted by E. Cottle do not match, nor is there any deaccession paperwork.