Tubman Hall Time Capsule

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

Creators: Unknown
Date: C. 1950-1952
Location: Row 12, Bay A, Shelf 1
Extent: 0.25 linear feet
Language: English

Source of Acquisition: Office of Capital Planning and Environmental Sustainability

Conditions Governing Access: Supervision by the University Archivist is required to access this collection. Due to the fragility of the original items, patrons are not permitted to handle the original items. Patrons may only work with the reproduced copies.

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Related Materials: Office of Public Relations Photographic collection; Programs collection; course catalogs; Hornet newspaper

Scope and Content:

The Tubman Hall time capsule was recovered from the cornerstone in June 2019 at the time of the building’s demolition. The capsule was opened in the Delaware State University Archives by the archivist in July 2019. Inspection of the lead capsule prior to opening revealed a pinhole by which it is believed moisture entered the capsule. Consequently, most of the contents of the capsule were unable to be read and were damaged beyond salvage.

Seven of the original items from the time capsule are found within this collection. This includes an architectural drawing of the campus with anticipated construction projects, a dance recital event program, a freshman handbook, a student handbook, an event program from the laying of the Tubman Hall cornerstone, an Omega Psi Phi event program, and a reel of film. Due to significant water damage, the contents of the reel are unknown and have not undergone conservation treatment at this time (as of July 2019).

The remaining fragmented contents of the capsule were photographed before disposition. The photographs are included within the collection. Note that the subject matter and nature of the fragmented content is largely unknown because it was not able to be read at the time the capsule was opened. Many of the paper fragments were fused together or too small to be pieced together. The paper crumbled when touched. The known dispositioned items were a 1950-1951 course catalog, a copy of which may be found in the course catalog collection, and an April 1952 Hornet student newspaper which may be found in the Hornet collection.

Administrative History:

In 1949 Delaware State College received state appropriations for the construction of a much needed female dormitory. The three-story building was constructed in 1952 and was dedicated in 1953. Tubman Hall was named in honor of renowned abolitionist Harriet Tubman. The building was located on the backside of the DSU campus just off of College Road at Gate 3. The residence was connected to the eastern side of Wynder Towers (built 1985) by enclosed walkway. Tubman Hall was ultimately demolished in the summer 2019 in order to make way
for a larger residence and dining hall. Throughout its lifespan, Tubman was predominately a women’s residence but it occasionally housed men.

**Arrangement:**
This collection is organized alphabetically.

**Box and Folder Inventory:**

**Box 1:**
- Architectural drawing of campus, January 9, 1952
- Dance Festival of the DSC high school senior dancing class event program, c. 1952
- Dance Festival of the DSC high school senior dancing class event program c. 1952, reproduction, 2019
- Dispositioned items, photographs of, 2019
- Freshman Handbook, 1951-1952
- Freshman Handbook 1951-1952 reproduction, 2019
- A handbook for students of Delaware State College compiled by the Acting director of Student Personnel, 1950-1951
- A handbook for students of Delaware State College compiled by the Acting director of Student Personnel 1950-1951 reproduction, 2019
- Laying of the Cornerstone of the new girls’ dormitory event program, 1952
- Omega Psi Phi fraternity “Trusting Hearts” event program, March 12, 1951
- Omega Psi Phi fraternity “Trusting Hearts” event program, March 12, 1951 reproduction, 2019
- Photographs of time capsule, 2019
- Reel of film, c. 1952

**Colophon:**
The Tubman time capsule was transferred to the University Archives by J.D. Bartlett in July 2019. It was privately opened in the University Archives by R. Scherry.