



Guide to the Office of Black Church Studies records, 1968-2013

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Duke University

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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

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Summary

Collection Title:

Office of Black Church Studies records, 1968-2013

Creator:

Duke University. Office of Black Church Studies

Abstract:

The Office of Black Church Studies (initially the Office of Black Church Affairs) was created as an initiative of the Duke Divinity School in 1972 to support African American students and faculty. The collection consists of materials related to African American churches, civil rights, and the status of African American students and faculty in universities across the country. Materials related to Martin Luther King, Jr.; Benjamin Chavis; Gardner C. Taylor; and Prathia Hall Wynn are included. The collection also contains manuscripts, black-and-white and color photographs, digital images, and electronic records contained on compact discs.

Extent:

3 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

UA.19.05.0001

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1cq5t>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Office of Black Church Studies Records, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The collection consists of materials related to African American churches, civil rights, and the status of African American students and faculty in universities

across the country. Contains materials related to Martin Luther King, Jr.; Benjamin Chavis; Gardner C. Taylor; and Prathia Hall Wynn. Some items relate to Black Church Studies at other academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and churches. The collection includes manuscripts, black-and-white and color photographs, digital images, and electronic records contained on compact discs. Also contains publications that predate the creation of the office.

Biographical/Historical

The Office of Black Church Studies (initially the Office of Black Church Affairs) was created as an initiative of the Duke Divinity School in 1972. The office was established to support African American students and faculty in the Divinity School and sustain a specific curriculum on the Black preaching tradition and the Black community's experience with Christianity.

The Office of Black Church Studies outlines its mission as follows:

"The Office of Black Church Studies (OBCS) enriches the work and witness of Duke Divinity School with theological and spiritual resources from Black Church contexts. We teach, research, publish, and create experiences to nurture effective leaders for the church, the academy, and the world. Drawing from intellectual and empirical resources of Africa and the African Diaspora, we strengthen the vocation of the school and the mission of the university to impact congregations, organizations, and societies locally and globally. OBCS helps to form good and faithful leaders through curricula, lectures and relationships with congregations, denominations, organizations and networks."

Source: <https://divinity.duke.edu/formation/houses-of-study/black-church-studies>, accessed December 8, 2023

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Arrangement

Organized into the following series: Correspondence, Events, Committees and Organizations, Administrative Files, Articles and Publications, and Visual Materials. Correspondence is organized chronologically. Other series are primarily organized alphabetically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Access restricted. Some materials in this collection are Duke University administrative materials. For a period of twenty-five years from the origin of the material, permission in writing from the office of origin and the University Archivist is required for use of administrative records. After twenty-five years, records that have been processed may be consulted with the permission of the University Archivist. Contact Research Services for more information.

Access restricted. Some materials in this collection include student records. In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended, Duke University permits students to inspect their education records and limits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records. Contact Research Services for more information.

Access restricted. Some materials in this collection are personnel records. Records pertaining to employment where individuals are identified are closed for 70 years.

Access note. Some materials in this collection are electronic records that may need to be reformatted. Access copies of electronic records require special equipment. Contact Research Services for access.

Acquisition Information

The Office of Black Church Studies records were received by the University Archives as a transfer in January, 2014.

Processing Information

Processed by: Patrick Dollar, October 2014

Descriptive sources and standards used to create this inventory: DACS, EAD, NCEAD guidelines, and local Style Guide.

This finding aid is NCEAD compliant.

Finding aid updated by April Blevins, December 2023.

Use Restrictions

Copyright for Official University records is held by Duke University; all other copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

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Related Materials

Related Material

[Black Graduate and Professional Student Association Records](#), University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Black History at Duke Reference Collection](#), University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Black Student Alliance Records](#), University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Department of African and African American Studies Records](#), University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Divinity School Records](#), University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Divinity School Reference Collection](#), University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Office of Minority Affairs Records](#), University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University

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Names and Subjects

- Compact discs
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- African American graduate students -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Theological seminaries -- United States
- Students, Black -- North Carolina
- Photographic prints
- Pastoral theology -- Study and teaching
- African American clergy -- North Carolina
- Blacks -- Study and teaching (Higher) -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Theology -- Study and teaching (Higher) -- North Carolina
- African American students -- North Carolina -- History -- Archival resources
- African Americans -- Study and teaching (Higher) -- North Carolina -- Durham
- African American college students -- North Carolina -- Durham
- African American college students
- African American students -- North Carolina -- Durham -- Social life and customs
- Clergy -- Post-ordination training
- African American preaching
- African American Christian educators
- Duke University -- History
- Duke University. Divinity School -- History
- Duke University. Divinity School -- Students
- Duke University. Divinity School -- Faculty
- Duke University. Divinity School
- Duke University -- Administration
- Taylor, Gardner C
- Education, Higher -- North Carolina -- History
- Chavis, Ben
- Wynn, Prathia Hall
- Duke University. Divinity School -- Lectures, seminars, etc. -- Symposium on Christian Missions, 1958
- Duke University -- Curricula
- King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968
- Duke University. Office of Black Church Studies
- Duke University. Office of Black Church Affairs

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1972-2004, undated

Scope and Contents

Series includes incoming and outgoing correspondence from 1972-2004, primarily related to administrative matters. Correspondence is from office directors, including Grant S. Shockley, William C. Turner, Jr., and Tiffney Marley. Correspondence is related to admissions, the creation and administration of the Office of Black Church Studies, and various administrative matters.

Access Restrictions:

Access restricted. Some materials include student records. In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended, Duke University permits students to inspect their education records and limits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records. Contact Research Services for more information.

Correspondence, 1972-1984	Box 1
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Access Restrictions:

FERPA information restricted until approximately 2054.

Correspondence, 1985-1991	Box 1
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Correspondence, 1992	Box 1
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Correspondence, 1993	Box 1
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Correspondence, 1994-2004 and undated	Box 1
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Events, 1972-2013, undated

Scope and Contents

Series includes correspondence, publicity materials, and photographs related to events sponsored by the Office of Black Church Studies, primarily lecture series named for Gardner C. Taylor and Martin Luther King, Jr. Other major events include pilgrimages to South Africa and Haiti, sponsored by the office; memorials for affiliated individuals; and Christian education seminars. Materials are primarily from 1972 to 2013.

Access Restrictions:

Access restricted. Some materials are Duke University administrative materials. For a period of twenty-five years from the origin of the material, permission in writing from the office of origin and the University Archivist is required for use of administrative records. After twenty-five years, records that have been processed may be consulted with the permission of the University Archivist. Contact Research Services for more information.

Christian Education Roundtable, 1984-1985 Box 1

Conference on Black Church Studies in the Southeast, 2004 Box 1

Continuing Education seminars, 1972-1985 Box 1

Funerals and memorials, 1982-2004 Box 1

Gardner C. Taylor Lecture Series, 1975-1999 Box 1

Gardner C. Taylor Lecture Series, 2000-2005 Box 1

Physical Description: 2 folders

Access Restrictions:

Administrative records restricted until 2030.

Gardner C. Taylor Lecture Series, 2006-2013 Box 1

Access Restrictions:

Administrative records restricted until 2038.

Gardner C. Taylor Worship Workshop, 2004 Box 1

Access Restrictions:

Administrative records restricted until 2029.

Martin Luther King, Jr., celebrations, 1974-2006 Box 1

Access Restrictions:

Administrative records restricted until 2031.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Lecture Series, 1974-2002 Box 1

Access Restrictions:

Administrative records restricted until 2027.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Lecture Series,
2003-2013

Box 1

Access Restrictions:

Administrative records restricted until 2038.

Miscellaneous events, 1978-2007

Box 1

South Africa pilgrimage, 2004

Box 1

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Committees and organizations, 1971-2005, undated

Scope and Contents

Series includes materials related to campus organizations that interact with the Office of Black Church Studies, the Black Seminarians Union, but also other student and campus organizations. The series includes rosters, meeting minutes, budgets, and organizational events, primarily related to the Black Seminarians Union. Materials are primarily from 1971 to 2005.

Access Restrictions:

Access restricted. Some materials include student records. In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended, Duke University permits students to inspect their education records and limits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records. Contact Research Services for more information.

Afro-American Studies program, 1991

Box 1

Black Church Affairs file lists, undated

Box 1

Black Church Studies reports and committees,
1973-1995 and undated

Box 1

Physical Description: 2 folders

Black Seminarians Union 30th anniversary,
2000

Box 2

Black Seminarians Union constitution,
1971-1998 and undated

Box 2

Black Seminarians Union budgets, 1981-1991	Box 2
Black Seminarians Union minutes, 1975-2005	Box 2
Black Seminarians Union, miscellaneous, 1984-2005 and undated	Box 2
Black Seminarians Union National Conference, 1979-1980	Box 2
Black Seminarians Union officers, 1989-2005 and undated	Box 2
Black Seminarians Union rosters, 1978-2006	Box 2
Access Restrictions:	
FERPA information restricted until approximately 2076.	
Divinity School Council minutes, 2004	Box 2
International Studies Committee, 2004	Box 2
Student Representative Association Files, 1993-1996 and undated	Box 2

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Administrative files, 1972-2004, undated

Scope and Contents

Series includes materials related to admissions and recruitment, course materials, bibliographies, and faculty and job posting files. The series also includes photographs and newspaper clippings related to Julian Abele, the architect of West Campus. Materials are primarily from 1972 to 2004.

Access Restrictions:

Access restricted. Some materials include student records. In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended, Duke University permits students to inspect their education records and limits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records. Contact Research Services for more information.

Access restricted. Some materials are personnel records. Records, such as search committee files or others pertaining to employment where individuals are identified, are closed for 70 years.

Admissions and recruitment, 1972-2000 and undated Box 2

Access Restrictions:

FERPA information restricted until approximately 2070.

Bibliographies and book lists, undated Box 2

Black Ministers in the N.C. Conference lists, undated Box 2

Course materials, 1972-1993 and undated Box 2

Access Restrictions:

FERPA information restricted until approximately 2063.

Faculty files, 1984-2004 and undated Box 2

Access Restrictions:

Personnel information restricted until 2074.

Job postings and descriptions, 1972-2004 Box 2

Julian Abele files, 1991 Box 2

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Articles and publications, 1968-2005, undated

Scope and Contents

Series includes newspaper clippings, departmental publications, scholarly articles, sermons and addresses and unpublished drafts of materials written primarily by students or staff members of the office. Materials are primarily from 1968 to 2005.

Miscellaneous publications and drafts, 1968-2004 and undated Box 2

Newspaper articles and clippings, 1973-2000 and undated Box 2

Prayers, undated	Box 2
Recipes, undated	Box 2
Scholarly articles, 1996-2005	Box 2
Sermons and addresses, 1974 and undated	Box 2
The Sojourner, 1982 and 1993	Box 2
Unpublished materials, 1984-2004 and undated	Box 2

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Visual materials, 1990-1996, undated

Scope and Contents

Series includes both physical photographs and compact discs containing photographs. Primarily includes photographs from Black Seminarians Union events, and "Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope," a 2005 event involving Duke students, faculty, and alumni visiting Rwanda and Uganda to explore the aftermath of the 1994 genocide in South Africa. Materials are primarily from 1990 to 1996.

Compact discs, undated	Box 2
General photographs, 1990-1996 and undated	Box 2
South Africa photographs, undated	Box 2

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