Overview of the Collection

Creator
University of Oregon. Office of the Dean of Personnel Administration

Title

Dates
1942-1946 (inclusive)

1942
1946

Quantity
1 linear foot, (2 containers)

Collection Number
UA 009

Summary
The National Japanese American Student Relocation Council was created by university administrators as a means of relocating Japanese American college students to other universities and colleges away from the West coast during World War II, and to prevent these students from being interned in government-run internment camps. At the University of Oregon, Karl Onthank, Dean of Personnel Administration, represented the University in relocating UO Japanese American students. The collection includes correspondence, newsletters, speeches, minutes of meetings, and ephemera.

Repository
University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives.
UO Libraries--SPC, 1299
University of Oregon
Eugene OR
97403-1299
Telephone: 541-346-3068
Fax: 541-346-3485
spcarref@uoregon.edu

Access Restrictions
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Permanent University Archive public records are available for research, and are subject to state, and in some cases federal freedom of information laws. In compliance with applicable state and federal laws, including, but not limited to, FERPA and HIPAA, specific records that are legally protected, sensitive, private, or confidential are exempt (not subject to disclosure) and closed to protect individual privacy.

Languages
English

Historical Note

http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv04124
In the winter of 1942 President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066 authorizing the evacuation of Japanese Americans living on the West Coast into internment camps. In response, college administrators, religious leaders, and some Japanese American community leaders banded together to form a student relocation council, which was funded by the national YMCA-YWCA and organized in Berkeley, California, in March 1942. This was the beginning of a concerted effort to relocate Japanese American students enrolled in West Coast colleges and universities to other colleges and universities in the Midwest and East so that they could continue their studies and avoid internment.

The council was formalized into the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council in Chicago on May 29, 1942. Regional offices were set up in Philadelphia, Seattle, Portland, Berkeley, and Los Angeles; less than a year later, the offices were consolidated in Philadelphia. As a non-government organization, the NJASRC was staffed largely by volunteers and funded by private donations, churches, and colleges and universities. The Quaker American Friends Service Committee managed the organization.

With the help of college administrators, such as Karl Onthank at the University of Oregon, students were able to navigate huge bureaucratic obstacles in order to leave internment camps and enroll in college. In addition to obtaining student clearances from the War Relocation Authority and the FBI, college administrators managed scholarship funds; helped students choose and apply to schools; made sure that the Japanese American students would be socially accepted at the selected college and in the surrounding community; and, monitored students' progress and well-being. From 1942 through 1945, approximately 5,522 Japanese American students were enrolled in over 529 colleges and universities in the Midwest and on the East Coast.

The NJASRC appears to have had two major goals. The first was to help Japanese American students attend college during the war; and the second was to counter anti-Japanese sentiment among Americans by producing a group of model citizens who would then dispel the negative wartime image of Japanese Americans.

At the University of Oregon, Karl Onthank, then Dean of Personnel Administration, initiated and managed the effort to relocate UO Japanese American students. Onthank was an alumnus of the University of Oregon (1913) who joined the University of Oregon staff in 1916 as Executive Secretary to President Prince Lucien Campbell. In 1930 Onthank was named Dean of Personnel Administration for the university; in this position he managed the effort to relocate University of Oregon Japanese American students. In 1948 he became Associate Dean of Students in charge of job placement, a position he held until his retirement in 1957.

In the fall of 1941, 22 Japanese American students (and one Japanese student) were enrolled, though by the spring of 1942, several of these students had withdrawn. Of those 22 Japanese American students, 13 were from Portland, 2 from Hood River, 1 from Hillsboro, 1 from Troutdale, 1 from Astoria, 1 from Cornelius, 1 from Baker, and 2 were from Sacramento, California.

Onthank described the Japanese American students at the University of Oregon as "keen, alert young men and women headed toward professional or important business activities." The records demonstrate that he worked diligently to help these students.

The researcher should note that the bulk of the National Japanese Student Relocation Council Records produced by the NJSRC itself are housed at the Hoover Institution Library and Archives at Stanford University. A preliminary finding aid is available at: http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf2m3n98nk

Sources:
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444 xv04124
The collection includes correspondence, newsletters, questionnaires, speeches, minutes of meetings, and other materials relating to the work of the NJASRC and particularly University of Oregon Japanese American students.

The records are arranged chronologically and have been kept in their original order. Thus, correspondence, meeting minutes, questionnaires, newsletters and other documents are all interfiled.

For preservation reasons, the entire collection was photocopied and a second set of documents is included. These copies are stored in box two.

Alternative Forms Available

Collection is available online in the University of Oregon Libraries' Digital Collections, https://oregondigital.org/sets/jasr

Restrictions on Use

Property rights reside with Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries. Copyright resides with the creators of the documents or their heirs. All requests for permission to publish or from collection materials must be submitted to Special Collections & University Archives. The reader must also obtain permission of the copyright holder.

Archival material may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal and/or state right to privacy laws and other regulations.

Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in this collection without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g. a cause of action for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual’s private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the University of Oregon assumes no responsibility.

If a researcher finds sensitive personal information in a collection, please bring it to the attention of the reading room staff.
Preferred Citation


Alternative Forms Available

Selected items are available online in the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council records, 1942-1946 in Oregon Digital.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Transferred from Manuscripts unit in 2007.

Processing Note

Collection processed by Zach Wegner.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Circulars, correspondence, questionnaire, March 1, 1942–March 19, 1942

Box1, Folder1

Correspondence, notes, receipts, March 20, 1942–March 26, 1942

Box1, Folder2

Correspondence, receipts, news bulletin, March 28, 1942–March 31, 1942

Box1, Folder3

Correspondence, April 2, 1942–April 14, 1942

Box1, Folder4

Questionnaires, correspondence, April 15, 1942–April 30, 1942

Box1, Folder5

Documentation of school policies, correspondence, Spring 1942
Correspondence, reports, news bulletin, May 1, 1942–May 16, 1942

Bulletins, facts/figures, questionnaire, correspondence, memorandum, minutes, June 3, 1942–July 24, 1942

Reports of progress, July 25, 1942

Circular, correspondence, August 1, 1942–November 18, 1942

Correspondence, reports, news, circulars, January 16, 1943–February 9, 1943

Correspondence, newsletter, pamphlet, February 22, 1943–April 1, 1943

Minutes, newsletters, circulars, May 6, 1943–August 18, 1943

Correspondence, map/visual, pamphlets, report, July 30, 1943–September 1, 1943

Correspondence, meeting agenda, newsletter, report, minutes, September 1, 1943–September 29, 1943

Minutes, speech, September 29, 1943

Correspondence, October 8, 1943–December 22, 1943

Newsletter, minutes, statistics, letter to editor, correspondence, January 5, 1944–March 16, 1944
Photocopies of correspondence, receipts, news bulletin, March 28, 1942–March 31, 1942
Box2, Folder3

Photocopies of correspondence, April 2, 1942–April 14, 1942
Box2, Folder4

Photocopies of questionnaires, correspondence, April 15, 1942–April 30, 1942
Box2, Folder5

Photocopies of documentation of school policies, correspondence, Spring 1942
Box2, Folder6

Photocopies of correspondence, reports, news bulletin, May 1, 1942–May 16, 1942
Box2, Folder7

Photocopies of bulletins, facts/figures, questionnaire, correspondence, memorandum, minutes, June 3, 1942–July 24, 1942
Box2, Folder8

Photocopies of reports of progress, July 25, 1942
Box2, Folder9

Photocopies of circular, correspondence, August 1, 1942–November 18, 1942
Box2, Folder10

Photocopies of correspondence, reports, news, circulars, January 16, 1943–February 9, 1943
Box2, Folder11

Photocopies of correspondence, newsletter, pamphlet, February 22, 1943–April 1, 1943
Box2, Folder12
Photocopies of minutes, newsletters, circulars, May 6, 1943–August 18, 1943
Box2, Folder13

Photocopies of correspondence, map/visual, pamphlets, report, July 30, 1943–September 1, 1943
Box2, Folder14

Photocopies of correspondence, meeting agenda, newsletter, report, minutes, September 1, 1943–September 29, 1943
Box2, Folder15

Photocopies of minutes, speech, September 29, 1943
Box2, Folder16

Photocopies of correspondence, October 8, 1943–December 22, 1943
Box2, Folder17

Photocopies of newsletter, minutes, statistics, letter to editor, correspondence, January 5, 1944–March 16, 1944
Box2, Folder18

Photocopies of correspondence, March 27, 1944–May 25, 1944
Box2, Folder19

Photocopies of correspondence, minutes, financial statements, report, May 25, 1944–Summer, 1944
Box2, Folder20

Photocopies of minutes, correspondence, June 27, 1944–September 15, 1944
Box2, Folder21

Photocopies of correspondence, minutes, October 3, 1944–November 13, 1944
Box2, Folder22

Photocopies of correspondence, minutes, November 14, 1944–December 15, 1944
Photocopies of minutes, correspondence, February 27, 1945–August 29, 1945

Photocopies of minutes, pamphlet, correspondence, December 19, 1945–January 31, 1946

Photocopies of minutes, correspondence, February 26, 1946–May 9, 1946

Photocopies of audit, Spring 1946

Photocopies of minutes, correspondence, May 9, 1946–May 15, 1946


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box</td>
<td>Folder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box</td>
<td>Folder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>April 9, 2008-May 12, 2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
- Japanese American college students--Oregon
- Japanese American college students--Social conditions--20th century
- Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945

Personal Names:
- Onthank, Karl William, 1890-1968