Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
Oregon State University Student Chapter
Records, 1913-1985

Overview of the Collection

Creator
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Oregon State University Chapter.

Title
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Oregon State University Student Chapter Records

Dates
1913-1985 (inclusive)
1913 1985

Quantity
0.80 cubic feet, including 48 photographs, (1 box)

Collection Number
MSS IEEE

Summary
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers OSU Student Chapter Records consists of materials documenting the activities of this and affiliated student organizations. The OSU student chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers was originally established at Oregon Agricultural College in 1908 as the American Institute of Electrical Engineers; it was renamed the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in 1963, in keeping with the name change at the national level.

Repository
Oregon State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives Research Center
Special Collections and Archives Research Center
121 The Valley Library
Oregon State University
Corvallis OR
97331-4501
Telephone: 541-737-2075
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Access Restrictions
Collection is open for research.

Languages
English

Historical Note

Founded in 1884, what was originally referred to as the American Institute of Electrical Engineers – AIEE – counted among its early members Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, and Nikola Tesla, and was formed to “support professionals in their nascent field and to aid them in their efforts to apply innovation for the betterment of humanity.” Having chosen New York City as its primary headquarters, the AIEE held its first technical meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in October 1884. As the use of electricity became more common, “the AIEE became increasingly focused on electrical power, [with a] secondary focus on wired communication, both the telegraph and the telephone.”
By 1912 membership in the AIEE had grown to nearly 8,000 men. By 1957, however, membership in the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE) – established in 1912 – had surpassed that of the AIEE. Recognizing that the work and interests of both groups had “increasingly overlapped,” on January 1, 1963, the AIEE and the IRE merged to form the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE, or “Eye-triple-E”). At its formation, IEEE had 150,000 members, the majority of which resided in the United States; by 2010, however, IEEE membership comprised over 395,000 members in 160 countries. At the groups’ merger, the professional groups and technical boards of the AIEE and the IRE became IEEE “Societies,” covering 39 special topics and interests, such as Electronics Packaging, Magnetics, Photonics, and Robotics and Automation. The IEEE is affiliated with 130 journals and magazines, and holds more than 300 conferences annually.

According to the 1912 Orange (1910/1911 AY), “as a result of the great increase in attendance in the Engineering School, and the marked success of [the American Institute of Electrical Engineers], a branch of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers was organized [at OAC] March 24, 1908.” As a student branch of AIEE, members chose a major topic or subject each year, meeting bi-weekly to read and discuss “papers prepared by eminent engineers…thus giving the student an insight into…the latest inventions of both [the U.S.] and Europe.” Original charter members of the OAC chapter of AIEE included two faculty advisors – Thomas Mooney Gardner and Earl Vincent Hawley – and fifteen senior students: W. R. Baker, S. A. Brown, L. B. Chambers, N. E. Chapin (Executive Committee), C. E. Christiansen, F. N. Fox, F. Knaus, D. F. Morgan, T. R. Sleight, H. W. Taber, E. S. Thayer (Executive Committee), R. Wall, E. C. Wiggen (Secretary-Treasurer), W. E. Wood, and D. A. Wright (Executive Committee). Officers included a Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of five.

From its establishment, the OSU Chapter of IEEE made awards for outstanding student papers and for Outstanding Senior (although the latter does not appear to have been awarded every year). Awardees were given a cash award, certificate, and provided with a cash allowance for attendance at a regional meeting in “support of the student papers contest sponsored by the student branch of IEEE.” Annual activities included sponsoring speaker visits; field trips to headquarters and plants of relevant Oregon industries; an annual Electrical Safety Demonstration; a student technical paper contest; and a student-faculty softball game.

OSU’s chapter of IEEE continues to operate on campus, hosting seminars intended to “bring industry representatives and students together to facilitate professional networking and information dissemination.” In addition, OSU Robotics Club chapter members operate the ResiSTORE, which sells new and donated electronic components out of the basement of Dearborn Hall.

Content Description

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) OSU Student Chapter Records are comprised of materials generated by the OSU Student Chapter of IEEE, and include account ledgers, correspondence, flyers, a guest book, meeting minutes, membership lists, newspaper clippings, photographs, publications, and reports.

Primarily pertaining to the activities of IEEE, the collection also documents the activities of the OSU Engineering Student Council and the student chapter of the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE).

Numbering 48 images in all (26 negatives and 22 prints), the photographs in the collection depict various unidentified faculty members, a chapter event and group shot, a floor plan of a lecture hall in an unidentified building, and a shot of the service counter of the IEEE store. The 35mm negatives were found in an envelope labeled “Volume 3, Issue 1.”
Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers OSU Student Chapter Records (MSS IEEE), Oregon State University Special Collections and Archives Research Center, Corvallis, Oregon.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Materials were received by the Library Gifts and Exchange Department from an unknown donor in 2004.

Related Materials

The OSU Special Collections and Archives Researcher Center’s holdings contain additional collections documenting IEEE work, namely papers and conference records in the Gilbert Zigler Papers (MSS Zigler) and the John C. Ringle Papers (MSS Ringle).

Documentation of the establishment, review, and administration of other engineering- and electronics-related student organizations, including the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, the Civil and Construction Management Engineering Society, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Graduate Student Association, Advanced Engineering Robotics Organization, and Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) can be found in the Student Club and Organization Records (RG 276).

Additional materials documenting the teaching of engineering courses at Oregon State University can be found in the College of Engineering Moving Images (FV 069), the College of Engineering Photograph Collection (P 069), the Oregon State Technical Record Engineering Magazine (PUB 010-15b), and the College of Engineering Records (RG 062). Collections relating to the student experience in engineering courses include the Melvin C. Hironaka Notebooks (MSS Hironaka), the Harold L. Manley Collection (MSS Manley), the Haskell C. and Sarah E. Carter Memoir (MSS Carter), and the Bill Crocker Papers (MSS Crocker).

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
- Clubs--Oregon--Corvallis.
- College students--Oregon--Corvallis--Social life and customs.
- Engineering students--Oregon--Corvallis.
- Student activities--Oregon--Corvallis.

Corporate Names:
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Oregon State University Chapter. (creator)
- Institute of Radio Engineers.

Form or Genre Terms:
Film negatives.
Photographic prints.

Finding Aid Authors: Rachel Lilley.
2020

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