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The following classes of documents are withheld from research use:
1. Papers and other historical materials which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living persons.
2. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or appointments or personnel matters.
3. Papers relating to student academic performance and discipline restricted under FERPA.

Historical Note
Des Moines University began in 1898 as the Dr. S.S. Still College and Infirmary of Osteopathy. Dr. Summerfield S. Still, Dr. Ella D. Still, Colonel A.L. Conger, Emily B. Conger, Dr. Wilfred L. Riggs, Dr. William W.G. Helm, and Dr. Carl P. McConnell incorporated the school on June 8, 1898. Dr. J.W. Hofsess and Dr. Arthur Still Craig joined as stockholders soon after and McConnell pulled out. Publication of the “Cosmopolitan Osteopath” and operation of the infirmary commenced in July 1898. The college purchased property from Judge Josiah Given and J.S. Clarkson at 1422-28 West Locust Street in Des Moines. On September 1, 1898 this was undergoing construction of a four-story east wing so the first year of classes met across the street at 1429 West Locust in what became the infirmary building. September 1899 they were able to move into the new building where they would remain for the next twenty-seven years.

Dr. Summerfield S. Still, D.O., LL.M. served as the first president of the college (1898-1905) with Dr. W. L. Riggs as the first dean (1898-1901). S.S. Still also founded the Iowa Osteopathic Association in 1899 and was its first president.

Dr. S.S. Still College absorbed students and alumni from several osteopathic schools. In 1901 the Columbian School of Osteopathy in Kirksville, MO, 1902 the Northern Institute of Osteopathy and Surgery in Minneapolis, MN, 1902 the Northwestern College of Osteopathy in Fargo, ND, and 1905 the Southern School of Osteopathy in Franklin, KY all were reorganized and became a part of the Des Moines University family. One effect of this consolidation was the merger of the “Cosmopolitan Osteopath” with the “Northern Osteopath” in 1902. However in January 1903 the journals parted ways. The capital stock of the Dr. S.S. Still College was itself sold to Charles E. Still and Warren Hamilton in 1903. However none of the faculty or facilities changed and classes continued in Des Moines uninterrupted until 1905 when they sold it to the American School of Osteopathy.
The year 1905 was one of monumental change. The school was reorganized as the **Still College of Osteopathy** under the leadership of **Dr. Charles Edgar Thompson**, D.O., M.A., (1906-1911) who had been the second dean and became the second president. The college also existed due to the financial backing of Des Moines citizens who raised over $50,000. The college first published a yearbook, the Nucleolus, which has an excellent historical summary of the college’s beginnings. Colonel A.B. Shaw, Dr. Harry W. Forbes, Dr. Charles Spencer and Dr. Jennie Beguin Spencer moved together to California and founded the Los Angeles College of Osteopathy. The “Cosmopolitan Osteopath” became the “Still College Journal of Osteopathy”. The college purchased the Des Moines General Hospital in 1909 at 603 East 12th Street.

A second reorganization occurred in 1911 when **Dr. Simeon Lafayette Taylor**, D.O., M.D., (1911-1926) became the third president of the institution then known as the **Des Moines Still College of Osteopathy**. Consequently, the “Still College Journal of Osteopathy” became the “Des Moines Still College Journal of Osteopathy”. In 1915 S.L. Taylor purchased the Des Moines General Hospital from the college and established the Taylor Clinic. The hospital attempted a building project in 1917, but the First World War sidetracked this. Fund raising began in January 1923 with postponements and delays through the Great Depression but by 1939 the hospital was still in its original building.

During Taylor’s tenure (1921?) the yearbook name changed to the “Cardiograph”. In 1925 after a lapse of publication the yearbook name changed to the “Stillonian”, a name it kept for almost twenty years. Student activities included: fraternities such as the Atlas Club; sororities, the Delta Omega; “Halladay’s Band”; and intercollegiate athletics.

The year 1926 also brought changes of major proportions. Dr. S.L. Taylor retired due to ill health. **Dr. Charles William Johnson**, D.O., (1926-1935) previously dean became the fourth president. With Taylor’s retirement, the Des Moines General Hospital was managed by a board led by Dr. John P. Schwartz. Schwartz also served as dean at the college. Most significant was the Des Moines Still College of Osteopathy’s move to 722 Sixth Avenue. This enlarged facility was home to the college for the next 45 years and grew to include the college building, a clinic, and a hospital.


**Dr. Hugh D. Clark**, Ph.D., (1944-1945) was the seventh president during the 1945 college name change that added Surgery to become the **Des Moines Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery**. In 1945 the college purchased the Harbach Funeral Home on Sixth Avenue across the street from the college for use as a college hospital.

**Lt. Commander Edwin F. Peters**, Ph.D., (1946-1957) became the eighth president. He oversaw the opening of Des Moines Clinical Hospital, College Hospital, or Still Osteopathic Hospital in 1946 and the addition of a clinic building in 1949 adjacent to the college.
Dr. John B. Shumaker, Ph.D., had been dean and became acting president (1957-1959) on the resignation of Peters. In 1958 the college name changed again; this time to College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. A name change was in order for the yearbook as well. It became the “Pacemaker” (volume I) in 1959, a name it held until 1999.

Dr. Merlyn McLaughlin, Ph.D., (1959-1966) became the ninth president after serving as a Lt. Colonel in the Air Force and Shumaker returned to his position as dean. In 1962 the college acquired land at Fort Des Moines intending to construct a new campus and where a clinic was opened in 1963.

Des Moines General Hospital suffered a fire in 1965. Dr. Howard Graney’s papers (see Personal Papers) include newspaper articles and additional information about the fire. In 1967 the rebuilt hospital merged with the College Hospital and Wilden Clinic. College Hospital changed to Harrison Treatment and Rehabilitation Hospital and Clinic Annex. Its focus was on detoxification and treatment of alcoholism.

Dr. Thomas F. Vigorito, D.O., M.S., (1968-1971) followed the college tradition of first serving as dean and then becoming the tenth president. During his tenure there was a great deal of debate concerning a switching from offering the D.O. degree to the M.D. degree.

The eleventh presidency, of Dr. J. Leonard Azneer, Ph.D., (1971-1992), was a period of great growth. Clinic programs were expanded in various parts of the city. The Dietz Diagnostic Center opened in 1971. Academic programs expanded adding a college of Podiatric Medicine and college of Health Sciences to the college of Osteopathic Medicine. This expansion was reflected in the name change to University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in 1981. Programs for Physician Assistant, doctor of Podiatric Medicine, Health Care Administration, and Physical Therapy were added during the 1980s. In addition the physical plant of the university expanded after moving to the St. Joseph’s Academy property at 3200 Grand Avenue in 1972. The construction of the Azneer Academic Center in 1981 and the Tower Medical Clinic in 1987 greatly upgraded the facilities. Azneer’s long service was not without controversy. In particular, contract disputes with the faculty labor union in 1976 and 1978 were acrimonious. The possibility of moving the university from Des Moines was discussed with the Board of Trustees in the 1980s.

Dr. Myron S. Magen, D.O., (1992-1994) a member of the Board of Trustees, served as acting president until Dr. David Marker, Ph.D., (1994-1996) became the twelfth president of this university after having served as president at Cornell College (IA). Dr. Paul Peter Koro, D.O. (1996) served as interim president after Marker’s unexpected departure.

Dr. Richard M. Ryan, Jr., D.Sc., (1996-2002) was the thirteenth president. Ryan came from a career in public health that included being dean of the medical school at Tufts University. In 1999 the latest name change to Des Moines University - Osteopathic
Medical Center was designed to restate the university’s connection to the city and its primary academic purpose. Stephen S. Dengle, M.B.A., (2002-2003) executive vice president, served as interim president during the presidential search process following Ryan’s retirement.

Governor Terry E. Branstad, J.D., (2004-2009) a former governor of the state of Iowa and former member of the Board of Trustees was selected as the fourteenth president. During the Governor’s tenure, the Student Education Center opened. In 2009 he left DMU to pursue a successful campaign for governor. Governor Branstad reassumed the position of Governor of the State of Iowa on January 14, 2011. Stephen S. Dengle, M.B.A., (2009-2011) executive vice president, served as interim president during the presidential search process following the Governor’s departure.

Angela Walker Franklin, Ph.D. (2011-) served as executive vice president and provost at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn. before becoming DMU’s 15th president in early 2011. Inauguration ceremonies were held in September, 2011.

For additional information about Des Moines University’s history and presidents, please visit http://www.dmu.edu/about/history/.

Scope and Content
Most of the University archives have been lost through the years. Moves to new facilities did not necessarily involve the movement of old records. Many of the records that do exist were rescued before the demolition of the St. Joseph’s Academy buildings on Grand Avenue in 2003. They provide only a snapshot or glimpse into the history and workings of the university and are unevenly distributed through time. They include: one box from the early 1900s-1920s containing student records and Veterans Administration tuition contracts; one box relating to Des Moines General Hospital; one box of primarily Osteopathic Progress Fund documents and correspondence from Edwin Peters in the 1950s; two boxes from J. Leonard Azneer administration, one dealing with Azneer speeches and reports to the Board of Trustees and the second dealing with the construction of the Tower Medical clinic and public relations; and one box possibly from Dr. Currie dealing with the faculty labor union contract dispute and grievances in 1976-1978. The labor dispute is well covered with materials from both the administration and union’s perspectives.

There are no documents relating to the early school reorganizations in 1905 and 1911. It appears that S. S. Still never published anything longer than journal articles. There are major gaps of information in the 1930s and 1940s. The only records from the 1930s are student/alumni memoirs and the Delta Omega minutes. In addition there are no yearbooks between 1939 and 1959. The bound copies of the reports to the Corporate Board and faculty publications supplement information from the 1950s. Faculty meeting minutes do not begin until 1962. The most comprehensive resource we have from the mid-20th Century is The Log Book, the campus newsletter that was published from 1922-1972. Over the decades, the publication evolved from a bimonthly publication to
monthly, eventually being released quarterly. The Log Book provides a glance into the inner-workings of the College, including College staff, faculty, research (particularly in later issues), professional development, students and student life, and physical changes to campus.

The bulk of the processed materials in the archives consist of the University Publications, Personal Papers and Faculty Meeting Minutes series. Documents relating to the labor contract negotiations in the late 1970s and the construction of the Tower Medical Clinic in the 1980s are plentiful. The other large collection is the personal papers of Dr. James Orcutt. A partially processed photograph collection and growing artifact and electronic records collections supplement the papers.

The photograph collection is also lacking, although there are published photos of some early interiors. Photo albums begin to appear in earnest in the 1950s, although the chronology is not at all complete. Most of the loose photographs in the collection date from the 1970s through the 1990s, with older images being contemporary reprints from previously published works. More recent images are available from the Marketing Department.

The artifact collection, which is considered part of the University Archives, mostly consists of medical instruments from the early to mid 20th Century. Many of these items came from the now defunct Des Moines General Hospital, although donors such as IOMA possessed them in between.

Born-digital records are becoming increasingly important to document and preserve. The University Archives works separately from the University’s electronic records management program, and thus only receives an uneven sampling of electronic records. The records usually come to the archives via email or the University portal and are saved in paper and in their original electronic format. Electronic records consist of University-wide announcements including presidential statements, student leadership (ex. club officers, first year liaisons), staffing changes and notifications of special events, particularly campus-wide events and/or speakers with a personal connection with DMU (ex. faculty, staff, alums who present seminars).

Most of the records that do exist arrived with no discernible order. They have been arranged according to the following record group outline and then chronologically within each series. The record groups attempt to show the hierarchical relationships of the offices that created the documents. The personal papers are arranged alphabetically by name and then by date. Separate finding aids exist for each record group and some series. In addition, some donations have separate, item-level inventories to supplement the finding aids. These documents are particularly helpful when researching donors who donated multiple types of media (ex. books, papers, artifacts and videotapes) which are otherwise stored and recorded separately.
List of Record Groups

I. University Administration
   1. Historical Documents
      1. Historical Summaries
      2. Legal documents of incorporation
   2. President’s Office
      1. Reports to the Board of Trustees
   3. Dean’s Office
      1. Accreditation reports
      2. Student Records – admissions, financial aid
   4. University Museum

II. University Operations
   1. Finance
      1. Budgets
   2. Facilities
      1. Buildings and Construction
   3. Development
      1. Osteopathic Progress Fund
   4. Public Relations
   5. Publications, University
      1. Publications, Employee
      2. Publications, Student
      3. Publications, Alumni
      4. Publications, Miscellaneous
   10. Academic Services
      1. Library
      2. Hospital and Clinics

III. University Relations
   1. Student Relations
      1. Student Organizations – Student Council, fraternities, Students’ Wives Club
      2. Alumni Association
   2. Employee Relations
      1. Human Resources
      2. Faculty Organizations – Faculty Senate, committees, and labor union

IV. Personal Papers
   1. Faculty
      1. General publications file
      2. Individual
   2. Student/Alumni
Description of Record Groups

**Group 1: University Administration**
Description: Historical summaries, legal documents, and material from the offices of the President and the Dean; material from the University Museum.
Dates: 1898-2004
Volume: ca. 6.5 linear feet
Arrangement: Chronological within series.
Finding Aid: University Administration - 6 pp.

**Group 2: University Operations**
Description: Financial documents, facility plans, development office, public relations, library, and hospital and clinic operations.
Dates: 1898-2012
Volume: ca. 55 linear feet
Arrangement: Chronological within series
University Publications - 10 pp.
University Photographs - 6 pp.
University Centennial – 3 pp.

**Group 3: University Relations**
Description: Documents from student and employee organizations.
Dates: 1913-2003
Volume: ca. 22 linear feet
Arrangement: Chronological within series
Faculty Meeting Minutes - 4 pp.

**Group 4: Personal Papers**
Description: Publications and personal papers from faculty and alumni.
Dates: 1898-1999
Volume: ca. 21 linear feet
Arrangement: Alphabetical
Still Family Papers - 6 pp.
Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Department Papers - 8 pp.