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Coll. 292
Rider College, c.1900-2009

By John Bednar, September 2020
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History

Rider University was founded on October 2, 1865 as Trenton Business College. A collaborative effort by Henry Bryant, Henry Stratton, and William Whitney, the trio established the school to add to the multiple business schools in their network. This was a popular enterprise after the Civil War, with many looking to enter a growing business world with the advance of the Industrial Revolution.

In 1866, Andrew Jackson Rider, previously a teacher at Bryant, Stratton and Whitney Business College in Newark, accepted the position of president at Trenton Business College. He would later become a part time owner in 1868, and then sole owner in 1881 following the retirement of his peers. The name of the school officially changed to Rider Business College in 1897 with Andrew Rider presiding as its first president.

In 1898, Franklin B. Moore purchased the retiring Rider's share, becoming the second president and began more major changes to the school. This began with another name change, now going by Rider-Moore and Stewart School in 1901 to reflect the merging of the original school and the acquired Stewart Business College.

The turn of the century brought significant change with the move of the school in 1921 to locations at 428 and 430 E. State Street. The name Rider College was formally adopted that year as well to reflect the conferring of bachelor's degrees in the studies of Accounts and Commercial Science. In 1927, master's degrees began to be offered in the same two fields. By 1929, the athletics program began with basketball, football, and baseball. Later additions included soccer, swimming, track & field, tennis, and wrestling.

In 1956, the school started a plan to move to a new campus in Lawrence, citing needs to accommodate a growing student population. The college was reorganized into five schools by 1962: Graduate School, Liberal Arts & Science, Business, Education, and Evening. It also began offering a Master of the Arts through the School of Education. The move was fully completed in

1964, and the next year Rider celebrated its centennial with the dedication of the new library and chapel buildings.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection contains newspapers and clippings, yearbooks, event programs, curricula, memorabilia, student work, maps, correspondence, and other circulated material produced by and for the college from the years 1917-2009. This collection is contained in five manuscript boxes, and divided into two series: I. Rider College in Trenton, 1900-1964; and II. Rider College in Lawrence, 1964-2009. The demarcation is made by the beginning of Rider's first full year at the Lawrence campus beginning September 1964, but includes information about the planning and building of the suburban campus.

The Rider College collection is important in tracking the history of the school, the decisions that led to its move and further expansion, and its status today as a university. Subjects of interest include education, the history of Rider College, Trenton history, Franklin F. Moore, Frank Nelson Elliott, and student activism.

Series Description

Series I. Rider College in Trenton, c.1900-1964

The first series consists of documents and paperwork related to Rider-Moore and Stewart Business College, Rider College, and the events leading to the construction of the Lawrence Campus. Included are correspondence, programs, handouts, clippings, student work, publications, course catalogs, reports of the president and yearbooks.

Some material that may be of interest within this series includes correspondence between the school's Office of the Secretary and the Trenton Public Library (1917, 1922, 1936) which shows examples of school letterhead over the years. Also, correspondence between Andrew J. Rider and the Trenton Public Library which discusses the early history of the school (1928); clippings about the main old Rider building at 428 East State Street in Trenton and its renovation in 1970; and student calligraphy exercises on paper from Stewart Business School. Circulated material includes library guides for students (1957); annual report of the librarian (1955); campus map; Dramatic Club program for "The Philadelphia Story" (1948); commencement programs (1929, 1937, 1941); graduation exercise ticket (1920); and announcement for appointment of Head of Department of Law, Godfrey W. Schroth. Also, is a 1956 printing of the addresses given at the 93rd convocation where hopes for the new Lawrenceville campus were discussed as well as an address entitled "Future Relations of Rider College with the Trenton Community."

Miscellaneous publications include issues of the college newsletter *The Practical Educator* (1887-1889), covers from "The Winner" (c.1901), a promotional brochure entitled "What Eminent Men and Successful Graduates Say of The Rider-Moore And Stewart School (c. 1901), and "Onward" (1919, 1923), (1941). There are also examples of course catalogues from the 1880s to 1941 and President's Reports (1953-1955, 1961-1964). The photograph in box 2, folder 2 is of members of the 1923 basketball team. Also included are yearbooks: 1910-1911, 1923¹ (ex libris Olga Conover), 1930 (ex libris C.J. Markvart), and 1935, 1945-1947, 1950-1951. The series also has a sampling of textbooks on penmanship from 1903 (ex libris Edna C Smith),

¹ By this time, the yearbook is known as the *Shadow*.

book-keeping from 1890 (ex libris Harry Mason), accounting from 1934 (signed by Moore and Gill), and typewriting from 1916 (ex libris William C. Alloways). There are also two issues of "Our Picture Book" ("with compliments of Trenton Business College") that contain children's stories and drawings, along with local advertising (c.1890).

Series II. Rider College in Lawrence, 1964-2009

Beginning with the construction and move to the new campus in Lawrence, the second series contains newspaper clippings, maps, programs, conceptual designs, handouts, invitations, a yearbook, and official publications. The beginning of Rider's first full academic year in Lawrence took place in September 1964, while the latest material is from 2009.

One item to call attention to is a set of construction conceptual sketches by the Spiegle Architectural Group that are undated but can be assumed to be from the 1980s or 1990s). These designs showed possible updates and expansions to the college in more recent years. Also, of interest are lists of offered classes for students to choose from when planning a schedule. The growth of certain academic offerings can be seen in the available courses presented.

The news articles include information about demands made by African American students in 1969, a teacher strike in 1974, and news about Theatre '59. Circulated items include a letter to parents about a sit-in that occurred in April 1969; student guides to the library; campus maps; and information about Rider's Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center. The Events folder includes dedications for the library and chapel (1965), fine arts schedule (1969), cultural affairs calendar (1970), exhibits, 125th anniversary and presidential inauguration (1990), commencement programs (1972, 1999) and an invitation to Mayor Arthur Holland from Rider President Frank Elliot for a backyard party (1985). School publications include "Rider Today" (1966, 1968); "Rider News" (1968); "Directions" (1984); "Communique" (1987); "Prisms" and "MJW Journal" of the Hugh N. Boyd Journalism Workshop (1995-1996); and alumni news (2004).

Also included in Series II are Reports of the President (1964/1965 – 1969/1970 & 1981/1982); *Rider College: The First One Hundred Years*, Walter A. Brower Jr. (1965); yearbooks (1969 and 1974), and an alumni directory (1989).

Provenance: Received from various sources

Restrictions: None

See also:

Coll. 445 Bowers Family (OS Box #4) – Bowers, Edna Earle: Rider-Moore, Stewart School of Business Diploma in Shorthand, 25 October 1913

Coll. 447 Irene Episcopo (OS Box #4) – Rider-Moore and Stewart School of Business Diploma in Shorthand, 16 January 1920

Coll. 451 Billings Family (OS Box #5) – Billings, Florence Gertrude: Diploma in Business and Banking, 13 August 1941

Container List

Box/Folder/Folder Title

Series I. Rider College in Trenton

- 1 / 1 / News articles and history, 1904-1965
- 1 / 2 / News articles, 428 E. State Street, 1970, 2005
- 1 / 3 / Circulated material, commencement programs
- 1 / 4 / Correspondence
- 1 / 5 / Student Work
- 1 / 6 / Miscellaneous Publications
- 1 / 7 / Reports of the President
- 1 / 8 / Course Catalogs, 1885, 1897, 1919, 1925-1926
- 1 / 9 / Course Catalogs, 1933-1934 to 1936-1937
- 1 / 10 / Course Catalogs, 1939-1939 to 1941-1942
- 2 / 1 / "Our Picture Book"
- 2 / 2 / Photograph, 1923
- 2 / 3 / Yearbooks, 1910-1911, 1923
- 2 / Yearbooks, 1927, 1930, 1935, 1945
- 3 / Yearbooks, 1946, 1947, 1950, 1951
- 5 / Textbooks

Series II. Rider College in Lawrence

- 4 / 1 / Campus Construction, 1957-1987
- 4 / 2 / Campus Construction, Conceptual Plans, c.1987
- 4 / 3 / News articles, 1965-1990
- 4 / 4 / News articles, Theatre '59, 1963-1967
- 4 / 5 / Curricula, 1967-1984
- 4 / 6 / Circulated Material
- 4 / 7 / Events
- 4 / 8 / School publications
- 4 / 9 / Hugh N. Boyd Minorities Journalism Workshop, 1995-1996
- 4 / 10 / Reports of the President 1964-1965 to 1969-1970 & 1981-1982
- 4 / Rider College Alumni Directory 1989, Rider College: The First One Hundred Years
- 5 / Yearbooks 1969, 1974

Bibliography

Rider University. "Andrew Jackson Rider." Accessed September 22, 2020.

<https://www.rider.edu/about-rider/historic-rider/past-presidents/andrew-jackson-rider>

Rider University. "Historic Rider." Accessed September 22, 2020.

<https://www.rider.edu/aboutrider/historic-rider>

Rider University. "Historic Timeline." Accessed September 22, 2020.

<https://www.rider.edu/about-rider/historic-rider/historic-timeline>