

Guide to Special Collections at Chicago State University

I. Illinois Leadership Collection

1. *Title:* Illinois Legislative Black Caucus (ILBC) records
Dates: 1979-2002
Extent: 3.75 lin. ft.
Creator: Illinois Legislative Black Caucus
Abstract: The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus advocates for the interests of African-Americans and other minorities in the Illinois General Assembly. This collection includes official papers produced and collected by the Caucus, particularly from the 1980s and early 1990s.
2. *Title:* Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education (ICBCHE) records
Dates: 1982-1999
Extent: 18 lin. ft.
Creator: Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education (ICBCHE)
Abstract: The ICBCHE was an inter-institutional program that also welcomed individual members from the general public. The Committee addressed its mission by an annual conference, occasional publications, and by monitoring hiring and student aid and other student-related issues in Illinois universities. The collection documents conferences and publications, and also includes some correspondence and budget files.
3. *Title:* Emil Jones, Jr. papers
Dates: 1985-2006
Extent: 4 lin. ft.
Creator: Jones, Emil, Jr.
Abstract: Free standing recognitions and realia for exhibit dedication; bulk of materials have not been accessioned.
4. *Title:* Lovana "Lou" Jones papers
Dates: Unknown
Extent: 1 lin. ft.
Creator: Jones, Lovana, 1938-
Abstract: Includes nameplate used by Representative Jones in the Illinois General Assembly. The remainder of the papers have not been accessioned.

5. *Title:* Kimberly A. Lightford papers
Dates: 2007
Extent: 0.3 lin. ft.
Creator: Lightford, Kimberly A., 1968-
Abstract: The collection includes a copy of Senator Lightford's minimum wage legislation (SB 1268), together with the pen the Governor used to sign the bill and the Jan. 22, 2007 letter of transmittal from Angelina Flores Thompson.
6. *Title:* Margaret Smith papers
Dates: 1958-2002
Extent: 75 lin. ft.
Creator: Smith, Margaret, 1922-2005
Abstract: Margaret Smith served in the Illinois General Assembly from 1981 to 2002. Her papers include correspondence, legislative documents, memorabilia, financial records, and other documents acquired in the course of her professional career.
7. *Title:* Paul L. Williams papers
Dates: 1984-1987
Extent: 3 lin. ft.
Creator: Williams, Paul L.
Abstract: Paul Williams was an Illinois state legislator and leader in the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus. The collection includes legislative materials, photographs, newsletters, and a collection of articles about Mayor Harold Washington. Other materials have not been accessioned.
8. *Title:* Jesse White papers
Dates: 1995-2001
Extent: 2 lin. ft.
Creator: White, Jesse, 1934-
Abstract: Jesse White is an Illinois legislator and the first African-American Secretary of State in Illinois.

II. Progressive Education Collection

1. *Title:* Alice D. Clark collection
Dates: 1870-1932
Extent: 3 lin. ft.
Creator: Clark, Alice D.

Abstract: Collection of manuscripts, printed materials and photographs reflecting the Cook County Normal School education and career of Alice E. McGinnes (1883, CCNS). Also includes Chicago Board of Education teacher credential protocols, autograph books, and framed diplomas.

2. *Title:* Cook County Normal School records

Dates: 1867-1896

Extent: 2.5 lin. ft.

Creator: Cook County Normal School

Abstract: Cook County Normal School was a teacher training institute designed to serve the Cook County school system. Under the leadership of Francis W. Parker it developed in the 1880s and 90s into a leading center of progressive education. The collection includes catalogs, school reports, speeches, a grade ledger, and alumni information.

3. *Title:* Chicago Normal School records

Dates: 1896-1913

Extent: 3.3 lin. ft.

Creator: Chicago Normal School

Abstract: Chicago Normal School came into existence when the Chicago Board of Education took over the Cook County Normal School in 1897. The institution continued to enjoy an international reputation for progressive education under its principals, Francis Parker, Arnold Tomkins, and Ella Flagg Young. The collection contains course catalogs for much of CNS's history, photographs, research materials on Ella Flagg Young, and a ledger of student grades.

4. *Title:* Chicago Normal College records

Dates: 1913-1938

Extent: 3.75 lin. ft.

Creator: Chicago Normal College

Abstract: Chicago Normal College expanded the curriculum of its Normal School predecessors and began attracting students from Chicago's immigrant communities. During the Depression, however, the school only managed to stay open through a fierce campaign on the part of students and faculty. The collection includes course catalogs, a literary supplement to the student yearbook, and two flyers.

5. *Title:* Chicago Teachers College records

Dates: 1938-1965

Extent: 5.5 lin. ft.

Creator: Chicago Teachers College

Abstract: Chicago Teachers College was the new name of the former Chicago Normal College when it became a four-year institution in 1938. After World War II, the school gradually passed from city to state control. From 1961 to 1965 the institution was known as Chicago Teachers College, South. The collection contains catalogs, information bulletins, financial records, faculty meeting minutes, correspondence from the Chicago Board of Education, and graduate lists.

6. *Title:* Walter P. and Ruth G. Trost collection

Dates: 1957-2005

Extent: 12 lin. ft.

Creator: Trost, Walter P.

Abstract: Walter P. Trost was professor of biology at CSU as well as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He operated the Mawali school in Ho, Ghana, for many years. The collection consists of Ghanaian wooden artifacts, a picture album and costumes accumulated by Professor Trost.

7. *Title:* Fritz Veit papers

Dates: 1930-1994

Extent: 4 lin. ft.

Creator: Veit, Fritz, 1907-1998

Abstract: Fritz Veit was Director of Libraries at Chicago Teachers College and Chicago State University from 1949 to 1973. His papers include course and reading notes, correspondence, off-prints of articles and reviews, certificates, photographs, and administrative materials.

III. Neighborhood History Collection

1. *Title:* The Book Circle records

Dates: 1943-1993

Extent: 4 lin. ft.

Creator: The Book Circle, Ora C. Morrow and Oneita Farrell, presidents.

Abstract: The Book Circle was a reading organized by African-American women on the South Side of Chicago to “boost morale” during World War II. The group continued to meet on a monthly basis over the next fifty years. The collection includes meeting minutes, photographs, scrapbooks, and constitutions.

2. *Title:* Elsie Parker collection

Date: 1980

Extent: 2 lin. ft.

Creator: Parker, Elsie

Abstract: Elsie Parker was a philanthropist who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from CSU in 1980. The collection consists of a scrapbook, a plaque, a framed photograph, and 5 framed certificates.

3. *Title:* CSC Oral History Research Project records

Dates: 1937-1974

Extent: 15 lin. ft.

Creator: CSC Oral History Research Project, Henry E. Simmons and Thomas A. DePasquale, directors.

Abstract: The Oral History Research Project attempted to construct a universal oral history of Chicago in the late 1960s. It was directed by Henry Simmons and Thomas DePasquale, with important roles played by Margaret Burroughs and Arvarh Strickland. The collection contains interviews with prominent figures in politics, academia, law enforcement, and business; as well as hundreds of files filled with newspapers clippings and correspondence with prospective subjects.

4. *Title:* Illinois Commission on the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education records

Dates: 2003-2005

Extent: 5.5 lin. ft.

Creator: Illinois Commission on the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education

Abstract: These records detail the planning and execution of the Commemorative Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Topeka Board of Education on May 17, 2004, hosted by Chicago State University. The collection includes financial records, programs, research notes, newspaper clippings, two CDs and a computer hard drive.

IV. Rare books

1. *Title:* Thomas H. Wirth rare book collection

Dates: 1785-1999

Extent: 468 volumes

Creator: Wirth, Thomas H.

Abstract: The collection includes both eighteenth- and nineteenth-century primary texts, primarily slave narratives and anti-slavery works, and late twentieth-century historiography, particularly from the 1970s. Highlights include the *Narrative of Sojourner Truth*, Phillis Wheatley's *Poems on Various Subjects*, William Wells

Brown's *Narrative of William W. Brown*, Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and Henry O. Flipper's *The Colored Cadet at West Point*.

2. *Title:* Raeburn Flerlage book collection
Dates: 1902-2001
Extent: 2200 volumes
Abstract: Many of the Flerlage volumes were folded into CSU's circulating library collection. Rare or more valuable items were selected to remain in special collections.

3. *Title:* Paul and Emily Douglas book collection
Dates: 1939-1971
Extent: 310 volumes
Abstract: The personal library of Paul Douglas, donated to Chicago State University after the library was named after Paul and Emily Douglas in 1974.

V. Expected Acquisitions

1. *Title:* Gwendolyn Brooks papers
Dates: 1935-2000
Extent: 190 lin. ft.
Creator: Brooks, Gwendolyn, 1917-2000
Abstract: Gwendolyn Brooks was a renowned poet who lived in Chicago for most of her long life. She wrote numerous books of poetry, including *A Street in Bronzeville*, *Annie Allen*, *The Bean-Eaters*, and *In the Mecca*. She was the first African-American to win a Pulitzer prize, which she received in 1949 for *Annie Allen*. She also wrote a classic novel, *Maud Martha*. Brooks served as poet laureate in Illinois for over thirty years and was Poetry Consultant at the Library of Congress in 1987-88.