Department of Psychology fonds

Compiled by Erwin Wodarczak (1994)
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*** Institutional records -- researcher access subject to review ***

University of British Columbia Archives
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• **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)
Fonds Description

56 cm of textual records.
15 photographs : b&w prints and negatives ; 20 x 25 cm or smaller.
6 audio reels.

Administrative History

A course in psychology was first offered by the University in 1915, through the
Department of Philosophy. Prof. James Henderson was the sole member of the
Department until 1920, when Dr. H.T.J. Coleman was appointed Head (as well as Dean
of Arts). Only one course in psychology was taught until 1926, but by 1936 enough
courses had been added to the curriculum for the Department's name to be changed to
Philosophy and Psychology. Dr. Coleman was replaced as Head by J.A. Irving in 1940,
followed by S.N.F. Chant in 1945. When Prof. Chant became Dean of Arts and Sciences
in 1948, he remained Department Head, but Dr. Barnet Savery acted as Chairman in his
absence; starting that year, separate staff meetings were held for faculty in the
philosophy and psychology programs. Beginning in the 1940's the Department
expanded rapidly, and during this period moved from rooms scattered around the
campus into a number of Army-surplus huts. In 1951 the Department was authorized to
grant a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, although the first such degree was not actually
awarded until 1968. The Department of Psychology was established as a completely
separate unit in 1958, with Professor Chant as its Head, and Prof. Edro Signori as
Chairman and, after 1961, Acting Head. Dr. Douglas T. Kenny was appointed
Department Head in 1965. That same year the Department moved from its old huts to
new facilities in the Angus Building, sharing the building with the Faculty of
Commerce. Under Dr. Kenny's leadership the Department continued to grow in terms
of faculty, students, and course offerings; also, its programs became less eclectic, and
more focused on experimental psychology and research. When he resigned in 1969,
Prof. Signori served again as Acting Head until Dr. Peter Suedfeld was appointed in
1972; he, in turn, was replaced by Dr. Richard C. Tees in 1984. In 1984, the Department
moved again, to the new Kenny Building. Over the years the Department of Psychology
has grown to become one of the largest in the Faculty of Arts.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of correspondence, reports, and minutes of meetings relating to the
activities and programs of the Department of Psychology, and photographs of
Department Heads and prominent faculty members. Some records date from before the
formation of the Department, when the psychology program was still part of the
Department of Philosophy and Psychology. Also included are audio recordings of
interviews (with typed transcripts) documenting the Department’s historical development.

The material is arranged in six series: Administration, Departmental Committees, Departmental Programs, External Correspondence, Historical Files, and Oral History Project. The Historical Files series consists of textual records which document the Department’s formative years, and photographs; they had been placed in a box and stored separately from the Department’s other records until transferred to the Archives.

Notes
File List available. Audio recordings are listed separately.

The audiotaped interviews with former staff, along with typed summaries, were produced through an oral history project undertaken in 1982-83, and copied by the Archives in 1983 for its audio-visual holdings.

Photographs included in UBC Archives’ Historical Photograph Database (UBC 6.1).
Series Descriptions

16 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of annual reports, correspondence, and memoranda pertaining to the general administration of the Department of Psychology.

17 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of minutes of meetings pertaining to various committees within the Department.

4 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of correspondence pertaining to various departmental programs.

**External Correspondence series.** - 1977-1990.
12 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of correspondence pertaining to the Department's relations with other University departments, the University President, and external bodies.

**Historical Files series.** - 1948-1983.
7 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of annual reports, minutes of meetings, programs, and oral history projects pertaining to the documentation of the Department's formative years.

15 photographs : b&w prints and negatives : 20 x 25 cm or smaller.

Series consists of photographs portraying various Professors and Department Heads within the Department of Psychology.

Photographs are included in the UBC Historical Photograph Database (**UBC 6.1**).

6 audio reels.
Series is described in the Sound and Moving Images database.
File List

Box 1

ADMINISTRATION

1-1 Annual Report [1975-81]
1-2 Correspondence to members of Psychology Department - 1982
1-3 Memo To All Faculty - 1984-1986
1-4 Memo to All Faculty - 1987
1-5 Memo to All Faculty - 1988
1-6 Memo To All Faculty - 1989
1-7 Memo to/from All Faculty - 1990
1-8 Animal Care - 1982-89
1-9 Area Coordinators - 1982, 84
1-10 Small group lab [1973-80]
1-11 History of UBC Psychology Dept [1975-80]

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

1-12 Departmental Meeting - 1980-81
1-13 Departmental Meeting - 1982 [-84]
1-14 Coloquia [sic] [Committee]- 1982-1983-1986

Box 2

2-1 Dept. - Colloquium [Committee] - 1987-[88]
2-2 Colloquium Com. - 1989
2-3 Graduate Policy Committee - 1986-1988
2-4 Dept. - Graduate Student Comm. (John Pinel) - 84/85
2-5 Registration & Undergraduate Committee - 1984-1988
2-6 Space Committee - 1984-88
2-7 Student Awards and Scholarship Committee - 1989
2-8 Dept. Teaching Committee - 1986, 1987, 1988
2-9 Teaching Committee - 1989
2-10 Dept. Teaching Evaluation Committee - 1985-1988
2-11 Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Load - Dr. Rod Wong - [1981]-1982
DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS

2-12  Clinical Program In Psych. Misc. Correspondence [1977-86]
2-13  Independent Study Program (Audrey Campbell 1981) - 1979-81
2-14  Neurosciences Program (Ph.D. Proposal) [1982-83]
2-15  Psychology Graduate Program - 1980-81

EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

2-16  President's Office - 1985-86

Box 3

3-1   President's Office - 1986-1987
3-2   President's Office - 1988
3-3   President's Office - 1989
3-4   President's Office - 1990
3-5   Dean of Arts (Misc.) [1979-81]
3-6   Assistant Dean of Arts [1977-81]
3-7   Extra Sessional Studies - 1988
3-8   Guided Independent Study - 1982-88
3-9   Yukon - 1980-81[-82]

HISTORICAL FILES

3-10  Dept. of Psychology - Annual Reports (1957-8-1974-5)
3-11  Dept. of Psychology - Faculty Meeting Minutes (1948-50)
3-12  Dept. of Psychology - Undergraduate Program (1949-1959)
3-13  Dept. of Psychology - Graduate Programs (n.d.)
3-14  Dept. of Psychology - History of (c. 1950-1979)
3-15  Dept. of Psychology - Oral History Project (1982-83)
3-16  Log of Archival Oral History Project - 1982-83
3-17  Chant, Dean S.N.F. [1982-87]

PHOTOGRAPHS

6.1/1p  Prof. Edwin S.W. Belyea - 1946 - Picture taken about 1954
6.1/2p  Dr. W. Black
Dr. Dean Chant / Prof. S.N.F. Chant - Head, 1945-1961

Dr. H.T.J. Coleman - 1920-

Professor James Henderson M.A. - 1915-

Prof. J.A. Irving - 1937- / Head, 1940-1945

Dr. Donald C.G. MacKay - 1947-

Dr. Joseph Morsh - 1935-


Dr. Peter Suedfeld - Head, 1972-1984

[Dr. Douglas T. Kenny]