

Guide to the Lawrence University Buildings, Music-Drama Center Collection

Collection number: LU-ARC20-06

University Archives
Seeley G. Mudd Library

Lawrence University
Appleton, Wisconsin

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Descriptive Summary of the Collection

Title

Lawrence University buildings, Music-Drama Center collection

Inclusive dates

1949-2008

Collection number

LU-ARC20-06

Extent

0.8 linear foot (2 boxes)

Language of collection material

Collection is in English.

Repository

Lawrence University. Seeley G. Mudd Library. University Archives.
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

Abstract

This collection is comprised of materials documenting the history of the Music-Drama Center, the home of the Conservatory of Music and Theatre department that was built in 1959. The collection includes correspondence, building plans, articles about the building, and photographs. Materials on Harper Hall, Cloak and Stansbury Theatres, and Waterman Library are also included. The collection is part of the Lawrence University Buildings Collection. Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject and type of material, then in chronological order at the file level.

Important Information for Researchers

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication rights

Property rights reside with Lawrence University. For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact the University Archivist.

Preferred citation

Lawrence University Buildings, Music-Drama Center Collection. LU-ARC20-06. University Archives, Seeley G. Mudd Library, Appleton, Wisconsin.

Acquisition information

Materials on the Music-Drama Center were collected and placed in the Archives vertical file prior to 2005. The donor and source of the materials, as well as who collected them and arranged them in the vertical file is unknown. Materials on the Music-Drama Center will continue to be collected and placed in this collection by the University Archivist.

Processing history

Preliminary processing was done prior to 2005, date and processor unknown. Further processing and completion of finding aid was done by Julia Stringfellow, 2009.

Building History

The Music-Drama Center was built in 1959 at a cost of \$1,400,000. The Conservatory of Music that had been housed in Peabody Hall since 1909 moved to the Music-Drama Center when it was completed. Work on the Music-Drama Center began in November 1957. The Frank C. Shattuck Associates of Neenah designed the building, and construction of the building was done by the Oscar Boldt Construction Company. The building was dedicated on June 5, 1959, and the cornerstone was also added to the building that day.

Several parts of the new building were named in honor of former Conservatory deans and others who contributed greatly to Lawrence. The Peabody Wing of the building was named in honor of George Peabody, a former Lawrence trustee who provided funds to build Peabody Hall of Music when he passed away in 1909, and the 250-seat Harper Hall was named in honor of William Harper, Conservatory dean from 1908-1913 and son-in-law of George Peabody. The 500-seat Stansbury Theatre was named in honor of Mary Stansbury, an 1859 Lawrence graduate and one of Lawrence's first female trustees, and the 200-seat experimental arena theater was dedicated as the F. Theodore Cloak Theatre in 1973 in honor of Ted Cloak, a professor of theatre at Lawrence from 1929-1969. The Waterman Library was named in honor of Carl J. Waterman who taught music in the Conservatory for 43 years and was Conservatory Dean from 1920-1949. Waterman was to participate in the dedication ceremony, but died on the eve of the ceremony.

In addition to the Lawrence Conservatory and Theatre department usage, the building has also been used by the Appleton community for events. Attic Theatre, an Appleton community group, has used both of the theaters for productions since the group was created. The building has also gone through a few renovations, the most recent being the renovation of Harper Hall in 2008.

See also: Breunig, Charles, [A great and good work :a history of Lawrence University, 1847-1964.](#)

Chronology

- 1958 • Cornerstone of the Music-Drama Center begins.
- 1959 • June 5, Music-Drama Center is dedicated and cornerstone is laid.
- 1973 • February 14, F. Theodore Cloak Theatre is dedicated.
- Circa 1985 • Waterman Music Library moves to Seeley G. Mudd Library.
- 2008 • Harper hall is renovated.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection is comprised of materials documenting the history of the Music-Drama Center, the home of the Conservatory of Music and Theatre department that was built in 1959. The collection includes correspondence, building plans, articles about the building, and photographs. Materials on Harper Hall, Cloak and Stansbury Theatres, and Waterman Library are also included. The collection is part of the Lawrence University Buildings Collection. Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject and type of material, then in chronological order at the file level.

Collection Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject and type of material, then chronologically at the file level. Folder titles for contract materials are the original titles that were on the folder.

Related Collections

The following collection in University Archives contains related materials:

- Lawrence University Vertical File Collection.
- Lawrence University Buildings, Memorial Chapel Collection.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

Alice G. Chapman Teakwood Room (Appleton, Wis.)
Lawrence University.
Lawrence University Buildings.
Lawrence University History.

Genres and Forms of Materials

Clippings.
Letters.
Photographic prints.

Collection Contents

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Box : Folder</u>
Architect correspondence and materials, 1949-1960. Frank C. Shattuck Associates were the architects for the building.	1 : 1
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Regarding audio and radio station WLFM in building, 1961	1 : 5
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Regarding donors, 1951-1959	1 : 8
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Lighting materials, 1958-1983. 2 folders.	2 : 3 - 2 : 4
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Waterman Library, correspondence regarding move to Seeley G. Mudd Library, 1984-1985	2 : 7