Overview of the Collection

Creator: Delta College
Title: Origins Record Group
Inclusive Dates: 1952-2014
Bulk Dates: 1956-1963
Abstract: The Origins Record Group contains material that documents the creation and early history of Delta College. Original documents and news clippings provide background on the formation of the college and its early history.
Identification: RG1
Quantity: 3.5 linear feet plus five oversize boxes
Repository: Delta College Archives, L118, 1961 Delta Road, University Center, MI 48017
Preferred Citation: [Description of item], Series, Origins Record Group, Delta College Archives, University Center, Michigan.

Administrative History

The origins of Delta College began with Bay City Junior College, founded in 1922. Bay City Junior College had served the Bay City Community well, but by the late 1940s it was overcrowded and Midland and Saginaw had begun thinking of starting their own colleges to serve their communities.

In the fall of 1954, four local community leaders were at the Saginaw Valley Torch Club discussing the lack of adequate higher facilities and agreed that the three communities should pool their resources to create one college for all three counties. One of them contacted Leland Doan, President of Dow Chemical, who called ten people together to discuss the idea. That group increased to thirty, then one hundred, finally three hundred by the summer of 1955. Doan soon bowed out, but the group went on to be known as the Committee of Three Hundred.

The committee split into a number of study groups and began looking into all aspects of the idea, finally coming up with a conclusive report to sell to the public. It was tentatively decided that the college would begin as a junior or community college so that it might be established quickly, but the possibility be left open for it to become a four-year degree granting institution. The Valley College Association was formed to continue the fight for the college and authorize it after the Committee of 300 had successfully won the community over.

A community-wide campaign, bond question, Trustee election, and the selling of 8 million dollars’ worth of bonds followed. The college was called the Tri-County College until, after an open contest it was renamed Delta College. It hired its first president, Dr. Samuel Marble, in
1958. The ground-breaking took place in 1959 and the campus opened in September 1961, nearly a year after it had been originally promised. Bay City Junior College closed its doors at this time and most of its faculty, staff and students were absorbed by Delta College. The first enrollment class of September 1961 contained 1863 students.

Delta had two academic divisions: the College of Letters, for students who would go on the four-year colleges and better; and the College of Community Service, for students who were there for certificates, one and two-year degrees. It began on the trimester system, which was given up after a few years for the more common two-semester system with spring and summer classes. Remedial, co-op, evening and adult education classes at Delta were put in place from the start.

During the first few years, the Delta Board of Trustees and President sought to obtain four-year status and also to form an alliance with the University of Michigan as a feeder school. The stated intention was that the first two years it would operate under the local control and the second two years under that of The University of Michigan. Repeated attempts to push this through the legislature failed, with the legislature opposed; and two key committees: the Presidents’ Council and the Coordinating Council for Public Higher Education, also opposed. While several reasons factored in, including that The University of Michigan already had two satellite campuses, a strong reason was that Marble did not have unanimous support of his board or the support of the community, much of which wanted to keep complete local control over Delta College. With no possibility of turning into a degree-granting institution, the College of Letters collapsed in 1963, an unhappy event considering it had become known not only nationally but internationally for its innovative teaching methods using programmed learning. There had also been some very impressive research projects conducted by some of its students, including building a lie detector and building a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. Many of the faculty of the College of Letters left with offers from other colleges. However, the programmed learning continued at Delta for many years.

Though defeated, those who wanted a four-year school refused to give up and created Saginaw Valley College in late 1963 as a private two-year institution in the basement of Delta College. It was granted status as a four-year state school in 1965 and acquired land near Delta not long after. Saginaw Valley College opened its doors in its new building in autumn, 1969. Delta’s first president, Marble, left to be president of Saginaw Valley College and Don Carlyon, Delta’s business manager, took over as president in 1964. He went on to lead Delta for 29 years. Carlyon built Delta College into one of the nation’s top community colleges and made it an example of collegiality and self-governance.

Scope and Contents

The Origins record group (1952-2014) documents the period leading up to the inception, design and creation of Delta College and its early years; from the late 1940’s to the early 1960’s. The collection consists of three series.

The bulk of the material is comprised of the Topical File series (1952-2014) which is arranged alphabetically by subject and includes history about the inception, creation and implementation of the College in the late 1950s and early 1960s.
The Oral History series (2001-2010) consists of oral interviews of Delta administration and faculty members conducted in preparation for the College’s 50th anniversary. Some interviews were conducted by staff of the Delta College Foundation and other were conducted by students in Amy French’s History class in 2009. The folders each contain a CD or DVD of the interview as well as the transcript.

The Video series (1952-2014) consists of film material transferred to DVD in preparation for Delta’s 50th anniversary in 2011. Included is a copy of Pioneering Our Future: Delta College’s First 50 Years, a program created in celebration of the 50th anniversary.

OS in the cabinet/box listing refers to Oversize Material.

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**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into three series:

I. Topical File series, 1952-2014

II. Oral History Series, 2001-2010

III. Video Series, 1952-2014

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**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

Open to all users

**Restrictions on Use**

None

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**Index Terms**

This record series is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

**Persons**

Carlyon, Donald J.

**Organizations**

Delta College (University Center, MI)

**Places**

University Center (MI).
Subjects
   Community college-Michigan-University Center-Planning

Document Types
   Correspondence
   Memorandum
   Clippings

Related Material
Photographs Record Group, Album Series, Original Campus (Book I)

Separated Material
Oral interviews conducted by Amy French’s class in 2009 and not related to the history of Delta College have been moved to the Humanities Division Series in the Instruction and Learning Services Record Group.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Origins Record Group material has been donated or collected over time from many different sources and departments.

Accruals
The Origins Record Group is essentially closed at this time and future accruals are not expected.

Processing Information
Final Processing and finding aid by Carol Whittaker and Anne Wolfe, August 2015.
Finding Aid updated: Carol Whittaker, February 2016
Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Topical File Series, 1952-2014

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<td>Alma Mater (Delta College, original score, word and music by Samuel Jones), ca. 1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>Other Copies (Box 2 in Archives Storage Room A128)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Other Versions, 1968</td>
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<td>Bay City Junior College (See Bay City Junior College Record Group)</td>
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<td>Bay City Times, 1961</td>
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<td>Board of Education of the School District of Midland, Community College Study, 1952-1953</td>
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<td>Broadcasting and Media Programs, 1962-1964</td>
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<td>Oversized Bonds, 1967 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Room A128)</td>
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Radio/TV Support, 1958
Speakers, 1956-1958
College Bulletin (course catalog), 1961-1963 (extra copy)
College of Letters, 1962-1963
College President, 1958
Community College Petition, 1957
Confidential Report, 1963
Construction Agreement
General, 1961

Three additional structures, 1961 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Closet A128)

Cooperative Education 1962
Courtyard Garden, 1961-2010
Creation of a District: Saginaw School Board Documents, 1957-1961
Curricular Council Recommendations, 1968
Curriculum, 1962-1967
Delta College Dedication, Oct. 8, 1961

Delta College History
General, 1955-2011
Inaugural School Years, 1961-1963
Delta College Report, December 12, 1963
Delta College Seal, 1961

Delta’s Image
1962
1981-1982

Early Elections
Establishment of a District/Trustees, 1957

Registration/Preparations, 1957-1958

Tax/Bond, 1957/1958

Effective Education for American Democracy, 1960-1961

Fight Song (Delta College)

1960s Version (Samuel Jones)

OS Original Score (**Box 2 in Archives Storage Room A128**)

Printed Version, 2014

1979 Version (Dana Everson), 2006

Financial

General, 1955-1958

Bonds, 1958

Tax Anticipation Notes, 1958

Four-Year Degree Debate

General, 1956-1965

Government/Legislative, 1961-1963

Jamrich/Piggyback Plan, 1963

Fine Arts Third and Fourth Year Proposal, 1962

Ground Breaking Ceremonies, 1959

Health and Wellness Programs 1962

History of Higher Education in Saginaw Valley, Stuart Gross, 1977

Information Calendar (Every Day Counts at Delta), 1962

A Look to the Future at Delta College: A Report of a National Survey of Educational Environments, Summer 1966 (2 folders)

Memoirs of Patricia Drury, Original Long Term Delta College Faculty, 1959-1990
1 Midland: Unmet Needs Committee, Proposal for a Community College, 1947-1948

1 Midland’s Proposed Community College, Jul. 31, 1950

1 Naming of Delta College, 1958-1961

Newspapers

OS 1955 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Room A128)

1 1961

1 Original Supplements from Saginaw News and Bay City Times, 1961

1 Photocopied Supplements from Saginaw News and Bay City Times, 1961

OS Bay City Times Delta Dedication Section (2 folders), 1961 (Box 1 in A128)

OS Saginaw News Delta Dedication Section, 1961 (Box 1 in A128)

OS 25th Anniversary Celebration Section, 1986 (Box 1 in A128)

OS Midland Daily News Editorial “College Vote Reflects Uneasiness in Midland”, 1958 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Room A128)

1 “Origin of Delta College” Hal Arman, 1981

1 Original Concept/Plans, 1956-1958

OS Petition creating the Community College District of Saginaw, Bay and Midland Counties, 1957 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Room A128)

Physical Facilities

1 General, 1962-1964

1 Architects, 1958

Possible Higher University Affiliation

1 General, 1962-1963

1 Community Involvement, 1962-1963

1 Council for Higher Education, 1963

1 Delta Involvement, 1963
Government/Legislative, 1963-2012

- 1963
- 1963-2012
- Harlan Hatcher (University of Michigan), 1963
- Student Involvement, 1963
- Preliminary Bulletin of Delta College, 1961-62
- Preliminary Proposals for the Organization of the Tri-County College, 1959
- A Preliminary Report of the Community College Study Committee, 1970
- Policies and Procedures of Delta College, March 28, 1961
- Programs and Events, 1962-1968

Property Acquisition

- General, 1958

OS - Arnold, Edward J., 1958-1960 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS - Behmlander, Elder, 1958 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS - Burk, George & Lorina, 1958 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS - Helmreich, J. Henry, 1958 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Room A128)

- Condemnation, 1958
- Land Site, 1956-1958

OS - Rau, Otto and Emily, 1958 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS - Wegener, Elmer and Helen, 1958 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS - Tax Anticipation Notes, 1958 (Box 1 in Archives Storage Room A128)

- Proposed Affiliation with University of Michigan, Samuel D. Marble, 1963
- Report of the Citizen’s Committee on Higher Education, 1964
A Study of the Need for a Degree-Granting College, 1960

Survey of Educational Environments (SEE), 1966

Technical Education, 1962

Tri-College Plan, 1956

Tri-College Study, 1955-1958

Tri-County Study Committee

General, 1987

Campaign, 1955-1957

Draft and Materials, 1956-1963

Final Report, October 3, 1956

Reports & Recommendations, 1954-1956 (2 folders)

Trustee Election, 1957-1958

Trustees, 1957-1958

Valley College Association, 1956-1964

Valley College Association: Study on the Feasibility of a Four-Year Institution, 1960

“What is the Educational Task of the Institution?”, 1970

Series II. Oral History Series, 2001-2010 (2 oversize boxes)

OS Brandt, Ned (by Tom Caylor and Pam Clark), 08/05/2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)

OS Carlyon, Betty (by Tom Caylor), 09/09/2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)

OS Carlyon, Don (transcript) (by Terry Rock), 09/2001 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)

OS Carlyon, Don (by Tom Caylor), 09/09/2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)

OS Clark, James (by Tom Caylor), 08/31/2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)

OS Gilmore-Doud, Alma 2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)

OS Higgs, Milton (by Tom Caylor) 07/15/2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS Humphries, B.J. 2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS Isackson, Ralph (by Tom Caylor and Pam Clark), 08/11/2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS Marsh, Henry, (by Tom Caylor), 07/11/2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS Ricker, Margaret Ann “Ranny” (by Pam Clark and Tom Caylor), 09/07/2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS Rowley, Paul (by Pam Clark and Tom Caylor), 08/02/2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS Sherman, Bob 06/04/2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS Sutto, Julius (by Tom Caylor), 05/20/2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS Timm, Wesley (by Terry Rock), 2010 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS Baker, Barry (by Elizabeth Kastanya), 10/22/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room A128)
OS Britto, Neville, (by Keaton Rahn), 02/25/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS Crowell, Jack (by Jared Julien), 02/26/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS David-Cruss, Russell W. (by Matt Holtman), 03-12-2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS Faccio, Bruce (by Michael Ozerasty), 04/03/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS Grether, Cynthia (by Erin Reinert), 02/02/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS Gutierrez, Raymond (by Larry Bills) 03/09/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS Ham, Jim (by Max Schillinger), 2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS Hill, Alan (by Jonathan Morton) 03/13/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS Johnston, Mike (by Martin Porzondek) 04/22/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS Logan, Robert (by Liz Logan) 03/22/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS Looby, Mary Beth (by Amanda Bierlein) 04/06/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS Lutz, Deb (by Scott Bruessow) 03/18/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS Mallak, Jeanne A. (by Derrick Kinchen) 03/16/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)
OS  Menger, Linda (by Rebekah Mize) 03/23/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)

OS  Miller, Terry (by Steve Cronkright) 03/11/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)

OS  Rock, Terry (by Stacie Wiles) 03/30/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)

OS  Schulz, Susan L. (by Brian Ledtke) 02/25/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)

OS  Thayer, Shawn (by Robert Perez), 03/09/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)

OS  Watson, Connie (by Benjamin Beck), 03/03/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)

OS  Wacksman, Edith (by Jennifer Dore), 03/17/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)

OS  Watson, Connie (by Jessica Bell), 04/07/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)

OS  White, Michelle (by Lyle Flores), 03/16/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)

OS  Williams, Jennifer (by Scott McClarren), 02/27/2009 (Box 4 in Archives Storage Room)

Series III. Video Series, 1952-2014 (3 folders)

OS  DVD 1  First Delta College Board of Trustees Meeting, 1957; 1973 and 1974 Channel 19 2nd and 3rd Annual Great TV Auctions; Narration of Delta College’s History by John Krafft, Director of Public Relations (3 copies) (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room)

OS  DVD 2  Delta College being built, campus shots, Delta sponsored children’s programs and events, French lessons, ice sports, Channel 19 auction, cooking show (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room)

OS  DVD 3  Pioneering Our Future: Delta College’s First 50 Years (50th anniversary DVD) hosted by Eric Jylha, 2011 (Box 3 in Archives Storage Room)