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**College of Engineering
UA0018**

Collection ID: UA0018

Title: College of Engineering

Dates: 1928-1979

Creator: College of Engineering

Extent: .50 LF, 1 document box

Abstract: Photographs and documents related to the development, programs, and curriculum of the College of Engineering.

Language: English

Repository: California Polytechnic State University
Robert E. Kennedy Library
Special Collections and Archives
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Provenance: Gift

Accessions: 1980.0002

Processed by: Berlin Loa and Charlie Williams, 2017

Preferred Citation College of Engineering, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University



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Historical Note:

The College of Engineering has a long and distinguished history at Cal Poly. As a polytechnic school, Cal Poly offered engineering courses as early as the first school year in 1903. At this time courses in Mechanics taught carpentry, the construction of simple buildings, masonry, ironwork, plumbing, and wiring. This program continued for about 12 years until the title of the course changed to Mechanical Arts in 1915. Many of the classes taken were similar to the previous program, but expanded slightly to include classes such as mathematics, mechanical drawing, and foundry. The department changed names several more times in the 1910s and 1920s including: Engineering Mechanics in 1919, Mechanics Department in 1923, and Engineering Mechanics Department in 1925. These programs increased the difficulty and variety of classes offered, but for the most part stayed true to a well-rounded, technical education.

Between 1933 and 1947, dramatic changes occurred when the Division of Industrial Education was created. In 1933, for the first time, the division offered different concentrations through the Aeronautics and Electrical Departments. Students were able to choose to receive technical training in airplane mechanics or wiring and motor repair. Again, the department title changed several more times from the 1940s through the 1980s. Along with the name changes new majors were added or discontinued. For example, in 1986 the School of Engineering offered a list of majors which included: Aeronautical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Computer Science, Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Engineering Science, Engineering Technology, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, and graduate programs. In 1994 the school became the College of Engineering.

The College of Engineering has operated under several Deans over the years. However, Deans Peter Y. Lee and C.E. Knott are among the most notable. Between 1945 and 1959, Charles Elgin Knott served as Dean of Engineering and served Cal Poly for roughly 38 years. Knott is often credited as the founder of Cal Poly's School of Engineering and Technology and a scholarship fund was created for Cal Poly engineering students in his honor after his death in 1979. Lee served as Dean from 1987 to 2005. During his tenure, Lee oversaw the development of new engineering facilities on campus: the Advanced Technology Laboratories, Engineering III and IV, Bonderson Student Projects Center and the Engineering Plaza. In addition, Lee was recognized for his leadership role in reforming engineering education in the nation and the world.

"Project-based learning" is promoted in the college and has helped position Cal Poly as a national leader in engineering education. According to the *US News and World Report*, Cal Poly Engineering ranks 5th on the list of Best Undergraduate Engineering Program Rankings (at schools where doctorate degrees are not offered).



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Scope and Content:

Photographs and documents related to the development, programs, and curriculum of the College of Engineering, formerly known as Industrial Engineering Manufacturing.

Arrangement:

Original organization of the records has been preserved where possible. Materials may have been reorganized or rehoused for preservation and access purposes.

Related Collections:

Sources:

Bongio, Enrico. Personal correspondence. Undated.

Access:

Collection is open to researchers by appointment only. For more information on visiting, access policies, and reproduction requests, please visit our [Reference Services](http://lib.calpoly.edu/search-and-find/collections-and-archives/reference-services/) page online at <http://lib.calpoly.edu/search-and-find/collections-and-archives/reference-services/>.

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