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UMass Amherst Libraries✉

Joseph S. Marcus Papers

1948-1977

2 boxes (3 linear foot)

Call no.: FS 081



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Joseph Sol Marcus arrived at UMass in 1948 as an Instructor in Civil Engineering and graduate student (MS 1954), and remained for the rest of his career. Born in 1921, and educated at Worcester Polytech (BS 1944), he joined the rapidly growing engineering program at UMass. Although a chemical engineer, he took responsibility for the fluid mechanics laboratory and taught in civil and mechanical engineering, and after gaining experience through courses from the Atomic Energy Commission and a year spent at Oak Ridge National Laboratories, he introduced nuclear engineering into the curriculum. As he rose through the academic ranks, Marcus became a key figure in university administration, serving as Associate Dean of Engineering, as preceptor for Emily Dickinson House on Orchard Hill, and Special Assistant to the Chancellor for long-range planning, while serving on committees for military affairs, Engineering honors, transfers and admissions, discipline, and Continuing Education. Marcus died of cancer on Nov. 1, 1985. Marcus Hall was named in his honor.

The Marcus Papers document an extensive involvement in campus affairs at UMass Amherst, with an emphasis on the period 1965-1975. A small quantity of material relating to his profession activities and academic appointments is joined by well organized files relating to his participation in committees of Engineering honors, Military Affairs (1967-1968), the Orchard Hill residential college and Emily Dickinson House (1964-1969), ROTC and AFROTC curricula, transfers and admissions, the library, Upward Bound, Discipline (1964-1971), and Continuing Education (1970-1977).

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Background on Joseph Marcus

Joseph Sol Marcus arrived at UMass in 1948 as an Instructor in Civil Engineering and graduate student (MS 1954), just as the University was beginning a large scale expansion and reorganization of its engineering programs. Born in Oct. 29, 1921, Marcus received his undergraduate education in chemical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic College (BS 1944) before serving a three year tour in the Navy at the tail end of the Second World War.

While studying for his masters degree in civil engineering, Marcus assumed responsibility for the fluid mechanics laboratory and taught courses in both civil and mechanical engineering, foreshadowing some of the versatility he would demonstrate throughout his career. Climbing up the academic ranks over the next fifteen years, Marcus took a series of courses offered by the Atomic Energy Commission and spent a year's leave in 1962 working as a Research Engineer at the Oak Ridge National Laboratories. With this preparation, and with his research turned toward nuclear engineering, Marcus introduced nuclear engineering into the UMass curriculum and he became the principle investigator on three major grants from the AEC and co-director of AEC-NECEP workshops on nuclear power.

Rising to become Assistant (later Associate) Dean of the School of Engineering in 1964, Marcus became an active presence in university administration, serving as preceptor for Emily Dickinson House on Orchard Hill, becoming a staunch proponent of residential college concept; Chair of the Faculty Senate; and Special Assistant to the Chancellor for long-range planning. He was also a key member of the committees for military affairs, engineering honors, transfers and admissions, discipline, and Continuing Education, among others. Always engaged with students and interested in raising the position of future engineers, he was deeply involved in educational initiatives in the Commonwealth, helping to direct two National Science Foundation Institutes for high school science teachers (1968, 1969) and serving on the accrediting boards of the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (1969-1971).

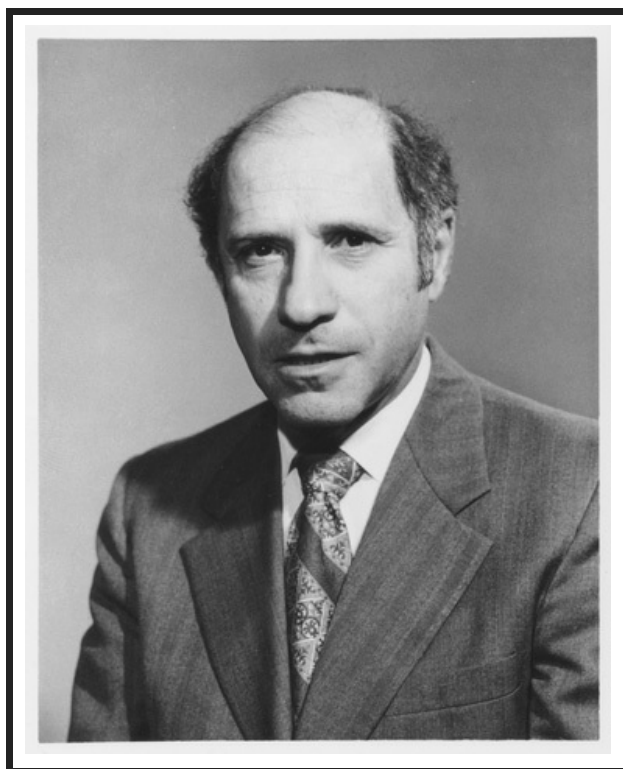
In recognition of his commitment to students, Marcus was recognized with the Metawampe Award and Distinguished Teaching Award in the 1960s, and in 1984, he received the Chancellor's Medal for "exemplary and extraordinary service." Marcus died of cancer on Nov. 1, 1985, shortly after his retirement. Marcus Hall was named in his honor.

Scope of collection

The Marcus Papers document extensive involvement in campus affairs at UMass Amherst, with an emphasis on the period 1965-1975. A small quantity of material relating to Marcus's profession activities and academic appointments is accompanied by well organized files relating to his participation in University committees, ranging from Engineering honors, ROTC and AFROTC curricula, Military Affairs (1967-1968), the Orchard Hill residential college and Emily Dickinson House (1964-1969), transfers and admissions, the library, Upward Bound, Discipline (1964-1971), and Continuing Education (1970-1977).

Inventory

Admissions and Record Board
1970



Joseph S. Marcus

Box 1: 1

Air Force ROTC curriculum

1967-1968

Box 1: 2

Army ROTC curriculum

1967-1968

Box 1: 3

Board of Higher Education. Planning Committee of Faculty and Curriculum

1970

Box 1: 4

Board of Higher Education. Planning Committee of Faculty and Curriculum

1971

Box 1: 5

Communication Skills Committee

1972-1973

Box 1: 6

Community Outreach and Course-Related Field Work Ad Hoc Committee

1972

Box 1: 7

Continuing Education Committee: Annual Report

1972-1973

Box 1: 8

Continuing Education Committee

1972-1973

Box 1: 9

Continuing Education Committee

1972-1973

Box 1: 10

Continuing Education Committee

1973

Box 1: 11

Continuing Education Committee

1974-1975

Box 1: 12

Core Requirements Sub-Committee

1973-1974

Box 1: 13

Emily Dickinson House

1965-1965

Box 1: 14

Emily Dickinson House

1965-1965

Box 1: 15

Emily Dickinson House

1965-1966

Box 1: 16

Emily Dickinson House

1965-1966

Box 1: 17

Emily Dickinson House

1966-1967

Box 1: 18

Emily Dickinson House

1966-1967

Box 1: 19

Emily Dickinson House

1968-1969

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Discipline Board

1964-1965
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Discipline Board
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Honors Colloquia
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Box 2: 4
Library Master Plan Committee
1965
Box 2: 5
Marcus, Joseph S. Appointments, promotions, etc.
1948-1958
Box 2: 6
Military Affairs Sub-Committee
1967-1968
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Military Affairs Sub-Committee
1967-1968
Box 2: 8
Orchard Hill calendars
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Orchard Hill Residential College
1970
Box 2: 10
Reactor analysis (notes)
1962-1963
Box 2: 11
ROTC
1966-1967
Box 2: 12
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1977
Box 2: 13

Search Committee: Director of Placement Services
1978
Box 2: 14
Search Committee: Director of Rhetoric
1975
Box 2: 15
Search Committee: Director of Transfer Affairs
1975
Box 2: 16
Search Committee: Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
1976-1977
Box 2: 17
Transfer Affairs Committee
1972
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Transfer Affairs Compact
1971-1973
Box 2: 19
Undergraduate Library Services Subcommittee
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Box 2: 21
UMass Boston Faculty Policies Committee
1964-1965
Box 2: 22
Upward Bound Academic Advisory Committee
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WFCR: Fred and Diana Calland Case
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Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Joseph S. Marcus.

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Feb. 2013.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Joseph S. Marcus Papers (FS 081). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

Continuing education.

Residential colleges--Massachusetts.

Contributors

Marcus, Joseph S. **[main entry]**

University of Massachusetts Amherst--Faculty.

University of Massachusetts Amherst--Students.

University of Massachusetts Amherst. Department of Civil Engineering.

Link to similar SCUA collections

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