

Collection #
M 1076
DVD 0535-0547
CT 2195-2196

MARTIN UNIVERSITY PUBLICITY COLLECTION, 1979 - 2007

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Manuscript Materials: 4 manuscript boxes; 2 audio cassette tapes Visual Materials: 34 VHS video tapes; 13 DVDs
COLLECTION DATES:	Inclusive 1979-2007; Bulk 1983-2007
PROVENANCE:	John Sherman, 4175 Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46205, 17 July 2009
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NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Martin University was founded as Martin Center College by Rev. Fr. Boniface Hardin, O.S.B and Sister Jane Schilling in 1977. Hardin, a Benedictine priest, named the school after Martin Luther King Jr. and St. Martin de Porres, two men who spent their lives in service to others. Since its founding, the university has followed the same path by serving the low-income, minority, and adult learner. Hardin believed these groups had not received adequate attention from higher education institutions and established Martin Center College to overcome traditional barriers to obtaining a college degree, like age, health, and balancing class time with a full-time work schedule and family responsibilities. He believed higher education needed to be made available to all who could benefit from it.

Martin University, incorporated on April 20, 1979, is Indiana's only predominantly black college. In 2004, the average age of its students was 40 years. 85% of students were the first in their families to attend a college or university and 50% received financial aid.

The university employs an andragogical approach, in which students are encouraged to bring their life experiences into the classroom as part of their learning, instead of a traditional pedagogical method of interaction. Classes are designed to create a dialogue between students and the instructor, who serves as a facilitator rather than an authority figure.

The college was incorporated and gained state accreditation in 1978. Its first class enrolled seven students, and its first graduate, James Griffet, received a bachelor's degree in business management and accounting in 1981.

The original campus at 35th Street and College Avenue offers Sickle Cell research, GED classes, substance abuse and other health and social programs. In 1987, after gaining accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the main campus moved to its current location at 2171 Avondale Place. This site houses the Performing Arts Center, Bernice Fraction Fine Arts Building, Health Education/Counseling Center, and classroom and administrative buildings. In 1988, the university established its Lady Elizabeth campus at the Indiana Women's Prison.

Martin Center College changed its name to Martin University in 1990. It was approved to offer Master's degrees in community psychology and urban ministry studies, the first of which were awarded in 1993. The university began construction on a \$10 million education center in 2000, expanding the campus with 56,000-square feet of classrooms, offices, an epidemiology center, and an 800-seat Gathertorium to be used for graduation ceremonies, community events, and arts and cultural programs.

Hardin, who served as president of Martin University for 30 years, was honored with multiple awards for his service throughout his career, including being named an Indiana Living Legend by the Indiana Historical Society in 2002. Throughout the community, he was widely known for his portrayal of Frederick Douglass. In 2004, he announced his

plans for retirement from the university and plans for a strategic plan. The plan, which included a \$21 million capital campaign, began in 2005. Hardin officially stepped down as president on December 31, 2007. At the time of his retirement, Martin University enrolled over 1,300 students and offered 17 undergraduate degrees and 2 graduate degrees with an operating budget of \$6.5 million. In August 2013, the university enrolled 655 undergraduate and 63 graduate students in 14 bachelor and 2 master's degree programs.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

"Martin U. Prepares to Construct New Building". *Indianapolis Recorder*. 13 August 1999: p. A1-A3. <http://ulib.iupui.edu/digitalscholarship/collections/IRecorder>, accessed 4-22-2014.

"Martin University: Currently or Previously Affiliated Institutions." *The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association*, 17 August 2013. http://www.ncahlc.org/component/com_directory/Action,ShowBasic/Itemid,/instid,1878/, accessed 4-22-2014.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Martin University Publicity Collection (1979-2007) is comprised of 4 manuscript boxes, 34 VHS tapes, 12 DVDs, and 2 cassette tapes divided into 3 series of materials. These were materials that were gathered and in many cases, produced by Sherman & Co. Public Relations & Marketing.

Series 1 contains general correspondence, reports, and publications regarding Martin University, its history and donors, annual reports and plans, and newsletters and brochures published by the university. It also includes staff directories, business cards, biographies, and information on former presidents including Boniface Hardin, the founder, and Algeania Freeman. There are college guides, academic catalogs, schedules of classes, pamphlets on degrees and programs, and materials on Martin University divisions, schools, buildings, and associations.

Series 2 contains printed publications and DVD, VHS, and cassette recordings regarding events and programs held at Martin University, including symposiums and conferences, musical events and performances, banquets, awards and commencement ceremonies, anniversary celebrations, college prep programs, and special events and speakers.

Series 3 includes news clippings regarding the university, its staff, students, alumni, and events and programs.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1076).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.