New York State Writers Institute; Collection ua680.002

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
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Summary Information

Repository: M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title: New York State Writers Institute Collection
ID: ua680.002
Date [inclusive]: 1983-2018
Physical Description: 2000 GB
Physical Location: The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material: English.
Mixed Materials [Collection]: X
Abstract: Features recordings and images of author readings and other literary events.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows: Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, New York State Writers Institute Collection, 1983-2018. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York.

Biographical / Historical

In 1983, novelist William Kennedy founded the Writers Institute at Albany with part of a fellowship awarded him from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in Chicago. As part of that award, fifteen thousand dollars for five years went to the institution of Kennedy's choice, the University at Albany, State University of New York. The University made a commitment to match those funds. Less than a year later, Governor Mario M. Cuomo signed into law the legislation creating the New York State Writers Institute, giving it goals and responsibilities to conduct a broad range of cultural and educational literary activities.

The Writers Institute has a mandate to provide "a milieu for established and aspiring writers to work together to increase the freedom of the artistic imagination," and "to encourage the development of
writing skills at all levels of education throughout the state.” The Institute draws upon and complements existing programs in imaginative writing and the allied arts to help provide the broadest possible educational base for students of writing and the literary community statewide. Its programming receives strong support from the Capital area’s literary community, drawing audiences from eastern and southern New England, New York City and a large part of central and eastern New York State.

Scope and Contents

Contains audio/video materials and photographs of visiting author readings and other occasional events directed by the New York State Writers Institute.

Arrangement

Chronological by date of event.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Immediate Source of Acquisition

These records were transferred to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, by the New York State Writers' Institute.

Conditions Governing Access

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Controlled Access Headings

- UAlbany Centers & Institutes
- Authors.
- Literature

Collection Inventory

Visiting Writers Series, 1983-2018

Language of the Material: English.

Scope and Contents

The materials document the 40-50 writer events held yearly at the University at Albany, which include informal seminars, writing workshops, and readings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jayne Anne Phillips, 2009 January 27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Digital Object: Jayne Anne Phillips
Schweitzer Chair Events, 1985-1989

Language of the Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Documentation of events arranged by Albert Schweitzer Chair in the Humanities Toni Morrison during her time at UAlbany. These recordings are not complete, but are what was stored by the Writers' Institute.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

While the relationship between the Schweitzer Chair and the NYS Writers' Institute is unclear, Suzanne Lance worked as Fellowship Coordinator and Special Projects Officer for the Schweitzer Chair, and later as Associate Director of the Writers Institute. These recordings were stored by the Writers Institute during the 2010s.

The Writer, 2004-2005

Scope and Contents

The New York State Writers Institute and WMHT-TV produced The Writer documentary episodes, which portray a condensed view of conversations and readings with our visiting writers. Filmed material from public readings, informal seminars, and private interviews are edited to produce the "distilled essence" of the writer. Quick edits, diverse locales, and off-camera interviewing techniques combine to keep the pace fast, the ideas stimulating, and the writer in the audience's eye.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toni Cade Bambara, Birth of Black Cinema Symposium (With St.C Bourne; H Gerima; S Lee; T Morrison; J Snead; H Spillers; C Taylor), 1988 November 17</td>
<td>Digital Object: 88.11.17-19.mp3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth of Black Cinema Symposium Program, 1988 November 17</td>
<td>Digital Object: Online Object Uploaded through Hyrax UI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>