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Finding Aid to the Sonja Ozbun Papers

Ozbun, Sonja

Sonja Ozbun papers, 1988-1995

1 linear ft.

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the University Archives.

Provenance: Donated by Sonja Ozbun in 2009 (Acc 748) and 2010 (Acc 806).

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Sonja Ozbun Papers, University Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

Sonia (Smedstad) Ozbun was born in Starbuck, MN where she grew up on a dairy farm. She attended Starbuck High School and after graduation, she went on to Concordia College in Moorhead, MN for a year. Sonja was employed by North Dakota State University (NDSU) where she worked in the Business Office from 1957-1959. Her employment at NDSU provided the chance to meet her future husband, Jim Ozbun. The two were married in 1959 upon completion of Jim's B.S. degree. After Jim completed his master's at NDSU in 1961, they moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, where Jim completed his doctorate at North Carolina State. Their next move was to Cornell University in Ithaca, NY (1964-1976), then the University of Minnesota (1976-1981), Kansas State (1981-1982), and Washington State University (1982-1988). They returned to North Dakota when Jim became President of NDSU in May of 1988.

In an email from Mrs. Ozbun (July 2009), she told of her varied activities: “I married Jim Ozbun in May, 1959. We lived in Fargo until September, 1961 when we left for Raleigh, North Carolina for Jim to go to graduate school at N.C. State. Our son, Terry, was born in Fargo in 1960 before we left and our daughter, Karen, was born in Raleigh, N.C. in 1961. I didn't work outside the home after the children were born. While Jim was in graduate school, I typed theses and baby sat other children to add to our income.

I did a variety of volunteer work every place we lived ranging from Cub Scout den mother, Girl Scout leader, teachers' aide, church work, read for the blind, delivered Meals on Wheels, served on Lutheran Social Services of N.D. Board of Trustees and Children's Hospital Advisory Board. I also took college courses at several universities including psychology, linguistics, English composition, art history and French. The French courses were helpful during the many trips I made with Jim to French-speaking countries. We travelled extensively in connection Jim's work, going to six continents visiting agricultural projects and universities. I belonged to several study clubs, book clubs, P.E.O., church circles and church committees during those years. In addition to volunteer work and going to school, I was often almost a full-time hostess as Jim, early in his career, held administrative jobs, where entertaining guests in our home was important.”

After leaving NDSU in 1995, the Ozbun's moved to their ranch in Dickinson, North Dakota, the Circle Z Ranch. Also from that July 2009 email, Mrs. Ozbun stated: “In retirement, I have enjoyed more time for some of my favorite pastimes which include reading, gourmet cooking and flower gardening. I also belong to a book club, church circle, P.E.O. (a women's philanthropic and educational organization) and other committees from time to time.”

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Sonja Ozbun papers were donated by Sonja Ozbun in the summer of 2009 and spring of 2010. They reflect the years (1988-1995) she was involved with NDSU during her time as the First Lady. The records are arranged alphabetically in two series, NDSU related and Community related, with the vast majority of the records covering NDSU related activities.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

BOX 1

Finding Aid

NDSU RELATED

Administrative Council Retreats – Correspondence, itineraries, and agendas - 1989-1991

Alumni Events – Correspondence, Cards, pamphlets, reunions, lists, 3 photographs, clippings - 1988-1995 (2 folders)

Basketball (NDSU) Events – thank you card, lists, 1994 banquet program- 1990-1994

Calendars, Engagements – 1993, 1994

Cards & Notes – congratulations, welcome, thanks, goodbyes - 1984-1995

Catherine Cater Lecture Series – Correspondence, pamphlets - 1988-1995

Centennial Celebration/ Founders Week – Clippings, publications, schedule, agendas - 1990

Centennial Tree Program – Notes, list, pamphlet - 1989, 1992

Development Foundation Events – Cards and correspondence, clippings, agendas, lists -1988-1992
 Fine Arts (NDSU) – Correspondence, cards and invitations, pamphlets, newsletter - 1989-1995
 First Lady Related: Correspondence, cards, publications, clippings, notes, 1988-1994
 Football (NDSU) Events – Correspondence, tickets, events/event preparations, pamphlets - 1988-1993
 Fundraising – Symphony Fundraising, Ozbun Fund Benefit - 1995
 Harvest Bowl – Preparations, pamphlets, correspondence - 1988-1994
 Homecoming Activities – Correspondence, pamphlets, cards, clippings, notes - 1989-1994
 Honorary Doctorate Dinner –Clippings, preparations, attendees, menu, thank you from George Sinner –
 1990-1991
 International Friendship Committee (NDSU) – Correspondence, minutes, pamphlets, 1989-1994
 International Students – Correspondence, invitations, thank you notes, Thanksgiving dinner, 1988-1994
 Invitations to State-wide event: NDUS, SBHE, UND, Bismarck State, Minot State, Valley City State, –
 1991-1995
 KDSU – membership, correspondence, donation related – 1992-1995
 Letters written, record – 1988-1995 (yellow spiral notebook)
 Little Country Theatre – Correspondence, LCT productions, pamphlets, cards, 75th anniversary - 1989-
 1993
 NASULGC - National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges' spouses - “How in the
 World Do You Do It? – The Idea Book” – 1987
 NASULGC (National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges) – Welcome materials –
 1989-1991
 NASULGC - National Association of State Universities and Land Grant College - “Coping A Manual for
 Presidents’ and Chancellors’ Spouses” - 1994
 Native Americans – Tri-College Native American Week, NDSU Pow Wows, pamphlets, correspondence,
 clippings - 1989-1991
 New Faculty State Tours - Itinerary, invitations, thank you letters, notes - 1991-1993
 Phone Message log - “Phone messages to Jim & Sonja at the NDSU Pres. House on campus, 1991-1995”
 – handwritten, yellow spiral notepad
 Research Extensions Centers Conferences – Notes, correspondence, cards, 1989-1991
 Retirement – Clippings -1995
 Retirement – Notes, letters, events - 1995
 Retirement Reception Photographs (6) – 4/19/1995
 Social Events - Receptions, menus, meals – 1993-1995 (2 folders)
 Special Events (NDSU) – cards, “Home for the Holidays” materials - 1994
 Spring Gala – Invitations, programs, cards - 1993-1995
 State Board of Higher Education – Correspondence, meetings, and events - 1989-1995
 Student Leaders Dinner (NDSU) – Menu, attendees, thank you card - 1991
 Thank you, Holiday, and Greeting cards, notes, and letters – 1988-1996
 Welk Foundation – Cards, clippings, publications, correspondence - 1992-1993
 Woman’s Awareness Week – Pamphlets, correspondence for 10th anniversary, itinerary - 1991-1992
 Women’s Club (NDSU) – Programs, Minutes, records - 1989-1994
 Women’s Club (NDSU) – notes, letters, cards – 1989-1994
 Women’s (NDSU) Study Club - Talk – “In the Eyes of the Public” - 3/11/1993
 Women’s (NDSU) Study Club - Talk – “A Trip Through China” – 4/1/4/1994

COMMUNITY RELATED

Fargo/West Fargo/Moorhead Teachers Reception - Hjemkomst Center – Lists, notes, information - 1994
 Funerals – programs - 1989-1995
 Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota – Correspondence, cards, clipping - 1989-1994

Talk – “From a Glass House to a Home on the Range” – presented to PEO Chapter AQ – 10/14/1997
Wedding Dress – Clipping, photograph and card from display case, note card - 1998