Brandon D. Holt Collection of Oral History Interviews on Black Student Activism at Princeton, 2015 : Finding Aid

### Summary Information

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<tr>
<th>Call number:</th>
<th>AC426</th>
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<tr>
<td>Repository:</td>
<td>Princeton University. Library. Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections.</td>
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<td>Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library.</td>
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<td>Princeton University Archives.</td>
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<td>65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA</td>
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<td>Size:</td>
<td>8 digital files</td>
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<td>Language(s) of Material:</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Abstract:</td>
<td>As part of his senior thesis Brandon D. Holt, Class of 2015, conducted a series of oral history interviews detailing black student activism. The collection consists of the transcripts from eight interviews with black alumni from the classes of 1969-1981.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>This collection is stored onsite at the Mudd Manuscript Library.</td>
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Brandon D. Holt is a member of the Princeton undergraduate class of 2015 who undertook an oral history project on black student activism as part of his senior thesis. Entitled "Power in Resistance: a History of Black Student Protest at Princeton, 1967-1978", it features interviews with prominent members of the Association of Black Collegians and other activists groups. Holt received a Bachelor of Arts in History and a certificate in African American Studies.

The collection consists of eight transcripts of Holt's interviews with black alumni from the classes of 1969-1981. The interviews address the formation of campus activist groups including the Association of Black Collegians and the People’s Front for the Liberation of Southern Africa. Furthermore, the interviews provide details about the organization of campus demonstrations in the 1960s and '70s including the takeover of the New South building, sit-ins at Nassau Hall and Firestone Library, and various other demonstrations.

The collection is open for research use. Original audio files exist but are restricted.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. For quotations that are fair use as defined under U. S. Copyright Law, no permission to cite or publish is required. For those few instances beyond fair use, users must submit the Publication and Broadcast Form. The Trustees of Princeton University hold copyright to all materials generated by Princeton University employees in the course of their work. For materials where the copyright is not held by the University, in addition to completing this form for Princeton, researchers are responsible for determining who may hold the copyright and obtaining approval from them.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

This collection consists of PDF files. Researchers are responsible for meeting the technical requirements needed to access these materials, including any and all hardware and software.

The collection was transferred to the University Archives in March of 2015.
No materials were separated from the collection at the time of accessioning.

### Processing and Other Information

#### Preferred Citation
Brandon D. Holt Collection of Oral History Interviews on Black Student Activism at Princeton, Box and Folder Number, Princeton University Archives, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

#### Processing Information
University staff and the collection creator edited transcripts for clarity.

This collection was processed by Rossy M. Mendez in August 2015. Finding aid written by Rossy M. Mendez in August 2015.

#### Encoding
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2015-08-04T15:22-0400

#### Descriptive Rules Used
Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### Subject Headings

- Holt, Brandon D.
- African Americans -- Civil rights -- History 20th century.
- Alumni and alumnae -- New Jersey -- Princeton -- Insurance.
- Association of Black Collegians.
- Minorities -- Education -- Social aspects.
- Princeton University
- Princeton University -- Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding.
- Born digital.
Contents List

Ralph Austin '73, 2015 February 19
Description: Austin tells of his experience as a black student at Princeton and his role in coordinating activities for the Association of Black Collegians including a Black Panther Teach-in and the takeover of the New South building. Austin also discusses his participation in the Hackney Committee for a black studies program and a series of incidents involving black students at the Rockefeller Suite and Brown Hall.

Natalie Byfield '81, 2015 March 10
Description: Byfield discusses her experiences as a black female student at Princeton and her role in organizing the 1978 Nassau Hall sit-in. She also addresses her experiences as a member of the Third World Center and the Women’s Center.

Robert Collins '71, 2015 February 13
Description: Collins recounts his participation in the New South takeover and in the Malkiel Committee for Apartheid Divestment. Also mentioned are Yale’s Transitional Year program, eating club reforms and the Rockefeller Suite Incident.

Lawrence Hamm '78, 2015 February 25
Description: Hamm describes his experiences as an African-American student at Princeton including his role in founding the People’s Front for the Liberation of Southern Africa and his participation in the Harambee student group later operating as the May 4th movement. Other topics discussed include the Newark race riots of 1967 and Hamm’s role as the youngest board member of Newark’s Board of Education. Individuals mentioned include Amiri Baraka, Bobby Seale, and Professor Jan Carew.

Brett Henry ’69, 2015 March 16
Description: Henry discusses his involvement with the Association of Black Collegians and serving as an alumni member of the Board of Trustees. The interview includes details regarding the New South takeover and other demonstrations related to the South Africa divestment issue, the black host families in Princeton and the beginnings of the Black Studies program. Among the individuals mentioned in the interview include President Robert F. Goheen, Eric F. Lum ‘72, civil rights leader Leon Sullivan, Professors Martin B. Duberman and Cecilia Hodges Drewry.

Kim E. Pearson '78, 2015 March 17
Description: Pearson describes events affecting black students at Princeton including the Shockley-Innis controversy, the founding of the People’s Front for the Liberation of South Africa, and the May 4th movement. Other events
mentioned include the library workers demonstrations and demonstrations against the JP Stevens Corporation. Individuals mentioned include Kevin Gover, former secretary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor ’76.

Alfred D. Price, Jr ’69, 2015 February 17

Description: Price discusses his experience as a black student at Princeton including his participation in the bicker process and his involvement with the Association of Black Collegians (ABC). Topics addressed include “Yale Soul Weekend,” Kodak Corporation protest, ABC’s role in the organization of a memorial services for Martin Luther King Jr., and interactions with Students for Democratic Society (SDS). Price also mentions an anti-Semitic attack against Paul Balaran ’70 and the creation of an African American Studies program. Persons of interest mentioned include President Robert F. Goheen, Edgar Allen Dunham III, Burton Malkiel, Dr. Carl Fields, and Cecilia Hodges Drewry.

Evora Thomas ’74, 2015 March 22

Description: Thomas recounts her experiences growing up in Newark, New Jersey and her participation in the Association of Black Collegians, Third World Center activities, and in the Ajile African Dance group. She also mentions the Newark Riots of 1967, Shockley-Innis controversy and the founding of the Third World Center. Other items of note are the Minority Recruitment’s three-week orientation program lead by Robert Barragan and the role of women in ABC leadership.