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David Langston papers11918080

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

burke@library.columbia.edu

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Langston, David J.
Title:	David Langston papers
ID:	11918080
Date [inclusive]:	1968 -- 1971
Physical Description:	1.5 linear feet 1.5 linear feet; 3 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	David J. Langston; M.Div, UTS 1971; Ph.D. English-American Literature, Stanford 1977; student member of Union's Core Experimental Program 1968-1970. The collection includes primary drafts, proposals, memoranda, ephemera, photographs, and published matter concerning Core programming at Union during the late 1960s-early 1970s as well as student activities in and around Union on issues such as anti-war activism, racial justice, and anti-apartheid organizing.

Preferred Citation

Item description, UTS1: David Langston papers, 1968-1971, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

Dr. David Langston is a scholar of American literature and theology whose time as a graduate student at Union was impacted by the surge in campus activism and social justice-oriented direct actions in the Vietnam era. He was born in Albany, Oregon on October 3, 1944. He earned his B.A. from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1967 with a major in History, and double minor in English and philosophy. Langston decided to pursue his academic interest in the philosophy of religion at Union Theological Seminary beginning in September of 1967, earning his Master of Divinity in May, 1971. Langston entered UTS as a Rockefeller Fellow, a

fellowship intended to support students who were not committed to careers in ministry through their seminary educations. During his studies at Union, Langston was involved with the initial year of Union's Core experimental program, an initiative composed of approximately a dozen students who held regularly meetings and discussion groups around themes concerning faith, politics, philosophy, and exegetical praxis, and wrote collaboratively on topics issued for the National Council of Churches' Faith and Order Colloquium. The Core program was intended to provide a space for Union students committed to exercising activist practices through their work in theology and religion. Langston fastidiously kept documentation on student demonstrations, publications, working groups and initiatives as a result of his consistent involvement with student activism at Union during this period. As Langston himself states, the materials collected in his papers give evidence to various on-campus efforts surrounding social justice organizing during this time. Langston's collection of primary documents recounting Union during these years were used as source material for his and McKeown's book as well as David Cline's dissertation, *Revolution and Reconciliation*, which focuses specifically on the Student Interracial Ministry's impact on student and community activism at Union. After graduation, Dr. Langston earned his Ph.D. in English and American Literature from Stanford University in 1977, and has been teaching and writing in various academic capacities since, most recently as Professor of English and Communications at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in the Berkshires.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains material related to Union's Core experimental religious education program including handwritten notes, meeting agendas and planning guides, annotated drafts and proposals for curriculum structure, seminary memoranda addressed to Langston and other relevant group leaders, writings by CORE student members, program evaluations, and group readings by theme, as well as photographs from the Core retreat from 1970 with a card written by Langston identifying subjects in the images. This series also contains materials relating to student activism, specifically at Union and Columbia surrounding Vietnam, student responses to the Black Manifesto, bail funds for incarcerated members of the Black Panther Party, President John C. Bennett's involvement with campus activism, as well as non-Columbia related materials on political mobilization on a global scale. Other UTS-related materials include runs of the student publication, *Plastic Bag* and *Mini Bag* (including issues from 1970, heretofore not included in the Burke's archive), Union Commission materials, memoranda and administrative press releases to the campus community in light of direct actions on campus, as well as Langston's personal and academic writings, readings, and writings by peers and mentors, all collected as part of Langston's coursework at Union. Finally, this collection also includes photographs taken during Langston's time at Union, including a rally to free the Panther 21, and street shots of the Morningside Heights neighborhood.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two roughly chronological series: Series 1: CORE; and Series 2: Union Theological Seminary.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2022-10-25

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

The following boxes are located offsite: Series 1, Box 1 and Series 2, Box 1-2. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The David Langston Papers were donated to the Burke Archives by Dr. Langston in August 2012.

Custodial History

These materials were among a large amount of unprocessed material that was organized in 2016-2017 with funds provided by the Henry Luce Foundation and E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

Processing Information

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes. Issues of Plastic Bag were maintained in their original plastic cases, but encapsulated in acid-free folders to prevent further deterioration. The finding aid was created by Rebecca Nieto in 2017 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2022.

Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Langston, David J. -- : Archives

Burke Library record group:

Union Theological Seminary Archives: UTS 1, papers of faculty and students

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Collection Inventory

Series 1: CORE, 1968 -- 1970

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains handwritten notes, meeting agendas and planning guides, annotated drafts and proposals for curriculum structure, seminary memoranda addressed to Langston and other relevant group leaders, writings by CORE student members, program evaluations, and group readings by theme, as well as photographs from the Core retreat from 1970 with a card written by Langston identifying subjects in the images.

Title/Description	Instances	
CORE Education Proposal, 1968	box 1	folder 1
Experimental Program, 1968 -- 1969	box 1	folder 2
CORE Group Historical Evaluative Sketch, 1969 -- 1970	box 1	folder 3-4
CORE Experimental Program – Reports and Proposal, 1970	box 1	folder 5
CORE Group Recommendation [Draft], circa 1969	box 1	folder 6
CORE Group Planning – Appendix A Staffing and Finance, circa 1969	box 1	folder 7
CORE Group Correspondence, 1969	box 1	folder 8
CORE Journal, 1965	box 1	folder 9
CORE Group Meeting Agendas, 1969 -- 1970	box 1	folder 10
Transcript of CORE Discussion of Christ and Culture, 1969	box 1	folder 11
CORE Group Exercise on Spiritual Challenge and Brokenness, 1970	box 1	folder 12
Wedding Script for Group Discussion, circa 1970	box 1	folder 13
Group on Myth, circa 1970	box 1	folder 14
Note to CORE Group, circa 1969	box 1	folder 15
CORE Writings, circa 1969	box 1	folder 16
Kirkridge Retreat, 1969	box 1	folder 17

Group Retreat Photographs, 1970	box 1	folder 18
CORE Student Theses, circa 1970	box 1	folder 19
CORE Proposals – Christian Visions of Society, circa 1970	box 1	folder 20
UTS Faculty Discussion on First-Year Core Groups, circa 1970	box 1	folder 21

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Series 2: Union Theological Seminary, 1968 -- 1971

Physical Description: 1 linear feet 1 linear foot; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials relating to student activism, specifically at Union and Columbia surrounding Vietnam, student responses to the Black Manifesto, bail funds for incarcerated members of the Black Panther Party, President John C. Bennett's involvement with campus activism, as well as non-Columbia related materials on political mobilization on a global scale. Other UTS-related materials include runs of the student publication, Plastic Bag and Mini Bag (including issues from 1970, heretofore not included in the Burke's archive), Union Commission materials, memoranda and administrative press releases to the campus community in light of direct actions on campus. This series also includes Langston's personal and academic writings, readings, and writings by peers and mentors, all collected as part of Langston's coursework at Union. Finally, this series also includes photographs taken during Langston's time at Union, including a rally to free the Panther 21, and street shots of the Morningside Heights neighborhood.

Title/Description	Instances	
May 1968 Protest and Strike Planning, 1968	box 1	folder 1
A Message to Alumni, Parents and Other Friends of Columbia, 1968	box 1	folder 2
Draft Statement on Black Panthers, 1968	box 1	folder 3
UTS and the Matter of Bail Fund or Panther Party Members, 1968	box 1	folder 4
Service of Gratitude and Repentance in Memory of MLK, Jr., 1968	box 1	folder 5
Generation Gap – Issue or Illusion, 1968	box 1	folder 6
Vietnam Moratorium (Note), 1969	box 1	folder 7

Press Statement on Cambodia and Southeast Asia by Four Prominent Churchmen, 1969	box 1	folder 8
Franz Schurmann March on Washington Notes – Imperialism in the Pacific, 1969	box 1	folder 9
Correspondence, 1969	box 1	folder 10
UTS Goals for Seminary Working Group, 1968	box 1	folder 11
UTS Correspondence – Model Cities Program, 1968	box 1	folder 12
Student Statements Re: Black Manifesto, 1969	box 1	folder 13
New Seminary Movement, 1969	box 1	folder 14
Union Commission Meetings and Notes, 1968 -- 1970	box 1	folder 15
Union Commission – Plenary and Standing Committee Meetings, 1968 -- 1969	box 1	folder 16
Union Commission Meetings and Working Documents, 1966 -- 1969	box 1	folder 17-18
[Christianity] and Tragedy [handwritten course notes], 1968	box 1	folder 19
White Racism Project, 1969	box 1	folder 20
John C. Bennett – Law, Order and Change, 1969	box 1	folder 21
Plenary – National Faith and Order Colloquium, 1968	box 1	folder 22
Cobb – Working Paper and Rap (F&O Colloquium), 1969	box 1	folder 23
The Politics of Revolution [Research], 1969	box 1	folder 24
Black Manifesto to the White Christian Churches and Jewish Synagogues in the USA and All Other Racist Institutions, 1969	box 1	folder 25
Reading – Apocalypse (Walter Wink), 1969	box 1	folder 26
UTS Orientation, 1969	box 1	folder 27
David Banks – The Seminary's Role in Vietnam, 1969	box 1	folder 28
Plastic Bag (student publication), 1968 -- 1969	box 1	folder 29
Plastic Bag (student publication – includes note circa 2000s), 1969 -- 1970	box 1	folder 30
Blood of the Lamb (Garrett TS newsletter), 1969 -- 1970	box 1	folder 31
Mini Bag (student publication), 1969 -- 1976	box 2	folder 1
Political Mobilization Materials, 1969 -- 1970	box 2	folder 2
Moratorium Policy re Radical Discipleship Manifesto, circa 1969	box 2	folder 3
[Personal Writing] On Institutions 2, circa 1969	box 2	folder 4

[Personal Writing] Here I Stand, or Revisiting the Institute, circa 1969	box 2	folder 5
Murph the Surf Script, circa 1969	box 2	folder 6
UTS Coursework on Myth and Others, circa 1969	box 2	folder 7
A Day, a Class in the Park (John Moulton), circa 1969	box 2	folder 8
Student Publications, circa 1969	box 2	folder 9
Discussion on Theological Education / Theses on T.E. and Social Responsibility (C. Richardson), 1970	box 2	folder 10
Langston/Slade – Theology and Education in an Educational Locus, 1970	box 2	folder 11
An Appeal to the People of NY Not to Bank at First National and Chase Manhattan re South African Apartheid, 1970	box 2	folder 12
The Bread is Rising! Share the Bread! – A Consultation on Celebration of Religious Radicals [Quaker Retreat Center], 1970	box 2	folder 13
Theological Issues Raised by President Bennett's Letter to the Seminary Community of March 16, 1970, 1970	box 2	folder 14
Notes on Empire, 1970	box 2	folder 15
UTS Lectures and Reflections on 'Doing Theology', 1970	box 2	folder 16
Dulles Paper – Authority and Diversity in the Christian Community, 1970	box 2	folder 17
Discussion Document – Up to Our Steeple in Politics, 1970	box 2	folder 18
Script for Worship Service, 1970	box 2	folder 19
Philosophy of Religion Final Examination, 1970	box 2	folder 20
Original Copy – The Student Movement at Union Theological Seminary, 1971	box 2	folder 21
Notes on Tillich (re Anthropology/Theology), circa 1968 -- 1971	box 2	folder 22
Writing Excerpt, circa 1968 -- 1971	box 2	folder 23
Undated Academic Writing and B.D. Thesis Draft, circa 1968 -- 1971	box 2	folder 24
The Anthropology of Marxist Thought, circa 1968 -- 1971	box 2	folder 25
Seek the Welfare of the City – A Word to Fellow Christian 'Rebels' in South Africa and to their Opponents, circa 1968 -- 1971	box 2	folder 26
Notes on Empire, circa 1968 -- 1971	box 2	folder 27
Commentary on Moltmann's Theology of Hope, circa 1968 -- 1971	box 2	folder 28

On Political Editing, circa 1968 -- 1971	box 2	folder 29
Photographs – Core Group Members and Panther 21 Actions, circa 1968 -- 1971	box 2	folder 30
Postcard – Paulie, circa 1968 -- 1971	box 2	folder 31
[Personal Writing – The Church in the World excerpt, circa 1968 -- 1971	box 2	folder 32
B.D. Thesis Proposal [Draft], 1970	box 2	folder 33

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