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Seth Low Junior College records 13225104

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Columbia University. Seth Low Junior College
Title:	Seth Low Junior College Records
ID:	13225104
ID:	UA#0227
Date [inclusive]:	1928-1941
Physical Description:	0.83 linear feet 2 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection consists of the records of the Seth Low Junior College. It includes minutes, alumni letters, bulletins, photographs, and student data.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Seth Low Junior College records; Box and Folder; University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

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Historical Note

Seth Low Junior College was an extension of Columbia University, which was meant to more adequately serve the educational needs of Brooklyn. Columbia had been offering pre-med courses in Brooklyn since 1916 as part of the University Extension. The courses, using the facilities of the Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, were offered during the day and were open to both men and women. In 1925 the University Extension started offering pre-law liberal arts courses in the rooms of the Brooklyn Law School to prepare students to join those professional schools. The Seth Low Junior College was established to meet "a growing demand for collegiate courses which would prepare students for entrance to professional schools." (Spectator, 3 April 1928) The two-year community college was named after Columbia's 11th president and former Mayor of Brooklyn, Seth Low.

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Historical Note

The school had the same requirements for entry, the same Columbia faculty, and even charged the same price of tuition as Columbia College. While they had their own library, zoology and psychology laboratories, lecture halls and classrooms, Seth Low Junior College students still had to travel to the Morningside campus for chemistry and physics courses. By 1930-1931, students could even take Contemporary Civilization A on the Brooklyn campus. Students who completed the non-degree, two-year program could go on to enroll in the professional schools (such as Architecture, Business, Engineering, Journalism, Medicine, Law, Library Service, Optometry, etc.). Others could remain for three years and pursue the liberal arts at the Morningside campus as "University Undergraduates" (not Columbia College students). Graduates would receive Bachelors of Science degrees in General Studies (instead of Bachelors of Arts degrees). The demographic makeup of the Seth Low Junior College student body was predominantly Jewish and Italian. With the opening of Brooklyn College in 1930 (free tuition), enrollment at Seth Low dropped off. The Junior College operated from 1928 to 1936.

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Summary

This collection consists of the few surviving records of the Seth Low Junior College. It includes the minutes of the Administrative Board (1928-1936), student activity photographs (possibly for inclusion in a yearbook), equipment inventories (in preparation to leave the facilities in the Brooklyn Law School and the Plymouth Institution to move to Morningside), and correspondence from administrators and alumni. There are records related to the receipt and use of tax free alcohol in the school's laboratories. There is also information about the students, in particular those applying to medical schools: test scores, class rankings, recommendations, application forms, etc. The materials also include information about closing of the school and the registration information for the remaining students.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. Access note changed. Collection now stored offsite. Added two folders with materials found in the Home Study records (UA#280) 2018-10-04 2019-05-20 2022-02-11 2023-03-08

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located offsite. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Accrual of Records

No additions are expected.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Kelly Powers CC 2018. Finding aid written by Joanna Rios in October 2018.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

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Related Materials

Related Materials

There are additional materials in the [Historical Subject Files \(UA#0002\)](#), [Historical Photograph Collection \(UA#0003\)](#) and in [Central Files \(UA#0001\)](#) – see correspondence with John J. Coss (about the closing of the school), James C. Egbert (head of University Extension and member of the SLJC Administrative Board) and Edward J. Allen (SLJC Acting Director in 1928 and Director in 1931). The University Archives holds 2 Seth Low Junior College yearbooks (1935 and 1936, call number CT2 P1), issues of the literary magazine Talisman (1932-1935, call number CT2 T14) and issues of the weekly student newspaper The Scop (1928 to 1938, call number CT2 Se7). A history of the school, written by Edward J. Allen, was published in the Columbia University Quarterly, Vol. XXIV, March 1932, 42-51 (call number CJ B871).

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Controlled Access Headings

- College students
- minutes (administrative records)
- Photographs
- Columbia University. Seth Low Junior College
- Egbert, J. C. (James Chidester), 1859-1948

Collection Inventory

Series I. Seth Low Junior College records, 1928-1938

Title/Description	Instances	
Alcohol reports, 1929-1936	box 1	folder 1
Alcohol, Bureau of Industrial correspondence, 1928-1936	box 1	folder 2
Alumni letters, 1931-1935	box 1	folder 3
Annual Reports, 1934-1936	box 1	folder 4
Annual Reports, 1934-1937	box 2	folder 10
Scope and Contents		
Director's reports to the President of the University		
Basketball Photographs, 1928-1929	box 1	folder 5
Brooklyn Advisory Committee, 1935-1936	box 1	folder 6
Bulletin series, 1936-1938	box 1	folder 7
Bursar's Office, 1936-1937	box 1	folder 8
Data for Medical Schools, 1934	box 1	folder 9
Data for Medical Schools, 1935-1936	box 1	folder 10
Data for Medical Schools, 1937	box 1	folder 11
Equipment Inventory, 1937-1938	box 2	folder 1
Health and Physical Education, 1935-1937	box 2	folder 2
Medical (Pre) and dental (Pre) student records, 1937-1938	box 2	folder 3
Medical Committee recommendations, 1938	box 2	folder 4
Minutes of the Administrative Board, 1928 April 3-1936 December 3, 1928	box 2	folder 5
Mueller, Charles H. Correspondence, 1938-1941	box 2	folder 11
Scope and Contents		
Assistant to the Director in charge of Extramural courses (and formerly Acting Director of Seth Low Junior College). The correspondence, after the College closed, includes reference letters for former students, replies to information and/or bulletin requests, gift accounts, and registration/enrollment certification.		
Standing of students, 1932-1933	box 2	folder 6

Statistics, General, 1934-1938	box 2	folder 7
Student Activities correspondence, 1937-1938	box 2	folder 8
Student Activities photographs, 1931-1933	box 2	folder 9

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