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For more information, please contact:

Elaine Engst, Director & University Archivist
Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections
Cornell University Library
2B Carl A. Kroch Library
Ithaca, NY 14853
Telephone: (607) 255-3530
Fax: (607) 255-9524
e-mail: ee11@cornell.edu

Eileen Keating, University Records Manager
Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections
Cornell University Library
2B Carl A. Kroch Library
Ithaca, NY 14853
Telephone: (607) 255-3530
Fax: (607) 255-9524
e-mail: eek2@cornell.edu

Jennifer Sawyer, Director
Library Alumni Affairs and Development
701 Olin Library
Ithaca, NY 14853
Telephone: (607) 255-9868
Fax: (607) 255-1683
e-mail: jds367@cornell.edu

rmc.library.cornell.edu

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Preserving Cornell History: Faculty Papers in the University Archives

Cornell University Library seeks your help to ensure the long-term survival of the work of generations of Cornell faculty. The University Archives serve as Cornell’s institutional memory, identifying, describing, and preserving records of enduring value that chronicle and promote knowledge of Cornell’s origins, growth, and ideals. The work of Cornell faculty forms an important part of Cornell history. Curriculum materials, research files, correspondence, and administrative records document not only the progress of the university, but the advancement of science, literature, art—in short, of human knowledge in all fields.

Historical Collections
A vital part of the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections in Carl A. Kroch Library, the Cornell University Archives collects and preserves records of historical, legal, fiscal, and administrative value to Cornell University. Holdings include official records and reports of the university, its officers, and component parts; private papers of faculty, students, staff, and alumni; official and student publications; maps and architectural records; audiovisual materials including still photographs and negatives, motion picture film, oral history interviews, and audio- and videotapes; and artifacts and ephemera documenting Cornell’s history. The University Archivist is responsible for appraising university records to determine their historical and long-term research value.

Faculty Collections
Cornell’s archival collections reflect the whole range of academic life in the university. Their historical strengths lie in subjects including agriculture and the biological sciences; architecture and planning; human ecology; the humanities, including Classics, history, English, and theater arts; the physical sciences; and the social sciences. We also hold collections documenting the development of programs in engineering, hotel administration, law, management, and veterinary medicine at Cornell.

Donating a Personal Collection
Because the Archives cannot personally contact all members of the faculty, we rely on you to help us identify potential collections. Unlike official university records, faculty papers are the property of the individual and must be transferred through a deed of gift. Such “gifts in kind” of personal collections have enriched the

Rose Goldsen, Department of Sociology, 1992.

James Sumner in Savage Hall Laboratory, 1950.