

2017

Guide to the University of the Third Age records

University of San Diego, University of the Third Age

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Overview of the Collection](#)

[Historical Note](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Arrangement](#)

[Index Terms](#)

[Related Material](#)

[Administrative Information](#)

[Detailed Description of the Collection](#)

[Administrative Records, 1978-1984](#)

[News Items, 1964-1980, 1995](#)



Guide to the University of the Third Age records

Overview of the Collection

Title: University of the Third Age records

Dates: 1978-1984

Creator: University of San Diego, University of the Third Age

Quantity: 1 box (.5 linear feet)

Summary: These records document the establishment of the University of the Third Age at the University of San Diego. Established in 1978, the USD University of the Third Age is a program for 55+ individuals to continue with lifelong education.

Identification: USDA_2009_012

Language: English

Repository: [University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections](#)
Copley Library
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone: 619-260-2730
spcoll@sandiego.edu

Historical Note

The idea for an educational program for retired individuals, the University of the Third Age, was initially conceived by Pierre Vellas, a professor at the University of Toulouse, France, in 1972. Vellas saw the growing number of elderly individuals in France and believed that bringing them into the university environment among undergraduates, with intellectual stimulation and physical exercise, would slow the negative effects of aging. Vellas' program involved volunteer participation by undergraduate students; physical exercise through walking, jogging, swimming, and calisthenics; and lectures, roundtables, and field trips covering a broad range of topics. Vellas' program had such success that by 1978 the program was copied in

32 campuses throughout France and internationally in Switzerland, Belgium, Poland and Canada.

Retired Marine Corps General Victor Krulak is credited with broaching the idea of bringing a University of the Third Age program to USD. President Author Hughes saw value in the program and began planning for a pilot program in August 1978. The pilot program mirrored Vellas' idea, with approximately 50 students attending five weeks of courses in physical conditioning, current affairs, law, economics, religion, medicine, retirement, language, and art. Undergraduate students were also involved in helping with the program. Press for inaugural year was accompanied by a documentary film broadcast by KCST-TV 39 San Diego. The film, which aired in November 1978, covered why the program was founded and documented what took place during the first University session.

The University of the Third Age expanded to be offered twice per year, in winter and summer, and to enroll more students. The program has continued for nearly forty years and is the longest running community outreach program offered by the University of San Diego.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content Note

The University of the Third Age records document the foundational years of the program. Records include plans and reports about the program and solicitation for funding. News articles, correspondence, and the script for the November 1978 documentary, broadcast by KCST-TV 39 San Diego, are included. Also included are records about establishing an Alumni association for the University, the graduation ceremony, programs for the early years of the university, and information about the courses taught. In addition to the administrative files are newspaper clippings and press releases related to the program.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series:

[Series I. Administrative Files](#)

[Series II: News Items](#)

Records are arranged in alphabetical order.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Restrictions

These records are open for research.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Related Material

The 1978 documentary video is available for view in the University Archives and Special Collections.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Index Terms

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Hughes, Author E.
Krulak, Victor H.
Vellas, Pierre
University of San Diego
San Diego (Calif.)
continuing education
University of the Third Age movement

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Preferred citation

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, University of the Third Age records, Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Tessie Camina in 2009. Further processing was conducted by Ashley Toutain in 2016.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Administrative Records, 1978-1984

Administrative records consist of reports, planning information, schedules, programs, and correspondence associated with the beginning year of the University of the Third Age.

Box Folder

- 1 1 Alumni Steering Committee meetings, 1979
- 2 Alumni Association Correspondence and By-Laws, 1978, 1981, 1984
- 3 Course Daily Schedules, 1978
- 4 Daily Schedules, 1978
- 5 Debriefing Session, 1978
- 6 Employee Bill Ritter Correspondence, 1979
- 7 Graduation Program, 1978 August
- 8 Graduation Program, 1979
- 9 Grant Request, 1978
- 10 Krulak, V. H. [Victor H.] Correspondence, 1978-1979
- 11 Letter of Appreciation - President Hughes, 1978, 1979
- 12 Luncheon Guest List, 1978
- 13 Notes on Members' Physical Conditioning, undated
- 14 Plans, 1978
- 15 Program Film Documentary, 1979
[Includes text of President Author Hughes remarks as part of the documentary.]
- 16 Program Film Documentary Preview, 1978 October 30
[Includes news articles about the documentary.]
- 17 Program Film Documentary Script, 1978
- 18 Program for Seniors Announcement, 1981
- 19 Program Schedule, 1982-1984
- 20 Program Schedules, 1978
- 21 Remarks - President Hughes, 1979
- 22 Report, 1979
[Report of the second year of the University of the Third Age. The report includes information about the courses, student reactions, and copies of news articles and photographs.]
- 23 Reunion, 1979 March
- 24 Solicitation of Funding, 1979
[Includes a book highlighting the founding of the University of the Third Age and what it does.]
- 25 Student Directory, 1978-1979
- 26 Students' Welcome Packet, 1978
- 27 Summer Program Booklet, 1978

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- 28 Thank You Letter [to Storer Broadcasting KCST-TV for the documentary film], 1978

Series II: News Items, 1964-1980, 1995

News items consist of news clippings and releases related to the University of the Third Age. These include announcements about the program, and notices for graduating individuals.

Box Folder

- 1 29 News Clippings, 1978
30 News Clippings, 1979
31 News Clippings, 1983
32 News Releases, 1978
33 News Releases, 1979-1980
[About individual graduates.]
34 News Releases, 1982-1984