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Guide to the Presidential Debate records

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Guide to the Presidential Debate records

Overview of the Collection

Title:	Presidential Debate records
Dates:	1992, 1996
Creator:	University of San Diego University Relations
Quantity:	5 total boxes, 3 oversize (5 linear feet)
Summary:	This collection contains planning materials, videos, and news clippings for the University of San Diego's hosting of the 1992 and 1996 Presidential Debates. The 1992 debate was ultimately canceled, but the 1996 debate went forth as scheduled.
Identification:	USDA_2001_001, USDA_2011_005
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

1992 Debate

In August 1992, the Commission on Presidential Debates selected the University of San Diego as one of four Presidential Debate venues. The debate between President George Bush, then Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, and Texas businessman Ross Perot was to be held on Sunday October 4, 1992. Debates were also scheduled for Michigan State University, Louisville, Kentucky, and the University of Richmond in Virginia. The Bush campaign, however, had not formally confirmed attendance at these debates due to issue with the debate format.

After confirmation deadlines passed, the debates in Kentucky and San Diego were canceled and the Michigan debate was rescheduled. Later dates were then added to the schedule, leaving a 9 day span for all of the debates. Debates were held at Washington University of St. Louis on October 11th, the University of Richmond on October 15th, and Michigan State University on October 19th. A Vice Presidential Debate was held on October 13th at Georgia Tech.

In order to be selected as a debate site, the University of San Diego needed to raise \$500,000 dollars in debate hosting costs, transform Shiley Theatre into a televised debate studio, and transform the cafeteria into a press center for 2,000 reporters and technicians. Additional events were also planned including a Debate Forum, a candlelight tribute to the candidates and a mural wall constructed by the Associated Students.

1996 Debate

The University of San Diego was again chosen as a debate host site for the 1996 Presidential Debate between President Bill Clinton and Senator Bob Dole. Announced in January 1996, the Debate would be held October 16, 1996 in a town hall format. Hartford, CT was the site of the first debate held on October 6, 1996. Washington University of St. Louis was also selected as a site, but the event was canceled.

The Presidential Debate at the University of San Diego was held on October 16th in a newly renovated Shiley Theatre. C-SPAN offered live coverage of the debate. USD Director of Public Relations Jack Cannon served as the Chair of the Debate Planning Committee and oversaw planning and communication for the event. Additional events were planned in conjunction with the debate including a Corporate Associates Debate Luncheon featuring a panel forum of media and political figures, a Debate Gala, a World Media Pre-Debate reception for national and international media personnel, and KNSD/KSDO Debate Watch. Special single-unit courses with a debate theme were offered to students, as well as music and theatre presentation events and an exhibition in the Founders Gallery.

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Scope and Content Note

This collection contains planning records, videos, and news clippings associated with both the 1992 and 1996 Presidential Debates. 1992 Debate records cover the selection and subsequent cancellation of USD as a host site. News clippings also cover the controversy between the Bush and Clinton campaigns over why the debate was canceled. 1996 Debate records include correspondence, site selection and visitation information, planning meeting records, and contract information with the Commission on Presidential Debates. Design records featuring the debate logo which was placed on Media Kit items, t-shirts, lapel pins, and stationary are included. Short news cast videos are included along with promotional videos of USD, videos of debate preparation, and coverage of the debate. Also included are contact sheets with photographs of the event;

newspaper articles covering site selection and the Debate; and a scrapbook of photographs, news, and event programs.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized into three series:

[Series I: Presidential Debate, 1992](#)

[Series II: Presidential Debate, 1996](#)

[Series III: Debate Videos](#)

Series II is further arranged into three subseries:

[A. Debate Planning Records](#)

[B. Debate Binders](#)

[C. Scrapbook](#)

Series III is further arranged into two subseries:

[A. 1992 Debate](#)

[B. 1996 Debate](#)

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Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

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Index Terms

Bush, George, 1924-

Cannon, Jack

Clinton, Bill, 1946-

Dole, Robert J., 1923-

Hayes, Alice

Hughes, Author

Shiley, Darlene

University of San Diego

University of San Diego. Shiley Theatre

San Diego (Calif.)

political events

Presidents--United States--Election--1992.

Presidents--United States--Election--1996.

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Administrative Information

Preferred citation

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, Presidential Debate records, Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Ashley Toutain in 2017.

Alternative Format Available

The 1996 Debate Scrapbook has been digitized.

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Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Presidential Debate 1992

Records in this series document the selection of USD as a host site for the 1992 Presidential Debate and subsequent cancellation of the event. Records also include planning materials from the University of Richmond, which remained as a host site for the 1992 debate. News articles about site selection and cancellation of the debate make up a large portion of these materials.

Box Folder

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | 1 | Activities and Events [University of Richmond], 1992 |
| | 2 | American Political Network The Hotline, September 1992 |
| | 3 | Backgrounder (Preliminary Visit), August 1992 |
| | 4 | Commission on Presidential Debates, June - August 1992 |
| | 5 | Communication Faculty and Staff, September 1992 |
| | 6 | Communication Students, September 1992 |
| | 7 | Contract (Letter of Intent), August - September 1992 |
| | 8 | Contributions and Sponsorships, 1992 |
| | 9 | Correspondence with Elected Officials, 1992 |
| | 10 | Debate Follow Up, October 1992 |
| | 11 | Debate Forums, 1992 |
| | 12 | Debate Lottery Students/Winners, 1992 |
| | 13 | Debate Packet, 1992 |

- 14 Debate Tickets and Access [University of Richmond], 1992
- 15 Decision to be a Host Site [University of Richmond], 1992
- 16 Estimated Costs, 1992
- 17 Media Local, 1992
- 18 Media National, 1992
- 19 Monitoring Report, 1992
- 20 Operational Plans Facilities [University of Richmond], 1992
- 21 Operational Plans Police and Security [University of Richmond], 1992
- 22 Post Debate [University of Richmond], October 1992
- 23 Public Relations and Media [University of Richmond], 1992
- 24 Student Volunteers [University of Richmond], September 1992
- 25 Presidential Task Force Meetings, September 1992
- 26 Press Advisories, August 1992
- 27 Press Clips, August - October 1992
- 28 Site Visits, August - September 1992
- 29 Task Force Committees [University of Richmond], 1992
- 30 USD Dropped as Debate Site, October 1992
- 31 XYZ of Inquiries, 1992

Series II: Presidential Debate 1996

Records document the planning of the 1996 Presidential Debate held at the University of San Diego. Planning records include information and meeting materials for the debate planning committee, correspondence regarding the event, financial documents, the debate contract, and discussions with the Commission on Presidential Debates regarding site selection. Also included are the debate transcript and news articles covering the University of San Diego as the host site. Records also include Media Kits, Programs, and Invitations for the debate as well as invitations for the Debate Luncheon.

Subseries A: Debate planning records, 1996

Box	Folder	
1	32	Presidential Debate, October 16, 1996
	33	Access Passes, 1996
	34	Activities and Events, 1996
	35	C-SPAN Plans for Coverage, 1996
	36	Committees, 1996
	37	Community Debate Watch, 1996
	38	Contract, February 1996
	39	Contributions and Sponsorships, 1996
	40	Correspondence, 1996
	41	Cultural Events, 1996
	42	Debate Commission Team Technical Visit, 1996
	43	USD Debate Directory, 1996
	44	Debate Luncheon, 1996

45	Debate Tickets and Access, 1996
46	Debate Update, 1996
47	Debate Watch, 1996-1997
48	Events in Conjunction with the Debate, 1996
49	Invitation, 1996
50	Journalists List, 1996
51	KNDO/KNSD Community Forum Proposal, 1996
52	Master Calendar, 1996
53	Presidential Debate Media Coverage, 1996-1997
54	Media Kits, 1996
55	Miscellaneous, 1996
56	News Clippings, 1996
57-58	Debate News Articles, 1996 [Includes Hartford Connecticut debate materials. The City of Hartford served as the location for the Vice Presidential debates.]
59	Debate News, 1996
60	Operations Plans Facilities, 1996
61	Operations Plans Security, 1996
62	Operations Plan University Relations Task Force, 1992
63	Presidential Debate Task Force, 1996
64	Presidential Debate Task Force Shiley Theatre Renovation and Parking, 1996
65	Press, 1996
66	Debate Media Kit folder, 1996 [Includes luncheon photographs.]
67-68	Promotional Materials, 1996 [Includes materials designed with the 1996 Presidential Debate logo. Material includes folder of University of San Diego brochures, faculty media guide, press releases, and Presidential Debate pin.]
69	Debate Buttons, 1996
70	Debate Programs and Debate Luncheon, October 16, 1996
Box	Folder
2	1 Request Forms Public Safety, 1996
	2 USD Resource Guide, 1996
	3 Site Selection Guidelines, 1996
	4 Stationary, 1996
	5 Student Volunteers, 1996
	6 Debate Transcript, 1996
	7 Trinity College Debate Folder, 1996
	8 University Relations Calendar, October 1996
	9 Unsolicited Correspondence, 1996

- 10 Vendors, 1996
- 11 World Press Reception, 1996

Box

3
(Oversize)

- Chicago Tribune*, October 16, 1996
- Chicago Tribune*, October 17, 1996
- Dallas Morning News*, October 16, 1996
- Dallas Morning News*, October 18, 1996
- Hartford Courant*, October 16, 1996
- Hartford Courant*, October 17, 1996
- Hartford Courant*, October 18, 1996
- New York Post*, October 17, 1996
- New York Times*, October 17, 1996
- Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 15, 1996
- Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 17, 1996
- San Diego Union Tribune*, October 10, 1996
- San Diego Union Tribune*, October 16, 1996
- San Diego Union Tribune*, October 17, 1996
- San Diego Union Tribune*, October 18, 1996
- San Diego Union Tribune*, October 21, 1996
- St. Louis Post Dispatch*, October 16, 1996
- St. Louis Post Dispatch*, October 17, 1996
- Vista*, September 12, 1996
- Vista*, October 10, 1996
- Vista*, October 16, 1996

Subseries B: Debate Binders, 1996

These records were compiled into four binders by University Relations staff to document all aspects of planning the 1996 Debate, along with an additional binder of debate photograph contact sheets. Binders are well organized by topic and include materials such as correspondence, planning, schedules, meeting minutes, campus advisories, preparation information, activity lists for debate week, and news articles about the event. Much, but not all, of the materials is duplicated in the former records, though these follow a different organizational structure. These are also a more finalized composition of the debate planning.

Records were originally organized within five binders. These have been transferred to archival boxes and folders for preservation purposes. Original order has been retained.

Box Folder

- 2 12-13 Decision to be a Debate Site, 1996
[Binder 1]
- 14 Presidential Debate Task Force, 1996
[Binder 1]

- 15 Sponsorships and Contributions, 1996
[Binder 1]
- 16 Financial Estimates, 1996
[Binder 1]
- 17-18 Special Events, 1996
[Binder 2]
- 19 Student Involvement Binder, 1996
[Binder 2]
- 20 GALLOP Organization, 1996
[Binder 2]
- 21 Memorabilia and Merchandise, 1996
[Binder 2]
- 22 President Hayes' Debate Activities, 1996
[Binder 3]
- 23 Media Preparations, 1996
[Binder 3]
- 24 Press Communications, 1996
[Binder 3]
- 25 USD Debate Website, 1996
[Binder 3]
- 26 Event Notices and Calendars, 1996
[Binder 3]
- 27 Photography, 1996
[Binder 4]
- 28 Printing, 1996
[Binder 4]
- 29 Facilities, 1996
[Binder 4]
- 30 Security, 1996
[Binder 4]
- 31 Debate Day at the University of San Diego, 1996
[Binder 4]
- 32-34 Press Coverage from Beginning to End, 1996
[Binder 4]

Box Folder

- 4 1 Jack Cannon Photographs, 1996
(Oversize) [From Binder 3]
- 2 Second Presidential Debate Contact Sheets, 1996
[Binder 5]

Subseries C: Scrapbook, 1996

Debate scrapbook containing photographs of debate preparations, the press area, the Corporate Associates luncheon, Debate Watch, and of cake models of government buildings. In addition to the photographs, news releases, articles, invitations and event programs are included in the scrapbook. A digitized version of this scrapbook is available as TIFF and PDF.

Box	Folder	
5 (Oversize)	1	Presidential Debate - Bill Clinton and Bob Dole - University of San Diego, 1996

Series III: Debate Videos, 1992, 1996

Videos for the 1992 and 1996 primarily consist of news coverage. These are short newscast clips covering the selection and cancellation of USD as a debate site in 1992, and the selection and occurrence of the debate at USD in 1996. Also included is full C-SPAN coverage of the 1996 debate, footage of the Darlene Shiley speech, and Turner Adventure Learning Behind the Scenes of the 1996 election.

These videos have been transferred from their original VHS format for preservation purposes. Access copies of these videos are available as DVD. Preservation copies are in .mov format stored in Archive repository and on hard drive.

Subseries A: 1992 Debate, August 14, 1992 - September 29, 1992

13 news clip videos covering the selection of USD as a site for the Presidential Debate, USD's preparation for the Debate, and the cancellation of the debate. Video length ranges from approximately 1 minute to approximately 7 minutes. News programs are from local news stations such as KFMB, KGTV, KNSD, and KUSI, along with a national CNN newscast.

Subseries B: 1996 Debate, 1996

12 news clip videos featuring USD's selection, planning for the debate, coverage of the debate. News programs from local news stations such as KFMB, KGTV, and KNSD, along with national newscasts from CNN and C-SPAN. In addition to news clips are the full-length coverage of the debate, Turner Adventure Learning Behind the Scenes coverage, and footage of USDs preparations. An interview with Jack Cannon, Chair of the Debate Task Force and footage of Darlene Shiley's speech are also included. Videos range in length from 30 second news clips, to 20 minute preparation videos, to the two hour Turner Adventure Learning video.