

University Archives Collections

The Hofstra University Archives, which serves as the repository for the historical records of Hofstra University, is located on the lower floor of the Joan & Donald E. Axinn Library. Its primary purpose is to document the history of the University and to provide such documentation to administrators, alumni, faculty, staff, students, and other members of the University community. The Archives also assists scholars and other legitimate researchers who seek to evaluate the impact of the University and its activities on the history of American social, cultural, and intellectual development.

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75th Anniversary Banner

75th Anniversary Oral History Project Collection

The 75th Anniversary Oral History Project Collection consists of over 100 audiotaped interviews with Hofstra administrators, alumni, faculty, staff, and students. The interviews were recorded by Hofstra students who were trained in oral history techniques and placed in the University Archives for research.



[Oral History Project In Depth](#)



Portrait photograph of Donald E. Axinn

Axinn, Donald E., 1929-2009. Videotapes, 1989-2002. 0.7 cubic ft.

Donald E. Axinn (1929-2009) was an author, poet, aviator and investment banker. Axinn wrote twelve books of poetry and three novels, including *Spin*, which was made into a full-length feature film. He founded Donald E. Axinn Companies, a leading investment firm, and served as a director at the publishing house Farrar, Straus & Giroux. He became the Associate Dean of the Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1971. Axinn served on the Board of Trustees at Hofstra University from February 18, 1970-1979; he was on leave from 1979-1984, and fully resigned as of October 25, 1990. (He was made a Trustee Emeritus in 1979.) He also served on the Boards of Trustees for The Cradle of Aviation Museum at Roosevelt Field and the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. In 1983, he cofounded the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN), which feeds and houses the homeless. In acknowledgement of his generosity and many services to the University, the Hofstra University Library was renamed the Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library in a dedication ceremony held in December 1987.

The collection is composed of twenty-one videotapes and one audio cassette tape, all of which feature Donald E. Axinn. The tapes include interviews, television appearances and recordings of Hofstra's December 1991 commencement exercises, at which Axinn was an honoree.



[Collection Finding Aid](#)

Block, Jules Richard, 1930- . Collection Papers, 1949-1998 (bulk dates 1964-1972). 16.5 linear ft.

Professor, Author, Vice President

The Dr. Jules Richard Block Collection in the Hofstra University Archives consists of the personal and professional papers and publications of Dr. Block, who taught at Hofstra from 1956-1976, and then assumed executive level administrative roles at the University. Included in these roles is that of Vice President for Planning and Liaison. He held this position until his retirement in 2001.

The collection includes personal and professional correspondence relating to his roles as professor and administrator at Hofstra, correspondence relating to his civic duties as a professional at the University and in the community, his research studies and publications, and his inventions and other business endeavors, and other media such as cassette tapes, beta tapes, and video cassettes.

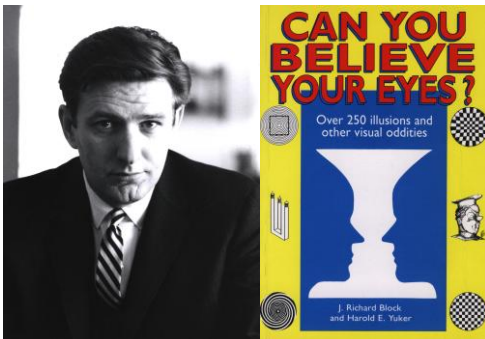


Photo of Dr. Jules Richard Block and his "Can You Believe Your Eyes?" game



[Collection Finding Aid](#)



Professor Matthew N. Chappell, right
(1900-1968)

**Chappell, Matthew N., 1900-1968. Collection,
1909-1964 (bulk dates 1930-1945). 8.25 cubic ft.**

Psychologist, Professor, Author, Researcher, Radio Broadcaster.

The Matthew N. Chappell Collection at Hofstra University consists of the professional papers of Chappell, as well as those of Frank Henry (F.H.) Pike (1876-1953), a professor of physiology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons (Columbia University) until his retirement in 1941. Pike was Chappell's mentor during Chappell's years of study and teaching at Columbia. In subsequent years, the two collaborated on research pertaining to the physiology of the nervous system and physiological psychology.



[Collection Finding Aid](#)



[Online Exhibit](#)



Professor Thomas Erwin Coffin
(1916-1999)

**Coffin, Thomas Erwin, 1916-1999. Collection,
1940-1988. 4.5 cubic ft.**

Psychology Professor, Television Marketing Researcher

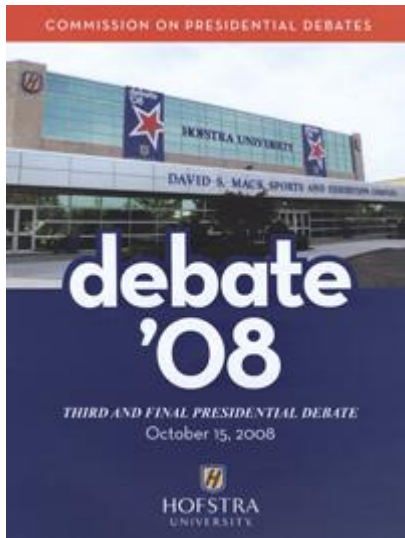
The Thomas Erwin Coffin Collection at Hofstra University consists of personal and professional papers belonging to Coffin. The collection, made up of 6 series of materials, including biographical information, correspondence, research studies and reports, and printed materials. The arrangement of this collection's contents reflects Coffin's role at Hofstra as well as emphasizes the importance of his research on television marketing that began before he left Hofstra and continued during and after his tenure at the National Broadcasting Company.



[Collection Finding Aid](#)



[Online Exhibit](#)



Official Debate '08 Publication, 2008

Debate '08 Collection, 2008. 6.5 cubic ft.

On November 19, 2007, the Commission on Presidential Debates announced that it had chosen Hofstra University for the site of the final 2008 presidential debate, to be held on October 15, 2008. The year that followed was highlighted by the University's Educate '08 initiative, a yearlong series of lectures, conferences, artistic performances and exhibitions, town hall meetings and interactive forums focused on the issues, history and politics of presidential elections. These events all led up to the debate itself, which provided the Hofstra community with a rare, firsthand look at the democratic process in action.

The Debate '08 collection includes brochures, flyers, posters, DVDs, print material and ephemera and memorabilia related to the Educate '08 initiative and the presidential debate. Noteworthy among the items in the collection is the commemorative gold coin of Hofstra University's 50th anniversary tossed to determine the first presidential candidate questioned in the debate. Also notable are the specially-ordered Schott Zwiesel glasses used by the candidates on stage.



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[Online Exhibit](#)



Students performing in production of The Saint Plays, 2005

Drama and Dance Department Collection, 1937-current. 31 cubic ft.

The Drama and Dance Department at Hofstra University provides its students with the opportunity to develop and hone their skills as performers, and deepen their appreciation for these arts while on their way to careers in the theater and beyond. The Department performs several plays, musicals and dance concerts each semester.

Famous alumni of the Drama and Dance program include Susan Sullivan, Lainie Kazan, Madeline Kahn, James Barbour, Margaret Colin, Francis Ford Coppola, Robert Davi, Peter Friedman, Tom McGowan, and Phil Rosenthal.

The collection, which spans the years 1937-current, includes programs, photos, posters, slides, negatives, contact sheets, CDs, awards, set designs, scripts, scrapbooks, newsletters, correspondence, and newspaper clippings.



[Collection Finding Aid](#)



Professor Stephen Dunn
(1939-)

**Dunn, Stephen, 1939- . Collection, 1947-2009.
21.0 cubic ft.**

Poet and Distinguished Professor

The Stephen Dunn Collection at Hofstra University consists of the personal and professional papers of Dunn, including various publications in which he appeared throughout his career. These are in the form of volumes, magazines, and articles. Also included is correspondence with other poets, in which they discuss Dunn's poetry or the correspondents'. The collection also includes personal correspondence with friends and colleagues regarding topics other than poetry, as well as fan mail. A large part of the collection consists of early versions of his poetry, many of which are handwritten or notebook versions. There is also memorabilia from the Pulitzer Prize celebration and a scrapbook of that event.



[Collection Finding Aid](#)



William D. Hull (1918-1984),
College Professor

**Hull, William D., 1918-1984. Papers, 1906-1984.
Collection, (bulk dates 1935-1979). 12.0 cubic ft.**

Poet, Professor, Playwright

The William D. Hull collection at Hofstra University consists of the personal and professional papers of Hull, who was a professor at Hofstra from 1946 until his death in 1984.

The collection includes personal and family correspondence, correspondence relating to his career as a professor at Hofstra and other institutions, and as a Fulbright scholar lecturing at universities in Sri Lanka and India; manuscripts of essays and lectures, poems, verse dramas, and his ten-volume poetic work *Visions of Handy Hopper*; magazines and books containing poems and articles by Hull; audiotapes of Hull reading his works, photographs, music manuscripts, drawings and sketches; personal items and artifacts.



[Collection Finding Aid](#)



[Online Exhibit](#)

Judd, Gerrit P., IV, 1915-1971. Collection
6.5 cubic ft.

Professor of History and Author

The Gerrit P. Judd IV Collection at Hofstra University consists of the professional papers of Judd, who was a professor at Hofstra from 1950 to 1971. It consist of manuscripts of the books he has written, correspondence, lecture notes, and pictures covering his work at Hofstra University and elsewhere.

Dr. Gerrit P. Judd IV was a Distinguished Professor of history at Hofstra University for 21 years. He joined Hofstra in 1950 as chairman of the history department. Judd received his full professorship in 1959, and was given the title of Distinguished Professor 10 years later after stepping down from the chairmanship. An authority on European and Hawaiian history, Dr. Judd was the author of a number of books on both topics, including *A Hawaiian Anthology* and the widely used college text, *A History of Civilization*. He was a direct descendant of Gerrit P. Judd I, a medical missionary who played a key role in the early development of the Hawaiian kingdom, and who later served as the key minister in the Hawaiian cabinet from 1842 to 1854. Gerrit Judd IV wrote about his ancestor in the book, *Dr. Judd, Hawaii's Friend*, considered by many scholars as the most definitive volume of that period in Hawaiian history. Prior to coming to Hofstra, Dr. Judd was assistant professor of history at Franklin and Marshall College. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946 and 1950 to 1952, after which he was discharged as a Lieutenant Commander of the U.S. Naval Reserve. He received his bachelor's degree and Ph.D. from Yale University.



Claremont Photo by Hoffmann
BOOK TALK. Prof. Gerrit Judd of Garden City, left, chairman, Hofstra College History Department, discusses fall of Reich with Rabbi Max J. Rottenberg and Mrs. James Ginsberg, both of Rockville Centre, at Women's Institute lecture in Temple E'Nai Shalom, Rockville Centre.

Professor Gerrit Judd IV, left
(1915-1971)



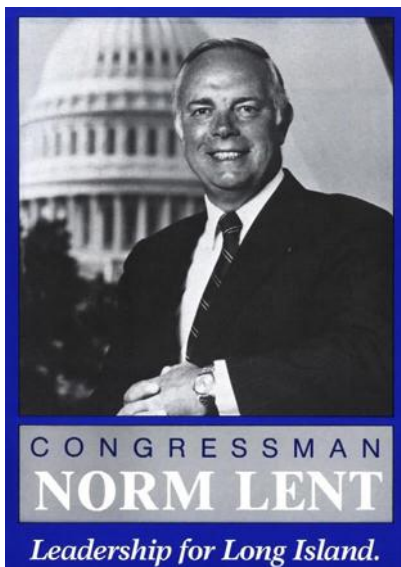
[Collection Finding Aid](#)



[Online Exhibit](#)

Lent, Norman F. (March 23, 1931 - .), Collection, 1971-1992. 123 scrapbooks, 3 boxes of photographs 72.0 cubic ft.

The Congressman Norman F. Lent Collection is comprised of documents from Lent's public service in the New York State Senate, and the United States Congress as a representative for New York State's Fourth and Fifth Congressional Districts. The collection was donated by Congressman Lent and consists of scrapbooks constructed by Mr. Lent during his tenure as congressman, from September 1962 to June 1992. It focuses on local, state, and federal policy and the effects of legislation on Long Island. The scrapbooks contain election materials, congressional records, newspaper and magazine articles, official government letters, photographs, White House event invitations, keepsake items and photographs. This collection is organized chronologically in the form of scrap books. Noteworthy items include White House event invitations, Presidential inauguration event materials, photographs, congressional polling material, election materials, and congressional district surveys.



Campaign Poster



[Collection Finding Aid](#)



[Samples From The Collection](#)

Levin, Harvey J., 1924-1992. Papers, 1947-1992. Collection, (bulk dates 1954-1992). 13.0 cubic ft.

Economist, Author, Professor, Activist



Professor Harvey J. Levin
(1924-1992)

The Harvey J. Levin collection at Hofstra University consists of the personal and professional papers of Levin, who was a professor at Hofstra from 1955 until his death in 1992.

He joined Hofstra in 1955 as an Assistant Professor of Economics, becoming an Associate Professor (1956-62), Professor (1962-64), and Chairman of Economics (1961-64). In addition to his concentration in economics, in 1975 he was appointed Special Professor of Law (Hofstra Law School), and in that same year became the Coordinating Chairperson for the Faculty Public Policy Workshop. In addition, in 1989 he was appointed University Research Professor.



[Collection Finding Aid](#)



[Online Exhibit](#)

Mason, Richard F., 1929- . Collection, 1944-1990. 4.5 cubic ft.

Professor of Drama, Actor, Director and Writer



Professor Richard F. Mason (1929-)

The Richard F. Mason collection at Hofstra University consists of the personal and professional papers of Mason, who was a professor at Hofstra from 1964 until his retirement with emeritus status in 1993.

The Richard F. Mason Papers at Hofstra University consist of scrapbooks covering his work from the late 1940's through his application for full professor at Hofstra in 1979. In addition, correspondence, playbills, programs, reviews, flyers, and posters comprise the remainder of the materials.

Dr. Richard F. Mason was a professor of Drama as well as a talented artist, who excelled as an actor, writer, and director. He arrived at Hofstra University in 1964, after receiving his B.A. in Humanities from Boston College and both his M.A. and Ph.D. in Theatre Arts from the University of Wisconsin. The teaching and research interests of Dr. Mason included theater styles and forms, twentieth century drama, directing, acting, and cinema.



[Collection Finding Aid](#)



Professor Broadus Mitchell
(1892-1988)

Mitchell, Broadus, 1892-1988. Collection, 1926-1975 (bulk dates 1926-1941, 1957-1958). 6.0 cubic ft.

Professor, Author, Politician, Civic Leader and Civil Rights Activist

The Broadus Mitchell Collection at Hofstra University contains family correspondence, professional correspondence and organizational correspondence which detail the events in Mitchell's life. Also included are print materials, manuscript materials, a small amount of financial documents and personal items. Mitchell taught economics at Johns Hopkins from 1919 to 1939. He ran for Governor of Maryland in 1934 on the Socialist Party ticket. He spent successive years at Occidental College in California from 1939 to 1941 and at New York University from 1942 to 1944. He also taught at Rutgers from 1949 to 1958. Mitchell came to Hofstra's New College in 1958 and retired in 1967 at 75; he received an Honorary Degree from Hofstra in 1967. In Tarrytown, New York he died at the age of 95.



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[Online Exhibit](#)



Professor Harry H. Wachtel with
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

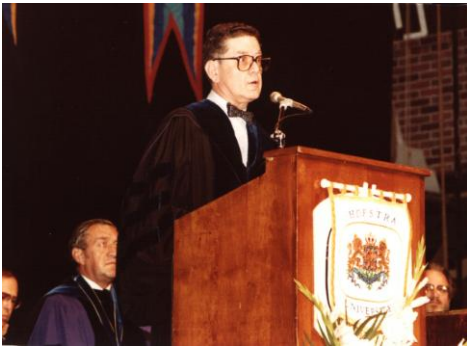
Wachtel, Harry H., 1917-1997. Papers, 1950-1990 (bulk dates 1960-1980). 27.0 cubic ft.

Lawyer, Civil Rights Activist, Professor, and Business Executive.

The Hofstra University Archives, through Trustee Emeritus Bernard Fixler and Mrs. Lucy Wachtel, were given Harry Wachtel's Papers. The collection, encompassing approximately 15.0 cubic feet of paper documentation, with an additional 12.0 cf. of print materials, is arranged in seventeen series. The materials include information about a variety of Supreme Court cases, organizations such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, many aspects of civil rights, and Wachtel's trip with King and his supporters to Norway to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.



[Collection Finding Aid](#)



Professor Harold E. Yucker
(1924-1997)

Yuker, Harold E., 1924-1997. Collection, 1956-1997 (bulk date 1968-1995). 15.0 cubic ft.

Psychologist, Professor, Administrator, Researcher, Writer, Lecturer

The Harold E. Yuker Collection at Hofstra University consists of the professional and research papers of Yuker, a professor of psychology at Hofstra University from 1948 until his death in 1997 and a leading authority on attitudes toward the disabled.

Born with cerebral palsy in Newark, New Jersey shortly before the Depression, Yuker was the son of a baker and a seamstress. Dr. Yuker always maintained that although he was born with a physical disability, he did not consider himself handicapped. Widely recognized as a psychologist, Yuker was critical of the tendency of some disabled people to keep to themselves. His motto was, "The most important thing for anyone with a disability is to learn to get along in a nondisabled world." This is how Harold Yuker lived his own life.



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