Collection 00022
Department of Biology
Chair, Rev. Joseph L. Meyers, CSB

University of St. Thomas
Houston, Texas

Processed by
Nancy Vesey

February 1, 2012
Historical Note

Rev. Joseph L. Meyers, CSB, began his 54 years of service to the University of St. Thomas in 1949 as a professor of Biology. Eventually he became chairman of the Biology Department and served in that capacity until 1983. Father Meyers, known to his students as that pipe-smoking biology professor, was a faithful, dedicated teacher and lab instructor until 1985, when he was named Professor Emeritus in Biology. During his time as professor of biology, he had the privilege of monitoring the building of a new biology facility in 1966 – Anderson Hall. In recognition of his service to the University community, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters at the 1997 May commencement.

Father Meyers’ involvements in campus life included Faculty Advisor of the yearbook – Summa – and Spiritual Director for the Holy Name Society for men. He also coordinated the First Friday Nocturnal Adoration held in the University Chapel for nearly twenty years. As a member of the University’s Basilian Community, he served as Superior from 1968 – 1974.

On April 2, 1987, the Rev. Joseph L. Meyers, CSB, Endowed Scholarship in Biology was created. The first recipient of this scholarship was presented to a member of the Senior Class in 1994 at the opening of the new science building – Robertson Hall. A Biology Alumni Committee continues the work of funding this scholarship.
**Biographical Note**

Rev. Joseph L. Meyers, CSB, was born November 7, 1915, in Houston, Texas. His association with the Basilian Fathers began in high school at St. Thomas College (now known as St. Thomas High School) in Houston. He was a member of the class of 1932. His further education included a B.A. degree from the University of Western Ontario – 1938; the M.Ed degree from Wayne State University – 1941. He pursued further graduate studies at the University of Texas, Austin and Galveston, Texas.

Father Meyers was ordained a Basilian priest on August 15, 1943, in Toronto, Canada. He celebrated fifty years as a Basilian at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Anne’s Catholic Church, Houston, on September 19, 1993.

After several months of failing health, Fr. Meyers died on May 29, 2003, at St. Michael’s Hospital, Toronto, Canada.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection of the Biology Department covers the period from 1949 to 2004. Subjects include:

- Administrators Retreats
- Applications for Teaching Positions
- Associations, Affiliations, Foundations
- Biology Building
- Biology Faculty Searches
- Board of Directors Meetings
- Class Grade Records
- Committees, Councils, Senate
- Courses
- Department Meetings
- Donors
- Forms
- General Correspondence
- Miscellaneous Items
- Reports and Reviews
- Students
**Acquisition Information**

The files were obtained from the Department of Biology.

**Physical Condition**

Most of the files are in good condition. Some of the papers have a small amount of rust on them from the fasteners that were used. Others are somewhat acidic which have turned the papers brown. No conservation work is planned.

**INVENTORY**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Folder</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>January 4, 1990 – July 30, 1990</td>
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<td>August 20, 1990 – December 11, 1990</td>
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<td>June 5, 1991 – December 19, 1991</td>
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</table>
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, (continued)

Box Folder
4  1  1993
2  1994
3  1995
4  1996
5  1997 - 2000

FACULTY

5  1  Advisors List and Handbook, 1992 – 1997
2  Faculty Elections and Results, 1989
3  Faculty Humor, 1984 – 1989
4  Faculty Meeting of Science/Math/Computer Science: Minutes, 1990
5  Faculty Needs and Department Analysis, November 28, 1988
6  Faculty Office Hours and Class Schedules, 1989 – 1996
7  FYE Advisors List and Memos, 1997 – 1998
8  Study Day: Agendas, Meetings, Correspondence, 1979 – 1998
9  Study Day: Core Curriculum Publication, August 22, 1980
10 Study Day: Four Talks on Origins, Aims, Purpose and Spirit of UST, August 18, 1986

FACULTY EVALUATIONS

2  Donald Lococo, 1991 – 1996
3  Professor McClendon, 1996
4  Professor Newsome, 1996
5  Ellis L. Nordyke, 1989 – 1996
6  Anne Pinkerton, 1990 – 1996
8  Faculty Evaluation and Salary Plans, 1990 – 1992
9  Faculty Evaluation Memos, 1989 – 1992
### BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Folder</th>
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<tr>
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### STUDENT CLASS GRADE RECORDS

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<td>1955 – 1960</td>
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| 8   | 1      | 1970 – 1973 |
| 2   | 1973 – 1976 |
| 3   | 1976 – 1979 |
| 4   | 1979 – 1981 |
| 5   | 1981 – 1985 |

<p>| 9   | 1      | 1985 – 1988 |
| 2   | 1988 – 1992 |</p>
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**STUDENTS (MISCELLANEOUS)**

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<td>1</td>
<td>Aquinas Honor Society List, 1968 – 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Student Biology Hours Transferred to UST, 1991 – 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Class Field Trips, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Class Rosters, 1988 – 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dean’s List, 1972 – 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Student Enrollment by Major, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Student Evaluation and Recommendations to Graduate Schools, 1979 – 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Student Evaluation and Recommendations to Graduate Schools, 1991 – 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ft. Bend County Scholarships, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Grades, 1984 – 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Graduate Lists (Biology), 1950 – 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Harry S. Truman Scholarship Nominations, October 29, 1990</td>
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<td>Jesuit College Preparatory School Scholarships, October 7, 1964</td>
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<td>Probation Status Lists, 1968 – 1980</td>
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<td>Student Association Constitution, n.d.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Student Lists (handwritten), 1958 – 1970</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Student Papers (2) by Elizabeth A. Sledden, 1979</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Student Probation, Suspension and Aquinas Honor Society, 1965 – 1967</td>
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<td>Student Requests to Anne Pinkerton for Letters of Recommendations, 1991 – 1996</td>
</tr>
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</table>
STUDENTS (MISCELLANEOUS) (continued)

Box  Folder

11  8  Survival Handbook for Students, 1975
     9  Suspended Student Lists, 1966 – 1973

COURSES

10  Biology Course Schedules, 1983 – 1992
11  Closed Classes, 1998 – 2000
12  Course Offerings, 1989 – 1990
13  Exams, 1993 – 1994
14  Exams, 1995 – 2003
15  Syllabus and Course Schedules, 1995 – 1996

COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, SENATE

12  1  Academic Affairs Committee of the Board, 1994 – 1995
     3  College Committee on Teacher Education, 1989 – 1991
     4  Curriculum Committee: Courses for Undergraduate Catalog,
        1966 – 1997
     5  Curriculum Committee: Course Plans, 1967 – 1999
     6  Curriculum Committee Meetings: Agendas, Minutes, 1972 – 2000
     7  Curriculum Committee: Memos and Correspondence re: Core,
        1983 – 1997
     8  Faculty Council Meetings and Agendas, 1980 – 1998
     9  Faculty Development Committee Report, February 21, 1989
    10  Faculty Evaluation Committee, 1994 – 1995

13  1  Faculty Senate Meetings, Minutes and Attachments, 1972 – 1994
     2  Faculty Senate Expenses, 1988 – 1990
     3  Graduate Council: Year End Summaries, 1992 – 1993
COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, SENATE

Box  Folder

    7  Subcommittee on Core Curriculum, n.d.

ADMINISTRATIVE RETREATS

14  1  Administrators Retreat, Spring 1994
    2  Administrators Retreat, January 1995

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3  Meeting, December 12, 1990
4  Meeting, April 12, 1991
5  Meeting, October 19, 1994
6  Miscellaneous Items, November 23, 1994
7  Meeting Summary, October 15, 1997
8  Meeting Summary, January 28, 1998
9  Meeting Summary, June 17, 1998
10 Meeting Summary, January 27, 1999
11 Historical and Projected Budgets Report Presented to the
    Board of Directors, 1984 – 2000

BIOLOGY BUILDING

15  1  Howard Barnstone and Partners, Architect Floor Plans, 1965 – 1966
2  E. H. Sheldon Equipment Company, Muskegon, Michigan, Floor
    Plans, 1964
3  Equipment Bid Tabulations, Certified and Plain, January 18, 1966
4  Hall/Merriman Architect Plans, 1991
5  Linbeck: Cost Reduction Summary of Science Building,
    December 13, 1991
6  Renovation of Anderson Hall, 1st and 2nd Floor Plan, 1997
DONORS

Box  Folder

15  7  Cullen Trust for Higher Education, 1987
8    Endowed Scholarship List of Donors, 1989 – 1990
9    Endowment Scholarship in Honor of Joseph L. Meyers, CSB, by Mark Netoskie, 1992
11   M. D. Anderson Foundation Grant, July 2, 1987
12   President’s Scholars, 1980 – 1981
13   Scholarship Fund, Francis A. Jarratt, 1966 – 1967
14   Scholarship Fund In Memory of Victor V. Jacomini, 1984

FORMS

15   All-Campus Facilities, 1989
16   Change of Employee Status for Sam Skjonsry, January 27, 1997
17   Course Drop by Instructor, February 22, 1991
18   Counseling Form for a B.A. Degree, n.d.
19   Early Warning Analysis, n.d.
20   Key Request, 1991 – 1996
21   Learning Center Faculty Referral, n.d.
22   New Programs or Course Application, n.d.
23   Request for Grade Change, 1989 – 1991
24   Track II Advising, n.d.

REPORTS AND REVIEWS

25   Academic Program Review (Revised), October 1994
27   Report: A Review of the Divisional Structure of the School of Arts and Sciences, March 5, 1991
28   Report on Late Admissions Policy, September 16, 1992
29   Three Year Plan for Biology Department, March 1, 1991
**FOUNDATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, AFFILIATIONS**

**Box**  **Folder**

16  1  American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1981  
2  Consortium for the Advancement of Private Higher Education, 1989  
3  Cooperative College Registrar, January 7, 1977  
4  Department of Energy, Washington, D.C., 1989  
7  National Science Foundation (NSF): Graduate Fellowships, 1964 – 1991  
8  National Science Foundation (NSF): Chautauqua Courses, 1981 – 1991  
9  Project Kaleidoscope, September 8, 1994  
10  Springer International Experimental Brain Research, 1981  
11  Texas Association of Advisors for Health Professions, 1984 – 1998  
12  Texas Heart Institute: Proposal for Student Internship, n.d.  
14  The College Board: Multiple Assessment Programs and Services, 1981 – 1982  
15  The University of Texas Medical Branch, July 10, 1981  
16  Tissue Culture Association (TCA), October 16, 1981

**FOUNDATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, AFFILIATIONS, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools**

17  1  Self-Study: Committee Assignments, 1955  
2  Self-Study: Departments and Correspondence, 1971 – 1972  
3  Self-Study: General, 1972  
4  Self-Study: General, 1982  
5  Self-Study: Reports, 1973  
6  Self-Study: Special Study of the University of St. Thomas, (file 1 of 2), October 1954
FOUNDATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, AFFILIATIONS,
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Self-Study: Special Study of the University of St. Thomas, (file 2 of 2), October 1954</td>
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<td>Self-Study: Visiting Committee Report, 1973</td>
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<td>Staff Meetings, 1954</td>
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BIOLOGY SEARCHES

18 1  For Assistand Professor, Applications Denied, (file 1 of 2), May 1993
2  For Assistant Professor, Applications Denied, (file 2 of 2), May 1993

APPLICATIONS FOR TEACHING POSITIONS IN BIOLOGY

19 1  Applications: A through C, 1975 – 1983
2  Applications: D through H, 1974 – 1996
3  Applications: I through M, 1974 – 1996
5  Applications: S, 1975 – 1996
7  Candidates in Catholic Graduate Schools, Available for Teaching Positions, September 1996 and January 1997

MISCELLANEOUS

20 1  Biology Brochure (Published to Attract High School Students), 1980 – 1981
2  Biology Exhibit and Supplementary Report, 1949 – 1951
3  Biology Pamphlets and Brochures, 1974 – 1997
4  Computer Correspondence, 1984 – 1990
5  Fixed Asset Inventory for Biology Department, March 21, 1990
6  Five Year Calendar, March 15, 1990
MISCELLANEOUS (continued)

Box  Folder

20  7    Flyers, 1986 – 1999
8     Golden Gala All Classes Reunion, 1997
10    Institute for Storm Research at the University of St. Thomas:  
     History, n.d.
11    Irish Heritage, 1974 – 1975
12    News Release on Appointment of 6th President, Dr. Joseph M.  
     McFadden, July 1, 1988
13    Planning Assumptions and Goals for Biology Department,  
     1989 – 1992
14    Projected Needs for Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer  
15    Substance Abuse and Birth Defects and Aids, February 26, 1992
16    University of St. Thomas 25th Anniversary Party: Class of 1952,  
     May 28, 1977
17    University of St. Thomas 50th Anniversary: Plans and  
     Correspondence, 1994 - 1996