



Guide to the Lilly Fong Papers

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 28, 2022. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f17657>

© 2022 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	4
Scope and Contents Note	5
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	6
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	7

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Fong, Lilly, 1925-2002
Title:	Lilly Fong Papers
ID:	MS-00210
Date [inclusive]:	1964-1992
Physical Description:	69.13 Cubic Feet (58 boxes and 2 oversize folders)
Physical Description:	61.79 Linear Feet
Physical Location:	Some materials are stored in the Lied Automated Storage and Retrieval Unit (LASR). Advanced notice may be required to access these materials.
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Lilly Fong Papers are comprised of the professional and personal papers of Lilly Fong, the first woman and first Asian-American member of the University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN), now known as the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Board of Regents. The papers date from 1964 to 1992 and document Fong's community activities in various Las Vegas and Southern Nevada organizations in addition to her work on the UCCSN Board of Regents. Materials include correspondence, meeting minutes, letters, and press releases from various organizations, including the Board of Regents, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and the First Presbyterian Church in Las Vegas.

Preferred Citation

Lilly Fong Papers, 1964-1992. MS-00210. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Lilly Fong was born Lilly Ong Hing in Arizona on June 17, 1925, and was the first woman and first Asian-American member of the University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN), now known as the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Board of Regents. Fong was the first in her Chinese-American family to attend college, completing coursework at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, and Woodbury College in Los Angeles, California. Fong married Las Vegas, Nevada businessman Wing Fong and moved to Las Vegas in 1950. She worked as a teacher at the Fifth Street Elementary and West Charleston Schools and was the first Asian-American teacher hired by the Clark County School District. In addition to education, Fong worked with her husband operating the restaurant Fong's Garden, developed real estate in the Las Vegas Valley, and raised two children, a son and a daughter. Fong was an advocate for education throughout her life and was an active benefactor of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and the Community College of Southern Nevada from the 1960s through the 1990s. Fong also supported the Las Vegas branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

In 1974, Lilly Fong was elected a Regent for the UCCSN and held the position until 1985. During her time on the Board, Fong established an endowment (donating the entirety of her Regent's stipend) for the first Chinese Language Program at UNLV. Fong's previous experience as a fundraiser and philanthropist helped the UCCSN identify more funds and further develop higher education in the state of Nevada. The Board of Regents designated Lilly Fong as a Distinguished Nevadan for Southern Nevada in 1998 for her public service, philanthropy, and dedication to learning and higher education. The geoscience building on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus is named for her. Fong died on March 20, 2002.

Sources:

Kenneth W. Fong oral history interview, 2014 February 22. OH-00593. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Lilly Fong oral history interview, 1980 February 29. OH-00594. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dorothy Bokelmann, "Lilly Hing Fong." Nevada Women's History Project. March 2008, <https://www.nevadawomen.org/research-center/biographies-alphabetical/lilly-hing-fong/>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Lilly Fong Papers contain correspondence, memoranda, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, brochures, and event pamphlets from Lilly Fong, a former Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) regent, from 1964 to 1992. The collection includes correspondence that was sent to Fong during her tenure as regent, including invitations to events, reports about the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) as a whole, reports about different colleges and departments in the University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN), and budgetary information for UCCSN. Also included in the collection are Board of Regents meeting minutes, memoranda, reports, and materials relating to Fong's time as regent. The collection also contains newspaper clippings that Fong saved that mentioned UNLV, the Board of Regents, Chinese/United States relations or Fong family members, newsletters from the First Presbyterian Church and the National and Las Vegas branches the American Association of University Women. Fong served on the board of Far West Laboratories and the collection includes reports and correspondence sent to her. Also included is correspondence and memoranda from Fong's husband, Wing Fong, that primarily documents his involvement with the Rotary Club and his positions on various banking and financial boards including Nevada State Bank and Frontier Fidelity Savings and Loan Association.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Lilly Fong periodically from 1981 to 1993; accession numbers 1981-120, 1986-029, 1986-039, 1986-043, 1986-059, 1986-080, 1987-009, 1987-051, 1988-038, 1990-058, 1993-025.

Processing Note

In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Hannah Robinson wrote the collection description and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2019, Maggie Bukowski processed the collection, rehoued the materials, updated the collection description, and created an inventory in ArchivesSpace.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to materials in this collection:

Fong, Kenneth W. Interview, 2014 February 22. OH-02066. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Fong, Lilly Interview, 1980 February 02. OH-00595. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Fong, Wing Interview 1980 March 01. OH-00596. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Higher education and state -- West (U.S.)
- Asian American women
- Chinese American businesspeople
- Education and state -- Nevada
- University of Nevada System. Board of Regents
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- History
- American Association of University Women. Las Vegas Branch

- Fong, Wing G., 1925-2005

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Correspondence, programs, budgets, 1964-1992 Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information and will be open for research use on January 1, 2068. Restricted materials are housed in Box SH-044.	box 52
University of Nevada System (UNS) Board of Regents, Far West Laboratories, American Association of University Women (AAUW) correspondence; reports about scholarships and budget; First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas bulletins, 1969-1981	box 04
Newspaper clippings about the Equal Rights Amendment, 1970s-1980s	flat file 57
Correspondence relating to AAUW, Las Vegas Rotary Club; First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas bulletins, brochures, and pamphlets, 1971-1990	box 07
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges reports; correspondence, invitations, newspaper clippings, 1972-1986	box 38
Casino promotional material, Sparks hospital report, Nevada State Bank financial services reports, Gaming Control Board reports, AAUW, Clark County Bicentennial committee notes, Far West Laboratory memoranda and reports, 1973-1980	box 08
Personal correspondence, newspaper clippings, Chinese American Benevolent Society newsletters, Chinese Cultural Foundation newsletters, <i>East West</i> newspaper, 1973-1980	box 09
AAUW newsletters and correspondence; Nevada State Bank and Frontier Savings reports; Far West Laboratory correspondence and reports, 1973-1983	box 12
University of Nevada System (UNS) reports and budgets, 1973-1984	box 03
Correspondence, memoranda, budgets, Friends of the University of Nevada Press meeting minutes, 1973-1987	box 47
Correspondence, 1974-1983	box 05
AAUW reports, budgets and correspondence, 1974-1983	box 14
Newspaper clippings, Far West Laboratories correspondence, 1974-1988	box 18
AAUW reports, budgets, and correspondence; City of Las Vegas reports, 1974-1991	box 13
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, programs, Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra meeting minutes, 1974-1992	box 51
Board of Regents correspondence, budgets, memoranda; invitations and newsletters, 1975-1981	box 21

Newspaper clippings, Board of Regents memoranda, Work Program reports, 1975-1981	box 22
Board of Regents budgets and Chancellors search notes, 1975-1981	box 60
Newspaper clippings, brochures, reports, 1975-1985	box 39
UNS budgets, financial reports, and comprehensive plans; correspondence and memoranda, 1975-1985	box 40
Board of Regents newspaper clippings and correspondence, 1975-1987	box 43
Newspaper clippings, correspondence, First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas bulletins, 1975-1987	box 44
AAUW reports, budgets, correspondence, and newsletters, 1975-1991	box 15
AAUW reports, budgets, correspondence, and newsletters; personal correspondence, 1975-1991	box 16
Correspondence, AAUW meeting minutes, correspondence, and reports; <i>U.S. China Review</i> , 1975-1992	box 53
Correspondence, brochures, programs, newspaper clippings, Las Vegas real estate reports, AAUW bylaws and newsletters, 1976-1990	box 50
<p>Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information and will be open for research use on January 1, 2057. Restricted materials are housed in Box SH-044.</p>	
AAUW, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), Rotary Club of Las Vegas, Far West Laboratories correspondence; brochures and newspaper clippings, 1977-1983	box 06
Reports, brochures, newspaper clippings, correspondence, 1977-1984	box 41
Newspaper clippings, correspondence, Board of Regents meeting minutes, Far West Laboratory reports and correspondence, AAUW <i>Desert Express</i> , <i>Graduate Women</i> , 1977-1986	box 28
Menus, correspondence, meeting minutes, newsletters, AAUW recordings, Far West Laboratories reports, 1977-1986	box 54
<p>Physical Description: 9 Reels</p>	
Board of Regents newspaper clippings, meeting minutes, Work Program reports, and correspondence, 1977-1988	box 46
Board of Regents correspondence, memoranda, and reports; UNLV Long Range Plan, budgets, 1978-1983	box 20
Board of Regents correspondence, memoranda, budgets, 1978-1983	box 59
Newspaper clippings, programs, memoranda, <i>The Free China Journal</i> , 1978-1984	box 29
First Presbyterian Church bulletins, personal and professional correspondence, 1979-1983	box 10
Far West Laboratory reports, correspondence, and budgets, 1979-1983	box 11

University of Nevada System Board of Regents and the University of Nevada System correspondence, memoranda, programs, brochures, budgetary information, 1979-1984	box 02
Newspaper clippings, correspondence, brochures, programs, Board of Regents meeting minutes and agendas, AAUW correspondence and newsletters, 1979-1984	box 27
Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada (CSUN) bill of rights, Far West Laboratories reports and correspondence, 1979-1985	box 45
Far West Laboratories reports, UNS reports and correspondence, <i>Journal of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges</i> , 1979-1987	box 48
<i>Graduate Women</i> , Board of Regents budgets, Work Programs, and correspondence, 1979-1987	box 49
Newspaper clippings, <i>The Free China Journal</i> , brochures, correspondence, Board of Regents meeting minutes, 1980-1983	box 26
Correspondence, memoranda, <i>UNLV Update</i> , <i>Graduate Women</i> , 1980-1984	box 33
Cassette recordings about university governance, 1980s Physical Description: 25 Cassettes	box 56
Wall calendars, 1980s	flat file 58
Correspondence and memoranda, 1981-1982	box 19
Correspondence, invitation to events, memoranda relating to the Chinese Benevolent Association; American Association of University Women, First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas, Las Vegas Rotary Club correspondence, 1981-1984	box 01
Far West Laboratory and Board of Regent correspondence, reports, budgets, and memoranda, 1981-1984	box 24
Newspaper clippings, Board of Regents memoranda and budgetary information; AAUW, the Rotary Club of Las Vegas, and Far West Laboratories newsletters, 1981-1984	box 30
Newspaper clippings, correspondence, Board of Regents meeting minutes and reports, 1981-1985 Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information and will be open for research use on January 1, 2058. Restricted materials are housed in Box SH-044.	box 23
UNLV yearbook, cookbooks, 1982 Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information and will be open for research use on January 1, 2056. Restricted materials are housed in Box SH-044.	box 55
Board of Regents correspondence, newsletters, reports, budgets, and surveys, 1982-1983	box 25
UNLV School of Medicine newsletters; Board of Regents meeting minutes and correspondence; UNLV Foundation correspondence, 1983-1984	box 17

Correspondence, brochures, newspaper clippings, newsletters, First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas bulletins, historical building preservation informational materials, 1983-1985	box 31
Newspaper clippings and correspondence, 1983-1985	box 32
Newspaper clippings, correspondence, memoranda, invitations, Board of Regents meeting minutes, <i>Juvenile and Family Court Journal</i> , 1983-1985	box 34
Newspaper clippings about the UNS Board of Regents and Board of Regents Academic Affairs Committee, 1983-1985	box 35
Correspondence, memoranda, newsletters, First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas bulletins, 1983-1985	box 37
Reports, newspaper clippings, Board of Regents meeting minutes, 1983-1985	box 42
Board of Regents and Far West Laboratories financial reports, budgets, correspondence, memoranda, 1983-1987	box 36