



Guide to the UNLV December 6, 2023 Memorial Collection

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 25, 2024. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1cn36>

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives. |
| Creator: | University of Nevada, Las Vegas |
| Collector: | University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Libraries. Special Collections and Archives |
| Title: | UNLV December 6, 2023 Memorial Collection |
| ID: | UA-00146 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 2023 December to 2024 January |
| Physical Description: | 5.25 Cubic Feet (4 boxes, 1 oversized box, 1 flat file, 6 unboxed items) |
| Physical Description: | 17.54 Linear Feet |
| Physical Description: | 6 Websites (2.700 GB) WARC |
| Physical Description: | 7 Digital Files (1.584 GB) JPG, MP4, PDF/A |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | The UNLV December 6, 2023 Memorial Collection (2023-2024) contains material documenting the response to the deadly shooting on UNLV's Maryland Parkway campus on December 6, 2023. The collection contains items left at spontaneous memorials, such as handwritten notecards, small religious tokens, bracelets, teddy bears, and artificial flowers. Also included in the collection are videos of the UNLV vigil service held on December 13, 2023, archived UNLV websites, and condolence items sent to campus administration. Additionally, two members of the UNLV community donated their personal photographs and journal entries relating to the day of the shooting. |

Preferred Citation

UNLV December 6, 2023 Memorial Collection, 2023-2024. UA-00146. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1cn36>

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Historical Background

At approximately 11:30am on December 6, 2023, Tony Polito arrived at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Maryland campus and entered Frank and Estella Beam Hall where he murdered three UNLV faculty members. Cha Jan "Jerry" Chang and Patricia Navarro-Velez, both faculty members at Lee Business School, and Naoko Takemaru, a Japanese Studies professor at the College of Liberal Arts, were killed. A fourth faculty member was severely wounded. After killing and wounding faculty members, the gunman exited Beam Hall and was killed by University Police Southern Command in an exchange of gunfire. Campus was locked down until police could secure the scene and confirm there was no longer a threat. Classes were cancelled for the remainder of the week, and in-person classes and finals for the rest of the semester were eventually cancelled due to the physical and emotional trauma the campus suffered.

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Scope and Contents Note

The UNLV December 6, 2023 Memorial Collection (2023-2024) contains material documenting the response to the deadly shooting on UNLV's Maryland Parkway campus on December 6, 2023. The collection contains items left at spontaneous memorials, such as handwritten notecards, small religious tokens, bracelets, teddy bears, and artificial flowers. Also included in the collection are videos of the UNLV vigil service held on December 13, 2023, archived UNLV websites, and condolence items sent to campus administration.

In the days and weeks following the tragic event, two spontaneous memorials were created on the Maryland Parkway campus. The materials and the memorials themselves were eventually gathered by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff and included in this collection. Additionally, two members of the UNLV community donated their personal photographs and journal entries relating to the day of the shooting.

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Arrangement

Materials remain as they were received.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Where use copies do not exist, production of use copies is required before access will be granted; this may delay research requests. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Some materials were donated by members of the University of Las Vegas, Nevada campus community in 2024; accession numbers: 2024-005, 2024-008, 2024-018, 2024-025, 2024-026, and 2024-027. Specific donors are noted at the file level of this inventory. Other material was gathered by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff from campus memorials.

Appraisal

The original acquisition included 0.5 linear feet of additional notecards left at memorials that were removed due to rain damage. Staff retained a sampling of notecards with messages that were washed away, but the majority of items with damage were discarded. All notecards with any amount of legible writing were retained.

Processing Note

In 2024, Sarah Jones accessioned and processed the physical and digital material in the collection, created the finding aid in ArchivesSpace. Tammi Kim archived the websites using Archive-It and updated the finding aid.

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Names and Subjects

- Mass shootings

- Memorialization
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Navarro-Velez, Patricia
- Chang, Jerry
- Takemaru, Naoko

Collection Inventory

| Title/Description | Containers | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|
| Materials sent to or left at UNLV Maryland Parkway campus memorials | | |
| Condolence cards addressed to Professor Chang, 2023 December 06 to 2024 January | box 02 | |
| Condolence cards addressed to Professor Takemaru, 2023 December 06 to 2024 January | box 02 | |
| Condolence cards addressed to Professor Navarro-Velez, 2023 December 06 to 2024 January | box 02 | |
| Condolence cards left at campus memorials, 2023 December 06 to 2024 January | box 01 | box 02 |
| Physical Description: 5 Files | | |
| Teddy bears, bracelets, vigil candles, small tokens, and framed photographs left at the UNLV Harmon entrance and Pida Plaza memorials, 2023 December to 2024 January | box 03 | |
| Artificial flowers left at Pida Plaza memorial, 2023 December to 2024 January | box 04 | |
| #UNLVStrong posters with signatures left at the UNLV Harmon entrance memorial, 2023 December 06 to 2024 January | flat file 06 | |
| Physical Description: 2 Items | | |
| "UNLV Strong" black t-shirt, 2023 December | box 01 | |
| Three large wooden memorial arches with photographs of Professors Chang, Navarro-Velez, and Takemaru, 2023 December | no container 00 | object 07 |
| Physical Description: 3 Items | | |
| | no container 00 | object 08 |
| | no container 00 | object 09 |
| Three small wooden crosses with blue hearts addressed to Professors Chang, Navarro-Velez, and Takemaru, 2023 December | no container 00 | object 10 |
| Physical Description: 3 Items | | |

no object
 container 11
 00
 no object
 container 12
 00

Materials donated by students and faculty

Journal entries by Karla Warque describing their experience in Lied Library on December 6, 2023: digital files, 2023 December 08 to 2023 December 09 (UA_00146_002) digital file 00
 Creator: Warque, Karla
 Physical Description: 1 Files (0.051 GB) PDF/A
 Acquisition Note: In 2024, Beatriz "Karla" Warque donated digital surrogates, but retained the original items; accession number 2024-008.

Photographs taken by Professor Stephen Bates of barricaded classroom and upon returning to campus: photographs, 2023 December 06 to 2023 December 07 (UA_00146_003) digital file 00
 Creator: Bates, Stephen
 Physical Description: 4 Files (0.016 GB) JPG
 Acquisition Note: Digital files were donated by Stephen Bates in 2024; accession number 2024-018.

Condolence cards, notes, and photographs sent to UNLV Libraries and Dean Farrell, 2023 December to 2024 January box 01
 Creator: University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Libraries oversized box 05
 Acquisition Note: Materials were transferred from UNLV Libraries Dean's Office; accession number 2024-025.

Materials relating to the December 13, 2023 vigil service

Creator: University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Division of Integrated Marketing & Branding
 Acquisition Note: Materials were transferred from the Division of Marketing & Branding in 2024; accession numbers 2024-005 and 2024-026.

City of Las Vegas Government livestream of UNLV campus vigil: digital video, 2023 December 13 (UA_00146_001) digital file 00
 Physical Description: 1 Files (0.461 GB) MP4

Clark County livestream of UNLV campus vigil: digital video, 2023 December 13 (UA_00146_001) digital file 00
 Physical Description: 1 Files (1.051 GB) MP4

UNLV Vigil Service programs, 2023 December 13 box 01
 Physical Description: 2 Items

Flyers with information about support programs and resources for those impacted by December 6, 2023 box 01

Physical Description: 2 Items

Materials donated by UNLV Office of the President

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Materials were transferred from UNLV Office of the President in 2024; accession number 2024-027.

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| <i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> "UNLV: Healing, Praying, Beginning" article about cleansing ceremony held on campus, 2024 January 17 | oversized box 05 |
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| Letters from British Embassy in Los Angeles and West Virginia University sent to President Whitfield, 2023 December 08 to 2023 December 23 | box 01 |
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| Mayoral proclamation of "University Police Services, Southern Command Day", 2023 December 13 | oversized box 05 |
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Archived websites

UNLV Strong | University of Nevada, Las Vegas: archived website, 2024 (3191837) ([view online](#))

Classroom of Compassion: archived website, 2024 (3213494) ([view online](#))

December 6 - UNLV Scarlet and Gray: archived website, 2024 (3213495) ([view online](#))

Stories of Gratitude | UNLV Strong | University of Nevada, Las Vegas: archived website, 2024 (3216315) ([view online](#))

Appreciation for our Community | UNLV Strong | University of Nevada, Las Vegas: archived website, 2024 (3216316) ([view online](#))

Words of Encouragement | UNLV Strong | University of Nevada, Las Vegas: archived website, 2024 (3216317) ([view online](#))