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### 40-42 Discovering Desegregation at Armstrong: Records and Papers 1966-1982

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**Reference Code (2.1):** 40-42 Collection Guide to Desegregation records in University Archives

**Name and Location of Repository (2.2):** Special Collections, Lane Library, Georgia Southern Univ. Armstrong Campus, Savannah, GA, 31419

**Title (2.3):** Discovering Desegregation at Armstrong: Records and Papers

**Date(s) (2.4):** Inclusive dates: 1966-1994  
Bulk dates: 1974-1978

**Extent (2.5):** Core is three record storage boxes (40-42) from President Ashmore's administrative records, but several other record groups have related content.

**Name of Creator(s) (2.6):** Office of the President, Ashmore

**Scope and Content (3.1):** The Discovering Desegregation at Armstrong describes material from the University Archives related to desegregation of Armstrong State College. Most of the material (Box 40-42 and Box 5) are part of the [Administrative Records of President Henry L. Ashmore \(1964-1982\)](#). Also described are records from the Joint Graduate Program, Student Government, and [President Burnett's administrative records](#).

**Conditions Governing Access (4.1):** Open

**Language and Scripts of Material (4.5):** English

**Administrative/Biographical History (2.7):** In 1969 a review of the University System of Georgia's (USG) compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 concluded "The State of Georgia is operating a dual system of higher education based on race in that past patterns of racial segregation have not been eliminated from most of the institutions within the system." (Paul M. Riling, Regional Civil Rights Director, to George M. Simpson, 26 February 1970 as quoted in [From the Mansion to the University](#), 2010, p. 183.) Savannah was home to two units of the USG, Savannah State College, an historically black institution, and Armstrong State College, historically white. The Office of Civil Rights called for a System wide plan, which became successive plans; implementation overseen by the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW.) In Savannah, Armstrong and Savannah State tried a joint graduate program from 1971-1978. Then, in 1979 the schools exchanged academic programs: all business to Savannah State and all education to Armstrong. Merging the two schools was seriously considered by the USG during 1982-1983. As part of Georgia Southern University's designation as a regional university for South Georgia, the three schools joined their graduate programs, from 1990 to 1995. Savannah's part in the plans for the further desegregation of the University System of Georgia are significant; Janet Stone used these records in her scholarly history *Armstrong*, especially chapter nine, "The Adams Case 1970-1979" and chapter eleven, "Quo Vadis Uncertain Directions in the 1980s". Stone's Timeline of USG desegregation plans with ASC/SSC highlights (Appendix A p. 316) is a valuable guide. Stone's history is available from the Digital Commons @ Georgia Southern open access as a pdf download <<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/armstrong-about/7/>>

**Access Points:**

African-American Universities and Colleges  
 Armstrong State University—History  
 Ashmore, Henry Ludlow  
 Civil Rights—Georgia—Savannah  
 Race Relations—Georgia  
 Savannah State University—History  
 School Integration—Georgia—Savannah—History—Sources  
 Segregation in Higher Education—Georgia

**System of Arrangement (3.2):**

Series 1: President Ashmore's records related to desegregation Box 42-43 and 40 1966-1985 and Student Government President in Box 750.

Series 2: Joint Graduate Program Fall 1971-1978

Series 3: President Burnett's records on merger plans with Savannah State (1982-1983, 1988) and the regional university with Georgia Southern and Savannah State (1990-1995)

**Series 1** President Ashmore's administrative records concerning desegregation.

Correspondence, reports, plans, memos concerning all aspects of desegregation in Savannah. Copies of University System of Georgia (USG) plans. Also, files of John Opper, Student Government President and a member of the Savannah Community Liaison Committee from 1977-1978.

**Box 41**

Folder 1: HEW Correspondence (1966-73)

-Letters between Ashmore and Simpson-multiple programs/finances discussed

Folder 2: Civil Rights (1969-75)

-Letters between Ashmore and Dewey Dodd (Chief of education branch for OCR) compliance reports

Folder 3: Blacks: Institutional Reaction (1970-73)

-Letters to Ashmore from professors and students pertaining to African-Americans on ASC campus

Folder 4: Desegregation Info (1972-73)

-Joint Graduate program for SSC and ASC/Correspondence about the desegregation PLAN (Simpson & Holmes)

Folder 5: Plan for further Integration of University system of GA (June 11, 1973)

Folder 6: Desegregation Correspondence (1974)

-Ashmore, Holmes and Simpson

Folder 7: Propst/Ashmore Memo (May 6, 1974) et.al

-Revision of PLAN/Duplicate Programs @ ASC & SSC.

Folder 8: Duplication committee report (no date, 1974)

-Assessment of duplicate programs between ASC & SSC.

Folder 9: The PLAN (June 1, 1974) Parts A & B

-Desegregation Plan-discussion of image change for colleges

- Folder 10: The PLAN (Feb 13, 1974)
- Folder 11: Progress Report ASC/SSC – HEW Compliance letter (Dec 31, 1974)  
-Reports on minority enrollment and duplicate programs
- Folder 12: Description of ASC/SSC Academic Division (June 1974)  
-Inventory of program offerings and curriculum for each
- Folder 13: Visiting committee (July 17-18, 1975) Sub-committee on non-resident Four-Year Colleges of University system.  
-Progress for desegregation assessment
- Folder 14: Chronicles of Higher education 1974  
-News articles
- Folder 15: Duplication and Recruitment Information (1974-75)  
-Minority recruitment reports/duplication reports
- Folder 16: OCR response to the Plan (Aug 4 1975)  
-Ashmore memos about desegregation progress, 1977 OCR letter to several states including Georgia stating Plan does not comply with Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Folder 17 A-B: The Plan 1977(Sept)  
-Revised Plan from above. Letter from Simpson to Tatel regarding the revised Plan.
- Folder 18: US District Court Documents (August 1977)  
-Amended criteria for acceptable desegregation plans. Adams vs. Califano court documents. Tatel letters.
- Folder 19: Clarification of September 1977 PLAN (December 1977)  
-Special attention to ASC and SSC. Letters between school presidents.
- Folder 20: Clarification of September 1977 PLAN (March 1978)  
-Overall timeline of the Plan. Letters to Tatel from Simpson.
- Folder 21: Fourth Segment of the PLAN (Oct 1978)
- Folder 22: Draft Plan “Never Seriously Considered (August 14, 1978)  
-Copy of a Plan with notes on it.
- Box 42**
- Folder 23: Minutes from Work study groups on desegregation (1978)  
-Work study groups for desegregation options.
- Folder 24: Savannah Community Liaison Committee and work study groups (1978)  
-Large folder, multiple memos and minutes about desegregation options, letters from students at SSC and ASC, public hearing minutes.
- Folder 25: Plan for SSC Desegregation (June 26, 1978)  
-Concise Plan
- Folder 26: Progress report on the implementation of the PLAN (August 15 1979)  
-Vernon Crawford letter to Tatel introducing first progress report, statistics included.
- Folder 27: Statistical data for liaison committee  
-Survey of students, questionnaire, teacher/student race statistics.
- Folder 28 A-B: Liaison committee and work study groups (May, June 1978)  
-Statements from persons about desegregation options.
- Folder 29 A-D: Final Report from Savannah Community Liaison Committee to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on the desegregation of Armstrong State College and Savannah State College. (July 5, 1978)

Folder 30 A plan for the further integration of the University System of Georgia. Submitted to Office of Civil Rights, Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C., June 11, 1973, George L. Simpson, Jr. 37 pages.

Folder 31 A Plan for the further desegregation of the University System of Georgia. Submitted to Office for Civil Rights, Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C., June 1, 1974. 240 pages.

Folder 32 A Plan for the further desegregation of the University System of Georgia. Submitted to Office for Civil Rights, Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C., September 1, 1977. C.T. Oxford, Chairman, Board of Regents; George Busbee, Governor, State of Georgia. 83 pages

[end of box 42]

**Box 40** Desegregation files gathered separately, mainly from Ashmore.

Box 40 Container list

1. Affirmative Action 1970-1975
2. Affirmative Action Plan ASC September 1973
3. Duplication Committee minutes 1973-1975
4. Duplication Committee Meetings (H.E.W) 1974-1975
5. H.E.W. Committees and Reports 1974
6. Systems Summary Re: Plan Aug 1977
7. ASC/SSC Desegregation 1978
8. ASC/SS Desegregation 1978-1979
9. Report on Committee on Equal Employment 1973
10. Affirmative Action Report 1975
11. Title III and Enrollment data 1974-1979
12. Report to H.E.W 1976-1978
13. Swap data per Court Request 1978-1979
14. ASC Affirmative Action Plan 1979
15. Legal brief in response to effort to prevent swap August 24 1979
16. Title III five-year plan 1979
17. From Dean Eaton 1973-1975
18. To Dean Eaton 1974-1975
19. Work study group final report June 1978
20. Mark Finlay Desegregation files 1978-1985
21. Brannen Committee 1983-1984
22. Desegregation files from Student Affairs 1980s
23. Desegregation files 1985
24. Segregation files 1985

**Box 751** Student Government President, May 1978-May, 1979 John Opper Savannah Community Liaison Committee, 1977-1978, bulk May-July, 1978. 1 linear ft., 11 folders and 2 volumes. Minutes, agendas, notes, copies of correspondence and reports related to

the Committee, which was one of the committees formed by the Board of Regents to study and prepare a plan for the further desegregation of ASC and SSC. Opper served on the committee representing ASC student government. Besides Opper's position statement and papers relating to the committee work, the records included related information, such as the report of the ASC/SSC work-study group on desegregation (June, 1978) and copies of correspondence between the University System and the HEW. Records related the Health Professions programs are included.

**Series 2: Joint Graduate Program Fall 1971-1978** records from Ashmore and Dean Joseph Adams

Fall 1971	Joint Graduate Program with Savannah State begins.
1972-1979	Joseph Adams (ASC) and James Eaton (SSC) alternate as Dean of Joint Graduate Program and are Deans of Graduate Studies at their Institutions.
1979	Joint Graduate Program Ends.

**Box 5 Graduate Program, Joint (1961 - 1976)**

Correspondence with the Chancellor and University System, administrators, faculty, students and community concerning Armstrong State College and Savannah State College cooperation generally and the Schools' Joint Graduate Program. Also includes planning documents, minutes of meetings, publications, annual reports. The First Bulletin (catalog) of the Program is in file 13. The Joint Graduate Program with Savannah State College existed from Fall 1971-1978. It was intended to help desegregate the two colleges, in response to directives from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (see Desegregation-HEW (box 40) above.) James Eaton (of SSC) and Joseph Adams alternated as Deans of the Joint Graduate Program which offered Master of Education Degrees in: Elementary Education and various secondary education fields, and a Master of Business Administration. Files 20-22 deal with efforts for a cooperative undergraduate Social Work program.

**Box 600** Records of the Dean of Joint Graduate Program, 1973-1985, Joseph Adams. 1 linear foot. Correspondence with James Eaton, minutes of meetings and reports of the Joint Graduate Council and it's committees.

**Series 3: Merger and Regional University**

President Burnett's administrative records about plans for merger with Savannah State Univ. during 1982-1983 and 1988, besides box listings below, see also Burnett Boxes 52.3 (files 20-23) and 56.1(files 18-21.) Records in Box 59.2 describe planning for a regional university and the Georgia Southern affiliation, 1987-1994.

**Box 52.4 Merger Plans, 1982-1983**

- 1.ASC/GSC/SSC (1981-1982)
- 2.ASC/SSC Merger Plans (1982-1983)
- 3.Citizen's Committee Report (1982)
- 4.Desegregation Addendum (1979-1983)

- 5.Regent's Consultant's Report (1982-1983)
- 6.Friedman Plan (1983)
- 7.Engineering Plans 1983, 1986, 1993-1994

**Box 59.1**

- 1.Burnett's Chronology/History of Regional University (1988-1989)
- 2.Merger Talks (March-May, 1988)
- 3.Merger ASC/SSC May 1988
- 4.Merger ASC/SSC May 1988 contd.
- 5.Merger ASC/SSC May 1988
- 6.Merger, 1988 Consolidation Study
- 7.Plan for a Multi-Campus Regional University in South Georgia Sept. 6, 1988
- 8.Desegregation (1989-1995)
- 9.Lee Parks (1998?)

**Box 59.2 (1987-1994)**

1. Southeast Georgia Presidents Propose Regional University, 1987-March 1988
2. Southeast Georgia Presidents Propose Regional University, April-June, 1988
3. Southeast Georgia Presidents Propose Regional University, June-September, 1988
4. Regional Planning Document for the South Georgia Associated Colleges, September 1988.
5. Southeast Georgia Presidents Propose for a Regional University, 1988-1989
6. Southeast Georgia Presidents Proposal for a Regional University, 1988-1989
7. Regional University, February-June, 1989
8. Planning and Oversight Committee Recommendations--
9. Regional University Consultants Report, June 1989and response
10. Georgia Southern University Affiliation, July-October 1989
11. Georgia Southern University Affiliation, July-November, 1990.
12. Transition Team Report Fall, 1989
13. Georgia Southern University Affiliation, November 1990-June 1991
14. Georgia Southern University Affiliation, November 1990-June 1991
15. Georgia Southern University Affiliation, July-October, 1991
16. Georgia Southern University Affiliation, 1992
17. Progress Report and Evaluation of Regional University, September, 1992.
18. Georgia Southern University Affiliation, 1993
19. The Campaign to unravel the Regional University, January-June, 1994
20. Meetings with Chancellor Portch, Vice-Chancellors Elifson and Dunning, July-September,
21. Graduate Programs, especially Masters of Education, September-December, 1994

End.