

Museums and Collections Projects Program 2021

University of Melbourne

Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology

Project Description

Documentation and Scanning project – *Engineering Student Life in the 1960s*

The Project

This project involves documenting, scanning and housing a collection of 500 photographs taken by Paul Mosig (1943-2017) that capture Engineering student life on the UoM campus in the 1960s. There is potential to prepare an interpretive essay on the collection and to develop an exhibition proposal. This project will contribute to increased public awareness of the collection, aid in its interpretation and help inform plans for its long-term management.

Background

The [Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology cultural collections](#) comprise the Mechanical Engineering Collection (which includes the A.G.M Michell Engineering Collection); the Electrical Engineering Education Collection; Surveying and Geomatics Engineering Collection; and the Computing & Information Systems Collection. The School is currently creating a unified collection database for the distributed FEIT cultural collections.

Paul Mosig (1943-2017) commenced his civil engineering degree at the University of Melbourne in 1961 and with some interruptions and distractions, graduated from the four-year degree in 1967. A keen photographer, he captured the theatre of campus life, from lectures to card games, lunch on the lawn, field trips, drinking sessions, student rags, political protest, and even his own study. Engineering was overwhelmingly a male domain. There were few women students, and fewer female teaching staff. The students would graduate and pursue careers in male-dominated fields and industries. Paul Mosig's photographs capture that world and its rituals.

Details

Working in consultation with the FEIT Curator, the project involves documenting, scanning and then rehousing the 500 photographs from Paul Mosig's estate. There is potential to prepare an interpretive essay on the collection and to develop an exhibition proposal. This project would suit a student with an interest in the history and culture of student life in the 1960s. An understanding of collection management principles specific to the documentation of museum objects (progress towards a degree in Art Curatorship/History or previous volunteer experience with an Archive, Museum or Historical Society) would be ideal. Knowledge of the correct procedures for the safe handling of and rehousing of the photographs is required, as is a methodical, prudent approach with a keen eye for detail.

Benefits

Opportunity to work closely with one of the University of Melbourne's extensive cultural collections and for professional development through experience gained in curatorial and collection management procedures and practice. This project will improve our knowledge and understanding of the collection, and assist in making the University's cultural collections more accessible, facilitate their interpretation and contribute to their long-term preservation.

Supervisor

Dr Richard Gillespie, Curator - Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology

