

George Bluman fonds

Compiled by Katelyn Gibson (2023)



University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Library

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- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)

Fonds Description

George Bluman fonds. – 1965-2018.

38 cm of textual records.

1 photograph : colour; 9 x 13 cm.

Biographical Sketch

George Bluman was born in Vancouver in 1943, and completed his Bachelor of Science at UBC in 1964 with an honours degree in Physics and Mathematics. After finishing his PhD in Applied Science at Caltech, he joined the UBC Math Department in 1968 and worked as a professor until his retirement in 2014. During this time, Bluman served as the first undergraduate chair in Mathematics, the Head of Mathematics for five years, the co-founder of the Institute of Applied Mathematics, and a member of various UBC committees and task forces for admissions and recruitment. His mathematics research interests include symmetries and differential equations, and he has authored and co-authored numerous papers and books on these subjects, including *Similarity Methods for Differential Equations* (1974) and *Symmetries and Differential Equations* (1989).

Bluman has taken an interest in math education and readiness in secondary schools throughout his career, publishing studies and reports on mathematics competency in B.C. school systems, holding local workshops, and organizing aspects of the Euclid Mathematics Contest. In addition to this work, he has also served in various capacities for the Canadian Mathematics Society, including as Chairman of the Education Committee and a member of the Board of Directors. In 2001, he was the recipient of the Society's Adrien Pouliot Award for his leadership and educational advocacy. He is currently Professor Emeritus in the Department of Mathematics.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists almost entirely of textual records relating to George Bluman's professional career from 1965 to 2018, including his administrative involvement at UBC at-large as well as within the Math Department, along with his secondary education studies and published mathematics books. It also includes records of his organizational involvement and participation in conferences, education initiatives, and workshops. Materials include correspondence, reports, minutes, newspaper and magazine clippings, and some printed material from conferences.

Notes

Records received by the University Archives in August 2023.

For more departmental administrative records, see the [Department of Mathematics fonds](#). See the [1974 International Congress of Mathematicians fonds](#) for more material related to that conference's planning and proceedings.

File list available.

Series Descriptions

Secondary Education Projects. – 1976-2005.

11.5 cm of textual records.

This series consists of records related to Bluman's research and work in secondary school mathematics education. Included are studies and reports on local high school students' math performance at UBC, as well as correspondence and newspaper clippings documenting public reactions to his reports. Also present are press releases, reports, and correspondence from his long-term involvement in the Euclid Contest.

UBC Administration. – 1969-2013.

5 cm of textual records.

This series includes records of UBC Math Department's administrative and advocacy work related to student intake and success, as well as correspondence and clippings documenting a 1972 teaching boycott in response to racism and antisemitism in an Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS) newsletter. There is also correspondence, minutes, and reports from Bluman's involvement in several UBC committees and task forces for recruitment and admissions.

Material related to the 1972 EUS controversy contains frequent derogatory and demeaning language that may be upsetting or triggering.

Committees and Conferences. – 1968-2016.

10 cm of textual records.

This series consists of material relating to Bluman's involvement in mathematics conferences, including correspondence, schedules, abstracts, and printed material. It also includes minutes, reports, and correspondence documenting his time on several committees and boards: the Board of Examiners for BC Schools, the Canadian Mathematical Society Education Committee, and several editorial boards for journals.

Correspondence. – 1965-2018.

11.5 cm of textual records.

1 photograph: color; 9 x 13 cm.

This series includes general correspondence to and from George Bluman related to his professional work, as well as correspondence regarding book publishing, awards and honors, and thank-you letters from students, peers, and community members.

File List

BOX 1

SECONDARY EDUCATION PROJECTS

- 1-1 School studies, 1976-1999 [2 folders]
- 1-2 Education schools controversy, 1976-1999
- 1-3 Euclid stuff [press releases and media coverage], 1980-1996
- 1-4 Euclid results (schools), 1980, 1985-1995
- 1-5 Euclid press releases and results, 1984-2005
- 1-6 UBC media, 1978-1990
- 1-7 [Media coverage], 1976-2009

UBC ADMINISTRATION

- 1-8 UBC stuff [recruiting and admissions], 1977-2008
- 1-9 Antisemitism affair UBC, 1972
**This file contains frequent derogatory and demeaning language that may be upsetting or triggering.
- 1-10 Math Department stuff [projects and reports], 1969-2013
- 1-11 Indigenous activities, 2007-2008

COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES

- 1-12 Research conferences I, 1968-1992 [3 folders]
- 1-13 Research conferences II, 1992-1994

BOX 2

- 2-1 Research conferences III, 1995-2016 [2 folders]
- 2-2 International Congress of Mathematicians UBC, 1974
- 2-3 [CMS Education Committee], 1971-1999
- 2-4 Editorial Boards, 1992-2006
- 2-5 Board of Examiners for B.C. schools, 2008-2012

CORRESPONDENCE

- 2-6 Research correspondence, 1965-2013 [2 folders]
- 2-7 Correspondence for books, 1983-2002 [2 folders]
- 2-8 Education thank yous, 1969-2009
- 2-9 Education correspondence, 1978-2006
- 2-10 Awards, 1978-2018