

Black Spartans (1907-1948)

Curators

Carli V. Lowe, University Archivist Kate Steffens, Special Collections Librarian

Artist

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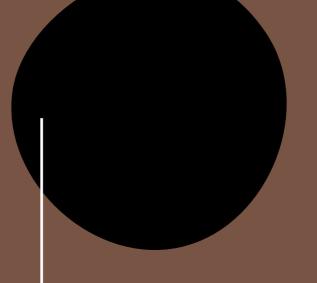


Exhibit Curators Statement

"Black Spartans (1907-1948)" represents ongoing research in SJSU Special Collections & Archives identifying documentation of Black experiences throughout SJSU history. This exhibit is the first of several installments.

Much of the information we have comes from the Spartan Daily student newspaper and the La Torre yearbooks. With too few exceptions, Black Spartans' stories are not told in their own words but from the perspectives of their majority white classmates. This is reflected in the language and focus of the articles. We invite you to read critically.

The Black Spartans featured in this exhibit pursued their educational goals while contending with institutionalized racism and other major crises of the 20th century: two World Wars, the influenza pandemic of 1918, and polio. Locally, "the deed to virtually every home in San Jose" included restrictions against Black and Asian residents known as "restrictive covenants" (Spartan Daily, February 16, 1948, page 2). On campus, blackface and minstrel shows were a regular part of student events.

"Black Spartans (1907-1948)" is an invitation to the community to join us in surfacing these stories, ensuring these histories are preserved and presented in a way that honors these students' lives. Contact us at special.collections@sjsu.edu to participate.

Carli V. Lowe - University Archivist Kate Steffens - Special Collections Librarian

Artist Statement

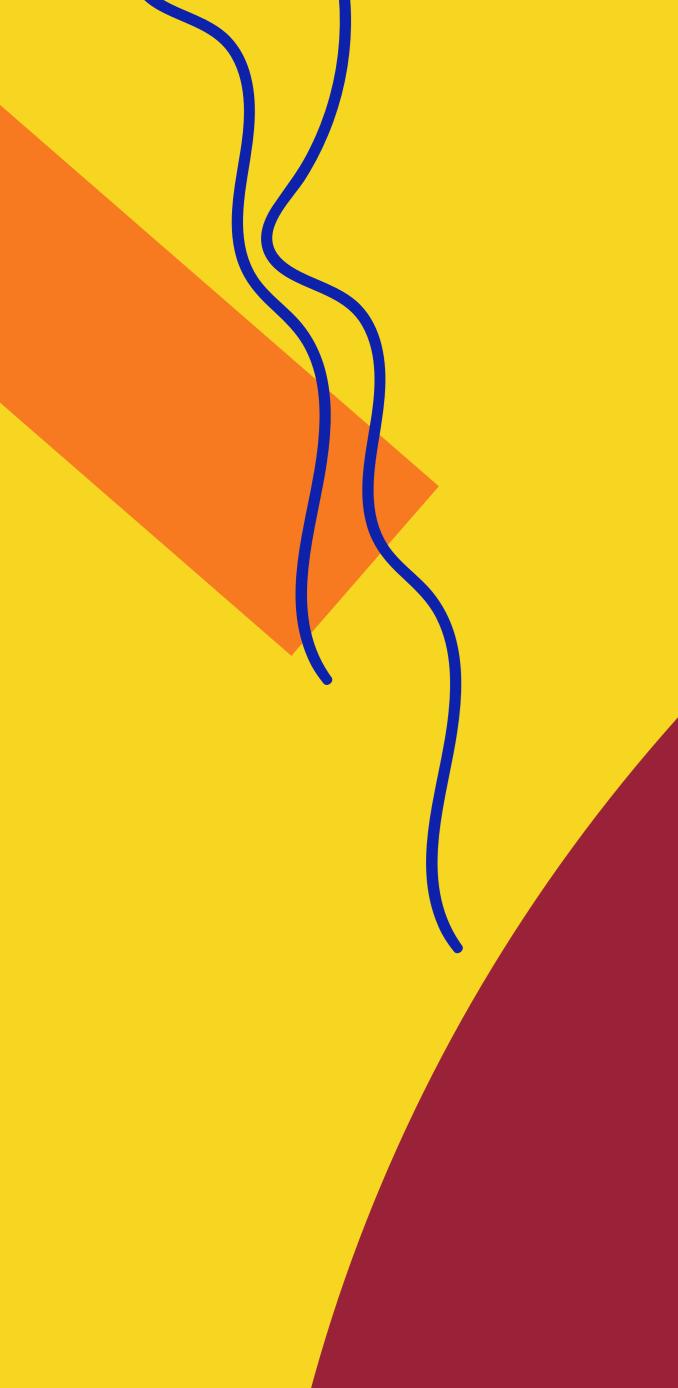
The "Black Spartans (1907-1948)" exhibition is a homage to Black culture and history at San José State University and the Bay Area at large. Until recently, the significance of Black bodies in Bay Area history (as well as U.S. history) was overlooked. Unless it was associated with the struggles of civil rights leaders, athletes, or celebrity-personas, the story of a graduate from a state school wasn't valued because we weren't part of the mainstream culture. As a Black Spartan myself, I was deeply connected to these individuals that started out just like me. I saw a reflection of myself and my community throughout the process of making these mixed media portraits and came to realize how important it is to know your history because it becomes a catalyst for knowing who you are.

My work explores the intricacy of identity and the role culture, tradition, and history play. These portraits are embodiments of our Black Spartans, they are visual representations of the colorful and captivating lives they led. Through this work, I hope to influence other artists and individuals to take part in researching and finding out the infinite layers of what it means to be Black. Our history is beyond our struggle. We are the blueprint.

Yeab Kebede '22 Digital Media Arts







At Angell Field

VARSITY MEETS INDIANS TOMORROW AT 2 P.M.; YEARLINGS FACE PLACER

Provided the rain doesn't come down in too heavy torrents, San lose State college's varsity track team will finally open its 1941 season gainst Stanford at Angell Field, Palo Alto, tomorrow afternoon at 2 look.

In the morning at 9:45 San Jose's frosh, of unknown quality, will set placer junior college on the Spartan field.

NO OUTSTANDING STARS

Every man on the team. has as much chance of winning his event anyone else, as there has not been enough practice to choose out-danding favorites. San Jose was rained out of its meet with California holy last Saturday and the Indians were unable to compete with Fresson State.

Few veterans reported to Coach Tiny Hartranft this year, so any popes he holds for copping the affair tomorrow rest upon the ability of unior college transfers. Johnny Dierker, former Sacramento J.C. stubent, is the only member of the team that has had competition this par. He competed in the javelin event at the Long Beach Relays and intensity in the spear 189 feet 10 inches.

KERR LEADS TEAM

Capt. Jim Kerr is expected to provide keen competition in the 220ard event. He is capable of doing at least :22.5. Kerr and John Sedell the hit around the 50-second mark in the quarter-mile, will carry the sertan colors in the 440.

John Eikenbery, Pasadena junior college transfer, Fred Kmetovic, inther of Stanford's Pete Kmetovic, and J. Coleman will compete for the Spartans in the 880. Al Ornelas, transfer from Los Angeles City ollege, Kearney Siegler, and Davis have been named by Hartranft to enter the mile, while Ornelas, Siegler, and Eikenbery will compete in the two-mile run.

HURDLES EVENTS

Running the high hurdles will be Wayne Rose, Wallace Marshall, lick Campion, and Angel, while in the low hurdles will be Willard hank, Creighton Groeling, and Dave Siemon.

Hopes for a Spartan victory in the shotput and discus events rest the shoulders of Floyd Wheat, Coalinga JC transfer, Lawrence Connor, Wilson, and Larson.

Salinas junior college provides San Jose with strong material in piumping events. Roger Romines has cleared 6 feet 3 inches in the piump, Yamamoto has done 23 feet 6 inches in the broad jump, and piwin Schneider has vaulted 13 feet 3 inches.

MEMBERS MEET AT 12

Competing in the high jump besides Romines will be Yamamoto, imetovic, and Webb. Evans, Miller, and Yamamoto will compete in the broad jump. Stokes and Terry will give Dierker support in the prelin event. Completing the meet in the relay will be Kerr, Sedell, imetovic, Coleman, or Siegler.

All varsity members who are to compete are to meet at 12 o'clock take buses, according to Hartranft.

Spartan Daily

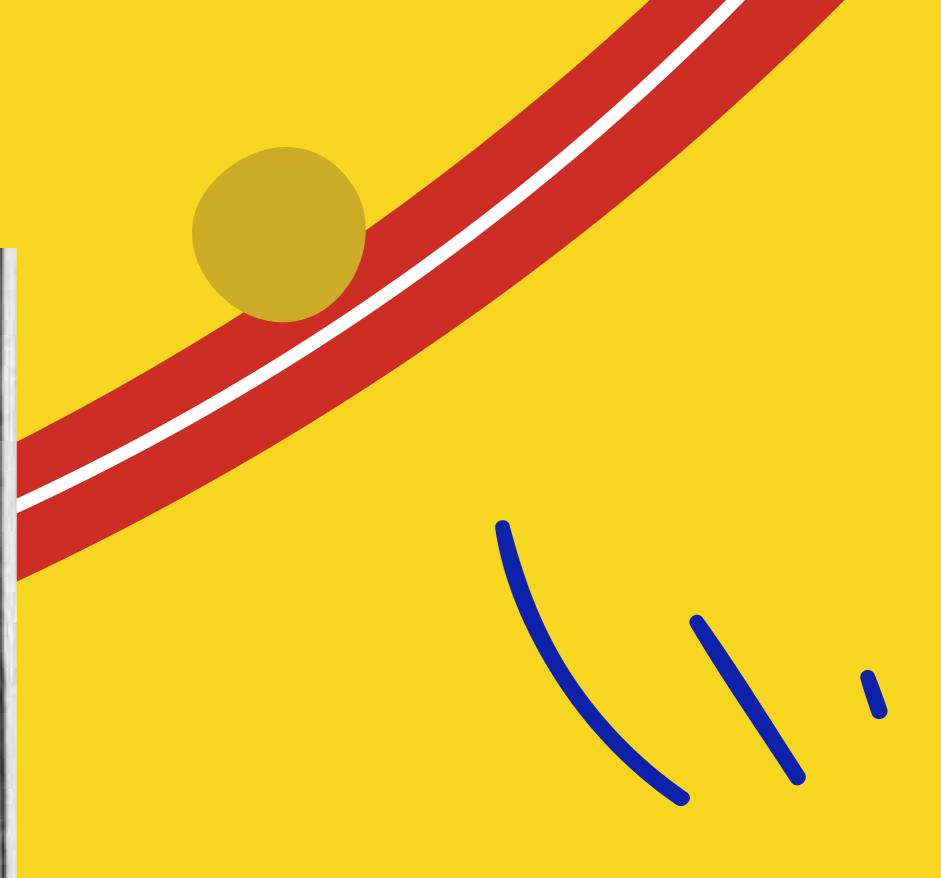
April 4, 1941

Roger Romine comes to San Jose State from Salinas Junior College, showing himself to be a strong competitor in the high jump track and field events.

Cosmopolitan Club Members Meet

All students are invited to attend a meeting of the Cosmopolitan club tonight at 7:30 in the Student Center, according to Ellen Okagaki and Roger Romine, cochairmen of the organization.

Miss Jean Thoits, YWCA secretary, will speak on "Living in Japan", after which a social hour will follow.



Spartan Daily

October 16, 1941

Roger Romine and his classmate, Ellen Okagaki, serve as Chairs of the campus Cosmopolitan Club. The Club holds events that include speeches and slideshows from San Jose State students, staff, alumni, and faculty. These events are often led by Romine. Okagaki is later noted as one of many Japanese students who are incarcerated during World War II (Spartan Daily, May 29, 1942).



SPARTANS IN THE SERVICE

By ED MARION

PROMOTIONS and DECORATIONS

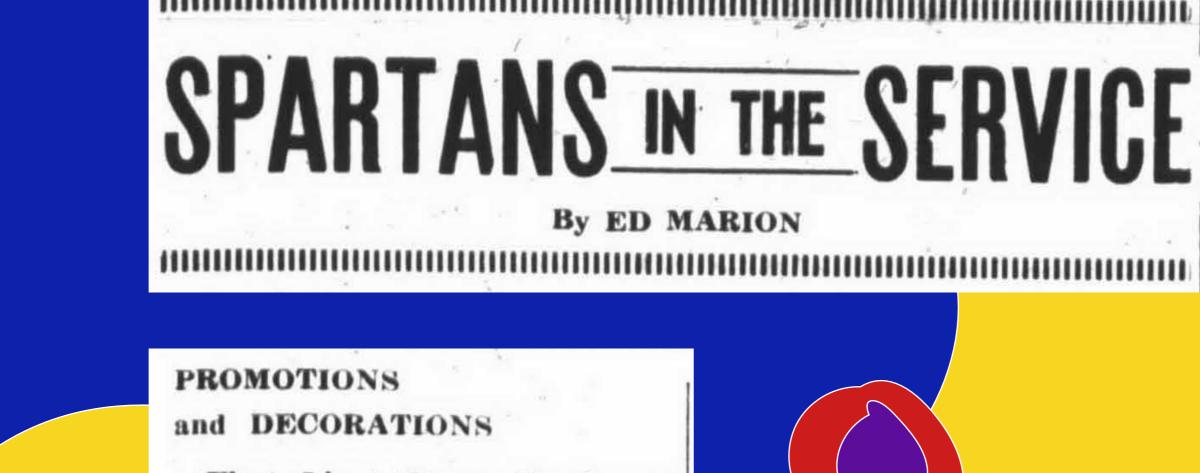
First Lieut. Roger Romine of Oakland has received the fifth Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal. Romine was a high jumper on the Spartan track team in 1941, and is now "high jumping" Nazi planes for Uncle Sam's 15th Air Force team over the Reich. He was one of the first Negro officers commissioned from the Bay area and is a member of the first all-Negro fighter group in the AAF. His outfit, under Col. Benjamin Davis, is flying Mustang fighters on escort missions over Germany and German-occupied territory in Austria, Jugoslavia, and Italy.



Spartan Daily

November 22, 1944

After leaving San Jose State to serve in World War II, Roger Romine is spotlighted in the Spartan Daily for his heroic actions during the war.





DFC Is Awarded Posthumously to Former SJ Student

The award of the Distinguished Flying Cross has been made post-humously to First Lt. Roger Romine, 24, former athletic star at San Jose State College, who destroyed eight enemy planes during one attack, it was learned in San Jose yesterday.

Romine was the first member of his Negro Mustang Fighter group to receive the DFC posthumously. His outstanding career as a pilot included a strafing mission to Hungary as a member of a flight that accounted for more than 12 enemy aircraft parked on dispersal areas. In aerial battle he had encountered and destroyed three enemy fighter planes.

During his attendance at San Jose State in 1941, he excelled in track and boxing, and participated in the Pacific Coast Conference boxing tournament in that year. Romine also was a high jumper, and played on the 1941 Spartan football team.

ROMINE, ROGER, 1st Lt.

302nd Ftc. Swd. 332nd Ftc. Gp. APO 520 C/O Postmaster New York, N.Y. 9/6/44

Killed January 24, 1945

Awarded the Dist. Flying Cross 829-36 St. Oakland

3824 Book 4 45-6 Flag 3

San Jose State College World War I and World War II Collection

Roger Romine is tragically killed in the line of duty in 1945. He is posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In Memoriam

Walter Bachrodt

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Kenneth Coleman

J. C. Stillwell

GOLD STARS

Lt. Herbert Mayes

Capt. Donald McAuley

ARN 3c Wendell C. Adair A/C Ernest J. Figone 1st Lt. Jack W. Aldrich A/C Kenneth Fox Ens. James R. Andersen Lt. Louis W. Frangos Sgt. Joseph P. Azevedo Capt. Salver Gagliardo Lt. Kenneth Bailey Lt. Verne Gerrans Lt. Ray L. Baughman Lt. William L. Gilson Capt. Frank Beales Lt. George Glans 1st Lt. William J. Bebbington Lt. Joseph E. Haas Major Keith G. Birlem Sgt. William Hanchett Capt. Charles E. Blanchard Sgt. Svend Hansen Rudolph Blauer, USA Pvt. Robert E. Haver Lt. Joseph Heatwole 1st Lt. Frank D. Bradford Capt. Nathan T. Bradford Lt. Edwin Hill Lt. Edmund H. Breschini Sgt. David T. Hines S.Sgt. C. Orville Brown Pvt. Earl R. Hodges Lt. Henry Hoffman Paul Bunch, USA Pvt. Albert W. Callender S.Sgt. Paul N. Hoover Lt. Donald E. Carter Lt. William Hoover A/C William Cashin Capt. Lloyd Hubbard A/C Leroy E. Charlesworth A/S Houston Hunter Pvt. Herbert Hussey S.Sgt. Wing S. Chuck Lt. Robert G. Chute Sgt. John B. Hutchison Pvt. Donald H. Cochran Ph. M. Ic Paul Jungerman Sgt. Paul Compton Lt. (j.g.) Grant L. Kelley Richard Kershner, USNR 1st Lt. Hugh G. Cramer George L. Cropley Lt. George P. Klingler Lt. John W. Knight A/C Iril Crowe Lt. Joseph Cukar Lt. Warren K. Knopf Pfc. Allen C. Daley Lt. Peter Knudson A/C Emil Kunz Lt. Howard Dillwood Pvt. Franck W. Laine Lt. Marvin Dillwood Sgt. Donald E. Lanini A/C Joseph DiMaggio Jack Dixon, USAAF Lt. Theodore E. Lee Lt. Stanley W. Dodge Lt. Joseph Loftus S.Sgt. Thomas L. Dowling Lt. William Logan Capt. Harry Edwards Lt. Jesse Luker 1st Lt. William Everding Lt. R. David Lundberg Major Jack Mathis Pfc. James B. Fellom Cpl. Cecil R. Mattos A/C Donald Ferguson

Lt. Jerome H. Ferguson

Cpl. Joseph Ferreira

Pyt. Edward P. McConnell Lt. William P. McDonald A/C Wilbur K. Meeks Lt. J. P. (Jack) Messing Walter A. Moore A/C Francis E. Morgan Ens. Hugh H. Morris Lt. Davis Murdock Sgt. Stafford F. Narvaez Lt. William R. Newby Lt. Jack J. Niosi Lt. Forrest O'Brien Cpl. Jacob O'Neill 1st Lt. Sidney C. Ormsbee Lt. Ralph Poling A/C Frank Postle Lt. (j.g.) Curtis F. Pullen Lt. Lloyd W. Rauch Lt. Eugene E. Ravera Lt. Roger Romine Cpl. George M. Ryan Lt. Robert Sacry S.Sgt. Claude W. Seifert Lt. Robert E. Slater Lt. Gilbert Smith Cpl. Victor Soares Pilot Malta Stepp Ens. Ellsworth W. Stevens S Ic Ralph Sweezey Pvt. Wesley E. Thomas Pvt. Raymond J. Valenta Cpl. Clyde Vance R 3c Burton Vanderkamp Lt. Ralph Vick A/C Henry E. Walker Lt. Jerome Weinberg Pvt. Hamilton White Lt. (j.g.) Johnston B. Wiles

Lt. Robert Wiley

Lt. Paul E. Woodruff

Lt. Frederick G. Wool





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Roger Romine is honored for his service in World War II.

