

## Nashville ATHENA Award Records, 1991-2008

### Collection Summary

**Creator:** Nashville ATHENA Award Program

**Title:** Nashville ATHENA Award Records

**Inclusive Dates:** 1991-2008

**Summary/Abstract:** Records of the Nashville Athena Awards program, including annual event programs, organizational records, nominee materials, publicity, photographs, and video tapes.

**Physical Description/Extent:** ca. 8 cu. ft.

**Series:** I. Administrative Records  
II. Ephemera  
III. Photographs  
IV. Publications  
V. Publicity Scrapbooks  
VI. Video Recordings

**Accession Number:** Acc. 2009.018

**Language:** English

**Stack Location:** Closed stacks SCC workroom range 2 section 2

Closed stacks map room drawer K-5 folder 3

**Repository:** Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

### Chronology

Date	Event
1980	ATHENA International's founder, Martha Mertz was asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the Lansing Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce. After finding herself to be the only business woman serving on the Board and discovering that her Chamber had only once honored a woman, Martha quickly recognized that the Chamber's boardroom did not reflect the reality of the community. Martha worked with her Chamber to recognize the leadership of outstanding professional and business women in the community and advocated to provide opportunities for them to move into leadership positions. <sup>1</sup>
1982	The first ATHENA Award was presented
1990	The Nashville ATHENA Awards are established, with the first award in 1991.
1993	The traditional scholarship for outstanding high school female seniors was established by Nashville ATHENA.
1994	In 1994, ATHENA International (formerly known as ATHENA Foundation) Board of Directors established the International ATHENA Award. This award is presented each spring at the ATHENA International Leadership Conference GALA Dinner.

<sup>1</sup> ATHENA International: History. 2007. Retrieved June 17, 2009, from <http://www.athenafoundation.org/pages/history/10.php>.

<b>2001</b>	Nashville ATHENA established the non-traditional scholarship to support non-traditional female students who wish to continue their education
<b>2005</b>	Nashville ATHENA celebrates its 15 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.
<b>2007</b>	A \$3,000 science-focused non-traditional scholarship was added to the Nashville ATHENA program.

### **Biographical/Historical Sketch**

The mission of the ATHENA Award is:

- Supporting, developing and honoring women leaders.
- Inspiring women to achieve their full potential.
- Creating balance in leadership worldwide.

The ATHENA Award is presented annually by chambers of commerce, women’s organizations and universities. The award is established through local host organizations in partnership with ATHENA International’s national underwriters, local businesses and individual sponsors. Nominations are solicited and an ATHENA sculpture is awarded to an individual in the community who meets specific criteria: demonstrates excellence, creativity, and initiative in their business or profession; provides valuable service by contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community; and actively assists women in realizing their full leadership potential

Since the program’s inception in 1982 more than 5000 awards have been presented in over 500 communities in the United States, Canada, China, Russia, the United Arab Emirates and most recently the United Kingdom. By honoring exceptional leaders, the ATHENA Award® Program seeks to inspire others to achieve excellence in their professional and personal lives.<sup>2</sup>

The ATHENA Sculpture, created by sculptor Linda Ackley, was inspired by the dynamic goddess of Greek mythology known for her strength, courage, wisdom and enlightenment – qualities needed for leadership. The marble base represents the recipient’s solid foundation. The unique textures of the bronze differ on each sculpture, just as the life experiences of the recipients differ. The cut crystal symbolizes the many facets of human character and the light emanating from the recipient. Viewed from various angles, the outstretched arms of this form can be seen to express the celebration of achievement and reaching out to others. Each unique sculpture is numbered as one of a select edition.<sup>3</sup>

Designed to recognize, encourage and celebrate the achievements of women in business and their professions, the Nashville ATHENA Award honors those women who have attained and personify the highest level of excellence. Each year, more than 25 women from across Middle Tennessee are nominated for their embodiment of the

<sup>2</sup> ATHENA International: ATHENA Award Program. 2007. Retrieved June 17, 2009, from [http://www.athenafoundation.org/pages/athena\\_award\\_/14.php](http://www.athenafoundation.org/pages/athena_award_/14.php).

<sup>3</sup> ATHENA Foundation brochure, March 2003.

ATHENA spirit. Each exemplifies leadership, superior performance, commitment to community, and unselfish assistance to women and women's issues.

Over thirty women's organizations from throughout the community work together organizing the ATHENA Award, an annual Nashville event since 1991. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of a 300-word essay and superior academic performance. The traditional scholarship for outstanding high school female seniors was established in 1993. In 2001 the non-traditional scholarship was established to support non-traditional female students who wish to continue their education. In 2007, a \$3,000 science focused non-traditional scholarship was added to the program.

Traditionally held at Nashville's Parthenon, the annual awards program was held for the first time in 2008 at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. The organization will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010.

#### Nashville ATHENA Award Recipients

2008 Joyce Searcy  
2007 Barbara Moss  
2006 Tommie Morton-Young, Ph.D.  
2005 Yvonne C. Wood  
2004 Mary Frances Lyle  
2003 Pat Pierce  
2002 Deborah Y. Faulkner  
2001 Ronnie Steinberg, Ph.D.  
2000 Deborah C. German, M.D.  
1999 Carol L. McCoy  
1998 Betty Chiles Nixon  
1997 Gayle Ray  
1996 Sarah Hamilton Sell, M.D.  
1995 Linda B. Rudolph  
1994 Inez Crutchfield  
1993 Mary Anne Jackson (deceased)  
1992 Margaret L. Behm  
1991 Martha Craig Daughtrey

#### **Scope and Contents of the Collection**

The collection consists of administrative records, ephemera, photographs, publicity scrapbooks, and video recordings created by and documenting the Nashville ATHENA Awards Program since its inception in 1991. There is particularly strong representation for the years 2003-2005 in the collection. Every year since 1991 is represented at a minimum by a program from the annual awards program. In addition to traditional paper records, the records are in a variety of formats, including data files on compact disc, DVDs, VHS tapes, photographic prints, contact sheets, and posters.

The Nashville Public Library Special Collection Division exhibited material from the collection in the Courtyard Gallery from March to May 2009.

### **Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

**Organization:** Organized into the following series: I. Administrative Records; II. Ephemera; III. Photographs; IV. Publications; V. Publicity Scrapbooks; and VI. Video Recordings.

**Arrangement:** Arranged chronologically within each series.

### **Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access:** In library use only. Available by appointment.

**Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:** Some items may be protected by Copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

### **Index Terms**

#### **Corporate Names/Organizations:**

Nashville ATHENA Awards

#### **Subjects:**

Associations, institutions, etc.--Tennessee--Nashville  
Awards

Businesspeople--Tennessee--Nashville

Businesswomen--Tennessee--Nashville

Civic leaders--Tennessee--Nashville

Professional employees

Scholarships

Women--Societies and clubs--Tennessee--Nashville

Women--Middle Tennessee

Women--Tennessee--Nashville

#### **Places:**

Nashville (Tenn.)--History

Nashville (Tenn.)--Social life and customs

Nashville (Tenn.)--Social conditions

#### **Genre/Document Types:**

Administrative records

Ephemera

Photographs

Scrapbooks

Video recordings

**Occupations:**

Businesswomen

Civic leaders

Professional employees

**Associated and Related Material**

A related collection in the Special Collections Division is the Lawyers Association for Women Records. LAW, like ATHENA, is a member group of the CABLE network, “Tennessee’s largest and most established network of professionals helping women reach their full potential with over 500 members and a 30-year history.”<sup>4</sup>

**Administrative Information**

**Copyright:** This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

**Preferred Citation:** Nashville ATHENA Awards Records, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Donated to the Special Collections Division by CABLE via past ATHENA recipient Pat Pierce in 2008-2009.

**Ownership and Custodial History:** The records were created and used by various Nashville ATHENA Award officers, passed along from chairwoman to chairwoman, and collected by Pat Pierce.

**Processing Information:** Processed by Aimee James in 2008-2009.

**Accruals:** Further accruals are expected.

**Detailed Description of the Collection**

**Series I. Administrative Records, 1994-2006 and n.d., ca. 2 cu. ft.**

Series Abstract/Description: Consists of the Nashville ATHENA Awards administrative records from 1994 to 2006 and no date. Materials include planning documents relating to the annual awards, nominee information and applications, committee records, and sponsor information.

Arrangement: Arranged by format and chronologically.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1-26	Administrative Records, 1994-2004
2	27-38	Administrative Records, 2004-2006
7	n/a	Administrative Records ( 38 CDs), 2001-2006

<sup>4</sup> CABLE Connects: About CABLE. 2009. Retrieved June 17, 2009, from [http://www.nashvillecable.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=5&Itemid=89](http://www.nashvillecable.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5&Itemid=89).

**Series II. Ephemera, 1991-2008, ca. 3.5 cu. ft.**

Series Abstract/Description: Consists of invitations, programs, and posters related to the annual ATHENA Awards program. The primary contents of this series is programs. Two programs from each year are housed in boxes 3 and 4, while extra copies of the programs are housed separately in boxes 5 and 6. It is anticipated that ATHENA Award committee members may have need of these extra programs at some point in the future, so they will be retained and stored with the collection. Five of the seven posters have been mounted on foam core.

Arrangement: Arranged by format and chronologically.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
2	39	Ephemera: Invitations, 2004-2005
10	97	Ephemera: Posters
3	44-60	Ephemera: Programs, 1991-2007
4	61	Ephemera: Programs, 2008
5	64-81	Ephemera: Programs: Extra Copies, 1991-2002
6	82-96	Ephemera: Programs: Extra Copies, 2002-2007

**Series III. Photographs, 1993-2008, ca. 1.25 cu. ft.**

Series Abstract/Description: Consists of photographic prints, negatives, and contact sheets depicting Nashville ATHENA Award nominees and recipients as well as events at the annual program. Representation varies from year to year. Photographic prints are housed in binder boxes (boxes 11-16), while contact sheets are housed in box 4. There are also some photographs in digital form on CD-R stored in box 7. One oversize print of the Athena statue inside the Nashville Parthenon (mounted on foamcore) is in Drawer K-5 folder 3.

Arrangement: Arranged by format and chronologically.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
4	62-63	Photographs: Contact Sheets, 2001 and 2004
7	n/a	Photographs: Digital Images (7 CDs), 2003-2005 and n.d.
11	n/a	Photographs: Prints, 1993, 1994, and 1997
12	n/a	Photographs: Prints, 1999
13	n/a	Photographs: Prints, 2000, 2001, and 2002
14	n/a	Photographs: Prints, 2003
15	n/a	Photographs: Prints, 2004
16	n/a	Photographs: Prints, 2008

**Series IV. Publications, 1993, 1 folder**

Series Abstract/Description: Consists of *Tennessee Women: A Guide for Teachers*, published by the Nashville ATHENA Award.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
2	40	Publications, 1993

**Series V. Publicity Scrapbooks, 1993-2005, ca. .5 cu. ft.**

Series Abstract/Description: Consists of binders of newspaper clippings and press releases related to the Nashville ATHENA Awards.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
2	41-43	Publicity Scrapbooks, 1993-2005

**Series VI. Video Recordings, 1994-2006, ca. .75 cu. ft.**

Series Abstract/Description: Consists primarily of video recordings of the Nashville ATHENA Awards annual program. Also included are videos of nominee presentations as well as 15-year retrospective video created in 2005. Videos exist in both DVD and VHS formats. Years represented by videos include 1994; 1995; 1996; 1997; 1998; 1999; 2000; 2002; 2004; and 2005.

Arrangement: Arranged by format and chronologically.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
7	n/a	Video Recordings (4 DVDs), 2004-2006
8	n/a	Video Recordings (14 VHS tapes), 1994-2000
9	n/a	Video Recordings (7 VHS tapes), 2002-2005