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Office of the President
J. Eugene Smith
1947-2001

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Arranged and Described
by
Deborah Simpson with L. Magowan

Tara L. Hurt, Archivist, Head Archives & Special Collections

February, 2003
Willimantic, Connecticut

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DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Name	James Eugene Smith
Title	Office of the President, J. Eugene Smith, 1947-2001.
Extent	2 linear feet. 3 boxes.
Arrangement	The material was divided into nine series and arranged chronologically within each series.
Provenance	This collection was created by the University Archives staff. Materials were brought together and organized from documents and papers sent to the University Archives from many sources including but not limited to the Office of the President
Finding Aid	Printed finding aid available in repository. Electronic version: http://ecsu.archives.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/
Preferred Citation	[Series, Folder description, Date], Office of the President, J. Eugene Smith, 1947-2001. University Archives, J. Eugene Smith Library, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226.
Access points	Teachers colleges. Teacher educators. College presidents. Willimantic State Teachers College Willimantic State College
Occupation	Educator. 2 nd President - Willimantic State Teacher's College; Willimantic State College.
Restrictions	Access to "Committee on Admissions & Student Standing, 1 November 1962" is restricted.
Document types	Correspondence. Publications. Administrative Records. Press releases.

BIOGRAPHY:

James Eugene Smith was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in 1905 and lived as a child in Manchester, New Hampshire. He graduated from Washington and Jefferson College in 1927 with an A.B. in education. He received an A.M. from Harvard University in 1930.

In 1935 he came to Willimantic and taught at Windham High School and married Miss Eva Began the following year. In 1937 he joined the Willimantic State Teacher's College as a faculty member where he served as an instructor in history and social sciences. In 1943 he received his PhD from Harvard University.⁶

Dr. Smith was appointed as the second president of the college in January of 1947. During his tenure, the Windham Street Model School was completely renovated and renamed in honor of its long time principal, F. R. Noble. The Knight House property was purchased in 1949 and a student union/dormitory was built opening in 1957 (Winthrop Hall).² Dr. Smith was known for his commitment to high academic standards, his personal integrity and the development of good communications among the faculty, staff and students of the college.¹ In January of 1966, President Smith retired after 19 years of service.

He went on to serve as the 3rd Executive Secretary of the Connecticut State College System from 1967-1972.⁵ In June 1971 the first library building on campus was dedicated and named in his honor. Nearly thirty years later, a new library building was dedicated in his name in January 1999. Dr. Smith died the following year on April 20, 2000 at the age of 94.⁵

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

This collection contains original material from the office of President Smith, though a comparatively small sample from his long tenure at the school. The balance of the collection is a compilation of information gathered from many sources including local newspapers and publications plus the generous donations of faculty & alumni. Materials include correspondence, committee minutes, speeches, annual reports, special events and photographs. Highlights include a testimonial to Dean Robert Wickware and documents from his inauguration and retirement.

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

Series I - Committees

This series includes minutes from Connecticut Board of Education Administrative Council meetings between 1952 and 1965, Connecticut State College President's meetings from 1946-1966 and campus development meetings. It also includes lists of administrators and faculty who served during President Smith's tenure.

Series II - Correspondence

This series includes a collection of correspondence dating from 1950-1965. It includes information on President Smith's inauguration, committees, special programs, teacher evaluation, curricula and degree issues.

Series III - Events

This series contains a few highlights such as his inauguration, the dedication of the new administration building (Shafer Hall) and his retirement party.

Series IV - News clippings

This series includes various articles including the naming of the first Smith Library, Dr. Smith's retirement and copies of his obituary.

Series V - Papers/Speeches

This series offers speeches presented by President Smith during his tenure. They include a testimonial for Dean Robert Wickware and comments prepared for the retirement of Professor C. Francis Willey.

Series VI - Policy & Procedures

This series includes an early alcohol policy, guidelines for the faculty organization and documents related to personnel issues.

Series VII - Publications

This series offers bibliographic information about the book, One Hundred Years of Hartford's Courant, from colonial times through the Civil War written by President Smith and published in 1949. Copies of the book are available in the library's general collection and in the ECSU Authors Collection.

Series VIII – Reports

This series offer annual reports and a report from the building committee on approved projects in 1965.

Series IX - Photographs

This series includes a copy of a portrait of President Smith and a few candid photographs. The original portrait hangs in the Archives & Special Collections area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

¹⁻ Willey, C. Francis. "Willimantic State Teacher's College (1889-1947)". *Teacher Education Quarterly* 7 (Fall 1949).

²⁻ Smith, J. Eugene. "The Work of Teacher's Today" (Education in Eastern Connecticut). *Willimantic Chronicle*, Dec. 2, 1955.

³⁻ Pearlman, Alice. "President Smith Retires". *Campus Lantern*, February 2, 1966.

⁴⁻ Connecticut State University Board of Trustees. "Resolution honoring Dr. J. Eugene Smith". May 5, 2000.

⁵⁻ "J. Eugene Smith, 94, ECSU's 2nd President". *Hartford Courant*, (obituaries) April 21, 2000.

⁶⁻ "J. Eugene Smith, college president". *Putnam Town Crier & Northeast Ledger*, v7 (43), p.10, 12. April 28, 2000.

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

Related information may be found in the following collections: Annual Reports, the Photograph Collection, and in the following publications: *Faculty Newsletter*, *Alumni News*, *ECSU in the News* and *Eastern Envoy*.

The University Archives has a substantial collection of university archives material and also houses the Connecticut Studies Collection. For more detailed information on these collections please speak with a staff member, call 860-465-5563 or visit the Smith Library Archives & Special Collections online at <http://ecsu.archives.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/>

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Box Folder

Date

James Eugene Smith, 1947-1966, 2nd President

Series I - Committees

1	Administration, faculty & staff	1947-1956
	Dedication Committee & Reports	Spring 1949
	Dedication – Invitations Committee	Spring 1949
	Dedication – Publicity Committee	Spring 1949
	Social Studies Conference Planning Committee	Spring 1951
	Administrative Council	Fall 1952
	Administrative Council	Spring 1953
	Administrative Council	Fall 1953
	Administrative Council	Spring 1954
	Teachers College Presidents	Mar–May 1954
	Teachers College Presidents	July–Dec 1954
	Administrative Council	1954-1955
	Teachers College Presidents	Jan–June 1955
	Administrative Council	1955-1956
	Teachers College Presidents	July–Dec 1955
	Teachers College Presidents	Jan–June 1956
	Administrative Council	1956-1957
	Campus Development Committee	1956-1957
	Teachers College Presidents	Sept–Dec 1956
	Administration, faculty & staff	1956-1959
	Teachers College Presidents	Feb–June 1957
	Administrative Council	1957-1958
	Campus Development Committee	1957-1958
	Campus Development Committee – Plans	1957-1958
	Administrative Council	1958-1959
	Campus Development Committee	1958 – 1959
	Teachers College Presidents	Sept–Dec 1958
	Instruction Materials - Report	Fall 1958
	Teachers College Presidents	Jan-June 1959
	Campus Development Committee (Mid-Year)	1 Jan 1959
	Improvement of Teaching	18 Feb 1959
	Campus Development Committee Annual Report	15 May 1959
	Administrative Council	1959-1960
	Mid-Year Report: Campus Development Committee	1959–1960
	State College Presidents	Sept-Dec 1959
	State College Presidents	Jan-June 1960
	Assembly and Conference Committee	Apr 1960
	Campus Development Committee	June 1960
2	Administration, faculty & staff	1960-1966
	Administrative Council	1960-1961
	State College Presidents	Sept-Dec 1960
	State College Presidents	Jan-June 1961

Box Folder

Date

James Eugene Smith, 1947-1966, 2nd President

Series I - Committees

2	Administrative Council	1961-1962
	State College Presidents	July-Dec 1961
	State College Presidents	Jan-June 1962
	Administrative Council	1962-1963
	State College Presidents	Sept-Dec 1962
	State College Presidents	Jan-June 1963
	Fraternities/Sororities	4 Feb 1963
	Administrative Council	1963-1964
	Pattern of Student Tradition	1 Sept 1963
	State College Presidents	Sept-Dec 1963
	Planning Committee – All College Conference	Fall 1963
	State College Presidents	Jan-June 1964
	Administrative Council	1964-1965
	Administrative Staff	Fall 1964
	Dean's Staff	Fall 1964
	Campus Development	9 Oct 1964
	State College Presidents	Sept-Dec 1964
	State College Presidents	Jan-June 1965
	Campus Development Plans	March 1965
	Campus Development	Spring 1965
	Administrative Staff	Spring 1965
	Dean's Staff	Spring 1965
	Committee Listing, 1965-1966	August 1965
	State College Presidents	July-Dec. 1965
	Administrative Staff	Fall 1965
	Dean's Staff	Fall 1965
	Testimonial Coordinating Committee	Fall 1965
	Campus Development	1 Nov 1965
	Administrative Staff	3 January 1966
	State College Presidents	14 January 1966

Series II - Correspondence

2	Inauguration	Fall 1947
	International Relations Conference	9 May 1949
	Crusade for Freedom	Fall 1950
	Enrollment	8 Mar 1954
	World Affairs Conference	9 April 1954
	Focus on India Conference	21 April 1955
	Request for Master's Degree program	26 August 1955
	Objectives for General Education Program	[1956]
	President Smith – to all faculty	Spring 1956
	General	Sept-Dec 1957

Box Folder

Date

James Eugene Smith, 1947-1966, 2nd President

Series II - Correspondence

2	Institutional Planning Committee	6 May 1958
	C.A.S.S. - Committee on Admissions & Student Standing	July 1958
	Official Grade Symbols	13 November 1958
	Informational Workshop for Academic Counselors	April 1960
	C.A.S.S.	Fall 1960
	WSC Faculty Association	September 1961
	Evaluation of Student Teachers	8 May 1962
	Faculty Meeting announcement	3 October 1962
	C.A.S.S. – <i>Restricted</i>	1 November 1962
	Attendance at Student Assemblies	15 October 1963
	Conant Report on Teacher Education Programs	10 February 1964
	Snow Storms and College Policy	12 February 1964
	Nursery School – open to faculty children	28 May 1964
	General - faculty	Fall 1964
	Campus Development Committee	12 March 1965
	General – faculty	Fall 1965
	Smith Announces Retirement	8 October 1965
	Testimonial for J. Eugene Smith	16-17 November 1965
	All College Conference - Crime & Delinquency	4 May 1966

Series III - Events

3	Inauguration	23 November 1947
	Dedication - Administration/Classroom Building	8-10 April 1949
	Dedication - Administration/Classroom Building- Invitation and Tea held in Burr Hall	8 April 1949
	Baccalaureate - program (2)	8 June 1958
	Baccalaureate - program (2)	7 June 1959
	71 st Commencement - program	9 June 1961
	72 nd Commencement - program	8 June 1962
	73 rd Commencement - program	7 June 1963
	74 th Commencement - program	5 June 1964
	75 th Anniversary- program & booklet	9 November 1964
	Testimonial - RSVP cards (2)	January 1966
	Presidential Medal Citation	20 May 1990

Series IV - News clippings

60 Years of Training School Teachers	3-4 April 1949
“Willimantic State Teacher’s College” (Willey)	Fall 1949
Teachers College going on the radio	1951
“Etudiants du Willimantic State Teachers”	25 May 1954
Smith reports employment opportunities never better	5 June 1954
Graduates assemble at reunion	7 June 1954

Box Folder

Date

James Eugene Smith, 1947-1966, 2nd President

Series IV - News clippings

3	“Education in Eastern Connecticut”	2 December 1955
	WSTC news	Fall 1956
	Commencement activities	May-June 1957
	Noble School Dedication	June 1957
	Personnel Changes at WSTC	31 July 1957
	New Student Union & Women’s Dormitory	Fall 1957
	Visitors from Taiwan	November 1957
	Graduate Study Tour Plan	May 1958
	Civil Rights activities	April 1960
	Searle F. Charles – 1 st WSC Dean	5 April 1962
	“President Retires”	2 February 1966
	“ECSC Library Named for Dr. Smith”	15 May 1969
	Smith Library – History	8 November 1979
	Obituaries – J. Eugene Smith	April 2000
	Obituary – wife Eva Bogan Smith	5 December 2001

Series V - Papers/Speeches

“Milestones in the History of WSTC”	April 1949
Buildings - plea to legislature	19 March 1963
Dean Wickware Testimonial	3 May 1974
Class of 1942 - reunion message	30 April 1982
“Tribute to Professor C. Willey”	9 April 1983
Oral history (transcript)	[1989]

Series VI - Policy and Procedures

Alcohol policy	1949
Faculty organization and personnel	1957-1958
Cancellation of Classes	1962-1963
Faculty organization and personnel	1962-1963
Cancellation of Classes	1963-1964
Faculty organization and personnel	1963-1964
Vacation patterns	1 April 1964
Cancellation of Classes	1964-1965
Faculty organization and personnel	1964-1965
Civil Rights Act of 1964	6 January 1965
Guides for operation of WSC bookstore	26 February 1965
Official “Guests” Policy	24 September 1965
Cancellation of Classes	1965-1966
Faculty organization and personnel	1965-1966

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
James Eugene Smith, 1947-1966, 2nd President		
Series VII - Publications		
3	<i>One Hundred Years of Hartford's Courant</i> CSU Resolution Honoring Dr. Smith A biography (Smith Library website)	1949/1970 5 May 2000 n.d.
Series VIII – Reports		
	Annual Report (2)	30 June 1955
	Annual Report (2)	5 July 1956
	Annual Report	1956-1957
	Annual Report	1957-1958
	Annual Report	1958-1959
	Annual Report	1959-1960
	New enrollment figures	22 September 1960
	Annual Report	1060-1961
	College Annual Reports	1961-1962
	Annual Reports	1961-1962
	Conference on Human Relations	2-3 April 1962
	Final enrollment figures	27 September 1962
	Annual Reports	1962-1963
	Annual Reports	1963-1964
	Annual Reports	1964-1965
	Annual Reports (copy 2)	30 June 1965
	Projects approved by 1965 legislature	[Spring1965]
Series IX – Photographs		
3	J. Eugene Smith, portrait photograph (Grube)	n.d.
	J. Eugene Smith and others (3)	1950s
	J. Eugene Smith (3) w/2 mounted	1960s