Guide to the Ruth Alice Haas Papers MS 033

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Description is in English.

Ruth A. Haas Papers. Doc

Western Connecticut State University Archives and Special Collections

Haas Library
181 White St
Danbury 06810
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Summary Information

Repository:	Western Connecticut State University Archives and Special Collections
Creator:	Haas, Ruth A., 1903-1986.
Title:	Ruth Alice Haas Papers
ID:	MS 033
Date [inclusive]:	1922-1987
Physical Description:	23.5 Linear Feet , 16 boxes and 1 OS Folder
General Physical Description note:	12 linear feet (12 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Ruth Alice Haas (1903-1986) arrived the Danbury Normal School in 1931 to serve as Dean of Women. For fifteen years, she lived in Fairfield Hall as the primary mentor and supervisor for boarding students. Over the years, she assumed more responsibility. In 1946, after President Jenkins' death, she was the unanimous choice for president. She served as president for twenty-eight years, through times of significant growth and change for the school. These papers contain a cross section of her administrative records and her personal papers.

Preferred Citation

Published citations should take the following form:
Identification of item, date (if known); The Ruth Alice Haas Papers; MS 033; box number; folder number;

Western Connecticut State University Archives

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Historical/Biographical Note

Ruth Alice Haas was born on March 30, 1903, in Syracuse, New York. She attended schools in Syracuse and Amherstberg, Ontario, Canada, and earned a B.S. in education and a M.A. in political science from Syracuse University. Before coming to Danbury, she taught in Watertown, New York, and in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University

Ruth Haas came to the Danbury Normal School as Dean of Women in 1931. She was appointed President of Danbury State Teachers College in 1946 thus becoming the first woman in the United States to serve as president of a four-year state college.

During her tenure as president, she served as President of the Eastern States Association of Professional Schools for Teachers, President of the Connecticut Council on Higher Education, and President of the New England Association of Teachers Colleges. She also served on the New England Board of Higher Education, the Advisory Council to the Connecticut Commission on Higher Education, and on the State Commission on Cooperation with Federal Authorities in Matters Pertaining to Higher Education.

In Danbury, Ruth Haas served as a Manager and a Trustee of Danbury Hospital, as a Trustee of the Danbury Library, as a Trustee of the Scott-Fanton Museum and as a member of the Bicentennial Commission. She was a recipient of the News Times Civic Achievement Award, the first to receive the Book of Golden Deeds award of the Exchange Club, and received the Liberty Bell Award from the Danbury Bar Association.

Ruth Haas received many honors, awards and citations throughout her career and in 1969 the new library at Western Connecticut State College was named in her honor. She also received honorary degrees from Syracuse University, Rhode Island College, Albertus Magnus College, and the University of Hartford. Ruth Haas died on November 25, 1986.

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Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ruth A. Haas consist of materials that document her education and her career at Danbury State College.

Series 1 contains RAH's education and honorary degrees which consist of *The Annual*, Watertown High School's 1925 yearbook, where Haas taught history for several years, and Syracuse University's 1922 and 1924 yearbook *The Onondagan*. Also included are RAH's B. A. and M.S., as well as her master's thesis, and several honorary degrees.

Series 2, 4, 5, and 7 document RAH's appointment as president of Danbury State Teacher's College and inauguration. These series contain invitations, inauguration program, clippings and news releases, and *The Inkling*, a campus newsletter, which covered the inauguration as well RAH's keynote speech to the 21st Eastern States Association's Conference on March 21-23, 1947. Also included is an autograph letter (signed) addressed to Haas from Eleanor Roosevelt declining an invitation to attend the Conference.

Correspondence from governors and other political figures include John David Lodge, Mrs. Francis W. Cole, Thomas J. Meskill, John Alsop, Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., Florence D. Finney, Ruth O. Truex, Robert K. Killian, George E. Steinmetz, Romeo E. Petroni, Ella Grasso, S. McLellan, Henry E. Parker, Nancy Lewinsohn, William R. Baldwin, and Dr. Harvey S. Sadow.

Among RAH's Personal Papers there is an address, *Amherstburg*, delivered by F.W. Haas, RAH's father, to the members of the Lake Erie and St. Clair Publishers' Association on October 12, 1928. The address, in a small booklet form, was a brief survey of historical Amhertsburg and Old Fort Malden. Other papers in this folder include a copy of her birth certificate, retirement papers, and a farewell letter addressed to her college family dated May 8, 1975, before her retirement.

In 1966, Haas was the first recipient of the Golden Deeds Award presented by the Exchange Club of Danbury for her contribution to higher education in Connecticut. Included among the papers are congratulatory letters and telegrams from family, friends, and business leaders in the community, as well as the program and clippings of the event. Among the many individuals who sent congratulatory letters and cards were Walter Werner, Bert Stroock, Harold Hodgdon, Jr., Howard Holmes, Abe and Bertha Feinson, William H. Flaharty, John Hoffer, Edward Sillari, John Monagan, William Sanders, Abe Ribicoff, Richard Rausch, Fay Overholt, Carl and Ruth Denison, Kathryn Vacha, Max Levy, Mary Swokla, Abe Ribicoff, Frank and Mabel Palermo; Patrick Cahilll; Fritz, Fritzi, and Joseph (RAH's sister and family); and the faculty of DSC.

Correspondence in celebration of Haas' 25th anniversary as president of DSC consist of congratulatory letters from family members, friends, colleagues, local clubs and organizations. Correspondents include Warren G. Hill, Bobbi Pough, Romeo Petroni, William R. Ratchford, Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., John S. Monagan, Ella T. Grasso, Thomas J.Meskill, Clark Hull, William J. Sanders, Regina, Dick, Manson Van Jennings, Hilton C. Buley, Herbert D. Welte, Marguerite Paatchen, Chester E. Floyd, Raymond Trimpert, Ernest A. Johnson, Dorothy Hutton Shippee, John Lyman, Hazel D. Tobias, Esther E. Wagner, Fayette L. Overholt, Finis E. Engleman, and John Lyman.

Haas was also honored by the Danbury Chamber of Commerce on her 25th anniversary and was given a silver tray commemorating the event. A copy of the invitation and program for the event are also included. Additional honors came from the House of Representatives when a resolution, presented by John S. Monagan of Connecticut, was passed honoring Haas for her 25 years of service as WCSC president. A copy of the Congressional Record speech as well as a transcript of a WINE salute to Haas by Ron Gleissner on March 9, 1972.

Retirement testimonials and honors includes notes and letters from Daniel J. Flood, Regina M. Duffy, Seymour R. Powers, Owen F. Peagler, Mildred Lucas, Harold P. Splain, Herbert S. Everett, H. B. Schramm, Robert M. Beatty, Leonard J. Kent, Everett I. L. Baker, A. M. Woodruff, Arthur C. Banks, Jr., Louis Rabineau, Richard C. Gurney, Pearl Griska, Clint Walker, Walter J. Conn, Roger B. Bagley, Donald H. McGannon, David Detzer, and Sister Mary Theodore. In addition, two *Book of Letters* were presented to Haas at her retirement from *Colleagues and Friends*, and the *Alumni Association*. Also included is a guest book and program from her testimonial dinner (box 3).

Series 2 also contains minutes of the meetings of state college presidents that cover a number of issues pertaining to the operation of a four-college campus. Topics include administrative issues, budgets, salary schedules, tuition, increased enrollment, course offerings, faculty, and building projects. In addition, this series contains appointment papers of former employees, salaries and yearly budgets from 1949-1973. The bulk of the budgets in this series were created during RAH's tenure as President, but there are also budgets, as well as appointment papers, resignations, and salaries, created by her predecessors. The budgets after WW II reflect DSTC's tremendous growth from a two building college with 125 students to a nine building college campus with a broad liberal arts curriculum with over 5,000 students. Please note that Series 2, Appointment Papers and Resignations, (folders 7-43), are closed to researchers.

Photographs that document special events and anniversaries for Haas are located in Series 4. Included are images of her 25th anniversary celebration in 1972, retirement testimonial in 1975, receiving an honorary degree from Alberta Magnus College is 1973, groundbreaking of Ella Grasso Hall in 1981, and studio portraits for her inauguration. Images also include school faculty, state politicians, and friends at these events.

Series 5 contains two scrapbooks, one of which was created by RAH's sister, Fredericka Haas Batchelor, that contains telegrams, letters, photographs, and newspaper articles of RAH's 1947 inauguration, while the other contains newspaper articles that focus on the tremendous growth of the school from a two building Normal School to a seven building campus under the helm of RAH. Articles include increased enrollment, changes in curriculum and degrees, as well as RAH's 25th anniversary and retirement.

Series 6 contain condolence letters and notes sent to Fredericka Batchelor, niece of RAH, upon her aunt's death as well as the funeral guest book.

Series 7 includes miscellaneous memorabilia such as yearbooks, postcards, plaques, and gavel.

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Arrangement

Folders are arranged alphabetically or chronologically within each series.

The files are grouped into 7 series:

Missing Title

1 Education and Honorary Degrees,
2 Danbury State Teacher's College;
3 Certificates/Recognitions/Resolutions,
4 Photographs,
5 Scrapbooks,
6 Funeral, and,
7 Miscellaneous Memorabilia.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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stevensb@wcsu.edu
URL: http://archives.library.wcsu.edu

Provenance

Provenance not documented.

Access Restrictions

Series 2, Appointment Papers and Resignations, closed to researchers.

Use Restrictions

Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the:
Ruth A. Haas Library
Archives and Special Collections
181 White Street
Danbury, CT 06810
Phone: 203-837-8992
E-mail: stevensb@wcsu.edu

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Controlled Access Headings

- Universities and colleges -- Administration.
- Ephemera.
- Danbury (Conn.)
- Correspondence.
- Budgets.
- Photographs.
- Scrapbooks.
- Western Connecticut State University
- Danbury Teachers College.
- Danbury State Teachers College.
- Western Connecticut State College -- History.
- Haas, Ruth A., 1903-1986.

Collection Inventory

1. Education and Honorary Degrees

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
The *Onondagan*, 1922 , 1924	box 1	folder 1
The Annual, 1925	box 1	folder 2
Master's Thesis, 1928	box 1	folder 3
Syracuse University Master's Degree, 1928	box 1	folder 4
Rhode Island College of Education (Honorary Degree - Ed.D.), 1947	box OS1	folder *
Syracuse University (Honorary Degree LL.D), 1947	box 1	folder 5
Albertus Magnus College (Honorary Degree LL.D), 1973	box 1	folder 6
University of Hartford (Honorary Degree DD.L), 1974	box 1	folder 7
Syracuse University *Alumni News*, 1947	box 1	folder 8

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2. Danbury State Teacher's College

Language of the Material: English

Minutes of State Colleges Presidents' Meetings

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
Minutes, 1957 , 1962-1963	box 8	folder 1
Minutes, 1964-1965	box 8	folder 2
Minutes, 1966	box 8	folder 3
Minutes, 1967	box 8	folder 4
Minutes, 1968	box 8	folder 5
Minutes, 1969-1971	box 8	folder 6
DSC Samples of Student Evaluation of Credits, 1940-1957	box 8	folder 7
DSC Sample of Registration and Credit Record (Margaret E. Lathrop), 1929-1945	box 8	folder 8

Appointment Papers - Former Employees, 1935-1964 (w/gaps)

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
A-B, undated	box 7	folder 1
C-D, undated	box 7	folder 2
Ec, undated	box 7	folder 3
Ed, undated	box 7	folder 4
El-En, undated	box 7	folder 5
En, undated	box 7	folder 6
Fa-Fe, undated	box 7	folder 7
Fi, undated	box 7	folder 8-11
Fl-Fo, undated	box 7	folder 12
Ga-Ge, undated	box 7	folder 13
Gi, undated	box 7	folder 14
Gl-Gr, undated	box 7	folder 15
Gr, undated	box 7	folder 16-19
Han, undated	box 7	folder 20
Han-Har, undated	box 7	folder 21

Har-Hay, undated	box 7	folder 22
Hen, undated	box 7	folder 23-24
Hi-Ho, undated	box 7	folder 25
Ho-Hu, undated	box 7	folder 26
Hu, undated	box 7	folder 27
Iundated	box 7	folder 28
Ja, undated	box 7	folder 29
Je, undated	box 7	folder 30
Ji, undated	box 7	folder 31
Jo, undated	box 7	folder 32
Ka-Ke, undated	box 7	folder 33
Ki-Kl, undated	box 7	folder 34
M-N, undated	box 7	folder 35
O-R, undated	box 7	folder 36
S-T, undated	box 7	folder 37
V-Z, undated	box 7	folder 38
Resignations, 1934-1965	box 7	folder 39

Salaries: Danbury Normal School and Training School Teachers (Locust and Balmforth Avenue schools, Miry Brook and Kindergarten)

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
Salaries, 1923-1924	box 6	folder 1
Salaries, 1924-1925	box 6	folder 2
Salaries, 1926	box 6	folder 3
Salaries, 1927	box 6	folder 4
Salaries, 1928-1929	box 6	folder 5
Salaries, 1930	box 6	folder 6
DSC Faculty (Salaries, education, committees), 1963	box OS6	folder *

Budgets

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
Biennial Budget, 1949-1951	box 9	folder 1

Budget, 1951-1953	box 9	folder 2
Budget, 1951-1952	box 6	folder 7-8
Budget, 1952-1953	box 6	folder 9-11
Biennial Budget, 1953-1955	box 9	folder 3-5
Budget, 1953-1954	box 6	folder 12-13
Budget, 1954-1955	box 6	folder 14-15
Budget, 1955-1956	box 6	folder 16-17
Budget, 1956-1957	box 6	folder 18-19
Biennial Budget, 1957-1959	box 9	folder 6
Budget, 1957-1958	box 6	folder 20
Budget, 1958-1959	box 6	folder 21
Biennial Budget, 1959-1961	box 9	folder 7
Budget, 1959-1960	box 6	folder 22-23
Budget, 1960-1961	box 6	folder 24-25
Biennial Budget, 1961-1963	box 9	folder 8
Budget, 1961-1962	box 6	folder 26-27
Budget, 1962-1963	box 6	folder 28
Budget, Surpluses, Capital Costs, Dorm Finances (w/gaps), 1929-1963	box 9	folder 9
Budget, 1963-1964	box 6	folder 29-30
Biennial Budget, 1963-1965	box 6	folder 31
Proposed Budget, State System of Higher Education, 1966	box 6	folder 32
Budget, 1966- 1967	box 6	folder 33-34
Biennial Budget, 1967-1969	box 6	folder 35-38
Budget, 1967-1968	box 6	folder 39
Budget, 1968-1969	box 6	folder 40-41
Biennial Budget, 1969-1971	box 9	folder 10
Budget, 1969-1970	box 6	folder 42
Budget, 1970-1971	box 6	folder 43
Budget, 1971-1972	box 6	folder 44-45
Budget, 1972-1973	box 6	folder 46-47

Inauguration, 25th Anniversary, Retirement

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
Inauguration, 1947 Eleanor Roosevelt's response to Ruth Haas' invitation to attend her inauguration as president of the Danbury Teachers College https://archives.library.wcsu.edu/omeka-s/s/digital/item/2265 https://archives.library.wcsu.edu/omeka/files/original/Ruth_A._Haas_Papers_MS033/473/MS033_02_01_ER_001.jpg **General** Includes a note from Eleanor Roosevelt who sent an RSVP to Haas' inaugeration in 1947.	box 2	folder 1
Appointment Books, 1961-1963 , 1966-1972	box 3	folder *
Correspondence, 1954-1978	box 2	folder 2
Personal Papers, 1962-1985	box 2	folder 3
Exchange Club of Danbury, 1966	box 2	folder 4
Commencement Programs, 1973-1975	box 2	folder 5
Commencement Address, January 26, 1975	box 2	folder 6
Material for Talks, 1972	box 2	folder 7
25th Anniversary, 1972	box 2	folder 8-9
Personality Profile with Dr. Ruth Haas, Sunday, March 19, 1972 by radio station WLAD Danbury (audio tape), 1972 Digital Object: Ruth Haas WLAD interview	box 2	folder 10
Retirement - Testimonial Letters, 1975	box 2	folder 11
Retirement Program, 1975	box 2	folder 12
Retirement - Congressional Record, 1975	box 2	folder 13
Retirement - *Book of Letters from her Colleagues and Friends Book I - June 6,* 1975, 1975	box 3	folder *
Retirement - *Book of Letters from the Alumni Association Book II - June 6, 1975*, 1975	box 3	folder *
Retirement - *Book of Letters* (loose pages), 1975	box 2	folder 14
Retirement - Guest Book, 1975	box 2	folder 15
Retirement - *A Tribute to Ruth Haas* as recorded Friday, June 6, 1975	box 2	folder 16

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3. Certificates, Recognitions & Resolutions

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
AAUW, The Danbury Area Branch, 1982	box 5	folder 1
AAUW Education Foundation (framed), 1975	box 5	folder *
Connecticut Assn. for the Advancement of School Administrators, undated	box OS1	folder *
Connecticut Council on Higher Education (framed), 1975	box OS2	folder *
Connecticut, State of, Joint House Resolutions (framed), 1972 , 1975	box OS2	folder *
Connecticut State University Resolution (framed), 1987	box OS2	folder *
Danbury Chamber of Commerce (Silver Tray), March 25, 1972	box OS5	folder *
Danbury Commission on the Status of Women, 1985	box 5	folder 1
Delta Kappa Gamma Society Membership Certificate, undated	box 5	folder *
Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award (plaque), undated	box OS2	folder *
First Book of Golden Deeds Award, (program) June 4, 1966, 1966	box 5	folder 1
The Higher Education Center for Urban Studies, 1975	box OS1	folder *
Phi Delta Kappa, 1985	box 5	folder 1
Rotary Club of Newtown, 1961	box 5	folder 1
Rotary International, 1949	box 5	folder 1
WCSC Board of Trustees Resolution, June 13, 1975	box OS6	folder *
WCSC Student Body Medal/Commemoration, 1975	box 5	folder *

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4. Photographs

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
Photographs, Convocation, 1947	box 2	folder 17

Digital Object: Haas Inauguration Picture

Photographs, Commencements, undated	box 2	folder 18
Photographs, undated	box 2	folder 19-21
Photographs, 25th Anniversary, 1972	box 2	folder 22-23
Photographs, Alberta Magnus College, 1973	box 2	folder 24
Photographs, 1974	box 2	folder 25
Photographs, Retirement, 1975	box 2	folder 26-28
Photographs, Groundbreaking/Westside Campus, 1981	box 2	folder 29
Photographs, Miscellaneous, undated	box 2	folder 30
Photographs, Portraits, undated	box OS4	folder *

Digital Object: MS 033 | box: OS4 | Photographs, Portraits

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5. Scrapbooks

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings, 1947	box 4	folder 1
Clippings (created by Fredericka Haas Batchelor), 1947-1972	box 4	folder 2

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6. Funeral

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
Funeral Guest Book, 1986	box 2	folder 31
Condolences (cards and notes), 1986	box 2	folder 32
Condolences (letters), 1986	box 2	folder 33

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7. Memorabilia

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	

Alumni Board tribute honoring Dr. Ruth A. Haas (framed 11.5x17), 1975	box OS3	folder *
Collage of achievements (framed and mounted on wood), undated	box 5	folder *
Gavel: *"E.S.A.T.E. President Dr. Ruth A. Haas"* (Eastern States Association of Professional Schools for Teachers), 1947	box 5	folder *
Lasell Leaves, 1921	box 5	folder *
The Magazine for Connecticut Living, "Wesconn Revisited", 1973	box 5	folder *
Plaque: *With Sincere Gratitude Class of 1953*, undated	box 5	folder *
Portrait of Ruth Haas presented by the Class of 1967 (framed), undated	item 01	
Postcards: Campus Buildings, undated	box 5	folder 2
Quilt presented to RAH upon retirement (origin unknown), undated	box OS7	folder *
Tribute to a Great Lady by Jim Dyer, 1975	box OS7	folder *
WCSC Yearbooks, 1975 , 1978	box OS7	folder *
YMCA Century Club Plaque, undated	box OS7	folder *
Fredericka Batchelor, Obituary, 1972	box 5	folder 3
New York Times, June 18, 1935	folder OS 1	

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