

[University Collections](#)

[Archival Collections](#)

[Special Collections](#)

[Policies & Procedures](#)

[New Acquisitions](#)

[Mission Statement](#)

[Home Page](#)

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

HISTORICAL BOOK COLLECTION

# ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

## Ruth A. Haas Library Western Connecticut State University



*Members of the class of 1918 in front of the boarding house on White Street.  
(Photograph courtesy Marjory Atkins, '52.)*

---

## ABOUT THE COLLECTIONS

From its humble beginnings as a state normal school dedicated to training Connecticut teachers to its present status as a member of the Connecticut State University System, Western Connecticut State University has shaped and been shaped by the surrounding community. Danbury, once home to a vibrant hatting industry that produced many first-generation college students, has seen many of its citizens pass beyond the doors of the university and on through the doors of Danbury's businesses and organizations. In many ways, the town and the university are strongly linked. It is the duality and connectivity of this history which Archives and Special Collections At Western Connecticut State University strives to preserve.

The mission of the Archives and Special Collections Department is to collect, organize, make accessible, and preserve the records and artifacts documenting the history of Western Connecticut State University, the publications of staff and faculty, and the activities and achievements of its officers, faculty, students, alumni and benefactors. The Archives Collection

includes official records and manuscripts, university publications, audio recordings, and photographs relating to the history of the University.

In addition to preserving the institutional record and history of the university, Archives and Special Collections collects and preserves the documentary history of the community outside of the university. In particular, the department collects the history of twentieth and twenty-first century Danbury and Fairfield County, Connecticut, through the acquisition of individual and family papers as well as the records of local government officials, community organizations (including the records of under-documented groups, individuals and organizations), education and the arts. The collection includes unpublished, unique manuscript collections, historical publications, maps, recordings, prints, posters, and photographs.

## **ACCESS**

Archives and Special Collections is open to all interested researchers – students, faculty, staff, and alumnae of Western Connecticut State University, as well as outside scholars and the public. Archives staff members provide individual reference service in person, via email, letter, fax, and telephone.

All researchers are required to present a valid form of photo identification and register with the department by providing their name, address, and research topic. Patrons are strongly encouraged to make appointments with the Archives staff due to the small staff size and the one-on-one nature of archival reference services.

## **LOCATION**

Ruth A. Haas Library  
Lower Level  
Western Connecticut State University  
Danbury, CT 06810

## **HOURS**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9-4**

**It is requested that researchers call in advance for an appointment:  
203-837-8992**

## **STAFF**

Meg Moughan, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian  
203-837-8992  
E-Mail: [MoughanM@wcsu.edu](mailto:MoughanM@wcsu.edu)

Mary Rieke, Archives Assistant  
203-837-9111  
E-Mail: [RiekeM@wcsu.edu](mailto:RiekeM@wcsu.edu)

Lloyd Williams, Graduate Assistant

Email: [Marinomets@aol.com](mailto:Marinomets@aol.com)

*WCSU Library Archives Web Design by Sheila Sabo*

Email: [shesabo@aol.com](mailto:shesabo@aol.com)