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Donnal V. Smith (1943-1959) Documents

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### Biographical History

State University of New York at Cortland

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DR. DONNAL VORE SMITH, 1901

PRESIDENT OF THE FOURTH ADMINISTRATION (1943-1959)

Dr. Donnal V. Smith, attended the Coaching School at the University of Illinois, following which he taught physical education in Bloomdale, Ohio until 1922. He received his B.S. in Education from Bowling Green University in 1924; his M.A. from the University of Chicago in 1927; his Ph.D. there in 1929; and in 1943 Bowling Green University conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Dr. Smith was Principal of the Delta, Ohio High School from 1924 to 1926, and the following year was instructor of history at the University of Texas. From 1929 to 1943 he was a professor in the Social Studies Department, becoming chairman in 1939, at the State University of New York College for Teachers at Albany. In 1943 Dr. Smith was appointed President of the State University Teachers College at Cortland.

Throughout the first decade of his administration at Cortland, Donnal Vore Smith has given unstintingly of himself. His untiring efforts and his complete devotion to Cortland State has resulted not only in great physical change to the campus but also in the development of high morale among students, faculty and alumni.

Dr. Smith has done extensive research in Social Studies and is credited with many scholarly publications. He was selected by the late Charles A. Beard to collaborate with him on his book "Our Own Age."

After his retirement became effective in January 1959, he left for East Pakistan as an advisor to the Minister of Education and a member of the Foreign Service Program of the Department of Education at the University of Chicago.

One of Dr. Smith's major interests is summed up by Dr. Robert Hertel, College Librarian (which we include for obvious reasons):

(Dr. Smith) "has been intensely interested in the development of a strong library and a capable and competent staff. He has always regarded librarians as educators, and even before Cortland became part of the State University, Dr. Smith presented a far-seeing report to the Regents on the proper staffing of libraries with highly educated persons. His plan was considered quite visionary and impracticable at the same time, but it is interesting to note that the majority of academic libraries in the U.S. are now staffed in this manner..."

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