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### President's Office

State University of New York College at Cortland

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**Record Group:**  
President's Office

**Overview of the Collection**

Title:	President's Office
Inclusive Dates:	1869-2010 (Inclusive)
Extent:	3.6 Linear Feet
Language:	English
Repository:	SUNY Cortland College Archives Memorial Library 81 Prospect Terrace Cortland, NY 13045 <a href="https://cortland.libguides.com/c.php?g=354291">https://cortland.libguides.com/c.php?g=354291</a>

**Biographical History**

When the Cortland Normal School was founded in 1868, James Harmon Hoose served as the first Principle of the School. Three principles served Cortland before the institution was converted into a State Teachers College, when the college officially designated the term President instead of Principle.

James Harmon Hoose served from 1869-1891 and was born in Warnersville, NY January 21, 1836 and was a graduated from Genesee College 1861. After being dismissed by the Cortland Normal School in 1891 for controversial reasons, Hoose went on to live and work in Southern California. USC's Hoose Library is named in his honor.

Francis John Cheney took over as the second principle when James Hoose was dismissed. Cheney was born in Warren, Pennsylvania in 1848. He was a graduate of Genesee College and studied law. Cheney was well known for his community work and cooperation as he served on the Chamber of Commerce, City Board of Health, and was very active within the Methodist Church. Passing away in 1912, Cheney's successor was Harry DeWitt DeGroat.

Harry DeWitt DeGroat was the third and last principle at Cortland. After DeGroat they were referred to as presidents. Degroat served a lengthy term, 1912-1943. He was a graduate of Williams College and in 1918 he was awarded a PhD in Pedagogy from the Albany State Teachers College (now SUNY Albany). Degroat is remembered for his leadership and passion for traditions on Campus. He helped guide Cortland through the 1919 fire that destroyed the College

causing Cortland to relocate. He was also present during national events such as World War I, the Great Depression, and the beginning of World War II. Toward the end of his career, the College shifted from the Cortland Normal School to the Cortland State Teachers College.

Donnal Vore Smith was president from 1943-1959. Smith's recognition comes from his ability to greatly expand the College financially and physically. During World War II, Cortland's enrollment dropped dramatically, less than 500 students. But then continued to rise each year afterwards and by 1959, the end of Smith's tenure, Cortland had close to 2500 students. To meet this increase, Smith also helped provide the college with the financial stability to build six new buildings. In the past the College primarily used Old Main as the only building on Campus since 1923. In 1948 the College purchased Huntington Camp at Raquette Lake expanding a physical and outdoor education focus. A major shift in teaching had occurred when graduate degrees were being offered and Cortland started emerge as a liberal arts college. In 1959 Smith retired to accept a position as the Minister of Education in Pakistan through the Foreign Service Program out of the University of Chicago.

Donovan Clifford Moffett served a short tenure as president from 1959-1963. Moffett continued Smith's efforts in expanding enrollment and physical layout of the College. Before becoming president, he taught within the Physical Education Department and was the Director of Athletics. Moffett unexpectedly passed away in 1963. Ben Sultz was interim-president of the College until Kenneth Young was appointed.

Kenneth E. Young served from 1964 until 1968. He was the youngest president to serve Cortland. Young was born in Toronto and attended schools in Oakland, San Francisco State, and Stanford where he received his PhD in Higher Education. He previously worked at the University of Alaska and University of Nevada before accepting Cortland's appointment. One of Young's lasting impacts was his ability to continue college enrollment and push forward with the notion of a liberal arts college. He also implemented an "educational master plan" for the College, increased growth for academic departments and faculty. He left the College in 1968.

Richard C. Jones was President from 1968-1978. Within those ten years, Jones helped continue the efforts to physically expand the College through the construction of new buildings including the establishment of the Hall of Fame room. He was considered more relaxed when it came to the College's alcohol policy as Cortland permitted alcoholic drinks on Campus for the first time. Even as the College continued to grow, a need for budget restrictions emerged. During this time, President Jones faced a student body who occupied the Miller Administration Building out of protest to the Kent State Shootings and the War in Vietnam. While Jones continued to help increase the campus and enrollment, he was faced with difficult decisions and times.

Dr. James M. Clark served as the 8th President of SUNY Cortland from 1979 until 1995. Clark earned his BA in Social Studies Education and doctorate in Political Science from the University of Michigan. President Clark was most known for his achievements with the International Studies Program which would be named in his honor in 2005. Clark faced an unparalleled budget crisis which lead to several academic department's closures including the Ella Van Hoesen Campus School.

Judson Taylor served as the 9th President of SUNY Cortland from 1995-2003. Taylor helped establish a number of new programs while at the same time was known for his ability to raise money for the institution. Taylor established the CURE (Cortland Urban Recruitment of Educators) Program, the College President's Philanthropy Medal, and helped create new majors at the

College through the use of \$1.75 million Title III Grant, which also helped produce new technology in the classroom. Taylor oversaw the renovation and reopening of Old Main, brought in the Empire State Games to compete at Cortland, and was inducted to C-Club Hall of Fame in 2003 for his support of the \$18 million Stadium Complex project. He was also president during the devastating 9/11 attacks on the nation.

Erik Bitterbaum is the 10th President of the College. He started his career at SUNY Cortland in 2003. He has a background in ornithology and previously served as the president of West Virginia at Parkersburg. As president, he has brought in nearly \$300 million in construction projects for the College, helped create an environmentally sustainable campus, and embarked on a \$27 million Capital Campaign for Cortland which is the largest the College has ever seen, keeping Cortland financially stable. Additionally, President Bitterbaum has served on the NCAA Division III President's Council and helped bring the New York Jets training camp to Cortland, all the while, Cortland has ranked in the top 25 athletic programs in the nation for Division III colleges. Lastly, President Bitterbaum served Cortland through the international COVID-19 crisis.

## **Scope and Content**

The materials in this record include a list of the presidents in chronological order from 1869-present. Most of the material on the presidents is biographical information, but in some cases memorandums, correspondences, inaugurations, resignations, greeting cards, and personal artifacts are collected. This record group also includes administrative business information such as annual reports, college handbooks, college planning, newsletters, and mission statements for example.

## **Related Materials**

Some of the records have been digitized and are available on Digital Commons at Cortland.

<https://digitalcommons.cortland.edu/presidentsoffice/>

## **Access**

No special restrictions for access.

## **Preferred Citation**

President's Office. SUNY Cortland College Archives, Memorial Library, State University of New York College at Cortland, Cortland, NY.

## **Processing Information**

This record is currently fully processed.

## **Finding Aid Information**

Created by Kayla Bellan, Spring 2021

## **Arrangement**

The materials are arranged by the record group, then by sub-group, then series. Records are processed to the folder level. There are 2 sub-groups: Presidents and Administrative Business.

The Presidents are listed in chronological order as they served: James H. Hoose, Francis John Cheney, Harry DeWitt DeGroat, Donnel V. Smith, Donovan Moffett, Ben A. Sultz, Kenneth E. Young, Richard C. Jones, James M. Clark, Judson Taylor, Erik Bitterbaum.

Within the second sub-group there are 5 series: Reports and Policies, Budgets, Meetings, Publicity, and College Planning.

## Inventory

### Sub-Group 1: Presidents

#### Series 1: James H. Hoose (1869-1880, 1882-1891)

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 9	Folder 1	Biographical Information	1915-1925

#### Series 2: Francis John Cheney (1891-1912)

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 9	Folder 2	Biographical Information	Undated

#### Series 3: Harry DeWitt DeGroat (1912-1943)

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 9	Folder 3	Biographical Information	1917-1942
Box 9	Folder 4	Correspondences	1921-1950
Box 9	Folder 13	Personal Correspondences	1939-1940
Box 10	Folder 11	Assorted Programs and Booklets	1940-1944
Box 8A	-	Certificate: Fannie M. DeGroat (Cornell)	1952
Box 8A	-	Certificate: Army of the Republic	1916
Box 8A	-	Certificate: PhD NYS College for Teachers	1918
Box 8A	-	Certificate: <i>Curatores Et Doctores</i>	Undated
Box 8A	-	Certificate: Merriam DeGroat	Undated
Box 211	-	Commencement Hood	Class of 1894
Box 211	-	Neck Tie	Undated
Box 211	-	Small Instructor Chalk Boards	Undated
Box 212	-	Desk Clock	Undated
Box 212	-	Pocket Watch	Undated
Box 212	-	Small Ceramic Bowl with Lid	Undated
Box 212	-	Phi Beta Kappa Pin	Undated
Box 211	-	Handkerchief with "D" emblem	Undated

#### Series 4: Donnel V. Smith (1943-1959)

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 9	Folder 5	Biographical Information	1944-1968
Box 9	Folder 6	Correspondences	1947-1957
Box 9	-	Book: Letters from Pakistan, by Donnal V. Smith	1959-1960
Box 9	Folder 7	Memorandums	1944-1954

#### Series 5: Donovan Moffett (1959-1963)

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 9	Folder 8	Biographical Information	1954-1963
Box 9	Folder 9	Inauguration	1961
Box 9	Folder 10	Correspondences	1956-1963
Box 9	Folder 11	Memorandums	1957-1962
Box 9	Folder 12	Moffett Memorial Carillon Committee	1960-1963

**Series 6: Ben A. Sueltz (1963-1964)**

<b>Container 1</b>	<b>Container 2</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Box 10	Folder 1	Biographical Information	1945-2000
Box 10	Folder 2	Memorandums	1963-1964

**Series 7: Kenneth E. Young (1964-1968)**

<b>Container 1</b>	<b>Container 2</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Box 10	Folder 3	Biographical Information	Undated
Box 10	Folder 4	Inauguration	1965
Box 10	Folder 5	Resignation	1968
Box 10	Folder 6	Correspondences	1964-1967
Box 10	-	Book, "A College Charts Its Course," – by Kenneth E. Young,	September 1966

**Series 8: Richard C. Jones (1968-1978)**

<b>Container 1</b>	<b>Container 2</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Box 10	Folder 7	Biographical Information	1968
Box 10	Folder 8	Inauguration	1968-1969
Box 10	Folder 9	Correspondences	1968-1974
Box 10	Folder 10	Memorandums	1968-1978

**Series 9: James M. Clark (1979-1995)**

<b>Container 1</b>	<b>Container 2</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Box 11	Folder 1	Inauguration	Undated
Box 11	-	VHS Tape, President's Convocation	Undated
Box 11	Folder 2	Retirement	1981-1995
Box 11	Folder 3	Memorandums	1981-1995
Box 11	Folder 4	President's Breakfast	1980-1995

**Series 10: Judson Taylor (1995-2003)**

<b>Container 1</b>	<b>Container 2</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Box 11	Folder 5	Inauguration	1995
Box 11	Folder 6	Retirement	2003
Box 11	Folder 7	Invitations	1995-2003
Box 11	Folder 8	Greeting Cards	Undated
Box 11	Folder 9	Memorandums	1995-2000
Box 11	Folder 10	Memorandums	2001
Box 11	Folder 11	Memorandums	2001-2003
Box 11	Folder 12	Leadership House	2003-2011

**Series 11: Erik Bitterbaum (2003-Current)**

<b>Container 1</b>	<b>Container 2</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Box 12	Folder 1	Inauguration	Undated
Box 12	Folder 2	Invitations	2003-2008
Box 12	Folder 3	Greeting Cards	Undated
Box 12	Folder 4	Memorandums	2004-2009
Box 12	Folder 5	Dennis Weaver Presentation	2004
Box 12	-	VHS Tapes: "Earthship" by Dennis Weaver	1990

**Sub-Group 2: Administrative Business**

**Series 1: Reports and Policies**

<b>Container 1</b>	<b>Container 2</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Box 13	Folder 1	Annual Reports	1869-1871
Box 13	Folder 2	Annual Reports	1947-1949
Box 13	Folder 3	Annual Reports	1949-1964
Box 13	Folder 4	Annual Reports	1965-1974
Box 13	Folder 5	Annual Reports	1974-1985
Box 14	Folder 1	Annual Reports	1985-1992
Box 216	Folder 6	Selection and Evaluation of the President	1967-1968
Box 14	Folder 2	Annual Reports	1992-2005
Box 14	Folder 3	Review and Restructuring Process Reports	1975-1996
Box 14	Folder 4	Emergency Closing Policy	1995-1997
Box 14	Folder 5	Fair Use and Copyright Policy	1999
Box 14	Folder 6	Mission Statement Policy	1978
Box 14	Folder 7	Tobacco Policy	2013
Box 17	-	College Handbook Policies	1967
Box 17	Folder 1	<i>College Handbooks</i>	1955-1972
Box 18	Folder 1	<i>College Handbooks</i>	1972-1981
Box 18	Folder 2	<i>College Handbooks</i>	1981-1990
Box 18	Folder 3	<i>College Handbooks</i>	1991-2000
Box 19	Folder 1	<i>College Handbooks</i>	2000-2010

**Series 2: Budgets**

<b>Container 1</b>	<b>Container 2</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Box 15	Folder 1	Budget Impact Assessment	1976-1977
Box 15	Folder 2	Evaluations	1977-1990
Box 15	-	Requested Appropriations	1985-1986
Box 15	-	Requested Appropriations	1986-1987
Box 15	-	Requested Appropriations	1988-1989
Box 15	-	Requested Appropriations	1989-1990

**Series 3: Meetings**

<b>Container 1</b>	<b>Container 2</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Box 14	Folder 8	Minutes	Undated
Box 14	Folder 9	Committees	1988-1997

**Series 4: Publicity**

<b>Container 1</b>	<b>Container 2</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Box 16	Folder 1	<i>Teaching and Learning Newsletter</i>	1976-1982
Box 16	Folder 2	<i>Teaching and Learning Newsletter</i>	1983-2010
Box 16	Folder 3	<i>President's Update</i>	1995-2010
Box 16	-	Clippings on Presidents	1961-2002
Box 16	-	Clippings on Presidents	2003-2013

**Series 4: College Planning**

<b>Container 1</b>	<b>Container 2</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Box 214	Folder 1	Examination of the Normal School	1922-1924
Box 214	Folder 2	Master Plan Committees	1996

Box 214	Folder 3	Master Plan Update	1996
Oversize 3	-	Campus Capital Plan	2001
Box 214	-	Master Plan	1972
Box 214	-	Master Plan	1975
Oversize 3	-	Master Plan	1976
Oversize 3	-	Master Plan (OIR)	1976
Box 214	Folder 4	Strategic Planning Steering Committee	2010
Box 214	Folder 5	Task Force on Academic Reorganization	1983-1984
Box 214	Folder 6	Long Range Plan: Goals	1993-2004
Box 214	Folder 7	Long Range Plan: Process	2002-2006
Box 215	Folder 1	Long Range Plan: Important Factors Survey	2005
Box 216	Folder 3	Long Range Plans	1965-1966
Box 216	Folder 4	Long Range Plans	1967-1968
Box 215	Folder 2	Long Range Plans	1969-1973
Box 215	Folder 3	Long Range Plans	1978-1985
Box 215	Folder 4	Long Range Plans	1986-1989
Box 216	Folder 1	Long Range Plans	1993-2002
Box 216	Folder 2	Long Range Plans	2002-2010
Box 215	Folder 5	Campus Beautification Committee	1988