

A Guide to the Julian A. Burruss Papers, 1904-2005 UA 0023

Julian A. Burruss Papers
1904-2005



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

UA 0023

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/436

Unit Date

1904-2005

Language

English

Abstract

The collection contains papers and correspondences, reports and speeches by President Julian Ashby Burruss, first president of the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg, and documents related to the founding of the school.

Creator

Burruss, Julian Ashby, 1876-1947

Extent

0.4 cubic feet 8 folders

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

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Acquisition Information

Some papers contain a handwritten note in the margins indicating that they were received from R.C. Dingleline in 1984.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Julian Ashby Burruss Papers, 1904-2005, UA 0023, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bio/Historical Note

Julian Burruss was the first president of the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg, serving from 1908 to 1919. During his tenure, Burruss maintained a busy speaking schedule promoting the new school, actively recruited faculty and students, expanded administrative staff, oversaw the establishment of the Student Government Association, YWCA and other clubs and societies, and established special funds and scholarships available to eligible students. He oversaw many building projects, and created a long-range development plan for the school and grounds that would contain approximately 40 buildings and support a maximum enrollment of 1000 students.

During Burruss' tenure, the Normal School went from an enrollment of 11 women in 1909, to a graduating class of over 300 students in 1919. During his presidency, the Normal school transitioned from offering four years of high school and two years of post-high school professional programs and teaching certificates, to offering a four-year Bachelor Science degree in Education, in addition to other programs. Burruss was a strong advocate for industrial and vocational training, and established Harrisonburg Normal School as leader in manual arts, household arts and rural arts.

Burruss was born in Richmond, Virginia in 1876. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in 1889 with a degree in civil engineering, and did some graduate work at Columbia University. Prior to his presidency, he served four years as the head of the manual training program in the Richmond city schools. While in Harrisonburg, he was an officer in the Presbyterian church and served two years as president of the Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce. In 1919, Burruss left the Normal School to become president of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg.

Scope and Content

The Julian A. Burruss Papers contain documents related to the establishment of the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg, including a 1904 report to the Joint Committee of the General

Assembly of Virginia on Location of State Normal School titled "State Female Normal School: Reasons and Inducements for Its Location at Harrisonburg" by A. H. Snyder and George E Sipe. It also contains a newspaper clipping from the May 26, 1904 Daily News-Record - "Stating the case for Harrisonburg, Committee on Normal School here to investigate."

Of note in the correspondence file are Burruss' exchanges with and president of the senior class, Alpha Holcolme, regarding regulations proposed by senior class (1913), letters regarding Burruss' decision to accept the position of President at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1919), and correspondence with M'Ledge Moffett, Dean of Women at the State Teachers College in East Radford, Virginia (1939). The file contains photocopies of a 1917 letter from Burruss to George W. Chappellear, then of the Miller School in Virginia, inviting him to a position as a biology instructor and head of buildings and grounds.

The files include several reports and speeches, including the "Report and Bylaws, Virginia Normal School Board," July 1, 1914 - January 1, 1916, and a report titled "Normal School Organization and Administration: Some Recommendations Relative Thereto with Special Reference to the State Normal School for Women, Harrisonburg, Virginia," written in 1918.

The papers include news releases from 1914-1919, most of which were prepared for the *Virginia Journal of Education*.

Mentions of the Joan of Arc sculpture are included.

Related Materials

Records of Julian A. Burruss, President, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, RG 2/8, Special Collections, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Va.

Keywords

Education, Higher -- Virginia -- History

Teachers colleges -- History

College presidents -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg

Universities and colleges -- Virginia -- Administration

Harrisonburg (Va.) -- History -- 20th century

Manuscripts (documents)

Newspaper clippings

Letters (correspondence)

Speeches (Documents)

James Madison University -- Administration

James Madison University -- History

State Normal and Industrial School for Women (Harrisonburg, Va.) -- History

State Normal and Industrial School for Women (Harrisonburg, Va.) -- Administration

State Normal School for Women at Harrisonburg (Harrisonburg, Va.) -- History

State Normal School for Women at Harrisonburg (Harrisonburg, Va.) -- Administration

Bibliography

Dingledine, Raymond C. Dingledine, Jr. *Madison College: the First Fifty Years, 1908-1958*, Harrisonburg, VA : Madison College. 1959. "President Burruss Papers," Founding Documents in Special Collections, James Madison University. Accessed January 8, 2018.

<http://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/FoundingDocs/burruss/default.aspx>.

Arrangement

Documents are arranged topically. Papers that are noted as originating from R.C. Dingledine and Dr. John Wayland are contained in folders of the same title.

Description of Subordinate Components

Founding Documents

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4833

Unit Date 1904-1908

Mixed Materials [1000898575] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Reports and Speeches

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4834

Unit Date 1910-1931

Mixed Materials [1000898575] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4835

Unit Date 1910-1939

Unit Date 2005

Mixed Materials [1000898575] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

News Releases

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4836

Unit Date 1914-1919

Mixed Materials [1000898575] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Programs

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4837

Unit Date 1915-1917

Mixed Materials [1000898575] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Papers from John Wayland file

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4838

Unit Date 1919-1932

Mixed Materials [1000898575] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Papers received from R. C. Dingleline

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4839

Unit Date 1984

Mixed Materials [1000898575] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Newspaper clippings (photocopies)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4840

Unit Date 1904-1937

Mixed Materials [1000898575] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)