Papers of Regis A. Factor [finding aid]

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Regis Factor 1937-1999

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Introduction to the Collection

When he joined the faculty in 1973, Regis A. Factor became the first professor of political science permanently appointed to University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Born on 8 September 1937, Factor received a bachelor of arts in Economics from Washington and Jefferson College in Pennsylvania in 1959. After serving with the United States Army, he earned a masters of arts in International Studies from The Johns Hopkins University, spending one year studying in Bologna, Italy. He continued his education, first, on an exchange at the University of Bonn, Germany, and then completing his PhD in Political Science at the University of Notre Dame. His pursuit of knowledge did not end with this prestigious degree. Throughout his life, Factor pursued educational opportunities, attending many summer institutes presented by the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as seminars at Harvard and Princeton universities.

A brilliant researcher, Factor was capable of reading four languages: French, German, Spanish, and Italian. He authored or co-authored three books as a faculty member:

- Max Weber: the Lawyer as Social Thinker
- Guide to the Archiv für Sozialwissenschaft und SozialPolitik Group, 1904-1933: A History and Comprehensive Bibliography
- Max Weber and the Dispute over Reason and Value: A Study in Philosophy, Ethics, and Politics

He was the first faculty member at USF St. Petersburg to receive a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This grant allowed him to travel to Germany to conduct research for his monograph on the Archiv. In addition, Factor contributed several book chapters, primarily on Max Weber, and presented his papers at numerous meetings of the American Political Science Association, the American Sociological Association, and other respected organizations.

Throughout his career, Factor engaged in extensive correspondence with scholars worldwide, including Robert Eden, author of Political Leadership and Nihilism: A Study of Weber and Nietzsche, Father James Schall, Professor of Government at Georgetown University, and Dr. Arthur F. Utz, a prominent German Catholic sociologist who was appointed to the papal academy of social sciences.

A devout Catholic himself, Factor was a member of Opus Dei, a prelature of the church with a mission to spread God’s word throughout one’s life and work. This was evident in many of Factor’s writings, but also by his dedication to the Right to Life movement and the Excalibur Life School in St. Petersburg.

His strong commitment to student leadership was evident from his work with a variety of student leaders and organizations such as Legalis (a pre-law student organization at USF St. Petersburg) and the Campus Lecture Series. An avid swimmer and competitive water volleyball player, he frequently joined other faculty and students for water volleyball matches Friday afternoons during the 1980s and 1990s. He passed away on 18 April 1999.

Preservation Note

The documents in this collection consist of correspondence, clippings, course materials, and reprints of publications. While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of
items, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. To prevent further damage to the fragile materials in this collection, avoid exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. Although no restrictions limit access to this collection, library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection.

Provenance of the Papers of Regis A. Factor

The items in this collection fall under Record Group 363 (Political Science/Government and International Affairs) of the USF St. Petersburg Archives. The library received these materials after Dr. Factor’s death in April 1999.

Scope and Contents

The contents occupy 2.25 linear feet. Materials fall into one of five broad categories: Biographical records, documents and clippings related to University Governance, syllabi and materials illustrating his Pedagogy, correspondence and articles illustrating his Scholarship, files regarding his Catholic faith and matters of Religion, and General records or correspondence. Please note that some of the correspondence classified as General may also address his pedagogical activities or his scholarly research.

Container Listing: Box 1

Folder 1: [Bio] Curriculum Vitae

Folder 2: [Bio] Course Work and Class Notes, 1960s

Folder 3: [Governance] USF Intercampus Relations: Correspondence and Memoranda
   Includes extensive correspondence between Factor, politicians, and USF administrators discussing the need for improved academic resources and recreational facilities at USF St. Petersburg.

Folder 4: [Governance] USF Intercampus Relations: Clippings
   Includes articles written by Factor that appeared in local newspapers.

Folders 5, 6: [Governance] Dept. of Political Science: Memoranda and Reports
   Records documenting governance issues within the Department of Political Science, including controversial decisions made by the chair and faculty members.

Folder 7: [Governance] Dept. of Political Science: Interim Policy Board, mid-1980s

Folder 8: [Pedagogy] Course Syllabi

Folder 9: [Pedagogy] Tenure and Promotion Materials

Folder 10: [Pedagogy] Letters of Support: Tenure and Promotion (Internal, USF)
Folder 11:  [Pedagogy] Letters of Support: Tenure and Promotion (External)

Included as part of his tenure packet.

Folders 13-14: [Scholarship] Published Works
Includes book reviews and journal articles.

Folders 15-18: [Scholarship] Papers Presented and Drafts of Publications
Four folders containing papers delivered at scholarly conferences as well as some rough drafts of articles submitted for publication.

Folder 19:  [Scholarship] Research Grants
Contains correspondence to Factor from Lynne Cheney, head of the National Endowment of the Humanities at the time.

Folder 20:  [Scholarship] Reviews of Guide to the Archiv fur Sozialwissenschaft …
Contains editorial comments and scholarly reviews of this monograph.

Folder 21:  [Scholarship] Reviews of Max Weber Monographs by Factor and Turner
Includes editorial comments and scholarly reviews for collaborative research by Factor and Stephen P. Turner, a colleague at USF.

Folder 22:  [Religion] Opus Dei

Folder 23:  [Religion] Program for “Excalibur Life School,” Course Outlines, Notes

Folder 24:  [Religion] Right to Life: Correspondence, Texts, Conference Planning

Folder 25:  [General] Organizations

Folder 26:  [General] Correspondence: Eden, Robert “Bob”

Folder 27:  [General] Correspondence: Meredith, James H.
A Gibbs High School graduate, Meredith was the first African-American student at the University of Mississippi. He later worked for US Senator Jesse Helms.

Folder 28:  [General] Correspondence: Mulloy, John J.

Folders 29-30: [General] Correspondence: Miscellaneous