

PURDUE

UNIVERSITY



FINDING AID TO THE HELEN SCHLEMAN PAPERS

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
Research Center
504 West State Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058
(765) 494-2839**

<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol>

© 2012 Purdue University Libraries. All rights reserved.
Revised by: Jonathan McConnell, November 28, 2012
Processed by: Jonathan McConnell, April 20, 2012

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Schleman, Helen Blanche, 1903-1992
Title	Helen Schleman papers
Collection Identifier	MSF 334
Date Span	circa 1920–2001, predominant 1934–1980
Abstract	The Helen Schleman papers contains papers, clippings, speeches, and photographs documenting Helen Shleman's life, especially in reference to her professional activities as Purdue Dean of Women (1947–1968) and as an activist and advocate for women's rights.
Extent	7 cubic feet (15 mss. boxes, 2 card file boxes, 1 large flat box)
Finding Aid Author	Jonathan McConnell, 2012
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Acquisition Information:	First donation received from Barbara Cook and Sarah J. Watlington, April 11, 2006. Second donation received by Sarah J. Watlington, Mar. 7, 2008
Custodial History:	Sarah J. Watlington inherited several boxes of material relating to Purdue Deans of Women Dorothy Stratton, Helen Schleman, and Beverley Stone after their deaths. Watlington donated that material to Purdue Archives and Special Collections starting in 2006.
Accession Numbers:	20060411, 20060822, 20080423.3

- Preferred Citation:** MSF 334, Helen Schleman Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
- Copyright Notice:** The copyright of some items in this collection may be held by their respective creators. Consult an archivist for details.
- Related Materials Information:** Helen Schleman had close ties to three other Deans of Women: Dorothy Stratton, Beverley Stone, and Barbara Cook. More photos, correspondence, and other materials relating to Schleman can be found in those collections.

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Schleman, Helen B. (Helen Blanche), 1902–1992
Stratton, Dorothy C. (Dorothy Constance), 1899–2006

Organizations

National Association for Women Deans, Administrators & Counselors
United States. Coast Guard. Women's Reserve

Topics

Purdue University. Dean of Women.
Women—Education
Feminism
Women—Employment—1950–1990
World War, 1939–1945—Participation, Female

Form and Genre Types

Books
Clippings
Correspondence
Drafts (documents)
Pamphlets
Photographic Prints
Speeches

Occupations

Women College Administrator
Armed Forces Officer

Biography of Helen B. Schleman

Helen Blanche Schleman (1902-1992), noted "unapologetic feminist," came to Purdue in 1934 as director of the first women's residence hall, subsequent to the razing of Ladies Hall in 1927. After taking a four-year leave of absence to serve in the Women's Coast Guard Reserve (SPARS) during World War II, Schleman returned to Purdue in 1947 as Dean of Women. She is acknowledged for having fought for women's rights at Purdue, including terminating the curfew for women students, spearheading a freshman conference program for women, and fighting for gender equity in the university's hiring and salary practices. While at Purdue, she earned a master's degree in education and psychology and she was also awarded honorary degrees from Purdue University and Valparaiso University. Schleman retired as Dean of Women in 1968 and went on to become founder and first director of the Span Plan, a program which encourages adult students to continue or start their college careers. She remained an active member of the community until her death in 1992. Schleman Hall, which now houses the Purdue's Student Services department, is named in her honor.

Sources:

Susan Bulkely Butler Women's Archive website
Accessed April 20, 2012. <http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol/womenarc/>

Materials within the collection

Collection Description

Scope

The Helen Schleman papers (1920–2001; 5 cubic feet) documents the life of Helen B. Schleman from her time as a student at Northwestern University in the 1920s to her death in 1992. Much of the collection documents Schleman's time at Purdue University as Head of Women's Residence Halls, Dean of Women, and Dean Emeritus, as well as her military service in the Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARs) during World War II. In addition to Purdue history, the collection contains Schleman's collection of newspaper clippings pertaining to the women's liberation struggle of the 1970s. Types of materials include personal and professional correspondence, school and employment records, speech notes, published material, newspaper clippings, photographs, pamphlets from professional organizations, and documents about Schleman's charitable work. The papers are organized into nine series:

Arrangement

- 1. Biographical information, 1921–2001 (0.6 cubic feet).** This series contains Schleman's school, work, and military records; her curricula vitae; newspaper clippings about Schleman; an oral history interview; information about buildings, awards, and events named after Schleman; and will and testament documents.
- 2. Correspondence, 1943–1990 (0.2 cubic feet).** Helen Schleman kept carbon copies of much of her outgoing correspondence. This series includes these carbon copies as well as the personal and professional correspondence that she received.
- 3. Speeches and written material 1923–1979 (0.5 cubic feet).** This series contains various pamphlets and books authored by Schleman, copies of journal publications, and speech notes.
- 4. Personal files, 1950–1989 (0.5 cubic feet).** Helen Schleman was meticulous about record keeping. This series contains files that she kept on friends or associates that were particularly important in her life. The files contain clippings, manuscripts, correspondence, and ephemera compiled by Schleman.
- 5. Pamphlets and publications, 1920–1988 (0.2 cubic feet).** This series contains various pamphlets and publications, ranging from Schleman's time as an undergraduate at Northwestern University to a SPARs reunion pamphlet from 1988.
- 6. Other Purdue material, 1955–1985 (0.4 cubic feet).** Of particular interest in this series are documents regarding Schleman's nomination of ten women for President of Purdue in 1970, the Schleman Gold Medallion Award, and the 1979 TIAA pension lawsuit claiming gender bias in university pensions.

7. Research Files, 1965–1992 (1.5 cubic feet). Helen Schleman kept files on many topics in the late 1960s and 1970s. Many of these files contain newspaper clippings about the ongoing women’s liberation movement, particularly issues of women in the workplace. The clippings have been photocopied for preservation and transferred to archival folders, with the file name transcribed. This series is identical to Schleman’s own filing system.

8. Photographs, circa 1920s–1992 (0.5 cubic feet). In addition to more official photographs such as professional portraits and Coast Guard photographs, this series contains hundreds of candid snapshots documenting Schleman’s life, including her friendships with other Purdue Deans of Women.

9. Artifacts and Oversize Materials The original gold medallion presented to Schleman in 1968 and her military bracelet and insignia are particularly interesting items in this series. The oversized materials include periodicals and some large-format photos of Helen Schleman.

Descriptive Rules Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Edition / Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes. All newsprint has been photocopied and in most cases original newspaper clippings have been discarded. Some clippings containing images of people or color graphics, or front pages of newspapers, have been preserved for display purposes, with photocopies made available for research. Oversized periodicals [OVS], photographs, and artifacts have been separated and grouped into individual series for preservation purposes.

Some materials were damaged beyond repair by water and mold and had to be discarded. This included two folders of clippings and pamphlets about Schleman’s retirement and the SPAN plan. Based on the remnants of these folders, most of this was duplicated material that did survive elsewhere, so there was little, if any, true loss. Also lost was a packet of information about artist Amy Freeman Lee, who was an “Old Master” at Purdue. This packet appears to have contained brochures and pamphlets about Amy Freeman Lee’s art, but they did not appear unique or personal.

Additions

While processing the Dean of Women Office Records papers, the archivist discovered two cubic feet of speech notes, dated from 1944 to 1988, belonging to

Helen Schleman. This material has been organized by date into five manuscript boxes and added to Series 3 of the Helen Schleman papers.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series 1. Biographical Information, 1921–2001

Box 1

Folder

1. Curricula vitae, retirement, memorial materials 1941–1992
2. School records and Purdue placement service, 1924–1942
3. Coast Guard documents, 1943–1944
4. USCG service records, 1950–1964
5. Purdue appointment records, 1946–1947
6. Citations, honors, and awards, 1921–1971
7. Interview by Professor Eckles, 23 July, 1970
8. Transcript, “Conversation with Three Generations of Deans,” circa 1980s
This was a historical discussion with Dorothy Stratton, Helen Schleman, Beverley Stone, and Barbara Cook. Moderated by Betty Nelson.
9. Clippings, 1923–1970
10. Clippings, 1971–2001
11. Diploma, Purdue Doctorate, 1971
12. Schleman Hall, Schleman Symposium, and Schleman Award information, 1968–2003
13. YWCA natatorium information, 1988–1990
14. Schleman-Hovde Golf Tournament information, 1978–1983
15. Ephemera,
Includes conference programs, fliers, receipts, etc.

Box 2

Folder

1. Will working materials, 1952–1978
2. Blanche Schleman Estate, 1963–1964
3. Will, 1978–1979
4. Will, 1978–1979
5. Will material, 1978–1979
6. Land deed and trust agreement, 1980–1981

Box 3

1. Honorary Degrees, 1970–1973
Information about both Valparaiso and Purdue honorary degrees. Also includes materials relating to a 1973 gift Schleman gave to Valparaiso in support of a music building.
2. YWCA Trust documents, 1983–1992

3. Westminster Village materials, 1979–1989
4. Property dispute documents, 1970–1985
5. Property dispute correspondence, 1981–1984

Series 2. Correspondence 1943–1990

Folder

6. Personal correspondence, 1945–1990
7. Purdue correspondence, 1943–1962
8. Christmas letters, 1985–1987

Series 3. Speeches and Written Material 1923–1979

Folder

9. Northwestern University school papers, 1923–1924
10. *Your Best Foot Forward* working materials, 1940–1954
Includes an early manuscript fragment and correspondence with the publisher

Box 4

1. *Your Best Foot Forward* working materials, 1954–1961
Includes reviews and correspondence with the publisher
2. Schleman, Helen and Dorothy Stratton, *Your Best Foot Forward*, 1940
3. *Group Golf Instruction*, 1934
4. *Mortar Board Quarterly*, 1939–1960
5. Speeches and publications, 1932–1964
6. Speeches and publications, 1965–1968
7. Speeches and publications, 1969
8. Speeches and publications, 1971–1979

Subseries: Helen Schleman speech files, 1944 – 1988

Box 14

Folder

1. Helen Schleman speech file, 1944
2. Helen Schleman speech file, 1946
3. Helen Schleman speech file, 1947, 1 of 3
4. Helen Schleman speech file, 1947, 2 of 3
5. Helen Schleman speech file, 1947, 3 of 3
6. Helen Schleman speech file, 1948, 1 of 4
7. Helen Schleman speech file, 1948, 2 of 4
8. Helen Schleman speech file, 1948, 3 of 4

9. Helen Schleman speech file, 1948, 4 of 4
10. Helen Schleman speech file, 1949, 1 of 5

Box 15

Folder

- 1 Helen Schleman speech file, 1949, 2 of 5
2. Helen Schleman speech file, 1949, 3 of 5
3. Helen Schleman speech file, 1949, 4 of 5
4. Helen Schleman speech file, 1949, 5 of 5
5. Helen Schleman speech file, 1950, 1 of 3
6. Helen Schleman speech file, 1950, 2 of 3
7. Helen Schleman speech file, 1950, 3 of 3
8. Helen Schleman speech file, 1951, 1 of 2
9. Helen Schleman speech file, 1951, 2 of 2
10. Helen Schleman speech file, 1952

Box 16

Folder

- 1 Helen Schleman speech file, 1953
2. Helen Schleman speech file, 1954
3. Helen Schleman speech file, 1955
4. Helen Schleman speech file, 1956
5. Helen Schleman speech file, 1957
6. Helen Schleman speech file, 1958
7. Helen Schleman speech file, 1959, 1 of 2
8. Helen Schleman speech file, 1959, 2 of 2
9. Helen Schleman speech file, 1960, 1 of 2
10. Helen Schleman speech file, 1960, 2 of 2

Box 17

Folder

- 1 Helen Schleman speech file, 1961, 1 of 2
2. Helen Schleman speech file, 1961, 2 of 2
3. Helen Schleman speech file, 1962
4. Helen Schleman speech file, 1963, 1 of 2
5. Helen Schleman speech file, 1963, 2 of 2
6. Helen Schleman speech file, 1964
7. Helen Schleman speech file, 1965
8. Helen Schleman speech file, 1966
9. Helen Schleman speech file, 1967
10. Helen Schleman speech file, 1968

Box 18

Folder

1. Helen Schleman speech file, 1969, 1 of 2
2. Helen Schleman speech file, 1969, 2 of 2
3. Helen Schleman speech file, 1970
4. Helen Schleman speech file, 1971
5. Helen Schleman speech, circa 1974
6. Helen Schleman speech file, 1977
7. Helen Schleman speech file, 1978
8. Helen Schleman speech file, 1980
9. Helen Schleman speech file, 1984
10. Helen Schleman speech file, 1988

Series 4. Personal Files 1950–1989

Box 4

Folder

9. Barbara Cook File, 1969–1987
10. Amelia Earhart File, 1975–1989
11. Jo Ann Fley File, 1982

Box 5

Folder

1. Lillian Gilbreth File, 1972–1984
Includes material about petitioning a commemorative postal stamp honoring Gilbreth
2. Margaret Habein File, 1950–1959
3. Beverley Stone File (1), 1970–1980
4. Beverley Stone File (2), 1969–1980
5. Beverley Stone File (3), 1978–1986

Series 5. Pamphlets and Publications 1922–1988

6. Northwestern University pamphlets, 1922–1923
7. Northwestern University handbooks, 1920–21 and 1923–24
8. “Three Poems of Robert Liddell Lowe,” autographed sheet music, 1966
9. Reich, Helen, *The College Housemother*, 1964
10. Cook, Barbara and Beverley Stone, *Counseling Women*, 1973

Box 6

1. Pamphlets, 1933–1961
2. SPAR Reunion program, 1988

Series 6. Other Purdue Material 1955–1985

Folder

3. Gold Medallion Award, 1968–1983
4. Paperwork regarding house, including gifting it to Purdue, 1975–1985
5. Purdue President nominations, 1970
6. 1981 Salary Study, Purdue Women’s Caucus remarks
7. Letter to parents of women students, 1955
8. Annual Reports and freshman orientation, 1966–68
9. 1981 Salary Study
10. Report, Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to the Purdue Equal Opportunity Office, May 1972
11. Manuscript, “Women at Purdue,” and correspondence between Schleman and the administration
12. TIAA Pension Lawsuit, 1979

Series 7. Research Files 1965–1992

Box 7

1. AAUP (American Association of University Professors), 1965
2. Alpha Lambda Delta (undated)
This folder contains a study on various grade point scales, with no mention of Alpha Lambda Delta
3. Counselors, 1968–1979
4. IAWS (Intercollegiate Association of Women Students) , 1967–1972
5. Male Chauvinists, 1974
6. McCall’s New Approach, 1970–1971
7. Media Presentation, 1969–1972
8. Michigan (Univ. of) and H.E.W. (Department of Health, Education & Welfare), 1970
9. Military (see anti- also), 1971–1974
10. *Ms. Magazine*, Gloria Steinem, New Women, Use of Name, 1971–1979
11. NAWDAC (National Association of Women Deans, Administrators, and Counselors), 1968–1969
12. NAWDAC (National Association of Women Deans and Counselors), current (1970)
13. Other Universities Women, 1970–1971
14. Pamphlet, “Barriers to Success,” 1969
15. Paternity Leave, Maternity Leave, 1972
16. Poll Va Slims, 1972
17. Position Paper Title IX, NAWDAC, Mortar Board, 1972–1973

18. Professions, Librarian, Poetry, 1972–1976
19. Progress!!, 1977
20. Protests/Demonstrations, 1970–1972
21. Public Accommodation, 1971
22. Public Office Politics, Political Appointments, 1970–1975
23. Publications – Conferences (Women), 1975–1976

Box 8

1. Psychology/Psychiatry, 1970–1971
2. Radical Newspapers, 1970
3. Recognition (public), 1973
4. Religion/Women, 1970–1977
5. Research, 1969–1972
6. Helen Schleman File (1), 1968–1992
7. Helen Schleman File (2), 1960–1992
Includes power of attorney document, last will, death certificate
8. Sex Objects, 1972–1977
9. Sex Roles (marriage, motherhood, identity) (1), 1969–1975
10. Sex Roles (marriage, motherhood, identity) (2), 1969–1972
11. Sexist Textbooks, 1972
12. Single Aged, 1964–1971
13. Sports, 1967–1975
14. Statements by Individuals re: Women, 1968

Box 9

1. Task Force – Women’s Rights and Responsibilities, 1969–1972
2. Title VII (also Womenpower in Action), 1970
3. U.N. (and other countries) Women, 1966–1976
Includes a speech delivered by Dorothy Stratton to the U.N.
4. Unions, 1973–1974
5. Union Jobs and Individual Women (1), 1975–1979
6. Union Jobs and Individual Women (2), 1970–1972
7. Union Jobs and Individual Women (3), 1967–1979
8. Volunteer Work
9. Wall Street Journal Articles – Bernice Sandler, 1978
10. Women’s Agenda, 1975
11. Women’s Movement, 1970–1974
12. Womanpower, Workforce, 1944–1976

Series 8. Photographs

Box 10

1. Photograph, portrait of young Schleman circa late 1920s.
2. Photographs, 8x10, 1940–circa 1980
3. Photographs from WWII photo album, 1944–1945
4. Clippings from photo album, 1944
5. Photographs, President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, 1967
6. Photographs, medium-sized, 1944–1990

Box 11

Photographs, snapshot size, circa 1910–1992

Series 9. Artifacts and Oversized Material

Box 12

Item

1. VHS and DVD recording of Schleman Hall Dedication
2. Dean Schleman desk nameplate
3. Gold Medallion Award, 1968
4. Box containing a Coast Guard ID bracelet, a watch on an engraved silver bracelet, and a bag of military insignia with inventory

Box 13 Oversize Materials

Folder

1. Special Purdue newspaper publications 1969–2001
Exponent May 23, 1968, "Hail Purdue '69," "J&C Salutes Frederick L. Hovde," "Purdue University Perspective" all with articles pertaining to Helen Schleman
2. *Collier's Magazine* SPARs cover and large photos of Schleman, 1944–1945
3. Los Angeles Free Press (Women, Rise Up issue), 1970
4. *Progressive Woman* magazine, December 1972 and *The New York Times Magazine* Women's Lib issue, 1971