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Papers of Regis A. Factor [finding aid]

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James Anthony Schnur

Keri Dhondup

Regis Factor 1937-1999

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The Papers of Regis A. Factor

**USF St. Petersburg Archives
Record Group 363, Series: 002 (Faculty Papers)**

A Collection Guide by

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**Special Collections and Archives
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
University of South Florida St. Petersburg**

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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)**
- Folder 12:** [Pedagogy] **Student Evaluations of Teaching, 1983-1984**
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**