

PURDUE

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FINDING AID TO THE HAROLD M. DEGROFF, JR. PAPERS, 1943-2010

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Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	DeGroff, Harold M. Jr., 1920-2010
Title	Harold M. DeGroff , Jr. papers
Collection Identifier	MSF 477
Date Span	1943-2010, predominant 1951-1968
Abstract	Clippings, correspondence, miscellaneous materials and photographs documenting the career of Harold M. DeGroff, Jr.
Extent	1 folder
Finding Aid Author	Mary A. Segó, 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:	Received by School of Aeronautics and Astronautics from Joe DeGroff (Harold DeGroff's son) on November 18, 2010.
Custodial History:	Transferred to Karnes Archives and Special Collections by Aero Development officer, Rita Baines on October 8, 2012.
Accession Number:	20121008
Preferred Citation:	MSF 477, Harold M. DeGroff, Jr. papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Purdue University

Subjects and Genres

Persons

DeGroff, Harold M., Jr.

Organizations

Purdue University--School of Aeronautics and Astronautics
Midwest Applied Science Corporation
Flight Archives at Purdue University

Topics

Purdue University--School of Aeronautics and Astronautics
Purdue University--Faculty

Form and Genre Types

Certificate
Clippings
Correspondence
Miscellaneous materials
Photographs

Occupations

Professor
Aerospace engineer

Biography of Harold M. DeGross, Jr.

Harold Miller DeGross was born May 10, 1920 to Harold and Marjorie (Lantz) DeGross in Troy, Ohio. He was married to Sarah (Sally) Meek DeGross for more than 54 years.

A former naval officer, he took full advantage of the G.I. bill to attend Cornell University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and California Institute of Technology, where he earned his doctorate in aeronautics and mathematics.

A longtime Purdue University faculty member, he was dean of Purdue's School of Aeronautics and Astronautics from 1955-1963 during the height of the "space race," counting Neil Armstrong and other renowned NASA astronauts as his students. He also served on the faculty of Purdue's Krannert School of Management, was president of Midwest Applied Science Corporation, a pioneer tenant of Purdue Research Park, and served as vice president of Design and Manufacturing Corporation in Connersville, Indiana.

An endowed scholarship was established at Purdue in his name for students in management or aeronautical engineering who are earning a Certificate in Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

DeGross was an avid student of history, music and art and an active civic volunteer. He and Sally were dedicated members of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, which named him a lifetime member in 2008. He was particularly fond and supportive of the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art and followed the glaucoma research being conducted by the Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology with great interest and gratitude.

Source:

Retrieved December 4, 2012 from:

<https://engineering.purdue.edu/AAE/AboutUs/News/FormerAAEHeadHaroldMDeGrossJr90diedOct122010>

Collection Description

Scope

The Harold M. DeGroff, Jr. papers (1943-2010; 0.25 cubic feet) document aspects of the career of longtime Purdue University faculty member and former dean of Purdue's School of Aeronautics and Astronautics from 1955-1963, during the height of the "space race." Some of the featured items in the collection are a letter of recommendation for assignment to the Naval V-12 College of Training Program and a notice of separation from the United States Naval Service. Items pertaining to his Purdue career include his initial letter of interest in a Purdue faculty position, Purdue University oath or affirmation, letter of recommendation for acting head of School of Aeronautics and vitae. Also included is a signed letter to DeGroff from his former student, Neil Armstrong. Miscellaneous items include an autographed photograph of DeGroff with former congressman Earl F. Landgrebe, a certificate declaring DeGroff an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a copy of DeGroff's obituary. Types of materials include: a certificate, clippings, correspondence, miscellaneous materials and photographs. The papers are organized into 4 series:

Arrangement

1. Navy Career, 1943-1946 (0.025 cubic feet).

This series contains a letter of recommendation for assignment to the Naval V-12 College of Training Program and a notice of separation from the United States Naval Service. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically.

2. Purdue Career, 1951-1965 (0.1 cubic feet).

Included in this series are correspondence relating to DeGroff's initial interest in a faculty position at Purdue University, employment documents; security questionnaire, Purdue University oath or affirmation, letter of recommendation for acting head of School of Aeronautics position, vitae, handwritten list of research and activities at Purdue University and a photograph of the School of Aeronautics staff in 1965. Also included is a letter from Neil A. Armstrong to Professor DeGroff. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically.

3. Clippings, 1955-1968 (0.1 cubic feet).

The clippings in this series feature the work of Harold DeGroff. They include an article about his opinions on United States atomic weapons preventing war, work with the Midwest Applied Science Corporation, McClure Park (Purdue University's Industrial Research Park) and work with epoxy used in building construction. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically.

4. Miscellaneous Materials, 1960s-2010 (0.025 cubic feet).

The items in this series are a certificate declaring DeGroff an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, an autographed photograph of

Degroff with Congressman Earl F. Landgrebe and Degroff's obituary. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically.

Descriptive Rules

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 for research purposes, and original newspaper clippings have been retained for display purposes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series 1. Navy Career, 1943-1946

(0.025 cubic feet)

Folder 1 *Letter of Recommendation and Notice of Separation, 1943-1946*

Item

1. Letter of recommendation for assignment to the Naval V-12 College Training Program, 1943
2. Notice of separation from the United States Naval Service, 1946

Series 2. Purdue Career, 1951-1965

(0.1 cubic feet)

Folder 2 *Correspondence, Employment Documents, Vitae and Photograph, 1951-1965*

Item

1. Correspondence from Milton Clauser to Harold DeGross, recruiting DeGross for a Purdue University faculty position, February 24, 1951
2. Correspondence from DeGross to Clauser stating his interest in the Purdue faculty position, March 7, 1951
3. Personal, educational and employment data of Harold M. DeGross Jr., March 7, 1951
4. Personnel security questionnaire, circa 1951
5. Purdue University Oath or Affirmation, signed by Harold M. DeGross Jr., May 17, 1951
6. Correspondence from G.A. Hawkins to President F.L. Hovde, presenting his recommendation of Professor H.M. DeGross as the ideal person to assume the duties of acting head of the School of Aeronautics from September 1, 1954, to September 1, 1955, letter dated, August 30, 1954
7. Vitae for Harold M. DeGross Jr., January 15, 1955
8. Handwritten sheet detailing "research and activities at Purdue," of DeGross, circa 1955
9. Photograph of Purdue Aeronautics staff (?), December, 1965
10. Correspondence from Neil A. Armstrong to Professor DeGross, undated

Series 3. Clippings, 1955-1968

(0.1 cubic feet)

Folder 3 *Clippings (Newspaper), 1955-1968*

Item

1. "Air Engineering School Head On Leave To Lead Science Firm," circa 1955 [publication information unavailable]
2. "McClure Park Is Outgrowth," circa 1955 [publication information unavailable]
3. Author unknown, (1964, January 28). Midwest Applied Science Aids Research Development: Composed Of Purdue Staffers. *Journal and Courier*, Lafayette, Indiana. [includes photograph of DeGross]
4. Author unknown, (1964, November 4). Science Executive Calls For Increased Technology In State. [includes photograph of DeGross, publication information unavailable]
5. Author unknown, (1964, November 28). Park Firm Adds New Division. *Journal and Courier*. [includes photograph of William E. Spaulding]
6. Author unknown, (1968, June 19). Home Construction Has Something New – An Epoxy Building. *Cincinnati Post*.
7. "Building walls and roof are foamed in place," undated [publication information unavailable]

Series 4. Miscellaneous Materials, 1960s-2010

(0.025 cubic feet)

Folder 4 *Certificate, Obituary and Photograph, 1960s-2010*

Item

1. Autographed photograph of DeGross with congressman Earl F. Landgrebe, circa 1960s
2. Associate Fellow certificate issued by American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, to Harold M. DeGross, Jr., 1964
3. Obituary for Harold Miller DeGross, Jr., 2010