Manuscript Group 160
Dr. Ruth Shirey Memorial Collection,
Department of Geography and Regional Planning
Dr. Ruth Shirey Memorial Collection, Geography and Regional Planning; Manuscript Group 160
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
12 boxes, 12 linear feet

Biographical Note

Dr. Ruth Irene Shirey (December 2, 1942-February 20, 2015), Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geography and Regional Planning at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) where she taught geography from 1970 to 2007. A native of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Ruth Shirey was the daughter of Donald E. Shirey (1916-1989) and his wife Esther Irene Alwine Shirey (1915-1997). In 1965, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography Education from Indiana State College (ISC), which became Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in 1966. She was a member of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the International Geography Honor Society. She earned her Master of Science in 1968 and her PhD in Geography in 1970 from the University of Tennessee. She was awarded a National Defense Education Act Title IV fellowship at the University of Tennessee in 1965-1968. She was married to Dr. Royce Walters, Professor Emeritus in the Department of History at IUP. Ruth Shirey was an assistant professor at Tennessee Tech University in 1968-1969. She joined the IUP faculty in 1970 where she taught for 37 years until her retirement in 2007. Dr. Shirey was the Chair of the Department of Geography and Regional Planning from 1977 to 1988, and she was also the Interim Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences from 1987 to 1989. In 1988, Dr. Shirey participated in a Fulbright faculty exchange with the University of Poona in India.

Dr. Shirey and her husband Dr. Royce Walters were instrumental in the “Committee to Save John Sutton Hall” (Manuscript Group 39) in 1970s, which took initiatives to preserve the first building on campus. Dr. Shirey brought IUP international recognition when she served as the executive director of the National Council for Geographic Education from 1988 to 2002 and based its headquarters at IUP. Concurrently, she provided IUP prestige as she served as a state coordinator for the Pennsylvania Geographic Alliance from 1986 to 2002. In 2008, IUP honored Dr. Shirey with a Distinguished Alumni Award for achievements in academia and for contributions to geography education, research and administration. During her tenure at IUP, Dr. Shirey was awarded $1.8 million in external grant funding.

Dr. Shirey received the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Outstanding Service Award for 1998-1999 and the IUP Graduate Dean’s Award for Outstanding Commitment to Sponsored Programs. She was honored with the Pennsylvania Geographical Society Distinguished Service Award in 2001 and the George J. Miller Award for Distinguished Service from the National Council for Geographic Education in 1996—the same year she was included in the Geographers on Film Series. She was also honored for her service to Gamma Theta Upsilon International Honor Society in 2003. Dr. Shirey was elected to the Society of Woman Geographers in 1980, and she was a life member of the Association of American Geographers, the National Council for Geographic Education, and the Conference of Latin American Geographers.
Scope and Content
This collections contains biographical and family information, correspondence, memorabilia, career and office files, and service awards earned by Dr. Ruth Shirey who was Professor Emeritus from the Department of Geography & Regional Planning at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).

Provenance
This collection was donated by Dr. Ruth Shirey and Dr. Royce Walters.

Restrictions
None, this collection is open for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the IUP Special Collections and University Archives. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or publish, please contact the Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist.

Processor
The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on January 30, 2019.

Container List

Series I: Files, Lesson Plans, and Publications
Box 1 (23 folders) Documents, Awards and Citations
Documents, Education, and Correspondence
1. Indiana State Normal School Receipt for Ethel Burbeth, November 30, 1920
2. Ruth Irene Shirey, Class of 1965, Spring 1963 grade reports and a postcard of George Miller Stadium and the Memorial Field House (circa 1964-1965)
6. Correspondence with and about colleague Mamie Louise Anderzhon (1906-1988), an oil painting of Dr. Anderzhon is in Series III Box 1.

Awards and Citations
7. List of Awards, 1987-2008 and no dates
8. Leadership in the founding of the first Geography themed Elementary School, Perry School, no date
9. Faculty Career Associate, 1987
14. IUP Graduate Dean’s Award, 1995
15. IUP 25 years of service, 1996
16. NCGE George J. Miller Award, 1996
17. Indiana Branch of the American Association of University Women, 1997
18. IUP College of Humanities and Social Sciences Outstanding Service Award, 1998-1999
21. Glencoe Distinguished Teacher Service Award, 2007
22. IUP Distinguished Alumni Award, 2008
24. AAG Ronald F. Abler Distinguished Service Honors Award Correspondence and Speech Notes, 2013
25. University of Tennessee, Department of Geography, Outstanding Alumni Award, 2013
27. Memorial Service Program, Zion Lutheran Church, Indiana, Pennsylvania, May 2, 2015

Series I: Files, Lesson Plans, and Publications
Box 2 Lesson Plans, Resource Files, and Correspondence
1. “Connumach” Conemaugh Township High School year book, 1956
2. “Connumach” Conemaugh Township High School year book, 1957
9. Pictures
10. Pictures 2
13. Book “Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation A Study in Industrial Location,” 1967
14. Geography Aerial Field Trip Brochure, 1967
15. Lesson Plans: “Reading a map”
16. Lesson Plan: “Using Reading Strategies to Teach Geography”
17. Continuity and Decline in the Anthracite Towns of Pennsylvania
18. Transparencies, 1972
21. Correspondence: Julie Chen, 1979
27. Bethlehem Steel Information, 1982
29. Johnstown Flood Information  
30. Immaculate Conception Church Johnstown Pennsylvania  
31. St. Casimir’s Church Johnstown Pennsylvania  
32. Lesson Plan Book: “Map Skills Grades D,1,2” 1983  
   Robert C. Ziegenfus (3 papers)  
35. Manufactural Changes in Southwestern Pennsylvania, (1848) 1985  
37. Indiana County Heritage Place Names of Indiana County, 1986  
38. Book: 30Th Street Station Area Study, Philadelphia City Planning Commission  
41. Booklet: “Experiencing Indian Languages” by Carol Hansen, Peggy Mueller, Marilyn Turnkouick, 1987

Series I: Files, Lesson Plans, and Publications
Box 3 Lesson Plans, Resource Files, and Correspondence
3. Lesson Plan and overhead slides: “Is Pittsburgh a Region?”  
4. “A Geography of Recline: The Bedding Industry of Pittsburgh, PA” Larry L. Patrick  
   Paper and Transparencies, 1989  
8. Lesson Plan: The Geography of Steel Town” (includes maps)  
10. “America’s Industrial Heritage Project” pamphlet, 1989  
12. Book: “Science: The Islamic Legacy”  
13. Cambria City Candlelight Church Tours, 1990  
16. “Pennsylvania Index to Topographic and Other Map Coverage”  
17. Map Soviet Union (2 Copies), 1990  
18. “Helping Your Child Learn Geography” Booklet, 1990  
19. “Rails to Trails Guide” Booklet  
23. Johnstown Field Trip, Ethnic Tour of the Churches in Cambria City, 1990  
24. Churches of Johnstown Tour  
25. Lesson Plan: “Johnstown Flood Unit”  
26. Pamphlets of Cambria County  
27. Loyalhanna Lake and Conemaugh River Lake Information
29. PA Geographic Alliance Summer Institute Walking Field Trip, 1991
30. Using the Five Themes to Understand Places and Regions, 1991
32. The Columbian Quincentenary, 1991
35. “Patterns in Pennsylvania’s Agricultural Land on the eve of the Twenty-First Century: Changes and Progress” Dr. Thomas A. Rumney, 1992
36. Conservation Directory of Pennsylvania (Booklet), 1992
37. “Columbus” Desert News Article, 1992
38. Lesson Plans: (2) Christopher Columbus, 1992
40. “Science of Understanding Tomorrow’s World Global Change” Book, 1992
41. Whiskey Rebellion Pamphlets and Information, 1992-1994
42. Correspondence and Pictures: Costa Rican Patch: Jairo Mora, 1992-2005
44. Correspondence- Dr. Eleanor Rawlings, 1993
45. Lesson Plan: “Pennsylvania Ground Water”
47. “Why has Japan Been so Successful Educationally?” 1993
49. Lesson plans; Russia/ Soviet Union, 1993
50. Booklet: “Russia and the Eurasian States” University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, 1993
52. Correspondence/ Pictures – Luella Rogers Burke, 1993-2005
54. “Laura Ingalls Wilder Day” Booklet
55. Lesson Plan: “The Story behind the Names of Western Pennsylvania Counties”
56. Lesson Plan: “Home Sweet Home: Why did we Come from There to here?”
58. Lesson Plan Booklet: “Changing Forest on the West Branch of the Susquehanna”
59. “Enough is Enough: Or is it?” Booklet Lillian Hynes
60. Geography Standards, 1994
62. “Illustrating the National Geography Standards” slide set and slide notes
64. Environmental Advantages of Inland Barge Transportation, 1994
65. “New School Geography” vs “Old School Geography”
66. Correspondence: Alliance TC/ Geographer Network, 1994
67. Correspondence: Dr. Karen M. Trifonoff, 1994
68. GE 252 Geography of Pennsylvania Place Name Origins, 1994
71. Collection of Lesson Plans, 1994
72. Lesson Plan: “Geography of Pennsylvania: Place Name Origins” by Ruth Shirey, 1994
73. Book of Lesson Plans from The Florida State University
74. Lesson Plan: “Rural to Urban 1915-1940 Afro-American Migration”
75. Letters to Pennsylvania Senators, Funding Cuts in Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBES), 1995
76. Letters to Pennsylvania Congressmen, Funding Cuts in Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBES), 1995
77. Booklet: History and Geography Reading Railroad, 1995
78. Argus Japan exchange, 1995
79. Pennsylvania Coal Data, 1995
81. “Managing Agricultural Resources in Gettysburg National Military Park” by Jane H. Ehemann
82. Gettysburg History, Geography, Lesson Plans, 1995
83. “Landscape Evolution and Cartographic Bias in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania” Francis P. Briscoe and David Prytherch, 1995
84. Correspondence/ Photos (5) Magazine: Demetrios Velis, 1995-2002
85. AGIS “The Forest as a Teacher,” 1995 and 1999
86. “Geography and Environmental Education; A Handbook for Teachers”
87. Learning Packet for 9-11 year olds “Fresh Mushroom Quest,” 1996
88. Children’s Book “Let’s Go to a Pennsylvania Mushroom Farm” by Susan Yocum
90. Correspondence: James A. Petrus, 1996
92. Workshop Lesson Plan: “Retail Geography of Medium-Sized Metropolitan Areas,” 1996

Series I: Files, Lesson Plans, and Publications
Box 4 Lesson Plans, Resource Files, and Correspondence
1. The Real Earth Teachers Guide and 3D Globe, 1996
3. Summer Geography Workshop, 1997
4. ASGI “Map Use and Map Making” J. Bencloski, 1997
8. AASGI Sample Applications, 1997-1998
10. ASGI Topographic Maps, 1998
12. ASGI Welcome Packet, 1998
13. ASGI Thank You Letters from Ruth Shirey to all Involved, 1998
15. Model Geography Program Award Certificates, 1998
19. “Heritage Tourism and the Disneyfication of Appalachia” PGS Field Trip to: Westvania, 1999
22. Certificate of Completion Summer Geography Institute, 1999
23. Train-the-Trainers Workshop Certificates, 1999
24. “Forest as a Teacher” Thank You letters to all involved, 1999
25. Geographical Ideas Developed in Pennsylvania Projector Screens By Ruth Shirey, 1999
27. K-12 Geography Education Survey, 2000
29. Walking Field Trip Indiana PA, 2000
30. “Geolink” The Alabama Geography Alliance Newsletter, 2000
31. Cards and Post Cards: Rick and Salem Ritenour, 2000-2003
32. Proposed Academic Standards for Geography, 2001
33. Lessons Plans: for Pennsylvania Geographic Alliance Summer Institute, 2001
34. Lesson Plans: “Americans on the Move”
35. Lesson Plan: “Going with the Flow”
37. Lesson Plan: “Riparian Buffer Restoration”
38. Lesson Plan: “What’s Hanging out in the Yard?”
39. Lesson Plan: “When Rain Hits the Land”
40. Water Budget Excise
41. Lesson Plan: “Pennsylvania’s Forests”
42. Lesson Plan: “Pennsylvania Climate”
43. Lesson Plans: Canada
44. Lesson Plan: “Where have all the birds gone?”
45. Lesson Plan: “The Oceans: Discovering Earth’s Hidden Treasures”
46. Lesson Plan: “Biodiversity and Culture in Aboriginal Australia”
47. Lesson Plan: “Log Cabins in America; The Finnish Experience”
48. Lesson Plan: “Environmental Field Trip”
49. Lesson Plan: “The Changing Faces of Earth”
50. Lesson Plan: “No Man is an Island”
51. Lesson Plan: “We are Citizens of the World”
52. Lesson Plan: “Picture History: Ancient Greece”
53. Lesson Plan: “Laura Ingalls Wilder”
55. “Geography fair turns ESU Gym into Cultural Melting pot” Newspaper Clip
56. Papers Regarding Dawn M. Drake, 2001-2006
57. John E Benhart Distinguished Alumni Award Papers, 2003
58. Correspondence: Stephen Arbogast, 2003
59. Papers and Correspondence: Dr. & Mrs. James M. Hunter, 2003-2005
60. Correspondence: Paula Sandrin, 2003-2007
64. Indiana University of Pennsylvania Department of Geography and Regional Planning Booklet, 2006
65. Correspondence: Xuan Shi, 2006
66. Correspondence: Tom Zogg, 2006-2008
67. Griffith Scholarship Papers, 2006-2008
68. Correspondence: Gregg Culver, 2007-2010
69. Invitation Ruth Shirey’s Retirement Picnic, 2007
70. Distinguished Alumni Awards DVD, 2008
71. Zion’s Ruth Shirey Letter and Photos, 2009
72. Zion’s Ruth Shirey CD of Photos
73. Correspondence: Jonathan Gallardy, 2010
74. Memorial Note for Gail Hobbs, 2010
75. Indiana University of Pennsylvania Distinguished Alumni Award Nomination: Denny Puko, 2010-2012
76. Correspondence: Bassam Alshraah, 2012
77. Correspondence: Regarding Ruth Shirey receiving Distinguished Alumni Award from The University of Tennessee, 2013
78. “A Religion test for Presidency?” Letter to the Editor clipping, 2013
79. Business Cards
80. The Society of Woman Geographers Executive Director Search Report, 2013
82. Day Planner, 2013-2014
83. Correspondence: Mark Critz, 2014
84. Correspondence: Association of American Geographers, 2014
85. Correspondence: Danna Cuomo, 2014
86. Certificate of Election, Indiana PA Democratic Committeeewoman, 2014
87. Day Planner, 2014-2015
88. Address Book
89. Book donated by Dr. Royce Walters in 2018-2019, includes note from Wayne Bogle (IUP):
      Second copy in the IUP Libraries’ Circulating Collection –
      Call Number: QL 638 .C64 M4 2002

Series II: Slides
Box 1 Slides (boxes)
  1. Brazil
  2. England
  3. India

Series II: Slides
Box 2 Slides – Pennsylvania (boxes)
  1. Pennsylvania
  2. Gettysburg
Series III: Oversized Items
Box 1 (4 items)
1. Diploma: Robert H. Shirey, Jenner Township High School, Somerset County Public Schools, Class of 1907, April 10, 1907 (Ruth Shirey’s grandfather)
2. Diploma: Lavina A. Ream, Jenner Township High School, Somerset County Public Schools, Class of 1913, April 22, 1913 (Ruth Shirey’s grandmother)
3. Award: Retirement Award presented to Ruth Shirey, Ph.D., The Delaware Valley Geographic Alliance, October 18, 2002

Series III: Oversized Items
Box 2 Framed Items (3 items)
1. Framed Posters: Pennsylvania Geographic Alliance: The 1st ASGI, IUP, 1990, signed by county participants including Dr. Ruth Shirey
3. Framed Item: Todd Royce Walters, born on August 7, 1978, child of Royce and Ruth Shirey Walters (calligraphy)

Series III: Oversized Items
Box 3 Framed Items (4 items)
1. Framed Engraving: South America, printed in London, no date (1700s-1800s)
2. Framed Engraving: Lord Chatham – William Pitt, the Elder, 1st Earl of Chatham (1708-1778), Prime Minister of Great Britain (1766-1768), printed in London, no date (circa 1820)
3. Framed Page: Somerset County, page 618, color print of street scene of Somerset, no date
4. Framed Photograph: 1962 NCGE Conference, Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, identified participants
5. Memorabilia including lapel pins, jewelry, and name badges

Series IV: Memorabilia on Display (10 items)
1. Blown Glass Sphere: Globe on brass pedestal, no identification, no date
2. Globe: Brass and Marble (no identification, no date) matches charm on necklace in Series II Box 3.
3. Globe: Paper and Brass (not identified)
4. Glass globe (6” globe) with brass stand (not identified)
5. Glass globe (3” globe) with brass stand (not identified)
6. Brass stamp holder inscribed: Ruth, you made a world of difference to us, 1st ASGI, 1990
8. Glass Award: IUP Distinguished Alumni Award, April 5, 2008
9. Framed Map: A New Map of Pennsylvania with its Canals and Railroads published by Thomas Cowperthwait (1850)
10. Framed Watercolor Painting of river landscape with a steamboat (not identified)