



Special Collections and University Archives

**William Lafranchi Collection
Manuscript Group 122**

**For Scholarly Use Only
Last Modified December 10, 2020**

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William Lafranchi Collection, Manuscript Group 122
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
2 boxes; 2 linear feet

Biographical Note

A native of Brookville, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, William Emil Lafranchi (December 6, 1926 – December 2, 2020) served as the Director of Libraries and Media Services at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) from 1953-1954 to 1985-1986. He graduated from Clarion State Teachers College (later Clarion University) in 1949 with a BSED degree. He started working as a librarian at Clarion High School. He earned his MLS graduate degree from the University of Illinois in 1953.

In September 1953, William Lafranchi started working for the library at Indiana State Teachers College (IUP), and he would serve as the Director of Libraries and Media Services at IUP for 33 years until his retirement in 1985-1986. In 1977, William Lafranchi married Sylvia P. Schmidle Martin (1920-2016), a resident of Wilkinsburg for 52 years who taught Latin and English at St. Edmunds Academy in Squirrel Hill (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). Mrs. Sylvia Lafranchi went onto be elected as the first female mayor of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, serving from 1994 to 1998.

A respected colleague and mentor, William Lafranchi passed away on December 2, 2020 shortly before his 94th birthday.



Scope and Content Note

The William Lafranchi Collection contains correspondences, newspaper articles, information about the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Indiana County program through the YMCA of Indiana County ([Manuscript Group 90](#)), and photographs. His interest in expanding the Pennsylvania Collection and the [Rare Book Collection](#) at the IUP Libraries led to the creation of the Lafranchi Endowment to purchase rare books for the [Special Collections & University Archives](#) at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

The William Lafranchi Collection also contains an oral history interview with William Lafranchi that was recorded by Harrison Wick on November 6, 2014. For more information about the Lafranchi family, see the Lafranchi Family Papers at the University of Pittsburgh: <https://historicpittsburgh.org/islandora/object/pitt:US-QQS-mss561>

Provenance

Donated by William Lafranchi.

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 December 10, 2020.

Container List**Box 1 William Lafranchi (20 folders)**

1. IUP Correspondence to William Lafranchi
2. Correspondence to William Lafranchi
3. Correspondence from William Lafranchi
4. Miscellaneous Correspondence
5. Reports
6. Awards, Certificates, Invitations, and Programs
7. Personal Cards and correspondence
8. Last Will and Testament
9. Forming the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Indiana County ([Manuscript Group 90](#))
10. Newspaper Articles
11. State Retirement Bulletins and Pamphlets
12. Retirement Correspondence
13. Retirement Appointment Records
14. Education: Diploma
 - a. Master of Science from the University of Illinois, 1953

15. *Archives*: Wilkinsburg Historical Society Newsletter, William Lafranchi served as President, Volume 2 Issues 3-4, May and June 1995
16. Speech given by Sylvia Martin Lafranchi, wife of William Lafranchi about sexism and feminism, 1970s (Sylvia Martin Lafranchi served as the first female mayor of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, 1994-1998)
17. McNutt Family History and Correspondence, 1880-1939
 - a. Matthew Brown McNutt (1869-1952) biography
 - b. Correspondence from Aunt Lida to Matthew B. McNutt, January 27, 1880
 - c. *Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania* (1898) about Matthew B. McNutt
 - d. *World's Work* (1910). "Men in Action" and "Ten Years in a Country Church" by Matthew B. McNutt, December 1910
 - e. Correspondence from Mary Campbell to Mary McNutt Gillespie (daughter of Matthew Brown McNutt), July 29, 1939
18. William E. Lafranchi Endowment Correspondence, 1995-2004
19. Audio interview with William Lafranchi accompanied by several digital photographs, interview recorded by Harrison Wick on November 6, 2014 in Verona, Pennsylvania
20. Biographical Information about William Lafranchi (1926-2020) and Sylvia Martin Lafranchi (1920-2016)

Box 2 William Lafranchi (10 folders)

1. Photographs of William Lafranchi's retirement from IUP Libraries, January 1986
2. Miscellaneous Photographs
3. Certificate of Retirement from IUP
4. 50th Reunion Diploma from Clarion University, Class of 1949 signed by Clarion President Diane Reinhard, 1999
5. Photographs
 - a. College Photograph of William Lafranchi, after 1949 (age 22-23)
 - b. Photograph of William Lafranchi (2 prints), August 1976
 - c. Oversized Photograph of William Lafranchi's retirement signed by Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornberg, 1986
6. Pittsburgh Radio Station KDKA AM 1020 "Listen to what we started," anniversary special, original air date, November 2, 1970.
7. A Notebook on the War with Japan, written by William Lafranchi, during World War Two, 1941-1945
8. United States Army, Certificate of Retirement, First Sergeant William E. Lafranchi, December 6, 1986 (green binder with U. S. Army embossed gold seal)
9. Memorabilia: Pennsylvania License Plate, 2012-2013
10. Framed photograph of Sylvia Martin Lafranchi with academy award winning actor Denzel Washington at an event supporting the Boys and Girls Club of America, circa 1997-1998. Denzel Washington was a member of the Boys and Girls Club of America while growing up in New York City, this photograph was taken when Sylvia Lafranchi was mayor of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania (1994-1998)