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Valdosta State News and Notes

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University of West Georgia news

The papers of Irvine S. Ingram, president of West Georgia College from 1933 to 1960, have been processed and are now open for research in Ingram Library's Annie Belle Weaver Special Collections on the University of West Georgia campus in Carrollton. The Irvine S. Ingram papers

contain a wealth of information not only on the educator who led the college for nearly 40 years but also on the development of higher education in Georgia during the 20th century.



Ingram

Irvine S. Ingram became principal of the Fourth District A&M School, the predecessor of the University of West Georgia, in 1920. In 1933, he was appointed president of West Georgia College, a two-year teachers college, when the A&M system of schools was abolished by the state legislature. Privately known as "Izzy" to his students, Ingram led the college in offering desperately needed teacher training to the West Georgia region. He obtained substantial grants from the Julius Rosenwald Fund during the Depression and early years of World War II, without which many programs and buildings on the campus would not have been possible. Ingram developed College in the Country, a nationally recognized program for rural education training and adult education, including programs for African-Americans. He pushed for the four-year degree program, which the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents approved in 1957. The library was named for Ingram in 1980 at the dedication of its addition.

A Methodist, a Democrat and a cat-lover, Ingram was a vital part of the Carroll County community. His wife, Martha, was the daughter of college trustee George Munro and a teacher at the A&M School before her marriage to Ingram. They had one child, Anne, a retired professor who lives in Carrollton today.

The Irvine S. Ingram Collection has been cataloged and currently contains 51 boxes of materials, mostly correspondence between Ingram and other educators, members of the Board of Regents, newspapermen, governors and numerous movers and shakers in Georgia politics and education. A later accession of his collection is as yet unprocessed.

Concurrent with the release of Ingram's papers is the conversion to DVD of a 1975 film entitled "I.S. Ingram a Great Georgian." Narrated by actor Lorne Greene, the

film reviews Ingram's life, including interviews with Ingram himself, his family and other educators, and also offers a good overview of the University of West Georgia's history. The 30-minute film was part of a University of Georgia series on "Great Georgians," including Carl Vinson, Lamar Dodd and Benjamin Mays among others. The DVD is available in the library's general collection.

For the Irvine S. Ingram Collection finding aid, follow the Special Collections link on the Ingram Library website to the Special Collections LibGuide — University Archives (http://libguides.westga.edu/data/files4/112809/IS_Ingram.pdf).

To make an appointment to view the collection (while the library is undergoing a renovation), as well as for additional information, contact Special Collections at (678) 839-6361 or sdurham@westga.edu. ▶▶

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Ginger H. Williams has joined the faculty of Valdosta State University's Odum Library as an instructor of library science and reference librarian. Williams received her M.L.I.S. degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee in December 2009. ▶▶



The first "Librarians Build Communities" scholars have begun classes in Valdosta State University's Master of Library and Information Science program. Top row from left: Clare Barton and William Davis. Second from top: Linda Most, Michele Johnson and Amy Carlan. Third row: Halley Little, Christopher Moffat, Britton Ozburn, Cameron Asbell, Deborah Moorman, Therese Walker and Wynter Bishop. Fourth row: Clinton Moxley, Frances Weaver, Holly Phillips and Jennifer Sherman. Bottom row: Kathleen de la Peña McCook, grant associate Lashanda Jones and MLIS Program Director Wallace Koehler. More information about the scholarships can be found at http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/publiclibinfo/bush_grant_app.php. (Photo by Chang Woo Yang)