

## President Edmond L. Volpe

Archives & Special Collections  
College of Staten Island Library, CUNY  
2800 Victory Blvd., 1L-216  
Staten Island, NY 10314

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Finding Aid by James A. Kaser

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### Overview of the Collection

<b>Collection No. :</b>	CM-5
<b>Title:</b>	President Edmond L. Volpe
<b>Creator:</b>	Edmond L. Volpe (1922-2007)
<b>Dates:</b>	c. 1947-2007
<b>Extent:</b>	Approximately 6.75 Linear Feet
<b>Abstract:</b>	Dr. Volpe was appointed a City University college president at Richmond College, an upper division college, in 1974. After Richmond College merged with Staten Island Community College to form the College of Staten Island in 1976, Dr. Volpe became the first president of the new institution. While President of the College, Dr. Volpe oversaw the merger of the two schools and their development into a single, comprehensive four-year institution. His efforts not only included the unification and development of a single faculty, curriculum, and administration, but also a consolidated campus on the former site of the Willowbrook State School. The new campus officially opened in 1993. Dr. Volpe retired in 1994. He was a widely recognized Faulkner scholar and after his retirement published an account of the early years of the College of Staten Island. His papers document his academic career and tenure as college president.

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### Administrative Information Preferred Citation

President Edmond L. Volpe Papers, Archives & Special Collections,  
Department of the Library, College of Staten Island, CUNY, Staten Island,  
New York

## **Acquisition**

In transfers from the Office of the President, papers were donated after his death by his widow Rose Volpe.

## **Processing Information**

Collection processed by the staff of Archives & Special Collections.

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## **Restrictions Access**

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

## **Copyright Notice**

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## **Name & Subject Terms:**

College of Staten Island -- Archives  
Universities and Colleges -- Staten Island (New York, N.Y.)

**Access:** Access to this record group is unrestricted.

## Biographical Sketch

Dr. Edmond L. Volpe was born on November 16, 1922. After receiving a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 1943, Volpe served in the United States Infantry from 1943-1946. He earned a master's degree (1947) and a doctorate (1954) at Columbia University, where his scholarship focused on the literature of Thomas Wolfe and Henry James.

Dr. Volpe began his teaching career as an Instructor at New York University in 1949. Upon completing his doctorate, Dr. Volpe joined the faculty of City College. While at City College, Dr. Volpe served as a Professor of English and American Literature and later as a Chair of the English Department (1964-1970). He also spent a year as a Fulbright Professor to France during this period.

Dr. Volpe's scholarship focused on American Literature, and he was a well-known Faulkner scholar. His textbook, *A Reader's Guide to William Faulkner* was published in multiple editions and translated into several languages. First published in 1964, it was considered a standard work in the field.

Dr. Volpe was appointed a City University college president at Richmond College, an upper division college, in 1974. After Richmond College merged with Staten Island Community College to form the College of Staten Island in 1976, Dr. Volpe became the first president of the new institution. While President of the College, Dr. Volpe oversaw the merger of the two schools and their development into a single, comprehensive four-year institution. His efforts not only included the unification and development of a single faculty, curriculum, and administration, but also a consolidated campus on the former site of the Willowbrook State School. The new campus officially opened in 1993.

Dr. Volpe was also involved in the community, the City University and professional organizations in higher education. He served on several University committees and represented the University in delegations from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities selected to explore international exchange agreements with foreign universities, including China, the Soviet Union and Egypt. Locally, Dr. Volpe was involved in education, civic communities and social service organizations.

Dr. Volpe retired from the College in 1994 and continued to publish, and including *Comprehensive College: Heading toward a New Direction in Higher Education* (2001), *Creating a College: State of the College 1976-1993* (2003) and *Reader's Guide to William Faulkner: The Short Stories* (2004).

The rotunda of the College of Staten Island Library was named in honor of Dr. Volpe in March 2007. He died in December of that year.

## Scope & Content

The records of the Office of President Volpe include biographical files, annual reports and statements, outgoing correspondence files, clippings and subject files related to his service at the College of Staten Island, CUNY. The subject files and book drafts also include historical material on the College of Staten Island. Materials documenting Dr. Volpe's academic career and scholarly are present.

Additional materials about Dr. Volpe may be found in the Richmond College and College of Staten Island collections.

The records are divided into eight series:

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS  
CORRESPONDENCE  
LITERARY PRODUCTIONS  
SUBJECT FILES  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
PRINTED MATERIALS  
REALIA  
AWARDS AND POSTERS

Coverage is not comprehensive. The records include a set official outgoing correspondence files, but it is unlikely that these include all outgoing correspondence for the office. There is also a good collection of news clippings for 1977-1989, although coverage extends beyond Dr. Volpe's activities into issues related to higher education, the College and the City University. There are biographical statements that cover much of Dr. Volpe's career at the College, but the only available curriculum vita is from 1975.

Coverage of incoming correspondence, schedules, photographs and memoranda is scattered.

Dr. Volpe donated drafts of *Comprehensive College: Heading toward a New Direction in Higher Education* (2001), as he felt that the drafts included important historical information about the College of Staten Island that he did not include in the published version. Copies of the published book, and many of Dr. Volpe's other works, are available in the book collection of Archives & Special Collections.

There is additional material related to Dr. Volpe in the records of Richmond College and the College of Staten Island.

## **Series Descriptions**

### **Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1974-2001. 1 folder.**

This series contains biographical items and curriculum vitae.

### **Series 2: Correspondence, 1954-2007. 2 linear feet.**

This series contains President Volpe's incoming and outgoing correspondence, arranged chronologically. Two subseries bring together official correspondence as president, correspondence written for distribution across the College of Staten Island, and correspondence with publishers of Volpe's books.

### **Series 3: Literary Productions, 1947-2000. 2 linear feet.**

This series seems to include all of Volpe's academic writings, beginning with his thesis and dissertation. Additional materials include official writings like annual reports and memoranda, essays concerning higher education and official travel, annual on the state of the college, and speeches. The only book drafts present are those for *Creating a College: State of the College 1976-1993* (2003).

Additional correspondence and memoranda may be found in Series 4: Subject Files.

### **Series 4: Subject Files, 1960-2008 .75 linear feet.**

This series consists of files documenting activities as college president and scholar and includes materials on Fulbright Awards received, his career at City College, Middle States Accreditation, official trips abroad, the conclusion of his tenure as president, and honors and official recognition he received.

### **Series 5: Photographs, 1974-2003. .3 linear feet.**

This series contains official photographs, photographs with CUNY administrators, photographs with notables, photographs taken on official overseas travel, and photographs taken at college events, such as award ceremonies, guest lectures and commencement.

### **Series 6: Printed Material, 1972-1985. 10 folders.**

This series contains programs, awards, and invitations

### **Series 7: Newsclippings, 1959-1999. .5 linear feet.**

Newsclippings document Volpe's academic career, career as college president, reviews of his publications, articles on CUNY and the College of Staten Island, and official press releases issued by the college.

[The following box/folder inventory is in the form of a table. If you are visually impaired and using a pdf reader you may need assistance and should contact the Archives at 718-982-4128.]

Box Folder Inventory:

<b>Curriculum Vitae</b>		
Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Biographical Statements & Curriculum Vitae (1974-2001)
<b>Correspondence</b>		
1	2	Correspondence (1954-1959)
1	3	Correspondence (1961-1965)
1	4	Correspondence (1966-1969)
1	5	Correspondence (1970)
1	6	Correspondence (1971)
1	7	Correspondence (1972)
1	8	Correspondence (1973)
1	9	Correspondence (1974)
1	10	Correspondence (1975)
1	11	Correspondence (1976)
1	12	Correspondence (1977)
1	13	Correspondence (1978)
1	14	Correspondence (1979)
2	1	Correspondence (1980)
2	2	Correspondence (1981)
2	3	Correspondence (1982)
2	4	Correspondence (1983)
2	5	Correspondence (1984)
2	6	Correspondence (1985)
2	7	Correspondence (1986)
2	8	Correspondence (1987)
2	9	Correspondence (1988)
2	10	Correspondence (1989)
2	11	Correspondence (1990)
3	1	Correspondence (1991)
3	2	Correspondence (1992)
3	3	Correspondence (1993)
3	4	Correspondence (1994)
3	5	Correspondence (1995)
3	6	Correspondence (1996)
3	7	Correspondence (1997)
3	8	Correspondence (1999)

3	9	Correspondence (2000)
3	10	Correspondence (2001)
3	11	Correspondence (2002)
3	12	Correspondence (2003; 2007; 2009)
3	13	Correspondence n.d.
3	14	Correspondence – College 1974-1975
3	15	Correspondence – College 1976
3	16	Correspondence – College 1977-1978
3	17	Correspondence – College 1979-1980
3	18	Correspondence – College 1981-1982
3	19	Correspondence – College 1983-1984
4	1	Correspondence – College 1985-1986
4	2	Correspondence – College 1987-1988
4	3	Correspondence – College 1989-1990
4	4	Correspondence – College 1991-1992
4	5	Correspondence – College 1993
4	6	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1975-1976
4	7	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1977
4	8	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1978
4	9	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1979
4	10	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1980
4	11	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1981
4	12	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1982
4	13	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1983
4	14	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1984
4	15	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1985
4	16	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1986
4	17	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1987
4	18	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1988
4	19	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1989
5	1	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1990
5	2	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1991
5	3	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1992
5	4	Correspondence – CUNY Central 1993
5	5	Correspondence – Publishers 1964-2001 (scattered)
5	6	Memoranda 1975-1976
5	7	Memoranda 1977
5	8	Memoranda 1978
5	9	Memoranda 1979-1980
5	10	Memoranda 1981-1982
5	11	Memoranda 1983
5	12	Memoranda 1984-1986
5	13	Memoranda 1987
5	14	Memoranda 1988
5	15	Memoranda 1990

5	16	Memoranda 1991-1992
5	17	Memoranda 1993
Literary Productions		
6	1	Thesis: Thomas Wolfe as Revealed Through His Satire, 1947
6	2	Dissertation: Henry James and the Conduct of Life: A Study of the Novelist's Moral Values, 1954
6	3	Speeches and Writings Binder 1974-1976
6	4	Speeches and Writings Binder 1977-1987
7	1	Speeches and Writings Binder 1989-1994
7	2	Annual Reports – In Our Year One – Oct., 1976
7	3	Annual Reports – In Our Year Two – Sept., 1977
7	4	Era Two: The Era of Creation (Delivered at Convocation Sept., 19, 1978)
7	5	Annual Report – President's Report – Dec., 1978
7	6	Annual Reports – In Our Year Four – Sept., 1979
7	7	Annual Reports – In Our Year Five – Sept., 1980
7	8	Annual Reports – In Our Year Six – Oct., 1981
7	9	Annual Reports – In Our Year Seven – Sept., 1982
7	10	Annual Reports – In Our Year Eight – Sept., 1983
7	11	Annual Reports – In Our Year Nine – Oct., 1984
7	12	Annual Reports – In Our Year Ten – Oct., 1985
7	13	Annual Reports – In Our Year Eleven – Oct., 1986
7	14	Annual Reports – In Our Year Twelve – Sept., 1987
7	15	Annual Reports – In Our Year Thirteen – Oct., 1988
7	16	Annual Reports – In Our Year Fourteen – Oct., 1989
7	17	Annual Reports – In Our Year Fifteen – Oct., 1990
7	18	Annual Reports – In Our Year Sixteen – Oct., 1991
7	19	Annual Reports – In Our Year Seventeen – Sept., 1992
7	20	Annual Reports – In Our Year Eighteen – Oct., 1993
7	21	President's Column in CSI Chronicles 1979-1990
7	22	Toward a New Campus – Progress Report No. 1, Feb., 1985
7	23	Report: Office of External Affairs (1976?)
7	24	College of Staten Island Mission Statement – Feb., 1977
7	25	A Proposal for Funding the College of Staten Island – 1978
7	26	Proposal for Structuring and Funding the College of Staten Island – March, 1978
7	27	Essay. Academic Program 1984
7	28	Goals and Objectives 1986-1991: The College of Staten Island, 1985?
7	29	The Underfunding of The College of Staten Island: A Plea for Equity - Oct., 1985
7	30	History of Presidency 1974-1987
7	31	College Entrance 1993
7	32	Proposal to Expand the Callandra Institute – Jan., 1992
7	33	Essay. Callandra Institute – Feb., 1979



7	34	Personal Memo Re: Dino Cinel 1991
7	35	Essay. Schizophrenia on the Campus 1955
7	36	Essay. The Prefaces of George Sand and Henry James 1955
7	37	Essay. The Childhood of James' American Innocents 1956
7	38	Essay. The Poetry Notebook 1957
8	1	Essay. Meeting Democracy's Challenge to Higher Education 1958
8	2	Essay. James' Theory of Sex in Fiction 1958
8	3	Essay. The Reception of Daisy Miller 1958
8	4	Essay. The Spoils of Art 1959
8	5	Essay. The Waste Land of Nathaniel West 1961
8	6	Harper's Student Study Guide 1964
8	7	Essay. France 1965
8	8	Essay. The English Department Curriculum 1969
8	9	Essay. A Draft of a Proposal for a Doctor of Arts 1970
8	10	Essay. A Portrait of the PhD as a Failure 1970
8	11	Essay. Let's Be Fair: A Comment on A. Poulin 1971
8	12	Essay. The Professional Economy: Demand and Supply 1971
8	13	Essay. Putting the Docere Back Into Doctor 1971
8	14	Essay. Confessions of a Fallen Man 1972
8	15	Essay. Student Participation on Government Appointments 1973?
8	16	Essay. An Office With a View 1974
8	17	Essay. Faulkner's Red Leaves – Studies in American Fiction 1975
8	18	Editorial. The Heart of Darkness 1976
8	19	Editorial. Our New University: Its Potential and Peril 1976
8	20	Essay. Faulkner's "Knight's Gambit..." 1978
8	21	Essay. From 1964 to 1970 1978
8	22	Editorial. A Loss of Gravity – SI Advance Feb. 28, 1979
8	23	Essay. Barn Burning: A Definition of Evil. Faulkner: The Unappealed Imagination 1980
8	24	Essay. Education and the Family, 1980?
8	25	Essay. Faulkner's "Monk" 1980
8	26	Essay. Identify and Art 1980
8	27	Book Review. Nagel. Ernest Hemingway 1981
8	28	Editorial. CSI President Cites Inconsistency 1981
8	29	Essay. The Elitist Tradition and Social Responsibility 1981
8	30	Essay. Visit to India 1981
8	31	Essay. Public Higher Education in Staten Island's 4 <sup>th</sup> Century 1983
8	32	Book Review. Ruppensburg. Voice and Eye 1983
8	33	Essay. On Learning 1985
8	34	Essay. Alma Mater Studiorum: University of Bologna, Ninth Century 1988
8	35	Essay. Bologna 1988

8	36	Essay. Descent Into Darkness 1988
8	37	Essay. Mission Possible? 1988
8	38	Essay. "Dry September: Metaphor for Despair," College Literature Vol. XVI No.1 1989
8	39	Essay. Elly: Like Gun Powder in a Flimsy Vault 1989
8	40	Essay. A Tale of Ambivalences: Faulkner's "Divorce in Naples" 1990
9	1	Editorial. Voyage of Discovery 1990
9	2	Editorial. CUNY Report About Politics, Not Facts 1999
9	3	Essay. China's Hidden Beauty 1999
9	4	Essay. Undergraduate Education: The Reality n.d.
9	5	Essay. Untitled. Subject: Social Myth and American Literature 1970
9	6	Personal Reflection. Medical Record 1968
9	7	Personal Reflection. Linton Massey 1971
9	8	Television Script. The End of the Circle n.d.
9	9	<i>The Comprehensive College</i> – Original Version c.2000
9	10	<i>The Comprehensive College</i> – Appendix & Drafts c.2000
9	11	<i>The Comprehensive College</i> – Varying Versions c.2000
9	12	<i>The Comprehensive College</i> – Draft c.2000
Subject Files		
10	1	Subject File – Fulbright. France. Correspondence 1960-1961
10	2	Subject File – Fulbright. France. Address Book and Sorbonne I.D. 1960-1961
10	3	Subject File – Fulbright. France. Program 1961
10	4	Subject File – Fulbright. France. News Clippings 1960-1961
10	5	Subject File – City College – Chair Reports 1965-1970
10	6	Subject File – City College – Syllabus 1956
10	7	Subject File – City College – English Dept. Farewell Dinner – Play Script 1974
10	8	Subject File – City College – English Dept. Farewell Dinner – Volpe Speech (Drafts) 1974
10	9	Subject File – City College – English Dept. Farewell Dinner – Speech 1974
10	10	Subject File – City College – English Dept. Farewell Dinner – Printed Material 1974
10	11	Subject File – Syllabi n.d.
10	12	Subject File – 56 Howard Avenue 1969, n.d.
10	13	Subject File – Friends of the College of Staten Island 1976; 1993; 2001
10	14	Subject File – Middle States Accreditation – Correspondence 1977-1980
10	15	Subject File – Middle States Accreditation – Memoranda 1977-1980
		Subject File – Middle States Accreditation – Remarks by Team

10	16	Leader 1980
10	17	Subject File – Middle States Accreditation – Draft Evaluation Team Report 1980
10	18	Subject File – Middle States Accreditation – Report Follow-up 1980-1981
10	19	Subject File – Volpe Presidency Tenth Anniversary Publication 1983-1984
10	20	Delegation of College Presidents to Moscow 1986-1987
11	1	USSR Higher Education Delegation to the US 1988
11	2	Subject File – University of Bologna 9 <sup>th</sup> Centenary 1988
11	3	Subject File – College Song 1991
11	4	Subject File – Dismissal – Printed Material 1993
11	5	Subject File – Dismissal – Copies of Letters of Support 1993
11	6	Subject File – Dismissal – Correspondence 1993-1997
11	7	Volpe Testimonial Dinner Dance – Journal 1994
11	8	Volpe Testimonial Dinner Dance – Correspondence 1994
11	9	Volpe Testimonial Dinner Dance – Journal Draft 1994
11	10	Volpe Testimonial Dinner – Speeches 1994
11	11	Volpe Testimonial Dinner – Invitation 1994
11	12	Volpe Testimonial Dinner – Tables 1994
11	13	Volpe Testimonial Dinner – Journal Ads 1994
11	14	Volpe Rotunda Dedication – Correspondence 2007
11	15	Volpe Rotunda Dedication – Mike Shugrue Speech 2007
11	16	Volpe Honorary Degree 1999
11	17	Volpe Rotunda Dedication – Booklet 2007
11	18	Volpe Rotunda Dedication – Correspondence 2007
11	19	Volpe Rotunda Dedication – Invitations 2007
11	20	Volpe Rotunda Dedication – Guest Register 2007
12	1	Volpe Memorial 2008
12	2	Subject File – Rose Volpe – Correspondence 1968-1999
12	3	Subject File – Rose Volpe – Biography 1989
12	4	Subject File – Rose Volpe – Certificates 1976; 1978; 1981; 1984
12	5	Subject File – Rose Volpe – Society for Seaman’s House tour 1977
Photographs		
12	6	Photos – Portraits 1974; 1984, n.d.
12	7	Photographs 1975; 1984; 1993
12	8	Photographs with CUNY Administrators 1975
12	9	Photographs – Staten Island Politicians 1975; 1984; 1986; 1991; n.d.
12	10	Photographs – Commencements 1977; 1987; 1988; 1990; n.d.
12	11	Photographs – Volpe with Notables 1978; 1979; 1982; 1983; n.d.
12	12	Photographs – International Festival 1981; 1986; 1987; n.d.
12	13	Photographs – South Korea 1984
		Photographs – 56 Howard Ave. Receptions 1984; 1987; 1988;

12	14	n.d.
12	15	Photographs – IAUP Triennial Thailand 1984
12	16	Photographs – Governor Mario Cuomo and Volpe 1984; 1989; n.d.
12	17	Photographs – China 1985
12	18	Photographs – Japan 1985
12	19	Photographs – Operation Sail 1986
12	20	Photographs – Greece 1987
12	21	Photographs – USSR Trips 1987; 1988
12	22	Photographs – University of Bologna, Ceremony and Exhibition 1988
12	23	Photographs – Ronald Lauder’s Reception for Sakharov 1988
12	24	Photographs – USSR Partnership Program 1988
12	25	Photographs – Groundbreaking 1989
12	26	Photographs – IAUP Triennial – Salamanca, Spain 1990
12	27	Photographs – Italian- American Organizations 1976; 1990; 1998; 2003; n.d.
12	28	Photographs – Campus Construction 1991; n.d.
12	29	Photographs – Hiroshima College, Japan 1993
12	30	Photographs – Geraldine Ferraro 1993
12	31	Photographs – Community Awards Ceremonies (56 Howard Avenue) 1993; 1994; n.d.
12	32	Photographs – Testimonial Dinner 1994
12	33	Photographs – Neptune Ball 2003, n.d.
12	34	Photographs – Italy n.d.
12	35	Photographs – Starlight Balls n.d.
12	36	Photographs – Taiwan n.d.
12	37	Photographs – n.d.
12	38	Photographs – n.d.
Printed Material		
12	39	Printed Material – Prolegomena to a Critical Self Study 1972
12	40	Printed Material – Novelty Stationary 1976(?)
13	1	Awards 1976-1987; 1993-1994
13	2	Imprinted Cards 1977; 1994; n.d.
13	3	Inscribed Offprints 1980; 1985
13	4	Printed Material – Invitations 1977; 1978; 1980; 1982; 1993; 1994; 2003
13	5	Invitation – Groundbreaking Ceremony 1989
13	6	Printed Material – Programs 1981; 1983; 1984; 1986; 1990
13	7	Program – Bettino Crax Dinner 1983
13	8	Printed Material – Volpe Caricature 1985
14	1	Newsclippings 1959-1968
14	2	Newsclippings 1973-1974
14	3	Newsclippings 1975
14	4	Newsclippings 1976

14	5	Newsclippings 1977
14	6	Newsclippings 1978-1979
14	7	Newsclippings 1980
14	8	Newsclippings 1981
14	9	Newsclippings 1982-1983
14	10	Newsclippings 1984-1985
14	11	Newsclippings 1986
14	12	Newsclippings 1987
14	13	Newsclippings 1988
14	14	Newsclippings 1989
14	15	Newsclippings 1992
14	16	Newsclippings 1993
14	17	Newsclippings 1994; 1997; 1999
14	18	Newsclippings (reviews of Volpe's publications) 1954; 1958-1961; 1963-1965
14	19	Press Releases 1973; 1977; 1987; 1993
Realia		
15		Pin and Lacquer box presented to Volpe by Elena (Bonner) Sakharov in Moscow, 1987
		Pin reading "Save CUNY, Dump Reynolds" presented to Volpe by Student Government, 1993
		(Three) commemorative paperweights for CSI groundbreaking ceremony, 1989
		CSI President's Medal presented to Rose Volpe December 3, 2011
Oversize		
Awards and Posters		
16		Poster of Faulkner Centennial Celebration, 1997
		Fulbright Certificate, 1961
		Italian government commendations:
		Proclamation of Dr. Edmond Volpe Day by Borough President Guy Molinari, 1991
		Poster of "Visit to the USSR: Conversations with Sakharov"
		Diploma from Columbia University, 1947
		Award from Italian President of membership in the Ordine della Stella della Solidarieta Italiana, 1978
		Award from Italian President of the Order of Merit, 1995