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UA3/4/8 President Dero Downing - Interviews/ Oral History

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**Western Kentucky University
UA3 President's Office
Series 4 Dero Downing
Subseries 8 Interviews/Oral History**



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Biographical/Historical Note: The president's office was created in 1906. The search for the fourth president of WKU began with Kelly Thompson's resignation announcement May 21, 1969. Vice President for Administrative Affairs Dero Downing indicated that he would serve if asked. The Board of Regents elected him president on August 22, 1969. He served until his retirement in 1979.

Dero Downing was born September 10, 1921 at Fountain Run in Monroe County, Kentucky, and grew up at Horse Cave in Hart County. He enrolled at WKU in 1939 where he played basketball and earned both a bachelor's and master's degree. After serving in the Navy in World War II, he returned to Western as a mathematics teacher and coach at the College's Training School. He later became director of the Training School, college registrar, dean of admissions, dean of business affairs, and vice-president for administrative and business affairs. Upon his resignation as president in 1979 Downing became president of the College Heights Foundation.

Description: Interviews and oral histories by and about Dero Downing.

Dates: 1958-1979

Subject Analytics:

Audio recording
Downing, Dero Goodman, b. 1921
Downing, Harriet
Interviews
Western Kentucky University
Western Kentucky University

Accession Information: These records were transferred to the University Archives upon its creation.

Access Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation: UA3/4/8 Dero Downing Interviews/Oral History, WKU Archives, Kentucky Library & Museum, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

Processing Information: Finding aid created by Suellyn Lathrop 12/10/2010, revised 2013.

Finding Aid Report

05/02/2013

UA3.4.8 **Records** **Date**
Level **Subseries** **Linked toUA3.4**
Title **UA3 President's Office Series 4. Dero Downing Sub-Series 8. Interviews/Oral History**
Collection **WKU Archives**
Scope & Content **Interviews and oral histories by and about Dero Downing.**

Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
Tape Box 1	Drawer 2	President's Office	1978-1985	Interviews/Oral History - Film/Video/Audio File
Description	Audiotapes - 7			Subjects Interviews Western Kentucky University Audio recording
	Appreciation Dinner, 12/14/1978 (4) Interviews by James Bennett, 1978 - 3/22 (2), 4/3, 10/23 (2), 4/15/1985 (2) WSGN Press Conference, Dero Downing resignation, 9/11/1978			
	Transcriptions of James Bennett interviews available online at: March 22, 1978 http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/695 April. 3, 1978 http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/696 Oct. 23, 1984 http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/697 April 15, 1985 http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/698			
Tape Box 1	Drawer 3	President's Office		Interviews/Oral History - Film/Video/Audio File
Description	Audiotape - 1			Subjects Interviews Audio recording
	Insight - WKCT Salute to the Downings, 12/17/1978			
	Downing, Dero Downing, Harriet			
Tape Box 1	Drawer 4	President's Office	2000	Interviews/Oral History - Film/Video/Audio File
Description	Audiotape - 1			Subjects Interviews Audio recording
	Harriet Downing interviewed by Sue Lynn McDaniel, 8/23/2000			