



Western Kentucky University
UA3 President's Office
Series 1 Kelly Thompson
Subseries 5 Interviews/Oral History

Contact information:

WKU Archives

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Administrative History: The president's office was created in 1906. Assistant to the President Edwin Kelly Thompson became acting president during Paul Garrett's last illness. Upon Garrett's death February 28, 1955 the Board of Regents approved Thompson to continue as acting president until a replacement could be found. He was elected president on October 17, 1955 a position he held until his retirement in 1969.

Kelly Thompson was born in Lebanon, Kentucky on January 28, 1909. He came to Western in the fall of 1928 on a football scholarship and earned bachelor's and master's degrees. Thompson spent his early career at WKU as college representative and publicity director. During World War II he served in the Navy, after which he returned to campus to work as an assistant to E.A. Diddle and President Paul Garrett. [Harrison, pp. 139-143]

During his tenure as president, Thompson oversaw a steady increase in student population which resulted in the construction of new buildings and WKU gained university status in 1966. He stepped down in 1969 and later went on to serve as president of the College Heights Foundation. Thompson died August 14, 1993.

Description: Interviews and oral history tapes of and about Kelly Thompson and subjects related to Western Kentucky University.

Dates: 1977-1991

Extent: 13 audiotapes, 3 film reels

Subject Analytics:

Audio recording

Cherry, Henry Hardin, 1864-1937

Interviews

Oral history

Thompson, Kelly, 1909-1993

Video recording

Western Kentucky University

Digital Commons:

Higher Education Administration

Oral History

Social History

Accession Information: These records transferred to WKU Archives upon its creation.

Access Restrictions: Film versions have to be converted to a viewable medium before they can be accessed by the public.

Allied Materials:

[UA1C11/95 Kelly Thompson Photo Collection](#)

[UA1F WKU Archives Multimedia Resources / Vertical File](#)

[UA2 Board of Regents](#)

Preferred Citation: UA3/3/5 President's Office-Thompson Interviews/Oral History, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

Processing Information: Records processed and collection inventory created 2010, revised 2019.

Finding Aid Report

04/12/2019

UA3.3.5	Records	Date
Level	Subseries	Linked toUA3.3
Title	UA3 President's Office	
Collection	Series 3 Kelly Thompson	
Scope & Content	Subseries 5 Interviews/Oral History	
	WKU Archives	
	Interviews and oral history tapes of and about Kelly Thompson and subjects related to Western Kentucky University.	

Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
on shelf		Unknown	1991	Film/Video/Audio File
Description	1 inch reel - 1			Subjects Interviews Video recording
	President's Project - Kelly Thompson, 6/17/1991			
on shelf		Unknown	1991	Film/Video/Audio File
Description	1 inch reel - 1			Subjects Interviews Video recording
	President's Project - Kelly Thompson, 6/17/1991			
on shelf		Unknown	1991	Film/Video/Audio File
Description	1 inch reel - 1			Subjects Interviews Video recording
	Kelly Thompson, The President's Project w/ David Lee, 6/17/1991			
Tape Box 1	Drawer 1	Jackson, Carlton L.	1977-1983	Kelly Thompson on E.A. Diddle - Film/Video/Audio File
Description	Audiotapes - 13 digitized			Subjects Basketball Interviews Demonstrations Protest movements Audio recording
	Carlton Jackson interviews w/ Thompson about Diddle, 1977 (9) - m68.wav, m69.wav, m70.wav, m71.wav, m72.wav			
	Crawford Crowe interviews w/ Thompson 1/2/1977 (4) - part 1 m67.wav, part 2 m60.wav, part 3 m61.wav			
	Transcriptions available online at:			
	Oct. 26, 1977 [7607] https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/892			
	Oct. 20, 1977 [7648] https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/893			
	Jan. 2, 1977 https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/894			
	June 27, 1977 https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/895			
	July 7, 1977 https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/896			

Cherry, Henry
College Heights Herald
Diddle, E.A.

Faculty