



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

**Contact information:**

WKU Archives

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**Administrative History:** 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, a position he held until his death on April 4, 2011.

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

**Dates:** 1970-2006

**Extent:** 18 audiotapes, 6 dvd, 1 vhs, mp4, wav

**Subject Analytics:**

Audio recording

Downing, Dero Goodman, 1921-2011

Interviews

Oral history

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:** none

**Allied Materials:**

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

[UA2 Board of Regents](#)

**Preferred Citation:** UA3/4/8 President's Office-Downing Interviews/Oral History, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

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

# Finding Aid Report

04/15/2019

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

## Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
CD Box 2	CD817	WKYU-TV	1978	Film/Video/Audio File
Description	Dero Downing Appreciation, 12/14/1978, 51:09, Work Tape 2, DVD - <a href="https://youtu.be/HqKJjNn6gnE">https://youtu.be/HqKJjNn6gnE</a>			Subjects Banquets Banquet halls Speeches, address, etc. Video recording Western Kentucky University
	Downing, Dero Downing, Harriet Smith, Herb			
CD Box 2	CD820	WKYU-TV	1978	Film/Video/Audio File
Description	Dero Downing Appreciation, 12/14/1978, 39:56, Work Tape 1, DVD - <a href="https://youtu.be/9Tuv1s0ehJ0">https://youtu.be/9Tuv1s0ehJ0</a>			Subjects Banquets Banquet halls Speeches, address, etc. Video recording Western Kentucky University
	Condition: RF dropouts, horizontal blanking issue, tape damage, 3/4" U-Matic tape head switching artifact, quadruplex color banding, video ringing			
	Cook, Paul Daugherty, Russell Downing, Alex Downing, Dee Downing, Dero Downing, Elizabeth Downing Family Downing, Harriet Garrett Conference Center (WKU) Gibson, Dee Goodman, Betty Goodman Family Goodman, Julian Jones, Wilbur Lazarus, Rhea Patterson, Ann Patterson, Ray Pearson, Buddy Pearson, Virginia Smith, Donald Smith, Eddie Smith, Elvin Smith, Georgeanne Smith, Herb Smith, Kathryn			

Smith, Norene  
Yarnell, Jennie

CD Box 3	CD886	WKYU-TV	1970	Film/Video/Audio File
Description	Conversation: President Dero Downing, 9/15/1970, DVD - <a href="https://youtu.be/Jqsnbd4B5qY">https://youtu.be/Jqsnbd4B5qY</a>			Subjects
	Condition: RF dropouts, horizontal blanking issue, tape damae, tracking error, off -tape RS170A SC/H phase violation, excessive video highlights during production			Video recording Videodiscs Antiques Art Boardinghouses --Kentucky --Bowling Green Bowling Green, KY Curriculum Desks Offices Paintings Philosophy Teachers Education Telephones
	Admissions (WKU) Anderson, Charles Bowman, Marvin Cherry, Henry Class of 1943 (WKU) Colonnade (WKU) Cook, Paul Cravens, Raymond Diddle, E. A. Diddle, Margaret Downing, Dero Downing, Joe Enrollment Goad, Jerry Haas, Fred Hawes, Mary Hobbies Keown, Charles Oral history President's Home (WKU) President's Office Registrar (WKU) Thompson, Kelly Wash stand Western Kentucky University Western Spirit Wetherby Hall (WKU) Wilson, Ivan			

CD Box 3	CD931	WKYU-TV	1978	Film/Video/Audio File
Description	Dero Downing Appreciation, 12/14/1978, 39:56, Work Tape 1, DVD - <a href="https://youtu.be/9Tuv1s0ehJ0">https://youtu.be/9Tuv1s0ehJ0</a>			Subjects
	Condition: binder hydrolysis; RF dropouts; horizontal blanking issue; tape damage caused by a scratch or area of demagnetization; off-tape RS-170A SC/H phas violation; 3/4" U-Matic tape head switching artifact;			Banquets Banquet halls Speeches, address, etc. Video recording Western Kentucky University
	Cook, Paul Daugherty, Russell Downing, Alex Downing, Dee Downing, Dero Downing, Elizabeth Downing Family Downing, Harriet Garrett Conference Center (WKU) Gibson, Dee Goodman, Betty Goodman Family Goodman, Julian Jones, Wilbur Lazarus, Rhea Patterson, Ann			

Patterson, Ray  
 Pearson, Buddy  
 Pearson, Virginia  
 Smith, Donald  
 Smith, Eddie  
 Smith, Elvin  
 Smith, Georgeanne  
 Smith, Herb  
 Smith, Kathryn  
 Smith, Norene  
 Yarnell, Jennie

CD Box 3	CD950	WKYU-TV	1978	Film/Video/Audio File
Description	Dero Downing Appreciation, 12/14/1978, 39:56, Work Tape 1, DVD - <a href="https://youtu.be/9Tuv1s0ehJ0">https://youtu.be/9Tuv1s0ehJ0</a>  Condition: RF dropouts, horizontal blanking issue, tape damae, 3/4" U-Matic tape head switching artifact, quadruplex color banding, video ringing  Cook, Paul Daugherty, Russell Downing, Alex Downing, Dee Downing, Dero Downing, Elizabeth Downing Family Downing, Harriet Garrett Conference Center (WKU) Gibson, Dee Goodman, Betty Goodman Family Goodman, Julian Jones, Wilbur Lazarus, Rhea Patterson, Ann Patterson, Ray Pearson, Buddy Pearson, Virginia Smith, Donald Smith, Eddie Smith, Elvin Smith, Georgeanne Smith, Herb Smith, Kathryn Smith, Norene Yarnell, Jennie			Subjects Banquets Banquet halls Speeches, address, etc. Video recording Western Kentucky University
CD Box 6	CD932	WKYU-TV	1978	Film/Video/Audio File
Description	Dero Downing Appreciation, 12/14/1978, 51:09, Work Tape 2, DVD - <a href="https://youtu.be/HqKJjNn6gnE">https://youtu.be/HqKJjNn6gnE</a>  Condition: 3/4" U-Matic tape head switching artifact; video ringing  Downing, Dero Downing, Harriet Smith, Herb			Subjects Banquets Banquet halls Speeches, address, etc. Video recording Western Kentucky University

OS Box 122		WKYU-TV	2006	Film/Video/Audio File
Description	VHS tape - 1 digitized			Subjects Western Kentucky University Interviews Video recording
	Barbara Deeb interviews Dero Downing regarding Edgar Stansbury, 2006, m1279.mp4 - <a href="https://youtu.be/fdtkkCUVCDQ">https://youtu.be/fdtkkCUVCDQ</a>			
Tape Box 1	Drawer 2	WKU President's Office - Downing	1978-1985	Film/Video/Audio File - Interviews/Oral History
Description	Audiotapes - 7			Subjects Interviews Western Kentucky University Audio recording Banquets
	Appreciation Dinner, 12/14/1978 (4)			
	Interviews by James Bennett, 1978 - 3/22 (1), 4/3, 10/23 (2), 4/15/1985 (2) - digitized, see below			
	WSGN Press Conference, Dero Downing resignation, 9/11/1978, m86.wav			
	Transcriptions of James Bennett interviews available online at:			
	March 22, 1978 <a href="https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/695">https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/695</a> - m73.wav, m82.wav			
	April. 3, 1978 <a href="https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/696">https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/696</a> - m74.wav			
	Oct. 23, 1984 <a href="https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/697">https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/697</a> - m75.wav, m76.wav			
	April 15, 1985 <a href="https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/698">https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/698</a> - m77.wav, m78.wav, m79.wav			
Tape Box 1	Drawer 3	WKU President's Office - Downing		Film/Video/Audio File - Interviews/Oral History
Description	Audiotape - 1 - digitized			Subjects Interviews Audio recording
	Insight - WKCT Salute to the Downings, 12/17/1978 m149.wav			
	Downing, Dero			
	Downing, Harriet			
Tape Box 1	Drawer 1	WKU President's Office - Downing	1978	Film/Video/Audio File - Interviews/Oral History
Description	Audiotapes - 4			Subjects Audio recording Banquets Dinners and dining.
	UA2013-162 donated by Harriet Downing			
	Appreciation Dinner, 12/14/1978 (3) m203.wav			
	Harriet Downing interviewed by Sue Lynn McDaniel, 8/23/2000, m88.wav			
Tape Box 4	Drawer 27	WKU President's Office - Downing	1978-1996	Film/Video/Audio File - Interviews/Oral History
Description	Audiotapes - 3 - Digitized			Subjects Interviews Audio recording
	Dero Downing interviewed nd,m85.wav - <a href="http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/2628">http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/2628</a>			
	Dero Downing Remembers Lt. Governor Wilson Wyatt, 6/12/1996, m87.wav - <a href="http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/2632">http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/2632</a>			
	Dero Downing, D-Day Series, WKYU-FM, 9/11/1978, m84.wav			
	Hart, Richard			
	Scholarships			
Tape Box 4	Drawer 5	WKU President's Office - Downing	1978	Film/Video/Audio File - Interviews/Oral History
Description	Audiotapes - 1			Subjects Audio recording Banquets Dinners and dining.
	UA2013-162 donated by Harriet Downing			

Appreciation Dinner, 12/14/1978 part I

Tape Box 4	Drawer 6	WKU President's Office - Downing	1978	Film/Video/Audio File - Interviews/Oral History
Description	Audiotapes - 2			Subjects
	UA2013-162 donated by Harriet Downing			Audio recording
	Appreciation Dinner, 12/14/1978 parts II & III			Banquets
				Dinners and dining.