

7-3-1985

UA3/6/6/1 WDCL-FM Sign On

Donald Zacharias

J. David Cole

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Western Kentucky University
UA3/6 Donald Zacharias
Series 6 Interviews & Oral Histories
Item 1 WDCL-FM Sign On

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Biographical/Historical Note: The president's office was created in 1906. Donald Zacharias became WKU president on August 1, 1979 and was installed April 26, 1980. He served as president until his resignation in 1985.

Donald Zacharias was born September 18, 1935 in Salem, Indiana. He received a BA degree from Georgetown (KY) College in 1957. After a year as a high school teacher, he enrolled in Indiana University and obtained his MA in 1959 and PhD in 1963. After graduation he joined the faculty of Indiana University. Zacharias moved to the University of Texas Austin in 1969 where he advanced to Assistant to the President by 1974. When selected as Western's president, he was executive assistant to the chancellor of the University of Texas system. [Harrison, p 264]

Description: J. David Cole and Donald Zacharias interviewed by unidentified reporter at WDCL-FM sign on event.

Dates: July 3, 1985

Subject Analytics:

Audio recording
Eastern Kentucky University (Richmond, KY)
Interviews
Morehead State University
Radio broadcasting

Regents (WKU)
University of Kentucky
Western Kentucky University
Zacharias, Donald Wayne, 1935-2013

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

Access Restrictions: none

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Processing Information: Audiotape transcribed by Suellyn Lathrop, 2013.

Oral History Recording List UA3.6.6.1 ~ Audiocassette

12/04/2013

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
Tape 1	1	00:00:00	<p><i>Reporter: Check. Okay, this is with John David Cole. Mr. Cole, just finally WDCL going on the air and you were I think chairman of the board when WKYU went on and kind of a big promoter. Is this a big day for you to see them sign on finally?</i></p> <p><i>JDC: Jeff I think this is a big day for the people of Somerset and the surrounding counties. Public radio offers a tremendous opportunity. It makes a tremendous contribution to the area where it's available. I look upon today not as an ending, not as the accomplishment of a goal. Rather hopefully we have planted a seed today which will grow, a seed which will grow in Whitesburg, in Pikeville, a seed which will grow in Owensboro and Henderson. Which are still all without Kentucky Public radio. And I hope today is a stepping stone to move into those new areas.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:01:05	<p><i>Reporter: What type of thing will this do, do you think for Western Kentucky University?</i></p> <p><i>JDC: Needless to say it provides an opportunity for the voice of Western Kentucky University to be heard in this area. It doubles the present radio listening area. It makes the Western public radio station the largest public radio station in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. So I think it will certainly serve the interest of Bowling Green. It will serve the interest of Western. It will serve the interest of the communities where the station is heard.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:01:41	<p><i>Reporter: Did you have any idea when WKYU signed on that it would be this soon that they'd have this kind of coverage with another repeater station?</i></p> <p><i>JDC: No. I guess I'm an imperialist at heart and when I, when we started in Bowling Green we did so with the absolute expectation and intent that it grow. And I think in very large measure what we see here today is the result of a cooperative effort by a number of people: Dr. Henry Hardin, Dr. Zacharias, Eastern Kentucky University, the U.K. Community College. Everyone has joined together particularly the people in the Somerset community, the chamber of commerce, the business leaders. And to think that there is a commercial Somerset radio station here today who makes this all possible is a tremendous tribute to the wisdom and the insight of the manager of that station.</i></p> <p><i>Reporter: Okay. That will do.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:02:40	<p><i>Reporter: Okay Dr. Zacharias. Signing on of WDCL today, just what does it mean basically to Western Kentucky University?</i></p> <p><i>DZ: First of all it means a very fine opportunity to expand our coverage into another important area of the state. It also gives us an opportunity to show the service component of the university. And we hope to make a lot of friends for Western Kentucky University and National Public Radio.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:03:04	<p><i>Reporter: Is this something that has happened faster than you anticipated?</i></p> <p><i>DZ: Frankly, it has. I think it's an example of cooperation between commercial radio and public radio. And it has happened quickly because there's such a fine attitude of cooperation on the part of the media in the Somerset area.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:03:23	<p><i>Reporter: This is something that's going to be duplicated basically by other state universities too, right?</i></p> <p><i>DZ: It is and that's another reason this came about because Western and Eastern and Morehead were able to get together along with the University of Kentucky and talk about cooperation. And this is an excellent example, I think of the cooperative spirit that now exists. Eastern Kentucky University is going to be making some extension of its radio signal into the southeastern part of the state. Morehead is looking at some options it has in its area. And we hope that all of those things come about.</i></p> <p><i>Reporter: Okay, that's all I needed.</i></p>