

2010

## UA3/3/4 President Kelly Thompson - Construction File

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**Western Kentucky University  
UA3 President's Office  
Series 3 Kelly Thompson  
Subseries 4 Construction File**



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**Biographical/Historical Note:** 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 his 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:** Construction file regarding construction of new buildings, renovation of existing buildings and bond issues during Kelly Thompson's tenure as WKU President.

**Dates:** 1955-1969

**Subject Analytics:**

Barnes-Campbell Hall (WKU)  
Bates-Runner Hall (WKU)  
Bemis Lawrence Hall (WKU)  
Bonds (Negotiable instruments)  
Cherry Hall (WKU)  
Construction  
Diddle Arena (WKU)

Gilbert Hall (WKU)  
Gordon Wilson Hall (WKU)  
Grise Hall (WKU)  
Helm-Cravens Library (WKU)  
Ivan Wilson Hall (WKU)  
Keen Hall (WKU)  
L.T. Smith Stadium (WKU)  
Poland Hall (WKU)  
President's Home (WKU)  
Rodes-Harlin Hall (WKU)  
Snell Hall (WKU)  
South Hall (WKU)  
Thompson, E. Kelly, 1909-1993  
Van Meter Hall (WKU)  
West Hall (WKU)  
Western Kentucky University  
Wetherby Hall (WKU)

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

**Access Restrictions:** none

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**Processing Information:** Finding aid created by Suellen Lathrop, 2010.

# Finding Aid Report

12/10/2010

<b>UA3.3.4</b>	<b>Records</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Level</b>	<b>Subseries</b>	<b>Linked toUA3.3</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>UA3 President's Office Series 3. Kelly Thompson Subseries 4. Construction File</b>	
<b>Collection</b>	<b>University Archives</b>	
<b>Scope &amp; Content</b>	<b>Construction file regarding construction of new buildings, renovation of existing buildings and bond issues during Kelly Thompson's tenure as WKU President.</b>	

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Creator</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>
Box 1		President's Office	1955-1969	Construction File
Description	Academic Complex (WKU) Academic-Athletic Building - E.A. Diddle Arena Academic-Athletic Building #2 - L.T. Smith Stadium Academic-Athletic Building Inspection Administration Building Addition Diddle Arena (WKU) Loan Agreement File Project CH-Ky-87D Bemis Lawrence Hall (WKU) Barnes Campbell Hall (WKU) Bates Runner Hall (WKU) Cherry Hall (WKU) Students Union Building Van Meter (WKU)			Subjects Bonds (Negotiable instruments) Construction
Box 2		President's Office	1955-1969	Construction File
Description	Central Hall (WKU) Education Complex Gilbert Hall (WKU) Grise Hall (WKU) Hardin Planetarium (WKU) Heating Plant (WKU) Helm Library (WKU) Home Economics Renovation Home Management House (WKU) Keen Hall (WKU) Poland Hall (WKU) Laundry (WKU) Maintenance Building (WKU) McCormack Hall (WKU) Music Building (WKU) Pioneer Log House (WKU) Potter Hall (WKU) President's Home (WKU)			Subjects Construction Dormitories
Box 3		President's Office	1955-1969	Construction File
Description	Rodes-Harlin Hall (WKU) Snell Hall (WKU) South Hall (WKU)			Subjects Construction

Taylor Agriculture Pavilion (WKU)  
 Thompson Science Hall (WKU)  
 Kelly Thompson Complex & Hardin Planetarium  
 Administrative Space - 20 Story Building  
 Top of the Hill Project  
 Utilities Expansion  
 Utilities Survey  
 Van Meter (WKU)  
 West Hall (WKU)  
 Wetherby Administration Building (WKU)  
 Gordon Wilson Hall (WKU)  
 Ivan Wilson Center for Fine Arts (WKU)

Box 4	President's Office	1955-1969	Construction File
Description	Bid Form Helm Library (WKU) Housing & Dining Regents Trust Indenture		Subjects Dormitories Bonds (Negotiable instruments)

Box 5	President's Office	1955-1969	Construction File
Description	East Hall (WKU) McLean Hall (WKU) North Hall (WKU) South Hall (WKU) West Hall (WKU) Student Union Building		Subjects Dormitories Bonds (Negotiable instruments)