

TRUITT, JOHN WILLARD, 1919-1984

Papers of John W. Truitt

Dates: 1959-1984.

Accession No. 840905 and 851014

Collection No. FC- 1

Donor: Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Richard Melloh

Description: 9.0 cubic feet

Biographical Sketch

John Willard Truitt was born in Lexington, Mississippi on January 2, 1919. Orphaned at the age of seven, Truitt grew up in Columbus, Mississippi, where he graduated from high school. After serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II, he returned to his home state and enrolled at Mississippi State University.

Upon receiving a B.S. and M.Ed. from Mississippi State, Truitt attended Michigan State University where he was awarded an Ed.D. in 1955. He joined the faculty of the Institute of Counseling, Guidance and Testing at Michigan State and subsequently held the position of Dean of Men until 1962.

Dr. Truitt began his association with Indiana State University on July 1, 1962. He served Indiana State as a Professor of Education and Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Truitt was an active, respected member of many professional organizations and presided over years of rapid change in the student affairs division. He retired in 1983.

John W. Truitt died in Terre Haute, Indiana on April 20, 1984.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in this collection were drawn from the office of Dr. John W. Truitt, Vice President for Student Affairs, Indiana State University, after his death in 1984. The collection contains materials accumulated by Dr. Truitt during his association with both Indiana State University (1962-1983) and Michigan State University (1959-1962).

The collection contains policy formulation and implementation papers from both Michigan State University and Indiana State University, sound recordings, and papers related to Dr. Truitt's association with several professional organizations. Also to be found are many writings of Dr. Truitt and personal tributes paid to him.

Series Descriptions

Writings, Publications, Reports, 1960-1977.

The series is comprised of materials authored by Dr. Truitt. These include reports, speeches, and published materials.

Indiana State University Materials, 1962-1983

Dr. Truitt's years at Indiana State University were ones of great expansion and innovation-- especially in the area of college student personnel/student affairs. The series is comprised of materials dating from his tenure as an educator and administrator.

Subseries within this grouping include materials related to courses and seminars taught by Dr. Truitt and files used in the course of his work as an administrator. Also to be found is a chronological communications compilation consisting of letters, memos and circulars from 1969-1974.

Records of the Student Government Association at Indiana State are also part of this series. These consist of three volumes of materials sent to Dr. Truitt and a facilities report. These materials are arranged chronologically and cover the period from 1979-1983.

Correspondence: Other Institutions

Dr. Truitt maintained a lively contact with other colleges and universities in order keep abreast of trends and current problems and solutions. These materials are made up of the result of that communication and are drawn from the responses of the institutions.

Professional Organizations, 1962-1980

Dr. Truitt was active in many professional organizations, often serving as an officer or holding committee appointment. This series comprised of reports, conference and educational materials, and administrative files dealing with these various affiliations. Included are separate subseries on:

- American Council of Education
- Council of Student Personnel Administration
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators

Michigan State University, 1959-1962

The series is drawn from those materials retained from Dr. Truitt's tenure at Michigan State University. It includes institutional handbooks, training materials, course related materials and miscellaneous files.

Testimonials and Memorials

This series is made up of materials from a testimonial dinner held for Dr. Truitt in October, 1983, letters of appreciation upon his retirement, and a memorial booklet published upon his death, April 20, 1984.

Audio Tapes

Dr. Truitt maintained a collection of reel to reel audio tapes in his office. The series is comprised of ten of those tapes which span 1959- 1973. The most important of these is the tape of a meeting between then I.S.U. President Alan Rankin and a group of students who occupied the Administration Building on May Day, 1969. Also included are tapes of the first Black Convocation at ISU (1969) and the President's Convocation of 1968.

Processing Note

Little organizational pattern was evident when the materials were accessioned. It was decided to arrange them in a manner similar to that of the records management of the Office for Student Affairs from which they emanated. Whenever possible, this was done.

Although the materials in the Michigan State University Series were maintained within Dr. Truitt's office files at Indiana State University and used in the formulation of policy and procedure at Indiana State, it was decided to separate these materials from the Indiana State materials.

Redundant copies, clippings and miscellany were culled and destroyed.

Container Inventory-- partial

Box 1

Writings, Publications, Reports

"The Helping Relationship" (1962)
"Report of a Study of US Prisoners of War in Korea" (1962)
"Image Studies in Higher Education" (1966)
In service Education for College Student Personnel (1966)
Priorities for Student Affairs in the Seventies (1972)
"Racial Tensions Report" (1977)

I.S.U. Materials

Communications, 1969-1974
Course Related Materials
-- ED 523: Principles and Procedures Related to Student Conduct in Higher Education
-- ED 623: Personnel Work in Higher Education
Student Government Materials (3 volumes), 1979-1983

Box 2

General Files
-- Higher Education
-- Housing
-- Homosexuality
-- Student Judiciaries
-- Societal Demands and University Development

Correspondence: Other Institutions, 1971-1973

Kansas State
Michigan State
Minnesota
Oakland University
Southern Illinois

Box 3

Professional Organizations, 1962-1982

American Council of Education Papers
Association of College Personnel Administrators Papers
Association of Higher Education Papers

Box 4

Professional Organizations, 1962-1982

American Social Health Association (re: drugs)
Council of Student Personnel Association Papers
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
-- Constitution
-- Organizations and Principles
-- Regional Guides
-- Directories
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
-- Commission findings

Box 5

Professional Organizations, 1962-1982

National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
-- Rights and freedoms of students
-- Institutional policies on controversial topics
-- Statement on student power
-- Executive committee minutes
-- Membership rosters
-- Salary survey

Box 6

Professional Organizations, 1962-1982

Professional and guidance conference reports
Miscellaneous files

Box 7

Michigan State University, 1959-1962

Course Related Materials
--AES 416: Personnel Work in Residence Halls
--AES 315: Leadership Training
Handbooks and Training Materials
--Staff Professional Training Handbook
--Residence Hall Leader Handbook
--Financial Aids Handbook

Box 8

Michigan State University

- Miscellaneous Files
- Mental Health
 - Off Campus Violations
 - Sexual Deviate Policies
 - Un-American Activities

Testimonials and Memorials, 1983-1984

Box 9

Audio Tapes, 1959-1977

Michigan State University

- Communist Brainwashing Techniques, 1959
- Melby, Ernest, "Responsibility of the Student in the Future of the University", 1959.
- Melby, Ernest, "Individualizing Student Personnel Services: The Golden Thread", 1962.
- Miller, Paul, (Provost, Michigan State University), "What Is An University", 1959.
- Ralph, David, "Training Division Leaders Workshop", 1960.
- Taylor, John C., "Dynamic Aspects of Life Philosophy", 1960.

Indiana State University

- Black Convocation, 1969.
- President Alan Rankin/Students Meeting, May 1, 1969.
- Rankin, Alan, "President's Convocation", September 12, 1968.
- Summation of "Priorities" Project, 1973.

Timothy R. Crumrin
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