

Katherine D. Taft Papers 1923-2009

Creator: Katherine D. Taft (1917–2011)

Extent: 4 linear feet (7 boxes)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact wlarchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright of the material created by Katherine D. Taft was transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Katherine D. Taft Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: The original collection was the personal gift of Katherine D. Taft made on July 15, 1998 with additional materials donated in 1999 and 2000. It included accessions WLA1998.25, WLA1999.06, and WLA2000.19. Additional materials donated in 2006 and on July 12, 2007, and accessioned as WLA2006.74, WLA2007.21, and WLA2007.22 were processed in April 2008 as Addendum 1. Two additional folders of material donated in 2009 were added to Series 4 of the original collection in December 2009. Accession numbers WLA2009.11 and WLA2010.26 were incorporated in July 2011.

Processor: Jeanelle Bergen, BVM. Updated by Elizabeth A. Myers, May 2007. Addendum 1 initially processed by Jonathan Sebastian, April 2008. New material added and collection updated by Maria Wagner, July 2011.

Processing Information: Finding aid updated December 2025.

Separations: One graduation gown and one graduation hat were removed to the Mundelein College Records Collection, Memorabilia Series.

Biographical History

The personal information noted here was secured from the Mundelein College Faculty Data sheet covering the period when Katherine D. Taft was employed part-time by the College's Education Department (1968-1970) and from the introduction to her master's Thesis.

Born September 1, 1917, Katherine DeLage received her A.B. from Mundelein in 1938 with a major in Chemistry. In the years immediately following graduation, she was employed as a Case Worker, and as a Research and Control Chemist. After marrying Andrew Taft and becoming the mother of five children, she returned to the field of education on the secondary and college level as

teacher and lecturer in the areas of chemistry and Earth Sciences. She received her master's degree from Cornell University, in Ithaca, NY in 1961.

She held memberships in numerous Science and Education organizations and was elected Regional Director of the National Science Teachers Association in 1970. With a Shell Fellowship at Cornell which she held in 1968, her interest and activity became focused on the training of elementary school teachers in the development of multi-media systems as applied to science and mathematics and on the behavioral objectives in science.

This collection reflects Taft's concentration on her career as an educator and her program of individualized science instruction. She emphasized the learning process of reading readiness, learning disabilities, and art in relationship to hard science. This series also includes specific scripts for her high school science lessons as well as *Earth Sciences*, which she authored to assist science teachers.

Besides acting as consultant for the Midwest Editorial and Publishing Services in their preparation of a series of Science filmstrips, Taft founded and acted as President of her own company, The Science Education Service.

Notebooks from her classes and many other items connected to Mundelein College are included here. Above all, the collection reveals Taft's life-long passion for learning and teaching science and for her students. She was involved with the Upward Bound Program at Barat College in Lake Forest, Illinois and was an educator at Barrington High School in Highland Park, Illinois. Of special note are letters from former Barrington students received during the Vietnam War in response to a newsletter that Taft had initiated. Taft remained a strong supporter of Mundelein College and was featured in *Mundelein Legacy* in Spring 2008.

In addition, Taft taught at the American International School in Vienna, Austria in the early 1980s and documents related to this are included. Taft volunteered for the Girl Scouts, Lincoln Park Zoo, the Lake County Forest Preserve District, and on behalf of several political candidates. Here also are Taft's correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service and her teaching expense list.

Katherine Taft died at the age of 93 on August 13, 2011.

Scope and Content

The materials comprising this collection span the years of 1923-2009 and were categorized into four series as described below. The folders in each series are arranged alphabetically. A number of items include descriptive notes from Taft that provide detail and context.

Series 1: Biographical, 1930-2009, undated, Boxes 1-2

Contains material related to Taft's undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education at various schools and institutions. This includes class notebooks and papers written by Taft (including two copies of her bound master's Thesis), items related to trips taken by Taft, and some personal correspondence. In addition, there are several documents related to Taft's volunteer activities with the Girl Scouts, Lincoln Park Zoo, and the Lake County Forest Preserve District. Lastly, there is a transcript of an interview with Taft conducted in the late 2000s.

Series 2: Professional, 1955-2006, undated Boxes 2-6

This series includes materials related to Taft's research and teaching career both in Illinois and in Vienna, Austria. Also included are book reviews written by Taft for *Curriculum Review*, and drafts and a final copy of *Earth Science*, a workbook for students. Information regarding NSTA conferences and teaching science in elementary schools is included here.

Series 3: Photographs, 1923-1988, undated, Box 6

Includes personal, teaching, and research photographs, including one of Taft's husband as a child and her graduation photograph from Mundelein College. Some photos include notes written in the 2000s from Taft that provide detail and context.

Series 4: Oversize and 3-D Objects, 1934-2001, undated, Box 7

This series contains a 1937 textbook from Taft's chemistry class at Mundelein College, multiple teaching and professional awards, a Lincoln Park Zoo Volunteer Appreciation plaque, and a Mundelein College case. A graduation gown and hat were separated and moved to the Mundelein College Records Collection.

Subjects:

American International School, Vienna, Austria

Curriculum Advisory Service

Earth Science

Highland Park, School District 108

Lake County Forest Preserve District

Lincoln Park Zoo

Mundelein College

National Science Teachers Association

Science Teaching

Vietnam Conflict

Katherine DeLage Taft (1917–2011)

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Katherine DeLage Taft Papers, 1923-2009, undated</i>	
		Series 1: Biographical, 1930-2009, undated	
1	1	Correspondence: C. Shahani	1983, 2009
1	2	Correspondence: Mundelein College Alumna	1934-2008, undated
1	3	Correspondence: Personal	1961-2008, undated
1	4	Correspondence: Political	1966-2008, undated
1	5	Drawing (unsigned)	1962
1	6	Education: Adams State College	1973
1	7	Education: Biloxi Public Schools Attainment Certificate	1930
1	8	Education: College Transcripts	1938, 1955-1958
1	9	Education: Cornell University	1958

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1	10	Education: Master's Thesis: Report on Activity Programs Resulting from Earth Science Institutes (2 copies)	1961
1	11	Education: Mundelein College: German Class Notes	1934-1935
1	12	Education: Mundelein College: Physical Chemistry Class Notes	1937-1938
1	13	Education: Mundelein College: Student Correspondence and Graduation Booklet	1934-1938
1	14	Education: University of Wisconsin	undated
1	15	Education: Women in Science Summer Program at Mount Holyoke	1980, undated
2	1	Girl Scouts	1957, 2006
2	2	Lake County Forest Preserves	1961, 2001, undated
2	3	Lincoln Park Zoo	1986-2006, undated
2	4	Mary Eileen Keegan	2009, undated
2	5	Nature Games Symposium Notebook	1953
2	6	Obituaries and Memorials	1995, 2009
2	7	Recognition Certificates	1978, 2003, undated
2	8	Reminiscences: Interview with Kay Taft, Notes	1977-2009, undated
2	9	Reminiscences: WWII	1956, 2009, undated
2	10	Sullivan 50 th Anniversary Celebration	1992, undated
2	11	Travel: Astronomy Cruises	1972-1988, 2007, undated
2	12	Travel: Eclipse 1972 Papers	1972-1973
2	13	Travel: Miscellaneous	1972-1981, undated
2	14	Travel: University of Washington	1965
		Series 2: Professional, 1955-2006, undated	
2	15	Correspondence: Highland Park School District 108	1979-1981
2	16	Correspondence: Illinois Science Teachers Association	1978-2003, undated
2	17	Correspondence: International Schools Services	1980, undated
2	18	Correspondence: IRS/Expenses Lists	1965-1995, undated
2	19	Correspondence: National Science Foundation Award/Research Cornell U. – Institute of Earth Sciences	1957-1961, undated
2	20	Correspondence: National Science Teachers Association	1967-1988, undated
2	21	Correspondence: Oakton Community College	1977
2	22	Correspondence: Professional	1958-1969, undated
3	1	Correspondence: Professional Organizations	1969-1985
3	2	Correspondence: Science Education Service	1972-1995
3	3	Mundelein College: Faculty Application	1968
3	4	Presentation: "Crustal Evolution" at ISTC	1979
3	5	Publishing: Book Reviews: Kids' Books on Drugs	undated
3	6	Publishing: <i>Curriculum Review</i> correspondence and reviews	1975-1981, undated
3	7	Publishing: <i>Earth Science</i> correspondence with publisher	1969-1976
3	8	Publishing: <i>Earth Science</i> drafts	undated

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3	9	Publishing: <i>Earth Science</i> final	1977
3	10	Publishing: Filmstrip Script: Rocks, Minerals	undated
3	11	Publishing: Filmstrip Script: The Elements, - Mountain Building	undated
3	12	Publishing: Filmstrip Script: Weather	undated
3	13	Research: Chemical Company Reports (1 of 2)	1955-1961, undated
3	14	Research: Chemical Company Reports (2 of 2)	1955-1960, undated
3	15	Research: Correspondence: Detergents/Chemical Companies	1957-1963, undated
4	1	Research: Detergents	1960-1963, undated
4	2	Research: "Detergents and Other Contaminants in Water Supplies-1960" by James C. Vaughn	1960
4	3	Research: Notebook	1961
4	4	Research: Notebooks	1963, undated
4	5	Research: Notes and Materials	undated
4	6	Research: Papers and Proposals (1 of 3)	1961, 1963
4	7	Research: Papers and Proposals (2 of 3)	1961, 1963
4	8	Research: Papers and Proposals (3 of 3)	1961
4	9	Research: Soil Sciences	1961, undated
4	10	Research: Yellowstone Beartooth Research Association Summer Program Notes	1966
4	11	Shell Merit Fellowship	1968, 1988
5	1	Shell News and Newsletter	1968
5	2	Teaching: American International School – Vienna	1981-1986, undated
5	3	Teaching: Barat College/Upward Bound Program Materials	1966-1973, undated
5	4	Teaching: Barrington H.S.: Contract	1966
5	5	Teaching: Barrington H.S.: Letters from Students in Vietnam Conflict	1967
5	6	Teaching: Barrington H.S.: Letters from Students in Vietnam Conflict	1968
5	7	Teaching: Barrington H.S.: Letter and patch from Students in Vietnam Conflict (D. Cavender)	1968
5	8	Teaching: Barrington H.S.: Letter and patch from Students in Vietnam Conflict (J. Cavender)	1968
5	9	Teaching: Barrington H.S.: Letters to Students in Vietnam Conflict	1967-1968
5	10	Teaching: Edgewood School: Chaperoning Field Trips	1981, 2006
5	11	Teaching: Edgewood School: Sabbatical Report	1977-1978
5	12	Teaching: Edgewood School: Yearbook and Retirement Party	1980
5	13	Teaching: Goals of Science Educator – K. Taft	1968, 1976
5	14	Teaching: Gustav Ohaus Award Entry and Correspondence	1969

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5	15	Teaching: Gustav Ohaus Award Entry and Correspondence	1975-1976
5	16	Teaching: Illinois Junior Academy of Science Yearbook	1962
5	17	Teaching: Individualized Instruction – NSTA	undated
5	18	Teaching: Individualized Instruction – Student Evaluations	undated
5	19	Teaching: Lesson Scripts – Barrington H.S.	undated
5	20	Teaching: Lesson Scripts – Woodlands Academy	undated
5	21	Teaching: Report on Robert Hill Lane Elementary School	1975
6	1	Teaching: Science and Learning Disabilities	undated
6	2	Teaching: Science and Reading Readiness	undated
6	3	Teaching: Science Education in Elementary Schools	undated
		Series 3: Photographs, 1923-1988, undated	
6	4	Andrew Taft	1923
6	5	Education: Earth Sciences Institute	1957-1958
6	6	Education: Independent Study	1968-1969
6	7	Education: Women in Science Summer Program at Mount Holyoke	1980
6	8	Holy Angels Church	1984
6	9	Katherine Taft and Ali Araghi	1983
6	10	Katherine Taft alone and in group	undated
6	11	Mundelein College: 50 Year Reunion	1988
6	12	Mundelein College: K. Taft Graduation	1938
6	13	Research	1963
6	14	Research: Yellowstone Beartooth Research Association Summer Program	1966
6	15	Teaching: Barrington H.S.	[1967]
6	16	Teaching: Edgewood School	[1980]
6	17	Travel: Eclipse 1972 Cruise	1972
		Series 3: Oversize and 3-D Objects, 1934-2001, undated	
7	1	Chicago High Schools Certificate	1934
7	2	Gustav Ohaus Award	1976
7	3	Illinois Association of School Boards: Highland Park District 108 Award of Merit	undated
7	4	IL State Teachers Association: Charter Member Plaque	undated
7	5	IL State Teachers Association: Certificate of Honor Plaque	1989
7	6	Lincoln Park Zoo Appreciation Plaque	2001
7	7	Mundelein College Plastic Folder	undated
7	8	National Science Teachers Association Director Commendation	1972
7	9	National Science Teachers Association Life Member Framed Certificate	1967
7	10	Shell Merit Fellowship Award (Cornell)	1968
7	11	Small ceramic picture frame	undated

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7	12	Textbook: The Outlines of Theoretical Chemistry by Frederick Getman	1937
7	13	Travel: Certificate of Navigation Beagle Channel	1995