Guide to the Papers of

Irving A. Derbigny

Prepared by Asia K. Bender, 2022

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**Tuskegee University**

**Archives**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** Derbigny, Irving A. (1899-1957)

**Title:** Papers of Irving A. Derbigny

**Dates:** 1899-1957

**Quantity:** 6.0 cubic feet

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** Irving A. Derbigny served dual positions as an

Administrative Dean and Vice President at Tuskegee University. He participated in many educational organizations, which made him well-known in many educational circles. He wrote the book *General Education in the Negro Colleges* and was co-founder and the first national president of the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, which helped Tuskegee and other southern colleges raise the level of scholarships for students.

**Contact Information:** Tuskegee University National Center of Bioethics, Archives and Museums

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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

Papers of Irving A. Derbigny (1899-1957)

**Acquisition Information**

No information available

**Processing Information**

The papers were received for processing in various containers. From their arrangement in the containers, the folders were not arranged in any particular order. Many of the folders were not labeled, or were mislabeled in reference to their actual contents.

The processors decided to separate the folders into series according to subject matter that would be arranged alphabetically within each series.

In processing the collection, original folders were replaced with acid-free folders. Folders were labeled, either following the original labeling, or in the case of missing or incorrect labels were assigned folder titles. All metal fasteners were removed.

**Index Terms**

The papers are indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Library’s online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

**Subjects:**

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Luther H. Foster

NAACP Tuskegee Chapter

Commencement and Founders Day Committee

**Persons:**

Irving A. Derbigny, Ph.D.

**Biography**

Irving A. Derbigny was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on March 27, 1899. His parents were Charles A. Derbigny and Julia Derbigny. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Talladega College in 1921 and a Master of Arts Degree from Cornell University in 1925. He became an Instructor of Science at Virginia State College (1921-1932) while receiving a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Columbia University in 1932. He served as a Professor of Chemistry at Talladega College from 1932-1936. Derbigny served both leadership roles at Tuskegee Institute as an Administrative Dean (1936) and Vice President in 1949.

Along with all his professional accomplishments, Derbigny was a dedicated scholar who published many articles in professional journals and a pioneering book for its time titled *General Education in the Negro College*, in 1947 by the Stanford University Press. He was also an active member in numerous organizations such as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the American Teachers Association, and the National Education Association and served as the General Chairman of the United Negro College Fund drive in Tuskegee and many other educational and community-based organizations. He was the co-founder and first national president of the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. This organization was pivotal in raising the level of scholarships at Tuskegee University and many other higher learning institutes in the south. Additionally, he served his country during World War I as a soldier in the U.S Army.

Unfortunately, Dr. Irving A. Derbigny died on December 10th, 1957, at the age of 58.

**Scope and Contents**

The papers of Irving A. Derbigny consist of documents spanning from 1940-1958 and include addresses, research papers, and publications and books by Dr. Derbigny during his tenure at the Tuskegee Institute. Additionally, it includes Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Commencement and Founders Day Committee documents. Personal and Business Correspondence includes his passport, immunization records, legal documents, and recommendations. It also encloses communication with the NAACP and President Dr. Luther H. Foster. Furthermore, there are newspaper articles and announcements of Dr. Derbigny Death.

**Arrangement**

The papers are arranged into one series.

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

There are no restrictions on access to these papers.

**Restrictions on Use**

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

**Inventory**

**Box Folder**

1 1 Dr. Irving Anthony Derbigny Encomium from Dr. Foster

1 2 Publications and Books Dr. Derbigny

1 3 Resolution on the Passing of Dr. Derbigny

1 4 Dr. Derbigny Addresses 1940-1944

1 5 Dr. Derbigny Addresses 1945-1947

1 6 Dr. Derbigny Addresses 1947-1948

1 7 Dr. Derbigny Addresses 1957-1958

1 8 Newspaper Articles of Dr. Irving Derbigny Death

1 9 Dr. Derbigny Addresses 1/2

1 10 Dr. Derbigny Addresses 2/2

**Box** **Folder**

2 1 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Bylaws & Convention 1957-1958

2 2 Commencement and Founders Day Committee 1954-1955 1/2

2 3 Commencement and Founders Day Committee 1954-1955 2/2

2 4 NAACP

2 5 Foster, L.H - General 1957-1958

2 6 Derbigny, I.A- Personal Correspondence 1/2

2 7 Derbigny, I.A- Personal Correspondence 2/2

2 8 Research, I. A Derbigny