

Guide to
Dallas Theological Seminary. President's Office Records

1897-1991 and undated

.17 linear feet

Accession Number: 2008-05

Collection Number: CN 023

Prepared by Lolana Thompson
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Abstract: Correspondence, articles, and notes related to the history of Dallas Theological Seminary.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of the Item], Dallas Theological Seminary. President's Office Records, CN 023, Box [number], Folder [number], Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary.

Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary, 3909 Swiss Ave., Dallas, TX 75204

Biographical Sketches:

Lewis Sperry Chafer was born in 1871 in Ohio. He founded the Evangelical Theological College in 1924 and served as the seminary's president until his death in August 1952. The school was renamed Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS) in 1936. Chafer's wife, Ella Loraine, died in 1944.

John F. Walvoord was born in 1910 in Wisconsin and received his Th.D. from DTS in 1936. That same year he joined the faculty and also started serving as registrar. Walvoord became Dr. Chafer's assistant in 1945. When Chafer died in 1952, Walvoord was appointed president, and continued in that position until 1986. He became chancellor, then in 2001 was named chancellor emeritus. Walvoord died in December 2002, and his wife, Geraldine, died in 2007.

Donald K. Campbell was born in 1926 in Indiana. He earned his Th.D. from DTS in 1953 and joined the faculty in 1954. He also served as registrar from 1954-1967 and academic dean 1961-1984, then executive vice-president from 1985-1986. Campbell was president from 1986-1994, and afterward was president emeritus. Campbell's first wife, Beatta (Bea), died in 1991. He married LaVonne Jensen in 1992.

Selected Dates from Campus History

1924	Evangelical Theological College opened in a rented building at 1519 Hughes Circle, Dallas, TX.
1926	The seminary purchased and moved into the William H. Gaston home on the corner of Swiss and St. Joseph Street. [The school has remained at this location and gradually acquired adjacent land.]
1928	Davidson Hall was completed and the deteriorating Gaston house was demolished.
1929	Dr. Miner B. Stearns Memorial Hall was dedicated in May as a dormitory.
1953	Chafer Chapel was dedicated in February. Dr. Chafer participated in the groundbreaking the previous year, but died before the chapel was completed.
1960	Mosher Library was dedicated in January.
1974	Academic Center I, later renamed Todd, was completed.
1975	Academic Center II, later renamed Campbell, was dedicated in January.
1982	Walvoord Student Center was dedicated in February.

System of Arrangement: This collection of records from the President's Office is organized in one series.

Series I. History Files, 1897-1991 and undated. .17 linear feet (9 folders)

Arranged roughly chronologically and by type of material. Includes correspondence, memos, articles, contracts, and notes.

Scope and Content Note: This collection, in one small document box, is composed primarily of photocopies collected by Donald K. Campbell. They relate to the history of Dallas Theological Seminary and its first, second, and third presidents. Many of the records concern the development of the campus during Lewis Sperry Chafer's term. Although the photocopies in this collection may duplicate carbon copies in other collections of records from the President's

Office, these documents indicate topics of interest to Dr. Campbell. This collection also pulls together documents which are in separate files in other collections.

Selected Search Terms:

Chafer, Lewis Sperry

Walvoord, John F.

Campbell, Donald K.

Dallas Theological Seminary—History

Donor/Source: Gift from Donald K. Campbell on February 20, 2008.

Literary Rights: It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of copyright laws.

Related Material: The archives contains other records from the President's Office dating back to the founding of the seminary. Guides to these collections are not yet available, but the archivist can supply more information.

Note to the Researcher: See the attached Container List for more details about this collection.

Processing Information: Much of this collection appears to have been originally filed by the subject "History." The processor divided the papers by the terms of the presidents and subject or type.

Separated Material:

Bulletin of Dallas Theological Seminary 24, no. 4 (July-August 1948) – shelved with other *Bulletins* in the archives.

Location of Originals: Carbon copies of some of the correspondence can be found in other collections of records from the President's Office, especially the files for L. S. Chafer. Some of the articles are also in other collections or in the periodicals section of the library.

Container List

Series I. History Files

1897-1991 and undated

Folder# Title, Dates, Description

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Lewis Sperry Chafer Miscellaneous Documents
Typescript of letter from L. S. Chafer to his mother, 1897; B. B. Warfield's review of <i>He That Is Spiritual</i> , 1919; letter thanking friends for gift of a dog figurine, 1924; correspondence and minutes related to conflict with Presbyterian Church, 1942-1945; notice about second printing of <i>Systematic Theology</i> , 1948; Chafer's description of founding of seminary, 1949; President's Banquet script, 1952; Dr. Mitchell's notes for Chafer's graveside service, 1952 (with 1991 memo); biographical articles about Chafer, 1952 and undated. | 1897-1952, 1991 |
|---|--|-----------------|

Series I. History Files (cont.)**1897-1991 and undated**Folder# Title, Dates, Description

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|---|--|------------------------------|
| 2 | Lewis Sperry Chafer Letter to the Board
Letter suggesting characteristics for Chafer's successor, 1944; reply to request to research the letter, 1986. | 1944, 1986 |
| 3 | Correspondence During Chafer's Term
Primarily correspondence between L. S. Chafer and donors who financed land acquisitions and buildings. | 1923-1933 |
| 4 | John F. Walvoord Correspondence and Writings
Includes correspondence related to John L. Mitchell considering changing seminaries, 1943; letter regarding article about <i>True Evangelism</i> , 1956; letter from W. K. Harrison regarding seminary by-laws and administrators' responsibilities, 1964; ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, 1976; Walvoord's answers to questions from public relations firm, undated. | 1943-1986 and undated |
| 5 | Donald K. Campbell Correspondence and Memos
Primarily relates to the transition from Walvoord to Campbell as president; includes carbon copies and original letters. | 1982, 1984-1985 |
| 6 | Donald K. Campbell Miscellaneous Documents
Includes Campbell's message at groundbreaking for student center, 1980; Campbell's Vision for 2000, 1990; personalia sheet, 1991; booklet by Bea Campbell titled <i>Partners in Prayer</i> ; notes about Campbell's entering seminary class. | 1990-1991 and undated |
| 7 | Donald K. Campbell Contracts
Campbell's employment contracts with the seminary. | 1972-1984 |
| 8 | Miscellaneous Documents
Includes Charles Lee Feinberg's message at commencement chapel, 1974; <i>A Case Statement for the Mosher Library Expansion</i> (rough draft), 1985; memo from Dr. John Hannah regarding seminary history, 1987; typescript of interview with Mrs. J. B. Lapsley, 1989. | 1974-1989 and undated |
| 9 | Articles Mentioning Dallas Theological Seminary

"A Letter from Rev. A. B. Winchester" from <i>The Bulletin of Dallas Theological Seminary</i> , circa 1927; "Evangelical College for Pastors" from <i>Dallas</i> , 1929; "Main Street in Evangelicalville" from <i>Eternity</i> , 1981; "The Defamation of Dallas" from <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> , 1986. | circa 1927, 1929, 1981, 1986 |