

College of Liberal Arts  
Office of the Dean

THE ALBERTUS DARNELL COLLECTION

Papers, 1923-1939

3.5 linear feet

Accession Number 336

Albertus Darnell was born on a farm near Aurora in northern Illinois on October 21, 1868. He entered the University of Michigan in 1894 and graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors in 1898. Darnell began his career as a teacher of mathematics and physics at Bay City High School, 1898-1900.

In 1900 Darnell came to Detroit to teach mathematics at Central High School and in 1902 became head of the mathematics department. When the Detroit Junior College was organized in 1917, Darnell was named to head the mathematics department. He continued in this capacity for the College of the City of Detroit until 1924.

Darnell became Assistant Dean of the College of the City of Detroit when it was established in 1923. As a result of Dean David D. Mackenzie's death on July 16, 1926, Darnell became Acting Dean. He continued in this position until Wilford L. Coffey was appointed Dean in 1928. Darnell then resumed his work as Assistant Dean until 1933. He became Dean of the College of Liberal Arts of Wayne University in 1933 and maintained this position until his retirement in 1939. Darnell remained in Detroit until his death on June 19, 1955.

In addition to his work with the College of the City of Detroit, later Wayne University, Darnell was a member of numerous state and national professional organizations. He was at one time president of the Michigan Schoolmaster's Club and a life member of the Central Kiwanis Club.

The Detroit Junior College was authorized by the legislature in 1917. Replacing that school was the College of the City of Detroit, established in 1923. The College of the City of Detroit (CCD) occupied a structure which previously was the site of Central High School and subsequently renamed Old Main. Detroit Teachers College (DTC) moved into Old Main and merged with the College of the City of Detroit in 1930. Known as the Colleges of the City of Detroit it was later organized into a university in 1933. The new university was named Wayne University in 1934.

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The papers of Albertus Darnell reflect his work with the College of the City of Detroit and Wayne University. They also reflect the growth of an institution from its inception to a municipal university.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Budgets  
College Reorganization  
Community Colleges  
Educational Associations  
Enrollment Statistics  
Faculty Meeting Notes  
Housing Plans for Wayne University  
Library Report for July 1, 1936 - June 30, 1938  
Medical Technology Program  
Public Health Nursing  
School of Public Affairs and Social Work  
Wayne University - Origin of Name

Among the Correspondents are: (an index to the location of these letters will be found on the last page of the guide)

John W. Baldwin	Edwin L. Miller
Frank Cody	Lawrence H. Seltzer
Wilford L. Coffey	Charles L. Spain
Katharine E. Faville	John F. Thomas
Charles E. Gadd	Lent D. Upson
David D. Henry	Edna Noble White
Louise Knapp	George F. Zook
David Mackenzie	

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Correspondence, reports, records and other materials relating to the office of assistant dean and dean for the period 1923-1933.

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Correspondence, reports, records and other materials relating to the office of dean for the College of Liberal Arts, 1933-1939.

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Series I  
Boxes 1-3

Correspondence, reports and other material which deal with the office of assistant dean and dean. Much of the material concerns a period when the college was trying to achieve a reputable position in the field of education. There was much interest in the college during the early development, as can be seen by the numerous questionnaires and employment applications. Obtaining membership in many educational associations was an important step towards achieving recognition on a national level. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject and cover the period 1923-1933. Correspondence relating to members of high schools, colleges and universities is filed with the institution.

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