H90-1064. Van Wylen, Gordon. Papers, 1934-[ongoing]. 3.00 linear ft. PARTIALLY RESTRICTED

Hope College
Gordon Van Wylen served as president of Hope College from 1972 through 1987. He was author of a textbook on thermodynamics, and active in Christian organizations and churches. This collection, an adjunct to the Van Wylen papers in the Office of the President collection, offers materials preceding his presidency and following his retirement, including correspondence, reports, addresses, and documents regarding Van Wylen’s support of the Resthaven and Freedom Village elderly care facilities and his architectural vision for Hope College included in an oral history conducted by Jacob Nyenhuis in 2006.

Biography

Gordon Van Wylen attended Ottawa Hills High School, Calvin College and the University of Michigan. Subsequently, he worked for duPont and served in the Navy. He taught at Penn State and completed a doctorate at MIT in 1951. After teaching mechanical engineering at University of Michigan, Van Wylen became chairman of that department in 1958. By 1965, he was dean of the College of Engineering and had authored a textbook on thermodynamics. In 1972, he was appointed president of Hope College, retiring in 1987. Throughout his life, he has been active in Christian organizations and churches.

Scope and Content

The Gordon Van Wylen collection includes papers from the years before and after Van Wylen’s presidential tenure. Correspondence, dating from 1971 and the years 1987 through 1991, composes the majority of the collection. Addresses, articles, poetry, legal documents, congressional records and reports are also included. Among these are represented Van Wylen’s efforts to expedite building of the Resthaven and Freedom Village elderly care facilities, and his architectural vision for Hope College included in an oral history conducted by Jacob Nyenhuis in 2006.

Container List

Autograph Book, 1934
Biographical
Gordon Van Wylen, 1969-2011
“Gordon Van Wylen: Life Leadership while Answering the Call” from
_Grand Rapids Press_, November 11, 1987 (Oversized, Box 4)
_The Story of Dr. Gordon Van Wylen_, 2004 (DVD)

Citations, 1987
Clippings/News Releases, 1972-1991 (4 folders)
Congressional Reports, 1987, n.d.
Correspondence, 1971, 1987-1991 (2 images)
Hope College
Appointment as President, 1972
Inauguration as President, 1972 (Oversized, Box 4)
“Inaugural Year Addresses” (booklet), 1972-1973
Publicity, 1972 (1 image)
Memos to Students
Retirement Dinner, June 4, 1987
Tenth Anniversary as President, 1982 (1 image)
Mayoral Campaign, 1989
Memorial Services, 1986, n.d.
Oral History Interview Concerning Hope College Architecture, 2006
Park of Parks, 2008
Publication, Memoirs: Gordon Van Wylen, October 2005
Reports, 1986, 1990
Resumes, Recommendations, and Job Descriptions, 1987-1990 (RESTRICTED)