

AMS 2021-006  
Charlene Callison Collection  
(Accession number A21-015)

**AMS 2021-006**  
**Charlene Callison Collection**

1967-2011

2.5 Cubic Feet and one oversized folder

Papers, photographs, written accounts, slides, newspaper clippings, VHS tapes, DVDs and CDs.

Charlene Callison graduated from North Texas State University in 1965 (M.S.) and 1967 (M.Ed) specializing in Home Economics Education. She taught Home Economics in a Dallas, Texas, middle school for two years, where her specialty was tailoring.

Callison's original plan was to work in New York City, but in 1967 Western Illinois University hired her. At that time at Western, there were over 300 Home Economics majors. Callison quickly obtained her Ph.D. During her time at WIU, she organized fashion shows and arranged trips to Dallas, Chicago, Kansas City, New York City and as Paris and Rome. She also made costumes for the Macomb Community Theatre. She planned retirement receptions for WIU Presidents from Bernhard to Goldfarb and the University's Centennial Celebration.

On 9 September 1972 Callison married WIU history professor Larry Balsamo. The following year School Bell Boutique opened on the Macomb campus, operated by Western students. Dr. Callison received many visitors to campus, such as Dorothy Holland, vice president of Kraft Foods in 1984, and appeared on The Today Show in New York.

Among the awards Dr. Callison received during her years at Western were the Illinois Retail Merchants Award as Outstanding Educator, the Outstanding Alumni Award, and the Performing Arts Society Ruth Watts Award.

See also: Home Economics

Donated by Dr. Charlene Callison of WIU  
Macomb, IL 61455  
Finding aid exists

No restrictions

**Box 1 of 3**

VHS Tapes and DVDs (see attached list for titles)

- fl. 1 Dr. Callison's written account of her career at Western
- fl. 2 Ephemera (School Bell Boutique, receptions, clippings, one event program, card and photos)
- fl. 3 Newspaper Clippings and articles

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- fl. 4 School Bell Boutique
- fl. 5 Callison Retirement
- fl. 6 Angelica Callison and Jacob Bjorn Sohlberg wedding performed by WIU President Al Goldfarb.
- fl. 7 Callison McDonough District Hospital
- fl. 8 Etiquette and Manners
- fl. 9 Miscellaneous Letters and Cards
- fl. 10 Programs for WIU Theatre Department and visiting productions.
- fl. 11 Slides
- fl. 12 Reception for Dorothy Holland (VP. Craft Foods) and Inauguration of President Ralph Wagoner, WIU's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- fl. 13 WIU's Centennial, Major Donor Recognition Banquet, Capitol Campaign.
- fl. 14. 1973 Retirement of Nancy Neeley
- fl. 15 Dedication of Jack's Visual Merchandising Room
- fl. 16. Presidential Retirement (Donald Spencer, Al Goldfarb, David Taylor,
- fl. 17 Founder's Day, President Goldfarb's Inaugural Address
- fl. 18. WIU's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- fl. 19 The Last Dinner of the Titanic, Performing Arts Center
- fl. 20 Callison Scholarship
- fl. 21 Slide Package

**Box 2 of 3**

- fl. 1 Christmas Concert programs, photographs, newspaper clipping
- fl. 2 "1967-1969", includes skiing trip to Wisconsin (1968), Dog Fashions (1968), and the first WIU fashion show (1969).
- fl. 3 Second Large Fashion Show, 1971
- fl. 4 The Daily Grind
- fl. 5 Retirement parties for Presidents Spencer and Taylor, 2001 and 2003 (photographs)
- fl. 6 Fashion Shows Programs 1980-1985 with Macomb Retailers
- fl. 7 Bridal Show
- fl. 8 White bound album
- fl. 9 School Bell Boutique (brown album)
- fl. 10 Loose Items—Misc.
- fl. 11 Marilyn Miglin
- fl. 12 Phi Kappa Phi
- fl. 13 Centennial and Founder's Day, 1999
- fl. 14 Latter Day Saints Temple Dedication materials and invitation.
- fl. 15 Photos
- fl. 16 School Bell Boutique folder
- fl. 17 Knoblauch Hall renovation
- fl. 18 First Bus Trip to Dallas, Texas, 1969
- fl. 19 European Tour, 1978
- fl. 20 Red folder, MRA (Macomb Retail Association)
- fl. 21 Floral Album

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- fl. 22 Bishop Hill project, Children's Mall,
- fl. 23 Callison Dissertation
- fl. 24 Black Binder, 1992 Shows
- fl. 25 Reception for Kraft Foods VP, 1984
- fl. 26 Best of Broadway photos/Fashion Show photos, 1973
- fl. 27 New York, letters to designers and companies to tour in 1978
- fl. 28 New York tour

**Box 3 of 3**

- fl. 1 Kismet programs, Daizan's inc. 1972 and 1974 Catalogs, notes, sketches, receipts and clippings
- fl. 2 Larry's Retirement Papers and photographs
- fl. 3 Misc, Callison Scholarship, Secretaries Luncheon,
- fl. 4 Kismet Photos
- fl. 5 Alice in Wonderland album
- fl. 6 Fashion Trip to Kansas City, 1975; campus snapshots; Bridal Show, 1970; Fashions of the Future or Moon Fashions, 1969-70;
- fl. 7 Unlabeled binder, plays.

**Oversized folder:**

"America's Newest and Finest: The Apparel Center... To Serve the Fashion Industry". Also includes miscellaneous items.

"Theatrical Fabrics and Supplies" (includes samples). Also includes miscellaneous items.

"Regional Office of Education #26 Touring Washington, D.C. June 2006." Photograph.

"National Constitution Center" Includes photograph of Larry Balsamo.

"WIU 32<sup>nd</sup> Season Summer Music Theatre"

"Thanksgiving Dinner: A Celebration of the Holidays, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2002"

"A Toast to MRA", two versions

"Mismet" (Program)

"MRA", 6 & 7 October 1983"

"The 80's Continuity and Change"

"Chanel Dior"

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“Kismet” poster

Photo of Dr. Callison

### **VHS Tapes:**

Five minutes department video, looped.  
NBC Today Show clip, 13 January 1997 (Fair Use?)  
WIU Promos  
An Occasion to Remember, 31 March 1996  
NBC Today Show clips March 1996, January 1997  
Mary Garzoni 10/18 (see note attached to tape)  
Penn—Daniels Speaker & Dedication 22 April 1996  
Public Service Announcements, 2000-2003  
Lt. on TV “The Western Advantage” April 1983  
“An Occasion to Remember, 27 March 1994  
WIU Centennial Convocation, Balloon Sculpture-Time Lapse, April 1999  
Looped Master Copy, Today Show January 1997  
Retirement Reception, Dinner & Roast, Charlene Callison, 5 May 2004  
Inaugural/ Lt. Charlene (15minutes) Interview 23 September 2002  
Mary Garzone—Selling Seminar, 14 Feb 1988, 14 March 1989, and 28 April 1989  
Dr. Don Spencer at WIU 12:06 1994-2001

### **DVDs:**

Dr. David R. Taylor, Dean 1979-2002, College of Education and Human Services

### **Oral Histories:**

Charlene Callison, interviewed by Riley Gober, Spring 2021, 2 disks;  
4 digital files located in the WIU Libraries Oral History Collection:  
[https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/wiu\\_oralhis](https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/wiu_oralhis)