

Thelma Thurston Gorham Collection (AC110)

Introduction:

The Thelma Thurston Gorham Collection contains documents from the estate of Thelma Thurston Gorham, a renowned educator and journalist.

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Thelma Thurston Gorham

Title: Thelma Thurston Gorham Collection

Date Range: 1965- 1990

Size: 0.417 linear feet (1 box)

Collection Number: AC110

Donor Information:

Sarah Wood- Clark, January 2003

Citation Note:

Thelma Thurston Gorham (AC110), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri

Related Collections:

AC78 The Kansas City Call Collection

Administrative Information:

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted

Biographical Sketch:

Thelma Thurston Gorman was born in Kansas City, MO on February 21, 1913. She placed a high value on education her entire life. She attended Sumner High School. Thelma graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1935 with a B.A. in Journalism and received a minor in English and Political Science; she attended a summer session for Journalism Research at Standford in 1947 and 1949; she graduated from the University of Minnesota with an M.A. in Journalism and Mass

Communications in 1951; she began her Ph.D. in Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota, 1968-1970, completing her degree at Florida State University in 1974; and completed a one-year doctoral fellowship at the University of Florida under the Kellogg Foundation in 1977-1978. Thelma also received secondary education teaching certifications in Oklahoma and Missouri. From 1944-1985, she taught at several institutions: the Hampton Institute in Hampton, VA; Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO (a HBCU); the Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA; Central Senior High School in KCMO; Florida A&M University (a HBCU); the University of Minnesota. Her teaching career at Florida A&M spanned decades, 1963-1968 and 1971-1985. Thelma was also a correspondent for various publishers such as Jet and Ebony magazines as well as a few others; and an editor for several more publications: The Crisis, 1944-1946; The Black Dispatch in Oklahoma from 1955-1956; The Sun (now the Sun-Reporter) in San Francisco in 1974; The Western Journal of Black Studies, 1976; and Epoch magazine beginning in 1979; among dozens of others. She also wrote and was an editor, for the Kansas City Call in the 1930s. Thelma was a lifetime member of the NAACP, a member of the American Journalism History Association, a lifelong member of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority, a member of the League of Women Voters, and a member of advisory boards, committees, or a member of the Board of Directors for dozens of organizations centered on education, journalism, business, community, and health. She died in 1992 in Tallahassee, FL.

Collection Inventory:

The Teacher of the Year Nominee packet is bound and contains Thelma's resume, autobiography, examples of syllabi, correspondence, scans of her handwritten notes, scans of certificates, and articles written about her.

Series 1:

- f. 1 Prints #1-4
- f. 2 Business Card
- f. 3 Correspondence
- f. 4 *NEA Advocate*, June 1983
- f. 5 "Human Relations in Communication," *Mini-Tips*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 1982
- f. 6 Thelma Thurston Gorham, 1989- 1990, Teacher of the Year Nominee, Florida A&M

Processed by Laura Darnell, Archivist, October 2024.

Sources:

Thelma Rea Thurston Gorham (1913-1992) - Find a . . . (1913, February 21).

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/88014293/thelma-rea-gorham>