

# PURDUE

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## FINDING AID TO THE AVANELLE KIRKSEY PAPERS, 1943-2012

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Kirksey, Avanelle, 1926-2016
<b>Title</b>	Avanelle Kirksey papers
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	MSF 502
<b>Date Span</b>	1943-2012, predominant 1975-1995
<b>Abstract</b>	The collection documents the life and career of Dr. Avanelle Kirksey, a prominent researcher and educator in the area of maternal and infant nutrition.
<b>Extent</b>	7.8 cubic feet (19 mss boxes, 1 c.f. box, 1 shoe box)
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Virginia Pleasant, 2017
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Repository</b>	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

## Administrative Information

<b>Location Information:</b>	ASC-R
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	Collection is open for research. The collection is stored offsite; 24 hours' notice is required to access the collection.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	Collection was donated to the Archives in Fall 2016 by Monica Freeland and Myron Kirksey, Avanelle's Niece and nephew, respectively. (October 26, 2016; November 7, 2016)
<b>Accession Numbers:</b>	20161026; 20161107
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	MSF 502, Avanelle Kirksey papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice:</b>	Purdue University per deed of gift
<b>Related Materials Information:</b>	UA 15, College of Health and Human Sciences records

## **Subjects and Genres**

### **Persons**

Kirksey, A. (Avanelle)

### **Topics**

Vitamin B6

Nutrition -- Research

Malnutrition

Lactation – Nutritional aspects

Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program

Purdue University. Department of Foods and Nutrition.

Women's archives at Purdue University

Women in higher education

Women in science

### **Form and Genre Types**

Artifacts

Personal papers

Research papers

## Biography of Avanelle Kirksey

Dr. Avanelle (Nell) Kirksey (1926-2016) was born in Mulberry, Arkansas to Odell and Blanche Kirksey. She had two brothers, Ozell (who was killed during WWII) and Joe, a prominent figure in the soybean industry. Her father, Dr. Odell Kirksey, was a noted obstetrician and opened Arkansas' first maternity hospital (the Kirksey Maternity Hospital) where he is estimated to have delivered 4700 babies over the years. Although she was discouraged from practicing medicine, it is likely that Avanelle's later research interests took some inspiration from her father's work.

Kirksey received her B.S. in 1947 from the University of Arkansas, with a major in Home Economics and minors in chemistry and biology. Her M.S. in home economics and dietetics was attained in 1950 from the University of Tennessee. Finally, she received her PhD from Pennsylvania State University in 1961 in the field of Nutrition and biochemistry. Her work at Penn State was supervised by Dr. Ruth Pike whose research focused on Vitamin B6, which was another contributing factor to the trajectory of Kirksey's research. During the course of her postsecondary education, Kirksey taught at a handful of institutions before accepting her position at Purdue University upon the completion of her PhD work.

Kirksey's work in the area of maternal and infant nutrition has left a lasting impact, both directly and through the ongoing legacy of the many graduate students she mentored. Much of her work focused on the role of Vitamin B6 in maternal health and infant development, as well as the impact of mild to moderate malnutrition. Kirksey is perhaps best known for her involvement in and oversight of the multi-institutional Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program which examined malnutrition in Egypt, Kenya, and Mexico. Kirksey was also involved in a large scale project designed to develop nutrition education programs in Indonesian colleges. Her work is credited with providing a better overall understanding of the role of micronutrients in maternal and infant health and nutrition.

Kirksey was the recipient of numerous awards and honors over the course of career. She was awarded the title of Meredith Distinguished Professor of Foods and Nutrition during her tenure at Purdue (1961-1994). She was the second woman at Purdue to be awarded a distinguished professorship. Purdue also honored Kirksey's research by awarding her an Honorary Doctorate. Additionally, Kirksey was a distinguished Alumna at both the University of Arkansas and Penn State. Other awards and honors of note were the Borden Award (1980), the Lederle Award (1994), and her designation as a Fellow of the American Institute of Nutrition (1994). Upon her retirement in 1994, the annual Avanelle Kirksey Lecture Series was established to honor Kirksey's lasting contributions.

### *Sources:*

Materials within the collection

Avanelle Kirksey obituary, [swtimes.com/obituaries/avanelle-kirksey-0](http://swtimes.com/obituaries/avanelle-kirksey-0)

## Collection Description

### Scope

The Avanelle (Nell) Kirksey papers (1943-2012; 7.8 cubic feet) document the life and career of Dr. Avanelle Kirksey, a prominent researcher in maternal and infant nutrition. The collection reflects the impact of Kirksey as an educator and researcher, as well as the continued significance of her research on maternal and infant nutrition. The coverage of her work in Egypt and on vitamin B6 is particularly strong. Additionally, the collection is an indication of Kirksey's ongoing legacy via the research of her graduate students. These materials could be useful to researchers interested in Kirksey's career, the NCRSP projects, Vitamin B6 research, maternal and infant nutrition, early studies in lactation and breast milk composition, mixed methods and interdisciplinary research in the health and nutrition field, and women in higher education. Types of materials include: papers, publications, correspondence, clippings, photographs, and artifacts, etc. The collection is organized into three series:

### Arrangement

- 1. Personal papers, 1943-2012 (1.2 cubic feet).** This series provides some insight into Kirksey's personal and family life. It includes many pictures of her travels, miscellaneous clippings, correspondence, materials related to her retirement and the construction of her house, and college transcripts. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically by type.
- 2. Professional papers, 1943-2007 (4.6 cubic feet).** This series includes material related to Kirksey's career in nutrition research and higher education. It provides insight into her role as an instructor and mentor, the impact and scope of her research, major presentations and publications, and the numerous awards with which she was honored over the years. Also included in the series are course materials from various courses that Kirksey taught (particularly Foods and Nutrition 525 and 601). These materials include course outlines, notes, lectures and presentations, and readings. This portion of the series provides insight into Kirksey's approach to instruction. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically by type.
- 3. Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Programs (NCRSP) papers, 1972-2001 (2 cubic feet).** This series includes material relevant to Kirksey's work with and oversight of the Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Programs. Materials included cover the maternal, infant, and child nutrition study in Egypt, Kenya, and Mexico, as well as a later proposed project on cowpeas in Costa Rica. The series is particularly strong in its coverage of the Egypt segment of research (likely because of Kirksey's direct involvement in data collection there). Materials in the series are arranged chronologically by type.

## **Descriptive Rules** *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*

### **Processing Information**

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. All materials have been placed in archival sleeves, folders, and boxes, and metal fasteners have been removed. All newsprint has been photocopied and in most cases original newspaper clippings have been discarded. Some clippings containing images of people or color graphics, or front pages of newspapers, have been preserved for display purposes. In many cases, Kirksey's original folder labels have been retained, original labels are indicated by the presence of brackets in the detailed inventory and on folders. Widely available books and the dissertations of Kirksey's students have been separated from the collection; dissertations are now housed separately with the Purdue dissertation collection. Duplicate material in all forms (i.e. slides, photocopies, etc.) has been separated from the collection to better facilitate ease of research.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### Series 1. Personal papers, 1943-2012

(1.2 cubic feet)

#### **Box 1**    *Personal*

##### Folder

- 1      Family clippings, 1978-2012
2.      [Family], 2004-2006
3.      [Kirksey], 2007-2008
4.      Kirskey Endowment, 1997-2002
5.      [Recipes], 2002
6.      [Breast care], 1992-1997
7.      Religion: Envy, ca. 2000
8.      Church programs and letter, 1980-1994
9.      Correspondence [notes to keep], 1964-1991
10.     Correspondence [important business], 1990-1996
11.     Correspondence [misc. to keep], 1980-1992
12.     Jean Hampton Pruitt, 1980-1981
13.     Service, 1996-1997
14.     [Special Events: Salute to Women, Distinguished Alums], 1992-1993
15.     Miscellaneous, ca 1970s-1991
16.     Notebooks, ca 1980s-1990s
17.     [Diamonds], 1987
18.     [Romania-children], 1993-1994
19.     [Wallpaper/paint], 2003
20.     [Granite], 2003
21.     [Bath], 2003
22.     [Rugs], 2003
23.     [Currents], 2003
24.     [Garden lighting], 2003
25.     [Flowers], 2003
26.     [House plans], 2003

#### **Box 2**    *Photos and Slides*

##### Folder

- 1      Personal and family photographs, ca 1959-2003
2.      Negatives, ca 1980s
3.      [Copenhagen night, Purdue campus, apt. furniture], ca 1968
4.      [Norway: Stalheim, hotel interior; Norway: Stave Church, farm house; Oslo: Vigeland Museum], 1966-1968
5.      [Norway: Vigeland; Sweden: Stockholm, old town Linkoping; Sweden: Kosta, Orrefors; Denmark: Aarhus, Jelling, Odense], 1966

6. [Hamburg: apt., city, S. Lake; Norway, Borgen], 1966
7. [Denmark: Copenhagen, Tivoli & Mermaid], 1966
8. [I. Bogota, Peru], 1978
9. [B. Quebec/ winter '78], 1977-1978
10. [A. Botanical gardens, Montreal], 1977
11. [II. Peru, torre torre], 1978
12. [III. Macchu Picchu, LaPaz], 1978
13. [IV. Iggasu Falls], 1978
14. Travel, 1966-1968, 1972
15. Travel, 1968, 1977-1978
16. Professional photographs, 1980-1990
17. Miscellaneous photographs, ca 1960s-1980s

**Box 3**     *Clippings and Correspondence, Education*

Folder

1. Clippings and correspondence: [A-B], 1959-1986
2. Clippings and correspondence: [E-I], 1981-1995
3. Clippings and correspondence: [J-M], 1981-1995
4. Clippings and correspondence: [N-R], 1969-1995
5. Clippings and correspondence: [S-V], 1975-1982
6. Clippings and correspondence, 1958-1996
7. Miscellaneous clippings, 1978-2000
8. University of Arkansas, 1943-1954
9. University of Tennessee, 1950
10. University of Colorado, 1955
11. Iowa State College, 1955-1958
12. Penn State University, 1957-1959
13. Awards and Honors at Penn State, 1958-1960
14. Purdue University hiring, 1960
15. Vita: [Newest, 1997], 1997
16. Vitae: [Old, before 1997], 1976-1996

**Series 2. Professional papers, 1943-2007**

(4.6 cubic feet)

**Box 4**     *Awards and Honors*

Folder

1. ILSI Future Leader Award, 1965-2007
2. Borden Award, 1980
3. Borden Award congratulations, 1980
4. Penn State Alumni Recognition Award, 1985
5. Penn State speech, 1985
6. Meredith Distinguished Professor Award, 1985



7. IHEA Award, 1989
8. Penn State Alumni Association membership, 1989
9. Arkansas Distinguished Alumni, 1990
10. Penn State Distinguished Alumni, 1992
11. AIN Fellow Nomination materials, 1993-1994
12. AIN awards congratulations, 1994
13. Retirement reception, 1994
14. Purdue honorary doctorate congratulations, 1997
15. Miscellaneous awards, 1958-2007

**Box 5**    *Instruction*

Folder

1. Foods and Nutrition lab notes, ca 1980
2. Talk to students: original figures and tables, 1982
3. Instruction: chemistry review, 1992
4. [Vitamin B-6 references for class discussion], 1993
5. INP Seminar, Fall 1993
6. [F&N 601: vitamin B-6], 1994
7. Lectures and seminars, 1993-1995
8. Dr. Nargis seminar: original figures and tables, 1986
9. Papers for review, 1983-1995
10. [Marlene's chapter], ca 1990s
11. Speech to alumni, 1982
12. Former students, 1962-1995
13. Miscellaneous photographs, ca 1960-2000s

**Box 6**    *Courses: Foods and Nutrition 525*

Folder

1. F&N 525 Maternal: General, 1994
2. F&N 525 Maternal: Definitions, 1994
3. F&N 525 Maternal: Parturition, 1994
4. F&N 525 Maternal: Lactation, 1994
5. F&N 525 Maternal: Physiology, 1994
6. F&N 525 Maternal: Placenta, 1994
7. F&N 525 Maternal: Adolescent, 1994
8. F&N 525 Maternal: Weight Gain, 1994
9. F&N 525 Maternal: Exercise, 1994
10. F&N 525 Maternal: Protein, 1994
11. F&N 525 Maternal: Mineral, 1994
12. F&N 525 Maternal: Vitamin, 1994
13. F&N 525 Infant and Child: General, 1994
14. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Physiology, 1994
15. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Growth, 1994
16. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Food Intake, 1994

17. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Protein, 1994
18. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Carbohydrates and fat, 1994
19. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Mineral, 1994
20. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Vitamin, 1994
21. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Milk and formula, 1994
22. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Preterm, 1994
23. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Growth, 1994
24. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Nutrition, 1994
25. F&N 525 Infant and Child: CNS, 1994
26. F&N 525 Infant and Child: Obesity, 1994

**Box 7**    *Courses: Foods and Nutrition 601*

Folder

1. F&N 601: General, 1994
2. F&N 601: Vitamin A, 1994
3. F&N 601: Vitamin E, 1994
4. F&N 601: Vitamin D, 1994
5. F&N 601: Vitamin K, 1994
6. F&N 601: Vitamin C, 1994
7. F&N 601: Thiamin, 1994
8. F&N 601: Riboflavin, 1994
9. F&N 601: Niacin, 1994
10. F&N 601: Vitamin B-6, 1994
11. F&N 601: Folacin, 1994
12. F&N 601: Vitamin B-12, 1994
13. F&N 601: Biotin, 1994
14. F&N 601: Choline, 1994
15. F&N 601: Pantothenic Acid, 1994
16. F&N 601: Lipoic Acid, 1994
17. F&N 601: Inositol, 1994
18. F&N 601: Ubiquinone, 1994
19. F&N 601: Supplements, 1994

**Box 8**    *Publications*

Folder

1. Article reprints: first author, 1961-1995
2. Article reprints: second author (1 of 2), 1970-1987
3. Article reprints: second author (2 of 2), 1971-1990
4. Avanelle Kirksey dissertation, 1961
5. Draft publication, 1976
6. Abstracts, 1973-1979
7. Penn State Seminar presentation, 1977
8. Timberline figures and tables, 1980

**Box 9**    *Presentations*

Folder

- 1      B-6 Timberline slides, 1980
2.     Timberline evaluation, 1980
3.     Wisconsin: original figures and tables, 1981
4.     National Academy of Science: original figures and tables, 1981
5.     Florida symposium slide originals, 1981
6.     Florida symposium: original figures and tables, 1981
7.     Paris talk: original figures and tables, 1982
8.     Indiana Diabetic Association; original figures, 1983
9.     Indiana Teachers: adolescent pregnancy original figures, 1984
10.    Meadowridge conference: original figures and tables, 1984
11.    Egypt project talk: original figures and tables, 1983
12.    Berkley: original tables and figures, 1984
13.    BANFF Conference: original tables and figures, 1984
14.    Brighton, Mexico, Penn State: original figures, 1985
15.    [Vitamin B-6], 1987
16.    B-6 Talks, ca 1980s
17.    Austria: original tables and figures, 1986
18.    Philadelphia: original figures and tables, 1989
19.    AID presentation, 1989

**Box 10**    *Presentations*

Folder

- 1      [Vitamin B-6 Dr. Kirksey], 1989
2.     [NYAS reprints], 1989
3.     Miscellaneous presentation materials, 1989-1992
4.     New York Academy of Sciences; Extension meeting, 1989-1992
5.     FASEB: original figures and tables, 1992
6.     Penn State Distinguished Alumni Seminar, 1992
7.     Adelaide paper, 1993
8.     XV International Congress of Nutrition Adelaide, Australia, 1993
9.     [Vitamin B-6], 1993
10.    Soon Ah Yoon: Vitamin B-6 adequacy in neonatal nutrition, 1995
11.    Conference: Pediatric Nutrition Update, 1995
12.    Conference slides, 1989
13.    Speech for Abernathy, 1991

**Box 11**    *Presentations*

Folder

- 1      Slide tray/ presentation with notes, 1961-1996
2.     Pediatric Update Conference, 1995
3.     Lectures and seminars, 1995

**Box 12**     *Research: Nutrition and Development*

Folder

- 1        B-6 and nausea, 1942-1991
2.        "Philosophy of Scientific Investigation," 1943
3.        [History Nutrition], 1945-1977
4.        Infant nutrition, 1954-1973
5.        B-6: Research of others, 1966-1976
6.        Fetal growth and development, 1968-1969
7.        Depression, B-6, and contraceptives, 1970-1981
8.        [Dubowitz/gestational age], 1970-1985
9.        W.O. Atwater lecture, 1974-1978
10.       Maternal nutrition and infant development, ca 1970s-1994
11.       [Karyl Rickard data], 1981
12.       [Paarlburg- food supply and population control], 1982
13.       Research notes, ca 1986
14.       [Hunger], ca 1988
15.       Delta monograph draft for review, 1996

**Box 13**     *Indonesia*

Folder

- 1        [Trip details: Kirksey/Liska], April 1987
2.        [Indonesian directors USA site visit], August 1987
3.        [Travel to Indonesia], 1988
4.        [Trip report], 1988
5.        [Travel Expenses: Seoul, Jakarta], 1989
6.        [Indonesia trip report], August 1989
7.        [A: Indonesia] photographs, ca 1980s
8.        [B: Indonesia] photographs, ca 1980s
9.        [C: Indonesia] photographs, ca 1980s
10.       [D: Indonesia] photographs, ca 1980s
11.       [E: Indonesia] photographs, ca 1980s

**Box 14**     *Letter File Photos*

Folder

- 1        [F: Indonesia] photographs, ca 1980s
2.        [I: Indonesia] photographs, ca 1980s
3.        [J: Indonesia] photographs, ca 1980s
4.        [K: Bangkok] photographs, ca 1980s
5.        [L: Hong Kong] photographs, ca 1980s
6.        [M: Bangkok] photographs, ca 1980s
7.        [N: Korea] photographs, ca 1989
8.        [O] photographs, ca 1980s

9. [P: Pechak] photographs, ca 1980s
10. Miscellaneous letter file photographs, ca 1980s

**Box 15**     *Artifacts*

Item

1. Photo album, ca 1980s
2. Photo album, ca 1980s
3. Rolodex, ca 1980s
4. Research card file, ca 1980s
5. Pet rock, ca 1980s

**OS S9, 1 Folder**

Item

1. Oversize original figures, ca 1980s
2. Card, ca 1990s

**Series 3. Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program  
(NCRSP) papers, 1972-2001**

(2 cubic feet)

**Box 16**     *CRSP Summaries*

Folder

1. CRSP Data, ca 1990s
2. *CRSP Revised Research Design- Phase II*, 1983
3. *Proceedings of the CRSP Policy Workshop*, 1992
4. *Functional Implications of Malnutrition Across CRSP Projects*, 1992
5. *Functional Implications of Malnutrition Kenya Project Final Report*, 1992
6. *Functional Implications of Malnutrition Mexico Project Final Report*, 1992
7. *Functional Implications of Malnutrition Egypt Project Final Report*, 1992

**Box 17**     *Egypt CRSP research*

Folder

1. CRSP Egypt project narrative, 1982-1987
2. Travel forms and personnel, 1982-1986
3. Egypt: Avanelle Kirksey trip reports, 1982-1985
4. Egypt: staff trip reports, 1983-1985
5. Field notebooks, 1985-1988
6. Map of Kalama, ca 1988
7. Egypt: Telexes originals and notes, 1982-1983
8. Egypt: incoming Telexes, 1982-1984
9. Correspondence, 1994
10. Egypt clippings, 1972-1992

11. Photographs, 1983-1991

**Box 18** *Egypt CRSP research*

Folder

- 1 Egypt: principle investigator summary, 1985-1986
2. [Egypt project final report- Appendix], 1988
3. Publications of Egypt nutrition CRSP, 1984-1992
4. Work citing Egypt data, 2001
5. Egypt research summary presentation, 1990
6. Egyptian nutrition study presentation, 1992
7. Egypt project presentation references, ca 1983-1991
8. Egypt morbidity transparencies, ca1988
9. Egypt report: original figures and tables, 1985-1987
10. Maternal nutrition figures, 1988
11. Infant nutrition figures, 1988
12. Miscellaneous figures, 1988
13. Presentation figures, 1988-1991

**Box 19** *Egypt photographs*

Item

- 1 Photo file: Egypt CRSP fieldwork, 1980s

**Box 20** *Other CRSP projects*

Folder

- 1 CRSP public information packet, 1991
2. Publications from Kenya nutrition CRSP, 1984-1992
3. Publications from Mexico nutrition CRSP, 1987-1992
4. Costa Rica: Cowpea CRSP, 1995
5. CRSP correspondence, 1980-1988
6. Miscellaneous, 1981-1988
7. Notebooks, ca 1989-1994
8. [Future models], 1994
9. [Infant weight and weight change colloquium], 1992
10. [FASEB colloquium], ca 1990s
11. CRSP transparencies, ca 1990s
12. Research maps, ca 1988