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Guide to the Kathleen Clem Interview, 2007

Kathleen Clem was the first chief of the Division of Emergency Medicine within Duke University's Department of Surgery.

### Descriptive Summary

**Collection Title:** Kathleen Clem Interview, 2007

**Creator:** Clem, Kathleen.

**Extent:** 1 record storage box, 2 itemes, .25 linear feet

**Processed By:**

**Date Completed:**

**Encoded By:**

### Biographical Note

Dr. Kathleen Clem received her associate in science in nursing from Loma Linda University (Loma Linda, Calif.) in 1977 and her bachelor of science in nursing from Tennessee Technological Institute in 1982. She received her MD from Loma Linda University in 1989 and completed her residency in emergency medicine at Loma Linda, serving as chief resident in 1993. From 1993 to 1998, she served as the director of International Emergency Medicine in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Loma Linda. Dr. Clem came to Duke University in 1998 as an attending physician in the Division of Emergency Medicine within the Department of Surgery. She served as the first chief of the division from 1999 to 2007 in the male-dominated Department of Surgery. While chief of the division, she began the Emergency Medicine academic and clinical programs. She has served on numerous committees concerning emergency medicine and women in medicine at Duke. She returned to Loma Linda in 2007 to serve as chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine.

### Collection Overview

Contains audiotapes and transcript of an oral history interview with Kathleen Clem, the first chief of the Division of Emergency Medicine within Duke University's Department of Surgery.

### Online Catalog Headings

Clem, Kathleen.

Duke University.

Duke University. Medical Center.

Duke University. Medical Center. Dept. of Surgery.

Emergency Medicine.

Faculty, Medical.

Leadership.

Women in medicine.

Oral histories.

Interviews.

## Guide to the Kathleen Clem Interview, 2007

Transcripts.

[Related Material](#)

Guide to the Kathleen Clem Interview, 2007

Detailed Description of the Collection

**Interview on 26 June 2007**

Dr. Clem speaks about her desire to become an emergency physician; her background as a nurse; her family background; Loma Linda University; starting one of the first international emergency medical fellowships in the country (at Loma Linda); coming to North Carolina; her desire to improve Duke's Division of Emergency Medicine; becoming division chief of Emergency Medicine; having to fire many of the current faculty in the division to ensure the division was staffed by personnel trained to higher standards; recruiting new faculty; the development of residency program in the division as crucial and her achievement of that goal in 1993; completely renovating the division's physical space; her goals in renovating the space; women's often circuitous careers; her own circuitous career; the importance of embracing the diversity of career experiences; Duke's support of her career path; the difficulties of being a female leader of the Division of Emergency Medicine within the male-dominated Department of Surgery; doing things that were "uniquely feminine"; changing the culture in Emergency Medicine; impacting the Department of Surgery; overcoming the difficulties of being a female leader; maintaining her integrity; her hard work to get changes made to the division; her allies; the female surgeons in the department; the types of patients who access emergency medicine at Duke; overcrowding in emergency departments; Duke's renovation and expansion as part of the solution to overcrowding; the state of Division of Emergency Medicine when she first arrived; educating Duke about what emergency medicine physicians are supposed to do; the role of emergency medicine physicians; why Emergency Medicine is currently a division and not a department, as she would hope it would be; the percentage of her time spent as administrator and career sacrifices she has made to be an administrator; the Faculty Women's Committee; topics the committee has dealt with; the women at Duke who inspire her; the exhibit honoring women undertaken by Faculty Women's Committee; other women; embracing the circuitous career paths of women within her division; why women have more circuitous career paths; importance of mentorship; her past and current mentors; her own methods of balancing work and family; the change in culture at Duke in support of families; the differences between nurses and physicians in emergency medicine; collaboration with nursing; the issues of patient flow in emergency medicine; the rapid nature of decision-making in emergency medicine; her book, Emergent Field Medicine; and the current state of the Division of Emergency Medicine.

**Box 1**

Interview CD [1 CD (1 hour and 15 minutes total)]

Transcript [35 pages]