Dr. Layton McCurdy was chairman of the MUSC Department of Psychiatry during Dr. James W. Colbert’s tenure as Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr.
McCurdy discusses the creation of the Vice President for Academic Affairs position, Dr. Colbert’s recruitment, and his numerous accomplishments. He describes meeting Dr. Colbert for the first time and his subsequent interactions with him over the years. Additional topics include Dr. Colbert’s role in the settlement of the 1969 hospital workers strike, his role in the development of AHEC and the MUSC Department of Family Practice. He recalls Dr. Colbert’s relationship with Dr. McCord. He describes the impact Dr. Colbert’s death had on the university as well as his personal feelings. Dr. McCurdy describes the process to rename the MUSC Education Center and Library Building to James W. Colbert Education Center and Library Building.

**Collection:** Waring Historical Library Oral History Collection

**Contributing Institution:** Waring Historical Library (MUSC)

**Media Type:** Oral Histories

**Note:** This interview is part of the “The James W. Colbert, Jr., MD, Oral History Project” series. This series of interviews documents the memories of Dr. Colbert’s family and colleagues about his life and his tenure at MUSC. The five interviews were conducted in May and July 2009 in preparation for the development of a physical and online exhibit, “With Integrity and Dignity: The Life of James W. Colbert, Jr., MD.” The online exhibit is available at [http://waring.library.musc.edu/exhibits/colbert/](http://waring.library.musc.edu/exhibits/colbert/).

Transcript has been edited by the interviewee.

In cases where the audio and the transcript differ, the audio is provided for background use only.

See also: Collection # OH 4 and OH 4.1-4.5

**Language:** English

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