02.002 Marguerite Franklin Papers, 1943-1944

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Collection Overview

Title: Marguerite Franklin, 1943-1944

ID: 02/002

Creator: Marguerite Franklin (1893-?)

Extent: 1 Box

Arrangement: Arranged in chronological order.

Date Acquired: 03/10/2011

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

This collection contains correspondence by and research materials about Marguerite Franklin, who was the first President of Lesley College in 1943.

Biographical Note

Marguerite Franklin was born in 1893 in Rhode Island to Julie A. Franklin, a superintendent of a settlement house and later a teacher, and Benjamin Franklin, a salesman. She graduated from Wheelock College in 1917, and in 1930 was hired by Wheelock as the Assistant Supervisor of Practice. For the next 11 years, Marguerite served in a variety of positions at Wheelock, including Assistant in the Department of Observation and Practice Theory, Dean of Child Psychology, Student Personnel Director as well as working with the Kindergarten Education Department.

Marguerite came to Lesley during a time of transition, marked by both an excitement around the transition to a college and a serious concern over a potential financial crisis. In December 1942,
the school met all the requirements to be approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to grant degrees. However during this time the school was hobbled by declining enrollments: only about 60 students were enrolled in 1942-1943. Due to a loss of cash flow, many of the buildings on campus were in poor condition and the school was having difficulty paying off its debts. The tensions of the period created stress among the trustees, who were looking for a leader to make necessary changes.

In April 1943, the trustees appointed Marguerite, a teacher from outside the Lesley community to bring about the changes necessary for creating a college atmosphere. By November, Marguerite was making recommendations, such as discontinuing the three-year course in teacher training and concentrating on the four-year BS degree in Education; creating standards of "prestige" and "teacher ability" when hiring part-time teachers; and growing the library.

President Franklin's active administrative changes helped Lesley transition into its status as a college. At the end of 1944, President Franklin left Lesley to become a professor at the Massachusetts College of Art.

**Administrative Information**

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**Processing Information:** Processed by Marie Wasnock, November 2011.

**Finding Aid Revision History:** Finding aid will be revised as additional materials are accessioned into collection.

**Box and Folder Listing**

**Box 1: Marguerite Franklin, 1943-1944**

Folder 1: Correspondence / Research Materials, 1943-1944