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Lesley College Publications

Handbooks, 1937-2015

By Alyssa Pacy

Collection Overview

Title: Lesley College Publications, Handbooks, 1937-2015 (inclusive)

ID: 06/01/003

Creator: Lesley College (1909 -)

Extent: 5.0 Boxes

Arrangement: Chronological by Academic Year

Date Acquired: 01/09/0007

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

The collection contains handbooks produced annually by Lesley College (the undergraduate school), which had the following name changes: the Lesley Normal School, 1909-1920; the Lesley School, 1920-1944; Lesley College, 1944- 2009 and 2012- 2015. The handbooks contains the academic calendar, Lesley facts, campus maps, information from the student government association, student services (including health services), campus regulations (including residence hall rules), academic regulations, academic awards, scholarships, loans, student activities (including religious groups and clubs), names of administrative officers and the Board of Trustees, phone numbers, and a listing of each student by class.

Historical Note

Lesley College is the Undergraduate College of Lesley University.

In 1909 Edith Lesley [Wolfard] opened "The Lesley Normal School" ("normal" at the time designating teacher training schools) in her home on Everett Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts to train young women to become kindergarten and early elementary teachers. Influenced by the philosophy of German educator Friedrich Froebel, Lesley's two-year curriculum stressed the importance of physical activity (singing, dancing and gardening) and play, particularly with blocks and similar objects. Edith Lesley also stressed the values of treating students as individuals and the importance of "gracious living." Eleven students graduated in the first class in 1911. In the following year classes in household arts were added and in 1918, a department, known first as Domestic Science, later (1939-1940) as Home Economics, was established, offering a one- or two-year program which prepared students to work in various public institutions, including schools and hospitals.

By the 1920s the school, now "The Lesley School," had twenty-two instructors, had acquired three buildings for dormitories, and had built Alumni Hall for assemblies and classes. Extra-curricular activities came to play an important role, with Wednesday afternoons reserved for musical or theatrical student performances. Later in the decade a three-year kindergarten and early elementary program was offered in addition to the two-year course of study. During the 1930s Gertrude Malloch, who had joined the school as a teacher and administrator in its first decade, became the school's chief administrator, after Edith Lesley Wolfard's health began to fail.

The late 1930s to early 1940s saw some changes at Lesley. Enrollment, which had been over 300 earlier in the decade, declined during the Depression, reaching a low of 63 at one point. In 1939 the school, to that point privately owned, became a non-profit institution through incorporation, and during the academic year 1939-1940 it added a four-year teacher-training program. In 1943 this four-year program was recognized as meeting all the requirements of the B.S. in education and soon after that the school began to award this degree. Marguerite Franklin became the college's first president, overseeing the transition period. 1944 saw the school's name changed to Lesley College and the appointment of Trentwell Mason White as President. Edith Lesley Wolfard retained the titles of Founder and Director Emeritus. The first baccalaureate degrees were awarded in June of 1945. In 1949, Lesley College acquired the Walter F. Dearborn School and the Lesley Ellis School, and in 1959 added a third, the Carroll Hall School, as laboratory schools, providing opportunities for study and observation by Lesley College students and faculty.

The next decade was one of growth for Lesley, with the addition of evening and summer classes, a coeducational graduate program in education, new buildings, and an enrollment expanding to 380 undergraduates and 52 graduate students. Lesley achieved regional and national accreditation in 1952 and in 1954 was empowered to confer a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. The decade was also marked by loss, with Edith Lesley Wolfard's death in 1953 and President White's in 1959. Don Orton succeeded Dr. White in July 1960.

As the 1960s progressed, enrollment continued to grow and the college continued to offer a variety of student activities and clubs. In 1961, the first New England Kindergarten Conference was held. The 1960s also saw the death of Gertrude Malloch, who donated her home to be used as a house for the Lesley College President.

Lesley College continued to grow in the 1970s and 1980s, both building and acquiring new properties. In 1985, Lesley inaugurated president, Margaret McKenna.

In the 1990s, Lesley continued to increase the size of its campus by purchasing the Porter Exchange Building, which doubled its classroom space. The college also joined Division III of the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association), distinguishing itself as an institution that encourages both physical and intellectual prowess. International programs increased, being offered in Europe, the Middle East, and Canada. In 1998, the school acquired the Art Institute of Boston.

The new millennium proved to be one of success and distinction for Lesley. In 2000 Lesley officially became a university, and its undergraduate program was renamed Lesley College. In July 2007 Dr. Joseph B. Moore was appointed as president of Lesley University.

Administrative Information

Accruals: It will receive additions on a yearly basis.

Alternate Extent Statement: approx. 80 items

Access Restrictions: None

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Acquisition Source: The Office of the President

Acquisition Method: Interoffice Transfer

Appraisal Information: In good condition

Processing Information: The Collection was processed by Alyssa Pacy, Lise Foss, Kelly Weaver and Mark Montgomery in 2007. It will receive additions on a yearly basis.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1: 1937-1938 to 1964-1965

Folder 1: 1937-1938
Folder 2: 1941-1942
Folder 3: 1947-1948
Folder 4: 1948-1949
Folder 5: 1949-1950
Folder 6: 1950-1951
Folder 7: 1951-1952
Folder 8: 1952-1953
Folder 9: 1953-1954
Folder 10: 1954-1955
Folder 11: 1955-1956
Folder 12: 1956-1957
Folder 13: 1957-1958
Folder 14: 1958-1959
Folder 15: 1959-1960
Folder 16: 1960-1961
Folder 17: 1961-1962
Folder 18: 1962-1963
Folder 19: 1963-1964
Folder 20: 1964-1965

Box 2: 1965-1966 to 1973-1974

Folder 1: 1965-1966
Folder 2: 1966-1967
Folder 3: 1967-1968
Folder 4: 1968-1969
Folder 5: 1969-1970
Folder 6: 1970-1971
Folder 7: 1971-1972
Folder 8: 1972-1973
Folder 9: 1973-1974

Box 3: 1974-1975 to 1987-1988

Folder 1: 1974-1975
Folder 2: 1975-1976
Folder 3: 1976-1977
Folder 4: 1977-1978
Folder 5: 1978-1979

Folder 6: 1979-1980
Folder 7: 1980-1981
Folder 8: 1981-1982
Folder 9: 1982-1983
Folder 10: 1983-1984
Folder 11: 1984-1985
Folder 12: 1985-1986
Folder 13: 1986-1987
Folder 14: 1986-1987
Folder 15: 1987-1988

Box 4: 1988-1989 to 2004-2005

Folder 1: 1988-1989
Folder 2: 1989-1990
Folder 3: 1990-1991
Folder 4: 1991-1992
Folder 5: 1992-1993
Folder 6: 1993-1994
Folder 7: 1999-2000
Folder 8: 2001-2002
Folder 9: 2002-2003
Folder 10: 2004-2005

Box 5: 2005-2006 to 2014-2015

Folder 1: 2005-2006
Folder 2: 2006-2007
Folder 3: 2008-2009
Folder 4: 2012-2013
Folder 5: 2013-2014
Folder 6: 2014-2015