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Lesley College Publications

Yearbooks, 1924-2008

By Tessa Updike

Collection Overview

Title: Lesley College Publications, Yearbooks, 1924-2008

ID: 06/01/004

Creator: Lesley College (1909 -)

Extent: 102 Items

Arrangement: Arranged on shelf chronologically by publication year.

Date Acquired: 01/09/2007

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

Formerly called *The Lesleyan*, this collection consists of yearbooks published annually by Lesley College for the graduating classes between the years 1924 to 2008. The yearbooks contain photographs of students, staff, faculty and organizations, providing a valuable historical view of Lesley University throughout the years. The yearbook was not published in 2007 and 2009-present.

Yearbooks are also accessible online at the following site:

<http://digitalcommons.lesley.edu/yearbooks/>

Yearbooks for 1925, 1927, and 1943 are available in the Archives in digital format only; Physical copies of these editions may be found at the Lesley University Office of Advancement.

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: Additions received on a yearly basis, upon publication.

Access Restrictions: None

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Acquisition Source: Office of the President

Acquisition Method: Inter-office transfer and donations.

Appraisal Information: Good condition, basic preservation needed.

Preferred Citation: Lesley University Archives

Processing Information: This Collection was processed by Tessa Updike.

Finding Aid Revision History: Updated by Marie Wasnock in 2014.

Box and Folder Listing

- Item 1: Lesley Year Book, 1924
- Item 2: Lesley School Year Book, 1925
- Item 3: Lesley School Year Book, 1926
- Item 4: Lesley Year Book, 1927
- Item 5: Lesley Year Book, 1928
- Item 6: The Lesleyan, 1929
- Item 7: Lesley Year Book, 1930
- Item 8: The Lesleyan, 1931
- Item 9: The Lesleyan, 1932
- Item 10: The Lesleyan, 1933
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- Item 12: The Lesleyan, 1935
- Item 13: The Lesleyan, 1936
- Item 14: The Lesleyan, 1937
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Item 62: Lesley College Yearbook, 1985
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Item 64: The Lesleyan, 1987
Item 65: The Lesleyan, 1988
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Item 69: Lesley College Yearbook, 1992
Item 70: Lesley College Yearbook, 1993
Item 71: Lesley College Yearbook, 1994
Item 72: Voices Carry, 1995
Item 73: Lesley College Yearbook, 1996
Item 74: Carpe Diem, Seize the Day, 1997
Item 75: On the Inside Looking Out, 1998
Item 76: Reflections, 1999
Item 77: Making Our Mark, 2000
Item 78: Seasons of Change, 2001
Item 79: Something Completely Different, 2002
Item 80: Making a Statement, 2003
Item 81: 2K4, 2004
Item 82: Reflections of the Past, Visions of the Future, 2005
Item 83: New Beginnings, 2006
Item 84: Lesley University Yearbook, 2008