

Lesley College Current, 1970-1987

By Marie Wasnock

Collection Overview

Title: Lesley College Current, 1970-1987

ID: 10/01/006

Creator: Lesley College (1909 -)

Extent: 2 Boxes

Arrangement: Arranged in chronological order.

Date Acquired: 02/25/2011

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

The *Lesley College Current* was published by the Lesley College Office of Public Relations and Communications and distributed to alumnae, parents, students, faculty, staff, governing boards, and friends of Lesley.

Its purpose was to represent various aspects of the College - its achievements, aspirations, diversity, and controversies. In September 1970, the Current replaced the Alumnae Review, the Parents Newsletter, and the Community Newsletter.

This collection contains issues from April 1971 to Spring 1987. Unrepresented issues will be added to the collection as they are acquired and accessioned.

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

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Processing Information: Processed by Marie Wasnock, February 2011.

Finding Aid Revision History: Finding aid revised as issues are accessioned into collection.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1: The Current, Sept 1970 - Fall 1979

Folder 1: The Current, April 1971 - Dec 1972

Folder 2: The Current, Jan 1973 - Spring 1974

Folder 3: The Current, Sept 1974 - Spring 1975

Folder 4: The Current, Fall 1975 - Spring 1976

Folder 5: The Current, Summer 1976 - Winter 1977
Folder 6: The Current, Summer 1977 - Spring 1979
Folder 7: The Current, Summer 1979 - Fall 1979

Box 2: The Current, Winter 1980 - Spring 1987

Folder 1: The Current, Winter 1980 - Spring 1981
Folder 2: The Current, Summer 1981 - Winter 1982
Folder 3: The Current, Spring 1982 - Spring 1983
Folder 4: The Current, Summer 1983 - Winter 1984/Spring 1985
Folder 5: The Current, Summer 1985 - Winter/Spring 1986
Folder 6: The Current, Summer/Fall 1986 - Spring 1987