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Lesley College Publications

Course Catalogs, 1909-2010

By Alyssa Pacy

Collection Overview

Title: Lesley College Publications, Course Catalogs, 1909-2010

ID: 06/01/001

Creator: Lesley College (1909 -)

Extent: 9.0 Cubic Feet

Arrangement: The collection is arranged chronologically by academic year. Each folder contains only items from a single academic year. One academic year consists of fall, winter, spring, and summer.

Date Acquired: 01/09/2007

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

The collection contains course catalogs 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 - present. The course catalogs contains names of administrative officers and the Board of Trustees, faculty, a brief history of Lesley College, description of library facilities, instructions for admission and registration, requirements for degrees, description of types of financial assistance, tuition, and fees. The collection contains the following years: 1909-1910, 1913-1914, 1917-1918, 1919-1920, 1922-1923 to 1923-1924, 1926-1927 to 1940-1941, 1943-1944 to 1944-1945, 1947-1948 to 2004-2005, 2006-2007 to 2009-2010.

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. 160 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 Cathy Durso in 2007.

Finding Aid Revision History: It will receive additions on a yearly basis.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1: 1909-1910 to 1944-1945

Folder 1: 1909-1910
Folder 2: 1913-1914
Folder 3: 1917-1918
Folder 4: 1919-1920
Folder 5: 1922-1923
Folder 6: 1923-1924
Folder 7: 1926-1927
Folder 8: 1927-1928
Folder 9: 1928-1929
Folder 10: 1929-1930
Folder 11: 1930-1931
Folder 12: 1931-1932
Folder 13: 1932-1933
Folder 14: 1933-1934
Folder 15: 1934-1935
Folder 16: 1935-1936
Folder 17: 1936-1937
Folder 18: 1937-1938
Folder 19: 1938-1939
Folder 20: 1939-1940
Folder 21: 1940-1941
Folder 22: 1943-1944
Folder 23: 1944-1945

Box 2: 1947-1948 to 1961-1962

Folder 1: 1947-1948
Folder 2: 1948-1949
Folder 3: 1949-1950
Folder 4: 1950-1951
Folder 5: 1951-1952
Folder 6: 1952-1953
Folder 7: 1953-1954
Folder 8: 1954-1955
Folder 9: 1955-1956
Folder 10: 1956-1957

Folder 11: 1957-1958
Folder 12: 1958-1959
Folder 13: 1959-1960
Folder 14: 1960-1961
Folder 15: 1961-1962

Box 3: 1962-1963 to 1970-1971

Folder 1: 1962-1963
Folder 2: 1963-1964
Folder 3: 1964-1965
Folder 4: 1965-1966
Folder 5: 1966-1967
Folder 6: 1967-1968
Folder 7: 1968-1969
Folder 8: 1969-1970
Folder 9: 1970-1971

Box 4: 1971-1972 to 1979-1980

Folder 1: 1971-1972
Folder 2: 1972-1973
Folder 3: 1973-1974
Folder 4: 1974-1975
Folder 5: 1975-1976
Folder 6: 1976-1977
Folder 7: 1977-1978
Folder 8: 1978-1979
Folder 9: 1979-1980

Box 5: 1980-1981 to 1985-1986

Folder 1: 1980-1981
Folder 2: 1981-1982
Folder 3: 1982-1983
Folder 4: 1983-1984
Folder 5: 1984-1985
Folder 6: 1985-1986

Box 6: 1986-1987 (1 of 2) to 1989-1990

Folder 1: 1986-1987 (1 of 2)
Folder 2: 1986-1987 (2 of 2)
Folder 3: 1987-1988
Folder 4: 1988-1989 (1 of 2)
Folder 5: 1988-1989 (2 of 2)
Folder 6: 1989-1990

Box 7: 1990-1991 to 1995-1996

Folder 1: 1990-1991
Folder 2: 1991-1992

Folder 3: 1992-1993

Folder 4: 1993-1994

Folder 5: 1994-1995

Folder 6: 1995-1996

Box 8: 1996-1997 to 2001-2002

Folder 1: 1996-1997

Folder 2: 1997-1998

Folder 3: 1998-1999

Folder 4: 1999-2000

Folder 5: 2000-2001

Folder 6: 2001-2002

Box 9: 2002-2003 to 2005-2006

Folder 1: 2002-2003

Folder 2: 2003-2004 (1 of 2)

Folder 3: 2003-2004 (2 of 2)

Folder 4: 2004-2005

Folder 5: 2005-2006

Box 10: 2006-2007 (1 of 2) to 2009-2010 (1 of 2)

Folder 1: 2006-2007 (1 of 2)

Folder 2: 2006-2007 (2 of 2)

Folder 3: 2007-2008 (1 of 2)

Folder 4: 2007-2008 (2 of 2)

Folder 5: 2008-2009 (1 of 2)

Folder 6: 2008-2009 (2 of 2)

Box 11: 2009-2010 (2 of 2)

Folder 1: 2009-2010 (2 of 2)