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University Archives Inventory

Record Group Number: DP014

Title: Mary Elizabeth Bickerstaff Payne Papers

Date: circa 1980s through 2010

Extent: 4 boxes

Creator: Payne, Mary Libby

Administrative/Biographical Notes: Mary Elizabeth (Libby) Bickerstaff Payne was born in Gulfport, Mississippi on March 27, 1931. Upon graduation from Gulfport High School, Payne attended Mississippi State College for Women in 1951. While at M.S.C.W, she was a part of organizations, such as the Forensic Council and the Student Christian Association. Originally, Payne attended M.S.C.W for ballet but changed her major to political science. She then transferred to University of Mississippi after her two year stay at M.S.C.W. Payne graduated for Ole Miss School of Law in 1955. In that same year, she married Bobby R. Payne.

Mary Libby Payne became the first dean of the Mississippi College School of Law in 1975, serving as dean until 1978. Payne then taught at the college from 1978 to 1994. Upon retiring from teaching in 1994, Payne was then elected as the first woman charter member of the Mississippi Court of Appeals until 2001. Mary Libby Payne has received a number of awards for her achievements throughout her the years. In 1987, Payne was named Woman of the Year by the Mississippi Association for Women in Higher Education. She received the national Christian Legal Society's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002. In 2005, Payne received the Mississippi Bar's Lifetime Achievement Award. She has also received the Mississippi Women Lawyer's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. Mary Libby Payne received the Governor's Medal of Service in 2011. In 2012, she received Mississippi Bar's Women in the Profession Trailblazer Award. Recently in 2012, the Mississippi College School of Law had established the Mary Libby Payne Lectureship Series on Christianity and the Law.

Keeping roots to MUW, Mary Libby Payne is a part of the MUW Alumni Association, class of 2015 for the board. She was also a member of the Mississippi's First Alumnae Association upon the split of the alumnae associations in 2007. Noted in this collection are two former presidents of the university, Clyda S. Rent and Claudia Limbert. Rent severed as president from 1989 to 2001. Claudia Limbert severed as president from 2002 to 2010. Mary Libby Payne currently lives in Pearl, Mississippi.

Mississippi's First Alumnae Association and MUW Alumni Association:

Mississippi's First Alumnae Association was first founded by the class of 1889. The association first president served her first year in 1890. This association has been providing the university with alumnae support for this institution.



In 2007, the Alumnae Association splits into two different associations: the Alumnae Association and the Alumni Association. Both associations went to the courts by 2008. In 2011, both associations joined back together creating what is now known as the MUW Alumni Association. The association now holds the claim of being the original association but the name changed from Alumnae to Alumni.

The MUW Alumni Association still supports the mission of the institution but it also promotes Alumni support, which is encouraged by recruiting students to attend the institution and making contributions, financial and otherwise

Scope and Content Notes: The Mary Elizabeth (Libby) Bickerstaff Payne Papers is arranged by year at the minimum order kept in the collection. It contains correspondence and subject files from 1980- 2010. The bulk of the years in this collection are the 1980s and the 1990s. Subjects include: minutes, correspondence, member lists, letters and emails from the Alumnae association, MUW Alumni Association, Mississippi's First Alumnae association, newspaper clippings, alumnae association split, court records and miscellaneous.

System of Arrangement: roughly chronological

Conditions Governing Access: See University's archivist for more information regarding access to the emails.

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Language: English

Finding aids: Finding aid available on office pc at
file:///C:/Users/user/Documents/Archives/finding%20aids/Finding%20Aid%20Mary%20Libby%20Payne%20Papers.docx.

Appraisal/Destruction: This record is slated for permanent retention.

Description Control: Description based on DACS 2nd Edition. Access points based on Library of Congress Subject Headings and Name Authority File. Finding aid created by Christian Friar, 2013.

Folder List*

*See Alumni Donations finding aid