

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: M. Margaret Jameson

COLLECTION: 4700.0305

IDENTIFICATION: [1926- 2006] Dean of Women and First Dean of Students at LSU

INTERVIEWER: Pamela Dean

SERIES: University History – Women at LSU

INTERVIEW DATES: July 6, 1993; July 13, 1993; July 17, 1993; September 24, 1993; February 2, 1994

FOCUS DATES: 1960s

ABSTRACT:

Session I

Tape 428, Side A

Born September 8, 1920 in Anderson County, South Carolina; rural background; school history of Jameson's siblings; close relationship with grandfather; interested in math from an early age; very few women taught subjects like math in school; early mentor, Willabell Duckworth; family association with a particular African-American family the Andersons; college experience a Winthrop College; work in dormitories in college(National Youth Administration funded job during the Great Depression); working in Dean of Women's office at Winthrop; early teaching jobs; job during World War II with Pratt-Whitney aircraft in mechanical engineering; Master's degree at Syracuse;

Tape 428, Side B

Helping women students enter "male" courses of study; job as Assistant Dean of Women at Vanderbilt University; living and eating arrangements for women and women administrators at Vanderbilt; interviewing and accepting a job at Texas Western College(now University of Texas at El Paso); moving with the president of TWC to University of Maryland; accepting job at Mississippi State College for Women(now Mississippi University in Columbus, MS); dealing with students and a problem at Ole Miss; a job offer from LSU;

Session II

Tape 434, Side A

Interviewing with James Reddoch for position as LSU's Dean of Women; events surrounding the opening of the position of Dean of Women; experience with sororities; importance of football and acquiring football tickets; meeting with the student body prior to hiring; issues brought by the student body, dress code, visiting in men's apartments; LSU was a new work experience due to its size;

Tape 434, Side B

Finding an apartment in Baton Rouge; meeting Ione Burden and Julie Saucier; housing at LSU, dormitories and sorority houses; organization of dormitories and sorority houses; women entering historically male areas; dormitories named for women;

Session III

Tape 462, Side A

Regulations on campus that were challenged: dress code for women, birth control dispensed at Health Center, women required to live on campus; Dr. Pinkie Palmer, head of LSU Health Center; inequality in policy for renting married student housing; dormitory regulations; changing visiting regulation since could not enforce it; dealing with campus and city police regarding students; Dean French, Dean of Men.; cases before the student code of conduct;

Tape 462, Side B

The code of student conduct; walkouts of girls dormitories; discussion of Ted Schirmer, president of LSU student body; banquet to change president of student body from Ted Schirmer to Jay Darden; attending fraternity functions; organization of sororities were better than fraternity; alumni involvement in Greek organizations; inequality in housing; campus response to assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Session IV

Tape 581 Side A

Personal policy in dealing with students (remember pleasant things); Dr. Pinkie Palmer, female doctor of LSU Health Center; student health insurance through the school; James Reddoch, Margaret Jameson and Dean French's methods of dealing with student challenges; dress code; meeting LSU's student body; how Jameson related to the men in LSU's administration; "etiquette classes" with the fraternities; becoming dean of students in 1976;

Tape 581 Side B

Jameson's experience and background were assets to her career; women involved in student organizations; Jameson's staff; Renee Nesbitt, Julia Waits, Joyce Lyford, Kathy Marcell, Pat Newman; policy for assigning roommates in dormitories; black students in dormitories; experiences with students with disabilities, and tragedies

Tape 582 Side A

Tragedies in the girls dormitories; discussion of Dean French's dealing with students; approaching the dean about unequal policies; legal experienced related to the school; greatest change in the university – computers; the importance of college training for positions in university administration; differences between sororities and fraternities within Greek organization

Session V

Tape 603 Side A

Honor societies at LSU: Phi Beta Kappa, ODK (Omicron Delta Kappa), Mortarboard, Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Eta Sigma; students governing student organizations; unequal interviewing practices for medical and professional schools; Jameson's transition from Dean of Women to

Dean of Students; student discipline with the code of student conduct; Jameson's reaction about Martin Luther King's assassination and the events on campus; student protests on campus; more personal relationships between administrators and students;

Tape 603 Side B

Differences between men and women student violations of rules; Jameson's training prepared her for her experiences on LSU's campus; dealing with tragedies on campus; parking on campus; changing the infirmary to a health center; complaints about the cafeteria; getting female students out of jail;

TAPES: T428, T434, T462, T581, T582, T603 **TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 7.5 hours

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 281 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Letters, article

RESTRICTIONS: None