

Baylor University . The Texas Collection

Huston-Tillotson University Records. 1930-1935

Summary Information

Creator	Tillotson College, 1877 - 1952
Language	English
Abstract	The Huston-Tillotson University Records consist of correspondence and financial documents from Tillotson College as University President Mary Elizabeth Branch tried to keep the college open during the Great Depression.

Subjects

African American universities and colleges -- Texas -- Austin. / African Americans -- Education (Higher). / African Americans -- Texas-- History / Tillotson College, Austin, Texas.

Administrative Information

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Preferred Citation When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:

Huston-Tillotson University Records, Accession #3828, Box#, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information Described by Paul T. Fisher and released on 2012-11-28.

Scope and Content

The Huston-Tillotson University Records were acquired by gift in one transaction from Kathy Riggs in 2012 October 5. The collection begins in 1934 and ends in 1936. Records include letters and financial documents. Correspondence is by far the largest series, with many letters asking students and their parents to pay their tuition bills, and letters noting payments for various education-related expenses.

Administrative/Biographical History

Huston-Tillotson University, a small liberal arts and sciences school in Austin, Texas, has offered a quality education to scholars for many years. The school is operated today jointly by the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church. Historically, most of the students have been African-American, and the coeducational university has drawn a lot of support from African-American communities in Austin.

Huston-Tillotson University was originally two separate colleges, Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College, which merged in 1952 to form the current school. Both schools were religiously affiliated, Samuel Huston College with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Tillotson College with the American Missionary Society of Congregational Churches. The materials in this collection are linked to Tillotson College in the 1930s, before the merger with Samuel Huston College to form Huston-Tillotson University in 1952.

During the 1930s, Mary Elizabeth Branch was president of Tillotson College, an all-girls junior college in Austin, Texas. Branch had received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Chicago, and had served as dean of women at what was in 1928 the largest high school in the country for black girls. She came to Tillotson in 1930.

Tillotson College, like many schools, struggled to operate as usual during the Great Depression. Before Mary Branch arrived, Tillotson College was dealing with poor administration and declining student population. After her arrival, major changes began at Tillotson. She raised enough money to double the number of faculty, offer more scholarships, construct new dormitories and gymnasiums, and build better relations with the community and other schools in the area. Most of this was done during the Great Depression, when many schools were trying just to stay open. Much of the collection reflects Branch's struggles to collect tuition from students and their parents, and Tillotson College's purchases during the early 1930s.

Mary Branch's improvements were recognized on a national level when Tillotson College achieved an "A" rating from the Southern Association of Colleges in 1943, seven years after it was admitted to membership in the American Association of Colleges. Mary Branch passed away in 1944 July 9 at the height of her career. Her work to improve Tillotson College paid off when Tillotson merged with Samuel Huston College in 1952 to form the present-day Huston-Tillotson University. Huston-Tillotson continues the legacy of quality education in Austin today, originally established by Tillotson College and Samuel Huston College in the 1800s.

Related Resources

Related citations

Brown, Olive D. and Michael R. Heintze. "Branch, Mary Elizabeth." *Handbook of Texas Online*. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbray>. Accessed November 14, 2012.

"Huston-Tillotson College." *Handbook of Texas Online*. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbh12>. Accessed November 14, 2012.

"Huston-Tillotson College." Vertical File, n.d. Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Shackles, Chrystine I. *Reminiscences of Huston Tillotson College*. Austin, Texas: Best Printing Company, 1973

"Tillotson College." *Handbook of Texas Online*. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbt27>. Accessed November 14, 2012.

Archival Arrangement

This collection was not organized prior to this finding aid. The collection arrived at The Texas Collection in two large pink box-like binders, with the materials stuffed inside.

Currently, the Huston-Tillotson University Records are arranged in two series: I. Correspondence, II. Financial Documents.

Series 1: Correspondence. 1930-1935

Administrative/Biographical History

This series contains various letters written to and from Tillotson College. Most had something to do with the school's finances; many are from parents asking about their student, or from the college to the parents asking for the student's bill to be paid. Other letters are to various companies that the college bought supplies from, including bookcases from Gaylord, books from Barnes and Noble, and food from various area merchants. One letter orders basketball jerseys and basketballs for the college girls' team. This series is in good condition.

Item List

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 January- September 25
 Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 September 26-29
 Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1934 October 1-2
 Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1934 October 1-2
 Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 October 3-12
 Box 1. Folder 6. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 October 15-23
 Box 1. Folder 7. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 October 24
 Box 1. Folder 8. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1934 October 25
 Box 1. Folder 9. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1934 October 25
 Box 1. Folder 10. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 October 26-31
 Box 1. Folder 11. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 November 1-2
 Box 1. Folder 12. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 November 1-2
 Box 1. Folder 13. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1934 November 6-14
 Box 1. Folder 14. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1934 November 6-14
 Box 1. Folder 15. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 November 15-19
 Box 1. Folder 16. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 November 21-27
 Box 1. Folder 17. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 December 6-11
 Box 1. Folder 18. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1934 December 14
 Box 1. Folder 19. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1934 December 14
 Box 1. Folder 20. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 December 19-31
 Box 1. Folder 21. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 January 3-8
 Box 1. Folder 22. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1935 January 11
 Box 1. Folder 23. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1935 January 11
 Box 1. Folder 24. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 January 12-19
 Box 1. Folder 25. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 January 21-26
 Box 1. Folder 26. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 February 1-9
 Box 1. Folder 27. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1935 February 11
 Box 1. Folder 28. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1935 February 11
 Box 1. Folder 29. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1935 February 12-16
 Box 1. Folder 30. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1935 February 12-16
 Box 1. Folder 31. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1935 February 18-21
 Box 1. Folder 32. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1935 February 18-21
 Box 1. Folder 33. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1935 February 25-28
 Box 1. Folder 34. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1935 February 25-28
 Box 1. Folder 35. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 3), 1935 March 4-5
 Box 1. Folder 36. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 3), 1935 March 4-5
 Box 2. Folder 1. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (3 of 3), 1935 March 4-5
 Box 2. Folder 2. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 March 6
 Box 2. Folder 3. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1935 March 8-13
 Box 2. Folder 4. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1935 March 8-13
 Box 2. Folder 5. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 March 14-16
 Box 2. Folder 6. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 March 18-26
 Box 2. Folder 7. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 March 27-30
 Box 2. Folder 8. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 April 1-3
 Box 2. Folder 9. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1935 April 6-10
 Box 2. Folder 10. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1935 April 6-10
 Box 2. Folder 11. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 April 10-16
 Box 2. Folder 12. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 April 17
 Box 2. Folder 13. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 April 18-30
 Box 2. Folder 14. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1935 May 4-14
 Box 2. Folder 15. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1935 May 4-14
 Box 2. Folder 16. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 May 15-20
 Box 2. Folder 17. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 May 21-28
 Box 2. Folder 18. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (1 of 2), 1935 June 11-17
 Box 2. Folder 19. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University: (2 of 2), 1935 June 11-17
 Box 2. Folder 20. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 June 20-26
 Box 2. Folder 21. Correspondence: From Huston-Tillotson University, 1935 June 28
 Box 2. Folder 22. Correspondence: To Huston-Tillotson University, 1930-1931
 Box 2. Folder 23. Correspondence: To Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 September
 Box 2. Folder 24. Correspondence: To Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 October 1-11
 Box 2. Folder 25. Correspondence: To Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 October 12-22
 Box 2. Folder 26. Correspondence: To Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 October 23-24
 Box 2. Folder 27. Correspondence: To Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 October 24-31
 Box 2. Folder 28. Correspondence: To Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 November 3-16
 Box 2. Folder 29. Correspondence: To Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 November 17-22
 Box 2. Folder 30. Correspondence: To Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 November 26-30
 Box 2. Folder 31. Correspondence: To Huston-Tillotson University, 1934 December 2-10

Series 2: Financial Documents. 1933-1935

Administrative/Biographical History

This series contains various bills, receipts, and student bills generated by Tillotson College. This series is in average condition.

Item List

- Box 3. Folder 18. Financial: General, 1933-1935
- Box 3. Folder 19. Financial: Bills and Receipts, 1935
- Box 3. Folder 20. Financial: Student Bills, 1935