SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title: Olivia Futch Papers  
Dates: 1927-1975  
Location: University Archives, RG 13/010  
Record Group No.: 13/010 Education  
Creator: Futch, Olivia, 1906-1998  
Physical Description: 1.59 linear feet (2 boxes)  
Languages: Collection material in English.  
Processing Information: Special Collections staff processed the collection. Julia A. Cowart updated the finding aid in 2019.  
Summary: Addresses, essays, a thesis and dissertation, published works and photographs of Dr. Olivia Futch, Dean of Woman’s College Furman University.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:


Related Material:

- Furmaniana folder – Olivia Futch
- American Association of University Women (AAUW) Records, SC Division Acc. 0000-049

Biographical Sketch:

A Florida native, Olivia Futch received both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in education in 1927 from Florida State College for Women. She was awarded her Ph.D. in Education and Psychology from Bryn Mawr College in 1934.
Futch taught in several secondary schools and was Head of the Education Department at St. Mary’s College in Kansas from 1935 - 1938 before coming to Furman University in 1938 as an Assistant Professor. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 1944, full Professor in 1948, and served as Head of the Education Department from 1945 – 1950. In June 1951, Futch was elected to succeed Elizabeth Lake Jones as Dean of the Woman’s College. The title of Dean of the Woman’s College changed to Dean of Women in 1961 when the women finally united with the men on one campus. Futch then became Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

Futch was also very active in educational committees outside of the university. She was President of South Carolina College Teachers of Education for three years, was part of the steering committee for the South Carolina Conference on Education, was on the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools’ Commission on Research and Service, and was President of the Furman Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Dr. Futch participated in many committees that focused on women educators, as well. She served as the South Carolina State President of the American Association of University Women, the President of the South Carolina Conference on the Status of Women, and as a Board of Trustees member of the Greenville Business and Professional Women’s Club.

After years of service to Furman, Futch retired as Dean in 1965 but continued to teach in the Education Department until 1971 when she was designated professor of education emeritus and an honorary Furman alum. Futch died in DeKalb County, Ga. on February 19, 1998.

**USING THE COLLECTION**

**Access Restrictions:** None.

**Preferred Citation:** [Identification of item], Olivia Futch Papers, RG 13/010 [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

**ARRANGEMENT**

Arranged chronologically by material type.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Dr. Olivia Futch Papers contain addresses, essays, a thesis and dissertation, published works and photographs, the majority created during her time as Dean of Woman’s College Furman University. The addresses were given at conferences, organizational meetings and Furman events.

The folder of Miscellaneous Materials contains a program for the May 23, 1961 Chapel Service, likely the last service before the female students moved to the new Furman campus beginning fall 1961. The responsive reading was adapted from a Woman’s College traditional service; “We want our school to understand and find a place for each girl who joins us.”

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Contents Inventory

Box 1


Box 2

Folder 1. Address, “Enter the Door,” Southeastern Regional Conference of Kappa Delta Epsilon, undated
Folder 2. Address, “Patriotic Meditation,” Mission USA, undated
Folder 3. Address, “Six Bells for Senior Order,” undated
Folder 5. Address, presented at AAUW Florence Branch meeting, 195?
Folder 6. Address, Parent’s Day, Furman University, 1960
Folder 7. Chapel Talks, Furman University, 1953 – 1955
Folder 8. Chapel Talks, Furman University, 1956 – 1959
Folder 10. Devotional for Golden Agers, September 5, 1975
Folder 13. Letter, “Greetings from Dean Futch,” ca. 1950 [letter to new students]
Folder 14. Miscellaneous Materials
Folder 15. Photographs
Folder 16. Published Essays
Folder 17. Published work based on dissertation research, 1934-1935