

Bridgewater State University

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**Ann O. Coakley Collection,
1930, 1933, 1951-2015
(MSS-039)**



*Finding Aid Compiled by
Orson Kingsley, November 2021*

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Volume: 6.5 linear feet (5 document boxes), 3 objects

Acquisition: All items in this manuscript group were donated to Bridgewater State University by John Coakley in 2019 and Joan Casabian in 2021 with the exception of some material transferred from University Archives.

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Ann O. Coakley Collection Biographical Sketch

Ann Oldham Coakley was born in Norwood, MA in 1926. She graduated from Norwood High School in 1944, Boston University's Sargent College in 1948, and the University of North Carolina, Greensboro in 1955. While a student at Sargent College, Coakley played lacrosse, tennis, field hockey, and softball. In 1951 she was named to the United States lacrosse touring team and spent 10 weeks traveling through Great Britain and Ireland while playing other national and regional teams.

In 1959 Coakley took a position at Bridgewater State teaching physical education. She began the woman's lacrosse program at Bridgewater in 1960, serving as coach from 1960-1978. She remained involved with numerous lacrosse organizations and committees her entire career. She was inducted into Boston University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1984, Bridgewater State's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992, the New Agenda: Northeast Women's Hall of Fame in 1993, the New England Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1998, and both the United States Lacrosse Hall of Fame and New England Women's Sports Hall of Fame in 2000. She passed away on March 21, 2017.

Scope and Content Note

This collection focuses on artifacts, photographs, awards and honors Coakley received during her lifetime. The majority of material has been kept in frames and stored in flat-file archival boxes.

Related collections include: [New Agenda: Northeast Records](#), the [Mary Jo Moriarty Collection](#), and the [Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Collection](#).

Box and Folder List

Box 1

Folder

1. Assorted material from Bridgewater State publications and other resources on Ann Coakley, 1963-2003
2. Reception in Honor of Retirees program at Bridgewater State, 1989
3. Write up of Coakley, "A Life in Lacrosse," from the Boston Globe, September 18, 2002
4. Article on Coakley – "In the Twinkling of an Eye," from the magazine Life Care Leader, 2015
5. Copy of United States Women's Lacrosse 1951 Touring Team Record (handwritten diary format, includes team roster), created by Anne L. Wilkinson, 1951
6. 50th reunion material from the 1951 U.S. Women's Lacrosse Touring team, 2001
7. Notebook of handwritten songs by Coakley about the International Touring Team and trip logistics, c. 1970
8. Numerous Hall of Fame induction speeches by Coakley, 1984, 1992-2002
9. National Lacrosse Hall of Fame Induction – program, photograph, speech, chronology of Coakley's career, 2000
10. "Crosse-Checks," the official publication of the United States' Women' Lacrosse Association, 1962, 1965
11. "Crosse-Checks" publication, Coakley on cover as manager of the 1970 Touring Team, includes article by Coakley titled, "Lacrosse tour 1970: Great Britain & Ireland," Spring 1971
12. "Crosse-Checks" publication, includes interview with Coakley, October 1981
13. Coakley's Master's Thesis from the Women's College, University of North Carolina, titled, "A Comparison of the Physical Education Curricula for Undergraduate Women Professional Students in Geographically Selected Colleges and Universities in the United States with Special Reference to a Comparative Survey of Directed Teaching Practices, August 1954
14. Dr. Haughey Memorial Dedication, 1987
15. New England Lacrosse Hall of Fame induction material, 1998
16. Bridgewater State University Hall of Fame induction material including speech, 1992
17. Photograph booklet of Coakley for U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame, 2000
18. Photographs and her lacrosse players she coached, c. 1980
19. Photographs of Coakley with BSU lacrosse players and administrators, 1999
20. Photograph, BSU Emeriti Faculty brunch, 2007
21. New Agenda: Northeast Hall of Fame program and a photograph of Coakley, 2011
22. Photograph of unknown lacrosse team, undated
23. Photographs of Coakley, undated
24. Photograph of Mary Pratt, Rose Somensini, Ann Coakley, Helen Sullivan, and Sheila McKenna, undated

Box 2

- Coakley's National Lacrosse Hall of Fame ring, c. 2000
- Boston University Hall of Fame pin, undated
- Assortment of pins, mostly pertaining to lacrosse, undated
- BSC class of 1972 (women's lacrosse team?), 1972

- Baby photograph of Coakley, c. 1933
- Baby photograph of Coakley, c. 1930
- BSC women's lacrosse team photograph coached by Coakley, 1976
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Senate Official Citation in recognition of Coakley's retirement from BSC after thirty years as an educator, 1989
- Comic style drawing of/by Coakley's students, 1973
- Town of Bridgewater Proclamation of Recognition in honor of Coakley's thirty years as an educator, 1989
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts and BSC Citation for Outstanding Performance, 1988
- Award certificate for dedication and service to students in the Adult Basic Education Program at Bristol Community College, 2002

Box 3

- National Lacrosse Hall of Fame plaque, 2000
- New England Lacrosse Hall of Fame plaque, 1998
- New Agenda: Northeast Women's Hall of Fame award, 1993

Box 4

- Bridgewater State College Athletic Hall of Fame award, 1992
- Bridgewater State University service award presented at opening of Adrian Tinsley Athletic Complex, 2010
- Bridgewater State College certificate of appreciation for contributions to higher education during 30 years of teaching at BSC, 1989
- Bridgewater State College Pope Society Award, 2008
- Bridgewater State College Certificate of Appreciation for dedicated service as a trustee of the BSC Foundation Board, 2008
- Hyannis-Bridgewater Physical Education Alumni Association service and dedication award, 1997

Box 5

- Framed assortment of memorabilia from Coakley; items include: patches of the United States Women's Lacrosse League, Sargent College 50th reunion pin, two rule books for the All England Ladies Lacrosse Association (one is opened and contains Ann's name and date), patches of the Boston Women's Lacrosse Association, and more, 1951, undated
- Large framed photograph of Coakley from Boston University Athletic Hall of Fame, undated
- Two of Ann Coakley's tennis racquets, undated
- Photograph of Coakley, c. 2015

Oversized Objects

- 3 Lacrosse sticks used by Coakley, all made in England, undated