

## Special Collections and University Archives

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# Vivian M. Barfield Papers

1972-1977

3 boxes (1.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: FS 98



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Vivian Barfield began her tenure as the first female Assistant Athletic Director at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in January 1975, less than three years after passage of Title IX of the Higher Education Act. Dedicated to the advancement of women's athletics, Barfield was charged with upgrading and expanding the women's athletic program and she was expected to contribute to the decision-making process in men's athletics as well. Despite making strides toward bringing UMass into compliance with Title IX, her efforts were ultimately undercut by a running dispute over her job description with Athletic Director Frank McInerney, and her stay in Amherst was correspondingly brief.

Despite the brevity of Vivian Barfield's tenure as the first female Assistant Athletic Director at UMass, her papers offer insight into a key moment in the history of women's collegiate athletics. With materials relating to Title IX, affirmative action, and perhaps most importantly, Barfield's class action suit against the University, the collection reflects the volatile mid-1970s mix of women's sports, second-wave feminism, and gender discrimination at UMass.

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## **Background on Vivian M. Barfield**

Vivian Barfield began her tenure as the first female Assistant Athletic Director at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in January 1975, less than three years after passage of Title IX of the Higher Education Act. Dedicated to the advancement of women's athletics, Barfield was charged with upgrading and expanding the women's athletic program and she was expected to contribute to the decision-making process in men's athletics as well.

Despite making strides toward bringing UMass into compliance with Title IX, Barfield's efforts were ultimately undercut by a running dispute over her job description with Athletic Director Frank McInerney, and her stay in Amherst was correspondingly brief. "Discrimination is not intentional," she wrote in a 1975 memo to the Faculty Senate Rules Committee, "Oft times discrimination results from continuing to do things in the same fashion as they have always been done." After resigning from UMass in 1976, Barfield became the Director of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (established 1975) at the University of Minnesota.

## **Scope of collection**

Despite the brevity of Vivian Barfield's tenure as the first female Assistant Athletic Director at UMass, her papers offer insight into a key moment in the history of women's collegiate athletics. With materials relating to Title IX, affirmative action, and perhaps most importantly, Barfield's class action suit against the University, the collection reflects the volatile mid-1970s mix of women's sports, second-wave feminism, and gender discrimination at UMass. The collection also includes professional correspondence, financial reports, memoranda, minutes from meetings of the Professional Association of the University of Massachusetts Amherst (P.A.U.M.A.), policy statements by the University, recommendations for reconstructing the UMass Amherst Athletic Council, and a survey of women's athletics at other schools.



Vivian Barfield

# Inventory

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Athletic Council and Title IX

1975

Box 1: 1

Affirmative Action

1973-1976

Box 1: 2

Athletic Programs and Physical Education

1974-1975

Box 1: 3

Commission Against Discrimination Complaint

1974-1977

Box 1: 4-5

Discrimination Charges Against UMass Amherst

1975-1977

Box 1: 6

Financial Reports

1972-1974

Box 1: 7

Financial Reports

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Health Exam Form and Health Insurance Statement

1976

Box 2: 3

Memoranda

1975

Box 2: 4-6

Memoranda

1976 Jan-July

Box 2: 7-9

P.A.U.M.A.

1975-1976

Box 3: 1-2

Policy Statements

1973-1975

Box 3: 3

Survey of women's athletics at other schools

1975-1976

Box 3: 4

Yankee Conference Briefing

1975 July 3

Box 3: 5

Women's Intercollegiate Correspondence

1972-1976

Box 3: 6

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Acquired by the Department of Special Collections and University Archives in April 2008.

### Processing Information

Processed by SCUA, 2008.

### Language:

English

## Copyright and Use (More information )

*Cite as:* Vivian M. Barfield Papers (FS 98). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

### Subjects

Sex discrimination in sports-Massachusetts  
University of Massachusetts Amherst-Athletics  
University of Massachusetts Amherst-Women  
Women physical education teachers

### Contributors

Barfield, Vivian M. [main entry]  
Barfield, Vivian M

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Special Collections & University Archives  
University Libraries : UMass Amherst  
154 Hicks Way : Amherst, Mass. 01003-9275  
Ph. 413-545-7282 (545-SCUA)

