



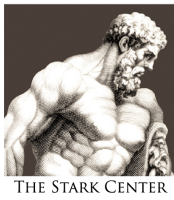
THE STARK CENTER

The H.J. Lucher Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports
The University of Texas at Austin

**Doctors Curtis Jackson (Shorty) and Mary Evelyn Buice Alderson
Collection
1912-1988, undated**

Abstract

Doctors Curtis Jackson (Shorty) and Mary Evelyn Buice Alderson were faculty in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education of the College of Education at the University of Texas at Austin from 1939 to 1973. The collection is comprised of materials created and collected by the couple, including Shorty's diplomas, letters of congratulations for Shorty's retirement, dance and physical education course materials, and assorted cards and clippings gathered by Mary.



SUMMARY INFORMATION

Size of Collection:	2 Boxes, 1 Oversized Folder, 1 painting [4.15 linear feet]
Creator:	Alderson, Mary Evelyn Buice.
Acquisition Info:	Unknown.
Accruals:	Acquisition of painting, January 2025.
Language(s):	English.
Processed By:	Caroline Jones, June 2024.
Conservation Notes:	Rolled materials were flattened, and newspaper and magazine clippings were copied onto acid-free paper.

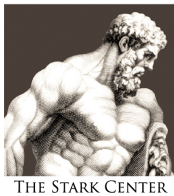
RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Though the Stark Center retains the right to limit the use of the Doctors Curtis Jackson (Shorty) and Mary Evelyn Buice Alderson Collection under certain conditions. For any questions about the Doctors Curtis Jackson (Shorty) and Mary Evelyn Buice Alderson Collection, you can contact the Stark Center by email at info@starkcenter.org or call (512) 471-4890.

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INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Preferred Citation

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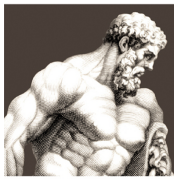
Other Finding Aids

C. J. Alderson Papers, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.

The University of Texas at Austin Athletics Media Relations Men's Hall of Honor Collection, H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports, The University of Texas at Austin.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Doctor Curtis Jackson (Shorty) Alderson was born in Franklin, Kentucky, on September 20, 1888. At an early age he moved to Texas and graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1912. As a student at the University of Texas (UT) in Austin, he was a varsity letterman in cross country and tennis, as well as a reserve letterman and captain of the 1926 and 1927 football teams. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws in 1922 and went on to teach and coach at high schools in Calvert and Austin. In 1924 he was asked by his friend Clyde Littlefield to coach football with him at UT.



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During his time working at UT, Shorty taught Physical and Health Education from 1939 to 1959 and coached several sports, including: Football (Assistant Coach 1924-1927, 1942-1947, Freshman Coach 1927-1934), Basketball (Assistant Coach 1924-1927, Freshman Coach 1927-1934), Track (Assistant Coach 1924-1927, Freshman Coach 1927-1934), and Swimming (Head Coach 1931-1934). He also officiated and was announcer at sporting events on high school and collegiate levels from the 1920s through the 1960s. He was known as the “Voice of Memorial Stadium,” having been the official announcer for UT football, baseball, and basketball games during the 1940s and 1950s. He is credited with introducing swimming as a competitive sport in the Southwest Conference (SWC) in 1931 and was a member of the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) rules committee on swimming from 1931 to 1933. Under his coaching UT’s swim team won their first three SWC championships (1932-1934). From 1945 to 1958 Shorty coordinated Drivers Education courses at UT in partnership with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the American Automobile Association (AAA).

He earned a Master of Arts in Sociology from UT in 1932, and both a Master of Arts in Physical Education in 1939 and a Doctor of Education specializing in Physical Education in 1949 from Columbia University in New York. While at Columbia he was Instructor of Physical Education during the 1938 to 1941 summer sessions and served as a scout for football coach Lou Little. He retired as Associate Professor and married Doctor Mary Evelyn Buice in 1959.

Alderson was involved in many committees, professional organizations, and honor societies. He was a charter member of both the SWC football and basketball officials’ associations, supervisor of the Austin Chapter of Football Officials in the 1960s and advised Coach Dana X. Bible on NCAA football rules for twelve years. He was a member of both President Truman’s and the Texas Governor’s Commissions on Safety in 1949. He was also involved in the Austin Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, the Texas State Teachers Association, the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation (TAHPER), the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (AAHPER), and the American Red Cross. From 1962 to 1967 he was a consultant to the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness in Texas and a member of President Kennedy’s National Council of Physical Fitness.

Shorty received numerous honors, including the dedication of the Texas Relays to him and L. Theo Bellmont in 1952, an honorary life membership in the Southwest Football Officials Association and “Pat on the Back” award in *Sports Illustrated* in 1959, Associate Professor Emeritus of Physical Education by the Ex-Students Association of UT in 1961, and a special citation from Texas Governor John Connally for professional and civic contributions to the state and the nation in 1965. He was inducted into the Longhorn Hall of Honor in 1967. He died



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Austin on August 31, 1970, when he was 81 years old. In 1972 the Dr. C. J. Alderson Memorial Red Cross Aquatic School Scholarship was started in his honor.

Doctor Mary Evelyn Buice Alderson was born in Hillsboro, Texas, on January 30, 1908. She received both a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from North Texas State University. She went on to receive a Doctor of Education degree from UT. She taught undergraduate courses in Physical Education at UT from 1947 to 1973 and designed student teaching protocols for women, provided special counseling for undergraduate majors, and supervised student teachers. From 1960 to 1961 Mary was President of the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (TAHPERD). She served in leadership roles in several organizations, including the American Red Cross and Girl Scouts of America, and received honor awards from the Southern Association for Physical Education of College Women, TAHPERD, the American Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD), and the Southern District AAHPERD. She was a member of Pi Lambda Theta, a national honors society for education, and a charter member of the Epsilon Kappa Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an International Honorary Society for Distinguished Teachers. When she retired in 1973, she began a second career as an artist and traveled widely to study painting. Mary died in Austin on December 25, 1993, when she was 85 years old.

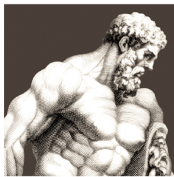
The Alderson Lecture and Awards Celebration, started in 1981 in honor of the Aldersons, is presented each year by the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education. The Dr. Mary Buice Alderson Undergraduate Scholarships, established in 1996 in honor of the Alderson's combined 70 years of service to UT, are awarded during this celebration. Both Doctor Aldersons were inducted into the Kinesiology and Health Education Hall of Honor in 2007.

Sources, in addition to the records themselves:

Core, D. A. "Dr Curtis Jackson Alderson." Accessed June 3, 2024.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17969131/curtis-jackson-alderson>.

Core, D. A. "Dr. Mary Evelyn *Buice* Alderson.' Accessed June 3, 2024.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17969102/mary-evelyn-alderson>.

Stanforth, Dixie. "Departmental Scholarships." Last modified on May 12, 2020.
<https://cloud.wikis.utexas.edu/wiki/spaces/khe/pages/25696359/Departmental+Scholarships>.



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The University of Texas at Austin Athletics. “Dr. Curtis Jackson “Shorty” Alderson.” Accessed May 30, 2024. <https://texassports.com/honors/hall-of-honor/dr-curtis-jackson-shorty-alderson/493>.

The University of Texas at Austin Athletics Media Relations Men’s Hall of Honor Collection, H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture & Sports, The University of Texas at Austin.

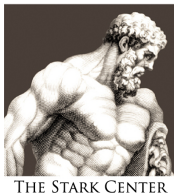
The University of Texas at Austin College of Education. “Alderson Lecture and Awards Celebration: Department of Kinesiology and Health Education.” Accessed May 31, 2024. <https://education.utexas.edu/departments/kinesiology-health-education/khe-about-us/alderson-lecture-awards-celebration/>.

The University of Texas at Austin College of Education. “Curtis Jackson “Shorty” Alderson.” Accessed May 30, 2024. <https://education.utexas.edu/profile/curtis-jackson-shorty-alderson/>.

The University of Texas at Austin College of Education. “Mary Evelyn Buice Alderson.” Accessed May 30, 2024. <https://education.utexas.edu/profile/mary-evelyn-buice-alderson/>.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is organized into two series. The first series, “Doctor Curtis Jackson “Shorty” Alderson materials, 1912-1970, undated,” includes Shorty’s high school and UT diplomas, his certificate to practice law from the Supreme Court of Texas, a bound volume of letters written to Shorty upon his retirement, an “In memoriam” certificate for Alderson from the National College Physical Education Association for Men, 40 photographs from the driver’s education course he taught, and artifacts. The bound volume includes letters from friends, colleagues, former students, and members of professional organizations Alderson was in congratulating Shorty on his retirement and his marriage. The letters describe many of the projects, sports, and associations he was associated with. Notable UT faculty and alumni are among the letter writers, including Dana X. Bible, L. Theo Bellmont, Clyde Littlefield, Daniel Penick, Harvey Penick, and Anna Hiss. Some names of significant contributors to the volume are included under “People” in the “Subject Headings” section at the end of this finding aid. A complete listing of contributors can be provided to researchers by contacting the Stark Center. Artifacts in this collection are orange cardboard tubes originally containing Shorty’s diplomas, and a set of drumsticks. It is unclear who the drumsticks belonged to or their significance beyond the inscription of the letter “A” on the end of each of them.



The second series, “Doctor Mary Evelyn Buice Alderson materials, 1927-1988, undated,” includes lesson plans titled “Child Growth and Development with Implications for Physical Education,” “Physical Education Lesson Plan,” and “Teaching Skills,” an outline titled “Movement & Music Approaches to Creativity,” and a document dated May 6, 1968, titled “Activity Poems for Children’s Dance” by Linda Palmer. An undated photograph of Dr. Alderson with students is also present. Other materials include a book of dance instructions for square dances, the jitterbug, and the foxtrot, four pieces of correspondence received, unused postcards and greeting cards collected by Mary, and newspaper and magazine clippings. The original clippings were photocopied onto acid-free paper for preservation purposes. Duplicates of unused postcards and greeting cards were removed. Postcards include artwork and images from Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, the Ozarks, Mexico, and Guatemala. Other items in this series include Dr. Alderson’s memo pad, newspaper clippings covering the presentation of the first Dr. C.J. Alderson memorial Red Cross Aquatic School Scholarship in 1972, an issue of *The Pathfinder*, a weekly newsletter from Washington, D. C., published in 1927, and a two-page typed inventory of Dr. C.J. (Shorty) Alderson memorabilia owned by Dr. Mary Buice Alderson. Most of what is listed in this inventory was not received by the Stark Center.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1: Doctor Curtis Jackson (Shorty) Alderson materials, 1912-1970, undated

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Diplomas and certification, 1912-1932	MMap Case	Drawer 21
Retirement Gift, 1959, 1970	1	1-2
Drivers Education Course photographs, 1947, 1956, undated	1	3-5
Artifacts, 1922, 1932, undated	2	

Series 2: Doctor Mary Evelyn Buice Alderson materials, 1927-1988, undated

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Physical Education Course materials and photograph, 1968, undated	1	6
Dance notebook, 1947, undated	1	7



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Correspondence received, 1977-1978, 1981, 1988	1	8
Unused postcards and greeting cards, undated	1	9
Miscellaneous photograph and items, 1988, undated	1	10
Miscellaneous newsletter and clippings, 1927, 1972, 1982, undated	1	11
“Spring Scene,” oil painting in frame, undated	SMA-ART- 4812	

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Organizations

American Automobile Association	Bible, Dana X., 1891-1980	Reddick, DeWitt C. (Dewitt Carter), 1904-1980
American Red Cross. ARC	Brace, David K. (David Kingsley), 1891-1991	McLean, Roy J.
National College Physical Education Association for Men (U.S.)	Falk, Bibb August, 1899-1989	Penick, Daniel A., 1869-1964
Texas Education Agency	Hart, James P. (James Pinkney), 1904-1987	Penick, Harvey
Texas. Department of Public Safety	Haskew, Laurence D. (Laurence DeFee), 1907-1991	Price, Ed B.
University of Texas at Austin	Hiss, Anna	Snyder, Dave
University Interscholastic League (Tex.)	Littlefield, Clyde	Whitaker, B. M.
	Manuel, Herschel Thurman, 1887-1976	

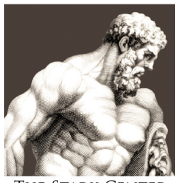
Subjects

Aquatic sports

Art

People

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Automobile driver
education

Foxtrot (Dance)

Physical education and
training

Child development

Jitterbug (Dance)

Square dance

Dance

Movement education

Teaching