

**Historical Collection  
Miller F. Whittaker Library  
South Carolina State University**

**THE PAPERS OF CLEMMIE EMBLY WEBBER**

The papers of Clemmie Embly Webber (1913- ) reflect the life of a female African-American scientist, educator, concerned citizen, wife, and mother active in local, state, and national organizations.

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**CHRONOLOGY**

1913	Born in St. Matthews, South Carolina, to Henry W. and Collin Robinson Embly
c. 1917	Family moved to Treadwell Street in Orangeburg, South Carolina
1933	Married Paul Rainey Webber, Jr.
1935	Received Bachelor of Science degree from the Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina (now South Carolina State University)
1935-1937	Taught science and mathematics at the Aiken Graded School
c. 1935	Gave birth to son Paul
c. 1937	Gave birth to daughter Carolyn
1938-1941	Taught third through fifth grade at the Prince School; served as science instructor in programs for in-Service teachers in Darlington

	and Rock Hill, South Carolina during the summers
1942-1960	Co-owner and manager of the College Soda Shop with husband Paul
1943-1945	Den Mother, local Cub Scouts
1943-1948	President, Felton Laboratory School PTA
1943-present	Life Member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
1945-present	Order of the Eastern Star
1949	Mother of the Year, South Carolina State College Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
1949-1954	Taught chemistry and physics at Wilkinson High School
1950-1952	President, Wilkinson High School PTA
1952	Received Master of Science degree from the Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina
1954-1960	Assistant Professor of Chemistry, South Carolina State College
1954-present	Beta Kappa Chi National Scientific Honor Society
1955	Pursued additional study at Columbia University
1955-1957	National First Vice President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
1955-1980	National Institute of Science; National Science Teachers Association
1956	Gave birth to daughter Sheryl
1956-1977	American Chemical Society
1956-1978	National Education Association
1958	Began acting as a consultant for science workshops for teachers, public school districts, South Carolina State College, and S.C. Department of Education
1958-present	National Association of University Women
1960	Pursued additional study at the University of North Carolina; National Science Foundation Grant for College Chemistry Teachers; Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church Certificate of Appreciation
1960-1966	Associate Professor of Chemistry, South Carolina State College
1960-1977	Jack and Jill of America
1960-present	Affiliated with the Democratic Party
1962-present	Life Member, NAACP; National Links, Inc.

1963	Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church Certificate of Appreciation
1963-present	Phi Delta Gamma National Graduate Honor Society
1965-1970	Science Coordinator, special program for the National Teacher Corps, South Carolina State College
1966	Received Doctorate of Science Education degree from The American University
1966-1979	Professor of Science Education and Coordinator of Secondary Science Teacher Education, South Carolina State College
1967-1975	American Association of University Professors
1968	Pursued post-graduate study at the South West Center for Advanced Studies in Dallas, Texas; National Science Foundation Grant in Geophysics
1968-1970	Member, Human Relations Council
1968-1971	Science Coordinator, pilot educational program for disadvantaged children, Dorchester County, South Carolina
1969-1975	Off-Campus Professor, Science for Elementary School Teachers, University of South Carolina at Kingstree
1970-1981	Member, Board of Trustees, Orangeburg School District Five
1970-present	Member, Orangeburg Regional Hospital Auxiliary; South Carolina Academy of Science; American Association of University Women
1971	Association of American College for Teacher Education Certificate of Recognition
1971-1972	Participated in a one-year Leadership Institute for South Carolina School Board Members at the University of South Carolina
1972	Member, Citizen's Conference for the Modernization of South Carolina Courts
1973-1980	Member, Board of Directors, South Carolina School Boards Association
1974	South Carolina School Boards Distinguished Service Award as a School Board Member
1974-1979	Member, Board of Directors, Carolina Low Country Girl Scout Council; member, South Carolina Council on Environmental Education
1974-1980	Member, Board of Directors, Orangeburg

	Chapter of the American Cancer Society
1974-present	South Carolina Science Council
1975-1976	Member, Governor's Committee for the Equalization of School Finance
1975-1977	Co-Director, National Science Foundation Summer Programs for Earth Science Teachers
1975-1978	Member, Board of Directors, South Carolina Employee's Association
1975-1979	Metric Association
1975-1981	Chairman, Board of Trustees, Orangeburg School District Five
1977	Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church Certificate of Appreciation; the South Carolina Education Association Award for Exemplary Effort Toward the Passage of the South Carolina Education Finance Act of 1977
1977-	Board of Directors, South Carolina Hall of Science and Technology
1977-present	Kappa Delta Pi National Education Honor Society
1979	South Carolina State College Department of Natural Sciences Award for Outstanding Service to the Department
1979-1980	Chairman, Governor's Advisory Committee on Early Childhood
1980	Citizen of the Year Award, Epsilon Omega Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Award in Recognition of Outstanding Civic and Educational Achievements
1980-1981	President, South Carolina School Boards Association
1981-	Education Commission of the States
1982-	Secretary, Orangeburg County Council on Aging
1982-	Assistant Secretary, Orangeburg County Democratic Women's Club
1982-	Director, Lower Savannah Region Task Force on Critical Human Needs
1983	Selected as the 1983 South Carolina Mother and the 1983 National Mother; the Clemmie E. Webber Scholarship Fund was established by the city and citizens of Orangeburg to aid a science education major each year
1984	Received the South Carolina State College

	Distinguished Alumnus Award
1989	Received the South Carolina Academy of Science Emeritus Award
1991	Awarded the Benjamin E. Mays Distinguished Alumnus Medallion by South Carolina State College

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### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Scientist, educator, mother, and activist Clemmie Embly Webber was born in St. Matthews, South Carolina, in 1913, the oldest of Henry W. and Collin Robinson Embly's five children. The family moved to a house on Treadwell Street in Orangeburg, South Carolina, around 1917. The value of education was ingrained into the Embly children, and this love of learning would sustain Clemmie throughout her life.

As a young child, Webber was enrolled in the elementary department at Claflin College. After completing the eighth grade at Claflin, she entered the academy department at the Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina. Thus began her long association with the institution that later became South Carolina State University. Webber went on to receive both her bachelor's and master's degrees from South Carolina State, after which she pursued further study at Columbia University and the University of North Carolina and a doctoral degree from the American University. Webber became a professor at South Carolina State College in 1955, a role she continued to serve in until her retirement in 1979.

Like her voracious appetite for knowledge, Webber seemed to possess an equal desire for bettering the lives of South Carolina's citizens, especially its children. Serving on an endless stream of boards and committees in numerous capacities, Webber's civic efforts have been recognized with many awards.

Webber also devoted herself to her family. In 1935 she married Paul R. Webber, Jr., who taught economics at South Carolina State College and served as an economic development specialist with the South Carolina Governor's Office. Because of her maternal devotion to her three children Paul, Carolyn, and Sheryl and her philosophy of motherhood, Webber was selected as the 1983 South Carolina Mother of the Year and, a few months later, the 1983 National Mother of the Year.

Clemmie Webber continues to serve in many civic, professional, and family roles today. The tradition of excellence instilled by her parents has been successfully upheld by Webber and passed on to her own children.

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## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The papers of Clemmie Embly Webber (1913- ) consist of 1 cubic foot of materials that serve to document her involvement in science, education, and various civic, state, regional, and national organizations. The papers span from 1966 to 1995. The collection is divided into five series, in accordance with the original order established by Dr. Webber: (1) Civic, (2) National, (3) Professional, (4) State, and (5) Miscellaneous.

### **Series I: Civic**

Series I consists of four sub-series: Awards, Miscellaneous, Organizations, and Speaking Engagements. The Awards sub-series consists of certificates, clippings, and programs relating to awards received by Webber from various community organizations. The Miscellaneous sub-series contains miscellaneous clippings and correspondence regarding Webber's civic activities. The Organizations sub-series documents the various civic organizations with which Webber was affiliated. Included in this sub-series is a photograph of Webber with fellow Delta Sigma Theta Sorority members. The Speaking Engagements sub-series includes correspondence and programs documenting Webber's speaking engagements with various civic groups.

### **Series II: National**

Series II consists of two sub-series: National Mother of the Year and National School Boards Association. The National Mother of the Year sub-series contains clippings, articles, correspondence, and miscellaneous items relating to Webber's 1983 selection as National Mother of the Year. The National School Boards Association sub-series reflects Webber's involvement in and contributions to the National School Boards Association.

### **Series III: Professional**

Series III consists of seven sub-series: Awards, Biographical Sketches and Resumes, Committees/Boards, Miscellaneous, Photographs, Speaking Engagements, and Writings. The Awards sub-series consists of clippings, correspondence, and programs relating to professional honors and awards conferred upon Webber. The Biographical Sketches and Resumes sub-series consists of biographical sketches and resumes reflecting Webber's professional career. The Committees/Boards sub-series includes programs, reports, correspondence, and clippings reflecting the various professional committees and boards upon which Webber served. The Miscellaneous sub-series contains miscellaneous correspondence and clippings relating to Webber's professional career. The Photographs sub-series consists of photos of Webber in various professional capacities. The Speaking Engagements sub-series consists of programs, correspondence, and reports reflecting Webber's professional speaking engagements. The Writings sub-series contains professional material written by Webber.

## **Series IV: State**

Series IV consists of six sub-series: Education Commission of the States, Governor's Task Force on Critical Human Needs, Miscellaneous, South Carolina Mother of the Year, South Carolina School Boards Association, and State Ethics Commission. The Education Commission of the States sub-series consists of correspondence relating to Webber's appointment to the Education Commission of the States. The Governor's Task Force on Critical Human Needs sub-series contains programs, correspondence, and reports reflecting Webber's involvement with the Governor's Task Force on Critical Human Needs. The Miscellaneous sub-series contains correspondence and programs relating to Webber's activities with miscellaneous state-level groups. The South Carolina Mother of the Year sub-series includes proceedings and correspondence relating to Webber's selection as 1983 South Carolina Mother of the Year. This sub-series also contains Webber's application for the 1983 South Carolina Mother of the Year. The South Carolina School Boards Association sub-series contains programs, pamphlets, correspondence, reports, journals, minutes, and clippings documenting Webber's involvement with the South Carolina School Boards Association. The State Ethics Commission sub-series includes correspondence and minutes reflecting Webber's affiliation with the State Ethics Commission.

## **Series V: Miscellaneous**

Series V consists of several items relating to Webber's husband, Paul Rainey Webber, Jr., and a mortar board.

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## **DESCRIPTION OF SERIES**

- 1. Civic**  
1972-1995  
Folders 1-11  
Arranged topically by sub-series: Awards, Miscellaneous, Organizations, and Speaking Engagements; arranged chronologically within sub-series.
- 2. National**  
1974-1987  
Folders 12-15  
  
Arranged topically by sub-series: National Mother of the Year and National School Boards Association; arranged chronologically within sub-series.
- 3. Professional**  
1966-1992  
Folders 16-23

Arranged topically by sub-series: Awards, Biographical Sketches and Resumes, Committees/Boards, Miscellaneous, Photographs, Speaking Engagements, and Writings; arranged chronologically within sub-series.

**4. State**

1973-1993

Folders 24-29

Arranged topically by sub-series: Education Commission of the States, Governor's Task Force on Critical Human Needs, Miscellaneous, South Carolina Mother of the Year, South Carolina School Boards Association, and State Ethics Commission; arranged chronologically within sub-series.

**5. Miscellaneous**

1982

Folder 30

Arranged chronologically.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Folder**

**Series I: Civic**

1	<i>Awards</i>	12 items, 1972-1992
2	<i>Awards</i>	1 item, 21 May 1983
3	<i>Awards</i>	1 item, 16 Nov. 1983
4	<i>Awards</i>	1 item, 18 Jan. 1985
5	<i>Awards</i>	1 item, 15 Mar. 1985
6	<i>Awards</i>	1 item, 25 Jan. 1988
7	<i>Awards</i>	1 item, 3 Feb. 1993
8	<i>Awards</i>	1 item, no date
9	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	9 items, 1983-1995 and no date
10	<i>Organizations</i>	27 items, 1981-1992 and no date
11	<i>Speaking Engagements</i>	14 items, 1983-1991

**Series II: National**

12	<i>National Mother of the Year</i>	13 items, 1983
13	<i>National Mother of the Year</i>	1983-1987 and no date
14	<i>National Mother of the Year</i>	5 items, 1983-1984



15	<i>National School Boards Association</i>	8 items, 1974-1981
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**Series III: Professional**

16	<i>Awards</i>	11 items, 1974-1992
17	<i>Biographical Sketches and Resumes</i>	8 items, 1982-1983 and no date
18	<i>Committees/Boards</i>	10 items, 1967-1979
19	<i>Committees/Boards</i>	24 items, 1980-1985 and no date
20	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	23 items, 1971-1987 and no date
21	<i>Photographs</i>	3 items, 1974 and no date
22	<i>Speaking Engagements</i>	33 items, 1971-1984 and no date
23	<i>Writings</i>	6 items, 1966-1984 and no date

**Series IV: State**

24	<i>Education Commission of the States</i>	4 items, 1981-1982
25	<i>Governor's Task Force on Critical Human Needs</i>	items, 1982-1983
26	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	23 items, 1980-1987
27	<i>S.C. Mother of the Year</i>	6 items, 1983
28	<i>S.C. School Boards Association</i>	31 items, 1973-1993 and no date
29	<i>State Ethics Commission</i>	13 items, 1983-1987

**Series V: Miscellaneous**

30	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	3 items, 1982 and no date
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