Guide to the Papers of

Lionel Richie

Prepared by Jala Robert & Mary-Margaret Ollivierre, 2023

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**Tuskegee University**

**Archives**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** Richie, Lionel. (1949-present)

**Title:** Lionel Richie

**Dates:** 1983-1986

**Quantity:**

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** Lionel Richie is a singer-songwriter from Tuskegee, Alabama. Richie is most known for his presence in the Commodores, and his work as a solo artist.

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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

Papers of Lionel Richie (1949-Present)

**Acquisition Information**

No information available

**Processing Information**

The papers were received for processing in various containers, with the documents in folders. From their arrangement in the containers, the folders were not arranged any particular order. Many of the folders were not labeled, or were mislabeled in reference to their actual contents.

The processors decided to separate the folders into series according to subject matter that would be arranged alphabetically within each series.

In processing the collection, original folders were replaced with acid-free folders. Folders were labeled, either following the original labeling, or in the case of missing or incorrect labels were assigned folder titles. All metal fasteners were removed.

**Index Terms**

The papers are indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Library’s online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

**Subjects:**

Newspaper Clipping Lionel Richie

 Operation Discovery August 1984

 Tuskegee Institute 100th Annual Spring Commencement Exercises

 Operation Discovery August 1984

 Hits” November 8, 1986 Chicago Defender

 Kragen and Compnay October 1983

**Persons:**

Lionel Richie (1949-Present)

**Biography**

Lionel Richie is an iconic American singer, songwriter, and record producer whose captivating voice and heartfelt lyrics have touched the lives of millions around the world. Born on June 20, 1949, in Tuskegee, Alabama, Richie's journey from humble beginnings to global superstardom is a testament to his immense talent, determination, and unwavering passion for music. Throughout his illustrious career, he has won numerous accolades, crafted timeless hits, and left an indelible mark on the music industry. Richie's academic journey led him to Tuskegee Institute (now known as Tuskegee University) on a tennis scholarship. It was during his college years that he formed a group called The Commodores with fellow students Thomas McClary, Milan Williams, William King, Ronald LaPread, and Walter Orange. The band started gaining recognition locally before catching the attention of Motown Records, eventually signing a record deal. Over the years, Lionel Richie continued to release critically acclaimed albums and captivate audiences with his live performances. Songs like "Dancing on the Ceiling," "Say You, Say Me," and "Endless Love" (a duet with Diana Ross) solidified his status as a pop music icon. His rich, velvety voice and soulful delivery have become his trademark, resonating with fans across generations.

**Scope and Contents**

The papers of Lionel Richie consist of documents spanning 1983-1986, including newspaper clippings, personal and business correspondence, and magazine articles prepared for publication.

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**Arrangement**

The papers are arranged into one series.

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

There are no restrictions on access to these papers.

**Restrictions on Use**

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

**Inventory**

**Box Folder**

1 1 Lionel Richie Day October 29, 1983

1 2 Greeting card to Danny Williams from Lionel and Brenda Richie

1 3 Kragen and Company October 1983

1 4 Newspaper Clipping Lionel Richie

1 5 Newspaper Clipping “Lionel Richie Outrageous Tour features a parade of Super Hits” November 8, 1986 Chicago Defender

1 6 Operation Discovery August 1984

1 7 Signed Autograph from Lionel Richie and Brenda to Danny Williams October 29, 1983

1 8 Soul Hits Magazine Spring 1985

1 9 Tuskegee Gram Vol. XXII No. 28 march 1, 1984

1 10 Tuskegee Gram vol. XXII No. 31 March 29, 1984

1 11 Tuskegee Institute 100th Annual Spring Commencement Exercises (Autographed copy) May 12, 1985

1 12 Audiotape Operation Discovery commercial