



**INVENTORY TO
THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY
FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES ALBUM,
1886-1921**

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
Research Center
504 West State Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058
(765) 494-2839**

<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol>

© 2009 Purdue University Libraries. All rights reserved.
Revised: September 16, 2009 and 16 December 2009
Compiled By: Mary Segó and Sammie Morris

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Purdue University Administration
Title	Purdue University Fraternities and Sororities album
Collection Identifier	MSP 26
Date Span	1886-1921
Abstract	The first step in the recognition process for student groups was for the proposed group to submit a petition letter to the President. The album contains the required petitions in their original format, along with the documents that established the process.
Extent	0.25 cubic feet (1 box)
Finding Aid Author	Mary Segó and Sammie Morris, 2009
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Acquisition Information:	Donated by Diane F. Blackwelder, May 19, 2009
Custodial History:	Transfer from Dean of Students Office
Accession Number:	20090519
Preferred Citation:	MSP 26, Purdue University Fraternities and Sorority album, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

Subjects and Genres

Organizations

Purdue University--Fraternities

Purdue University--Sororities

Purdue University--Student Organizations

Form and Genre Types

Records

History of Purdue University Fraternities and Sororities Album

Purdue opened in the fall of 1874, and by spring 1875 the first fraternity, Sigma Chi, had formed. Through the late 1870's and early 1880's, the Purdue administration tried to abolish the fraternity culture at Purdue by requiring all incoming students to sign an anti-fraternity pledge—a promise not to join a fraternity. By using a matriculation pledge as a condition for admission, the administration's strategy was to let the current Sigma Chi members simply graduate in due time and the student organization would eventually close. Purdue was anti-fraternity at the time because President Emerson White believed that the college fraternity was an element of the "classical college" and allowing any classical influences at Purdue would shift its curriculum away from the land-grant focus of mechanic arts (engineering) and agriculture. After a lengthy legal and political battle, Purdue failed in its attempt to ban fraternities and Emerson White resigned in 1883. His successor, James H. Smart, proceeded to formalize a recognition process for fraternities.

President Smart formed a committee of faculty and students sometime in 1883-1885 to formulate terms of recognition for Sigma Chi. One of Purdue's most famous graduates, George Ade, was a student member of Sigma Chi at the time and signed the original agreement with others from the fraternity.

Subsequent fraternities and sororities were recognized using the same procedure developed for Sigma Chi. Purdue's second fraternity, Kappa Sigma, formed in 1885. The first step in the recognition process was for the proposed student group to submit a petition letter to the President. A sample petition letter for [Sigma Nu](#) is online, dated 1893 (although the official founding date for Beta Zeta chapter of Sigma Nu is 1891 - the group may have operated in secret prior to 1893). Purdue has possession of similar documents for most fraternities, sororities, and student organizations founded between 1883-1924.

Some of the original recognition points developed by James H. Smart and George Ade are still in use today for all student organizations, although the authority for working with student organizations has long since been delegated from the Office of the President to the Office of the Dean of Students. Researching sororities through old yearbooks, it appears the first local sorority was formed in 1905 and the first national affiliated sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, formed in 1915.

Source(s):

Purdue Fraternity and Sorority Life. Retrieved September 16, 2009

from:http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.purduegreeks.com/resources/images/purdue_greek_history_page_4.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.purduegreeks.com/history.php&usq= YE6TXgZ-ew_yueF3yPfe1X9Bv7o=&h=1857&w=1512&sz=1062&hl=en&start=1&tbnid=nN1pbO5AX3pFiM:&tbnh=150&tbnw=122&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dfirst%2Bpurdue%2Bfraternity%26gbv%3D2%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DG

Collection Description

Scope

The Purdue University Fraternities and Sororities Album (1886-1921; 0.25 cubic feet) contains the original petition letters for terms of recognition submitted by Purdue University fraternities, sororities and other student organizations. The first recognition documents are from Sigma Chi, the first Purdue University fraternity. It is followed by the petition letter for Sigma Nu. The following documents are in the order they were submitted.

Arrangement

Purdue University Fraternities and Sororities Album, 1886-1921 (0.25 cubic feet)

The majority of materials are arranged in the order received.

Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves and placed in an acid-free box.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Fraternities and Sororities/Student Organizations Scrapbook, 1886-1921

0.25 cubic feet

1 Box Contents

Item

1. Agreements of the Phi Kappa Fraternity, 1917-1918
2. Rules and Regulations Permitting Students to Join Fraternities, undated (circa 1880s)
[mentions Sigma Chi Fraternity signed by President James Smart, George Ade, and others]
3. Resolution Allowing Sophomores to join the Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity, 1886
[signed by George Ade and others]
4. Rules Governing the Organization of Fraternities, undated (circa 1880s)
[Resolution permitting organization of a Chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity signed by J.A. Lilly and others]
5. Application to Join Kappa Sigma Fraternity, 1886
6. Application of Charter Members of the Proposed Phi Delta Theta Chapter, 1893
7. Application of Charter Members of the Proposed Tau Beta Pi Chapter, 1893
8. Letter Regarding the Bylaws of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Society, 1896
[on Debris letterhead]
9. Application of Members of the Beta Beta Chapter of the Sigma Nu Fraternity, 1893
10. Application of Members of the Proposed Chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, 1893
11. Constitution Forming the Skulls of Thirteen Society, undated (circa 1890s)
[on Debris letterhead]
12. Petition to Establish a Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 1893
[signed by President Winthrop Stone, Emma McRae, and O.J. Craig]
13. Application to Establish a Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, 1893
14. Memo from President Stone to Students Regarding Their Request to Organize the Beta Kappa Kappa Chapter of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, 1899
15. Application from Members of the Beta Kappa Kappa to Establish the Indiana Delta Chapter of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, 1901
16. Letter to President Stone Regarding the Disbanding of the Pi Upsilon Society, 1902
17. Application of the Charter Members of the Lambda Iota [?] Chapter of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, undated (circa 1900s)
18. Request by Members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity to Include Freshmen Classes, 1902
19. Request by Members of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity to Include Freshmen Classes, 1902
20. Request by Members of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity to Include Freshmen Classes, 1902

21. Request by Members of the Sigma Nu Fraternity to Include Freshmen Classes, 1902
22. Request by Members of the Sigma Chi Fraternity to Include Freshmen Classes, 1902
23. Request by Members of the Kapp Sigma Fraternity to Include Freshmen Classes, 1902
24. Application of the Charter Members of the Beta Mu Chapter of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, 1903.
25. Constitution for the Purdue Exponent Student Newspaper, 1903
[signed by Emma McRae and others]
26. Agreement Between the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and Purdue University, Debonair Club, 1904
27. Agreement Between the Theta Xi Fraternity and Purdue University, 1905
28. Agreement Between the Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity and Purdue University, 1905
29. Application of the Charter Members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, 1906
30. Agreement Between the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, Iota Alpha Chapter, and Purdue University, 1906
31. Application of the Charter Members of the Proposed Local Sorority of the Phi Lambda Psi, 1906
32. Constitution of the Purdue Agriculturist Publication, 1906
33. Agreement Between the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, Gamma Lambda Chapter, and Purdue University, 1907
34. Agreement Between the Acacia Fraternity and Purdue University, 1907
35. Application of the Charter Members of the Proposed Chapter of the Honorary Agricultural Fraternity of Alpha Zeta, 1902 [?]
36. Agreement Between the Sigma Delta Chi Fraternity and Purdue University, 1911
37. Application of the Charter Members of the Proposed Local Sorority of the Mu Sigma Alpha, 1913
38. Agreement Between the Omicron Nu Sorority and Purdue University, 1914
[ratification and confirmation of application, circa 1914 (signed by Mary Matthews and others)]
39. Agreement Between the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and Purdue University, 1911
40. Agreement Between the Sigma Pi Fraternity and Purdue University, 1912
41. Agreement Between the Eta Kappa Nu Fraternity and Purdue University, 1913
42. Announcement Card, Establishment of the Purdue Chapter of Delta Upsilon, 1914
43. Agreement Between Delta Upsilon and Purdue University, 1914
44. Agreement Between the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority and Purdue University, 1915
45. Agreement Between Lambda Chi Alpha and Purdue University, 1915
46. Petition to Establish The Carzeurans (Mechanical Engineering Seniors) of Purdue University, undated (circa 1900s-1921)
47. Constitution of The Carzeurans Society, undated (circa 1900s-1921)
48. Agreement Between Tau Kappa Alpha Fraternity and Purdue University, 1916
49. Application of the Charter Members of the Proposed Local Sorority of the Delta Rho, 1916
50. Application of the Charter Members of the Proposed Chapter of the Phi Delta Chi, 1916
51. Agreement Between Theta Chi and Purdue University, 1920
52. Application of the Charter Members of the Proposed Chapter of the Phi Lambda

- Upsilon, 1916
53. Agreement Between Alpha Chi Omega Sorority and Purdue University, 1918
 54. Agreement Between Zeta Beta Tau and Purdue University, 1918
 55. Application of the Charter Members of the Proposed Local Sorority of the Kappa Chi, 1918
 56. Agreement Between Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity and Purdue University, 1920
 57. Letter from President Stone Accompanying Agreement Between Kappa Delta Rho and Purdue University, 1921
 58. Agreement and Letter Between Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity (for women), Alpha Theta Chapter, and Purdue University, 1921
 59. Information on the Establishment of the Concordia Club for Lutheran Students at Purdue University, 1921 [photocopies]