October 2012

H88-0411.2. Emersonian Fraternity (Phi Tau Nu). Records, 1919-2006. 3.00 linear ft. RESTRICTED

Hope College
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Abstract

The records of the Emersonian Fraternity (Phi Tau Nu) contain literary meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, background information, photographs, and programs which reflect the functions of this private society. This collection is RESTRICTED except to current members and alumni of the Emersonian Fraternity.

Accession No: H88-0411.2
Provenance: Emersonian Fraternity
Donor: Emersonian Fraternity
Photographs: 194 images (Boxes 1 and 2)
Processed by: Jenifer A. Smith, June 1993
Leon Witteveen, June 1994
Michael Douma, January 2002

History

The Emersonian Society was founded in the fall of 1919 by a small group of Hope College male students seeking to attain moral, social, and intellectual development. With LOVE, HONOR, AND SUCCESS as a guiding motto, Emersonian has attempted to develop leadership in all phases of campus activity.

By 1929, the society had outgrown its house at 77 West 9th Street, and the Emersonian Alumni Association purchased the Southern Fortress, previously known as Beach Court. At this time they reorganized as a college fraternity. This house, which is currently known as the Keppel House, is used by the Chaplin's office.

During World War II, the house was leased to the Army and the college for war use. In 1946, the college declared that they must own all fraternity houses if they are to remain on campus, but the Southern Fortress would still remain the residence of the Emersonians. Beginning again after the war, in 1947, the fraternity resumed its attempts to attain the ideals stated at the time of its organization. Today it still strives to keep the rich heritage of the past while looking forward to the future.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of agendas, constitutions, correspondence, indenture property papers, minutes from 1919-1981, newsletters, newspaper clippings, background information, photographs, and programs. Minutes are restricted 30 years from their originating date. The material is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

The large collection of photographs is primarily of groups and individuals, dated from 1973-1978, but one photograph of a float in a Tulip Time parade is dated 1962, and a few relate to Pledge Week, 1956. The composites are also dated and identified.

Container List
Agendas, September-October 1967
By-Laws, n.d.
Cards, 1940, 1942, n.d.
Certificate of Acceptance, 1967
Coat of Arms, n.d.
Constitutions, 1927-1928, 1972, 1975
Correspondence, 1938-1979
Inaugural Address, 1983
Indenture Property Papers, 1972, 1974
Newsletter, 1964?, 1965
Newspaper Clippings, 1930-1980
Notes, n.d.
Photographs
n.d. (14 images)
Pledge Week, 1956 (3 images)
Float, 1962 (1 image)
March 1973 (21 images)
April, May 1973 (35 images)
Rathskeller Party and Holiday Inn Dance, Fall 1973 (58 images)
1977-1978 (96 images)
Individuals, 1994-1995 (32 images)
Pin, 1984 (donated)
Programs, n.d., 1929-1975

Box 2

Minutes, 1919-1925, 1968-1969
Scrapbook, 1947-1950