Hope College

October 2012

H92-1156. Fraternal Society (Omicron Kappa Epsilon). Records, 1844-[ongoing]. 5.25 linear feet. PARTIALLY RESTRICTED

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Abstract

Records of the Fraternal Society (Omicron Kappa Epsilon) and Fraternal Society Alumni Association contain literary and business meeting minutes, photographs of the Frater Frolics and other fraternity social functions, and historical essays on the founding of the Fraternal Society at Union College in Schenectady, New York, in 1834.

Accession No: H92-1156
Provenance: Fraternal Society
Donor: Fraternal Society
Photographs: 91 images (90 in Box 4; 1 digital)
Processed by: Jenifer A. Smith, June 1993
Ena Brooks, November 1997

History

The Fraternal Society (Omicron Kappa Epsilon) was founded at Union College in Schenectady, New York, in 1834. Union’s Fraternal Society disbanded in 1859 in order to form a new chapter of Alpha Delta Phi. In 1863, Dr. Philip Phelps, a Frater alumnus from Union College and then principal of Holland Academy, initiated members of the Academy’s college classes into a revived Fraternal Society.

The Fraternal Society has established several annual events which have been very popular for the entire college community. One of the most popular of these events was the annual Frater Frolics, a variety show in which Fraternal Society members performed several humorous songs and skits.

After a period of declining membership in the early 1980s, the Fraternal Society was reorganized in 1987. This reorganization gave the Fraters a renewed sense of purpose. Since that time the organization has been growing and receiving significant alumni support.

Scope and Content

The Fraternal Society records document the growth and development of this undergraduate private literary/social society from 1844 to 1992.

Background Materials (1856-1926) include correspondence between members of the Fraternal Society and the librarian at Union College concerning papers documenting the early history of the Fraternal Society. Also included are photocopies from Fraternal Society directories at Union College which cover the history of the Union College chapter and list all members from 1834-1859 in both chronological and alphabetical order.

Constitutions (1863-1956) highlight the Fraternal Society’s structure and purpose on the Hope College campus. The constitutions usually include additional information, such as membership lists, brief histories, and amendments.

Correspondence (1935-1993) includes letters from Frater alumni, letters with area merchants and organizations detailing fund-raisers and other fraternity functions, and various
communications with the Hope College administration.

Frolics (1947-1971) includes director’s reports, flyers, and programs from this annual Fraternal Society show. Photographs of the Frater Frolics are located in Box 4.

Pledging (1966-1991) includes letters from pledges wishing to become a part of the Fraternal Society and several invitations which include membership lists and the semester’s rushing schedule.

Topical File (1927-1992) includes a variety of information regarding the alumni association, regular Fraternal Society functions, newsletters, and speeches.

Minutes (1844-1973, 1987) provide details of the weekly activities in which fraternity members were involved and special topics of interest. The minutes also show how the functions of this fraternity and how they have evolved through over the last century. Minutes are restricted for 30 years after their origination.

The Stories series (1898) contains several short stories written by past members of the Fraternal Society.

Photographs (1946-1984) document many social and athletic functions of the Fraternal Society. Many of the photographs are undated. Additional Fraternal Society photographs are located in the Hope College Photograph Collection (H88-PH2620).

Container List

Box 1

Addresses
Chen, Derek, “The Fraternal Society,” 2017

Addresses (RESTRICTED due to content) (See Restricted Files)

All College Sing, 1954-1956

Alumni Association
Alumni Bulletin, May 1929
100th Anniversary, “Centennial Guest Book, 1834-1934,” 1934
150th anniversary celebration committee, 1984
180th Anniversary celebration, 2014
185th Anniversary celebration, 2019
1949-1960
Alumni Lists, 1984
Correspondence, 1975-1991
Minutes, 1984-1994 (incomplete)
News Clippings, 1984
Reunion Programs (150th, 155th)
Trust Fund, 1941-1958

Background Materials
History (photocopies of early Fraternal Society Catalogs, 1856)
Miscellaneous, n.d., 1913
Catalogue of the Fraternal Society O.K.E, 1847, 1856, 1865-1866
Constitution, 1863-1892 (also History, Amendments, Membership), (F.S. Archives No. 104)
Constitution, 1898 (F.S. Archives No. 105)
Constitution and Bylaws, 1953, 1956
Constitution, Bylaws, Amendments, Memberships, n.d. (F.S. Archives No. 113)
Correspondence, n.d., 1935-1993
_Damascus Blade, The_, 1869 (F.S. Archives No. 46)
Ex-augural Addresses, 1953-1982
Flag Agreements, 1977-1979
Form of Initiation Used By the Fraternal Society—President addresses the Candidates, February 10, 1847
Frolics Flyers, 1967, 1968
Frolics Programs, 1947-1971
Greek Residence Agreement, 1989
History, 2014
History (at Union College) 1873-1926
History of the F.S. while at Union College, 1870 (F.S. Archives 103)
Homecoming Guest List, 2017
Joint Meeting (with other Hope Societies), 1950s
Meeting Notes, 1927
Mission Statement, 2001
Order for Literary Meetings, n.d.
Pledging
  Correspondence, 1966-1989
President’s Notebook, 1955-1956, 1969 (incomplete)
Programs, 1906-1984
Report from the Ad-Hoc Committee, December 15, 1987
Scrapbook, 1968-1969
Serious Papers
  “The Standard Oil Company,” by Harry M. Hakken, 1941
  “Fifth Column - U.S.A.,” by Seymour Padnos
  Untitled, by Mark Meyer, September 20, 1974
Songs
Spring Informal, 1947-1964 (incomplete)
Stationery
Swan Song, 1952
Topical file-Summer Outings, 1993-1994 (plastic tags)
Box 2

Minutes, 1844-1929 (13 folders) (RESTRICTED)

Box 3

Minutes, 1930-1987, 2000-2001 (9 folders) (RESTRICTED)
Addressees (RESTRICTED due to content)
   Untitled, unknown author, n.d.
   Untitled, unknown author, n.d.

Box 4

Manuscripts
   “The Official Archives of the Fraternal Society of Hope College,” (3 folders)
   “The Clarksville Boys or a Search for Mona Cave,” undated (writers include
      Garret Houdelink, Henry Schipper, A.T. Broek, Dinkels, M. Jas,
      Stormzand) F.S. Archives No. 108
   “The Mystery of Macatawa,” Vol. I, 1898 (writers include John Kuizenga,
      John Beardslee, Jr., J.J. De Pree, H. Sluyten) F.S. Archives No. 106
   “The Mystery of Macatawa,” Vol. II, 1898 (writers include John Kuizenga,
      John Beardslee, Jr., J.J. De Pree, H. Sluyten) F.S. Archives No. 107
   “The Tramp,” by George Jones, 1898 (F.S. Archives No.109)

Photographs
   150th Reunion Celebration, 1984
      Billboard (2 images)
      Group (2 images)
      Ice Sculpture (1 image)
   Christmas Party for Jefferson School, December 13, 1965 (9 images)
      2016/2017 (12 images)
   Frater House, n.d. (1 image)
   Frolics, 1946 (1 image), 1950 (1 image), n.d. (40 images)
   Homecoming Parade Floats, n.d. (3 images)
   Man in Drag (Dave Baas), n.d. (2 images)
   Miscellaneous, n.d. (2 images)
   Parties, n.d. (5 images)
   Reunion, n.d. (2 images)
   Sports, n.d. (4 images)
   Scrapbook, 1962-1966

Box 5
Videotape, “Fraternal 160th Anniversary,” 1994 (also DVD)

Oversized

Thanksgiving Party for CASA prank fundraising poster for President Dennis Voskuil’s bike, 2017