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Greek Societies

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Record Group:
Greek Societies

Overview of the Collection

Title:	Greek Societies
Inclusive Dates:	1880-2014 (Inclusive)
Extent:	2.5 Linear Feet
Language:	English
Repository:	SUNY Cortland College Archives Memorial Library 81 Prospect Terrace Cortland, NY 13045 https://cortland.libguides.com/c.php?g=354291

Biographical History

The Cortland Normal School was established in 1868. Greek life was already an appendage of Cortland even before the founding dating back to the Cortlandville Academy. Originally, all organizations-male and female alike were referred to as fraternities, and most of these societies were in fact created as debate clubs. Examples of these include the Men's Debate Club and Ladies Normal Debate Club. These types of clubs, would eventually transform into more traditional fraternal organizations on campus. The Young Men's Normal Debate Club adopted the name of Delphic Fraternity in 1899 and was responsible for the first newspapers at Cortland. The *Index Normalis* was the original name of the paper, but quickly changed to the *Cortland Normal News*.

Other organizations such as Sigma Rho Sigma become popular. Sigma Rho (as it called in short), was previously known as Corloner, Agonian, and the Ladies Normal Debate Club. It was the first female fraternity on campus and established their first chapter residence in the 1920's. Athanae sorority first started in 1890 (after the Ladies Normal Debate Club), which changed course over the years entering into a charter with the Clionians and then referred to as Alpha Sigma Alpha.

Mary Hendrick (Hendrick Hall) and Minnie Alger (Alger Hall) were instrumental early on with assisting in the fruition of these organizations and others such as Delta Phi and Theta Phi, both acquiring houses in the 1920's as well. Five sororities and two fraternities established residences from 1926-1930 and housed roughly 250-students altogether. In the 1940's the Arethusa Society experienced tragedy as their house caught fire and three sisters died as a result.

Many of these organizations began as clubs on campus but continued to evolve over time. It was common for fraternities and sororities to take part on public exercises or annual demonstrations. Additionally, they would host formal gatherings such as balls or dances, and also more artistic or creative outlets like pageants, plays, or debates. The 1920's-1940's is when Cortland started to define some of its lasting traditions, much to the credit of Principle Harry DeWitt DeGroat whose legacy was the establishment of a more communal campus. He attempted to create the "CO-NO-SO" which stood for Cortland Non-Sorority. The idea was to have a place/club for those who were not members of sororities on campus. The Wickwire Cup is another example of this effort. Donated by Mabel Wickwire, the cup was awarded annually to the fraternal organizations with the highest overall GPA to encourage academic success. Today, the College recognizes approximately 20-fraternal organizations on campus. Over the years, some chapters have been banned due to hazing and other violations.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in this record group include photographs, programs, bylaws, plays, annual exercises, constitutions, convocation banquets, annual oratorical contests, induction ceremonies, newsletters, charter letter, songs, newspaper clippings, and public exercises. They range in date beginning from early to mid-1880s up until 2014. Additionally, to keep a visual account of the growing Greek Societies photos were also taken starting from 1885 to 1969. These photos depicted their houses of operations, or members of the Greek Societies. Aside from traditional fraternal organizations, honor society records are also collected such as Phi Kappa Phi. Highlights from the record include the Arethusa Fire, Normal Debating Societies and the *Index Normalis*.

Related Materials

The *Index Normalis* exists within this record, but other related newspapers such as the *Cortland Normal News* exists within the Student Publications record.

Mary Hendrick's scrapbook exists within the Alumni Records, as do several other scrapbooks.

Additionally, many of the records exist in digital format and are available through Digital Commons at Cortland.

<https://digitalcommons.cortland.edu/greek/>

Access

No special restrictions for access.

Preferred Citation

Greek Societies. SUNY Cortland College Archives, Memorial Library, State University of New York College at Cortland, Cortland, NY.

Processing Information

This record is currently fully processed, which means that it has been rehoused and is searchable online.

Finding Aid Information

Created by Kayla Bellan, Spring 2021

Arrangement

The materials are arranged by the record group, then by sub-group, then series. Records are processed to the folder level with the exception of few item-level materials. There are three sub-groups included in these records.

Inventory

Sub-Group 1: Greek Organization and Governance

Series 1: Subject Files

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 120	Folder 1	Greek Life Guide to Fraternities and Sororities at SUNY Cortland	1993-2014
Box 120	Folder 2	Rush Handbook	1966-1967
Box 120	Folder 3	<i>The Composite</i>	1969-1972
Box 120	Folder 4	Clippings	1930's-2014
Box 120	Folder 5	Reports and Policies	1953-1998
Box 120	Folder 6	Misconduct	1966-2010
Box 120	Folder 7	Statistics	1999

Sub-Group 2: Fraternities and Sororities

Series 1: Agonian

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 253	Folder 1	Pamphlets	1902-1916
Box 68A	Folder 1	Photographs	1901-1909

Series 2: Alpha Delta

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 253	Folder 2	By-Laws	1954-2014
Box 253	Folder 3	Minutes	1927-1970
Box 253	Folder 4	Expenditures	1932-1968
Box 253	Folder 5	Letters	1954
Box 253	Folder 6	Membership Lists	1954-1968
Box 253	Folder 7	Booklets	1886-1966
Box 253	Folder 8	Compilation, History of	2014
Box 253	Folder 9	Clippings	1948
Box 67A	Folder 2	Photographs	1901-1959
Box 67A	Item	Alpha Delta Photograph	1901

Series 3: Alpha Phi

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 253	Folder 10	Clippings	1998-2009

Series 4: Alpha Phi Omega

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 253	Folder 11	Clippings	2006-2010

Series 5: Alpha Sigma

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 253	Folder 12	Clippings	1960-2009

Box 253	Folder 13	Booklets	1960
Box 68A	Folder 8	Photographs	1955-1959

Series 6: Arethusa

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 253	Folder 14	Members	1940
Box 253	Folder 15	By-Laws	1927-1989
Box 253	Folder 16	Clippings	1945-2007
Box 253	Folder 17	Songs	2005
Box 253	Folder 19	Sorority Fire Condolences	1948-1949
Box 253	Folder 20	Correspondences and Reports	1947-1948
Box 253	Folder 18	Correspondences and Reports	1948-1950
Box 67A	Folder 4	Photographs	1931-1959
Box 67A	-	Arethusa Photograph	1932

Series 7: Beta Phi Epsilon

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 254	Folder 1	Publicity	1930-2012
Box 68A	Folder 9	Photographs	1955-1959

Series 8: Clionian

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 254	Folder 2	Letters	1928-1947
Box 254	Folder 3	Constitution	1892
Box 254	Folder 4	Publicity	1891-1928
Box 66A	Folder 1	Photographs	1897-1948
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph	1899
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph (2 copies)	1900
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph	1900
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph	1900
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph	1900
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph	1927
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph	1910
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph (2 copies)	1899
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph	1899
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph	1898
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph (4 copies)	1902
Box 66A	-	Clionian Photograph	1909
Box 66A	-	Clionian Club Room Photograph (3 copies)	1905
Box 66A	-	Clionian Club Room Photograph	1905

Series 9: Corlonor

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 254	Folder 5	Booklets	1891-1929
Box 67A	Folder 5	Sigma Rho Sigma (formerly Corlonor) Photographs	1903-1960
Box 67A	-	Corlonor Photograph	1898
Box 67A	-	Corlonor Photograph	1899
Box 67A	-	Corlonor Photograph	1899

Box 67A	-	Corlonor Photograph	1900
Box 67A	-	Corlonor Photograph	1902 or 1903
Box 67A	-	Corlonor Photograph	1903

Series 10: Debating Societies

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 254	Folder 6	Normal Debate Club (NDC) Public Exercises	1890-1892
Box 254	Folder 7	Normal Debating Club (NDC) Tournaments	1889-1891
Box 254	Folder 8	Young Men's Debate Club (YMDC) Constitutions	Undated
Box 254	Folder 9	Young Men's Debate Club (YMDC) Correspondences	1885
Box 254	Folder 10	Young Men's Debate Club (YMDC) Public Exercises	1861-1896
Box 254	Folder 11	Young Men's Debate Club (YMDC) Tournaments	1882-1888
Box 254	Folder 12	Ladies Normal Debate Club (LNDC) Public Exercises	1883-1891
Box 254	Folder 13	<i>Index Normalis</i>	1869
Box 254	Folder 14	Debate Club Tournaments	1959-1965
Box 254	Folder 15	Clippings	1972-2008
Box 87	-	Debate Club Record Book, Minutes	1877-1882
Box 87	-	Debate Club Record Book, Minutes	1904-1915
Box 87	-	Debate Club Record Book, Minutes	1899-1964
Box 66A	Folder 4	Photographs	1885-1898

Series 11: Delta Chi

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 254	Folder 16	Clippings	2005-2011

Series 12: Delta Kappa Beta

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 254	Folder 17	Crest	Undated
Box 254	Folder 18	Clippings	1974-2011
Box 68A	Folder 10	Photographs	1955-1956

Series 13: Delta Kappa Gamma

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 254	Folder 19	Charter Booklet	1956

Series 14: Delta Phi Epsilon

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 254	Folder 20	Clippings	1990-2013

Series 15: Delphic

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 254	Folder 24	Letters	Undated
Box 254	Folder 21	Delphic Oracle	1902
Box 254	Folder 22	Booklets	1900-1915
Box 254	Folder 23	Ephemera	1904-1907
Box 120	Folder 25	Constitution	1901
Box 66A	Folder 2	Photographs	1885-1906
Box 66A	-	Delphic Photograph	1908

Series 16: Gamma Phi Eta

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 1	Booklets	1951
Box 68A	Folder 14	Photographs	1950

Series 17: Gamma Sigma/ Gamma Tau Sigma

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 2	Booklets	1885-1911
Box 67A	Folder 1	Photographs	1899-1960
Box 67A	-	Gamma Sigma Sextette Photo	1898
Box 67A	-	Gamma Sigma Photo	1899
Box 67A	-	Gamma Tau Sigma Photo	1902

Series 18: Hellenic Sing

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 3	Booklets	1967-1969
Oversize 3	-	Audio: LP	1961
Oversize 3	-	Audio: LP	1962

Series 19: Kappa Kappa Kappa

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 4	Clippings	1931-1933
Box 255	Folder 5	Newsletter	1933
Box 68A	Folder 6	Photographs	1930s

Series 20: Kappa Sigma

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 6	Clippings	2009

Series 21: Lambda Phi Delta

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 7	Clippings	2008
Box 68A	Folder 7	Photographs	1950s

Series 22: Lambda Epsilon Lambda

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 8	Clippings	2008-2012

Series 23: Nu Sigma Chi

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 9	Crest	Undated
Box 255	Folder 10	Clippings	1963-2003
Box 67A	Folder 3	Photographs	1928-1959
Box 67A	-	Nu Sigma Chi Photo	1928

Series 24: Omega Phi Beta

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 11	Clippings	2009-2012

Series 25: Phi Iota Alpha

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 12	Clippings	2010-2011

Series 26: Pi Lambda Phi

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 13	Clippings	1997

Series 27: Sigma Phi Epsilon

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 68A	Folder 3	Photographs	1982

Series 28: Sigma Sigma Sigma

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 14	Clippings	1947-2015
Box 255	Folder 15	Sigma Scrawl Newsletter	1947
Box 68A	Folder 4	Photographs	1930s

Series 29: Sigma Delta Tau

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 16	Clippings	1988-2011

Series 30: Sigma Delta Phi

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 17	Clippings	1957-1975
Box 255	Folder 18	Correspondences	1975
Box 255	Folder 19	Crest	Undated
Box 68A	Folder 5	Photographs	1957-1959

Series 31: Theta Chi

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 20	Clippings	2013-2014

Series 32: Theta Phi

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 255	Folder 21	Songs	2000's
Box 255	Folder 22	Clippings	1963-2010
Box 255	Folder 23	Crest	Undated
Box 68A	Folder2	Photographs	1955-1959
Box 68A	-	Theta Phi Photograph	1955

Series 33: Greek Class

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 68A	Folder 12	Photographs	1984

Series 34: Greek Housing

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 68A	Folder 11	Photographs	1903-1905

Series 35: Unidentified Greeks

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 67A	Folder 6	Photographs	1891-1959
Box 67A	-	Unidentified Sorority Photo	1890s
Box 67A	-	Unidentified Fraternity Photo	1890s

Series 36: Wickwire Cup Photos

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
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Box 68A	Folder 13	Photographs	1936
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Sub-Group 3: Honor Societies

Series 1: Alpha Kappa Delta

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 122	Folder 1	Flyers	2000

Series 2: Eta Sigma Gamma

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 122	Folder 2	Programs	1998-2010

Series 3: Lambda Omicron

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 122	Folder 3	Clippings	2000-2012

Series 4: Phi Beta Delta

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 122	Folder 4	Clippings	2006-2009

Series 5: Phi Eta Sigma

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 122	Folder 5	Clippings	1999-2008

Series 6: Pi Sigma Alpha

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 122	Folder 6	Clippings	2007-2010

Series 7: Psi Chi

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 122	Folder 7	Clippings	2000-2009

Series 8: Kappa Delta Pi

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 122	Folder 8	Flyers	2000

Series 9: Phi Kappa Phi

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 121	-	Handbook	1986
Box 122	Folder 11	Petition and By-Laws	1982-1986
Box 122	Folder 12	Minutes	1989-1992
Box 122	Folder 13	Programs	1983-1999
Box 122	Folder 14	Clippings	1996-2005
Box 122	Folder 15	Chapter Activities	1982-1983
Box 122	Folder 16	Chapter Activities	1983-1984
Box 122	Folder 17	Chapter Activities	1984-1985
Box 123	Folder 1	Chapter Activities	1985-1986
Box 123	Folder 2	Chapter Activities	1986-1987
Box 123	Folder 3	Chapter Activities	1987-1988
Box 123	Folder 4	Chapter Activities	1988-1989
Box 123	Folder 5	Chapter Activities	1989-1990
Box 123	Folder 6	Chapter Activities	1990-1991
Box 123	Folder 7	Chapter Activities	1991-1992

Box 123	Folder 8	Chapter Activities	1992-1993
Box 123	Folder 9	Chapter Activities	1993-1994
Box 123	Folder 10	Chapter Activities	1997-2008

Series 10: Rho Phi Lambda

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 122	Folder 9	Clippings	2008-2010

Series 11: Tau Sigma

Container 1	Container 2	Title	Date
Box 122	Folder 10	Honor Awards	2007-2012