



ArchivesSpace

## Chi Sigma Theta Sorority; Records

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Chi Sigma Theta Sorority Records
<b>ID:</b>	ua806
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1914-2014, Undated
<b>Physical Description:</b>	15.58 cubic ft.
<b>Physical Location:</b>	The materials are located onsite in the department.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Chi Sigma Theta Sorority Records contain documents related to the history, activities and alumnae of the Chi Sigma Theta Sorority at the University at Albany.

### Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Chi Sigma Theta Sorority Records, 1914-2014. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Chi Sigma Theta Sorority Records).

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## Biographical Sketch

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Chi Sigma Theta, a local sorority founded at the New York State College for Teachers (now the University at Albany), traced its origins to the Newman Club, a campus Catholic study society founded in 1908. The Newman Club reorganized to form Kappa Nu Sorority on October 5, 1914. In 1920 the name of the sorority was changed to Chi Sigma Theta for reasons that are unclear. The Sorority had one main objective: "Chi Sigma Theta established its ideals of loyalty, companionship, and sincerity, which each girl takes a pledge to uphold" (*State College News*, November 13, 1964, 5).

Like many sororities, Chi Sigma Theta maintained several traditions over the course of its history. Some of these included hosting holiday parties, faculty teas, formal dinners, building Homecoming floats, a

candlelight ceremony for members who became engaged, and of course organizing the yearly rush and pledge period. These activities are extensively documented in the scrapbooks kept by the official sorority historian each year.

In the mid-1960s Greek societies at the State University of New York at Albany were forced to sell their houses and move to dormitories on the new Uptown Campus. Maintaining a Greek society in the dormitories was contingent on retaining sufficient members to justify setting aside the floor and rooms. In the 1970s Chi Sigma Theta, along with other local Greek societies at the University, suffered a steady decline in membership. The active chapter of Chi Sigma Theta dissolved in 1980.

The sorority did not accept this setback as permanent. With the help of a robust alumnae association, Chi Sigma Theta was reactivated on campus as a local sorority in the Spring of 1986 with the initiation of seven new members.

The attempt to reestablish Chi Sigma Theta as a local sorority failed. In 1988, the remaining members of the active chapter merged with the University at Albany chapter of Phi Sigma Sigma, a national sorority. As of at least 2013 Phi Sigma Sigma is no longer an active sorority on the Albany campus. However, Chi Sigma Theta still enjoys an active alumnae association.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Chi Sigma Theta Sorority Records include administrative records such as constitutions, member lists, and meeting minutes; subject files related to sorority activities and traditions such as event publicity and songs; and several years' worth of composite photographs of the sorority members. There are many scrapbooks kept by the sorority historian, documenting Chi Sigma Theta's activities each year, as well as a box of preservation photocopies of these scrapbooks. The memorabilia includes textiles such as blazers, blankets and banners; jewelry such as rings, pins and necklaces; and various other items bearing the Chi Sigma symbol.

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## Arrangement of the Collection

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The collection is organized into the following series:

- 1 Series 1 - Administrative and Subject Files, 1914-2014, Undated
- 2 Series 2 - Scrapbooks, 1952-1987
- 3 Series 3 - Memorabilia, 1960-2014, Undated

Series 1 and 3 are arranged alphabetically. Series 2 is arranged chronologically.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

### **Revision Description**

Geoffrey P. Williams revised and updated finding aid Kimberly Gianfrancesco processed new accessions and created EAD finding aid After 100th anniversary weekend celebration in June 2014, Jodi Boyle arranged new accessions and updated EAD finding aid. Encoded in EAD by Kimberly Gianfrancesco 2003 2013 2014 2013

### **Processing Information**

Processed in 1992 by Shawne Rosenberg and Sherry Schneiderman, in 2003 by Geoff Williams, in 2013 by Kimberly Gianfrancesco and in 2014 by Jodi Boyle after the 100th anniversary celebration.

### **Access**

Access to this collection is unrestricted with the exception of select files noted on the finding aid. Researchers seeking access to these materials should contact the head of Special Collections and Archives.

### **Copyright**

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

### **Acquisition Information**

A small portion of these records were transferred to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives by the Alumni Association in 1991. The bulk of the records were deposited by Carol Siver, Class of 1965, in 2002. Since then the collection has been augmented several times through donations from individual alumni, including at the 100th anniversary celebration in June 2014.

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## Controlled Access Headings

- Greek letter societies--New York (State)--Albany
- Sorority songs
- Initiations (into trades, societies, etc.)
- Women--New York (State)--Albany--Societies and clubs
- Correspondence
- Newsletters
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks
- UAlbany Student Groups
- Minutes (administrative records)
- State University of New York at Albany
- Chi Sigma Theta Sorority

## Collection Inventory

### Administrative and Subject Files, 1914-1989Undated

#### Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains records relating to the administration and activities of the Chi Sigma Theta Sorority. Meeting minutes, membership and initiation lists, constitutions, pledge books and other materials document the sorority's activities. Although there are some older materials, the bulk of this series documents the 1960s through the 1980s. This series also includes sorority traditions, publicity materials, and some records relating to alumnae. Please note that while the collection contains composite photographs of all sorority members across several decades, the dates are not inclusive.

Title/Description	Instances
Alumnae Association minutes, 1946-19501955-19561958-1964	Box 1 (1- Folder 1 Administrative and Subject Files)
<i>Alumnae News</i> , <i>The Chi Sigma Theta Press</i> and <i>News from Chi Sigma Theta</i> , 19751982-19872014	Box 1 (1- Folder 2 Administrative

	and Subject Files)	
Alumni Association board members list, 1986	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 3
Alumni Reunion reception, 1982	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 4
Composite photographs, 1956-1988	Oversized 1	Folder 1-2
Composite photographs, 1966-1972-1973-1977-1978	Flat-File 1	
Conflict Party bid, 1967	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 5
Constitution, 1949	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 6
Constitution, 1970	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 7
Constitution, 1977	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 8
Constitution, 1986	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 9
Constitution, 1987	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 10
Contents of 1986 pledge binder - Laura, 1985-1987	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 11
Contents of 1986 pledge binder - Robin, 1986	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 12
Correspondence, 1968-1978 Undated	Box 1 (1-Administrative	Folder 13

	and Subject Files)	
Dissolution and merger correspondence, 1988-1989	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 14
Event publicity, 1971	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 15
Event publicity, 1972	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 16
Event publicity, 1973	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 17
Event publicity, 1974	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 18
Event publicity, 1977	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 19
<i>Expression</i> , 1971	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 20
Family tree of Joan Bostwick '52, Undated	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 21
Formation of Kappa Nu <i>The Echo</i> , 1914	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 22
Guest book, 1966-1969	Oversized 2	
Guest book - [RESTRICTED], 1974-1977 <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> <b>Conditions Governing Access</b>  Must consult archivist before viewing this material.	Box 1 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 23
Guest book - [RESTRICTED], 1974-1978 <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>	Box 1 (1-Administrative	Folder 24

**Conditions Governing Access**

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

and Subject  
Files)

Initiation pledge lists photocopies, ca. 1916-1980	Box 1 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 25
Invitatin to join Chi Sigma Theta, 1960	Box 1 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 26
List of officers, 1921-19451951-1962	Oversized 2	
Meeting rules, 1977	Box 1 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 27
Membership lists, ca. 1962Undated	Box 1 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 28
Minutes, 1971-1976	Box 1 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 29
Minutes, 1975-1976	Box 1 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 30
Minutes, 1976-1977	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 1
Minutes, 1976-1978	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 2
Meeting minutes and membership list, ca. 1988	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 3
100th Anniversary Reunion, 2014	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 4
Panhellenic Rush, 1988	Box 2 (1- Administrative	Folder 5

	and Subject Files)	
Photographs (preservation photocopies), 1981	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 6
Pledge book, ca. 1955	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 7
Pledge books, ca. 1956ca. 1960	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 8
Pledge books, 19741986	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 9
Pledge list, 1963	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 10
Pledge songs, Undated	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 11
Reformation correspondence, 1985-1986	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 12
Rush poster, 1985	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 13
75th Anniversary Luncheon, 1989	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 14
Signatures of pledge class members, 1920-1986	Oversized 2	
Songs, ca. 1970s	Box 2 (1- Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 15
Sorority faculty list, 1963	Box 2 (1- Administrative	Folder 16

Special Group Housing correspondence and agreements, 1977-1979	and Subject Files) Box 2 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 17
<i>State College News</i> (bound volume), 1957 February-1957 December	Oversized 2	
Treasurer's report, 1962	Box 2 (1-Administrative and Subject Files)	Folder 18

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## Scrapbooks, 1952-1987

### Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

### Scope and Contents

This series consists mostly of scrapbooks kept by Chi Sigma Theta's official sorority historian, documenting the activities of the sorority for that year. There are also two scrapbooks kept by individual sorority members.

Title/Description	Instances
Scrapbook, 1952-1956	Oversized 3
Scrapbook, 1955-1959	Oversized 4
Scrapbook, 1956-1957	Oversized 5
Scrapbook, 1958-1959	Oversized 6
Scrapbook, 1959-1960	Oversized 7
Scrapbook, 1962-1963	Oversized 8
Scrapbook, 1964-1965	Oversized 9
Scrapbook, 1965-1966	Oversized 10
Scrapbook, 1966-1967	Oversized 11
Scrapbook, 1967-1968	Oversized 12
Scrapbook, 1968-1969	Oversized 13
Scrapbook, 1969-1970	Oversized 14
Scrapbook, 1970-1971	Oversized 15
Scrapbook, 1971 Fall	Oversized 16

Scrapbook, 1972 Spring	Oversized 17
Scrapbook, 1973-1974	Oversized 18
Scrapbook, 1973 Spring	Oversized 19
Scrapbook, 1973 Fall	Oversized 20-21
Pledge Scrapbook, with 1974 composite photograph included, 1974 Fall	Oversized 27
Scrapbook, 1974 Spring	Oversized 22-23
Scrapbook, 1976 Spring	Oversized 24
Scrapbook, 1986-1987	Oversized 25
Scrapbook, 1987	Oversized 26

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## Memorabilia, 1960-2014 Undated

### Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

### Scope and Contents

This series contains objects related to the Chi Sigma Theta Sorority. It includes jewelry, textiles such as blazers and banners, household items like plates and silverware, Spring Weekend keepsakes, and various other objects related to Chi Sigma.

Some of the pins in this collection were passed on to active sorority members from alumnae. Further information on the custodial history of those items may be found in the Chi Sigma Theta collection file.

Title/Description	Instances
Ashtray, Undated	Artifact-box 1
Banner, red and white, 3' x 4', Undated	Artifact-box 2
Banner, red and white, 4' x 6', ca. 1986	Artifact-box 2
Beer mug, 1966	Artifact-box 3
Blanket, red and white, 4.5' x 3.5', Undated	Artifact-box 2
Blanket, purple, 2' x 28", Undated	

	Artifact-box 2
Blankets, red and white, 4.5' x 3.5', Undated	Artifact-box 10
Blazer, red, Undated	Artifact-box 4
Blazer, cream, Undated	Artifact-box 4
Blazer, cream, Undated	Artifact-box 4
Burlap wall hanging, Undated	Artifact-box 4
Chi Sigma Theta golf shirt, red, Undated	Artifact-box 4
Chi Sigma Theta mug with "Allison" brand, 1977	Artifact-box 8
Chi Sigma Theta mug with "Marietta" brand, 1964	Artifact-box 8
Glassware, Undated	Artifact-box 12
Leather Chi Sigma Theta shield, framed, Undated	Artifact-box 5
Leather Chi Sigma Theta shield, unframed, Undated	Artifact-box 5
Leather pillow cases (2), Undated	Artifact-box 5
Leather sign, Undated	Artifact-box 5
Necklaces, gold tone, Undated	Artifact-box 6
Necklaces, silver tone, Undated	Artifact-box 6
100th anniversary beads, 2014	Artifact-box 9
100th anniversary poster, 2014	Flat-File 2
Outstanding Juniors plaque, 1966-1973	Artifact-box 7
Paper and ribbon crowns, red and white, Undated	Artifact-box 9
Pillow labeled Chi Sigma Theta and "Allison", Undated	

	Artifact-box 5	
Pins, Undated	Artifact-box 6	
Pin belonging to Ruth Lockard Hanford '27, Undated	Artifact-box 6	
Pin possibly belonging to Catherine M. Hagel '17, Undated	Artifact-box 6	
Pin with torch, Undated	Artifact-box 6	
Plate, Undated	Artifact-box 1	
Ring, Undated	Artifact-box 6	
Ring, pin and pendant, Undated	Artifact-box 6	
Rush Party Invitation, ca. 1960	Box 3 (3- Memorabilia)	Folder 1
Silverware, Undated	Artifact-box 6	
Spring Rush '88 button, 1988	Artifact-box 6	
Spring Weekend jug, 1965	Artifact-box 3	
Spring Weekend jugs, 1965 <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 jugs.	Artifact-box 11	
Spring Weekend beer stein, 1966	Artifact-box 6	
Spring Weekend program, 1960	Box 3 (3- Memorabilia)	Folder 2
Spring Weekend towel, 1967	Artifact-box 2	
Stamp, etched copper plate, Undated	Artifact-box 6	
State University of New York at Albany mug, Undated	Artifact-box 8	
Sweatshirt, Undated		

Artifact-box  
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