
Guide to the Sigma Chi Fraternity collection

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Stanford University Libraries. Dept. of Special Collections & University Archives.

Stanford, California

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Note

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Overview

Call Number: SC0754

Creator: Sigma Chi Fraternity. Alpha Omega Chapter (Stanford University).

Title: Sigma Chi Fraternity collection

Dates: 1933-2007

Physical Description: 14.75 Linear feet (27 boxes)

Summary: The collection contains financial records, including budgets, cancelled checks, receipts, invoices, pass books, investment records, bills, and accountant forms; house improvement documentation such as architectural plans and sketches, photographs, roofing samples, work orders, and safety inspection records; official documents related to insurance claims and forms, lawsuits, and ground leases signed with the Trustees of the University; Alpha Omega House Corporation records including meeting agendas, minutes, and correspondence with National organization and Stanford University; fraternity correspondence, including letters between alums, fraternity members; and publications such as chapter centennial celebration materials, STANFORD DAILY clippings, national news clippings, and copies of THE MAGAZINE OF SIGMA CHI. Additional materials not fully processed include completed surveys done at the 100th anniversary reunion, publications, correspondence, and photographs (1933-76).

Language(s): The materials are in English.

Repository: Dept. of Special Collections & University Archives.

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This collection was given to the Stanford University Archives by the Alpha Omega Chapter of Sigma Chi, 2005-2009, and Timothy Portwood, 2015.

Information about Access

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Cite As

[Identification of item], Sigma Chi Fraternity collection (SC0754). Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

The Alpha Omega Chapter of Sigma Chi is one of Stanford's oldest fraternities, chartered in 1891 shortly after the opening of the University. In 1936, a collection of Sigma Chi alumni banded together to form the Alpha Omega House Corporation, a non-profit that both financed the construction of the current chapter house (finished in 1939) and continues to lease the land from the University. In 1965, the chapter was suspended from the National Sigma Chi Organization after pledging an African American student. A year later, the chapter deactivated in protest over National's discriminatory policies and became Sigma Chi Omega, a local fraternity, which it remained for eight years. In 1974, the chapter re-affiliated with the national organization. In 1991, Sigma Chi celebrated the centennial of both the University and the chapter. In 2002, facing financial pressures, the House Corporation proposed handing the house over to the University but a new Board was installed in 2003, and proceeded to fundraise over 2.5 million dollars to refurbish the house, a project that concluded in 2006.

1891 Sigma Chi Alpha Omega Chapter chartered at Stanford University.

1936 Alpha Omega House Corporation formed; land leased by University to AOHC to construct chapter house.

1939 Sigma Chi House completed.

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- 1965 Sigma Chi pledges Ken Washington, an African-American student. National organization promptly suspends chapter over "violation of tradition and ritual." Chapter challenges suspension, garners national press coverage, attention of U.S. Senator (and Stanford EX alumnus) Lee Metcalf and Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.
 - 1966 To protest discriminatory policies of National, Stanford chapter deactivates, becomes Sigma Chi Omega.
 - 1974 Chapter re-affiliates with Sigma Chi, once again becomes Sigma Chi, Alpha Omega Chapter.
 - 1991 Sigma Chi celebrates centennial of University and Chapter founding.
 - 2002 House Corporation proposes hand over of house to University.
 - 2003 Newly installed House Corporation Boards launches 2.5 million dollar "Save the House" campaign.
 - 2006 Refurbishing of Sigma Chi House is completed.

Description of the Collection

The collection contains financial records, including budgets, cancelled checks, receipts, invoices, pass books, investment records, bills, and accountant forms; house improvement documentation such as architectural plans and sketches, photographs, roofing samples, work orders, and safety inspection records; official documents related to insurance claims and forms, lawsuits, and ground leases signed with the Trustees of the University; Alpha Omega House Corporation records including meeting agendas, minutes, and correspondence with National organization and Stanford University; fraternity correspondence, including letters between alums, fraternity members; and publications such as chapter centennial celebration materials, STANFORD DAILY clippings, national news clippings, and copies of THE MAGAZINE OF SIGMA CHI.

Materials of particular note include documentation of Sigma Chi's pledge controversy, suspension, deactivation, and eventual re-affiliation with National (boxes 11-13) and files on the proposed handover of the chapter house and subsequent fundraising drive (boxes 21-22).

Additional materials not fully processed include completed surveys done at the 100th anniversary reunion, publications, correspondence, and photographs (1933-76). Preliminary listings for these are included in this guide.

Access Terms

Sigma Chi Fraternity. Alpha Omega Chapter (Stanford University).

Greek letter societies.

Minority college students

Accession ARCH-2005-129 **Records**

- Box 1, Folder 1 **Financial Records and Lease Information 1936-1947**
- Box 1, Folder 2 **Wells Fargo Bank Statements 1948-1958**
- Box 1, Folder 3 **Wells Fargo Union Savings Pass Books 1944-1958**
- Box 1, Folder 4 **Financial Reports, AOHC [Alpha Omega House Corporation] 1948-1960**
- Box 1, Folder 5 **Wells Fargo Union Check Book 1946-1965**
- Box 2, Folder 1 **Receipts and Invoices 1951-1967**
- Box 2, Folder 2 **Loomis Sayles Mutual Fund 1959-1968**
- Box 2, Folder 3 **Wells Fargo Bank Statements 1962-1968**
- Box 2, Folder 4-5 **Alpha Omega House Corporation Cancelled Checks and Financial Statements 1938-1968**
- Box 3, Folder 1 **University Invoices 1947-1968**
- Box 3, Folder 2 **EX [Sigma Chi] Financials 1960-1968**
- Box 3, Folder 3 **Sigma Chi Bank Books, Receipts, etc 1954-1969**
- Box 3, Folder 4 **Wells Fargo Bank Statements 1969-1972**
- Box 3, Folder 5 **EX paid bills 1969-1975**
- Box 3, Folder 6 **EX Breese Warner 1974-1975**
- Box 4, Folder 1 **Chapter Financials 1976-1977**
- Box 4, Folder 2 **Chapter Financials 1978-1979**
- Box 4, Folder 3 **AOHC Investments 1979-1980**
- Box 4, Folder 4 **Active Chapter Budgets 1979-1980**
- Box 4, Folder 5 **Fiscal Statements and Budget Overviews 1979-1980**
- Box 4, Folder 6 **Financial Advisor 1980**
- Box 4, Folder 7 **Fundraising 1980**
- Box 4, Folder 8 **Chapter Financial Statements 1981-1982**

Box 5, Folder 1	AOHC Finances 1983-1985
Box 5, Folder 2	AOHC Finances 1986-1988
Box 5, Folder 3	AOHC Finances 1989-1990
Box 5, Folder 4	L. Tim Portwood Expenses 1982-1990
Box 5, Folder 5	Checking Account 1991
Box 5, Folder 6	AO Centennial Expenses 1991
Box 5, Folder 7	Financials 1991-1993
Box 6, Folder 1	Sigma Chi House and Ground Leases 1936-1939
Box 6, Folder 2	Ground Leases 1953-1959
Box 6, Folder 3	Major Repairs and Additions to Alpha Omega House 1949-1959
Box 6, Folder 4	Insurance Policies and Premiums 1959-1968
Box 6, Folder 5	House Repairs and Improvements 1960-1968
Box 6, Folder 6	Ground Lease and Amendments 1973-1977
Box 6, Folder 7	Insurance 1973-1980
Box 6, Folder 8	Bathroom Renovation 1980
Box 6, Folder 9	Lease: Regular School Year 1981
Box 6, Folder 10	House Improvements/Engineering Reports 1980-1983
Box 7, Folder 1	Insurance 1981-1983
Box 7, Folder 2	Renovations and Improvements 1983-1986
Box 7, Folder 3	House Improvement Notes 1986
Box 7, Folder 4	Summer Work Orders 1986
Box 7, Folder 5	Facilities Project Manager 1976-1987
Box 7, Folder 6	Fire Safety 1979-1987
Box 7, Folder 7	Insurance - General 1986-1987
Box 8, Folder 1-2	Insurance Coverage - Donald Krebs case 1987
Box 8, Folder 3	Renovations 1987
Box 8, Folder 4	Insurance Coverage 1988
Box 8, Folder 5	Insurance Coverage 1989
Box 8, Folder 6	Work Orders and Renovations 1988-1989
Box 8, Folder 7	Earthquake Prep 1989
Box 8, Folder 8	Chapter Room Restoration 1989-1990
Box 9, Folder 1	Roofing Project 1990
Box 9, Folder 2	Insurance 1990
Box 9, Folder 3	Emergency Lighting 1988-1991
Box 9, Folder 4	Ground Lease 1991
Box 9, Folder 5	Insurance 1991
Box 9, Folder 6	Chapter Rental Agreement 1989-1992
Box 9, Folder 7	Repairs and Maintenance 1990-1992
Box 9, Folder 8	Summer Rent and Tax Issues 1992-1993
Box 9, Folder 9	Risk Management Foundation 1992-1993
Box 9, Folder 10	Fire Marshal Investigation and Follow up 1993
Box 9, Folder 11	House Projects/Improvements 1993-1995
Box 10, Folder 1	AOHC/National Correspondence 1943-1947
Box 10, Folder 2	Correspondence 1947-1950
Box 10, Folder 3	Correspondence 1950-1957
Box 10, Folder 4	Correspondence 1958-1964
Box 10, Folder 5	Sigma Chi and Stanford University Fraternity System 1958-1964
Box 10, Folder 6	AOHC Minutes 1958-1964
Box 10, Folder 7	Alumni Lists 1964-1965
Box 11, Folder 1	Correspondence 1964
Box 11, Folder 2	Pledge Controversy and Correspondence 1965
Box 11, Folder 3	Phillip Brown's Sigma Chi National Convention Materials 1965
Box 11, Folder 4	Deactivation and Correspondence 1966
Box 11, Folder 5	EX Alumni Response Letters 1966
Box 11, Folder 6-7	Phil Brown Chapter Suspension & National Convention Documents 1964-1966
Box 11, Folder 8	Correspondence 1967
Box 11, Folder 9	Correspondence 1968-1969
Box 11, Folder 10	House Corporation Manual 1969

Box 12, Folder 1	Fraternities at Stanford Manual 1970
Box 12, Folder 2	Correspondence 1970
Box 12, Folder 3	Sigma Chi Alums List and Constitution 1971
Box 12, Folder 4	DTD Beta Rho Association Manual 1970-1971
Box 12, Folder 5	Correspondence and Notes 1972
Box 12, Folder 6	Correspondence and Notes 1973
Box 12, Folder 7-8	Chapter Reactivation 1974
Box 12, Folder 9	Alumni Lists 1974
Box 13, Folder 1	Alumni Lists 1975
Box 13, Folder 2	National Relations 1974-1980
Box 13, Folder 3	University Relations/Housing 1974-1980
Box 13, Folder 4	AOHC Correspondence 1974-1980
Box 13, Folder 5	Alumni List 1980
Box 13, Folder 67	AOHC Meeting Agendas/Minutes 1977-1981
Box 14, Folder 1-2	AOHC Director's Manual 1982
Box 14, Folder 3	AOHC Director's Manual 1980-1982
Box 14, Folder 4	AOHC Director's Manual 1980-1982
Box 14, Folder 5	Correspondence 1980-1983
Box 14, Folder 6	University Relations 1980-1984
Box 14, Folder 7	Information From/To National 1980-1984
Box 14, Folder 8	AOHC and Chapter Materials and Correspondence 1980-1984
Box 14, Folder 9	Golf Tournament 1985
Box 15, Folder 1	Stanford/Sigma Chi Telethon 1985-1986
Box 15, Folder 2-3	AOHC Director's Manual 1977-1986
Box 15, Folder 4	AOHC Board Minutes/Agendas 1986
Box 15, Folder 5	Sigma Chi Lawsuit 1986-1988
Box 15, Folder 6	University Task Force 1988
Box 15, Folder 7	Stanford West Campus Region Plan 1986-1988
Box 15, Folder 8	AOHC Officers and Directors 1981-1988
Box 15, Folder 9	Alcohol/Party Policy 1984-1988
Box 15, Folder 10	AOHC Agenda/Minutes and Notes 1985-1988
Box 16, Folder 1	University Relations/Clippings 1987-1989
Box 16, Folder 2	Alpha Beta 1988-1989
Box 16, Folder 3	AOHC Board Meeting Packets 1989
Box 16, Folder 4	AOHC Rules/Guidelines 1987-1989
Box 16, Folder 5	AOHC Board Minutes/Agendas 1989
Box 16, Folder 6	AOHC Portwood Files 1990
Box 16, Folder 7	National - General 1986-1990
Box 16, Folder 8	National - Drug/Alcohol Policy 1990
Box 16, Folder 9	AOHC Board Manual 1981-1990
Box 16, Folder 10	Scholarships and Awards 1988-1990
Box 16, Folder 11	AOHC Accountant 1982-1990
Box 17, Folder 1	AOHC Portwood Files 1991
Box 17, Folder 2	University Relations - AIFC 1988-1991
Box 17, Folder 3	University Relations - Chapter 1989-1991
Box 17, Folder 4	AOHC Miscellaneous Notes 1990-1991
Box 17, Folder 5	AOHC Agendas/Minutes 1990-1991
Box 17, Folder 6	Centennial 1990-1991
Box 17, Folder 7	Centennial Banquet 1991
Box 17, Folder 8	Centennial Handouts 1991
Box 18, Folder 1	Centennial Banquet Preparations 1991
Box 18, Folder 2	Banquet Responses 1991
Box 18, Folder 3	Phone Effort - Centennial 1991
Box 18, Folder 4	Tailgate Cancellation Phone Calls 1991
Box 18, Folder 5	Sigma Chi War Dead 1991
Box 18, Folder 6	Centennial - Miscellaneous Correspondence 1990-1991
Box 18, Folder 7	Chapter Charter - Lucite order 1991
Box 18, Folder 8	List by Class Year 1991

Box 18	Chapter Charter reproduction encased in Lucite (2 items)
Box 19, Folder 1	AOHC Portwood Files 1992
Box 19, Folder 2	AOHC Board Minutes/Agendas 1991-1992
Box 19, Folder 3	AOHC - Pledge Orientation 1984-1992
Box 19, Folder 4	Alcohol Policy 1992
Box 19, Folder 5	AOHC Portwood Files 1993
Box 19, Folder 6	Pledge Party Incident and Lawsuit 1991-1993
Box 19, Folder 7	AOHC Board Minutes/Agendas 1992-1993
Box 19, Folder 8	Alumni Lists 1990-1993
Box 19, Folder 9	AOHC Portwood Files 1994
Box 19, Folder 10	National Fraternity Relations 1993-1994
Box 20, Folder 1	National Relations 1994
Box 20, Folder 2	AOHC Portwood Files 1995
Box 20, Folder 3	AOHC Portwood Files 1996
Box 20, Folder 4	AOHC Portwood Files/Greek Task Force Report 1997
Box 20, Folder 5	AOHC Portwood Files 1998
Box 20, Folder 6	Alumni Relations/Lists 1996-1998
Box 20, Folder 7-8	AOHC Portwood Files 1999
Box 21, Folder 1-2	AOHC Portwood Files 2000
Box 21, Folder 3	AOHC Portwood Files 2001
Box 21, Folder 4	AOHC Portwood Files 2002 Jan-Apr
Box 21, Folder 5	AOHC Portwood Files 2002 May-Jul
Box 21, Folder 6	AOHC Portwood Files 2002 Aug-Sep
Box 22, Folder 1	Proposed Lease Termination 2002
Box 22, Folder 2	AOHC Portwood Files 2002 Oct
Box 22, Folder 3	House Corporation Proposal 2002
Box 22, Folder 4	AOHC Portwood Files 2005 Nov-Dec
Box 22, Folder 5	AOHC Portwood Files 2003
Box 22, Folder 6	Save the House Campaign 2003
Box 22, Folder 7	Portwood Files 2005
Box 22, Folder 8	Portwood Files 2006
Box 22, Folder 9	EX Alumni Newsletter 2006-2007
Box 23	Magazine of Sigma Chi Vols. XCIII-XCIX 1974-1980

Accession ARCH-2005-301 **Additional Records**

Box 1	Binder with materials on the history of Sigma Chi's "rebellion" over the racial discrimination issue in the 1960s and subsequent removal and reinstallation. Includes pictures and articles.
Box 1	Binder with information about the old house and related subjects, miscellaneous.
Box 1	Binder containing surveys filled out by attendees at the 100th anniversary reunion. Surveys include questions on why members joined and favorite Sigma Chi moments.
Box 1	Articles and publications related to or referring to Sigma Chi, including information on the hoax kidnapping.
Box 1	Sigma Chi stationary/envelopes.
Box 1	General publications, pictures, and articles put out by Sigma Chi through their newsletter and other publications. Included are initiation tests and correspondence pertaining to rush.
Box 2	Guestbook
Box 2	Letters sent to alumni, flyers, and postings about upcoming events/reunions.
Box 2	Personal correspondence Sigma Chi-related, mostly involving Portwood.

Accession ARCH-2007-036 **Additional Records**

Box 1	Group photos 1935-1936, 1975-1976
Box 1	Photocopy of house photo pre 1938
Box 1	Photographs, group and candid [removed from notebook and re-sleeved] 1933-1991
Box 1	Small album of photos kept by Ben Holt, class of 1935 1933-1935
Box 1	Sigma Chi Centennial paperweight [reproduction of old document in Lucite]

Accession ARCH-2015-159 **Additional Records**

Box 1, Folder 1	Articles of incorporation 1935 Aug 30
Box 1, Folder 2	Board Meetings 1982-1983
Box 1, Folder 3	Board Meetings 1978-1981
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence
Box 1, Folder 5	Ground lease 1977
Box 1, Folder 6	Miscellaneous
Box 1, Folder 7	Meeting minutes 1982-1983
Box 1, Folder 8	Stanford Alumni Newsletter: A Publication of the Alpha Omega Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity 2012-2015