

Finding aid

TARO record URL:

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EAD Header

Title Proper: A Guide to the Dominican Alumnae Association records, 1908 -- 1964

Sponsor:

This EAD finding aid was created as part of the TARO New Member Initiative through grant funding provided by the Summerlee Foundation.

Collection Summary

Creator: Dominican Alumnae Association [local]

Title: Dominican Alumnae Association records

Dates: 1908-1964

Quantity: 2 Linear Feet

Abstract: This collection documents the activities of the Dominican Alumnae Association. It is comprised of meetings minutes, correspondence, brochures, news clippings, reports, and other association documentation. Some Materials also relate to the Dominican Alumnae Association's membership in the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae.

Identification: 00003

Location: ST-B1/1.1, ST-B1/2.1, ST-B1/2.2

Language: The materials are in English.

Repository: Dominican Sisters of Houston Archives

Historical Notes

Dominican Alumni Association

The Dominican Alumnae Association was first established on September 30, 1907, in preparation for the Dominican Sisters of Houston's-formally the Dominican Sisters of Galveston-Silver Jubilee celebration. Sue Sherman LeCand, the first graduate of Sacred Heart Academy, Galveston, served as the organization's first president. The association was formed to assist the school and sisters with fundraising and special events, to foster school spirit and preserve friendships among alumnae, and to keep in touch with the sisters. Additionally, the association sought to educate its members in the pressing issues of the time, encouraging members to continue learning and to act. To these ends, the association created several internal committees including the hospitality, ways and

means, social services, alumnae Saturday, civics, history, publicity, music, and education committees.

While membership typically consisted of former students and alumnae, sisters also participated in meetings and activities. The first chapter of the association was opened in Galveston, Texas, but over time, chapters opened in other cities where the Dominican Sisters owned and operated schools.

Meetings paused in 1918, and the organization ceased operations until 1923. Shortly after its reorganization, the association applied to the Texas chapter of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, an organization comprised of alumnae association of Catholic schools. The Dominican Alumnae Association was formally accepted into the federation on September 10, 1924. The association sent representatives to federation meetings held by the Texas chapter and the national organization.

International Federation of Catholic Alumnae

The International Federation of Catholic Alumnae (IFCA) was founded in New York City in 1914 and is made up of alumnae association from Catholic schools throughout the country. The federation's main priority is to empower Catholic women and promote the values of traditional Catholic education through its eight departments: education, literature, social service, motion pictures, bureau of sister scholarships, religious activities committee, and the De Paul Missions Committee. Though the organization still exists, its membership peaked in the 1970s and has been in decline ever since.

Source: Records of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, 1914-2006, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note: Elinore M. McDonough

Miss Elinore M. McDonough was born in Galveston, Texas, in 1909 and graduated from Sacred Heart Academy. She served as president of the Dominican Alumnae Association from May 11, 1924, to 1928. After her tenure as president, she continued to be active in the association's many committees, including as secretary for the Central Golden Jubilee Committee. She died in 1979.

Scope and Contents Note

This collection documents the activities of the Dominican Alumnae Association. It is comprised of meetings minutes, correspondence, brochures, news clippings, reports, and other association documentation. Some Materials also relate to the Dominican Alumnae Association's membership in the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae. It is arranged into four series: Officer's papers, Texas Chapter of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, Ephemera, and Bound volumes.

The first series, Officer's papers, is comprised of documents relating to the organization's operations and activities. Materials appear to have been created or received by the officers of the organization. Correspondence covers topics such as internal association business, fundraising, education, membership recruitment, event planning, committee reports, the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, and some personal matters of Elinore McDonough. Most correspondence are between Elinore McDonough, or another officer, and Bishops, International Federation of Catholic Alumnae officers, Dominican Sisters, or association members. These letters provide insight into the association's history, goals, actions, and mission, as well as the Dominican Sisters' needs and activities. Reports and resolutions from conventions hosted by the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae are also included in this series. Some internal reports, including those of various committees, the treasurer, and the association's annual reports, as well as officer and membership lists, are also included. This series also includes some officer meeting minutes and copies of the association's early constitutions.

The second series, Texas Chapter of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, consists of materials produced by the Texas Chapter of the federation and collected by the Dominican Alumni Association. This includes by-law documents, pamphlets and brochures from meetings and banquets, and news clippings collected by association members regarding the federation's activities. This series also includes a short history of the Texas Chapter authored by one of its members.

The third series, Ephemera, contains news clippings collected by the association. News clippings relate to the association's activities and news.

The fourth series, Bound volumes, consists of two bound volumes stored separately from the collection. One contains officer's meeting minutes, the other minutes and materials related to the Central Golden Jubilee Committee.

Arrangement

This collection is comprised of four series

- I. Officer's papers
- II. Texas Chapter of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae
- III. Ephemera
- IV. Bound volumes

An effort appears to have been made to arrange these papers in chronological order, but the effort fell short as many folders overlap in time. It is not clear why these materials were housed in separate folders. Two folders were arranged alphabetically by individual's last names, but this effort too fell short.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details.

Use Restrictions

There are no use restrictions on this collection. Publisher is responsible for complying with copyright law.

Related Material

Records of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, 1914-2006, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Congregational Jubilee papers, Dominican Sisters of Houston, Archives, Houston, Texas.

Index Terms

Subjects (Organizations): [610]

International Federation of Catholic Alumnae [lcsh]

Congregation of the Sacred Heart (Houston, Tex.) [lcsh]

Subjects: [650]

Women--Suffrage--U.S. states [fast]

Catholics—Education [fast]

Schools--Alumni and alumnae [fast]

Fund raising [fast]

Civics [fast]

Places: [651]

Galveston (Tex.) [lcsh]

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Dominican Alumni Association papers, 1908-1964, Dominican Sisters of Houston Archives, Houston, Texas.

Acquisition Information:

Based on the collection's contents and Elinore McDonough's involvement in the association, it is believed that this collection was created and donated by Elinore McDonough. However, no official record of this exists.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Laura Grove, July 2022.

Accession Numbers:

2022-041; 2022-103; 2022-104

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box #	Folder #	Title/Description	Date
		Officers' papers	1923-1941
		<u>Correspondence and reports</u>	
1	1	[1/6]	1923-1924
1	2	[2/6] [A-M]	1924-1928
1	3	[3/6] [N-Z]	1924-1928
1	4	[4/6]	1925-1926
1	5	[5/6]	1926
1	6	[6/6]	1928-1941
1	7	Central Golden Jubilee committee	1932
		<u>End of subseries</u>	
1	8	Year books of the Dominican Alumnae Association	1908 and 1910
1	9	Monthly meeting minutes	1925
		International Federation of Catholic Alumnae	
1	10	Pro Deo et Doctrina	1921
1	11	Texas chapter by-laws	1923 and 1952
1	12	Texas chapter convention and banquet programs	1924-1964
1	13	Sacred Heart Galveston Alumnae scrapbook	1926
1	14	History of the Texas Chapter of the International Federation of Catholic Alumni by Irene Brown O'Conner	1942
		Ephemera	1910-1943
1	15	Loose news clippings	1910-1943
		Bound Volumes	1924-1941
2		Meeting minutes	1924-1941
3		Records of the Permanent Central Golden Jubilee Committee	1927-1932