

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

Collection Summary

Creator(s): Dominican Alumnae Association

Title(s): Dominican Alumnae Association records

Date(s) (Inclusive): 1908-1964

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 and the Dominican Sisters of Houston's Golden Jubilee celebration.

Identification: 00003

Extent(s): 2 Linear Feet

Location(s): ST-B1/1.1, ST-B1/2.1, ST-B1/2.2

Language(s): English

Repository: [Dominican Sisters of Houston Archives](#)

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

Collection Details

Administrative History

Dominican Alumni Association

The Dominican Alumnae Association was first established in September of 1907, during 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 the 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 times, 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 Saturdays, 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 associations of Catholic schools around the world. The Dominican Alumnae Association was formally accepted into the federation on September 10, 1924. As members, the association sent representatives to federation meetings held by the Texas chapter and the national organization.

In the years leading up to the sisters' Golden Jubilee in 1932, the Dominican Alumnae Association created the Central Golden Jubilee committee. With former president Elinore McDonough as secretary, this committee planned and executed celebration events for the sisters.

As of 2022, the Dominican Alumnae Association continues to exist, though as a smaller and less active organization. The association primarily publishes and distributes newsletters and organizes school reunion activities.

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 and the Dominican Sisters of Houston's Golden Jubilee celebration. It is arranged into five series: Officer's papers, Central Golden Jubilee Committee, 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. 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 association 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, houses materials produced by the association's Central Golden Jubilee Committee. The series contains correspondence, news clippings, initiations, a sermon from the celebration, historical sketches, a visitor's register, and reports related to the celebration. The visitor's register was also used to record attendance at other association events that took place after the jubilee celebration.

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

The fifth series, Bound volumes, consists of three bound volumes stored separately from the collection. Two contain the officer's meeting minutes, the other minutes and materials related to the Central Golden Jubilee Committee. This volume contains a detail inventory list in its first pages.

Arrangement

This collection is comprised of five series

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

∨ Collection Restrictions

Access Restrictions

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

Use Restrictions

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

∨ Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Dominican Alumni Association records, 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 the materials in this collection were created or collected and donated by Elinore McDonough. However no official provenance information is available.

Accession numbers: 2022-041 ; 2022-103 ; 2022-104 ; 2022-167

Other Resources

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.

Subject Terms

Index Terms :

- **Subjects (Organizations) :**
 - International Federation of Catholic Alumnae
 - Congregation of the Sacred Heart (Houston, Tex.)

- **Subjects :**
 - Women--Suffrage--U.S. states
 - Catholics--Education
 - Schools--Alumni and alumnae
 - Fund raising
 - Civics

- **Places :**
 - Galveston (Tex.)

Inventory

Inventory Information

Description of Series

Title: Officers' papers, 1908-1941

Title: Year books of the Dominican Alumnae Association, 1908 and, 1910

Box 1

Folder 1

Title: Monthly meeting minutes, 1925

Box 1

Folder 2

Title: Correspondence and reports, 1923-1941

Title: [1/6], 1923-1924

Box 1

Folder 3

Title: [2/6] [A-M], 1924-1928

Box 1

Folder 4

Title: [3/6] [N-Z], 1924-1928

Box 1

Folder 5

Title: [4/6], 1925-1926

Box 1

Folder 6

Title: [5/6], 1926

Box 1

Folder 7

Title: [6/6], 1928-1941

Box 1

Folder 8

▼ **Title: Central Golden Jubilee committee, 1927-1932**

Title: Planning and promotional materials, 1927-1932

Title: Suggestions for Golden Jubilee, 1927-1932

Box 1

Folder 9

Title: Outgoing Correspondence [1/2], 1931-1932

Box 1

Folder 10

Title: Outgoing Correspondence [2/2], 1932

Box 1

Folder 11

Title: Letters of congratulations, 1932

Box 1

Folder 12

Title: News clippings, 1932

Box 1

Folder 13

Title: News clippings compiled by Elinore McDonough, 1932

Box 1

Folder 14

Title: Schools served and important dates, March 1, 1932

Box 1

Folder 15

Title: Brief historical sketch by Elinore McDonough, 1932

Box 1

Folder 16

Title: Historical sketch by Sr. Veronica Groome, 1932

Box 1

Folder 17

Title: Event materials, 1932

Title: Invitation and programs, 1932

Box 1

Folder 18

Title: Visitor's register, 1932

Box 1

Folder 19

Title: Sermon by Reverend Michael I. Hurley, August 4, 1932

Box 1

Folder 20

Title: " Alma Mater "by Elinore McDonough, 1932

Box 1

Folder 21

Title: Report, 1932

Title: Final report of the Secretary of the Dominican Alumnae Association, October 6, 1932

Box 1

Folder 22

Title: Record of the celebration of Golden Jubilee, August 4, 1932

Box 1

Folder 23

Title: Expenses, 1932

Box 1

Folder 24

▼ **Title:** Texas Chapter of the International Federation Catholic Alumnae,, 1921-1964

Title: Pro Deo et Doctrina,, 1921

Box 1

Folder 25

Title: Texas chapter by-laws, 1923 and, 1952

Box 1

Folder 26

Title: Texas chapter convention and banquet programs, 1924-1964

Box 1

Folder 27

Title: Sacred Heart Galveston Alumnae scrapbook, 1926

Box 1

Folder 28

Title: History of the Texas Chapter of the International Federation of Catholic Alumni by Irene Brown O'Conner, 1942

Box 1

Folder 29

▼ **Title:** Ephemera,, 1910-1943

Title: Loose news clippings, 1910-1943

Box 1

Folder 30

▼ **Title:** Bound Volumes,, 1924-1941

Title: Meeting minutes, April 8, 1923-April 18-1926

Box 2

Title: Meeting minutes, 1924-1941

Box 3

Title: Records of the Permanent Central Golden Jubilee Committe, 1927-1932

