

Women at the University of Chicago Finding Aid

This section of the finding aid outlines key themes and terms related to the history of women at the University. The key words are in chronological order, and yearbook dates for clubs/events/teams usually indicate the first year of appearance (with recurring appearances thereafter). Most of the key words have specific collections or sources. Key words with "LIB" are terms that can be used on the library's existing online [finding aids](#) search feature.

Academic Life

Home Economics/Gendered Curriculum/Coeducation

- "The Dean of Women and her Functions" ([Talbot.Box4](#))
- Student Nurses ([Talbot.Box5.Fol8](#))
 - Lying-In Hospital, 1897 ([LIB](#))
- 1902 Junior College Segregation - "Statement Concerning the Subject of Providing Separate Instruction for the Sexes in the Junior College Subjects of the University of Chicago" (Cambridge letter in [Talbot.Box4](#))
- Department of Household Administration (est. 1904-05) ([LIB](#))
- "Dr. Harper and the University Girls" (report on first women students in [Madeline Wallin](#))
- The School of Education (mostly female faculty) - To develop educational theory, special reference to those already in teaching
 - Photos of ceramics class, working with children (Cap and Gown 1906) ([LIB](#))
- Correspondence with first year student's father (William De La Mater), 1909-1911 – concerns regarding women in higher education ([Talbot.Box4](#))
- Kindergarten Department (Cap and Gown 1914)
- Home Economics, est. 1917-1918 ([Talbot.Box5.Fol5](#))
 - Foods and Nutrition Classes
 - Institution Economics Classes
 - Clothing and Household Design Classes
- Household Art est. 1918-19 ([Talbot.Box5.Fol5](#)) - Clothing and Household Design of Home Economics Dept. became Household Art
- Cambridge University, Newnham College letter to Talbot - Cambridge seeking information on position of women at Chicago, September 1919 ([Talbot.Box4](#))
- Letter to President Judson on "modifications of our procedure in regard to the education of women" ([Talbot.Box4](#))
- Compulsory Gym (Cap and Gown 1932)

- 1950s debates on coeducation
- Report of the Committee on University women, May 1, 1970 (LD930.A4 1970)
- Center for Gender Studies opens in 1996 – covered by *Maroon*

Social Work

- Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy ([Edith and Alice Abbot](#))
- Residence at Hull House ([Sophonisba P. Breckenridge](#))
- Women's University Settlement League ([Madeline Wallin](#))
- Social Service Administration, est. 1920 ([LIB](#))
- SSA registration statistics, broken down by sex ([University of Chicago School of Social Services Administration](#))
- SSA lectures and other teaching materials ([Charlotte Towle](#))
- University Settlement including Camp Farr and Hyde Park Neighborhood Club ([University of Chicago Service League](#))

Admissions/Scholarships/Awards

- Phi Beta Kappa photo – more women than men (Cap and Gown 1906)
- Admissions ([Dean of the College Records 1923-1958](#))
- Graduate Record Examination ([Dean of the College Records 1923-1958](#))
- Catherine Sample Scott (1929) - appointed "College Aide," 1930 Phi Beta Kappa initiation ([Student Ephemera](#))
- Virginia "Dinny" Butts (1940-1944) scholarship letter ([Student Ephemera](#))
- Lillian Gertrude Selz Scholarship for first-year woman ([Swift Papers](#))
- 1976 Report: "Admission of women and minority group members at the University of Chicago : interim report," at D'Angelo Law Library, [LB2351.3.I3U658 1976](#). Published by University of Chicago. Student Government Committee on Curriculum and Admissions.

Sex Education

- Third Conference on Sex Education at UChicago ([Talbot.Box4.Fol2](#))
- Report of Conference, Dept of Household Arts, UofC (June 6, 1916) ([Talbot.Box5.Fol6](#))
- Self-education in sexual health featured in women's newsletters in 1960s, 70s, 80s – See *Sexuality*.

Students' Works

- Burgess's women students' papers ([Burgess Papers](#))
- Handwritten class notes ([Student Ephemera](#))
- Poem comparing Chicago women and Northwestern women (Cap and Gown 1895)
- Student papers with faculty comments ([Hedwig L. Loeb](#))

Academic Figures

- Gertrude Stein visit, 1934 ([Adler.Box138](#))
- Jane Addams honorary degree controversy, 1918 ([James Hayden Tufts](#))
- Madame Curie visit, 1921 (Cap and Gown 1922)
- Marlene Dixon Firing and Subsequent sit-in, 1969, See "A chronology of events concerning the non-reappointment of Mrs. Marlene Dixon to the faculty of the University of Chicago [and subsequent events in the Winter and Spring quarters of 1969]," in D'Angelo Law Library. KB677.C492C3 1969

Student Life

Women's Organizations

see also Athletics

- **Women's Publications**

- The Man-Hater – Not published by women but features mocking of romance, with a story called “Quigglesby: Quarter Back,” Nov. 3, 1897
- Imagine (1991) Vol 1, Issue 1: Many advertisements for local businesses, challenged stereotypes of feminism, included male contributors and editorial staff; Vol II, Issue 2: Includes fascinating advertisement by Medici
- UWA News – Vol 1, No 2 March 1970 Report on Gender discrimination in law school, Great gender cartoon
- Women's Newsletter (1977) *Joint project of UFO and Women's Union*
 - Reports on Primavera, Women's discussion group, Title IX.
 - Big issue: Student gynecological services
- Feminist News (1974)
 - Vol 1, Summer 1974): Interested in union organizing, new “Chicago Jewish Feminist Organization that has newsletter entitled “Lilith's Rib.” 90% of support staff are women yet no day care centers on campus, no maternity benefits. Announces Gay Women's Coffeehouse at Blue Gargoyle, includes important phone numbers for women: Chicago Women's Liberation Union, University of Chicago's Women's Center, feminist therapists
 - Vol 2, No 1: Reported that six secretaries in the School of Education were to be laid off but “banded together and negotiated an agreement” to retain four positions and transfer the other two.” Reported self-advocacy at Student Gynecology Clinic. Reported the founding of the University Feminist Organization in March 1974, with 200 members.
 - Vol 2, No 2: Info on daycare in the neighborhood. Reported on doctorate distribution, from MLA newsletter. Reported that CWLU offered pregnancy tests twice a week.
 - Vol 2, No 3: Announces first issue of Primavera, a women's lit magazine. Info on unionizing and self-defense classes, meetings on rapes in the neighborhood.
 - Vol 3, No 2: Info on WICCA (Women in Crisis Can Ask) hotline
 - Vol 3, No 3: Testimonial by anonymous woman about phlebitis after use of birth control pill. Reporting on insufficient services at Student Gynecological Clinic. Reports training of peer counselors to prep patients and answer questions. Overall, some interest in international feminist issues and women of color.
- Thrice-Born (1982)
 - Vol 1, #3, Jan 15 1982: Article on women and violence, reviews of two books
 - Vol 1, #4 Jan 29, 1982: Opening of Women's Union Library, Report on Women's Union Coffeehouse with 50 women in attendance, report on

- Ruth Murray's bibliography: "Some Library Resources for Women's Studies"
 - Vol 1, #5 Feb 19, 1982: Report on denial of funding to Primavera by UC Student Government because no men served on editorial board. Issue of "reverse discrimination" being raised on campus.
 - Vol 1, #6 April 15, 1982: Report on sterilization abuses nation-wide
 - Vol 1, #8 June 3, 1982: Report on May 15 Women in Science conference.
 - Cicatriz (1991)
 - "University of Chicago Women's Union Arts Journal" – "Cicatriz" means "scar" in Spanish. Themes of travel and photos of women of color, explicitly aimed at diverse constituency.
- **Women's Clubs**
 - Women's clubs and minutes (1898-1920s) ([Talbot.Box4](#))
 - Alumnae Club ([LIB](#))
 - Women's Athletic Association ([LIB](#))
 - Women's Weekly (Cap and Gown 1901)
 - Women's Union ([Talbot.Box4](#)) - Object: "to unite the women of the University for the promotion of their common interests."
 - College Equal Suffrage League
 - The Quibblers – Women's debating society (Cap and Gown 1907)
 - The English Twelve Club – first women's literary society (Cap and Gown 1908)
 - Neighborhood Clubs – off-campus women (Cap and Gown 1910)
 - The Women's Administrative Council (est. 1914) - supervise social life of university women ([Talbot.Box4.Fol12](#); Cap and Gown 1916)
 - Federation of University Women - Upperclass counselors for women freshmen during Freshman Week ([President Papers](#); Cap and Gown 1922)
 - Women's Speakers Club (Cap and Gown 1924)
 - Women's University Council - est. 1925 at retirement of Talbot, 17 women council replaced single position of Dean of Women ([Talbot.Box4.Fol1](#))
 - Edith Foster Flint ([LIB](#))
 - Comad Club – School of Commerce and Administration (Cap and Gown 1925)
 - Astratro Club – Methodist Women (Cap and Gown 1925)
 - Board of Women's Organizations (Cap and Gown 1926)
 - Undergraduate Home Economics Club (Cap and Gown 1928)
 - University of Chicago Service League (University of Chicago Service League Records, [Grace and Edith Abbot](#))
 - Little Sisters of Alpha Del (Cap and Gown 1985)
 - New Delta Society – Women's literary society (Gargoyle 1988)
 - Women's Radical Action Project (WRAP) (1967) and Women's Union - jumpstart [Chicago Women's Liberation Union \(CWLU\)](#)
 - In 1985, first sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi

- Local Societies/Sororities
 - National Sororities (Pi Bet Phi Fraternity and the question of admitting sororities ca. 1894-1898) ([Talbot.Box3; Box4.Fol3,4,5](#))
 - The Esoteric Club, est. 1894 ([Anna Gwin Pickens](#))
 - The Mortar Board, est. 1894 ([LIB](#))
 - The Quadranglers, est. 1895 ([Swift Papers](#))
 - The Sigma Club, est. 1895 (Cap and Gown 1896)
 - Nu Pi Sigma, est. 1896 ([LIB](#))
 - The Wyvern Club (Cap and Gown 1899)
 - Phi Beta Delta (Cap and Gown 1900)
 - Chi Rho Sigma (Cap and Gown 1903)
 - Pi Delta Phi (Cap and Gown 1903)
 - Deltho Club (Cap and Gown 1905)
 - Kalailu Club (Cap and Gown 1907)
 - Delta Sigma (Cap and Gown 1915)
 - Phi Delta Upsilon ([Student Ephemera](#); Cap and Gown 1920)
 - Interclub Council ([Mortar Board](#); Cap and Gown 1921)
 - Achoth Club (Cap and Gown 1921)
 - Arrian (Cap and Gown 1932)
 - Changed to Alpha Epsilon (Cap and Gown 1940)
 - Aychud (Cap and Gown 1932)
 - Triota (Cap and Gown 1940)
 - Club rushing/scandals (Cap and Gown 1941)
 - Interclub Council (Cap and Gown 1921)
 - Alpha Omicron Pi, est. 1985 first sorority at UofC (Gargoyle 1988)
 - Kappa Alpha Theta, est. 1986 sorority (Gargoyle 1988)
 - Delta Tau – coed fraternity (Gargoyle 1989)
- Theater/Music/Arts
 - Mandolin, Banjo and Guitar Club (Cap and Gown 1896)
 - Reorganized in 1896 into Women's Mandolin Club
 - Women's Glee Club (est. 1895)
 - "Sure Enough Segregation" (1907) - Blackfriars (all-male theater troupe est. 1903) on experiment with classroom separation of men and women in the Junior College ([Blackfriars](#); Cap and Gown 1908)
 - Blackfriars coed in 1955
 - The Scott and Buskin – girls cast for all male parts (Cap and Gown 1908)
 - The Greenroom – Literature College of Women's dramatic club (Cap and Gown 1908)
 - "How the Vote was Won" by the Equal Suffrage League (Cap and Gown 1910)
 - The Masquers – dramatic club for women (Cap and Gown 1913)
 - The Mirror (all female theater group) - spectacular chorus-line musicals (Cap and Gown 1926)
 - 1942 Joint Performance of Blackfriars and the Mirror Review

Gendered spaces on Campus

see also Women's Housing

- Ida Noyes (replaced Woman's Union) ([LIB](#))
 - separate swimming pools (Cap and Gown 1955)
- Dormitories
 - Hall Heads
 - Women's Houses (1892-1924) ([Talbot](#))
 - Floor plans and general house rules, report comparing boarding conditions/costs to eastern colleges (7 sisters) in form of letter to the President and trustees; Suggestions and notes on building women's dorms; inventories of room furniture ([Talbot.Box4.Fol13](#))
 - Woodward Court - coed dormitory ([Building and Grounds](#); Cap and Gown 1965)
 - La Maison Francaise ([William A Nitze](#))
 - Upper and Lower Wallace (Cap and Gown 1986)
- Women's schedule for Freshmen Week orientation, 1928 ([Student Ephemera](#))
- Faculty Wives' Dinners – role reversals; sketches ([LIB](#))
- Women's Center, est. 1974
- Dining Halls
 - See "An Analysis of the activities of the lunch rooms and dining halls of the University of Chicago, Florence Farquhar, 1925. Crerar Library, TX999 Farquhar.

Athletics – The “glory of manly sports”

- Gertrude Dudley - in 1898 launched the first program of competitive athletics for women at a major university ([LIB](#))
- Women's Basketball team photos first appearance (Cap and Gown 1901)
- New sports appear for women (Cap and Gown 1902)
- Women's Gym 1909 - table shows the difference in facility provisions made for men and women students ([Talbot.Box5.Fol2](#))
- Women's Athletic Organization (Cap and Gown 1904)
- Women's Basketball action photos first appearance (Cap and Gown 1906)
- Requirement for regular exercise - Letter from Dean Angel to Talbot, 1917 ([Talbot.Box4](#))
- Unorganized Sports (Cap and Gown 1926)
- Swimming (just for female students) part of Freshman week activities, 1928 ([Student Ephemera](#))
- Women's "C" Club (Cap and Gown 1928)
- Compulsory Gym (Cap and Gown 1932)
- Women's Trampoline class (Cap and Gown 1965)
- Handbook of the Women's Division of the Physical Education Department, 1967-71

- Included requirements for women for their physical education. Swimming proficiency test was required. Details class options for fulfilling requirements.
- *WAA Newsletter*. 1971-1981 (quarterly). News of women's sports teams and alumnae of the Women's Athletic Association. ASF in Special Collections.

Sexuality and Health

see also *Dating*

- A 1952 MA thesis on first-year women in the College “regarding their standard of morality.” Marjorie Ann Dedrick, BJ2999 Dedrick. Twenty-one women were interviewed.
- Abortion – JANE
 - From 1969 to 1973, before the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark Roe vs. Wade decision
 - Jane, officially known as the Abortion Counseling Service of the Chicago Women's Liberation Union, arranged and participated in more than 11,000 illegal abortions in Chicago and the suburbs in those turbulent years. tk
 - Pro-Life Association (Cap and Gown 1986)
- Pregnancies
 - Lying-In Hospital (1897) for pregnant women (see "Student Nurses")
- Queer Life
 - Burgess's students' research on Chicago's homosexual community ([Burgess Papers](#))
- "Sexual Life" (Cap and Gown 1980) – anti-porn protest photo

Social Activities

- [Campus Events](#)
 - Washington Promenade. "The grandfather of all social events" began in February 1893 as a parody of scholarly seminars
 - Junior College Day Promenade ([Talbot.Box4](#))
 - "Prom Leaders" "Campus Beauty" (Cap and Gown 1934)
 - Letter from male student to Talbot – disapproval of tango; debauchery ([Talbot.Box4](#))
 - Virginia "Dinny" Butts (1940-1944) ([Student Ephemera](#))
 - Scrapbook, party invitations, commencement program, photos; Newspaper gossip section cutouts (the Bazaar)
 - Sigma Club members' annual fashion show photos - "ideal wardrobe of the wartime coed" ([Student Ephemera](#))
 - Beauty Pageants
 - "Most Photogenic Girls on Campus" (Cap and Gown 1940)
 - "U of C Beauty Queens" (Cap and Gown 1941)
 - Wartime co-ed fashion (Butts scrapbook [Student Ephemera](#))
 - "Miss U of C" (Cap and Gown 1953)
 - Freshmen Orientation
 - Freshman Week program, 1928 ([Student Ephemera](#))
 - Pajama Party ([Student Ephemera](#); Cap and Gown 1941)
 - Campus Trends

- Bermuda shorts (Cap and Gown 1955)
- "U of C Women: A Description" (Cap and Gown 1962)
- [Dating](#)
 - see also Sexuality and Health*
 - Poem on "The Girls" (Cap and Gown 1908)
 - Yearbook section on intra-University marriages (Cap and Gown 1908)
 - Interclass Hop (Cap and Gown 1909)
 - "Advice to the Lovelorn" (Cap and Gown 1910)
 - Dance cards, diaries ([Student Ephemera](#))
 - Cartoon of "movie director's idea of the U. of Chicago" (Cap and Gown 1929)
 - A 1938 MA thesis on the "social habits of University of Chicago undergraduates" by Allen Dow Walters. Interviewed 260 students. Questions about coed social life, drinking, smoking. LD9999 Walters.
 - "U of C Women: A Description" (Cap and Gown 1962)
 - Coed socializing; coed touch football (Cap and Gown 1965)

Ethnicity/Race

see also Community - Hyde Park Organizations

Neighborhood

- University Settlement, est. 1894 ([UofC Service League](#); [Swift Papers](#))
- Japanese Club – first appearance of "ethnic" club with female student (Cap and Gown 1908)
- School of Citizenship at the University Settlement for immigrants (Cap and Gown 1909)
- Racial discrimination, 1914-1915 ([Talbot.Box5](#))
- Chinese Students Club – photo with female student (Cap and Gown 1916)
- Czech Club – photo with female students (Cap and Gown 1918)
- Philippino Triangle Club – photo with female student (Cap and Gown 1922)
- Il Circolo Italiano – photo with female students (Cap and Gown 1922)
- International House (Cap and Gown 1939)
- Race Relations ([Kimpton.Box1.Fol.9](#))
- India Association – with photo (Cap and Gown 1953)
- Hyde Park Neighborhood Club ([University of Chicago Service League](#))
- Focus on race (Cap and Gown 1968)
- Organization of Black Students (Cap and Gown 1983)
- Taiwanese Student Association (Cap and Gown 1985)
- Korean Club (Cap and Gown 1986)
- Arab Cultural Club (Gargoyle 1988)
- Hispanic Students Association (Gargoyle 1989)

Rules and Regulations

- Dean of Women's notes and permission cards - "The Dean of Women and her Functions" ([Talbot.Box4](#))
- Married Students Newsletter (1955-56), Special Collections LD917.5 P74
- Heads of Women's Houses ([Talbot.Box4.Fol13](#))
 - Key privileges, returning hours, dinner hours, entertainment of guests
- Student manuals/regulations at Vassar and Wellesley ([Talbot.Box4](#))

Women's Housing

see also Gendered Spaces on Campus

- Student Handbook Regulations: Ranging in date from 1923 to 1970 in Special Collections.
 - 1965-67 Lists intramural sports for men, none for women; women's clubs are explicitly not sororities; Chaperonage is issue: under social regs for fraternities, when women are present after 7 pm; permissions for undergrads; Women's rules were under revision at press time; in general, women had to live for first 2 years in dorms (unless living at home), men for first year
 - 1967 – same for men and women – first year on campus; hours regs for women on overnights; none for men
 - 1968 – same
 - 1969 – no mention of men and women regs; first mention of women's intercollegiate sports
 - 1958/59 very restrictive for female students

Community - Hyde Park Organizations (relationship with demography)

see also Ethnicity/Race

- The University Settlement, est. 1894 ([UofC Service League](#); [Swift Papers](#))
 - Stockyards district (Cap and Gown 1902)
 - Girls working in packinghouses in the stockyards started a labor union, held meetings at Settlement (Cap and Gown 1903)
 - Photographs of the kindergarten (Cap and Gown 1908)
 - Camp Farr ([UofC Service League](#); [Swift Papers](#))
- Young Women's Christian Association ([LIB](#))
- University Hospitals and Clinics Auxiliary Committee ([LIB](#); Cap and Gown 1941)
- "The University and the Community," 1951 ([Kimpton.Box1.Fol4](#))
- "Urban Renewal" ([LIB](#); Cap and Gown 1956)
- "A Century of Hyde Park" (Cap and Gown 1961)
- "Review of the Activities of Student Government 1961-1962)
 - University owned property racial segregation
- Woodlawn Project ([75th Anniversary](#); Cap and Gown 1963)
- Relationship with Chicago's South Side (Cap and Gown 1968)

Staff

- *Jamboreer*. 1934-1941 (annual). Program of the annual Christmas Jamboree produced by women employees of the University, which began in 1932 and lasted at least until 1956. ASF.
 - Staff from each department had a song, skit or poem. A 1934 poem entitled “To the Women” appears in the program. The program of events included dinner (menus included), carols, and skits. The event was held in either Ida Noyes or Reynolds Club.

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