

A Guide to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Iota Alpha Chapter 50th anniversary collection, 1973-2018 UA 0062

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1973-2018



Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

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1973-2018

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Abstract

The collection consists of materials, primarily photographs, scrapbooks, memorabilia, and clothing, compiled and collected by members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Iota Alpha chapter. The materials were donated on the occasion of the chapter's 50th anniversary which they celebrated in May 2022.

Creator

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.. Iota Alpha Chapter (1971-) (James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.)

source

Edwards, Francine Toliver

source

Whitfield, Tiffany

Extent

7.03 cubic feet 10 boxes

Extent

108 Megabytes 5 files

Extent

2 sound discs (CD)

Extent

1 videodiscs (DVD)

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Optical media is unavailable pending processing. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests for certain items in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. The copyright interests for other items have not been transferred. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Materials in this collection were compiled by Francine Toliver Edwards, member of the Iota Alpha 50th Committee and Chair of Historical Digital Archiving, over the course of the year prior to the 50th anniversary weekend celebration held April 29-May 1, 2022 at James Madison University. At the conclusion of the anniversary weekend, Tiffany Whitfield, member of the Iota Alpha 50th Committee and Chair of Communications & Education, donated the compiled collection to Special Collections on May 1, 2022.

Processing Information

Many of the items were accompanied by a slip of paper identifying the item and its donor. Those papers were retained with their respective items.

The 20th anniversary banner was treated to remove newspaper that was stuck to the back of the sheet.

Notecards written using the prompt "What Does Delta Sigma Theta Mean to You" were originally attached to a paper banner created in celebration of the sorority's 100th Founders Day. Due to its deteriorating physical condition, the banner was discarded. The notecards were retained.

Framed items were removed from their frames and, when appropriate, the frames were discarded.

The three optical media disks underwent an initial review for content but were not fully processed and are therefore not immediately available to researchers.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Iota Alpha Chapter 50th anniversary collection, 1973-2018, UA 0062, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Administrative History

Founded on December 11, 1971, the Iota Alpha chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was the first Black Greek letter organization established at James Madison University (then Madison College). Iota Alpha's eleven charter members were: Patricia Gibson, Saranna Tucker, Karen Washington, Adrian Vaughn, Betty Toliver, Janis Smith, Deborah Winfree, Sandra Johnson, Joyce Richeson, Estelia "DeDe" Jackson, and Barbara Coleman.

Delta Sigma Theta is a service-oriented sorority that emphasizes its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust which comprises economic development, educational development, community and international development, housing and urban development and mental health. The sorority's official colors are crimson and cream and its mascot is the elephant. Members are referred to as sorors. In photographs, sorors are frequently pictured making the triangle sign with their hands.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of materials, primarily photographs, scrapbooks, memorabilia, and clothing, compiled and collected by members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Iota Alpha chapter. The materials were donated on the occasion of the chapter's 50th anniversary which it celebrated in May 2022.

Photograph albums and scrapbooks document community service activities and fundraisers, Adopt-A-Highway trash clean-up, car washes, probate (new member presentation), parties and formal events, fashion shows, commencement, picnics and cookouts, national convention, and step shows. Newspaper clippings, new members lists with their respective line names, and event programs are also included.

The collection also includes pieces of clothing - varsity jackets, hats, t-shirts - with Delta Sigma Theta branding. Objects and memorabilia include a trophy, banner, pillows, paddles, and a customized Delta Sigma Theta doll.

Three optical media disks contain audio and video production elements likely used for public performances or step shows.

Keywords

Clothing

Scrapbooks

Photographs

Photograph albums

Banners

Hats

Memorabilia

African American college students -- Societies, etc. -- History

Greek letter societies -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg

African American Greek letter societies -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg

African American Greek letter societies

African American college students

Edwards, Francine Toliver

Whitfield, Tiffany

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.. Iota Alpha Chapter (1971-) (James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.)

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.. Iota Alpha Chapter (1971-) (James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.) -- History

Appraisal

A 2007 chemistry text book was not retained due to lack of research value and it being out of collecting scope.

Provenance

Francine Toliver Edwards solicited content from Iota Alpha sorors that would form an archival collection documenting the history, members, and activities of the Iota Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. from its charter in 1971 to the present. Materials in this assembled collection originate from many different creators, all sorors and members of the Iota Alpha chapter.

Items without documented individual creators/donors were donated to the chapter at various points in the

past and held in storage by the sorority prior to their being donated to Special Collections as part of the 50th anniversary collection.

The assembled collection was exhibited during the anniversary weekend at the April 30 legacy gala held at James Madison University's Hall of Presidents, and additional items were added to the collection by attendees.

Description of Subordinate Components

Pledge fee receipt

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29971

Unit Date 1983 November 28

Mixed Materials [1000885740] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

source Fears, Kimberly Taylor

Keywords

Fears, Kimberly Taylor

Buttons

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29967

Unit Date 1987-1988

Mixed Materials [1000885740] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

source Parker, Monica L.

Scope and Contents

Founder's Week button, 1987; 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee button, 1988

Keywords

Parker, Monica L.

Crossing flyer

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29966

Unit Date Spring 1992

Mixed Materials [1000885740] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

source Janifer, Ericka

Scope and Contents

List of members and their respective line names that was posted on campus.

Keywords

Janifer, Ericka

National Executive Board of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. holiday card

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29963

Unit Date 1994

Mixed Materials [1000885740] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Photograph album

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29958

Unit Date 1996

Mixed Materials [1000885740] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29962

Unit Date circa 1998

Mixed Materials [1000885740] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Creator Jones-Quartey, Naa Kwale

Scope and Contents

Envelope includes the customer's last name - "Jones-Quartey." This likely refers to Naa Kwale Jones-Quartey ('99) who was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Iota Alpha Chapter.

Spring 1999 photograph

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29972

Unit Date Spring 1999

Mixed Materials [1000885740] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

source McGill, Sabrina Settles

Keywords

McGill, Sabrina Settles

The Days of Our Lives fashion show photograph albums

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29956

Unit Date circa 2004

Mixed Materials [1000885740] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Three photograph albums.

Photograph albums

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29957

Unit Date circa 2004

Mixed Materials [1000885740] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

"What Does Delta Sigma Theta Mean to You" notecards

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29986

Unit Date 2013

Mixed Materials [1000885740] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Six notecards originally attached to a paper banner for Delta Sigma Theta's (100th?) Founder's Day. Sorors completed notecards using the prompt "What Does Delta Sigma Theta Mean to You?" and affixed to the banner.

Scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29955

Unit Date 1990-1996

Mixed Materials [1000885741] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Creator Edwards, Francine Toliver

source Edwards, Francine Toliver

Scope and Contents

Front of scrapbook features felt "ΔΣΘ" letters and "50." The scrapbook cover may have been updated in

honor of the chapter's 50th anniversary though the contents date from 1990-1996.

Keywords

Edwards, Francine Toliver

The Pyramid Study Guide binder

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29970

Unit Date circa 1986

Mixed Materials [1000885741] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

source Fears, Kimberly Taylor

Scope and Contents

Binder only, study guide not included.

Keywords

Fears, Kimberly Taylor

Grand Chapter Doctrine binder

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29969

Unit Date circa 1986

Mixed Materials [1000885743] 3 (box)

source Fears, Kimberly Taylor

Scope and Contents

Binder only, doctrine not included.

Keywords

Fears, Kimberly Taylor

Scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29960

Unit Date Spring 1988

Mixed Materials [1000885743] 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Includes list of Spring 1988 line members.

Spine is labeled "Hollywood Shuffle! Spr 88."

Scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29961

Unit Date 1994-1995

Mixed Materials [1000885743] 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Includes list of Spring 1994 line members and their respective line names.

Crimson satin scrapbook with cream lace border. Front of scrapbook has crimson triangle outlined in cream lace.

Scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29959

Unit Date 1995-1996

Mixed Materials [1000885743] 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Includes list of Spring 1995 line members and their respective line names.

Scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29964

Unit Date 1996

Mixed Materials [1000885743] 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Includes list of Spring 1996 line members and their respective line names.

Scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29965

Unit Date 2006

Mixed Materials [1000885743] 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Crimson velvet scrapbook.

Keywords

Reed, Deanna

1976 National Convention photographs

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29950

Unit Date 1976-1988

Digital Files UA0062-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Creator Johnson, Deborah Tompkins

Creator Parker, Monica L.

1985 Delta Sigma Theta annual report

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29951

Unit Date 1985 October 14

Digital Files UA0062-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Fall 83 crossing

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29952

Unit Date Fall 1983

Digital Files UA0062-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Fall 1983 scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29953

Unit Date 1983-1984

Digital Files UA0062-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Fall 1985 fashion show program and tickets

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29954

Unit Date 1985 November 15

Digital Files UA0062-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

Keywords

Gabbin, Joanne V. (Joanne Veal), 1946-

Snoop mix

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29993

Unit Date circa 2004

Audio UA0062-OP-001 (CD-R)

Access Restrictions

Access to original media is restricted. A reformatted use copy may be requested. Contact library-special@jmu.edu to request reformatting of this object.

Scope and Contents

Contains audio production elements including a clip of Snoop Dog's song "Drop it Like it's Hot" and Walmart commercials that were likely used as part of public performances or step shows.

Delta Sigma Theta Iota Alpha music

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29994

Unit Date undated

Audio UA0062-OP-002 (CD-R)

Access Restrictions

Access to original media is restricted. A reformatted use copy may be requested. Contact library-special@jmu.edu to request reformatting of this object.

Scope and Contents

Contains audio production elements that were likely used as part of public performances or step shows.

Delta Sigma Theta Iota Alpha video

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29995

Unit Date circa 2008

Moving Images UA0062-OP-003 (DVD-R)

Access Restrictions

Access to original media is restricted. A reformatted use copy may be requested. Contact library-special@jmu.edu to request reformatting of this object.

Scope and Contents

Contains one video production element with audio that was likely used as part of a public performance or step show. Also includes a McDonald's themed skit titled "McDelta."

Scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29968

Unit Date 1990-2008

Mixed Materials [1000925019] OV 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

Includes 1990 Founders Week schedule.

Keywords

Reed, Deanna

Pageboy hat

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29988

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000925020] OV 2 (box)

source Stevens, Kimberly

Scope and Contents

Cream pageboy cap with crimson embroidered lettering - "Delta Sigma Theta 1913."

Keywords

Stevens, Kimberly

Fanny pack

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29989

Unit Date Spring 2014

Mixed Materials [1000925020] OV 2 (box)

source Rountree, Jasmine

Scope and Contents

Front is customized with crimson and cream lettering and elephant: "IA Made Spring 2014 The Silver Lining."

Keywords

Rountree, Jasmine

Line pillow

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29987

Unit Date circa 1993

Mixed Materials [1000925020] OV 2 (box)

source Foster, Stephaney

Scope and Contents

Crimson satin pillow with cream lace trim. Cream felt decorations and letters affixed to front include "ΔΣΘ" letters, line number, silhouette of a woman, and line name ("Perigee").

Keywords

Foster, Stephaney

Paddle

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29983

Unit Date Spring 1973

Mixed Materials [1000925021] OV 3 (box)

source Carney, DeDe Jackson

Keywords

Carney, DeDe Jackson

Paddle

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29982

Unit Date Fall 1983

Mixed Materials [1000925021] OV 3 (box)

source Fears, Kimberly Taylor

Keywords

Fears, Kimberly Taylor

Picture and frame

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29985

Unit Date Spring 1999

Mixed Materials [1000925021] OV 3 (box)

source McGill, Sabrina Settles

Scope and Contents

Wooden picture frame customized with "Spring 99 ΔΣΘ." Sorors Tae Edwards and Vanessa Cantava are pictured.

Keywords

McGill, Sabrina Settles

Step Show Competition trophy

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29981

Unit Date 2009

Mixed Materials [1000925021] OV 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Engraved: "James Madison University Step Show Competition Best Exit for Sorority 2009"

Essence of a Delta doll

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29984

Unit Date 2018

Mixed Materials [1000925021] OV 3 (box)

source Terrell, Arnella C.

Scope and Contents

Essence of a Delta doll, 3rd edition, designed by Trinity Designs, Inc. Features custom line jacket: "VA Slim 7 Iota Alpha Fall '79" (back). Includes stand and base.

Keywords

Terrell, Arnella C.

Floppy bucket hat

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29974

Unit Date circa 1992

Mixed Materials [1000925022] OV 4 (box)

source Stevens, Kimberly

source Anthony, Pamela, 1971-2017

Acquisition Information

Donated by Kimberly Stevens in honor of Pamela Anthony.

Scope and Contents

Crimson hat embroidered with "ΔΣΘ."

Keywords

Stevens, Kimberly

Anthony, Pamela, 1971-2017

Duck pillow

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29975

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000925022] OV 4 (box)

Scope and Contents

Includes the line name "Sugar Cakes" and "Δ #4."

Satin varsity jacket

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29976

Unit Date Spring 1992

Mixed Materials [1000925022] OV 4 (box)

source Janifer, Ericka

Scope and Contents

Cream and crimson silk varsity jacket. Front: embroidered "Ericka 9" on the right, ΔΣΘ letters on the left. Back: embroidered "Delta Sigma Theta" with Delta Sigma Theta crest below. Left sleeve: embroidered "Sp 92."

Keywords

Janifer, Ericka

45th chapter anniversary mesh jersey

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29977

Unit Date 2016

Mixed Materials [1000925023] OV 5 (box)

source Janifer, Ericka

Scope and Contents

Crimson and cream mesh jersey with "1913" on the front. "Iota Alpha 45 Chapter Anniversary Est. 1971" on the back.

Keywords

Janifer, Ericka

Long sleeve t-shirt with line members

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29978

Unit Date circa 1999

Mixed Materials [1000925023] OV 5 (box)

source McGill, Sabrina Settles

Scope and Contents

Front: "ΔΣΘ On the Line of Fire." Right sleeve: list of line members (S. Hylton, N. Campbell, S. Settles, V. Waller, D. Eure, M. Hicks, T. Casey, F. Sellers, S. Vaughan, M. Baker, S. Scott, D. Johnson).

Keywords

McGill, Sabrina Settles

Centennial sweatshirt

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29979

Unit Date 2013

Mixed Materials [1000925023] OV 5 (box)

source Stevens, Kimberly

source Anthony, Pamela, 1971-2017

Scope and Contents

Black sweatshirt with crimson and cream rhinestones. "DST 100" is in the style of Run-DMC's logo.

Keywords

Stevens, Kimberly

Anthony, Pamela, 1971-2017

Crimson overalls

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29980

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000925023] OV 5 (box)

Scope and Contents

Painted crimson cloth coveralls with "ΔΣΘ" painted in cream on chest and "1913" painted on the right pant leg.

Varsity jacket

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29973

Unit Date Spring 1991

Mixed Materials [1000925024] OV 6 (box)

source Edwards, Francine Toliver

Scope and Contents

Crimson and cream varsity jacket. Front: embroidered "Fran 5" on the right, "ΔΣΘ" letters on the left. Back: embroidered "Delta Sigma Theta" with Delta Sigma Theta crest below.

Keywords

Edwards, Francine Toliver

20th anniversary banner

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29990

Unit Date 1991

Mixed Materials [1000885742] RS 1 (box)

Extent Approximately 95" x 66"

Scope and Contents

Black twin sized sheet hand-painted with "ΔΣΘ" letters in cream down the center. Soror in crimson bikini and cream neck scarf on the left side. Soror in crimson shirt, denim bell bottoms, and platform shoes on right. She is also doing the Delta triangle symbol with her hands. Years 1971 and 1991 are painted on each top corner.

Given that the years 1971 and 1991 are painted on the banner, it is presumed to be a 20th anniversary

banner for the Iota Alpha Chapter.