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Creator: Alpha Phi Alpha, Zeta Xi Lambda Chapter

Collection Title: Alpha Phi Alpha, Zeta Xi Lambda Chapter

Date Span: 1930-2021

Extent: 0.4 linear feet, 1 box plus two oversized artifacts and some library volumes

Processors: Dino Robinson, March, 2017. John Miles Branch, archives intern. Completed July 20, 2022.

Repository: Shorefront Legacy Center, 2214 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201

ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Access Restrictions: Some materials in this collection are restricted.

Usage Restrictions: All copyrighted material created by Alpha Phi Alpha was transferred to Shorefront Legacy Center upon donation of materials. The collection contains one large envelop marked “Restricted” and should only be made available to members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Language: English

Preferred Citation: Shorefront Archives.

Provenance: The bulk of these records were donated to Shorefront Legacy Center by Fraternity members Morris E. Robinson, Sr, Morris (Dino) Robinson, Jr., for the post 1980s materials; and from Kris Graves for documents prior to the 1980s.

Separations: Additional materials, consisting mostly of *The Sphinx* magazine, are located in the Shorefront general library.

See Also: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority records, Shorefront Legacy Center; Social and Civic Clubs and Organizations collection, Shorefront Legacy Center

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The majority of materials in this collection are related to the Zeta Xi Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha; some pertain to other chapters or to the fraternity as a whole. Materials of particular historical significance include a series of articles in *The Sphinx* in which William Pyant, an Alpha Mu member and eventual president of the Evanston NAACP, reports on Edwin B. Jourdain, Jr., Evanston’s first Black alderman.

The collection is organized into five series: “Artifacts,” which contains a small number of physical artifacts pertaining to Alpha Phi Alpha; “Chapter History,” which contains materials specific to the chapter as well as a collection of the fraternity’s national magazine, *The Sphinx*; “Correspondence,” which includes letters to and from Zeta Xi Lambda’s leadership; “Membership, Meetings, and Events,” which contains a variety of materials concerning the membership and operations of the fraternity; and “Photographs,” comprised of group photographs.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Originally established in 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha is the United States’ oldest collegiate fraternity for African American men. Zeta Xi Lambda, a chapter for graduates—as opposed to current college students—was founded in Evanston in 1956 and persisted until the early 2000s. Zeta Xi Lambda was involved in

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chartering several new undergraduate chapters in the Chicago area, including a successful effort in the 1950s to re-charter the dormant Alpha Mu chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha at Northwestern University.

CITED SOURCES

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. "Our History: The Founding of Alpha Phi Alpha." <https://apa1906.net/our-history/>. Accessed July 19, 2022.

ACCESS HEADINGS

African American fraternal organizations

African Americans--Illinois--Evanston.

Alpha Phi Alpha--History

Civil rights.

Evanston (Ill.)--History.

CONTAINER LIST

Series I. Artifacts, 1988-1990

This series contains physical artifacts from Alpha Phi Alpha in the 1980s and 1990s.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
OS	N/A	Letter Jacket, Theta Chapter, Morris Robinson Jr	1988
OS	N/A	Lettered Baseball Jersey from, Tau Chapter, Warren Robinson	1990

Series II. Chapter History, 1931-2021

This series contains materials pertaining to the history of the Zeta Xi Lambda chapter, as well as of Alpha Phi Alpha more broadly. Among other materials, includes issues of the fraternity's magazine, *The Sphinx*, and a biography of Edwin B. Jourdain, Jr., Evanston's first Black alderman and a fraternity member. One folder in this series contains materials restricted to Zeta Xi Lambda members.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	<i>The Sphinx</i> , June 1931	1931
1	2	<i>The Sphinx</i> , October 1931	1931
1	3	<i>The Sphinx</i> , May 1932	1932
N/A	N/A	<i>The Sphinx</i> , 1993-2021 (in Shorefront Archives Library)	1993-2021
1	4	Zeta Xi Lambda Chapter History	n.d.
1	5	Zeta Xi Lambda Constitution & Bylaws	1967
1	6	Stationary	n.d.
1	7	Zeta Xi Lambda Misc.	n.d.
1	9	Edwin B. Jourdain, Jr., by Dr. Sherman Beverly	2017
1	10	Zeta Xi Lambda, Restricted Materials	n.d.

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Series III. Correspondence, 1955-1986

This series contains correspondence within Zeta Xi Lambda, as well as between members of the Zeta Xi Lambda and Alpha Mu and a range of other figures, including national Alpha Phi Alpha leadership and the administration of Northwestern University.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	11	Correspondence Between the Local Chapter and National	1955-1957
1	12	Zeta Xi Lambda Letters Between NU & Alpha Phi Alpha	1967
1	13	Zeta Xi Lambda Correspondences	1966, 1967
1	14	General Office 1967 Newsletter	1967
1	15	Morris E. Robinson Sr. Correspondence	1980s
1	16	Zeta Xi Lambda Correspondences	1980s

Series IV. Membership, Meetings, and Events, 1956-2011

This series contains rosters with biographical information about members, materials related to specific fraternity events, meeting minutes, and other materials related to the activities of Zeta Xi Lambda, Alpha Mu, and other chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	17	23 rd Annual Convention, National Pan-Hellenic Council at Northwestern Univ.	1952
1	18	Zeta Xi Lambda Member Information Sheets	1956-1960
1	19	Alpha Mu/Northwestern Receipts	1957
1	20	Zeta Xi Lambda Directory	1958-1960
1	21	Zeta Xi Lambda Spring and Summer Formal	1965-1967
1	22	Zeta Xi Lambda Financial Members/Rosters	1983, 1990s
1	23	Zeta Xi Lambda Member Biosheets	1985
1	24	Zeta Xi Lambda Member Biosheets with Photos	1986
1	25	Zeta Xi Lambda Fraternal Banquet for Herman O. Dixon	1986
1	26	Other Chapters: Newsletters, Rosters, Correspondences, Conference, Misc.	1986, 1996
1	27	Zeta Xi Lambda Minutes and Agendas	1986-1989
1	28	Zeta Xi Lambda Pledge Information	1986-1989
1	29	General Office Life Membership	1987
1	30	General 105 th Anniversary Convention	2011

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Series V. Photographs, 1930-1989

This series contains group photographs. (Other photographs are also available in some of the materials in Series II and Series IV.)

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	31	Alpha Mu/Northwestern Group Photo	1930
1	32	Zeta Xi Lambda Group Photos	1940s
1	33	Zeta Xi Lambda Group Photo	1989

Note: Additional *Sphinx* magazines are located in library bookshelf: 1993 —