Guide to the University of Chicago Faculty Wives’ Dinners Records 1936-1985

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier
ICU.SPCL.FACULTYWIVES

Title
University of Chicago. Faculty Wives' Dinners. Records

Date
1936-1985 (inclusive)

Size
5 linear ft. (10 boxes)

Repository
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Abstract
The records of the Faculty Wives’ Dinners comprise 5 linear feet of material, spanning the years 1936 to 1985. The records pertain to the organization of dinners for the wives of University of Chicago faculty and trustees, given annually from 1936 through 1980. The collection contains manuscripts of speeches, song lyrics, and play scripts; correspondence among event organizers and with University administrators; invitations and programs; and reports, committee records, and financial material. Also included in the collection is a small amount of material not pertaining to the Faculty Wives’ Dinners. This material consists of manuscripts and grant applications for the 1980 Quadrangle Club Revels, faculty and alumni periodicals, and programs from amateur theater productions.

Information on Use

Citation
When quoting material from this collection the preferred citation is:

University of Chicago. Faculty Wives' Dinners. Records, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note

From 1936 to 1980, volunteer committees organized social dinners in the Quadrangle Club for the wives of University of Chicago faculty and trustees. The events were planned as a counterpart to the annual dinner given by University Trustees for faculty members.

The Faculty Wives' events included entertainment productions as well as social dinners. Early productions were often unrehearsed theatrical readings, skits, song recitals, and games. Beginning in 1950, the productions took the form of more elaborate theatrical events, with the presentation of original material whose subject matter satirized current events and campus life. These productions became a campus tradition. Dress rehearsals were attended by the participants' husbands and children, members of the campus community, media reporters, and photographers. The content of these productions was socially attuned and could be sharply witty,
as in the 1970 satire of the women’s movement, "Never Underestimate…” which met with objections from many female students and faculty members.

Considerable time and effort were devoted to the event at every stage, including fund-raising and underwriting, designing and producing invitations and programs, planning meals for hundreds of guests, and composing, producing, and performing the theatrical programs. Committees assigned to each task reported to the General Chairman and the Treasurer for the event. These in turn reported to the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Beginning in the 1970s, social and generational changes resulted in diminishing interest and support for the tradition, which was ended in 1980 under the administration of President Hannah Gray. The last Faculty Wives' Dinner took place in 1980, and a reunion was held in 1985.

**Scope Note**

The records of the Faculty Wives' Dinners comprise 5 linear feet of material, spanning the years 1936 to 1985. The records pertain to the organization of dinners for the wives of University of Chicago faculty and trustees, given annually from 1936 through 1980. The collection contains manuscripts of speeches, song lyrics, and play scripts; correspondence among event organizers and with University administrators; invitations and programs; and reports, committee records, and financial material.

The collection has been arranged into six series. Series I, Events Files, is arranged chronologically and contains material related to the organization of Dinners and theater productions from 1937 to 1979. Series II, Officers’ Reports, spans the years 1936 to 1979 and contains reports submitted by committee chairs to the General Chairman and University administrators. Series III, Invitations, Programs, and Talent Search Cards, spans the years 1942 to 1979. Series IV, Committee Records, contains material used within various organizing committees from 1959 to 1980. Series V, Scripts, Songs, and Production Materials, contains material used during the organization and performance of the amateur theater performances which followed dinners from 1950 to 1980. Series VI, Related Campus and Theater Organizations, contains material not pertaining to Faculty Wives’ Dinners; this series, spanning the years 1951 to 1980, includes programs and other material related to a variety of amateur theater groups, as well as a small number of faculty and alumni periodicals.

**Related Resources**

The following resources are located in the Special Collections Research Center:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/women.html

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/theart.html

**Subject Headings**

- University of Chicago Faculty Wives' Dinners
• Quadrangle Club Revels
• Faculty News Bulletin
• Tower Topics
• University of Chicago Theater
• University of Chicago
• Womens clubs

INVENTORY

Series I: Events Files

Series I, Events Files, covers the period 1937 to 1979. This series consists of material related to the organization and production of the annual Faculty Wives' Dinners. Material includes scripts, song lyrics, speech manuscripts, correspondence among committee members and to University administrators, programs, schedules, cast and crew lists, budgets and financial material, and facsimiles of newspaper clippings. As organization of dinners generally began in October and November for January and February events, this series is arranged chronologically according to the date of the dinner to which the material is related.

Box 1
Folder 1
   Table chart, 1937
Box 1
Folder 2
   Table chart, 1938
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Folder 3
   Table chart, 1939
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   Table chart, 1940
Box 1
Folder 5
   Table charts, program, notes, 1941
Box 1
Folder 6
   Table chart, 1942
Box 1
Folder 7
   Table charts, 1946
Box 1
Folder 8
   Table chart, 1947
Box 1
Folder 9
   Table chart, 1950
Box 1
Folder 10
Welcome speech, program, cast and crew list, guest list, 1952
Box 1
Folder 11
General Chairman’s welcome speech, 1953
Box 1
Folder 12
General Chairman’s welcome speech, 1954
Box 1
Folder 13
Facsimile of newspaper clipping, 1957
Box 1
Folder 14
Correspondence, 1962
Box 1
Folder 15
Correspondence, financial material, 1963
Box 1
Folder 16
Correspondence, dress rehearsal program, 1964
Box 1
Folder 17
Correspondence, 1965
Box 1
Folder 18
Rehearsal schedule, 1966
Box 1
Folder 19
Rehearsal schedules, scripts, 1967
Box 1
Folder 20
Facsimiles of newspaper clippings, notes, 1968
Box 1
Folder 21
Manuscripts, correspondence, rehearsal schedule, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, 1969
Box 1
Folder 22
Script, cast and crew list, correspondence, photographs, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, 1970
Box 1
Folder 23
Manuscripts, cast and crew list, correspondence, notes, 1971
Box 1
Folder 24
Correspondence, 1972
Box 1
Folder 25
General Chairman’s welcome speech, handwritten invitation, 1973
Box 1
Folder 26
Manuscripts, correspondence, notes, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, 1974
Box 1
Folder 27
Manuscripts, correspondence, notes, 1975
Box 1
Folder 28
Manuscripts, correspondence, cast and crew list, financial material, notes, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, 1976
Box 1
Folder 29
Notes, 1976
Box 1
Folder 30
Correspondence, financial material, 1977
Box 1
Folder 31
Manuscripts, cast and crew list, correspondence, financial material, notes, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, 1978
Box 1
Folder 32
Sheet music, financial material, 1978
Box 1
Folder 33
Cast list, rehearsal schedule, correspondence, financial material, notes, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, 1979
Box 1
Folder 34
Cast and crew list, 1979
Box 1
Folder 35
Notes, correspondence, n.d.

Series II: Officers’ Reports

This series contains reports completed by the General Chairman, Treasurer, chairs of subcommittees, and other officers involved in the organization of the Faculty Wives' Dinners from the years 1936 to 1978. Committees were assigned to duties such as entertainment, invitations, dinner, decorations, seating, programs, press publicity, and dance. The reports provide details of the officer’s or committee’s preparations for that year’s dinner. After the event itself, reports were submitted to the General Chairman of the Faculty Wives Committee, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and the Vice Chancellor of the University. The reports were also used as reference by subsequent committees and officers. This series is arranged chronologically.
Box 2
Folder 1
   Officers' Reports, 1936-1947
Box 2
Folder 2
   Ledger pages, 1936-1954
Box 2
Folder 3
   List of committee members, 1940
Box 2
Folder 4
   Officers' Reports, 1948-1954
Box 2
Folder 5
   Seating Committee Report, 1950
Box 2
Folder 6
   Officers' Reports, 1951
Box 2
Folder 7
   Officers' Reports, 1952
Box 2
Folder 8
   Officers' Reports, 1953
Box 2
Folder 9
   Officers' Reports, 1954
Box 2
Folder 10
   Officers' Reports, 1955
Box 2
Folder 11
   Officers' Reports, 1956
Box 2
Folder 12
   Record book, 1956
Box 2
Folder 13
   Officers' Reports, 1957
Box 2
Folder 14
   Officers' Reports, 1958-1959
Box 2
Folder 15
   Officers' Reports, 1960
Box 2
Series III: Invitations, Programs, and Talent Search Cards

This series consists of printed invitations, programs, and talent search cards produced for Faculty Wives’ Dinners, 1942 to 1979. Invitations and programs were sometimes designed and produced by members of the Invitations Committee, but were more often professionally designed and printed. Participants indicated their volunteer interests on “Talent Search Cards,” which were collected at dinners and used to assemble committees for the upcoming year. Handwritten notes and correspondence are found among some of the materials. This series is arranged
chronologically. Samples of invitations and programs are also found in Series II: Committee Reports and Series IV: Committee Records.

Box 4
Folder 1
Invitation, 1942
Box 4
Folder 2
Invitation, programs, 1946
Box 4
Folder 3
Invitation, 1947
Box 4
Folder 4
Program, 1950
Box 4
Folder 5
Invitation, programs, 1952
Box 4
Folder 6
Invitations, program, 1953
Box 4
Folder 7
Invitation, program, 1954
Box 4
Folder 8
Invitation, 1955
Box 4
Folder 9
Invitation, 1956
Box 4
Folder 10
Invitations, programs, 1957
Box 4
Folder 11
Program, 1958
Box 4
Folder 12
Program, 1959
Box 4
Folder 13
Programs, 1960
Box 4
Folder 14
Invitation, programs, 1961
Folder 15
  Invitations, programs, 1962
Box 4
Folder 16
  Invitation, talent search card, 1963
Box 4
Folder 17
  Invitations, programs, talent search cards, 1964
Box 5
Folder 1
  Invitations, program, talent search card, 1965
Box 5
Folder 2
  Talent search cards, 1966
Box 5
Folder 3
  Invitations, program, 1967
Box 5
Folder 4
  Talent search cards, 1967
Box 5
Folder 5
  Program, 1968
Box 5
Folder 6
  Talent search cards, 1968
Box 5
Folder 7
  Invitations, programs, talent search cards, 1969
Box 5
Folder 8
  Invitation, programs, 1970
Box 5
Folder 9
  Invitation, 1971
Box 5
Folder 10
  Invitation, programs, talent search cards, 1972
Box 5
Folder 11
  Invitations, programs, 1973
Box 5
Folder 12
  Invitations, programs, 1974
Box 5
Folder 13
Series IV: Committee Records

Series IV, Committee Records, covers the period 1959 to 1980 and is arranged alphabetically by committee name, then chronologically. This series contains the records of subcommittees involved in organizing the Faculty Wives’ Dinners for each year. Included are the records of the Dance, Invitations, Production, Programs, and Publicity Committees. Materials include budgets, correspondence, manuscripts, press releases, notes, newspaper clippings, copies of officers’ reports, and paste-ups and samples of invitations and programs. While the materials in Series I, Officer’s Reports were turned into committee chairs and university administrators, the materials in this series were used as records and reference within individual committees. Material related to the Invitations Committee is also found in Series III, Invitations and programs. Material related to the Production Committee is also found in Series V, Scripts, Songs, and Related Materials.

Box 6
Folder 1
Dance Committee, contracts, correspondence, and notes, 1970-1980

Box 6
Folder 2
Invitations Committee, notes, 1936-1949

Box 6
Folder 3
Invitations Committee, list of committee members, 1936-1978

Box 6
Folder 4
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, 1941

Box 6
Folder 5
Invitations Committee, invitations, designs for invitations, 1946-1951

Box 6
Folder 6
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, 1951

Box 6
Folder 7
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, correspondence, 1952

Box 6
Folder 8
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1953

Box 6
Folder 9
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1954

Box 6
Folder 10
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1955

Box 6
Folder 11
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1956

Box 6
Folder 12
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1957

Box 6
Folder 13
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1958

Box 6
Folder 14
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1959

Box 6
Folder 15
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1960

Box 6
Folder 16
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1961

Box 6
Folder 17
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1962

Box 6
Folder 18
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, notes, 1963
Box 6
Folder 19
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1964

Box 6
Folder 20
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1965

Box 6
Folder 21
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, 1966

Box 6
Folder 22
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1967

Box 6
Folder 23
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, talent search card, 1968

Box 6
Folder 24
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1969

Box 6
Folder 25
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1970

Box 6
Folder 26
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1971

Box 6
Folder 27
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1972

Box 6
Folder 28
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitation, 1973

Box 6
Folder 29
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, invitations, program, 1974

Box 6
Folder 30
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, list of committee members, invitation, notes, 1975

Box 6
Folder 31
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, list of committee members, invitation, program, notes, 1976

Box 6
Folder 32
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, list of committee members, invitation, program, 1977

Box 6
Folder 33
Invitations Committee, officer’s report, list of committee members, invitation, 1978

Box 6
Folder 34
  Production Committee, list of committee members, schedules, notes, 1974-1978

Box 7
Folder 1
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, program, 1960

Box 7
Folder 2
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, program, 1961

Box 7
Folder 3
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, program, draft of program, 1962

Box 7
Folder 4
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, program, 1963

Box 7
Folder 5
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, programs, 1964

Box 7
Folder 6
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, programs, 1965

Box 7
Folder 7
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, programs, 1966

Box 7
Folder 8
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, programs, 1967

Box 7
Folder 9
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, programs, 1968

Box 7
Folder 10
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, programs, cast and crew list, notes, 1969

Box 7
Folder 11
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, programs, 1970

Box 7
Folder 12
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, program, 1971

Box 7
Folder 13
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, program, 1972

Box 7
Folder 14
  Programs Committee, officer’s report, program, invoice, 1973
Box 7
Folder 15
Programs Committee, officer’s report, program, talent search card, invoice, 1974
Box 7
Folder 16
Programs Committee, officer’s report, program, talent search card, invoice, 1975
Box 7
Folder 17
Programs Committee, drafts of program and talent search card, 1976
Box 7
Folder 18
Programs Committee, officer’s report, 1977
Box 7
Folder 19
Programs Committee, officer’s report, program, invitations, talent search card, business cards, 1978
Box 7
Folder 20
Programs Committee, officer’s report, invitation, draft of invitation, talent search card, cast and crew lists, correspondence, program, manuscripts, notes, 1979
Box 7
Folder 21
Publicity Committee, facsimiles of newspaper clipping, 1959
Box 7
Folder 22
Publicity Committee, correspondence, 1964
Box 7
Folder 23
Publicity Committee, correspondence, manuscripts, facsimiles of newspaper clipping, 1965
Box 7
Folder 24
Publicity Committee, correspondence, manuscripts, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, dress rehearsal schedule, 1966
Box 7
Folder 25
Publicity Committee, press release, officer’s report, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, 1967
Box 7
Folder 26
Publicity Committee, officer’s report, press releases, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, 1968
Box 7
Folder 27
Publicity Committee, officer’s report, press releases, facsimile of newspaper clippings, dress rehearsal program, manuscripts, notes, 1969
Box 7
Folder 28
Publicity Committee, press release, officer’s report, dress rehearsal program, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, 1970

Box 7
Folder 29
Publicity Committee, officer’s report, press release, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, rehearsal schedule, manuscripts, 1971

Box 7
Folder 30
Publicity Committee, officer’s report, press release, correspondence, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, 1972

Box 7
Folder 31
Publicity Committee, officer’s report, press release, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, manuscripts, 1973

Box 7
Folder 32
Publicity Committee, officer’s report, press releases, notes, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, manuscripts, 1975

Box 7
Folder 33
Publicity Committee, press release, facsimiles of newspaper clippings, manuscripts, 1976

Box 7
Folder 34
Publicity Committee, press releases, form letters, list of committee members, 1977

Box 7
Folder 35
Publicity Committee, press release, 1978

Box 7
Folder 36
Publicity Committee. Manuscripts, correspondence, notes, n.d.

Series V: Scripts, Songs, and Production Materials

Series V, Scripts, Songs, and Production Materials, covers the period 1950 to 1985. This series is arranged chronologically. Series V contains draft and final versions of play scripts, song lyrics, and sheet music composed for the theatrical productions of Faculty Wives’ Dinners. Related material in this series includes notes, correspondence, schedules, and lists of cast and crew members. The content of this material, composed and produced by members of the Entertainment Committee, often satirizes current events and campus life at University of Chicago. Further material related to theatrical productions, including manuscripts of plays and songs, are also found in Series I, II, and IV.

Box 8
Folder 1
A Night at the Opera, song lyrics, 1950

Box 8
Folder 2
Midway Go Round, scripts, song lyrics, cast and crew lists, notes, 1956
Box 8
Folder 3
Universitas Chicagensis Confidential, scripts, cast list, 1957
Box 8
Folder 4
Mocha Do About Nothing, scripts, 1958
Box 8
Folder 5
Three Phases of Eve, scripts, notes, 1959
Box 8
Folder 6
Trouble in Paradox, scripts, song lyrics, 1960
Box 8
Folder 7
Lark in a Humdrum Tree, script, 1961
Box 8
Folder 8
Madness at the Medici, scripts, 1962
Box 8
Folder 9
Ph.D., the Third Degree, script, 1963
Box 8
Folder 10
Next Year at Marienbad, scripts, song lyrics, rehearsal schedule, 1964
Box 8
Folder 11
Poly-Inorgani-Morphous-Pseudo-Counterphobic, scripts, song lyrics, rehearsal schedule, 1966
Box 8
Folder 12
The Secret Life of Mitty Walter, script, song lyrics, 1967
Box 8
Folder 13
Versa-Visa, song lyrics, 1968
Box 8
Folder 14
The Marry Chase, script, song lyrics, rehearsal schedule, continuity sheet, prop list, 1969
Box 9
Folder 1
Never Underestimate..., scripts, song lyrics, cast and crew list, 1970
Box 9
Folder 2
Creative Crookery, scripts, song lyrics, notes, correspondence, 1973
Box 9
Folder 3
  The Women of Harper’s Bazaar, scripts, rehearsal schedules, cast and crew lists, notes, correspondence, 1974
Box 9
Folder 4
  Is the Water Safe to Drink? scripts, 1975
Box 9
Folder 5
  1776 and All That, cast and crew list, 1976
Box 9
Folder 6
  MMLXXVII, scripts, song lyrics, cast and crew list, correspondence, notes, facsimile of newspaper clipping, 1977
Box 9
Folder 7
  MMLXXVII, sheet music, 1977
Box 9
Folder 8
  A Touch of Genius, scripts, sheet music, cast list, correspondence, notes, 1978
Box 9
Folder 9
  A Touch of Genius, sheet music, sign-up sheets, 1978
Box 9
Folder 10
  La Meme Shows, scripts, song lyrics, sheet music, continuity sheet, cast list, rehearsal schedules, correspondence, notes, 1979
Box 9
Folder 11
  La Meme Shows, scripts, notes, continuity sheets, sheet music, 1979
Box 9
Folder 12
  The Last Show, script, 1980
Box 9
Folder 13
  The Last Show, scripts, song lyrics, sheet music, continuity sheets, notes, correspondence, 1980
Box 9
Folder 14
  Faculty Wives' Reunion, song lyrics, notes, 1985
Box 9
Folder 15
  The Last Show, sheet music, notes, 1980

Series VI: Related Campus and Theater Organizations
This series contains materials associated with a variety of campus groups which, like the Faculty Wives Club, produced special events at the university. This series consists of event programs,
correspondence, schedules, and other material related to the production of events and covers the period 1951 to 1980. The end of this series also contains a small number of University of Chicago faculty and alumni periodicals, as well as material related to amateur theater and charity groups unaffiliated with the University of Chicago.

Box 10
Folder 1
Acrotheatre, programs, continuity sheets, rehearsal schedules, 1953

Box 10
Folder 2
Acrotheatre, programs, continuity sheets, notes, n.d.

Box 10
Folder 3
Quadrangle Club Revels, drafts of grant application, 1980

Box 10
Folder 4
Quadrangle Club Revels, scripts, correspondence, notes, 1980

Box 10
Folder 5
Quadrangle Club Revels, continuity charts, 1980

Box 10
Folder 6
University of Chicago Student Union, ...Simply the Best, program, n.d.

Box 10
Folder 7
University Theater, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, program, 1953

Box 10
Folder 8
Miscellaneous amateur theater programs, n.d.

Box 10
Folder 9
Faculty News Bulletin, March 1952, June 1952, June 1953, May 1957

Box 10
Folder 10
Tower Topics, July 1951

Box 10
Folder 11
University of Chicago Service League, yearbooks and calendar, 1977