

“On Equal Terms: Educating Women at the University of Chicago

Exhibition Case Text and Item Checklist

1. Envisioning a Place for Women at the University

Case Text

When philanthropist John D. Rockefeller and University President William Rainey Harper envisioned “an institution of the highest rank and character” at Chicago, their plan provided for the education of undergraduate and graduate students, both male and female. Coeducation at the University of Chicago, however, was not an inevitable choice at the turn of the century. While neighboring public universities formed under the terms of the 1862 Morrill Land-Grant Act were coeducational from the start, scientists and educators in the 1870s and 1880s battled over the potential effects of educating young men and women together. At the same time, the northeastern “Seven Sisters” colleges established themselves as prominent, elite models of higher education for women.

President Harper sought out leaders in women’s higher education to his administration. His first pick, Alice Freeman Palmer, was the former president of Wellesley College whose national reputation Harper perceived as essential to the success of coeducation at the new University. Harper also lured a young Wellesley faculty member, Marion Talbot, to Chicago. “Help us do what greatly needs to be done in this growing City of the West,” Harper wrote Talbot, who accepted his offer in the summer of 1892.

The first Chicago women delighted in joining a small but vibrant community of female scholars. Undergraduate Demia Butler recorded Dean Palmer’s words to the first class of women students, encouraging women to experience “the great advantages of college life, and of college life in the midst of a great progressive city.” At a time when the usefulness of women’s higher education was still being debated in many corners, Chicagoans embraced Palmer’s charge. As one student writer in the first volume of the *University of Chicago Weekly* declared on October 1, 1892: “Was there ever such an opportunity for American young men and women?”

Items

1. William Rainey Harper to Marion Talbot, August 1, 1892. Marion Talbot Papers.

In the summer of 1892, University President Harper encouraged Marion Talbot to join the administration as Assistant Dean of Women, taking on “the care of young ladies” with Dean Alice Freeman Palmer.

2. Portrait of Marion Talbot, [1895]. Archival Photographic Files.

3. Women's Club of Chicago. *An Appeal on Behalf of Women Students*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1892. University of Chicago. Office of the President. Harper, Judson and Burton Administrations.

As part of his earliest outreach, President Harper addressed an important group of potential University donors: Chicago's clubwomen.

4. "Proper Function of College Presidents," ca. 1892. Archival Photographic Files.

5. Residents of the Beatrice Hotel, October 1892. Archival Photographic Files.

Marion Talbot and some of the first women students moved in to rooms at the Beatrice Hotel on South Dorchester Avenue in the fall of 1892. First-year students living at the Beatrice included (left to right) Margaret Purcell, Elizabeth Butler, Cora Howland, Grace Clark, and Demia Butler.

6. Diary of Demia Butler, 1892-1893. Demia Butler Papers.

Undergraduate Demia Butler (Ph.B. '98) kept a detailed journal documenting her first year at the University of Chicago.

7. World's Columbian Exposition, Women's Building Exterior, 1893. Archival Photographic Files.

The grand Women's Building of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition stood in Jackson Park, just blocks away from the new University of Chicago.

8. "Marion Talbot and Kelly House." *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 1, 1895. Archival Reference Collection.

As part of her supervisory duties, Marion Talbot resided in the women's dorms on the University's main quad, where she watched over her female students' social and academic lives.

9. The University of Chicago. *Annual Register*. July 1894-July 1895. Archival Serial Collection.

"Somatic and Psychic History of Woman" is the first known course on the subject of women taught at the University of Chicago.

2. Marion Talbot – Dean of Women

Case Text

When Alice Freeman Palmer resigned from the University in 1895, thirty-seven year-old Marion Talbot assumed the title of Dean of Women, a position she held until her retirement in 1925. Talbot—a graduate of Boston University and M.I.T.—supervised nearly every aspect of undergraduate and graduate student women’s lives at Chicago. She lived with students, first at temporary quarters in the Beatrice Hotel, just east of campus, and then on the main quad as head of Kelly Hall. Administrators, parents, and even Hyde Park neighbors corresponded regularly with Talbot, asking her to supervise the behavior of women students and, at times, suggesting she discipline them.

Talbot also taught in the Department of Social Science and Anthropology beginning in the 1892-93 academic year; her elevation to full professor occurred a decade later with the establishment of the Department of Household Administration. She served as a director of the American Association of University Women and authored numerous publications including *The Education of Women* (1911), *The Modern Household* (1912) co-authored with Sophonisba P. Breckinridge (PhD 1901, JD 1904), and *More Than Lore* (1936), a memoir of her long career at the University of Chicago.

Talbot often joked about her many duties at Chicago. Writing the night before classes began in October 1892, she noted, “Tomorrow I begin my part as dear-professor instead of dear-scrubwoman!” She wore many hats in her three decades at Chicago: instructor and administrator, dorm mother and housekeeper, disciplinarian and mentor. Inspired by their role model, many of Talbot’s early students went on to take similar positions directing the education of women at Chicago and other American colleges and universities.

Items

1. Marion Talbot at her desk, n.d. Archival Photographic Files.
2. The University of Chicago. *Annual Register*. July 1, 1892-July 1, 1893. Archival Serial Collection.

Marion Talbot taught a number of courses in the University’s first year, including a “Seminar in Sanitary Science,” “House Sanitation,” and “The Economy of Living” for the Department of Social Science and Anthropology.

3. William Rainey Harper to Marion Talbot, June 2, 1896. Marion Talbot Papers.
4. Anonymous letter to Marion Talbot, ca. 1900. Marion Talbot Papers.

A Hyde Park resident complained to Dean Talbot that women students were choosing to socialize, without supervision, with men in neighborhood apartments.

5. Discipline Record, 1924. University of Chicago Recorder's Office Discipline Record Book.

Gladys Pearl Chester was placed on probation after sneaking into her dormitory at midnight through the fire escape, causing “disturbance and alarm.”

6. William J. De La Mater to Marion Talbot, November 22, 1910. Marion Talbot Papers.

Concerned parents relied on the University to take over the care of their daughters during the college years.

7. Marion Talbot to William J. De La Mater, November 25, 1910. Marion Talbot Papers.

Mabel De La Mater (Ph.B. '14) eventually returned to the University of Chicago, despite her father's concerns.

7a. Mabel De La Mater. *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 19, 1914. Archival Reference Collection.

8. Marion Talbot's parlor, n.d. Archival Photographic Files.

9. Marion Talbot (1858-1948). *More than Lore, Reminiscences of Marion Talbot, Dean of Women, The University of Chicago, 1892-1925*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1936. Archival Monographs Collection.

3. The Debate Over Sex Segregation

Case Text

By the turn of the century, undergraduate admissions and the percentage of women students were increasing rapidly. By 1902, women were in the majority of students elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. Disturbed by these trends, the administration pursued a controversial policy to limit the coeducational experience for undergraduates, who had followed the same curriculum during the University's first decade.

In February 1902 the University Senate voted thirteen to eight to approve what Harper referred to as the "so called segregation" of the sexes in the first two years of undergraduate study. Men and women would be admitted to the University on equal terms but would be instructed in separate classes until their third year.

Objections to this proposal poured in from faculty, parents, friends, and neighbors of the University. That July, fifty-eight University instructors—including Marion Talbot and John Dewey—urged a reconsideration of the proposal. They complained that the plan was a vague and misguided "first step in the overthrow of co-education." The dissenters valued the "intellectual association" of young men and women in the classroom and argued that sex segregation was a step backwards for women's education in general and a blow to the self-esteem of women undergraduates in particular.

Despite complaints, the Board of Trustees approved sex segregation in the Junior College in time for the 1902-03 academic year. Some administrators simply explained sex segregation as "a matter of expediency," given the crowded conditions in Cobb Hall's classrooms. Critics of sex segregation countered that administrators and board members feared the "effeminizing" impact of increasing numbers of women undergraduates. Marion Talbot even reported to President Harper that she heard rumors "the women will soon be put off the campus." A topic of unending administrative debate, Chicago's attempt at "adapted coeducation" ended without fanfare just a few years later.

Items

1. Marion Talbot to William Rainey Harper, April 19, 1901. University of Chicago. Office of the President. Harper, Judson and Burton Administrations.

Marion Talbot recognized that the University's answer to the "sex question" would attract attention beyond Chicago.

2. "Memorial to President W.R. Harper and the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago," July 1902. University of Chicago. Office of the President. Harper, Judson and Burton Administrations.

Fifty-eight University instructors signed off on petition rejecting the administration's proposal to segregate the sexes in the Junior College.

3. Marion Talbot to William Rainey Harper, November 10, 1902. University of Chicago. Office of the President. Harper, Judson and Burton Administrations.

Just months after the Junior College sex segregation went into effect, Talbot overheard a young man in Cobb Hall announce, “the women will soon be put off the campus.”

4. *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 8, 1903. Archival Reference Collection.

5. “Agnes R. Wayman Most Perfectly Formed Woman,” September 19, 1903. Amos Alonzo Stagg Papers.

During the era of sex segregation, the physical director of the Chicago Business Women’s Club celebrated women’s basketball team captain Agnes Wayman (AB ‘03) for possessing “a physique so splendid indeed that it might safely be called ideal in its dimensions.”

6. Harold Swift to Ernest Burton, December 1, 1924. Harold Swift Papers.

Swift, a University Trustee, asked President Burton to consider the fact that “women have not made the progress in our Faculty that they might have done” at other institutions.

7. Harold Swift notes on women’s status, ca. 1924. Harold Swift Papers.

Swift kept notes about women’s status in the University. Here, he notes that in terms of pay and opportunity, able women did not receive a “fair shake.”

8. Elizabeth Wallace to Harold Swift, December 5, 1924. Harold Swift Papers.

On the eve of Marion Talbot’s retirement from the University, faculty member Elizabeth Wallace conversed with Harold Swift about an increased role for women on the faculty and on the Board of Trustees.

9

Marion Talbot’s retirement ceremony, June 4, 1925
Archival Photographic Files.

4. Women's Academics

Case Text

The University of Chicago opened in the fall of 1892 with nine women faculty members, including librarian Zella Allen Dixon, Julia Bulkley in Pedagogy, and Martha Foote Crow in English. Early graduate students like Madeleine Wallin (PhM 1893), a graduate of Smith, and instructors such as Elizabeth Wallace, a graduate of Wellesley, came to Chicago to take advantage of the new University's resources.

Dean Talbot fostered a supportive environment for these women scholars. She organized monthly meetings for the women graduate students so they could socialize outside of their own departments, share their research, and discuss "general problems" in women's education. She encouraged her undergraduate charges to pursue their studies with the same rigor that their male classmates exhibited. And she insisted as early as 1892 that "the presence of women should never mean the lowering of any standards, intellectual or social."

In the 1920s, University trustee Harold Swift suggested that President Ernest Burton pay special attention to the post-graduate careers of Chicago's women alumnae. "Our first principle," Swift wrote on the eve of Marion Talbot's retirement in 1925, "should be to bring, if feasible, three or four quite capable women to our Faculty and if they are alumnae, so much the better." A year earlier, Talbot, along with Professors Edith Foster Flint (English) and Elizabeth Wallace (French Literature) had urged the President and Board of Trustees to pay greater attention to female voices within the University. The conditions they noted—no women trustees; few women faculty and difficulty in promoting them; low numbers of fellowships for women graduate students, and a lack of public roles for women such as guest lecturers or honorary degree recipients—would remain largely uncorrected for more than a generation.

Other gains during this decade were more promising: one of the first African-American woman to earn a doctorate in the United States, Georgiana Simpson (AB 1911, AM 1920), completed her studies at the University of Chicago in 1921.

Items

1. Letter to Madeline Wallin from Charles E. Peet, January 3, 1892.
Madeline Wallin Papers.

Madeline Wallin (Ph.M. '93) was one of the first female graduate students at the University of Chicago. Here, the President of the University Union informs Wallin that she has been chosen to present her research on grasshoppers at the organization's first public meeting.

2. Mary Calvert, Astronomy Assistant, 1900.
Archival Photographic Files.

3. Virginia Woodson Frame. *College Girls' Record*. San Francisco: Paul Elder, 1903. Shirley Farr Papers.

Shirley Farr (Ph.B. '04) annotated a copy of *The College Girls Record* during her senior year. After graduation, Farr went on to teach at Ripon College and made significant contributions to University of Chicago fundraising campaigns.

4 and 5. Student Matriculation Card, 1919 and Student Grade Book, 1921. Anna Gwin Pickens Papers.

Pickens (Ph.B. '23) went on to receive an A.M in History from the University in 1948.

6. "To the President of the University and the President of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago," ca. 1924. Marion Talbot Papers.

7. Edith Abbott's fellowship award notice, 1903. Edith and Grace Abbott Papers.

8. Art Class, n.d. Archival Photographic Files.

9. Placement Examinations, September 1945. Archival Photographic Files.

Eight hundred students—including a visible number of women—sat for placement exams at the University of Chicago Field House.

5. Housing Women on Campus

Case Text

Administrators took far more interest in women students than simply stimulating their “life of the mind.” As Dean, Marion Talbot seized the opportunity to build a strong female community within the limited on-campus housing available. Living in Kelly Hall on the main quad, she supervised students’ studying, socializing, diet, and exercise. Talbot believed strongly that balance, moderation and variety were key to women’s educational success.

Parents asked Dean Talbot for assurance that their daughters would receive all the “necessary protections” at Chicago. In turn, the University operated *in loco parentis*, creating curfews and other rules aimed at limiting the interactions of men and women students outside of the classroom. For Talbot, refinement and order were important principles for the women’s residences. The dorms were equipped with formal entertaining spaces for rituals like “class night,” as well as more informal mentoring between undergraduate and graduate women students. In public receiving rooms, residential students entertained visitors and planned social events under the watchful eyes of their house mothers.

Administrators hoped as many women as possible would live on campus, instead of seeking out cheaper, unsupervised rooms in Hyde Park. While many students from the Chicago area lived at home, fundraising campaigns emphasized that the University students deserved a “safe and comfortable home” on the main quad where they could be under surveillance and protected. Yet the first female dormitories on the main quad—Foster, Kelly, Beecher, and Green Halls—could house only a few hundred women.

Due to lack of funding, plans for a new women’s dormitory were cancelled in 1931 at the same time that Burton-Judson Courts, which provided housing for men, and International House, which allowed for some women residents, opened on the southern end of campus. Not until the late 1950s did the University complete a successful building campaign for new women’s dorms.

Items

1

Ralph Drury to the Registrar of the University of Chicago, August 25, 1900.
University of Chicago. Office of the President. Harper, Judson and Burton Administrations.

Drury echoed the sentiments of many parents and relatives of women students living away from home for the first time.

2

Students outside of Lexington Hall, ca. 1904.
Shirley Farr Papers.

The University built Lexington Hall during the era of sex segregation on campus. Before the construction of Ida Noyes Hall, it was one of the few spaces students available to women on campus for hosting meetings and social events.

3

Invitation to Green Hall reception, 1941.
Edith and Grace Abbott Papers.

4

Beecher House Winter Formal financial report, 1930.
Beecher House Papers.

5. Letter to Dr. Goodspeed from Sophonisba Breckenridge, June 20, 1907. Marion Talbot Papers.

Breckenridge inquired about the housing options for women of color on campus.

6. Beecher House Dues and Spring Quarter Expenditures, 1907.
Beecher House Papers.

7

Letter to Miss Anderson, February 14, 1909.
University of Chicago Office of the President, Harper, Judson and Burton Administrations Records.

Hand-drawn illustrations depict a “Class Night” ceremony in Nancy Foster Hall.

8

Foster Hall residents, ca. 1895.
Archival Photographic Files.

The donor of this photograph labeled it “Prom Night for those who did not attend the prom.”

Items 9

Students outside of Beecher Hall, 1902.
Archival Photographic Files.

10

Ruth Cohen, Pearl Hood, and Sara Barney in front of Beecher Hall, ca. 1901.
Archival Photographic Files.

11

Student room in Beecher Hall, 1900.
Archival Photographic Files.

6. Women's Clubs

Case Text

Marion Talbot and other University administrators encouraged women students to form their social allegiances through the house system, to the dismay of those who wanted to bring national Greek letter sororities to campus. Sororities were divisive and elitist, Talbot feared, and would undermine local control over women's experience at the University. Talbot also discouraged organizations from publicly humiliating new members or otherwise undermining women's respectability on campus and in the wider community.

Despite her trepidation, Talbot acknowledged that small women's clubs could enhance women's lives by fostering academic achievement and mentorship. Academic clubs offered teas, parties, and other opportunities for young women to gather outside of the classroom. Of the five women's clubs at the turn of the century, Mortar Board was the most active. Academic success was the main criteria for membership, but club members also participated in community service outings, held social events, and organized an elaborate mentorship program wherein more senior women students helped newer students navigate the school. Club members followed strict rules of conduct and performed elaborate rituals meant to demonstrate their solidarity and respect for their club's traditions.

Despite their popularity, the clubs periodically faced criticism for their selectivity and potential to weaken campus unity. Another campus organization, the Women's Union, avoided such criticism. With Talbot's encouragement, the Women's Union was formed in 1901 to help all interested women students and faculty pursue "happy companionship" and other common aims. For a small quarterly fee, any woman on campus could join and attend the frequent lunch meetings, teas, and cultural events organized by and for campus women.

Items

1

Quadrangler members to Marian Talbot, 1895.
University of Chicago. Office of the President. Harper, Judson and Burton Administrations.

2

The University of Chicago Weekly. Vol. 9, No. 22, March 14, 1901.
Archival Serial Collection.

The *Weekly's* female staffers published a special "Women's Edition."

3

Women's club letter, ca. 1900
University of Chicago. Office of the President. Harper, Judson and Burton Administrations.

4

“Campus Types – The Club Girl.” *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 12, 1907.
Archival Reference Collection.

5
Mortar Board club, 1940’s.
Student Papers and Ephemera.

6
Mortar Board Pledge Booklet with annotations, n.d.
University of Chicago Mortar Board Records.

While early campus administrators perceived women’s clubs as an acceptable alternative to sororities, the clubs increasingly resembled the sororities on other university campuses. As in sororities, new recruits to Mortar Board entered a provisional membership prior to their formal initiation. The annotations indicate that pledges and full members may have struggled over the terms of new member obligations.

7
Mortar Board Constitution and Bylaws, n.d.
University of Chicago **Mortar Board** Records.

The clubs carefully recorded their ritual and traditions to provide intergenerational continuity and distinctiveness from other clubs on campus.

8
Debate Team, 1916
Archival Photographic Files.

While university women created female-only organizations, they also participated in extracurricular activities alongside men.

9
YWCA membership card, ca. 1929
Student Papers and Ephemera.

10
“Comad Club (Business School).” *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 39, 1935.
Archival Reference Collection.

7. Women's Athletics and Physical Culture

Case Text

The “most perfectly formed” University of Chicago woman was expected to do more than cultivate personal interests and achieve academic success. University administrators believed female students should become strong in body as well as in mind. Thus, every incoming student was examined by a college physician and enrolled in a sex-specific physical education course. Women students chose from such offerings as swimming, tennis, archery, volleyball, golf and gymnastics.

Athletic activities provided more than physical benefits, according to Gertrude Dudley, the first Director of Women's Athletics at Chicago. Dudley argued that sports were just as important to women's maturation and development of cooperative and competitive instincts as were social clubs and academic societies. She worked with Amos Alonzo Stagg throughout the University's founding decades to establish strong intramural and intercollegiate sports teams and tournaments. To help organize these events, the Women's Athletic Association (WAA) was formed at the turn of the century. All women students could join the WAA, earning membership points through competitive sports or independent exercise as hiking or skating. The WAA was among the largest and most active women's organizations on campus.

In the early 1930s, Stagg and Dudley fought other administrators' decisions to eliminate required physical education from the undergraduate curriculum. Young women did not come to college knowing how to play many sports, they argued, and they needed gym class to teach them the benefits of exercise. Indeed, when gym class became voluntary, women's attendance declined by sixty-three percent. Thereupon, while maintaining its support of women's intercollegiate athletics, the WAA increasingly organized intramurals and emphasized the social aspects of sports for female undergraduates.

Items

1

“Women's Baseball Team.” *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 7, 1902.
Archival Reference Collection.

2

Photo of women on athletic field, n.d.
Shirley Farr Papers.

The fence surrounding the women's athletic field was likely intended to ensure the women's privacy as they exercised.

3

Courtenay to Amos Alonzo Stagg, 1909.
Amos Alonzo Stagg Papers.

4

WAA June-Fest, 1911.
Amos Alonzo Stagg Papers.

Women's athletics included both the highly competitive and the artistic and ritualized.

5

Ticket to use Bartlett pool, 1912.
Amos Alonzo Stagg Papers.

6

Women's Athletic Association Programs, 1916.
Amos Alonzo Stagg Papers.

Both Amos Alonzo Stagg and his wife attended the annual WAA year-end ceremony honoring the past and future of women's physical culture at the university.

7

Scrapbook photos of women on University athletic fields, n.d.
Shirley Farr Papers.

8

Varsity Women's Letter Sweater, n.d.
Department of Physical Education Papers.

9

"Extracurricular Activities" pamphlet, 1938.
Office of Student Activities Papers.

The WAA encouraged all women to join by emphasizing the social, rather than competitive, aspects of physical activity.

10

Hutton to Amos Alonzo Stagg,
Amos Alonzo Stagg Papers.

While campus administrators were vocally committed to women's physical activities, women had to ensure that the facilities they required were not already in use by male students. Men's athletics received more resources from the University.

11

Dudley statement
Amos Alonzo Stagg Papers.

When University administrators contemplated eliminating the college physical education requirement, Gertrude Dudley compared the benefits of physical activity to the services

provided by the student health clinic. “Both the Health Service and the Department of Physical Education attempt to serve the same purpose-to develop in this university a finer, more vigorous, saner type of man and woman,” she wrote.

12

Winifred W. of Kelly Hall w/ Frank Scudder, 1910.
Archival Photographic Files.

8. Ida Noyes Hall—A Center for Women on Campus

Case Text

By 1903, University men had received the gift of the Reynolds Club and the Charles L. Hutchinson Commons as well as athletic facilities in Bartlett Gym. University women, by contrast, lacked equivalent social and recreational spaces. At the June 1913 convocation ceremonies, the University announced a \$300,000 gift from industrialist La Verne Noyes for a women's clubhouse in memory of his late wife, Ida.

Dean Talbot immediately began to conceptualize the space and its functions. In planning memos, Talbot outlined a clubhouse where a young woman could “share in the social life in such a way as to give expression to her individual qualities, to serve as hostess not only to other women but to men, and to give her training in forms of social expression which will make her academic training more effective as she mingles among people.” As part of this vision—and unlike the “manly atmosphere” of the Reynolds Club and Hutch Commons—designers built and furnished Ida Noyes Hall in the style of an English manor home. Young alumnae and faculty joined a committee of fifteen women to the building's décor.

Ida Noyes Hall opened in June 1916 with a lavish student performance held in the women's quadrangle. Painter Jessie Arms Botke captured the “Masque of Youth” in her murals for the second-floor theater. Visitors toured the new dining rooms, theater, club meeting spaces, ballroom, and athletic facilities—including a gymnasium, swimming pool, and trophy room for the WAA.

While Ida Noyes Hall was designed to fulfill a specific need for women's athletics and sociability, it was never an entirely all-female space. If the sexes were to commingle, University administrators preferred they did so in supervised campus locations. Thus, Ida Noyes hosted a busy calendar of public lectures, club meetings, and social events open to the entire University community

Items

1

Ida Noyes portrait, 1915.

University of Chicago. Office of the President. Harper, Judson and Burton Administrations.

Six months after the death of Ida Noyes (1853-1912), her husband, LaVerne Noyes, declared he wanted to build a women's building dedicated to her memory at the University of Chicago.

2

Letter to Miss Anderson, July 18, 1916.

University of Chicago Office of the President, Harper, Judson and Burton Administrations Records.

Students and alumni attended the grand opening celebrations for Ida Noyes Hall in June 1916.

3

Student Handbook, 1916-1917.

University of Chicago Student Papers and Ephemera Collection.

4

Ida Noyes Refectory, n.d.

Archival Photographic Files.

5

Ida Noyes Gymnasium, ca. 1925.

Department of Physical Education Papers.

6

Committee on Dedication of Ida Noyes Hall, ca. 1916.

Marion Talbot Papers.

7

Edith Foster Flint to Frederic C. Woodward, November 2, 1926.

University of Chicago Office of the President, Max Mason Administration Records.

Flint, a professor of English and chairman of the Women's University Council, wrote in support of informal dancing hours in Ida Noyes Hall.

9. Social Life

Case Text

As early as 1898, a report to the University Council lamented the lack of a “college spirit” at the U of C—attributed at times to the quarter system, to the many commuter students, or to the emphasis on graduate study. Despite these complaints, the University was home to a rich array of extracurricular activities. While academic clubs such as Mortar Board and the Federation of University Women emphasized single-sex socializing, many other extracurriculars—including student publications, ethnic and cultural associations, and student government—offered membership to both men and women.

Since the University’s founding, supervised social events brought men and women together on campus and off. In the first-floor social rooms of Ida Noyes Hall, students scheduled informal “dancing hours” weekly. During the 1920s, when some administrators worried that dancing was a frivolous distraction, Professor Edith Foster Flint argued that these mixers actually had value as “wholesome and invigorating recreation.”

Ida Noyes and Hyde Park hotels also served as the sites of popular University formal events, including the year-end Interclass Hop and fraternity-sponsored dances. Perhaps the most anticipated event on the University’s social calendar was the annual Washington Prom, first organized in 1894. This campus-wide evening of dinner and dancing was frequently covered by the city’s newspapers, which followed the annual crowning of “Miss U of C” from a court of popular women undergraduates.

Indeed, despite the University’s studious reputation, many early student activities centered on glamour. In the 1930s, the *Cap and Gown* sponsored beauty contests for University women. And during the 1940s, the student-run *Pulse* magazine featured a bevy of alluring co-eds posing for its monthly covers.

Items

1

University Public Lectures ticket, 1923.
Anna Gwin Pickens Papers.

2

Junior Promenade Dance Booklet, 1906.
Amos Alonzo Stagg Papers.

3

Federation of University Women Information Card.
Department of Physical Education Papers.

4

Federation of University Women Third Annual Fashion Show, 1924
Department of Physical Education Papers.

The stated purpose of the fashion show was “to give all women of the University of Chicago an opportunity to show what they consider is practical, suitable and attractive in the way of wearing apparel.”

5

Student date book, April 30-May 13, 1916.
University of Chicago Student Papers and Ephemera Collection.

College student Alice Johnstone’s date book reveals the social and athletic activities women students balanced with their coursework.

6

“Hop Baby Phoenix” Dance Program, ca. 1924.
Department of Physical Education Papers.

According to the dance program, attendees could expect to meet women like “Agnes, the woman’s rights advocate...[who] goes about campus hatless on windy days” and “Joanna, an athletic girl. Not a man hater, but thinks marriage is a lottery, because every wife does not become a widow.” For all women in attendance, avoiding “the Greek toe dancer” was likely a priority.

7

Washington Prom, 1900.
Archival Photographic Files.

Some years, the campus gymnasium doubled as a ballroom.

8

Washington Prom, 1930.
Archival Photographic Files.

9

Phi Delta Upsilon Dance Card, 1929.
University of Chicago Student Papers and Ephemera Collection

College students attended both university-wide social events and those sponsored by men’s fraternities.

10

Men’s Athletics Ticket Book, 1930.
University of Chicago Student Papers and Ephemera Collection

Josephine Mirabella’s ticket book included passes to men’s home basketball, baseball and football games.

11
Chinese Student Association Choir, n.d.
Archival Photographic Files.

10. Home Economics

Case Text

While women could pursue any course of study, many specialized in Marion Talbot's own academic discipline, home economics. Talbot had previously taught courses on germ theory and dietetics at Wellesley College. When she arrived at the University of Chicago, Talbot tried to convince President Harper to let her head a Department of Sanitary Science, a program that would study problems of sanitation, urban planning and industrialization. Talbot abandoned this vision in 1904, forming the Department of Household Administration in response to pressures from donors and administrators who felt a Chicago education in home economics would better enable women alumnae to teach in nearby universities.

Courses were designed to address "the problems of the home and the household" through such existing disciplines as physics, chemistry, physiology, bacteriology, political economy, and sociology. While undergraduate courses were meant to impart basic information about home ownership, child development, and sanitation, Talbot also encouraged students to pursue careers in these areas. The University built a leading graduate program whose alumnae went on to teach in high schools and colleges nationwide.

Despite the department's success, home economics at Chicago faced unique challenges from its inception. The department seemed to defy traditional categorization. Administrators were never sure where to house the department or whether the study of the household deserved the University's distinguished name. Scholars such as Sophonisba Breckinridge—the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in political science from the University and the first woman to graduate from the Law School—found a home in Household Administration when other departments refused to hire women. Alumnae, though enthusiastic, could not donate enough resources to keep the program going once University administrators began withdrawing financial support in the 1940s. In 1929, 1150 undergraduates majored in Sanitary Science, but by 1949, that number had dwindled to forty-five. The program was terminated in 1956.

Items

1

Home Economics 50 course listing, n.d.
Marion Talbot Papers.

2

Department of Home Economics and Household Administration, 1920.
University of Chicago Office of the President, Harper, Judson and Burton
Administrations Records.

3

Marion Talbot (1858-1948) and Sophonisba Preston Breckinridge (1866-1948). *The Modern Household*. Boston: Whitcomb & Barrows, 1912.
General Collections.

4

William Rainey Harper to Marion Talbot, February 16, 1901.
University of Chicago Office of the President, Harper, Judson and Burton
Administrations Records.

5

Sophonisba Breckenridge, n.d.
Eva Watson Schütze Photographs.

6

Home Economics and Household Arts Club, 1916.
Archival Photographic Files.

7

Doctors of Philosophy, 1931
LD 909.A1R33 v 21 n 19

8

Women's Chemistry Class in Kent Chemical Laboratory, n.d.
Archival Photographic Files.

11. Alumnae Club and Early Women Graduates

Case Text

The University of Chicago experience was designed to prepare women to meet the challenges and opportunities of the wider world. Early women graduates pursued a variety of careers and lifestyles. While some went on to graduate study, others worked in offices, in educational institutions, and in hospitals. Still others became full-time homemakers. Many women graduates of the college remained in Hyde Park, working in University offices or furthering their education at Chicago despite informal quotas that often limited the number of women accepted each year to the professional schools.

Alumnae, women graduate students, and even faculty wives also engaged in woman-centered philanthropy and community service. As early as 1892, women's committees funded departmental fellowships for female graduate students and supported the first campus building projects, including men's and women's dormitories on campus.

Another channel for former students' energies was the Chicago Alumnae Club. The organization was founded by in 1898 by twenty-seven women residents of Nancy Foster Hall who wanted to remain connected to their house friends after graduation. Their Alumnae Club was an active organization, holding social and academic events, granting scholarships, and organizing community service programs. Typical gatherings celebrated women's careers and continuing education.

When Ida Noyes Hall opened, it contained an Alumnae Room for club meetings, teas and classes. The Chicago Alumnae Club provided a crucial outlet allowing University of Chicago women to maintain their ties to the University and each other.

Items

1

Cosmopolitan Cabaret, ca. 1930s.
Chicago Alumnae Club Records.

Defying the Depression-era doldrums, the Chicago Alumnae club invited women graduates to bring their husbands to a light-hearted affair.

2

Invitation to Tea, 1919.
Chicago Alumnae Club Records.

Alumnae club teas were both social and professional networking events.

3

Invitation to Emerson Tea, 1924.
Chicago Alumnae Club Records.

4

Nu Pi Sigma graduates on the Women's Quad, 1930.
University of Chicago Student Papers and Ephemera Collection.

5

"Student Aides and Student Marshalls." *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 45, 1941. Fiftieth Anniversary ed.
Archival Reference Collection.

6

Air Hostess Applicants, 1942.
Archival Photographic Files

With their wartime graduation from the University of Chicago only a few months away, college seniors apply for airhostess jobs with TWA, which required at least one year of college education.

7

Typists, n.d.
Archival Photographic Files.

Clerical employment was a typical form of paid employment for women students and graduates alike.

8

Rush Medical College graduates, 1884.
Archival Photographic Files.

Rush Medical College, originally affiliated with the University of Chicago, granted admission to a limited number of women students as early as the 1880s.

9

Nursery School "Story Time," n.d.
Archival Photographic Files.

Caring for children, both at home and as educators and childcare workers, was also a frequent occupation of women graduates.

10

Irene Hyman to Helen Drew, 1918.
Helen L. Drew Correspondence.

Irene Hyman wrote her friend Helen L. Drew (MA '15) about the challenges and excitement of working as a librarian in Harper Library. Hyman wrote, "I am no believer in unrestrained emotionalism—that leads to Bolshevism. But I do heartily believe in

sunlight and freedom and a chance to express one's individuality within the limit of reason."

12. Women's Philanthropy and Social Settlements

Case Text

Philanthropy and community service provided opportunities for women graduates and faculty wives to remain connected to the University. These initiatives also solidified social and professional networks and addressed pressing community needs. The major campus philanthropic organization, the exclusively female Settlement League, was formed in 1895 to support the University of Chicago Settlement House. The wife of the University President served as the honorary leader of the League, while the settlement workers lived amidst residents.

Like Hull House, the University Settlement was located in an impoverished neighborhood to the west of campus populated by unskilled industrial workers. According to the League's president, Mary MacDowell, the Back of the Yards neighborhood "doubles its population in a decade and changes its nationality every fifteen years." The settlement house aimed to improve neighborhood conditions through education and reform and to help immigrants adjust to life in the United States.

The Settlement League included women faculty, faculty wives, students and alumnae. Early League members provided many services to settlement house residents, from leading classes and trips to the countryside to building a library and mending residents' clothes. By the 1910s, the League took on a more indirect role, sending money and donated goods to the settlement house instead of volunteers. After World War II, the Service League maintained its philanthropic spirit, but shifted its organizational focus toward service work in the University's own Hyde Park neighborhood.

Items

1

T.W. Goodspeed to "My Dear Madam," April 4, 1895.
University of Chicago Office of the President, Harper, Judson and Burton
Administrations Records.

2

"The New Woman's Building" pamphlet, 1895.
University of Chicago Office of the President, Harper, Judson and Burton
Administrations Records.

3

Subscription ticket, 1895.
University of Chicago Office of the President, Harper, Judson and Burton
Administrations Records.

4

Green Hall Entrance, ca. 1899.
Archival Photographic Files.

[Items 1, 2, 3, and 4 go together with one caption]

University administrators urged Chicago's women philanthropists to contribute to the building of a new women's dormitory to join Beecher, Foster, and Kelly Halls on the main quad. Women's dorms, this 1895 fundraising solicitation argued, "enable them to lead and give character to the social life of the entire University." Green Hall was completed four years later, in 1899.

5

University of Chicago Settlement League President's Report, 1934-1935.

University of Chicago Service League Records.

By the 1930s, the League provided both philanthropic assistance to settlement house residents and social outlets for club members. The club included a book review group, bridge group, current events discussion group, a music group, and more.

6

University of Chicago Settlement League, 1910-1911.

University of Chicago Service League Records.

League members raised money through membership fees, pledge drives, and fundraising events. They provided the University Settlement with milk, fuel, school supplies, and more.

7

University Settlement Exterior, n.d.

Archival Photographic Files.

8

Settlement Library, n.d.

Archival Photographic Files.

League members conducted book drives to bring used books from Hyde Park to the Settlement library.

9

Sewing class at the University of Chicago Settlement Trade School, 1918.

Archival Photographic Files.

13. Women's Politics and the Welfare State

Case Text

University women also made the news as social activists and public servants. Woman-led community activism entered the formal curriculum when the independent Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy became part of the University of Chicago. Sophonisba Breckinridge and Edith Abbott (PhD 1905) led efforts to merge the Chicago School with the philanthropic division of the University's School of Commerce and Administration, forming the School of Social Service Administration (SSA) in 1920.

SSA aimed "to help to standardize and improve the work of the social agencies, particularly the agencies of the midwest." Woman-led public policy was written into state and national politics in the 1920s and 1930s. From its founding, the student body and faculty of SSA were dominated by women.

Early SSA coursework combined classroom focus on public relief, care of delinquents, and state policy, with fieldwork in various government and humanitarian relief organizations. Many alumnae worked in state agencies, and guided by Edith Abbott—the first woman dean of an American graduate school when she was appointed in 1924—SSA became a magnet and training ground for women welfare leaders. In 1934, Edith's sister, Grace Abbott (PhM 1909), left her position as chief of the United States Children's Bureau to join the faculty of SSA as Professor of Public Welfare Administration.

SSA grew significantly during the Great Depression. The school established several scholarships for African American women students, including Elizabeth Butler (MA '46), who would return to SSA as a fieldwork professor and lecturer in later decades. Expansion of the welfare state created jobs for women reformers and activists and created further educational opportunities for women in American universities.

Items

1

Chicago woman suffrage brochure, 1910s.
Marion Talbot Papers.

This pamphlet argues that Chicago women deserve the ballot, for "Chicago herself needs the help of enlightened women in her efforts toward a clean city administration. She is weakened now by the absence of the electorate of the most moral, most law-abiding and most nearly unpurchasable of her citizens."

2

Reading List, 1947.
Edith and Grace Abbott Papers.

The Abbott sisters pioneered the field of social work, teaching courses on public welfare, the family economy and rehabilitation of the indigent.

3

Jane Addams to Edith Abbott, 1930.
Edith and Grace Abbott Papers.

A former resident of Hull House, Edith Abbott was invited to attend the 40th anniversary celebration of Jane Addams' social and cultural experiment.

4

Grace Abbott to Elizabeth S. Dixon, May 19, 1924.
School of Social Service Administration Records.

Grace Abbott served as Chief of the Child Labor Division of the U. S. Children's Bureau from 1921 to 1934. From 1934 until her death in 1939, Abbott taught at the School of Social Service Administration and helped to draft the Social Security Act of 1935.

5

Members of the Social Service Club to the Hon. Medill McCormick, May 1924.
School of Social Service Administration Records.

SSA students kept abreast of national developments in the fields of labor and public welfare. Thousands of SSA graduates went on to work in state and local social service agencies.

6

Women for Hoover, ca. 1932.
Archival Photographic Files.

Students supporting Republican President Herbert Hoover stand over an ailing donkey, symbol of the Democratic party.

7

Campus protest, ca. 1935.
Archival Photographic Files.

8

SSA description and photo of Dean Edith Abbott. *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 39, 1935.
Archival Reference Collection.

14. Women in the Era of World Wars

Case Text

Wartime affected campus life in profound and unexpected ways. When men withdrew from college to aid the war effort, women's presence and campus visibility increased. Women's proportion of the undergraduate population increased from twenty-two percent in 1910 to thirty-four percent in 1920. During World War II, women outnumbered men on campus, constituting fifty-seven percent of the undergraduate population in 1945. Formerly majority-female classes in SSA and Sanitary Science were often populated entirely by women students.

The nationwide ethic of self-sacrifice and involvement in national politics permeated campus life. Women students and faculty publicly pledged to prepare themselves to serve their nation in their homes and their careers. Wartime imperatives also shaped women's leisure activities, providing opportunities to engage in national politics and find creative ways to contribute to the war effort. During the World Wars, Settlement League members rolled bandages for the Red Cross and held dances for servicemen at Ida Noyes Hall.

The national trend toward pragmatism and sacrifice was also evident in women's wartime attire. Images of girls in the Mandel Hall coffee shop and in a 1943 fashion show presented the "ideal wartime coed," whose hair, shoes, and pants exemplified low-maintenance, active and inexpensive style. By 1947, fashions veered toward the feminized and romantic, and women's proportion of undergraduate enrollment dropped to thirty percent.

Items

1

Enrollment Pledge, 1918.
Marion Talbot Papers.

World War I compelled college women to pledge to prepare themselves "for some essential occupation" to help the war effort.

2

"Work and Fight: Together We Win" flyer, ca. 1918.
Marion Talbot Papers.

University of Chicago women adapted President Woodrow Wilson's famous "work or fight" provision, which asked American men to fight abroad or work in war industry at home. Campus women proclaimed themselves "eager to take up their share of work in the world," fighting the war abroad through domestic activities at home.

3:

Julia C. Lathrop to Marion Talbot, April 18, 1917.
Marion Talbot Papers.

Julia Lathrop, Chief of the Child Labor Division of the U. S. Children's Bureau, admired Talbot's efforts to prepare University of Chicago women to serve their nation.

4

Women at Mandel Hall Coffee Shop, 1942.
Archival Photographic Files.

According to the *Maroon*, these college sophomores "achieve ideal harmony of costume with lumberjack shirts, tails of which may be tucked inside jeans or left hanging sloppily outside. Note pigtail hair-dos." These students embody the outward confidence and low-maintenance style of many wartime women in campus.

[Items 5 and 6 go together with one caption]

5

Rifle Marksmanship, 1940.
Archival Photographic Files.

6

Pulse, University of Chicago's Student Magazine. Vol. 4, no. 11, October 1940.
Archival Reference Collection.

During WWII, a women's defense group sponsored by *Pulse* magazine included (left to right) Lois Regnell, Betty Headlin, Fay Trolander and Frances Megan. *Pulse* editors suggested that in wartime, the nation should require a six-month intensive training course for unmarried women without dependents.

7

University of Chicago Youth Committee Against the War, 1939.
Archival Photographic Files.

8

Wartime Fashion Show, 1943
Archival Photographic Files.

University of Chicago Sigma Club members held a fashion show at the Shoreland Hotel, featuring "the ideal wardrobe of the wartime co-ed."

9

Campus Style Show at Hutchinson Commons Garden, 1947.
Archival Photographic Files.

Note the difference in iconic women's fashions just four years later. Admired by several young girls, the ideal postwar co-ed wears jewelry, taffeta, and black gloves.

15. Courtship and Dating at Mid-Century

Case Text

While the singular position of Dean of Women was eliminated after Marion Talbot's retirement in 1925, the behavior of women students outside of the classroom was closely supervised and governed by seemingly arbitrary rules. "Social regulations" required a certain number of chaperones at campus mixes. "Women's hours" created flexible but complicated curfew systems for undergraduate women. Housing staff continued to monitor "intervisitation" of the sexes in each other's rooms. And when Ruth McCarn became the first woman to hold the post of Assistant Dean of Students in the fall of 1950, more than one hundred women students protested the requirement that residents of the women's dorms on the quad wear skirts to dinner. (Their petition was denied.)

At the same time, staff in the Dean of Students office saw a growing need for providing comprehensive sex education in the dorms. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, doctors from the University's Student Health Center met with groups of young men, while a caseworker from Chicago's Association for Family Living conducted frank discussions with young women about dating, sex, marriage, and pregnancy.

Undergraduate dating often befuddled administrators. In the 1950s, when the ratio of men to women was almost four to one, an internal memo from the Dean of Students office lamented the "terrific competition" young men faced finding a date on campus. Yet in 1963, another administrator worried that the "deadly intensity with which students work and play" doomed student relationships.

"Watch the couples who are dating," read one internal communication. "If you take a discreet look at the couples necking in the New Dorm or at the C-Group entry, do you see any expression of joy, happiness, relaxation, or general euphoria? No...For good and for ill, our undergraduates are terribly serious." It was perhaps this seriousness of purpose—in combination with budget shortfalls and campus politics—that doomed the annual Washington Prom and "Miss U of C" competition, which were held for the last time in 1970.

Items

1

House Discussion on Dating Relationships, ca. 1947.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

2

Questions and Areas for Discussion at Green House, November 4, 1947.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

3

Questions submitted for discussion at the February 6 meeting on "Sex Education" at Blake House, ca. 1947.

University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

4

Frankie Etherton parades for fellow students, April 1941.
Archival Photographic Files.

Local newspapers covered a student parody of "Typical Miss Campus 1941," played by Frank Etherton, a member of the all-male Blackfriars student theater troupe. The Blackfriars did not admit women members until the 1950. In 1986 the group merged with the University Theater.

5

All-Campus C-Dances booklet, 1950.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

6

Washington Prom ticket, 1953.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

7

Washington Prom, 1954.
Archival Photographic Files

Janice Porter (AB '56, center) was crowned Miss U of C in 1954.

8

Student Dance, n.d.
Archival Photographic Files.

16. Married Women and the Postwar University

Case Text

The young wives of returning World War II veterans were a visible presence on campus during the 1940s and 1950s. In December 1945, University trustees approved \$300,000 to move 190 prefabricated homes onto the Midway for married veterans registered as students. By 1949 an additional 600 families lived in nearby married student apartments owned by the University.

The pre-fabs were a temporary solution to an ongoing problem of meeting student housing needs in Hyde Park. While the poorly constructed structures did not remain on the Midway, additional married student apartments were added west and north of campus. Beginning in September 1946, the “prefabbers” received monthly updates on their neighbors via the *Apartment and Pre-Fab Newsletter*, which made note of “Wives Discussion Group” meetings and published suggestions for women seeking part-time work and volunteer opportunities on campus.

Couples supported an active Married Students Association, open to “any married bona-fide student, or junior member of the faculty, hospital resident, intern, fellow, research assistant or associate whose family is living in the vicinity of Chicago.” By the 1970s, an active “Dames Club” (descended from an organization founded in 1900) operated out of the Fairfax Apartments on East Hyde Park Boulevard.

Other married women on campus after WWII *were* in fact University students and researchers; many recall a double standard that was hard for scholar-wives to escape. Joanne Spencer Kantrowitz (MA 1957, PhD 1962) recalled that Chicago and other schools discouraged hiring academic couples. “The University had a habit of hiring the man, and letting the woman fend for herself,” she explained. Thus, these women often held positions on campus off the tenure track or were forced to seek out teaching and research jobs at neighboring universities. Kantrowitz shared an often-told story:

I remember someone describing Hyde Park in the 1950s. He said, “In the morning when each tidy housewife opens the front door to sweep the row house steps, nine out of ten have PhD’s.”

Items

1

Prefabs on Midway, 1946.
Archival Photographic Files

2

Mrs. James R. Ahrens and Candace Benton, 1946.
Archival Photographic Files.

Local media covered the phenomenon of returning male GIs on campus and the resulting community of wives that formed in the prefabs. “There’s a lot of neighborliness,” one newspaper reported, “such as visiting in each other’s houses, at the clothes lines, and over the fence that holds the garbage pails.”

3

Apartment & Prefab Newsletter. May 1954.
Archival Reference Collection.

The *Apartment & Prefab Newsletter* published birth announcements in its “Spring Storkline.” The newsletter also advertised activities for couples on campus, including cooperative food buying, voter registration, shared childcare, and a “great books” club.

4:

Outing club photo, 1954.
Archival Photographic Files.

University of Chicago students and faculty prepared to hike twelve miles from Hyde Park to Palos Park “to determine the minimum time required on foot to reach safety in the event of an H-bomb attack on the city.”

5

“Your Bad Neighbors” flyer, 1969.
Cleaner Air Committee of Hyde Park-Kenwood Papers.

Led by writer and activist Laura Fermi, wife of physicist Enrico Fermi, the Cleaner Air Committee of Hyde Park-Kenwood educated the community to the dangers posed by air pollution. Members also volunteered to monitor the smoke emitted by neighbors’ chimneys to ensure Hyde Park air did not become contaminated.

6

“Housing Information for Prospective Graduate Students,” ca. 1976.
Henderson House Papers.

Until recently, the University offered separate buildings for graduate students in Hyde Park, separating out “Married Students Housing” from “Single Students Housing.”

7

Married Student Housing, 1961.
Archival Photographic Files.

8

Cartoon, 1946.
Archival Photographic Files.

9

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Ahrens and children, 1946.
Archival Photographic Files.

The Ahrens family lived in a three-room prefab unit, consisting of two bedrooms and a “living room-kitchenette.” James Ahrens (AB '42, JD '48) was among the first WWII veterans at Chicago eligible for the prefabs because of his service record and previous enrollment at the University.

17. Expansion of Student Housing

Case Text

Improving and expanding undergraduate housing became a pressing issue for the University after WWII. To attract more women applicants, administrators hoped to fund larger, modern dormitories. For a brief moment in the mid 1950s, University Chancellor Lawrence Kimpton even toyed with the idea of consolidating resources for women into a single-sex undergraduate college, in the hopes that such an arrangement might serve as an attractive selling point for parents reluctant to send their daughters to the “slum-ridden” University during a period of controversial urban renewal plans.

While he received lukewarm support from College deans on this issue, Kimpton went so far as to meet with the wives of University trustees about such an arrangement, but it was quietly rejected. Instead, attention returned to fundraising and building architect Eero Saarinen’s “New Dorm” north of Ida Noyes Hall. New Dorm—later renamed Woodward Court—opened in 1958 with rooms for men and women on separate floors.

Women undergraduates continued to face restrictions that their male counterparts did not. By 1960, all women students were required to live in a residence hall, unless they were living at home or with relatives. Undergraduate men, in contrast, were only required to live in residence halls during their first two years. (Any undergraduate older than twenty-one could petition to live off campus.) Other differences marked men’s and women’s dorm life. In the early 1960s, for example, housekeeping manuals instructed staff to clean men’s rooms and bed linens once a week. But women living in the dorms were expected to clean their own rooms and change their own bed linens.

During the 1960s, the *Chicago Maroon* tracked a series of debates between students and the administration over regulations of student life in the dorms. By 1966, there was consensus that undergraduate dorms should be coeducational whenever possible. Women’s curfews and intervisitation restrictions were not completely eliminated until the 1970s.

Items

1

Earle Ludgin and John J. McDonough to alumni, May 23, 1956.
University of Chicago Office of the President, Kimpton Administration Records.

Fundraisers for the new dorm invited alumni to visit their old stomping grounds, where they would see “the girls on campus are remarkably pretty these days.”

2

New Dorm construction, ca. 1957.
Archival Photographic Files.
Eero Saarinen’s “New Dorm,” a modern four-story U-shaped complex, was built to house 500 undergraduate and graduate men and women. It was demolished in 2002 to make room for The University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

[Items 3 and 4 go together on wall with one caption]

3

Cap and Gown orientation brochure, 1964.

University of Chicago Department of Buildings and Grounds Papers.

4

James E. Newman to J. Lee Jones, November 11, 1964.

University of Chicago Department of Buildings and Grounds Papers.

When a yearbook sales brochure made it to the desk of Assistant Dean of Students James Newman, he was appalled to see the ease with which women could pass through the fences surrounding the new Woodward Court dormitory.

[items 5, 6, 7, 8 go together on floor with one caption]

5

Henderson House party, ca. 1965.

University of Chicago Henderson House Records.

6

Henderson House Punch Party Invitation, 1975.

University of Chicago Henderson House Records.

7

Lower Flint House to Henderson House, 1975.

University of Chicago Henderson House Records

8

“Lower Flint/Lower Rickert house pictures.” *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 62, 1977.

Archival Reference Collection.

Coed dormitories sometimes posed new social dilemmas for the undergraduate student body. In October 1975, residents of Woodward Court’s coed Lower Flint house were annoyed to find that only the female “Lower Flintians” received invitations to a party at Pierce Hall’s all-male Henderson House.

18. Faculty Wives' Dinners

Case Text

Just as women students adapted to changes in the social mores and physical structures in Hyde Park, so did a group of women in the University community whose status was increasingly ambiguous: the wives of male faculty members. Perhaps no woman in the University of Chicago community had a more ambiguous status than the faculty wife. They were unofficial philanthropists, caregivers, partners, research assistants, entertainers, muses, and more.

Professors' wives were a varied and visible group within the Hyde Park community. Often, these women had relocated to Chicago to accommodate their husbands' careers, and they formed close friendships with other faculty wives based on this shared experience. In 1935, a small group of faculty wives decided to plan an informal dinner to take place during their husbands' yearly dinner with the Board of Trustees. By the 1960s, the annual women's dinner had grown to include more than 400 professors' wives and a full-scale original theatrical production dramatizing various aspects of life for the faculty wife.

In their shows, faculty wives mixed confident messages about the essential role they played in their husbands' careers with insecurity about women's role within a rapidly changing institution. The 1970 show, a spoof of feminism on campus, ignited a firestorm of controversy among women students, women professors, and the faculty wives. In the 1970s, the faculty wives' dinner show began to seem an outdated relic as the faculty and student body included more women and the feminist movement demanded women's campus inclusion as individuals, rather than as men's companions. The dinner and show ended in 1980, the year the University selected its first woman president.

Items

1

McNeill and Maroon, 1970.
University of Chicago *Maroon*.

2

Reply to Reply, 1970.
University of Chicago *Maroon*.

One caption for items 1 and 2: Faculty wives and women faculty sparred in the *Maroon* over the proper role and representation of women at the University.

3

Photo of Mrs. Schulman, 1970.
University of Chicago Faculty Wives' Dinners Records.

This photograph from the Chicago Tribune depicts a faculty wife as campus administrator.

4

Faculty Wives' Dinner Invitation, 1947.
University of Chicago Faculty Wives' Dinners Records.

For the 1947 faculty wives show, entitled "Cat's Cabaret," faculty wives transformed the Quadrangle Club into the "Feline Club."

5

Faculty Wives' Dinner Invitation, 1967.

University of Chicago Office of the President, Beadle Administration Records
The 1967 faculty wives' show explored the life of a faculty wife frustrated that her personal ambitions took a backseat to the needs of her husband and children. By the end of the show, she was happily readjusted to her role as a supportive faculty wife.

6

Faculty Luncheon at Quad Club, 1958.
Archival Photographic Files.

Faculty wives typically accompanied their husbands to departmental functions, which often merged the social and the academic.

7

Songs, 1938.
University of Chicago Faculty Wives' Dinners Records.

Early faculty wives dinners entertainment consisted of songs celebrating friendship and the wives' joy in each others' company.

8

Press release, 1962.
University of Chicago Faculty Wives' Dinners Records.

The faculty wives informed local newspapers of their annual shows. The *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun Times*, and *Hyde Park Herald* typically published a short informational piece each year.

9

Faculty Wives' show cocktail hour, 1960.
University of Chicago Office of the President, Kimpton Administration Records

10

Faculty Wives' Dinner Invitation, 1970.
University of Chicago Office of the President, Levi Administration Records

The 1970 show, titled “Never Underestimate,” suggested if faculty wives were to oust their husbands from university leadership, campus priorities would be shifted from the academic to the aesthetic.

19. Postwar Student Movements

Case Text

Campus culture in the postwar quarter century was marked by contradiction, unrest and change. The national New Left and youth movements butted up against tradition and authority at the University of Chicago. Much of this tension related to student housing and control over students' personal lives.

In the 1950s, students vocally protested all elements of *in loco parentis*, administrators' policies of constraint and surveillance over students' living quarters and activities. With increasing fervor in the 1960s, students organized to oppose what they perceived as paternalistic, condescending, and even racist housing and disciplinary policies. The evidence of New Left culture on campus was undeniable when more than half of incoming freshman joined Students for a Democratic Society in 1968.

Campus politics also reflected women's growing presence at the University. Women comprised thirty-two percent of the undergraduate population in 1952, and approached fifty percent by 1970. While some women pressed for inclusion in such existing institutions as student government, others participated in the campus New Left. Increasingly, many women objected to their treatment in both traditional and radical campus organizations. The result was an outpouring of women's dissatisfaction, feminist organizing, and new demands upon the University for inclusion and broader change on women's own terms.

Items

[Items 1 and 2 go together with one caption]

1

"Paternalism" flyer, ca. 1950.
University of Chicago Student Government Papers.

2

"Janice Porter, Student Government President." *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 49, 1956.
Archival Reference Collection.

During the 1950s, student government began to protest aspects of *in loco parentis*.

3

"Back Beadle?" poster, 1962.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

4

Committee on Racial Equality Sit-In, 1962.
Archival Photographic Files.

In January 1962 thirty students occupied President Beadle's office in protest, claiming the University practiced racial discrimination in its off-campus rental policies.

5

Joan Baez program of resistance, ca. 1963.

University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

Note the disapproving suited men literally looking down upon student resisters.

6

"Year of the New Left" 1968 photo essay. *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 61, 1968.

Archival Reference Collection.

The *Cap and Gown* yearbook declared 1968 "the year of the new left on campus," for over half of incoming freshman joined the University's Students for a Democratic Society chapter.

7

Movement Women poster, 1967.

University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

By the late 1960s, campus women openly questioned whether the male-dominated revolutionary movement on campus worked to liberate women, or further subordinate them.

8

Women students with Eugene McCarthy, 1968.

Archival Photographic Files.

As in past decades, campus women took part in national as well as campus political activities.

20. “Second-Wave” Feminism on Campus

Case Text

Growing out of the New Left on campus, “second-wave” feminism was apparent and active at the University of Chicago in the late 1960s. Female and male students, faculty, and administrators alike took aim at the University culture and curriculum. Feminist organizations on campus were informed by and took part in the nationwide women’s movement. In 1967, the Women’s Radical Action Project (WRAP) formed as the University’s first women’s liberation group. WRAP members gathered to discuss politics, learn about self-defense, and create art through consciousness-raising sessions, classes and coffeehouses. Chicago feminists also focused on spreading their movement to women throughout the city through organizing and outreach projects.

Feminist pressure led the administration to open a women’s center near campus. The location offered a variety of resources: fielding women’s health concerns, distributing reading materials, and holding workshops on topics of particular interest to women. To impart knowledge absent from the Chicago curriculum, the Women’s Experimental College of Hyde Park offered courses in subjects ranging from home economics, computer programming, and women’s literature.

Questions of sexuality dominated activism and social life in this era. Increasingly, women’s and gay rights organizations cosponsored alternative social and cultural events. The annual Washington Prom was replaced by the Lascivious Costume Ball in February 1970, and in the same month 180 members of Students for Non-Violent Action took part in a co-ed skinny dip in the pool at Ida Noyes. Such events challenged traditional norms at Chicago, providing alternatives to students who opposed a heterocentric or sexist culture.

Items

1

Women for Radical Action in Politics Student Organization Registration Form, 1966.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

2

Women’s Radical Action Project (WRAP) meeting poster, October 1968.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

3

Meeting of Radical Women agenda, [1968].
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

4

WRAP Student Organization Registration Form, 1968.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

Between 1966 and 1968, WRAP radicalized in both its stated aims and membership.

5

The Chicago Experimental College course list, 1969.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

To those dissatisfied with the formal curriculum, the Chicago Experimental College offered women courses in self-defense, computers, cooking and more.

6

“What it is to be a Woman in the University” conference flyer, ca. 1969.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

Both women students and faculty challenged barriers to their success in the university community. Women demanded to choose their course of study and to be promoted and supported alongside of men.

7

Skip Landt to Walter Hass, November 30, 1970.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

8

Women’s Coffee Shop poster, ca. 1970s.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

Feminist activism on campus ranged from the overtly political to the creation of realms for women’s artistic and personal expression.

9

Women’s Lib Rock Band Concert and Dance poster, ca. 1972.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

10

Gay and Women’s Lib Dance poster, ca. 1970s.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

In gay student activists, campus feminists found staunch allies in their efforts to challenge gender norms.

11

Teach-In on Sexism poster, ca. 1972.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

21. Women's Health and Abortion Rights

Case Text

An important strand of women's liberation on campus involved greater attention to women's health issues and women's right to a safe, legal abortion. Sex education and marriage preparation classes—popular in the late 1940s and early 1950s—no longer met the needs of students experiencing the “sexual revolution” firsthand.

In 1963, the University first offered gynecological services for women students, staffed by the Chicago Lying-In Hospital, the University maternity and women's hospital. By the end of the decade, public debate about abortion rights exploded on campus, with discussions sponsored by a range of groups—including the Law School, the Service League, the Center for Continuing Education, and the Lying-In Hospital Board.

In 1970, Dr. Frederick P. Zuspan, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at the Pritzker School of Medicine, helped challenge a century-old Illinois statute that declared abortion unconstitutional. The Rev. E. Spencer Parsons, Dean of Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, chaired Chicago's Clergy Consultation Service on Problem Pregnancies; at the Divinity School he conducted a seminar on abortion for law and medical students in 1969 and 1970.

At the same time, a group of young women at the University of Chicago secretly began to take matters into their own hands. Between 1969 and 1973, the Abortion Counseling Service of the Chicago Women's Liberation Union, later known as JANE, confronted abortion as “a problem of society” and argued that laws prohibiting the procedure were evidence of “the sometimes subtle, but often blatant, oppression of women.” Based in Hyde Park, JANE included University of Chicago students and other community members, providing counseling and arranging abortions; eventually, JANE members performed underground abortions themselves. By the time of the 1973 Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, JANE members estimated they had arranged more than 11,000 illegal abortions in Chicago and the neighboring suburbs.

Items

1

Gael Greene. *Sex and the College Girl*. New York: Dial Press, 1964.
General Collections.

Publishers promoted Greene's book as “a frank, up-to-date, first-hand report from the American college campus on sex in the sixties.”

2

“Student Health photo, 1968.” *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 60, 1967.
Archival Reference Collection.

3

Reproduction of “Gynecology” in *Women and the University, a Special Section of the Maroon*, May 23, 1969.
Archival Serials Collection

University of Chicago Office of the President, Levi Administration Records
In 1969, the Maroon included a special section on women’s status at the university. Maroon editors hoped that the section “will be read by both men and women, and that it contributes toward destroying the prejudices that now oppress the lives of women and that make our society a poorer place.”

4
Women’s Radical Action Project poster, ca. 1969.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

WRAP members pushed for both campus day care and legalized abortion.

5
JANE brochure, ca. 1970.
On loan from the Chicago Women’s Liberation Union.

JANE’s purpose was to both provide a health service for women, and to educate them about their reproductive health and options.

6
JANE song lyrics, ca. 1970.
On loan from the Chicago Women’s Liberation Union.

The JANE song helped women remember and share the referral service’s local phone number with potential clients.

7
JANE curette, ca. 1970.
On loan from the Chicago Women’s Liberation Union
Members of JANE used medical implements like this curette to perform an estimated 11,000 abortions over four years.

22. “The Woman Question in Academia”

Case Text

Chicago women’s movements also stood in opposition to the male-dominated culture of the University’s faculty and administration. Campus feminist organizations argued that women faculty and staff deserved parity in hiring, promotion and remuneration. One such demand led to a militant standoff between students and administration, when the Department of Sociology rejected the contract renewal request of Assistant Professor Marlene Dixon in 1969.

A group of students, claiming that Dixon had been unfairly dismissed because of her gender and militant political beliefs, demanded her reinstatement. The administration formed a review committee on the matter, chaired by faculty member and future University president Hanna Holborn Gray—who first began teaching at the University in 1961, a year after her husband was appointed to the faculty. While the Gray Committee studied Dixon’s case, a group of about 100 students occupied the administration building for seven days.

Following the sit-in, eighty-six students were suspended, and twenty-two were expelled. The review committee refused Dixon’s reappointment. To smooth over a tense situation, University administrators appointed a second committee to inquire into “the status and opportunities open to academic women on this campus.” This committee, chaired by Behavioral Science Professor Bernice L. Neugarten (AB 1936 AM 1937 PhD 1943), held hearings, performed research, and administered a survey to all women on campus.

The Committee on University Women published its findings in May 1970. The report argued, “The University of Chicago, despite its auspicious beginnings as a place where distinguished women were part of the original faculty and where special encouragement was given to student women, no longer occupies the same position in this regard.” The report recommended that the University work to recruit and retain talented women, yet many women on campus felt that the report sidestepped the unique challenges facing women faculty.

Items

1

Event poster, ca. 1969.

University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

To many campus women, the “woman question in academia” was both pressing and consequential. Speakers at this event included Marlene Dixon, the sociologist whose tenure denial sparked the 1969 Administration Building sit-in.

2

Women for Childcare poster, ca. 1969.

University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

A pressing concern of women at the University, as well as the wider women's movement, was the availability of affordable childcare for working women.

3

Law Women's Caucus to Dean Phil C. Neal, February 4, 1970
University of Chicago Office of the President, Levi Administration Records.

The Women's Law Caucus pressured the Dean of the Law School to refuse discriminatory firms the right to recruit University of Chicago students.

4

Women in the University of Chicago, Report of the Committee on University Women, May 1, 1970. Prepared for the Committee of the Council of the University Senate.
Chicago: The University, 1970.
Jerald Braeur Papers.

The Neugarten Report resulted from an investigation by the Committee on University Women into "the status and opportunities open to academic women on this campus, giving special attention to the question of equity regarding salaries, promotion, and tenure for faculty women."

5

"Attention Womankind!" poster, ca. 1970.
University of Chicago Office of Student Activities Records.

While the Neugarten report proclaimed the university's treatment of women to be generally sound, women faculty openly discussed their objections to its findings.

6

Jane Adams to Edward H. Levi and Morris Janowitz, February 11, 1969.
University of Chicago Office of the President, Levi Administration Records.

Feminists in other cities felt sympathy for Marlene Dixon's plight, writing to President Levi about the importance of her scholarship.

7

Examinations, 1962.
Archival Photographic Files.

Amidst a variety of movements to reshape campus culture and university policies, students maintained their courses of study.

8

Eckhart Hall Tea Room, 1969.
Archival Photographic Files.

The Library's Bibliographer for Education, Psychology and Sociology, Ruth Murray (center), began compiling a bibliography for women's studies in the early 1970s. In recognition of her commitment to research, a Ruth Murray Prize is awarded by the Center for Gender Studies for the best essay written by a University of Chicago undergraduate or graduate student in the area of women's studies, feminist criticism or gender studies.

9

Photo of Law School graduation, 1980.
On loan from Mary Lee Turk.

At the Law School, women criticized the patriarchal culture of academia. In a recent interview, Martha Albertson Fineman (J.D. '75) remembered one incident:

"When I was a second-year student at the University of Chicago Law School the only woman law professor I knew—Soia Mentschikoff—left to become Dean at the University of Miami. The few women students at the school petitioned requesting that another woman be hired. We were told that 'there is not a woman in the country qualified to be a law professor at the University of Chicago.'"

10

Reproduction of Carol Kleiman. "What Are You Rearing Your Daughter To Be?"
Chicago Tribune, Jan. 28, 1973.
ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

Women's activism often centered on representation in fields from which they had generally been excluded. In 1970, the Rev. Peggy Way, an assistant professor at the University's Divinity School, gave a sermon entitled "You Are Not My God, Jehovah!" in which she condemned male-dominated interpretations of Protestant theology.

23. Women's Place in the University, Revisited

Case Text

In 1969, Katharine Graham (A.B. '38) became the first woman elected to the Board of Trustees. Nine years later, the University appointed Professor of History Hanna Holborn Gray its tenth president, making her the first woman to serve as president of a major research university in the United States. Concerns about women's place in the University did not subside in the wake of these appointments, however. While some women made the case that University policies disadvantaged women, others were concerned that special consideration for women could interfere with the free marketplace of ideas.

Federal policy including *Roe v. Wade* and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 established new rights for women in sports, education, and bodily autonomy. A group of Hyde Park women established the Rape Action Group Hotline in 1973, a University Women's Center opened its doors in 1974, and feminist groups on campus multiplied, along with a host of feminist student publications. At the same time, many students and faculty felt that still more work remained to fully incorporate women and feminist theory into the curriculum, the classroom and the faculty—particularly when many other U.S. colleges and research universities had already committed to fostering scholarship and supporting research institutes in the growing field of women's and gender studies.

After a decade of campus organizing in the 1980s, faculty in the Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions—led by Leora Auslander (History), Lauren Berlant (English), and Elizabeth Helsinger (English and Art History)—established the Center for Gender Studies (CGS) in 1996. In its first year, CGS boasted fifty-five affiliated faculty members and outlined ambitious plans for curriculum, programming and fundraising. In 1997, the College approved the undergraduate concentration in Gender Studies.

Items

1

"*Vivat Hanna* – inauguration images, 1978." *Cap and Gown*. Vol. 63, 1979. Archival Reference Collection.

2

Directory of Researchers on Women and Femaleness at the University of Chicago. Produced by the Graduate Committee on the Study of Women. [Chicago: The Committee, 1980.] Elizabeth Helsinger Papers.

While many colleges and universities formed programs in the study of gender and sexuality, the University of Chicago did not establish its Center for Gender Studies until 1996. Despite the absence of a formal center, scholars interested in gender and "femaleness" pooled information and resources more informally.

3:

“Percentage of Women in the College,” 1991.
Elizabeth Helsinger Papers.

Data from the early 1990s reveals that women had yet to reach parity in undergraduate enrollment. Perhaps surprisingly, the proportion of women undergraduates in 1989 did not vary dramatically from their proportion in 1939.

Items 4-7:

Workshop posters, 1980s-1990s.
Elizabeth Helsinger Papers

4. Feminist Theory Workshop
5. Women in Science Conference
6. Forum for Feminist Scholarship
7. Family Values Conference

Campus events in the 1980s focused on both improving women’s status in male-dominated fields and expanding the study of women as an academic discipline.

8

Tim Obermiller. “The Big Chill.” *The University of Chicago Magazine*. Vol. 84, no. 5, June 1992.
Elizabeth Helsinger Papers.

This news story questions whether the university’s stated policy of gender-blind meritocracy disadvantaged women. One undergraduate claimed, “I don’t have a status as a woman on this campus,” arguing that “the University’s attempt to remain academically gender-blind” forced women to “lose their identities.”

9

Problems in Gender Studies syllabus, 1993.
Elizabeth Helsinger Papers.

While the University did not offer a formal concentration in Gender Studies until 1998, the topic made its way into the Humanities core by the early 1990s.

10

The Center for Gender Studies Newsletter. Vol. 1, issue 1, Winter 1997.
Elizabeth Helsinger Papers.

The inaugural issue of *The Center for Gender Studies Newsletter* promised to provide both programming, extracurricular activities, and social opportunities focused on gender and sexuality at the University.

24. Student Life Today

Case Text

Student life outside of the classroom has also reflected changing sexual and gendered mores. As a service to arriving women students, women in the mid-1990s published *A Woman's Guide to the U of C*, sharing information on student health care, nutrition, sexual harassment, and resources for lesbian and gay students. University support for a student-centered space at 5710 South Woodlawn has made additional space available for students of color and a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Resource Center, yet a series of articles in the 2008 *Chicago Maroon* has pointed out the continuing need to address quality of life issues for transgendered students on campus.

Other campus developments have remade tradition across campus, referencing the long history of women at the University of Chicago. In 1985, women organized the University's first sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi. Today there are multiple Greek-letter sororities on campus, overturning Marion Talbot's historic prohibition of such groups in the early years of the University.

Female athletes continue to make the Women's Athletic Association a thriving organization. Residents of Breckinridge Hall, named after pioneering scholar Sophonisba Breckinridge in the late 1970s, call their annual Spring Quarter house party "Sophie Day." Combined with new methods of studying women and gender in the academy, these traditions remind us that Chicago women have always made rich contributions to the University, and continue to have distinct stories to tell about the coeducational experience, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Items

1:

"New Women's Sororities, 1988." *The Gargoyle*. Vol. 69, 1988.
Archival Reference Collection.

The University of Chicago is now home to three sororities: Alpha Omicron Pi, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Delta Gamma. In a twist on tradition, Kappa Alpha Theta's annual fundraiser takes the form of a "Mr. University" male beauty pageant.

2

A Woman's Guide to the U of C. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1997. 1997-1998 ed.
John Crerar Library.

This publication, designed to orient women students to University resources, included information about student health services, support groups, violence, nutrition, sexuality, and more.

3

Student "zine," ca. 1998.

On loan from the Center for Gender Studies.

Women students continue to express themselves through written work, visual art, and photography.

4

Vita Excolatur. Vol. 1, no. 3, 2006.

Art Reading Room.

The student-produced sex magazine *Vita Excolatur* made its debut in 2006. In the *New York Times* that year, *Vita* editor-in-chief Charlotte Rutherford (AB '07) declared "It's distinctly U. of C. There's no Miss January. There's a hot girl — and she's reading a book!"

5

Genderfuck event and University of Chicago, Where the Girls... t-shirts, ca. 2007.

On loan from the Center for Gender Studies.

Genderfuck is an annual dance held by Queers and Associates, a student group on campus. The back of the Genderfuck shirt reads, "As far as I'm concerned, being any gender is a drag."

6

University of Chicago Women's Rugby annual prom dress game, 2008.

On loan from the University of Chicago Women's Rugby team.

Each year, Women's Rugby challenges gender conventions, playing their physically demanding sport in feminine formal wear.