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## COLLECTION 0137: Philothean Fellowship Collection, 1947-1961

Fuller Seminary Archives and Special Collections

Grace Payton Fuller

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**COLLECTION 137: Philothean Fellowship Collection, 1947-1961**

**Administrative Information**

**Title:**

Philothean Fellowship Collection, 1947-1961

**Collection Identifier:**

CFT00137

**Creators:**

Fuller, Grace  
Fuller Theological Seminary  
Students' Spouses

**Size:**

4 Boxes, 3.46 linear feet

**Repository:**

David Allan Hubbard Library  
Fuller Theological Seminary  
135 N Oakland Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91182  
archives@fuller.edu

**Provenance:**

Institutional Record Retention.  
Materials originally housed in the basement of Slessor Hall on the Pasadena campus.

**Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:**

Access copies of the scrapbooks are available in Box 1 of the archival collection and digital scans are available upon request from the Archives.

**Language:**

English

**Processing:**

Nancy Gower, June 2013 (Original cataloger); Alyson Thomas, June 2019 (Revised)

## Historical Note

The *Philothean Fellowship* was an organization initiated by Grace Payton Fuller and Mary Jane Smith for the training, community, and spiritual growth of the women at Fuller Theological Seminary. The original community in 1947 consisted of student, staff, and faculty wives, and grew to include all women of the Seminary staff and student body by the 1960s.

Philothean Fellowship membership included active members and associate members. Active members consisted of the wives of students of Fuller Theological Seminary. Associate members included the wives of the faculty, the wives of the staff, and female Seminary staff members and student body. Officer positions included a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer elected by active members.

Regular Monday night meetings alternated between general meetings at the Seminary with a featured speaker or panel discussion and smaller group meetings for prayer and bible study. Yearly events included holiday parties, children's parties, and Baccalaureate celebrations.

Members of the Philothean Fellowship also advocated for women's inclusion in academic programs as early as 1947-1948. By 1974, wives of full-time students were permitted to audit classes at the Seminary without charge, or register for classes at one-quarter the regular tuition and pursue degrees. The group stayed active until 1974-1975, when its name transitioned to the "Women's Institute." The Women's Institute continued to provide intellectual and spiritual growth and fellowship for Fuller Seminary student wives through a variety of workshops and special interest classes.

The Office for Women's Concerns opened in August 1976 with the support of Roberta Hestenes and Libbie Patterson. The Office for Women's Concerns monitored all programs and decisions concerning female staff, students, and faculty at Fuller Seminary. The Office provided career counseling and advocate support for women on campus at all levels as well as coordinating all women's activities. The Woman Students Committee was also created, consisting of members from all three graduate schools, which addressed the planning of programs, workshops, and services for women students. The Women's Lectureship series was hosted by this office from 1983-2001 to expose the Fuller community to academic work being done by and about women. The Office for Women's Concerns and Committee of Women's Concerns were incorporated into the Student Engagement and Success department (as it's known in 2019).

The Women's Institute disbanded by 1980 as it folded into the short-lived Team Ministry (for all spouses of Fuller students), and a steering committee of Fuller spouses to link student wives to the Seminary community. A second community support group, *FOCUS* (1990-1999), helped student wives "who have an important and unique role as individuals and as part of married team going through the rigors and joys of graduate school" in small-group settings. The steering committee also sought to help student wives determine their own ministry through directed study, social events, and support programs. By 1993, the steering committee became the "*Fuller Wives Fellowship*," renamed "*SUPPORT*" in 1994. *SUPPORT* transitioned in name to *CONNECT* c. 2015, and operated with the support of Nancy Sunquist, wife of former SIS Dean Dr. Scott Sunquist.

## **Related Collections:**

Collection 011: Charles E. and Grace Payton Fuller Collection, 1892-2009

Collection 150: David Allan Hubbard: Presidential Papers, 1947-1996

## **Scope and Content**

The *Philothean Fellowship Collection, 1947-1961* consists of access and original copies of scrapbooks kept by members of the Fuller Theological Seminary student wives' group, the Philothean Fellowship. The scrapbooks include photographs, postcard invitations to Seminary social events and lectures, Fuller Seminary convocation and commencement brochures, and the newsletter *The Broadcaster*.

### **Subjects:**

Fuller, Grace (Payton) Mrs.  
Fuller Theological Seminary  
Students  
Students' Spouses  
Women  
Women in higher education

### **Cataloger's Note:**

During the original processing in 2013, the materials were integrated into Collection 138: Early Institutional Papers, 1947-1975. In 2015, the Philothean Fellowship materials were separated into their own collection. The materials were processed into its own collection in 2019.

## Arrangement

The collection has been organized according to format. The file folders of access photocopies and photographs retain the original order of the pages within the original scrapbook materials.

A single file folder was added at the end of Box 1, Folder 40 at an unknown date. The folder's provenance is unclear.

## Box Inventory

### ***Box 1: Philothean Fellowship Scrapbook 1947-1953***

Folder	Item	Date/note
1	Invitation to Seminary Christmas party	Dec 13, 1947
1	2 letters from Betty, Dick and Dave Soderberg	1948
2	Constitution of Philothean Fellowship	n.d.
3	Photos at Highgate and with children, Mildred Salmon with Salmon, Carlston, Hill, Wenzel and Gwinn children. Easter Egg Hunt at Highgate.	1948
4	Thank you notes from Lois Friesen and Mildred Salmon, photos at Highgate, invitation to a reception held by President and Mrs. Harold John Ockenga Feb, 1948	May, 1948
5	Philothean Fellowship calendar for 1948/49. Charles E. Fuller letter about Fuller Seminary	Sept 22, 1948
6	Second Annual Convocation program. Invitation post cards: Philothean Meeting, Seminary Christmas party – to Dale E. Fisher	Sept 30, 1948
7	Seminary wives' chorus practice notice	
8	Installation of new officers, photos, a thank you letter from North China Theological Seminary	1949
9	Installation service, 4 pages	Jan, 1949
10	Valentine Party, photos. Clippings of Payton lecturer and Livingstone Hotel purchase for dorms. Teacher training class post card invitation.	Jan – Feb, 1949
11	Post card invitations to meetings, events. Henrietta Mears speaker at tea in honor of Mrs. Ockenga. Christian schools vs. Public schools forum. Edward Dunn, Director of Music and Productions NBC TV lecture on broadcasting.	March, 1949
11	April Showers Philothean Banquet	April, 1949
12	2 photos: Installation & a children's event, copies made for Mrs. Smith	May, 1949
13	Installation service. Photos	May, 1949
14	Philothean Fellowship Garden Party	Sept 26, 1949
15	Third Annual Convocation program. <i>The Broadcaster</i>	Sept 27, 1949
16	Philothean newsletter, <i>The Broadcaster</i> . Fellowship Meeting and	Nov, 1949

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	Missionary Meeting post cards,	
17	Invitation post cards, <i>The Broadcaster</i>	Dec, 1949
18	Invitation post cards, <i>The Broadcaster</i>	Feb, 1950
19	Invitation post cards, <i>The Broadcaster</i> . Naomi Johnston speaks at Mission Covenant Church	April, 1950
20	Robe & Tassel Philothean Banquet, 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Baccalaureate	April-May, 1950
21	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual convocation, theme song, clippings	Fall 1950
22	First Philothean meeting photos	Fall 1950
23	November meeting photos. Woodbridge, Ruth Fuller	Nov, 1950
24	Invitations to hear Mrs. Vasady, Miss Mears	Nov, 1950
25	Philothean Directory belonging to Laura Wiebe	1950/51
26	Christmas Social invitations and photos	Dec, 1950
27	Children's Christmas party invitations and photos	Dec, 1950
28	Letters from cookbook committee chair Elouise Corwin and Philothean Fellowship Alumni committee chair Blanche Buegler	Jan, 1951
29	Philothean Fellowship Cookbook	1951
30	Payton lecturer Gordon Haddon Clark clipping, Philothean meeting post cards	Jan – Feb, 1951
31	Invitation post cards, <i>The Broadcaster</i>	Feb, 1951
32	Missionary committee invitation: India Meeting. Invitation post cards, <i>The Broadcaster</i>	Nov, 1952
33	Photo of 4 women, including Mrs. Wilbur Smith	c. 1953
34	Fuller Theological Seminary Auxiliary Prayer Fellowship booklet and photo: Mrs. E. Wilfred Wiegel; Mrs. Roy Johnston, President; Mrs. John McGill; Mrs. Harold J. Ockenga; Mrs. Herman Hosier; Mrs. Edward Carnell, Mrs. Peter Geddes; Mrs. Wilbur Smith; Mrs. Charles E. Fuller; Mrs. Robert Eby; Mrs. James Gorton; Mrs. Cyrus Nelson; Mrs. Philip Johnson.	n.d.
35-36	<i>The Broadcaster</i>	1948-1953, 1963
37	Philothean Fellowship minutes of executive meetings	1952-1958
38	Handbook for Seminary Women	c. 1961
39	Philothean Fellowship miscellaneous	
40	Invitation to Philothean Fall Fellowship	1954

**Box 2: Philothean Scrapbook II, 1953-1958**

***Box 3: Philothean Fellowship, 1953-1958***

Folder	Item	Date
1	Philothean Fellowship programs	Fall, Spring 1957/58
2	Medieval Memories Banquet	Apr 10, 1958
3	Invitation post cards	1958
4	Display on the founding of FTS	
5	Class of '50 photocopied photo page from Reunion of Schooldays	1950
6	Schooldays dinner party program	1951
	Pages and cover of original Scrapbook I	
	PF - Philothean Fellowship Aims and roster booklets	1951-1956
	<i>The Broadcaster</i>	
	Photocopies of "Philothean Publicity Chairman's Notebook"	1952-1960

***Box 4: Philothean Publicity Chairman's Notebook, 1952-1960***