

Cadet Life, Organizations, and ActivitiesRG.08.Cadet Life

Cadet Life, Organizations, and Activities
ca. 1845-ongoing



Title Statement

Cadet Life, Organizations, and ActivitiesRG.08.Cadet Life

Publication Statement

Publisher: Virginia Military Institute Archives

VMI Archives
Preston Library
Lexington, VA 24450
Business Number: 540-464-7516
archives@vmi.edu
URL: <http://www.vmi.edu/archives>



Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-01-05 12:28:17 -0500.

Language Usage: Description is written in: Undetermined, Code for undetermined script script.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

RG.08.Cadet Life

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/655

Unit Date

ca. 1845-ongoing

Language

English

Extent

25 cubic feet

Physical Location

Archives stacks, Record Group 08, Cadet Life, Organizations and Activities

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Scope and Contents

This record group comprises material relating to cadet social life and customs, cadet recreational organizations and clubs, misc. cadet life memorabilia and printed material.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Special events
Virginia Military Institute—Social life and customs
Virginia Military Institute -- Cadet life -- 20th century
Virginia Military Institute—Cadet organizations
Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—19th century
Virginia Military Institute -- Cadet life -- 21st century

Description of Subordinate Components

Office of Cadet Affairs/Cadet Life

Unit ID RG08.05

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2392

Unit Date ca. 1957-ongoing; gaps

Language English

Creator Virginia Military Institute. Office of Cadet Affairs

Extent 1 cubic feet

Biographical / Historical

The Office of Cadet Affairs was established in 1966 and disbanded in its original configuration in 2004. Duties of that office were dispersed. The Office of Cadet Life (reporting to the Commandant) now handles Cadet organizations and clubs. Career Services is a separate department. See General Order #40, 24 June 2004

Scope and Contents

Misc. items generated by the Office of Cadet Affairs (1966-2004) and the Office of Cadet Life (2005-)

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute -- Cadet life -- 20th century

Parents Weekend and Parents Council

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2397

Unit Date ca. 1957-ongoing, gaps

Extent 0.50 cubic feet

Scope and Contents

Chronological file, largely brochures and other material documenting annual Parents Weekend events. The first Parents weekend event was held in 1958. Includes some material about Parents Council.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Special events

Brochures, Office of Cadet Life

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2398

Unit Date ca. 1966-1990 bulk

Language English

Creator Virginia Military Institute. Office of Cadet Affairs

Extent 20 items

Scope and Contents

Career Fairs, Placement, and other flyers and pamphlets advertising services to cadets

Cadet Clubs, Organizations, Activities

Unit ID RG08.01

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2399

Unit Date 1848-1885; 1904-ongoing

Extent 5 cubic feet

Scope and Contents

Records documenting the various cadet extra-curricular organizations, clubs, and honor societies. Folder 1/Box 1 contains lists of organizations by school year (not complete). The only 19th century records are those for the Cadet literary societies.

Related Materials

See the VMI Yearbook (the Bomb) and the Cadet newspaper for additional material about cadet activities.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet organizations

Accruals

Material is received periodically from organizations and the office governing cadet life. However, there are many gaps and we do not have information on every organization.

Arrangement

The files are arranged alphabetically by name of club/organization

Air Explorers

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2400

Amateur Radio

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2401

American Chemical Society

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2402

American Society of Chemical Engineers Student Chapter (ASCE)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2403

American Society of Mechanical Engineers Student Chapter (ASME)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2404

Aquatics & Swimming

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2405

Archery

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2406

Armed Forces Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2407

Arnold Air Society

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2408

Association of U. S. Army (AUSA)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2409

Astronomy

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2410

Aviation Explorer

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2411

Baptist Student Union

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2412

Basketball Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2413

Big Brother

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2414

Biological Sciences Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2415

Book Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2416

Boxing

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2417

Bridge Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2418

Cadet Battery

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2419

Cadet Program Board (Union Committee)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2420

Cadet Recreation Committee

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2421

Cheerleaders

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2422

Circle K

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2423

Civil War Roundtable

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2424

College Bowl

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2425

College Republicans

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2426

Commanders, Orchestra

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2427

Computer Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2428

Cotillion

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2429

Debate, Debating Team

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2430

Cadet Emergency Medical Team (Emergency Response Team)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2431

Language English

Biographical / Historical

Also known as the Cadet Emergency Response Team. Founded 1992.

English Society

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2432

English Speaking Union

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2433

Episcopal Church

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2434

Explorer Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2435

Fencing Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2436

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2437

Fishing Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2438

Flying Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2439

Glee Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2440

Golf Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2441

Grappling Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2442

Gymnastics Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2443

Hop Committee

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2444

Ice Hockey

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2445

IEEE (Electrical Engineers students)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2446

International Relations Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2447

International Students Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2448

Investment Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2449

Jewish Cadets Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2450

Judo Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2451

Karate Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2452

Kneewalkers (muscial group/band)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2453

Lacrosse Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2454

Leadership Book Program

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2455

Lecturn, Liberal Arts Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2456

Letcher Avenue (Musical Group/band)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2457

Lutheran club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2458

Marathon Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2459

Martial Arts Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2460

Militaria Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2461

Monogram Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2462

Moslem Student Union

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2463

Navigators Fellowship and Bible Study (cadet organization)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4056

Language English

Newman Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2464

Orienteering Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2465

Outdoor Federation, Recreation Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2466

Outreach Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2467

Phi Eta Sigma

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2468

Phi Kappa Phi

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2469

Pilots Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2470

Political Science Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2471

Pre-Law Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2472

Pre-Med Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2473

Promaji Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2474

Unit Date 1975 -

Language English

Biographical / Historical**Keywords**

College students, Black

College integration -- Virginia -- History.

Virginia Military Institute—Promaji Club

Daniels, Jonathan M. (Jonathan Myrick), 1939-1965

Rocks, Inc.

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4088

Unit Date 2013-

Language English

Biographical / Historical

The ROCKS, Inc., is a non-profit organization that provides mentorship, scholarship and fellowship to ROTC Cadets. The mission of the VMI "Promaji" ROCKS Chapter is to support the overall mission of The ROCKS, Inc. by establishing relationships between minority cadets and military officers.

Ranger Platoon

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2475

Religious Council

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2476

Riding Club (Equestrian, Horse Show team)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2477

Rifle and Pistol Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2478

Road Runners Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2479

Rugby Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2480

Scouters Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2481

Scuba Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2482

Second Class Finance Committee

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2483

Sentinels (Music group)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2484

Sigma Delta Pi, Spanish Honors society

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2485

Sigma Pi Sigma

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2486

Ski Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2487

Soaring Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2488

Soccer Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2489

Society of American Military Engineers Student Chapter

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2490

Society of Physics Students

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2491

Society of Cadets, Dialectic Society

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2513

Unit Date 1848-1885

Language English

Extent 0.5 cubic feet

Scope and Contents

Records of the 19th century cadet literary societies. These organizations were devoted to public speaking, debate, reading and writing. The earliest was called the Society of Cadets (1840); a companion organization was known as the Dialectic Society (1848). Very few records still exist. Includes Invitations, Programs, Lists of members, v Misc. financial records

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet literary societies

Society of Young Economists

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2492

Spanish Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2493

Sport Parachute club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2494

Strength Club, Power Lifting

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2495

Student Grotto Caving Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2496

Tanker Platoon

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2497

Third Class Finance Committee

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2498

Theater, VMI Theatre, Class Shows, Dramatic Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2499

Unit Date 1907-2019

Extent 9 boxes7 record cartons, 2 archives boxes

Timmins Music Society

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2500

Triathlon Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2501

Ultimate Frisbee

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2502

Virginia Academy of Science

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2503

Wesley Foundation

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2504

Westminster Fellowship

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2505

West Virginia Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2506

YMCA

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2507

Young Americans for Freedom

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2508

Young Democrats

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2509

Water Polo

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2510

WLUR Radio

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2511

Wrestling

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2512

Cadet Life Printed Material

Unit ID RG08.04

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2393

Unit Date ca. 1920-ongoing; gaps

Extent 1 cubic feet

VMI Holiday Cards

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2394

Unit Date ca. 1920-1950

Extent 15 itemsItem number approximate

Scope and Contents

VMI-themed Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day and other cards published by VMI. These were sold in the PX and used primarily by cadets.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Social life and customs

Invitations Collection - VMI Dances, Balls & Hops

Unit ID RG08.03

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2395

Unit Date 1840's-1950's

Language English

Extent 1 cubic feet

Scope and Contents

A chronological file containing invitations, dance cards, and other memorabilia from formal dances held at VMI from 1840's through the 1950's. These dances were an important aspect of social life at VMI. Many of the invitations include elaborate engravings and other artwork depicting aspects of cadet life, institute building, early monograms (spiders), and other VMI-related art.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Social life and customs

Invitation cards

Class Rings, Ring Ceremony and Ring Figure

Unit ID RG08.02

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/2396

Unit Date 1927-ongoing

Language English

Extent 3 cubic feet

Biographical / Historical

The presentation of a VMI class ring, and the formal dance known as Ring Figure that marks the occasion, takes place in November of the Second Class (Junior) year. The event represents an important milestone in the life of a cadet, second only to graduation in importance. Each class is responsible for designing a unique ring, which incorporates symbols significant to the group. The elaborate Ring Figure tradition known to today's cadets dates to the 1920's; prior to that time, rings were received in a much more informal setting.

Although VMI opened in 1839 and the first cadets graduated in 1842, the earliest cadets did not receive VMI rings. The first ring -- shown at left -- was designed by members of the Class of 1848 and was presented to graduates during Finals celebrations. Class members paid five dollars for the ring, a large sum in the mid-nineteenth century.

The original ring was simple in design -- the word "Mizpah" was cut in the stone in Old English script, and the inside band was engraved with the words "1 of 24, July 1848." Mizpah, from the Hebrew, is typically translated as "the Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another." The term signified brotherhood, the enduring connection among the 24 graduates.

The custom of receiving class rings did not become firmly established until many decades later, beginning with the Class of 1908. During the 19th century the practice was observed by some classes and ignored by others; if a class chose to have a ring, it was presented just prior to their graduation in an informal setting.

This changed in 1907. In addition to establishing the ring tradition on a permanent basis, the Class of 1908 was the first to receive rings during its Second Class (Junior) year. However, until 1926, rings continued to be received during Finals week. Class members would gather in Brother Rat's room and all would put on their new rings simultaneously.

The Class of 1928 was the first group to move the ceremony to November and to hold a Ring Figure dance. Since 1927, Ring Figure has been held near Thanksgiving during the Second Class year, and the receipt of rings has been associated with a formal dance. The modern celebration comprises several events that take

place primarily on the weekend before Thanksgiving. The rings themselves have become increasingly larger and more elaborate in design, in marked contrast to the much plainer examples from the 19th century.

Scope and Contents

This series consists of a chronological file that includes invitations and other printed material relating to the ring presentation ceremony and Ring Figure dance; ring design drawings; and history of ring figure.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Social life and customs

Ring Presentations and Ring Figure

Class Rings

Virginia Military Institute -- Cadet life -- 20th century

Virginia Military Institute -- Cadet life -- 21st century

Online Access

Our collection of Class ring designs are viewable online