

SORORITIES

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The organization did not disappear, but always had varying levels of presence on campus, sometimes appearing in the yearbook, but other times not mentioned in any archives. It turned into an honors society in the late 1960s before being abandoned in favor of a local honors society in 1983. By 1970, The Towers publication reported that, "Membership in Alpha Chi is required for graduation with honors. Alpha Chi strives to promote intellectual activities among all students by sponsoring movies, panels, and speakers on current topics of interest."

The other long operating sorority, Delta Rho, was also known as the Monocle sorority. The 1931-1932 bulletin from the college said that, "The object of the Monocle Club is cultural." Scriptorium publications from the 1940s reported on the actions of the club, and the paper even published a column written by the sorority that was aimed at presenting students with "a candid picture of what we as Monocles are endeavouring to do," implying that rumors of the sorority were rampant on campus.

Before losing favor due to political reasons in the 1960s, the college had several other sororities and a few fraternities after men were allowed admission. Some of those that lasted for a longer time include Phi Sigma, Kappa Zeta and Tri Art.

Kappa Zeta, as defined in the 1933-1934 bulletin from the College, "is an elective society of campus students who lean toward the philanthropic as the social." The group was known for the formal dinner at the beginning of each year, but acted more as a traditional society than the College might have wanted to admit. A Scriptorium edition from Dec. 15, 1967 said that new recruits of Kappa Zeta were about to go through "hell week" before they could officially join the society.

In general, the societies functioned much as our clubs do today: some of them required a student to be studying a specific subject in order to join, some focused on philanthropy and others were either for residents or non-residents.

The college had 27 GLS over the years, though they began to fade by the 1980s as the club system became preferable. The College still has a GLS today, which is a rather recent addition. Tri Alpha, a national honors society focused on first-generation college students, was approved as a campus organization by what was then the Student Senate three years ago.

NEW HOUSING IMPLEMENT: THE LOTTERY

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The housing selection process and registration are two of the most stressful times of the year for a student at St. Scholastica, but housing selection this year looked a little different, as the school used a lottery system.

In a virtual interview, Director of Housing Elliott Johnston said, "This is the first time we've done this lottery format in the six years I've been here," he said.

The new housing plan also allows students more freedoms than previous years. Johnston stated, "Students would previously list preferences and a computer ran an algorithm to put students into their listed preferences" as best it could. This year, "students can immediately find out the specific room" within their chosen on-campus apartment building, he said.

In order for the new system to work, students were given a lottery number that corresponded to the day and time that they were able to access their housing page and select their room. Upon applying for housing, students chose up to three other students as potential roommates. These names remained in the system until the student removed them from their list.

Depending on how many students were trying to get a housing space together, there were different options available. With three or four students registering, these groups were only able to view options that would house all of them, which would exclude the brick apartments, which will all be at two person capacity next school year. Furthermore, two person groups would have more options, since a two person group could fit with another two person group that had already registered or could choose a brick apartment to themselves.

Students were also able to communicate with other roommate groups to select a room that is across the hall from someone they knew. In the registration process, students were unable to view filled rooms on their registration so they could not "see the potential neighbors." However, it would have been easy to ask around and find out where other friends were living and still get a housing spot next to them. The number of students registering for on campus housing was lower than many previous years. "There were less concerns going into it with less students to manage for housing this upcoming school year."

The initial announcement of the new housing placement style came as a shock to students, largely due to the wording of it—the word "lottery" inciting fearful uncertainty for students across campus. Despite this, once the shock value of "lottery" wore off, the truth of the matter was easier to understand. "Within 24 hours after announcing the policy, about 75 emails came through," most of which were a mix of complaints and distressed students. However, during the registration, "only five additional emails came through to note students having actual issues with the housing process."

This method can be expected to be repeated in the future of CSS housing, granting students additional freedoms as well as peace of mind knowing they have a specific room for the upcoming school year. There will always be a hiccup in the system and "somebody out there won't be happy," but numbers wise, "true questions have been limited and many students have enjoyed the extra freedoms this process allows," Johnston said.

Johnston concluded the interview with "a disclaimer, per the [housing] contract changes in housing can always happen, but we will communicate the best we can." Any housing related questions can always be directed to Johnston (ejohnston1@css.edu) or to Louanne Johnson (ljohnso3@css.edu).