

Free Men All: The Civil Rights Movement at Dartmouth

The Civil Rights Movement in the United States began to gain ground in the 1950s but came to the national forefront during the 1960s. Fueled by the desire for equality of citizenship for African-Americans, this movement is often remembered for such Supreme Court decisions as *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), the Civil Rights Act (1964), and the Voting Rights Act (1965). The influence of these significant legislative decisions, as well as that of leading activists such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, created momentum for the movement and ushered in new avenues for reform. As the Civil Rights Movement spread across the United States, Dartmouth College served as a platform for social awareness and change. The history of the Civil Rights Movement at Dartmouth College in many ways reflects national events and sentiments. Students here spoke out against segregation in fraternities and athletics as well as mobilizing for voting rights. Numerous young men at Dartmouth worked tirelessly to bringing awareness of the movement to their own community here on campus, with the goal of effecting serious change both locally and nationally. The college administration, too, was pre-emptive in its establishment of campus organizations, such as the “A Better Chance” program or the Equal Opportunity Committee, that were meant to make higher education a reality for African-Americans.

The exhibition was curated by Julia Logan and was on display in the Class of 1965 Galleries from August 30 to October 3, 2014.

Materials Included in the Exhibition

1. A signed letter from Martin Luther King Jr. to Professor Morrison from February, 1960 regarding a speaking engagement at Dartmouth College. [MS 960152](#)
2. Governor George Wallace of Alabama was invited by Dartmouth’s Undergraduate Council to speak to the Dartmouth community about his segregationist policies in November of 1963 eight months before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed. Wallace, George Photo File
3. In October of 1963, before Wallace visited campus a letter circulated between Dartmouth faculty members referencing a faculty demonstration against the ideas of Governor Wallace. Student Protests Vertical File
4. “Rise up” pin. Dartmouth Afro-American society was founded in 1966. The pin is representative of the society and what they represent and symbolize. The Society was founded “for the coordination of the Black student body into all of the various aspects of College life.” The quotation from press release for the Temple murals ([DC Hist iconography 1399](#))
5. Photograph from Afro-American photo file. Undated photograph.
6. In January of 1965 Malcolm X visited the Dartmouth campus as a guest speaker sponsored by the Undergraduate Council. He spoke to the community on “The Black Revolution in America.” He warned that “the year 1965 will be the longest, hottest, bloodiest summer yet...” (The D Jan 27, 1965). A month later on February 21, 1965 Malcolm X was assassinated. This is the transcript of an

- interview with Malcolm done by Dartmouth's radio station, WDCR. Malcolm X vertical file.
7. The Black Student at Dartmouth pamphlet (DP-13, Box 8448) nd. and "Notes on Equal Opportunity Recruiting" 1972 (DP-13, Box 8448).
 8. In May of 1969 the Dartmouth Afro-American Society submitted a list of 18 needs to the College administration. (Letter to administration, DP-12 Box 7194)
 9. In 1968 the DAAS sponsored the Dartmouth Black Arts Festival. (Afro-American Society Vertical File)
 10. Florian Jenkins, *The Temple Murals* [DC Hist ND237.J4 A33 c.2](#))
 11. The Dartmouth Christian Union was a major supporter of the Civil Rights movement and was involved in sponsoring events like the NAACP art auction raising funds for the national NAACP chapter. (Yellow flyer for event in DCU scrapbook, from DO-85)
 12. This is a page from the DCU scrapbook you with a newspaper clipping from Wallace's second visit to campus in 1967. This visit is representative of the escalating feelings towards Wallace's policies. The Dartmouth reported that on his first visit "he received a polite reception...while about 200 pickets paraded outside the building" (The D, May 4, 1967). In contrast to his 1967 visit was reported that the "Police Chief Terms Riot 'Worst Seen in 22 Years'" (The D May, 4, 1967). DCU Scrapbook 1965-1967 (DO-85, Box 9727).
 13. This Newspaper paper clipping annotated with a violent, graphic note was sent to President John Dickey after Wallace's second visit to campus. (From George Wallace incident collection, DA-32, Folder 3)
 14. Judiciary committee of the Undergraduate Council (UGC) letter (Dartmouth College Office of the President, 1945-1970: John Sloan Dickey, DP-12, Box 7187).