SIGMA BETA DELTA HONOR SOCIETY • SPRING 2016 • No.22



ALWAYS ASPIRE TOWARD SOMETHING BETTER



2015 Fellowship Winners

Congratulations to the Sigma Beta Delta Fellowship winners Class of 2015. Over the last 22 years of service, Sigma Beta Delta has awarded more than \$150,000 to students who have attained superior academic records in the study of business, management and administration.



Makenzie Leigh Frank Driemeier Fellowship McPherson College



Andrew Chwalik ACBSP Region 4 Fellowship Walsh University



Ronna Hatley ACBSP Region 6 Fellowship Rogers State University



Kassia Khuu Nyack College



Kimberly Fown Hammerly Fellowship Urbana University



Elisha M. Goodman ACBSP Region 2 Fellowship Chestnut Hill College



Rachel Rowswell Vieland Fellowship Lake Superior State University



George Ponzoni Hartwick College



Miguel Puertas William Carey University



Joseph Amato Caposella Springfield College



Paige Lilly Penn State -Lehigh Valley



Christina Thomas Craig Fellowship Chowan University



Megan Gomez Bearden Fellowship Mt. Saint Mary's University



Hollie Nop Eubanks Fellowship Castleton State College



Eric Visser Cornerstone University



Darius Cosse Touhill Fellowship Our Lady of Holy Cross College



Carol Wilson Thomas Edison State College

Argosy University Phoenix

Kandee Kirkman

Scott Fellowship

Robert Scott DiMieri Kehoe Fellowship Wilmington University



Adam Lingle Keiser University-Tallahassee



It has been an honor to serve you

As I reflect on the past four years serving as President of Sigma Beta Delta, I am reminded of the principles of Wisdom, Honor and Aspiration embodied in our insignia and uniting our members.

We honor your academic achievement and challenge you to continue applying knowledge in your life, to make a difference with the wisdom you have gained. I had taught at larger universities before going to a university eligible for Sigma Beta Delta membership. I knew our best students could compete and challenge the top students at those other universities. Today, you continue to affirm my earlier belief in you with your efforts on campus and in your careers.

We also honor our supporting staff at more than 440 colleges and universities we have chartered. Your faculty advisers, officers and staff believe in you. Most are not paid extra to organize the selection and induction ceremonies or meetings for Sigma Beta Delta members. The honor you earned from Sigma Beta Delta for your academic achievements is the beginning of many more honors you will receive.

In this edition of *Aspirations*, we honor our Founding President Dr. James Bearden as our Ambassador of Excellence. His love of history and editing of *Aspirations* for the last 20 years documented our stories.

We honor the 2015 Fellowship winners and then feature five of our earlier Fellowship recipients. We are proud of their success at other academic institutions and in careers that make a difference in the lives of people in their local community, our nation and the world.

Over the last four years we have seen Sigma Beta Delta grow and flourish. This spring, we increased the number of fellowships to 31 to help offset the rising cost of education for more of you. We also installed new chapters to expand our reach to students at more colleges without a business honor society, worked with faculty advisers to improve the induction process on your campus, and reorganized procedures at our central office to better serve students and advisors. This work will continue.

As we all accept new challenges, our aspirations change. Sigma Beta Delta has more than 85,000 members who aspire to achieve their individual goals. Just think of the difference these committed individuals can make in the world!

As I complete my final year as President, I want to join you in setting new goals and living by Mahatma Gandhi's words: "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Sincerely,

na Hile Ahrt

Sandra H. Hart President, Sigma Beta Delta

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Jim Bearden – Ambassador of Excellence



Jim Bearden, founding president Sigma Beta Delta, was named Ambassador of Excellence at the society's Quadrennial Meeting in July. Pictured left to right are: Gloria Clark, Peter Banholzer, Sandra Hile Hart, Don Driemeier, Randall McLeod, James Bearden, J. Preston Jones, Janet Ewing, and Dell Ann Janney.

James Bearden recalls a meeting in 1987 where the discussion led to the need for a national honor society for a growing number of students in business, management and administration whose schools did not have specialized accreditation. That meeting led to the creation of Sigma Beta Delta, an international honor society. Bearden was named its first president.

For his role in its founding, his leadership, and lifelong dedication to honoring academic excellence, Bearden was named Ambassador of Excellence at Sigma Beta Delta's quadrennial meeting in July 2015.

"One of my proudest moments was installing that first chapter at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.," Bearden recalled. "In 1994 we visited all seven schools, our charter chapters. To see the creation of an honor society first hand is a thrill. And when I see what has been accomplished, I realize how important those first charter chapters were."

Today, Bearden's legacy includes 440 active chapters in 47 states and internationally. In 2015 alone, 18 new chapters were added including the International College of the Cayman Islands and Newbold College in Bracknell, England. More than 85,000 outstanding students in the fields of business, management and administration have been honored and in turn uphold the principles of their honor society. And the society has awarded more than \$150,000 in fellowships.

Bearden has spent the last 56 years at East Carolina University in Greenville in numerous positions including professor, dean, and now director of the university's Center for Leadership Development. At 82 years old, he remains as busy as ever and insists on sharing accolades.

"Sigma Beta Delta has been quite a journey and we've done fairly well," he said with customary understatement. "All the people who were on the ground floor of this creation were talented people, experienced in business and academia."

Many of those accolades go to the students chosen for induction into the honor society. They excel in their academic programs and are leaders. Bearden emphasizes that the word "honor" plays a significant role in what those students are asked to do once they leave college.

"Clearly these students go on to accomplish great things in their fields," he said. "But there are other ways they can succeed. We ask them to think about the advantages they have had and how they in turn can make a difference in other people's lives." Part

of the society's formal ritual during induction encourages, "a life distinguished by honorable service to humankind." In 2010 student leaders were asked to create a way Sigma Beta Delta could challenge its members and society to aspire to live a meaningful life beyond academics and business.

Continued on page 6



James Bearden



Each year Sigma Beta Delta awards fellowships to outstanding students to use in their academic studies. We caught up with five former award recipients from years stretching back to 2002. Their stories reflect Sigma Beta Delta's recognition of their high scholastic achievements, what their fellowships meant to them, and the careers they have been able to build.

Kerra J. Melvin

Kerra J. Melvin was awarded a Sigma Beta Delta Fellowship in 2008 and it helped pay for her senior year as a student at Montana Tech of The University of Montana. The summer after graduation she landed an internship



in Washington D.C. with the Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Max Baucus of Montana. She had planned to begin accounting graduate school that fall, but decided to stay in D.C. after being offered a full-time position with the Committee.

"I had never been east of Montana and there I was part of a tax team on the Senate Finance Committee. It was awesome," she says. She spent 16 months as a research assistant dealing with tax aspects of the Affordable Care Act, a signature piece of legislation for President Obama.

"The Sigma Beta Delta Fellowship helped pay for my senior year and it certainly helped open the door for graduate school," says Melvin. "Many of the people I worked with in Washington, D.C. were lawyers and I realized that I was going to change my focus and pursue tax law. I still include the Sigma Beta Delta award on my resume. And it's still an honor to be recognized by such a prestigious organization."

Melvin earned her law degree from the University of Washington School of Law in 2013 and today is a Corporate Associate with DLA Piper in Seattle, a global law firm located in 30 countries around the world. Her practice focuses on securities and corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions and general corporate counseling with an emphasis on representation of emerging growth companies and venture capital firms.

Lawrence Tan

Lawrence Tan's passion for helping others began as a volunteer firefighter/ EMT when he was in high school. He was later hired by the New Castle County, Delaware Public Safety Department as a cardiac ambulance technician. Today, with decades of service behind him, he is the



commanding officer of Emergency Medical Services for that same county overseeing a staff of 124, and handling 30,000 calls a year in a county with more than 550,000 residents.

Over more than three decades of service, Tan has paralleled his career and education working full time while attending college. He graduated in 2002 with honors and a BS degree in Human Resources Management from Wilmington University. He received a fellowship from Sigma Beta Delta that same year. In 2006, he earned a law degree from Widener University School of Law.

"That fellowship opened doors to meet my peers and previous Sigma Beta Delta members," says Tan. "I was able to build relationships that have been very important to me."

His expertise in emergency management, public safety, and disaster response has led to his appointment to multiple commissions on the local, state, and national levels. In 2008 he received a congressional appointment to the National Commission on Children and Disasters. He was one of 10 nationally prominent individuals from the health care, emergency management, and legal fields to serve on the commission chaired by Mark Shriver of Save the Children organization.

"About 25 percent of the population affected by any disaster are children, but most disaster preparations are for adults," says Tan. "Our charge was to examine and assess the needs of children in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from major disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. It helped shape federal policy and promoted the integration of the unique needs of children into disaster plans."

Kim Kidd

With a full-time job, a husband and three children, Kim Kidd had already perfected her skills in teamwork, organizing and delegating when she decided to go to college.



"I've always been a lifelong learner and thought it was time," says Kidd. Last year she was one of 14 graduates of Lake-Sumter State College's (LSSC) first bachelor's degree program. LSSC is located in Central Florida. Kidd had been working at the college in various administrative positions while attending classes in the evening and online.

Once she earned her degree in Organizational Management, she was immediately hired as a Title III grant manager. Thanks to a five-year, \$2.9 million grant program, Kidd now manages and monitors the day-to-day activities of the grant which is to redesign and strengthen mathematics programming at LSSC.

She credits Sigma Beta Delta for helping her land the position. "College administrators introduced me to the mission of Sigma Beta Delta and how serving the community can promote success," says Kidd. "I was asked to be president of the chapter. Having the Sigma Beta Delta chapter supporting, counseling and believing in me helped me realize I could achieve my goals. I was able to network my way into the position."

When she moved from student to employee, Kidd became co-advisor to the Sigma Beta Delta chapter at LSSC and is giving back to people who follow in her footsteps.

"I want to continue my role as a trailblazer and focus on higher education for older women," she says. "I want to continue increasing educational opportunities in my community."

Matt Kirinovic

Matt Kirinovic's goal is to become a collegiate athletic director. As a director of major gifts in the Midwest region for the University of Michigan, his trajectory seems to be headed in the right direction.



Kirinovic is part of the school's \$4 billion fundraising campaign, one of the largest public university campaigns in the country. Launched in 2013, the campaign ends in 2018 and has raised more than 75 percent of its goal. It's the kind of work that inspires him.

"It's critical to invest in and take care of your community in hopes that others do the same," says Kirinovic. "My parents taught me that and it continued through membership in Sigma Beta Delta and now in my current position. I want to be able to give student athletes the same kinds of opportunities I had while I was a student."

Kirinovic received a Sigma Beta Delta fellowship in May of 2007 when he graduated from Hope College. The fellowship helped him earn both an MBA and a Master's in Sports Administration from Ohio University. He interned in the athletic department at Indiana University and worked for two years in the athletic department at the University of Memphis. In 2012 he was hired by the University of Michigan athletic department as an associate director of development.

"The Sigma Beta Delta award remains on my resume because it shows a level of achievement," he says. "It sets me apart and boosts my confidence."

Kirinovic is currently located in the greater Memphis area where he lives with his wife and 11-month-old son. He sees himself as a small part of a big engine. He understands how the investment made by others in him has helped him achieve his goals and he tries to do the same for the next generation of leaders.

Alex Wolf

When Alex Wolf was an undergraduate at Ohio Wesleyan University near Columbus in the late 1990s, he became a member of Sigma Beta Delta.

"It was quite an honor to become a member as a reward for reaching a

certain level of achievement," says Wolf. "And when I was awarded a Sigma Beta Delta Fellowship I felt it was a huge validation for all the hard academic work that goes into getting a degree."

He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1999 and worked four years for Ernst and Young. He returned to school and earned an MBA in analytical finance from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He was hired by Citigroup as an associate in 2005, an exciting time for his budding career.

"I rotated through three six-month stints in various areas of finance including working at Citi's Shanghai office," Wolf says. "To have an opportunity to live and work overseas is eye opening. It's very different than merely traveling to another country."

Wolf moved in 2007 to Goldman Sachs, a leading global investment banking, securities, and investment management firm. Today he is a vice president in corporate treasury focusing on balance sheet forecasting and liquidity risk management. In 2012 he was given a second opportunity to live and work overseas when he helped launch a treasury team from the ground up in Bengaluru, India.

"The two experiences abroad allowed me to compare and contrast two of the world's fastest growing economies at the time," he says. "And it was a unique experience to do something entrepreneurial for a big company like Goldman Sachs."

Wolf says he enjoys his current position and Sigma Beta Delta has provided him with a link to his past. He still stays in touch with his old accounting friends, Sigma Beta Delta alumni from Ohio Wesleyan.

"I even met up with one of them in Kolkata," he added.

Sigma Beta Delta NEWS

Welcome



Wilberforce among newest 18 chapters

It's been a busy year at Sigma Beta Delta. Eighteen schools received chapter charters including Wilberforce University, the oldest of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and two international schools.

Founded in 1856 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Wilberforce became a center of black cultural and intellectual life in southwestern Ohio. The school's name honors William Wilberforce, an 18th century British abolitionist.

Generations of leaders – teachers, ministers, doctors, and politicians – have been educated at the university. Among the school's many distinguished faculty members were W.E.B. DuBois, scholar and co-founder of the NAACP; and William S. Scarborough, classical language scholar.

The university celebrates its 160th anniversary this year led by President Algenia W. Freeman.



Aspirations has taken on a dynamic, new look and we're inviting you to be a part of it! Do you have news you want to share? Earned a new degree, new job, or a promotion? Received any honors this year? We would love to hear from you. Chapter advisors, faculty and administrators let us know what your chapter has been doing this year.

Have you been inspired by some of the stories you've read in this issue? Contribute to a Sigma Beta Delta Fellowship and help make it possible for a student to finish college or go on to graduate school. Want to know more about the society's "Power of One" organ donation challenge?

Visit: **sigmabetadelta.org** for more information on membership, merchandise, how to contribute, and much more.



Joel Bomgar Elected Mississippi State Rep.

Joel Bomgar an honorary member of Sigma Beta Delta and graduate of Belhaven

University in Jackson, Miss., was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in November.

Joel Bomgar founded the Bomgar Corporation in 2003 while he was still a Belhaven student and working as a systems engineer. He developed a remote technical support system that enjoyed almost instant success. Over the next 12 years he built a business with earnings of more than \$65 million serving more than 9,500 companies around the world. The Bomgar Co. has been recognized as one of the fastest-growing private businesses in North America.

In 2014, Bomgar sold the company to TA Associates, a leading global growth private equity firm. He remains chairman of the company, but is now free to work in the public sector, an opportunity that he says he has always been drawn to. He won the House seat by 68 percent of the vote.

Jim Bearden continued from page 3

"As you can imagine, the students analyzed, studied and discussed the problem and recommended promoting organ and tissue donation," recalled Bearden. "They felt it was the biggest issue all members of the society could carry out that would benefit humankind regardless of their race, color, religion, economic or social standing."

The society agreed with the student leaders and adopted it as their national initiative. "The Power of One" was deemed the initiative's slogan. Like its founding president, the slogan reminds all that one individual can make a positive and powerful difference, not just in their own life but in the lives of countless others.

Sigma Beta Delta Contributors July 1, 2014 through March 31, 2016

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS Contributors are members of Sigma Beta Delta chapters at each school.

\$5,000+

East Carolina University James H. Bearden

<u>\$1,000-5,000</u>

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University of Virginia William J. Kehoe

<u>\$100-500</u>

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Sigma Beta Delta



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