

SBD JOINS PRESTIGIOUS HONOR SOCIETY ASSOCIATION

Joining the ranks of other major honor societies, Sigma Beta Delta was recently admitted to the prestigious Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS). ACHS represents honor societies from a diverse range of disciplines and studies in colleges and universities worldwide. Its objective is to encourage all general and specialized honor societies to join forces for the establishment and maintenance of desirable standards and useful functions in higher education.

Impressively, Sigma Beta Delta was admitted in the shortest possible time. According to ACHS regulations, a society must exist for at least five years before it is eligible for ACHS membership.

"It's a major accomplishment to be a part of this honorable community," said James Bearden, president of Sigma Beta Delta. "We feel fortunate to interact with like-minded organizations of scholastic distinction, and certainly look forward to working with them in the future."

John Sagabiel, president of ACHS, praised the leadership and structure of SBD. "Dr. James H. Bearden's key to creating an enduring appreciation for academic excellence is taking something that is a vision and adding to it the reality

of a special touch. That vision is now the fully recognized Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society."

In 1925, leaders in academia who were concerned about the growing proliferation of "honor societies" founded ACHS. They hoped to define what should constitute a) an honorary fraternity, b) a professional fraternity, and c) an honorary-professional fraternity.

The first constitution of the ACHS addressed a variety of problem areas, including the elimination of "any prevailing confusion on college campuses concerning the character, function, standards for membership, multiplicity, and undesirable duplication of honor societies; to recommend action leading to appropriate classification, higher standards, reasonable costs of membership, and consolidation or elimination of duplicating honor societies; and to promote the highest interest of honor societies."

By 1939, the ACHS Council spelled out the definition of an honor society and set specific standards for membership. Today, the ACHS is comprised of over 60 member societies. Included are a few societies that recognize scholastic

achievement for freshman, and a few that recognize meritorious attainment in leadership. The vast majority recognize excellence in departmental areas, such as Sigma Beta Delta, whose members specialize in business, management and administration.

Sagabiel said that because it focuses on its members' needs, SBD has a bright future. "The best gift honor society leaders can share with their members is to ask them what they think, then do something constructive with those ideas," said Sagabiel. "This is what Sigma Beta Delta can expect from their leadership."

Academy (cont. from page 1)

education, Heppard said Sigma Beta Delta membership will help students both personally and professionally.

"The Society has given us a very visible and tangible way to recognize academic excellence within our major," he said. "Because honor society membership is widely recognized by graduate schools, we expect Sigma Beta Delta membership will provide our cadets with an advantage when they apply for graduate school."

Fellowships

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She came to the United States emotionally and financially drained, but with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. Already fluent in French, she said she learned English in this country "somewhat naturally because I never thought of it as an option." In addition, she's familiar with the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets.

Nell Hartley, head of the Management Department at Robert Morris College, said being around Maida is a learning experience for others. "I find the questions she raises in class, and her willingness to challenge me, to be stimulating. The classroom chemistry is enhanced by her participation, sense of humor, perspectives and delightful sensitivity to the rights of others. I have noticed



Maida Kapidzic
Robert Morris College



Molly Arencibia
Berry College

that the students increasingly seek out her leadership on team activities."

Maida has used her talents as an interpreter at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and as a volunteer at a hospital in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina. "She personifies for me the basic creed of Sigma Beta Delta," said Hartley. "She values wisdom and will be a lifelong learner. Her sense of honor and

integrity are above questioning. The sincerity of her humanitarian concerns is evident."

Maida serves as a volunteer tutor for classmates who are struggling with their courses. She was also chosen to partici-



Gwendolyn Palmer
Shenandoah University



Shauna Shafer
University of Nebraska at Kearney

pate in the Ambassadors, a select group of students who represent the college at all major functions.

As with all of her honors, Maida uses her membership in SBD as a motivational tool. "The invitation to membership in Sigma Beta Delta came as a great surprise because I never thought it could actually happen to me," she said. "Overwhelming happiness and pride filled my heart as I walked up to get my certificate. The recognition from such an honor society is going to stay one of the greatest moments in my life. Membership makes me commit myself to work even harder to justify the honor that was given to me."

Molly Arencibia, Shauna Shafer and Gwendolyn Palmer are the other 1999 Fellowship recipients.