Our Twenty-Year Journey in Aspirations Headlines

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GMA BETA DELTA MOVING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Sigma Beta Delta Transforms Students into Mentor

SIGMA BETA DELTA HOLDS HISTORIC FIRST CONVENTION

2002

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contributions are important for a vibrant and strong Sigma Beta Delta. A gift of a few dollars or a few thousand dollars is important, and your gift enables continued scholarship opportunity for our members. Each contribution is a worthwhile investment and is most appreciated.

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Lout as extraordinary, even worthy of the description as a landmark event. Such was the case when Sigma Beta Delta officers

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then chapters have been installed at hundreds of institution and abroad. The particularly meaningful and momentous in Rockford University was the fact that the installation was number 400 Those participating in observing such a momentous event might wonder

And one might certainly conclude that each figure in this number 400 is likely to be significant. Then what is the correct answer to the question posed in the headline of this piece: How many significant figures are in

or ask: How many significant figures might there be in this number 400?

The mathematician reading this and answering the question will a most surprising, but mathematically correct, answer: There is only one significant figure in 400. Their definition is correct mathematically because it is "the number of figures that add quality to the value." But our non-mathematically precise and technical definition is that there will be many significant figures in our chapter number 400--not just now, but certainly for many years to come. We can probably conclude correctly that now and in the future there will be many significant individuals and groups in our society resulting from what occurred at our number 400 chapter installation at Rockford University on the evening of

It is with much pride and positive anticipation that we look forward to the continued growth of Sigma Beta Delta in higher education for busines in this country and abroad, and we are pleased to welcome Rockford University as our 400th chapter.

Remarks by Sigma Beta Delta's founding president, Dr. James H. Bearden, at the installation of Rockford University's Sigma Beta Delta chapter on November 14, 2013.

SIGMA BETA DELTA HONOR SOCIETY

ll organizations have many significant and important figures

traveled to Rockford University on November 14, 2013, to install and

They traveled to Rockford, Illinois, as part of a responsibility to

remain faithful to the view that gave rise to Sigma Beta Delta's founding.

The founding vision was that institutions providing quality instruction to

collegiate business students should be afforded an opportunity to have an

honor society with national standing to recognize their high performing

That tradition dates to the founding of our nation, and the

organization first providing that recognition for collegiate students was

Phi Beta Kappa. A special pleasure at Rockford University was being

able to celebrate a Sigma Beta Delta chapter installation at an institution

that hosts a chapter of that oldest partner in the honor society community

While much change within and about the education in business

environment has occurred, one constant remains and that is the need

to encourage and recognize the best and brightest among our students

University Sigma Beta Delta installation was particularly important

because a significant threshold was being crossed in the life of Sigma

Beta Delta. It would be the installation of chapter number four hundred.

It was almost twenty years ago when the initial chapter of Sigma Beta

enrolled in business and management programs. The Rockford

celebrate the 400th chapter of Sigma Beta Delta.

and events during their existence. But some occasions stand

ne might wonder why Sigma Beta Delta's president, immediate past president, founding president, and executive director would travel here to Rockford, Illinois, to install your chapter. On most occasions there would probably be one installing officer. But the ceremony here tonight is one that deserves attention because it is a very

You see, tonight we are celebrating the culmination of what has

been almost a twenty-year journey. In a few minutes Rockford University will become the 400th chapter of the Sigma Beta Delta honor society. For me, it has been a marvelous and exciting journey. It has taken me from Maine to Florida, from Texas to Colorado, on to California, and even to the United Arab Emirates. Each chartering ceremony has been important and significant in the life of our society. But tonight is a particular pleasure because we are crossing a threshold with special significance. A brief review leading to that conclusion is in order.

The Sigma Beta Delta idea was on the minds of academics involved in the honor community a long time ago. It appeared the first time on my radar back in 1968 when I attended my first Beta Gamma Sigma national

Continued on page 3



Looking Forward to Implementing $\Sigma B \Delta$'s Life-Saving Initiative

n 2014 Sigma Beta Delta will celebrate its 20th Anniversary. Many milestone events will have been reached during our two-decade life in the academic honor community. We have grown from our first few hundred members to several thousand, and we are now over 75,000.

We have been privileged and excited to move from a handful of chapters to our recently installed 400th chapter.

We have held seminars, faculty workshops, and student conferences as part of the growing and expanding reach of our honor society.

It has always been our hope and as our newsletter title proclaims, our aspiration, that Sigma Beta Delta can have a positive societal impact far beyond the key and certificate event that occurs at our colleges and universities.

We are now on the brink of developing and launching an opportunity for the Sigma Beta Delta community to articulate and advocate an initiative that will have a societal impact of major importance: an organ donor initiative that will be a life-long, lifechanging, life-saving initiative: "Organ Donors Save Lives."

I look forward to joining with the entire Sigma Beta Delta family during this next exciting step in our Sigma Beta Delta journey.

Even though many changes occur within the higher education in business environment, one constant remains: that is the continuing need and obligation to encourage and recognize the best and brightest among students enrolled in our business, management and administration programs.

We look forward to our exciting and productive year as Sigma Beta Delta begins its 20^{th} year.

Sincerely,

Santa Hile Hart

President SANDRA H. HART Texas Wesleyan University 817-531-4841 shart@txwes.edu

> Vice President RANDY M. McLEOD Harding University 501-279-4201 rmmcleod@harding.edu

Secretary/Treasurer CLIFFORD L. EUBANKS Eubanks Enterprises 334-243-5887 ETwinOaks@aol.com

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TO REACH SIGMA BETA DELTA

Executive Director
PETER BANHOLZER
PO Box 210570
St. Louis, MO 63121-0570
1-888-723-7181
FAX 314-516-4455
sigmabetadelta@umsl.edu

meeting. I was a delegate from East Carolina University. There was discussion there regarding the fact that many schools had no honor society for their business students. That was because they were not eligible, primarily because of their size, to have a Beta Gamma Sigma chapter.

That was in 1968. While some occasional discussions and revisits of that situation continued, nothing changed during the next twenty years that would provide an opportunity for smaller schools to have an honor society. I had become very active in Beta Gamma Sigma and had been elected president in 1986. As president, I asked Dr. Donald Driemeier, who is here tonight, to place on an agenda of his Long-range Planning Committee, discussion of a way to assist smaller schools in achieving an honor society opportunity.

The site where that meeting was held has particular honor society significance. It was in Williamsburg, Virginia, which is home of our oldest honor society, Phi Beta Kappa. We may have some members of that iconic honor society present with us here tonight since Rockford University hosts a Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

From the early discussions beginning there in Williamsburg, there were many stops and starts in gaining traction on the idea of addressing the absence of collegiate honor society opportunity for business students attending smaller schools. But in 1990, board member Dr. Cliff Eubanks made a motion that Beta Gamma Sigma give attention to that void. We did, with the result that following four years of discussions and deliberations, the initial chapter of Sigma Beta Delta was installed at Belmont University in Tennessee in 1994.

Additional chapters were established rapidly, and in 1997 we held our first convention in Orlando, Florida. The theme of that meeting was "The Power of One." It was a carefully and pointedly chosen theme because the founding of Sigma Beta Delta began with the expectation that members could be "difference makers" in the world. Also, another of those instances of a Phi Beta Kappa connection I should note is that Doug Foard, their executive director, gave the opening and keynote address at that first Sigma Beta Delta convention. His theme and focus were in support of our goal of tying honor society membership with service to society.

By 2000 Sigma Beta Delta had become autonomous and no longer supported organizationally through Beta Gamma Sigma. Thus began our journey as an independent honor society organization.

While many played important roles in creating our honor society, I must note one individual who greatly influenced and impacted Sigma Beta Delta. That was Dr. John Gardner, former Health, Education and Welfare Secretary, Common Cause founder, and holder of many other important national positions. From the outset we regarded Dr. Gardner as an inspiration for what we were about. His life was a model of service, and he became our first honorary member. Our newsletter, *Aspirations*, is named for something he believed: that the ultimate of succinct instruction for one's life could be captured in the word *aspire*. Dr. Gardner believed and advocated that doing something individually and/or collectively could make a positive difference in society and that the word *aspire* precisely captured that important life goal.

Going forward to the year 2010, Sigma Beta Delta's aspiration and vision of our members, making a difference in society, materialized in the creation of a project that became "The Leadership Academy." The makeup

and purpose of that initial Academy had Sigma Beta Delta students and faculty advisors from around the country coming together to determine and select one societal issue members might embrace in serving society throughout their lives. At this point in our history we had thousands of members, and we believed they could be coalesced around some single social issue as a way of serving society.

Dr. James Fowler, co-author of the well-regarded book *Connected: The Surprising Power of Social Networks*, set the tone for our

consideration when he served as keynote speaker. He put us on the road to determining an issue that our members would choose as worthy of their service to society long after the key and certificate had been awarded. Two issues were selected from the suggestions offered: financial literacy and organ donation. A follow-up meeting with a second group of students and faculty advisors and the Sigma Beta Delta board and officers led to the organ donor project being selected.

So you folks tonight will be joining a journey that began back in

Williamsburg some 27 years ago. As alumni of Sigma Beta Delta, you will be among the first to determine how our journey might become a powerful societal force. If our goal of serving society as advocates of organ donation is successful, Sigma Beta Delta members will be positive "difference makers" for humankind.

I'm so very pleased to now ask my colleague officers to join me in installing the Rockford chapter of Sigma Beta Delta.











Thanks for a great ten years as Executive Director, Sandy Hammerly!