



# ASPIRATIONS

ALWAYS ASPIRE TOWARD SOMETHING BETTER

## Crossing the 300th Chapter Threshold

REMINISCENCES AND REFLECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

On the morning following installation of the College of the Ozarks chapter of Sigma Beta Delta, National President Donald Driemeier was interviewed about the specialty of that 300<sup>th</sup> chapter milestone event.

Last evening provided another special moment in a long line of significant events in the short life of Sigma Beta Delta. It's always a challenge to assign more prominence to one event over another in the life of a person or an organization. That's certainly the case with the many remarkable events that have characterized the brief timeline of our honor society. But clearly the installation last night of Sigma Beta Delta's 300<sup>th</sup> chapter offered a special thrill to me. And in a sense it is very likely the same thrill felt by all of us who've been privileged to be involved in adding to our Sigma Beta Delta chapter roster. When you get to see up close and personal the reactions on the faces of the inductees as they voice a pledge to uphold the ideals and principles of Sigma Beta Delta, and subsequently receive a certificate and pin evidencing their outstanding academic achievement, it's hard not to be emotionally moved.

For me, last night was reminiscent of our initial chapter installation when we chartered our founding chapter at Belmont University. Now, less than fifteen years later, we've installed chapters at 300 colleges and universities. Some large; some small—but all of which might never have had a chance to have a business honor society if it had not been for colleagues who worked tirelessly in the founding of the society. We were regularly reminded of the fact that 967 colleges and universities had regional accreditation but did not have an honor

society for their business students. That constant reminder woke up our organization, our leadership, to that fact. So last night was just another important milestone in our journey as we celebrated over 300 chapters in less than fifteen years.

This 300<sup>th</sup> chapter installation also brings to my mind the several beneficiaries of this process we put into play back in 1994.

Obviously the students themselves benefit. They have an honor that entitles them to say: "At this point in my academic career, I have been chosen, I have been labeled, I have been called out, because I am one of the best of the best." It's an honor they have for a lifetime. But it's also important for the institution. Because the institution is now saying to its students, you know, we really do worry about more than taking your tuition dollars. More than, as certainly was the case last night at College of the Ozarks, more than the number of hours you work a week for the institution to help pay for your tuition. Last night we saw the president, the academic dean, and the faculty say to these deserving students: job well done; we appreciate the hard work, the energy, that you have put into becoming one of our best students. It simply says something about the quality of the institution.

Then what about society you might ask? Does it benefit in any way? Certainly, it should. But I don't know that it's clear that society at this point is the beneficiary, except indirectly by having easier identification of successful students. Important questions for our honor society in that regard are: Can Sigma Beta Delta motivate its members to take to heart that pledge they took during the ritual as an inductee last night? Can we get them to really



(Continued on p. 3)

## Scholarship Winners for 2008-2009

"I was fiercely determined to foster in the young man whom I tutored not only the value of an education as a key to a better life but also in the value and worth that each of us has—as an individual—in setting out to complete things that we think are impossible to obtain."



Guy C. Remington  
Mid-Continent University  
\* William J. Kehoe Fellowship

"On April 4, 2007, I was appointed by Gov. Schweitzer to the position of Student Regent on the Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education. I have had the honor and privilege of representing 35,000 students in the Montana University System."

Kerra J. Melvin  
Montana Tech, University of Montana



"Personal commitment has inspired me to work on Castleton's Green Initiative through the recycling and tree planting programs. We recycle an amount equivalent to the weight of three elephants per year due to our program."



Jacob L. Miller  
Castleton State University

"Personal commitment has played a major role in my achieving my level of education. Knowing what I have been through and where my life would be without a proper education, I have committed myself to my education and will continue to do so."



Andrea Johnson  
S.U.N.Y. of Canton  
\* James H. Bearden Fellowship

"Continuing education on my part has also instilled this desire in my children. One can lead through words, but our children are led better through our actions."



Philip M. Mattek  
University of WI, Green Bay

"It is the experience of being a tutor that has helped me form my long-term career ambition of being a college professor. I feel this career path will allow me to both be successful and give back to society."



Joe Selby  
Culver-Stockton College  
\* Blanche M. Touhill Fellowship

"I used to be a slave to my schoolwork and my grades. I was so focused on making straight A's that I was obsessed. Now I realize that I must do my best and that though grades are important there are so many bigger things in life."



Emily Tittle  
Howard Payne University  
\* Richard C. Scott Fellowship

\*These students were awarded Sigma Beta Delta scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year.

March 24, 1994



Chapter #1—Belmont College

November 12, 2008



Chapter #300—College of the Ozarks

The Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award is a program developed by The Educational Service Bureau of Dow Jones in 1948. Since inception, many colleges and universities throughout the United States have chosen this award to honor students whose academic performance is considered exceptional. Each school receives a wall plaque designed to display the names of ten award winners. Each year a brass nameplate, engraved with the winner's name and year of citation, is sent to the school for mounting on the plaque. The "outstanding student" nominated by the institution receives an embossed paperweight with the recipient's name imprinted and a one-year subscription to *The Wall Street Journal*. The Journal's September 25, 2008, issue listed all national Wall Street Journal 2008 Student Achievement Award Winners. The honorees included the following 13.



- Cornerstone University Shannon S. Ahola
- Saint Francis University Joseph W. Astleford
- Charleston Southern University Darrell Grant Beasley
- Molloy College Julie Bonifacio
- Flagler College Jena Blair Burchfield
- Salve Regina University Christine F. Cotter
- Franklin Pierce University Amanda Guay

- University of Mary Washington Molly Guthrie Hendricks
- Texas Wesleyan University Megan L. Krause
- Penn State Lehigh Valley Timothy R. Rabenold
- Liberty University Timothy Todd
- Endicott College Toni Vigorito
- Emmanuel College Lauren Winkler

## ΣΒΔ Excellence

GIVING BACK TO THE FUTURE  
Your 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. We regard each contribution as a worthwhile investment and one that is most appreciated.

### Sigma Beta Delta Contributors November 15, 2007-November 1, 2008

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From

## Don's Desk



On the evening of November 12, 2008, I had the privilege of participating in the installation of our 300<sup>th</sup> chapter at the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri. This milestone event caused me to reflect on just how far Sigma Beta Delta has come from the installation of our first chapter in the spring of 1994 at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

During the ensuing fifteen years, we have recognized approximately 47,000 individuals who represent the best and the brightest of those pursuing business, management, and administration degrees at their respective educational institutions. These are students who never would have received a national scholastic honor as a lifetime recognition of achievement if it had not been for Sigma Beta Delta.

Even I did not realize the impact of what we were doing that evening in Nashville at Belmont as we inducted our first initiates. It was a wonderful evening with much parental pride displayed as well as warm and friendly fellowship. With much pride we honored those first 83 initiates, and our pride has continued in each of the 46,917 that would follow.

It seems, therefore, that it is appropriate that we give thanks to our founding Board of Directors who included Dr. James Bearden, President; Dr. Clifford Eubanks, Vice President; Dr. Donald Driemeier, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. James Viehland, Managing Director; Dr. Richard Lewis, Dr. Bob Owens, Dr. Quiester Craig, and Dr. Richard Scott.

Happily, many of those board members have maintained a strong interest in and support of our society. The dedication of strong board members continued this past July with the election of Bill Kehoe of the University of Virginia and Hilton Barrett of Elizabeth City State University to our Board of Directors. I should also mention that Randy McLeod of Harding University was elected Secretary/Treasurer. Finally, Sandra Hart and I were elected to a second term as Vice President and President respectively.

To all who worked together in building Sigma Beta Delta, a gigantic "Thank You."



Kehoe



Barrett



McLeod

*Donald H. Driemeier*  
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understand that we are interested in the contributions they make, as we say in the ritual, to humankind? Can we expect them to live their lives in such a way that all of society will be a beneficiary of Sigma Beta Delta membership not temporarily, but throughout that member's life?

A timely question for our society to consider is whether the next fifteen years ought to see us putting major emphasis on that relationship between the honor society and community? I believe it's worth a try. And I think we need to put energy in the next two or three years to trying to get that experiment started in a meaningful way.

After all, that was a major part of the vision of the founders of Sigma Beta Delta. There was ample evidence of that even in our first convention where we reminded each other and reminded those in attendance of the "Power of One." It was emphasized in most sessions that each of us in our own unique way has amazing gifts buried inside of us that can be used to challenge, provide ideas, and provide organization to address complicated societal problems. Maybe that was not foremost in our thinking when we formed Sigma Beta Delta, because encouraging and honoring people for outstanding academic achievement in and of itself is a worthy cause. But when we gathered in Florida and talked about the "Power of One," I think we planted the seed. We have been a long time trying to harvest that seed. Maybe that theme needs a little re-planting.

Such a theme is appropriate not just for Sigma Beta Delta but most honor societies because there is an unexploited resource in the brainpower that honor society membership contains. In honor societies there are a lot of talented people. We have long realized that if we could harness that talent, get that talent to work together, using perhaps the internet as a means of connecting people who are living far apart from one another but who have a common interest in a common goal, we can harness a lot of power. We could start with Sigma Beta Delta and then, using the resources, the leverage if you will, of the ACHS (Association of College Honor Societies), expand the power of the theme beyond Sigma Beta Delta. We saw the potential and possibilities last night at the College of the Ozarks. There is an

## #300 at College of the Ozarks: in their own words

### Dr. Jerry C. Davis, President, College of the Ozarks

I think that a college that has received national acclaim as "Hard Work U" is an appropriate place to have a chapter like this because the work ethic is an important part of free enterprise and the American economic system. I think this school fits right in. It's an excellent choice.

**Amanda (student):** It is certainly an honor to be recognized by a national organization. Here we are focused on training citizens to use their knowledge and skills to become citizens who will go out and affect their communities. So certainly this is an honor to perpetuate that and to insure that students recognize that the knowledge they've gained is important as they go out and become community and national leaders. Most people, when they look at an honor society, want to figure out how are these students going to apply their skills? How

example of how an institution has not only survived for a hundred years, but also thrived, by talking to people about something that grabs them in their gut—about being willing to help students to get a college education. It was also about helping potential donors understand that the students would need to work for it—that nothing would be handed to them on a silver platter. The College of the Ozarks approach during its hundred years has had appeal for students as well as for supporters who understand the need for education. Proof of the "work hard" notion by students and donors is right there on that campus at Point Lookout, Missouri. It's again proof that if we could excite people about the Sigma Beta Delta challenge to do something, anything, that is worthwhile to humankind, then we could enlist people to help us implement whatever it is the brightest men and women of Sigma Beta Delta determine is best for society. It can be a real win-win situation.

This final personal reminiscence of a long ago family incident can summarize my feeling on this important point. I just remember as a kid my parents would annually make a year-end gift to the College of the Ozarks. I know that only because we used to get the institution's mailings. They would come to the house and I'd look at them and wonder why we received them. My dad or mom would explain, "Well, we gave them some money at the end of the year." My dad had never seen the campus and neither had my mother. But there was something appealing about hard working kids getting an education, getting a degree that was not being handed to them. And my folks wanted to help them. They weren't looking at the religion tied to the school or how conservative it was or was not. They just said, "These people are doing good things so let's help them." I think that's an example of how we can appeal to those outside of Sigma Beta Delta if we are doing good things. They will want to help us. That's why we should pursue and promote the "Power of One" theme that was articulated so prominently at our first convention in 1997. That potential and that promise of Sigma Beta Delta were brought home to me most poignantly last night in what transpired at our 300th chapter.

are they looking at changing the world with what they've learned? And that's what's really an important aspect of any honor society.

**Nicholas (student):** It's really great to feel encouragement from all the professors in this institution and now a third party. Working for these grades, working so hard for excellence in the business department—is something to be recognized and it's something worth working toward—just a bit of encouragement to keep us going strong to the end.

The biggest goal is to impact society for the best in the field of business—leaving a legacy that says that I cared about my fellow human beings. In whatever way, whether it's libraries like Rockefeller or a huge medical impact like the Gates through money, just impact the community for the better.

College of the Ozarks teaches you through a combination of academics and hard work; teaches you wisdom beyond just pure knowledge; teaches you honor and doing things with integrity and aspiration. Working from the bottom to the top. Starting out mowing the yard, ending up working in an office and then graduating and going to a great career. Sigma Beta Delta and College of the Ozarks, as far as wisdom, honor and aspiration—it's a perfect match.

### Dr. Gary Heibsch, Professor

I'm very happy that we have managed to develop a chapter here. I think this is a great opportunity for our students who do well academically to also be challenged to do well in life. That is one of the things that pleases me the most about this. I think it fits in extremely well—extremely well. One of the things that we are always trying to be about is not just to give a student a skill, but also to show them how to use that skill to better their world. That is very much what the society is about and, therefore, very much what we want. And ten years from now, I hope we will have even more students who have excelled and have shown the desire to be part of this. I also hope we will have an alumni group to come back and be able to show what they have done.

**Cheryl (student):** It was very humbling to know that we are aspiring to bigger things through education. I'm very thankful for the faculty we have here. They work so hard to instill knowledge in us and it's a privilege to be a recipient of that and to share in that with them. Also I think this will be an inspiration to students to work harder for achievement and to recognize that hard work inspires others to achieve more. Together we can all do more for society and humanity through our knowledge.

### Dr. Marilyn Graves, Dean of the College

We like to honor our brightest and best. We also constantly teach morals and ethics, and the standards we want them to carry forward from here and represent us all over the world. This is a very good step. Business is one of the largest majors on campus. I think that this is marvelous that business now has their honor society.

**Chad (student):** Tonight I was quite pleased. I'm a student who didn't do so well in high school and it's an honor to be recognized at the collegiate level for my achievements and my efforts and improvement.

### Professor Kevin Riley, Chapter Vice President

I felt quite honored to be inducted into the organization. And I could see that also in the students. The ritual and remarks were excellent in explaining what it represents. And I think our students took that to heart and that will serve them well the remainder of the time they are involved in the organization.

### Dr. Rex Mahlman, Professor and Chapter President

We didn't realize that we would be part of the 300th celebration until this evening. So that was just a bonus. Simply being a part of the organization is the real thrill for these kids and for the faculty as well. We certainly are honored to have the opportunity to be the 300th chapter.

It was very refreshing to me to see the enthusiasm that each one of these students had. One of the concerns that we had with the kids and especially at a school like College of the Ozarks where kids just don't have any money—we were worried about dues. And, in fact, we already had plans that if we had somebody who couldn't afford it, we were going to find a way to make that happen. But basically by whatever means, they were definitely able to come up with the dues and that was simply because they wanted to be not only a part of this organization, but they were also very excited about being the first. But they will be very good leaders and helping us with those who are coming in during future semesters.

We have a number of our students who immediately will be eligible for this next semester. The only reason they are not is the requirement we have that half of this business program must be completed. They have the grades and they are just chomping at the bit to become a part of it as well. In the long run we will have students, once they see what our threshold is, to really try to reach that number so they can be a part of this. It will give them something to aspire to. So I think this will have a very positive effect throughout the entire student body in the Business Department as a result.

