



ASPIRATIONS

ALWAYS ASPIRE TOWARD SOMETHING BETTER

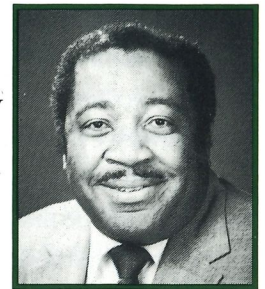
SIGMA BETA DELTA TRANSFORMS STUDENTS INTO MENTORS

Sigma Beta Delta owes its existence to a small group of individuals who identified a need and worked to see that it was filled. One of those persons was Dr. Quiester Craig, Professor of Accounting and Dean of the School of Business and

Economics at North Carolina A&T State University and member of the SBD Executive Council.

Dr. Craig is quick to point out that this was a collaborative effort. "We recognized that only about one fifth of the business programs were accredited for various reasons." And at that time, a business program had to have specialized

accreditation to have an honor society. "So many youngsters were being deprived of recognition for their academic excellence." Dr.



Dr. Quiester Craig

Craig points out that this is not true in other fields. For example, students who excel in athletics at schools with unaccredited business programs can still be recognized by earning a letter.

So the founding group met in the Raleigh airport, shared their ideas and made SBD an option for the nearly 1,000 regionally accredited schools without specialized business accreditation.

Not only does SBD recognize excellence, but it also transforms members into "role models and mentors for students who want to achieve the same thing." Dr. Craig says SBD gives students who often have other distractions coming their way a viable target. "If Joe can do it, why not me?"

Dr. Craig recalls with pride the installation ceremony of Southern University, one of SBD's founding chapters. It was great to see the excited students, many of whom were first generation college students, with their parents, but this was "topped when we asked each student to recognize their family members. It took 30 minutes longer, but nobody cared. I knew then that we had done the right thing."

THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

The success of Sigma Beta Delta is not measured merely in the collective numbers of its members but rather in the personal successes of the individuals who aspire toward a better life through academic achievements. Dr. Henry Lowenstein, SBD Chapter President at West Virginia University at Parkersburg,

captured the true essence of Sigma Beta Delta during his chapter's first induction ceremony last May. The following text is from his welcoming address:

"For this institution, though, your induction into this honor society means more than merely another certificate on the wall, a lapel pin, or a footnote on a resume. On the occasion of this initial induction ceremony, I would like to explain why we have brought Sigma Beta Delta to WVU-P and answer the question by way of the following story.

Over a century ago a man, named David, lived in a country called East Prussia along the Baltic Sea in Eastern Europe. It was an existence of frequent wars, ruthless occupiers, particularly the Tzar of Russia.



Shown above are the members at West Virginia University at Parkersburg's first Induction ceremony.

(See Challenge on page 2)

CHALLENGE CONTINUED.....

Daily life was not easy and the Russians did not take kindly to those of David's community. Yet, in spite of these many barriers, David's intellect stood out and even the Tzar's Army sought him for the 'high and rare honor' to study at the Tzar's medical academy and serve 'The Motherland.'

To this David said, 'No' (or should I say nyet)! 'What good is education,' he would say, 'without freedom and without hope.' And so, one night with his wife and four young boys in tow, leaving his other relations and most of the family possessions behind, David slipped away, evading border guards, the Tzar's secret police and spirited the family aboard the first ship he could find bound for America.

As fate would have it, this ship did not enter America at the usual port of entry, Ellis Island, but a southern port of entry, Wilmington, North Carolina. He landed in a foreign land, with a foreign language, foreign customs and little money, but with strong motivation, persistence and faith.

With meager funds, David made his living buying and selling goods along the rural byways of North Carolina and into Virginia, no college degree, no chance for formal education, but with an unending passion for knowledge. A family had to be supported. But, what was denied him, David was determined to see to future generations. Eventually, the hard work of family businesses would thrive. David's children recognized that 'Freedom without education, too, was a barren existence.'

So, David's children stressed the importance of education and ensured that each of their children had educational opportunity. Each went to college and then to graduate schools. One became a pioneering doctor in nuclear medicine, another a successful lawyer, a

number became successful businessmen, entrepreneurs; one, a Dean of a major university. And the list went on.

All in one generation, David, at age 95, lived to see the cycle he set in motion for his grandchildren that continues with his great-grandchildren. That cycle is the 'fission' which occurs when two of the world's strongest forces come together: Education and Freedom. It is this 'chain reaction' from which societies advance, communities bloom and economies flourish.

Like the sons and daughters of David, the inductees tonight exemplify the triumph of education, motivation and persistence over life's complexities and impediments. The fact that our Sigma Beta Delta inductees achieved grade point averages of 3.5 to 4.0 does not tell the story.

Consider, if you will that among the students inducted tonight 85% are non-traditional students; 40% are over 30 years old; 50% are married and 20% divorced. Sixty percent are full time students while supporting one or more dependents. Eighty percent were also working while going to college. And, to make their education possible, 65% received scholarships or financial aid grants through WVU-P.

In short, you are the reason why WVU-P exists. Your achievements are a reaffirmation of not only the sacrifices made by you, your parents and families, but the investment made year after year by the people of West Virginia in public higher education and specifically on this campus.

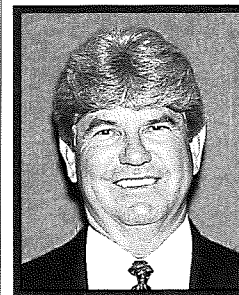
Your membership in Sigma Beta Delta, we trust, will also serve as a model to present and future students in our program. For every single parent struggling alone to balance school and children, with little or no resources... for a 40-something professional, downsized out of a job after a 20-year

career and having to start over...for a student fresh out of high school, supercharged to succeed, only lacking the financing to do so...and more...there is a success story in this room. Your friends, family and future students can point to you and say 'it can be done.'

All of life's successes can be traced to past and future 'defining moments.' All of you are here because some ancestor made a decision to settle in this land, we hope your education at WVU-P and your honor tonight will also be a defining moment for those that follow you. How you put your knowledge to work to better this state, your community and your family will be the test of 'defining moments' in the future.

Education is the 'Great Liberator.' I could have been a Lithuanian peasant or victim of a Stalinist purge. It is because David Lowenstein boarded that ship to America, that I am a professor at West Virginia University...in this position... on this night...to welcome you into Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society.

Congratulations to you all."

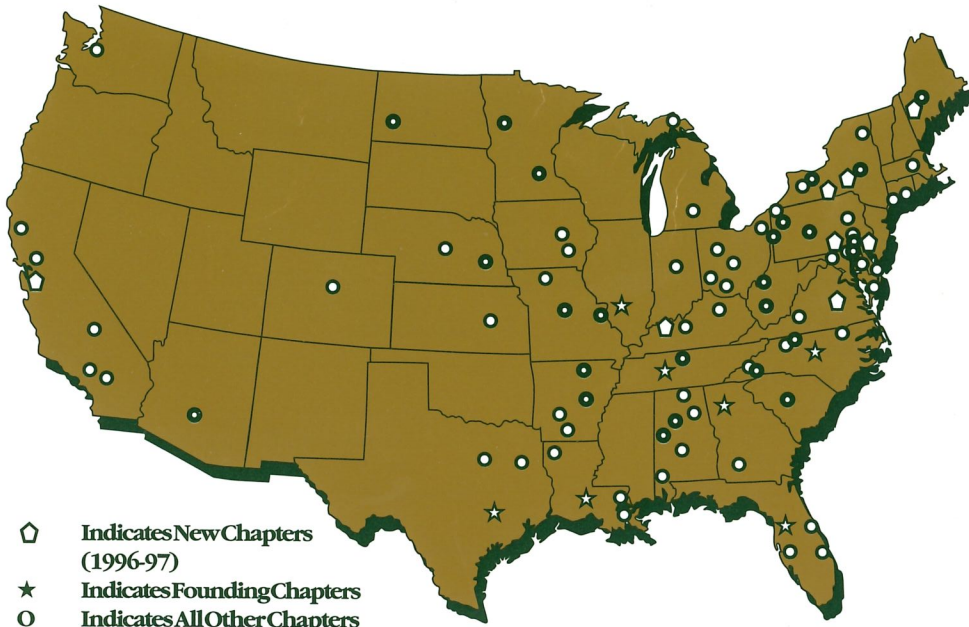


*James H. Bearden
President*

And congratulations to Dr. Lowenstein who did an excellent job of explaining why Sigma Beta Delta belongs at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, as well as on the hundreds of similar campuses.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James H. Bearden".

SIGMA BETA DELTA CHAPTERS



- 🏠 Indicates New Chapters (1996-97)
- ★ Indicates Founding Chapters
- Indicates All Other Chapters

Eight new Sigma Beta Delta Chapters have been installed during Fall 1996, bringing the total number to 94. The new chapters are located at Brescia College, Owensboro, KY; Elmira College, Elmira, NY; Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY; Lincoln University, Lincoln University, PA; College of Notre Dame, Belmont, CA; Rowan College, Glassboro, NJ; Thomas College, Waterville, ME; and Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

Eight SBD faculty members have assisted the Executive Council in installing new chapters. They include: William Ambrose, DeVry Institute of Technology; Dewey Martin, Husson College; Otis Thomas, Morgan State University; Margaret Robbins, Muskingum College; Leonard Stokes, Siena College; Laurie Turner and Steve Allen, Truman State University; and Cynthia Saltzman, Widener University.

Pictured on the left are the new inductees of Maryville University's SBD Chapter.

Shown below are the new members of the SBD chapter at Rollins College - Brevard in West Melbourne, Florida.

NEW SBD MEMBERS INDUCTED



Above: Husson College President William Beardsley, left, and his son James Beardsley were inducted at the Husson College Chapter Installation Ceremony last April. SBD President Jim Bearden, right, officiated.



Left: Dr. Sandra K. Fleak, president of Truman State University's SBD chapter, presents accounting student Tu Anh Hoang with the chapter's first Leadership Award which carries a \$250 stipend.



Winston Salem State University inductees are pictured above.

MEANING OF SIGMA BETA DELTA

(from the Induction Ritual)

The principles of Sigma Beta Delta are represented by three Greek words, the initials of which form the name of our society: SIGMA BETA DELTA.

Sigma is the initial letter of the Greek word ΣΟΟΙΑ which means wisdom. Wisdom is knowledge gained over time, analyzed and used with discernment. Wisdom is not merely information, but allows one to acknowledge information, consider its validity and relevance, and then incorporate into one's own life what is appropriate... Wisdom is knowledge applied.

Beta is the initial letter of the Greek word ΒΕΒΑΙΟΣ which signifies honor. Honor is a personal quality of the highest value. Honorable persons are held in esteem, considered to be trustworthy, and admired by others because they live a life that is worthy of such recognition. Honorable persons have chosen to live a life that is bounded by integrity and ethical decision-making so that they may be free of the tyranny of dishonor. Honorable persons respect others and are willing to provide leadership to the benefit of humankind.

Delta is the initial letter of the Greek word ΔΙΟΚΩ which signifies the pursuit of meaningful aspirations. To aspire to worthy goals sets apart persons of accomplishment and those who merely mark time with their lives. Persons of wisdom and honor must aspire to a course to achieve their objectives, for goals without action are no more fulfilling than action without goals. To aspire toward the fulfillment of one's goals to serve humankind and develop personally and professionally will lead to a life of meaning and satisfaction.

CONTRIBUTORS

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All contributions are used to further the ideals of Sigma Beta Delta. It is through contributions that the Society is able to keep lifetime membership fees as low as possible.

This year each SBD chapter is encouraged to nominate one member for the 1997 Fellowship Program. Four \$500 fellowships will be awarded for use during the 1997-98 academic year.