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

Kimberly Fown
Hammerly Fellowship
Urbana University

Miguel Puertas
William Carey University

Joseph Amato
Daposella
Springfield College

Andrew Chwalik
ACBSP Region 4 Fellowship
Walsh University

Makenzie Leigh Frank
Driemeier Fellowship
McPherson College

Kimberly Fown
Hammerly Fellowship
Urbana University

Miguel Puertas
William Carey University

Joseph Amato
Daposella
Springfield College

Kandee Kirkman
Scott Fellowship
Argosy University
Phoenix

Paige Lilly
Penn State - Lehigh Valley

Megan Gomez
Bearden Fellowship
Mt. Saint Mary’s University

Ronna Hatley
ACBSP Region 6 Fellowship
Rogers State University

Elisha M. Goodman
ACBSP Region 2 Fellowship
Chestnut Hill College

Kandee Kirkman
Scott Fellowship
Argosy University
Phoenix

Paige Lilly
Penn State - Lehigh Valley

Megan Gomez
Bearden Fellowship
Mt. Saint Mary’s University

Robert Scott
DiMieri
Kehoe Fellowship
Wilmington University

Hollie Nop
Eubanks Fellowship
Castleton State College

Darius Cosse
Touhill Fellowship
Our Lady of Holy Cross College

Kassia Khuu
Nyack College

George Ponzone
Hartwick College

Adam Lingle
Keiser University-Tallahassee

Eric Visser
Cornerstone University

Carol Wilson
Thomas Edison State College
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,

Sandra H. Hart
President, Sigma Beta Delta
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
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.”

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.
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.

Our New Look

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

$1,000-5,000
Texas Wesleyan University
Sandra Hile Hart
University of Missouri St. Louis
Donald H. Driemeier
University of Virginia
William J. Kehoe

$500-990
American Public University
Alan Meitzler
Argosy University – Orange County
Wayne Foss
Charles F. Reinhardt, Jr.
Belmont University
Clifford L. Eubanks
Benedictine University
Edward J. Moran
California Lutheran University
Yong D. Lim
Stein Lew Mason
Cedarville University
Chris Rudolph
College of Saint Elizabeth
Suzanne T. Trowbridge
Curley-Stockton College
Ronald W. Leftwich

DeVry Online/Keller Graduate
Graduate School of Management
Steven K. Wollenburg

DeVry University – Irving
Delonda Nelson Cooper
Franklin University
Jonathan Scales
Harding University
Randall McLeod
Holy Names University
Meredith Orthwein
Kean University
Phyllis H. Warden
Long Island University
Clothilda Higgs
Lynn University
Katherine M. Steenberg
Mary Baldwin College
Janet S. Ewing
McKendree University
Michael O. Moorman
National University
David R. Costantino
Nova Southeastern University
Dr. Kathleen Guy
J. Preston Jones
Rex C. Patton
Michael L. Wolfe

Carroll College
Charles E. Rolling
Clayton State University
Charles S. Conklin, II
Ernest Coward
College of St. Joseph
Noreen M. Gorman
College of Saint Elizabeth
Cecilia Horne
Janine Yancho Swenson
College of Staten Island – CUNY
Michael Cianciaruso
Joseph Petrucelli
Colorado Technical University
Rita Giovinazzo

Concordia University – Irvine
Christine Barnes
Concordia University – Portland
Matthew Rian Marquette

Curry College
Charles F. Murphy
Davenport University
Bedelia Brown
Davis & Elkins College
Carolyn N. Bussey
Phillip Bussey, Ph. D.
Gloria M. Payne

Defiance College
Janice Arvary
DeVry University – Colorado
Louis Brugger, Jr.

DeVry University – Irving
Analisa de la Espriella
DeVry Online/Keller Graduate
School of Management
Peter Amo Grewe
Margrit Sigrist
DeVry University – Nashville
Lisa G. Southall
DeVry University – Philadelphia
Thomas A. Brauer
Megan N. Wentzel

DeVry University – Phoenix
WD Moore
DeVry University - South Florida
Yarmeli J. Lares Rincon
Melissa Soto

Dominican College of Blauvelt
Peter Chavez
East Stroudsburg University
Brandt Maloney
Elizabeth City State University
Othello M. Fitzgerald

Felician College
Rosario P. Jahn
Franklin Pierce University
Charles T. Saunders, Ph. D.
Holy Family University
Lisa-Marie Foley

Holy Names College
Stacy Leier-Valentine

Hood College
Douglas Ethhardt
Tamarie Marie Francig
Peggy Ann Lansbach O’More
Tracy V. Pauter

Husson University
Ned Calvert
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Michael J. Piencik

Keiser University-Fort Lauderdale
Allison Ford

Kendall College
Jennie Tiberio
Lake Superior State University
Christine Flood

Liberty University
Kenneth O. Bonaparte
David Countryman
Celene Good
Jason Hudnall
Nathan Overbeeke

Life University
Phil Jenkins

Limestone College
Michael Anthony Ponzio, Jr.

Long Island University
Warren Bergstein
Renee M. Smith
Joseph N. Vega

Lourdes University
Yetabeth Gonzalez

Lycoming College
Jude Robert Buckbe

Lynn University
Marvin E. Miller

Marian University
Benjamin Peter Morgan
Christine M. Vos

Maryville University
Alan Louden Williams

Martin Methodist College
Alice Burkins
Lynn S. Ives

Maryhurst University
Wendy Meigs

Marymount Manhattan College
Mary M. Wagner

McKendree University
Bobbie B. Schweiger
Frank Spreng
Nancy S. Starnes
Carol J. Tiemann

Medaille College
Kim M. Berghash

Metropolitan College of New York
Kenneth Rhodes, Jr.

Metropolitan State University of Denver
Linda Kay Dailey

Mid-America Christian University
Sharla D. Allen

Mid-Continent University
Richard W. McColl

Misericordia University
Eileen Cipriani
Paul C. Wolkens

Moody College
Elizabeth Rose Boylan
Irene Haynor
Leonardo Hernandez, III
Patricia Pasqueraleur
Claudia Popivitis
Nicole Sacco

Monroe College
Veronique Green

Montana State University – Billings
Robert Thayer

Mount Ida College
Victoria M. Heydari

Mountain State University
Kathryn A. Thalman

National University
Ronald Kaplan

North Carolina State University
Stephen Marshall Antoszek
Peaches Gunter Blank
Jennifer Holmes Presnell

Nova Southeastern University
Nicholas C. Alexander
Dr. Danny Athanasaw
Dr. Yvonne Athanasaw
Dale Allen Prondzinski
Lyle E. Cady, Jr.
Roshonda Cathoun
Dr. Jon A. Cospin
Mary Susan De La Vega
Wallace Marsh

Palm Beach Atlantic University
Sterling A. Grubbs

Pennsylvania State University – Erie
Patricia Stapley Patterson

Presbyterian College
Ryan Cameron Porter

Robert Morris University
Stephen Anthony Combi
Mary A. Meerhoff
Patricia A. Stocke

Robert Morris University – Chicago
Julia Foust
Jared A. Wasserman

Robert Morris University – Orland Park
Herbert Luckett, Jr.
Monica M. Turner

Rogers State University
Charles Ochoa
Rowan University
Stephen J. Jamison

Saint Leo University
Nathan Edward Bruno
James Coquat
Alicia Gonzalez
Mayes David Mathews
Christina Thomas
Gerald Van Gelder

Saint Mary’s College of California
William Micheli
Erin Hamataiaux

Saint Michael’s College
Jeffrey C. Lewia

Salve Regina University
Mark T. Hough

Contributors continued on next page
Contributors continued

Shorter University
Christopher Beno
Britney L. Smith

South University – Online
Tasha Bramhan
Carolyn M. Rushton
Christina Wood

Southeastern University
Edith L. Yates

Southern University at New Orleans
Alisha Y. Adaway
Linda M. Lewis

Texas Wesleyan University
Thomas F. Armstrong

Texas Woman's University
Bonnie F. Bratcher
Doris J. Ross

Thomas Edison State College
Barbara A. Drzymkowski

Troy University
Jason Alexander

United States Air Force Academy
Christopher William Rohe

University of Arkansas Fort Smith
Carmon Snider

University of Hartford
Jean D. Fletcher

University of Illinois – Springfield
Linda Tobias

University of Nebraska at Kearney
Dennis Heffernan
Thomas J. Henning

University of New Haven
Thomas E. Brown
Christina Eggert
Kenneth J. Kelly
George S. Krazak
Sarah Monck
Michael D. Quinn

University of North Carolina
at Asheville
Theresa Rene Moore

University of Tampa
Steven Shaw
Kathleen Witcher

University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Judith H. Devenport

University of Saint Joseph
Victoria Johnson

University of Wisconsin - Green Bay
Marilou Melcher

University of Wisconsin – Stout
Timothy L. Stevens

Virginia State University
Cheryl E. Mitchem
Dr. Mary Newkirk

Walsh University
Anna M. Carey

Washington College
Rebecca Loree

Wayne State College
Timothy Benes
Carter (Cap) Peterson
June M. Wagner

Wilmington University
Colleen R. Allen
Lynn Amey
Harold Lowe
Cheryl Nolting
Elizabeth A. Stone

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Christian Rossetti

$5-49

Alaska Pacific University
Lisa Tibbo

Argosy University – Chicago
Dr. Carolyn Crump

Beaver College
Patrick McTeague, Jr

Benedictine University
Roberto Alas
Victoria L. Geis
Stephen Pikul

Berea College
Paul G. Richard

California Lutheran University
Kevin A. Cox

Cabrini College
Victoria L. Nastala

Christopher Newport University
Marshall Booker

College of Mount St. Joseph
Noreen M. Gorman

College of Saint Elizabeth
Carole A. Soricelli

Colorado Technical University
Jason D. Finagan

Columbia College
May Arvin
David M. Nunley

Concordia University – Texas
Howard Lacey

Culver-Stockton College
Donald K. Gruse

Defiance College
Rick A. Smith

Delaware Valley College
Tram Thach McNamara

DeVry University/Keller Graduate School
Samuel C. Domenico

DeVry University – Phoenix
Joselyn C. Hudson-Taylor

Dickinson State University
Judith G. Monasky

Felician College
Christine A. Laino

Franklin Pierce University
Kathleen Kotakis

Greensboro College
Deborah E. LaRue

Hodges University
Ann M. Kirby

Hood College
Vivian Chao
Janet P. Kuhns

Husson University
Kevin Glynn
Karen M. Kydd

Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Evelyn J. DeMarines

Iowa Wesleyan College
Kay L. Siebenaler

Lees-McRae College
Dr. Harvey L. Bauman

Long Island University
Chris L. Anderson

Lynchburg College
Richard T. Pugh

Marian University
Karen Vander Galien

McKendree University
Janet M. Isom

McKendree University – Kentucky
Mitchell McLaurin
Ophelia McLaurin

Metropolitan State University of Denver
Tracy J. Merges

Mishericordia University
Karen Smith

Mountain State University
Gregory L. Atkinson

Nova Southeastern University
Wil Trower

North Carolina State University
Robin J. Buck
David Alden Luhrs

Robert Morris University
Christopher J. Warnick

Salve Regina University
Dr. Arlene Nicholas

Shorter University
Arlean Parsons

South University Online
Kristin Johansson

Texas Wesleyan University
Ellen Zumar

Texas Woman's University
Elsa Marie Pasanen

Thomas College
Marc Allen Robert Cone

Thomas Edison State College
Mary M. Garcia

University of New Haven
Terence Henn
Randolph Thomas

Urbana University
John Garon

Virginia State University
Jeremy Scott

Walsh University
David M. Johnson
John D. Morvay

Wilmingtom University
Talia Hickman
Joseph C. Holler
R. Alan Moore
Dr. Michael L. Schirmer