

# ASPIRATIONS

James H. Bearden, president of Sigma Beta Delta, helps install the new Sigma Beta Delta chapter April 6, 1999, at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The chapter inducted 43 new members.



## AIR FORCE ACADEMY ENLISTS SBD

Membership in the newly formed Sigma Beta Delta chapter is a two-way street for students of business and management at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Their academic excellence earned them an invitation to the Society, and now part of their duties as members will be to lead the chapter.

“We can now give special recognition to those cadets who do particularly well in management classes,” said Kurt Heppard, faculty advisor of the Air Force Academy’s SBD chapter. “We have also been able to demonstrate our confidence in our cadets” by making them responsible and accountable for Society functions and resources. He said the student members help shape and implement the department’s vision for the Society.

This past April, 11 seniors, eight juniors, 22 faculty members and two honorary members were among the first group of inductees. James H. Bearden, president of Sigma Beta Delta, delivered the keynote address at the induction ceremony. Also on hand was Michael J.C. Roth, CEO of USAA Investment Management Company and Founding Sponsor of the chapter. He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, and during his military career was awarded the Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Along with their academy  
(see Academy on page 3)

## FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS EARN RECOGNITION, REWARDS

Each year, four outstanding students in business and management programs at SBD schools are recognized with \$500 Sigma Beta Delta fellowships. To qualify, a student must be a member of the Society or invited to become a member and accept the invitation. SBD fellowships help pay for senior or master’s level study in business at regionally accredited colleges and universities.

Each chapter is encouraged to nominate one qualifying member for the award. As the Society continues to grow, the Society hopes to increase the number of available fellowships. The generous donors listed on the back of this newsletter play a significant role in funding the Fellowship Program.

The following is a short introduction to Maida Kapidzic, one of the 1999 SBD Fellowship recipients. Her story, while

certainly unique and inspiring, is symbolic of the excellence and commitment of our recipients.

**Maida Kapidzic** certainly knows something about overcoming life’s obstacles. A senior management major at Robert Morris College (Penn.), she had to learn a new language at age 18, assimilate to a new culture, and put behind her a war that claimed the life of her father.

“Sometimes I was only able to think of all the things I am giving up in order to get my education when being far from home,” Kapidzic said. “There were so many differences that I had to learn of and so many fears that I had to overcome. But I did commit myself to studying and getting to know the culture.”

Maida has had plenty to overcome. Her father was killed in the Bosnian War.  
(see Fellowships on page 3)

## SIGMA BETA DELTA ONLINE

If you haven't heard, Sigma Beta Delta is on the World Wide Web. The address is:

[www.sigmabetadelta.org](http://www.sigmabetadelta.org)

Members should dial us up to see what's going on. The site contains a great deal of information about SBD and its programs. It links our page to many of our chapter schools. If your school is not linked, let us know. Also, alumni members will appreciate news about the Society's activities.

We also want to remind all of our members about our E-mail address:

[sbdhonors@sigmabetadelta.org](mailto:sbdhonors@sigmabetadelta.org)

This is the quickest and easiest way to contact us here in the Central Office. It is also the best way to let us know if you have changed your address. That way, you can be sure to get future issues of the *Aspirations*, and other mailings by the Society.

## SBD GOES INTERNATIONAL

Sigma Beta Delta is proud to welcome United Arab Emirates University as one of the newest chapters of the Society (*see the complete list of new chapters below right*). James H. Bearden, president of Sigma Beta Delta, traveled to the United Arab Emirates last December to install the chapter.

The chapter's installation was historic because it is the first outside the United States. Sigma Beta Delta has now established 145 chapters in 41 states and one in the United Arab Emirates.

The Society continues to strive for chapters in all 50 states and additional foreign countries.

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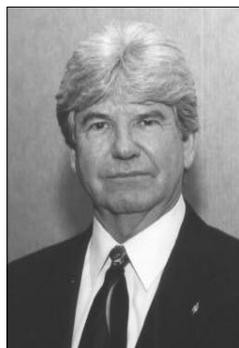
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# PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

As we conclude one century and enter the next, it is appropriate to give profound thanks to all of our readers. The following groups deserve a special measure of appreciation because they are the essence of Sigma Beta Delta:

- The newly-inducted student members who, through their scholarship, discipline and hard work, have been recognized in 1999 for their scholastic excellence;
- The original pioneering members who began the journey with us in 1994, and who represent the cornerstone of the ever-enlarging Sigma Beta Delta group of alumni;
- Our faculty members, who we recognize as "the stewards of the resource of honor."



**James H. Bearden**  
**President**

In addition to this being an excellent opportunity to express gratitude for past accomplishments, it is also a good time to ponder our future and consider the role of our Society in the next century.

On several occasions when I have visited our chapters, I've noted that our very young Society will have had only a short life in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and that we are about to become a 21<sup>st</sup> century organization. In that respect, we differ from our parent honor society, Beta Gamma Sigma, as well as Delta Mu Delta, who have a long history in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The years ahead will no doubt confront us with many new challenges,

which in turn will lead to many new opportunities. It is through this growth and maturation that our Society will fulfill the vision, which led to Sigma Beta Delta being founded.

As we move into the next

millennium, it is important that we keep a sharp focus on the values that constitute our ideals – honor, wisdom and aspiration. How those ideals manifest themselves in the lives of all of our Society's family will be important – not just to our organization, but to the future of our global village.

The reach of Sigma Beta Delta continues to grow. We have established 145 chapters in 41 states, in addition to our first international chapter at United Arab Emirates University. The very attainable goal of establishing chapters in all 50 states in the next few years is well within sight. The field is fertile, with more than 500 colleges and universities in the U.S. alone eligible to have SBD chapters that currently do not.

Our recent admission to the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) gives Sigma Beta Delta a visible presence alongside the other well-respected honor societies in the world. This accomplishment does not alter our mission, rather it validates the vision and tireless work of everyone involved in SBD to date, and gives us added prestige and promise for the future.

Thanks again for the year that was, and the century that will be.

## New Chapters of SBD since last *Aspirations*

(since December 1998)

- California Lutheran University
- Charleston Southern University
- DeVry Institute of Technology, Atlanta
- Dickinson College
- Frostburg State University
- Hope College
- Howard Payne University
- Laboratory Institute of Merchandising
- Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus
- Montana State University-Billings
- Nazareth College of Rochester
- College of St. Joseph in Vermont
- Texas Woman's University
- United Arab Emirates University
- United States Air Force Academy
- Wheeling Jesuit University

# 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

(cont. from page 1)

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.*

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