

# SIGMA ALPHA DELTA

Baruch's Honor Society



“Get Yourself In A Better  
Place”

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

# Message from the President

Dear Sigma Alpha Delta Member, Alumnus, or Candidate:

In the pages that follow, you will find what Sigma Alpha Delta honor society has dubbed our 2006 Annual Report. Much like an Annual Report that a corporation publishes for its shareholders, we provide this document so that you, as a stakeholder or potential stakeholder, are well aware of Sigma Alpha Delta's performance this past year, including the activities and programs that Sigma Alpha Delta has coordinated. However, we provide more than just our current year analysis. We briefly review our mission and our history, including some of the notable alumni that our honor society has seen pass through its ranks. We summarize the activities that our society has carried out in the past, so that you can not only compare our current and past performance, but also learn a great deal about our rich history of service to the school and the community. We conclude by explaining different opportunities available to our New Candidates to get involved in the society.

We want to make it known that we are the **oldest and most accomplished honor society** at Baruch College, having meaningfully served the college and the community for over 70 years. Our society is **exclusive to Baruch** and is not part of a national organization. As such, you will find that our current and former members have a very close relationship to this organization. Also, because we are not a national organization, the entire society is run from top to bottom by Baruch students, which becomes a **wonderful management experience**. The students want to **make a difference in the community** and **improve the quality of life at our college**. Concurrently, they make **lasting friendships** with fellow honor students and develop essential **leadership skills**.

To our current membership and our new candidates: Become more involved and "Get Yourself in a Better Place!"



Ravi Gill  
President, 2006

# Our History and Mission

## ***A Brief History***

Sigma Alpha Delta's history began in 1932 with Sigma Alpha, the first junior honor society of the School of Business and Civic Administration of City College (later the school was renamed Baruch College). In 1959, Mr. William Rosen started an evening chapter to serve the school's growing evening student population. This came to be called Sigma Alpha, Delta Chapter and was led by Mr. Irving Liss as its first Chancellor. Both Sigma Alpha and its Delta chapter are now collectively known as Sigma Alpha Delta Honor Society.

## ***Our Mission***

Since its inception, Sigma Alpha Delta's mission has been two-fold, one complementing the other. Its first purpose is **Scholarship**, that is, to distinguish students who excel academically. Baruch College's best students are brought together through the society where they can be recognized for their hard work, socialize with each other and form lasting friendships. The society's second and more important purpose is **Service**. Its members use their acumen, combined with good character, to help other Baruch students in whatever way possible and to better their environment. The combination of these two functions has made Sigma Alpha Delta over the years more integral to the infrastructure of Baruch College than any other society and unique in its mission.

Sigma Alpha's constitution (quoted from the Lexicon of 1959) stated:

***“The purposes of the society are to develop, coordinate and improve the co-curricular life in the College, to foster closer relationships between faculty and students, and to instill in its members a spirit and idealism which will inspire them to lead their fellow students in working for the enhancement of the college.”***

# Our Alumni

Sigma Alpha Delta has a rich history of producing some of today's most successful businessmen and businesswomen of every culture and nationality. The best and brightest students joined Sigma Alpha or its Delta Chapter while at Baruch and learned the essential skills to lead thriving careers in the future.

The following is a **very short** list of Sigma Alpha Delta success stories:

- **Dr. Abraham Briloff**, Emanuel Saxe Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Accounting, *Sigma Alpha, President, 1935*
- **Edwin Kanner**, President of American Insulated Wire Co. and Pacific Electriccord, *Sigma Alpha, 1943*
- **Penny Kanner**, Ph.D Professor at UCLA and UC Davis and Occidental College, *Sigma Alpha, 1943*
- **Betty Rothwax-Geller, CPA**, Partner of Paneth, Haber & Zimmerman (Retired 1987), *Sigma Alpha, President & Vice President, 1943*
- **Victor Besso**, CEO of BFC Enterprises Inc., *Sigma Alpha, 1947*
- **Bert N. Mitchell**, CEO of Mitchell & Titus LLP, *Sigma Alpha Delta, 1963*
- **Dr. Robert Brooks**, Clinical Psychologist, Harvard University Medical School, *Sigma Alpha, President, 1963*
- **Charles Dreifus, CFA**, Principal and Senior Portfolio Manager, Royce & Associates, *Sigma Alpha, President, 1964*
- **Ruth Hanauer**, Retired Professor of Accounting, *Sigma Alpha Delta, 1966*
- **Glen Schaeffer**, Principle Lawyer for Deloitte & Touche, *Sigma Alpha Delta, 1969*
- **Sue Chernak**, President of L&K Artworks, *Sigma Alpha Delta, 1981*
- **Patricia Sallin**, Portfolio Manager, Wilkinson O'Grady Global Asset Management, *Sigma Alpha Delta, 1981*
- **Donna Furey**, Attorney, Abelman, Frayne & Schwab, *Sigma Alpha Delta, Treasurer, 1993*

# What We Have Done

As Baruch College's oldest and very own honor society, Sigma Alpha Delta has shown commitment and dedication to serving the college, its students, as well as the community at large. A few of its many accomplishments:

## ***Freshmen Orientation***

Sigma Alpha initiated a "Freshmen Orientation" program in the Fall of 1940, which was designed to familiarize freshmen with the school and provide guidance to help plan their studies. In 1943, Sigma Alpha published "The Beaver," a college guide by which new students could better familiarize themselves with the school, its faculty, its curriculum, traditions, and history. This complemented the Orientation Program that was already in place. The Orientation Program continued for many decades thereafter and became an integral service to the college. As Baruch College's finances improved, the school took over this program, which had become a perennial success until then. In addition, Sigma Alpha invented the "Senior Orientation" to help seniors to obtain caps and gowns for their graduation ceremony.

## ***Tutoring Program***

Sigma Alpha ran, for many years, the Tutoring Program, which matched students in need of academic assistance with students who had excelled in those subjects and wished to teach. This program also was highly successful and was eventually taken over by Baruch College. This was the birth of Baruch's Student Academic Consulting Center (SACC).

## ***Used Book Exchange***

From the 1950s to 1980s, Sigma Alpha successfully ran the Used Book Exchange, whereby students were provided assistance in selling their used textbooks to other students. Sigma Alpha chose not to turn this into a moneymaking opportunity, and charged only a small 15 cent charge to cover basic, rudimentary expenses.

## ***Fostering Faculty-Student Relations***

In the 1950s, Sigma Alpha held on numerous occasions “The Semiannual Faculty Drag.” The affair provided students with the opportunity to invite instructors whom they wished to know on a more personal basis to a festive, informal gathering. In addition, our society inaugurated the “President’s and Dean’s Reception,” where students were able to establish a more personal relationship with President of the college and the Dean of Students.

## ***Serving Charitable Organizations***

Sigma Alpha has also provided many charitable services to the community through various charitable organizations. Programs have included: Christmas & Easter Parties for Orphans, Help for the Blind, The Blood Bank Drive, The Ronald McDonald House, The Food and Hunger Hotline, The March of the Dimes, and The Covenant House.

## ***Baruch Computer Fund***

This initiative, which ran from 2003 to 2004, helped students who could not afford a home computer acquire one. The Newman Library has built on this precedent by offering laptops for loan to all Baruch students. SEEK also provides a semester-long rental of a laptop to its disadvantaged students.

# Current Events

## ***“Light the Night” Leukemia Fundraiser***

Sigma Alpha Delta raised funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and participated in their walk across the Brooklyn Bridge. Walkers carried illuminated balloons to celebrate and commemorate lives touched by cancer. White balloons represented survivorship and red balloons were for supporters. It was a very memorable and lively night as our honor society members walked across bridge, lighting the Thursday night.

## ***“Making Strides” against Breast Cancer Fundraiser***

Our honor society members raised funds for the American Cancer Society and took part in a noncompetitive five-mile walk in Central Park on a chilly Sunday morning. The walk not only provided funding for breast cancer research, but also gave hope to people touched by the ailment. Sigma walkers enjoyed the day as they mingled and walked for a shared cause.

## ***Oxford Debate***

The Oxford Debate has become a signature event of Sigma Alpha Delta honor society. This year, we held only our fourth-ever Oxford Debate. The topic discussed was the current presidential administration’s policy of domestic wiretapping. As you can imagine, there were and still are conflicting perceptions of the legitimacy and legality of this government policy. Students in attendance expressed their personal views by walking out of the door that best described their individual take on this important topic. During this intellectual event, students were able to demonstrate their deliberation skills against professors and guest speakers

## ***Baruch Comedy Night***

Continuing a tradition that was started by the society in the Nineties, Sigma members demonstrated that they also like to relax with fellow students after tough midterms and enjoy more than a few laughs together. We celebrated Halloween by treating students to a night full of laughter with the New York Boyz of Comedy, which showcase only Baruch talent.

## ***Business Etiquette Workshop***

Sigma's first-ever Business Etiquette Workshop taught students how to act and look professional in today's business world. It was just the type of information an honor society member can really foster in coming years, whether in professional or personal endeavors. This event included guest speakers who covered topics ranging from how the quality of wine differs from certain climatic regions, to how to pass the butter around the dining table, to how to properly shake a potential employer's hand. Students of appropriate age were given the chance to sample different types of wines and taste the difference between a Merlot and a Cabernet Sauvignon!

## ***Career Dinner***

Sigma Alpha Delta's second-ever Career Dinner has become another signature event around campus. It defined networking at its very best. Attendees enjoyed dinner while four successful Baruch Alumni spoke about their experiences both in the business world and at Baruch. The alumni made themselves free to speak with students both before and after the event. Approximately a hundred business majors were in attendance. Speakers included: **Keith Anzel**, Chief Tax Officer, Citigroup CIB; **Frank McCarron**, CFO, Triarc Corp; **Richard Randall**, Retired CFO of various companies; **Stephen Johnson**, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

## ***Junior Achievement***

Members of Sigma volunteered with Junior Achievement of New York to educate young students in various schools in New York City. Junior Achievement is a nonprofit organization that uses hands-on experiences to help students understand the economics of life. Sigma volunteers were given a training session prior to the start of their teaching. They were then supplied with curriculum materials to teach a class from a nearby school, ranging from grades K to 12.

## ***Canned Food Drive***

Sigma Alpha Delta partnered with other organizations around campus to collect more than 300 cans of food for City Harvest, which delivers the food to soup kitchens, food pantries, day care and senior citizen centers, homeless shelters and other places that serve those in need.

# Current Officers

## ***Executive Board***

**Ravi Gill**  
President

**Ron Fu**  
Chairperson of  
Events

**Christofer Garner**  
Chairperson of  
Volunteering

**Elizabeth Diorio**  
Treasurer

**Jessica Baptiste**  
Vice President

**Belkys Ramirez**  
Chairperson of Marketing  
& P.R.

**Emily Foo**  
Chairperson of  
Alumni Relations

## ***Officers***

**Jose Echeverria**  
Vice Chairperson of  
Events

**Becky Meza**  
Vice Chairperson of  
Marketing & P.R.

**Cindy Tam**  
Vice Chairperson of  
Volunteering

**Annie Salam**  
Assistant Treasurer

**Vlad Golovanevskiy**  
Webmaster

**Kelly Wong**  
Vice Chairperson of  
Events

**Iryna Siminyuk**  
Vice Chairperson of  
Marketing & P.R.

**Melissa Che**  
Vice Chairperson of  
Alumni Relations

**Nathan Yu**  
Secretary

# Committee Responsibilities

## ***Events Committee***

This committee generates and coordinates the planning of most Sigma Alpha Delta events and speaker series. The group is responsible for managing the planning and execution of these activities.

## ***Marketing & Public Relations Committee***

This group creates and executes promotional strategies to enhance Sigma's reputation and boost its student membership. It is responsible for maintaining close relationships with various school key contacts to ensure the smoothness of our events and activities. The committee is also involved in organizing and preparing for events.

## ***Volunteer Committee***

This committee searches and promotes community service activities to members. The group is also responsible for updating a list of volunteer events, which is published on the society's website. The events can be performed as a group or individually and are either on fixed dates or recurring.

## ***Alumni Relations Committee***

This committee maintains and validates Sigma's alumni information database. The group is responsible for keeping frequent contact with our alumni as well as reaching out to them for events or programs.

# How To Get Involved

- Attend Sigma Alpha Delta's meetings. Meetings are held on select Friday nights. Exact dates are listed on our website ([www.sigambaruch.org](http://www.sigambaruch.org))
- Join us in community service activities. A detailed list is located on our website.
- Attend events held by Sigma Alpha Delta. For information on events, check our website, our flyers on campus
- Read our bi-weekly newsletter for specific news and opportunities to get involved. To join our newsletter mailing list, contact the Marketing & P.R. Committee.
- Join a committee. Contact the chairperson of the committee you wish to join:
  - **Events Committee**  
Rongbiao.Fu@students.baruch.cuny.edu
  - **Marketing & P.R. Committee**  
SigmaPR@gmail.com
  - **Volunteer Committee**  
Christofer.Garner@students.baruch.cuny.edu
  - **Alumni Relations Committee**  
EmilyFoo321@gmail.com
- Become a Mentor or Mentee in our upcoming Mentorship Program next semester. To get involved, please visit our website to fill out an application and then contact the Volunteer Committee.

*Sigma Alpha*

*Out of the Multitude we were selected  
For Scholarship and dedication,  
To serve our fellow students we were elected,  
To carry the torch is our consignation,  
The torch of yearning  
To turn night into day  
The torch of learning  
To see our way.*

*- Alfred Charasz, 1970*

*Those of you who are blessed with scholarship and are  
dedicated to serve, heed the call and take on the mantle. Become a  
Leader. Join Sigma Alpha!*

*- Eric Green, President, 2003*

**Many thanks to everyone who made 2006 a successful year  
for Sigma Alpha Delta!**



**“Get Yourself In A Better Place”**