



SIGMA ALPHA DELTA

BARUCH'S HONOR SOCIETY

Newsletter Issue No.1 Fall 2009



SIGMA ALPHA DELTA FALL 2009

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Fall 2009 Executive Board

- Najeeb Alam** - *President*
- Jennifer Cobos** - *Vice President*
- Michelle Li** - *Treasurer*
- Davon Roach** - *Chair of Alumni Relations*
- Shaif Uddin** - *Chair of Events Management*
- Qamar Islam** - *Chair of Marketing & Public Relations*
- Jenny Tan** - *Chair of Volunteer Programs*
- Jahn Golden** - *Chair of Web Design & IT*
- Yaling Zheng** - *Executive Secretary*
- Baishaki Naha** - *Human Resources Manager*



IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH

UPCOMING ON-CAMPUS EVENTS:

- Nov. 13th - Alumni Social
- Dec. 8th - Stress Relief Workshop
- Dec. 11th - New Candidates Dinner



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear Sigma Alpha Delta Members,

Half a semester has passed in the Fall 2009 Era of our great society and what a spectacular experience it has been so far. As the President of such a prestigious honor society, I have witnessed desire and hope for the past, present, and future of Sigma Alpha Delta. With the help of arguably one of our most capable and talented Executive Boards in the 77 year history of our organization, we make way for prospective members of Sigma Alpha Delta as well as the Baruch College community to follow an example of great leadership and honor. Everyday the members of Sigma Alpha Delta carry themselves with a sense of passion, ethicality, and the will to do positive things for the people around us as well as our community. It is in this act of receiving that we gain the most valuable gift; witnessing people around us develop and grow, and knowing that in some way shape or form, we have aided in their character. As the society continues to grow and expand its bases, I believe that this philosophy will remain as we live true to our title that states us to be an Honors Society within Baruch College. With that being said, I hope that this newsletter gives an idea as to what we stand for as a society and some of the activities that we engage in to promote the benefit of our organization as well as Baruch College.

~ Our philosophy this semester being defined in one phrase, **“In Union There Is Strength”** ~

Respectfully,

Najeeb Alam
President

Sigma Alpha Delta

“In Union There Is Strength”

OUR TAKE

Sigma E-Board Speaks:



Jennifer Cobos
Vice President

As a new role in the Sigma Alpha Delta executive board, being Vice President has given me the opportunity to oversee not only one committee, but all five of them. I am able to see the new talents and contribution each member gives to the society from the volunteering events to the on-campus events. I was also given the chance to coordinate the event, which made me want to join Sigma: The Third Annual President and Dean's Reception. My passion for this society increases immensely each semester and I hope to see it grow stronger within the following years. Because of a committed society such as Sigma Alpha Delta, I grow each and every day as a leader and become molded into what I desire to be in the near future.

A new semester means a new experience for me, even though it is my third active semester in Sigma Alpha Delta. I think that's what makes this organization so great, it's the fact that I get to constantly learn new life lessons and work with a group of amazing people. Every semester, there are always higher standards to meet and we are always here to support one another through that process. Together, we become something extraordinary. We push each other and unconsciously take part in shaping our fellow friends into effective leaders. It is the friends that I have met in Sigma that makes me so proud and honored to be a part of this organization.



Michelle Li
Treasurer



Davon Roach
Chair of Alumni Relations

Eight months ago, I made a commitment to become a more active member of my college community by joining Sigma Alpha Delta. Never did I expect that I would be where I am today, a leader in one of Baruch College's most active student organizations. My experience with Sigma Alpha Delta has relieved me of the lion's share of my social anxieties. I have learned to take on more responsibility for myself, and to aid others in doing the same through volunteering and heading the Alumni Relations Committee. I have met some of the most amazing, inspiring, hardworking, sweetest, funniest, supportive, and insightful people. My hope is that when my time as Alumni Relations Chair comes to an end, I can say with confidence that I have laid the groundwork for someone else to pick up the ball, run with it, and achieve bigger and better things than I have. Through all the successes and failures, triumphs and tribulations, peaks and valleys that I have witnessed and experienced alongside my peers, I know that we will all learn and become better for it – now, eight months from now, and beyond.

Before I joined Sigma Alpha Delta Honor Society, a certain individual mentioned to me that there is a certain magic in this organization, it makes you love what you do. I love holding this position as Events Management Chairperson. It's not the power, but the responsibility that comes with this position that I love. No one likes doing work, unless they have the passion for it. And I have a great deal of passion for the Events Management Committee. I get to work with some of the most amazing people. I get to work with people who also want to see the society grow. I get to broaden my creativity skills and communications skills. I get to sharpen my confidence. I can keep going on about what it helped me become, but to sum it up, being an E-board member gave me an invaluable experience that I will never forget. That is the magic of Sigma.



Shaif Uddin
Chair of Events Management



Qamar Islam
*Chair of Marketing
& Public Relations*

When I was elected Chairman of the Marketing Committee, I knew that this committee needed restructuring in terms of accountability and production. Therefore, I surrounded myself with experienced and hard-working Directors, Jon Elias and Helen Huang. The work we have accomplished so far has brought forth more than a few talented prospective members for Sigma Alpha Delta. The semester has also allowed me to develop my managerial skills in more ways than I imagined. The delegation of work to committee members has allowed many of them to take leadership roles themselves, and the members have produced excellent results. While the work with the Marketing Committee is not finished, I am confident that going forth, this committee will continue to be an integral part of Sigma Alpha Delta's mission and goals.

My experience with Sigma Alpha Delta Honor Society started in Spring 2009. I joined the society, hoping to feed my passion for planning and volunteering, so I joined both the Events Management committee as a people specialist, and the Volunteer committee. I have always liked to volunteer since high school. In college, good volunteer experiences were hard to find. Seeing that Sigma had a variety of volunteer opportunities to offer, I tried to go to as many as I could. I was so invested in the committee that I knew I wanted to run as the Volunteer Committee chairperson for Fall 2009. Now that we are halfway through the semester, I can tell you that I do not regret running in that election. It's been hard work, but the satisfaction of knowing you and fellow members helped someone or something—kids, adults, senior citizens, handicapped, dogs, is very fulfilling. It's also been a learning process for me. I've learned how to manage time, how to make quick decisions, and how to prioritize. Being chairperson of the Volunteer Committee is certainly one of the best experiences I've had and one of the best decisions I've made.



Jenny Tan
*Chair of
Volunteer Programs*



Jahn Golden
Chair of Web Design & IT

As chairperson of the Web Design & IT Committee, my experience has been nothing short of spectacular. I have been given the chance to expand my leadership skills beyond what I had envisioned for myself. I have stepped out of my comfort zone, and in doing so, have learned so much about myself and others. There is no way I would be where I am without the wonderful support of my friends. While the position has been challenging, I have gotten great satisfaction from working with friends to accomplish difficult objectives.

Before I joined Sigma Alpha Delta, I was one of the students who just attended classes and went home immediately after. Frankly, I was bored and wondered if this was really the college life that everyone was waiting for. Once I was introduced to the Society, I felt like I found a family in school that I can just hang out with. Now a year has passed since I have joined, and we are almost three months into this semester, and still I am impressed by how much the Society has done. There is nothing much for me to say except, for me Sigma Alpha Delta Honors Society empowers me and pushes me to become a better person. It's become so much more than just an Honors Society for me it's family.



Yaling Zheng
Executive Secretary



Baishaki Naha
Human Resources Manager

As Human Resources Manager my job is to help each and every one of you to find a balance between your academic achievement, employment, and friendship. This new position has taught me many new skills, such as helping others to find their correct place within committees, aiding to help find jobs/internships, and even doing mock interviews for friends and members. However I myself would not be able to do all this without the help of my Vice-Chair Preema Orunema. We will continue to help aid our members in any possible way and hope that we have been helpful thus far.

The Third Annual President and Dean's Reception

Being a prospective member at one point in Sigma Alpha Delta, I had seen what they were capable of producing when it came to coordinating events. It was an event that had captivated my attention and made me decide that I wanted to join the prestigious society. As soon as I became Vice-President of the organization a year later, I would be the same person who would be in charge of the same event. The event, which I would spearhead, was the Third Annual President and Deans' Reception. This would be my first on-campus event, which I would have to take the lead on. I knew I had to set the standards high since I felt that this event will attract many other students as well to join this organization. This is also our first event of the semester.

When it came to accumulating all the information, I was lucky to be provided with all the information from one of our former Presidents, Mr. Hosni Mubarak. Once he had given me the contact information, all the invitations were constructed to the faculty members while at the same time I had to cooperate with both the Chair of Marketing, Mr. Qamar Islam, and our Chair of Events Management, Mr. Shaif Uddin. The summer felt as if time was passing by quickly and then before you knew it, the new semester had arrived.

The marketing efforts were phenomenal and so was the event's planning. Even the new prospective members took part in this astonishing event. When the day of the event arrived, the outcome was extraordinary. Over hundreds of students had attended and were able to be introduced to Baruch College's renowned faculty. We also introduced our new interim president, President Stan Altman.

It was not only a challenge to be able to know in which direction the event was going to go but also delegating the work since the executive board was helping me with the entire event. Each member had contributed immensely to this event. Due to their diligence and hard efforts to help me with this event, we showed to the Baruch community what we as a new executive board were able to do. Not only was the Third Annual President and Deans' Reception a success but we also were in the front page of Baruch College's informative newspaper, The Ticker. I was proud to see the turnout of this event and how the students felt about the event. It showed me that this was only the beginning to an amazing semester and that the President and Deans' Reception was just one of many amazing events that Sigma Alpha Delta Honor Society was able to provide to the Baruch community.

By: Jennifer Cobos

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION



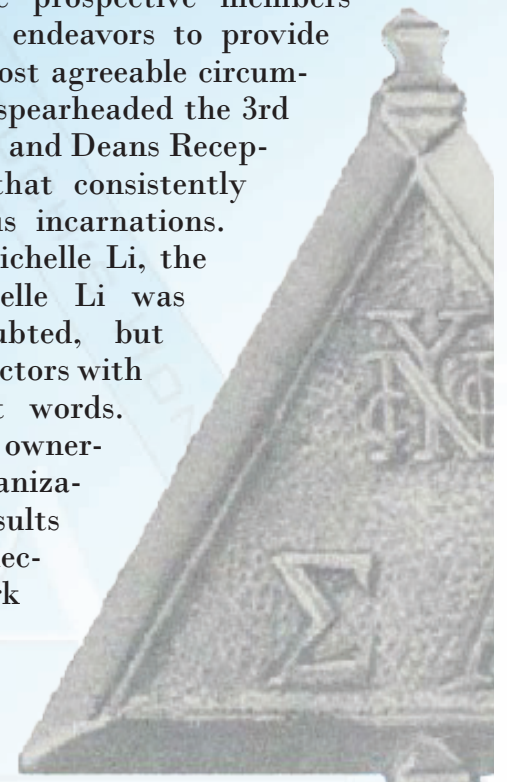
In every organization, there are a group of leaders who provide leadership and guidance. In a corporation, this leadership and guidance can be seen through the Board of Directors; their shrewd counsel determines the firm's direction. Every organizational initiative is approved or disapproved by them. Student organizations do not deviate from this established hierarchy, as they operate under the same schematics, albeit on a lesser magnitude. Instead of a Board of Directors, an Executive Board spearheads student organizations. Some Executive Boards consist of the requisite 4 leaders: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Others are more expansive and include a variety of leaders.

Sigma Alpha Delta has rapidly expanded its membership base within the last five years. From a mere 15 active members in 2004, the organization can triumphantly account for almost 200 active members in 2009. With rapid increases in membership, E-Board leaders experience a significant inflation in their responsibilities and have to aim for not just meeting the standards set by their predecessors, but exceeding them. During this sojourn, there are many obstacles which hinder the progress of the E-Board, such as incompetence in certain areas, political machinations between E-Board talent, and the lack of strict directives from the President.

I've spent almost three years with Sigma Alpha Delta, and experienced a total of six different E-Boards. In each of these E-Boards, one or more of the three obstacles I have mentioned obstructed the goals of the society and was detrimental to its continued success. Certain E-Boards fared better than others, while the others produced lackluster results. As an Executive Consultant, I can unequivocally state that I have never come across an E-Board as focused, diligent, and accountable as the Sigma E-Board for the fall of 2009. Each member is an asset to the organization. Every leader generates value. There is not one "weak link" on this Executive Board. Miscommunication, inappropriate pri-

oritization, and ego-centered individualism within the E-Board were the maladies which splintered the directional competence of the Society in the past. However, this semester has given rise to a new batch of leaders, who strive to exceed the standards set by their predecessors at the expense of their own personal ambitions.

I cannot begin to quantify the progression of Najeeb Alam, the President. He was a sophomore when he first joined the organization, and within one year, he ascended to the Presidency. He has addressed his critics by developing an acute sense of maturity, composure, and an undeniable work ethic. But he alone cannot be given all of the credit. There are nine other bulwarks that vigorously strive to sustain the Society's unprecedented growth. Jennifer Cobos, the Vice President, has consistently over-compensated for her role. As Vice President, she is an endearing leader who ingratiates herself with the prospective members around her, and endeavors to provide them with the most agreeable circumstances. She has spearheaded the 3rd Annual President and Deans Reception, an event that consistently bests its previous incarnations. Or how about Michelle Li, the Treasurer? Michelle Li was consistently doubted, but answers her detractors with her actions, not words. She has assumed ownership of the organization, and her results have been reflective of her work ethic. She has spearheaded an invigorating Oxford Debate, which



centralized on the theme of gay marriage. She prepares bake sales in order to fortify the organization's financial viability. Our Executive Secretary, Yaling Zhang, is an individual who ran for two different positions and lost both times. Did she surrender to her ego and depart from the organization under antipathetic circumstances? No. She accepted an offer to be the Assistant Secretary from the individual who defeated her in the election. Eventually, she became the Executive Secretary and proved she was more than just adept for the role. Currently, she is preparing for the Stress Relief Workshop, which is going to be held around the beginning of December.

Our Human Resources Manager, Baishaki Naha, needs no introduction. She is a charismatic personality who endeavors to align our prospective members with the committee that he/she genuinely desires to be apart of. Her duties are not limited to just this, she is invariably researching for internship and employment opportunities for our active membership base. Her role has been integral to the organization, as we concentrate on transitioning our active members to viable employment opportunities. Her efforts cannot be understated or devalued. Qamar Islam, our Marketing Chairperson, has been responsible for the rejuvenation of a committee that was dormant, without progress for the last two years. Marketing is vital to any collective effort and Qamar has taken a steadfast approach in his assumption of the Chairmanship. He has numerous successes on his resume; if any of you witnessed the

attendance of the President and Deans Reception, Brand Yourself, or the Oxford Debate, you can lay testimony to the uninhibited rise of this committee. If Qamar is one of the bishops of the Sigma E-Board, then the other bishop surely is Shaif Uddin, our Events Management Chair. Successfully marketing an event is only half the work, just as a bishop can only cover one half of the chessboard. The execution of the event is pivotal. Without proper execution, the event will be derided and mocked by the attendees and rival organizations. Shaif has figuratively and literally served as the right hand man to every leader who was

tasked with spearheading an event. Davon Roach, our Alumni Chair, had a plethora of problems to rectify once he assumed his role. Alumni felt disconnected with the organization because past Alumni Chairs were not proactive enough to maintain a consistent correspondence with them. Consequently, our Alumni-centered events fielded a low Alumni turnout. However, since Davon's election, he has revamped the complacent culture, which plagued the committee. He has modified Alumni biographies, encouraged his members to conduct Alumni interviews, and has been brilliant in the preparation of the upcoming Alumni Social. Jenny Tan, our Volunteering Chair knew she had intolerably high standards to meet. The previous Volunteering Chairs assembled a consortium of 23 volunteering events in one semester—this shatters the volunteerism by any other club by 500%. She diligently contacted volunteering organizations in an effort to meet standards. By the end of the summer, she had scheduled 31 volunteering events, an unprecedented mark, indicative of her relentless assiduity and rectitude. Last but not least, Jahn Golden, our Web and IT Chair, the man who single-handedly “beautified” our website within a matter of weeks. A goal which previous webmasters promised to accomplish, but never fully realized. Jahn is the epitome of reliability, consistency and a constant reservoir for the occasional banter.

Why mention our E-Board with such detail and enumerate their successes in this article? Each member can serve as an inspiration to the prospective members in our Society. Each member can guide them to their desired career goals. Each member serves as a testament to the intense development undertaken when one invests in Sigma Alpha Delta. This is why the members of the E-Board deserve recognition.

By: Hosni Mubarak, President, Fall 2008

PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL, COMMUNITY, & ALUMNI RELATIONS

When Davon Roach, the Alumni Relations Committee chairperson, invited me to join Sigma Alpha Delta this past summer, I have to admit that I first saw it as a diversion from the routine of going to class, studying, and going to work. I had never participated in any clubs or organizations at Baruch before. However, as time has passed, I have come to realize that Sigma Alpha Delta stands for much more. Through cooperation and strong communication, Sigma Alpha Delta members aid each other in reaching their potential. As stated by former President Yaphet Murphy, “Members who join the society are given roles and responsibilities, and through this, they develop into more confident, capable and compassionate individuals who become the leaders of the future.”

When Davon appointed me as the Internal Communicator of the Alumni Relations Committee, I felt overwhelmed by all the responsibilities that the position entailed. However, thanks to the support of Davon, Executive Secretary Yaling Zheng, and others, I have embraced the position, and feel more confident about my performance as a capable Internal Communicator. The position has helped me to develop my communication and writing skills. Through Sigma Alpha Delta, I have built new relationships that have made my college experience more meaningful.

Sigma has also given me the opportunity to volunteer. I have participated in The Kitchen’s Block Party, where I assisted children during the celebration, and Bike MS, where I assisted cyclists as they rode to raise awareness about multiple sclerosis. Volunteering has shown me the importance

of lending a helping hand to good causes and how great it feels to do so.

The primary goal of the Alumni Relations Committee is “to seek the establishment and maintenance of meaningful relationships between members of the Honor Society, both past and present.” One of the ways that we fulfill this purpose is through the Alumni Social, an event at which we honor the history of the society and bring together its entire membership. For this year’s Alumni Social, Sigma is adding some creative performances to the mix of speeches and networking. Two prospective members of the Alumni Relations Committee, Lulu Mero and Franco Finelli, bravely volunteered to perform at the Alumni Social. Lulu will sing while Franco accompanies her on the piano. Two other prospective members, Imran Sharif and Eugene Goyfman, are creating the slide show that will be presented at the event. There will be some additional offerings from inducted members.

The Alumni Relations Committee has taken on the tasks of writing biographies and marketing the Alumni Social. Through persistence and dedication, the members are delivering great results. Everyone in the Alumni Relations Committee and Sigma Alpha Delta as a whole are very excited about the event. We are all contributing in order to make it a great success. I feel truly grateful for my time thus far with Sigma Alpha Delta. It has been a fascinating and well-rounded experience that I strongly believe will prepare me for the future.

By: Stefanny Penalo



OXFORD DEBATE



In Union there is strength. These 5 words are the same exact qualities and attributes that Sigma Alpha Delta represents within the Baruch community. Before joining this outstanding organization, I already sensed a mysterious aura power and energy that lies within the heart of this unique honor society after seeing my close friends grow so fast professionally. Now as a prospective member, who has actively participated in Sigma Alpha Delta's events, I have witnessed both the professional and passionate aspect that motivates me to become an honorable inductee. During the time I have devoted to Sigma Alpha's Events Committee, I have expanded my knowledge of professionalism and service. Sigma Alpha Delta's role in the annual "Brand Yourself Speed Networking" event proved to be valuable by focusing on the theme of what "Baruch students have to bring to the table of this competitive world". But, moreover, Sigma Alpha Delta's contribution and effort geared toward the Oxford Debate was both educational and fruitful for not only myself, but also for a community as diverse as Baruch College. The topic regarding Gay Marriage and Traditional Marriage was indeed a challenging topic due to its controversial nature. Both parties were not only aggressive and passionate about their arguments that they were presenting but also both respectful and willing to listen to each other. I personally believed that this event was not just simply beneficial for our campus, but necessary because the debate also provided a venue for students to both listen and participate on an occasion as precious as this. It is my firm belief that Sigma Alpha Delta was more than able to mediate both the recent Oxford Debate and the future debates to come. It was, is and will always be an honor and privilege to be part of this organization, and I strongly recommend all Baruch students to take advantage of what Sigma Alpha Delta has to offer. Hence, in Union, there is always strength.

By: John Chung



MEATBALL MADNESS

HOSTED BY GIADA DE LAURENTIIS

By: Orunema Aarunee

On Sunday, October 11, 2009 I went to volunteer at the NYC Food Bank's Wine and Food Festival with a few other Sigma Alpha Delta members. It was one of the best volunteering experiences I have ever had. A small group of us were split up into different tasks, such as collecting tickets, tying security wristbands onto guests, handing out wine glasses, and directing the guests into the venue. The event consisted of amazing and innovative food created by some of the city's best chefs, a great ambiance of decor and atmosphere, and some celebrity guests. The highlight for a couple of us, including myself, aside from the delicious food, was getting to meet a popular Food Network chef, Giada De Laurentiis. I also had a lot of fun getting to know my fellow prospective members. They're all great people and it was refreshing to know what they did in their committees. I took many great memories from this event and I look forward to participating in more such volunteering opportunities with my fellow prospective members.



GRAND TASTING -WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL



Volunteering with Sigma Alpha Delta has enriched my experience at Baruch College. One memorable volunteer event I participated in was the Grand Tasting event on Saturday October 10, 2009. The Wine and Food Festival helped the NYC Food Bank raise funds to provide millions of hungry New Yorkers with food. I learned that just \$1 can provide 5 meals. Imagine how many meals we can provide if everyone in New York City donated just \$1!

I was assigned the duty of facilitating surveys to help improve the Festival next year. My task was to go up to guests at the event and ask them some questions and get some feedback on what they thought could improve or what was great the way it was. This really helped my communication and public speaking skills. All in all at the end of the event, I had a wonderful time interacting with attendees of the Festival, as well as getting to know other Sigma Alpha Delta members.

By: Helen Loo





FROM A TADPOLE TO A FROG

Sigma Alpha Delta's nature is dynamic and two semesters were enough to signal a new direction for the Public Relations and Marketing Committee's Promotions Team. The Fall semester welcomed a new group of Promotions Specialists, new requirements for induction, and even a new title for the same job. My title changed from Director of Public Relations to Director of Promotions. We have even been able to add a different palette of flyer colors to our arsenal. This shows the transformation that has trickled to even the minute details.

The most radical change has been the mandatory eight hours of promotions for Promotions Specialists to achieve. Originally, I hated this idea. Last semester, hours were not implemented and promotions were successful. Instead of hours we took note of events. The problem with this new rule was that the amount of hours seemed a bit excessive. The sheer amount of hours would have angered Pierre Jalee and the enemies of the capital surplus theory. Another problem I felt was that these hours may not improve performance.

However, no argument can be made that the hours did benefit promotions. Promotions during the club fair were spectacular and the Oxford Debate had to be restocked with chairs to accommodate attendance. The hours accomplished a set of clear expectations. Great organizations are run with expectations clearly communicated in the beginning. While I can't say whether the hours were excessive- the total number of inducted Promo-

tions Specialists will decide that - it definitely has improved efficiency within the group. I just hope that a failure to garner eight hours does not manifest animosity from those prospective members who do not get inducted this semester.

The ability of prospective members to improve their leadership skills has also been a new feature. Prospective members have been hauled in to manage promotions. This idea is excellent because it can help prospective members decide if they would like to run for positions in the future. It has also created interaction between members and allowed the interim managers to improve their leadership and communication skills, something that can help boost their resume as well.

As always, changes can be made. New ways of promoting can be implemented. There is already a wonderful website in place, a great Facebook page that is always updated, and maybe even a Twitter may follow. Promotions are currently achieved through flyers, emails, facebook, in-class promotions, and other venues. If the Public Relations and Marketing committee wants to continue growing it must become more creative. Of course creativity is risky and it would need a fatter budget that may not be possible right now. However, the day that Ogilvy recruits a Promotions Specialist because of a creative, out-of-the-box marketing model would be the day the tadpole truly becomes a frog.

By: Jonathan Elias

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Melva J. Harris

Melva Harris grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, but came to New York to study business. In 1980, she graduated from Baruch College, having majored in Business Management and minored in Administration. During her years at Baruch, she was an active member of Sigma Alpha Delta, in which she was the Chair of Membership. She had wanted to make a difference for students who took classes in the evening, and helped establish a rapport with the Dean of Students to accomplish just that. "While night school was very open to us, it was not very understanding of the full time employee – night student," said Ms. Harris. "Sigma gave us an opening to help the

college see what value there was in this group of students." Following her experience as Chair of Membership, Ms. Harris went on to serve as President of Sigma in her senior year.



Ms. Harris had chosen Baruch because it was considered one of the best colleges for business in the nation. She sought to create professional opportunities for herself, and by the time she entered graduate school, Ms. Harris was quite disciplined about the business world. She earned her M.A. in Human Relations/Psychology from the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT). Her studies at NYIT helped enhance her

skills and abilities for her job as Office Supervisor at AT&T Long Lines. During her employment with AT&T, she acquired valuable professional skills, which enabled her to communicate and interact better with all levels of management. The training and interpersonal skills she developed while at AT&T, combined with the values acquired at Baruch, helped her a great deal in the corporate world.

Ms. Harris is a management consultant, a professional speaker in management training, an adjunct professor, and a motivational/inspirational writer.

MELVA J. HARRIS

Major: Business Management
Minor: Administration
Graduation Date : 1980
Member of Sigma :
2 years (Junior & Senior Years)
Served as Officer in Sigma:
1st Year- Chair of Membership
2nd Year- President

She has also established a second business as an Independent Business Owner (IBO) in a partnership with Amway Global. She believes that entrepreneurship is the most enriching experience because it has helped her “to grow in patience [and] have a greater understanding of others.” It has also taught her “more effective communication and business acumen that was not really taught in college.”

Ms. Harris learned responsibility from her parents, who treated her less as a “friend” and more as a responsible individual growing up. She was liable for completing her daily tasks and

earning good grades. Ms. Harris has pride in “taking responsibility for [her] own life – not living in blame or expecting others to ‘take’ care of [her].” She carries herself with a strong sense of the values she learned during her childhood.

Today, Ms. Harris has found passion in her faith and in serving/ministering at her church as a teacher of the gospel.

Ms. Harris recognizes Sigma Alpha Delta in helping her develop the confidence and leadership skills necessary to embark on her professional career and postgraduate life. She advises Baruch Students to not join in

the myriad of students who just want to “get by.”

“Far too many students are poor in reading for comprehension, grammar, speaking, communication, and spelling. Be the exception – learn all you can, grow, seek knowledge, and be open to the challenge of studying so that you truly learn and earn your grades. Then, go out and make a real difference as you walk in excellence. You will stand out in the crowd and you can be a great influence to those coming up behind you.”

By: Faiza Iqbal

Linda Spadafina

When Linda Spadafina graduated from Baruch in 1976, she found that there was a lack of available jobs in her field of expertise. She had majored in Industrial Psychology while attending Baruch, yet she could not find a place to make use of her degree. This was not for lack of drive or effort, as the Brooklyn native was an active member of Sigma Alpha (“Delta” was not

LINDA SPADAFINA



Age: 54

Major: Industrial Psychology

Graduation Date: 1976

Sigma Alpha Delta: 1973-1976

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

Place of Residence: Staten Island, New York

used by day session members at the time) from 1973 to 1976. Her Dean’s List standing is what got her invited to Sigma Alpha, and she used the opportunity to serve her community through the or-

ganization. Linda became Chancellor in her senior year and ran textbook exchange and tutoring programs for students.

Linda took pride in her work. She found great joy when

someone she was tutoring would “get it.” Yet for all her academic and extracurricular efforts, Linda had to deviate from her intended career path. She found a job with the Social Security Administration as a Benefit Organizer, despite her degree. Even then, Linda felt it necessary to quit work once her son was born.

Some time passed before one of her neighbors, the head of radiology at Harlem Hospital, suggested that radiology was a good field to get into. Since her son was older, Linda, at age 38, enrolled in a radiology class at her local hospital. She graduated at 40 years of age while her son was graduating from junior high school.

Today, Linda is the Lead X-ray Technologist at Staten Island Physicians Practice. Her position involves arranging work schedules, maintaining quality control requirements for the department of health inspections, and overseeing the mammography outreach program. She particularly enjoys serving as a liaison between radiologists and patients. Linda makes sure that doctors who order x-rays, mammograms, and CAT scans have

ordered correctly.

A member of Mensa, Linda proctors entrance exams. She entered the organization in 2003 by passing a test offered on Staten Island. After joining, she took on the role of Testing Coordinator for the Greater New York Mensa for two years. She joined Mensa following in the footsteps of her favorite author, Isaac Asimov.

For Linda, one of the most rewarding things about Mensa is the people she has met. Whether attending meetings across the country or moderating for Mensans online, she has communicated with Mensans from almost all fifty states and approximately ten foreign countries.

Despite her eventual career path, Linda believes that the classes she took at Baruch were useful. Her psychology courses still serve her today, helping her to effectively communicate with people, while her management and marketing knowledge have allowed her to contribute as an active member of her local union and advertise for her local swim team.

Linda believes that current Sigma Alpha Delta members should learn from the responsi-

bility bestowed them upon during their collegiate experience. She encourages them to use what they’ve learned through academics, extracurricular activities, and work experience, to help their community. She urges them to be mindful of the value of their education in the long run.

In the future, Linda would like to travel, and meet more of her fellow Mensans. She is working towards becoming “Proctor of the Year,” and becoming a member of several Mensan advisory committees. Her hobbies include World of Warcraft, counted cross-stitching, and glass etching.

By: Geesoo Kim