

Celebrating Our Partnership

2020 Foundation-Sponsored Programs

Spring

Elevate 2020



Sigma Delta Tau's premiere officers training, Elevate, was hosted in 10 regional locations last spring to heighten leadership skills and team dynamics for chapter officers and regional chapter services volunteers, with 635 collegiate leaders and 85 alumnae volunteers participating across all regions.

InveSDT in Yourself



A pilot initiative launched in Spring 2020, this new financial literacy program—developed in partnership with Jewish Women International—is focused on providing upperclassman with tools to enhance life skills, such as budgeting and resume building.

Summer

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Week



In response to the national unrest, the SDT Board of Directors decided to replace the 2020 Virtual Convention with Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Week. The Foundation sponsored Keynote Speaker Christina Parle and her address "Authentically You: It Starts with Uncomfortability," which spoke to

uncomfortableness as a crucial component in creating spaces in which all sisters can feel heard and supported.

SDTNetwork.org

Foundation launched SDT Network as a COVID-19 resource to connect members to alumnae sister-owned businesses. In the upcoming months, this platform will expand to include an online sisterhood community, job board, mentoring opportunities, virtual events and additional tools dedicated to connecting women and supporting our lifelong sisterhood.

Fall

Be Well & Live Good: A Comprehensive Wellness Series

Sara Green (Alpha Mu—University of Miami) is hosting a 4-month, virtual wellness program, covering fitness, nutrition, mindfulness and self-care. Each month, Sara is focusing on a different pillar of wellness and providing both educational and interactive activities.

Fighting Hate from Home



Facilitated by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), this program will be offered for all chapters, reviewing trends of hate crimes that have recently occurred on college campuses, the rise of hate crimes during the pandemic, and how sisters can combat hate now and when they return to school.

Leadership Consultant Program

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically shifted the way in which our SDT chapters will function throughout this academic year. The need for virtual support and modified educational opportunities is critical in this unprecedented time, and as such, SDT Foundation is covering all educational areas of the Leadership Consultant Program.

2020 Vision Update

The Sigma Delta Tau Foundation continues to diversify how we support our women. We shared earlier in the year that we are focusing on charitable opportunities for our donors, strengthening the direct impact from generation to generation of women, and supporting the ever-growing, relevant needs of our sisters. We continue to drive impact through our three top priorities:



Every Sister. Every Day.

Our Every Sister. Every Day. annual fund supports our areas of greatest need including new educational programming opportunities. When you give to the Sigma Delta Tau Foundation, you are lighting the way for our sisters to grow as empowered women. As more sisters give and donations increase, our impact expands, advancing the Foundation closer to fulfilling the needs of all sisters.



Empower Circle

Our Empower Circle Initiative focuses on giving circles developed by sisters, for sisters—pooling their collective donations and deciding together where to give their gifts for the greater good of our sisterhood. Participation has slowed as a result of COVID-19, however our sisters need us more than ever. We want to make a collective impact in 2020—Empower Circle is open to the first 30 sisters who donate \$1,000 to the Sigma Delta Tau Foundation and elect to join the Empower Circle initiative.



One Hope Fund

Exemplifying our motto, *Patriae Multae Spes Una*, the One Hope Fund is the first impact program developed by the SDT Foundation to serve all sisters. Grants are designed to provide temporary, short-term, financial assistance for an unforeseeable circumstance, such as unexpected financial distress, serious health issues, consequences of natural disasters or urgent family crisis. The One Hope Fund must reach a minimum of \$20,000 to begin offering assistance grants. We are \$13,000 from achieving this milestone.

We invite you to donate online or utilize the enclosed donation card and envelope when you are ready to give to our sisterhood this fall. Together we will make a significant difference for the women of Sigma Delta Tau.
bit.ly/impactSDT

For more information, contact Kristen Jackson, Foundation Director.



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FALL 2020



Carrying the Torch from generation to generation of sisters.



Foundation Scholarship Recipient to Lead Sigma Delta Tau Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

The Sigma Delta Tau Foundation takes great pride in celebrating the growth of our women, especially when they step up to help advance the legacy of Sigma Delta Tau. **Victoria Alexander** is a member of the Gamma Mu chapter, a former Leadership Consultant and a 2017 Foundation graduate scholarship recipient. This fall, she will begin work on a PhD at the University of Maryland, studying anti-racist pedagogy at colleges and universities, and will be working as the Graduate Coordinator for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) for the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Victoria immediately made an impact as chair of SDT's DEI Committee by lending her expertise to develop our Anti-Racist Resource Guide and creating a more inclusive approach to SDT communications. In late June, she led a week-long series of virtual events for all members, funded by the SDT Foundation, that included guest speakers and open dialog surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion. You can watch DEI guest speakers and panel discussions from this series on our website: bit.ly/SDT-DEI-resources

We are honored to celebrate one of our many scholarship recipients and look forward to Victoria's leadership in our ever-evolving sisterhood.

Our motto, 'One Hope of Many People,' includes members of every identity group—regardless of race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, religion or otherwise. Through its actions, the organization will demonstrate its commitment to continue to serve as a place where women of every background are welcomed, celebrated and empowered.



2020 Scholarship Recipients

This year's Sigma Delta Tau Foundation National Scholarship recipients include first generation college students, single parent households, and many women paying for college on their own. Collectively they excel in leadership roles impacting their chapters, campuses, and communities. They have robust academic achievements and are driven to accomplish their career goals. Representing 19 chapters, and sharing more than \$26,000 in financial assistance, we are honored to recognize the following sisters:

Graduate Recipients

Sarah Ackerman
Delta Gamma—Brandeis University
Studying Entrepreneurship,
Pace University
SDT National Council Scholarship

Maxine Koza
Delta Zeta—
Rutgers University - Camden
Studying Psychiatric Social Work,
University of Pennsylvania
SDT National Council & SDT
Foundation Scholarship

Jessica Mocci
Gamma Xi—
Montclair State University
Studying Art of Teaching, Montclair
State University
Ilene Rabinowitz Fleischmann & SDT
Foundation Scholarship

Undergraduate Recipients

Isabella Ardhuerumly
Alpha Epsilon—Purdue University
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Hannah Butler
Alpha Upsilon—Bradley University
Sister-to-Sister Scholarship

Nicole Camara
Alpha Beta—
University of Rhode Island
Alpha Beta Chapter Scholarship

Hannah Chiappisi
Gamma Alpha—
Binghamton University
Elevate Scholarship

Julia Corliss
Gamma Lambda—Florida State
University
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Taylor Corpuz
Gamma Mu—Northeastern University
Sister-to-Sister Scholarship

Connie Crighton
Gamma Tau—Columbia University
Elevate Scholarship

Jaime DeVita
Gamma Chi—SUNY Geneseo
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Bailey Kroner
Gamma Delta—American University
Elevate Scholarship

Nicole Mudge
Delta Alpha—
Eastern Michigan University
SDT Foundation Scholarship

As I return to school in the Fall, I will assist my chapter in navigating the impacts that COVID-19 will have on our members, the Binghamton community, and our families back home.

—Hannah Chiappisi
Gamma Alpha—Binghamton University

12 recipients reported additional financial distress due to COVID-19

Erin Feeney
Gamma Omega—Adelphi University
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Devyn Firth
Delta Xi—Rowan University
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Mikaela Fox
Delta Zeta—Rutgers
University—Camden
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Josie Harrison
Gamma Xi—
Montclair State University
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Shannon Hayden
Delta Omicron—Kent State University
Elevate Scholarship

Alison Hornung
Alpha Beta—
University of Rhode Island
Alpha Beta Chapter Scholarship

Noa Hubara
Eta—University of Georgia
Elevate Scholarship

Hailey Niles
Gamma Chi—SUNY Geneseo
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Skylar Rompa
Alpha Epsilon—Purdue University
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Anna Ross
Omega—Syracuse University
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Alexa Saberito
Alpha Tau—
George Washington University
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Marissa Trubatch
Delta Omicron—Kent State University
Elevate Scholarship

Katarina Vattes
Gamma Alpha—
Binghamton University
SDT Foundation Scholarship

Stockton University and University of
Pittsburgh Extension Scholarships will
be announced at a later date.

Together . . . More Than Ever

Looking for the positives these days is a bit harder than usual, but I know together there isn't much we can't achieve. Here is what I mean:

- The Sigma Delta Tau Foundation—together with the SDT Sorority—is using your donations to prepare our undergraduate women for a transitional academic year. We have reallocated funds from in-person programming to better assist the Sorority in developing online programming and top-notch speakers to allow our sisters to have a positive virtual sorority experience.
- The SDT Foundation has launched the One Hope Fund which will provide emergency assistance to all sisters. Together, with your gifts, we can make this safety net a reality for our women. We are 40% of the way to our goal and look forward to offering grants soon. You can find more details about this new fund at: bit.ly/SDTgivingprograms
- The SDT Foundation continues to fund leadership opportunities, including supporting Elevate—SDT's premiere chapter officer and advisor training—and underwriting educational components of the virtual Leadership Consultant program. Adjusting together to serve the needs of our chapters will continue to be a critical partnership for the Foundation and Sorority.
- The SDT Foundation has created an online business network to keep our sisters interconnected and working together to support sister-owned businesses in this unpredictable time. You can view this new online platform at: SDTnetwork.org
- The SDT Foundation is determined to keep the dream of a college education alive for our women through our signature scholarship program. Together with chapter leaders, endowment donors, and national volunteers, 26 women will receive tuition assistance this fall, despite the stock market downturn that limited our 2020 impact.

With the global pandemic and national unrest, the Sigma Delta Tau Foundation has worked to stay in tune with what is happening on college campuses and in the lives of our alumnae. I would like to thank you for helping us to continue our sisterhood legacy despite these unprecedented times.

We are all in this together . . . more than ever.

With gratitude,

Beth Sesler

Elizabeth (Beth) McQueen Sesler
Epsilon—University of Cincinnati
Foundation President
Past National President



Day of GIVING

Sigma Delta Tau *Foundation*

For Sigma Delta Tau's 103rd Founders Day, we transformed our traditional Founders Day fundraising into our first-ever Day of Giving event. With the roll-out of our new annual fund and energy of more than 50 sisters committed to serving as our social ambassadors, our team was ready to make March 25 the best one-day giving event in SDT history.

In response to COVID-19 and our country shutting down, we quickly shifted our approach from a traditional celebratory day of sisterhood and historical milestones to a day of connection and conversation. Founders Day of Giving truly exemplified community.

Our Facebook event transformed into a gathering place with conversations around working from home, helping our children learn, dealing with stress and other timely topics. Sisters Jodi Romano (Gamma—Ohio State), a skilled mental health professional in New York, and Amy Banocy (Phi—Penn State), a professional public speaker focused on self development, led Zoom events throughout the day. Together, the sisterhood offered comfort, grace and strength to endure the pandemic still being experienced today.

Although fundraising took a back seat at our event, our community collectively donated \$16,000 to light the way for our sisters to grow as empowered women. Thank you!



Don't Miss the
Digital-Only Issue
of the Fall Torch

Sign up for the SDT Alumnae Portal to make sure we have your contact information to receive this Fall's issue of Torch in your email! Questions? Contact the National Office at nationaloffice@sigmadelтатаu.org

Dear ΣΔΤ Sisters,

There is only one way to describe 2020: *unprecedented*. While our challenges managing the pandemic and the social unrest in our country have been taxing, they have compelled us to recommit to our sorority's values. Now more than ever, we are mindful of how we celebrate the **individuality** of our members and create inclusive spaces for our sisters to thrive. We have been more innovative in how we **connect** with each other and reach collegiate members, and have developed an understanding for how our sisterhood transcends beyond the in-person experience. Our sisters have demonstrated the importance of **community** by being active citizens, advocating for the rights of others and being the light they want to see in the world. The generous support of our Foundation donors is a testament that **engagement** in Sigma Delta Tau is not for only four years, but for life.

We have been pulled and stretched in unimaginable ways this year. As we head into the fall semester and prepare for the myriad of ways the sorority experience will look different, I am confident that we will get through these challenging times together. Grounded in our values and with a heightened appreciation for what truly matters, Sigma Delta Tau will emerge as a stronger, more purposeful organization.

Thank you for your support of our members and our commitment to *Empowering Women*.

Fraternally,

Margaux Manley Lima

Margaux Manley Lima
Alpha Mu—University of Miami
National President

