

Beta Sigma Phi Bursary at Carleton University

Prepared by Barbara Cook based on historical files maintained by Joyce Shearer and information provided in the 50th Anniversary

Presented at the Annual General Meeting May 11, 2006-03-06

The following is meant to provide a brief history of the events leading to the establishment of the Beta Sigma Phi Bursary at Carleton University.

May 16, 1947	Beta Sigma Phi Building Fund was established.
1947	Zeta Chapter began to grant an English Scholarship (\$25) to a girl at Lisgar Collegiate who ranked first in English Literature in her graduating year.
1949	The commitment to the English Scholarship was assumed by City Council (at that time there were 3 chapters) and the award was extended to other Ottawa High Schools – Glebe, High School of Commerce, Fisher Park and Nepean.
1959-60	The award was increased to \$100.
May 1961	The Building Fund was renamed the Investment Fund.
1965	With the establishment of the Carleton Board of Education, a second English Scholarship of \$100 was added, with the same conditions. Up until the '70's, these Scholarships were handled by the Scholarship Committee.
1964-65	A yearly Carleton University Bursary (\$250) was established. Initially, the commitment was for a three year period only. This bursary was to be given to a female student who was majoring in English and required financial assistance. The stipulation of an English major sometimes delayed the finding of a suitable candidate. Administration of this bursary was done by the Project Committee.
1971-72	Beta Sigma Phi advised Carleton University that the bursary would continue on an annual basis.

1978-79	Beta Sigma Phi by-laws permit Carleton University Awards Committee to change the “subject” if necessary.
1981-82	The Carleton University Bursary was increased to \$250.
After 1983	The English Scholarships were phased out.
1984	The Ad Hoc Committee on Investment was established to study and direct the disbursement of the Investment Fund. It was agreed by the membership that, while Ottawa Beta Sigma Phi was interested in the awarding of an annual Carleton University Bursary (funds for which had come for many years from interest on investments), it wished to divest itself of the assets held for this purpose.
1985	Over \$16,000 was given to Carleton University to administer a bursary in the name of Beta Sigma Phi.
1985-86	Carleton University administers the endowment fund.
2000	Funds surplus to the 1999 Ottawa Convention in the amount of \$4,000 were given to Carleton University toward the bursary.
2002	Chapters and City Council donated \$1,600 to the bursary endowment.
2003	Beta Sigma Phi is advised by Carleton University that the value of the bursary endowment was \$66,071 and that it generated \$3,300 annually for deserving students.
2005	We are advised by Carleton that the fund has been doing extremely well – the market value is now at \$96,959.61
2006	Bursaries were awarded to seven Carleton University Students.

The wording of the bursary, as proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Investments, to the membership in 1984 was

“To a deserving student in good standing entering Carleton University as a full time student, or proceeding from one year of study to another and requiring financial assistance to complete his/her studies.

Preference will be given to a member of Beta Sigma Phi in good standing, or the son or daughter of same.

If by February 15th, the Bursary has not been awarded to a Beta Sigma Phi applicant, then it will be opened up to any other applicant.

It is the wish of the donors that if the funds are not distributed in any given year, the money should be re-invested with other endowment funds for awarding in future years.”

The Ad Hoc Committee on Investments reported to City Council in 1984. It must be noted that the wording of the bursary was carefully prepared to comply with legal requirements, University requirements and the wishes of the Ad Hoc Committee acting on behalf of Beta Sigma Phi members.

At that time, then Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Investments pointed out the following to the membership:

We could no longer stipulate a female student;

It was strongly recommended by the University that we not specify a course of study, thereby restricting the University from awarding the money to a deserving student;

A Bursary was felt to be more equitable than a Scholarship; and

Beta Sigma Phi chose not to limit the Bursary to only Beta Sigma Phi's or their offspring as this could mean that the Bursary might not be awarded for several years at a time.

English Scholarships

Records indicate that from 1960 to 1983 there were 42 Scholarship winners – all of whom were female. The scholarships ranged from \$50 to \$150.

Carleton University Bursary

The records indicate that from 1964 to May 2006, bursaries have been awarded to 77 women and 14 men.

We in Beta Sigma Phi should be proud of our contribution to the academic world. Following are some quotes from bursary recipients.

"At the moment, I am entering the second of three years towards a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Economics and a minor in Mathematics. I am especially grateful since the bursary has helped me to return to my studies on a full time basis after two years of night school."

"I would like to thank you for the bursary I received. It has been an immense help, more so than expected as my father also retired early this year. The money went straight for my tuition. As a result I was able to buy the books for my classes this year without having to spend my rent money. Thank you so much for your help."

"I can't thank you enough for what you did for me. It is because you did this, that I will be able to complete my first year of studies at Carleton. I was so worried I would have to leave because of financial difficulties, but now, thanks to you, I have enough to buy my books and other supplies needed. I can't thank you enough. My biggest dream has always been to go to university and you have helped me obtain my dream, for this I am very grateful. THANK YOU VERY MUCH."

"I am at a lost as to where to commence this letter, so overwhelmed have I been since the 4th of this month when I learnt that your organisation, single handedly, went out of your way to help me out of my financial doldrums. Being an African from the continent of Africa, our custom and culture require that when somebody does something good for you, it is proper practice to thank such a person but a simple thank you does not quite say all. Once again, thank you most sincerely. I am eternally grateful to you and all your staff. God bless you and your families."

"Thank you very much for the generous bursary you gave to me this year. Thanks to your kindness I can now afford a trip home and have been able to cut

down my work hours and focus more on school. I truly appreciate this bursary and just thought I should say thank you and let you know that it has helped me."

Beta Sigma Phi Carleton University Bursary

(presented to the membership by Barbara Cook – May 2002)

Did you know that our bursary is rapidly approaching middle age? The first Carleton University Bursary was awarded in 1964-65 and was to be for a three-year period only. It was not until 1971-72 that we advised the University that it would be an annual award.

The idea of a bursary originated in 1947 when Zeta established a \$25 award to a girl at Lisgar Collegiate Institute, who ranked first in English Literature in her graduating class.

In 1949-50, Zeta's commitment was taken over by City Council and the award was extended to Glebe Collegiate, the High School of Commerce, Fisher Park High School and Nepean High School.

In 1986, Beta Sigma Phi transferred the management of this bursary to Carleton University. At the annual City Council meeting in May of 1985, Joyce Shearer reported that she gave a \$12,875.01 cheque to Carole Fleck, Awards Officer at the University. In addition, a direct transfer was to be arranged for Canadian Pacific shares (I believe with a value of approximately \$2,000) plus an additional \$2,000 was to be given after the 1987 convention.

When the books for the 1999 convention were being finalized, it was clear that there would be substantial surplus funds. With a per member vote, we agreed that \$10,000 would be used to establish the Endowment Fund for Women's Health and the balance of approximately \$4,000 would be given to Carleton to augment the bursary. The value of the fund is now \$20,520.39