



Lambda Beta Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2021

The National Honor Society for the Profession of Respiratory Care

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A Message from the President

by Susan Blonshine, BS, RRT, RPFT, AE-C, FAARC



As the leaves begin to turn and fall begins, we hope for a time of health, rest and rejuvenation for our colleagues. Our profession has faced immense challenges over the past 18 months, but I am so proud to be a respiratory therapist and eternally grateful for all those in our profession giving their best to care for our patients every day. Our educators, preceptors and students have all learned new ways to navigate the healthcare system, overcome obstacles and create a robust learning environment. This has occurred in settings where we are acutely aware of everyone's health and the need for strong support structures without losing the drive to achieve academic excellence.

Lambda Beta Society's purpose since inception has been to promote, recognize, and honor scholastic achievement, service, and the character of students, graduates, and faculty members in the respiratory care field. This purpose continues to drive the board's activities. Through these challenges, our profession has continued to grow. Our attention to academic excellence, recognition and growth of the profession is critical and now it is even more important as we live with constant changes and new experiences. Our students and new members entering the profession need our support and mentoring from each of us to be successful. I applaud each of you as we work with students to demonstrate the best of our profession.

This is always an exciting time of year for the Lambda Beta Board and sponsors as we proudly present our Lambda Beta scholarship winners to you in this fall's newsletter. They are an exceptional group that will provide a view into the future of our profession. They have and will continue to make a difference. We congratulate their accomplishment! I am sure there are many of you that will mentor and promote their ongoing growth after graduation. Each of these recipients have started a path to career excellence. Our 2021 honorary member, Thomas Malinski, MSc, RRT, FAARC, served our profession for four decades in research, education and management. He left a personal and professional legacy that embodies the mission of Lambda Beta. We are so honored to bestow this award to Tom posthumously. His work will continue to impact each of those he touched.

We have inducted 356 new members into the Lambda Beta Society this year and have 148 active chapters. This represents approximately a third of our respiratory care education programs. The challenge for each program to become an active member of the Lambda Beta Society continues. Modelling and supporting academic excellence in our profession is a shared responsibility across the profession. We welcome several new chapters this fall and applaud their commitment to encourage student involvement in Lambda Beta. This is our profession's honor society.

On behalf of the board, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to our scholarship sponsors and each of you that support our mission every day. It is my honor and privilege to serve our profession as the president for the Lambda Beta Society. By supporting the purpose of this honor society and encouraging scholarly activities, we will guide our young therapists to achieve their highest potential.

Have a safe and healthy fall and holiday season,
Susan



Respiratory Therapy at Georgia State University

by Douglas S. Gardenhire, EdD, RRT, RRT-NPS, FAARC

In just over 100 years Georgia State University (GSU) has transformed from a tiny school of commerce to a premier urban Carnegie high research university with students from over 167 countries. GSU is one of four research universities in the

University System of Georgia with a student population just over 54,000. The Department of Respiratory Therapy (RT) was the first baccalaureate program in Georgia and is the second oldest in the United States. The department is housed in the Byrdine F.

Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions, otherwise, known as The Lewis College. The RT Department currently offers, a traditional BSRT, direct entry MSRT, traditional MSRT and a fully online MSRT program.

Founded in 1969 the Department of Respiratory Therapy at Georgia State has developed over the years into a nationally acclaimed professional program.

Currently the department has 10 salaried faculty members and a medical director. Faculty members integrate academic and clinical education in class, as well as in our clinical affiliate settings. Our location in downtown Atlanta and across the Atlanta-Metropolitan provides students with the opportunity to perform their clinical practice at over 40 sites, some which are leading healthcare institutions in the south including Emory University Hospital, Emory University Hospital Midtown, Grady Memorial Hospital, Northside Hospital, Piedmont Hospital, and

Wellstar-Kennestone Regional Medical Center. Because our faculty members excel at teaching and research, our students receive instruction on the cutting edge of the profession using the latest technology. Graduate students completing thesis work, assist faculty in research and publish theses.

The Department of Respiratory Therapy offered the first Master of Science (MS) degree for respiratory therapists in 1988. The Master of Science in Health Science with a concentration in Respiratory Therapy is a 36-hour Master of Science for students with a BS in respiratory therapy. This program is focused on advanced RT clinical, educational and leadership offerings. For students that have an undergraduate degree other than respiratory therapy the department was the first public university to offer a direct entry master degree program in 2007. The program allows graduates the ability to sit for the National Board for Respiratory Care examinations. Recently, the department added an online MS degree program. This program offers RTs with a BS degree to earn a MS in RT from anywhere in the world. The program can be completed in as little as three semesters. All MS programs meet SACS-COC requirements, offering over 18 credit hours in RT education. All graduate students have an option of completing either a thesis or non-thesis project for their degree.

Our graduate students have been successful with faculty mentoring to publish original research conducted in our research laboratories or completed thought their thesis work. Additionally, our students have been successful in pursuing doctoral programs to further their education.

The department hires graduate research assistants and graduate teaching assistants from the MSRT programs. Graduate research assistants support faculty members conducting research. Graduate teaching assistants teach with faculty members in the didactic and laboratory section of courses. This has helped with undergraduate instruction, skill and knowledge retention, and reduced attrition. For clinical education, we hire part-time faculty, most of whom are graduates from our program. Currently, we have over 200 students in all of our programs. The RT programs are diverse with many students coming from other countries including China, Ethiopia, Nigeria, India, Jamaica, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Taiwan, Singapore, Turkey, and Vietnam.

The department has established robust international educational outreach and study abroad programs for students. In 2018, RT students traveled to Los Robles, Nicaragua, for the first study abroad in program history. In 2019, students traveled to rural villages in the northern part of the Dominican Republic and will return in 2022 after a hiatus due to COVID-19. Students provide lung health assessments for families living in dirt floor homes that often have an open wood



Respiratory Therapy at Georgia State University (cont.)

burning stove in the home for cooking. Additionally, students complete service learning projects, such as installing concrete floors or building new stoves with stovepipes to reduce smoke inhalation. Data collected from these trips have been published in peer-reviewed journals. Overall, the department's research includes aerosol medicine, respiratory therapy product evaluation, education research, and training. In the last five years the department has received over \$350,000 in external funding and over \$250,000 in internal funding.

The RT program was awarded the inaugural APEX Award from the American Association for Respiratory Care in 2019-2020 and again in 2020-2022 for best practices in respiratory care that are aligned with evidence-based medicine in an educational program. This program signifies the work done by faculty and more importantly students in respiratory therapy. It is the students of respiratory therapy that continue to be the most important and impactful as respiratory therapy continues to expand. The Lambda Beta National Honor Society for Respiratory Care has been integral for GSU RT students to promote their achievements in respiratory therapy.

Paul D. Shores, a 2013 graduate said, "When GSU faculty recommended that I prepare a submission for the Lambda Beta Society at the end of my senior year, I was really happy for the chance to show what I had learned in my studies. My submission was well received both in and out

"Both the work I put into the presentation and the award I received from Lambda Beta were very impactful."

of the Society (Lambda Beta). I even presented the submission at a meeting of the Georgia Society for Respiratory Care. Both the work I put into the presentation and the award I received from Lambda Beta were very impactful. I used the scholarship money to take additional university courses after graduation. Worth more than that was the level of scholarship that it represents, and I'm more proud of this than perhaps anything else I include on my resume today—being recognized by a professional peer group for my work in the field!" Paul is now a clinical specialist with Medtronic working with neuromodulation, pain stimulation and targeted drug delivery.

Sandra T. Hinski, was one of four that entered the direct entry master's degree RT program at GSU. She was an inaugural 2009 graduate and received a scholarship from Lambda Beta, and stated, "The Lambda Beta Award meant so much to me while I was in school. It was an acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication it took for me to succeed. Now, it serves as an inspiration as I continue in the field of respiratory care." Sandra took this experience and completed a PhD and now serves as the Dean of Career and Technical Education at Paradise Valley Community College in Arizona.

Rachel Culbreth, a 2010 graduate, fondly recalls her experience with Lambda Beta saying, "I received the 2009 Lambda Beta National Deshpande-Pilbeam Media Award for my presentation titled, 'The Respiratory Therapist's Role in a Sickle Cell Anemia Patient.' I received this award during the senior year of my undergraduate studies in respiratory therapy. I created this presentation based on my case study, a required project for graduation in the respiratory therapy program. During my respiratory care floor rotation as a student, I was inspired by a pediatric patient who lived with sickle cell anemia and was diagnosed with acute chest syndrome. I eventually cared for the patient for the duration of his stay, for which he was eventually transferred to another hospital for higher level of respiratory care (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation). This patient prompted me to investigate sickle cell anemia and summarize the current guidelines in respiratory therapy for treating and preventing acute chest syndrome. As I reflect on writing this presentation and receiving this award, I realized that I had a strong passion for research and addressing health disparities in the clinical world. This was my first project-based award that I applied for, and by receiving this award, I realized my strengths and potential as a researcher

in the field of respiratory therapy. This award also positioned me to conduct clinical research as a respiratory therapist on hospital internal projects, such as extubations in the cardiothoracic surgical unit. I also created a nitric oxide protocol during my position as a staff respiratory therapist." Rachel has since earned an MPH and PhD and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Respiratory Therapy at GSU.

To learn more about the different RT programs GSU offers, visit rt.gsu.edu.



Our 2021 Scholarship/Award Winners

The Lambda Beta Society is excited to announce the 2021 Scholarship and Awards winners below. These students exemplify hard work and passion for the respiratory care profession. Congratulations to all of you!

\$2,500 H. Frederic Helmholtz, Jr., MD Scholarship

Yoko Tanaka
Boise State University
Boise, ID

"Thank you for the great news! I'm thrilled to receive an award for my academic achievement."



\$2,000 CoARC Stephen P. Mikles, EdS, RRT, FAARC Media Award

Charnette Darrington
Texas State University
Spring, TX

"It is such an honor to be the recipient of the 2021 Stephen P. Mikles, EdS, RRT, FAARC, Media Award. I am appreciative of being granted this scholarship from the Lambda Beta Society. I was so grateful for this opportunity that was presented through the CoARC. I am currently enrolled in the Respiratory Care Master's Program at Texas State University. It has been a true pleasure to be a Respiratory Therapist and to be able to continue my journey in an advanced respiratory program."

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the generous scholarship you have awarded me. The NBRC Leadership Award will help me significantly by placing me in a better position to earn my license in respiratory therapy. This scholarship will provide the opportunity to dedicate more time to my studies to successfully pass my boards and pursue my life's purpose. I look forward to continuing my career in the service of others. In turn, my enthusiasm and dedication will allow me to reciprocate your kindness by helping another student in the future actualize his or her dreams."

\$2,000 NBRC Leadership Award
Giovanna Baratto
County College of Morris
Madison, NJ





Congrats to our 2021 National Honorary Member Winner

by Terry Volsko, MBA, MHHS, RRT, CMT-E, FAARC



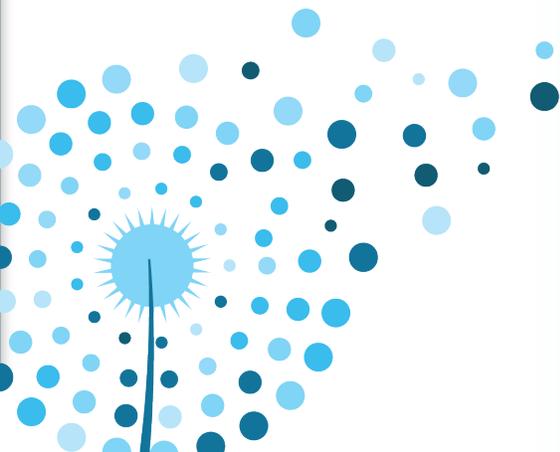
Our 2021 National Honorary Member Winner is Tom Malinowski, MSc, RRT, FAARC.

Tom was a visionary leader who supported the profession of respiratory care for more than four decades. Throughout his tenure in the profession, Tom provided guidance, mentorship and direction to respiratory care students and credentialed practitioners. As faculty Department of Cardiopulmonary Sciences Loma Linda University, School of Allied Health Loma Linda, CA, Tom shared his knowledge, inspired students to implement best practices and fostered a culture of inquiry through research. Tom led by example and modeled for professionalism by teaching students the value of critical thinking, advocating for your patients and participating in interprofessional discussions to develop a care plan for the patient that was based on the best available information in the literature.

As Tom's career developed and his focus shifted to clinical and administrative roles in esteemed health systems, such as Loma Linda University Medical Center, INOVA Fairfax Hospital System and the University of Virginia Health System, his influence was extended to credentialed practitioners. Tom's accomplishments as a leader were recognized nationally in 2019, when he was selected as AARC's management section's specialty practitioner of the year. When Tom was notified of this honor, he was humbled and was quoted by the AARC as, "feeling very privileged for to have worked with an extraordinary number of outstanding respiratory therapists in a variety of different care environments." He also commented, *"one of the best perks to being a respiratory therapist is knowing that regardless of your interest, you can contribute and find a way to show the value of the respiratory therapist to healthcare."*

Tom was a servant leader, inspiring his staff to work at the top of their scope of practice, contribute to the scientific knowledge by performing and disseminating research and striving for excellence by participating in performance improvement activities. His professional service to the AARC and chartered affiliates was extensive. Through his professional service work, Tom inspired others to serve and contribute.

Unfortunately, Tom was taken from us much too early. Although he passed in 2019, his contributions will live on. We're elated to honor Tom with the National Honorary Membership Award.





Where Are They Now?

Winner Spotlight Q&A with Lindsay Fox

Lindsay Fox graduated from the University of Missouri (MU) in 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in Respiratory Therapy. Following graduation, most of Fox's clinical experience was as a neonatal pediatric respiratory therapist and transport therapist. She transitioned into teaching two years after graduating from the MU program. Fox has been in her current role as Respiratory Care Program Director at St. Louis Community College since 2014. Additionally, she volunteers with the Missouri Society for Respiratory Care, is a CoARC site visitor, as well as a member of the CoARC Board of Commissioners.



Why did you choose a respiratory therapy education/educational program?

I was always interested in healthcare and was lucky to take an introductory course my freshman year that discussed various allied health science careers. The respiratory therapy guest lecture piqued my interest and after shadowing a few RTs, I found that I enjoyed the fast-paced environment and critical care component of the field.

What piece of advice would you give to current respiratory therapy students?

I would advise current respiratory therapy students to stay engaged inside and outside of the classroom in the field of respiratory care.

What was most memorable to you about your experiences in a respiratory therapy education program?

Hands-down the most memorable experiences were clinical externships! We were given the opportunity to travel outside of the area to complete clinical training our final semester in the program. I spent time in the NICU at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, TX, and also had an amazing experience at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, MO.

What is the most valuable information you learned while you were in respiratory therapy school?

I learned to make mistakes, take constructive criticism and improve on many areas of weakness. Throughout the program, my instructors taught me that there are always areas in which we can improve ourselves.

How has your education impacted your professional life?

My advanced degrees led me to a career as a program director of a respiratory care program. More specifically, the University of Missouri program helped me grow into a more well-rounded professional. My amazing instructors instilled in me the importance of treating respiratory care as a profession, not a career. The MU program set me up for success in my own career and I'm forever grateful.

What do you enjoy the most about the respiratory therapy field?

Not every day is the same, or even close! Respiratory therapists work with such a variety of patients which is both challenging and exciting. I also like the equipment and technology we use, especially our niche skillset in mechanical ventilation delivery.

Where has your job taken you? Describe your career path.

I quickly obtained my Master's in Education degree after graduating from the University of Missouri respiratory therapy program. I chose the road toward RT education because I felt like I could make an even bigger difference in patients' lives by teaching others how to be great respiratory therapists.

How did you hear about the Lambda Beta Society? In your opinion, what are the benefits of a Lambda Beta Society membership?

I learned about the Lambda Beta Society as an RT student when I was inducted in 2004. Now, as a Program Director, our RT program continues to ensure we have an active chapter so that our students can be inducted into this society as well!



Welcome New Chapters and Members!

Welcome to all of our new chapters and members! Thank you for forming a new chapter at your institution and for joining us.

NEW CHAPTERS

- Nassau Community College - Garden City, NY
- Midlands Technical College - West Columbia, SC
- LSUHSC Cardiopulmonary Science RT - New Orleans, LA
- Labette Community College - Parsons, KS
- Tennessee State University - Nashville, TN
- Gulf Coast State College - Panama City, FL
- The University of Montana-Missoula College - Missoula, MT
- Northwest Kansas Technical College - Goodland, KS
- American Career College - Anaheim, CA
- Antillean Adventist University - Mayaguez, PR
- Pierpont Community and Technical College - Fairmont, WV



*Want to start your own chapter?
Click here for more information.*

DR. HENRY OH RECEIVES ACCOLADES

In July, Henry Oh, PhD, Ed.D., D.Hum, Hon. DBA, RRT-NPS, ACS, MT, NPS, CBiol, CSci, PDCILM, was awarded the U.S. President's Gold Medal and the World Record Medal from the City of Pocatello in Idaho. The Mayor officially proclaimed July 19 as Dr. Henry Oh Day. Dr. Oh has won many accolades because of his perseverance and love for academia. He was also recently featured in *The London Tribune* for receiving Man of the Year from Extraordinary People Awards.



Dr. Henry Oh receives U.S. President's Gold Medal from Mayor Brian, July 19, 2021



Mayor Brian officially proclaims July 19, 2021 as "Dr. Henry Oh Day"



Dr. Henry Oh receives World Record Medal from "Little Mayor Henry" July 19, 2021



Home Respiratory Care: An Exciting Place to Be!

by Claire A. Aloan, RT, MS, RRT-NPS, FAARC



Many changes in the health care system over the past several years have resulted in an increased emphasis on care of patients outside of the acute care setting. Hospitals have faced increasing pressure to discharge patients as reimbursement became capitated and now also face penalties if patients are subsequently readmitted within 30 days. Most patients with chronic conditions affecting the cardiopulmonary system require some form of respiratory therapy at home, ranging from medication administration through oxygen and bronchial hygiene therapy and extending to both invasive and non-invasive ventilation. While there continues to be no direct reimbursement for respiratory therapy in the home, many companies who provide home equipment (DME or Durable Medical Equipment, sometimes called HME or Home Medical Equipment) employ therapists to evaluate, educate and monitor patients at home. Here are some thoughts that our home care RTs would like to share about their career choice.

Jody Smolen Gangemi, BS, RRT, graduated from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY, and, like most RT graduates, went to work in a hospital. She began working as a per diem home care therapist and then transitioned to a full-time position and never looked back. She enjoys developing relationships with her patients and their caregivers and helping to improve their quality of life. She has recently moved to a telehealth position, which she says is a logical extension of how she worked with her home patients during the pandemic. She loves working with her non-invasive ventilation patients, who are primarily affected by neuromuscular disorders. Jody stresses that therapists who start their careers in the hospital setting as new grads just don't have enough experience to be the "eyes and ears" of the physician in the home. She also loves to work with the therapists caring for the patient prior to discharge, obtaining information on patient progression, as well as current settings and needs. She wishes that hospital therapists had a better understanding of home equipment and coverage guidelines and encourages them to work with the discharge staff in their hospital. Finally, she enjoys the feedback from physicians who really appreciate her input and knowledge and loves that one of her favorite MDs calls her his "Jedi."

Zach Gantt, RRT, also started his career in acute care after graduating from Vol State Community College in Tennessee and loved the excitement of the ICU. He grew up in an RT family (his dad and his uncle are both RTs) and became involved in their home care company at an early age. He has been seeing home care patients with

"Home care is an exciting place to be, and RTs are positioned to move the quality of care forward in that arena."

RTs since his teens. While he loved his role in acute care, he saw the post-acute care setting as a better way to influence patient outcomes and a more flexible way to advance his career and meet his entrepreneurial goals. A recognized leader in respiratory home care, he is driven by a vision to change the home care industry and is well on his way to that goal. He began working for a small local DME company and helped the company grow and expand its service area while developing the company's disease management program to improve outcomes in home patients. In his current role as Founder and CEO of Encore Healthcare, Zach is focusing on "making waves" in home care through a focus on clinical management. Encore's current disease management software is licensed to DME providers including the second largest organization in the U.S. His telehealth operation uses therapists as navigators by phone, managing thousands of ventilator patients for DME companies. Programs in process include expanding disease management software to insurance companies, adding video to the telehealth program, working on remote patient monitoring, and deploying different forms of patient education. Zach



Home Respiratory Care: An Exciting Place to Be! (cont.)

feels strongly that RTs can make a huge impact in home care by focusing on clinical outcomes but notes that clinical leadership in home care needs to improve. Home care is an exciting place to be, and RTs are positioned to move the quality of care forward in that arena.

Kim Wiles, BSRT, RRT, CPFT, FAARC, put her RT skills to work in acute care for several years after graduating from the RT program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, working in the children's hospital and a small community hospital. She moved to home care when offered a position as the first full-time RT at a local home care company, with a desire to see what home care is like. Kim found that she loved being in the patient's own environment and says these relationships with patients are priceless. She also enjoys the need to constantly use critical thinking skills in the home setting. Kim has been involved in home care for three decades and is currently VP of Respiratory Services for Allegheny Health Network's HME company in the Pittsburgh, PA, area. Like Zach, Kim is nationally recognized as an expert in home care. She cites current challenges related to staffing, as short-staffed hospitals are pulling out all the stops to attract and retain staff. And while she has over 50 local competitors, she is not worried about losing patients, as her company's clinical focus is very attractive to referring providers. Like other home care leaders, she wishes students got more information about home care as part of their program of study.

Michael "Mack" McCartney, RRT, graduated from Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, NY, and went to work in a small community hospital in western New York. While working 13-hour shifts, he decided to become a contract home RT on his days off. When Medicare cuts came along and made contract home care positions scarce, he decided to start his own company, Respiratory Services of Western New York. He recently sold his company but remains as the executive. He originally thought he would keep the company for a few years and then sell, but the company just kept growing and growing, so he stuck with it. He enjoys the relationships with patients and loves helping people be happy in their own homes. He also enjoys the close working relationships developed with physicians. Like other home care therapists, he thinks students do not get enough exposure to home care, particularly to the different technology used at home. Like Kim, he says he can't compete with current hospital hiring practices but is fortunate that his staff like the working environment and pay and tend to stay with him. He feels that a good part of his success is that in his company, clinicians work for other clinicians, maintaining that critical commitment to patient care. While he doesn't routinely see patients, he maintains some clinical contact with patients who come to the office and has been known to cover patient needs when staffing needs require. He has recently begun to provide clinical support for a local telemedicine company as well.

All the home care therapists agree that therapists working in the acute care setting can provide a valuable link between hospital and home. They can bring added value to their patients and employers if they obtain and maintain knowledge of the differences between hospital-based care and home care. As Zach likes to say, hospital care and home care is a "perfect marriage" and wishes more hospitals had respiratory therapists as navigators, focusing on patient education and discharge planning. Zach advises hospital RT departments to work with local home therapists to educate their staff. Kim states that most hospitals do not have therapists involved in transitional care and transfer of specific information related to respiratory care is not done, with the notable exception of the local children's hospital. Zach and Kim, both of whom have chaired the AARC home care/post-acute care section, stress the need for a paradigm shift in how we deal with patients discharged to home. Home care therapists also hope that respiratory therapy programs incorporate knowledge of how care varies at home in their curriculum and rotate students to home care as part of their clinical education. Kim stresses the importance of teaching staff and students about the differences between hospital and home procedures. For example, when teaching students about the use of trach masks, can a typical home care setup be added to training about the usual hospital setup using a flowmeter and large volume nebulizer? Mack asks whether staff and students know that most concentrators cannot exceed 5 liters/minute and thus oxygen weaning is important when preparing for discharge. Kim wishes that therapists were knowledgeable about portable concentrator use and limitations. Kim also asks if, when teaching about ventilators or preparing a ventilator patient for discharge, staff and students know about the different ways of delivering an adequate level of oxygen through common home care ventilators.

The overall message from our home care RT colleagues is this: home care is an exciting place to be, patient relationships are priceless, and we should all think about how we can contribute to improved outcomes for our chronic patients discharged to home.



Lambda Beta Memorabilia

We offer two ways to proudly display your membership in the Lambda Beta Society.

Gold Plated Honor Pin (Lambda Beta Logo) - \$20

Honor Cords (Lambda Beta Colors) - \$20

Prices do not include shipping charges.

TO ORDER, CLICK [HERE TO GO TO LAMBDA BETA.ORG](https://www.lambdabeta.org).



New Online Portal Coming January 2022!

Be on the lookout for a new, convenient online portal early next year! The new online portal will allow program directors to pay invoices with a credit card, submit their student/faculty membership applications and order honor cords or lapel pins. You will be able to access the new portal through the NBRC school portal. Simply log into the NBRC school portal as usual and you will see a new Lambda Beta Society portal link. More details will be available after launch in January 2022!

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!





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