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Four Illinois Alumni Inducted into the Fraternity & Sorority Hall of Fame at 3rd Annual Ceremony

Urbana, IL. Saturday—April 16; University of Illinois Fraternity & Sorority Affairs’ student leadership honor society, Order of Omega, is recognizing the accomplishments of notable Illinois Greek alumni. This Saturday's ceremony will celebrate four Fraternity & Sorority Hall of Fame inductees at this third annual event, including the attendance of David Downey of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and Chief Justice Rita Garman of Delta Delta Delta sorority, and the posthumous recognition of Stewart Howe of Kappa Sigma fraternity and Jane Fauntz Manske of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. The undergraduate students in attendance will be inspired by these celebrated alumni while not forgetting the role these individuals played in the achievements and continuation of Greek life at Illinois.

David J. Downey of Phi Delta Theta fraternity received his Bachelors and Juris Doctorate at the University of Illinois and founded The Downey Group, Inc. He was a star player on the Illinois basketball team as an undergraduate, earning many honors and he still holds the single game scoring record of 53 points. Mr. Downey is a life member of the University of Illinois Foundation and board member of First Busey Corporation and The Champaign-Urbana News Gazette.

Rita B. Garman of Delta Delta Delta sorority earned her Bachelors from Illinois and Juris Doctorate from the University of Iowa. She was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2001 and is the second woman to serve on the Illinois Supreme Court. She has served as the Chief Justice since 2013. While on the Illinois Supreme Court she established the Special Committee on Child Custody.

Stewart Howe (deceased) of Kappa Sigma fraternity founded the Stewart S. Howe Alumni Service which provided management, public relations and fundraising assistance to fraternities and sororities across the country. He donated his collection of fraternity and sorority materials to the University of Illinois Student Life and Culture Archival Program which now amasses the largest collection of such materials.

Jane Fauntz Manske (deceased) of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority was an accomplished swimming and diving athlete. She was a member of the United States Olympic teams in 1928 and 1932, earning a bronze medal in 1932. She was the second female athlete to be featured on a Wheaties box and inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

Previous honorees include Roger Ebert, Roberta Shields, and Tuskegee Airman, Col. Charles McGee among others. Join us for the third annual Alumni Hall of Fame celebration at the Illini Union, Room 104 on Saturday, April 16 from 3-5pm.

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