

James L. Mann

Wichita State '56

Oxford Cup Roll No. 064

James L. Mann graduated with a degree in business administration from Wichita State University in 1956. After college and a five-year stint as a pilot in the Strategic Air Command of the United States Air Force, Mann returned to Wichita, Kansas, to work in sales for IBM Corporation. In 1965, he joined a Wichita-based accounting firm to start a computer services and software business that grew to \$21 million in sales annually. Mann left the computer services industry for four years and re-entered it in 1981 as president of Bradford National Corporation, a New York City-based computer services and software concern.

Mann was chairman of SunGard Data Systems, Inc. He joined the company in 1983 at its inception as COO leaving the president and CEO position of Bradford National Corporation. In 1986, he was appointed CEO and took the company public through an IPO. Under Mann's leadership, the Company's annual revenues grew from \$70 million to more than \$2 billion by 2002, a compound growth rate of 25%. His dedication to his core values of strategic prudence, management precision and professional excellence empowered others to share his vision and provided the leadership to accomplish it. In 2002, Mann was named chairman of the board and, in 2005, SunGard announced a definitive agreement to sell the company to a private equity consortium for \$11.4 billion in cash representing the largest technology privatization as well as the second largest leveraged buyout ever completed.

His Delta Gamma Chapter was founded as a local fraternity, Alpha Gamma Gamma in 1916 when Wichita State University was Fairmount College. As an undergraduate, he served as alumni relations chairman. After graduation, Mann supported his local chapter's affiliation with Beta Theta Pi and was active in the petitioning for a charter from the General Convention. Once Delta Gamma received its charter, Mann was in the first group of alumni to be initiated into Beta Theta Pi.

Mann was the keynote speaker at his chapter's Founders Day Reunion banquet in Wichita in November 2006. This was the celebration of 90 years on the campus and 47 years as a chapter of Beta Theta Pi.

Over the years, he has continued to provide financial support to the Chapter and recently provided most of the funds to purchase the property adjacent to the chapter house. Recognizing the importance of recruitment, Mann has challenged the Chapter to reach 40 members by 2008, offering a substantial sum that will retire a great deal of the Chapter's debt. He has been a donor to the General Fraternity's *Beta Leadership Fund* since 1971, the year the *BLF* was established.

Mann and his father, Raymond – Roll No. 120, were initiated on the same day. His brother is Herbert, *Wichita State '63* – Roll No. 33.