

## Keynote Speakers at the 2017 Epsilon Sigma Phi Annual Conference Wilmington, NC, October 9-12, 2017 at Hilton Wilmington Riverside



### Vivian Howard – Tuesday Opening Session Speaker

Born in Deep Run, North Carolina, to tobacco and hog farming parents, Vivian Howard learned early on to appreciate the ebb and flow of eating with the seasons. Still, it took 23 years and a false start in the advertising business to convince her a career in food was not only feasible, but the right choice. After college, Howard moved to New York to find work behind a desk, but she found the city's food and restaurant scene (inevitably) more intriguing. So like many before her and many to come, Howard worked her way up. A server position at Greenwich Village's *Voyage* made it possible for her to begin trailing under the restaurant's chef, Scott Barton.

Howard didn't stop there. She went on to learn under some of New York's most cutting edge impressive chefs, including <sup>Chef</sup> Wylie Dufresne and Sam Mason at *wd-50* and later, as a member of the opening team at Jean Georges Vongerichten's *Spice Market*. In 2005, Howard and her now husband Ben Knight decided to abandon the urban landscape for something closer to Howard's roots, opening a farm-to-fork restaurant in the small town of Kinston, North Carolina. *Chef & the Farmer* has been open and serving local, seasonal, creative cuisine since the summer of 2006. Meanwhile, Howard has cultivated strong relationships with local farmers making it possible to source more than 70 percent of the restaurant's



### Dr. Scott Reed – 2017 Ruby Award Recipient

Dr. Reed is the 2017 recipient of Epsilon Sigma Phi's highest recognition the Distinguished Service Ruby. As the Ruby Recipient Dr. Reed will make the prestigious Ruby Lecture at the Ruby Luncheon on Tuesday during the conference.

Scott Reed is recognized nation-wide for his visionary leadership and strategic planning expertise. Dr. Reed chairs the ECOP Task Force on Private Resource Mobilization and represents Cooperative Extension on the Board on Agriculture Assembly. As Vice Provost for OSU Outreach and Engagement, Dr. Reed provides leadership for the Extension Service and Extended Campus, focused on providing worldwide engagement with learners and partners. Numerous organizations including ESP have honored him for his professional accomplishments.



## **Jones Loflin – Wednesday Session II Keynote**

With a passion for success that is instantly infectious and a wit that will have you laughing from his first sentence, author and speaker Jones Loflin equips individuals with real tools to conquer today's tsunami of work and life challenges.

Jones Loflin has made it his life's work to deliver powerful ideas and practical solutions to individuals around the world so they can achieve more of what is most important to them. His books are described as "illuminating" and his presentations as "unforgettable." In his 20 years as a speaker and trainer he has helped countless people regain confidence in their ability to achieve greater success in work and life. Prior to

becoming an internationally-recognized speaker, Jones was an educator. His past work also includes serving as the "Trainer of Trainers" for the best-selling book, *Who Moved My Cheese?* Jones holds a BS and M.Ed. from North Carolina State University and is currently pursuing his MBA. He is a member of the National Speaker's Association as well as the Association for Training Development. When not working with some amazing individuals and organizations seeking better results, Jones resides in North Carolina with his wonderful wife Lisa and their two perfect daughters.



## **Elaine Marshall - Thursday Closing Session Speaker**

Elaine Marshall was born in rural Lineboro, Maryland in 1945. Her father was a farmer who served as a volunteer fire fighter and community leader, while her mother was the organist in the family's small rural church for more than 60 years. Elaine earned her law degree from Campbell University in 1981 and distinguished herself as a tough advocate for her clients in the courtroom, where she represented women who were victims of domestic violence. In 1993-1994, Elaine served in the North Carolina Senate, where she was named Rookie of the Year and listed among Legislators to Watch by the News & Observer. In the Senate, she provided a powerful voice for

improving healthcare in North Carolina. Elaine made history by being the first woman elected to statewide executive office in 1996 as the North Carolina's Secretary of State. Elaine is a member of the Divine Street United Methodist Church in Dunn. She has five step-children and seven grandchildren. In her free time, she enjoys ACC football and basketball, cooking, and gardening. She was also a recipient of the "Lifetime Achievement Award from the 4-H Foundation. North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall was also inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in October 2015. She promotes 4-H and how it influenced her life and her success as a leader.