



# Beta Alpha Psi

Are you seeking for an opportunity to gain valuable professional experience while volunteering and meeting new people? The Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program provides this opportunity.

The VITA Program is an excellent opportunity for Beta Alpha Psi Chapters to gain exposure on campus and in the community. As an added benefit, chapter members that volunteer gain valuable practical experience in income tax preparation which is a life skill.

VITA has three models: **Traditional, Facilitate Self Assistance (FSA), and Virtual.**

- *Traditional*  
Students provide free income tax preparation assistance to chapter members, students, and the community. These sites are generally located on campus. In some instances, students volunteer with other non-profits organizations to provide this service. For information on the Traditional VITA model, visit <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1084.pdf>
- *FSA - Facilitated Self Assistant (FSA)*  
Allows students to prepare and electronically file their own tax return. All the chapter needs to do is to secure a computer that is located in a central location. All the returns completed and transmitted are added to the number of returns completed by the chapter. For information on the FAS model, visit: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4907.pdf>
- *Virtual Site*  
The Virtual VITA Site Model allows tax preparation and transmission in one location while the taxpayer is actually in another location. This model utilizes electronic means such as email and fax to share tax documents. This method is an idea for chapters which would like to provide free income assistance, although it is not a traditional VITA site.

If your chapter wants more information on the Traditional, Facilitated Self-Assisted, or Virtual VITA programs, please contact Rawlin Tate, Senior, Tax Analyst at 404-338-8369 or by email: [rawlin.tate@irs.gov](mailto:rawlin.tate@irs.gov).

## SPEC Awards to Beta Alpha Psi Chapters 2012

Participation in the VITA Program satisfies the organization's requirement for the "Program for Chapter Activities". In addition to receiving possible recognition from your organization, the IRS has designated awards for BAP chapters that participate in the VITA Program.

The IRS will present framed certificates to selected BAP chapters for outstanding VITA service. The awards categories and criteria are as following:

### ***Innovative Award***

Framed certificated will be presented to BAP chapters, which participated in the Facilitated Self-Assisted and Virtual VITA models. These models were introduced as a means to support VITA sites with limited resources to participate in the program. Both of the models are new for 2012 Filing Season.

### ***Merit Award*** – Return Preparation

Framed certificate will be present to BAP chapters, which prepare more than 500 VITA returns.

### ***Merit Award*** – Volunteer Hours

Framed certificate will be presented to the "overall" top three BAP chapters with the most VITA volunteer hours.

### ***Superior Award***

Framed certificate recognizes the BAP Chapter, which has excelled in VITA return preparation and volunteer hours. This goes to the best performing chapter.