

young achievers

Provided by Rachel Anderson, co-founder and publisher Sigma's Bookshelf

LOCAL TEENAGER, JUSTIN ANDERSON, STARTS UP SIGMA'S BOOKSHELF, A BOOK PUBLISHING COMPANY EXCLUSIVELY FOR TEENS

It seems most teenage boys in Minnesota either participate in sports or spend a lot of their free time watching them but not Justin M. Anderson. This Wayzata High School sophomore spends the majority of his free time either on the computer or iPad.

No, he isn't playing video games. He is working. Anderson, 15, is both an author and publisher.

His debut book, "Saving Stripes: A Kitty's Story," was published in June 2015, and has since sold more than 230 copies. In Oct. 2016, a little more than a year after the book came out, he started up his own publishing company. Sigma's Bookshelf (www.SigmasBookshelf.com) exclusively publishes the work of teen writers ages 12 - 19.

The Inspiration Behind Sigma's Bookshelf

Anderson credits John B. Goodman, founder of Chaska, Minnesota-based The Goodman Group, with inspiring his new company. "Right after my first book came out, Mr. Goodman bought 25 copies and distributed them to kids at his intergenerational Learning Centers in Florida and Minnesota," said Anderson.

But Goodman's generosity didn't stop there. A few months later when Anderson got the chance to meet him in person and thank him, the successful businessman reached into his wallet and pulled out two \$100 dollar bills and handed them to the teenager.

"I was kind of in shock. It was so unexpected," said Anderson, who at first wasn't sure he should accept the money. Realizing his uncertainty about the large gift, Goodman told the boy he wanted him to keep it and do something good with it.

Anderson got the nod of approval from his mother, and eventually went on to use the money to secure more copies of his book, which sells for \$10 with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting the charity that had helped him with the kitty rescue he wrote about.



Justin and John Goodman



How to Submit a Manuscript to Sigma's Bookshelf
Teen authors between the ages of 12 and 19 are invited to submit completed book manuscripts in all different genres through the website, www.sigmasbookshelf.com. Once received, books will be reviewed within 30 days.

For each title accepted for publication, Sigma's Bookshelf will work with the teens to edit and proofread manuscripts, then get the books formatted and uploaded to a print on demand service. Each book selected for publication will be provided with a Sigma's Bookshelf ISBN #. All time spent editing, proofreading, uploading, etc., is being provided for free by volunteers who work in the publishing industry.

Teen authors will receive royalties for books sold online and in stores. Discounts will be available for printed books they wish to purchase for themselves, friends and family.

Those books turned down will get a letter of explanation on why the book was declined and recommendations on what they can do to improve their chances of getting published in the future. Questions can be submitted through the website or emailed to info@SigmasBookshelf.com.

Between book sales and donations that have been made as a result of the publicity around the book, Anderson has helped raise thousands of dollars for S.O.S. Rescue Relief, Inc., a Plymouth, Minn., nonprofit dedicated to preventing euthanasia in adoptable animals.

The encounter happened in Dec. 2015, just three months before John B. Goodman died of complications from a heart attack. As Justin and his mother were heading to the memorial service, they had a conversation about how sad it was that the world had lost someone so generous.

"Justin said to me, 'I hope that one day I can do what Mr. Goodman did for me and hand out \$100 bills to people,'" said Justin's mother, Rachel M. Anderson. The conversation then led to the idea that he didn't have to wait until sometime in the future to help others. He could do it right away.

A short time after the memorial service, Justin and his mother decided to start up a publishing company that would allow teenagers to bring their books to market at no cost to them. Funding to cover expenses is being pursued with the help of a

fiscal sponsor, "Springboard for the Arts." Tax-deductible donations can be made through Sigma's Bookshelf's GiveMN page.

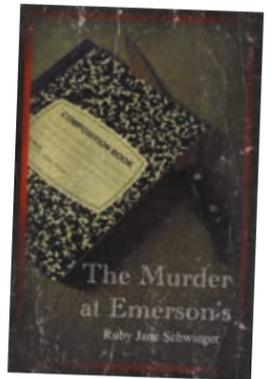
As for the origin of the company's name, Sigma is one of the characters in Justin's soon-to-be-released debut novel, "Nothing But Trouble." It is the story of an experiment intended to cure cancer that went very wrong.

Justin's first book, "Saving Stripes: A Kitty's Story," which tells the true story of the cat family rescue he was involved in, can be purchased at The Adopt-A-Pet Shop on Vicksburg Lane North and Cats Preferred Veterinary Hospital on Rockford Road in Plymouth, Minn., or online at wwwcreatespace.com/4931704.

More information about that title can be found at www.Facebook.com/SavingStripesBook.

Book Launch Event

Sigma's Bookshelf will officially launch its first two books, "Nothing But Trouble," Sigma's Bookshelf founder Justin M. Anderson's debut novel, and "The Murder at Emerson's," 13-year-old Ruby Schwinger's debut novel, Ruby is from Roseville, MN, on Saturday, June 24, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Barnes and Noble store located at 2100 N. Snelling Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113.



Publicist and Co-founder Rachel Anderson will be speaking about how the company came to be, while Justin and Ruby will share some thoughts and sign their books for purchase. In addition to being available at the store, the kids' books will be available online at

www.barnesandnoble.com and www.amazon.com.

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