



PHI BETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Sigma of California

Fall 2022 Newsletter

We hope your summer included the travel adventures, work, and renewal you were seeking. Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa is rolling into action for a new academic year.



A Profile of 2022 Initiates. In 2022 267 students nominated for membership accepted our invitation to join by the August 31 deadline. Here is a thumbnail profile of the new class. The average GPA of new initiates was an astonishing 3.93! Roughly evenly distributed among the colleges, their majors were in all divisions: Biological Sciences (29%), Engineering (25%), Social Sciences (19%), Physical Sciences (16%), Arts and Humanities (3%), Data Sciences (3%) with International Studies, Public Health, and Marine Biology each hovering around 1%. Fifty-one percent of the initiates self-identified as Female.



Honor cords. The Phi Beta Kappa honor cords, distributed for the first time this spring, were a big hit! After three years of remote initiations individualized distribution afforded the opportunity to chat about initiates' next steps -- and the pink and blue colors! We plan to present cords to each candidate at the next initiation and in subsequent years, funds permitting.

Initiation Speakers. The Chapter's initiation of new members on May 16 was another Zoom event. This remote format enabled us to invite an alumna working in Washington, D.C. as our keynote speaker. Lindsay Muir Harris majored in Psychology and International

Studies/Anthropology and graduated from UC Berkeley Law School (Order of the Coif). She is now Professor and Associate Dean of Clinical and Experiential programs at the University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law. Her talk, posted on our website at <https://pbk.ucsd.edu/activities/index.html>, illustrated how the intellectual curiosity which Phi Beta Kappa celebrates led her to exciting personal and professional opportunities.

We would like to invite other Phi Beta Kappa alumni to speak, although we need your help to identify inspiring and effective speakers. Are you in touch with PBK alumni, especially from UC San Diego, whom you could recommend as keynoters? Email us at pbk@ucsd.edu



Graduate Initiate Awards. The Chapter received 23 applications and selected seven for graduate initiate awards to student members who have been accepted into graduate study programs. The awards, of \$600 each, went to students with the following majors and graduate study plans: Neurobiology and Dance (for Dental School); Linguistics and Japanese Studies (for Speech, Language and Hearing); Bioengineering Biotechnology (Biomedical Engineering); Marine Biology (Microbiology); Bioengineering Biosystems (Electrical Engineering); Applied Mathematics (Medicine); and Cognitive

Behavioral Science and Music (Music, Science and Technology).



Interested in volunteering with the Chapter? We warmly welcome your engagement! Please let us know through a message to

pbk@ucsd.edu

Ours is an entirely volunteer-run chapter, with a lean team of active members who manage the all-important, but admittedly time-consuming task of selection and initiation. One of the true pleasures of the job is learning about truly extraordinary students at UCSD and helping them to be recognized for their academic accomplishments. This has been our principal annual activity, but with additional active members, the Chapter could do more. Here are some programs we could sponsor with your help:

- Provide outreach to students invited to membership to encourage them to join
- Connect rising senior initiates with resident members or alumni through pre-professional career networking
- Develop divisional coaching for graduate school interviews or highly competitive national scholarships
- Organize a PBK Sigma alumni database to network with new initiates.

Even if you can't join in organizing or participating in any of these activities, we enthusiastically invite your assistance and attendance at the Spring 2023 initiation.



Screening and Invitations for 2023. The Academic Senate approved almost 2,000 new courses since the Chapter last

reviewed courses that meet our disciplinary distribution expectations for new initiates. This fall, the Chapter will review these new courses for inclusion in our selection.

From January through March, teams of screeners will begin the selection for the new class of students invited to Phi Beta Kappa. We project that over 2,000 students will have the cumulative units and GPA that meet the Chapter's eligibility threshold. As a group, screeners will review their records to determine if the distribution of coursework meets Chapter requirements.

We are grateful to the following individuals who screened candidates last year: Ann Craig (Political Science), Kathy French (Neurobiology), Grant Goodall (Linguistics), Nancy Groves (Revelle College), Susan Kirkpatrick (Literature), Nora Laiken (Pharmacology), Jim Lin (Mathematics), Tonia Pizer (Global Education), Debbie Wenck (Student Affairs and Human Resources), and John Wheeler (Chemistry).



Gifts to the Chapter. The National Society currently charges \$85 for a Lifetime Membership in Phi Beta Kappa. That fee dissuades some

UC San Diego candidates from joining. For that reason, the Sigma Chapter has not added a chapter fee for past three years, although that means that our reserves (used to cover the cost of cords, initiation, and scholarships) have not been replenished during that time.

This year three initiates qualified for a full ride membership scholarship offered by the National Society. An additional 20 students had their membership underwritten by generous Chapter donors. In those cases, students paid \$35 and donors paid \$50. One additional student was given a full ride scholarship by a donor. We thank Peter Davis, Kathy French, Susan Kirkpatrick, Nora Laiken, John Wheeler, and Ann Craig for their donations.

If you would like to support the chapter or student membership, email pbk@ucsd.edu We do not yet have an online mechanism for donations, but we accept checks!