



PHI BETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

## Sigma of California Spring 2023 Newsletter

### Initiation of the Class of 2023



The Class of '23 new student members will be initiated on **May 22 at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the**

**Student Services Building.** Join us to greet and congratulate new members! If you can come, please email Ann Craig ([acraig@ucsd.edu](mailto:acraig@ucsd.edu)) so that we have seating and refreshments for everyone.

The program – finally in person after a three-year hiatus! -- includes a welcome from EVC Elizabeth Simmons (Physics, *magna cum laude* and PBK Harvard '85); and remarks about the poetry of Seamus Heaney from Antony Lyon (Director of Revelle College's Humanities Program); and alum Aleksandr Gorin (UCSD Microbiology and PBK '11, M.D. and Ph.D. UCLA, currently Medical Scientist Training Program, UCLA).

### Screening and Selection

This winter the Chapter reviewed academic records of 1611 extraordinary students who had earned at least 160 credit units with a GPA of 3.85 or above. From that review, 379 students met the chapter's [eligibility requirements](#) and have been invited to membership. If students ask about PBK, please encourage them to join, or to direct questions about the affordability of lifetime membership to Kathy French at [pbk@ucsd.edu](mailto:pbk@ucsd.edu)

A multi-disciplinary team of resident members labored intensely to complete the screening. Their work enables the Chapter's essential function of selection. Working in teams of two, they included: Grant Goodall (Linguistics), Nancy Groves (Advising, Revelle College), Juli Beth Hinds (Urban Studies and Planning), Susan Kirkpatrick (Literature), Nora Laiken (School of Medicine), Eduardo Macagno (Neurobiology), J. Peter Davis (Scripps Institution of Oceanography), Tonia Pizer (Global Education), Pamela Radliff (History), William Tronzo (Literature) and co-Chairs Ann Craig (Political Science) and Kathy French (Neurobiology). We are deeply indebted to them!

### Increasing Yield Among First Generation and Transfer Students

We're experimenting! In mid-May the Chapter is hosting an open house for first generation and transfer students invited to membership. The acceptance rate among these students has been low, perhaps because both groups may be unfamiliar with PBK and daunted by the cost of membership. If you were a first gen or transfer student and would like to lift your voice to encourage all students to join, please reach out to us at [pbk@ucsd.edu](mailto:pbk@ucsd.edu). Students would appreciate hearing about your experience! A generous resident member has pledged up to \$2,000 to help underwrite membership fees for all students who have financial need.

## Contributing to Chapter Funds



The Chapter relies on member donations for all our operations including initiation expenses and programming. We continue to explore with Advancement the opportunity to establish an online giving platform through the University to support our operating and programming expenses.

University practice does not allow use of endowment or state funds to defray the cost of memberships, so we rely entirely on donors to support students for whom the \$85 lifetime membership fee is just too much at the end of the year. The Chapter currently keeps a Credit Union account for this purpose.

If you wish to support student memberships, or the work of the chapter (honor cords, initiation expenses, programming) you may write a check to Sigma Chapter, Phi Beta Kappa. Contact [pbk@ucsd.edu](mailto:pbk@ucsd.edu) for a mailing address. Your donation is tax deductible and will be formally acknowledged.

## National Phi Beta Kappa Society



Last fall Fred Lawrence, Secretary and CEO of the national Phi Beta Kappa Society, visited with Chapter

members at UC San Diego. He led a lively discussion about the Society's advocacy for higher education, often in partnership with other organizations including the AAAS, AACU, ACLS, and the Consortium of Social Sciences Association, among others.

The Secretary appears in Congressional hearings and in some court cases in defense of academic freedom, inclusive excellence, and education in the liberal arts and sciences. You can find the Society's statements and positions online under

Media Center at [pbk.org](http://pbk.org), and there is a very useful tool kit of data about arts and sciences majors [here](#). Secretary Lawrence also emphasized a new opportunity for undergraduates with the [Key Into Public Service scholarship](#), which highlights opportunities for careers in the public sector for majors in arts, humanities, natural science, social science, and mathematics.

## Get Involved – Strengthen the Chapter

Unlike chapters at some other schools, the UCSD Chapter runs *entirely* on volunteers except for technical support pulling student records and some accounting (and we are *very* grateful for that support!). If you recall the honor of being invited to PBK, please consider paying that honor forward by helping the Chapter. For example, we need a Treasurer. In addition, the screening committee for 2024 will have openings. Or if you enjoy creative planning, you could assist the Chapter in generating new programming for students who joined as juniors and remain on campus for the senior year. You would be welcome as an active member of PBK at UCSD.

If you would like to be involved in the Chapter, please reach out via [pbk@ucsd.edu](mailto:pbk@ucsd.edu), or directly to Kathy French ([kfrench@ucsd.edu](mailto:kfrench@ucsd.edu)) or Ann Craig ([acraig@ucsd.edu](mailto:acraig@ucsd.edu)), Chapter Co-Chairs.