



PHI BETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Newsletter Spring 2022

Sigma of California

9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0357

### Initiation May 16, 5:00 pm via Zoom

The UC San Diego Phi Beta Kappa spring initiation will take place via Zoom on Monday, May 16 at 5:00. Please [register here](#) if you are able to join us. A Zoom link will be sent to all who register.

Initiation this year showcases young Phi Beta



Kappa alumni, especially in public service careers. Our keynoter will be **Lindsay Muir Harris** (2005), Professor and Associate Dean of Clinical and Experiential programs at the University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke

School of Law. She directs the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic, teaches Immigration and asylum law courses, and has taught in the Service-Learning Program, traveling with law students to the border or to work within immigration detention centers.

Lindsay graduated from UC San Diego Summa Cum Laude with double majors in Psychology and International Studies/Anthropology. She received her J.D. from University of California Berkeley Law (Order of the Coif). While a law student, she gained much practical experience engaging in clinical opportunities in immigration and human rights law, led the Human Rights Committee, the California Asylum Representation Clinic and served on the editorial staff of the Berkeley Journal of International Law. After earning her J.D., she clerked on the Ninth Circuit and then joined the Tahirih Justice Center as an Equal

Justice Works Fellow where she worked with African immigrant women and girl survivors of gender-based violence. She later worked for the American Immigration Council on efforts to end the detention of immigrant families. She taught in Georgetown University's asylum clinic and at George Mason University before joining the University of the District of Columbia Law School in 2016. She has been involved with numerous organizations focused on asylum and in 2020 was awarded the American Immigration Lawyers Association Elmer Fried Excellence in Immigration Law Teaching Award.

With a focus on careers in public service we draw attention to the national Society's new [Key Into Public Service](#) undergraduate scholarship program. Open to students in the middle of their undergraduate studies, it highlights ways liberal arts graduates can pursue careers in public service. The Society looks for academically accomplished students, but they need not be PBK initiates. You may wish to bring the program to students' attention.

The new Sigma Chapter website [pbk.ucsd.edu](http://pbk.ucsd.edu) will soon have examples of some of the public service and other careers young alumni are pursuing.

### Supporting New Initiates and the Chapter

You can help students join PBK by contributing to the Chapter. We particularly need your help subsidizing the \$85 lifetime membership fee for new initiates in financial need and first-generation students. By May, students have

nearly depleted their financial aid and may not join for lack of funds.

Additionally, this is an entirely self-sustaining chapter. We receive technical assistance with student records but no funding from the campus. In addition to membership for students, your donations support our initiation expenses.



This year for the first time we will distribute official PBK honor cords that new student members can wear at commencement.

We currently cannot receive donations electronically. If you wish to support the Chapter, please send a check made out to Sigma Chapter, Phi Beta Kappa to Phi Beta Kappa, 101 Linares Court, Solana Beach, CA 92075. We will send a tax donation receipt to the address on the check.

### Screening and selecting candidates

With enrollment growth on campus, the number of students we screen for invitation to Phi Beta Kappa has skyrocketed. This year, five teams of two PBK'ers reviewed the academic transcripts of 2241 students who had earned at least a 3.85 GPA over 160 units or more (including transfer credits but not transfer GPA). We are grateful to the multidisciplinary screening committee of Ann Craig (Political Science), Kathy French (Neurobiology), Grant Gooddall (Linguistics), Nancy Groves (Academic Advising), Susan Kirkpatrick (Literature), Nora Laiken (Medical School), Jim Lin (Mathematics), Tonia Pizer (Global Education), Debbie Wenck (Human Resources), and John Wheeler (Chemistry/Biochemistry). Professor Emerita Susan Kirkpatrick reflected on the experience:

*"I didn't know what I was getting into when I agreed to serve on the PBK screening committee. Fortunately. Because if I'd known that it involved reading and evaluating 449 student transcripts, I might have had second thoughts.*

*"When faced with the concrete reality of that many pdf files to go through, I was daunted, but it turned out to be quite engaging to look at the records of stellar UCSD students. Only those with at least a 3.85 GPA were considered. To qualify to be invited to join PBK, these high-performing students must have completed a minimum number of courses in arts humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics, and have achieved fluency in a second language as well. In an age when the idea of liberal arts is being overtaken by a single-minded professionalism in our society, it was reassuring to see how many of our top students take a broad range of courses and garner A+s in history or philosophy as easily as they do in higher math or biology. It was no surprise that most of these students majored in STEM programs, but it warmed my heart to discover how often they chose arts courses as their electives. I was struck by how many -- about 22% -- of the students whom we screened were transfer students, a testament to UC's commitment to provide high-quality upper-division education to a diverse range of California students.*

*"All considered, the roughly 20 hours I've put into this project, including screening committee meetings as well as file-reading and evaluation, have been truly rewarding. My glimpse into the choices and accomplishments of so many outstanding students, despite being through a pdf file, has been fascinating, and helped put me in touch with what is going on in undergraduate education at UCSD since I retired."*

### Graduate Awards

Each spring, Sigma Chapter offers about five modest [Graduate Initiate](#) chapter awards. Recipients must be members of Phi Beta Kappa and accepted into a graduate or professional program of study beginning with the Fall term in that year.

UC San Diego student Chapter members and students who have been invited into membership are notified by the Chapter early in Spring Quarter about the Awards and criteria for application. The notification includes details about the application process and deadline.

Beginning in 2022, the *Barbara Wilkes Blomgren*



*Award* will be given to a qualified applicant who has been accepted into a graduate program in the Arts and Humanities. Barbara, who passed last August, was a 1957 PBK initiate and

English Literature alumna of Bucknell University. She was deeply devoted to the principles of Phi Beta Kappa. The Blomgren Award memorializes Barbara's leadership and invaluable contributions to the Chapter as a very early member, active participant in the selection committee, Secretary, and long-time Treasurer.

### **2021 Graduate Awards**

The 2021 applicants for the Graduate Initiate Awards delighted the selection committee with their impressive goals for further study, making selection of finalists a rewarding challenge! The Chapter awarded six 2021 Initiate Awards. Privacy policy precludes sharing names and personal details, but we can report this much. One General Biology major is studying Veterinary Medicine at Tufts. A Cognitive Psychology major is continuing in the doctoral program in experimental psychology at UCSD. A Public Health major is now working on a M.S. degree in Public Health at Columbia. A Political Science/Public Law student is now at UCLA's School of Law. A Biochemistry and Cell Biology major began studies toward a Ph.D. in Microbiology at UC Berkeley, and another Biochemistry and Cell Biology student is at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine studying toward a Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Medicine. We wish them continued success.