



**Sigma of California  
April 2024 Newsletter**

**Invitations to join Phi Beta Kappa** will go out next week to **420** remarkable UC San Diego students. They have each earned *at least* a 3.85 GPA across coursework in the major as well as arts and humanities, social sciences, mathematics, natural sciences, and proficiency in a second language. Kudos to them, and to the team of ten resident PBK members who screened 2043 individual academic records to identify qualified students. The Chapter is deeply grateful for their time and dedication!

**Join us for the initiation** of new student members on **May 20, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** in the MultiPurpose Room of the Student Services Building.

**Please RSVP [here](#).** Speakers will be Executive Vice Chancellor Elizabeth Simmons (Harvard, '85) and UC San Diego alum Adam Burgasser ('96) Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Students will be individually recognized and presented with a PBK honor cord.

If you can **reach out to invited students**, sharing your experience and reasons for joining, it would help us with yield among students who are unfamiliar with the organization. Let Ann Craig ([acraig@ucsd.edu](mailto:acraig@ucsd.edu)) know you're interested, and she will send you the names and contact information of five (or more?) students.

**Encouraging students to join.** For some students, the \$85 national membership fee is an impossibility, coming as it does late in the spring quarter when their resources are depleted. Those students can contact [pbk@ucsd.edu](mailto:pbk@ucsd.edu) – we can subsidize some memberships thanks to member donations.

Executive Vice Chancellor Elizabeth Simmons and Professor Sekhar Chivukula (Physics) personally donated \$2,000 last year to **subsidize the membership for students in need.** Please consider donating (\$50 is the magic number to subsidize one student!). We do not have an online

giving platform so if you're inspired to pay it forward, respond to [pbk@ucsd.edu](mailto:pbk@ucsd.edu). We will provide the address where you can mail a check. We will send a receipt for your tax-deductible donation.

**Evolution of the Society** Phi Beta Kappa began as a debating society with the motto "Love of Learning is the Guide [or Pilot] to Life." Today, membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society is signaled by the gold key, honor cord, and UC San Diego transcript notation (the only transcribed honor society!). As a Society which honors academic excellence, it is an influential voice in national policy circles where Phi Beta Kappa is an indefatigable advocate for liberal arts and sciences education, liberty of conscience and academic

freedom. Membership also signifies dedication to those principles.

### **The Phi Beta Kappa Triennial Council**

will convene in Baltimore on July 31-August 4, 2024. Councils include stimulating presentations by scholars on a range of topics, including a panel on liberal arts and democracy, as well as discussions about best practices and chapter governance.

If you would like to **pay it forward** by becoming active in the chapter, contact [pbk@ucsd.edu](mailto:pbk@ucsd.edu). The Chapter's expansion of outreach and activities for resident members and junior initiates depends on having interested members to lead or assist those efforts.