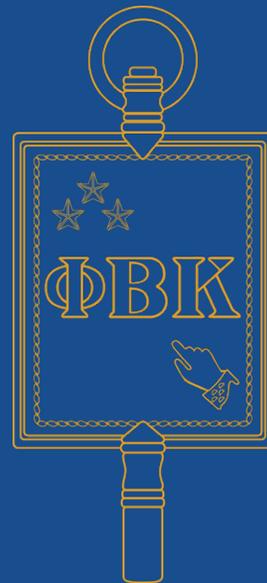


EST. 1776



The PHI BETA KAPPA *Society*

THE NATION'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETY





Phi Beta Kappa

Alpha Chapter of South Carolina

Chartered in 1926

Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's most prestigious undergraduate honor society. It is recognized across all academic disciplines as a mark of excellence and academic distinction. It is a symbol of integrity and scholarly achievement in the liberal arts and sciences

Phi Beta Kappa is both the oldest and the most prestigious undergraduate honor society in the country. Only 10 percent of colleges in the United States have earned the right to have chapters, and just over 1 percent of all college students are elected each year.

To be elected, a student must have more than a high grade point average. Chapter members review the academic records of the top 10 percent of the class to ensure that most credits are earned in the liberal arts and sciences, in a broad array of subjects, and at an advanced level.

History of Phi Beta Kappa

- *Phi Beta Kappa* are initial letters of Greek words meaning “Love of Wisdom—the Helmsman of Life”
- Founded in 1776 at William and Mary College
- Yale Chapter established in 1780, Harvard 1781, Dartmouth 1787
- Secrecy repealed in 1830
- Membership extended to women in 1875
- National Body established in 1883
- First African American member elected in 1877
- Alpha of South Carolina established at USC in 1926
- Today, there are 290 chapters and nearly 50 alumni associations across the country
 - In South Carolina, there are also chapters at Wofford, Clemson and Furman, and there is also the Lowcountry Association

Why strive to be elected?

There are a number of meaningful and worthwhile honor societies on campus that students will receive invitations to join during their college careers. Each one deserves serious consideration.

An invitation to join Phi Beta Kappa, however, is an honor on a completely different tier.

Acceptance of membership in Phi Beta Kappa ensures lifelong recognition of integrity, scholarly achievement, and excellence. No other undergraduate academic honor can confer such distinction.

In Good Company



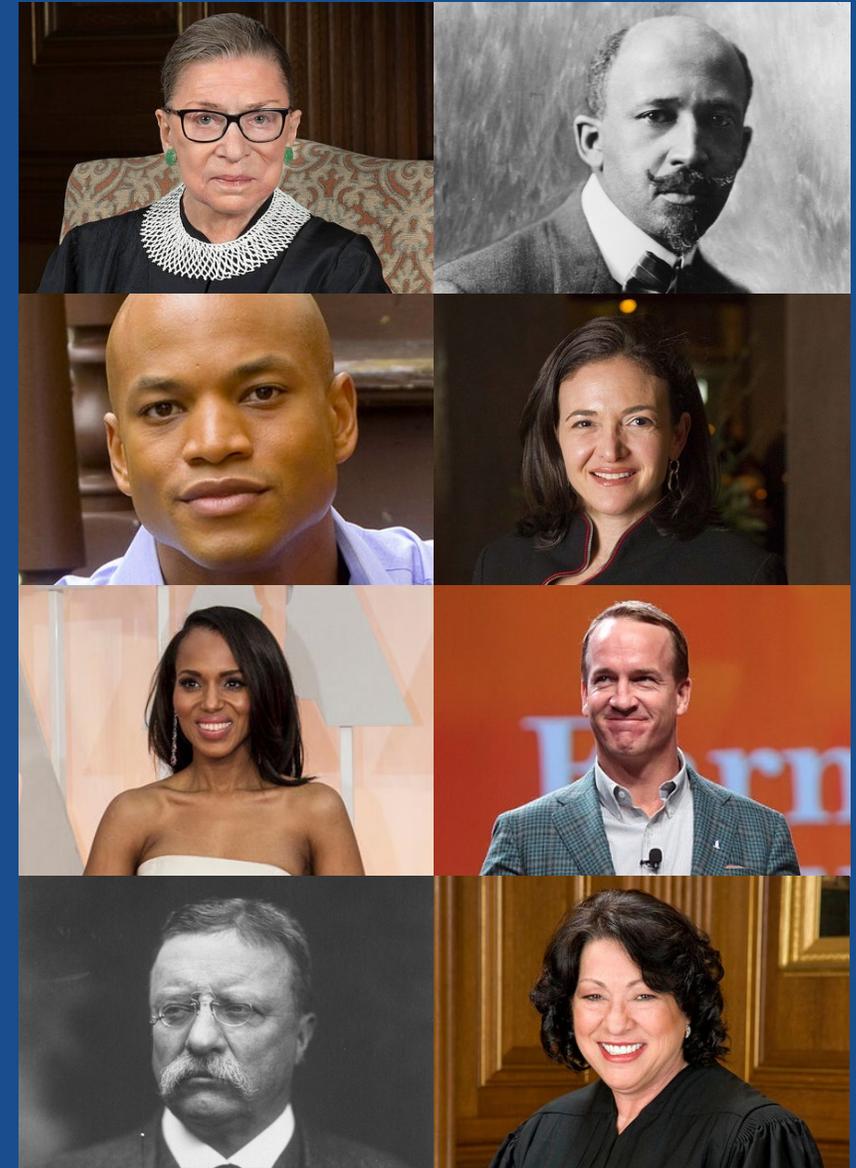
Joining Phi Beta Kappa places you among the ranks of 17 U.S. Presidents, 42 U.S. Supreme Court Justices, over 150 Nobel Laureates, and celebrated artists, activists, athletes, and innovators in every career field.

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Phi Beta Kappa Awards

The George A. Wauchope Award is presented to the senior PBK member with the highest GPA and the most liberal course hours

Professor Wauchope penned the alma mater in 1911, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in 1926, and was its first president

Freshman Awards are presented to students who have, in addition to other criteria, maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout their freshman year

Notable Members of Phi Beta Kappa

Presidents

John Quincy Adams
Chester A. Arthur
Theodore Roosevelt
George H.W. Bush
William J. Clinton
Barack H. Obama

Culture Makers

Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain)
Angela Davis
James Dickey
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Ashley Judd
John Updike

South Carolinians

Ben Bernanke
Butler Derrick
Caroline McKissick Dial
James H. Hodges
Catherine Heigel
William C. Hubbard
Bob Inglis
Rudy Mancke
John C. Palms
John Spratt
Jean H. Toal
Hugh Weathers

Public Servants

Oliver Wendell Holmes
Ruth Bader Ginsberg
Henry Kissinger
Condoleezza Rice

Inventors

Alexander Graham Bell
Jeff Bezos
Samuel F.B. Morse
Eli Whitney

Key dedicated on the 75th anniversary of the sheltering of the Alpha Chapter at the University, Currell College Courtyard.

University and PBK Shown are President John Palms and other PBK Council and National officers



Visiting Scholars Program

Ken Ono

Thomas Jefferson Professor of
Mathematics, University of Virginia and
Vice President of the American
Mathematical Society

**Virtual visit to campus for lectures,
class visits and other opportunities
for interaction March 25-26, 2021
– details forthcoming**



For further information:

- [PBK at UofSC](#)
- [Phi Beta Kappa Society National Office](#)
- [Phi Beta Kappa Society on Facebook](#)
- Publications:
 - [The American Scholar](#)
 - [The Key Reporter](#)
- Podcasts:
 - [Smarty Pants](#)
 - [Key Conversations](#)

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Professor and Department Chair, Geography
College of Arts and Sciences
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Director, Equal Opportunity Programs
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Assistant Dean for Administration
South Carolina Honors College
- **Sandra Kelly (ex-officio)**
Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies
- **Administrative support:**
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phibetakappa@mailbox.sc.edu