

EST. 1776



*The* PHI BETA KAPPA *Society*

THE NATION'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETY



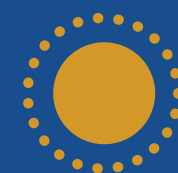
*Congratulations*

on your acceptance into Phi Beta Kappa!



# A Rare Honor

Only 10 percent of U.S. colleges and universities have Phi Beta Kappa chapters. These chapters select the top 10 percent of their arts and sciences graduates to join Phi Beta Kappa, making Phi Beta Kappa membership one of the most prestigious honors a student can receive.



# 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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# A Revolutionary Start

- Phi Beta Kappa's first meeting took place on December 5, 1776, in the Raleigh Tavern in Williamsburg, Virginia.
- Our founders, five William & Mary students, envisioned a secret society to discuss important issues of the day.
- Phi Beta Kappa was the first collegiate society with a Greek letter name and introduced an oath of secrecy, a badge, Greek and Latin mottoes, and a special handshake.
- Today, Phi Beta Kappa's original motto remains: the Greek **Φιλοσοφία Βίου Κυβερνήτης**, “Love of learning is the guide of life.”



*John Heath,  
first president  
of ΦBK*



*The Raleigh Tavern in Williamsburg, VA*

# A Growing Society

- In the winter of 1781, on the cusp of the Battle of Yorktown, the College of William and Mary closed.
- This closure might have ended  $\Phi$ BK if not for non-Virginian member Elisha Parmele, who had helped to create chapters at Yale in 1780 and Harvard in 1781, ensuring the continuation of the society.
- Over the next century, Phi Beta Kappa added 25 chapters across the country, spreading from the East to the West, at public universities and private colleges.
- Phi Beta Kappa's famed key became the most widely-recognized symbol of academic achievement.



*The most recent edition of the  $\Phi$ BK key, designed in 1928*



# Moving Forward

- The University of Vermont elected the first African American member in 1877.
- Phi Beta Kappa's first female members were inducted at the University of Vermont in 1875 and Wesleyan University in 1876. In 1899, Middlebury College elected the first African American woman, Mary Annette Anderson, to Phi Beta Kappa membership.
- 1887 ushered in Phi Beta Kappa's first alumni association, located in New York City, as "a means of encouraging scholarship and culture outside of college walls."
- Today, there are 290 chapters and nearly 50 alumni associations across the country.



*George Washington Henderson, UVM 1874*



*Mary Annette Anderson, Middlebury 1899*





# A Lifetime Connection

Your induction into Phi Beta Kappa is just the beginning! Nearly 50 U.S. cities have a Phi Beta Kappa alumni association, where members participate in engaging networking events, cultural programs, and community outreach.

Associations across the country also host Key Connections, an annual event series to welcome recent inductees and members who might have recently moved. Events will take place in September 2021. Learn more at our website, [www.pbk.org/keyconnections](http://www.pbk.org/keyconnections).





# Championing the Arts and Sciences

You invested significant time, energy, and financial resources in your liberal arts and sciences education. Phi Beta Kappa is a leading national voice championing the vital role that the arts and sciences play in shaping professional careers, engaged communities, and meaningful cultural life.

The Society helped found the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities, our signature legislative accomplishment. Today, the National Arts & Sciences Initiative gives members like you tools, data, and resources to advocate for policies that increase access to and strengthen arts and sciences education.

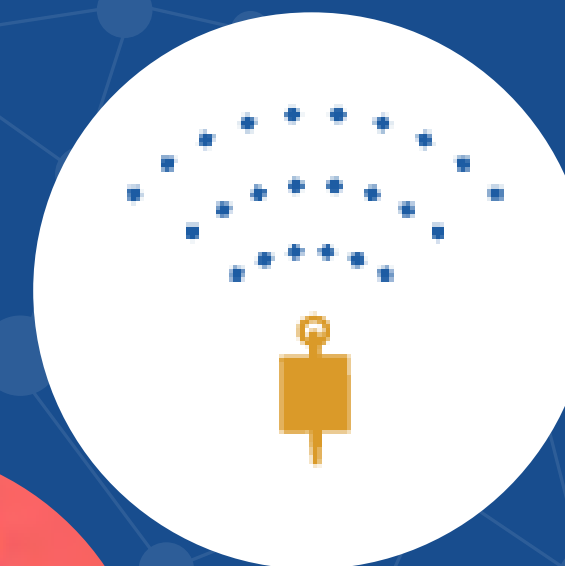


Representative Bill Foster (D-IL) speaks at the National Arts & Sciences Initiative's 2019 Key Into Public Service panel

# Your Virtual Home

Phi Beta Kappa also offers a range of digital options for members to stay engaged and connected. Look for us on LinkedIn (a network over 40,000 strong!), Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Our highly-acclaimed quarterly, *The American Scholar*, offers great podcasts and a virtual book club, and *The Key Reporter* offers  $\Phi$ BK alumni news online and in your mailbox.

And speaking of social media... enter our  $\#$ PBKSelfKey contest by June 30, 2021 for the chance to win some  $\Phi$ BK swag! Learn more at [pbk.org/contest](https://pbk.org/contest).





And once again...

*Congratulations!*



*New members at Columbia University in 2017*