Phi Beta Kappa
Induction Ceremony

The College of Wooster
Saturday, May 11, 2024
Kappa of Ohio
Founded 1926

2024 OFFICERS
Emily Armour
    President
Missy Schen
    Vice President
Zachary Sharrow
    Secretary
Jon Breitenbucher
    Treasurer

FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS OF PHI BETA KAPPA

Beatrice Adams
    History
Emily Armour
    Educational Technology
Paul Bonvallet
    Chemistry
Jennifer Bowen
    Mathematics
Jon Breitenbucher
    Educational Technology
Laura Burch
    French & Francophone Studies
Susan Clayton
    Psychology
Tracy Cosgriff
    Art History
Claire Eager
    English
Jennifer Faust
    Chemistry
Heather Fitz Gibbon
    Sociology and Anthropology
 Marian Frazier
    Statistical & Data Sciences
Mark Graham
    Religious Studies
Manon Grugel-Watson
    Physics
Kate Gullatta
    APEX
Misty Hostetler
    Student Affairs
Kent Kille
    Political Science
Matthew Krain
    Political Science
Colby Long
    Mathematics
Sharon Lynn
    Biology
Matthew Mariola
    Environmental Studies
Anne Nurse
    Sociology
Anne Ober
    Wellness Center
Lisa Panepento
    Admissions
Lisa Perfetti
    French and Francophone Studies
Missy Schen
    Educational Assessment
Elizabeth Schultz
    Philosophy
Paul Seling
    APEX
Zachary Sharrow
    Libraries
Gregory Shaya
    History
John Siewert
    Art History
Sarah Sobeck
    Chemistry
Christina Welsh
    History
Mark Wilson
    Earth Sciences

EMERITUS FACULTY MEMBERS AND AFFILIATED SCHOLARS OF PHI BETA KAPPA

Daniel Bourne
Richard Figge
John Gabriele
David Gedalecia
R. Stanton Hales
Charles Hampton
Linda Hults
Charles Kammer
Marilyn Lovetess
David McConnell
Eric Moskowitz
David Powell
Elena Sokol
Claudia Thompson
Andrew Weaver
Mark Weaver

CEREMONY
Presiding
    Emily Armour
History of Society
    Jon Breitenbucher
Zachary Sharrow
Charge to Initiates
    Emily Armour
Presentation of Initiates
    Beatrice Adams
    Jennifer Bowen
    Mark Graham
    Missy Schen
    Paul Seling
    Sarah Sobeck

STUDENT INDUCTEES

Class of 2024 Inducted as Juniors
Tobin Francis Chin
Colin Curnow
Max Forhan
Trinity Harmon
Audrey Helmreich
Kelsey Anne McEwen
Katherine Olson
Eddie Papp

Class of 2024 Inductees
Alona Abufarha
Abigail Elizabeth Aitken*
Keeyeon Choi*
Fritz Clingroth†
Emma Elizabeth Connors
Vincent Andrew DiLeo
Jack Martin Donahue
Rachel Nicole Dudziak
Kiki Giles
Emily Ann Greenland
Elizabethe Eve Jha
Riwik Mukesh Jha
Yuhan Kim
Julie Anne Larkin
Laurel Anne Lasch
Henry Norvell McMahon
Eve Alicia Painter
William Harper Reddish
Jason Robert Stewart
James Jett Tang*
Athena Marie Tharenos
Diana Frances Tobin
Ann Virginia Venditti
Liam Adrian Walker
Anna Simone Walsh
Eleanor Weiker
Taemour Shoab Zaidi
*indicates a student inducted in absentia
†indicates a student who will be inducted next year

Class of 2025 Inductees
Shahad Al-jarah
James Edwin Howrey
Frances Zoe Readshaw
Alexis Leigh Sarne
Azjargal Soosuresen
Spencer Marshall West-Hest*
*indicates a student who will be inducted as a senior
Brief History of Phi Beta Kappa

Founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest academic honor society. New England branches were founded at Yale in 1780 and Harvard in 1781. During the next 50 years, four more chapters were founded. By 1875, the society extended the privilege of membership to women. By 1883, 25 local chapters existed, and the need for closer unity and greater uniformity of practices led to the organization of the national body: the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa. Today, Phi Beta Kappa has chapters at 286 of the foremost institutions of higher learning across the country, with a membership exceeding 500,000. The society’s name is formed by using the first letters of the phrase Philosophia Biou Kybernetes, “Love of wisdom, the guide of life.” One cannot apply for membership in Phi Beta Kappa. Members are elected by the chapters from the junior class and from senior degree candidates in the liberal arts and sciences, all of whom are in the top 10% of the graduating class.

The Phi Beta Kappa Key

Originally designed in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa's small gold key has become one of the nation's most celebrated emblems, a mark of distinction recognized by members and nonmembers alike. For over two hundred years, the letters SP on the back have stood for Societas Philosophiae, while the three stars represent what the founders believed were the ambitions of all young scholars: friendship, morality, and literature (learning).

PBK Prize Winner 2024

Gabriel Thomas is a philosophy major and biology minor from Columbus, Ohio. His Independent Study, titled “In Balance with This Life, This Death: An Analysis of the Evil of the Death and the Ways in Which Death Leads to Meaning,” argued for the importance of confrontations with mortality in leading to a meaningful life. He has been a four-year member of the men's soccer team, an editor for the arts & entertainment section of The Wooster Voice, the treasurer and an editor for the student-run philosophy journal Sapere Aude, and the student liaison to the Philosophy Department. He has also worked as a professional writing consultant for the Writing Center and served as the teaching apprentice for the classes On the Meaning of Life and Logic & Philosophy. Thomas has been elected to the philosophy honor society, Phi Sigma Tau, in which he served as the vice president, and he has been awarded the Ronald E. Hustwit Prize in Philosophy and the John F. Miller Prize in Philosophy on top of being selected for the Dean's List and the NCAC Academic Honor Roll. Upon graduating, Thomas plans to spend a year traveling and getting some living done before enrolling in either a Ph.D. program in philosophy, where he would pursue teaching upon completion of the degree, or law school.