

University of Wyoming

PHI BETA KAPPA



Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence



Presented by the Executive Committee of the
Alpha Chapter of Wyoming of Phi Beta Kappa

The University of Wyoming
requests the honor of your presence
at the installation
of the
Alpha Chapter of Wyoming
of
Phi Beta Kappa
November the twenty-sixth
Nineteen hundred and forty
Laramie

The History of the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Wyoming



The Origins of the Phi Beta Kappa Society

PHI BETA KAPPA originated at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, on December 5, 1776, when its five founding members met at the Old Raleigh Tavern. These students developed the society with the intention of creating an intellectually based student organization devoted to pursuing and supporting liberal education and scholastic fellowship. Originally a secret society with all the attendant mystery, Phi Beta Kappa exercised a freedom of speech that transcended the political turmoil. Although the element of secrecy was eliminated by the society in 1831, Phi Beta Kappa has continued to promote the same intellectual and academic freedom under the original motto of the society: "Love of learning is the guide of life."

From an obscure origin in the midst of the American Revolution, Phi Beta Kappa grew to 25 chapters nationwide by 1883, 89 chapters by 1917, and 236 by 1983. Today in 2015 there are 286 chapters throughout the United States. In order to found a chapter at an institution, a group of faculty members who have already been initiated elsewhere must persuade the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa (as it was known until 1988) to charter their Association, submit an application for a Chapter, and provide evidence and documentation of the institution's fitness to maintain that Chapter in upholding the ideals and standards of the Phi Beta Kappa Society (since 1988). Each application is extensively reviewed, a few are granted a site visit by the Committee on Qualifications, and even fewer are proposed by

that committee for consideration at a Triennial Council, at which charters are granted to those institutions that satisfy the qualifications and criteria of the Society. These criteria include properly challenging academic demands, a strong liberal arts faculty, appropriate funding and resources for the liberal arts, and an educational environment free from constraining issues of governance, religion, athletics, or politics (pbk.org). For the University of Wyoming in pursuit of its charter, these last obstacles proved the most difficult to overcome.

The Wyoming Association of Phi Beta Kappa: A Precondition

In order to promote interest in the honor society, Laramie residents who had already been elected to Phi Beta Kappa by other colleges and universities organized the Laramie Association of Phi Beta Kappa in 1926. A local association of that kind lacked the ability to elect new student members-in-course; however, it could devote itself to the general values and purpose of Phi Beta Kappa. Accordingly, the Laramie Association began its own recognition of outstanding scholarship around 1933 by giving out an annual award to a distinguished student (*PBK* 2:6). As the university's bid for a chapter became a greater possibility toward the end of the 1930s, the city-wide association reorganized into a state-wide one. Letters sent all around Wyoming, from Cheyenne to Cody and everywhere in between, invited Phi Beta Kappans to membership in the renamed Wyoming Association of Phi Beta Kappa, which was officially recognized by the United Chapters in 1938—just in time to provide support for UW at the 1940 Triennial Council. In its constitution it declared its purpose to be “the union of the members of Phi Beta Kappa in the state of Wyoming, with a view to the promotion of scholarship, friendship, and cultural interests among members and throughout the state” (*PBK* 2:5).

Even after the establishment of the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the Wyoming Association continued its activities in support of scholarship and educational excellence. During the 1940s, the Association encouraged members-in-course at the University to speak in high schools about

the importance of a liberal education. Another project the Association sponsored was the placement of scrolls bearing the names of high school graduates who had been elected to Phi Beta Kappa in their respective schools, with the object of demonstrating the achievable goal of becoming a member of the society. By 1944, fifteen Wyoming high schools had received these scrolls (*PBK* 2:7). Regrettably, the Association faltered by the end

of the decade, and in 1949 officially dissolved due to a lack of interest and the difficulties of maintaining such an organization across Wyoming's large area.

Wyoming Pursues a Charter

Wyoming's initial correspondence with Phi Beta Kappa began in the 1920s, shortly after the formation of the Laramie Association. These efforts met with little success, and the reason given proved something of a tough hurdle for Wyoming's



Dr. P.T. Miller,
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

liberal arts advocates: admission standards. The United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa required any university hoping to gain its own Phi Beta Kappa chapter to admit only students with a certain number of specific high school prerequisites completed. Unfortunately, Wyoming state law sought at the same time to make higher education at its only four-year university achievable for as many students as possible. Dean P. T. Miller of the College of Liberal Arts stressed that Wyoming's admission standards had to be broad enough to conform to the spirit of that legal provision, stating that UW “must not make entrance requirements that will work a hardship on the graduates of our own high schools” (*PBK* 2:5).

In response to this difficulty, the Laramie Phi Beta Kappans opened discussion with UW president Arthur Crane. Their efforts were spearheaded by their



Dr. Laura White, Dept. of History

chosen correspondent, Dr. Laura A. White of the History department, whose tireless dedication to the quest for a PBK charter proved vital to its ultimate success. Dr. White communicated to the president's office a possible set of high school prerequisites that would satisfy the United Chapters while keeping UW accessible for Wyoming's students. These included three units of English; five units from among History, Math, Languages, and Science; and seven elective units, no more than three of which could be vocational (2:5). President Crane, himself a strong proponent of installing a PBK chapter

at UW, threw his support to the plan. With that obstacle out of the way, UW's faculty members were able to tackle the preparations for another charter application.

Preparations Begin for the Triennial Council

Beginning in the 1930s, movers and shakers among the university's Phi Beta Kappans collected and submitted the necessary annual reports to the United Chapters detailing the quality of the liberal arts program and its place in the school. These exhaustive indexes included the history and organization of the school, recognitions accorded to it by various organizations, the salaries of its instructors, its honorary and professional organizations, distinguished alumni, finances, buildings and equipment, admission requirements and enrollment, curriculum in the division of letters and sciences, graduate study programs, grading systems, student services, credentials of the faculty, auxiliary facilities such as libraries

and laboratories, social fraternities, and other student activities. Some of Wyoming's reports also included other illustrative material: course catalogs, campus pictures, and information about summer programs (2:5). It speaks volumes both for the dedication of UW's faculty and the importance they placed upon the acquisition of a charter that these lengthy reports appeared without fail each year, and ultimately the efforts of these advocates were not without reward. Correspondence with the National Secretary of the United Chapters, Dr. William Shimer, which had begun early in the 1930s, became more focused by the end of the decade. At long last UW's bid for a chapter was slated to come before the Triennial Council in 1940.

Dr. Ottis H. Rechard (PBK Gettysburg College, 1931) of the mathematics department served as the Laramie Association's delegate to the 1940 council meeting in San Francisco, tasked with representing the University during the discussion of its qualifications and answering any questions. Dr. White suggested to Shimer that UW send psychology professor Dr. Robert Bruce as well; Shimer answered that Laramie could have only one official delegate, but that he would communicate with Dr. Bruce's original chapter



Dr. Ottis Rechard,
Dept. of Mathematics

(PBK Ohio State, 1928) and request that they name him as one of theirs, giving him an official position at the council (PBK 2:6). The university gained further support through the tireless devotion of Dr. White who, though unable to attend the meeting herself, wrote to a friend representing Randolph-Macon Women's College, Dr. Theodore Jack, its president. In her letter she invited him to stop in Laramie on his way to San Francisco and see UW's campus and facilities for himself, so that he might be able to speak in favor of Wyoming's application (2:6). She added apologetically that she herself would be

out of town at the time, and he replied:

Do you really think that is a nice way for a girl to behave: to invite a man to come to see her and at the same time to say that she will not be home? I would gladly go out of my way to visit Laramie if you were there, but I think I couldn't take it if you were not.

Although Dr. Jack would probably not be able to pass through Laramie on his way west, he did promise to "[stick] in an oar for Wyoming" at San Francisco, a promise he would be called upon to keep (2:6).

The 1940 San Francisco Triennial Council

The 1940 Triennial Council seemed at first to look favorably upon the proposed charter for the University of Wyoming. Before the delegates voted on which institutions to charter, however, one Dr. Clifford Hicks of the University of Nebraska brought a matter to the Council's attention that seriously threatened Wyoming's approval. Again it was a run-in with Wyoming law, the law that placed the University under the direction of a Board of Trustees appointed by the governor. Hicks expressed concern that such

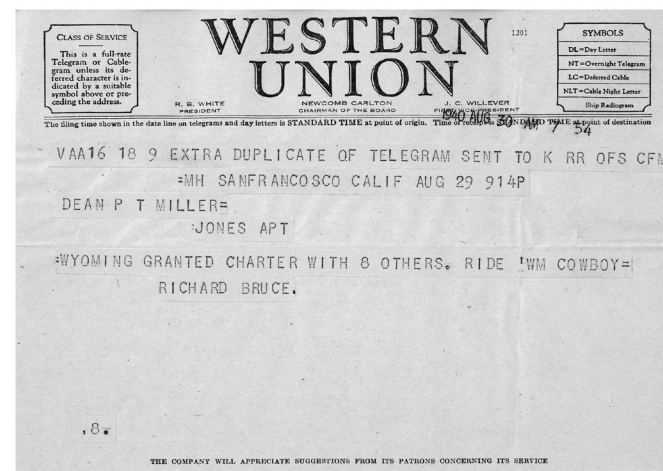
an arrangement could make the University vulnerable to the manipulation of political or partisan agendas and compromise its ability to provide an authentic liberal education. His accusation, or rather his forwarding of charges against Wyoming, stemmed from a story in the Associated Press regarding statements made by the Governor about members of the University staff (2:6).



Dr. Robert Bruce, Dept. of Psychology

The accusation carried sufficient weight to require further testimony on UW's behalf. Prof. Clyde Duniway from Carleton College, formerly president of the University of Wyoming (1912 - 1917), gave his opinion that although the governor could exert influence over the Board of Trustees, the university faced "no special danger" (2:6). Dr. Rechard added his assurance that the State Senate advised the governor in appointing trustees and had to approve them, asserting also that the governor had not summarily dismissed any trustees for 17 years (2:6). In a roundabout way, Dr. Theodore Jack provided backup for the University of Wyoming by delivering a lengthy address on the purpose and methods of the Committee on Qualifications, of which he was the Acting Chairman. He suggested that the arduous work of the committee in whittling down the list of hundreds of colleges hoping for consideration by the Triennial Council to a mere handful of recommended institutions meant that any college that came before the Council had already undergone considerable scrutiny. He concluded by remarking that the Council had every right discuss the particulars of any institution, but in all fairness it should then discuss the particulars of every institution (2:6). This elaborate speech garnered applause, but failed to satisfy everybody. A delegate from Yale insisted upon hearing from Dean Charles Lipman of UC Berkeley, who had performed the official inspection of the University of Wyoming. Lipman answered clearly and concisely that he had heard no rumors of political control of UW, and that he considered Dr. Rechard's testimony more trustworthy than any newspaper reports (2:6). With that, the matter was finally laid to rest and the voting began.

The Triennial Council granted nine charters in 1940, one



of which established the Wyoming Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the 142nd chapter chartered since 1776. Dr. Bruce immediately dispatched a telegram to Dean Miller, announcing “Wyoming granted charter with 8 others. Ride ‘em Cowboy” (2:6).

The Installation of Wyoming’s Alpha Chapter

The installation came under the able direction of the incomparable Dr. White, who handled the correspondence and paperwork submitted to Shimer, as well as the arrangements for the attendance of Prof. Marjorie Hope Nicholson, then Dean of Smith College, the first woman president of the United Chapters. An installation ceremony was planned for Tuesday, November 26th. The program included a luncheon and an installation banquet at which the members-in-course received their initiation. Dean Nicholson spoke at the ceremonies on the subject of “Learning, Light, and Liberty” (*Association of American Colleges Bulletin*, Dec. 1942, 27:4). A second speaker, Prof. R. G. Gustavson of the University of Colorado, spoke on “Science, War, and Civilization” (*PBK* 1:6). Among the attendant guests were Dr. Clyde Duniway, whose timely aid at the Triennial Council was much praised; Prof. Philip Worcester, president of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter at the University of Colorado Boulder; and Chancellor David



Phi Beta Kappa Initiation Dinner, 1940

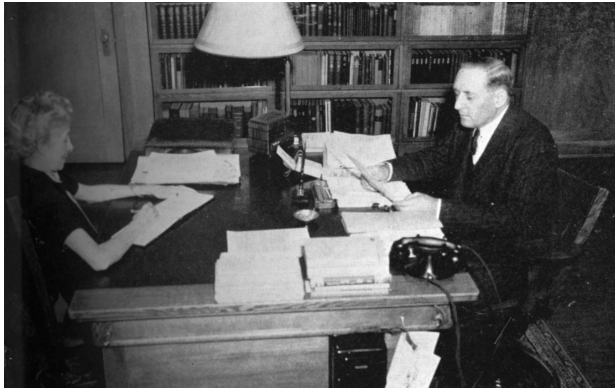
Duncan of the University of Denver, where a new Phi Beta Kappa chapter had been installed just two days earlier (*PBK* 2:6). The Alpha Chapter inducted five seniors at its first ceremony: Joseph Brown (chemistry), Raymond Embree (mathematics), Jane Ralston (English), Thomas Kirby (geology),

and Ted Kisciras (psychology). All five attended graduate school on scholarships the following fall, respectively at the University of Chicago, Wisconsin, Smith, Northwestern, and Ohio State.

Another Round of Struggles

Wyoming’s fight for acceptance did not end with the charter and first installation, however. Even before the ceremony, Dr. Hicks’ hydra grew another head and began to snap at the fledgling chapter at UW. In September 1940 Hicks wrote to Shimer suggesting that Wyoming’s installation be postponed until after another investigation into the Governor’s relationship with the institution. He referred Shimer to a crony of his in Cheyenne who observed that the terms of “the only two trustees who stood out against the governor” would expire in February 1941, and the situation of the University could be more accurately judged after the governor appointed their successors (*PBK* 2:5). Shimer put him off, replying that the approval had already been given for the installation of Wyoming’s chapter. He did, however, agree that an investigation could be made by the PBK Senate, and that speaking with the Governor and trustees on the subject might help straighten the matter out (2:6).

Four months later Hicks’ eager informer wrote him that the governor had indeed “discarded” three members of the Board and appointed in their place three trustees with the goal of removing President Crane. According to his report, Crane’s dismissal followed shortly after the first meeting of the new Board because of a “serious difference between Crain [sic] and the Board about basic policy” (*PBK* 2:7). The correspondent observed sarcastically that in addition to plotting to control UW politically, the Governor and the Board sought to “turn the place into an athletic factory,” while “Crain still [thought] the purpose of the institution [was] educational” (2:7). Hicks transmitted the information to Shimer, adding with perhaps a hint of self-satisfaction, “You may care to pursue this information through other sources to learn to just what extent the situation is developing into the kind of an affair which I felt it proper to warn the council about” (2:7).



UW President Arthur Crane and his secretary, Ida Moen

Other sources echoed Hicks' concerns. The journal *School and Society* (7 June 1941, 53:727) published an article about Arthur Crane's dismissal that praised the man as "one of the foremost citizens of the state. . . a leader in the field of higher education," and described him as a stoic administrator who refused to give in to political greed and manipulation. According to the article, Crane made no statements about these "political storms" until after his dismissal, when he charged in his defense that the state administration desired to control the university, use its appointed positions for "political and personal patronage," and had dismissed him with a malicious intent to destroy his reputation (2:7). The affair could not but involve Phi Beta Kappa, since President Crane's assistance had been of great importance to the campaign for a chapter during the previous decade. Dr. White and Dr. Rechard had once written to Crane that without support from him and his secretary, Ida Moen, the charter would never have been conferred, and that the formation of Alpha Chapter itself constituted "a recognition both of the University and of your administration, and we rejoice at both" (*PBK* 2:6, Hardy, 131-6).

Defending the Charter

Just as the event itself touched the Alpha Chapter, so too did the resulting backlash. Shimer forwarded Hicks' letters and the "School and Society" article to the chapter's secretary, Dr. Laurence Smith, requesting some kind of statement from the University in the hope of clearing the matter up for good before the Senate met to discuss it. It was Dr. Rechard, however, who gave the answer in a lengthy informal letter to Shimer, opening with a

rhetorical query in fine Wyoming fashion asking "what 'all the shooting is about' and . . . why the shooters are shooting" (*PBK* 2:7). In the course of the letter he opined that President Crane's dismissal reflected local political concerns, not necessarily a grand plan to disable liberal arts at UW, and discussed at length the balance between Republican and Democrat members of the Board and other committees to combat the accusations of despotic political control. Additionally, Rechard touched on the athletic situation and assured Shimer that UW followed the same dictates of its conference that governed the University of Colorado, whose PBK charter was not questioned. His letter concluded with a strong assertion that the University's academic standards and ideals had not suffered from the dismissal of Crane, and that he foresaw no danger of political takeover (2:7).

Rechard also sought support from the chancellor of the University of Nebraska, from whence Clifford Hicks had been needling Shimer for almost a year. Chancellor Boucher had made a visit to UW a few weeks earlier on behalf of the National Association of State Universities to investigate the same situation. Rechard hoped his report might help Wyoming avoid further scrutiny from Phi Beta Kappa, and his confidence was not unwarranted. Boucher wrote to Shimer that he had seen nothing at UW to indicate political manipulation (2:7). Boucher's communications successfully cooled the burners under the simmering issue, eliciting a final statement from Hicks that he had nothing more to say on the matter (2:7).

Phi Beta Kappa in National Crisis

The Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa has been continually involved with academic life at the University of Wyoming and around the state and has overcome many challenges. Its installation came on the brink of a particularly trying time in history, about a year before the United States officially entered World War II. The required annual report to the United Chapters began to ask for the number of newly elected members who had joined the service; by 1944 Wyoming reported two of its recent initiates on

active duty (*PBK* 1:6). In spite of the restrictions of the wartime emergency, the Wyoming Association exerted itself on behalf of liberal education during the conflict. The nominating committee expressed a recommendation that high school graduates be encouraged to enroll in college courses instead of immediately enlisting in the armed forces, suggesting that such a choice would be “most useful to the country and therefore most patriotic” (*PBK* 2:7). In 1943 the Association sent out a letter to the students in Wyoming’s secondary schools stressing that even in a time when practical, industrial, and military training seemed most important for the success of the war, the perpetuation of “scholarship, friendship, and cultural interests” merited encouragement as well. Quoting Wendell Willkie, the Association wrote, “[if] we are going to risk our lives for freedom, we must at the same time do all we can to preserve the deep springs from which it flows. The destruction of the tradition of the liberal arts, at this crisis in our history, when freedom is more than ever at stake, would be a crime comparable. . . with the burning of books by the Nazis” (2:7). The Association followed this statement with an assertion that if the war could not be won without technical education, likewise peace could not be achieved without knowledge of the liberal arts.

The Chapter and the University

Phi Beta Kappa has also struggled with retrenchments during peacetime. At least twice in its history, the chapter has had to proclaim its defense of liberal arts courses threatened by economic reorganizations and dropping enrollment. In October of 1950, Phi Beta Kappa Secretary John F. Reed felt obliged to remind UW President George Duke Humphrey that courses in languages, philosophy, and literature ought to be considered essential for the credibility of the graduate programs and the reputation of the University of Wyoming as an institution of good standing with a well-rounded curriculum in liberal arts—something necessary for UW to fulfill the promises in its Phi Beta Kappa charter for which so many had fought ten years earlier (*PBK* 2:9). A similar appeal came again in 1999 from the Alpha Chapter’s Executive Committee, who wrote to President Philip

Dubois (1997-2005) during another period of re-thinking UW’s academic plan. The committee argued that in order for the university’s degrees to be significant, it was necessary to maintain the core of required liberal arts courses that had made Wyoming eligible for its PBK charter in 1940 (*PBK* 2:12). Over a span of seventy five years, the Alpha Chapter has continued to fight the good fight in support of quality liberal education, and it will no doubt be called to do so again.

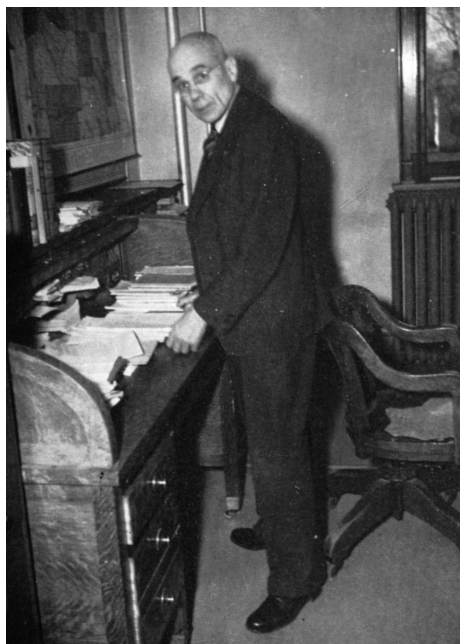
Service and Legacy

The chapter has made many contributions to scholarship, community, and cultural interest during its existence. Perhaps the most visible of these contributions is the Visiting Scholar program, through which Phi Beta Kappa arranges for distinguished lecturers in the arts and sciences to speak in Laramie on topics of intellectual interest. Some of these have been of great significance to Phi Beta Kappa in its fight for liberal education. In 2000, the Alpha Chapter brought Carolyn Dewald, a professor of classics from the University of Southern California, to campus who filled up a lecture hall for a lecture on Herodotus. The event helped to demonstrate the importance and vitality of classics and languages, and testified powerfully to student interest and support for these areas (*PBK* 1:9). The historian of modern Christianity, Prof. Martin Marty, visited from the University of Chicago to crown the inception of the Religious Studies program at UW in 1993.

In the 1990s the chapter organized a local pre-concert lecture series with the assistance of UW Cultural Programs (*PBK* 2:12). Additionally, at every initiation ceremony, the chapter invites a speaker of note to give an address to the initiates on the importance of liberal education. Such encouragement of scholarship and cultural interest has always been at the core of Phi Beta Kappa’s philosophy, and the Wyoming Alpha Chapter does its part, publishing recent addresses on its website and in the national newsletter, *The Key Reporter*.

Financial contributions have been another part of the Alpha Chapter’s

activities throughout its history. In 1950, 1951, and 1953 the society made donations to the Foreign Students' Scholarship Committee, which provided funds to international students; one Siddiq Khan from Pakistan, for instance, received assistance from the Committee when his family could no longer support his graduate work in agriculture at the University. Phi Beta Kappa made a contribution toward assisting him (*PBK* 2:9). Around the same time, Phi Beta Kappa contributed to a memorial scholarship in honor of Dean John A. Hill, who had been an alumnus founding member of the society (*PBK* 1:6). In 1987, Phi Beta Kappa made a donation to the Albany County Public Library in memory of one Gwendolyn Cook, who had worked there. The library's director wrote that the money would be used to



Dr. John Hill
Dean of the College of Agriculture

purchase mysteries and cookbooks, as they had been among Mrs. Cook's favorite genres (*PBK* 2:11). In 1993, the Alpha Chapter made a gift of a large television and video cassette recorder to the University Honors Program in support of its academic activities (*PBK* 2:12). And on its 60th anniversary in 2000 the chapter donated a memorial to its founding member, historian of the state, Prof. T. A. Larson.

Prominent among Phi Beta Kappa's many efforts at assisting scholarship at UW is the Louise A. Lee Johnson Memorial Scholarship, established on March 12, 1999. This large gift in her memory provides monetary support to juniors who are elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Mrs. Johnson was a long-time resident of Wyoming and had been valedictorian of her graduating class at Cheyenne High School in 1935. After graduating from the University of Colorado with honors and an

election to Phi Beta Kappa, she returned to Wyoming and served Phi Beta Kappa and the Wyoming Association for many years, holding positions including President of the Wyoming Association (*PBK* 1:9).

Toward its Centennial

In its first 75 years Alpha of Wyoming has elected around 2,000 UW graduates (members-in-course) to join roughly half a million PBK members alive in the nation today. They are carefully selected each year by a faculty committee that culls the top transcripts of graduating students and examines them not just for high grades but for success in a range of intellectual activities that are defined by the concept of "the liberal arts." Stipulations nationwide require advanced knowledge of a second language and mathematics, and an overall record that shows commitment to intellectual values, not merely vocational ones. Yet recent cultural trends seem to invert that scale, and Phi Beta Kappa finds itself called again to defend the timeless importance and essential vitality of the liberal arts, the knowledge that makes life not just livable but worth living.

No more than 10% of the graduating students in the liberal arts and sciences may be elected, though in practice the number is usually closer to 4%. In the last three decades the number elected has ranged from a high of 67 (2006) to a low of 25 (2016). In addition to graduating seniors, up to four juniors may be elected each year, and besides receiving the Johnson Scholarship, these juniors are especially well-positioned for the most eminent national awards. All of UW's Rhodes Scholars since the chapter was formed have been members. In 2015 UW was recognized at the 44th Triennial Council in Denver "for excellence in representing the ideals and commitments of Phi Beta Kappa during the 2012-2015 triennium as an Outstanding Public University Chapter." One reason for this recognition is that virtually 100% of the students selected at UW accept and are initiated. Other state universities are mystified by UW's success. The University of Wyoming has a tradition of respect for PBK and the excellence in the liberal arts that it seeks to recognize.

Much of the credit for Alpha Chapter's success belongs to the chapter itself. At Wyoming we have over 100 faculty and staff who constitute the resident membership of Alpha Chapter. Over half of these were elected at other institutions and came to Laramie to make their careers. They bring a rich trove of intellectual experience to the university, and they join in applauding the students elected every year. Credit must also be given to the department heads, deans, and administrators who recognize and support PBK at UW. Prominent among these is former president Philip Dubois (PBK UC Davis, 1972). He left as his legacy the Phil and Lisa Dubois President's Excellence Fund, and his successor, president Tom Buchanan (2005-13), pledged it to PBK, writing in 2010:

This endowment specifies that the income from the endowment "... shall be used by the University of Wyoming president to address opportunities to develop programs and activities that will enhance excellence at the university." No other honorary in academia is as highly esteemed as that of Phi Beta Kappa. Phil Dubois was a proud member of the organization, and I know that he would agree with me that we should do everything we can institutionally to promote and support membership in the organization.

Phi Beta Kappa at Wyoming used to be the province of the College of Arts and Sciences, but today we have resident members (faculty/staff) in all the colleges. Students are elected from Business (economics) and Agriculture (microbiology), anywhere the liberal arts are alive and well.

Many members of Alpha of Wyoming have achieved distinction in their careers. Seven buildings at UW were named for members. The geologist S. H. Knight was selected as the Wyoming Citizen of the Century, and Aven Nelson's legacy is equally celebrated. Both were PBK members.

As expected, PBKs go on into academics as distinguished historians. In fact the standard history of Wyoming was written by a member, as was the classic history of UW cited above. Presidents, provosts, and deans of

colleges and universities are well-represented including one who went on to become governor of the state. Some members have followed Ambassador Fran Dickman who rose in the Foreign Service and was an active member of Alpha Chapter after his retirement and return to Laramie, serving as Treasurer for nearly two decades.

Law attracts many Wyoming PBKs, such as the most recent appointee to the Wyoming Supreme Court, former Supreme Court justices, or a District Court judge who majored in philosophy. Some have been professors of law; some, judges or lawyers. Importantly, several of our PBK members-in-course have also served in the Wyoming House or Senate.

Excellence in the liberal arts helps prepare the best of our medical practitioners. Medicine is among the most-favored careers for PBK members, and dentists also abound. Among our ranks are poets laureate, journalists, literary scholars and editors, and a distinguished publisher of fine books.

Two of the top people in the Smithsonian Institution are in Alpha Chapter. So, too, are the guiding spirit of UW anthropology and the world's expert on Easter Island. Three of Wyoming's most distinguished geologists were members, as is the current Director of Earth Sciences at the National Science Foundation. Excellent botanists have followed Aven Nelson.

Let's not forget business and industry. Here too, excellence in the liberal arts and sciences has prepared many. The management consultant who helped rebuild Japan after WWII was a member of Alpha Chapter. Board members, company presidents, and executives are numerous. Many run their own businesses or have been involved in banking.

The liberal arts are truly liberating, opening a world of possibilities to their most astute practitioners. The members of Alpha of Wyoming summon you to join them in promoting these arts to the coming generations of UW students. And though PBK may select only a few, the values it espouses will enhance the lives of all.

In conclusion we need to remember the words of Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court, Charles Evans Hughes spoken in 1930 at the 100th anniversary of the Alpha of Rhode Island (Brown University):

The unique position of Phi Beta Kappa, and its usefulness, can be safeguarded only by unremitting attention to what has become the law of its being. The prestige of the Society is due to the fact that it is an association of individuals of scholarly attainments who have proved their merit according to the accepted standards of college discipline. The best proof of the utility of the Society is the esteem in which the election is held. Whatever may be said of the value of various activities proposed for the organization, the essential thing is to hold to the theory of the Society as a fellowship of scholars, admission to which is an honor conferred by reason of demonstrated worth. The success of Phi Beta Kappa continues to lie in what it is, rather than in what it does.

The particular interest in Phi Beta Kappa is in liberal education. Whatever debate there may be as to its exact definition, or its prerequisites, it persists as an ideal. Intensive critical study of educational aims and methods has found nothing to take its place. It means the development by careful training of the capacity to appreciate what has been done and thought, the ability to make worthwhile appraisals of achievements, doctrines, theories, proposals. It is liberal because it emancipates; it signifies freedom from the tyranny of ignorance, and, from what is worse, the dominion of folly.

At this time, when the world stands in need of every influence which favors intellectual discipline and achievement, as against a complacent indifference, the service of Phi Beta Kappa is of heightened value. It holds aloft the old banner of scholarship, and to the students who have turned aside from the easier paths and by their talent and fidelity have proved themselves to be worthy, it gives the fitting recognition of a special distinction.

The history of UW Phi Beta Kappa was researched and written by Elizabeth Szott, University of Wyoming PBK, 2013

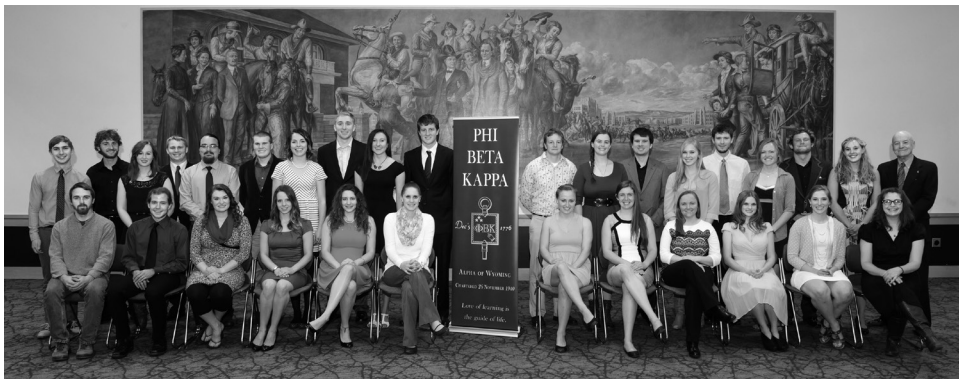
"Toward its Centennial" was written by Eric Nye, Ph.D, Professor of English at the University of Wyoming, PBK, 1974, St. Olaf College



Bottom row: Dr. Ruth Hudson, Dean P. T. Miller, Mrs. Ella Maxwell, C. P. Arnold, Dr. Aven Nelson, Dr. Laura A. White, Dr. Ottis Rechard, Eleanor Couzan.
Middle row: Weldon Litsey, Dr. Clara R. McIntyre, Joseph Brown, Jane Ralston, L. L. Smith, Mrs. Milton Zagel, Ted Kiscaris, Dr. Lillian G. Portenier, Miss Anne Winslow, W. O. Clough.
Top row: Mrs. Hermann Rahn, Raymond Embree, Dr. Henry T. Northen, Dr. Robert Bruce, Dr. Alfred Larson, Dr. H. D. Thomas, C. A. Cinnamon, Tom Kirby, Mrs. Marguerite Bedford.

Charter Members of Alpha of Wyoming and their Home Chapters:

Howland H. Bailey (Haverford College, 1932)
Marguerite K. Bedford (Nebraska, 1917)
Robert H. Bruce (Ohio State, 1928)
Wilson O. Clough (Union College, 1917)
Eleanor Couzens (Colorado, 1933)
Arthur Griswold Crane (Carleton College, 1915)
Verna E. Grubbs (Grinnell College, 1916)
Hugh W. Hetherington (Colorado, 1923)
Ruth Hudson (Texas-Austin, 1922)
Alfred Taft Larson (Colorado, 1932)
Weldon Litsey (Texas-Austin, 1932)
Clara Frances McIntyre (Radcliffe College, 1915)
Ella W. Maxwell (Alumna of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1909)
Pleasant T. Miller (Texas-Austin, 1923)
Keith Morrison (Kansas, 1931)
Henry T. Northen (Washington State, 1932)
Kathryn C. Peterson (Colorado College, 1912)
Lillian G. Portenier (Nebraska, 1922)
Ottis G. Rechard (Gettysburg College, 1931)
John W. Scott (Alumnus of Missouri, 1901)
Laurence L. Smith (Northwestern, 1931)
Laura A. White (Nebraska, 1904)



Short references:

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Wilson O. Clough, *A History of the University of Wyoming*, 1887-1964 (np: 1965).

Deborah Hardy, *Wyoming University: The First 100 Years, 1886-1986* (Laramie: University of Wyoming, 1986).

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General information is also available on the Society's website:
www.pbk.org

Special thanks to Prof. Phil Roberts of the UW History Department and the AHC Staff, especially former director Mark Greene, himself a resident member of Alpha Chapter.

Image Top: Phi Beta Kappa Club, ca. 1948. Identified Members include:

Back Row: John Reed, Hugh Hetherington, Wilson Clough

Next Row: Bill Solheim, Lillian Portenier, Dorothy Irvine, Al Larson, Carl Cinnamon

2nd Row from Front: P.T. Miller, C.F. McIntyre, Ruth Hudson, Hail Fischer, Henry Northen, John Scott

Front Row: Unidentified student, Bob Bruce, Virginia Dexter, Francois Dickman, unidentified student

Images Center: (L) First Initiation dinner, 1940; (R) Initiation Ceremony, 2015

Image Bottom: Phi Beta Kappa Initiation Ceremony, 2015

Images courtesy: American Heritage Center (historic); UW Photo Services (contemporary)

