



THE  
PHI BETA KAPPA  
SOCIETY  
ALPHA OF CALIFORNIA

Fall 2021

Dear Fellow Members of ΦBK,

Greetings from Cal. As you know, Phi Beta Kappa champions freedom of inquiry and expression, breadth of intellectual perspective, the cultivation of skills of deliberation and ethical reflection, the pursuit of wisdom, and the application of the fruits of scholarship and research in practical life. We are inspired by the hope that a world influenced by these values will be more just and peaceful. All of our members have two things in common: the pursuit of excellence and the spirit of giving to society. Our Alpha of California Chapter is no exception.

Thanks to you, we have made a significant contribution to student life here at Cal with our Graduate Fellowship Program, which has consistently been able to fund two or three \$7500 awards per year to PBK members enrolled in Berkeley graduate programs. While these awards are far from covering the entire expense of a year of graduate study, they do offer vital supplementary support allowing students working on their dissertation to undertake essential research travel or to devote full time to research and writing without the need for distracting employment.

Through your generosity last year, we made awards to three outstanding doctoral students: Greyson Abid, Mary Mussman and Talia Prussin.. Greyson is pursuing a Ph.D. in Philosophy. His dissertation is on “Recognition: The Interface Between Perception and Prior Knowledge.” Mary is pursuing a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. Her dissertation is entitled “Intimate Literatures: Queer Femininity, Pragmatics, Community.” Talia’s Ph.D. studies are in Ancient History & Mediterranean Archaeology. Her dissertation is titled “This Land is Our Land: Financing Empires Before and After Alexander.” Greyson is grateful for the fellowship and reports: “With the help of a Phi Beta Kappa fellowship, I will be able to finish my dissertation over the coming summer. I will also be able to more deeply research the empirical literature adjacent to my field, a task that would not have been possible if I were simultaneously teaching during that period.”

Please join us this year in making a contribution to continue this outstanding tradition of philanthropy. What better investment in our future can we make than to support our graduate students and fellow Phi Betes?

**To make a donation online**, you may go to <https://give.berkeley.edu/fund/FB0430000> at any time. The donation form is easy to use – don’t forget to see which employers match gifts. The site provides additional information for those of you who are able and wish to do more: donating securities, making gifts in kind, and how to establish an endowment. **Contributions by regular mail** are also welcome. Your check should be payable to *Phi Beta Kappa (Fund B0430)* and sent to:

University of California, Berkeley  
Gift Services, UDAR  
1995 University Avenue, Suite 400  
Berkeley, CA 94704-1070

Please accept my most sincere thanks. If you are a new donor, I welcome you to a most worthwhile investment in the future of scholarly excellence. To keep up with Chapter news, please visit our website ([pbk.berkeley.edu](http://pbk.berkeley.edu)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ucberkeleyphibetakappa](http://www.facebook.com/ucberkeleyphibetakappa)). With your support, we look forward to continuing our tradition of furthering the pursuit of excellence in the liberal arts and sciences.

With gratitude,

Professor Donald J. Mastronarde, President  
Executive Council  
The Phi Beta Kappa Society  
Alpha of California