President’s Message

Thriving in Challenging Times

Congratulations on the completion of another school year, especially to you graduating seniors and graduate students! The 2020-2021 academic year was anything but conventional. Little did any of us expect that after the initial transition to online learning in March of
In short, we as a chapter and BYU community adapted to the challenges before us, not only surviving this past year, but thriving in our current circumstances. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the initial charter of the BYU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. Since its establishment in 1951, the BYU Chapter has regularly been recognized as one of the top Phi Kappa Phi chapters in the nation. Fittingly, the National Phi Kappa Phi Office awarded the BYU Chapter the Circle of Excellence Gold Award for the 2020-2021 academic year in recognition of our chapter’s work in promoting excellence at our institution and engaging the community of scholars in service to others. This is an impressive accomplishment, especially during the current pandemic.

As fellow BYU chapter members, I encourage you to internalize the mission statement of Phi Kappa Phi “to engage the community of scholars in service to others.” Likewise, the BYU chapter bylaws stipulate that chapter members exhibit good character and “accept the challenge to live constantly above reproach.” As we strive to live up to these lofty objectives, we will in turn be better suited to provide service in our communities, wherever we may be. Despite the unique and sometimes uncertain circumstances in which we find ourselves, I hope that we can take the lessons learned from these challenging times and apply them to the betterment of the world around us.

Michael Goates
BYU Chapter President
Phi Kappa Phi
Student Vice Presidents’ Message

We hope you are all experiencing that being a member of Phi Kappa Phi can be much more than just another line on your resume.

The mission of Phi Kappa Phi is to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others.

BYU’s chapter of Phi Kappa Phi is committed to three main goals:

1. Provide opportunities to serve
2. Provide professional development activities
3. Provide events to network and develop friendships

This last year, we have been limited on completing all three goals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we have completed meaningful online service through two projects. During the Fall semester, our chapter participated in a virtual service project of transcribing photos of graves through Billion-Graves, to make the photos even more useful and help people discover their ancestors.

This past semester, we teamed up with Vineyard, a Y-Serve organization, to do service for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We were able to help with FamilySearch indexing, transcribing Church music, and transcribing the historic Nauvoo Neighbor Newspaper.

We are hoping that next school year (depending on the pandemic) we will be able to provide in-person events to network and develop friendships! To get the most out of your Phi Kappa Phi experience, we encourage you to get involved and take advantage of opportunities to learn and serve.

Robert Nay and Alex Reed

BYU Chapter Student Vice Presidents
Phi Kappa Phi

2020 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award

Dr. Valerie Hegstrom, professor in the BYU Department of Spanish & Portuguese, provided the Phi Kappa Phi Distinguished Faculty Lecture on Thursday, November 5, 2020 entitled The Love of Learning: Early Modern Iberian Women Writers as Advocates for Women’s Education

In the Middle Ages and the Early
Modern period, many societal forces limited women’s access to education. Debates circulated about whether women were capable of learning and whether it was appropriate to educate them. Not surprisingly, women writers of the time held strong opinions about their own learning, about what kinds of knowledge women should be taught, and about women’s capabilities to learn and contribute. Dr. Hegstrom described what early women writers from Spain and Portugal had to say about learning and related it to problems we face today as we strive to educate women and men.

A video recording of Dr. Hegstrom’s lecture is available at: https://player.vimeo.com/video/486048054

Dr. Valerie Hegstrom received her PhD from the University of Kansas. Her research focuses on the recovery of literary works by Early Modern women who wrote in Spanish and Portuguese. She coordinates the BYU Global Women’s Studies Program and serves as faculty advisor to the Women’s Studies Honor Society.

Recent Chapter Activities

Vineyard Service Project

On Tuesday, April 13th, the BYU Chapter joined Vineyard, a Y-Serve organization, to do an online service project. Vineyard at BYU does online service for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and meets online every Tuesday at 5:30 PM.

During this project Phi Kappa Phi members participated in a variety of online projects, including:

- FamilySearch Indexing https://tech.churchofjesuschrist.org/projects
- Transcribing the Historic Nauvoo Neighbor Newspaper https://goo.gl/g485Jo
- Donating Photos as Stock Images for the Church https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/topics/service/create/photos/get-involved?lang=eng
- Cleaning up Sources on Church History Wikipedia Pages bit.ly/VineyardWikipedia

You can volunteer for future Vineyard service projects at: https://yserve.byu.edu/Vineyard

BillionGraves Service Project

Across the world, gravestones are deteriorating, and erosion is erasing precious details of our ancestors’ lives. Volunteers have uploaded photos of these gravestones to BillionGraves to preserve them. During November and December 2020, BYU Phi Kappa Phi members transcribed the information on some of these gravestones.
photos (similar to FamilySearch Indexing) to make it easier for people to discover their ancestors.

This project continued over a three-week period, ending on December 7, 2020. Those who completed at least 15 transcriptions were entered into a drawing to win Cougar Cash, and those who completed at least 30 were entered into a second drawing!

Even though this activity is over, you can still be involved. To participate, go to https://billiongraves.com and click on ‘Transcribe’ under the ‘Volunteer’ tab.

Highlights from the 70th Annual BYU Phi Kappa Phi Initiation Ceremony
March 17, 2021

Initiations

As the 2020 initiation banquet was canceled due to the pandemic, we recognized both the 2020 and 2021 initiates during this online ceremony. In total, 162 candidates from 2020 and 167 from 2021 were initiated at the ceremony: 10 faculty members, 54 graduate students, 179 senior students, and 86 junior students.

Keynote Address:

Brent L. Top
BYU Professor of Church History & Doctrine

Dr. Brent L. Top of the BYU Department of Church History & Doctrine delivered the keynote address at the 2021 annual initiation ceremony, entitled Honors, Honorable, and Honoring: What It Means to Be in the Lord’s Honor Society.

In this address, Dr. Top discussed the various meanings of the word honor. Dr. Top explained that he was honored to be inducted into the BYU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi in 1985 as a PhD student in the College of Education. This specific honor represents one of the meanings of this word, which is great achievement. Synonyms include such terms as acclaim, commendation, accolades, or praise. These terms reflect many of the worldly views of honor. A second set of synonyms for honor provides a substantially different view of the meaning of this word. Terms such as obeisance, veneration, reverence, or exaltation provide a nobler, more profound view of honor. Dr. Top invited the new initiates to consider the expectations and stan-
standards required to belong in the Lord’s honor society. For the Lord, honor can be defined as high moral worth.

Dr. Top explained that President Russell M. Nelson is an example of an individual who exemplifies both types of honor, having accomplished outstanding medical discoveries and advancements, while also devoting his life to living the Lord’s standards to encourage high moral worth, both in himself and others. Dr. Top further explained that the word honorable has to do with people and actions that are honest, fair, and worthy of respect. A particularly insightful definition of honorable is to bring honor, credit, and respect to its owner. Dr. Top compared this definition to the Hebrew word segullah that appears in the Hebrew Bible. Segullah literally means a peculiar treasure, signifying that something or someone is a prized possession or a jewel of great worth. Members of the Lord’s honor society are indeed a peculiar treasure, a prized possession, and a pearl of great price. We truly become honorable as we seek to bring honor, credit, and respect to our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lastly, Dr. Top elaborated on the word honoring, which he defined as treating others as valuable, costly, and precious as beloved daughters and sons of God in their own right. Important synonyms for honoring include seeing others through God’s eyes, loving, respecting, serving, and forgiving. Dr. Top encouraged all to seek to obtain and maintain membership in the Lord’s honor society by having high moral worth, being honorable, and continually honoring, loving, serving, and understanding others.
Connie, an acknowledges Librarian, received the 2021 Phi Kappa Phi Distinguished Service Award. Connie retired in December 2020 after 41 years of service at the University. Connie has served in various positions in the BYU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi since 1991, including the special projects officer (precursor to the college contests) from 1991 to 2001, treasurer from 2004 to 2011, and most recently as historian from 2010 to 2020, where she helped to preserve an important history of chapter functions and activities. As a valued member of the chapter’s executive committee, Connie provided sound advice and regularly volunteered to help with countless service projects and activities.

**2021 Honored Member Award**

**Dr. Brent L. Top**, BYU professor of Church History & Doctrine, received the 2021 Phi Kappa Phi Honored Member Award. Dr. Top also provided the keynote address at the online initiation ceremony. He received a Bachelors degree in history, Masters degrees in Instructional Media and Ancient Scripture, and a PhD in Instructional Science and Technology, all from BYU, where he graduated with honors.

As dean of Religious Education, he created the Office of Religious Outreach and the Religious Outreach Council. In that capacity he hosted scores of religious leaders and scholars of religion at BYU. After his term as dean, he was appointed the coordinator of the Office of Religious Outreach and chair of the Religious Outreach Council. He served in those roles until his appointment as holder of the Richard L. Evans Chair of Religious Understanding.

He is a member of the Latter-day Saint-Jewish Academic Dialogue group as well as the LDS-Evangelical Dialogue group. He is the author of 20 Latter-day Saint books and numerous articles on doctrinal, historical, educational, and sociological subjects. Professor Top has received the Student Alumni Association’s Teacher of the Year Award and the Robert J. Matthews Award for Teaching Excellence in Religious Education at BYU.

**National Award & Grant Recipients**

**Phi Kappa Phi National Fellowship**

Each year the national Phi Kappa Phi organization awards fifty-four graduate fellowships of $8,500 each, six at $20,000 each, and two at $35,000 each to members entering the first year of graduate or professional study. Each chapter can choose one nominee to represent the chapter in the fellowship competition.
Love of Learning Awards

Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards 200 Love of Learning Awards, valued at $500 each. Love of Learning Awards help fund post-baccalaureate studies and/or career development for active Phi Kappa Phi members to include, but not limited to, graduate or professional studies, doctoral dissertations, continuing education, career development, and travel related to teaching or studies.

2020 BYU Love of Learning Winners

Jacquelyn Dunn  Jonathan Garcia  Chanel Mercado

Chapter Scholarship & Grant Recipients

Chapter Scholarships

Each year, the BYU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi awards multiple full-tuition scholarships for one semester to undergraduate chapter members. These scholarships are made possible by the generous endowments from Ruth Brasher and Carol Ellsworth. Carol (left) and Ruth (right) are retired BYU professors in Home Economics and have been supportive of Phi Kappa Phi for many years.

Study Abroad Grants

Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grants are designed to help support undergraduates as they seek knowledge and experience in their academic fields by studying abroad. Seventy-five $1,000 grants are awarded each year. Typically several BYU students are awarded Study Abroad Grants each year.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Study Abroad Grants are on a temporary hiatus. We look forward to offering these awards in the near future.
2020-2021  
**Brasher Scholarship Recipients**

Rebekah Leavitt-Hatch  
Emma Benson  
Austin Stewart

2020-2021  
**Ellsworth Scholarship Recipients**

Ethan Izu  
Samantha Layton Palmer  
Daniel Rose

2021 College Competition Winners

**Family, Home & Social Sciences**

Janna Pickett  
George Garcia  
Colt Halter

**Fine Arts & Communications**

Mariah Sam  
Eliza Smith-Driggs

**Humanities**

Hannah Johnson  
Sam Jacob

**Life Sciences**

Ella Nysetvold  
Curtis Hoffman  
Morgan McBride

**Nursing**

Mikayla Stevens

**Physical & Mathematical Sciences**

Connor Morris  
Amy Woodall
Love of Learning Award

**Deadline: 30 June 2021**

Two hundred awards, at $500 each, are distributed each year and help fund post-baccalaureate studies and career development including graduate or professional studies, doctoral dissertations, continuing education, travel related to teaching/studies, and more. For more details see: [http://www.phikappaphi.org/grants-awards/love-of-learning#WG7f9LYrK3U](http://www.phikappaphi.org/grants-awards/love-of-learning#WG7f9LYrK3U)

Dissertation Fellowship

**Deadline: 30 November 2021**

Ten Dissertation Fellowships of $10,000 each are awarded annually to active members who are doctoral candidates and are completing dissertations. The fellowship supports students in the dissertation writing stage of doctoral study and is for 12 months of dissertation writing. For more details see: [http://www.phikappaphi.org/grants-awards/dissertation-fellowship#WG7Yd7YrI6g](http://www.phikappaphi.org/grants-awards/dissertation-fellowship#WG7Yd7YrI6g)

Graduate Research Grant

**Deadline: 30 November 2021**

Grants of up to $1,500 are available to members attending graduate school to provide funding for research in support of career development opportunities, such as conducting or presenting research. For more details see: [https://www.phikappaphi.org/grants-awards/graduate-students/graduate-research#YHXKA-hKg2w](https://www.phikappaphi.org/grants-awards/graduate-students/graduate-research#YHXKA-hKg2w)
### Faculty/Staff

- Kristen DeTienne
- Jeanette Drake
- Valerie Hegstrom
- James O. Mayo
- Charles Swift

### Graduates

- Devri Denise Adams
- Meagan C. Anderson
- Farah Arabian
- Donika Dianne Byng
- Diana Gabriela Calvopina
- Chavez
- Michael Clark
- Travis S. Corbin
- C Chanel Earl
- Alexander Erikson
- Caroline (Cory) Fisher
- Spencer Flake
- Cassiopeia Fletcher
- Annalisa Freire
- Susanna Fullmer
- Tyler Gatherum
- Melissa True Gibbs
- Bethany Gustafson
- Michele Ivins Halls
- Jacob A. Larson
- Sylvie Diana Litteldale
- William Grant Ludlam
- Christopher F. Melling
- John H. Oldroyd
- Abraham Quaye
- Rachel Rackham
- Chloe Rampton
- Suzanne Rice
- Rajarshi Roy
- Jonathan Skaggs
- Lourdes Vieira
- Summer Weaver
- Mallory Keith Wixom
- Ryan Mitchell Worth

### Seniors

- Trevor Andrus

### Juniors

- Connor James Alder
- Boston Jay Andersen

### Graduates

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- Meagan C. Anderson
- Farah Arabian
- Donika Dianne Byng
- Diana Gabriela Calvopina
- Chavez
- Michael Clark
- Travis S. Corbin
- C Chanel Earl
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