

PHI BETA DELTA

What is Phi Beta Delta?

Phi Beta Delta is the first U.S. honor society dedicated to recognizing individuals who have demonstrated scholarly achievement in the areas of international education and exchange. The intrinsic values of the Society are reflected not only in its name: **Phi** (Philomatheia)- love of knowledge, **Beta** (Biothremmonia)- regard for human life, and **Delta** (Diapherein)- achieving excellence, but also in its colors, red and gold, which symbolize the strength of humankind and the energy of the sun from which all people and cultures draw strength. The major objective of Phi Beta Delta is to recognize scholarly achievement in international educational interchange. By increasing the recognition, credibility, and importance of the international experience and by developing a campus network of students and faculty involved in international endeavors, the Society creates a catalyst on campus for international academic-based programming. In addition, through the national organization, Phi Beta Delta connects individuals on campus and throughout the U.S. involved in the international experience by recognizing the importance of these achievements in higher education.

Membership

Membership in Phi Beta Delta is open to individuals who have demonstrated scholarly achievement in the international area. There are basically three categories of members: first, visa students who have demonstrated high scholastic achievement at their institution; second, students who have demonstrated high scholastic achievement in the pursuit of academic studies abroad in exchange programs or through participation in comparable experiences where academic relevance can be demonstrated; and third, distinguished foreign and domestic faculty/staff who have been involved in recognized international endeavors such as teaching, administering exchange programs, conducting research, programming, or providing services to international students and scholars.

How does Phi Beta benefit the campus and its members?

The most significant benefit of the Society is its capacity to address a real need on many campuses in providing recognition for scholarly achievement in the international area and to serve as a natural vehicle for the development of campus-based international programs. Initiatives already undertaken by various chapters include an occasional paper series, a speaker's bureau, informal gatherings for returning faculty and students from overseas, fund-raisers for student scholarships, and award banquets to recognize outstanding students and faculty in the international area.

When was Phi Beta Delta founded?

Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Delta was officially founded on February 27, 1986 at the California State University, Long Beach. In the Fall of 1986, 38 institutions formed chapters, and in May of 1987, the 38 chapter coordinators met in Long Beach, California, to inaugurate the founding of the National Organization.

What does the National Organization do?

At the first national meeting, the 38 chapter coordinators adopted a set of by-laws, elected a slate of officers for the 87/88 National Board of Directors, and planned various national initiatives including: a Society refereed journal, a National Newsletter, a Manual for Chapters, a National Scholarship Program and a second National Meeting in Washington D.C. in May, 1988. The National Organization is primarily responsible for providing administrative leadership in the development of chapters and in the selection and formation of new chapters. The Regional Vice Presidents serve as the liaison between the National Organization and the chapters in their respective regions.