

CEREMONY FOR INSTALLING CHAPTERS FOR PHI KAPPA PHI

Revised February 2012

Introduction and Philosophy

Thank you, _____, President/Chancellor _____, Provost/VPAA _____,
distinguished faculty, outstanding students, and honored guests.

We meet here today to install a new chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at
_____. Before I install the chapter and its first officers, it is appropriate to
consider briefly (1) the purposes of honor societies, (2) the history of Phi Kappa Phi, (3) the current
governance structure of the Society, and (4) a list of awards available to Phi Kappa Phi members.

In the 1920s, a Phi Kappa Phi scholar observed that the following are among the most important
purposes of honor societies:

- To identify and give recognition to excellence in scholarly achievement;
- To foster high standards in the individual and in the host college or university;
- To help define intellectual life to the community and promote such life;
- To provide for the association of persons of similar intellectual ideals;
- To give the scholar confidence in self, and the world confidence in the scholar; and;
- To demonstrate the compatibility of high scholarship and good character.

Phi Kappa Phi continues to champion these six purposes. Moreover, Phi Kappa Phi wishes to be
known as an honor society, not an honorary society. Membership is a distinct honor. It is earned and

not simply conferred. Membership is strictly controlled by the standards set forth in the Society's Bylaws, and the number selected for membership by any chapter must never exceed the number set forth by these Bylaws.

Phi Kappa Phi's standards for awarding membership to initiates are high. So, too, are its standards for awarding chapters to colleges and universities. That is why, before any chapter of Phi Kappa Phi is established an evaluation must be made of:

- The educational philosophy and purposes of the institution seeking the chapter;
- Its quality of instruction and research;
- The quality of its personnel (especially regarding the strength and vitality of its faculty); and
- The quality of its facilities.

Phi Kappa Phi must be assured that an institution of higher education is able and willing to support the achievements demanded by the Society of its initiates.

The characteristic of Phi Kappa Phi that makes it unique among the leading honor societies is its policy of selecting members from all schools, divisions, or departments of an institution. The Society selects members working on either baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degrees from diverse fields...all disciplines. We believe in the legitimacy of scholarship in all disciplines and in the value of cooperation among all branches of human knowledge.

History

To appreciate more fully what Phi Kappa Phi has become, a brief reminder of some of its history is important. In 1897, Marcus L. Urann, a student at Maine State College, now the University of Maine at Orono, proposed to his professors the need for an honor society built upon a broader base and with

wider purpose than any in existence at that time. Urann and university president Abram Harris, assisted by interested professors, succeeded in organizing the Lambda Sigma Eta Society, an academic honor society open to superior students regardless of their academic discipline. Ten students were elected to membership that first year.

After Urann graduated in 1897, President Harris assumed the responsibility for promoting the Society. He enlisted the support of the presidents of Pennsylvania State College, now University, and the University of Tennessee, and in 1900, the Society became a national organization. In the same year, the Society was renamed Phi Kappa Phi from the initials of the three Greek words of its adopted motto, *Philosophia Krateito Photon*. We now translate that motto as “Let the Love of Learning Rule Humanity.”

In 1915, the Society began publication of *The Phi Kappa Phi Journal*, which has evolved through several stages into today’s award-winning publication, the *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*. And in 1933, the Society awarded its first graduate fellowship. Today the Graduate Fellowship Program awards over \$330,000 annually in support of the first year of graduate or professional study.

Growth of the Society was slow in the early years. It took seventy years for the first 100 chapters to be established. But growth has accelerated in more recent years, despite the Society’s higher criteria for awarding chapters. Chapters are found in forty-nine states, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico. Well over 1 million persons have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi since its founding ___ years ago; approximately 700,000 are alive today.

Today we shall install the ___ chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. This is chapter number 3__.

Current Operations of the Society

Today, the legislative body of Phi Kappa Phi is its Biennial Convention which is composed of the twelve members of the Society's Board of Directors and a delegate from each chapter. The policies and decisions made by the Biennial Convention are administered and implemented by the Board of Directors. The Society Headquarters, under the supervision of its Executive Director, keeps the Society's records and conducts its day-to-day operations.

The Phi Kappa Phi Foundation was established in 1969 to handle the chief financial matters of the Society. The twelve members of the Board of Directors also serve as the Trustees of the Foundation. The funding of the Phi Kappa Phi awards programs come primarily from the Foundation.

The standards of membership in Phi Kappa Phi are set forth in the Society Bylaws. The Board of Directors and the Society Headquarters are the custodians of these standards, and chapter officers are entrusted with the local application of these standards and are required to maintain them at the proper level.

Opportunities for Active Chapters and Chapter Members

Phi Kappa Phi is justly proud of its awards program, which is by far the largest such program among honor societies. A brief mention of these awards is appropriate at this time. (Note: Installing Officer should check to make sure figures are current as they change frequently)

1. The flagship of the Phi Kappa Phi awards program is its Fellowships Program. This program awards annually 57 Graduate Fellowships at \$5,000. Additionally, there are three “super” Fellowships that bear the name of Marcus Urann, Phi Kappa Phi’s founder. They are \$15,000 each.
2. Study Abroad Grants are awarded annually to 45 students studying at Phi Kappa Phi member institutions and provide \$1,000 each in support.
3. Literacy Grants of up to \$2,500 are available to Phi Kappa Phi chapters and individual members to fund ongoing literacy projects or to create new initiatives.
4. The Love of Learning Awards are granted to active Phi Kappa Phi members for post-baccalaureate studies or career development. Recipients of the Fellowship award are not eligible to apply. 80 awards, up to \$500 each, will be awarded, making the annual funding for this award \$40,000.
5. Two awards are given to Phi Kappa Phi faculty in each biennium:
 - a. A Phi Kappa Phi Scholar Award (\$1,000)
 - b. A Phi Kappa Phi Artist Award (\$1,000)

In addition, individual chapters award thousands of dollars annually. Indeed, chapters are encouraged to set up and maintain such activities.

Installation of the Chapter

Just a few months ago several persons here at _____ signed and presented to the Society’s Board of Directors, a petition for a chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. The Board of Directors has approved your petition.

Once the new chapter has been installed, it should take a position of intellectual leadership within its institution. Because of its multidisciplinary nature, the chapter is in a distinctive, indeed, unique position to do this.

Each chapter is charged with the following:

- Annually selecting and initiating new members from the student body and the faculty, as well as from the professional staff and the alumni of the university.
- Holding at least two meetings a year.
- Making the Society and its aims known within the academic community.
- Adopting a set of activities which contribute to the intellectual life of the university.

It is important that the work of the chapter in each of these four areas be instituted in the chapter's early years. Thus the energy and commitment needed to fulfill this charge will come largely from the chapter's charter members.

The individuals who signed the petition for a chapter are to be designated Charter Members. I ask that these individuals now rise and accept this obligation by repeating the following after me:

I accept the obligation / expressed in the motto of The Honor
Society of Phi Kappa Phi / "Let the Love of Learning Rule
Humanity": / I agree to assist, as opportunity offers / in fostering the chief aims of the
Society / These are / to recognize and to encourage academic excellence.

Thank you, please be seated.

Charter Signing

It is now my pleasure, on behalf of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, to present a charter to these individuals. I would ask that each of you come forward as your name is called and sign the charter.

(NAMES ARE CALLED BY A DESIGNATED PERSON,
THEY COME FORWARD AND SIGN THE CHARTER)

Upon execution of this instrument, this charter, by us here severally, as well as previously by the Society's President and its Executive Director; and by virtue of the authority delegated to me, an officer of the Society and Member of its Board of Directors;

I hereby declare that from this day forward, a chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi exists at _____ and shall be designated as Chapter number 3__.

Installation of Chapter Officers

It is my privilege at this time to install the first chapter officers for this Chapter #_3__. Each will serve for the term specified in your chapter bylaws. Will all the persons to be installed as chapter officers please stand? (Wait until assembled)

The progress of your chapter in the coming term of office is in your hands. Further, as the first set of officers, it is essential that you set a tone of excellence for the operation of the chapter. What you do will be a pattern for others to follow. Only through your leadership and dedication, can the _____ chapter of Phi Kappa Phi establish a tradition of excellence in itself; and in recognizing and promoting academic excellence in all phases of the university. Please be advised that information

and assistance are available to chapter officers through the Society Headquarters and/or the Regional Vice President.

Will the newly-elected President please step forward?

_____, you have been selected by your fellow members to serve as the first President of the _____ chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. Upon you, to a large degree, will rest the responsibility for the success and welfare of the chapter. As first president of the chapter, you have the added responsibility of seeing that proper administrative lines are followed, programs established, and initiations conducted. Please repeat after me:

I, state your name, / pledge myself to fulfill / to the best of my knowledge and ability / the provisions / of the Society and Chapter Bylaws / and to perform the responsibilities invested in me / by those who share / my commitment to honor and excellence.

_____, you are now officially installed as the first President of this Chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. My congratulations!

We shall install the remaining officers of the chapter as a group.

Would each of you step forward as I read your name and the office to which you have been elected?

_____, Secretary
_____, Treasurer
_____, Public Relations Officer
_____, Scholarships and Awards Coordinator

(Other officers may be included in this list of officers.)

Please repeat after me:

I promise faithfully to perform/ the responsibilities assigned to me/
in my chapter office/, and pledge that I shall support/
the chapter activities/ designed to recognize and to promote academic excellence on this campus.

Congratulations to each of you! You are now the duly installed officers of
Phi Kappa Phi Chapter number 3__.

At this time, I will turn the program over to your newly-installed President,
_____, who will conduct the first initiation of new members into the Society and
chapter.
