

# THE MEDALLION

NEWSLETTER OF

## PHI BETA DELTA

HONOR SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

CELEBRATING

# 40

YEARS

*Special 40th Anniversary Issue*



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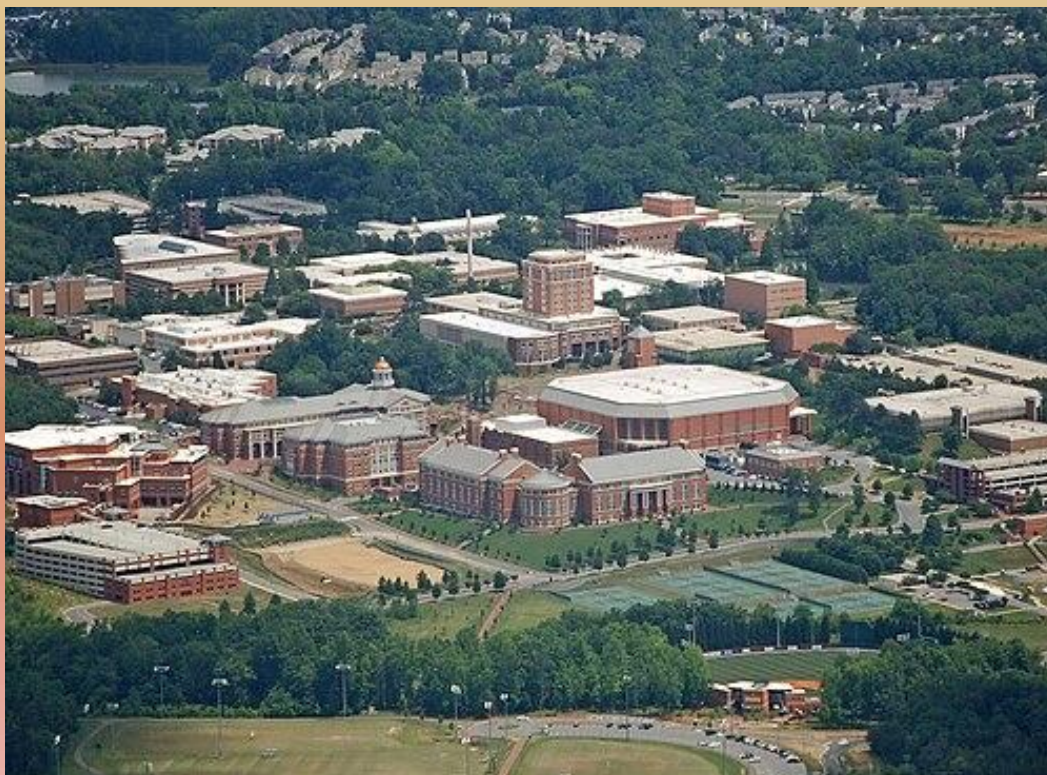
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# Phi Beta Delta Honor Society

## For International Scholars

### Hosting the 40<sup>TH</sup> Annual Conference





# THE MEDALLION

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## PHI BETA DELTA

HONOR SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

### Message from the Executive Director and CEO of PBD



On behalf of the Board of Directors and the National Headquarters, it is a true pleasure to welcome you to the 40th Anniversary & Conference of Phi Beta Delta (PBD) Honor Society for International Scholars.

Four decades ago, our visionary founders saw a world that was becoming increasingly connected, believing that international education was the key to a more enlightened future. Since then, the PBD Honor Society for International Scholars has grown alongside a changing world. International education has expanded in reach and importance, while also facing moments of uncertainty. Through it all, the PBD has remained steady because of a collective commitment to global understanding.

As we come together to celebrate this 40th anniversary, we honor not only the years behind us but the people who made them meaningful. Every chapter leader who organized an induction, every member who fostered dialogue across cultures, and every student who embraced international learning—you are the heart of Phi Beta Delta.

In recent years, we have worked to strengthen that foundation—modernizing our processes, supporting our chapters more intentionally, and ensuring long-term sustainability. These efforts may not always be visible, but they matter. They allow us to continue serving as a strong and reliable home for international scholars.

Today, Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars is more connected and engaged than ever. Our chapters create spaces where cultures are celebrated, ideas are exchanged, and members find a sense of belonging in a global community. What defines us is not only what we recognize, but what we encourage: openness, respect, and a willingness to learn from one another.

As we celebrate forty years, we also look ahead. The future of our Society depends on how we continue to invest in people and possibilities. During this conference, we encourage you to take a few meaningful actions: reach out to someone new and welcome them into this community, bring Phi Beta Delta to life on your campus through an event or initiative, and support opportunities that allow others to experience international education. These actions, though simple, are how legacies continue.

Forty years ago, Phi Beta Delta was founded on the belief that international education matters. Today, that belief is stronger than ever—because of you. Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping shape what comes next.

It will be a great pleasure to meet you all in person at the conference in June.

*The Medallion, 40th Anniversary Issue, May 2026*

**Hyunkyung Oh, Ph.D.**

Executive Director and CEO

Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars





# THE MEDALLION

NEWSLETTER OF

## PHI BETA DELTA

HONOR SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS



### Message from the International President

Warm greetings to every member and friend of the Phi Beta Delta (PBD) Honor Society for International Scholars. On behalf of our global society, it is my deepest honor to celebrate this extraordinary milestone — our 40th Anniversary of PBD! It is an honor to serve as the International President of PBD. The presidential chain of PBD was crafted in Mexico from gold of the Sierra. To me, it represents the links to PBD's global strength over the last 40 years. When I wear the chain, I am humbled by the weight of our shared PBD history and energized by the promise of what lies ahead.

As I have shared before, my own journey to this office began with a still-vivid moment. More than fifteen years ago, I returned from my year-long dissertation research in India as a Ph.D. student at Michigan State University (MSU). At the entrance to the International Office, I saw the striking red-and-gold banner of the Alpha Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Delta. I read the banner's Latin phrase, *Scientia Mutua Mundi*, meaning "the World's Shared Knowledge." I was immediately drawn in and wanted to be part of PBD. A few years later, I was inducted into the Mu Chapter at UNC Charlotte. It has truly been one of the greatest professional honors to serve as the International President of PBD.

*The Medallion, 40th Anniversary Issue, May 2026*

On this 40th Anniversary of PBD, I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Hyunkyung Oh, the PBD Executive Director and CEO, for her leadership at the PBD Headquarters at California State University, San Bernardino. Thank you to all the PBD Presidents, Vice-presidents, and the Officers on the Executive Board who have admirably served the Society. A lit torch is affixed at the top of the PBD logo and this torch symbolizes the enduring global leadership of the members of PBD. I would be remiss, if I did not extend my most sincere thanks to all the alumni, faculty, staff, and students who are PBD members. You all help to keep the PBD torch shining bright.

We live in tumultuous times. We have yet to fully realize the impact of artificial intelligence, for example, or what possible advances in research could help to improve the livelihood of our global community. As part of the 40th Anniversary, I share a challenge to the entire Society that was first presented to me by an undergraduate student leader at UNC Charlotte. This was a reminder to me about what I value most about PBD. Inspiration lives in the next generation, and the courage of young people to be part of advancing the world's shared knowledge in ways we have yet to imagine. The challenge for this 40th Anniversary is to fully engage in the process of learning, unlearning, and relearning. It is a process of staying curious about the globe, to unlearn that which doesn't help humanity, and to stay committed to relearning for the betterment of society and the world.

People committed to one another, to the globe, and to advancing the world's shared knowledge. I believe that is the irreducible core of PBD. It is a core reflected in our Greek letters: Phi, which stands for the love of knowledge; Beta, which stands for the valuing of human life; and Delta, which stands for achieving excellence. These three letters bind us as a Society across international borders. As we celebrate 40 years of PBD and enjoy the memories represented in this special commemorative issue of the Medallion, let's also look forward with joy to the decade ahead. May our PBD torch burn brighter, our Society grow fuller, and our commitment to each other and to the globe become ever more expansive. Happy 40th, PBD!

With much gratitude and global solidarity,

Erik Jon Byker, Ph.D.  
International President  
Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars





# THE MEDALLION

NEWSLETTER OF

**PHI BETA DELTA**

HONOR SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

## *40th Anniversary Issue*

### Board of Directors



#### **International President**

Erik Jon Byker, Ph.D.  
Professor, UNC Charlotte  
Founder, Global-ready Research and Equitable  
Education in Teaching (GREET) Center



#### **Past International President**

Jeffrey J. Simpson, Ph.D.  
Oklahoma State University  
Assistant Dean & Director of  
Global Partnerships



#### **Executive Director**

##### **Executive Director & CEO**

Hyunkyung Oh, Ph.D.  
Professor of Kinesiology  
California State University, San Bernardino



#### **International President Elect**

Dr. Marcia Hardy  
Dean of Young Business School  
Louisiana Christian University (LCU)





# THE MEDALLION

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## PHI BETA DELTA

HONOR SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

### Board of Directors



Dr. Bibiana Diaz  
California State  
University,  
San Bernardino  
West



**Senior International Vice President**  
Dr. Norma George, DML  
Professor of English and Modern Languages  
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania



Ms. Winnie Brophy  
College of Staten Island/The City  
University of New York  
Northeast

### REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS



Dr. Rich Cangro  
Western Illinois University  
Midwest



Dr. Kolawole Michael Afolabi  
Oklahoma  
State University  
Southwest



Dr. Adriana Medina  
Cato COED, UNC Charlotte  
Southeast





# THE MEDALLION

NEWSLETTER OF

## PHI BETA DELTA

HONOR SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

### Board of Directors



**Director of International Chapters**

Sharon Joy, D.M.A.

Northwestern State University of Louisiana (retired)  
Associate Professor of Music Education



**Director of Membership**

Virginia L. Hicks, Ph.D.

Shepherd University, Emerita



**Historian, Archivist**

Ann Marie Legreid, Ph.D.

Shepherd University, Emerita



**Director of Programming**

Weiwen Liao, Ph.D.

Northwestern State University



**Director of Publications**

Michael Smithee, Ed.D.

Syracuse University (Retired)/  
Smithee Associates



**Director of Social Media & Marketing**

Sachinethani Ayabadda Devage  
Oklahoma State University



**Director of Diversity Initiatives**

Rajrani Kalra, Ph.D.

California State University,  
San Bernardino



**Member-at-Large**

Dr. Marcia Sun

Oklahoma State University

For more information, bios, and contact info click link: <https://www.phibetadelta.org/boardOfDirectors.php>

*The Medallion, 40th Anniversary Issue, May 2026*



# THE MEDALLION

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HONOR SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS



## Top 5 Values of Phi Beta Delta

**Academic Enrichment** – Expands global knowledge through educational experiences and research-driven insights.

**Research Advancement** – Inspires new inquiries, generates fresh ideas, and provides opportunities for publication.

**Networking & Collaboration** – Connects scholars, fosters interdisciplinary partnerships, and strengthens the global academic community.

**Professional & Scholarly Renewal** – Rejuvenates commitment to excellence and empowers individuals to drive change.

**Chapter & Community Engagement** – Highlights the impact of Chapter and how they are engaged in the community.



# HISTORY OF THE FOUNDING OF PHI BETA DELTA



## **February 27, 1986**

In 1985, the Center for International Education (CIE) at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) sought to recognize the academic achievements of international students formally, U.S. students returning from study abroad, international scholars, staff involved in international education, and faculty engaged in scholarly international endeavors.

The CIE staff examined the described activity of existing national honor societies and found none that appropriately addressed these populations or specifically focused on the international experience. Therefore, a campus committee was formed, headed by Edward Blankenship, Director of CIE, and Karl W.E. Anatol, Dean of Humanities, to develop an honor society focused on international education and exchange that will serve as a catalyst for international programming. And in this way, the Phi Beta Delta, an honor society for international scholars, was founded on the campus of California State University, Long Beach.

As a result of the enthusiasm of the new members of this honor society and of the university administration, several other universities heard of the formation of Phi Beta Delta and became interested in forming chapters on their campuses. Although it was not in the original plan to consider the development of a national honor society, Drs. Blankenship and Anatol realized, based on the requests and interests of individuals at other institutions, that this organization would be a valuable asset to other campuses. Therefore, the organizing committee at CSULB returned to work and investigated methods for establishing a national honor society.

After much research and discussion, it was decided that the chapter at Long Beach would be designated as the Alpha chapter. The Alpha chapter then invited a number of institutions throughout the U.S. to consider forming chapters. As a result, 38 institutions were authorized by the Alpha Chapter to form charter chapters.

## **May 22, 1987**

The chapter coordinators from these 38 charter institutions met in Long Beach, California, to establish Phi Beta Delta as a national honor society.

To recognize scholarly achievement and leadership in international education and exchange, delegates at the first meeting decided that this new society would publish a refereed journal, organize Annual national conferences, and recognize outstanding individuals through scholarships and awards. Other key decisions and actions taken at the society's first national conference included:

- the establishment of the society's national office
- the adoption of national by-laws;
- the development of a chapter manual;
- the assessment of membership dues
- the empowerment of the board to proceed with the incorporation of the society;
- the selection of Washington, D.C. as the site of the second annual National conference; and
- the election and appointment of the first board of directors.

Editor's note: The author of the above history is unknown; however, it is probably either Else Ochoa-Fernandez or Paul Amaya, possibly around 2010. The Alpha Chapter, founded in 1986, at California State University, Long Beach, is recognized as the founding year for Phi Beta Delta.





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### Message from the Past-President



Reflecting on my journey with the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars, since my induction in 2009, fills me with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. Over the years, my involvement has been defined by cherished memories of cross-cultural celebration, the pursuit of intellectual curiosity across transdisciplinary themes, and a profound camaraderie. From inspiring induction ceremonies to vibrant discussions that challenge my perspectives, PBD has been a constant source of inspiration. Serving in leadership roles—from Chapter Coordinator to International President, and now Past President—allowed me to witness firsthand the incredible dedication of our members, whose passion for international education forms the very heart of our Society.

The true strength of Phi Beta Delta lies in these extraordinary individuals. Throughout my tenure, I have had the distinct privilege of working alongside a brilliant network of scholars, educators, staff, and students who embody global citizenship. They are not just colleagues; they are mentors, visionaries, and lifelong friends. The collaborative environment of our chapters has created a unique sanctuary where diverse ideas thrive, and our community's unwavering commitment to uplifting international scholarship remains a constant source of professional and personal pride.

Like many non-profit organizations, Phi Beta Delta faced unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, which fundamentally disrupted international travel, traditional campus life, and face-to-face connections. Yet, it was during this period of uncertainty that our resilience shone brightest.



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## Past- President continued

Rather than retreating, our leadership and local chapters rallied with remarkable adaptability, leveraging virtual platforms to sustain our global dialogue across borders. Through this collective determination, we did not merely survive; we emerged as a revitalized, energetic, and steadily growing organization, more committed than ever to bridging worlds through scholarship.

As we gather to celebrate the momentous 40th Anniversary of Phi Beta Delta, I am struck by the incredible legacy of excellence we have built since our founding. Reaching this milestone is a testament to the visionary founders, dedicated officers, passionate chapter leaders, and esteemed members whose stewardship has charted our course over the past four decades. To everyone who has poured their time and heart into sustaining our mission, I extend my deepest gratitude. As we look to the future, I wish the Society nothing less than an illustrious next 40 years of advancing global knowledge and inspiring the next generation of international scholars.





# THE MEDALLION

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## PHI BETA DELTA

HONOR SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

### Message from the President-elect



It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the incoming International President of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars and to continue advancing an organization that represents excellence, connection, and global engagement.

Phi Beta Delta is far more than an honor society—it is a vibrant international community of educators, students, professionals, and leaders united by a shared belief that international understanding transforms lives. Our chapters and members embody curiosity, scholarship, service, and a commitment to building meaningful connections across cultures and borders. Every member plays an instrumental role in advancing our mission and expanding the impact of international education.

As I begin this journey alongside our International Board, chapter leaders, and members around the world, I am inspired by the opportunities ahead and energized by what we can accomplish together.

#### **Several initiatives come to mind that will guide our work:**

- **Strengthening Chapter Engagement and Growth** – Expanding opportunities for collaboration, member recognition, leadership development, and sustainable chapter success.
- **Advancing Global Connections** – Creating meaningful international networking opportunities, virtual exchanges, and partnerships that deepen intercultural understanding.
- **Elevating Student and Emerging Scholar Opportunities** – Supporting mentorship, research, experiential learning, and pathways for future global leaders.



## President-elect continued

### **Several initiatives come to mind that will guide our work: continued**

- Promoting Innovation and Inclusive International Education – Encouraging new ideas and practices that broaden access and strengthen global impact.
- Celebrating Excellence and Service – Showcasing the achievements and contributions of members whose work advances international understanding.

I am honored to lead during this exciting era into the next 40 years of Phi Beta Delta's history. Together, with the dedication of our International Board, chapter leadership, and every member, we will continue building a stronger, more connected global community and carrying forward the mission that makes Phi Beta Delta such a dynamic and essential organization.





# **Welcome New Chapters 2025-2026**

## **Theta Omicron**

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
Prescott, AZ

## **Theta Pi**

University College of the Cayman  
Islands  
Cayman Islands

## **Theta Rho**

University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, Utah

## **Theta Sigma**

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-  
Worldwide  
Daytona Beach, Florida

## **Theta Tau**

Weatherford College  
Weatherford, Texas

# 2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS



**2026 Marian Beane/Charles Gliozzo  
Domestic Student Award for  
International Achievement**

Andres D. Uribe  
Master's Student, Spanish  
California State University, San Bernardino  
Gamma Lambda Chapter



**2026 David Merchant  
International Student Award for  
Achievement**

Dr. Kolawole Michael Afolabi  
Graduate Research and Teaching  
Assistant Educational Leadership Program  
Oklahoma State University  
Epsilon Upsilon Chapter



**2026 David Merchant International  
Student Award for Achievement**

Sachinethani Ayabadda Devage  
Ph.D. Student  
Chemistry  
Oklahoma State University  
Epsilon Upsilon Chapter



## **2026 Yvonne Captain Faculty Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education**

Dr. Sumit Mandal  
Associate Professor of Textile Science  
Department of Design and Merchandising  
Oklahoma State University  
Epsilon Upsilon Chapter



## **2026 Edward S. Blankenship Outstanding Staff Award**

Dr. Joseph Hoff  
Director of the Office of Global Learning  
Charlotte Global  
UNC Charlotte, Mu Chapter

## **Thank You to the Members of the Annual Awards Committee**

John Dunleavy, CUNY Staten Island/Eta Lambda  
Marcia Hardy, Louisiana Christian University  
Josh Morallo, Oklahoma State/Epsilon Upsilon  
Millicent Musyoka, Lamar University/Beta Xi

Jeffrey Simpson (Chair), Oklahoma State/Epsilon Upsilon





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**PHI BETA DELTA**

HONOR SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS



*The Medallion 10th Anniversary Issue, April 2026*





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## PHI BETA DELTA

HONOR SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS



## PAST LEADERS of PHI BETA DELTA

### Phi Beta Delta

### Executive Directors since 2004



2004-2011  
Dr. Yvonne  
Captain



2011-2015  
Dr. Rueyling  
Chuang



2015-2017  
Dr. Salaam  
Yousef



2015-2021  
Dr. Amy  
Leh



2021-Present  
Dr. HK  
Oh

### Phi Beta Delta Presidents 2010-2014



2010-2011  
Dr. Edward Khiwa  
Professor of Health  
Administration and  
Gerontology  
Langston University



2011-2012  
Dr. Richard Deming  
Professor of  
Chemistry  
California State  
University,  
Fullerton



2012-2013  
Dr. Joy Stevenson  
Director of  
International  
Affairs  
Univ. of Central  
Missouri



2013-2014  
Mr. Paul Amaya  
Assistant Vice  
President,  
International Programs  
California State University,  
San Bernardino

## Phi Beta Delta Presidents 2014-2018



**2014-2015**

Dr. Guillermo de los Reyes  
Associate Professor  
Hispanic Studies University  
of Houston



**2015-2016**

Dr. Astrid Sheil  
Associate Professor of  
Communication Studies and  
Interim Chair of the  
Department of Accounting &  
Finance in the College of  
Business and Public  
Administration  
California State  
University, San  
Bernardino



**2016-2017**

Dr. Rajrani Kalra  
Associate Professor,  
Geography and  
Environmental Studies  
California State Univ.  
San Bernardino



**2017 – 2018**

Dr. Christina Sanchez  
Associate Director for  
International Programs  
University of North  
Carolina at Charlotte

## Phi Beta Delta Presidents 2018-2021



**2018-2019**

Ms. Winnie Brophy,  
M.A. Director of  
Special Programs And  
Initiatives at The City  
University of New  
York- College  
of Staten Island



**2019-2020**

Dr. Ann Marie  
Legreid  
Dean, College of  
Social & Behavioral  
Sciences Professor of  
Geography Shepherd  
University



**2020-2021**

Ms. Sarah Lindell  
Assistant to the  
Associate Vice President  
Northern Illinois University



**2021-2022**

Dr. Sharon Joy  
Professor of Music  
Northwestern State  
University of  
Louisiana - Natchitoches



## Phi Beta Delta Presidents 2022-2026



2022-2023

Dr. Virginia Loh-Hagen  
Executive Director for the  
Office of AANAPISI Affairs  
and the Asian Pacific Islander  
Desi American (APIDA) Center  
San Diego State University



2023-2025

Dr. Jeffrey J. Simpson  
Director, Study Abroad and  
National Student Exchange  
Oklahoma State University



2025-2026

Dr. Erik Jon Byker  
Professor, Cato  
College of Education,  
Honors College  
University of North  
Carolina at Charlotte



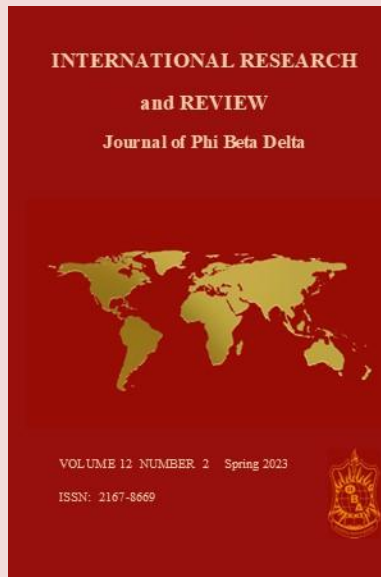
2026-2027

Dr. Marcia Hardy  
Dean of the School of  
Business &  
MBA/Master of Strategic  
Leadership Programs  
Louisiana Christian  
University

## 2025-2026 Board Members







## CALL FOR JOURNAL PAPERS FALL 2026

Scholars and researchers from across disciplines are invited to address issues in international education and studies. Papers are welcome on topics that can include, but are not limited to, our understanding of international studies, education, internationalization, globalization, teaching and learning in the context of international educational exchange and, within the university classroom, issues regarding curricular development, and other related topics. We welcome critical, qualitative, quantitative, and social scientific perspectives. For more information and guidelines visit:

<http://www.phibetadelta.org/internationalResearch.php>

**\*NEW\*** [Volume 14, Number 2 - Spring 2025](#)

Submit your manuscript to Dr. Michael Smithee  
at **[pbd1986irr@gmail.com](mailto:pbd1986irr@gmail.com)**

## HISTORICAL PHI BETA DELTA

Phi Beta Delta is out of this world! Check out [Mars!](#)

### CHAPTER REPORTS AND MEMBER LISTS

Please be sure to submit your [Chapter Report](#) and email your member lists to the Phi Beta Delta Headquarters at [staff@phibetadelta.org](mailto:staff@phibetadelta.org)

### MEDALLION SUBMISSIONS

Do you have news regarding your Chapter? An interesting article to share? Please send submissions to Michael Smithee at [pbdmedallion@gmail.com](mailto:pbdmedallion@gmail.com). **Send Chapter News that might include, but not be limited to:**

1. Inductions you have had since your last submission to the Medallion
2. Plans for your chapter this academic year
3. Plans for International Education Week
4. Changes in your chapter
5. Internationalization efforts at your institution
6. Community activities
7. Information that would be valuable to student members of PBD
8. Information that would be valuable to faculty and staff members of PBD
9. Include pictures that I can print in the Medallion
10. Members' summer plans for research, overseas trips, plans related to internationalization, etc.

## Medallion Deadline Dates

| Quarter | Submit Info | To Be Printed |
|---------|-------------|---------------|
| Spring  | March 1     | April 1       |
| Summer  | June 1      | July 1        |
| Fall    | September 1 | October 1     |
| Winter  | December 1  | January 1     |



### WINTER 2026

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President's Welcome

Save the Date

*Conference Registration and Fees*

*Life Membership*

Call for Conference Proposals

Journal: International Research and Review

Society News

Chapter News

Member News

Medallion Submissions

Board of Directors





**Phi Beta Delta Honor Society**  
For International Scholars

## Headquarters Campus Phi Beta Delta

