



# **85<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RECOGNITION DAY**

*Sigma Phi Omega  
Honor Society*



**MAY 4, 2025  
2 PM  
CHURCH-McKEE ARTS CENTER**



# PROGRAM

Welcome

Dr. Jerry Wallace  
Campus President

Introduction of Whitmore-Gates  
Scholars Award

Professor Rachel DelSignore

Recognition of Whitmore-Gates  
Faculty Scholar

Professor Rachel DelSignore

Recognition of Whitmore-Gates  
Student Scholars

Professor Sarah Cross and  
Professor Ajaya Sankara Warriar

Recognition of Whitmore-Gates  
Alumni Scholar

Sabrina Cave  
Alumni President

John Philip Spoerl Scholarship

Sabrina Cave  
Alumni President

Recognition of Honors Graduates

Professor Sheri Chisholm

Jasper Morris Organic Chemistry  
Award

Professor Ajaya Sankara Warriar

Maurice Powell General Chemistry  
Award

Professor Joshua Carder

Dr. Henry Falkowski Survey of  
Chemistry Award

Professor Jay Badenhoop

Mauzy-Harris History Award

Professor Cassandra Pritts

Outstanding Spanish Student  
Award

Professor Julia Leverone

General Biology Award

Vicki Huffman, Associate Dean

W. E. Michael Biology Award

Professor Erin Cunningham

Human Anatomy & Physiology  
Scholar Award

Professor Sheri Chisholm

Outstanding Agriculture  
Sophomore Student Award

Professor Jeff Jones

Don S. Starcher Outstanding  
Freshman Agriculture & Forestry  
Student Award

Professor Jeff Jones

Outstanding SAGE Student

Professor Jeff Jones

Outstanding Forestry Student

Professor Jeff Jones

Outstanding Business  
Management Student Award (BAS)

Professor Amy Weaver



Outstanding Business Technology Student Award (AAS)	Professor JoAnn Burnett
Gary Seldomridge Award for Outstanding Student in Classic Calculus Sequence	Professor Richard Petersen
Emmy Noether Award for Achievement in Mathematics	Professor Jessie O'Quinn
The Willa Louise Cather Award for Best Noncreative Essay	Professor Deanna Armentrout
Duke Anthony Whitmore Award for Best Creative Essay	Professor Steve Oberlechner
Outstanding Pre-Social Work Student	Professor Molly Alvaro
Outstanding Nursing Student	April Shapiro, Chair Professor of Nursing
Keyser Rotary Club Service Above Self Award	Dinah Courier Secretary Keyser Rotary Club
The Outstanding Student Award	Dr. Jerry Wallace Campus President
Induction of Sigma Phi Omega New Members	Professor Sheri Chisholm Professor Lisa Zyga
Recognition of Phi Theta Kappa Graduates and New Members	Professor Sheri Chisholm
Induction of Sigma Alpha Rho New Members	April Shapiro, Chair Professor of Nursing
Closing Remarks	Dr. Jerry Wallace Campus President

# Duke Anthony Whitmore/Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Academic Achievement Wall

The wall was originally conceived to recognize the academic and scholarly activities of Potomac State College's students, alumni, and faculty.

During the early deliberations, the College planned to name the wall in honor of Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Ph.D., who attended Potomac State and now serves as chair of Harvard's Department of African American Studies. He is recognized as one of the most powerful academic voices in America and in 1997 was voted one of Time magazine's "25 Most Influential Americans."



When Dr. Gates entered Potomac State, his intention was to become a physician. That ambition was short-lived; however, when he was introduced to the captivating world of language and literature by Professor Tony "Duke" Whitmore, Ph.D. Dr. Gates credits Dr. Whitmore with forever changing his life and consequently helping to redefine the meaning of America through the research of Dr. Gates and his colleagues.

Upon Dr. Whitmore's death during the planning stages of the wall, Dr. Gates requested that the name of the wall be changed to include the name of Dr. Tony "Duke" Whitmore, so that the student and his mentor may be honored together. Each year a faculty committee selects up to three students who exhibit exemplary scholarship and potential for continued achievement.

The committee may also select a former faculty member of the College who has produced a scholarly work, publication, or performance. An alumni committee selects former students of the College who meet the same criteria.

The first year's inductees also included students who had been recognized as the Outstanding Student of the Year from its inception in 1983.

## **Outstanding Student and Whitmore Gates Scholar Finalists:**

*These students accepted the invitation and participated in the interview process.*

Braylee Corbin

Kinsey Keplinger

Margaret James

Leah McKenzie

Morgan Pratt

Gabe Templeton

Hartley Vanglider

## **HONORS FOUNDATION GRADUATES**

*The honors foundation students have completed at least five honor courses and thirteen honor credits while maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or greater.*

Paige Burgos

Eleanor Higgins

Laurel Keister

Alanna McDuffie

Leah McKenzie

Ryan Quick

Chloe Slaughter

Kolton Smouse

Sarah Weatherholt

Asher Westrom

## **HISTORY OF SIGMA PHI OMEGA AT WVU POTOMAC STATE COLLEGE**

Sigma Phi Omega was founded in the spring of 1923 by the faculty of Potomac State College. Their desire was to create an organization which would serve as a medium for social contact between themselves and outstanding students. The name "Sigma Phi Omega" was chosen by using the initial letters of the Greek words which mean "student-faculty organization."

Thirteen students, eight men and five women, were the first honored with membership. The speaker for that occasion was Thomas R. Carskadon, formerly of Keyser, and candidate for vice president of the United States.

Sigma Phi Omega also has a strong history of public service. During World War II, the society sold war bonds and defense stamps as its contributions to the war effort, raising over \$15,000. The society has contributed through the years to the Nancy M. Miller, Ph.D. Scholarship Fund. Dr. Miller served as adviser to the society from 1949-1967.

The first faculty adviser was Claire Adler, who helped found the organization. Wilhelmine Deissle served from 1925-1949. Faculty Emeritus Kenneth Haines became advisor in 1967 and served until his retirement in 1996. Faculty Emerita Dinah Courier served from 1996 until her retirement in 2009. Professor Andrea Bucklew, J.D. and Vicki Huffman, Ph.D. then served as co-advisors. Dr. Vicki Huffman and Dr. Sheri Chisholm, are the current co-advisors.

The four-fold Sigma Phi Omega emblem represents fellowship, pure motives, trust in God, and clear thinking through education. These traits are reflected in the initiation obligation, a poem written by Henry van Dyke, an American author, educator and clergyman who was born in 1852 and died in 1933:

*“Four things a man must learn to do if  
he would make his record true:  
To think without confusion clearly;  
To love his fellow-men sincerely;  
To act from honest motive purely;  
To trust in God and Heaven securely.”*

## **SIGMA PHI OMEGA**

*The Sigma Phi Omega Honor Society recognizes both academic excellence and campus involvement.*

Sadie Laree Bennett  
Marquis J. Beverly  
Emma Charlese Bell  
Kirk Douglas Bryant  
Paige Burgos  
Olivia Grace Burgess  
Ashlynn Crowe, President  
Braylee Lynn Corbin  
Amanda Jean Cutlip  
Sarah Dudley  
Alyssa Dunn  
Cristy Enlow\*  
Levi John Ferster  
Makayla Jade Gillaspie, Vice President  
Emerson Grace Haddix  
Hailey Helmick\*

Jamie Mae Kelly\*  
Kinsey Keplinger\*  
Baylie Rae Kirby  
Marilee Nichole Kitzmiller  
Jesse Wyatt Moore  
Jensen Lee Moreland  
Philip Dean Mullenax\*  
Ryan Quick\*  
Laney Rodeheaver  
Lindsey Carol Smith\*  
Jeremy Swiger Jr.  
Gabriel Templeton\*  
Kylie Troutman  
Hartley Jean VanGilder\*  
Adyn Weaver

# **HISTORY OF SIGMA ALPHA RHO AT WVU POTOMAC STATE COLLEGE**

The nursing honor society, today known as Sigma, was founded as Sigma Theta Tau in 1922 by six nursing students here in the United States, at Indiana University. From those six founding members, the organization has grown to more than 135,000 active members, in over 500 chapters, in over 90 countries around the world. Sigma collaborates with several global organizations to improve the health of the world's people, including representation at the United Nations. This offers members the opportunity to extend their reach outside of their own communities. Sigma members are leaders at all levels of the healthcare industry. The society only extends membership to students in baccalaureate or graduate level programs who have demonstrated superior academic achievement, academic integrity, and professional leadership potential and to nurse leader candidates exhibiting exceptional achievements in nursing.

Our founders chose the Greek Letters – Sigma, Theta, Tau – from the Greek words meaning Love, Courage, and Honor, as they believed them to be the enduring values that are the root of the nursing profession. Our crest symbolizes these enduring values, reminding us of our commitment to:

- Wisdom and discernment, as represented by the eye;
- Service, professional endeavor, and strength of leadership, as represented by the pillars of stone at the right and left; and
- Knowledge, as represented by the lamp.

Our key reminds us of our charge to uphold love, courage, and honor and is a symbol of scholarship.

- The cup denotes the satisfaction of professional life;
- The circle with its six stars represents our six founders;
- The lamp is the lamp of knowledge; and
- The letters in black represent our charge.

This key symbolizes our commitment to nursing excellence.

The Alpha Rho chapter of Sigma began on the WVU Morgantown campus in 1966 and inducted its first Keyser campus students in 2020.





## **SIGMA ALPHA RHO**

### **New Members**

Olivia Bomboy  
Cadence Carpenter  
Emily Kuykendall  
Jordan Lease  
Kaitlyn McKenery  
Sarah Wharton

### **Active Members**

Jessica Bingaman  
James Blank  
Stacy Gallant  
Mattea Gambini  
Marissa Guy  
Sydney Hardy  
Jacob Logsdon  
Alexis Orndorff  
Tayla Ours  
Kelly Simon

## **HISTORY OF PHI THETA KAPPA – BETA PSI CHI AT WVU POTOMAC STATE COLLEGE**

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, is the largest honor society in higher education with nearly 1,300 chapters on college campuses in all 50 of the United States, plus Canada, Germany, the Republic of Palau, Peru, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates, and U.S. territorial possessions. More than 3.5 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918, with over 250,000 active members annually.

To fulfill our mission, we focus on recognizing and encouraging the academic achievement of college students while providing opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service, and fellowship programming.

Spring 2022 represented the induction of the first class of PTK-BSC students on the WVU Potomac State College Campus.

Dr. Sheri Chisholm serves as the current advisor for the honor society. The purpose of the honor society is to give the WVU Potomac State College students every opportunity to explore leadership roles and scholarship opportunities the honor society has available. Students are invited based on their cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and the completion of at least 12 credits. We are excited to recognize and honor the students who have accepted their invitation for membership.



# PHI THETA KAPPA

HONOR SOCIETY

## PHI THETA KAPPA – BETA PSI CHI CHAPTER

### 2025 Graduates

Emalee Bradley  
Madelyn Fisher  
Luke Greethurst  
Alexis Haggerty  
Hailey Helmick  
Kaylee Kipp  
Kinsey Keplinger  
Alli Knaggs  
Paul Knotts  
Hannah Largent  
Leah McKenzie  
Ryan Quick  
Madeline Rice  
Kolton Smouse  
Gabriel Templeton  
Asher Westrom  
Alexander Whitacre  
Carlee Wilson

### 2025 New Members

Juan Baker  
Makenna Chase  
Cambrya Clark  
Madison Getz  
Luke Greethurst  
Isabella McKenzie  
Leah McKenzie  
Jesse Moore  
Trevor Phillips  
Ryan Quick  
Kylie Troutman  
Olivia Winston







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