

Fall 2007

Mayor to Speak at Founders Day 2007

We are delighted to announce that this year's Founders Day event keynote speaker is the present Mayor of the City of Norman, Dr. Cindy Rosenthal, associate professor of Political Science, and Director and Curator of the University of Oklahoma Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center. Mayor Rosenthal will be introduced by university President David L. Boren; the title of her lecture is "Boundaries, Intersections and Cross-hairs: Where the Academy Meets City Hall." We encourage all Phi Beta Kappa members to take advantage of this unique opportunity to hear a university and community leader speak to us on campus. The program will take place on Monday, December 3, and will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union. A light reception will follow.

**Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter
Phi Beta Kappa**
<http://www.ou.edu/pbk>

Calendar of Activities

April 2008	Time & Date TBD	Spring Business Meeting Jacobson Hall (Visitor Center) Saxon Conference Room
May 9, 2007	Friday 3:00 PM	Initiation Ceremony Oklahoma Memorial Union Meacham Auditorium
	Immediately Following Ceremony	Reception for New Initiates Oklahoma Memorial Union Beaird Lounge

Frank Gilson, New Alumnus Member

The Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter initiated Frank Gilson to alumni membership in the chapter in the Spring 2007 ceremony. Gilson, 65 years-old, graduated from OU in 1964 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, and then worked for Phillips Petroleum for 35 years. Gilson is also a generous supporter of the University of Oklahoma. We believe his commitment to a liberal arts education embodies the spirit of Phi Beta Kappa, and are pleased to have initiated him into honorary membership.

If you know an outstanding individual who demonstrates a commitment to the liberal arts in our community, please contact Sherry Cox (scox@ou.edu) to submit names for honorary and alumni memberships, along with and supporting information. The chapter considers potential alumni and honorary initiates each fall in our regular business meeting in advance of our spring initiation ceremony.

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Standing Committees

Members-in-Course

Dr. James Thompson, Chair
Craig Hayes
Dr. Samuel J. Huskey
Dr. Lynne Levy

Scholarship Committee

Dr. Ron Schleifer, Chair
Dr. David Levy
Nanette Hathaway
Heather Lehman

Honorary and Alumni Membership

Sherry Cox, Chair

Visiting Scholars Program

Dr. Kermyt Anderson, Chair

Newsletter Editor

Monica Sharp

Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter Appeal for Dues

I am proud that I was elected to Phi Beta Kappa – like you. And like most of you, I am not a member of the OU faculty or staff. I serve for two reasons: the stimulation of meeting outstanding faculty and staff who give so many volunteer hours to our chapter, and the belief that Phi Beta Kappa carries out an important mission on our campus.

Our primary mission is the careful selection and election of members-in-course, seniors and juniors. But we have a supporting mission of maintaining the prestige and values of Phi Beta Kappa by bringing an annual Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar to campus, holding an annual Founder's Day event, featuring an important speaker, providing the two top prizes for Research Awards held each spring, and selecting the annual recipients of the Savoie Lottinville, Ann Taylor Sewell, and Mary Esther Saxon yearly scholarships, and eventually the Roland Lehr scholarship.

These missions require money in addition to hundreds of volunteer hours. Our funding comes from two sources - initiation fees and your donations and dues. The initiation fee of \$75 may sound high. Consider that \$55 of that amount goes to the national chapter, and the remaining \$20 subsidizes students who cannot pay and the initiation ceremony itself. With a small annual grant from the Provost and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, we barely break even.

For the remaining activities, we rely on the support of our wide membership – YOU. Perhaps we should say “annual donation” rather than “annual dues.” Think of \$25 as a suggested amount. The chapter is grateful to all those who give and support the mission of Phi Beta Kappa. - Patti Gipson, Treasurer

Junior Scholarship Selection and 2007 Winners

The Phi Beta Kappa junior scholarships are now open to all juniors with a 3.7 GPA or greater at OU to improve the quality of applicants, ensure the best candidate is chosen, and honor the original intent of the scholarship endowment. Early in the spring semester, an invitation to apply for the junior scholarships will be sent to all students via OU email. The PBK scholarship committee will then review all applications and select the best ones, regardless of the student's potential membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

2007 Endowed Scholarship Recipients

The Mary Esther Selby Saxon Award is presented to graduating Phi Beta Kappa seniors who plan to do graduate work in any field of the humanities or the social sciences. The committee named two winners for 2007, Lindsey Flewelling (\$750) and Carilyn Giuliano (\$750). The Amy Sewell Taylor award, given to juniors who show promise of being nominated to Phi Beta Kappa, went to Kelsey Martin (\$750).

Two students received the Savoie Lottinville award, given to juniors who show promise of being nominated to Phi Beta Kappa. The committee selected Steven

K. Battles (\$500) and Bethany Burklund (\$200).

In addition to the endowed scholarships, two Undergraduate Research Awards were given in the name of Roland Lehr to students judged to have presented the best papers at Undergraduate Research Day. The winners were chosen by a system of ranking by faculty members in attendance. The first Roland Lehr prize for best Undergraduate Research Day paper (\$250) went to Ms. Amanda Ward of Tulsa for her paper “Phosphorelay Signaling Protein SSK1 in Yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.” The second prize (\$200) went to Ms. Melissa Musser of Amarillo, TX for her paper “Development of Trunk Neural Crest in the Sea Lamprey.”

Our warm congratulations again to these distinguished students!



Visiting Scholar Report

Dr. James J. Sheehan of Stanford University came to campus on September 10 and 11 as a part of the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars Program. His visit was co-sponsored by the Department of History and the School of International and Area Studies. In addition to guest lecturing in undergraduate classes, he gave a lunch seminar on September 10 titled “The Evolution of the International System in the 20th Century.” The following day, he delivered a public lecture to an audience of more than 100 at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History titled “Why the European Union Will not Become a Superpower.” Dr. Sheehan began teaching modern European history at Stanford in 1979 and is now Dickason Professor in the Humanities, a senior fellow of the Institute for International Studies, and the Paul Davies Family University Fellow in Undergraduate Education. He is the recipient of four teaching awards, a Guggenheim fellowship, a Humboldt Research Prize, and an NEH fellowship. Look for his forthcoming book, *The Eclipse of Violence: The Transformation of Twentieth-Century Europe*.

We are pleased to participate again this year in this well-supported national Phi Beta Kappa program!

PHI BETA KAPPA | 2007-2008 | Dues and Contributions

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Dues: \$25 (payable to Phi Beta Kappa) \$_____

Additional Contributions: \$_____

[Specify undergraduate research prize, subsidies for low-income initiates, and/or general fund. *Donations made in support of the Roland Lehr Fund should be made out directly to the University of Oklahoma Foundation, with Roland Lehr Fund #0042002 in the memo line.*]

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____

craig

Return this form to: Craig Hayes
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University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019

2007 Initiation Ceremony for New Members

The Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa elected 241 students to membership at the spring business meeting. On May 11, 2007, 178 of the invitees participated in the initiation ceremony at Meacham Auditorium in the Oklahoma Memorial Union. Following the ceremony, an elegant reception was held in the Union's Beaird Lounge for new initiates and their families. Congratulations to the newest members of the Alpha chapter!



Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter Updates

Fall Business Meeting Report

On October 9, 2007, the Alpha of Oklahoma chapter met for the regular fall business meeting in the Mary Esther Selby Saxon Conference Room of Jacobson Hall. Members discussed plans for the 2007 Founder's Day Event on December 3, featuring our keynote speaker, City of Norman Mayor Cindy Rosenthal, who will be introduced by President David L. Boren. Other topics included the Spring 2008 Initiation Ceremony, the Roland Lehr Endowment, and chapter finances. If you were unable to attend the Fall Business Meeting, we cordially invite

you to attend the regular Spring Business Meeting in April.

New PBK Email Listserv

Due to the increasing number of members on our email list, we began a Phi Beta Kappa email listserv in Spring 2007. If you would like to be added to the chapter's listserv to receive e-mail updates of chapter activities, please e-mail your request to pbk-l@lists.ou.edu.

Update Your Mailing Address

The chapter's regular mailing list is derived primarily from records kept by the national Phi Beta Kappa of-

fice. You may update your mailing address online at <http://www.pbk.org/members/info.htm>, or contact Craig Hayes (rchayes@ou.edu) to update your mailing address with Alpha of Oklahoma.

