

Fall 2008

Founders' Day Event — December 1, 2008

The Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa will hold its annual celebration of Founders' Day on Monday, December 1, at 4 :00 p.m. in the Heritage Room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union. This year the event will feature a roundtable discussion titled "The Place of the Humanities in the 21st Century." Members of the roundtable will include Dr. Paul Bell, Arts and Sciences Dean, Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, Associate Vice President for Research, Dr. Pamela Genova, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages, Dr. Robert Griswold, Chair of the Department of History, and Dr. Mary O'Hair, Vice Provost and Director of the K20 Center .

In the campaign leading up to the recent presidential election, the candidates from the two major parties targeted science and math in their plans for education, following the pattern and policies set by their predecessors of the last few decades. Without question, modern students require robust education in science and math to cope with the exigencies of the 21st century, but the concern of Phi Beta Kappa since the 18th century has been the liberal arts *and* sciences, not one or the other. Therefore, to celebrate Phi Beta Kappa Founders' Day this year, we shall convene a panel to discuss the place of the humanities in the curriculum of a liberal education in the 21st century. This event is open to the public, and all who come are encouraged to participate in the discussion. Light refreshments will precede and follow the event.

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

Calendar of Upcoming Activities

April 2009	Time & Date TBD	Spring Business Meeting Jacobson Hall (Visitor Center) Saxon Conference Room
May 15, 2009	Friday 3:00 PM	Initiation Ceremony Oklahoma Memorial Union Meacham Auditorium
	Immediately Following Ceremony	Reception for New Initiates Oklahoma Memorial Union Beaird Lounge

In Memoriam: Patti Gipson



Our long-time colleague, conscientious steward of the chapter's resources, and committed citizen of Norman, Patti Gipson died on January 21, 2008. A Tonkawa native, Patti graduated from OU in 1958 in English Literature and was inducted into the Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter, receiving her masters degree in 1959. Ebullient and fair-minded, her fourteen years of service as chapter treasurer fortified our finances and kept our accounts well-ordered. Patti will be very much missed. On behalf of Phi Beta Kappa, the chapter extends our condolences to the entire Gipson family.



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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—Note from the President

I do not remember in great detail my initiation into Alpha of Oregon chapter of Phi Beta Kappa during that hectic graduation weekend in 1996. Academic regalia, numerous initiation ceremonies, pictures with parents and favorite professors: all these images jumble together in my memories. My membership in Phi Beta Kappa, however, stands now as a symbolic monument to that thrill I felt every year as an undergraduate when I read the course bulletin. What classes could I take? What books would I read? What would my new major be? As a faculty member at the University of Oklahoma, I hope to excite that same thrill in my students here.

PBK is a monument to my personal journey through knowledge, but PBK lives in the present in our chapter at the University of Oklahoma. The word “monument” comes from the Latin root “moneo,” meaning “to warn or admonish.” PBK’s mission to foster the liberal arts and sciences in the university faces persistent threats that arise by virtue of their quotidian pressure: budget cuts, sinking standards, specialization, and most importantly, apathy.

Take a moment to recall your own initiation into PBK and the memories attend that honor. I ask you also to heed the warning of that symbolic monument to your achievement. Make PBK’s mission your own. Pay your dues. Contribute to a scholarship fund. Those are the easy ways to help; we urge you to take an even more active role in your local chapter. Come to our events. Attend the meetings. Bring a current or future member. Your participation with Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter’s annual program will spark that thrill of learning that animates the human mind.

Dr. Jason Houston, Assistant Professor of Italian

2008 Scholarship Winners

2008 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 **four** graduating seniors as winners for 2008, **Andrea DenHoed** (International and Area Studies, \$1000), **Ryan Hall** (History, \$1000), **Dustin Page** (Economics, \$500), and **Kathryn Thomas** (Spanish, \$500).

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 (\$300) went to Brian Hardzinski, a senior Broadcasting and Electronic Media major from Flower Mound, Texas, for his paper “Good Night for Ed, Bad Luck for Joe: Edward R. Murrow and Television’s Role in Bringing Down Joseph McCarthy.” The second Roland Lehr Prize (\$200) was awarded to Stephanie Easter and Andriynn Lee for their presentation, “Effects of Methyl Gallate on Polyglutamine Toxicity in a *C.elegans*

Model of Huntington’s Disease.” Stephanie completed a degree in zoology and is from Tulsa; Andriynn, from Guymon, finished a biomedical sciences degree.

Our warm congratulations again to these outstanding students!

Phi Beta Kappa Junior Scholarships

The Phi Beta Kappa junior scholarships are 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 scholarship committee will then review all applications and select the best ones for awards, regardless of the student’s potential membership in Phi Beta Kappa.



Visiting Scholar Bulletin

The Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholar for the 2008-2009 academic year will be Dr. Faye Ginsberg. Her visit, March 2-3, 2009 will be jointly sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Film and Video Studies.

Faye Ginsburg is David B. Kriser Professor of Anthropology, founding director of the Center for Media, Culture and History, as well as of the Graduate Program in Culture and Media, and co-director of the Center for Religion and Media, which she established in 2003. Her research interests include cultural and visual anthropology, ethnographic film, indigenous media, and social movements in the U.S. Current research focuses on cultural innovation and disabilities; she is also head of NYU’s Council for the Study of Disability. She has published widely on the topics of reproductive rights, gender issues, and abortion. In 2005 she was co-curator of “First Nations First Features: A Showcase of World Indigenous Film and Media.” She was named a MacArthur fellow in 1994 and the same year received the Distinguished Alumni Award of the Graduate Center, CUNY. She has produced five documentaries based on her fieldwork in Australia, North Dakota, and northern Thailand.

PHI BETA KAPPA | 2008-2009 | Dues and Contributions

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Annual 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 with a separate check directly to the **University of Oklahoma Foundation**, indicating **Roland Lehr Fund #0042002** in the memo line.*]

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____

Return this form to: **Phi Beta Kappa**
Attn.: Craig Hayes
Jacobson Hall, 550 Parrington Oval
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019



Roland Lehr Fund Update

The Dr. Roland Lehr Memorial Scholarship fund account has now accrued in excess of \$8000. We need to reach \$10,000 before the chapter may begin giving an annual scholarship from the fund. The award will be given to a graduating initiate who plans to pursue work in the natural or physical sciences or in medicine. Roland Lehr was a distinguished and highly regarded professor of chemistry, twice the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and a loyal and active member of the Alpha Chapter, serving for several years as secretary. A scholarship will perpetuate his name for years to come and is a fitting tribute to a man universally admired and esteemed. Please consider a small additional contribution to the chapter in honor of Dr. Lehr to help us reach our goal!

Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter Updates

Newest OU Rhodes Scholar

Ms. Andrea DenHoed, who graduated *summa cum laude* and was initiated into the Alpha chapter this past spring, is OU's twenty-seventh Rhodes scholar. Andrea is currently studying at Oxford University toward a B.A. degree in English Language and Literature and hopes to also obtain an M.Phil at Oxford before pursuing a Ph.D. in English. Andrea graduated with a degree in international and area studies, was a regular columnist for the student paper, and co-founded a humor magazine, in addition to serving as Chair of the International Affairs Society, as a senator in the Student Association, and rowing for Oklahoma Crew. We congratulate Andrea, and are certain we will be hearing more from her in the future!

PBK Email Listserv

Did you know? The Alpha of Oklahoma chapter has an email listserv! If you would like to be added to the chapter's listserv to receive intermittent e-mail updates of chapter activities, send your request to pbk-l@lists.ou.edu.



Update Your Mailing Address

Update your mailing address online at <http://www.pbk.org/members/info.htm>, or via email to Craig Hayes (rchaves@ou.edu).

2008 Initiation Ceremony

The Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa invited 202 students to membership at the spring business meeting. On May 9, 2008, 141 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. Our congratulations go to the newest members of the Alpha chapter!

