



PHI BETA KAPPA

NEWS

FALL 2012

“Love of wisdom, the guide of life”

We Need Your Feedback! **Annual Chapter Newsletter**

At the chapter's fall business meeting there was considerable discussion regarding the Alpha of Oklahoma's annual printed newsletter. The discussion surrounded the future of the newsletter -- should it be distributed electronically only or by mail?

We want to hear from you!

- 1) *Should the newsletter be posted online at www.ou.edu/pbk only and members notified by email when to access and read it? - OR -*
- 2) *Should a hard copy be produced and mailed as is the current practice?*

Email your preference to rchayes@ou.edu. Or even better, when you send your chapter contribution for this year, note your preference on your Contributions form (see form later in newsletter).

Your opinion matters to us. Thank you for taking the time to weigh in on this discussion.

Calendar of Upcoming Activities - www.ou.edu/pbk/calendar.htm

December 6, 2012	3:30 PM (see inside article for more information)	Founders' Day Event: “Mind-Bending” Oklahoma Memorial Union, Beaird Lounge (2nd floor)
January 29-30, 2013	Details TBA	PBK Visiting Scholar Michael Deem (co-sponsored by Microbiology and Plant Biology)
May 10, 2013	Friday 3:00 PM	Initiation Ceremony Oklahoma Memorial Union Meacham Auditorium
	Immediately Following	Reception for New Initiates Oklahoma Memorial Union Beaird Lounge

Phi Beta Kappa Traveling Exhibit at OU in November

A traveling exhibit, on loan from the national office of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, will be on display in the Bizzell Memorial Library on the main floor from October 29 through November 30.

The exhibit consists of contemporary and historic images from ΦBK's collection, Colonial Williamsburg and various university archives. A portrait of John Heath and a copy of the original 1779 charter for a chapter at Yale University bearing the signature of Elisha Parmele, and the “secret” handshake, of course, are among them.

Since its first stop at Davidson College in North Carolina, the exhibit has travelled to several other colleges around the country. The exhibit gives our chapter the opportunity to increase awareness of Phi Beta Kappa and share the Society's history with the OU community.

News from Fall 2012 Chapter Business Meeting

Sixteen chapter members were present for the fall business meeting of the Alpha of Oklahoma. Some of the business items included the following:

Scholarships or Awards? Due to the OU Foundation's new policy of depositing scholarships directly into students' bursar accounts instead of cutting checks, it was necessary for the chapter to review our prizes. The Savoie Lottinville and Amy Taylor Sewell awards are technically scholarships since they go to juniors returning to OU for a final year. The Mary Esther Selby Saxon and Roland Lehr awards are not scholarships as defined by the Foundation. As such, checks may be cut for these prize winners since they are seniors who either are graduating or have graduated.

Lehr Fund. It was suggested the chapter use the Foundation funds raised for the Lehr fund beginning in spring 2013. A hybrid of funding from the chapter general fund and the Lehr fund was proposed. The matter will be reviewed in detail by the scholarship committee so

a recommendation can be made at the spring meeting and a final action can be taken.

Chapter Contributions. A recommendation was made that the suggested annual contribution should be \$100. Following discussion, the prevailing thought was tiered contribution levels should be offered to chapter supporters, including the \$100 level.

Traveling Exhibit. Strothmann informed us that the national office would offer the opportunity for chapters to host its new traveling exhibit, chronicling the history of Phi Beta Kappa. There was strong support for bringing the exhibit to campus (see page 1 - the exhibit will be here in the month of November).

Thank you to all who attended and participated in our fall business meeting. The chapter meets twice annually -- once in the fall (usually October) and once in the spring (usually early April). We hope to see you at a future meeting. Join our listserv to get notifications of meeting details (info in "Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter Updates").

Report from Phi Beta Kappa Triennial Council - Summer 2012

Delegates from the chapters and associations of Phi Beta Kappa convened in West Palm Beach, Florida, August 2-4 for the Society's 43rd Triennial Council. Molly Strothmann represented our chapter.

The delegates voted to establish three new chapters, at Creighton University, George Mason University, and Oklahoma State University. These additions will bring the total number of chapters nationwide to 283. We extend our congratulations and warm welcome to the new chapters, especially our friends at the Gamma of Oklahoma.

Katherine Soule of Dartmouth College was elected to serve a three-year term as president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, with Catherine White Berheide of Skidmore College elected vice president. Eleven new senators

were also elected to six-year terms. This Council made no changes to the Phi Beta Kappa bylaws or constitution.

The Council's business sessions were punctuated by lectures from distinguished Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars. Lisa Pratt, Provost's Professor of Geological Sciences at Indiana University, discussed recent research; Trevor Pinch, Professor of Science and Technology Studies and of Sociology at Cornell University, spoke on the invention of the music synthesizer; and Teofilo Ruiz, scholar of late medieval and early modern Spain and 2011 National Humanities Medalist, lectured on "The Other 1492." Martha Nussbaum, Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago and founder of the Center for Comparative Constitutionalism, and Patricia Meyer Spacks, Professor of

English at the University of Virginia, spoke at the closing banquet, where they were presented with the Sidney Hook Memorial Award and the Phi Beta Kappa Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities, respectively. In addition, Joseph W. Gordon, Dean of Undergraduate Education at Yale, was awarded the first Judith F. Krug Medal, Phi Beta Kappa's highest recognition for service.

The 44th Triennial Council is scheduled for October 8-11, 2015, at the Denver Westin.



PHI BETA KAPPA | 2012-2013 | Contributions

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Contribution: \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other _____

Make check payable to OU Foundation; note Phi Beta Kappa #32000 in memo section.
(Donations to support the Roland Lehr Fund should be made in a separate check to the OU Foundation;
note Roland Lehr Fund #42002 in memo section.)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

{ I prefer to receive the annual newsletter: Email/online Print/mail }
(Circle one)

Return this form to: **Phi Beta Kappa**
 Attention: Craig Hayes
 University of Oklahoma
 339 W Boyd St, Room 412
 Norman, OK 73019



Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter Updates

Founders' Day Event - 12/6/2012

In honor of the founding of Phi Beta Kappa on December 5, 1776, our chapter's Founders' Day event will be held on **Thursday, December 6th**, in the Student Union (OMU) Scholars Beaird Lounge. This year's speakers will be the Presidential Dream Course team of Tom Boyd (Philosophy/Religious Studies) and Joe Thai (Law) and Doug Mock (Biology). Their topic will be the same as the title of their fall course, "Mind-Bending: Religion, Law and Science." The event begins at 3:30 PM.

Chapter Listserv

If you would like to be added to the chapter's listserv to receive intermittent email updates of chapter activities, send your request to **pbk-l@lists.ou.edu**. Update your mailing

address with the chapter by emailing Craig Hayes at **rchayes@ou.edu**.

Spring Initiation Ceremony 2012

The Alpha of Oklahoma voted to invite a total of 193 students to membership this year. The invitees included 185 seniors and eight juniors. On May 11, 2012, almost 100 of the invitees were present for initiation at the ceremony in Meacham Auditorium of the Oklahoma Memorial Union. In total, 141 students joined Phi Beta Kappa.

Following chapter tradition, an elegant wine bar reception was held immediately following the ceremony in Beaird Lounge. Our best wishes go to all the newest members of the Phi Beta Kappa Alpha of Oklahoma chapter!

Contributions Matter

Our chapter exists to promote the liberal arts and sciences. We go about this in a number of ways. Often our chapter hosts a PBK Visiting Scholar for public lectures. We annually recognize outstanding, original undergraduate research with prize money. Chapter funds support exceptional students in pursuit of graduate work (our endowed awards and scholarships are envied by other chapters). Each December we celebrate the anniversary of Phi Beta Kappa with a public Founders' Day event. And more. None of these activities would be possible without your support. *If you value what Phi Beta Kappa does to stimulate the intellectual atmosphere on campus and in Norman, please send your annual contribution and the form above to Craig Hayes, chapter secretary.*



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www.ou.edu/pbk/officers.htm

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 Dr. Lynne Levy

Scholarship

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 Nanette Hathaway
 Dr. Sam Huskey
 Dr. David Levy

Honorary and Alumni Membership

Sherry Cox, Chair

Visiting Scholars Program

Dr. Kermyt Anderson, Chair

Website Editor

Molly Strothmann