



PHI BETA KAPPA

NEWS

Fall 2015

“Love of wisdom, the guide of life”

Message from the Chapter President

I was fortunate to attend the Phi Beta Kappa 44th Triennial Council Meeting in Denver, October 8-10 of this year. It is our policy to send the Chapter's president to this meeting, and I was the lucky one whose term coincided with the event.

Besides luxuriating in the beautiful venue in downtown Denver on a gorgeous Indian summer weekend, and besides the abundance of truly delicious food that we were served on every possible feeding occasion, the trip was a treat for the intellect in so many ways. The highlights of the meeting were the lectures by the Visiting Scholars: three of them. The first, with Penelope J. Boston, *The Planet Within: Caves from Earth to Mars and Beyond*,” described her astonishing field work discovering unclassified and possibly unclassifiable life forms that only exist in closed and hostile environments. Our second lecture, with Jean and John Comaroff, *Ethnicity, Inc.: Identity in a Neoliberal World*,” described their research with some enterprising Africans’ new ways of making a living. The last was composer Augusta Read Thomas’s demonstration of how she creates her unique body of work: *The Art of Composing*.

As a special welcoming treat, we were bused to a reception at the Colorado History Center, which stayed open just for our group, and was of course far too extensive to manage any but a few exhibits.

But on to business. We approved and welcomed new chapters at Mercer University, Oregon State University, and the University of Houston. We elected new committee members and a new president. For me, the most enlightening part of the meeting was participating in discussions with other chapters that were frankly struggling with issues that Alpha of Oklahoma seems to have figured out. We have an excellent acceptance rate for our student invitees. We host a number of important and well-attended events each year. We are solvent. We are pretty darn effective here at Alpha of Oklahoma, and it’s nice to find that out

Founders’ Day Event 2015

“Building Community:
Residential Colleges at OU”

PBK Founder’s Day Lecture
Dec 2, 3:30pm in Beaird
Lounge, by Dr. Mark
Morvant, Associate Provost
for Teaching & Technology,
Executive Director of the
Center for Teaching
Excellence, and Professor of
Chemistry & Biochemistry.

Having been selected as a
Senior Fellow for one of the
first two Residential Colleges
being established at OU, Dr.
Morvant is deeply involved in
planning these newest
additions to OU’s educational
offerings. Each Residential
College will be a community
of students, faculty and staff
engaged in academic, social,
and cultural activities
designed to enhance the
learning experience outside
the classroom. His talk will
focus on how they intend to
go about creating this
community.

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

December 2, 2015	3:30-5:00pm	Founders’ Day Event, Oklahoma Memorial Union, Beaird Lounge
May 13, 2016	TBA	Initiation Ceremony, Oklahoma Memorial Union, Meacham Auditorium
May 13, 2016	TBA	Reception for New Initiates, Oklahoma Memorial Union, Beaird Lounge
April, 2016	TBA	Spring Business Meeting, Location TBA

News from Fall 2015 Chapter Business Meeting

The Alpha of Oklahoma met for its annual fall business meeting on Monday, October 19th.

Chapter president Marcia Haag gave a report of her attendance at the Phi Beta Kappa Triennial Council earlier that month. (Learn more in the newsletter article on this subject.) It was also reported that the National Society will not raise the new member registration fee for 2016 members in course as previously announced. Additionally, in March 2016 the Chapter will again host a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, in partnership with the OU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Rigoberto Hernandez, professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Georgia Tech and Director of the Open Chemistry Collaborative in Diversity Equity (OXIDE), will be our guest. (Learn further details regarding his visit within the newsletter.)

As outlined in the chapter by-laws, once annually at the fall meeting the Alpha of Oklahoma may consider the nomination of individuals for alumni or honorary chapter

membership. Such individuals, according to the by-laws, "must be persons who have won distinction in letters, science, education, or other intellectual pursuits, or who have rendered to the nation or the region in which they live signal public service of such a nature as to manifest the possession of high intellectual attainments and scholarly interests."

Two nominations were submitted for consideration ahead of the meeting – Dr. Donna Nelson, OU chemistry professor; and Dr. Scott Beck, Norman High School principal. Following discussion at the meeting, both were approved unanimously. Official membership invitations have gone out to each new member and each has formally accepted. We gladly welcome Drs. Nelson and Beck to Phi Beta Kappa and the Alpha of Oklahoma!

In other New Business, the membership voted on an amendment to the by-laws that formalizes the standing committees of the chapter (Members-in-Course; Alumni/Honorary Membership; Scholarship; and Visiting Scholars), and that establishes a new standing committee

Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar

This year's Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar was Dr. Timothy B. Rowe, J. Nalle Gregory Regents Professor of Geology, University of Texas, Austin. Dr. Rowe is director of the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory, which holds one of the largest research collections of vertebrate fossils in America. He conducts research on the evolution and development of the vertebrate skeleton in the

Mesozoic badlands of Texas and the American Southwest. He is a noted leader in developing digital technologies and uses high-resolution X-ray computed tomography to analyze and visualize the vertebrae specimens.

On March 3, 2015 Dr. Rowe presented a public lecture titled "Forensic Paleontology" at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural

History's Kerr Auditorium. The Kerr Auditorium was filled to capacity (200 seats), and several people had to be turned away. The renowned paleontologist also lectured on dinosaurs to two undergraduate classes, and met with graduate students. The visit was co-sponsored by the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History and the Department of Biology. Many thanks to Dr. Rich

Fall 2014 Founders' Day Event

Founded in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest academic honor society. It has chapters at 283 institutions and more than half a million members throughout the country. Its mission is to champion education in the liberal arts and sciences, to recognize academic excellence, and to foster freedom of thought and expression.

In honor of the founding of Phi Beta Kappa on December 5, 1776, our chapter's Founders' Day event was

held on Thursday, November 6th, at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union (OMU) Beaird Lounge. This year's speaker was Dr. Kyle Harper, University of Oklahoma Senior Vice President and Provost, who presented "The Liberal Arts in Public Higher Education: Peril and Possibility."

According to Provost Harper, "The liberal arts have never been more urgently needed than they are in our world. They prepare students for the

demands of citizenship, cultivating essential civic and intellectual virtues. They also prepare students for life, inspiring them to love and to seek truth, beauty, and goodness. The University of the twenty-first century is called upon to play a central role in the formation of citizens, leaders, and well-rounded individuals who are ready to flourish."

PHI BETA KAPPA | 2015-2016 | Contributions

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

An annual contribution of \$50, \$75 or \$100 is suggested; however, any support is gratefully accepted.

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

Donations using oufoundation.org, select "Giving" located near the top of the page. This will allow you to either donate by credit card (Visa, MC, Discover, and American Express) or prepare a cover sheet to mail a contribution. To direct your donation through the OU Foundation to the Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, choose the link in My Gift to write your gift designation and type "Phi Beta Kappa #0032000" in the "Other" field. You may also direct your gift to the Roland Lehr Memorial Fund #0042002.

For member contact updates return this form to:

**Phi Beta Kappa
Attention: Craig Hayes
University of Oklahoma
1000 Asp Avenue
Norman, OK 73019**



Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter Updates

Member Moments

David K. Routh, Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter 1962, published an article in the fall Key Reporter, entitled "Darwin and Clinical Psychology."

<http://www.keyreporter.org/>

Elizabeth Garrett, Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter 1985, was named the eleventh, and the first woman president of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Kyle Harper, Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter 2001, was named the Senior Vice President and Provost of the University of Oklahoma.

Sherry Cox, Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter 2002, was named the

Outstanding Academic Advising Administrator for the State of Oklahoma by OACADA and the Outstanding Advising Administrator Certificate of Merit recipient from NACADA, The Global Community for Academic Advising.

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.

Contributions Matter

The mission of the Alpha of Oklahoma chapter of Phi Beta Kappa is to promote education in the liberal arts and sciences. Through the national Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholars program, we invite distinguished scholars from all over the world to share their work with us. We annually celebrate our Founders' Day with public lectures and discussions on a variety of timely and important topics. Perhaps most importantly, we recognize academic excellence in undergraduate students through our scholarships and annual initiation of new members.

The Alpha of Oklahoma cannot provide these events and activities without your support. Please contribute to the continued support



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www.ou.edu/pbk/officers.htm

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Standing Committees

Members-in-Course

James Thompson, Ph.D., Chair
 Peggy Chambers
 Jason Houston, Ph.D.
 Lynne Levy, Ph.D.

Scholarship

Ron Schleifer, Ph.D., Chair
 Nanette Hathaway
 Sam Huskey, Ph.D.
 David Levy, Ph.D.

Honorary and Alumni

Membership
 Sherry Cox, Ph.D., Chair

Visiting Scholars Program

Kermyt Anderson, Ph.D., Chair

Website Editor

Molly Strothmann

Newsletter

Sherry Cox, Amy Davenport,
 Craig Hayes