



PHI BETA KAPPA

NEWS

Spring 2016

“Love of wisdom, the guide of life”

Message from the Chapter President

The Alpha of Oklahoma chapter of Phi Beta Kappa kept its momentum going this past year with several successful events and projects. In October, the national PBK held its triennial meeting in Denver. I was honored to represent you there and get a chance to be wowed by the wonderful group of Visiting Scholars who presented their varied research. In December, we hosted Mark Morvant, Associate Provost for Teaching and Technology, as our Founders' Day speaker. He gave a well-attended lecture entitled *Building Community Residential Colleges at OU*. In March, the Chemistry Department hosted Visiting Scholar Rigoberto Hernandez, who gave several specialized lectures, and one public lecture, *Transitions and Janus Particles*, to an appreciative audience at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History Auditorium. This spring, we have a large number of meritorious students – 235 – who have been invited to become initiates into our society. We are awarding ten scholarships to some outstanding young scholars. The Chapter should be pleased with its involvement in the intellectual life of our university community and its support of both our emerging scholars and those who have given years of service.

Respectfully,
Marcia Haag

Notable Books

The University of Oklahoma: A History, Volume II: 1917-1950

David W. Levy, University of Oklahoma Press, 2015, 432 pgs, ISBN:9780806149035

The second volume in David Levy's projected three-part history chronicles the profound changes that occurred between 1917-1950, charting the University's course through one of the most dramatic periods in American history, documenting the institution's evolution into a complex, diverse, and multifaceted seat of learning.

David W. Levy is retired as the Irene and Julian J. Rothbaum Professor of Modern American History and David Ross Boyd Professor of History at the University of Oklahoma. He is the author of *Herbert Croly of the New Republic: The Life and Thought of an American Progressive* and *Mark Twain: The Divided Mind of America's Best-Loved Writer* and coeditor of seven volumes of the letters of Supreme Court justice Louis D. Brandeis.

Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar

Dr. Rigoberto Hernandez came to OU as a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar on March 23 to 25, 2016. His visit was hosted by Ron Halterman in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and co-sponsored by that Department, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Vice President for University Community, Women's and Gender Studies, and Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. Hernandez is a Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Georgia Tech and co-Director of the Center for Computational Molecular Science and Technology. He is also the Director of the Open Chemistry Collaborative in Diversity Equity (OXIDE) and organizes the National Diversity Equity Workshop (NDEW). More on his diversity work can be found at oxide.gatech.edu/2/.

During his visit Dr. Hernandez had a dinner lecture and discussion with 80 current and former Honors First-Year Research Experience (FYRE) students, a lunch discussion with several STEM students in the Women's and Gender Studies library, gave a National Public Radio "Race-Matters" interview in the KGOU studio, gave a presentation/discussion with 20 faculty on "Advancing Science through Diversity," and finally gave a Phi Beta Kappa public lecture titled "Transitions and Janus Particles" to around 50 attendees.

A common theme through all of these events was recognition of what the individual contributes to scientific work and how diversity is a very valuable component of those contributions. This message was inspirational and very well received by the many students in attendance at these events. The intertwining of science and societal awareness promoted the importance and context of a broad liberal arts education.

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

May 13, 2016	Friday 3:00 PM	Initiation Ceremony Oklahoma Memorial Union Meacham Auditorium
	Immediately Following	Reception for New Initiates Oklahoma Memorial Union Beaird Lounge
October 2016	TBA	Fall Business Meeting
Fall 2016	TBA	Founders' Day Event

News from Spring 2016 Chapter Business Meeting

On Monday April 11, thirteen chapter members were present for the spring business meeting of the Alpha of Oklahoma. Some of the business items included the following:

Consideration of Members in Course.

Dr. Thompson presented the slate of new members under consideration for initiation into PBK. The chapter approved the list of members in course as presented. The list consisted of 222 seniors and 13 juniors. The average GPA of the 2016 slate of members was a 3.89 with 44 having a perfect 4.0. Please personally congratulate the students you know and encourage them to join Phi Beta Kappa. Invitations to PBK membership are extended for life. Lists of former invitees can be found on the PBK website: <http://www.ou.edu/pbk/members.htm>

Election of New Officers for 2016-2017.

Officers for 2016-2017 academic year were elected. They are as follows:

Susannah Livingood - President

Marcia Haag - Vice President/President-Elect

Amy Davenport - Treasurer

Craig Hayes - Secretary

Call for Honorary Members. Alumnus/Alumna and Honorary members are considered at the fall business meeting. This past fall, Dr. Donna Nelson, OU chemistry professor; and Dr. Scott Beck, Norman High School principal were nominated for Honorary Membership. Please contact Dr. Sherry Cox, scox@ou.edu for more information on nominations.

Thank you to all who attended and participated in our spring 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”).

Undergraduate Research Day

Undergraduate Research Day was held on April 2nd at the OCCE Thurman J. White Forum Building, 1704 Asp, University of Oklahoma. At the annual conference and celebration, the Honors College hosted students who were funded in their research or creative activities from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program and students in general who wanted to show what they have discovered in their fields. This one-day conference hosted by the Honors College showcased outstanding undergraduate research and creative activity for an audience of other students, faculty, and parents.

Sixteen undergraduate students and their faculty sponsors were honored with awards for their distinguished undergraduate research. The students will be recognized at the Phi Beta Kappa Initiation Ceremony on Friday, May 13th, Oklahoma Memorial Union Meacham Auditorium.

Eulogy for Elizabeth Garrett: OU PBK Alumna and Cornell University's

Our Chapter notes with great sadness the death of Elizabeth Garrett. Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in her junior year (1984), she was a legendary figure on the campus: a 4.0 student, a member of every honorary, elected for three terms by fellow students as Chair of the Student Congress, chosen as the Outstanding Senior Woman. From Norman, she went to the University of Virginia School of Law where she finished first in her class and emerged with a standing offer to join the faculty. Instead, she went to the United States Supreme Court, where she served as a clerk to Justice Thurgood Marshall. In 1990, just as she was about to join a Texas law firm (she had finished first on the Texas Bar exam that year), she accepted an offer to work for then-Senator, David Boren. “If I were to count on the fingers of one hand the people I’ve known with the most remarkable intellect,” Boren has said, “she would be on that list.” Before long she advanced from the Senator’s tax and budget adviser, to his legal counsel, to his legislative director. When Boren left the Senate to come to Norman, Beth Garrett again turned her back on a lucrative career in private practice and chose to teach law. Weighing several

offers, she went to the University of Chicago School of Law where she taught until 2003—with visiting professorships at Virginia, Harvard, the California Institute of Technology, Budapest, and Israel. In 2003, she moved to the University of Southern California. She was a prolific and influential legal scholar, publishing several books and more than fifty articles in leading law journals, and is a recognized national authority on campaign finance reform, taxation, and budget policy. She is an international authority on the mechanisms of direct democracy –initiatives, referenda, and recall.

The Republican, George W. Bush appointed her to his bipartisan commission on tax policy; the Democrat, Barack Obama, nominated her to be assistant secretary of the treasury (a nomination she reluctantly declined for family reasons). In 2010, she was appointed the first woman Provost at the University of Southern California, and on July 1, 2015, she became the eleventh and the first woman president of Cornell University. On March 6, 2016, while at the height of her powers and the pinnacle of her

extraordinary career, Elizabeth Garrett died at the age of 52 after a courageous struggle against colon cancer.

She combined, with her extraordinary intelligence, a set of ethical and educational values that were unshakable; a remarkable self-discipline, energy, and capacity for hard work; and a gift for compassion, loyalty, and friendship that gained her ardent admirers wherever she went.

In 2015, she was asked to deliver the commencement address at the University of Oklahoma. She immediately donated her honorarium to the Department of History, and, after deliberation, the Department elected to use her gift to endow a scholarship named in her honor.



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

Phi Beta Kappa Awards for Distinguished Undergraduate Research

The students provided awards through Phi Beta Kappa (PBK) in honor of Roland Lehr will be recognized on Friday, May 13th, at the PBK Initiation Ceremony.

The PBK Award for research goes to Jordan Larsen for her project "Arabella Buckley's Epic: The Mutualistic Evolution of Morals." Jordan is a senior history of science, technology and medicine major from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For her project, Jordan examined Arabella Buckley's discussion of Darwin's evolution of morals theory. According to Jordan, Buckley was the first to characterize the theory as mutualistic rather than materialistic. Her faculty sponsor was Dr. Piers Hale, associate professor in the history of science.

The PBK Award for the best paper at Undergraduate Research Day goes to Christy Strauss, a senior psychology

and math major from Norman. In her project, "The Impact of Psychosocial Factors in Predictive Models of College Retention," Christy researched five psychological factors believed to contribute to college success: financial concerns, academic engagement, institutional commitment, grit, and growth mindset. Her faculty sponsor was Dr. Robert Terry, professor of psychology.

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.

Check out our new Twitter Account PBK ALPHA of OK @OU_PBK

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 of the liberal arts at the University of Oklahoma.

Alpha of Oklahoma 147-7404

Phi Beta Kappa

c/o Craig Hayes

Phi Beta Kappa

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www.ou.edu/pbk



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www.ou.edu/pbk/officers.htm

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Peggy Chambers
Jason Houston, Ph.D.
Lynne Levy, Ph.D.

Scholarship

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Nanette Hathaway
Sam Huskey, Ph.D.
David Levy, Ph.D.

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