



# PHI BETA KAPPA

## NEWS

Fall 2020

“Love of wisdom, the guide of life”

### Commemorating 100 years of PBK at OU

On the afternoon of Monday, May 24, 1920, the national Phi Beta Kappa office officially opened a chapter on the Norman campus. The University had been trying to convince the national office that the quality of academic life at the school was worthy of recognition alongside the other eighty-nine American colleges and universities that already had chapters. The wish was granted, and the University was determined to celebrate the occasion suitably. It was "a compliment to any school to be placed in the company of those highest institutions in the country which are allowed to join in this privilege," said the dean of the Law School, Julien C. Monnet. It was Monnet who led the long effort to gain the recognition and would serve as the chapter's first president.

Seventeen members of the University's faculty, who had been elected to Phi Beta Kappa at other institutions, together with eighty-one alumni of the University--four or five top graduates selected from each of the classes between 1902 and 1919--were chosen to inaugurate the chapter. Those who could, gathered in the office of President Stratton Brooks at 4:00 PM on the grand day. They were met there by Francis Shepardson, vice president of the national society, who came from Illinois to preside over the festivities. He presented the new chapter, informally, with its charter, and supervised the initiation of its members. This was followed by an elaborate banquet at the TeePee House on University Boulevard, complete with speeches and music. At 8:00 PM they all marched down to the University Auditorium (Holmberg Hall) where Shepardson presented the charter formally, gave a keynote address and heard grateful responses from students, faculty, and President Brooks.

*David Levy, is a David Ross Boyd Professor of History, Emeritus at the University of Oklahoma and OU Historian*

### 2020 PBK Alumni Member

Dr. Heather Shotton is Educational Leadership and Policy Studies department chair, Director of Indigenous Education Initiatives and associate professor at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Shotton is a citizen of the Wichita & Affiliated Tribes, and is also of Kiowa and Cheyenne descent and has previously served as an associate professor in Native American Studies at OU. She received her doctorate in Adult and Higher Education from the University of Oklahoma in 2008. Her research focuses on Indigenous students in higher education and Indigenous women, particularly in the areas of leadership and Indigenous women in academia. She served as a co-editor for the book, *Beyond the Asterisk: Understanding Native Students in Higher Education* (Stylus), which addresses strategies for serving Native college students, and is a co-editor for the forthcoming book, *Reclaiming Indigenous Research in Higher Education* (Rutgers University Press). Prior to returning to OU she served as assistant director of multicultural student affairs at Oklahoma City University. She has spent her career serving students both in and out of the classroom. Dr. Shotton is the past president for the National Indian Education Association and was recently named the NIEA Educator of the Year. She is a strong advocate for Native education and serves Native students and communities on a national and local level.

Heather Shotton was recently named the recipient of the CEP Mildred García Award for Exemplary Scholarship (Senior Scholar) by the Association for the Study of Higher Education. ASHE awards recognize exemplary achievements and contributions to the study of higher education through research, leadership, or service to ASHE and the field of higher education. The purpose of the García Award for Exemplary Scholarship is to recognize scholars for seminal, exemplary scholarship that focuses on research and issues specifically related to underrepresented populations of color.

# Phi Beta Kappa Founders' Day Event

Since its founding on December 5, 1776, the Phi Beta Kappa Society has celebrated excellence in the liberal arts and sciences and championed freedom of thought. As America's most prestigious academic honor society, PBK is uniquely equipped to advocate for the value and benefits of liberal arts and sciences education. The elected members of this chapter do this because we believe the curiosity and creativity cultivated by a liberal arts and sciences education are essential to making the most of life's experiences, and that knowledge and learning frees us from the shackles of prejudice and ignorance.

The Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa commemorated its annual Founders' Day event on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 4:30 pm in the Regents' Room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union. The lec-

ture, "Indigenous Representations from the Page to the Screen," was given by Dr. Kimberly Gail Wieser. Discussion of the talk and signing followed.

Dr. Kimberly Gail Wieser, Associate Professor of English and Affiliated Faculty in Native American Studies and Environmental Studies. In addition to her scholarly research on Native American poetry, criticism, rhetorics, and literacies, Dr. Wieser is an accomplished playwright, screenwriter, actor and poet. She spoke to an enthusiastic audience of students, faculty, staff, and members of the community on Wednesday, December 4 in the Regent's Room in the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Dr. Wieser specifically designed her presentation, "Indigenous Representation: From the Page to the Screen" to

be a celebration of her liberal arts education in her scholarly work and her artistic pursuits. Her talk began with a historical overview of Native American representation in United States culture. Wieser then discussed her work in film as an actor and producer. (She co-wrote and produced the film *Thistle Creek* and also appeared in the AMC series *The Son*). Dr. Wieser concluded by reading her most recent poetry collection, "Texas...to Get Horses," published by That Painted Horse Press in 2019. After a brief discussion, the event concluded with a book signing. The Alpha chapter thank Dr. Wieser for an inspiring and invigorating lecture attesting to the breath of her many intellectual and creative talents, and as well to the value of a liberal arts education.

*Julia Ehrardt is an Associate Professor of American Studies*

## Phi Beta Kappa CEO Dr. Fred Lawrence Visits OU

On November 12, 2019 Phi Beta Kappa members and University community were invited to participate in a visit to the University of Oklahoma by Fred Lawrence, the National CEO and Secretary of Phi Beta Kappa. Prior to assuming the leadership of PBK, he was President of Brandeis University, Dean of the George Washington University Law School, and is a Distinguished Lecturer at the Georgetown Law Center.

An accomplished scholar, teacher and attorney, Lawrence is one of the nation's leading experts on civil rights, free expression and bias. Lawrence has published widely and lectured internationally. He is the author of *Punishing Hate: Bias Crimes Under American Law* (Harvard University Press 1999), examining bias-motivated violence and the laws governing how such violence is punished in

the United States.

The Alpha of Oklahoma PBK chapter hosted a reception (5:00-5:30) and a buffet dinner and discussion (5:30-7:00) at the Sneed Lounge on the main level of the College of Law at OU (300 Timberdell Road, Norman). During the dinner, Fred Lawrence presented remarks on the topics of free expression and bias.

From 7:00-8:30 pm, a panel discussion was held in the Bell Courtroom on the Main Level of the College of Law on the topic of Free Expression on Campus, exploring the tensions around free speech on campus.

Rather than focusing events on one-way lecture-style presentations with Q&A aimed at the external expert, the event focused on a panel discussion to bring multiple needed

perspectives to light on free speech and related bias issues.

Co-moderators for the panel discussion were Rick Tepker, Floyd & Irma Calvert Chair, Law and Liberty and Professor of Law, and Jane Irungu, Associate Provost for Inclusive Faculty Excellence, Office of the Senior Vice President & Provost and Executive Director, Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies University Outreach. Panelists included Fred Lawrence, CEO and Secretary of PBK, David Surratt, OU Vice President for Student Affairs, and Kalenda Eaton, Associate Professor of African and African American Studies.

We were delighted to welcome the head of Phi Beta Kappa to Norman and were rewarded with a stimulating evening of discussions.

## PHI BETA KAPPA 2020-2021 Contributions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Contributions to the general fund also defray initiation costs for students with financial need. A contribution of \$115 fully supports one Phi Beta Kappa initiate.

Contribution:    \$115 \_\_\_\_\_    \$100 \_\_\_\_\_    \$75 \_\_\_\_\_    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_    Other \_\_\_\_\_

You may mail a financial contribution to the Alpha of Oklahoma chapter of Phi Beta Kappa using the attached form, along with your check made out to the OU Foundation (note Phi Beta Kappa #0032000). Online contributions may be made at [giving.oufoundation.org](http://giving.oufoundation.org); find "Phi Beta Kappa" in the "Search for a fund" 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**



### **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.

### **Calendar of Upcoming Activities - [www.ou.edu/pbk/calendar.htm](http://www.ou.edu/pbk/calendar.htm)**

|                   |                       |   |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|
| November 18, 2020 | 3:30pm                | Fall Business Meeting– Via Zoom                                   |
| May 14, 2021      | Friday 3:30-5:00pm    | Initiation Ceremony<br>Oklahoma Memorial Union Meacham Auditorium |
|                   | Immediately Following | Reception for New Initiates Oklahoma Memorial Union Beaird Lounge |

# News from Spring 2020 Chapter Business Meeting

## News and Notes from the Spring Chapter Meeting

On Tuesday April 21, fifteen 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 277 students including 265 seniors and 12 juniors. 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 2020-2021.*

Officers for 2020-2021 academic year were elected and are as follows:

Sherry Cox - President  
Julia Ehrhardt - President-Elect 2021  
Vacant - Vice President  
Amy Davenport - Treasurer  
Craig Hayes - Secretary

### *Business Discussion.*

There also was discussion of the chapter's Spring initiation

which for the first time would be held via a virtual ceremony. Discussion on scholarships for 2020 and the OU Foundation accounts.

### *Call for Honorary Members.*

Calls will be made for Honorary and/or Alumni members for consideration at the Fall 2020 business meeting. Honorary elections may be made from time to time, but they shall be limited in number and confined to persons of distinction. Additionally, alumni of any division of the University from classes of more than ten years' standing may be considered. Such graduates 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. Nominations, including a letter of nomination and CV must be received by October 15th. If you have a worthy candidate, please contact Dr. Sherry Cox, [scox@ou.edu](mailto: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").

## Leanne Ho, OU Rhodes Scholar, is Phi Beta Kappa Initiate

Leanne K.M. Ho of the OU Class of 2020 was named OU's 30<sup>th</sup> Rhodes Scholar in November 2019. An English and pre-medical studies major who graduated *summa cum laude*, Ho is presently at Oxford pursuing a one-year master's degree in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation to prepare for a future career as a physician committed to social issues. While weathering the challenges of a colder climate and a demanding course in statistics, Ho relaxes with her suitemates—all fantastic cooks—and takes walks in Oxford to break in their new rain boots. In a recent email to Julia Ehrhardt, Ho wrote: "I have so much to tell you...I love my program, my college, and the other Rhodes scholars I've met." Although their classes at Oxford are online, Ho reports that there is plenty going on to keep them busy. Next year, Ho is planning to pursue another master's degree in a humanistic field that in their words will not require as much math, and then to earn an M.D. at Harvard Medical School, where they were accepted last spring.

In April of 2020, Ho, the Outstanding Senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa, and was awarded a scholarship from the

Alpha Chapter of Oklahoma. We wish them the best of luck in Oxford and look forward to more updates in the future.





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 c/o Craig Hayes  
 Phi Beta Kappa  
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 Norman, OK 73019  
 www.ou.edu/pbk

## Chapter Officers 2020-2021 [www.ou.edu/pbk/officers.htm](http://www.ou.edu/pbk/officers.htm)

### President

Sherry Cox, Ph.D.  
 Assistant Dean, Jean-  
 nine Rainbolt College  
 of Education  
[scox@ou.edu](mailto:scox@ou.edu)  
 405-325-5377

### President Elect

Julia Ehrhardt, Ph.D.  
 Associate Professor of  
 American Studies  
[juliae@ou.edu](mailto:juliae@ou.edu)  
 405-325-5258

### Vice President

### Secretary

Craig Hayes  
 Director, International  
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### Treasurer

Amy Davenport, Ph.D.  
 Director, Fit & Rec  
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 405-325-3053

## Standing Committees

### Members-in-Course

James Thompson,  
 Ph.D., Chair  
 Peggy Chambers  
 Lynne Levy, Ph.D.  
 Julia Ehrhardt, Ph.D.

### Scholarship

Ron Schleifer, Ph.D.,  
 Chair  
 Nanette Hathaway  
 David Levy, Ph.D.  
 Laurie Scrivener

### 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](mailto:pbk-l@lists.ou.edu). Update your mailing address with the chapter by emailing Craig Hayes at [rchayes@ou.edu](mailto:rchayes@ou.edu).

### Check out our new Twitter Account

PBK ALPHA of OK  
[@OU\\_PBK](https://twitter.com/OU_PBK)

### Honorary and Alumni Membership

Sherry Cox, Ph.D.,  
 Chair

### Communications

Paula Baker  
 Sherry Cox, Ph.D.  
 Amy Davenport, Ph.D.  
 Susannah Livingood

### Visiting Scholars Program

Marcia Haag, Ph.D.

### Website Editor

Amy Davenport, Ph.D.

### Newsletter

Sherry Cox, Ph.D.  
 Amy Davenport, Ph.D.  
 Craig Hayes