



PHI BETA KAPPA

NEWS

Spring 2022

“Love of wisdom, the guide of life”

PBK Alumni & PBK Honorary Members

The 2020 PBK Alumni Member, Dr. Heather Shotton is the 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 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.

Dr. Shotton was named in 2020 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, leader-

ship, or service. The award recognizes scholars for seminal, exemplary scholarship that focuses on research and issues specifically related to underrepresented populations of color. Shotton was also awarded the 2021-2022 Provost’s Award for Outstanding Faculty Service.

The 2021 PBK Honorary Member is Professor Honorée Fanonne Jeffers of the Department of English, Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Jeffers was elected in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments in and advancement of the liberal arts and sciences inside and outside of the classroom. In consideration of her scholarly research on Phillis Wheatley Peters, she was elected to the American Antiquarian Society, a learned organization to which fourteen U.S. Presidents have been elected.

A 2021 USA Mellon Fellow, Professor Jeffers in February was named one of the 60 fellows in the United States Artists’ class of honorees, who receive \$50,000 each in unrestricted funds. She won the 2018 Harper Lee Award for Literary Distinction for her book *The Glory Gets*, and in 2020 was inducted into the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame; both notations recognize lifetime achievement.

Her sixth book, *The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois* released in August 2021, was chosen by Oprah Winfrey as the latest selection for Oprah’s Book Club.

We are pleased to have Dr. Shotton and Professor Jeffers as the newest alumni and honorary members of the Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

2021-2022 PBK Visiting Scholar

Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Dr. Donald S. Lopez gave a lecture on April 22, 2022 at 5 PM titled "When Buddha Was an Idol: European Encounters With an Ancient Asian Sage" in the Heritage Room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies and our chapter, the Alpha of Oklahoma, Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. Lopez is part of the Phi Beta Kappa Society's Visiting Scholar Program this year. He is the Arthur E. Link Distinguished University Professor of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in the Department of

Languages and Cultures at the University of Michigan.

Professor Lopez has written widely on Indian Mahayana Buddhism and on Tibetan Buddhism. He has also explored the European encounter with Buddhism and the formation of the category of Modern Buddhism, including claims for the compatibility of Buddhism and Science. His current projects include the translation (in collaboration with Thupten Jinpa) of a refutation of the Buddhist doctrines of emptiness and rebirth by the Jesuit missionary to Tibet, Ippolito Desideri (1684-1733); a study of the influence of the *Lotus Sutra*; a study of the medieval tale *Barlaam and Josaphat* (in collabo-

ration with Peggy McCracken), and a translation of an eighteenth-century Tibetan compendium of Buddhist philosophy. (<https://ii.umich.edu/ii/people/all/d/dlopez.html>)



Phi Beta Kappa Alum Kyle Harper selected as a 2022 Andrew Carnegie Fellow

Kyle Harper, professor of classics and letters, Provost Emeritus at the University of Oklahoma and Phi Beta Kappa Alum, has been selected as a 2022 Andrew Carnegie Fellow.

Harper is among a select group of 28 distinguished scholars and writers chosen to receive this prestigious award, which provides philanthropic support for scholarship in the humanities and social sciences that addresses important and enduring issues confronting our society.

In addition to being an internationally renowned historian, Harper is the G.T. and Libby Blankenship Chair in the History of Liberty at the University of Oklahoma. His work brings the natural sciences into the study of the human past

in order to deepen our understanding of the relationship between human societies and the environment.

Dr. Harper is the author of four books, including several titles related to religion and Christianity in the Ancient Greek and Roman worlds. His book, *The Fate of Rome: Climate, Disease, and the End of an Empire*, has been translated into 12 languages and is the first book to examine the catastrophic role that climate change and infectious diseases played in the collapse of Rome's power.

His most recent book, *Plagues upon the Earth: Disease and the Course of Human History*, presents a global history of the role of infectious disease in human history, spanning from human origins to COVID-19.

His work draws from a range of disciplines, including the natural sciences, and tells the story of humanity's long and distinctive struggle with pathogenic microbes. His fourth book received a PROSE Award for best book in the history of science, medicine and technology category.

Through the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, Harper will study the history of the relationship between humans and other animals, covering the Ice Age to the Sixth Extinction. His project will highlight the ways humanity's success intimately depends upon other animals and traces the deep roots of the current biodiversity crisis.

Provost's Academic Bulletin: News and Notes, April 29, 2022

PHI BETA KAPPA 2021-2022 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; 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

May 13, 2022	Friday 3:30-5 pm	Initiation Ceremony Oklahoma Memorial Union Meacham Auditorium
May 13, 2022	Immediately Following	Reception for New Initiates Oklahoma Memorial Union Beard Lounge
TBD	TBD	Fall Business Meeting– In person/Zoom

News from Spring 2022 Chapter Business Meeting

News and Notes from the Spring Chapter Meeting

On Wednesday April 6, 12 chapter members attended 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 274 students including 259 seniors and 15 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 2022-2023.

Officers for 2022-2023 academic year were elected and are as follows:

Sherry Cox - President
- President-Elect 2022
Vacant - Vice President
Amy Davenport - Treasurer
Craig Hayes - Secretary

Business Discussion.

There also was discussion of the chapter's Spring initiation

which will be held in Meacham Auditorium with the reception following upstairs on the third floor of the union in the Governors/ Regents/ and Associates Room. Discussion on scholarships for 2022 and the OU Foundation accounts followed.

Call for Honorary Members.

Calls will be made for Honorary and/or Alumni members for consideration at the Fall 2022 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 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”).

Reconnecting with Phi Beta Kappa Alum MM Gibson

On March 10, 2022 PBK alum Michael M Gibson presented a Zoom Book Talk entitled, “The Importance of Writing Historically-Accurate Fiction About World War II.” MM Gibson is the author of *The Broomcorn Field: The Odyssey of an Army Ranger in WWII*, and *Leaving Pontotoc County: The Odyssey of Two Young Women in WWII*.

Gibson received his B.A with Special Distinction in History in 1972 from the University of Oklahoma, where he was selected *Phi Beta Kappa*, and received his JD at OU in 1975. After a long career as a lawyer and judge, he now writes historically-accurate fiction. Besides *The Broomcorn Field* and *Leaving Pontotoc County*, he is working on *Can We Find Our Way Back Home?*—which will be the third book in the Broomcorn Field Series.

In addition, a book review by Michael of "*A Religious History of the American GI in World War II*" (Lincoln, NE, University of Nebraska Press 2021) which he calls—a truly superb book by G. Kurt Piehler, Ph.D., was recently published in *The Christian Century*. This Journal has been around since 1884, and is considered the gold-standard among journals dedicated to the Judeo-Christian faith tradition.

You can access the book review here. <https://www.christiancentury.org/review/books/american-gis-and-chaplains-who-served-them>

Michael may be reached via his website, mmgibson.com, or via email at mmgibsonhistory@gmail.com



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Chapter Officers 2021-2022 www.ou.edu/pbk/officers.htm

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Standing Committees

Members-in-Course

James Thompson,
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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. 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](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

Julia Ehrhardt, Ph.D.

Website Editor

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