



PHI BETA KAPPA

NEWS

Spring 2023

“Love of wisdom, the guide of life”

PBK Honorary Members

The 2023 PBK Honorary Members include, Dr. Randall Hewes, Dr. Teara Flagg Lander, and Dr. André-Denis Wright.

Dr. Randall Hewes is the Dean of the Graduate College and Professor of Biology at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Hewes has served as the Dean of the Graduate College since 2017. He has previously served at OU as the Senior Associate Vice President for Research (SAVPR) and Partnerships and Chair of the Department of Biology. He received his doctorate in Zoology from the University of Washington in 1993.

Dean Hewes has undertaken many initiatives during his tenure as Dean of the Graduate College, including: Establishing nationally competitive graduate assistantships, promoting program outcome transparency and student success, promoting inclusive excellence, and supporting students through the creation of campus community. Under his leadership as the SAVPR, one initiative included growing research. New Grants and Contracts increased to \$162 million in FY19, \$26 million above the previous record, and to \$256 million another new record in FY20. In addition to implementing and overseeing these initiatives designed to expand educational opportunities, access, quality, and rigor, Professor Hewes is also an accomplished musician. He is a lifelong student of the clarinet and saxophone, performing solo and duet recitals at OU and an accomplished vocalist singing in several *a capella* groups. His commitment to the liberal arts as a scholar, performer, and advocate are just a few of the reasons that merit his election to our chapter.

Dr. Teara Flagg Lander is the Assistant Vice President, Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the University of Oklahoma. She received her doctorate in Higher Educational Leadership, in Organizational Leadership from Kansas State University in 2017. Dr. Lander has over fifteen years of higher education experience in the areas of leadership, development, and com-

munity building. Dr. Lander has previously served at OU as the Director of Campus and Community Engagement.

In her current and previous positions, Assistant Vice President Lander has initiated many outreach and trainings for DEI education for students, faculty and staff in areas including race, gender, age, class, underrepresented populations in higher education, culture, community, belongingness, and exceptionalities. Dr. Lander is dedicated to students, faculty, and staff in all efforts to create the best possible learning and creative research environment in and out of the classroom. She has assisted, hundreds of students feel both accepted and valued while living their authentic selves at OU.

Dr André-Denis Wright, is the Senior Vice-President and Provost at the University of Oklahoma. Before his appointment as Senior Vice-President and Provost at the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Wright was an Endowed Dean of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University, an endowed Professor and Director of the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences at the University of Arizona, and former Chair of the Department of Animal Science at the University of Vermont. He received his doctorate in Zoology at the University of Guelph (Ontario, Canada) in 1998.

Provost Wright is a microbiologist. For more than two decades, his research investigated host-gut microbe interrelationships within and between different groups of production animals, such as dairy cattle, beef cattle, and sheep; the dietary effects on different microbial populations in the rumen; the composition of bacteria and methanogenic archaea in the human gastrointestinal tract (GIT) of individuals with healthy colon, diverticulosis, inflammatory bowel disease, colon polyps, or colorectal cancer; the identification of GIT microorganisms as potential biomarkers for the early detection and prevention (Continued on page 2)

PBK Honorary Members (continued from Page 1)

of colorectal cancer and other colonic diseases in humans, and understanding the link between GIT methanogens and obesity in humans.

Dr. Wright has published 114 peer-reviewed papers, contributed 18 book chapters, presented 100 conference papers, and delivered 34 plenary lectures in 10 countries. He has served on review panels for the USDA, NSF, and NASA. In addition he has served as an external scientific reviewer for the governments of Canada, Russia, Kazakhstan, Scotland, and Switzerland.

Dr. Wright has received numerous awards and honors including Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, Most Outstanding Teaching Award, and

Most Outstanding Publication Award. In 2008, in recognition of his research contributions to microbiology, a ciliated protozoan was named *Apokeronopsis wrighti*, in his honor. He is also served as an officer in the Cadet Instructors Cadre, Reserve, Canadian Air Force.

Throughout his career, Dr. Wright has taught and mentored undergraduate researchers. At the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Wright recently established the OU Provost's URECA (Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity) program, which has greatly expanded summer research opportunities and funding for undergraduate students from all disciplines.

We are pleased to have Dr. Randall

Hewes, Dr. Teara Flagg Lander, and Dr. André-Denis Wright as our newest honorary members of the Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.



Phi Beta Kappa Alum, Dr. David Levy, to be Honored by the United States Supreme Court

Dr. David W. Levy is David Ross Boyd Professor of History, Emeritus, at the University of Oklahoma and a Phi Beta Kappa Alum, will be honored on June 5, 2023 by the United States Supreme Court.

In 2020, Dr. Levy wrote an article for *The Journal of Supreme Court History*. The article described how the University of Oklahoma attempted for 21 difficult months to navigate between the federal insistence that African Americans be admitted to the student body, AND the state of Oklahoma's insistence that the races be separated. The University had to face questions relating to African Americans' using the library, eating on campus, housing, use of the Union, separation within classrooms, toilet facilities, attendance at football games, and a dozen other matters. The

University's elaborate contortions and improvisations lasted from October 1948 until June 1950, when the Supreme Court, in the *McLaurin* case, unanimously decided that once a student was admitted it was unconstitutional to treat them differently on account of race.

That article was chosen the best article published by the *Journal* in 2020 and was awarded a prize named in honor of former Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes. Because of COVID, there has been no gathering until the customary practice is being resumed this year on June 5. The award includes a cash prize and a certificate, presented by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or, in his absence, by another Justice. It is given in the chambers at the Supreme Court building and followed by a

banquet.

Dr. Levy, who specializes in American intellectual history has been called a true OU treasure, receiving awards including the Regents' Award for Superior Teaching, the Student Association's prize for outstanding teacher, and was inducted to the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2006.

He has authored biographies of Herbert Croly and Mark Twain; edited the multi-volume letters of Louis Brandeis, published books on FDR's Fireside Chats, the debate over the Vietnam War, a new edition of William Dean Howells's 1894 novel, *A Traveler from Altruria*, and two books on OU history.

PHI BETA KAPPA 2022-2023 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 contributions or 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 12, 2023	Friday 3:30-5 pm	Initiation Ceremony Oklahoma Memorial Union Meacham Auditorium
May 12, 2023	Immediately Following	Reception for New Initiates Oklahoma Memorial Union Beard Lounge
TBD	TBD	Fall Business Meeting– In person/Zoom

News from Spring 2023 Chapter Business Meeting

News and Notes from the Spring Chapter Meeting

On Thursday April 6, twelve 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 251 students, with an average GPA of 3.92 and included 235 seniors and 11 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 2023-2024.

Officers for 2023-2024 academic year were elected and are as follows:

Susannah Livingood - 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 in Beaird Lounge. Discussion on scholarships for 2023, PBK Visiting Scholar, 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 2023 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 the 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") by emailing Secretary, Craig Hayes, rchayes@ou.edu or by sending a request to pbk-@lists.ou.edu.

Undergraduate Research Day Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship

On Saturday, April 15th, Honors College hosted the 35th Annual Research Day where 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.

Kaylee Tatum, Anthropology major, was awarded the Undergraduate Research Day Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship for her paper titled "A Cultural and Morphological Investigation of Ancient Bering Sea Bear Bones".

Kaylee worked with Professor Courtney Hofman.

The Phi Beta Kappa Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter awards a research scholarship to those whose research papers were judged to be the best at the annual Undergraduate Research Day. The winner is chosen by a system of ranking by faculty members in attendance at Undergraduate Research Day. The undergraduate research award is given in memory of the late Roland Lehr, for many years a distinguished member of the Chemistry faculty, twice the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and an active member of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter on this campus, serving for several years as its Executive Secretary.



Alpha of Oklahoma
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c/o Craig Hayes
Phi Beta Kappa
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www.ou.edu/pbk

Chapter Officers 2022-2023 www.ou.edu/pbk/officers.htm

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Standing Committees

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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

Honorary and Alumni Membership

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Chair

Visiting Scholars Program

Julia Ehrhardt, Ph.D.

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