



PHI BETA KAPPA

NEWS

Spring 2024

“Love of wisdom, the guide of life”

Phi Beta Kappa Honorary and Alumni Members

Each year the Alpha of Oklahoma, Phi Beta Kappa sends out a call for Honorary and/or Alumni members for consideration at the fall business meeting.

Last year the Alpha of Oklahoma Phi Beta Kappa chapter initiated three PBK Honorary Members including, Dr. Randall Hewes who is the Dean of the Graduate College and Professor of Biology at the University of Oklahoma; Dr. André-Denis Wright, the Senior Vice-President and Provost at the University of Oklahoma; and Dr. Teara Flagg Lander, formerly Assistant Vice President at OU who now is Associate Vice President for Student Services at OSU-OKC.

In 2021 the PBK Honorary Member was Professor Honorée Fanonne Jeffers of the Department of English, Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences.

In 2020 the PBK Alumni Member, was Dr. Heather Shotton, former Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department Chair, Director of Indigenous Education Initiatives and Associate Professor at the University of Oklahoma.

For their deep commitment to the liberal arts, scholarship and research, teaching, and mentoring students, we are pleased to have Dr. Randall Hewes, Dr. Teara Flagg Lander, Dr. André-Denis Wright, Professor Honorée Fanonne Jeffers and Dr. Heather Shotton as our newest members of the Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Call for Honorary Members.

Calls will be made for Honorary and/or Alumni members for consideration at the Fall 2024 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.

PBK Triennial Council Meeting

The 47th Annual Phi Beta Kappa Triennial Council meeting will be held this summer in Baltimore, Maryland July 31 - August 4, 2024. Current Chapter President, Susanna Livingood will represent the Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter as our delegate.

The Triennial Council is ΦBK's legislative body, which convenes every three years to conduct Society business. Delegates help charter new ΦBK chapters, elect leadership for the following triennium, discuss policies affecting the Society, and engage with timely liberal arts & sciences content.

Along with traditional plenary sessions, discussions for the Triennial Council meeting will focus on including, How Democracies Thrive: Liberal Arts and Sciences on Campuses and in Communities; Reaching for the Stars: Celebrating the Society's 250th Anniversary; building support, building relationships with administration and community, designing meaningful programs and events, and using media to change/update campus presence for Phi Beta Kappa.

Join us at the fall PBK Business meeting for a report on the 47th Triennial Council!

Phi Beta Kappa Alums

On Saturday, October 14, 2023 OU Phi Beta Kappa Alum **Michael Gibson** (B.A. 1972, J.D. 1975) spoke to the Norman Galaxy of Writers about his two World War II novels set in Oklahoma, *The Broomcorn Field* and *Leaving Pontotoc County*. In addition to discussing his novels, Gibson shared the writing process he developed for creating historically-accurate fiction.

Gibson reported that, 51 years ago, his father (then Chair of OU's History Department) also addressed the Norman Galaxy of Writers and discussed his book, *The Chickasaws*—which had just come within a few votes of winning the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1972.

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.

Gibson has written one book of contemporary social criticism, *Can We Stop the Radical Religious Right?* (2022). His current project is a book titled, *Can We Find Our Way Back Home?*, which will be the third book I the Broomcorn Field Series. Michael may be reached via his website, mmgibson.com, or via email at mmgibsonhistory@gmail.com

On Monday, Oct. 16, 2023, Harvard College Phi Beta Kappa Alum, **Nadine Strossen**, New York Law School professor emerita, past president of the American Civil Liberties Union and constitutional law expert spoke as part of the University of Oklahoma's celebration of Free

Speech Week.

In a conversation moderated by Jeremy Bailey, director of the Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage and Sanders Chair in Law and Liberty at OU, Strossen presented "When Can Government Restrict Speech?"

Strossen graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard College and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School. Before becoming a law professor, she practiced law in Minneapolis and New York City. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Strossen is the author of *HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship* and the soon-to-be-released *Free Speech: What Everyone Needs to Know*.

2023-2024 Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar

Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, Dr. Julia Clark, Professor of Paleontology at University of Texas at Austin, came to the University of Oklahoma April 10-12, 2024.

Professor Clark gave a lecture titled, "The Secret Lives of Dinosaurs" on April 11, 2024 at Sarkeys Energy Center. Her visit was co-sponsored by the School of Geosciences and our chapter, the Alpha of Oklahoma Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. Clark is part of the Phi Beta Kappa Society's Visiting Scholar Program this year. During her lecture, Professor Clark shared the latest scientific discoveries about dinosaurs, including how we have started to gain insight into color and sound. Her research has long centered on evolutionary innovation; how key traits and

behaviors of living organisms are assembled in deep time. Specifically, she is interested in how new structures and functions arise in deep time with a focus on the evolution of dinosaurs including birds. She has published over 100 papers including 14 in the journals *Nature* and *Science*. She has an international field program in paleontology (e.g. in Antarctica, South America, Asia) as well as leading highly interdisciplinary collaborative teams integrating data on living animals to ask new questions of the fossil record. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Humboldt Foundation, The National Geographic Society, Explorers Club, AAAS, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and has been covered by NPR's Science Friday, The New York Times,

Washington Post, National Geographic Magazine, NOVA, and other outlets. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, American Ornithological Society and The Anatomical Society.

Dr. Clark received her degrees from Brown University and Yale University and currently serves as an Associate Dean in the Jackson School of Geosciences at UT Austin.

During her time at OU, Dr. Clark visited the History of Science Collection with Jo Ann Palmeri and Ken Taylor, met with the Paleontological Faculty, and spent time at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History with Dr. Jacki Lungmus looking at the vertebrate collections. In addition, Dr. Clarke met with students in Dr. Lungmus' vertebrate class at the Museum.

PHI BETA KAPPA 2023-2024 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 10, 2024	Friday 3:30-5 pm	Initiation Ceremony Oklahoma Memorial Union Meacham Auditorium
May 10, 2024	Immediately Following	Reception for New Initiates Oklahoma Memorial Union Beard Lounge
TBD	TBD	Fall Business Meeting— In person/Zoom

News from Spring 2024 Chapter Business Meeting

News and Notes from the Spring Chapter Meeting

On Tuesday April 9, ten 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.

The Members-In-Course-Committee (Dr. Jim Thompson-Chair, Craig Hayes, Dr. Lynne Levey, and Dr. Sherry Cox) reviewed 2,518 graduating seniors. 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 267 students, with an average GPA of 3.92 and included 252 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 invitees can be found on the PBK website:

<http://www.ou.edu/pbk/members.htm>

Business Discussion.

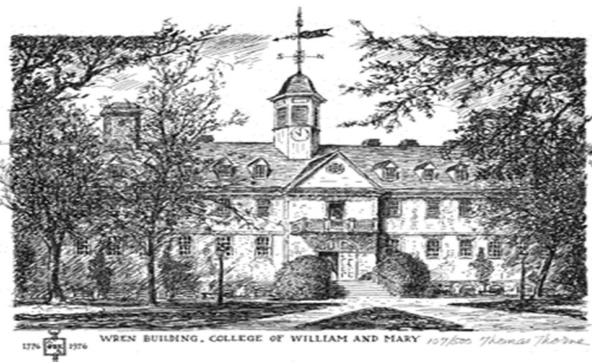
Fall 2023 minutes were discussed and approved. There also was discussion of the chapter's Spring initiation which will be held in Meacham Auditorium with the reception following in Beard Lounge. Brief discussions on scholarships for 2024, PBK 2024 Visiting Scholar, and on the need for a greater social media presence.

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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 ("Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter Updates") by emailing Secretary, Craig Hayes, rchayes@ou.edu or by sending a request to pbk-l@lists.ou.edu. Meetings can be attended in person or virtually.



Undergraduate Research Day Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship

On Saturday, April 13th, Honors College hosted the 36th 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.

Beth Felkner, Economics and Letters major, was awarded the Undergraduate Research Day Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship for her paper titled "Something in the Air?: Predictive Modeling of the Relationship Between Air Quality and Educational Attainment". Beth worked with

Professor Tyler Ransom.

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
Phi Beta Kappa
c/o Craig Hayes
Phi Beta Kappa
1000 Asp Avenue
Norman, OK 73019
www.ou.edu/pbk

Chapter Officers 2023-2024 www.ou.edu/pbk/officers.htm

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Lynne Levy, Ph.D.
Craig Hayes
Sherry Cox, Ph.D.

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Laurie Scrivener

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