

Spring 2007

Fall Business Meeting Held

On October 26, 2006, the Alpha of Oklahoma chapter met for the fall business meeting in the Mary Esther Selby Saxon Conference Room of Jacobson Hall. The items discussed included: plans for the Spring 2007 Initiation, the receipt of donations for the Roland Lehr Endowment, and the state of our finances. Members also discussed plans for the 2006 Founder's Day Event, an invitation to Frank Gilson for honorary membership, and revisions to the Junior Scholarship procedure. Please see inside this issue for more Junior Scholarship details.

If you were not able to attend the Fall Business Meeting, we hope to see you at the Spring Business Meeting in April. We look forward to your input.

**Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter
Phi Beta Kappa
<http://www.ou.edu/pbk>**

Calendar of Activities

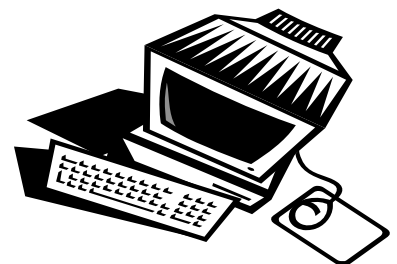
April 2007	Time & Date Forthcoming	Spring Business Meeting Jacobson Hall (Visitor Center) Saxon Conference Room
May 11, 2007	Friday 3:00 PM	Initiation Oklahoma Memorial Union- Meacham Auditorium
	Immediately Following	Reception for New Initiates Oklahoma Memorial Union- Beaird Lounge

Change of Address?

The chapter's regular mailing list is derived primarily from records kept by the national Phi Beta Kappa office. You may update your mailing address online at <http://www.pbk.org/members/info.htm>. Since our chapter is only able to update our mailing list every few years, in the interim please contact Craig Hayes (rchayes@ou.edu) with any change in your mailing address.

E-Mail List

If you would like to be added to the chapter's electronic mailing list and receive e-mail updates of chapter activities, please e-mail Craig Hayes at rchayes@ou.edu with your contact information.



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c/o Craig Hayes
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Norman, OK 73019-3024

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Standing Committees

Members-in-Course

James Thompson, Chair
Craig Hayes
Samuel J. Huskey
Lynne Levy

Scholarship

David Levy, Chair
Nanette Hathaway
Heather Lehman
Ronald Schleifer

Honorary, Alumni Membership

Carlye Rooney, Chair

Visiting Scholar

Kermyt Anderson, Chair

Dues Appreciated by Chapter

People often ask, "What does Phi Beta Kappa *do*?" The Alpha of Oklahoma chapter initiates students at the end of the school year and also sponsors many activities on the University of Oklahoma campus. We promote education in the liberal arts and sciences, recognize academic excellence in undergraduate students, and increase awareness of Phi Beta Kappa. We invite distinguished scholars from all over the world to share their work with us through the national Phi Beta Kappa visiting lecturers program. Each December, we celebrate the anniversary of Phi Beta Kappa with a Founders Day event; this year, Pulitzer prizewinning author and native Oklahoman N. Scott Momaday read from his work to an appreciative audience of 50. We also co-sponsor speakers with the Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program (OSLEP). The Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter cannot provide any of these activities without your support. Although our costs in recent years have outpaced our income, we hope to continue to sponsor outstanding speakers; this is only possible with your support. **Please contribute to the continued support of the liberal arts** at the University of Oklahoma by Phi Beta Kappa by sending your annual dues and additional contributions with the form on the following page to Craig Hayes, chapter secretary.

Scholarship Updates

Revision to PBK Junior Scholarship Selection Process

Chapter members at the fall business meeting voted to change the process of selecting junior scholarship recipients. The Scholarship committee suggested opening the scholarship competition to all OU juniors with a 3.75 or higher GPA in order to improve the quality of applicants, ensure the best candidate is chosen, and honor the original intent of the scholarship endowment. This spring, an invitation will be sent out via OU email to all OU juniors with a 3.75 or higher GPA to apply for the Phi Beta Kappa Savoie Lottinville or Sewell junior scholarships. The Phi beta Kappa scholarship committee will then review all applications and select the winners, regardless of the student's potential selection for membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

2006 Scholarship Recipients

The Mary Esther Selby Saxon Award is presented to graduating Phi Beta Kappa seniors who plan to do graduate work in any field of the humanities or the social sciences. The committee named three winners named for 2006: Jason Dyer (\$750), who will enter the Graduate College of the University of Texas at Austin; Christopher Schaefer (\$750), who will further his studies of modern languages and literature; and Ryan Schaller (\$750), who intends to pursue a degree in Renaissance and Medieval Literature at the University of Oklahoma.

The Savoie Lottinville award is named for a member of the chapter and a longtime editor of the University of Oklahoma Press. The scholarship is awarded to juniors with the potential of being selected to join Phi Beta

Kappa. The committee selected Jared Wier as the 2006 winner, awarding a scholarship for \$500.

In addition to the endowed scholarships, two Undergraduate Research Awards were given to students judged to have presented the best papers at Undergraduate Research Day. The winners were chosen by a system of ranking by faculty members in attendance. The Roland Lehr prize for the best Undergraduate Research Day paper (\$250) went to Gregory Blass. Blass won for his paper, "Light-wave Biases of the Desert Grasslands Scorpion." An additional scholarship was awarded to Allison Taylor (\$250) Ms. Taylor won her prize for a research paper titled "Death of a Mountain: Appalachian Artists' Response to Mountain Top Removal."

Congratulations to all of these outstanding students!

PHI BETA KAPPA | 2006-2007 | Dues and Contributions Notice

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Dues: \$25 (payable to Phi Beta Kappa) \$ _____

Additional Contributions: \$ _____

(please specify: undergrad research prize, subsidies for low-income initiates, and/or general fund)

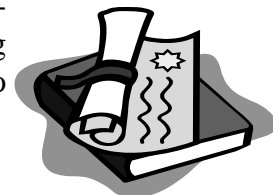
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

craig

Please return this form to: **Craig Hayes**
Jacobson Hall
550 Parrington Oval
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019

New Chapter Members Initiated in 2006

The Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa elected 195 students to membership at the spring business meeting. On May 13, 2005, over 100 of the invitees participated in the initiation ceremony at Meacham Auditorium in the Oklahoma Memorial Union. Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the Union's Beaird Lounge. Congratulations to the newest members of the Alpha chapter!



Frank Gilson Chosen for Alumni Membership

The Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter decided at the fall business meeting to invite Frank Gilson to alumni membership in the chapter. Gilson, 65 years-old, graduated from OU in 1964 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, and then worked for Phillips Petroleum for 35 years.

After his retirement, Gilson decided to return to OU, auditing 15-18 hours of liberal arts classes each semester. He is especially devoted to the arts on campus, attending every concert and play at OU, as well as taking drama classes. He hopes to nurture a love of art, claiming his talent in this area has

been latent during much of his life. student-athlete.

Gilson is also a generous supporter of the University of Oklahoma. He is a member of the Commitment of 50, donating \$50,000 to the maintenance endowment of the Reynolds Performing Arts Center. He also established the Frank Gilson Award for graduating seniors in the School of Drama and funded the Gilson Studio Theatre, and 88-seat student-run theatre to ensure the production of smaller student plays.

Explaining his decision to return to OU to pursue an education in the

arts and his hope that more students will focus on the humanities, Gilson said, "I have a basic belief that all students need a far better liberal arts education than they are allowing themselves. People who want to be engineers or business people or whatever—they all should take a fairly broad range of courses in history, great literature, etc., just to be exposed to various fields and ideas."

We believe his commitment to a liberal arts education embodies the spirit of Phi Beta Kappa, and are pleased he has accepted our invitation to honorary membership.