

## Fall 2011

### Message from the Chapter President

Greetings, Phi Beta Kappa members! We made it through a hot summer and are well into fall. As we embark on another academic year, we will face many questions concerning the state of Higher Education. Budget cuts and funding woes cause many to question: What are the necessary components of a degree? It is a dark day when the fall 2012 American Conference of Academic Deans is titled, "Are the Humanities Now a Luxury?" This question is easy to answer when we consider that the humanities are not only part of a well-rounded education, but also required for the development of a global worldview, so important in light of the rapid globalization that is occurring in the world today. We can all be thankful that the humanities are supported at the University of Oklahoma. In the words of Galen Culver, "Is this a great university or what!"

*Sherry Cox*

Assistant Dean, Rainbolt College of Education  
Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter President

### Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter

### Calendar of Upcoming Activities

October 20, 2011	4:00 PM	Fall Business Meeting - Collings Hall Room 175
December 5, 2011	3:30 PM	Founders' Day Event Dr. Zach Messitte OMU Scholars Room
April 2012	Time and Date TBD	Spring Business Meeting
May 11, 2012	Friday 3:00 PM	Initiation Ceremony Oklahoma Memorial Union Meacham Auditorium
	Immediately Following	Reception for New Initiates Oklahoma Memorial Union Beard Lounge

### 2011 Scholarship Updates: Where are they now?

Luke Engelmann, a Spring 2011 graduate awarded the Roland Lehr prize, is in his first year of the MD program at the OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. Says Luke, "Receiving the scholarship for my research meant a lot to me; it validated all the hard work and effort I put into my research and my presentation."

Savannah Collins, a junior recipient of the Savoie Lottinville award, is completing her political science degree this year and pursuing minors in Russian Language and International Security Studies. She works at the Center for Applied Social Research as a research assistant, focusing on nuclear energy and nuclear siting. Savannah also works at the Carl Albert Center for Congressional Studies as a student archivist and a research assistant to Dr. Cindy Simon Rosenthal. Savannah states, "To have my work recognized by such a prominent group is deeply rewarding."

Ganga Moorthy, a junior recipient of the Amy Taylor Sewell Memorial scholarship, is an OU senior, applying to medical school at Mayo, Georgetown, and the OUHSC. Ganga is also applying to volunteer abroad in Europe or India through scholarships including

the Rhodes, Marshall, Luce, or Gates. "Receiving a scholarship," says Ganga, "is such an honor; I am truly thankful."



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## Chapter Officers 2011-2012

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## Standing Committees

### Members-in-Course

Dr. James Thompson, Chair  
Craig Hayes  
Dr. Jason Houston  
Dr. Lynne Levy

### Scholarship Committee

Dr. Ron Schleifer, Chair  
Dr. Sam Huskey  
Nanette Hathaway

### Website Editor

Molly Strothmann

### Honorary and Alumni

**Membership**  
Sherry Cox, Chair

### Visiting Scholars Program

Dr. Kermyt Anderson, Chair

### Newsletter Editor

Monica Sharp  
Director, International Student  
Services  
msharp@ou.edu

## Annual Author's Evening features Phi Beta Kappa Scholar Dr. David Levy

The Phi Beta Kappa Association of Oklahoma City cordially invites you to the Annual Author's Evening at Full Circle Bookstore, Fifty Penn Place on North Pennsylvania at Northwest Expressway, in Oklahoma City.

**Tuesday, November 1, 2011  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

The event will feature Phi Beta Kappa scholar and University of Oklahoma Professor Emeritus of American History, Dr. David Levy. Dr. Levy will speak about his most recent book, *Mark Twain: The Divided Mind of America's Best-Loved Writer*.

The life and writings of a beloved American writer illuminate the Gilded Age and reveal his ambivalence toward the changes wrought by industry and wealth. Like the steamboat on which Mark Twain adopted his pen name, the industrial growth that swept America in the latter half of the nineteenth century prompted Americans to react variously with delight, awe, fear, excitement for the future, and nostalgia for a simpler time. David Levy's biography places Mark Twain and his work in the context of sweeping societal changes: westward expansion, the Civil War, American imperialism, the end of slavery and start of a new chapter in race relations, and the advances and excesses of the Gilded Age.

Light snacks and a cheese tasting will be provided by Forward Foods, central Oklahoma's best-known specialty and import food store! Attire is "casual fireside," and bringing guests is encouraged! Cost is \$10 per person, or \$50 per patron (of which \$40 is a tax-deductible donation to the scholarship fund).



## 2011 PBK Scholarship Winner Report

### Endowed Scholarship Recipients

The Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter competitively awards a number of endowed scholarships each year, and is pleased to announce this year's scholarship and award recipients.

Savoie Lottinville was a longtime member of the chapter, a 1929 Rhodes Scholar, and editor of the OU Press. Two Lottinville awards were given to Whitney Minor, a microbiology major from Chino Hills, CA (\$500), and Savannah Collins, a political science major from Norman (\$200).

The Amy Taylor Sewell memorial scholarship is awarded to students in the College of Arts and Sciences who have demonstrated through broad cultural interests and scholarly achievements the intellectual, aesthetic, ethical, and social qualities present in liberally educated persons. Two Sewell scholarships were awarded to Ganga Moorthy, a microbiology/pre-med major from Alva (\$1000), and Bailie Gregory, a political science major from Bixby (\$750).

In order to demonstrate the chapter's commitment to high quality original research by undergraduate students, the

chapter gives two prizes to those in our College whose research papers were judged to be the best at the annual Undergraduate Research Day. Two Undergraduate Research Awards were given in the name of Roland Lehr. The winners were chosen by thorough ranking by a committee of attending faculty members. The first Lehr award (\$300) went to Luke Engelmann, a senior zoology-biomedical sciences major from Weatherford, OK, for his paper on nicotine metabolites. The second Lehr prize (\$200) was awarded to Joshua Malone, a biochemistry major from Oklahoma City, for his paper on crystallographic research.



### Junior Scholarships

Phi Beta Kappa junior scholarships are open to all juniors with at least a 3.7 GPA. All students will receive an invitation to apply via OU email in early spring. The committee will review applications and select winners, regardless of the applicant's potential membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

## Visiting Scholar Report

The Spring 2011 Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar (April 6-8, 2011) was Dr. Michael McCormick, Francis Goelt Professor of Medieval History at Harvard, and author of *Origins of the European Economy* and *Charlemagne's Survey of the Holy Land*. Dr. McCormick is currently working on natural scientific approaches to the past, including the history of human health and the environment, he co-directs the exploration of a Carolingian royal estate recently identified in Flanders, Belgium, and of the ongoing excavation of a fortified late Roman township in eastern France.

The topic of his lecture, co-sponsored by the Department of History and the Department of Classics, was given at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History on April 7, 2011. His topic was "Climate Change and the Fall of the Roman Empire." Approximately 200 enthusiastic attendees came to his feature event.

Regrettably, due to Phi Beta Kappa budget cuts, the University of Oklahoma does not anticipate hosting a Visiting Scholar in the 2011-2012 academic year.

Kermyt Anderson  
Associate Professor, Anthropology  
Chair, Visiting Scholar Committee

## PHI BETA KAPPA | 2011-2012 | Contributions

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

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

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

Suggested Annual

Contribution: \$25 (payable to OU Foundation; note "Phi Beta Kappa #0032000") \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contributions\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Specify "undergraduate research prize," "subsidies for low-income initiates," and/or "general fund." *Donations made in support of the Roland Lehr Fund should be made out with a separate check directly to the OU Foundation, indicating Roland Lehr Fund #0042002 in the memo line.*

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to:** Phi Beta Kappa  
Attn.: Craig Hayes  
339 W Boyd St, Room 412  
University of Oklahoma  
Norman, OK 73019



## Roland Lehr Memorial Scholarship Fund Update

The Dr. Roland Lehr Memorial Scholarship fund account reached the goal of \$10,000 last year. The chapter now has the means to give an annual scholarship from the fund. The chapter will award the scholarship to a graduating initiate who plans to pursue work in the natural or physical sciences, or in medicine. Dr. Roland Lehr was a distinguished professor of Chemistry, twice the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and an active member of the Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter, serving for several years as its secretary. We are delighted that a scholarship will perpetuate his name for future generations of Phi Beta Kappa scholars.

## Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter Updates

### Founders' Day Event 2011

Our annual Founders' Day event will be held on Monday, December 5th, in the Student Union (OMU) Scholar's Room. This year's featured speaker is Dr. Zach Messitte, Dean of the College of International Studies and William J. Crowe Chair in Geopolitics. The event begins at 3:30 p.m.

### PBK Listserv

If you would like to be added to the chapter's listserv to receive intermittent e-mail updates of chapter activities, send your request to

[pbk-l@lists.ou.edu](mailto:pbk-l@lists.ou.edu).

Update your mailing address online at <http://www.pbk.org/members/info.htm>, or via email to Craig Hayes ([rchaves@ou.edu](mailto:rchaves@ou.edu)).



### 2011 Initiation Ceremony

The Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa voted to invite a total of 162 students to membership last spring. On May 14, 2010, 100 of the invitees were initiated in the ceremony at Meacham Auditorium in the Oklahoma Memorial Union. The invitees included 156 seniors and 6 juniors.

The six junior initiates, recognized for outstanding scholarship prior to the final year of their undergraduate career, were as follows (major in parentheses):

Gerard Keiser (classical languages), Jill Bourgeois (economics/mathematics), Emily Mapes (English), Whitney Minor (biochemistry), Alexandra Rahill (Letters), and Madison Sandefer (German/linguistics). The chapter did not initiate any honorary or alumni members in Spring 2011.

Following chapter tradition, an elegant wine bar reception was held immediately following the ceremony in the Beaird Lounge of the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Our congratulations go to all the newest members of the Phi Beta Kappa Alpha of Oklahoma chapter!