



PHI BETA KAPPA

N E W S

Spring 2015

“Love of wisdom, the guide of life”

Fall Founders' Day Event

Founded in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest academic honor society. It has chapters at 283 institutions and more than half a million members throughout the country. Its mission is to champion education in the liberal arts and sciences, to recognize academic excellence, and to foster freedom of thought and expression.

In honor of the founding of Phi Beta Kappa on December 5, 1776, our chapter's Founders' Day event was held on Thursday, November 6th, at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union (OMU) Beard Lounge. This year's speaker was Dr. Kyle Harper, University of Oklahoma Senior Vice President and Provost, who presented "The Liberal Arts in Public Higher Education: Peril and Possibility."

According to Provost Harper, "The liberal arts have never been more urgently needed than they are in our world. They prepare students for the demands of citizenship, cultivating essential civic and intellectual virtues. They also prepare students for life, inspiring them to love and to seek truth, beauty, and goodness. The University of the twenty-first century is called upon to play a central role in the formation of citizens, leaders, and well-rounded individuals who are ready to flourish."

Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar

This year's Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar was Dr. Timothy B. Rowe, J. Nalle Gregory Regents Professor of Geology, University of Texas, Austin. Dr. Rowe is director of the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory, which holds one of the largest research collections of vertebrate fossils in America. He conducts research on the evolution and development of the vertebrate skeleton in the Mesozoic badlands of Texas and the American Southwest. He is a noted leader in developing digital technologies and uses high-resolution X-ray computed tomography to analyze and visualize the vertebrae specimens.

On March 3, 2015 Dr. Rowe presented a public lecture titled "Forensic Paleontology" at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History's Kerr Auditorium. The Kerr Auditorium was filled to capacity (200 seats), and several people had to be turned away. The renowned paleontologist also lectured on dinosaurs to two undergraduate classes, and met with graduate students. The visit was co-sponsored by the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History and the Department of Biology. Many thanks to Dr. Rich Cifelli of Sam Noble for his help in coordinating and organizing the details of the visit.

Calendar of Upcoming Activities - www.ou.edu/pbk/calendar.htm

May 8, 2015	Friday 3:00 PM	Initiation Ceremony Oklahoma Memorial Union Meacham Auditorium
	Immediately Following	Reception for New Initiates Oklahoma Memorial Union Beard Lounge
October 2015	TBA	Fall Business Meeting
Fall 2015	TBA	Founders' Day Event

News from Spring 2015 Chapter Business Meeting

On Friday, April 10, sixteen chapter members were present for 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 204 seniors and 12 juniors. The average GPA of the 2015 slate of members was a 3.89 with 44 having a perfect 4.0. A message inviting them to membership was sent to each student's OU email address, and a packet with the formal invitation was mailed a few days later. 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>

Establishment of a New Standing Committee. The chapter would like to establish a new standing Publicity Committee. Members with expertise in social media or who are interested in serving should contact Craig Hayes, rchayes@ou.edu.

Call for Honorary Members. Alumnus/Alumna and Honorary members are considered at the fall business meeting. This past fall, Dean Kelly Damphousse, College of Arts and Sciences was nominated for Honorary Membership. Please contact Dr. Sherry Cox, scox@ou.edu for more information on nominations.

Election of New Officers for 2015-2016. Officers for 2015-2016 academic year were elected. They are as follows:

Marcia Haag - President
Susannah Livingood - Vice President/President-Elect
Amy Davenport - Treasurer
Craig Hayes - Secretary

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").

OU Alumna Slated to become Cornell University's First Female President will be OU's Commencement Speaker

The chapter is pleased to note that one of its members will be the speaker at the May 2015 commencement ceremony. Elizabeth Garrett graduated from the University in 1985 after a spectacular undergraduate career, four terms as chair of the student congress, the Outstanding Senior Woman, elected to many honorary organizations, and initiated into Phi Beta Kappa in her junior year. Her achievements since then have been remarkable. She finished first in her class at the University of Virginia School of Law, served as a law clerk for Justice Thurgood Marshall, and worked for a while as Senator David Boren's legal counsel and legislative director. She then embarked upon a distinguished career as a legal scholar and

teacher, principally at the University of Chicago, but with visiting professorships at Harvard, the California Institute of Technology, the University of Virginia, and universities in Hungary and Israel. Garrett has published around fifty articles in the most prestigious legal journals in the United States, and is recognized as a leading authority on the topics of campaign finance law and the law of direct democracy (referenda, initiatives, and recall). She was appointed to President George W. Bush's nine-member bipartisan Advisory Panel on Tax Reform and was nominated by President Barack Obama as undersecretary of treasury for tax policy. In 2003, Garrett moved to the University of Southern California as a professor of law, and in 2010

became the provost and senior vice president of that institution. The culmination of her career came this year when she was named the eleventh, and the first woman president of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. She will assume her presidential duties on July 1.

The editorial staff of the *Oklahoma Daily* calls her "a dream commencement speaker. . . . We applaud OU for choosing a commencement speaker who has broken boundaries."



PHI BETA KAPPA | 2014-2015 | Contributions

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

An annual contribution of \$50, \$75 or \$100 is suggested; however, any support is gratefully accepted.

Contribution: \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ Other _____

Donations using oufoundation.org, select "Giving" located near the top of the page. This will allow you to either donate by credit card (Visa, MC, Discover, and American Express) or prepare a cover sheet to mail a contribution. To direct your donation through the OU Foundation to the Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, choose the link in My Gift to write your gift designation and type "Phi Beta Kappa #0032000" in the "Other" field. You may also direct your gift to the Roland Lehr Memorial Fund #0042002.

{ I prefer to receive the annual newsletter: Email/online Print/mail
(Circle one) }

For member contact updates return this form to:

**Phi Beta Kappa
Attention: Craig Hayes
University of Oklahoma
332 Cate Center Dr, Room 333
Norman, OK 73019**



Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter Updates

Contributions Matter

Member Moments

David K. Routh, Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter 1962, published an article in the fall Key Reporter, entitled "Darwin and Clinical Psychology."

<http://www.keyreporter.org/>

Elizabeth Garrett, Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter 1985, was named the eleventh, and the first woman president of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Kyle Harper, Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter 2001, was named the Senior Vice President and Provost of the University of Oklahoma.

Sherry Cox, Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter 2002, was named the

Outstanding Academic Advising Administrator for the State of Oklahoma and the Outstanding Advising Administrator Certificate of Merit recipient from NACADA, The Global Community for Academic Advising.

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.

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.



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Chapter Officers 2014-2015

www.ou.edu/pbk/officers.htm

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Standing Committees

Members-in-Course

James Thompson, Ph.D., Chair
Peggy Chambers
Jason Houston, Ph.D.
Lynne Levy, Ph.D.

Scholarship

Ron Schleifer, Ph.D., Chair
Nanette Hathaway
Sam Huskey, Ph.D.
David Levy, Ph.D.

Honorary and Alumni Membership

Sherry Cox, Ph.D., Chair

Visiting Scholars Program

Kermyt Anderson, Ph.D., Chair

Website Editor

Molly Strothmann

Newsletter

Sherry Cox, Amy Davenport,
Craig Hayes