

PHI BETA KAPPA

THE KEY REPORTER

SPRING 2006

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The Wren Building
The College of William & Mary
Alpha of Virginia 1776

ΦBK Triennial Council • October 26-29, 2006 • Atlanta, Ga.

In retrospect, it was a big year. On March 8, Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* was published, ushering in the modern discipline of economics. Across the water, delegates from the American colonies claimed independence in July, voting in a declaration authored largely by William and Mary graduate Thomas Jefferson. In Edinburgh, Aug. 25 saw the death of the greatest figure of the Scottish Enlightenment, David Hume, who left a body of work that continues to be vitally relevant to this day. A few days later, Washington slipped his army from Brooklyn to Manhattan and escaped annihilation by the British.

And, toward the end of the year, on Dec. 5, some students from Jefferson's college banded together under a Greek motto and a Latin name, pledging themselves to intellectual pursuits. The Latin name of their club was "Philosophical Fellowship," and the Greek motto, "The love of learning is the guide of life." Phi Beta Kappa.



While Phi Beta Kappa is about the celebration of excellence . . . we are also about the role of learning in public life.

It is no accident that our Society was begun in the same year as this great, independent democracy or in a year rife with events in the intellectual underpinnings of American culture. This meaningful collocation of events is worth our continuing reflection as we ask, as we always should: what does Phi Beta Kappa mean, and what it is worth?

A few years ago, a major event at one of our Triennial Councils was organized around the theme, "Is Phi Beta Kappa gloriously useless?" The intent was, at least in part, ironic. But we live in an age impervious to irony. Literalism has won the day, much to the impoverishment of wit, literature and religious insight. However regrettable these losses may be, we had now better just say what we mean.

As affable as a wise man can be, Harvard's Peter Gomes said what he meant to the Phi Beta Kappa Fellows in a luncheon address delivered in Washington, D.C., this past December. His hortatory address was a call to our purpose. While Phi Beta Kappa is about the celebration of excellence in the liberal arts and sciences as an intrinsic value, honoring achievement without further reference, we are also about the role of learning in life. Since none of us is an island, entire of itself, we are also about the role of learning in public life.

This means that accepting membership into Phi Beta Kappa, Professor Gomes reminded us, is an acceptance of the obligation to carry learning into citizenship in a participatory democracy. What does that mean? In our obsession

with the tabulation of votes, with the methods of manipulation to influence voting and with the polling to determine the winds of popular opinion, we are apt to suppose that the whole story of democracy is about majority rule. But a moment's reflection reminds us that democracy is also about the reasons why majority rule is important and about its limits. A bit more reflection discloses that democracy must also be about deliberation into the question "What is the right thing to do?"

So Phi Beta Kappa's purpose entails public advocacy of the skills of deliberation that are important to citizenship. What are those skills? Essentially, there are three ingredients:

1. capacities of critical thought that provide an understanding of how to make and evaluate *arguments*,
2. possession of knowledge of the facts whose relevance to things that matter makes them *reasons* that can be presented in arguments, and
3. discernment about what matters — that is, what is *worth* deliberating about.

If citizens in a democracy are to deliberate, these are their tools. They need to be able to think; they need facts to think with; and they need a grasp of what is worth thinking about.

So, if we want a democracy that is about more than counting votes, a democracy in which citizens are equipped to withstand the skills of manipulators and in which the connection between truth and freedom is clear, we will support the ideals of Phi Beta Kappa. Useful as well as glorious.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Churchill".

John Churchill
Secretary



I'd love it if something we did through the PeyBack Foundation helped make the difference in the lives of some kids who get to be Phi Beta Kappa someday.

— PEYTON MANNING

Thousands of fans love Peyton Manning for his success on the field. Since joining the Indianapolis Colts as the No. 1 overall pick in the 1998 draft, he's twice earned the NFL's Most Valuable Player Award and made five Pro Bowl appearances. But you may not know that the only player in NFL history to pass for 4,000 yards in six consecutive seasons is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

When asked recently by *The Wall Street Journal* about his membership in the Society, Peyton said, "Election to Phi Beta Kappa is a special honor."¹ He keeps his Phi Beta Kappa Key in a box on his desk, and his certificate is framed in his office. He is proud to count his membership among many other well-deserved honors.

Election to Phi Beta Kappa means that you did very well academically, but it's also a reminder that you've lived a life with certain advantages, such as having access to higher education and growing up in an environment that supports personal development and intellectual achievement. Like many of our members who contribute to Phi Beta Kappa scholarships and volunteer for after-school programs through their local Phi Beta Kappa associations, Peyton also feels an obligation to give back to the communities that have supported him.

In 1999, he started the PeyBack Foundation, a private non-profit corporation promoting the future success of disadvantaged youth by assisting programs that provide leadership growth and opportunities for children at risk. His foundation has donated more than \$1 million since its inception, including grants awarded in 2005 to 26 different community agencies. Among the excellent and deserving programs awarded grants by the foundation in the past year are the Center for Leadership Development, an all-encompassing college readiness program for minority youth; School on Wheels, a program

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The spring and fall issues are mailed to every ΦBK member for whom the Membership Records office has an address, regardless of whether he or she maintains contact with the Society.

All newly initiated Society members receive all four issues for one year.

Every *Key Reporter* is posted on the Phi Beta Kappa Web site.

The Value of Liberal Education

Mr. Churchill laments in his October 2005 letter to contributing members, "only 5.5% of U.S. colleges grant the majority of their degrees in the liberal arts and sciences." It does not follow logically that all other degrees are of lesser value or that they provide mere "specialization and technical training."

Academic rigor is not unique to the traditional liberal arts and sciences. I agree with Mr. Churchill, as stated in his letter, that the goal of post-secondary education should be to develop "men and women who are able to think and create, collaborate and compromise, problem-solve, communicate and act." Done right, the liberal arts and sciences programs succeed in this development. But to assert that *only* the liberal arts and sciences are successful in these areas is both narrow-minded and arrogant.

Catherine Foster Walsh
Virginia Beach, Va.

Liberal Education and the Work-a-Day World

I entered the City College of New York in 1935, received a B.S. in Liberal Arts and Sciences, and then went on to optometry school at Columbia University in the fall of 1939. There was quite a bit of discussion in my four years at City about liberal education, and, although I made Phi Beta Kappa, I really did not understand what that talk was about. Columbia University Optometry School was all technical training. I was still in the dark about "lib. ed."

In 1941, we got into World War II, and I went to work for the Navy as an inspector of war purchases. Then, in 1943, I was drafted into the army as a medic, and I spent time in England and the Philippines.

In 1946, after experiencing two greatly different cultures and life in the Army, I finally came home to

New Haven, Conn. Then, on the G.I. Bill, I entered Yale University and received an M.A. in education in 1950. That is when I began to realize what a liberal education meant.

I believe it is a bit naïve to expect a student to go directly from high school to college and be able to appreciate the idea of liberal education. One needs a variety of experiences and exposures to develop a certain amount of maturity and awareness beyond academic education.

Robert B. Pomerantz
Rio Rancho, N.M.



Courtesy of Marc Tyler Nobleman www.mtncartoons.com

Secretary John Churchill previously discussed the Society's position on the value of liberal education in the regular feature "From the Secretary" in the Fall 2004 issue of The Key Reporter. A copy of this issue is accessible online through the PBK web site at www.pbk.org/pubs/Keyreporter/Autumn2004/Fall%20Issue.pdf. In championing the processes of liberal education, Phi Beta Kappa's aim is to promote excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. We hope not to imply that those processes necessarily or exclusively produce liberally educated individuals. There are misfires, and there are other routes. Nor do we suggest that professional training and specialized knowledge are not valuable. The point is that, in a world all too prone to treasure only the specialized and the immediately useful, our voice is needed in support of learning whose value may become apparent only over the course of a lifetime.

Say "You're welcome."

This concerns Jean Rhodes' article entitled "Is It Possible to Be Too Thankful?" in your Fall 2005 issue.

Every single language with which I am familiar has the equivalent of some form of "You're welcome" as a proper reply to "Thank you." I say "proper" deliberately because it is a matter of etiquette, decorum and just plain decency to let someone know that you have heard what they said and are replying thereto in kind.

I once knew a woman who became positively speechless when my two daughters said, "You're welcome," to her "Thank you." I was stunned to hear the woman say that no one had ever replied that way before!

Sadly, I view all this as yet one more example of America's declining ethos and morality.

Eugenia M. Krauser
Flushing, N.Y.

Preserve Proper Usage Despite the Odds

What a pleasant surprise to read Jean Rhodes' piece advocating acknowledging thanks with "You're welcome." I thought I was the only person who was baffled and annoyed

by the "Thank you" reply from the person who provides the interview or other service. ("No problem" bothers me, too, but that's probably another issue.)

The discussion in your "Letters" section in the Fall 2005 edition also encourages me to keep trying to preserve as much proper usage as we can, despite the odds!

David Holton
Twain Harte, Calif.

The Key Reporter welcomes the submission of letters. Those that are published may be condensed. Please send letters to Kelly Gerald by e-mail to kgerald@pbk.org, by fax to 202-986-1601, or by postal mail to the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities

Members of the cultural and academic communities gathered at the Phi Beta Kappa Society in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 12 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Held by the National Humanities Alliance (NHA) and hosted by ΦBK, the event paid tribute to the work of NEH since its creation in 1965. Attendees included the NHA Board of Directors and officials from the NEH, Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution, Institute for Museum and Library Services and National Archives.

"The 40th anniversary of NEH is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the tremendous contribution of the agency to the country's infrastructure for scholarly research, education and broad public access to the humani-

ties," said Jessica Jones Irons, executive director of NHA. "It is particularly fitting that members of the NHA community celebrate this moment in the headquarters of the Phi Beta Kappa, which played a major role in NEH's founding through the 1964 Report of the Commission on the Humanities, issued jointly by the Society, the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the American Council of Learned Societies."

NEH Chairman Bruce Cole acknowledged Phi Beta Kappa as playing a key role in the agency's creation and thanked the NHA for coordinating the event and for its work in promoting the humanities.



(L-R) John Hammer, Bruce Cole, Ed Able, Bruce Craig

The National Humanities Alliance was founded in 1981 as an advocacy coalition dedicated to the advancement of humanities education, research, preservation and public programs. ΦBK has been an active member of the alliance since 1992. For more information about NHA, please visit www.nhalliance.org. ■

Liberal Arts Education in America and the World: ΦBK and the American Conference of Academic Deans

Phi Beta Kappa was pleased to cosponsor, with the American Conference of Academic Deans (ACAD), the Oct. 27-29, 2005, conference "Liberal Arts Education in America and the World" hosted by the George Washington University.

Following the successful collaboration of ΦBK and ACAD in 2003 ("Intellectual Leadership in the Liberal Arts" hosted by the College of Charleston), the 2005 conference promoted inquiry, debate and serious conversation among faculty, deans and others with stakes in the liberal arts curriculum.

"Our mission for this conference was to provide the liberal arts community with a forum in which to have open and engaging conversations about liberal education not only here at home but across the world," said Laura Rzepka, administrative director at ACAD. "The feedback we received

from this conference would indicate that we were very successful in our mission and that ΦBK-ACAD collaborations are fast becoming a valuable resource for those in the field."

More than 150 deans, provosts, faculty and other academicians from across the nation and abroad attended the three-day conference. Featured speakers were Dr. Madeleine F. Green, vice president and director, Center for Institutional Initiatives, The American Council on Education; Jesse Sheidlower, North American editor, *The Oxford English Dictionary*; Dr. Joseph N. White, Foreign Service Institute; and Dr. Katherine H. Will, president, Gettysburg College. ■

Update Your Record Online

Phi Beta Kappa members are encouraged to go online to update their addresses in the Society's records at the national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The first step is to go to www.pbk.org/members/info.htm. You will be asked for your logon name, which is the six- or seven-digit number on your *Key Reporter* address label. Then add your password, which consists of your first and last names and the last two digits of the year you were elected to ΦBK, with no spaces in between. For example, if your name is Mary Jones and you were elected in 2001, your logon name is maryjones01. If your last name is hyphenated, include the hyphen.

Society members with questions may contact Membership Records at info@pbk.org or call (202) 265-3808.

Top U.S. Professors Honored

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education, Carnegie Foundation and Phi Beta Kappa Salute Winners for Commitment to Undergraduate Education

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named four university and college professors as national winners of the 2005 U.S. Professors of the Year Award. The professors were selected for their outstanding commitment to teaching undergraduate students and their influence on teaching. Each receives a \$5,000 prize.

Each year, Phi Beta Kappa sponsors a reception on Capitol Hill for the Professors of the Year, many of whom are Phi Beta Kappa members. This year's reception took place on the evening of Nov. 17 in the Madison Building of the Library of Congress. The CASE awards luncheon was held at the Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, D.C., earlier that day.

The four national winners are: Outstanding Baccalaureate Colleges Professor: W. A. Hayden Schilling, Robert Critchfield Professor of English History, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio.

Outstanding Community Colleges Professor: Katherine R. Rowell, professor of sociology, Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio.

Outstanding Doctoral and Research Universities Professor: Buzz Alexander, professor of English language and literature, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Outstanding Master's Universities and Colleges Professor: Carlos G. Gutierrez, professor of chemistry, California State University, Los Angeles.

The program, created in 1981, is



W. A. Hayden Schilling (center) enjoys an animated discussion with attendees at the Phi Beta Kappa Capitol Hill reception for the Professors of the Year.

the only national initiative specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. John Lippincott, president of CASE, said the national and state winners embody what is best in undergraduate education. "It is clear that, for our state and national Professors of the Year, teaching is a calling, not merely a job," Lippincott observed. "Through their remarkable efforts inside and outside of the classroom, these professors have profoundly changed the lives of their students, providing them with a solid foundation upon which to build the rest of their lives."

Lee S. Shulman, president of the Carnegie Foundation, said, "We honor these distinguished professors for upholding and guiding the aspirations of their students, advancing knowledge and elevating and dignifying the profession of teaching. In recognizing their commitment and excellence, their contributions and their demonstrated passion, we support the centrality of teaching on campus and recognize its importance to the future of our country."

To learn more about the Professors of the Year, visit the CASE Web site at www.case.org. ■

ΦBK Awards

The Society is pleased to announce the following awardees for 2006:

Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities

Gerald Early, Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters, Department of English, Washington University in St. Louis, will be honored for his significant contributions to the field of the humanities.

Sidney Hook Memorial Award

Charles Tilly, Joseph L. Bottenwieser Professor of Social Science at Columbia University, will be honored for his achievement as a scholar, professor and leader in the cause of liberal arts education.

Romanell – Phi Beta Kappa Professor

Alexander Rosenberg of Duke University, co-director of Duke's Center for the Philosophy of Biology, will focus on the theoretical controversies of Darwinism for his lectures.

Walter J. Jenson Fellow

Laura S. Spear, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will travel to France to work on her dissertation, titled, "Vanishing Vectors: Trains and Speed in 19th and 20th Century French Crime Fiction and Film."

Phi Beta Kappa's Best Books of the Year

Phi Beta Kappa is pleased to announce the winners of its annual awards recognizing outstanding and widely accessible books in the fields of humanities, literary scholarship and science. If the cold weather has you spending more time indoors, seek out your favorite chair and settle in with one of our award-winners.

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Award



Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany by Isabel Hull (Cornell University Press, 2004).

A major contribution to modern European history and a cautionary tale for today, Hull's book examines the rise and development of German military culture and institutions.

The Christian Gauss Award



Shakespeare After All by Marjorie Garber (Pantheon Books, 2004).

Shakespeare After All takes up the wondrous breadth of knowledge Garber has gathered over the years of lecturing to packed houses at Yale and Harvard on the subject of Shakespeare's works. Her book offers readings of all 38 of Shakespeare's plays, providing any reader, novice or expert, a fresh perspective on these works.

The Science Award



The Hunt for the Dawn Monkey: Unearthing the Origins of Monkeys, Apes, and Humans by Chris Beard (University of California Press, 2004).

The Hunt for the Dawn Monkey marks a significant shift in thinking among anthropologists about the origins of anthropoids, with Beard making the case that their origins were in Asia. It is a fast-paced narrative full of vivid stories from the field.

Peter J. Gomes of Harvard University Selected for Couper Lecture

In 2004, the Fellows of the Phi Beta Kappa Society honored a significant figure in the world of contemporary science, Columbia University physicist Brian Green, by inviting him to give the annual Couper Lecture. In December, the Fellows sought inspiration from a man who has made his mark in things spiritual.

Professor Peter J. Gomes of Harvard University delivered the 2005 Couper Lecture on Monday, Dec. 12 at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., following a luncheon held there in his honor.

A member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and of the Faculty of Divinity of Harvard University, Gomes is known as a distinguished preacher throughout this country

and in Britain. He has served as minister of the Memorial Church in Harvard Yard since 1970 and is an Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College at the University of Cambridge in England. The Gomes Lectureship there was created to honor him.

The title of Gomes' lecture was "Phi Beta Kappa and the 'Real' Word: An Outsider's View."

"The real world is a place which, I'm sad to say, appears increasingly hostile to ideas in general and to the ideals of Phi Beta Kappa in particular," Gomes said. The paradox, he added, is that "the world could never need us more."

Honoring academic excellence is only a part of the Society's mission,

Gomes recalled: "At the very point where the clarity of ideas, the clarity of the written and the spoken word, the principles of intellectual passion and integrity have never been in greater need or shorter supply – it is at this moment, it seems, that our Society should stand poised to contribute its greatest effort to the well-being of our republic."

The Couper Lecture, named for Richard W. Couper and offered by the Phi Beta Kappa Fellows, is an annual event recognizing an individual who has made significant contributions to the values espoused by the Society. ■

View of the West Front of Monticello and Garden, 1825; attributed to Jane Pitford Braddick Peticolas (1791-1852). Courtesy of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

The Clay in the Pedestals: Our Founding Fathers and Slavery

by JOYCE APPLEBY

America's book readers can't seem to get enough of the founding fathers. In what has been labeled "founders chic," books about George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton stream from the nation's presses.

Recent publications, especially ones about Jefferson, are far different from those written a half century ago. Garry Wills in his book *The Negro President: Jefferson and the Slave Power* (Houghton Mifflin, 2003) presents a grim picture of Jefferson not only as a slave-owner but also as the promoter of policies friendly to the spread of slavery. The former director of the National Park Service, Roger Kennedy, offers another bleak picture in *Mr. Jefferson's Lost Cause: Land, Farmers, Slavery, and the Louisiana Purchase* (Oxford University Press, 2002). Henry Wiencek, tackled a similar theme in *An Imperfect God: George Washington, His Slaves, and the Creation of America* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003).

All of these books take on the same arresting topic: how we explain our founders' deep involvement in slavery. Like a fallow field, this subject had long lain unplowed. It owes its recent cultivation to the labors of a generation of historians who, beginning 40 years ago, turned away from "history as past politics" in

order to study ordinary men and women.

With the help of computers, researchers exploited long-term public records to answer such questions as when and how often did people move, what was the average age of marriage and how did successive generations fare? For the first time, the actual experience of plain Americans — black and white, male and female — appeared on the historical landscape.

Instead of writing about immigration, scholars could now discuss immigrants, slaves instead of slavery, workers instead of the labor movement. The personal became political as the new work revealed the constraints political leaders faced because of the collective desires, opportunities and values of average Americans.

With such a fruitful harvest of new studies about the unsung participants in the American past, it was only a matter of time before historians began to ask questions about the relations of our great slave-holding presidents — Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Madison — with their slaves.

As the author of the Declaration of Independence's stirring affirmation that "all men are created equal," Jefferson has attracted the most opprobrium for his role as a slaveholder. His reputation reached its nadir in 1998 when DNA tests determined that a male in Jefferson's fam-

ily fathered the last child of Jefferson's slave, Sally Hemings. The probability that Jefferson conceived a child with Hemings makes it difficult to protect him from the old charge that he conceived children with Hemings and reared his own progeny in bondage.

More attention has also been given to Washington as a slave owner. In a last will and testament written five months before his death in 1799, Washington arranged for the manumission of his 124 slaves. By far the most successful investigation of the founders and their slaves, Wiencek's *An Imperfect God* perceptively reconstructs how Washington arrived at this decision.

In the years preceding this stunning rejection of the slave edifice of Southern society, as *An Imperfect God* shows, Washington spent much of his life behaving like a typical planter: using his lordly power to punish and reward, selling and threatening to sell his slaves, having them whipped, recapturing and dispatching them to West Indian death traps. Deemed a humane master, he nonetheless kept his field hands in rags with little in the way of protection from the elements, either in shelter or bedding. Washington's desire for efficiency even trumped the desirability of keeping families on his various farms together.

Tracing the quickening of Washington's conscience, Wiencek gives us painful pictures of Washington's vacillations about slavery as well as the profound opposition of his wife, Martha Dandridge Custis Washington, whose wealth in land and slaves had lifted Washington into the upper tier of Virginia's elite, allowing him to indulge his taste for elegant carriages imported from England to be adorned by liveried slaves.

The sight of free African Americans serving in Minute Men units at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill in 1775 shocked Washington. Their bravery invalidat-

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Symposium on Russian Cultural Politics Features Distinguished Author Sergei Khrushchev and Poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko

by Olga Doshlygina and Joseph Rivers

The Tulsa, Okla., performance of Shostakovich's Thirteenth Symphony and a poetry reading by renowned Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko offered the opportunity for an extraordinary symposium. Dr. Sergei Khrushchev, son of the famous Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev, spoke before a large audience in the Chapman Theatre at the University of Tulsa on Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2005. His lecture, titled "Poets vs. Politicians: Culture After Stalin," chronicled the unique relationship between czar (or dictator) and poet, carrying his story through to the Khrushchev era.

The lecture crowned the two-day John G. Gammie Triennial Symposium sponsored by the Beta of Oklahoma chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, which took place Oct. 17-18, 2005. The chapter planned the symposium in conjunction with the Oct. 22 performance in Tulsa of Shostakovich's Thirteenth Symphony by the Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College and a dramatic poetry reading by Yevtushenko, a professor at the University of Tulsa. This "star alignment" turned October into a month of Russia at the university.

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MANNING Continued from 3

that provides tutors for homeless children; and Start the Adventure in Reading (STAIR), a children's literacy program that trains hundreds of volunteers to serve as reading tutors. Making this connection is important to the Society and to our members. As Peyton told us, "I'd love it if something we did through the Peyton Foundation helped make the difference in the lives of some kids

who get to be Phi Beta Kappa someday."

For more information on the Peyton Foundation, go to www.peytonmanning.com/peyback. ■

¹ Keates, Nancy. "Phi Beta What?" *The Wall Street Journal*. 4 Nov. 2005: W1; W12.

PHOTO: Manning coaches children at the seventh annual Child Advocates Flag Football Game, one of many events sponsored by the Peyton Foundation.

SLAVERY Continued from 8

ed one of the slave master's most self-serving assumptions: that blacks were incapable of valor on the field of battle. Unlike his cohort of founders, Washington alone persevered in his determination to strike a blow against the South's peculiar and peculiarly oppressive institution.

Slowly, year by year, book by book, we are recovering the suppressed story of how Southern planters and their enslaved men and women lived together. Like the new exhibit of slavery in New York City mounted by the New York Historical

Society, these books force us to untie the knots in the connective tissue of our nation and the vexed elements in our American heritage. ■

Joyce Appleby, professor emerita of history at the University of California, Los Angeles, is a 2005-2006 Couper Scholar. This spring she will travel to Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C., and Coker College in Hartsville, S.C. Couper Scholars provide a public, keynote lecture and visit with students and administrators in informal and formal settings. Appleby's recent work includes a 2003 presidential biography of Thomas Jefferson.

Lucy Cottrell



Lucy was the daughter of Dorothea (Dolly) Cottrell, an enslaved house servant of Jefferson's daughter Martha Randolph. Since the Randolphs lived at Monticello from 1809 to 1828, Lucy Cottrell was probably born there. After Jefferson's death, she and her mother became the property of George Blaettermann, a professor of modern languages at the University of Virginia. About 1850 Dolly and Lucy Cottrell went to Maysville, Ky., with Blaettermann's widow, who freed them five years later. Lucy married Peter (last name unknown), who had purchased his own freedom, and they had a son, John. This daguerrotype, dating from about 1850, shows Lucy Cottrell holding Dr. Blaettermann's foster-granddaughter, Charlotte.

To learn more about the people who lived and worked at Monticello, go to www.monticello.org/plantation/lives.html.

Text reprinted with permission from the Monticello Web site. Portrait of Lucy reproduced with the permission of The Museum Center, Maysville, Ky.

ASSOCIATIONS

Remain Active in Phi Beta Kappa after Graduation by Joining Your Local Association

ARIZONA

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Continued on 11

About Our Associations

by Barbara Marmorstein

As most Phi Beta Kappa members know, associations are one of the two component groups of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the other being the chapters which confer membership. However, some Phi Beta Kappans may not know what an association is or does and the vital role it plays.

An association is composed of men and women elected to Phi Beta Kappa at colleges and universities all over the country who now live in a particular geographic region. The first association was organized in New York City in 1877. There are now more than 60 associations in the United States.

Associations offer members the opportunity to interact socially and intellectually with each other in order to serve their communities and to network with other Phi Beta Kappans when seeking to enhance their professional lives.

Most associations hold two or more dinner meetings each year at which there are distinguished speakers. Unlike other honor societies, the activities of ΦBK associations include not only social and intellectual programs for the members but also projects in the community which promote and reward academic excellence. Examples of these programs and projects include book awards to the outstanding graduate at local high schools, college scholarships and academic contests such as decathlons and debating contests.

So there is life in Phi Beta Kappa after your election to the Society. A member can participate for the rest of his or her life. Associations will be pleased to send information about membership. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting! ■

Barbara Marmorstein is the chair of the Conference of Association Delegates. A past president of the Delaware Valley Association, she is also a member of three Florida associations, two of which she helped to organize in southwest Florida and Palm Beach. Marmorstein received her Bachelor's degree in 1952 from the University of Pennsylvania where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior.

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Phi Beta Kappa Items for Members





Members of Phi Beta Kappa may order insignia items including the handsome tie, signet rings and the popular wall display shown here. The Phi Beta Kappa necktie is made of 100% silk, burgundy in color, and woven with the key insignia in gold. The 10-karat gold signet rings are available in two styles. The ring gauge printed below can be cut out and wrapped around the finger you wish to measure. The wall display combines a membership certificate and a large gold-plated key in a 12 x 16 inch walnut frame.

To order, complete the form below and mail it with your payment and a copy of your mailing label from the back cover showing your ΦBK membership number to Hand & Hammer, 2610 Morse Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22192. You may place an order or request the complete product brochure by calling (703) 491-4866 or by faxing (703) 491-2031. You may also order online at www.hand-hammer.com. A three dollar shipping and handling fee is added to each order.

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Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Houston: Building Community, Rewarding Achievement

by Richard Avant, Leslie Blanton, Charles Caldwell, David Converse, Diane Pappas,
Mary Katharine Roff and Patrick St. A. Lyn

Every spring, members of the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Houston gather to recognize outstanding high school students from across the greater Houston area at its scholarship banquet. The underlying scholarship program has formed the cornerstone of the association since 1972, when the founding members agreed that the association should do something of substance to encourage students to pursue academic excellence.

In 1974, under the leadership of our first president, Jenard Gross, \$250 scholarships were given to six college-bound graduating seniors drawn from 26 Houston public high schools. Since then, the scholarship program has grown dramatically. In 2005, the program awarded \$3,000 scholarships to an academically gifted student from each of 75 different Houston area high schools and a \$5,000 Jenard M. Gross Scholarship to the pre-eminent scholar. The program now reaches nearly every public, private and parochial high school in the Houston metropolitan area, recognizing academic excellence, helping these young scholars along their paths and building awareness of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and its mission.

Each year at the banquet, it is exhilarating to meet these young academic leaders who are headed off to colleges across the country and to hear their plans for the future. These scholars embody such a wonderful patchwork of backgrounds, interests and intellectual enthusiasms and truly reflect the remarkable diversity of the greater Houston area.

In addition to showcasing and celebrating the students' achievements, the association also awards an Outstanding Contribution to

Education Award and an Outstanding Alumnus/a Award at its scholarship banquet. These awards are designed to highlight the achievements of a fellow Phi Beta Kappan and to celebrate others in the community who share our commitment to educational excellence. Past honorees include President George and Mrs. Barbara Bush, Dr. Denton Cooley, Dr. James Willerson, the Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., Dr. John Mendelsohn and Mrs. Leslie Blanton.

The success of this program is built upon the diligent work of two key groups. First, more than 50 members of the Scholarship Reading Committee who, drawn from the association's over 500 members, read the student applications and help choose the one student from each school who epitomizes the committee's selection goals. These goals focus on academic merit, exceptional talents (such as musical or athletic talent), community service and other intangible factors, such as success over adversity. The dedication of the scholarship committee members, many of whom return year after year, is easy to explain. Reading the student applications is both a humbling and inspiring task. The achievements of many of the applicants are truly phenomenal, fostering hope and confidence in each successive group of young scholars.

The selection process is never easy. Some of the student essays strongly stir emotions. One successful application was from a young woman who arrived in Houston in 9th grade. Speaking no English and with a poor academic background, she was determined to become her high school's valedictorian. Not only did she succeed, but, as her guidance counselor noted, she did it on her

own without family support. The scholarship money was crucial to her ability to attend college.

The second pillar of the program's success is the generosity of the Houston business and philanthropic community and association members. Through many years of diligent fund-raising, under the leadership of member Jenard Gross and our annual dinner chairs, the association has been able to fund each year's scholarships while building an endowment that now totals over \$2 million. The funding challenge increases every year as the number of scholarships increases in tandem with Houston's growth. The annual success of the association in meeting this challenge is a testament to our members' and the wider community's generosity and dedication to this program.

The success of our program can be counted not only broadly in the more than 1,500 scholarships that we have awarded to academically gifted students but also in the full cycle of achievement. Early in the history of our program, we awarded a scholarship to Hugh "Skip" McGee III, who subsequently excelled academically in college and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Returning to Houston, Skip has had a very successful career both in business and with our association, serving on the association's Board of Directors and as dinner chair for the scholarship program. Two years ago, the association honored Skip with its Outstanding Alumnus Award.

With such a potent combination of inspiring students, devoted alumni and generous donors, the Greater Houston Association is proud of its scholarship program and our society's commitment to educational excellence. ■

SYMPOSIUM Continued from 9

"I was happy to come," Khrushchev commented. "I admire Yevtushenko, and I think you are lucky to have him at TU."

Yevtushenko was inducted as a member of Phi Beta Kappa by the Beta of Oklahoma chapter in 2000. Several of his poems were set to music by Dmitri Shostakovich in his Thirteenth Symphony, including the famous and controversial poem "Babi Yar," which powerfully indicted anti-Semitism in the former Soviet Union and led to a tense showdown between Nikita Khrushchev, Dmitri Shostakovich and Yevgeny Yevtushenko in the wake of the symphony's 1962 premiere. The premiere performance took place but not without an international incident that, in the arts world, rivals the Cuban Missile Crisis.

In September 1961, a poem by the young poet Yevtushenko titled "Babi Yar" was published in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, powerfully commemorating the victims of the slaughter of more than 33,000 Jews by the Nazis at Babi Yar near Kiev, Ukraine, exactly 20 years before. The power and truth of the poem inspired the composer Dmitri Shostakovich to compose a musical setting to it. After calling to politely ask for Yevtushenko's permission, which the poet unreservedly granted, Shostakovich immediately informed him that the music was already finished and invited him to come hear it. Shostakovich went on to compose four more movements to the symphony, all settings of Yevtushenko poems, including the chilling "Fears," which forcefully articulates the need to shed the tragic effects of Stalinism. The first performance of the symphony took place on Dec. 18, 1962 in spite of continual harassment by Communist Party officials, who attempted to suppress it even up to the last minute.



Sergei Khrushchev & Yevgeny Yevtushenko

The performance in Tulsa by the Signature Symphony, conducted by Dr. Barry Epperley, was co-sponsored by the University of Tulsa, Tulsa Community College, Tulsa Global Alliance, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and several other community organizations and individuals. The vocal soloist was Russian bass Mikhail Svetlov, and the male chorus was comprised of members of choruses from the University of Tulsa, Tulsa Community College and the Bartlesville Choral Society. The chorus master was Nikolai Kachanov, director of the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York. Immediately following the symphony performance, Yevtushenko performed a stunning dramatic reading of his poetry, accompanied by music by Charles Halka and Joseph Rivers and assisted by 15 of Yevtushenko's poetry students from the University of Tulsa who were trained by him to read like professional dramatic artists.

With his family heritage and a spectacular career in the U.S.S.R. and after 14 years in America, Sergei Khrushchev has a powerful story to tell. He is a live bridge between two nations and a link to the history of the Cold War. Khrushchev discourages the trite image of his father as the Cuban Missile Crisis instigator, banging a shoe on the podium to threaten foes. "In fact, the footwear in the incident was American. He had to hit it against the table because he was a neglected voice in an important discussion at a U.N. session. An

hour earlier, someone stepped on his foot, and the leader of a superpower lost his shoe. Didn't have time to put it back on," Khrushchev explains. "On a serious note, my father made two important achievements. One, he tried to steer the world in a peaceful direction. Two, he improved the life of Russian people."

Mr. Khrushchev's life is as dynamic as 20th-century history. In addition to teaching and research (as a senior research assistant at Brown University in Providence, R.I.), he has edited his father's memoirs and written three books and more than 200 articles. Now a U.S. citizen, he travels the country giving lectures.

Many wonder how this "hard-boiled" Soviet citizen ended up in the number one capitalist country. "Life is about gradual reforms — few things happen spontaneously," Khrushchev believes. He claims to have migrated step by step, accepting invitations to visit one place then another. America became the land of opportunity for Khrushchev. "In Russia, I would be a retiree scrambling on a small pension. Here, I can do what I like: to work at a university and to teach."

As a result of an extraordinary symposium and concert, October 2005 will continue to evoke inspiring memories of Russian warmth, wisdom and artistic genius for some time to come. ■

Olga Doshlygina is a student in communication and Russian studies at the University of Tulsa. Joseph Rivers is director of the University of Tulsa School of Music and vice president of the Beta of Oklahoma chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

From Our Book Critics

By Germaine Cornelissen



Fed up! Winning the War Against Childhood Obesity. *Susan Okie.* Joseph Henry Press, 2005. \$27.95

An award-winning medical journalist originally trained as a family physician, Susan Okie is to be credited for tackling childhood obesity, one of the most pressing problems society faces today. Her book, based in part on the Institute of Medicine's report on the topic, effectively and engagingly offers parents, teachers, doctors and community leaders important information and advice for slowing or halting the rise in obesity among children.

The author identifies three key areas related to the crisis: underlying physiological mechanisms of appetite and weight maintenance, genetic factors and environmental influences. The critical need to actively involve communities is apparent from interviews with educators, parents, children and researchers and from real-life stories.

Obesity has become more than a purely cosmetic problem. Second only to smoking, obesity represents a major cause of death that is preventable. Implicated in some 300,000 deaths per year, obesity has been associated with an increased risk of heart disease, diabetes and depression, among others. A recent article in the *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition* (2006;60: 48-57), reporting on tracking of overweight status from childhood to young adulthood in the Bogalusa Heart Study, shows an alarming increase in overweight from 24.7 to 57.7% from 9-11 to 19-35 years of age. In the foreword, Brazelton notes that no previous generation of Americans has raised children likely to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents. Okie's book goes beyond recognizing the

problem by offering solutions such as dietary and lifestyle changes and tools for community support. Technology, crime and traffic are some of the factors considered to be responsible for the decreased physical activity of children.

Okie is to be credited for explaining as simply as possible the scientific findings in the field of obesity research and for doing so in a compassionate way by the presentation of actual programs communities are testing to fight the war against childhood obesity. Restoring healthy diets and promoting increased physical activity are but some aspects that need to be addressed to curb the epidemic. Influences in the uterine environment before birth and choices that parents make regarding breastfeeding and infant feeding during the first year of life are other issues discussed in the book, as are treatment options for an overweight child. Other questions deserving attention include 1. the finding that, in lean people, the same single daily 2,000-calorie meal is associated with weight loss when consumed as breakfast-only but not as dinner-only (books.nap.edu/books/0309053412/html/361.html#pagetop); 2. the fact that exposure to television or computer screens affects hormones such as melatonin thought to be involved in growth and development; and 3. the recent suggestion in *Science* (310: 1760-1761) that a child's health (including the risk of being overweight) may be influenced by the lifestyle (eating patterns, smoking) of past generations at critical stages in life.

Praised by Donna E. Shalala, former secretary of health and human services, and Senator William H. Frist and endorsed by the National Black Church Initiative, Okie's research and review of the physiological, psychological and social issues raised by childhood obesity offer parents a better understanding of the problem and ways to ensure the health, welfare and

future of their children. Since obesity can be identified in early childhood and is easier to prevent than to treat, it is hoped that the strategies outlined in this book for fighting an unfolding epidemic will be heeded by communities, in schools and at home.

By Rick Eden



Ambient Findability: What We Find Changes Who We Become. *Peter Morville.* O'Reilly Media, Inc., 2005; paper \$29.95

Ambient findability, the capability "to find anyone or anything from anywhere at any time" on the Web, is Peter Morville's proposed solution to a truly big problem. Ubiquitous computing ("ubicomp") is creating a rapidly expanding digital universe. Constellations of embedded sensors and cameras are rendering even "products, possessions, pets, and people" into information on the Web. But, as the Web expands, we risk losing the ability to find the information that we need.

Ubicomp is turning us into tragicomic figures like Tristram Shandy, who despairs that he cannot finish his autobiography because it takes him more than one day to write about one day of his life. Similarly, during each day we research a topic on the Web — say, the war in Iraq — it is quite possible that more information is added on that topic than we can find, much less retrieve, understand, evaluate, analyze and integrate. Information overload threatens to dilute our attention, diminish our comprehension and degrade our decision making.

The new field of information architecture (IA) is concerned with designing our experience of the Web to promote findability as well as other positive attributes of information, such as utility and credibility. Morville describes himself as one of IA's founders. At heart and by training, he

is a librarian: he sees the Web as a collection of documents (in an extended sense), and he identifies the keys to finding information as the words within and attached to documents: "Words as labels. Words as links. Key words." Findability depends critically on tagging documents with keywords. Often these words are drawn from "controlled vocabularies," specialized dictionaries that indicate which terms are equivalent, which hierarchical and which associatively related. Other key words are added by creators and users through "free tagging."

Ambient Findability offers what an information architect might describe as a positive user experience. Morville is a gifted popularizer and highly quotable prose stylist. As the book's intriguing title illustrates, he is a master at creating catch phrases and sound bites. Metaphors, alliteration and triplets come easily to him: "For those willing to listen and learn, today's marketplace offers opportunities for interaction, insight and innovation unseen since the ancient bazaars of spices, silks and magical stones." From time to time, these stylistic habits become excessive. The clichés cloy, and the metaphors mix, even to catachresis: "Metadata lies at the HEART of the Semantic Web's ability to serve as a boundary

OBJECT, for it is the colorful SWIRL of ontologies, taxonomies, and folksonomies that brings us, cursing and cussing, to the same TABLE." But, for the most part, these stylistic habits help keep the pace quick, the tone light and the content accessible even as Morville explains technical topics, such as search engine optimization, that most readers would ordinarily find off-putting.

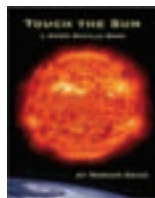
By Jay M. Pasachoff



Touch the Stars.
Noreen Grice. 3rd Edition. National Braille Press, 2002. \$30.00



Touch the Universe: A NASA Braille Book of Astronomy. Noreen Grice. Joseph Henry Press, 2002. \$35.00



Touch the Sun: A NASA Braille Book. Noreen Grice. Joseph Henry Press, 2005. \$35.00

Are you reading this review in Braille or listening to it being spoken aloud? Noreen Grice, an astronomy educator, had the wonderful idea of making astronomy accessible to peo-

ple who are blind. Her first such book, *Touch the Stars*, is a general astronomy book with raised line drawings and text pages in large print and Braille. It covers historical astronomy, constellations, planets, moon phases, eclipses, the evolution of stars and galaxies. In her second book, she transformed Hubble Space Telescope photographs into raised outlines that can be felt with one's fingers, with accompanying text in large print and Braille. The results should be in libraries everywhere and on the bookshelves of all who read tactilely. And Ms. Grice deserves a medal.

Touch the Universe contains 14 photographs printed in color (helping sighted people enjoy the book) with key structures outlined. There are two illustrations of the telescope itself in orbit over Earth and images of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, the Ring and other nebulae, a globular cluster, and some galaxies. Though planets and the nebulae show nicely, individual stars don't fare as well and are often omitted. A few stars show in the globular cluster image along with a central nest of small star outlines, and it would have been nice to have the star density decline outwardly from the center. In the Hubble Deep Field image, I would have paid some additional attention to the many small

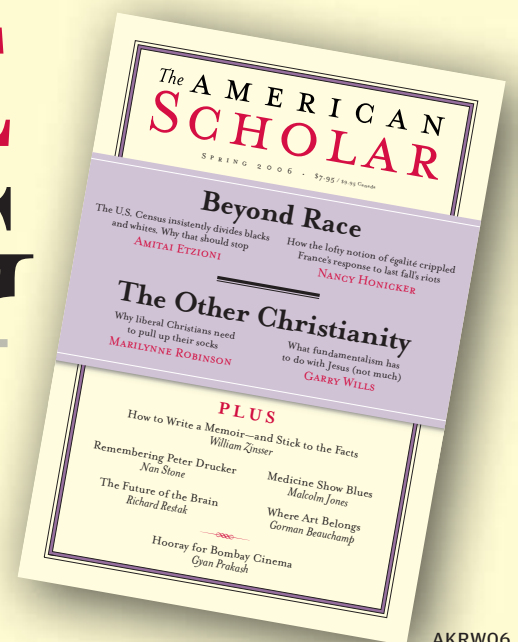
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galaxies. But those are quibbles in an overall good idea.

Touch the Sun has been published more recently, with spectacular solar images from the ground and from NASA and European Space Agency satellites in space. The images are produced on embossed and silkscreen plastic pages. It was released with much fanfare in late 2005. For more information see www.nasa.gov/vision/universe/solarsystem/touch_sun.html. Samples appear at www.youcandoastronomy.com.

By Rebecca Resinski



The Hermaphrodite.

Julia Ward Howe. Edited and with an introduction by Gary Williams. University of Nebraska Press, 2004. \$27.95

This volume, edited by Gary Williams, presents the fragments of a manuscript written by Julia Ward Howe in the 1840s. In these fragments, Howe develops the first-person narrative of an androgyne named Laurence who was raised in Europe as a man. Yet, on the cusp of adulthood, Laurence realizes that he will not be able to live as other men do. When he finds himself unable to reciprocate the desire of a young widow, the result is fatal: she dies of shock when she learns of Laurence's epicene nature. Soon thereafter, Laurence is disinherited by

his father. Cast loose upon the world, Laurence's "adventures" are various and sad. He lives for a time as a hermit; he serves as a mentor for a young man who falls in love with him; he lives in disguise among a family of women in Rome.

Howe treats each episode in Laurence's life as a thought experiment addressing social and spiritual issues: the different reactions of men and women to disappointed hopes for intimacy, the separate spheres of men and women, the challenges to genuine relationship, the elusive ideal of human wholeness and the constraints of mortality. Laurence's meditations can be both insightful and desperate, and a reader cannot help but feel that Howe was not sanguine about the possibility of human happiness.

William's introduction to the volume contextualizes Howe's manuscript and provides fuel for interpretive thought. He discusses Howe's Laurence in relation to Swedenborgianism as well as European literature interested in androgyny, some of which Howe had read. He also suggests that Laurence's predicaments could have allowed Howe to reflect on her troubled marriage and her uncertainty about how to proceed in the world as an intellectual, creative woman. To support his views, Williams cites Howe's diaries and correspondence, and he is often persuasive in connecting *The Hermaphrodite* to sit-

uations in Howe's life. However, Williams' focus on *The Hermaphrodite* as a personal, therapeutic exercise runs the risk of subordinating its social, cultural and artistic significance to its psychological interest.

The Hermaphrodite — even its title — is to some extent Williams' production. Although he uses solely Howe's own writing, he does arrange Howe's fragments in a plausible order. In the last section of the book especially, he excerpts and assembles bits and pieces in order to create a narrative. Williams is careful and transparent about his hand in this, and in an appendix he provides readers with the "raw" pieces he draws upon for the last section. The narrative breaks off in a particularly tantalizing place when Laurence falls into a death-like trance, his friends prepare him for burial, and Laurence himself relates their preparations. Is Laurence rescued at the last moment and, thus, able to tell his story? Or have we been hearing the voice of Laurence from beyond the grave all along? It seems bittersweet and fitting that a text concerned with the difficulties of union and unity in this world should come to an end without being complete.

Our reviewers determine which books they will write about and do not limit their selection to authors who are ΦBK members.

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