



# The Key Reporter

Phi Beta Kappa  
Founded 1776

Summer 2005 Volume 70, Number 3

## Denise Demetriou Wins Greek Studies Fellowship

Denise Demetriou, a native of Cyprus, has been awarded the 2005-06 Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship for Greek Studies. She received a doctorate in classics from Johns Hopkins University in May. Her interests include Greek social and cultural history and religion, the history of the ancient Mediterranean, Greek literature and ancient ethnicity.

Established in 1934 for young women scholars, the annual Sibley Fellowship provides \$20,000 for full-time research during the academic year of the award. It alternates each year between Greek and French studies.

Demetriou graduated *summa cum laude* from Amherst College in 1998 with majors in chemistry and interdisciplinary studies. A year later, she earned a master's degree

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Peace Corps volunteer Jack Sundell, right, and Aziz Anfetouak paint a world map on the wall of a youth center in Azilal, Morocco, near the Atlas Mountains. See "Among Our Key People," Page 6.

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## Symposium: "The Forgotten Star?"

"The Forgotten Star? Morality and the Phi Beta Kappa Mission" will be discussed at a national ΦBK symposium on Saturday, Oct. 15, in Philadelphia, Pa. It will be open to all Society members and their guests. The theme refers to the star that represents morality on the Phi Beta Kappa key.

ΦBK's Middle Atlantic District is sponsoring the event. Cosponsors are the Phi Beta Kappa chapter at the University of Pennsylvania, the ΦBK Association of the Delaware Valley and the Society's national office. The Middle Atlantic District includes campus chapters and regional associations in Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. This will be the fourth symposium that the District has presented as a preamble to a Phi Beta

Kappa Triennial Council. The next Council will meet in Atlanta next year.

Participants will explore the traditional and contemporary meanings of morality, with an emphasis on its philosophical, scientific, educational and political aspects. The symposium moderator will be C. Howard Krukofsky, president of the Middle Atlantic District. ΦBK Secretary John Churchill will open the program with "A Philosophical Overview," examining the sense in which it is appropriate to consider morality as one of the aims of Phi Beta Kappa.

Paul Wolpe, professor of bioethics at Penn's School of Medicine, will present an analysis of the interface between science and ethics in contem-

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## From the Secretary

### Modalities of the Visible

By John Churchill

Secretary, The Phi Beta Kappa Society

Moviegoers of a certain age will remember scenes from one of the classics of 1969: "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," with Paul Newman and Robert Redford in the title roles. In one chase scene, the desperado buddies are about to take a long leap into a shallow stream when the Sundance Kid expresses anxiety that he can't swim. "Why, you crazy," says Butch Cassidy. "The fall will probably kill you." They jump and survive.

Later on, as the chase continues, they lie flat on the high rocks, squinting across the scrubland at their mysterious pursuers. Marveling at the pursuers' tracking skill, Butch asks: "Who are those guys?" The question recurs at

least twice more. And, when the identity of the talented trackers finally becomes plain to their quarry, Butch Cassidy recalls their reputation as the world's best at their work.

The Phi Beta Kappa Society's strategic plan sets out, among other goals, the following: *To increase the visibility and effectiveness of Phi Beta Kappa as a national advocate for the liberal arts and sciences*, and *To maintain and extend Phi Beta Kappa's standing in the setting of standards of excellence in the liberal arts and sciences*. These goals were discussed at the 2003 Triennial Council in Seattle and subsequently adopted by the Senate in December of that year. Since that time, they have guided the Senate and the national office in setting priorities for the allocation of energy and resources.

Visibility. Effectiveness. Standing. Clearly these fit together, for it is only by *being* visible that we can be effec-

tive. And, if we are effective, then we will have succeeded in maintaining and extending our role in setting standards of excellence. Our business is not to track Wild West outlaws but to identify the undergraduates in this country who have excelled in the liberal arts and sciences and to celebrate their achievements and, thereby, to celebrate the value and dignity of the studies they have pursued. Success in this endeavor depends upon visibility and on recognition. It should not be necessary for anyone to peer at Phi Beta Kappa and ask, "Who are they?"

How do we ensure visibility? Part of the answer has to do with the activities of the national office. But a far more important part of the answer has to do with the activities of local chapters and associations. Little else in Phi Beta Kappa is as visible as the decisions our chapters make 17,000 times a year by inducting new members and the decisions our associations and the Phi Beta Kappa Fellows make in bestowing their awards.

I have had the privilege over the last few years of participating in a good number of chapter inductions. Out of those experiences, I have developed

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#### Circulation Policy

All four quarterly issues of *The Key Reporter* are sent to Phi Beta Kappa members who support the Society's programs—including the newsletter—by donating to  $\Phi$ BK's annual giving program. Checks made out to the Phi Beta Kappa Society may be sent to national headquarters to the attention of Annual Gifts: 1606 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009. Contributions are fully tax-deductible.

The summer and winter editions are mailed to every  $\Phi$ BK 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 website: <http://www.pbk.org>



University of Miami President Donna Shalala, seated at right, attended the Phi Beta Kappa chapter's 2005 initiation. Award winner Sasha Turok is seated at left next to banquet speaker Daniel Pals. Standing from left: Barbara Marmorstein, chair of the Conference of  $\Phi$ BK Association Delegates, and chapter officers Mary Sapp, Stephen Sapp and Celita Lamar.

# ΦBK Visiting Scholar Finds Happy Trails

**Editor's note:** *Werner Gundersheimer is director emeritus of the Folger Shakespeare Library. A member of the Fellows of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, he was elected to ΦBK at Amherst College in 1959. He earned a master's degree and doctorate at Harvard University.*

*By Werner Gundersheimer*

For almost half a century, Phi Beta Kappa has sent visiting scholars to chapters around the country. The program began on a modest scale, but in recent decades it has typically made 12 to 14 scholars available for up to eight two-day campus visits each, a total of about 100 visitations each year.

## THE KEY REPORTER

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*Editor:* Barbara Haddad Ryan  
*Consulting Editor:* John Churchill

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Some chapters apply for a scholar annually, others occasionally. And the inevitable tensions between supply and demand are handled with skill and tact by ΦBK's Kathy Navascués, one of Washington's more accomplished diplomats. With the help of a selection committee, which recommends candidates in the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences, Kathy coordinates the entire program—a demanding job that she carries off with the lightest possible touch. It's been my privilege to work with her as a member and then chairman of the Committee on Visiting Scholars, as a senator reviewing the program in the context of ΦBK's other activities, and as a visiting scholar last year.

Visiting scholars are post-modern circuit riders: traveling by jet and rented car; staying in campus lodgings, airport motels and small-town motels; dining (not to put too fine a point on it) in campus snack bars and cafeterias, faculty clubs, roadside eateries, subur-

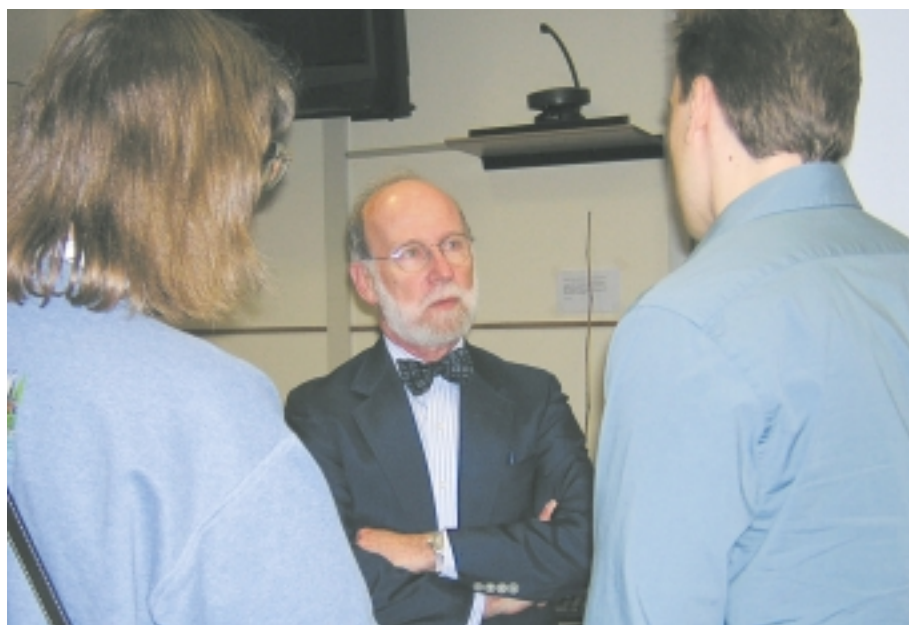
ban malls and—sometimes memorably—in faculty houses and serious restaurants; communicating with past, present and future hosts by e-mail and cell phone.

The terms of the assignment are quite straightforward. The national office arranges or reimburses for expenses on the road and provides a modest honorarium. The host chapters are responsible for scheduling public lectures and other campus appearances, for the visitor's care and feeding, and for paying what amounts to a small service charge to the national office. It's a game in which, if everyone plays by the rules, there are only winners.

For me, the mission of serving as a road warrior for ΦBK was a great experience. It had been a long time since I had a chance to learn what undergraduates around the country were thinking about. Amidst all the trials and stresses of American society today, I saw a wide range of academic communities alive and well, filled with smart, energetic teachers and thoughtful, motivated students.

In addition to the public lectures (each institution chooses one topic from a menu of three), I had the fun of making cameo teaching visits in a wide

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*Werner Gundersheimer took questions about his lecture on "Three Gentlemen of Florence: Savonarola, Pico della Mirandola, Machiavelli" at Florida International University.*

Photo by Barbara Roller



## ΦBK in Popular Culture

In his memoir, "In an Uncertain World: Tough Choices from Wall Street to Washington" (Random House), former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin recalls that, as a high school student, he was rejected by Princeton and accepted by Harvard. Four years later, he wrote to Princeton's admissions dean: "You might be interested to know what happened to one of the people you rejected. ... I graduated from Harvard summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa."

The dean replied, "Every year, we at Princeton feel it is our duty to reject a certain number of highly qualified people so that Harvard can have some good students, too."

*Quoted in Newsweek*

A woman columnist at the *Ann Arbor* (Mich.) News wrote about Gov. Jennifer Granholm: "We've come a long way since the days when stewardesses were viewed as airborne geishas and secretaries were hired for their cleavage. It's become politically incorrect to evaluate a woman professional on the basis of her looks ...

"But I'll say it anyway: Our governor is a hot babe. Certainly [she] also is articulate and smart and knowledgeable. She has an impressive resume that includes a Harvard law degree and a stint as Michigan's first woman attorney general. She can talk intelligently about the economic ramifications of international trade policy on Michi-

gan, the effects of prescription drug costs on Medicaid funding, the role of biotech in the state job market.

"But it doesn't hurt that she has great cheekbones [and] terrific legs. ... Indeed, Michigan's governor is not only Phi Beta Kappa but a one-time contestant on "The Dating Game."

*Contributed by Edward G. Voss  
Ann Arbor, Mich.*

"The Three-Two Pitch: A Bronc Burnett Story" (Putnam) by Wilfred McCormick is a 1948 juvenile novel about small-town high school baseball players. The nickname of one of the characters, Reginald Jones, is "Fibate." He is the team statistician-scorekeeper, a glasses-wearing bookish genius-

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## Goldman Offers Insights on China

**Editor's note:** *The ΦBK Fellows Lectureship provides distinguished speakers for such regional Society events as public lectures, honors convocations, initiation meetings and annual dinners. Phi Beta Kappa chapters and associations may request a Fellows Lectureship speaker for 2005-06 by contacting Kathy Navascués at knavascues@pbk.org or by postal mail at the Society's national office in Washington, D.C.*

*By Nancy Upper  
ΦBK Association of Boston*

World-renowned China scholar Dr. Merle Goldman gave a preview of her forthcoming book to the Phi Beta Kappa Association of Boston in April. Her presentation, open to the public, was the association's most successful event of 2004-05.

Professor emerita of Chinese history at Boston University, Goldman serves on the executive committee of the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research at Harvard University. She has participated in the Phi Beta Kappa Society's Fellows Lectureship since 1992. She based her presentation on her 15th and latest book, "From Comrade to Citizen: The Struggle for Political Rights in China," to be published in September by Harvard University Press.

Goldman explained that her previous books focused on intellectuals in

the Chinese Communist Party establishment who criticized policies that they believed deviated from the professed ideals of the party. She said that the new book deals with intellectuals who started out in the establishment, but whose rebellious activities in the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), and during the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations, pushed them out of the establishment and out of the party. They became independent intellectuals, convinced that China must reform politically in order to alleviate the inequities produced by the economic reforms that began shortly after Mao Zedong's death in 1976.

"Originally they attempted to bring about political reforms through their writings," said Goldman, "but in the 1990s and early 21st century, they sought to bring them about through their actions. And for the first time in the People's Republic of China, they joined with other classes of the popu-

lation—specifically workers—in organized joint actions to bring about political changes in China's authoritarian party-state.

"In the context of Chinese history, such actions are revolutionary. They not only diverge from the traditional Confucian view of the intellectual as the upholder and administrator of the state, but also from the Chinese Communist view of the intellectual as

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*Boston's ΦBK Association presented ΦBK Fellows lecturer Merle Goldman, center, in April. The program was arranged by outgoing officers Nancy Upper, left, and Lydia Chen.*

Photo by Dennis Upper

a ‘comrade’ who unquestioningly carried out the party’s orders. Thus, China, at the beginning of the 21st century, is at the beginning of unprecedented change.”

Goldman gave insights into the prevailing forces that act both for and against the rise of China to dominance in Asia—and in the entire world, if the United States should falter economically. “China is on its way to becoming a great power,” she said, “but it is not clear what kind of a great power it will be.”

The lecture was held, appropriately, at the Fairbank Center in Cambridge, Mass. The center was founded in 1955 by the late Prof. John K. Fairbank (elected to Harvard’s Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in 1929), a leading scholar in modern and contemporary China studies, and a mentor and friend of Goldman.

Goldman inspired such enthusiasm in her audience that the discussion after her talk lasted 40 minutes. A reception followed in an adjacent room, where an official Phi Beta Kappa banner, loaned by the Society’s national office, hung proudly on the wall as a shining reminder of the values that brought the group together.

Asked about her longtime participation in the Fellows Lectureship, Goldman said, “I enjoy talking to such an enlightened group as Phi Beta Kappa about China. Invariably, Phi Beta Kappa meetings draw an informed, responsive audience who ask lively questions and express independent ideas. One could not ask for a better audience.”

Among those attending were Benjamin Friedman, president of Harvard’s  $\Phi$ BK chapter; Lucian Pye, former president of the American Political Science Association; Boston  $\Phi$ BK Association members; and non-members attracted by publicity in local media, on college and university campuses and online. Association officers considered the event a triumph: Although the Boston Association was

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## Of Names and Ages

The Key Reporter received several responses to a letter in the Spring issue that called Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, founded in 1809, “the oldest university west of the Alleghenies.” Dorothy C. Sturman of Fairview Park, Ohio, reports that her alma mater, Ohio University in Athens, claims this distinction: It was established in 1804. That information also was submitted by O.U. alumna Doris Gaffney of Kettering, Ohio.

Lee Ullery of St. Louis, Mo., wrote: “Ohio University was chartered in 1804 and opened its doors in 1808. Miami University was established in 1809. Where are the Alleghenies, relative to Athens, Ohio?”

O.U. alumna Joanne Dove Priskey of Athens pointed out that “west of the Alleghenies’ covers a lot of territory. I compiled the following list: Transylvania (Ky.), 1780; Washington and Jefferson (Washington, Pa.), 1781; University of Pittsburgh (Pa.), 1787; University of Tennessee (Knoxville), 1794; Tusculum College (Greenville, Tenn.), 1794; and University of Louisville (Ky.), 1798. There may be more. Ohio University (Athens) is the oldest university in the Northwest Territory.”

The Key Reporter also received this letter:

As a native of the Buckeye State and an alumnus of the University of Miami (Florida), I was surprised at the tone of W. Brent Eckhart’s letter to the editor in the Spring Key Reporter. Perhaps he is unaware that the university he called a “usurper to the south” and a

“pretender school” is more than just the home of a good athletic department.

Age alone does not confer respect, but overall achievement does, and it is not necessary to denigrate others to build up self-esteem. While it was founded more than a century after Miami University, the University of Miami has much to be proud of, including national- and world-class programs in Latin American studies, music, medicine and oceanography. The school has accomplished over 85 percent of its goal in an ongoing \$1 billion capital campaign, was able to recruit an ex-Cabinet member as president, and hosted the first debate of last year’s U.S. presidential campaign. Phi Beta Kappa saw fit to award a chapter to U.M., validating its commitment to academics.

Both universities deserve to be recognized on their own merits, not competing with one another over name recognition.

Karl Newyear, Parker, Colo.

## On Nanotechnology

I have been a reader and fan of *The Key Reporter* for decades. Because of the interest of the articles and the quality of the writing, I usually read it from cover to cover with great enjoyment and profit.

Thus I was disappointed to read the piece in the Summer 2005 issue about nanotechnology by Linda Wolin [“Nanotechnology Era Calls for Teamwork”]. This piece is full of loose, vague, murky sentences and educational jargon.

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Lucia Pizzo of Lakewood (Ohio) High School is congratulated by John Sinatra, Cleveland Phi Beta Kappa Association president, for winning its annual scholarship.

The association also honors outstanding area seniors each year by adding their names to  $\Phi$ BK plaques that are on permanent display at 115 high schools in northeastern Ohio.





## Among Our Key People

**Editor's note:** *Jack Sundell is a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. A native of New Orleans, he grew up in Monticello, Ark. In 2000 he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark. He majored in international relations and global studies and spent a year at the University of Caen in France. His career goal is to become a professional flamenco guitar player and to own a chess café/used book store.*

*By Jack Sundell*

I've been in Morocco with the Peace Corps for 21 months now, and it's been one of the most exciting, challenging and interesting periods of my life. It's difficult to capture in words the full flavor of the experience, but I'd like to share a little about what it's like, including some trials and triumphs in what I've come to consider a two-year internship in the subject of life.

I grew up in Monticello, Ark., a town of 9,000 people. After graduating from Hendrix College in 2000, I was a waiter for two years in New York City and then a hall counselor at the Interlochen Arts Academy, a fine arts boarding high school near Traverse City, Mich. During that year I applied to join the Peace Corps, and in July 2003 I accepted an assignment in Morocco.

The program left in September, and the last two months in the United States flew by in a flurry of packing, learning about Morocco and saying goodbye to family and friends. Two years is a long time to be away, and I left knowing that a lot of things would be different when I returned, myself included.

These days the Peace Corps is a 27-month commitment: two years of service preceded by three months of in-country training. The training was a fast and fun ride that focused primarily on giving us the survival skills necessary to begin living and working in a foreign country. After a week in Rabat, Morocco's capital, the rest of training was divided between Fez and our much smaller community-based training (CBT) sites. CBT is the Peace Corps version of on-the-job training, putting volunteers into a situation as

close as possible to the one in which they'll spend the next two years.

This was also a chance to see two different sides of Morocco, the urban and the rural, which I've come to consider a distinguishing characteristic of life in a developing country. In a city such as Fez, one can find almost anything that's available in the United States or Europe, be it information, technology or job opportunities. But many rural areas I've seen seem to have been forgotten by the government, a phenomenon marked by unpaved roads, under-equipped and overcrowded schools, and people who dream only of emigrating to the West—for them a mythical Garden of Eden no longer to be found in the Middle East.

Before I came, I'm embarrassed to admit, I thought Morocco was almost entirely desert, filled with nomads, palm trees and camels. In fact, it's one of the most splendid, diverse and breathtaking countries in the world in terms of natural beauty. It has hundreds of miles of coastline along the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, the Rif Mountains in the north and the Atlas Mountains in the center and south.

There are urban centers such as Fez, Marrakech and Tangier, which boast spectacular monuments from bygone eras and walled *medinas*, old city centers that still bustle with business and commerce. And there's the Sahara Desert (or simply the Desert as it's called here—*sahara* is the Arabic word for desert), mostly in the southern one-third of the country. In short, it's certainly not the hot, dry mono-landscape I'd imagined.

After training ended, I shipped off to a small city called Azilal on the western hip of the High Atlas Mountains. It's a provincial capital of about 40,000

people. Despite its population, it lacks many attributes one associates with an American city this size. There's only one main road, no movie theater, no swimming pool, no university, and very little in the way of industry or cultural activities. I lived with a host family for the first two months, and now I'm renting an apartment in the center of town. My days consist mainly of working, getting to know people and learning Arabic, three activities that are inextricably linked.

My Peace Corps job description is basically "working with youth," a label broad enough to make my imagination the only limit to finding fun and productive ways to spend my time. I'm stationed at a youth center, which functions primarily as an after-school activities center for local clubs and associations. I started out teaching English in order to gain credibility in the community, but I've branched out into other areas.

These include teaching music, playing Ping-Pong, going on hikes, starting chess and cinema clubs, and drawing and—with help—painting a giant map of the world on a wall at the youth center. The idea is to get young people involved in constructive and engaging extracurricular activities, something not generally offered in the Moroccan school system. As with any job, there have been ups and downs, but it's never boring.

The second part of my role is the cultural exchange that goes on 24 hours a day. This is very important, given the current state of relations between the United States and the Arab world. The groundwork for peace is laid when people get to know each other well enough to see that they're not really that different after all. Living in Morocco, making friends, learning the language and adapting to the culture, I'm aware that people here are human beings just like me who happen to have been born in a different part of the world. And through these processes, I think Moroccan people understand the same thing about me.

That said, life here is totally different and has taken a lot of getting used

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## Key People

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to. The most obvious difference is religion: Islam is a part of this society the way that water is a part of ice. There is no separation of “church” and state, and Islamic education is a school subject from grades 1 through 12. A second vast difference is the fact that Morocco is a monarchy. The king is a very powerful figure, and his portrait hangs in almost every nonresidential building in the country.

Another major adaptive issue has been the language, one of the most challenging and thought-provoking aspects of my time here. When I arrived, I didn't speak a word of Moroccan Arabic (a spoken dialect of classical Arabic, the language used in the Koran), and it made me realize the glory and general importance of verbal communication. When I speak English, it almost never occurs to me that I'm putting thoughts and ideas into words. Being deprived of the ability to express these ideas and thoughts is almost like being stripped of my personality. By now, I understand a lot of what I hear, and I can say most things that I want to say, but not necessarily the way I want to say them.

There have been a lot of frustrating and humorous situations along the way, like being unable to properly explain the rules of “Simon Says” to a roomful of students or accidentally saying something terribly vulgar to my host family while trying to describe a Bugs Bunny cartoon. Overall, learning the language has been a very positive experience, an exercise in patience and humility that has made me put my pride on the shelf and not mind being bad at something in front of other people.

I've also had opportunities to get involved in projects in other parts of the country. I enjoy this because it's a chance to see new aspects of Morocco and to work with other folks in the Peace Corps. The first such experience was a two-week English-language summer camp in Taghazoute, a small beach town near Agadir in the southwest. The Ministry of Youth and Sports,



*Jack Sundell (with beard) and his brother, Joe, present an informal folk music concert for Moroccan children. Other Peace Corps musicians are out of camera range at left.*

which set up the camp, requested 18 Peace Corps volunteers to work as camp coordinators, English teachers, activity organizers and kitchen staff. Most of the campers were from urban, affluent families. They were well-educated, privileged and quite European in their views and attitudes, a stark contrast to the youth I work with in Azilal.

Shortly after the camp, I went to Rabat for an HIV/AIDS conference sponsored by the Peace Corps. This brought several volunteers together with representatives from the Moroccan Ministry of Health and many of the country's largest HIV/AIDS nongovernmental organizations. Afterward the nine volunteers who attended the conference launched an HIV/AIDS committee to facilitate future Peace Corps projects dealing with this issue by disseminating information on available resources and contacts.

Last September, a new Peace Corps group arrived, and I helped with their training. I presented a session on Moroccan culture from a Western perspective, and I joined a community-based training group for a week to offer advice on lesson planning and adapting to life in Morocco. I was amazed to discover how much I had learned during the previous year about subjects such as Islam, the Arabic language and teaching English. The learn-

ing process had been so gradual that, like watching your hair grow out, I had never noticed the progress I was making.

These experiences illustrate one of the advantages of coming to a foreign country with the Peace Corps: Being a member of a recognized and respected international agency presents unique work opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable.

Another bonus, and one I had not expected, is the quality of people who join the Peace Corps. From the beginning, I have been amazed at the intellectual curiosity, personal integrity and depth of character of the other volunteers. My group comprises a stunning variety of ages (early 20s to mid-60s), interests and backgrounds, and the two groups that arrived after we did suggest that mine is no exception.

It's ironic that, in leaving the United States, I've come to know a group of Americans that has renewed my faith in the future of our country. The United States exercises an enormous economic and cultural influence on the rest of the world. But a regrettably common characteristic of our society is a pervasive ignorance and lack of curiosity about the peoples, languages and customs of other nations. The Peace Corps is a strong antidote to this problem. And, for an organization that relies on its members' self-motivation

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## From Our Book Critics

**Humanities:** Svetlana Alpers, Rebecca Resinski, Eugen Weber

**Social Sciences:** Rick Eden, Jan Ellen Lewis

Anna J. Schwartz, Larry J. Zimmerman

**Natural Sciences:** Germaine Cornélissen, Jay M. Pasachoff

### By Rebecca Resinski

**Metamorphoses: A New Translation.** Ovid. Translated by Charles Martin. W. W. Norton, 2005; paper \$17.95

Now is the time to read or re-read “Metamorphoses”—Charles Martin’s translation of Ovid’s mythological epic has been published in paperback! Composed during the reign of Augustus, the epic does not follow the travails of an Achilles or Aeneas. Rather, the changeable cosmos takes center stage, as Ovid leads his reader through hundreds of tales of transformation, from the creation of the universe to the apotheosis of Julius Caesar.

In announcing his intent to provide a poem extending “from the world’s beginning to the present day,” Ovid sets quite a project for himself, and translating his poem is almost as audacious an undertaking. A translator must follow him through twists and turns in plot, tone, place and time, and never leave readers behind. A translation of Ovid becomes like the thread of Ariadne that led Theseus through the labyrinth: While readers should wonder at the intricate and elegant maze they find themselves in, they should always know exactly where they are.

Martin and his blank verse meet the challenge. His lines are supple, simultaneously clear and complex. They are full of rich sounds begging to be spoken aloud, and they carry readers forward smoothly with a seemingly effortless energy. Martin’s meter and voice move easily from serious narration to unexpected jokes,

from vivid descriptions and clever wordplay to probing soliloquies.

Because Martin’s iambic pentameter seems so masterful, I regret that he leaves it behind at a number of points. Ovid frequently makes his characters into subordinate narrators, who themselves relate tales in Ovidian style. Martin chooses to render the stories of some of these alternate narrators—the Muse Calliope, the musician Orpheus and the philosopher Pythagoras—in longer lines and in a meter more evocative of dactylic hexameter. While this switch elevates the voices of Calliope, Orpheus and Pythagoras, and marks them as especially important or authoritative, Ovid does not use a change in poetic form to single them out.

Instead, he exercises ultimate control over his poetic world by making his alternate storytellers into clearly subordinate narrators who speak in the same way he does. Ovid thus remains the master orchestrator of all the voices within his poem, even the especially inspired ones. Martin’s switch in form grants these privileged speakers an independence from the rest of Ovid’s text, which perhaps impedes our appreciation of the degree to which Ovid makes their voices mirror his own.

A more striking departure is Martin’s choice to present the Pierides—a group of sisters who challenge the Muses to a singing contest—in rap. I mean no disrespect in saying that Martin is not a master rapper. And the awkward song of his Pierides makes the sisters seem downright delusional in thinking that they could compete with the high-brow poetry of the Muses. But in Ovid’s text, the Pierides and the Muses are

more equally matched: They use the same poetic form, and the Pierides seem to upset the Muses more for their presumption and their unflattering portrait of the gods than for the inferiority of their artistry.

Martin’s rapping sisters provide the most extended instance of occasional inclusion of 21st century references in his translation. Sometimes he uses catch-phrases such as “senior moment.” At other times he conjures aspects of contemporary life, as when he mentions that the humble couple Baucis and Philemon must have ordered all their crockery “from the same catalog.” Although Martin is not faithful to Ovid’s words in these instances, he tries to be true to something of Ovid’s spirit: Ovid incorporates passing references to Roman history and society in his tales, and Martin’s casual and quick modern references try to give his readers a similar mixture of the contemporary and the mythical.

This edition of the “Metamorphoses” is kind to its readers in many ways. Not only does it include a glossary and explanatory notes, but it also contains two introductions, one by Martin himself and the other by the respected classical scholar Bernard Knox. While Knox situates Martin’s translation in the context of other recent attempts to translate or re-invent Ovid, Martin discusses many of the choices he made in translating Ovid’s text. This insider’s look enriches a reading of the translation and is an unexpected gift of the translator to his readers.

Given these reader-friendly supports, it is surprising that the translation includes a number of mistakes in spelling and infelicities in punctuation. More attention to such things would have been not only a further friendly gesture to the reader, but also a reflection of the polish that is an Ovidian hallmark.

Martin’s Ovid is an Ovid not for all time, but for our time. The thread Martin uses to lead us through the marvelous labyrinth of the “Metamorphoses” is a thread crafted of contemporary English for contemporary readers. The same voice that will make Martin’s “Metamorphoses” sound dated someday makes it sound fresh right now.

**The Parthenon.** Mary Beard. Harvard University Press, 2003. \$19.95

Publicity for last summer’s Olympic Games made it clear: If there is one thing that represents “Greece” for the rest of the world, that thing is the Parthenon. Mary Beard’s handy volume introduces readers to its history, discusses its development into an archaeological icon, and summarizes various controversies that have surrounded it since the fifth century BCE.

For a building that inspires such reverence, surprisingly little is said about the Parthenon in extant ancient literature. Pausanias includes a brief treatment of it in his “Guide to Greece,” focusing on the colossal gold and ivory statue by Phidias that the Parthenon housed. Plutarch, writing centuries after its construction, preserves remnants of criticism directed at

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## Members Can Update Records 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 <http://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](mailto:info@pbk.org) or call (202) 265-3808.



## From Our Book Critics

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Pericles for “dressing Athens up” with new buildings such as the Parthenon. Given that written sources can tell us little about it, Beard turns to the building itself and its context in the Athenian “empire.” While the Parthenon celebrates Athens’ status in the Greek world of the fifth century, it also stands as a potential symbol of Athenian arrogance.

One of the virtues of Beard’s book is that it reminds us that the Parthenon’s life extends beyond the fifth century. Not only did it greet thousands of visitors like Pausanias, but its remarkable statue also spawned hundreds of ancient reproductions, themselves indicators of the abiding cultural clout of Athens. The Parthenon was prey to fire in the third century CE, perhaps associated with an invasion of Athens. Some restorative efforts followed, and in the sixth century it entered a new phase as a Christian church, a conversion that involved architectural renovations as well as the disfigurement of some sculptural features. By the 17th century, the Parthenon was a mosque, and when gunpowder was stored there for the Turks in 1687, disaster struck: A bombarded Parthenon exploded. As Beard puts it, “From this point on, the history of the Parthenon is the history of a ruin.”

That is how Lord Elgin and others found it, and Elgin takes his place as the most famous of visitors who appropriated pieces of it. When Otto became king of Greece in 1833, architects envisioned a renovation of the Acropolis to create a fitting royal residence; the Parthenon

would be incorporated into the palatial complex. The plans came to naught, and the Parthenon instead assumed its current identity as an archaeological monument, with interest focusing on returning it to its fifth century state. According to Beard, the current renovations reverse this trend somewhat and aim to give future visitors a glimpse of its complicated afterlife.

Yet much about the Parthenon remains uncertain, and Beard surveys the standing questions. Should we understand it as a temple or a treasury? What does its frieze actually depict? Certainly the most publicized questions swirl around the marbles brought by Elgin to England and now housed in the British Museum. Beard demonstrates that debate over the marbles is not new. In Elgin’s time there was vigorous discussion about whether or not they were improperly acquired and what to do with them. Even assuming that the marbles stay in England, there are questions about how to display them. Should they be presented as historical artifacts or as art in their own right? How much does an understanding of the marbles depend on an understanding of the Parthenon as a whole? How *clean* should the marbles be?

Beard’s tone is consistently conversational. Her breeziness can be welcome, but occasionally leads to flippancy (surely comparing Pericles and Phidias to Hitler and his architect Albert Speer is going too far). Although Beard is our guide, she allows other voices to chime in by passing on to us the impressions of many visitors to the Parthenon through the ages. Further pleasures of the text include its illustrations and its compact size, just right to slip into your pocket or take on your next trip to Athens or

London. “The Parthenon” is one in a series published by Harvard University Press that focuses on world-historical sites. Other titles include “The Alhambra” by Robert Irwin, “The Temple of Jerusalem” by Simon Goldhill, and “Westminster Abbey” by Richard Jenkens. I look forward to reading them all.

By Rick Eden

**The Savage Wars of Peace:** *Small Wars and the Rise of American Power.* Max Boot. Basic Books, 2002; paper \$16

This popular history book is a fast-paced yet necessarily lengthy survey of America’s military actions against less developed countries from 1800 to 2000. Boot has provided a timely reminder that our nation’s history is remarkably bellicose. This becomes apparent despite his narrow focus on low-intensity conflicts.

Boot omits consideration of our “big wars”: the War of Independence, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Gulf War. He also omits the Indian Wars. He treats Vietnam only as an unusually large and unsuccessful small war. And he wrote before “Operation Enduring Freedom” in Afghanistan and “Operation Iraqi Freedom” in Iraq. Yet he has no shortage of material.

Few Americans realize how many nations’ history books include chapters on a U.S. attack, invasion or occupation. Today almost every American has heard of Guantanamo Bay and

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## Visiting Scholar

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range of courses, including the Italian Renaissance, early modern intellectual history, medieval women's studies, Shakespeare's tragedies, Shakespeare's comedies, Reformation thought, and even a political science class in which the professor, a Burkean conservative, saw Machiavelli in terms rather different from my own.

The students were attentive, curious, articulate; the faculty lively, engaged, open. In that sense, it was the same story everywhere I went, including small colleges in the Midwest and South, mid-size state institutions on the East Coast and in the Rockies, and big state universities that I'd known mainly from the sports pages. At one of them, where a brilliant young historian took the visit in hand and made it work, I found a dedicated student-faculty sodality of Latin speakers. There was once a time, I mused ruefully, when I might have managed to pull my weight in that learned circle. But I held back, remembering what my father used to say to me now and then at dinner: *si tacuisses, philosophus mansisses* – had you kept your mouth shut, you'd still be a philosopher.

I have no idea what, if anything, any of the many people I met, lectured to, or talked with may remember about me. But here are a few recollections I mean to hold on to, souvenirs of a special time.

Election Day. It had poured all day on Monday, and Election Day dawned blustery. I hadn't had a chance to see anything of Holland, Mich. But after lunch with a group of impressive Hope College seniors bound for graduate school, my ΦBK host thoughtfully gave me his son's bicycle, and I set out to see the historic district.

As I rode along the pleasant streets lined with spacious Victorian houses, I noticed that a seam of my leather glove had torn wide open. Nobody fixes that sort of thing in Williamstown, Mass., where I now live, but I passed a shoe repair shop, and impulsively turned back and went in. Testing my fractured Spanish, best characterized as a

debased form of primitive Indo-European, I ascertained that the proprietor could make the repair, but not for a few days. I persuaded him to do it, paid in advance, including postage, wrote my address on an envelope, and rode off. That night, I watched the election returns with a lively (at least initially) crowd of junior faculty, happy not to witness those proceedings alone in Hope's attractive guest quarters. A few weeks later, having forgotten my wayward glove, I found it in my mailbox, neatly repaired.

At a small college in Illinois, the dinner preceding the lecture took place in a converted railway station. I was seated next to the recently appointed president, recruited from out of state. It turned out that, although we had never met, our paths had crossed repeatedly over the years, and we had more than a few friends in common and lots of shared interests. It was clear that a promising match had been made between this historic, aspiring college and its able and amiable new leader.

In Baton Rouge, everyone kept apologizing for the chilly, showery weather, but to me it felt like spring. Passing through the terminal in New Orleans, I had seen people wearing bright beads. Mardi Gras was in the air. In fact, Louisiana State University was starting to shut down for the week's revels. I guessed there would be few takers for my talk, a somewhat esoteric exercise titled "The Long 16th Century: Early Modern or Post-Modern?"

Happily, the lecture hall in the special collections library building filled up pretty well. In a touching act of Southern hospitality, the rare book staff had laid on a stunning exhibition of seminal 16th-century books, anticipating several of my talking points with practiced insight. On my last night, my ΦBK host, one of the bright young stars of LSU's legendary English department, held a potluck Mardi Gras supper at her house. This being Louisiana, the food was memorable, centering around but not limited to a vast pot of crawfish *étouffée*.

Feeling more like an itinerant hedonist than a wandering scholar, I joined

the group as it wandered off to watch the local neighborhood's Mardi Gras parade, and a grand sight it was. I came away with about five pounds of necklaces, including several choice examples, and vivid memories of an informative conversation with a prison guard from the notorious Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. He offered me a plastic chair from the back of his pickup truck, against which I'd been leaning as we awaited the procession.

At the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., long known as Mary Washington College, a senior librarian had made the arrangements for my stay, providing what could be a model of a nicely organized ΦBK visit. The lecture was well-advertised, the reception attractive, the class visits thoughtfully assembled, interesting students rounded up for lunch, lively faculty brought together for the dinners and, in the library, a fine exhibit relating to the visit. I also had the pleasure of being one of the first visitors to be put up in the university's charming guest house.

Wandering the streets of Fredericksburg during a free hour yielded two unexpected benefits—a conversation in Italian with an expatriate Venetian antique dealer, and the discovery of an early piece of sheet music with a song called "I'm So Ashamed," a subject dear to my heart because of my work on the history of the emotions in the 16th century.

On the back road from Denver to Laramie, a magnificent pronghorn antelope buck watched from the roadside as I came over a pass. Small herds of antelope and cattle grazed in the distance, amidst the almost melted drifts, while hawks rode the thermals overhead. I had chosen to stay at a B&B next to the University of Wyoming campus rather than at a motel on the strip, and my hosts proved to be great resources for both the university and the history of that old cow town.

A cold west wind seemed to follow me everywhere except in the library, where I spent happy hours, and the halls and classrooms of the university. Huge freight trains rumbled through

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## Sibley Winner

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with distinction in classics from King's College London, writing a thesis on "Gods and Animals in Homer." In 2002, she attended the Classical Summer School of the American Academy in Rome.

Her doctoral dissertation was "Negotiating Identity: Greek Multi-ethnic Emporia in the Archaic and Classical Mediterranean." In her fellowship application she wrote, "Ancient concerns about identity provide a spectrum of perceptions and options that are not far removed from our own: The choices between blood-related definitions and acquirable cultural characteristics that face modern ethnic groups are similar to those that ancient peoples faced."

Demetriou used commercial settlements called emporia, which facilitated cross-cultural trade, as a model to examine interactions among different ethnic groups in the seventh to fourth centuries B.C. The emporia's geographic range—Iberia, Etruria, Thrace, Egypt and Attica—permits scholarly treatment of the Mediterranean as a whole. Demetriou's goal was to offer a critical perspective from which to



*Denise Demetriou*

understand modern concepts of identity and ethnicity. Her research included studying Greek pottery from Egypt at the British Museum and touring the site of Emporion, Spain. She will use the Sibley Fellowship for additional research to develop her dissertation into a book.

Sibley applicants are not required to be Phi Beta Kappa members or U.S. citizens. Information on the fellowship and its past winners are on the Society's Web site at [www.pbk.org/scholarships/sibley.htm](http://www.pbk.org/scholarships/sibley.htm)

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## Goldman Lecture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

chartered in 2003, last year marked the first time it had a full slate of officers.

Lydia Chen was president of the Boston Association from April 2004 until last May, and merits recognition for generating the initial excitement about featuring Goldman at an Association event. Shortly after taking office, Chen discovered on the Fellows Lectureship page of the Society's Web site that Goldman was among the lecturers in the Northeast for 2004-05. She inspired the other new officers to consider Goldman as an ideal speaker for an Association program. Planning began last September, led by this writer, then vice president for outreach.

Goldman was the first  $\Phi$ BK Fellows Lectureship speaker to be featured by the Boston Association. Her presence reaped such important rewards of scholarship, friendship and membership that the Association members hope to make Fellows lectures annual events.

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## Symposium

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porary society. W. Robert Connor, president of the New York-based Teagle Foundation, which supports the advancement of undergraduate liberal arts education, will discuss "Morality and Liberal Education," focusing on colleges and universities. The dilemmas of "Politics, Law and Morality" will be considered by Patrick L. Meehan, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, U.S. Department of Justice. A question period will follow the presentations.

There is no charge for the symposium, which will include brunch and refreshments. Advance registration is recommended; details are available from Eric Schneider at Penn. He can be reached by postal mail at 120 Logan Hall, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA 19104-6304; by e-mail at [eschneid@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:eschneid@sas.upenn.edu); and by phone at (215) 898-6341.

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## Applications Invited from Educators For 2006 $\Phi$ BK Jensen Fellowship

Educators and researchers are invited to apply for the 2006 Walter J. Jensen Fellowship for French Language, Literature and Culture. It provides \$10,000 to support six months of study in France. Applications are due by Friday, Sept. 30.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens under age 40, with a bachelor's degree in French language and literature. Preference may be given to Phi Beta Kappa Society members and teachers at the high school or college level. The stipend may be increased to cover airfare and additional support for dependents.

The fellowship was established by a bequest from Jensen, a teacher of French who was elected to  $\Phi$ BK at UCLA in 1941. The first award was presented last spring.

Further information and an application form are available on the  $\Phi$ BK Web site at [www.pbk.org](http://www.pbk.org), or by contacting Eugenia Sozzi, the Society's new awards coordinator. She can be reached at [esozzi@pbk.org](mailto:esozzi@pbk.org) and at Phi Beta Kappa, 1606 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009; phone (202) 745-3235.

## From Our Book Critics

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may even know that it is in Cuba. But I wager that few understand how the United States came to own a naval station in a neighboring communist dictatorship. Boot explains how we acquired it in 1903, the same year we acquired the Canal Zone in Panama, and he describes the American occupations of Cuba from 1899 to 1902 and again from 1906 to 1909.

In the early 20th century, American troops invaded even Russia, both from the west at Murmansk and Archangel, two ports north of Moscow, and from the east at Vladivostok. Boot notes that “the U.S. military stayed continuously in Haiti for 19 years, in Nicaragua for 23 years, in the Philippines for 44 years, and in China for almost 100 years.” We have had forces stationed in Egypt since 1982. This partial list sets aside the long-term deployments that are the legacies of large wars, such as our continuing military presence in Germany, Japan, Italy and Korea.

Of all the small wars that Boot surveys, the Philippine War from 1899 to 1902 may be the closest historical analog to the current war in Iraq. Then, as now, America became bogged down in a counterinsurgency: “Pacifying the Philippines had proved to be much more difficult than virtually anyone had predicted.” Over 126,000 American soldiers rotated through the conflict. They suffered 4,200 combat deaths and killed about four times that many Filipino combatants. Most of those who died in the war were civilians, perhaps 200,000, who succumbed chiefly to famine and disease, particularly epidemics of malaria and cholera. As Boot

notes, the United States achieved victory by relying on tactics that were perfected in the Indian Wars, and that would be considered too brutal and ruthless by modern standards.

Boot does fall victim to the temptation of trying to predict the future. With 150,000 U.S. soldiers now deployed in Iraq, it is ironic to read his observation that “the Philippine War stands as a monument to the U.S. armed forces’ ability to fight and win a major counterinsurgency campaign—one that was bigger and uglier than any America is likely to confront in the future.” Boot also predicts that “most small wars the United States is likely to wage in the future are not highly controversial *in principle*” [his italics]. This prediction is based on his classification of small wars into four types distinguished by purpose: punitive, protective, pacification and profiteering. Like many others, he could not foresee a fifth category of purpose—preemptive—that was used to justify the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

To my mind, such ironies only enrich the pertinence of Boot’s work.

By Jay M. Pasachoff

**Conflict in the Cosmos: Fred Hoyle’s Life in Science.** *Simon Mitton. Joseph Henry Press, 2005. \$27.95*

As I recently told my Astronomy 101 students (and as some of them—as the final exam revealed—learned), the chemical elements are formed in three places: the lightest ones in the first three minutes or so after the Big Bang, the others up to iron in ordinary stars, and the heaviest in supernovae. Simon Mitton’s author-

itative biography of Fred Hoyle makes clear that we must respect his subject for leadership in so many paths toward this fundamental understanding.

But Hoyle was a controversial figure, pig-headedly holding to strange beliefs even after they were abandoned by almost all other scientists. Mitton reveals the background of several of those battles, such as the bitter one with a Cambridge University radio astronomer that, in hindsight, provided some of the first real data opposing the steady-state universe that Hoyle and two colleagues conceived and endorsed for too long. He described how with Hoyle, early on, “Here was a person scarcely beyond the level of a research student who was firing away on all fronts, dismissing the work of others, and repeatedly pronouncing that his (incomplete) ideas must be correct.”

Clearly, Hoyle was exceptionally gifted and adept in his physical intuition and ability at calculation. His paper on the origin of the elements with William (Willy) Fowler, Margaret

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## Key People

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to effect positive change through grassroots cultural exchange, a voluntary sign-up to spend two years abroad is its own screening process.

I’m often asked if I’d recommend the Peace Corps to people back home, and the answer is yes. I know that many people, as I did before coming here, have reservations about joining a government agency and the inevitable bureaucracy and restrictions that this entails. However, the Peace Corps offers advantages that are difficult to find elsewhere, such as three months of language training, local host families, health insurance, vaccinations, student loan deferment, graduate school scholarships, and a readjustment allowance to help you get back on your feet once you’re finished.

All this is on top of an opportunity to live and work in another country, learn a new language, and become a citizen of the world by volunteering your time and energy to helping people to help themselves. Of course, the Peace Corps is not perfect; it’s not always easy; and it’s not for everyone. But for anyone prepared to embark on a life-changing adventure, it’s a fun, challenging, unique and rewarding experience that you’ll never forget.



J. Dennis Huston, president of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Rice University, welcomes new member Michael Long of San Antonio, Texas, after the chapter’s 2005 initiation ceremony. Huston commended Long, a civil engineering major, for valuing the liberal arts and sciences.

## Popular Culture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

weasel who computes baseball stats in his head, takes great pleasure in harassing Bronc Burnett, and for unknown reasons is never slapped down by any adults who witness his misbehavior.

*Contributed by Mark Zimmerman  
Silver Spring, Md.*

During a football game on ESPN last fall between the University of Alabama and the University of South Carolina, a promotion spot for USC featured two young men watching a USC game on television. A young woman stormed in screaming a torrent of facts about the school, including: “over 300 majors, nano[tech] research, 50 Rhodes Scholars, Phi Beta Kappa...”

*Contributed by Steve Canham  
Kaneohe, Hawaii*

“Making Time” (Northeastern University Press) is Jane Lancaster’s biography of Dr. Lillian Moller Gilbreth, who was immortalized in “Cheaper by the Dozen.” The mother of 12 children, she also was a brilliant psychologist and engineer, admired by both Herbert Hoover and Lenin. Lancaster describes Gilbreth’s disappointment at being denied membership in Phi Beta Kappa at the University of California, Berkeley, apparently for sexist reasons. Other references to the Society appear throughout the book.

*Contributed by David Churchill  
Summerville, S.C.*

From “Explosion at Orly: The Disaster That Transformed Atlanta” by Ann Uhry Abrams (Avion Press): “Ellen Michelson ... was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Goucher College.” The book is an account of the 1963 Air France plane crash that killed more than 100 Atlanta residents. Michelson was the grandmother of this citation’s contributor, an Atlanta native.

*Contributed by Robert W. Spears Jr.  
South Windsor, Conn.*

From “The Fall of a Sparrow” by Robert Hellenga (Simon & Schuster):

“He wrote slowly and carefully with his Parker Duofold fountain pen in the italic handwriting that he used to make the place cards for the annual Phi Beta Kappa banquet and to write an occasional letter to be presented to a visiting dignitary, along with a college medallion.”

*Contributed by Priscilla Taylor  
McLean, Va.*

From HBO’s Web site: “In 1982, David Milch, a lecturer in English literature at Yale and neophyte screenwriter, wrote a script for ‘Hill Street Blues.’ The episode ... won the Emmy, the Writers Guild Award, and the Humanitas Prize.

“Milch’s academic years were distinguished by achievements and honors. ... He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from Yale. ... He then earned an MFA, with distinction, from the Writer’s Workshop at [the University of] Iowa. During his nine-year teaching career at Yale, he assisted Robert Penn Warren and Cleanth Brooks in the preparation of several college textbooks. ... Milch’s poetry and fiction have been published in various journals, including *The Atlantic Monthly* and [*The Southern Review*.”

*Contributed by Marie Evans  
Amherst, N.Y.*

## Visiting Scholar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

town day and night at 20-minute intervals, ferrying containers from China and Japan eastward and fleets of cars westward. Not a hundred yards from the tracks, I found a delightful bookshop, the titles installed by subject in tiny rooms that had once embodied (so to speak) one of the town’s leading bordellos. Just a block or two away was a large and serious antiquarian bookshop full of surprising treasures, the sort of place one would be delighted to find in a big city.

On campus, I actually had time to listen to another speaker—the president of the university, who made a guest appearance in Professor Pete Simpson’s political science course on leadership, and who spoke gracefully and personally to an enthralled group of undergraduates. His wise, tactful reflections on academic leadership stood in interesting contrast to the reported travails of another campus leader, then making headlines around the country.

If my audiences on the road learned nearly as much as I did, or enjoyed the visits half as much, I count my weeks on the ΦBK trail as a resounding success.

## A Word From Phi Beta Kappa

The Phi Beta Kappa Society has been very fortunate that Barbara Haddad Ryan has served as editor of *The Key Reporter* for the last four years. Her decision to retire has made this issue her last. We will miss her, for reasons plainly stated in the Phi Beta Kappa Senate’s recent resolution concerning her:

“She has brought to this post a wealth of knowledge and understanding in the field of journalism, and a sure, intuitive sense of the values and style of Phi Beta Kappa. Under her guidance and through her unfailing industry, *The Key Reporter* has been, in the first years of the new century, both a timely chronicle of the Society’s activities and a clear reflection of its traditions. ... The half million members of Phi Beta Kappa who have regularly been the beneficiaries of her skill owe her a debt of gratitude. ... The high esteem and warm good wishes of the Senate go with her as she leaves the Society’s offices.”

The staff of the national office joins in this sentiment; we will miss her wit, learning, professionalism and collegiality. We wish her well.

# From the Secretary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

new insight concerning the role of “the handshake” in adding wry wit to proceedings that are otherwise quite serious. But the preeminent lesson I have drawn is this: Our inductees, along with their professors, families, and friends, derive great meaning from these very visible celebrations of their success. And every time we celebrate the student’s success, we are also celebrating the importance of the liberal arts and sciences. The same applies to the awards that many associations present to outstanding high school students in their communities.

This year we have been carrying that message a bit further, extending our reach and our visibility to some campuses where Phi Beta Kappa is not

a regular presence. With the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we sent scholarly visitors to more than a dozen such institutions in 2004-2005. Another group is now slated for 2005-2006. Modeled on the very successful Visiting Scholars Program, this initiative has been named for Phi Beta Kappa’s longtime friend and supporter, Richard W. Couper. The Couper Scholars—Dr. Joyce Appleby, Dr. Joan Ferrante, Dr. Robert Patten and Dr. Peter Stansky—represent the very best of the liberal arts tradition, and we owe them great thanks for enhancing Phi Beta Kappa’s standing by increasing our visibility.

As we survey our plans for the coming years, several related questions press upon us. How can the national office lighten the organizational and reportorial jobs of the local chapter

and association officers so that their energy can be devoted to the celebratory aspects of the chapters’ and associations’ work? How can we help the faculty who devote care to Phi Beta Kappa to gain more adequate recognition for that leadership from their institutions? How can we encourage colleges and universities to provide tangible support for the work of the chapters whose presence they value so greatly? How can we ensure that every chapter is a visible advocate of the liberal arts and sciences, identifiable as a branch of Phi Beta Kappa? What additional resources would enable chapters and associations to be more effective by being more visible?

Answers to these questions will guide resource development and allocations for the national office in the years ahead. The aim will be to make the Society as effective as it can possibly be in honoring excellence and celebrating the liberal arts and sciences. And effectiveness grows with visibility.

“Butch Cassidy” was nominated for Best Picture of 1969. (If you don’t remember what film actually won Best Picture of 1969, see Page 15.) The film’s allure survives in that great, confusing swirl of popular culture about which most of us know more than we care to admit. Phi Beta Kappa is visible there too, as when a baseball announcer observes that a certain fine infielder is “Phi Beta Kappa at short-stop” (I heard this myself), or when we are asked for permission to display the key in a movie or TV series to help in establishing a character. The key even turned up once in a *Playboy* pictorial, as we recently discovered in cleaning out the basement files. (If you don’t remember the issue, we’re not telling.)

Trivialities? Yes. But even such references and allusions as these trade on the visibility and effectiveness of Phi Beta Kappa in its work. Our aim is to enhance that standing so that, in a world that is not trivial at all, where the values of Phi Beta Kappa have important roles to play, those values will have no better champion.

## Noteworthy Phi Beta Kappa Items



Phi Beta Kappa members may wish to take note of some distinctive items offered by the Society, including the desk-set pen and note cards shown here. The Phi Beta Kappa desk-set is made of heavy lucite with an embedded Phi Beta Kappa key. It includes a gold-plated Cross-style pen and is personalized with the member’s name, chapter and year of election. Informal note cards, engraved in gold with matching envelopes, are available in boxes of 20. 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 can also place an order or request the complete product brochure by calling (703) 491-4866 or by faxing (703) 491-2031. You can also order online at [www.hand-hammer.com](http://www.hand-hammer.com).

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## From Our Book Critics

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Burbidge and Geoffrey (Geoff) Burbidge remains an admired milestone in the history of our understanding of today's universe. His scientific ability to surmise that an unobserved energy level in carbon allowed heavy elements to form might well have—but didn't—bring him a share of the Nobel Prize that Fowler shared.

Hoyle was also a gifted popularizer. His radio lectures brought him fame, and his popular books inspired many scientists of my generation, his "Frontiers of Astronomy" bringing the wonders of the universe to the 1950s audience as it did to me as a student at the Bronx High School of Science. The *New York Times* reviewer said, "Outraged conservative astronomers will try to spank Fred Hoyle, but the punishment will not bother him." Hoyle's offhand remark dismissing the current model of the universe as a "big bang" has given a name that stuck. And, compartmentalizing, Hoyle was a leader in understanding element formation in the big bang, ignoring the fact that he disapproved of the theory.

It is fun to learn how Edwin Hubble's big idea of a steady-state use had its generation in the classic horror movie "Dead of Night" (1945), which was—by repeating itself—the "Groundhog Day" of its time.

As a trained astrophysicist, and no doubt using his years of experience as an important acquisitions editor of astronomy books, Mitton provides accurate and clear descriptions of the science behind the biography. At various times, he provides exceptionally good summaries of atomic theory, black holes, supernovae, and

pulsars and their discovery. He ably demonstrates that "what is extraordinary about Fred Hoyle's science is that his impact derives equally from when he was right and when he was wrong!"

I hope I never have to use the advice Hoyle is quoted as receiving about what to do when shipwrecked: Wait for the jetsam to appear and grab it. He meant flotsam, though.

What might be considered a flaw in the book is that Mitton makes his subject so sympathetic that we are rooting for him, even when we know from scientific history that he was wrong. So, in the battle between Hoyle and Martin Ryle about applying the latter's radio observations as a test of the former's steady-state theory, we find ourselves on Hoyle's side even though we know that the evidence was finally against him. We read that "the destructive and competitive forces that they unleashed harmed the standing of astronomy and cosmology at Cambridge." Mitton does concede that "one enduring criticism of Hoyle's scientific papers has been his failure to acknowledge the work of others, and these omissions unnecessarily created enemies." From time to time, we find a statement like "Although this model, too, is wildly wrong ..."

Read this biography to get a flavor of cosmology and related controversy for much of the 20th century. And read some Hoyle, perhaps his "Frontiers of Astronomy" and, not omitting his science fiction, "The Black Cloud."

**Curious Minds: How a Child Becomes a Scientist.** Edited by John Brockman. Pantheon, 2004. \$23.95

John Brockman sure knows some interesting people. Best known as an editor and literary

agent, Brockman hobnobs with a wide variety of top scientists. At a dinner party he was giving for a group of psychologists, one of the guests asked another how he "got started thinking about these issues? How old were you? When did you get passionate about ideas?" Brockman saw a book being born!

He has asked 27 scientists to contribute essays. Building on C. P. Snow's 1959 book, "The Two Cultures," Brockman calls them "third-culture scientists—intellectuals who, in their writing, bridge the once formidable gap between science and the humanities." A few of the names: Murray Gell-Mann, Alison Gopnik, Paul Davies, Freeman Dyson, Lee Smolin, Mary Catherine Bateson, Richard Dawkins, Sherry Turkle, Janna Levin.

There are too many distinct stories to summarize here, so I will leave you to read this fascinating book. My own story—told at the 25th reunion of my sixth-grade class from P.S. 114 in the Bronx, when my classmates said I was the only one to follow through on my early choice—holds that any number of kids are interested in astronomy, and I was one of the few who didn't drop out. (I think the dinosaur group is distinct from the astronomy group of children.)

Parental roles are important, of course. Lee Smolin, a cosmologist, says, "The next day I told my parents I was going to be a physicist instead of an architect," following, "My long-time girlfriend broke up with me." How often personal accidents lead to significant change.

In the midst of a set of wonderful personal stories, the psychologist Steven Pinker says, "Don't believe a word of what you read in this essay on the childhood influences that led me to

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## Letters

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Let's put aside the jargon and talk about building electronic circuits and rearranging atoms and molecules to create new materials and devices. We can improve our schools by acquainting more students with, and helping them understand, this budding branch of engineering. That focus provides a way to be competitive in finding employment in a global economy where benefits go to those equipped with such knowledge, and the skills that go with it.

Henry Halsted, Racine, Wis.

Linda Wolin responds: *Our students' knowledge of engineering disciplines and atomic and molecular configurations is of paramount importance. However, it is not enough. At the levels where nanotechnological discoveries and applications take place, multi-disciplined input is needed, and it requires advanced teamwork skills. This is the reason so many nanotechnology centers are struc-*

*tured to support teamwork. Nanotechnological scientists of the future will need to be experts both in their scientific disciplines and teamwork skills, and those who are will be more employable.*

### Grammar in the Comics

Thank you for printing [Spring newsletter] the paragraph from *The Key Reporter* not quoted in the *New Yorker* article about [Eleanor] Gould, who worked as a grammarian at the magazine. I appreciated her "pet language peeve" asking that the writer "always change 'they only did five things' to 'they did only five.'"

This mistake appears frequently in newspapers. A favorite section is the comics, where language usage varies. Creators could provide a service to readers of all ages if they would have characters speak correctly. On a recent Sunday, Hagar the Horrible said, "We only had time to save our most prized possessions!" But "Jump Start" always has correct language—and a character who is a member of the Grammar Police. In "Brenda Starr," not only is the main charac-

ter, a journalist, careful, but *everyone* speaks well. In a recent strip she [said], "But whom can I trust?"

Some will say the funnies will not sound "real" if the speech is correct. If not, let us have reality-plus.

Byrna Weir, Rochester, N.Y.

The Key Reporter welcomes letters to the editor. Those that are published may be condensed. Please send letters by e-mail to [agoldstein@pbk.org](mailto:agoldstein@pbk.org), by fax at (202) 986-1601, or by postal mail to the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

The Academy Award for Best Picture of 1969 went to "Midnight Cowboy." (If this statement seems inexplicably out of context, please see Secretary Churchill's column, starting on Page 2.)

## From Our Book Critics

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be a scientist. Don't believe a word of what you read in the other essays, either." His research shows how the human mind makes up stories, and how memory is fallible. Still, he concludes, "this is my story and I'm sticking to it."

**Everything's Relative: and Other Fables from Science and Technology.** Tony Rothman. John Wiley & Sons, 2003. \$24.95

Physicist Tony Rothman presents his Panopticon of odd, failed, uncredited and misrepresented events in the history of science. We cheer for those whose inventions have helped the world while leaving their reputations relatively unrewarded. It is fun to hear such tales of truth telling. I admire Rothman for seeking them out. The book clearly represents a lengthy period of accumulating stories.

The first section is about physics and astronomy. Who discovered Neptune? The Englishman or the Frenchman? Or the German who actually saw it first? "National pride was involved." (Though Rothman doesn't mention it, the Englishman's papers, purloined and hidden for decades, recently turned up and are being reanalyzed.) The Frenchman's careful subsequent calculations led to a discrepancy in measurements vs. predictions of Mercury's orbit. The solution took an Einstein; in fact, it took Einstein. We hear of Eddington presenting his eclipse results in 1919, purporting to show that Einstein's theory triumphed over Newton's. "Einstein was canonized," but the socialization of the results was important.

I have spent hours, as have many solar physicists, examining the beautiful red spectral color of hydrogen, as I will do soon again with the Swedish Solar Telescope atop La Palma in the Canary Islands. The key to understanding that this spectral line is the first in a series came from a Swiss schoolteacher, Johann Balmer. Am I better off knowing that Balmer was a numerologist who wrote a thesis disclosing "the



Courtesy of the artist, Marc Tyler Nobleman ( $\Phi$ BK Brandeis 1994), [www.mtncartoons.com](http://www.mtncartoons.com)

secret numerical relationships embodied in the Temple of Solomon"?

A result of Balmer's numerological musings was that, "by trial and error, he managed to devise a simple numerical formula that gave the frequencies of the hydrogen spectral lines *exactly*. Balmer had no more idea of why his formula worked than he did for the proportions of the Temple." It took Niels Bohr, 28 years later, to find the explanation. "As soon as I saw Balmer's formula, the whole thing was immediately clear to me," he said more than once." And quantum theory was born.

After 10 chapters about physics and astronomy, Rothman's second section, with six chapters, deals with technology. Who really did invent the telegraph, the light bulb, radio, television and the telephone? Separate chapters deal with these stories, some well known and others so obscure that I wonder how Rothman found them. A final section includes three chapters about chemistry and biology: evolution, benzene rings and penicillin, respectively.

"Everything's Relative" gives a perspective on science and scientists that holds the reader's interest throughout.

### **THE KEY REPORTER**

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