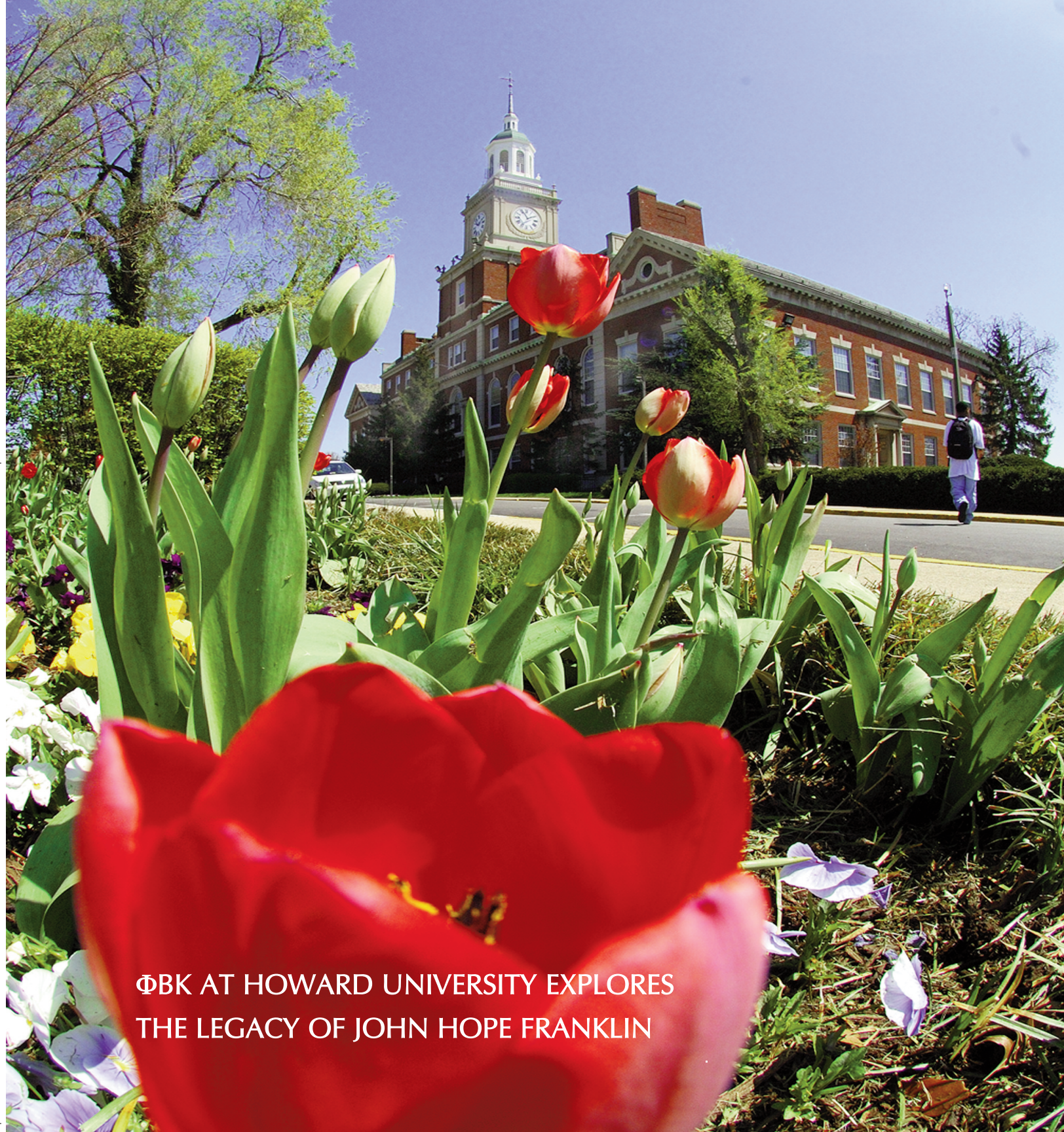




PHI BETA KAPPA

THE KEY REPORTER

SUMMER 2010



ΦBK AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY EXPLORES
THE LEGACY OF JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN



THE KEY REPORTER



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FROM THE SECRETARY

Hwaet!

So *Beowulf* begins with an interjection. “Hwaet!” cries the bard, to gain the attention of his audience. This bit of Anglo-Saxon gets translated various ways. “What!” itself is an option, with descent to recommend it. “Listen!” is a possibility, as is “Quiet!” or even “Lo,” as in “Lo, I tell you a mystery.” But Seamus Heaney’s *Beowulf* starts like this: “So! The Spear-Danes in days gone by and the kings who ruled them . . .” “So” does interesting work. In this use, the word wraps up what has come before (all that boasting over the mead) and in the act of setting it aside identifies it as prelude to what follows. Then the story begins.

In a similar way, the delivery of a charter for a new chapter of Phi Beta Kappa begins with a simple monosyllable: “To.” What follows are the names of the members of Phi Beta Kappa, at the institution to whose campus we have come, who will compose the new chapter. Like “so” in the recitation of *Beowulf*, our “to” is an admonition to listen, given to the members of the new chapter, for the story is about them. It is about them, and about a great tradition they are being empowered to carry on. Much better it is to hear about something you get to do, than about something someone else did, especially when you get to induct new members of Phi Beta Kappa, while that other someone tussled with a marauding ogre and his watery mum.

This past winter and spring, then, we installed new chapters at Butler University (Theta of Indiana), Elon University (Eta of North Carolina), James Madison University (Xi of Virginia), and a consortium comprising the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University (Theta of Minnesota). President Fred Cate, Vice President Kate Soule, Associate Secretary Scott Lurding (who gets to utter the “to”), and I, with members of the Senate and of the Committee on Qualifications, traveled to these various campuses and had the pleasure of delivering those charters. Anyone can imagine what happy occasions these must be, as the institutions and chapters celebrate such a milestone. And they are happy occasions for Phi Beta Kappa as well — occasions when we extend our formal presence and broaden our capacity to represent the values of the liberal arts and sciences.

Some of the installations this round were followed immediately by ceremonies of induction. Ere yet that ink was dry, so to speak, did they with most proper haste induct new members. We visitors sat and watched as the new chapters, for the first time, led initiates through the promise to uphold the Society’s values. What did they promise, as did we all, once? To uphold freedom of expression and of inquiry. To promote disciplinary rigor and breadth of perspective. To cultivate capacities of deliberation and ethical reflection. In a culture, in a world, increasingly characterized by cacophonous incivility, these are not vacuous platitudes. They are, in fact, substantive commitments, ones that might well call upon us to speak and to act. So.

John Churchill
Secretary

SPOTLIGHT



Bruce C. McKenna (center), writer and co-executive producer for the HBO miniseries *The Pacific*, became a member of Phi Beta Kappa at Wesleyan University in 1984.

The most important ingredient in my success in Hollywood is undoubtedly my liberal arts education. The critical thinking, love of learning, and research skills that Wesleyan University instilled in me have provided me with the tools necessary to navigate all the different aspects of storytelling in Hollywood.

— Bruce C. McKenna

Award-winning writer and producer Bruce C. McKenna (ΦBK, Wesleyan University, 1984) has added the HBO miniseries *The Pacific* to an already impressive list of credits. McKenna created the project, serving as co-executive producer and writing the majority of episodes for the series, which was also produced by Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman. McKenna previously partnered with HBO and Spielberg, Hanks and Goetzman when he wrote episodes for the Emmy Award-winning miniseries *Band of Brothers*, which garnered him a Writers Guild of America Award, an Emmy nomination and a finalist for the Humanitas Prize.

“Ironically, as the world has become more specialized, a liberal arts education has become more important than ever,” McKenna said. “Without a broad and

Continued on page 11

CONTENTS

FROM THE SECRETARY

Hwaet! 2

ΦBK NEWS

ΦBK Awards \$20,000 Sibley Fellowship to Eve Morisi 4

Past ΦBK President Frederick J. Crosson Dies 4

Your Environmental Road Trip with Mark Dixon 5

Join ΦBK's New Book Club on Facebook 5

ΦBK Installs New Chapters 6

The Legacy of John Hope Franklin, the Howard Years
by Jeanne Maddox Toungara 7

Marietta College Commemorates 150 Years of Phi Beta Kappa
by Gi Smith 8

“How Do You Like Them Apples, Superstar?": A Brief Personal History of What It Means to be Phi Beta Kappa
by Nash Boney 10

FROM OUR BOOK CRITICS

Reviews 12

ON THE COVER

The Founders Library Building on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. The ΦBK chapter at Howard was one of the sponsors for the symposium “The Legacy of John Hope Franklin, the Howard Years” held April 8-10. Franklin served as president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society from 1973-1976.

ΦBK Awards \$20,000 Sibley Fellowship to Eve Morisi

Eve Morisi is the Mary Isabel Sibley Fellow for 2010.

Morisi is a doctoral candidate in the Department of French and Italian at Princeton University. She received a B.A. in American civilization and an M.A. in American literature, *summa cum laude*, from Paris VII University. She also holds an M.A. in French and Romance philology from Columbia University. At Princeton, she was awarded the Charlotte Elizabeth Procter Honorable Fellowship and the Graduate Prize Fellowship of the University Center for Human Values.

Morisi studies 19th and 20th century French prose and poetry, and is particularly interested in literary representations of violence and in the intersection of poetics and ethics. She has published articles investigating these questions in the works of Pierre Corneille, Edgar Allan Poe, Charles Baudelaire, Albert Camus and the *Oulipo*. Her dissertation, which the Sibley Fellowship will enable her to finish, examines how three major modern authors, Victor

Hugo, Baudelaire and Camus, expose capital punishment and its *imaginaire*. To complement this thesis, Morisi has recently completed an anthology project that collects Camus' published and unpublished writings on the death penalty.

The annual Sibley Fellowship has a stipend of \$20,000 and is awarded alternately in the fields of Greek and French. The award may be used for the study of Greek language, literature, history, or archaeology, or the study of French language or literature.

Founded in 1934 by a bequest to ΦBK from Miss Isabelle Stone, this fellowship is awarded to unmarried women 25 to 35 years of age who have demonstrated their ability to carry on original research. They must hold a doctorate or have fulfilled all the requirements for a doctorate except the dissertation, and they must be planning to devote full-time work to research during the fellowship year. The award is not restricted to ΦBK members or to U.S. citizens. ■



Eve Morisi

JENSEN FELLOWSHIP DEADLINE OCTOBER 1ST

The Jensen Fellowship in French Studies includes a \$10,000 stipend and a round-trip ticket to France. For more information, call (202) 745-3235 or write to awards@pbk.org.

Past ΦBK President Frederick J. Crosson Dies

Frederick J. Crosson, past president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the John J. Cavanaugh Professor Emeritus of Humanities at the University of Notre Dame, passed away on Dec. 9, 2009, at the age of 83.

Crosson served as president of Phi Beta Kappa from 1997-2000, in addition to vice-president (1994-1997) and as a senator (1982-2000).

From 1977-1991, Crosson was a crucial member of the Society's Committee on Qualifications, serving as chairman of the committee for nearly 10 years, from 1982-1991. The Committee on Qualifications evaluates applicant institutions and makes recommendations for new chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and is, therefore, vital to the continuation of the Society and as a safeguard of the organization's integrity.

In line with his academic interests, Crosson served as a philosophy and religion reviewer for *The Key Reporter*,

from 1973-1997.

A member of the Notre Dame faculty since 1953, Crosson specialized in phenomenology and existentialism, but he studied and taught in a much broader variety of fields. His publications were varied, reflecting a wide range of interests as a scholar and educator.

On the national scene, Crosson was sought after as a policy maker. His service included: Evaluator, North Central Association of Schools and Colleges, 1994-2010; Executive Board, North Central Association of Schools and Colleges, 1984-1989; Consultant-Evaluator, North Central Association of Schools and Colleges, 1970-1998; Executive Committee, Metaphysical Society of America, 1978-1981; Executive Committee, Society of Christian Philosophers, 1987-1990; President, American Catholic Philosophical Association, 1990-1991; Editorial Board, *American Journal of Jurisprudence*, 1989-1998;

Editorial Board, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 1985-2010; Secretary-Treasurer, Catholic Commission on Intellectual and Cultural Affairs, 1976-1990.

A native of Belmar, N.J., Crosson earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Catholic University of America and studied at Laval University in Quebec and at the University of Paris before receiving his doctoral degree in philosophy from Notre Dame in 1956. He began teaching at Notre Dame in 1953 in the program of liberal studies, a great books program. He eventually directed the program from 1964 to 1968, when he became the first lay dean of Notre Dame's College of Arts and Letters, a position he held until 1975, when he returned to full-time teaching and scholarship. From 1976 to 1982 he served as editor of Notre Dame's *Review of Politics*.

Continued on page 9

Your Environmental Road Trip with Mark Dixon

The Phi Beta Kappa Lecture Series hosted a pre-release screening of the film “Your Environmental Road Trip” with the filmmaker, Mark Dixon, on May 22, in Los Angeles. This was the first in a series of sustainability events to be held in southern California.

YERT is a documentary of a year-long, 50-state road trip to explore and personalize sustainability across the U.S. The journey included visits to environmentally significant destinations and interviews with over 800 leaders, business people, researchers and average citizens.

To keep things interesting, and to make sure they were walking the walk, YERT team members adopted some road rules: 1.) To create less than one shoebox of garbage each month, including recyclables; 2.) To never turn on an incandescent light (except car lights); and 3.) To use approximately 25 gallons of water per person per day.

Work on this project has been featured in the *San Francisco Chronicle*,

on the Weather Channel, Voice of America, NPR stations nationwide via the environmental news program “Living on Earth,” and Treehugger.com.

This event is part of a series of lectures to be held in California focusing on sustainability issues. On Jan. 8, 2011, Elon Musk, CEO and founder of Tesla Motors, will speak.

The Phi Beta Kappa Lecture Series was established by the national office of the Society in order to provide members with greater opportunities for intellectual fellowship and to allow the Society to return to its historic role of participation in larger, national dialogue about the important issues of our time. ■



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Join ΦBK's New Book Club on Facebook

One of the great pleasures graduates in the humanities miss about their college experience is not just the opportunity read interesting books but the occasion to discuss them with other readers. How much of your “love of learning” lies in the excitement of sharing your thoughts about a good novel and hearing what others have to say in return?

ΦBK has launched a new online book club called FaceBookClub that is helping members reconnect with the Society, network with other members and exchange ideas online. Since late February, the book club has been hosted on the discussion board of the Society's Facebook fan page. Each month, members choose a book they think would be of interest to the group, read, and post comments and replies on the group's discussion board.

The reading list so far has included the classic novel *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck (ΦBK, Randolph College,


1932), the *New York Times* best-seller *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein and *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell, who was named one of the 100 most influential people by *Time* magazine.


Diane Carmony (ΦBK, Indiana University, 1985), one of ΦBK's book club members, writes: “I love this book club and want to see it grow. It is wonderful to connect with other enthusiastic readers.”


What are other members saying? Join the FaceBookClub for the next online discussion and find out! ■




**WANT MORE FROM
YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**









Look for these icons at the top of the ΦBK homepage and get connected!

www.pbk.org

ΦBK Installs New Chapters

On Oct. 2, 2009, Phi Beta Kappa voted to establish four new chapters at the Society's 42nd Triennial Council in Austin, Texas.

Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind.; The College of Saint Benedict – Saint John's University, St. Joseph and Collegetown, Minn.; Elon University, Elon, N.C.; and James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va. — all became home to new ΦBK chapters.

Theta of Indiana at Butler University was the first chapter installation, held Feb. 4 (covered in the spring 2010 issue of *The Key Reporter*). On March 17, the Xi of Virginia chapter was installed at James Madison University. In April, the final two chapters were installed: Eta of North Carolina at Elon University on April 13, and Theta of Minnesota at the College of Saint Benedict – Saint John's University on April 27.

XI OF VIRGINIA

James Madison University President Linwood H. Rose believes that having a Phi Beta Kappa chapter is a reflection of the excellence of the James Madison University community. "Selection by Phi Beta Kappa signifies a broader awareness of the quality of our faculty while also recognizing the scholarly capability of a bright and talented student body," he said.

"As a faculty member, I am delighted that the Phi Beta Kappa Society has praised the quality of JMU programs in the arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences that are at the heart of Phi Beta Kappa's mission," said Charles H. Blake, president of the Shenandoah Valley Association of Phi Beta Kappa and head of JMU's political science department. "Reasoned inquiry and heartfelt exploration are central to JMU's efforts to help students become educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives," Blake added.

"Phi Beta Kappa is the best-known national academic honor society," said Linda Cabe Halpern, dean of University Studies and secretary-treas-

urer of the Shenandoah Valley Association of Phi Beta Kappa. "Having a chapter at James Madison University is a wonderful opportunity for our students, the best of whom are truly qualified for induction into this prestigious organization," she said.

Blake, Halpern and Donna Harper were co-chairs of the application committee composed of Melinda J. Adams, Christopher J. Fox, John R. Hanson, Patricia N. Hardesty, Kay M. Knickrehm, Robert A. Kolvoord, Robert N. Roberts, Kristen St. John, John Scherpereel and Lee Sternberger.

ETA OF NORTH CAROLINA

"Elon's journey toward Phi Beta Kappa has always been about the pursuit of academic excellence," said Steven House, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Our focus has been to support our outstanding faculty with enhanced facilities, resources and programs, so that they can create an innovative, challenging and learning-centered environment for our students. I am deeply grateful for the faculty and staff who worked so hard during the entire process. Elon is a far richer university because of this journey," he said.

"We're delighted because this is such a wonderful ending to a long and hard journey, but also because this process has been to the benefit of the whole university," said Russell Gill, Distinguished University Professor, Maude Sharpe Powell Professor of English and chair of the faculty's Phi Beta Kappa Committee.

Elon's formal application for the chapter was submitted in November 2006 by Gill.

THETA OF MINNESOTA

"Phi Beta Kappa is extremely thorough; the Society put us through a real test of endurance as well as a very detailed examination of our faculty, our curriculum, our administration and our budgets," said Richard Albares, associate professor of sociology at CSB-SJU and one of the faculty leaders of the

chapter application process. "It took the efforts of dozens and dozens of people to make this happen."

"Phi Beta Kappa membership is a validation of College of Saint Benedict – Saint John's University's place among the nation's best liberal arts and sciences institutions, and a reflection of our long history of academic excellence," said College of Saint Benedict President MaryAnn Baenninger and St. John's University President the Rev. Robert Koopmann, OSB, in a joint statement. "The granting of the chapter both acknowledges the teaching and scholarly accomplishments of our faculty and offers an opportunity for our very best students to become members of this illustrious honor society," they said.

"We are thrilled with this news, and we are especially grateful to professors Richard Albares and Sanford Moskowitz and to CSB administrative staff members Sonja Gidlow and Emily Cook for their leadership during the three-year application process," Baenninger and Koopmann added.

ABOUT OUR CHAPTERS

Phi Beta Kappa chapters are granted to the ΦBK members among the faculty and administration of the sheltering institution. In addition to electing and inducting all of ΦBK's new members, chapters also sponsor a range of other activities to honor scholarship and promote education in the liberal arts and science on campus and in the community. Among these various programs are public lectures, teaching awards, fellowships and scholarships, writing prizes, mentor programs and teacher workshops.

Applications for new chapters are accepted on a triennial basis following a lengthy process of documentation by the Phi Beta Kappa members among an institution's faculty and administrative staff. For more information about ΦBK's new chapters or to find out how to apply to have a chapter at your college or university, contact Cara Engel, director of chapter relations, at (202) 745-3249 or cengel@pbk.org. ■

The Legacy of John Hope Franklin, the Howard Years

By Jeanne Maddox Toungara

“The Legacy of John Hope Franklin, the Howard Years,” a symposium, took place at Howard University on April 8-10. The symposium offered the Howard University community and the public an opportunity to commemorate the life and contributions of Franklin just a few days after the first anniversary of his death on March 25, 2009.

The symposium participants addressed his work on the history of African-Americans and the advancement of civil and human rights in the United States. Their presentations shed light on the postwar years of his tenure in the Howard University Department of History (1947-1956), the importance of historical collections for ongoing research, and Franklin’s determination to share knowledge of African-Americans with international audiences.

Highlights of the symposium included keynote addresses by Charles Ogletree (Harvard University), Mary Frances Berry (University of Pennsylvania), Ronald E. Walters (University of Maryland), and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham (Harvard University), co-author of the ninth edition of Franklin’s *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*. David Levering Lewis (New York University) gave “A Remembrance” honoring Franklin’s dedicated service as a teacher and mentor. The closing luncheon featured tributes from many of the organizations that benefited from Franklin’s leadership.

In “A Remembrance,” Lewis observed: “Looking back over John Hope Franklin’s career, one can espy a trajectory arcing in the later years out of history into law and public policy and finally into the privilege of prophecy. His book, *The Color Line: Legacy for the 21st Century*, might be said to

be inspired by Santayana’s admonition about the repeated past and Du Bois’ premonition about the problem of the color line. Franklin took on the new conservatives with a vengeance, forecasting many of the dire consequences to come from the continual evasion, as a country, of the costs of poverty and racism.”

The Phi Beta Kappa tribute was presented by Allison Blakely of Boston



L-R: James A. Donaldson, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Howard University; Allison Blakely, former President, Phi Beta Kappa; Jeanne M. Toungara, President, Gamma of the District of Columbia, Howard University; David Levering Lewis, NYU Pulitzer Prize-winning author; John Whittington Franklin, son of the late John Hope Franklin; and Karen Franklin, wife of John Whittington Franklin.

University, former president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, with ΦBK Secretary John Churchill in attendance. Other tributes were made by the Organization of American Historians (Darlene Clark Hine), the American Historical Society (Noralee Frankel) and the Congressional Black Caucus (Elsie Scott, President and Chief

Executive Officer, CBC Foundation).

For this occasion, I secured a proclamation from the mayor of the District of Columbia, Adrian Fenty, declaring April 8-10 John Hope Franklin Days in the District of Columbia. Banners at the entrance to the university on Howard Place and at Blackburn Center announced the occasion. The proclamation was presented to Franklin’s son, John Whittington Franklin, at the opening session in Rankin Chapel after Howard University President Sidney Ribeau’s welcoming remarks. A commemorative brochure was published that included numerous photographs of the period, Franklin’s commentary of his experiences at Howard, and pictures of orchids named after Franklin and his wife, Aurelia.

The symposium was sponsored by Howard University’s Board of Trustees, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of History and ΦBK’s Gamma of the District of Columbia chapter at Howard.

Franklin served as president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society from 1973-1976. One of the Society’s most illustrious presidents, he was an extraordinary exemplar of its motto, “love of learning is the guide of life,” and its core principles symbolized by the three stars on its gold key: “friendship, morality and learning.”

Phi Beta Kappa was just one of many organizations where Franklin broke down longstanding racial barriers to leadership.

Jeanne Maddox Toungara is an associate professor of history at Howard University and president of ΦBK’s Gamma of the District of Columbia chapter at Howard.



Marietta College Commemorates 150 Years of Phi Beta Kappa

By Gi Smith

A century ago, Edwin A. Grosvenor, a professor at Amherst College, stood before the Marietta College community and delivered an address that celebrated the pioneer college's tight embrace with liberal arts education.

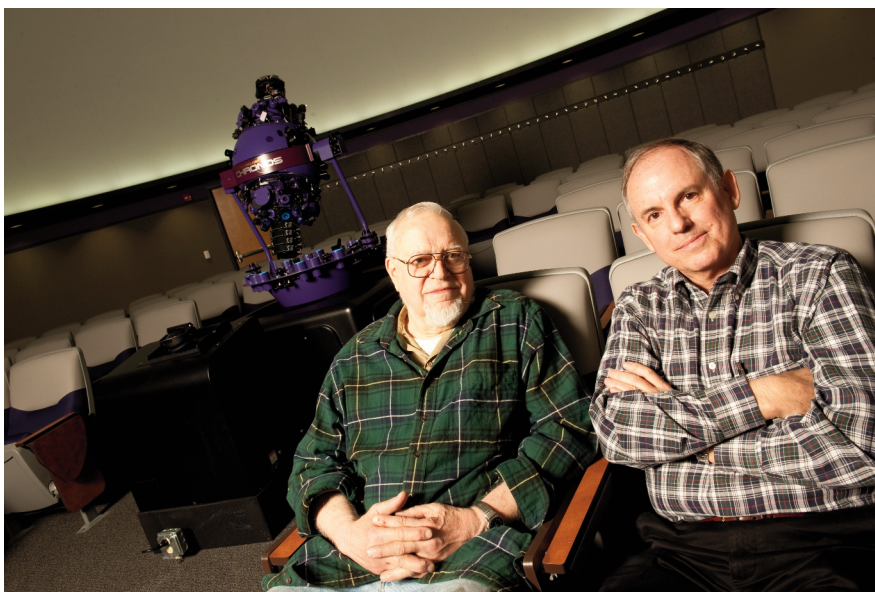
During Marietta's 75th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the Gamma of Ohio Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in 1910, Grosvenor, then President of Phi Beta Kappa, spoke of the faculty at Marietta as devoted instructors.

"But these teachers are not ascetic, mediaeval saints who have let go of the pleasures of earth so as to get a tighter grip on the possibilities of Heaven," Grosvenor said. "Even on this earth, before they die, in their daily work, 'Treading with noiseless feet the round of uneventful years,' they have had and are having their abundant reward. In the mere luxury of living in constant association with the unspoiled, the untainted and the young; in tender appreciation of efforts made and simple services rendered; in the ceaseless gilding of the realities of life; I can conceive of no other earthly occupation that offers so much of happiness and joy as falls to the teacher's lot."

Fast forward to the spring of 2009 as Emeritus Physics Professor Lester Anderson stood before a crowd of alumni, faculty, family and friends, speaking of his time as a student at Marietta and about one of his former students who helped to fulfill a dream — the construction of a planetarium on campus that bears the names of two Phi

Beta Kappa members.

One of Anderson's former students, Dave Rickey, and his wife, Brenda, donated the lion's share of funding that would construct the Anderson Hancock Planetarium. The Rickeys made the donation and named the state-of-the-art facility after Anderson (ΦBK, Marietta College, 1955) and Emeritus Physics Professor Whit Hancock (ΦBK, University of



L-R: Physics professors Les Anderson (ΦBK, Marietta College, 1955) and Whit Hancock (ΦBK, University of Virginia, 1963). The new Anderson Hancock Planetarium at Marietta College in Ohio is named for them. The dedication plaque inside the planetarium's lobby mentions that both namesakes are members of ΦBK.

Virginia, 1963), whom Rickey said inspired and mentored him during his years at Marietta. The director of the Anderson Hancock Planetarium is Ann Bragg (ΦBK, Rice University, 1995).

The 4,400-square-foot planetarium's theater is 40 feet in diameter with an additional 3-foot-wide perimeter aisle that accommodates more than 100 people. It has a projection system that combines an optical-mechanical star-field projector with a powerful full-dome digital video projector.

Humbled with his own election into the Society as a senior mathematics and physics student, Anderson recalls the great professors who also inspired him.

"T.D. Phillips, who was head of the physics department, was the one responsible for steering me toward a teaching career instead of a career in engineering, which is where I thought I was headed," Anderson said. "Dr. Theodore Bennett, who was the head of mathematics, was undoubtedly the finest teacher that I ever had and probably had the finest mind as well. There are so many good professors who chal-

lenged and encouraged me."

As professors, Anderson and Hancock had different styles but shared the same goals.

"We complimented each other," Anderson said. "The one thing we had in common was that we each saw that it was important to really care about what we were doing and to cover the material in depth and really challenge the students. We have a special connection to many alums and we

keep in contact with them. They remember us, sometimes ask for our advice — they're real admirers, and it's considerably due in part to the high standards that we set for them. Whit and I stand for scholarship, not just meeting general education criteria."

Hancock was the college's delegate to the Phi Beta Kappa Society's 42nd Triennial Council meeting in Austin, Texas, in early October 2009, when the Phi Beta Kappa Society recognized the Gamma of Ohio Chapter for its 150th anniversary at Marietta. He agreed with his colleague regarding his role as a physics professor.

"Because we were both career teachers, that speaks to the college's



commitment to — and support of — teaching undergraduates,” Hancock said. The dedication plaque inside the planetarium’s lobby mentions that both namesakes are members of ΦBK — “Everybody who reads that plaque will be reminded about Phi Beta Kappa and the fact that we are proud of our association with the organization.”

As the college celebrates its 175th anniversary throughout 2009-2010, ΦBK members connected with the campus, including Gamma of Ohio Chapter President Kathryn McDaniel (ΦBK, Davidson College, 1994), and Marietta College President Jean Scott (ΦBK, University of Richmond, 1968) also look to this esteemed and historic society to which they belong and celebrate what it represents.

McDaniel said that 10 percent of Marietta’s faculty are members of ΦBK and that the college elects an average of five to eight graduating seniors to the Society each year.

“This anniversary really shows that Marietta College has a long history of offering a quality education that is based in the liberal arts — a college that studies and shares knowledge for its own sake,” McDaniel said. “By having a chapter at Marietta, it also gives us a chance to reward our high-quality students who are serious about expanding their knowledge of the world, and not just their intended profession.”

To protect the prestigious nature of being a member, students at Marietta College must meet stringent qualifications before being considered. “We’re interested in students taking courses that are not focused narrowly on a career, but on knowledge for its own sake,” McDaniel said.

Scott praised what the Society stands for and the dynamic that having a charter on campus adds to Marietta.

“Phi Beta Kappa is the best-known and most prestigious national academic honor society. The fact that Marietta College has been a part of this tradition

for 150 years and has the 16th chapter is a tribute to the academic strength of our college. Phi Beta Kappa provides an outstanding opportunity for our students, the best of whom are truly qualified for membership.”

Like Anderson and Hancock, Scott takes great pride in sharing this affiliation with such esteemed company.

“My election to Phi Beta Kappa is the only award I received as an undergraduate that I still list on my résumé,” Scott said. “It is that important to me



Marietta College President Jean Scott (ΦBK, University of Richmond, 1968) says ΦBK is “the only award I received as an undergraduate that I still list on my résumé.”

because it was a recognition of my academic achievement in college and because it identified me with others of similar ambition and accomplishment across the country and across the years.”

The oldest society on campus — started nearly a full year before the Civil War — has garnered the praise and admiration of generations and will

continue to do so under the protective watch of members for generations to come.

“In fraternal nomenclature, the letter ‘Gamma’ indicates not only a number, but is the initial of Galenos, which means a star,” Grosvenor said. “Always has this, your Gamma chapter, been worthy of its starry name. With a membership restricted and never numerous, but with a scholarship that was marked and a character that was high, its influence has extended and been felt beyond the narrow pale of a single institution. You, the members of this chapter, have added dignity and strength to the fraternity throughout the land.” ■

Gi Smith is a writer-editor in the Marietta College Office of College Relations. She holds a B.A. in creative writing/English from Ohio University in Athens.

Frederick J. Crosson
Continued from 4

Known and loved by his colleagues for his enthusiastic collegiality and by his students for his generous availability, Crosson, a devotee of the seminar, often spoke of his delight at noticing the “eureka moment” in a student’s expression. What he most desired for his students were “the skills of discerning and relating, of finding the order and meaning in nature and in culture,” he once said. “To begin to do that, to begin to be able to make for ourselves informed judgments about life and about works of literature, about politics and sociological theories, about what is worth reading and loving and doing, is to begin to free ourselves from being the prisoners of the mass media and the conventional wisdom of our time,” Crosson remarked. ■

“How Do You Like Them Apples, Superstar?” A Brief Personal History of What It Means to be Phi Beta Kappa

By Nash Boney

Founded in 1776, before the University of Georgia or the University of North Carolina or the University of Virginia, Hampden-Sydney operated as a Presbyterian liberal arts college for men over the generations. Its curriculum was ideal for Phi Beta Kappa membership, but, a very small school, its limited facilities excluded it until 1952. By chance this was my senior year, so I was one of the first elite group to receive the coveted key.

This was great for me but tough luck for a good friend who graduated a year earlier with a spotless academic record even better than mine. We never met again, but, always sensitive and caring, I had prepared my condolences: “How do you like them apples, superstar?” or the blunter army “tough shit” or the more genteel “cry me a river” or, well, you get the idea. Rub it in.

Soon I was swept into the draftee army for two years. Even in the blue-collar basic training ΦBK was occasionally recognized.

Our sergeants sometimes zeroed in on “college boys,” so inept at field stripping a rifle while supposedly so smart. ΦBK was just occasional icing on the cake during these tirades that had some justification. Later I trained for the Counter Intelligence Corps with young draftees who were all college graduates and all very smart — just ask them. ΦBK was known there and honored, but an Ivy League degree rated much higher. Hampden-Sydney did not exactly knock the Ivies out of their socks, though only a few confused it with a clothing store chain or a trade school for juvenile delinquents.

Eighteen months in the army of

occupation in Germany brought a little more ΦBK recognition, though the Germans, supposedly so damned smart, did not get it. My duties remain top secret, but you can get some idea by seeing secret agents in the movies — not Maxwell Smart, wise guys, but of course, James Bond.

Returning home armed with the

and France got her M.A. in French in 1975. Since her undergraduate school had no ΦBK chapter, she was eligible at the graduate level, and we became a twofer family.

Over the years, the keys have unlocked some doors and been definite assets. The key is particularly useful if you get in a hassle in a rough bar. Just flash it, and the bully will sink away like a whipped dog. (Trust me.)

Phi Beta Kappa is well-known, reflecting the prestige of its members. Increasingly it has even worked its way into the vocabulary of ordinary people. The details may be unclear, but ΦBK= “smart,” and being a member of this organization is a real achievement.

And of course brilliant performances by its best and brightest members help too, but modesty (and realism) forbid me to go further. So far I have resisted the temptation to order a sweatshirt emblazoned with the words: “I am a Phi Beta Kappa. Are you sensational too?” (But I’m thinking about it; after all, I’m from Richmond, Va.) ■



L-R; France Boney (ΦBK, University of Georgia, 1975) and Nash Boney (ΦBK, Hampden-Sydney College, 1952).

G.I. Bill, I entered the graduate school of history at the University of Virginia. There ΦBK was fully recognized and Hampden-Sydney College too, since Charlottesville was near Hampden-Sydney that was in the middle of nowhere but close to Appomattox where Robert E. Lee surrendered. While grinding away toward the Ph.D., I married France Alice Bernard, a graduate of the Sorbonne, a respectable college in Paris that lacked a ΦBK chapter and never had a winning football team.

We ended up at the University of Georgia that has a ΦBK chapter and a winning football team. I taught American history there for 28 years,

Nash Boney is a professor of history emeritus at the University of Georgia. He is the author of more than a hundred articles and 10 books, including Southerners All, A Pictorial History of the University of Georgia, and God Made Man, Man Made the Slave: The Autobiography of George Teamoh. He also was commissioned by then Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter (39th U.S. President) to write the 1820-1865 section of A History of Georgia.

Bruce C. McKenna
Continued from 3

deep exposure to different disciplines — which higher education provides — the individual in today's intellectually fractured world risks marginalizing himself. The plethora of information now available to the average person — the facts, as it were — can prove as useless as it is now ubiquitous. It is how we think that is paramount," McKenna observed.

"The most important ingredient in my success in Hollywood is undoubtedly my liberal arts education," he added. "The critical thinking, love of learning, and research skills that Wesleyan University instilled in me have provided me with the tools necessary to navigate all the different aspects of storytelling in Hollywood."

For the big screen, McKenna has sold numerous original pitches and has written several studio film assignments, including the adaptation of *Once Upon a Distant War* for

Jerry Bruckheimer Films and *The Perfect Mile* for Kennedy/Marshall and Universal. He has worked with such distinguished directors as Ridley Scott, David Fincher and Frank Darabont, among others.

In the theater world, McKenna, along with his wife Maureen, produced off and off-off Broadway plays in New York, where they had the pleasure of producing Neil LaBute's first commercial play, *Filthy Talk for Troubled Times*.

McKenna has traveled extensively all over the world, including Central and South America, Polynesia, Japan, Northern Europe, England, France and the old Soviet Union. He worked abroad in Egypt on a paleontology expedition and in Pakistan as a journalist. He was the first Western journalist to write about the then burgeoning post-Soviet, Russian anti-Semitic movement Pamyat for *The New York Times* and *Areté* magazine. Additionally, he penned several articles on Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and Pakistan for *Areté* magazine as well

as the *National Review*, for which he also interviewed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (ΦBK, Harvard, 1989). His first book, *The Pena Files* — the true story of the world's highest paid private investigator, Octavio Pena, the only man to ever successfully infiltrate both the Mafia and the IRS — was published by ReganBooks and Harper Collins.

Born and raised in Englewood, N.J., McKenna became a ΦBK member in 1984 at Wesleyan University, where he majored in European history. Upon graduation he received the Dutcher History Prize and was nominated for University Honors, Wesleyan's highest academic award. Later he entered Stanford University's Ph.D. program in Russian and Soviet history, focusing on early 20th century Russian fascism. He left Stanford, however, to become a freelance writer focusing on politics and foreign affairs. ■

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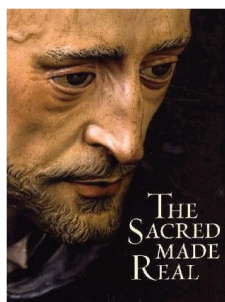
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From Our Book Critics

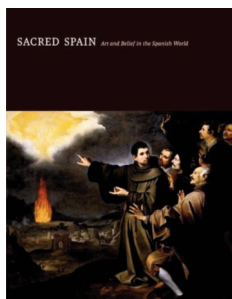
By Svetlana Alpers



The Sacred Made Real: Spanish Painting and Sculpture 1600-1700.

Xavier Bray with Alfonso Rodríguez G. de Ceballos, Daphne

Barbour and Judy Ozone. Yale University Press, 2009. 208 pages. Cloth \$65.00, paper \$40.00



Sacred Spain: Art and Belief in the Spanish World. Ed.

Ronda Kasl. Essays by Alfonso Rodríguez G. de Ceballos, Javier Portús, Luisa Elena

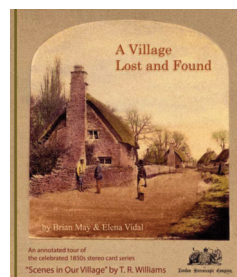
Alcalá, William A. Christian, Jr., María Cruz de Carlos Varona, Jiame Cuadriello and Ronda Carl. Yale University Press, 2009. 400 pages. \$65.00

Whether you are aware of it or not, you live in the age of New Media art. Art, that is to say, made using electronic technology, involving computation, interactivity and networks. The “reality” simulated on its screens is process and systems rather than things in the world. With this in mind, it is interesting to look at some recent books which remind us of the ways in which old artistic media aimed to put the world before our eyes.

These two books, exhibition catalogues from London and Indianapolis, share an interest in Spanish polychrome religious sculpture of the 17th century. It has hardly ever been studied or seen outside of Spain. In both catalogues it is juxtaposed with more familiar paintings. If you missed the astonishing display of illusionistic works staged by the London National Gallery you will find them hauntingly reproduced in the book: Christ’s flesh

is torn by wounds; gushing blood cakes on the skin; eyes and teeth are made of gleaming glass; tears, when needed, fashioned out of pigment. Suffering then was sacred and meditation its intended effect. The horror experienced by modern viewers is anachronistic, because not transmuted by faith. It is instructive to think of Francisco Pacheco, the teacher of Diego Velázquez, as a skilled painter on the wood of illusionistic sculpture. Was the persuasiveness of his pupil’s painting on canvas enforced by that? It was a culture in which a Francisco de Zurbarán painting of Christ seen in a dark chapel was praised for looking like sculpture — in other words, a painting was praised for looking like the (sculpted) body of Christ.

The relationship painting/sculpture — a formal point about media in Spain — is expanded in two ways in the second book, *Sacred Spain*. First, it moves out to art in the Spanish lands everywhere, including the minor arts, and second, it considers the cultural circumstances in which life-like cult images have a continuing existence. William A. Christian Jr.’s essay “Images as Beings” is a particularly nuanced account of contemporary celebrations of faith that still aim to bring images to life.



A Village Lost and Found: An Annotated Tour of the 1850s Series of Stereo Photographs “Scenes in Our Village” by T.R. Williams.

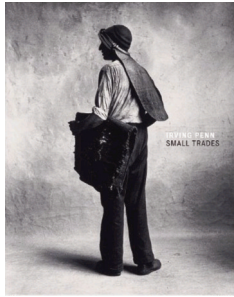
Brian May and Elena Vidal. Frances Lincoln, 2009. 239 pages, boxed with stereoscopic viewer. \$60.00

As a boy, Brian May playfully eyed the wallpaper of his room to bring pairs of the repeated pattern together to make a solid form. He was getting his eyes to do stereoscopic work. Now, years later, famed as a guitarist of the rock band Queen, with a Ph.D. in astrophysics to boot, he has pursued his childhood passion. Working with a

photographic historian, he sought out images and put together this splendid book. Printed large-scale, in a slip-case with a stereoscopic viewer to see in 3-D, the book reproduces and discusses the complete series of poignant views of an English village in the 1850s.

The 1850s was when stereoscopic art began. The technology (for that was the basis of the fad) came in with photography and had a rebirth of popularity at the beginning of the 20th century. In the middle of that century, in rural Vermont where my family spent summers, country auctions featured boxes of brownish, twin-imaged stereo cards and, more rarely, the wooden holders with which to view them. We bought them up, though without the purposeful intensity of May who has, for the first time, reassembled the entire series of T. R. Williams’ “Scenes from Our Village” which May, also for the first time, identifies as Hinton Waldrist in Oxfordshire (formerly Berkshire). The 59 (or 80 depending on presentation) stereoscopic cards, complete with verse annotations on the back, were Williams’ attempt to record the village where he summered in his childhood. Williams, born 1824, was a successful photographer who also made stereoscopic portraits and still lifes. But the magic of stereographs is in their depiction of place.

Following William’s lead, May emphasizes that the stereographs offer pictures of an idyllic life lost. But in its heyday, the importance of the stereographic industry and its images — in England and also in America — went beyond that. Indeed in the 19th century, before movies took its place, the views it offered were a major form of art and entertainment. The technology and the images are long since forgotten, much as polychrome sculpture has been. Might one think the same of New Media art: this too will pass?



**Irving Penn:
Small Trades.**
*Virginia A.
Haeckert and
Anne Lacoste.
The J. Paul
Getty Museum,
2009. 272
pages. \$49.95*

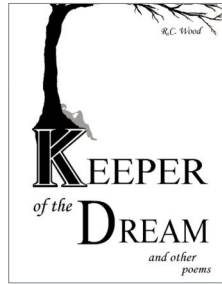
Beginning in Paris in 1950 and continuing in London and New York over the following year, Irving Penn (1917- 2009), best known as a photographer of fashion, made an extraordinary series of about 250 large-format, full-length photos of tradesmen and (a few) women. Originally made as gelatin silver prints, Penn, a craftsman himself, later returned to the negatives and reprinted them in a platinum/palladium process. The artist's 2008 gift/sale of the photographs to the Getty Museum resulted in an exhibition and this elegant book.

Small Trades belong to a long visual tradition of "petits métiers" going back to the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d'Alembert. The world, or laborers in the world, is seen here under a Penn-imposed constraint: the photographs were all taken in a studio, with a plain canvas backdrop, and in natural daylight (almost always) from the right. In Penn's hands, before his lens, anonymous workers — working in particular trades in particular places — appear the equal of anyone in the world. Penn has a feel for the human state. The challenge of performing, holding the pose and tools of your job before a camera, together with Penn's sympathy with what his camera addressed, is evident. The pages of this book offer a slow and pictorially complex look at the human condition seen under the rubric of work, just as the work and the workers were about to disappear.

Photography seems the best bet there is, just now, for putting a view of the world before our eyes. ■

Svetlana Alpers, an artist, critic and renowned art historian, is professor emerita of the history of art at the University of California, Berkeley and a visiting scholar in the Department of Fine Arts at New York University.

By M. Thomas Inge



**Keeper of the
Dream and
Other Poems.**
*Richard C.
Wood. Magnolia
Gazette
Publishing
(magnoliagazette
@bellsouth.net),
2010. 151
pages. \$24.95*

Poetry no longer seems to occupy a place of importance in American culture, at least not the way it once did when names like Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams or Carl Sandburg were not only widely known but frequently quoted. Many publishers have abandoned their lists in poetry, and the major book pages long ago announced they would no longer review the few new collections that did appear, usually from the university presses. Most of the recent poet laureates appointed by the Library of Congress are not recognized by the larger American public. Yet there remain a few poets — professors, freelance writers, businessmen and physicians mainly — who practice their craft in private and who would be considered major talents were they but known.

One of them is Richard C. Wood, a professor emeritus of American literature who spent the larger part of his teaching career at Southwestern at Memphis University, now known as Rhodes College, and served as literary editor for the *Magnolia Gazette*, a Mississippi newspaper. From the time Carl Sandburg recommended him to his publisher in the 1940s to the present, Wood (called "Arcy" by his friends after his first initials) has quietly, persistently and faithfully produced a small body of poetry that takes the total sweep of history and the American experience as its subject matter. Originally published in places like the *Sewanee Review*, *Georgia Review*, *Southwestern Review* and other literary quarterlies, a selection of his poems have been collected in his first book at age 85, *Keeper of the Dream and Other Poems*.

The poets he admires are easy to identify — Robert Penn Warren, Allen

Tate and James Dickey among them — but Wood absorbs their vitality without imitation and forges his own distinctive voice that reaches into the very soul of the national consciousness where folklore and history intersect to produce an electricity of creative power. Many are narrative poems about the wars and conflicts of Southern history, others are tall tales right out of the mouths of the humorists of the Old Southwest, with country dialect and Shakespearean eloquence side by side. Some are narratives and verse stories that a William Faulkner or Flannery O'Connor would be glad to claim. Even those intensely personal poems strike a universal chord in human experience. Wood makes poetry once more a compelling force and a part of the literary discourse in our day and time.



**Our Hero:
Superman on
Earth.** *Tom De
Haven. Yale
University Press,
2010. 224 pages.
\$24.00*

The creation of two high school students from Cleveland, Ohio

— writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster — Superman appeared in *Action Comics Number One* in 1938 and leapt into the American imagination as have only a few other iconic figures. Only the two big Ms, Mickey Mouse and Marilyn Monroe, rival him in terms of instant recognizability. He proved a perfect mythological figure for a century of technology and scientific progress in which man seemed to step beyond every limitation on his physical and intellectual abilities as master of his environment. So valuable has his point of origin become that a copy of the first issue of *Action Comics* recently sold for \$1 million.

Tom De Haven, a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, has contributed an extended essay on Superman to the Icons of America series from Yale University Press. De Haven writes out of a lifetime involvement with the world of comic art, especially Superman. He has produced several award-winning novels based on the history of the comic strip, has writ-

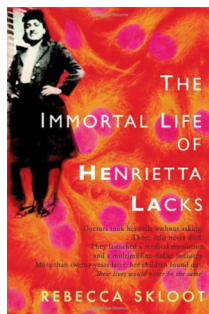
ten for the comic books and published in 2005 an original novel *It's Superman*. This book proves that he is also an insightful and authoritative scholar of the comics and the impact Superman has had on our cultural and social sensibilities.

Surveying more than 70 years of comic books, comic strips, radio programs, films and television shows, De Haven finds that the wide appeal of the Man of Steel partly rests on several factors. "Superman is an immigrant," he notes, "which gives him American cred instantly and automatically." He happens to be an orphan, as well, and is thus free to create his own identity and live self-reliantly, cherished American values. And there are the religious implications, coming as he does from the sky as a savior, found like the infant Moses in the reeds. For these and many other reasons discussed by the author, Superman mirrors and inspires our own collective wishes and aspirations. De Haven wears his considerable scholarship lightly and provides an engaging and exciting exploration of *Our Hero: Superman on Earth*.

This volume is a valuable addition to a growing number of critical studies that are demonstrating that graphic narratives and comic books have matured into an influential art form. No one calls them "funny books" anymore. ■

M. Thomas Inge is the Robert Emory Blackwell Professor of Humanities at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. He is an authority in American studies best known for his work in Southern literature and the art of the comics.

By Jan Lewis



The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. Rebecca Skloot. Crown Publishers, 2010. 384 pages. \$26.00

Early in 1951, Henrietta Lacks went to Johns Hopkins Hospital complaining of a "knot on my womb." Doctors had not noticed it when she had visited the hos-

pital only a few months earlier to give birth to the youngest of her five children. Because she was black, she entered the colored-only wing. The gynecologist took a sample from the tumor he found on her cervix and sent it to the lab. At just the same time, George Gey, a Hopkins scientist, was trying to culture human cells that other scientists might use to study cancer and other diseases. Here there were two problems: normal cells divide only a finite number of times, and keeping even cancerous cells alive had thus far proved impossible. Henrietta's cancer was so virulent however that Gey, with the new techniques his lab had developed, was able to transform the cells into the first immortal cell line, capable of an unlimited number of divisions. By autumn of that year, Lacks had died, but her cells live on — a total of 50 million metric tons of them. The HeLa cells, as they were called to preserve their source's anonymity, have provided the basis, literally, for modern cell biology. Countless lives have been saved and discoveries made because of her cells; fortunes have been made and reputations built from them as well.

So successful were the scientists who cultured and experimented on Lacks' cells in hiding her identity, however, that her own family did not know that her cells still lived until 1973 when, by chance, Lacks' daughter-in-law was talking to a neighbor's brother-in-law, a cancer researcher who made the connection. The daughter-in-law ran home to tell her husband: "Part of your mother, it's alive!" Now that Lacks' children had been found, Hopkins scientists came for blood samples; over the years, some of the HeLa specimens had been contaminated, but by identifying family genetic markers, genuine HeLa cells could be identified and the integrity of experiments based on them could be assured. None of this was explained to the Lacks family. Her husband believed that the scientists were testing them "to see if they got the cancer that killed their mother."

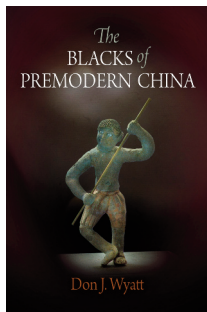
Rebecca Skloot weaves the heartbreaking story of Lacks' untimely death (and her children's subsequent struggles) with the rise of modern cell biology, the latter growing directly out of the former. She describes also her own efforts to gain the trust of the Lackses, a family that had abundant

reason to mistrust another white person who came asking for a piece of their mother. Janet Malcolm once wrote that every journalist is "a kind of confidence man, preying on people's vanity, ignorance or loneliness, gaining their trust and betraying them without remorse." Yet Skloot understood that if she exploited the Lackses to get their story she would have been little better than the scientists who took Henrietta's cells as the family languished in poverty so severe they could not afford health care. Her book is one of the most deeply moral I can remember reading. She becomes part of the story as a moral actor in it.

Skloot's book is a marvel. She describes mid-century African-American rural life and the complexities of cell biology with equal facility. She writes with great sympathy, letting people speak for themselves, in their own voices, withholding explicit judgment. As an author — and a "character" in her own book — she is admirably self-effacing, hiding both herself and her art. Her book is about trust — trust earned, trust forsaken. The doctors who took Lacks' cells without her consent — even though the practice was legal and has withstood constitutional challenge — violated the trust that is expected between doctor and patient. In an act of reparation, Skloot earned the trust of Lacks' family and she earns her readers' trust as well by trusting us to arrive at the right conclusions. ■

Jan Lewis is a professor of history and associate dean for academic affairs at Rutgers University, Newark, N.J., where she has taught American history since 1977. A specialist in colonial and early national history, she is the author of numerous works about American history.

Editor's Pick



The Blacks of Premodern China. Don J. Wyatt. *University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009. 208 pages. \$65.00*

Premodern Chinese described a great variety of the peoples they encountered as “black.” The earliest and most frequent of these encounters were with their Southeast Asian neighbors, specifically the Malaysians. But by the mid-imperial times of the 7th-17th centuries C.E., exposure to peoples from Africa, chiefly slaves arriving from the area of modern Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania, gradually displaced the original Asian “blacks” in Chinese consciousness.

In *The Blacks of Premodern China*, Don J. Wyatt presents the pre-

viously unexamined story of the earliest Chinese encounters with this succession of peoples they have historically regarded as black.

A series of maritime expeditions along the East African coastline during the early 15th century is by far the best known and most documented episode in the story of China’s premodern interaction with African blacks. Just as their Western contemporaries had, the Chinese aboard the ships that made landfall in Africa encountered peoples whom they frequently classified as savages. Yet their perceptions of the blacks they met there differed markedly from those of earlier observers at home in that there was little choice but to regard the peoples encountered as free.

The premodern saga of dealings between Chinese and blacks concludes with the arrival in China of Portuguese and Spanish traders and Italian clerics with their black slaves in tow. In Chinese writings of the time, the presence of the slaves of the

Europeans becomes known only through sketchy mentions of black bond servants. Nevertheless, Wyatt argues that the story of these late premodern blacks, laboring anonymously in China under their European masters, is but a more familiar extension of the previously untold story of their ancestors who toiled in Chinese servitude perhaps in excess of a millennium earlier.

Wyatt, a professor of history at Middlebury College and a Phi Beta Kappa Senator, specializes in the history and philosophy of China, from early through modern. He is also the author of *Battlefronts Real and Imagined: War, Border, and Identity in the Chinese Middle Period* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2008). ■

ΦBK members and all other authors are welcome to submit their books for possible review in *The Key Reporter*. Mail copies to *The Key Reporter*, 1606 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009.



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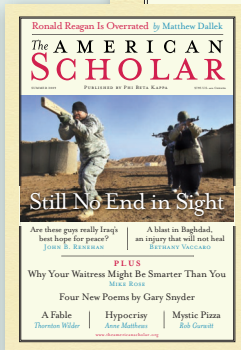
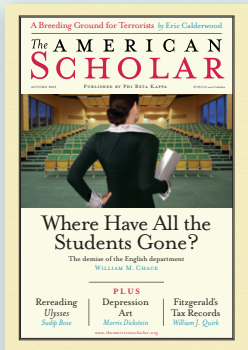
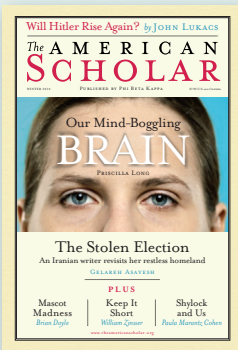
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