



# PHI BETA KAPPA

THE KEY REPORTER

WINTER 2007

**ΦBK Members Receive  
National Medals of Science  
Five Honored at White House Ceremony**

**Richard W. Couper's Legacy  
Continues to Grow  
Couper ΦBK Lecture at Hamilton College**





Volume 72, Number 4  
Winter 2007

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*The Key Reporter* (ISSN: 0023-0804) is published quarterly by the Phi Beta Kappa Society, 1606 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional addresses. IPM #1213423

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors or the officers of the Society. Circulation for this issue: 81,938.

For nonmembers, single copies are available for \$2; one year's subscription is \$5. Printed by Cadmus Specialty Publications, Richmond, Va.

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Postmaster: Send change-of-address notices to: *The Key Reporter*, The Phi Beta Kappa Society, 1606 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Web site: [www.pbk.org](http://www.pbk.org)

#### Circulation Policy

All four quarterly issues of *The Key Reporter* are sent to members who support the Society by donating to ΦBK's annual giving program. Checks made out to the Phi Beta Kappa Society may be sent to the attention of Annual Gifts, 1606 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Contributions are fully tax-deductible.

The spring and fall issues are mailed to every ΦBK member for whom the membership records office has an address. Newly initiated members receive all four issues for one year.

## A Trip Worth Taking

One day in November, I went with Jessica Jones Irons of the National Humanities Alliance to visit Geoffrey Harpham, president of the National Humanities Center (NHC) near Durham, N.C. The visit was one in a sequence designed to gather thoughts and perspectives to shape our project of developing a national agenda for the humanities.

The Center's 40 Fellows spend a year there, working in their carrels on scholarly projects and gathering for discussion in the Center's ample common spaces. Chosen from an applicant pool 10 times larger than the number of Fellows who can be accommodated, they are a select group. What a good position, then, Geoff Harpham has to think about the state of the humanities in America today.

We went to the common room for lunch, surrounded by tables full of distinguished scholars. Each table exemplified that liberal arts moment, when depths of knowledge in different fields are brought into engagement with important topics. It was in microcosm an ideal of our hope for the humanities across the country.

We posed questions to Geoff Harpham, and we came away with two broad ideas about the state of the humanities.

Idea number one is globalization. This word has many meanings — economic, cultural, political and more — and it bristles with connotations that are both positive and negative. But it is unavoidable and, in this context, means three things.

First, it means that it is no longer appropriate, or even possible, to think of the humanities in a frame of reference narrower than the entire human world. We might have thought, a few years ago, Geoff said, that time spent teasing out the features that distinguish different sects of Islam was of interest only to specialists. Now we know better.

Second, in terms of the accessibility of information through digitization, globalization means that every inquiry in the humanities can engage a whole world of knowledge, unlimited by space and time.

Third, it means that the disciplines are not so much juxtaposed as overlaid, with the best work often being done by "poachers," who lay claim to topics in some other field of expertise.

Geoff Harpham's key point about all this was that the exciting things happening in the humanities take advantage of the new ways of approaching questions that these forms of globalization permit. A corollary would seem to be that these new ways should also display the relevance of those inquiries to issues in life outside academe, which is not divided into departments and disciplines.

Geoff also described with great enthusiasm a project underway at the NHC called "Autonomy, Singularity, Creativity," a project designed to explore the impact of contemporary advances in science on some of the essential components of the concept of "the human." This is idea number two: The future of the humanities lies in a world transformed by new scientific knowledge that bears on the nature of being human.

The ways we think about moral agency, the difference between life and death, the difference between humans and other animals or between humans and machines, are all affected by current scientific work. These are pressing, pertinent issues, and they are central to the work of practitioners of humanities disciplines.

Geoff Harpham had more to say, of course. But these two thoughts were enough to justify a visit to this encampment of scholars in the Carolina woods. We carried these thoughts away, not to tuck them in among neat little compartments full of things found out, but to introduce them into our own common room, where the conversation is about the role of the humanities in the life of this country. That is our project, and I look forward to keeping you apprised of our work.

John Churchill  
Secretary



*I've found that you never quite know what you think about a problem until you write about it. And you will never accomplish much unless other people clearly understand what you're saying. Good writing and clear communication take a lot of coaching and practice — a good liberal arts education gives you that.*

— Michael R. McAlevey

**M**ichael R. McAlevey is vice president and chief corporate, securities and finance counsel for the General Electric Company (GE). He is responsible for GE's global securities law, capital raising, corporate law and corporate governance compliance.

"In business, strong values are critical to sustainable performance," McAlevey said. "My liberal arts education from Washington and Lee has provided me with the values and perspectives to succeed throughout my career. I learned the importance of careful analysis and that analysis only goes so far. There is irreducible uncertainty in tough decision-making — I learned early to recognize and cope with that uncertainty."

"I am reminded of the importance of my liberal arts education everyday," McAlevey observes. "The study of history, literature and philosophy helps put current events and decisions in a broader context. Additionally, my participation in Phi Beta Kappa showed me the importance of giving back to the community. I am highly involved with the United Way organization and am on the board of directors at the Mercy Learning Center in Bridgeport, Conn., an organization dedicated to providing basic literacy and life skills to low-income women in the

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### ON THE COVER

Pedestrians traverse walkways over North Park Street during a snow-storm at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Science Hall is seen in the background.

Photo by Aaron Mayes, University Communications.

**Too Short on Longfellow**

When I received the fall *Key Reporter* I was disappointed that you did not mention that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was a ΦBK member of Alpha of Maine. He was class of 1825 along with Nathaniel Hawthorne and Franklin Pierce.

When I was elected to ΦBK as a junior at Bowdoin, I signed the same book Longfellow signed 141 years before me. As I recall, I looked at his signature. My daughter, Elizabeth Mone, signed the same book in 1998 upon her election.

Longfellow and Hawthorne were two very distinguished Bowdoin graduates, and the library is named in their honor.

You will also be interested to know that Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, the hero of the Battle of Little Round Top at Gettysburg, was a member of Alpha of Maine and became president of Bowdoin and governor of Maine after the war.

William D. Mone  
Wellesley, Mass.

*Editor's Note: Longfellow (class of 1825) was elected to ΦBK in 1826 and inducted in 1829. Hawthorne (class of 1825) and Pierce (class of 1824) were not elected till 1842. The early practice at Bowdoin of listing with their classmates members elected as alumni has led to some confusion over the years.*

**Second Law of Thermodynamics**

In the fall *Key Reporter*, John E. Sircy asks how it is that the mechanism of life conflicts with the second law of thermodynamics. The answer is: it doesn't. While this is a common claim, it is entirely incorrect. As a physicist, I can help explain this issue.

According to the laws of thermo-

dynamics — which are among the best verified in all of science — any transformation of energy must cause an increase in entropy, which is a mathematical measure of disorder. Anti-evolutionists claim that the increase in order (corresponding to a decrease in entropy) that is associated with life contradicts this law. This is absolutely, unequivocally wrong. The world is full of systems which reduce entropy. Refrigerators and cars are two common examples. A refrigerator decreases the entropy of the food inside by cooling it. In so doing, it increases the entropy of the entire universe by exhausting more heat than was extracted from the food. Thermodynamics describes this process precisely. The manipulation of entropy costs energy — technically known as the “Gibbs free energy” — and that is paid for with a check to the electric company.

Living systems operate much the same way and obey the same laws. The food we eat supplies us with free energy, which our bodies use to “pay” for the entropy decrease associated with the chemical reactions of life. The heat we give off and the waste products we excrete are more entropic than what we take in. That's how our bodies maintain increased interior order while continually increasing the total entropy of the universe. Once again, thermodynamics describes these processes precisely. If you look in any biochemistry book, you will see that the Gibbs free energy for every biochemical reaction that has been found has been carefully measured, and the accounting of the trade-off between free energy and entropy decrease has been understood. It has to be — otherwise, it would be wrong.

While my competence in this matter is technical, I cannot resist responding to Mr. Sircy's non-technical com-

ments about “Social Darwinism” — whatever that actually is. Social Darwinism has nothing to do with biological evolution. Darwin proposed a mechanism which can enable long-term changes in organisms. These changes take place over thousands of generations and have nothing to do with human society. Don't blame our social ills on Darwin or evolutionary biologists — they have nothing to do with it.

Paul Kolodner  
Hoboken, N.J.

**Sciences without the Liberal Arts?**

I am a retired CPA and businessman. I was fortunate enough to be elected to ΦBK at the University of Washington in 1954. I strongly support a new high tech/math/science university in our state. I believe that we must be much better educated in math and science to be competitive economically in today's and tomorrow's world economy.

However, I strongly believe that America's role in the world is not just as an able competitor. It is as a leader. And to lead, excellence in the liberal arts is essential. Communications, understanding ourselves, other peoples, other cultures, their languages, our and their history, philosophy, religion, literature, music are all ingredients to leadership. To be creative, to be innovative, to be tolerant and respectful of others is more than math and science. It is good citizenship, and we must be world class citizens to be world class leaders.

I support John Churchill's championing the humanities as always being a key element in higher education.

Gordon Barnes  
Edmonds, Wash. ■

**ΦBK in the News**

♦ **Christopher M. Sorensen** (ΦBK, University of Nebraska, 1969), University Distinguished Professor of Physics at Kansas State University, was named Outstanding Doctoral and Research Universities Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. (“2007

U.S. Professor of the Year Winners” [www.usprofessorsoftheyear.org](http://www.usprofessorsoftheyear.org) 15 Nov. 2007.)

♦ U.S. Rep. **Bobby Jindal** (ΦBK, Brown University, 1991) won the Louisiana governor's race on Oct. 20. When Jindal takes office in January, he will be the nation's youngest governor, its first Indian-American governor, and the first non-white to hold the office in Louisiana since Reconstruction. (Nossiter, Adam. “Indian-American Elected Louisiana's Governor.” *The*

*New York Times* Online 21 Oct. 2007.)

♦ **Gloria Steinem** (ΦBK, Smith College, 1955), co-founder of *Ms.* magazine and one of the world's most noted feminists, spoke at the national meeting of Women United in Philanthropy in Hackensack, N.J., Oct. 18. “Women have historically given money to religious institutions that didn't treat them equally, to their husband's colleges instead of their own colleges. So to concentrate the giving

*Continued on 10*

ACAD-ΦBK Conference on Science as Liberal Education



James Trefil of George Mason University speaks at opening plenary session Oct. 25

and abroad attended the three-day event. Featured speakers were James Trefil, Clarence J. Robinson Professor of Physics at George Mason University, who discussed “The Other 98%: Science Education for Non-scientists”; Eric Jolly, president of the Minnesota Museum of Science, whose topic was “Science as an Essential Literacy”; and Philip Glotzbach, president of Skidmore College, who presented “Young Men, Young Women and Fire: The Underappreciated Aesthetics of Scientific Understanding.”

The American Conference of Academic Deans (ACAD) and ΦBK held their third biennial conference, “Promoting the Liberal Sciences: Science As Liberal Education,” Oct. 25-27 at the Madison Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Deans, provosts, faculty and other academicians from across the nation

Elizabeth Redden, reporting for *Inside Higher Ed*, attended sessions and interviewed organizers and participants. Her article about the event, “Interdisciplinarity and the Science Classroom,” was published on Oct. 29, inspiring substantial discussion on the Web. A link to the *Inside Higher Ed* article can be found on the ΦBK homepage at [www.pbk.org](http://www.pbk.org). ■

ΦBK Joins Conversations about Liberal Education in China



ΦBK Secretary John Churchill with Zhihe Wang, director of the Institute for Postmodern Development of China

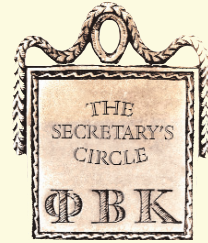
sponsored by the Institute for Postmodern Development of China located in Claremont, Calif., Zhihe Wang, director. The aim of the Institute is to create and promote new modes of development in China and the West. Using ideas that integrate classical Chinese philosophy with constructive forms of Western thought, the Institute addresses practical problems associated with economic growth, social change and globalization.

Churchill gave the keynote speech, “Liberal Education in America,” at the “International Conference on Constructive Postmodern Thinking and Curricular Reform,” July 19-20, Lu Dong University, Yantai, Shandong Province.

ΦBK Secretary John Churchill traveled to China July 18-31 to discuss liberal education and lecture on the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein.

These speaking engagements are among the many outreach programs

July 25-29 he lectured on Wittgenstein at the Center for the Fundamental Theory of Philosophy, Jilin University, Changchun, Jilin Province. He also spoke at the opening of the Center for Process Studies, Heilongjiang University, Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, and visited Beijing to meet with Chinese education officials in late July. ■



Members who have demonstrated a high level of dedication to the ideals of the Society are invited to join the Secretary’s Circle, a group committed to making a significant annual gift to further the Society’s mission and to support its efforts to strengthen American education and the life of the mind.

Each spring, members of the Secretary’s Circle gather for a special weekend gala in Washington, D.C., which includes tours of cultural sites, a black-tie dinner with a keynote speaker, a private briefing by the Secretary on ΦBK initiatives, and an opportunity for members to enjoy fellowship and conversation about important ideas in our nation’s capital. Events this spring will be held May 16-18.

**Join the Secretary’s Circle.**

**Join the conversation.**

[secretaryscircle@pbk.org](mailto:secretaryscircle@pbk.org)



*Laureate*

\$1,500 - \$2,499

*Bronze Laureate*

\$2,500 - \$4,999

*Silver Laureate*

\$5,000 - \$9,999

*Gold Laureate*

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

ΦBK Members Receive National Medals of Science



Credit: Ryan K. Morris, National Science and Technology Medals Foundation

Nina V. Fedoroff (ΦBK, Syracuse University, 1966) receives a National Medal of Science from President George W. Bush at the White House on July 27.

President George W. Bush awarded National Medals of Science and National Medals of Technology honoring the nation's leading researchers, inventors and innovators at a White House ceremony July 27.

This year five of the eight recipients are Phi Beta Kappa members.

**Hyman Bass — University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.**

For his fundamental contributions to pure mathematics, especially in the creation of algebraic K-theory, his profound influence on mathematics education, and his service to the mathematics research and education communities. ΦBK, Princeton University, 1955.

**Rita R. Colwell — University of Maryland, College Park, Md.**

For her in-depth research that has contributed to a greater understanding of the ecology, physiology, and evolution of marine microbes, most notably *Vibrio cholerae*, the causative agent of pandemic cholera, and that has elucidated critical links between environmental and human health. ΦBK, University of Maryland, 1979.

**Nina V. Fedoroff — Pennsylvania State University, State College, Penn.**

For her pioneering work on plant molecular biology and for being the first to clone and characterize maize transposons. She has contributed to education and public policy pertaining to recombinant DNA and genetic modification of plants. ΦBK, Syracuse University, 1966.

**Daniel Kleppner — Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.**

For his pioneering scientific studies of the interaction of atoms and light including Rydberg atoms, cavity quantum electrodynamics, and quantum chaos; for developing techniques that opened the way to Bose Einstein Condensation in a gas; and for lucid explanations of physics to non-specialists and exemplary service to the scientific community. ΦBK, Williams College, 1953.

**Lubert Stryer — Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.**

For his elucidation of the biochemical basis of signal amplification in vision and pioneering the development of high density micro-arrays for genetic analysis. His influential biochemistry textbook has influenced and inspired millions of students. ΦBK, University of Chicago, 1957.

The National Science Foundation administers the prestigious award program, which was established by Congress in 1959. It honors individuals for pioneering scientific research in a range of fields, including physical, biological, mathematical, social, behavioral and engineering sciences, that enhances our understanding of the world and leads to innovations and technologies that give the United States its global economic edge. ■

You Can Reap Benefits from Donating to ΦBK

Your support is of great value to Phi Beta Kappa, and it is our goal to make it rewarding for you as well. That's why ΦBK wants you to know about the financial tools you can use to plan your gift to us so that it can return benefits to you.

Did you know that ...

- You can make a gift using appreciated securities and realize larger tax savings than if you had used cash?
- You can make a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime?
- You can make a gift that pays you income for life?

- You can preserve your estate for your children and deliver years of income to ΦBK?
- You can donate your house, take a major tax deduction, and continue to live in it rent-free?
- You can turn surplus life insurance coverage into a gift?

We have expanded our Web site to make it a resource for you as you plan your charitable gift. At [www.pbk.org/legacyplanning](http://www.pbk.org/legacyplanning) you can learn how a gift to ΦBK can work for you, by increasing your income, providing cash to help you increase your standard of living, paying for new living expens-

es or moving into a retirement community. You can learn how to gain a tax deduction for items that you can no longer use or maintain. A planned gift can also provide benefits to your family and loved ones, and the new legacy planning addition to our Web site will show you how.

Please visit ΦBK Legacy Planning at [www.pbk.org/legacyplanning](http://www.pbk.org/legacyplanning). We would love to hear what you think about this new section of our Web site and how we can make it even better! Contact Jared B. Huges, director of legacy planning, with your questions and comments at [legacyplanning@pbk.org](mailto:legacyplanning@pbk.org) or (202) 745-3234. ■

## ΦBK Visiting Scholar Engages Students for “Deliberation about Things That Matter” at Stetson University

by Terry Grieb

The Gamma of Florida chapter at Stetson University recently enjoyed the unique opportunity of blending the expertise of a ΦBK Visiting Scholar with the challenge of a Teagle Foundation-ΦBK grant. As part of a series of discourses for “Deliberation about Things That Matter,” the chapter asked visiting scholar Roger Bagnall to guide an informal seminar on “Oppression and Imperialism in Societies Ancient and Contemporary” during his September visit. While the objectives of the Teagle-ΦBK grants include fostering events for teaching and learning which hone deliberative skills through discussion of major issues of meaning and value, the charge to ΦBK Visiting Scholars is to engage undergraduates. This seminar reached both goals.

The Stetson chapter’s approach was, in the words of Dean of Arts and Sciences Grady Ballenger, “to partner with its faculty and with our distinguished visiting lecturers in emphasizing the methods of research, analysis, imagination, and communication that are essential to the means and goals of deliberation.” At the same time, we sought to remind students and faculty of the sheer pleasure of study, of entering intellectual discussion with others, and of reaching informed consensus or greater insight into areas of difference. This posed an exciting challenge.

In our September dialogue, Bagnall met with a group of undergraduates representing a variety of majors. Dean Ballenger and professor

Kimberly Flint-Hamilton, one of Stetson’s classicists, made the introductions and launched the topic. From there, it was purely Bagnall and students trading ideas. The atmosphere was relaxed, to encourage participation, and the students were eager. For over an hour, they drew on their learning as they traded thoughts, opinions and beliefs. How does a scholar “deliberate” about the past? How do we reach conclusions about societies and institutions in the past? What evidence do we accept? How do we read or interpret that evidence? How do we form a consensus or clarify differing interpretations? When do we reach a conclusion, and when must we agree to continue our deliberation with revised questions? As with any give-and-take, it would be difficult to draw easy conclusions. The students were very positive about their opportunity to interact with a renowned scholar and wished there was time for another round of discussion. Most important though, the students experienced a free-ranging intellectual exercise.

We felt gratified, as our efforts met the first purpose of the Society: to encourage the application of learning and scholarship in the examination of important topics. At the same time, we have made effective use of a ΦBK Visiting Scholar, showcased scholarly discourse, and nurtured the growth of our students’ intellectual curiosity. ■

*Terry Grieb, associate professor and instructional media specialist at Stetson University, is secretary-treasurer of the Gamma of Florida chapter.*

## ΦBK Petition to the U.S. Department of Education

In September 2006, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings accepted a report from a specially appointed Commission on the Future of Higher Education, and she very quickly laid out an action plan to pursue its recommendations.

The report is not all bad, but there is a critical missing link in the report and the action plan: There is no mention of the importance of the liberal arts and science in higher education.

That’s why the Society is asking its members to sign a petition to the

U.S. Department of Education.

The petition is located on the ΦBK homepage at [www.pbk.org](http://www.pbk.org). Select the link at the right side of the page for “ΦBK Online Petition to U.S. Department of Education.” From there you will be given directions to complete the petition online.

Your name will be added to those of thousands of other Phi Beta Kappans and presented to Secretary Spellings. ■

## New Membership Benefits

Through our partnerships with Colonial Williamsburg and Encyclopaedia Britannica, ΦBK is now offering a series of new benefits to our members.



*Colonial Williamsburg*

ΦBK members and their immediate family can receive a 20 percent discount at Colonial Williamsburg Hotels, a 20 percent discount on passes to the Historic Area, and a 15 percent discount on Williamsburg merchandise. Some restrictions apply. For more details click on the Colonial Williamsburg promotion after logging in on the ΦBK Web site.



New members can also receive a free one-year subscription to Encyclopaedia Britannica online and a 25 percent discount on Britannica merchandise from [store.britannica.com](http://store.britannica.com). In addition, all Phi Beta Kappans are eligible for a 50 percent discount on the annual subscription rate and continued discounts in Britannica’s online store.

### How to Get the Discounts

To take advantage of these exciting new benefits and review the full details, members will need to login at [www.pbk.org](http://www.pbk.org).

You will be asked for your login, which is your Member ID, the six- or seven-digit number that appears next to your name on your *Key Reporter* address label.

Your password 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.

Have a problem logging in? Write to [membership@pbk.org](mailto:membership@pbk.org) or call (202) 745-3242.

# Sex, Celibacy and Gender Roles in Shaker Communities

*Glendyne Wergland Gives Hamilton College's Couper ΦBK Lecture*

by Mariam Ballout

Glendyne Wergland, whose most recent book, *Visiting the Shakers: 1778-1849*, was published this fall by Hamilton College's Couper Press, gave the Couper Phi Beta Kappa Library Lecture on Oct. 23. The lecture was established by Hamilton College to honor alumnus Richard "Dick" W. Couper and recognize his commitment and contributions to the college and ΦBK. Each fall a distinguished speaker is invited to present on a topic related to the college's special library collections or on an issue related to libraries in general.

Wergland gave this year's lecture on historical accounts of sex, celibacy and gender roles in Shaker communities between 1780 and 1870. The majority of the sources she referenced have not been seen in print for more than 150 years.

Wergland prefaced her lecture by stressing that she is not a Shaker, but a visitor to the Shakers who brings that awareness to her work. She said she is well aware that visitors were neither authorities nor impartial observers, but travelers who keep journals with vivid and biased descriptions. Most observers between 1780 and 1870 were male, and consequently ignored women and children. They assumed that Shakers followed traditional gender roles. Wergland acknowledged that this was true in some ways but asserted

that Shaker women also wielded power over men in ways that many visitors did not see. She urged attendees to therefore take accounts from male visitors with a grain of salt.

After the Shakers immigrated to New York from England with leader Ann Lee in 1774, divine providence sent them two blessings. The first was the New Light Baptist Revival near New Lebanon, N.Y., in 1779, where two women led the meetings. Wergland showed two paintings depicting a camp meeting congregation crying, shouting, fainting and languishing, struck down by God in their conviction of their own sinfulness. The second blessing was the Dark Day of May 1780 (named so for a thunderstorm followed by uncommon darkness). Shakers believed this extreme darkness, where they could not even see their own hands, was indicative of God's displeasure with the world. Some feared that judgment day was nigh, and many were terrified into giving their hearts to God. With the timing of this darkness in play, many began to believe Mother Ann was in fact the second embodiment of Christ, while others saw her leadership as too much at odds with gender norms.

By considering herself Jesus' successor, Lee set the precedent for gender equality in Shakerism, Wergland explained. Lee reassured her proselytes that she recognized the divinity of

Jesus with a husband-and-wife analogy. "When the male head of the household was present he headed the church, but when he departed the female head stepped into the leadership role," Wergland said. This is the substitute husband theory of Mother Ann's divinity role.

The premise of making women equal to men was radical in the 18th century, and celibacy was an integral component of that equality. Some New Lights decided they needed to be celibate to achieve salvation even before they met Ann Lee, believing that sex had caused Adam's fall and Adam and Eve's expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Still, Shakerism had other necessary attractions. According to Wergland, Ann Lee's charisma alone drew hundreds. Welcoming new followers with food and shelter, caressing arms and holding hands, Lee was a genius in using the power of her touch as a successful psychological marketing strategy, centuries before it was proved as such.

By 1795 there were 11 Shaker communities in New England and upstate New York. In exchange for confessing sins, acknowledging elders' authority, and surrendering all material property, members were housed, fed and clothed for the rest of their lives. Many impoverished orphans and immigrants found true shelter in Shaker homes, easily adjusting to call-



Dick Couper (ΦBK, Hamilton College, 1947) and wife, Patsy Couper, with former President Bill Clinton (ΦBK, Georgetown University, 1968), at Hamilton Nov. 9, 2004, following Clinton's speech for the Sacerdote Series "Great Names at Hamilton."

**RICHARD W. COUPER** was a staunch advocate for and supporter of ΦBK at Hamilton College and nationally. In addition to Couper Press and the ΦBK library lecture at Hamilton named for him, he and his wife, Patsy, established the Couper ΦBK Book Prize, which Hamilton awards annually to the top 10 rising sophomores. Nationally, Couper served as president of the Fellows of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and was instrumental in securing a Mellon Foundation grant to enable ΦBK to send a series of visiting scholars, called Couper Scholars, to colleges and universities that do not have ΦBK chapters. In recognition of his service, the Fellows created the annual Couper Lecture, delivered to the Fellows each spring. Couper served for 10 years as the first full-time president and CEO of the New York Public Library, was deputy commissioner of higher education with the New York State Education Department, and president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.



ing each other “brother” and “sister.”

Communities were led by gender-balanced teams of two elders and two elderses, and all buildings had a door for men and one for women. Wergland noted that these doors were separate but equal because they were both at the front, not men at the front and women at the side. Still, a scribe noted that by 1869 only the New Lebanon community fully supported gender equality. Some men resisted change, and ministries that wanted to minimize divisiveness could not force equality in places where the members did not support it. However, even in resistant communities, Shakers governed by consensus, so women’s opinions always mattered.

A Canaan Shaker described a member named Evans who would not work himself, but tried to tell the sisters how to cook. Annoyed sisters reacted by staging a walkout, pitting women against men. When the elders did not discipline Evans, sisters Hannah Bryant and Harriet Sellick physically threw him into the street. Evans was finally turned away from another Shaker community in Hancock, Mass., as one of its elders felt a man the sisters turned out was “not fit to be on consecrated ground.” Wergland used this example to illustrate members living up to neither gender norms nor Shaker ideals. It also exemplifies how the official lines of authority were not the actual lines of authority, as the sisters were able to circumvent official hierarchy. In addition, Bryant and Sellick taught all the brethren not to take the sister’s good will for granted.

Visitors described Shaker deaconesses as outgoing, friendly and helpful, and also as “pretty.” While Wergland declared that she could not “wrap [her] mind around the idea that Shakers would market Shakerism with attractive women,” she also compared

the possible practice of making attractive Shaker women deaconesses to the modern practice of hiring attractive women to work makeup counters. Visitors also wrote about the immaculate cleanliness and orderliness of all Shaker premises.

Shakers tried to separate the sexes

village. Interestingly, while all couples who left were not heterosexual, in thousands of pages of Shaker diaries Wergland did not find one reference to anything more than “intimate friendship” among women.

Louisa May Alcott’s mother wrote of the Harvard, Mass., Shakers: “There is a fat sleek comfortable look about the men, and among the women there is a stiff awkward reserve. ... Wherever I turn I see the yoke on woman in some form or another.” While Alcott may have been somewhat correct, Wergland believes it is possible that she was projecting her own problems with a Transcendentalist husband onto the Shakers. In an 1873 illustration, however, visitor J. Becker showed Shaker women in work clothes, hard at work, while a man in his Sunday best stands idle. Wergland encouraged the audience to wonder what the artist may have been trying to tell us.

Visitor accounts imply that while Shaker women worked every waking hour, some men, especially elders, had the leisure of sitting around and chatting. Still, most Shakers were diligent, as evidenced by the well-kept roads, farms cultivated

better than any others around, and the finest livestock in the whole country. Shaker women worked with the contextually uncommon luxury of sinks, pumps, industrial strength-stoves, and mechanical lifts that raised wet wash into the attic for drying, all installed by brethren. Gender roles were complementary, and partnerships appeared to run smoothly most of the time. Visitors were often surprised that Shakers did not show the slightest sign

Continued on 11



“Sisters Folding Laundry.” J. Becker, Frank Leslie’s *Illustrated Newspaper*, 1873 (top). From David R. Lamson, *Two Years’ Experience Among the Shakers* (West Boylston [MA]: for the author, 1848) (bottom). Images provided courtesy of Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, Mass.

enough to promote celibacy. Men and women used stairways on opposite sides of community dwellings and slept in chambers on the gender-specific side of the hallway. Rules prohibited men and women being alone together or touching, and members who witnessed such infractions were supposed to report them. Such rules caused many members to leave voluntarily, without being turned in. A few were expelled for fornication, and one woman who left pregnant was a blot on the entire

in this way and to create a community is as important as the money,” Steinem said in a press conference prior to the event. (Coutros, Evonne. “Steinem Praises Women’s Group in N.J.” NorthJersey.com 18 Oct. 2007.)

♦ On Oct. 15, Blockbuster Inc. named **Eric H. Peterson** (ΦBK, Southern Methodist University, 1982) as the company’s executive vice president, general counsel and secretary (“Blockbuster Inc. Names Eric H. Peterson EVP, General Counsel & Secretary.” CNNMoney.com 15 Oct. 2007.)

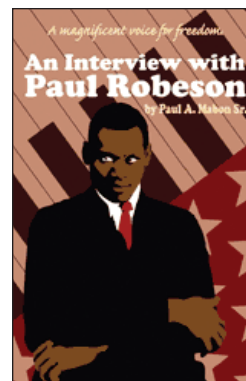
♦ **Ilene Gordon** (ΦBK, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1975) is among *Fortune* magazine’s “Global Power 50,” a list of the 50 most powerful women in business for 2007. The MIT-trained mathematician is senior vice president of Alcan Inc. and president and CEO of Alcan Packaging. (“Global Power 50.” CNNMoney.com 11 Oct. 2007.)

## ΦBK in Popular Culture

♦ Lamenting the auction of Pulitzer medals by Newsday, Les Payne writes, “Such priceless awards — and I would include Phi Beta Kappa keys, Oscar statues, World Series rings and Nobel medals, among a few others — represent the skill level of one’s life work, in addition to the sweat, pain and sacrifices paid for the achievements. The hawking of such prizes constitutes a singular act of perversity.” Where is your ΦBK key? (Payne, Les. “Shuddering over Loss of Pulitzer Medals.” Newsday.com 7 Oct. 2007)

♦ *An Interview with Paul Robeson*, a new play from Next Act of Milwaukee, Wisc., led the theater’s 2007-2008 season. Paul A. Mabon Sr. wrote the play and performed as Robeson. **Paul Robeson** (ΦBK, Rutgers University, 1919) is perhaps remembered best for his powerful bass singing voice, but he was also an All-American football star, turned singing star, Broadway star, film

star, and high-profile protester against lynching and the denial of Constitutional rights to people of color. His career never recovered its momentum after he suffered political attacks during the McCarthy era; Robeson refused to sign an affidavit stating he was not a Communist, and he told the House on Un-American Activities Committee, “You are the un-Americans, and you ought to be ashamed of yourselves.” (Jaques, Damien. “Giving Voice to a Legend: Actor on a Mission with ‘Interview with Paul Robeson’.” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* Online 20 Sept. 2007.) ■



## Phi Beta Kappa Membership Items



Phi Beta Kappa’s distinctive gold key design is the symbol of membership in the Society. A full range of solid gold and gold-plated key jewelry, as well as other items bearing the Society’s insignia are available. Keys are made in three sizes in either 10-karat solid gold or 24-karat gold electroplate. The medium-size key is shown here actual size with matching 18-inch neck chain. The Phi Beta Kappa necktie is made of pure silk, burgundy in color, and woven with the key design in gold.

Also available is the set of informal note cards, engraved in gold with matching envelopes, sold in boxes of twenty.

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 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 on line at [www.hand-hammer.com](http://www.hand-hammer.com). A three dollar shipping and handling fee is added to each order.



- Medium-size key, 10-karat gold (1-3/8" high).....\$90
- Medium-size key, 24-karat gold-plated (1-3/8" high)...\$29
- 10-karat gold neck chain, 18 inches (for gold key).....\$59
- 24-karat gold-plated chain, 18 inches (for plated key)...\$8
- Phi Beta Kappa necktie, burgundy and gold silk.....\$39
- Phi Beta Kappa Note Cards (20 w/ envelopes).....\$14
- Shipping Fee (per order).....\$3



Name, college, and date for personalization \_\_\_\_\_

— Check payable to Hand & Hammer is enclosed  
 Charge my  Visa  MasterCard (VA residents add 5%)  
 Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## McAlevey Continued from 3

greater Bridgeport area.”

Before joining GE, McAlevey served as the deputy director of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission’s (SEC) Division of Corporation Finance from 1998 to 2001. At the SEC, McAlevey oversaw all aspects of the operation of the Division of Corporation Finance and played an instrumental role in the development and implementation of Regulations M-A and FD. SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt honored him with the Chairman’s Award for Excellence for his work on Regulation FD. He worked regularly with Congress as the Division’s liaison to Capitol Hill, particularly on matters related to the capital formation process.

In 2006 GE’s Chief Executive Officer and Chairman Jeff Immelt presented him with the Chairman’s Leadership Award for his stewardship of GE’s SEC related matters.

McAlevey is a member of the Committee on Corporate Laws of the American Bar Association and the NYSE Working Group on Proxy Regulation. He also is a member of the NACD’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Director Liability and Authority.

From 1999 to 2001 he served as an adjunct professor of law at the Georgetown University Law Center

Continued on 15

of discontent.

Still, even visitors who found the Shakers strictly moral and impressively industrious derided their style of worship. Worldly women described Shaker women less generously than men did, finding their style of dress dreadfully old-fashioned. Actress Fanny Kemble called them “ugly,” while Fanny Longfellow objectified them by comparing them to jointed dolls. Such worldly women neither understood the modesty, humility and chastity in Shaker dress, nor the concept of Shaker union.

Frederick Marryatt wrote that the women appeared melancholy and unnatural, despite having all the same advantages as the men. They had exercise and labor in the open air, good food and clothing, and were not overworked, yet appeared pallid in stark contrast to the ruddy and strong appearance of the men. Wergland wondered if tuberculosis, the leading cause

of death among women during this period, could account for the sisters’ pallor.

The sisters’ appearance was not the only thing outsiders criticized. Congregationalists did not dance, twirl or turn in Sunday services in the 18th century, yet Shakers in the 1780s moved as the spirit moved them. Their manner of worship, with groaning, shaking, turning, some dancing, others prostrated on the floor, was entirely new. This “enthusiasm,” as Wergland put it, horrified mainstream Protestants who considered Shakers fanatics.

Shaker women reacted to intruding outsiders in ways that would have been unacceptable for women elsewhere. William Plumer wrote an account of the Shaker Sabbath in which he grabbed a shaking sister and tried to hold her immobile in order to test whether or not her trembling was caused by a supernatural impulse as she claimed. At another meeting a sister whirled around him, sticking out her tongue and hissing until he left. A

third account reveals a sister shouting “shoo devil” at an outsider who was bothering her.

Despite their Shaker commitment to chastity, humility, celibacy and union, it appears that the sisters took full advantage of their equality to assert themselves. ■

*Mariam Ballout is a student at Hamilton College. Her review was provided to ΦBK through the Hamilton College Media Relations Office.*

*Glendyne Wergland (ΦBK, Mount Holyoke College, 1992) is an independent scholar from Dalton, Mass. Her book One Shaker Life: Isaac Newton Youngs, 1793–1865 (University of Massachusetts Press, 2006) is described as one of the finest pieces of scholarship ever done on the Shakers. The book won the Communal Studies Association’s Outstanding Publication Award in 2006. Her new book, Visiting the Shakers, is the first to be published by Couper Press.*

## ΦBK Database Sustains 87-Year-Old Project at Groton



The historic ΦBK plaque in the “Schoolroom” at Groton lists former students who went on to become ΦBK members, beginning with George Rublee in 1890. The display will soon be expanded to list all alumni inducted into ΦBK.

One cannot find a more Dickensian room in all of New England. The “Schoolroom,” as it is called, is a commanding, high-ceilinged, wood-paneled hall filled with rows of school desks whose slanted tops lift to allow book storage. An inkwell remains in each upper right-hand corner, harkening back to a time before computers and other technological conveniences.

Charmingly out of date in its looks, the schoolroom at Groton, one of America’s leading prep schools, is in fact completely modern. Students study there with full access to library electronic resources, instructional content on the school’s intranet, and the Web, all provided by the latest wireless technology.

Every Groton student who has labored successfully at the school has been memorialized in this room with his or her name carved into wooden plaques that circle the room, arranged by graduation year. Above this timeless tribute to its graduates hangs one more series of wooden plaques that carry the names of Groton’s ΦBK honorees. From 1890, when the first graduate from the school, George Rublee, was selected by Harvard’s ΦBK chapter, the list of honorees has grown to 295 Grotonians, or 6.4 percent of the alum-

Continued on 15

### Start a ΦBK Association in Your Area!

ΦBK is looking for members interested in starting new associations in unrepresented parts of the country. You can find a full list of current associations and links to their Web sites by going to [www.pbk.org](http://www.pbk.org) and clicking on “Association Directory” under the Alumni Associations tab. Associations bring together ΦBK members for intellectual, social and philanthropic activities.

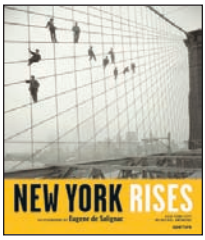
Large metropolitan areas currently without associations include:

- Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn. (discussion group at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PBK\\_MSP/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PBK_MSP/))
- Portland, Or.
- Cincinnati, Ohio
- New Orleans, La.
- Salt Lake City, Utah
- Charlotte, N.C.

We can put you in touch with other interested members in your area, as well as provide information and experienced contacts who can help you get started. If you’d like to start an association in one of these areas or in another part of the country, or if you have any questions, please contact Sam Esquith, (202) 745-3235 or [associations@pbk.org](mailto:associations@pbk.org).

# From Our Book Critics

By Svetlana Alpers



**New York Rises.** *Photographs by Eugene de Salignac. Essays by Michael Lorenzini and Kevin Moore. Aperture Foundation, 2007.*

144 pages. \$40.00

Perhaps it is a reaction to what in academic circles is referred to as the end of Grand Theory. Or perhaps it is a general need to find something to hold onto in the midst of the violence and conflict that has marked the start of the 21st century. But the fact is that the object, and attention to objects of various kinds, is now *in* — in book titles, colloquia topics and so on.

Photography, in particular documentary photography in its various manifestations, appears to have benefited from the fashion. As a first example, there is this splendid book of previously unknown photographs by Eugene de Salignac (1861-1943), a contemporary of Eugène Atget (1857-1927), the renowned photographer of Paris.

Salignac was an American loner with a somewhat grand French background who left a marriage in Boston and settled in New York City where he was employed by the Department of Bridges (later the Department of Plant and Structures). From 1906 until his retirement in 1934, he documented that great era of city construction: bridges, buildings, subways and roads. Until 1999, no one knew of his *oeuvre*. The identification of Salignac's individual style, and thus the attribution to him of 20,000 glass negatives and 10,000 vintage prints, is due to the keen eye of the photographer Michael Lorenzini, who worked with images and related log-books in the New York City Department of Records-Municipal Archives.

But the prints are even more fascinating than the story behind them. Salignac captured building (over 2,000 images of the Manhattan Bridge alone) but also the human world in and around it. Take, for example, "Manhattan Bridge, from Washington Street, looking west, Brooklyn, June 5, 1908": the isolated anchorage of the

partial structure looms at an angle against the sky cutting off the street with its two vintage cars, a sidewalk with a man reading a newspaper, a building displaying the sign of Carsten Offerman Coal. Co. The clarity and immediacy of this composed but bizarre image stick in the mind. One is reminded that surrealism is a constant possibility in photography, not just the result of a movement. Or "Manhattan Bridge, view showing auto damaged by accident, February 23, 1924": the reflecting metal of a car lies crushed before a grand portal. Or the movement of pedestrians, men and women both wearing hats, from dark into the light of the bridge approach. Or the cable spinner in a dark hut tenderly rewrapping damaged cables for the Williamsburg Bridge.

This is a book for all who love New York City and photography.



**The Art of Lee Miller.** *Mark Haworth-Booth. Yale University Press, 2007. 224 pages. \$60.00*

Unlike Salignac, Lee Miller (1907-1977) is a celebrated figure, much written about at this the centenary of her birth. A biography has been devoted to her. She and some of her photographs (an extraordinary one of Picasso seen not from the front but from the side and looking like any ordinary Spanish *lout*) turned up in a recent book on the relationship between Roland Penrose, the English artist and critic who was her husband, and Picasso, the person Penrose worshiped before all others and whose career he promoted in England.

Born in Connecticut, moving to Paris, to Egypt, back to New York and ending up in the English countryside with too much to drink, Miller remains a glamorous icon of her times. She was strikingly beautiful and was recorded as she modeled with her boyishly erotic figure and cropped hair in "noir" photographic images that were the mode of the day.

This is the first book devoted to Miller as a photographer. Though it was written to accompany an exhibition, it stands on its own two feet. We see Miller in Paris under the tutelage of her lover, Man Ray, learning the tech-

nique of solarization and turning out some fine street photos and portraits in what the surrealists thought of as their photographic manner. Back in New York she did some elegant advertising shots. But her glory days were facing the blitz in London, seeing Normandy and Paris towards the end of the war, and then Germany. Miller's gutsiness led her on a mission for *Brogue* (the British *Vogue*) for which she was perhaps the first to take dead Nazis and a death camp as objects in view.

A great virtue of this book is that it is written by someone knowledgeable about the medium. One learns about photography as a craft while learning about Miller as a photographer. The reproductions are first rate.



**Strange Details.** *Michael Cadwell. MIT Press, 2007. 176 pages. \$19.95*

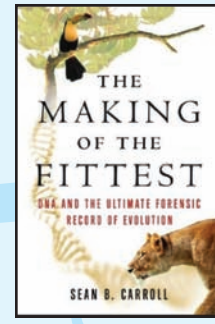
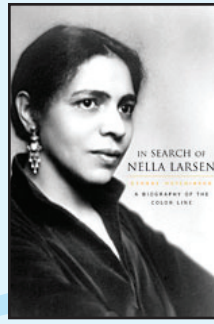
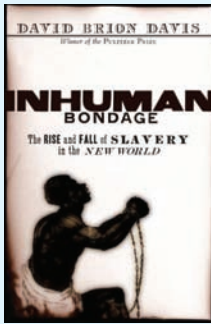
The strange details of these four essays on modern architecture are the wooden light frame by Frank Lloyd Wright at his first Jacobs House, the welded steel frame by Mies van der Rohe at the Farnsworth House, the reinforced concrete of Louis Kahn at the Yale Center for British Art and the mixture of materials by Carlo Scarpa at the Querini Stampalia Foundation in Venice.

Cadwell, a practicing architect and professor, is not interested in the concept of buildings — so often today worked out on a computer — but in the actual use by canonical architects of particular materials. At the heart of these meditative accounts is the claim that for all the appeal of materials, it is in the nature of things — indeed of Nature herself — that structures carry within them their own mortality. The examples here are: Wright using wood which he knew, unprotected, would be devoured by flames; Mies building a house on the soggy flood-plane of a river; the inherent instability of Kahn combining wood, concrete and steel and, by design, letting the entire building appear to slip into the ground rather than rise up from it.

This is a jewel of a book: elegantly written, illustrated and produced.

BOOK REVIEWS *Continued on 14*

# The 2007 Phi Beta Kappa Book Award Winners



## Ralph Waldo Emerson Award

*Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World* by David Brion Davis (Oxford University Press, 2006) is the winner of the 2007 Ralph Waldo Emerson Award. The \$10,000 award is given annually to scholarly studies that contribute to interpretations of the intellectual and cultural condition of humanity.

In 1770, on the eve of the American Revolution, African-American slavery was legal and virtually unquestioned by whites throughout the New World. Racial slavery had been an intrinsic and indispensable part of settlement, and would become increasingly strong and profitable in North America for three generations to come. Yet in 1888, 118 years later and about a century after the creation of the first feeble antislavery groups in Philadelphia, London and New York, the institution had finally been outlawed throughout the New World. This compelling and readable book links such complex issues as slave resistance and revolts, the complicity of non-slaveholding merchants and consumers, and the motivations and achievements of British and American abolitionists.

"I could not be more honored and delighted," Davis said of the award. "I hope that *Inhuman Bondage* will help enlarge public understanding concerning the origins and significance of New World slavery, an important and still neglected part of our past."

Davis is Sterling Professor of History Emeritus and Director Emeritus of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University.

## Christian Gauss Award

*In Search of Nella Larsen: A Biography of the Color Line* by George Hutchinson (Harvard University Press, 2006) is the recipient of the 2007 Christian Gauss Award. The \$10,000 annual award is given to works of literary scholarship and criticism.

In his search for Nella Larsen, the "mystery woman of the Harlem Renaissance," Hutchinson exposes the truths and half-truths surrounding this central figure of modern literary studies, as well as the complex reality they mask and mirror. His book is a cultural biography of the color line as it was lived by one person who truly embodied all of its ambiguities and complexities.

Beyond attempting to trace her life and understand her work, *In Search of Nella Larsen* is a biography of the color line from the 1890s to the present and a critique of color-line thinking as it continues to shape American culture. "Are we finally emerging from the era when 'race' trumped 'family'?" Hutchinson asks. "That could only be a good thing."

"To me there is no higher honor for a work of literary scholarship than the Christian Gauss Award. The list of past winners is a kind of pantheon," Hutchinson said. "I now know authentically what it means to feel proud and deeply humbled at the same time. The news was really something to absorb."

Hutchinson is the Booth Tarkington Chair of Literary Studies and the chair of the Department of English at Indiana University, Bloomington.

## Science Book Award

The 2007 Science Book Award goes to *The Making of the Fittest: DNA and the Ultimate Forensic Record of Evolution* by Sean B. Carroll (W.W. Norton & Company, 2007). The \$10,000 award is given annually to a scholarly book that makes a significant contribution to the public understanding of and appreciation for science.

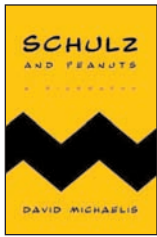
In *The Making of the Fittest*, Carroll argues that in the same way that we turn to DNA for proof in courts of law we can now turn to DNA for proof that evolution is a reality. The book is a treasure trove of completely new, must-have information about how evolution actually works and why it matters, and how this remarkable process has shaped humans, the world we now inhabit and the marvelous creatures with whom we share it.

The most stunning aspect of the new DNA record of evolution is its richness and detail. And though it has resoundingly confirmed Darwin's main principles, several major surprises have been revealed. These surprises are presented at length in *The Making of the Fittest*, for the first time in a book for a general audience.

"I am very honored and flattered to join the list of authors who have won this award — a list that includes many scientists and writers who have inspired me and whom I have admired for many years," Carroll said.

Carroll is a professor of molecular biology and genetics and an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at the University of Wisconsin.

The Society will formally present the awards on Dec. 7 at the Latham Hotel Georgetown in Washington, D.C.



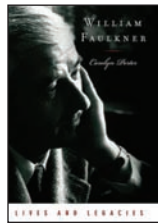
**Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography.** David Michaelis. Harper Collins, 2007. 672 pages. \$34.95

Charles M. Schulz was the best American comic strip artist ever to set pen to paper. If that sounds like hyperbole, one need but consider that he brought to the genre a philosophic depth of thought it had not known before, a gentle sense of humor that was an effective antidote to the general fears and insecurities of the 20th century (better than psychotherapy), and a minimalist style of art that spoke volumes in the smallest space allowed. All of this he accomplished in that illegitimate child of art and commerce, the common comic strip, read in a moment's time and thrown out with the day's trash. But as the artist's biographer, David Michaelis, makes clear in *Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography*, Schulz used the comic strip to establish his place as a major cultural force in the world, at the same time he doubted himself and his art as being of any consequence. It was doubt and insecurity that formed a thematic structure in *Peanuts* and which Michaelis finds derived from his parents: "From his mother's Norwegian clan he learned grim humor and impulse; from his German father, hard work and public relations."

As Michaelis recounts Schulz's childhood, career, and family life in sensitive and authoritative detail, it becomes clear just how much of the life and hard times of Charlie Brown paralleled Schulz's own life, marked by unexplainable fears and a sense of apartness from others. It was not so much an inferiority complex as a sense of being destined for something special that no one else understood, including himself. However there were moments of arrogance too when he would admit, "I suppose I'm the worst kind of egoist, the kind who pretends to be humble."

The contradictory and complex nature of the man's personality and genius has been remarkably captured in this detailed and nuanced book, all the more amazing in that Michaelis never met his subject. Throughout the

narrative the author reprints relevant examples of *Peanuts*, which illustrate how much and how often the strip reflected the creator's life and concerns. This is the first truly definitive life we have had of a major cartoonist that fulfills the highest standards of the biographer's art, and it stands as a model for others to follow.

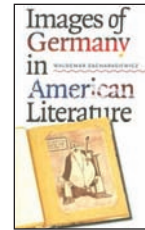


**William Faulkner.** Carolyn Porter. Oxford University Press, 2007. 224 pages. \$21.00

Reading about William Faulkner's life or his works is no easy task. The 1974 standard biography by Joseph Blotner, *Faulkner: A Biography*, weighed in at 2,140 pages, while even the revised and abridged version published in 1984 came in at 797 pages. Subsequent biographies by Frederick R. Karl, Richard Gray, and Jay Parini averaged out to more than 500 pages each. The hundreds and hundreds of critical studies challenge the reader not so much because of length but because of the complex theoretical methodology employed to explicate the difficulties of Faulkner's postmodern fiction. The criticism can be more daunting than the prose it sets out to explain. In her *William Faulkner*, a volume in the "Lives and Legacies" series from Oxford University Press, Carolyn Porter cuts through both these Gordian knots by managing to give us both a concise biography and a lucid critical introduction and appreciation, all within 200 pages.

Rather than recite the biographical facts and use them to elucidate the fiction, she turns things around and reads the fiction as a way of understanding the man, who was fond himself of saying that the only thing that counted was the work and his epitaph should say, "He made the books and he died." Porter finds a split in Faulkner's personality which "would become fixated in his life for years to come, indeed stalemating his identity within a paralyzing duality" between a masculine prankster and a dark romantic dreamer. In his writing he was "devoted to developing a narrative strategy that compels us to participate in telling the story in order to make us realize, and take responsibility for, the fact that we live inside history, not behind some

window looking out at it." Like a wise and engaging instructor, Porter has a way of standing beside her readers and helpfully leading us through what feel like our first readings of complex and challenging works, but she does this without condescension or a sense of critical superiority. Even old-hand Faulknerians will learn a thing or two from this altogether excellent introduction to the life and works of the 20th century's leading literary master.

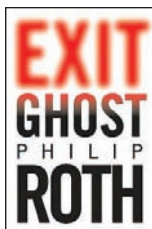


**Images of Germany in American Literature.** Waldemar Zacharasiewicz. University of Iowa Press, 2007. 264 pages. \$39.95

Given the complicated, lengthy, and sometimes explosive nature of the cultural relations that have existed between Germany and the United States throughout the history of the latter nation, it is little wonder that the images of Germans as seen in American literature and culture have been equally complex and inconsistent. This study traces the history of these changes and their causes since the late 19th century by focusing not only on major American writers but influential works of nonfiction, travelogues, and personal documents like letters, diaries, and essays. This approach allows for a richer and fuller analysis that denies the notion that such images are based on truth or real experience but rather on collective views that inform the larger textual culture depending on historical and political circumstances.

Among authors considered are Mark Twain, William and Henry James, H. L. Mencken, Theodore Dreiser, Sinclair Lewis, Thomas Wolfe, Katherine Anne Porter, Kay Boyle, Thomas Pynchon, William Styron, Walker Percy and John Hawkes. Waldemar Zacharasiewicz, a professor of English and American studies at the University of Vienna, is Austria's leading authority on American literature and culture and the author of numerous studies which have influenced European scholarship. His criticism of the literature of the American South has been especially noteworthy, and the present volume adds to his reputation as a scholar of distinction and accomplishment.

By Jan Lewis



**Exit Ghost.** Philip Roth. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. 304 pages. \$26.00

There is much to contemplate in the title of Philip Roth's new novel. It recalls, of course, the stage directions in *Hamlet* for the ghost of the murdered King of Denmark. It brings immediately to mind as well *The Ghost Writer*, the first of Roth's novels in which Nathan Zuckerman, Roth's alter-ego, is the protagonist. This book is the last. In it, Zuckerman has returned to Manhattan from a self-imposed exile in order to try a new medical procedure that may reverse the debilitating effects of surgery for prostate cancer. Zuckerman has lost both the ability to control his bladder and sexual function. He is also losing his memory and has to write notes to himself to remind him of important appointments.

He has not, however, lost his imagination, and so, when, on impulse, he decides to swap his house in the Berkshires for an apartment in Manhattan, he encounters two young writers, eager to get out of post-9/11 New York. Zuckerman is entranced by the wife, Jamie Logan, who is beautiful and talented and, in Zuckerman's reawakened imagination, just as intrigued by him. The conversations that Zuckerman scripts for them — "He" and "She," as they become — are among the most poignant passages in this poignant novel, all the more so because Jamie, almost fully a creation of Roth's fictional creation's imagination, is one of the better-realized female characters in Roth's fiction.

Zuckerman also encounters another woman, this one from the past: Amy Bellette, whom readers first met in *The Ghost Writer* at the home of the writer E. I. Lonoff. At that time, Zuckerman had conjured up a secret history for her: she was really Anne Frank, escaped from the Nazis and come to life as the beautiful young mistress of America's most famous Jewish writer. Now Amy is an old woman, her memory ravaged by the brain tumor that will soon claim her life. She enlists Zuckerman's help in fending off an aggressive young writer — by chance,

Jamie Logan's former lover — who is determined to reveal a horrible secret about Lonoff. But perhaps Lonoff had only appropriated the "cunning, scholarly, unprovable conjectures" about Nathaniel Hawthorne, another legendarily reticent writer. Bellette, however, can no longer remember what Lonoff told her. But what matter? Zuckerman will make this possibility truth, and in so doing, he hopes, preserve not only Lonoff's memory from vulgar would-be biographers but preserve also the idea that fiction is not representation but "rumination in narrative form."

That is an apt description of this novel too. It is filled with ruminations on mortality and bodily decline, on the relation between fiction and autobiography, on the possibilities for memory when memory fails. And it is haunted by ghosts, of books and characters past, given one more chance to walk across the stage until their final exit.



**On Chesil Beach.** Ian McEwan. Doubleday, 2007. 203 pages. \$22.00

"They were young, educated, and both virgins on this, their wedding night, and they lived in a time when a conversation about sexual difficulties was plainly impossible." Thus begins Ian McEwan's latest novel, a novella really. To say that things go badly for Edward and Florence on their wedding night is not to ruin the book for those who do not like to have the plot spoiled. With the deep sympathy for his creations that is characteristic of his fiction, McEwan explains how two decent and loving young adults got to this awful moment. It is too easy to explain it, as some reviewers have, as a function of the times: 1963, just before the sexual revolution. Rather, this is a story about — pardon the cliché — the failure to communicate. Although young, both Edward and Florence have already been powerfully shaped by their childhoods, from which they see their marriage as a kind of deliverance. Both are university graduates. Edward is at once adrift and a bit grandiose. Unhappily, he will take a position in Florence's father's firm. Florence, more focused, is an accomplished violinist; she has assembled her own

string quartet. As McEwan cuts back and forth between the present — the wedding night — and the past, the outcome seems at once inevitable and wholly contingent, in the way that life, in the hands of a great writer, can be made to appear.

Our critics select books for review and are not limited to ΦBK authors. Members are welcome to send review copies of their books to the editor of *The Key Reporter*. They will be forwarded to the most appropriate reviewer for consideration.

### McAlevy *Continued from 10*

where he taught mergers and acquisitions. He has authored numerous articles on federal securities regulation and corporate governance and is a frequent speaker nationally and internationally on securities and M&A regulation.

McAlevy was a law clerk to The Honorable Emmett R. Cox, a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. A graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, McAlevy received his undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, from Washington and Lee University where he was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society. ■

### Groton School *Continued from 11*

ni body.

The school did not begin publicly to record those who had been selected by ΦBK chapters until approximately 1920. By that year, there were 75 colleges and universities in the country with chapters. Fast forward to 2007, the number of ΦBK chapters nationally has reached 276, and Grotonians have been nominated by 25 different ΦBK chapters around the country.

Known nationally for its academic excellence and commitment to the intellectual and spiritual preparation of its students, Groton has undertaken, with help from the national member database, to update its lists of ΦBK inductees. New plaques will soon be carved with the names of the 95 graduates who have been inducted into ΦBK since 1986, so they can take their place of honor in the schoolroom. ■

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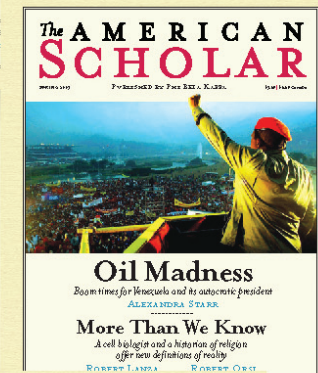
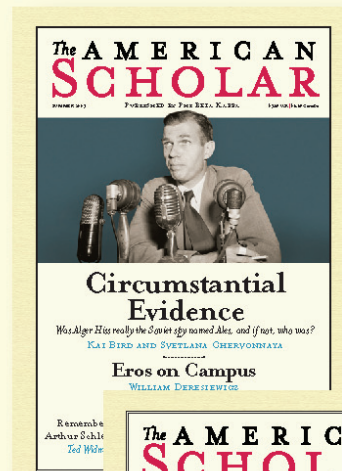
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