Renewal

The Phi Beta Kappa Society renews itself annually by inducting thousands of new members. But in another sense, we renew ourselves every three years, by electing new officers and a new slate of senators, by authorizing the creation of new chapters, and by choosing a committee for the selection of future leadership. The 42nd Triennial Council held October 1-3 in Austin, Texas did all these things, and more.

Elsewhere in these pages you can read about the new president, Fred H. Cate, and vice president, Katherine Soule. You will also find notice of the authorization of new chapters at Butler University, Elon University, James Madison University, and the consortium of St. John’s University and the College of St. Benedict. You can find the names of the new senators, elected from a very impressive slate. Phi Beta Kappa attracts people of distinction to positions of leadership, and continues to place new chapters at colleges and universities of real excellence.

The Council also revised the Society’s Constitution and Bylaws, approving the removal of needless complexities from our governance, and providing improved capacities to respond to emergent issues. The critical governance role of the Council itself — where chapters and associations are represented — was affirmed and defined.

The Council affirmed Phi Beta Kappa’s role as advocate for the liberal arts and sciences, and heard the elected leadership’s commitment to enlarge that role, making the Society even more visible as a champion of excellence in those studies. Since our Greek initials stand for the phrase “The love of learning is the guide of life,” this is an affirmation not only of purpose, but also of identity.

Thanks are due. The Alpha of Texas chapter, the Austin association, and the University of Texas showed extraordinary hospitality. The several committees of the Council — Finance, Credentials, Tellers, Resolutions — did their work with grace and dedication. Thanks are owed also to the delegates without whom there would be no Council, to the Senators whose terms ended with the last gavel, and to the person who shortly before had passed that gavel, our immediate past president, Allison Blakely.

Just as much of the work of the national office in the last years was preparation for the Council, now we are doing the work that comes after. The new senate must be organized, its committees defined, charged and assigned members. Its mode of operation must be established. In this triennium there will be more than a nod toward new communication technologies. Going forward, the review of criteria of eligibility for election of members in course must absorb the commentary of the Council and proceed.

We have the happy job of preparing for the installation of the newly approved chapters. (They will bring our number to 280.) The work of the tireless and intrepid Committee on Qualifications resumes as dozens of applications for new chapters have already arrived. By spring 2011, the committee will have read and evaluated them, visited several campuses and made its recommendations to the senate. By 2012, the senate will have followed on with its recommendations, and another Council, another renewal, will be upon us. That will be in Palm Beach, Fla. But don’t worry! We got great rates.

John Churchill
Secretary
Working in a conflict zone requires the flexibility to adapt to the local environment while remaining true to your organization’s mission and goals. It comes back to the integrity that Phi Beta Kappa encourages. You have to focus on long-term goals, be willing to take the more arduous path when necessary to achieve sustainable results. The easiest path forward is not always the best path in terms of long-term results.

— Silbi Kelly Stainton

Silbi Kelly Stainton is founder and president of the Marshall Direct Fund, a woman-led nonprofit working to alleviate poverty and illiteracy via sustainable education and economic development in Pakistan with a special focus on women and girls. Marshall Direct Fund derives its name from the historic Marshall Plan. Just as George Marshall recognized the great need to invest in war-weary people and ventures abroad, the Marshall Direct Fund now has the very same opportunity to invest in people who are in desperate need of educational and economic opportunities so that they too can choose peace and prosperity over violence and despair. Investing in education and economic development in Pakistan provides benefits not only for Pakistan, but also to the world at large as it helps eliminate the fertile ground from which extremists now recruit.

Continued on page 11
Douglas Greenberg Honored for Service to the Humanities

Douglas Greenberg, executive dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University, is the recipient of Phi Beta Kappa’s Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities. The award was presented at the closing banquet of the 42nd Triennial Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society on Saturday, October 3, in Austin, Texas.

The Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities includes a cash prize and a medal named for Mr. and Mrs. William B. Jaffe, whose gift of $25,000 enabled the Society to create the award in 1970. Mr. Jaffe was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Union College. The award is given once every three years.

Greenberg holds a B.A. from Rutgers University with highest distinction in history, and he received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Cornell University. He has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He is an elected member of the American Antiquarian Society and a fellow of the Society of American Historians.

Greenberg’s career has been a combination of scholarship, teaching and institutional leadership in several different arenas of the humanities. He came to the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers in 2008 from his position as professor of history at the University of Southern California and executive director of the Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, the successor to Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, of which he was president and CEO. President and CEO of the Chicago Historical Society from 1993 to 2000, Greenberg also served as vice president of the American Council of Learned Societies and as associate dean of the faculty at Princeton University. He has taught history at Rutgers, Lawrence and Princeton universities, and joined the faculty at USC in 2006.

The author and editor of many books and essays on the history of early America and American law, as well as on technology, scholarship and libraries, Greenberg also writes and

Thomas Bender Lectures on American History at 42nd Council

On Saturday, October 3, noted historian and ΦΒΚ Visiting Scholar Thomas Bender gave a special guest lecture during the 42nd Council of Phi Beta Kappa to showcase the Society’s Visiting Scholar Program.

His lecture, “American History in a Global Perspective,” explored various events and stages of American history — the age of discovery, the American Revolution, the Civil War, the age of empire — discussing how each period in history was part of a global history, and how global history is an inextricable part of America’s history. According to Bender, American history should be understood as part of a larger set of global phenomenon that is shared with other nations.

Bender joined the faculty of New York University in 1974, where he now holds the position of University Professor of the Humanities and professor of history. He has been a visiting professor at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris and at the University of Venice.

He has held fellowships at Princeton’s Davis Center for Historical Studies, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford and the Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. He has been a Getty Scholar and a recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundations. He is a fel-
The Phi Beta Kappa Society has voted to allow the creation of four new chapters. The decision was made October 2 at the Society's 42nd Triennial Council in Austin, Texas.

The founding members of each new chapter will organize the official chapter installation and first initiation ceremonies for new members at their institutions in the coming months.

The addition of four new chapters will bring the total number of Phi Beta Kappa chapters to 280 nationwide.

John Churchill, secretary and chief executive officer of the Society, said, "Phi Beta Kappa exists to honor students and to advocate for the liberal arts and sciences both on campus and in the broader world.

"With the establishment of these chapters, we acknowledge the accomplishments of these institutions in the field of liberal education, and we look forward to a lively partnership in advancing that cause."

The following new chapters will be created in the spring of 2010:

**Theta of Indiana**
**Butler University**
Indianapolis, Ind.

**Theta of Minnesota**
**The College of Saint Benedict — Saint John’s University**
St. Joseph, Minn.

**Eta of North Carolina**
**Elon University**
Elon, N.C.

**Xi of Virginia**
**James Madison University**
Harrisonburg, Va.

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**John Seery Receives Sidney Hook Memorial Award**

John Seery, the George Irving Thompson Memorial Professor of Government and professor of politics at Pomona College, is the recipient of Phi Beta Kappa’s Sidney Hook Memorial Award. The award was presented at the closing banquet of the 42nd Triennial Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society on Saturday, October 3, in Austin, Texas.

Established in 1991 in memory of the distinguished American philosopher Sidney Hook (1902-1989), who was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at City College of New York, this award recognizes national distinction by a single scholar in each of three endeavors — scholarship, undergraduate teaching and leadership in the cause of liberal arts education. The $7,500 award is made possible by a grant from the John Dewey Foundation. It is presented once every three years.

A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Seery graduated from Amherst College summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, and was awarded one of the last national Danforth Fellowships. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science from the University of California at Berkeley and went on to teach at Stanford University, University of California at Santa Cruz, and Tufts University prior to his position with Pomona College. Twice he has received Pomona College’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

Seery is author of several books: *Political Returns: Irony in Politics and Theory from Plato to the Antinuclear Movement*, *Political Theory for Mortals: Shades of Justice, Images of Death*, *America Goes to College: Political Theory for the Liberal Arts and Too Young To Run? A Proposal for an AGE Amendment to the U.S. Constitution*. With Daniel W. Conway, Seery is co-editor of *The Politics of Irony: Essays in Self-Betrayal*. Currently, Seery is collecting and editing a volume of original essays for the University Press of Kentucky, called *Democratic Vistas Today: The Political Companion to Walt Whitman*. Seery’s op-ed pieces have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, the *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*, the *San Gabriel Valley Times*.

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**ФВК Votes in Four New Chapters**

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John Churchill, secretary and chief executive officer of the Society, said, “Phi Beta Kappa exists to honor students and to advocate for the liberal arts and sciences both on campus and in the broader world.

“With the establishment of these chapters, we acknowledge the accomplishments of these institutions in the field of liberal education, and we look forward to a lively partnership in advancing that cause.”

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**Want More from your Membership?**

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

[www.pbk.org](http://www.pbk.org)
ΦBK Elects New President and Vice President

On October 2, the Phi Beta Kappa Society elected new officers at its 42nd Triennial Council in Austin, Texas.

Fred H. Cate has been elected to serve as president of the Society, and Katherine R. Soule has been elected vice president. Both will serve three-year terms.

Cate is the C. Ben Dutton Professor of Law and director of the Center for Applied Cybersecurity Research at Indiana University. Soule is director of Budget and Fiscal Affairs for the faculty of arts and sciences at Dartmouth College.

As a ΦBK Senator, Cate worked to intensify the Society’s efforts to promote the study of the liberal arts and associated values, to support the activities of ΦBK’s affiliate groups and their interaction and to heighten the awareness of ΦBK’s history and contemporary value.

His work on the senate has also focused on improving the Society’s governance and the efficiency of its national operations.

“ΦBK elects new president and vice president. Cate said.

Soule has an outstanding record of service to the Society, not only as a ΦBK Senator but also as secretary and treasurer of the Dartmouth chapter, as president of a newly established ΦBK association and as a ΦBK district chair. She has worked diligently to reach out to all parts of the Society to enhance collaboration and advance the mission of ΦBK.

Soule commented, “I am looking forward to promoting the liberal arts on college campuses and in the community, to preserving ΦBK’s position as the nation’s preeminent honor society, to ensuring ΦBK’s fiscal prosperity and to helping the Society, its constituent chapters and its associations to collaborate and flourish.”

Fifteen ΦBK Senators Elected

The Phi Beta Kappa Society is pleased to announce the election of 15 senators. The decision was made October 3 at the Society’s 42nd Triennial Council in Austin, Texas.

Members of the Phi Beta Kappa senate serve as the directors who guide the organization’s national office on policy matters and set the direction for the Society’s future. Senators will serve either a three-year or a six-year term.

The Phi Beta Kappa senators elected in Austin are as follows:

YOLANDA BROYLES-GONZALEZ, University of Arizona — three-year term
FRED H. CATE, Indiana University — six-year term
LINDA GREENHOUSE, Yale Law School — six-year term

GEORGE GREENIA, College of William and Mary — six-year term
VALERIE HOTCHKISS, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign — six-year term
JEAN E. HOWARD, Columbia University — six-year term
ROBERT C. KOONS, University of Texas at Austin — six-year term
RACHEL MORAN, Berkeley Law School — three-year term
GILDA L. OCHOA, Pomona College — three-year term
LYNN PASQUERELLA, University of Hartford — six-year term
JEFFREY T. SAMMONS, New York University — six-year term
ANDREW D. MCNITT, Eastern Illinois University — six-year term
THEOPOLIS FAIR, La Salle University — six-year term
MICHAEL GAUGER, writer, editor and researcher — six-year term
KATE LEHMAN, Arizona State University — six-year term

“The Phi Beta Kappa is very fortunate to have secured the services of these distinguished people as senators,” said John Churchill, secretary and chief executive officer of the Society.

“This group of senators brings deep understanding of education in the liberal arts and sciences, and a variety of perspectives for assessing the best ways to advance the values of liberal education in American society. I look forward to working with them.”
By Christopher Kopacz

The Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Chicago Area presented Rick Bayless — the celebrated chef, restaurateur and recent winner of Bravo TV’s “Top Chef Masters” tournament — with its Distinguished Service Award at its annual dinner and scholarship benefit held on October 29. The award is given annually to someone from the Chicago area in honor of their intellectual or cultural contributions that are in keeping with Phi Beta Kappa’s highest traditions.

Through his three downtown Chicago restaurants, his award-winning cookbooks and his PBS television show, “Mexico — One Plate at a Time,” Bayless has been integral in introducing many Americans to the thrills of Mexican cuisine.

In bestowing the Distinguished Service Award upon Bayless, ΦΒΚ-ACA also recognized the many contributions made by Bayless through his Frontera Farmer Foundation, which provides capital development grants to small Midwestern farmers, and the Frontera Scholarship, which helps needy students study the culinary arts.

As Bayless was called away for a last-minute trip to Mexico, his wife and business partner, Deann Bayless, was on hand to accept ΦΒΚ-ACA’s award on his behalf and answer annual dinner attendees’ questions.

Attendees also were treated to a pre-recorded video of Rick Bayless’ acceptance speech and an in-depth interview by ΦΒΚ-ACA President Judi Strauss-Lipkin, filmed in Bayless’ restaurant, Frontera Grill.

In the interview, Bayless talked about how he came to study and love Mexican cuisine. While working towards a doctorate in anthropological linguistics at the University of Michigan, he spent a great deal of time in Mexico. As he neared the end of the program, he said, “I realized that my real passion wasn’t so much for language and culture as much as it was for food and culture. So I took all the stuff that I had learned in my program, and I applied it to food.”

Bayless expressed pride in exposing the many wonders of Mexico to Americans, who often think of Mexican food as consisting only of burritos and tacos. To the contrary, he said, Mexican cuisine is “one of the most dynamic and one of the most varied cuisines in the world.”

Bayless also talked about his Frontera Farmer Foundation, launched seven years ago to provide capital improvement grants for local family farms, from which Bayless’ restaurants obtain many of their ingredients.

“The idea here is that so many of the local family farms are really on the brink of going out of business all the time,” Bayless said.

“They just can’t make ends meet. They can’t get enough money together to put together all the things that they need to become successful,” he continued. “They don’t have money to put in a greenhouse or buy a new tractor or put in a watering system.”

The grants provide the farms with money to make such improvements and keep local agriculture a thriving industry.

After the video, Deann Bayless shared her thoughts about Mexican cuisine. She said that she and her husband were drawn to Mexican cuisine by the “seductive” flavors, “complicated” techniques and by the fact that Mexican cuisine is often viewed, unfairly, as unworthy of gourmet status.

Deann noted a positive trend in Mexico City, where the upper class, who historically had viewed Mexican food as a peasant’s cuisine, are now eating more often at gourmet Mexican restaurants.

ΦΒΚ-ACA’s annual dinner also highlighted the association’s scholarship program. Now in its fourth year, the scholarship program supports an outstanding Chicago public school student with a $5,000 award that can be renewed for each year of the student’s undergraduate education.

Kenneth Oshita, the 2008 scholarship recipient who is now a sophomore at the University of Chicago, was on hand to thank the members of the association for their generosity, which he said is helping him pursue his goal of becoming an economist.

For more information about ΦΒΚ-
Science Isn’t Enough to Save the World’s Big Cats
Renowned Wildlife Conservationist Alan Rabinowitz Joins ΦΒΚ at McDaniel College

By Peggy Fosdick

During a recent visit to his alma mater, world-renowned wildlife conservationist Alan Rabinowitz explained to an audience at McDaniel College that good science is the basis of his work.

But to make the lasting changes he seeks in the conservation of endangered big cats, he must become everything but a scientist — villager, marriage counselor, cattle rancher, diplomat — to give local people and their top government officials, some of whom are dictators, the incentive or reason to save jaguars, tigers and other big cats.

“The reality is that you go for whatever you can get,” Rabinowitz said after recounting the efforts involved in getting the government of Myanmar to protect 2,500 square miles of tiger habitat, a huge achievement he called his, “crowning glory.”

Rabinowitz’s remarks were made during a talk, “Saving the World’s Endangered Cats: Why Science is Not Enough,” given in September at McDaniel College in Westminster, Md. His visit coincided with his induction into the Delta of Maryland Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Rabinowitz has earned his reputation as the world’s foremost authority on jaguars and other big cats during nearly three decades spent mostly in the field, studying jaguars, clouded leopards, Asiatic leopards, tigers, Sumatran rhinos, bears, leopard cats, raccoons and civets. He has persuaded governments around the globe to set aside vast areas of land to help save these endangered species.

Currently the president and CEO of Panthera, a nonprofit organization devoted to saving the world’s 36 wild cat species, Rabinowitz served as executive director of the Science and Exploration Division for the Wildlife Conservation Society for nearly 30 years before founding Panthera.

A summa cum laude graduate in biology of then Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) with a master’s in zoology and a doctorate in wildlife ecology from the University of Tennessee, Rabinowitz has had a major impact in his field.

His work as a conservationist and as a diplomat of sorts has resulted in the world’s first jaguar sanctuary in Belize; Taiwan’s largest protected area, its last piece of intact lowland forest; the first field research on Indochinese tigers, Asiatic leopards, and leopard cats in Thailand in the region’s first World Heritage Site; and the creation of five protected areas in Myanmar, including the country’s first marine national park, the country’s first and largest Himalayan national park, the country’s largest wildlife sanctuary, and the world’s largest tiger reserve.

In recent years, Rabinowitz and other wildlife conservationists have changed their tactics. They know now that it is not enough to preserve habitats to save animals from extinction — they must also preserve gene pools. Islands of land isolate populations of animals, resulting in inbreeding and weakening the gene pool.

Rabinowitz now works to create corridors — forested passageways — for wild cats to roam to other groups of their kind, where they mate and thus diversify the gene pool. His current project, Paseo del Jaguar or “Path of the Jaguar,” to secure these pathways through Central and South America, was profiled in the March 2009 National Geographic magazine. Success may eventually bring jaguars back into the U.S. as well.

In April, Panthera launched a groundbreaking program in partnership with Mount Sinai School of Medicine’s Global Health and Emerging Pathogens Institute to create a link between health in rural communities and protection of critical habitats. The program is part of Rabinowitz’s Jaguar Conservation Project in the Brazilian Pantanal region, home to the world’s largest cattle ranching area and also where Panthera manages more than 270 square miles of habitat crucial to jaguar survival.
Panthera’s Pantanal Project is aimed at establishing one of the world’s largest, intact protected jaguar corridors and creating within that corridor a model in which cattle ranching is both profitable and compatible with jaguar conservation.

Author of six books and 80 publications, Rabinowitz said his life’s work has focused on fulfilling his goal: “to find and survey the world’s last wild places, with the intention of saving as much land in protected areas as I can and securing homes for some of the world’s most endangered large mammals.”

“Always aim high,” Rabinowitz said.

“This is what you have to shoot for,” he told the students, professors and others gathered for the evening lecture as he pointed to an Albert Einstein quote projected on the two screens in McDaniel Lounge. “One should not pursue goals that are easily achieved. One must develop an instinct for what one can just barely achieve through one’s greatest efforts.”

Peggy Fosdick is the communications director in the Office of

Communications and Marketing at McDaniel College.

Panthera was founded in 2006 with the sole mission of conserving the world’s 36 species of wild cats. Utilizing the knowledge and expertise of the world’s top cat biologists, Panthera develops, implements and oversees range-wide conservation efforts.

L-R: ΨΒΚ chapter officer Mary Bendel-Simso, newly-inducted wildlife conservationist Alan Rabinowitz; ΨΒΚ chapter officer John Osh and ΨΒΚ Senator Jim Lightner.
My Key, My Honor

By Olga-Maria Cruz

A wise and gentle man once said to me, “You must wear your honor.”

He was fitting me for a gold chain, from which would hang my one-inch gold Phi Beta Kappa key, but his answer rang deeper in me than that.

Maybe it was because so many people have told me in so many ways that I should not display my intelligence, not seem to make others feel inferior.

Maybe it was because he came from a Middle Eastern culture, so that his appreciation for a woman’s achievement seemed even more surprising.

Maybe it was because I had just explained that I had not ever worn my key, not in the 15 years that it had been mine. And I hadn’t really thought about why.

I hadn’t really thought about why not, why now. It had been a hard week in some ways. I’d not been cast in two plays I really wanted and felt I’d auditioned well for. A dear friend was leaving town for the summer.

I was missing my teaching schedule and my students already, two weeks after graduation — May is always hard for me. But for some reason I had taken out the old blue box with the finger pointing to the three stars.

I had brought my key to the jewelry shop and here was this man, a stranger, affirming me, telling me I could legitimately be proud of myself. I hear his words every day when I put it on, when I put on “my honor.”

I’ve been wearing my key for two weeks now, and I’ve had time to think about what it means to me. I’ve had time to remember my induction ceremony, where I wept, thinking of my ancestors, who came to America from Puerto Rico and the Czech Republic, seeking educational opportunities for their families. I’ve had time to reflect on the fact that this key was not something I sought, or could definitively earn — it was indeed an honor, a grace, a gift.

I’ve had time to remember that I deserved it. I deserved this honor when I completed college, and I deserve to be proud of it now.

This is what I love best about being a φβκ — it’s not really an accomplishment — rather, it’s an acknowledgement of who I am, an affirmation by people like me that I am indeed like them. I’m brainy and hard-working, but more than that, I’m gifted in the arts.

Someone at the University of Florida looked at my transcripts and saw Italian, French, and German, music theory, voice, and Renaissance ensemble, Shakespeare, children’s literature, and Zora Neale Hurston, astronomy and physics and ballet and Chinese literary heritage and a whole class just on T.S. Eliot’s “The Wasteland.” They saw more than my grades — they saw my gifts, my interests, where I spend my energies. And they saw that it was good.

They believed in me, these anonymous faculty members whom I never really met; they gave me the first indication that I could one day become one of them. Now, with my Ph.D. firmly in hand and six years of college teaching under my belt, my only remaining aspiration is to teach at a school with a φβκ chapter, so that one day I might have the privilege to bestow a key or two myself.

Until then, unapologetic, I’m wearing my honor.

Olga-Maria Cruz (φβκ, University of Florida, 1994) teaches at Bellarmine University in Louisville. She completed her Ph.D. at Oxford with David Cook, though her degree is from Southern Seminary. Her poems have appeared in Poetry East, The Chaffin Journal, and Ariel, among others.
The need to invest in education and economic development in Pakistan became clear to Stainton during her master’s degree program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy where she studied international security focusing on terrorism and asymmetric threats in the Middle East and southwest Asia. She jointly studied at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. Her master’s thesis, which began prior to 9/11, focused on the U.S. management of the war on terror. Disappointed by her observation that the U.S. government failed to fully utilize the different tools available to effectively counter the extremist threat, Stainton decided to do something in 2007 and thus launched Marshall Direct Fund.

Stainton holds a B.A. from the University of Colorado where she majored in international affairs, focusing on counter-terrorism, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude in 1998. Her experience also includes recent volunteer work and a fellowship with the Aspen Institute, a position in business development for Bechtel Corporation and several other involvements in local charitable causes. Stainton is mother to two small children.

“Working in an international environment is challenging and requires a number of skills that a liberal arts education provides,” Stainton said.

“The ability to think critically and find solutions to complex problems in an innovative way is perhaps the most important benefit, while another major advantage of a liberal arts education is the knowledge and capacity to understand, respect and work with people from other cultures,” she observed.

“The poor in Pakistan understand their challenges better than anyone. They must and can be the architects of the solutions to the problems they face. Marshall Direct Fund simply facilitates their capacity to deliver these solutions.”

Rick Bayless Phi Beta Kappa-ACA Award
Continued from 7

ACA or its scholarship program, visit www.pbkaca.org.

Christopher Kopacz (Phi, Loyola University Chicago, 2002) is Phi Beta Kappa-ACA’s vice president and an attorney at the Office of the State Appellate Defender in Chicago.

Want to start a Phi Beta Kappa association in your area? For more information, call (202) 745-3235 or write to associations@pbk.org. Phi Beta Kappa’s national office staff will be happy to help you get started!

Phi Beta Kappa Membership Items

Phi Beta Kappa’s distinctive key is the official symbol of membership in the Society. A complete line of solid gold and gold-plated key jewelry, as well as other items bearing the Society’s insignia is 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 keyring is made of solid brass and is engraved with the member’s name, chapter, and year of election. The popular membership wall display combines a membership certificate and a large gold-plated key in a handsome 12 x 16 inch walnut frame.

To order, complete the form below and mail it with your payment and a copy of your mailing label from the back cover showing your 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. A three dollar shipping and handling fee is added to each order.

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From Our Book Critics

By Svetlana Alpers


Things are seldom what they seem. That line from Gilbert and Sullivan might serve as a motto for culture in our times. In the arts, pleasure is taken in the blurring of boundaries between media, while in the writing of histories there is a blurring of boundaries between times past and our own.

This posthumous publication by the late and great medieval art historian Michael Camille is not so much concerned with the gargoyles (or drain pipes) of the title as it is with the 54 chimeras on the balustrades of the portal side of Notre-Dame. These fanciful stone creatures are not, as they seem, medieval, but purely 19th century inventions of Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc, the architect and writer who in 1843, at the age of 29, was employed by the state to restore the cathedral. These medieval monsters are really modern.

The star of the book (you see him on the cover) is the most memorable because most often reproduced of the gargoyles. He is the “vampire.” The deep-eyed, big-eared, winged monster with tongue sticking out perched at the corner of the balustrade looking down at the city has haunted the imagination of and about Paris ever since he was put there.

You will find out all you ever wanted to know about that disturbing figure and more. The 439 engagingly written and profusely illustrated pages begin in a scholarly mode with the restoration project itself, the newly discovered name of their sculptor, and some newly discovered drawings. In other words, art historical research as we expect it. But from there the book opens up as the beast is presented as part of the continuing history of religion, of the French state, and of the city.

The first part of the book dealing with restoration and the reactions to it offers an unusual angle onto the politics and culture of 19th century Paris. The second part deals with what Camille calls reproduction. Here he considers the vampire as a figure for projection and adaptation. Sexual and racial innuendoes play a big role. In high spirits, the author moves from Sigmund Freud on the balustrade, to photographers, to cartoonists, to novelists, to its use by Nazi occupiers, to the rubber imitations now sold on the internet.

Camille’s vampire of Notre Dame bids fair to join Charles Baudelaire’s flaneur and Walter Benjamin’s arcades as a sign of Paris. You will never see Notre Dame in the same way again.

Photography and Science. Kelley Wilder. Reaktion Books (distributed by University of Chicago Press), 2009. 139 pages. $29.95

Kelley Wilder begins with the fact that in France, Louis Daguerre’s invention of photography was initially presented in 1839 in the halls of the Académie des Sciences. What is photography? Is it art or is it science? This book proposes to consider photography as located at a liminal place in between the two. Its claim to offer a unique record of the visible world has contributed to knowledge, but also to pleasure: art as well science.

As William Henry Fox Talbot, Daguerre’s English counterpart in the invention of photography put it, “the eye of the camera would see plainly where the human eye would see nothing but darkness.” It is also the fact that photography records more details than the human eye can take in.

The book proceeds through sections on observation, on experiment and on the archive. There is much that is usefully and appropriately technical here about emulsions, about plates, about seeing and the world seen. As observation, we are shown the sky beginning with 1,886 images of Saturn and Jupiter. As experiment, we are shown countless images of rays invisible to the eye. As the archive, we see aerial maps, humans (instead of the land) as specimens and finally works of art.

Looking at the many illustrations, the reader will be struck that, whatever its original purpose, every image printed on these pages comes across as art. One of the lessons of the book, as the author writes with reference to the photograph of a bouncing gold ball by Berenice Abbott, is that a photograph can have multiple functions in its lifetime. It might begin as a detection device in an experiment, be printed as an illustration and eventually be hung on the wall as art. The movement, she says, is from control and replicability as science to the appearance of chance as art. But is art really a matter of chance?

This is a book to read and look at which leaves much to ponder.


The previous book comes to terms with the slippery relationship between photography as a science and as art. This one, part of the same series on photography titled Exposures, proposes to offer a parallel consideration about the relationship between photography and literature. It seems to me less satisfactory.

William Henry Fox Talbot was the first to speak of the camera as able to see what the eye could not see. And Talbot was also the first in his The Pencil of Nature (1844-1846) to put photographs on printed pages accompanied by a text and bind them into a book.
Francois Brunet is a professor of American art and literature in Paris. Starting off from photography rather than literature, he seeks to give proper weight to photography as an art in its relationship to literature. His book is an admirable attempt, but the topic is unwieldy and he keeps circling around trying to get a hold on it. The chapter entitled “Photography and the Book” is about the photographic book. It gets to the heart of the matter, which is less perhaps about literature as such than about texts — that is when photographs are treated as printed matter along with printed texts on a page. What Talbot started is continued through Walker Evans’s American Photographs and on.

In a chapter titled “Literary Discoveries of Photography,” Brunet argues persuasively that, famous though it is, Roland Barthes’s Camera Lucida should be read as part of a tradition of literary descriptions of photography that existed before him. But then he gets sidetracked into a consideration of authors who use photographs as self-presentation. He concludes by presenting Henry James’s decision to commission Alvin Langdon Coburn’s photographic frontispieces for the definitive edition of his novels as a footnote to that. But was it not rather a curious turn in the tradition of photography to accompanying texts that goes back to Talbot?

The problem with this book lies in the way the author conceives of his topic. Like every book in the Exposures series, it is elegantly printed and illustrated.

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

Robert B. Heilman should be familiar to long-time readers of The Key Reporter. For more than 30 years, between 1959 and 1990, he wrote book reviews for these very same columns, probably a record in the history of the newsletter. Although he played a major role in the literary and cultural life of the nation, he was never as well known as his friends and colleagues, like Cleenan Brooks, Robert Penn Warren, Allen Tate, Theodore Roethke, Eric Voegelin, Saul Bellow or Bernard Malamud. But this impeccably edited and handsomely produced collection of letters from and to these leading lights, and many others, will help repair the oversight of his importance and influence.

The letters are arranged to provide a portrait of Heilman as a writer, critic, university administrator and private individual from the time he became an instructor of English at Louisiana State University in 1935, after completing his Ph.D. at Harvard, through his tenure as chair of the Department of English at the University of Washington from 1948 to 1971, until his death in 2004 after an almost second career as a public intellectual and visiting lecturer. His articulate essays would grace many an issue of The American Scholar when under the editorship of Joseph Epstein from 1975 to 1997, and he served as a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar in 1982-1983.

Although a Pennsylvanian by birth, it was at LSU, through his close friendships with Robert Penn Warren and Cleann Brooks, that he became associated with the Southern Literary Renaissance and the New Criticism. Brooks and Warren had already published their seminal revolutionary textbooks, An Approach to Literature (1936), Understanding Poetry (1938), and Understanding Fiction (1943), which instructed students and teachers in the techniques of formalism with its primary emphasis on aesthetic excellence over historic and cultural context. Heilman would add, in collaboration with Brooks, a fourth volume moving New Criticism into the realm of drama, Understanding Drama (1945). Although he would defend the New Critics and their Agrarian friends against charges of fascism in numerous essays, Heilman’s interests were much broader and his ideology too unrestrained to remain committed to any one single perspective.

As chair of the English department at Washington, he would demonstrate an unwavering devotion to excellence in teaching and scholarship in his hiring practices, without regard for or prejudice against politics, religion or ethnicity. He became embroiled in numerous controversies during the Communist witch-hunts of the 1950s over efforts to hire prominent figures like Malcolm Cowley or Kenneth Burke, or bring to campus physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer as a guest lecturer. The administration inevitably blocked most such efforts, but Heilman put up a strong but civil fight on behalf of intellectual freedom and did so eloquently through many of the letters included here.

Heilman was an extraordinary writer and believed, as Allan Tate once said, “criticism should be as plain as the nose on your face.” So are his letters, here intelligently arranged, fully annotated, and thoroughly documented. Reading them reminds us that once letter writing was an art form and that through them great minds used it to seek out kindred spirits with whom to commune about the great issues of the times. The book is a feast for the intellect and literary sensibility.
Nevin Martell, a pop music journalist and fan of the comic strip, set out to find Watterson, interview him and write an account of that failure—a non-book, as it were, perhaps a new genre in celebrity publishing. He did talk to a lot of friends and family of Watterson, most of whom shared a few memories, but the bulk of the book is based on material that has long been in print, including early interviews when he was more accessible.

Martell has an annoying habit of saying that he “caught up” with someone and asked some questions. This gives the impression that he was moving quickly around the country on an unlimited travel budget tracking people down. According to his list of sources, the truth is that he was mostly making calls from his home or cell phone. He knows little about the history of the comic strip and confesses that he has been a non-reader of the newspapers since the 1990s. He also appears unaware of the large body of critical commentary available on comic strips and Watterson in particular.

Watterson and his endearing creation deserve a well-informed and appreciative study. Until that is written, Martell’s book will serve as a useful source and summary of what information we do have. If we can no longer read new adventures of Calvin and his remarkable tiger Hobbes, it can be fun to read about the man who made them possible.

As editors, author and journalist Greil Marcus and academic critic Werner Sollors decided to make a list of the most important events, books, people and crises in the development of the United States, and then assemble a group of contributors to write about them, not entirely composed of the usual academic suspects but moving beyond to accomplished creative writers, journalists, artists, biographers, film makers, directors and script writers. Thus we have Ishmael Reed on Mark Twain and Huck Finn, Jonathan Lethem on early motion pictures and Andre Codrescu on literary New Orleans. Rather than write an essay on Barack Obama, artist Kara Walker contributed a series of nine hand-cut black-paper silhouettes with integrated texts. Occasional illustrations appear throughout the book, though often muddy in reproduction.

The more than 200 essays by as many contributors are arranged chronologically (a nod to history), beginning with the first appearance of the name “America” on a map in 1507 and concluding with the election of President Obama in 2008. What seems to have been almost the entire American literature faculty at Harvard were called on to produce essays, so heavily are they represented. But graduate students also took part, one of the best essays being an appreciation of the comic strip artist Winsor McCay by Kerry Roeder, a doctoral candidate in art history at the University of Delaware. Oddly the editors overlook all the other major figures in comic art, such as George Herriman and Charles Schulz. Some omissions are necessary, however, in a project of this size and scope. What remains is an engaging grab-bag of lucid and usually elucidating snapshots of exciting moments in our cultural history, from Mickey Mouse and Linda Lovelace to William Faulkner and Hank Williams.

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

**Passing Strange: A Gilded Age Tale of Love and Deception Across the Color Line.**

*Marta A. Sandweiss.* Penguin Press, 2009. 384 pages. $27.95

Clarence King was one of the most celebrated explorers and geologists of the late 19th century and the first director of the U.S. Geological Survey. A New Englander by birth, he was an exemplar of what Theodore Roosevelt later called the “strenuous life,” finding escape in the West from enervation brought on by the excessive refinement of the east. King told a friend, “Nature is the greatest medicine for my soul.”

Not surprisingly, men of this cast of mind often considered women of their own class part of the problem. King was no exception. His friend Henry Adams said that he “had no faith in the American woman; he loved types more robust,” such as the Hispanic women he met in the West. Because of the class and racial prejudices of the era, however, marriage to such a woman was out of the question. Nonetheless, for the final 13 years of his life, King lived with and treated as his wife an African-American woman, Ada Copeland. In Brooklyn, they were known as Mr. and Mrs. James Todd. He told his wife that he was an African-American and a railroad porter, which explained why he left home for extended periods of time. Some of that time, he was no further away than Manhattan, but neither his wife nor his friends knew about his double life. The friends might have understood keeping a former slave as a mistress,
but not marrying her and raising children with her.

Martha Sandweiss expertly pieces together this remarkable story. The historical record is fragmentary; the relationship, after all, was secret, and very little can be discovered about Ada Copeland’s past or even how she and King met. Much of the documentation comes from the lawsuit that Copeland pursued for 30 years, trying, unsuccessfully, to obtain whatever property King had left at his death. (Only on his deathbed, did he tell his wife that he was Clarence King.)

There are, inescapably, many holes in this account. One reads the book slowly, letting the imagination fill in the gaps.

The 13 interconnected stories that Elizabeth Strout tells are almost unbearably sad. Each is perfectly crafted, a model story about one or another of the inhabitants of a small, coastal Maine town. Their lives intersect, and hence we get both the precision and intense focus of short stories along with the vision of a novel.

At the center of these stories is Olive Kitteridge, a retired math teacher — large, blunt, not easy to like. When an impertinent little girl asks her, “What is that on your chin?” Olive replies, “Crumbs . . . From little girls I’ve eaten up. Now go away before I eat you too.” Olive is trying to escape from the “panicky, dismal feeling” that has overcome her on her son’s wedding day. “All right, I’ve had enough,” she says to herself. But it will turn out that there is more to come, not just from the rude child, but from her new daughter-in-law, whom she overhears talking about her: herself, refracted through her beloved son’s eyes. “He’s had a hard time, you know.”

These stories are filled with what might be called accidental betrayals, the kind of pain inflicted by an overheard word, but also accidental gifts, odd human connections that come out

O l i v e  K i t t e r i d g e.

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D o u g l a s  G r e e n g e b e r g
Continued from 4

speaks widely about the Holocaust, genocide and Jewish identity in the post-Holocaust United States.

Greenberg has served on the boards of many non-profit organizations, including the American Historical Association, the National Humanities Alliance, the Organization of American Historians, the Latin School of Chicago and the Research Libraries Group. He served as chair of the New Jersey Historical Commission and the California Council for the Humanities. In 2005, he was appointed a member of the American delegation to the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research.

J o h n  S e e r y
Continued from 5

and the Philadelphia Independent. He has been interviewed on ABC News, MSNBC and numerous radio broadcasts, and he appears in the documentary film This American Gothic.

T h o m a s  B e n d e r
Continued from 5

low of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

His research interests span the history of cities, intellectual and cultural history, including the history of universities and academic disciplines, urban culture, forms of narrative in history, and, most recently, the global context of American history. His publications include A Nation Among Nations: America’s Place in World History; The Unfinished City: New York and the Metropolitan Idea; Urban Imaginaries: Locating the Modern City; and American Higher Education Transformed, 1940-2005. He is on the editorial boards of the Journal of American History and Modern Intellectual History.

Bender’s itinerary as a ΦBK Visiting Scholar includes the following:

• October 21-22, Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.

• November 18-19, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa.

• February 25-26, San Francisco State University

• March 25-26, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio

For information about the ΦBK Visiting Scholar Program, call (202) 745-3231 or write to visitingscholar@pbk.org. To find a free ΦBK Visiting Scholar lecture at a campus near you, visit our online calendar at www.pbk.org.

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