



# Key Notes

Volume XLIII • Fall 2009

Phi Beta Kappa Alumni in Southern California  
Alpha Association

## President's Message

Several years ago, my mother's church burned to the ground. The rebuilt church is a more modest structure than its predecessor, but it incorporates the latest audio video technology. A power point slide augments the traditional call and response reading and words projected on a giant screen replace the hymnal. Some might cringe at the intrusion of technology into the sanctuary, but it works – no more hurried search through the hymnal for the numbered song, no need to decipher the words of the soft-spoken lay leader.

Although I welcomed technological innovation in my mother's church, I was less willing to embrace the findings of a recent U. S. Department of Education study, *A Review of Evidence-Based Practices in Online Learning* ([www.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/tech/evidence-based-practices/final-report.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/tech/evidence-based-practices/final-report.pdf), 2009). A meta-analysis that began with over a thousand empirical studies of online learning, the report concludes "on average, students in online learning conditions performed better than those receiving face-to-face instruction." The finding is unsettling because I make a living teaching at a liberal arts college, but I console myself with the knowledge that the majority of the 51 studies included in the analysis involved adult learners not traditional aged students.

Without a doubt, technology has created new opportunities for lifelong learning, not only for job-related or vocational training, but also in the liberal arts and sciences. A truck-driv-

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## John Seery Wins 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, Saturday, October 3, 2009 in Austin, Texas.

The Sidney Hook award recognizes national distinction by a single scholar in each of three areas - scholarship, teaching, and leadership in the cause of undergraduate education. Professor Seery has twice been a recipient of Pomona's Wig Distinguished Teaching Award and is the author of several books on political theory. Professor Seery was a panelist at our local association's "Conversation about the Liberal Arts" in 2002.

The Sidney Hook award, given once every three years, was established in 1991 in memory of the distinguished American philosopher Sidney Hook (1902-1989). The \$7500 award is made possible by a grant from the John Dewey Foundation.



*John Seery and "Ella Fitzgerald" - Courtesy Emilio Medina, The Student Life*



*Keefe and her son Drew, a 2007 UCLA graduate*

## New Councilors: Ferrandini and DeMason

The Alpha Association is pleased to introduce two new councilors: Keefe Ferrandini and Darleen DeMason.

Keefe Ferrandini is a senior manager at Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment. She earned her Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School and her BA from UCLA where she was a member of the Mortar Board National Honor Society. Ms. Ferrandini also has a degree in French Literature from the Université de Paris (Sorbonne). Ms. Ferrandini has worked in the entertainment industry since 1988.

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# Alpha Association Officers 2008-09

## Councilors 2009-10

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Cecilia A. Conrad, **Editor**  
Jean Paule, Bette Harris, **Contributors**  
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**Event Photography**



### President

Cecilia A. Conrad, Ph.D.

Received her BA from Wellesley College and an MA and Ph.D from Stanford University in economics. She is Vice President and Dean of College at Pomona College.



### Vice President

James J. Herr

Received his BA from Occidental College with a major in Diplomacy and World Affairs and a minor in History. He is the Associate Registrar at Occidental College. Jim has been a Councilor since 2005 and is currently the Chair of the High School Scholarship Committee.



### Recording Secretary

B. Loraine Reed

Earned an AB from Hollins College, and an MA and Ph.D. from Indiana University. She is Senior Lecturer Emerita at University of California, Irvine where she was a founding member of the PBK Chapter.



### Treasurer

Hermann Muennichow, C.P.A.

Earned a BBA at the University of Wisconsin. He is a C.P.A. and principal of Muennichow & Associates., Certified Public Accountants, with offices in North Hollywood.



### Corresponding Secretary and Archivist

Jean Paule

Previously served as Second Vice President and Secretary. With her BA in History from UC Berkeley and her MA in History from USC, she is the College Archivist at Occidental College.



### Past President

Sue Rokaw

Earned a BA from the University of Rochester, an MLS from Southern Connecticut State College, and a JD from the University of San Francisco. After years of private practice, she now works at Farmers Insurance Corporate Legal Department and teaches at University of West Los Angeles, School of Law, Woodland Hills campus.

