



Key Notes

Volume XLV • Fall 2011

Phi Beta Kappa Alumni in Southern California
Alpha Association

President's Message

OLD TEXT This past May, the national Phi Beta Kappa Society brought its lecture series to Southern California after having hosted



events in New York and Boston. "Going Green Across America" was the first in a series of events to be held in the Los Angeles area on the topic of sus-

tainability. The lecture series was established, "to provide members with greater opportunities for intellectual fellowship and to allow the Society to return to its historic role of participation in larger, national dialogue about the important issues of our time." (<https://www.pbk.org/home/LectureSeries.aspx>)

I have heard some criticism of the Association for becoming more political by sponsoring an event on sustainability. There are a number of reasons for our Association to partner with the national Society on these events. In addition to the fact that many of our members are interested in environmental and sustainability issues, a series on the topic of the environment could not be more timely. Environmental issues have been at the forefront in the news lately. Regardless of one's political beliefs, adopting some of the practices championed by environmentalists, such as using less paper and generating less trash, makes economic sense as well.

On the topic of saving money and generating less trash, I assure you that

OCCIDENTAL PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL AWARDED TO JEAN PAULE

Longtime Alpha Councilor and Archivist Jean Paule has been awarded Occidental College's Presidential Medal for Distinguished Service. According to an article on the College website, she and former vice president for admission and financial aid Bill Tingley are the first recipients of this award. They were honored at an outdoor ceremony where their names appeared as the first entries on a dramatic metal frieze created by a local artist and blacksmith Heather McLarty.



Jean has had a long and productive career at Occidental College starting in 1950, when she was hired as executive secretary to President Arthur Coons. Except for a decade working in the travel industry, Jean has been at the College ever since, serving Coons and his successor, Richard Gilman, for 36 years. She has been the College's volunteer archivist since 1996.

In his remarks during the ceremony, Occidental College President Jonathan Veitch said: "Jean is truly an Occidental institution, whose record of service is unmatched, and whose work ethic, integrity, and professional skills continue to benefit the College today." The purpose of the Presidential Medal is to recognize administrators and staff who have had an extraordinary impact on the College.

Jean recently announced that while she could not continue on Alpha's Council, she would remain as Archivist.

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Cecilia A. Conrad, **Editor**
Anna von Franque, Bette Harris, **Con-
tributors**



President

Laura Hoopes

Earned her AB from Goucher College and her Ph.D. from Yale University. She also holds an L.H.D. from Goucher and a certificate in creative writing from UCLA Extension. She is the Halstead-Bent Professor of Biology at Pomona College.



Vice President

Deborah McInnes Festa, J.D.

Received a dual BA from the University of California, Los Angeles in Philosophy and French Literature. and her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. She is counsel in O'Melveny & Myers LLP Los Angeles Office in the Corporate Finance practice.



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.



Past President

Jim Herr

Received his AB 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.

Programs in Review

Winter 2011

The Phi Beta Kappa Society sponsored another program in its Lecture Series with a talk by noted engineer and entrepreneur, Elon Musk on the topic of sustainability in energy production and transportation. Musk spoke at UCLA's Fowler Museum on January 8, 2011. He is a co-founder of PayPal, Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX), and Tesla Motors, and Chairman of SolarCity, the nation's first and largest full-service solar provider.



From Left to Right: Glen MacDonald, Director of UCLA's Institute of Environment & Sustainability, Elon Musk, and Scott Lurding, Associate Secretary, PBK Society

Spring 2011

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP ALPHA ASSOCIATION

We need your help in the following areas.

Newsletter – Writers, proofreaders, editors, photographers, desktop publishers.

Programs - We are looking for folks who have ideas and contacts for programs and venues; who can help register guests at events; who will participate on the hospitality committee.

Techies – We can always use input from those who are technologically savvy to help with our website, etc.

DON'T MISS OUT STAY CONNECTED WITH EMAIL

We need your help in the following areas.

Just like so many other organizations, we are finding that e-mail is a quick, effective, and economical means of communication. Members can learn about new programs, receive confirmations, and timely announcements by providing us with their e-mail addresses. Savings in printing and mailing costs would allow us to fund more scholarships. We need widespread participation, however, to realize the maximum benefit.

If we do not have your e-mail address on record, please provide us with that information when you renew your membership. Incidentally, we do not share members' contact information with any other organization outside of Phi Beta Kappa.

International Scholarship Awards

Each year, the International Scholarship Committee reviews applications from foreign graduate students, usually in their last year of PhD work, at Southern California colleges and universities. These are students who have very limited access to other sources of aid. Typically, we find ourselves faced with a candidate pool of brilliant scholars who are impressive not only for their intellect but also for their determination to study in a foreign country and write complex theses in a language not their own. This year was no exception.

Hagop Atamian, Lebanon
Genetics, UCR

Divya Pathania, India
Pharmacology, USC

Di Zhang, China
Biomedical Physics,
UCLA

Hyung Ju Hong, Korea
Economics, UCI

Mohamed Saleh, Egypt
Economics, USC

Shunan Zhang, China
Cognitive Sciences, UCI

Yana Kucheva, Bulgaria
Sociology, UCLA

Yundong Tu, China
Economics, UCR

Graduate Study Awards

Thanks to your generous donations, Alpha Association has awarded a fellowship for graduate study to one Phi Beta Kappa initiate at each of the ten member colleges and universities in Southern California. Criteria for selection include academic merit, financial need, community service and plans to attend graduate school during the coming academic year.

California State University, Long Beach
Claremont McKenna College
Occidental College
Pomona College
Scripps College
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of Redlands
University of Southern California

High School Alpha Awards

To help leading students defray the expenses of college application, Alpha Association awards small grants (\$500) to high school students in underprivileged areas of Los Angeles. Following are the names of this year's recipients.

Theodore Roosevelt High School

Magdalena Ceja
Jesus Hernandez
Brian Salazar

Hollywood High School

In Memoriam

Alpha Association mourns the loss of two beloved and well respected Past Presidents, whose dedication and prodigious talent have contributed greatly to the Association's success: C. Scott Littleton and Verna Steinmetz.

C. Scott Littleton

Colleagues are still nonplussed at the untimely passing of Scott Littleton on November 25, 2010 in Pasadena at the age of 77 of complications from pneumonia. He had recently had heart surgery. Friendly, enthusiastic, and never at a loss for words, Scott enlivened Council meetings with his wit and charm. His appetite for technology led him to become Alpha's Webmaster. He also administered the Graduate Study Award for many years. Active at the National level, Scott had served on the Committee on Qualifications, which assesses institutions applying for PBK chapters. He was also well into his second term as Western District Chair, acting as liaison with chapter and association delegates in the Western states.



Scott was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Hermosa Beach. He served in the Army, including overseas service in Japan and Korea. Later, he received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D from UCLA. A longtime anthropology professor and department chair at Occidental College, Scott became an internationally known expert in comparative Indo-European mythology and folklore, as well as Japanese religion. He had published extensively on Japanese myth and religion, and the origin and distribution of the Arthurian and Holy Grail legends. Scott was a devoted family man. He enjoyed world travel with his wife, Mary Ann, and was proud of his accomplished daughters, Leslie and Cynthia, and his granddaughter, Daisy.

Verna Pace Steinmetz

Verna Steinmetz died in Los Angeles on June 16, 2011 after a brief illness. She was 87. Verna was a strong pillar of Alpha Association – remaining active on Council for decades after leading as President.



Verna graduated from Stanford University with B.A. in History. Verna worked tirelessly as a volunteer and fundraiser in the art and education fields. In addition to her work with Council, she was Director of Development for Westlake School in 1968, Associate Director of Development for Stanford University in 1972, and Deputy Director of the University's Southern California office. In retirement, she was a fundraising consultant at the Huntington Library, Art Gallery, and Botanical Gardens from 1993-1998. She was a past board member of the Pasadena Senior Center and the Stanford Associates Board of Governors. She was a recipient of the Stanford Associates award.

Verna loved traveling the world, especially to exotic places. Among her many interests, she enjoyed going to the symphony, swimming, and playing bridge. It is said that she was a "formidable spelling bee contestant." Verna leaves her loving family: a sister, four children, and nine grandchildren.

HONOR ROLL

The following members have contributed the amounts indicated to the Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship funds for 2009-2010

Life Member

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500 and Over

Cecilia Conrad
E. Eric Johnson
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