

PHI KAPPA PHI FORUM

Spring 2010

Spring Is in the Air

Natural Inevitabilities:

Seasonal wildflowers come back to vivid life and cliff swallows come back to nesting grounds.

Accounting Factors:

Why are taxes due on April 15 and what does "March Madness" mean off the court?

Diagnostic Implications:

The evolution of spring allergies and the idea behind spring cleaning get aired out.



Society Developments:

Changes to the awards programs address the state of the economy and the interests of the applicants.

About Us

Archival photo.



The first organizational meeting of what came to be known as The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi took place in Coburn Hall (shown at left) at the University of Maine in Orono, Maine, in 1897. The Phi Kappa Phi name was adopted on June 12, 1900. Although the national headquarters have been located in Baton Rouge, La., since 1978, the vast majority of the Society's historical documents are still kept at the founding institution.

Phi Kappa Phi Forum is the multidisciplinary quarterly magazine of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Each issue of the award-winning journal reaches more than 100,000 active members as well as government officials, scholars, educators, university administrators, public and private libraries, leaders of charitable and learned organizations, corporate executives and many other types of subscribers.

It is the flagship publication of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society, with chapters on more than 300 college and university campuses across the country. Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 at the University of Maine and upwards of one million members spanning the academic disciplines have been initiated since the Society's inception. Notable alumni include former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, The Ohio State University head football coach Jim Tressel, writer John Grisham, YouTube co-founder/CEO Chad Hurley and poet Rita Dove. The Society began publishing what's now called *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* in 1915.

Spring, summer and fall issues

The spring, summer and fall issues (usually mailed late February, late May and late August, respectively) feature a variety of timely, relevant articles from influential scholars, educators, writers and other authorities, oftentimes active Phi Kappa Phi members, who offer variations on an overall theme.

Notables to have contributed pieces include Ronald Reagan, fortieth President of the United States; Myrlie Evers-Williams, civil rights trailblazer; Warren Burger, the fifteenth Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; Molefi Kete Asante, African-American studies groundbreaker; Sally Ride, former NASA astronaut; Ernest Gaines, fiction writer; and Geoffrey Gilmore, former director of the Sundance Film Festival.

Phi Kappa Phi Forum also encourages

movers and shakers to speak for themselves through exclusive interviews. Q & As have run the gamut from public servants such as Lynne Cheney, former chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, to famous artists such as playwright August Wilson to literary critics such as Stanley Fish.

(For other significant contributors, go online to http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Publications/PKP_Forum.html.)

The spring, summer and fall issues further contain columns on fields such as education and academics, science and technology, and arts and entertainment in addition to book reviews, poetry and humor. Plus, these issues compile member news, chapter updates and Society developments, along with letters to the editor, the Phi Kappa Phi bookshelf and general announcements of interest to keep readers abreast of Society programs and activities.

Through words and images, Web links and multimedia components, the magazine intends to appeal to the diverse membership of Phi Kappa Phi by providing thoughtful, instructive, helpful — and sometimes provocative — material in smart, engaging ways.

Winter issue

The winter issue (mailed late November) celebrates those who win monetary awards from Phi Kappa Phi.

The Society distributes more than \$700,000 annually through graduate and undergraduate scholarships, member and chapter awards, and grants for local and national literacy initiatives, and *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* applauds the recipients in this edition, listing them all and spotlighting a few. (For more information about Phi Kappa Phi monetary awards, go online to http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Awards/Scholarships_Awards.html.)

As an arm of the Society, *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* helps uphold the institution's mission: "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others." ■

Phi Kappa Phi Forum mission statement

Phi Kappa Phi Forum, a multidisciplinary quarterly that enlightens, challenges and entertains its diverse readers, serves as a general-interest publication as well as a platform for The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Phi Kappa Phi Forum

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Submissions

Address material intended for publication to:
Peter Szatmary, Editor
Phi Kappa Phi Forum
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
7576 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, La. 70806

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Phi Kappa Phi Forum
7576 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, La. 70806
Fax to: (225) 388-4900
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Phi Kappa Phi Forum staff

Editor: Peter Szatmary
(800) 804-9880 ext. 42
pszatmary@phikappaphi.org

Designer: Kellye Sanford (freelance)

Proofreader: Martha Allan (freelance)

Editorial consultant: Traci Navarre
Director of Marketing and Member Benefits
(800) 804-9880 ext. 22
tnavarre@phikappaphi.org

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Send to:
Change of Address
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
7575 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, La. 70806

Postmaster

Send address changes to:
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
7576 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, La. 70806

www.PhiKappaPhi.org



How Cliff Swallows Choose Where to Live

By Charles R. Brown

Migration patterns loom large for the small birds.



NCAA Tournament Hoop Dreams Impact Society

By Alison M. Wrynn

College basketball’s showcase resonates beyond sports.



Ornamental, Beneficial — and Vanishing? The Challenge of Protecting America’s Wildflowers

By Wendy L. Applequist

Flora that delights and serves humanity is at risk.



April 15: A Taxing Spring Day

By Paul K. Chaney

The financial reckoning, and its deadline, evolved over eras.



Dust off Assumptions about Spring Cleaning

By Heather Hitchcock

Freshen up your estimation of historical tidiness.

On the Cover: The Kemper Center for Home Gardening at the Missouri Botanical Garden features 23 distinct residential-scale gardens in an eight-acre design that allows visitors to learn about plant and garden care. (Photo courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden.)

PHI KAPPA PHI FOCUS

2 **President’s Message**
By Robert B. Rogow

Editor’s Note
By Peter Szatmary

3 **Letters to the Editor**
Coming Next Issue

27 **Phi Kappa Phi Bookshelf**

29 **Society Developments**

30 **Chapter Update**

Save the Date:
2010 Convention

31 **Member Spotlight**

32 **Member News**

34 **In Memoriam**

COLUMNS

20 **Science and Technology**
By Laura Mackey Lorentzen

21 **Arts and Entertainment**
By (William) Arnold Johnston
and Deborah Ann Percy

22 **Business and Economics**
By John T. Harding

23 **Workplace and Employment**
By Kimberly Thompson

24 **Education and Academics**
By Timothy L. Hulsey

25 **Sports and Exercise**
By Angela Lumpkin

FEATURES

26 **Book Review:**
Orville’s Aviators
Written by John Carver Edwards
Reviewed by Robert F. Tate

35 **Poetic Pause:**
“Natural Theology”
By Susan Militzer Luther

36 **And One More Thing ...**
with Bob Zany

Board of Directors

SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Robert B. Rogow, C.P.A., Ph.D.
Eastern Kentucky University
College of Business and Technology
Business & Technology Center 214
521 Lancaster Ave.
Richmond, Ky. 40475
robert.rogow@eku.edu

SOCIETY PRESIDENT-ELECT

William A. Bloodworth, Jr., Ph.D.
Office of the President
Augusta State University
2500 Walton Way
Augusta, Ga. 30904-2200
wbloodwo@aug.edu

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Diane G. Smathers, Ed.D.
Emeritus College
E-304 Martin Hall
Clemson University
Clemson, S.C. 29634
dsmthrs@clemson.edu

SOCIETY PAST PRESIDENT

Paul J. Ferlazzo, Ph.D.
Northern Arizona University
Dept. of English, Box 6032
Flagstaff, Ariz. 86011
paul.ferlazzo@nau.edu

VICE PRESIDENT, SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Gilbert Fowler, Ph.D.
Arkansas State University
The Honors College
PO Box 2259
State University, Ark. 72467-2259
gfowler@astate.edu

VICE PRESIDENT, SOUTHEAST REGION

Ray J. Davis, Ph.D.
The Honors Program
310 Gibbs Hall
North Carolina A&T State University
Greensboro, N.C. 27411
davisrj@ncat.edu

VICE PRESIDENT, NORTHEAST REGION

Yaw A. Asamoah, Ph.D.
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
201 McElhaney Hall
441 North Walk
Indiana, Pa. 15705-1018
osebo@iup.edu

VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Rick Shale, Ph.D.
Youngstown State University
One University Plaza
Youngstown, Ohio 44555
rshale@ysu.edu

VICE PRESIDENT, WESTERN REGION

H. Ray Sylvester, Ph.D.
University of the Pacific
Eberhardt School of Business
3601 Pacific Ave.
Stockton, Calif. 95211
rsylvester@pacific.edu

DIRECTOR OF FELLOWSHIPS

C. Roy Blackwood, M.F.A., F.R.S.A.
Southeastern Louisiana University
SLU 10664
Hammond, La. 70402
cblackwood@selu.edu

REGENT

Penny L. Wright, Ph.D.
Emeritus Professor of Management
San Diego State University
Department of Management
San Diego, Calif. 92182
pwright@mail.sdsu.edu

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Perry A. Snyder, Ph.D.
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
7576 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, La. 70806
psnyder@phikappaphi.org



By Robert B. Rogow

Spring is one of my favorite seasons, so I'm glad the theme of this edition of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* is "Spring Is in the Air." I of course think of sunny days, outdoor activities, and nature's rebirth — and, given my professional life, initiation ceremonies and academic commencements.

I've been reflecting on springs past and future as I complete my final months as President of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. This President's Message is not, however, about me; instead, it's about you and how the Society reflects you.

Is Phi Kappa Phi a compendium of chapters, members, or a combination of the two? The Board of Directors has been giving this question a lot of thought during the current triennium. Here's why:

Although approximately 30,000 new initiates join our esteemed ranks each year, the majority of the 100,000-plus active, dues-paying members are not engaged in the life of the chapter where they were initiated or in a chapter near their work or home.

Also, most active members have no direct voice in Society governance, even though their dues help defray Phi Kappa Phi's day-to-day operations. This is a problem.

This lack of representation will change, however, in two crucial ways when William

Is Phi Kappa Phi a compendium of chapters, members, or a combination of the two? The Board of Directors has been giving this question a lot of thought during the current triennium.

A. Bloodworth, Jr., succeeds me as President in August. Both changes broaden the perspective of the policymakers. First, he will appoint, with the concurrence of the new board, two Vice Presidents at Large, representing members whether affiliated or unaffiliated with a chapter. Second, two Vice Presidents for Students will be elected to the Board by their peers from the newly formed Council of Students.

These four new Board positions will strengthen and enrich the Society. An ongoing goal of the Society is to devise ways to serve all its active constituents, and this reconfiguration should help.

As you celebrate spring by holding chapter initiations, attending commencement ceremonies, and reading the "Spring Is in the Air" edition of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*, remember the new opportunities and transforming experiences available for all Phi Kappa Phi members. ■

Editor's Note



By Peter Szatmary

Epic events occur in spring, and contributors to this "Spring Is in the Air" edition of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* rise to the epic occasion.

There's something epic — as in extraordinary — about tiny cliff swallows flapping their delicate wings, for thousands of miles in some cases, to return to annual breeding grounds, Charles R. Brown recounts. There's also something epic — as in heroic — about basketball teams pursuing glory and, in the Society's sense of the word, honor during the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament, chronicles Alison M. Wrynn. And there's something epic — as in sweeping — about the federal government realizing that to receive money from taxpayers it needed a viable plan for when and how to levy, Paul K. Chaney explains.

All of those interpretations of the word "epic" additionally apply to valuable but threatened wildflowers that sprout this time of year, only to suffer overharvesting or other mistreatment, Wendy L. Applequist documents. The subject of spring cleaning, Heather Hitchcock posits in a seriocomic take on the ritual purging, demands a similar

wide-ranging appreciation; Susan Miltzer Luther's poem "Natural Theology" forms a neat dovetail since it's partly about ants on a quest for crumbs in a seemingly spotless kitchen.

Literature, too, encompasses the epic by celebrating feats of legends, and (William) Arnold Johnston and Deborah Ann Percy's Arts and Entertainment column summarizes some. So does Robert F. Tate's book review of John Carver Edwards' *Orville's Aviators: Outstanding Alumni of the Wright Flying School, 1910-1916*.

New college graduates looking for jobs in this shaky economy are engaged in an epic task, Workplace and Employment columnist Kimberly Thompson declares. Business and Economics columnist John T. Harding analyzes further epic measures by comparing presidential efforts to combat downturns: President Barack Obama's and Franklin Delano Roosevelt's.

Fighting off spring allergies can be an epic undertaking, Science and Technology columnist Laura Mackey Lorentzen discusses. Filing taxes by April 15 can be as well; that's why comedian Bob Zany spoofs the tax code.

So much happens when spring is in the air. Contributors — so diversely! — know this. ■

Maternal sisterhood

I enjoyed the summer 2009 inaugural Member Spotlight about Heather Hitchcock and found many similarities in her choices with mine.

I received my B.S. in biology in 1980, I went on to marry and within a year I was in graduate school, studying for a Ph.D.



Heather Hitchcock

in biological sciences, probably in immunology or genetics. But somewhere around the middle of my first semester, I realized that I didn't really like working by myself in the lab, and I didn't particularly like working with laboratory animals. I love animals and have had multiple pets, but it seemed so cruel to raise animals in cages all of their lives. Anyway, I decided to get pregnant and raise a family.

I had two daughters in the next four years and thoroughly enjoyed being a mother at home, except for the financial implications. (We lived on little.) I did, however, learn many things about how to stretch one's income, and did everything I could to save or earn a little, from word processing at home to caring for other people's kids to working part-time as a secretary and in Mother's Day Out preschool programs.

About the time my younger daughter turned four and was ready to start preschool, I had decided on my next life direction and began graduate school in occupational therapy (OT). I have enjoyed a career as an occupational therapist in adult inpatient rehabilitation for 13 years now. Two-and-a-half years ago I began a Ph.D. program in OT, intending to retire from therapy and become a professor. Now I'm 51, have finished my classes and passed the qualifying exam and am working toward my dissertation.

My life path appears to be in opposition to what I see most young women doing today, but it has worked out great for me. Part of the reason, I am sure, is that my husband is very patient, supportive and stable. He has been in the same career, with only three position changes, for our entire marriage of 28 years. My girls are super and supportive as well and have both graduated from college. My older daughter has completed some graduate work but, like her mom, can't decide yet in which direction to go. My younger daughter teaches art in a school for children with learning disabilities.

I wish Heather Hitchcock the best of everything as she lives her life, each part of which is truly significant, even the dirty diapers she references. My patients ask how I can be so patient and willing to clean up anything, and I quote them my own

"mommy rule": you can clean up anything so long as you can wash your hands afterwards.

— Mary Gaber (Texas Woman's University), occupational therapist and Ph.D. candidate in the field, Houston, Texas

Photo courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library.



Ted Williams boarding his F9F Panther jet.

Soldierly teammates

I am not a Phi Kappa Phi member but my wife Sally Whitten is (San Jose State University). So I came across Craig Muder's article, "Baseball Doubles as a Symbol of the Country," in the summer 2009 edition about American pride. And I must say that I found the reference to the Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame slugger and wartime pilot Ted Williams especially interesting. He, in the Marines, and I, in the Navy, were relieved from active duty on the same day at the same place: July 28, 1953, Naval Air Station, Treasure Island, Calif. (although I did not know it at the time).

About eight or nine years ago, *American Legion Magazine* published an article in which Williams' experience in the Korean War was featured. On his last flight before returning to the States, he could barely keep in the air because his plane, an F9F Panther, was badly damaged from antiaircraft fire. After nursing it to the ground, he jumped out and ran. When he was about 50 feet away, the plane exploded. According to observers,

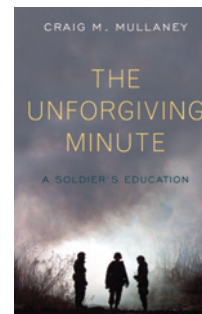
Williams was completely nonchalant.

He also earlier served in World War II as a Navy flight instructor in Pensacola, Fla., and a close friend of my sister had him as an instructor. According to my sister's friend, Williams was an excellent pilot but a terrible instructor. Like another baseball great and war veteran, Joe DiMaggio (Army, World War II), alluded to in Muder's article, Williams was a perfectionist, sometimes too much so.

— Robert C. Whitten, retired NASA research scientist and retired Commander, U. S. Navy Reserve, Cupertino, Calif.

Cadet kudos

I greatly enjoyed Society member Morten Ender's review of Craig M. Mullaney's memoir, *The Unforgiving Minute: A Soldier's Education*, in the fall 2009 issue. I had the pleasure of meeting Mullaney (also a member) last year when he spoke to the academic staff of the United States Air Force Academy. I fully concur that his work is an outstanding autobiography that provides great insight into the education of our future military leaders. A cadet attending the Air Force Academy experiences many of



the West Point subcultural features described in the book while receiving an academic education and a military education that stress the honor code. This is an engaging and inspirational book.

— Lieutenant Colonel John Donovan (University of Central Missouri), Assistant Professor of History, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

The theme is "recovery." Possible subjects for the summer 2010 edition include economic recovery, current and/or historical; how businesses rebound from a recession; the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina; how the nation has recovered after presidents died in office; recovery from the death of a loved one; medical innovations that have helped injured soldiers recover; celebrity rehab-like recovery in movies, TV and video games.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

Letters to the Editor Submission Guidelines

Phi Kappa Phi Forum publishes appropriately written letters to the editor every issue when submitted. Such letters should be no more than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for content and length. Send letters to:

Letters to the Editor
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7576 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
editor@phikappaphi.org

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Cliff swallows perched at their gourd-shaped mud nests in Keith County, Neb. With a lifespan of up to 12 years, this species is one of the most social land birds found in North America.

How Cliff Swallows Choose Where to Live

By Charles R. Brown

One of the most spectacular natural phenomena in the springtime in North America is the annual return of millions of migratory birds to their nesting grounds in the forests, marshes, prairies, lakes, deserts, and cities of temperate latitudes. More than 80 percent of all North American birds migrate, according to some estimates, with some species commuting thousands of miles to milder climates. That many of these migrant birds return, rather remarkably, to the original nesting territory, sometimes even to the same nest tree or birdhouse, that they had occupied the previous year almost strains credulity.

No less striking is the habit of many birds to appear at their breeding grounds at about the same time each spring. One of the most famous examples is the punctual arrival of the fabled cliff swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) at Mission San Juan Capistrano in San Juan Capistrano, Calif. Legend has it that these sparrow-sized birds, in a migration from their wintering range 6,000 miles away in Argentina, return annually to the hallowed grounds on March 19, St. Joseph's Day (a Roman Catholic commemoration of the stepfather of Jesus and husband of the Virgin Mary). There they build gourd-shaped mud nests under the eaves of the buildings. The mission, founded in 1776 (for more about it, go

online to <http://www.missionsjc.com>), celebrates this event widely, drawing thousands of tourists and national media coverage, and the Capistrano swallows have inspired songs, poetry, and books.

Unfortunately, in recent years the swallows have not returned to Mission San Juan Capistrano, breaking their centuries-old habit and occupying other places nearby. As a result, perplexed mission-goers and swallow enthusiasts ask what would cause the birds to abandon one nesting site and choose another; what makes a site attractive to a cliff swallow; and, most importantly, will these birds ever resume breeding at the mission?

I can't answer the last question, but for almost 30 years my quest has been to understand why cliff swallows choose one nesting site over another. In the process of studying cliff swallows in western Nebraska — this species occurs commonly throughout western North America and more sporadically farther east — I have gained insight into how evolution shapes animals' decision-making. What appears sometimes to be random, almost capricious decisions by animals to settle in one spot over another are often the results of relatively simple behavioral rules of thumb that individuals follow predictably: those who did so in the past were more successful at producing offspring and were favored by natural selection.

Cliff swallows, in other words, have proven to be marvelous animals for exploring the complexities involved in choosing where to live, a decision that millions of migratory birds are faced with annually upon their springtime return to the breeding grounds.

Why do birds flock together?

My interest in cliff swallows was not motivated by a desire to restore them to San Juan Capistrano (although in 2001 I did consult with the mission on ways it might re-attract the birds). Rather, my curiosity stemmed from a fundamental question that has intrigued evolutionary biologists and ornithologists for centuries: Why do birds like cliff swallows form large nesting colonies? Indeed, some cliff swallow colonies in the western Great Plains exceed 6,000 nests on a single bridge, the nests packed densely underneath beams in dry, protected spots safe from predators and inclement weather.

In 1982, I set out to answer that question and determine whether cliff swallows formed colonies to escape attack from predatory birds or snakes, or, alternatively, to find food through "information transfer," a process whereby individuals learn from watching other group members where hard-to-find food can be found.

Behavioral ecologists such as Ron Pulliam, John Hoogland, and Paul Sherman thought colonial nesting evolved because group living enabled animals to avoid predators more effectively through greater vigilance (seeing the predator sooner gives you longer time to escape), better deterrence (a mob of screaming, diving birds can dissuade a predator from attacking), or favorable odds (being statistically unlikely to be the predator's victim even if it attacks the colony).

Other scientists including Amotz Zahavi, John Krebs, and Stephen Emlen proposed that living together also aids in the search for food, particularly when animals feed on patchy or ephemeral resources. Simply put, if it takes a long time for an animal group to find a food source (such as a school of fish in the sea or a swarm of insects in the air), individuals can avoid the costs in time and energy of searching for food themselves by instead watching where others in that group feed and then following suit. A large group typically contains at least one member that happens to know the whereabouts of a food patch at any particular time; so unsuccessful members can simply observe others and benefit as a result.

Evidence gleaned from my extended studies — of more than 200,000 banded cliff swallows in almost 200 colonies in western Nebraska, where the species is more abundant than virtually anywhere else on the continent, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey — verifies



The bell wall at Mission San Juan Capistrano, a famous site to which cliff swallows annually return — historically but not recently.

Cliff swallows in western Nebraska nest underneath the sides of highway bridges; in concrete, box-shaped culverts underneath roads and railroad tracks; under eaves of buildings; and beneath overhanging ledges on natural cliff faces ...

the latter hypothesis: the primary reason cliff swallows live in groups is to increase their food-finding ability.

Feeding on swarms of small insects whose occurrence is unpredictable even from hour to hour, these birds learn where food can be found from other colony members. (Birds vary in whether they happen to be the one who knows where the food is at a given time or the one who follows after others; thus, each bird in the colony seems to benefit equally over the long term.) The consequence is that cliff swallows living in groups have higher foraging success than those living alone or in small aggregations — explaining generally why they form colonies in the first place.

Bugs impact birds' nesting

Bigger mysteries about cliff swallow biology are why colonies vary so much in size (nesting groups range from a few birds to thousands of them) and what determines whether a colony site is used by birds in a given summer. Some birds, despite foraging-related advantages

of living in big groups, choose to live solitarily. Others settle in colonies that may be tiny or enormous. And birds that occupy one colony site may suddenly abandon it and move elsewhere, as exemplified by the situation at San Juan Capistrano. We are just now beginning to unravel the complexities of what determines where cliff swallows settle and with how many other birds.

Cliff swallows in western Nebraska nest underneath the sides of highway bridges; in concrete, box-shaped culverts underneath roads and railroad tracks; under eaves of buildings; and beneath overhanging ledges on natural cliff faces (their ancestral home that they have largely forsaken). One factor that was obvious early in my research is that the presence of ectoparasites, parasites that live on the exterior of another organism, influences the birds' settlement patterns.

Being a social species, cliff swallows are exposed to a wide variety of parasitic and pathogenic organisms, including ectoparasitic fleas and bugs and some arthropod-transmitted viruses. Increased contact with parasites is

thought to be an unavoidable cost of group living for all animals. The principal parasite of cliff swallows in western Nebraska is the swallow bug (*Oeciacus vicarius*), a blood-sucking insect that is the size of a large tick and that has many taxonomic and ecological similarities to the human bedbug.

Swallow bugs live year-round in the swallows' mud nests and feed on the sleeping adult birds at night and on the helpless nestlings throughout the day. Up to 2,600 bugs can be found in a single nest, and the total swallow bug population at some of the largest colony sites can exceed half a million. Fellow behavioral ecologist Mary Bomberger Brown and I established that the number of bugs per nest increases with colony size, meaning that cliff swallows have to contend with more bugs, on average, if living in large groups. Furthermore, observations and experiments proved that bugs exert a serious toll on these birds: if infestations are high, nestlings can die from loss of blood, and even those babies that survive initially are less likely to live to the next year.

The bugs do not travel on the cliff swallows when the latter migrate; instead, the bugs overwinter in the birds' nests. Therefore, the bugs are waiting for the birds when the cliff swallows return each spring. Cliff swallows assess the number of bugs in nests, flying to the front of a nest, hovering there but not entering, and apparently looking for bugs that lurk in

the nest's interior recesses. If a site was heavily infested the previous year, many bugs are likely to remain the next spring, and so the cliff swallows abandon it.

Fumigation experiments, in which collaborators and I killed the bugs in half of the nests in a colony, confirmed the aforementioned premise. All the fumigated nests were reoccupied the following spring, but virtually none of the infested nests were used within the same colony. At colony sites where all the nests were fumigated perennially, the number of birds nesting there increased by several hundred nests each year until the colony reached an apparent capacity within a few years.

Thus, one determination about where cliff swallows settle each spring is the parasite legacy they would inherit from the previous year. Whether they decide to return to any given nesting location will depend at least in part on how many bugs are able to survive the winter.

Nothing in the field is simple, though, and bug survival seems to vary widely among sites. Factors include the microclimate of the nesting substrate, the base on which an organism lives (bugs don't survive as well on cold metal as on concrete); the severity of the winter; and the reproductive rates of bugs the previous summer. Although bugs influence the swallows' choice of colony, predicting how many bugs will be at a particular colony site and, thus, whether cliff swallows will return there each spring, is not something I can do with certainty even after 30 years of study!

Nature, as much as nurture, guides birds

Cliff swallows are similar to many other bird species in that they all have one simple rule: if unsuccessful at one place, avoid it in the future. If birds lose their nest, eggs, or young to predators, parasites, or storms, they immediately abandon the site for good. Natural selection favors those cliff swallows who never forget, whether in western Nebraska or San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

On the other hand, familiarity with a particular area does have advantages. Collaborators and I found that individual birds that had settled at the same Nebraskan breeding colony site in previous years were more likely to survive the summer nesting season than were those that had lived elsewhere in the past and were therefore naïve about their new surroundings. Knowing where food is apt to be found during times of scarcity (such as in late spring cold snaps) or what the hunting habits of local predators are apparently confers some real advantages to cliff swallows.

Perhaps the most surprising discovery about how cliff swallows choose where to live was the realization that colony size is, in part, based on genetics. It is well-known

Photo by Kristen Lear, 2008, courtesy of the author.



Charles R. Brown extracted cliff swallows from a mist net erected in front of a road culvert near Keystone, Neb., where the birds were nesting, in order to band them.

Photo by Mary Bomberger Brown.



Brown collected swallow bugs from cliff swallow nests at a colony on a bridge over the North Platte River at Broadwater, Neb., in July 2005. Bugs can represent a serious cost of clustered nesting when their numbers increase in large colonies, as was the case with this one.

that some animals produce increased levels of stress hormones in social situations, and some 15 years ago I guessed that cliff swallows might "perform" better (i.e., be successful in raising young) when in groups of different sizes. Few colleagues, however, thought that an individual's choice of what size group it would live in could be determined by genes.

To determine if there were innate preferences for groups of particular sizes, colleagues and I embarked in 1997 on an experiment in which some nestlings born in a Nebraskan colony of one size were

raised in a colony of a very different size. We had monitored when nestling cliff swallows hatched, and as soon as they were old enough (3-4 days), we banded them for permanent identification. We then switched some babies born in large colonies to nests in small colonies to be raised by foster parents; we did the reverse as well with additional hatchlings.

If the babies' subsequent choice of where to live was based largely on genetic tendencies, the youngsters should later choose colonies that matched in size where they were born (where their parents chose



Photo by Charles R. Brown.

Cliff swallow nests are shown on the side of a cliff along the shore of Lake McConaughy, Neb., in May 2005. The birds historically used these sorts of nesting sites but in recent decades have switched to nesting mostly on highway bridges, in culverts, and under eaves of buildings.



Photo by Valerie A. O'Brien, courtesy of the author.

The author fumigated cliff swallow nests to remove swallow bugs at a colony in a culvert underneath a road near Keystone, Neb., in July 2008. The birds have higher nesting success in colonies where bugs are removed.

to live), not where they were reared. On the other hand, if early experience as a fledgling in a particular social environment dictated later choices, the exchanged birds should choose colonies that matched the size of the sites where they were reared.

The next summer we caught breeding birds, looking to see where our experimental birds returned and what size colonies they chose as first-time breeders. Yearling cliff swallows chose breeding colonies that matched in size with where they were born and rarely occupied sites similar to where they were reared. Thus, cliff swallows seem genetically programmed to use colonies of a particular size.

This hard-wired instinct may account in part for where some birds settle each spring upon their return.

Tenets apply; enigmas remain

We have only scratched the surface of understanding what causes animals such as cliff swallows to choose to live at a particular place, at a particular time, and with a particular number of individuals. Yet certain rules do apply for birds: Avoid parasites, live in familiar areas unless you fail to reproduce there, and settle in

colonies of size similar to your parents.

With these rules in mind, it may be possible to understand better why the songbirds that nested in your yard last year either returned or moved elsewhere this spring. Few choices an animal makes are more important than where to breed, and at least for cliff swallows, few things they do are as complex. We may never know why the swallows seemed to have given up on their longtime home at the San Juan Capistrano mission, but we can say with certainty that they are following rules of behavior that natural selection devised. ■



Charles R. Brown, Professor of Biological Sciences at University of Tulsa, has studied swallows since age 11. Over the last 28 years at field sites in western Nebraska, he and a research team have marked and studied more than 200,000 cliff swallows. Brown published his first scientific paper at age 15 and articles he wrote or co-wrote have appeared in *Nature*, *Science*, *Evolution*, and *Ecology*, among other publications. Brown also serves as associate editor of *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*. From 1986 to '93, he was curator of ornithology at the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University, where he once taught. In 2009, Brown and collaborator Mary Bomberger Brown of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln received the Elliot Coues Award from the American Ornithologists' Union in recognition of their research on cliff swallows. He earned biology degrees from Austin College (B.A.) and Princeton University (Ph.D.). Email him at charles-brown@utulsa.edu.

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— Charles R. Brown



University of Houston Cougar Elvin Hayes (in white) battled UCLA Bruin Lew Alcindor for a rebound in 1968 in "The Game of the Century," a stepping stone to "March Madness."

NCAA Tournament Hoop Dreams Impact Society

By Alison M. Wrynn

"March Madness" culminates months of effort for men's and women's college basketball teams as they strive to become national champions. But the annual spring tournament they compete in represents more than wins and losses on the court. The sporting event also provides a window into larger American socio-cultural issues.

Sponsored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the

contest takes place in March and April throughout the country and saturates the airwaves, Internet and other forms of contemporary communication. This year, the final games will be held on April 3 and 5 in Indianapolis, Ind., for the men's 72nd annual showdown and on April 4 and 6 in San Antonio, Texas, for the women's 29th annual battle.

Sixty-five Division 1 teams in the men's brackets and 64 in the women's brackets go on the road to play games in four regions (East, South, West, Midwest). They share one goal: to

make it to the Final Four, the climactic matchups and a major media event.

Last year, nearly 14 million prime-time TV viewers watched the University of North Carolina Tar Heels win the men's championship and nearly 3 million watched the University of Connecticut Huskies take home the women's title. The audience is even larger when factoring in Internet viewership; it's up 147 percent from 2007 to '08, according to sport studies scholars Gerry Gems and Gertrude Pfister.

The significance isn't merely the impressive number of college basketball fans. In addition, the jump shots, layups, dunks and free throws that reflect the score also tally points about race, gender, politics, economics, media and other key components of U.S. sensibilities to a vast audience.

Black America wins more than a trophy

Most teams in the white South from when games started in the first decades of the 20th century through the early 1940s enforced a "color line" and refused to contend against opponents that included African-American players, according to historian Charles Martin. The great societal changes brought about by World War II and the Civil Rights movement led to the acceptance of African-American players, although it took well into the 1960s for grudging schools in the Deep South like Kentucky, Mississippi State and University of Alabama to follow suit.

The 1966 Texas Western men's basketball team, the first to feature an all African-American lineup in the championship game, represents perhaps the most famous example of men's college basketball grappling with the issue of race. The Miners of Texas Western College (now University of Texas at El Paso) defeated the all-white and heavily favored Kentucky Wildcats, coached by the legendary Adolph Rupp, 72-65.

The game took place during the Civil Rights era and in College Park, Md., a Northern stronghold of athletics. The tight-knit Miner roster included seven black, four white and one Hispanic players (though only the black athletes made it into the game), and the coach, Don Haskins, was white. The makeup, in other words, further suggested the democratizing of America taking place off the court.

In fact, the team has entered the lore of popular culture through the 2006 film *Glory Road*.

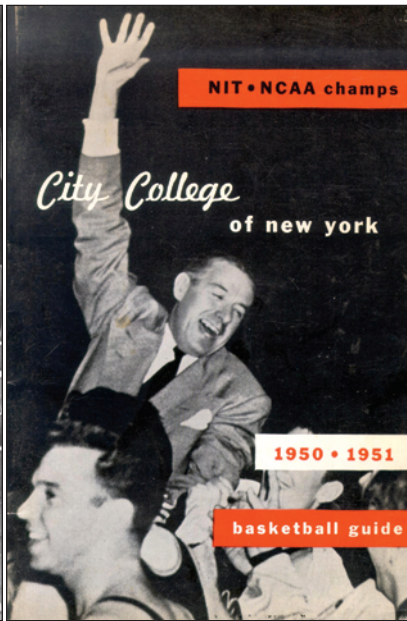
New York set early precedents

Although the Texas Western team made a significant statement about race relations, earlier teams forged the way for them.

For instance, City College of New York (CCNY) in 1950 was the first program to win the NCAA Tournament



Above left: In 1966 Texas Western College (now called University of Texas at El Paso) became the first team to start five black players in NCAA championship history. Above right: City College of New York head coach Nat Holman triumphed on the shoulders of his players as they celebrated their NCAA basketball championship in 1950.



using African-American players, observe sport historians Murray Nelson and Frank Fitzpatrick, among others. CCNY's starting five was comprised of three black — plus two Jewish — players, all hometowners. The Beavers, noted for their unselfish play under coach Nat "Mr. Basketball" Holman (who was white and Jewish), also won the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) the same year, the only team to accomplish this in the history of the sport.

(The NIT was created by New York area sports writers in 1938 partly because New York was the "hub of big-time college basketball" in the 1930s and 40s, as sports and cultural historian Ben Rader puts it. The NIT was the dominant tournament until the early 1950s; it remains in existence as a secondary contest.)

Unfortunately CCNY, and other programs in the tournament that year, would be implicated in gambling scandals involving point-shaving that swept through college basketball in the early 1950s.

Long Island University condemns Hitler

Long Island University's top-ranked 1936 Blackbirds reacted to another pivotal moment in history by passing on a chance to compete in the Olympic Games because they were to be held in Nazi Germany.

The 1936 Games were the first to offer basketball, and the best collegiate teams in the country were invited to the Olympic trials to vie to represent the U.S. in Berlin. Under innovative head coach Clair Bee, the Blackbirds had won 33 straight games by a whopping 23 points on average over a two-year period and in all likelihood would have earned the honor.

But the team, comprised of Jews, Catholics and Protestants, took a secret vote and boycotted in a matter of conscience.

"A single no meant a unanimous no. And so it is impossible to know the final tally," Michael Weinreb writes in the article "A Team That Chose Principles over Gold Medals" for www.espn.go.com. "All that can be said for certain is that the men came out of that room in unanimity" and with a moral victory for the ages.

Men's game echoes other breakthroughs

The transformation of men's college basketball in the mid-1950s mirrored societal trends when the power within the sport began to shift toward the West Coast. The population shift from the Northeast to the West, illustrated in the world of sports by the relocation in Major League Baseball of the Brooklyn Dodgers to Los Angeles and the New York Giants to San Francisco in 1958, helped fuel the prominence of West Coast college basketball teams, Rader reasons, because national sportswriters now had Pacific teams to focus on, not just Atlantic ones.

Indeed, between 1955 and '75, California teams won the NCAA Tournament 13 times, including 10 for University of California, Los Angeles, two for University of San Francisco and one for University of California, Berkeley. Here's why that mattered: recruitment changed. Players who had never considered a West Coast team were joining these new powerhouses.

When the University of San Francisco Dons won the championship both in 1955

and '56 (going undefeated in the latter), center Bill Russell and point guard K.C. Jones reinforced a power shift along geographic and racial lines. Russell and Jones, future teammates on the Boston Celtics dynasty teams and both Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famers, epitomized the importance of signing African-American athletes, argues historian William J. Baker, because only a decade or so earlier, they might have attended a historically black college or stayed near their hometown for their college career.

"The Game of the Century" led to "March Madness"

The college basketball game that in many ways illustrated the final chapter in the emergence of African Americans as dominant players occurred in 1968 when center Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) and his undefeated and top-ranked UCLA Bruins, the defending NCAA champs, fell to forward Elvin Hayes and his underdog University of Houston Cougars, 71-69, before a record crowd of 52,693 at the Houston Astrodome.

Though not an NCAA Tournament contest, this 1968 "Game of the Century," as pundits called it, was the first nationally televised regular season college basketball game, starred black standouts, and served as the stepping stone to what's called "March Madness," Baker argues.

Hayes, one of the first two black players for the Cougars, outscored his counterpart, suffering from a scratched cornea, 39 to 15, to snap the Bruins' 47-game winning streak, though the Bruins went on to earn another NCAA title. (In a rematch a few months later between the two future Naismith Hall of Famers, the Bruins won 101-69 in the NCAA semifinals before taking the title. Alcindor's Bruins also had beaten Hayes' Cougars in a 1967 NCAA Final Four game on their way to an earlier crown.)

Television influences the men's tournament

It was not until 1979, though, that the NCAA capitalized on the popularity of its tournament in the major media. The NBC network broadcast of the championship game featured point guard Earvin "Magic" Johnson's Michigan State Spartans defeating small forward Larry Bird's Indiana State Sycamores, 75-64, and attracted the largest television audience ever — with a Nielsen rating of 24.1 — for a college basketball game.

It permanently transformed the tournament, according to American studies expert Murray Sperber, because the media had followed Johnson and Bird throughout the season since their biographies crossed storylines about race in America as well as big-city versus small-town values. The

white Bird, from French Lick, Ind., was portrayed as the classic small-town Indiana basketball hero (a la the movie *Hoosiers*) while the black Johnson was viewed as the “city slicker” from Lansing, Mich.

(The impact they had on basketball would be magnified in their rivalry in the National Basketball Association for two of the league’s most storied franchises. Bird, the leader of the Boston Celtics, and Johnson, the heart of the Los Angeles Lakers, vied against each other three times in the finals, with Johnson’s squad victorious twice, before both were enshrined in the Naismith Hall of Fame.)

The CBS television network in the early 1980s began to televise almost every game of the tournament (along with the cable outlet ESPN, which aired initial rounds). In 1994 CBS purchased the rights to broadcast the NCAA Tournament for seven years at a cost of \$1.725 billion. Today, CBS covers the entire tournament, having paid the NCAA \$6 billion for the rights for an 11-year pact through 2013.

Women’s championships began in fits and starts

The women’s NCAA Tournament started in 1982, the year the NCAA decided to offer championships in women’s sports. Before then, the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) held women’s championships, creating them in 1972.

However, in 1969, under the auspices of the Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (CIAW) and the AIAW, West Chester State College (now West Chester University) defeated Western Carolina, 65-39, in the first women’s NIT basketball contest (one in which six players per side were on the court). This was not a true “March Madness”-style game as there were no regional team selections and it was an invitational tournament format.

The following year head coach Billie Jean Moore’s California State University-Fullerton Titans defeated West Chester for the title, 50-46, also in the six-player-per-team format. The 1971 CIAW NIT was won by Mississippi State College for Women (now Mississippi University for Women) over West Chester, 57-55, with five players per side for the first time. A single-elimination “March Madness” style women’s intercollegiate basketball tournament — with regional selections — began in 1972, and Immaculata College (now Immaculata University), coached by future Naismith Hall of Famer Cathy Rush, defeated West Chester, 52-48, in the finals.

The greatest teams of the early AIAW era were the Immaculata “Mighty Macs” and the Delta State University Lady Statesmen, the former winning the first three tournaments, the latter the next three and twice defeating Immaculata.

Photo courtesy of Delta State Athletic Communications.



Photo courtesy of Immaculata University.



Photo courtesy of UCLA Athletics.

Top: Delta State University (in white) won three Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) basketball championships in the mid 1970s. **Above left:** Left to right in the front row, Immaculata College basketball team center Theresa Shank Grentz, college president Sister Mary of Lourdes, head coach Cathy Rush, and guard Janet Ruch Boltz, along with other members of the squad, arrived at Philadelphia International Airport to hundreds of well-wishers in March 1972 after the team’s first of three successive AIAW championships. **Above right:** Point guard Anita Ortega (left), who led UCLA in scoring, and teammate and guard Ann Meyers, the first female athlete to receive a full scholarship from UCLA, celebrated winning the 1978 AIAW championship after defeating University of Maryland, 90-74, before a record crowd of 9,351 in Los Angeles.

Title IX advances women’s rights in education

The 1978 AIAW champs, the UCLA Bruins, celebrated on and off the court. Future Naismith Hall of Famers Ann Myers, forward, and Denise Curry, forward-center, starred in a contest against the University of Maryland Lady Terrapins. This tournament included the Final Four format for the first time.

UCLA’s 1978 victory, 90-74, foreshadowed the dominance to come in the NCAA Tournament by larger universities with more money for recruiting. The prime examples are the University of Connecticut Huskies and University of Tennessee Volunteers who, since 1987, have won the title 14 times, the Huskies six, the Volunteers eight. (However, smaller Old Dominion University, led by future Naismith Hall of Famer and point guard Nancy

Lieberman, was victorious in 1979 and ‘80.)

More importantly, the 1978 tournament was one of the first times that most women players had athletic scholarships. This momentous development occurred in large part as a result of the passage of Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972.

The results of this legislation — which requires gender equity in all educational institutions receiving federal funds — have been “nothing short of stunning with regard to increasing opportunities for girls and women to participate in high school (904 percent) and college (456 percent) varsity sports,” writes Donna Lopiano, former CEO of the Women’s Sports Foundation (WSF), in a June 2007 editorial on the *Sports Illustrated* Web site.

Despite these changes, female athletes still continue to receive less financial support than male athletes. According to WSF’s 2009 publication, *Play Fair: A Title IX Playbook for Victory*, “Athletic



C. Vivian Stringer (at podium), head coach of the Rutgers' women's basketball team, spoke at a press conference in 2007 about the slurs hurled at her squad by a syndicated radio host after the team had lost in the NCAA finals, as (left to right) university president Richard L. McCormick and former director of athletics, Robert E. Mulcahy, along with players, listened.

scholarships for women were almost nonexistent before Title IX. Now there are more than 10,000 scholarships for women athletes. However, those female athletes receive only 45 percent of college athletic scholarship dollars, which is \$166 million less in scholarship dollars than male college athletes receive.”

It has taken time for the sexes to share the spotlight

Media attention for the women's NCAA Tournament has taken longer to build than for the men's game. The first time that all the women's tournament games were broadcast was in 2003 by ESPN. Prior to that, only select early round contests and the later championship rounds aired. The 1978 AIAW tournament finale featuring UCLA was televised — but one day after it happened — on NBC.

By 2004 the women's championship game was viewed live by more than four million people. In a further example of progress, ESPN's "College Game Day" show — traditionally reserved for men's contests — aired a women's regular season January game between University of Connecticut and University of Notre Dame.

Lady Knights display grace under pressure

One of the most notable recent women's basketball championships was recognized most for what happened after the 2007 finals: when the runner-up Rutgers University, who lost to University of Tennessee, faced racial insensitivity at the hands of a radio talk show host.

Syndicated radio provocateur Don Imus used sexist and racist slurs on the air when referring to the Lady Knights. After a national outcry, he was initially suspended. But protests continued, leading CBS Radio to fire him from his long-running program.

The coolness and maturity demonstrated by the Rutgers' players and their Naismith Hall of Fame coach C. Vivian Stringer in the days and weeks that followed brought a great deal of positive attention to women's intercollegiate basketball.

African-American leaders, politicians and others were quick to denounce Imus for his racist comments. Communications scholar Meredith Bagley, however, contends that race and gender issues were still being handled separately, as only feminist leaders focused on the players' and coach's strength and grace in handling the situation and acting as role models for young American women.

Ethical lapses developed over the years

The NCAA Tournament has faced numerous additional problems. Several men's teams had to vacate or give back their appearances in the Final Four for recruiting violations, most notably the 1992 and '93 University of Michigan "Fab Five" teams and the 2008 University of Memphis team. Among other squads to suffer similar indignities was University of Massachusetts in 1996 after a heralded player illegally accepted money from a sports agent.

Also, the brackets that delineate the men's and women's tournament teams and the region they play in lead to extensive gambling. Millions of dollars are legally wagered on the tournament in Las Vegas. And countless other people wager perhaps a dollar or two or more, often in illegal office pools, to see who selects the most winners.

Even the novice fan feels comfortable with this form of betting as the favorites typically dominate the early rounds. In fact, in the men's tournament no 16th seed (the lowest-ranked slot in each region) has ever defeated a No. 1 seed in the tournament's

first round, and this has only happened once in the women's tournament (in 1998 when underdog Harvard University upset Stanford University). The lowest seed to win the men's tournament was the eighth-ranked Villanova Wildcats, coming out of the Southeast bracket, in 1985.

Despite — and because of — these brackets, the NCAA has for many years sponsored a program called "Don't Bet on It" to educate student-athletes about the dangers associated with gambling on sports.

Although some might view this wagering as harmless (office pools) or sanctioned (Las Vegas), men's intercollegiate basketball has been plagued by cheating directly tied to gambling. For instance, the point-shaving scandals that came to light in the 1950s and 1960s — when players from top teams like CCNY and Kentucky took money from gamblers in exchange for manipulating the final score of contests — undermined public trust in the game and nearly destroyed it, writes sports journalist/historian Leonard Koppett.

Method to the "madness" continues

Despite these problems, millions of fans still look forward to this rite of spring. So who will win this year's tournament? Preseason favorites for the men included University of Kansas, University of Texas and Michigan State and for the women Stanford University, University of Tennessee and University of Connecticut.

But the tournament is more than the sum of wins and losses, records and statistics. Sports fans have been fortunate to witness courageous individuals and teams stand up for their beliefs while helping honor and transform the game. It feels right to get a case of "madness" every March. ■

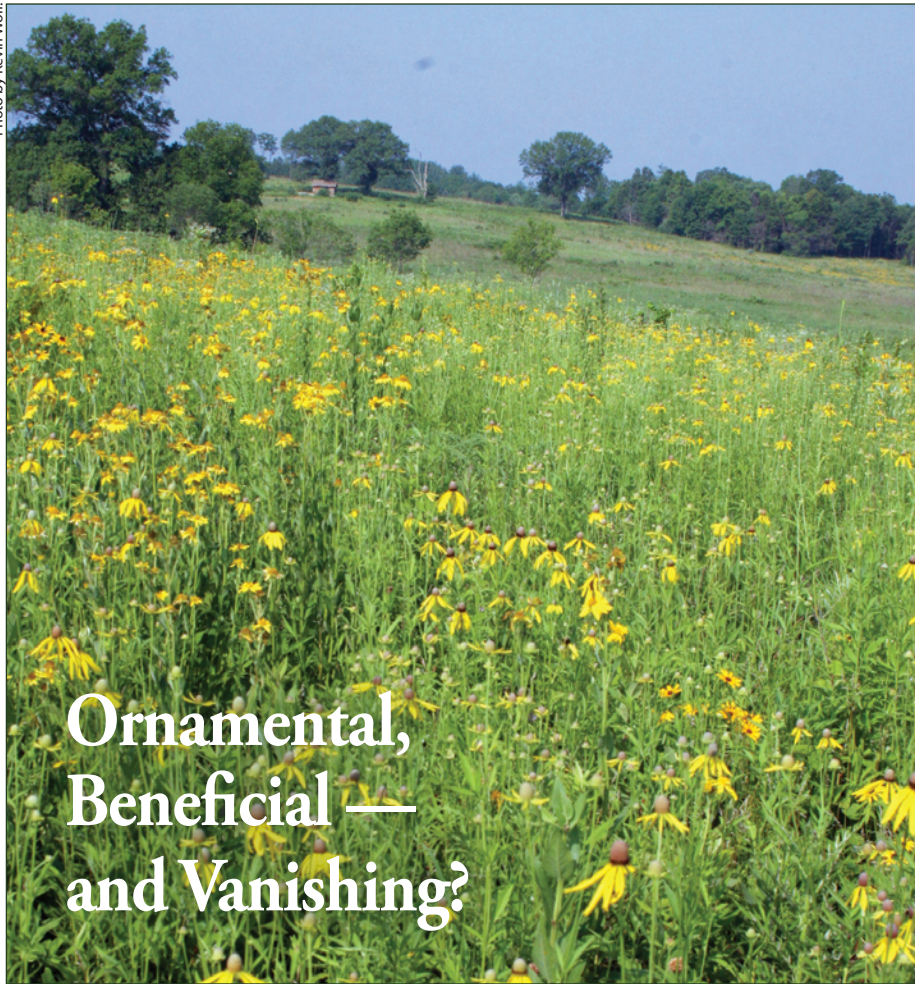


Alison M. Wrynn (California State University-Long Beach) is a Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Kinesiology at California State University-Long Beach. Educated at Springfield

College (B.S., Physical Education), California State University-Long Beach (M.A., Physical Education) and University of California, Berkeley (Ph.D., Human Biodynamics, History of Physical Education and Sport), she specializes in the history of sport, physical education and exercise science. Wrynn is co-editor of the textbook *Women, Sport and Physical Activity: Challenges and Triumphs, 2nd ed.*, and associate editor of the *Journal of Sport History*. Previous assignments include editor of the *Chronicle of Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education* and section editor of *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*. Her many other publications include articles in *Sport in History* and the *International Journal of the History of Sport*. Email her at awrynn@csulb.edu.



For sources, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Publications/Forum/spring2010/marchmadness>.



Ornamental, Beneficial — and Vanishing?

The Shaw Nature Reserve, a division of the Missouri Botanical Garden located 35 miles southwest of the garden in Gray Summit, Mo., strives to inspire responsible stewardship of the environment through education, protection and restoration of natural habitats and public enjoyment of the natural world.

The Challenge of Protecting America's Wildflowers

By Wendy L. Applequist

One resplendent sign of spring comes with the return of delicate wildflowers that bloom briefly following the bleak winter. Though their ephemeral nature enhances the enduring popularity of such pretty plants, they paradoxically represent a beauty that our descendants may never see: within a few generations, many of these blossoms that lighten our hearts in springtime and serve us in important practical ways may be gone forever.

And the fault is ours.

Flowers continue to wither away

Humanity presides over a mass extinction of plants, not to mention other life forms. This is not a theoretical future

consequence of global climate change, but is instead an event in progress, due largely to habitat destruction and overuse.

Extinction already totals several hundred times the normal historical rate,¹ meaning that species are lost faster than new ones evolve as replacements.

Peter Raven, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden and a leading conservation biologist, predicted at the 1999 International Botanical Congress that if trends continue, “as many as 100,000 of the estimated total 300,000 [plant] species may be gone or on the way to extinction by the middle of the [21st] century.”²

Most species at greatest risk live in the biodiverse tropics or on islands, where destruction of a relatively small piece of habitat or the introduction of a single invasive species can wipe out vulnerable plants and animals.

Humanity presides over a mass extinction of plants, not to mention other life forms. This is not a theoretical future consequence of global climate change, but is instead an event in progress, due largely to habitat destruction and overuse.

In temperate climates, woodland wildflowers may be among the plants most in peril. For one thing, these plants thrive only in a certain habitat and are dependent upon the shade and stability of the forest for shelter. (Inversely, because trees block out light, a small plant on the forest floor can be hard put to gain enough energy from sunlight to grow and reproduce. This is why many spring flowers bloom so early, before they are shaded out.)

Forests are threatened by logging and global warming. Severe droughts, which are predicted to increase in many areas including much of the Western U.S.,^{3,4} can cause devastating loss of forest trees.^{5,6} And if trees are lost, the plants of the forest floor cannot compete in a much sunnier and more disturbed environment.

Also, although the effects of climate change are still relatively minor, the earth has gotten warmer over the past century. This may expand the range of destructive insects⁷ and the plant diseases they carry.⁸ And several studies of phenology (the study of the timing of a species' activities or life stages) show that warmer temperatures may induce some plants to flower earlier than they used to.^{9,10} Spring-flowering plants, with their tendency to break dormancy at the first hint of warmth and flower soon thereafter, may be more affected than other plants.^{11,12} The point: disturbing the natural cycle may be harmful.

Ecologists warn that the web of relationships among organisms could be disrupted if insects and other animals that pollinate plants or disperse or consume seeds experience different levels of phenological change. For example, a pollinating insect might begin to emerge in spring before or after the plant has flowered, rather than simultaneously.¹³

Losses mount when plants die out

When plants vanish from an area, or go extinct altogether, we lose more than beauty. Many wildflowers can be used as foods, herbal medicines, or dyes — sometimes all three. For instance, the ripe fruit of mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) is edible, while one of the active compounds in the root, podophyllotoxin, has been used to develop two cancer



More than 300 azaleas and 130 dogwoods burst into bloom each spring in the English Woodland Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden amid clusters of perennial wildflowers and hydrangeas.



Members of the St. Louis Herb Society care for the Herb Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden. There are some 600 varieties of herbs in the garden, including many species with medicinal value. Society members plant 1,200 to 1,500 plants a year.

drugs, including etoposide, best known as part of the treatment that saved cyclist Lance Armstrong's life.¹⁴ And goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*) helps to treat sore throat and digestive inflammation and can be used to make a yellow dye.

Because most plants have not been studied at all, valuable applications surely remain to be derived from some. Extinction of any species imposes an unknown cost on our descendants, a cost that at the

Photo courtesy of Gerrit Davidse.



Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), which sprouts colorful red fruit, winds up in common herbal remedies and as a yellow dye traditionally used by the Cherokee.

least denies us everyday advantages and at worst might be measured in lives.

Even if a particular species has no direct use to humans, that does not mean its existence doesn't benefit us. Functioning forests and other biotic communities provide services that we could never duplicate on our own, such as holding and purifying water, improving air quality, and accumulating nutrients and carbon in the soil. Plus, insects pollinate crops, and birds and bats control disease-carrying pests. The dollar value of the free services provided by nature is almost twice that of all human-

produced goods and services in the world.¹⁵

Admittedly, flowering herbs are not major providers of ecosystem services. Nevertheless, their decline could be an ominous portent for the system's long-term health. Species do not exist in isolation. If bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), an Eastern wildflower whose antibiotic root is used in animal feed and toothpaste, disappears from a forest, the ants that gain a food reward from dispersing its seeds may suffer. The predators upon those ants may, too, and so forth. Likewise, bees that pollinate bloodroot, suddenly deprived of a food source, might be reduced in number and jeopardize other plants usually pollinated by these bees.

Conservation biologists Paul and Anne Ehrlich compare an ecosystem stressed by species losses to an airplane that continues to be flown as a progressively greater number of rivets are removed: "In most cases an ecologist can no more predict the consequences of the extinction of a given species than an airline passenger can assess the loss of a single rivet. But both can easily foresee the long-term results of continually forcing species to extinction or of removing rivet after rivet."¹⁶

Cultivate an environmentally friendly green thumb

When we go for a stroll in the woods, tour a botanical garden or work in our yard on a beautiful spring day, it's easy to enjoy the activity as a moment of peace, free of worries about the future. But we owe it to our grandchildren to recognize that our way of life could be making those idyllic days a thing of the past — and to act to preserve them.

While international policy changes are called for to address climate change, there are direct steps we can take now to alleviate some of the immediate challenges these plants face:

- Buy sustainably sourced botanical products, which are made in a way that does not threaten the future existence of wild populations. If plants are at risk in the wild, commercial suppliers should turn to cultivated material instead when possible.

Material collected in the wild should be certified as having been obtained under formal guidelines such as the World Health Organization's Good Agricultural and Collection Practices.¹⁷

- Grow native. Instead of filling your backyard with exotic plants, learn what plants are native to your area and plant those instead. (By doing so, you help preserve other native species as well, such as insects that pollinate these flowers.)



For footnotes, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Publications/Forum/spring2010/gardens>.



Bloodroot, a perennial wildflower that is native to North America and that blooms in early spring, is threatened by the overharvesting of its antibiotic root.

As a consequence, you save time and effort; after all, native plants have already proved they can survive in the area without a lot of care and feeding!

- Preserve natural woodlands and related environments and support nonprofit organizations involved in such pursuits. Habitat loss is the most immediate threat to most species. Choose wood products that are recycled or certified as sustainably harvested; they're often comparable in price to counterparts. We do not have to destroy whole forests to make lumber and paper.

To keep an ecosystem functioning permanently, we need to save or re-create large corridors of natural habitat so that species have adequate breeding populations and can migrate in response to climate change.

Perhaps because most wildflowers are so small and inconspicuous for most of the year, we think of them as being pretty, but not important. Learning about their use may help to preserve them and help us to become more invested in the environment. ■



Wendy L. Applequist

(Iowa State University) is an assistant curator in the Missouri Botanical Garden's William L. Brown Center (<http://www.wlbccenter.org>),

which conducts ethnobotanical research and contributes via the Sacred Seeds garden network to the conservation of medicinal plants worldwide. She manages natural products discovery programs in the U.S., Madagascar, and Vietnam and is an expert on the authentication and quality control of botanicals in dietary supplements. Educated at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (B.S., Biology) and Iowa State University (Ph.D., Biology), Applequist is an associate editor of *Economic Botany*. Articles she wrote or co-wrote have appeared in scientific publications including the *American Journal of Enology and Viticulture*, *Biodiversity and Conservation*, and *Systematic Botany*. Email her at wendy.applequist@mobot.org

Photo by Heather Marie Osborn.



Cherry blossoms, azaleas, chrysanthemums, peonies, lotus, and other oriental plantings thrive in the Drum Bridge, or *Taikobashi*, in spring in the *Seiwa-en* Japanese Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Many of these culturally important plants have medicinal value.

Planting the Seeds for Protecting Medicinal Blooms

For most of human history, plants were the only medicine people used, and in poor nations today, people still rely on them for treatment, having little or no access to modern medicine.

Also, herbal remedies remain popular in Western countries, and an increasing number of these folk cures have undergone scientific study that often supports their value.^{1, 2}

Because such plants are both culturally meaningful and potentially salutary, understanding their properties and preserving their populations are vital.

At least 2,582 North American plant species were used medicinally by Native Americans over thousands of years of experimentation.³ Examples include many perennial wildflowers such as trillium (for coughs and digestive upset) and hepatica (for liver ailments and poor digestion).

Most research on medicinal plants occurs in Europe and Asia, so few American plants have been studied adequately. However, if Native American remedies are comparable to the European/Asian traditional pharmacopoeia, it's likely that many of the former have some real value and could be sources of new drugs.

While abandonment of traditional knowledge can put such plants at risk, because we do not know which plants should be protected for their possible health benefits, overenthusiastic embrace of that traditional

knowledge can threaten them as well.

For instance, woodland perennials are expensive (or occasionally impossible) to cultivate; they often require multiple growing seasons, artificial shade, and time-consuming seed-germination protocols. Market fluctuations make it risky to invest years of funding in a crop whose price might suddenly plummet. Material for certain herbal products is, therefore, usually collected from the wild.

With wild harvesting, it's all too easy to wipe out a population through careless or deliberate overcollection. These woodland perennials are slow-growing herbs, with relatively few new plants emerging each year. They cannot recover from harvesting as easily as fast-growing annuals or weedy perennials, especially if the root or rhizome (underground stem) is dug up, a process which often kills the plant.

An example of a woodland perennial jeopardized partly by overharvesting is goldenseal, whose rhizomes are used in dietary supplements. And a study of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), so much in demand as a tonic that it's often illicitly harvested, indicates that too much collection impedes its genetic diversity and reproductive fitness.⁴

If our children and grandchildren are to continue to benefit from these plants, we must place limits on the exploitation of nature's bounty. ■

— Wendy L. Applequist

You can't
write off
this date

April 15: A Taxing Spring Day

By Paul K. Chaney

April 15, the date that individual tax returns are due in the United States, casts a pall on the beginning of spring for many filers. Because of the stress associated with this deadline of fiscal accountability, April 15 may taint the joy that March 20, the first day of spring this year, inaugurates.

Instead of celebrating winter's end and nature's blooms, some people worry that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will uncover costly errors on their tax form or decide to audit them. Fears of penalties offset hopes for deductions; apprehensions about owing counter expectations of refunds.

In fact, approximately 30 percent of the roughly 130 million filers wait till the last minute to fulfill their annual duty. Therefore, many post offices stay open late on April 15, as those in long lines hand off tax-return envelopes to be postmarked on the cut-off date.

No wonder Ben Franklin observed in a 1789 letter that "in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

Of course, you can always file for a six-month extension on your taxes (due Oct. 15). Approximately 10 million of such requests are expected this year. If you are due a refund, the government doesn't really care; however, if you owe money, you will owe not only the tax amount but also any accrued interest at the rate of 5 percent each month on the amount owed. (Members of the military serving in Iraq and Afghanistan or other combat zones can wait to file 180 days after leaving the field of battle.)

Why, though, generally speaking, are taxes due on April 15 and not some other date?

The answer requires a brief history of income taxes.

Evolving legislation

The original Constitution did not allow the federal government to collect "direct taxes" on individuals unless apportioned

among the states on the basis of population (i.e., the more people in the state, the greater that state's tax burden). Prior to the income tax, the primary means of financing for the federal government came from taxes on goods; this included tariffs on imported purchases and excise taxes on items like liquor and tobacco.

The Revenue Act of 1861 introduced federal income taxes. The reason was to help fund the Union debt of more than \$500 million incurred as a result of the Civil War. The federal income tax was 3 percent on income of more than \$800. The census of manufactures listed the average annual earnings in manufacturing to be \$297 in 1860. A Union private earned \$13 a month, a Confederate private, \$11. Only 3 percent of the male population (of 9 million) made more than \$1,000 per year in 1866.

The Revenue Act of 1862 effectively repealed the 1861 precursor. The new act introduced a progressive tax beginning with 3 percent on income of more than \$600 and increasing to 5 percent on more than \$10,000. The progressive tax was viewed as fairer, as individuals earning more would be taxed more. The 1862 act also lowered the minimum income level at which taxes became due because the higher \$800 limit had eliminated too many taxpayers and would not raise as much funds. This revised tax continued well after

the war ended and was finally discontinued in 1872 because the primary source of government revenue continued to come from excise taxes on liquor and tobacco.

In 1894, the Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act proposed that individual income be taxed at 2 percent. The United States Supreme Court ruled in 1895 that this tax was unconstitutional since it was a direct tax and not apportioned to the states based on population.

Unless the Constitution was changed, it appeared likely that the federal government would not be able to collect income taxes to help fund its operations.

In 1913, the Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution gave the federal government the right to tax all income without regard to the apportionment requirement previously in place. Connecticut, Rhode Island, Florida and Utah were the only states of the 48 to reject the amendment. However, Pennsylvania and Virginia ignored the proposed amendment entirely.

In the first year of the new income tax, less than 1 percent of the population paid any taxes.

Calendar changes

The initial filing date in 1913 was March 1, two months after the end of the calendar year. This also happened to be New Year's Day for the ancient Romans. In 1918, the filing deadline was moved to the date of the soothsayer's warning to Julius Caesar, "Beware the ides of March," March 15. In 1955, the filing deadline was moved back another month to the current deadline, April 15.

For another look at taxes,
see page 36.

Little is known about the original filing date (March 1) or the first revision (to March 15). However, we can speculate about why April 15 was chosen.

While it is unlikely that Congress chose that filing deadline because of past disasters on April 15, it is true that several important tragedies took place then. If you are going to choose a date that will not be popular, why not choose a date that already has had some bad connotations?

- Abraham Lincoln died on April 15, 1865, the day after he was shot. Interestingly, he served as president when the first income tax was introduced through the Revenue Act of 1861.

- The RMS Titanic sank on April 15, 1912, resulting in the death of 1,513 individuals out of a total complement of 2,224. This event occurred around the time that states were considering ratifying the Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution.



Photo: iStockphoto

Other Memorable April 15 Events:

- Renaissance man **Leonardo da Vinci** was born on April 15, 1452.
- **General Electric** was formed on April 15, 1892.
- **Ken Lay**, the future disgraced CEO of Enron, was born on April 15, 1942.
- Brooklyn Dodger standout **Jackie Robinson** became the first black Major League Baseball player on April 15, 1947.
- If April 15 falls on a **Saturday, Sunday, or holiday**, the official tax day can be delayed by as much as two days (such as in 2007).

— Paul K. Chaney

The more likely reason for the choice of April 15 is discussed in a 2002 *Fortune* magazine article published on, but of course, April 15. Two explanations are summarized. One is that moving the date back from March 15 to April 15, giving taxpayers an additional month to file returns, evened out the peak workload of the IRS: better management of resources, in other words.

The second and more likely reason is that in the 1950s taxes collected from the vast and growing middle class became a more important mechanism to generate funds for the federal government, so pushing the date back allowed the government to hold onto the money used to pay refunds in the meantime. This money can be used for any government purpose until refunded to the taxpayer.

Companies today employ similar logic to generate cash and lock in customers. For instance, I give \$20 to a Starbucks coffee outlet to be loaded into my Starbucks card for future purchases at a chain store. Though Starbucks can't recognize income from the cash it has collected until I actually buy something, Starbucks does have use of my money in the interim to fund its operations. Does Starbucks fret if I forget to use my card or if I lose it? Not really, because Starbucks still has my 20 bucks.

Similarly, as of press deadline, the IRS is looking for 107,831 taxpayers who are due refunds totaling \$123.5 million that had been returned to the IRS because of mailing address errors. (That's an average of almost \$1,150 per individual.) Thousands of returned checks are added to the list every year. If the IRS cannot find the taxpayer, the amount owed stays in the possession of the government and can be used similarly to other collected taxes.

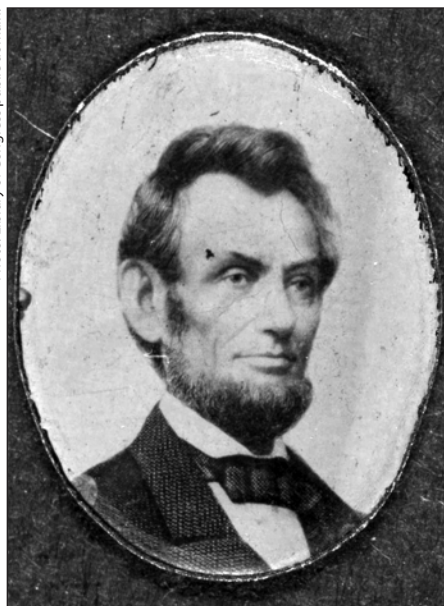
To the IRS's credit, this is exactly the reason it encourages electronic filing (approximately 69 percent of the 130 million returns filed in 2009 by April 30 were submitted electronically) and direct deposits.

Photo: fotolia.



Abraham Lincoln, who served as president when the first income tax was introduced through the Revenue Act of 1861, died on April 15, 1865, the day after he was shot.

Photo: Library of Congress public domain.



Abraham Lincoln, who served as president when the first income tax was introduced through the Revenue Act of 1861, died on April 15, 1865, the day after he was shot.

Tax evaders

Ever since the government was given the authority to collect taxes, people have attempted to avoid paying them, mostly unsuccessfully.

For instance, consider a quote made by a famous criminal, "The government can't collect legal taxes on illegal money." This quote, attributed to Al Capone (1899-1947), proved his eventual downfall.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation had tried for years without success to convict the Chicago gangster on various criminal charges during Prohibition and the Depression. But the city's "Public Enemy Number One" was eventually convicted in 1931 of tax evasion, of not filing income taxes for years, and was sentenced to 11 years of hard labor, among other

Notables in Trouble with Their Taxes

- **Tim Geithner**, Treasury Secretary, didn't pay Social Security and Medicare taxes for four years while working for the International Monetary Fund.

- **Richard Hatch**, the first winner of the reality-TV competition *Survivor*, lost a 2008 appeal on a 2006 conviction of not paying taxes on his \$1 million prize. The former game show contestant is serving a four-year prison sentence.

- **Leona Helmsley**, hotelier, was sentenced in 1989 to four years in prison and fined \$7.1 million for tax fraud.

- **Willie Nelson**, country singer, was billed in 1990 for \$16.7 million in back taxes. He cleared his tab by 1993.

- **Wesley Snipes**, actor, was sentenced in April 2008 to three years for tax evasion and must pay \$17 million in back taxes and penalties and interest.

— P.K.C.

charges. Prosecutors cited Capone's luxurious lifestyle and spending patterns as evidence of undeclared income from gambling, bootlegging, prostitution and other vices.

Then there was the case of Bill Benson, a former employee for the Illinois Department of Revenue, indicted for tax evasion in 1991 and ultimately sentenced to prison for eight years and fined \$30,000. A stickler on grammar and diction, he had a very simple defense: in his opinion, only four states actually ratified the Sixteenth Amendment because the remaining states did not approve the exact same document since idiosyncratic typographical inconsistencies made each different.

Rethink Refunds

If you are a typical taxpayer, you prefer a refund each year, and a large one at that. You shouldn't.

A refund indicates that, along the way, you have given the government more than you actually owe. And the government holds your cash until you claim a refund. Why do you want to give anyone the use of your money for free?

For some taxpayers, a refund is an alternative way to save money, albeit a costly way since the government has been given use of the cash in the interim. In essence, it is an opportunity cost for the taxpayers. Refunds represent, for instance, lost interest that could have been earned elsewhere. For other taxpayers, a refund is a way to have extra cash — found money — to use for special purchases: a windfall.

Benson's defense is encapsulated in a subsequent attempt by another taxpayer to avoid paying taxes, the United States vs. Thomas (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, April 17, 1986):

Only four instruments repeat the language of the Sixteenth Amendment exactly as Congress approved it. The others contain errors of diction, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. The text Congress transmitted to the states was: "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration." Many of the instruments neglected to capitalize "States," and some capitalized other words instead. The instrument from Illinois had "remuneration" in place of "enumeration"; the instrument from Missouri substituted "levy" for "lay"; the instrument from Washington had "income" not "incomes"; others made similar blunders.

Decades before, Philander C. Knox, secretary of state in 1913, after considering the trivial nature of these errors and considering more substantial errors in previous amendments to the Constitution, had declared the Sixteenth as adopted after 38 states ratified it.

Court support

The Supreme Court has consistently upheld the constitutionality of the federal income tax in notable cases such as *Flora v. United States* (1960), concerning whether income tax constitutes taking of property without due process of law and violating the Fifth Amendment; *United*



In any case, the optimal strategy is probably to owe nothing when you file your tax return.

In 2008, the average refund was approximately \$2,400 paid to 90 million taxpayers (69 percent of filers). Less than 1 percent of all tax returns are audited by the IRS. However, if you earn more than \$1 million a year, the probability that you will be audited increases to around 6 percent. ■

— P.K.C.

States v. Schiff (1979), about whether filing a tax return or providing financial information violates the protection against self-incrimination in the Fifth Amendment; and *Porth v. Bordrick* (1954), about whether compliance with tax laws is a form of servitude.

Whether we like it or not, taxes are inevitable. They are as much a facet of spring as flowers, and if not as beautiful, certainly as instrumental. ■



Paul K. Chaney, Professor of Management at Vanderbilt University, specializes in financial accounting. A study he co-wrote about the correlation between the public perception of an auditor's standing and a company's market value, "Shredded Reputation: The Cost of Audit Failure," gained international coverage in the wake of the Arthur Andersen and Enron collapses. Leading news organizations including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Barron's* and *Dow Jones Newswires* regularly cite his expertise, and his frequent corporate and executive teaching includes programs on accounting for the nonfinancial executive. He's written more than two dozen articles for academic publications such as *Journal of Accounting and Economics*; *The Accounting Review*; *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*; *Contemporary Accounting Research*; *Journal of Accounting Research*; and *Controllers Quarterly*. Chaney serves on the editorial boards of *The Accounting Review* and *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*. A certified public accountant and certified management accountant, he was educated at Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne (B.A.) and Indiana University (M.B.A and Ph.D.). When not thinking about taxes and accounting, he enjoys playing his Gibson Les Paul Supreme guitar. Email him at paul.chaney@owen.vanderbilt.edu.

Memorable Quotes about Taxes

Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut save you thirty cents?

— **Peg Bracken**, humor writer

The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.

— **Albert Einstein**, physicist

Congress can raise taxes because it can persuade a sizable fraction of the populace that somebody else will pay.

— **Milton Friedman**, economist

I am proud to be paying taxes in the United States. The only thing is I could be just as proud for half of the money.

— **Arthur Godfrey**, entertainer

The income tax created more criminals than any other single act of government.

— **Barry Goldwater**, politician

There is no worse tyranny than to force a man to pay for what he does not want merely because you think it would be good for him.

— **Robert A. Heinlein**, writer

The avoidance of taxes is the only intellectual pursuit that carries any reward.

— **John Maynard Keynes**, economist

I cannot undertake to lay my finger on that article of the Constitution which granted a right to Congress of expending, on the objects of benevolence, the money of their constituents.

— **James Madison**, politician

The taxpayer: that's someone who works for the federal government, but doesn't have to take a civil service examination.

— **Ronald Reagan**, politician

Alexander Hamilton started the U.S. Treasury with nothing and that was the closest our country has ever been to being even.

— **Will Rogers**, entertainer

The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.

— **Mark Twain**, writer

Source: <http://quotations.about.com/od/moretypes/a/taxquotes1.htm>



Dust off Assumptions about Spring Cleaning

Elbow Grease + Quick Wit = Neat Reinterpretation

By Heather Hitchcock

Having a spouse announce, “Let’s do some spring cleaning this weekend!” should be grounds for divorce, as far as this mother of young kids is concerned. Who came up with the idea of spring cleaning, anyway? Because whoever did wasn’t raising a family, that’s for sure.

Apparently, there isn’t a clear-cut answer about how spring cleaning began since many speculations, legends and superstitions surround its roots.

Some historians think the tradition began with the ritual cleansing for Passover. In their flight from slavery in ancient Egypt, Jews did not have time for bread to rise (I’ve had to pack in a hurry, too, though not under that type of duress) and were commanded by God to bake only unleavened bread, or matzo. In observance of this biblical event, Jews scour their homes to remove all traces of leavened bread. Is this sacred practice (even older than some leftovers in my refrigerator) the basis for spring cleaning?

Other authorities credit the Chinese.

A top-to-bottom cleaning of the home right before the Chinese New Year drives out evil spirits, misfortune, and bad luck, according to beliefs that date thousands of years. The Chinese won’t sweep, dust or take out the trash on the first day after the New Year in order to retain the good luck. But if you’ve ever methodically cleaned a home, you know the respite is possibly from sheer exhaustion. Who has the strength left to lift even a feather duster?

More research cites early 19th-century Americans as influencing spring cleaning; as winter wound down, they waited until spring to spruce up by opening the windows to allow the high March winds to blow out the dust. (This is why I love history: I just discovered an excuse to dust only once a year.) But then history reveals that Iowan Daniel Hess patented what came to be the vacuum in 1860 and since then we’ve been sentenced to cleaning year-round. History isn’t so romantic, after all.

However spring cleaning got started, I have a hard time understanding why it persists. Sure, this annual domestic penance was necessary back when open fires and coal stoves heated homes in winter. Come spring, a grimy layer of carbon deposits had to be removed. But that was then and this is now and I pay for

the convenience of central heat and air. Shouldn’t my monthly power bill act as a free get-out-of-spring-cleaning-jail pass?

Besides, as a mother, I clean year-round. From outward appearances, you would think I live for nothing more than to scrub toothpaste out of sinks, chisel maple syrup off the back of the breakfast table chairs, and swab unmentionable things from around the kids’ toilet.

Why is that not good enough? Why do I have to set aside an entire weekend (during a time of year of beautiful weekends, I might add) to do even more cleaning?

Comedienne Phyllis Diller said it best: “Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like shoveling the sidewalk before it stops snowing.”

When my husband calls during lunch from his job and asks what I’m doing, I answer: laundry. When he calls after I have picked up the kids from school to ask how the day went, I answer: the kids are great but I’m drowning in laundry. When he comes home from work and asks what my plans are for the evening, I answer: laundry.

He can’t understand why I’m constantly doing laundry but since I haven’t grasped the Maytag Laws of Household Physics, I don’t know what to tell him.



Except what humorist Erma Bombeck quipped: “Housework, if you do it right, will kill you.”

Granted, some people need to take the risk and do spring cleaning. Badly.

Take Edith and Edie Bouvier Beale. Mother and daughter and roommates (1895-1977 and 1917-2002), they became famous — and infamous — for living in reclusive squalor in the Hamptons, in not just a figurative pigsty but with wild raccoons, too.

Their messy story was so bizarre, so compelling — five-foot piles of trash at a rundown, beachside mansion estate called Grey Gardens — that these relatives of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis (yes, *that* Jackie) inspired works of art, all called *Grey Gardens*, based on their decayed, eccentric appeal: a critically acclaimed documentary film in 1975; a smash Broadway musical that

earned the actresses playing Big and Little Edie 2007 Tony Awards; and an acclaimed HBO movie that picked up the 2009 Emmy Award for best made-for-television movie, among other wins.

But is that really how you want history to remember you? Me either.

The Collyer brothers were another weird duo from a well-off family whose sordid living conditions could have done with some spring cleaning, or, really, any kind of cleaning. Descendents of one of New York City’s oldest families, and sons of a prominent doctor, they didn’t understand that when you can no longer open the front door due to your hoarding, it’s time to straighten up.

Sadly, the eventual recluses didn’t take the hint, even when it hit one of the brothers on the head. Langley (1885-1947), a one-time pianist, died when a paper mountain booby trap collapsed

on him; the former lawyer Homer (1881-1947), blind and bedridden, shortly thereafter died without his caretaker.

Maybe it’s a different type of mentally unbalanced people who enjoy cleaning. I’m referring to the ones who talk to an imaginary bald-headed man named Mr. Clean.

Ernie Allen, working at a Chicago ad agency, drew Mr. Clean for Proctor & Gamble in 1957. The beefcake purifier is a popular (fictitious) guy: Mr. Clean is on Facebook.

One of the branded he-man’s declarations is: “Mr. Clean lives to clean so you can clean to live.” I have no idea what that means but if I played it backwards, perhaps I would understand.

I’m not the only one who questions Mr. Clean. In 2008, the European Parliament condemned Mr. Clean and other famous products in a legislative vote that encouraged the advertising industry to stop gender stereotyping, as reported in a Sept. 9, 2008, *New York Times* article. Mr. Clean, the article noted, “might imply that only a strong man is powerful enough to tackle dirt.”

I guess I better come up with a new housewife fantasy since mine has now been proclaimed offensive.

Perhaps I should embody the sentiment that cleaning is something you get out of the way so you can do something else. Uh huh, yeah! I’ll just do my spring cleaning so I can move on to something enjoyable, or at least something that doesn’t smell of lemons or pine trees.

But cleaning — during the spring or any season — is never done. Dirty clothes pile up. School papers accumulate. Pets shed. Dishes need washing. There’s that vacuum I mentioned earlier. Really, I’m a hamster running in a cyclic wheel of clean, dirty, clean, dirty.

Yet even the hamster must keep its balance as it runs around and around in the wheel that goes nowhere. We shouldn’t be martyrs to housework; there is an entire life outside of sparkling baseboards. But neither do we want filmmakers wearing flea collars as they record our life.

Personally, I’d rather die with a smile as I recount a life filled with good, clean fun. ■

Heather Hitchcock (Auburn University) lives in Mobile, Ala., with her husband Wally, a senior art director, and their two boys, Payton, 9, and Parker, 7. The self-professed edgy humorist blogs about her life at queenofshakeshake.com and doles out cheeky advice at themouthyhousewives.com. Hitchcock earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Auburn University and says she enjoys being the soccer mom everyone loves to hate. She was the inaugural subject of Member Spotlight in the summer 2009 edition of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*. Email her at heather@queenofshakeshake.com.

Spring Allergies Are Nothing to Sneeze at

By Laura Mackey Lorentzen

The longer daylight and warming temperatures of spring may elevate our spirits. But for some of us, the conditions also mean the onset of seasonal allergies. Even if you do not suffer from seasonal or perennial allergies, you surely know someone who complains of an itchy, runny nose, sneezing, and watery eyes, not to mention nasal congestion. Indeed, allergic rhinitis (also called hay fever) is the most common allergic disorder and an inflammatory disease of the nasal membrane.

It may be common knowledge that initial treatment typically involves taking over-the-counter medicine like antihistamines while hoping side effects like sedation are minimal. Acute sufferers, upon a physician's care, try to combat allergens (substances, such as pollen from plants, that cause allergies) with standard allopathic treatments — conventional prescription medicines — such as leukotriene inhibitors, Singulair being a popular one. Others seek alternative remedies including acupuncture, although the scientific literature is still in need of more data to determine if it is indeed effective; still more turn to herbal supplements like butterbur, a shrub, or spirulina, a dried extract from a blue-green algae.

What's less well-known is the evolution of allergies.

Question: Are allergies genetic?

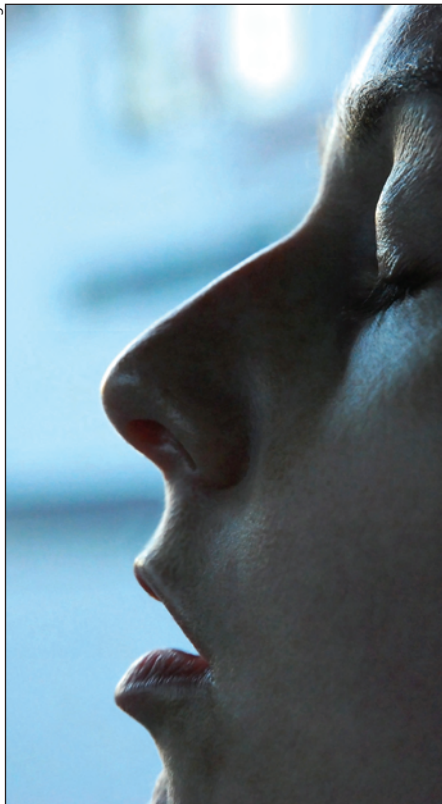
Answer: Some people have a genetic predisposition to allergies. This tendency, along with exposure to environmental factors such as allergens, increases the risk of developing allergies.

Discerning the hereditary mechanisms behind allergies is difficult, though. Numerous different chromosomes are implicated. So too are variations in stretches of the DNA responsible for the expression of certain proteins involved in the disease pathway. (See "Genetic Aspects of Allergic Rhinitis," by I. Davila et al., in the *Journal of Investigational Allergology and Clinical Immunology*, 2009.)

Q: Are seasonal allergies more prevalent nowadays?

A: Yes. Estimates of the prevalence of allergic rhinitis number in the 10 to 50 percent range, and there is evidence that its occurrence worldwide is increasing, according to a 2004 review article, "The Economic Burden of Allergic

Photo: stock.xchng.



Rhinitis: A Critical Evaluation of the Literature," by S. D. Reed et al., published in *PharmacoEconomics*.

Q: Can children develop allergic rhinitis?

A: Yes. Up to 40 percent of children in the United States are diagnosed with it, according to an article entitled "Epidemiology of Physician-Diagnosed Allergic Rhinitis in Childhood" from a 1994 edition of *Pediatrics*.

What's more, allergic rhinitis is often underdiagnosed and undertreated in both adolescents and younger children, concludes M. G. Stewart in "Identification and Management of Undiagnosed and Undertreated Allergic Rhinitis in Adults and Children," from a 2008 edition of *Clinical and Experimental Allergy*.

In fact, allergic rhinitis is the most common chronic disorder in children, as reported in "Allergic Rhinitis and School Performance" in a 2009 edition of the *Journal of Investigational Allergology and Clinical Immunology*.

It is a risk factor for developing asthma, too. A 2008 review article entitled

"Pediatric Allergic Rhinitis: Physical and Mental Complications," by M. S. Blaiss, in *Allergy and Asthma Proceedings*, concludes that appropriate treatment under the guidance of a physician not only helps control allergy symptoms but also lessens associated complications.

Q: Does climate change play a role in allergies?

A: Yes. We take for granted that flowering plants, trees and related species are responsible for the pollen in the air that brings on our allergies. These plants need carbon dioxide to drive their process of photosynthesis. Studies show that with the increase of carbon dioxide, plants flower more and produce more pollen and that higher ambient temperatures increase the allergen count in pollen. (See, for instance, "Changing Pollen Types/Concentrations/Distribution in the United States: Fact or Fiction?" from *Current Allergy and Asthma Reports*, 2008.)

Furthermore, trees, shrubs and flowering plants flower earlier as a result of warmer winters and springs ("European Phenological Response to Climate Change Matches the Warming Pattern," *Global Change Biology*, 2006). Additional studies conducted in the U.S. and Canada yielded similar findings ("Spring Phenology Trends in Alberta, Canada," *International Journal of Biometeorology*, 2000).

Indeed, the "severity of respiratory diseases such as asthma and allergic rhinitis also can be considered an indirect effect attributed to climate change because of changes in the concentrations of airborne pollen and spores," write P. J. Beggs and H. J. Bambrick in "Is the Global Rise of Asthma an Early Impact of Anthropogenic Climate Change?" in *Environmental Health Perspective*, 2005.

So the next time you or someone you know sneezes, sniffles or develops watery eyes, remember that common allergies are more than a mere nuisance and are attributable to more than spring flowers blooming. ■



Laura Mackey Lorentzen

(Kean University) is Associate Professor and Chairperson at the New Jersey Center for Science, Technology & Mathematics Education at Kean University, Union, N.J. She also serves as president of the New Jersey Academy of Science. Articles she wrote or co-wrote have appeared in industry publications including *Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Magazine* and *Nature*. She earned degrees at University of Charleston (B.S., Biology), Duquesne University (M.S., Cellular and Molecular Biology), and Baylor College of Medicine (Ph.D., Biomedicine/Molecular Physiology and Biophysics). Email her at LLorentzen@exchange.kean.edu.

Spring Forward, Fall Back, through Literature

By (William) Arnold Johnston and Deborah Ann Percy

In the 1926 poem “since feeling is first,” E. E. Cummings writes, “wholly to be a fool / while Spring is in the world / my blood approves.”

When spring is in the air we look forward to renewal, of course. But we’re also reminded of our own springtimes past. Literature that catches the feeling of this season can help us “fools” rediscover the wondering children, love-drunk youngsters and other earlier selves still inside us, however autumnal, even wintry, our current editions may be.

Your inner child will come out of the shadows when you pick up Hugh Lofting’s 1920 novel *The Story of Doctor Dolittle* and join the title character in Puddleby-on-the-Marsh as he learns to speak with the animals, thanks to his parrot, Polynesia. Once conversant, Dr. Dolittle leaves his sedate life for Africa on the first of many exotic adventures that eventually filled at least 10 books.

Those who associate spring with excitement may want to check out Robert Louis Stevenson’s 1886 historical novel *Kidnapped*, which chronicles the exploits of the newly orphaned 17-year-old David Balfour in 18th-century Scotland. The hopeful young man, ready to claim his unexpected birthright and fortune, is abducted, then plunged into a headlong chase involving murder, swordplay and swashbuckling, set against the Jacobite Rebellion.

Another voyage of self-discovery takes young Max Jones beyond the solar system in Robert A. Heinlein’s young-adult sci-fi classic, *Starman Jones* (1953). Readers first encounter the would-be stellar explorer just as he has finished slopping the hogs on the family farm he has been working for his stepmother after his father’s death. When she remarries

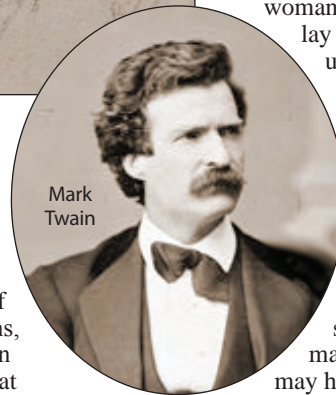
a man he despises, the youth runs away to the exotic city of Earthport, taking with him his uncle’s interplanetary manuals.

On another field of play, the brash but likable lefty Henry Wiggen takes the mound in Mark Harris’ winning 1953 baseball novel *The Southpaw*. In a voice reminiscent of Ring Lardner’s 1916

Photos: Library of Congress public domain.



Charlotte Brontë



Mark Twain

baseball classic *You Know Me Al*, the pitcher, a type of wise fool, narrates his funny, poignant, and seldom grammatical coming-of-age story as a member of the New York Mammoths, who are in the thick of an old-time pennant race that hearkens to the days when baseball was still undeniably the national pastime.

A good baseball tale is required reading this time of year — during spring training.

Perhaps the definitive young-adult novel for grownups is Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884). The first-person account by the title character, an ingenuous and wry teenage misfit, diverts and enlightens, doubling as rite of passage and social commentary. Huck’s reckoning, alternatively hilarious and scary, is dominated by his navigation down the Mississippi River on a raft with a fleeing adult slave, Jim, as Twain sets his gimlet eye on the problems of reconstruction and racism after the Civil War. Huck’s crafty pal Tom Sawyer costars.

The complex world revealed to a youthful protagonist needn’t be one of expanded horizons. In Charlotte Brontë’s novel *Jane Eyre* (1847), young Jane becomes governess at Thornfield, the dark and claustrophobic estate of the tortured Mr. Rochester. Jane’s fascination with her

brooding employer ripens into love and her indomitable goodness and common sense redeem his embittered soul. Both characters, however, are literally tested by fire before love conquers all. Spring is a hothouse for flames, after all.

Even for a celebrated existentialist, youth still springs eternal. In *Krapp’s Last Tape* (1957), Samuel Beckett’s elegantly elegiac yet amusing one-act play about the persistence of youth in age, the dying failed writer of the title has for decades been making sound recordings on his birthday. The tapes contain the 69-year-old’s account of the previous year, as well as general reflections on his past, triggered by excerpts from earlier tapes.

At one point, listening to the “stupid” speaker he “took [him]self for thirty years ago,” Krapp says, “hard to believe I was ever as bad as that,” and adds, “Thank God that’s all done with anyway.” But in the play’s last moments, clinging to his tape recorder as if it were a lover, the self-avowed fool returns to that “stupid” younger self, describing an episode from a prior spring the old poet can’t abandon: a fervent embrace in a rowboat with the woman who had been his muse. “We lay there without moving. But under us all moved, and moved us. ...”

For Krapp, as for Cummings, “kisses are a better fate / than wisdom,” as the latter observes in “since feeling is first.” Both writers — indeed, all writers alluded to — remind us that the past is never completely lost, that we can always find spring within ourselves, no matter what season of our lives we may have entered. No fools, we. ■



(William) Arnold Johnston (Western Michigan University), Emeritus Chair and Professor of English at Western Michigan University, and his wife Deborah Ann

Percy, a former educator-administrator at public middle and high schools in Kalamazoo, Mich., are full-time writers and frequent collaborators. His poetry, fiction, nonfiction and translations have appeared widely in literary journals and anthologies, as have her short fiction and prose pieces. Together and individually their plays have won awards, production, and publication across the country. Between them they have written 10 books, including his *The Witching Voice: A Novel from the Life of Robert Burns*, their anthology *The Art of the One-Act*, and their collection of one-acts *Duets: Love Is Strange*. They’re members of the Dramatists Guild of America and the American Literary Translators Association. Email them at arnie.johnston@wmich.edu or JohnstonDA@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us.

From the Great Depression to the Great Recession

By John T. Harding

When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt began his economic recovery program for the nation soon after taking office in spring 1933, he used several methods to combat the Great Depression that President Barack Obama has been adapting to counteract the recent Great Recession.

Did government stimulus efforts work then, and are they working now? The answer is a qualified “yes, but ...”

Output of goods and services improved in the 1930s, but because a banking crisis accompanied the downturn, the jobless rate was slow to catch up.

That scenario, experts say, applies today.

Similar causes, similar effects

The Great Depression began with a collapse of the financial markets, from stocks to banks and beyond, just as the Great Recession started with “irrational exuberance” — as former United States Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan notably put it — in credit markets, leading to bank failures and housing crises and more.

After the financial well went dry in the 1930s, FDR primed the pump of the economy through expenditures, following the precepts of economist John Maynard Keynes, who argued that the government could spend the country out of its doldrums. Examples included the Works Progress Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, road and bridge construction, and a program for artists and writers.

In the wake of the recent downturn, President Obama based his economic stimulus program on similar principles. Again, road and bridge construction projects are playing a major role. Also, there are bonus payments to Social Security recipients and tax credits to homebuyers; plus, the “Cash for Clunkers” program benefited the auto industry.

Production of goods and services did improve in the 1930s. After the 1929 stock market crash, output fell by more than 40 percent, but by 1935, it recovered somewhat, to an estimated \$73.3 billion, after having tumbled to \$56.4 billion in 1933. (Output had been at \$103.6 billion in 1929.)

The employment picture, however, remained bleak — FDR’s policies resulting in a “jobless recovery.” In 1933,



Barack H. Obama

unemployment was about 25 percent; in the immediate years following FDR’s stimulus initiatives, it was still high at 20 percent. (Economists differ on the acceptable unemployment rate. At one time, 5 to 7 percent was the norm; now, it’s about 4 percent.)

Will the same thing happen again? Experts say probably.

In the current decline, output, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP, which calculates the dollar value of all goods and services produced over a certain period), has improved. As 2007 ended, output topped out at \$14.4 trillion. It declined through 2008 and most of 2009, before gaining 3.5 percent in the third quarter.

But unemployment has risen from the 5 percent range in 2006 to upwards of 10 percent three years later. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke, an authority on the Great Depression, warned in November 2009 that high unemployment is likely to continue through 2010.

The problem stems from changes in the labor market and the systemic banking crisis — echoing the Great Depression — contend economists Edward S. Knotek II and Stephen Terry of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (*Economic Review*, Third Quarter 2009, Vol. 94, No. 3).

The jobless rate will stay at about 10 percent for the rest of this year before fading to 9.2 percent in 2011 and 8.3 percent in 2012 — still too high — according to 41 economists surveyed by the Federal Reserve Bank of

Philadelphia late last year.

The same survey forecasted a GDP recovery rate of only 2.3 percent for 2010, 2.9 percent for 2011 and 3.2 percent for 2012.

This combination mirrors the 1930s: slow growth in output and a high jobless rate.

Shortsighted thinking then and now

After an initial surge in the economy facilitated by government spending, FDR turned off the money pump, being persuaded that recovery was well enough along. Yet many economic historians claim that was a mistake and resulted in a second decline in 1937, with production falling again.

Today, too, “there is a more modest view of how much fiscal stimulus can produce because public debt can crowd out private investment,” Phillip LeBel, Professor of Economics at Montclair State University, said in an interview.

In other words, if government finances its projects with bonds at a higher interest rate than the private sector offers, investors will buy government securities — which are safer — and there is less money available for corporate use. To make matters worse, even local bankers say certificate of deposit rates are not likely to improve for another year. Thus, consumers are paying down credit card debt instead of saving or spending.

Moreover, firms are slow to hire during a downturn until they see a sustained pattern of recovery, LeBel added.

As Bernanke predicted in his 2000 book, *Essays on the Great Depression*:

Those who doubt that there is much connection between the economy of the 1930s and the supercharged, information-age economy of the twenty-first century are invited to look at the current economic headlines — about high unemployment, failing banks, volatile financial markets, currency crises, and even deflation. The issues raised by the Depression, and its lessons, are still relevant today. ■



John T. Harding (Montclair State University) retired in 1997 from *The Star-Ledger* daily newspaper in Newark, N.J., after 27 years as a business and economics writer, copy editor and wire

editor, among other roles. He also was an adjunct instructor in economics, journalism, and English at Montclair State University from 1997 to 2007 and in journalism at Rutgers University from 1997 to 2000. Educated at Montclair State, he holds a B.A. in Linguistics and English and an M.A. in Economics. Email him at j.t.harding@comcast.net.

Remember Intangibles When Applying for Work

By Kimberly Thompson

College students graduating this spring semester, are you optimistic that the end of the recession means you're almost guaranteed an entry-level job and maybe even your pick of positions?

Think again.

Nearly 40 percent of employers will hire fewer new college graduates in 2010 than occurred last year, and upwards of 43 percent anticipate no changes in hiring rates for the demographic over the same span, according to 940 businesses surveyed in August 2009 by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

More than 20 percent of respondents said they'll travel less and focus more on regional recruiting, meaning not as many campus visits. Competition for what jobs may be out there becomes even stiffer when factoring in the results of a July 2009 poll on CollegeGrad.com: of the 2,000-plus spring 2009 graduates surveyed, 80 percent moved back home after commencement.

The big picture is similarly cloudy. The unemployment rate rose to 10.2 percent in October 2009, the highest since 1983, reported the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Add underemployed workers (in want of more hours) and discouraged counterparts (not necessarily applying of late) and those in need of paid occupation totaled 17.5 percent, according to a Nov. 7, 2009, article in *The New York Times* by David Leonhardt.

Because employers are more selective about new hires due to downsizing, restructuring and cutbacks, not to mention the resulting flood of applicants, students hoping to land an opening must distinguish themselves beyond the basic criteria of a specific degree, high grade point average and relevant internships.

These attributes range from the concrete, such as multimedia ease, leadership roles and community service, to the abstract, such as optimism, motivation and goodwill. Such qualities become all the more important to gaining a strategic edge because, as a result of the downturn, more experienced applicants now vie for rank-and-file slots, too.

Said another way, a candidate's overriding behavior and essential persona help determine if an employer feels the person fits the job. Case in point: Kathryn Johnson, a recruiter for a consumer products company, said beyond sparkling coursework, students contending for a job



must display leadership potential, teamwork experience, high energy, genuine interest in the posting, and a background of achieving goals. Indeed, interview performance and related sensibilities topped the reasons behind hiring decisions, according to a recent survey by the Society for Human Resource Management.

Here is a list of abilities and traits to hone to be a successful entry-level job candidate (beyond core elements of transcript and work):

In school:

- Forge leadership aptitude and cooperative spirit through participation in sports and/or student clubs
- Volunteer at community service to foster sensitivity
- Prove facility at multitasking and time management by working part-time and/or engaging in extracurricular activities
- Refine social media tools
- Earn and accept invitations to distinguished organizations (like The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi)

At interview:

- Exhibit attentive listening skills
- Ask questions that build rapport, show curiosity and indicate enthusiasm
- Focus more on employer needs than applicant desires
- Use industry key words when recounting experience
- Express eagerness to learn
- Prepare in advance for global questions such as "Tell me about yourself," and "Why should I hire you?"
- Articulate career objectives
- Dress professionally
- Recognize that employers may surf a candidate's homepage or Web

site; make sure it reflects well on you

- Give employers business-like email address, e.g., first.name.last.name@xyz.com

Why all this matters

Student applicants who understand the importance of an overall impression, who connect the dots between the essence of them and an employer, tend to stand out.

For example, late last year, a young candidate who successfully interviewed for an accounting position at an energy company was asked about teamwork since he'd need to work closely with colleagues and clients. He cited a fundraising project for a campus outreach program in which he partnered with diverse school and community groups.

Another college senior was offered a sales position in IT services to businesses last May. One reason: she had spent her final year of school interning in an IT environment, assisting sales consultants and coordinating sales events. Another reason: she conveyed confidence, animation, responsiveness and inquisitiveness, according to the campus recruiter who put her on the short list.

Bottom line, hiring trends favor repeating as much as possible past recruiting successes, and employers shy away from taking chances in a weakened economy, even one emerging from a recession. To compete with other new graduates, plus candidates possessing longer work histories, the class of 2010 must think like an employer and tout more than credentials, something that may best be called the "it" factor. ■



Kimberly Thompson, a National Board Certified Counselor and Licensed Professional Counselor, has provided career transition workshops and career counseling for more than 20 years. She has

coached all levels of management in both the public and private sectors, developed numerous career transition programs and consulted with employers on establishing career services for their employees. Thompson has written widely on issues dealing with job loss and contributes a weekly column and blog called "Career Rescue" for the "Jobs" section of *The Houston Chronicle* (<http://blogs.chron.com/careerrescue/>). Purchase her "Career Rescue" app on iTunes at <http://itunes.com/apps/careerrescue>. She received an M.Ed. in Counseling from University of Missouri and a B.S.W. in Social Work from Harding University in Searcy, Ark. Based in Houston, Thompson is a member of the American Counseling Association, National Career Development Association, Career Planning & Adult Development Network, and American Association of Christian Counselors. Contact her at careerrescue@yahoo.com; be sure to put *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* in the subject line.

The Cost of, and to, Public Higher Education

By Timothy L. Hulsey

Every time you stop a school, you will have to build a jail. What you gain at one end you lose at the other. It's like feeding a dog on his own tail. It won't fatten the dog.

— Mark Twain, from a speech on Nov. 23, 1900

Mark Twain, who died 100 years ago this spring on April 21, 1910, made that remark largely to comment on how to sustain the common good. The inverse relationship between educational opportunity and criminal behavior was well known then. Twain, author of masterpieces of American literature including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and a popular draw on the lecture circuit, instead was concerned with apportioning resources for everyone's benefit.

His insight remains trenchant. The current financial crisis in higher education provides a stark example of Twain's principle in action.

Follow the money, or lack of it

In response to shrinking tax revenues, most states have reduced spending on public higher education. For example, state contributions to the 2009-10 operating budget declined by \$189 million at UCLA, \$109 million at University of Florida, \$99 million at University of Washington, and \$63 million at Louisiana State University (LSU), according to a Nov. 1, 2009, *New York Times* article by Paul Fain. The percentage decline was equally significant, ranging from 33 percent at UCLA to 27 percent at LSU.

The excised money is not likely to be restored soon, if ever. The result is fewer classes (making it more difficult for students to graduate on time), declines in tenure-track faculty (and increases in adjuncts), larger classes, rising student-faculty ratios, and fewer assistantships and on-campus jobs to support students.

State schools are a bargain, or were

American public universities were created partly for students who could not afford higher-priced private schools. These public universities helped fuel the creation of the middle class and the growth of the economy in the 20th century. But the campus cutbacks are occurring when the



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need for public higher education is greater than ever. For example, since the 2007-08 academic year, admissions are up by 23 percent at UCLA, 42 percent at University of Florida, 58 percent at University of Washington, and 68 percent at LSU.

But the "supply" is not there to underwrite this "demand." Prior to the 1980s, most public universities received upwards of 70 percent of their operating budgets from their respective states. Now, most receive less than 50 percent. And University of Michigan gets less than seven percent, according to Fain's *New York Times* article. At Virginia Commonwealth University, where I'm employed, state contributions have fallen \$66.5 million since 2008 to some \$133 million. That's less than 50 percent of the school's operating revenues and down from more than 70 percent in 2008.

How can public universities make up this lost revenue? They're hard-pressed. Revenue sources are state funds, research grants (usually from federal agencies), donor gifts and student tuition. (Not sports receipts: An analysis of 164 public universities by the *Indianapolis Star* in 2006 revealed that only 9 percent of Division I athletic programs paid for themselves.) With state funds drastically trimmed, competition for grants is fiercer; meanwhile, because of the recession, donors have become less generous. That leaves tuition increases as the only reliable source of funding.

As a result, tuition increases at state universities will average more than six percent this academic year, outstripping the

current rate of inflation (3.85 percent in 2008), according to an April 22, 2009, *USA Today* article by Jeanette Der Bedrosian — and pushing access to higher education still further from the reach of many.

For those who do attend, the result often is crippling student loans. The average student-loan debt for college seniors was \$23,200 in 2008, up from \$18,650 in 2004, some six percent per year, wrote Mary Pilon in a December 1, 2009, article in *The Wall Street Journal*. And almost two-thirds of students graduate with some student-loan debt, according to the article, which referenced "Student Debt and the Class of 2008," a report by the nonprofit Project on Student Debt.

Worse still is the likely impact that rising tuitions will have on access to higher education. The U.S. ranks ninth worldwide in the proportion of young adults (age 25-34) completing a four-year college degree, at some 41 percent, according to Peter McPherson and David Shulenberg in *The Wall Street Journal* (June 20, 2009). As tuition rises, more U.S. students (and their parents) simply will not be able to afford college.

Public education and public funds diverge, or ne'er the twain shall meet?

Having forgotten that access to higher education helped create the prosperous America we inhabit, policymakers and powerbrokers have become comfortable with the notion of higher education as a private, rather than a public, good.

So Twain's challenge remains: Will we support the role that education plays in society, or will we revert to a kind of insular selfishness that appeals to our sense of individualism while leaving us all poorer, in purse and spirit?

Will we stop schools and build prisons, or will we find a way to fatten the dog? ■



Timothy L. Hulsey (Virginia Commonwealth University chapter past president) is Associate Professor of Psychology and Dean of the Honors College at Virginia

Commonwealth University. He co-authored the 2004 book *Moral Cruelty* (University Press of America), and articles he wrote or co-wrote have appeared in industry publications including the *American Journal of Psychiatry* and *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. Hulsey earned psychology degrees from Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi (bachelor's), Trinity University (master's), and the University of Tennessee (doctoral) and served as a pre- and post-doctoral fellow at Dartmouth Medical School. Earlier in his career, he taught and directed the university honors program at Texas State University. Email him at tlhulsey@vcu.edu.

Kids, Get Up, Get Moving!

By Angela Lumpkin

Would the children in your life qualify as *Healthy People 2010*? Not if they're sedentary.

Healthy People 2010 (www.healthypeople.gov), a national call to action by relevant federal agencies, plus state counterparts and membership organizations, sets objectives about preventing disease and promoting well-being for all Americans, including children, partly by addressing physical activity and fitness. For example, one multilevel program, Steps to a Healthier US (www.healthierus.gov/STEPS/), tackles diabetes, obesity and asthma, and their causes, including physical inactivity.

Problem is, not enough people, youth included, have accepted the challenge to get up and get moving.

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) for 1976-80 and 2003-06 (<http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/prevalence.html>) indicated upwards of twofold and threefold increases in overweight youth between the former and latter polls:

- ages 2-5, from 5 percent to 12.4 percent
- ages 6-11, from 6.5 percent to 17 percent
- ages 12-19, from 5 percent to 17.6 percent

The 2003-04 NHANES survey (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/overweight/overwght_child_under02.htm) estimated that 11.5 percent of infants ages 6 months to 23 months were overweight; in 1976-80, results totaled 7.2 percent.

Overweight children and teens may develop high cholesterol and high blood pressure, leading to heart disease. They may suffer from diabetes, asthma, sleep apnea and cardiovascular problems. And they may battle low self-esteem because of social discrimination and other stigmatization.

The government stepped in with *Healthy People 2010*, issued in 2000, because of these considerations, among others.

Governmental concern about childhood unhealthiness is not new, though.

For instance, the 1979 publication *Healthy People: The Surgeon General's Report on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention* (<http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/NN/B/B/G/K/>) compiled data about health problems of infants through seniors and outlined strategies to combat them.

Healthy People 2000 (<http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov/pubs/hp2000/>), released



Photo: stock.xchng.

Tips to Help Children Get in Shape

It's not hard — but it is vital — to energize kids.

- Introduce them to the International Walk to School event (www.iwalktoschool.org). Begun in 1994 in Great Britain, this community-based program encourages children to hoof it on the Walk to School Day (on Oct. 6 this year).

- Connect youth's love of technology with exercise. For example, the interactive videogame Wii Fit incorporates 40 physical activities, such as aerobics, balance games, boxing, skateboarding, snowboarding, strength training, and yoga.

- Remember that adults serve as role models for the importance of regular physical activity.

- Support school, community and governmental leaders in attempts to improve recreational facilities, such as walking trails, biking paths, gyms and playgrounds, and to increase after-school opportunities that include extracurricular physical activity.

— Angela Lumpkin

in 1990, generated goals in 22 priority areas, including physical activity and fitness, with children in the mix.

In 1996, the Surgeon General's report on *Physical Activity and Health* (<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/sgr.htm>) further sounded the alarm while making recommendations. For example, it reported that only about half of the nation's adolescents participated regularly in vigorous activity such as jogging or basketball; about one-fourth participated in none.

Healthy People 2010 contains objectives on physical activity and fitness for adolescents such as:

- Increase moderate physical activity, such as walking or hiking, for at least 30 minutes a day, five days a week, from the existing 27 percent to 35 percent
- Increase vigorous physical activity,

such as jogging or aerobics, for at least 20 minutes a day, at least three days a week, from the existing 65 percent to 85 percent

- Increase participation in daily gym class from the existing 29 percent to 50 percent

Healthy People 2010 does not discuss preschool children. According to "Active Start: A Statement of Physical Activity Guidelines for Children Birth to 5 Years," from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, preschoolers should engage daily in at least 60 minutes of structured physical activity, such as dancing to music or playing "Simon says," and at least 60 minutes of unstructured physical activity, such as riding tricycles or playing on playground equipment, to build fundamental motor skills.

Since benchmarks for children and adults have not been met, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services published *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans* (<http://www.health.gov/PAGuidelines/guidelines/default.aspx#toc>) in 2008. These guidelines emphasize that low levels of physical activity are major contributors to chronic diseases and other ailments and that regular physical activity reduces health risks.

The resource stipulates that young children and adolescents spend at least one hour each day in moderate- or vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity such as walking or rollerblading, respectively, and at least 30 minutes three times a week in vigorous-intensity motion such as jumping or weightlifting, respectively.

Children are establishing bad habits that can last a lifetime. With no time to lose, they need to get up and get moving, as called for by *Healthy People 2010*.

After all, *Healthy People 2020* is upon us. ■



Angela Lumpkin (University of Kansas chapter vice president) is a Professor in the Department of Health, Sport, and Exercise Sciences at the University of Kansas. An avid racquetball

player and aerobic fitness buff, she served as the head women's basketball coach at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the mid-1970s and assistant woman's basketball coach at The Ohio State University in the early 1970s. The author of 20 books and more than 40 scholarly publications on various aspects of sports, exercise, and health, Lumpkin has further shared her expertise through nearly 200 professional presentations. She has held administrative positions at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, State University of West Georgia, and University of Kansas. Visit her home page at <http://web.ku.edu/~alumpkin/> or email her at alumpkin@ku.edu.

Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines

Review by Robert F. Tate

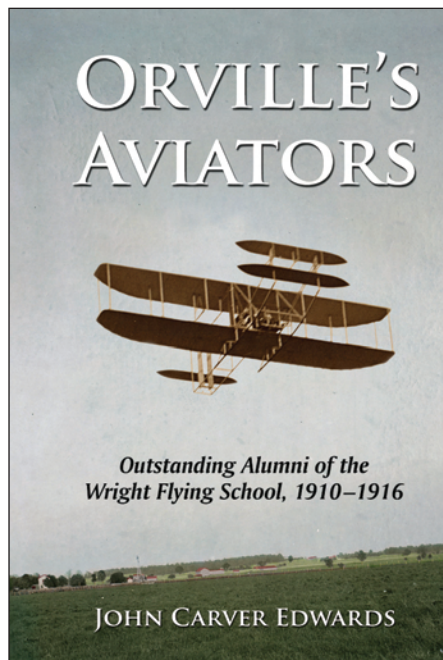
John Carver Edwards' *Orville's Aviators* fills an oft overlooked niche in aviation history with clarity and insight. Many aviation books focus on aerial warfare such as Frederick Taylor's *Dresden: Tuesday, February 13, 1945*; on specific aircraft like Martin Caiden's *The B-17: The Flying Forts*; or on pilot biographies such as Peter Kilduff's *The Red Baron*.

Orville's Aviators, as its subtitle, *Outstanding Alumni of the Wright Flying School, 1910-1916*, suggests, instead spotlights six stellar graduates of the Wright Brothers' flying schools (headquarters: Dayton, Ohio) that sprung up across the country in the early part of the 20th century. In the process, Edwards expertly navigates the primitive technology, dangers and intricacies of initial manned flight.

That may be expected. Edwards (University of Georgia) has written three other historical books including *Airmen without Portfolio: U.S. Mercenaries in Civil War Spain*. He also has penned historical articles and book reviews and worked as an archivist at the University of Georgia. His grasp of history and attention to detail are evident throughout this effort.

As Edwards points out in a brief but illuminating introduction, in 1903, after years of experimentation, the determined and resourceful Wright brothers — Orville and Wilbur — were the first to achieve sustained powered flight; they also designed the most significant early airplanes, including the world's first military aircraft. Edwards paints the brothers as shrewd and ambitious but also cheap and domineering; the portrait comes off as a balanced view of successful engineers and innovative entrepreneurs who were fallible human beings, too.

The focus of the book, however, deals with six of the 119 graduates of the various Wright schools: Arthur Welsh, Orville Wright's chief instructor; Howard Gill, heir to a tea dynasty; Archibald Freeman, early proponent of military airpower; Cleveland Bergdoll, the only of these six pilots never to have had a flying accident; George Gray,



By John Carver Edwards
195 pp.
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Inc., Publishers
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the accident prone demonstration pilot extraordinaire; and Howard Max Reinhart, explorer, mercenary, racing competitor, and Wright test pilot.

Edwards devotes a chapter to each, providing a keen sense of their accomplishments and disappointments, their personalities and, sometimes, their tragic personal lives.

For instance, despite Welsh's abundant abilities and prominent role in the Wright organization, the Russian immigrant died in a flying accident in 1912. Gill, too, though a marvel at aerial demonstrations and a survivor of several air crashes, perished after a midair collision in the same year. The military-minded Freeman conducted bombing demonstrations using bags of flour against Navy ships nine years before Billy Mitchell's tests against the German battleship *Ostfriesland*.

Bergdoll, arguably the most proficient of these pilots, may have owned the skies but otherwise plummeted after being labeled a draft dodger and German sympathizer in WWI. An accident-prone survivor of numerous air accidents, Gray became part of an exciting husband-and-wife aerial exhibition team and served in the United States Army Air Service, rising to the rank of captain. And the dashing Reinhart flew as a mercenary for Pancho Villa in Mexico and was "the one pilot who knows exactly what happens and is able to make a scrupulously honest

report of it," wrote Orville Wright.

Orville's Aviators abounds with memorable anecdotes about these intrepid "birdmen." Case in point: the haunting account of Freeman's death in June 1918. "The ship pivoted on one wing in a turn and struck the ground with great force, his head hitting the instrument panel and Liberty ignition switches temporarily burying themselves in his forehead. They were in the closed position," Edwards quotes from a source. "I guess it was Archie's last-second gesture, but a futile one."

There are, however, some unfortunate gaps in the book. Although it boasts 49 photos, several newspaper clippings, three appendixes and a detailed bibliography, it does not include photos or descriptions of each of the airplanes mentioned nor of the 15 different Wright aircraft listed. For example, what did the Wrights' Model OW Aerial Coupe, the world's first enclosed passenger airplane, look like?

Likewise, Edwards dwells on air show performances, but without diagrams illustrating specific maneuvers, it is impossible to visualize the "devil's dip," "falling leaf," "ocean roll" or "spiral glide." And the photos, while apt and revealing, tend to be grainy or blurry, quite disappointing for a softcover book retailing at \$45.

Perhaps the biggest omission is only making passing references to Henry "Hap" Arnold, arguably the most famous and successful of the Wright graduates, having led the United States Army Air Forces during WWII. That being said, volumes of literature about Arnold can already be found.

These relatively minor detractions do not drastically diminish the impact of *Orville's Aviators*. Edwards' solid research and unpretentious readability satisfy and intrigue. For flight buffs and casual passengers, *Orville's Aviators* proves a worthwhile read. ■



Robert F. Tate (California State University-Dominguez Hills) is a pilot for a major airline. During his 25-year Air Force career, he flew eight different aircraft types and served in Desert Storm,

flying 29 combat support missions in the NATO AWACS. Tate also is a Luftwaffe historian and author of *Hans-Joachim Marseille: An Illustrated Tribute to the Luftwaffe's "Star of Africa"* (Schiffer Publishing, 2008). Educated at University of Tennessee (bachelor's degree in psychology) and California State University-Dominguez Hills (master's degree in history), he has reviewed books on aviation for years for *The Air & Space Power Journal*, the official journal of the United States Air Force, and recently served as a Workplace and Employment columnist for this magazine. Email him at jochen327@bellsouth.net.

CONFESSIONS OF A RADICAL INDUSTRIALIST

PROFITS, PEOPLE, PURPOSE—DOING BUSINESS BY RESPECTING THE EARTH



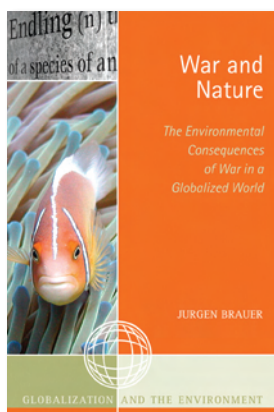
RAY C. ANDERSON
with ROBIN WHITE

Confessions of a Radical Industrialist

By Ray C. Anderson with Robin White
320 pp. St. Martin's Press (September 2009).
\$25.99 hardcover.



Making money and practicing sustainability are not mutually exclusive, argues Ray C. Anderson (Georgia Institute of Technology), with Robin White, in *Confessions of a Radical Industrialist: Profits, People, Purpose — Doing Business by Respecting the Earth*. In 1994, Anderson, founder and chairman of Interface, Inc., a billion-dollar carpet tile manufacturer, “at the top of his game and at the age of 60,” challenged his worldwide workforce to find “a better way to a bigger profit” in his petroleum-based business, declare press materials. “As much a ‘why to’ as a ‘how to,’” the book “chronicles the company’s climb up ‘Mount Sustainability’ and reveals how the journey has sparked innovation, energized employees, boosted profits and created goodwill in the marketplace.” Environmental strategist and author Andrew Winston, among other experts, applauds the effort: “If we had a lot more businessmen like Ray Anderson, the planet would be neither bankrupt nor overheated. He is a hero, and this book makes clear why.” Anderson’s many honors include being named one of *Time* magazine’s 2007 Heroes of the Environment.



War and Nature

The Environmental Consequences of War in a Globalized World

JURGEN BRAUER

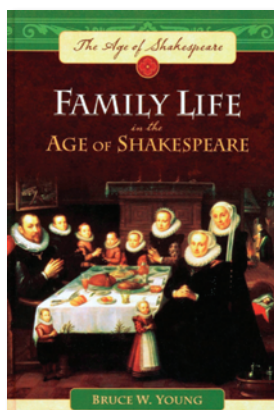
GLOBALIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

War and Nature: The Environmental Consequences of War in a Globalized World

By Jurgen Brauer
252 pages. AltaMira Press (September 2009).
\$70 hardcover.



The subject matter of the environmental consequences of war is anything but straightforward. I hope general readers come away from this book impressed with the complexity of the evidence and the issues I raise and life scientists commit themselves and their students to helping produce the evidence needed to address outstanding questions regarding the impact of war on nature,” author Jurgen Brauer, Professor of Economics at Augusta State University, his Phi Kappa Phi chapter, wrote by email. Among those endorsing this latest book by Brauer, a former *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* Business and Economics columnist, is Jeffrey A. McNeely, chief scientist for the International Union for Conservation of Nature, who cited its “fresh prospective” and “concrete examples from Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Central Africa, and Afghanistan. This evidence-based approach effectively provides guidance on how best to avoid environmental degradation in time of war, providing useful tools for politicians, peacemakers, and even the military. This book deserves wide circulation and broad discussion by both practitioners and academics.”



Family Life in the Age of Shakespeare

BRUCE W. YOUNG

Family Life in the Age of Shakespeare

By Bruce W. Young
280 pp. Greenwood Press (December 2008).
\$75 hardcover.



Doomed or fated lovers, warring and loving relatives: the Bard thought deeply about kith and kin. *Family Life in the Age of Shakespeare*, by Bruce W. Young, Associate Professor of English at Brigham Young University, his Phi Kappa Phi chapter, explains for students and general readers the basics of Renaissance blood ties so they can better appreciate the literature. For instance, was it typical for young teen girls like Juliet to wed or parents like Juliet’s to arrange their child’s marriage? (Answers: no.) The investigation offers extended consideration of “the family’s political, social, and ideological functions; the structure and size of households; courtship and marriage; parent-child relations; sibling and extended family relations; inheritance; and changes in attitudes and practices over time,” Young wrote by letter. “The book then examines issues related to family life across a broad range of Shakespeare’s works,” and “later chapters examine how productions of the plays have treated scenes concerning family life and how scholars and critics have commented on family life in Shakespeare’s writings.”

Compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary



Phi Kappa Phi Bookshelf Submission Guidelines

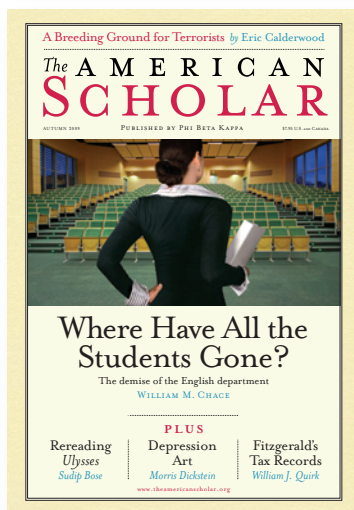
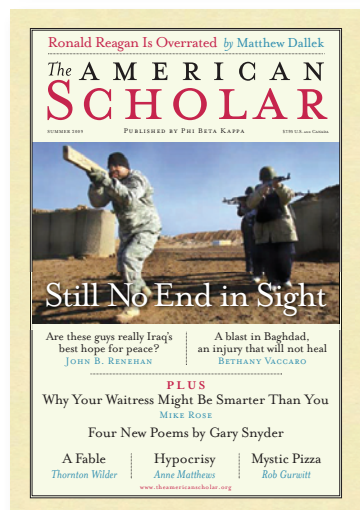
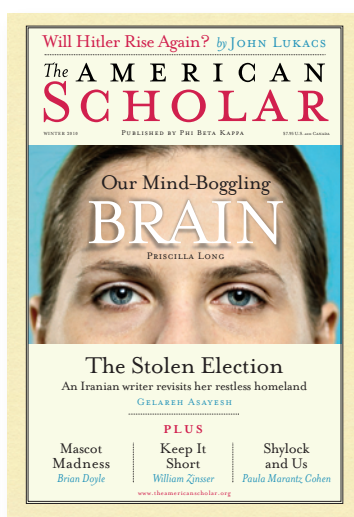
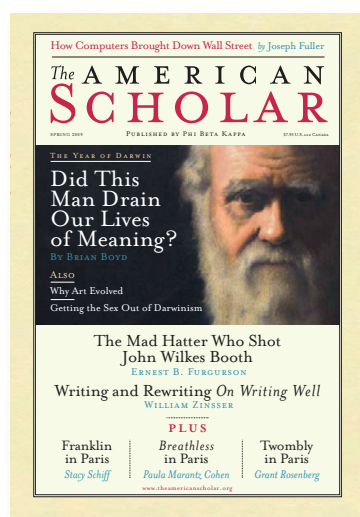
If you are an author and would like your work to be considered for inclusion in the Phi Kappa Phi Bookshelf, send two copies of the book, a color headshot of yourself, contact information, (address, phone numbers, email), and a one-page synopsis to:

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*All submitted books will be added to the Phi Kappa Phi library housed at the Society headquarters.

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THE HONOR SOCIETY OF
PHI KAPPA PHI

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Jim Tressel
Head Football Coach
at The Ohio State University
Youngstown State University

(College or university of chapter initiation)

The Society Rethinks Its Awards

By Editor Peter Szatmary

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is proud that in 2009, in the throes of a worldwide recession, it distributed \$500,000 in grants to 274 applicants. The winners, selected from more than 3,500 submissions in five categories, were recognized in the winter awards edition of this magazine.

But the Society doesn't — and can't — rest on its generous laurels.

At a spring 2009 meeting in Baton Rouge, La., Phi Kappa Phi's Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Programs and Awards Review Committee to overhaul most of the Society's annual awards programs. There were two main reasons: to serve constituents better and to practice fiscal responsibility in the wake of the downturn.

"Since 1932, when our honor society awarded its first two Fellowships, successive governing boards have been steadfast in their commitment to providing funds for various awards programs," said Executive Director Perry A. Snyder. "Despite recent economic uncertainties and the decline of its investments, Phi Kappa Phi will continue to award more funds to more outstanding members than any other honor society."

"Like most nonprofit organizations, Phi Kappa Phi's endowment took a significant hit as a result of the recession," added Associate Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer Lourdes Barro. "To preserve the corpus of the Phi Kappa Phi Foundation, funding for awards was reduced and the programs were restructured."

The revamping entailed:

- Decreasing the number of \$5,000 Fellowships from 60 to 57
- Creating three larger Fellowships of \$15,000 apiece
- Discontinuing Awards of Excellence
- Increasing funding for Love of Learning Awards from \$25,000 to \$40,000 (80 \$500 awards)
- Decreasing funding for Study Abroad Grants from \$50,000 to \$45,000 (from 50 to 45 \$1,000 awards)
- Decreasing funding for Literacy



Phi Kappa Phi spotlights winners of Society awards each year in its winter magazine.

2010 Phi Kappa Phi Awards

- **Fellowships**
57 \$5,000 fellowships, some named, and three \$15,000 fellowships to active Phi Kappa Phi members entering their first year of full-time graduate or professional study.
- **Love of Learning Awards**
80 \$500 grants that fund postbaccalaureate studies and/or career development for active members.
- **Literacy Grants**
Grants up to \$2,500 each (\$25,000 total) for chapters and active members to support endeavors that build and otherwise encourage the knowledge, confidence and related benefits that come from reading, math and computers, among other fields, and that reinforce part of the Society's mission "to engage the community of scholars in service to others."
- **Study Abroad Grants**
45 \$1,000 grants to help undergraduates as they seek knowledge and experience in their academics by venturing afield.
- **Phi Kappa Phi Scholar and Phi Kappa Phi Artist Awards**
\$1,000 apiece awarded to an outstanding scholar and to an artist who, as active members, demonstrate the Society's ideals through their activities, achievements and scholarship.

Grants from \$30,000 to \$25,000 (variable number of grants worth up to \$2,500 apiece)

- Decreasing Phi Kappa Phi Scholar and Artist stipends from \$5,000 to \$1,000 apiece per biennium
- Discontinuing Emerging Scholar Awards

In addition to the economic downturn, program relevance and application totals influenced the changes.

For instance, "the number of applicants for Love of Learning Awards has doubled every year since we launched the program in 2007," said Maria Davis, National Marketing Development Manager and coordinator of the Society's awards programs. "In 2009, more than 1,000 members competed for the 50 \$500 awards. Clearly, the Love of Learning program has filled a major need within our membership, and we wanted to respond by providing 30 additional awards."

To secure the extra funds, Emerging Scholar Awards were discontinued. "While Love of Learning Awards provide for active (dues paying) members, Emerging Scholar Awards are for sophomores who have not yet reached Phi Kappa Phi status. Factor in the small number of applicants for Emerging Scholars, and it became the logical area to cut," said Davis.

An impetus behind the three large \$15,000 fellowships is to establish "a small number of 'mega fellowships' that would garner the prestige of, say, a Goldwater, Truman or Marshall scholarship," said C. Roy Blackwood, Director of Fellowships.

Awards of Excellence were cancelled partly because "over the years we have heard criticism that our awards program has had a two-tiered system consisting of the winners (Fellowships) and the also-rans (Awards of Excellence). This sentiment, to the degree it may have been true, was an unintended negative consequence," said Blackwood.

"The board carefully considered how to continue to be good stewards of a prestigious organization with a history of giving and a membership of more than one million of the best and brightest," Snyder observed. "I believe this reprioritization makes good fiscal and philosophical sense." ■

Traci Navarre, Director of Marketing and Member Benefits, contributed reporting to this story.



For more about changes in Fellowships, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/Web/Awards/Fellowship.html>. For more information on the award programs, including deadlines and downloadable applications, go online to www.phikappaphi.org/web/Awards/Scholarships_Awards.html.

Photo: UT-Arlington Phi Kappa Phi chapter.



Public relations students involved in a contest last fall to build awareness of the University of Texas at Arlington Phi Kappa Phi chapter posed with Associate Professor of Communication Tom Christie (second from right) and Vice Provost and then-chapter president David J. Silva (right). Students in the front row held binders containing public relations campaign materials that had been developed during the semester.

Public Relations Students Help Get the Word Out

By Jim Carlson

Public relations students at the University of Texas at Arlington put what they learned in the classroom into practice last fall by competing in a promotional campaign for the school's Phi Kappa Phi chapter.

The idea stemmed from a conversation that chapter officers had about how to increase awareness of the chapter and the percentage of acceptance to invitation to membership. What resulted was a collaboration with Associate Professor of Communication Tom Christie's upper-level undergraduate class on public relations campaigns that had a two-part goal: to give students pragmatic experience in the field and to bolster cognizance of the chapter, one of Phi Kappa Phi's newest, established in April 2007.

Christie agreed to the partnership because it offered his students an opportunity to learn how to design a real-world public relations campaign, he said in an interview.

"We were very excited to involve our students in this competition" because their perspective helped refine strategies to market Phi Kappa Phi, added David J. Silva, chapter secretary and treasurer (and past president) and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Professor of Linguistics.

"If more people know about Phi Kappa Phi and our mission at Arlington," Silva continued, "then they would be more inclined to see the invitation to Phi Kappa Phi for what it is: acknowledgement of their academic achievement and membership in a group that takes the life of the mind seriously."

Students, divided into four teams, met with the chapter's executive council to pinpoint the needs of the client

as well as discuss the availability of chapter funds to pay for the campaign. The teams were challenged to use social-science research to help provide maximum impact for the push.

Some tactics students had studied that wound up in the proposals included conducting pilot-testing surveys, compiling campaign books and pitching ideas to chapter officers. Students proposed making posters, creating a new chapter Web site, working with other university associations, and inviting guest speakers. Each team also identified hurdles to boosting new initiates at the chapter beyond the approximate 100 annually since inception. (The school's enrollment is about 25,000.)

"Remember, this is very much a competition, just as in a real agency," Christie said he told the students. The competition was intense at times, he added.

The initial game plan was to implement the winning team's campaign during the fall 2009 semester. However, because all the groups had excellent ideas, the executive council elected not to pick a single campaign but instead to apply ideas from each, said Silva, such as establishing a public relations intern and creating a



Jim Carlson is a Chapter Relations Director at Phi Kappa Phi. Earlier in his career, he spent 10 years as a community college assistant professor in communication studies. Carlson earned bachelor's

and master's degrees in speech communication from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is pursuing a doctorate of education in organizational leadership and communication at Northeastern University; his wife Jessica, a post-anesthesia care unit nurse, is in the master's program for adult health nurse practitioner at Southeastern Louisiana University. Email him at jcarlson@phikappaphi.org.

THE HONOR SOCIETY OF
PHI KAPPA PHI
2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION
TRADITIONS & TRANSITIONS
Responding to a World of Change

Chapter Delegates, Save the Date!

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
2010 Convention

Theme: Traditions and Transitions:
Responding to a World of Change.

When: Aug. 5-7.

Where: Kansas City Airport Marriott,
Kansas City, Mo.

Open to: Chapter delegates selected by
the given local body.

Sample highlights:

- See presentations from Phi Kappa Phi award recipients past and present.
- Get to know other chapter officers in your area at regional meetings.
- Learn and share ideas during roundtable breakfasts.
- Meet the candidates for the 2010-12 Board of Directors at a reception prior to casting your ballot.

• Participate in Partnering For Success Workshops (the day before the Convention). These interactive meetings explain everything you need to know to manage a successful chapter.

Key preparations and incentives:

- Each chapter must designate an official delegate to the Convention. To do so, choose an officer who will be a chapter leader during the 2010-11 academic year, someone who can implement the ideas learned at the Convention.
- Chapter delegates will be reimbursed by the Society for travel expenses plus one night's stay at the Kansas City Airport Marriott.

For more information, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/convention2010>. Registration will open in early spring. Look to the Society Web site, *Monthly Mentions*, *Chapter Relations* and *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* for additional details in the coming months.

postcard that was mailed to home addresses to remind students about their invitation to the Society.

"I realized that a campaign plan is definitely a work in progress," said senior Kim Barnhill, a public relations major who was the chapter's first intern, about the experience, "and you have to use different tactics to reach your audience."

Partially as a result of the campaign, new initiates at the chapter rose from 101 in 2008 to 182 in 2009. ■

Photographer: Jessi McKinney.



Twins Kassi McKinney (left) and Jessi (right) celebrate reaching new heights at the top of Kings Canyon at Watarrka National Park in the Northern Territory of Australia. The junior agricultural and applied economics majors at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University studied abroad from mid May to mid June last year, learning about Australian environmental policy, in fieldwork offset by a Society grant.

A Twin Bill of Kindred Spirits and Striking Resemblances

Look at Jessi and Kassi McKinney and you see double, and not only because they're twins.

The two mirror each other in all sorts of ways. They attend Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va. They major in agricultural and applied economics. And they take most of their courses together, earning comparable stellar grades in the honors program.

The Phi Kappa Phi members, who grew up on a 600-acre cattle farm in Hanover County, Va. (with dad, Jeff, co-owner of a family construction company, and mom, Kristina, an information specialist in human resources for the Virginia Department of Social Services), have been roommates since freshman year, too.

Plus, the 21-year-old juniors are in the same academic societies and service clubs. They camp, fish and hike, golf, water ski and ride horses together, and compete on the same quiz bowl and softball teams. The fashion plates also have been known to dress alike. Their social lives usually intertwine as well.

What's more, they tend to hold the same jobs: park district recreation aide; restaurant hostess; nanny; construction crew. And one of their many joint journeys was a month-long trip last summer to Australia to study environmental policy in fieldwork partly underwritten by a Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant. And the McKinney twins, more counterparts

than counterpoints, are best friends.

Kassi, older by six minutes, and Jessi McKinney answered email questions from Editor Peter Szatmary. They decided who would respond to what. Here are edited excerpts:

You've never been tested to see if you're identical or fraternal twins. Why?

Joint response: We consider ourselves unique (but interrelated) individuals. So we never have felt the need to know.

How are you different?

Kassi: I jump right in and figure things out as I go; Jessi observes the situation before taking action.

How are you the same?

Jessi: Motivation and drive: we work hard at scholarly pursuits, community outreach and farm chores. We also enjoy many of the same hobbies such as outdoor sports and recreation. And we both value qualities like loyalty and family ties.

What do you like best about each other?

Kassi: Jessi has a great sense of humor. She always knows how to brighten my day. I admire her self-confidence and social skills.

Jessi: I like Kassi's devilish good looks (ha ha). Kassi is a very loyal friend and sister and is always willing to go to the mat for what she believes in.

What do you like best about being twins?

Joint response: It's really nice always having someone your own age to hang out

with who is going through the same things you are. Having a shared history also helps us with perspective. And we always have a roommate or classmate we get along with!

Anything you don't like about being twins?

Joint response: We don't know what it's like not to be twins, so we don't really know what is bad about it.

You're best friends. How come?

Kassi: Our parents have encouraged us to have a strong relationship. It's hard for us to imagine siblings not being best friends.

What about needing some space?

Jessi: We understand that we have our grumpy days when we need some alone time. We just don't take the occasional "go away!" personally and try to respect each other's privacy.

How do people react to you two since you're so close and overlap so much?

Jessi: People think it is sweet that we do everything together. This leads them to group us together as a singular unit, though.

Kassi: Usually, people are surprised that we get along so well. And of course, you always get the general twin questions like, "Do you feel her pain?"

So do you?

Joint response: Never literally. However, we know each other well enough to recognize, often intuitively — without the need of communication — how the other is feeling.

Any other twins in your life?

Joint response: Our paternal great-grandmother had a twin brother. We also have several twin friends at Virginia Tech.

How did growing up on a fourth-generation family cattle farm impact you?

Jessi: You learn responsibility and teamwork quickly. You don't have time to argue about whose turn it is to take care of the animals or fix a broken fence. Farm life has enhanced our problem-solving skills and our ease at getting along.

Kassi: And growing up around nature teaches you a lot about life's lessons.

What are your plans after graduation?

Jessi: I am thinking about attending an MBA program. I think starting my own agribusiness would be pretty neat, too.

Kassi: I plan on going to graduate school for my MBA and hope to work in financial and environmental policy.

Same grad school? Career colleagues?

Joint response: We are just now starting to look into graduate schools, so it would be impossible to say at this point. Of course, we always like working together, but it is not a "must-have" in the future. ■

Email Kassi McKinney at kjmv11@vt.edu and Jessi McKinney at jmckinn@vt.edu.

Compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary

Since the fall 2009 edition of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*, the most recent regular issue of the magazine, Society members ...

Earned four of the 32 American Rhodes Scholarships for 2010:

Jordan D. Anderson (Auburn University), senior biomedical sciences major; **Elizabeth A. Betterbed** (United States Military Academy), senior mechanical engineering major; **Andrew J. McCall** (Truman State University), senior philosophy and religion major; **Alexandra P. Rosenberg** (United States Military Academy), senior sociology major.

Rhodes Scholarships, the oldest international fellowships, were initiated after the death of philanthropist Cecil Rhodes in 1902 to bring outstanding students across the globe to the University of Oxford in England. Scholarships typically cover all expenses for two or three years of study at Oxford.

Roughly 80 Rhodes Scholars are selected worldwide annually. In 2009, more than 1,500 students asked their 326 schools for endorsement to make the initial cut. Criteria: academic achievement, personal integrity, unselfish spirit, respectful attitude, leadership potential and physical vigor. Including 2009, 3,196 Americans representing 310 schools have been selected Rhodes Scholars. (Source: <http://www.rhodesscholar.org>)

Won academic distinction:

Teresa Craig (Tennessee Technological University), senior political science major and volleyball hitter, and **Jamie Furstnerberg** (University of Tennessee at Martin), senior psychology major and soccer midfielder, were two of the six Ohio Valley Conference scholar-athletes for 2008-09 (from 19 finalists).

Robert Cruz (University of Connecticut), in the master of public health program at University of Connecticut, was named student of the year for academic achievement and community service at the fifth annual Latino de Oro 2009 Awards for Connecticut residents in 10 categories.

Andrew Kydes (United States Military Academy), senior civil engineering major and soccer midfielder, was the Patriot League Men's soccer scholar-athlete of the year.

Emily Vock (Illinois Wesleyan University), senior political science and history double major, earned a Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate Award, given to outstanding seniors from each of Illinois' institutions of higher learning.

Spoke at school ceremonies:

Reynaldo Fuentes (University of Wyoming), senior political science major, was one of two students to talk at University of Wyoming's October 2009 convocation. **Puanani Maneha** (Brigham Young University-Hawaii), senior Hawaiian Studies major, gave a speech at Brigham Young University-Hawaii's December 2009 graduation.

Received faculty honors:

Gregg Afman (Brigham Young University), professor of kinesiology, was one of three teachers of the year at Westmont College in May 2009; colleague **Eileen McMahon** (Westmont College), assistant professor of biology, won its faculty research award. **Alan Alewine** (McKendree University chapter president), associate professor of mathematics, earned McKendree University's annual faculty award in May 2009. **Chris Fogliasso** (Pittsburg State University), university professor of management and marketing, was one of three outstanding faculty award winners at Pittsburg State University last May (for the seventh time).

Ashley Benjamin (University of Kansas) co-wrote with Michael Cauthen and Patrick Donnelly *The Student-Athlete's College Recruitment Guide* (Ferguson Publishing Company; 280 pp.; \$35 hardcover; \$14.95 paperback, Checkmark Books), a resource on how to choose the best college athletics program, with interviews from top coaches, according to press materials. Benjamin earned a B.S. in journalism from University of Kansas, an M.A. in exercise physiology/physical education from The Ohio State University, and an M.D. from University of Kansas School of Medicine.

Bettina Boxall (University of Maine) shared a 2009 Pulitzer Prize in explanatory reporting and \$10,000 with fellow *Los Angeles Times* reporter Julie Cart "for their fresh and painstaking exploration into the cost and effectiveness of attempts to combat the growing menace of wildfires across the Western United States," in a five-part series called "Big Burn," according to Pulitzer materials. Boxall has been a metro staff writer at the paper since 1992 and in its employ as a reporter since 1987.

O. M. Brack, Jr. (Arizona State University) edited the first scholarly edition of *The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.*, by Sir John Hawkins (University of Georgia Press; 528 pp.; \$59.95 hardcover). Press materials call the work, initially published four years before James Boswell's seminal biography of the intellectual and writer (1709-84), "an essential early Johnson biography, recovered from obscurity and released in celebration of the tercentenary of Johnson's birth" last September. Hawkins was Johnson's friend, legal adviser and chief executor. Brack, professor emeritus of English at Arizona State University, is a prolific Johnson scholar and curated the Johnson tercentenary exhibition at the Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif.



David L. Briscoe (University of Arkansas at Little Rock) earned the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the national council of the Boy Scouts of America. The award, created in 1969, acknowledges superior contributions in professional pursuits and community service; awardees must have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at least 25 years prior to nomination. Past winners choose the recipients. Briscoe, professor of sociology and distinguished teaching fellow in the department of sociology and anthropology at University of Arkansas at Little Rock, is a

Distinguished Member of the Society and a former chapter president; he also served on the 2004-07 budget and advisory review committee.



Sarah Bucklin (University of Wyoming), an environmental protection specialist with the Bureau of Land Management in Casper, Wyo., was one of 15 early-career wildlife professionals to participate in The Wildlife Society's 2009 national Leadership Institute program. Criteria: the applicant's academic record, leadership capability, and professional excellence. The Wildlife Society, founded in 1937, is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization that helps conserve diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure the responsible use of wildlife resources. Its Leadership Institute began in 2006.



Raymond L. Calabrese (Wichita State University), professor of educational administration at The Ohio State University, published *The Dissertation Desk Reference* (Rowman & Littlefield; 196 pp.; \$75 hardcover, \$29.95 paperback), "a comprehensive guide to terminology and concepts used in the organization and writing of the dissertation," state press materials. He is author or coauthor of numerous books and articles on education.



Steve Carroll (Butler University) co-wrote with Jim Gill *Don't Sell Yourself Short ... Be All that You Can Be!* (Trafford Publishing; 168 pp.; \$34.50 hardcover, \$24.50 paperback), a self-help book, with tutorials, on how to "be-know-do" in the workplace: maximizing one's talent and employability. A professional trainer and veteran business consultant, Carroll is chief executive officer of Lee DuBois Technologies, which specializes in enhancing business performance, management and sales.



Bridget Cleary (Villanova University) was crowned Ms. America 2009-10 last September at the sixth competition for contestants at least 26 years old. Cleary, a career adviser and motivational trainer, is a senior manager at Arnold Worldwide advertising. She ranked third in her class at Villanova University, earning a degree in communication, and is a project leader for Boston Cares, the largest volunteer organization in New England. This marked her first time vying in a pageant.

Pat Conroy (The Citadel) published his fifth novel and ninth book, *South of Broad* (Nan A. Talese; 528 pp.; \$29.95 hardcover; \$16 paperback, Dial Press). A saga of family and friendship, set in Charleston, S.C., Conroy's touchstone backdrop, it alternates between the counterculture of the late 1960s and the AIDS crisis of the late 1980s, as a tight-knit group of high school seniors mature in the aftermath of a suicide of a dazzling counterpart. Conroy's other works include *The Great Santini* and *The Prince of Tides*.

D. Larry Crumbley (Louisiana State University), KPMG endowed professor, department of accounting, at Louisiana State University's E. J. Ourso College of Business Administration, published his 12th novel, *Trap Doors and Trojan Horses: An Auditing Action Adventure* (Carolina Academic Press; 228 pp.; \$25 paperback). Co-written with L. Murphy Smith and Laura Davis DeLaune, the educational whodunit features "a famous forensic accountant" and professor who uncovers a diabolical attempt to steal Coca-Cola's secret formula; the "novel approach to accounting" also tackles the crime of "accounting boredom and difficulty in learning accounting material," in this case, "the differences between a regular audit and the investigation required by forensic accountants to uncover computer fraud," as Crumbley puts it. His many additional credits include authoring or coauthoring dozens of other books and more than 350 articles, editing many publications, and serving as president and founder of the American Taxation Association.



Lisa J. Delissio (Salem State College), associate professor of biology at Salem State College, is the primary investigator on a two-year grant from the National Science Foundation, worth nearly \$300,000, to transform how life sciences are taught in select public school districts in Massachusetts and Puerto Rico. Partnering with, among others, the University of Puerto Rico in Humacao, Puerto Rico; the Puerto Rico Department of Education; and Salem, Mass., public schools, Delissio and company are developing collaborations in lab- and field-based science programs for middle and high school teachers.



Haines Eason (University of Montana) will have his poetry chapbook, *A History of Waves*, published by the Poetry Society of America (22 pp; \$7, soft cover) soon and is one of four poets to win the society's 2009 chapbook fellowships. "My intent," he wrote by email, "was to create a loosely linked series of poems that, for the most part, evoke the sonnet in form and tell, obliquely, the fragmented narrative of a tormented love affair." Publication also includes a \$1,000 cash prize and an expense-paid reading in New York with the award-winning poet Mark Doty, a contest judge who says in the chapbook's introduction that the collection is an "artfully woven net, its knot intended to catch the allure, struggle, gleam and disappoint of desire." Eason earned a B.A. in English from University of Montana and is pursuing an M.F.A. in poetry from Washington University in St. Louis.

Tim Gautreaux (Southeastern Louisiana University) received the Louisiana Writer Award at the 2009 Louisiana Book Festival last October. His acclaimed output includes two story collections, *Same Place, Same Things* (selected for the festival's

book club) and *Welding with Children*, and three novels, *The Next Step in the Dance*, *The Clearing*, and, most recently, *The Missing*. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *GQ* and *Harper's Magazine* as well as in annual compendiums like *Best American Short Stories* and *New Stories from the South*. He is professor emeritus and writer in residence at Southeastern Louisiana University. More than 190 poets, prose writers and scholars participated at the Baton Rouge event. Past winners of the award, celebrating contributions to Louisiana literary life, include poet Yusef Komunyakaa, novelist James Lee Burke, and scholar Lewis P. Simpson.



Kelly Gorham (Montana State University), news photographer at his alma mater Montana State University and public relations officer for its Phi Kappa Phi chapter, showed eight of his black-and-white photographs of Berlin, Germany, at an exhibit (in a gallery in Saranac Lake, N.Y.) marking the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The images form part of his visual documentary "The Stones Have Memories" (www.coldwarberlin.com), 43 shots of Berlin's Cold War landmarks.

Freeman A. Hrabowski III (University of Maryland), longtime leader of University of Maryland, Baltimore County, was named one of the 10 best college presidents by *Time* magazine in November 2009. Also, last summer, his school topped the list of up-and-coming national universities, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.



Kara Jackson (Boise State University) competed as Miss Idaho in the Miss America Pageant in January. The platform for the Boise State University senior, who grew up on a farm, was "modern agriculture: supporting and sustaining society." Her talent was the viola. The biology major hopes to become a clinical pharmacist.

Dominic Jones (University of Tulsa), an operations research analyst in Salt Lake City, Utah, received the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Flight Standards Service National Staff Employee of the Year award for 2008. It's one of several peer-based honors recognizing the top employee in each class of job function at the FAA; Flight Standards Services is the enforcement arm of the agency. Ceremonies occurred in Washington, D.C., with travel expenses paid by the government.

Kathleen P. King (Widener University) delivered addresses on Web-based tools for school leaders at the Western New York Educational Service Council and at the Langley School in McLean, Va. The talks covered using digital technology for instruction, communication, community building and professional development in K-12 settings.

King is president of Transformation Education LLC, a private consulting firm for professionals; education professor at Fordham University; and author of 17 books.

Ruth Kinzey (Coe College) was one of five official bloggers for the Business Civic Leadership Center, an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, at the 2009 Global Corporate Citizenship Conference in Washington, D.C. She also was elected to the College of Charleston Department of Communication Advisory Council. Her Kinzey Company, from its base in Salisbury, N.C., protects and enhances reputations through strategic planning and communication.



William E. Kirwan (University of Maryland), chancellor of the University System of Maryland, was one of four visionaries in higher education to receive 2009 Carnegie Corporation Academic Leadership Awards. The grants, worth \$500,000 apiece, support academic initiatives of the recipients as they see fit. Kirwan, a mathematician by training, was praised partly "for his commitment to diversity, efforts to place math and science learning at the center of the educational enterprise and for ensuring America's young people have access to excellent education that is also affordable," according to press materials. The awards began in 2005.

Belinda E. Lowe (University of Maryland) was named business development executive of the federal government sector of Koniag Services, Inc., an informational technology solutions firm. Her experience spans leadership roles at companies contracted with the Army, Department of Justice, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and Department of Defense programs.

Maria B. Murad (University of Minnesota public relations officer) co-wrote with Jan McCarthy *Leading Ladies: How to Manage Like a Star* (Outskirts Press, 180 pp.; \$13.95 paperback); it offers advice and real-life scenarios for women managers, new or experienced, through a premise that corporations are like Broadway productions with managers as the directors with little rehearsal time to mold a diverse company. Murad is a freelance writer/editor, adjunct English instructor and evaluator of standardized tests.

Lucy B. Wayne (University of Florida) became president of the American Cultural Resources Association at the trade group's annual conference last September in Providence, R.I., for a two-year term. With degrees from Mary Washington College (B.A., art history) and University of Florida (M.A., anthropology; Ph.D., architecture, preservation planning), she co-owns SouthArc, Inc., a cultural resource management services firm for the public and private sectors, in Gainesville, Fla. ■



For more Member News announcements, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Publications/Forum/spring2010/membernews>

In Memoriam

Compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary

Patricia Jean Budinger (California State University-Los Angeles), 60, showed schoolchildren how to overcome obstacles. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1970, she was a special education teacher for the Garden Grove Unified School District, in Orange County, Calif., instructing elementary students who were deaf and blind due to rubella. Budinger earned an undergraduate degree in education from Whittier College and a master's degree in special education from California State University-Los Angeles. Doctors initially thought she wouldn't live to see 40, her mother said in a phone interview. She died Oct. 26, 2009.

Thomas O. Hall, Jr. (Virginia Commonwealth University), 85, enlightened students and congregants as a professor and pastor. His ministerial and academic career began at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., continued at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Louisville, Ky., and culminated at Virginia Commonwealth University, at which he chaired the philosophy and religious studies department for 17 years. Numerous citations with Virginia Commonwealth included the outstanding faculty of the year award and distinguished service award. Earning bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Fort Worth, Texas, among other credentials from additional schools, Hall was a church pastor, too. He died July 20, 2009, and is survived by his wife of 64 years and their son.



Marian Hayes Jernigan (Texas Woman's University), 68, taught retail management, fashion, and textiles at four universities: Louisiana State University (1968-73), Florida State University (1973-76), University of North Texas (1976-84), and Texas Woman's University (1984-2000), serving as department chair at the latter two. She coauthored the university textbooks *Merchandising Mathematics for Retailing* and *Fashion Merchandising and Marketing*. Her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees came from Purdue University. She died July 13, 2009, and is survived by her husband.



E. Leonard Jossem (Cornell University), 90, spent more than five decades in the physics department at The Ohio State University, serving as chair for a stretch. During World War II, he was a staff scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory and worked on the Manhattan Project. Jossem helped guide the National Research Council as a member of the physics and astronomy board and assumed leadership roles with the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. He also held 11 elected

and committee positions in 61 years with the American Association of Physics Teachers and numerous roles over 24 years with the American Institute of Physics. The author, editor and presenter won many physics awards. He earned a bachelor's degree from City College of New York and master's and doctoral degrees from Cornell University. Jossem died Aug. 12, 2009; his longtime companion and a sister are among the survivors.



James E. "Jim" King, Jr. (Florida State University) amassed 23 years in Florida politics and was one of the longest-serving legislators in the history of the state. He served in the Florida Senate from 1999 until his passing and as president of the Florida Senate from 2002 to '04. King also served in the Florida House of Representatives from 1986 to '99. He was majority leader of both bodies. King was especially proud of the passage of Florida's Life Prolonging Procedures Act, known as the "death with dignity" legislation. In business, he made his mark in personnel recruiting, temporary help and employee testing industries. King's many honors recognize his efforts in business, environmentalism, fishing, and cancer research. Recently, as a result of establishing the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program, he was honored by his alma mater, Florida State University; the life sciences building bearing his name also is his final resting place. He died July 26, 2009, of cancer, at age 69, and is survived by his wife of nearly 30 years, two daughters and their families.

Renate McCraw (New Mexico State University), 69, took many paths in her educational and professional lives. Born in Frankfurt, Germany, she was studying to be an opera singer when she married her husband, who was in the military at the time and who survives her. They raised three children in Alamogordo, N.M. She became a hairdresser, eventually owning her own business, before earning a bachelor's degree in psychology and social work from New Mexico State University and a master's in social work from University of Texas at Arlington. McCraw worked for the Army in El Paso, Texas, when diagnosed with colon cancer; she died Sept. 13, 2008.



Robert G. Stevens (Southern Illinois University-Carbondale), 79, served as president and chief executive of, consecutively, Old Stone Bank, Providence, R.I.; BancOhio National Bank, Columbus, Ohio; and First American Bankshares, Washington, D.C. After earning degrees from Southern Illinois University (undergraduate) and University of Illinois (master's and doctorate), the accounting expert worked at Touche Ross & Co. in New York for a decade, eventually becoming a partner, before being hired by Citibank in a leadership role. The Air Force veteran (during the

Korean War) directed numerous corporate boards such as the Student Loan Marketing Association. After retiring in 1989, he lectured at George Washington University. The lifelong sailor and model airplane enthusiast died Sept. 14, 2009; his second wife of 19 years, three sons from his first marriage, two stepsons and seven grandchildren, among others, survive.



David Hugh Stewart (Texas A & M University), 82, taught English at University of Michigan (1960-67), Idaho State University (1968-71), Pennsylvania State University (1972-75) and Texas A & M University (1975-89). He was department chair at the latter three. Stewart wrote dozens of articles about literature, published more than 100 literary reviews, and edited two college English texts and a collection of Rudyard Kipling travel letters. He served on the boards of numerous college English associations and civic organizations. Stewart earned a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from University of Michigan and an M.A. from Columbia University. After high school, he served in the Navy and Merchant Marines. Stewart was an Eagle Scout and outdoorsman. He died at his home in Bozeman, Mont., on Aug. 3, 2009, a Monday, after his immediate family (wife of 60 years, two sons and their wives and children) had celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary the weekend before.

Margaret Perry Tarpley (Louisiana State University), 46, of Pineville, La., achieved success in the classroom and outside of it. She earned a perfect grade point average from Vanderbilt Catholic High School in Houma, La., served as student council president, and was Teenager of the Year for Terrebonne Parish. At Louisiana State University, Tarpley graduated summa cum laude in English and was a Tigerette (twirling corps) for the school band. Her career encompassed print and TV journalism plus teaching. She died Aug. 1, 2008, and is survived by her husband, three daughters and one son, among others.



Wyman Loren Williams, Jr. (member at large), 81, held posts in the armed services and the ivory tower. After serving in the Navy (1947-49) in the aviation electronics shop aboard the USS Antietam, he completed bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from University of South Carolina. A doctorate followed from University of Tennessee; so did service in the Korean War. Williams spent a decade in human resources research for the Army, then joined the faculty of the Medical College of Georgia as director of educational research. Eight years later he took a similar position at the Medical College of Virginia, where he worked for 17 years. In retirement, he ran a bed-and-breakfast in Sugar Grove, N.C., for a spell and was a volunteer firefighter. The Phi Kappa Phi Distinguished Member died Jan. 12, 2009, at his home; survivors include his wife of 55 years, three sons and daughters-in-law and five grandchildren. ■



For more obituaries, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Publications/Forum/spring2010/memoriam>.

“Natural Theology”

Every spring, the same determined caravan — line after line of house ants, scrambling up brick walls, slipping under windowsills to forage the unforgiving kitchen — hands too ready to smash them, countertops washed clean, over and over, of all enticing sweetmeats but their invisible trails. So little to justify their annual pilgrimage — animal faith, animal hope — nevertheless, they come back each year for the overlooked bread crumb; a savory sprig of chicken left in the Boraxed sink; a drop of apple juice, barely visible on the white Formica. So little to take away for their persistence — yet they never fail to arrive, supremely devoted to their all-but-futile quest. Once, I found a bit of wood dust tucked in the narrow of Formica that separates the backsplash wall from the countertop stove. On the ribbon of paneling between the backsplash and low-slung microwave above, I'd hung great-grandmother's china-handled, wooden salad fork and spoon. And her oak-spindled, earthenware rolling pin — All at once spilling over with ants, a river of ants . . . Had their hunger somehow led them through the half-moon gap between the rolling pin's clay body and hardwood axis to find inside it, after all this time, some measure of the bread of life? Reluctantly, I washed them out. And rehung the rolling pin and salad set far away, high up on three nails, on a wall this side of where our April rituals cross.

By Susan Militzer Luther



Photo:
fotolia.

Editor's note: The Phi Kappa Phi Forum poetry contest is open only to active Society members, published or unpublished. Submissions — one per entrant per issue — should be up to 40 lines long and must reflect the theme of the edition. One original, previously unpublished poem is selected from all entries to appear in the printed version of the magazine as a complement to the scholarly articles. Runners-up may be chosen to appear online. The theme for the summer 2010 edition is "recovery." The deadline to submit material is 7 a.m. CST Monday, March 8. Entries will only be accepted by email at poetry@phikappaphi.org. Poet, Berry College professor and Phi Kappa Phi member Sandra Meek serves as the poetry editor and judge in consultation with Society management. For complete details and rules, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/poetry>.



For runner-up Rob Griffith's poem, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Publications/Forum/spring2010/poetry>.

The entries for this “Spring Is in the Air” issue, not surprisingly, tended to center on renewal and awakening, on the season's potential for thaw and bloom. Many poems addressed literal plantings, whether of field or garden. Others focused on symbolic ones, such as the metaphorical growth that occurs within the classroom, leading to spring graduation.

The best works recognized as well the shadow side inherent in these themes. The most resonant pieces came from the winner and runner-up, for whom spring's annual rebirth evokes fragility and transience not just of flora, but of all life and enterprise, even language itself. Each poem acknowledges in its own way the necessity of loss at the heart of even the most joyful change.

Runner-up Rob Griffith, in his sonnet “Another Birthday Poem,” available online, writes that “neither snow nor poems can hold the grief / Of change, or halt the robin's clear cry,” noting that a “winter coup” is inevitable; time cannot be stopped. While the annual rite — here a birthday and the coming of spring — is cause for celebration, it also serves as memento mori: another year has passed, and will not return.

Susan Militzer Luther's winning poem, “Natural Theology,” also offers both jubilation and lament in observing the perseverance of what the speaker calls “animal faith”: the doomed “annual pilgrimage” of a seasonal invasion of ants into a kitchen scrubbed clean. Her compassionate speculation about the hunger that drives these insects, this “determined caravan,” to spill even through her great-grandmother's rolling pin leads her — and us — to recognize a kinship with these tiny, resolute seekers of “the bread of life,” even though she quashes them.

Though these poems, like all of nature's endeavors, may, as Griffith ruminates, “have all the weight of snow” dissolving at season's change, these beautiful meditations on hope and sorrow rouse us to the moment “where,” Luther concludes, “our April rituals cross.”

—Sandra Meek, poetry editor



Susan Militzer Luther (Louisiana State University), a freelance writer, writing workshop leader and occasional writing teacher, has published a monograph on Coleridge, scholarly articles and miscellaneous prose, two chapbooks, a full-length volume of poetry, and numerous poems in a variety of academic and small-press journals and anthologies. She earned B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in English from Louisiana State University, University of Alabama in Huntsville and Vanderbilt University, respectively. She was a runner-up in the summer 2009 *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* poetry contest. Born and raised in Lincoln, Neb., she has lived in Huntsville, Ala., for many years. Email her at saudrey1@hiwaay.net.



Sandra Meek is the author of three books of poems, *Nomadic Foundations* (2002), *Burn* (2005), and her most recent, *Biogeography*, the 2006 winner of the Dorset Award, as well as a chapbook, *The Circumference of Arrival* (2001). She also is the editor of an anthology, *Deep Travel: Contemporary American Poets Abroad* (2007), which earned a 2008 Independent Publisher Book Award Gold Medal. Her poems have appeared in *Agni*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Poetry*, *Conjunctions*, *Green Mountains Review* and *The Iowa Review*, among other publications, and she has twice been named Georgia Author of the Year. Meek also once served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Manyana, Botswana (1989-91). An active Phi Kappa Phi member since her induction in 1986 at Colorado State University, she is a cofounding editor of Ninebark Press, director of the Georgia Poetry Circuit, and Professor of English, Rhetoric, and Writing at Berry College in Mount Berry, Ga.

Photo: fotolia



Someone to Lien On

By Bob Zany

It's that time of the year again: Spring is in the air and The Tax Man is in your pocket. That time of year when I have to wonder, "If a tree falls in the forest, and hits an IRS agent, and there's no one else around, does the chainsaw make a noise?" Now I am not wishing harm upon The Tax Man, but let's face it, he is about as popular as the seemingly washed-up Kelsey Grammer in a sitcom or the competitive eating champ Joey Chestnut at a buffet. And I realize the term "Tax Man" is sexist, but "Tax Person" just doesn't sound scary enough. And scared we are, despite the fact that taxes are as American as apple pie and Chevrolet. Though apple pie hasn't asked for a bailout. Yet.

I think our fear is unwarranted. The odds of being audited are 180 to 1, according to the Web site www.casinosVIPLounge.com; the odds of getting away with murder are 2 to 1. Of course, those former odds may go up significantly if you hand over your return to an angry postal worker at 11:59 p.m. on April 15, and say, "Put this on the top of the pile."

I think part of the fear comes from

confusion. Our tax system is just way too complex. I've heard that if you send your tax information to 20 different accountants, you'll get 20 different results. And, like the government, I always go with the lowest bidder.

This country was founded on the principle "no taxation without representation." Thankfully, this still holds true, except now, "representation" often means, "Hope you have a good lawyer!" One who can finesse you out of declaring your needy mom as a "codependent," even though she lives 3,000 miles away.

I don't mind paying taxes so long as they go to good causes and help keep our nation safe and secure. But how can we be sure? Well, we can start by expanding a system that's already in place. You know that little box on the tax form that you check if you want to contribute a few bucks to the presidential campaign? Why not do it for all worthwhile government programs? National Defense: Check Yes! Social Security: Check Yes! In fact, I'm not getting any younger, take a Lincoln.

But I don't care what side of the aisle you're on, nobody likes to pay for "Bridges to Nowhere" or "shovel-ready" infrastructure projects, those able to break

ground quickly, in Congressional districts that don't exist. Or, worse, studies like the one from the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences from September 2009 that concluded that multitaskers are prone to distraction. Thanks for that, guys, but if you're focused on only one thing, you're not really multitasking now, are you?

So that's why I'd like you to consider The Bob Zany Tax Plan. Unlike others on the table, it's not a flat tax (one rate for all), a consumption tax (on what people spend, not earn) or a vanity tax (for cosmetic procedures). And it's definitely not a progressive tax. (I never understood why people making \$49,999.99 a year are taxed 15 percent, and people making \$50,000.00 are taxed 29 percent. I'm no CPA, but my advice? Lose the penny. You can even borrow my couch cushion.)

The Bob Zany Tax Plan is simple, and it's a tax that every man in this country would gladly pay, no questions asked. Ladies, you would be exempt. (And not just so you'll forgive me for being a little bit sexist again.) It's the "See, I told you so!" tax. It's the kitty every man in this country willingly contributes to every time he wins an argument, proves somebody wrong, or finds a destination without the use of a Google map.

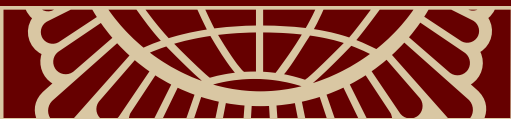
I don't think there's a man in this country who would avoid this tax. And all the supportive partners would probably throw in a bit of change at the end of the year to make their men look good. Not only would we pay off our national debt, we'd finally have a surplus to pay for universal healthcare and a bridge to ... somewhere.

That's a box I would happily check. Because, I'm fairly sure, "I told you so!" ■



Comedian **Bob Zany's** "Zany Report" is featured weekly on the nationally syndicated "Bob & Tom" radio show. He is currently touring with The Canadian Mist Bob & Tom All-Stars at concert

venues across the country and producing stand-up shows for casinos and resorts nationwide. Zany has made more than 800 national television appearances, including *The Tonight Show*, *Roseanne* and *The Drew Carey Show*, and co-starred in the recent film, *The Informant!*, starring Matt Damon and directed by Steven Soderbergh. Zany treasures his 16-year association with *The Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association Labor Day Telethon* that has included stand-up spots, co-hosting duties, fund-raising and a seat on the board of directors. A Los Angeles native, he lives in the San Fernando Valley with his wife and their certified pre-owned adopted dogs Henry, part rottweiler and Doberman pinscher, and Frankie, dalmation and pointer. Visit his Web site www.bobzany.com or email him at bob@bobzany.com.



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Spring 2010 PHI KAPPA PHI FORUM



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The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi includes among its vast ranks more than 300 chapters at university and college campuses, mostly in the United States. As part of the nation's oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society, one million members and counting have ties to these chapters since the Society's founding at the University of Maine in 1897. Here is a list of current active chapters:

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 Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio
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 Clarion University, Clarion, Pa.
 Clarkson University, Potsdam, N.Y.
 Clemson University, Clemson, S.C.
 Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
 College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C.
 The College of New Jersey, Ewing, N.J.
 Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo.
 Colorado State University-Pueblo, Pueblo, Colo.
 Columbus State University, Columbus, Ga.
 Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, S.D.
 Delta State University, Cleveland, Miss.
 DePaul University, Chicago, Ill.
 Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa.
 East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C.
 East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tenn.
 Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Ky.
 Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Mich.
 Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, N.M.
 Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, Ore.
 Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Wash.
 Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Ill.
 Elon University, Elon, N.C.
 Emporia State University, Emporia, Kan.
 Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Fla.
 Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Fla.
 Florida International University, Miami, Fla.
 Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Fla.
 Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla.
 Fontbonne University, St. Louis, Mo.
 Fordham University, Bronx, N.Y.
 Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kan.
 Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colo.
 Francis Marion University, Florence, S.C.
 Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.
 Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, Ga.
 Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Ga.
 Georgia State University, Atlanta, Ga.
 Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Mich.
 Hood College, Frederick, Md.
 Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho
 Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Ill.
 Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Ind.
 Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pa.
 Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, Ind.
 Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa
 Ithaca College, Ithaca, N.Y.
 Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss.
 Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Ala.
 Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, Fla.
 James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.
 Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan.
 Kean University, Union, N.J.
 Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Ga.
 Kutztown University, Kutztown, Pa.
 Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas
 Lock Haven University, Lock Haven, Pa.
 Longwood University, Farmville, Va.
 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.
 Louisiana State University-Shreveport, Shreveport, La.
 Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, La.

Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pa.
 Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.
 McKendree University, Lebanon, Ill.
 McNeese State University, Lake Charles, La.
 Mercer University, Macon, Ga.
 Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
 Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.
 Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Mich.
 Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tenn.
 Millersville University, Millersville, Pa.
 Millikin University, Decatur, Ill.
 Minnesota State University-Mankato, Mankato, Minn.
 Minnesota State University-Moorhead, Moorhead, Minn.
 Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Miss.
 Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Miss.
 Missouri State University, Springfield, Mo.
 Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, Mo.
 Montana State University, Bozeman, Mont.
 Montclair State University, Montclair, N.J.
 Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky.
 Murray State University, Murray, Ky.
 Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio
 Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Neb.
 New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, N.M.
 New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, N.M.
 Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, La.
 North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Greensboro, N.C.
 North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C.
 North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D.
 North Georgia College & State University, Dahlonega, Ga.
 Northeastern University, Boston, Mass.
 Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Ariz.
 Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill.
 Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, La.
 Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio
 The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
 Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
 Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, Okla.
 Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Okla.
 Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va.
 Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore.
 Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.
 Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kan.
 Plattsburgh State University, Plattsburgh, N.Y.
 Plymouth State University, Plymouth, N.H.
 Portland State University, Portland, Ore.
 Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.
 Radford University, Radford, Va.
 Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y.
 Sage Colleges, Troy, N.Y.
 Salem State College, Salem, Mass.
 Salisbury University, Salisbury, Md.
 Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.
 San Diego State University, San Diego, Calif.
 San Jose State University, San Jose, Calif.
 Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, W.Va.
 Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, Pa.
 Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, Pa.
 South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D.
 Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Mo.
 Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, La.
 Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Carbondale, Ill.
 Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Edwardsville, Ill.
 Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Ore.
 State University of New York-Binghamton, Binghamton, N.Y.
 State University of New York-Cortland, Cortland, N.Y.
 State University of New York-Oswego, Oswego, N.Y.
 State University of New York-Potsdam, Potsdam, N.Y.
 Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.
 Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tenn.
 Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tenn.
 Texas A & M International University, Laredo, Texas
 Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas
 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas
 Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas
 Troy University, Troy, Ala.
 Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo.
 United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
 United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
 University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Ala.
 University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, Ala.
 University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
 University of Alaska-Anchorage, Anchorage, Alaska
 University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska
 University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.
 University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, Fayetteville, Ark.
 University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, Ark.
 University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, Conn.
 University of California-Davis, Davis, Calif.
 University of Central Florida, Orlando, Fla.
 University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Mo.
 University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn.
 University of Delaware, Newark, Del.
 University of Evansville, Evansville, Ind.
 University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.
 University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.
 University of Houston-Clear Lake, Houston, Texas
 University of Houston-Downtown, Houston, Texas

University of Houston, Houston, Texas
 University of Houston-Victoria, Victoria, Texas
 University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho
 University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Ill.
 University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan.
 University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky.
 University of Louisiana-Lafayette, Lafayette, La.
 University of Louisiana-Monroe, Monroe, La.
 University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky.
 University of Maine, Orono, Maine
 University of Maryland*
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.
 University of Memphis, Memphis, Tenn.
 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
 University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.
 University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.
 University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Mo.
 University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo.
 University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo.
 University of Montana, Missoula, Mont.
 University of Montevallo, Montevallo, Ala.
 University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, Neb.
 University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, Neb.
 University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nev.
 University of Nevada-Reno, Reno, Nev.
 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M.
 University of New Orleans, New Orleans, La.
 University of North Alabama, Florence, Ala.
 University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, N.C.
 University of North Carolina-Wilmington, Wilmington, N.C.
 University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Fla.
 University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
 University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla.
 University of the Pacific, Stockton, Calif.
 University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines
 University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Greensburg, Pa.
 University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Johnstown, Pa.
 University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico
 University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Wash.
 University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I.
 University of South Alabama, Mobile, Ala.
 University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, S.C.
 University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla.
 University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif.
 University of Southern Maine, Portland
 University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss.
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.
 University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, Tenn.
 University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas
 University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas
 University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas
 University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Galveston, Texas
 University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas
 University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, Texas
 University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio
 University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Okla.
 University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
 University of West Alabama, Livingston, Ala.
 University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Ga.
 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, Wis.
 University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, Wis.
 University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis.
 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wis.
 University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, Wis.
 University of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls, Wis.
 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, Wis.
 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater, Wis.
 University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo.
 Utah State University, Logan, Utah
 Utah Valley University, Orem, Utah
 Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Ga.
 Villanova University, Villanova, Pa.
 Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.
 Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Va.
 Washburn University, Topeka, Kan.
 Wayne State College, Wayne, Neb.
 Weber State University, Ogden, Utah
 Wesleyan College, Macon, Ga.
 West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.Va.
 West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, W.Va.
 Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C.
 Western Illinois University, Macomb, Ill.
 Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky.
 Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Mich.
 Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Ore.
 Western Washington University, Bellingham, Wash.
 Westfield State College, Westfield, Mass.
 Westmont College, Santa Barbara, Calif.
 Wichita State University, Wichita, Kan.
 Widener University, Chester, Pa.
 Winthrop University, Rock Hill, S.C.
 Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio
 Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio

*University of Maryland, previously one chapter, is transitioning into four at College Park, University College, Baltimore County, and Eastern Shore.

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