

Alpha of Louisiana Fall Newsletter

Phi Beta Kappa

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Chapter Update

Greetings from the Alpha of Louisiana chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

As 2009 comes to a close, we are happy to report to you on a few of our activities from the previous year and to inform you of our upcoming events and opportunities to get involved with Phi Beta Kappa at Tulane.

In the spring of 2009 we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Phi Beta Kappa at Tulane – more details of our celebration are on page 2. We also inducted our 100th class of members into the Alpha of Louisiana chapter.

In the fall of 2009 we sent representatives to the 42nd Triennial Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and held

our first annual fall social event. The Fall Reception was an opportunity for current and alumni members – as well as local PBK members from other institutions – to meet in a “happy hour” style setting to enjoy good conversation over wine and hors d’oeuvres.

As the spring of 2010 approaches, we are preparing for the induction process for our 101st class of members. In conjunction with that process we will be holding additional social events to welcome our new student members and to engage our faculty/staff, alumni, and local members, culminating in our new member induction ceremony on May 13, 2010.



Report from Austin

The 42nd Triennial Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society was held on October 1-4, 2009 in Austin, Texas. Brian Brox, president of the Alpha of Louisiana chapter, represented Tulane at the Triennial.

In addition to electing new officers and amending the Society’s constitution, the Triennial voted to create four new Phi Beta Kappa chapters at Butler University, The College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University, Elon University,

and James Madison University.

The Phi Beta Kappa Society also recognized the 100th Anniversary of the Alpha of Louisiana chapter during its second plenary session of the Triennial.

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Special points of interest:

- Faculty and staff of Tulane University who were inducted into PBK as undergraduates are encouraged to join the Alpha of Louisiana chapter
- New Orleans residents who were inducted into PBK at other institutions are also welcome to join the Alpha of Louisiana chapter.

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Our 100th Anniversary

The Alpha of Louisiana chapter of Phi Beta Kappa celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2009.

In addition to inducting its 100th class at a ceremony on May 14th, 2009, the chapter held two events to mark its centennial.

On April 22nd, 2009, the chapter hosted the Phi Beta Kappa lecture. Speaking on the topic of origins, Matt Cartmill, professor of

Anthropology at Boston University, gave a talk titled "Evolution, Creation, and Eternity: What's Wrong With the 'Creation' Part of 'Creation Science'?" His talk was followed by a reception on the recently redesigned Jacques Cassatt Courtyard at Jones Hall.

Also in April, the Alpha of Louisiana chapter hosted an exhibition of Phi Beta Kappa memorabilia in the Special

Collections Gallery in Jones Hall. The exhibition featured items from the national Phi Beta Kappa collection as well as items from Tulane that reflect the 100 years Phi Beta Kappa on campus, including early induction programs and the Phi Beta Kappa certificate awarded to John Kennedy Toole, the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *A Confederacy of Dunces* who was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at Tulane in 1969.

Riess Memorial Award

At the 100th induction ceremony that took place on May 14th, 2009, the Alpha of Louisiana chapter of Phi Beta Kappa awarded its third Karlem Riess Memorial Award to Christopher Holdgraf.

The Karlem Riess Memorial Award is given to an outstanding Alpha of Louisiana inductee who has demonstrated a breadth of experience in the liberal arts

and sciences. The award is named for Dr. Karlem "Ducky" Riess, who served as a member and officer of the Alpha of Louisiana chapter for more than half a century. Dr. Riess received his undergraduate degree from Tulane, and he returned to Tulane as a faculty member in physics after graduate study.

Christopher Holdgraf graduated from Tulane in

2009 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Neuroscience. Holdgraf was recognized for his superior academic achievement in a broad course of study from across the liberal arts and sciences.

As the winner of the Riess Memorial Award, Holdgraf received a certificate and a cash award.



Connect with the Alpha of Louisiana

Membership in the Alpha of Louisiana chapter of Phi Beta Kappa is open to PBK members who are faculty and staff of Tulane University as well as residents of the New Orleans area who are not active in another chapter. We are

happy to welcome as members any PBK member from the area who wants to join us in our scholarly and social endeavors.

It is easy to get in touch with the Alpha of Louisiana chapter. Our recently updated website is a great

source of information – the website address is above at the left. In addition, you can email the officers at pbk@tulane.edu. Finally, the Alpha of Louisiana chapter is now on Facebook – you can friend us at PBK Tulane.

