



PHI BETA KAPPA

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
THE GAMMA ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
Association Chartered June 14, 1946

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Φιλοσοφία Βίου Κυβερνήτης
SALUS PATRIAE

Founded December 5, 1776

September 2009

From The President

Dear Fellow Phi Betes,

Although New Year's is not the first thought that comes to mind when one thinks of September, this month is definitely the beginning of our Board's new year. Not only is this the time to look forward to another successful year, it is also the time to reflect on the past year's achievements. Of course, the culmination of our "old year" was our May Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner at the Berkeley Faculty Club, whose venue we enjoy thanks to member **Mel Shattuck**. This year, in spite of the dismal state of the economy, we were able to distribute \$500 honoraria to three outstanding professors, while six fortunate and very talented graduate students were the recipients of \$5,000 scholarships. **Burt and Maria Norall's** generosity once again fully funded one of these scholarships. (You can find out more about the awardees on page three.) If you have never attended this event, please consider marking your calendar and joining us next May. It is a truly inspiring evening which validates all of the past year's efforts. And even if you can't attend, please remember that it is only because of your ongoing support that we are able to continue to make these significant awards.

The May meeting also affords us the opportunity to honor retiring Board members and welcome their replacements. This year we were especially fortunate, as we were able to retain almost all of our outstanding Board members with two notable exceptions. **Letitia Sanders** has now officially handed over the office of Third Vice President, Membership – along with all the electronic information - to **Alex Harding**. **Georgia Maslowski's** job as corresponding secretary has now been passed on to **Joanne Williams**. Thank you, **Letitia** and **Georgia**, for your dedicated service; welcome, **Alex** and **Joanne**.

Reflecting on the past year, we can be proud of our successes. Looking forward, I am confident that the coming year will also be successful because of our wonderful members and outstanding Board.

Jean Ellen James, President

Teaching Excellence Needs Nominations

To date the Teaching Excellence Committee has received only one nomination for the Teaching Excellence Award. We strongly encourage everyone who has been taught by an inspiring professor at a Bay Area University to make a nomination. The nomination form is on page two.

Narcinda Lerner, Teaching Excellence Chair, nrlernern@netscape.net

We'd like to have your email address

Don't worry, we won't send you weekly - or even monthly - newsletters, but occasionally we have an announcement: for example, we can notify you if details of an event are changed. Email is also the way we can correct critical errors in our newsletter, such as the incorrect date for the Blackhawk Auto Museum tour in the November issue.

Please send us an email from your email account to contact@pbknca.org, and include your name as it appears on the mailing label as the subject of the email. You can be confident that we will not share our list with anyone, I promise; and you can opt out easily at any time.

Ray Hendess, Editor and Webmaster

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Excellence in Teaching Award Application ***Phi Beta Kappa Northern California Association***

Dear Fellow Phi Betes:

We are seeking nominations for this prestigious award, which carries an honorarium as well as a certificate. Please nominate a professor you consider to be outstanding: someone who taught an especially memorable course or who impressed you as an unusually skilled educator, who had a special impact on your education, career, or life, or whom you found inspiring and admirable. Making such a nomination is an appropriate and satisfying way of expressing your gratitude to that person. Winners will be honored at Phi Beta Kappa NCA's Annual May Banquet.

Faculty members of any rank (including lecturers and emeriti) at the following schools are eligible for nomination: Mills College, San Francisco State University, Santa Clara University, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, or University of the Pacific. Please give as complete information as possible. Your nominees need not be Phi Beta Kappa members.

You may make more than one nomination, but please use a separate sheet for each nomination you make.

Full Name of Nominee: _____

Academic Rank (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Other): _____

Home Address: _____

Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Subject(s) Taught: _____

Date(s) of Course(s) Taken: _____

Department and School: _____

Comments: Please tell us, in as much detail as you can, why and how this person stands out in your mind. Use additional sheets as necessary:

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Your Home Address: _____

Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

School, Class Year and Date of Election to Φ BK: _____

Send to: Narcinda R. Lerner, Ph.D. (e-mail: nrlernern@netscape.net)
Teaching Excellence Chair
10 Stadler Drive

Woodside, CA 94062-4840 Phone: (650) 851-0137 FAX: (650) 529-9369

Deadline: November 30, 2009 for May 2010 Award

Thank you for your help!
 Φ BK NCA NL09/09

Scholarship Awardees

What do James Dean and George Burns, Goldilocks and the three bears, and an ant lifting a crumb off the ground have in common? They are examples used by our scholarship awardees to help explain their research projects to people outside their fields.

We were pleased to hear from three of the awardees at our annual dinner meeting on May 3. The other three were unable to attend because they were doing fieldwork in Ecuador, Russia, and Bosnia. All expressed their gratitude to Φ BKNCA for our support of their work. We hope to tap them for Asilomar presentations in the not too distant future.

This year we received twenty-five applications. From these the committee had to decide on six, each of whom received a \$5,000 award. As always, given the high caliber of the applications, making the selections was difficult. Thanks to Jeff Fenton, Lynne Fovinci, Jean James, and Gerry Richards for reviewing the applications and coming together to deliberate over them. The task is time consuming but highly rewarding.

Two of the awardees are from UC Berkeley, two from Stanford, one from UC Santa Cruz, and one from UC Davis.

Esther Cole, Ecology, UC Davis

"Landscape Control of Disease Dynamics in a High Alpine System"

Esther is studying how changing climate may be affecting disease dynamics as snowmelt comes earlier and minimum temperatures rise. She has done extensive work in Ecuador, where her work generated several important discoveries, including the discovery of a new species of frog, genus *Cochranella*. She will complete her fieldwork in the Trinity Alps here in California. As she writes, "This research will generate novel insights into how changing climate will influence natural disease regimes, potentially resulting in the extinction of native species."

Her professors called her "smart, articulate, self-confident," "a wonderful field biologist, incredibly well-organized," "intellectually nimble," and a woman with "a sense of humor and irony."

Jordan Gans-Morse, Political Science, UC Berkeley

"Out of Chaos? Business Elites and Property Rights in Russia"

"The collapse of the Soviet Union presented social scientists with a daunting set of challenges. . . . Comparativists . . . sought to develop theories capable of explaining transitions from tradition to modernity, underdevelopment to development, and authoritarianism to democracy." Jordan's dissertation research analyzes why institutions that protect property develop in some countries but not others, why some

laws and regulations remain mere scraps of paper. He focuses on the interest-group politics underlying institutional formation. He hopes to uncover valuable insights into the institutional foundations of economic prosperity. He was in Russia at the time of the Awards Banquet, testing the preliminary predictions of his model.

His professors noted his "extraordinary potential" and his "quiet determination and commitment" and they think that "his research holds the promise of improving the foundations on which policy prescriptions can be made." "He is a rising star in the field."

Emily Jacobs, Neuroscience, UC Berkeley

"Individual Differences in Cognition: Genetic and Hormonal Influences on Prefrontal Function"

Emily is determined to pursue science in combination with humanitarian values. Her research centers on how dopamine functions in the prefrontal cortex. As she put it, it's a Goldilocks and the three bears scenario: you don't want too much or too little dopamine – just enough. The key goal of her project is to understand how individual differences in baseline dopamine levels in adolescents lead to greater susceptibility to depression, early-onset schizophrenia, and ADHD. Being committed to sharing her work with the public ("secret knowledge . . . is less than science"), she helped found S.E.E. (Science Everyone Everywhere), a nonprofit organization aimed at bringing science and the public a step closer together. She also works with a "brain fitness" campaign in San Francisco geared toward raising awareness about the health benefits of staying mentally and physically active as we age.

Her professors commended her "maturity and curiosity," "dedication to service," and "boundless energy" ("bottle it and we could solve the worldwide energy crisis!"). Everyone noted that she is more like a colleague than a student.

Mariangela Lisanti, Physics, Stanford (Norall Family Scholarship)

"Physics Beyond the Standard Model at the LHC"

As Mariangela noted in her application, the Standard Model of particle physics cannot explain dark matter and dark energy in the universe, and says nothing about the gravitational force or how elementary particles obtain their mass. She works on building and studying extensions of the Standard Model that address these fundamental issues. "Whether scientists explore the unimaginably large or the inconceivably small, they strive to comprehend some aspect of the unknown. The fact that the same fundamental laws of physics can explain dramatically different scenarios is nothing short of amazing; for instance, the same forces that explain how an ant is able to lift a crumb off the ground can also explain the interactions of particles a few seconds after the Big Bang." Mariangela worked at the

Tevatron collider at Fermilab, outside Chicago. That work resulted in "a sea change in how to design searches for new physics."

She is "a role model for women students," "an effective mentor," and "a clear and organized speaker who can lay out the most complex arguments in a way her audience can grasp."

Laurel Seely, Literature, UC Santa Cruz (Elizabeth B. Reed Scholarship)

"The Transition to Postsocialism: Cultural Discourses of Bosnian Identity, 1980-Present"

Laurel's title is standard academese. The first paragraph of her application is not. "In winter 2008, the city of Sarajevo coated its sidewalks with a substance designed to prevent people from slipping on ice, an event that provoked outrage among some of Bosnia's Serb and Croat politicians. The problem: the coating was green, a color associated with Islam." In her work, Laurel uses an interdisciplinary approach to examine the intersection of culture and politics in transformations of identity in postsocialist Bosnia. Her dissertation examines transformations of Bosnian identity effected through key cultural products. By presenting and analyzing materials that are lesser known or difficult to access (she has also translated Bosnian literary works into English), she aims to make a variety of texts available for the first time to English-speaking scholars.

Her letters of recommendation cite her "personal independence, perseverance, originality of thought, and her no-nonsense hard work." She is "critically innovative," "a model of the best kind of contemporary literary and cultural studies."

Amelia Wolf, Biology, Stanford

"Strategic Trade-offs in Ant-Plant Mutualisms Worldwide"

"Can a tree emulate James Dean, or bear a resemblance to George Burns? . . . James Dean famously lived fast and died young; Burns persisted in the limelight for years and years. Different trees, too, follow these divergent life trajectories," burning out after a short and productive life or fading away after persisting and reproducing for many years. Amelia works on ant-plant mutualisms that occur in tropical regions worldwide, including the neotropics. Her work in Costa Rica is yielding information similar to what she found in Kenya. Such cross-continental comparisons are rare and valuable, because they can help determine the degree to which ecological processes are generalizable. She is also an avid photographer and last year had a photograph (of giraffes in Kenya) published on the cover of *Science* (11 January 2008).

She was recommended for her "endurance, creativity, and imagination, and a willingness to take risks." She is a "broad, creative, synthetic thinker, and highly motivated." Her "wholly original research has already yielded amazing results."

Asilomar 2010

Next year's program is shaping up to be both exciting and informative. So far four speakers have accepted our invitation to participate with us during our Asilomar Conference, Feb. 12-15, 2010.

Dr. Ben Santer of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) will address us Friday night on the subject of Global Warming. Dr. Santer is responsible for a complete chapter in the Government's latest encyclopedic report and is very knowledgeable about the experimental evidence for, and the implications of, global warming.

Fr. Leo Arrowsmith, an American Orthodox Priest, will speak to us Saturday morning about *The Importance and Use of Icons in Orthodox Worship*. He will also paint an icon while speaking to us. (I've seen the ones in his church and they are stunning!) He has given his permission for us to auction the final painting to augment our scholarship fund, since it will not have been used in worship.

Ms. Shena Crowe (of Infragard – the public relations group for the FBI) will talk to us about domestic security problems and solutions in our uncertain world. She has a wealth of experience and will be happy to answer our many questions.

Dr. Jay Davis, now retired, devoted his professional career to leadership roles at LLNL and in Washington, where he founded the Defense Threat Reduction Agency for the DoD. He will talk to us about the hopes and problems associated with Nuclear Arms Reduction.

We plan to leave Sunday morning open to do as you wish.

Don't miss this great event. Send the form from page eight, along with your deposit, now.

For more information, contact *Cal Wood, Asilomar Chair*, (925) 447-8666, calandix@pacbell.net

Chapter Liaison Report

In the spring and summer of 2009, ΦBKNCA volunteers attended initiation ceremonies at all eight of our affiliated college chapters in Northern California: UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, University of the Pacific, Mills College, San Francisco State University, Santa Clara University, and Stanford University. There were over 880 new initiates this year, ranging from ten at Mills College to over 300 at UC Berkeley. Our representative usually makes a few remarks about our NCA activities and the importance of Teaching Excellence nominations. Receptions follow each ceremony.

Thanks go to our volunteers for 2009: Marci Coglianese, Jean James, Narcinda Lerner (attended two), Janiece Nolan, Joanne Sandstrom (attended two), and Margaret Williams.

Starting in January, we will begin to learn the dates for the 2010 Phi Beta Kappa initiation ceremonies at our affiliated

college chapters. At that time, we will start planning who from our association will attend each ceremony. Please let me know now if you would like to volunteer for a particular school. If there are any of you out there with a connection to UC Santa Cruz or Stanford University, we could really use your assistance!

Our Association participates in these chapter initiation ceremonies to increase awareness of our nation-wide ΦBK alumni associations, increase nominations for our teaching excellence awards, as well as applications for our scholarships. Participation gives our volunteers a chance to meet faculty, parents, and students at a campus. Some volunteers have mentioned what a great opportunity it is to network at a particular school. Besides, it's fun!

Janiece S. Nolan, Ph., jn1137@aol.com

Upcoming Events

Delta Eco-Tour

Saturday, October 10, 2009

Time: 11:00 am



Tour Description: Join us for a two-hour trip down Steamboat Slough and up along tree-enveloped Sutter Slough. We will return down the Sacramento River and the historic upper Steamboat Slough. This area is one of the most scenic areas of the Delta, with vistas that include luxuriant riparian forests and numerous wildlife species. Our tour includes an ongoing and thorough narrative of the history of this little known region. After the boat tour, we can use the picnic area to enjoy lunch and also take some time to walk around the nursery grounds and check out their seasonal produce stand!

What to Bring?

Water, binoculars, sunscreen. Boat and nursery grounds have restrooms for our convenience.

Website: www.deltaecotours.com

Date: October 10, 2009

Time: Departure at 11:00 am—please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before that time

Website: www.pbknca.org

Minimum: 15

Maximum: 40

Deadline: September 21

Fee: \$40 per person

Directions: 13737 Grand Island Road, Walnut Grove (on Steamboat Slough)

From Bay Area: Take Hwy 24 East to Walnut Creek, merging onto I-680 North toward Concord/Sacramento; merge onto Hwy 242 North on the LEFT toward Concord/Pittsburg; merge onto Hwy 4 East *via* exit on the LEFT toward Stockton/Pittsburg. Merge onto Hwy 160 North (toll on Antioch Bridge is \$4.00); pass through Isleton and north of Isleton is the Isleton Bridge. Turn LEFT to cross bridge onto Grand Island, then right back onto Hwy 160 North. At Ryde, take Hwy 220 West to other side of Grand Island; at intersection of Hwy 220 and Grand Island Road, bear right. Hartland is 2.7 miles from this intersection.

From South Bay Area: Take I-680 North and follow directions above, starting where Hwy 24 merges with I-680.

From North Bay Area: Take Hwy 12 East to I-80 East towards Rio Vista; pass through Rio Vista, crossing bridge that takes you to the intersection of Hwys 160 and 12 (look for stop light). Turn LEFT onto Hwy 160 heading towards Isleton, passing through Isleton. North of town is the Isleton Bridge. Turn LEFT to cross bridge onto Grand Island (remainder—follow details above)

From Sacramento Area: Take I-5 South, exit at Twin Cities Road, turning RIGHT (west) and taking Twin Cities Road to the end at River Road (stop sign); turn LEFT, heading towards Locke and Walnut Grove; in Walnut Grove at the 4-way stop, turn RIGHT to cross bridge over Sacramento River. Turn LEFT on the far (Grand Island) side of bridge onto Hwy 160,

ΦBKNCA

heading south to Ryde. At Ryde, turn RIGHT onto Hwy 220, taking 220 West to other side of island. When you reach intersection of Hwy 220 and Grand Island Road, bear RIGHT back up onto levee. Hartland is 2.7 miles from this intersection.

The San Francisco Gourmet Chocolate Tour

Saturday, November 7, 2009
Time: 2:30 pm



“Exercise is a dirty word. Every time I hear it I wash my mouth out with chocolate.”

Do you love fine chocolate? Join us in San Francisco for a private Chocolate Tour with Gourmet Walks! Our guides will take us on a delicious three-hour walking and tasting tour of the city's best chocolate makers. We'll learn about how fine chocolate is made, understand its health benefits and see the latest trends from bean to bar. We'll visit seven different gourmet chocolate boutiques in downtown San Francisco, and taste a variety of bars, bon-bons and hot chocolate. Since the days of the Gold Rush, San Francisco has had a love affair with chocolate and is now at the center of the new wave of artisan chocolatiers, experimenting with high quality beans, new production methods, exotic fillings and breathtaking packaging. Come find out why!

And, we will also get "Chocolate Lover Cards" to use on future chocolate shopping trips!

Our tour leaves at 2:30 pm sharp from Justin Herman Plaza, located at the foot of Market Street and the Embarcadero. Our group will meet at the base of the AMERICAN FLAGPOLE at 2:20 pm, close to the Hyatt and the entrance to Embarcadero Center. Look for the tour guide with her umbrella! If you have any problems finding us, please call Judy Hardardt at 707-696-9498.

The tour will last 2 1/2 – 3 hours and will end at Westfield Mall.

Parking is available in Embarcadero Center, as well as the Ferry Building parking lots.

Consider bringing the following: comfortable walking shoes, umbrella, water, an appetite – try not to eat too much before the tour! Optional: Tupperware to carry extra chocolate

Website: www.gourmetwalks.com
Date: Saturday, November 7, 2009
Time: 2:30 pm
Minimum: 12
Maximum: 24
Fee: \$55.00
Deadline: **October 8, 2009**

Directions: Justin Herman Plaza is located at the foot of Market Street at the Embarcadero. Parking is available in Embarcadero Center, as well as the Ferry Building parking lots. From the south or East Bay, take BART, get off at the Market Street station, and head toward the Ferry Building.

Filoli Holiday Traditions

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2009
Time: 10 am

Come experience the excitement of Filoli's spectacular nine-day Holiday Traditions event. Shop the Holiday Boutique, with its wide range of unique holiday gifts, while performers sing and play seasonal melodies. Filoli will be decorated for the holidays from top to bottom, both inside and out. Weather permitting, we will be able to explore the gardens as well as doing some holiday shopping. For those who would like to stay for lunch as well, reservations will be made for you.

Note: Tickets are very much in demand for this event; our group size is limited to no more than 10 ΦBKNCA members.



Holiday Traditions at Filoli are day-long events, starting at 10 am and continuing into the evening. No matter when you visit Filoli's Holiday Traditions event, you are invited to relax in Filoli's charming setting while enjoying lunch or supper. The Evening Dinner Party is an elegant dining event with live music and dancing in the ballroom. Enjoy the magical warmth of Holiday Traditions.

Website: www.filoli.org
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2009
Time: 10am to 1pm
Minimum: 6
Maximum: 10
Deadline: **September 21, 2009**
Fee: We will not know the price until mid-October. Check our website at www.newsletter.pbknca.org in late October.
Directions: Filoli is located at 86 Cañada Road, Woodside.

From North of Filoli

Drive south on Highway 280. Take the Edgewood Road exit. Turn right on Edgewood Road until it ends at Cañada Road. Turn right on Cañada Road, go 1.25 miles. Turn left into Filoli entrance, proceed to guardhouse.

From South of Filoli

Drive north on Highway 280. Take the Edgewood Road exit. Turn left on Edgewood Road until it ends at Cañada Road. Turn right on Cañada Road, go 1.25 miles. Turn left into Filoli entrance, proceed to guardhouse.

From the East Bay

Drive west on Highway 92. Take Highway 280 south. Take the Edgewood Road exit. Turn right on Edgewood Road until it ends at Cañada Road. Turn right on Cañada Road, go 1.25 miles. Turn left into Filoli entrance, proceed to guardhouse.

Coupons

Please print legibly and print name of tour on check as well. **No acknowledgements will be sent.**

If you subsequently can't make an event, others may be waiting. Kindly notify Judy Hardardt: home (530) 297-7150, cell, day of event (707) 696-9498.

Delta Eco-Tour

Saturday, October 10, 2009, 11:00 am
 Deadline September 21, 2009
 # Attending _____ x \$40.00 per person = \$ _____
 (Check payable to PBKNCA- **Enter name of tour on check**)
 Member(s) _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Guest name(s) _____
 Mail coupon and payment to:
 Judy Hardardt, PO Box 2038, Davis CA 95617

San Francisco Gourmet Chocolate Tour

Saturday November 7, 2009, 2:30 pm
 Deadline October 8, 2009
 # Attending _____ x \$15.00 per person = \$ _____
 (Check payable to PBKNCA- **Enter name of tour on check**)
 Member(s) _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Guest name(s) _____
 Mail coupon and payment to:
 Judy Hardardt, PO Box 2038, Davis CA 95617

Filoli Holiday Traditions

Thursday December 3, 2009 10 am to 1 pm
 Deadline September 21, 2009
 # Attending _____ Price TBA per person = \$ _____
 (Check payable to PBKNCA- **Enter name of tour on check**)
 Member(s) _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Guest name(s) _____
 Mail coupon and payment to:
 Judy Hardardt, PO Box 2038, Davis CA 95617

ΦBKNC A Board July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

- Jean E. James**, President
Novato, (415) 892-5133, jeanejames@comcast.net
- Judy Hardardt**, First Vice President – Programs
Davis, home (530) 297-7150, cell (707) 696-9498, hardardtj@comcast.net
- Joanne Sandstrom**, Second Vice President – Scholarships
Oakland, (510) 339-1352, joannes@berkeley.edu
- Alex Harding**, Third Vice President – Membership
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- Joanne L. Mumola Williams**, Corresponding Secretary
Sebastopol, (707) 829-1831, joanne@foodsforlonglife.com
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Menlo Park, (650) 321-9966, Mltg@aol.com
- Narcinda Lerner**, Teaching Excellence Chair
Woodside, (650) 851-0137, nrlernern@netscape.net
- Janiece S. Nolan**, Chapter Liaison Chair
Lafayette, (925) 284-4277, jn1137@aol.com
- Ray Hendess**, Newsletter Chair & Webmaster
Petaluma, (707) 763-20Ray@pbknca.org
- Muriel Bell**, Past President
Palo Alto, (650) 327-4254, murielrbell@gmail.com
- Calvin Wood**, Asilomar Chair
Livermore, (925) 447-8666, calandix@pacbell.net



**PHI BETA KAPPA
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION**

Alex Harding
VP Membership, PBKNCA
4 Fern Road
Kentfield CA 94904-2810

Return Service Requested

Dated Material - - Please Deliver Promptly

Note – Please do not return this form if you have already paid a deposit.

ΦBK at Asilomar February 12-15, 2010

Deadline for Reservations: December 1, 2009

Registration fee: # Attending _____ x \$100/person= \$ _____

Please make check payable to PBKNCA and mail with coupon to:

Calvin Wood, 420 Lincoln Ave, Livermore, CA 94550-3440

Questions? Call 925-447-8666

Member Name(s): _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #(s): _____

Email: _____

Car Pool

I am willing to offer a ride to _____ person(s).

I would like to obtain a ride for _____ person(s).

