

PHI KAPPA PHI FORUM

Summer 2010

Recovery

Momentous Deaths:

The passing of sitting U.S. presidents impacted government policy while wartime casualties transformed early American military medicine.

Creative Solutions:

Visual arts serve post-Katrina New Orleans and American movies confront drugs and alcohol.

Recession Proofs:

Unemployment rates remain troubling and marketing practices continue to be reassessed.



Society Developments:

Chapter delegates, register now for the 2010 Phi Kappa Phi Convention, *Traditions & Transitions: Responding to a World of Change*, Aug. 5-7, in Kansas City, Mo.

Phi Kappa Phi Forum and Its Relationship with the Society

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



Phi Kappa Phi archives

The first organizational meeting of what came to be known as The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi took place in Coburn Hall (above) 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.

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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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the staff of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*, the Society staff, or the Board of Directors of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

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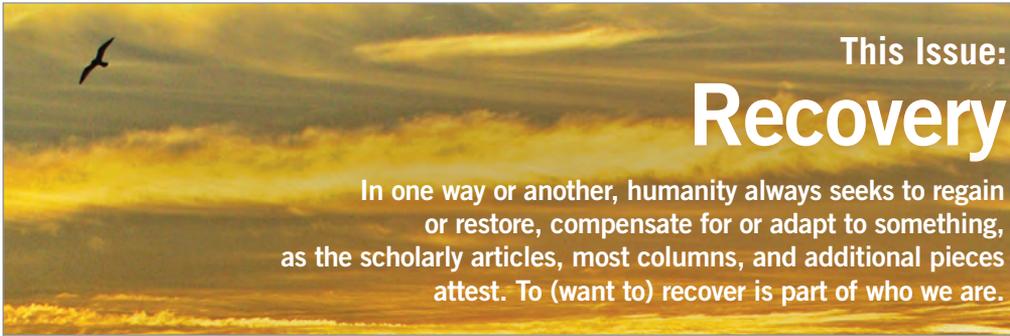
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This Issue: **Recovery**

In one way or another, humanity always seeks to regain or restore, compensate for or adapt to something, as the scholarly articles, most columns, and additional pieces attest. To (want to) recover is part of who we are.



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Dark Times in the White House: Recovery When Presidents Die in Office

By John Milton Cooper, Jr.

Out of 44 commanders in chief, eight have passed away on the job.



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By James W. Hughes and Joseph J. Seneca

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Fade in, Fade out: Addiction, Recovery, in American Movies

By Stefan Hall

Now playing in an unlimited run: drugs and alcohol.

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Board of Directors



By Robert B. Rogow

A month after I became president of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in August 2007, the board of directors identified five goals for this triennium. As the end of my three-year term approaches in August, I'm happy to report that the Society has made great strides in reaching all of them.

• Increase awareness of our awards programs

While the motivation for some to accept or renew membership is the prestige factor of being part of the nation's oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society, the impetus for others is to compete for Phi Kappa Phi's annual awards such as Fellowships for graduate or professional study, Study Abroad grants, and Love of Learning funds for postbaccalaureate education or career development. However, many members are not aware of our awards. So we began emphasizing them on our Web site and streamlining the application process. In addition, we now regularly communicate with key college and university officials about Phi Kappa Phi's awards.

• Monitor and strengthen chapters

The Chapter Relations Department hired a third chapter relations director. Besides visiting chapters, they keep in contact with participating schools through email, telephone calls, and online newsletters. Also, a chapter recognition program, supporting good Society work on campus, debuted in 2009. Further, chapters now receive money from the Society to help advertise their activities in student newspapers. And additional funds have been allocated to facilitate the travel to training workshops for officers from chapters in the process of reactivating.

• Increase enrollment of new members

We launched a public relations campaign and upgraded the Phi Kappa Phi Web site partly to attract initiates. To allow more students to accept membership, we expanded the Online Enrollment Program to accommodate 50 additional chapters. In addition, the format and content of the *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* quarterly magazine were revamped partly to reflect the interests and demographics of the Society's membership.

• Retain more members

New members may not be aware of the work Phi Kappa Phi does and how they can be involved in it. To promote the mission of the Society and to retain its members, we created networking opportunities through online communities like Facebook and LinkedIn. And a Mentor Match program connects members of various backgrounds — and solidifies relationships. In addition, we created new membership options that allow members to renew for multiple years at discounted rates.

• Enhance our name recognition

We updated promotional materials and implemented an advertising campaign on member campuses. Also, we launched the "Great Minds Think Alike" awareness initiative (advertisements) in relevant print and electronic publications such as *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Your commitment to these goals and related objectives helps ensure the ongoing and future success of our organization. With heartfelt gratitude I applaud the volunteer and staff efforts on behalf of the Society. It has been a privilege — better said, an honor — to serve as Society president the past three years. I look forward to my upcoming duties as Society past president.

May we all continue to support Phi Kappa Phi. ■

Editor's Note



By Peter Szatmary

In the weeks leading up to this edition, earthquakes devastated parts of Haiti and Chile. Suicide bombers killed scores of people in Russia. Basketball teams came from behind to win National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament games. Celebrities dealt with infidelity. U.S. healthcare legislation was passed. And applicants were accepted to, and rejected from, schools.

We constantly (try to) recover from lows and highs of all sorts — from birth and death and much in between. *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* contributors investigate this theme of "Recovery" from many standpoints. Scholar Stefan Hall and poet Katherine Cottle tackle addiction, the former in American movies, the latter in content through craft. Counselor Anne Chandler analyzes the psychology of loss

while comedian Bob Zany slyly perishes the thought. And historian John Milton Cooper, Jr., studies the politics of recovery in untimely ends: when sitting U.S. presidents die.

Depression-era movies lifted the spirits of a struggling nation, explain arts and entertainment columnists (William) Arnold Johnston and Deborah Ann Percy. Visual artists further the reclamation of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, Susan E. Krantz documents. Upgrades in vital communications technology improve post-Katrina New Orleans, too, notes science and technology columnist Catherine C. Shoults.

The Great Recession means that the job market won't revive for a long time, calculate authorities James W. Hughes and Joseph J. Seneca, and that marketing philosophies change, argues academic Mark J. Kay.

There's more on the theme as well. So much of existence and this magazine are about recovery! ■

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Senior Life Membership Discount

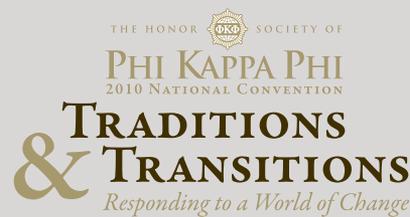
In response to numerous requests from members, Phi Kappa Phi has established a discounted active-for-life membership rate for seniors 62 and older. The discounted active-for-life rate of \$225 for seniors is 25 percent off the regular life membership rate.

"It's vitally important to us to keep our senior members actively involved in the life of the Society," said Diane Smathers, Society Vice President and Chair of the Marketing and Member Benefits Committee. "Phi Kappa Phi has much to offer them, and they have much to offer Phi

Kappa Phi. Senior members provide continuity for the Society. Further, they have the experience to serve as mentors for young professionals and those still in school. By making the active-for-life membership more affordable, we are hopeful that these key members will stay connected following retirement."

To take advantage of the special senior rate, go online to www.PhiKappaPhi.org and click on "Renew Your Membership" or call 800-804-9880, ext. 39. ■

— Staff report



Help shape the Society's future!

Delegate selection and registration are going on now for the 2010 Phi Kappa Phi Convention.

During the convention, chapter delegates vote on matters that will impact the direction of the Society for the upcoming biennium and beyond. From electing national board members to voting on the two-year budget to reviewing proposed bylaws changes, chapter delegates help determine the Society's course.

In addition, delegates will:

- See presentations from Phi Kappa Phi award recipients past and present.
- Get to know other chapter officers in their area at regional meetings.
- Learn about and share ideas during roundtable breakfasts.
- Meet candidates for the 2010-12 Board of Directors at a reception prior to voting.
- Participate in Partnering For Success Workshops (the day before the Convention). These interactive meetings explain key components that officers need to know to manage a successful chapter.

Remember: Society bylaws require that each chapter designate an official delegate to the convention. The appropriate delegate is one who will be a chapter leader during the 2010-11 academic year, someone who can help implement the ideas learned at the convention.

Go online to www.PhiKappaPhi.org/Convention2010 to view the full schedule of events and complete the delegate nomination and registration forms before time runs out!

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

Cost: Early Bird Registration = \$185* (available through June 25) Standard Registration = \$215* (after June 25)

Support: Chapter delegates will be reimbursed for travel expenses plus one night's stay at the Kansas City Airport Marriott. The special Phi Kappa Phi rate per room is \$96/night, plus tax.

*The registration fee includes all group meals and refreshment breaks for delegates and non-delegates, except for dinner on Thursday.

Letters to the Editor

High Schools Must Teach Better

In the introductory paragraphs of "The Climate Outside the Classroom Earns a Failing Grade," in the fall 2009 edition, whose theme was "Higher Education," author and professor Mark Bauerlein references a survey that said 37 percent of high school teachers felt students were "very well prepared" for college-level math while only 4 percent of college faculty chose that category. That disparity between ratings is overshadowed by the mere fact that



regardless of which teachers you listen to, graduating high school students do not have the necessary math skills to enter college.

We promote mediocrity in almost every

possible way. We accept grading on a curve to make us feel better about the terrible job we do as educators and to make students feel better about not learning what they should. Though in most professions salary is tied to performance, in education we refuse to force teachers to be evaluated on measurable performance, giving in to the unions, among other things. Ineffective teachers routinely blame students for one reason or another, calling them undisciplined or unmotivated, or even labeling them learning disabled

or otherwise "slow." And very few school districts reward teachers (through advancement or salary) based on measurements of teaching effectiveness, such as results of standardized tests.

The U.S. is falling behind other countries in education. I blame the educational system. Outside the classroom, parental expectations have further exacerbated the problem — parents have given up trying to change the educational system and tacitly accept the status quo. How can a parent tell her straight-A student that his performance is unsatisfactory when the school system sets such a low bar? Society needs to stop protecting teachers and make the educational system accountable by providing real metrics for students, and basing teacher compensation and retention on students meeting those metrics. ■

— Gary Sloane, software engineer, and husband of member Christie Sloane (San Diego State University), Carlsbad, Calif. Email him at gksloane@hotmail.com.

Coming Next Issue

The theme is "scare tactics." Potential topics for scholarly articles and columns for the fall 2010 edition include the "Red Scare"; the notion of "Islamophobia"; Celtic origins of Halloween (as something not to fear); horror movies; Gothic literature; how fear plays out in primates; why fear is useful and dangerous to the human psyche; and Wall Street panics.

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:

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*All submitted letters become the property of this publication and cannot be returned to the sender.

Dark Times in the White House: Recovery When Presidents Die in Office

By John Milton Cooper, Jr.

Since the assassination of John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, nearly half a century has passed without the death of a sitting U.S. president. This has happened only once before in the nation's history of 44 commanders in chief. Slightly more than 50 years elapsed between April 30, 1790, when George Washington took the oath of office as the first president, and April 4, 1841, when the ninth, William Henry Harrison, became the first chief executive to die on the job. During the next 122 years, seven more presidents would die in office, and each of these national traumas would impact the country's history.

German statesman Otto von Bismarck once said, "God protects fools, drunks, and the United States of America." These two 50-year intervals without the death of a sitting president bear out that observation. In its first decades as a republic under the Constitution, the government was a fragile experiment testing what a democratic land should be and how it should function, and the winds of war and ideological conflict swept through the new nation in the wake of the French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. The unsuccessful War of 1812 against Great Britain was followed by the first stirrings of the conflict over slavery, which was temporarily and shakily contained with the Missouri Compromise of 1821. Given those challenges, the new nation was indeed fortunate not to lose a president in office.

Just reciting the words Vietnam, Watergate, Arab oil embargo, Iran hostage crisis, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the demise of the Soviet Union, the end of the Cold War, and 9/11 should make Americans breathe a sigh of relief that no sitting president died during the last five decades. There were two attempted assassinations, on Gerald Ford in 1975 and on Ronald Reagan in 1981, and the national jitters that broke out after the second and far more serious of those attempts further underline how fortunate this respite from losing a serving president also has been.

Looking at the impact of such losses in the past underscores that good fortune and helps define American politics.

Opaque indicators

The first president to die in office, **William Henry Harrison** (Feb. 9, 1773-April 4, 1841), took sick immediately

Photos: Library of Congress public domain



Lyndon B. Johnson took the presidential oath of office on Nov. 22, 1963, in the conference room aboard Air Force One at Love Field, Dallas, Texas. Sarah T. Hughes, U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Texas, left, administered it in the presence of former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy, right, widow of the assassinated John F. Kennedy.



William Henry Harrison

after his inauguration in bad weather and expired from complications of pneumonia just a month and a day into the four-year term. Harrison remains an enigma as chief executive not only because of the brevity of his time in office. Elected as a war hero (nicknamed "Tippecanoe" for winning that battle in 1811 against an Indian confederation) who did not take clear stands on current issues, he left few clues as to what he might have done in office.

Still, it seems doubtful that he would have followed the aggressive pro-Southern line of his successor, **John Tyler** (nicknamed "His Accidency"), to annex Texas as a slave state. This move accelerated the chain of events that led to the Civil War by upsetting the Missouri Compromise's balance between free and slave states and throwing open the question of extending territory seized from Mexico in the war sparked by Texas annexation.

Imponderable as Harrison was as a living president, he wrought tremendous consequences through his death.

Imponderable as Harrison was as a living president, he wrought tremendous consequences through his death.

Insignificant courses

The second to die in office, **Zachary Taylor**, president No. 12, did not cut much of a figure in his year-and-a-quarter in the White House, and neither did his successor, **Millard Fillmore**. Like Harrison before him, Taylor was a military hero (nicknamed "Old Rough and Ready" from the war with Mexico). He was a strong nationalist, who, despite being a Southerner and slave owner, bristled at secessionist rumblings from his native region. He died of cholera at age 65 on July 9, 1850.

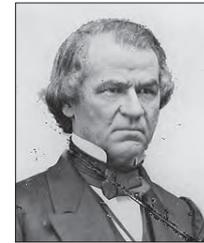
The succession of the milder-mannered Fillmore may possibly have eased the passage of the Compromise of 1850, which papered over the conflict about the extension of slavery but really only postponed an increasingly likely showdown over slavery and secession. Unlike the previous succession, this one probably did not make a great deal of difference.

Polar opposites

The third fallen chief executive, who died a little more than one month into his second term, was **Abraham Lincoln**, president No. 16. He died on April 15, 1865, at the age of 56, hours after being shot by the assassin John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln is generally regarded as the greatest of all presidents. Against tremendous odds, he led the Union to victory in the Civil War and thereby preserved the country as one nation. Likewise, against resistance and criticism, he ended slavery in much of the country by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. He was also possibly the most eloquent person ever to occupy the White House — one of the great prose poets of the English language — as he proved again and again, especially with his Gettysburg Address and second inaugural address.

Inversely, Lincoln's successor, **Andrew Johnson**, is generally regarded as one of the worst presidents. He came into office just as the Civil War was ending and the overriding issue facing the country was

how to deal with the defeated South and several million freed slaves — known as Reconstruction. Johnson, a former Democrat, botched the job from the start by telling defeated Confederates (except for leaders) that all they needed to do



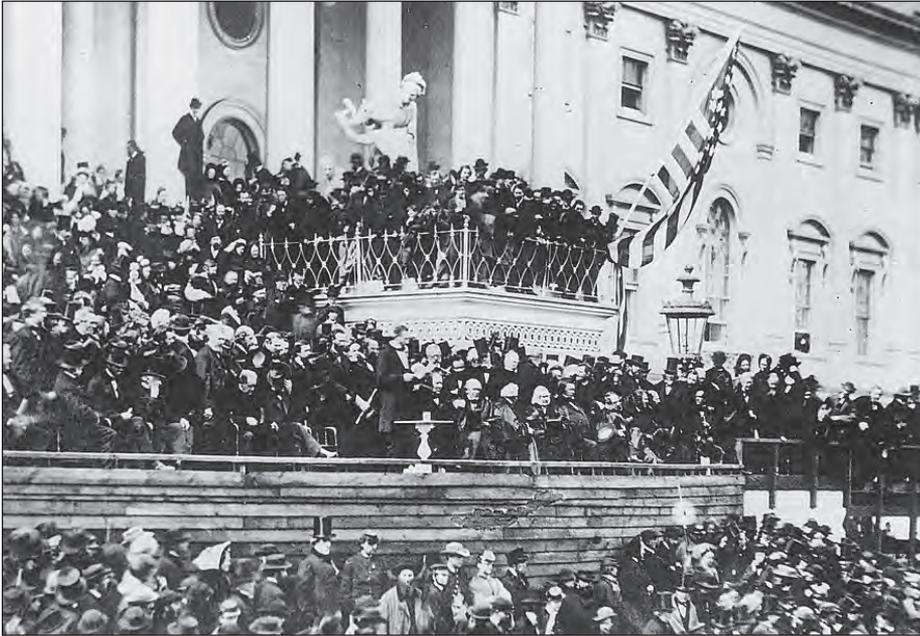
Andrew Johnson

was accept the end of slavery and apply to him, the president, for pardons. This policy cut out Congress, whose Republican majority demanded restrictions on those white Southerners and aid and a political role for the freed slaves.

Johnson refused to compromise, and Congress adopted its own Reconstruction policies over his vetoes. When he tried to impede implementation of those policies, his opponents in the House voted articles of impeachment, and those in the Senate fell just one vote short of convicting him and removing him from office. The whole business poisoned chances for a relatively amicable Reconstruction and left the presidential office weakened for a generation.

People at the time and historians since then have argued over what Lincoln would have done about Reconstruction. A few have claimed that, like Johnson, he would have let the ex-Confederates off lightly but would have done it with a finesse and diplomacy that would have satisfied the Republicans in Congress. Many others have claimed that Lincoln would have pursued policies resembling congressional Reconstruction without misleading Southern whites about what to expect.

Either way, few have doubted that the



President Abraham Lincoln, center, delivers his second inaugural address on March 4, 1865, in this photograph by Alexander Gardner. Above Lincoln to the right and behind an iron railing stands his assassin, John Wilkes Booth, though he cannot be seen clearly in this photograph.

“Grave” consequences

The fourth to expire in office, **James Garfield**, president No. 20, poses the same problem of interpretation as Harrison. This 49-year-old former Union general and Ohio Republican congressman was only six months into his term when he died on Sept. 19, 1881, from infection caused by wounds from an assassin's bullet. Garfield made no major decisions during those months, and he had run on the



James Garfield

standard Republican platform known as “Waving the Bloody Shirt” — whipping up memories of the Civil War. He had made comments in the past about civil service reform, which would remove government jobs from party patronage and fill them through written examinations.

Although his successor, **Chester A. Arthur**, came from a party machine background opposed to such reforms, he did not try to block them, and because Garfield's assassin was a mentally deranged party office-seeker, an outburst of national remorse helped impel Congress to pass the law that began converting the federal government to civil service. Like Harrison, Garfield had more impact as president in death than in life.

Business decisions

The sixth chief executive to fall was **Warren G. Harding**, president No. 29,

who died on Aug. 2, 1923, at the age of 57 from a heart attack, roughly two-and-a-half years into his term. Elected with self-coined watchwords such as “not heroic but healing, not nostrums but normalcy,” Harding had interpreted his landslide victory as a mandate to avoid international commitments and return to earlier pro-business policies favored by his Republican party. Harding appointed able men to his cabinet, particularly Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes and Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, and his administration did hew to its promised course.



Warren G. Harding

Unfortunately, Harding also brought with him a bunch of cronies who opened a carnival of corruption, and at the time of his death the president appeared about to move against his felonious friends.

Successor **Calvin Coolidge** swiftly cleaned house, but otherwise the succession marked a seamless transition that retained Harding's best appointees and maintained his policies of disengagement abroad and promotion of business at home.

Major ramifications

In three cases of a president dying in office, however, the deeds of his successor did have a big impact and sparked controversy from the start about alleged infidelity to the wishes of the fallen leader.

politically skilled and deep-thinking Lincoln would have acted differently from the maladroit, fanatically stubborn Johnson. Little doubt exists that this death of a president was an unmitigated tragedy that changed things immeasurably for the worse.

Warring opinions

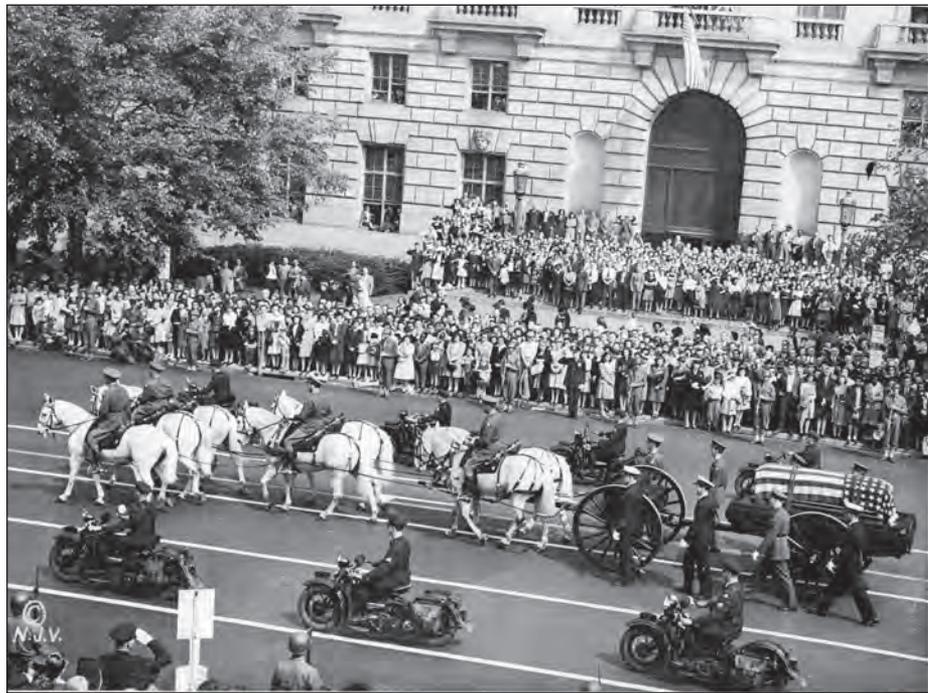
The seventh and eighth successions — the last ones thus far — have also sparked controversy, but with little agreement about the direction or significance of changes that may have taken place. On April 12, 1945, **Franklin D. Roosevelt** (FDR) died at the age of 63 of a cerebral hemorrhage, a little more than two months into his fourth term as president No. 32, as World War II was drawing to a close and before the Cold War with the Soviet Union had started. Up to that point, FDR had been trying to cooperate with the Soviet leader, Josef Stalin, in order to end the war faster and forestall post-war conflicts and differences.

Questions and arguments quickly arose about the way his successor, **Harry S. Truman**, ended the war — particularly dropping the atomic bombs on Japan — and the way he confronted Stalin and eventually engaged in a global struggle with the Soviets and the Communist Chinese. Skeptics and critics proclaimed that FDR would have handled things differently and better by not antagonizing the Soviets as Truman did.

In fact, Truman's predecessor as vice president, Henry Wallace, ran as a third-party candidate for president in 1948 on the premise that Roosevelt would not have gotten the country into the Cold War. Wallace did not win, and some people at the time and later maintained that Truman's tough stances brought welcome and necessary departures from softness toward



Harry S. Truman, center left, takes the presidential oath of office administered by Supreme Court Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone in the Cabinet Room of the White House on April 12, 1945. Truman succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt.



Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1945 funeral procession down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., included a horse-drawn casket.

the Soviets. This was the clearest example of how perceptions of the changes caused by the death of a president spawned political conflicts in their own right.

Unlikely bedfellows

The death of **John F. Kennedy**, president No. 35, at the age of 46, less than three years in office, and the succession by **Lyndon B. Johnson** have spawned similar arguments.



John F. Kennedy

The arguments revolve almost entirely around whether Kennedy would have committed hundreds of thousands of American troops to Vietnam, as Johnson did a little more than a year after he took office. With greater confidence in his abilities in foreign affairs and more skepticism about claims about the effectiveness of armed force advanced by the military brass, Kennedy supposedly would have held back from plunging into what the French President Charles de Gaulle famously told him was a "bottomless quagmire." Yet Johnson relied almost entirely on advisors appointed by Kennedy, who had repeatedly claimed that Vietnam was a critical battleground in the Cold War. Johnson himself always claimed that he was following faithfully in Kennedy's footsteps. This argument still rages nearly five decades after those events.

Conversely, on the domestic side, many interpreters have credited Johnson with

much greater commitment and legislative skill, which were essential to putting through the reform program of the Great Society, including fighting poverty, preventing crime, advancing education, and enacting the most significant civil rights laws since Reconstruction. Although Kennedy had also served in both houses of Congress, he had never been a party leader or influential insider, as Johnson was — supremely — as, for instance, Senate minority leader, then Senate majority leader, and, as historian Robert Caro calls him, "master of the Senate." Nor did Kennedy show the deep knowledge and passionate commitment to humane causes such as civil rights and fighting poverty that his successor displayed. At the same time, those and other interpreters have acknowledged that the wave of national remorse following Kennedy's assassination greatly aided Johnson in enacting his programs.

Seizing opportunities

Finally, one presidential succession stands by itself in judgments about the changes that it wrought. The fifth of them and the first one in the 20th century came on Sept. 14, 1901, when, a year-and-a-half into his second term, **William McKinley**, No. 25, succumbed to infection caused by an assassin's bullet. Succeeding him was the youngest and, by all estimates, one of the most



William McKinley

unusual and most popular of all presidents — **Theodore Roosevelt.**

Even at first glance, stark contrasts separated the two men. Unlike the 58-year-old McKinley, who was a veteran of the Civil War, Roosevelt was only 42 and too young to have served in that war. Unlike the formal, dignified McKinley, who had no living children and had a reclusive, melancholy wife, Roosevelt was a boisterous extrovert with six children, the oldest age 17 and the youngest age three when he took office, and a lively, outspoken wife who entertained regularly. Unlike McKinley, who had risen from modest middle-class origins, attending but not finishing Allegheny College and reading law with a local attorney, Roosevelt came from a cosmopolitan background of wealth and privilege and was a Harvard graduate and accomplished naturalist and widely published historian (and fifth cousin to FDR).

Changes in the public atmospherics surrounding the White House occurred almost overnight with Roosevelt's succession. Again unlike McKinley, who had been a consummate political insider and spent many years on Capitol Hill as a congressman and then as governor (from Ohio), Roosevelt had bounced around as an outsider in the New York State Assembly, U. S. Civil Service Commission, and Navy Department, and as a governor of New York, with maverick tendencies on patronage and business issues. But he also had enjoyed attention and often adoration from the press from the moment he had entered politics fresh out of Harvard, whereas McKinley had made his way up slowly through the political ranks and dealt largely behind the scenes.

Roosevelt's natural gifts and long practice made him a shrewd manipulator of the new public dimensions of politics opened by the rise of the mass media in the form of big-circulation metropolitan newspapers and magazines with national readership. His well-publicized exploits as a rancher and hunter in the West and his heroic command of troops in combat in the Spanish-American War had made him a force to be reckoned with and placed him on the best springboard for an eventual presidential run, the governorship of New York. (Between 1868 and 1948, half the elections would feature a governor or former governor of New York as a major party nominee.) With Roosevelt in the White House, the presidency became an object of attention and adulation rivaling big-time sports and entertainment.

Some critics of TR (not "Teddy," a nickname he disliked) scoffed that he offered more show than substance. Like all presidential successors, he pledged to continue the policies of his fallen predecessor, and he did retain key appointees from the previous administration, such as Secretary of War



Theodore Roosevelt waves to a crowd in this undated photo.

(and later Secretary of State under Roosevelt) Elihu Root and Attorney General Philander C. Knox, and continue its antitrust and military policies. But TR always acted with a flair for publicity previously absent, and his showmanship became a source of political strength, which he used to become the first presidential successor to win election to the office in his own right. (The others have been: Coolidge, Truman, and Lyndon Johnson.) In his second term he successfully pushed through much stronger railroad regulation by the Interstate Commerce Commission and established what would become the Food and Drug Administration and the Forest Service. He also earned the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for mediating the Russo-Japanese War.

TR's popularity also allowed him to chart a course apart from and sometimes opposed to the leaders of his party — something almost none of his predecessors had been able to do. The soul of his party, the Republicans, belonged to McKinley and his circumspect, pro-business conservatism. TR represented a different kind of conservatism — one that was sensitive to popular discontents, skeptical toward business, and, therefore, receptive to government intervention in the economy in order to forestall unwise and potentially revolutionary changes such as government ownership of the railroads and other steps toward "socialism."

Those differences with his party's leaders later led TR, as ex-president, to bolt the party in 1912 and run as the nominee of his newly formed Progressive Party (whose mascot was the Bull Moose). It was a bold move, which allowed him to expound his ideas more fully, and he finished second in the election, ahead of the Republican nominee, incumbent President William Howard Taft. (This remains the only time in American history that a third-party candidate has finished ahead of the

nominee of one of the major parties.) Ironically, TR's actions helped insure the election of the Democrats' choice, Woodrow Wilson, who began the long-running and decisive shift of liberalism and progressivism to that party.

It is safe to say that the course of American politics would not have been the same without TR.

Political fates

He and Andrew Johnson offer the clearest examples of the differences that successors to a fallen president can make: TR, usually accounted to be for the better; the first Johnson, almost undeniably for the worse. But even the less consequential and more argued-over successions have had their impact.

For the last half century, the closest America has come to the kind of change wrought by the death of a president has been No. 37 Richard M. Nixon's resignation following the Watergate scandal. His successor, Ford, deserves great credit for alleviating that national trauma. Yet, for all their significance, those were not the same kinds of event.

Fortune has indeed smiled on the nation in not having the death of a president for these last five decades or its first five. ■



John Milton Cooper, Jr.,

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(Alfred A. Knopf), a finalist for this year's Pulitzer Prize in biography or autobiography; *The Warrior and the Priest: Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt* (Harvard University Press, 1983); *Pivotal Decades: The United States 1900-1920* (W.W. Norton & Co., 1990); and *The Vanity of Power; American Isolationism and the First World War, 1914-1917* (Greenwood Publishing Corp., 1969). Cooper has served on the Pulitzer jury for history and on the Council of Foreign Relations. He was the chief historian and an advisor, respectively, for television biographies of Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt on PBS's *American Experience*. Educated in history at Princeton University (B.A.) and Columbia University (M.A. and Ph.D.), Cooper has received a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Fulbright professorship, among other accolades. As a member of the Organization of American Historians, he served on the Frederick Jackson Turner Award committee; as a member of the American Historical Association, he chaired the F. Franklin Jameson Prize committee. Cooper also was on the editorial advisory committee for the Papers of Woodrow Wilson and on the advisory committee of the White House Bicentennial Celebration. Email him at jmcooper@wisc.edu.



Christopher Saucedo's *Floodmarker* (2008), Franklin Ave., New Orleans, across from the still-vacant Milne Boys Home, serves as a reaction to Hurricane Katrina.

When Tragedy Inspires Recovery: Visual Arts in Post-Katrina New Orleans

By Susan E. Krantz

When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on Aug. 29, 2005, and the federal levees broke, more than 80 percent of the city flooded. The population of New Orleans plummeted from 437,198 in January 2005 to 158,353 in January 2006.¹ By August 2006, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals confirmed 1,464 deaths from the storm,² but the actual death toll is undeniably much higher. Similarly, six months after the storm *The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned*, a report supervised by Frances Fragos Townsend, then Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, claimed the total damage at \$96 billion (in third quarter 2005 dollars), although property values and damage claims continue to be disputed in courts and Congress.³ The city was off-limits to residents for six weeks, as contaminated

flood waters ate through victims' homes and belongings, rendering salvage attempts futile.⁴

New Orleans itself initially was unable to participate in its own recovery because the devastation was so widespread. For months, few, if any, businesses in Orleans Parish could reopen. Commercial property around the city was ruined, and employers and workers disbursed and were unreachable. Homeowners, once they were allowed to return, could not purchase replacement white goods, furnishings, cleaning supplies, and home repair materials; they could not locate local carpenters, plumbers, contractors, and electricians.

Picking up the pieces would be long and hard. A RAND Corp. technical report predicted a 5- to 10-year recovery time.⁵ As we approach the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, however, the 10-year prediction seems overly optimistic. For instance, as of August 2009, 65,888

unoccupied residences remained in New Orleans, the highest in the country per capita.⁶ Population figures remain vague and arguable,⁷ and much of the work needed for infrastructure restoration remains in dispute.⁸

There are, however, many stories of inspiration, victory, and success (most recently, the bigger, better, and stronger "Who Dat Nation": the Super Bowl victory by the New Orleans Saints on Feb. 7) and of persistence, creativity, hope, and resolve. This article tells just one of those stories, the story of the visual arts in post-Katrina New Orleans.

If, as famed Louisiana writer and Phi Kappa Phi member Ernest J. Gaines asserts, "tragedy is the blood of art,"⁹ Katrina got New Orleans pumping, and as in a successful transfusion, the tragic blood's compatibility to the patient soon became absorbed into the total circulatory system of the city's arts culture.

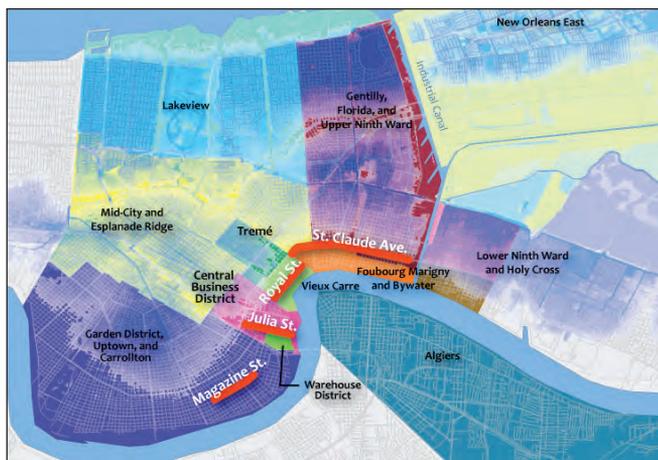
Almost all the primary art galleries survived the inundation with little, if any, flood damage. Although there is no official organizational count of museums and art galleries in the city, the Web site bestofneworleans.com on June 7, 2005, listed 50; only six were located in areas of substantial flooding.

The map at right (page 9) allows for easy visualization of the higher, unflooded portion of the city. With Lake Pontchartrain to the north and the Mississippi River to



Above: Mark Bradford's *Mithra* (2008), an ark-like installation set among the desolation of Hurricane Katrina, was displayed at one of the 20-plus venues that comprised the Prospect 1 art show in New Orleans in late 2008.

For a look at fixing communications failures from Hurricane Katrina, see page 24.



the south, the area closest to the river, about a mile wide, stretching along the length of the Mississippi to the point where it meets the Industrial Canal, remained dry and has come to be known by New Orleanians as “the sliver by the river.”¹⁰ The sliver holds great significance, as it represents the basic “old city,” which houses much of its cultural treasures. The early settlers in New Orleans chose right, staking out the highest ground for their homes. Except for the sliver, a few natural ridges, and some high-filled land near Lake Pontchartrain, the rest of the city flooded, causing a giant bowl of water. The map also delineates the major art districts in New Orleans, through the use of thick red lines. (The colors to the map serve as ways to distinguish parts of the city.) Where the Mississippi bends near the center of the map is the world famous Vieux Carre (French Quarter) and the still-vibrant arts district on and around Royal Street. Several top-notch galleries can be found in the French Quarter, but most significant contemporary galleries are located in the Warehouse Arts District to the immediate west, and in the Magazine Corridor to the

west of the Warehouse District. To the east of the French Quarter is the St. Claude Arts District, an arts destination developed only after Katrina. But again, the majority of galleries and venues can be found in the “sliver by the river.” Further to the east and below the waterway called the Industrial Canal, the levees did indeed give way, flooding the large area to the east, known as the Lower Ninth Ward (L9). Although L9 provided several venues for the enormous, city-wide art extravaganza in 2008 known as Project 1, it is not one of New Orleans’ art districts.

Much of the arts infrastructure remained viable following the storm. The major museums survived: there was no water in the University of New Orleans Ogden Museum of Southern Art (Ogden Museum) in the Warehouse District or in the public areas of the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA in City Park, located in Mid-City near Lakeview), although NOMA’s

basement offices and storage flooded, its outdoor Bestoff Sculpture Garden suffered extensive damage to its landscaping, lighting, and lagoons, and a staff member died.¹¹ For NOMA, the result amounted to a \$6 million restoration project and a closure of six months for the museum and more than four years for the sculpture garden.

Despite the general survival of the arts infrastructure in New Orleans, most people did not predict a swift recovery would follow. After all, arts are a luxury, and so many in New Orleans were in what has come to be known as “survival mode.” Also, most were pessimistic that tourism would rebound in the near future. Doug MacCash, art critic for New Orleans’ largest newspaper, *The Times-Picayune*, believed that most galleries in the major art districts would fail: “I just figured it was a matter of time before they faded,” he thought, but concludes that “the opposite was true.”¹²

Partial explanation for the recovery of the arts in New Orleans again lies in geography, this time in neighborhood demographics, especially professional artist cohorts within various neighborhoods. But it also lies in local audiences — with a greatly reduced tourist population, galleries had to rely on locals to frequent museums, buy art, and patronize arts events. And New Orleanians came through.

Said another way, less than two months after the storm, the New Orleans’ arts community rediscovered itself. When the Ogden Museum reopened its doors on Oct. 27, 2005, re-inaugurating its “After Hours” series that combines gallery viewing with concerts and cocktails, more than 600 people jammed the event, a huge turnout given that pre-Katrina attendance usually hovered around 100. Artists and patrons, gallery owners, museum workers, volunteers, and members joined young gallery-hoppers and neighborhood residents. The museum director at the time, Rick Gruber, realized that evening that the Ogden Museum had become the “rallying point for the art and culture of the city and region.”¹³ Similarly, gallery owners in the Warehouse Arts District found their post-Katrina business much healthier than they had originally predicted. Bob Heriard, co-owner of Heriard-Cimino Gallery, sold more artwork in 2006 than he had in any year in the previous decade, he told me in an interview. And his story is typical of many established galleries. Not only were hurricane victims “replacing” lost art, the floodwater somehow brought with it a greater appreciation of the importance of New Orleans to the creative consciousness of the nation.



For footnotes, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Publications/Forum/summer2010/artkatrina>.

If the Ogden Museum was the rallying point, the entire city became the canvas for post-Katrina art. Many of those present at the Ogden Museum reopening already had resumed their arts-related work; even before Katrina, large numbers of visual artists had been located in the less-damaged Faubourg Marigny, Bywater, and Lower Garden District area near Magazine Street neighborhoods as well as in Algiers Point to the south of the river, where there are several older neighborhoods on or near the “sliver” with affordable homes and commercial buildings for lease or sale. Of course, many artists did not live in arts neighborhoods and not all arts neighborhoods were spared. Painter Jim Richard and sculptor Christopher Saucedo lived and worked in the Gentilly area, relatively close to the University of New Orleans, at which they teach. For those artists as well as several others nearby, both homes and studios were lost, as well as years of work, sketches, scribbled ideas and cuttings, art materials, completed projects and books. The same was true in other areas of the city. Nonetheless, more arts neighborhoods survived than did not.¹⁴

Shortly after the Ogden opening, artists from around the country descended on New Orleans to create something out of the unfolding tragedy they had witnessed in the media. They were hungry to make art here, to bring art here, to join with the artists here to turn the tragedy into creative commentary — confrontational and political, shocking and soothing, at its best, transformative. For the most part, they were not interested in or inspired by the “sliver by the river,” but by the vast destruction all around it. They were joined by some returning local artists who faced their personal loss with determination and creativity. In L9, for instance, Keith Calhoun and Chandra McCormick had lost their house and moved to Spring, Texas, but returned to New Orleans to build the L9 Center for the Arts.¹⁵ Conceptual artist and Houston native Mel Chin, also involved in helping the New Orleans arts community recover, encapsulated the nationwide attitude: “The magnitude of the tragic situation requires an equal response from the creative community.”¹⁶

There was so much activity, in fact, that for a while the arts boom following Katrina was discussed in terms of which artists actually had claim to the tragedy, for Katrina had become the singular subject of so many artists’ output. I can hardly remember an opening exhibition in 2006 in which paintings that looked like the mold on Katrina walls were absent, or in which debris from ruined homes failed to be transformed into mixed-media sculpture or installations. Some were clever and moving, like *Floodwall*, in which artist Jana Napoli arranged hundreds of water-warped bureau drawers, salvaged from trash heaps throughout the city, into a into

Courtesy of the artist



Jim Richard’s collage *Art and Décor* (2005) is an example of the rejuvenation the artist underwent when Hurricane Katrina compelled him to evacuate New Orleans and temporarily create from afar.

a gigantic wall-like pattern. Most viewers found a part of that work that reminded them of their own furniture; almost everyone was impressed by the vastness of the exhibit that had an epic, catalogue quality about it; and most everyone read the failure of the levees in the gaps between the water-ruined components. In fact, many Katrina pieces are profoundly moving, now as then — I think especially of “Drastic Changes: Trees of New Orleans Then and Now by Wolf Kahn,” presented at the Ogden Museum. Kahn’s 2002 pastels of New Orleans trees were hung side by side with photographs of the literal location post-Katrina. I watched as viewers cried at the transience of nature even as they treasured the endurance of art.

While recognizing an arts Renaissance in the city, many reputable local artists were suspicious of supposed help that outside artists promised for the city. And displaced residents found it all too heartbreaking for outsiders to see their ruined lives and property as displayable iconography, available to everyone who boarded a bus for the “disaster tour.” As an article in *The Christian Science Monitor* put it, “Whose Art Is Katrina Art?” One local artist, Susan Gisleson, called some of the Katrina work “emotional pornography,” and Bob Shaffer, a local sculptor, used an idiomatic Southernism to describe the national post-Katrina arts phenomenon in New Orleans: “a lot of carpetbaggers and scalawags coming down here and playing on the art scene.”¹⁷

Nonetheless, the post Katrina arts revival marked its high point with the opening of Prospect 1, a citywide arts extravaganza, the largest international contemporary art exhibition in the U.S. It opened on Nov. 1, 2008, and ran through Jan. 18, 2009, and featured

81 artists from 39 countries at more than 20 venues. The brainchild of Dan Cameron, director of visual arts at the New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center, it encompassed all the main arts districts in the city and added L9 to its list of venues. Artists could pick their own themes, whether related to Katrina or not. It promised to lure thousands of art-loving tourists to New Orleans, and it pledged, as the first biennial of its type, to return to the city in November 2011.

By all accounts Prospect 1 was successful; by all accounts Prospect 1 was not nearly as successful as promised. Sculptor Saucedo told an interviewer that Prospect 1 “literally put us on the map as a destination of contemporary art,” although “I didn’t need artists from Brazil and London to make Katrina art. That’s my story. ... On the other hand, a lot of it was so good and so powerful, I just loved it.”¹⁸ His response encapsulates the truth of Prospect 1’s impact: regardless of the sometimes-questionable aesthetics of some of the work, and the occasional ignorance of or callousness towards local artists and residents, it made an international impression and reminded the art world that New Orleans was a destination before Katrina and should be an even larger one after. Covered by *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New Yorker*, the event attracted upwards of 42,000 visitors and generated more than \$23 million in economic activity, according to its Web site.

Like most events of gigantic proportion and unbridled ambition, the residuals often tell the rest of the story. An entirely new arts district developed and was featured prominently in Prospect 1, thereby collapsing into a few weeks the time needed to establish a reputation: the St.

Claude Arts District, which rims preexisting artists' neighborhood in the Bywater, now bustles with energy and attitude and introduces new artists to the community on a regular basis through exhibit openings on the second Saturday of each month.

Also, local artists turned out not to be as overlooked as they feared in Prospect 1 and afterwards; many have experienced their own artistic renaissances, finding renewed energy and direction. For instance, the post-Katrina work of painter Richard exhibits nothing of the despair and loss he experienced, but takes the bright visuals and attention to detail of his earlier interior decor paintings in a new direction, at once more ordered and more playful. He also added a new medium, collage, to his repertoire, using the small scraps he salvaged from his flooded studio. For Richard, the creation of an entirely new body of work while exiled in Austin helped him reclaim and celebrate his artistic identity *outside* an oppressive Katrina environment (see Richard photo on page 10).¹⁹ Sculptor Saucedo, too, understands the cleansing power of the Katrina experience: he has told me and others that it made him confront his identity as an artist and strengthened that identity, whether or not his subject matter deals with Katrina. (*Floodmarker*, on page 8, is one of Saucedo's post-Katrina pieces.)

Katrina also brought local artists to major shows in New York and elsewhere as well as introduced prominent artists from elsewhere to New Orleans. For instance, Mark Bradford, an internationally recognized mixed-media artist connected with the Saatchi Gallery in London, placed his three-story, 64-foot ark, entitled *Mithra*, in the L9 wasteland, creating a monument to the hope for survival and the emptiness of its promise. (See *Mithra* photo on page 9.) Similarly, Argentinean artist Leandro Erlich used L9 as his backdrop for *Window and Ladder — Too Late for Help*. The work, which appears to defy gravity, depicts a ladder propped up against an open brick window superimposed on a barren field and overcast skies, and has been at the Sean Kelly Gallery in New York City. And NOMA loaned the exhibition, "The Big Easy in the Big Apple: Two Centuries of Art in Louisiana from the Battle of New Orleans to Katrina," more than 100 works, to the AXA Gallery in New York City.²⁰

And major foundations began to notice and fund New Orleans artists. By fall 2008, the Getty Foundation had awarded \$2.8 million in grants to local museums and arts organization. Jay Weigel, executive director of the Contemporary Arts Center



Courtesy of the artist

Leandro Erlich's *Window and Ladder — Too Late for Help* (2008), a response to Hurricane Katrina, was part of a large art exhibition called Prospect 1 in New Orleans in late 2008. Eighty-one artists from 39 countries participated.

of New Orleans and head of a coalition of eight New Orleans arts organizations that Getty funded, credits that support for the arts community's ability "to design a new strategic plan, create new sources of earned revenue, cultivate new collaborations and continue our artistic programs while helping to rebuild the city."²¹ In 2008, the Joan Mitchell Foundation, too, launched a new granting initiative, worth up to \$5,000 apiece, to support New Orleans-based opportunities for painters and sculptors living and working in the Gulf Coast area.²²

No longer the tragic Katrina city, New Orleans has reemerged as a hot spot for the visual arts. Project director of the organization Sculpture for New Orleans, Michael Manjarris, sized up the new attitude of artists and audiences alike: "Everybody's excited and busy, and the wet blanket's off."²³

Perhaps most telling is the physical evidence of creative energy. There is literally art everywhere in New Orleans. Thanks to the vision and hard work of Manjarris and collaborator Peter Lundberg, Sculpture for New Orleans has placed 35 significant pieces throughout the city, and about 65 more are planned over the next three years.²⁴ The Ogden Museum reports increased attendance at its "After Hours" series of at least 50 percent more than pre-Katrina (from about 100 to 150-180). The number of galleries listed in *bestofneworleans.com* has increased, too, by 75 percent, from 50 to 87, and the work in them is as diverse and exciting as the city itself.

Of course, not everything is rosy. Louisiana's economy has slumped along with the rest of the nation, and the concomitant threats by the state government to reduce arts funding are increasing. Now that the devastation is no longer at the forefront of the New Orleans' art world, many legislators see no point in supporting such "luxuries." They seem to have forgotten the invaluable lessons of supporting the creative economy, especially when there is such diversity of opinion in art that is confrontational or oppositional or simply confusing — in other words, when the art does what it is supposed to do. Nonetheless, the arts community in New Orleans will not succumb to the new realities of budget cuts just as it did not succumb to Hurricane Katrina. Stronger than before, richer in spirit and reputation, the visual arts in New Orleans turned tragedy to resilience. ■

Author's note: *I would like to thank Lawrence Jenkins, chair of the Fine Arts Department at University of New Orleans (UNO) for his assistance in researching this essay. I would also like to thank the late Johanna Schindler, UNO's director of publications and communications at the time of her passing, for suggesting this work to me. She died suddenly from complications of a brain aneurysm on March 7 before the article could be completed. Anything enjoyable or worthwhile in this piece, then, I share with them. The faults, of course, I acknowledge as mine.*

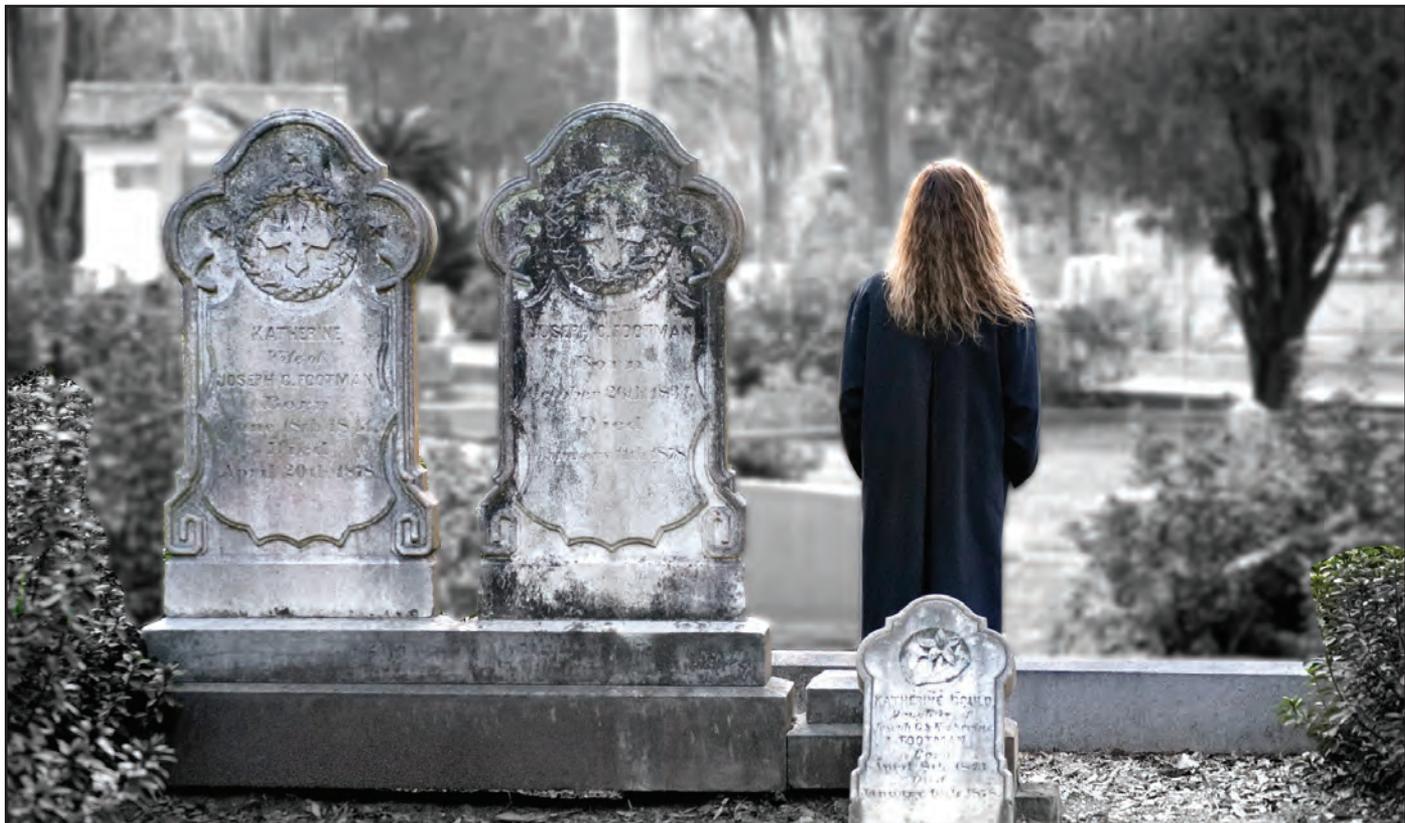


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included board positions on the Committee for a Better New Orleans, Metropolitan Leadership Committee, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and New Orleans Mayoral Fellows Program. Krantz was named Woman of the Year by *CityBusiness*, New Orleans, in 2004. Trained as a specialist in Shakespeare and early modern drama and culture, she also has served on the editorial board of *Explorations in Renaissance Culture* and is past president of the South-Central Renaissance Association. Her publications include articles in *Renaissance and Reformation/Renaissance et Reforme*; *Studies in English Literature 1500-1800*; *Explorations in Renaissance Culture*; and *American Speech*. Krantz earned English degrees from Newcomb College (B.A.), Mississippi State University (M.A.), and Tulane University (Ph.D.). Email her at SKrantz@uno.edu.



To read how the University of New Orleans is recovering from Hurricane Katrina, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Publications/Forum/summer2010/UNO>.



Accommodating Loss

By Anne Chandler

In “Good Grief,” an article in *The New Yorker* on Feb. 1, author Meghan O’Rourke detailed the history of changes in mourning over the last century or so and offered explanations for the shift from public recognition of death to a more private form of mourning. Death is less a part of our lives, she implied. For example, seldom do multiple generations live together anymore. And death has been removed from the home to the sterile confines of the hospital, while funeral parlors now take care of the body. Death has become an unknown, thus, something to fear; acknowledging it or demonstrating distress over it adds to our discomfort. O’Rourke also noted conspicuous exceptions of current privatized mourning by citing deaths of celebrities (e.g., Princess Diana of Wales and Michael Jackson) whose passing occasioned widespread public involvement.

I concur with her about the movement toward the privatization of grief. I’d add that this is an unfortunate development. As a licensed professional counselor, I believe that in our desire to keep grief private, we have (especially in Western culture) unwittingly created a population ignorant of the variety of ways people grieve loss.

That ignorance leads to experiences in which the individual dealing with a loss

suffers secondary distress because the intensity of grief is seen not as “normal,” but as prima facie evidence that there must be something “wrong” with the sufferer. And that’s usually not true. In my clinical work, I have observed that loss is a necessary and intimate part of living and must be accommodated. (My field tries to avoid the word “recovery” because it implies a return to an original state, and in loss, that rarely happens.) However, for most people, understanding loss and how to accommodate it is not a process which with they are familiar. The subtitle of O’Rourke’s piece is, “Is There a Better Way to Grieve?” The answer is yes.

Interpreting loss

Loss can be conceptualized in a variety of ways. Tangible losses are those we can see: death of a loved one; downsizing of a job; ashes of a burned building; physical deterioration of aging; the move of adult offspring away from their childhood home. Intangible losses are psychosocial and involve no visible manifestation: loss of expectations of a happy marriage in divorce; parental disappointment in a child’s poor choices; the realization that one has advanced in one’s career as far as possible.

The paradox of loss is that it has neither positive nor negative valence, even though

we tend to inflect it one way or the other. Rather, loss is a necessary and, if you think about it, neutral concomitant to change in one’s life. For example, for a couple to marry, both parties must relinquish their current status and perception of themselves as independent individuals (lose something) in order to wed (gain something). Or when a student graduates, the use of the term “bittersweet” in commencement speeches reflects the acknowledgement that something has to end for something new to begin. So, even as one embraces what is expected to be a fulfillment, a lack is always occurring.

Confronting loss

There have been numerous attempts to build a model of accommodating losses. In 1944 Erich Lindemann, chief of psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital and an early researcher in the field, suggested tasks that must be completed to come to terms with loss. They included accepting the fact of the loss, adjusting to life without the deceased and forming new relationships. Various phase-based theories have been posited, most suggesting an initial state of shock followed by various emotional responses like anger and guilt, and then a reestablishment to former functioning. (See, for example, Robert E. Kavanaugh, *Facing Death*, 1972, and J. William Worden, *Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy*, 1991.) Most famously, in 1969 psychiatrist Elisabeth Kubler-Ross published her groundbreaking treatise,

On Death and Dying, which argued that people went through five stages to deal with loss: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

Lindemann felt four to six weeks was adequate to work through loss. Conventional wisdom says that it takes one calendar year. Research indicates that at least some people may experience grief, chronic sadness or other affective involvement for well beyond one year. (See, for example, Mary M. L. Vachon et al., "Predictors and Correlates of Adaptation to Conjugal Bereavement," in *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, August 1982.)

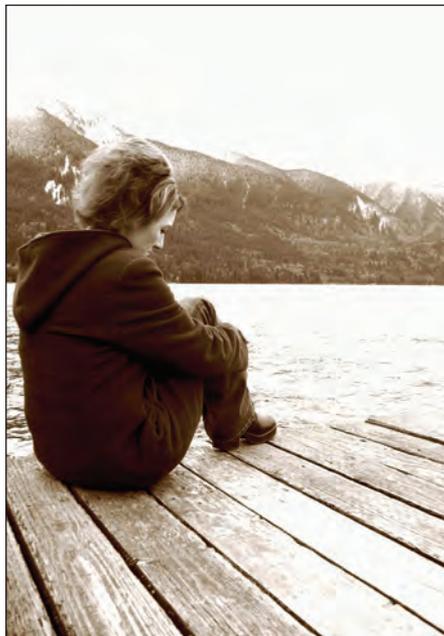
Redefining loss

In 1989 in *The Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, bereavement scholars Camille B. Wortman and Roxane L. Silver published "The Myths of Coping with Loss," a comprehensive and influential review of the literature on dealing with loss. In most cases, the research was based on response to the death of a spouse. The authors found that some commonly accepted beliefs tied to the theoreticians cited above had little or no empirical support.

For example, the idea that distress and depression are always concomitants of loss is not supported by empirical studies. Nor is the grieving process necessarily finished in any of the time frames hypothesized by leading thinkers. In fact, Wortman and Silver noted that although all theories about dealing with grief postulated a stage of adjustment, several studies indicate that 25 to 40 percent of people working through loss may never reach that level. John H. Harvey, Professor of Psychology at University of Iowa and author of *Perspectives on Loss and Trauma* (2002), notes when loss is associated with trauma (e.g., murder), healing is probably not achievable; adaptation is more so.

Findings like these suggest a more complex and individualized response to loss be considered. After all, progress toward accommodation or adaptation to loss is typically not linear. Rather, the individual may feel grief deeply at one point, experience a waning of grief, only to return to deep grief — the latter prompted, say, by a holiday. But although reminders like anniversaries of losses are frequently reported as causes of renewed grief, some intense remorse may seem to be triggered by nothing in particular (though of course there's always a root for it somewhere). And some losses are perceived to be relatively minor and occasion little overt response. Loss, then, is frequently wavelike: coming and going over time.

What's more, factors may predispose individuals to be vulnerable to intense or prolonged grieving. Therese A. Rando, in "The Increasing Prevalence of Complicated Mourning: The Onslaught Is Just



Beginning," in *Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying* (1992-93), summarized empirical research linking the following to complicated mourning: sudden, unanticipated death (especially traumatic or violent death); death following a protracted illness; loss of a child; an ambivalent relationship with the deceased; prior or current mental health problems; lack of perceived social support.

Although this research originally focused on individual behavior, it could also explain, in part, some responses in collective behavior responding to loss. For example, the devastation wrought by the January earthquake in Haiti involved sudden, unanticipated, violent deaths; deaths of many children; and disrupted social support systems. We should anticipate that the adaptation or accommodation of the losses of the citizens of Haiti will be difficult and may be prolonged.

Classifying loss

A challenge of dealing with loss is that it is, fundamentally, an individual experience. From the standpoint of a therapist, that is hardly surprising. There are few situations where all people will react alike. So from a clinical perspective, what to do?

I find it useful to break up reactions to loss into four categories. They take into account that grief is ultimately an individual phenomenon but also that grief includes common responses:

Emotional reactions. Loss conjures up feelings such as sadness, unhappiness or loneliness as well as anger, guilt, anxiety, fear, and even relief.

Physical reactions. Loss may cause sleeping or eating problems; shortness of breath, aches and pains; or menstrual

disorders. It has been well documented that the immune system often is suppressed when grieving a loss, leaving the individual susceptible to illness. (See, for example, Steven Schleifer et al., "Suppression of Lymphocyte Stimulation Following Bereavement" in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1983.)

Behavioral responses. Loss sometimes prompts crying or angry outbursts. Other manifestations are more extreme: withdrawing from relationships; acting out; becoming hyperactive; becoming lethargic.

Cognition. Loss can compromise decision-making and concentration. Thoughts may be obsessive (what if ...) or even hallucinatory (when the lost person or object seems to be present).

I find that providing a taxonomy of reactions to loss often helps grievers cope. It provides a normative framework in which experiences are designated as a function of loss, not a sign of mental illness. Knowing the broad range of "normal" grief also allows individuals to assess prior experiences for similar reactions that may signal an unrecognized or unacknowledged loss. (See Elizabeth J. Bruce and Cynthia L. Shultz's *Nonfinite Loss and Grief: A Psychoeducational Approach*, 2001.)

Looking ahead

The accommodation of loss is a complex process still not fully understood. Although many theories of accommodation exist, little empirical evidence to support those theories has been discovered. In addition, we have very little information about, and little empirical examination of, those individuals who seem particularly resilient in dealing with loss.

Much more research is needed to establish best practices in working with individuals attempting to accommodate loss. As O'Rourke noted, we know that there are better ways to grieve and deal with loss. ■



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The “radiological suite” on the Army hospital ship Relief could accommodate many patients. The figure is unidentified in this undated photo from the Spanish-American War in 1898.

Diagnosing Historic American Military Medical Innovations

By James Curley

The U.S. Navy hospital ship Comfort steamed toward Port-au-Prince, Haiti, days after the devastating January earthquake that killed more than 200,000 people. A fully equipped floating hospital and one of the largest trauma facilities in the United States, with the capacity of holding more than 1,200 military medical personnel and 1,000 hospital beds, the Comfort was launched in 1987 as a treatment facility for combat casualties and to support disaster relief and humanitarian operations. In a country that lacked adequate medical facilities even before the earthquake, the Comfort provided definitive care on its seven-week mission, treating 871 patients (540 critically injured) and performing 843 surgeries, according to the Navy.

In one of the first medical procedures of her mission to Haiti, a young man who had sustained blunt head trauma was whisked to the radiology department and slid into the center of the donut-shaped, state-of-the-art CT scanner for diagnosis. The help provided him echoes critical antecedents in American military medical history. For it was in these same waters near Haiti, surrounding the Greater Antilles, during the 1898 Spanish-American War that the x-ray was first used by the American Medical Corps in wartime. As Haitians received vital treatment aboard the Comfort earlier this year, soldiers and

civilians benefited from crucial cutting-edge U.S. military medical practices more than 100 years ago.

The period between the late 19th and early 20th century was marked by a radical transformation of medicine, especially in biomedicine, technology, specialization and rehabilitation. Wartime medical practice saved lives and served as a training ground and experimental laboratory, substantively influencing military and civilian medicine. New technologies like radiographic imaging saved soldiers in the field. The evolution of others such as prosthetics, coupled with the rise of medical specialization such as orthopedics and plastic surgery, also helped the wounded reclaim their lives and reintegrate into society.

X-ray developments marked the spot

X-rays were discovered late in 1895. Their usefulness in pinpointing the location of bullets within the body was immediately recognized and soon x-ray photographs were used by Italian, British and German military doctors in late 19th-century conflicts. By the time of the Spanish-American War less than three years after their discovery, practical diagnostic use of radiographs to treat wounded soldiers was conducted at permanent hospitals in the United States and on U.S. Army hospital ships such as the Relief. Dr. William Gray served as a photomicroscopist and

roentgenologist (a specialist in imaging technology like the x-ray) aboard the Relief, which was characterized as the best-equipped vessel of her kind in the world. Gray, of the Army Medical Museum in Washington, D.C., had experimented with x-rays there as early as June 1896.

The shadows from x-rays revolutionized the diagnosis of war injuries by revealing fractured bones as well as locating bullets and shrapnel that often ripped haphazardly through the body. Before the introduction of the x-ray, military surgeons investigated wounds “by feel” with their finger, probe or other instrument. This was an inexact exploratory process that, even with antiseptic procedures, routinely compounded the projectiles’ destructive effect and led to infection and other complications. In fact, seven soldiers died of infectious disease for each one who died from wounds sustained in battle. As a result of following a “do not touch” policy of limited surgical intervention when appropriate, 95 percent of those wounded in the Spanish-American war recovered, and x-rays factored into this success rate considerably.

Despite the technological revolution it helped introduce into the practice of military surgery, radiological progress in the Army Medical Department languished after the conclusion of the Spanish-American War. But veterans, who had gained an appreciation for this pain-free technology during wartime, called for x-ray diagnoses after returning home.

One was a retired colonel shot while campaigning for political office in Milwaukee in 1912. He was literally saved by his speech, the notes to which, folded and placed in his breast pocket along with his spectacle case, absorbed the impact and deflected the bullet. X-rays confirmed its location. A decision was made not to operate and the bullet remained harmlessly within his chest wall for the next seven years until he died. This former soldier, celebrated for the charge up San Juan Hill as leader of the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War, was former President Theodore Roosevelt. He was again running for the highest office in the land, this time on the Progressive ticket, after having served as commander in chief from 1901 to ’09 as a Republican.

World War I, which began in 1914 although American involvement was not to commence until 1917, played a pivotal role in legitimizing and popularizing the use of x-rays. Half of all American doughboys hospitalized in France were x-rayed. Improved materials and better techniques, and the relatively inexpensive manufacture of portable units, allowed for large-scale production of radiographs close to battle lines. Because of complex injuries and high casualty rates in the Great War, radiologists became indispensable to military surgeons. After the Treaty of Versailles in 1919,



The Peg Leg Department of the Surgical Appliances Association of London, allied with the American Red Cross, supplied American and British armies with splints and surgical appliances, many invented or improved by the workers, all of whom were women based in London, England, as this undated photo from World War I suggests. Below: A soldier undergoing facial reconstruction after the loss of his nose smiles for the camera at the Base Laboratory Hospital Center, Vichy, France, in this undated photo from World War I.



radiologists professionalized their discipline and the use of x-rays attained sound footing within the practice of military and civilian medicine.

Reconstructive surgery began in WWI

The medical response to devastating wounds unique to the Great War also gave rise to radical reconstructive surgical techniques and innovative treatments to improve healing. Machine guns, heavy artillery, armored tanks, and gas warfare leveled casualties on a massive scale. While numbers vary by source, more than 110,000 American soldiers died and almost 206,000 were wounded, and 24 percent of all American physicians served in the Army. Engaged in trench warfare, thousands of soldiers sustained horrific facial wounds. Harold Gillies, a London otolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat specialist) serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps, pioneered the treatment of surgery of the face, taking into account not only the repair of damage but also the patient's post-operative appearance. He is regarded as the father of plastic surgery, a specialty that stemmed from injuries unique to the war.

An estimated 20,000 patients from the war had brutalized, mutilated faces: gaping cheek wounds, severed ears, empty eye sockets and missing jaws. The work of plastic and maxillofacial (facial and jaw) surgeons attempted to balance functional as

well as cosmetic results. Reconstructive surgery was undertaken in a regimen of multiple tedious procedures. Flaps of skin, bone grafts and improvised appliances constructed of wire, leather, plaster and metal were creatively manipulated in the kind of work that civilian surgeons and dentists would seldom if ever experience. Oculists, speech instructors, engineers, and sculptors might join a reconstructive team. For example, an American sculptor, Anna Coleman Ladd, travelled to Paris in 1917 to craft facial masks for French soldiers at the American Red Cross Studio for Portrait Masks. She produced approximately 185 custom-made facial masks for soldiers, concealing disfigurement with thin pieces of painted metal. The soldiers with irreparable traumatic damage to their faces were able to return to their families and workplaces under concealment.

Meanwhile, Vilray Blair, head of the Armed Forces plastic surgery section during World War I and a leader in post-traumatic facial reconstruction, learned techniques from Gillies before returning to the United States at the end of the war. Blair set up teams of surgeons and dentists to treat complex maxillofacial injuries and went on to form one of the largest multidisciplinary teams in the specialty at Walter Reed (Army) Hospital, in Washington, D.C., with additional facilities at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and Ft. McHenry, Md.

Prosthetics supported the wounded

Artificial limbs merit attention here. Even though the recorded history of the use of artificial limbs is long, in American

military medicine the Civil War was the first period in which masses of soldiers were outfitted with rudimentary artificial limbs due to amputations. During World War I, improvements in prosthetics occurred: greater standardization in the manufacturing process that made possible high-quality, mass-produced units for a range of functional options.

Alongside these functional improvements, reconstructive and rehabilitative programs were initiated by the military. Focused on rebuilding individual soldiers' lives, these programs offered customized workshops extending from physiotherapy to vocational training such as welding, drafting, painting, and even the crafting of artificial limbs. These programs served the dual aim of rehabilitating the disabled and addressing wartime labor shortages through preparation for reentering the job market. These reconstructive and rehabilitative programs also fostered the establishment of the new medical professions of orthopedics and occupational therapy.

More wartime injuries need addressing

The demands of war have elevated the efficiency of emergency and long-term medical care. Much has changed through successive waves of medical technological innovation, adaptation and adoption in the past 100-plus years. Today, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan bring new challenges to military medicine. Soldiers are experiencing traumatic brain injury, polytrauma and massive blood loss. Emerging technologies, coupled with the skills of military medical personnel, continue to save lives on the battlefield and assist wounded and disabled service members — not to mention injured others in troubled lands like Haiti — in returning to a life of health and dignity. ■

Editor's note: *The National Museum of Health and Medicine, which provided the photos for this article, was founded in 1862 as the Army Medical Museum. For more information, go online to nshm.washingtondc.museum.*



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Photos: stock.xchng

U.S. Employment Travels Long, Bumpy Road to Recovery

By James W. Hughes and Joseph J. Seneca

The recent Great Recession was the worst employment setback in the United States since the Great Depression of the 1930s, and now, like then, the country's livelihood depends on understanding and reacting to the ramifications. The Great Recession started in December 2007, after the peak of the last economic expansion, as determined by

the Business Cycle Dating Committee of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank in Cambridge, Mass. The slide persisted well into 2009, and by May of that year became the longest post-Depression downturn.

While sustained job losses continued for the balance of the calendar year, NBER is

likely to determine in the coming months that the recession ended early in the third quarter of calendar year 2009, when the change in gross domestic product (GDP), the total output of the U.S. economy in a given period, turned from negative to positive. In that quarter, GDP grew at an annual rate of 2.2 percent, following four straight quarters of decline; it then increased to 5.7 percent in the fourth quarter.

Despite the likely proclamation of the recession's end, private-sector payroll employment in the U.S., the biggest portion of the country's employment base at 83.8 percent when the recession began, still continued to decline as 2009 came to a close. The scale of the employment losses has also been record-setting. The once "Great American Job Creation Machine" — a phrase coined in 1991 by University of California, Berkeley, political scientist Harold L. Wilensky — expired in 2008 and '09 and was replaced by what can be called the "Great American Job Destruction Machine." Here's a key reason why: The two largest annual private-sector job losses occurred in 2009 and '08, respectively, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), which began compiling payroll employment statistics in 1939.

Specifically, in 2008, a new record was set when 3.8 million private-sector jobs were lost from a total private-sector employment base of 115.6 million. But that year quickly relinquished this dubious title when it was eclipsed by the decline of 4.7 million private-sector jobs in 2009 from a total private-sector employment base of 111.8 million. Cumulatively, then, 8.5 million private-sector jobs were lost between December 2007 and December 2009. For comparison, the worst prior job losses in the private sector were 2.3 million in 2001 and 2.2 million in 1945, according to BLS. (In contrast, the public sector gained 103,000 jobs between December 2007 and December 2009.)

Negative numbers

America now faces a troubling arithmetic of employment recovery because of the depth of the job deficit caused by the recession. The current deficit is measured as the sum of the heavy employment losses that began in December 2007 plus the jobs needed to accommodate the demographically driven labor force growth (stemming principally from young adults and new immigrants joining the labor force) that took place during the downturn. Even if employment losses stabilize, the deficit will deepen anyway because of continued long-term growth of the labor force going forward. As a result, it may take the nation *until the second half of the current decade* to return to the pre-recession labor market conditions of 2007, when the unemployment rate was 5 percent at the end of that year. (It



had more than doubled to 10.2 percent by October 2009 and hovered around 9.7 percent in the early part of this year.) Such a long road back is ahead of us *even if the nation is able to achieve above-average annual employment growth* for a sustained period of time.

The chasm deepens when the nation's labor-force growth is factored into the loss of the 8.5 million private-sector jobs in 2008 and '09. BLS projected that the nation's labor force would grow by 1.26 million persons per year during 2008-16, a figure comprised of private-sector and government payroll employment as well as contract (non-payroll) personnel. Thus, the U.S. needs to add that many jobs per year during this period simply to accommodate growth in the labor force and hold the unemployment rate constant.

Of that annual figure, approximately 900,000 would be private-sector payroll jobs. This means that in 2008 and '09 the nation needed to create 1.8 million private-sector payroll jobs but, of course, it didn't since the country lost 8.5 million private-sector jobs. Therefore, the total private-sector employment deficit actually totaled 10.3 million jobs at the beginning of 2010.

Worrisome projections

What rates of job growth can be anticipated to replenish the deficit? During the powerful 1991-2001 national economic expansion, private-sector payroll employment growth averaged 2.15 million jobs per year, according to our calculations of BLS employment data from March 1991 to March 2001. Thus, even assuming this pace of growth in the future — an assumption that will likely be too generous since such an annual increase would be

double that of the most recent expansion from 2001 to '07 of just less than 1 million private-sector jobs per year—the implications for a full recovery are sobering.

Of the 2.15 million jobs for annual employment growth, 900,000 will be needed to accommodate the expanding labor force, leaving only 1.25 million jobs to counter the current employment deficit. This means *it will take eight years and three months (10.3 million divided by 1.25 million), until 2018, to erase the 10.3 million employment deficit* and return to the labor market conditions existing at the end of the last expansion in December 2007. And that assumes no further upticks in the upward-moving economy in the meanwhile!

A recovery of this duration, and one with this level of sustained annual job growth, would be comparable only to the two longest expansions in the nation's history: 1961-69 (106 months) and 1991-2001 (120 months). Given that the average length of the 11 economic expansions of the post-World War II era is 58.5 months, or almost 4.9 years, sustaining an expansion until 2018 (i.e., for eight years) will be a daunting task, indeed.

Growing pains

Already one-tenth of the 21st century is gone, and most of America should be happy about that because the century's opening 10-year period comprised America's lost economic decade. For the first time since the 1930s, the nation experienced a decade-long negative net in private-sector job creation.

As the first year of a new decade unfolds, the nation is no longer staring into the depths of recession, but rather is

looking forward to potential economic recovery. However, 2010 will be just the start of a very long recovery period, one without precedent since the Great Depression.

The immediate challenge for fiscal and governmental authorities, then, is to wind down the large stimulus programs that saved the nation from plunging into a depression as had occurred in the 1930s. But this must be done in a deft and well-timed manner so as not to ignite inflation or higher interest rates, or otherwise slow the fragile but gathering economic recovery.

Our jobs, and the economic well-being of the country, depend on it. ■



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Marketing and the Effects of Recessions

By Mark J. Kay

A recession is an economic phenomenon of decreased demand. Technically, a recession is usually said to exist when the gross national product or GNP (the total annual economic value of goods and services that a country produces in a given period) declines for two consecutive quarters. Yet influential economist Simon Kuznets, who helped the U.S. Department of Commerce standardize the measurement of GNP during the 1930s, knew that GNP is hardly an indicator of the well-being of the nation.

Far more important are the human costs of economic cycles. With the unemployment rate at about 10 percent, the situation has been especially hard felt for workers and their families. As the saying goes, when your neighbor loses his job, it is a recession, but when YOU lose your job, it is a depression.

How businesses respond

With the onset of a recession, managers often react by severely cutting back on orders for raw material and supplies, fearing that gloomy sales figures for the next quarter will lead to bloated inventories and financial losses. Austerity measures such as reduced orders can deepen a recession.

Yet the economic performance that

results from inventory-cutting measures at many firms is often shortsighted. In recent recessions, many firms have fared less badly than initially forecast. Economic contractions in recent years have been relatively short; after a few quarters, companies find that they need to resume spending to replace necessary supplies.

The problem with reflexive responses is that these cycles can vary considerably and change consumer buying patterns. Each recession affects businesses in distinctly different ways, and no recession is quite the same as the preceding one. So while local jewelry stores may be hurting for customers, secondhand stores and shoe repair shops gain business as customers try to economize and stretch their savings. One sign of the seriousness of the recent recession is that the auto repossession business has been booming.¹

Some assume that food and beverage companies may have a degree of immunity to business cycles since food is a necessity. But sales revenues for food businesses may vary for reasons that are difficult to predict because, for instance, eating trends have changed with increased nutritional education. It can be difficult for any manager to forecast sales even for the following quarter.

Sales depend on both the type of products being sold and the type of

customer doing the buying. To understand how to raise sales revenues, there still remains no better marketing maxim than “know thy customer.”

Granting this central principle, recessions can offer interesting opportunities to marketers. Researchers have cited companies such as Dell, Microsoft, De Beers, and BMW as firms that view recessions as opportunities to expand rather than scale back. In short, the occasion of a recession may call for a particularly aggressive and well-crafted marketing program to counter the pessimism attributed to the hard times.² The caveat is that not all firms should respond in such a proactive manner; firms need to be prepared by spending their efforts (and promotional dollars) on carefully targeted groups of customers.

In recessions most firms commonly cut back on all unnecessary expenses, and this means reducing their advertising expenditures. Advertising rates then drop. It may be no surprise, though, that marketing consultants advise firms to go ahead and advertise, since managers can negotiate media deals at dramatically lower rates. But in fact, only well-financed companies usually exploit these opportunities (as Mercedes-Benz is doing right now). Smart firms increase promotions very selectively in advertising media, building the value of their brands for the long term. During the Great Depression in the 1930s, Procter & Gamble heavily promoted Camay, Ivory, Crisco, and other brands.

Recessions are typically when firms need to reevaluate their entire cost position in the market. Enterprises need to learn that tough but necessary organizational discipline of curbing costs by rethinking the wasteful spending habits developed in previous years. Today, for instance, the financial recovery may be forcing the current industry to become more innovative than ever. Banks and investment houses are scrambling to determine what to do with their real estate holding that have gone “underwater” as the debt they carry is far greater than those properties’ market value.

How people respond

Recessions are certainly a sobering period for many people, requiring changes in habitual spending and consumption patterns. Many difficulties come from a drop in income, job uncertainty, or problems associated with seeking a new job. Tough times can gravely affect families in subtle and profound ways. People can get into a bind as they relocate for work, often many miles away from their families and friends, destroying their support network and altering social relationships. Sociologists note increased rates of parental conflict and alcoholism in



The recent recession was brewing for years. Contrary to myths about “deadbeats” who borrow too much in buying a home, evidence indicates that the vast majority of those defaulting on housing loans or declaring bankruptcy were largely driven to these actions by sudden health problems, job cuts, or divorce, not by imprudent spending or recklessness.

these circumstances. This stress affects children’s attitudes and development.

The recent recession was brewing for years. Contrary to myths about “deadbeats” who borrow too much in buying a home, evidence indicates that the vast majority of those defaulting on housing loans or declaring bankruptcy were largely driven to these actions by sudden health problems, job cuts, or divorce, not by imprudent spending or recklessness. With prolonged unemployment, America’s social safety net now strains, as there is inadequate protection for many hard-working, middle-class families.³ Indeed, many of the so-called “working poor” rely upon charities for survival, even while they have full-time jobs. The Food Bank For New York City’s “Hunger Experience 2009”

report reveals that 40 percent of New Yorkers, or 3.3 million people, are having difficulty affording food, a 60 percent increase since 2003.⁴

History surely provides a guide to the broad societal effects of economic troubles. In 1951, *Time* magazine criticized those born into the Great Depression as drab, resigned, and overly cautious.⁵ The economic boom that followed World War II gave Americans a profound sense of competence as jobs became plentiful. Yet those raised during the Great Depression, and labeled the “Silent Generation,” were profoundly affected by their experience with scarcity. Their ingrained spending habits had taught them to be frugal and take nothing for granted; they retained this characteristic even as they grew economically secure and wealthy. Many were quite content to leave much of their wealth to their children, the next generation.

As the jobs figures have tumbled, many young people and those emerging from college are affected by what some call the “Great Recession.” Similar to the time of the Great Depression, those leaving college and entering the job market of late are in a process of tempering their expectations about the American Dream. Of course, this attitude adjustment could be psychologically fortifying to the new generation. While the duration of the recovery is certainly

unknowable to even the best economists, the adjustment process may hearken a profoundly positive change for the nation. American has surely reached a limit — we can no longer benefit from the crutch of continual borrowing and excessive debt.

Prospects for recovery

During recessions, many financial analysts closely watch inventory levels for signs of impending recovery. In the coming months and years, revenue growth may return, yet a full recovery appears likely to be quite slow. The most noteworthy factor at the current time is that the world has just witnessed an economic meltdown that was brought about by a sizable housing bubble. And remember, that bubble was developing for over a decade. Japan crashed in a similar way in the 1990s — the result is the “Lost Decade” of sub-par economic growth.

The good news in America is that the economic situation is not nearly as desperate as it was during the Great Depression. Additionally, the stimulus package has clearly slowed job losses and helped spur economic activity. Needed infrastructure projects are being completed that will help productivity, too. What’s more, third quarter 2009 growth was 2.2 percent annualized and initial fourth-quarter growth was 5.7 percent.⁶ Few thought this rebound was remotely possible at the end of 2008.

Make no mistake, important problems remain: healthcare, climate change, and the lingering costs of war. These do not appear on our national balance sheet, the GNP. Social problems present roadblocks to full economic growth, but more important is how these affect the actual quality of our lives. The hard lessons of the recession are certainly ones that Americans experience, yet the way in which our nation adapts may help us to prosper in years ahead. ■



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For footnotes, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Publications/Forum/summer2010/marketingrecession>.



Actors John Cho, left, and Kal Penn confront a problem as the respective title characters in the 2008 stoner comedy, *Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay*.

Fade in, Fade out: Addiction, Recovery, in American Film

By Stefan Hall

Cinematic depictions of addiction have been a feature of American movies since their beginning. From early silent films to recent blockbusters, treatment shifts to reflect societal values at the time of their release. An addict in American movies has moved from foreign invader to social problem to hedonistic goof to average citizen.

Practically from the moment of its inception in 1891, cinema served witness to the perils of drugs. In 1894, W. K. L. Dickson, who worked for Thomas Edison's motion picture camera company, made *Chinese Opium Den* for the penny arcades. All that remains of the film is a single still, yet its viewpoint compelled Billy Bitzer to revisit the topic in *Rube in an Opium Joint* in 1905. As Ian Christie observes in *The Last Machine: Early Cinema and the Birth of the Modern World* (1994), it illustrates a theme in early American cinema: a stereotypic country bumpkin threatened, often comically, sometimes maniacally, by an urban menace, in this case, opium. Like *A Chinese Opium Joint* (1898) and *Fun in an Opium Joint* (1903), it outlined what had become a dangerous tourist trap staffed by exotic Asians who were regarded by many as a "yellow plague."

Productions about cocaine and morphine arose as American drugs of choice shifted in the early 20th century. For *His Son* (1912), directed by legendary

D. W. Griffith, was one of the first, writes Maurizio Viano in "An Intoxicated Screen: Reflections on Film and Drugs," from the 2002 collection of essays, *High Anxieties: Cultural Studies in Addiction*. The movie was loosely based on the issues surrounding Coca-Cola after passage of the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act that, among other stipulations, required drugs — including alcohol, cocaine, heroin, morphine, and cannabis — be labeled with contents and dosages in order to continue to be legally sold. In the silent film, a physician develops Dopokoke, a cocaine-infused soft drink, to raise money for his shiftless son. The drink is a hit, but the son becomes addicted to it and loses his fiancée while wasting away. Interestingly, Coca-Cola was involved in legal proceedings not only because of cocaine in the product but also because of the amount of caffeine.

The Harrison Narcotics Tax Act of 1914 — regulating and taxing the production, importation, and distribution of opiates and cocaine — resulted in a spike of anti-drug films. (These drugs had been mostly unregulated and readily available to consumers, even through venerable American institutions like the Sears, Roebuck catalog.) *Narcotic Spectre* (1914), *The Drug Traffic* (1914), and *Cocaine Traffic* (1914), plus other "socially conscious dramas," addressed the problem, Kevin Brownlow notes in *Behind the Mask of Innocence: Sex, Violence, Crime: Films of Social Conscience in the Silent*

Era (1992). For instance, in *The Secret Sin* (1915), Blanche Sweet plays twin sisters who become addicted to opium and morphine, doubling the horror — twice, or even four times. And *The Devil's Needle* (1916) follows an up-and-coming young artist whose travails with a socialite drive him to cocaine addiction and recovery.

Not all films sounded the alarm. *The Mystery of the Leaping Fish* (1916), a bizarre comedy written by eccentric Tod Browning, starred Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., as a detective who, like Sherlock Holmes, relies on drugs to solve crime. Coke Ennyday, as he's called, gleefully uses just about any that come his way.

The occasional light treatment would virtually disappear with the Motion Picture Production Code in 1930. Fearful of federal regulation in the wake of the manslaughter trial of star comedian Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle; the murder of prolific director William Desmond Taylor; and the drug-related deaths of popular actors Wallace Reid and Alma Rubens, plus performers Olive Thomas, Barbara La Marr and Jeanne Eagels, the Motion Pictures Producers and Distributors Association adopted this censorious Code of acceptable and unacceptable content for U.S. movies. The Code upheld moral standards and opposed crime, wrongdoing, evil, or sin. Moviemakers dutifully followed the rules.

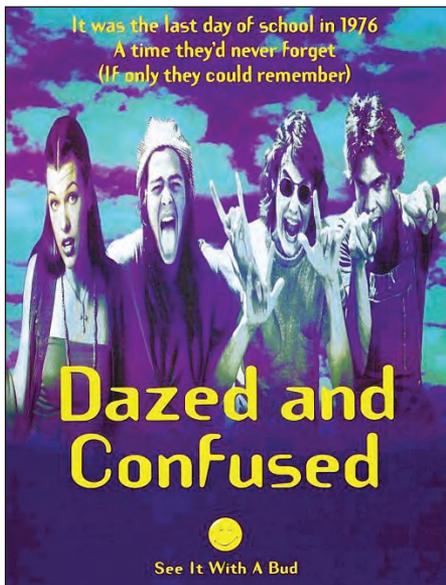
They partly focused on marijuana, which had been left out of the Harrison Act. Exploitation films tried to scare audiences straight, particularly susceptible teens. For instance, in *Reefer Madness* (1936), high school students light up (and listen to jazz music), then spiral into a hit-and-run accident, manslaughter, suicide, rape, and insanity. *Assassin of Youth* (1937) largely concerns a young woman up for an inheritance tied to a morals clause and greedy relatives scheming to use marijuana to discredit her.

Such exaggerated cautionary tales also anticipated or reflected the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937, which criminalized cannabis and, in the process, legitimized the slang word. The poster for *Marihuana: Weed with Roots in Hell* (1936) — about a youth who, after trying marijuana at a beach party, becomes pregnant and eventually turns to drug pushing — shows intravenous drug use with vials labeled "lust," "crime," and "sorrow," among others, while larger font advertises "Weird Orgies," "Wild Parties," and "Unleashed Passions!" This propaganda echoes earlier productions that attacked opiates, particularly in the intent to scare off usage in the first place, but overblown depictions remove many from serious consideration.

Other films during the Code era tackled addictions more thoughtfully, as Michael Stark documents in *Cocaine Fiends and Reefer Madness: An Illustrated History of Drugs in the Movies* (1982). For example,



Characters run toward and away from their drug-influenced problems in *Trainspotting* (1996).



The Man with the Golden Arm (1955), directed by Otto Preminger, showcased Frank Sinatra as a heroin addict and wannabe drummer who gets clean in prison but struggles after release with renewed drug use and a gambling problem. Reviewers hailed Sinatra's nuanced characterization. *Monkey on My Back* (1957) was a fact-based biopic about World War II veteran and professional boxer Barney Ross and his addiction to morphine. A tag line declared, "It Jabs Like a Hopped-Up Needle!" As noted in Norman Denzin's 1991 *Hollywood Shot by Shot: Alcoholism in American Cinema*, the hazards of alcoholism were epitomized in the melodramas *The Lost Weekend* (1945), which trailed a struggling writer, recently sober, on his devastating bender — and earned Academy Awards for best picture, actor (Ray Milland), director (Billy Wilder) and screenplay — and director Blake

Edwards' *Days of Wine and Roses* (1962), about a boozy adman (played by Jack Lemmon) who introduces a secretary and his future wife (Lee Remick) to drinking, causing the dissolution of their marriage.

The film rating system replaced the strict Code in 1968, partly because of challenges to the Code (including from *The Man with the Golden Arm*), increasing competition from more open-minded foreign films, and changing social attitudes via the counterculture. One result: slapstick comedies poked fun of pot and considered it less a criminal activity, more a "harmless" diversion, and sometimes a mandatory rite for the in-crowd.

The satiric writing/performing duo Cheech (Marin) and (Tommy) Chong topped this marquee. Their first film, *Up in Smoke* (1978), established the template: marijuana-fueled high jinks from appealing doofuses, in this case, stoners smuggling a van, made almost entirely from marijuana, from Mexico to Los Angeles, while being pursued by inept law enforcement.

Cheech and Chong influenced many films, for instance, writer/director Richard Linklater's *Dazed and Confused* (1993), in which small-town Texas high schoolers look to get wasted (or drunk) on graduation day in 1976; the cameo-filled *Half Baked* (1998), in which dumb stoner roommates raise bail money for their luckless jailed friend by selling pot stolen from a research lab; and *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle* (2004) and its sequel *Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay* (2008), the first about how the nerdy-cool title characters (the former an investment banker and the latter a would-be medical student) get the munchies one Friday night after inhaling, the second about how they are incarcerated when mistaken for terrorists but eventually share a joint with President George W. Bush.

The repeal of the Code also augured a mindful, worldly understanding of addictions that gained momentum in the late 1980s with the major releases *Barfly* (1987), *Clean and Sober* (1988) and *Drugstore Cowboy* (1989) and became a main theme in the 1990s with *Jacob's Ladder* (1990), *Naked Lunch* (1991), *Bad Lieutenant* (1992), *Pulp Fiction* (1994), *Drunks* (1995), *Permanent Midnight* (1998), and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (1998). The flush economy made drugs affordable and the fin de siècle made Americans question themselves; thus, cinematic depictions of addiction and recovery were frank, creative, or otherwise intense.

For instance, in *Rush* (1991), a rookie cop (played by Jennifer Jason Leigh) and undercover veteran (Jason Patric) fall in love with each other and their stash while infiltrating a drug ring. And director Danny Boyle's *Trainspotting* (1996) dissects the disturbing charisma of young heroin addicts in impoverished Edinburgh. Plus, the sense of loss permeating performances — such as Nicolas Cage's Academy Award for *Leaving Las Vegas* (1995) as a broke Hollywood writer determined to drink himself to death — partly reflected angst at the loss of the century. It also symbolized an American promise that had not been realized, as in director Darren Aronofsky's *Requiem for a Dream* (2000). Based on the novel of the same name by Hubert Selby, Jr., who co-wrote the script with Aronofsky, it starkly examines four interconnected addicts whose fixations span not only drugs but also food, fame, and red, white and blue values.

What are the coming attractions for the 21st century regarding addiction in American film? In this age of media saturation, maybe the most pervasive narcotic of all is information. From watching YouTube clips on cell phones to hunching in front of solitary monitors in cubicles, our collective screens form contemporary nickelodeons only a click away. What of ourselves is reflected there? ■



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“Hooray for Hollywood!” during the Depression

By (William) Arnold Johnston
and Deborah Ann Percy

No medium has contributed more greatly than the film to the maintenance of the national morale during a period featured by revolution, riot and political turmoil in other countries.

— Will H. Hays, head of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors Association of America, 1934

While President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal worked to end the nation’s Great Depression, Hollywood tried to dispel the ordinary person’s lowercase depression. Two types of films topped marquees during the 1930s: escapist fare and social commentaries.

The lighthearted parade of cinematic circuses for the masses offset the breadlines of the New Deal. **Screwball comedies** — madcap romantic escapades of appealing characters in memorable settings — helped take people’s minds off their troubles. Favorites included:

- **It Happened One Night** (1934). Frank Capra directed Clark Gable as an out-of-work reporter and Claudette Colbert as a disgruntled heiress who fall in love while discovering how the other half lives. The witty war between the sexes was the first movie to win all five major Academy Awards (Oscars): best picture, director, actor, actress, and adapted screenplay.

- **Bringing Up Baby** (1938). Howard Hawks directed Katharine Hepburn as a dizzy socialite taken with Cary Grant’s charmingly stuffy paleontologist. Hepburn’s pet leopard, “Baby,” contributes to the chaotic hilarity in which the woman is the wooer.

The decade also prompted lavish **musical fantasies**, notably with choreography by Busby Berkeley, renowned for elaborately patterned and fancifully costumed routines:

- One Berkeley interlude for director Mervyn LeRoy’s **Gold Diggers of 1933** involves a scantily-clad chorus, led by then-contract player Ginger Rogers, exclaiming, “We’re in the Money” — partly in pig Latin. The plot concerns a millionaire composer, played by Dick Powell, who creates a stage extravaganza for an unemployed ensemble that also includes Ruby Keeler and Joan Blondell.

- Berkeley tapped out steps for another backstage musical, **42nd Street** (1933), about an ailing Broadway producer (played by Warner Baxter) who needs a hit in tough times and an understudy (Keeler) who



becomes a star on opening night after the leading lady (Bebe Daniels) sprains an ankle. The film also features Rogers and Powell and classic songs like the title tune and “You’re Getting to Be a Habit with Me” by composer Harry Warren and lyricist Al Dubin.

In a more serious vein, optimistic **melodramas** appealed to the idealistic sensibilities of a struggling land. Protagonists reached within themselves to confront apparently insurmountable obstacles. Capra, the all-American director, best represents this subgenre:

- **Mr. Deeds Goes to Town** (1936). Capra won the Oscar for directing Gary Cooper as a rural Vermonter who donates a \$20 million inheritance to charity, thereby throwing his sanity into question, and Jean Arthur as a cynical metropolitan reporter who falls for the altruistic Mr. Deeds.

- **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (1939). Lewis Foster’s Oscar-winning story concerns the lessons learned by a naïve idealist (headliner James Stewart) appointed through machine politics to fill a vacancy in the Senate. The newcomer eventually brings down the corrupt bosses through a filibuster suggested by his savvy secretary (Arthur).

Other **movies criticized entrenched American beliefs** and institutions, investigating their assumptions and mechanisms:

- **Wild Boys of the Road** (1933). Director William A. Wellman follows homeless teenagers (played by little-known actors) enduring extreme hardships in the Depression. A forced “happy” ending, courtesy of an understanding judge, only somewhat mitigates the film’s indictment of governmental indifference toward the plight of deprived youth.

- **Our Daily Bread** (1934). Director/co-writer King Vidor advanced the socialistic suggestion that economic recovery depended on the group efforts of the common people in this story about a down-on-their-luck couple (played by Tom Keene and Karen Morley) who abandon the city to lead a farming collective.

Plus, **films glorifying gangsters** provided vicarious channels for populist anger:

- **Little Caesar** (1931). LeRoy directed the rise and fall of Rico Bandello (Edward G. Robinson), a mobster with the titular nickname. He’s betrayed by pal Joe Massara (Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.), who wants to go straight, lands a gig as a nightclub hooper and discovers love with his dance partner, Olga Stasoff (Glenda Farrell).

- **The Public Enemy** (1931). Directed by Wellman, this film about a mama’s boy hoodlum, Tom Powers, launched James Cagney’s career and features a famous scene in which Powers smashes a grapefruit in the face of his moll Kitty (Mae Clarke). It costars Jean Harlow as Gwen Allen, another of his dolls, and Blondell as the squeeze of Tom’s partner in crime.

The viewing public’s humbled circumstances lacked the stature, glamour, excitement, notoriety and thrill of such movie characters, of course — and the *deus ex machina* assistance they often enjoyed. But movies like these helped America recover from the Great Depression, for at least a few hours a week. ■



(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 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. 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.

Do You Believe in Magic?

Thirty Years Ago, Earvin “Magic” Johnson Energized the NBA

By Joe Cascio

In 1979, the National Basketball Association (NBA) suffered from fan revolt and image problems.

- Attendance had dropped 4.9 percent from the previous (1978-79) season, the fourth consecutive year of declines.

- Fights routinely broke out during games, such as Kermit Washington of the Los Angeles Lakers ending the career of Houston Rocket Rudy Tomjanovich in December 1977 with a single punch that fractured his skull and cracked his eye socket, among other facial damage.

- Drug use was rampant, most notoriously Boston Celtic Marvin Barnes snorting cocaine on the bench during a 1978-79 game.

- Even the few marquee names, like the high-flying small forward Julius “Dr. J” Erving of the Philadelphia 76ers, didn’t transcend the sport.

Some magic was needed for the league to recover.

Enter Earvin “Magic” Johnson and his electrified play and megawatt smile.

After leading Michigan State to the 1979 National Collegiate Athletic Association championship over Indiana State and small forward extraordinaire Larry Bird, the charismatic and precocious sophomore left school to join the Lakers for a storybook season that would herald a revolutionary career. Johnson averaged 18 points, 7.7 rebounds and 7.3 assists that year, helped his team win the championship partly by equaling or bettering those statistics in the playoffs, and nabbed Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the Finals, the only rookie to earn such an honor.

In fact, the sixth and last game of the Finals in May 1980 sealed Johnson’s fate as the face of the “new” NBA — and a bright, happy one at that.

Singular talent

Johnson was unlike any player before him. At 6’9”, he possessed the height and strength of a center. But Johnson brandished the ball-handling skills of a point guard, the position he played and excelled at.

Given his superior attributes, Johnson could see the court better than other guards and could have specialized in scoring; instead, he prided himself on assisting his teammates, distributing the ball, making things go. This mix of confidence and modesty turned him into a type of royalty to Hollywood, the Lakers’ home, and to the tarnished league.



Earvin “Magic” Johnson (No. 32) plays defense, along with teammate Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, while helping the Los Angeles Lakers to the NBA championship in May 1980.

In an interview prior to the 1979 NBA draft, former Lakers head coach and general manager Bill Sharman spoke presciently when declaring that “this young man is going to change the game of pro basketball.”

Dovetailing pair

But in 1979, All-Star center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was the leader of the Lakers and the best player in the NBA; since joining the team for the 1975-76 season, he had averaged almost 26 points and 14 rebounds and took home two league MVP awards. The Lakers, however, had not won the championship since the 1971-72 squad led by guards Jerry West and Gail Goodrich and center Wilt Chamberlain. With such a dominant player like Abdul-Jabbar, expectations remained high — and so did disappointment.

By selecting Johnson as the No. 1 overall pick in the 1979 draft, the Lakers hoped to meld the stoicism and efficiency of Abdul-Jabbar, who at 7 feet 2 inches, had developed an unstoppable offensive weapon in his sky hook, with the swagger and flash of the young man nicknamed “Magic” because of his no-look passes and court flair. If Abdul-Jabbar brought methodicalness and precision to the Lakers, Johnson added improvisation and emotion. Johnson became a type of athletic sparkplug to make Abdul-Jabbar and the Lakers — and the NBA — run on all cylinders.

“Magic” moment

Yet it was Abdul-Jabbar’s team, and seemingly rightfully so. Going into the

season, he had won a league-record five regular-season MVP awards, after all.

Johnson, wise beyond his years at age 20, understood this and played a supporting role during the regular season. The Lakers ended with a league best 60-22 record, with Abdul-Jabbar earning his sixth MVP award, averaging 24.8 points and 10.8 rebounds. After rolling through the early rounds of the playoffs, the Lakers faced the 76ers, led by acrobatic Erving, along with standout point guard Maurice Cheeks and bruising power forward Bobby Jones.

The teams split the first four games, with Abdul-Jabbar averaging almost 32 points. In game five, he injured his ankle, but returned to score 14 points down the stretch (and 40 total), including a three-point play with 33 seconds left for the win. But the injury prevented the team captain from playing the next game.

Johnson knew it was time for some “Magic.”

“As we practiced for game six, we realized that we were faster. We didn’t have the guaranteed scoring inside, but we could really run. Silk (small forward Jamaal Wilkes), Coop (guard/forward Michael Cooper), Normie (shooting guard Norm Nixon) and me could get the tempo moving,” recalled Johnson in a 2009 interview with Fox Sports television.

Lakers head coach Paul Westhead inserted sixth-man Cooper in the backcourt with Nixon and started his rookie point guard at center, even though Johnson hadn’t played center since junior year of high school. Johnson’s statistics spoke for themselves: 42 points, 15 rebounds, 7 assists and 3 steals in a 123-107 victory. Some points came from Johnson’s version of Abdul-Jabbar’s sky hook, too.

A new era, called “Showtime,” began. All about high tempo, high scoring, and Hollywood flash, it would lead the Lakers to five championships and Johnson to three seasons and three Finals MVPs over his 13-year career. The NBA found its “Magic” recovery. ■



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responsible for team defense, recruiting and post-player development. Earlier in his career, he was assistant coach for the Redondo Union and Loyola (Calif.) High School men’s basketball teams. After beginning full-time higher education at age 34, he earned a bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology and a master’s degree in Physical Education Administration from California State University-Dominguez Hills. Email him at Cascio_Joe@smc.edu.

Messages Lost, and Recovered, from Hurricane Katrina

By Catherine C. Shoultz

“The destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina increased dramatically due to communications failures,” wrote then-Lt. Col. Heather K. Meeds, U.S. Army National Guard, in the abstract to her March 2006 Army War College strategy research project, *Communication Challenges during Incidents of National Significance: A Lesson from Hurricane Katrina*. “The communications failures caused undue death and destruction in the affected areas.”

Aug. 28 marks the fifth anniversary when the storm grew to a category 5 hurricane — the highest classification, with winds exceeding 155 mph — and ravaged the coastlines of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. It killed more than 1,300 people, displaced 770,000 others, and caused \$96 billion in damage (in third quarter 2005 dollars), according to *The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned* (published in February 2006), an account headed by Frances Fragos Townsend, then Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism.

Although some information networks and emergency procedures were in place in what was the most catastrophic natural disaster in U.S. history, many of these tools were decimated or overwhelmed by the magnitude of the event, concludes the September 2005 *Congressional Research Service Report for Congress* about the Department of Defense’s disaster response to Hurricane Katrina.

Key Problems

“The storm crippled thirty-eight 911 call centers, disrupting local emergency services, and knocked out more than 3 million customer phone lines in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Broadcast communications were likewise severely affected, as 50 percent of area radio stations and 44 percent of area television stations went off the air,” documents the Townsend study. Reports from the field, therefore, were difficult to file or receive.

By September 3, basic communications were restored in Louisiana, according to the Meeds findings, but problems remained with dispersing information. For example, communication between the multiple levels of government and the many agencies trying to stabilize New Orleans — whose



An example of the destruction of Hurricane Katrina.

famous levees didn’t hold for a city six feet below sea level, thus mandating evacuation — needed to be interoperable but wasn’t.

The National Guard, for one, had its own systems of communications that others were not able to use. What’s more, some vehicular detachments of stand-alone communication systems, called Mobile Emergency Response Supports, sat idle for a time because officials on the ground and in Washington, D.C., didn’t know about them, the Townsend study points out.

And the few systems that were interoperable, such as landlines and satellite phones, became overwhelmed with the high volume of users, Rosanne Prats, Director of Emergency Preparedness for Louisiana, told me in a recent interview. “The system was there, it was just so overwhelmed that it couldn’t handle the sheer amount of calls we were getting,” she said.

Compounding obstacles, numerous countries such as Switzerland and Germany offered supplies and financial assistance but no method existed to deliver international aid. “Inadequate planning delayed the overall process of accepting and receiving disaster aid from abroad,” the Townsend study determined.

Another technological and informational breakdown involved medical records. Communication between patients and healthcare providers such as doctors, hospitals, clinics, pharmacies and insurance companies faltered, sometimes fatally, because records had been destroyed in the storm, patients had relocated afterwards and were not able to retrieve them, parties had trouble contacting each other, etc.

In fact, of those displaced after the storm, most couldn’t access their medical

records for weeks, according to Crystal Franco et al. in “Systemic Collapse: Medical Care in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina,” in *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science* (2006).

Key Solutions

After Katrina, federal government oversight committees, such as the Townsend contingent and the U.S. Government Accountability Office, spearheaded upgrades for response systems. Efforts include:

- The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of October 2006. It refocused the Department of Homeland Security and its Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- The creation in April 2007 of the Office of Emergency Communications. It “supports the Secretary of Homeland Security in developing, implementing, and coordinating interoperable and operable communications for the emergency response community at all levels of government,” according to its Web site.

- Further impetus for a nationwide electronic medical database. President George W. Bush had signed an executive order in 2004 to upgrade the U.S. healthcare system to electronic records by, it was determined, 2014. Hurricane Katrina underscored the importance of this. Consequently, KatrinaHealth.org, which compiles medication records about evacuees for healthcare professionals and providers, was launched in September 2005. And one component of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of February 2009 gives incentives to the medical community to switch to electronic records.

These communication steps, among numerous other overhauls to and innovations in science and technology, further the recovery from Hurricane Katrina and should help protect us from future calamities. ■



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From the Battleground to the Classroom

By Timothy L. Hulse

Thirty-three percent of the two million-plus U.S. combat veterans who served in the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), according a RAND Corp. study cited by reporter Gregg Zoroya in an Oct. 5, 2009, article in *USA Today*. And as of last fall, more than 300,000 former soldiers and their dependents attend American institutions of higher education, Lisa W. Foderaro writes in a feature for *The New York Times* on Jan. 8 of this year. Enhancements in 2008 to the G.I. Bill, which provides educational benefits for those honorably discharged from the armed forces, are predicted to lead to a 20 percent increase in veteran enrollment over the next two years, notes Jay Rey in a May 2, 2009, report for *The Buffalo News*, referencing findings from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

As a result, many onetime military men and women face a new battle when resuming their studies: acclimation. And schools must help them recover their educational mindsets.

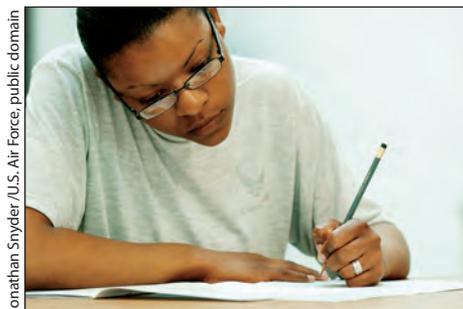
Undergoing academic reconnaissance

“For now, most of the students’ problems relate to adjustment, anxiety and stress,” Foderaro states in her *New York Times* article, “From Battlefield to Ivy League, on the G.I. Bill.” She quotes the executive director of counseling and psychological services at Columbia University who says that PTSD typically involves a “symptom cluster” including flashbacks, hypervigilance, avoidance and numbing.”

Indeed, for one student, a 26-year-old Air Force veteran, every time he goes near a refrigerated soda case, “the squealing door reminds him of the whistle of a Katyusha rocket,” Foderaro writes. He sits in the front of the class because of hearing loss from repeated exposure to mortar fire. He prefers hanging out with other veteran-students. When a professor in a course on comparative politics showed a video of the Iraqi electoral process, a split second included the explosion of a roadside bomb, and the student, shaking, flashed back to duty in Baghdad.

Veteran-students “are bringing to the esoteric world of academia the ballast of the most real of real-world experiences, along with all the marks of the military existence, from crew cuts to frayed nerves to a platoon approach to social life,” Foderaro states.

“It’s a growing discussion, now that colleges are bumping into some of the



Senior Airman Jaquetta Bice took a College Level Entrance Exam Program test in January at Ali Base, Iraq. The 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron Education Center gives service members the opportunity to further their education and career development.

particular needs facing veterans,” Rey observes in “War Veterans Face Unique Adjustments to College Life,” for *The Buffalo News*. “Some are disappointed to find they’re not getting credits for their service. Some are older and need more flexibility to juggle school with work and family. Others struggle with the adjustment from soldier to student.”

Deploying mindful solutions

To address such issues, “Universities are creating classes to train students in how to treat combat veterans and their families suffering from war-related mental health problems,” Zoroya writes in “More Colleges Develop Classes on How to Treat War Veterans” for *USA Today*. “As psychologically wounded troops return from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the initiatives range from workshops to semester-long graduate courses.”

Zoroya references University of Southern California’s military social work program that offers a degree emphasizing treatment of veterans; University of Washington-Tacoma’s new graduate course, Social Work with Military Personnel and Veterans; and University of South Florida’s four-course graduate certification program in military culture and counseling.

In an Oct. 4, 2009, article, “As More Veterans Enroll, Central Texas Colleges Adjust,” in the *Austin American-Statesman*, Jeremy Schwartz reports that Texas State University-San Marcos formed a veterans advisory council. The university also has a team of three professors conduct regular presentations to help faculty and staff understand the unique challenges veterans face as students.

The College of William & Mary and Virginia Commonwealth University, at which I am employed, created a program in 2009 to address the psychological and

legal needs of returning veterans. William & Mary Law School opened a pro bono clinic to represent veterans appealing their disability ratings. It is staffed by law students (some of whom are military veterans) and psychology graduate students; supervising faculty includes two veterans. Virginia Commonwealth’s Center for Psychological Services and Development provides assessment of and therapy for PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and related mental disorders.

This collaboration has produced positive results all around. Law and psychology students gain invaluable experience while furthering their training. They learn about military culture, the impact of brain injuries, and mental health distress. They also communicate better across the disciplines. Veterans have their needs addressed directly in a nonjudgmental environment, allowing many to reveal details of their psychological and physical conditions that they had previously withheld from everyone, including military superiors and Veterans Affairs administrators. For example, some clients learned that their chronic pain led to symptoms of depression and anxiety that caused social isolation and increased irritability that made interactions in the classroom challenging.

“We don’t come back with our souls excised,” a returning vet remarked in a workshop, run by New York University’s creative writing program, for former military (in an account by Clyde Haberman, “Moving the Battlefield to the Page,” in *The New York Times* on Nov. 23, 2009). “We don’t come back filled with nothing but violence. We’re still your sons and daughters.” ■



Timothy L. Hulse (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*. Hulse 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 tlhulse@vcu.edu.

Chambers of Commerce Make Good Business Sense

By Philip R. Wahl II

If the recession has ended, as many economists believe, who is at the wheel of recovery? You might think it's the city, county, state, and/or federal government. And in a way, that's true, through, for instance, their various tax credits and related stimulus plans. But for the most part, it's local businesses. They have a vested interest in the community; provide jobs for your neighbors, friends, family, maybe even you; generate revenue for the area — and advance their cause through the chamber of commerce (C. of C.).

Local business leaders turn most of all to their peers in the C. of C. because that's where ideas for revitalization can be exchanged, visions of growth and prosperity restored, and steps in strategy taken.

Historical beginnings

C. of C.s have existed in the U.S. for more than two centuries. The New York Chamber, founded on April 5, 1768, is the oldest institution of its kind in the world. There were many mercantile associations in Europe before its advent, but they functioned under strict government control. They were not, like the New York Chamber, absolutely free of official regulation, free to express opinion and, more importantly, free to act on matters related to public policy and welfare.

Just as with today's C. of C.s, the 20 members who came together on that historic April evening in 1768 were recognized leaders of the community in its social, political and commercial activities. *A Chronicle of One Hundred & Fifty Years: The Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York*, Joseph Bucklin Bishop's 1918 account, summarizes the organization as "a body of public-spirited citizens, ready at all times to uphold and advance good government, to secure justice and fair dealing among men, to cultivate and maintain a sound public opinion and a true conception of patriotism — as a genuine moral force in the land." The august body, Bishop states, "has throughout its career exerted a powerful influence in support of



The U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, center, dedicated the cornerstone of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C., on May 16, 1922.

those agencies which make for progress and civilization."

Lasting impact

There are roughly 3,000 C. of C.s in the U.S. with at least one full-time employee and there are thousands more as volunteer entities, according to the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). C. of C.s range from a few dozen members apiece to more than 20,000. Members share an ambition of sustainable prosperity for their community. Most are ardent proponents of the free market system and resist public sector attempts to direct private sector enterprise and investment.

C. of C. missions vary, but they all tend to focus on the same primary goals:

- Build a community to which residents, visitors and investors are attracted
- Promote the community's strengths through marketing and economic development activities
- Advocate a pro-business legal and regulatory environment
- Represent the unified voice of community employers on key business issues such as taxes and worker compensation
- Reduce friction between public policy and private sector interests via well-functioning networks, taskforces and committees

Local businesses pay C. of C. membership dues, typically \$100 to \$500 annually, that

are often considered an investment in the organization and, by extension, the community. As with most investments, the investor must take an active role to assure a favorable return. So a small business owner may value business-to-business networking opportunities; a midsize business may be interested in advocacy efforts that focus on local public policy; a large business may want help in negotiating governmental affairs at the state or federal level.

Because a C. of C. functions on the value proposition that you get out of it what you put into it, membership has remained relatively stable during the recent economic downturn: a retention rate of roughly 85 percent for small- to medium-sized chambers in 2008, a dip of only 2 percent from the previous five years, according to the most recent ACCE data available; and a retention rate of 82.2 percent for large chambers, an increase of 2.4 percent over the same period.

There's reason for this. Seventy percent of consumers equate C. of C. membership with good business practices and 82 percent believe C. of C.s create jobs and promote local economic development, according to a 2007 study of 2,000 adults nationwide, "The Real Value of Joining a Local Chamber of Commerce," commissioned by ACCE. Further, when consumers know that a small business is a C. of C. member, they are 63 percent more likely to patronize it.

C. of C.s are a safe haven and rallying point for businesses and communities. As the economy rebounds, C. of C.s must continue to propagate the patriotic spirit of their founders by taking hold of the wheel of recovery. ■



Philip R. Wahl II (Augusta State University), Senior Vice President/Augusta City President for First Citizens Bank in Augusta, Ga., serves as chair of the Augusta, Ga., Metro Chamber of

Commerce in his spare time. He has 24 years of experience in banking. Other outreach includes being on the Augusta State University Foundation board of trustees and the school's Hull College of Business board of advisors; the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center Network advisory council; and the Medical College of Georgia's presidential community advisory council. Wahl's past chairmanships span the Augusta Convention & Visitors Bureau; Downtown Development Authority of Augusta; Leadership Augusta; and Junior Achievement of the Central Savannah River Area. He has sat on numerous area boards such as Augusta Tomorrow; Richmond-Burke Co. Workforce Investment Board; Augusta-Richmond Co. Community Partnership for Children and Families; and the Morris Museum of Art. Email him at Philip.Wahl@firstcitizensonline.com.

ian Wagreich, 2007/© U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Library of Congress public domain



Stock.xchng

Recognize employment possibilities in atypical circumstances like when grocery shopping.

Aisle Three: Bottled Water, Fruit Juice, Beer — and Jobs

By Kimberly Thompson

If I were to give a commencement speech, I'd encourage graduates not only to embrace new beginnings but also to seize serendipitous opportunities. To become part of the workforce, I'd say, they may need to look beyond the workplace.

And then I'd tell this anecdote: At a seminar on job searching not too long ago, I overheard a diverse group of jobseekers, Millennials to Boomers with different educations, experiences and demographics, talking about what they had learned during their pursuit. One remarked she could do more than simply apply for advertised openings; she would extend her queries beyond given employer postings. Peers made similar comments about the importance of networking with family and friends, and with educational and professional contacts.

Someone then silenced the lot because he had taken this principle about networking to the nth degree — by developing a lead for a position while waiting in the checkout line at the supermarket. The line was long, a half-dozen or more, and, as often occurs in such circumstances, customers struck up conversations to pass the time. A well-dressed middle-aged man started talking to the candidate about the economy and job market. Exchanged pleasantries led to a question for the candidate: What do you do for a living?

Turns out, the candidate, recently having earned a degree in business with an emphasis in manufacturing operations, hoped for a situation in the very field the stranger worked in. The candidate, also sporting fashionable attire, spoke with such sincerity and focus on short-term goals and

long-term aspirations, and spoke with such genuine interest in the stranger, that the latter wound up volunteering that he was a manager getting ready to add staff to his department — and was looking for someone with the candidate's background.

They exchanged business cards that the two happened to have on them and arranged for a meeting the next week. Shortly thereafter, the candidate started his first day of work for the stranger.

While this story might sound like one in million, it happens more than you think, I'd say in my commencement speech. In fact, this anecdote confirms Stanford University sociologist Mark Granovetter's influential 1973 theory of "the strength of weak ties"; it argues that people, in this case jobseekers, are more likely to receive information about new opportunities through someone they know less well than through their close connections. So if you're not ready to take advantage of such a break from an unexpected source, you may wind up disappointed.

Here are some lessons, then, I'd say in my commencement speech, about how to capitalize on good luck, about how to turn coincidence into fate:

- Career opportunities can happen when you are not focused on job searching even if that seems counterintuitive. Be open to possibly unusual ways in which job leads are uncovered, for a traditional job search might not work now as it did in the past.

- What wind up as informal meetings may be important even if they occur while waiting your turn at the doctor's office, concession stand, mechanic, bank — in long lines that seem an unproductive use of your time.

- Carry resumes and business cards when running errands, socializing, exercising, or volunteering in your community — when, that is, you're not technically on the job hunt — and welcome unofficial meetings that may result.

- Consider what you're wearing and how you conduct yourself in public during your downtime because you never know whom you might bump into. Your outfit and demeanor speak volumes if a potential employer is present, and one just might be.

- Practice a mini introduction of your ambitions, background and skill set. It should reflect you fully, not fumblingly, and appear natural, not rehearsed.

- Present a proactive direction for your career as much as, if not more than, a reactive one.

- Listen and add to chance conversations in a positive way. Show sincere engagement with the other party.

- Understand that lines bring out the best, and worst, in human nature. One interview technique sets out to produce stress in order to prompt reactions from potential candidates: to see if they're patient, cooperative, good-natured, and the like. Long lines double as de facto case studies.

- Follow up your impromptu conversation with a thank-you note.

Remember, graduates, I'd say in my commencement speech, career opportunities can pop up anywhere, even at the supermarket; so be ready to take stock of your inventory and sell yourself because you never know who's buying. ■



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. Email her at careerrescue@yahoo.com; be sure to put *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* in the subject line.

What It Means to Be Human in 1984 and Today

Editor's note: *What's your favorite book? That was one of about a dozen questions the 274 recipients of \$500,000 in cumulative monetary awards from the Society last year were asked in a "get to know you" email survey. Excerpted responses formed the basis of brief profiles of the winners in the winter 2009 annual awards edition of this magazine. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee and The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger, Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice and Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre, The Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien and J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter series all received multiple votes. George Orwell's 1984 topped those worthy reads. How come? Press deadlines prevented pursuing an answer until now. The following appreciation of the dystopian classic, first published in 1949, suggests some reasons.*

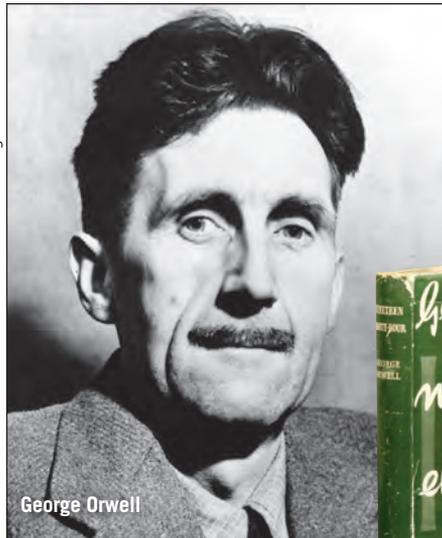
By Eric D. Lehman

Because George Orwell's *1984* is an existential horror story about a repressive totalitarian society, it is not in the technical sense an enjoyable read. Frederic Warburg, the publisher who recommended that his firm, Secker and Warburg, produce this important yet disturbing work of art and social commentary, said, "I pray that I may be spared from reading another like it. . . ." Scholar J. R. Hammond, in his *George Orwell Companion*, stated that "to read it is a painful experience," and, as such, an essential one. Even Orwell biographer Laurence Brander observed that "many cannot read it a second time."

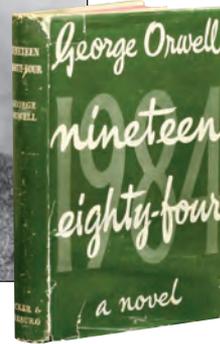
Yet when *1984* arrived more than 50 years ago, poet and critic Sir Herbert Read raved in *World Review* that it was "the most terrifying warning that a man has ever uttered." Noted intellectual Diana Trilling wrote in *The Nation* that Orwell "has conceived the inconceivable," the complete extinction of freedom, creating a vital nightmare of a novel. And the redoubtable writer Mark Schorer's *New York Times* book review praised how "its horror is crushingly immediate."

Along with *Animal Farm*, another masterwork of revolution and tyranny by Orwell (1903-50), this apparently repulsive novel remains mandatory reading in secondary schools and higher education. Plus, dissident revolutionaries subversively republish *1984* as a source of progressive inspiration. In addition, it has spawned

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt



The 1949 first edition of *1984* ran 25,000 copies in green and red dust jackets.



countless dystopian books, not to mention films, worldwide. Why does *1984* still captivate, even if the chronological anomaly of its titular year seemingly dates the book?

What makes the dark masterpiece both timeless and timely is that it strikes at the core of what it means to be human by, ironically, shredding universal values — like love, family, and freedom of thought — one by one. There is in the narrative, as Hammond notes in his 1982 guide, "a denial of integrity, of truth, of all finer human feelings," that is too shocking to avoid. Orwell strips away humanity's essentials from protagonist and everyman Winston Smith to show us how we must cherish and protect them.

A clerk in the Ministry of Truth in post-atomic war London, Smith rewrites historical documents to reflect the tyrannical government's ever-shifting party line. Early on, the introspective Smith writes in his secret diary, "Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows." But the powers that be do not grant that freedom of thought and eventually force Smith to conclude the answer is five. After all, history demonstrates that a totalitarian regime must attack freedom of thought to control its citizens. As O'Brien, a Party avatar who pretends to be in a resistance movement that Smith joins, reveals to the protagonist, "We control matter because we control the mind. Reality is inside the skull."

Language is another trait attacked by the regime. As Roberta Kalechofsky points out in her 1983 book, *George Orwell*, Smith "lives in an upside-down world" in which "language reflects governmental aspirations, not individual reality." When we read that the Party's "Victory Gin" tastes like nitric acid, we are reminded uncomfortably not only of absolutist and misguided decrees from on high but also of our own willingness to accept the exaggerated language of a consumer society.

But the control of language goes far beyond the simple manipulation of information. Smith's colleague at the Ministry, the lexicographer Syme, works at deleting what the rulers consider to be unnecessary words from the language, such as honor, morality, justice, democracy, and science. Eventually, entire documents like the Declaration of Independence are replaced with one word, "crimethink." Syme tells Smith, "the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought." Without the language to express

discontent, even thinking about it becomes difficult. "Every year fewer and fewer words, and the range of consciousness a little smaller," Syme crows happily.

Of course, it is not only vocabulary that Big Brother, the supreme symbol of the Party projected on ubiquitous telecreens as a middle-aged man, warps for authoritarian purposes. Dangerous emotions like anger are funneled through the "Two Minutes Hate," a daily compulsory event when everyone must watch a short film about the Party's enemies while screaming in disgust at democratic ideals. This type of propaganda has been used by various dictatorships to deflect dissatisfaction from the government toward real or imaginary enemies. And families turn against themselves when children inform on parents about supposed disloyalties, a tactic that Orwell and his contemporaries had seen in Hitler's Germany.

Worse, physical pleasure has been muted to a level of uncomfortable disgust. The simple words "I love you" on a piece of paper are a shocking challenge to everything the Party stands for, creating unsanctioned individual bonds of loyalty. When Smith and Julia, the reckless worker he meets at the Ministry, seem to find this love, the Party's Thought Police catch them. Then, O'Brien and his minions literally torture it out of them. A cage of rats is strapped to Smith's face and he is forced to beg that Julia be punished rather than him. It is not enough that they break Smith intellectually; he must be emotionally tied only to Big Brother.

The reeducation Smith endures echoes the actions and intentions of despots over the eons.

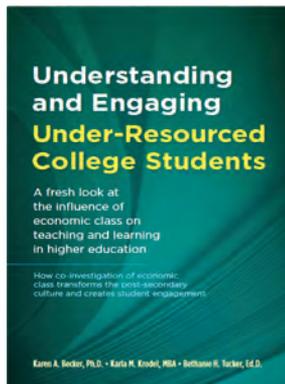
Still, the root problem lies even deeper than governmental control of language or love or imagination. At an international conference on Orwell in the year 1984 at the Library of Congress, professor of theology and literature Nathan Scott argued that the profound horror of the book is that happiness is no longer a legitimate concern. In fact, O'Brien asserts that "progress in our world will be progress toward more pain," because to Big Brother, "obedience is not enough. Unless [the citizen] is suffering, how can you be sure that he is obeying your will and not his own?" If people cannot strive for happiness, existence becomes meaningless — a condition Orwell felt to be present not only for the masses in Soviet Russia, but for many in England and America.

When I asked a student in my science fiction class why *1984* was his favorite book, he couldn't immediately answer but later emailed me that "it's true." That sad but vital truth continues to serve as a pitiless warning against past, present and future totalitarian governments and continues to attract readers like a black hole swallowing the light of hope. And yet, paradoxically, through that negation Orwell reminds us who we are: creatures of love and spirit, of language and imagination. And in those human values we all can hopefully find a common good. ■



Eric D. Lehman (University of Bridgeport chapter president) teaches science fiction, along with travel literature and creative writing, at University of Bridgeport. He also heads its composition program. His first book, a nonfiction collection of narratives, *Bridgeport: Tales from the Park City* (The History Press), came out in 2009. His second, *Hamden: Tales from the Sleeping Giant*, will be released by The History Press in May. Lehman's fiction, travel stories, essays, poems, and nonfiction have appeared in print and online publications such as *Magnolia: A Florida Journal of Literary & Fine Arts*; *Switchback*; *Entelechy: Mind & Culture*; and *Identity Theory*. He earned English degrees from Kenyon College (B.A.) and Penn State University (M.A.). Visit his blog at <http://themythofhome.blogspot.com/> or email him at elehman@bridgeport.edu.

Highlighted Releases by Members



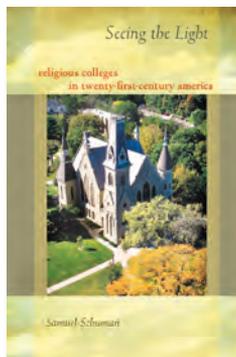
Understanding and Engaging Under-Resourced College Students

By Karen A. Becker, Karla M. Krodel and Bethanie H. Tucker
301 pp. aha! Process, Inc.
(May 2009). \$39.95 paperback.



Karen A. Becker

This Best Books Award finalist, USA Book News, intends to be a tool to improve student retention rates and graduation rates in higher education. It's "the first book of its kind to provide postsecondary educators, administrators, and student support services personnel with a comprehensive look at the needs of under-resourced students through heightened insight regarding the environments associated with economic classes," state press materials forwarded by coauthor Karen A. Becker (The Ohio State University), coordinator of the reading and study skills center at Youngstown State University's College of Education. Sample topics include causes of poverty and resources for success, classroom strategies and community partnerships. "A paradigm shift is the focus," as educators "consider the societal experience of their students from generational poverty."



Seeing the Light: Religious Colleges in Twenty-First-Century America

By Samuel Schuman
336 pp. The Johns Hopkins University Press (January 2010). \$50 hardcover.



Samuel Schuman

"I am seeking to deepen both my own and my readers' understanding of a too-often neglected facet of contemporary American higher education (i.e., faith-based schools)," writes Samuel Schuman (University of New Mexico) by email. "My entire career, as student, professor and administrator, has been at either public or nonsectarian private colleges and universities," including being former chancellor of University of North Carolina at Asheville and University of Minnesota, Morris, and English professor at numerous campuses. "From my perspective as a 'sympathetic outsider,' I attempted to document the very wide diversity of these institutions, recognize their strengths, speak frankly about what I saw as their weaknesses, and listen carefully to what they say." He surveys Roman Catholic, evangelical Protestant and Baptist schools and more.

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:

Phi Kappa Phi Bookshelf
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
7576 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
editor@phikappaphi.org

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

Chapter Salutes Student, Wife, Mother of Seven, and Phi Kappa Phi Member

By Molly Stauffer

Recent Syracuse University graduate and Phi Kappa Phi initiate Jeanette Zoeckler did homework side by side with the littler of her seven children while her teenagers sometimes thought she didn't look deeply into their lives because she was absorbed in her studies. The psychology major in the Honors Program met the younger children's school bus most days and often guided the teenagers in making frozen pizza for dinner. Her youngest, a seven-year-old who liked to do her assignments next to Zoeckler and then go play in the snow, once commented that she thought Syracuse gave too much homework and felt sorry for her. Meanwhile, Zoeckler's oldest, 22, toasted her mother as an inspiration at a holiday gathering with extended family last year when the two were college seniors.

"Honestly, I think my children are not always happy about the nearly radical change that happened in our family" when Zoeckler returned to school after being a stay-at-home mom for years (and worked as a marketing supervisor evenings). "Some days are difficult and not what they were used to experiencing. However, this is a time of growth for all of us. In the end, I hope they will observe and model a strong work ethic and my enthusiasm for study."

Syracuse chapter secretary Vicky Bickel applauds these qualities in Zoeckler. "Even in a pool of excellent students, Jeanette shines," Bickel said, as "a remarkable person and student who achieved her Phi Kappa Phi success even though she is a dedicated wife and mother." Bickel added, "I also happened to observe her once reassure another much younger student on how to deal with a particularly demanding professor; she was so calm and forthright with solid life experience-based advice and her fellow student was truly touched."

Eric Holzwarth, Syracuse chapter president and Deputy Director of the Honors Program, agreed. Zoeckler "brings to her coursework a wealth of professional and personal experience that deepens her engagement with her education," he said. "More importantly, she shares that so generously with other students."

She long desired this type of achievement. As Zoeckler approached the milestone of turning 40 a few years ago, she wanted to "onramp" into a career, she said, after having earned in her early 20s an associate's degree in behavioral science



Chuck Wainwright, Wainwright Photo

Jeanette Zoeckler, center, back row, posed for a family photo during her initiation into the Syracuse University Phi Kappa Phi chapter in December 2009. Celebrating with her: left to right in the front row, mother-in-law Judy Zoeckler and Jeanette's children Simeon and Olivia; and left to right in the back row, children Reuben and Charlene, husband Eric Zoeckler, and son Ethan. Children not pictured because they were away at college: Michele and Vernon

"Honestly, I think my children are not always happy about the nearly radical change. ... In the end, I hope they will observe and model a strong work ethic and my enthusiasm for study."

— Jeanette Zoeckler

overseas while husband Eric was stationed in Panama in the U.S. Air Force as a sergeant in ground radio communications. Obtaining a four-year degree would be crucial to fulfilling her dreams of working in applied areas of psychology, she said.

Her husband, an IT analyst for a utility company, and her "hero and champion," took on more of what she called "the detailed aspects of parenting" while she "stayed connected to the hearts" of their children by, for instance, studying in the main rooms of the house where the flurry of activities take place and helping out with rides when possible. The children have been responsible for their own

learning and schedules, she said, as mom hit the books.

Zoeckler — who joined Phi Kappa Phi because its values line up with her dedication to excellence, she said — equates life with seasons, with change, that she and her family know how to adjust to and thrive on. In fact, Zoeckler graduated from Syracuse the same weekend in May that her oldest daughter, who Zoeckler said found school a struggle, earned a degree in music education from Temple University. And the intergenerational homework may continue in the next season of Zoeckler's life: she's applied to grad school and, as of press deadline, was waiting on results. ■



Molly Stauffer is in her fifth year as a Chapter Relations Director at Phi Kappa Phi. She began her career with Teach For America (TFA), after graduating with a B.F.A. in dramatic writing from

New York University, at which she was a founding member of the dean's leadership circle and honored as a Founders Scholar. After teaching for TFA, she recruited for it and worked with Monster.com. Email her at mstauffer@phikappaphi.org.

MY WORK: novelist

MY THEMES: murder, espionage and government cover-ups

MY PHILANTHROPY: family and adult literacy

MY HONOR SOCIETY: Phi Kappa Phi

GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE.

David Baldacci is the internationally acclaimed author of numerous best-selling novels and founder of the Wish You Well Foundation® that works to eliminate illiteracy. Baldacci was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1983. For more on the foundation, visit WishYouWellFoundation.org.

Founded in 1897, **Phi Kappa Phi** is the oldest and most selective honor society for all academic disciplines. Its more than 100,000 active members include great minds in science and medicine, government and law and the military, education and business, along with sports, literature and the arts and just about every other field imaginable.



Yvonne Taylor

KNOW OF OTHER GREAT MINDS NOT FEATURED IN THE NEW PHI KAPPA PHI GREAT MINDS CAMPAIGN?
SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS AT WWW.PHIKAPPAPHI.ORG/GREATMINDS.

Compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary

Since the spring 2010 edition of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*, the following members assumed new academic duties:

Cynthia Anderson

(Youngstown State University), President, Youngstown State University. Promoted from Vice President for Student Affairs.



Tammy Bourg (Southeastern Louisiana University), Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Southeastern Louisiana University. Promoted from Interim.

Wade Dyke (University of Wisconsin-Madison), President, Kaplan University. Promoted from Interim President.

Rick A. Lester (University of North Alabama), Dean of Academic Affairs, LIM College. Immediate previous position: Professor of Management, University of North Alabama.

R. Bowen Loftin (member at large), President, Texas A & M University. Promoted from Interim President.

Jean M. K. Miller (member at large), Associate Dean of Administrative Affairs, University of North Texas College of Visual Arts and Design. Immediate previous position: Chair, Department of Art, Towson University.

C. L. Max Nikias (University of Southern California), President, University of Southern California. Promoted from Executive Vice President and Provost.



Troy D. Paino (Truman State University), President, Truman State University. Promoted from Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Gary Pierzynski (Kansas State University), Interim Dean, College of Agriculture, and Interim Director, Research and Extension, Kansas State University. Promoted from Head of the Department of Agronomy.



Teresa A. Sullivan (University of Michigan), President, University of Virginia. Immediate previous position: Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Michigan.

Other members making news:

Judy C. Bozeman (University of Houston) was elected as an independent member of the board of directors of HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc., a Houston, Texas-based international specialty insurance group. She will serve on two committees: compensation; and investment

and finance. Bozeman is founder and board chair of the Houston-based Woodway Financial Advisors, A Trust Company, which offers wealth management, estate and trust administration and financial planning.



Carlton Griffin (Northern Arizona University), 2nd Lt., was named the top Army ROTC cadet in the United States. The May 2009 graduate of Northern Arizona University's Politics and International Affairs Department bested more than 4,500 candidates. He serves as an infantry officer at Fort Benning, Ga., and will soon deploy to Afghanistan as a rifle platoon leader.



Terry Kay (University of Georgia) won one of the Georgia Governor's Awards in the Humanities from the Georgia Humanities Council last year. Ten were given out. Kay, twice

Georgia Author of the Year and a member of the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame, has published many award-winning novels, three of which have been made into Hallmark Hall of Fame movies: *To Dance with the White Dog*, *The Runaway*, and *The Valley of Light*. He also has been a sports writer, film and theater critic, public relations executive, and corporate officer. His brother, John, a former pastor and professor, received the citation in 2001 for his part in establishing the Institute for Continuing Learning at Young Harris College, making the brothers the only siblings bestowed the award in its 24-year history.

Ruth Kinzey (Coe College) was selected by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Business Civic Leadership Center as one of seven guest editorial network contributors. The center works with leaders from business, government and the nonprofit sectors to coordinate public-private partnerships and address the voice of business and its social and philanthropic interests. Her Kinzey Company, from its base in Salisbury, N.C., protects and enhances reputations through strategic planning and communication.

Heloise B. "Ginger" Levit (Virginia Commonwealth University) was named one of the "Influential Women of Virginia 2009" sponsored by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly*. She was highlighted as an advocate for the arts. Levit also picked up six awards, including one first-place honor, for articles she wrote about art and antiques in 2008.

Jose P. Perez (University of the Philippines) has been appointed as an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of the Philippines. He is the first appointee to rise to this position from within the court's tribunal and is the 167th justice overall. Perez began his career in the early 1970s as a legal assistant in the high court's Office of the Reporter; his most recent position at the Supreme Court was court administrator.



Webb M. Smathers, Jr. (Clemson University), professor of applied economics and statistics at Clemson University, received the 2009 Class of 1939 Award for Excellence. The award, the

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highest honor a member of the faculty may receive, recognizes outstanding achievement of service to the student body, university and community. It includes a \$5,000 stipend and the honoree's name is engraved on the base of the bell monument on campus. Smathers is adviser to three student organizations and past president of the faculty senate and has served on numerous departmental, college and university committees in a tenure at Clemson that spans more than two decades.

Kayla Elizabeth Tompkins (Lamar University) earned a Plummer Award, given to Lamar University seniors with the highest grade point average in their graduating class, last December. She was one of two out of 1,488 graduating seniors to win the award. Tompkins had a perfect 4.0 grade point average, completed her bachelor's degree in business administration in accounting in 2½ years, was a member of numerous honor societies and campus organizations, played clarinet in the school wind ensemble, and worked 30 hours a week. She plans to pursue a master's degree in business administration at Lamar. ■

Compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary

Stanworth Russell Beckler (member at large), 86, scaled the heights of music and education. He taught at his alma mater, College of the Pacific, at which he had earned bachelor's and master's degrees, and its parent, University of the Pacific, from 1951 to '91. During his tenure, he chaired the music theory/composition department. His works include the opera "Outcasts of Poker Flat," which has been performed internationally, and "Fanfare, For a Bunch of Nice People," for the 75th birthday of the Stockton Symphony. He also served as pianist/accompanist for numerous groups and as church organist. The Army Air Corps veteran (1942-46) died on March 10 of lung cancer and is survived by his wife, son and daughter, and their families.



Philip L. Cline (Oklahoma State University), 64, taught management and economics at his undergraduate alma mater, Washington and Lee University, for 34 years before retiring in 2009. The award-winning professor earned master's and doctoral degrees from Oklahoma State University, was a Fulbright senior scholar, and won grants from the United Nations, National Science Foundation, and Ford Foundation. In his spare time, he volunteered with the United Way and American Cancer Society and coached youth soccer. Cline died on Jan. 12 at his home; survivors include his wife, son and daughter and their spouses, and two grandsons.



Barbara Cloud (University of Nevada-Las Vegas), 71, cherished journalism, education and Phi Kappa Phi. The professor emerita at University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV) taught journalism history and media law for decades and served as department chair and associate provost for some years. Earlier in her career, Cloud was a reporter at the *Idaho Falls Post Register* and *Bend (Ore.) Bulletin*. The graduate of Stanford University, University of Oregon and University of Washington served as president of the American Journalism Historians Association in the mid 1980s, edited and published *Journalism History* from 1992 to 2001, and published several books. Her commitment to the Society included being UNLV chapter president (2004-05) and a member of the 2007-10 Fellowship Committee and the 2004-07 Marketing and Member Benefits Committee. She died as a result of a cerebral hemorrhage on Dec. 24, 2009; survivors include her husband of 49 years, a professor emeritus of physics at UNLV.



Ruth V. Drake, (Bradley University), 95, excelled at just about everything she set her mind to. She graduated Brockton (Mass.) High School with honors. At her undergraduate school, Massachusetts State College (Bridgewater), she was class president, editor of the yearbook and first chair violinist in the orchestra. Drake, who also earned a master's degree from Bradley University, taught fifth grade for 35 years, the bulk at White Elementary School in Peoria, Ill. When not in the

classroom, she still furthered the cause by, for instance, publishing educational articles and once serving as a board member and president of the Peoria County School Employees Credit Union. Married for 52 years to her late husband, she died on Jan. 1; survivors include three married children, 12 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. "She was a very proud member of Phi Kappa Phi and always wore her pin on a charm bracelet," writes daughter Debby Smith, adding that in later years Drake often asked to visit her safety deposit box to view her Society pin.



Robert Garis (University of Oklahoma), 59, exposed questionable economic practices by pharmacy benefit management companies (PBMs). The Creighton University professor helped negotiate fairer contracts with PBMs, which function as an intermediary for employer-sponsored prescription drug benefit programs, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and retail pharmacies. He won numerous awards for teaching and for six years served as director of nontraditional pharmacy pathway at Creighton's school of pharmacy and health professions. Garis earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, a master's of business administration from West Texas A & M University, and a doctorate in pharmacy administration from University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. He died on Nov. 13, 2009, of cancer.



William C. Green (University of Southern California), 53, a commander with the U.S. Navy Reserve and an associate professor of political science at California State University-San Bernardino (CSUSB), died of a sudden illness on Jan. 26, while on active duty in Germany. He specialized in national security, Eurasian politics and intelligence analysis. At the time of his passing he was on one-year mobilization orders as part of his military duties. In 2004, he served as an election observer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Kazakhstan. As an educator, Green won his school's 2007-08 award for outstanding teaching. A fellow at the Hoover Institution, he wrote several books on the Soviet Union, Russian military and nuclear weapons. Before joining CSUSB in 1995, Green taught at Boston University and University of Southern California, at which he had earned a bachelor's degree (Russian language and literature), master's degree (international relations) and doctorate (international relations). His wife and two children survive.



Carroll Parker Guevara (University of Texas at Austin), 87, "was instrumental in establishing child development centers and training a number of the community colleges in Texas while employed at the Texas Education Agency in Austin, Texas, where she retired," writes widower Al Guevara. "She also helped develop education materials while employed at the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory in Austin. She was a home economics teacher in Orange,

Texas, for 10 years and a reading teacher in Austin. She earned her bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech University and her master's and doctoral degrees from University of Texas at Austin. Surviving are a son and daughter from her first marriage, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren." She loved opera and Broadway touring shows, Al Guevara followed up in a phone call. They were married for 24 years but had known each other for more than a decade before that. Prior to her death on Sept. 21, 2009, the couple enjoyed camping in Colorado. "She loved our flowers and birds and our home and our nice property," he recollected. "I miss bringing her a wildflower just to show her how pretty it was."



Thomas L. Hartigan (California State University-Sacramento), 85, led a Renaissance life. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1947 and embarked on a brief military career. Hartigan then worked for the California Department of Transportation as a "right of way" agent, purchasing property for freeways. Later he served as an attorney for the California Department of Real Estate. In retirement, Hartigan earned a degree in psychology from California State University-Sacramento. He further studied gerontology because, he quipped, "I have to keep up with myself." Hartigan enjoyed folk dancing and handball and, with his wife, cross-country skiing and camping. The family man died on March 20, 2009, and is survived by his wife, five sons, 12 grandchildren, three stepchildren, and four step-grandchildren.



Karel Frederik Liem (member at large), 73, surely would have loved to be called fishy. After all, the practical joker and bon vivant made his living studying fish at Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology. He specialized in the bony elements of fish, a complicated undertaking since fish typically have about 140 bones in their skull, while humans have 22 or so. He also taught for many years at Harvard's extension school. Reared in the Netherlands, Liem earned bachelor's and master's degrees from University of Indonesia and a doctorate in zoology from University of Illinois. Early in his career he taught at Leiden University in the Netherlands and then at University of Illinois College of Medicine. For a spell he was associate curator of vertebrate anatomy at the venerable Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Liem arrived at Harvard as professor and curator in 1972 and continued in those roles until his death on Sept. 3, 2009, from complications of pancreatic cancer. Survivors include his wife, son, and daughter.



Merlin Olsen (Utah State University), 69, starred on the gridiron and in Hollywood. The Hall of Fame tackle, at 6 feet 5 inches and 270 pounds, anchored the Los Angeles Rams' Fearsome Foursome defensive line in the mid 1960s with teammates Deacon Jones, Roosevelt Grier and Lamar Lundy. Olsen was the 1962 league rookie of the year on a Rams team that won only one game. He was voted to the Pro Bowl in 14 of

In Memoriam

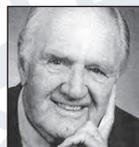
his 15 years in the league with Los Angeles and was the league's most valuable player in 1974. Olsen didn't miss a single game during his career. Upon hanging up the cleats in 1976, he became a color commentator for NBC's pro football and college Rose Bowl telecasts. Olsen also appeared on TV's *Little House on the Prairie* (1977-81) and headlined two other series, *Father Murphy* (1981-83) and *Aaron's Way* (1988). As an undergraduate finance major at Utah State University, he won the Outland Trophy as college football's best interior lineman and was named one of the nation's top scholar-athletes. The College Football Hall of Fame member earned a master's degree in economics while playing for the Rams. A few months before he passed away of cancer on March 11, Utah State renamed its football field at Romney Stadium in his honor. Perhaps his only regret: never reaching the Super Bowl. Survivors include his wife, three children, numerous grandchildren, and siblings including brothers Phil and Orrin, both of whom also played professional football.

Joan A. Purvis (University of Maryland), 66, owned numerous dance schools after training under Russian-born dancers Alexis Dolinoff and George Zoritch and earning a bachelor's degree in theater and a master's degree in instructional design from University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She ran her Damascus (Md.) Dance Center for more than 35 years. Purvis died at her home from kidney cancer on Nov. 23, 2009; survivors include her husband of 43 years, two sons, daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter.

Noel "Pat" Ralston (Michigan State University), 93, was born on a Carthage, Mo., dairy farm, so it was a fairly safe bet he'd wind up working in dairy science and agriculture. After earning degrees from University of Missouri (B.S. and M.A.) and Cornell University (Ph.D.), Ralston taught at University of California-Davis in the early and late 1940s, serving as a nutrition officer for the Army in between. He joined Michigan State College Dairy Science Department in 1949, becoming department head, assistant dean, and director of the cooperative extension service during his tenure. Ralston left in 1966 to be deputy director of the Federal Extension Service and later was appointed associate director of science and education in the Secretary's Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He returned to the Federal Extension Service in 1974 as national dairy extension specialist and retired in 1979. Honors include receiving recognition from the 4-H and being a fellow of the American Dairy Science Association and a member of the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame. Preceded in death by his first wife of 43 years and his second wife of 22 years, he passed away on Nov. 7, 2009; survivors include two daughters and a son and their spouses, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Richard "Dick" William Rodean (Texas Woman's University) came from and carried on a musical pedigree. He graduated from the acclaimed Eastman School of Music (bachelor's and master's degrees in 1963 and '64) and Texas Tech University (doctorate in '80). Rodean was a high school band director early in his career, then assistant band director at University of Buffalo,

before becoming band director at University of Tampa, at which he also served as chair of the departments of music and fine arts. During his tenure at the Tampa campus from 1966 to '80, he also was principal bassoonist with the Tampa Philharmonic and the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra. In 1981, he joined Texas Woman's University as chair of music, dance and drama and eventually was associate dean and interim dean for the college of arts and sciences before retiring in 2005; while at the school, he also performed as a member of the Zephyr Winds chamber ensemble and the Wichita Falls Symphony. He was in his late 60s when he died on Nov. 14, 2009.



William L. Rodman (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), 91, turned a degree in agricultural science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, plus a few

years of managing a Virginia farm, into a three-decade career with the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service. A graduate of the State Department's senior seminar in foreign policy for high-level government officials, he held posts in Canada, Argentina, Cost Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, Australia, Mexico and England. Rodman retired in 1980 with the rank of Counselor of Embassy. He then became active in community affairs, creating with his wife a support group for bereaved parents, cofounding a center for the homeless, and serving as vice chair of the first children's medical center committee at the University of Virginia. The World War II Army veteran was a company commander in the 3rd Armored Division and earned the Silver Star, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, and two Presidential Unit Citations. The avid gardener died on Jan. 7; survivors include his wife of 67 years, son, daughter, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Kenneth John Russo (Clemson University), 78, not only studied under renowned architect Louis Kahn while at University of Pennsylvania but also earned the first master's degree in architecture awarded at Clemson University. Russo taught and held administrative posts at Clemson for 28 years, retiring in 1991. He also spent 17 years as a senior project designer at the J. E. Serrine firm while at Clemson. Russo earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from Oklahoma State University. He died of cancer on May 12, 2009, at his home; survivors include his wife of 56 years, son, daughter, their spouses, and two grandsons.

Cayce Scarborough (Auburn University), 97, achieved educational accomplishments early and never stopped achieving them. While still a teenager he became a junior high school teacher and principal in rural Alabama, before finishing his agricultural education degree at Auburn University. After a few more teaching assignments over the next several years, he became a district supervisor of vocational agriculture in southwest Alabama. Scarborough went on to earn a master's degree in agricultural education from Auburn

and, after serving in the Navy during WWII on a minesweeper in the Pacific, a doctorate from University of Illinois. He taught agricultural education at North Carolina State University (1950-73) and at Auburn (73-80) through the latter's vocational and adult education program. A leader in Future Farmers of America and the American Vocational Association, Scarborough wrote two influential books, *Fruit Growing* and *Hog Production in the South*. Preceded in death by his wife, he passed away on Sept. 14, 2009, and is survived by a son and daughter, their spouses, another daughter, and three grandchildren, among others.



Laura Leigh Scarpate (Arizona State University), 60, spent 18 of her 20 years as a teacher at Suntree (Melbourne, Fla.) Elementary School before retiring in 2009. When not

grading tests or illustrating bulletin boards, Scarpate could be found kayaking or hiking, quilting or reading. She is survived by her husband of 40 years, two sons and daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren, among others. Surrounded by her family at home, she died on Jan. 18 of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.



Joyce Barlow King Stoops (University of Southern California), 86, devoted herself to education. While working as a nurse and a technician analyzing flame thrower gel

for impurities during WW II, she earned an undergraduate degree and a teaching certificate at Northern Illinois University. A master's degree from California State University-Long Beach and a doctor of education from University of Southern California followed. She taught fourth grade in Long Beach and advanced to vice principal and principal. Stoops was a professor of education at USC for 23 years, also serving as assistant dean of student affairs at the school of education. The Distinguished Member of Phi Kappa Phi held numerous USC chapter offices in the late 1970s and early '80s including president, vice president and secretary. She and her late husband (and USC school of education colleague) gave away millions of dollars for education. They first met at her final oral exam for her Ed.D., when he, twice-widowed, substituted for another professor. She died on Dec. 16, 2009, less than nine months after her husband, and is survived by a daughter.

Debra Suchanek (Fontbonne University) understood that family and education mattered. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in human resources development yet always wanted to teach. But she postponed plans to complete a teaching certificate for 16 years to be a stay-at-home mom to an adopted child. Then, in 2009, at age 52, she finished the coursework. She died on Feb. 16 of cancer; survivors include her husband, their four children, and two grandchildren. ■



For more obituaries, go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Publications/Forum/summer2010/memoriam>.

45 Days Clean

and my sister's eyes have stopped blurring.
She smiles now, sometimes:
the look of a woman without her purse.

And still I cannot help but curse
the years she lied, so many times
my sister's eyes have stopped blurring

like a flag coming down, unfurling
in the air, her familiar crime:
a woman without money in her purse.

First, days finally stopped whirling.
Then, I patiently waited, hoping to find
that her eyes had stopped blurring,

that someday she would nurse
herself, and find real friends, not the kind
who mug any woman with a purse.

I continue to pray. Will it again get worse?
I am left without rhymes.
My sister's eyes have stopped blurring.
She is a woman, lost without her purse.

By Katherine Cottle

Winning Poem, Challenging Form

Cancer, sexual abuse, the recent Haitian earthquake, addiction — these were some of the difficult subjects undertaken in the poetry submissions for this “Recovery” edition of the magazine. Katherine Cottle’s winning entry, “45 Days Clean,” deals with drug addiction and recovery by working within the complex demands of the villanelle, a fixed form consisting of five tercets and a final quatrain. The villanelle requires the exact repetition of two lines as refrains (line 1 must be repeated as lines 6, 12, and 18; line 3, as lines 9, 15, and 19), as well as end rhyme, in an a-b-a pattern.

The rigid structure of the villanelle effectively underscores the need for control necessary to recovery. However, in doing so, it also revives the obsession of addiction itself, “her familiar crime.” This duality, this uncertainty, is also at the heart of the speaker’s own compulsive questioning — will the addict relapse, or not?

These fixations are mirrored in the very structure of the poem, as the two lines and two sets of rhymes (sometimes perfect, sometimes slant) interweave. The tension between the sparse language Cottle employs and this intricate form she has chosen further embodies the speaker’s ambivalent emotions about the sister’s “45 days clean”: relief and hope, certainly, but also the anticipation and dread of relapse.

By modifying the villanelle’s strict demands, employing half rhymes instead of perfect ones (“blurring” and “purse,” for instance) and modulating the repetition (line 3’s “the look of a woman without her purse” becomes in line 19, “She is a woman, lost without her purse”), Cottle, a runner-up in the summer 2009 *Phi Kappa Phi Forum* poetry contest, builds into her poem’s structure the threat of its potential collapse, subtly but powerfully evoking the indeterminacy of the speaker’s — and the recovering addict’s — situation.

The speaker “continue[s] to pray” for clarity, but is “left without rhymes”: recovery not a given, but a question to be repeated, day after day.

— Sandra Meek, poetry editor



Katherine Cottle (University of Maryland at College Park) received her M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Maryland at College Park in 1997. Her work has appeared in *Poetry East*, *The Pinch*, *Willow Springs*, *The Greensboro Review*, *Tar River Poetry*, and *Puerto del Sol*. Her chapbook, *My Father’s Speech*, was released by Apprentice House in January 2008. She is a distance education instructor for Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Talented Youth online program. Visit her blog at www.katherinecottle.blogspot.com. Email her at cottle_kathy@hotmail.com



Sandra Meek is the author of three books of poems, *Nomadic Foundations* (2002), *Burn* (2005), and her most recent, *Biogeography* (Tupelo, 2008), 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.

Editor’s note: *The contest is open to active Society members, published or unpublished. Poems — one per entrant per issue — should be up to 40 lines long and reflect the edition’s theme. One original, previously unpublished poem is selected for the printed edition. Runners-up may run online. The fall theme is “scare tactics.” Entry deadline is 7 a.m. CDT Monday, June 7. Entries are accepted by email only at poetry@phikappaphi.org. Go online to <http://www.phikappaphi.org/poetry>.*



Composite illustration from stock.xchng images

The Grin Reaper By Bob Zany

After more than 30 years in stand-up comedy, I know a thing or two about dying. “Dying” is the phrase comedians use to describe the slow and painful figurative death that occurs while performing to an unreceptive crowd. It is hard to recover from and is synonymous with “bombing,” but completely opposite of blowing the roof off the joint, called “killing” and “destroying,” which, if you think about it, makes no sense at all.

British actor/director Sir Donald Wolfit (1902-68), perhaps best known for the title role in the 1954 movie *Svengali*, reportedly made the deathbed proclamation, “Dying is easy. Comedy is hard.” Clearly, we played a lot of the same clubs.

Of course, dying is no laughing matter ... or is it? I do a joke about Oscar the Cat, the therapy pet at the Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Providence, R.I., who allegedly curls up next to patients right before they pass away. I add, “Staffers say it allows the patient to die with comfort and dignity, unlike the other nursing-home pet, Slobbers the Great Dane.

In 1991, when my wife and I were in Miami, Fla., taping a TV show, we had a similar brush with the comedy of mortality.

It was my birthday, so we ordered a piece of cake from room service. The waiter arrived, lit the candle, wished us well and left. A moment later, there was a knock on the door. It was our waiter. “I recognized you before,” he said, “but I didn’t know if I should say anything.” My wife, also a comedian, and I looked at each other and I knew she was thinking the same thing I was: Once upon a time, this guy saw me kill or die. Because he had come back after I tipped him, I was pretty sure it was the latter. But instead, he told us a story about when his best friend was dying. He said that they spent a lot of time in the hospital watching stand-up comedy on TV and that moments before his friend passed, he saw my act, and literally died laughing. Or, at the very least, I like to think, with a smile on his face.

I am a firm follower of the adage, “The show must go on.” That is particularly challenging for comedians. I had to catch a plane to get to a gig a few hours after my dad’s funeral in November 1992. Although it sounds cliché, I know that my dad, who was a proud — and very funny — housepainter, would have wanted it that way. In 1977, he took a day off work to

drive 15-year-old me to my successful audition for *The Gong Show*, a popular amateur talent contest on TV. And he had front-row seats to hundreds of shows thereafter. Even though he was bedridden towards the end of his life, he insisted he was going to see me perform in Las Vegas the week he died. He didn’t make it, but I know that he was, and probably still is, my biggest fan.

One of the Golden Formulas in my business is, “Tragedy plus time equals comedy.” Sometimes I forget the “time” part of the equation. On my weekly radio feature, “The Zany Report,” syndicated nationally on The “Bob & Tom” Radio Network, I focus on current events. And the truth is, celebrity deaths have a short shelf life. I reported that Paul Haney, NASA’s “Voice of Mission Control” during the Gemini and Apollo space flights in the 1960s, passed away on May 28, 2009, at the age of 80. My joke went: “Per his last wish, he’ll be buried in ten, nine, eight, seven ...”

The day after the show I got a call from a friend of the family who said that Haney had a great sense of humor and would have loved the joke. He played it for the family and they loved it, too. So much so that he asked me if a recording of it could be played at Haney’s wake. I know we’re not supposed to speak ill of the dead, but I guess making fun of them is okay sometimes.

Death is inevitable; how we deal with our own mortality and grieve the loss of loved ones are choices. In 1987, comedian Dick Shawn died as a result of a heart attack during his act. Because the self-professed “second greatest entertainer in the whole wide world” was known for offbeat antics, the audience thought it was a gag. What a way to go. ■



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, directed by Steven Soderbergh and now out on DVD. 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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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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Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C.
Arcadia University, Glenside, Pa.
Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz.
Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Ark.
Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah, Ga.
Auburn University, Auburn, Ala.
Auburn University-Montgomery, Montgomery, Ala.
Augusta State University, Augusta, Ga.
Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tenn.
Ball State University, Muncie, Ind.
Berea College, Berea, Ky.
Berry College, Mount Berry, Ga.
Black Hills State University, Spearfish, S.D.
Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, Pa.
Boise State University, Boise, Idaho
Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio
Bradley University, Peoria, Ill.
Brenau University, Gainesville, Ga.
Brigham Young University-Hawaii, Laie, Hawaii
Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind.
California State University-Chico, Chico, Calif.
California State University-Dominguez Hills, Carson, Calif.
California State University-Fresno, Fresno, Calif.
California State University-Fullerton, Fullerton, Calif.
California State University-Long Beach, Long Beach, Calif.
California State University-Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Calif.
California State University-Northridge, Northridge, Calif.
California State University-Sacramento, Sacramento, Calif.
California State University-San Bernardino, San Bernardino, Calif.
California State University-Stanislaus, Turlock, Calif.
Cameron University, Lawton, Okla.
Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C.
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Carroll University, Waukesha, Wis.
Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Wash.
The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.
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 University, 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 Findlay, Findlay, Ohio
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, Baltimore Campuses, Baltimore, Md.
University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, Md.
University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, Md.
University of Maryland University College, Adelphi, Md.
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
West Virginia 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

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