Meet President Howard Gray

by Rachael Dailey Goodwin

In June, Professor Susanne J. Davis, former acting President of Phi Kappa Phi, passed on her responsibilities to the current President, Dr. Howard Gray.

Professor Gray completed his undergraduate and masters degrees at Brigham Young University. During his time at BYU he also completed basic training for the Army at Fort Ord (California), Radio School Training at Fort Jackson (S. Carolina), and missionary service in Switzerland. After finishing his graduate work, Howard went to Wyoming to supervise city-wide youth programs.

Dr. Gray then traveled to Pennsylvania as a doctoral instructor in the Parks and Recreation Administration Program, where he was honored with the National Institute of Aging doctoral fellowship. Dr. Gray served as the Department Chair of the undergraduate curriculum in Leisure Studies and Services at Ratford College. There he helped facilitate Rural Consumer Fraud Programs and the Palaki County Senior Citizen Center. Dr. Gray welcomes PKP members to stop by his office to become better acquainted with him. Welcome Dr. Gray!

Professor Howard Gray, Phi Kappa Phi President

Have I Done Any Good In The World Today?

by Rachael Dailey Goodwin

Come listen to this year’s Honored Faculty Lecture, Professor Darren Hawkins, speaking on Thursday, November 12th at 11:00 a.m. in 3380 WSC. Refreshments will be provided.

Dr. Hawkins, Professor of Political Science at Brigham Young University, is currently the department chair. He has taught at Dartmouth College, Tulane University, and the College of William and Mary. He held a Fulbright Fellowship in Copenhagen, Denmark and he was also honored with a John A. Widtsoe Fellowship. Dr. Hawkins has co-edited a volume with Cambridge University Press titled “Delegation and Agency in International Organizations,” and published the book “International Human Rights and Authoritarian Rule in Chile.”

Dr. Hawkins has also published a number of scholarly articles on international human rights, international institutions, and democracy. He enjoys backpacking, golf, gardening, and many other hobbies.

PKP members, don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to listen & learn from Dr. Hawkins!

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children lack the means or opportunities to fully develop essential literacy skills, much less to acquire the love for reading that would serve them so well and enrich their lives. We wish to ameliorate these unfortunate circumstances by providing individual book bags with a classic children’s book, a Phi Kappa Phi bookmark, a personalized, hand-written letter to the student from a Phi Kappa Phi member, and an educational letter to the parents with important information on literacy during a child’s younger years.

This will also be a great opportunity to become better acquainted with other PKP members from BYU. Breakfast will be provided with time to mix and mingle so that you can get to know the other top-quality students in Phi Kappa Phi. So come, bless some young student’s life, make new friends, and enjoy some good food!
One of the wonderful aspects of Phi Kappa Phi is its support for and sponsorship of meaningful service to the community, nation, and world. To this end, Phi Kappa Phi generously awards grants to outstanding students who are dedicated to providing such service and who take the initiative to organize and execute a significant project. Two members of our chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, Jeff Swift and Cassandra Lawyer, have recently been awarded $2,500 grants to promote literacy among underprivileged children both here locally and in the world abroad, so we would like to recognize each of them for their excellent work.

Jeff Swift, who hails from right here in Provo, Utah, is currently a graduate student here at BYU. He earned is Bachelor’s degree from BYU in English and is now working on his Master’s degree while simultaneously teaching first-year and advanced writing courses at BYU and serving as Vice President of One Heart Bulgaria, a non-profit organization that helps orphanages in Bulgaria. With Jeff’s initiative, hard work, and dedication, over 500 books have been provided to eight major orphanages in Bulgaria. Of these eight orphanages, only two had any sort of library beforehand, both of which were severely outdated and in need of refreshing. Now, each of those orphanages has a handpicked collection of picture books, chapter books, children’s encyclopedias, workbooks, textbooks, Bulgarian classics, and world classics to enrich and bless the lives of these children. Jeff reports that of all the beautiful sights and wonders of that part of the world, the most rewarding and beautiful sight he saw was the sincere smiles of grateful children who, for the first time in their lives, had their very own books to read and cherish.

Cassandra Lawyer, originally from San Diego, is currently a senior at BYU preparing to graduate with a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology. She is currently in Paris, France, serving as an intern at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), helping the governments of thirty market democracies collaborate to address the economic, social and governance challenges of the globalizing world economy.

Cassandra is also dedicated to promoting literacy among underprivileged children locally and was awarded Phi Kappa Phi’s literacy grant for her proposal to prepare individualized book bags for 200 young students at a struggling elementary school in Provo, a project which is soon to be carried out. The book bags will include an age-appropriate book for each child, a personalized, handwritten letter to each student, and an informative letter to the parents about the importance of literacy during a child’s younger years. For more information about her project and to find out how to get involved, see the article entitled “Save the Date.”

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**Upcoming Events:**

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