

# The Romanell - Phi Beta Kappa Professorship



## About the Fellowship

The Romanell-Phi Beta Kappa Professorship is awarded annually to scholars in the field of philosophy, without restriction to any one school of philosophical thought. The professorship recognizes not only distinguished achievement but also the recipient's contribution or potential contribution to public understanding of philosophy. Established in 1983, the endowment honors Patrick Romanell (ΦBK, Brooklyn College), H.Y. Benedict Professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas, El Paso, and his wife Edna Romanell.

This Professorship offers an exceptional opportunity for Phi Beta Kappa chapters to show appreciation for faculty in philosophy from their own institutions and to foster wider public dialogue on important philosophical questions.

## Professorship Details

### Lecture

The professorship carries a stipend of \$7,500, which will be awarded in addition to the recipient's regular salary. The professorship is not renewable. The recipient will be expected to give a series of three special lectures during the year of the professorship. The lectures are to be given at or near a Phi Beta Kappa chapter sheltering institution and must be open to the general public as well as to the academic community.

### Publishing

The winner of the Professorship has the opportunity to prepare their lectures for publication in a monograph series that the Oxford University Press has created featuring Phi Beta Kappa Romanell Lectures: The Oxford University Press: Romanell Lectures.

## Chapter Commitment

The nominating Chapter, should its nominee be selected as the Romanell Professor, is responsible for scheduling, organizing, and publicizing the lecture series. This includes any necessary communications with the Romanell Professor, Department of Philosophy, and/or the sheltering institution. The Phi Beta Kappa National Office will assist in publicity for the event(s) and upon receipt of a proposed budget, will provide the Chapter with up to \$1,000 to help cover costs associated with the lecture series.

## Nomination Process

The 3-year rolling nomination form is to be completed by a Chapter Officer. If a nominee is not selected, s/he will remain in the candidate pool for the subsequent two years. The nomination form must include the following:

- A brief explanation of the nominee's current philosophical interests and how the nominee meets the following criteria: "The Romanell-Phi Beta Kappa Professorship in Philosophy is intended to recognize not only the distinguished achievement but also the recipient's contribution or potential contribution to public understanding of philosophy."
- The nominee's curriculum vita.
- Two letters, only, of support for the nominee. One of the letters should come from someone outside the sheltering institution.
- Three brief paragraphs outlining the overall scope or thesis of the proposed lecture series, as delivered in three parts. This need not be considered a binding proposal and can be written by the nominee.

Other nomination notes:

- A Professorship nominee is not required to be a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.
- All nominations must be submitted to the ΦBK National Office by a ΦBK Chapter.
- Each Chapter is invited to submit one nomination per year.

## Notes for Selection Panel

Three members, all with a background in Philosophy, make up the Romanell Selection Panel.

The Romanell Selection Panel is tasked with selecting one winner for the Professorship each year. In selecting the winner, the panel is encouraged to consider candidates who not only exhibit distinguished achievement in philosophical thought, but also contribute to the public understanding of philosophy and its importance within society, the liberal arts and/or the humanities. The winner should reflect the standards of the Phi Beta Kappa Society through a record of academic excellence, as well as breadth and depth of study in liberal arts and sciences, collegiality, and integrity.

The ΦBK Awards Coordinator will facilitate the prize process and send all selection panel members the completed nomination materials for review, typically about one month after the June 15<sup>th</sup> application deadline has passed. All selection panel members are expected to inform ΦBK of any conflict of interest prior to submission of evaluation materials. Selection panel members are asked to fill out an evaluation form and rank order the contenders. If necessary, ΦBK will arrange for a conference call to finalize the selection.

Representatives from ΦBK will contact the Chapter and the winner and then allow the Chapter to make event arrangements.