



THE D.C. AREA

PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

June 2017

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Recent Events

Young Professionals Network News

Panel Discussion: Where Do I Go From Here?:

Paths to Growing Your Career

When: On Tuesday, May 23, the **Young Professionals (YP)** group hosted a well-attended event that was more professionally than socially oriented. "Where do I go from here: paths to growing your career" featured a moderated discussion with three panelists, each representing a different professional perspective. Whether in the public or private sector, each attendee found a panelist to match his/her workplace experience.

The event attracted 35

Young Professionals, which is one of the best-attended YP network events of the year. Participants ranged in age from recent college graduates to more experienced YPs. Panelists talked about their experiences in their current roles, as well as the paths that led them to where they are today. In particular, panelists discussed the importance of mentorship, different reasons for and views of graduate school, how to determine whether to stay in or move on from a current position, and the details of their respective industries. The lessons shared were beneficial for many of the participants. Many thanks to the panelists for so generously volunteering their time, and sharing their wisdom.



Annual Meeting, with new PBK Secretary/CEO Fred Lawrence

This year's Annual Meeting and Luncheon, held on Sunday, June 4 at the Old Ebbitt Grill, was one of our most successful, as some 35 members and guests enjoyed excellent food, remarks from outgoing President **Elizabeth Marshall** and incoming President **Nina Kuo**, and announcement of new members for the Board and the Advisory Council.

After lunch, we were treated to an enlightening vision of Phi Beta Kappa's mission and future from the Society's new Secretary/CEO, **Dr. Fred Lawrence**.

Citing several areas of concern for the Society, Dr. Lawrence reminded us of the overarching value of the liberal arts and sciences to society: you can always get job training, but the humanities develop the skills of analytical thinking, problem solving, and an attitude of willingness to contribute to the betterment of society, among others. In pursuit of more widely promulgating these values, Dr. Lawrence spoke of the critical need to gain non-partisan advocacy for federal support of the arts and humanities, especially the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); he is vigorously working to obtain such support, a challenge in the current political climate.



Fredrick M. Lawrence (center) Secretary, PBK at our Annual meeting

On a related note, Dr. Lawrence spoke of the Society's need to promote Phi Beta Kappa as a vital part of university life throughout the student's academic career. Nationally, there were 19,000 new inductees this year, but many of them will never use this recognition except as an impressive citation on their resume, or a note on a wedding announcement. That's why he, and several members of DC PBK, have appeared at this spring's induction ceremonies at almost all the local colleges and universities, urging the students to join and become active in their local associations, wherever they may go. And their carrying the torch for the arts and sciences is even more vital when you remember that Phi Beta Kappa chapters are found in only ten percent of America's colleges and universities.

In addition, Dr. Lawrence touched on the nationwide September event designed to promote greater visibility for PBK, an event in which our Association will enthusiastically participate (look for more details in future issues of the newsletter). Also, he recommended making a fuller use of social media to gain awareness and appreciation for the Society and the Association.

Turning to a more philosophical perspective, Dr. Lawrence presented his view of the meaning of the PBK motto, which is usually translated as "**The love of learning is the guide of life.**" He prefers to translate "guide" as "helmsman," explaining that a guide can take you to places he already knows about, whereas a helmsman may steer you into uncharted waters, challenging you to find your own way through your intellect and imagination, which is one of the best ways to learn.

Finally, Dr. Lawrence responded to several questions from attendees, then visited with people at each of the tables. We found him charming, insightful, extremely well-informed on a variety of issues, and passionate about the future of the liberal arts and sciences, especially as championed by Phi Beta Kappa. Our Society is in good hands.

High School Awards Ceremony

On the afternoon of Sunday, May 21, we welcomed our 2017 High School Award recipients at our annual High School Awards Ceremony. At the Phi Beta Kappa Society National Headquarters, High School Awards Program Manager **Chelsea Rubin** presented an award certificate and a book to each of the three recipients. After the awards presentation, we were treated to a panel discussion featuring **Raun Nelson**, a senior advisor for the DC College Access Program, and **Olutosin Akinyode**, the Coordinator of

Financial Aid and Scholarship programs at DC Public Schools – College and Career Division. Our speakers discussed tools to improve college access for students in DC Public Schools. The award recipients engaged with the panel to discuss the varying resources available in their own personal experiences in D.C., Virginia, and Maryland schools.

The High School Awards Program gives exemplary graduating high school seniors a monetary award of \$1,000 to help ease the burdens of college tuition and to recognize their accomplishments. The honorees were chosen for their sustained interest in the liberal arts and sciences, love of learning, and civic responsibility. The final choice was exceedingly difficult, as we received nearly 100 applications.

Biographies of Award Recipients

David Edimo lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, and attends Richard Montgomery High School. David has leveraged his exemplary leadership abilities to advocate for diverse representation in student organizations and increased mental health resources for his community. He lobbied for a bill requiring suicide awareness training for school staff and, as a member of the Montgomery County Commission on Children and Youth, created and chaired the Access to Mental Health Resources Committee. David is a Circuit and County Champion in Mock Trial, a County Champion in Debate, and National Champion of the Harlan Institute Supreme Court Competition. David will attend Yale College in the fall.

Ava Sharifi lives in Chantilly, Virginia, where she attends Chantilly High School. She applies her passion for historical studies to advocate for political change and excel in speech and debate activities. She is captain of her school's debate team and Under-Secretary-General of her school's Model UN team. An active volunteer in her community, Ava has served as president of the Key Club, debate coach at Rocky Run Middle School, and intern for several political campaigns. Ava will attend the University of Chicago in the fall and plans to double major in economics and comparative literature with a minor in Russian.

Abigail Koerner lives in Washington, DC and attends Woodrow Wilson Senior High School. She actively works to better her community as a Peer Educator at the Young Women's Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to sexual health education, and as an advocate for issues like health education standards in public schools. As treasurer of her high school's National Honor Society, she has integrated social justice advocacy and tutoring into her chapter's programs. She is Vice President of her school's Best Buddies program and helped establish a tutoring program to increase DC elementary school student reading levels. Abigail will attend Harvard College in the fall.

Regular Events

Book Club Meetings and Choices for Remainder of Year

On Wednesday, May 31, seven Book Club members met at Nagomi Izakaya to discuss *The White Road, Journey into an Obsession* by Edmund de Waal. This nonfiction work traces the historical progression of porcelain-making from China to Saxony and England, detailing the shift from exclusive imperial and monarchical collections to mass production during the Industrial Revolution. We discussed the author's deft integration of primary source accounts, his own tactile experiences working as a porcelain artist, and a keen sense of historical symbolism and interdependence to render this story accessible to diverse audiences. Here is porcelain not only as collection but as



From our May meeting!

expectation, diplomacy, expedition, mystery, and policy. In an unexpected way, we discussed how we will never again view porcelain as neutral—it is born of obligation, fear, curiosity, passion and homage in equal measure.

On June 28, 2017, for the group's last meeting of this semester, will gather again at Nagomi Izakaya to discuss *Commonwealth*, a much-anticipated 2016 fiction release by celebrated author Ann Patchett.

I'm also so pleased to announce our selections for the **Fall 2017 (July-December) DCPBK Book Club Series**, as recommended and voted in by your fellow book club members. We had an incredible list of suggestions, and almost every book garnered at least one vote, a testament to the quality of our choices. The below books had the most votes in each category. I've tried to thoughtfully pair book to month and spread out page lengths as best I can.

July--*Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders, Fiction, 368 pp. + **Event Tie-In:** Visit to Oak Hill Cemetery, located in Georgetown. It's where Lincoln's son Willie (1862-1865) was buried until he was reinterred with his father in Illinois.

August--*Dune* by Frank Herbert, Classic/Science Fiction, 412 pp.

September--*Rising from the Rails: Pullman Porters and the Making of the Black Middle Class* by Larry Tye, Nonfiction, 352 pp.

October--*A Taste for Death* by P.D. James, Fiction, 480 pp.

November--*Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance, Nonfiction/Memoir, 273 pp.

December--*Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Classic, 368 pp.

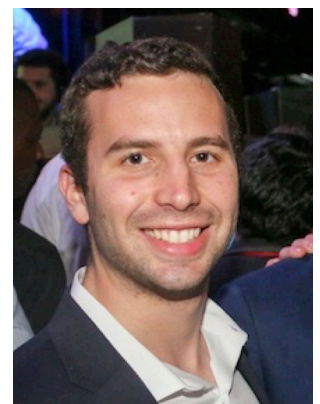
At all meetings, attendees are encouraged to bring any books they're looking to clean out, to see if we can find them new homes with our members.

Announcements

Special Recognition for Dan Rosenberg

We were delighted to learn of the impressive article about **Dan Rosenberg**, our Association Secretary, in the most recent issue of *The Key Reporter*, Phi Beta Kappa's publication for news and alumni relations.

Dan spoke at the recent PBK induction ceremony at George Mason University, where he urged the inductees to be active in the Society (and their local Association), as active participation unlocks many benefits that might not be initially recognized when one first joins the organization.



Dan Rosenberg

In his current career, he provides operational support to the board of directors of Hillel International, the largest Jewish campus organization in the world, where he also works to create, establish, and grow Hillels across the nation. Dan is an enthusiastic proponent of the PBK commitment to critical thinking, and also welcomes various opportunities for community service to others.

You can find the entire interview with him in the *Key Reporter*, but Dan stressed how helpful it's been for him to become active in DCPBK shortly after graduating from George Washington University in 2014. He spoke about the value of being consistently in the company of "interesting and profound people," the work ethic, the breadth of members' knowledge, and the camaraderie within DC PBK's YP group. He noted that their activities fall into three broad categories: social events (Happy Hours are popular), cultural programming, and professionally oriented events (see lead story above). If you are a young professional, look for exciting events you can join in on, either on the website or in future issues of the newsletter.

For the full interview, visit: <http://www.keyreporter.org/PbkNews/PbkNews/Details/2281.html>

Mentorship Network Updates

Thank you for your interest in the DC PBK mentorship program! We're so excited to have received so many requests from potential mentors! We're in the final stages of matching and we'll be in touch with more details soon. Anyone who is interested in serving as mentors in the next cycle, January to June, 2018, is welcome to contact Erica Hwang at mentorship@dcpbk.org for more information.

Open Volunteer Positions

Fundraising Coordinator

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association seeks a **Fundraising Coordinator** to help focus and renew our fundraising goals, to organize a potential fundraising campaign, and to manage any fundraising campaigns with which we decide to move forward. A detailed description of the position can be found by visiting www.dcpbk.org/volunteer-positions. To apply, please send your resume and a statement of interest to volunteer@dcpbk.org.

Events & Communications Coordinator, DC PBK Mentorship Network

The Mentorship Network team is seeking an **Events & Communications Coordinator**. The Coordinator is responsible for designing a monthly newsletter for program participants and planning up to four networking events per year. This position is perfect for someone who wants to gain experience in external communications (and it's a lot of fun!). To learn more or apply, please send your resume and a statement of interest to Sarah Neely (saaneely@gmail.com) and Erica Hwang (kyuryung@gmail.com).

Board Meetings

Meetings of the DC PBK Executive Board are open to all members in good standing. The summer meeting is scheduled for **July 15**, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the PBK Society headquarters, 1606 New Hampshire Avenue. All PBK members are welcome to attend.

Find Us on Social Media!

Please be sure to "Like" the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association page on Facebook to follow our updates! You can also find us on LinkedIn, and follow us on our Twitter page at [@DCPhiBetaKappa](https://twitter.com/DCPhiBetaKappa)!

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Board

2017-2018 Officers

PRESIDENT: Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: Paul Lubliner (University of Oregon, 2006)

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT/PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Sallie Dreher (University of Florida, 2011)

SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg, (George Washington University, 2014)

TREASURER: Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969)

Executive Committee Members

Carol Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)—Newsletter Editor

David MacDonald (University of Chicago, 2009)—Past President

Elizabeth Marshall (Lawrence University, 2009)—Immediate Past President

Erica Hwang (University of Hawaii, 2009)—Mentorship Program Manager

Chelsea Rubin (Arizona State University, 2011)—High School Awards Chair

Advisory Council

Deirdre LaPin (Agnes Scott College, 1967)—Past Vice-President

Christel G. McDonald (George Washington University, 1986)—Past President

Andy Steigman (Princeton University, 1954)—Past President