



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

September 2021

Connect with DC PBK Online!

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Special Event

Save the Date for Key Connections Fall 2021

Thursday, September 30, 6:30 PM

This annual event, which welcomes recent inductees and members who might have relocated to the DC area, is loaded with opportunities to get more involved with DCPBK, and meet new people. The main feature of this event is a career panel made up of DCPBK members Daniel Dodgen, Kate Smith, and others to be announced. This event will also include a happy hour, and more information on the local Association. This is a unique chance to network and connect in the spirit of Phi Beta Kappa's founding, with an emphasis on friendship and fellowship.

Key Connections will be held in the Lehman Auditorium at George Washington University in Science and Engineering Hall (SEH). It is currently planned for in-person participation, but it will be moved to

virtual in the event of changing CDC guidance.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dc-phi-beta-kappa-key-connections-career-panel-tickets-167876151087>

Note: We are still holding most of our meetings on Zoom, but hope to have more in-person events (like the one above) soon. Stay tuned for further developments.

Upcoming Events

September Spanish Language Group Meeting

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association (DCPBK) will host its next **Spanish Language Group** meeting on **September 20 at 6:00-7:00 PM**, and it continues to be open to all skill levels. The meetings will be

conducted in Spanish, so a basic conversational level is recommended in order to be able to participate in the discussion.

Click below to register. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with details on how to join the event. Note that registration is limited to 20, so claim your spot quickly! We look forward to speaking with you on **September 20**.

This group aims to be a reflection of its members, so we will remain flexible and attentive to your interests and capacity.

Please contact Hadley Ashford (hadley.ashford@alumni.unc.edu) if you have questions about the group. Register here:

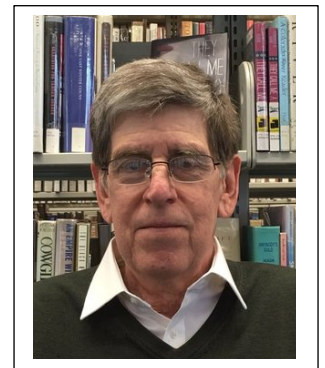
<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2021/9/20/september-spanish-language-group-meeting>

Coffee & Conversation Series

The Coffee & Conversation series has created an impressive lineup of speakers for the fall. The group will not meet in September, but we wanted to give you a taste of things to come.

October: Coffee & Conversation with Stan Rosenschein: Research Paradigms in Artificial Intelligence

Please join us on Wednesday, October 6, at 7:00 PM for an intriguing meeting with **Stan Rosenschein**. Stan is the founder of Semper Curious, a learning environment for adults who want to deepen their understanding of key subjects in the arts and sciences, and a leading expert on artificial intelligence (AI), and the research surrounding it.



The last few years have seen impressive breakthroughs in AI technology, most associated with "machine learning." These developments have been of special interest to the public because they raise hopes — and concerns — regarding social impacts. Yet, interestingly, AI as a research topic began as far back as the 1940s — before the name "Artificial Intelligence" had even been invented. As in many fields, AI research has given rise to competing paradigms. One paradigm, inspired by philosophy of mind and cognitive modeling, has focused on computer-based symbolic reasoning. The other, inspired by biological systems, has focused on statistical learning in neural (brain-like) systems. This talk will convey the intuitions behind these approaches, their respective successes and failures, and the prospects for synthesis and further breakthroughs.

Dr. Rosenschein has been active in intelligent systems research, ranging from machine intelligence to intelligent human networks in his capacities as Director of the Artificial Intelligence Center at SRI, Consulting Professor at Stanford, and founder of several research-based startups. Dr. Rosenschein received his BA at Columbia University and his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania.

To RSVP: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2021/10/6/coffee-conversation-with-stan-rosenschein>

November Sneak Peak: Coffee & Conversation with Sarah Degnan Kambou

We are excited to announce Sarah Degnan Kambou as our featured expert in November. Sarah is the outgoing President and CEO of the International Center for Research on Women, a global research institute that focuses on realizing gender equity, social inclusion, and shared prosperity worldwide. In December 2012, President Barack Obama appointed Sarah to the President's Global Development Council, where she served as an advisor to the Administration until January 2017. Also in 2012, former President

Bill Clinton tapped Sarah to serve as an Advisor to the Clinton Global Initiative. In 2010, United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appointed Sarah to represent ICRW on the U.S. Commission to UNESCO.

International Health and Development Salon: All DCPBK Members

Our quarterly salon on *international health and development* continues **Sunday October 24 from 12:00-1:00 PM**. The Delta variant of COVID-19 persists worldwide. How to stem the tide? We'll kick off the discussion with the ethical issues surrounding the Pandemic, e.g., the equity of vaccine distribution, the quality and availability of vaccines, protocols and messaging about vaccine use, the mix of politics and health in the US and abroad, and whatever other topics participants may wish to add. We'll include an update on the Pandemic and the stubborn unanswered question about its origin – did it emerge from a lab or an animal? And another question -- will COVID-19 be eradicated in future?

Please check your emails and our website at dcpbk.org for joining instructions via Zoom. Meanwhile, feel free to email Dr. Deirdre LaPin at dlapin21@yahoo.com for more information or questions.

Recent Events

Young Professionals (YP) Network

DCPBK Kicks Off Fall 2021 Events with Virtual Happy Hour!

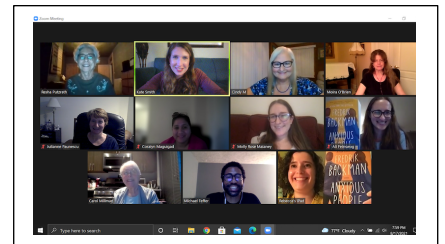
On Thursday, August 19, DC Phi Beta Kappa kicked off its series of Fall 2021 events with a virtual happy hour! More than 35 DC Phi Betes logged on for an evening filled with new friends, drinks, and riveting conversation. At the event, DCPBK also announced some of their key events for the rest of the 2021 year, including a PBK-exclusive Networking Session and other professional events, future in-person DC events, and our annual Key Connections event, as described on page 1.

Please contact Hunter Hamrick for more information, hunterhamrick@gmail.com

Book Club News and Reviews

Mid-August Bonus Meeting:

On Tuesday, August 17, eleven members of the book club met via Zoom to discuss an international selection from Sweden, *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman. This book won high praise from attendees, who found it amusing, relatable, and timely. With several main characters, motivations, and a purposefully evasive narration that jumps around in time, we had much fodder for our discussion. Primary topics included empathy, connectedness, grief, generational divides, and the author's unfolding of key plot and character details.



August Book Club Meeting:

On Thursday, August 26, nine members joined online to discuss the classic ancient comedy *Birds* by Grecian playwright Aristophanes. Few had read this particular work, and we were struck by its outspoken ridicule of Athenian leaders and the gods and its bawdy jokes. We agreed this is surely a visual and auditory spectacle meant to be seen rather than read, with its grand settings and diverse avian protagonists. We discussed the messages Aristophanes may have been trying to impart to his audience, including the impossibility of truly shedding the frameworks of your origins, and the nature of some to bow to power out of expediency. We drew parallels with Orwell's *Animal Farm*, another work where a group of animals attempts to rebuild their society with new rules, with debatable success.

Please join us for our September meeting to discuss *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race* by Walter Isaacson, (Nonfiction, 536 pages).

Monday, September 27, 6:30-8:00 PM, via Zoom.

All DCPBK members and guests are invited to attend. I hope to see many of you there!

To Register: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/register/2021/9/27/september-2021-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-the-code-breaker-jennifer-doudna-gene-editing-and-the-future-of-the-human-race-160-by-walter-isaacson>

Here is the list of selections for the remainder of the year:

- **October:** *Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, International (Mexico), 301 pages
- **November:** *The Half-Life of Facts: Why Everything We Know Has an Expiration Date* by Samuel Arbesman, Nonfiction, 256 pages
 - **Mid-November Bonus:** *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf, Classic, 209 pages
- **December:** *The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang, Fiction, 531 pages

A quick note on meetings for the foreseeable future: In light of global efforts to slow the spread of Covid-19, the DCPBK Book Club will proceed meeting via Zoom until we can meet again in our favorite spots. **Members who RSVP Yes on the website will receive the meeting link and login information in their registration confirmation email.** We all start together, and break into smaller group chats, as needed, after introductions. Feel free to grab food and drink for the meeting, as we normally would!

Sincerely, Kate Smith, Book Club Coordinator,

DCPBK Association bookclub@dcpbk.org

Announcements

Mentorship Network News

The **DCPBK Mentorship Network** is seeking mentors! Currently, we have a need for mentors in political advocacy or non-profits, natural sciences (biology, chemistry, etc.), public policy, education, finance, and law. We are also looking for more mentors of all career stages and industries; young professionals who can support recent graduates, mid-career professionals who can help members become a supervisor for the first time, and retired members who can support members in seeing the big picture in their careers. Everyone has the ability to become a mentor! In addition, by signing up with the DCPBK Mentorship Network as a mentor, you will get access to resources and workshops that will help you develop your coaching skills and boost your mentor confidence!

Becoming a mentor for our Mentor Directory is a very low-time commitment! Mentors and mentees, once connected, can meet together on their own terms—virtually, in-person, once a week, once every two months, whatever they decide!

To join the Mentor Directory, simply log into your account on dcpbk.org, click on “Profile,” and select “Check below if you would like to be a mentor.” Answer a few questions, click “save,” and you’re all set! To learn more about the new Mentorship Network, please visit <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship>.

DCPBK Fall Board Meeting

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Fall meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 9 from 10:00-12:00 PM**. Anyone interested in attending can RSVP on our website. Link will be provided upon registration. Register here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event-list>

Open Volunteer Positions

Are you looking to get more involved with DCPBK? Our board is currently putting together numerous committees to help organize events, raise funds, and engage with our membership, as well as getting more members involved who may be interested in growing into leadership roles. We are currently seeking applications for the following officer positions: **1st Vice President**, **2nd Vice President**. We are also seeking applications for the following Executive Committee volunteer position: **Mentorship Network Manager**.

1st Vice President

The **1st Vice President** is a member of the Executive Committee and is expected to participate in the quarterly board meetings and help guide the strategic direction and operations of the Association. The 1st Vice President may also occasionally assist the 2nd Vice President, who is responsible for coordinating the Association's programming. Other duties and responsibilities include:

- Leading or supporting at least one committee, or being a supporting member of 2+ committees (e.g., HS Awards, Fundraising, etc.).
- Supporting Association communications, including email communications and newsletter contributions.
- Attending quarterly meetings of the DC Area PBK Board.
- Stepping in for the President if a need arises.
- Other duties which may be assigned from time to time by the President.

2nd Vice President

The **2nd Vice President** is an officer of the DCPBK board and is responsible for coordinating the Association's monthly programming for general membership, in collaboration with event sponsors. The 2nd Vice President is NOT responsible for overseeing the programming related to the Young Professionals Network, the Book Club, or the Mentorship Program. Other duties and responsibilities include:

- Coordinating monthly programs for general membership. Examples include tours of museums, lectures, and parties. In particular, the 2nd Vice President is responsible for helping to plan the two largest annual events for general membership: the Annual Holiday Party in December, and the Spring Fling.
- Marketing and promoting the monthly programs, which includes collaborating with the newsletter coordinator to populate the monthly newsletter with content, with the social media coordinator to publicize events on social media channels and setting up RSVP portals for events through the website.
- Developing budgets and managing costs for programs when necessary, and helping to arrange transportation/directions when necessary.
- Attending quarterly meetings of the DC Area PBK Board
- Other duties which may be assigned from time to time by the President.

Mentorship Network Manager

The **Mentorship Network Manager** oversees all programmatic aspects of the DCPBK Mentorship Network, which focuses on connecting DCPBK Association members with one another to not only share professional advice, but also to foster the intellectual curiosity that brings the Phi Beta Kappa community together at its core. Duties and responsibilities include:

- Recruiting mentors for the Mentorship Directory
- Organizing networking events, such as Mentorship Mixers and Mentorship Workshops
- Creating and distributing communications to encourage participation in the program
- Updating the DCPBK website and submitting social media copy

- Attending quarterly DC PBK board meetings and updating the board members on the status of the program.

Applicants for all positions should be members of DCPBK in good standing, and should have experience in outreach to community members and community engagement. Utilization of social media platforms for outreach and web-designing skills is a plus! Application materials should include a cover letter and a resume. Please send materials or any questions about these positions to president@dcpbk.org.

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2021-2022 Officers

PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis (Washington College, 2016)

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: OPEN

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT: OPEN

SECRETARY: Hadley Ashford (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2018)

TREASURER: Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969)

At-Large Executive Committee Members

Breann Watt (University of California, Riverside, 2011)—Past President

Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)—Past President

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

Liz Marshall (Lawrence University, 2009)—Past President

Kate H. Smith (Boston University, 2010)—Book Club Coordinator

Dan Rosenberg (George Washington University, 2014)—Member Engagement Coordinator

Advisory Council

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

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

Paul Lubliner (University of Oregon, 2006)—Past President

Additional Volunteers

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COORDINATOR: Hunter Hamrick (Florida State University, 2015)

HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS COORDINATOR: Mackenzie Fusco (George Washington University, 2017)

INTERIM MENTORSHIP NETWORK MANAGER:

Megan Dixon (University of California, Santa Barbara, 2017)



Love of Learning is the Guide of Life