



# THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

*Founded on December 6, 1913*

[www.dcpbk.org](http://www.dcpbk.org)

## NEWSLETTER

[suggestions@dcpbk.org](mailto:suggestions@dcpbk.org)

*October 2021*

### Connect with DC PBK Online!

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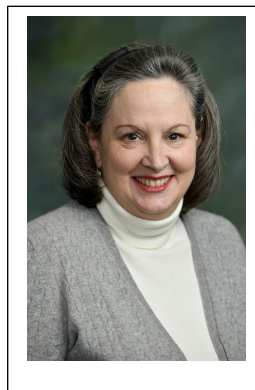
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## Upcoming Events

### Coffee & Conversation Series

#### November: Coffee & Conversation with Sarah Degnan Kambou

Please join the DC PBK Association on **Saturday, Nov. 13 at 10:00 AM** for the next installment of Coffee & Conversation with Dr. Sarah Degnan Kambou, immediate past President and CEO of the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and Senior Advisor to the current President and CEO of ICRW, Peggy Clark. Sarah held the role of President and CEO of ICRW for over a decade and will be speaking to us about various aspects of her career, including her leadership of ICRW, her time in sub-Saharan managing signature programs for Care International (a large-scale development organization) for over a decade, and her work at the Center for International Health, which she co-founded



in 1987, at the Boston University School of Public Health.

A seasoned development professional, Sarah has worked in Asia, Eastern Europe, and sub-Saharan Africa for over 35 years. Sarah served ICRW for 18 years total, and during her tenure as President and CEO, she evolved ICRW's work in global health, youth and development, gender-based violence, economic empowerment and livelihoods. She diversified ICRW's business offerings to include a consulting arm serving the private sector as well as a robust advocacy platform. Under her leadership, ICRW also deepened its presence in Southeast Asia and East Africa and has expanded its footprint to include The Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

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.

Sarah holds a doctorate in international health policy and a master's in public health from Boston University. She earned her bachelor's degree in French from the University of Connecticut.

Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend! To RSVP please click here:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2021/11/13/coffee-conversation-with-sarah-degnan-kambou>

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

### **October Spanish Language Group Meeting**

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association (DCPBK) will host its next **Spanish Language Group** meeting on **October 18 at 6:30**, 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.

Instead of our usual Zoom meeting, this month's meeting will be held in person on the patio of Boqueria in Dupont Circle!

Registration is now closed, but we look forward to speaking with those who can join us on **October 18 at 6:30pm**.

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](mailto:hadley.ashford@alumni.unc.edu)) if you have questions about the group.

### **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](http://dcpbk.org) for joining instructions via Zoom. Meanwhile, feel free to email Dr. Deirdre LaPin at [dlapin21@yahoo.com](mailto:dlapin21@yahoo.com) for more information or questions.

## **Recent Events**

### **Key Connections Fall 2021**

Our annual **Key Connections** event offers support and practical advice to those who are new to the DC area (including recent PBK inductees), and promotes the benefits of Association membership. On September 30, some 35 people attended a lively evening featuring a panel discussion about how your liberal arts degree can enhance and accelerate your career. Our panelists—Kate Smith, Daniel Dodgen, Chelsea Rubin, and Advait Thampi—talked about the value of their liberal arts experience in charting their satisfying and successful careers, what it's like to be a young professional in the DC area's challenging job market, and how to use your liberal arts experience in your professional life.

After the panel, participants met with panelists in small breakout groups to ask questions and get to know each other, through networking, conversation, and helpful tips. We concluded the event with information on getting involved with DCPBK through the Book Club, the Young Professionals network, the Mentorship program, and the High School Awards committee, and more. We hope all participants enjoyed connecting with DCPBK in the spirit of Phi Beta Kappa's founding, with an emphasis on friendship and fellowship.

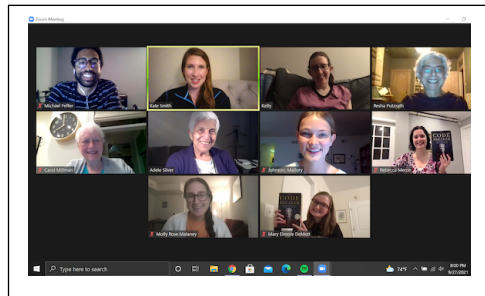
## **October: Coffee & Conversation with Stan Rosenschein: Research Paradigms in Artificial Intelligence**

As part of the **Coffee & Conversation** series, a group of ten Phi Betes joined together on Wednesday, October 6, to listen to a lecture delivered by Dr. Stan Rosenschein, entitled "**Research Paradigms in Artificial Intelligence.**" 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. His talk explored the various paradigms we have developed for understanding and classifying Artificial Intelligence, the intuitions behind these approaches, their respective successes and failures, and the prospects for synthesis and further breakthroughs. A lively Q&A session followed the formal conclusion of the event.

## **Book Club News and Reviews**

### **September Meeting Recap:**

On Monday, September 27, ten attendees gathered for a discussion of *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race* by Walter Isaacson. This selection, detailing the scientific trajectory of the discovery of RNA and possibilities of gene editing, appealed to broad interests across the natural sciences, international policy and governance, religion, and philosophical ethics. The group discussed the effectiveness of Isaacson's narrative structure as a "historian of science and technology," and his treatment and characterization of the various research figures involved. Additional topics of interest included: cross-border coordination and competition between prominent labs, the role of governments in regulating experimentation, and partnerships between corporate interests and academia.



### **Upcoming Fall 2021 Series Selections:**

On Thursday, October 28, the group will meet again to discuss spooky selection *Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, International (Mexico), 301 pages. Members may RSVP here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2021/10/28/dc-pbk-october-book-club-meeting-mexican-gothic-160-by-silvia-moreno-garcia>

**As noted earlier**, the DCPBK Book Club will continue 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!

Our remaining fall selections are:

- November 17: Mid-November Bonus: *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf, Classic, 209 pages
- November: *The Half-Life of Facts: Why Everything We Know Has an Expiration Date* by Samuel Arbesman, Nonfiction, 256 pages
- December: *The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang, Fiction, 531 pages

### **Upcoming Spring 2022 Series Planning:**

Between October and November, our coordinator will solicit recommendations which will comprise candidates for our Spring 2022 series. Participants in suggestions and voting are members who have been engaged with the Book Club over the previous six months. We will vote during the week of our November meeting, and the Spring list will appear for the first time in our December 2021 event posting. I hope to see many of you there!

Sincerely, Kate Smith, Book Club Coordinator,  
DCPBK Association [bookclub@dcpbk.org](mailto:bookclub@dcpbk.org)

## **Announcements**

### **DC Young Professionals Council Applications Now Open!**

DC PBK is pleased to announce that the application cycle for the **Young Professionals Council** is now open! Joining the Council is a great way to get involved with DC Phi Beta Kappa (DCPBK), as well as meeting fellow Phi Betes with similar interests! In addition, it's a great way to add leadership experience onto your resume! Applications are open until **Friday, October 22!**

Please reach out to Hunter Hamrick: [hunterhamrick@gmail.com](mailto:hunterhamrick@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

To Apply:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4uyTTcxJ48F5dnH7DGWIAG9L-IsUN0UEa3tGiYf1n8gE7Eg/viewform>

### **Mentorship Network News**

Join us for our **Fall virtual Mentorship Mixer on Thursday, October 28 at 7:00 PM!** For many members, the Mentorship Mixers are the highlight of their participation in DCPBK programming! We invite all DCPBK members and mentors to this mixer, where participants can connect in round-robin style activities and ice-breakers. This is a great opportunity to meet our mentors and other members, and make connections!

Zoom information provided after registration.

Register here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2021/10/28/fall-mentorship-mixer>

The **DCPBK Mentorship Network** continues to seek 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](https://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>.

To join the **Mentor Directory**, simply log into your account on [dcpbk.org](https://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 Winter Board Meeting**

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Fall meeting was held on **Saturday, October 9**. Information about the Winter meeting will be provided in the November newsletter.

## **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](mailto:president@dcpbk.org).

## **DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board**

### **2021-2022 Officers**

**PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis-Randell** (Washington College, 2016)

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: OPEN**

**2<sup>ND</sup> 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*