



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

May 2021

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Special Events

There's a lot of excitement about some of the extraordinary things that are happening with DCPBK this spring, and we especially wanted you to know more about two of them. The **High School Awards** are a rewarding and inspiring program that enables us to help some outstanding college-bound students each year, while the ongoing **International Health and Development Salon** offers unique opportunities for stimulating quarterly interactions among professionals in these fields.

High School Awards

One of our most important outreach efforts is our **High School Awards** Program, which provides merit-based scholarships to college-bound students in the DMV. We are pleased to present this year's award winners. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not host an in-person awards ceremony for this year's winners. Instead, our winners will receive a certificate and a customary book related to their future field of study sent to their homes. A big thank you to the High School Awards committee for their work this year."

Our 2021 winners are:

Cate Schultz attends Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in Maryland. Cate founded and currently leads the Greentree Outdoor Education and Recreation program to encourage positive interactions with nature for children experiencing homelessness. She has worked as an intern with Impact(Ed) International, a workshop teacher with the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School Workshop, and a Farm Director with Urban Beet. Cate is also a traditional Irish dancer and dance teacher. Cate will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Honors Carolina and Excel@Carolina Pre-Masters in Education programs, where she will study environmental studies and elementary education.



Ekene Chukwueke attends E.L. Haynes Public Charter School in Washington, DC. Ekene has worked as a Research Assistant at Children's National Hospital, McClendon Center, and The Johns Hopkins Hospital. He has also served as a Registered Nurse (RN) Assistant at MedStar Washington Hospital Center and as a Volunteer at Carroll Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. At E.L. Haynes, Ekene is President of the Boys to Men Mentoring Program, Art Club, and Environmental Club, and President & Founder of the Research Institute Club. Ekene will be attending Harvard College, where he is considering concentrating in government, sociology, and/or history.

Gwen Setia attends James Madison High School in Virginia. Gwen is the co-founder of the JMHS ESOL Advocacy Organization, which she started to address the disparity in standardized test pass rates among ESOL students at JMHS. She has lobbied with Team ENOUGH Virginia Lobbying Collective, interned with Elaine Luria for Congress, and was a Digital Fellow with Team Warner & the Virginia Coordinated Campaign. Gwen is the Editor-in-Chief of the JMHS Montpelier Yearbook Staff and President of the Young Democrats. Gwen will be attending Northwestern University, where she plans to double-major in economics and political science.



Roma Dhingra attends Poolesville High School in Maryland. Roma is the founder of the Poolesville Combating Childhood Cancer Club (C4), which has raised money for childhood cancer research and toys for young cancer patients and recently hosted an online seminar about cancer treatment and childhood cancer awareness. She has completed Research Internships at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and CVPATH Institute, and has volunteered at Walter Reed's Pediatric Oncology Clinic. Roma is also a First-Degree black belt in Tang Soo Do Karate. Roma will be attending Georgetown University, where she plans to study the biology of global health.



Support the High School Awards Program

The Awards Program benefits greatly from the support of our members! If you would like to support our student awardees, you can make a donation at <https://dcpbk.org/donate/>.

Feel free to email **Mackenzie Fusco** at awards@dcpbk.org with any questions about the High School Awards Program.

International Health and Development Salon: Calling All DCPBK Members!

Two years ago, six vibrant DC Phi Betas working on international careers created a quarterly Salon focused on international health and development. Our timing was prescient. We are now in a global pandemic. Every quarter we have a lively exchange on the most important world topics of our time. Now we want to welcome more members of our Association who are looking to share ideas, trends, and job opportunities in the international arena. So far, we have covered career opportunities and challenges in government, NGO, or private sector; trends in epidemics, maternal health, ESG, humanitarian assistance; building a better USAID under the new Administration; and more.

Our next Zoom Salon meeting will be held **12:00–1:00 PM on Sunday, May 23, 2021**. Topics will include an update on the pandemic, new directions, opportunities in health and international development, and other topics participants wish to share with colleagues. Click below to register.

Meanwhile, feel free to email Dr. Deirdre LaPin at dlapin21@yahoo.com for more information or questions. Together for a stronger world.

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2021/5/23/international-health-and-development-salon>

Please note that all meetings are held via Zoom unless otherwise indicated.

Upcoming Events

DCPBK Annual Meeting

The close of the academic year is also the opening of the new Association year, marked by our Annual Meeting. Held virtually this year, the meeting will give you a chance to hear about the exciting year DCPBK has had, even amidst the pandemic. You'll hear from our program leaders about the successes of the programs and where they are headed in the year to come! We will also install Officers and Executive Committee members of the Association. Come meet your DCPBK board and learn more about our plans for the upcoming year!

Saturday, June 12, 11:00-12:30 PM

Zoom info provided upon registration: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event-list>

May Spanish Language Group Meeting

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association (DCPBK) will host its next **Spanish Language Group** meeting on **May 17th at 6:00 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. At this meeting, we will discuss the movie Coco! Try to watch the film or read a summary before we meet, but you're always welcome to join the conversation regardless.

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

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.

Register here: <https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2021/5/17/april-spanish-language-group-meeting>

Recent Events

Coffee & Conversation Speaker Series

For the April installment of **Coffee & Conversation**, a group of Phi Betes listened to a brilliant and engaging discussion led by **Dr. Nathan Brown**, a Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at the George Washington University. Dr. Brown is an expert in religion and politics, constitutionalism, and comparative politics of the Middle East. His talk, entitled "[What the Arab World Tells us About Constitution Writing](#)," delved into comparative examples of constitutionalism and constitutional drafting among countries in the Arab world, the key issues that shape constitutions, and the constitution drafting process among those countries. He also discussed how many of those countries are navigating the transition away from authoritarianism, and how constitution drafting is similar to and different between the United States and the Arab world.

Please look out for our next **Coffee & Conversation** in June. If you have any suggestions, feedback, or recommendations for future speakers, then please contact Dan Rosenberg, Membership & Outreach Coordinator, at dmberg8@gmail.com.

Young Professionals (YP) Network News

DCPBK Shows Off Knowledge at Trivia Night!

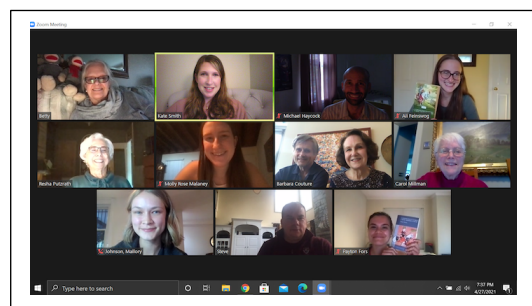
On April 21, 15 DC Phi Betes went head-to-head in a battle full of wits, knowledge, and friendly competition! While both teams, Team Wednesday Adams and Team No Name, scored multiple points throughout the rounds, it was ultimately Team Wednesday Adams that took the crown. We want to thank all of those who participated and look forward to hosting another trivia night, in late May or early June!

If you have any questions, please contact **Hunter Hamrick** at (hunterhamrick@gmail.com).

Book Club News and Reviews

April 2021 Meeting Recap:

On Tuesday, April 27, members met to discuss *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain. This was another classic selection few of us had read previously, and it proved quite surprising. Based on modern references, we expected something lighter; however, Twain truly delivers a darkly comedic socio-political commentary, decidedly humanizing and clearing the mist of the legend around King Arthur and his court. Merlin and Lancelot do not fare well, reduced to scheming, backstabbing, power-hungry advisors, and Arthur himself a marginally reflective leader, noble if not predestined.



We discussed themes of superstition vs. science, and his takedowns of the Catholic Church's hold over politics, and the barbarism of the institution of slavery. We reflected on how readers in late 19th century America may have reacted to the novel; Twain simultaneously promotes Yankee ideals of education, nurture over nature, and industry, while in closing chapters seeming downright nihilistic about the ability of a society to advance itself. We'd highly recommend the Audible audiobook version, narrated by Nick Offerman of *Parks and Recreation*, for anyone interested.

Upcoming Meetings:

We will meet on Thursday, May 27 at 6:30 PM to discuss the Argentinian International selection *The Library at Night* by Alberto Manguel. To RSVP, visit the DC PBK Event page:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!/event/2021/5/27/may-2021-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-the-library-at-night-by-alberto-manguel>

Stay tuned over the next few weeks: we have begun consolidating recommendations for our Fall 2021 series. Members who have attended a meeting in the last six months will suggest and then vote in, our selections for July-December 2021. The list will appear for the first time in the June event posting, later this month.

Here is the remaining selection for our Spring 2021 Series:

June: *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson (Nonfiction, 464 pages)

Also, please note meeting logistics for the foreseeable future: In light of global efforts to slow the spread of Covid-19, 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.**

Announcements

Mentorship Network News

Interested in being a mentor? We are always looking for more mentors of all career stages; 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!

Our first mentor workshop will be held on **June 2, 2021 at 6:30 PM over Zoom**. In this workshop, we'll talk about how to be a great mentor and a great mentee! We welcome all members who are interested in exploring mentorship in all forms! We'll answer your questions and offer tips and tricks to making the most of a mentorship relationship. [Sign up on our website.](#)

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, go to <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship>

DCPBK Board Meeting

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Summer meeting will be held on **July 17 from 11:00-1:00 PM**.

To register to attend via Zoom, click [here](#). Link will provided upon registration.

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2020-2021 Officers

PRESIDENT: Breann Watt (University of California Riverside, 2011)
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis (Washington College, 2015)
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT: Lynley Peoples (George Mason University, 2013)
SECRETARY: Dan Rosenberg, (George Washington University, 2014)
TREASURER: Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969)

At-Large Executive Committee Members

Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)—Past President
Paul Lubliner (University of Oregon, 2006)—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

Advisory Council

Deirdre LaPin (Agnes Scott College, 1967)—Past Vice-President
Christel G. McDonald (George Washington University, 1986)—Past President

Additional Volunteers

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Dan Rosenberg (George Washington University, 2014)
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COORDINATOR: Hunter Hamrick (Florida State University, 2015)



Love of Learning is the Guide of Life

Ballot for the Election of Officers and Executive Committee for 2021-2022

Please submit your responses through this online ballot (<https://forms.gle/Jyn1intGtukmG6Le8>) or email your responses to president@dcpbk, no later than June 4, 2021.

Executive Committee Officers:

- ☐ PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis (Washington College, 2016)
- ☐ FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT:
- ☐ SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: Lynley Peoples (George Mason University, 2013), incumbent
- ☐ TREASURER: Pat Cascio (Denison University, 1969), incumbent
- ☐ SECRETARY: Hadley Ashford (University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill, 2018)

At-large Executive Committee Members: Vote for up to six.

- ☐ Dan Rosenberg (George Washington University, 2014)
- ☐ Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)
- ☐ Liz Marshall (Lawrence University, 2009)
- ☐ Carol Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)
- ☐ Kate Hannon (Boston University, 2010)
- ☐ Breann Watt, past President (University of California, Riverside, 2011)

I would like to vote for the following write-in candidate(s), for the office of:
