



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

November 2021

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Upcoming Events

Annual Holiday Party: Save the Date

Please save **Saturday, December 4, 6:00-8:00 PM** for the **Annual DCPBK Holiday Party**. We're planning an exciting virtual experience for this year's event. Be on the lookout for an email invitation!

November Spanish Language Group Meeting

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association (DCPBK) will host its next Spanish Language Group meeting on **November 15th at 6:30pm EST**, 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. We will continue to meet in person as members are comfortable.

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.

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.

Recent Events

International Health and Development Salon

Our quarterly salon on *international health and development* met on Sunday, October 24 at noon to discuss the international evolution of SARS-COV-2. Relevant articles were shared on the key topic: How can better ethics in both rich and poor countries help to stem the tide of the Delta variant? Participants drew on their own expertise to discuss vaccine development and production in high- and middle-income countries and their potential to assure equitable worldwide distribution. Also considered were the multiple government policies to control viral spread and the challenge of gaining popular compliance. Lack of funding and protection for health workers was also seen as a common management failure in many service contexts. Since little information is known about the origin of COVID, and elimination is unlikely, the group agreed that humanity will “live” with the virus as an endemic disease, like the flu.

Stay tuned for the next Salon, which we will hold on a Sunday at noon in early 2022. **Global Warming** will be our timely topic, enhanced by rich outputs from COP26. Please check monthly newsletters, 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. Happy Holidays to All!

Coffee & Conversation Series

November: Coffee & Conversation with Sarah Degnan Kambou

November's **Coffee & Conversation** series, on **Saturday, Nov. 13**, featured an engaging and highly relevant presentation by **Sarah Degnan Kambou**, Immediate past President and CEO of the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). She spoke about various aspects of her career, including her decade-long leadership of ICRW, her time in sub-Saharan Africa managing signature programs for Care International, and her work at the Center for International Health, which she co-founded in 1987 at the Boston University School of Public Health. Her talk gave us a lot to think about, as shown by the lively discussion that followed. Please look for a full recap of this remarkable event in the December newsletter.



Book Club News and Reviews

October Meeting Recap:

On October 28, ten members of the Book Club met to discuss a spooky International selection, *Mexican Gothic* by Sylvia Moreno-Garcia. With heavy inspiration from classic elements of the horror genre such as remote haunted houses and mysterious illnesses, the group enjoyed following the mystery and suspense of this entertaining selection. Steeped in the paternalism of 1950s Mexico, and including allusions to the insidious influence of foreign (British) investment and resource grabs in the country, we found much to discuss about the setting and heroine of the story.



Upcoming Fall 2021 Series Selections:

We will meet twice in November, starting on the 17th with the classic *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf (209 pages). Then on November 30 we will discuss a timely nonfiction selection, *The Half-Life of Facts: Why Everything We Know Has an Expiration Date* by Samuel Arbesman (256 pages).

We have not yet finalized a date for our December meeting, but we will likely be meeting the first week of January, as we normally do, to avoid disrupting end-of-year holiday and vacation plans.

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 selection is:

- December: *The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang, Fiction, 531 pages

Upcoming Spring 2022 Series Planning

Our coordinator is actively soliciting recommendations for books to be used 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 for all Association members to review.

Sincerely, Kate Smith, Book Club Coordinator,
DCPBK Association bookclub@dcpbk.org

Announcements

Mentorship Network News

Thank you to the 20+ DCPBK members who joined us for our **Fall virtual Mentorship Mixer** on Thursday, October 28 at 7:00 PM! We had five rounds of random matching where participants answered prompted questions and talked about their interest in mentorship. We hope all participants had a great time and made some new connections!

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, 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, 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! Once connected, mentors and mentees can meet together on their own terms—virtually, in-person, once a week, once every two months, whatever they decide!

DCPBK Winter Board Meeting

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Winter board meeting will be held via Zoom on **January 8, 2022 at 10:00 AM**. Register here:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/1/8/dcpbk-january-board-meeting>. Zoom info provided upon registration.

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 the utilization of social media platforms for outreach and web-designing skills is a plus! Application materials and any questions about these positions to president@dcpbk.org.

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2021-2022 Officers

PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis-Randell (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