



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

December 2021

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Exciting News!

Welcome to our new 1st Vice-President!

It is with great enthusiasm that DCPBK welcomes **Jim Stricker** to the Executive Board as 1st Vice-President starting in January.

Jim was inducted into PBK at George Washington University in 2015. He has been a DCPBK member for a little while now, but has recently gotten more involved and is looking to step into a leadership role.



Jim Stricker and Father (also a Phi Bete) posing by the PBK plaque on GWU campus shortly after Jim had received an invitation to join

Jim has a bachelor's degree in International Affairs, and is currently working in software development. He told the Executive Board that he is drawn to DCPBK because we reflect his values both through our mission and the activities of our members. He shared with us that he has experience in both formal and informal leadership roles, including serving as the VP of the Arabic Language Club during his senior year of college, organizing political events in Annapolis, and supervising junior software engineers in his professional work.

Please join me in welcoming Jim to the Board! I will be helping him get onboarded to the position in December, to prepare for his stepping into the role in January.

Rebecca DeSantis-Randell
 President

Upcoming Events

International Health and Development Salon

Stay tuned for our next quarterly virtual Salon, which will be held via Zoom on **Sunday January 23, 2022 at noon**. The timely topic will be **Climate Change and Global Warming**, enhanced by rich outputs from the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 held last November in Glasgow. Burning questions will include: (1) were commitments to reduce fossil fuels, methane, and coal emissions sufficient? (2) were the planned financial supports for controlling climate change in lower and medium income countries adequate and fair? (3) were the national-level reductions proposed likely to add up to a global warming reduction of under 2 degrees C? (4) were the interactive roles of economic, political, and social systems given strong consideration?

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 topic suggestions, information or questions.

Recent Events

Annual Holiday Party

Holiday Party

On December 4th, DCPBK members enjoyed an evening of virtual Bossa Nova music, performed by Cecelo, a Brazilian professional musician. Cecelo combined music and storytelling to tell us the history of Bossa Nova, while weaving in anecdotes to transport us to a beach in Rio de Janeiro. His guitar playing was magical and he concluded the evening by taking requests and creating Bossa Nova versions of attendees' favorite songs! Cecelo also gave the group a sneak peak of his studio in Ipanema! We hope those who attended enjoyed the experience.

December Spanish Language Group Meeting

The **Spanish Language Group** met on December 13th at Pisco y Nazca for an evening of enriching conversation!

The next meeting is scheduled for **January 10th at 6:30 PM**. As always, the meetings will be conducted in Spanish, so a basic conversational level is recommended in order to be able to participate in the discussion.

Note that registration will be limited to 6 people.

Click [here](#) to register. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation message with details on how to join the event. We look forward to speaking with you on **January 10th at 6:30PM**. Please contact Hadley Ashford (hadley.ashford@alumni.unc.edu) with questions.

Book Club News and Reviews

On November 30, the Book Club met to discuss *The Half-Life of Facts: Why Everything We Know Has an Expiration Date* by Samuel Arbesman. The book posits that there is a way to reliably predict the rate at which new information emerges in various fields to question or upend previously accepted truths and norms. Our group, diverse in academic and professional experience, appreciated the author's attempt to make his findings accessible across disciplines. He references evolution of common knowledge in scientific lab research, the arts, athletics, technology, and the natural world. The book's strength lies in describing the shifting factors that determine our knowledge baselines, such as running shoe and

nutritional research advances changing our idea of how fast the human body can run. Arbesman definitely inspires continuous learning, reminding readers that we all tend to cultivate an increasingly specialized knowledge base over time.

On January 5, 2022, the group will meet via Zoom to discuss *The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang, Fiction, 531 pages. This is technically our December 2020 selection, though traditionally we meet the first week of January to account for holiday schedules.

Between our October and November meetings our coordinator orchestrated our biannual voting cycle, and we are happy to announce the results. Members engaged with the Book Club in the last six months recommended and then voted in, a series of six main selections plus two bonus books. We are pleased to present our Spring 2022 Series below:

- **January:** *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carreyrou (Nonfiction, 339 pages)
- **February:** *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler (Classic, 345 pages)
- **March:** *The Silence of the Girls* by Pat Barker (International, United Kingdom, 325 pages)
 - **Mid-March Bonus:** *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (Fiction, 314 pages)
- **April:** *Until the End of Time: Mind, Matter, and Our Search for Meaning in an Evolving Universe* by Brian Greene (Nonfiction, 384 pages)
- **May:** *The Skin of the Sea* by Natasha Bowen (International, Nigeria/West Africa, 336 pages)
 - **Mid-May Bonus:** *Fathers & Sons* by Ivan Turgenev (Classic, 244 pages)
- **June:** *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich (Fiction, 387 pages)

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!

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

Announcements

High School Awards Program for 2021-2022

The **High School Awards Program** seeks two Committee Members to assist with outreach and selection of awardees for the 2021-22 academic year. The committee's work takes place from January-May. The committee selects high school seniors in the DMV based on their academic achievements and community service. In recent years DCPBK has offered up to four awards to college-bound seniors of \$1,000 each.

Position Description:

- Conduct outreach to DMV-area high schools to inform school counselors about the scholarship opportunity
- Evaluate applications and participate in selection process of 2022 awardees
- Assist in planning the annual Awards ceremony.

To apply, please email High School Awards Committee Chair **Mackenzie Fusco** at awards@dcpbk.org with a resume and a brief statement of your interest in joining the Committee.

Mentorship Network News

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>.

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 office of **2nd Vice-President**. We are also seeking applications for the following Executive Committee volunteer position: **Mentorship Network Manager**.

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 public speaking and writing. Utilization of social media platforms for outreach and web-designing skills is a plus! Application materials should be submitted to president@dcpbk.org. For 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: (Jim Stricker, George Washington University, 2015)
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