

**ΦBK KEY NOTES**  
**The PBKAAGA Newsletter**

**December 26, 2022**



**Key Notes**, the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin newsletter highlights Association news, recent and upcoming events, and developments in the Association’s continued evolution. Additional details about the organization can be found on the Association website: <http://pbkaaga.wildapricot.org/>

Our mission:

*Recognizing excellence in the liberal arts and sciences through college scholarships and teacher excellence awards, as well as fostering fellowship and lifelong learning among PBKAAGA members*

**A Message from our President**

Dear association members and friends,

As I reach the end of my term as president, I want to thank you for your continued support for the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin. It has been a productive and interesting year.

On April 10 we gathered at Antone’s to hear a jazz quartet from the University of Texas Butler School of Music, and to enjoy seeing fellow PBK members from the Austin Area. Thanks to carryover Key Connection grant funds from national Phi Beta Kappa, admission was free.

At the May meeting, continuing the collaboration with Breakthrough Central Texas, the scholarship committee awarded scholarships to seven high school seniors who will be the first in their family to attend college. We also awarded the Phillip F. Patman Memorial Scholarship to a student

at Texas State University. We were able to award so many scholarships because of the generous contributions of members like you.

Also at the May meeting, Steve Saltwick, co-founder of Braver Angels of Central Texas, spoke on the topic of "Your Brain and the Solution for Political Polarization – the Neuroscience of Braver Angels." He focused on what can be done about the state of political interaction in America. He advised that we should live the motto of Phi Beta Kappa to expand the use of a unique human part of our brain.

On September 25th, the association sponsored a second Key Connections event with financial support from the national organization. A jazz ensemble from the University of Texas provided music at the home of Don and Sharon Flournoy. Current association members along with new PBK members in the Austin area enjoyed snacks and libations.

On November 13th, Dr. Daniel Jaffe, the Jane and Roland Blumberg Professor of Astronomy at the University of Texas, spoke at the fall general meeting. His talk was entitled "First Galaxies, New Planets: The Revolution in Astronomy." We also presented the 2022 Teaching Excellence award at this meeting.

The association participated in Giving Tuesday on November 29, 2022 for the third year in a row. The 2022 effort raised more than \$12,000 in donations and pledges. These funds will support our high school scholarship program for Breakthrough Central Texas students in 2023. Many thanks to those who donated to this worthy cause.

At the end of 2022, the association has 133 members (including 29 life members) plus 22 complimentary student members for a total of 155 members. In early January we will be asking current members to renew for 2023 and reaching out to thousands of potential members in the greater Austin area. Here's hoping our membership increases in the new year.

I wish you happy holidays and a safe and healthy new year.

Sincerely,

Joyce Pulich

---

**We Salute Our 2022 Teaching Excellence Award Winner!**

As a colleague describes her, Dr. Mann is an expert science educator and a visionary who brings the natural world into her classes, and she also takes her students into the natural world to discover their roles and responsibilities within the ecosystem. A prime example of this is the week-long Ecology field experience she leads at the Bamberger Ranch Preserve, involving not only her instructional expertise but also creativity and innovation in teaching methods.



Dr. Mann's has great skill in engaging students of varied backgrounds and abilities, taking a sincere personal interest in each student and inspiring each to strive for excellence. By continually researching best practices, attending many professional development activities, and earning multiple degrees, including her doctorate, Deborah has proven herself to be a life-long learner.

She is also an exceptional leader who is always willing to share her time and knowledge with colleagues. As one of her colleagues commented, "Her breadth of experience, profound knowledge of adolescent development, and deep tool box of multimodal and engaging activities have enhanced the teaching and learning experience throughout the Austin Waldorf School."

---

---

### **Thank You for Giving on**



**#GIVINGTUESDAY**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our scholarship and teaching award funds on Giving Tuesday. The recipients really appreciate your support.

---

---

### **Volunteer Openings to Consider**

The PBKAAGA Board seeks volunteers for several key roles in the organization. We need a person to join our Scholarship Committee, where

you help screen applications for the scholarships we grant each spring. We're also looking for someone to be an understudy to our current webmaster, in preparation for taking on the role. Each of these opportunities requires a small amount of time, concentrated early in the year for the Committee, but spread throughout the year for the webmaster. Please let us know that you're interested at [pbkaaga@gmail.com](mailto:pbkaaga@gmail.com)

---

---

### **2022 Members of PBKAAGA**

Thanks to everyone who's been paying their annual membership dues. The dues help fund our scholarships and teaching award, as well as the infrastructure to keep everything running. We've posted a list of the 2022 members of our chapter on the Members page of our web site, [www.pbkaaga.org](http://www.pbkaaga.org) You may want to review the list and be sure you're there, and if you know of other PBK graduates in Central Texas who are not on the list, give them a nudge to join us! Thank you!!

---

---

### **Upcoming Events: Please Mark Your Calendars**

Sunday, May 7, 2023, 3-5 PM Spring General Meeting

Join us at the Neill-Cochran House Museum to meet the winners of the 2023 Scholarships and to hear from Austin artist Elizabeth Chiles. Addressing both consciousness and how subject and maker shape and reshape one another, this talk will move through her research of the concepts of embodiment, presence, collaboration, exchange, and being-in-relation to the living world. Descriptions of artworks are interwoven with particular questions around photography and its possibilities. How can a medium with an inherently abstracted relationship to time – a medium that requires a mechanism between the artist and subject – become more embodied and experiential? What if photography could reflect states of interactive being?



---

---

### Stay in Touch

Want to stay connected with Phi Beta Kappa news and updates in the Austin Area? Visit our web site, <https://pbkaaga.wildapricot.org/> and like and follow our Facebook page, Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin, or search **@PBKAAGA** and follow us on Instagram.

---

---

**A Final Word: If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership for this year, and consider a generous extra donation for our scholarship and teacher awards.** Your donation supports the main endeavor of this organization – giving scholarships to worthy applicants and recognizing Teaching Excellence. With your help, we make a difference in the lives of deserving students and teachers.

---

PBKAAGA P.O. Box 5366, Austin, TX 78763-5366    Email:  
pbkaaga@gmail.com  
Facebook    Unsubscribe

Ly