

ΦBK KEY NOTES

The PBKAAGA Newsletter

November 21, 2023



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

Fall General Meeting – Sunday, November 12

At our Fall General Meeting, we were pleased to hear about The Great Story Lab from our President, Courtney Smith. She is part of a team creating the lab, which is dedicated to opening up the world of academia to the general public. We viewed the lab's inaugural short film, telling us about Atlantis. We look forward to learning more!



We also celebrated our 2023 Teaching Excellence Award Winner, Sara Lucas, who teaches AP Psychology and U.S. History at Hendrickson High School in Pflugerville. Her principal, Michael Grebb, also joined us and shared his congratulatory comments to Mrs. Lucas. She then gave us a very interesting talk about her career path, how she approaches learning, and her dedication to teaching. Her mantra is *Know the learner and the learning. Expect excellence from both*. You can read more about her in this set of comments.

From the outstanding applications received this year, we also gave two \$500 Exemplary Finalist awards to Mirand Maddox, who teaches

English at Hutto High School and to Natalie Uehara who is the dance director and theater choreographer at McCallum High School in Austin.

Theater Performance Was Great Fun on September 10, 2023

On September 10th, we attended a performance of *Head Over Heels*, which recently left Broadway. It was a laugh-out-loud tale of a royal family trying to save their kingdom all to the tunes of the 80s band, The Go-Go's. It was an afternoon of laughter, music, and delight!

Mark Your Calendars: Giving Tuesday is November 28, 2023



Like many Phi Beta Kappans, you probably were helped and encouraged by family, friends, and teachers throughout your college years. On Giving Tuesday we ask your help to make academic success a possibility for first-generation college students in Central Texas.

The Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin (PBKAAGA) has long awarded scholarships to college-bound Austin area high school students. In 2020 we began to work with Breakthrough Central Texas to direct our Scholarship monies to first-generation college students. Breakthrough makes a 12-year commitment to students and their families to guide them through the process of preparing for, enrolling in and completing college – from sixth grade through high school, and college and beyond to assure their success.

Over the last four years, with funds from our members and from the Luke Family Foundation, we offered 26 scholarships to seniors selected from the Breakthrough Central Texas program. These one-time award scholarships of \$2,500 made a real difference to these

students in choosing their college, in determining their ability to live on campus, and in making a dream become reality.

Please go to our web site and make your donation now or on Giving Tuesday - [Make a Donation](#)

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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.

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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.

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