

ΦBK KEY NOTES
The PBKAAGA Newsletter
March 30, 2020



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 this newsletter and the organization can be found on the Association website: <http://pbkaaga.wildapricot.org/>

A Message from the President

I want to express my very deep appreciation to all of the members of PBKAAGA. Thank you for renewing your membership and "adding to" those renewals. With your generosity, we've accumulated almost \$3,000 toward the 2020 Scholarship and Teacher Excellence Awards. New Life Members signed up as well, and those dues go directly to our endowment fund so that the gift continues to give!

We give special thanks to Alice White, one of our founding members, who had the vision to establish the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin Scholarship Endowment Fund through Austin Community Foundation in 2000. She endowed the fund with its initial seed money, and as of December 2019, that fund had an ending balance of over \$70,000.

This remarkable individual has accepted a position on our Advisory Committee, and I welcome her in this capacity!

Constance Hicks

Activities in Times of COVID-19

Our PBKAAGA members are at the heart of everything we do, and our concern for your safety is paramount. As we planned this newsletter, we expected to highlight the exciting events we were planning for this spring where we could all meet and mingle. Now, like the rest of our nation, we're still working to make those events available, but perhaps in an altered format.

Meanwhile, our scholarship committee is formulating a teleconference selection process, and we will be working with Breakthrough Central Texas to devise the best means of awarding these scholarships. Our planned Spring General Meeting may need to be a virtual one or be held later, if we're not able to gather as a group at the Neill Cochran House on May 3.

The Book Club being organized by Courtney Smith will be done virtually – and that should enable many of us to participate comfortably from our homes, maybe even in our PJ's!

When the details are finalized, we'll be back to let you know exactly how we will do the Spring General Meeting.

Stay safe and healthy!

New Member of PBKAAGA Committee of Advisors



At its last meeting, the PBKAAGA Board named Alice Virginia White to our Committee of Advisors. Dr. White was instrumental in establishing our alumni chapter and has been a member of the PBKAAGA Board for many years. She joins these other distinguished members of the Committee:

Paul Burns, M.D.
Libby Doggett, Ph.D.
Larry R. Faulkner, Ph.D.
Michael Gagarin, Ph.D.
Thomas J. Garza Ph.D.

The Very Rev. Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, Th.D.
Elizabeth Richmond-Garza Ph.D.
Ambassador Pamela Willeford

Along with several others, Dr. White provided a comment on our web page about the Committee of Advisors:

"I am honored to serve as an advisor for the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin. I admire PBK for celebrating and advocating for excellence in the liberal arts and sciences and for sponsoring activities to advance the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences -- in higher education and in society at large."

See more thoughts from the Advisors at
<https://pbkaaga.wildapricot.org/Advisory-Committee/>

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Upcoming Events

Book Club – April 26, 2020, 3-4:30 p.m.

To help you use this pandemic time in an interesting way, PBKAAGA member Courtney Smith will be hosting a book club. The club will cover *Light of the Stars: Alien Worlds and the Fate of the Earth* by Adam Frank, winner of the 2019 Phi Beta Kappa Award for Science. Courtney will host the book club electronically using Zoom web conferencing from 3-4:30 p.m. on April 26th.

Come ready to discuss with your fellow PBKAAGA members!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/138807414>

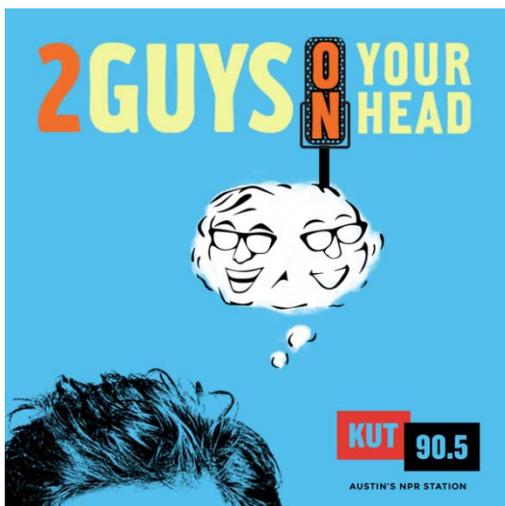
Meeting ID: 138 807 414

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Optimistic, Tentative Plan

“Two Guys on Your Head” at the Spring 2020 PBKAAGA General Meeting

Please join us to celebrate with our 2020 scholarship winners, and to hear a stimulating presentation from KUT’s renowned psychology team, Two Guys on Your Head. Invite your friends and family – whether they are members or not!



Drs. Art Markman and Bob Duke will be interviewed by KUT’s Rebecca McInroy, as they take on an especially relevant topic for us and our scholarship winners.

**Sunday, May 3, 2020
3:00 – 5:00 PM
Neill-Cochran House Museum
2310 San Gabriel Street
Austin, TX 78705**

***If this gets rescheduled, we will let
you know as soon as we can***

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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**

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A Final Word: Please renew your membership for this year and consider a generous extra donation for our scholarship and teacher awards. PBKAAGA - the start of these initials might remind you of PB&J, the basic sandwich that takes us back to a time of simplicity. We each earned our PBK designation, and like PB&J, we probably don't take ourselves all that seriously. But there is one thing we all do take seriously: the value of academic excellence and promoting PBKAAGA. That means supporting the main endeavors of this organization – giving scholarships to worthy applicants and recognizing Teaching Excellence. With your help, we are able to make a difference in the lives of even more students and teachers. Like PB&J – we're asking for a simple donation.

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