

Winter 2011

The Chicago

Key



Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Chicago Area News

Updates on our Scholarship Winners

Merita Bushi, PBKACA's 2010 scholarship recipient, is thriving in her first year at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn.



In a recent letter to PBKACA, Merita said:

The one thing that didn't cross my mind too often over the semester was the financial burden of college. That's because this scholarship allowed me to enjoy and fully immerse myself in what Macalester and St. Paul had to offer without finances holding me back. This scholarship also allowed me a head start on my savings so that by the time I graduate, I can repay my loans with a little more ease. Some friends that I've made at Macalester had to decide whether they would forgo the opportunities Macalester had to offer for a cheaper state school. I cannot express in words how grateful I am that I haven't had to deal with this type of dilemma.

To read Merita's entire letter, visit www.pbkaca.org.

Also, PBKACA's 2009 scholarship recipient, Derrius Quarles, is excelling at Morehouse College. Last summer, Derrius took a month-long trip to Ghana, where he studied Pan-Africanism, sustainable development, and alternative medicine with a group of distinguished Morehouse College professors and students. To read more about his trip and see photos, visit his thought-provoking blog at <http://derriusquarles.blogspot.com>.

PBKACA's scholarship award is based on academic achievements, leadership ability, extracurricular activities, as well as financial need. The number of highly qualified applicants for our scholarship award made the choice extremely difficult (with the committee personally interviewing the four finalists). PBKACA's award of \$5000 towards tuition makes a big difference for Merita, Derrius, and other bright, talented students. PBKACA's goal is to create an endowment with endowed scholarships as well as funds to generate income to use for additional scholarship awards. With Phi Beta Kappa's commitment to educational excellence and the financial needs of so many students in the Chicago Public Schools, the importance of this endeavor is clear.

To learn more about the scholarship program and donate to this worthy cause, visit www.pbkaca.org.

Renew Your PBKACA Membership

Enclosed in this newsletter, you'll find your 2011 membership renewal form. We thought we'd take an opportunity to answer some frequently asked questions about PBKACA membership.

Why join when I don't need another club?

If you are too busy to take part in PBKACA's social activities, we understand. However, by joining PBKACA, you turn your achievement -- induction into Phi Beta Kappa -- into more than a lapel pin or résumé booster. Being a member helps our association maintain a presence within the community for the liberal art and sciences, education, and urban debate. You'll also help support our many programs, our web site and our publication costs. Donating to our separate scholarship fund also helps talented Chicago Public School students obtain an undergraduate education.

But I thought I was already a member, right?

You have a life-long membership in the national Phi Beta Kappa Society. But membership in your local association is not automatic, and we do not receive funding from the national society.

If I didn't graduate in the Chicago area, can I join PBKACA?

Yes! PBKACA exists to bring together all Phi Betes who are living in the Chicagoland area.



Lyric Opera's William Mason was honored at our annual dinner. From left to right: Anne Divita Kopacz, Neil Reimer, William Mason, John Hartigan, and Roselind Lindau. See page 3 for story.

Have you renewed your annual membership in the PBK Chicago Area Association?
Renew now at www.pbkaca.org.

Key Events and Programs

Join fellow Phi Betes and guests at our wide array of programs and events. Visit www.pbkaca.org for the latest event information and for additional event and service opportunities. You can pay for all events at the Association's website (via PayPal) or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 64-2622, Chicago, IL 60664-2622. You can also use the website to join or renew your membership, to contribute online to the Scholarship Initiative, or send us your news for publishing on the website and in the newsletter. Want the latest news about PBKACA events and initiatives delivered to your e-mail? Just e-mail us at info@pbkaca.org.

Book Discussion Group

One Sunday a Month, 1 p.m.



Nix Restaurant at the Knickerbocker Hotel, 163 East Walton Place, Chicago

Upcoming dates and book titles are listed below. Make plans to join us for our discussions! *RSVP to Roslyn Hoffman at rbhoffman@sbcglobal.net*. Also, visit www.pbkaca.org in the coming months for a list of our 2011 selections.

- March 6: *The Last of the Mohicans* by J. F. Cooper
- April 3: *Eating Animals* by Jonathan Foer
- May 1: *Wolf Hall* by Hillary Mantel
- June 5: *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls* by Mary Pipher
- July 10: *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by G. Garcia Marquez
- September 11: *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* by Edmund Morris
- October 2: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
- November 6: *Francis Perkins: The Woman Behind The New Deal* by Kristin Downey
- December 4: *Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen

IDEAS FOR EVENTS?

Do you have suggestions for future PBKACA activities? Would you like to host or sponsor an event? Whether it's cultural, social, or service-oriented, PBKACA welcomes your event ideas. Contact our programming committee member John Ashton at jcashton.il@netzero.net.

Sunday Afternoon with an Author

Sunday, April 3, 4:30-7 p.m.

Home of Nancy Braund-Boruch, 1205 Central St., Townhouse B, Evanston

Come meet and hear local author Dominic Pacyga and then mingle with him afterwards over wine and cheese at the home of Phi Bete Nancy Braund-Boruch.



Dominic is a renowned Chicago historian and a professor at Columbia College in the Department of Humanities, History and the Social Sciences. His books and articles on Chicago range from the local Polish community and other immigrant neighborhoods to the city's stockyards and bungalows. His most recent book is "Chicago: A Biography."

Dominic will speak to us on his latest interest: the Daley family and what made their historic role possible in Chicago and, more generally, in American politics. A question-and-answer session will follow over wine and cheese.

The cost for the event is \$10 per person. Space is limited. So make your reservations as soon as possible. *Send a check to PBK or pay online via PayPal at www.pbkaca.org.*

Nancy's home is one block from Evanston Hospital, one block from the Central St. el stop, and five blocks from the Central St. Metra stop. There is plenty of free parking on Central St. or Bryant Ave. (on the golf course side).

Pay for events through PayPal at www.pbkaca.org or by mailing a check to Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Chicago Area, P.O. Box 64-2622, Chicago, IL 60664-2622.

For additional PBKACA news and events, sign up for our e-mail list. If you are not receiving our e-mails or if you would like to sign up using a different e-mail address, contact Christopher Kopacz at chris.kopacz@yahoo.com.

Meetup Group

Many of us know that there are lots of key holders in Chicago - over 15,000, based on our data from the national PBK Society. Some of us are PBKACA members, others are on our email list, and still others are friends on Facebook and Twitter.

We would like to start a "meet a fellow key holder" service for having dinner, going to an event, talking to someone with similar interests, travelling, networking for jobs, and careers, and even possibly dating. This effort is in the initial planning stage, and we would like to:

Hear your thoughts and ideas, Ask that you consider working on this project, with a small committee, and Make this happen in 2011!

The Chicago Association of Phi Beta Kappa is considered one of the most active and innovative in the country. This meetup group is just another way we can create opportunities for key holders to connect. *If you are interested or have any ideas, please contact Programming Chair John Ashton at jcashton.il@netzero.net.*

Bridge Lessons: Learn the Game the Easy Way

Beginning in the spring

Location TBD

Last year's bridge lessons were a hit! So we're planning another set of lessons beginning in March. You don't need to have any experience or knowledge; just bring your enthusiasm and imagination! The time and location will be announced soon. If you're interested, RSVP as soon as possible. *RSVP to John Ashton at jcashton.il@netzero.net.*

PBKACA Member Profile: Ron Gorny

While Ron Gorny, the University of Chicago PBK liaison on our Executive Board, has an innocuous enough job title of Research Associate at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, his "research" includes being the Project Director of The Alishar Regional Project, directing an archeological excavation team which has, for nearly every year since 1993, spent 6 to 12 weeks of excavation at Cadir Höyük in central Turkey. Ron won a Fulbright Fellowship in 1984 to pursue his dissertation research, and that opportunity then led to a concession from the Turkish government for the excavations at Cadir Höyük.



Ron has always had a love of antiquity, reading Homer and other Greek heroes since the age of ten and studying Greek and Hebrew in college at Southwest Missouri State University where he received a B.A. in antiquities (with a double major in film and cinema).

Besides his love of antiquity Ron has always shown a strong passion for his church and issues of social justice. In fact, he dropped out of college after his sophomore year and served as a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War. During that time, he worked as a supervisor in Chicago with Teen Challenge, an inner city program for

young people involved with gangs and drugs. Ron also helped pioneer a church in Lansing, Illinois, where he met and married his wife, Julie.

In his spare time, he works with street gangs through the Willow Creek Community Church and nurtures the development of Crossfire, an organization that uses a holistic approach to help inner city youth get out of gangs, encourage education, point them towards job training opportunities, help them locate housing, and encourage both social and spiritual growth. The goal is to give hope to a marginalized segment of society with little or no hope and to help these individuals discover ways

of becoming more productive citizens living better and more fulfilling lives.

Ron joined our Phi Beta Kappa Board because he felt that it would help him model what it takes to make a difference, to have an impact on those around you, both in college and in the world after graduation. While his key demonstrates his academic achievements, his concern for all young people, whether college students or inner-city gang members provides a thought-provoking example of social and spiritual engagement from a multidimensional PBK key holder.

Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Chicago Area Executive Board

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This newsletter is distributed free to members of PBKACA.

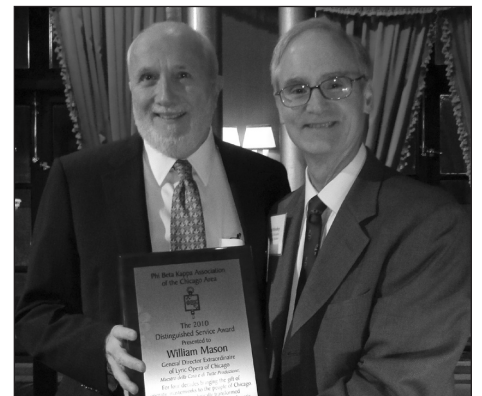
“...to inspire
enthusiasm
for pursuits
of the mind...”

Lyric's William Mason Honored

PBKACA honored William Mason, General Director of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, with its Distinguished Service Award at our Annual Dinner and Scholarship Benefit on Friday, November 19. For four decades, Mr. Mason served in a variety of roles at the Lyric and helped transform the Lyric into one of the world's finest opera theaters.

After receiving the award, Mr. Mason thrilled the audience with a discussion of the history of opera in Chicago as well as the growth of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and its financial strength, unique among non-profit organizations following the recent economic downturn. Mr. Mason also described his own journey from being a performer on the opera stage as a young boy to working behind the scenes. During a lively question and answer period, Mr. Mason shared his thoughts on many topics, including the future of opera in a digital age and the challenges in attracting new and young audiences to opera.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Casino, an elegant, private club in the shadow of the John Hancock Center. To see photos from the event, visit www.pbkaca.org.



Honoree William Mason accepts the Distinguished Service Award from PBKACA Executive Board member David Hirschey.

Notes From Our President Judi Strauss-Lipkin

Donate to our scholarship funds

PBKACA's Scholarship Program is a key service initiative of our Association. When you consider your year-end charitable donations, we would be delighted if you would remember PBKACA and the students who benefit from our scholarships. Each year, we get applications from so many well-qualified and financially deserving students, it is difficult to choose just one! You can donate at www.pbkaca.org. If you are interested in donating stock or making a planned giving commitment, please call me at (312) 409-1937.

Renew your 2011 membership

Membership dues support your Association, including the printing of this newsletter! Please see our enclosed dues renewal letter and membership renewal form. All dues and donations are tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)(3) organization. And if you renew now, we do not have to spend postage to send out reminders!

A final note

This is your Association, too! Help make it the best of the 56 PBK associations across the country. We want your membership, your ideas, your friendship, and your creativity. Many of us have made lifelong friends through events at PBKACA, and we love helping other students gain a quality education. While we are one of the most active associations, we could be even better. So e-mail, call, or write to us, and learn how you can get involved.

Member News

In this Issue: Scholarship Winners, Upcoming Events and Member Profile

Anne Divita Kopacz, a former PBKACA Executive Committee member, recently joined Erikson Institute as director of communications. Located in Chicago's River North neighborhood, Erikson grants graduate degrees in childhood development and works to improve the lives of families and children through its community programs. Divita Kopacz also recently completed her master in public service management at DePaul University.

Jules Gleicher, PBKACA's Rockford College liaison and Chairman of the Political Science Department at the College, recently published a book entitled, "Political Themes in the Hebrew Scriptures." In the book, Gleicher explores selected passages from the Hebrew Scriptures that illuminate the sacred text's teachings and implications about politics, law, justice, and rulership. One scholar lauded the book's "truly remarkable reflections on texts that others have read with less insight and less knowledge."

David Hirschey, PBKACA Executive Committee member, retired after a 30-year career as an attorney with The Northern Trust Company. David hopes to do some traveling and spend some more time with his wife, Sue.

Jon Miller, a former PBKACA Executive Committee member, became the director of the International Center for the Advancement of Scientific Literacy at the University of Michigan.

Phi Beta Kappa Association of the
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Find us on Facebook under Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Chicagoland Area (PBKACA). Connect with other PBKACA members, find out about upcoming social events, post ideas for future events and learn more about the association.