

Summer 2007

The Chicago

Key



Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Chicago Area News

PBKACA Awards 2007 Scholarships

PBKACA is proud to announce that Dominique Barron of Walter Payton College Prep High School is the 2007 recipient of the \$5,000 PBKACA College Scholarship. This fall, Dominique will attend Georgetown University with a major in international relations. Dominique hopes to become a lawyer and work with international clients. In that way, she can combine her interests in the law and business administration to help corporations improve their international business marketing.

An honors student, Dominique scored in the top 5 percent of students across the nation who took the ACT. Aside from her academic achievements, her principal and teachers have described her as an extremely well rounded, committed and motivated scholar — “a remarkable young lady.” At Payton, she is the president of Payton for Hope, a group that she helped to found that fundraises for the American Cancer Society. As a member of student government, she helped organize a book drive to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Dominique hopes to continue her work in the community and says that she would like to help build a community center for underprivileged children. The center,

Dominique explains, would “foster activities geared towards helping such students excel in sports, the visual and performing arts and academics.”

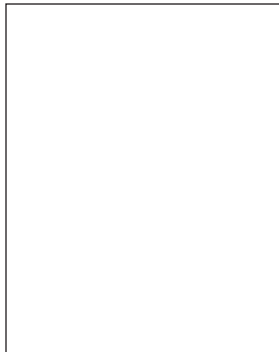
In her spare time, Dominique has been taking flute lessons for seven years. She

has participated in the Sherwood Conservatory Summer Flute Institute and auditioned for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Protégé Philharmonic.

The PBKACA College Scholarship — now in its second year — is awarded based on academic achievements, leadership

abilities, extracurricular activities and financial need. Our 2006 recipient, Ramon Lee was given a second year of funding after completing his freshman year at Johns Hopkins with exceptional academic achievements. Ramon will be registering as a neuroscience major to pursue his goal of becoming a physician and a member of Doctors without Borders.

PBKACA also awarded \$500 each to PBK initiates at several Chicago-area chapters. Congratulations to the following students: David Maiec, Lake Forest College; Michael Yip, University of Illinois at Chicago; and Nicolas Marinides, University of Chicago.



Dominique Barron

Save the Date ~ Annual Scholarship Benefit

Arne Duncan, Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools since 2001 and a graduate of Harvard University, will be honored with our Distinguished Service Award at our Annual Scholarship Benefit on Friday, November 16, 2007. For more information, visit www.pbkaca.org.

College Scholarship Initiative ~ and Fundraising

Since PBKACA's college scholarship program began in 2005 as a modest endeavor to award one annual scholarship, the program has grown by leaps and bounds. Last year, we began raising funds to build an endowment, and we now have over \$25,000. through the Scholarship Benefit's silent auction as well as contributions from individuals, law firms, trusts and foundations.

Our PBKACA Executive Board voted to expand our fundraising in several ways:

- To build an initial endowment of \$500,000, which could generate over \$20,000 in income per year
- To award one new scholarship from income each year, ultimately supporting four Chicago Public School students for four years of college
- To obtain contributions through planned giving

We thank each of the members who contributed last year and encourage all members to consider making a donation this year in support of the scholarship initiative. One hundred percent of contributions are used to fund the scholarships. To donate, you can:

- Send a check made payable to the PBKACA Scholarship Fund directly to our P.O. Box 64-2622, Chicago, IL 60664-2622.
- Make a donation through www.pbkaca.org.
- Make a donation directly from your IRA trustee to PBKACA.
- Contact Judi Strauss Lipkin (judistrauss2002@yahoo.com) to discuss your ideas, ask questions, and perhaps schedule a meeting.

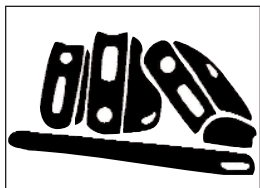
Phi Beta Kappa Chicago is a 501(c) (3) organization. Donations are tax deductible and every donation will receive an acknowledgement for your 2007 tax records.

Key Events and Programs

Get a group together and join us this summer at one of these events. Visit www.pbkaca.org for more information on the events listed below (and to sign up via Pay Pal) and for additional event and service opportunities. You can also send in your check to our P.O. Box.

Book Discussion Group

Sunday, June 3 at 1:30 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! Contact Miriam Pollyea at (312) 337-4844 or MPollyea@aol.com.

June 3 — *Polio: An American Story* by David M. Oshinsky

July 15 — *Waiting* by Ha Jin

Sept. 9 — *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* by Jared M. Diamond

Oct. 7 — *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

Chicago Botanic Garden: Carillon Concert

Monday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m.

1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe

Bring your families and friends to a garden picnic and majestic carillon concert at one of the few hand-played carillons in the nation. Bring your own blankets and food or buy snacks and wine at the Garden Café. Look for the red balloons marking our location by McGinley Pavilion. While admission is free, pay \$15 per car for parking when you enter the garden. A Phi Bete is also available to pick up a carload of guests at the Braeside Metra station in Highland Park. RSVP to Anne Divita Kopacz at anne.divita@gmail.com by June 15.

Young Professionals: Game Night

Thursday, June 28 at 6 p.m.

Judi Strauss Lipkin's condo, 30 E. Huron, Suite 1101, Chicago

Join other young professionals and their guests for some friendly competition at a board game night! We'll have games on hand, but feel free to also bring your favorites. Pay \$10 for a light dinner. RSVP to Rity Upadhyaya at rity.upadhyaya@gmail.com by June 25.

Theater on the Lake: Gaudy Night

Saturday, June 30 at 6 p.m.

Fullerton and Lake Shore Drive

Enjoy Lifeline Theatre's award winning production of this Lord Peter Wimsey story: "Harriet's peaceful Oxford retreat becomes a nightmare, as a vandal with a grudge threatens the college, its residents and finally Harriet's life." We will meet for a picnic prior to the play at this wonderful venue on the lake. Cost: \$20 for the play- bring a dish for the picnic. RSVP to Judi Strauss-Lipkin at judistrauss2002@yahoo.com or 312.988-9996 by June 20.

Grant Park Music Festival: Bernstein's Broadway

Friday, July 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park

Join other Phi Betes and their guests on the pavilion lawn to watch a cast of Broadway luminaries celebrate the music of legendary American composer Leonard Bernstein. Look for the red balloons marking our location. Bring your own blankets and food. RSVP to Katrice Grayson at katrice.grayson@gmail.com by July 19.

Greater Chicago Food Depository

Saturday, July 28 from 9 a.m. to noon

4100 W. Ann Lurie Place, Chicago

Join PBK on our third visit to the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Phi Betes and guests will volunteer at the warehouse to prepare food for distribution to some of the 600 agencies in the Greater Chicago area. Contact Katrice Grayson at katrice.grayson@gmail.com by July 28 to attend.

Young Professionals: An Evening with Gypsy Kings at Ravinia

Saturday, August 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Ravinia, Highland Park

Join us on the Ravinia lawn and get your feet tapping to the music of the Gypsy Kings. Look for the red balloons marking our location. Bring your own blankets and food. Buy \$15 lawn tickets at www.ravinia.org, then contact Rity Upadhyaya at rity.upadhyaya@gmail.com by August 15 to ensure that we save you a space on the lawn. Tickets sell fast, so buy yours today!

Tribune Freedom Museum

Sunday, September 16 at 2 p.m.

445 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago

The McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum is the nation's first museum dedicated to helping people understand freedom, with a focus on those guaranteed by the First Amendment. Join other Phi Betes and guests for a tour of the museum, followed by dinner at Houlihan's, 111 E. Wacker Dr. Cost is \$10. RSVP to Anne Divita Kopacz at anne.divita@gmail.com by Sept. 12.

Pay for events by the RSVP date online 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.

Do you have a great idea for a PBKACA event? Contact Anne Divita Kopacz at anne.divita@gmail.com or call us at (312) 409-1937.

Click and Connect With PBKACA

Check PBKACA's website (www.pbkaca.org) to learn about and sign up for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. The website has more information about our scholarship recipients — Dominique Barron and Ramon Lee — as well as the complete, unedited, profile of Miriam Pollyea! You may also go online to join PBKACA, renew your membership or contribute to the College Scholarship Initiative.



The Communications Committee also provides broadcast emails at least once a month to remind members about upcoming events. If you would like to help out with our electronic communications, email PBKACA's webmaster, Katrice Grayson at katrice.grayson@gmail.com.

PBKACA Member Profile: Miriam Pollyea

The life and career of Executive Board member Miriam Pollyea (PBK Northwestern University) exemplify our PBKACA ideals: enthusiasm for pursuits of the mind. Many PBKACA members know Miriam as the long-time chair of the Book



Discussion Group, guiding our choices of books to read and leading the monthly discussions with her deep insight and her joy of reading. In addition, Miriam has been the guiding force behind many of PBKACA's service projects, including the Chicago Debate Commission. Currently, Miriam serves on the commission's advisory board, chaired until his passing by PBKACA member Justice Seymour Simon.

Miriam was born and raised in the Lawndale area, along with her brother and two sisters. Her parents were both immigrants, and they created a home with an international flair and a cultural, educational and socially conscious focus for the family of two sisters and a brother. Through her father, a fine jewelry designer and diamond broker, she met traders from France, Belgium and Africa. Through her mother and other relatives, she developed a love for music, seeing the opera "Carmen" at age 6. She later learned the piano and music composition at the Sherwood School of Music. In fact, she still owns her mother's the Mason & Hamlin grand piano!

At Marshall High School, Miriam was one highly competitive student, serving as the class pianist and a class officer. She won a full scholarship to Northwestern University, and although she planned to major in music, she loved every course she took, from botany to economics to statistics. Her advisor recommended that she transfer to the liberal arts school, and Miriam switched her major to economics. She was initiated into PBK during her junior year. Ironically, she nearly declined membership in PBK because she did not know what the group was and she could not afford the initiation fee. Ultimately, an organization for which she volunteered paid for her membership.

Upon graduation, Miriam began searching for a job as an economist, and took the Civil Service Exam, receiving the top score. She became an assistant supervisor at the Department of Labor in Chicago in the Minimum Wage, Women's and

Children's Division. Miriam married an attorney and a former violinist, and they had two sons and a daughter. Miriam stepped down from her job to raise her children, but she continued participating in a number of volunteer activities, including teaching piano at her children's elementary school. She made such an impression at the school that the principal asked her to become a full-time kindergarten teacher. Miriam agreed, and she earned a master's degree and a certificate in early childhood education.

For over twenty years, Miriam challenged her students and created award-winning educational materials. When mandatory retirement loomed at age 65, she went to Springfield and fought to change the law. Ultimately, the federal retirement age was raised to 70, and Miriam stayed on at the school.

After her husband's passing in 1979, she moved to her current home on the Gold Coast and began a new career in real estate. For 23 years, she has been an outstanding residential broker for the Habitat Company Brokerage Firm.

Throughout her many career changes, her commitment to the liberal arts has been constant. Miriam says she is thrilled about PBKACA's new scholarship program and wants to help students become inspired about education and motivated to stay in college. She feels every person should have a college degree and must understand liberal arts in order to function in a democracy. Through her many activities, she has truly become a role model for our PBKACA members, scholarship recipients and the community at large.

Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Chicago Area Executive Board

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Jack Kerkering (Loyola University)
Phyllis Lyons (Northwestern University)
Michael Silverstein (University of Chicago)
Robert Swanson (Valparaiso University)
Samantha Woo (University of Illinois Chicago)

This newsletter is distributed free to members of PBKACA.

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



Board member Dick Wilbur congratulates David Malec, recipient of the PBKACA Chapter Scholarship at Lake Forest College. David will be attending graduate school next year at either the University of Chicago or University of Wisconsin.

Member News

Ted Utchen of Wheaton conducts his “Dictionary Project” every April for third graders. He gives out dictionaries to each third grader in his school district. He also gives a 30-minute question-and-answer presentation on how to use the dictionary. He began this effort in 2003 and is part of a national network of people who work through a non-profit organization based in Charleston, S.C. Last year over 1.9 million dictionaries were donated to school children.

Katrice Grayson had her first literary essay published in the 40th anniversary edition of FOCUS, the literary magazine of Spelman College. “Becoming” highlights love’s power to transcend time and space. Katrice received her key from Spelman, Epsilon of Georgia, in 2003 and is delighted to be included in this retrospective anthology that includes selections by National Institute of Arts Award winner (and fellow Phi Beta) Paule Marshall.

Tad Waddington’s new book *Lasting Contribution: How to Think, Plan and Act to Accomplish Meaningful Work* will be in the bookstore September 2007. This profound little book with insights from Aristotle to Zen will discuss how you can make a difference in the world. Published by Agate, it can be ordered through Amazon. Tad is a Lifetime PBKACA member and a co chair of our Far East Interest group.

What’s new? Let us know about your accomplishments, promotions and other news. E-mail Katrice Grayson (katrice.grayson@gmail.com), mail us a note or call us at (312) 409-1937.

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PBKACA needs you!

PBKACA is always looking for people to get involved in our many social, intellectual and service events. Please consider:

- Getting involved with an event, activity or committee. Many members have met career mentors and lifelong friends through PBKACA. Our members are all ages, from new graduates to empty nesters and retirees seeking to share their expertise and love of learning.
- Helping us recruit more members for PBKACA. Members can offer their home or condo to host a PBKACA gathering, such as the Wine & Cheese membership events that will start up this fall.
- Increasing awareness of what PBK means. PBKACA strives to promote educational excellence and a love of learning, particularly at this time when many students have become less interested in the value of a broad-based liberal arts education.

With many activities and committees, there are many ways to help further PBKACA’s mission. To get involved, contact Program Chair Anne Divita Kopacz (anne.divita@gmail.com) or President Judi Strauss Lipkin ((312) 988-9996). You can even attend a Board meeting as a guest. The meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at The Northern Trust from 6 to 8 p.m.

Phi Beta Kappa Association of the
Chicago Area – Records
P.O. Box 64-2622
Chicago, Illinois 60664-2622

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