

Summer 2008

The Chicago

Key



Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Chicago Area News

PBKACA Awards 2008 Scholarship

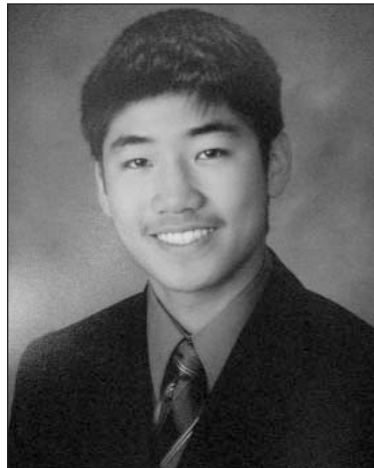
Based on the enthusiastic recommendation of the PBKACA Scholarship Committee, the Executive Board has chosen Kenneth H. Oshita as the recipient of our 2008-09 award of \$5,000. Kenneth, 18, has completed the International Baccalaureate Program at Lincoln Park High School and will be attending the University of Chicago in the fall.

Interested in every subject from physics to philosophy, Kenneth has a nearly straight-A transcript at Lincoln Park, where he also played saxophone in the school band and was on the junior varsity tennis team. He volunteers at the

National Runaway Switchboard as a peer counselor, and he has served as a counselor-aide at an annual summer camp for children with muscular dystrophy. Among his awards is a prize from the Veterans of Foreign Wars for an interpretative essay on the theme of democracy.

In the next phase of his education, Kenneth plans to major in physics, though he seeks studies that are "expansive and well balanced." He hopes "to meet new people and to be exposed to different points of view, to discover and try new things and to harbor [his] independence and sense of self." The committee members were impressed as much by his reflective maturity as by his budding

philosophical depth. "I suppose," Kenneth writes, "that the same basic quality of imagination that it takes to conceive of wizards and dragons is the same as that which is necessary for understanding Einstein's theory of relativity or even Newtonian mechanics. Physics reveals to us how imagination is ironically the key factor in understanding reality."



Kenneth H. Oshita

The PBKACA Scholarship Committee, chaired by Emelda Estell and Michael Silverstein, worked closely with Danielle Cox-Jones, Scholarship Program Manager of the Office of High School Programs and the Chicago Public Schools in distributing and collecting information and applications to each Chicago public high school. Award recipients are selected based on academic achievements, leadership ability/ extracurricular activities as well as financial need.

Save the Date - Annual Scholarship Benefit

Dr. James Cuno, President and Eloise W. Martin Director of the Art Institute of Chicago, will be honored with PBKACA's Distinguished Service Award at our Annual Dinner and Scholarship Benefit on Friday, November 14, 2008. For more information, visit www.pbkaca.org.

Donate to the Scholarship Program

Thanks to many generous donors, PBKACA's College Scholarship Program is entering its third year. The program began in 2005 as a modest endeavor to award one \$5,000 scholarship to an outstanding and financially deserving student from the Chicago Public School system. For 2008 and beyond, the scholarship program has committed to several bigger and more exciting goals:

- Build an initial endowment of \$1 million over several years, which could generate more than \$20,000 in income per year?
- Award one new scholarship annually, ultimately supporting four students throughout college.
- Seek endowed scholarships, named for their benefactor.
- Seek planned giving from members and key holders through wills or trusts.

Many PBKACA members donated in 2006 and again in 2007, and we thank each of you. We encourage all members to consider making a donation this year to support this initiative. All of the funds donated go directly to scholarships. To donate:

- Send a check made payable to the PBKACA Scholarship Fund to P.O. Box 64-2622, Chicago, IL 60664-2622.
- Make a donation via credit card at www.pbkaca.org.

If you have questions or would like to help raise funds for the scholarship program, please contact one of the members of our Fundraising Committee: Judi Strauss-Lipkin at jstrausslipkin@gmail.com, Eric Fogel at efogel@schuylerroche.com or David Hirschey at DBH1@ntrs.com.

Phi Beta Kappa Chicago is a 501(c) (3) organization. All donations are tax deductible and every donation will receive an acknowledgement for your 2008 tax records.

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 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 to 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 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.

July 13 – *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by *Khalid Hosseini*

August 3 – *Einstein, His Life and Universe* by *Walter Isaacson*

September 7 – *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by *Doris Kearns Goodwin*.

Theater Group: "Cadillac"

Saturday, July 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Theater on the Lake, Fullerton Avenue at Cannon Drive, Chicago

In Bill Jepsen's "Cadillac," presented by the Chicago Dramatists, debates of ethics and morality erupt in the most unlikely of places: a used car lot. Car salesman Howard Austin treats every customer at Lindy Motors like he's special. Valuing loyalty and service, Austin has built his career on principles, in an industry mired with sharks and hucksters. But as the hours tick away on the last selling day of the month, those principles are challenged and he must choose between his own career and a customer's life-long dream. Before the play, there will be a community picnic. The cost is \$22. RSVP to *Judi Strauss-Lipkin* at (312) 409-1937 or jstrausslipkin@gmail.com.

Pavarotti Tribute Concert

Saturday, July 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Jay Pritzker Pavilion, 55 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago

Vittorio Grigolo, the Italian singing sensation and an heir to Luciano Pavarotti's throne as the king of tenors, presents a program of familiar opera arias, Neapolitan songs and pop opera hits from his debut album. As part of the Grant Park Music Festival, this concert will also feature the Grant Park orchestra. RSVP to *Anne Divita Kopacz* at (312) 409-1937 or anne.divita@gmail.com.

Auditorium Theatre Decoded

Saturday, Aug. 23 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Auditorium Theatre, 50 East Congress Parkway, Chicago

Peer beneath Louis Sullivan's beautiful ornamentation to discover the engineering and acoustical innovations that made this landmark theater the "Eighth Wonder of the World." Join the theater's historian, Bart Swindall, for this exclusive tour and discover how the theatre has influenced design for a half-century. The cost is \$16. RSVP to *Judi Strauss-Lipkin* at (312) 409-1937 or jstrausslipkin@gmail.com.



Coming this Fall: Annual Meeting and More

PBKACA will be holding its Annual Meeting and Membership Open House on Saturday, September 27 at 10 a.m. at the Cliff Dwellers, 220 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Visit www.pbkaca.org for up-to-date information on this fabulous event as well as other events this fall, including the Annual Dinner and Scholarship Benefit, and a trip to the Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University.

James Cuno to Receive PBKACA Award

Dr. James Cuno, President and Eloise W. Martin Director of the Art Institute of Chicago, will be honored with PBKACA's Distinguished Service Award at our Annual Dinner and Scholarship Benefit on Friday, November 14. Cuno is the former director of the Courtauld Institute of Art and the Harvard University Art Museums. He has written widely on museums and cultural policy. His books include "Whose Muse?: Art Museums and the Public's Trust" and the newly published "Who Owns Antiquity?: Museums and the Battle over our Ancient Heritage."

Visit www.pbkaca.org to learn details on this event as it becomes available.

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.

*Do you have a great idea for a PBKACA event? Contact *Anne Divita Kopacz*, programming chair, at anne.divita@gmail.com.*

PBKACA Member Profile: Eric Fogel

From a street-savvy kid born and raised in Queens, New York, to a student on a full scholarship to Pomona College in California, to a member of the "perfect" profession for him (the law), PBKACA treasurer Eric Fogel has come a long way.

Eric grew up as the middle child in a family that focused on business and emphasized academic achievement. Not surprisingly, he graduated from high school with excellent grades, but he also found time to play punch ball, stick ball and handball. At Pomona, Eric says he studied way too hard, but it paid off as he earned degrees in English and philosophy, graduated summa cum laude, and obtained his PBK key from the Gamma Chapter. Eric says he loved Pomona's "great books" style of education, which offered small classes and close relationships with the professors. While in college, he developed a love for Shakespeare, whose displays of multiple sides of human conflict gave him good training for a future career in the law.

But Eric did not go directly to law school. After winning a philosophy prize, he was encouraged to pursue an academic career and attended the University of Michigan to study philosophy. After he received his master's degree, reality set in as he recognized the dearth of non-academic

jobs for philosophy majors. After a short stint as a stockbroker, he enrolled in a J.D./M.B.A. program at the University of Michigan. The program allowed him to combine his interest in human conflict, his education in ethics and logic and his business background into a career in corporate and securities law.



Eric has practiced law for over twenty years, and he is now a shareholder at Schuyler Roche, P.C., where he is known for his expertise in various areas of corporate law. In 1995, Eric's academic tendencies caught up to him, and he became an adjunct professor for the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California,

where he teaches a course on international business transactions.

Eric and his wife, Debi, spend their free time in the city of Chicago, enjoying theater, fine dining and classical music. After their son, Alexander, went off to college three years ago, Eric "found" PBKACA. His passion for education, his love of scholarship and his interest in debating made him a perfect fit for the Association, and he became a Board member within a year. Like many members he feels an immediate affinity with every PBK key holder and hopes that each of us "finds" one another to build a dynamic association in Chicago.

Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Chicago Area Executive Board

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Josephine Volpe (University of Illinois Chicago)

This newsletter is distributed free to members of PBKACA.

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

PBKACA needs you — and your key holder friends, too!

Here are some ways to make the most of your PBKACA membership:

- Get involved through events, activities or committees. Many members have made lasting friendships and found career mentors. Our members are all ages — from recent graduates to empty nesters and retirees seeking to share their expertise and love of learning.
- Help us recruit more members for the Association. Support our educational efforts and the value of liberal arts education by helping recruit other members. We will be hosting Wine & Cheese membership events early this fall. Call us to learn how you can host an event in your home in the city or suburbs.
- Build awareness of what PBK means: educational excellence and love of learning. This is truly important at a time when many students are less interested in the value of a broad-based liberal arts education.
- Meet the members of the Executive Board. Be a guest at an Executive Board meeting. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, from 6 to 8 p.m.

To become more involved in PBKACA, contact Judi Strauss-Lipkin, president at (312) 409-1937 or Anne Divita Kopacz, program chair, at anne.divita@gmail.com.

PBKACA Tours New Spertus Museum

More than 50 Phi Betes and their guests enjoyed a private tour of the new Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies on June 1. The attendees viewed the highly acclaimed and provocative new exhibition, "Imaginary Coordinates." The exhibition features antique and contemporary maps of the Holy Land as well as a number of everyday objects, such as refrigerator magnets and articles of clothing, which represent various aspects of Palestinian and Israeli culture.

The group also toured the institute's ingenious storage and display area, called the depot, which features approximately 1,500 objects of Judaica from the museum's outstanding 15,000-piece



collection. Many Phi Betes marveled at the building's striking architecture, which has been described by Blair Kamin, the Chicago Tribune's architecture critic, as "a shimmering piece of quartz exquisitely inserted into a great stone wall, its faceted, folded façade of glass glinting in the morning sun."

After the tour, attendees mingled at a reception catered by Spertus Café, the only Jewish Kosher eatery in the downtown area. Many thanks go to Ethel and Bill Gofen for their generous underwriting of this spectacular event.

The Spertus Institute event was part of a series of PBKACA membership outreach events underwritten by Association members. PBKACA thanks Herb and Roberta Nechin, Pat and Bill Tueting, and Pat and Phil Rowland for hosting membership open houses earlier this year. If you are interested in hosting or sponsoring a membership outreach event, please contact Judi Strauss-Lipkin at (312) 409-1937 or jstrausslipkin@gmail.com.

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Member News

Michael Silverstein, the Charles F. Grey Distinguished Service Professor in Anthropology and Linguistics at the University of Chicago, was quoted in a Monday, January 28 *Chicago Sun-Times* story that described how the word "perfect" is becoming a replacement for "awesome" and the common "thank you" in the public lexicon. The author of "Talking Politics" (2003), Silverstein is currently studying political communication in the 2008 presidential election. He also is one of three University of Chicago faculty members newly elected to the American Philosophical Society. Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743, the Philadelphia-based APS is the nation's oldest learned society.

Christina Noelle, a new PBKACA member, is the author of a new coffee table book, "Urban Loft: How Chicago Re-defined the Architecture." Noelle is the president of MCZ Urban, a real estate firm, and is the inspiration behind some of the nation's most progressive, energetic, trend-setting and successful urban neighborhoods.

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

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