

# KEY NOTES



Vol LIII | FALL 2019

PHI BETA KAPPA ALUMNI IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALPHA ASSOCIATION  
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ALPHA ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ITS

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

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A warm welcome from our Alpha Association president, Joan Chu Reese.

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Young Phi Betes networked at one of LA's hottest breweries.

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### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Find out how you can become more involved with our organization.

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### PROGRAM PLANNING UNDERWAY

*We're currently in the process of planning programs for the upcoming year. Details are being arranged for a program featuring a long-time NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory chief engineer, who worked extensively on Apollo 11 and who will share his memories of the momentous launch in Houston and historic walk on the moon. A museum tour and other programs are also being planned.*



Phi Betes toured the U.S.S. Iowa, "World's Greatest Naval Ship"

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Phi Betes,

It has been an eventful year for Phi Beta Kappa Alumni in Southern California (Alpha Association)! We started with an engaging discussion between **Vanda Krefft**, author of *The Man Who Made the Movies: The Meteoric Rise and Tragic Fall of William Fox*, and Marc Wanamaker, renown film historian and educator. Krefft's book tells the story of the founder of Fox Theater and Fox Films (later to emerge as Twentieth Century Fox) from his start as a poor son of a Hungarian-Jewish immigrant to one of the most influential masters of the film industry during its heyday. An appreciative audience took in many amusing anecdotes and fascinating stories of early Hollywood, as well as a chance to view rare film footage of the time.

In keeping with our goal of providing a diversity of programming for our members, our next event was a tour of the **U.S.S. Iowa**, the "World's Greatest Naval Ship" due to her big guns, heavy armor, fast speed, longevity and modernization. A sold-out crowd enjoyed docent-led tours that allowed members to experience what it would be like to be part of the lead ship of the last class of US Naval battleships, including a special tour of President Roosevelt's on-board cabin, used to transport the President to a secret meeting with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin at the Tehran Conference in 1943. Members enjoyed a gorgeous day in San Pedro with beautiful views of the port as well as a ship-board lunch after the tour.



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*Promoting scholarship is a core goal for  
Phi Beta Kappa*  
”

Then this spring, members gathered to hear from **Dr. Larry Vescera and Susan Vescera**, who shared their fascinating work for the Paleontology Society of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Their findings have done nothing short of rewriting the history books, with their discovery of evidence of human processing of a 130,000-year old Cerutti Mastodon site in San Diego (over 100,000 years earlier than the next oldest evidence of human activity on earth), and the identification of a Terror Bird (Phorusrhacidae) fossil. Phi Betes and their guests were treated to a first-hand view of their groundbreaking (no pun intended) work.

This does not begin to cover the valuable networking events sponsored by the Young Professionals group within PBK. Please read the rest of your newsletter to find out more about this energetic group that has already held numerous meetups and networking opportunities for Phi Betes who have recently graduated and are launching their careers. If you are a recent grad, please join us and help select our next event in our great city!

As we know, promoting scholarship is a core goal for Phi Beta Kappa. Last year our Association awarded \$33,000 in college and graduate study scholarships to 18 amazing students. Please consider a donation along with your dues this year; without your support we would not be able to help these deserving students.

The Association continues to evolve and we hope you are on board with us on our journey of continued learning, fun, and camaraderie. As your President for the 2019-2020 coming year, I would like to hear your suggestions for new activities, to engage members who want to help organize events, and to welcome as many new members as possible to the very first Phi Beta Kappa association chartered in California. A huge thank-you to our hard-working Councilors, and the vastly talented membership base that makes the Association's work possible. Onwards!

**Joan Chu Reese**

President

Phi Beta Kappa Alumni in Southern California 2019-2020



# Alpha Association Officers

## Councilors 2019-2020

Jael Ballard  
Carolann Bennett  
Joseph A. Cislowski  
Darleen DeMason, Ph.D.  
Melisa C. Galván, Ph.D.  
Bette Napoli Harris  
James J. Herr  
Melinda Lee Holm  
Betty Khin, J.D.  
Stefan Kirchanski, J.D., Ph.D.  
Helen K. Lee  
Benjamin Purper  
James Ragan, Ph.D.  
Joan Chu Reese  
Robin Romans, Ph.D.  
Carol Rush  
Robert W. Templeton, C.F.A., C.I.C.  
Jeffrey Treut, J.D.

## Key Notes

Published annually by Phi Beta Kappa  
Alumni in Southern California  
Alpha Association

Editors:  
Bette Napoli Harris  
Melisa C. Galván  
Benjamin Purper



Joan Chu Reese  
President  
(Harvard College, 1985)



Melisa C. Galván, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President  
(UC Berkeley, 2005)



Helen K. Lee  
Senior Vice President  
(UC Irvine, 2004)



Carolann Bennett  
Secretary  
(Columbia University)



Robert Templeton, CFA, CIC  
Treasurer  
(Carleton College)



Stefan Kirchanski, J.D., Ph.D.  
Immediate Past President  
(UC Berkeley)

Go Paperless!

Be sure to register on our website [www.pbksocalalumni.com](http://www.pbksocalalumni.com)  
for the ease of paying dues, receiving notices promptly, and  
registering for events online.



# TRIENNIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Every three years, Phi Beta Kappa delegates representing Chapters and Alumni Associations across the country gather together to manage the business of the PBK Society. In August of 2018, the Triennial Council convened in Boston, Massachusetts to vote for new Officers and Senators, as well as new Chapters. Lynn Pascarella was elected President and Peter Quimby, Vice President. Ten Senators were elected for six-year terms. Senators serve as members of the board of directors, who guide the Society on matters of policy and planning.

Four universities were granted PBK Chapters: Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles, CA), Chapman University (Orange, CA), Mississippi State University (Starkville, MS) and the University of South Florida (Tampa, FL).

In addition to the business of the Council, delegates had the opportunity to attend workshops and hear several distinguished speakers including Lonnie Bunch III, Founding Director of the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture.

Bette Napoli Harris and Carolann Bennett represented the Southern California Association as delegates.

## Annual Meeting

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A brief Annual Meeting was held on May 18, 2019 at Maggiano's Restaurant, prior to the Spring Program. Councilors have three-year staggered terms. The membership voted to elect the following Councilors to terms expiring in June 2022: Carolann Bennett, Bette Napoli Harris, Robin Romans, Jael Ballard, Betty Htwe Khin, and Benjamin Purper.





# Key Connections

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## 2018 Key Connection Event at Golden Road Brewery

Our 2018 Key Connection event was very well attended. Held at **Golden Road Brewing**, one of Los Angeles' hottest breweries, recent Phi Beta Kappa members were welcomed into Alpha Association while networking with peers and forming new friendships.



## SAVE THE DATE! Upcoming Key Connection Event



Each September, a Key Connection event is planned for the purpose of engaging recent graduates and young professionals. A networking event is planned for **Saturday, September 28th at Pez Cantina** located on Bunker Hill in Downtown Los Angeles. The national Phi Beta Kappa Society and our Southern California alumni association are generously subsidizing this program.

Pez Cantina is the latest project by former Patina Executive Chef and co-founder of Milk Ice Cream Parlor, Bret Thompson. This sustainable Coastal Mexican-style restaurant and bar is known to serve the freshest sea-to-land dishes in an oasis-type atmosphere. While in the neighborhood, guests might want to explore the area and visit MOCA (the Museum of Contemporary Art), or the Broad Museum, located nearby. We hope you will share the event with friends on Facebook and Twitter.

More information will be emailed to members.  
For questions contact Helen Lee at [pbksocal@gmail.com](mailto:pbksocal@gmail.com)

# Speed Networking/Career Planning Program Last Spring

The Association held an exciting event in April focused on networking for young professionals. Held at OMNI Hotel in Los Angeles, the event featured experts in such fields as non-profits, law, finance, academics, marketing, and more. It was a great opportunity for young Phi Betes to learn more about their chosen fields and explore new ones with experts (Top left photo shows **PBK Society Secretary Frederick Lawrence** speaking to guests.).



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Deepen your connection to Phi Beta Kappa while making new friends. Consider giving a little bit of your time and you will receive much more in return, guaranteed! Join the team by helping with program planning, Young Professionals committee, membership, hospitality, database management, newsletter editing, accounting, fund-raising, website, or social media. Please contact: [info@pbksocalumni.com](mailto:info@pbksocalumni.com)



# Graduate Study Awards

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Thanks to your generous donations, Alpha Association has awarded a fellowship for graduate study to one Phi Beta Kappa initiate at each of the ten member colleges and universities in Southern California. Criteria for selection include academic merit, financial need, community service and plans to attend graduate school during the coming academic year. The Graduate Study Award is in part a recognition of the need to encourage students to attend graduate studies in the humanities, arts, and sciences. While there are no specific limitations placed upon the types of graduate schools for which the recipients receive awards the Association asks that the Chapters include this consideration in their deliberations.



**Hailey Lane**

B.A. in Political Science  
California State University, Long Beach  
Graduate Institution: UCI School of Law

GPA 3.76; Eta Sigma Phi, the classical academic society; Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science association; Phi Kappa Phi; and Phi Beta Kappa; secretary, treasurer, and currently president of Eta Sigma Phi

**Nicholas Alexander LaBerge**

B.A. in Physics  
Claremont-McKenna College  
Graduate Institution: University of Colorado, Boulder (Computer Science)

GPA 3.71; Summer research internships in Panama on an Appel Fellowship, and at the Keck Science department. He spent this past summer working at a finance firm in Los Angeles; Senior Thesis



**Annika Dechert**

B.A. in Geology  
Occidental College  
Graduate Institution: University of Oregon (Earth Science)

GPA 3.83; Magna Cum Laude; Dean's list for 7 semesters; NSF REU research award; Research Intern at NASA Jet Propulsion Lab and Wyoming Dinosaur Center; co-founder of Geology Club, co-director of Operation Christmas Child Project





**Jamie Nord**

Double Major in Anthropology and Sociology  
University of Redlands  
Graduate Institution: Cal Staten San Bernardino (M.A. in Archaeology)

GPA 3.85; Departmental Honors, Museum Internships, Research Assistant

**Zoe Bonfield**

B.A. in Integrated Education Studies  
Chapman University  
Graduate Institution: Chapman University (MA is Curriculum and Instruction)

GPA 3.89; National Society of Collegiate Scholars member;  
Presidential Scholarship recipient



Photo  
Unavailable

**Yixuan Gao**

B.A. in Chemistry  
Pomona College  
Graduate Institution: Stanford University

GPA 3.97; Magna Cum Laude, Honors thesis

**Dominique Julia Oei**

B.A. in Asian American Studies and English  
UC Irvine  
Graduate Institution: UC Irvine (Asian American Studies)

GPA 3.95; Campus wide Honors Student; interview at:  
[https://www.humanities.uci.edu/aas/spotlight\\_det.php?id=542](https://www.humanities.uci.edu/aas/spotlight_det.php?id=542)



**Eric Mazariegos, Jr.**

Art History  
UCLA  
Graduate Institution: Columbia University (Art History)

GPA 3.91; Mellon Mays Fellow; Regents Scholar (UCLA); Dean's Prize Award (UCLA) for research in the humanities, arts, and social sciences; Clay Trust Honors Scholar (UCLA)

**Sofia Martinez Alberga**

B.A. in Mathematics  
UC Riverside  
Graduate Institution: Purdue University (Mathematics)

GPA 3.79; Tutor; Science Ambassador, Advancement Ambassador, NSF GRFP





# International Scholarship Awards

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Each year, the International Scholarship Committee reviews applications from foreign graduate students, usually in their last year of Ph.D. work, at Southern California member colleges and universities. These are students who have very limited access to other sources of aid. Typically, we find ourselves faced with a candidate pool of scholars, who are impressive not only for their intellect but also for their determination to study in a foreign country and write complex dissertations, often in a language not their own.



**Aji Anggoro**  
UCLA  
Marine Science



**Yael Assor**  
UCLA  
Anthropology



**Darshana Mini**  
USC  
Cinema and Media Studies



**Cristian Rodriguez**  
UCI  
Psychological Science



**Mariana Figueiredo Uchoa**  
USC  
Transportation/Urban Planning



**Jiarui Tao**  
UCI  
Transportation/Urban Planning

# High School Alpha Award

Three high school seniors at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Boyle Heights were awarded \$1000 scholarships each: Aixa Almaraz, Raudel Luna and Jennifer Morales. For nearly three decades, our association has continued to fund outstanding college-bound students in need at local high schools in underserved communities. These scholars have exemplified the values of hard work, intellectual curiosity, and a commitment to excellence despite many obstacles.





## JAMES RAGAN IN THE NEWS

Internationally celebrated poet and fellow Councilor, James Ragan was invited to read his poetry for the U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Stephen King and invited guests at the Ambassador's Prague residence in August. This was the 23rd world ambassador for whom Ragan has had the honor to perform.



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## In Memoriam Hermann Muennichow

We were very sad to learn of the passing of longtime fellow Councilor, Hermann Muennichow. For approximately seventeen years he served as our Treasurer, and was involved in nearly every aspect of operations: membership, programs, scholarships, database management, and of course, accounting. Hermann earned a BBA at the University of Wisconsin, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He went on to become a Certified Public Accountant, and formed an accounting firm. Hermann had said that he wanted to volunteer his time out of gratitude for the major role Phi Beta Kappa had played in his life and career. He was also a longtime member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society's Secretary Circle. We will miss him very much.



# Honor Roll

In 2018-2019, the following members have made contributions to the Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship funds in excess of membership dues. We thank them for their generous support. These donations enable Alpha Association to assist deserving young scholars in Southern California. Run entirely by volunteers, Alpha Association depends on the talents and enthusiasm of our members.

<b>SUMMA CUM LAUDE</b>	Cawley D Vaccarella
<b>\$100-\$500</b>	<b>CUM LAUDE</b>
Jean W Bardenheier MD	<b>\$10-\$49</b>
Ronald Bass	Prof Elizabeth Bjork
David Ash Bernstein	Lestrita Boardman
Lynne M.O.Brickner	Larry Eugene Burgess
James Buese	Richard D Burstein
Raymond H Goldstone	Robert S Chapman
Bette Napoli Harris	Katherine Edwards M.D.
Charlotte D Harvey	Richard Esbenshade
Kathleen Henkel	Jill Louise Esbenshade
Michael Lee Hittleman	Nancy A Esbenshade
Catheryn Emily Hoehn	Clifford W Gilbert
Diane Kert	Dr. Dorothy R Gregory
Munson Arthur Kwok	Alfred Guggenheim, Esq
Richard S Merrick, M.D.	Marilyn B Levin
Dr. Loraine Reed	Jay Ira Levy
Richard Rothschild	Donald S Miller
Maryan S Schall	Dr. Mark Miller
Kenneth Schild	Henry Patrick Nelson
Patricia M Smith	Peter J Roffey
Barbara Alexander Stiles	Fred Rosenfelt MD
AnnB Tate	Michael L Salter
John D Taylor, Esq.	Karis Say
Kari Lynn Turner	Teri Ellen Schwartz
Billie Youngblood-Knolle	Jacquelyn Stoter
<b>MAGNA CUM LAUDE</b>	Frances Tibbits
<b>\$50-\$99</b>	Prof. Dr. Virginia Trimble
Catherine C Alexander	Juliellen Weiss
Arline Burgmeier	Dr. Eva M Wessell, PhD
MaryLe Emmett	Audrey Wilner
Earl Gustav Hansen	Valeris Smih Wilner
Michael Anthony	Jeffrey Y Yamashiro, DDS
Sally A Lapiduss	Dr. Henry Yang
Ryan Kahn Lee, MD	
Melody B Lembke	
David A Lewis, M.D.	
Karen Lynn Matteson	
Linda J Olds	
Dr. Louis Ratliff Jr.	
Eric Roberts	
Howard Jay Seller	
Roslyn Swartz	
Ronald K Takemoto MD	



*PBK Councilor Loraine Reed presenting the Graduate Study Award at UC Irvine*



*PBK Councilor Bette Napoli Harris with the Graduate Study Award recipient at Chapman University*

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