

Theta Chapter of New York

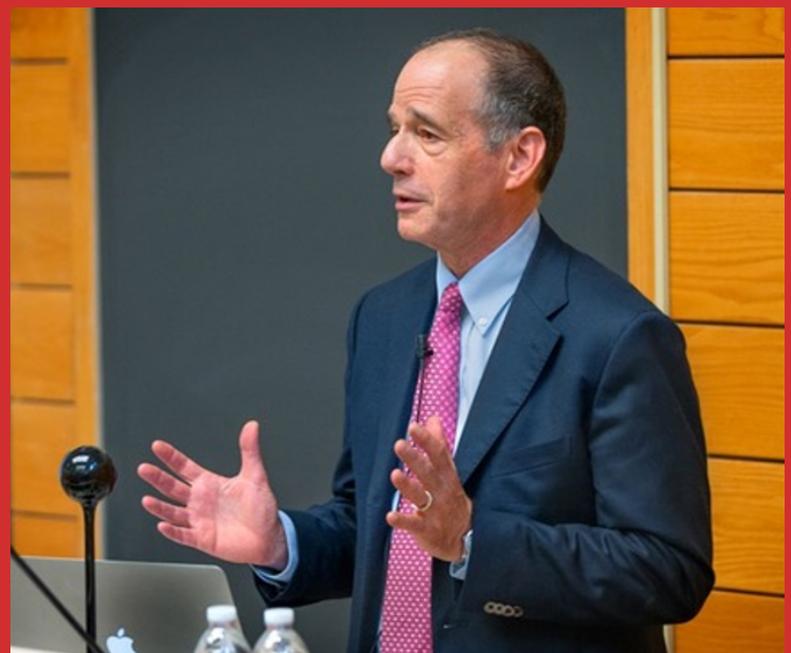


PHI BETA KAPPA



Distinguished Faculty Invitational Lecture

On October 25, 2017, Barry Strauss, the Bryce and Edith M. Bowman Professor in Humanistic Studies Department of History, delivered Phi Beta Kappa's distinguished faculty invitational lecture for the fall. Entitled "Populism Through the Ages: A Challenge for Democracy," the talk emphasized the importance of compromise and balance within governmental systems. Debunking the notions that Athens and the Roman Republic were successful rules, Strauss pointed to the failings of these ancient civilizations as evidence of what needs to be done by ruling "elite" classes to circumvent the challenges populism often poses to a society. Bipartisanship is a must said Strauss, but of the utmost importance is the ability to say no to injustice, specifically bigotry. He specifies that, "... a good society does some things not because they are popular but because they are right." Strauss hopes the elites of this nation and abroad attempt to create all-encompassing political atmospheres, thus making our



Theta Chapter's Newest Members Carry the Torch

Soon after inducting 26 members of the junior class, Phi Beta Kappa's Theta Chapter selected a new class of leaders to carry the torch into the spring of 2018.

Co-Presidents: Julian Wolfson & Robin Wang

Vice President: David Li

Alumni Chair: Reed Macey

Publicity Chairs: Pauline Shongov & Niall Chithelen

Philanthropy Chair: Cara Sierks

Social Chair: Aohan Dang

About Cornell's Chapter

Phi Beta Kappa was founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary. Since its inception, both the institution and its members have advocated excellence in scholarship in the liberal arts and sciences and beyond. Today, Phi Beta Kappa stands as the oldest and most acclaimed academic honor society in the nation. Our chapter, the Theta Chapter of New York, was founded on May 28, 1883, inducting both men and women. Prior to Professor Schwarz's presence as the Faculty President, the chapter assumed a minimal role here on campus. Since 2009, the induction of juniors in the top 3 percent of the Arts and Sciences junior class to Phi Beta Kappa has been restored, the yearly series of distinguished lectures has gained much popularity, and our members' community involvement has dramatically increased. The new class looks to continue this surge of activity, continuing traditions while simultaneously making a new impact of their own.

CONTACT US!

Dr. Schwarz (Faculty President): drs6@cornell.edu (607-273-5735)

Robin Wang (Co-President): rhw222@cornell.edu

Julian Wolfson (Co-President): jw2292@cornell.edu

David Li (Vice-President): dll93@cornell.edu

Reed Macey (Alumni Chair): rlm426@cornell.edu



**SAVE THE DATE!
ALL ARE INVITED!**

**PBK Induction
March 7th, 2018, 4:30pm
Lewis Auditorium in Goldwin Smith Hall**

**Phi Beta Kappa Distinguished Faculty Invitational Lecture
April 25th, 2018, 4:30pm
Goldwin Smith Professor of Astronomy, Martha Haynes
Lewis Auditorium in Goldwin Smith Hall**



Robin Wang: *I am currently a senior majoring in economics, and I plan to attend medical school upon graduation. I am fascinated by both economics and medicine, and I hope to interface my passions as a physician-scholar contributing to health economics research and influencing health policy. I currently serve as president of the Cornell Economics Society and I am heavily involved with the Cornell Tradition Fellowship. In my free time, I love working out with the Cornell Fitness Club and spending time outdoors hiking and traveling.*

Julian Wolfson: *I am currently a senior majoring in Economics with a minor in Business. Having grown up in Japan, I one day hope to work in a policy related role there to help rejuvenate the country's economy. Upon graduation, I will be working as an analyst within the Investment Banking Division at Goldman Sachs. In addition to Phi Beta Kappa, I serve on the executive board of the Mutual Investment Club of Cornell and the Cornell Consulting Group. In my free time I'm an avid college basketball and football fan.*



David Li: *My name is David and I am currently a senior majoring in Math and Economics, with a minor in Business. Throughout my college life, I have always been most interested in the intricacies of financial markets, and how they respond to current events and subsequently affect our lives. I hope to shape this interest into a meaningful career, so after graduation I will be working as a Derivatives Trader at Belvedere Trading. In my free time, I love reading fantasy novels and being outdoors, from skiing in the winter to hiking in the summer.*

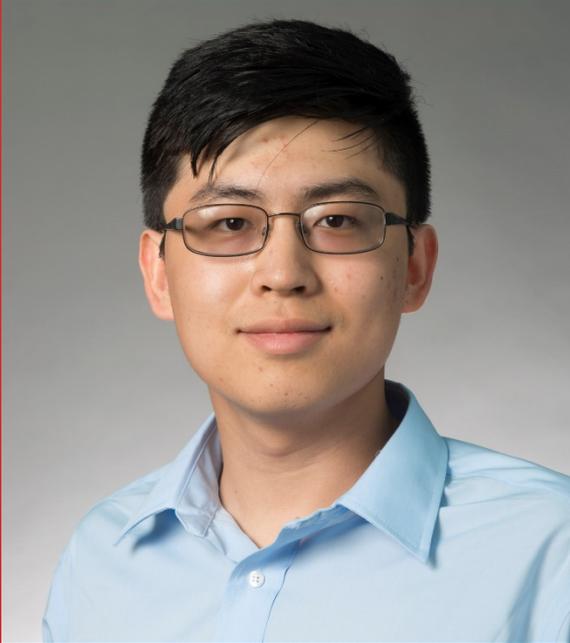


Reed Macey: *I am currently a senior majoring in biological sciences with a concentration in animal physiology. I am also conducting thesis research in electrochemical organic chemistry, exploring metal-catalyzed dibromination and TEMPO-azide addition to alkenes. After graduation, I plan to attend medical school after a gap year studying biotechnology. I hope to fuse my breadth of study to further my career as a physician in any number of specialties including orthopedics, cardiology, and plastics. I serve as a math and sciences tutor for the Tompkins County Jail, as well as a counselor for my inner city's YMCA. Aside from all this, I love dogs, hockey, and cars.*

Niall Chithelen: *I am currently a senior with a double major in China and Asia Pacific Studies and History. In my studies, I am interested in how and why Americans understand and misunderstand events in China. After graduation, I'd like to work in China for a year or two and then pursue graduate studies in history. Outside of class, I am a member of Historians Are Writers, and I edit, and have edited, for a few publications.*



Cara Sierks: *My name is Cara and I am a senior majoring in Government and Economics. After graduation, I plan to work in Washington D.C. for a few years before attending law school and getting a masters in Public Policy. I hope to ultimately work to improve the effectiveness of federal poverty programs. Besides serving as the philanthropy chair for Phi Beta Kappa, I am a member of the Women's Club Soccer team, the Mock Trial team, the Arts and Sciences Dean's Advisory Commission and Phi Beta Phi. In my spare time I love to travel, read and play with my dog.*



Aohan Dang: My name is Aohan and I am a senior double majoring in computer science and biology. I am interested in the development of software to help scientists achieve their goals. Outside of Phi Beta Kappa, I am a violin player and executive board member of the Therapy Thru Music club, which entertains guests at a local nursing home, and I am a consultant for an introductory computing course. In my free time, I enjoy competitive Rubik's Cube speed solving and watching YouTube videos.

Pauline Shongov: “My name is Pauline and I am currently a senior majoring in Fine Arts in the College of Architecture, Art and Planning and College Scholar in Film with a minor in English in the College of Arts and Sciences. In my work, I investigate the relationship between materiality, memory, the body, and the poetics of the everyday. I have had three solo and two group exhibitions in the past four years, and I look forward to continue my practice as an artist and filmmaker professionally. In addition to Phi Beta Kappa, I am also a Rawlings Presidential Research Scholar. As per the adage "art imitates life and life imitates art," even when I have down time, I continue doing what I always do: thinking, making, reading, and repeating.”



Our Alumni Board

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Letter from the New Office Holders

November 2017

Dear Phi Beta Kappa New York Theta Alumni:

My name is Julian Wolfson, and alongside Robin Wang, I am one of the student Co-Presidents of the New York Theta chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Both of us are extremely fortunate and elated to be serving this role during our last year at Cornell. In line with the College of Arts and Sciences' vision of fostering a more visible and active undergraduate chapter, our chapter has been diligently working to expand our presence and reach. Furthermore, we look forward to the energy that the next group of Senior and Junior inductees will add to the chapter when they are welcomed come springtime.

Since the spring of 2011, our chapter has sponsored the Phi Beta Kappa Distinguished Faculty Invitational Lecture series each semester. The lecture has grown into a significant campus event, attended by many students, faculty, and various members of the Cornell and Ithaca communities. Our inaugural lecturer was Roald Hoffman, Nobel Laureate and Professor Emeritus of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. We have since been fortunate to secure the participation of many distinguished professors over the last five years, including renowned scholars such as Trevor Pinch, Ron Ehrenberg, Steven Strogatz, Isaac Kramnick, Mary Beth Norton, Fredrik Logevall, Tom Gilovich, Steven Squyres, Ken McClane, Saul Teukolsky, and Robert Frank. For our most recent Fall 2017 Distinguished Faculty Invitational Lecture, we had the pleasure of hosting Barry Strauss, the Bryce and Edith M. Bowmar Professor in Humanistic Studies in the Department of History in the College of Arts & Sciences. On October 25th, Strauss gave a lecture titled "Populism Through The Ages: A Challenge for Democracy." The Cornell Daily Sun's coverage of the lecture can be found here: <https://goo.gl/K3A3W8> and the Cornell Chronicle's coverage can be found here: <http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2017/11/historian-offers-lessons-antiquity-todays-democracy>. The lecture was followed by a dinner hosted by Daniel R. Schwarz, Faculty President of Cornell Phi Beta Kappa.

Our chapter has greatly expanded our philanthropic activities and continued our partnership with the Tompkins County Public Library to volunteer with the Reader-Is-In program. This program allows Phi Beta Kappa students to engage with young readers from the Ithaca community in order to foster a love of reading and lifelong learning among pre-school and kindergarten-age students. In addition, chapter members have volunteered with the Tompkins County Public Library for their annual Read-a-thon event and with the Tompkins County Beatification Brigade to assist with various landscaping projects throughout downtown Ithaca.

Due to the generous support of our chapter's alumni, during the annual celebratory breakfast on the Saturday of graduation weekend this past spring, Joseph Fridman and Elizabeth Marks were announced as the first co-winners of the Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship Prize. These awards will aid our students for continued pursuit and excellence in their studies. Joseph plans to use the funds to purchase equipment to fund his ongoing research at Northeastern University and Massachusetts General Hospital, while Elizabeth plans to put the funds towards her Master of Arts in Teaching, furthering her dream of becoming a high school teacher. The Scholarship Prize winners were selected by a committee consisting of Daniel R. Schwarz, Faculty President of the chapter, and Barbara Baird, Faculty Secretary of the chapter, from a large number of applications submitted by our senior members. Additionally, Mildred Whitely was the first recipient of the Professor Edward Morris Award, funded by a chapter alumnus, for a graduating Phi Beta Kappa member in Romance Studies. On behalf of the entire chapter, we would like to thank the alumni who have not only made these scholarships possible, but also enabled our chapter to build a foundation to continue expanding our presence and activities.

Letter from the New Office Holders

Lastly, we have been fortunate enough to have Daniel R. Schwarz serving as our Faculty President. Dr. Schwarz is the Fredric J. Whiton Professor of English Literature in Cornell's English Department, recipient of the Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellowship, and beloved scholar and educator. This year will mark his 50th year of distinguished teaching, and a celebration in his honor will be hosted March 23-24. Dr. Schwarz's dedication to our Phi Beta Kappa chapter and care for his students has left a lasting impression on both of us, and we are deeply inspired by the ongoing influence he has had on student lives.

From Ithaca to wherever this message finds you, we wish you all the best.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julian Wolfson

Robin Wang

Please Become a Contributing Member!

We would be thrilled and honored if you would consider making a tax-deductible donation to our chapter in order to aid the continuation of our chapter's growth, and the promotion of scholastic and moral excellence. Any manner in which you are able to impact our society would be greatly appreciated. A tax-deductible donation to put our initiatives into action can be made here: tinyurl.com/pbkdonate and please be sure to select the "Other" option and specify the donation to Phi Beta Kappa. Please refer to the document attached to the original email or the following webpage for addresses and instructions for gifts via check or a gift of securities: giving.cornell.edu/ways-to-give/. Please feel free to visit our website, pbkcornell.weebly.com, to learn more about our organization. Again, please do not hesitate to contact myself (jw2292@cornell.edu), Robin (rhw222@cornell.edu), or our advisor and Faculty President, Professor Daniel R. Schwarz (drs6@cornell.edu), directly with any suggestions or concerns.