

PHI BETA KAPPA

Alpha Association of Colorado

Summer 2018



ALPHA ASSOCIATION AWARDS TWO SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING \$5,000 TO PBK GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Alpha Association of Colorado is pleased to announce the 2018 winners of our two scholarships for graduate studies. Jenny Wool, graduate of Colorado College, has been awarded the \$3,500 scholarship, and Tyler Irani, graduate of the University of Denver, the \$1,500 scholarship. This year's 11 applicants were all well-qualified and had excellent credentials.

We are grateful to all Alpha Association members who have made donations to our Scholarship Fund this past year, making these awards possible. We also thank the Scholarship Committee members for their dedicated work in thoroughly reviewing the applications before choosing the two winners. The committee consisted of Barbara Berryman (Chair); Tom Hall; Rob Wellington; Jim Elkins, Ph.D.; Amy Rell, Ph.D.; and Julie DeWoody. The Alpha Association board approved the recommendations.

Since 1994 the Alpha Association has awarded \$73,500 in scholarships.

CC Graduate Jenny Wool



Jenny Wool grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, and received a B.A. magna cum laude in psychology from Colorado College in 2014.

While in college, Jenny was an

active member of the Outdoor Recreation Club, leading three new student orientation trips and a two-week course to train future club leaders. Jenny also worked on campus as both a tour guide and a peer tutor in the writing center. Following graduation, she spent a year working for CC's Psychology and Neuroscience Departments as a teaching and research assistant. For the last three years Jenny has worked in Denver's public

education sector for DSST Public Schools. When not working, she enjoys reading, hiking, and running.

This fall she will begin graduate studies at the University of Washington's School of Public Health. Jenny's goal is to conduct interdisciplinary research on health disparities to inform public understanding of why marginalized groups often have poorer health outcomes than the rest of the population.

Annual Meeting — September 22, 2018

Greg Carpenter: Behind the Curtain at Opera Colorado



Greg Carpenter, General and Artistic Director of Opera Colorado, will speak at the Alpha Association's annual meeting on September 22, 2018. His talk is titled "Behind the Curtain: An Insider's Look at What It Takes to Produce Opera in Denver." Opera is the most collaborative of all of the classical art forms, bringing together singers, scenic art, orchestra, chorus, costumes, dance, and a host of other behind the scenes activities. Most people do not realize that it takes

three years of planning to put on one opera and that more than 250 people can be involved in each production. This presentation goes behind the curtain to reveal the inner workings of an opera company and how a season goes from idea to opening night.

Before assuming his current position in 2007, Mr. Carpenter was Opera Colorado's Director of Development, overseeing all fundraising and board activities. As General and Artistic Director, he has initiated a vision for the company that embraces new and rarely performed works presented in innovative ways. This began in 2016 with the world premiere of Lori Laitman's *The Scarlet Letter*.

Mr. Carpenter worked for the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, from 2000 to 2004, first as a special project manager for the orchestra president and then as Director of Development. From 1986 to 1998 he was a professional opera singer, singing leading and supporting roles at Glimmerglass Opera, Central City Opera, Sarasota Opera, Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, Cleveland Opera, and Lyric Opera Cleveland.

DU Graduate Tyler Irani



Born in Colorado Springs, Tyler Irani graduated summa cum laude from the University of Denver in 2016, with majors in

biological sciences (with university honors distinction) and psychology, and minors in chemistry and medical physics, with a concentration in cognitive neuroscience. During his time at DU, Tyler performed research with his advisor, Dr. Alysia Vrailas-Mortimer, investigating neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's by way of the fruit fly. Tyler wrote a thesis on his work in Dr. Mortimer's lab, discussing the results of a drug screen he performed on fly models of Parkinson's disease.

Tyler participated in various extracurricular activities, including being a leader in his fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau, and working as a youth soccer coach. In the two years since his graduation, Tyler has worked as an emergency department scribe and later as a clinical research coordinator with the Colorado Neurological Institute.

He will begin his first year at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine this fall.

NEWS FROM THE 2018 BOSTON TRIENNIAL

Treasurer Diane Palese attended the 45th Triennial Council in Boston August 2–4, as the delegate for the Alpha Association of Colorado. The council approved four new chapters (Chapman University, Orange County, CA; Loyola Marymount University, West Los Angeles, CA; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS; and University of South Florida, Tampa, FL). Other actions included adopting a bylaw amendment for voting procedures and electing seven new PBK

Annual Meeting September 22, 2018, at the Mount Vernon Canyon Club

The Alpha Association's annual meeting will be on Saturday, September 22, 2018, at the Mount Vernon Canyon Club, 24933 Clubhouse Circle, Golden, Colorado, 80401 (<http://www.mountvernoncc.com>).

A short business meeting to review the past year and to elect officers for the coming year will begin at 11:30 a.m. After lunch Greg Carpenter will begin his talk. (Please see page 1 for more information.)

The cost of the lunch will be \$32.50. The entrées are listed on the enclosed reservation form. As always, guests are welcome!

If you plan to attend, please return the reservation form along with a check for your lunch to the address on the form. Reservations must be received by Friday, **September 14, 2018**. If you make a reservation but cannot attend, please contact Greg Sorensen at 303-832-2587 by September 14 to cancel. After this date, we will not be able to refund the lunch cost because we are guaranteeing the number of guests.

2018–19 Board Slate

The following members have agreed to run for the board of directors for this coming year:

President: Greg Sorensen

Vice President for Programs: Joy Berrenberg

Vice President for Membership: Barbara Berryman

Secretary:

Treasurer: Diane Palese

Please note we have no one to fill the secretary position. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Greg Sorensen at 303-832-2587. Thank you.

senators, plus the president, vice president, and district senators for New England and the South Atlantic. The council also approved a resolution to encourage diversity among PBK initiates.

Diane attended two breakout sessions. During "Shake it Up: Programming Beyond the Lecture," members from several associations discussed different types of activities, and how they used these to cultivate membership.

- Target activities to a specific audience. If you try to target everyone, no one will come.
- Determine what works for your membership, keeping in mind geographic location and demographics.
- Activities can just be fun (some examples were tango lessons, chocolate tastings, and an escape room).

- Include guests and families.
- Charge a small fee. People will often RSVP and not show up for a free activity.
- Follow up with attendees after the event, even if it is just an email.
- The Washington, DC, association has a mentorship program and will share resources on how they set it up.
- The national society expressed a desire to help associations with activities and to set up mentorship programs.
The second breakout session, "Keeping up with Your Key Connections: Engaging Young Professionals," featured two members of the national PBK staff and a young professional from the New York City association. The key points were:
 - Young professionals are looking for social and professional connections through their PBK

membership, and events should be planned to meet these needs.

- Having a Facebook presence is crucial for young professionals as well as older members. Facebook is still the dominant social media platform.
- Follow up with young professionals after a Key Connections event. Give them ownership by inviting them to start a young professionals group within your association.

Another highlight was (En)lightning Talks, where three visiting scholars (David Haverman, Jennifer Hochschild, and William Bialeh) distilled their hour-long lectures to ten minutes and took questions from the floor. Also George Anders spoke about his book *You Can Do Anything* and discussed the usefulness of a “useless” liberal arts degree.

The next Triennial Council meeting will be August 2–5, 2021, in St Louis, MO.

UPCOMING EVENTS: SAVE THE DATES

September 8, 2018 — Key Connections event: “A Millennial’s Guide to Money Matters” at the Tivoli Center. The national society has sent invites to PBK initiates in the Denver area.

October 18, 2018 — Tour of *Rembrandt: Painter as Printmaker* at the Denver Art Museum at 4 pm, with an optional dinner at a nearby restaurant afterward. Email invitations will be sent out in October.

November 3 / 6 / 9 / 11, 2018 — *La Traviata* with Opera Colorado. If at least 10 people are interested in going to a performance, we can get a group discount (15% on weekdays, 10% on weekends). Email board@pbkcolorado.org if you are interested and your preferred date.

April 6, 2019 — Annual banquet at the Denver Athletic Club with Dr. Tom Noel as speaker.

2017 MEMBER SURVEY

Last year we surveyed members about what types of future activities would be of interest. The return rate was about 15%, and the following top five activities garnered the most support (listed in order of preference):

- Speakers
- Cultural / museum tours
- Music / theater tours
- Science / tech tours
- Attending cultural activities

RECENT ALPHA ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Recent events held by the Alpha Association include:

- **March 2, 2018** — Lunch discussion at the University Club about the nature of genius.
- **April 14, 2018** — The 2018 annual banquet at the Denver Athletic Club, with a talk by Dr. Marc Bekoff, professor emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at CU Boulder, on “The Animal’s Agenda: Freedom, Compassion, Coexistence, and Hope in the ‘Age of Inhumanity.’”
- **May 3, 2018** — Bonnie Clark, Associate Professor in the DU Department of Anthropology spoke as part of the Faculty Lecture Series about the archeology of Colorado’s Amache Japanese internment camp.
- **May 10, 2018** — Frederick M. Lawrence, Secretary and CEO of Phi Beta Kappa and former President, Brandeis University, spoke at DU on free speech: “Navigating the countervailing demands of free expression and civility, especially on college and university campuses.”
- **June 29, 2018** — Lunch discussion at the Irish Snug about the importance of local journalism and a free press.
- **August 3, 2018** — Tour of the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center.

IN MEMORIAM

Marcia Bishop, a founding member of the Alpha Association, and a former vice president and Scholarship Committee member, died on March 31, 2018. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Oklahoma. She taught for many years, and earned an MBA and Ph.D. from DU.

Carla Henebry-Branscombe died September 25, 2017, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was secretary of the Alpha Association from 2010 to 2015, then moved to Cambridge in 2016. She had lived in the Mideast and remained interested in Mideast issues, as well as volunteering for the homeless and being politically active.

Dorothy Williamson, also one of Alpha Association’s founding members, passed away November 12, 2017, at age 104. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1934 at Colorado College. She appeared in the 2012 Ken Burns documentary, “Dust Bowl” and in the 2014 motion picture “Interstellar.” She wanted to read every book written, and she read until the end of her life.

The board of directors has made a \$25 memorial donation to the Members’ Endowment in honor of each of these former members.

Dues / Email and Street Addresses

Please check your address label to see when your dues expire. Your membership can be renewed by using the meeting reservation / renewal form in this newsletter or through PayPal (send payment to treasurer@pbkcolorado.org). If you are no longer interested in being a member, please let us know.

Send any new street or email addresses to board@pbkcolorado.org. If you have not received any emails from us since June, we do not have a valid email address for you.



PHI BETA KAPPA
ALPHA ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO
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Denver, CO 80209

PHI BETA KAPPA • ALPHA ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO
Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 22, 2018

11:30 a.m.

Mount Vernon Canyon Club, Aspen Room

24933 Clubhouse Circle, Golden, CO 80401

(For directions, visit <http://www.mountvernoncc.com/about/directions>)

Speaker: Greg Carpenter, General and Artistic Director of Opera Colorado

“Behind the Curtain: An Insider’s Look at What It Takes to Produce Opera in Denver”

Paid reservations due by Friday, September 14, 2018