

PHI BETA KAPPA

Alpha Association of Colorado

Summer 2020



FIRST-PLACE TIE FOR 2020 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Alpha Association of Colorado is pleased to announce the 2020 winners of its two graduate study scholarships. For the first time the Scholarship Committee selected two applicants who tied for first place – Verónica Gonzalez from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Kaloyan Parvanov from Lake Forest College in Illinois. With the addition of an anonymous, one-time donation, the committee and the board of directors voted to award two scholarships of \$3,000 each in lieu of a \$3,500 scholarship and a \$2,000 scholarship.

Mr. Parvanov is an international student who lives in Germany, and due to circumstances beyond his control, he

has been forced to defer his doctoral program in mathematics at CU Boulder until next year. Again, for the first time and in light of this year's unprecedented global circumstances, the committee and the board of directors voted to waive the requirement that the scholarship be used during the year that it is granted. Mr. Parvanov's award will be held until he is able to begin his doctoral program in 2021.

Thank you to all Alpha Association members for the donations that make these awards possible, and to the Scholarship Committee for their diligence in thoroughly evaluating the applications and choosing the winners.

The committee consisted of Barbara Berryman (chair), Tom Hall, Rob Wellington, Amy Rell, Jim Elkins, Julie DeWoody, and our newest member, Kate Silz-Carson.

Since 1994 the Alpha Association has awarded \$84,500 in scholarships.

Verónica Gonzalez



Verónica Gonzalez is a Latina dual citizen of Ecuador and the United States. She grew up bilingual and

bicultural in the Denver Metro area, with regular trips to her family's hometown of Cuenca, Ecuador. After graduating *magna cum laude* from CU Boulder, with a double major in mathematics and Spanish, Verónica also earned her master's degree in educational equity and cultural diversity at CU. During her studies in her master's program, and while teaching in bilingual elementary and secondary classrooms, Verónica found her passion for civil rights and felt a growing desire to pursue law in order to positively impact education and society. She will be a first-year law student at the University of

Virtual Annual Meeting— Saturday, October 17, 2020

The Alpha Association's annual meeting and program will be on Saturday, October 17, 2020, at 10 a.m. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year the meeting will be hosted on Zoom. A short business meeting will review the past year and elect officers for the coming year. Further program information will be emailed to members.

2020–21 Board

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

President: Diane Palese

Co-Vice Presidents for Programs: George Gramer Jr., Sue Kiernan

Vice President for Membership: Barbara Berryman

Secretary: Kristin Adcock

Treasurer: Greg Sorensen

Ex officio members: Ben Palen, Emma Smith

Nominations will also be taken from those in attendance.

Colorado in the 2020–21 school year.

Verónica is a member of the NAACP Boulder Branch and has become active in the Black Lives Matter movement after the tragic death of George Floyd. In addition to activism and working as a paralegal at a personal injury firm, Verónica enjoys running, playing hockey, and skating in the professional ice crew of the AHL's Colorado Eagles.

Kal Parvanov



Born in Montana, Bulgaria, Kal Parvanov graduated *summa cum laude* from Lake

Forest College in May 2020 with a BA in mathematics and economics. While at Lake Forest Kal helped establish the Mathematics Student Advisory Committee, which focused on providing vital student feedback about the department's hiring initiatives and curriculum changes. Kal also served as a portfolio manager for the Lake Forest College Investment Club, where he was a part of a team responsible for managing the club's virtual stock portfolio and generating reports and analyses on potential investments.

Kal started the Quantitative Finance Club at Lake Forest College, helping promote a data-scientific and statistical approach to trading in line with current trends in the industry. Kal has been accepted to the applied mathematics doctoral program at CU Boulder, where he intends to study stochastic processes, partial differential

equations (PDEs), and probability starting in the fall of 2021.

Key Connections — September 24, 2020

For the fifth year, the Alpha Association will be hosting a Key Connections event for newer Phi Beta Kappa members in the Denver area. This year will be a Zoom panel discussion on dealing with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic – the new world of work, financial well-being, and personal coping skills. If you would like to join the discussion, please send an email to board@pbkcolorado.org.

PBK Movie Discussions

The Alpha Association has started a virtual movie discussion group, where participants select a movie to watch on their own and then meet on Zoom to discuss it.

If you know of a thought-provoking movie that you would like to discuss with others, please send an email to board@pbkcolorado.org.

Meet the Board

Kristin Adcock, our secretary, was born in Denver and graduated from Colorado College with a BA in English and French. She was inducted into the PBK Beta Chapter of Colorado. She completed her MS in counseling psychology at Nova Southeastern University in Florida. She worked for Denver Public Schools as a counselor. Her interests are politics, literature, history, travel, photography, film, and opera. She is a

charter member of the Alpha Association.

Barbara Berryman is our vice-president for membership. She was born in Boulder, Colorado, and got her BA in mathematics from CU, where she was also inducted into the PBK Alpha Chapter. She worked as a systems engineer (computer specialist) at IBM. Her interests include photography, international travel (she has been to 68 countries and all 7 continents), classical music (she still takes classical piano lessons), art, hiking, education, and social justice issues. She is also a dog lover. She has been the chair of our Scholarship Committee for several years and is also a member of the Colorado chapter of the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Foundation, which makes graduate study awards in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, medicine, and veterinary medicine for students attending Colorado's major universities.

George Gramer Jr., co-vice president for programs, was born in Clinton, Iowa, and graduated from CU Boulder, where he was inducted into the PBK Alpha Chapter. He has BA and MA degrees in Spanish, plus an MA in national security from the Naval War College. He is a retired Army officer. He plays piano, listens to jazz, and every other year leads a mission trip to Guatemala.

Sue Kiernan, our other co-vice-president for programs, was born in Sioux City, Iowa. She graduated from the University of South Dakota, where she was inducted into the PBK Alpha Chapter of South Dakota and earned BA and MA degrees

in communications disorders. She is founder and president of Centered on Success, an executive coaching and consulting firm. Sue enjoys spending time with her family, reading, movies, interesting conversations, gardening, volunteering, and keeping fit.

Ben Palen, one of our two new board members, was born in Salina, Kansas, and graduated from the University of Kansas with degrees in political science and history, and where he was inducted into the PBK Alpha Chapter of Kansas. He has a law degree from Northwestern University. He is a farmer and an agricultural investment advisor. His interests are volunteering, gardening, travel, reading, cooking, and politics.

Diane Palese, our current treasurer, was born in Schenectady, New York, and graduated from Bucknell University with a BA in economics. She was inducted into the PBK Mu Chapter of Pennsylvania. She also has an MBA from the University of Colorado. She works as a revenue accountant, tax professional, and instructor. Her hobbies and interests include reading, hiking, and travel with her family.

Emma Smith, our other new board member, was born in Gainesville, Florida, and went to school at CU Boulder, where she was inducted into the PBK Alpha Chapter. She majored in the humanities (English literature, and Spanish language and culture). She also earned an MS in organizational leadership (strategic leadership) from CU. She works as a change management consultant. She loves reading, mountain biking, watching

Formula 1 races, and being involved in her communities.

Greg Sorensen, the current president and past treasurer, helped found the Alpha Association in 1992. He was born in Denver and graduated from CU Boulder, where he majored in international affairs and spent two years studying in Vienna, Austria. He was inducted into the PBK Alpha Chapter of Colorado. He worked as a technical writer-editor, first with the National Park Service and then in the private sector. In addition to volunteer activities he likes travel, photography, reading, and all types of classical music.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

September 5, 2019 – A Key Connections event on “Millennial Money Matters – Digging Out of Student Debt,” followed by a trivia contest and social hour. The event was held at the Irish Snug in Denver.

December 5, 2019 – A docent-led tour of *Monet: The Truth of Nature* at the Denver Art Museum, followed by dinner at the FIRE Restaurant

July 29, 2020 – Our first movie discussion, focusing on *Hidden Figures*. The discussion included what people remembered most about the film, its accuracy, and what has changed in our society since the 1960s.

August 15, 2020 – Members met in Observatory Park for a socially distanced picnic.

August 19, 2020 – Showing of the documentary film *JFK: The Last Speech*, about John F. Kennedy’s visit to Amherst College on October 26, 1964, to commemorate the groundbreaking

Dues / Email and Street Addresses

Please check your address label to see when your dues expire. Your membership can be renewed by using the 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 tell us.

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

of the Robert Frost Library. Film producers Neil and Judy Bicknell from Boulder led the discussion, which considered privilege and our responsibility to serve the public interest, the importance of the arts and artists in our democracy, and the value of a liberal arts education.

IN MEMORIAM

Richard Baum, a long-time Alpha Association member, was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on December 30, 1933, and died in Denver on July 3, 2020. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Amherst College with *magna cum laude* distinction and trained at Columbia Medical School. After serving as an Air Force captain in Japan, he became one of the first board-certified neonatologists in the country. He taught at Harvard and created the neonatal ICU at the Methodist hospital system in Indianapolis, and also served as medical director of the NICU at St. David’s in Austin, Texas. He loved art, music, maps and restaurants.

The board of directors has made a \$25 donation to the Members’ Endowment in his memory.



PHI BETA KAPPA
ALPHA ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO
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PHI BETA KAPPA • ALPHA ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO
Virtual Annual Meeting and Program

Saturday, October 17, 2020, 10:00 A.M.

For a Zoom invitation, send an email to board@pbkcolorado.org.

An email announcement will also be sent out.