

# PHI BETA KAPPA

## Alpha Association of Colorado

### Summer 2022



## CU, DU Grads Win 2022 Scholarships

The Alpha Association of Colorado is pleased to announce the 2022 winners of our two scholarships for graduate studies. Alana Horwitz from the University of Colorado Boulder has been awarded the \$3,000 scholarship, and Andrew (Drew) Voitiv from the University of Denver, the \$2,000 scholarship. Thanks to all Alpha Association

members for your donations that make these awards possible and to the Scholarship Committee for all their hard work. The applicants had excellent credentials, and the committee thoroughly evaluated the applications before choosing the two winners. The PBK Alpha Association board approved the recommendations. Committee

members were Barbara Berryman (Chair), Julie DeWoody, Jim Elkins, Tom Hall, Amy Rell, and Kate Silz-Carson.

Since 1994 the Alpha Association has awarded \$94,500 in scholarships.

### Alana Horwitz



Alana Horwitz graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder with a double major in political science and ethnic studies.

Throughout Alana's college career, she took part in multiple extra-curricular activities and was an avid volunteer in her community, while also working part-time to put herself through college. Alana spent a semester abroad in Seville, Spain, where she took classes at a local university and volunteered teaching English. Additionally, Alana participated in the CU in D.C. program, where she spent a semester interning in the director's office of the U.S. Peace Corps in Washington, D.C., and continued taking classes with CU professors in the nation's capital.

During college, Alana spent three years conducting research on the academic achievement gap for her honors thesis. Her research found that academic achievement stems from a student's family income and the quality of the high school, with an indirect correlation to race. Alana's research contributed to her graduating *summa cum laude* and

Saturday, September 17, 2022

### DU Professor Jack Sheinbaum to Speak at 2022 Annual Lunch Meeting: "Good Music: What It Is and Who Gets to Decide"



Jack Sheinbaum, Professor of Musicology and Associate Director for Academic Affairs at DU's Lamont School of Music, earned an A.B. in music and psychology at Brown University, and he wrote a Ph.D. dissertation at Cornell University on cultural readings of form and musical color in Mahler's symphonies. He teaches courses for undergraduate and graduate music majors on classical music, popular music, and music historiography. In his role as Associate Director for Academic Affairs, he oversees curriculum, advising, and academic assessment.

In 2019 the University of Chicago Press published Professor Sheinbaum's book, *Good Music: What It Is and Who Gets to Decide*. The review on the website states, "Over the past two centuries Western culture has largely valorized a particular kind of 'good' music—highly serious, wondrously deep, stylistically authentic, heroically created, and strikingly original—and, at the same time, has marginalized music that does not live up to those ideals. [Professor Sheinbaum] explores these traditional models for valuing music. By engaging examples such as Handel oratorios, Beethoven and Mahler symphonies, jazz improvisations, Bruce Springsteen, and prog rock, he argues that metaphors of perfection do justice to neither the perceived strengths nor the assumed weaknesses of the music in question. Instead, he proposes an alternative model of appreciation where abstract notions of virtue need not dictate our understanding. Good music can, with pride, be playful rather than serious, diverse rather than unified, engaging to both body and mind, in dialogue with manifold styles and genres, and collaborative to the core. We can widen the scope of what music we value and reconsider the conventional rituals surrounding it, while retaining the joys of making music, listening closely, and caring passionately" (<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/G/bo31043323.html>).

being chosen as the “Outstanding Graduate” of the College of Arts and Sciences. Alana’s research encouraged her to enlist in AmeriCorps, spending a year volunteering full-time as a high school graduation coach at a Title I school in South Florida. She served as a tutor/mentor for students who were not on track to graduate. This fall, Alana begins her first year at the University of Virginia’s Law School, with an ultimate goal of practicing education law.

## Drew Voitiv



Drew Voitiv grew up in Springfield, Missouri, before leaving for Colorado to earn a B.S. in Physics from the Univer-

sity of Denver in 2019. Drew joined the Siemens Lab at DU in the first week of his first year as an undergraduate, which led to his affinity for physics and research. His role evolved from doing odd jobs around the labs to developing how to precisely generate, control, and measure “twisted” laser beams. The deceptively simple setting has turned out to be an endless fountain of challenging problems, and in 2020 he became a Ph.D. student in Physics at DU to continue and expand this work.

Outside of physics, Drew sings in the DU Men’s Choir, occasionally dances swing and tango, and frequently takes pleasant walks.

## PBK Mentorship Program

Mentoring is a powerful personal and career development tool that can enable a mentee to achieve or exceed his or her life goals and aspirations. “The role of a mentor is multi-faceted, may be formal or informal, and may change or evolve

## Annual Meeting, Lunch, and Speaker — Saturday, September 17, 2022, at the University of Denver

The Alpha Association’s annual meeting and lunch will be on Saturday, September 17, 2022, in the Fourth Story West Room at the Community Commons, 2055 E. Evans Ave. (Please note this is a change in venue.)

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 Professor Jack Sheinbaum will begin his talk. (Please see page 1 for more information.)

The lunch will be a deli buffet and will cost \$25. 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, or pay online through PayPal (treasurer@pbkcolorado.org). Reservations must be received by Monday, **September 12, 2022**. If you make a reservation but cannot attend, email board@pbkcolorado.org by September 12 to cancel. After this date, we will not be able to refund the lunch cost because we are guaranteeing the number of guests.

### Proposed 2022–23 Board of Directors

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

*President:* Diane Palese

*First Vice President:* George Gramer, Jr.

*Second Vice President:* Barbara Berryman

*Secretary:* Kristin Adcock

*Treasurer:* Greg Sorensen

*Ex officio Members:* Ben Palen and Alana Horwitz

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

as the needs of the mentee change. A mentor can be a role model, coach, sounding board, voice of reason, emotional support, counselor, and a trusted resource” (www.mentorcity.com).

If you are interested in applying for a mentorship or being a mentor, visit our mentorship website at [www.pbkcolorado.org/mentorship](http://www.pbkcolorado.org/mentorship) or contact Ben Palen (benpalen@yahoo.com).

## Upcoming Activities

### • Book Club

Book club discussions continue. For information about the next month’s book and discussion group, contact Alicia Rinko at [aliciarinko@yahoo.com](mailto:aliciarinko@yahoo.com).

### • Key Connections

The Alpha Association’s Key Connections event for this year will

be Thursday, September 22, 2022, 5:30–8:00 P.M. at the Bierstadt Lagerhaus Bierhalle, 2875 Blake St., Denver, Colorado, 80205. Each guest’s first drink and happy hour snack will be paid for.

On Wednesday, September 14, the national society will host a virtual panel discussion on essential networking tools and life lessons for developing career connections, plus an opportunity to network with fellow Phi Betes.

To register for either event, go to [Eventbrite.com/cc/key-connections-2022-916529](https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/key-connections-2022-916529).

### • Movie Discussion

Watch the movie *Passing* on Netflix and join the Zoom discussion on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7 P.M. An email link will be sent in early October with details for joining the discussion.

## Meet Randy Altman, Our Newest Lifetime Member

Randy Altman graduated from the University of Kansas as a sociology major with honors and was inducted into the Alpha of Kansas Phi Beta Kappa Chapter. After he moved to Colorado a few years ago, he looked us up online and reached out to become involved with the Alpha Association. Randy has lived a fascinating life and agreed to do an interview for our newsletter.

*Why did you choose sociology as your major?*

The week after high school ended, I just could not wait to start college and started as a summer school student. Sociology can cover just about any topic using just about any perspective, including using a humanities approach. A relatively expensive private school was within driving distance from my parents' house, and it was the only social science topic where you could take an intro course for ten weeks, then a more specialized and advanced course for the next ten weeks. I wanted to start my freshman year taking advanced level courses in something, so sociology picked me, not the other way around! It was the only way I could start my undergraduate honors thesis my sophomore year. As for the humanities, I was taking moderately advanced Latin my freshman year.

*Since you have a family connection to the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art\* in Overland Park, Kansas, does art have a special meaning in your life? If so, how would you describe that?*

The house I grew up in had an art studio in it. My mother and I would talk at length about the stages of development of her pieces. She sold almost all her work. Currently,

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\* Randy's maternal grandmother, Rose Nerman, was the namesake of the museum.

every few years, a family member will die or a friend will die. So, I still inherit art. My first acquisition was in 1974, bought my sophomore year. I have been surrounded by art for most of my life. I tend to look at art through my mother's eyes. If we had not added more rooms to the house, we would have lacked the space to present our better pieces.

*Describe your career. How did you get your start? Low points? High points?*

My start was getting a tea trade magazine to publish a long article I submitted on green tea. It was the first major article on green tea in English in such a magazine, which at the time was rarely drunk in the West. So, my timing was good, and green tea soon became somewhat popular in the West, largely because of its health benefits and lower caffeine. Low points were editors paying me late. High points were flying first class and business class to India (five times), Bhutan, Japan, and Sri Lanka. My work was translated into five Asian languages, and these governments and businesses provided reliable sources of information. I often had my own cook and driver.

*Did a liberal arts education help in your career?*

Yes, because I kept inserting myself in such radically different cultures. I had to be ready to shift culture-worlds at short notice. I was usually based in Kolkata (Calcutta), then once flew first class to Bhutan, then back to Kolkata, where the native language is not Hindi but Bengali. The same trip involved rural expeditions to tea estates by roads that were roads in name only. One rural trip I travelled with two heavily armed bodyguards. We hit a roadblock by a large band of separatist extremists, similar to ethnic Marxist extremists. I never even attempted to add up how many

languages and cultures I had to deal with that week.

*What is the most influential book you've read and why?*

As for having an influence on me, it would be Virgil's *Aeneid*. I got lucky. The best living translator into English of Virgil taught me two courses on the *Aeneid*. This pertains partially, once again, to ambition. It "looks good" when applying to grad school to take such courses, and I loved the book and still love it. That was almost half-a-century ago, and I think about the *Aeneid* every week of my life. You cannot get anything more purely "liberal arts" than Latin poetry.

*What is your philosophy of life? Why?*

I never had a philosophy of life until I met my son-in-law. His daughters were the reason my wife and I moved to Colorado. He served three tours in the army, including two combat tours. One tour was in the Rapid Response Force, which could be described (with some oversimplification error) as the SWAT team for the army, but with an entire nation for your emergency jurisdiction, not just a town or city. The enemy may be breaking through in a distant part of Iraq, middle of the night, so with no advance notice, a rush onto the helicopter for many hours with little to no understanding of what to expect. He has been well-awarded by the U.S. government. Virgil wrote about warfare; back then, warfare made men "manly." Today, we know the matter is not so simple, with countless nuances. But, I had never before met a person with so much honor and loyalty that constitutes my son-in-law. Part of the complexity is that the object of loyalty must be earned, and that what is honorable is in fact honorable. Ah, there's the rub.



**PHI BETA KAPPA**  
**ALPHA ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO**  
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## **Dues / Mail and Email 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](mailto:treasurer@pbkcolorado.org)). If you are no longer interested in being a member, please let us know.

Send any new mail or email address to [board@pbkcolorado.org](mailto:board@pbkcolorado.org). If you have not received any recent emails from us, we do not have your current email address.

## **PHI BETA KAPPA • ALPHA ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO** ***Annual Meeting, Lunch, and Speaker***

Saturday, September 17, 2022

11:30 A.M.

Fourth Story West Room, Community Commons  
University of Denver  
2055 E. Evans Ave., Denver, CO 80210

Details about parking, access, and any DU COVID precautions  
will be sent to those making reservations.



**Speaker:** Jack Sheinbaum, Professor of Musicology  
Lamont School of Music, University of Denver  
*Good Music: What It Is and Who Gets to Decide*

**Paid reservations must be received by Monday,  
September 12, 2022**