Issue 3: Volume 11
Week of Dec. 6 to Dec. 13

What do you get when you cross a graham cracker with icing? The ground floor of a Gingerbread House!

Join Honors RAP student leaders in the Smith Hall Great Room on Tuesday, December 8 beginning at 8 pm. Candy and prizes for winning architectural achievements. Special gifts for all Honors RAP returners . . . because you contribute so much to our community!

Events
Consider taking a break from your studies on Thursday evening to join your faculty family-in-residence for cookies and a cup of hot cocoa. Bring a mug if you have one. Holiday tunes, candy canes and whipped cream provided, ugly sweaters optional!

COCOA AND COOKIES
The Gerlands (Oliver, Kate, and Nora)
Smith Hall E180
Thursday, December 10
7-9pm (open house)

The Writer's Lounge

Looking for help on that last great paper of the semester? Don’t forget about the Writer’s Lounge: Sundays from 6-9pm in S205.

Smith Hall Book Club
Monday at 8 pm
East Second Open
Lounge

Honors RAP Director Dr. Oliver Gerland and his family- wife Kate and daughter Nora- are serving as the faculty-in-residence this year for Smith Hall. As director, Dr. Gerland oversees the entire RAP program and puts on special events for students throughout the year. On Thursday, the Gerlands will host a "Cocoa and Cookies" event in their apartment on East first, and so for this week, Kate and Nora Gerland are our Residents of the Week.

This year has brought some big changes for the Gerland family. They moved out of their home in Louisville and into an apartment in Smith Residence Hall, leaving their neighborhood behind and coming into an environment full of young college students.

"We lived with a lot more older people," wife Kate says. "I think one of the fun parts of being here is all the youthful energy, but then on the other hand, I sometimes miss being around people my own age."

All in all, though, the Gerlands enjoy living here. Daughter Nora, who is a sophomore at Boulder High School, enjoys attending some of the hall events with students. Some of her favorites include the pumpkin carving, the Frozen screening, and the bubble wrap popping. She also loves eating in the dining halls, especially Sewall, something she has in common with many CU students.

Another perk of living here, Kate says, is seeing the flatirons right outside every day.

"Every morning when I let the dog out and feed him, I see a beautiful view of the flatirons right outside the door," she says.

Speaking of dogs, the family owns a chocolate lab, who seems to get quite a bit of attention from fellow Smith residents.

"I think if you were to interview the dog, he would say he loves all the attention and that anytime we go anywhere,
he's a rockstar," Kate says. "Everybody's like 'Can I pet your dog?'. But, he misses his yard."

As for the future, the Gerlands do not know yet if they will be living here in upcoming years. Typically, faculty-in-residence is for two years, so there is a good chance they will be sticking around. Either way, they are enjoying the time they get to spend living on a college campus, and are embracing the changes that come along with living in such a different environment.

"One of the things that is sort of unusual about college is how it is such an intensive environment," Kate says. "There are very few kids and there are very few older people. There is a very narrow age band, so it's very different, even for kids. They grow up in a neighborhood where there are people younger than them, their parents, and older people. College is such an intensive environment with everyone very close in age."

Be sure to keep an eye out for the Gerlands at future hall events, give their dog some love if you see him outside, and swing by their apartment on Thursday for some cookies and hot chocolate.
That's all Folks!