

Coloradan

Alumni Magazine Spring 2025

Sustainable Startups

One in five CU Boulder
companies solve
environmental issues.

Be Boulder.



Alumni Association
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



NOW

DECEMBER 14, 2024

During a ceremony in New York City, **Travis Hunter** (Psych'26) became the second Buff to claim the Heisman Trophy, widely considered the most prestigious recognition in college sports. CU running back **Rashaan Salaam** (Soc ex'96) won the award in 1994.

During the 2024 regular season and bowl game, Hunter played cornerback and wide receiver for the Buffs. On defense, he played 748 snaps and recorded four interceptions and 11 pass breakups. On offense, he played 712 snaps, which included 96 receptions and 15 touchdowns.

After thanking his fiancée, parents and several others in his acceptance speech, he turned to coach Deion Sanders and quarterback **Shedeur Sanders** (Soc'25) and declared, "You changed my life forever."

He is projected as a top-five pick in the NFL Draft this April.

THE HEISMAN MEMORIAL TROPHY
PRESENTED BY
THE HEISMAN TROPHY TRUST
TO
TRAVIS HUNTER
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
AS THE OUTSTANDING COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYER
IN THE UNITED STATES FOR



COVER Since 2000, CU Boulder has launched 44 companies focused on sustainability, a dozen of which have begun in the past few years. Illustration by Daniele Simonelli.

ABOVE On Sept. 28, 2024, CU Boulder hosted its first powwow in 23 years. The event occurred on Farrand Field.

16 Building with Biology
From engineered “living” sidewalks to quantum-fueled leak detection systems, several CU spinouts are bringing earth-focused breakthroughs to the marketplace.

22 Thinking in 3D
As a teenager, **Maggie Grout** (Mgmt’21) asked a bold question: “What if we 3D-printed a school?” Nearly a decade later, her nonprofit is turning that vision into a global mission.

24 A Performance Among the Stars
SpaceX astronaut **Sarah Gillis** (AeroEngr’17) is the first to play violin in space.

28 Sustain Your Ground
Environmental crises are a science challenge — and a storytelling challenge. Professor Phaedra Pezzullo explores what makes sustainability stories resonate.

32 Spirit of the Century
Peggy Coppom (A&S ex’46) turned 100 last November. As a superfan of all things CU athletics, the university community still brings her joy.

36 ¿Dónde Está Boulder?
The Baca family from Trinidad, Colorado, has nurtured three generations of Buffs — a feat that has defied the family’s expectations.

EDITOR’S NOTE

Close your eyes and think about sustainability. What images and colors come to mind? Perhaps you see green, outdoorsy images of the natural environment. But as we work toward a greener future, we’ll also see metal and concrete — brown and gray — people and labs, bricks and batteries, communication and ideas.

Sustainability is critical for the future of communities and the broader world, and its efforts are driven by entrepreneurs, scientists and creative thinkers.

CU’s focus on sustainability also zooms in on the individual. It asks: What does it take for people to thrive as they pursue their passions? A multi-layered approach must be thoughtful, methodical, collaborative.

Inside this issue, you’ll find the stories about advancing sustainability in areas that include renewable concrete, 3D printing and more holistic practices for musicians. And there are a few treats, including a personal essay about the Dark Horse and a story about CU’s No. 1 superfan: **Peggy Coppom** (A&S ex’46). Happy reading!

Maria Kuntz

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DEPARTMENTS

1 NOW Travis Hunter

4 INQUIRY Azza Kamal

6 Campus News

7 Boulder Beat
Dark Horse

12 LOOK
Día de los Muertos

14 ORIGINS
Environmental Center

40 Infographic

44 Alumni News

48 Chancellor’s Q&A

50 Sports

54 Class Notes

60 Feedback

64 THEN
Rashaan Salaam

Beyond Green Spaces

Azza Kamal wears many hats — besides teaching sustainable planning and urban design in CU Boulder's Environmental Design (ENVD) department, she is an urbanist, policy researcher and licensed architect in Egypt. Her work tackles some of the toughest challenges in urban planning — housing instability, affordability and equitable development — while incorporating cutting-edge geotechnology and a commitment to social and environmental sustainability.

What is sustainable planning and urban design? Many factors affect sustainability — walkability, resource allocation, population density and the relationship with cars and the transit system. Sustainable planning examines how these factors intersect and addresses policy gaps that impact how and where people live, how they move around the city and the cost for all of this.

What is the link between social and environmental justice and sustainability?

Sustainability without social equity is a problem for everyone. It drives up costs — when we design and build beautiful, green-certified buildings, they often become unaffordable for large portions of the population. This exclusion can increase our carbon footprint, even as we aim to reduce it.

What's an example of these consequences? When there isn't enough affordable housing near transit hubs and jobs, low- and moderate-income individuals often have to live farther from their workplaces. This leads to long, costly

commutes, which can consume 60% or more of some households' income while also increasing emissions.

What is the solution?

Both affordability and sustainability should be lenses for every project we build and every policy we create at the city and state levels. Otherwise, we risk solving one issue while exacerbating another. It's complicated to advocate for these policies, but educating students to become thoughtful planners is essential.

What major changes have you witnessed in urban planning?

For years, local governments have approached urban planning in silos — different departments working independently without much connection. But in the last 10 to 15 years, as we've seen more tangible impacts of climate change, cities have begun to adopt a more connected approach. Departments of sustainability are looking at the built environment from a holistic, performance-centered approach: how developments are shaped, how people move to jobs, schools, goods and

service areas and how infrastructure interacts with sustainability goals. This perspective is crucial if we're going to design resilient cities for the future.

What does your day to day look like at CU?

My primary role is teaching and research, but I'm also part of an interdisciplinary team addressing housing affordability in the Mountain West. We're analyzing data specifically in Boulder County to understand what areas are affordable, how the housing market is behaving and the characteristics of households in different areas. This research supports future policies that promote equity in housing access.

What drives you to make an impact?

Justice for everyone. Developing according to the status quo might be easier and faster (and often more profitable), but it eventually harms us all. We must approach development with social and environmental justice in mind, ensuring that those who need affordable housing don't fall through the cracks.



For ENVD associate teaching professor Azza Kamal, sustainability and social equity are interconnected.

How does technology fit into your work?

Technology is a powerful tool for planners. For example, we can use virtual and augmented reality to engage communities in urban design projects. When people see realistic models of proposed changes, they're more likely to support them. This type of community engagement fosters trust and collaboration, help-

ing us create solutions that reflect real needs and concerns.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Although my work seems complex and high-level, it's rooted in connectedness — every decision we make impacts what we build, how we build and whom we build for. If we don't consider these connec-

tions, we risk falling short of our goals. I'm optimistic that multidisciplinary collaboration will equip the next generation with the skills and perspectives to make a real and lasting difference.

Condensed and edited for print. To read the full interview, visit colorado.edu/coloradan. INTERVIEW BY KELSEY YANDURA

Revolutionizing Musicians' Wellness

James Brody's legacy at CU Boulder — and beyond.

When a CU Buffaloes football player gets injured, coach Deion Sanders enlists a team of professionals to ensure a swift recovery. That's what professor James Brody does with students at the College of Music's Musicians' Wellness Program (MWP). Studies estimate that 90% of professional musicians experience playing-related pain or injuries due to misuse or overuse, and 80% of college-aged musicians report stress, anxiety or depression tied to their craft.

Physical and mental well-being for musicians.



In response, Brody founded the MWP in 2003 to help students prevent and recover from injuries, sustain peak performance and maintain robust mental health throughout their careers.

"It became glaringly obvious this was a necessity when students came to me with injuries 20 years ago," said Brody. "I was committed to finding ways to make a difference."

The MWP was among the first of its kind, predating the National Association of Schools of Music's 2005 mandate requiring music programs to address wellness. Since its inception, Brody and the MWP have expanded services and recently shared their work at three international conferences.

The program teaches performance psychology and exercise techniques for breathing, hearing and vocal health. It also includes on-staff therapist Matthew Tomatz, who provides therapy sessions to support students' emotional well-being, including managing performance anxiety.

After 47 years of teaching, Brody will retire as director of the MWP on July 31, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to positively influence the health of College of Music students, faculty and staff — and wellness aspirants across the globe.

"The fact that we've already helped so many to continue to do what they love is truly gratifying," he said.

With a search for a new director underway, Brody hopes the program will receive expanded funding to introduce initiatives like a certificate in musicians' health, onsite physical therapists and medical professionals and hearing protection devices for students. But one thing's for sure: Brody's revolutionary vision ensures the program's lasting impact on future generations of musicians. **BY ALLY DEVER**

BOULDER BEAT **Dark Horse**

Ode to Boulder's World-Famous Dark Horse



Last year, developers announced plans to reimagine the space where the Dark Horse is located.

Push through the doors of Boulder's Dark Horse, and you'll find yourself in a veritable labyrinth, crammed to the gills with old movie props and memorabilia from the past century — anything from a grammar school diploma from Bangor, Maine, to a mod-podge collage of magazine cut-outs. Located on the corner of Baseline Road and U.S. Highway 36, this longtime favorite townie bar and grill has been a stalwart go-to for both community members and CU Boulder students since 1975 — but it also holds a special place in my heart.

On weeknights, my friends and I often pack into an oversized corner booth to cash in on amazing happy hour deals (half-off wells!). "The usual" for my partner, Omar, and I means we're splitting a burger and an order

of the spicy dry-rub wings with blue cheese and a side of hot sauce. Over the five years we have called Boulder home, this ritual has become an anchor of mine. Many an evening has been spent in various nooks and crannies of the bar discussing our next grand adventure, celebrating birthdays and milestones and partaking in what we affectionately call "horsing around." A quick text to our friend group chat simply asking, "Horse?" rallies the troops in record time.

In early 2024, developers announced plans to reimagine the parcel of land where the Dark Horse has lived for more than five decades. Construction is slated to begin in 2026. According to the *Denver Post*, the proposed development, dubbed "Williams Village II," would include 610 housing units, mostly dedicated to off-campus

student housing and commercial space.

Long-time fans of the Dark Horse showed up in droves to the City of Boulder planning board meeting last March to express dismay about the proposal, citing their love for the quirky space and sharing concerns about how the plan would contribute to a lack of affordable housing in the Boulder area, among others.

The thought of losing the Dark Horse is unfathomable to me. The developers have promised to relocate the iconic bar nearby, but the sticky counters and years of names etched into the booths lend the bar its charm.

For now, my friends and I have plastered the town with "Save the Dark Horse" stickers.

BY ANNA TOLETTE



Lauren Elbert (Mktg'27) loves the traditions of student life — from color guard to singing the alma mater.

QUICK FACTS

Studying
Marketing, with a minor in creative technology and design

Expected Graduation
May 2027

From
Franktown, Colorado



Works at
Drogo's
Coffee Bar



Color guard
in the Golden
Buffaloes
Marching Band



Resident
advisor in
Kittredge
Central

A DAY AS A BUFF

“As a resident advisor, it’s super convenient to go to class next door in the Koelbel building. After class, I usually head to my barista job. It is the best part of my day, because I get to make coffee and talk to people who come in from around Boulder. Then, I normally hit up The Rec to run or take a cycle class. After that, I go to color guard practice and usually have meetings for the Leeds Scholars Program, Herd Leadership Council or a residence hall staff meeting, depending on the day. Later, I head back to my room, get some homework done, read a bit and go to bed. It’s a busy life, but it’s a good one!”

FAVORITE CU TRADITION

“The Golden Buffaloes Marching Band is steeped in tradition and spirit for the campus. After each game, we sing the alma mater together, regardless of the turnout or how tired we are.”

CU'S INFLUENCE

“CU Boulder has shown me how creativity and business can intersect. The collaborative projects in my classes and my involvement in the Leeds Scholars Program have helped me develop a vision for combining marketing, technology and sustainability. I’m inspired to pursue a career focused on impactful storytelling and responsible innovation.”

Beaver Believers

CU Boulder education students, alumni and faculty are inspiring climate action in the classroom.

On a fall day, elementary education majors in Melissa Braaten’s class are busy — busy as beavers, one might say — building mock beaver dams out of water and natural materials in small bins. During this exercise, budding teachers role-play teaching young learners in their future classrooms, asking questions and analyzing beavers’ role in ecosystems.

The climate science lesson is modeled after one that Braaten’s community partners teach at Heatherwood Elementary in Boulder County as part of Classrooms for Climate Action (C4CA). In this particular lesson, student scientists (lovingly referred to as “beaver believers”) study real beaver habitats in the local waterway, where the dams create wetlands habitats for other species and maintain lush surroundings important for the increasingly drier state of Colorado.

Launched by retired fifth-grade teacher **Tiffany Boyd** (MEdu’92), C4CA brings together retired and practicing teachers, community members, local climate change experts and youth to work together toward climate solutions.

In C4CA, kindergarten through high school students learn about environmental justice issues and play an active role in climate solutions — from sharing flood-mitigation ideas with city council to working with open space officials to address fire risks.

Braaten, an associate professor of STEM education and associate dean for undergraduate and teacher education in CU Boulder’s School of Education, is a research partner for C4CA and documents how science teaching is powerful when it’s relevant to students’ lives and civic action.

With Braaten as the connector, C4CA educators visit her elementary education classes to share real-world examples and create C4CA’s own “ecosystem” of current and future teachers working together to support young people’s scientific inquiry and leadership in climate solutions.

“A central ingredient for C4CA’s success is that it takes everyone working together to make a change,” Braaten said. “Teachers credit its partner mentorship with inspiring and sustaining their efforts to help children be civic actors working for environmental justice — not only as future adults, but in the immediate present as vital members of our community.” **BY HANNAH FLETCHER**



CAMPUSnews

DIGITS

Europa Instrument

The Surface Dust Analyzer, designed and built by the CU Boulder Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics team, launched to Jupiter's Europa moon aboard NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft to collect data that may determine whether the moon has conditions that could support life.

6

Years to get to Europa

35 lbs

Weight of CU apparatus

\$53M

Instrument's cost

16 mi

How close Europa Clipper will be to the moon's surface

~1.9B

Number of miles Europa Clipper will travel across the solar system

Incarcerated at Risk in Climate Disasters

U.S. prisons are unprepared to safeguard the incarcerated from extreme heat, floods and other climate-related threats, according to a CU study with accounts from nearly three dozen formerly incarcerated people. Researchers found that vulnerabilities in infrastructure, insufficient emergency protocols and lack of oversight leave inmates at heightened risk during disasters. The team hopes their study will inspire more research around climate change adaptation, mitigation and prevention while also considering the voices of incarcerated people.

CU Buys Shuttered Louisville Movie Theater

CU Boulder purchased the 8.85-acre Louisville property that housed the Regal Cinebarre movie theater, which closed last May. The site, purchased for \$10 million, is intended for a mixed-use, transit-oriented development that includes university

housing. The property is seven miles from campus.

New Quantum Facility in Boulder

CU Boulder is spearheading and providing leadership and resources to a new 13,000-square-foot quantum facility in east Boulder. The effort is in partnership with Colorado State University, Colorado School of Mines and Elevate Quantum, a tech hub with a coalition of 120 organizations. The facility will include collaborative office space for early-stage quantum companies and state-of-the-art scientific equipment.



Heard Around Campus

"Coach Mac was an incredible man who taught me about the importance of faith, family and being a good husband, father and grandfather."

—CU Boulder Athletic Director Rick George after the death of Bill McCartney on Jan. 10, 2025. Coach Mac was among the most successful head coaches in all sports in CU Boulder's 135-year athletic history.

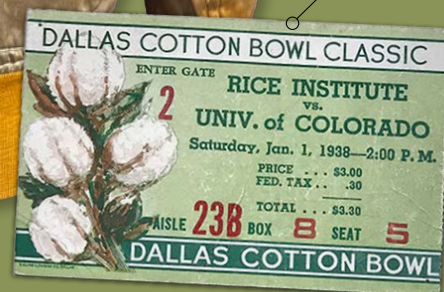
ARTIFACT Football Jacket



Cotton Bowl
Played Jan. 1, 1938

New Experience
CU's first bowl game appearance

Final Tally
Lost 14–28 to Rice University



The Buffs Went Bowling

In 1938, the CU Buffaloes played in their first bowl game — the Cotton Bowl — on New Year's Day in Dallas after an undefeated season.

In the weeks leading to the game, a sense of glee hit the state of Colorado.

"Fans who have spent years yelling for DU, Mines and Colorado Aggies to beat Boulder transferred their allegiance temporarily to the CU Buffaloes," said the *Denver Post* on Dec. 31, 1937.

Buffs fans purchased souvenir Cotton Bowl scarves for 65 cents from major department stores to wear to the game, and anywhere from 6,000 to 7,000 people took

one of the five special trains from Colorado to Dallas for the game. (The train ride from Denver to Dallas took 21 hours.)

An estimated 10,000 CU fans attended the bowl, which resulted in a 14–28 loss to Houston's Rice University despite an exceptional performance by Buffs half-back Byron "Whizzer" White (Econ'38).

"It was a sensational game and had the fans in a frenzy," declared the *Colorado Alumnus* in January 1938.

In 1987, White's teammate Francis Stevens (ElEngr'40), who played left guard during the game, donated his Cotton Bowl team jacket to the CU Heritage Center.



Altar Crawl

Last fall's Día de los Muertos "Altar Crawl" invited the CU Boulder community to engage with several altars honoring the lives of deceased loved ones. Altars were located across campus, including in the Guggenheim Building, the Koenig Alumni Center, the CU Museum of Natural History, the Center for Community and the Miramontes Baca Education Building. The crawl — hosted by the Forever Buffs Latinx group, the BUENO Center, the Latin American and Latinx Studies Center, UMAS y MECHA, Sigma Lambda Beta and the Center for Inclusion and Social Change, among others — highlighted the cultural significance of the day with moments of remembrance and celebration.



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Sustainability Since 1970

The first officially celebrated “Earth Day” on April 22, 1970, marked the start of another green legacy: the CU Environmental Center.

A novel concept at the time, the center was founded by environmentally conscious students and acted as an on-campus organization for students to gather, develop and lead projects relevant to environmental issues. Since its inception, the “E-Center,” as it’s commonly known, has led sustainability initiatives, launched programs and partnered with green campus operations such as CU’s renewable energy campaign.

Financed by student fees since 1973, CU Boulder’s E-Center remains the largest student-led environmental center in the nation in terms of funding and employee support. Its innovative creation more than 50 years ago has inspired many other schools to model their student sustainability programs after CU’s.

“The E-Center is governed by students, funded by students and powered by students,” said Marianne Moulton Martin, E-Center associate director. “Many of our current programs would not have been realized without student leadership and initiatives.”

Driven by passionate Buffs, the center offers a variety of programs that aid sustainability efforts, including a composting program (started

in 2004), a campus pollinator garden (installed in 2014) and the Sustainable Buffs program — which invites students to explore how they can live, connect and lead sustainably. The center’s current priorities include developing sustainability leaders, identifying solutions to environmental issues that can be implemented beyond campus, helping CU Boulder reach zero waste and zero emissions, and promoting Buff pride through positive environmental impact.

From the recycling program created in 1976 to the first CU Bike Station in 2004, the E-Center has a green legacy that generations of Buffs have carried forward — with its student employees at the helm. In addition to the programs and services the center carries out, its student employees help engage their peers in meaningful conversations about everything from climate justice to environmentally friendly practices in labs.

“As a key partner in sustainability on campus, the E-Center aims to support every student who wants to create a positive change in their community,” said student employee **Megan McLemore** (IntlAf’26). “So we also act as a liaison, helping students join or start projects they are passionate about, and connecting them with the larger community of Sustainable Buffs here at CU Boulder.” **BY JESSICA WINTER**

[The CU Environmental Center launched 55 years ago on the first Earth Day.](#)

Building with Biology

From engineered “living” sidewalks to quantum-fueled leak detection systems, several University of Colorado spinouts are bringing earth-focused breakthroughs to the marketplace.

By
Heather
Hansen

Illustration
by Daniele
Simonelli



Imagine strolling down a sidewalk made from algae or building a wall with the help of microbes grown in a bioreactor.

This extraordinary image may sound futuristic, but the technology is already here, thanks to Prometheus Materials, a sustainability-focused CU Boulder spinout giving concrete blocks a makeover with the help of environmentally-friendly bio-cement-making bacteria, algae and microbes.

CU Boulder civil, environmental and architectural engineering professor Wil Srubar founded the Longmont-based company in 2021 with CEO Loren Burnett and a cross-disciplinary team of CU Boulder collaborators, including civil, environmental and architectural engineering associate professors Mija Hubler and Sherri Cook and the late Jeff Cameron, formerly of biochemistry.

The impetus for the research group formed several years earlier around a call for proposals from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the research and development arm of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) focused on developing new technologies for the military.

“Our charge from the DoD was to grow a material that had both biological and structural function,” said Srubar. “It sounded impossible, a bit like a Frankenstein objective of bringing building materials to life.”

But the challenge was right for Srubar, who leads CU Boulder’s Living Materials Laboratory, where researchers aim to create construction materials that are in harmony with the natural world.

“We had been thinking about these concepts for some time,” he said. “But this was the first government investment in this particular area that really catalyzed an entirely new field.”

After two years of “spinning their wheels,” said Srubar, the team had a breakthrough in the lab when they made the first sample of engineered living materials that fulfilled DARPA’s requirements. Srubar said this success required looking back — way back — to life on Earth before humans. They were inspired by formations called stromatolites, stony structures built by microscopic photosynthesizing organisms known as cyanobacteria, which are among the oldest living lifeforms on the planet.

“We know nature has built really strong, tough materials,” said Srubar.

By studying the composition of coral

and seashells, for example, the team figured out how to make lab-grown versions of the natural phenomena.

“You apply principles of biomimicry, you bring that process into the lab and beautiful things can happen,” he said.

Now Prometheus Materials, named for the legendary Greek god who introduced fire and other technologies to humans, is making sustainable building materials with a process that combines microalgae with other natural components to form zero-carbon bio-cement and bio-concrete with the major goal of reducing carbon emissions in the construction industry.

This is so important because making concrete — the most ubiquitous human-made building material on earth — generates massive amounts of CO₂ and contributes significantly to climate change. Global cement manufacturing produces 11 million tons of CO₂ every day (roughly equivalent to emissions from all the cars in the world), or about 8% of the world’s total CO₂ emissions, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. And, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, demand for cement in the U.S. alone is expected to double by 2050.

As the company realizes its transformative role in the construction industry, it has raised \$8 million in private funding in the past year and was awarded a role in a \$10 million grant from the Department of Energy (DOE) that will fund collaboration between a trio of national labs. With in this partnership, Prometheus will join other institutions in the field to establish methods for measuring, reporting and verifying CO₂ removal and sequestration in cement and concrete materials.

Environmental Stewardship

Prometheus is just one example of CU Boulder’s strong network of researchers bringing innovations out of labs and into companies that have real-world impact — the university is a national leader and spinout powerhouse, launching 35 companies in fiscal year 2024 and over 100 since 2016, according to Bryn Rees, associate vice chancellor for innovation and partnerships. Since 2000, the university has launched 44 sustainability-focused spinouts, including a dozen new companies in just the past few years, said Rees, who leads Venture Partners at CU Boulder, the university’s commercialization arm for the campus.

According to Rees and Srubar, several factors combine to make CU Boulder so effective at generating these kinds of

companies: research expertise, commercialization resources, market need and an eagerness to improve our world.

“There’s such a history of environmental stewardship here at the University of Colorado, and in Boulder specifically, and that’s very much a part of our institutional fabric,” said Srubar. “We do sustainability research really well and it’s one, if not *the* pillar, of our education and research mission at the university.”

Rees agreed: “It’s a function of our research prowess in that area. There are many highly talented researchers who care deeply about the climate crisis, and so that’s where they’ve oriented their research.”

Those innovations could be used in lots of different ways, but Rees shared, “The innovators are saying, ‘We want to apply these technologies to really important problems.’”

For Srubar and others, the drive to make the world a better place is strong.

**CU
Boulder
has
launched
44
sustainability-
focused
spinouts
since
2000.**

“It all begins with a vision and a belief that, first, the world is not static; it can become whatever you dream,” he said. “Understanding that you have the power and the potential to affect change is what really fueled me and our team.”

Rees also sees market need as critical to driving sustainability-focused ventures.

“There is an abundance of funding opportunities and demand from the market to have these types of solutions,” he said. “You’ve got the push from what CU

Boulder is really good at, and you’ve got the pull from a true need for these types of solutions across different industries.”

Driving Meaningful Change

Another company with CU Boulder beginnings is the well-established, Boulder-based LongPath, founded in 2017 by Greg Rieker, chief technology officer and CU Boulder associate professor of mechanical engineering, with colleagues **Caroline Alden** (PhDGeol’13), **Sean Coburn** (PhD-Chem’14) and Robert Wright, former CU Boulder senior researcher.

LongPath harnesses quantum technology to detect fugitive methane emissions from oil and gas operations, innovation that benefits industry and investors — and the planet. The company’s breakthroughs in laser technology and quantum sensing, rooted in CU Boulder’s Nobel Prize-winning optical frequency comb technology, created a leak detection system to do what previous approaches could not: continuously detect invisible-to-the-eye natural gas escaping from pipes on-site at oil and gas facilities.

Finding and patching those leaks is a triple win — in industry cost savings (from \$820 to \$980 million per year), and improved air quality and public health. LongPath’s technology can identify natural gas leaks that sicken and displace thousands of people each year and cut greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane.

Today, LongPath’s Active Emissions Overwatch System is live at oil and gas operations in several states, covering hundreds of thousands of acres. Rieker and his team see the impacts of those systems growing each day, and he estimates that each system saves between 40 and 80 million cubic feet of methane annually.

“Every time we deploy a new system, it really is impactful,” he said, adding the team still celebrates every large leak located. “We’ll nail a big one for a customer, and that’s exciting.”

Similar to Srubar, LongPath’s founders were motivated by protecting the environment.

“Many academics measure impact in terms of papers published or citation rates. I always wanted the impact of my work to be more palpable,” said Rieker. “In 2024, LongPath stopped more than 6 billion cubic feet of methane emissions and counting. That’s impact, and that’s why we launched.”

Recently, the company received landmark financial backing from the DOE for a loan of up to \$189 million to accelerate the scale-up of the company's monitoring systems.

Another game-changing company making significant strides in sustainability is Louisville-based Solid Power, founded in 2011, based on technology developed by CU Boulder mechanical engineering professor Se-Hee Lee and professor emeritus of mechanical engineering Conrad Stoldt (Chem'94).

**“I think
CU Boulder's
reputation
will
continue
to grow
in this
space.”**

Similar to Srubar and Prometheus Materials, Stoldt and Lee answered a call from DARPA. Their challenge was to double the energy density of a rechargeable battery.

“The metrics they wanted to reach were unheard of,” said Stoldt, but he and Lee accepted the challenge anyway. “We saw it as an opportunity... and we sat down and determined that, at least on paper, the only rechargeable battery technology that could meet the specs for the program was a solid-state battery.”

Lee and Stoldt partnered with Douglas Campbell, a small business and early-stage product developer, and chief technology officer Joshua Buettner-Garrett to start Solid Power. Along with then-mentor Dave Jansen, the team negotiated a commercialization agreement with Venture Partners (known then as the CU Technology Transfer Office), making the company an exclusive licensee to the university's intellectual property.

What began as an idea Stoldt said was “bootstrapped” in CU Boulder labs, Solid Power is now an industry-leading developer of next-generation all-solid-state battery technology. As their name suggests, solid-state batteries (SSBs) differ from conventional batteries in that the electrolyte powering them is a solid material instead of a gel or liquid. That gives SSBs many advantages over lithium-ion batteries now widely used in electronics, toys, appliances and — critically — electric vehicles.

Solid Power's design bests lithium-ion cells on safety, cost, durability and battery life — attributes long sought by consumers and automakers. Their technology swaps the flammable liquid in lithium-ion cells with a solid, sulfide-based electrolyte that is safer and more stable across a broad temperature range. Solid Power's cells also easily outpace the conductivity and energy density of today's best rechargeable batteries. The result is a smaller, lighter cell that is cheaper and has a longer-lasting charge.

Solid Power, which went public in 2021, employs many Forever Buffs and boasts major partnership deals with BMW and Ford, along with a new 75,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Thornton.

Their continued innovation was recognized with a recent \$5.6 million DOE grant to continue developing its nickel- and cobalt-free cell, and, late last year, the company began award negotiations for up to \$50 million in DOE funding. With this project, Solid Power intends to launch the world's first continuous manufacturing process, allowing the company to produce its critical electrolyte material more quickly and at a lower cost.

From Lab to Marketplace

With the burgeoning success of Prometheus and others, Srubar hopes to inspire other researchers to make the leap to the marketplace. To that end, he was recently named Deming associate dean for innovation and entrepreneurship, a new role in the College of Engineering and Applied Science focused on building bridges between labs and the marketplace.

“This is something I'm so passionate about — shining a light for those inspired and driven by a vision to see change in the world and to follow that pathway of commercialization,” Srubar said. “I think CU Boulder's reputation will continue to grow in this space, and I'm excited to be a part of it.”



Thinking in



As a teenager, Maggie Grout asked a bold question: “What if we 3D-printed a school?” Nearly a decade later, her nonprofit is turning that vision into a global mission. **By Kelsey Yandura**

Maggie Grout (Mgmt’21) has never been one to think small. At just 15 years old, Grout walked up to her dad and asked a life-changing question: “What if we 3D-printed a school?”

The answer, in the form of Grout’s nonprofit Thinking Huts, would ripple out to impact not only her own future, but the futures of families and communities across the globe.

⇅ Welcome to Bougainvillea

Seven years after Grout’s initial idea sparked, Bougainvillea was born — a 700-square-foot, 3D-printed school in Madagascar, a country that faces some of the highest education exclusion rates in the world.

And while the grunt work of planning and preparing spanned the better part of a decade, the execution was swift — using an industrial-scale 3D printer and a cement mixture, an on-site team printed the modular wall components in just 18

hours. From there, the units were pieced together to form a completed structure. The roof, doors and windows, handcrafted by local artisans and builders, were added several weeks later.

Grout said watching the walls come to life was surreal: “I kept thinking, ‘Oh, my gosh, this is crazy. It’s finally happening.’”

⇅ Patience Pays Off

For Grout, education and sustainability are intimately connected, and creating a dynamic bridge between them requires a people-first approach.

“Relationship building is a slow drip,” said Kristen Harrington, director of development at Thinking Huts. “A lot of organizations focus on speed, but if you’re looking at how to build more holistic communities and better equip families and address the poverty cycle, you have to take the whole picture into account.”

Grout said this relationship-first ethos has roots in her years at CU Boulder,

Fig. 1

With Maggie Grout’s nonprofit, a team can build a Madagascar school in weeks.



Fig. 2

Cement and 3D printing for quick building.

where she said the people she met were the most impactful, including her mentorship with **Mike Leeds** (Fin’74).

“I think even now I’m realizing how critical it is to have a network of people around you,” she said. “The relationships I developed were the biggest things that I took away from school.”

⇅ CEO with a Story

Grout’s passion for education has been lifelong. Born and abandoned in a rural village in China, she was adopted by American parents at 18 months old and grew up in the U.S.

“I’ve always been aware of how people’s lives are different from mine,” said Grout. “That’s what drew me more to understanding the importance of education.”

The result is a work ethic and leadership style that has garnered international attention from major media outlets like *Forbes* and *Good Morning America*. In fall 2024, Grout

was featured as one of *Time* magazine’s featured “Next Generation Leaders.”

⇅ Honeycomb on the Horizon

For Grout and her team of 10, Bougainvillea is just the beginning. Next up is the Honeycomb Campus. Named for its design of adjoining hexagonal bases, this multi-building project will serve three remote villages on the west coast of Madagascar. The project is set to include solar power and will impact more than 200 students ages four to 16, starting in summer 2025.

When asked about her approach to the future and how she’d encourage other innovators in philanthropy and sustainability, Grout emphasized a sense of hope.

“I know that what we do now will have a major impact later on,” she said. “I am trying to aspire for a legacy of change, even if it takes time.”

Read a longer version of this story at colorado.edu/coloradan.

A PERFORMANCE AMONG THE

STARS



Astronaut Sarah Gillis is the first to play violin in space.

BY CHRISTIE SOUNART
PHOTO BY GLENN ASAKAWA

AT MORE THAN 870 miles above Earth, this was no ordinary violin recital.

On Sept. 13, 2024, **Sarah Gillis** (AeroEngr'17) played “Rey’s Theme” from *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* by legendary composer John Williams — from a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft. As she played, Gillis firmly pressed her violin to her shoulder with her chin as she floated around the zero-gravity chamber, her hair flowing wildly.

Gillis’ three astronaut crewmembers filmed the inaugural performance as part of the Polaris Program’s Polaris Dawn mission, then transmitted the video to Earth via Starlink, a laser-based satellite communication.

Polaris Dawn posted the video, “Harmony of Resilience,” on X that day as part of a partnership with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and El Sistema USA, which supports American music education programs. The video included Gillis’ performance and clips from orchestras playing the same piece in Los Angeles, Boston, Haiti, Sweden, Brazil, Uganda and Venezuela.

“The whole music moment was meant to inspire and show what’s possible when you can bring the world together,” Gillis said in an interview two months after returning to Earth.

Gillis reflected on the months of preparation for the performance, which included having engineers completely reconstruct her violin to survive the harsh space environment, and meeting Williams himself at the Los Angeles recording session.

“That was probably more stressful than actually going to space, if I’m completely honest,” said Gillis, who does not play violin professionally. “I was so nervous that he would show up and say, ‘No, you don’t have the rights to use this anymore.’ And instead he was so kind and supportive.”

From Training Astronauts to Becoming One

Gillis first gained interest in space as a high school student at Boulder’s Shining Mountain Waldorf School, where she attended a CU Boulder space for non-majors course with her brother **David Levine** (FilmSt, Hist’13) and met former CU instructor and NASA astronaut Joe Tanner. Tanner helped Gillis with a space-related project she had for school, and he encouraged her to consider engineering at CU Boulder.

“He really planted that seed,” she said. “I honestly don’t know that I would’ve considered engineering if that hadn’t happened.”

After Gillis returned to Earth, Tanner — who flew on four NASA space shuttle flights from 1994 to 2006 — was eager to swap space stories with her.

“Being a friend to Sarah was perhaps my greatest joy during my eight years at CU,” said Tanner. “I may have helped open a few doors for her, but she made everything happen. I couldn’t be more proud of her, even if she were my own daughter.”

During her junior year at CU, Gillis took an internship at SpaceX that lasted more than two years. She helped develop and test displays and interfaces on the interior of the company’s Dragon spacecraft, the first private spacecraft to take humans to and from the International Space Station.

“IT WAS MEANT TO INSPIRE AND SHOW WHAT’S POSSIBLE.”

“I got to see some of those design decisions in space on my mission,” she said.

She joined SpaceX full time in August 2017 as a space operations engineer, training astronauts on the interfaces she’d already worked on.

Several years later, her boss called a surprise meeting with her. Jared Isaacman, Polaris Dawn’s mission commander, was there to invite her to become part of the crew as a mission specialist, joining himself, Scott Poteet (mission pilot) and Anna Menon (medical officer and mission specialist).

“My response was, ‘Hell yes, but I’ll need to talk to some people first,’” she said. “I immediately walked out of the room and straight downstairs to my husband, who worked at SpaceX with me. He had his headphones on at his desk. I tapped him on the shoulder and said, ‘I need to talk to you.’ ... It was very special to share that exciting news.”

Five Record-Breaking Days

Two and a half years later, on Sept. 10, 2024, SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket launched



While at CU, Sarah Gillis was a SpaceX intern, which eventually led her to become an astronaut.

the crew aboard a Dragon spacecraft from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida. One of the crew’s main objectives on the mission was to conduct research to help better understand the human effects of space flight and space radiation. This included the first spacewalk from Dragon.

On the third day of the mission, Gillis and Isaacman exited the spacecraft in SpaceX’s newly designed and developed extravehicular activity spacesuits. For 10 minutes, she tested different components of the suit and became, at 30 years old, the youngest astronaut to complete a spacewalk.

When asked to describe the feat in one word, she settled on “dark.”

“I was emerging into the total blackness of space. It’s this immense void where you realize how close to Earth we are and how much is still left to explore out there, but it’s also this overwhelming dark blanket that is surrounding you.”

The next day was her violin performance, which was planned to test the connectivity of SpaceX’s Starlink laser-based internet from space. The data may help improve communications for future missions to the Moon and Mars.

The crew also conducted other experiments — including gathering data on space radiation — that could help advance human health for future long-duration space flights.

Gillis noted one surprising aspect of being in space she hadn’t prepared for:

how easily things got lost without the presence of gravity.

“It was always a constant treasure hunt of, ‘Has anybody seen this? Has anybody seen that?’” she said, adding that a missing camera SD card was found in the spacecraft weeks after landing. “You’d stick something with Velcro, then turn around and it would be gone.”

The historic mission lasted five days and ended with a successful splashdown off the coast of Florida.

“I hope that it is inspiring to people to see what the future of human spaceflight could be and where we’re going — that it is a possibility that more and more people are going to go to space,” Gillis said.

The Next Step

Gillis’ husband, **Lewis Gillis** (Aero Engr’17; MS’17), formerly a SpaceX senior propulsion engineer, reflected on his wife’s extraordinary career to date when the couple visited campus this past November.

“With some curiosity and passion and connecting to all the humans around her, Sarah’s made it quite a long way,” he said. “I’m excited to see what she builds next and who she meets along the way.”

Gillis said she would reconsider another spaceflight if given the opportunity, but she is eager for others to experience space first. She remains in her astronaut training position at SpaceX.

Reflecting on her historic mission, she said: “I think the more people we can get into space to see the world from that perspective, the better off humanity will be.”

Sustain Your Ground

Environmental crises are a science challenge — and a storytelling challenge. Phaedra Pezzullo explores what makes sustainability stories resonate.

By
Joe Arney

Illustration
By Scott Bakal



in Phaedra C. Pezzullo's case, by improving the environment — you need more than scholarly publications to create impact.

It's why one of her favorite stories involves the fact that her first solo-authored book, *Toxic Tourism*, inspired the lyrics to a punk-rock song by the band The Holland Dutch.

"Something like that reaches people in more profound ways than just talking about policy or politics," said Pezzullo, CU Boulder communication professor in the College of Media, Communication and Information (CMCI).

In early 2025, Pezzullo opened CMCI's Sustainability and Storytelling Lab. And while an academic lab in a formal university setting may sound out of step for someone whose work galvanizes protesters and inspires musicians, she sees it as an exciting next step in the shifting conversation around sustainability.

"The lab is already becoming a space where people from a range of disciplines who study sustainability — students, staff, faculty and community partners — can build relationships and consider the role of storytelling in the field," she said.

As with any university lab, creating high-impact learning opportunities for students is key.

Activist Becomes Academic

Pezzullo's formative educational experiences inspired her teaching philosophy. While a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she interviewed activists and community members in Warren County — known as the birthplace of the environmental justice movement — where landfill toxins were poisoning the water source serving a predominantly Black community.

Listening to their voices and adding her own to the cause helped Pezzullo to see how a single story could unlock

millions of dollars to clean a landfill. Cleanup work began as she completed her studies.

"I became hooked on stories," she said. "When we put storytelling into practice in service of complex problems, like sustainability, we discover why communication is captivating."

It's part of why Pezzullo doesn't limit her storytelling to scholarly publications. Her public-facing work on sustainability includes a podcast, *Communicating Care*, where she explores sustainability issues like plastic bag bans, disability justice and environmental treaties with other voices from the field.

One of these voices was **Emy Kane** (Int'lAf'13), managing director of Lonely Whale, an organization that raises awareness about and offers alternatives to problematic plastics through partnerships with brands and engagement with companies, scientists and the global youth movement.

"What inspired me most about Phaedra is her commitment to sharing stories borne from empathy and action," said Kane. "I'm thrilled to see my alma mater support her platform and research so that the next generation of leaders are equipped with the stories they need to reimagine the systems that run our world."

Conversations on the podcast helped inform Pezzullo's 2023 book, *Beyond Straw Men: Plastic Pollution and Networked Cultures of Care*, which won three national book awards. Highlighting success stories, she said, is important to counteract the defeatism and fatalism that typically accompany sustainability stories — and she's seeing such sentiments rising, even in her classroom.

Oftentimes, in the wake of a victory, "people point out just how much is still wrong with pollution, with our climate, with the world," she said. "Success isn't that there won't be more disasters — it's that, with more thoughtful choices, future disasters may be less impactful. And that is a more challenging story to tell."

Science Demands Better Stories

Amid news of rising temperatures, invasive microplastics and melting glaciers, it might seem frivolous to talk about sustainability in terms of good storytelling. But experts argue that we've struggled to make progress on environmental issues because the deeply scientific nature of these problems makes it hard for the general public to relate.

Robert Cox — Pezzullo's mentor at UNC Chapel Hill, where he remains an emeritus professor — credited his protégé with laying the basis for how understandable stories can change the course on climate.

"All the work being done to communicate climate science in the public sphere is now being talked about in terms of relatable stories that demonstrate the impact of climate change," said Cox, a three-time president of the Sierra Club environmental organization and co-author (with Pezzullo) of a textbook on the discipline. "Those stories resonate far beyond just the pages of an academic article.

Phaedra's work really laid the basis for the importance of narrative, of storytelling, to make complex environmental issues approachable."

In her lab, Pezzullo is searching for that impact by forging partnerships within CMCI and CU Boulder to bring different kinds of expertise to the challenge of impactful storytelling — something she's already doing as director of the university's graduate certificate in environmental justice. She's lectured at universities across the globe and has collaborated extensively with Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment on climate change. In the meantime, she and her students build digital "story maps" that illustrate how Colorado communities are affected by environmental and climate injustice.

Pursuing Stories with Confidence

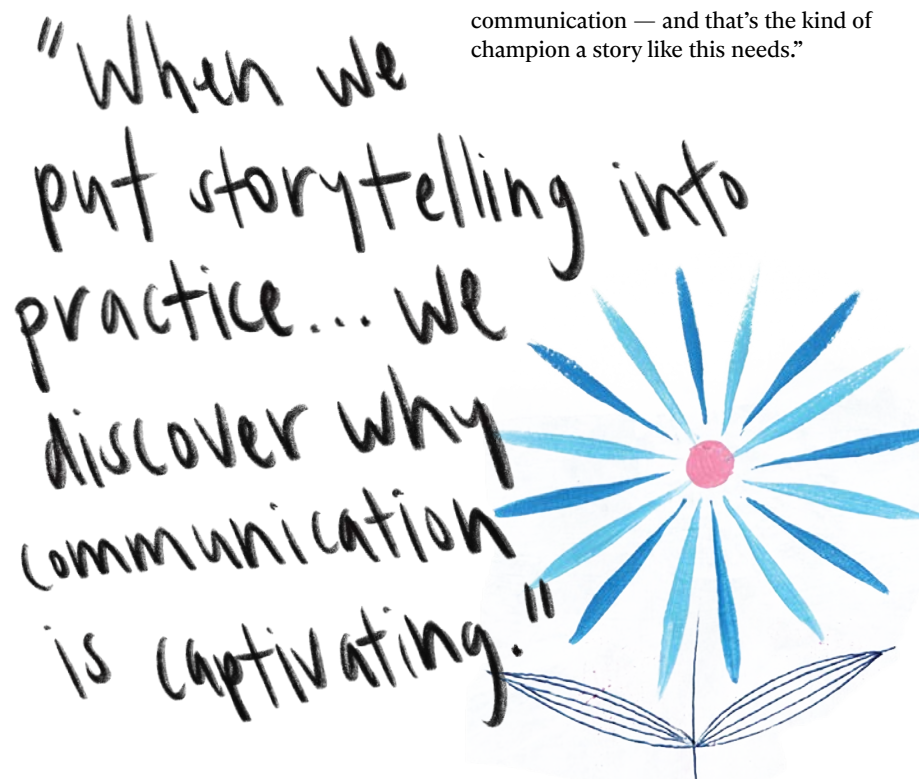
Independent reporter **Anthony Albidrez** (MJour'24) took a foundational course in environmental justice with Pezzullo to better understand how journalism supports sustainability through storytelling and rigorous news reporting standards.

Because of his class experiences, Albidrez turned a course project about a stream cleanup in Honolulu, where he lives, into a report detailing how the local unhoused population was blamed for a mess that, when cleaned, amounted to 16 tons of trash being removed from the Makiki Stream.

"I don't think a group of homeless people can drag tons of trash into a streambed, but from my research, they were receiving the brunt of the blame," Albidrez said. "Phaedra's course helped give me the confidence to go beyond the government numbers and explanations and find the real story."

Pezzullo's ability to encourage that sort of intellectual curiosity is what Cox most appreciates about her impact. Though he's quick to credit her with pushing the boundaries of their field, Cox most admires how Pezzullo has guided the next generation of thinkers as they seek to advance sustainability through storytelling.

"So many of her students are pursuing academic, business and nonprofit work in this area, and that speaks to her strength as a mentor," Cox said. "She is such an unselfish person in terms of contributing her labor to the field of environmental communication — and that's the kind of champion a story like this needs."





SPIRIT OF THE CENTURY

THE MAKING OF AN UNLIKELY BUFFS SUPERFAN

By Maria Kuntz
Photo by Glenn Asakawa

WHEN

I arrived at Peggy Fitzgerald Coppom's (A&S ex'46) home, I was immediately greeted by

Eddie Olivari (MPubAd'78), a friend who drives her to and from church daily. He explained that her phone interview with *The Today Show* was running a little long, but he invited me in, offered me a Coke and showed me the ins and outs of her 1940s pink-and-chrome Frigidaire electric stove.

Peggy is perhaps the most unlikely of modern-day superfans. She doesn't wear face paint and costumes or seek the attention of cameras and Instagram. When Peggy and her identical twin, Betty Fitzgerald Hoover (A&S ex'46), who died in 2020, began cheering on the Buffs in the 1940s, they were just out to have a good time.

“Growing up on Colorado’s eastern plains, moving to Boulder for high school equated to the big city. At the time, high school games and city dances were the common ways to socialize,” said Peggy.

The twins met their future husbands at Longmont High School, where their love of football and basketball took root.

“We liked basketball and football because that’s what we had in high school. We didn’t have anything else,” Peggy said. “And then we said, well, let’s go. We better go.”

When they enrolled at CU Boulder, they found a new love: CU athletics. In addition to football and basketball, Peggy and Betty started following more sports, including volleyball and tennis.

For some years, raising children took them away from their beloved stands. But that break was short-lived.

Peggy recounted, “My older son Jack (PE’67) played baseball at CU Boulder and was an All Big Eight Player his junior year. So we went to all the baseball games in those days.”

In time, the sisters began faithfully attending football and basketball, volleyball, soccer, tennis, baseball, lacrosse and track, and they became a staple in the bleachers — easily spotted in their custom athletic gold sweatshirts.

Pray and Play

While Peggy is most famous for her Buffalo fandom, there are two constants in her life: church and CU athletics. Raised Catholic, Peggy started attending daily mass in the 1950s.

“Well, Betty and I used to say — and I still do — we pray and play,” she said. “Prayer is first. Play is second.”

Peggy and Betty were known to pray for CU Buffs players, and the list is always growing. Even if Peggy forgets someone’s name, she puts them on the list because “He knows who they are,” she said, pointing upward. Prayer anchors Peggy, and she places it first because it helps her “have good faith, keep a positive attitude and be happy.”

Peggy represents more than CU fandom — she embodies goodness and loyalty.

During our visit, I asked her friend Mike Richardson — who is from Estes Park, Colorado, and stopped by with a black-and-gold holiday wreath for Peggy — how they met.

“I was just drawn to her,” he said. “When my kids were little, I’d see the twins at all of the games, and so I finally went up and introduced myself and my kids.”

In November, a packed Folsom Field sang “Happy Birthday” to Peggy on her 100th birthday.

“I just stood there and cried because that’s the way it made me feel — very, very humble,” she said. “I don’t feel like I’ve done anything except be a good fan to CU. [Betty and I] went to so many sporting things. I can’t deny that we have been good fans. We have been.”

But don’t think for a minute that she lacks fire.

When we talked about winning and losing, she said: “If no one wanted the other team to win, it wouldn’t be any fun. It’s a big competition. When the opposing team’s fans come to the game and cheer loudly, those are the games that we get excited about.”

Peggy Gets Her Bowl

The “CU Twins” and their famed school spirit were legendary in Boulder before Coach Prime’s arrival, but Peggy credits him with making her internationally famous.

Reflecting on the press conferences, interviews, photo ops and her own name, image and likeness (NIL) deal, she said, “I was thinking the other day, ‘You know,

“ **BE LOYAL**
NO MATTER IF THEY
WIN OR LOSE. ”

God, I wonder if your part in this was to help me not miss Betty so much. You’re giving me all these things to do now.”

For the past two years, the CU Boulder community has filled her life when she needed it most.

When Peggy and I met, the bowl game Coach Prime promised her at the beginning of the season was 17 days away. She would fly first class to Texas for the Dec. 28 Alamo Bowl.

Her advice to other CU fans: “Be loyal. No matter if they win or lose in the end, it’ll make you feel better to be loyal to your school because everyone can’t be a winner every time. And sometimes your loyalty is more important when you lose than when you win.”



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¿DÓNDE ESTÁ BOULDER?

THE BACAS HAVE NURTURED THREE GENERATIONS OF BUFFS — A FEAT THAT HAS DEFIED THE FAMILY'S EXPECTATIONS.

By Patricia Kaowthumrong
Illustration by Emiliano Ponzi



As a teenager growing up in Trinidad, Colorado, during the early 1970s, attending the University of Colorado Boulder seemed out of the question for **Bernal Baca** (A&S'75). Instead, he planned to follow the advice of his high school guidance counselor and enter an auto mechanics program after graduation. But his older brother **Richard Baca** (Edu'71) intervened.

Richard, a student at CU Boulder at the time, was back home visiting his former high school. As a United Mexican American Students (UMAS) member, he was recruiting Hispanic students like Bernal to attend the university. Bernal was hesitant, insisting he wanted to become an auto mechanic — but Richard wouldn't take no for an answer. Bernal heeded his brother's advice and applied to the school, where he was accepted and enrolled.

In retrospect, following in his brother's footsteps to an education on the Front Range turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to Bernal — and future generations of Baca family members.

"I don't know what I would have done if my brother was not recruiting Chicano students to the University of Colorado. That signaled to me that we had a chance," Bernal said. "So I took that chance, and I'm glad."

DEEP ROOTS

Richard and Bernal earned degrees from CU Boulder and went on to

achieve doctoral degrees in psychology and education, respectively. According to Richard, these feats were considered improbable at the time, given the siblings' humble upbringing.

The Baca family's history in the United States dates back to the 1600s, when a settlement from Spain's Oñate Expeditionary Group landed in northern New Mexico. Eventually, the family migrated to the southern Colorado city of Trinidad, whose establishment in the 1870s by Felipe Baca and his wife, Dolores, was a catalyst for Hispanics to settle in the area.

"In essence, [Bacas] have been here for a long time," Richard said. "We often hear the notion that 'America came to us' because our family was here long before the United States was founded."

The Bacas, a family of farmers, ranchers and entrepreneurs, were influential in southern Colorado. However, after Richard graduated from Trinidad State College in 1969, he thought his only two choices in the rural town were to work in the coal mines or join the military. An unlikely opportunity arose, though: Richard was selected with a cadre of other Latino students to apply to CU Boulder under what was then called the Educational Opportunity Program, which was established in the 1960s to recruit young Latinos who might not have met all the established admissions criteria at the time.

Without this program, the thought of attending the university would have been as unlikely as eating "frijoles sin tortillas" (beans without tortillas), Richard said. "Formal admission to the university opened an educational dimension immeasurable by traditional means and inexplicable to [my] mother who had all of a third-grade education," he wrote in a letter about his family to the *Coloradan* this past August.

BOULDER OR BUST

When Richard told his mother he was accepted to CU Boulder, she replied, "Ah, que bueno jito...¿Dónde está Boulder?" which translates to, "That's good news, my son. Where is Boulder?"

Over the next few years, Boulder evolved from what Richard called "a strange land" into his second home. He credits his success to living off campus with a group of graduate students and to his participation in student groups and campus activities. Richard's tenure at CU coincided with the Chicano movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

"At that time, the movement was really becoming strong, so I just became involved in campus activities related to Chicano students and learned more about my roots, my heritage and the importance of trying to advance ourselves as a grouping," Richard said.

As a result of initiatives such as the Educational Opportunity Program that supported Richard, CU Boulder began recruiting hundreds of students from new communities — including Native American, Mexican American, Black/African American and Asian American communities — to attend the university. Some of these students formed organizations inspired by broader civil rights movements, including UMAS.

Bernal also became involved with the Chicano Movement, joined UMAS and studied under Salvador Ramírez — who

taught Chicano studies. When Ramírez moved to the Pacific Northwest, Bernal followed to help him establish the first Chicano studies program at Washington State University. After a long career as a college professor, Bernal now serves as executive director at a nonprofit called Mi Centro, which provides social, cultural and educational services to the Latino community in the greater Tacoma area.

"I got my spark at [CU Boulder] because I was mentored by one of the best professors I think I've ever met," Bernal said. "I feel really honored to be bestowed that university bachelor's degree because it was the most important degree I have received."

PASSING THE TORCH

While Richard is now retired, his career in higher education, mental health, consulting and politics spanned over 40 years. He even ran for University of Colorado regent in 1994 and served as the assistant vice president of student affairs and enrollment management at Mesa State College (now Colorado Mesa University) in Grand Junction. Richard raised his family on the Western Slope, and his son **Ryan** (Bus'96) was admitted to CU Boulder in the 1990s, continuing the legacy started by his father and uncle nearly three decades prior.

Ryan's daughter, **Alexandra** (Bus'28), is the latest Baca family member to become a Buff. She moved into student housing at CU Boulder's Cheyenne Arapaho Hall in fall 2024. Like her father, Alexandra was admitted to the Presidents Leadership Class, which Ryan said was key to his success as a student and later as a management professional. The university also offered her scholarships from the Latinx Association and the Business and Engineering Women in Leadership program.

"I don't know another place I would want to go to for a university experience," Bernal said. "My brother was the one who showed me the way, and he was able to teach his own son and granddaughter the same thing. I love it."

While Richard, Ryan and Alexandra each experienced the university in different eras, they're united by their love for the beautiful campus, Boulder's ever-evolving cultural scene and their love for Colorado Buffaloes football.

The legacy they continue to nurture is one we know Alexandra's late abuela would definitely be proud of.

Have a CU Boulder family legacy to share? Email us at editor@colorado.edu with your story.

Pike on a Bike

On July 29, 2023, a reckless driver hit and killed 17-year-old Magnus White, a U.S. National Team Cyclist, on the Diagonal Highway outside of Boulder. To raise awareness of thousands of pedestrians and cyclists killed annually by drivers, White's parents, **Michael** (EnvDes'00) and **Jill White** (Mktg'99; MOrgMgmt'23), created a nonprofit called The White Line.

In November 2024, the Pi Kappa Alpha (ΠKA) fraternity — known as “Pike” — held a fundraiser on CU Boulder's campus for The White Line and to honor Magnus White, who was a friend of several of the fraternity members. For six days, Pike members traded shifts riding outside on a stationary bike, even through a snowstorm. They rode near a memorial of more than 8,400 candles that represented each pedestrian or cyclist killed by a driver in 2023.

“Looking out at the 8,423 candles was a true reminder of how valuable every single moment was,” said **Graydon Abel** (Fin'27), who helped create the fundraiser with his brother **Gavin** (Fin'27) and their fraternity brother **Sebastian Edwards** (Econ'27). “Change is needed, and we hope this effort makes a difference.” *For more information, visit thewhiteline.org.*

Start

Nov. 2, 5:05 p.m.

100 riders

signed up for hour-long cycling shifts.

8,423 minutes

total, representing the number of pedestrians and cyclists killed by drivers in 2023.

23 degrees

Coldest temperature during the fundraiser.

All proceeds went to The White Line nonprofit, which is dedicated to transforming how drivers behave around pedestrians and cyclists.

Finish

Nov. 8, 12:28 p.m.*

*12:28 p.m. was the exact time Magnus White was struck in 2023.



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Taking “Forever Buffs” to Heart

Alumni remain engaged with CU Boulder long after graduation.

For many CU Boulder alumni, the university is more than just the location of their college experiences. It’s a part of their lives today. They want other CU students and alumni to experience this deeper connection too, starting with embracing themselves as “Forever Buffs.”

More than 300,000 Buffs live in the world. There are plenty of ways to connect with each other.

“Your journey as a Forever Buff begins when you enroll on campus,” said **Ryan Christ** (Kines’96, MPubAd’09), Alumni Association executive director. “The day you graduate, you join the larger Forever Buffs community of over 300,000 who live all over the world. It is a way to have a relationship with the university and your fellow alumni for life.”

For alumni like **Rochelle Maki-Williams** (Psych’96; ExecMBA’11), being a Forever Buff means more than staying actively involved with the university — it means nurturing future generations of Buffs. Since 2011, Maki-Williams has volunteered for the CU Boulder Alumni Association, the CU Athletic Department and Buffalo Belles, a group dedicated to supporting CU Athletics. As a Denver Forever Buffs chapter leader, she’s also helped raise scholarship money for local high school students.

Maki-Williams’ bond with CU is personal. It’s where she met her husband, **T.H. Williams** (A&S’95; ExecMBA, MFin’04), built lasting friendships and created cherished memories.

“Being a Forever Buff is something I live every day,” she said.

For **Royer Lopez** (Mktg’18), “being a Forever Buff is about creating endless possibilities — for yourself and others.”

His involvement is wide-ranging. He holds roles on the Leeds GOLD Board and the Forever Buffs Advisory Board, volunteers as a Leeds School of Business mentor and helps host reunions for the Multicultural Greek Council. Plus, he attends every CU football home game with his family.

Through his many CU connections, he aims to create a broader impact and ensure that future Buffs have expanded opportunities. Lopez, a first-generation college student, is passionate about helping other first-generation students and often recruits interns from Leeds.

For Maki-Williams and Lopez, being a Forever Buff is more than a point of pride — it’s a lifelong commitment to give back, stay connected and make an impact.

Become involved with the Alumni Association to connect with other Forever Buffs. Visit colorado.edu/alumni/volunteer.



© Rochelle Maki-Williams

CU BOULDER Reuniting Buffs

Introducing Alumni Weekend

On April 5–7, CU Boulder is launching Alumni Weekend, an event where former classmates and fellow Forever Buffs can reminisce on old memories while creating new ones during campus tours, Boulder excursions and plenty of opportunities to network and socialize over meals and happy hours. This inaugural weekend will include reunions for graduates from 2020, 2015, 1985 and 1975 and the Golden Anniversary Club, which is for those who graduated 50 years ago and earlier. Participants also are invited to extend their campus visit and attend CU Boulder’s Conference on World Affairs, a cost-free event April 7–10. Register for Alumni Weekend at colorado.edu/alumni/experiences/alumni-weekend.



A NEW ALUMNI VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

The CU Boulder Alumni Association is revamping its volunteer experience, starting with an updated online platform to connect alumni and friends to a broader range of CU-related volunteer opportunities. Forever Buffs can host or help at events, mentor alumni or current students, and support CU Boulder initiatives. Alumni are also invited to host events in their local areas, further strengthening the Forever Buffs community and fostering deeper connections with each other across the globe. Learn more about volunteering at colorado.edu/alumni/volunteer.

BUFFS GIVE BACK

April is National Volunteer Month! Join Forever Buffs across the country to make an impact in your community through Buffs

Give Back. Last year, over 700 alumni, family and friends volunteered on behalf of CU Boulder through scholarship reading, outdoor clean-up, event planning and mentoring programs. This year, there are plenty of opportunities during the month of April for alumni to get involved. Find more information at colorado.edu/alumni/buffs-give-back.

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

For the 2024–25 academic year, the Alumni Association, chapters and clubs awarded \$317,250 in scholarships, benefitting 204 students. Alumni volunteers and donors make these scholarships possible, which help cover the cost of attendance at CU Boulder and create lasting opportunities for students across academic disciplines. Learn more at colorado.edu/alumni/scholarships.

2025 TRIPS

Istanbul and the Turquoise Coast
Sept. 10–20, 2025



Flavors of Tuscany
Oct. 2–10, 2025



Patagonia and Chilean Fjords
Oct. 22–Nov. 2, 2025



Egypt and the Eternal Nile
Oct. 31–Nov. 14, 2025



Iceland and Northern Lights
Nov. 15–23, 2025



For more information about the Roaming Buffs travel program, email roamingbuffs@colorado.edu, call 303-492-8484 or visit www.colorado.edu/alumni/roamingbuffs.



No Car, No Problem

When it comes to getting to class at CU Boulder, “not having a car” would be a tough sell for tardiness — the university prefers students not to have one at all. “We have a whole toolbox of programs to prevent students from needing to bring a car to campus,” said Brandon Smith, CU Boulder assistant director of sustainable transportation.

Most of these offerings are free. All students receive Regional Transportation District (RTD) bus passes and also have access to the university’s electric Buff Buses, BCycle electric bikes, CU NightRide, bike repairs on campus and summer bike storage. A CU ski bus even offers students trips to several ski resorts for \$25 round trip.

And Buffs take advantage. In an average week, Buff Buses log about 30,000 boardings, 90% of which are students. In 2023, students rode RTD more than a million times. From January 2023 to November 2024, students took more than 1.3 million trips on BCycle bikes.

The payoffs for sustainable transportation are big.

“More than 60,000 commuters travel into Boulder per day, and 80% of these are single occupancy vehicles,” said Smith. “However, less than 12% of students drive solo to campus. Imagine what Boulder and campus parking, traffic and air quality would be like if we didn’t have programs that got most students out of single-occupancy cars.”

Many CU programs help students commute to and around campus sustainably.



Not Just Engineers and Scientists

What do you want people to understand about sustainability?

Sustainability is the most pressing issue facing humankind in the 21st century. We need to ensure that human life continues on the planet in a manner that gives everyone the opportunity for a life worth living. There is a misconception that sustainability is a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) issue — that it's a problem for scientists and engineers to solve. But sustainability is a human challenge. Our failure or success will affect each of us, and we must work together across disciplines to implement solutions.

CU Boulder will soon welcome its first vice chancellor for sustainability. How will this position influence future campus efforts?

I am thrilled that we've hired Andrew Mayock, chief sustainability officer for the federal government since 2021, as our inaugural vice chancellor for sustainability. I've charged Andrew with advancing CU Boulder's reputation for bringing climate solutions to life. As the "face of sustainability" for our campus, he will take an inclusive and interdisciplinary approach to build on our legacy and make CU Boulder a household name for sustainability impact across Colorado, the United States and around the globe. I know he is eager to get started!

How can alumni and friends of CU Boulder get involved in sustainability efforts?

We're always looking for partners who are willing to share their insights, time and financial support to advance CU Boulder's vision and support our incredible sustainability-focused research and teaching. You also can be an ambassador for CU Boulder in your own communities — tell your friends, neighbors and prospective students about what we're doing in sustainability! Explore how you can minimize your carbon footprint and address issues of concern in your own cities. If you are an employer, you can also engage with CU Boulder on implementing climate action strategies in your company or workplace.

In five or 10 years, what evidence will show that CU Boulder has advanced in sustainability?

As a campus, we will pursue some "quick wins," while also working on priorities that take more time and effort. I want to see CU Boulder lead the charge in making Colorado the most sustainable state in the nation. In the coming years, we'll aim to advance both climate education and the implementation of solutions across the United States and beyond, transforming the way higher education drives sustainability.



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University of Colorado
Boulder

Focus on Defense

First-year defensive coordinator Robert Livingston remade CU's defense into an aggressive powerhouse.

CU football (9-4, 7-2 Big 12) claimed its highest number of victories since 2016 and made the 2024 Valero Alamo Bowl. And while Heisman Trophy winner **Travis Hunter** (Psych'26) and potential No. 1 2025 NFL Draft pick **Shedeur Sanders** (Soc'25) received much public acclaim this season, first-year defensive coordinator (DC) Robert Livingston singularly shaped the Buffs' turnaround.

CU's defense struggled mightily in 2023, giving up 34.8 points and 453.3 yards per game. With then-DC Charles Kelly out, Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders had to find a new coordinator to call the defense.

Sanders hired Livingston, a defensive assistant coach with the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals and former safety at William & Mary, on Feb. 9, 2024. Instead of fitting the defense to his system, Livingston assessed the Buffs' unique strengths.

"Coach Livingston built the defense off us. He listens to us. It makes it easier," said leading tackler **Cam'Ron Silmon-Craig** (Comm'25). "We're not really thinking out there, we're just playing."

Livingston worked throughout 2024 to connect with his squad. He even ran sprints with the defense after a Hunter interception against Colorado State led to an excessive celebration penalty.

"It's not me versus you. It's us. That's the big thing," Livingston said. "I want everyone to know they have skin in the game."

On-field results were dramatic. The Buffs shut out Oklahoma State, frequently played dominant second-half defense and sealed wins over Baylor and Texas Tech with turnovers. In 2024, CU allowed 351.9 yards per game — over 100 yards fewer per game than in 2023.

Even more impressive were the big plays. The Buffs' defense created 27 turnovers, ranking 7th nationally, and tallied 39 sacks and three defensive touchdowns, both 11th in the nation.

"We'll strive to be aggressive. I want people to feel us when we play," said Livingston. **BY**

ANDREW DAIGLE

Robert Livingston draws on the Buffs' strengths while prioritizing connection.



Soccer Success

Colorado soccer (12-5-5, 4-2-5 Big 12) capped an outstanding season by earning an at-large bid to the 2024 NCAA Tournament.

The Buffaloes upset No. 7 seed Georgia 3-2 on Nov. 15, the program's first NCAA Tournament win in five years.

While the Buffs stunned Georgia with second-half goals from **Shyra James** (Media-St'24) and **Hope Leyba** (IntPhys'27), the team couldn't similarly rally to overcome a 2-0 deficit against No. 2 seed Wake Forest in the tournament's second round, losing 3-1 Nov. 22.

"This team is so resilient," said head coach Danny Sanchez.

Ranked as high as No. 14 nationally, CU overcame their end-of-season 0-2-4 stretch when they defeated Utah in the Big 12 Tournament to earn the at-large bid.

Returning Buffs **Faith Leyba** (IntPhys'27) and **Ava Priest** (EnvSt'27) were named First-Team All-Midwest Region, and goalkeeper **Jordan Nytes** (Soc'26) was selected Third Team All-America.

"We could not be more excited about the future of CU soccer," said Sanchez.

Buff's Bits

Jenny Simpson (Econ, PolSci'09) retired from professional running after finishing 18th at the New York City Marathon Nov. 3. ... Colorado football (9-4, 7-2 Big 12) finished its 2024 season Dec. 28 with a 36-14 loss to BYU in the Valero Alamo Bowl. Wide receiver and cornerback **Travis Hunter** (Psych'26) won the Heisman Trophy on Dec. 14, and quarterback **Shedeur Sanders** (Soc'25) won the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award as the nation's top quarterback on Nov. 29. ... Women's basketball's **Frida Formann** (EnvSt'24; MBusAna'25) was named a U.S. Basketball Writers Association National Player of the Week Dec. 24 after she led the Buffs to a 65-60 victory over No. 14 West Virginia. ... Outside hitter **Ana Burilović** (Psych'27) was named to the 2024 All-Big 12 Volleyball 2nd Team Dec. 3 after finishing seventh in the Big 12 in points per set (4.12) and eighth in kills per set (3.55). ... Tennis doubles team **Anyia Nelson** (Bus'26) and **Ena Bubalo** (Biochem'27) reached the Sweet 16 at the 2024 NCAA Individual Championships in Waco, Texas.

STATS

1st

Big 12 Lacrosse Championship to be held at CU Boulder's Prentup Field, May 1-3, 2025.

#2

Two-time defending national champion UConn's ranking when upset by CU men's basketball 73-72 on Nov. 26 in the Maui Invitational.

30th

All-American **Dean Casey's** (EnvSt'27) finish in the men's cross country NCAA Championships Nov. 23 in Madison, Wisconsin.

36

Men's golf strokes under par to place second at Hawai'i's Ka'anapali Classic Collegiate in Lahaina, Maui, Nov. 2-4.

25

Career-high NBA points by **Tristan da Silva** (Acct'24) to lead the Orlando Magic to a 106-97 win over the Toronto Raptors Jan. 3.

Coach Talk

"Last season was about hope. This season was about expectation, and the expectation this year was to get Ms. Peggy to a bowl game — and we did that."

— Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders on Dec. 8 after the Buffs were selected to face BYU in the 2024 Valero Alamo Bowl.



Only if Colorado Wins

All-American skier Filip Wahlqvist (Fin'27) won the NCAA Championship in slalom and helped lead the Buffs to their 21st National Championship in his first year at Colorado. The Norway native reflects on college skiing's surprises, small margins when racing, and trusting in himself.

You won four slalom races in 2024, including the national championship. What surprised you about your first year skiing for CU? Before I got here, I didn't think college racing was a big deal. I spent three years trying to go pro in the World Cup after high school. I assumed college facilities were smaller and had fewer resources. When I got here, I was blown away. What we have at CU is 10 times bigger than our Olympic facilities in Norway

where the professionals train. You can't compare it. CU has personal trainers, nutritionists, tutors and advisors. Everything is incredibly organized and professional.

Does defending the National Championship add pressure to this season? Not really. Every time I'm on the start gate, I'm going for a victory.

You race both slalom and giant slalom (GS). What differentiates the two disciplines and how you ski them?

The main difference is the distance between the gates. Slalom is shorter between gates, while GS has longer distances. In slalom, we use shorter skis, knee pads and arm guards. You're hitting the gates more in slalom, while in GS you go around them more. Slalom skis are 165 centimeters [65"] and GS skis are 193 centimeters [76"]. There's more action in slalom. The gates come fast, and you need to be precise and focused. Super small margins. You might race for just 50 seconds but cross 60 gates.

Filip Wahlqvist is a defending national champion.

How do you balance speed and precision? GS speed can be about 80 km/h [50 mph], while slalom is like 65 km/h [40 mph]. Speed depends on conditions: icy or soft, the turns, straight or longer courses. But skiing is super technical. It's probably 80 percent technique, 20 percent speed. If I overthink things, that creates its own stress. You only have two runs (two minutes total of skiing), and one small mistake can cost you.

Is staying calm and confident more from experience or disposition? I worked with psychological coaches when I was younger because I

would ski well in training sessions, but not so much in races. But I'm not sure that worked for me. What helped the most was gaining more skiing experience and finding my mental rhythm. Pressure to win doesn't have to mean nervousness. About four years ago, all the unnecessary stress just wasn't there anymore. In alpine skiing, it can be hundredths of a second between 1st and 12th place. I aim to remember that.

Can you tell us more about skiing internationally before you came to CU? My brother and I were racing in the European Cup. I wasn't on Norway's national team, and my club team back home was in other races, so I was on my own a lot. But my brother and I were lucky because we had our dad. He was a World Cup coach for Norway and the U.S. He would set courses for us and go to Italy, France and Germany for races. I had some really good results while racing. After nearly making the national team three times, I decided to race in college and get an education.

What made you want to come here? My dad went to the University of New Mexico when they had a ski program. He said incredible things about CU. The big three schools for college skiing are Colorado, University of Utah and University of Denver. But Colorado is the best. People help

you in both academics and athletics. It was an easy choice when [head alpine coach] Ian [Lochhead] called to ask if I was interested.

Can you share something you've learned from coach Lochhead? To trust in my decisions. I'm far away from home, so I have had to grow up faster and figure things out for myself. If I ask Ian for help, he's going to do his best to make sure I succeed, but I appreciate how he's supported me to find trust in myself.

What goals do you have for your future years as a Buff? To take in the whole college experience: learn as much as possible, make new friends, invest in myself. I love being in the Leeds School of Business. And, of course, with skiing, to do better than last year. Winning the GS. Doing a double — which is winning GS and slalom in one meet — but only if Colorado wins. We all support each other as teammates.

When you're off the slopes and not training, what do you like to do? My mom and dad own a golf course in Norway. When I'm home in the summertime, it's all about golf. As a student-athlete, you're always busy, so I haven't played much golf in Colorado — only three times — but I brought my clubs from home. **INTERVIEW BY ANDREW DAIGLE**

CLASSnotes

'53 In her *Writing a Novel* workbook, **Sue Vidars** (Art'53) leads aspiring novelists on a journey of creative exploration through a comprehensive step-by-step guide. Sue is a writing teacher and the author of several books, workbooks and columns. Her latest publication is an accumulation of knowledge she has gleaned from over 40 years of helping people bring their ideas to life.

'60 Jack David Calvert (EngrPhys'60) is the author and artist of the published poetry collection *Aerospace Softball* 47. The collection honors the co-ed slow-pitch softball team that he formerly

Mural Project," an indoor collaborative mural that, at 120 feet long and five stories high, makes up the largest of its kind in the world. When creating the mural, which features the work of more than 15,000 kids and adults, Ellen was inspired by working Americans and the collaborative spirit that defines this country. "I invite any CU grads to visit the "American Mural Project" if they find themselves in Connecticut," Ellen wrote. Find out more at americanmuralproject.org.

'71 In 2023, **Kenneth Reid Beier** (Mktg'71) published *Morgan Memories*, a family memoir that begins in 1904 with his

a political thriller set in a present-day divisive atmosphere, follows a man's unexpected path to running for president of the United States. Tom lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

'72 W. Kent Tobiska (A&S'72; MAeroEngr'85; PhD'88) is president and chief scientist of Space Environment Technologies, which provides advanced space weather products and services. His company is located in the Pacific Palisades in California. In a January interview, *The Wall Street Journal* featured Kent as his home was one of the few left standing after the wildfire tore through his neighborhood.

'73 Last March, **Marcie Tallman Ince** (Engl'73; MEdu'78) was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in the volunteerism category. Marcie writes that her volunteering has allowed her to connect with other women, serve her community and learn new skills. The induction took place at a scholarship fundraising gala marking Women's History Month, and proceeds went toward student scholarships.

'74 Urban planner **Nancy Blackwood** (EnvDes'74) was honored as the CU 2023 Environmental Design (ENVD) Distinguished Alumni and went on to address the

2024 ENVD graduating class in the spring. She serves on the ENVD alumni advisory board and is president of the University Hill Neighborhood Association. Throughout her career, Nancy has served as a senior associate at two major architecture and planning offices in Boulder and as a private consultant. She directed urban mixed-use projects across the country, transit-oriented developments, land-use planning for large-scale developments and downtown redevelopment plans. She was also an integral team member in the design of a 5,000-acre new city in Kenya, which was envisioned as a sustainable world-class technology hub.

Morris Hoffman's (Math'74; Law'77) debut novel, *Pinch Hitting*, is one of 10 finalists — and the only fiction book — shortlisted for the 2024 CASEY award for best baseball book of the year. Before writing his novel, Morris authored more than 30 law review articles, co-authored over a dozen science papers and published op-eds in several newspapers including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. The winner of the CASEY award will be announced in March.

After teaching secondary language arts throughout the 1980s and witnessing her children seek out theatrical opportunities, **Annah DeLuca Scully** (Engl'74) brought performing arts to students in the Eagle Valley.

She founded the Vail Performing Arts Academy in 1994, which has served over 6,000 students through its programs. Annah also founded To Die For Entertainment, a company that produced corporate, private and public events in Colorado and California.

'75 Composer **Robert Fleisher's** (Mus'75) music circulates around the country and overseas through performances and recordings. His "Minims for Max" premiered at the University of Albany, State University of New York (SUNY) and the National Opera Center in New York City and will be featured on an upcoming solo piano CD. His works "Six Little Piano Pieces," "Parallel" and "Altro Alfresco" have been performed at notable concerts in Switzerland and elsewhere.

'77 **Jamie Lisa Forbes'** (Engl, Phil'77) historical novel, *Sunny Gale* — about the role of women in the dawn of Western rodeo — has been listed in Kirkus Reviews' "Best Indie Books of 2024." The book follows the rise and fall of a fictional rodeo star as she negotiates wild horses, sexism, heartbreak and the harshness of the High Plains.

In recognition of her contributions to the Colorado legal community, **Dani R. Newsum** (Pol Sci'77; MHist'13) was

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inducted into the University of Denver's DU Law Stars and named the recipient of the Robert H. McWilliams Jr. Alumni Professionalism Award. Dani is the director of strategic partnerships at Cobalt, Colorado's leading reproductive rights and access advocacy organization. Before joining Cobalt, Dani held positions at several other human rights organizations, including the ACLU of Colorado and the Boulder Human Rights Office.

'78 Maryland-based architect **Charles Paul Goebel** (EnvDes'78) was named to *Forbes* magazine's America's Top 200 Residential Architects list, which draws from over 70,000 architecture firms nationwide. The list identifies single-family-house designers whose work is unprecedented in its scope and diligence. Charles designs homes in the Chesapeake Bay region and is known for his tradition-influenced architecture.

After spending 36 years in the military, followed by a period working as a university administrator, Thomas Phillips (MOrgMgmt'71) became a writer.

captained. Dave retired in 1995 from a career as a system analyst at Aeronutronic Systems in Newport Beach, California.

'70 Reflecting on her days as a photographer at CU Boulder, **Ellen Griesedieck** (Art'70) shares about the artistic endeavor she organized, "American

grandparents' families settling in Morgan County, Colorado. Kenneth lives near Santa Fe, New Mexico.

After spending 36 years in the military, followed by a period working as a university administrator, **Thomas Phillips** (MOrgMgmt'71) became a writer. He brings his extensive experience to military history books and finds time to write short stories and poetry. Tom published his first book, *The YouTube Candidate*, in August 2024. The story,

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DECADES OF CLASS
NOTES ONLINE AT
COLORADO.EDU/COLORADAN

'81 Representing the USA as a U.S. National Taekwondo team member, **Joe Coughlin** (EngrPhys'81; MAstro'84) attended the 2024 Taekwondo World Championships in Hong Kong, China. Joe won a gold medal in the "males over 60" category, helping the USA win second place in the global medal count. He has practiced taekwondo for 33 years and resides in Peyton, Colorado.

'82 **Tracy Hume** (Psych'82) is a professional ghostwriter specializing in writing nonfiction books for thought leaders in the healthcare industry. She has ghostwritten books on cyber risk management for hospitals and healthcare organizations, revenue cycle management and complexity-fit leadership.

'83 In recognition of his community involvement, **Jon Cohen** (EnvCon'83) received the Oregon Association of Realtors 2024 Good Neighbor Award. Jon is a residential real estate broker with Windermere Realty Trust in Portland, Oregon. He is also a founding member and director of Positive Charge! PDX, a non-profit organization that focuses on community engagement and charitable giving.

'86 The Nonfiction Authors Association awarded fly-fisher **Scot Bealer's** (EPOBio'86) first book,

Most Trout Don't Read, a silver medal. In the book, Scot shares humorous and insightful stories about fly-fishing, focusing on the importance of observation and curiosity over memorizing facts. Scot's writing is paired with his wife Lea's wildlife photography to help bring the stories to life. He lives in Helena, Montana.

As a Peace Corps response volunteer in Nepal, **Karen Elting Brock** (Engl'86) teaches English to homestay owners in a rural village near the Annapurna trekking circuit. She also assists the community with developing and promoting ecotourism. Before joining the Peace Corps, Karen taught for 1.5 years at the CU International English Center.

Healthcare consultant and retired emergency physician **O. John Ma** (MCDBio'86) was awarded the 11th Emergency Medicine Gold Medal presented by the Emergency Physicians Association of Turkey. The award recognizes his passionate leadership and innovation in emergency medicine.

Lisa Frenkel Riddioui (Fin'86) writes fiction and picture books for children and young adults. She also spends her time as a mentor for the Society of Young Inklings, a nonprofit that supports young authors in developing their storytelling skills. Outside of writing, Lisa enjoys working in her garden in her Northern California home and baking chocolate pound cake.

'89 On June 28, 2024, the New Jersey State Senate confirmed **Adam Kenny** (PolSci'89) as a judge of the Superior Court. Before becoming a judge, Adam worked for over 25 years as a partner at multiple law firms. Apart from his law career, Adam has published a book and completed nine marathons. He also enjoys cheering for CU football.

Compass agent **Doug Leibinger** (Advert'89) was the listing agent for the sale of the Ranch at Owl Creek, an eight-bedroom, 12,500-square-foot estate in Aspen, Colorado, that sold for \$77 million. The sale price, about \$6,160 per square foot, marked the most expensive residential transaction on record in Colorado. Doug has enjoyed his journey as a real estate advisor for the past 28 years in Aspen, where he gets to advocate for clients all over the globe.

In November, **Christopher Meyer** (Econ'89) joined the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) as an adjunct research staff member in the strategy, forces and resources division in its systems and analyses center. After graduating from CU, Christopher enlisted and served in the Navy for 20 years. His time included overseas stations in Yokosuka, Japan, and deployments to Kuwait, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Christopher completed his last six years of service in operations research and analytic positions at the Pentagon.

FIVE QUESTIONS



A PhD at 81

At the age of 81, **Alan Cohen** (PhDHist'24) defended his dissertation and received his doctorate in history from CU Boulder. His work focused on the early years of commercial jet aviation and the Boeing 707. Before returning to school, Cohen spent many years working in government and running a Denver-based scrap metal business, Iron & Metals, Inc.

Talk about your career. I received my undergraduate degree from University of California, Berkeley, then went to graduate school for economics at Yale. Afterward, I got a job working with USAID in South America and spent nine years in Guatemala and Columbia before becoming an economic consultant on natural resource issues in Washington, D.C. Later, I took over as manager at the family scrap metal business in Denver. When I

approached retirement myself, my son took it over from me.

What was your experience pursuing a PhD? Economic history interested me, particularly in the American West. When living in Colorado, I met CU professors Ann Carlos and Patty Limerick and took their courses as an auditor and eventually decided to take the courses for credit. I figured I would learn more by actually doing the work. I took the first course about 15 years ago. It took

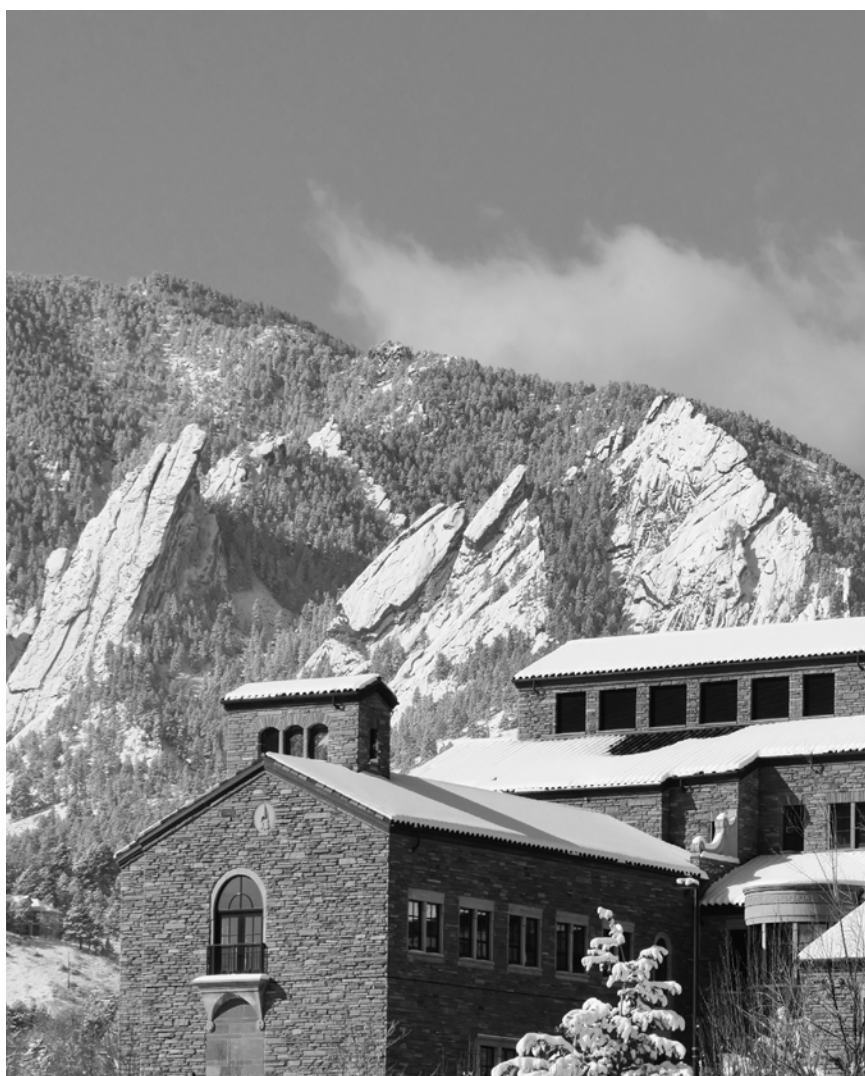
me six years to do all of the coursework before I passed the oral exam. My wife and I moved to Palm Springs because she was sick, and that slowed my research down. When she died, I moved back to Denver to be near my two sons. After another long break during COVID, I finally finished my dissertation in about two years.

What was it like going to school in your 70s? Going back to graduate school was a wonderful experience — learning from younger people and this generation of teachers. One of my biggest takeaways has been political: I think of myself as progressive, but I'm actually a lot more conservative than some of the younger generation.

Will you take any more classes? I think I will start another research project. I'm fascinated by Singapore and its modern history, especially how it managed to break away from colonialism successfully.

What else should we know about you? I started out as a young person learning about the American Civil War, and my interest grew out of that. Also, when I went to Berkeley, it was free — California didn't charge tuition to in-state students at the time. Right now, I'm helping a couple of other students go to college by paying their tuition. It's payback for my free education.
INTERVIEW BY CHRISTIE SOUNART (JOUR'12).

CLASSnotes



Snow-dusted Flatirons behind CU Center for Community, which houses many student programs.

'91 A 30-year veteran in agency and corporate communications, **Matt Barkett** (Soc'91; MBA'96) joined the executive team of strategic marketing and public relations agency Falls & Co. as leader of the firm's corporate communications practice. Matt specializes in crisis communications for

aviation, cybersecurity, litigation, transactions and manufacturing.

'94 In December 2024, **Abbie Clary** (EnvDes'94) delivered a TEDx Talk on how losing her father forever changed her view of the healthcare system. Abbie has nearly 30 years of experience helping globally recognized institutions architect more accessible healthcare spaces. Drawing from this experience and inter-

views involving hundreds of patients and clinicians, Abbie demonstrated how human-centered design can transform healthcare spaces. She wrote the experience was "a deeply personal reflection on how the values I've cultivated — including those shaped during my time at CU Boulder — continue to drive my work today."

In September 2024, **Glory Simon** (Thtr'94) completed her first film, *GIVEN*, where she served as writer, lead actress

and executive producer. The story follows Callie, a diner manager forced to confront the past after running into her ex-boyfriend from high school. Beyond film production, Glory is a personal chef in West Hollywood and New York City, best known for her granola, among other specialties.

After starting at *The Denver Post* in the mid-1990s, **Erica Morse Spoor** (Jour'94) transitioned to corporate events, where she spent 10 years connecting audiences to relevant content and experiences. In 2007, she left the corporate world to launch Impact Point Group, an event consulting company. Erica attributes much of her success to her journalism studies at CU. "Looking back, it's clear how journalism helped shape me as an entrepreneur, strategist, client advisor and leader," Erica wrote. "I wanted to say thanks to the J-school for giving me my start!"

'95 The Public Relations Society of America elected **Teresa Valerio Parrot** (Comm, EPOBio'97; MPubAd'03), founder and principal of TVP Communications, as secretary of the 2025 board of directors. A Longmont resident, Teresa has served as the Western District Board representative since 2023. She is known for her leadership in higher education communications, including 10 years of service with CU. In addition to her role at PRSA, she is a frequent keynote speaker and co-

host of the *Trusted Voices* podcast. Read more about Teresa on page 57.

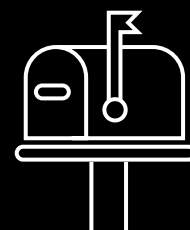
'96 **Jen Nails** (Mus, Thtr'96) is a public librarian and writer living in her hometown of Las Vegas. She hosts the podcast *Revisions: How Our Favorite Books Change Us*, which is available on most podcast platforms. She also actively participates in the burgeoning Las Vegas literary scene as the author of middle-grade novels *One Hundred Spaghetti Strings* (HarperCollins, 2017) and *Next to Mexico* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2008).

As senior vice president of business development, **Rob Sands** (Comm'96) brings his broadcast and communications experience to Crunchyroll, a popular anime streaming service. As of 2024, Crunchyroll has over 15 million paid subscribers. Previously, Rob spent over seven years at CNN and five years at Amazon.

Mary Beth Searles (Law'96) serves as assistant dean for advancement at CU Boulder's College of Media, Communication and Information, where she has led development and alumni relations efforts since 2017. She served as assistant dean for advancement at CU Law for five years prior to that. She also has worked with area nonprofits such as the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center, the Denver Dumb Friends League and

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the Teton Valley Ranch Camp Education Foundation. Earlier in her career, Mary Beth practiced law for six years as a litigation associate in Denver.

'99 In January **Lara Marks Baker** (Mktg'99) joined law firm Recht Kornfeld in Denver as a shareholder. In her practice as an attorney, Lara focuses on criminal defense and Title IX litigation, and is recognized for her contributions to juvenile justice education in Colorado. She developed and leads the Juvenile Justice Symposium, a program that educates college, high school and middle school students and families about criminal and juvenile law, school discipline and the potential legal consequences of student behavior.

'00 Drawing on her own caregiving experiences and extensive research from experts, **Carole MacNeil's** (PhDEdu'00) book *You,*

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“The values I’ve cultivated — including those shaped during my time at CU Boulder — continue to drive my work today.”

— Abbie Clary (EnvDes’94) in her TEDx Talk on human-centered healthcare

Your Parent, and Your Caregiving Journey: Strategies, Resources, and Inspiration to Guide the Way offers a fresh way of thinking about aging and the role of caregiver. The book is available from Barnes & Noble, Amazon and other retailers, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit nonprofit organizations that support caregivers. Carole is an educator, researcher, author and consultant in human and community development.

’02 The Boulder County Medical Society elected **Leila Wing** (Biochem’02), an endocrinologist with UCHHealth, as board president. In this role, she will contribute to the organization’s mission of saving lives by improving health and preventing disease in the Boulder community. Beyond caring for patients, Leila enjoys spending time with her husband and two children.

’03 As a tenured assistant professor at Pasadena City College, **Dan Staylor** (Art, ArtHist’03) has transitioned to teaching art history following five years of teaching English composition and literature. He serves on campus-wide com-

mittees, including the Outcomes Standing Committee and the Equity Data Coaching Faculty Inquiry Group. Dan was awarded sabbatical leave for the 2024-25 academic year, during which he plans to complete his doctoral dissertation investigating art history pedagogy through the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

’04 At the beginning of 2024, **Jessica Garrow** (PolSci’04) was inducted as a fellow into the American Institute of Certified Planners, the highest professional honor for city planners. Jessica is a principal at Design Workshop, an international design studio. She focuses on rural and resort communities and emphasizes advancing affordable housing policies, leading authentic community engagement and preserving historic places. Previously, Jessica worked 13 years for the City of Aspen, where she contributed to economic development plans and community engagement initiatives.

Jonathan Lucero (Fin’04; Law’07) was sworn in as the presiding judge for the City of Wheat Ridge, Colorado. He also serves as a relief judge for the cities of

Aurora, Brighton, Lone Tree and Castle Rock on a rotating basis. He is active in multiple bar associations and serves on the board of directors for the STRIDE Community Health Center.

’05 **Brian Dickson’s** (MEngl’05) third book of poetry, *A Child’s Sketch of the Afterlife*, will be released in May. He is a professor at the Community College of Denver and associate editor of online literature and art magazine *New Feathers Anthology*.

’06 Former Olympic skier and Buffs football star **Jeremy Bloom** (A&S ex’06) was named CEO of the X Games, a biannual sports action event series that includes skateboarding, BMX, freestyle motocross, skiing and snowboarding. Jeremy joined the X Games after serving as CEO of his enterprise software company, Integrate, which he co-founded in 2010. Under Jeremy’s leadership, the X Games looks to strengthen its brand in areas including athlete engagement, global expansion, fan experience and community outreach.

’07 Law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck named **Cooper Reveley** (PolSci’07) senior policy advisor. He is a member of the firm’s government relations department, connects clients with relevant policymakers and offers strategic insight on high-level issues.

FIVE QUESTIONS



Higher Ed Truth-Teller

A principal at TVP Communications, a boutique public relations agency specializing in higher education (higher ed), **Teresa Valerio Parrot** (Comm, EPOBio’97; MPubAd’03) is known as the agency’s “president whisperer” for her ability to help senior administrators translate their expertise into sharable insights (think: blogs, podcasts and other media formats). Valerio Parrot also co-hosts the *Trusted Voices* podcast and is the founding co-editor and a contributor to the blog “Call to Action.”

What are some of the biggest issues higher ed is facing?

Higher education is critiqued for being too elite, expensive and out of touch — but these criticisms boil down to an education being too far separated from someone else’s current experience, reality or memory. When I talk to people about their own experiences of college, I almost exclusively hear stories about how a de-

gree positively changed someone’s life.

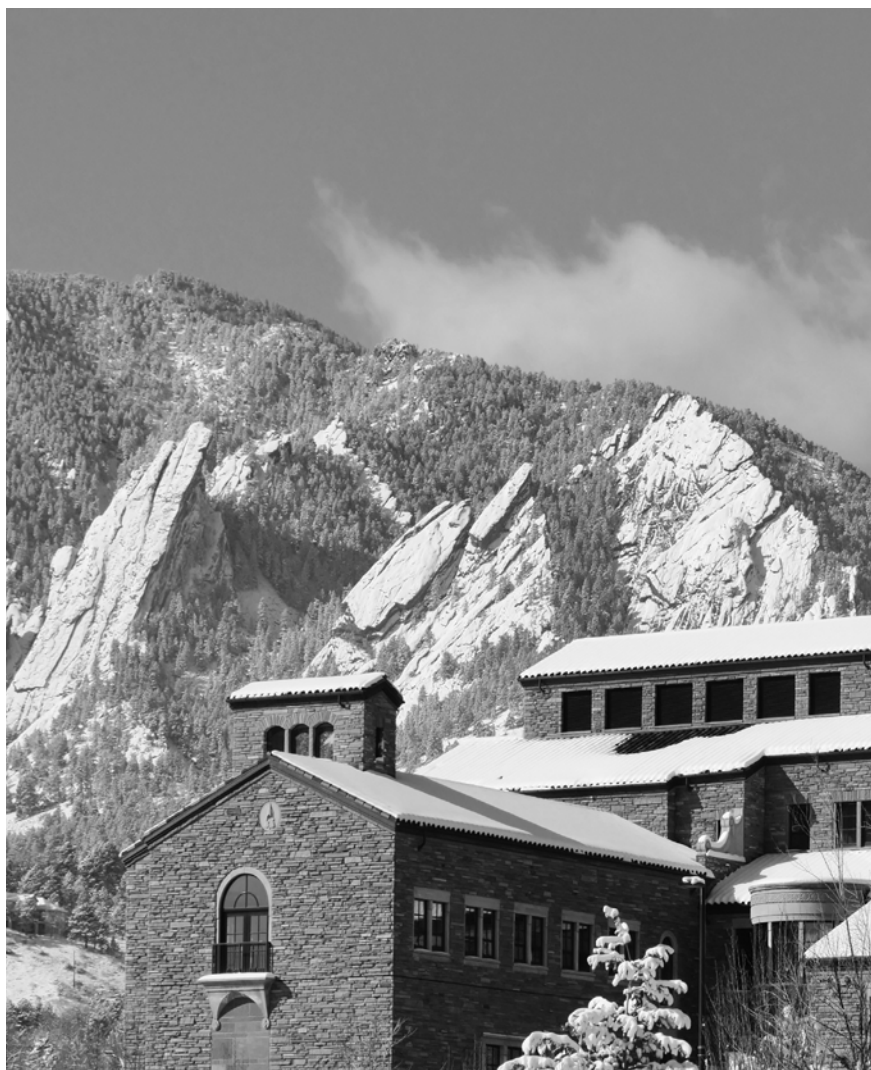
If you could communicate one thing to institutions, what would it be? I would encourage institutions to own their excellence and stop trying to be like everyone else. Each institution has its own sparkle, and they often lose what makes them unique when they try to be like everyone else. Mimicry is where institutions go to die.

You’ve been called a ‘higher ed truth teller.’ What does that mean? It is easy for leaders to surround themselves with those who tell them what they want to hear. I tell presidents and boards what the moment requires and what it demands from a leadership response — which means telling the truth. It’s never the easy route, but it’s the appreciated approach.

Why does higher ed matter today? Higher education provides opportunities. Degrees and institutions make a difference in graduates’ lives, create economic impact in their communities and directly benefit society through research.

How did your time studying and working at CU shape your career? I majored in just about everything CU had to offer before settling on communications and public relations, and I’m so thankful this is where I landed. This field has allowed me to travel the world, specialize in higher education and launch my own business. Through the university, I have been fortunate enough to learn from and have access to phenomenal leaders, mentors and communicators who invested in me as a professional and human being. I’m forever grateful to CU and the Presidents Leadership Class for seeing my potential and investing in me as a professional. Sko Buffs! **INTERVIEW BY KELSEY YANDURA**

CLASSnotes



Snow-dusted Flatirons behind CU's Center for Community, which houses many student programs.

'12 After working as an attorney at the Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck law firm for over five years, **Courtney Bartkus** (PolSci'12) was named a shareholder. Courtney has expertise in financial compliance and litigation and has guided many companies through state

and federal regulatory investigations. Prior to her legal career, she worked for two of the largest U.S. banks.

Since 2018, **K. Dawn Grapes** (PhDMus'12) has published three books, including her most recent, *Dowland*, which is a part of Oxford University Press's "Composers Across Cultures" series. Her book celebrates the story of John Dowland, one of the most important composers to emerge from early

modern England. Dawn's research focuses on the music of early modern England and music history pedagogy. She is an associate professor of music history in the School of Music, Theatre and Dance at Colorado State University.

President Biden awarded **Kate Starbird** (PhDTechMedSoc'12) the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The award is the highest honor given

by the United States government to scientists and engineers who demonstrate exceptional potential early in their research careers. Kate is a professor at the University of Washington and is one of the leading scientists studying disinformation. Her work focuses on how information spreads during crisis events and the dynamics of misinformation and disinformation online.

'13 Abby Kirkbride (Law'13; MURbanPlan'13) rejoined the Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck law firm as a shareholder in the real estate department. With a strong background in real estate development, urban planning and land use, Abby guides clients through complex zoning and entitlement processes.

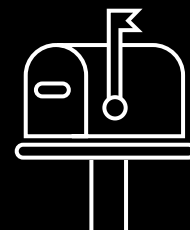
'15 Michael Male (Comm'15) was promoted to regional vice president for Transamerica, where he will spearhead retirement plan sales in Colorado, partnering with financial advisors and third-party administrators.

'17 Cody Grenzke (Anth'17) has worked as an archaeologist for nearly eight years and continues to find joy in helping communities around the country. His career has brought him to several states, including Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Idaho, Florida and Texas, in both the private and public sectors. Cody now works for Vantage Point Solutions and writes, "There's never a day where this feels like just a job for me."

'18 In less than three years, **Ben Medalie** (StComm'18) and **Boone Whiteside** (StComm'18) have taken their hair care product venture from a Denver apartment stovetop to a \$4.5 million, international award-winning business. The friends met at CU and realized they were both frustrated with toxic and lab-engineered hair products they saw dominating the industry. Soon after, Ben and Boone developed their hair care brand, Highland

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— named after Highland Street in North Boulder, where Boone grew up. Highland products are created with sustainable, earth-conscious ingredients that improve scalp and hair health.

Brielle Rumsey (Psych'18) joined the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce board of directors. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to advancing women's leadership in the state. Born and raised in Colorado, Brielle is passionate about supporting local women in business. She is an associate attorney at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck and a 2021 graduate from the Gonzaga University School of Law.

'19 Engineer Jake Perez (EIEng'19; MS'20) and his research and development team at Advanced Thermovoltaic Systems (ATS) were awarded the distinguished Earthshot "Fix Our Climate" prize for their

President Biden awarded Kate Starbird (PhDTechMedSoc'12) the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor given by the U.S. government to scientists demonstrating exceptional potential early in their careers.

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transformative efforts against climate change. The Earthshot Prize, a global award launched by Prince William of the United Kingdom in 2020, seeks to enhance pioneering solutions to environmental challenges. The winner was chosen from more than 5,300 nominations across 141 countries and honors ATS's focus on converting industrial waste heat into sustainable electricity.

'20 During the 2024 Paris Olympics, **Patrick Bodnar** (Mktg'20) served as the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic committee press officer for sport climbing. At the games, Patrick coordinated press relations between media outlets and Olympians and provided real-time reporting on the competition. When he's not directly supporting the Olympic movement, Patrick oversees all marketing and communications for USA Climbing.

While studying abroad as a CU student in Milan, Italy, **Laura Vogel** (Fin, Mktg'20) created the idea for Vogelle, an Italian leather handbag brand. At a young age, Laura was scouted as a model and introduced to the fashion industry, where she spent her formative years. She and her company have since been featured in *5280* and *Success* magazines.

'21 In the spring of 2024, **Austin Ma** (CompSci'21; MS'23) began his master's in

At CU Boulder, Emily Campbell (Acct, Fin'24) combined her passion for nature with academic rigor and found community through Boulder Freeride.

engineering management at CU Boulder. Austin came to the United States in 2015 to study English as a second language. Today, he owns a construction company and is a senior engineer. He writes he is very grateful for the opportunities he's found in this country.

'22 From a young age, **Ryan Burbary** (Acct, Fin'22) adored the sport of tennis, but hated that the sport's waste damaged the environment. This inspired him to create Boulder-based Velocity Tennis, the worldwide leader in environmentally sustainable tennis string. The company launched a second biodegradable tennis string for beginners after the success of its first professional-grade string. Ryan hopes to show people that it's possible to play sports, especially tennis, in a more sustainable way.

With a passion for public service and a dedication to advancing justice, **Andrew Salazar** (Law'22) joined Caplan & Earnest's litigation practice. Before his current position, Andrew served as a law clerk at the 20th judicial district in Boulder, working with Judge Bruce Langer. Andrew is also committed to sup-

porting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities within the justice system.

'23 After moving to Crested Butte, Colorado, **Ainsley Green** (StComm'23) began her role as a tour manager at Matchstick Productions in 2023. The company is known for its award-winning ski films and boutique production services. Ainsley oversees the logistics and execution of film tours, bringing the latest ski films to audiences worldwide.

'24 Trading the familiar Rocky Mountains for Japan's snow-covered peaks, **Emily Campbell** (Acct, Fin'24) booked a one-way ticket to Asia to spend the winter skiing and looking for roles in sustainable finance. At CU, Emily found her community through the Leeds School of Business, which combined her academic rigor with her passion for nature. As a freshman, Emily discovered CU's ski and snowboard club, Boulder Freeride. Her involvement on the board and eventual role as the organization's director inspired her commitment to environmental justice and outdoor accessibility.

FIVE QUESTIONS



Goods, for Less

In 2023, **Eddy Connors** (Bus'21) [pictured middle left] and **Luke Siegert** (FilmSt'22) [far left] went from roommates and fraternity brothers to startup co-founders when they launched Goodie Bag, a marketplace for surplus food. The app aims to reduce food waste by offering "perfectly good unsold food" from local businesses at a significant discount. Goodie Bag has expanded nationally to over 200 partnering shops, including OZO Coffee, Charleston Bagels and Blend Juice Bar. Connors, who serves as CEO, talks about the company here.

You came up with Goodie Bag during a CU entrepreneurship course. How did it come about? From the get-go, we wanted to muster up an idea that would both make positive social change and generate profit. There was an opportunity to prevent good food from going to waste by connecting it to people at lower prices. That business idea ended up winning the "Startup Summer" pitch competition.

How did you and Luke go from college roommates to business partners? As roommates, we would

always talk about different business ideas, different industries that needed to be shaken up. We both knew there was so much opportunity to create better outcomes for people and our planet, and that excited us.

What were some of the biggest challenges you faced in scaling the business? In the beginning, our biggest challenge was figuring out the technology of our app since Luke and I were not engineers ourselves. We also faced some team challenges that required difficult conversations early and often as we took the company from

a school project to a full-time business. Team is everything.

With over 200 partner shops and 45,000 meals saved from going to waste, what are your next big goals for Goodie Bag? Our greatest goal is to ensure no good food goes to waste. That's the vision that guides us. As for what's next, we want to increase our presence in existing markets by partnering with more shops in cities like Denver, Boulder and Fort Collins.

Reflecting on your journey from CU student to CEO, what advice would you give current students interested in launching their own businesses? Do it! In all seriousness though, just remember that inaction is always the wrong answer. Know that you're going to have failures along the way, but as long as you're able to learn and adapt, it'll be a worthwhile experience.
INTERVIEW BY SOPHIA MCKEOWN (STCOMM'25)

INmemoriam

1940s

Marcia Wood Tweedie (HomeEcon'45)
Jean Hammond Macferran (MusEdu'47)
Eleanor I. Williams (A&S ex'47)
Leahbeth Hitchcock Barnard (A&S'48; MEdu'71)
Mary Matern Linder (A&S ex'48)
Barbara Bowers Breneman (A&S ex'49)

1950s

Harry E. Gardner (Chem'50)
Ann Larsh Konzen (Comp-SciAp'50)
Douglas E. Nelson (Geog'50)
William D. Nisbet (CivEngr'50)
Richard M. Burrige Sr. (Fin'51)
John P. Lavash (MechEngr'51)
Leila Baucum Seal (A&S ex'51)
Barbara Lane Tobey (Mktg'51)
Dwan V. Witt (MechEngr'51)
Dawna Horner Womack (BusEdu'51)
Mary Kester Borchers (A&S'52)
Mary Jane Brown (A&S'52)
Anna “Virginia” Culp (Med-Tech'52)
Joanna Walker Freeman (MEngl'52)
Clarence E. Blair (A&S'53, MA&S'55)
Timothy L. Campbell (Acct'53; Law'59)
John E. Anderson (MechEngr'54)
Karlee L. Babcock (Zool'54)
Jack R. Cagle Jr. (Bio'54)
Mary D. Fugate (Chem'52; MedTech'54)
Charles W. Haigh (Mktg'54)
Mary Grimes Hercher (A&S ex'54)
Richard L. Nickson (Pharm ex'54)
Earl L. Newmyer (EIEng'54)
John A. Tyson (A&S ex'54)
Kathleen Hoogland (A&S ex'55)
Wallace L. Johnson (Geol'55)
Michael Loewenstein (Spch'55)
William L. Merman (ChemEngr'55)
Julie Hammond Blackmun (A&S'56)
Jacqueline Adams Collins (Bus'56)

Judith K. Hylbert (A&S ex'56)
Shirley Graham Repp (A&S ex'56)
Arnold T. Sigler (A&S'56)
Carol L. Call (A&S ex'57)
Ruth Kahn Carlson (Mktg'57)
Laurence R. Danielson (MA&S'57)
Jane Reardon Dwight (A&S'57)
Marilyn Metcalfe Morrisson (A&S'57)
Sadaomi Oshikawa (MMg-mt'57)
Jane Holmes Willhour (Geol'57)
Shirley Whiteley Whartman (MPerServ'57)
Norbert M. Brady (MA&S'58)
Gale D. Christy (PolSci'58)
William M. Frost (MathPhys'58)
Harriet Shotola Hardwick (Edu'58)
Andrea Olsen Hauge (MPE'58)
Maryalice Loudon Hoyt (A&S'58)
Gordon Linden (CivEngr'58)
Mary McClure May (Med-Tech'58)
Tim Z. Ogle (Fin'58)
Virginia A. Phillips (A&S'58)
Stanley R. Watkins (PhD-Chem'58)
Jerry Winters (Law'58)
Sigrid Asmus (Art'59)
Richard Bell (A&S'59)
Judith Kluck Bunting (A&S ex'59)
John H. Gowen (MMgmt'59)
Leon R. Hoffman (CivEngr ex'59)
Jon Larson (EIEng'59)
Loren A. Schultz (AeroEngr'59)
Patricia Teets (A&S'59)

1960s

William Bradfield (Mktg'60)
Larry Conway (Geol'60)
Patrick McCarthy (Engl'60)
Richards O. Morgan (AeroEngr'60)
Sherman Peale (Fin'60)
Linda Beher Richards (HomeEcon'60)
John S. Woodward (Bus, EngrPhys'60)
Alfonso Sandoval (EIEng'60)
Joy Chapman (MA&S'61)
Fredrik J. Gude (MechEngr'61)
Marsha Hicks (Edu'61)
Carolyn Cahal Holder (A&S'61)
Robert Matheson (Phys'61; MEIEng'68)

Beulah Carver Pinson (A&S ex'61)
James B. Shiley Jr. (Acct'61)
Clifton Smith (Fin'61)
Gaylon Taylor (MMusEdu'61)
Gilbert Billings (MBASci'62)
Lyle Chadwick (Acct'62)
Donnetta Chapman (PerServ'62)
Anne Lingle Esson (A&S'62)
David Flanders (Acct'62; MBA'64)
Carl Johnston (MEngl'62; PhDEdu'74)
Peter Mandics (EIEng'62)
Sally Yewens Meisner (A&S ex'62)
Clarence P. Miller (A&S'62; Law'65)
Karen Riehl Ringsby (Engl'62)
James Brunkhardt (Acct'63)
Rosalinda Horton (Edu'63)
Katharine Houston Knorr (A&S'63)
Milton E. Ruebush (Engr ex'63)
Ned Sanders (MCivEngr'63)
Daniel Sukle (EngrPhys'63; PhDPhys'68)
Manouchehr Zirakzadeh (PhDA&S'63)
Kenneth Baldwin (MBASci'64)
Richard Clifton (A&S, Engr ex'64)

Kathryn Fritschel Gerard (MHist'64)
Thomas R. Johnston (A&S ex'64)
Edward Lakner (Psych'64)
William McIntyre Jr. (Econ'64)
Mary McRoberts (ArtHist'64)
Frank D. Price (EIEng'64)
Anna K. Silva (A&S'64)
James Toevs (EngrPhys'64)
James R. Wostenberg (A&S ex'64)
Charles A. Bottinelli (A&S'65; MEdu'75; EdD'80)
Susan Breznay (A&S'65)
Sharon Smith Koenig (A&S ex'65)
Benedict Schiefelbein (A&S'65)
E. Calvin Schneider Jr. (ChemEngr, Mgmt'65)
Evelyn Mozer Wiescamp (Engl, Fren, Ger'65)
John Yeager (Law'65)
Daniel Brickley (MA&S'66)
Joseph Cannon (MChemEngr'66; PhD'71)
Mary F. Chivers (A&S ex'66)
Rosemary Guadagnoli (Hist'66)
Carol A. Gutierrez (MEdu ex'66)

Peter F. Johantgen (Fin'66)
Randolph Karsh (A&S'66)
Janis Lynch (Edu'66; MA'72)
Anne Slater (MA&S'66)
Charles B. Tyler (A&S ex'66)
Margaret McGuire Betchart (Geog'67)
Ruth Cox (A&S'67)
William MacDonald (Mktg'67; MBA'68)
Charles Smith (PhDPhys'67)
Rudolf Weiss (MA&S'67; PhD-Germ'70)
John Gustafson (EngrPhys'68)
Don G. Ferraro (Engr ex'68)
Gustave Kovalik (Engl'68)
George Krill (CivEngr'68)
William Miller III (DistSt'68)
Gus T. Costas (MA&S ex'69)
Andrew Fumaros Jr. (MechEngr'69)
Sarah Herbert (PhDChem'69)
Barbara Walker Hyink (Bio'69)
David L. Johnson (A&S'69)
Pamela Korbel (Engl'69)
Joan Macey (MA&S'69)
Edward McWilliams (Mktg'69)
Raymond D. Porch (A&S ex'69)
Marilyn Waski Reid (Span'69)
John Sahlman (EIEng'69)
Sandra Singer (A&S'69; MPsych'72; PhD'75)
Gilbert Wilkins (Econ'69)

1970s

Spiro James DeSon Jr. (A&S ex'70)
James J. Driscoll III (A&S'70)
Shelia Nekuda Jacobson (Fren'70)
Albert Slobodin (Art'70; MComm'75)
Wendy Stangl (A&S ex'70)
Linda Bennington Tooley (MPE'70)
Katherine L. Ullmer (MGerm'70)
Vern R. Bunch (MechEngr'71)
Helen E. Fisher (MANth'71; PhD'75)
Gregory M. Hogan (Mktg'71)
Paula Hurwitz (Soc'71)
Robert J. Insinger (PolSci'71)
Timothy B. Reasoner (A&S'71)
Richard M. Shahan (Engl'71; MA'78; PhD'85)
Richard E. Skeen (Mktg'71; MSoc'73; PhD'80)
William H. Stangl (MechEngr'71)
Barbara Olmsted Aaker (DistSt'72)

Benjamin Blaney (PhD-Germ'72)
Michael J. Stephenson (MBA'72)
Charley Hutchens (Law'72)
Robert Dellinger (PhDEdu'73)
Richard D. Irvin (Law'73)
Robert Moyers (Law'73)
Juanita Fuller Scott (Psych'73)
Margaret Swedish (Psych'73)
Scott Dedrick (Phil'74)
Elaine Jones (Ital'74)
Walter Koelbel Jr. (Fin'74)
John Rosenbloom (Law'74)
Mark A. Singer (A&S ex'74)
Jacquelyn Schuett (Anth'74)
Linda Boone (MEdu'75)
James Hagerbaumer (PhDEcon'75)
Karen Dunlap (ArtHist'76)
Charles Engebretson (Jour'76)
Frederick L. Swenson (Anth'76; Law'83)
Robert Trinen (Fin'76)
Francine M. Reed (MA&S ex'77)
Velma Favors (MedTech'78)
James A. Green (MFA'78)
Robert Heinschel (MTele-Comm'78)
Thomas G. Navarro (Bus'78)
Rebecca Jackson (MCD-Bio'79)
Rufus Miller (Math'79)
Lisa Pobrislo (Comm'79)

1980s

Laura Hauge (Edu'80)
Louis W. Patterson (Engl'80)
James Ruben (MCDBio'80)
Jeffrey L. Schomaker (A&S ex'80)
Robert Utasi (ChemEngr'80)
Jesse Dodd (MCDBio'81)
Jon Geer (ArchEngr'81)
Lawrence J. Hennessy (A&S ex'81)
Robin Nicholas (MGeog'81)
John Hocking Case (Econ'82; Law'84)
Patrick Flaherty (Fin'82)
Charles Lee Jr. (MGeol'82; PhD'87)
Maria Ramos (PhDEdu'82)
Richard Thornton (ExecM-BA'83)
Richard J. Matson (MPhil ex'84)
Lisa Schumacher (Mktg'84)
Charles Wall (MCDBio'84)
Cynthia Richardson Neeley Bowling (PhDA&S'85)

Charlotte Wille (Fin'85)
Glenna Thurmes (MBA'86)
Mary Dolan Coté (Rec'87)
Erin A. Werner (A&S ex'88)
John Hendrickson (Psych'89)
Richard Whitcomb (MFin'89)

1990s

Mary Beth Chumney (Jour'92)
J. Kurt Marrs (MCDBio'92)
Louisa Douglas McCune (Geog ex'93)
William K. Scheitler (PolSci'94)
Leona Hood Staton (MJour'97; PhDComm'01)

2000s

Jonathan Abshagen (Acct'01)
Christiana Gallaher (MSLH-Sci'01)
Nikolaus Levinsky (EnvDes'02)
David Anderson (Econ'04)
Kristin Petri (Law'04)
Bronwyn Paxton (MechEngr'05)
Nicholas Tiberio (Hist'05)
Elizabeth Cleveland Cobb (MCDBio'06)
Bradley Pappas (Comm'06)

2010s

Rebecca K. Busch (Engl'12)
Kyle Rindahl (Phil'13)
Zachary T. Marriner (Comm'15)
Bridger W. Baird (CivEngr'19; MS'19)

2020s

Aidan M. James (Fin ex'23)
Caleb M. Stuart (Thtr'23)
Peter S. Kubinieć (MCDBio ex'24)
Abdulelah Alrebdi (Astro ex'25)
Jeremiah Park (StComm ex'26)
Kyra Peck (SLHSci ex'26)
Adelaide G. Rowell (MCDBio ex'27)

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Jean E. Delaney, Academic Services
Robert R. Fink, College of Music
Marilyn Krysl, English Department
William “Bill” McCartney, CU Football

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FEEDback

Thoughts on Colorado's Wolves

The “Welcoming the Wolf” article in the fall issue praising wolf reintroduction in Colorado’s high country gives a one-sided and false impression. Re-introducing wolves was a bad idea to start with, and the reality is even worse.

More than two dozen wolves have been shot by ranchers whose cattle have been attacked and eaten by wolves. Several more wolves have died of natural causes. It is expensive to reimburse the ranchers and to bring in replacement wolves.

Wasn’t the idea that wolves would keep the deer and elk populations in check? Well, deer and elk are fast and roam free. Cattle and other livestock are slow and en-fenced. The wolves have quickly learned which is the easier meal.

The legislation that enabled wolf reintroduction, Proposition 114, passed by the slimmest of margins, and was fueled by

the populous urban vote. The Front Range voters knew little about the high country ecology and the ranching and farming industries. Why should they decide what is best for those areas?

Colorado is not the wilderness state it was a century ago. Trying to treat it as if it were is bound to fail. Bringing wolves to an ecology imagined to be something it isn’t can only have negative results.

Bill Allegar (Engl’71)
Denver

Conference Confusion

While I am very happy the Buffs are “Back to the Big 12,” it should be noted that the University of Colorado did not join the Big 8 for the 1948 football season, but rather joined the old Big 6 conference, originally formed in 1928 out of the old Missouri Valley Conference that dated back to 1907. CU turned the Big 6 into the Big 7, which eventually became the Big 8 when Oklahoma

State joined in 1959 for the 1960 football season.

The expansion of the Big 8 into the Big 12 for the 1996 season, with the inclusion of four former members of the old South-west Conference, was the last realignment in which the conference name aptly and accurately described the conference’s membership numerically rather than being a generic market brand name.

Francis Rexford Cooley (Hist’87)
Plainville, Connecticut

Major Change

The article “Major Change” [Fall 2024] was great, and I would like to forward it to some of my grandchildren who are approaching high school.

R. Howell
(Acct’77; MBA’83)
Boca Raton, Florida

An Art Institution

Jim Green (MFA’78) was an institution in the art world — quite the Mr. Rogers, in fact, but one of your more successful art grads who touched millions with his sound sculpture. He was known mostly for his public art sound sculptures in airports, city sidewalks and museums.

Because you focused on **Kim Christiansen** (Jour’84) a few years back as the “New Voice on the Train” (at DIA), I believe the creator of that public art piece, Jim Green, should be recognized. Kim was just

*Letters edited for length and clarity.
Read more at colorado.edu/coloradan.*



“Jim Green (MFA’78) was an institution in the art world... who touched millions with his sound sculpture. He was known mostly for his public art sound sculptures in airports, city sidewalks and museums.”

— Kathryn Charles (Thtr’90; MArtHist’94)

one of many voices Jim recorded (in addition to Payton Manning, Lindsey Vonn, Adele Arakawa, Reynelda Muse, Michael B. Hancock and John Hickenlooper).

Green’s message to the world was clear, concise, positive and playful. He reminded us to be present, listen to the world around us, and most of all, not take ourselves too seriously.

Kathryn Charles
(Thtr’90; MArtHist’94)
Denver

Introduction to a New World

I was saddened to read of the passing of one of my greatest mentors at CU, professor Douglas Burger. He imbued his classes

with such infectious joy that his students couldn’t help but catch it.

Before I took his Shakespeare classes, the immortal Bard had befuddled me. But Prof. Burger, being an accomplished Shakespearean actor in his life outside academia, reading with passion and proper thespian inflection, opened that world up to me.

He also taught a fantasy lit class that was a joy for many students, myself included. You had to sign up early for that class before it filled up.

Rather late in the game, Doug encouraged me to enroll in the English honors program. I was daunted, but with his help and guidance, I

was enabled to graduate magna cum laude. That would not have happened without him. He was one of CU’s finest.

Bruce Allen (Engl’85)
San Francisco

Experience of a Lifetime

I just wanted to share that I loved my four years at University of Colorado. The first year I was in Williams Village and made great friends.

The next three I was near campus and started a fraternity with some friends that are more like brothers to me. The fall of my junior year, I took a semester abroad in Lugano, Switzerland, and that, too, was terrific.



Coloradan

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Coloradan aims to inform, inspire and foster community among alumni, friends and admirers of the University of Colorado Boulder, and to engage them in the life of the university. We strive to practice inclusive storytelling in every aspect of the publication. Our goal is to uplift and share stories that represent a wide range of CU Boulder experiences while working to develop a deeper sense of belonging for all involved with the university.

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Social Buffs



“It was a perfect day for the @towater front42k in my hometown of Toronto, Canada, great race.”
@james gcoope



“Heeeerrre comes Ralphie!!! Little dude dressed up as his namesake, Ralphie V.”
@short stack ralphie



“Walking off the field with pride, knowing this journey was worth every moment. Sko Buffs always 🐻💚”
@cubuffs twirlers



“Clare Small, founder of the Women’s P.E. department ... was the driving force behind the creation of the Women’s Gym, which now bears her name.”

— William Arndt (ArtEdu'70)

After graduating in May 1989, I stayed a few weeks and then came back to West Hartford, Connecticut, where I grew up. I was very fortunate to have that experience at CU, and I still keep up with my college friends who are around the country.

Glenn Shafer (Hist'89)
West Hartford, Connecticut

The Impact of Clare Small

The space noted in the “Artifact” section of the Fall 2024 *Coloradan* is the building historically known as the Dugout Cleaners. It’s now the home of Half-Fast Subs with residences upstairs.

But that upstairs space was originally a large ballroom and gymnasium used before spaces like that were available on campus. It was here that the late Clare Small, founder of the Women’s P.E. department, rented space for women’s athletics as well as early dance classes (mostly folk and square dance). Clare was the driving force behind the creation of the Women’s Gym, which now bears her name. I knew Clare; she hired my mother during WWII as an accompanist for the burgeoning dance program. Mother had that job for over 30 years, during which time a

degree-granting program was created in dance, and in 1960, with Clare’s blessing, dance moved to become part of the theater department.

William Arndt
(ArtEdu'70)
Boulder

Preference for Print

I’m in a household of CU alumni, and we’ve all lost contact with what’s happening in the CU world since we stopped receiving the print edition of the alumni magazine a few years ago. ... It’s a pleasure to read things like this in print, and a chore to read online.

Justin McLean
(Hist'93)
Stone Ridge, New York

THEN

DECEMBER 10, 1994

After an extraordinary 11-1 season with the Buffs in 1994, running back **Rashaan Salaam** (Soc ex'96) won CU's first Heisman Trophy. Salaam, then a junior, was the fourth Division I player to top the 2,000-yard rushing barrier. He also led the nation in scoring.

"It was a special season, especially after the Miracle at Michigan game," said **Dave Plati** (Jour'82), who was assistant athletic director for sports information during Salaam's time at CU.

Thirty years later, cornerback and wide receiver **Travis Hunter** (Psych'26) won the Heisman Trophy in December 2024, the university's second, bringing Salaam's name back into the spotlight.

"Rashaan hated the attention he was receiving," said Plati. "He was the consummate team player, and after he won all his awards, most of his comments were directed at saying his success was due to his teammates."

Salaam died in 2016 at the age of 42.

