

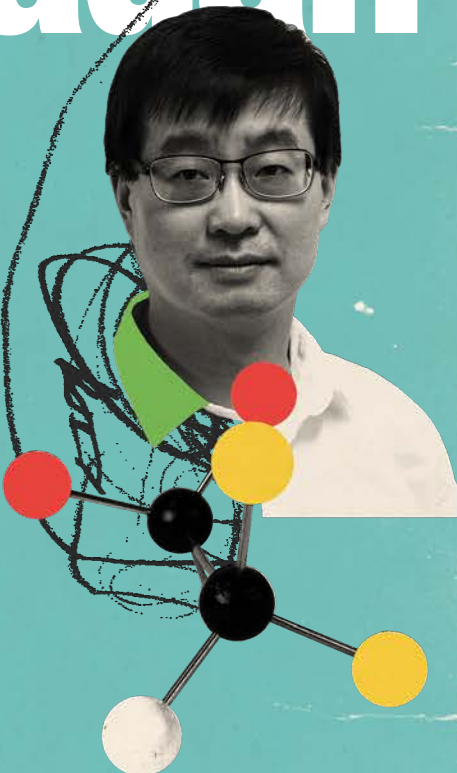
Be Boulder.

CU Alumni Association  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

# Coloradan

Alumni Magazine Summer 2025

Being  
**BOLD**



Meet five  
Buffs changing  
the world.





# NOW

MAY 8, 2025

This spring, during a ceremony with blue skies and a full Folsom Stadium, CU Boulder conferred 10,138 degrees, the most the university has ever awarded in a single commencement.

Commencement speaker **Emma Coburn** (Mktg'13), a three-time Olympian in steeplechase and NCAA national track champion, shared insights from her athletic career, emphasizing the importance of perseverance and resilience.

She advised the graduates: "Today isn't just the end of a chapter — it's the end of one race and the beginning of another. You've crossed the finish line, and now, you're standing at the starting line of everything else that comes next."







**COVER** CU Boulder is teeming with innovation, curiosity and thought leadership. Illustration by Cristiana Couceiro.

**ABOVE** On April 7, the 77th Conference on World Affairs began with a moderated discussion featuring *Wicked* star Cynthia Erivo.

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**Bolder Buffs**  
Meet five CU Boulder Buffs whose high-impact, cutting-edge work promises to create ripples out into the world.
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**Pattern in Motion**  
Ankur Gupta’s research sharpens our understanding of Turing pattern theory.
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**The Anti-Social Network**  
**Maddie Freeman** (Bus’24) helps students find a technology-life balance through social media detoxes.

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**Kale, Yeah!**  
CU Boulder dining offers students elevated, nourishing and delicious food. The world is taking notice.
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**The Double Life of Mary Rippon**  
CU Boulder’s revered first female professor from the Victorian era lived a secret life that few knew about for decades.

EDITOR’S NOTE

Steady rain poured as my friend and I splashed through puddles and crossed the finish line on Folsom Field. We were two of the 45,000 runners at the Bolder Boulder, the largest 10K race in the U.S. Despite the weather, Boulder’s signature spirit shone: Bands, bacon and cheering neighbors lined the route. It was pure local magic.

CU Boulder embodies that same magic — it’s a mix of bold people, a legendary setting and cutting-edge research and creativity. As Chancellor Schwartz and Professor Surden remind us in this issue, Boulder must be experienced to be understood.

Read stories here that capture CU’s distinctive energy: physicists, astronauts, philosophers and TV anchors. Plus, the legacy of Mary Rippon, the intricate mathematics underlying animal patterns, a passion for fresh food and the arrival of Sundance.

I hope these stories reconnect you to CU Boulder’s ambition, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit — the driving forces behind its bold, innovative heart.

Maria Kuntz

CONTACT THE EDITOR AT  
**EDITOR@COLORADO.EDU**



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THEN  
Chautauqua

# How to Embrace AI

CU law professor Harry Surden worked as a software engineer for five years before deciding to fuse his interests in tech and law. He attended Stanford Law School, where he helped create a groundbreaking interdisciplinary research center, the Stanford Center for Legal Informatics (CodeX), where he remains involved today. He joined CU Boulder in 2008, and his research focuses on the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and law.

**What spurred your interest in technology and law?** As an undergraduate, I wondered about this interplay between society, computer science and law. I was working as a software engineer and kept interacting with the legal sector, noticing ways in which aspects of law were becoming standardized — and to some extent automated.

**What brought you to CU Boulder?** Colorado Law has a leading technology policy center, the Silicon Flatirons Center, led by well-known academics doing groundbreaking research — at the time Phil Weiser and Paul Ohm — and I was attracted to the idea of working with them. I was also very interested in moving to Boulder, which I had heard a great deal about. It turned out to be an absolutely terrific place to live.

**What are your thoughts on the impact of large language models (LLMs)?** LLMs are absolutely revolutionary. I have studied artificial intelligence for about 20 years. For 17 of those years, I was somewhat disap-

pointed. I observed that AI of the era prior to 2022 was good in very specific, narrow circumstances, but was far from the AI systems that most people conceived of when they conjured up the notion that machines could think and reason. With the advent of ChatGPT and LLMs since 2023, we are much closer to that vision of AI.

Today's AI systems can understand and process ordinary language. Now, these AI systems are still simulation machines, and are not 'thinking' or conscious. They reproduce variants of complicated patterns that they have previously seen in billions of pages of written text and video. Nonetheless, they are extremely useful systems able to engage in fairly complex and advanced problem solving and analysis.

**How often are you using ChatGPT?** I use ChatGPT (as well as Claude and Gemini) nearly every day. Part of the reason is due to my academic research, which aims to benchmark the legal reasoning and analysis abilities that AI models have for legal scenarios.

At this point, most of the frontier-leading AI models can engage in

reasonably accurate legal reasoning for basic legal scenarios. But there are a couple of caveats. First, they make mistakes. They sometimes 'hallucinate,' inventing case names or occasionally misdescribing the holding of legal cases, so professionals have to be careful in completely relying on these systems. The second limitation is that such AI systems are still not great at complex and nuanced legal scenarios that rely upon the intuition, tacit knowledge and experience of attorneys.

## How can LLMs be used to benefit the general public?

These models are not perfect, so we have to learn and practice their strengths and account for their weaknesses. I think of answers from ChatGPT as kind of background information that is likely reliable 90% of the time, but I still want to double check. I often cross-check answers across two or three different models in an attempt to triangulate on common knowledge.

## How do you keep up with the AI industry?

I follow the academic research that is produced and uploaded to the academic article archive site for Cornell University's arxiv.org. I also read the content of researchers on social media and watch the recordings of academic lectures or conferences on YouTube. However, primarily, I continually use the AI systems and test their strengths and weaknesses over time.



Law professor Harry Surden has studied AI for two decades. He called the LLMs of today "revolutionary."

**What should people know about the ways AI can intersect with the law?** AI can be very useful for access to justice. In the U.S., people who are involved in civil (non-criminal) cases, such as family law, landlord tenant law, wage disputes and immigration, have no right to counsel. An estimated 80% of Americans who have a civil matter cannot afford an attorney or do not have access to attorneys. AI may be able to help bridge that gap and provide people with a better option for legal advice and information.

## How should law schools prepare students for the

**ethical dilemmas that AI may present in practice?** Law schools should be cautiously studying and, to some extent, embracing AI. I try to inculcate in my students principles of good AI usage in learning.

In education, there are two ways that AI can be used: to substitute for learning or to complement and enhance learning. Students who use AI should always reflect upon what any use of AI is doing. They should avoid uses where the AI is doing the work for them. However, AI can be a terrific learning enhancement. Imagine you read about a legal case for class, and you have some core confusion and unan-

swered questions. Here, you'd have the opportunity to use AI to connect the dots, enhancing your comprehension.

**Do you believe current regulations are adequate to manage the risks posed by AI systems in society?** I think we should be cautious in regulating AI too early. AI has both benefits and risks, and we should avoid disproportionately attempting to predict future problems that have not yet arisen and may not arise. In my opinion, the best approach is to engage in continual information gathering and monitoring.

INTERVIEW BY CHRISTIE SOUNART (JOUR'12).



## Sundance in Boulder

In 2027, the Sundance Film Festival will relocate to Boulder from Park City, Utah.

**T**he Sundance Institute's first festival began in Utah in 1985. Now, 40 years later, the iconic film fest has set its sights on the Flatirons. According to the nonprofit's March announcement, the Sundance Institute's board of trustees was drawn to Boulder's small-town charm, engaged community, art focus and natural scenery. "This move will ensure that the festival continues its work of risk-taking, supporting innovative storytellers, fostering independence and entertaining and enlightening audiences," said **Robert Redford** (A&S ex'58; HonDocHum'87), Sundance Institute president and founder. "I am grateful to the Boulder community for its support, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for the festival there."

Redford started the institute in 1981 as a way to support independent filmmakers and storytellers.

Once in Boulder, the majority of the festival will be held on and around the Pearl Street Mall. CU Boulder will offer support and additional venue space.

The event will offer students — particularly those involved with the university's Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts department — direct exposure to prominent filmmakers and actors.

During Sundance's 2024 run, its economic impact was vast. Over 24,000 festival visitors attended from out of state, generating over 1,700 jobs for Utah residents and producing \$132 million in economic activity for the state, according to the festival's economic impact report.

Now, Colorado will reap the benefits.

In an interview with *CU Boulder Today*, Chancellor Justin Schwartz added to the hype: "We are excited for tens of thousands of festival guests to experience what we already know: Boulder is an incredible place to immerse yourself in the arts, culture, nature and history that make life worth living."

Thousands are expected to visit Boulder for the 2027 film festival.



## The Place That Shaped Me



**Christina Fang's** (Psych, Soc'21) journey as a Forever Buff.

I debated between the mimosa and the bloody mary.

On the morning of our 2021 graduation, my friend Rose and I sat in a tangerine booth at Snooze, dressed in caps and gowns, watching our virtual commencement on my phone. On the walk over, we soaked in applause from strangers as if Pearl Street were our stage.

At CU Boulder, commencement is more than tradition — it's a ceremonial send-off into life beyond The Hill. It's when you become not just a Buff, but a Forever Buff. But for us, that ritual was disrupted. Our journey began not with pomp and circumstance, but with pancakes and perseverance.

With no clear path after graduation, I soon found myself back at CU Boulder as a staff member at the Alumni Association. The next graduation season, I was up at 5 a.m. — this time helping set up Alfie, a 20-foot fuzzy inflatable buffalo, on Norlin Quad. I got misty-eyed watching from the steps of Old Main, coffee in hand, as soon-to-be alumni fixed their caps, took selfies with Alfie and snuck shooters up their sleeves.

Even after I stopped working at CU, I still returned for graduation — again up at 5 a.m. — but now as a volunteer. As co-president of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Alumni

Chapter, I led AAPI graduation, an event I'd helped revive during my final months at CU. I stood alongside students who looked like me, celebrating a milestone I once dreamed of. I realized being a Buff wasn't just about what the university gave me — it was about what I could give back.

That spring, Old Main stood fenced off, under restoration. For the first time in years, I wasn't watching from its steps — I was standing in the crowd. Like the building, I had changed. My exterior had shifted. But underneath it all, the bones remained the same.

As the graduates made their way toward Folsom Field, I stepped across the wet grass in the same black leather boots I bought the summer before I became a Buff. I remember thinking: I need good walking shoes — sturdy enough for a Colorado winter, cute enough for the boys I'll meet in class.

The boots are creased now, frayed at the edges. But I still move just fine.

What does it mean for something to last forever? Does it stay with us until we pass? Or is it what we leave behind that truly lasts?

I walked across the field, leaving soft footprints in the grass, following the next generation of Forever Buffs into whatever comes next. **BY CHRISTINA FANG**





Dilley running a New Mexico marathon.

**Coltrane Dilley**  
(Psych'26) balances NROTC, class and a vibrant social life — all while making time for running, friends and unlimited wings.

QUICK FACTS

**Studying**  
Psychology

**Expected Graduation**  
May 2026

**From**  
Redondo Beach,  
California



Serves as Staff Sergeant in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC)



Can be found studying at the fifth-floor lounge in the UMC



Doesn't miss Wednesday unlimited wings at Roadhouse Boulder Depot

A DAY AS A BUFF

“My mornings usually begin with a strength workout or ROTC training, followed by lectures and seminars. Afternoons are typically reserved for running, as I make it a personal goal to compete in several races each year. This spring, my training regimen was geared toward the Paris Marathon, which I ran this April. Evenings are dedicated to friends, campus events or personal downtime.”

FAVORITE CU TRADITION

“I love the newly incorporated ‘Push-Up Squad’ at CU football games, where ROTC volunteers from all branches perform push-ups after each team score, matching the team’s total points at that moment.”

CU’S INFLUENCE

“Being surrounded by people from so many different backgrounds, each with their own stories and perspectives, has pushed me to broaden my worldview and approach leadership with more empathy and nuance.”

CAMPUS LIFE

“Being a student at CU today means constantly being surrounded by people who care about issues, about each other and about doing something that matters. There’s this quiet drive across campus that’s easy to miss if you’re not paying attention — but once you catch it, it pulls you in. It’s not always loud or flashy, but it is real and extremely authentic.”

# Endangered Languages, Enduring Voices

How two CU Boulder professors are preserving at-risk languages.

For most of human history, the survival of specific languages has relied on one generation passing it on to the next — a process that, in many speech communities, unfolds naturally. But, according to a study published in *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, around half of the world’s 7,000 documented languages are currently considered “endangered.”

CU Boulder linguistics professors Ambrocio Gutiérrez Lorenzo and Rai Farrelly hope to slow the decline.

“Languages are tied very closely to peoples’ identities and their cultures,” said Farrelly in an interview with KUNC radio. “We believe that there is tremendous value in working to maintain and revitalize [languages].”

Currently, Farrelly and Gutiérrez Lorenzo are working to preserve Zapotec, a family of languages that originated in Southern Mexico and Central America, spoken mostly in Oaxaca, Mexico. Gutiérrez Lorenzo collaborates closely with members of the Teotitlán del Valle community who are interested in learning more about the Zapotec language and contributing to preservation efforts.

Since 2011, he has held monthly meetings with community members to discuss linguistic aspects of the language and the practical applications of his research, including the creation of small dictionaries and the documentation of local narratives.

“[Zapotec] is the language I grew up speaking, so I don’t want it to be lost with my generation,” said Gutiérrez Lorenzo. “I don’t want to be the generation that let it go.”

Besides creating real-world solutions, Gutiérrez Lorenzo and Farrelly are determined to raise awareness around the issue, both on campus and around the world. The colleagues developed a global seminar for CU’s Education Abroad based in Teotitlán del Valle, which offers CU Boulder students the opportunity to live in a rural Mexican community while learning and practicing Spanish and Zapotec.

“Maintaining languages in a community serves to strengthen intergenerational connections,” said Farrelly. “It brings together youth and elders through oral traditions that have been celebrated in many of these communities for centuries.”

BY SOPHIA MCKEOWN

Half of the world’s documented languages are currently at risk of disappearing.





# CAMPUSnews

## DIGITS

### College of Music Pianos

Earlier this year, the College of Music introduced a new Steinway & Sons model D concert grand piano — made possible, in part, by a donor gift — which will enhance student and faculty performances.

170

Approximate number of pianos in the College of Music fleet

43

Average age, in years, of the college's pianos

64

Number of Steinway pianos at CU

~\$203K

Approximate cost of the new Steinway D

50%

Of new Steinway covered by a single donation

## 100 Launches for BioServe

CU Boulder's BioServe Space Technologies is a research center that uses space-based research to help improve life on Earth. On April 21, it celebrated its 100th orbital launch. A SpaceX Dragon capsule carried BioServe equipment for three different projects, including colonies of billions of bacteria and algae. BioServe has collaborated with global science experiments in space since 1987, and its research has contributed to advancements in the understanding of medical conditions like bone loss and cancer.

## New Master's Program in AI

CU Boulder will be among the first universities nationwide to launch a new master's program in artificial intelligence (AI) this fall. Students will gain theoretical and hands-on experience to prepare them for the rapidly developing AI landscape. Courses will include subjects such as machine learning, sta-



tistical learning, natural language processing and AI ethics. The program will be available online its first year and in person the following year.

## 1190 Gets FM Debut in Denver

After going off the air in 2022 to modernize its technologies, CU's student-run Radio 1190 can now be heard on Denver's radio airwaves at 92.9 FM. In February, Radio 1190 debuted on its new channel, ready to reach new audiences with a wide range of independent music. Listeners also can visit 1190.radio online to hear the station.

### Heard Around Campus

**"When I mention her name, people would say, 'Oh, Professor Casey on TikTok,' or 'I watched her videos on YouTube...'"**

— **Shamika Klassen** (PhDInfoSci'24) on the announcement of Casey Fiesler as the first William R. Payden Endowed Professor of the College of Communication, Media, Design and Information (formerly the College of Media, Communication and Information).

## ARTIFACT CU Herbarium

**Location**  
Grays Peak, Colorado

**Habitat**  
Found along streams and in moist meadows in the Rocky Mountain subalpine to alpine regions

**Aroma**  
Has a skunky odor

**Specimen**  
*Primula parryi* A. Gray  
(Parry's Primrose)

**Collected**  
July 1888 by  
Alice Eastwood

## Founding Flora

The University of Colorado Herbarium houses the world's most complete documentation of Colorado flora. Located in the basement of the Clare Small Arts and Sciences building, the herbarium's collection contains nearly 600,000 specimens of vascular plants, bryophytes, lichens and fungi.

The herbarium's founding collection dates to the 1880s and belonged to Alice Eastwood, a self-taught plant scientist. During her life, she named 395 species — the fourth-highest of any female scientist.

Eastwood, who served as a teacher in Kiowa, Colorado, spent her summers collecting plants in the mountains. In the preface of her 1893 book, *A Popular Flora of Denver, Colorado*, Eastwood wrote that she created the publication "with the sole aim of helping students to learn the names of the plants that grow around Denver." Her collection lived in the Colorado State Historical Society until CU Boulder's herbarium, which is part of the university's Museum of Natural History, acquired it under curator William Weber in the 1940s.

Today, Eastwood's specimens, along with hundreds of thousands of others, support research on and off campus — even internationally. The robust collections are often toured by CU students, faculty, botanists, scholars and local plant enthusiasts.

Said botany collection manager Amber Horning: "I believe that natural history collections have the power to inspire an audience of all ages and backgrounds."





## Celebrating Miss Peggy

**Peggy Coppom** (A&S ex'46) has charmed the entire Buffs nation. After the feature about her in the spring *Coloradan* was published on social media, dozens of people posted photos of themselves meeting Coppom.

"Meeting her was the highlight of our Buffs event!" declared Brian Varner.

"What a gift to the community she is," wrote Joell Tori.

At commencement on May 8, Chancellor Justin Schwartz recognized Coppom with the Chancellor's Impact Award, and Folsom Field roared with delight.



## Fully Online Certificates and Master's Degree

The online Outdoor Recreation Economy program at CU Boulder is designed to help you:

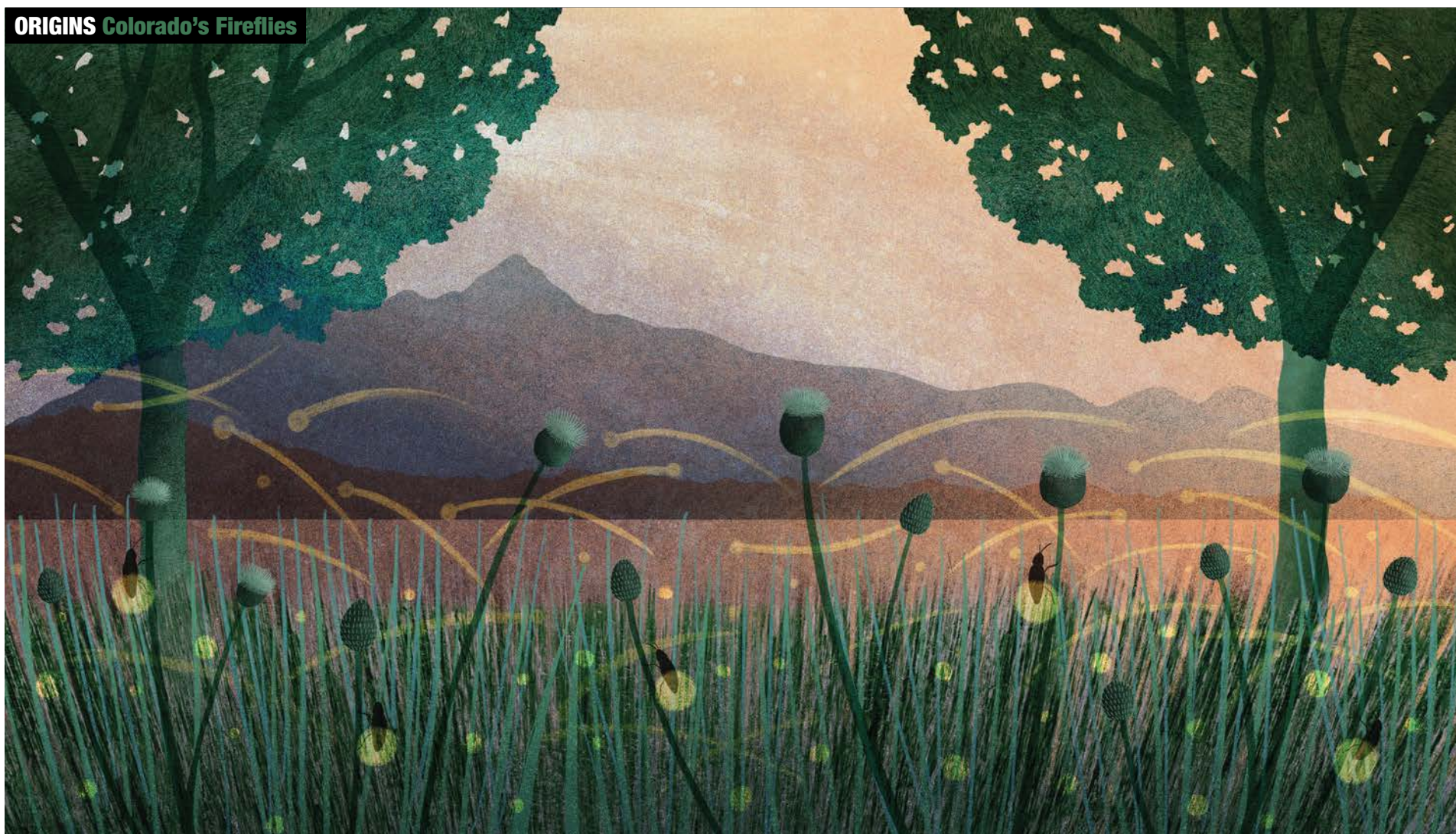
- Pivot your career by breaking into the outdoor industry
- Deepen your professional knowledge for a job you love
- Customize your education to fit your interests and needs
- Advance your career, no matter where you are

[online.colorado.edu/ore](https://online.colorado.edu/ore)



Outdoor Recreation Economy  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**





## Once Upon a Glow

The story behind Colorado's little-known fireflies.

**M**agic is just science we don't understand yet," science fiction author Arthur Clarke famously penned in the 1960s. If that's true, CU Boulder computer science researchers have been busy studying the fairy tale of fireflies in Colorado.

The work looks romantic, but it's no picnic: In twilight vistas across the state, doctoral student **Owen Martin** (PhDCompSci'25) and associate professor Orit Peleg tow cameras and computers to document firefly populations and decode their flash patterns. It's all part of a long-standing effort to understand firefly communication.

When the scientists discuss their work, locals are often surprised.

"A lot of people here come from places like the Midwest, where they've seen fireflies," Martin told *CU Boulder Today* in July 2024. "But they don't know about them in their own backyards."

That's why he's eager to raise what he calls "firefly literacy" in the state.

Fireflies have quietly flickered in Colorado for centuries, though the first formal documentation came in 2016, when naturalist Tristan Darwin Kubik identified a population near Fort Collins. Genetic testing suggested they may represent a previously undocumented species, potentially dubbed *Photuris coloradensis*.

In 2018, Martin and Peleg began tracking fireflies, which have been documented in at least 19 counties, including near Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley, Pueblo, Moffat, Divide, Durango and Carbondale.

Why are sightings so rare? Studies show fireflies prefer swampy environments — wetlands, meadows and areas near streams and ponds. Their patchy distribution and brief annual activity window leave many residents unaware of their presence.

As magical as these discoveries are, scientists warn they could be short-lived. Habitat loss, wetland drainage, livestock grazing, urban development and light pollution all pose serious threats.

"They are very special. We have a lot to learn from them, but also, they are under threat from environmental issues," Peleg told *CU Boulder Today*.

Residents can help to protect these luminescent creatures by assisting with flash data collection, supporting habitat restoration, staying on marked trails and turning off outdoor lights from June to August, especially near wetlands.

"Biodiversity is magical," Martin added. "And if we don't alert the right people that these cool fireflies, that are really rare, are in this habitat, we'll lose them forever. And then you lose the kind of wonder and magic they bring to you."

To spot them, keep your eyes peeled from mid-to-late June through mid-July, usually after 9 p.m. in swampy or wetland areas. **BY KELSEY YANDURA**

CU scientists began documenting Colorado fireflies in 2018.



# BOLDER Buffs

Generating  
**IMPACT**  
through the

University  
of  
**COLORADO  
BOULDER**

Art by  
Cristiana  
Couceiro





# CU BOULDER

is teeming  
with  
**INNOVATION,**  
curiosity  
**AND**  
thought  
**LEADERSHIP.**

And the people who comprise the university — CU Buffs — make global impact.

We're highlighting five stellar Buffs — CU Boulder students, alumni and faculty whose work is relevant, leading-edge and promises to create ripples out into the world. Their stories were written by five equally outstanding CU affiliates, who personally know and understand the importance of their work.

As journalist **Tom Costello** (Jour'87) wrote in his essay on his NBC colleague **Savannah Sellers** (Jour'13), she "breaks through."

Many Buffs are breaking through — they bridge traditional silos, strive to think differently, and take huge risks. And just as many credit the university for equipping them to pursue their passions.

CU Boulder is more than its stunning location — this university is the people who push for more.

PHDPHIL'27

# Idowu ODEYEMI

Charting New Paths  
as a Rising Philosopher  
/ BY AJUME WINGO



Idowu Odeyemi came to CU Boulder to refine his philosophical acumen while carving a path for young Africans like him who aspire to study philosophy.

Beyond his research, he said, "I want to challenge and expand the traditional boundaries of the discipline so that the philosophical community must either engage with African thinkers or justify why not."

Idowu's work — centered on oppression and blame — delves into how oppressive systems like patriarchy, colonialism, Nazism and slavery affect moral agency. He invites us to consider haunting questions such as why a battered wife doesn't simply leave while her husband is out, illustrating how the threat of severe harm to one's welfare can override considerations of morality and compel individuals to remain in oppressive circumstances.

Consider a battered wife who faces an oppressive double bind: resisting her abuser risks her safety, while compliance perpetuates the very system that oppresses her. This leads to an untenable situation where she is damned if she revolts, and damned if she doesn't. In Idowu's view, this dilemma complicates blaming oppressed individuals for not revolting.

Another facet of Idowu's scholarship introduces the term "epistemic disgust" — a neglected psychological response that prompts us to reject certain beliefs and utterances because they repulse us. If someone says, "All white men smell like hot dog water," for instance, many listeners feel revulsion that blocks such an utterance from entering our belief system. Idowu's ground-

breaking theory on how disgust can shape belief formation was published in the prestigious journal *Episteme*.

He also ventures beyond academia: His essay "On Accent and Confidence" in *Isele Magazine* was nominated for the 2025 non-fiction prize and recognized as one of the 50 notable essays from Africa in 2024, and another piece, "Living in America, Leaving Nigeria" (published by *The Republic*), was named among the 18 notable essays by a Nigerian in 2023.

As a graduate student, Idowu has published four peer-reviewed papers in leading journals — an achievement typically expected of faculty. Recently, he delivered a philosophy colloquium at the University of Missouri — uncommon for a graduate student. He was a Harper PhD Fellow at the Benson Center, a fellow at the Center for African and African American Studies and, in 2023, a fully funded fellowship took him to the University of Oxford. This summer, he will be visiting the National Archives in London through a research award from CU Boulder's Center for African and African American Studies.

Through Idowu's compelling research and prolific achievements, he exemplifies how CU Boulder's nurturing environment fosters tomorrow's transformative thinkers.

*CU Boulder philosophy associate professor Ajume Wingo serves as Odeyemi's advisor. Ajume is a member of the royal family in the Nso kingdom, located in the northwest region of Cameroon. In addition to being widely published in political and social philosophy, he is the founder of several NGOs, including PridePads Africa and Pathfinders4peace.*



As the face of “the Generation of Now,” Savannah Sellers co-anchors the streaming morning newscast of *NBC News NOW*, then reports for *The Today Show* and *NBC Nightly News*.

She demonstrates how a journalist can break through a saturated news market and reach a new generation of consumers who crave accurate information on their own terms.

While transitioning from CU Boulder to NBC News in New York could have been daunting, Savannah quickly established herself as smart and determined, yet easy-going and relevant. This rare combination made her a natural choice to help lead NBC’s outreach to younger viewers, where they are — on social media.

She helped map a new look and pacing for NBC News. The target age: 20-to-40-somethings who want news on the go for their 24/7 lifestyle. Almost immediately, the audience was there. The newscasts moved fast. They were serious, fun, whimsical — and never dull.

Savannah took Snapchat viewers to Parkland, Florida, hours after a former student murdered 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Her coverage was raw and real. A record 18 million people tuned in: mostly kids seeking infor-

mation about a tragedy affecting other kids they didn’t know, but who were their age.

She has documented America’s heroin epidemic with an Emmy award-winning *Nightly News* series, revealing that the victims are not always stereotypical drug addicts — they could be your own neighbor or family member.

She has detailed and explained the confusing fight over banning TikTok, the app-of-choice for her younger audience, led honest discussions on diversity, equity and inclusion, and shared the deeply personal and painful struggle she and her husband have faced with fertility.

To meet Savannah is to discover a person of tremendous warmth, charm and insatiable curiosity who wants to know your story — what motivates you, and why. Those are the traits of a great broadcast journalist.

As one NBC exec put it, “She breaks through! She pops!”

It delights me to see a fellow CU alum become such a trusted voice and valued colleague at The Peacock. Go Buffs!

**Tom Costello** (*Jour’87*) is the senior correspondent at NBC News. With nearly 30 years of experience at CNBC and NBC News in London, New York and Washington, D.C., he reports daily across all NBC News platforms.



JOUR’13

# Savannah SELLERS

Serious, Fun,  
Whimsical —  
and Never Dull /  
BY TOM COSTELLO

MPOLSCI’22; PHD’26

# Dania

Vital Work in  
Transnational  
Politics / BY SARAH  
WILSON SOKHEY



# ARAYSSI

Dania Arayssi doesn’t just care deeply about the big social and economic problems that affect people’s everyday lives — she rigorously studies them and takes action.

Before coming to CU Boulder, she participated in the U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) at the U.S. State Department and earned multiple advanced degrees. She then founded the Gleam of Hope Group, which works with thousands of young people and women to address food and health needs. For many, these accomplishments would constitute an entire career. For Dania, this was just the beginning.

Dania brought her passion for understanding pressing socioeconomic and political issues to CU Boulder in 2021. Her dissertation work centers on remittances, money sent by those working abroad back to their families in their home countries. Remittances are an important source of income for families around the world. Dania’s research seeks to explain how these remittances affect people’s incentives to be politically active. Does the added economic security make people more likely to pressure the government for change? Or does economic security dampen any potential dissent, making people less likely to vote

or protest? What issues do people who receive remittances care about the most?

Dania uses a rigorous combination of interviews, focus groups and original survey data to study these questions in her home country of Lebanon. Her work helps us understand how diaspora communities affect politics around the world. In an era of transnational politics, her work is vitally important.

Dania represents the best of CU Boulder. After completing her dissertation, she plans to work at the New Line Institute for Strategy and Policy in Washington, D.C. During these politically contentious times plagued by myriad challenges, I personally find enormous hope that CU alumni like Dania will be out in the world contributing their expertise, knowledge and wisdom.

*Sarah Wilson Sokhey works as an associate professor in CU Boulder’s Department of Political Science, a faculty associate at the Institute of Behavioral Science and the founding director of the Studio Lab for Undergrads in the College of Arts and Sciences. Her current research focuses on the local provision of public services in Ukraine during wartime. In 2024, she was inducted into the President’s Teaching Scholars Program, one of the highest CU teaching awards.*





# Jun YE

Using Quantum for High-Tech  
Innovation / **BY ERIC CORNELL**

My friend and colleague Professor Jun Ye is an ever-flowing fountain of scientific and technological innovation.

One of the greatest laser scientists in the world, he and his students have built several generations of record-setting optical clocks. The technology has advanced to the point where Jun's clocks would gain or lose less than a second in the whole age of the universe. These highly accurate clocks are tied into technology improvements to support better navigation, communication and the ability to sense unseen things (for example, small changes in gravity associated with objects buried underground). Additionally, his lab created the world's first nuclear clock.

Through his research at JILA, Jun uses lasers to detect slight traces of unusual elements in gas samples. His group is now examining the air exhaled by people with various diseases to find tiny traces of certain chemicals associated with a particular disease. If this works, one day cancer testing might be as easy as puffing some air into a soda straw.

Much of his research is built around using the properties of quantum mechanics to do high-tech research — precision measurement, secure communication, exotic material design — that eludes the reach of “old-school” classical mechanics.

Perhaps as impactful as anything else he does, Jun has trained an entirely new generation of elite scientists and engineers, who are now the beating heart of Colorado's, and the nation's, high-tech industry. When I visit high-tech Colorado companies, it often seems that the technical leadership are CU Boulder alums who earned their degrees while working in Jun's group.

On top of his research, Jun is working with me on a joint project to understand why there is more matter than antimatter in the universe. It sounds like a very abstract topic, but it is part of a bigger question: How are the conditions in the universe such that the development of humankind is possible? I feel very privileged to collaborate with Jun. I've learned a lot from working with him. Sometimes I wonder if the man ever sleeps!

*Eric Cornell has been at CU for 34 years and wears many hats. He teaches first-year physics for the CU Boulder Department of Physics; he is a Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics (JILA) fellow; and a scientist with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. In 2001, he and CU Boulder professor Carl Wieman won the Nobel Prize in Physics for creating Bose-Einstein Condensation, the “world's coldest stuff.”*

© Courtesy Jun Ye

Steve Swanson was one of the most highly respected members of the NASA astronaut office during the Shuttle and Space Station Programs in the 1990s and 2000s.

Steve and I met in the late 1980s when we were both in the aircraft operations division at Johnson Space Center. I was an instructor pilot in the space shuttle training aircraft. Steve was a software wizard and the flight simulation engineer responsible for managing the computer that enabled a Gulfstream II business jet to fly like a space shuttle. We were both interested in becoming astronauts. I was selected in 1992, and Steve was named an astronaut in 1998 after obtaining a PhD in computer science from Texas A&M University.

Steve excelled right away in the astronaut office and was selected as one of the four extra-vehicular activity (EVA) crewmembers to install one of the four solar array elements of the station. It was considered an honor to be chosen for such a significant mission on his first flight — he was clearly a rising star!

I began working at CU Boulder thanks to Steve. He talked to me after his post-flight trip to Boulder to visit with the students and

return items he had flown for the university. CU asked him to consider a professor position in the CU aerospace department, but he wanted to fly more for NASA and so asked if I might be interested instead.

Steve also led the EVA team to install the final solar array element two years later. His final mission in 2014 was serving as a station crewmember and the mission commander.

That fall, I was proud to arrange a live video conference in the Fiske Planetarium so Steve could talk to the students while he was on the Space Station. Today, Steve shares his experiences at Boise State University, leading and advising student teams participating in NASA's Artemis Challenges, inspiring them to do great things in science and engineering.

*Joe Tanner is a retired NASA astronaut, Navy pilot and CU Boulder teaching professor. During his 16-year career as an astronaut, he flew four missions on the space shuttle, one to the Hubble Space Telescope and two to the International Space Station. He also mentored astronaut Sarah Gillis (AeroEngr'17) when she was a CU student; Gillis traveled to space in fall 2025 with SpaceX.*



Space Commander  
Gains and Gives Respect  
/ **BY JOE TANNER**

# Steve SWANSON

ENGRPHYS'83

© NASA





PATTERN

IN

MOTION

Ankur Gupta's research sharpens our understanding of Turing pattern theory.

By Alison Van Houten

Illustration by Petra Péterffy



ON A MARCH  
DAY IN 2023

Ben Alessio, then a research assistant at CU Boulder, was wandering around the Birch Aquarium in La Jolla, California, when he clocked a surprising sight: a male ornate boxfish undulating in the water, tessellating with violet and tangerine hexagons. It was dazzling — but more importantly, it was vindicating.

The rare fish's markings were a real-life example of something that he and Ankur Gupta, CU Boulder assistant professor of chemical and biological engineering, had previously only modelled mathematically. It confirmed that they were onto a scientific breakthrough.

## Turing Patterns

To understand Gupta's research, one must first understand morphogenesis. Morphogenesis is the process by which cells, tissues and organisms develop their shapes.

Nearly 75 years ago, the famed British mathematician Alan Turing published a paper titled "The Chemical Basis of Morphogenesis." Since then, Turing's work has been key to our understanding of how many — but not all — patterns form in nature.

"That's sort of *the* foundational thinking, mathematically speaking, for this area of work," said Gupta.

Turing had an uncommonly innovative mind — his ability to think beyond the status quo and make connections between various fields of thought led to breakthroughs in electronic computing, artificial intelligence, code breaking in WWII and, in this case, mathematical biology.

When it came to morphogenesis, Turing was interested in how heterogeneity, or diversity, arises out of homogeneity, which is when something is composed of all one type of thing. In other words, why does a zebra have both black and white stripes instead of a coat with hairs that are all one solid color, like gray?

The reason is diffusion — which is central to Turing's theory. Diffusion is the movement of molecules from areas of higher concentration to areas of lower concentration; molecules tend to spread out until there's an even distribution (much like people in an elevator). In chemistry, diffusion often dominates systems, especially when particles are tiny.

"Diffusion essentially promotes homogeneity," said Gupta.

What he means is that if you drop blue dye into clear, still water, for example, it will slowly diffuse, in a gradient, until the whole container is equally blue. Similarly, when mixing red and blue dye in a diffusion-dominated system, one expects the colors to blend, ultimately yielding a homogenous purple hue. However, when a chemical reaction also occurs, something different may happen. In certain conditions, even a diffusion-dominated system can promote heterogeneity from homogeneity.

"Essentially, what [Turing] argued was that under the right conditions, if there is diffusion as well as [a chemical] reaction between different components — if I have five or six dyes, or three or four dyes, and they're reacting with each other — then essentially it's just a delicate dance between these two processes."

These days, the term "Turing pattern" is generally applied to any reaction-diffusion pattern. This natural pattern forms when chemicals react with one another and spread out, often resulting in wavy lines or spots. A notable example of a Turing pattern in nature is the sparkling blue zebra fish, a slender creature that's gilded with horizontal, blurry-edged golden stripes.

However, some wild animals feature very crisp markings.

"Why would a diffusion model describe something that is so striking and sharp?" Gupta wondered.

## An Accidental Discovery

Gupta didn't initially set out to answer that question. His focus was on diffusiophoresis, which is the combination of diffusion, described earlier, and phoresis, which describes how ultra-small dissolved particles — around a tenth or even a hundredth the width of a single human hair — can sometimes drag other things along with them in a solution. So, if diffusion is the way that blue dye

spreads through clear water, phoresis is the movement of particles that happens because they're temporarily dragged by that dye.

Alessio, who was doing computational research at the time, had been running mathematical simulations of reaction-diffusion systems that also had a diffusiophoretic element. The resulting visuals were notably defined, unlike the fuzzier ones that emerge from reaction-diffusion models (as seen in the zebrafish). And it was the striking violet and tangerine hexagon boxfish pattern that caught his attention in Southern California aquarium.

"REAL SYSTEMS  
ACTUALLY ARE  
NOT PERFECT."

"I was just literally simulating something like this on my computer," thought Alessio when he saw it. He snapped a slew of photos and messaged Gupta excitedly. "I have something exciting to show you."

Until that point, Gupta and Alessio had the models, but they didn't have an example of them in nature.

"I didn't have any sort of idea about this fish or anything like that," said Gupta. "He showed me this, and then we sort of reverse-engineered the missing link."

They dove into existing research and realized that chromatophores — cells that create pigment in the bodies of fish, reptiles and some other animals — can be carried by dissolved chemicals. In other words, they can move diffusiophoretically (like the particles temporarily dragged by dye).

In late 2023, Gupta and Alessio published a paper titled "Diffusiophoresis-Enhanced Turing Patterns" in the peer-reviewed journal *Science Advances*. Their research advances Turing's theory by describing how more precise patterns — like the one seen on the ornate boxfish — come to exist.

While Alessio is now working on a PhD in mechanical engineering at Stanford, Gupta intends to continue researching how diffusiophoresis factors into Turing patterns.

"On the pattern-formation side, it would be useful to see if we can replicate some of this synthetically," he said.

It's a tall order, but more investigation can potentially help us understand how to control things synthetically.

Gupta is now investigating this phenomenon at an individual-cell level, which he likens to studying a single human versus a population of people.

"If I'm thinking about a population, then one option is to track individual people, and one is to say, 'What is the population density?'" he said. "It was the population density approach that we were taking in our first paper. But now, we're examining individual cells, and that has been interesting, because now what we start to see is imperfect Turing patterns."

While mathematical models tend to be perfect, in reality, you often see imperfections: deformed hexagons or hexagons sliced in half. Taking an individual-cell-level approach to diffusiophoretic Turing patterns could provide more insight into why patterns sometimes don't appear as expected based on mathematical models.

"We think it's exciting, because real systems actually are not perfect," Gupta said.

## A Pilgrimage

In October 2023, before the "Diffusiophoresis-enhanced Turing patterns" paper was published, Gupta's wife was traveling to a conference in San Diego. With anticipation, he packed his bags, hoping to set eyes on the ornate boxfish that inspired their discovery.

Inside the Birch Aquarium, he did a lap around the right side, where most of the fish seemed to be. But he wasn't sure exactly where to look, and he struggled to spot its telltale scales.

"I couldn't see it," he said. "It was hidden."

Ten minutes passed, then 20. Increasingly worried, he considered enlisting a staff member to help him track it down. Finally, in a last-ditch effort, he ventured off in the direction of the children's area, toward the other side of the building. There, at long last, he caught his glimpse of the elusive fish.

EUREKA.





Maddie Freeman helps students find a technology-life balance through social media detoxes. **By Patty Kaothumrong**

After **Maddie Freeman** (Bus'24) was faced with the grief of losing 10 friends to suicide in high school, she realized a mental health crisis was unfolding among her peers — other members of Gen Z. As she grappled with these losses, Freeman also grew determined to support her community and help provide students with much-needed mental health resources.

"I felt that if we had been supported more, then maybe people wouldn't have taken their lives," Maddie Freeman said.

Through her research on the topic, Freeman began to grasp the sweeping influence social media holds over individuals' abilities to cope with common mental health stressors.

"Anxiety, depression, loneliness, body dysmorphia — all of these things existed before social media, but social media can create these things and also amplify them," she said. "I think social media was basically like pouring fuel on a fire. It wasn't the fire itself — but it was the fuel that was making everything 10 times harder to deal with. And I saw that in myself as well."

In 2020, as a freshman at CU Boulder, Freeman founded the digital wellness nonprofit NoSo (No Social Media) November, which gives teens (the age group most vulnerable to social media's impacts) hands-on support and tools to find a healthy technology-life balance — resources she wishes would have been available at her high school.

Freeman credits her inspiration for the project to the documentary *The Social Dilemma*, which details how companies such as Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter (now X) manipulate users by using algorithms that encourage addiction to their platforms. The film helped her grasp the control a handful of tech designers can have over how social media users like herself think, act and live.

"My attention was the product being bought and sold by advertisers, and I had no say in that," she said. "It sparked a passion in me."

These experiences and insights led Freeman to the strategies behind NoSo Novem-

The

# Anti-Social

ber. Through speaking events, mindfulness workshops and an annual social media detox challenge, the initiative seeks to spread awareness about social media's dangerous design. Teens can participate in the challenge at three different levels: fully or partially deleting social media apps, or using digital wellness tips to make their phone less addictive. Though encouraged to join the detox in November, participants can take on the challenge anytime throughout the year.

Since 2020, NoSo November's programs have reached more than 28,000 students — thanks to grant funding; partnerships with K-12 schools, teen groups and universities; and the knowledge she gained as a Leeds School of Business graduate.

Freeman is a two-time winner of the Female Founder Entrepreneurship Competition under CU Boulder's New Venture Challenge, which gained funding for NoSo November and helped her put together a business model and concrete messaging for the nonprofit.

She was also recognized on *Forbes'* "30 Under 30" 2025 list for her efforts to empower youth and promote mindful social media use. After graduating in 2024, she has served as NoSo November's CEO full-time and expanded the nonprofit's programs to school districts in Canada as a fellow for McGill University's Centre for Media, Technology and Democracy in Montreal. In spring 2025, she hired NoSo November's first two paid employees, which means she's no longer a "solopreneur" — her proudest accomplishment yet.

"NoSo November has genuinely been the biggest blessing of my entire life," she said. "I would not want to be doing anything else."

# Network





# Kale, Yeah!

CU Boulder dining is elevated, nourishing and delicious.

By Sarah Kuta



# It's a chilly, overcast spring day

in Boulder — but you wouldn’t know it from inside the greenhouse at Village Dining Center, where the temperature is always a balmy 65 degrees.

Clad in a baseball cap and an oversized T-shirt, CU Boulder junior **Tessa Dempster** (EnvSt, Geog’26) is harvesting kale from one of the 137 hydroponic towers that fill the temperate 2,700-square-foot room. She carefully pulls a handful of leafy greens from a vertical stand, snips off the stems and tosses the tender leaves into a plastic bin.

When she’s all finished, this kale — grown in just a few weeks using a water-based nutrient solution — will be washed, spun dry and added to the salad bar in the adjoining dining hall.

“We go, like, 15 feet and — boom! Food production ... done,” she said, grabbing another handful of kale. “It’s definitely lessening the environmental footprint, and it makes you feel like you’re working toward a higher purpose.”

**Healthy and Delicious**

College food can conjure images of gristly “mystery meat” and suspicious-looking casseroles bathed in the glow of buffet heat lamps. CU Boulder offers a different vision, providing sustainable, nutritious and delicious meals to students — greenhouse-grown lettuces, colorful vegetables, luscious fruits, scratch-made soups, stone-fired pizzas, hearty grain bowls and fresh-baked breads.

The world is taking notice. This year, CU Boulder was rated the No. 1 post-secondary institution for plant-based dining and sustainability on the Humane World for Animals’ 2025 College and University Protein Sustainability Scorecard. In addition, CU was the only university on the list with more than 50% plant-based meals on its menu.

And CU is aiming higher: The university has set a goal of boosting its plant-based menu offerings to 75% by the end of 2025.

**Supreme Greens**

Campus Dining Services dishes up an estimated 3.5 million scratch-made meals each year, and vegetables play a starring role in several of them. Veggies are a sustainable option since they tend to use less energy, land and water than animal-based foods, and they also produce significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions. They also bring vibrancy, color and freshness to campus dining, according to Eliah Golden, associate director for residential dining and culinary operations for Campus Dining Services.

“This is what allows us to offer so much variety,” said Golden. “I actually shudder at the thought of what a buffet line would look like without vegetables — it would be pretty boring.”

In addition, the university works with local growers and suppliers to reduce the carbon footprint of its meals and support the local economy. CU Boulder prepares 5,000 to 6,000 pounds of dried pinto beans each year (farmed just a few miles away in Longmont) and spotlights seasonal Colorado produce like organic apples from Ela Family Farms, a fourth-generation orchard on the Western Slope.

“We’re supporting great farms and educating students about local agriculture and seasonality — it’s a win-win,” said Billy Kardys, senior executive chef for Campus Dining Services.

**Preparing Future Consumers**

With healthy offerings on campus, students can make lifelong food choices that are better for themselves and the planet.

This philosophy is shared by members of the Menus of Change University Research Collaborative, a group of colleges and universities using campus dining halls to help shape the food system of the future. CU Boulder has been a member since the collaborative’s inception in 2014, and Golden serves as co-chair of the executive chefs committee.

“We make a huge impact on these incoming ‘consumers,’ as I like to call them,” said Kardys. “When students go out into the world and they’re no longer eating with us, we want them to take these values with them.”

Campus chefs also introduce students to cuisines from around the world.

“We’re with these students at a very formative time in their lives,” said Golden. “Our hope is that they’re going to expand

their palate so they have a joy about food, that they’re excited to try new things and international flavors.”

**Dining Options for Everyone**

For diners with dietary restrictions, allergies, intolerances, religious customs or food preferences, eating out can be a stressful experience.

CU Boulder accommodates many diets, from halal and kosher to vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free. Campus Dining Services also has a registered dietician who can help students — and reassure parents — with dietary questions and concerns.

In 2022, CU Boulder unveiled Libby on the Run, a reimagined version of the Libby Hall dining facility. It’s a full-service, grab-and-go venue that caters to students with four major food allergies: peanuts, tree nuts, gluten and wheat.

“We don’t want anyone feeling like they can’t have a happy and healthy college experience because of food,” said Golden. “We wanted to offer a completely safe zone for folks with those allergies.”

**“Continuous Improvement”**

Dining will continue to play a vital role as CU Boulder works toward its campus master plan goal of adding 4,400 to 6,000 on-campus beds over the next 15 to 30 years.

Residence One, a new apartment-style residential building under construction north of Boulder Creek, and proposed sister property Residence Two will feature all-electric food service facilities — the first of their kind at CU Boulder. Farrand Hall is also slated for an upcoming renovation, allowing campus dining leaders to reimagine the on-site dining venue, The Alley.

“We’re going to kick it up like 10 gears and offer a really awesome, quick-service, restaurant-style environment that would be competitive with anything on The Hill or Pearl Street,” said Golden.

In the meantime, Campus Dining Services is experimenting with its first-ever food trailer, a 36-foot-long mobile eatery called “Roaming Ralphie.”

CU Boulder dining staffers also hope to expand their educational offerings, including cooking classes offered out of the teaching kitchen at Village Center. They’re also exploring new sustainability initiatives, such as reusable to-go boxes.

“We have a culture of continuous improvement,” said Golden. “We like to set our own bar, and we always want to be better.”



## Vegan Coconut Bread

**Makes 1 Loaf**

*Most-requested recipe from alumni*

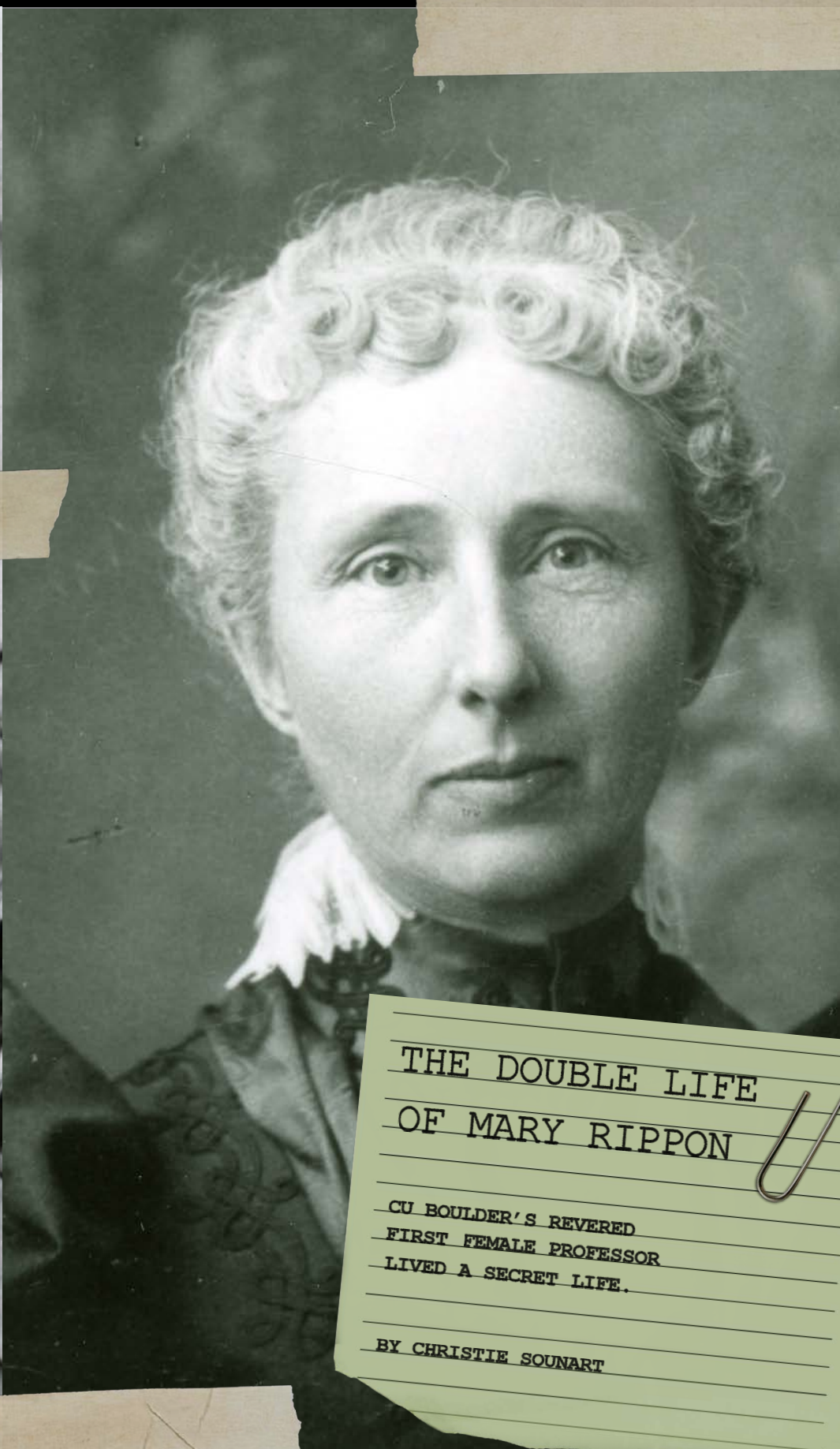
### Ingredients

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>2 tsp</b> ground flaxseed                      | <b>1 ½ cups</b> (packed) all-purpose flour |
| <b>2 tbsp</b> water                               | <b>1 tsp</b> baking powder                 |
| <b>½ cup</b> vegetable oil                        | <b>½ tsp</b> baking soda                   |
| <b>1 cup</b> coconut milk                         | <b>1 ¾ cups</b> shredded sweetened coconut |
| <b>1 ¼ cups</b> sugar                             | <b>½ tsp</b> cinnamon                      |
| <b>¼ cup</b> (packed) medium firm tofu (crumbles) | <b>½ tsp</b> salt                          |

### Instructions

- Prep** Oil a 9x5 inch loaf pan and preheat oven to 350°F.
- Wet mix** In a bowl, mix flaxseed and water. Stir in oil, coconut milk, sugar and crumbled tofu.
- Dry mix** In another bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda, coconut, cinnamon and salt.
- Combine** Gently fold dry into wet until just mixed.
- Bake** Pour into the pan and bake approximately one hour, or until a toothpick comes out clean.





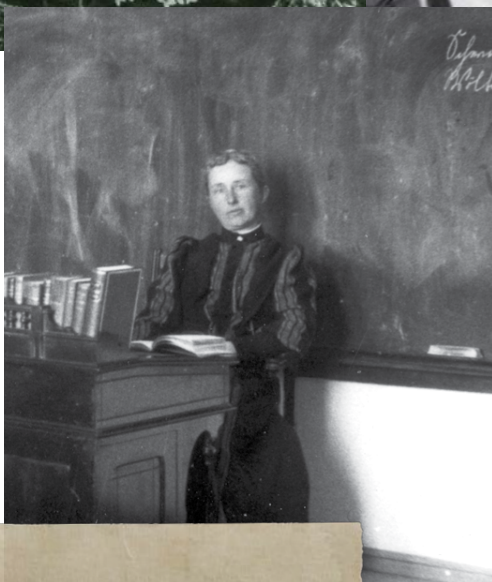
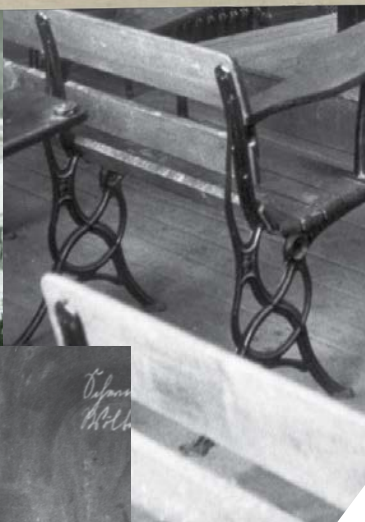
THE DOUBLE LIFE  
OF MARY RIPPON

CU BOULDER'S REVERED  
FIRST FEMALE PROFESSOR  
LIVED A SECRET LIFE.

BY CHRISTIE SOUNART



In 1877, CU's first president, Joseph Sewall, offered Rippon a position teaching French and German language and literature.



Rippon was among America's first female professors to teach at a state university.

In September 1877, the University of Colorado began its first academic year. Joseph Sewall served as the university's president, and 55 students were enrolled. Old Main was the sole building on campus.

While looking for faculty to staff the school, Sewall sent a letter to 27-year-old Mary Rippon, whom he met while teaching at her high school, the Illinois State Normal School. He offered her a position teaching French and German language and literature.

Rippon accepted and traveled West via train. She was enamored with Colorado's beauty, which she likened to Switzerland, where she'd traveled previously.

In January 1878, she became CU's first female professor and was among America's first female professors to teach at a state university. The regents offered her a salary of \$1,200 a year.

For over 30 years, Rippon worked for CU, gaining respect and admiration from students, faculty and the Boulder community. When she retired in 1909 as head of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature, the CU newspaper *Silver and Gold* stated, "By her untiring energy as a teacher and her lovable personality, she has brought the German Department to its present high standing and popularity, and all who knew her will be sorry to learn of her departure from the University."

In 1936, CU dedicated the Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre in recognition of her contributions to the university, especially in the arts and humanities. The theater remains home to the second-oldest Shakespeare Festival in the United States.

Yet, despite her revered standing at CU, there was more to Mary Rippon's story — she lived a double life driven by a deeply personal secret.

Very few people knew Rippon's secret while she was alive. But in 1993, Boulder historian **Silvia Pettem** (Psych'69) began digging into her past life to unearth the whole story.

It started when Pettem was poking around the Norlin Library archives in search of ideas for Boulder's *Daily Camera* newspaper, where she worked as a columnist. A librarian presented her with intriguing information about Mary Rippon.

"I thought it would be my next article," said Pettem. "It ended up being a five-year project."

### **A SECRET, KEPT**

In 1986, a man named Wilfred Rieder claimed to be Rippon's grandson and donated her diaries and account books, which itemized Rippon's financial expenses, to CU. Seeing as Rippon had always been known to be unmarried and childless, the revelations within puzzled many in the university community. The librarians hoped a researcher could

delve into the works to sort out the story. Pettem was hooked.

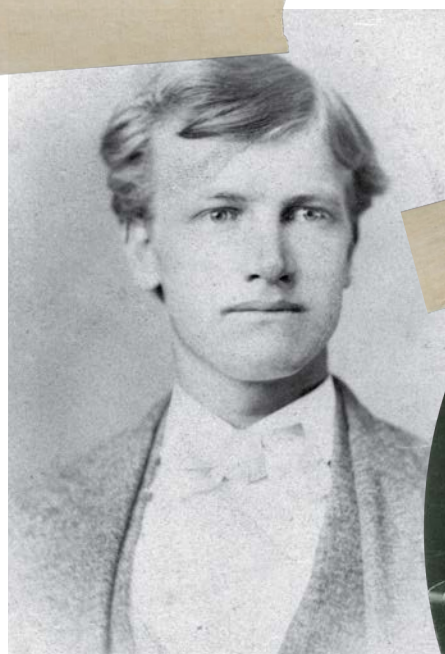
As she began her research, Pettem learned something shocking: In spring 1888, at age 37, Rippon fell in love with a 25-year-old student, Will Housel, and became pregnant with his child. When the semester ended, the pair married privately and returned to Rippon's home state of Illinois for the summer.

CU's regents then approved a year-long sabbatical request from Rippon, in which she stated she hoped for time to focus on her health. No one at the university knew she was pregnant. In the fall, Housel returned to CU to complete his studies, and Rippon traveled to Germany to stay with a trusted friend. In January 1889, Rippon gave birth to their daughter, Miriam.

Pettem learned that Rippon would hide Miriam and her relationship with Housel from the public, but financially support them for the remainder of her life.

The story captivated Pettem, who decided to write Rippon's biography.

"She was a very well-respected and well-loved professor," said Pettem, who was influential in obtaining an honorary doctorate for Rippon, which was conferred at commencement in 2006.



While pregnant with baby girl Miriam Housel (right), Rippon secretly married Will Housel, the baby's father and her former student (left).



Miriam called Rippon "Aunt Mary" throughout her life, not knowing Rippon was her mother until adulthood.



“I didn’t want to tarnish her reputation in any way,” she said. “I wanted to know: Was this a tragic story? Was it a happy story? Did she like her life? Did she hate her life?”

### LIVING A DOUBLE LIFE

Pettem’s years-long journey took her through countless artifacts and across the country to Rippon’s hometown in Illinois. She poured through newspaper articles and photographs. And she had Rippon’s own words in her hands.

“She had a real delicate handwriting with purple ink,” Pettem said.

As reported in Pettem’s biography *Separate Lives: Uncovering the Hidden Family of Victorian Professor Mary Rippon* (first self-published in 1999, with a second updated version released by Lyons Press in 2024), Rippon loved Boulder’s wildflowers, had great rapport with her students and was meticulous with journaling her expenses — including the ways she divided her meager university wages to support her small family.

During the Victorian era, Pettem said Rippon would have almost certainly lost her job if people had known she had a child. It was considered a woman’s duty to care for her husband and child at home, Pettem explained. Her position at the university would have been given to a man who would likely provide for a wife and children.

And so, to keep her job at the university and to care for her students (many female students referred to her as “mother”), Rippon chose a life of secrecy.

“As a writer, I couldn’t pass judgment on her. I just reported on her,” said Pettem. “I admired her determination. She did what she wanted to do.”

### SUPPORTING A CHILD FROM AFAR

Pettem’s book sheds light on Rippon’s life after giving birth to Miriam.

Rippon spent the remainder of her sabbatical in Europe, and Housel joined her after graduating from CU. However, since Housel had no money or job, and Rippon was returning to teach at CU, the couple decided to place Miriam in a Catholic orphanage in Geneva, Switzerland, where Rippon could afford her care. Housel remained close to the orphanage while taking graduate courses at the University of Geneva, also paid for by Rippon.

When Miriam was two years old, Housel moved back to Boulder, leaving

Miriam at the orphanage. Housel and Rippon saw each other twice weekly, but never publicly as husband and wife.

Two years later, Housel traveled to Europe to bring Miriam to the United States. She most likely lived in a Denver girls’ home, Pettem wrote, financially supported by Rippon, who saw her daughter only occasionally. Miriam called her “Aunt Mary,” unaware of their true relationship until Rippon told her as an adult.

Eventually, Rippon and Housel divorced. Between the secret marriage and living separately, they were unable to maintain a close relationship. Housel moved permanently to Michigan with Miriam and remarried. Rippon continued to provide money to the pair, occasionally sending funds to support Housel’s new wife and their children.

Meanwhile, Rippon lived alone at 2463 Twelfth Street in downtown Boulder, a home she’d bought after boarding with Boulder families for nearly two decades. She could walk to campus. She planted lilies of the valley in her garden. Students visited her home frequently for stimulating conversations about literature or language.

Pettem reports that in 1907, students wrote under her yearbook photo: “Earth’s noblest thing — a woman perfected.”

She appeared, Pettem said, content.

### DUTY OR LOVE?

If Pettem were to meet Rippon today, there’s one thing she’d want to know first.

“I’d say: ‘I hope you don’t mind me asking this, but how did it all start with Will?’”

She mused that the pair could have shared a love for languages, authors or the beauty of the Colorado outdoors. (Housel had a farming background and rode to campus on a horse.)

Whatever drew them together, it created a bond that defined Rippon’s private life — forever.

But how did her dual lives affect Rippon internally?

Pettem has her ideas.

“Did she feel guilty? Possibly,” she said. “Maybe this was all out of duty ... or maybe it was love.”

While her writings were often cryptic, Rippon left one small clue to how she felt about it all in a diary entry written before she died in 1935 at the age of 85, Pettem said.

Rippon wrote: “Conventionality is the mother of dreariness.”

“I think with that statement,” Pettem said, “she felt she had lived the life she wanted to.”



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# CU's Big 12 Neighbors

Last fall marked the Buffs' return to the Big 12 Conference, after more than a decade in the Pac-12 Conference. But the landscape looks a little different than in 2011, when they last played in the conference.

Now the 16 schools that comprise the Big 12 span all four continental time zones, from Tempe to Orlando and Ames to Houston. Here's a guide to supporting the Buffs on the road this fall.





## Homecoming: A Love Story

A former CU couple rekindles a romance after reuniting on campus.

**F**or most Buffs, Homecoming is a celebration of friendship, college memories and campus life. But for **Laura Williams** (A&S ex'87) and **Randy Royther** (Econ'88), CU Boulder's Homecoming sparked something special — a rekindled love story.

It all began in the fall of 1984. Williams, part of the Delta Gamma sorority, met Royther at a college party.

"He flung open the door and said, 'Hello, I'm home,'" Williams recalled with a laugh. "I thought, 'Who is *that*? I'm interested.'"

The spark was instant. They dated throughout their sophomore year until things got too serious for then-20-year-old Royther.

"When she mentioned marriage potential, I panicked and broke it off," he said.

Heartbroken, Williams transferred to San Diego State, leaving Boulder and Royther behind.

They lost touch for over 30 years. At Homecoming in 2017, Royther and Williams ran into each other at a tailgate party.

"All of a sudden, someone says, 'Randy Royther, are you really going to walk by and not say hello?'" Royther recalled.

It was Williams. The couple still had friends in common and spent the weekend with their old college crew. At that time, both were still married. But in 2019, the couple attended Homecoming again. One was

widowed, and the other was divorcing. This time, their reunion developed into more than just friendship.

"We looked at each other and said, 'Should we try this again?'" Williams said.

They've been together since and got engaged this past March.

They live on separate coasts, with Royther residing in Pennsylvania and Williams living in California. The couple frequently makes trips to visit each other.

"We already have plans for Homecoming this year," Williams said. "It's where we fell in love — twice." **BY APRIL DRIVER**

*Plan your visit for Homecoming 2025, Oct. 30–Nov. 1, and see how your Buffs story unfolds.*



© Courtesy Randy Royther and Laura Williams

## Inaugural Alumni Weekend Highlights

This April, 145 Forever Buffs attended Alumni Weekend, a three-day event that included lunch at The Sink, a hike at Chautauqua, a tour of the university's Media Archeology Lab and dinner in downtown Boulder. Current students attended several events to share about their CU Boulder experiences.



"Sko Forever Buffs! What a fun and fabulous weekend with local and out-of-town alums," said **Phil Caragol** (Comm'75) on social media. "Let's do it again in 2026!"

The Alumni Association also hosted a special recognition ceremony for the classes of 2020, 2015, 1985 and 1975.

Next year, Alumni Weekend will include the Alumni Awards Ceremony, which previously took place during Homecoming Weekend. The annual ceremony is the second-longest-running tradition on campus and celebrates the outstanding achievements of CU Buffs. The 2025 award winners will be announced this fall. *Visit [colorado.edu/alumni](https://colorado.edu/alumni) for more information.*

### CELEBRATE AT AWAY GAMES

Buffs Bashes are the ultimate away-game tailgates, uniting hundreds of CU football fans. Hosted by the Office of the President, Office of the Chancellor, Advancement and CU Athletics, these events feature the CU Spirit Squad and concession-style food and drinks. Buffs Bashes occur before every away game near the opponent's stadium. The events are free, but registration is required. *Learn more at [colorado.edu/alumni/experiences/buffs-bash](https://colorado.edu/alumni/experiences/buffs-bash).*

### MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Grow your professional skills and make a lasting impact on fellow Buffs through the Forever Buffs Network Mentorship

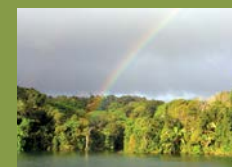
Program. Access free mentoring or sign up to mentor alumni and students. The program runs from October through May, with options to meet online or in person. Participants receive training and invitations to program events.

You can also mentor incoming CU Boulder students through the Alumni Guide Program to help ease their transition to college. The program supports two calls with an incoming student: one before classes begin and one six weeks into the semester. The first six weeks of college are a critical time, and mentorship helps lend your best support and advice. *Find out more at [colorado.edu/alumni/programs/volunteer](https://colorado.edu/alumni/programs/volunteer).*

### 2026 ROAMING BUFFS TRIPS

**The Panama Canal, Pearl Islands and Darién Jungle**

**Jan. 9–16, 2026**



**Antarctica Discovery**

**Jan. 9–20, 2026**



**Treasures of Peru**

**Jan. 26–Feb. 5, 2026**



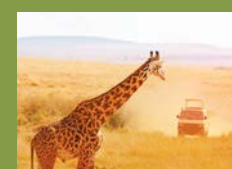
**Patagonia Explorer**

**Feb. 7–20, 2026**



**Journey to Southern Africa**

**Feb. 17–March 3, 2026**



For more information about these trips, visit [colorado.edu/alumni/roamingbuffs](https://colorado.edu/alumni/roamingbuffs).





## Inspiration for Education

**O**n March 11, CU Boulder unveiled a new mural, *Wóinila: In Silence We Learn*, on the second floor of the Miramontes Baca Education Building. The mural is an original work created as part of a collaboration between CU's School of Education and the student-led Cultural Events Board (CEB).

Its title, *Wóinila* — a Lakota word meaning “silence” — reflects one of the first Lakota values passed down within the culture, said the mural's creator, Danielle SeeWalker, a Hunkpapa Lakota artist from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

“We sit in silence as we listen to the land, the wind and the stars as they teach us. We learn to listen before we respond and speak,” SeeWalker said.

The painting includes scenes of mentorship, colorful hummingbirds, stars and two buffaloes.

**Naisha Naik** (BusAna'28) helped lead the project as a member of the CEB, which provides students with opportunities to broaden their knowledge on topics such as diversity and social awareness.

“Having this mural in the School of Education is especially meaningful. It serves as a reminder that education is not just about books and classrooms, but also about the stories, history and knowledge of our communities,” Naik told the School of Education.

**BY JULIA MACLEAN**

A new education mural serves as a reminder to listen.





Chancellor Schwartz posing with students at the Asian American and Pacific Islander graduation.

## An Inspiring Community

*Coloradan* editor Maria Kuntz sat down with Chancellor Justin Schwartz to gather his perspective on what makes Buffs so extraordinary and bold.

**You've worked and studied at several of the nation's most respected institutions. What is it about CU students and faculty that sets them apart?** They're not only focused on their disciplinary interest but also deeply committed to using whatever disciplinary expertise they have to create real impact on the world. In particular, [there's] a core underpinning — a commitment to sustainability that is really genuine. It's not an item on a list. It's very much embedded into the culture of our community.

**Alumni are leading space missions, launching startups and advancing climate science. What do you think is happening here that produces such bold, purpose-driven people?** Decades ago, a culture of excellence, doing big things and taking on leadership roles developed in Boulder. And it's just continued to feed on and develop itself. Now, we naturally attract people with that mindset and core values so that the culture becomes self-propagating.

**Tell me about a moment from this past year, maybe involving a student, alum or a faculty member, that genuinely surprised or moved you.**

One of the moments that stands out was the first time [my spouse, Dr. G, and I] worked out with the Ralphie handlers in the gym. We witnessed how much camaraderie and esprit de corps there was between them, and then they brought us in seamlessly and naturally. It's a truly energetic, dedicated and ridiculously hard-working culture.

**You're a year into your tenure. What's your boldest hope for what people will say about CU Boulder five years from now? Not just as a university, but as a force in the world.** Five years from now, we want to be known for having transformed how higher education institutions across the country approach sustainability in terms of academics, implementation and knowledge transfer. I hope we will become a resource for our peers across the country.

**When you're talking to someone who's never been to Boulder, what do you say to help them understand what's special about this place?** I would start by saying: Until you've experienced it, it's hard to explain. There are so many people I've heard say, 'I came to visit and knew right away that this is where I was going to stay.' These are alums who are now 70, who came from out of state 50 or 60 years ago. It's not just the natural beauty of the environment. There is something energetic and inspiring about the community itself.



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## Bufs Host Inaugural Lacrosse Big 12 Championship

The Big 12 added women's lacrosse to the conference in 2024.

**O**n July 27, 2023, Colorado announced it would leave the Pac-12 Conference and return to the Big 12 Conference. The benefits were significant: increased national exposure, renewed conference rivalries and stability in the turbulent world of college athletics.

But the Big 12 did not have women's lacrosse as a conference-sponsored sport. If that didn't change, Colorado would play 2024-25 as an affiliate to another conference.

"It was unknown if the Big 12 would take on sponsoring another sport," said head coach Ann Elliott Whidden. "The administrations for Colorado, Arizona State and Cincinnati were all strong supporters of lacrosse being added and advocated for us through the process."

The Big 12 revealed on Nov. 9, 2023, that it would add women's lacrosse in 2024-25, and CU was joined by ASU, Cincinnati and three affiliates — Florida, UC Davis and San Diego State.

The Buffs went 13-6 in 2024, their final Pac-12 season. When Colorado released its 2025 schedule, it declared Prentup Field would host the inaugural Big 12 Championship, a four-team tournament for an automatic bid to the NCAAAs.

"When we moved to the Big 12, everything changed," said **Jess Peluso** (Engl'26). "We helped set the tone for this conference. The change pushed me to grow as a player and teammate."

Colorado's 2025 season (8-8, 4-1 Big 12) included wins over No. 25 Army and No. 18 Stony Brook and a two-seed in the Big 12 Championship. **Madeline Pisani** (Comm'24; MSOL'25), pictured above, was named Big 12 Attack Player of the Year, and Peluso earned Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year.

Despite an 18-12 semifinal loss to ASU on May 1 at Prentup Field, the historic season was remarkable.

"It was very special to be a part of the inaugural season, seeing it all unfold right in front of us," said Pisani. **BY ANDREW DAIGLE**

"When we moved to the Big 12, everything changed."

### Hunter Drafted No. 2

Defensive and offensive football star **Travis Hunter** (Psych'25) was drafted second overall by the Jacksonville Jaguars on April 24 at the 2025 NFL Draft in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Jacksonville traded four picks, including two first-rounders, to the Cleveland Browns to move up three spots and select the 2024 Heisman winner.

Sporting a hot pink suit and spotted dancing onto the stage after his name was announced, Hunter became the highest drafted cornerback and second-highest drafted wide receiver in NFL history.

Hunter had 153 receptions, 21 touchdowns, 67 tackles and seven interceptions in two seasons at Colorado. He was named Academic All-American of the Year in 2024.

Three Buffaloes were drafted on day three: quarterback **Shedeur Sanders** (Soc'25) to Cleveland in the fifth round, and receivers **LaJohntay Wester** (EthnSt'25) to the Baltimore Ravens and **Jimmy Horn Jr.** (Comm'25) to the Carolina Panthers in the sixth round.

### Bufs Bits

The CU ski team finished second at the 2025 NCAA Ski Championships in March. CU finished with five first-team All-Americans and 12 total All-America honors.

... Women's basketball (21-13, 9-9 Big 12) reached the second round of the Women's Basketball Invitation Tournament before being eliminated 64-55 by Gonzaga. Guard **Frida Formann** (EnvSt'24, MBus'25) and forward **Jade Masogayo** (Int-Phys'26) earned All-Big 12 honorable mentions.

... **Julian Hammond III** (Comm'25) of men's basketball (14-21, 3-17 Big 12) earned honorable mention to the 2024-25 All-Big 12 Team. ... Men's golf advanced to the NCAA Championship Finals in May. ... Tennis reached the second round of the Big 12 Championship before losing 4-1 to Arizona State. **Mila Stanojevic** (BioChem'25) had 133 total wins, the fourteenth most in Colorado history. ... **Isaiah Givens** (EnvSt'26) ran the 1500 meters in 3:37.52, a CU record for men's outdoor track in April.

### Coach Talk

**"Every single person, every staff member, everyone that touched our program did more than they needed to at different times."**

— JR Payne, women's basketball head coach, on the Buffs' season-long resiliency after their postseason defeat on March 23. They endured team-altering player injuries for much of the season.

### STATS

# 1-2

Women's golf's **Francesca Sumcad's** (IntPhys'27) and **Ellen O'Shaughnessy's** (Acct'28) finishing ranks at the 2025 Southern Colorado Open in March.

# 3:38.81

Women's track's season-best 4x400-meter relay time was set in April at the Mt. SAC Relays.

# 28

Years **Kris Livingston**, who retired in May, served Colorado Athletics, with the last 18 as director of academic student support services.

# 7,655

Total points in the decathlon at the Bryan Clay Invitational by track's **Nick Bianco** (EPO-Bio'23; MEdu'25), breaking a 51-year-old CU record.

# 99,499

Pounds of material diverted from landfills during 2024 football games, earning CU 2024 GameDay Football Zero Waste Touchdown Challenge honors.





## CU's Keeper Looks to Go Pro

In 2024, **Jordan Nytes** (Soc'25, MOrgLead'26) of Aurora, Colorado, became the first All-American goalkeeper for CU. The two-time Big 12 Goalkeeper of the Year talks here about leadership, team communication and excitement for the next season.

After visiting CU, Jordan Nytes said: "Let's do it."

**What about Colorado soccer attracted you when you decided to transfer after a year at Oklahoma State?**

I had a connection with [assistant coach and recruiting coordinator]

Dave Morgan. That led to the initial conversation with CU. Being closer to my family was a huge part as well. The soccer program is in a great place! Colorado's facilities are awesome, we got

lights at Prentup [Field], and there's excitement with everything going on with CU Athletics lately. After I visited in December 2022, I was like 'Let's do it,' and it's been awesome since.

**What have been the greatest contributors to your success?**

[Associate head coach] Jason Green and I have developed an incredible relationship. We're comfortable bouncing ideas off each other. It's not arguing, but if he says something I disagree with, I'll tell him, and he'll tell me, too. It's acknowledging strengths, working on weaknesses, growing every day. CU is a very professional training environment. Our coaches have us mimic professional soccer programs. It also prepares us for when, hopefully, we get to that stage.

**You put together 583:33 consecutive shutout minutes in goal in 2024. What's it like when you're in a zone like that?**

When you have five or six straight shutouts, you're on a high with your defense. A record like that reflects how we're defending together. That streak was early in the season, and we knew we'd run into adversity. It's how the game goes — you will get scored on again. We need to be able to overcome that when it happens.

**What communication goes on between you and the defenders?**

We've been dialing in on being super specific with what we say and how we say it. In a high-intensity game, we have to be okay with being critical, telling teammates what needs to be better. But there are also moments to focus on a positive thing and tell someone:

'Do that again.' In terms of strategy, it's telling people where to shift or where to stand to cover a player. Our coaches help with keeping the backline high and tracking marks. There's also off-the-field communication in film sessions or when something gets brought up at halftime.

**Who are the teammates who have helped support you?**

**Jamie Campbell** (Psych'28) is another goalkeeper and my roommate. We have a positive training environment where we push each other. And **Lindsey Smith** (Edu'24) was the other goalkeeper who graduated last December. The three of us were a little family. We knew when to joke around and have fun, but also when to focus in practice. We're really good friends, and that helps off the field. They've helped me reach my potential as a player and person.

**How is practice different for the goalkeepers?**

We do our own warmup and then work through a goalkeeper session. Stretch, ball handling, footwork. Then it depends — shots from distance, reaction saves, breakaways, crosses. We'll often focus on something specific and then build off it throughout the entire week.

**Can you share something you've learned from your CU coaches?** They've helped to develop me as a leader.

The coaching staff has instilled that not everybody's going to be happy all the time. When you're in a leadership position, it's normal for someone to be upset with a decision or something you say. You have to be confident that your decision is in the best interest of the team and keep everybody on the same page.

**How do you balance playing aggressively with also being the last line of defense?**

It's situational. Some games, there are a lot of balls to attack out of the air, and with other games you're more of a calm presence in the back. You need to scout your opponent and prepare. That way, you can let your defense know your anticipated in-game tendencies.

**What are you most looking forward to this season?** This year's team has more new players than returners. It's exciting to have something new. We can set our own standards. The goal starts with winning the Big 12 championship.

**Do you have plans for after CU?** I want to play in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL). My coaches will help me go through an agency. I'll see which teams are interested and hopefully receive a contract. Overseas is another option. I'm looking forward to playing professionally for as long as I can. **INTERVIEW BY ANDREW DAIGLE**



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# CLASSnotes



“Graduating from college represents proof of growth,” **Sarah Carleo** (StComm’25) told *CU Boulder* Today before spring commencement.

**’58** Attorney **Howard Mick** (Bus’58; Law’58) published *Debt and Taxes: Defusing America’s Debt Bomb*. His book details the fiscal policies backgrouding the current economic state in the U.S. and a proposed pathway out of the impending crisis. The book draws from his legal background and extensive knowledge of

banking regulations and fiscal policies. Howard practiced law in Kansas City for 52 years and lives in Prairie Village, Kansas.

**’59** Dean L. **Butler** (A&S’59) is turning 100 this year. After serving in WWII, he attended CU Boulder on the GI Bill. While at CU he worked in the library and eventually became the technical librarian for IBM. His family writes that he loves CU football and is so excited to see them

winning again under Coach Prime. He lives in Wellington, Florida.

**’60** Lifelong adventurer **Patricia Peterson** (Soc’60; MFren’69) published her first book *Around the World in 80 Years* at the age of 86. The book details her extraordinary global experiences — from meeting Martin Luther King Jr. to climbing Mt. Fuji and trekking in Patagonia. Her deep ties to CU include her father, **Stephen A. Romine** (MEdu’40; Phd’47), who

helped establish the School of Education. As an active member of the Boulder community, Patricia is writing and volunteering, and even won her age group in the 2024 Bolder Boulder 10K running race.

**’74** Cultural anthropologist **Ann Lane Hedlund** (Anth’74; Phd’83) is publishing *Mac Schweitzer: A Southwest Maverick and Her Art* in September 2025. The book explores the life and work of artist Mac Schweitzer, a

prominent figure in the American Southwest fine arts scene. Through letters, reviews and artwork, Ann reveals Schweitzer’s depictions of desert wildlife and Native American life. The book is praised for its insight and emotional depth, and it aims to restore Schweitzer’s place in Southwestern art.

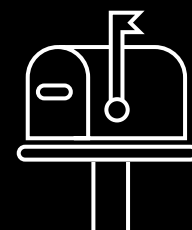
**Mariko Tatsumoto** (Psych’74; Law’77) is the author of historical fiction novel *Blossoms on a Poisoned Sea*, based on true events surrounding mercury poisoning in 1950s Japan. The book received an honorable mention from the Freeman Book Awards, which honors East and Southeast Asian titles for children and young adults. Mariko lives in Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

**’75** Devoted Buffaloes superfan **Phil Caragol** (Comm’75) is known to many on CU game days as “Buffalo Phil” and is easily recognized by his elaborate black-and-gold attire. This February, he published his debut book *The Blunder Years: A Boyhood Memoir* which shares humorous stories from his boyhood and college years.

**’76** Dan Eberhart (Edu’76) published *The World Lost a Man*, a memoir-biography honoring his father, **Perry Eberhart** (Engl’49), a respected journalist and author. The book follows Perry’s journey from a difficult childhood in Denver to serving in WWII

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and becoming a leading voice in Colorado history. It also explores the dynamics of their father-son relationship and implores the reader to “ask before it’s too late.”

**’79** In June, **Nancy E. Hackett** (ArtHist’79) plans to retire as professor emeritus from Suffolk University in Boston after a career in interior design and education. Nancy led interior design programs at Endicott College and Suffolk University, earning honors such as the 2017 American Society of Interior Design New England Educator of the Year Award. She now resides in Rockport, Massachusetts, in a home she designed herself.

**Phil Lobel** (A&S ex’79) is founder and chairman of Lobeline Communications, a public relations and social media marketing firm. He also is a mentee in the Leeds School of Business. Phil was an instrumental partner in helping to get the new

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**Patricia Peterson (Soc'60; MFren'69) is always chasing adventure — from climbing Mt. Fuji to publishing her first book to winning her age group in the Bolder Boulder in her mid-80s.**

Kevin Kaufman and Wendy Kale Scholarship established for deserving CMDI students. He also established the Phil Lobel Scholarship Fund reserved for the director of the CU Program Council.

**'84 Geary Larrick** (DMus'84) is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his first published music composition "Marie: A Four-Mallet Rag," which he wrote in the spring of 1975 while teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Geary went on to write dozens of works, many of which he published through G and L Publishing, which he co-founded with his wife, Lydia. Some of his work is preserved in the American Music Research Center at the CU Boulder College of Music.

**'86 In spring 2023, Anne Button** (ArchEngr'86) launched CU Denver's Change Makers Program, which offers a semester-long experience to professionals navigating transitions near or after the age of traditional retirement. Program fellows can explore new life trajectories, engage in cohort discus-

sions, audit university classes and connect their professional experiences to their next endeavors. Anne started the program after watching the post-retirement years of her late father, **Jerry Button** (ChemEngr'55). So far the program has welcomed 116 fellows, including 18 other CU Boulder alums.

As the 1995 inventor of Molson Coors' Blue Moon Belgian White beer, **Keith Villa** (MCDBio'86) helped ignite the popularity of the craft beer industry. He had begun brewing his own beer as a hobby during his time at CU Boulder when he spotted a flyer in the molecular biology building for a research position at the Coors Brewing Company. After starting the position, Keith went on to spend nearly 32 years at the company. Now he is working to transform the beer industry again. He and his wife **Jodi Villa** (ArchEngr'86) own the Arvada-based Ceria Brewing Company, which specializes in alcohol-free craft beers. Keith also hopes to create a successful business selling non-alcoholic, cannabis-infused beer.

**'87** Through a handwritten journal and still photographs, **Bruce Mattis**

(Geol'87) documented his 1986 field studies experience in McCarthy, Alaska, where he focused on a research project about the Porgy Rock Glacier. Bruce is in the process of publishing his work, and his ongoing goal is to reconnect with his classmates to share about his adventures.

**'89** In February, United Airlines pilot and U.S. Air Force veteran **Pierre Oury** (AeroEngr'89) led an initiative to help two World War II veterans, 101-year-old John Hodges and 99-year-old Arthur Grabiner, return to the Philippines for WWII recognition ceremonies. Pierre was inspired while accompanying veterans to the 80th D-Day ceremonies last June and realized that no one was sponsoring veterans to attend the ceremonies in the Philippines. It was John and Arthur's first visits to the Philippines since the war 80 years ago.

The Garden Club of America inducted **Chris Strand** (EPOBio'89) — director and CEO of Delaware's Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library — as one of four new national honorary members. Only a few individuals are selected for the recognition each year from among 12 geographic zones. Chris has worked at Winterthur for more than 20 years and is in charge of its 978-acre landscape, which includes a 77-acre garden.

## FIVE QUESTIONS



## The Renaissance Vet

Kevin Fitzgerald (EPOBio'73; MBio'78, PhD'82) is a bit like Forrest Gump — always in the right place at the right time. He joined CU's swim team in 1969 and began working as a bouncer at The Sink and Tulagi to put himself through school. From there, he worked security for rock bands like the Rolling Stones and Elvis Presley. Eventually, he dedicated his life to veterinary medicine and starred on the reality show *Emergency Vets*, which ran for 11 seasons on Animal Planet and was filmed at his Denver veterinary practice. Kevin also found a passion for stand-up comedy and has opened for George Lopez and Joan Rivers.

In his new memoir, *It Started With a Turtle*, Kevin recounts these sometimes strange and always interesting experiences, starting with his days at CU Boulder.

**Tell us about your memoir. What do you hope readers, especially CU grads, take away from it?** I decided to use the COVID-19 pandemic time to get all my stories down on paper. I hope any CU students reading it would take

away this: Your education doesn't end with graduation. Your life is just beginning, and you should never be afraid to try new things.

**As someone who's worn so many hats — vet, comedian, author, conservationist — what**

**is the common thread that has guided your career?** I have learned we weren't put here to be sad, and we must live life to suck the orange dry! If we do anything, we should do it well and put a bow on it. The common thread is that love and kindness save the day. Always.

**Of all the animals you've worked with over the years, which is your favorite?** I love anything with a heartbeat. However, I have to say I have a special feeling for turtles.

**Looking back on your time at CU Boulder, how did the university shape the path you've taken?** I came through Boulder during a special time, but I would have to think that anyone's college years are special. The professors and instructors that mentored me at CU Boulder helped mold me into who I am and what I have become. They have stayed with me in how I live and how I act with others.

**How do you find the courage to try so many new things?** We have to be fearless. What are we afraid of? Failing. Failing is how we learn; failing is how we grow. If we always play it safe, there is little reward. We have to take a chance, and we have to put it out there. Once in a while, sometimes, we win one. But we never win if we don't play.

INTERVIEW BY SOPHIA MCKEOWN (STCOMM'25)



# CLASSnotes



"Graduating from college represents proof of growth," **Sarah Carleo** (StComm'25) told *CU Boulder Today* before spring commencement.

**'90 Ken McConnellogue** (Jour'90), now retired from his role as vice president of communication for the University of Colorado System, authored *Bruce Benson: Oilfield Roughneck to University President*, a biography of CU Boulder's 22nd president. The book traces the journey of **Bruce Benson** (Geol'64; HonDocSci'04),

from his tough upbringing and early struggles in education to his success in the oil and gas industry. Bruce's achievements enabled him to make a lasting impact on education, politics and philanthropy.

**'91** As a photojournalist based in Alaska, **Katie Writer** (Geog'91) has directly observed the impacts of climate change while piloting her two-seater Super Cub airplane. Katie's dedication to documenting the visual

changes of glaciers, forests and river erosion inspired her to create the *Alaska Climate and Aviation* podcast: a series of conversations and interviews with experts around Alaska. "My geography studies at CU Boulder shaped my life as a passionate observer of our planet," she wrote.

**'92** Graphic novelist, caricature artist and instructor **Stan Yan** (Bus'92) has been working on his debut graphic novel, *The Many*

*Misfortunes of Eugenia Wang*, which will be released in September 2025. The story follows a teenage girl born on a day considered unlucky in Chinese superstition. The Boulder Bookstore will host his book release event on Oct. 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

**'93** As a data storytelling and visualization expert with 30 years of experience, **William Shander** (MJour'93) released his first book *Stakeholder Whispering: Uncover*

*What People Need Before Doing What They Ask*, which explores how to uncover and meet the needs of clients, bosses and stakeholders. After 25 years in Boston, Bill is starting a new chapter, dividing his time between Placitas, New Mexico, and Todos Santos in Baja California Sur, Mexico.

**'95** The American National Red Cross appointed **Gino Greco** (Thtr'95) as vice president of its north central division. In this position, he will oversee operations across nine states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. In January, he celebrated 14 years of service as regional CEO of the American Red Cross of Colorado and Wyoming.

Former collegiate ski racer **Craig Zolan** (Law'95) works in the financial services sector and is the creator and host of *Fresh Corduroy*, a podcast exploring topics of interest to skiers and snowboarders. Recent episodes feature guests like Canadian World Cup skier

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**Stefanie Fleckenstein** (Comm'23) and Colorado attorney general Phil Weiser, former CU law school dean.

**'96** Los Angeles resident **Jules Bruff** (Thtr'96) has acted in, produced and written multiple award-winning films, including *Part Time Fabulous* and *Good Side of Bad*, which premiered at Dances with Films in Los Angeles. Jules is set to produce and act in the upcoming features *Coyote* and *Station Zero*. Her producing career began with Kirk Douglas' final film, *Illusion*, and she has appeared in various other projects, such as

**Ken McConnellogue** (Jour'90) chronicled the life of CU Boulder's 22nd president in his new biography, *Bruce Benson: Oilfield Roughneck to University President*, after retiring as CU's VP of communication.

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## “My geography studies at CU Boulder shaped my life as a passionate observer of our planet.”

— Katie Writer (Geog’91)

*Zodiac*, *S.W.A.T.* and *For Murial*, alongside Mindy Sterling.

Hawaii design firm G70 promoted **Ross Morishige** (Arch’96) to the role of principal. In his new position, Ross will lead strategic initiatives, foster business development and enhance client partnerships. Since rejoining the firm in 2023 as associate principal, Ross has contributed to major projects such as Marriott’s Maui Ocean Club and the AMB Tower at Hilton Hawaiian Village. He lives in Honolulu.

**’97** *Global Goals: The International Hockey Life of U.S. Defenseman Eric Weinrich*, authored by **Andy DeRoche** (PhDHist’97), examines the life of Eric Weinrich — whom Andy met in 1975 — from his time as an NHL player to his career serving as a cultural ambassador during the final years of the Cold War. Andy has been a full-time professor at Front Range Community College since 1998 and a part-time professor at CU since 2000. He lives in Longmont, Colorado.

**’98** Therapist, author and public speaker **Sarah Allen Benton** (Jour’98) published her book *Parents in Recovery*:

*Navigating a Sober Family Lifestyle*, which draws from her professional expertise and personal experience as a parent in long-term recovery. As co-owner of Benton Behavioral Health Consulting and chief clinical officer at Waterview Behavioral Health, Sarah advocates for the importance of sober living and family wellness. She has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Today Show*, *The Early Show* and SiriusXM, and she authors a blog for *Psychology Today*. She lives in Killingworth, Connecticut.

**’01** Mother-daughter duo **Olivia Omega** (Mktg’01) and Malia Logan graduated in the same ceremony from Belhaven University, Olivia earning her MBA and Malia her BA. They then launched their co-authored memoir the same day. Their book, *Through Her Eyes: Mother and Daughter Parallel Perspectives on Love, Loss, Blackness, Purpose and Faith*, offers personal parallel reflections on love, loss, purpose and Black womanhood. Now back home in Denver, they are sharing their story through a podcast and inspiring others to

tell their generational narratives. Olivia also volunteers at CU Boulder by serving on several boards.

**’03** An assistant professor of linguistic anthropology at Metropolitan State University of Denver, **Richard Sandoval** (Indiv’03; PhDLing’16) specializes in ancient Maya writing, sign-speech bimodalism and decipherment. His recent research has uncovered that hand signs on Maya monuments represent numerical dates, offering new insights into ancient Maya communication.

**’09** **Diego Baca** (Acct, MS’09) has been recognized as one of *Denver Business Journal*’s 40 under 40 honorees, an award celebrating young professionals who have an exceptional impact in their industry. He is a certified public accountant and partner at the global firm EY. He lives in Parker, Colorado.

For 10 years, **Brian Turnbull** (EnvSt’09) has served as a flight dispatcher at Southwest Airlines, where he ensures safety in the air for thousands of flights a year from Hawaii to the Caribbean. He plans all releases sent to pilots and air traffic control and monitors flights once airborne. Dealing with delays, thunderstorms, snow and everything in between, he constantly communicates with pilots to help keep the airline safe, efficient and on time.

## FIVE QUESTIONS



## Ice Cream for Life

A college job at an ice cream shop shaped the rest of **Drew Honness**’ (Hist’96) life. At age 39, he opened Sweet Cow in Louisville, Colorado. Now with seven locations, Sweet Cow is a beloved Colorado staple with lines out the door and stickers plastered around the state.

**What inspired you to start an ice cream business?** When I turned 20 years old, I got a job at a mom-and-pop ice cream shop on The Hill called Josh and John’s. It originally started in 1992 in Colorado Springs by two Colorado College graduates. I worked for them for 13 years. From this job, I learned what a great environment the ice cream industry is and how it builds community. Within a couple of years, I knew I wanted to do it for

the rest of my life. After graduation, I ran their small company since they both stepped out of the day-to-day.

**What sets your ice cream apart?** All of our ice cream, cookie sammies and ice cream cakes are made within the seven shops, so we’re completely self-sufficient. The three key ingredients are high-quality milk, cream and sugar. What differentiates ice cream from *ice cream* is the percentage of butterfat, the quality of ingredients,

the batch freezer or ice cream machine, the freezing process and the temperature of dipping cabinets. Everyone does it differently.

**What’s your most unique flavor?** Larry’s Chocolate Peanut Butter Madness, created by my son, is a chocolate peanut butter ice cream with dark chocolate chips and peanut butter chips, along with a fudge swirl and peanut butter swirl. Another fun flavor is Vermont Maple Walnut, made with maple syrup directly from Vermont and walnut pieces.

**What’s your most popular flavor?** Cookies and Cream, hands down. Most cookies and cream recipes are simply vanilla ice cream with Oreos thrown in at the end. We sprinkle our Oreos throughout, from the first minute, in the middle and again at the very end. If you get a bite without a cookie, it still tastes like a cookie.

**What advice would you give those looking to start their own business?** Starting your own business should be something that gives you purpose every day and is not about money. A decision based on finances may hinder one’s ability to find success, create the best work environment and service the community and its customers. Be passionate about what you’re exploring in this adventure.

INTERVIEW BY JULIA MACLEAN (JOUR’26)



# CLASSnotes



“Graduating from college represents proof of growth,” **Sarah Carleo** (StComm’25) told *CU Boulder Today* before spring commencement.

**’10** Corporate attorney **Patrick Berry** (PolSci’10) was appointed to the board of trustees of Warren Village, a nonprofit that serves unhoused and unstably housed low-income, single-parent families in the Denver area. Patrick will serve and advise the board for a three-year term. He is also a shareholder in Brownstein Hyatt Farber

Schreck’s corporate and business department.

**’11** After 15 years reporting and editing for Boulder’s *Daily Camera*, **Mitchell Byars** (Jour’11) now serves as a reporter for Axios Boulder. In his role, he oversees the news organization’s daily newsletter, which launched in April.

**Alex Tingle** (Phys, MS’11) is a senior technical project engineer at Quantinuum, the world’s largest integrated quantum company, which is devel-

oping powerful quantum computers and advanced quantum software solutions. In 2021, Alex was named one of 52 “Wonder Women Working in Industry” by the Quantum Insider, which provides media and market intelligence on the quantum technology industry. Alex was a speaker for CU Women of Quantum, founded in 2024 by **Emily Jerris** (Econ, Phys’26) and **Annalise Cabra** (Phys’25), which offers community, networking and mentorship to CU Boulder women interested in pursuing

careers or research in quantum fields.

**’13** In April, **Jeff Kendall** (MechEngr’13) acquired and became CEO of 5280 Waste Solutions, which provides a full suite of waste management services and prides itself on partnering with communities to drive sustainability initiatives.

**’14** Lawyer **Andrea Moore** (IntPhys, Mgmt’14) joined the Portland office of law firm Miller Nash’s tax team,

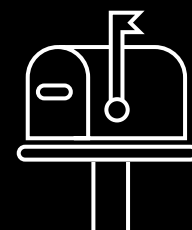
where she provides strategic guidance on complex tax challenges. Prior to this, she gained experience as a federal tax associate at Schwabe, an accounting and auditing firm, where she focused on federal tax law and large-scale transactions.

**’15** In April, poet **Adrian Sobol** (MEngl’15) published his second full-length poetry collection, *HAIR SHIRT*, which blends Black humor and absurdity into surreal lyric poems. One reviewer has praised it as “hilarious” and “a parade of nonstop delights.” He lives in Chicago.

**’16** **Emma Vogel** (EPOBio’16) is a postdoctoral researcher at The Arctic University of Norway’s Arctic Sustainability Lab, where she completed her PhD in marine mammal ecology. Her current work focuses on ecological connectivity, fisheries interactions, coastal communities and the sustainability of Arctic coastal ecosystems. A photograph she took while whale tagging in Norway in 2020 was selected as the overall winner of *Nature’s*

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2025 Scientist at Work photo competition.

**’18** As assistant dean of administration for CU’s College of Communication, Media, Design and Information (CMDI), **Chrissy Harrison** (MORGLead’18) oversees human resources, facilities management, technology and organizational development for the college. Previously, she worked in CU Boulder’s human resources department for seven years. She also owned and operated Harrison Fence, a small construction firm in Boulder County, and ran a successful music studio teaching the Kindermusik program to young children. She’s a second-generation Buff and a proud parent of

**Emma Vogel’s (EPOBio’16) whale-tagging photo in Norway was named winner of the Scientist at Work category for *Nature’s* photo competition.**

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**“CU provided me with the support and opportunities to explore my academic interests in depth, which gave me the courage to pursue a challenging career in medicine.”**

— Sophie Nied (IntPhys, Soc’25)

two CU grads, **Margaret Harrison** (Neuro’17) and **Grace Harrison** (CinemaSt’23).

**’22** Cello and double bass performer **Samuel Conner** (MusEdu’22) is an active member of the National Association for Music Educators and the Colorado chapter of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He has presented at music education conferences, including those hosted by ASTA. Currently in his third year as orchestra director for the Green Mountain High School articulation area, Sam teaches across six schools and performs with the Parker Symphony Orchestra and other local Colorado ensembles.

**Simon Julien** (Ap-Math’21; MS’22) is a founder of the CU Boulder startup Latimer Controls. The software he co-invented improves the efficiency of solar farms. Latimer Controls was a part of the Techstars Alabama EnergyTech Accelerator Class of 2022, won the American-Made Solar Prize and secured its first pilot project with Kaua’i Island Utility Cooperative.

**’23** Since childhood, **Nikolai Ambwani** (EnvDes’23)

has loved to fish. In early 2024, Nikolai put his passion into a startup called Pesca Innovations, a company that re-defines outdoor gear storage. The company’s American-made storage solutions — which include modular rail systems for fishing rods, fly tubes, skis and snowboards — aim to simplify adventures and elevate outdoor experiences. Nikolai is also a fly-fishing guide and skier.

**John Galloway** (Mgmt’23) is the great-great-grandson of General George S. Patton. This May, he accompanied his grandfather, Pat Waters, to Pilzen, Czech Republic, for the city’s celebration of the liberation of the region by the Allied troops, including Patton’s Third Army, 80 years ago.

**’25** Upon graduation in May, **Anna Bedell** (Mktg’25) plans to begin her career in marketing at IBM. While studying at CU, she took part in the company’s Accelerate Summer Program, a virtual career readiness program, and pursued an internship, which led to a full-time IBM position.

This spring, **Hermann Klein-Hessling Barrientos** (ChemEngr’25)

received two major honors: CU Boulder’s College of Engineering & Applied Science’s Outstanding Undergraduate Award and Perseverance Award. Hermann grew up in several European countries and graduated from high school in Singapore; he is the first in his family to earn an undergraduate degree in the U.S. Hermann credits scholarships with much of his success at CU Boulder as he begins his career in engineering.

**Casey Middleton** (PhDCompSci’25), specializes in infectious disease modeling. Her presentation at CU Boulder’s eighth-annual Three-Minute Thesis competition in February won second place. She also received CU’s 2025 Computer Science Department’s Outstanding Research Award.

Former CU Boulder student ambassador and Herd Leadership Council president **Sophie Nied** (IntPhys, Soc’25) is working as a medical assistant while she applies to medical school. She told *CU Boulder Today* in May: “CU provided me with the support and opportunities to explore my academic interests in depth, which gave me the courage to pursue a challenging career in medicine.”

Graduate teaching assistant and flutist **Natalie Trejo** (MMus’25) is working as a sales manager with the Flute Center of New York, where she combines her passion for flute with leadership and sales.

## FIVE QUESTIONS



## Next-Gen Leadership

After graduating, **Rachel Etzler** (MediaSt’22) began to rebuild Business Development Institute (BDI), her family’s events marketing agency, after COVID-19 dismantled the events industry. Etzler took a leadership role alongside her father, Steven, the company’s founder and CEO. As both a strategic leader and hands-on operator, Etzler has played a pivotal role in BDI’s recent success, which has included producing around 60 highly curated events annually and increasing long-term partnerships in the technology industry.

### How do you describe your position at BDI?

We serve leading tech companies like NVIDIA, Adobe, Microsoft, HPE, Equinix and AMD. I support our clients directly while working closely with my dad to manage our sales. Because I have a bird’s-eye view of all our client events, I help prioritize tasks and ensure we’re aligned and efficient across every project.

### What inspired you to rebuild BDI? Entering

the professional world in a post-COVID environment made me reflect on where I wanted to invest my energy. If I was going to dedicate 40-plus hours a week to a company, I wanted it to be one that truly mattered to me. BDI has played a huge role in my life — it helped make college possible for me — and I saw an opportunity to make a real difference.

### What was it like stepping into a leadership role at a

**company your parents built?** From our earliest conversations, my dad showed a lot of trust in my leadership potential, which was a rare and meaningful opportunity for a 22-year-old. In many ways, it felt like a natural evolution as I grew up watching my parents run the business. I’ve always admired their entrepreneurial spirit, and stepping into a leadership role felt like honoring that legacy, while also building something of my own.

### Looking back now, what advice do you have for yourself as you were graduating?

Be patient with yourself. Growth takes time, and it’s important to let your journey unfold naturally. Progress isn’t always linear, and that’s okay.

### What else should we know about you?

I am proud of what we’ve accomplished so far — and how energized I feel about where we’re headed. Rebuilding BDI has been a mix of challenge, creativity and deep purpose. I’m grateful every day to work with my family, collaborate with an incredible team and create experiences that connect people in meaningful ways. We’ve hired my sister, **Elizabeth Etzler** (Edu’23), and two other employees are also Buffs: **Matthew Jacobs** (CritMediaSt’20) and **Emi Veliz** (Anth’20). BDI is a CU-powered company!

INTERVIEW BY JULIA  
MACLEAN (JOUR’26)



# INmemoriam

## 1940s

Audrey J. Oliver  
(CompSciAp'45)  
Harriet McPhail Hampton  
(Mktg'46)  
Mary K. Ohman (A&S'47)  
Joanne Sinden Hagerman  
(MBioChem'48)  
M. B. Harris (Acct'48)  
Donna J. Kilgore (DistSt'48)  
Nathan B. Meiches  
(EIEngr'48)  
Patricia St. Clair Ostwald  
(Art'48)  
Yvonne Goodier Charles  
(Art, Chem'49)

## 1950s

Irving Barrack (Chem'50)  
Alex Ferkovich Jr.  
(EIEngr'50)  
Ann Reynolds Hendricks  
(Btny'50)  
William Hobbs (Bus'50;  
Law'50)  
Mary Beeley Phillips  
(Edu'50)  
Barbara Templeton Buckley  
(Mktg'51)  
William A. Merrick  
(Mktg'51)  
Albert L. Yunko Jr. (A&S'51)  
Teddy R. Barnhart Jr.  
(ChemEngr'52)  
Felma Gleue Doane  
(A&S'52)  
Wilminor C. Gardner  
(Fin'52)  
Paul E. Hammond (Geol'52)  
Joseph L. Campbell Jr.  
(MChemEngr'53)  
Donald A. Melbye (Law'53)  
Patricia Work Stermitz  
(A&S'53)

Gail Van Hine Young  
(Geol'53)  
Ernest P. Moore (EIEngr'54)  
Ronald A. Piotraschke  
(PE'54)  
Billie B. Jensen (Hist'55;  
MA'59; PhD'62)  
Marcia Saunders (Law'55)  
Eric W. Schmidt (Mgmt'55)  
Robert L. Weber (Geol'55)  
Ervin J. Dunham (Mus'56)  
Russell M. Holdredge  
(Acct, MechEngr'56;  
MMechEngr'59)  
Herbert T. Miller (EIEngr'56)  
Richard T. Putney  
(Psych'56)  
Cle Cervi Symons (Jour'56)  
George R. Baumli  
(CivEngr'57)  
Bertram H. Benedick  
(PolSci'57)

Ellen TeSelle Boal (Mus'57)  
Margaret Clarke Bowyer  
(DistSt'57)  
Lyle R. Bratton (Law'57)  
James W. Buckel  
(CivEngr'57)  
Gretchen Purdum Coffey  
(Edu'57; Thtr'57)  
Carole J. Cooke (Art'57)  
Gary C. Curtin (Geol'57;  
MS'65)  
Donald W. Harmon  
(Psych'57)  
Howard T. Johnson  
(AeroEngr'57)  
Bonnie Reese Musgrove  
(A&S'57)  
Susie Wright Rowland  
(A&S'57)  
Kenneth A. Baker  
(LatAmerSt'58;  
MPolSci'63; Law'64)  
Wilson W. Coleman (Fin'58)  
Robert W. Heller  
(MechEngr'58)  
Raymond P. Lamb (A&S'58)  
Margery Dryden Lincoln  
(HomeEcon'58)  
William P. Mytton (Hist'58;  
Fin'60)  
Mary W. Wilson (A&S'58)  
Judith Paynter Wolf  
(A&S'58)  
Fred A. Avi (MechEngr'59)  
Harold D. Hampton  
(Geol'59; MHist'61)  
John R. Kochan (EIEngr'59)  
Erwin A. Reschke  
(MMgmt'59)  
Roxly L. Root (Mgmt,  
AeroEngr'59)  
Robert D. Smith (EIEngr'59)  
Ann Dubuisson Sturgill  
(Engl'59)

## 1960s

Mark P. Addison (Geog'60)  
Linda J. Baumann (Mus'60)  
Charlotte Blakeborough  
(MEdu'60)  
Charles G. Brown Jr. (Geol'60)  
Robert B. Bruner  
(PolSci'60; MBA'63)  
Robert H. Butcher (Geol'60;  
MS'62)  
Richard W. Dowell  
(MEngl'60)  
David L. Greene (Anth'60;  
MA'62; PhD'65)  
Donald L. Loose  
(MechEngr'60)  
Nancy Johnson Lucke  
(A&S'60)  
Karl L. Marks (Law'60)  
Elisabeth B. Brown  
(A&S'61; MA&S'80)

DeWitt C. Hackett  
(ApMath'61)  
Deborah Hansen Beresford  
(Art'61)  
Larry F. Schofield (A&S'61)  
Dale N. Amend  
(MechEngr'62)  
Nancy C. Baggs  
(MMath'62)  
Thelma Hartnagle Bishopp  
(Ger'62; MA'67;  
PhDEdu'82)  
George H. Chronis  
(EIEngr'62)  
Evelyn P. Griggs (Advert'62)  
Shirley M. Hughes (Edu'62)  
Morton Schreiber (Hist'62)  
Rawley D. Smith (Mgmt'62)  
Judith M. Witmer (Edu'62)  
Edward S. Wrasmann  
(Chem'62)  
Alexandra H. Cramer (Mus'63)  
Thurmon L. Deloney  
(EIEngr'63)  
Nick C. Graham (A&S'63)  
Ann E. Kastler (Edu'63)  
Hildegard R. Kuse  
(PhDEdu'63)  
Thomas D. Merrell Jr.  
(EngrPhys'63)  
Patricia F. Richardson  
(Edu'63)  
Joel B. Short (Hist'63;  
Law'66)  
Clinton W. Baccus  
(Mgmt'64)  
Louise R. Beale (A&S'64)  
Marilynn K. Camerlo  
(Hist'64)  
Halcyon Dahms Enssle  
(Engl'64)  
Diana Files Roeseler  
(Anth'64)  
Lynn Fuller Rundstrom  
(DistSt'64)  
Julius M. Kunz  
(EIEngr'64)  
Dewayne L. Misterek  
(MCivEngr'64)  
Dennis V. Seabourn  
(Phys'64)  
Lewis Smith Jr. (MMgmt'64)  
Robert L. Leutwiler  
(Fin, MechEngr'65)  
John R. Parmater  
(CivEngr'65)  
Sandra Cook Peterson  
(A&S'65)  
Nicholas G. Benigsen  
(A&S'66)  
Kathryn E. Berg (A&S'66)  
Carol Priest Chotard  
(MMus'66; DocMus'71)  
Susan DeSmet (Art'66)  
John L. Gelber (EIEngr'66)  
Jerry L. Hansen  
(MechEngr'66)

Thomas A. Larimer  
(CivEngr'66)  
Gayla McRae Lindquist  
(A&S'66; MEdu'74)  
Charles H. Reddien  
(EIEngr'66)  
Jerry G. Rutledge (A&S'66)  
Susan A. Winchester  
(A&S'66; MRuss'68;  
PhDSlav'72)  
Julian Garcia (Acct'67)  
John A. Hurt (A&S'67)  
Debra Cohen Romans  
(PolSci'67)  
Donald E. Welsh (A&S'67)  
Bonnie J. Witkowski  
(Edu'67)  
Ronald J. Beaton  
(PolSci'68, Fin'72)  
Earl E. Hasz (MMath'68;  
PhDEdu'70)  
Ernest H. Henninger  
(Math'68; Phys'68)  
Judith Walker Phippen  
(A&S'68)  
John A. Purvis (Law'68)  
Carl F. Randall (Acct'68)  
Carroll Stanley Senn  
(Mgmt'68)  
James E. Soule (Mktg'68)  
E. T. Hunt Talmage III  
(Engl'68)  
Richard A. Wildau  
(Psych'68; MA'72)  
Bart E. Bortles (Mktg'69)  
Michael J. Collins  
(A&S'69;  
MCommDisor'71;  
PhD'74)  
Alice Fechheimer Martin  
(Soc'69)  
Pamela Naoecker Howard  
(DistSt'69)  
Michael A. Imhoff  
(PhDChem'69)  
David N. Larson (Fin'69)  
Charles T. Miller III (A&S'69)  
Marcia M. Peteranetz  
(MMusEdu'69)  
Robert L. Saviteer (Engl'69)  
Paul Turner III (Stat'69)

## 1970s

Walter B. Currier (A&S'70)  
Joseph A. Dodson III  
(ApMath'70; MBA'74)  
Lowell M. McBride  
(EIEngr'70; MBA'72)  
Stanley W. Sadava  
(PhDPsych'70)  
Barbara A.C. Smith  
(Soc'70)  
John V. Smith (MA&S'70)  
James M. Armstrong (Fin'71)  
David C. DiRito (Psych'72;  
MA'89)

Michael Goldfogel  
(DistSt'72)  
Judith Taddonio Vineyard  
(Psych'72)  
Richard L. Wolf  
(MCommThtr'72)  
June Robison Wright  
(MEdu'72)  
Eugene M. Baker IV  
(Psych'73; MA'75;  
PhD'77)  
Larry P. Gough (PhDBio'73)  
Dennis R. Strout (EIEngr'73)  
John S. Behnke (Mktg'74)  
Daniel J. Boynton (Mktg'74)  
John S. Bunting (MAcct'74)  
Nancy F. Carter  
(PhDEdu'74)  
Judith A. Hakes  
(PhDEdu'74)  
Jonathan Holden  
(PhDEngl'74)  
Jeffrey E. Trundy (MRec'74)  
Luther K. Branting (Phil'75)  
William K. Childers  
(EPOBio'75)  
Mary Brockway (MEdu'76)  
Mary A. Brooks (MEdu'76)  
Antonia K. Johnson  
(Psych'76)  
Gregory R. Mueller  
(Mktg'76)  
Francis I. Frazier (Mus'77)  
Elisabeth L. Hallgren  
(PhDHist'77)  
Richard E. Heapes  
(EnvDes'77)  
Arthur L. Shearin (Mus'77)  
Karen Lehr Benner  
(MEdu'78)  
Leslie S. Burnau (MEdu'78)  
Janet L. Robinson (Acct'78)  
Rodney J. Rothlisberger  
(DMus'78)  
Gigi Maloney York (Art'78)

## 1980s

Jan L. Johnson (Advert'80)  
Brian R. Vogt (Class'81)  
Helen E.S. Browne (Acct'82)  
Scott Bradford Weaver  
(Fin'82)  
Gerald A. Ligrani (PE'86)  
David L. Alles (EBio'87)  
William D. Baylis (Hist'88)  
Carrie L. Shrallow Dussault  
(IntlAf'88)

## 1990s

Hua P. Chou  
(MCompSci'90)  
Peter W. Strickholm  
(MMus'90)  
Herbert K. Wilson (Econ'90;  
MBA, MTeleComm'00)

Judith M. Falco  
(Art, ArtHist'91)  
Kevin A. Pierce (Geog'91)  
Lisa A. Weaver (Art'91)  
J. Kurt Marrs (MCDBio'92)  
Darcy A. Wendland  
(EPOBio'93)  
Heather Eversley Jovel  
(Law'97)  
Darrel T. Davis (Law'98)  
Jeffrey F. Johnson  
(CompSci'98)

## 2000s

Shannon L. Meadors-Oscar  
(IntlAf'01)  
Emory J. Zeiger  
(PhDThtr'01)  
Clark L. Branscum  
(Comm'03)  
Brenda F. Mitchell (Soc'05)  
Sarah E. Steinwand  
(Mktg'05)  
Andrew P. Decoursey  
(Anth'06)  
Alison E. MacDonald  
(Mktg'07)  
Sara Bernardi Martinez  
(Dance'09)

## 2010s

Elizabeth R. Stewart  
(Mktg'12)  
Jarrod S. Hanson  
(PhDEdu'13)  
Christopher W. A. Black  
(IntPhys'18)

## 2020s

Elizabeth A. Vossler  
(Jour'20)  
Draden E. Hoover (Fin'22)  
Ari Pargman (ExplSt'29)  
Megan P. Trussel (Film'29)

## Faculty, Staff and Friends

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Buffalo Belles  
Russell Hayes, Professor,  
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Engineering  
Jan Mycielski, Professor  
Emeritus, Department of  
Mathematics  
Frieda “Fritz” Satterley,  
Staff, Alumni Association  
and CU Foundation

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# FEEDback



**“The university is quite a legacy for my family.”**

— Donald Nodtvedt (Bio’74)

## Bufs Family Legacy

I always enjoy the *Coloradan*, especially living in Virginia. The university is quite a legacy for my family. My grandfather taught at CU, and my uncle, aunt, mom and dad, as well as my son and I, all graduated from CU. My whole family, 15 of us, visited CU last June. What a time of remembrance.

**Donald Nodtvedt**  
(Bio’74)  
Danville, Virginia

## Chancellor’s Impactful Message

I reread Maria Kuntz’s interview with new CU Chancellor Justin Schwartz from Fall 2024, which shows his intention to “reinforce the idea that

inclusivity is truly including all.” He even shared a touching story about it. In this political climate, his words touched me.

**Tracy Lehr** (Jour’84)  
Oxnard, California

## Sustainability Collaboration

I have read the Spring 2025 “Sustainable Spinouts” article and am proud that CU Boulder is working towards sustainability in reaching green buildings. I am working similarly in developing thermal insulation and sound absorption materials developed from agro and medical waste materials, which are natural, biodegradable and could replace the petrochemical and synthetic thermal insulation

materials. My work is on a lab scale, and I am looking for collaboration to transfer it to the marketplace.

**Mohamed Ali**  
(MEng’84; PhD’88)  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

## Welcoming the Wolf

The Fall 2024 article “Welcoming the Wolf” was biased, inaccurate and one-sided. The colorful artwork of a fluffy white apex predator did not give the real story of what is happening in Colorado with the introduction of wolves. **Bill Allegar** (Engl’71) wrote,

*Letters edited for length and clarity.  
Read more at [colorado.edu/coloradan](https://colorado.edu/coloradan).*

“More than two dozen wolves have been shot by ranchers whose cattle have been attacked and eaten by wolves.” This is not correct. Colorado Parks and Wildlife reports that of the 25 wolves they introduced (December 2023 and January 2025), two have been illegally shot, and one more was killed after crossing the Wyoming border. The penalty for shooting a wolf in Colorado is one year in jail, a \$100,000 fine and loss of all hunting privileges. The ranchers know this, so they have refrained, despite their livestock and pets being killed by wolves.

**Shannon Lukens**  
(Jour’82)  
Steamboat Springs, Colorado

## The Dark Horse in the ’60s and ’70s

Reading the article about Boulder’s Dark Horse stirred memories from my experience there. The article mentioned that the Horse has been a go-to for students and residents since 1975. I remember all-you-can-eat spaghetti for \$2 on Sundays at the Horse in the late ’60s! I don’t recall the decor, which may have been different during my time, but it was a go-to back then!

**John Ezell** (Engl’70)  
Centennial, Colorado

The Dark Horse was originally called the Cabaret when it opened in late 1973. The headline performer was Al Fike, who had previously graced the stage at

**“In this political climate, his words touched me.”**

— Tracy Lehr (Jour’84) on the interview with Chancellor Schwartz from the Fall 2024 issue.

the El Rancho off of I-70 near Evergreen. Bobby LaKind, who later joined the Doobie Brothers as a conga player, was brought in to manage and book more national acts. I recall Hugh Masekela performing a few nights.

I was a bartender there, but left Boulder before the venue changed to the Dark Horse. I just wanted to set the record straight for the few that may remember the old Cabaret. We served very strong libations, which may be one of the reasons the business didn’t survive.

**John Bernhart**  
(Soc’71)  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## Degree Notation Question

This is probably not a question at the level of the editor, but no other people to ask that I could find in my latest issue of the *Coloradan*. A fair number of people have a further notation than the year of graduation, e.g., A&S ex’61 or A&S ex’70, even the football player on the back cover, Soc ex’96. What does the “ex” mean?

**Dorothy Correa**  
(Psych’71)  
Arroyo Grande, California

*[Editor’s Note: The “ex” in the degree information for some alumni indicates that the person attended CU but did not graduate. “Ex” stands for “expected” year of graduation, should they have finished their program.]*

## Father, Son and Soulmate

My days at CU Boulder were some of the best in my life. I met my wife of 50-plus years, **Brenda Fulton Mitchell** (Soc’05), and my father was a graduate of CU, **Walter Mitchell** (CivEngr’36).

**Robert Mitchell**  
(Mktg’73)  
Fresno, California

## Game-Changing Love

Thank you for the article on CU’s first bowl game in the spring *Coloradan*. My mother and father met and fell in love on that train trip to and from the game in Texas. They





# Coloradan

**Volume 30, Number 3  
Summer 2025**

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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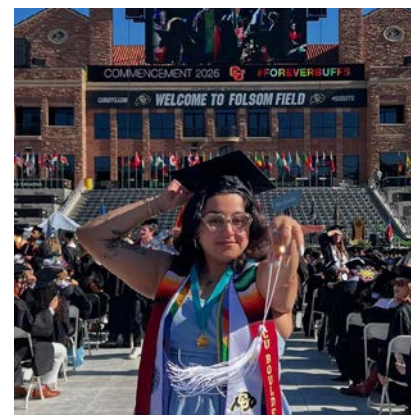
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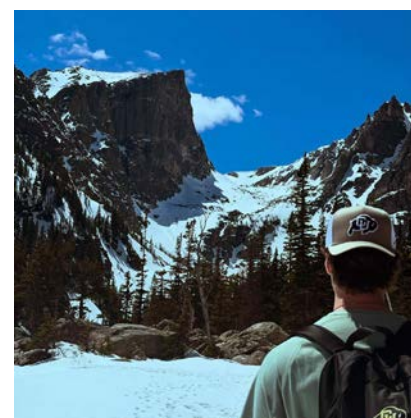
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## Social Buffs



“Let’s Sko’ home!”  
**@ashleycastillo.11**



“The open sky fixes everything.”  
**@jackmoran91**



“Perfect Timing.  
Twice the Degrees.  
Twice the Fight.”  
🍷❤️💛🐾  
**@maimoxi**



**Patti Hines Generale (TranMgmt'75), housebound with long COVID, made origami stars out of the previous *Coloradan*. “Spreading smiles is the only good part of this terrible disease,” she wrote.**

married within a year. I had no idea the game was such a big deal throughout the state, but it turned out to be a very big deal for the generations of us that followed it!

**Paul Shallenberger**  
(Mktg'71)  
Glendale, Arizona

## Coloradan Origami

I've been housebound with long COVID fatigue for 15 months with no

improvement. So I make these origami cards from recycled paper. The art in the *Coloradan* always inspires me. So all of the enclosed cards were made from the most recent edition, and I'm sharing them with you to thank you for all your hard work. I hope you and whoever you give them to enjoy them. Spreading smiles is the only good part

of this terrible disease. Keep up the good work!

**Patti Hines Generale**  
(TranMgmt'75)  
Newberry, Florida

*Correction:*  
**Karl Montick (IntlBus'79)** was incorrectly listed as deceased in the Fall 2020 issue. He writes, “Please note I am alive and well and living in Bozeman. Skiing, hiking and fishing.” We regret the error.



# THEN

**1899**

The Chautauqua movement began in the late 1800s as an experimental approach to adult education, combining literature, music, science, international affairs and social issues in one setting. Founded in 1874 on Chautauqua Lake in western New York, its retreat-style blend of learning, entertainment and open dialogue quickly inspired similar programs across America — including Boulder.

In 1898, to attract Texans seeking relief from the summer heat, Boulder city leaders partnered with the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railway and Texas educators to establish a Chautauqua retreat at the foot of the Flatirons. Attendees originally stayed in tents, but cottages began to be built the following year. The final cottages, many of which are still in use today, were completed by the mid-20th century.

CHAUTAUQUA, BOULDER, COLO. 1899. No. 12.