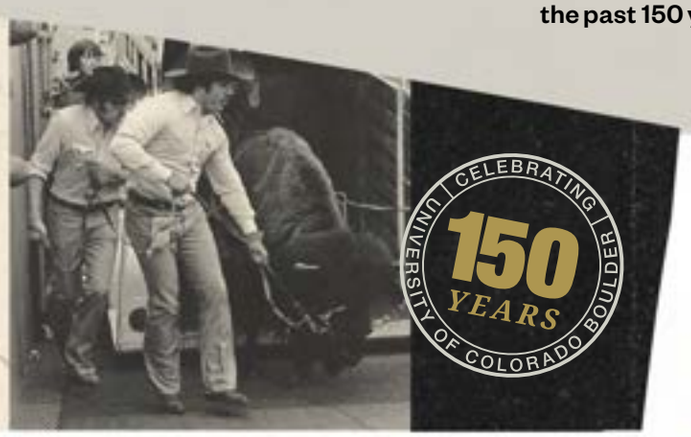
Coloradan

CU BOULDER'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE FALL 2026



Moments That Shaped CU Boulder

Pivotal points from the past 150 years.





Now



Sept. 12, 2026

For 118 years, the Golden Buffalo Marching Band has served as Folsom Field's game-day soundtrack.

This year, 270 band members continue to share the university's traditions and history through their performances. One such tradition is the "Fight Song Sequence," which brings together CU Boulder's three fight songs. The first, "Glory Colorado," was originally performed in 1885 and serves as the academic fight song. The second, "Go Colorado," was written specifically for the marching band in 1956 and serves as a bridge between the university's academics and athletics, much like the band itself. They close with the third and most famous song, "Fight CU," which has served as theme music for CU athletic teams since 1925.

Only 10% of marching band members are music majors; the other 90% represent nearly every college and school at CU Boulder.

"The Golden Buffalo Marching Band is made up of future doctors, lawyers, engineers, musicians, comedians, mathematicians, teachers — you name it!" said the band's director, Logan Sorey. "The people who make up this band are world changers."

Photo by **Glenn Asakawa**



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A few CU Boulder events that helped mark its history. Illustration by Mike McQuade.

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Editor's Note

There's something personal about asking someone, "What are your favorite CU moments?"

For some, the memories ring loud: the eruption of 60,000 fans as Mick Jagger took Folsom Field's stage; elated shrieks in a Boulder bar as **Michael Westbrook** (Comm'94) caught a Hail Mary touchdown pass in Michigan; cheers from an epic snowball fight during the May "Snowmencement."

Others remember quieter times: silent tears during the launch of the Mars-bound MAVEN; the internal triumph of turning in that last final; an emotional orchestra performance.

From endless burgers at The Sink to dances at "The Tule" or even wise words from the Dalai Lama in a CU visor, these are the types of memories that stand the test of time.

My first year living on campus rings special for me — late-night movies on bulky laptops, intramural sports at the Rec Center and dining hall chats over my daily pizza slice and salad.

To conclude our year-long celebration of CU Boulder's 150th anniversary, we've highlighted a few memorable — and historic — moments from Buffs across the eras.

Share your memories with us, too!



Christie Henry
Editor

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Letters edited for length and clarity.

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Dear Old CU

My, how the times have changed and are so excitingly different. I am so thrilled to see how the Leeds School of Business continues to think and act out of the box for the betterment of our society. It makes me so proud to say I'm a CU graduate, and I wish I were young and starting all over. I would be back in the same classrooms making good trouble. I am also glad to know that instead of only two women in a class, it is now 50/50, and that CU has continued to support and promote thinkers and doers, like [CMDI's] amazing Sandra Ristovska.

Here's to the next 150 years of CU's contributions to the country, society and the world. Dear Old CU!

Cathy Burnley Hartrich (Mgmt'70)
Medford, Oregon

A Story of Opportunity

"Silver Tsunami" [Summer 2026] is an important and hopeful story about succession, stewardship and preserving the businesses that anchor our communities. That is why the title feels so misaligned.

"Silver Tsunami" may be a familiar shorthand, but a tsunami is a catastrophe — and older business owners are not the disaster. The real risk is our failure to plan for the transfer of their knowledge, ownership and economic value.

The article tells a story of opportunity. I would love to see the language rise to meet it.

Cambria Jacobs (Comm'96)
Lafayette, Colorado

CU's First Startup

Thanks so much to Heather Hanson for recognizing **Merc Mercure** (A&S'51; MPhys'55; PhD'57) in the *Coloradan* as a co-founder in the 1950s of Ball Brothers Research Corp., which soon became Ball Aerospace. Decades before "entrepreneurship" and "ecosystem" were used to describe Boulder's startup community, Merc set high standards for innovation, invention and collaboration.

Clif Harald (DistSt'75)
Boulder

My father, Dr. Leo Goldberg, led the Orbiting Solar Observatory (OSO) team at Harvard during his tenure as Higgins Professor of Astronomy and director of the Harvard College Observatory. His scale model of OSO has been in our family for over 60 years. I first saw CU while in high school when I tagged along with him on a visit to Ball Brothers in the summer of 1968. That's when I decided that I wanted to attend CU.

Ed Goldberg (ArtHist'73)
Tucson, Arizona

Kokushobi

I cannot say how many times I've awakened in the middle of the night with a yucky feeling deep in my stomach followed by overwhelming sorrow for Mother Earth. I lie there thinking of plants and animals who no longer exist and how many more will become extinct as we continue to poison and bulldoze the last wild places — even as the deadly effects of climate change unfold before us.

It's terrifying and sickening, but in his column "What Do We Call This Feeling?"[Summer 2026], Dr. Pedro DiNezi gave me a word for that feeling: kokushobi. It's good to have a word for my fears and to know that enough people feel the same that there's a word for us. Surely that's enough to do something about it.

Robyn Parker (Soc, WomSt'89) Grand Junction, Colorado

In the summer of 1962, I spent several weeks working and skiing at the top of the Stelvio Pass in Italy. Now, snow there disappears completely from May through September.

That fall, I tried out for the CU ski team. We trained some near Idaho Springs at Saint Mary's Glacier, which fully melted this September. From 1965–68, with the Grenoble University Club, we trained each June through October on the back side of the Alpe d'Huez ski resort. That snowfield no longer exists in summer and fall.

Simeon Thomas (Fren'79)
Salida, Colorado

Memories from Fiske

"Fiske You Were Here" in the Summer 2026 issue brought back happy memories. From about 1976–78, I wrote for the student-produced *Colorado Engineer* magazine. Among the articles I wrote were reviews of the "Eye See the Light" and "The Voice of the Martian Wind" shows. I've gone on to publish three novels and six nonfiction books, but these were among my first publications.

Ross Lampert (Phys'77)
Hereford, Arizona

One Phone Call

Page 4 of the summer issue mentions **Steve Hatchel** (Advert'70). Once in high school, I walked off the football field with our opponent's equipment manager. He told me big-time college football teams had up to eight equipment managers. I asked my high school coach about this. A few weeks later, he handed me a piece of paper with a number on it for me to call.

It was Steve Hatchel at CU. He had just been the head football team equipment manager. He said if I had the SAT scores to get in, I had a job on the equipment staff.

Five years later, all through the CU football program, we had traveled to play other teams in all four corners of the U.S. We had been to the Orange Bowl vs. Ohio State and the Astro Bluebonnet Bowl against Texas. We saw Hatchel again as he became the head of the Orange Bowl.

My brother and sister also became CU football managers. Our bricks are right in front of the Ralphie statue.

Douglas Adams (Mktg'78)
Skaneateles, New York

Coloradan

Volume 32, Number 1
Fall 2026

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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Design and Art Direction
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Herd

Proven Innocent

Korey Wise Innocence Project frees man after 27 years in prison.

By **Erin Calkins**

After spending more than 27 years imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, Stephen Martinez was freed in April. New evidence showed that the infant he was convicted of killing died of a pre-existing respiratory illness, not trauma.

The ruling follows years of investigation and advocacy by attorney Jeanne Segil and the Korey Wise Innocence Project at the University of Colorado Law School, with support from Stinson LLP and attorney **Seth Temin** (Psych'82; Law'88).





Colorado Law

In 1988, Martinez was sentenced to life without parole after the 4-month-old he was watching died during a medical emergency. A late-night interrogation produced self-incriminating statements he later recanted — statements an expert has since determined were unreliable and contradicted by physical evidence. New medical findings concluded that the infant's cause of death was not "shaken baby syndrome," but pneumonia and lung disease.

"I was serving life without parole. My appeals had all been denied. I was out of hope," Martinez said. "I can finally return home as an innocent man."

Today, KWIP is reviewing 254 applications from individuals seeking help and continues to receive new requests every day. The project includes law students in every phase of its work, from screening applications to conducting investigations and challenging wrongful convictions in court.

"KWIP has had an immense impact on my life," said **Maya Arriaga Martin** (Law'25), who started volunteering with the organization during her first year in law school. "I went into law school always thinking I wanted to help people, but I really didn't know how to do that ... KWIP gave me an avenue to feel like the work I'm doing matters."

← Stephen Martinez, a client of the Korey Wise Innocence Project, leaves prison in April 2026 after his conviction was overturned. During his incarceration, Martinez suffered from inadequate medical care that resulted in amputation of his leg and loss of vision in his right eye.

Student-Led Civic Impact in the City of Boulder

A $5 million endowment gift from **Heidi Wagner** (Jour'86) is creating a new program that connects CU Boulder students with organizations in the city of Boulder for real-world experience and impact.

In direct partnership with local nonprofits, businesses and government agencies, the Wagner Family Civic Impact Initiative bridges campus and community through hands-on project work. Hosted within CU's Center for Leadership, this initiative gives students the chance to work directly on challenges and opportunities facing the Boulder community, such as sustainability, mental health and workforce development.

The initiative embodies a simple but powerful idea: The challenges facing the city of Boulder don't stop at the edge of campus, and neither should the solutions.

"CU Boulder and the city of Boulder are deeply interconnected, and our successes and challenges are shared," said Chancellor Justin Schwartz. "This initiative is about strengthening that town-gown connection in meaningful ways, giving students the opportunity to contribute to the community that surrounds them while learning what it means to lead with purpose and responsibility."

↗ Read the full story at **cubuffs.org/4xi1Yyy**.

Engineering as a Superpower

Interview by **Christie Sounart**



↑ Saad Bhamla seeks the joy of discovery.

After joining CU Boulder this summer as an associate professor of chemical and biological engineering, Saad Bhamla now runs a research lab in the BioFrontiers Institute. Through his work, he seeks to understand — and sometimes recreate — the intricate workings of biological systems ranging from worm blobs and slingshot spiders to flamingos and sled dogs. He also develops accessible technology to help address global challenges such as hearing loss and disease detection, making him a leader in a movement known as "frugal science."

Interdisciplinary research is the heart of your work. Why is this important? Nature doesn't know chemistry, physics, math or biology. I see these disciplines as different types of lenses, and I think of myself as putting on a different set of lenses when I'm looking at a system. We need all of them to fully understand the complex relationships that most living systems have.

I also have to think this way when we're solving problems through frugal science. Anybody can build a widget, but it's not going to save lives right away. The technology is not enough. You have to think about policy, communication and healthcare workers. Interdisciplinary approaches are the way we make some headway into understanding and actually making a dent in a problem.

What drives your curiosity? I just want to solve puzzles. I like figuring stuff out. There's nothing like the joy of discovery. It happens during the point in a project where I feel like me and another team member — a graduate, PhD student or postdoc — are the only people on the planet, past or present, who know this thing we've just figured out. I would pay a million dollars to feel this feeling, and I want others to experience it as well.

What's the most important thing you've learned from our natural environment? I had the opportunity to go to Madagascar, and within minutes, I saw Darwin's hawk moths and flying jewel beetles. It made me realize that one lifetime is not enough to study this. There are endless life forms out there.

Over the past 10 years of traveling to the Amazon, I've seen the forest and the number of species in it shrink, thanks to things like illegal mining and deforestation. So there's a bit of urgency to study things before they disappear.

How would you best describe frugal science, and why did that draw your interest? I thought I had a vision of what success looked like, but after selling one of my inventions to a Fortune 500 company, I felt hollow and empty. Soon after, I heard about professor Manu Prakash at Stanford, who had built a $1 microscope. I was like, 'This is the kind of stuff I want to learn how to do.' And so during my postdoc, I invented a paper centrifuge, which is a simple string and piece of paper that could do diagnostics for anemia or malaria. What is innovation if it's not accessible to everybody?

What are you most proud of? When I was an undergrad in Madras, I remember buying my first phone. Then I went to Mumbai to visit my grandparents, and I realized my grandmother was losing her hearing. I wanted to buy a hearing aid for her, but they were too expensive. Why could I afford a phone but not a hearing aid? One of the first things I did as a scientist was work with a student to build an effective, commercially competitive $1 hearing aid. To be able to engineer is a superpower. You see a problem, and you solve it.

What else should we know about your your work? I want science and art to intertwine. I have a comic book I made about extraordinary organisms, and I'd love to have murals in our BioFrontiers building. Scientists often think that cool science will translate to the public, but we need to put some effort into sharing the beauty. And why should everything be in English? There are more universal ways to communicate. Science is everyone's treasure.

Photo by **Glenn Asakawa**

Children Play a Role in Disaster Recovery



By **Lori Peek** (PhDSoc'05), CU Boulder sociology professor and director of the Natural Hazards Center

I've spent more than 20 years studying how children recover from extreme events. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, I traveled to Louisiana with social scientist **Alice Fothergill** (PhDSoc'01) to launch a long-term study of children's recovery. One of the first stories we recorded was of a 12-year-old boy, Daniel, who was trapped in New Orleans with his mother and baby sister after the levees failed on that fateful August morning. Daniel's mother couldn't swim, and she started to panic as the murky floodwaters rose rapidly. It was Daniel who came up with a plan: He would use a bed sheet to tie his baby sister to his mother's chest, and then he would guide them to safety. His ingenuity and action likely saved his family.

This story captures two fundamental truths: 1. Children are especially vulnerable in disasters. 2. Children are also creative, capable and compassionate, and they can contribute in countless ways.

My students and I have documented children's actions in the aftermath of other major disasters both in the United States and internationally. Across these events — ranging from oil spills to earthquakes — children and youth have raised money, volunteered and gathered and distributed supplies. Each disaster has demanded something unique of these young people, and each time they've risen to the occasion. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, teens used 3D printers to create personal protective equipment. After the 2011 Christchurch earthquake in New Zealand, teens cleared debris to speed neighborhood recovery.

At CU Boulder's Natural Hazards Center, we provide trainings, funding, publications and other resources that can help ensure that children's needs and their contributions are better understood.

Young people are often much more capable than they are given credit for. With the proper attention and support, they can make a difference as they contribute to their own and others' recovery.

Illustration by **Kara Fellows**

Boulder Climate Ventures

CU Boulder combines engineering, business and entrepreneurship with Boulder Climate Ventures.

By **Sarah Satterwhite**

Marc Manyé Ibáñez (MChemEngr'24; PhD'27) founded AnodeWorks, a burgeoning startup that uses electricity to turn plant waste into eco-friendly plastics and green hydrogen. He credits CU Boulder's Boulder Climate Ventures (BCV) with helping him launch it.

"Boulder Climate Ventures helped me take a step beyond science and start thinking about how a promising technology from the lab could become a real business — who the customers are, what problem we're solving and what it would take to scale," said Manyé Ibáñez.

In 2025, the Leeds School of Business started BCV to bring together engineering, business and entrepreneurship to help transform clean technology innovations into meaningful impact.

"As a PhD student," said Manyé Ibáñez, "having that bridge between research and entrepreneurship at CU has been incredibly valuable."

BCV engages students through a speaker series with clean technology experts. The students also work through an entrepreneurial tool kit and gain skills to build their networks and pitch their ideas.

"Colorado has an exceptional clean tech scene, and CU has the research and entrepreneurship capabilities to accelerate this ecosystem in ways that can have a profound impact," said program manager Katherine Ratledge.

Led by Leeds School of Business' Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility, Deming Center for Entrepreneurship and the College of Engineering and Applied Science, BCV gained founding support in 2025 from Breakthrough Energy, Bill Gates' global climate initiative. **Ashley Grosh** (Econ'03), the initiative's former vice president, said it was the entrepreneurial strength of the university that inspired the funding: "CU Boulder has built an extraordinary pipeline of entrepreneurial talent."



Courtesy Boulder Climate Ventures

↓ BCV Students tour Boulder startup Alta Resource Technologies.



University of Colorado Boulder

Boulder Beat

Boulder's Beacon

By **Courtney Warford**

Each November, a shining bright light emerges on Flagstaff Mountain, signaling the start of the holiday season in Boulder. Visible from campus, downtown and across Boulder Valley, the Boulder Star is a landmark that has reflected Boulder's personality, history and a sense of community for decades.

The Star first appeared in December 1947 as a gift from Boulder's business community, symbolizing joy and hope during the winter months. Over the decades, the Star's lights have taken many forms: a peace sign during the Vietnam War, the first letter of a football rival and a glowing "No. 1" after CU's 1990 national football championship, among others.

The Star also has carried meaning beyond celebration. In 1979, it remained illuminated for 444 days as a symbol of hope during the Iranian hostage crisis, and it has shone outside its season during other times of hardship. Its light offered comfort during the COVID-19 pandemic, honored the 10 lives lost in the 2021 Table Mesa King Soopers shooting, supported the community following the Marshall Fire later that year and, most recently, expressed solidarity after the June 2025 antisemitic attack on Pearl Street.

This year, on Nov. 11, the Boulder Chamber and City of Boulder will steward the Star and light the cherished beacon to both ring in the holiday season and honor our active-duty service members and veterans.

For CU alumni, the Boulder Star may recall evenings on campus or the view welcoming them back to town following Thanksgiving break. For the city of Boulder, it represents a tradition shared across generations. Whether shining in celebration, remembrance or resilience, the Boulder Star brings hope and belonging to all who look toward Flagstaff Mountain.

Herd

Remote Workers Are Happy Workers

A CU Boulder study of 7,704 employees at a large healthcare organization found that fully remote workers reported the highest levels of well-being, while employees who worked entirely on site reported the lowest. Hybrid workers fell in between. Stefanie Johnson, professor of organizational leadership and information analytics at the Leeds School of Business and co-author of the study said: "We found very little evidence that remote employees felt less connected."

New Keys to Patient Stroke Recovery

On any one day, around 21,000 people globally have a stroke. New CU Boulder research reveals why nearly half never fully recover neurologically: The scientists found that, even after a stroke-causing clot is removed in some patients, post-procedure blood flow changes can cause a key blood-coagulating protein to form, damaging secondary micro-clots. New therapies that target this protein could improve patient outcomes.

Book Success, More than 40 Years Later

A children's book co-written by Douglas Burger, Elissa Guralnick and **Paul Levitt** (Phil'57; MA'60) — all professors emeritus of the CU Boulder English department — became an overnight bestseller on Amazon after it was featured in a viral TikTok video this May. *The Weighty Word Book*, originally written in 1985 when the three authors were CU colleagues, uses playful illustrations and short stories to help children learn new words.

"The number of sales today makes me believe in magic," Levitt said in a Denver7 interview this summer.

Burger died in 2024, but Guralnick, who also served on the College of Music faculty, and Levitt see each other weekly.

Campus Talk

"It never gets old. It never gets tiring. There is always a fresh and exciting way to produce these plays if you work hard and think hard about it."

— **Tim Orr**, producing artistic director for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, said to the *Denver Gazette* in September. This summer, 28,645 people attended the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, the second-highest total since 2001. The festival featured performances in the newly renovated Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre.

Digits

Buff Pantry

CU Boulder's food pantry, located in the Center for Community, is part of the Basic Needs Center (BNC) and serves undergraduate and graduate students facing food insecurity.

$0

→ cost to students for a weekly pantry order, in person or online.

25%

→ of CU Boulder students surveyed in 2024 experienced food insecurity.

197k

→ pounds of food distributed last academic year.

828k

→ saved in grocery store costs for students using the pantry.

1,912

→ students served through the BNC last academic year.



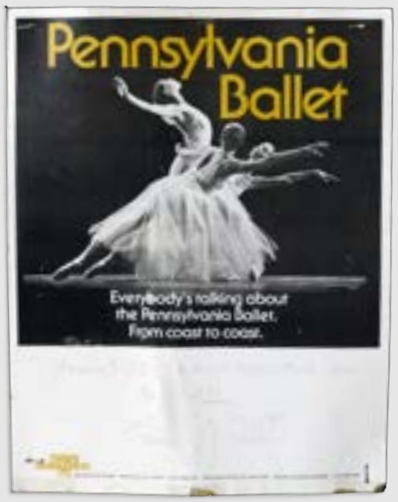
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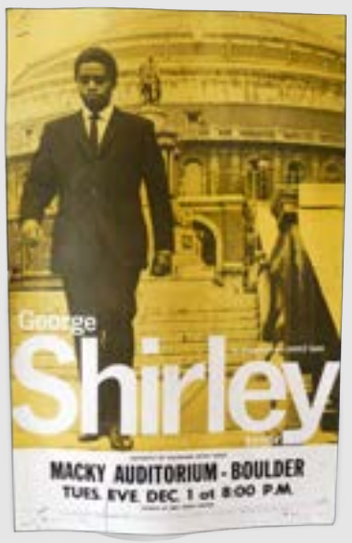














Look

The Posters That Lived Backstage

Decades ago, concert posters began to appear on Macky Auditorium's backstage walls after performances.

Randomly stapled on old plaster walls and showing signs of age, the 100-plus posters served as an improvised hall of fame that performers and speakers walked along before appearing in the limelight.

"Generations of legendary musicians, dancers and groundbreaking speakers were inspired by them as they prepared to step onto the Macky stage for the first time," said Rudy Betancourt, director of the auditorium and its Artist Series.

This September, Betancourt oversaw their removal as backstage spaces underwent a paint job and sound system overhaul in advance of January's Sundance Film Festival. The posters will be preserved, scanned and placed backstage again next summer, he said.

The grittiness of the original display may disappear, but the memories and the inspiration will remain.

1 They Might Be Giants, Nov. 29, 1994

2 Jane Goodall, April 7, 1988

3 The Spurrlows, Oct. 28, 1969

4 Columbine High School Wind Symphony, April 23, 2000

5 Pennsylvania Ballet, April 10, 1975

6 Denver Symphony Orchestra, Oct. 25, 1976

7 George Shirley, Dec. 1, 1970

8 Marilyn Horne, April 27, 1972

Colorado Moose: A Hidden History

In 2024, associate anthropology professor William Taylor, also archaeology curator for the CU Natural History Museum, became interested in the regional archeological record of moose in Colorado, thanks to public discussions about moose management. The question at hand: Should moose be considered invasive in Rocky Mountain National Park?

Taylor sought more proof that moose arrived in the state far earlier than when wildlife officials introduced them in the late 1970s. He assembled a team that spanned the mid- and southern United States to study digitized newspapers, manuscripts, photo archives and Indigenous histories. They found evidence of a long-standing moose presence in Colorado in multiple areas.

"Studying the history and prehistory of moose tells us that they've been in Colorado for a long time, and they deserve a spot in the ecosystems of the future," he said.

Evidence

Archaeology
Moose bones found in Colorado date back thousands of years.

Historic records
Newspapers and early accounts from the past 160 years document moose before they were reintroduced to the state in the 1970s.

Indigenous knowledge
Tribal oral histories and cultural traditions describe long-standing relationships with moose.

Museum collections
Specimens have been preserved for decades.

Moose in Arapaho

Arapaho objects, symbols and designs linked to moose.

Images modified from Kroeber (1983). Illustrations by Journey LeBeau.



Moose Hide Drum

Track designs



Leg/hoof designs



Ear design



Animal (moose/wolf/elk) design



Colorado Moose Timeline

Early Holocene Epoch
Archaeological evidence dating back millennia.

Indigenous History
Oral histories, stories and songs depicting southern Rocky Mountain populations.

1800s
Dozens of documented observations.

1978
Reintroduction to the state by wildlife officials.

2026
CU Boulder-led study reframing its narrative.

2026 Study Contributors: Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, History Colorado, New Mexico State University, Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Office, University of Alabama, University of Cincinnati, University of New Mexico, University of Utah

↓ Antlers
Males can have antlers that span up to six feet across.



Alces alces

↑ Herbivores
Moose eat plants such as willow, aspen and aquatic vegetation.

→ On the Move
Moose can run more than 35 miles per hour. They're also excellent swimmers.

↑ Megafauna
Weighing more than 1,000 pounds and standing about six feet tall, moose are the largest member of the deer family.

→ Protection
Moose use their antlers and hooves as defense from predators.

Source: National Wildlife Federation

Rundown

New President of Basketball Strategy

Former CU star joins men's basketball staff and makes major donation.

By **Andrew Daigle**

NBA champion and Olympic gold medalist **Derrick White** (Mgmt'17) became CU Boulder's first president of basketball strategy for men's basketball on June 24. White also announced a $2 million donation to the program.

"Colorado has always been home to me, and I'm so thrilled to be able to give back to a program that has been so instrumental in making me the person I am today," said White, who grew up in Parker, Colorado.

White's position includes mentoring future Buffs and assisting with name, image and likeness (NIL), revenue sharing and roster construction. He also serves as an ambassador for donor relations and a strategic advisor to the athletics department.

Pairing his major donation with program operations enables White to have a hands-on role in the evolution of Colorado men's basketball.

"Derrick was very clear from the beginning that the investment he cared the most about was his time," said Fernando Lovo, director of athletics. "He wants to be present. He wants to be part of building something lasting here."

White joins a growing number of NBA stars returning to serve their collegiate programs. White's Boston Celtics teammate Jayson Tatum is Duke's chief basketball officer, and Trae Young (Oklahoma) and Steph Curry (Davidson) are assistant general managers.



CU Athletics

Buff Bits

Olympic runner **Jenny Simpson** (Econ, PolSci'09) announced in August she will never run again after collapsing at a June event in Raleigh, North Carolina. Simpson suffered cardiac arrest and spent days on life support before recovering. ... CU Athletics introduced Ralphie's Road, a new gameday tailgate tradition outside Folsom Field on Colorado Avenue that includes a DJ, a big screen showing live games, food and drink vendors and a Ralphie appearance. ... Men's golf's **Brandon Knight** (Fin'27) reached the quarterfinals of August's U.S. Amateur, and was the first Buff to make it past the third round. ... Former women's basketball star **Isabelle Fijalkowski** (A&S ex'95) was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in June. Fijalkowski led Colorado to a No. 1 NCAA seed and the Elite Eight in the 1994–95 season. ... Soccer All-American **Hope Leyba** (IntPhys'27) was named Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week following her third career hat trick in a 6-0 win over the University of Denver in September. ... Ann Elliott Whidden, CU's first women's lacrosse head coach, had her contract extended through 2029.

Coach Talk

"There's not a match this season that we're not going to be in a position to win."

— Volleyball head coach Jesse Mahoney after the No. 23 Buffs defeated No. 16 USC in September in Los Angeles.

Scores

0

touchdowns scored by Georgia Tech's offense in Colorado's season-opening 14-13 win over the Yellow Jackets.

1st

Colorado's first women's athletic director, **Jane Wahl** (EdD'81), who led the merger of women's and men's sports after Title IX, died Aug. 26.

3.275

combined GPA for 309 student-athletes in spring 2026, CU Athletic's highest spring semester GPA.

5

career-high aces by **Ines Losada** (Psych'29) to lead volleyball over Northern Colorado and win the Buffs Invitational in September.

$37.7 million

gifts and commitments received by the Buff Club in 2025–26, the most in a fundraising year.



← Nearly one year in as director of athletics, Fernando Lovo has students top of mind.

Rundown

A Call to Serve

In December 2025, Fernando Lovo was named the seventh director of athletics for CU. Lovo, who is from New Orleans and most recently was the University of New Mexico's athletic director, discusses organizational trust, Colorado's iconic brand and celebrating others' successes.

Interview by **Andrew Daigle**

What drew you to the intersection of higher education and athletics? I started working in athletics at the University of Florida as a football equipment manager. There, I realized the impact sports had and how competing together prepared student-athletes for life after sports. Serving student-athletes isn't a job, it's a calling.

What is most important to a successful collegiate athletics program? The bedrock is trust. I define trust as three Cs: character, competency and connection. Character is consistently doing what you say you're going to do. Competency is ensuring people you work with or coach feel like you're truly invested in their betterment. Connection is the adage that 'people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.'

Who has shaped your leadership philosophy? Coach Urban Meyer — whom I spent almost 10 years with at Ohio State, Florida and in the NFL — and Chris Del Conte, athletic director at the University of Texas. They had different leadership styles, but both taught me about leading with authenticity and integrity and having humility. As athletic director, one of my biggest jobs is to publicly celebrate others' successes. And if something goes wrong, I'm first to step in and say, 'That's on me. We'll be better.'

How did you know this role was right for you? Colorado is one of the most iconic brands in college athletics. Our football program has two Heisman Trophy winners and a national championship. We've produced over 120 Olympians. The university has great academic prowess and passionate alumni and fans. Boulder is beautiful, innovative and full of problem solvers.

What has impressed you about CU's athletic community? Everyone I meet has so much passion and investment in this institution. We have over 380,000 living alums, and we had 120,000 applicants this year. This is a destination academically and athletically.

What has been the greatest challenge for you so far? When you're serving a department of 300-plus student-athletes and 200-plus staff members, it's a challenge to make sure you're giving your attention where it needs it the most. I've been on a look, learn and listen journey.

NIL and the transfer portal have transformed college athletics. How do you support program continuity in an era of perpetual free agency? We're in a player empowerment phase of college athletics. Our student-athletes are the lifeblood of our department, and they should have every opportunity to better themselves. Continuity, though, is different. Having a student-athlete stay in the same program for four years isn't as common today. You have to recruit, and now you have to retain. A lot of retention comes with NIL and resources, especially for our revenue-generating sports. But we also need to have the best support systems in place for all of our student-athletes.

What are specific CU Athletics directives you have initiated? We're focused on increasing scholarships for our Olympic and women's sports. We also need to capture students' hearts while they're here. We started Charged Up, a loyalty program that gives our students an opportunity to earn rewards and encourages them to come support all of our sports. When they experience a soccer or volleyball match or a lacrosse game, they leave feeling excited and connected to this great institution.

How do you ensure that student-athletes remain students first? [Former athletic director] Rick George laid a great foundation for making sure we always keep the word 'student' before 'athlete.' This past spring, we had our highest ever department-wide GPA. Our North Star is to graduate our student-athletes. It's our responsibility to prepare these young adults to earn their degree and then face life head-on.

Photo by **Glenn Asakawa**



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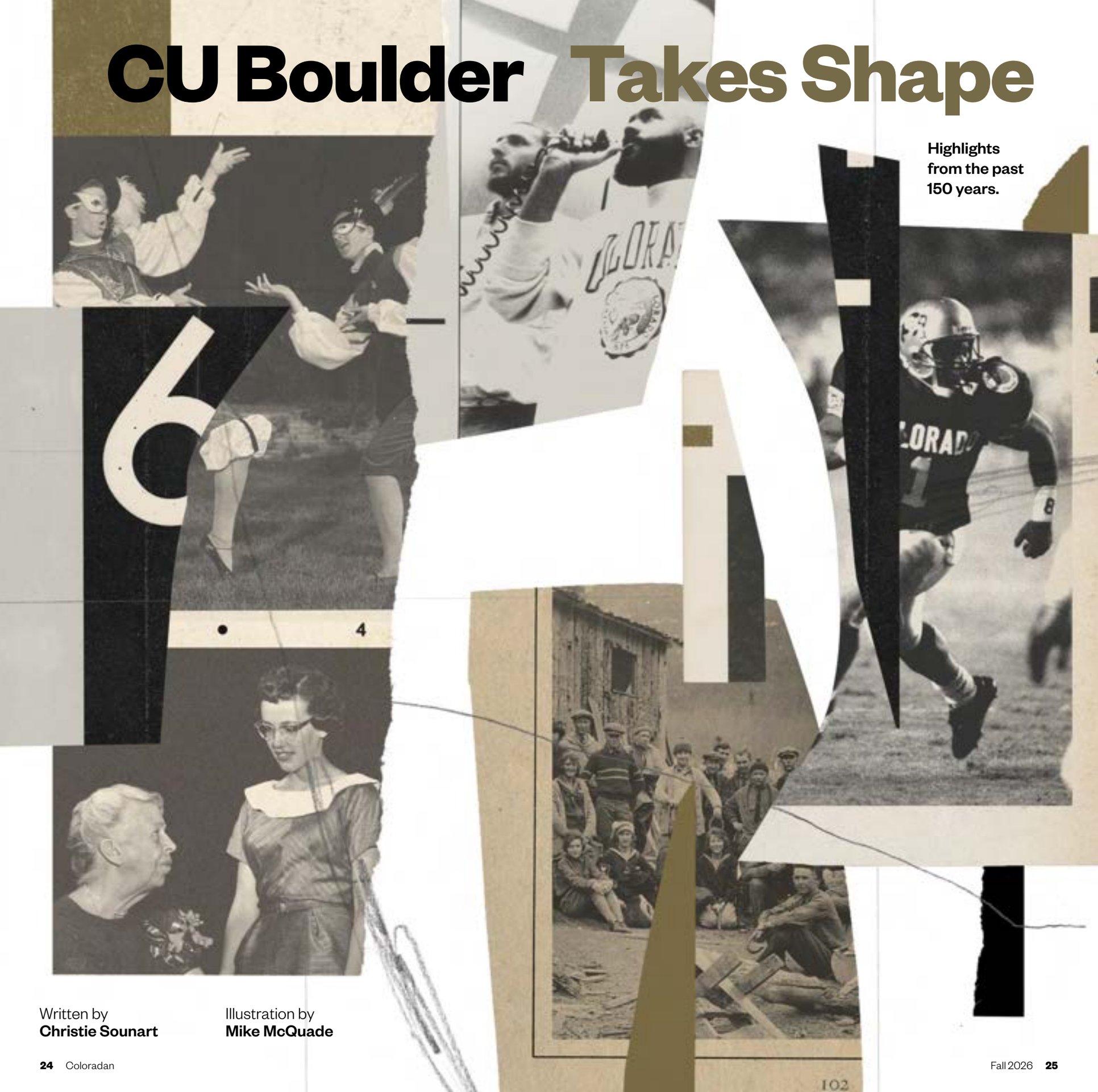
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UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



CU Boulder Takes Shape

Highlights from the past 150 years.



Written by
Christie Sounart

Illustration by
Mike McQuade

The wind was brutal. The land was barren. Money was tight.

In 1876, President Joseph A. Sewall planted the seeds of a fledgling college that eventually would blossom into Colorado's flagship university. Progress was challenging and variable, yet steady.

By 1882, Sewall had awarded a handful of students the first CU degrees; hired Mary Rippon, CU's first female faculty member; and ordered more than 40 cottonwood trees to be planted on campus, one of which lived for 142 years.

So began 150 years of the people, events and decisions that have shaped CU Boulder's history. Its chapters since are copious and intricate.

Here are a few key moments from this rich story.



1890

The University of Colorado played its first intercollegiate athletic event, defeating the Colorado School of Mines in baseball 5-4 in Boulder.



1907

Andrew Macky, pictured far left, one of Boulder's most prominent early leaders, bequeathed $300,000 in his will to build a university auditorium. Macky Auditorium was completed in 1922.



1917

As CU mobilized for the World War I effort, female students established a university Red Cross branch, which was operated out of Macky Auditorium. Among other duties, they sewed 55,000 surgical dressings for evacuation and base hospitals.



1919

The U of C Hiking Club, founded by 23 women and 12 men, embarked on their first hike to Chautauqua's Royal Arch. The club now is CU's longest-running student organization.



1924

After studying for three semesters at CU Boulder and performing with the student group known as Holly Moyer's Jazz Band, **Glenn Miller** (A&S ex'26, HonDocHum'84) dropped out to pursue his professional music career.



1925

When Colorado Gov. Clarence Morley demanded that George Norlin, pictured right, dismiss CU's Jewish and Catholic faculty, Norlin immediately refused. Later that year, the Klan-influenced state legislature cut the university's funding.

1948

Sociology professor Howard Higman started the Conference on World Affairs to discuss international issues on campus. The tradition continues today. Eleanor Roosevelt, pictured here, spoke in 1955.





1949

Somer's Sunken Garden on University Hill was renamed The Sink. With a 3.2 beer license, it became a popular late-night gathering spot for students.



Boulder's **Scott Carpenter** (Aero'49, HonDocSci'00) left CU one course shy of his degree. As one of NASA's original Mercury 7 astronauts, he became the university's first astronaut and the fourth American to fly in space.

1958

The Colorado Shakespeare Festival debuted its first official play, *Hamlet*. The season also included productions of *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Julius Caesar*.





1966

After training a young female buffalo together at an east Boulder ranch, pictured above, **Bill Lowery** (Bus ex'69), **Don Marturano** (Econ'69), **Victor Reinking** (A&S'69) and **John McGill** (Engl'69) ran CU's first Ralphie mascot across Folsom Field before the CU football team played Kansas State.



1970

Professor Richard Jessor wrote the campus's first diversity plan for the Boulder Faculty Assembly, drawing attention to the relative absence of minority students at CU and providing a formal rationale for the university to take corrective action on the matter.



1974

The United Mexican Student Association led an occupation of CU Boulder's Temporary Building #1 to demand increased funding and expansion for educational opportunity programs.



1976

Students started the campus's first recycling program as part of the CU Environmental Center, which was founded six years prior.



1980

After becoming the first CU women's basketball team to earn a national ranking, the Buffs scored the most points to date by a Colorado women's program with a 134-33 win over Fort Carson.

1981

The Rolling Stones performed a 25-song set for their final Folsom Field appearance, with roughly 58,000 fans in attendance.





1989

Tom Cech received CU Boulder's first Nobel Prize for his discovery that RNA can function as an enzyme to help drive chemical reactions.

1991

CU football won its first National Championship after beating Notre Dame 10-9 in the Orange Bowl.





1994

After a student rally, mass protests and a six-day hunger strike, university president Judith Albino signed the "Declaration of Diversity," committing CU to creating an Ethnic Studies program and department, which launched in 1996.



2007

CU professor Marvin Caruthers gave a record $20 million to help launch a new interdisciplinary biotechnology center that brought scientists and engineers together. The resulting Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building became home to the BioFrontiers Institute.





2013

Historic flooding closed CU Boulder for two days. More than 17 inches of rain fell on Boulder County over the course of a week, and nearly 25% of campus buildings sustained water damage.

2015

After CU student **Andy Duann**'s (EIEngr'12) photo of a bear falling midair from a campus tree went viral in 2012, CU photographer **Glenn Asakawa** (Jour'86) photographed a similar situation. This time, the tranquilized bear appeared to wave as it safely fell to the waiting mats below.



2019

CU Boulder launched the Renée Crown Wellness Institute, which is dedicated to helping young people build skills and gain resources in supporting their mental, physical and social well-being.

2021

CU Boulder established the Center for African and African American Studies (the CAAAS), which researches, teaches and supports learning focused on the history, cultures and experiences of people of African descent.



Jenna Whiteplume (A&S ex'25) became the first CU student to benefit from the Colorado American Indian Tribes In-State Tuition Act, which grants in-state tuition to members of federally recognized tribes with historical ties to the state.



1890, 1919, 1925: Heritage Center/University of Colorado Boulder; 1907: Courtesy University of Colorado Boulder Libraries/University of Colorado Museum Photograph Collection; 1917: Courtesy *Colorado Alumnus*/CU Heritage Center; 1924: Courtesy Glenn Miller collections; 1948: Courtesy CWA; 1949: Courtesy The Sink, NASA; 1958: Courtesy CU Shakespeare Festival; 1966: *Coloradan* archives; 1970: Courtesy Richard Jessor; 1974: Latino History Project; 1976: CU Environmental Center; 1980, 1991: Courtesy CU Athletics; 1981: Michael Goldman; 1989: Courtesy Tom Cech; 1994: 1994 *Coloradan* yearbook; 2007, 2015, 2019: Glenn Asakawa; 2013, 2021: Patrick Campbell; 2021: Casey A. Cass



The Sundance Film Festival Is Coming to Town

By Julie Poppen

Illustrated by Alex Eben Meyer

In January, the Sundance Film Festival makes its Boulder debut. Here's what to expect...

Let's set the scene: On a brisk January day, CU Boulder's campus is buzzing with excitement. Locals, students and tourists alike line up toe-to-toe with filmmakers and producers to catch the next indie screening, chatting about the snow-covered Flatirons views and industry gossip as they file into the theater and take their seats. Then the magic happens: The lights dim, voices hush and the regular world slips away.





A Campus Glow-Up

Although this is the Festival's first year in Boulder — it has taken place in Park City, Utah, since 1981 — its local roots run deep. The iconic annual independent film showcase was the brainchild of the late actor and director **Robert Redford** (A&S ex'58, HonDoc Hum'87), who is also memorialized at The Sink on University Hill, where he worked as a janitor during his time at CU Boulder.

Now, the origin story comes full circle. Starting on Jan. 21, 2027, roughly 85,000 festivalgoers are set to descend on the CU Boulder campus, navigating Macky Auditorium, the Roe Green Theatre, Muenzinger Auditorium and the Old Main Chapel theater. For 10 days, from sunup till the wee hours, attendees will walk, scooter, bus and catch rides to the university and beyond to watch films by up-and-comers, get a sneak peak at a celebrity or two or make their own industry connections.

"The arts have always been part of CU Boulder's DNA, from the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and Grammy-winning musicians to the museums and performances that fill our campus year-round," Chancellor Justin Schwartz said. "With the Sundance Film Festival, we're welcoming our next act — bringing one of the world's most influential celebrations of independent film to Boulder, which creates new opportunities for our students, our campus and the broader community to learn, explore and imagine together."

And for the first time, film enthusiasts will experience world premiere screenings on campus with astoundingly high-quality, immersive sound and visual detail in three campus film venues, thanks to cutting-edge updates.

Take Macky Auditorium: The campus's magnificent Gothic centerpiece has been outfitted with a Dolby Live sound system for immersive, large-format cinema sound.

Kelly Sears, associate professor in the university's Department of Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts and director of The Brakhage Center for Media Arts, said CU Boulder is a perfect partner for the storied Festival.

"There are some incredible venues on the CU campus," said Sears, whose own films screened at the Festival five times between 2009 and 2024. "I'm especially excited to see a screening in Macky Auditorium. Imagine 2,000 moviegoers watching a film there together."

In addition, Sears said she believes the walkability on campus (and in Boulder in general) will make the 2027 Sundance Film Festival easier to navigate.

Plus, CU has decades of experience staging major events, from football games under Coach Prime to rock concerts at Folsom Field to visits by dignitaries and sitting U.S. presidents.

Students Get First Festival Cut

When it comes to students, the Sundance Institute and CU Boulder have set forth a bold, collaborative vision.

As the Festival's official university partner, a designation announced in August, CU Boulder is offering an array of exclusive opportunities to students, including discounted film tickets; panels featuring directors and film industry pros open only to students; an internship program; 40 academic engagement opportunities, including potential first-year courses and capstone projects; and guaranteed slots in the coveted Sundance Film Festival volunteer program.

To maximize the effectiveness of student engagement, a student advisory board is currently guiding the Festival on how best to engage students through panels and other types of programming. Some students have also had the opportunity to engage with Festival programmers who select the films to be shown out of thousands submitted each year — the same process that has brought acclaimed films such as *Reservoir Dogs* (1992), *Memento* (2000), *Little Miss Sun-*

Festival Pro Tips

Take a chance on a film you may never have another chance to see.

Take in the electric experience of a world premiere as it unfolds.

Catch a film after the opening weekend when the crowds thin out.

— **Kelly Sears**, associate professor in the Department of Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts and director of the Brakhage Center

shine (2006), *Whiplash* (2014) and *Get Out* (2017) to Festival audiences.

Student advisory board members also will serve as campus ambassadors to help their peers navigate the whirlwind as it unfolds in January.

Kate Yezzi (Engl, FilmSt'28), a 20-year-old junior with aspirations to work as a screenwriter or director, is one of the 39 student board members. For as long as she can remember, she's been fascinated by the power of film and enamored by the visual connection between screen and viewer.

"I've always had a camera in my hand, trying to recreate that same magic ever since," said Yezzi, a student ambassador for Give Us The F-ing Camera (GUT-C), a popular CU Boulder student group. "I have not attended the Sundance Film Festival before, yet I'm incredibly excited for the chance to attend this year and get involved through volunteering opportunities."

Like the mission of GUT-C — lifting up underrepresented filmmakers' voices — the Sundance Film Festival also aims to elevate independent filmmakers and showcase new and diverse points of view.

Erin Espelie, chair of the department of Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts, shares the goal of promoting independent voices in film and sees the Festival's arrival on campus as a huge opportunity.

Espelie is working with Hope Saska, CU Boulder Art Museum director, **Maya Livio** (PhDIntMedArt'21), an assistant professor at American University in Washington D.C., and Shari Frilot, Sundance Film Festival programmer, on a moving-image arts exhibit that will run concurrently with the Festival.

"With this exhibit — 'The Longest Traveling Shot in the History of the World' — we're looking to create a place for students, faculty and others in the community to engage with the history of the Sundance Film Festival and its ongoing mission to support artists who are working in the margins and outside of the industry, rather than seeking commercial distribution," Espelie said.

Sustainability in the Spotlight

The partnership between the Sundance Festival and CU Boulder also taps into the campus's world-class research enterprise with its focus on sustainability.

CU's Masters of the Environment students are working with the Sundance Institute to develop a framework that measures greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Festival, and advances sustainable event practices globally.

Amy Dunbar-Wallis (PhDEBio'25), program manager for sustainability initiatives in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Sustainability, explained that the students are focused on engagement, transportation, waste and facilities. In the first year, one focus area will be the study of waste streams to calculate the waste diversion rate.

"Folks in Boulder are already familiar with reusables, like bring-your-own bags or bottles, and single-use reduction, like CU's elimination of single-use plastics in vending machines or no plastic bags from grocery stores," said Dunbar-Wallis. "We hope that festivalgoers will want to adopt these practices in their cities, not just while in Boulder."

The team — made up of four graduate students and one faculty advisor — is supported by a CU sustainability working group, which includes staff experts in zero waste, transportation, operations, buildings, education and communications.

"I was ecstatic to be selected as a member of this graduate student team," said **Kaila Hood** (MEnv'27), who has worked on federal climate policy but is shifting her focus to urban resilience, adaptation and mitigation at the state and local levels. "This project is an amazing opportunity."

CU Boulder is prioritizing sustainability efforts that can span the globe. Large-scale events like this help bring them to the masses.

"Our partnership with Sundance shows how sustainability can be woven directly into a major collaboration — and how that, in turn, helps us extend sustainability understanding and action directly into the student experience and the broader community," said Andrew Mayock, CU Boulder's vice chancellor for sustainability.

Building on a Rich Film History

While the arrival of the Sundance Film Festival is the current talk of the town, CU Boulder has a well-documented and colorful history in film.

Take the late Stan Brakhage, one of the most important figures in 20th-century experimental film and a distinguished professor at CU Boulder until 2002, or CU's International Film Series, which has been screening arthouse films on campus since the 1940s.

Nick Houy (FilmSt'04), a New York-based film editor known for his work on *Lady Bird* (2017), *Little Women* (2019) and *Barbie* (2023), explained it was a rite of passage for generations of CU students to watch Brakhage's 1963 film *Mothlight*.

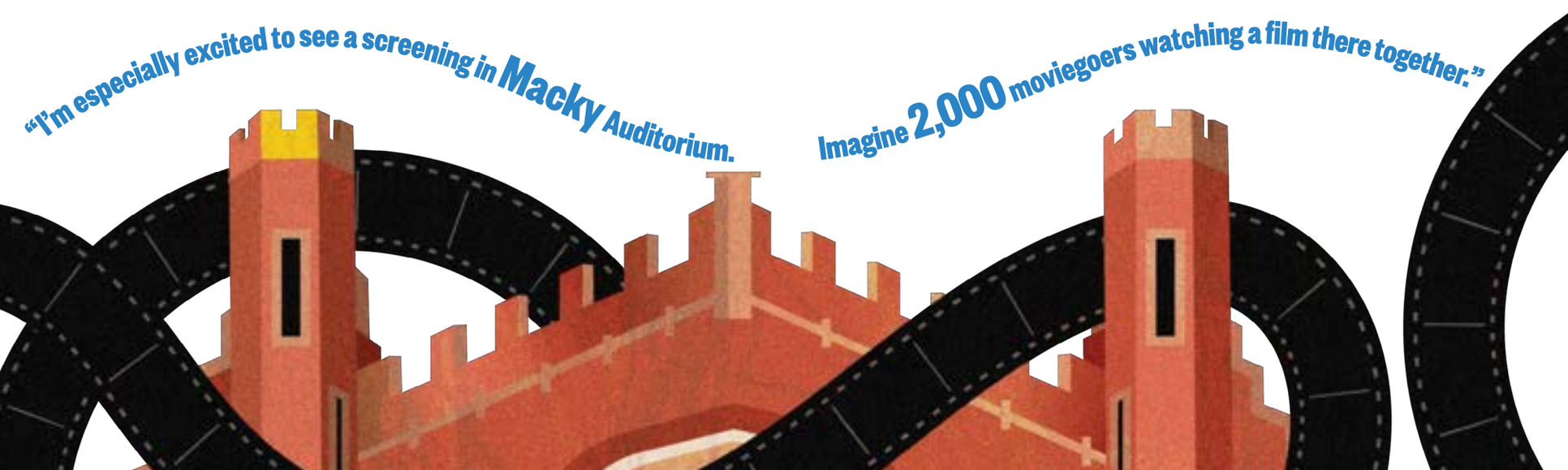
Created without a camera, Brackhage made the roughly four-minute silent film by pressing moth wings, flower petals and blades of grass between two strips of 16mm splicing tape. The film strips were then contact-printed to allow for cinematic projection. Brakhage reportedly got the idea for the film by watching moths fly into candle flames, apparently connecting the moth's frantic act of self-destruction to his life as an artist.

"*Mothlight* blew my mind. You really have to see it projected, as it's meant to be seen," said Houy. "I'd say I felt as if I were sinking into it, completely lost and mesmerized in a way I had never felt before."

Houy also has attended the Sundance Festival and worked for the International Film Series as a student.

"I remember Spike Lee and Godfrey Reggio visiting to talk, and of course Roger Ebert every year at his 'Cinema Interruptus' during the Conference on World Affairs," Houy said. "I think CU Boulder has always had a rich connection with cinema of all kinds. I was not surprised to hear Boulder would be hosting Sundance."

By February, as the crowds disperse and campus returns to normal, the film legacy at CU Boulder will continue to grow into something even bigger. 2028 awaits.





The Rise of the "Patient Influencer"

Four in 10 adults, and even more young adults, now get health advice from social media influencers. Is that healthy, or hazardous? Erin Willis wants to find out.

By Lisa Marshall
Illustrated by Holly Stapleton

WHEN MILA CLARKE picked up her first prescription for Ozempic six years ago, she had no intention to take it in front of an audience. But as she scoured the internet seeking guidance on how to inject the then-novel diabetes drug, she found nothing.

"It was crazy to me that nobody was talking about how it felt or what their progress looked like," recalled Clarke, who has a form of diabetes called latent autoimmune diabetes.

So Clarke — who was working in nonprofit communications at the time — turned her camera on herself in her Houston kitchen, lifted her gray hoodie and slipped a bright blue injection pen into her belly. Almost overnight, her three-minute YouTube video had 1 million views. Two months later, her "before and after" account of weight loss (and side effects) on the drug drew another 1.2 million views and thousands of comments.

Today, Clarke, known online as @TheHangryWoman, makes her living sharing diabetes information via YouTube, Instagram and other social media platforms, where followers flock to hear from empathetic fellow patients — and health brands are willing to pay a hefty sum for a shoutout.

"When I made those first few videos, I would have never thought that this is what I would be doing now," said Clarke, now 36. "It has been a life shifter."

According to CU Boulder advertising professor Erin Willis, Clarke is a "patient influencer." Willis coined the term in 2022 to highlight the emerging trend of patients taking to social media to share intimate details about their conditions and the brands seeking them out to form partnerships.



Since then, the patient influencer sphere has exploded, encompassing everyone from 20-somethings touting drugs for hair loss on TikTok to stay-at-home moms posting about how they cope with menopause on Facebook.

One survey by the Pew Research Center found that 4 in 10 adults now get their health information from influencers. Among millennial and Gen Z social media users, about 83% follow or engage with health influencers.

As one of the few scholars studying the burgeoning subculture, Willis has interviewed dozens, including @TheHangryWoman. She's also analyzed countless posts and comments and talked to brand executives and doctors.

"Peer-to-peer sharing of lived experiences is awesome and can be very valuable for patients," said Willis. "But patient advice is now broadly taken as medical advice. There is a lot of misinformation out there, and there is very little regulatory oversight. It's concerning."

Why Patients Become Influencers

There is a difference between general health influencers, who post broadly about health and wellness, and patient influencers, stressed Willis.

"What makes a patient influencer unique is their audience," she said, noting that their following tends to be smaller, made up primarily of patients who share their disease or condition and are more loyal.

Most patient influencers find their way to the practice with altruistic intent, her research found. Conventional medicine — with its often rushed appointments and textbook answers — failed them, and they believe their discoveries can help save others time and frustration. Others aim to help destigmatize their condition or offer hyper-specific advice to patients who look like them.

"I spent a lot of time looking for diabetes information that related to me — an African American woman from the South," reported one patient influencer. "I didn't see what I needed, so I created it."

"There's still not a lot of talk about Latinos and HIV," said another.

Willis was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis as a child, long before the advent of social media. She often wonders how her own experience, growing up with the pain and isolation of living with a chronic illness, might have been different in the age of patient influencers.

"Honestly, I would have loved to have had these resources," she said. "They can help people feel less alone."

But she also sees a dark side.

In recent years, drug, supplement and device companies have discovered an appealing marketing opportunity in influencers' captive audience, bonded by shared hardship. Companies now exist expressly to connect influencers with brands. Influencers have slick rate sheets, fetching thousands per sponsored post and even more through clicks driving followers to partner websites. Others get paid to be "brand ambassadors" or trade mentions for free products.

Meanwhile, only about half of consumers realize when the health content they are engaging with is sponsored, surveys show.

Plus, most health influencers lack medical training: Just 41% describe themselves as health professionals, and only 17% are trained in conventional medicine.

"We cannot ignore the fact that patient influencers are also being used for pharmaceutical promotion, and there are risks involved with that," said Willis.

Global Concerns

When Willis first launched her research, she found comfort in the fact that people typically had to consult with their doctor first if they wanted a prescription for a drug. But things have changed.

Now influencers often point followers to telehealth companies, where they can briefly see a remote clinician and have a prescription swiftly shipped to their door. There's also the dark web, where illegal supplements and substances abound.

Even if the patient influencer acts responsibly, the comment section can take on a life of its own, Willis found, with users trading strategies on how to obtain substances, use drugs off-label or tinker with dosage. The threat to young people is of particular concern.

"Young people are trying to become independent from their parents and looking for new role models," said Raffael Heiss, a communications researcher at the Management Center Innsbruck in Austria. "Sometimes they find that in influencers and build these strong parasocial ties with them."

In one study of Austrian youth aged 15 to 25, Heiss found that 31% had purchased dietary supplements, 13% had purchased medications and 11% had purchased medical self-tests based on advice from an influencer.

Notably, direct-to-consumer advertising of pharmaceuticals — which encompasses paid influencer endorsements — is technically only legal in the U.S. and New Zealand. Most patient influencers are based here, yet people of all ages see their posts globally. This has prompted concerns that the trend will drive up pharmaceutical use around the world, even among those who may not need those drugs.

"Health influencers often present content beyond their clinical expertise, exaggerate benefits and frequently omit alternative treatment options," warned Willis, Heiss and an international team of co-authors in a spring 2026 paper in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. "These findings highlight the urgent need for updated regulatory guidance, standardized and enforceable disclosure requirements, stronger platform accountability and targeted digital literacy initiatives."

Looking Toward Solutions

While U.S. influencers are already required to disclose if their posts are sponsored, those policies are difficult to enforce. Content creators often put those disclosures in places where consumers don't see them, said Willis.

For now, some other countries have begun to make their own laws.

In Italy, high-reach influencers must register with the national media authority and comply with a formal code of conduct, which includes avoiding misleading content.

In France, influencers are prohibited from promoting certain procedures or devices.

Willis would like to see platforms better police themselves and brands set standards for influencers they work with.

"I want patients to have a safe place to share information and interact," she said.

Clarke, "The Hangry Woman," said she is all for more regulation. But ultimately, she believes the fate of her chosen profession lies with patient influencers themselves.

Clarke recently went back to school to earn a master's degree in nutrition and said she painstakingly studies the science before posting. She is choosy about the brands she works with and open with her followers about partnerships. (She works mostly with insulin pump and continuous glucose monitoring companies and has no content partnerships with makers of GLP-1 medications like Ozempic, which she no longer takes.)

She also said she is proud to be a "patient influencer."

"I generally think that people who do this just want to be good and helpful," she said. "When someone is coming from that perspective, it's hard to say, 'You can't talk about that.'"

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The Gaming Lifeline

By **Keeley Haynes**

In 2012, during his first year at CU Boulder, **Zhenghua Yang** (Fin'14) received a life-changing email: A teenager in Spain wrote to thank him for saving his life.

The teen played "Loving Life," an autobiographical interactive narrative video game Yang created in college about overcoming a life-threatening illness. The teen struggled with depression and wrote to tell Yang that the game gave him the will to keep living — and even inspired him to enroll in game design school.

Now Yang is the CEO and founder of Serenity Forge, a multi-million-dollar video game development company. He hopes to change the world through play — one game at a time.

Video Games as a Lifeline

Yang's first self-developed game, "Loving Life," was personal. At 18, he was rushed to the hospital after developing a 14-hour nosebleed. There, doctors diagnosed him with a rare blood disorder, handed him a will and told Yang he had three hours left to live. Miraculously he defied these odds, yet he remained hospitalized for two years.

> "Our games are able to push the envelope forward a little bit in how we talk about ourselves and our society."
>
> — **Zhenghua Yang**

Though Yang struggled with constant fear and uncertainty in the face of illness, video games emerged as a place of solace for him. In his 2016 TEDxCU Talk, he described how role-playing and multiplayer games like "World of Warcraft" and "League of Legends" allowed him to visualize himself as a hero and connected him to a global support system, providing the emotional strength and the medical means to survive.

"One of my virtual friends was actually a medical researcher. He connected me with some of the world's best hematologists," Yang said in his speech. "I met with doctors who ultimately gave me critical advice that kept me alive."

Upon being released from the hospital, Yang enrolled at CU as a finance major — but he couldn't get video games out of his head. He snuck into computer science lectures to learn advanced programming languages, taught himself graphics programming techniques with library textbooks, and recruited friends to pitch game ideas. Eventually, Serenity Forge was born.

Yang initially invested $1,000 into Serenity Forge, allowing him and his peers to run the company from their basements. The company caught the eye of television personality Bill Nye and astronaut Buzz Aldrin, and landed the company a $30,000 monthly contract during Yang's senior year.

Immersive Empathy

Unlike typical entertainment games like "Fortnite" and "Grand Theft Auto," Serenity Forge games aim to create meaningful, emotionally impactful gaming experiences that challenge how players think about socially stigmatized issues.

For instance, "Doki Doki Literature Club" (2017), which has 30 million downloads, comments on the invisibility of mental health and depression. Other Serenity Forge games like "Lisa the Painful" (2014) and "Slay the Princess" (2023) confront the complexities of love, identity, trauma and addiction.

"Our games are able to push the envelope forward a little bit in how we talk about ourselves and our society," said Yang.

To do this, Serenity Forge games adopt a narrative style. They often prompt players to develop memorable emotional attachments to the characters and plotlines — sometimes even breaking the fourth wall.

Handley Shelton, an art director at Serenity Forge, attributes this effect to the immersive nature of video games.

"Video games have one thing that most traditional media do not: interactivity," said Shelton. "By establishing rules and having someone interact with those rules, you gain a much more personal connection with consumers than other mediums achieve."

Courage in Choice

Serenity Forge's gaming model has proven to resonate with audiences.

In 2019, the company broke $1 million, earning Yang a spot on Forbes' 30 Under 30 list.

Now with 50 full-time employees and two international offices in Budapest and Shanghai, the company brings in an estimated $10 to $15 million annually.

But as a first-generation immigrant, money and status are trivial measures of success for Yang. He instead attributes his prosperous career to his courage and privilege in taking risks.

"When I was in college," he said, "I thought to myself, 'My dad is blind. My mom doesn't speak English. The two of them moved to the U.S. and struggled for decades just to make ends meet. So no matter how I fail, that's better than anything my parents ever had, and if that's the case, then there's really no way for me to fail.'"

During his final year at CU, Yang employed that wisdom. While Yang was interning at the Federal Reserve, the former chairman Ben Bernanke gave Yang a piece of advice that empowered him to quit his job in finance and pursue his passion with Serenity Forge.

Yang reiterated the advice: "A lot of people in the world are very underprivileged. If you're one of the few very fortunate people who are able to choose what you want to do in your life, that's how you truly make a difference in this world."

Courtesy Zhenghua Yang

When Trivia Ruled Campus



The Trivia Bowl trophy, purchased in 1970 by **Ralph Albi** (Soc'71) for $90. The cup on top was hand-engraved.

For 27 years, CU Boulder's Program Council invited brainiacs from around the country to test their knowledge at one of the campus's most anticipated annual events: the Trivia Bowl.

After leading CU's student team to an undefeated victory on NBC's *G.E. College Bowl* in 1967, marketing professor David Bowen brought the same quizzical power to CU's campus a year later for its inaugural event. Bowen's Trivia Bowl adopted the show's elimination bracket that tried 30–50 teams on their pop culture expertise.

The weeklong event also featured special events and guests, including talent shows, dating games and musical performances from artists like The Guess Who and Bobby Vee. This added to the appeal of the contest, which attracted over 15,000 participants during its lifetime. The CU Heritage Center called CU's Trivia Bowl one of the largest, liveliest and best-attended non-athletic student events on campus.

"The energy was kinetic," said **Renae Foxhoven** (Advert'82), a former Trivia Bowl director. "We had standing-room only in the Glenn Miller Ballroom for the Friday-night finals."

Although the Trivia Bowl eventually halted in 1993 due to declining student interest and attendance, the event still stands as a reminder that trivia is anything but trivial.

Foxhoven said, "It was the highlight of my college experience."

Trivia

1. How much did 1988 Trivia Bowl winner Ed Toutant win on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* in 2001?
2. What company did **Mike Wirth** (ChemEngr'82), a 1982 Trivia Bowl contestant, eventually become CEO and chairman of?
3. What year was the Trivia Bowl nationally televised on ABC's *Wide World of Entertainment*?
4. Between what years was the Trivia Bowl briefly revived at CU?
5. What beloved cartoon character topped the original Trivia Bowl trophy?
6. Who made a special guest appearance at the 1971 Trivia Bowl?



↓ ABC Television aired a CU Trivia Bowl. One of the four three-person teams consisted of only CU Boulder students. Comedian Richard Dawson served as the host.

Artifact photographed by **Mona Lambrecht**

ANSWERS $1.8M; Chevron; 1975; 2001–06; Snoopy; Pinky Lee



↑ The drive into Boulder has been a highlight for alumni since the 1950s.

Glenn Asakawa; Floyd Walters/CU Heritage Center

Origins

Boulder Bound

Born from a CU Boulder engineering professor's vision, the Denver-Boulder Turnpike changed how generations of motorists traveled between Denver and Boulder.

By **Sarah Kuta**

For **Wyatt Ryder** (PolSci'18), the drive into Boulder never gets old. As westbound U.S. Highway 36 crests Davidson Mesa and the city unfurls below, he can think of only one way to describe the view: "It's like heaven on Earth."

Ryder is one of hundreds of thousands of CU Boulder students and alumni who have been captivated by that same lookout — one that opened up to generations of motorists with the debut of the Denver-Boulder Turnpike more than 70 years ago.

The turnpike officially opened to traffic on Jan. 21, 1952. But its story began years earlier, in the 1920s, when CU Boulder engineering professor **Roderick L. Downing** (CivEngr1914) began envisioning a faster route between Denver and Boulder.

For decades, motorists traveling between the two cities had to zigzag their way through a grid of north-south and east-west roads. But Downing, who became known as "The Father of the Turnpike," knew there must be a better way. He presented the problem to his engineering students, who mapped out a diagonal route that would connect the two cities more directly. Year after year, Buffs refined the plans while Downing lobbied to turn the idea into a reality.

The Colorado Legislature authorized the turnpike in 1949, funding the $6.3 million project through a 30-year bond issue. Construction began the following year on the two-lane concrete roadways separated by a 20-foot median.

The result was a 17.3-mile toll road — the second of its kind in the state — that cut nearly eight miles and 35 minutes off the drive between the two fast-growing cities. Officials predicted that between 2,580 and 3,170 cars would make the drive each day, each paying a 25-cent toll. But the turnpike proved far more popular than they imagined: By 1966, the daily average reached 13,774 vehicles. The route's unexpected success allowed the bonds to be repaid ahead of schedule, and the road officially went toll-free on Sept. 14, 1967.

"Toll or toll-free, the route is one of the most scenic short drives in Colorado," wrote Susan Marsh for *The New York Times* in October 1967. "On the western side, there is farmland reaching to the mountains; on the eastern side, farmland reaching to more farmland. The view from a high hill into Boulder is breathtaking."

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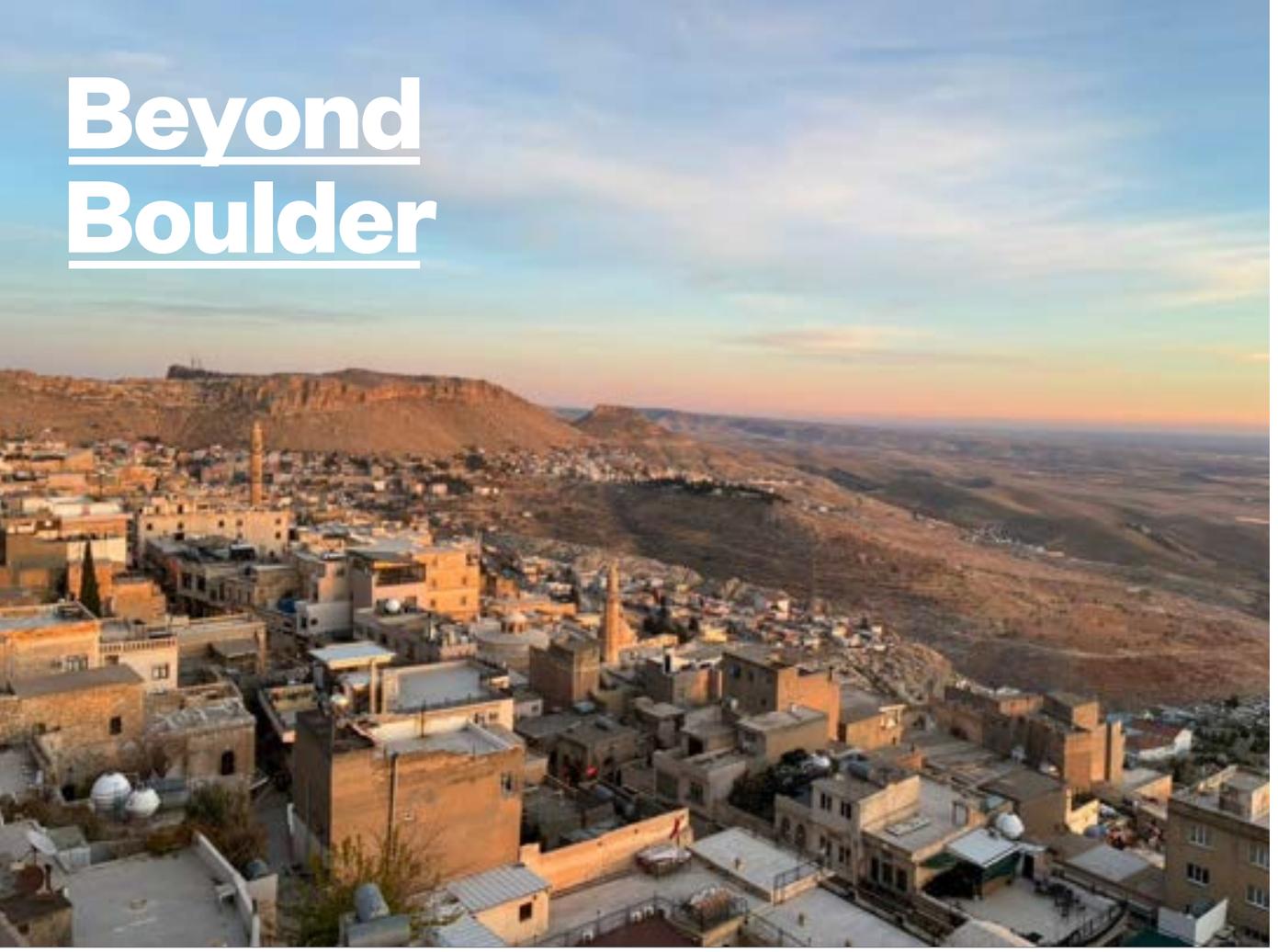
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Beyond Boulder



Engineering a Better World

Through CU Boulder's Mortenson Center, engineers partner with communities first to help build sustainable solutions that will help them flourish.

By **Emily Wirtz**

It's a hot morning in northern Kenya. The sun lifts from the horizon as a camel lowers its head to drink from a community borehole, taking its fill for the days ahead.

For the local pastoralist families who depend on livestock like camels for transport, farming and milk production — not to mention elements of cultural expression and identity — that water means everything. So when a water pump fails, it's not simply an infrastructure problem: It's food, income, survival.

"Four billion people still lack access to safely managed drinking water — almost half the world's population," said **John Edem Ecklu** (MEnvEngr'23; PhD'25), a postdoctoral researcher with the Mortenson Center in Global Engineering and Resilience at CU Boulder. "But in some of these regions, people care just as much about having drinking water for their animals as they do about having safe drinking water for themselves because their animals are their livelihood."

For more than two decades, the Mortenson Center has challenged engineers to think differently about global development and build better partnerships with communities around the world.

Instead of exporting answers, the center cultivates engineers who partner with locals to create practical, lasting solutions together.

Alongside members of these communities, students and engineers like Ecklu work to ensure boreholes stay functional for both people and livestock by collecting data, monitoring pumps and, most importantly, partnering with local leaders and investors to keep critical infrastructure running.

"We start by talking to the community," said Ecklu, who is also an engineer with Virridy, a Mortenson Center spinout that supports global water access and quality monitoring. "Why is this problem here? Was there a solution previously that didn't work out? What would be their preference in terms of a solution?

"Working with them to come to a consensus — valuing and taking community knowledge into account — it's critical."

> "We treat food, water and energy as long-term services that require sustainable financing, ongoing monitoring and built-in accountability."
>
> — **Evan Thomas**

Designed for Global Good

Founded at CU Boulder in the early 2000s, the Mortenson Center was originally the Engineering for Developing Communities program. In 2009, a landmark gift from **Mauritz "Mort" Mortenson** (CivEngr'58) and **Alice Mortenson** (HonDocHum'26) endowed and renamed the center.

Today, the Mortenson Center works alongside more than 80 global partners in 30 countries to improve water and food security, sanitation, energy and sustainable infrastructure.

But technology alone has never been the goal.

"The Mortenson Center is developing new models for global water, food and infrastructure security, using technologies and methods that are grounded in a deep understanding of why so many past efforts have fallen short," said professor **Evan Thomas** (AeroEngr, Jour'06; MAeroEngr'06; PhD'09), the center's director. "We treat food, water and energy as long-term services that require sustainable financing, ongoing monitoring and built-in accountability."

Engineering in Action

When it comes to the field of global development, the Mortenson Center goes beyond pure theory, emphasizing hands-on opportunities for students to partner with communities to create sustainable, scalable and equitable engineering solutions

Courtesy Fatma Köroğlu

↑ Eski Mardin, in the Mesopotamian region of Turkey.

to the problems they face.

Some students arrive shortly after completing their undergraduate degrees, while others bring in-depth experience leading projects around the world. Doctoral candidate **Styvers Kathuni** (PhDCivEngr'28) has been working to solve water challenges across Africa for years.

His passion for the work started around age 10, when his elementary school class in Kenya visited a hydropower plant.

"I was mesmerized by what was going on there — how they were playing around with water and getting electricity out of that," he said.

Inspired, he dedicated his education and career to providing communities with safe, clean water. Kathuni now serves as the country director for the Millennium Water Alliance in Kenya, while also working toward his PhD with the Mortenson Center.



↑ Styvers Kathuni strives for clean water in Kenya.

Courtesy Styvers Kathuni

Fatma Köroğlu (MCivEngr'24; PhD'27), who has a background in the arts and engineering management, also seeks purpose-driven engineering.

"Sometimes opportunities come to us to work on a certain problem in the world," she said. "Understanding that journey and thinking about how this problem would be solved — and what we need to consider for people to benefit … just makes life interesting."

Köroğlu's doctoral research focuses on carbon financing and agricultural water management in Turkey. She's exploring how carbon-financed programs can support farmers in adopting climate-smart practices, such as drip irrigation, while responding to the economic pressures and policy challenges they face. She also examines how these programs can be designed to be economically feasible and practical for the companies, consultants and other stakeholders who implement them.

"It humbles me, working for the good in the world, even as I experience the complexities and hardships," said Köroğlu.

That's what makes the Mortenson Center's approach unique. Its students are not simply reading textbooks about engineering; they are actively working to implement solutions around the world.

Investing in Impact

The full impact of the Mortenson Center is measured not only by the elegance of the solutions it supports, but by the people who carry its approach into communities — and by those who invest in its future.

Earlier this year, Alice Mortenson, the Mortenson Family Foundation and Mortenson Construction donated an additional $10 million to the center, creating two new professorships and strengthening the center's general endowment.

"The Mortenson Center has helped prepare generations of engineers to work on some of the world's hardest challenges, from clean water and food security to climate resilience and infrastructure," said Thomas. "This gift recognizes the power of engineering education to create practical, lasting impact."

One conversation and one borehole at a time, the Mortenson Center is empowering and partnering with people to create better lives for themselves.



Raven Maps & Images

Degrees for a Brighter Future

↑ Official BUENO HEP sites. Students from across the state also may pursue online program opportunities.

In 2025, Angel Carrillo earned his high school equivalency credential through the BUENO High School Equivalency Program (BUENO HEP), a no-cost educational program that provides Colorado migrant and seasonal farm workers an opportunity to earn their GED diploma through local community colleges or online. He then joined the welding program at Aims Community College in Fort Lupton, Colorado.

"I genuinely believed my adventure was over when I left high school without a diploma," Carrillo said. "I am now a proud college student actively pursuing my dream of becoming a welder because of the support I continue to receive from BUENO HEP staff."

Carrillo is one of more than 13,500 students to have graduated from BUENO HEP, which is run out of the BUENO Center for Multicultural Education in CU Boulder's School of Education. The 43-year-old program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

"Programs like these make it possible for students to have a brighter future and help break the cycle of poverty in their lives," said **Ernesto Sánchez** (MEdu'15), director of the program.

Many program graduates improve their job positions in their current industries, such as manufacturing or retail. Others continue pursuing their education.

An early graduate of the program, **Magdalena DelVillar** (MEdu'94), went on to earn her bachelor's degree, two master's degrees and an administrator's license. She taught in the public school system for several years and served as an assistant principal before retiring to volunteer in an elementary school.

"Each phase of my educational journey provided me success and confidence that I use to serve my community and my church," said DelVillar. "Life is a blessing."



← Ken Rutherford played for the CU football team in the 1980s.

Meet the 2027 Alumni Award Winners

The ceremony occurs April 10 during Alumni Weekend.

By **Amélie Peccoud**

For **Happy Phatak** (Neur, Psych'27), being a Buff means making a difference in her campus community.

"I have always tried to live by the mantra, 'Leave the world a better place than you found it,'" Phatak said.

Phatak is this year's Forever Buffs Student Award recipient, which recognizes her extraordinary service to the university and beyond. She has supported nearly 1,800 residents through her work in CU's Residence Life, amplified voices through her involvement with TEDxCU and dedicated years to supporting children affected by pediatric cancer and blood-related illnesses at Camp Braveways.

She is among the eight recipients of the annual Alumni Awards, one of the university's longest traditions. Each will be celebrated at the Alumni Awards Ceremony on April 10, 2027, at the Limelight Hotel and Conference Center in Boulder.

Darrell Zechman of the Leeds School of Business and **Waleed Abdalati** (PhD-Geog'96) of the geography department and the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences received the Robert L. Stearns Award, which recognizes the exceptional service of CU Boulder faculty and staff. **Philip Caragol** (Comm'75) and **Shari Sapp** (Fin'84) received the Alumni Recognition Award for their leadership, dedication to CU Boulder's mission and positive impact on the university community. **Obinna Onyeali** (Comm'10) received the Leanne Skupa-Lee Award, which honors Alumni Association volunteers whose service embodies the Forever Buffs spirit. And **Maithreyi Gopalakrishnan** (EngrPhys'16; MPhys'16) received the Kalpana Chawla Outstanding Recent Graduate Award for her career and community achievements.

Courtesy Ken Rutherford (left); Happy Phatak



"I have always tried to live by the mantra, 'Leave the world a better place than you found it.'"

— **Happy Phatak**

Kenneth Rutherford (PolSci'85; ExecMBA'93) is the George Norlin Award recipient, which honors a lifetime of professional excellence and service to society. Rutherford is a humanitarian who is internationally recognized for his efforts to combat the effects of landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

"CU gave me more than an education," he said. "It gave me lifelong friends, a community, a family connection and the courage to follow a path I could never have imagined when I first walked onto campus."

↗ Learn more about the recipients at **colorado.edu/alumni/awards**. The Alumni Awards Ceremony is part of Alumni Weekend, April 9–10, 2027.

Event Update

Alumni Weekend returns **April 9–10, 2027**

Join other Buffs at Alumni Weekend April 9–10, 2027. The weekend offers opportunities to tour the new and historic parts of campus, hear from students, get a behind-the-scenes look at what's happening with the university and connect with other alumni.

On April 10, honor the classes of 1987 and 1977, as well as the Golden Anniversary Club, which includes Buffs who graduated from CU in 1976 or earlier. Later that evening, the annual Alumni Awards Ceremony will occur at Boulder's Limelight Hotel and Conference Center, named one of *National Geographic*'s Best of the World 2026.

↗ Visit **colorado.edu/alumni/events** for more information.

Strengthen the Alumni Community

The Forever Buffs Advisory Board provides strategic guidance to the CU Boulder Alumni Association to help strengthen alumni engagement with the university. Board members are volunteers who serve three-year terms, and meetings occur in Boulder three times annually.

↗ To learn more, email Beth Crosby at **beth.crosby@colorado.edu**.

Help Students Thrive

The Alumni Association annually awards $300,000 in scholarships to incoming and current students. More than 250 volunteers are needed to help identify deserving recipients. Become a part of the application review period, which occurs from March through April, and experience why reviewers often express this opportunity as among their most rewarding volunteer experiences.

↗ Learn more at **colorado.edu/alumni/volunteer**.

Buffs All In

Buffs All In is CU Boulder's annual month of giving to support the people and programs that transform the university. In 2026, over 2,700 donors contributed more than $1.5 million, and unlocked $458,500 in challenge gifts. The next Buffs All In occurs throughout March 2027.

Class Notes



↑ Alferd Packer Day included student eating competitions for nearly 30 years.

Throwback

Chowing Down

By **Keeley Haynes**

In 1968, CU students humorously voted to rename the University Memorial Center's dining center after Alferd Packer — Colorado's only convicted cannibal — but their jokes didn't stop there. That year, the CU Program Council hosted the first Alferd Packer Day, a campus event dedicated to eating in honor of the hungry criminal.

For nearly 30 years, hundreds of students gathered in the Alferd Packer Grill each spring to watch students compete in timed eating competitions. Competitors wolfed down everything from raw meat to 14-pound pizzas to barbeque ribs to 24-feet subs.

Arthur Ingraham, the former director of food services and organizer of the celebration, described the activities as "essentially gorge and public contests" in a 1982 issue of the *Harvard Crimson*. He added: "The students stuff themselves until they throw up."

The festivities also included live music performances from a variety of bands, a retelling of Alferd Packer's infamous story and an Alferd Packer lookalike contest. The Program Council also sold witty T-shirts sporting sayings like "Eat Me," "What's Been Eating at You Lately?" and "Alferd Packer — A Man After Your Own Heart."

While the gluttonous jubilee garnered some controversy (critics called it "disgusting," "grotesque" and "degenerate"), and it eventually halted in 1997 due to declining interest, the Alferd Packer Days are remembered as a fun twist on a dark story.

"Alferd G. Packer, Colorado's very own convicted cannibal, would probably have been proud of these kids today," said Lisa Allen, a former 9News correspondent, in a 1982 broadcast covering the event. "Not only because they were commemorating him with every ounce of intestinal fortitude they could muster, but because they were really just out to have a great time in his name and in his honor."

1985 *Coloradan* yearbook

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Callout

Neuroscientist **Oswald Steward** (Psych'70) received one of the most distinguished honors in science research.

'60 **Eric Christenson** (Edu, Engl'60) and his late wife, **Linda** (Span'60), co-produced the PBS documentary *The Marshall Plan: Against the Odds*, which focuses on a 1948 American initiative known as the Marshall Plan that committed funds to help European nations rebuild after World War II. In 2003, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Overseas Building Operations hired the couple to create the exhibit "The Marshall Plan: A Vision of a Family of Nations" as part of a multimillion dollar restoration project for the Hôtel de Talleyrand in Paris, which served as European headquarters during the Marshall Plan. Eric fondly remembers his time at CU Boulder, which sparked his interest in the humanities.

'66 Alongside the renowned inventor, architect and philosopher Buckminster Fuller, **Tom Turman** (ArchEngr'66) formed the architecture and engineering faculty at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana. He went on to practice architecture and engineering for 50 years and lecture at Laney College, the California College of the Arts and the University of California, Berkeley. Upon retirement, Tom has written four books, including his latest coming-of-age novel, *Sailors and Dogs Keep Off the Grass*.

'68 Now in his eighties, **P.K. Govind** (MPhys'68; PhD'70) reflects on his substantial career as a scientist, telecommunicator and business developer. One of the highlights of his decade-long work with the National Center for Atmospheric Research was studying hurricanes off the coast of Africa with the Global Atlantic Tropical Experiment. He then pursued a career in microelectronics with Bell Labs, where he was honored by the company for 20 years as a distinguished member of technical staff. Before retiring, P.K. spent the last four years of his career working in business development at Lucent Technologies. He then served as an angel investor and business mentor for budding entrepreneurs. He is a member of the CU Heritage Society.

'70 This summer, **Roy Edwards** (Zool'70; MTeleCom'79) and his wife, **Sue** (Nurs'70), completed their mission to visit all 63 U.S. National Parks after 58 years. They visited Mesa Verde National Park — their first national park — during their honeymoon in 1968 and completed the goal with a family trip to the Virgin Islands National Park in June. The quest was full of adventures: At the Katmai National Park and Preserve in southern Alaska, for instance, the couple saw 33 grizzly bears in one day. Roy, a retired military officer, and Sue, a retired nurse, have been married for 57 years and reside in Fairfax Station, Virginia. They plan to continue to travel.

One of the world's leading neuroscientists, **Oswald Steward** (Psych'70) was named a 2026 Kavli Prize laureate in neuroscience for his discovery of local protein translation in neurons. The prize is among the most distinguished honors in science. His findings suggest proteins can be produced near neural synapses rather than in cell bodies, which is a pioneering breakthrough for brain development and plasticity, as well as for therapies aimed at preserving cognitive function, enhancing recovery after injury and restoring neural connectivity. Oswald is a distinguished professor of anatomy and neurobiology at the University of California, Irvine.



← **Joyce Falcone is the founder of the travel company Italian Concierge.**

An Italian Connection

Interview by **Christie Sounart**

Joyce Falcone (Art'77) first visited Italy during a CU Boulder study abroad program as a bewildered junior. Her father's cousin met her at the airport in Rome and drove her straight to her program in Siena. She'd never been so far from home. The trip solidified a lifelong love of Italy: Falcone went on to found and preside over the Italian Concierge, a nationally recognized luxury tour company offering custom trips to Italy. Her expertise has been recognized in *Travel and Leisure*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *The New York Times* and *Forbes*.

Where are your favorite places in Italy?
I've always had a curious mind, and I've made it a mission to see every inch of Italy — but the Veneto holds a special place for me: Lake Garda, the Scrovegni Chapel in Padova, the wines of Valpolicella and Trentino DOC, and access to Seiser Alm, the highest mountain meadow in Europe. For food, I'm drawn to Sicilian cuisine — it's one of the regions my grandparents immigrated from, so the flavors feel like home.

What made you decide to pursue Italian tourism full time? My start in the industry was serendipitous. It was 1994, right as computers and the internet were becoming part of daily life. I didn't own a computer or even have an email address, so I used my friend's email account to search for jobs in Italian tourism. A company in Vermont hired me as a hiking guide, leading groups of 20 to 25 through Tuscany, the Lake District and Sicily. It was a dream job that combined hiking, wine and pasta, so in 1999, I started my own company.

What major change in the travel industry has been most beneficial to your business?
The shift from phone calls, faxing and car phones to email, cell phones, video calls and texting has been the biggest positive change I've seen. It's made an enormous difference in how efficiently we can work and connect with clients and partners in Italy in a way that just wasn't possible when I started.

How many weeks a year do you spend in Italy?
I try to spend about two months a year in Italy. For the past three years, we've also operated a division in France, so I've been spending a lot of time there as well.

Courtesy Joyce Falcone

'72 Audiologist **Garry Gordon** (A&S'72) is the CEO of Boulder-based Environmental **Acoustical Research** (E.A.R.), Inc., which develops custom hearing-enhancing and protection tools for industrial and recreational use. His new book, *Recreational and Industrial Audiology: The Next Profitable Frontier*, guides hearing professionals in promoting proactive hearing protection techniques to strengthen the hearing healthcare industry.

'74 **Gary Porter** (MBA'74;PhD'77) and his wife, **Melissa Komisar Porter** (Mktg'77), met in CU's business school 50 years ago. Gary started his career with Deloitte in Denver before earning his graduate degrees at CU, then went on to teach, write accounting textbooks and serve as department chair at several universities. Gary's most recent book is *Little Rex: A Night at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery*. After earning her degree, Melissa began a 32-year career with IBM in sales and business development, where she managed global business partners. She has lent her expertise in the classroom and participates in the Leeds Mentorship Program. The couple received the Leeds Luminary Award in recognition of their service and support for the Leeds School of Business. They have established an endowed scholarship for undergraduate students and sponsored the Komisar/Porter Outpost in the Rustandy Building on CU Boulder's campus.

'77 Since 2009, *Travel and Leisure* magazine has recognized **Joyce Falcone** (Art'77) on its "A-List" as a world-leading travel agent. She has 30 years of experience in Italian tourism and currently runs the Italian Concierge, a luxury tour operator that customizes Italian vacations for travelers. Her Italian expertise has also been featured in *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Forbes* and *The New York Times*.

The San Diego Rotary named **Ted Martinez Jr.** (PhDEdu'77) and his wife, Lidia, as Mr. and Mrs. San Diego 2026. The designation is the most prestigious award granted to a San Diegan and recognizes the couple's long-standing commitment to community service, leadership and mentorship within the community.

'89 **Benjamin Lehmann** (Hum'89), a producer and director, was named the first vice president of production at Fred Rogers Productions, a nonprofit children's media company. In this inaugural role, he oversees the company's operational strategy, finances and logistics. Benjamin previously led the production of many children's entertainment programs — including *Sesame Street*, *Helpsters* and *Tiny Time Travel* — earning him multiple Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award and a GLAAD Media Award.

'90 The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology will award **James Kirkland** (PhDGeol'90) with a lifetime membership in November. As a Utah state paleontologist with the Utah Geological Survey, James permits and promotes state paleontological resources for the public good. Throughout his 54-year career, he has excavated fossils across Mexico and the southwestern U.S.; named nearly 30 dinosaur specimens along with other tetrapods, mollusks and fish; and wrote more than 100 papers ranging from Mesozoic environments to mass extinctions.

James Ladtkow (MechEngr'90) is CEO of the Zürich, Switzerland-based biotechnology company Santersus AG. He is leading the company's transition into late-stage clinical trials for its NucleoCapture blood purification technology. James brought over 35 years of medical technology and device engineering experience to Santersus. Previously, he spent nearly 30 years at Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies.

'91 For the past five years, **David Rosenfeld** (PolSci'91) has served as the chair of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine at the Mayo Clinic Arizona. He has been a practicing physician and faculty member at the clinic for 23 years. He is recognized for his work in liver transplantation

anesthesiology. He lives with his anesthesiologist wife, Missi, in Phoenix.

'92 In honor of **Louisa Stark** (PhDEPOBio'92), the University of Utah School of Medicine renamed its Genetic Science Learning Center to the Stark Science Learning Center in May. Louisa has acted as director of the center for 25 years. More than 16 million people use the center's materials globally. Louisa also is a tenured professor in the university's human genetics department.

'94 **May-Lee Chai** (MEngl'94) released *My Hungry Ghosts: Essays and Incantations* in September. The essay collection examines world events, family history and contemporary socio-political issues through a traditional Chinese Daoist and Buddhist lens. May-Lee is a full professor of creative writing at San Francisco State University, a board member of the National Book Critics Circle and author of 12 other books. Her previous book, *Tomorrow in Shanghai & Other Stories*, was named a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice and was longlisted for the Story Prize book award.

'96 **Marie Massa** (EPOBio'96), an environmental scientist, spent three years transforming a neglected, weed-ridden trash patch next to her son's school in eastern Los Angeles into a native Californian wildflower garden. The project received support from the LA Conservation Corps, the Los Angeles-Santa Monica Mountains Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Plant Community LA. She also received coverage in *The Los Angeles Times*.

'97 **Jessamyn Specht** (Soc'97) was appointed fire chief of the Oceanside Fire Department in Oceanside, California in July. Jess was hired in 2003.

'00 **Julia Slejko** (BioChem, MCDBio'00; PhDPharmSci12) is an associate professor and the graduate program director of pharmaceutical health services research at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Maryland's Speaker of the House of Delegates appointed Julia to the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board to help protect Maryland citizens and the healthcare system from high prescription drug costs.

'01 Precision Construction Services, a construction firm co-owned by **Karl Vaillancourt** (ArchEngr'01), earned a spot on the Inc. 5000 List for the fifth consecutive year. The list ranks the fastest-growing independent companies in America. Karl co-founded Precision with two of his friends in 2013.

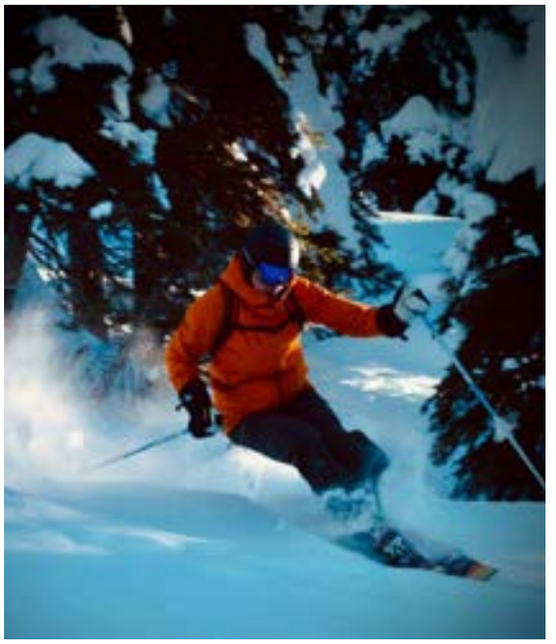
'02 Duke University Press published **Robb Hernández**'s (Ethnic, Jour'02) book, *Transplanetary Americas: Art, Outer Space, and the Latinx Imagination*, in October. Robb is an English professor at Fordham University. This fall, he spent time as a scholar-in-residence at CU Art Museum to organize a fall symposium, "Cowboy Carter: Reimagining the American West."

Family law attorney **Craig Mandell** (Advert'02) was elected president of the Lake County Bar Association. He also serves as a partner at Beermann LLP.

'05 Patent attorney **Erin Kelly** (AeroEngr, MS'05) joined Hilgers PLLC as an intellectual property litigator. Prior, she spent over 15 years in complex trademark, copyright and trade secret matters involving aerospace, medical devices, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing.

In August, **Andrew Metzroth** (RelSt, Thrt'05; MThtr'12; MOrgLead'21) and CU Denver graduate Philip Armstrong aired the 500th episode of *Alzabo Soup*, their self-funded literary speculative fiction podcast that analyzes a chapter from science fiction and fantasy author Gene Wolfe. They have not missed a week for an episode in 10 years.

Four years ago, **Mary Strine** (MEdu'05) retired after 33 years of teaching in the Boulder Valley School District. She



Courtesy David Fluek

← David Fluek heli-skiing at CMH Kootenay Lodge in British Columbia.

From Marriott to the Mountain

Interview by **Christie Sounart**

During **David Fluek**'s (Econ'94) 22-year tenure in the hotel industry, he created and led the Marriott Bonvoy loyalty program, which serves more than 270 million travelers. Now he's turning his hospitality skills to the world of skiing. In early 2026, he joined Alterra Mountain Company as chief customer officer and president of the Ikon Pass, which includes more than 70 skiing and snowboarding locations worldwide.

What brought you to Marriott? When Marriott acquired Starwood Hotels and Resorts in 2016, I was charged with combining both companies' loyalty programs. It was one of the most challenging times of my career. We had to combine member data that stretches back decades from two legacy systems with tremendous complexity while still running a round-the-clock global business. We created Marriott Bonvoy, which is now one of the largest loyalty programs in the world and allows tens of millions of customers to use their loyalty points for memorable trips. To launch something so successful from such a difficult business challenge is a real highlight.

What are you most eager to work on at Alterra? I'm excited to improve the end-to-end digital and physical experience. Some of my best memories with friends and family have been up on the ski hill, but the experience still has a lot of friction. We can do more to make it easier to travel to the mountain, go through the rental shop, get up on the hill and then meet people at the end of the day for a well-earned après-ski experience. I hope to bring more people in to experience the joys of skiing and snowboarding.

Are there any other up-and-coming outdoor experiences for people to enjoy? Some of my favorite activities are to visit hot springs, cold plunges and saunas after a great day on the mountains. For people who've tried these in some of the great places around the world like Iceland or Japan, it can be an amazing experience at the end of a big ski day or summer hike.

What's your favorite ski run in the world? It's like choosing a favorite child! But I think that for an amazing groomed run, I love Hughes at Winter Park. Going back to my college days, I still have a soft spot for Pallavicini Alleys up at A-Basin on those steep shoots. For tree skiing, I don't think there's anything better than Shadows and Closets at Steamboat. And for anybody who truly loves powder, you've got to put heli-skiing on your bucket list.

Joe Reichert (MAeroEngr'16) created innie.social, a text-only social media platform.

and her youngest son, **Joseph Strine** (Art'11), relocated to New Jersey to be closer to her oldest son and his family.

'06 **Sarah Ward Hughes** (Kines'06; MPASt'10), a physician assistant at Dartmouth Health, and her colleague developed the nation's first home-based oral immunotherapy program to treat food allergies with a microdosing protocol that gradually desensitizes patients to their allergies. The novel work was featured in Dartmouth's *Vitals* magazine.

The American Institute of Architects Fort Lauderdale/Miami awarded **Elliot Young** (EnvDes'06) project manager of the year. He is senior vice president and Florida practice area leader of the firm RINKA+. His office designs multi-family apartments that are discounted for essential workers.

'07 *Runner*, written and produced by **Miles Hubley** (FilmSt'07), was released in theaters in September. The film stars Alan Ritchson and Owen Wilson, whose characters try to escape a cartel while completing a critical medical delivery.

In 2020, **Marc Schaer** (Hist'07) and **Will Smith** (Mgmt'09;' MAcct'13) launched the Denver-based company Saturday Neon, which produces neon LED signs for all NFL and NHL teams, over 100 college teams and brands like NASA and Fortnite.

'10 **Katriel "Kat" Statman** (MPhil'10) is a shareholder in the Houston office of the GableGotwals law firm. He represents public and private entities in industries including chemical and industrial manufacturing, construction and energy.

'13 In August, **Adam Burg** (PolSci'13) joined law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's Denver office as a senior policy advisor in the state government relations practice. He previously served as director of federal and state affairs for the City and County of Denver, managing Colorado's congressional relationships, advising on critical policy initiatives and securing federal funding opportunities.

Marketing and public relations agency Philosophy Communication named **Tera Keatts** (Advert, Mktg'13) president. Her 16-year career and leadership with Philosophy Communication earned her a 2026 ColoradoBiz ICON Award.

'16 **Joe Reichert** (MAeroEngr'16), an aerospace engineer, developed innie.social, a text-only social media platform that invites users to design their own webpages. It does not employ algorithms, data harvesting or reputation metrics, such as likes. Joe is also a TEDx speaker and the author of *Leader Relativity: Finally a Starting Point for New Leaders*.

'17 For a decade, **Priyanka Guragain** (IntlAf, Soc'17; MBA'21) has supported healthcare and technology clinicians. She and her brother also run Six Star Chef, a Colorado-based private chef company that creates personalized dining experiences in people's homes, vacation rentals and event spaces.

'18 Spanish teacher and translator **Maya Friedli-Schroeder** (IntlAf, Span'18) launched *Spanish with Maya*, a Spanish language-learning podcast designed for beginners and early intermediates. Maya is a former Fulbright Scholarship recipient, which she used to serve as an English teaching assistant at La Universidad de Boyacá in Colombia.

■ Callout

This summer, three Forever Buffs drove nearly 3,000 miles to visit all 64 of Colorado's counties in under three days.

'21 This summer, **Eric Krieg** (EnvSt'21) challenged himself to a self-created physical test called Project 52. Each day, he pulled a card from a standard deck and ran the respective card's mileage — with the exception of the ace of spades, which represented a full marathon. Jacks, queens and kings represented 11, 12 and 13 miles respectively. In total, he ran 389.2 miles, averaging 52 miles per week. Eric is the founder of Mainline, a Denver-based performance supplement brand.

'23 **Taylor Alton Gattis** (StComm'23) works for CU Boulder Advancement Marketing and Communications, where she has expertise in email marketing, digital engagement and event registration strategy. Since graduating, she has helped strengthen how CU Boulder connects with alumni through engagement initiatives.

'24 As a way to recognize 150 years of Colorado, **Holly McCollough** (Mktg'24), **Leilani Osmundson** (Film, StComm'20) and **Floyd Pierce** (ApMath, Econ'17) visited all 64 counties in Colorado in under three days. They drove over 2,900 miles in 62 hours and 24 minutes. They documented their journey on Instagram under the account @64in64 and received more than 200,000 views.

Director, writer and producer **Richie Simeone** (FilmSt'24) submitted his first independent feature film, *Sunnyside*, to the 2027 Sundance Film Festival. The murder mystery is a dark comedy set in Florida. Many members of the cast and crew were CU Boulder alumni or students, including people working in producing, casting, accounting, assistant directing, production assistance, acting and other departments.

'25 Independent musician **Kohanna McCracy** (Mktg'25) planned a seven-show October tour across Colorado to perform her self-written album, *The Colorado Project*, with her band. Based in Austin, Texas, Kohanna has played shows at the Armory in Fort Collins and the Fox Theatre in Boulder.

'26 **Luka Vezmar** (Mus'26) is a composer, oboist and accordionist. He is studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, pursuing a master's degree in composition.



↓ Ralphie runs during the football game versus Weber State Sept. 12. The Buffs won 52-21.



Uncharted Waters

Interview by **Keeley Haynes**

↑ **Corey Murphey, center, is a marathon swimmer.**

Courtesy Corey Murphey

This summer, **Corey Murphey** (MCompSci'24) became the fourth person in history to swim the double length (down and back) of Lake Tahoe. She completed the 42.6-mile swim in 20 hours and 54 minutes, breaking two marathon swim records. On land, Murphey works as a sixth-year computational modeling doctoral student, using aerosol modeling to research the sizes of particles emitted through speech.

What was it like swimming Lake Tahoe? It was long — my longest swim ever. But Tahoe is just a gorgeous lake: crystal-clear waters and perfect weather. When I was swimming through the night, it was so clear I could look up and see the Milky Way. And the moon was so bright, I actually thought my crew was shining a spotlight on me. At one point, I told them to turn it off, which is a little amusing.

Why marathon swimming? I was taking care of my grandfather when I started my PhD, and I just needed something to get out of the house. I signed up for a few local open water races. I started with 5Ks and 10Ks, then I tried 10 miles, then I swam across the Catalina Channel. I realized I liked open water, and I got better as I increased my distance. So I figured, why not keep incrementing?

Who are your strongest mentors? My mom will always be at the top of that list. She's an emergency physician and was a triathlete back in the 1980s. She did the Ironman while in residency, so that inspired me to do something physical during my PhD. My PhD advisor, Liz Bradley, is a big influence, too. Besides being a good academic mentor, she is also a 1988 Olympic rower. She allows me to have the work-life balance I need to be a productive and happy researcher.

Do you have any other big swims planned? I'm swimming the North Channel (from northern Ireland to Scotland) in a few weeks [September 2026]. That's been my bucket list swim even before I started swimming open water. It's known as one of the tougher swims that you can do, which also drew me to it.

[Editor's Note: On Sept. 21, Murphey swam the length of the North Channel in nine hours and 11 minutes, making her the fastest female to complete the swim.]

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Africa's Wildlife

→ **June 9–22, 2027**

Safari through wildlife sanctuaries in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Sightsee in Johannesburg, Victoria Falls and South Luangwa National Park.



Tour the National WWII Museum

→ **Sept. 3–7, 2027**

Visit New Orleans to enjoy exclusive access to the museum's campus. Hear and see the story of the American experience during World War II.



The Japanese Alps and Shikoku

→ **Sept. 23–Oct. 4, 2027**

Hike Tokyo's Mount Takao, paddleboard on Lake Nojiri and wander Kamikochi's highland valley. Enjoy Osaka, Shikoku island and the Konpira Shrine.

→ **For more information**
visit cubuffs.org/travel

In Memoriam

→ **To report a death**
Email **advancement.datamanagement@cu.edu**
or write Data Management, 1800 Grant St., Suite 215, Denver, CO 80203.
Please include date of death and other relevant information.

1940s

Kathryn Smith Corwin (BusEdu'48)
John V. Duncan (MechEngr'49)

1950s

Norman I. Gelman (Jour'51; MA'53)
Mary Cowan Voss (Engl'51)
Ketha King Woodard (A&S'51)
Barbara Hartshorn Champion (Edu'52)
Ann Falk Loper (MedTech'52)
Nancy Ingwersen Sparks (Art'52)
Conrad G. Hanson (ArchEngr'53)
Joan Snyderman Levine (Edu'53)
Eloise Holbrook Leyden (Edu'53)
Priestley Toulmin III (MGeol'53)
Janet Clarke Bartel (A&S'54)
Nedra Poch Bird (Edu'54)
Joyce Miller Hershberger (Mus'55)
Gene K. Hower (AeroEngr'55)
Cynthia Howe Merman (PolSci'55)
Jack M. Treece (Mktg'55)
Lou Ann Wulf Shirley (Edu'55)
Donald W. Whisler (Chem'55; MBA'61)
Barbara Rhone Bowie (Edu'56)
Ronald D. Flannery (Mgmt'56)
Lawrence A. Hecox (Law'56)
Mary Merritt Ide (Engl'56)
Peter S. Middlemist (A&S'56)
Donald R. Ackerman (A&S'57; MA'62)
Louis P. Aldana (AeroEngr, Mktg'57)
Ann Ekern Brown (Edu, Engl, Hist'57)
Charles A. Gustaveson (Fin'57)
Jean Altendorf Manion (A&S'57)
Charles L. Mock (PE'57)
Kay Kranz Simons (Edu'57)
Merle R. Weitz (ElEngr'57)
Carl T. Edquist (AeroEngr'58)
Myron D. House (Jour'58)
Lee N. Howard (Bus'58; MEcon'64)
Keith E. Marks (ElEngr'58)
William P. Mooney (Thtr'58)
Joseph T. O'Connor (Geol'58; PhD'61)
William G. Plested III (A&S'58)
Roberta Brawner Stacey (CommDisor'58)
Sally Newman Walker (Geog'58)
Charles R. Cameron (ArchEngr'59)
Julia Meyer Charles (Edu'59)
Charles R. Clayton (Phil'59)
Erl E. Erickson (MMusEdu'59)
Jerry B. Gray (ArchEngr'59)
Mary J. Maxwell (MEdu'59)
David K. Ohashi (Bio'59)
Dan Herbert Schipper (A&S'59)
William B. Stevens (ElEngr, Mgmt'59)
Carolyn Hamm Tucher (A&S'59)

1960s

Susan Kramer Cutlip (A&S'60; MA'66)
Richard C. Hamilton (Bus'60)
Darrell D. Laschanzky (Mktg'60)
Janet Worth Schmidt (Mus'60)
Barbara Rutt Johnson (A&S'61)
Mary "Trish" Bowen Langley (Edu'61)
Robert E. Langston (Acct, MechEngr'61)
Martin C. Natland (A&S'61)
John D. Salzman (PhDChem'61)
Robert D. Showalter (Acct'61; Law'64)
Nancy Eichenberger Winters (PolSci'61)
J. Paul Greene (AeroEngr, Mgmt'62)
Charlotte Allen Halber (MusEdu'62)
Edward T. Kaufman (RelEst'62)
Thomas B. W. Kirk (EngrPhys'62)
George W. Walker (A&S'62)
Mark Heffron (Acct'63)
Kathe Weil Jervis (A&S'63)
William C. Moffitt (ApMath'63)
F. Ann Paton (PhDEngl'63)
Richard H. Polsby (PolSci'63)
David B. Radley (A&S'63)
William A. Saeger (A&S'63)
Stephen H. White (Phys'63)
Farouk A. Al-Nasser (MElEngr'64)
Polly Palmer Brunkhardt (Engl'64)
John R. Clark (CivEngr, Mgmt'64)
Jon H. Hiltbrand (A&S'64)
Odd Justad (ElEngr'64)
William B. Kessler Jr. (MElEngr'64)
Lu McLeran McConnell (Edu'64)
Pamela Gooding Petersen (Mktg'64)
W. Dean Weidner (Mktg'64)
David W. Zacheis (ElEngr'64; MBA'70)
William L. Broderick (MEdu'65)
Diana Gunstream Swanson Heald (Engl'65)
David L. Holick (PerServ'65)
Marsha Turner Schoeneberg (A&S'65)
Joyce Johnson Testerman (Engl'65)
June Pellillo Annoni (A&S'66)
George Brandt (ElEngr'66)
Corrine Pellillo Brase (Math'66; MA'69)
Thomas W. Collins (MA&S'66; PhDAnth'71)
Robert J. Farrow (Hist'66)
George D. Shoup (PhDA&S'66)
William H. White (MCivEngr'66; PhD'71)
Rebecca Robinson Yarlott (Mus'66; MusEdu'67; MMus'68)
George M. Allen (Law'67)
Robert L. Barry (Psych'67)
Melvin D. Benham (Phys'67)
David J. Curry Jr. (Mktg'67; MBA'68)
Mary Kadolph Howard (MRuss'67)
Gary P. Sandblom (A&S'67; Law'70)
Diane K. Dermer (A&S'68)
Steven D. Kerr (MMath'68; PhD'73)
Richard H. Morstad (Hist'68)
Matt M. Railey (Law'68)
Edward T. Rowekamp (MGeol'68)
Linda Trotsky Stevenson (Zool'68)
John S. Wilson (Law'68)
Martin E. Ashley (MChem'69)
Gerald C. Bromstead (Fin'69)
Michael W. Davis (MElEngr'69)
Deborah Bridget Dawson (DistSt'69)
Clifford L. Egan (PhDHist'69)
Richard G. Ford (ApMath'69)
William H. Harlan Jr. (A&S'69)
Patricia Sykes Kelley (Russ'69)
Linda J. Littrell (PolSci'69)
Linda Moorhead Zuflacht McMahon (Jour'69)
Eugene P. Meier (A&S'69)
Paul F. O'Brien (MechEngr'69)
Arthur P. Roy (Law'69)
Bill J. Salley (Mktg'69)
Clifford W. Schopf (Bus, MechEngr'69)
D. Scott Sellinger (A&S'69)
Wendy L. Steffen (A&S'69)
William C. Swartz III (ApMath'69; MMath'71)
Frederick J. Weber (Psych'69)
Lawrence J. Weber (MechEngr'69)

1970s

Mary Harman Bartron (Psych'70)
John C. Flanders (Law'70)
Carol Rohr Lands (Engl'70)
Kruger B. Smith (MInfoSys'70)
Arthur W. Trevethick (Soc'70)
Cathy Simon Wollum (Edu'70; MA'75)
Donald M. Clark (Fin'71)
Joan A. Dickinson (MEdu'71)
Michael J. S. Eubanks (Bio'71)
Bernie K. McCall (PE'71)
Morris M. Skinner (PhDCivEngr'71)
Damon F. Tempey (MPsych'71; PhD'74)
Robert "Greg" Bartron (PolSci'72)
William G. Elliott (MMath'72; MMus'76)
John T. Foss (Bio'72)
W. R. Fox (MMusEdu'72)
Malcolm C. MacMillan (CivEngr'72)
Linda Canzona Parker (Psych'72)
Lewis M. Quigg (Law'72)
Allen H. Singer (MechEngr'72)
Richard A. Sorenson (PhDMusEdu'72)
John P. Conway (EPOBio'73)
Susan C. Gurney (Art'73)
David W. Hill (EngrDes'73)
Jayne Johnson Knight (EPOBio'73; MBio'76)
Timoteo "Tim" J. Rivera (MSpan'73)
Carol Truman Willson (MEdu'73)
Sarah Hendrickson Wolach (Psych'73)
Robert H. Wolff (ElEngr'73)
William H. Brown (ElCompEngr'74; MBA'75)
Dallan R. Buschman (Arch'74)
Norman L. Jones (MHist'74)
John A. Reindel Jr. (Span'74)
Edward J. Woeckener (Mktg'74)
Bradley J. Yoder (Class'74; Law'77)
Robert E. L. Beebe (Law'75)
Barbara Jean Major (CommDisor'75)
Ellen C. Oler (Psych'75)
Edward T. Ramey (Law'75)
Kirk D. Relford (PolSci'75)
Magdaleno M. Rose-Avila (Comm'75)
Chuck L. Wilcox (MThtr'75)
Joseph J. Bellipanni (Law'76)
Michael F. Lipton (PhDChem'76)
Deborah A. Mahon (MBA'76)
Steven Meyrich (Law'76)
F. Chloë Stodt (Mus'76)
B. John Chambers Jr. (ElEngr'77)
Jon B. Rafto (ArchEngr'77)
Samuel C. Sands (MCompSci'77)
Janet Olson Straup (Art'77)
Michael C. Donlin (MLing'78)
Joel D. Hubbard (PhDBio'78)
John W. Mink (EnvDes'78)
Charles D. Wagoner (Math'78)
Joan K. Russell (Soc'79)

1980s

Roberto Garza (PhDGeog'80)
Terry F. Hinkelman (Geog'80)
Brock H. Leach (Econ'80)
Margery Graham Anderson (MusEdu'81)
David R. Baca (PolSci'81)
Jon C. Richards (MEcon'81)
Jane K. Wahl (EdD'81)
Timothy L. Cox (MechEngr'82)
Roger O. Grette (Geol'82)
Elizabeth S. Ridley (EnvDes'82)
R. Michael Walton (EnvCon'82)
James A. Hutchinson (Hist'83)
Philip A. Gordon (Law'84)
Terry J. Larsen (EdD'84)
Rosalie Martel Martinez (MEdu'84)
Franklin C. Chrisbens (Fin'85)
Mary Ann Lind (PhDHist'85)
Peter D. Ewing (Phil'86)
Gregory S. Miller (Law'86)
Stephen A. Rangel (PolSci'86)
Robert A. White (Comm'86)
Sandra Scott Fulgham (Jour'87)
Jeffrey J. Wingert (EnvDes'87; MBA'91)
William D. Rhinesmith (AeroEngr'89)

1990s

Richard D. Harris (MTeleComm'91)
Ingher C. Leeuwenburg (Engr'91)
John D. Lloyd-Jones (Jour'91)
Donald E. Wolfe (PhDCompSci'92)
Perrin A. Pownall (Span'93)
Robert P. Blair (Psych'95)
Thomas A. Ruane Jr. (Econ'95)
Maxine Leota Banecks (Psych'97)
Joseph M. Victor Jr. (ElCompEngr'97)
Anne Gettelman Campbell (PhDPolSci'98)
Kaycie Rosen Grigel (AmSt'98)
William L. Shields (MAnth'98)
Darrell J. Sutton (Comm'98)

2000s

Jasmine M. Walters (Hist'05)
John K. Blasing (IntlAf'08)
Jesse W. Nagel (IntlAf'08)
William Helm (MechEngr'09)

2010s

Phillip P. Coogan (Psych'16)

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Patricia Dougherty, Friend
Carl A. Koval, Chemistry Department
Jerry Leigh, Physics Department
Thomas R. Lyons Jr., English Department
Phillip F. Ostwald, Mechanical Engineering

Then



CU Heritage Center

1908

In October 1908, the University of Colorado hosted its first marching band performance. The band amped up fans during a pep rally at Old Main before the football team took on Colorado A&M, now Colorado State University.

"The band wasn't supposed to play any encores but wound up playing several, to the great happiness and excitement of the crowd," said former band sousaphone player and current band historian **Walter Blankenship** (Hist'89; MA'02).

After the buffalo became the CU mascot in 1934, the band became the Golden Buffalo Marching Band. Today, the band plays at every home and post-season football game.