

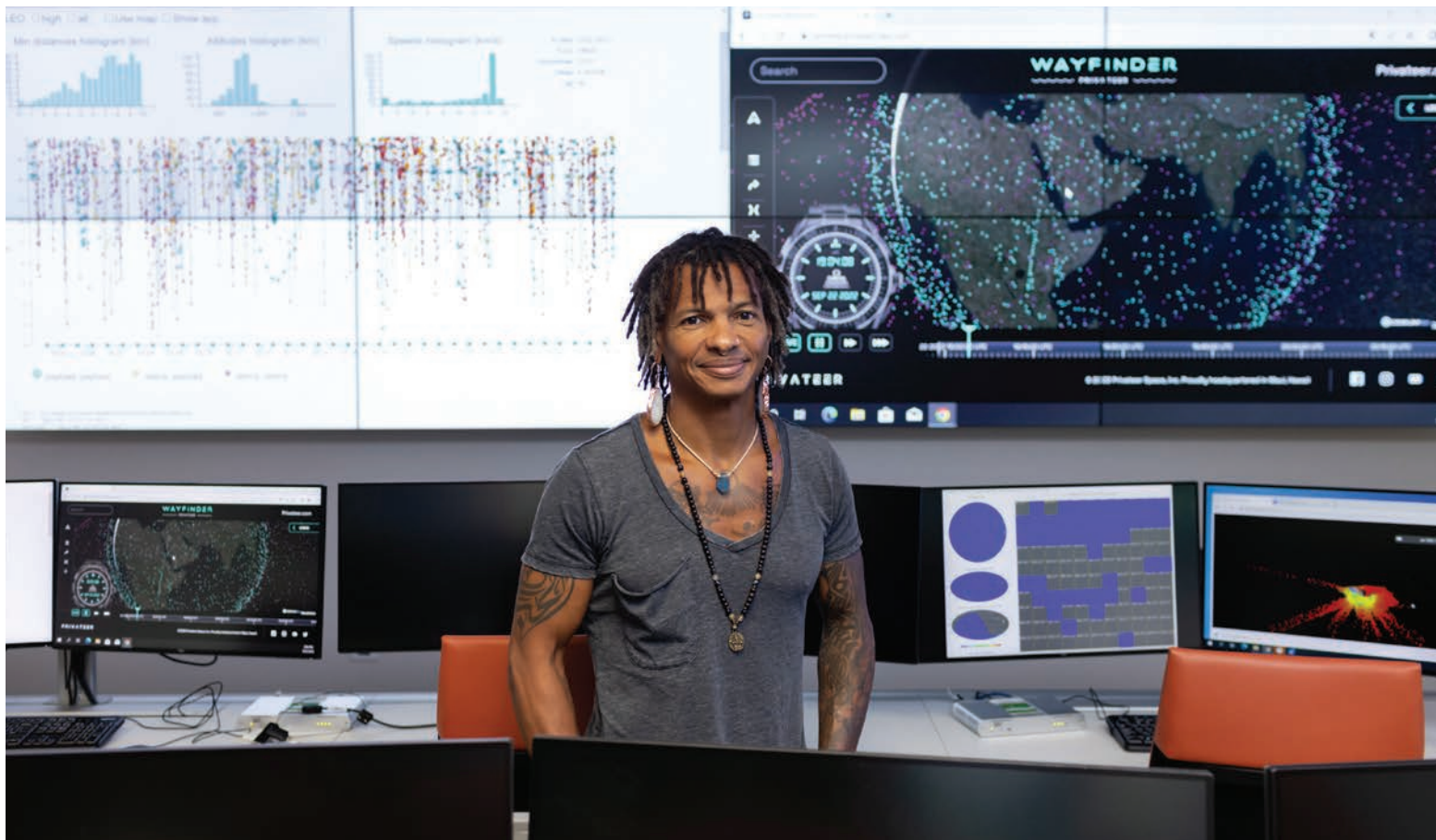
NOW

NOVEMBER 2022

Aba Arthur (PoSci, Thtr'05) of Atlanta is a performer, writer and owner of production company The Ohemaa Project. She caught her big break with her role as a naval engineer in charge of a ship in 2022's *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. Arthur filmed her role in October 2021 but shot into the spotlight a year later with the Nov. 11 release of the blockbuster, which spent five weeks at No. 1 in the box office and grossed more than \$400 million in that time frame. Next year, catch her in the Oprah Winfrey-adapted film *The Color Purple*. Read a full interview with Arthur at colorado.edu/coloradan.



MARVEL STUDIOS
WAKANDA
FOREVER



COVER A CU-centered look at why politics can influence certain issues. Illustration by Ward Sutton.

ABOVE Moriba Jah is a 2022 MacArthur Fellow. Photo courtesy John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

17 From Public to Political

Why do some issues become so politicized? CU experts explain why and how voting rights, climate change and abortion became rallying calls for political parties.

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A Republican from the age of 17, Colorado state senator **Kevin Priola** (Acct, Fin'96) shocked his party when he traded his R for a D.

25 History Updated

For tackling controversial subjects in the classroom, teacher educator Noreen Naseem Rodriguez counsels a defined educational vision, clear and honest communication and a strong dose of hope.

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Linda Villarosa (Jour'81) has dedicated her career to unveiling racial disparities in the health-care system.

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Crocs co-founder **Duke Hanson** (MBA'85) reflects on the renewed popularity of the shoe brand.

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Boulder's oldest and most storied restaurant is a century old.

39 Running Out of Space

Space environmentalist **Moriba Jah** (MAeroEngr'01; PhD'05) is on a mission to manage space debris.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Politics in the United States have become more partisan recently — and divides are deepening. How did we arrive in this moment, and what does the future hold? In this issue, CU experts from law, political science, environmental studies, and women and gender studies shed light on the trajectory of three issues that have become highly politicized.

We're also featuring alumni who are changing the world by studying space junk and the shrinking free space in Earth's orbit and who have launched trending companies like Crocs — those ubiquitous clogs making a comeback across campus and the country. Plus, we're celebrating Boulder history, from early 20th-century dance cards to its bike-enthusiast culture and the 100-year anniversary of The Sink.

As we head into spring, check out the story on rare birds migrating through campus — maybe you'll see them on their return trip!

And don't forget to save the date for the next Coloradan Conversations, an on-campus and virtual event on April 18 at 6 p.m. MT where you can join CU experts and Forever Buffs to discuss how public issues become political.

CONTACT THE EDITOR AT
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Confronting History with Action

Andrew Cowell is a CU Boulder linguistics professor specializing in language documentation and linguistic anthropology. In 2003, he, along with faculty and students in the linguistics department, began documenting the Arapaho language to revitalize it for current and future members of the Arapaho nation. Cowell is also the director of the Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies (CNAIS), which, in partnership with the university and Indigenous community members, students, faculty and staff, helped develop a campus land acknowledgment that CU introduced in fall 2022.

Andrew Cowell is director of the university's Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies.

Colorado if not for forced removal, so they should still be eligible for in-state tuition. That has already helped greatly increase Native American and Indigenous enrollment.

As a state-funded institution, we have a broader responsibility to everyone in Colorado, and beyond, to address social issues and provide effective solutions. By reaching out to tribal communities, we can provide help with all kinds of things: language documentation and revitalization are one example, but there are so many areas for outreach and collaborative engagement with Native American and Indigenous communities.

What are some of the best aspects of having CNAIS affiliated with CU Boulder? CNAIS is a teaching and research center where all students and faculty can engage. But we're also a support center specifically for Native American and Indigenous students, staff and faculty. Since we have faculty and students from all over the campus, we connect interested folks with each other — engineers who might want to work on reservations, or

tribes looking for expertise on climate change. In fact, it's hard to imagine how CU could take on the moral commitments of the land acknowledgment without having a specific Native American and Indigenous-facing component like CNAIS on campus.

What sparked your interest in the Arapaho language? My wife is Native Hawaiian, and I had learned Hawaiian and really gotten a lot out of that, so when I was hired at CU, I figured I should learn about the Indigenous languages of Boulder. The Arapaho were the people historically most present around Boulder. I realized there wasn't a lot of published information, so I went to the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming to meet some speakers who said they could use help documenting their language. What started out as a personal interest turned into a career choice. You never know where things are going to lead.

What's important when documenting a language? Documentation is important for languages like Arapaho that are endangered, meaning there are no longer young or middle-aged fluent speakers. In such cases, documenting natural discourse — conversations, stories, songs, speeches and so forth — is key. If you want to try and revitalize a language, you need models to learn from — Native speakers engaged in everyday language activities and interaction. I've recorded dozens of hours of that

kind of thing, mostly on video, so you can also see things like gesture, Plains Sign Language signs, body positioning, the way people use eye contact or not as they interact — subtle features that go into actual communication.

Are there other Native languages you hope to document and preserve? I've written a grammar of the Aaniiih (or Gros Ventre) language of Montana, which will be published in the next year or so, and also done a bilingual anthology of legends and historical accounts in that language. I've also written a grammar of the Coast Miwok language of California, which will be finished once I look at some archival materials from the 19th century. I also have created databases of the Southern Sierra Miwok language and the Central Sierra Miwok language of

I'm working to document Native names for various plants or animals or Native ecological knowledge.

What else should we know about you? I'm a progressive, church-going United Methodist. One of the things I see at CU is a tendency for many students to view organized religion as being entirely conservative or entirely detrimental in relation to things like missionaries and Native people. That component is there, and many progressive religious groups are working to confront some of the highly problematic aspects of their past involvement with colonization or conquest — in a way similar to the Land Acknowledgment movement — and I've been involved in that. But at the same time, many of the Native Americans I work with are themselves Christians — and often simultaneously practitioners



Talk about CU Boulder's land acknowledgment. A good land acknowledgment does four things: It recognizes the current or former Indigenous inhabitants of an area. It recognizes that historically, the removal of Indigenous peoples from the land often involved severe injustices and that those historical injustices produce continuing inequities and harms in the present. And it commits to try to mitigate and address those continuing inequities and harms.

CU Boulder's acknowledgment is a historical and moral document. Also very important is the commitment by CU to consult with tribes and local Indigenous people. You can't truly address and

mitigate harms unless you engage seriously with the communities themselves and get their perspective on issues and potential solutions. The big question now is, what actual concrete commitments will the campus make to back up its pledges?

How can CU continue to make amends for its early history with Native American and Indigenous people? One important thing that has already happened is the 2021 state legislature bill providing in-state tuition for students from any of 48 tribes historically associated with Colorado, which CNAIS helped pass. The idea is that Arapaho, Cheyenne or other people would likely still be here in

WHAT STARTED OUT AS A PERSONAL INTEREST TURNED INTO A CAREER CHOICE.

California. More recently, I've been working with the Quechua language from Peru as well.

What do you do in your free time? I enjoy hiking, camping, snowshoeing, birdwatching — generally engaging with the natural world. I really enjoy knowing the plants, being able to identify birds and animals, and having a very detailed interaction with the environment. That helps me with the languages, too, when

of Indigenous religions. So I think we need to keep a nuanced understanding of the very complex role of “the sacred” and not be automatically dismissive of organized religion — or, conversely, engage in simplistic caricatures of Native spirituality. Honest cross-cultural engagement is hard work but very rewarding. INTERVIEW BY CHRISTIE SOUNART (JOUR'12). READ THE UNIVERSITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AT COLORADO.EDU/LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

CU Research on Marshall Fire Looks to the Future

Scientists are focusing on affected communities and ways to improve post-disaster responses.

More than a year after the costliest wildfire in Colorado history, dozens of CU Boulder researchers continue to explore the science behind what happened on Dec. 30, 2021, the widespread impacts the Marshall Fire has had on people, pets and the environment, and how we can mitigate future catastrophes amid a changing climate.

CONVERGE — a National Science Foundation funded collaboration established in 2018 to identify, train and support disaster research — is in large part responsible for the speed, coordination and sensitivity of this fact-finding response. After the Marshall Fire, CONVERGE quickly mobilized to organize several virtual forums — the first of which led to the establishment of the Marshall Fire Unified Research Survey, which involves dozens of researchers working together to reduce the research burden on affected communities while learning from their experiences.

“In my 20 years of being a researcher, I have never seen this kind of coordinated research effort,” said sociology professor Lori Peek, who

leads CONVERGE, housed at the long-standing CU Boulder-based Natural Hazards Center, which she also directs.

Researchers in engineering, chemistry, and environmental science at CU Boulder, CIRES and NOAA continue to examine



Dozens of CU faculty, staff and students are collaborating on Marshall Fire research.

the invisible damage and risks to indoor air quality caused by smoke and pollutants in affected homes and buildings. Other CU Boulder engineering faculty and graduate students are collecting data and conducting preliminary analyses on the complexities of decision-making when rebuilding post-fire.

Scientists continue to sample and analyze local soil and water, looking for clues about potential contamination. Furthermore, ecologists are working on the challenge of grassland fire mitigation to reduce future catastrophes.

Reporting by CMCI journalism students has also brought the impacts of the Marshall Fire into sharper focus, while academics in the anthropology department have joined the Marshall Fire Story Project to record stories of how the fire impacted the lives of people across the county.

This ongoing work will benefit those impacted by the Marshall Fire, and future communities who face fast-moving flames and other climate-fueled disasters.

“This is not something we’re done dealing with,” said Peek. *For more information, visit colorado.edu/today and search “Marshall Fire.”*

BY KELSEY SIMPKINS

A Cyclist's Paradise



In Boulder, a large number of cycling groups overlap and intermingle in the bike-friendly city.

I’ll never forget the first time I went “into the red” while cycling at altitude in Boulder. It was summer 2002; I’d moved here to work for *VeloNews*, a cycling magazine, and was riding with my new co-workers on the road that heads up from Jamestown to the Peak-to-Peak Highway. As the climb steepened, the pace grew stout, conversation ceased and a gauzy filter clouded my field of view. I forgot where I was, who I was riding with and what day it was. I was experiencing what the medical community refers to as hypoxia. It was at once an introduction and an indoctrination.

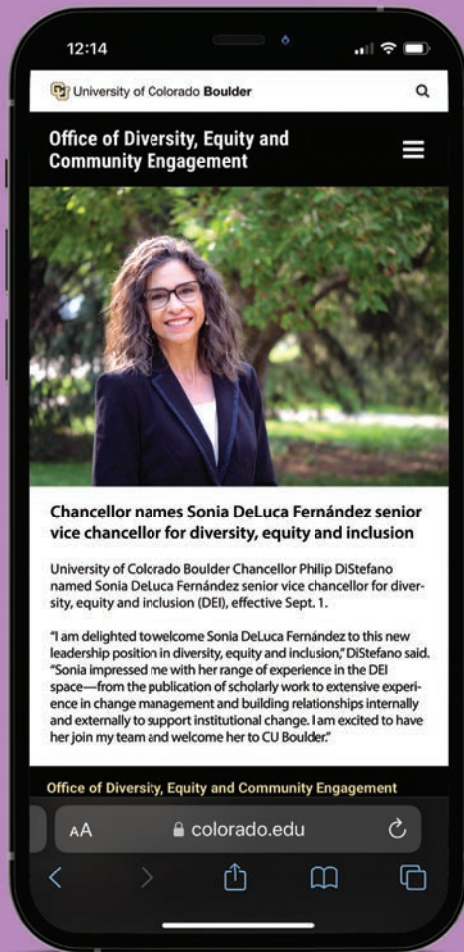
Being a recreational cyclist in Boulder means discovering new ways to test yourself. A variety of paved canyons and connecting routes present an endless array of challenges and terrain. The infamous weather fluctuations along the Front Range deliver ever-changing conditions. There’s a large community of cyclists in the Boulder

area, and the talent pool is both vast and deep.

And really, there is no singular Boulder cycling community: Groups overlap and intermingle. There are the roadies that pedal together side by side, heading upwards to Ward, Nederland, Estes Park. There are the singletrack shredders that park along Lefthand Canyon and tackle the rowdy OHV (off-highway vehicle) trails. There is the Thursday Night Cruiser Ride crew that takes over the city streets donned in costumes, speakers blasting. There is the growing legion of gravel riders who flock to the empty farm roads and trails north and east of town. There is CU’s cycling team, which has produced national collegiate champions, including **Sepp Kuss** (Advert’17), who rode in a support role for the 2022 Tour de France winner. There’s the Boulder Junior Cycling program, which has embarked on a streak of producing national cyclocross champions.

Boulder’s cycling community continues to thrive and evolve. The addition of Valmont Bike Park in 2011 offered a 42-acre playground and race venue that further established Boulder as a cycling hub. The city is now dotted with BCycle bike-share bikes and their solar-powered docking stations.

And while Boulder is known for its world-class recreational riding, its bike path system is one of the crown jewels of the city. With 84 miles of paths and over 80 underpasses, it’s possible to spend the majority of any bike commute uninterrupted and away from car traffic. I cherish the ability to ride my daughter to and from her elementary school on our cargo bike, with nearly all of the 10-minute commute spent on Goose Creek Path. When she’s a bit older she’ll be able to make the trip on her own power, and the Boulder cycling community will have yet another member in its ranks. **BY NEAL ROGERS**



Sonia DeLuca Fernández supports institutional change in DEI at CU Boulder. While launching this crucial role, she maintains a warm and humorous demeanor: “I have the best boss [Chancellor DiStefano] and best colleagues in the world,” she said. “Also, I snack all day long and can be bribed.”

Model: Apple iPhone SE

APPS

Most-used apps

Outlook



Podcasts



Messages



Most-used emoji



Cats and Podcasts

How soon after waking up do you look at your phone? Seconds — there are alarms to futz with! Since I have a horrible sense of time, I need an alarm to go off at least every 30 minutes. Not to wake me up, but to help me keep track of time. And, because I go to bed so early (around 9 p.m.), there are usually texts I need to reply to first thing (around 4:15 a.m.).

App you wish you had the inner strength to delete? All of the random, one-off store and hotel apps.

Last person you called? My favorite young-adult-person: my nephew, Josh.

Duration of longest call last week? 75 minutes with my best friend in St. Paul.

Location and description of last selfie? Denver. I got to have lunch with a friend who was in town from Pennsylvania.

Does anyone else have your passcode? Hell nah.

Oldest photo on your phone? Dec. 9, 2015, of my cat, Dora.

What is your lock screen or background image? The same weirdo, Dora.

What do you use your phone for most? Podcasts and work. I’m listening to podcasts while in the car, on the treadmill and doing house chores. My favorites right now include *Ear Hustle* and *Buried Bones*. But I also take too many pictures of my cats, Dora and Diego.

Orchestrating Social Consciousness

CU graduate student is gaining national recognition as a musical composer.

Conductor **Kedrick Armstrong** (MMus’23) will earn his master’s degree in orchestral conducting this May, but his career is already hitting a high note.

An advocate for classical music performance and publication, plus the preservation of the voices of musicians of color, Armstrong is passionate about bringing recognition to Black female composers — with the Helen Walker-Hill collection at CU Boulder among his crucial research tools.

In 2022, Armstrong conducted the world premiere of Irene Britton Smith’s *Sinfonietta* (1956) with CU Boulder’s University Symphony Orchestra — the result of a “year-and-a-half labor of love,” he said. “It was truly one of the most life-giving moments for me as a conductor, a musician, a person, an artist and a humanitarian.”

Bringing *Sinfonietta* to life for the first time in decades was a testament to Armstrong’s belief about what the work of every artist should be: Along with making great art, “Find where your culture, identity and the work you love to do meet the needs of the field and the vocation.”

“Not only is Kedrick already widely valued as a conductor, he’s been beyond his years when it comes to manifold, socially conscious collaborations that connect the dots between artistry and engagement in the social issues of our time,” said John Davis, CU Boulder’s

Kedrick Armstrong is an advocate for classical music performance and publication.



College of Music dean. “I’m especially impressed by Kedrick’s active leadership in advancing new and diverse music, and in lifting up under-represented composers and performers of all identities.”

Armstrong was listed among *The Washington Post’s* 2022 “composers and performers to watch,” and conducted the world premiere of *The Factotum* with the Lyric Opera of Chicago this February — which Davis attended.

Armstrong has upcoming engagements with the Galesburg Symphony Society, Knox-Galesburg Symphony, the Opera Theater of Saint Louis and Houston Grand Opera. **BY ALLISON NITCH**

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

CAMPUSnews

DIGITS

CU Boulder South
In November, City of Boulder voters upheld City Council's 2021 annexation of CU Boulder South, a 308-acre property on the south edge of town that CU purchased in 1996.

1,000s

Of hours city officials, CU Boulder and the community spent crafting the annexation agreement

2,300

Downstream residents who will be protected by a 36-acre flood protection project to be built at the site

119

Acres dedicated to become City of Boulder Open Space

1,100

Approximate number of housing units for faculty, staff and non-first-year students

Five

Acres dedicated to permanently affordable housing for anyone in the community who qualifies

2026

Anticipated completion of flood protection project, which must be complete before CU Boulder begins developing the site

Eye Movements Reveal Decision-Making

CU Boulder research into “saccades,” a rapid eye movement from one fixation point to another, has revealed that an individual’s decision-making can be revealed in their eyes. The eye movements are nearly completely involuntary and are faster than a blink, but CU Boulder scientists found that when given a choice between two options, subjects tended to move their eyes faster when they looked toward the option they wound up selecting — and the more vigorous the eye movement, the more they preferred their choice. The scientists believe that more studies into saccades — particularly when they are slowed — could help doctors screen patients for illnesses including Parkinson’s Disease or depression.

Gardening Benefits Health

A first-of-its-kind CU Boulder study funded by the American Cancer Society found that mental and physical health could be improved by community gardening. Study participants who began gardening

were likely to consume more fiber and exercise more often — two ways that can reduce cancer and chronic illness risk. They also reported diminished stress and anxiety levels, regardless of gardening expertise.

“It’s not just about the fruits and vegetables,” said study senior author and CU environmental studies professor Jill Litt. “It’s also about being in a natural space outdoors together with others.”

In Politics, Does Age Matter?

Research out of CU Boulder’s political science department found that age is not necessarily a factor when gaining support from voters. The study determined that voters seem to be just as willing to vote for older candidates for office as they are younger politicians. At the same time, young voters more often disapprove of the job that older politicians are doing. The reason may be that voters are more concerned with their political party winning

a race than focusing on the candidates themselves, speculated lead study author and PhD candidate **Damon Roberts** (MPolSci’21; PhD’25).



Heard Around Campus

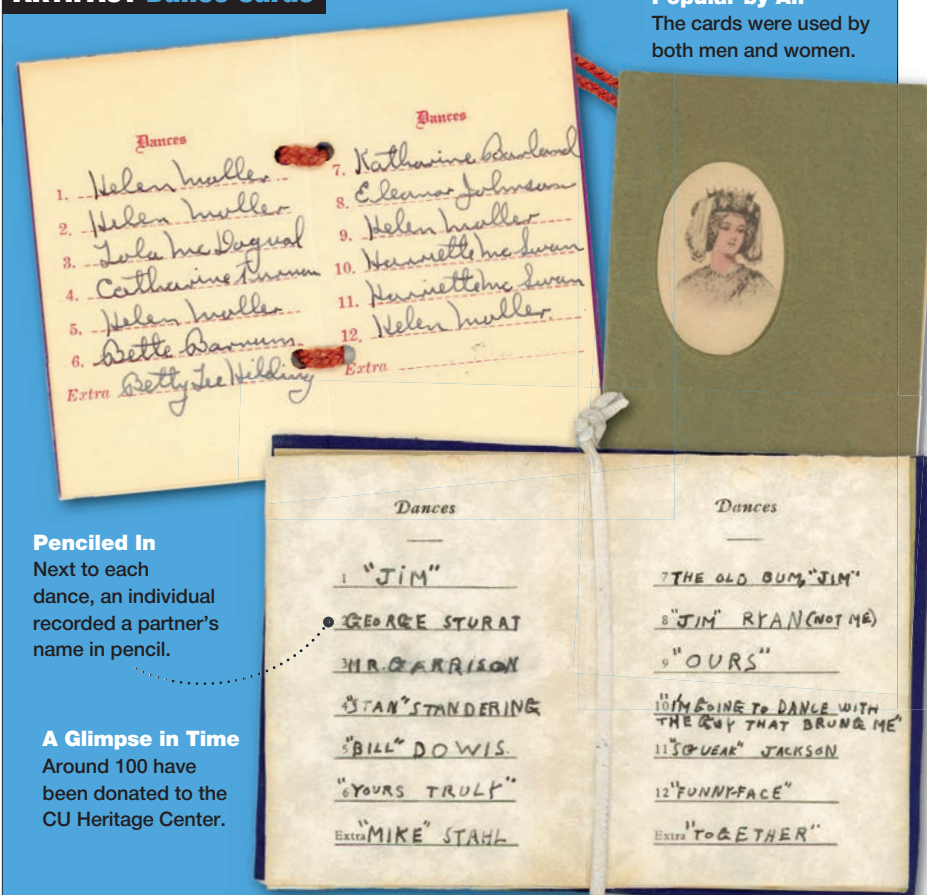
“LITIGATION CAN ONLY GO SO FAR. THE BATTLE WILL BE WON OR LOST IN THE CHAMBERS OF PEOPLE’S HEARTS.”

— Naderev “Yeb” Sano, executive director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia, during the Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit, which took place at CU Boulder Dec. 2-4. About 4,300 people representing 99 countries registered to attend the summit — co-hosted by CU Boulder and United Nations Human Rights — in person or virtually.

ARTIFACT Dance Cards

Popular by All

The cards were used by both men and women.



Penciled In

Next to each dance, an individual recorded a partner’s name in pencil.

A Glimpse in Time

Around 100 have been donated to the CU Heritage Center.

Save This Dance

When **George Drake** (Law1905) attended the first annual charity ball in the university’s Armory building on Feb. 3, 1905, he carried a red, heart-shaped dance card to record his partners’ names for each dance.

He carried other bright-colored and uniquely designed dance cards for several other events, too, including a reception for then-CU President Baker in the university gymnasium Oct. 10, 1902, and a Friday-night Halloween dance for Pi Beta Phi on Oct. 31, 1902.

Quickly scribbled names or a clear “X” for skipped waltzes or two-steps appeared on dozens of dance cards throughout his college career, carefully preserved in a scrapbook now housed in the CU Heritage Center.

Dance cards were common on college campuses into the mid-1900s. Many variations of the cards have been donated to the Heritage Center over the years.

“Some are handmade with newsprint and drawn title pages, while others have elaborately engraved metal covers or moving components,” said Mona Lambrecht, Heritage Center curator. “Ephemeral in nature, each card is a valuable snapshot into student life.”

As dancing evolved, the cards became less useful. According to a 1918 booklet from the Library of Congress called *Tips to Dancers*, the rise of “modern dancing” was one reason to eschew multiple dance partners and instead remain with the person a dancer arrived at the party with.

“It is not considered a very great pleasure to dance ten dances with ten different partners, all of whom may be but mediocre dancers,” the booklet stated.

Keepsakes

The earliest CU scrapbook, from 1902 to 1905, features dance cards with women’s names listed inside.



19th Century

The cards were introduced in the late 1800s.

LOOK Migratory Birds



From top left:
Prothonotary
Warbler,
Pacific Loon,
Varied Thrush,
Northern Parula,
Blue-Winged
Warbler,
Nashville
Warbler, Pine
Warbler

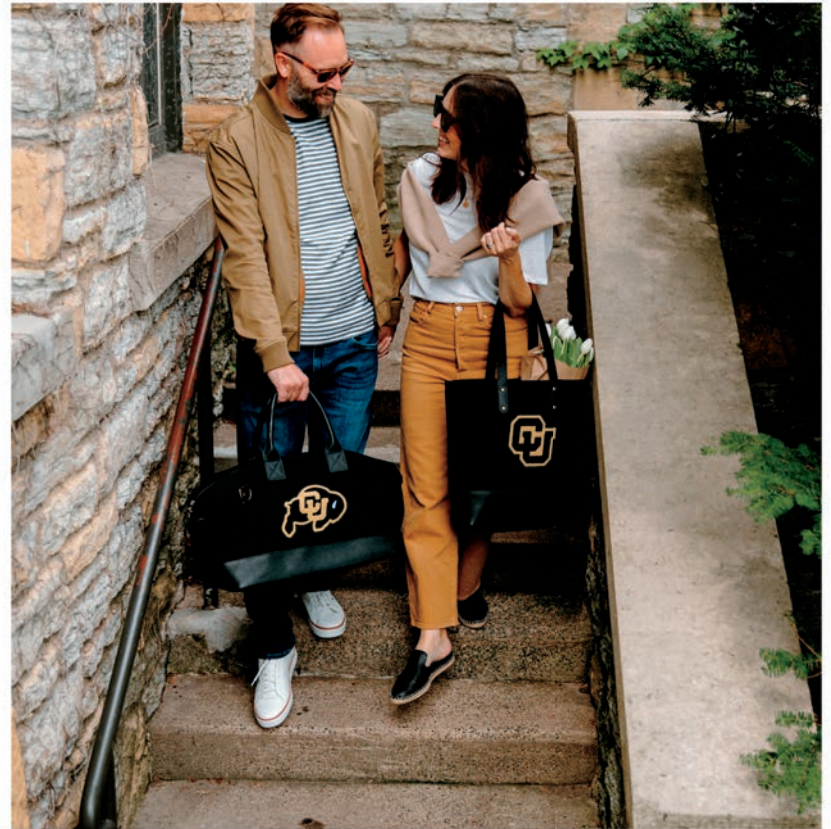
Boulder as a Pitstop

As birds migrate every spring and fall, CU Boulder's campus makes for a fruitful stopping point for some, pictured above. Last November, four south-migrating warblers — birds not typically spotted in Colorado — were spotted in beech, oak and pine trees near the Regent Building.

"Two of the four (the Northern Parula and the Prothonotary Warbler) stayed for almost two weeks," said teaching associate professor Nathan Pipelow, faculty sponsor of the CU birding club. "The other two (the Pine Warbler and the Nashville Warbler) were only seen for a single day each."

Terri Kurtz (ChemEngr'93) picked up birding and photography during the pandemic. Rare bird sightings bring her particular excitement.

"This year in Boulder, I have been lucky enough to find a Blue-Winged Warbler, a Varied Thrush and a juvenile Pacific Loon," she said. "Once a rare bird is seen, word goes out and the birders 'flock' to chase it!"



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Exploring the Nation's Capital with CU

In the spring of 2022, **Morgan Chudd** (PolSci'23) spent a semester studying in Washington, D.C., with the CU in D.C. program. While interning with the governmental relations firm Potomac Advocates as a research analyst, she also gleaned lifelong professional experience.

“The things I learned in D.C. will stick with me for the rest of my life,” said Chudd. “This was not my first experience in the workforce, but it was different from anything I had experienced. Aside from my internship, the history in the city was enough to keep me busy for four months.”

In 2010, CU Boulder’s political science department started the CU in D.C. summer program, offering students leadership and career opportunities in Washington, D.C. By 2013, the program was offering semester-long programming.

The program, which originated in the College of Arts and Sciences, is now facilitated out of the Office of Undergraduate Education and available to students campus-wide. Since its inception, close to 400 students have participated in the internship program and have returned with a robust professional network — and sometimes job offers.

In spring 2022, CU Boulder partnered with The Washington Center (TWC) to operate the on-site component of the program. The partnership allows students to access TWC’s network of internship partners in the areas of government, nonprofit, media, business, education, law, sciences and the arts.

Key highlights of the CU in D.C. program are internship opportunities with members of the Colorado congressional delegation and connecting with Forever Buffs in the area.

Dale Farrand (AeroEngr'93), leader of the Forever Buffs D.C. alumni chapter, oversees the CU in D.C. Mentorship Program, which connects current students with Buff mentors in the D.C. area. Students shadow their mentors in the workplace and work closely with them on goal-setting, networking and resume development.

Dylan Yachyshen (Econ, IntlAf'21) lives and works in D.C. He has mentored three CU in D.C. students who were interested in his fields of foreign affairs and national security.

“I’ve been able to help and mentor current students looking to pursue careers in similar fields and give them advice about D.C., which — as I know from personal experience — can be hard to find sometimes,” Yachyshen said. **BY CHEYENNE SMITH**

Nearly 400 students have interned in the nation’s capital with the CU in D.C. program, which started in 2010.

FROM PUBLIC TO **POLITICAL**

WHY DO SOME ISSUES BECOME POLITICIZED?
CU EXPERTS EXPLAIN WHY AND HOW VOTING
RIGHTS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ABORTION
BECAME RALLYING CALLS FOR POLITICAL
PARTIES. **BY TORI PEGLAR**

Amid hills lined with grape vineyards and peach orchards, Doug Spencer, a CU Boulder associate law professor, found himself sitting in a room in Palisade, Colorado, meeting with locals about how to address the growing polarization in politics. The energy changed in the room when people realized that shifting conversations to localized issues like water rights rather than culture war issues could create more common ground.

But it's not as simple as it sounds.

"Every issue can be branded by a political group like a corporation brands their product," Spencer said.

It's easy to see how with a hefty marketing budget and consistent messaging, any issue can become packaged with a red or blue ribbon to become a political product. But how exactly does something seemingly apolitical become a wedge that pits political parties against each other?

In a nutshell, the answer lies largely in three factors: if an issue helps reinforce a political party's identity; what decisions the Supreme Court makes; and how much private money, particularly in the form of lobbying, enters the picture.

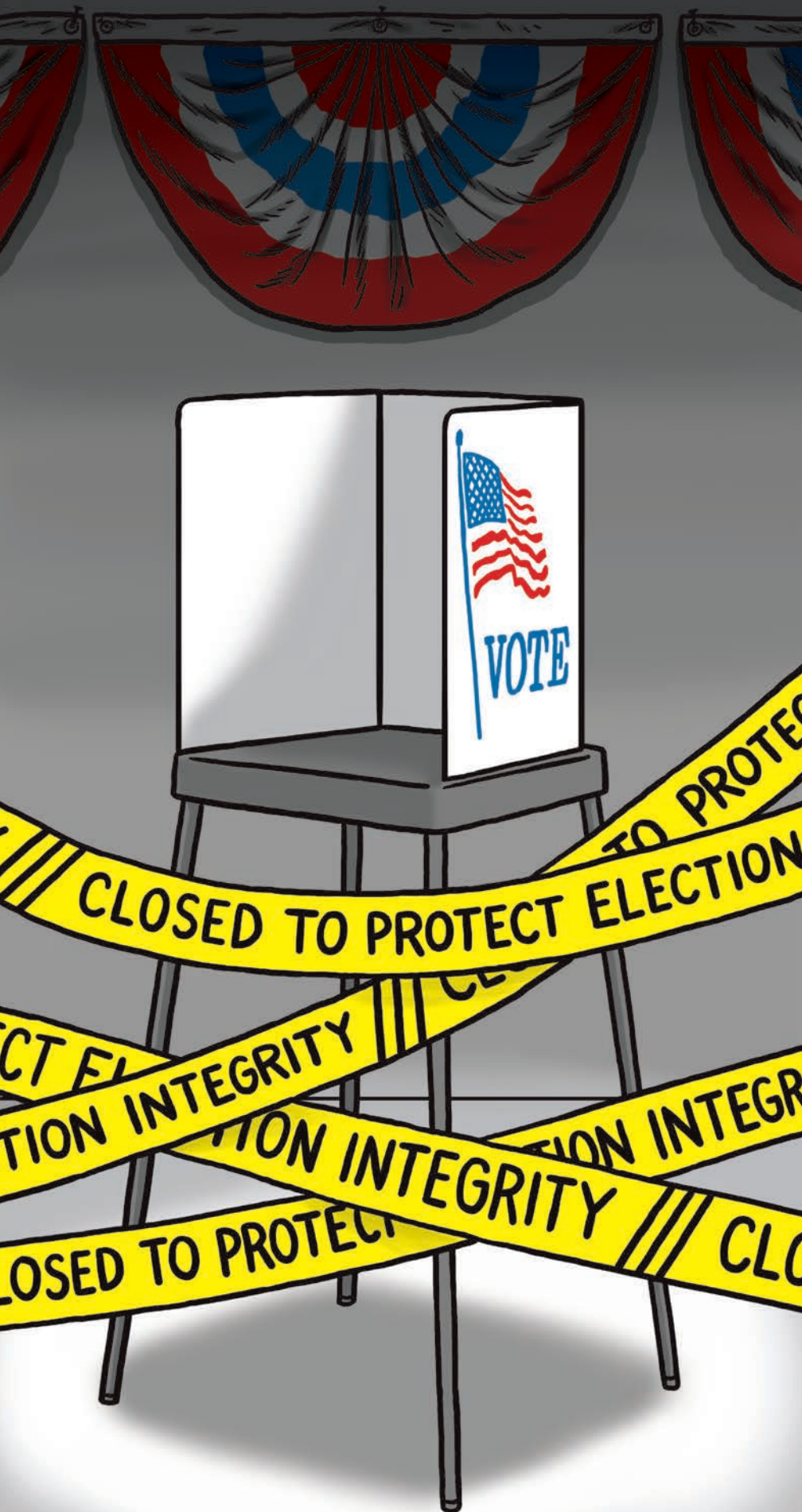
ISSUES AS RALLYING CRY FOR VOTERS

Sometimes, the road from a general-interest issue to political rallying cry is relatively straightforward. The issue just happens to be in the right place at the right time for a political party to swoop down, pick it up and run with it.

Climate change was merely an environmental issue in the 1970s and 1980s when oil and gas executives acknowledged carbon dioxide's effects on Earth's climate. And as late as 1989, Democrats, Independents and Republicans were equally "worried" about climate change, according to a poll cited by environmental studies assistant professor Matt Burgess.

So, why did climate change become politicized? Scholars, pundits and politicians often point to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, when 150 nations pledged to reduce greenhouse gas





emissions. The U.S. signed it, but the Republican-controlled Senate refused to ratify it, arguing it would harm the economy. Fiscally conservative Republicans felt the protocol put too much of the financial burden on developed countries like the United States without asking developing countries to do the same, and arguably, they may have been right. And as Burgess points out, signing it seemed to go against Republican rallying cries around corporate deregulation and free-market capitalism.

Like the Republicans in Congress, conservative Libertarian Americans questioned why corporations and the public should pay a high price to slow climate change, especially since it was impacting so few Americans. In the 1980s and 1990s, there was more at stake economically to move from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Today, renewable energy is often the cheapest form of power. But it wasn't in the 1980s and 1990s.

"Twenty years ago, the downsides of climate change were seen as far off and the economic pain was seen as real and imminent," said Burgess. "Now both of these things have changed."

Conversely, Democrats — spearheaded by Vice President Al Gore — saw climate change as a moral issue that needed regulation, regardless of its cost or that its impacts weren't immediately felt. Flash forward to 2019 when that moral take on climate change took center stage in the Green New Deal in which progressive Democrats sought to bring greenhouse gasses to net-zero and address economic inequality and racial injustice.

Like climate change, abortion also got swept up into partisan politics.

When *Roe v. Wade* passed in 1973, it gave women the right to an abortion — but it wasn't immediately a partisan issue. In fact, the Supreme Court was majority Republican-nominated, and five of the six Republican appointees voted to legalize abortion.

"In *Roe v. Wade*, the court was divided more on legal types of things," said CU Boulder law professor Jennifer Hendricks. "It wasn't until after *Roe v. Wade* that there was a synergy in the Republican party with their vision of politicizing abortion as an issue."

That synergy took center stage at the 1980 Republican Convention in Detroit, as Republicans campaigned on "preserv-

ing traditional family values" and called for stronger families and a constitutional amendment to protect the lives of unborn children. Some scholars assert that the religious right's rising power, plus the mass exodus of conservative Southerners from the Democratic party, moved abortion to the center of the Republican family values platform.

By 1992, the Republican Convention platform called for the "appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life." It has since guided a decadeslong openly public Republican strategy of appointing pro-life judges at all levels.

SUPREMELY TRANSFORMATIONAL
Yet there's another force contributing to turning certain issues partisan — the Supreme Court.

Take 2013, for example, which was packed with milestones. Apple released the iPhone 5s with touch ID, Lance Armstrong admitted on *Oprah* to doping during his Tour de France wins, and the Boston Marathon bombing shook the country. That same year, the Supreme Court struck down a key provision in the Voting Rights Act that previously

**YET THERE'S ANOTHER
FORCE CONTRIBUTING
TO TURNING CERTAIN
ISSUES PARTISAN
— THE SUPREME COURT.**

required states with a history of racial voter discrimination like Mississippi and Texas to get approval from the federal government before making any changes to voting procedures. Both associate law professor Douglas Spencer and women and gender studies associate professor Celeste Montoya point to this ruling, known as *Shelby County v. Holder*, as a major turning point for partisan battles related to voter rights.

"Part of the justification from Justice Roberts was we don't need this anymore because we've moved beyond this," Montoya said. "The very next day states were able to establish laws that restricted voting rights. The shift from voting rights to voting privilege is pretty significant and has opened the door to the notion there are right voters and wrong voters."

Within 24 hours, Republican-dominated Texas, Mississippi and Alabama implemented strict photo ID laws. By 2016, the ACLU was challenging 15 states that passed voting restrictions before the 2016 presidential election. The ACLU notes that red states tend to pass restrictive voting laws while blue states tend to pass expansive voting laws.

“Democrats say everyone should vote, and Republicans say that Democrats are only saying that because it will help them,” Spencer said. “It starts to move the conversation away from the root of democracy and democratic ideals.”

DARK MONEY

The rise of special-interest groups — that fund politicians and research — is also steering issues toward the partisan divide. In 2010, the Supreme Court, through its *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* ruling, allowed corporations and individuals to give anonymous, unlimited donations to political campaigns. This decision reversed 100 years of federal restrictions on corporate, nonprofit and labor union funding.

In the years since, it’s spurred a frenzy of private spending to influence election outcomes. In 2010, oil and gas companies donated approximately \$35 million to U.S. congressional candidates. By 2018, this number ballooned to more than \$84 million, according to a study published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Private money also funds thought leaders. In the case of climate change, billionaire industrialists and brothers Charles and David Koch gave more than \$145 million to climate-change-denying think tanks and advocacy groups between 1997 and 2018.

“There’s the special-interests angle, where the fossil fuel industry supported misinformation about and denial of climate change,” Burgess said, noting it’s well-documented in books like *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming*.

At present, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Vermont are suing five large oil and gas companies for their alleged role in delaying climate policy and increasing the climate impacts, risks and costs incurred by state governments.

GLIMMERS OF HOPE

The good news? Not all issues stay political. Spencer sees the rise in ranked-choice voting as a way to reduce acrimony in politics. With ranked-choice voting, you rank candidates in order of your preference. If someone receives 50% plus one of the votes, they win the elec-

tion. If no one has the majority vote, the person with the fewest votes is eliminated, and the results are retabulated. This repeats until someone wins a majority.

Ranked-choice voting has been used in Maine and Alaska for statewide elections, and in cities like Fort Collins, Colorado, and Evanston, Illinois. U.S. Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski won her 2022 election in Alaska via ranked choice voting, as did Alaska House Democrat Mary Peltola.

“It’s been shown to be more fair in terms of racial and partisan representation, and you don’t need districts to have ranked-choice voting,” Spencer said. “Big changes like this will be necessary to reset our politics.”

And curiously, Republicans and Democrats are finding common ground

**IN THE YEARS SINCE,
IT’S SPURRED A FRENZY
OF PRIVATE SPENDING
TO INFLUENCE
ELECTION OUTCOMES.**

on climate change, at least at the state level. Last year, Burgess and researcher Renae Marshall looked at nearly 1,000 decarbonization bills that passed and failed at the

state level between 2015 and 2020. Republican-controlled governments passed almost one-third of decarbonization bills.

“The boom of renewables is creating economic opportunity,” Burgess said. “If you look at the 10 congressional districts with the most planned and operational renewable energy capacity, nine of them are represented by Republicans in Congress.”

Why the Republican support? Market forces, combined with government research and development subsidies, have made renewable energy often cheaper than fossil fuels, Burgess said. Plus, more Americans are experiencing the effects of climate change firsthand, including devastating floods, intense heat waves and year-round wildfires.

So, why didn’t any Republicans vote for the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the first comprehensive climate legislation to pass in U.S. history, committing \$360 billion to fight climate change? Burgess noted that Republicans supported similar policy elements at the state level. But it also included health care and tax provisions, which proved to be thorns in Republicans’ sides.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if one of Biden’s legacies is that he brought the Democrats to the center and passed climate change policy Republicans won’t want to get rid of and that they passed in their state legislatures,” Burgess said.



REDEFINING LOYALTY IN POLITICS

A **REPUBLICAN** FROM THE AGE OF 17,
COLORADO STATE **SENATOR KEVIN PRIOLA**
SENT SHOCK WAVES THROUGH **HIS PARTY**
WHEN **HE TRADED HIS R FOR A D.**

By Kelsey Yandura

Colorado state senator **Kevin Priola** (Acct, Fin'96) joined the Republican party at age 17. He was active in College Republicans during his time on campus and was elected to the Colorado state house from the 30th district in the 2008 election. In 2016, he was elected to the state senate, 25th district.

In August of 2022, Priola made a decision that sent shock waves through his party: He switched parties, registering as a Democrat. Here, Priola talks about his journey through politics, his experience at CU Boulder and how he changed parties amid a highly politicized point in U.S. history.

What influenced you to join the Republican Party as a teenager?

My family was from a small business background, and I really admired Ronald Reagan. In my opinion, he was a calming presence for the country. I knew back then that not everybody loved him, but in general, I felt like he brought the best out of people in the country and made us proud to be Americans.

How did your time at CU shape the way you moved through your career?

Being a Ralphie Handler probably had more of an influence on me than anything. It gave me experience with the press and being in the spotlight. It gave me a quiet sense of confidence. There's nothing like handling a 1,300-pound animal in front of 85,000 people.

Is there an ethos that grounds your decision-making in your career?

I try to honestly put myself in the shoes of the average Colorado voter. I try to remember tens of thousands of conversations I've had knocking on doors and talking to people through the summers. What do they think is fair? What do they think is right?

What is different about today's parties compared to when you entered politics?

The extremes of both parties are a little more extreme than they were 20 years ago. The reasonable voices are often shouted down and pushed out. I

understand enough about politics to know that this happens through time: Parties move, and the political pendulum swings back and forth. I never thought I would see a political realignment in my lifetime, but I honestly think we're going through one right now.

You switched to the Democratic Party in 2022. Can you talk about what shaped that decision and what the process was like?

It was years in the making. I just kept seeing the Republican party become more and more extreme. They were embracing things and talking about things that I didn't recognize anymore. I felt like I was tacitly approving of it by being associated with it.

Do you have an answer for how citizens can effectively participate in democracy?

There are thousands of ways to participate — vote, help candidates raise money, participate in town halls, write letters, lobby your city council. I think democratic institutions are like muscles: They need to be used, or they atrophy and get weak. My hope is that people start voting and engaging more in the process.

Do you have anything to say to the people who voted for you in 2020?

I think they voted for me for my values and my perspective, not necessarily because there was an R or a D behind my name. And I'm going to stay true to those values.





History Updated

For tackling controversial subjects in the classroom, teacher educator Noreen Naseem Rodriguez counsels a defined educational vision, clear and honest communication and a strong dose of hope.

By Steve Neumann

In the introduction to Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, the American theologian Richard Shaull wrote that there is "no such thing as a neutral educational process." He wrote that "education either functions as an instrument that is used to facilitate the integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system," or it becomes "the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality."

Noreen Naseem Rodriguez, an assistant professor in the School of Education at CU Boulder, is preparing the next generation of teachers to shepherd their students through a rapidly changing educational landscape — one mired in controversies about teaching critical race theory, addressing gender identity in the classroom and what to include in or exclude from U.S. history classes — while making sure both students and teachers are able to deal "critically and creatively with reality."

"Oftentimes, it's the adults that are uncomfortable with these topics, not the kids," Rodriguez said. "Kids just want to know, they want to understand the people around them, and they want to understand the world."

Anti-Oppressive Social Studies

Last year, Rodriguez — who spent nine years as a primary school teacher in Texas — teamed up with Katy Swalwell, a fellow teacher educator, to publish a textbook, *Social Studies for a Better World*, after years of being dissatisfied with other textbooks. The overarching goal of the book is to offer advice for teaching controversial issues in the classroom and how to avoid potential repercussions.

"The last chapter is about how to do this work without getting fired," Rodriguez said. "There's this constant fear of upsetting people."

Rodriguez acknowledges there is no guarantee a school or district will support what she calls an "anti-oppressive" social studies curriculum, an approach that takes into account the power differentials in society that perpetuate inequality and oppression.

Rodriguez's interest in an anti-oppressive social studies approach developed

after she participated in the Tejano History Curriculum Project, a program focused on expanding curricula to include people of Mexican descent living in Texas for many generations.

The existing state curriculum relies on settlers like Davy Crockett, glossing over significant histories from when Texas was a part of Mexico.

"Every single student, regardless of their race or their ethnicity, was all about learning this history that no one else knew — and I was learning right alongside with them," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez notes that some school administrators, community members and even colleagues might see such efforts as a dangerous threat to their authority or the status quo.

So it makes sense that the last chapter begins with advice that is foundational and motivational: Teachers should never stop believing that a better world is possible, nor stop imagining how circumstances, policies and practices can improve.

While Rodriguez is clear that teachers shouldn't see themselves as saviors, she said, they need to be aware of the current challenges and harms that kids face. And she acknowledges it's much easier if teachers know there are others on their side. Teachers are encouraged to think of students' families as "their people," especially those families that have long been demanding something better for their children.

For those families that might not understand or support anti-oppressive education, Rodriguez emphasizes the need for educators to be clear about their vision for social studies and to regularly communicate with colleagues, families and administrators about what they and their students are up to — and why.

Lastly, Rodriguez emphasizes that educators need to make time for their own continual growth, so they're prepared for future challenges.

"Ultimately, this is about our democracy," Rodriguez added. "You can't prepare students to function in a democracy if they don't understand people who are different from them and don't know how to engage with them in productive ways."

Linda Villarosa (Jour'81) wants you to know the story of Simone Landrum — a Black mother living in New Orleans. Now nearly 30, Landrum struggled through a devastating experience with a stillborn baby in 2016 that had her feeling like her doctor “threw [her] away.”

When Landrum went into early labor a year later, Villarosa — on assignment for *The New York Times Magazine* to write about maternal and infant mortality among Black women — accompanied her.

Villarosa was aghast at what she witnessed: an all-white medical team led by an

UNDER THE SKIN

SINCE WORKING AS A HEALTH EDITOR FOR ESSENCE MAGAZINE IN THE 1980S, LINDA VILLAROSA HAS DEDICATED HER CAREER TO UNVEILING RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM.

BY DAVID SILVERBERG

attending physician Landrum didn't know, since her doctor wasn't available. When he left the room to put on a clean gown, he handed the reins to medical residents Landrum had never met before.

They all took turns peering between her legs and delivering her baby without addressing Landrum or looking her in the eye.

“It seemed like the height of disrespect,” Villarosa wrote in her April 2018 story. “The sometimes subtle, other times heavy-handed ways that discrimination played out, exactly the way I had been reporting about it, was just business as usual.”

She cited a national survey that noted that more than a quarter of Black women meet



their birth attendants for the first time during childbirth, compared with 18% of white women.

Expanding on this article and many others she wrote for the *Times* on inequality in American society and within the health-care system, Villarosa compiled harrowing stories and historical context in her recently released book, *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation*. Chapter by chapter, Villarosa dismantled the idea of the Black health crisis as an individual problem and revealed the origins of racism in today's medical field.

Villarosa, who lives in Brooklyn, said in an interview, "A Black woman with a master's, PhD, JD or MD is more likely to die in pregnancy or during childbirth or a few months after giving birth than a white woman with an eighth-grade

ideas, Villarosa said, but some myths still persist. She cited a University of Virginia study in 2016 that found that a substantial number of white medical students and residents reported believing Black people are less sensitive to pain.

In medical training and schools, it's far too rare to discuss racial disparities within health care, she said.

"We all have to say, 'Wait, something happened in this country to harm people, and if we deny it, the problem will never be solved.'"

In the book, she also detailed the scourge of environmental racism, where Black communities are more commonly located near pollution-spewing factories and dirty rivers, creating and exacerbating health problems.

She introduced readers to an experience many Black Americans have gone through, even if they didn't know the

As she recounts in her book, in 1991 Freeman told her being poor mattered and added, "If you really care about these issues and want to make a difference, you must not use race as a proxy for poverty or poverty as a proxy for race. They intersect and overlap, but to really understand the health of this country, you have to be more sophisticated than assuming that only poor Blacks are affected by this crisis. Look deeper, think differently."

FROM ADMIRING AUTHORS TO BECOMING ONE HERSELF

Thinking differently has been at the heart of Villarosa's story, thanks to her mother. She grew up in Lakewood, Colorado, immersed in a predominantly white environment that left her hungry to learn about Black culture and literature.

outdoors around such a beautiful college was valuable to me," she said.

After graduating from CU, she was the contributing nutrition and fitness writer for *Essence* magazine, the premier publication for Black American women. That journey led to her become *Essence's* executive editor from 2003 to 2005.

Ten years after graduating from CU's journalism school, she took a one-year fellowship at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, prompting her interest in health-care reporting.

Villarosa was motivated to go even further in her writing, penning her first book, *Body & Soul: The Black Women's Guide to Physical Health and Emotional Well-Being*. It hit shelves in 1994, and spurred Villarosa's deep passion for reporting on how structural racism has taken a toll on Black bodies.

VILLAROSA DISMANTLED THE IDEA OF THE BLACK HEALTH CRISIS AS AN INDIVIDUAL PROBLEM AND REVEALED THE ORIGINS OF RACISM IN TODAY'S MEDICAL FIELD.

education. It just doesn't make sense."

She explained that the takeaway isn't that a woman with a higher degree is entitled to good or better health outcomes.

"In fact, education is a proxy for having the resources to create the circumstances that lead to better health and pregnancy outcomes — such as having access to health care and treatment and understanding what to do to have a healthy pregnancy," she noted.

She asked rhetorically, "So why would a Black woman with a higher degree and all it confers still have worse pregnancy outcomes than a white woman with only an eighth-grade education? For example, the racial gap in pregnancy outcomes is wider in more educated women than it is in less educated.

Which begs the question, why is race the main factor?"

Her book is peppered with a look back at medical beliefs that were once assumed to be facts. During enslavement in the early 19th century, she wrote, a prevailing mythology was that Black people didn't suffer as much pain as white people, and that their skin was actually tougher than white skin.

Today's health professionals should be educated enough to dismiss such silly

term for it. "Weathering" refers to how discrimination and bias wears away at the bodies of those who must continuously combat them. According to Villarosa, withstanding weathering by harnessing the positive forces of community, family and friendship is critical for Black people to undo the negative effects of this endless struggle.

Villarosa, a professor and journalist-in-residence at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY, has long been compelled to report on stories focusing on poor health outcomes as a result of racism within health care. It was an area she learned more about as the health editor for *Essence* magazine in the 1980s, but she has admitted her outlook then was one-noted.

"I thought at first that inequality was due to poor people getting sick and having a lack of resources," she said. "Yes, that's a factor, but I became more enlightened on how the issue is bigger than poverty."

Not long after graduating from CU, she met Dr. Harold Freeman, director of surgery at Harlem Hospital, who upended her perspective that being poor was at the root of disparate health outcomes between white and Black Americans.

The Hue-Man Experience Bookstore, which her mother Clara Villarosa founded in 1984, was pivotal in Villarosa's self-directed education on race. The largest Black-owned bookstore in the U.S. at the time, Hue-Man invited luminaries such as Toni Morrison and James Baldwin to speak about their books and Black America.

"That bookstore gave important intellectual nourishment to me and the Black community in Colorado," Villarosa said.

Clara closed the bookstore in 2000 and moved it to Harlem, managing the wide selection of nonfiction, prose and poetry by Black authors before retiring and selling in 2006.

In fact, a key draw for Villarosa to attend CU was learning more about Black literary figures. "CU was obviously well-known for the journalism school, but I also took a minor in African American studies because authors like Baldwin were an early influence on me, and learning about all these writers really stood out to me when I went to CU," she said.

She added how being in the nature-soaked environment of Boulder was a key draw for her, too. "In my work, I tackle so much heavy stuff that being

She first taught at City College but then attended CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, earning a master's, and then became a director of its undergraduate journalism program in 2010. Villarosa loves so many nuances of journalism, she said, from pitching ideas and researching to teaching her students about everything she's learned since her CU days.

Months after she told the world about Simone Landrum, Villarosa's 2018 *The New York Times Magazine* cover story "Why America's Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis" became a finalist for a National Magazine Award.

Critical appreciation seems to follow Villarosa. Late last year, *Under the Skin* was included among *The New York Times's* 10 Best Books of 2022.

She recently looked back on what she found fulfilling and important about writing her latest book.

"This isn't a book that has a straight chronology to it, because there is so much to piece together," she said. "What became the throughline is myself and my own learning curve and recognizing what has worked and what didn't work in tackling racial disparities in our healthcare system. That's what helped hold everything together."

Breaking Down the First Amendment

The American people created the Constitution, which has been in operation since March 1789, because they wanted individual protections from the government. In June 1789, U.S. House of Representatives member James Madison drafted a list of amendments to the Constitution. The House approved 17 of the amendments, and the Senate 12. In October 1789, President George Washington sent the amendments to the states for approval. Two years later, on Dec. 15, 1791, three-fourths of the states ratified 10 of the amendments, which became known as the Bill of Rights. The first of these amendments protected individual opinions, ideas and communication.

“The five freedoms protected by the First Amendment are fundamental to modern democracy,” said political science professor Steven Vanderheiden, director of CU Boulder’s Keller Center, which focuses on the First Amendment. “They protect the right of members of the public to meaningfully participate in processes of self-governance and provide a vital check on state power.”

First Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Drafted by
James Madison
in 1789

The First Amendment applies to

**Federal,
State &
Local**

Governments

Ratified in
1791
as part of the
Bill of Rights



Libel: (a written defamation) is **NOT** protected under the First Amendment

5 freedoms the First Amendment guarantees:



Religion



Speech



Press



Petition

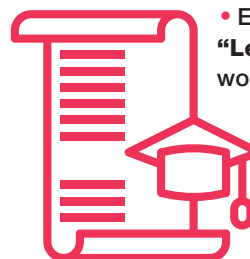


Assembly

Famous court cases related to First Amendment:

- 1 Schenk vs. US (1919):** A free-speech case that involved wartime criticism of the draft, and which gave us the “clear and present danger” test (*Ex: An individual can’t yell “Fire!” in a crowded theater*)
- 2 Engel vs. Vitale (1962):** Found the reading of a nondenominational prayer in a public school to be an unconstitutional establishment of religion
- 3 Brandenburg vs. Ohio (1969):** Gave us the incitement test (*Ex: Speech can only be restricted if an individual is likely and imminently planning to carry out something unlawful*)
- 4 The New York Times vs. US (1971):** Involved the publication of the Pentagon Papers by the media without government censorship
- 5 Wisconsin vs. Yoder (1972):** Exempted Amish children from mandatory school attendance on free exercise grounds

LeRoy Keller Center for the Study of the First Amendment:



- Endowed in 1993 by **LeRoy “Lee” Keller** (Econ’29), who worked in journalism for more than four decades
- Supports teaching, research and community outreach on First Amendment rights and liberties

- Informs the public about First Amendment rights and current threats to them
- Housed within CU Boulder’s political science department
- Current director is political science professor Steven Vanderheiden



Lyndon “Duke” Hanson III (MBA’85) has always believed in the versatility of Crocs.

“I never thought that the shoe was a fad, even though as most people would say, ‘they’re ugly rubber shoes with holes in them,’” said Hanson, who co-founded the brand with friends Scott Seamans and George Boedecker Jr. in 2002.

Since then, Crocs, Inc. has continued to prove that comfort never goes out of style. In fact, the company ranked second on global decision intelligence firm Morning Consult’s list of fastest-growing brands in the United States in 2022 (Meta came in first) after ranking all 16th in 2021. According to a third-quarter report released in November, the casual footwear giant’s revenue increased more than 57% in less than a year.

Crocs co-founder Duke Hanson reflects on the renewed popularity of the shoe brand, which celebrated its 20th anniversary with record-breaking sales in 2022.

By Patricia Kaowthumrong

company since 2008, he has continued to follow the brand and isn’t surprised by its recent multigenerational appeal.

“The reason they got so big is they’re so comfortable — and the comfort shoe market is the biggest market for any type of shoe,” he said. “Back when we were blowing up between 2002 and 2008, [the growth] was driven by kids and teenagers and young people as much as the older customers who had foot and back problems that the shoes helped relieve.”

And it still is, thanks in part to the company’s investment in playful designs and creative marketing to buyers from all walks of life. The shoes, which are still made with a closed-cell resin the company produces called Crolite, are now available in a rainbow of colors and a bounty of

crocs

The rise in high-profile collaborations is also a testament to the brand’s mass appeal: Justin Bieber, Post Malone and Diplo are among the long list of celebrities who have recently worked with the company.

But Crocs weren’t always a hot, Instagram-worthy commodity. Hanson, Seamans and Boedecker debuted the first iteration of the clog — known best for its iconic cutouts and for being lightweight and slip-resistant — at a Fort Lauderdale boat show in 2002. A few years of skyrocketing demand later, the company went public in 2006, but the market crash of 2008 and impending Great Recession forced it to downsize. As a result, Hanson, the last co-founder to remain on the Crocs executive team at that time, voluntarily retired.

“It was very, very hectic when you grow like a hockey stick,” said Hanson, referring to the company’s sudden need to cut costs for survival after a period of extremely rapid growth.

Despite the turbulence, Hanson was grateful for retirement, which enabled him to spend more time with family. He, his wife and his young daughter traveled extensively before settling in the Gunbarrel area of Boulder County. While Hanson hasn’t worked with the

the comeback kicks

styles, from sneakers to boots and platforms to flip-flops.

In addition to collaborating with musicians and high-end fashion designers, the company has released designs featuring pop culture icons like

Harry Potter and Ted Lasso and even food brands such as Kentucky Fried Chicken and Hidden Valley Ranch. It also offers playful customization options that promote self-expression via its patented Jibbitz charms.

“I think that the management of the company now has done an amazing job of using influencers and understanding the power of influencers in the marketplace, especially with young people,” Hanson said.

Hanson’s daughter, who is now 11, and many of her sixth-grade classmates asked for Crocs for Christmas — all while the shoes continue to appeal to essential workers and consumers seeking comfort and durability.

“Twenty years later and they’re still ubiquitous,” he said. “I do feel a pang of pride. And sometimes [when I think] about the early days of the things that happened [at the company], to allow it to get to this point is very incredible.”

As for Hanson’s Crocs of choice? He’s a devoted fan of the brand’s flip-flops.

“Crocs are cool for everybody,” he said.



100 YEARS OF THE SINK

Boulder's oldest and most storied restaurant is a century old. By Lisa Friedrich Truesdale



Assuming ownership of a longtime college hangout sounds like a tricky proposition, especially if you're just barely out of college

yourself. Yet Mark Heinritz, his brothers Chris and Jim, and their friend Cameron Stainton — all in their mid-20s in 1992 — felt up to the challenge of running The Sink, the venerable Hill institution just steps from the CU campus.

“Growing up in Connecticut, we appreciated history, and we understood The Sink’s role in Boulder,” he said. “Though it wasn’t until we were meeting people every day, whom it meant so much to, that we knew we could be

stewards, taking care of the millions of memories that live here.”

The Sink is Boulder’s oldest restaurant, celebrating 100 years in 2023. After 30 years, Heinritz and his partners are forever part of its history, making their own mark on it while also tracing the footsteps of the many owners who came before them.

Growing up with The Sink

Caryl Segawa (A&S’67) will always cherish her memories of The Sink. She grew up there — literally, since she was only four when her parents, John and Pauli Pudlik, bought the place in 1949. For years, she’d walk there after school, chow down on her favorite grilled cheese, then maybe take a nap under the desk in the office.

Just as Sink regulars were known as “Sink Rats,” she was the “Sink Brat,” and

it wasn’t until years later that she realized how lucky she’d been to experience such a unique childhood.

“I was singing the CU fight song before I was singing nursery rhymes,” said Segawa, whose father and Uncle Ed played football at CU in the ’30s and ’40s. “And all those students looking out for me ... It was heaven for a little girl.”

Kevin Fitzgerald’s (EPOBio’73; MBio’78; PhD’82) Sink experience was just as unique — and it began on just his second day at CU, in 1969.

“I was approached and asked if I wanted to be a bouncer,” he said. “I was told I’d get \$1.69 an hour and a free burger each shift, and that I’d meet more girls than Frank Sinatra.”

The Hill was a “truly magical place” at the time, he said, and The Sink drew a mixed crowd of fraternity and sorority members and “long-haired hippies,”

all taking advantage of the nickel-beer specials and 35-cent burgers.

“We had political things going on, like Vietnam and Nixon, and all these social issues, like women’s rights,” he said.

Somer’s Sunken Gardens

The Sink opened in 1923 as Somer’s Sunken Gardens, in the former Sigma Nu fraternity house. Named for the sunken fountain in the middle of the dining room — from which diners could apparently choose their own trout for dinner — it was nicknamed “The Sink.” After the Pudliks took over, they decided the nickname should be the official name instead. Then they made another very important change: Though Boulder was still “dry” at the time, 3.2 beer wasn’t considered to be alcohol. So the Pudliks began pouring brews — and the students came pouring in, too.



In 1956, they sold the business to Joe Beimford and Floyd Marks. In 1960, Herbie and Gilda Kauvar — Marks' sister — took over the business, and kept the menu, which featured the now-famous Sink Burger and its signature hickory Sink Sauce.

What **Rick Kauvar** (EPOBio'75) remembers most about those early days when his parents took over the business was that the beer sales made it an 18-and-older establishment.

"I was eight, and I had to sit out in the car and watch all the college kids going in and out all those years," he said. "It was amazing to finally get to go in after hours and see the remnants of a life that was so mysterious to me."

Once they were old enough, Kauver and his brother **Jim** (Mktg'79) spent afternoons and evenings working there, which Jim said he'll always remember as "an important part of our family's history."

Upon taking over the restaurant, Herbie and Gilda hired artist Lloyd Kavich (who also redid the walls in 1989) to redo some of the classic, circa-1950s artwork with an "age of Aquarius" theme. Most importantly, they continued fostering an atmosphere of community and a place for students to gather, with nonstop music blaring from the jukebox.

"Only happy songs were allowed," said Fitzgerald.

In the mid-'70s, though, the bubble burst. The Hill, a hub of "flower power" counterculture activity in Boulder, began drawing people interested in living alternative lifestyles. New businesses opened up to cater to their needs and wants, offering things like vintage clothes, bell bottoms, leather vests and incense.

"It made it impossible for students to really keep enjoying The Sink the way they had for all those years," said Rick. "My dad had to make a change or he would have lost it completely."

Alongside the neighborhood changes, business began to decline as shoppers gravitated toward the new stores and new types of restaurants. As sales lagged at The Sink, Herbie switched tactics and opened Herbie's Deli with faster counter service and sandwiches. He kept the Sink Burger on the menu, but covered up the iconic art with pine boards. He

thought The Sink would be forever forgotten, but he was wrong. For years, Rick and Jim urged their dad to bring it back, and much to the delight of Sink Rats everywhere (including Fitzgerald), they finally did in 1989, uncovering the artwork and adding a full bar.

The Sink Today

Though Heinritz admits they had "a lot to work with," they've also made a few changes in the past 30 years.

"We kept the menu we inherited and let it morph over time, like adding ugly crust pizza, formulated in my own kitchen," he said. They also introduced the now-famous Buddha Basil Pie — famous enough, in fact, to attract the likes of Guy Fieri from *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives* (2010), President Obama (2012) and Anthony Bourdain (2013), all of whom signed the classic "wall of fame." There's also **Robert Redford**

(A&S ex'58; HonDochHum'87), The Sink's most famous employee, who worked there as a janitor in 1955. He makes sure to visit whenever he's in town and was even put to work once.

Though The Sink hasn't changed much visually over the years, it has a decidedly different vibe today

than in the '70s. It used to come to life at 10 p.m. — now that's closing time, and it's not the same type of crowd.

"As Boulder evolved away from being a party school and liquor laws tightened, we started leaning into the culinary side of it, wanting to build a reputation built around food and community," explained Heinritz.

Still, the restaurant's connections to CU remain unbreakable. "We get students and faculty coming in before and after football games, during the Conference on World Affairs and other big events," Heinritz said. "But we also see business people and young families. When I meet someone who has never been in, who thinks they're too old, I say, 'Just come in and give it a try,' and they're always surprised."

As for the Heinritz brothers' success in keeping The Sink's legacy alive, Mark Heinritz gives some of the credit to Herbie.

"When we bought it, he said to me, 'You'd have to be a real idiot to screw this up.' That became our guiding light."

WE STARTED LEANING INTO THE CULINARY SIDE OF IT, WANTING TO BUILD A REPUTATION BUILT AROUND FOOD AND COMMUNITY.

RUNNING



G O U T O F S P A C E

Space environmentalist *Moriba Jah*, a 2022 MacArthur Fellow, is on a mission to manage space debris. BY ALLISON NITCH

Astrodynamicist and space environmentalist **Moriba Jah** (MAeroEngr'01; PhD'05) is among the prestigious 25-member cohort of the 2022 MacArthur Fellows Program.

After receiving roughly 2,000 nominations per year from a pool of invited external nominators, the MacArthur Foundation selects individuals demonstrating exceptional creativity and a history of significant achievement who are on the precipice of great discovery or a game-changing idea. Jah, a CU Boulder alumnus, is one such individual.

He won the fellowship for laying the foundation for a safe, prosperous and sustainable near-Earth space environment.

"Much like people are keeping track of things moving on land, air and ocean, my job is to keep track of human-made things moving around in space," said Jah, associate professor of aerospace engineering and engineering mechanics at the University of Texas at Austin.

SAVING SPACE

Jah's work also involves policy guidance and public education concerning the framework of space environmentalism, which he likened to human exploration of Earth's assets. "That exploration was led by those most resourced, and it always came to the detriment of the environment — we're doing the same thing with space."

While Jah said he's still in some disbelief about receiving a MacArthur fellowship, he wants "to invest these resources in me and my vision. Basically, I want space environmental-

ism to be mainstream across humanity. ... I'm going to look for every means possible to be able to achieve that."

A challenge in his field, he said, is the lack of empathy toward solving the problem of space debris.

"That's the most difficult thing — mostly because people don't have the awareness of what the problem is," he said. "Then once they learn about it, it's hard for them to see why it should matter to them."

Jah strives to fix this by showing evidence "of the dependencies that we have, certainly in western civilization, on space-based infrastructure, services and capabilities in our daily lives."

Together, Jah and his colleagues created a system to gather and catalog data through ASTRIAGraph and Wayfinder, free online visualization tools they've developed.

The alarming amount of space congestion he tracks includes expired satellites that continue to travel at high speeds. When satellites stop functioning, they will hurtle through space for centuries or more, he said. While space is often thought of as large and infinite, Jah confirmed orbital highways — where satellites are placed — are very finite.

Just a few years ago, a dozen satellites were launched in a year. Now, "we're launching about a dozen satellites per week, at least," said Jah. "We're just sending stuff up but not coordinating it with other countries."

"It's a recipe for the tragedy of the commons: Space could become unusable because we keep on participating in that finite resource without the benefit of planning, coordinating and even understanding the decision-making processes of other people that are doing that as well."

ON THE HORIZON

Looking ahead as a MacArthur Fellow, Jah underscored his belief in the interconnection of all things: "We are in an existential crisis; our only way through it is by having a successful conversation with our environment," he said. "Stewardship is really what's being asked for us to become, embrace and honor."

"I hope that my work is able to recruit empathy from people to raise awareness, show evidence of the interconnectedness and hopefully motivate people to see themselves as stewards of the environment."



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ALUMNInews

Student Philanthropy Month

The Herd Leadership Council and Alumni Association aim to raise \$30,000 for CU student groups.

After winning the Western Women's Collegiate Hockey League last February, the CU women's ice hockey club team needed funds to help them travel to nationals in St. Louis, Missouri. They, along with 10 other CU Boulder student groups, participated in the university's inaugural Student Philanthropy Month as a way to fundraise for their cause. By the end of March, the team walked away with \$11,200.

"It gave us the opportunity to truly connect with our peers and college community," said **Elle LaPerle** (Neuro, Psych'25), the club's vice president, who plays a forward position. "The money that we were able

to raise helped lower individual costs for nationals and made it possible for all of our girls to travel and participate."

Student Philanthropy Month occurs through a partnership with The Herd Leadership Council (HLC) — a group of 15 students who work to deliver meaningful services and programs to engage CU Boulder

students with the Forever Buffs community — and the CU Boulder Alumni Association. Up to 20 student groups will crowdfund this March, ranging from Senior Class Council to the *CU Independent* newspaper.

The goal this year is to raise \$30,000 total for all of the groups, said sophomore and HLC Philanthropy Chair **Michael Coaty** (Expl'25).

"We're empowering students to be able to help themselves," he said.

The month will include a Student Philanthropy Fair on March 21 at the UMC fountains to raise additional funds that will be evenly distributed among the participating groups, said **Sara Abdulla** (EnvSt, Psych'13), senior program manager for student engagement at the Alumni Association.

"We really want to meet students where they're at in terms of supporting causes they care about," she said. *Find out more about Student Philanthropy Month at colorado.edu/theherd/philanthropy.*



The second annual Student Philanthropy Fair will occur March 21 at the UMC.



CU BOULDER Alumni Association

CU Boulder Reunions



At Homecoming Weekend last fall, nearly 480 people attended one of 10 affinity reunions — including 185 people at the Silver Buffs Marching Band

reunion and 106 people at the CU Buffoons' 60th-anniversary reunion. Other reunions were hosted by the Black, American Indian, and Latinx alumni clubs and CU Student Government. In addition, about 40 people attended the 50-Year and Golden Anniversary Club reunion, which included a private lunch at The Sink and an exclusive tour of campus.

"Attendees love to tell stories of their time on campus, revisit meaningful facilities, talk to former professors and learn about current campus culture," said **Sarah Lurie** (Mgmt'20), local engagement program manager at the Alumni Association.

While Homecoming is the largest event for reunions to gather each year, groups can meet at other times. Last October, 19 alumni gathered in Bordeaux, France, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their study abroad experience. The Koenig Alumni Center, home of the Alumni Association, can also serve as a venue for reunions.

"With such a large alumni base at CU, reunions serve as a way to nurture special connections with smaller campus communities," said Lurie. *Want to host a reunion Nov. 4 on campus at Homecoming 2023? Visit colorado.edu/alumni to fill out an interest form.*

GOLF CLASSIC

This year, the annual Forever Buffs Gold Classic will be held on July 31 at the Boulder Country Club. The tournament is a 144-person scramble format tournament with proceeds supporting the Alumni Association's student scholarship fund. Visit colorado.edu/alumni/golf for registration information.

AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR ALUMNI

Nominate CU Boulder alumni, students, faculty or staff for an Alumni Award. Each year our award winners represent the best of CU Boulder through impact and work in their communities — and the world. The

nomination period closes on Monday, April 24. The university recognizes the awardees at its inspiring annual ceremony during Homecoming Weekend. This year's ceremony will be held Thursday, Nov. 2, in the Glenn Miller Ballroom. Visit colorado.edu/alumni/awards to nominate a deserving Buff.

SPRING FOOTBALL GAME

Catch Coach Prime and the Buffaloes football team as they scrimmage April 22 at Folsom Field. General admission tickets cost \$10. The game will give a preview of what fans can expect in the fall, which marks the team's 100th season at Folsom Field.

2023-24 TRIPS



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Antiquities of the Red Sea and Aegean Sea
Oct. 31-Nov. 13, 2023



Total Eclipse of the Sun near Austin, Texas
April 6-9, 2024

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



CU NightRide

Student-operated program CU NightRide provides safe evening transportation for students, staff and faculty — for free.

During the 2021–22 school year, CU NightRide provided more than 17,600 rides.

Founded in 1985 under the name NightWalk, the program enlisted student volunteers as night-time walking companions for their peers. Since then, NightWalk has evolved into NightRide.

Nikolas Provost (EIEng’21; MS’23), who has worked with NightRide since he was a first-year student, said his job “lets me do my part in making CU a safer place and allows me the chance to meet a huge chunk of the community I otherwise wouldn’t have.”

Using NightRide is easy: On the CU NightRide app, students indicate their pickup and dropoff location — anywhere within Boulder city limits — and the next available student driver will pick them up. The service includes an ADA-compliant vehicle.

Sophomore **Mary Miller** (EnvDes’25) uses NightRide two to three times a week going to and from campus late at night.

“As someone who lives off campus and doesn’t have a car, it’s really useful,” she said. “Especially in the winter when it gets darker earlier in the day, I feel like I can’t go as many places or do as much. But with CU NightRide, I feel like I have more freedom.”

CU NightRide provides free Boulder transportation to students, staff and faculty members.



The University's Role in Democracy



Philip P.
DiStefano

As today's political climate turns increasingly divisive, we tend to hear a common refrain — a pining for “simpler times” when politics felt less contentious.

It's debatable if those times ever existed. One stance is that the “civility” of this bygone era that we pine for too often came at the expense of free speech, justice and equity for those who held less power. And yet it's certain modern politics are in deeply troubled waters.

When political disputes arise, I recall what a faculty member told me early in my career: A university should be a “house of conflict,” where a wide swath of perspectives are discussed and debated in search of greater understanding. Embracing the idea that conflict is inevitable, even healthy, clarifies our purpose as a university and the role we play within a democratic society.

In my State of the Campus address last fall, I said that CU Boulder must rededicate itself to supporting and sustaining democracy every day. Each of us has a responsibility and a role to play by supporting free speech and thoughtful discourse, conducting research that informs policy and serves the public good, and enabling and encouraging participation in the democratic process, to prepare students to become leaders in our state, country and world.

By doing these things, we can inspire a generation of Forever Buffs who value principled leadership, demand

integrity and embrace compromise across political divides. And we can model for all of society what it means to hold fast to democratic principles even in the face of intolerance, gridlock and animosity.

So how do we get there?

There's no singular answer, but I believe every action we take as a university must include these attributes:

The university must commit to open communication that intentionally focuses on equity, justice and the inclusion of diverse voices.

We need more organizations that foster reasoned discourse and bring new voices and broad perspectives to conversations about social issues.

It's also important to differentiate between spirited public debate and the self-interested confrontation that degrades democracy. Valuable arguments persuade rather than stifle.

We also must encourage all — particularly students — to participate in democratic processes. I'm proud that CU Boulder participates in the All In Campus Democracy Challenge, which encourages campuses to achieve excellence in nonpartisan student democratic engagement.

Supporting democracy is a tall order, and we won't get it right every time. But it's important that we make that effort. *PHILIP P. DISTEFANO IS THE 11TH CHANCELLOR OF CU BOULDER. HE IS THE QUIGG AND VIRGINIA S. NEWTON ENDOWED CHAIR IN LEADERSHIP, OVERSEEING CU BOULDER'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS.*



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SPORTSnews

By **Andrew Daigle** (PhDEng'16)



Bolder Buffs

Student-athlete peer advocates discuss psychological health concerns and train with clinical counseling staff, while aiming to destigmatize mental health in Athletics.

Whether it's social media, the transfer portal, coach turnover or name, image and likeness (NIL), NCAA student-athletes confront increasing pressure and uncertainty on and off the playing field. It's anything but a "free ride."

Bolder Buffs, CU Athletics' peer advocacy program, has been bringing student-athletes' psychological health concerns into the open since 2018. It's a collaborative space to meet once a month, share personal challenges and learn to help peers.

"Bolder Buffs showed me that I wasn't alone with my struggles," said **Issy Simpson** (NeuroSci, Psych'23), a CU golfer.

CU Athletics' Psychological Health and Performance (PHP) program provides clinical guidance for Bolder Buffs. **Erin Rubenking** (Fin'10; MPsych'14), PHP associate director and Bolder Buffs clinical advisor, started in 2018 as one of two full-time staff members. PHP's full-time staff has since doubled, and there are several counseling trainees as well.

Soon after Rubenking's arrival, soccer's **J.J. Tompkins** (Psych'19) and women's basketball's **Kennedy Leonard** (Comm'19) founded Bolder Buffs with involvement from PHP.

"They saw a need for a place for student-athletes to discuss mental health, to figure out how to support teammates because they're not therapists, they're student-athletes," said Rubenking.

Bolder Buffs trains student-athletes on three Rs: recognize, respond, refer. Bolder Buffs are not one-stop resources. They train to recognize if someone is struggling, respond supportively and connect them to appropriate resources.

In addition to direct advocacy, Bolder Buffs initiates change in PHP. "A lot of what we're doing is informed by Bolder Buffs. If they're struggling with something, I take that back to my team, and we can design a group, a staff training or something else," said Rubenking.

Student-athlete-focused outcomes include 24/7 support through the Buffs Helpline (303-735-7182), a new Athletic Department policy giving them more control over collection and sharing of their body composition data, and training to help manage performance anxiety.

"Bolder Buffs has become part of my self-care routine. Plus, I can help others through what I've learned," said Simpson.

Bolder Buffs allows for student-athletes to meet monthly to discuss personal challenges and learn how to be a mental health resource for their peers.

Sanders Named Football Coach

Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders was announced as Colorado's 28th full-time head football coach on Dec. 3.

"Not only will Coach Prime energize our fanbase, I'm confident that he will lead our program back to national prominence while leading a team of high quality and high character," said athletic director Rick George.

Sanders comes to CU after three seasons as head coach at Jackson State University, where his teams went a combined 27-6 and earned consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference championships (2021 and 2022).

Before coaching, Sanders was a two-sport athlete. Twice named a first-team All-American defensive back at Florida State, he went on to play in the NFL (14 years) and MLB (9 years). In the NFL, he was the 1994 Defensive Player of the Year, a two-time Super Bowl champion and 2011 Hall of Fame inductee.

Sanders takes over a 1-11 football program that saw head coach Karl Dorrell dismissed in October. Sanders pledged: "This is my job and my occupation and my business and my dream to bring you back to where you know you should belong."

Bufs Bits

Women's cross-country won its second consecutive Pac-12 Championship on Oct. 28. **Bailey Hertenstein** (MIntPhys'24) won the individual championship. The women went on to place 11th at the NCAA Championships on Nov. 19, with Hertenstein and **Ella Baran** (MEnvEng'24) racing to All-American finishes. ... Men's cross-country placed second overall at the Pac-12 Championship and then finished eighth overall at NCAAs. ...

For the first time since 2018, women's volleyball reached the NCAA tournament. The Buffaloes (20-11, 12-8 Pac-12) were eliminated by No. 20 Rice in a first-round match on Dec. 1. Middle blocker **Meegan Hart** (Soc'21; MSOL'23) was named All-Pac-12 First Team. ... Women's soccer finished the 2022 season 8-7-5 (2-6-3 Pac-12) after a 5-0-2 start had the Buffaloes ranked No. 19 nationally. ...

Ambassador **David Bolen** (Mktg, MBA'50), CU's first Olympian, died on Dec. 10, 2022. Bolen placed second in the 440 yards at the 1947 NCAA Championships and fourth in the 400 meters at the 1948 London Olympics. He went on to a distinguished career in the foreign service, including appointments as U.S. Ambassador.

Coach Talk

**"CHANGE IS EVIDENT.
IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
... WHENEVER YOU
DOMINATE A SPACE,
THERE'S ELEVATION."**

— Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders in the February 2023 issue of GQ.

STATS

77-67

Score after women's basketball beat the previously undefeated and No. 8-ranked Utah Utes on Jan. 6 in Boulder.

19.56

Distance, in meters, of indoor track and field's **Gya'ni Sami's** (EthSt, Soc'23) weight throw, a new CU record by over a foot, at the Air Force Holiday Open on Dec. 2.

96 Percent

CU student-athlete Graduation Success Rate announced by the NCAA in November, an all-time high for the university.

262nd

career win for men's basketball head coach **Tad Boyle** when the Buffs beat Southern Utah 86-78 at home on Dec. 21, making him the winningest head coach in program history.

First

Offensive tackle **Tommy Brown** (MSOL'24) signed with Boulder-based **Shinesty** to become the first-ever college football NIL underwear model.

Combined Events, Singular Results

Track and field's **Avery McMullen** (IntPhys, Psych'24) is an All-American in the indoor pentathlon and outdoor heptathlon. The Tennessee native discusses her shift to track, CU's tight community of multi-event athletes and staying focused when competing in up to seven events in a meet.

When people say 'combined events' or 'multi-events,' what does that include?

The indoor pentathlon is the 60-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, long jump and then the 800 meters. With the outdoor heptathlon, on day one it's the 100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put and then the 200 meters. Then, the second day is long jump, javelin and the 800 meters. Always in those orders.

There's a lot of specialization in athletics, whether that's playing only one sport or choosing distance over sprinting. When did you know that you wanted to compete across multiple track and field events?

I played soccer growing up, and I only started doing track in high school. My club coach saw me at a meet, and he focused on the heptathlon and pentathlon. Most states don't have combined events in high school, but Tennessee has it at our state meet. So, I did it throughout high school. Many people come into college not knowing that they'll do the multi, but I've always done it.

Why did you decide to come to Colorado?

I went on visits for soccer my sophomore year. But then I decided to continue with track instead of soccer, and I was looking at mostly smaller schools in the South. One of my teammates from high school was coming here, and I was actually on vacation a mile from campus. I emailed CU, and Coach [Lindsey] Malone emailed me back five minutes later. She took my family on a campus tour that day. I went on my official visit that October. Coach Malone focuses on multis and always has a big group. Most schools only have one or two multis, and they'll send you off to different coaches. Here, you're with one coach.

Can you tell us about your training and how you find time to practice each event?

We never do only one thing at practice. It's a field event and running, or lifting and running or all three. We do each event at least once a week, but you've got to focus because we might not do it again for a week. We do sprint workouts but not a lot of distance.



Do you prefer the pentathlon or heptathlon? Most people prefer outdoor track, but I like indoor. I don't like the cold or wind. The pentathlon makes it level for everyone, and I can do all the events in one day.

Do you sometimes compete in individual events outside of the multi? You can't do the multi every weekend. Most people do it two to four times per season. Competing in individual events gets you more practice when you're not doing a multi. It's hard to get PRs [personal records] in a multi.

Among all the combined events, do you have favorites? High jump, long jump and hurdles. Even if I'm not

doing a multi, I always ask to do those ones.

An event like the 800 requires different strengths than shot put or high jump. How do you maximize your performance across events? I go all out in every single event. But it is daunting when you're standing on the line for an 800, and you're like, 'I can't feel my legs, but I'm going to have to run this.' The 800 is always last. That's the one I struggle with the most.

Are you competing in each event alongside everyone else or just those doing multis? Just with the multis. We do every event together. You become good friends with your competitors. I know most of

the multis in the Pac-12 because we spend entire days together.

Can you share some advice you've received from your CU coaches? Relax and have fun. When you aren't putting all that pressure on yourself, you end up doing much better. It's important to not look at what everyone else is doing because everyone has strengths and weaknesses in the multi. Coach always says to forget about the event you just did, whether it went well or badly. With 20 minutes to the next event, you don't want to be extra hyped or mad.

Do you have a special memory of a meet? At Spokane last year, I did a multi and got

a 300-point PR. That's where I got my mark to qualify for Nationals. I was so happy that it all came together because it's hard not to walk away from a multi thinking I could have done better in an event. Also Indoor Nationals in Birmingham. It's two hours from Nashville. My whole extended family came, so I had over 50 people watching. We do multis during the day before the other events start. No one was there other than this giant section of my family.

If you have a break from track, what do you like to do? Track fills up my life, but I do love to go hiking. [Visiting] Rocky Mountain National Park. Seeing mountain towns. INTERVIEW BY ANDREW DAIGLE.

THE SINK IS 100!



The Sink celebrates 100 years of business in Boulder. Through its many forms, The Sink is Boulder's oldest restaurant. Opening as Somer's Sunken Gardens in 1923, the restaurant has been on "The Hill" across from campus throughout every generation of living CU alumni's time at the university. Lost, Greatest, Boomers, Xers, Xennials, Millennials, Gen Z and Alpha, The Sink has been a shared experience for eight generations of Buffs.

Grab your fellow Sink rats and your own rugrats for a street fair on The Hill this Labor Day! The Sink is throwing a 100-year bash Labor Day Weekend that people will be talking about for years to come. It will include your favorite Sink food, throwback drinks, giveaways, limited merchandise, live music and more. Save the date!

TELL US YOUR SINK STORY

100 years of Sink Stories! How has The Sink been a part of your life? We want to hear from you! All of your stories are unique, but they have one thing in common: The Sink!

What's your favorite memory? Did you meet your partner here? Are you a second or third-generation Buff? Is The Sink a tradition for you or your family? Did you work here? Drink here? Eat here? Dance here?

Share your story, and it could be featured online or in print. Include your email address and be entered to win a 100-year prize package!

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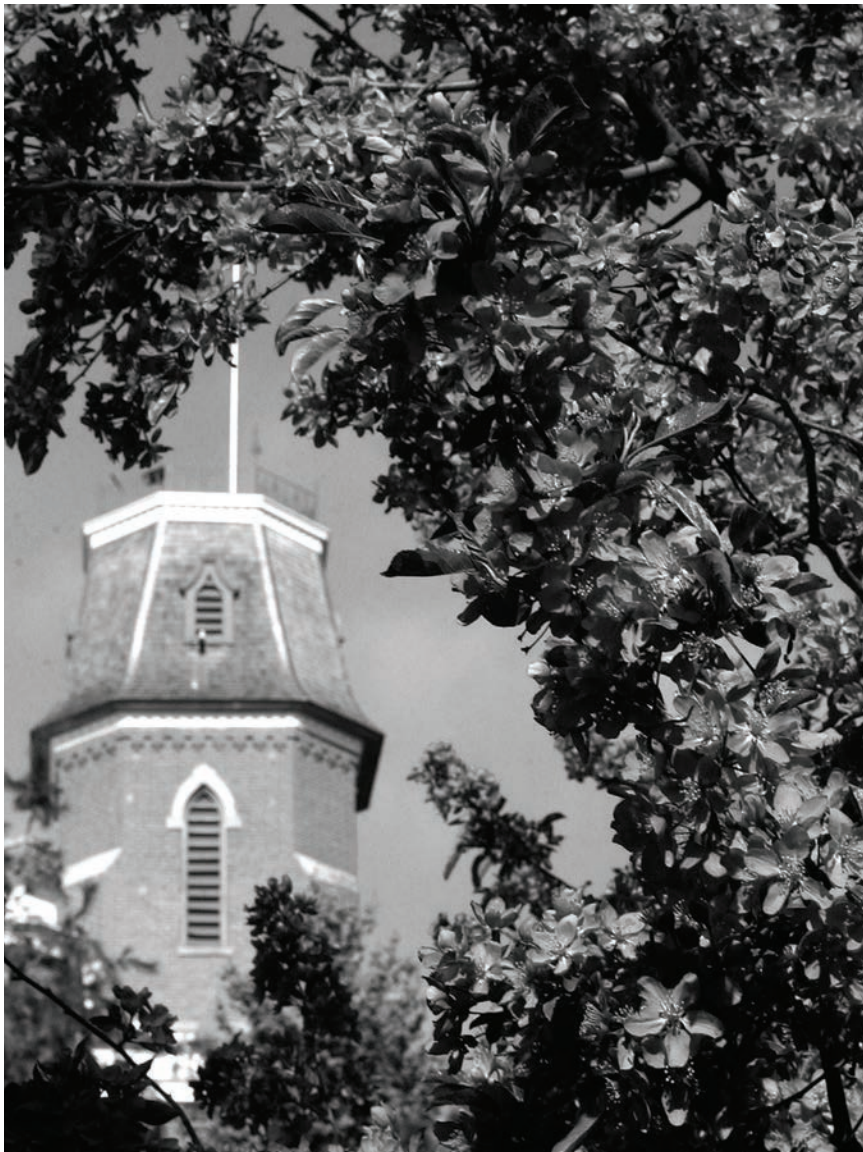
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CLASSnotes



Spring on campus offers blue skies, cherry blossoms, verdant Flatiron views — and snowstorms.

'64 During her career, **Josephine Rascoe Keenan** (MSPchDra'64) worked several years in theater and film as a director and actress, including a feature role in *The Pride of Jesse Hallum*, a film starring Johnny

Cash. Josephine is now a writer of novels and short stories for young adults, including her *Days of Elvis* three-book series, which is about a young girl who came of age in the days of Elvis Presley. Josephine lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and enjoys speaking at book clubs and other events.

'66 Stan Nicholas (Advert'66)

published his first book, *Never Summer: A Thousand Rainbows*, a memoir sharing stories and reflections from childhood summers spent harvesting cherries with his family as migrant field workers in the Pacific Northwest. Novelist Kelly Sokol said, "His story stands in sharp contrast to the stories we live with our modern day families. An

eye opener, a tear jerker, a breath of fresh air." Nichols also founded his own publishing company, A Buff and Beyond Ink. He lives in Longmont, Colorado.

'69 Hugh M. Heckman (PolSci'69) served as a writer, editor and producer on *CBS Evening News* for 37 years, working alongside the legendary Walter Cronkite. After leaving CBS, Heckman worked as a writer and editor for the *PBS NewsHour*. He lives in Forest Hills, New York.

'73 The University of Iowa Press published **Connie Mutel's** (MBio'73) latest book, *Tending Iowa's Land: Pathways to a Sustainable Future*. This book explores the benefits and challenges that have come from the transformation of Iowa's prairies and other wildlands into vast agricultural fields. In a straightforward and friendly style, Iowa's premier scientists and experts consider

what has happened to their land and outline viable solutions that benefit agriculture and the state's human and wild residents. Connie is the former senior science writer at IIHR — Hydroscience & Engineering at the University of Iowa College of Engineering. She lives in Iowa City, Iowa.

'78 Writer **Donald E. Hall** (EdD'78) published a sequel to his acclaimed

novel, *A Good and Decent Man*. *More Than Rumor* picks up where the first novel ends and follows the characters from 1933 to 1942 — through the Great Depression and the beginning of World War II. Donald lives in Sebring, Florida.

'79 An in-depth profile of attorney **Franklin D. Azar** (PolSci'79) ran in the January 2023 issue of *5280 magazine*. Frank is known to many in the state of Colorado as "The Strong Arm" because of billboards and TV commercials promoting his practice, Franklin D. Azar and Associates, Colorado's largest personal injury law firm.

'82 The Colorado Law alumni board and dean Lolita Buckner Inniss named **Bill Callison** (Law'82), **Beth Crane** (Law'79), **Jennifer Evans** (IntlAf, PolSci'91; Law'98), **Joe Neguse** (Econ, PolSci'05; Law'09), **Betty Nordwind** (Law'71) and **Donald Quick** (Econ'82; Law'86)

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as alumni award winners. The 42nd annual Colorado Law Alumni Awards Banquet is March 16 at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

'84 Ever since his graduation, **Geary Larrick** (PhDMus'84) has built a career writing for publications. Geary's work has appeared in Books in Print, Music Index, RILM Abstracts, WorldCat and Google Scholar. He and his wife, Lydia, live in Glenview, Illinois, close to their daughter, son-in-law and grandsons.

HUGH M. HECKMAN OF FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK, SERVED AS A WRITER, EDITOR AND PRODUCER ON CBS EVENING NEWS FOR 37 YEARS, WORKING ALONGSIDE THE LEGENDARY WALTER CRONKITE.

READ THE OTHER DECADES OF CLASS NOTES ONLINE AT COLORADO.EDU/COLORADAN

'87 The Wyoming chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP) honored **Michael Tracy** (Psych'87; MD'94) with the 2022 Laureate Award. The Laureate Award honors physicians who have demonstrated an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education or research in service to their community, chapter and the ACP. A

former governor of the Wyoming ACP, Michael has practiced internal medicine and pediatrics in Powell, Wyoming, since 2002 and enjoys collaborating with colleagues and teaching medical students.

'89 Naomi Horii (Advert'89) launched a spiritual internet talk show, *HeartSpeak*, with Bold Brave TV Network. The show airs Fridays

at noon MT. The first season features a poet, angel channeler, animal intuitive, medium, astrologer and more. Naomi is a speaker, author, teacher, healer, intuitive and cancer survivor. Her written work is widely published, and she has spoken at Harvard, the University of Chicago and Boulder's Dairy Arts Center. *HeartSpeak* can be enjoyed live at boldbravetv.com or on podcast channels.



The 2023 CU Boulder Conference on World Affairs (CWA) is scheduled for April 12–14 on campus. This year marks the CWA's 75th anniversary, and many of the panels will focus on the global climate crisis.

FIVE QUESTIONS

Roaming Buff



Sandra Bornstein

Educator and travel writer **Sandra Bornstein** (A&S ex'78; MEdU'05), published *100 Things to Do in Boulder Before You Die* in September 2022. She also is author of the travel memoir *May This Be the Best Year of Your Life*. Sandra lives in Jefferson County, Colorado, with her husband, **Ira Bornstein** (Hist'75). Three of their four sons also graduated from CU.

Where is your favorite travel destination?

My husband and I have visited more than 50 countries. My love of history and culture, combined with my Jewish heritage, makes Israel my top destination. We have visited Israel four times and look forward to our next trip. However, the most engaging was our duo trip to the Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu. The combination of wildlife, unique ecosystems and history was incredible.

Can you tell us about *100 Things to Do in Boulder Before You Die*?

It was an incredible opportunity to write about a place I have loved since 1974. My goal was to create a guidebook that appeals to a large, diverse audience. The indexes offer itinerary suggestions for 10 categories, includ-

ing one that highlights 12 day trips within a two-hour drive of Boulder.

What kept calling you and your husband, Ira, back to Boulder?

As a college freshman, I fell in love with both Boulder and Ira. Long-distance relationships were extremely difficult in the 1970s, so we opted to get married and relocated to Chicago where Ira was attending law school. Even though I was physically in Illinois, a small intangible part remained in Colorado. Perhaps, it was the unfulfilled dream of a CU degree or incredibly happy memories of our time together in Boulder. When our two oldest sons were attending college, we returned to Boulder County.

A page on your website is dedicated to Ira's battle against

brain cancer. Why is sharing this important? My life was turned upside down when Ira was diagnosed with glioblastoma. Scrolling through online resources for terminal cancer patients, I saw far too many people succumbing to their prognosis. Few were embracing life. As I read about people who beat the odds, I became determined to work with Ira to figure out the best approach. We remain grateful for each day that Ira's quality of life remains intact. I sincerely hope my "For Glio" webpage will encourage others facing a terminal diagnosis to not give up.

Of the 100 things to do in Boulder, which is your No. 1? I can't narrow down everything you can do in Boulder to one favorite thing. However, I can single out the place that brings back the most memories. Shortly after we met, Ira drove me to Boulder Falls. There is no doubt that we have visited far more impressive waterfalls in other destinations. However, for me, this modest waterfall with a minuscule trail will always elicit a smile and fond recollections. **INTERVIEW BY ALEX MCMILLAN (ENGL, ENVST'23).**



Casey A. Cass (left); Courtesy Sandra Bornstein

CLASSnotes



The 2023 CU Boulder Conference on World Affairs (CWA) is scheduled for April 12–14 on campus. This year marks the CWA's 75th anniversary, and many of the panels will focus on the global climate crisis.

'91 The Colorado Law alumni board and dean Lolita Buckner Inniss named **Jennifer Evans** (IntlAf, PolSci'91; Law'98), along with **Bill Callison** (Law'82), **Beth Crane** (Law'79), **Joe Neguse** (Econ, PolSci'05; Law'09), **Betty Nordwind** (Law'71) and **Donald Quick** (Econ'82; Law'86), as alumni award winners. The 42nd annual Colorado Law Alumni Awards Banquet is March 16 at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

In fall 2021, **Christine Mahoney** (Jour'91) took the role as public information officer

and spokesperson for the CU Boulder Police Department (CUPD). In her position, she manages external communications, including emergency messaging, public relations, social media and media relations. A former journalist, Christine has also taught journalism and managed a media internship program in CU Boulder's former School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She has worked at CU since 2012.

'93 Julie Crea Dunbar (Geog'93) is the editorial manager for ABC-CLIO, a publishing company specializing in academic reference works and periodicals. Her book, *Exploring*

World History Through Geography: From the Cradle of Civilization to a Globalized World, was published in September. Her sons, **Grant Dunbar** (AeroEngr'19; MS'19) and **Joseph Dunbar** (ApMath, ElCompEngr'21; MS'23), are also Forever Buffs. Julie lives in Erie, Colorado.

'98 International law firm Perkins Coie named intellectual property attorney **Courtney Prochnow** (EPOBio'98) partner. Trained as a molecular and structural biologist, Courtney focuses her practice on patent litigation, strategic patent portfolio management and patent prosecution in the life sciences industry. She

has represented clients in federal courts and in post-grant proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. Courtney has drafted and prosecuted patents in a variety of technological areas including gene editing and antibody therapeutics. She lives in Beverly Hills, California.

'99 Lara Salazar Day (Jour'99), chief culture and communications officer at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's Denver office, joined the board of directors at the Denver Fire Department Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting the Denver Fire Department by providing public education, leading efforts to improve firefighter safety and quality of life, and providing direct resources to meet firefighters' needs. Lara has worked for Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, a law firm, for more than 10 years.

The Colorado State University board of governors named **Amy Parsons** (Law'99) as president of Colorado State University. She has 16 years of experience in higher education leadership. She previously served as CEO of a global e-commerce company based in Denver.

'00 NPR News correspondent **Kirk Siegler** (Jour'00) was selected for the inaugural United Nations Foundation Thomas Lovejoy Press Fellowship to report on deforestation in the Amazon. Selected out of more than 1,000 appli-

cants, he was one of 10 international journalists selected to travel to Camp 41 and Manaus, Brazil, in the fall of 2022. Kirk lives in Boise, Idaho.

'01 The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) accepted **Alison Zinn** (IntlAf'01) as a fellow. Alison is a partner in the Denver office of law firm Lathrop GPM. ACTEC is a national nonprofit association of about 2,500 lawyers and law professors elected by their peers on the basis of professional reputation and experience in the preparation of wills and trusts, estate planning, probate, trust administration and related practice areas. To qualify as an ACTEC fellow, a lawyer must have at least 10 years of experience in trust and estate law.

'02 Harvard Law graduate **Everett Martínez** (Psych'02) was named general counsel to Denver International Airport (DEN). After working over a decade in the law firm setting, Everett joined the Denver City Attorney's Office (CAO) in 2016 and became assistant general counsel in 2020. Throughout his tenure at the CAO, Everett, who specialized in complex financial transactions, demonstrated a commitment to the betterment of the department. After his promotion Everett said, "In 1993 I toured DEN during its construction and was in awe of the facility. It's been a

dream come true to represent the airport, and I believe our best days are still to come." He lives in Arvada, Colorado.

'03 Multimedia marketing and engagement expert **Jessica Kizorek** (Span'03) has developed an international presence as a video storyteller, entrepreneur and activist. Working primarily with large nonprofits — including the AARP Foundation and Special Olympics — through her company Two Parrot Productions, she has created hundreds of short films and video-centric fundraising campaigns. She has covered a multitude of humanitarian causes as a journalist and documentarian in over 60 countries. Jessica is also passionate about empowering female entrepreneurs through her organization, Badass Businesswomen. A published author, Jessica has 10 books to her name and has appeared on major news outlets such as Fox, NBC, CNN,

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Weekend Today and the Better Show. After obtaining her master's degree from Florida International University, she is now pursuing a doctorate degree in business administration.

'05 In 2021, **Austin Sheldon** (Kines'05) completed his doctorate in clinical sciences from Andrews University. He is an associate professor of physical therapy at Bloomington, Minnesota's Rasmussen University and program director of the postgraduate orthopedic physical therapy clinical residency at the North American Institute of Orthopedic Manual Therapy/Messiah University.

'06 In 2022 **Andrew Villegas** (Engl, Jour'06) was named news director for Colorado Public Radio (CPR). In this role, Villegas leads an award-winning newsroom and a group of reporters and editors who cover the entire state of Colorado. Andrew joined CPR in 2019, bringing more than a decade of experience as a reporter and editor for news outlets across the country.

'07 **Sean Guth** (Arch'07; MArch, MURBDes'09) was named president of Lose Design, an award-winning architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering and planning firm. Sean has been with Lose Design since 2013. His career began in Denver and he has since worked around the world on a variety of projects, learning how to integrate architecture and urban design in a way that addresses both social and environmental sustainability while highlighting quality, creativity and budget-sensitive solutions. Sean lives on a farm in Tennessee with his wife and daughter and is a passionate outdoorsman.

'08 **Marc Ost** (Fin'08), co-owner of Eric's RX Shoppe in Horsham, Pennsylvania, was awarded the 2022 National Association of Retail Druggists' ownership award at a national convention in Kansas City. This award recognizes an independent community pharmacy owner who embraces an entrepreneurial spirit and demonstrates excellence in the field of community pharmacy ownership. Marc serves on several

pharmaceutical boards and committees, including the Philadelphia Association of Retail Druggists. He also regularly engages with elected officials to advocate for independent pharmacies. Marc lives in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Aziza, and children Alaina and Stanley.

Ryan Walters (Hist'08) was named head coach of Purdue's football team, the Boilermakers. Ryan previously served as defensive coordinator of the Illinois Fighting Illini. A former CU football player, he was a three-year starter and was named Team MVP during his senior year.

'09 **Boulder's Lindsey Cunningham** (Jour'09) and her husband, Ryan, are co-founders of RollinGreens, a plant-based food company. Their story began in 2011 when the couple revived Ryan's family's retired food truck. Their local organic RollinGreens food truck became a staple at the Boulder Farmers Market. In 2016, they decided to branch out by launching their popular millet tots at local and national retailers. In just a few short years, RollinGreens has expanded into more than 4,000 stores nationwide and now offers home delivery on direct orders from their website. In May of 2020, the couple appeared on *Shark Tank* and struck a deal with Robert Herjavec during the season 11 finale.

FIVE QUESTIONS

The Plover Project



Chris Allieri

Chris Allieri (EnvSt, LatAmerSt'96) is the founder of the NYC Plover Project, a group of volunteer ambassadors who teach New Yorkers how to share the shore with the endangered piping plover. Approaching its third summer, the fledgling organization has been named the volunteer group of the year by the National Park Service.

Where do you get your drive to protect the planet? Growing up in New Jersey, I was able to see beautiful natural areas alongside refineries and pollution. That had a lasting impact on me, so in high school, I started my school's first environmental club. I then majored in environmental studies at CU and took classes with Cathy Comstock and the late Adrienne Anderson.

Birders often talk about their "spark bird" — the first species that inspired a love for birds. Do you have a spark bird? Absolutely, the piping plover. When I was a young kid, a U.S. Fish & Wildlife biologist showed me a piping plover with his scope. It was the first time I saw an endangered species.

Tell us about the NYC Plover Project. How did it start? At the beginning of the pandemic, I was at the beach in NYC and to my surprise, saw several piping plovers sharing the beach with dogs off leash, kids up on the dunes and basically no fencing or signage. I thought, "Who is protecting them?"



In March 2021, I founded the NYC Plover Project. In our first summer, we had a few dozen volunteers. By the end of our second season, we had over 75 volunteers who clocked nearly 4,000 hours of volunteer time. We have connected with thousands of beachgoers, created better signage, helped the park monitor breeding pairs and taught people about plovers.

Was there a time when someone's mind really changed after learning about the project? This happens every day! Once, after a long and somewhat intense conversation, a beachgoer said to me, "I really hated these birds, and now I don't. You helped change this old man's

mind." If you are friendly, informative and communicate your passion, it is much more effective than leading with a lecture.

What's the importance of protecting smaller members of an ecosystem like the piping plover? People get excited about snowy owls and bald eagles; the truth is, it is a lot rarer to see a piping plover. Climate change and coastal resiliency is front and center for many communities along the Rockaway Peninsula, where these birds nest. Piping plovers are tiny and hard to spot, and their stories aren't told. We are hoping to get each and every New Yorker to know about them. If people know, they will care. INTERVIEW BY JESSI GREEN.

CLASSnotes



Spring on campus offers blue skies, cherry blossoms, verdant Flatiron views — and snowstorms.

'10 In late 2022, **Cody Hawkins** (Hum'10), CU Buffs quarterback from 2007 to 2010, was named head coach of Idaho State University. He previously served six seasons as a football coach at University of California, Davis, the last three of which he was the offensive coordinator.

Judd Shader (EthnSt'10), founder and CEO of Leeds West Group, an automotive repair franchise management platform,

joined the Javonte Williams Foundation's executive advisory board. The Javonte Williams Foundation is a nonprofit dedicated to providing youth in the Denver metro area foster care system with essential resources and life-changing experiences. Judd will provide strategic direction for the foundation's key fundraising campaign efforts. He lives in Greenwood Village, Colorado.

In January, law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck promoted **Zach Siegel** (IntIAf, PolSci'10; Law'15) to shareholder. A member

of the firm's Denver real estate department, Zach leverages an understanding of his clients' businesses to achieve their strategic goals. He has expertise in complex acquisitions and dispositions and leasing and development projects. His work spans asset classes including multifamily, retail, office, industrial and mixed use transactions.

'12 Attorney **Sam Tallman** (Hist'12) was promoted to member of the international law firm Clark Hill. Sam is a litigation practitioner in the firm's Chicago branch.

'13 DU law school graduate **Meaghan Evans Fischer** (PolSci'13) passed the bar exam and began working at law firm Wegener, Lane and Evans in 2017. She was recently named partner at the age of 29 years old.

'14 **Christina Manzi** (Psych'14) is a wildlife rehabilitator at the American Crocodile Education Sanctuary (ACES), a nonprofit wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center located in Belize. Based in Ambergris Caye, ACES is dedicated to the conservation and protection of Belize's native wildlife and critical habitats. Their team of volunteers provides 24/7 emergency response for injured, ill, orphaned or displaced wildlife and offers assistance with human wildlife conflict resolution. Visit aceswildliferescue.org to learn more. Read more about Christina in our Q&A on page 58.

'15 **Bre'Anna Brooks** (EnvSt'15) is a program officer for the Mississippi River initiative of the Walton Family Foundation's environment program. In this role, she helps explore and curate environmental projects and coastal restoration efforts that reach along the Louisiana Coast and follow the Mississippi River. She also manages a portfolio focused on community engagement. Bre'Anna is currently pursuing a master's degree in environmental science and policy with a concentration in equity from Johns Hopkins University.

Colorado Glass Works is Boulder's only stained glass studio teaching the traditional art of stained glass. The studio is owned by **Meggy Wilm** (IntPhys'15) and opened its doors on Pearl Street in August 2022. The studio specializes in custom work, selling supplies and materials to other artists and teaching stained-glass classes for various experience levels.

MEGGY WILM IS THE OWNER OF COLORADO GLASS WORKS, BOULDER'S ONLY STAINED-GLASS STUDIO. THE STUDIO OPENED IN AUGUST 2022 AND SPECIALIZES IN CUSTOM WORK AND CLASSES.

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Ten percent of all profits from the studio are donated to a collection of environmental groups.

'16 Last year, while writing his book *Till Myth Do Us Part*, **Darius Ebrahim** (Econ'16) made Hong Kong — where he lived as a child — his base to visit 20 countries in 20 months. The book is inspired by the legendary love story of Orpheus and Eurydice. Darius lives in San Francisco.

Assistant professor of public health at Pacific University **Adelle Montebianco** (PhDSoc'16) was recognized as a 2023 Emerging Scholar by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine. Only 15 scholars received the recognition for their stellar teaching, research and service out of several hundred nominees. Adelle previously served as an assistant professor of sociology at Middle Tennessee State University.

'17 Since graduating from CU, **Frederick "Flick" Mooradian** (StComm'17)

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has launched a sparkling tequila company, Tequio. A tequila cocktail in a can, Tequio is made with 100% additive-free blue agave tequila, sparkling water and a hint of lime. The word “tequio,” which means “community service” in the Aztec language, was the inspiration for his brand. Tequio supports local Mexican communities that make its business possible. Tequio has won a gold medal in the

San Francisco World Spirits Competition and raised close to \$1 million in funding. Tequio is created in Arandas, Jalisco, in partnership with the family who started Cazadores Tequila.

'21 **Serena Ringer** (StComm'21) is head of creator relations for Urth Naturals, a U.S.-based supplement company. Urth Naturals has formulated a blend of 10 functional mushrooms

packed into berry and other flavored gummies.

'22 **Carlie Charp** (TAM'22) published her first children's book, *Here Comes Ralphie*, a story about a young buffalo who dreams of becoming the next face of Colorado. Her book is written to empower children and motivate them to work hard and take chances — even if the odds are stacked against them.



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FIVE QUESTIONS



Crocodile Conservationist

Christina Manzi (Psch'14) is the lead wildlife rehabilitator at the American Crocodile Education Sanctuary (ACES), a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center based in Ambergris Caye, Belize. A former parachute rigger, she first came to Ambergris Caye on a contract to help develop a new skydiving dropzone in the area. After falling in love with the local ecosystem, she remained in Belize for full-time conservation work.

Where did your passion for wildlife conservation come from? I developed a fascination with the crocodiles that live here. I started volunteering with ACES, and this fascination quickly turned into a passion. Soon, I was spending more time with ACES than I was at my actual job! I realized that we cannot protect any one species without protecting the environment they live in.

Do you work with other animals? When I started with ACES in 2017, we focused only on crocs. But then people started calling us about different species. Ambergris Caye is one of the most rapidly developing areas in the country, so the chance for human wildlife conflict is increasing daily. Since ACES began its expansion in 2020, I have treated 91 different species of birds, mammals and reptiles.

What might a regular day on the job look like for you? I wake up bright and early to begin animal care. This involves tending to our critical patients — feeding each animal based on their specific dietary needs and lots of cleaning. I'll probably get an emergency call at some point in the day and need to drop everything to respond.

What's your favorite animal to work with? I'm a total bird nerd. I'm usually talking about birds at least once during my day. But my favorite birds to rehabilitate and work with are seabirds, more specifically brown pelicans or red-footed boobies. They just have the goofiest personalities.

Do you have a favorite memory from your job? Once I was doing a survey of a sewage treatment plant and looked down and saw a massive crocodile head. In between the sewage treatment ponds are these deep, coverless concrete pits which an 11-foot crocodile had fallen into trying to get from one pond to the next. We got the animal out safely — and without any wounds — and we were able to immediately release the crocodile. We're currently working with the Belize water service to build wildlife-safe grates to ensure this never happens again.
INTERVIEW BY ALEXX MCMILLAN (ENGL, ENVST'23).



A Focus on Mental Health

As the mother of an adult son with schizoaffective disorder and an aunt to several nieces and nephews who struggle with bipolar disorder and depression, I am so very thankful that awareness is increasing, stigma is decreasing and research is progressing. My son went through five painful years, several different doctors and many different medications. He is now working again part time and leading a fulfilling life. It takes a village, though, and many do not have supportive family members and friends to help them navigate this very difficult road. My son has a nursing degree from CU Anschutz, has taken extensive training in peer support, and is hoping to someday be able to use his training to help others who struggle with severe mental illness. Keep spreading the message of hope to

this community who so desperately need to hear it. Thank you!

Lori Black
Longmont, Colorado

In “Rethinking Mental Illness” [cover story, Fall 2022] it seems that we first must rethink using the term “illness,” which is stigmatizing in itself. Choosing “mental health” as the topic of conversation versus “illness” not only promotes the need for maintenance and preventative measures like the dental health suggestion in the article, but normalizes the need and is more hopeful. Struggling with things like anxiety, depression or PTSD is part of the human condition. Not everyone who came back from Vietnam ended up with PTSD, but those with genetic vulnerabilities did. The same is true for many traumas that people experience on a daily basis. For some of us, the wiring might be off neurochem-

CU researchers are innovating ways people can address mental health.

ically, but many mental health conditions can be managed with the right support (education, therapy, nutrition, exercise and pharmaceutical assistance). The term “wellness” inspires hope as well as more personal accountability. Detecting genetic markers for mental health vulnerabilities like we do for cancer would help with early detection and treatment; however, changing the narrative from mental illness to mental health needs to be part of the rethinking.

Brenda Currier
Longmont, Colorado

Thoughts on Our 1943 Photo

Imagine that this scene was the last review for the graduating Army and Navy ROTC Cadets of CU’s Class of 1943. There weren’t any Air Force cadets at that time because the U.S. Air Force wasn’t founded until 1947. Army cadets are wearing olive drab green uniforms in formations in the background on the left. Navy cadets are wearing white uniforms in formations in the background on the right. An article in *The Princeton Herald* newspaper (pages 1 and 3) dated May 21, 1943, describes a similar ceremony which took place at Princeton in May 1943.

This photo is meaningful to me because I was an Air Force ROTC cadet at CU from 1977 to 1981, served in the Air Force from 1982 to 1995, lived in Baker Hall in the summer of 1980, and my father was a U.S. Army WWII veteran.

Fred Wolff
(ApMath’81)
Colorado Springs,
Colorado

The nation’s colleges and universities hosted accelerated courses for officer candidates. Some of these courses were degree programs and some of them were purely military related. I am fairly sure the photo in question shows men enrolled in these special courses or three-year degree programs. A military band is marching up and down the field in front of the formations of men — there are bound to be a lot more than are shown in the photo. The presence of a military band (this is not a CU band) means this is a formation either for a graduation ceremony for whatever course the men were enrolled in or it is an honor-type

ceremony or a combination of both.

Remember that in 1943 every facet of our society was mobilized for the war effort — the photo depicts part of that effort. I suspect a number of the men pictured went to the war in the Pacific and did not return.

I took ROTC at CU as I entered in September 1963 and the draft was really ramping up for the war in Vietnam. ROTC was a vehicle that would keep me from being drafted so I could finish the whole four years. After two years of duty in the Cold War in Germany and one year of a hot war in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division, I was one of the lucky ones who came back with two feet and two arms and about half a mind.

Dave Hickcox
(Geog’68)
Delaware, Ohio

I’m the historian for the CU Marching Band. The picture you provided shows a band marching past enlisted sailors in their summer white uniforms and several other men in khaki uniforms representing the probable ROTC

personnel. The majority of the male CU students were affiliated with the military in some way.

I did find a picture of the Navy and military review which happened on or near a Colorado tradition, “Colorado Days,” which started in May 1927. There is a picture in William E. “Bud” Davis’ *Glory Colorado* on page 456 showing a formal military parade at Colorado stadium. This is important because it shows two bands in the north end-zone of the field, the CU men’s and women’s marching band. When you compare the photo on that page with that in your magazine on pages 62–63, the band can be none other than the CU men’s marching band.

I state this because they are wearing a uniform but there are no army markings, rank insignia, etc. There is a belt worn by the members, but only officers of the Army wore the Sam Browne type belt, not enlisted. In your photo the belts look white. You can see the drum major on the far right of the photo. He is wearing a standard Navy blue uniform and is either a chief petty officer



Many alums wrote in detailed responses to this photo inquiry. Read more of them on our website.

or a junior officer. The university at the time had no Army contingent that I can find, but 99% Navy with a few Marines. Hence, it would have been very odd to have an Army band playing for the Navy.

My best educated guess is that it is a military parade associated with the Colorado Days which would have taken place in May or June 1943, and the men's university marching band is leading the way to the stadium, which isn't that far away from the men's dorm, aka Baker Hall now.

Walt Blankenship

(Hist'89; MA'02)

Westminster, Colorado

Vetsville Memories

From fall of 1968 to spring of 1971, I lived in the Quonset huts with my young family. I was pursuing a law degree, and having those huts available was a blessing for us veterans that could not afford other housing. It was a great experience, and one that I still remember fondly.

Al Dominguez

(Law'71)

Windsor, Colorado

Thanks for your retrospective on Vetsville. When CU was preparing to build the current family housing on the site, they needed to get rid of the remaining Quonset huts, so they sold them off in lots for what I recall as

\$23 apiece. My dad and our neighbor decided that was a good deal, so they bought a number of them. I got pressed into service helping haul appliances (which were included in the price), pull out plumbing and the like. Then they spent that summer holding what amounted to an ongoing flea market at Arapahoe and Folsom, meanwhile also trying to sell off the huts themselves. It turned out to be harder to sell a Quonset hut than they had expected, and CU was breathing down their necks to get the site cleared before construction.

My dad moved one of the last huts to land we owned near Haystack Mountain, on Oxford Road just west of 63rd Street. It's still there, the property now owned by the City of Boulder as open space.

Kurt Nordback

Boulder, Colorado

Cinnamon Rolls and Peanut Butter

In Oct. 2001, my late husband **C.W. "Bill" Peterson** (A&S'53) and I visited the CU campus to reminisce and to have lunch at The Sink. It was a favorite as Bill was employed at the restaurant working mostly mornings while attending CU from 1952–54. He told of starting the tradition of covering the warm cinnamon rolls with peanut butter to give the students added protein for their day.

He was delighted to see the changes and additions and some things that never change, including the many artwork drawings.

Carol Peterson

Freeport, Kansas

University Life

I was a student at CU from 1964–70. University life and Boulder were far different then, more open and intimate. In-state tuition and fees were \$186 a semester, a room on The Hill \$35–\$40 a month, marijuana was illegal but available. The Sink had a decent burger, 3.2 beer served in paper cups and the best jukebox ever. These were turbulent times shadowed by the Cold War, political assassinations, protests against the war in Vietnam and a hope that a better world was possible. It was a difficult, exciting time to be a student. The allure and glamor of power, wealth and war live on, but I do miss those days of connection and conviction.

Robert Porath

(Engl'69)

Boulder

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

INmemoriam

Continued...

Sarah E. Crump (PhDGeol'19)

Devin Michaelis (MediaPro'19)

2020s

Michael P. Brand (Phys'20;

MEIEngr ex'22)

Mohammed I. Alkeshan

(ChemEngr ex'21)

Maya Humeau (Bio ex'23)

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Maliha Amin (Comm ex'26)

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STAFFBOX

Coloradan

Volume 27, Number 2
Spring 2023

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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THEN

FEB. 1, 2003

On Feb. 1, 2003, CU astronaut **Kalpana Chawla** (MAeroEngr'86; PhD'88; HonDocSci'03) [middle left] and six other astronauts died when their Columbia space shuttle broke apart on re-entry to Earth. The shuttle crew had spent 16 days in space conducting 80 research experiments. Chawla had worked for NASA as a researcher since 1988, logging just over 30.5 days in space. She was posthumously awarded the 2004 Congressional Space Medal of Honor.

Twenty years later, Chawla's legacy remains strong at CU Boulder. In 2004, the CU Boulder Alumni Association renamed its recent graduate award the Kalpana Chawla Outstanding Recent Graduate Award in her honor. Since then 27 accomplished graduates have received the award.

