Transforming Treatment

New ways to diagnose mental illness — and provide holistic support
Much of the world was awestruck when NASA published the first images from the James Webb Space Telescope, the world’s largest and most powerful space telescope. Erica Nelson, CU Boulder astrophysical and planetary sciences assistant professor, is part of several programs that are spending more than 1,000 hours on the telescope, including about 700 on its main infrared camera. “We are seeing galaxies which formed at much earlier times than we previously thought possible that may pose a threat to what we thought we understood about the universe on the grandest scales,” she said.
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There are also stories about Colorado's snowpack, the 75th anniversary of the CU-affiliated Rocky Mountain Rescue Group and, in honor of Veteran's Day, a story about CU's Vetsville and an early-1940s photo that may be from an ROTC band. Can you help our archivists learn more about its origins?

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A Vision for Mental Health and Wellness

As director of the Renée Crown Wellness Institute, Sona Dimidjian is helping CU Boulder create a healthier future for the next generation of student leaders. Established in 2019, the institute is dedicated to research and practices that support mental, social and emotional wellness for children and young people, as well as the adults and systems that support them. Here Dimidjian discusses how the Crown Institute is taking action to support these communities.

What does the landscape of mental health look like right now for young people? Challenges with mental health and wellness among kids and young people are not new. In particular, the lack of access to resources that promote and protect their mental health and wellness has been a problem for decades.

This has been amplified during the pandemic, particularly with an awareness that individual mental health and wellness intersect with contemporary and historical realities of injustice, inequality and racism. The stressors that young people experience and the challenges to accessing support have become increasingly evident and visible over the past two and a half years.

What are some of the challenges that students on college campuses are facing? For students who have been in college during the past few years, cultivating a sense of place, purpose and belonging has become really important. There have been clear increases in the need for mental health services and an interest in learning skills and knowledge that are relevant to coping with these very real, everyday challenges. The university has a clear role in this regard.

What’s important now is recognizing the incredible creativity and vision that young people hold — and their capacity to be critical and instrumental partners in addressing the challenges that are present in their lives and our world.

What is the vision of the Renée Crown Wellness Institute? The Crown Institute is dedicated to building a world where every young person thrives. That means being supported by both caring relationships and inner resources. It also means advancing work that’s focused on the mental health and wellness of kids and young people, as well as the adults and systems in their lives.

How is the institute addressing these challenges to mental health and wellness? The institute has three primary strands of research, defined by our research partnerships: One strand involves partnering with kids and young people as members of our research teams, facilitators of programs and more. The second strand focuses on partnerships with parents and community members, and the third focuses on partnerships with educators and schools.

This year, the Crown Institute is also launching more outreach and education efforts — we are actively focusing on ways we can bring the learning, programs and practices from our research studies more broadly into the world. Those include the delivery of programs, interdisciplinary collaborations on campus and public-facing speakers and events.

One of the central tenets of the Crown Institute is its focus on research-practice partnerships. Tell us about that. Research-practice partnerships are built on a model where researchers, families, educators, young people and community members work together as equal partners. Establishing partnerships with the intention of creating an enduring relationship is a recognition that these challenges deserve time to address comprehensively and effectively.

For the work we’re doing to truly have meaningful benefit in people’s lives, it needs to be collaborative from the very beginning to the very end. That’s what we mean by partnership: mutual benefit and reciprocity, shared decision-making and understanding.

Perhaps most importantly, no one person or entity holds all of the knowledge or expertise that is required to provide lasting or transformative benefit. It requires multiple perspectives working together.

Why do you choose to do this work? I have always been committed to doing work that will benefit others. I think there’s an ethical imperative as part of the scientific endeavor, and I believe part of being a public institution is being truly dedicated to the welfare of the public good and to the health and wellness of our communities — both here on campus and more broadly in our region and our state. I think the learning that can come from this work has far-reaching implications for our country and world.

I do this work because I love it and because I have a deep sense of purpose about its importance. We each have a short time on this planet! I believe in using that time to make the world a better place.

INTERVIEW BY EMILY WIRTZ
What’s in a Name?

CU history classes research the origins of the names of 82 Boulder parks.

As discussions of racism and social justice swept the country in 2020, Alison Rhodes (Hist, Span’01; MPubAd’16), director of Boulder Parks and Recreation, wondered about the naming of Boulder’s parks, and whether they properly reflected the city’s commitment to diversity and equity. She approached the CU Boulder history department to see if students could help research the origins of the city’s park names.

Then-department chair Paul Sutter and then-director of undergraduate studies Phoebe Young, along with doctoral candidate Kim Jackson (PhDHist’24), eagerly designed the project, which spanned four semesters. More than 75 undergraduate and graduate students contributed to the project, researching the names of and visiting nearly 50 parks.

“It was meaningful for the students, especially in 2020,” said Rhodes, who’s worked for the City of Boulder for nearly 20 years. “But it really was meaningful for us, too.”

Connor Siruta (Hist, PolSci’22) worked on the project as a student and an intern in spring 2021. As a student, he focused on the purposes of the physical landscape — such as the grassy areas and its trees — of his assigned park, Keewadin Meadows, located in east Boulder. During his internship, he researched the origins of several park names, including west Boulder’s Eben G. Fine park.

Siruta’s research determined that Eben G. Fine, besides being a strong Boulder supporter, also engaged in racist stereotyping. Siruta uncovered a journal entry that defended actions of Captain David Nichols, who was involved in the Sand Creek Massacre.

“The namesakes of parks cannot be brushed away,” said Siruta. “The history behind them can really affect people.”

The students’ research was posted in an online story map on the City of Boulder’s website. Several park names were identified for renaming consideration, said Rhodes, and will be discussed by the city with input from the community. The research findings also will guide naming for future parks.

The students themselves enjoyed the opportunity to partner with the city, said Young, a professor of history who researches the cultural and environmental history of the modern U.S.

“Students felt a sense of empowerment that they could communicate their work to the city,” she said. BY CHRISTIE SOUNART (JOUR’12)
For three years, an after-school cultural mentoring program in CU Boulder’s School of Education has paired two dozen predominately Latinx fifth graders from University Hill, a diverse bilingual elementary school across the street from the CU Boulder campus, with underrepresented university student mentors.

Together, mentors and mentees explore family and community histories that are often suppressed in mainstream U.S. curricula, including ties to loved ones across borders.

“We have been holding a rare space for reflecting on cultural identity, migration and belonging, and what it means to be Latinx or transnational in Boulder,” said Andrea Dyrness, Costa Rican-born associate professor of educational foundations, policy and practice who developed the partnership when her daughter was attending the school.

Activities are designed by CU Boulder mentors, mostly education and ethnic studies students, to build community and provoke reflection and dialogue around cultural identity.

“The resulting interactions reveal a wealth of cultural knowledge, skills and abilities that are often not visible to the public or in daily life in U.S. schools,” Dyrness said.

Deb Palmer, CU professor of equity, bilingualism and biliteracy and Dyrness’ research partner, led professional development with teachers to inspire continuous inquiry into students’ lived experiences and to counter deficit views of Latinx communities.

The team continues to learn about the knowledge that transnational students bring to schools, and they hope others can learn from linguistically and culturally diverse families.

“I think parents should be proud of the cultural wealth that they are providing for their children — bilingualism, biculturalism, economic understandings and transnational understandings,” said Jackquelin Bristol (PhDEdu'25), who helped publish a report on the partnership called “Bilingual in Boulder.”

Daniel Garzón (PhDEdu’23), who grew up in the U.S. with ties to Colombia, was a mentor and research assistant in the program.

“I wish I had this opportunity growing up,” he said. “I could have learned to appreciate my home language and culture much sooner.”

STORY CONDENSED AND EDITED. PARTS OF THIS STORY APPEARED IN ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS, “FINDING HOME IN THE BORDERLANDS,” BY ANDREA DYRNESS ON JULY 29, 2022, AND IN VOICES MAGAZINE BY HANNAH FLETCHER AT COLORADO.EDU/EDUCATION.
Pollution’s Impact on Babies
Air pollution can alter the gut microbiomes of babies during their first six months of infancy, according to first-of-its-kind CU Boulder research. These pollutants — which can include exposure to traffic, wildfires or industrial zones — could affect the baby's collection of resident microorganisms in ways that promote inflammation, influence brain development and increase risk of allergies, obesity and diabetes. The study was published in August in the journal Gut Microbes.

Palm Trees Inspire New Wind Turbines
In a move away from the traditional upwind turbine design that can result in heavy blades breaking in extreme winds, a team of CU Boulder researchers — in conjunction with collaborators at the University of Virginia, the University of Texas at Dallas, the Colorado School of Mines and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) — developed a two-blade downwind turbine modeled after the flexible and bendable nature of palm trees. The team presented the results of four years’ worth of research with their SUMR (Segmented Ultralight Morphing Rotor) turbine at the American Control Conference in Atlanta in June 2022. The turbine performed consistently and effectively during peak wind gusts at NREL’s Flatirons campus in Arvada, Colorado, they said. The team hopes to continue its research with large-scale, offshore downwind turbines.

The Misinformation of Marijuana Labels
In the largest analysis to date of the chemical composition of marijuana products, CU-involved research found that product labels can be confusing or misleading to consumers. Brian Keegan, CU Boulder assistant professor of information science, teamed up with three cannabis scientists to study nearly 90,000 samples across six states. Cannabis labels with categories such as indica, sativa and hybrid did not accurately convey enough information about the chemical composition of the product, the researchers found. Their study, which calls for a more rigorous labeling system, was published in the journal PLOS One in May.

Buried in Time
In a snowy outdoor ceremony on Sept. 20, 1875, Boulder town officials and members of the Masonic Grand Lodge placed a small tin box with nearly 50 items in the cornerstone of what would become Old Main. The cornerstone — known as the building’s setting stone — was located on the northeast corner at the transition between the stone foundation and its brick walls.

“The ceremony of today is not one of novelty to dazzle or deceive,” said Webster D. Anthony, the grand master of the Grand Lodge, at the ceremony. “It signifies peace, prosperity, growth in knowledge and social refinement.”

The time capsule contained 12 newspapers, eight coins and a Colorado business directory and statutes book, among other small items. The coins range in date from the early 1800s to 1875. All are American coins with the exception of a 1863 2 Öre from Sweden featuring King Carl XV.

Chancellor William Baughn and Alumni Association executive director Richard Emerson removed the time capsule in September 1985. Another box was placed in the cornerstone with memorabilia from 1985 to be opened in 2075.

Today, the coins and the other time capsule items are kept at the CU Heritage Center, located on the third floor of Old Main.
100 Years of Journalism

On April 21, 1922, the CU Board of Regents voted to form the Department of Journalism, and that fall, the university launched its flagship journalism degree program. As the journalism department marks its centennial anniversary, celebration goes to the thousands of alumni currently working in the media industry, many of whom are on the frontlines of news — reporting from the field for NPR, from the Celtics’ sidelines and from inside the White House for Fox News.

From top left: **Kevin Corke** (Jour’88; MA’02), White House correspondent, Fox News Media; **Alanna Rizzo** (MJour’03), sports TV host and reporter on MLB Network; **Tom Costello** (Jour’87), NBC News Washington correspondent; **Kirk Siegler** (Jour’00), NPR correspondent, National Desk; **Baker Machado** (MJour’11), anchor at Cheddar News; **Savannah Sellers** (Jour’13), anchor and correspondent for NBC News and MSNBC; **Abby Chin** (Jour’03), Celtics sideline reporter at NBC Sports Boston; **Michael Gelman** (Jour’83), executive producer, Live with Kelly and Ryan; **John Branch** (MJour’96), reporter for The New York Times; **Linda Villarosa** (Jour’81), contributor to The New York Times Magazine, journalist-in-residence at City University of New York.
The History of Daylight Saving Time

Some have said Benjamin Franklin first came up with the idea for daylight saving time (DST). Others believe it was adopted so farmers could have more hours of sunlight to work in the field.

The real history of daylight saving time is much more complex.

It was first introduced in Germany in 1916 during World War I as an energy saving measure, according to CU Boulder sleep researcher Kenneth Wright. The U.S. followed suit, adopting DST in 1918. Initially implemented as a wartime measure, it was repealed a year later.

Daylight saving time was reinstated in 1942 during World War II. The next couple decades were a free-for-all, when states and localities switched between DST and standard time (ST) at will. To put an end to the clock chaos, Congress finally passed the Uniform Time Act in 1966, which standardized daylight saving time and its start and end dates across the country — with the exception of Hawaii and Arizona, which opted to keep standard time year-round.

During the energy crisis of 1974, the U.S. decided to adopt permanent DST. However, after the first winter of dark mornings, public support dropped so low that it was repealed.

In recent years, U.S. lawmakers, including Colorado Governor Jared Polis, have reopened the conversation about shifting to permanent daylight saving time.

In March, the Senate unanimously passed the Sunshine Protection Act, which would put an end to the semiannual changing of the clocks.

While more sun in the evenings might sound nice, many experts — including Wright, director of CU’s Sleep and Chronobiology Lab — disagree with the proposal.

“If you look at the expert consensus from the scientific societies that focus on sleep, health and circadian rhythms, all of them agree this is a bad idea,” Wright told CU Boulder Today earlier this year. “Yes, we should be getting rid of the time change. But the science suggests we should be sticking with standard time, not daylight saving time.”

More sunlight in the evenings comes at the price of morning light — a dangerous trade-off, according to Wright. Dark mornings mean sleepier commuters, icier roads and more school children walking to school or waiting for the bus before the sun comes up, he said.

The extra evening sun is also cause for concern. Wright explained, “When we get exposed to light at night, that sends a signal to our circadian clock that we should go to bed later and wake up later. Later sleep timing is associated with more substance use and physical and mental health problems, including obesity, depression and heart disease.”

For permanent daylight saving time to become a reality, the Sunshine Protection Act will need to pass through the House of Representatives and be signed into law by President Joe Biden. Whether or not members of the House will heed experts’ warning is yet to be seen.

And so, the storied history of daylight saving time continues.

BY ALEXX MCMLLAN (ENGL, ENVST’23)
Rethinking Mental Illness

Using brain imaging, genetics, telemedicine and collaboration, researchers at CU Boulder are finding new ways to help stem the growing crisis.

By Lisa Marshall
In the dream clinic of the future, patients struggling with mental illness might — in addition to sharing their feelings with a therapist — have their brain scanned to pinpoint regions that may be misfiring.

Instead of prescribing multiple drugs to treat myriad symptoms, a doctor could recommend one therapy targeted squarely at genetic culprits underlying them all.

And thanks to telemedicine and support from trained peers, anyone who needs treatment would receive it, regardless of their location or income.

Such a dream is within reach, say CU Boulder geneticists, neuroscientists and psychologists who are joining forces to imagine new ways of diagnosing and treating mental illness.

Their work comes as 1 in 6 children and 1 in 5 adults experience a diagnosable mental illness each year, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). More than half will be diagnosed with a second or third in their lifetime, and about a third will have four or more.

Most will take multiple medications — some that work, some that don’t, many of which have unpleasant side effects.

Well over half will get no care at all.

“We definitely have a mental health crisis on our hands,” said June Gruber, an associate professor of psychology and neuroscience who co-authored a “call to action” in American Psychologist in 2021 proposing how the crisis could be addressed. “But we are also on the cusp of big changes in the way we understand mental illness … moving away from one-size-fits-all labels to something more personalized and accessible.”

Yet most patients wait until a crisis occurs before seeking help.

“It’s critical to get the right diagnosis and the right treatment to the right person at the right time,” said clinical neuroscientist and psychologist Roselinde Kaiser (MPsych’08; PhDNeuroSci, Psych’13), assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience. “But we tend to wait until folks are in urgent need before we do anything … and the way we treat them often has more to do with what has the least side effects rather than what’s going to be the most effective.”

Kaiser envisions a day when everyone undergoes a mental health check-up every six months, much like we do for dental health. Clinicians would start with low-tech surveys, cognitive exams and the use of tests to measure heart rate, perspiration and other physiological responses to stress.

When serious red flags arise, just as a patient with a bad back undergoes imaging to get a reliable diagnosis, someone might have a brain scan to confirm their risk of mental illness — and what kind.

“We have really good biomarkers for lots of other complicated medical illnesses, but we don’t have anything for psychiatric disorders at this point,” said Kaiser.

To help identify patterns in the brain that could serve as biomarkers, or measurable signs, she launched a study following 140 adolescents for two years. Each participant laid back inside a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) machine and played a video game in which they gambled.

Meanwhile, the fMRI measured blood flow to regions of the brain associated with reward and “executive function,” or self control.

In subsequent months, the teens filled out daily mental health surveys on their phones and had their movement tracked via GPS.

Previous studies show that people with poor executive function — the ability to plan, self-regulate and organize thoughts — are more likely to experience mental illness.

“But what has been really hard has been determining what kind of mental illness a person is experiencing or will experience,” Kaiser said.

She found that youth whose brain scans showed heightened sensitivity in the nucleus accumbens — a brain region associated with reward — along with poor executive function were far more likely to experience bipolar symptoms (depression along with mania) in the coming months. Meanwhile, those with blunted reward sensitivity along with poor self-regulation were more likely to experience unipolar depression, or depression without mania.

This matters because the drugs and interventions prescribed for each are very different. Yet because each person’s experience is unique, making such distinctions via talk therapy alone can be difficult.

“Neuroimaging may be a really useful tool for looking under the hood to see what is going on now and predict what could be coming in the future,” said Kaiser.

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Precision Medicine Through Genetics

Andrew Grotzinger, an assistant professor of clinical psychology and researcher with the Institute for Behavioral Genetics, notes that when it comes to mental illness, multiple diagnoses are the norm, rather than the exception.

This can leave patients feeling unlucky and discouraged and taking multiple medications with serious side effects. Research shows more than 60% of people who go to the doctor for mental health reasons receive prescriptions for two or more medications, and more than a third receive three or more.

“If you had a cold, you wouldn’t want to be diagnosed with coughing disorder, sneezing disorder and aching joints disorder,” he said. “There has to be a better way.”

Genetics, he believes, could pave the way for a more precise system of diagnosis that accounts for the underlying genes different disorders have in common.

“By identifying what is shared across these issues, we can hopefully come up with ways to target them in a way that doesn’t require four separate pills,” he said.

His lab is making progress.

In a spring 2022 study, Grotzinger and his colleagues analyzed publicly available data from hundreds of thousands of people who submitted their genetic material. He looked at genes associated with 11 disorders including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, anxiety disorder, anorexia nervosa, obsessive-compulsive disorder, Tourette syndrome, post-traumatic stress disorder, problematic alcohol use, ADHD and autism.

While there is, he stressed, no gene or set of genes underlying risk for all of them, his team did find that subsets of disorders share a common genetic architecture.

For instance, 70% of the genetic signal associated with schizophrenia is also associated with bipolar disorder. Anorexia nervosa and obsessive-compulsive disorder have a strong, shared genetic basis. And anxiety disorder and major depressive disorder share many underlying genes.

They also found that people with internalizing disorders, such as depression, tend to have genes associated with low physical movement throughout the day, while compulsive disorders such as OCD and anorexia tend to correlate with genes associated with higher movement.
“When you think about it, it makes sense,” said Grotzinger, noting that depressed individuals often present as fatigued, while those with compulsive disorders can have difficulty sitting still.

In all, the study identified 152 genetic variants shared across multiple disorders, including those already known to influence certain types of brain cells. A follow-up study, expanding the work to include three additional substance abuse disorders, is underway.

Future research, informed in part by brain imaging research, could ultimately help determine what those genes do and lead to new treatments that target those upstream processes.

It’s years away, but in the future Grotzinger and Kaiser imagine patients also having their DNA tested to help find their ideal treatment.

“My hope is that we can not only start to reduce polypharmacy but also identify new interventions for the many people who aren’t currently responding to standard practices,” Grotzinger said.

Increasing Access
Dream clinic of the future aside, Gruber stresses that existing medications and therapies do already work for many people.

“The problem is, we are ineffective in providing them to the people who need them most,” she said, noting that people of color or low-income people are often underserved. “It’s a real tragedy.”

Pre-COVID-19, 67% of adults and up to 80% of youth with mental health needs went without services each year, either because they couldn’t afford it or lived in a place where there were no counselors.

With in-person offices shut down, the COVID-19 pandemic, with all its tragic consequences, forced the field to think outside the box, bringing telemedicine from the fringes into the spotlight.

“We are moving toward a time when no longer does someone have to overcome the insurmountable obstacle of making an appointment and getting to it — where we can rapidly provide telehealth to all people across state boundaries,” said Gruber.

Mental illness, once shunned and seldom talked about, has come out of the shadows.

She believes that going forward, “lay counselors” will also play a critical role in filling the gap at a time when 77% of counties in the U.S. have a shortage of mental healthcare providers.

Lay providers have no formal mental health training but often share a cultural background or similar mental health challenges. They can serve as a bridge between people in need and clinicians or even provide support themselves.

One international study co-authored by CU Boulder psychology professor Sona Dimidjian, director of the Renée Crown Wellness Institute, found that community members who got three weeks of intensive training, plus follow-up supervision, could effectively counsel people with depression with measurable and lasting results.

Dimidjian is now working on follow-up research in Colorado assessing a program in which mothers who have experienced and recovered from postpartum depression support moms in the thick of it.

“For nearly a century, the standard for treatment has been a single patient, single provider in a physical office,” said Gruber. “It’s time we throw aside some of our archaic models of what kinds of treatments work and who can deliver them.”

Through a project called Emerge, Gruber and her students collected data — via laboratory tests, smartphone apps and remote surveys — on 762 young adults before and after the beginning of the pandemic in 2019. They found that not only did many experience increased depression and anger early on, but a general decrease in life satisfaction persisted a year later, suggesting COVID may have long-term mental health implications.

But she has also witnessed an unexpected upside: Mental illness, once shunned and seldom talked about, has come out of the shadows.

“It has finally come into the mainstream as a common topic of conversation, and there is a recognition that many of us will endure some kind of mental health disorder in our lifetime,” said Gruber. “With that destigmatization comes great hope.”
The Mindful Campus Program, designed by students and faculty, aims to help students improve their own wellness and that of the community. By Clint Talbott

Students, staff and faculty sit on meditation cushions learning a compassion practice. They inhale, breathing in the suffering of others, then exhale, giving compassion and healing to themselves and others.

This exercise is part of the Mindful Campus Program, an eight-week mindfulness series that the Renée Crown Wellness Institute began developing in 2019 and launched in spring 2021 to improve the well-being of students. Designed, in part, by students, the series strives to help participants live more fully in the moment, improve participants’ mental health and wellness and boost their ability to confront big societal issues.

Students, faculty and mindfulness experts designed the program. Using data from the 2021 series, which was also the focus of a research study — which drew about 150 student participants — the team aims to analyze and hone the eight-week program.

Kourtney Kelley (Psych’20), senior project manager and professional research assistant for the Crown Institute, helped design the Mindful Campus series using Youth Participatory Action Research, a method in which young people are trained to conduct systematic research to improve their lives, their communities and the institutions intended to serve them.

As she noted, “It’s not just research about students and what students are going through. Students are involved.” This method of research “allows the voices of young people to be central and guiding within the research process,” said Sona Dimidjian, director of the Crown Institute and a professor of psychology and neuroscience.

“The whole tenet is that, as a researcher, I don’t know what the community needs, and I need to learn in partnership with students and campus partners from the ground up,” added Caitlin McKimmy (MPsych’20), a graduate research assistant in Dimidjian’s laboratory.

Natalie Avalos, assistant professor of ethnic studies, noted the series includes instruction, idea-sharing and practice.

One goal is to help participants see how they might use mindfulness and compassion practices to support anti-racism and social justice, “explicitly linking them and then going on from there,” Avalos said.

Avalos added that students assume teaching and co-mentorship roles in the Mindful Campus Program: “Hierarchies of power shifted, and I think students really responded to that and really appreciated that.”

McKimmy concurred: “At the heart of this project — and this is really an important part of the Crown Institute — is having undergrads at the table where their voices are central.”

Another team is working to adapt the Mindful Campus series into a for-credit class at CU Boulder and to make that curriculum available to students from any CU campus and other campuses, as well as community members.

Cody Moxam (Psych’23), an honors student in psychology and neuroscience, completed the series and is now part of an interdisciplinary team of students and faculty co-designing the for-credit course. He said students and faculty “set aside our personal agendas to truly work on a course designed for the well-being of its participants.”

“We were able to integrate our experience as students — and as people — with the research literature to thread together an experience that would change students’ lives for the better,” Moxam said. “Values of community, social justice and mindfulness were imbued in our team interactions from the very start.”

Michele D. Simpson, a Crown Institute faculty affiliate, research associate and associate teaching professor, underscored that point, saying that her motivation in joining the Mindful Campus Program was not to simply boost mindfulness on campus, but also to expand it into different communities on and potentially off campus.

Voicing a guiding vision for the Mindful Campus Program, Simpson said, “Mindfulness belongs to everyone. Wellness is a right of everyone.”
Mother Nature’s water storage tank — aka the snowpack — is a massive frozen reservoir that parses out water in the spring as snow melts. It is also, literally, the foundation of the snowsports recreation industry. Researchers are increasingly sounding the alarm that climate change is negatively impacting snowpack in Colorado and nationwide.

Two-time Olympic freestyle skier and a former wide receiver for the Buffs, Jeremy Bloom (A&S ex’06) was one of the first celebrities to be featured in a public service announcement (PSA) for Water ’22. Spearheaded by the nonprofit Water Education Colorado (and launched in partnership with Colorado Gov. Jared Polis), the year-long initiative is designed to educate Coloradans about water as an important natural resource.

“Water conservation in the context of climate change is central to the mission of Water ’22,” said Jayla Poppleton, executive director of Water Education Colorado. “Jeremy is a skier born and raised in Colorado; we knew he would get it right away.”

“I grew up learning to ski in Colorado and water-skiing on Boyd Lake,” Bloom said. “When the governor’s office approached me to be the face of Water ’22, I knew this was a really important thing to do.”

In the PSA, Bloom encourages Coloradans to do their part. “It’s shortening your shower, doing full loads of laundry and watering your lawn at night,” he said.

These simple actions can add up to saving 22 gallons of water a day — and a whopping 48 billion gallons across Colorado a year. Colorado is a headwater state that supplies water not only to the 6 million people who live here, but to tens of millions more people in the 18 states downstream.

“Water is fundamental to everything that makes life possible,” Poppleton said.

A declining snowpack affects the water supply for drinking, sanitation, agriculture and hydropower production. A shrinking snowpack also affects winter recreation.

In a 2017 study on climate change and winter recreation published in the journal Global Environmental Change, researchers — including Eric E. Small, CU professor of geological sciences — projected that by 2050, the ski season will be cut in half for most U.S. winter recreation destinations, resulting in an annual loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.

“If people who care about skiing and snowboarding are committed to preserving our snowpack, that’s not only going to benefit the ski industry but ultimately help preserve the most fundamental source of our water supply — snow,” Poppleton said.

Snow-covered ski trails, from black diamond chutes to meandering green circles, are an immense natural water storage system.

“The snowpack acts as a reservoir; it banks water,” said W.T. “Tad” Pfeffer, professor of civil engineering at CU Boulder and a fellow of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR), whose area of specialty is glaciology. “If all that snow fell as rain, it would just run off into the rivers.”

Pfeffer points to the 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment, which predicts that Colorado and the West will be hotter and drier. That means more wildfires and less water.

“Intensified droughts and earlier runoff from diminished snowpack will increase water scarcity during the summer peak water demand period,” the report warned.

“For the ski industry, climate change is no longer an intangible future issue,” Pfeffer said.

Snowpack declines are already happening. From 1955 to 2022, the April snowpack in the Western U.S.
declined by 23%, with declines at 93% of sites measured, according to a recent trend analysis by the EPA. The report described snowpack decreases as “large and consistent.”

“The snowpack is responding to climate warming in a relatively dramatic way,” said Noah Molotch (EnvSt’97), associate professor of geography and an INSTAAR fellow who specializes in snow hydrology. “We’re seeing more storms fall as rain instead of snow, and we’re seeing more melt occur in the middle of winter between storm cycles.”

In 2021, Molotch co-authored a study published in the journal Nature Climate Change that focused on snowmelt trends as a critical indicator of hydrological change. Researchers analyzed data from 1,065 remote snowpack monitoring stations in western North America. They found that the “snowmelt signal” is widespread across the West, including in Colorado. The research showed the annual melt that occurs before April 1 is increasing by 3.5% per decade.

“Climate sensitivity is greatest around the freezing point. When temperatures are hovering around 32 degrees Fahrenheit, we’ll see more snowmelt, particularly between storm periods,” Molotch said.

As the snowpack decreases due to climate change, ski resorts need to use more water for snowmaking.

“The water issue is a double whammy,” said Molotch, but he says access to water is not the primary stressor.

“The big issue is that climate warming is causing a change in the snow conditions that resorts rely on. There are very sound first principles in science that would lead us to hypothesize that climate warming would diminish the quality of skiing.”

Snow has multiple climate sensitivities. As temperatures get warmer, the density of new snow becomes higher. It becomes less fluffy.

“Powder hounds beware, right?” he said. And those increasing levels of snowmelt identified in Molotch’s study mean the quality of the snow in the shoulder seasons is also in peril.

In Colorado, snow-related recreation contributes $1.2 billion to the state’s economy; at the national level, it’s a $4.7 billion economic driver, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. A shrinking snowpack means shorter seasons, which will impact a ski area’s revenue but also the livelihood of workers, from the dishwashers to the lift operators.

A 2012 study by the Natural Resources Defense Council and Protect Our Winters (POW) — a nonprofit that works with CU scientists — found that changes to the winter season driven by climate change cost the ski resort industry approximately $1.07 billion in aggregated revenue over the last decade. The research also showed that a low snow year can cost the industry 17,400 jobs compared to an average season.

“I think we’ve all been seeing the seasons getting shorter. Now, we’re lucky if we have a couple good trails by Thanksgiving,” said Bloom, who lives in Boulder with his wife, Mariah Buzolin. They have a toddler, a baby on the way and a place in Keystone, so protecting water for future generations is top of mind.

As soon as they’re old enough, he’ll teach his kids to ski — and to conserve water.
Rocky Mountain Rescue Group

For 75 years, the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group (RMRG) — a solely volunteer organization — has served as the main response agency for mountain search and rescue in Boulder County. Beginning in 1947 with its first headquarters in the basement of the CU Boulder engineering center, RMRG has held close ties with the university for decades. There is an RMRG student volunteer group at CU that is one of the university’s longest-running student organizations. Many alumni are also volunteers.

“Being a part of RMRG means being a part of a long history of excellence in mountain search and rescue,” said Steve Dundorf (CivEngr’97; MS’01), an RMRG volunteer for almost 30 years. “It is about helping those in need and saving the lives of people in our outdoor community. And it is about working in the outdoor environment that we all love.”

Technical mountain search and rescue can include:
- Scree evacuations
- Avalanches
- ATV’s
- Helicopters
- Snowmobiles

Everyone is a volunteer, and there is no charge for rescues

Dog rescues happen at least once a year

RMRG covers 450 square miles of Boulder County, where there are 10M+ visits to open spaces each year

RMRG funding sources:
- 18% Grants
- 30% Donations
- 52% Government Contributions

RMRG’s main priorities:
- Technical mountain search and rescue
- Outdoor safety education
- Disaster response

First meeting: Feb. 3, 1947 (celebrating 75 years this year)

8,100 search-and-rescue calls since its formation in 1947

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15,000+

Two hundred search-and-rescue calls per year, on average

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TRAILERS AND QUONSET
HUTS HOUSED HUNDREDS
OF STUDENTS AND THEIR
FAMILIES FOR THREE DECADES.
BY CHRISTIE SOUNART

CU Boulder’s student population nearly doubled as veterans enrolled during the end of World War II.

The university clamored to create housing for the more than 4,600 vets — many of whom had spouses and children — who received educational benefits as part of the U.S. government’s GI Bill.

While many vets were assigned to live in double or triple occupancy dorm rooms on campus or the homes of willing Boulder residents, the university needed immediate housing for many others.

In November 1945, CU Boulder opened what became known as Vetsville, a village of trailers located southwest of what is now Arapahoe Avenue and Folsom Street.

The early dwellings were far from ideal — they were drafty and leaky.

“Cold winds coming up under the trailers necessitated many, many blankets, and families woke up on bitter winter mornings to find their drinking water frozen,” said a 1947 article in the Colorado Alumnus magazine.

In the spring, inhabitants caught rainwater in buckets and moved beds to wherever they would stay the driest.

According to the Alumnus, when the university winterized the trailers with better foundations and ceilings, the waiting list jumped to the hundreds. Within two years, the village housed 200 veterans and 250 of their family members.

In 1947, John Wesley “Wes” Coryell (EIEng’50) [pictured on page 34] and his wife Doris Coryell were among its early inhabitants.

Wes served in the Navy during World War II and was primarily stationed on Lejima (also known as le Shima), an island near Okinawa, Japan.

With an honorable discharge, he began undergraduate studies at a junior college in Boise, Idaho, where he met
From 1945 to 1973, Vetsville was home to thousands of World War II veterans who attended CU under the GI Bill. From trailers to barracks-style apartments to Quonset huts, the style of living made for unique stories for the veterans and their families who lived there. The area north of campus was its own community, and even had its own co-op, newspaper and mayor.

and married Doris. Wes applied to the engineering program at CU Boulder under the GI Bill, and the couple moved to Vetsville for two years from 1947-1949.

“The space was very small, and they did the best they could with it,” said Judy Cutler, one of the Coryells’ three children. “They would sit and play cards and have a little cocktail party or a dinner party.”

Cutler recalled one story where Doris’ family visited the couple in Boulder.

“Mom and Dad had a bed, my grandmother slept on the couch, my aunt slept on the floor and my uncle slept in his car,” she said.

During the time the Coryells lived in Vetsville, the community grew rapidly. The university purchased 60 prefabricated steel Quonset huts to house an additional 120 families and acquired nearly 200 barracks-style apartments through the Federal Public Housing Authority.

As the number of people in Vetsville grew, so did the community around it. Children played in the streets. A co-operative store opened in 1947 for Vetsville residents to shop for fresh meat, vegetables, canned foods and bakery goods. The community elected a Vetsville mayor and published its own newspaper, the Quontrabar, “named for a combination of the words ‘Quonset,’ ‘trailer’ and ‘barracks,’” according to an April 2010 Daily Camera article on Vetsville’s history.

Cutler recalled her parents talking about the friends they made during their time at Vetsville.

“They were happy,” she said.

After Wes received his bachelor’s degree, the couple moved back to Idaho, where Wes worked for a power company his entire career. Doris died in 1991 at the age of 65 and Wes in 2009 at the age of 87.

As a result of drastic downsizing over the years, Vetsville officially closed in 1973 and the university planned the construction of the Newton Court apartments for married students and faculty. Many of Vetsville’s residents were dismayed at the time. The area boasted some of the cheapest rents in Boulder — $65 a month.
FULL CIRCLE

In May 2022, Eddie Taylor summited Mount Everest as part of the first all-Black team to attempt the expedition.

BY CHEYENNE SMITH

Former CU decathlete Eddie Taylor (Bio-Chem, Math’12) admits he never expected to stand on the summit of Mount Everest — especially as part of the first all-Black team to attempt the expedition.

Organized by veteran alpinist Phil Henderson of Cortez, Colorado, Taylor [above, far left] summited the tallest mountain on Earth in May 2022 alongside seven other athletes and 12 Sherpa guides on a team called the Full Circle Expedition. Under the mentorship of Henderson, the team’s accomplishment nearly doubled the number of Black climbers to summit Everest. Previously, less than 10 Black climbers had reached the summit out of thousands of others.

As someone who didn’t have climbing mentors he could relate to, Henderson — the first Black American instructor at NOLS [National Outdoor Leadership School] — said of the feat: “It came full circle.”

INVITATION TO EVEREST

Taylor grew up in the Midwest, where he enjoyed running track while getting his mountain fix on family trips to northern New Mexico and various national parks. When it came time to choose a university, the appeal of the well-known track and field team, innovative community and beautiful Colorado weather was a no-brainer: CU Boulder was the perfect fit. Taylor double-majored in math and biochemistry, all while competing in the decathlon.

“The Buffs are a legendary sports team,” Taylor said. “I was a walk-on, and the opportunity was amazing.”

Taylor’s experience reinforced what it meant to train hard and find success in chosen objectives. After graduating from CU, a friend invited Taylor to go rock climbing, and a light switched: “I went all in,” he said. Taylor became a strong, competent climber and mountaineer, and where he once had track goals, he was now setting goals in the mountains.

In early 2021, Taylor met Henderson at a dog park in Ouray, Colorado, when both were in town to ice climb. The two sparked a conversation and saw each other around the town’s infamous ice climbing park. Henderson took notice of Taylor’s impressive climbing ability and mountain sense. When Henderson began finalizing his Full Circle team in 2021, he invited Taylor to join.

Spearheaded by Henderson, Taylor and the rest of the team — Moanoah Ainuu, Fred Campbell, Abby Dione, KG Kagambi, Thomas Moore, Dom Mullins and Rosemary Saal — raised over $800,000 for the expedition as they began their training.

To train, Taylor stayed true to his weekly routine: climbing outside three to four days a week, coaching track at Centaurus High School in Lafayette, Colorado, and getting out to Rocky Mountain National Park to climb or ski on the weekends.

THE SUMMIT

The team traveled to Nepal in March 2022, embarking on a 70-day expedition up the southwest ridge of Everest. After hiking 25 miles to Everest’s base camp (17,400 feet), Taylor and the Full Circle team spent a few days acclimating and preparing for the ascent. Henderson, who did not attempt the summit, remained at base camp.

From base camp, the team spent many rotations successively climbing higher to acclimatize to high altitude, eventually making it to Camp 3 at more than 22,000 feet. On May 12, the team staggered hiking times and pushed for the summit at their own pace.

During a good weather window, Taylor stumbled out of his tent around 9 p.m., wearing an oxygen mask, down suit and pack. He saw a line of headlamps heading up the mountain and “put one foot in front of the other and started plodding toward the trail,” he said.

“Soon enough, I caught up to the traffic,” he said. “I was cold, so I did what I knew how to do best; I unclipped and started passing folks.”

At midnight, Taylor and Pasang Ngima Sherpa were among the first at a resting place known as the Balcony. At 2:40 a.m. Taylor and Pasang stepped onto the highest point on Earth. The summit of Everest was dark, short and sweet. Taylor snapped a blurry photo and quickly turned back to begin a safe descent and eat a hot meal.

“The summit didn’t mean that much to me, but what the expedition means is very important,” said Taylor.

The seven other Full Circle team members also summited on May 12, officially reshaping the future of mountaineering. The team’s accomplishment was featured in USA Today, Outside magazine, National Geographic, CNN and more.

“Our goal here is to help folks aspire to have a profound and respectful relationship with the outdoors and feel not entitled to it, but welcome to it. If you see it can be done, you can do it right,” said Full Circle team member, Abby Dione, in a CNN interview.

BRINGING IT FULL CIRCLE

As it did for Henderson, the experience has come full circle for Taylor.

Just as Taylor prepared for Everest is how he returns from Everest — continuing his daily routine. Taylor continues teaching at Centaurus and coaching track after school. He travels to the mountains in his free time and plans to climb in Yosemite National Park next season.

“I just love giving back, taking my knowledge and giving it to the kids in the up-and-coming community,” Taylor said.
Jay Parry (Fin’80) got a healthy appreciation for sports from her father, who would shuttle her and her two older sisters around Del Mar, California, and beyond. “He literally took us to every sporting event he could find in Southern California,” she said. “Sports were important growing up. He really opened us to all the possibilities.”

Decades later, the former banking executive would make her name in the same field, but this time off the playing surface — with the WNBA, the NBA and, now, the Super Bowl.

Parry currently serves as the public face of the group responsible for Super Bowl LVII in Arizona, and the rest of the world will be watching.

“What drives me is that I love putting together an all-star team and creating something that seems like it’s going to be a challenge, but ultimately we make it look easy,” said Parry, president and chief executive of the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee, during a break in her schedule in Phoenix. “I get excited about that.”

This is the second time around for Parry, who helped lead the effort to host the NFL’s big game in Arizona in 2015. This time, the stakes are even higher.

Delayed by the global pandemic, her 20-person staff has had to move quickly to prepare for the multitude of tasks in the months leading up to the opening kick-off.

The fundraising goal to defray the cost of putting on the game is $50 million, roughly $20 million more than the last time the desert played host. Sponsorships need to be inked. Some 5,000 volunteers need to be recruited. A full calendar of events must be put together and executed.

“We have a great road map from 2015,” Parry said. “Now the challenge is how we elevate our game and set new records for the Super Bowl and Arizona — and create a really fun fan experience for everyone. “Sports is business, and creating a business plan for how to host the best Super Bowl yet is the goal.”

The California transplant took her first formal steps into the business world at CU, arriving at the never-before-visited school looking for a change in scenery, and decided that finance and marketing would serve her well. Parry said she came away with a degree, lasting memories and lifelong friendships — and she fulfilled her father’s request that she take up skiing.

The lessons she learned at CU Boulder helped provide a foundation for a 17-year career at Bank of America, where she steadily rose through the ranks. She left as an executive vice president overseeing 10 states.

“I thought, ‘There’s a great big world out there,’ and I needed to make sure that I was experiencing different aspects of it,” she said. “It seemed like the time had come to make a move.”

Parry launched a second career in sports as a top executive with the Phoenix Mercury basketball team of the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA), landing the job through a connection at the bank. That led to a stint as a senior vice president with the Phoenix Suns. And another connection from the bank and others, along with her track record, helped land her the top job running the Super Bowl for the first time and again a second time last year. In between, she served for two years as the WNBA’s chief operating officer.

She’s worked in largely male-dominated organizations throughout her career, but she downplayed any suggestion that her gender served as an obstacle.

“It’s about knowing your business and being prepared,” Parry said. “I think there’s a lot of progress being made around bringing women into the conference room and the board room. We still have a lot of work to do.”

IT’S ABOUT KNOWING YOUR BUSINESS AND BEING PREPARED.

Parry said she has learned over the years that a formula for success in any organization is creating and encouraging a culture of inclusion, and having a highly qualified group of professionals who make it work.

As for the future, Parry is taking a “wait and see” approach, concentrating on her team and the months until the big game.

“We’re really focused on delivering a really great experience for Super Bowl LVII,” she said. “And then we’ll all take a step back, take a breath and decide what comes next.”
Growing up, Boulder’s Chris Wirth (Law, MBA’97) was inspired by his mother’s antique Falls-brand jigsaw puzzles, which were intricately cut by scroll saw during the Great Depression. He proudly displayed one that featured a hand-drawn map of Mexico.

The puzzles — some of which are now worth $7,000 or more — he realized, delivered a unique social experience when people sat down to do them.

With the idea of puzzles as a social vehicle, Wirth founded Liberty Puzzles in 2005 with friend and business partner Jeff Eldridge.

“Bring people together. That was our goal starting this company,” Wirth said. “Screens are off, bottle of wine is open — I would describe that as our first hook.”

When Liberty Puzzles first came to market, the company presented custom wooden puzzles at a fraction of the price of other boutique puzzle makers, ranging from $50 to $150. The real challenge, Wirth said, was making such a detailed, largely handcrafted product at scale.

“Each one touches 12 or 14 sets of hands going through our process,” Wirth said. “It’s really crafty, and it’s a really difficult product to make. We’re not just cranking out widgets.”

Liberty Puzzles has been a Boulder business from the start, and in the tradition of the classic Falls heirlooms that first piqued Wirth’s interest, all the puzzles feature “whimsy pieces.” Unlike most die-cut puzzle pieces, the pieces are theme-based, and must be hand-drawn before they’re sent digital-ly to a machine that laser-cuts the pattern out of wood. A puzzle the company currently sells with an image of Boulder’s Chautauqua Park, for example, features whimsy pieces drawn in the shape of Colorado wildlife and pine trees alongside climbers and hikers.

“Seven or eight years after the first year of the iPhone, there started to be this backlash against technology,” he said. “Well, what’s the perfect antidote to the iPhone? A wooden jigsaw puzzle.”

Liberty Puzzles now has three facilities in total — including its original factory space in Boulder — and produces roughly 600 rotating puzzle images, along with the option for custom puzzles. The company also has a retail storefront on the Pearl Street Mall for anyone wanting to see the puzzles.

Sage Wirth, Chris’ wife and a painter whose watercolors appear on several puzzle options, said supporting local artists by paying them to use their imagery has always been a goal.

“We’ve found that people come to walk the mall, and they want to bring something home from their vacation,” Sage said. “So all the local artists are featured on one wall in the store, and they do really, really well.”

With an annual spike in sales around the holidays, Liberty Puzzles is likely to stay a hyper-seasonal business.

“We ship about 500 boxes a day [in the summer],” he said. “But in December we can fill up three UPS trucks per day. We ship out something like 1,000 units a day in December. It’s just the perfect Christmas gift.”

A special-edition Forever Buffs puzzle is available at libertypuzzles.com.

By Duncan McHenry
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University of Colorado Boulder

[CMCI logo]
for a decade, Sima Bhowmik (PhDJour’24) worked as a journalist in her home country of Bangladesh. But she felt called to education in the U.S., despite not speaking fluent English.

After a journalism fellowship from the State Department and the completion of the U.S. English testing requirement in only four months, she obtained a scholarship to attend the University of Mississippi for her master’s in journalism. She started the doctoral program in journalism at CU Boulder in 2020.

But the pandemic made the move to Boulder difficult for her and her husband. “We couldn’t meet anyone. Everything was on Zoom,” Bhowmik said. Bhowmik volunteered on campus in 2021. She welcomed students to campus with the New Student and Family Programs office and worked with the Graduate and Professional Student Government to advocate for graduate students and help build community. She also became a Forever Buffs Network ambassador through the Alumni Association.

“Many people asked me, ‘Why are you doing this?’” she said. “But these things were important to me.”

Through her online role with the Alumni Association, Bhowmik spoke with alumni who joined the Forever Buffs Network, a free platform that functions like a CU-only LinkedIn, about their college experiences.

Soon she met Jim Stanczak (Fin’93), who became her mentor. The two talk often about job prospects, interviewing techniques and general career advice. “Sima is incredibly talented and impressive, and she and her work are doing a lot to raise the status of CU,” said Stanczak, who lives in Brookline, Massachusetts. “Her perspectives and experience offer a wildly different viewpoint and help me better understand how I might contribute to a stronger Buffs alumni network.”

Bhowmik, who also teaches media law and ethics at CLI, plans to graduate two years from now with her doctorate and hopes to someday land a permanent job in academia.

“Connections are really important,” she said. “I want to have some impact on the CU Boulder culture.”

Become a Forever Buffs Network ambassador. Applications for the three-month program open this spring. Visit foreverbuffsnetwork.com to join and apply.

Impacting the CU Culture
Sima Bhowmik found connections at CU Boulder as an ambassador for the Forever Buffs Network.

Forever Buffs Wine Club
For Jess Havill (Econ’09), wine is a family affair. He is co-owner and general manager of Bella Grace vineyards, which he runs with his parents and two brothers. Their winery, wine cave and vineyards are located in Plymouth, California, and their tasting room is on the main street of Sutter Creek, California.

“Being able to build a business with my family has been an experience I will cherish forever,” said Havill, who has worked full time at the winery since 2013. “It’s an added benefit that it’s making and selling wine!”

This year, the CU Boulder Alumni Association has paired with Bella Grace for its Forever Buffs Wine Club. Each bottle of the hand-crafted wine boasts CU-themed labels, and purchase proceeds support the university, CU Athletics and the Alumni Association. Wine club members can pick from two award-winning wines: a sauvignon blanc and a barrel-select red blend.

Visit colorado.edu/alumni/benefits/shop for more information or to join the club.
The New Foundations for Student Success

A student’s time on a university campus is an opportunity for academic and social exploration and growth. But it can also be a time of significant stress and tension that reflects the world in which we live.

CU Boulder is not immune to real-world issues such as food insecurity, affordable housing and the rising costs of daily living. This fall we launched a Basic Needs Center on campus to connect students struggling with basic essentials.

The topic of how students are faring in their mental health and well-being is also one that we, as educators, are focusing on with increasing frequency and depth.

These fundamental needs underpin every other measure of success that the university helps students to achieve. Unfortunately, recent student polling shows the needs are great. In a survey of 2,000 undergraduates conducted in March 2022, students were over twice as likely to rate their overall mental health as poor (22%) than excellent (9%), with 56% responding “fair” or “poor.”

But thanks to innovative research and treatments being developed on campus, CU Boulder is making real progress toward understanding and addressing the mental health of children, youth and young adults.

The research happening at CU Boulder considers multiple elements of mental health, from better understanding the biological and environmental influences on developing brains to testing new methods to diagnose and treat mental illness. Importantly, our campus is developing student-focused, holistic preventive measures — “mental hygiene” as it’s sometimes called — that can help prepare teens and young adults to better handle life’s inevitable challenges.

What particularly delights me about the work happening on campus is how students are driving and participating in the effort. At the Renée Crown Wellness Institute, students co-design research projects, working alongside top scientists, families, teachers and community members while providing real-world insights drawn from their own life experiences.

Students who work with the Crown Institute — and in labs across campus — will graduate prepared to impact residents of Colorado and beyond as researchers and practitioners in the field of mental health. And they’ll gain the satisfaction of creating tangible solutions that improve emotional well-being for themselves and their peers.

Perhaps the most difficult thing about addressing mental health is that individual needs are highly variable and the efforts largely internal. But in a university community, we witness the positive outcomes that occur as young people find support, agency and meaning in their lives. We see it in strengthened relationships, greater resilience and emotional stability that propel their lives and all of humanity forward.

Is there any greater measure of student success than that?

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.
Volleyball’s Standard for Versatility

Bryna DeLuzio earned team defensive MVP in 2021. She’s elevated her play even more for 2022 and beyond. In 2017, her first season, Bryna DeLuzio (Mktg ’21; MRecEcon ’22) flourished as setter, finishing 10th in the NCAA in assists, earning All-Pac-12 Honorable Mention and helping CU to an NCAA Sweet 16 appearance.

DeLuzio then spent seasons switching between setter (offense) and libero (defensive specialist, pronounced “luh-bear-OH”). Due to positional need, she played libero full-time in 2021. The results: 4.67 average digs per set, best in the Pac-12, a CU record and another All-Pac-12 Honorable Mention.

“She can play two positions at an extremely high level. However, the most important thing she brings is her dedication,” said head coach Jesse Mahoney. “She is the standard that all of our players should strive toward.”

Liberos are self-sacrificing. Digs require frequent dives onto knees and elbows. Five sets in the ready position stress the shoulders and back. And liberos rarely leap up to kill a set ball.

DeLuzio knows sacrifice: “I’m a gym rat. What I work on depends on who we play that week — the spot, angle or line of defense.”

Unwilling to rest on her record-breaking 2021, the 5’9” DeLuzio trained in the off-season to potentially return to setter. She liked how the setter had control of the ball in every play, but was concerned opponents might hit over her blocks.

Enter Adam Ringler, assistant director of strength and conditioning and head of sport science research. He designed a team training program of force plate jumps and plyometrics, which DeLuzio focused on to help her excel as a setter. DeLuzio surpassed all expectations.

“She ended up adding 4.5 inches to her vertical,” said Ringler. “We might see that with freshmen that have never done structured strength conditioning, but for a sixth-year athlete, that’s crazy.”

The gains apply similarly for libero. The vertical gain correlates to increased horizontal dive range. But, DeLuzio always plays where she best supports her team.

“I give my all, every practice, every game,” DeLuzio said. “If not, I’m doing a disservice to my team and myself for my final season.”

DeLuzio plans another switch after this season. In January, she will begin training to play beach volleyball professionally.
LeRoy Enters Second Season as Ski Coach

Andy LeRoy (Fin’03) became Colorado’s 18th head ski coach in March 2021, replacing Richard Rokos, who retired after more than three decades with the Buffs. The former Olympian discusses leading CU’s only coed athletic team, what inspired him to coach and ways to help generate revenue for collegiate skiing.

After high school, you skied six seasons on the U.S. National Team. What was the experience like? It was an opportunity of a lifetime! Although I didn’t reach the goals I had dreamt about as a kid, I got to compete with and learn from some of the best in the business — like my roommate at that time, Bode Miller. I am fortunate to have worked with coaching icons like Aldo Radamus and Jesse Hunt. Both have had a huge impact on the type of coach I want to be.

You joined the Buffs for the 2000 season, won the NCAA slalom competition and stayed on as a volunteer coach. What stood out to you about the program? The 2000 season was my one and only season of collegiate competition, but I still needed another year and a half of school to earn my undergraduate degree. Thankfully, Richard Rokus advocated strongly for me to receive fifth-year aid, and I graduated in 2003. Rokus also gave my coaching career a kickstart like no other, allowing me to be his volunteer assistant in 2002. During my time at CU, I truly fell in love with the sport.

You became the University of Denver’s head ski coach before the 2007 season after coaching the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club for three years. How did you adapt to leading a Division-1 program? My father passed away a few days before my second birthday, so I was kind of raised by ski coaches. Coaching in Steamboat Springs from 2003 to 2006 felt like a way for me to give back to the sport. Then the opportunity came to coach at the University of Denver. I was unprepared for sure, trying my best to learn on the fly about alumni outreach, recruiting, NCAA rules and 100 other facets of the job. The easiest part was the ski coaching. To step on the snow and help an athlete improve always seemed so natural. It’s still my happy place.

There were six NCAA team titles in your 15 seasons at DU. What factors contributed to this success? A fantastic program built by icons in our sport like Otto Tschudi, Kurt Smitz and the Nystad brothers. When I took the job at DU, I joked that all I needed to do was to keep the van on the road and we would win again. I was also thankful to have been hired to coach DU’s Alpine program at the same time David Stewart was hired to coach DU’s Nordic program. We learned a lot from each other, and I will always cherish the time we spent together there as coaches.

How has Richard Rokus helped you transition into becoming CU’s head ski coach? After 31 years, Richie knows everything about this program and he has been available and eager to share his knowledge whenever requested. He’s still out on the hill helping with training as our volunteer assistant coach. He was inducted into our CU Athletics Hall of Fame last year, but our athletes still get him on the hill every day as their volunteer coach! I can’t imagine ski racing here at CU without him.

How can skiing become a revenue-generating collegiate sport? It’s a revenue-generating sport in Europe. But in the United States, it’s not on TV. There are no tickets being sold to our big races. If we get our collegiate races webcasted, people across the world will watch. We can sell sponsorships if we showcase it properly. Adding the parallel event for Alpine and the sprint discipline for Nordic would also be a huge step in the right direction. Both are exciting to watch and exhilarating to participate in. In March 2024, CU will host the NCAA Skiing Championship in Steamboat, and I hope by then both events will be included in the competition.

What are you most looking forward to this year? Working with the athletes. And I’m pretty sure I will give the same answer every year.

If you had free time, what would you do? Take my wife golfing. I met her on a golf course 14 years ago. Neither of us are very good, but we have a lot of fun out there together.
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The online Outdoor Recreation Economy program at CU Boulder is designed to help you:

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

[Link to program: colorado.edu/program/ore]
women’s reproductive rights within the largest, most-powerful patriarchy in the world. Paula is an award-winning non-fiction writer and emerita research professor of social welfare and public policy at Iowa State University. She lives in the Great Lakes region of the Upper Midwest with her award-winning writer husband, their dog and other wildlife. Fearless is under consideration for five book awards, including the May Sarton award for women’s fiction.

John Quicker’s (Anth ’65; PhD Soc ’70) book, Before Crips: Fussin’, Cussin’, and Discussin’ among South Los Angeles Juvenile Gangs, was published by Temple University Press. Kirkus Reviews wrote that it is “a compelling sociological examination of the pre-1970 Los Angeles ‘street groups’ that improbably spawned the Crips and Bloods,” and is a “gripping urban history.” John is a professor emeritus of sociology at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Zephyros in My Garden, an original clarinet choir composition by John Gibson (Mus Edu ’68; MMus ’69) had its premiere performance in July at the International ClarinetFest in Reno, Nevada. With more than 950 small ensemble arrangements and compositions to his credit, John is the composer and arranger in residence for the Zephyr Clarinet Choir at Portland State University. He lives in Vancouver, Washington, with his wife, Barbara Gibson (Mus Ed ’70).

Judy Hickey Fahrenkrog (Edu ’70) of Denver and a group of her Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority sisters from all across the U.S. and abroad have been staying in touch over the years. During the pandemic, Judy and her KKG sisters started hosting a regular Zoom happy hour. They had an in-person reunion in October 2021 in Boulder and plan to meet up again this year.

Tired of observing the expansive litter problem on Oklahoma’s Interstate 40, “Super Doc” Brad Garber (Bio ’72) decided to become part of the solution. Every Friday, Garber leaves his city job as a plastic and reconstructive surgeon and heads to his family farm in the country. There, he dons his red hat, yellow-and-orange vest, 55-gallon black bag and pincher robotic tool to pick up trash along Interstate 40 and US Highway 75 South. His motto for the area is “The cleanest, greenest exit on eastbound I-40 coast to coast.” He lives in Tulsa.

Robert Fleisher (Mus ’75) continues to perform and record his music, which has appeared on seven albums since he retired in 2014 as coordinator of music theory and composition at Northern Illinois University. He lives in Vancouver, Washington, with his wife, Barbara Gibson (Mus Ed ’70).

Loretto Alfresco,” has been performed 29 times in a dozen states. Three works will be included on a Neuma Records album due out in November. In December, his toy piano miniatures, “BACH (for Jan),” will premiere by David Bohn as part of the Vox Novus Fifteen Minutes of Fame series.

After 22 years of service, Steve Coe (Jour ’81) retired from the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. Since 2005, Steve helped investigate and prosecute individuals in the U.S. who were suspected of committing human rights violations in 1991–95 in the countries of the former Yugoslavia. Previously, he worked as a historian in the Department of Justice’s Special Investigations division. He studied Russian in the Soviet Union and received a master’s degree in Russian and East European studies from the University of Michigan in 1986 and a Ph.D. in modern Russian history in 1993.

Wendy Lynch (PE ’82; MS ’84; PhD’ Edu) founded and runs Analytic-Translator.com, which helps convert complex analytics into business value. With more than 35 years of experience in the field, Wendy has written a book and runs an online course about becoming an analytics translator. She is a consultant to numerous Fortune 100 companies, and her current work focuses on the application of big data solutions in human capital management.

James Michael Brodie (Engl ’83) is president of The Black and Gold Project Foundation, a group of CU Boulder alumni that supports increasing the percentage of African American students, faculty and administration at the university. On June 25, James and the foundation celebrated the 40-year career of professor William King. William began teaching Black Studies at CU in 1972 and went on to become the director of the Black Studies program. He also was a founding member of the National Council for Black Studies and eventually served as its national chairman. At the luncheon, Gary Jackson (PolSci ’67; Law ’70), retired senior judge of the Denver County Court and former Denver district attorney, spoke and said, “(Dr. King) was more than a legacy. He was a role model that all of us in this room could pattern our lives after.”
Founder and principal of Kipnis Architecture + Planning (KAP), Nate Kipnis (EnvDes’83) — a fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) — was honored as one of Crain’s Chicago Business’ 2022 Notable Leaders in Sustainability. The award category honors chief sustainability officers, top executives, nonprofit leaders and entrepreneurs who are leading the way in sustainable business. KAP, which has locations in Boulder and Evanston, Illinois, is recognized as a premier firm in sustainable architecture. Additionally, Nate serves on the AIA Climate Action and Design Committee.

Kimberly Coleman Burns (Jour’85) won the National Indie Excellence Award for Regional Fiction, the Western Fictioneers Peacemakers Award for Best First Western and a gold medal from the Independent Publishers Awards for her Victorian-era novel, The Mrs. Tabor. Her husband, Robert Burns (Fin’86), is a senior vice president of Pacific Investment Management Company.

In May, the Environmental Law Institute selected Mark Laska (DistSt’85) as the business leadership winner of the National Wetlands Award. This award recognizes individuals who strive to protect wetland resources in the face of developmental and climate-related challenges. Mark — founder, president and CEO of the ecological consulting group Great Ecology — was recognized for his work as an ecological restoration practitioner.

Kathryn Willoughby’s (MBA’85) first solo exhibition, “In The Garden,” was hosted at Gallery 9 in Los Altos, California this summer. This exhibition featured more than 30 lush landscape paintings, including 12 of Bay Area gardens. In addition, she has published a companion book, In The Garden: An Artist’s View, available on Amazon and at Gallery 9. View Kathryn’s work at kathrynhilton.com.

Robin Wurtzel (Law’85) is chief counsel at the Hawai’i Civil Rights Commission. She writes that she “feels good about rounding out over 35 years of public interest law at a great government agency.” She lives in Honolulu.

Beebe Bahrami (MCDBio’86), an award-winning writer and anthropologist known for her travel narratives, memoirs and guidebooks, released The Way of the Wild Goose: Three Pilgrimages Following Geese, Stars and Hunches on the Camino de Santiago in May. In the book, Beebe recounts her experience making the 500-mile pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago across southern France and northern Spain, and her quest to unearth the mystery of the symbol of the goose along the path.

Tim Tomask (Ad’86) was sworn in as the 149th Chicago Bar Association president. Tim, founding member of Tomask Kotin Kasserman LLC, has practiced law for nearly three decades. Among his most notable accomplishments is his work as a lead attorney on the plaintiffs’ executive committee in the World Trade Center litigation, securing a $1.2 billion settlement against the airlines for security breaches that led to the 9/11 hijackings and air crashes.

The Maine Freedom of Information Coalition awarded Sue Hawes (Psych’88) the 2022 Sunshine Award for her work pursuing public records from the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office. Her work exposed staffing issues at the county jail. She lives in Portland, Maine.

Wellness services company Restore Hyper Wellness, owned and operated by Shawn Johnson (Mktg, Rec’88) and his partner Julie, opened a location in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Restore helps people looking to manage persistent pain, reduce signs of aging, boost athletic performance and increase natural defenses.

The national nonprofit organization Girls, Inc. D.C., named Lori McFarling (Jour’89) to their board of directors, where she serves as a member of their executive team and co-chair of fund development. Lori serves as Discovery Education’s president of social impact and corporate partnerships. She resides in Bethesda, Maryland.

FIVE QUESTIONS

Mapping Yellowstone’s Plumbing

Carol Finn (MGeol’82; PhDGeoPhys’88) and her team of researchers are the first to use electromagnetic sensors to map the hydrothermal network — the plumbing — under Yellowstone National Park (YNP). Finn, lead author of the study’s paper published in Nature, is a research geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver who specializes in geothermal mapping and natural hazard assessment.

What was best about your time at CU? My fellow graduate students. There was tremendous camaraderie, and I am still friends with many of them.

What inspired your interest in geophysics and natural hazards? Geophysicists use remote means to look inside the earth, similar to doctors who use X-rays, MRIs and CTs to scan the body. I love being able to reveal hidden knowledge.

What are the potential applications of your findings? Despite decades of studies, the plumbing system that links legendary surface features to deep thermal fluids beneath YNP was previously unknown. It’s important to understand how it works because there’s a lot of geological activity underneath Yellowstone.

Understanding the connectivity of the plumbing system in YNP is also useful to determine whether geothermal energy extraction outside of the park might influence hydrothermal activity in the park. INTERVIEW BY ALEXX MCMILLAN (ENGL, ENVST’23)
CU students spend a fall day on the Engineering Quad on the east part of main campus.

Margaret Haynes (MBA’91) has been announced as Right At Home’s CEO. Haynes has more than 25 years of senior management experience, including a decade on the leadership team at Right At Home — eight of which were spent as the COO. Right at Home, a leading in-home senior care brand, has over 650 franchise locations in the U.S. and seven other countries. Margaret previously served as senior vice president of financial services at First Data Corporation. She lives in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Hong Kong resident Dana Magenau (Chin’91) is the vice president of commercial and corporate partnerships at the Kai Tak Sports Park, a more than 70-acre mega complex that includes a 50,000-seat stadium with a retractable roof, a 10,000-seat indoor sports arena, a public sports ground and 600,000 square feet of retail. Dana’s colleague and fellow Buff, Meg McWilliam (ArtHist, EnvDes’05, MArch’07), associate principal architect at Populous based out of Los Angeles, is the lead architect of the main stadium. Kai Tak Sports Park will be Hong Kong’s largest sports and entertainment structure. The raising of the over 6,000-ton roof trusses was recently celebrated with a traditional Bai Sun Ceremony.

Margaret Hart (MFA’93) is a professor in the art department at the University of Massachusetts Boston. This October, Boston’s Kingston Gallery featured an exhibition of Margaret’s work, along with guest artists, that focuses on climate change through the lens of social and climate justice. Visit margarethartart.com to see her work.

Boulder to Birmingham, an Emmyou Harris tribute band created by singer and songwriter Tricia Parish (Psych’93), features a blend of country and western music with instruments including the electric guitar, fiddle, pedal steel guitar, bass, vocals and percussion. While battling stage 4 breast cancer, Tricia continues to perform music with Boulder to Birmingham. She also released an original album in 2010. To find a live performance or to learn more, find Tricia Parish Music and @BouldertoBirmingham on Facebook. Tricia lives in Manitou Springs, Colorado.

Rumaih Al-Rumaih (PhDEng’95) was appointed as Saudi Arabia’s deputy minister of transport and logistic services. Rumaih was also assigned by royal decree as president of the Public Transport Authority, which oversees the kingdom’s land, railway and maritime transport.

Jenn Spinelli (Econ’95) is CEO of Watson Buys, a Denver-based home-buying company. In August, she was featured in an article, “How Homebuyers Can Safely Cancel Home Deals,” published by Wealth of Geeks, a financial education and pop culture site.

Metropolitan State University promoted Chalane Lechuga (Engl’98) as full professor in the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies. She also serves as MSU’s director of faculty diversity research and development in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Chalane was born and raised in Denver and attended Denver North High School.

This July, global law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP elected Connie Milonasik (Fin’98) as a partner of the firm. Connie works in London with Davis Polk’s corporate practice. She focuses on capital markets transactions and advises international corporations.

In July, Andrew Luxen (Atmos, PolSci’01) was appointed by Colorado Gov. Jared Polis as a district court judge for the City and County of Denver beginning in January 2023. Andrew has worked as a chief deputy district attorney for the Denver District Attorney’s Office since 2019, and has worked in the office since 2006.

Khalilah Louis Caines (Psych’02) is a professor of social work at Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, Florida. Khalilah served her community as a social worker for over a decade in many positions, including child welfare case manager and adoption care manager. In 2016, she transitioned to teaching social work courses at Saint Leo University, where she’s been since. Caines has a master’s degree in social work, numerous certifications within her field and is currently working toward a PhD in public affairs from the University of Central Florida.

Jefferson Dodge (MJour’02) was named Colorado State University’s director of internal communications in June. Jeff, who worked for CU’s former faculty and staff newspaper Silver & Gold Record for 12 years, has been at CSU since 2014, serving most recently as interim director of the university’s News and Media Relations team.

Aaron Perry (Ger’02; MA’02) published his debut novel, Viriditas. The eco-thriller is Colorado-based and includes scenes from the CU Boulder campus before the protagonist makes a fateful decision. Aaron is also the co-founder, executive director and host of the Y on Earth community podcast. Aaron lives in Boulder.

Four-time Emmy Award nominee Kevin Wendling (Psych’02) won his first national sports Emmy Award for best Out-}

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!

Write the editors at Koenig Alumni Center, Boulder, CO 80309, or editor@colorado.edu.
Owen Locke (Fin’03), a sixth-generation Col- roadan, launched Locke + Co. Aspen Aged Rye Whiskey in 2016 with his best friend. The whiskey spends two years in oak barrels followed by eight months with hand-cut and charred aspen wood discs, sourced from his family’s property in Fairplay, Colorado. Owen hopes to continue growing the company.

Dana Query (Comm’03) and her husband, Dave, own Big Red F Restaurant Group, including Jax Fish House, Centro, West End Tavern, The Post Chicken & Beer and Velvet Elk Lounge. They reside in Boulder and are active community members. Their two sons, Harrison and Matt Query (Psych, Soc’12), recently co-wrote a thriller novel, Old Country. Harrison wrote the screenplay for the story, which was bought by Netflix in a seven-figure deal the same month the brothers landed a book deal.

Appellate lawyer Kendra N. Beckwith (Jour, PolSci’04) joined Lewis Roca’s litigation practice group as a partner. Kendra has briefed and argued almost 60 cases nationwide in both state and federal courts and deals with a variety of issues relating to employment, insurance law, commercial litigation and more.

National Institute of Standards and Technology physicists Ian Coddington (PhDPhys’04) and Kevin Cossel (PhD-ChemPhys’14), along with Nathan Newbury, were finalists for the 2022 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal in the science, technology and environment category. They were recognized for developing a revolutionary system to detect methane gas leaks from oil and gas production facilities in addition to identifying other pollutants that contribute to global warming. Working with collaborators at CU, this technology has been transferred to a startup company that has made strides in expanding its capabilities and deploying the system in key oil and gas-producing states.

Jonathan Lucero (Fin’04; Law’07) and his wife, Brittany, welcomed a third addition to their family. Zoé Sofía Lucero was born three months premature, and Jonathan writes she has made a miraculous recovery. Judge Lucero serves as a municipal court judge in Aurora, Englewood and, occasionally, Castle Rock, Colorado.

Patrick Salvi II (Mgmt’04) was named president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. In 2007, he graduated from Notre Dame Law School and joined Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C. as an attorney, where he was named managing partner of the Chicago office in 2017. Patrick concentrates his legal practice on cases involving personal injury, medical malpractice and mass torts. He also serves as a board member of Legal Aid Chicago, an organization that provides free legal services to people living in poverty. In recognition of his outstanding legal work, Patrick has been listed in Lawdragon’s 500 Leading Lawyers in America, an elite guide in the legal profession, for the past six years.

After living in London for nine years, Merici Vinton (PolSci’04) moved to Washington, D.C., to join the U.S. Digital Service (USDS) at the White House. Over the past year, she has led Child Tax Credit Implementation for USDS. After graduating from CU, Merici received her MBA at University of Denver and then went on to set up the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and set the digital and data strategy for its first director, Elizabeth Warren. Her family lives on Capitol Hill and loves visiting Denver and Boulder.

Aspen Brewing Company, founded in 2008 by Duncan Clauss (Engl’07), will celebrate 15 years in business this March. The company has two World Beer Cup gold medals.

Former director of business strategy and development for the United Launch Alliance (ULA), Chris Ellerhorst (AeroEngr’08) was named the vice president and director of the ULA’s Kuiper program office to support Amazon’s Kuiper Program. The goal of this program is to increase broadband accessibility globally by launching advanced satellites into orbit.

What was your favorite part about your time at CU? The highlight has to be a business class I took called “Profiles in American Enterprise” that allowed undergrads to be teaching assistants to a class of 30, give a presentation to over 1,000 people, connect with CEOs — mine was Patagonia CEO Michael Crooke — and become a published author.

Could you tell us a little about what Wynd does? What we really focus on is speciation and contextualization — basically telling you exactly what’s in the air. Our monitors and purifiers communicate with one another through connected sensors. These sensors can pull in particulate matter and tell if it’s pollen, mold or smoke from a cigarette, and instruct the purifier to respond accordingly. We then aggregate all this data in a mapping system to give consumers a report of their space’s air quality.

What creates poor indoor air quality? Poor indoor air quality often comes from simple things people don’t pay attention to: cooking, vacuuming, cleaning — even carbon dioxide from breathing. Improving indoor air quality often comes down to educating individuals on simple items to improve their space, such as opening windows. The COVID-19 pandemic also changed the way people talk about air quality.

With the pandemic, we became more aware of how viruses travel through the air — and poor air quality makes that spreading even easier and compounds the ramifications.

What gives you hope for the future of air quality? I’m hopeful that with more data out there we can continue to uncover solutions to maintaining better air quality. I’m also optimistic about the direction sustainability is heading. It’s evolving to incorporate health and wellness and environmental justice, ensuring these technologies will bring all individuals — particularly those who have been marginalized in the past — forward to the future of healthy buildings.

Better Air, Healthier Buildings

FIVE QUESTIONS

Max Kief (Mgmt’04; OrgMgmt’21) spent the last two decades building a career as a sustainability professional, holding positions at Costar, CB Richard Ellis and Healthy Buildings International. Today he serves as the sustainability director at Wynd, an air monitoring and purification technology company operating in over 100 countries around the globe.
Judd Shader (EthnSt’10) is founder, board member and CEO of Leeds West Groups (LWG), based in Greenwood Village, Colorado. He launched the company from his apartment while a junior at CU Boulder. LWG is a management platform capitalized by family office funds that acquires, owns and manages national automotive repair franchise brands including Midas, Big O Tires and SpeeDee Oil in addition to a national real estate portfolio and other outside investments.

Michelle Tamayo (AeroEngr’10; MS’10) has worked as a dynamics engineer at United Launch Alliance (ULA) for 10 years. She worked for four years on the integration for Boeing’s Starliner spacecraft, which launched from ULA’s Atlas V rocket to the International Space Station in May. She also has spent seven years working on development for ULA’s Vulcan rocket.

Brothers Harrison and Matt Query (Psych, Soc’12) published their first co-written book, Old Country. Matt, an environmental lawyer, first published the thriller as a multi-part story on Reddit’s r/NoSleep — a place where internet writers share original horror stories. After it blew up on Reddit, Matt reached out to his screenwriter brother — who also spent some time at CU — to help him develop it into a book and screenplay. The story was picked up by Netflix in a seven-figure deal the same month they landed a book deal.

Eugene, Oregon. Emma Coburn (Mktg’13) placed eighth in the world for the women’s steeple-chase after picking up her tenth U.S. steeple-chase title in June. Joe Klecker (BioChem’20), who won his first U.S. title in the men’s 10,000 in May, finished in ninth place. Puerto Rican 400-meter dash national champion Gabby Scott (Mgmt’19) advanced to the semi-finals.

NBC News anchor and host of the network’s Stay Tuned show, Savannah Sellers (Jour’13) married Alex Yaraghi in Tuscany, Italy, on Sept. 16. The couple hosted 80 of their friends and family members at a villa for a three-day celebration. The couple met in 2017 in New York City’s West Village.

As a real estate broker for Coldwell Banker Mountain Properties, Leah Canfield (Fin’14), of Breckenridge, Colorado, sells millions of dollars in property every month. She was named to the National Association of Realtors’ “30 Under 30” list for her work. Prior to attending CU, Leah competed as an alpine ski racer for Breckenridge’s Quantum Sports Club, and at one point was the fastest super-G skier in the country. Leah also strives to give back to her community by volunteering with Mountain Mentors and dedicating her time and financial support to the Family and Intercultural Resource Center and the Summit Foundation.

Patrick Fort (Jour’14), co-host and producer of the podcast “Dish City,” won a James Beard Award in June for a story on how American Chinese food restaurants pioneered food delivery. The show was also named one of the 50 best podcasts of 2021 by The Atlantic. Dish City wrapped its fourth season earlier this year. Patrick lives in Washington, D.C. Read more about him in our Five Questions Q&A on page 56.

The Denver City Park farmers market, owned and operated by Peter (Mktg, Mgmt’14) and Margo Wanberg (SLHSci’15), ran from May 14 through Oct. 29, 2022, for its second season. More than 90 Colorado-based farmers and agriculture-focused brands lined the City Park Esplanade to offer market attendees fresh seasonal produce, prepared foods, baked goods, beverages and more. This year, the number of participating farms grew from 12 to 16 thanks to the couple’s small farm program, which gives flexibility to small-scale farmers. The market also began accepting Colorado’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and partnering with Double Up Food Bucks to increase access to fresh Colorado-grown fruits and vegetables. Peter and Margo met at CU, and...
after graduation Peter founded Jubilee Roasting Co., while Margo was co-founder of 3 Sisters Honey Harvesting.

15 Rachel Irons (EnvSt, EPBio’15) is co-founder of Nude Foods Market, a zero-waste grocery store located off Walnut Street in Boulder. The market opened in 2021 and sources food and body care items in bulk that are packaged in reusable containers. Customers simply return their containers when they’re done, and Nude Foods Market washes and refills them. The market also sources locally as much as possible and has extremely high health and sustainability standards for its food.

On Sept. 15, the poetry collection Gash Atlas by Jessica Lawson (MFA’18) was published by Kore Press Institute, which also selected the book to receive its poetry prize. Jessica is a Pushcart-nominated writer, teacher and activist based in Denver. To learn more about Jessica, visit lawsonlit.com.

18 On Sept. 15, the poetry collection Gash Atlas by Jessica Lawson (MFA’18) was published by Kore Press Institute, which also selected the book to receive its poetry prize. Jessica is a Pushcart-nominated writer, teacher and activist based in Denver. To learn more about Jessica, visit lawsonlit.com.

FIVE QUESTIONS

Musician and engineer Dafna Margalit (ElCompEngr’22) has been playing her original music for numerous years in and around the Boulder scene. During her time at Fairview High School, she would take any opportunity to perform, including school events, the competitive BVSD Battle of the Bands JamFest and eTown Hall’s 2016 Handmade Song Contest. Since then, Dafna has worked to open and headline shows at the Boulder Theatre, Fox Theatre and Larimer Lounge in Denver. Her bedroom-pop sound has racked up millions of streams across platforms since her first release in 2019. In addition to playing music, Dafna works as a software engineer at Rival Games.

What’s your favorite part of telling a story? In audio storytelling, I think you get a really accurate sense for who people are. You get to hear people as they think, as they react, and I love being able to capture that on “tape.”

Tell us about the creation of Dish City. Did you always know you were interested in reporting on food? Were you surprised by the connection between food and history? Not at all! I started school thinking I’d study music, but I decided I wasn’t good enough at making music to do that. Instead, I thought I could write about music. This led to my first full-time job as an arts and culture reporter in Aspen (which included writing about food).

From the very start, Dish City was never a show about food itself. It was a show about places and people and how we experience where we live through food. In our very first episode, my co-host and I talked about Ben’s Chili Bowl, a restaurant with history dating back to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and ’60s. This place is a D.C. icon in a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood, and here was a new, similar restaurant opening nearby. We wanted to investigate this intersection of history and race at a geographically significant place in the District.

Can you talk about putting together the James Beard Award-winning episode and how it felt to be recognized? It was pretty surreal! This episode is a great representation of what Dish City is — not really about food, lots about history and culture. American Chinese food became synonymous with delivery in the 20th century due, in part, to inventive business owners finding ways to survive as they faced xenophobia and anti-Asian racism. We published the episode at a time in the pandemic when getting food brought to your home was a big deal, and also when there was, again, a rise in anti-Asian racism.

Is there a Boulder specialty that you miss from your time at CU? An easy question! I think all the time about the chile verde plate from Efrain’s.

What was the best part of your CU Boulder experience? The best part of my CU Boulder experience was my time at the CU Independent. I was given the opportunity to make podcasts for the paper, which was the jumping-off point for my entire career. I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for that experience. INTERVIEW BY JESSI GREEN

Dish City

Patrick Fort (Jour’14) is co-host of the Washington, D.C.-area podcast Dish City, which focuses on the connection between the district’s food and the history and culture of the people who make it. His career in audio journalism began at the CU Independent before reporting on D.C.’s dining scene. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he and Dish City changed course, offering up a third season focused on delivery. One of the episodes — “How American Chinese Food Became Delivery Food” — was recognized this year with a James Beard Media Award.

CU students spend a fall day on the Engineering Quad on the east part of main campus.
IN MEMORIAM

COLORADOAN FALL 2022

Robert L. Nicholls (CivEngr'51)
Margaret Hoyt Hagerman
Robert W. Burns Jr. (A&S'51)
Frederick J. Yankocy (Mktg'50)
Carol V. Stroud (A&S ex'50)
Mary Stoffel Seaver (DistSt'50)
Frend J. Miner (Chem'50)
Mary Morris Marks (MusEdu'50; 1950s)
Richard F. Walker (ElEngr'49)
Helen Brodine Anderson Oliver
Lester L. Lakey  (Pharm'49)
William S. Falkenberg
Dorothy Tallman Nichols (BFA'48)
Quintus C. Fuller (A&S'48)
Mary McInnes Flowers
Marilyn Love Davis (Math'48)
Jean Day Power (A&S'47)
John L. Devitt (ElEngr'45; MS'49)
Donald H. Creim (ElEngr'46)
Edward F. Altman Jr. (Fin,
Peggy M. Wimberly (Psych'55)
Richard B. Myers Jr.
Richard K. Lundh (Mktg'55)
Harold V. Johnson (Engr ex'55)
William M. Erwin Jr. (A&S'55)
Mary Foster Creger (Edu'54)
Mary Cline (MEdu'54)
Charles E. Majors (Bus,
Fred J. Miner (Chem'50)
Mary Morris Marks (MusEdu'50; 1950s)
Richard F. Walker (ElEngr'49)
Climate Conversations

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SUMMER 2022 ISSUE OF THE COLORADAN.

If we ever manage to get a handle on climate change, it will be because people like you had the sensibility and made the effort — particularly with young people — to bring a critical mass of these stories out of the woodwork. Keep up the good work!

David Wendt
Jackson, Wyoming

Global conditions have never been more positive for humans. Modern humans had a life expectancy of approximately 25 years for the past 100,000 to 300,000 years. Access to energy in the modern industrial world has taken that to 79. We have the lowest rates of weather-related deaths in human history despite the highest global population ever. Justice for humans has really only been achieved since 1900 and it has progressed ever since. Seems negativity has overwhelmed the Coloradan’s perspective.

James Zadzorny (MBA’03) Centennial, Colorado

I am gratified to learn that global advocate for Indigenous rights and health Sheila Watt-Cloutier will be the Day 1 keynote speaker at the Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit hosted by CU this December 1-4, 2022. In a recent interview with Polly Russell, head of the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library, Sheila lamented: “I often question if the COP meetings [UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties] are now obsolete.”

To give context to her observation, since the inaugural COP1 in 1995 up to the most recent COP26 in 2021: World emissions of CO2 from burning fossil fuels have increased 48%; atmospheric levels of CO2 have continued their relentless rise; and fossil fuels remain the dominant source of global energy, providing 85.6% in 1995 and 82.3% in 2021.

To be blunt yet hopefully not unkind, the world’s manifest failure in achieving Justice for Earth and Justice for Humans will not be achieved through “a human rights-based approach to climate solutions” to “solve the crisis that is affecting the most vulnerable among us.” [Summer 2022 Coloradan, page 48].

I revel in penetrating questions informed by a fuller understanding of the nature and scope of the problem. I find hope and creativity in working within a framework sufficiently comprehensive and coherent to develop solutions. This is why I have created a nonprofit, the Floriescence Institute, so that the dreams of Sheila and so many others who have given so much of their lives toward these goals might be realized.

Dirk Nies (Chem’74) White Hall, Virginia

1955 NCAA Basketball Tournament

With all the deserved accolades about recently deceased NBA legend Bill Russell, there is one local connection, so to speak. In 1955, CU made it as far up in the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament as they will probably ever get. The Final Four that year (using a term not yet coined) were LaSalle, University of Iowa, University of San Francisco and CU. CU’s two leaders were Burdette (Burdie) Haldorson (PE’55), 6’10”, and Bob Jeangerard (Mgmt’55), a 6’7” forward, and the coach was Bebe Lee. They made it through the 24-team bracket to the finals in Kansas City, only to meet up against the USF Dons, featuring Bill Russell and K.C. Jones, who defeated the Buffs 72-60. Back then, there was a “Third Place Championship Game,” held before the finals on the same night. CU got some satisfaction in beating Iowa for the consolation prize.

Dennis Davis (A&S’65) Denver, Colorado

[Editor’s Note: All three players — Haldorson, Jeangerard and Russell — also won a gold medal in basketball playing for the U.S. in the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia.]
Free Speech
One of my outstanding memories of my late-’60s undergrad years at CU was a lecture by William F. Buckley, founder of National Review magazine. The auditorium was packed. There was some booing as Buckley’s sponsor, someone from the Coors family, walked in to introduce him. I remember Mr. Buckley, walking behind him, laughing off the incident. We were not paragons of virtue back in those days, but as Mr. Buckley spoke, everyone listened politely, whether they agreed with his ideas or not, and most did not.

Would that happen at CU now, in 2022? Could someone give a public lecture at CU who disagreed with the track CU seems to be on now, judging by ideas presented in the Summer 2022 issue of the Coloradan? Would that person be allowed to speak and be listened to politely? Or would he/ she be booted off the stage, canceled by students or maybe not allowed to speak at all by administrators? If opposition is allowed, well and good. If opposition is not allowed, or if opposition results in ugly ad hominem attacks, it’s not education that current CU students are getting, but political proselytizing.

Opposition needs to be allowed and respectfully listened to for real education to occur.

Carolyn S. Kinsey
(Edu’69)
Bloomington, Indiana

Focus on Bangladesh
Thanks to Dr. Jane Menken for her great work for Bangladesh (“The Bangladesh Miracle,” Spring 2022), also thanks to editors for publishing it. I love stories like this.

Ifitikhur Mahmood
Miami, Florida

Nostalgia for The Sink
Seeing the picture of The Sink and reading cartoonist Bob Harvey’s (Edu’59) comments in the last Coloradan brought back good memories. The Sink owners, employees, and customers, of course, are a talented and clever bunch.

One year, in the early ’60s, an announcement was painted on the Pennsylvania Avenue side center window, complete with a bright red hammer and sickle: “To celebrate May Day we will be serving red beer all day. Bring your friends and comrades. Free beer to all card-carrying communists!”

Sometime in the early morning hours of May 1, someone threw a brick through the window. The mess was cleaned up and another sign was put up immediately: “Last night an overzealous patriot threw a red, white and blue brick through our window, but the party will go on featuring red beer.”

The Sink hickory burgers were great. The grill was not large but created a lot of grease-laced smoke. About once a year there would be a grease fire, and patrons would be ushered out into the street to watch and serenade the firemen who put it out from the top of the roof. The next day The Sink would advertise: “Fire sale. Twenty-five cent pitchers, all day.”

Happy 100th anniversary to The Sink, and thanks for the memories.

Robert (Bob) Stofac
(A&S’63; MD’67)
Lakewood, Colorado

The Sink turns 100 years old in 2023. Bob Stofac (A&S’63; MD’67) remembers the institution’s hickory burgers and cheap beers.
Your article in the Summer issue [“A Tribute to Boulder Creek”] about Boulder Creek brought back fond memories. In the late 1960s I lived in a Marine Street apartment with three roommates. We would occasionally run out of food money at the end of the month, and I would be requested to bring back a mess of trout from Boulder Creek. I was an adept trout fisherman, having been raised in the Catskill Mountain’s area of New York State. So we never went hungry without a dormitory meal plan! In fact, we were better off. We could complement our rainbow trout meal with Walter’s beer on sale for 69 cents a six-pack.

Phil Smithka (Pol Sci’70)
Port Charlotte, Florida

Recognition of a Lifetime

Nothing can compare to the education I received at CU Boulder and Denver. And nothing can compare to the reception I got as a Vietnam veteran at the 2022 commencement ceremony [Table of Contents photo, Summer 2022]. I was deeply touched by the cheers, and for once I felt the sincerity behind the simple phrase “Thanks For Your Service.” I’ve shared the articles with some of my veteran friends, especially those I worked with as editor of the two Army newspapers I worked on during my service in Vietnam and Fort Benning, Georgia.

Frank Webb (Pol Sci’68)
Snohomish, Washington

Quick Reads

I love how these articles are less than five-minute reads. Appreciate the layout and the mix of history and personal anecdotes. I added The Way Things Ought To Be by Gregory Hinton (Bus’77) to my reading list.

Caroline Zanot
Boulder, Colorado

Gregory Hinton’s (Bus’77) coming-of-age novel was set in the 1970s.

The first Buffs football game of the season.
@cuboulderalumni

Social Buffs

Chip hanging out at the Minneapolis vs. CU game in Huntington Bank Stadium.
@neandersone16

First-year engineering students during the Engineering Launch in August.
@CUEngineering

The Boulder Creek Fish

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Gregory Hinton’s (Bus’77) coming-of-age novel was set in the 1970s.
A military band drills in front of what is now known as Baker Hall. The residence hall, built in 1937, was referred to then as simply the “men’s dorm,” before it was renamed for former CU president James Baker after the war.

We’d love to know more about this photo! If you have any context or history behind this image, write us at editor@colorado.edu.