Eight-time Paralympic medalist Blake Leeper aims to compete in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. The double-amputee traveled to CU Boulder for evaluation by CU scientist Alena Grabowski (Kines’98; PhD’07). She has helped some of the world’s most famous amputee-athletes establish eligibility for contests against athletes with natural legs. Amputees often must prove their prosthetics give no advantage.

Here Leeper is pictured at Balch Fieldhouse on campus. Read more at colorado.edu/coloradan. Search “Leeper.”

Photo by Glenn Asakawa
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Antarctica is one of Earth’s most forbidding places. That’s why CU researchers keep going back.

**COVER** Psychologist June Gruber has found that feeling too much happiness, feeling it at the wrong time or striving too hard for it can lead to problems. Illustration by Serge Bloch.


 Maybe the stories were extra timely. Maybe everybody loves apples. Maybe it was chance. Whatever the reason, we received a flood of reader responses to the fall Coloradan. They were conspicuously thoughtful and spirited, so we’ve included an extra page of letters in this issue. Many still couldn’t fit. You’ll find more online at colorado.edu/coloradan.

If any story struck readers’ fancy, it was Trent Knoss’ tale of the Boulder Apple Tree Project, a faculty-led endeavor to preserve the genes of Boulder’s vanishing heirloom apple trees. By now, reader reports of fecund ancient trees have been coming in for months.

Our photo of a 1978 Eagles concert at Folsom Field inspired numerous colorful tales of campus concerts past. And Lisa Marshall’s (Jour, PolSci’94) piece about chronic pain research prompted some readers to describe their own successful battles with pain — or to ask for help.

I hope you enjoy this issue as much as the last.

Eric Gershon
Should people keep pets? Is there an argument against it?
There is, and I’ll make this argument even though I am surrounded by cats and a dog: It is a relationship of captivity. It involves deciding at some point that this other species exists for our entertainment and our pleasure.

You referred to several cats and a dog...
My husband and I have two cats and a dog. All of them from the Humane Society of Boulder Valley, where I’ve been a volunteer for 20 years. Our crew is down from an all-time high of five cats and two dogs. It’s considerably easier at the moment.

What does the term “pet” imply about the relationship between person and animal?
We would never eat them.

Is the human-pet relationship generally a good deal for the pets?
I think so, assuming no abuse and assuming adequate veterinary care and all the other things an animal needs for quality of life — good diet, plenty of exercise. An ability to exercise natural behaviors.

Are we aware of any species other than humans that keeps pets?
There’s the famous gorilla — Coco the gorilla had a kitten. But this was given to her by human beings.

So, we’re the only animal that keeps other animals around for this kind of social relationship. That’s right.

What does that reflect about us?
First, you can say it reflects our capacity to dominate other species. On a more positive side, it says something about our capacity to relate to others, and by others I mean other beings, not just other humans. In our relationship with animals, we stretch our interpersonal capabilities. Dog-human friendship isn’t a replacement for human friendship — it’s essentially a different kind of a relationship.

Let’s talk about your book My Dog Always Eats First, in which you explored relationships between the homeless and their pets. What did you learn?
I was sure that the most interesting thing was going to be finding out how homeless people managed to provide food and care for their animals. And, actually, providing food was the least of their concerns. People on the street were coming up to them and giving them bags of food. And most food banks and soup kitchens are now providing pet food. The thing I thought was going to be the most interesting turned out to be the question that had the most straightforward answer.

How do you feel about zoos?
In general, I don’t like them. I don’t like captivity. But I do see that, in some instances, they’re doing some good educational things and some good conservation efforts. And I’m not in favor of the kind of breeding that takes place in zoos, because it’s a very restricted gene pool. I’m not in favor of capturing wild animals anymore. I would like to see zoos phased out. This menagerie was an 18th, 19th-century invention.

Is keeping a single pet at home really that much different from having a one-animal zoo?
Philosophically, no. It’s keeping an animal to look at, keep us company, entertain us — keeping an animal for our pleasure.

There’s been a lot of talk in recent years about the grief many people feel when a pet dies...
Our responsibility for their care makes their deaths feel like something that we could have prevented, to some degree. So, there’s a lot of responsibility tied up in death. Did I do the right thing? Did this animal have a good life?

What are you working on these days?
Research that examines the roles of animals in social problems we generally think of as solely human. This refers back to some of my work on animals and disasters. I did the research following Hurricane Katrina, when it suddenly and very powerfully came to people’s attention that we have to plan for companion animals in a disaster, or people are not going to evacuate. People are going to go back into evacuated areas to rescue their pets. There’s going to be psychological costs of leaving them behind. There’s going to be public health issues.

Is there anything else you’d like to say about the human-animal relationship?
The need to adopt rather than breed dogs and cats. I hope that we can do away with things like puppy mills within my lifetime. I guess ‘adopt rather than shop’ is my message.

Do you see that primarily as a moral imperative, or a practical need?
Both. When I travel — a lot of vacations, I visit the local shelters. And I realize the practical need.

Condensed and edited by Eric Gershon. An extended audio version is available under podcasts at colorado.edu/coloradan.
After the Rain

WET CONDITIONS MIGHT LEAD TO MORE SNAKEBITES, CU RESEARCH SHOWS

Caleb Phillips (PhDcompsci’12) knows an awful lot about venomous snakes for a computer scientist — how often they bite humans, for instance. And his latest research indicates snakebite incidence is rising, possibly due to climate change.

FOR SNAKES, MORE RAIN MEANS MORE FOOD.

In a recent study, the CU Boulder scholar and fellow researchers found that, over the past 20 years, snakebite occurrence consistently decreased following drought conditions in California — but rose after precipitation.

Specifically, when rainfall increased 10 percent over an 18-month period, snakebite cases rose, on average, 3.9 percent in California’s 58 counties.

The findings contradict a popular theory among wilderness health experts, namely that drought leads to bites by forcing snakes into the open. The new information could affect how we prevent and treat dangerous envenomations.

Phillips encourages fellow outdoor enthusiasts to remain calm when they cross paths with a venomous snake.

“Don't pick a fight with it,” he said, “and it won't pick a fight with you.”

By Amanda Clark (Mjouir’19)

For more information, search “snakebites” at colorado.edu.

Introduction to Literature, Summer 1961

William Markward had a lifelong love affair with Shakespeare, and his way of introducing us to literature was, in three words, Shakespeare, Shakespeare, Shakespeare.

He didn't just have us read the plays. He read them to us.

Markward had performed as a Shakespearian actor. As he read, the text came alive. Listening to him read — perform — Henry IV, Part I was magical. It's still my favorite play.

Constitutional Law, Spring 1967

Richard Wilson was born on the Fourth of July and, like Jefferson and Adams, also died on the 4th. Civil liberties were his passion.

He taught Con Law by Socratic method. It was a special treat to watch his mind at work — like when he led the class in dissecting the landmark First Amendment case Schenck vs. U.S.

Schenck had been convicted of violating the Espionage Act of 1917 by passing out leaflets urging resistance to the World War I draft. His defense was the First Amendment.

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes’ ruling upholding Schenck’s conviction contained two of the most memorable lines associated with his name:

“The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theatre...,” and “The question... is whether the words... create a clear and present danger...”

Wilson asked question after question leading to a shocking revelation: Holmes, the Court's great civil libertarian, had in effect partially suspended the First Amendment for the duration of World War I.

What classes were your favorites isn't important. What matters is what you got out of a class — and what decades later still resonates in your skull and informs your view of the world and your decisions and, hopefully, makes you a better human being. That's what you paid the big bucks for.

Paul Danish (Hist’65) is a Coloradan columnist.
Humor’s Secret Source
AMERICA’S MOST FAMOUS DOCUMENTARIAN VISITS CU BOULDER

Filmmaker Ken Burns, renowned for the documentaries *The Civil War*, *Baseball*, *Jazz* and others, elicited gales of laughter from a sellout CU crowd in October and walked away with the Center for the American West’s highest honor.

The Macky Auditorium audience chuckled when the Emmy winner spoke of critics who admit they’ve never watched his films and of people who yearn for the simplicity of the 1930s and 1940s — decades, he cheerfully points out, that delivered the world’s worst economic downturn and deadliest war.

But there were also somber strains in the filmmaker’s 90-minute live conversation with Patty Limerick, faculty director of CU’s Center of the American West. They included Burns’ anguish after the death of his mother when he was a child, the racial inequality that dogs our nation and the extraordinary emotional pain suffered by Mark Twain and Theodore Roosevelt, both subjects of Burns films.

“The secret source of humor is not joy but sorrow,” he said, quoting Twain. “There is no humor in heaven.”

The center honored Burns with its Wallace Stegner Award, given annually to individuals who have made sustained contributions to the cultural identity of the West.

The Oct. 2 event kicked off with big-screen snippets of Burns’ work, more than 30 films in all. Some of the loudest applause followed clips centered on the American West from *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea* and *The Dust Bowl*.

His 2017 film *The Vietnam War* continues to spark intense conversations across the nation, including voices of previously silent veterans. That film includes three photographs taken by Michael Kodas, deputy director of CU’s Center for Environmental Journalism, as he followed U.S. Vietnam veterans returning to their fire bases in Vietnam in the late 1980s.

Near the end of the evening, the audience joined in a rendition of Stephen Foster’s melancholic 1854 song “Hard Times Come Again No More,” popular among Civil War soldiers.

“All of my films are about love,” said Burns. “It’s the most complicated four-letter word there is.”

By Jim Scott (EPOBio’73)

— CU scientist Corrie Detweiler, whose team is exploring compounds that can rejuvenate existing antibiotics.

CU ENGINEERING: MORE AND MORE WOMEN
The first-year class in the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences is 40 percent women in 2018-2019, an all-time high and major milestone in Dean Bobby Braun’s march toward gender parity among students in the college, CU Boulder’s second-biggest. On average, women make up about 20 percent of students in U.S. engineering schools, despite constituting well above 50 percent of all college students.

HEARD AROUND CAMPUS
“AS OUR ANTIBIOTICS WORK LESS AND LESS, WE RISK ESSENTIALLY GOING BACK TO A PERIOD 200 YEARS AGO WHEN EVEN A MINOR INFECTION COULD MEAN DEATH.”

— CU scientist Corrie Detweiler, whose team is exploring compounds that can rejuvenate existing antibiotics.

DRONES TO THE RESCUE
When disaster strikes, it may be the drones that save us.

Armed with a $4.5 million federal grant, CU Boulder and partners will test themselves against six other teams in a national competition to develop advanced search-and-rescue drones. The winning team walks away with $2 million.

In an initial mock rescue, drones guided by the CU Boulder team’s software will zoom through miles of steam tunnels seeking disaster survivors.

Later they’ll audition in tunnels like those of the New York subway system and in caves.


For more details, search “Subterranean Challenge” at colorado.edu/today.
SEE AND HEARD

Colorado is a great place to see — and hear — birds: Some 500 species have been observed here, more than in all but a handful of other states. Can you identify the seven shown here, each photographed at or near CU Boulder?

The first three readers to respond with correct species identifications for all seven will receive a copy of Peterson’s Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Western North America (forthcoming in April), by Nathan Pieplow, a former editor of the journal Colorado Birds, who teaches writing and rhetoric at CU. The book’s companion website is petersonbirdsounds.com. Submit your responses to editor@colorado.edu.
DINOSAUR IN THE SKY

You’d probably identify the giant wall-mounted fossil inside the Benson Earth Sciences library as a dinosaur. If you’re a dinosaur buff, you might even suspect it’s a Stegosaurus.

It’s better than that: The replica, one of just two in the world, depicts the most complete Stegosaurus skeleton ever found.

Kenneth Carpenter (PhDGeol’96) can tell you all about it.

In June 1992, Bryan Small, Carpenter’s assistant, was standing in a ravine in Garden Park, near Cañon City, Colo., when he scraped a rock hammer across a bone, knocking it loose. To his immense surprise, it turned out to be a fossilized vertebra of a Stegosaurus stenops, an herbivorous dinosaur with rows of upright plates along its back that walked the Earth between 150 and 155 million years ago.

With the help of a skilled mining crew, hundreds of hours of careful excavating and a heavy dose of creativity, Carpenter and team unearthed a skeleton that was nearly 80 percent complete — missing only the front two legs.

The summer-long dig was challenging: Apart from the skull and a few vertebra, most of the skeleton was buried under 15 feet of rock in a steep ravine in a remote area. Temperatures were often high, sometimes in the upper 90s, and there were swarms of gnats, flash flooding and frequent thunderstorms.

But the researchers were too excited to care.

On Aug. 14, 1992, after many hours of preparation, observers on a nearby hill saw the dinosaur’s body take to the sky, suspended by a U.S. Military CH-47 Chinook helicopter. Including the fossil’s protective jacket, made of plaster and burlap sacks, the fossil weighed 6.5 tons.

“The helicopter pilot told me that the Stegosaurus plaster cradle was at the maximum limit they could carry, and he came close to releasing it,” said Carpenter, now director and curator of paleontology at Utah State University.

There were no local facilities for preparing scientific specimens, but a monk invited researchers to store and work on the fossil in his nearby abbey’s garage. It remained there until a dinosaur museum in Cañon City opened in 1995.

In 1996, CU Boulder acquired one of the two plaster copies of the fossil for Benson Earth Sciences, then newly opened. It has hung on the wall there since 2001. The original rests in a storage facility at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science — waiting to be unearthed again.

By Amanda Clark (MJour’19)
The Flip Side of HAPPINESS

WE STOCK OUR SHELVES WITH BOOKS AND PILLS INTENDED TO MAKE US HAPPY, BUT CU PSYCHOLOGIST JUNE GRUBER WARNS THAT TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING CAN BACKFIRE.

By Lisa Marshall

June Gruber was a wide-eyed graduate student in psychology and just beginning her clinical training when she met a patient who forever changed her view of happiness.

The woman, a middle-aged artist and mother of two, spoke with exuberance and optimism, describing big plans to change the world with paintings inspired by her direct conversations with the divine. But she also had trouble holding a job, lived in her car and generally scraped by.

“She seemed happy, but it was in a way that was making her neglect real-world concerns and causing her potential harm,” said Gruber, now an assistant professor of psychology at CU Boulder. “That really shook me.”

When Gruber, then at the University of California Berkeley, turned to the academic literature to learn more about the downsides of positive emotions, she found a mostly blank slate. She’s since been filling it, pioneering a new line of research and publishing more than 50 studies suggesting that feeling too much happiness, feeling it at the wrong time or striving too hard for it can be a problem.

“I am not a happiness hater,” she said. But Gruber contends that positive emotions deserve the serious scrutiny psychologists have given anger, sadness and other unpleasant feelings. After all, one in six Americans are taking antidepressants, and positive psychology self-help books still flood the shelves.

“It may be time for some recalibrating,” she said.

For Gruber’s first study, in 2008, she recruited college students to report their emotions as they watched short film clips that were either pleasant or unpleasant (a child crying over a parent’s death; the famous Trainspotting scene of a junkie fishing through a toilet in search of drugs). Surprisingly, Gruber found, a small subset reported positive emotions not only during the positive scenes but also during the disturbing ones.

“The bottom line: Feeling happy at inappropriate times can be a warning sign of something amiss,” she said.

Since then, her research has illuminated other intriguing downsides to our most-coveted emotion.

In one 2014 study of 121 students at Yale University, where Gruber was previously on the faculty, she found that people feeling happiness can be less empathetic toward individuals in pain.

“American culture is all about the pursuit of happiness,” Gruber said, seated in her pastel-hued office near a shelf crammed with self-help books like The How of Happiness and The Happiness Project. “It is framed as the purpose for which we are here — this thing that we all should aspire toward. But our research shows there are caveats.”

Gruber has a vibrant smile and seems like, well, a happy person. She takes it in stride when students in her Positive Emotion and Psychopathology Laboratory joke they’d better not laugh too much around her. And she’s quick to note that feeling good can be good for you by lowering your blood pressure, bolstering your immune system and promoting social bonds.

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On separate questionnaires, those students rated at highest risk for developing mania or bipolar disorder.

The bottom line: Feeling happy at inappropriate times can be a warning sign of something amiss.

“If you are in front of something threatening or sad or disgusting, it’s probably safer from an evolutionary perspective to feel empathy or disgust,” she said. “But for some people, positive emotions get in the way.”

Since then, her research has illuminated other intriguing downsides to our most-coveted emotion.

In one 2014 study of 121 students at Yale University, where Gruber was previously on the faculty, she found that people feeling happiness can be less empathetic toward individuals in pain.

Overly high levels of positive emotions can also lead to excess risk taking, including drug and alcohol use, driving too fast and promiscuous sex, her research has found.
“You basically are too caught up in the now and prioritize present positive feelings over long-term negative consequences,” she said.

While positive mood can be helpful for creative tasks, some studies show it can impair performance on more detail-oriented cognitive tasks like mathematical games.

Meanwhile, numerous experiments have found that, paradoxically, people who value happiness the most and strive hardest for it (as self-reported) are both less able to experience it in the moment and most likely to experience depression, loneliness and anxiety long-term.

“Their expectation to be happy is so high they can never quite meet it, so they are left wanting,” said Gruber.

Some evidence suggests this phenomenon may be especially common among college students, helping to drive an epidemic of mental health and substance-abuse problems. One in three college freshmen worldwide now report mental health difficulties, according to a recent report by the World Health Organization.

“I realize this problem is multi-factorial,” Gruber said, “but I do wonder: If we experience positive emotions in a way that neglects our negative emotions, could that be a pathway toward some of the problems that college students are experiencing?”

To find out, she recently launched a study of more than 500 CU Boulder freshmen in which she will follow them through their first year to assess things like emotional well-being, impulsivity, risk-taking behaviors and academic performance.

**IF NOT HAPPINESS, WHAT?**

At age 37, Gruber has already made a notable mark in psychology, says Dacher Keltner, faculty director of Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center and a leader in the study of happiness.

“June’s is a brilliant mind,” he said. “She is willing to challenge the status quo and she has reminded us that happiness is complex, and in the extremes, there is peril. Perhaps moderation may be the best path.”

That moderation may come in what Gruber and colleagues call “emodiversity,” a set of emotional states that includes positive and negative ones.

In one study, she and colleagues recruited 36,000 healthy adults to take online surveys about the emotions they felt during the day, categorizing them into eight positive and eight negative categories. Those who had greater emotional diversity — not those who had more positive emotions — had lower rates of depression.

In a similar study of 10,000 Belgian adults, Gruber and team found those with greater emotional diversity saw the doctor less, spent fewer days in the hospital and spent less money on health care.

**WHAT BRINGS MEANING?**

“All of our emotions have a function. They give us information about the world around us, and they help keep us alive and surviving as a species,” she said, noting that anger, for instance, mobilizes us to confront obstacles. “Positive emotions are, of course, important too. But only if you experience them at the right time in the right amount and they are helping you get toward your goals.”

For children, she says, there can be times when it’s helpful to tone down the happiness — as when recess comes to an end and it’s time to stop giggling and take a test.

For adults, there are moments when it might be appropriate to quell positivity and get serious so we can be more empathetic toward someone experiencing loss.

And for college students, keeping their happiness expectations in check can go a long way.

“Working with June has helped me become more accepting of whatever my current emotions are,” said Cynthia Villanueva, a 2013 Berkeley graduate who now manages Gruber’s CU lab. “In not striving to be happy all the time, I think I have become happier.”

Gruber, a mother of two young boys, ages 2 and 4, practices what she preaches, viewing angry fights over toys or hurt feelings at the playground not as incidents to be prevented but as important episodes in emotional development.

In her own life, she keeps happiness in its place.

“I try not to set my goals based on how I can feel happier,” she said, “but rather on what can bring meaning.”

*Comment? Contact editor@colorado.edu.*
Seven SUMMITS

OVER SEVEN YEARS, KIMBERLY HESS AND BROTHER STEVEN CLIMBED THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN ON EACH OF THE SEVEN CONTINENTS. NEXT UP FOR KIM: A TREK TO EARTH’S POLES.

By Christie Sounart

At 17,000 feet, enveloped by clouds, Kimberly Hess (IntPhys’07) nursed a broken wrist in the snow. She sat on the most challenging slope of Alaska’s 20,310-foot Denali mountain, which she’d summited the day before. Her gloved left hand was facing the wrong way and she couldn’t feel her fingers.

It had happened in an instant: On the descent, the snow broke away beneath her feet and she fell. Her climbing rope pulled tight around her wrist, snapping it in three places.

As if the wrist wasn’t torment enough, Hess had been climbing on a broken foot. She’d injured it about a week earlier, dancing at a wedding in Denver. But she’d refused to cancel the July 2013 Denali climb, the fourth adventure in her quest to complete the challenge known as the Seven Summits — climbing every continent’s tallest mountain.

“I could get my foot into a boot,” said Hess, now 34. “So I went.”

Hess and her climbing partner, her eldest brother, Steven, spent two days in a tent on the mountainside before rescuers arrived by helicopter. The weather was bad. All Kim had for pain was ibuprofen.

It would take six surgeries and more than two years before she’d attempt another peak. During that time, putting her hair in a ponytail or opening toothpaste often required help. But she remained fixed on the mountains.

“The Seven Summits were all I ever thought about,” said Hess, a scrappy adventurer who gave nearly a decade to the endeavor, including planning. “They were there when I woke up in the morning and when I went to bed at night.”

Five years later, on March 11, 2018, she and Steven made their way to the top of the final mountain, reaching the crest of Australia’s Mount Kosciuszko. The first known brother-sister duo to climb all seven summits, the Heses joined a group of more than 400 individuals worldwide to have done it. In all, they’d traveled 109,600 air miles, climbed 133,480 feet and spent 180 nights in a tent.

“I’ve been lost ever since,” Hess half-joked in an interview. “You work so hard to get there, then you attain it, and when it’s done, it’s like, ‘What’s next?’”

CHASING ADVENTURE

Hess grew up in Denver with three older brothers and a thirst for escapades that often landed her in the doctor’s office: Among others, she broke an arm racing her bike, both feet from excessive running and her thumb tagging out a softball player.

At CU, she was in the Delta Gamma sorority, loved anatomy labs with real cadavers and enjoyed trail running. After graduation, she and a friend bought one-way tickets to Sydney, Australia.
“I thought I’d figure out my life for four months,” she said. “I stayed two-and-a-half years.”

Between bartending gigs in Australia, Hess traveled to Southeast Asia, Africa and South America.

SEVEN SUMMITS IN SEVEN YEARS...[SEEMS] AS LIKELY TO GO TO THE MOON.

During her first Christmas home, in 2009, Steven, who’s seven years older, proposed the Seven Summits challenge as they sat in their parents’ hot tub in Taos, N.M. Aside from hiking a few Colorado 14ers, neither had done any serious climbing, but they thrived on adventure.

“My life had become one-dimensional with work,” said Steven, then in mergers and acquisitions with a health care company. “Kimberly had finished school and traveled the world. I thought we could do something in between.”

The pair began planning immediately: Hess from her new home in Steamboat Springs, Steven from his in Atlanta. They chose the 22,831-foot Mount Aconcagua on the Argentinian-Chilean border for their first climb because of its high altitude, lack of technical difficulty and relative inexpensiveness. Hess worked at a ski shop and a bar to finance the trip. “For me, it was a wake-up call of how hard it was going to be,” Steven said of that first climb. “But we were definitely hooked.”

EVEREST CHALLENGES

After Aconcagua in 2011, Hess poured herself into training and raising money for the next three mountains: Europe’s Elbrus, Africa’s Kilimanjaro and Denali. She sometimes worked three jobs at a time, a mix of tending bar, pet and house sitting, promoting ski resorts, scaling asphalt and other gigs with flexible schedules.

As she ticked off the summits, one mountain continually loomed largest in her mind — Earth’s tallest.

“I’d always been obsessed with Everest,” she said.

The Denali accident forced her to sit out a planned Everest climb in 2014. She tried again in 2015 and went to Nepal without Steven, who was traveling elsewhere with his then-fiancé.

Once there, she and her group made it to Camp 2 at 21,000 feet before a 7.8 earthquake struck the country on April 25. Nearly 9,000 people died, including about 20 at Everest’s basecamp, just 3,000 feet below Hess’ location. Helicopters evacuated her group from the mountain.

“That was the closest thing to a war zone I hope I ever see,” she said of the devastation. “I don’t know how we survived, but I came home with the sense that I had a second chance at life.”

Steven sent his shaken sister an email from Peru, ending with a promise: “Rest assured, you can go back and I’ll go with you.”

Over the next year, Hess grappled with intense emotions related to the earthquake. “I wanted to finish what I’d started,” she said.

She was back on the mountain in March 2016, this time with Steven. After 75 weeks of acclimating and climbing and a 10-day wait for good weather to attempt the summit, they reached the top of the world on May 21.

Elated, Hess returned to Steamboat to work toward a trip to the 16,050-foot Vinson Massif in Antarctica. She and Steve summited in December 2017, dragging sleds of gear.

The siblings finished the Seven Summits challenge three months later at 7,310 feet on Mount Kosciuszko — an “easy” climb, Hess said. Steven’s wife and the siblings’ parents flew to Australia to celebrate with them.

“Seven summits in seven years — [seems] as likely to go to the moon,” said Caryn Hess, their mother. “I have earned every face wrinkle and gray hair.”

In all, the challenge cost Hess $338,000, not including medical bills. She’s still paying it off.

To combat feelings of loss following her triumph, and encouraged by a friend she met in Steamboat, Hess has begun planning a new adventure — this time with a cause beyond the adventure itself. The friend, Eirliani Abdul Rahman, a Singaporean woman who works and advocates for adult and children survivors of child sexual abuse, suggested the pair ski to Earth’s poles as a way to raise awareness about the abuse. Starting in April 2019, Hess will attempt the Explorer’s Grand Slam, which involves treks to the North and South Poles in addition to her already completed Seven Summits. Less than 15 women in the world have completed it. Hess would be the youngest American female.

For most of Hess’ life, adventure has been its own reward. Adventure with a social purpose is new terrain, and she likes it.

“I’m willing to suffer day after day in the harshest and coldest environments on the planet if it means someone else doesn’t have to,” Hess said.

Contact Christie at soumart@colorado.edu.
George Washington’s PORTER

AMERICA’S FIRST PRESIDENT BREWED HIS OWN BEER. TRAVIS RUPP WANTS YOU TO BE ABLE TO TASTE IT.

By Daniel Strain

For anyone who’s ever wanted to share a cold one with George Washington, Travis Rupp (MClass’10) has you covered. Or will soon, anyway.

Rupp, who sports a short beard and a laid-back vibe, represents a uniquely Boulder double threat: The CU Boulder classics lecturer is also the official “beer archaeologist” for a local brewer, Avery Brewing Company.

In this second role, Rupp draws on his training as a historian steeped in classical Greek and Roman culture to bring ancient beers back to life. He’s researched and re-created the favorite drink of an Akkadian king who ruled around 1750 B.C. The result is Avery’s Beersheba, a light beer flavored with pomegranate.

He also brewed Ragnarssdra, a darker ale associated with the Vikings.

Now Rupp has set his sights on reproducing a concoction that, for him, is practically modern history: The porter that America’s first president brewed at Mount Vernon, his Virginia estate.

The project has sent Rupp east to pore through the founding father’s journals and to explore the central role beer played in Colonial America.

Rupp, who expects the project to take months, readily admits he has no idea how it will turn out.

“People still to this day ask me, ‘Do you know what your new beer is going to taste like?’” he said. “Of course, I don’t. These ancient beers had weird stuff in them.”

Still, he said, even an approximation offers a vivid sense of our shared past.

SILVER PINT CUP

In the early United States, beer was the drink of rich and poor alike. In Washington’s heyday, ale was everywhere — made mostly in the home, but also in big-city breweries in New York and Philadelphia.

Beer was such an important part of American life, Rupp said, that it may have contributed to James Madison’s 1777 loss in his first campaign to be a Virginia House delegate. The future father of the Constitution refused to give free alcohol to would-be voters. His opponent — coincidentally named Charles Porter — had no such scruples: “Porter handed out porter,” Rupp said.

Washington himself likely brewed two beers on his estate, Rupp said: A porter, which may have been dark and a bit sour, and a lighter ale called a “small beer.”

One guest at Washington’s presidential dinners reported that he kept a “silver pint cup or mug of beer” next to his plate at dinner.

To refill that cup, Rupp has become a detective.

Judging from Washington’s diligent notes, he said, the founding father’s porter was likely made from dark malts, whole-cone hops and molasses.

“But he doesn’t give quantities for his recipes,” Rupp said. “Often, he’ll write something like ‘fill the sieve basket with hops.’ Well, how much hops does the sieve basket hold? How big is it?”

So, Rupp is examining a wide range of documents from the Mount Vernon library and elsewhere in the Mid-Atlantic. Purchasing records, for example, could indicate ingredient ratios. He’ll also take a close look at the equipment used by colonial brewers.

Rupp knows his porter (or small beer, if he starts with that) will never perfectly match Washington’s. But he hopes he’ll get close enough for modern Americans to gain a better appreciation of Washington as a person.

“What Travis is doing is a sort of experiment of what the ancient world could have been like,” said CU Boulder classics professor Dimitri Nakassis, referring to Rupp’s broader project.

“We have to do that kind of stuff if we want to understand these people and the richness of their lives.”

Whether you’re George Washington or a 21st-century Boulderite, Rupp said, one time-honored way to connect with other people is to share a pint.

“It turns us into social beings,” he said. “It makes us human.”

Comment? Email editor@colorado.edu.

Illustration by Roxy Torres
He’s not afraid to admit it — he’s proud. Christopher Bell (PhD-Comm’09) likes My Little Pony. In fact, there’s an entire fanbase of men who call themselves “Bronies,” he said — men who appreciate the long-running TV show and related toys. As Bell sees it, that’s how it should be, even if the main audience is girls.

“Bronies mattered because Hasbro doesn’t get to decide who likes My Little Pony,” said the media studies scholar, a leading voice in the effort to change the way popular culture portrays gender and race. “We do.”

Thanks to his widely viewed 2015 TEDx Talk, “Bring on the Female Superheroes,” Bell, a CU Colorado Springs professor, has found a place of unusual influence in the entertainment business for an academic, including serving as a consultant for Pixar Studios.

Illustration by Tavis Coburn
His work — and that of like-minded filmmakers — appears to be making a difference: A growing number of lead film characters are females and minorities, such as DC Comics’ Wonder Woman, starring Gal Gadot, and Marvel’s Jessica Jones series, now on Netflix.

The depth of the entertainment industry’s white-maleness struck Bell during a five-year stint in Hollywood in the early 2000s, when he worked as a screenwriter and did tech work for the movies Bring It On! and Deep Blue Sea. Few people producing the stories seemed to care about the social consequences of their habitual use of white male lead characters, he said.

“This whole industry is doing an incredible amount of unintended harm,” he said. “Somebody had to point that out. And that somebody was me.”

Three years later, the Westminster, Colo., native enrolled in CU Boulder’s media studies doctoral program and began researching popular culture’s effects on consumers. When his toddler daughter, Olivia, began interacting with pop culture, he narrowed his focus to race and gender issues in children’s media.

By the time Olivia was 9, she’d become a fan of female superheroes such as Gamora, the green-skinned superhuman female fighter from Guardians of the Galaxy, and Black Widow, the female spy fighter from The Avengers. But when Bell went to the Disney store to buy toys in their likeness, he could only find princess characters. It bothered him.

In his TEDx Talk in Colorado Springs, he lamented the lack of female superheroes and called for equal representation among genders in leading roles. The video racked up more than 200,000 views in a month. (Today, it has more than a million.)

Soon the head of educational programs at Pixar called and asked him to address a group of about 40 animators. Then he spoke to a group twice that size. Next, he met with Pixar directors and producers.

His main message has been the importance of children seeing characters who look, talk and live like they do, he said. “It’s my job to judge [Pixar], to evaluate their work and to advocate, in an activist way, what they should do in the future,” he said. “I’d much rather do it to their faces than behind their backs.”

So far, Bell has worked as a consultant on 2017’s Coco and helped shape four other upcoming Pixar movies, including Toy Story 4, scheduled for release next year.

“They’ll send character sketches and ask opinions,” he said. “I can ask, ‘Does it change anything if this character is a girl, or if this character is brown?’”

Since Bell’s TEDx Talk, the amount of female superhero toys and merchandise produced has more than tripled, he said: “I started this collection in my office of every female superhero I can find after my TED Talk, and I have run out of room.”

“The most important thing about the work Dr. Bell does is that it’s something not many people stop to think about, but no one can deny,” said Jayne Simpson (PhDComm’21), a former Bell student. “And when you recognize it once, you see it everywhere!”

As for Bell’s daughter, now 12, she’s got a new hero: Ballerina Misty Copeland, the American Ballet Theater’s first African-American female principal dancer.

“If there were Misty Copeland action figures, she’d have every single one,” Bell said. “Someone should make Misty Copeland action figures — that lady is a real-life superhero.”

Email Christie at soumart@colorado.edu.

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THE INDUSTRY IS DOING A LOT OF UNINTENDED HARM.

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Email Christie at soumart@colorado.edu.
**VOICE on the Train**

The next time you’re traveling through Denver, longtime Colorado news anchor Kim Christiansen will be among the first to welcome you to the Mile High City.

**By Christie Sounart**

Odds are good you’ve heard “The Voice” reprimanding stragglers squeezing through the closing doors of Denver International Airport’s gate train:

“You are delaying the departure of this train.”

Riding it is unavoidable for most of the airport’s travelers — 61 million of them in 2017. Their volume makes Kim Christiansen (Jour’84) nervous.

Last February, Christiansen, lead anchor for Denver’s 9News broadcast station, won the airport’s contest to become the train’s new female voice, replacing her former 9News colleague Adele Arakawa, who moved to Tucson.

“It’s the most flattering, humbling, exciting thing,” said Christiansen, who is paired with Alan Roach, the former Denver Broncos and Colorado Rockies announcer who has been the train’s male voice since 2007.

Christiansen’s recordings began playing in September.

Since opening in 1995, the airport has enticed several local celebrities to be the voice of the train. Denver anchorwoman Reynelda Muse and the late radio and television personality Pete Smythe did it for years. Colorado Gov. Hickenlooper, Peyton Manning and Lindsey Vonn have supplied guest recordings.

“Having local voices as part of the train call is a great way to welcome visitors to Colorado and locals home,” said Emily Williams, the airport’s communications manager.

After winning the contest, Christiansen recorded more than 40 messages at a Denver audio studio. Despite decades of broadcast experience, the former Miss Colorado-turned-journalist was anxious.

“I walk into this recording studio and here is Alan, the most perfect voice, waiting there, watching,” she said. “It was so intimidating.”

In addition to standard directional messages (“The train is now approaching the A Gates...”) Christiansen recorded announcements for mechanical errors, weather delays and instructions for sudden stops.

Two words in particular caused surprising difficulty.

“I could not get my ‘C’ separated from ‘Gate,’” she said. “I’d never felt so inadequate — and I talk all the time!”

All the same, Christiansen, who has been with 9News for 33 years, loves her new airport role. So does her most important fan: Her teenage son, Tanner, a high school senior.

“He could care less about anything I do, except for this,” she said. “He was like, ‘Mom, you have to get the voice. That would be so dope.’”

**HER NEW AUDIENCE:**

**TENS OF MILLIONS OF TRAVELERS.**

Christiansen, who grew up and lives in Arvada, Colo., and was once a twirler for the CU Buffs Marching Band, travels through the airport about four times a year. The rest of the time she is anchoring the 9News 4, 5, 9 and 10 p.m. newscasts. She’s become a familiar face for Coloradans, a reason she thinks won her the spot.

Her train voice partner, Roach, is glad she did.

“She has been a great Colorado story and great Colorado media member for decades,” he said. “She got my vote!”

Email Christie at sounart@colorado.edu.
A LOVE STORY, WITH MAPS.

CHRISTMAS 1973

By Eric Gershon

The old map was priced at $15 and Wes Brown didn’t have it.

Neither did his new girlfriend, Linda Frey, a recent transfer student from Chicago.

This was fall 1973.

The pair had met in class, introductory economics. She was shy. His hair was long. She sat near him. He started a conversation.

It was pretty much love at first sight. Wes (Econ’76) was into maps, and he took Linda (Psych’76) to see one he’d fallen for at a Pearl Street book and print shop — a 1902 Nell’s pocket map of Colorado. They admired it, then went on with the day.

Afterward, Linda did what any love-soaked teenager might: “I hocked my typewriter.”

Image courtesy CU Digital Library
It was an electric Smith Corona, the one she used for school, and it fetched just enough at a local pawn shop to meet the need.

She returned to the store, Stage House 11, bought the map and gave it to Wes for Christmas.

He hung it in his apartment, beside the Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin posters.

Later, during a long career in investment banking, he displayed it in his offices.

Over the decades, Wes — Linda's husband since 1979 — built a major map collection, now said to be the world's best private trove of antique maps of Colorado and the Intermountain West. (The Denver Public Library, a favorite haunt, has a bigger and better collection, he said.)

Among his treasures are an 1810 Zebulon Pike map that was the first to show any part of Colorado; an 1862 Frederick Ebert map that was the first detailed survey of the state; and the first aerial view of Boulder, from 1874 — one of two known copies.

He also owns maps of other parts of the world, including a 1511 Pieter Martyr map of the Caribbean, the first map of the "New World."

Lately he's become interested in 17th- and 18th-century Spanish maps of the American Southwest.

"It's the history of exploration that I find fascinating," he said. "A map is a vehicle to understand the history of exploration."

The map that started it all — the 1902 Nell — recently returned to Boulder for good: Last summer, after noticing it would fill a hole in CU Boulder's primary map collection, and having acquired a second copy and run the idea by Linda, Wes offered it to the university.

"What better place for it to permanently reside than in the city it was lovingly purchased 45 years ago," Wes said, quoting Linda.

Wes' interest in maps was practical at first. As a teenager, he discovered mountain climbing. Maps helped him plan and navigate his trips.

Later he began poking around antique shops with a high school friend who liked old things. Many of the shops carried maps, often pages from 19th-century atlases of the United States. They described a world at once familiar and foreign.

By the time Wes arrived at CU, he said, "I was totally crazy for old maps."

Around the time he met Linda, he came across the 1902 Nell.

Louis Nell emigrated to the United States from Germany in 1865, according to Wes' own research. Trained as a civil engineer and surveyor, he spent most of the 1870s helping the federal government chart the American West.

In 1880, Nell began printing and selling his own highly detailed maps of Colorado. He updated them often through 1907, operating out of an office on Larimer Street in Denver.

The maps, which came folded inside hard covers, stood out for their color, detail, precision, portability and durability. An early reviewer called them "a vast improvement both in style and in correctness...over anything heretofore published for sale in this country."

For the miners, railroaders, real estate speculators and other entrepreneurs of late 19th-century Colorado, they were ideal for navigating the landscape of a new and rough-hewn state.

"He ends up dominating" the Colorado map business for a quarter century, Wes said.

In all, Nell produced 19 different versions over 28 years, providing a detailed record of the state's physical transformation in the first decades after statehood. Towns and cities emerge and expand. Some vanish. County boundaries morph. Railroads reach new places. Colorado matures.

Because Nell updated them often, viewers can trace small changes, useful today for scholars and students.

Over the years, about a dozen of Nell's maps made their way into CU Boulder's cartographic collections, housed primarily in the Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences & Map Library.

Heavily focused on Colorado and the West and numbering more than 220,000 items in all, including about 1,500 antique maps, there are mining maps and railroad maps, topographic, geologic and political maps, town maps, insurance maps and road maps — most of them available for viewing without appointment.

A few years ago, map librarian Naomi Heiser began attending meetings of the Rocky Mountain Map Society in Denver. That's how she got to know Wes Brown, who co-founded the group in 1991.

Heiser had always liked the Nell maps for their color and exceptional detail, but she didn't know much about them, or about Nell, an obscure historical figure still. Wes filled her in.

When the work was done, she emailed Wes a link. He noticed that CU was missing the 1902 map.

The next time they met, over lunch on campus, Wes said he'd like to donate it.

"He surprised me with it," said Heiser, who was moved as much by the backstory as by the gift itself.

"It was very precious to him, and he wanted us to preserve it," she said. "It was very touching."

As for Linda's typewriter, she used her 1973 Christmas money to buy it back from the pawn shop, plus interest. "I kept it for a long time," she said. "But then an electric typewriter that could remember about 10 lines of copy came out and I got that. I think the Smith Corona went to Goodwill. Wish I still had it!"

Contact Eric Gershon at editor@colorado.edu.
Best Director, Ordinary People, 1981.

**REDFORD’S LONG RUN**

In an August interview with Entertainment Weekly, Robert Redford (A&S ex’58; HonDocHum’87) said he would retire from acting after the September release of his latest film, The Old Man & The Gun. The Sundance Institute founder, 82, could always change his mind, of course, and we’d be the last to complain if he does. But there’s no time like the present for celebrating the career of a Buff who ranks high among American cinema’s classiest leading men — and who started a CU legacy to boot: Two of Redford’s children, David “Jamie” Redford (Eng’85) and Shauna Redford Schlosser (Art’85), followed him to Boulder.

**FIRST ROLE**

One of Redford’s first screen appearances was on the TV game show Play Your Hunch in 1959. He received a fishing rod in lieu of payment.

**Oscars**

Best Director, Ordinary People, 1981.

**ATTENDED CU**

FALL 1954-SPRING 1956

Member of Kappa Sigma fraternity

**FIFTY films, TV movies and documentaries produced**

**FIRST CREDITED FILM**

WAR HUNT 1962

**FIRST ON SCREEN THE OLD MAN & THE GUN, 2018**

“ONE OF THE REASONS I WAS ASKED TO LEAVE [CU BOULDER] WAS THAT I WAS HAVING TOO MUCH FUN—I SPENT TOO MUCH TIME IN THE MOUNTAINS, AND I DIDN’T SPEND ENOUGH TIME STUDYING. BUT TWO COURSES REALLY GOT MY ATTENTION, AND THEY WERE GEOMORPHOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY.”

Redford to ThinkProgress concerning inspiration for his 2012 documentary Watershed.

**REDFORD WITH HIS CHILDREN AT CU BOULDER.**

“I WAS ALWAYS IN LOVE WITH ROBERT REDFORD — I MADE THREE FILMS WITH HIM AND NOTHING HAPPENED BECAUSE I WAS MARRIED AND HE WAS MARRIED.”

**WIFE:** Artist Sibylle Szaggars Redford, since 2009. Previously married to Lola Van Wagenen, 1958-95.

**PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM:** Awarded by former President Barack Obama, 2016

**EMPLOYMENT IN BOULDER: Janitor at The Sink on The Hill.**

“THINK YA USED ENOUGH DYNAMITE THERE, BUTCH?”

**BREAK-THROUGH ROLE**

The Sundance Kid in Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, 1969. Redford was 32 years old and co-starred with Paul Newman.

**78**

Credited Roles (films, TV series and TV movies)

You are a beacon of hope for all independent filmmakers. You successfully navigated the treacherous path of corporate filmmaking and always managed to keep your personal vision intact.”

George Lucas

Photos by @Shutterstock/Andrea Raffin; Featureflash Photo Agency; Denis Makarenko; Alamy Stock Photo/MediaPunch Inc; AF archive; Coloradan archives
Standing at the base of an Antarctic glacier in 2016, Pacifica Sommers watched the transport helicopter fly away, leaving her and a few fellow CU biologists all alone in one of the coldest and most remote places on Earth.

“You do sort of realize at that point that a rescue wouldn’t be cheap or easy,” the postdoctoral researcher said.

It was quite a change of scenery for Sommers, who had completed her doctoral studies in the Arizona desert. She remembers standing sideways next to a Saguaro cactus to make use of its narrow band of shade in 100-plus-degree heat.

Now, she was strapping on crampons and setting up camp in the McMurdo Dry Valleys, the only area of Antarctica that isn’t permanently covered by snow. The dark, exposed soil on the hillsides resembles Colorado’s alpine landscapes: beautiful, rugged, desolate.

But while the world’s coldest, windiest, driest continent may appear hostile to life, Sommers knows it’s quite the opposite. Small pockets in the surface...
known as cryoconite holes teem with microorganisms, all of which have adapted to survive an extreme environment. These naturally occurring test tubes could help scientists better understand evolutionary selection on Earth and even life on other planets.

“Ecosystems depend on historical contingency and randomness,” Sommers said. “We want to study how chance affects what biological communities look like and how they assemble.”

Antarctica’s 5.4 million square miles make for a pristine, if imposing, natural laboratory. All but 2 percent of the surface is covered in thick ice. The vast continent, nearly one and a half times the size of the contiguous U.S., has little in the way of commerce, government or human habitation. At the summer peak, in January, around 5,000 scientists and contractors occupy a handful of international stations near the coasts. In winter, when temperatures reach 90 degrees below zero, that population drops to roughly 1,000.

The thrill of scientific discovery in a place most people will never visit is matched by its challenges. The months-long work is grueling, the isolation is daunting and the days are long — literally, since the polar summer months bring near constant sunshine. And yes, it’s pretty cold.

In Sommers’ first season on the ice, she wasn’t sure what to expect and admits she might have overpacked. By year two, she was a seasoned pro reveling in the occasionally balmy December weather.

“It can get up to 30 degrees or so,” she said. “We took our shoes off and played frisbee.”

CU researchers usually begin arriving in November. Their first stop after a six-hour military aircraft flight from Christchurch, New Zealand, is McMurdo Station, the continent’s population hub, known colloquially as “town.” Year after year, this international outpost becomes a temporary home away from home.

Ian Geraghty (Aero’18) spent his first season in Antarctica in 2017. Now a research assistant at CU, he’s part of an engineering team using laser equipment to study the mysteries of Earth’s atmosphere, including persistent gravity waves that could influence air circulation and weather patterns worldwide.

To obtain the most precise measurements, the delicate setup must be operated by hand around the clock, he said. This would be a true feat in Boulder, let alone at the ends of the earth. Geraghty and a colleague work in shifts, squeezing themselves into narrow alleys between banks of machinery filling an entire shack.

“It’s good to bring spare parts,” he said. “Because you can’t just go to the hardware store.”

Geraghty marvels over the many quirks of life at McMurdo. Hiking trails abound with curious penguins, and the night sky dazzles with aurora. Communication with the outside world is limited, and internet bandwidth is late ’90s-era slow. The accommodations are akin to army barracks or college dorms, with bunk beds and shared bathrooms down the hall.

Researchers invariably lament the scarcity of fresh produce. When fruit and vegetables arrive by plane — infrequently, given weather patterns — it’s instantly the talk of camp.

But the rest of the menu is surprisingly good: Contractors in the restaurant-quality mess hall prepare impressive rotating fare such as Mongolian barbecue, Italian pasta and burgers. (The late celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain paid a visit in 2017.)

Many like summer camps elsewhere, there is a certain unshakable camaraderie among the 500 or so people who return to populate McMurdo every year.

CU researchers usually arrive in Antarctica starting in November. Some stay all year.

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In Sommers’ first season on the ice, she wasn’t sure what to expect and admits she might have overpacked. By year two, she was a seasoned pro

“Every time I go in the Valleys, it feels like a place where no one has been before,” Gooseff says. “There’s an obvious Martian analogue here. You fly over and see no sign of life, but on the ground and in the streams and lakes, you see beautiful microbial mats filled with color.”

Gooseff lauds CU’s commitment to Antarctic studies and cites scientific operations on the continent broadly as a model of international collaboration. New Zealand, China, Italy and South Korea all have stations within an hour of McMurdo by helicopter, and it’s not uncommon for the scientists of several nations to help each other out — a kind of United Nations on ice.

“I think we all realize that it takes a lot of investment to work down here,” Gooseff said. “That raises the requirement on us to produce as much quality research as we can and get the results out there to the public in a relatable way.”

This year, Geraghty is headed back for another tour of duty. Except this time, when the last summer transport leaves in February, he won’t be on it. He and graduate student Zimu Li, will stay at McMurdo through October 2019 with a skeleton crew to manage the laser equipment in winter’s pervasive darkness.

“It’s a lot of responsibility,” he said. “But it feels good to work really hard and contribute to a big project with some of the most interesting people I’ve ever met.”

Comment? Email editor@colorado.edu.
SINGLE GAME & FLEX PLANS ON SALE NOW

PROTECT YOUR TEAM

The responsibility to maintain an athletics program that operates within compliance of all NCAA, Pac-12, and University regulations does not fall solely on CU and its leadership, it is also the responsibility of every Buffalo supporter.

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CU BOULDER ALUMNI RECEIVE A 10 PERCENT DISCOUNT.
CU Boulder Goes on Tour

**DAZZLING CAST OF BUFFS AND FRIENDS TO CONVERGE IN DENVER, SAN FRANCISCO**

They’re an eclectic bunch of hit-makers, and all Buffs: Glenn Miller (A&S ex’26, HonDocHum’84), Matt Stone (Art, Math’09), Trey Parker (A&S ex’93), Big Head Todd and the Monsters.

**EXPERIENCE THE GROUNDBREAKING WORK ON CAMPUS.**

When CU Boulder Next rolls into Denver and San Francisco in early 2019, their work will come alive in sound.

“These artists each put their own unique Buff stamp on their compositions,” said CU theater professor Bud Coleman, who’s directing a musical tribute to alumni entertainers at the Alumni Center.

CU Boulder Next distills the dynamism of the Buffs community for alumni and friends in major cities around the country. The program opened last year in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Future stops include New York, Houston and Chicago.

In Denver and San Francisco, CU students will perform a variety of musical tributes, including a song from Stone and Parker’s Broadway hit *The Book of Mormon*, Big Head Todd’s “Blue Sky” and a piece by Grammy-winning musician Dave Grusin (Mus’56).

Students, alumni and some of CU’s most renowned and engaging professors — including Nobel laureates Tom Cech and Eric Cornell, traumatic brain injury expert Theresa Hernández and political scientist (and baseball historian) Tom Zeiler — will deliver a series of snappy TED-Talk-style presentations.

“This is an opportunity to experience the groundbreaking work happening on campus, even if you don’t live close to Boulder,” said Ryan Chreist, executive director of the Alumni Association.

CU Boulder Next comes to the Sheraton Downtown Denver Thursday, Jan. 31, and to the City View at Metreon in San Francisco Thursday, Feb. 21. Both events start at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $25 and include drinks and heavy hors d’oeuvres.

Find out more at colorado.edu/next.

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TIDBITS**

Majestic Crested Butte awaits graduates of the past decade for the annual Buffs at the Butte ski weekend, Feb. 8-10, 2019. The cost ($275 through Jan. 18, $300 afterward) includes a two-night stay at condominiums near the resort, a two-day lift ticket, some meals and an après ski event. Visit colorado.edu/alumni to register.

The 2019 alumni wall calendar is available. Featuring photographs by CU alumni, friends and staff, including work by campus photographer Glenn Asakawa (Jour’86) and a stunning frosted Flatirons image taken by Eli Zabielski (Math’14), the calendar is $15, plus shipping and handling. Order yours at colorado.edu/alumni.

Sigrid Keough (Comm’89) and Adam Mackstaller (Fin’95), London and Spain’s alumni chapter leaders, are launching a 2019 internship program for CU students and alumni seeking international business experience. Visit colorado.edu/alumni/chapters for more.

The Alumni Association is seeking volunteers to help review scholarship applications online in March. It’s also looking for committed Forever Buffs to join its Board of Advisors. Advisors serve three-year terms. For more information on either opportunity, contact Beth Lietaert at beth.lietaert@colorado.edu.

**HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2018**

They came from Alaska and Hawaii, Idaho and New Mexico, North Carolina and New Jersey — 38 states in all.

Homecoming Weekend 2018 drew one of the largest crowds in years. Nearly 3,000 people registered for the festivities, which started with a sold-out Alumni Awards Ceremony Oct. 25 and ended Oct. 27 with an afternoon football game under bluebird skies.

Despite a crushing Buffs overtime loss to Oregon State, alumni, friends and fans spread energy and joy across Boulder for three days straight.

“Tell me there’s a more gorgeous place. I dare you,” tweeted NBC News producer Ariel Pelle (Jour’09) of New York from a seat in Folsom with a Flatirons view.

On Friday, Oct. 26, hundreds of cheery Buffs toasted one another in the backyard of Koenig Alumni Center with alumni-brewed libations. These included a Czech-style pilsner from Duncan Clauss (Engl’07), a prickly pear sour beer from Michael Memsic (Comm’03) and a gluten-free pumpkin ale from Karen Hertz (Psych’99, MBA’09). That evening, fans electrified Pearl Street for a Halloween-themed parade and pep rally.

On his and his two sons’ journey home to Pleasant Hill, Iowa, Shane Church (CompSci’01) tweeted a serene Colorado sunset photo captioned: “Until next time.”

**2019 TRIPS**

**KENNETCY DERBY**

May 2-5, 2019

**INLAND SEA OF JAPAN**

May 22-June 1, 2019

**ALPINE SPLENDOR**

June 3-16, 2019

**FLAVORS OF CHIANTI**

June 13-21, 2019

**IMPERIAL SPLENDORS OF RUSSIA**

Aug. 21-30, 2019

For more information about the Roaming Buffs travel program, email lisa.munro@colorado.edu, call 303-492-5640 or visit colorado.edu/alumni/travel.
IN CASE YOU'RE CURIOUS...

Don’t forget your camera. Sweeping Flatirons views and a large bronze buffalo sculpture rank among the many charms of CU Boulder’s newest central campus building, the Center for Academic Success and Engagement (CASE), which opened in July.

Serving admissions, advising and veteran and military affairs, and with large student learning spaces, the four-story, 114,000-square-foot building represents a fresh, airy take on the campus’ classic architecture. Vaulted ceilings, ample windows and wide-open study areas harvest and spread light. Cozy lounges encourage visitors to savor the décor, which includes inspiring portraits of the university’s best and brightest. Outside, a north-facing patio offers a perch from which to survey streams of students and appreciate the rhythms of life at CU.

Located near Broadway and Euclid, east of the University Memorial Center and across from the CU Art Museum, the CASE building is surrounded by places and spaces you already know and love. Maybe it’ll be your new favorite.

CASE BUILDING FAST FACTS:

1. Opened July 2018
2. 114,000 square feet
3. Built atop Euclid Parking Garage
4. Home to bronze buffalo sculpture, “Silver & Gold”
5. Window murals depict famous CU alumni

Photo by Casey A. Cass
Q&A WITH THE CHANCELLOR PHILIP P. DISTEFANO

COLLEGE CHANGED MY LIFE
You sometimes mention that you were a first-generation college student. It’s in your official CU Boulder biography. Why is that important for people to know?
One of the best things I can do is identify myself as a first-generation student to show the enormous opportunities that are available by graduating from college and perhaps going on to graduate school. It shows the importance of a higher education degree. Higher education opens up so many opportunities.

When you were in high school was there doubt that you would attend college?
There was great doubt. I grew up in a blue-collar, steel-mill town (Steubenville, Ohio). The norm, especially for males, was to go into the steel mill to work. I didn’t think about going to college. I thought I would follow my friends and older brother and go into the steel mills and coal mines. An English teacher encouraged me to go to college because she thought I had the academic ability to be successful.

What was your college experience like at Ohio State?
It was a very different experience than what I had ever known. Ohio State 50 years ago had 40,000 students. It was much larger than anything I had experienced. Getting used to the academics, living on my own and working, I found myself in a very different place.

How did you overcome the barriers?
Since I was the first in my family, including my extended family, I certainly didn’t want to fail, and I found myself studying more than I ever had to be sure I was successful.

In what ways is the college experience often different for first-generation students than for the children of college graduates?
There wasn’t anyone to talk to in my family about their college experiences. The only experience I had to draw on was high school. I had to figure things out for myself on how to be successful in college.

Do you have any advice for first-generation students today?
Take advantage of all the opportunities at the university, opportunities that you may not have otherwise experienced. There will certainly be challenges, but the opportunities outweigh the challenges — and may even result from them.
After Stellar Start, Buffs Spiral Down

FOOTBALL OPENS WITH FIVE WINS, THEN DROPS SIX; HEAD COACH LET GO

It hadn’t happened in 20 years: The Colorado Buffaloes were 5-0.

Buffs fans everywhere were excited.

“All the way in Italy screamin’ GO BUFFS!!” former CU basketball and NBA star Chauncey Billups (Soc’99) tweeted after CU beat Nebraska in Lincoln, the Buffs’ second win of the season and first against the Cornhuskers on their turf since 2004.

But after the hot start, including a pair of early Pac-12 wins over UCLA and Arizona State, things got complicated. Star wide receiver Laviska Shenault Jr. (A&S’21) got hurt. So did star placekicker James Stefanou (Jour’21) and more than a dozen other notable players.

The Buffs went on to lose six straight, as of Nov. 17.

A day after the sixth loss, to Utah at home, Athletic Director Rick George dismissed head coach Mike MacIntyre.

He named quarterbacks coach Kurt Roper interim coach for the last regular season game, scheduled for Nov. 24 at California.

Prior to the Utah loss, CU had dropped five in a row, all to Pac-12 opponents.

Sports is full of ups and downs, and when you’re down, it’s fun to recall the ups.

To review: CU opened the season by thumping the Colorado State Rams (45-13) in the Rocky Mountain Showdown, built momentum in Nebraska, followed by a big win (45-14) at home against the University of New Hampshire in the teams’ first ever meeting. The Buffs closed September with a decisive Pac-12 home win against UCLA.

The milestone fifth victory came at home Oct. 6 against Arizona State. Shenault put on a show, scoring four touchdowns before 52,681 fans.

As of press time, the Buffs (5-6, 2-6 Pac-12) still had a shot at a bowl berth, provided they could beat Cal. For accounts of what’s happened since Nov. 17, visit cubuffs.com.

BUFFS BITS

Phillip Lindsay (Comm’18) scored the Denver Broncos’ first touchdown in their home opener against the Seattle Seahawks on Sept. 9. It was his NFL debut. ... Also in September, Jenny Simpson (Econ, PolSci’09) won her seventh Fifth Avenue Mile in New York City with a time of 4:18.8. ... CU men’s golfer Daniel O’Loughlin (Geog’20) of Nottingham, England, finished in the Top 10 four times this fall. ... In mid-October Jorian Baucom (StComm’20) led scoring for CU women’s soccer, with 12 goals. Her twelfth goal set a CU regular season record of 46 total team goals. ... Star forward Dallas Walton (StComm’21) of men’s basketball will sit out the 2018-19 season with a right ACL tear.

2,200 PAIRS AND COUNTING

When young Native Americans from around the West travel to Colorado each November for an annual three-day run honoring victims of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre, they receive a pair of running shoes from nonprofit One World Running. In years past, some of the shoes belonged to the likes of Olympians Jenny Simpson (Econ, PolSci’09) and Kara Goucher (Psych’01). That’s because members of the CU track team have been donating their old or unused footwear to One World for a decade. The group, founded in 1986 by Daily Camera running columnist Mike Sandrock (MCDBio’80; MBA ‘84), distributes new and like-new shoes and athletic gear from runners around the U.S. to people in need worldwide.

By now, CU has donated an estimated 2,200 pairs of racing and training shoes and spikes.

In January, volunteers will distribute more former Buffs’ shoes in Cuba.

“Many of these Cuban runners are the same age and talent level as the Buffs who donated the shoes,” said Sandrock, who also serves as a writing tutor for the CU Athletic Department.

For the student-athletes, donating shoes is a no-brainer. “All we have to do is tell them there’s a bin for donating shoes,” said Heather Burroughs (EPOBio’99), associate head cross-country coach.

It’s not a numbers game: One World typically rolls out 200 pairs of shoes a day to the runners from the Sand Creek Massacre Run. But the nonprofit has distributed more than 5,000 pairs of shoes to people in need worldwide to date.

STARS

Number of freshmen and sophomores among this year’s 13 men’s basketball scholarship recipients.

$3.1M

Recent donation to CU Boulder’s performance nutrition program.

13-0-3

Women’s soccer’s record in mid-October.

NINE

Number of foreign players on CU’s seven-member women’s tennis team.

10/1

Week all five of CU’s fall sports teams were ranked in the Top 25 nationally.

TWO

Individual Pac-12 Cross Country Champion titles in a row for senior Dani Jones (Psych’19).
LONG SHOT

Some people call sophomore Mya Hollingshed (A&S’21) of CU Boulder women’s basketball the life of the party. She calls herself quiet and shy. Everyone calls her a three-point shooter.

At six-four, you’re tied for tallest player on the team...

I was pretty short growing up, but I hit a growth spurt one summer, right before high school. I always used to compare myself to my Nana. How tall is she? Five-eight. And I barely was getting there, so I was like, ‘Okay, I guess I’m going to be short.’ But I hit that growth spurt. I came into the house one day, and she was, like, ‘Oh, my God! You’re six-four!’

Did she also play?
No. She played no type of sports. She was for sure book smart. She loves watching me play, and she always says I’m her favorite player, so that motivates me to be better.

I really didn’t start playing organized basketball until four or five years ago.

And now you’re in the Pac-12! ...

Last season, your first, you were the team’s most reliable three-point shooter. You made 43 percent of your long shots. Were you performing like that in high school?
No. Since I was the biggest person on the team, they always had me in the post. Last year, I got a few chances to shoot the three, and I took them. Made a few, missed a few. I came out of nowhere with it. ‘Okay, I’m open right here, so I’m gonna shoot it right here, get it over the rim, if it goes in, great. We get three points.’

How do you see your role on the team?
Last year, being a freshman, being shy, quiet — I’m really quiet and shy — my role was to do what I’m supposed to do when I get a sub. This year they’re looking for me to be a leader. They feel I can make others comfortable — use my personality to help us all take criticism the right way, and get better every day.

You described yourself as quiet and shy. But everybody else calls you the life of the party.
I can be an introvert but be social. And I like to dance. I really like to dance.

The Oregon State game was big for you last year: 22 points, including six three-pointers. You were CU’s third-leading scorer in Pac-12 play, with 6.8 points per game. What are your goals this season?
I’ve been working on my footwork, so watch out for that. I’m going to be more of an all-around player and use my skill set and my height to different advantages for the team.

What would you say the main challenge for the team is this year? We just gotta work on our finish.

What’s the relationship between the women’s and men’s teams?
The freshmen, for all sports, they have this program. They have some meetings, and you’ll see football players and tennis players, soccer, golf. … You become close with the people in your class. That really helped me last year, because, being quiet and introverted — I don’t really talk to people unless they talk to me — it helped me open up.

Every time someone mentions your name, they mention dancing. Have you trained to dance?
No. Whatever’s on, and I feel it, I’m just gonna dance. If I feel the beat, I’m just gonna go to the beat.

Have you always been like this? Honestly, I don’t think so. Coming here just changed my life.

Condensed and edited by Eric Gershon.
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colorado.edu/alumni/shop
Nearly 3,000 people from 38 states registered for this year’s Homecoming Weekend in late October.

**'55 Dee (Graydon) Hubbard**

(Hacct) book about the financial meltdown of 2008, *At the Altars of Money*, won the 2018 Gold EVVY Award in the category of Literary and Contemporary Fiction. “Mostly because of the book’s satirical edge, I did not expect this award, and I’m thrilled with the honor,” Dee writes.

**'56 Charles Froese**

(Fin, MechEngr) writes that the fall issue of the *Coloradan* is the best magazine of its kind. “The articles are short but are full of information, easy to read and present a picture of the university that I would never have thought possible in 1956 when I graduated.”

**'57 Joe Bonem**

(ChemEngr) has more than 50 years of experience in the chemical engineering industry. He published his third book, *The Chemical Projects Scale Up: How to Go from Laboratory to Commercial*, which explores the engineering aspects of scale up and is based on Joe’s experience working with large companies such as ExxonMobil. His previous two books focused on how to use chemical engineering to solve problems in industrial plants. He resides in New Braunfels, Texas, with his wife, Diane Robinson. The couple has one son and two grandsons — both of whom have chemical engineering degrees.

**'58 Earl Noe**

(Jour) writes that he is sitting in his overpriced shack in central Boulder, surfing the web in his boxers and saying, “Wow! If we’d had this back in ’62 I wouldn’t have needed to go to college.” Since graduating from CU, Earl has had numerous close calls skiing in the Colorado back-country, escaping “only” with a broken femur and a fractured spine. Aside from the skiing injuries, he’s endured three separate bouts of cancer and credits an unusual amount of luck to his survival.

**'68 For the past 26 years, Barbara T. Humphrey** (Art) has taught art and orchestra in the Aurora Public Schools. In January 2018, she received the Martin Luther King Lifetime Achievement Award at Boettcher Concert Hall in Denver for her work teaching strings to students of color, taking them to college music departments for workshops and helping them secure scholarships. Now retired, Barbara and her musical husband, Tom, entertain residents at retirement and assisted-living centers around Colorado.

**'69 Stephen Grogan** (Engl) published his fifth historical novel, *Lafayette, Courtier to Crown Fugitive, 1757-1777*. While at CU, Stephen was awarded the Shubert Fellowship, which supports professional theater and dance companies. He currently serves as president of Las Vegas start-up Navegante Game Technologies, which assists casino and video game inventors and programmers in breaking in to the market.

**'72 Longtime Boulder resident Jeanne Winer**’s (Engl; Law’77) book *Her Kind of Case* received starred reviews from Kirkus, Library Journal and Booklist. The novel, which takes place in Boulder and Denver, centers on Lee Isaacs, a female attorney who defends a young man accused of helping kill a gay gang member. Jeanne was a criminal defense lawyer in Colorado for 35 years. She’s received national attention for her work in *Romer v. Evans*, a landmark civil rights case that laid the foundation for the 2015 Obergefell decision, which legalized same-sex marriage throughout the U.S. Like the heroine in her book, Jeanne is a martial artist who holds a third-degree black belt in taekwondo. She lives mainly in Boulder with her partner and cat, but spends a number of months each year writing in Taos, N.M.

**'75 Robert Mattson** (Bus) received the 2018 American Agricultural Editors’ Association (AAEA) Photographer of the Year award at this year’s conference in Scottsdale, Ariz. Robert is a photographer and imaging specialist at Noble Research Institute, a nonprofit focused on finding solutions for agricultural challenges. He previously served as Amherst College’s new media content developer and college photographer. He’s a former staff photographer with the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* and *Sun-Times Media Group* and is a two-time Pulitzer Prize nominee for work in feature photography and breaking news photography.

**Chaz Miller** (Law) loves talking trash. He writes that he is moving into retirement after a 40-year career in waste and recycling management. He served as director for the National Waste & Recycling Association, a trade association for private-sector haulers, recyclers, composters and disposal companies. Chaz’s career in solid waste and recycling started in 1976.

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

*ex* indicates a nondegree and the year of expected graduation.

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Photo by Glenn Asakawa
BARBARA T. HUMPHREY  
(ART’68) HAS TAUGHT ART AND ORCHESTRA IN AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR 26 YEARS. IN JANUARY, SHE RECEIVED THE MARTIN LUTHER KING LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT BOETTCHER CONCERT HALL.

when he joined the Environmental Protection Agency’s Resource Recovery Division. Since then, his career has taken him around the world, including speaking engagements throughout North America, China and Japan. In 2017, he spoke at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development Waste Management Conference in Tokyo. He resides in Washington, D.C.

Paul Shafer (EPOBio) was appointed program coordinator for the new environmental safety management program at Thiel College in Greenville, Penn. Paul has been active in environmental safety for nearly 40 years as a consultant, government contractor, college educator and employer. As a certified environmental, safety and health trainer, he leads safety training sessions and programs across the U.S. He previously served on the faculty at Slippery Rock University, Rutgers University and Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Jim Stone (MArch) was promoted to senior associate at ELS Architecture and Urban Design in Berkeley, Calif., where he has worked for 26 years.

In September, Judge Christine Arguello (Ed) received one of Harvard Law School’s “Celebration 65 Awards” (65 years of women at Harvard Law) for her outstanding contribution to the legal profession and to public welfare. Christine, a U.S. District Court judge for the District of Colorado, writes that it is an honor to have received the award, especially in light of the fact that prior recipients include such luminaries as Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Pat Schroeder. Christine is a previous nominee to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and is currently a tenured professor at the University of Kansas School of Law. She is a first-generation college graduate and grew up in Buena Vista, Colo.

R. Mark Jones (PolSci) was named one of the Best Lawyers in America for 2019 by Best Lawyers magazine in the area of medical malpractice law. Mark is a partner at the Cleveland office of Roetzel & Andress, where he represents hospitals and physicians in medical defense matters.

College of Saint Rose President Carolyn Stefanco (Hist) has partnered with the African Leadership Academy (ALA), a two-year pre-university program outside Johannesburg, South Africa, to facilitate collaborations among students and faculty and to promote cultural exchanges and scholarships.

Stan Garnett (Hist; Law’82) was named co-chair of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck’s government investigations and white collar defense group, based in Denver. Stan served as district attorney for Colorado’s 20th Judicial District (Boulder County) for nearly 10 years, serving three terms. He also served as president of the Colorado District Attorneys Council in 2017 and on the board of directors of the National District Attorneys Association.

Fidel was more open to working with a woman,” Huddleston said. “So there was always a possibility of finding a way open [between the U.S. and Cuba]. I don’t think there are any kind of personal relationships now.”

Huddleston’s memoir offers a window into the start-and-stop, forward-backward nature of U.S.-Cuba relations over the past two decades.

When she arrived in 1999, the U.S.’s trade embargo was still firm. But the Clinton administration eased travel restrictions and enabled relations with the Cuban government. The Bush administration initially continued this, before reverting to stricter policy.

In 2002 Huddleston left to become U.S. ambassador to Mali. Soon afterward, Castro jailed 75 dissidents and Huddleston’s radio and book distribution program stalled.

“I didn’t agree with anything the [U.S.] administration was doing,” she said.

Huddleston still follows foreign affairs closely and expresses frustration with U.S.-Cuba policy, increasingly fraught after seeming improvement during the Obama years. She hopes her book will convince readers that hardline U.S. policy has failed.

“And not only that it failed,” she said, “but that when we are more open, Cuba is more open.”

By Aimee Anderson (Eng’17)
80s & 90s WINTER 2018

CLASS Notes

In late September, Teresa Parko McHenry (Engr) and a group of CU alums met on campus for a 40-year reunion. They met in 1978 in Nichols Hall, which is now the Cheyenne Arapaho building. “We didn’t all graduate from CU, but between all of us, we managed to keep a thread of friendship going over the years,” Teresa said.

After graduating from CU, David C. Dill (MechEng) spent five years in the U.S. Navy before becoming an energy and consulting engineer for 20 years in Vermont and New Hampshire. Currently, he works for the U.S. Coast Guard as a mechanical engineering designer and project manager. “It’s been a great run,” he writes. He resides in Middletown, R.I.

John Hoover (PhDedu) was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame of the College of Education at Illinois State University for his significant contributions to teaching and learning. He is an associate research professor in CU’s School of Education. Previously, he was director of research and evaluation for CU’s American Indian Science and Engineering Society. In 1996, he co-founded Electronic Pathways, which provides teachers of American Indian students with training in educational technology.

Frank Abramonte (AeroEng) joined the Seattle office of Cozen O’Connor, where he is part of the intellectual property practice. Frank specializes in patents in various areas of engineering and previously worked as an engineer in the fields of electrical systems, propulsion, fluid mechanics, surface geometries and structures.

Samuel Austin (Bus; MArch’93) won a Best of Show Award at the 61st Annual Mystic Outdoor Arts Festival in Connecticut. He has been an architect and artist in Boulder for 25 years.

Chett Rubenstein (Acct) left Hewlett Packard Enterprise to join the networking and IT company Cisco as director of cloud services incubation. Chett helps the company build their portfolio of services for helping customers leverage hybrid cloud technologies. “I’ve come a long way since I wrote software on punch cards at CU in the early ‘80s!” said Chett, who wrote the first portfolio management system ever used to manage the CU Endowment Fund back in 1983.

Kathryn Tobey (ChemEng; MEngrMgmt’94) joined CU as a scholar in residence in the College of Engineering & Applied Science. Previously an executive at Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, Kathryn is developing and teaching courses for the graduate engineering management program. In 2016, she received the university’s George Norlin Award, which celebrates recipients for excellence in their careers and devotion to the betterment of society and community.

After working for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Colorado, Utah and California and serving in the Peace Corps in Cameroon, David Woodward (CivilEng) is now a hydraulic structures engineer at Black & Veatch’s Sacramento office. He focuses on the safety of spillways and outlet works for dams.

Elizabeth W. Bisgard (EPOBio; MD’93) was appointed medical director of occupational medicine for the southern region of the University of Colorado Health. She is an assistant clinical professor in the physical medicine and rehabilitation department at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She resides in Parker, Colo., with her two daughters. When she’s not working or teaching, she can be found figure skating at the ice rink.

Phillip Reid (Phys) writes in August 2018 he earned his PhD from George Washington University in engineering management and systems engineering. Since CU, he’s spent 31 years as a principal engineer at McDonnell Douglas Aerospace, now the Boeing Company. Currently, he is leading the systems integration laboratory at Boeing, focusing on the development of a reusable rocket system.

Since graduating from CU, Jennifer Gralla-Bushman (Comm) has traveled the world as a chef, author, spokesperson and educator. She now focuses on sustainable aquaculture, working with “the incredible humans that raise everything from sea veg to oysters, shrimp to salmon,” she writes. She works with water farmers, buyers, chefs and consumers to ensure that the world’s fish supply remains sustainable far into the future. Last year, she helped create a short documentary film called Full Circle, featuring paddle boarder and surfer Jamie Mitchell.

Beth B. Osnes (MThtr; PhD’92) likes to have fun. The associate professor in the Department of Theatre & Dance directed the musical performance Shine, about how energy, climate and humans are interrelated. The performance showcased youth from local communities. She hopes her creative approach to communicating climate change will inspire climate action. “We used artistic, creative, participatory activities to tell the story of energy and what actions we can take to get from the old story of fossil fuels to the new story of our cities’ resilience,” Beth said in an interview with CU Boulder Today. Beth also teaches in the environmental studies department at CU.

Chris Anthony (Kines) has been on skis since he was 18 months old. He was inducted into the Colorado Snowsports Hall of Fame for his contributions to the sport and industry of skiing and snowboarding. He is executive director and founder of the Chris Anthony Youth Initiative Project, which works to improve quality of life for

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youth by introducing them to educational enrichment opportunities in arts, sports and academics.

**'91**

George Antonopoulos (Econ; MBA ’94) is producer of the documentary film *Born to Lead: The Sal Aunese Story,* about former CU Boulder quarterback Sal Aunese (Soc ex’90), who in 1989, amid a remarkable season for CU football, died of cancer at age 21. George writes that other CU Boulder alumni involved in the film include Darcy Phelan (Chem’97; Nurs’02), Jeffrey Bohl (Fin, Psych’99), J.J. Flannigan (Comm’90) and Darian Hagan (Soc’01).

**'93**

Edward Batchelor (Comm) is managing editor of Colorado’s 14ers.

**'96**

Owner and CEO of Durango-based IT solution provider Think Network Technologies Melissa Glick (Advert) writes the company was named one of three technology finalists in *ColoradoBiz* magazine’s 2018 Top Company List. The firm specializes in managed services, enterprise solutions, cloud solutions and IT consulting.

**'98**

In September, Brittany Konsella (Chem) became the first person to bike all 750 unique miles of singletrack trails in Crested Butte and the Gunnison Valley. In all, it took about 3,600 miles and 275,000 feet of vertical climbing on her bike — the vertical equivalent of summiting Mount Everest from base camp 22.5 times, according to Andrew Sandstrom, who works with the Gunnison-Crested Butte Tourism Association. In 2011, Brittany became the second woman to ski all of Colorado’s 14ers.

**'98**

Fenn won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in history.

Carlin went on to work in television news in L.A. before moving to Eugene, Ore., to work in radio.

“Audio was so much more appealing,” he said. “All that mattered was what you said, and how you said it.”

That’s common sense, and also the name of Carlin’s initial, politics-focused podcast, as it happens.

“We had about 43 people on the forum, and I think I knew them all personally,” he joked.

*Hardcore History* followed a year later, and by now there are scores of episodes.

“If you had told me at the beginning that we’d be putting out [even] 2.5 of these a year, I don’t think I would have done it, but now I love that it takes so much. I feel like I’m using every brain cell to get these things out.”

Carlin spends months reading, researching and brainstorming for each episode, culminating in what he describes as finals week at CU, replete with loads of caffeine and scattered pizza boxes. The results are entertaining, thought-provoking, sometimes speculative accounts of the past.

Part of the appeal is Carlin’s voice, which the *Huffington Post* describes as a “gravelly, conspiratorial baritone.” It’s also his personality: You feel as if you’re listening to a funny friend who happens to be a gifted storyteller.

“It takes more work all the time, trying to outdo the previous work,” said Carlin.

Fortunately, he plans to keep at it, as long as the espresso holds out.

*By Sarah Taft Dunn*
Jordan Horowitz’s (Film) film *Painless* was released in Los Angeles Sept. 21 and became available on digital platforms and DVD Oct. 2. The film is about a man’s quest to find a cure for a rare condition that leaves him unable to feel physical pain.

Jordan Lipp (Econ, PolSci) and wife Heather published *Is There Apple Juice in My Wine?: Thirty-Eight Laws that Affect the Wine You Drink.*

Crista Newmyer-Olsen (Engi, Soc; Law’07) said she has committed herself to “fighting the good fight.” Born and raised in Colorado’s San Luis Valley, she is currently the district attorney for the 12th Judicial District of Colorado. As a law student, Crista took primarily American Indian law classes. Her favorite professors included Jill Tompkins, then-clinical professor in the American Indian Law Clinic, and Professor Emeritus Charles Wilkinson, whom Crista remembers fondly as a “wonderful professor in addition to a delightful human being.” Outside the courtroom, Christa enjoys spending time with her family and her menagerie of cats, dogs and horses at her home in Mosca, Colo.

Alexis M. Woodall (Econ, Film) won her third Emmy Award in the Outstanding Limited Series category for her work as executive producer for the show *Assassination of Gianni Versace,* which details the fashion designer’s murder. She has won several Emmys including for *The Normal Heart* in the Outstanding Television Movie category and *The People vs. O.J. Simpson* in the Outstanding Limited Series category.

James Robertson (Mktg) was named a 2018 Top Lawyer by *Sacramento Magazine.* Attorneys throughout the region participated in the voting, recommending colleagues in more than 50 legal disciplines. Attorneys receiving the highest number of votes in each discipline received a top lawyer designation and were featured in the magazine’s August issue.

Neil Meiklejohn (Film, Soc) is the film editor for the *Netflix* documentary series *Wild Wild Country,* which received five Emmy nominations and won for Best Documentary. The series is centered around controversial Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh (Osho), who established a “utopian city” in Wasco County, Ore., leading to tension with locals and escalating into a national scandal. The series was released March 16 after premiering at the Sundance Film Festival.

Ben Slavin (MechEngr) and his wife, Amberlynn, recently returned from sabbaticals after pedaling their bicycles 5,000 kilometers through seven countries as they rode from China through Central Asia and into the Middle East along the historic Silk Road. A YouTube documentary was created from the journey to inspire other travelers, which can be watched at youtube.com/ben-slavin.

Heidi Ruckriegle (Bus, Span), an attorney in the Denver office of the law firm WilmerHale, has been elected to the board of trustees of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. She is one of the youngest trustees in the group’s 63-year history.

Aubry Teeters (ArchEngr) is a project executive for Brinkman Construction. She’s a LEED Green Associate with expertise in government, health care and office products. During her tenure at Brinkman, Aubry has led many Denver-based projects from preconstruction to successful completion, including INDUSTRY RiNo Station and the adaptive reuse of the historic former Gold Star Sausage building. She is currently overseeing one of Brinkman’s largest health care projects, the Eating Recovery Center in Denver’s Lowry district.

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BRADLEY CHEETHAM
(MAeroEngr’11) is president and CEO of the space startup Advanced Space, which he co-founded in 2011 while a graduate student at CU. The company focuses on improving planning and operations for space missions.

'11 Bradley Cheetham
(MAeroEngr) is shooting for the moon. He is president and chief executive officer for the space startup Advanced Space, which he co-founded in 2011 while a graduate student at CU. The company focuses on improving the planning and operations of space missions. Top on Bradley’s list? NASA’s next moon missions. He’d run ultra marathons before — but never in the world’s largest hot desert, a race the Discovery Channel has dubbed “the toughest footrace on Earth.”

Rachael Kaspar (EnvSt, EPOBio), a research assistant at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, recently published a scientific article in the journal Animal Behaviour. Her research, which was based upon her undergraduate honors thesis, examined honeybee behavior and how bees fan their colony to cool it. She aims to enter graduate school in the near future.

This year, Ryan Stevenson (Biochem) completed the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), the second-longest hiking trail in the United States. The 2,650-mile-long PCT begins at the United States-Mexico border and weaves through California, Oregon and Washington, ending at the United States-Canada border in Manning Park, British Columbia. After CU, Ryan worked for the Laboratory Corporation of America (LabCorp). He left his job in April to prepare and pursue this four-month hike.

'17 September was a big month for Rudy Von Berg (Mktg), who won the Ironman 70.3 European Championship in Elsinore, Denmark. One week later, he placed second at the Ironman 70.3 in Mont Tremblant, Canada. At CU, he won USA Triathlon Collegiate National titles in 2014 and 2015.

Turns out, Cappelloni’s hip injury wasn’t the thing to worry about. Thirty-five miles into the race’s fourth day, his right leg began to hurt. When he arrived at camp, quarter-sized blisters engulfed his feet.

He was in agony and too tired to open his backpack for food.

Then a race organizer handed him a letter.

The fine white paper seemed strange in his hands, a foreign object in the middle of one of the world’s largest deserts. It was from his 9-year-old daughter, Emma. “Happy Birthday, Papa!” it read.

The next day, Cappelloni could barely walk. The medics said it was most likely a stress fracture.

For 26 grueling miles, he limped through the sprawling desert, pain pulsing with every step.

He thought about the unthinkable: distances refugees travel when forced to flee their homes, often over inhospitable terrain with all they can carry on their backs.

“I knew I could keep going,” he said. When he crossed the finish line, he called Emma and thanked her for believing in him.

“We’ll see what I do next,” he said. “I’m just enjoying my daily jogs and spending time with my daughter.”

By Amanda Clark (M’Jour’19)

TOUGHEST FOOTRACE ON EARTH

Last April, when Corey Cappelloni (Law’04) stepped up to the starting line of the Marathon des Sables — a six-day, 156-mile ultra marathon through the heart of the Sahara Desert — his mind was calm.

“Life became very simple at that point. No email, no texting, no deadlines... All I had to do was put one foot in front of the other,” said the asylum officer with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

He’d run ultra marathons before — but never in the world’s largest hot desert, a race the Discovery Channel has dubbed “the toughest footrace on Earth.”

Since 1986, three people have died trying to complete the race in southern Morocco. Routinely, hundreds fail to finish.

Organizers provide water refills every 10 miles and open tents to sleep in, but little else. Runners carry all their own survival supplies, including anti-venom kits.

“Initially, I was totally intimidated by the idea of the race,” said Cappelloni, one of nearly 1,000 participants from 60 countries in the latest event.

He’d signed up in 2015, then dropped out after contracting typhoid fever and a stomach parasite during a work trip in Tanzania. In 2016, he still didn’t feel ready.

Finishing the 2017 Half Marathon des Sables, a 70-mile race on an island off the Moroccan coast, gave him confidence. The first American to finish, he placed 31st overall.

But four months before the Sahara race, Cappelloni hurt his hip, losing six weeks of training time.

“I went from running nearly 90 miles a week to not being able to walk the four blocks to the metro,” he said.

Cappelloni considered dropping out again, but Jay Batchen, the race’s North American representative, convinced him not to.

“It was too late to get a refund, so I just told him to go for it,” said Batchen, who has finished the race 13 times.

Photo courtesy Corey Cappelloni
BOULDER’S APPLE TREES

[“THE OLDEST APPLES IN BOULDER” FALL 2018]. MY GRANDPARENTS, HERMAN AND ELIZABETH LENNARTZ, BUILT A HOME AT 655 ARAPAHOE IN 1905. IT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A LANDMARK HOME IN BOULDER. WE USED TO VISIT EVERY SUMMER IN THE 1940s AND ’50s...

Illustration courtesy U.S. Department of Agriculture Pomological Watercolor Collection. Rare and Special Collections, National Agricultural Library. (Bus) @iStock/ kickstand
We bought our clothes at Goodwill and cherished the booklet that was given at registration that had coupons for discounts at local businesses, especially places to eat. Tuition was $350 per semester and gas was 25 cents a gallon at Gas-A-Mat. The Grateful Dead was playing at Folsom, so a couple of my rock-climbing buddies and I climbed the wall to get into the concert for free, since we didn’t have extra money for fun. (We made our own fun practicing climbing on the buildings on campus between classes, so we were well versed in ‘building.’) The concert went on for three hours without a break. There was a guy with a giant Grateful Dead flag waving it during the concert. I asked him how he got it in and he said he snuck in the night before and put it by his seat. All the joys of CU when the environment was a lot simpler.

Mark Bissell (Art’73) Colorado Springs

**CHRONIC PAIN**

Just read your brain and pain story (“Unlearning Pain,” Fall 2018), and found it fascinating. Having suffered with lower back pain for most of my life, I relate to the frustration of finding the best non-drug solution. I have found that, for me, some relief has indeed been acquired via my own concentration on the outcome I want. It works! I encourage Yoni Ashar to keep up the great work.

Peter Taylor (Span’72) Crestone, Colo.

**DIVERSITY OF THOUGHT**

Thank you, Mr. Danish, for your always interesting columns in the Coloradan. It is valuable to me to read about the history that set the stage for the place where I studied engineering (“Boulder Beat: Alex and Ed,” Fall 2018). And it’s a pleasure to be reminded how we can find chords that connect us with others of possibly disparate backgrounds when we simply engage in discussion. I must say, my experience at CU was very much this way.

Karen McGuire (MChemEngr’81) Denver

**THE FOOTBALL CURE**

It was 1976 and I was a junior at the time, sick with strep throat and in the CU medical clinic. CU was playing the Oklahoma Sooners, coached by Barry Switzer. For as long as I could remember, CU had never beaten the Sooners. But on this day, they did. I could hear the roar from my bed, and I give partial credit to the CU football team for helping me get better faster.

Bruce Hamilton (Soc’77) Austin, Texas

A fabulous Sunday in May 1977 with Fleetwood Mac: Can you believe we only paid $8.50 for a ticket? Patti Livingstone (Soc’78) Spokane, Wash.

I was just finishing freshman year at CU when Fleetwood Mac came to town on their “Rumours” tour (Fleetwood Mac, May 1, 1977). It was the biggest concert I had ever been to. Firefall, John Sebastian and Bob Seger were the opening acts. Country Joe McDonald might have been there, too. It was the first of many shows I attended at CU. Not only was the concert awesome, but those of us living in Williams Village also got the bonus of being able to watch the band come and go from the hotel across the street. I think it was called the Broker. I have so many fond memories of my years in Boulder, but the Fleetwood Mac concert will always be a special one.

Doug Muller (Psych’81) Hatboro, Penn.

It was a beautiful fall day on Sept. 9, 1972. Back then a lot of us didn’t have much.
THEN
C. 1910

There's no passenger rail service to Boulder today, and hasn't been for decades. But in the early 1900s, a person could ride a train directly to and from the CU Boulder campus. The university depot, shown here, was located approximately where the Ramaley Biology building sits now, just behind Norlin Library. In 1910, the one-way fare from Denver was 70 cents. The last train went through on April 24, 1932.

Photo courtesy CU Heritage Center