RESILIENCE REALIZED
Students recount complex experiences navigating the pandemic
When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Taylor Passios (MediaPro'21) watched the world fall into the same pattern she lives in as a hypochondriac: feel something, Google it, panic — repeat.

To physically demonstrate this idea of cyclical online patterns while adhering to COVID restrictions, she turned her apartment into a three-room, interactive art installation, complete with fog, heat and lighting. The public installation, part of her senior honors thesis, included walls plastered with news articles, graffiti, broken televisions and a “Wheel of Fate.”
In March 2020, workers and students across the country left behind familiar spaces and routines to protect each other and their communities. Many thought a return to normalcy was a few weeks or months away. Twenty months later, some of those spaces and routines are apparitions of the past. Amid the COVID-19 delta variant surge, CU Boulder students have reflected on what resilience looks like to them, where it comes from and what it demands. Today, resilience is a bittersweet reality: a skill, or perhaps a latent ability, that surfaced as a matter of necessity and survival. In this issue, you’ll read about the fruits of resilience — the triumphs, the challenges and the self-revelations of various communities at CU Boulder.

Wherever you’re headed this winter, tuck the Coloradan in a pocket and read about the state’s first licensed outdoor preschool, color-changing tattoos, the history of camping, a trip to Mars (in the U.S.) — and meet Ralphie VI.

Maria Kuntz
Leader and Storyteller

A storied legal educator, author and researcher, Lolita Buckner Inniss began work as Colorado Law’s dean in July 2021. She is the first Black dean and second female dean in the law school’s history. Her book, The Princeton Fugitive Slave, was named one of five books white leaders should read. Though hailing from California, Inniss has strong family ties to Colorado.

Tell us about your book. What prompted you to write it? The Princeton Fugitive Slave was a labor of love. When I was a first-year student at Princeton, I was sitting around in the library plaza and this older gentleman walked up to me. He told me the story of a man named James Collins Johnson, an escaped slave who was working at Princeton University in 1843 when he was arrested and tried as a fugitive.

I thought it was such a cool story. It sounded like a fairy tale. Years later, after I had completed my PhD, I finally felt like it was time to write it down. I spent about eight years digging into archives and newspaper articles. The story that I was able to flesh out is what became the book.

Tell us about a few more of your upcoming projects. One of them is a forthcoming book that I’m writing with Professor Bridget Crawford at Pace Law comparing and contrasting the social and legal norms around the Black Lives Matter and Me Too movements. The core question is: How is it that Black Lives Matter received and receives so much social pushback, whereas the Me Too movement has, relatively speaking, blossomed? Another project is work that I’m doing with an International Comparative Law Society regarding contemporary slavery.

What are some of your main research interests? Shortly after I started on The Princeton Fugitive Slave, I began hearing about other universities studying the roles that slavery had played in their pasts. Schools all over the country are discovering their roots in slavery, or at least their relationship with it — even lots of schools founded after the Civil War are based on the profits from slavery.

The pandemic has impacted education and work as we know it, and in this issue we’re examining student resilience. How has the pandemic impacted Colorado Law students and legal education at CU Boulder? I have been delighted, encouraged and proud to see how Colorado Law students have managed this crisis. Many students have had family members who grew ill, many have lost jobs — all sorts of difficulties. And yet the students I have met in person so far, they are thrilled to be back. They are ready to meet the challenge.

I think also in terms of resilience, a big part of student and staff resilience involves embracing the concept of grace. Grace means giving yourself permission not to be perfect and giving yourself permission to do things differently than you have in the past.

Tell us about your main research interests? Shortly after I started on The Princeton Fugitive Slave, I began hearing about other universities studying the roles that slavery had played in their pasts. Schools all over the country are discovering their roots in slavery, or at least their relationship with it — even lots of schools founded after the Civil War are based on the profits from slavery.

You mentioned your interest in college history and slavery. Do you have any information about CU’s historical ties to slavery? That is one of my fledgling projects. You typically have to drill down and ask: Who are the donors? Where did they come from? Where did their wealth come from? How do law and society play a key role? And what you find is often slavery. I haven’t been able to find a lot of evidence yet, but certainly a lot of the figures and the wealth that helped to start these endeavors likely had wealth with ties to slavery.

You had familial ties in Colorado. How does it feel to be back? One of my great-great-grandfathers served in the Civil War. He came to Colorado after the war was over because he heard that this was a great place with lots of opportunity. The closest ancestor of mine that I knew was here is my grandmother. She lived in Five Points in Denver when she was a child. She says it was so vibrant. I’ve visited since I’ve started the job, and it’s been amazing. When you grow up hearing stories about a place you’ve never been, there is something frankly mythic about it. I was walking down the same street where my grandmother and her siblings played and attended school. That’s incredible.

In an interview with CU Boulder Today, you expressed excitement about helping to lead CU Boulder “into a bold new future.” What does this mean to you? I would start by saying a key aspect of the work that I want to do is sustaining the excellence that was already here to begin with. I want to continue the work that the former dean did around inclusive excellence, diversity, equity and inclusion. I also want to sustain and heighten many of our international connections while also encouraging students to embrace the local scene.
Last, But Not Yeast…

Mutation-mapping tool could yield stronger COVID-19 boosters, universal vaccines

Baker’s yeast has been the secret ingredient to successful sourdough during the COVID-19 pandemic — and it has enabled a scientific breakthrough.

CU Boulder researchers have genetically modified a version of this fast-growing microorganism to express the viral spike proteins found on the COVID-19-causing virus, SARS-CoV-2.

They’ve also used this yeast to develop a platform that quickly identifies new SARS-CoV-2 mutations that enable the virus to escape antibodies and infect cells. This information could aid the development of more effective booster vaccines and tailored antibody treatments for patients with severe cases of COVID-19.

“We’ve developed a predictive tool that can tell you ahead of time which antibodies are going to be effective against circulating strains of the virus,” said Timothy Whitehead, associate professor of chemical and biological engineering and lead author of the 2021 research published in Cell Reports.

But the implications for this technology are more profound.

“If you can predict what the variants will be in a given season, you could get vaccinated to match the sequence that will occur and short-circuit this seasonal variation.”

Researchers working in labs have predictively identified some of the same mutations circulating the globe, plus additional mutations with the potential to evade our immune systems.

Due to the adaptability of new mRNA vaccines, which work with spike proteins, the applications of this research are not limited to one virus, said Whitehead.

“You can use it for mapping trajectories for influenza and for HIV potentially; for other viral diseases that are known, and also potentially emerging pandemic ones,” he said.

By Kelsey Simpkins

Third Table on the Left

“Old God sure was in a good mood when he made this place.”

The Hunter S. Thompson quote often crossed my mind as I traversed Boulder’s streets and hiking trails during my CU student years. Living in the shadow of the Flatirons, at the nexus of the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, can make a person aspirational.

For some, including myself, Boulder’s true enchantments are found in the unique, nuanced spaces that provide a break from the hum of university life.

My respite was on west Pearl Street.

Trident Booksellers, my 1980s coffee chic space, was more than a place to study. It was a community. Entering the sometimes chaotic store, I knew I would find trusted baristas, an expert who knew the location of every single book, my third table on the left in the back and a mechanical pencil sharpener.

Trident was a loyal friend and confidant — it was a space for me to recharge.

At Trident, I wrote a story for the cover of Out magazine on the forced displacement of the LGBTQI+ community and my thesis on climate grief in children. Usually my ideas flourished, but when writer’s block froze my creativity, a glance into the bookstore would stir my sociological imagination.

The baristas would yell, “Large iced latte!,” the phrase like a metronome regulating the flow of life and business.

When COVID-19’s deadly assault consumed the world, the first thing I noticed missing was this metronome; I had taken it for granted. In the months that followed, I was locked away like the rest of the world, and the grocery store became my place of community. I craved my back table at Trident.

As the months rolled on, and I was quarantined in my Denver home far from Boulder, the semester came to an end — my final CU semester. It was then that I realized: The nuanced spaces held the most potent memories.

These memories — these cherished spaces and the hours spent on Pearl Street — I will always carry with me, because small spaces like Trident make up a large piece of my life.

At Columbia in New York City, where I’m living now, I’m seeking the same sounds and community.

I can picture it now: third table from the back, pencil sharpener, baristas.

“Large iced latte!”

By Taylor Hirschberg (SOC’21)
On a rainy Tuesday in Tokyo this August, Flora Duff y (Soc’13) crossed the finish line of the 2020 Olympic Triathlon one minute ahead of her competition, securing the first-ever Olympic gold medal for her home country of Bermuda.

Duff y’s story mirrors that of a comeback kid: The 33-year-old never finished higher than eighth in her previous three Olympic tries. Her revival was partially inspired by her decision to attend CU Boulder. In the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Duff y crashed her bike and dropped out of the race. She consequently left the sport and enrolled at CU to earn her sociology degree.

“I wanted to go to college and knew Boulder was a great place for sports and particularly triathlon,” she said. “It gave me the option to get back into it if I wanted to, but I could also just enjoy life as a regular college student.”

In 2010, Duff y joined CU’s club cycling team. There, she forged new friendships with teammates who propelled her to train for another Olympic games.

“It made competing fun again,” she said. “It motivated and inspired me to get back into triathlon and pursue it full time, once I finished up my studies.”

With support from teammates, Duff y trained for and competed in the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games before taking gold in Tokyo.

“I didn’t stop there. One month after the 2020 Olympics, Duff y took first place in the World Triathlon Championship Series, making her the first triathlete in history to win Olympic gold and the world championship title in the same year.

BY ALLY DEVER

Bermuda’s First Olympic Gold

CU alumna took first place at the Tokyo Olympic Triathlon

Jennifer Ho is a CU Boulder ethnic studies professor and director of the Center for Humanities and the Arts. As the daughter of a refugee from China and an immigrant from Jamaica, she is a passionate voice in anti-racism conversations at CU and around the world.

Model: Red iPhone SE in a clear, protective case

iPhone Insights

How soon after waking up do you look at your phone? Depends. If I need to check the weather, I may look at it an hour or two after waking up. If I don’t, then half a day can go by before I look at my phone.

Duration of longest call last week? I talked to my mom on the phone for 30 minutes.

Location of last selfie? The Grand Tetons with my husband last week — the only selfies I take are with him.

Oldest photo on your phone? I have a picture of my grandmother taken in 1930, though of course it was digitized in the last decade. I’m pretty sure this was her immigration photo — probably taken in Hong Kong/Kowloon in order for her to go to Kingston, Jamaica, and rejoin my grandfather, who lived there.

How many hours were you on your phone last week? No idea, but my guess is maybe an hour tops.

Oldest photo on your phone? I have a picture of my grandmother taken in 1930, though of course it was digitized in the last decade. I’m pretty sure this was her immigration photo — probably taken in Hong Kong/Kowloon in order for her to go to Kingston, Jamaica, and rejoin my grandfather, who lived there.
Alum Wins Breakthrough Prize
JILA physicist Jun Ye (PhDPhys’97) was awarded the 2022 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics for his groundbreaking atomic clock research. The optical lattice clock he designed enables precision tests of the laws of nature. His clocks are so precise, they would not gain or lose a second in about 15 billion years. Ye has worked at JILA, a joint institute of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and CU Boulder, for more than two decades.

The team’s findings were published in the journal *Plos One*.

Height of straight-tusked elephants whose bones were used to make tools

13 ft.

Vehicle used for looking at prehistoric hominids

98

Tools identified

One

Smoothing tool found that wouldn’t become common until 100,000 years later

400,000

Years ago humans produced sophisticated tools from bones near Rome, Italy

1979–1991

Years the site, Castel di Guido, was excavated

2021

The team’s findings were published in the journal *Plos One*.

Fish Fins Inspire New Designs
The long, thin bones in fish fins contain segmented hinges that enable the fins to be flexible and strong. CU Boulder mechanical engineering professor Francois Barthelat and his team are studying the little-researched mechanical benefits of this segmented structure, with the hope that similarly modeled designs could aid in better underwater propulsion systems, new robotic materials and aircraft design.

Old Main’s Frankenstein Switch
From 1924 to 1925, Old Main underwent renovations to redesign its theater, add a laboratory and generally improve the building, originally built in 1876. “Those were the days when Old Main was the University,” declared Mona Lambrecht, CU Heritage Center. “Its windows rattled, its walls rocked during storms and its floors and stairs creaked with the weight of a hundred students, the entire University population. And it still stands, but it will rock and creak no more.”

Electric ceiling lighting replaced kerosene lamps, candles and gas mantles. This particular electrical switch is believed to be one of the switches that sourced the building’s power.

Fred Luiszer (Geol’87; PhD’97) donated the switch to the CU Heritage Center in 2018. He acquired it as a student in the late 1960s when minor upgrades were made to Old Main. Read more about this Heritage Center artifact at colorado.edu/alumni/oldmainswitch.
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**Campus Life, Reignited**

In August, Boulder buzzed with energy thanks to the invigorating arrival of CU students. From the beginning of residence hall move-in on Aug. 15 through the start of the semester, activities abounded at Norlin Quad, Farrand Field, the CU Rec Center and other campus spots. From a silent disco and bumper cars to a spirited pep rally, student life never looked so fun.
n Sept. 3, 2021, the Buffs’ football home opener, 11,537 students filed into Folsom Field, the biggest turnout since CU played Utah in 2016.

Fans hummed with enthusiasm for their first in-person football game since late 2019, but there was another reason, too — Ralphie VI’s debut.

Flanked by four student Ralphie Runners, the almost-500-pound buffalo officially ran for the first time before the CU Buffs took on the Northern Colorado Bears.

At not even 18 months old, the new Ralphie ran the signature horseshoe loop across the field under a magnificent Colorado sunset. CU fans expressed their immediate love for “baby Ralphie” on social media.

“It just feels right,” tweeted Brent DePaepe, creative director for CU Athletics.

The Buffs won 35-7.

Will Isham (Fin’80), his daughter Drew Isham (Comm’13) and their family donated the young buffalo, born May 27, 2020, to the university in November 2020. The family owns a ranch with buffalo in Chadron, Nebraska, and has been in the buffalo business for two decades. The calf was abandoned by her mother, said Drew, and the family knew she belonged at CU.

“Being in a family that has buffalo, it’s always been something we wanted to do,” said Drew.

CU Athletics officially retired 13-year-old Ralphie V in November 2019, and news of her replacement was scant over the two-year period. Isham’s former sorority sister, Sara Abdulla (EnvSt, Psych’13) — student program manager at the Alumni Association — connected the family with Taylor Stratton (EBio, EnvSt, Geog’13), manager of the Ralphie Live Mascot Program, who was searching for buffalo to join the program. A live buffalo has run in Folsom Field at football games since 1966, and she wanted the tradition to continue.

“Without the generous support of the Isham family, there would be no Ralphie VI,” said Stratton.

Ralphie VI could reach an adult weight of 1,300 pounds or more. She lives on the undisclosed ranch of former Ralphies, where she’s given the best treatment. Her favorite part of the day? Mealtime.

“Whenever she hears us open the container, she puts her tail up and starts running over and grunting,” said Stratton. “She’s a more vocal buffalo, so people will have a better idea what sounds buffaloes make.”

Details surrounding Ralphie VI’s stage name — Ralphie V was “Blackout” — were being finalized as of press time. But Buffs nation has already welcomed her to the family.

“Without a doubt, the buffalo is the world’s best mascot,” said Will.

BY CHRISTIE SOUNART
RESILIENCE

REALIZED

During the pandemic, CU Boulder students had to seek strength within themselves. Oftentimes, they helped one another find it. BY CHRISTIE SOURAER
Something wasn’t right.
Across the street from her flat in Manchester, England, where Logan Turner (CTD, Russ’23) was studying abroad, workers were erecting isolation structures in front of the local hospital.
Information was sparse, and her parents intermittently sent her screenshots from U.S. media detailing the emerging COVID-19 virus. She realized those shelters were intended to house sick people.
In just a few hectic days, Turner — a first-generation student from Frederick, Colorado — found herself narrowly making the last flight from Manchester to the U.S. before the borders closed in March 2020.
The stress had just begun. As the summer and fall melded into remote learning and work, she was suddenly in charge of schooling her elementary-aged brother while her parents — deemed essential — worked outside of their home. The two shared one laptop.
“I would email teachers and say, ‘My brother won’t make it to math because I need to go to office hours for a professor,’” said Turner.
To proactively address financial uncertainty, Turner maintained two internships, one as a business analyst and one as a project manager to better prepare Marines for boot camp, in addition to other jobs like housekeeping.
“Fearing the worst, I wanted to make sure that we could still make the bills in the event of anything more drastic happening with COVID. And I still had tuition to pay,” said Turner, who aspires to establish a career in national security.
Looking back, Turner said she was operating in survival mode. But she sums up her experience as such: “You are more resilient than you may realize.”

4 a.m. Math Class
As the world transformed, Buffs operated in their own microcosms. Students adapted to major immediate changes. They had to pull strength from within themselves.
International student Chieri Kamada (AeroEngr’23) flew home to Japan in May 2020, expecting to return in August. With uncertainty still surrounding the virus, she instead stayed with her parents and high-school-aged sister for the fall semester. She slept and studied in a corner of the living room in their two-bedroom apartment. For her daily math class, she woke at 4 a.m. to attend the live lectures occurring in the Mountain Time Zone 15 hours earlier.
“It was really hard, physically and mentally,” said Kamada. “I didn’t really feel like I belonged to the CU community anymore because I was thousands of miles away.”
Kamada, who plays the mellophone (a cousin to the French horn) for the CU marching band, was eager to reunite with her bandmates when she felt safe enough to return to the U.S., and to reconnect with the college experience she loved.
She returned to Boulder for the spring semester in January 2021. She joined other student clubs on campus and obtained a summer internship in research for global navigation systems.
“I was socially craving,” said Kamada, who now lives with fellow bandmates. “Last year was really tough on everyone, but everyone had a unique experience. Everyone gained resilience.”

Finding Support
Chronic stress influenced students’ experiences during the pandemic, said June Gruber, a CU associate professor of psychology and neuroscience who studies human emotion. However, she said, recent studies have found some people’s mental health struggles peaked in the spring of 2020 and showed improvement as they learned to cope.
“People respond acutely to times of stress,” said Gruber. “They’ve found ways to somehow psychologically cope with these stressors and find ways to support their mental wellness.”
But Gruber wants to know more about students’ mental wellness now that the pandemic has continued for more than 1.5 years.
“A lot of this is new territory,” she said. “We need students to tell us what they’re feeling.”
And student researchers in the Positive Emotion and Psychopathology Laboratory are hoping to use Buffs’ experiences to increase awareness and open dialogue about mental health.
Gruber is also part of CU’s Post-Pandemic Support, Recovery and Resilience Group, which is focused on the well-being of CU Boulder students, faculty and staff. The group aims to provide support through discussions regarding mental health, substance use, suicide prevention and healthy relationships, said Jennifer McDuffie, CU’s associate vice chancellor for health and wellness.
“COVID exposed many gaps in equity and access,” said McDuffie, who leads the group. “We’re coming to this current new phase [of the pandemic] trying to make sure people’s physical health is taken care of, and their emotional and social health as well.”

Fuel for Creativity
As they settled into patterns of isolation, some Buffs pursued their interests. Sophomore Forrest Mondlane Jr. (Mktg’24) realized capturing student life with his camera energized him when he found his motivation waning. He took a photography job on campus his second semester that pushed him to decide to pursue a photo-centric career.
After selling a jacket made from the materials of a damaged handbag, Megan Griffith (Acct, Fin’23) started a fashion business, Luxury Redesigned, while in lockdown at her family home in Orange County, California. Some of her designs are now for sale in Boulder’s Madison Riley boutique.
“I had the time to settle down and think about goals for myself and passions,” she said. “This has gotten me through this tough time.”
Raul Dominguez (DMus’22), a conductor and instructor, knew the pandemic was going to be especially difficult for those in music. Aside from his husband, he saw no one for long stretches of time.
“That became very lonely,” he said, “especially when in choir, being around people is our bread and butter.”
In May 2020, he secured a grant from CU’s Entrepreneur Center for Music to begin the Choral Conductors Colloquium, a virtual five-lecture series featuring prominent choral conductors, including Anton Armstrong, conductor of the St. Olaf Choir, and Janet Galván, music professor at Ithaca College. More than 3,300 people from 53 countries have viewed the lectures, and CU Continuing Education now offers them as a course.
“My summer of disconnect became my summer of connection,” said Dominguez. “Going to school in the middle of a pandemic feels almost senseless unless you have a specific direction you’re going. No matter what I did, it had to come from a place of purpose.”
Carried by Community

While strength was an asset for some students, others felt its burden.

“My mental health suffered so much this past year and a half,” said Karia White (EthnSt, IntAf’22), who spent months in meetings with Ruth Wolde-michael (EthnSt, IntAf’22) and Audrea Fryar (PolSci’21) to help establish CU Boulder’s Center for African and African American Studies in May.

“Black women often get painted as resilient, but in reality it is because society expects us to recover quickly,” White said. “I don’t want to be strong anymore. I want to be soft, and I want to be held, and I want to be supported.

“Being resilient doesn’t allow for release. If I don’t drop the things I need to drop, I can’t hold anything else. I can’t even hold myself.”

Woldemichael added: “I remember being in my room from morning to late, late at night. It’s a blur to me. I couldn’t tell you how I did it.”

All three women agreed the people in their lives helped them continue on.

“Community kept me here,” said Woldemichael.

Through these experiences — remote learning, new family dynamics, launching virtual classes — Buffs uplifted each other, even in isolation.

Giovanni Hernandez (CivEngr’22), a student who thrives on in-person campus connections, was discouraged with remote learning and decreased communication in his digital classrooms. Then he contracted COVID-19 during finals week of fall 2020 and had to cope with the sudden loss of his grandfather.

“What has helped me a lot is the friendships and networking I have created at CU,” said Hernandez. “My friends worry about me. They hang out with me. They say, ‘Let’s go for a walk’ or, ‘Let’s take a break,’ when we’re performing school work for multiple hours.”

Steps Forward

As pandemic-related stress and discomfort mounted, Buffs cloaked themselves with strengths previously untapped — vulnerability, power, love, confidence.

When the fall 2021 semester started in August with social activities and in-person classes resuming once again, campus exuded energy, hope — and some trepidation.

During her first week back on campus, Logan Turner reflected on what felt bizarre and challenging, such as missing the Buff Bus or battling traffic to get to class on time.

“Something I’ve heard a lot of people on campus say, and that I can relate to, is that it feels like no time has passed,” she said. “I was a sophomore when everything happened, and I’m a senior now, but sometimes I still feel like a sophomore.”

And yet — she knows she’s a different person than she was then; those bewildering and emotional first few weeks in Manchester allowed her to realize resilience in herself. Today, she describes herself as “relentless.”

“Sometimes, you feel the pressure and you feel the stress coming down on you, and you can either let that crumple you down or you can keep pushing through,” she said. “I am proud of everything I was able to accomplish despite the circumstances.”

It’s not just resiliency Buffs are carrying forward. It’s their experiences and lessons, their softening and striving.

Said Chieri Kamada: “As a CU community, we are stronger.”
Carson Bruns was 19 years old when he got his first ink. During a study abroad program in 2005, he spent a month in monasteries nestled in the mountains of Japan. When he returned home, Bruns got a tattoo of the Japanese character for “mountain.”

“It was a profoundly meaningful experience for me, and I wanted something to mark that moment in my life,” said Bruns, assistant professor in the Paul M. Rady Department of Mechanical Engineering and CU Boulder’s ATLAS Institute, an interdisciplinary institute for radical creativity and invention.

He isn’t alone. Archaeologists and scientists have evidence of tattoos on six continents, some dating back millennia. And for the growing numbers of Americans with body art, tattoos can be deeply personal.

But Bruns, a chemist by training, has wondered if tattoos could do more. Over the last four years, the scientist and his colleagues at CU Boulder have worked to bring body art into the realm of science fiction. This spring, the team started a collaboration with the CU Anschutz Medical Campus to test out a tattoo ink that’s completely invisible — and could lower your risk of skin cancer, much like a “permanent sunscreen,” he said. At the same time, he and doctoral student Jesse Butterfield (MMechEng’17; PhD’22) have launched a company called Chromopraxis that will soon sell the first commercially available, color-changing tattoo inks.

To show off his newest tattoo, inked in July, Bruns takes out an ultraviolet flashlight and shines it on his wrist. In a few seconds, a series of blue numbers slowly appear — 88:88, like the display on a digital clock.

Bruns explained that this particular ink is activated by ultraviolet light. In most settings, these inks are invisible, but can appear in a wide range of colors when exposed to direct sunlight.

“The idea is that you can use light to reprogram it to say any four numbers or letters that you want,” Bruns said.

And while these creations might sound like the stuff of cyberpunk fiction, Butterfield explained that these inks are surprisingly low-tech. The team first suspends bits of polymer material into a special liquid mixture, which causes them to glob together and form tiny spheres. Researchers then embed the spheres with dyes.

“It’s like a salad dressing where you have to shake it up to mix the oil and vinegar together,” Butterfield said. “We do the same thing, but with really high-powered equipment.

Jars of rainbow-colored inks sit around the lab: milky-white fluids that turn magenta under ultraviolet light and a green that changes to yellow before disappearing again.

However, his team’s latest focus is a tattoo ink that doesn’t have any color at all, but can, theoretically, shield human skin from incoming rays of sunlight. They nicknamed the product Invelanin, a mash-up of “invisible” and “melanin.”

“The idea is that you’d get this invisible tattoo once on your head and neck, where 80% of skin cancers occur. Then, you might have a lower cancer risk for years or decades,” Bruns said.

The researchers have since procured a $150,000 grant from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade to further develop Invelanin. They’ve also partnered with Dr. Rajesh Agarwal at CU Anschutz to test the ink’s safety and how effective it is at lowering skin cancer risk.

Whatever the results, Invelanin won’t be on the market for years. But Bruns and Butterfield are hoping to bring their color-changing inks to tattoo parlors across the country soon — connecting to a community that, like them, wants to reimagine the tattoos of the future.

And, for Bruns, it all began with that one Japanese character: “This project came from a special place in my heart I have for body art.”
Meet the Teacher:
Mother Nature

Megan Patterson’s outdoor preschool in Denver blends her passions for nature and education.

By Elisabeth Kwak-Hefferan

Drop by Megan Patterson’s Denver preschool, Worldmind, on any given day, and you’ll probably see a few children climbing trees. Others will be sorting pine needles, clambering around on a jumble of boulders and digging in the mud. Come winter, the action switches to making snow angels and playing with shovels. When it rains, you might see them mucking around for worms or splashing in puddles.

But one thing is constant: The kids won’t be sitting around indoors — and they’ll be thrilled about it.

Thanks to Patterson’s (Comm’05) efforts, many more Colorado kids might soon have access to this kind of school day.

Worldmind, which holds preschool in Denver’s City Park and adjacent sites year-round, is an outdoor, nature-based school where the kids only head inside to their space at Denver Museum of Nature & Science for bathroom breaks and naps.

Though such “forest schools,” or waldkindergartens, are commonplace in European countries like Germany and Sweden, they’re only beginning to catch on in the U.S.
Worldmind certainly stands out as a unique preschool option now, but Patterson hopes other programs will follow her lead and move the classroom outdoors.

“I like to think of it as using Mother Nature as a co-teacher,” Patterson said.

**The Right Fit**

Though Patterson never studied the outdoors, she spent much of her childhood in Grand Junction immersed in nature or hiking and backpacking across Colorado. So when she was looking for a university that fit her wilderness-loving personality, CU made sense.

“The second I stepped on campus, it felt like the right fit,” she said.

Patterson majored in communications, but couldn’t shake an interest in education. After graduation, she opted to continue with the teacher licensing program at CU’s School of Education.

She spent the next year earning her teaching license in elementary education. Next came a stint teaching English in Jordan with the Peace Corps, followed by a return to the U.S. as a charter school instructor in Commerce City, Colorado.

Then, her career took her north — way north — to teach second grade and coach basketball and cross-country in the tiny Native Alaskan village of Stebbins. Patterson thrived in the ultra-remote town on the Bering Sea, where the only way in and out was by plane.

“In Alaska, everything centered around the school,” Patterson said. “It brought back that community piece [for me].”

Next, she moved to Colorado and completed an online master’s thesis on the forest education model at Lesley University in Boston. Patterson’s research, combined with her teaching experiences, inspired the Worldmind model.

“I fell in love with the idea of learning outdoors, having students take risks and learn from Mother Nature.”

She drew from her graduate school research to launch Worldmind as a non-profit program in 2015. At first, children attended with their caregivers.

“I really didn’t know what to expect when I started it,” Patterson said. “I just knew that I wanted to connect kids with nature.”

**Outdoor Benefits**

Patterson found a burgeoning body of research that suggests outdoor preschools improve mental and physical health, reduce symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and lead to better problem-solving skills and risk assessment.

When she started Worldmind, she was blown away by how enthusiastically kids and their caregivers responded to nature-based learning. She became determined to offer it to a wider population.

“After seeing all the benefits students can gain, I really wanted to make it accessible to more families,” Patterson said.

She had work to do.

Just a few years ago, there were no state child care licenses available in the U.S. for outdoor preschools. (Colorado has several such preschools, but none were officially licensed.) Worldmind hadn’t needed one because each child had a caregiver present, but that model wasn’t feasible for working parents.

Another challenge — outdoor preschools can be expensive due to low student-teacher ratios needed to ensure safety.

And, without state licensing options, parents couldn’t use state-based financial aid to pay their child’s tuition.

She decided to expand her program to make outdoor preschool an option for more families by attaining a state license.

In 2018, she approached Colorado’s Office of Early Childhood about creating an official license for outdoor programs like hers. The state agreed to a pilot program, which kicked off in 2018.

Over the course of the program, Patterson had a lot to prove — she had to convince regulators that outdoor preschools were safe for kids. She documented every animal encounter (off-leash dogs and geese) and run-ins with strangers (two minor incidents in three years) and conducted hourly weather and attendance checks.

She did have to bend on a few things — no outdoor naptime or learning to build fires — but was granted permission to keep kids outside down to 13°F with windchill and to let them climb trees.

In summer 2021, Patterson’s pilot licensing program was formally approved and Worldmind earned its permanent license — the state’s first outdoor preschool to do so.

The move makes Colorado only the second state to license an outdoor preschool, after Washington, and opens the door for other programs to earn similar bona fides.

“Outdoor preschool really aligns with so many of the values of our own teacher programs,” said Kathy Schultz, dean of CU Boulder’s School of Education.

“Children are allowed to pursue their own questions and curiosities. It’s very immersive, which is what we look for in education, too. I think it’s exciting that this sort of program can gain legitimacy in the U.S., and great for Colorado to be a leader in that way.”

Since obtaining the pilot license, Patterson has expanded Worldmind’s offerings to include half- and full-day preschool programs, and in fall 2020, Patterson added an elementary school program up to fifth grade. This year, she added sixth grade.

**Social-Emotional Skills**

Patterson’s unique approach to early childhood education quickly earned Worldmind dedicated fans — as of fall 2021, the preschool had 40 students and a 40-deep waiting list.

In addition to the outdoor components, Patterson places special emphasis on social-emotional learning to help kids develop confidence, solve problems and interact with each other. A daily lesson for a preschooler could include playing games that teach boundary-setting or sorting horse chestnuts, whereas older children may build a model of their own community.

“I’ve found that, if you put those social-emotional skills first and build a community where kids feel safe, the academic learning naturally happens,” she said.

Stacy Grissom first sent her son, Oliver, to Worldmind’s preschool as a three-year-old; he’s now in first grade there.

“He absolutely thrives,” she said. “At four years old, he and his friends could solve conflicts without adult interaction. It was phenomenal to watch.”

Grissom said she’d send Oliver to Worldmind through high school if that becomes an option.

“I appreciate how much Worldmind really looks at each individual kid,” she said. “They let the kids be themselves and appreciate them for who they are.”
“Today, we woke up on Mars,” Shayna Hume (MAeroEngr’20; PhD’23) journaled on April 13, 2021. Nestled inside a two-story, 1,200-square-foot cylindrical habitat with five other aerospace specialists, it appeared to be true — red desert stretched out for miles in every direction, and the sunrise glowed orange over distant canyons.

It turns out, Utah’s high desert country is an eerie match for the Red Planet. Hume and her colleagues were embarking on a simulated mission via the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) just outside Hanksville, Utah. Civilization was merely seven miles away.

The MDRS, run by the global space advocacy organization The Mars Society, is the largest and longest-running Mars surface simulation facility in the world. Its mission? To help humanity prepare for the rigors and challenges of life on Mars through “analog astronaut missions” in which research crews spend two weeks living as though they’re on the Red Planet. They live in the habitat conducting experiments, eating freeze-dried food and generally living as though the air outside is not breathable.

“[An analog space mission] is a scientific expedition to locations on Earth that simulate the extreme conditions of space,” Hume explained. “These places usually are either very, very hot or very, very cold because those tundras and deserts are the most similar to space that we can get on Earth.”

Hume’s crew, who dubbed themselves the “Red Planet People,” decided to enter the simulation overnight so they could “wake up” on Mars. “It was with an eerie knowledge that today would be very different from yesterday,” Hume journaled that morning. They had officially turned in their tech, sealed up the doors and hatches and joined the ranks of analog Martian astronauts.

A JOURNEY TO THE STARS
Over the course of the past seven years, Hume has thrown her heart, soul and academic vigor into aerospace.

A doctoral student in aerospace engineering, Hume studies spacecraft landing systems and takes particular interest in the project management side of aerospace. While pursuing her degree, Hume took part in the inaugural Matthew Isakowitz Fellowship Program, a prestigious mentoring program that accepts 30 college students per year interested in commercial spaceflight.

It was through this program that, in 2018, she met three of the crewmates who would eventually make up the Red Planet People. “What happens when you put a bunch of young people who are very ambitious in a room for a weekend?” Hume laughed. “We came up with so many ideas. We started discussing what opportunities we could take advantage of together, now that we had this little community,” said Hume. “Out of all that brainstorming came the idea of doing an analog astronaut mission.”

The group applied to the privately funded program, and they were accepted for the spring of 2020. In April, they embarked on their mission to “Mars.”

A SOL IN THE LIFE
After quarantining for weeks, rigorously preparing and planning menus, experiments and schedules, the crew settled in for two weeks in the habitat (or “hab”) — a structure consisting of a bathroom, airlock and spacesuit room, “staterooms” (long tube bedrooms you can slide into at night), a kitchen and common space table.

Hailing from academic institutions across the U.S., the Red Planet People were six strong: Dylan Dickstein as mission commander, Shayna Hume as executive officer, Julio Hernandez as crew botanist, Olivia Ettlin as crew

Life on Mars Close to Home
Shayna Hume and her crew of “Red Planet People” spent two weeks inside a simulated Mars mission. BY KELSEY YANDURA

© Dylan Dickstein
scientist, Shavran Hariharan as crew engineer and Alex Coultrup as health and safety officer, as well as media officer.

For two weeks, the crew woke at 7:30 a.m., congregated for breakfast at 8 and started procedures for the EVA (extra-vehicular activity) by 8:30 — sterilizing equipment, going over checklists, checking vitals, getting into flight suits. Then, part of the crew would don spacesuits and head out to conduct various experiments with a rover named Perseverance, while the rest of the crew stayed back to monitor hab operations.

As executive officer, Hume oversaw the project management of the crew as a whole while they performed various experiments. Subject matter spanned the gamut — Ettlin constructed and maintained a small hydroponic garden with peas and onions; Hernandez experimented growing peas using soil chemically simulated to mimic Martian soil; Hariharan conducted a dexterity experiment testing other crew members’ reaction times while wearing different types of spacesuit padding.

“The research we did was independently run and was largely ‘proof of concept’ research for us to explore options for longer and more rigorous studies in future analog missions,” Hume explained. In other words, this first mission was hopefully the first of many for the Red Planet People.

AN UNPREDICTABLE PLANET

Life in “space” may be a fun novelty, but it’s also far from easy, according to Hume. She described the experience as landing somewhere between a deployment and a research expedition. The team operated on very limited technology. They could send only a couple of emails every day and had to ration a limited amount of data so they could submit their daily reports.

The schedule, planned by Hume, was rigorous. “I wanted to run a tight ship,” she said. However, she later discovered that even the best-laid plans can fall apart in an environment with so many variables.

“We were told that we would only finish 50 percent of what we intended to do while we were there, and that was completely true,” said Hume. “I found out that you can do a lot of planning, but as soon as you are in simulation, emergencies happen. There would be a ‘leak’ somewhere we needed to fix. Our scissors would break while collecting soil samples. A radio would malfunction. An unexpected storm blew through.”

But perhaps the most challenging aspect was the feeling of constantly being on call.

Every day, members of the crew would suit up to embark on various “Martian” missions.

“Being an astronaut is a full-time job. It’s very hard to clock out,” Hume noted. “It was like an extreme version of working from home. We really had to put effort into solidifying our off time and our alone time because we were exhausted by the end of two weeks working around the clock.”

“It’s hard because anyone who ends up on Mars will be a passionate person who loves what they do. It’s easy to throw yourself into it completely. So, giving space for mental health, giving space for self care, those are things that are very easy to ignore in engineering because they’re not the goal of the mission. But they’re really important in the long run.”

THE OVERVIEW EFFECT, FROM EARTH

When many astronauts are in space, they describe something that has been termed “the overview effect” — a cognitive shift that happens when you view Earth from space. From that massively zoomed-out perspective, our planet appears fragile and united. “You see the world without borders. You realize that we’re all connected,” said Hume. “Almost every astronaut has talked about the overview effect. It’s become quite famous.”

Even as an analog astronaut, Hume reported feeling remnants of the overview effect while at the MDRS.

“You couldn’t forget that you are in simulation, but you could kind of blur the line for a few minutes. It was an eerie feeling. We would look out the little port-hole windows of the station, and because we’ve been in simulation for two weeks at that point, it was very easy to imagine that we were actually in a different world, so far away from the planet we call ‘home.’”

Even though the Red Planet People never left the ground, the experience amplified Hume’s passion for advancing the future of aerospace.

“Eventually, people are going to be looking at the same type of view we did, except it is going to actually be on Mars. That’s a very exciting feeling,” said Hume. “I don’t quite have the words for it yet, but it put me in a headspace where I could see how close we are to the future that’s ahead of us. It’s not as far away as we think.”

The MDRS is the largest and longest-running Mars surface simulation facility in the world.
Science Fiction, or Just...Science?

Very few official UFO studies have been conducted, but CU Boulder boasts one of these rare reports. In the 1960s, the U.S. Air Force commissioned Edward Condon, a former CU professor of physics and astrophysics, to conduct a scientific investigation into the possibility that UFOs may be of extraterrestrial origin. The “Condon Report” officially concluded UFOs did not warrant further investigation.

However, other CU voices remain passionate that studying unexplainable phenomena is crucial to adding to our knowledge of the universe. Philosophy professor Carol Cleland, affiliate of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute, believes studying these anomalies could help lead to major scientific breakthroughs.

CATEGORIES FOR CASES:
1. Old UFO reports (before 1966)
2. New reports
3. Photographic cases
4. Radar and visual cases
5. UFOs reported by astronauts

UFO sighting case studies from 1947 to 1968

scientists wrote chapters or parts of chapters for the report
Camping
Redefined – Again

An unhoused person setting up a temporary shelter in a city park.

An activist spending weeks in a tent outside the state capitol.

An avid hiker waking up to mountain views and steaming coffee.

Campers, all?

Environmental and cultural historian Phoebe Young has spent the past 20 years delving into two questions: What does it mean to camp, and why does it matter? Her book, *Camping Grounds: Public Nature in American Life from the Civil War to the Occupy Movement*, discusses the history of this U.S. pastime and how its definition has shifted over time.

“When I started this project, I thought I knew what camping was,” said Young, an associate professor in CU’s Department of History. “It’s a tent somewhere in a national park, roasting marshmallows over the fire, sitting out under the stars — that’s camping.

“But the more I worked on this project, that definition [became] up for grabs. That’s one definition of camping, but it’s historically relatively new.”

Young’s work reveals what the past 150 years of camping can teach us about our society and our social contract, and why we should consider a more inclusive view of camping.

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF SLEEPING OUTSIDE**

Young’s exploration of the rich history of camping in America begins in the mid-19th century. Back then, sleeping outside was pretty common — something you did out of necessity while traveling and between places of lodging, or when conducting research, like John James Audubon gathering ornithological data.

This began to change after the Civil War, as the U.S. entered a period of rapid industrialization. According to Young, groups of wealthy, white Americans sought out recreational camping to stay connected with the land. Practiced largely by the upper class, camping became an elite vacation activity.

“Unlike those who worked the land, it was less about mixing your labor with nature, but about mixing your leisure with nature,” said Young.

Suddenly, functional camping became unacceptable. Migrant workers and other unhoused people became “tramps” and “hoboes,” said Young, and were labeled a social threat.

Even as camping became more accessible during the rise of the automobile in the early 20th century, it remained restricted by race and class. Black Americans’ history with outdoor spaces — often the sites of lynchings and other traumas — dissuaded many.

“There were African American camping enthusiasts, absolutely — they protested against the segregation of campgrounds and other facilities at the Southern national parks and got [those policies] overturned in the early ’40s,” said Young. “But they had to push for it.”

As time went on, an aesthetic appreciation of nature prevailed as the highest use for public lands.

And while the focus on preserving landscapes was admirable, Young found that this “leave no trace” mindset excluded traditional outdoor pursuits like hunting and fishing. It also ignored or belittled Indigenous land uses and voices — and in many cases, those groups were forcibly removed from public lands.

The accepted definition of camping was narrowing: a leisure activity for primarily white, middle- to upper-class citizens to immerse themselves in nature’s untarnished beauty.

**CAMPING AS PROTEST AND FUNCTION**

In 2011, the Occupy Wall Street movement redefined camping yet again — and rekindled a conversation about how people use public space.

In cities across the U.S., activists camped out for weeks to protest economic inequality. Instructions for the protests said simply, “Bring tent.”

According to Young, the Occupy protests echoed the 1932 Bonus Army of World War I veterans and their families, as well as the 1968 anti-poverty demonstration in Washington known as Resurrection City. Though driven by different causes, all relied on relatively long-term encampments to drive home their message: “We’re not going away.”

Yet Occupy protesters explicitly denied the camping label.

“WE ARE NOT CAMPING,” read signs taped to protesters’ tents at McPherson Square in Washington, D.C. “We are assembling peaceably to petition the government for a redress of grievances.” With a circle around an image of the First Amendment, the signs insisted. “THIS IS OUR PERMIT.”
Even so, many lawmakers and media outlets portrayed the movement as perverting the idea of a beloved American activity and serving as a public nuisance.

As a result, public tolerance for camping in public parks and other spaces plummeted. Many cities — including Boulder and Denver — later enacted camping bans, with direct impacts on unhoused communities.

Yet both protesters and lawmakers were operating from a narrowly defined vision of what “true camping” was: purely recreational.

“If you are camping for functional reasons, that seems somehow problematic,” Young said. “There’s only one way to camp … and that assumption is the problem, not the camping itself.”

The conversation continues today, as cities debate where — and why — people have the right to camp freely.

“The topic of encampments and the symptoms of homelessness in our community are often polarized — it’s either about people and taking care of our unhoused neighbors, or it’s about safety in public spaces,” said Alison Rhodes (Hist, Span’01; MPA’16), director of parks and recreation for the City of Boulder.

“What we are trying to do in our work in the city [of Boulder] is both,” she said. “It has to be both. We have to support our most vulnerable community members, and our parks need to be safe for everyone.”

Balancing the needs of different communities — and understanding how those groups perceive camping and the use of public spaces — is key.

Rhodes put it succinctly: “How do we create a common ground?”

WHO GETS TO DEFINE CAMPING?

In her work, Young raises nuanced questions about the definition of camping and how people use public spaces: Why is recreational camping in national parks seen as a patriotic, American activity, while setting up a tent in a city park is perceived as a public nuisance? Why do we glorify backcountry tent photos on Instagram while disparaging homeless encampments and political protests as eyesores and social burdens?

“It’s about how we share space, particularly our public spaces — whether that be Central Park in Boulder, Yosemite [National Park] or anything in between,” said Young.

“How can we create a space for people who need and want parks for recreation, leisure, de-stressing, mental health, all those reasons — but then also for those people who are using [public] spaces for functional reasons?”

Now more than ever, recreational camping is exploding in popularity, thanks in part to social media and COVID-19 physical distancing precautions that have driven people to explore new outdoor activities.

At the same time, cities across America are seeing a rise in homelessness, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“Almost all park systems, governments and many [other] disciplines are trying to address the growing number of unhoused in our communities,” said Rhodes. “It’s incredibly polarizing. You have folks who have incredible empathy and understanding for people who are living unhoused in park land, and you have people who demonstrate some significant stigma and lack of understanding.”

How the U.S. and its communities address these challenges could begin with a shift in perspective.

“It’s about taking away the idea that there’s one highest use and that all the others should be banned … and shifting the question a little bit,” said Young. “How do we share this space? Because those spaces are so important to who we are as a nation.”
David Ellsworth (Art’71; MFA’73) hovers over the lathe for hours at a time. Wood shavings catch in his beard, fly over his shoulder and pile on the studio floor as he masterfully turns and scoops a dense maple burl until its form is as light and hollow as an eggshell. He invented this technique some 50 years ago and has taught it ever since.

Ellsworth is an artist, teacher and community builder. His work is found in the permanent collections of 44 museums and numerous private collections worldwide. He is a fellow and former trustee of the American Craft Council and has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pew Fellowship for the Arts. This year, he received perhaps the ultimate distinction: the Smithsonian Institution’s Visionary Award.

To Ellsworth, the honor was more than just an award.

“Recognitions can come in many forms, from a simple smile to a museum acquisition,” said Ellsworth. “It is an acknowledgment that the intrinsic value of an art object is not the price, but the process. Recognitions acknowledge a maker’s motivations. While the object supports the ego, the process supports the soul.”

Colorado’s wilderness has long fed Ellsworth’s soul. It gave him the freedom to challenge and make changes as he created his art.

“The blood was in me,” he said. “In the mountains. Swinging in the trees in the Chinook wind.”

Ellsworth encountered the rotating lathe machine in 1958 in a high school woodshop class in Boulder while his father served as director of CU libraries. Before finding his true calling as a “wooden potter,” as he describes himself, he studied drawing, architecture and ceramics. By the mid-70s, he was a working artist, having invented a series of bent turning tools that allowed him to make thin-walled bowls and vessels inspired by the Native American pottery his parents collected.

In 1974, he was invited to start the woodworking program at the respected visual arts program Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, Colo., and then the woodturning program in 1981.

Ellsworth’s expertise as an artist and teacher helps him stand out. Upon receiving the Smithsonian’s 2021 Visionary Award — awarded to American artists deemed to have achieved the pinnacle of sculptural arts and design in their medium — museum secretary Lonnie Bunch cited Ellsworth for being a “generous teacher,” while recognizing his “innovative and transformative career in wood art” and “commitment to the entire community of wood artists.”

Ellsworth’s materials and designs have evolved over five decades. At first, he worked with dried plank lumber. He later moved to fresh-cut, or “green,” material.

“As I grew in my work, I suddenly realized that parts of my personality were starting to soften up as more recognition and confidence came.”

Ellsworth’s wife, Wendy Neel (Hist’70), is an acclaimed seed bead artist. They sometimes collaborate on projects: Five of their pieces were included in Ellsworth’s show at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Whether it’s charcoal, clay or the seven-foot-tall wood structures in his 2009 “Emergence” series, Ellsworth said all his art has movement in common.

“I tell students to take a class in life drawing and another in tai chi,” he said, “because to make any kind of art one really has to understand how to move — from your toes on up to the tips of your fingers. And movement is what makes us free.”
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Forever Buffs From Day One

When Emerson Zamensky (EBio’22) graduates in May, she hopes to take some time off before pursuing a career in green technology. Her CU Boulder experience — especially her role as co-president of the Herd Leadership Council (HLC) — helped her realize her dream. And while she’s still on campus, she wants to help connect her peers with the university.

“Our goal is to integrate all current students into the Forever Buffs family before they graduate,” she said.

A student becomes a Forever Buff — a student or alum of the university — the moment they step foot on campus. This makes student engagement with CU Boulder a top priority for the Alumni Association. And who better to reach students than their peers? This is why students like Zamensky become Forever Buff student leaders on the Herd Leadership Council.

This group is made up of passionate students connecting their peers to the Forever Buff journey through philanthropy, volunteerism, events and awareness opportunities. A few of their signature celebrations include the charity race Nearly Naked Mile, Fall Welcome and Spirit Days on the Quad.

“The goal of these celebrations is to really instill students with a sense of pride and belonging with the university,” said Sara Abdulha (EnvSt; Psych’13), the Alumni Association’s program manager of student outreach.

In addition to celebrations that benefit other students, they also work to develop leadership skills. They create student-focused programs including yoga classes, speakers from the business school and lectures on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Another pillar of the HLC is its focus on philanthropy. In March 2020 and 2021, the HCL raised more than $3,000 from 77 individual donors through the Herd Mental Health Fund to support the Peer Wellness Coaching program, a free service available to CU Boulder students to help them set and achieve their wellness goals. Now, the group is focused on expanding their philanthropic efforts to engage more student organizations and individual student crowdfunding.

The group is a close-knit community bonded together by what they love — strengthening the CU community through engagement and philanthropy.

“We’re a very diverse group of people,” Zamensky said. “We’re all from different walks of life and we all have different majors, focuses and interests. But we all have something in common: We’re all very passionate about making a difference in our community.”

Interested in volunteering at Forever Buffs events nationwide? Visit colorado.edu/alumni/programs/volunteer.

CU LIGHTS UP THE ZOO
On Nov. 11, head to the Denver Zoo for the annual CU Night at Zoo Lights event. This year, a portion of the registration proceeds will be devoted to funding student scholarships. CU invites Forever Buffs and their families to join this annual tradition and enjoy a sneak peek at the Zoo Lights before it opens to the general public. Tickets include admission to Zoo Lights and photo opportunities with mascot Chip. Find tickets at colorado.edu/alumni/experiences/night-zoo-lights.

FOREVER BUFFS SPOTLIGHTS
CU Boulder alumni are impacting the world through their work. With the Forever Buffs Spotlight event series, you can hear stories about the impact Buffs are making everywhere. Past events have featured legendary climber Emily Harrington (Int'lAf ’07), Oscar-nominated producer Michael Scheuerman (MTele-Com’95) and Olympic Bronze medalists Jenny Simpson (Econ, PolSci’09) and Emma Coburn (Mktg’13).

Register for upcoming events and watch past speakers at colorado.edu/alumni/experiences/forever-buffs-spotlight.

JOIN THE VOLUNTEER NETWORK
As part of the CU Boulder Alumni Volunteer Network, your time and talents can help students, alumni and community members locally and around the world — all while bettering the university.

For more information about the Roaming Buffs travel program, email roamingbuffstravel@colorado.edu, call 303-492-8484 or visit www.colorado.edu/alumni/roamingbuffs.
n a historic ceremony on Sept. 15, 2021, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis and Marlon Reis (Engl’04) married at the Mary Rippon Theatre on CU Boulder’s campus. The date marked the anniversary of the couple’s first date 18 years prior.

In 2018, Polis — a Boulder native — became the nation’s first openly gay governor. The wedding was the first same-sex marriage of a sitting U.S. governor.

The couple wed in a traditional Jewish ceremony with close family and friends in attendance. Their son and daughter served as ring bearer and flower girl.

“The greatest lesson we have learned over the past 18 months is that life as we know it can change in an instant,” the couple said in a statement. “We are thankful for the health and well-being of our family and friends and the opportunity to celebrate our life together as a married couple.”

Reis is a writer and advocate for animal welfare. Polis started his political career in 2000 when he was elected to the Colorado State Board of Education. The couple resides in Boulder.

Reis and Polis said: “After 18 years, we couldn’t be happier to be married at last.”
Rising to the Occasion

A student’s university experience is often a time of rapid development in their sense of belonging, growth, exploration, curiosity, dedication and self-identity. This past year, determination in the face of adversity was added to the list.

In my 47 years on campus, I have witnessed turbulent social times and have seen students face tough questions and issues. However, the past year and a half tested fortitude and collective mettle like no other time in my memory. The challenges have been as monumental as they’ve been unpredictable. Through it all, the CU Boulder community has not only met the challenges, but has risen to overcome them.

Our students adapted nimbly with the seismic shift to remote learning during the pandemic and have remained flexible as we continued to refine teaching and learning strategies.

At the outset of the pandemic, many students and professors who were engaged in important research at both the undergraduate and graduate levels felt a responsibility to act. They refocused their work on COVID-19-related projects that had beneficial real-world impacts — both on campus and in service to communities near and far.

The racial reckoning of the past year also initiated a new level of transformation. As a result, the campus community is engaging at a deeper level than ever before in seeking progress toward diversity, equity and inclusion.

CU students are helping drive that mission. They were involved in the selection process for the new senior vice chancellor for diversity, equity and inclusion, Sonia DeLuca Fernández; they worked closely with campus police to create a community oversight review board; and they collaborated with faculty and staff in the creation of the Center for African and African American Studies.

As we have gathered back on campus in Boulder this academic year, I have seen students embrace both the joys and challenges of university life with a new set of skills gleaned over the past year and a half — tenacity, flexibility and self-awareness among them. These skills will serve them well throughout their academic careers and into their professional and personal endeavors.

While students will face new and evolving obstacles, I am confident that they will rise to the occasion individually and collectively, bending into the wind, but never breaking. Philip P. Di Stefano is the 11th chancellor of CU Boulder. He is the Quigg and Virginia S. Newton Endowed Chair in Leadership, overseeing CU Boulder’s Leadership Programs.
The WHOLE Athlete

CU Sport Science Research transforms student-athletes’ workout information into results

When CU volleyball’s Rachael Fara (MChemEngr’21) arrived at CU in July 2020, quarantine and a shoulder surgery had left her body weak and atrophied.

Enter Adam Ringler, CU’s assistant director of strength and conditioning and head of sport science research. His specialized recovery program for Fara included jumping on force plates to measure lower body power and symmetry, limited jumps in practice and a daily questionnaire about mood, soreness and hydration. Six months later, Fara started 2021 as the Pac-12’s most statistically effective hitter.

“The culture Coach Ringler has in the weight room helped me find joy in a sport that had physically beaten me down,” said Fara.

Sport science helps student-athletes understand the competing stressors on their bodies. Force plate measurements, for instance, can indicate whether to push intensity or go lighter to support recovery.

Ringler’s sport science initiatives integrate state-of-the-art technologies that identify performance deviations and help staff intervene before student-athletes suffer unnecessary stress or injury. In addition to muscle group activation measurements, he employs a system to track acceleration and distance run, and another to assess joint range of motion. Heart rate monitors record cardiovascular strain.

“These data sources are independent silos of information, and they’re all incredibly valuable,” Ringler said.

Sport science is one aspect of CU’s Crawford Family WHOLE (Wellness, Health and Optimal Life Experience) Student-Athlete Program, named in August 2021 after the Crawford family donated $5.5 million — the largest one-time gift in CU Athletics history — with much of it designated to address student athletes’ physical and psychological health while providing academic and career support.

To support the WHOLE program, Athletics partnered with management system Kitman Labs last July to organize student-athlete inputs.

“[Sport science] supplemented the X’s and O’s of basketball and weightlifting,” said women’s basketball’s Annika Jank (Comm’21). “My body composition completely changed.”
The Mayor

As men’s basketball’s longest tenured player this season, L.A. born-and-raised Evan Battey (Jour’21, MSOL’23) is ready to lead the team. The 6’8” senior shares how the support of his teammates fuels his infectious positivity and charismatic personality.

January, I remember going to the hotel. The guys hadn’t seen me yet. When I first walked in, all of them came over, and it was so warming. But it was also hard because I had lost the ability to say, ‘Hey guys, what’s up?’ I could just smile and wave. I give my teammates a lot of credit for allowing me the time to mess up, make mistakes and be comfortable talking to them.

Now as a senior, what do you do differently to connect with younger players? I haven’t had to do anything different. This group just came in, spends time with me, comes over to my house, plays video games...all that stuff that my past teammates would do. It’s the same family atmosphere.

You were a coach in high school? My senior year, I was the associate head coach for JV and assistant coach for varsity. That opened my eyes to a lot of different angles and different perspectives. When I couldn’t play [academic redshirt] freshman year here, I had to be like a coach again.

Could you share the challenges you faced after you had a stroke Dec. 26, 2017, during your freshman year? It was tough for me. When my team was in L.A. to play USC and UCLA that

you start establishing habits, you can build on those. Some things that I did when I was young aren’t a part of who I am anymore. Now, I’m just making the simple plays.

Sometimes in the huddle during a timeout and after Coach Boyle talks or draws up a play, you’ll speak to your teammates. What are you saying? Usually, I’m saying what Coach says. It’s kind of a lieutenant thing. It’s positive. Unless things are going really bad, and I have to get into my teammates. I bring that passion.

It’s, ‘We gotta rebound’ or, ‘We gotta be on the glass.’ ‘We gotta make one more pass.’ My teammates need to hear it from me because Coach doesn’t want to always be the one to say it.

You've been affectionately called the ‘Mayor of Boulder.’ What has being a student-athlete at CU Boulder meant to you? Well, the true mayor of Boulder is Spencer Dinwiddie (Comm ex’15), but I’ll be honored to be the second mayor. As soon as I took my visit here, I fell in love. The family atmosphere, the fit, the team and the community. The people here are so nice. The student athletes support each other. I’ve been to a tennis match. I’ve been to track-and-field meets. New things. That’s what college is about.

Can you tell us more about your work with the Pac-12’s Mental Health Task Force? It’s a group of students and mental health professionals. That’s been eye-opening, seeing how much people care about the mental health of Pac-12 athletes. I know people who were affected by mental health. That’s why I joined Boulder Buffs. It’s a group that works on destigmatizing talking about mental health. We make it okay to not be okay.

What’s one thing readers might be surprised to learn about you? I play a lot of dominoes. I picked it up over quarantine. I play day and night, even on my phone. It’s a good way to keep my mind stimulated and have fun. INTERVIEW BY ANDREW DAIGLE. CONDENSED AND EDITED.
DON'T MISS THE ACTION

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Graduates from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 celebrate at A Night on Norlin Sept. 17.

'53 Jacqueline Huskey Harford (A&S) celebrated her 90th birthday this summer. She wrote that her CU classes in French and German determined her career as a foreign language teacher. In 1953, on the recommendation of her German professor, she applied for and received a Fulbright scholarship in Austria and eventually moved to the country. “That year in Austria began my lifelong love of travel,” she wrote. Recently, one of her favorite pastimes has been sorting through her photo albums, “remembering the adventures and people in my long life.” Jacqueline lives in Sebastopol, California.

'64 Boulder residents Jeannie Thompson (Zool) and Marty Coffin Evans (Engl) joined the Coloradan Advisory Council this fall. The council will help shape the future of the Coloradan, one of CU Boulder’s longest-running publications. Both women and their husbands are staunch supporters and advocates for the university.

'65 Engineer Jim Wagener (EIEng) wrote this summer, hoping to connect with other CU graduates to see how they are doing. Email us at editor@colorado.edu to connect with Jim.

'69 This spring, the CU Boulder College of Music recognized Charlene Archibeque (DMus) as a distinguished alum. Charlene was the first woman to graduate from CU with a DMA. Now, she is regarded as one of the foremost choral conductors and teachers in the U.S., and her choirs have completed 16 concert tours around the world. She has conducted in Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and Royal Albert Hall in London.

'70 As a CU Boulder student, Roe Green (CommThtr) fell in love with theater. Initially an art major, she switched her freshman year after volunteering to take notes for a faculty director during a theater class. She became enamored with the theater’s backstage and management aspects. This year, she donated $5 million to CU Boulder’s theater program. It is the Department of Theatre & Dance’s largest gift in history, and it will fund an upgrade for the University Theatre — which will be renamed the Roe Green Theatre in fall 2023 — as well as establish endowed funds for student scholarships and fund events to further students’ careers. “Theater and the performing arts make us human,” she told CU Boulder Today in September. “This is how we pass on what we know.”

'71 A graphic designer for 20 years, Robert Meyer (Art) often said he wished he could sculpt full time. In 1999, he went to Italy for three years to pursue this dream, and he wrote that he has “never looked back.” In 2021, his sculpture, “2 Forms w/Sphere no.10” received the Juror’s Award for Sculpture in the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts 110th Annual Exhibition. In addition, Robert’s sculpture, “Intersecting Forms w/Sphere no.4” received the Juror’s Award for Abstract Art in the Lyme Art Association’s “Expanding Visions: Traditions and Beyond.”

'73 Timothy Larsen (Mktg) is the treasurer for ForeverGold, a group of alumni, parents, friends and fans who engage with CU Boulder and other members through exclusive social, athletic and academic events. Tim is the senior international marketing specialist with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, where he is responsible for assisting Colorado’s farmers, ranchers and food manufacturers in developing global markets. He and his wife, Candace (Engl’71), met at CU when she was a resident.
advisor at Kittredge Commons. They live in Erie, Colorado, and have two grown children.

**J. Dirk Nies** (Chem) has worked on environmental issues since graduating from CU. Recently, he wrote an article on climate change titled “An Incommodious Question: Can Renewable Energy Tackle the Existential Threat?” which was published in the Crozet Gazette. He also has written a book, *Floriscence: Foundations for Human Flourishing on a Thriving Planet – A Visionary Synthesis of Science, Ethics, and Aesthetics Crafted to Promote Well-Being in the 21st Century.*

After nearly 50 years of leading human resources organizations, Darryl Varnado (PolSci; MPubAd’76) retired from Children’s National Hospital in Washington, D.C., where he had served as the executive vice president and chief people officer for the past nine years. Over his career, he also led HR teams at the Adolph Coors Company, Tennessee Valley Authority, Coca-Cola Company, U.S. Airways, The Nature Conservancy, Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises and the University of Colorado Hospital Authority.

**David Kaufman** (Comm) retired. He also played on and co-wrote the hit song “88 Lines about 44 Women” by The Nails, which turned 40 in 2021. See and hear David’s latest song, “Science NonFiction,” on YouTube.

**Dave Curtin** (Jour) retired this summer. After working a senior year internship at the Boulder Daily Camera, Dave jumped around various newspapers in Colorado, living in Greeley, Durango, Colorado Springs and Denver. In 2007, he came back to CU as executive communicator for campus. In retirement, Dave will transition from climbing fourteeners to lake kayaking. He told CU Boulder Today that his favorite thing about working at CU was “the people of the university community.” Read more about Dave in the “Five Questions” on the next page.

**From a Pulitzer to CU and Beyond**

Journalist Dave Curtin (Jour’78) won the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing in 1990 for his *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph* story about a family whose two young children suffered disfiguring burns after an in-home propane gas explosion. In 2007, he joined the staff at CU Boulder as the executive campus communicator, writing speeches for the chancellor. This summer, he retired after 42 years in writing.

You won your Pulitzer Prize in 1990. How did this experience impact your life and your career? I was 33 when these two tiny children taught me what’s important and changed my perspective on life. As for my career, it opened doors and gave me autonomy.

Do you still keep in contact with the family you featured in the story? I did for many years — we shared some family holidays together — but I moved, started a family and they were busy with their lives. I know the children have wonderful families and careers, and it makes my heart sing.

What was it like working as a speechwriter to CU Boulder’s top leader? Dynamic and a labor of love. Even after 14 years, I was learning new things daily about the university, its fluidity and complexities. Chancellor DiStefano is great to work with. He made tough decisions and kept the ship moving forward. It was gratifying to play a role.

What was one of your more memorable moments while working at CU Boulder? Returning to work on campus 30 years after graduating, I was astonished by the high school GPAs of the students, the research, the number of international students and the growing diversity of the campus. Most memorable are the students I met every year from all walks of life. I was blown away by their accomplishments and service at a young age, and their humility. They make me proud to be a Forever Buff.

You witnessed the journalism industry turn from print to mostly digital in your career. Was there a pivotal moment where you saw a clear change happening? 2006-07. It’s now the consumer’s responsibility to harvest fact from fiction. We all depend on everyone taking that responsibility.

Forever Buff volunteers at A Night on Norlin, a celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021.
Graduates from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 celebrate at A Night on Norlin Sept. 17.

'82 After graduating, Dana Stabin (Art) began his journey as a career military officer, serving 20 years as a U.S. Air Force pilot, followed by 20 years flying for United Airlines out of San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and, for the last 10 years, New York. He spent a decade in the hills of Vermont and is now settled in the hills of New York. “Boulder will do that to you,” he wrote.

'84 A graduate of CU’s organ performance program, Barry Farmer (PhDMus) has enjoyed success as a musician, educator and administrator in faith communities, public schools and universities across the country. He is a lifetime member of the College Music Society and holds certification as a massed ringing conductor with the Handbell Musicians of America. Over many years, he has played concerts as an accompanist, harpsichordist and organist, primarily in the southeastern U.S.

'85 As a clinical supervisor and board-certified behavior analyst at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Ann Leventen Derentz (Hist) works with children and adults who have developmental disabilities, brain injuries, and social and behavioral issues by creating treatment plans and overseeing programs for her clients in the San Francisco Bay Area. She misses Boulder and plans to visit in the near future.

'86 The Fifth Circuit U.S.

'87 For the 16th year in a row, Jeanette Meyer (MBA) has been granted the highest level of service achievement in the real estate industry. This award recognizes her achievement of 100% client service satisfaction in 2020.

'89 In June, Todd Saliman (PolSci) was named president of the University of Colorado. He will serve in the interim as the CU Board of Regents conducts a national search for a permanent president. Previously, Todd was CU’s senior vice president for strategy, government relations and chief financial officer.

'90 Filmmaker and professional skier Chris Anthony (Kines) produced a documentary film, Mission Mt. Mangart, about the legendary WWII 10th Mountain Division, which consisted of the most talented international skiers and mountaineers of the day. The world premiere will be in Denver on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. He hopes to bring the film to the CU Boulder campus in early 2022.

After living in Telluride post-graduation, Jennifer Burman (Psych) earned her master’s degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania. She worked as a therapist in a private practice for many years, specializing in children, adolescents and couples. Now, she is raising two teenage girls on her own and has published her first book, A Widow’s Walk, which speaks to the challenges of marriage and betrayal. She will soon launch her next memoir about single motherhood, dating, relationships, sex and addiction. In her free time, besides writing, Jennifer practices yoga, travels, gardens and bakes.

'91 This spring, the CU Boulder College of Music recognized Leenya Rideout (Mus) as a distinguished alumnus of the college. Leenya has lived in New York City for the past 25 years. In 1997, she played violin, sang, danced and acted in the Broadway show Cabaret. She also wrote her own musical, Wild Abandon, about herself and her mom, which was shown off-Broadway in New York in 2018. “I feel like art can do so much right now for the world,” she told the music college. “The world needs a lot of healing and a lot of bringing people together.”

'96 Julia DeSimone Campbell (Jour) was selected as one of Adweek’s 2021 Creative 100 along with the likes of Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Amanda Gorman and Bryce Dallas Howard. She has recently built and led the Branded Content Project, an industry resource for local media companies that helps them create new revenue streams through content marketing.

After graduating summa cum laude, Michael Kester (Phil) went to Harvard Law School, worked as a Wall Street financial analyst and was co-president of a leadership consulting firm.
Last year, he launched Lead Belay, an affordable “peer-based leadership experience” for millennials. With Lead Belay, Michael hopes to help young workers recognize and develop their own personal leadership styles.

Nicole Kingham (CommDisor) was selected to join the 2021 board of directors of the American Academy of Audiology. Nicole earned her master’s degree in audiology at the University of Washington. She currently works with medical ear, nose and throat clinics. Nicole has developed an audiology assistant training program that is used in many clinics around the United States.

Michelle Johnson Anderson (Acct’97) is chief financial officer of the Sundance Institute, a nonprofit focused on supporting those independent film and theater founded by Robert Redford (A&S ex’58; HonDocHum’87) in 1981. Michelle has worked for the institute for 15 years, and her primary focus is financial planning and reports financial results — including the annual budget and festival ticket sales — to internal and external stakeholders.

Do you attend the festival each year? We have offices in Los Angeles, New York and Park City, where I’m based. The finance department is an important piece of the overall festival, which I’m fortunate to attend. In addition to the flagship Sundance Film Festival, we also partner with organizations in London and Jakarta to produce film festivals, which sadly I do not attend.

Is there a film that premiered through the festival that is a particular favorite for you over the years? That’s a tough question! I’m particularly fond of Whale Rider and Sing Street.

What is another Sundance program you are proud of outside of the festival? A few years ago, we developed our ‘Co/ab’ platform for creators. We want artists from around the world to learn from each other and from Sundance advisors and staff, develop and share work in progress and connect in a creative community dedicated to storytelling and elevating independent voices. This platform became critical for us as we had to pivot to online programming due to the COVID pandemic.

Have you met Robert Redford? I have met Robert Redford on a few occasions throughout my time at Sundance. He’s passionate about the arts and the environment, and had the incredible vision to found the Sundance Institute 40 years ago to support artists of different disciplines.

What is one of your favorite stories from your career? On the first Saturday (day three) of the festival in 2017, everything that could go wrong did. First, we had a denial of service attack on our network that delayed the opening of all our venues while our technology team rerouted our service. Second, we had a major snowstorm that shut down the interstate between Salt Lake and Park City, stranding our staff and patrons. And lastly, there was the Women’s March on Main Street in Park City that brought out so many people that the central corridor of the city was completely gridlocked for hours. But through it all, our amazing team rallied, and the show went on!
Graduates from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 celebrate at A Night on Norlin Sept. 17.

'01 In August, Colorado governor Jared Polis appointed Robert James (Law) as district court judge for the state’s 13th judicial district. Jamahl Mosley (Soc) was a four-year letterman at CU and is one of only 37 players in CU history to score more than 1,000 points. He was named as an assistant coach of the 2021 USA Select Team for Basketball, which trained against the USA National team as it prepared for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Jamahl has coached for the Denver Nuggets, the Cleveland Cavaliers, Dallas’ Summer League squad and the Dallas Mavericks.

'02 Denver’s Brad Turner (Jour) is working at Colorado Public Radio making podcasts. As executive producer of CPR’s Audio Innovations Studio, he released a new podcast, Music Blocks, a five-minute music appreciation podcast designed in collaboration with Colorado educators. The show helps teach music appreciation to middle and high schoolers, featuring contemporary music along with examples from different genres and cultures. “We touch on music by Lil Nas X and Olivia Rodrigo, but also Beethoven and John Coltrane,” he wrote. “Each installment looks at how artists express a different emotion through music.”

'03 Gretchen Snyder Chizmadia (Engl) and Jeff Chizmadia (Comm) were married in June. The couple lives in Edwards, Colorado. Life coach, meditation teacher and founder of She Glows Retreats Brie Doyle (Ed) released her first book, You Should Leave Now, in July. Offering alternative solutions to finding true well-being, Brie’s book shared research, anecdotes and advice that discuss the benefits of taking an annual personal retreat.

'04 Mike Carter-Conneen (Jour), a former D.C. TV reporter and anchor, is now director of corporate communications at CarbonCure Technologies. In April, the company won the $20 million Carbon XPRIZE for its innovations in carbon dioxide removal, transforming concrete into a climate solution.

Managing partner Patrick A. Salvini (Mgmt) of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard in Chicago was selected as the 2022 U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers “Lawyer of the Year” for Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs. He was also listed in the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for personal injury litigation. Patrick launched a new podcast, Beating Goliath: A Plaintiff’s Pursuit of Justice, featuring a behind-the-scenes look at some of his firm’s biggest trials.

'06 In July, Bronwen Maxson (Engl, Span) of Eugene, Oregon, was promoted to associate librarian rank at the University of Oregon Libraries, where she is the coordinator of undergraduate engagement and instructional services as well as the subject librarian for Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American studies.

'07 Glenn Asakawa

In 2014, Brittni Laura Hernandez (EthnSt; MEdu’18), Betty Leonard (MEdu’08; PhD’14) and Sara Staley (PhDedu’14) launched A Queer Endeavor, an organization that works to make schools safe and humanizing for all young people by giving teachers the resources necessary to support LGBTQ students and to have meaningful classroom conversations regarding gender and sexuality. In July, the trio collaborated with graduate students and faculty from the School of Education to bring together about 450 teachers for the third Educator Institute for Equity and Justice.

Video artist, photographer and performance artist Jenna Maurice (MFA) was chosen to project her large-scale experimental video on the wall of the Clyfford Still Museum in Denver. Her work, “Non-Verbal Secret Confession Booth,” explores people’s nonverbal reactions to the secrets that they...
The Classes of 2020 and 2021 celebrated their graduation on the Norlin Quad this fall.

**14** CTO and co-founder of Atom Computing Ben Bloom (MPhys; PhD) is seeking to use quantum mechanics to build a quantum computer out of naturally quantum materials. The company has raised $15 million in a Series A round of funding and debuted its first-generation quantum computer, Phoenix.

In June, Kirsten Runyan (ChemEngr) launched a mission-driven apparel company, melomys (melomys.com), a California-based online store that plants five trees for every purchase. The company is named in honor of the tiny island rodent Bramble Cay melomys, the first species declared extinct due to human-caused climate change. The company has a goal to plant 1 million trees by 2025. The products are ethically made from eco-friendly fabrics with dye processes that minimize water use and pollution. Every product is made to order.

**16** Zachary Szlendak (MEcon; PhD’20) joined the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) as a research staff member in the Cost Analysis and Research Division of the Systems and Analyses Center. IDA is a nonprofit corporation seeking to answer U.S. security and science policy questions.

As a second grade student in Lafayette, Kenny Nguyen (PolSci, Comm) was a dreamer in the I Have a Dream program, which provides long-term academic support and college scholarships to students from low-income households. After graduating from CU as a first-generation college student, he joined AmeriCorps to volunteer with the I Have a Dream Foundation of Boulder County. Now, Kenny works as executive assistant to Colorado Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera. In May, he was one of four alumni nationally recognized at the I Have a Dream Foundation’s 40th anniversary gala.

Cousin duo Sabina Rizzo (Comm) and Casey Nunnelly (Strat-Comm’20) founded Byte Bars, a no-regrets vegan energy bar company. The snack has become a local hit after its launch into Whole Foods Markets across Colorado. The name Byte is an acronym standing for “Be Yourself Today Everyday,” which aligns with the Byte mission to be a brand that stands for a healthy, yet carefree, lifestyle. Casey and Sabina have nothing but fond feelings for their alma mater. “I will forever be thankful for the home I found with the Buffs. I wouldn’t be where I am today without it,” wrote Casey. Learn more about Byte Bars at bytebars.com.

**18** While at CU, voice performance graduate Mary Kettlewell (MMus) received a graduate certificate in arts administration, which she credits for helping her land her position as program administrator at the Texas Commission on the Arts, a state government commission in Austin that works to fund arts organizations in Texas.

**19** Rhodes Scholar Serene Singh (PolSci) was awarded the 2021 Diana Award. Established in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, the award recognizes social action or humanitarian efforts. Serene’s Diana Award recognizes The Serenity Project, which she founded in 2016 to combat the stigmatization of mental health and suicide. Serene is currently pursuing a doctorate in criminology at the University of Oxford.

**21** Luis Granda (MMus) was named assistant director of donor and patron relations for the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra. Luis credits his certificate in arts administration from CU Boulder as preparation for this job.

**FIVE QUESTIONS**

Seeking Justice

Pueblo, Colorado, resident Michelle Chostner (Anth, Psych’04) is an attorney and mom of three children. She has been a prosecutor in four district attorneys’ offices since 2009. Before being appointed to the bench as a magistrate in August, she was chief of the country court division in Pueblo County’s 10th Judicial District. In April, she was featured on 20/20 for her work on the homicide case, People vs. Donthe Lucas.

What piqued your interest in law after graduating from CU?

My undergrad degrees were in things I found interesting, then I saw how psychology intersects with criminal justice. I was at a justice center with the kiddos and I thought, ‘Maybe I want to go into law.’ I took a year off from school and worked at a treatment facility in Pueblo for juvenile offenders, then took the LSAT before I went to DU for law school.

What was your early career like? I’ve done a number of homicide cases. I’ve always been really interested in crimes against women, and crimes against children. I have lectured and taught extensively on child sexual and physical abuse as well as abusive head trauma in infants.

Tell us about the People vs. Donthe Lucas case that received national attention.

That was a cold case about a homicide. The female victim had been living in the Denver area and was romantically involved with Donthe Lucas. She drove down to see him and was never seen again. It had been a cold case for four years. My dad, Jeff Chostner [Hist’73 [10th judicial district attorney], put me and my husband and two other attorneys on the case. We buckled down and started working with law enforcement in 2017 and followed up on every lead. We filed first-degree murder and went to trial last January. By March 8, there was a guilty verdict.

What else should we know about you? I am switching gears. I applied for and got a position as a magistrate. I’d like to think I’m a lawyer secondarily to trying to just do the right thing in life. Now I’m trying to do that in a different way. I’m always just trying to do the right thing.
INmemoriam

1930s
Helen Bloedorn Duhon (Jour’38)

1940s
Esther Devalon Junghans (HomeE’44)
Madonna Murphy Pasqua (Art’44)
Jonell Nelson Sims (A&S’44)
Janet Robinson Walker (MedTech’44)
Palmer W. Carlin (ElEngr’45; MA’53)
Anna Riede Tolson (Bus’46)
Robert E. Whiting (ElEng’46)
Jean Donley Binford (CompSci’47)
Nathan H. Hurt Jr. (ChemEng’47)
Jacqueline Blancen Weber (MedTech’47)
Norman Blacher (DistSt’48)
Delia Ress Johnson (Nurs’48)
John M. Masunaga (Pharm’48; MA’49)
Tille Turecky Medvid (MPerServ’48)
Edith Klaas Meffrey (DistSt’48)
Renee Morell Solffer (PolSci’48)
Martha VanShaw Babb (Eng’49)
Jacqueline Barnbriolz Davine (A&S’49)
James M. Friedlander (PolSci’49)
Mary Ringara (DistSt’49)
Henry C. Lincoln (DistSt’49)
Shirley Wilson Somers (Span’49)

1950s
John Altamore Jr. (MechEng’50)
John J. Brennan (Pharm’50)
Charleen Morrison Clinton (A&S’50; ex’50)
Joseph F. Cullen (MechEng’50)
Clayton O. Douglass Jr. (ElEng’50)
H. Duane Hirsch (Bus’50; ElEng’50)
Melvin O. Johnsson (ElEng’50)
Robert P. Mourning (Fin’50)
Virginia Harris Scoville (Hist’50)
Kathryn Wilson Smaus (Chem’50)
O. H. Stelter Jr. (MechEng’50)
Kenneth E. Barnhill (Econ, PolSci’51; Law’53)
Joan Brandner Davis (MedTech’51)
S. Lester Guinn Jr. (AeroEng’50)
John L. Feldman (Phil’50)
Jim A. Omdot (Bus’50)
Scott C. Rowan (MBA’50)
P. Vincent Walsh (MedU’50; PhD’55)
Gayle Culler (Rec’51)
Steven T. Haggerty (PhD’51)
John A. Fruh (MedU’52)
L. Phillips (Fin’51)
Laxie A. Richardson (A&S’52; MSc’77)
Robert M. Oshima (Law’52)
Fred L. Phillips (Fin’69)
Laxie A. Richardson (A&S’52; MSc’77)
Gale Douglas Zeiler (ElEng’59)

1960s
William C. Betts (Arch’70)
Susan Hastings Carr (A&S’70)
Thomas M. Healy (AeroEng’70; MS’71)
Michael L. Crow (Hist’70)
John A. Fruh (MedU’70)
James V. Hacket (Eng’70)
James H. Blood (Eng’70; MBA’70)
Ronald L. Oda (AeroEng’70)
Harold A. Marold (A&S’70)
Donald L. Smith (EngPhys, Mgmt’70)
Alan J. Czarny (AdvDev’71)
Kipp R. Downing (MedU’70)
Muriel S. Hendrickson III (Cons’70)
Alan B. Levy (PhDChem’71)
Gary D. Slavens (A&S’71)
Emidio W. Smathers (MEngDes’71)
Steven D. Correa (Chem’72)
Cliff M. Harrington (Law’72)
Barbara Johnson (PhDEng’72)
Jame L. Scrivner (Mktg’72)
Albert J. Veinberg (A&S’72; MBA’73)

90s
James W. Roache (AeroEng’90)
Thomas Barry (Eng’91)
Jolie Suzanne Deveroux (Jour’91)
James G. P. Hill (Fen’91)
John D. Woodall (Eng’91)
John L. Dwyer (MGeo’93)
Christopher B. Henshall (Art’94)
David Vollmar (MCompSci’94)
Gregory U. Gansecki (Eng’94)
Michael S. Lamott (PolSci’96)
Elizabeth J. Christensen (Hist’97)
Philippe J. Debeau (PolSci’97)
Christopher M. Houl (MGeo’98; PhD’96)
Cynthia Taft Moore (BioChem, Chem’98; CivEng’16)
Jeremy N. Dunn (Hist’99)
Angeline Rollins (Anth’99)

2000s
Peter Tobin (Jour ex’00)
John S. Bartolin (Hist’01)
Daniel G. Bergeson (Fm’03)
Aaron E. Frey (AeroEng’02; MS’03)
Robert C. Wolf (Law’02)
Laura A. Gillett (DMus’05)
Kirsten R. Sackschewsky (EPOBio’05)
William H. Stewart (Anth’05)
Matthew R. Vacher (Econ’06)
Jim Sheeler (MJour’07)
Karalyn N. Gay (Geog’08)
Martin O. Polvi (IntPhys’08)
Gregory B. Glenn (Comm’09)
Jeremy M. Puls (Eng’ex’09)
Walter R. Williams (Fm’09; Ext’09)

2010s
John B. McBroome (Math’10)
Ian S. Crumm (Psych’10)
William C. Reynolds (Hist’10)
Michael P. Phelan (Eng’11)
Andrew M. Beisel (PolSci’13)
Reginald J. Perryman Jr. (PolSci’13)
Zachary P. Greening (Psych’14)
Matthew A. Murray (Arch’18)

2020s
Andrew May (Acc’21)
Roman Essa Anaya (MFA’21)
Jacob A. Buvokich (PolSci’22)
Joseph Herrin (Envi’22)
Ross M. Panning (CompSci’22)

Faculty, Staff and Friends
James R. Connolly, University Staff Patricia Quattroff Martini, Entrepreneurship Center
Mark E. Meaney, Scholar in Residence, Leids School of Business
Walter E. Lawrence, Center for Labor Education and Research
Graziana Lazzaroni, Professor, Italian and French Department
Marllyn Skidmore Savin, English Composition
Ben M. Tolbert, Professor, Chemistry
FEEDback

Charles Nilon, CU Boulder’s first Black faculty member, was hired in 1956 and taught English.

Memories of Professor Nilon
YOUR PICTURE AND STORY ABOUT PROFESSOR NILON [“THEN SEPTEMBER 1963,” SUMMER 2021] BROUGHT BACK FOND MEMORIES.


George D. Halper
(Fin’79)
Shawnee Mission, Kansas

Coloradan for the Family
A quick note to say I’m only halfway through the new Summer 2021 Coloradan, and I’ve already torn seven pages out to share: one for my husband (“Life, Rein-carnated”), two for my 7-year-old (“An Olympic CU Legacy”), two for my 9-year-old (“Pups of CU” and “Climate Change Causes Mammal Range Shifts”) and two for my 12-year-old (“Digits” and “Buff at Bat”)! Thank you for publishing interesting content that I can share with my future Buffs!

Megan Elenbaas
Harhager (Comm’03)
Westminster, Colorado

More on Aerosols and COVID-19
I found the comments by David Dennison (MechEngr’73) in his letter concerning clarinets and aerosol distribution very interesting. I find myself comparing the response to COVID-19 and the response to the Asian flu in 1957. That year, I was a music education major enrolled in the required clarinet class.

The university’s response to the Asian flu? I never noticed a response! Students rented instruments for the wind classes from the university; two students rented the same instrument. I never met the student who shared my instrument, but I believe I caught the flu from that student. We did have our own reeds, but we used the same mouthpiece. I was terribly ill for two weeks. Finally, when I was well enough to drag myself from class to class, I appeared at the studio door of the visiting piano professor who had taken the place of my regular professor who was working on his doctorate at Eastman. “Well, you should have had plenty of time to practice,” she said. Does the university still rent the same instrument to more than one student? Surely it does not!

Irene Eggers
(Mus Ed’60)
Wheat Ridge, Colorado

The corrected Summer 2021 Infographic.

Editor’s Note: We sincerely regret our mis-identification of Jimmie Huega and coach Bob Beatty, especially from such a memorable time and photo. Thank you to all of the readers who alerted us immediately of the error. The online article and downloadable PDF of the magazine reflect a corrected version of the photo.

Olympic Info-graphic Correction
On pages 33-34 [“An Olympic CU Legacy,” Summer 2021], your photo spread shows “Billy Kidd (Econ’69) and Jimmie Huega (PolSci’73)” in the center photo. Actually, the picture is of Billy Kidd and coach Bob Beatty. That said, the Innsbruck Olympic team with Kidd, Huega and Jim “Moose” Barrows (Mgmt’70) was awesome.

George W. Aubrey
(Geol’77)
Plano, Texas

Coloradan or Coloradoan?
I have a pet peeve that we should be called Coloradoans not Coloradans. So I found an article online you had in 2019 [“Origins: Coloradoan or Coloradan,” Spring 2019] that I tend to disagree with. I know it isn’t a big deal, but every time I hear what I feel to be incorrect, it drives me crazy! So I would appreciate it if you could help me spread the word that we should use Coloradoan more often.

Judy Green
Greeley, Colorado

Editor’s Note: Read about the beginnings of the term “Coloradan” by visiting our website, colorado.edu/coloradan and searching “origins Coloradan.”

© Courtesy George D. Halper
The Stones in Concert
I was at the 1981 Rolling Stones concert in Boulder. We were up front and Mick Jagger put a scarf around my neck at that concert. I was wondering if there is a picture of that? That day was one of the best days of my life. We rode our Harley to that concert. I don’t know the biker that lifted me up so Mick could put the scarf around my neck, but it was a great moment in my life. I am getting older, and my grandchildren know the story and I would like to have a picture to share with my grandchildren.

Deby Stanger

How about a commemorative plaque in 2028 placed at Folsom Field honoring the 50th anniversary of the Rolling Stones playing there on July 16, 1978? It would further endear Folsom Field to a great moment in history and would be recognition of an event not necessarily affiliated with CU Athletics.

Charlie Perkins
Avon, Colorado

The Legacy of Carroll Hardy
Life is beautiful when you take time to look. This applies to the football field as well.

The late Carroll Hardy (A&S’55) was one of Dal Ward’s best ever and should have been remembered in your Coloradan with a full page. During 1950 to 1954 Hardy and Frank Bernardi (Mktg’56) were nationally known on the CU football team, and both men continued as very special people in later life.

I met my wife Barb Palmer (Bio’54) at the 1950 freshman mixer ... this has been an amazing journey. CU is a big part of our life.

Jim Deeds (ArchEngr, Mgmt’56) Monument, Colorado

1956 Class Note
I am responding to an entry in Class Notes, page 55, Summer 2021 edition.

Edward F. Altman (Fin’56) is searching for a classmate that he would like to contact. I am not a classmate (I graduated in 1957 in aerospace). But I had a fraternity brother in the Phi Kappa Tau Greek fraternity who was my pledge “father” named Ed Altman, who was from my hometown of Pueblo, Colo. He and I were not close friends, and after graduation we both went our separate ways, never crossing paths after leaving Boulder.

In June 1957 when I graduated, I immediately moved to the Dallas area to take a job as an engineer with Chance Vought Aircraft, and nine months later entered the Air Force, attended pilot training and followed a worldwide career path as a pilot until March 1984, when I retired in Annapolis, Maryland, to do a second career as a professional engineer and project manager with a defense contractor. I retired for good in June 2017 and am living in Annapolis with my wife and golden retriever.

Clay Johanson
(AeroEngr’57) Annapolis, Maryland

Social Buffs

“Football season takes on a whole new meaning now that we can REALLY share it all with gal pal Cal.”
@herfitlife7

“Multi-generational Buffs. Class of ’94 and soon-to-be class of ’24. Buffs going global!”
@stevejaystewart

“Double tap when you see it!”
@the_casey_lynch8

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Letters edited for length and clarity.
Now a romantic set of sandstone arches over the lake, Varsity Bridge has gone through several transformations over the course of CU’s history. An early version was a rough wooden bridge that connected the President’s House (now the Koenig Alumni Center) and Old Main. In August of 1888, university Regents authorized the construction of a new bridge made of iron and stone supports.

In 1935, university leadership again reimagined the bridge, which was torn down and rebuilt with stone construction that matched the University of Colorado style. Today, the spot is a favorite for spotting sunbathing turtles or goldfish swimming in Varsity Lake.